



Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR)

North Mountain Park Nature Center
620 N. Mountain Ave
Ashland, OR 97520

March 1, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR) is writing in support of North Mountain Park's Nature Play Area. AFR is a collaborative organization which leverages resources, both technical and financial, of its four core partners: The City of Ashland, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, U.S. Forest Service-Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, and The Nature Conservancy. AFR Partners work collaboratively to manage the forested lands in the Ashland watershed and surrounding area to reduce the risk of fire. What began as a project on solely National Forest lands, has expanded to forest restoration work on City of Ashland and private non-industrial forest lands within a 52,000 acre planning area.

A key component to the success of Ashland's forest restoration project has been community engagement. We have coordinated on projects with North Mountain Park Nature Center to reach the public through tours of the project area, hikes, educational classes and yearly events like the Salmon Festival.

U.S. Forest Service-The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest is committed to providing wood materials for initial construction of the play area as well as providing replacement wood to maintain the play area. Douglas-fir, madrone, ponderosa pine, and white fir are some of the tree species in the Ashland Watershed available for wood materials. AFR Partners can secure volunteer labor and equipment necessary to transport the wood materials to the play area. The estimated value of the materials and work could exceed \$5,000. Value of the wood supplies can be determined once the project design is complete and sourced wood delivered to the project site.

AFR Partners are fully committed to donating wood materials with the help of volunteers because we believe that every family should encourage children at a young age to appreciate our most significant community treasure, the Ashland Watershed and public lands in their proverbial backyard. We hope families in Ashland through free play in an accessible park, will expand their imaginations and grow their fondness for recreating outside.

Sincerely,

The Ashland Forest Resiliency Partners

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