



North Mountain Park Nature Center

A DIVISION OF ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION

2019-2020 REPORT

TWO YEARS AT A GLANCE

2019

Community Programs Offered: 97

Participants: 1285

Community Events: 2

K-5 Outdoor Education Field Trips: 80

Students Served: 2,005

Service Learning Field Trips: 4

Student Service Hours Contributed: 98

Number of Student Projects: 4

Number of Volunteers: 266

Volunteer Hours Worked: 3,152.4

Total Donations and Grants Received: \$8,086

School Program Scholarship Grants: \$2,000

Event Sponsorships: \$1,153.00

Average Monthly Visits: 4,483

2020

Community Programs Offered: 45 (Run: 25)

Participants: 262

Community Events: 0

K-5 Outdoor Education Field Trips : 0

Students Served: 0

Service Learning Field Trips: 1

Student Service Hours Contributed: 28

Number of Student Projects: 2

Number of Volunteers: 119

Volunteer Hours Worked: 1,364

Total Donations and Grants Received: \$2,750

School Program Scholarship Grants: \$0

Event Sponsorships: \$0

Average Monthly Visits : 5,019

Community Programs

Events

School Programs

Service Learning

Student Projects

Volunteers

Donations

Visitation

OVERVIEW

This report summarizes the 2019 and 2020 activities of the North Mountain Park Nature Center, a branch of Ashland Parks & Recreation. Ashland Parks & Recreation is overseen by a five-member elected Parks Commission.

North Mountain Park consists of approximately 14 acres of Natural Area and a Nature Center that was open to the public five days a week in 2019. The park remained open to visitors, while the Nature Center was closed to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Center conducts activities for all ages in the areas of environmental education, recreation, stewardship, and sustainability.

Our staff continually strives to

“protect and enhance the ecology of North Mountain Park while promoting greater community enjoyment, understanding and stewardship of the local environment.”



CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19

The Nature Center and North Mountain Park in 2020



In 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic brought unprecedented changes to the Nature Center and to the world. Priorities quickly shifted as we closed the Nature Center to the public and cancelled in-person programs. Here are a few ways COVID-19 changed how we do our work:

The Nature Center, the playroom and exhibits were closed to the public throughout the pandemic. Park Facilities such as bathrooms, playgrounds and rental spaces were temporarily closed to the public.

Events, community classes and our popular pre-school puppet theater were cancelled until we could safely gather inside again.

All School Program field trips and Service Learning programs were cancelled.

Due to budget concerns, APRC was forced to lay off several employees. Receptionist Brigette Cooke was laid off in March of 2020, leaving a hole at all levels of operations.

Budget concerns also impacted the hiring of seasonal staff and the workloads of Park staff.

Libby and Jen (for a time supported by AmeriCorps member Laurel Cheever) shifted their duties to take up the maintenance of the gardens and Natural Area.

Jen's job duties were entirely refocused toward ongoing park maintenance, Community Garden facilitation and volunteer support. Libby's responsibilities became increasingly administrative, budgetary and focused on partnerships.

A small group of volunteers continued to work under strict safety protocols, so that the gardens could still receive the care they need. Work parties were cancelled in fall 2020.

Increasing visitor impacts, became difficult to monitor. A new Park Host volunteer position was established to help keep an eye on impacts and help communicate park rules.

Please Note: All photos in this report, showing staff and volunteers without masks, were taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.

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NATURE CENTER

Team and Center Operations

- + *Libby offered staff Excel and Outlook training.*
- + *The Nature Center establishes Mission, Vision and Values, and supports the same for APRC.*
- + *First Volunteer Barbeque held at Oak Knoll.*
- + *Brigette Cooke, APRC Employee of the Quarter*
- + *Nature Center acquires AmeriCorps placement.*
- + *Undertook ODFW Eggs to Fry Program, 2019.*
- + *Staff works together on massive barn clean-out.*
- + *COVID-19 drastically changes 2020 operations.*
- + *Significant limitations in staffing*
- + *Remaining team participates in professional development and numerous trainings.*
- + *Libby participates in ORPA's DEI committee.*
- + *New water bottle filler and drinking fountain is installed, with support from Foundation donations.*

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." – Henry Ford

OUR TEAM



The Nature Center has been operated by three full-time staff members. This dedicated team consists of the Nature Center Manager Libby VanWyhe, Coordinator Jennifer Aguayo and Office Assistant Brigette Cooke. Seasonal staff educators support our school program field trips, through the development of lesson materials and oversight of the instructor team. The Nature Center also relies on support from Parks staff to assist with grounds and facility maintenance. In 2019, we were joined by an AmeriCorps service member, for an 11-month placement.

In March of 2020, Receptionist Brigette Cooke (Office Assistant III), was laid off. No seasonal staff were hired in 2020.

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OUR TEAM

2019 Seasonal Staff



Mary Ann Perry

Lead Instructor from 8/3/17 to 8/1/19

Geology, Water, Plant, Animals

“Intergenerational community building and guiding students in the beautiful natural world, fill my cup!”



Sulaiman Shelton

Lead Instructor from 3/23/18 to 12/31/19

Taught Water, Plants, Animals, and Native American History

“The need for authentic connection to the natural world is at an all time high, and providing this to students in our community has given me boundless joy.”



Clair Shannon

Lead Instructor from 8/21/19 to 11/4/19

Taught Native American History

“There is nothing more important than kids being able to get their hands dirty while learning ...I have enjoyed every moment of it.”

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OUR TEAM

AmeriCorps Service Member – Laurel Cheever

For the first time in 9 years, North Mountain Park hosted an AmeriCorps placement in the role of Service Learning Coordinator.

Laurel is originally from Denver, Colorado and has a degree in Geology. She first came to Southern Oregon to work at the Oregon Caves National Monument in the spring of 2018. After falling in love with the area, she tried to make her way back after the season ended. She wants to teach Earth Science in the future and is passionate about connecting people to their environment in meaningful ways.

As our AmeriCorps service member, she has done direct teaching and built lasting structural support for the NMP volunteer programs. Her work will support the North Mountain Park community long after her service term has ended in August 2020.

In her free time, Laurel likes to bake bread, make music and wander in the Siskiyou as much as possible.



Laurel accomplished much during her term. The completion of the plant database and garden care binders will be a huge benefit to our Garden Volunteer program. This training resource will help with volunteer retention and will also be a way to capture and pass on volunteer knowledge.

The impromptu educational videos Laurel developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, can support teachers in remote education. The videos may also help train new volunteer instructors.

Laurel's new Invasive Species Service Learning lesson will be a great addition to our menu of programs.

Laurel spent considerable time working in the Park's natural area and gardens. A mixture of indoor and outdoor work was best for Laurel's health and well-being, and since many of our project goals were derailed due to COVID-19, she provided vital park stewardship in the spring and summer of 2020.

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“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” – Elizabeth Andrew

VOLUNTEERS

Community volunteers are a vital part of the Nature Center family. They work in almost every aspect of the park, including gardening, education, site maintenance, events and monitoring.

Besides the work they do for the park, volunteers create the community that flows through everything we do. People from all age groups and backgrounds come together to support our park and each other.

Volunteer intake, management and appreciation are overseen by our co-worker Sulaiman Shelton. Sulaiman, previously a Lead Instructor at North Mountain Park, replaced Lori Ainsworth as Volunteer and Event Coordinator, early in 2020.

Although our community work parties have been put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteerism continues, on a smaller scale, with a few dedicated members of our community.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Appreciation



In 2019, Nature Center volunteers logged more than 3,000 hours working to keep our park beautiful, engaging students in outdoor education, monitoring wildlife, protecting our resources and running our events. These dedicated volunteers go above and beyond, caring for Ashland parks.

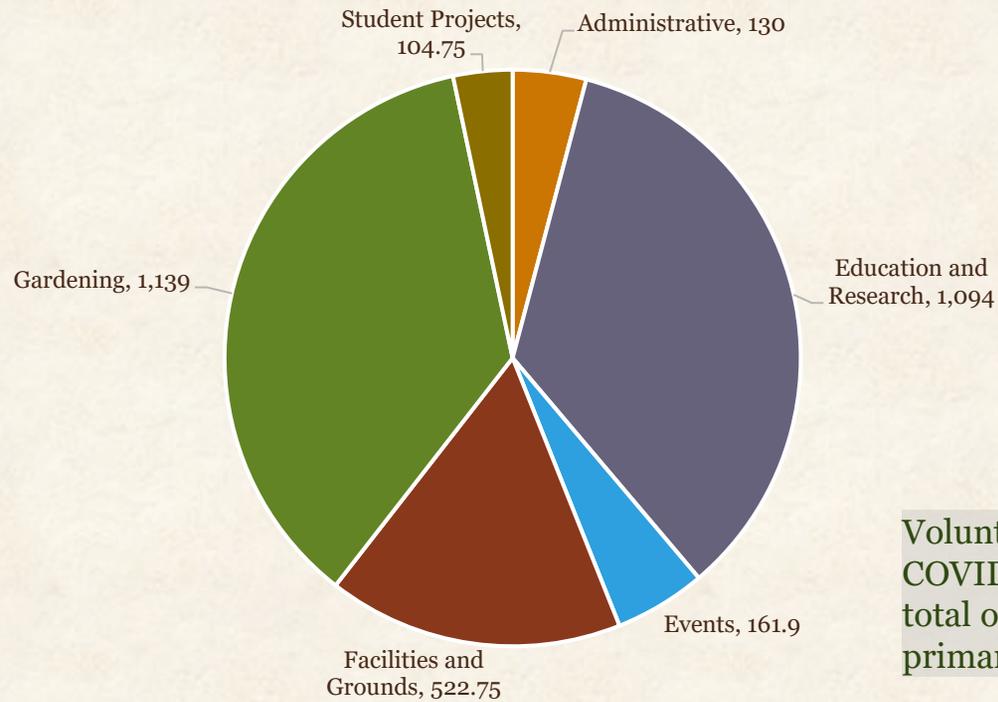
They are the foundation of our community here at the Nature Center. They love North Mountain Park and we love them! Throughout the year we host several appreciation events, to keep this community connected and acknowledge their incredible contributions.

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, is held at the Ashland Hills Hotel every February. We also end every garden season with a volunteer luncheon in the Nature Center, with hearty soup, salad and bread home made by staff. In the summer, we invite all APRC volunteers for a summer ice cream social on the Nature Center lawn. In 2020, Oak Knoll hosted their first fall-season BBQ luncheon for some of our volunteer superstars.

Although these gatherings have been restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we look forward to seeing our friends and volunteers again in the future.

2019 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

3,152 Hours of help ~ supporting our operations



Volunteerism declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, a total of 1,364 hours were donated, primarily in gardening.



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“Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school.” – Albert Einstein

STUDENT PROJECTS



The Nature Center partners with SOU to help students connect with their community. Every year, our staff supervise and evaluate numerous senior practicum, capstone and graduate internship projects, giving those students first-hand experience with service and education.

These arrangements are exciting and mutually beneficial for everyone involved. The students get to meet their requirements and receive internship credits, while the Nature Center benefits from their enthusiasm, creativity and generosity.

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AJ Breazeale

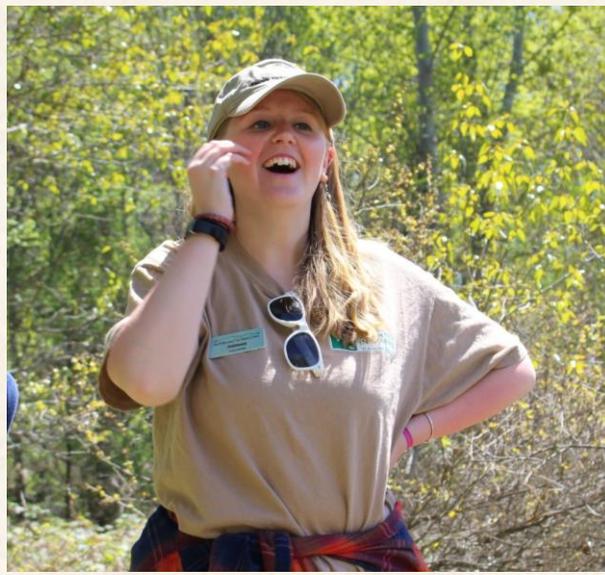
Hannah Kittler

Jessica Zuzack



Undergraduate Project - Spring 2019
Discovering Nests, K-2 field trips

“What I liked about this experience, was that I never felt invisible unappreciated or irrelevant. It's a privilege to be able to take time to be a part of this great experience and to apply myself in new, novel and creative ways. I like the ability to affect young lives and the community with this unique parks and recreation department.”



Masters Internship - Spring 2019
Animal Adaptations, K-2 field trips
Accessibility review of programs

“Sitting a classroom everyday can get to be a little tedious, so teaching at North Mountain Park reminded me why I was in the EE program. I learned a lot of new management techniques and also got to work with an age group that I don't get to work with often. .”



Masters Internship - Fall 2019
Catching Salmon, K-2 field trips

“Volunteering for this program gave me direct experience... experimenting with lesson flow, and collaborating with staff and other volunteers to improve teaching effectiveness. Observing the planning, operations, and evaluation of an established and respected program was also a useful learning experience.”

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Michael Kaufman



Masters Internship – Fall 2019

Acorn Flour, K-2 field trips

“My biggest strengths as a volunteer teacher were my ability to adapt to different situations and my energy as a leader. There were a number of times where I adjusted my lesson on my own to fit an unusual situation. .”

Michael Kaufman



Masters Internship – Spring 2020

Adapting and filming remote lessons

“I really appreciated the experience that NMP helped me gain. It was instrumental in helping me be ready to adapt my program to virtual delivery. I really benefitted from the experience with Adobe Premier Pro and I also got a lot from being behind the camera too.”

William Beckett



Masters Internship – Fall 2020

Adapting and filming remote lessons

“Working with North Mountain park has been nothing but exquisite... This experience helped me develop thoughtful, interactive lessons for a virtual environment, a critical skill for my coming endeavors.”

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“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn.” - Benjamin Franklin

EXHIBITS

In 2019, The Nature Center was open to the public five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For most of 2020, the Nature Center was closed to visitors.

When the Center is open, visitors may view many interpretive displays and activities. A reception area features interactive informational elements as well as a variety of brochures and booklets which inform visitors about local plants, wildlife, cultural history, hiking trails, parks and volunteer opportunities. The Exhibit Room contains a wall-to-wall mural and educational displays about local natural and cultural history. Children love to play with the Exhibit Room’s puppet theatre, fairy tree house, animal tracks, farmer’s market and natural blocks.

Next door in the Discovery Lab, visitors can explore a magnifying closer-look station, i-pad listening station and curiosity cabinet. Three fish tanks contain a ringed cray fish, mosquito fish, and a seasonal exhibit of either Chinook salmon eggs or Pacific tree frogs.





GARDENS

Throughout our community

- + Development of garden database for tracking 190 garden species.*
- + Development of Garden Wisdom Binders with maps and plant care info for each adoptable bed.*
- + Garden volunteers continue working, safely, through the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- + A new rock hopping path in the native garden allows kids to play with less impact to the gardens.*
- + We receive complaints of ground squirrel damage in the Ashland Creek Park Community Garden.*
- + 2020 saw the last of three annual fee increases at ACP Community Garden.*
- + Community gardens experienced vandalism and theft, so entry codes were changed.*
- + Community Gardens are more popular than ever because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are maintaining 70 people on waiting lists.*

“Much of gardening is a return, an effort at recovering remembered landscapes.” - Michael Pollan

HEIRLOOM GARDENS

Surrounding the Nature Center, the Heirloom Gardens showcase rare varieties of garden plants that were popular during Southern Oregon’s pioneer history. These gardens are working examples of sustainable garden design and gardening practices.

The Heirloom Garden thrives under the care of volunteers from the Ashland Garden Club. These volunteers continue to provide updated information for interpretive booklets, and continued maintenance of the Heirloom Garden, including several re-design and re-planting projects.

Heirloom Gardeners continued to maintain the garden beds throughout 2020.



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“The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature.” — Alfred Austin

DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

The Demonstration Gardens provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and a place for self-guided education and recreation.

The beautiful flowers of the Butterfly Gardens support a diversity of pollinators. The Traditional and Culinary Herb Gardens highlight a variety of plants with important uses in human cultures. The Bird Buffet offers seed-producing sunflowers and amaranth throughout the growing season and bird feeders in the winter. A Native Plant Garden showcases a variety of native and drought-resistant landscaping plants.

The Demonstration Gardens serve as a rich community resource by providing a setting for docent-led tours and community educational programs. Volunteers continue to maintain these beautiful gardens for our community.



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DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

Community Coalesces around Wednesday Work Parties



Since taking the position at Nature Center Coordinator, Jen has aspired to develop a strong, supportive gardening community. In 2019, the volunteer dynamic really began to coalesce, and the demonstration gardeners began to function as a very caring and enthusiastic team.

Wednesday morning work parties now involve up to 15 volunteers working side by side on large tasks and brainstorming solutions to personal and park horticultural challenges. Volunteers with less gardening experience can rely on the rest of the team for advice and skill-building. Jen supports the group by providing new ways to share and organize their knowledge.

We love to see the team's commitment to the gardens and to each other. We look forward to bringing back the tea and snack-time that has been one of the largest community-building perks of our work parties.

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DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

Gardening in a Pandemic

In 2020, the gardening season kicked off during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Garden adopters knew that without care, the garden beds would be consumed by weeds. So, for the first several months of the growing season, volunteers came independently to garden outside of formal work parties. These “guerilla gardeners” were crucial to the health of the Demonstration gardens and Heirloom Gardens.

When health and safety rules allowed people to gather in small outdoor groups, our team reconvened. Work continued at social distance. Jen implemented procedures for sanitizing tools, and Libby facilitated contactless snack periods.

Every week, gardeners expressed that working side-by-side with friends to care for the earth was keeping them sane and healthy through 2020. The gardens had never been more beautiful.



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DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

Plant Care Database

Libby and Jen have developed a new garden database for tracking all our garden plants. The database includes growth-habits, life-history, garden placement, resistances and tolerances, propagation information and month-by-month care recommendations for every species. The database is designed so that information can be searched by several different criteria, and all the specifics for each plant can be pulled into informative binders for each garden bed.

To populate the database, Jen worked with master gardener Rhianna Simmes and AmeriCorps Service Member Laurel Cheever to find bio-regionally-specific information for 190 garden plants.

	AQ 43	AR 44	AS 45	AT 46	
Native hybrid is either local or US hybrids and					
istanc Breeding Weediness Spread contro Fertilizing Mi					
nfo	Cultivar	Somewhat weedy	Selective removal	sult in more green, h	No
1	Cultivar	Aggressive	Selective removal	foliage growth in e	Far
jm				Organic granular	
1	Cultivar	Spreads slowly	Selective removal	early spring 10-10-10	
1				Organic granular	
1				Organic granular	
1	Cultivar	Somewhat weedy		lightly in early spring	No
1	Cultivar	Somewhat weedy		lightly in early spring	No
jm		Somewhat weedy	Divide often	Organic granular	
jm				Organic granular	
jm				Organic granular	
jm				Organic granular	
1	Cultivar	Does not spread		bloom mix in summe	No
1				Organic granular	
1				Organic granular	
1	Cultivar	Spreads slowly	Selective removal		No
1	Cultivar	Aggressive	ut flowers before	spring	Spr
1	Cultivar	Does not spread	balanced soluble fertilizer onc		Far
1	Cultivar			spring	
1	Cultivar	Spreads slowly		spring	
1	Cultivar	Spreads slowly		spring	
1	Cultivar	Somewhat weedy		spring	
7	Cultivar	Does not spread			
1				Organic granular	1x
1				Organic granular	2x
1				Organic granular	2x
1				Organic granular	2x
1				Organic granular	2x
1				Organic granular	1x
1				Organic granular	1x
jm	Cultivar	Somewhat weedy	Selective removal		
jm				Organic granular	1x
jm				Organic granular	1x
jm	Local Native	Somewhat weedy	Remove on sight	Not needed	No
1				Organic granular	1x
jm	US Native			Organic granular	1x
jm	Cultivar	Does not spread	Not a problem	Organic granular	
jm				Organic granular	1x
1	Local Native	Spreads slowly	Selective removal	Not needed	Far
jm		ODA invasive!	Remove on sight!	Organic granular	1x
7	Cultivar			none	Far
7	US Native	Somewhat weedy			
7				Organic granular	1x
jm	Cultivar	Somewhat weedy	Selective removal	or 2x spring/summe	No
1				Organic granular	1x
jm		Aggressive	Selective removal	Organic granular	1x
jm		Aggressive		Organic granular	1x
jm				Organic granular	1x
jm				Organic granular	1x
1	Cultivar	Does not spread	Divide often	Organic granular	1x
1		Spreads slowly	Divide often	spring	Far
jm	US Native			not necessary@sprin	

Garden Wisdom Binders

Libby used MS Excel and Publisher, to mail-merge the database content, including photographs, into plant sheets and maintenance calendars. Office Assistant, Haley Fasnacht helped compile all the individual plant care sheets into a complete set of "Garden Wisdom Binders".

Each garden bed has its own binder, which we entrust to the volunteer adopter. Jen will continue to work with volunteers to verify the contents and update the plant care details. Each adopting gardener is making notes about each plant's behavior in our microclimate. New plant information is will be entered into the database annually to improve volunteer training for next season.

Blackeyed Susan



Sub Species	
Family	Asteraceae
A/P	Perennial
Flower Color	Yellow
Structure	Spreading
Height	2ft
Spread	2 ft
Weediness	Somewhat weedy
How to Control	Selective removal
Tolerances	dry
Deer Resistance	Medium

Find It In...

Annual Garden	Butterfly Garden 7	Native Plant Garden 2
Wild Buffet	Cultivar Herb Garden	Perennial Garden
Butterfly Garden 1	Frontage Garden	Seedling/Nursery Garden
Butterfly Garden 2	Hummingbird Garden	Wooded Tree Garden
Butterfly Garden 3	Medicinal Herb Garden	Wall Garden
Butterfly Garden 4	Native Plant Garden 1	

Nature Center

Gardens

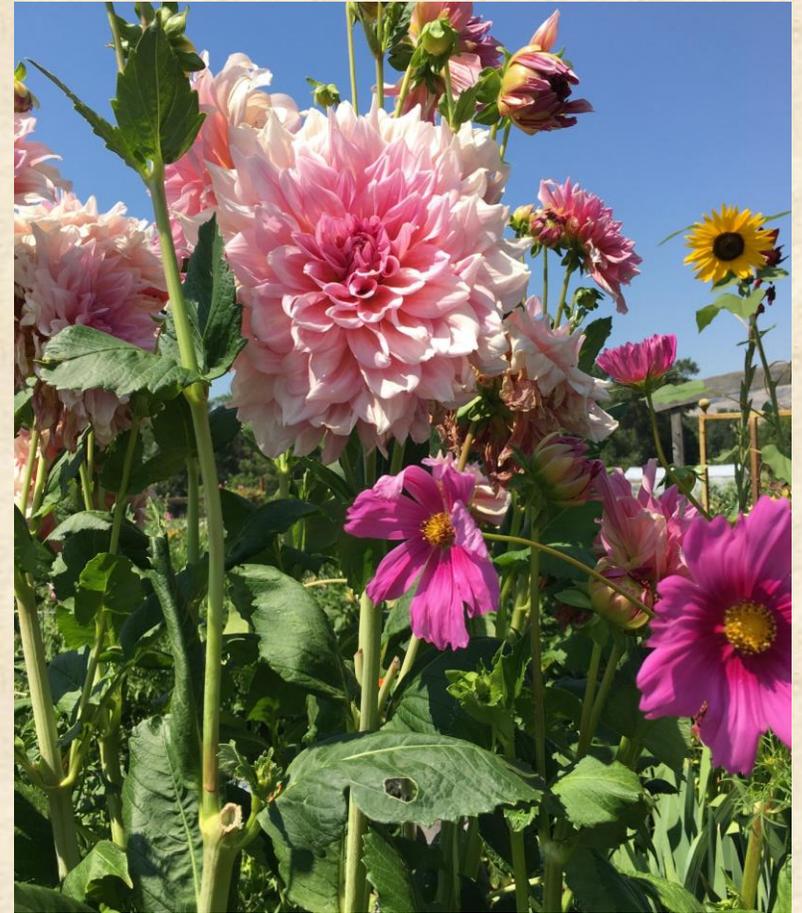
Natural Area

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*“The greatest fine art of the future will be the making of a comfortable living from a small piece of land.”
- Abraham Lincoln*

COMMUNITY GARDENS



Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission offers recreational community garden spaces for non-commercial organic gardening in four community gardens. These gardens are coordinated Nature Center staff, with the help of volunteer garden managers. All garden members are required to volunteer a minimum of four hours to help maintain common areas, contribute to community endeavors and maintain the parks that surround their gardens. A huge number of community service hours are donated by gardeners to maintain these community resources.

Interest in Community Gardening has surged during the COVID-19 pandemic. All plots were leased during the growing season, and staff is maintaining waiting lists for all the community gardens .

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COMMUNITY GARDENS

Ashland Creek Park *27 E Hersey St.*

Ashland Creek Park has 45 plots, two ADA accessible beds, raspberry plots and a greenhouse.

Scenic Park *603 Scenic Dr.*

Scenic Park is the smallest of APRC's community gardens, and has 10 plots available.

Garden Way *1620 Clark St.*

Garden Way community garden has 10 equally sized plots.

Clay Street Park *491 Clay St.*

Clay Street Park garden has 12 plots of various sizes and a picnic area for members.

In addition to tending their garden plots, each gardener contributes a minimum of 4 hours of "community service" per season, to their garden and the surrounding park. In 2019 and 2020, gardeners contributed the following service hours:

568 hours

73 hours

53 hours

90 hours



Community Gardeners contributed nearly 700 volunteers hours in 2019-2020. Creating beautiful a beautiful aesthetic for the whole community to enjoy.



NATURAL AREA

Inviting visitors and wildlife

- + A wild hive of honeybees swarmed at the park.*
- + In 2019, we had a full-time seasonal maintenance worker. In 2020, no seasonal staff were hired.*
- + Parks crews teamed up for a spring work party. NMP staff work to maintain the park.*
- + Volunteer Shannon Rio has taken responsibility for nest box maintenance and monitoring.*
- + Welcome signs replaced, using APF donations.*
- + Three infrared trail counters collect visitation data.*
- + Despite efforts to educate and block human access, park natural areas experience increased impacts.*
- + In 2019, upper pond dried up for the first time.*
- + In Summer 2020, annual maintenance resumed on the Beach Creek Sediment trap.*
- + Nature Play Area is completed in early 2020.*

“When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” - - Aldo Leopold

MANAGEMENT

In accordance with our commission-approved mission, the natural area (approximately 14 acres that lies within the Bear Creek floodplain) is being managed with the goal of protecting and enhancing ecological values while supporting compatible educational and recreational use.

Ashland Parks and Recreation staff work with community volunteers and Service Learning groups in an effort to control invasive species. As herbicide use is not permitted at North Mountain Park, the control of invasive weeds requires ongoing effort. Those who engaged in outdoor service at North Mountain Park were primarily involved in managing invasive species and worked under the supervision of, or alongside, APRC staff.

No seasonal staff were hired to maintain the park in 2020. Additionally, very few work parties or Service Learning activities could take place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Remaining staff took responsibility for park and trail maintenance.



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MANAGEMENT

The Beach Creek System: Ponds and Sediment Trap

When North Mountain Park was established in 1999, three ponds were excavated along Beach Creek in order to create a habitat mosaic of riparian cover, emergent wetlands and open water habitat.

The Beach Creek Sediment Trap was constructed upstream of the park, for the purpose of minimizing sediment delivery to the downstream ponds and Bear Creek. Historical documents indicate that the trap's capacity is just large enough to hold the approximate annual sediment load.

These numbers indicate that sediment must be excavated every year in order to keep the Sediment Trap functioning as designed. Annual sediment removal was recommended by the biologists who consulted on the initial construction.

Unfortunately, irregular and intermittent maintenance of the trap has caused the Beach Creek Ponds to become shallower with each passing year. This sedimentation causes two different seasonal extremes:

- 1) During the rainy season, decreased pond capacity causes increased flooding throughout NMP's trail system, making some recreation and teaching locations inaccessible.
- 2) In contrast, by late summer, the shallow ponds are more likely to dry up, imperiling the all aquatic organisms that use the ponds.



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Sedimentation Degrades the Beach Creek Ponds

In 2019, after a dry summer and fall, the ponds dried up completely, leaving only mud. This was the first year, since the establishment of the park, that the ponds contained no water at all. If this becomes a seasonal trend, North Mountain Park's wildlife populations, including fish, frogs, birds and resident western pond turtles, will suffer.

Early in 2020, we submitted a Joint Permit Application for maintenance dredging work on the Beach Creek Sediment Trap. The Department of State Lands, Army Corps of Engineers, and Department of Environmental Quality gave the project the green-light. In summer of 2020, Open Spaces Supervisor Jason Minica and his crew helped reinstate the required annual maintenance of the Sediment Trap. The removal of 220 cubic yards of sediment, while it doesn't amount to a complete clean-out, will protect the habitats of North Mountain Park through another rainy season. Annual maintenance of the trap will continue to be necessary to ensure that the downstream habitats are not further degraded.

Rehabilitation of the North Mountain Park ponds themselves will also be necessary. A history of inadequate maintenance on the sediment trap makes remediation and restoration of the ponds a significant challenge. Next steps include a request to adopt this large-scale project as a goal in the coming years.



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Remaining Staff Work to Maintain the Park



During the summer of 2019, the Nature Center staff included a full-time seasonal employee from mid-April to late August. This dedicated position, which had been shared with the Parks Department in the past, allowed the Nature Center to manage many maintenance issues that had been neglected for several years, due to prior budget cuts.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting loss of revenue, Nature Center did not receive any seasonal maintenance help in 2020. Another loss of maintenance assistance came with the late-season directive to halt volunteer work parties and Service Learning programs. The army of volunteers normally working in the park dried up, leaving only a handful of dedicated individuals, who covered only a small fraction of the park's needs.

In response to this maintenance crisis, the Nature Center's recreation staff quickly trained and prepared for double duty. In addition to regular duties and new pandemic-related tasks, all remaining staff (including Brigette and Laurel, before they left the team) committed to helping with on-the-ground work. The Nature Center team took turns string trimming, pruning, planting, and maintaining the gardens and natural area of the park. Despite valiant efforts, maintenance demands were higher than could be met in 2020.

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Managing Increased Visitor Impacts



North Mountain Park maintains spaces that are intended for wildlife preservation and monitoring. While the narrow deer-tracks in these areas are occasionally explored by visitors, human-use has never been high enough to cause management concerns. In 2019, staff noticed that brush was being cleared to make social trails through the park's natural area. Invasive and native plants were cut down indiscriminately, causing increasing concerns in several areas which are important wildlife habitats for breeding and denning. Due to new and widened paths, visitor traffic increased dramatically, and new areas were opened to human access. This led to a marked increase in trash and camping in these areas. In collaboration with Parks staff, new barriers and educational signage were placed at a major entrance point. Unfortunately, trails continued to lead around the barriers to new stream access points where erosion is now an issue.

Human impacts have continued to increase during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is apparent that a lack of consistent staff or volunteer presence emboldens the public to disregard the park rules. People walk their dogs through the park every day. Cigarette butts litter the gardens and pavilion. One of our large picnic tables was stolen in 2020. Camping is common, and wood has even been collected to start campfires in the park. At the start of 2021, a young cedar tree (which had been planted for Arbor Day 4 years ago) was cut down at the base, making it the most recent victim of park vandalism.

These impacts highlight the need for park management that ensures satisfying visitor experience, regulatory enforcement and protection of the small pockets of sanctuary for wildlife and native species.

“Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.” - Albert Einstein

WILDLIFE



A great abundance and variety of wildlife utilize the park's diverse habitat areas. The riparian zone along Bear Creek serves as part of an important migratory corridor for many species.

The plethora of birds and other wildlife at North Mountain Park attracts more recreational birders and wildlife watchers every year. Vegetation management in the park is tailored to accommodate wildlife needs, especially during the spring and summer breeding and nesting season. In order to protect the park's highly productive bird-nesting habitats, staff continues to apply lighter, later-season vegetation-management treatments to minimize disturbance during the nesting season.

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“Natural science, does not simply describe and explain nature; it is part of the interplay between nature and ourselves.”
— Werner Heisenberg

MONITORING

Trained volunteers, students, natural resource professionals and Ashland Parks & Recreation staff participate in monitoring efforts at North Mountain Park. Information gathered through the North Mountain Park monitoring efforts contributes valuable scientific data to regional and global monitoring programs, helps to teach about monitoring methods and strategies, and engages volunteers in exciting, authentic environmental stewardship. The data collected also helps to guide the ongoing management of the park’s natural area.

Bird-monitoring programs include monthly bird surveys, nest box monitoring, and Project Feederwatch.

All these bird monitoring efforts continued in 2020, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic.



MONITORING

Trail Counters Track Park Visitation



In 2018, we installed TrafX infrared trail counters at three of the Park's main points of entry. Because of the Park's "open" trail system, there are many ways to enter the park. We understand that some counters may capture people twice, while some people may enter the park without getting counted at all. We believe that we have achieved a good approximation of visitation by counting entries at three locations:

- The paved bike path entry from North Mountain Avenue
- The parking lot trail entrance that leads to the barn
- The switchback trail that leads down from the Pavilion

These trail counters have now gathered two years of data. The 2019 numbers include counts from numerous school programs and public events. We have tried to parse these out in the following graph of monthly visitation. Baseline visitation in 2019 averaged to 4,833 visits per month.

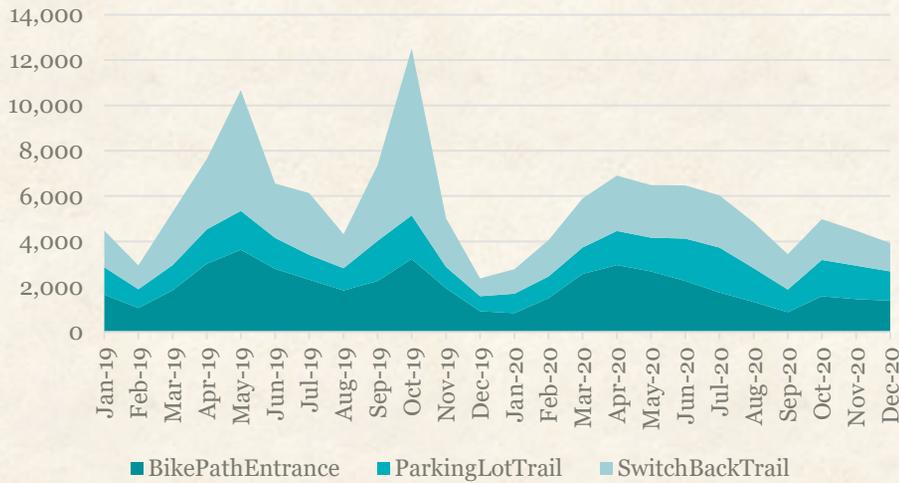
In contrast, the 2020 numbers include only baseline visitation and the ongoing presence of Little Gnomes Nature School. Even without Nature Center programming to inflate the numbers, and in spite of (or perhaps because of) the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw visitation increase. In 2020, we experienced an average of 5,019 visits per month.

A fourth trail counter, at the Nature Play Area entrance, captured an average of 3,331 visits to the playground in each month it was open.

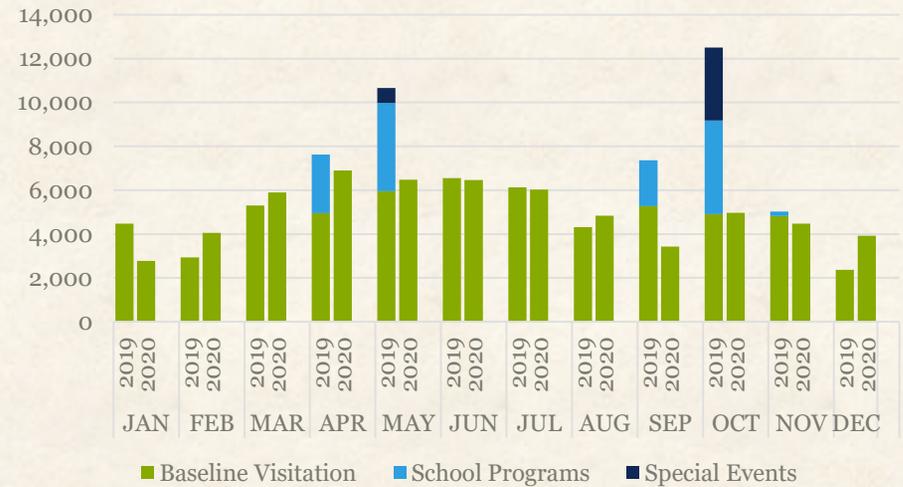
MONITORING

Trail Counters Track Park Visitation

Total Visitation in 2019-2020 as Measured By Three Trail Counters



Monthly Visitation Comparison 2019 vs. 2020



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MONITORING

Trail Cameras Document Wildlife Usage



Gray Fox

Urocyon cinereoargenteus



Black Bear

Ursus americanus



Bobcat

Lynx rufus



Coyotes

Canis latrans

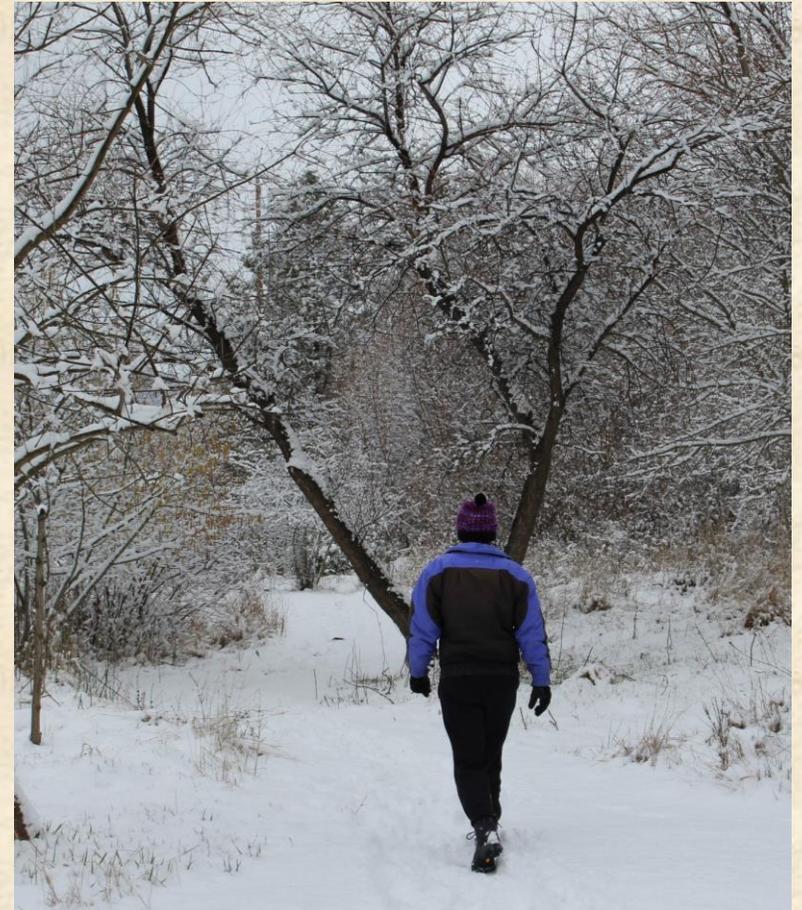
In fall of 2020, we initiated a partnership with faculty in the Biology department of SOU. We allowed students to install trail cameras in the Natural Areas that are generally not open for public access. In return, they shared the photo files and the results of their data.

Ten motion-sensitive trail cameras were installed at meadow, woodland and riparian locations, and thousands of photos were captured. Many wonderful mammal species were photographed during the course of the project including: racoon, opossum, bobcat, black bear, coyote, gray fox, and numerous deer. Jen and Libby attended the final presentations in which SOU students summarized their data. Presentations emphasized the importance of undeveloped riparian areas that exclude human impacts. North Mountain Park provides protected corridors for diverse wildlife moving through the urban interface.

The trail cameras will remain in place for the next several months, with the understanding that NMP staff will continue to download the photographs and replace the batteries. Jen and Libby have taken responsibility for camera maintenance, and we hope to obtain even more photos that we can use for public education.

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." - John Muir

ENGAGING VISITORS



Wood chip trails provide easy access to about one-half of the Natural Area of the park. These trails, which are maintained by Parks Staff and volunteers, facilitate recreation, wildlife observation, and interpretation of natural and cultural history. Interpretive signs help to educate visitors, and children enjoy finding the Creature Quest boxes dotted throughout the park. The Native American umma, sandbox, and Salmon Spiral are favorite outdoor features for visitors and students alike.

The new Nature Play Area is a new feature that encourages children to explore nature through hands-on play that is contained and structured in order to be less impactful to the park's wildlife habitats.

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ENGAGING VISITORS

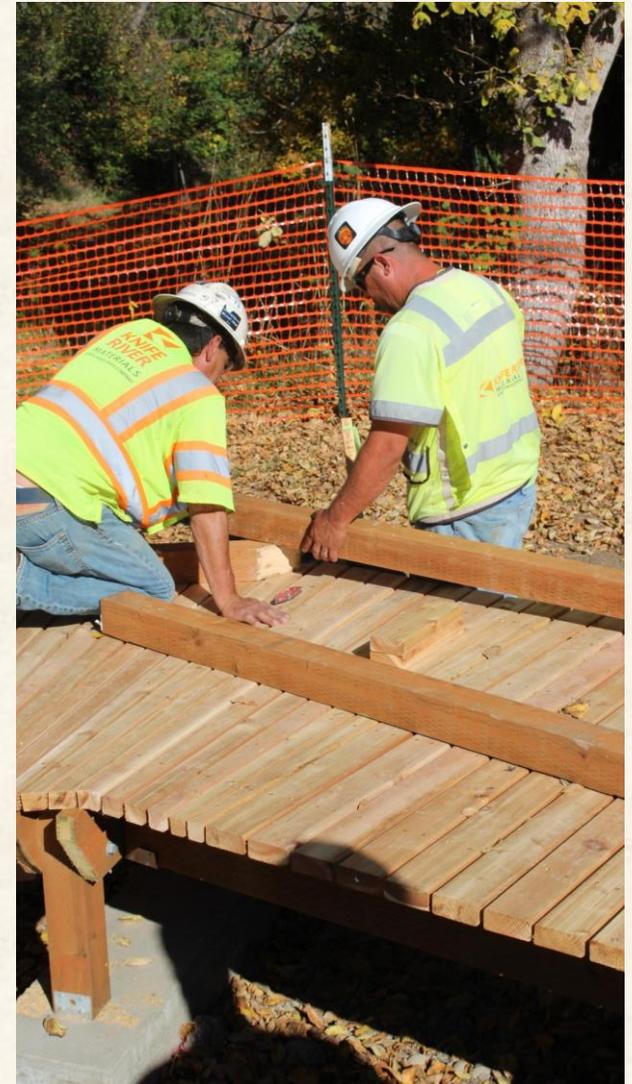
Nature Play Area Under Construction – September 2019



After four years of preliminary work, all the pieces were finally in place to begin the Nature Play Area construction project in 2019.

Project Manager Jason Minica coordinated with the contractors, Knife River Materials, to ensure timely and efficient construction of GreenWorks PC's playground design. Tara Kiewell was instrumental in the bid process and CIP budget oversight. Joe Hyde took special care the installation (and trial and error improvements) of the log channels for the water run. Libby oversaw funding, permitting, administration and collaboration with partners and volunteers.

Extensive fundraising and several community partnerships contributed to this success. Through careful management of the allotted grant funds and several in-kind donations, we brought the project to completion, \$895 under-budget. All the contributing partners and staff are delighted with the results.



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ENGAGING VISITORS

Nature Play Area is Open! – January 2020



The Nature Play Area at North Mountain Park is hugely popular. Every sunny afternoon families can be found enjoying the space, with younger kids in the sandbox, and older kids challenging themselves by balancing and climbing while adults socialize nearby.

The play that we observe in the new Nature Playground is inspiring to witness. Nature play tends to be more stimulating to children's growth and development than traditional playgrounds. We have observed kids as they creatively manipulate natural materials, test their large motor skills, problem-solve, collaborate, challenge each other, and guess and check the results of their actions as they build streams and dams. The playground is already providing developmental, social and emotional benefits to the children who use it, and it is helping to build community among people of all ages.

We hope to have a Grand Opening celebration to thank our donors, when the pandemic lifts.



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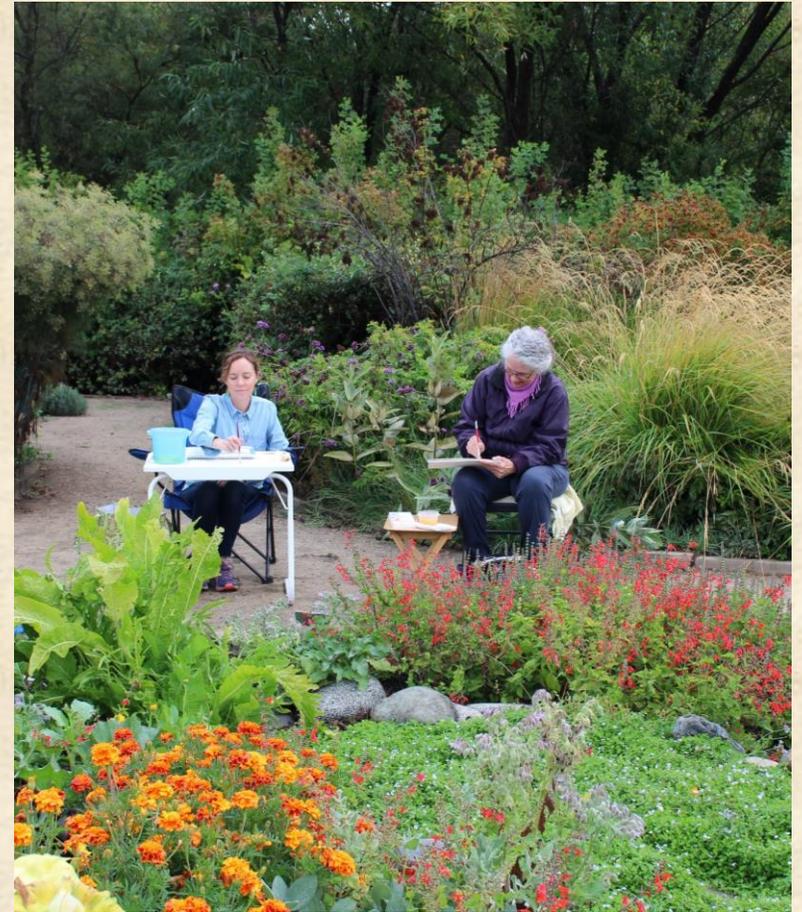
EDUCATION

Opportunities for all ages

- + *NMP initiated “Learning Free For All” and Love Your Water week.*
- + *Libby taught a graduate-level class in “Concepts of Environmental Education” at SOU.*
- + *Staff provided oversight to the August Institute Teacher PD Workshop, in 2019.*
- + *2019 Winter-season class visits brought Water field trip lessons to 296 students.*
- + *Jen offered weekly “Yoga in the Park”.*
- + *Commission votes to raise School Program fees.*
- + *School Program field trips are impossible in 2020.*
- + *During 2020, we offer remote (Zoom) programs and activities at social distance.*
- + *Partnerships and student interns allow education to continue virtually, through social media and videos.*

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.” - Margaret J. Wheatley

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



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Throughout the year, The Nature Center coordinates community education programs for all ages in topics relating to natural science, cultural history, gardening, nature crafts, sustainability. We also appreciate creative proposals which engage the community in general outdoor recreation and nature emersion. Instructors who have something to share are invited to submit their proposals three times a year for our Summer, Fall, and Winter/Spring Guide cycles. We support the programs through our facilities and gardens, as well as general marketing and program registration.

In 2020, we offered small programs outdoors, at social distance, and we developed a protocol for offering and supporting remote (zoom) programs. These attempts were only marginally successful, and demand for our programs remained low throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS - 2019

Learning Free For All



In an effort to increase attendance and awareness of Community Programs, instructors were recruited to offer a full week of free classes in each Recreation Guide cycle of 2019. Visitors were delighted to attend free garden tours, nature walks, star parties and other classes.

Attendance, although usually low during the summer season, was high during this week, with visitors favoring outdoor walks and star parties.

Love Your Water Week



As part of the nation-wide campaign “A Day Without Water,” the Nature Center partnered with the City of Ashland Conservation Division to host “Love Your Water Week”.

This water-awareness campaign included tours of Reeder Reservoir and the Ashland water treatment plant, an educational social-media campaign, community classes, news articles and an interview on JPR’s Morning Edition. This campaign also collaborated with local watershed councils, municipal water services and other organizations throughout Jackson County.

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COMMUNITY PROGRAMS - 2019

Our Community Programs are as diverse as the community instructors who offer to teach them.

Some of our repeating, seasonal offerings are much-loved and consistently well-attended. These include: Demonstration Garden Tours, Summer Saturday Morning Bird Walks, Project Feederwatch, Natural Holiday Wreaths and our monthly Preschool Puppet Theatre.

Listed are some of our favorite, well-attended and new programs. For a complete list of programs, check out APRC Play Guide, or call the Nature Center to receive our Newsletter each season.

Low Cost Bokashi Composting	Introduction to Straw Bale Buildings
Native Fish of Bear Creek	Green in Life, Going Green in Death
Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy People	Growing Berries
Learning Bird Songs	Working Together to Revive Bear Creek
Yoga at North Mountain Park	Fire Ecology in the Ashland Watershed
Introduction to Mycological Surveying	Intro to the Ashland Forest Plan
How to Make Gluten Free Sourdough Bread	Medicinal & Edible Plant Walk
Star Party-Discover the Moon	Protecting Pollinators & People in the Garden
Geocaching 101	Ashland Pollinator Garden Tours
Little Gnomes Day Camp	Landscaping for Water Conservation
Rainwater Catchment System Design	Nature Meditation
Star Party-Constellations	Ashland Green & Solar Tour
Ashland's Water-Where Does it Come From?	Laundry to Landscape Greywater System

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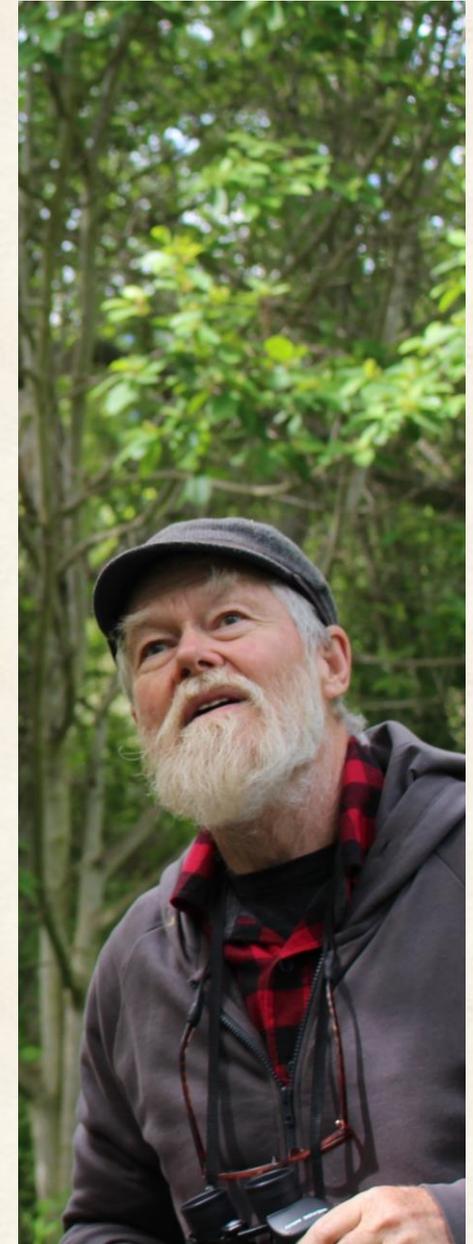
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COMMUNITY PROGRAMS - 2019

Waste Water Treatment Plant Tour	Storm Water Management
Inviting Birds Into Your Yard	An Experience in Harmony
Attracting & Feeding Birds in Your Yard	Oaks-Culturally Important
Hawks at Your Feeder	Tracks on the Trail
Salmon Spiral-Community Art Project	All About Birds
Pond Diversity	Whose Scat is That?
Creativity & the Natural World	Forest & Sky Bathing
Steelhead & Creeks	Up-Cycling Collage Storage
Finish Clay Plasters for Beginners	Regenerative Agriculture & Sustainable Gardening
Winter Bird Walk	NMP Garden Work Party
Seed Swap	Our Disappearing Western Monarch Butterflies

2020 Note: We reformatted programs to be offered outdoors, at social distance, or remotely, over Zoom. Despite the development of new protocols and remote education training opportunities, the majority of our programs were canceled in 2020, due to low enrolment.



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COMMUNITY PROGRAMS - 2020

Prepared to Teach Safely



As health and safety regulations became increasingly stringent, Jen and Libby worked closely with the Recreation team and the Senior Services division to develop new protocols for Covid-19-flexible programming.

Outdoor programs, at social distance, seemed feasible with increased staff support. Unfortunately, the public were understandably hesitant to sign up for community programs at this time. A handful of preschool, birding and astronomy programs generated enough interest to run.

Our next approach, was to develop new Procedures to support remote/virtual learning. Jen communicated with instructors, supported instructors and participants with tutorials in the new zoom platform, and was prepared to safely facilitate all our programs.

A virtual sour-dough bake along, and a Nature Journaling program over zoom, were both moderately well attended. All other remote programs have canceled due to low-enrolment.

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“The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values.”—William S. Burroughs

PUBLIC EVENTS



Each year, the Nature Center sponsors two public educational events that are free to community members of all ages. Rogue Valley Migratory Bird Day, held on the second Saturday of May, is a local celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Visitors enjoy bird walks and educational programs celebrating the life cycles and journeys of migrating birds.

The Bear Creek Salmon Festival is held on the first Saturday in October, and it is the largest and most well-attended event of the Nature Center calendar. Visitors of all ages explore the park and celebrate local art and music while learning about local watershed conservation.

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PUBLIC EVENTS - 2019

Rogue Valley Bird Day



Rogue Valley Bird Day is a local celebration of World Migratory Bird Day, an international event that brings awareness to bird migration and conservation. RVBD, hosted by the Nature Center, is a collaborative event, including partners from the Klamath Bird Observatory, Rogue Valley Audubon Society, Watchable Wildlife, and several local businesses.

Although the 2019 event was a great success, the 2020 event was cancelled by the newly announced COVID-19 pandemic.

Bear Creek Salmon Festival



One of the most popular and well attended family events in Ashland, is the Bear Creek Salmon Festival. This interactive, educational event, celebrates the return of the salmon in Bear Creek, highlighting watershed health and protection.

Salmonids have become a regular sighting from the streambanks in North Mountain Park from approximately late September through November, depending on rain.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Bear Creek Salmon Festival was cancelled in 2020.

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“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” - William Butler Yeats

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

School Program field trips offer numerous opportunities for students to connect with and explore the natural world. 2019 was the 23rd year that elementary students have visited North Mountain Park for School Program field trips.

The overarching goal of our School Programs is to teach appreciation for, and stewardship of, the natural systems that support us. All our lessons are conducted outdoors in small groups and are tailored to the Next Generation Science Standards and the Common Core. Every activity is now based on assessable objectives and is aligned to the current curriculum standards facing elementary teachers.

Ongoing program development has received positive feedback from teachers. Field trip attendance continues to increase, and new schools and districts are seeking out these field trips for the first time.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS - 2019

Animals of the Rogue Valley



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SCHOOL PROGRAMS - 2019

Native Americans of the Rogue Valley



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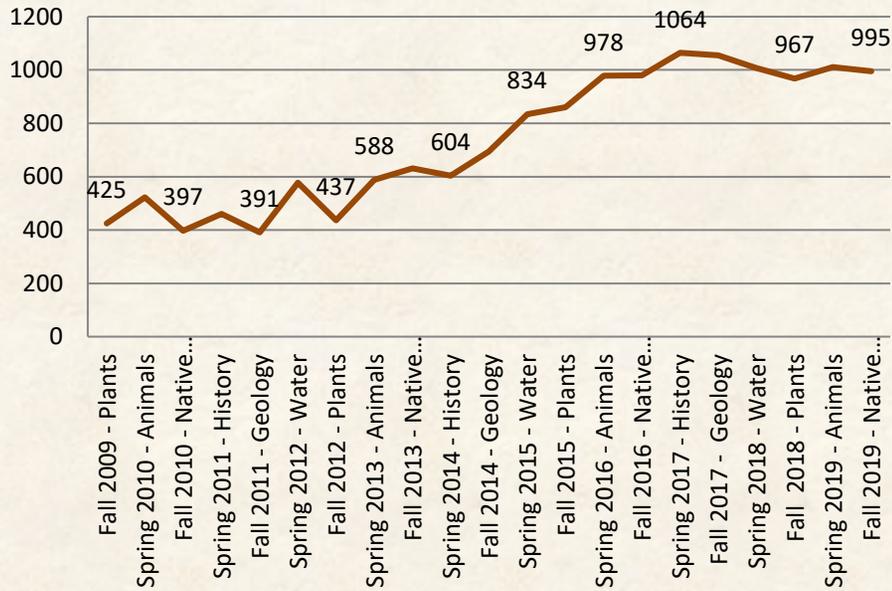
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SCHOOL PROGRAMS - 2019

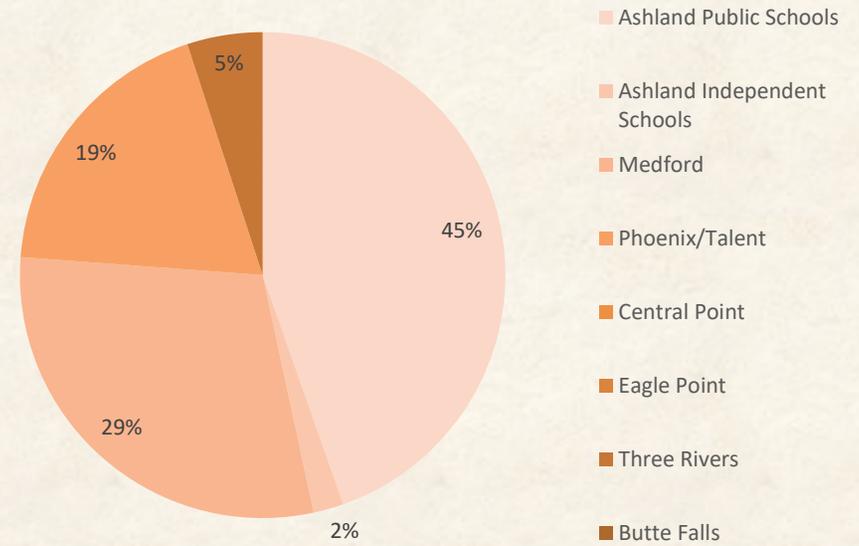
Attendance

Total Students Per Season



Diversity

Students Served by District - 2019



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"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful." – Mother Teresa

PARTNERSHIPS

Much of North Mountain Park's educational programming is made possible through our community partnerships.

Our public events are successful through collaboration with Southern Oregon's natural resource professionals, scientists, educators and other engaged citizens. Our partnership with the Klamath Bird Observatory, for example, allows us to share their bird-banding station (shown here) at Rogue Valley Bird Day

We maintain state-wide and regional partnerships in the fields of education, conservation and Parks and Recreation. Through our collaborative network we are able to serve a wider audience and advance our common goal of developing an ecologically literate community.



PARTNERSHIPS

Little Gnomes Nature School



Shannon Clery and Anouschka Andersen have successfully run preschool activities and camps as community programs at North Mountain Park. In the 2015-2016 school year, they developed Little Gnomes Nature School, a fully outdoor nature preschool. They now partner with us as an independent business and use the park as their school site.

Little children can now be found exploring nature at North Mountain Park, four days a week, throughout the school year.

Southern Oregon University



Libby maintained her connection with the Masters Program in Environmental Education by teaching a Graduate-Level Course at SOU. As adjunct faculty, she filled in for retiring mentor, Linda Hillgoss, and taught “Concepts in EE” in Winter of 2019. Most of this commitment was fulfilled in Libby’s own time, but the University connection will improve collaboration, networking and access to graduate student interns.

Our ongoing partnership with SOU allows us to oversee numerous student projects in the course of every year.

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PARTNERSHIPS

SOREEL - August Institute



North Mountain Park participates in Southern Oregon Regional Environmental Education Leaders, a collaborative professional network. In 2019, SOREEL's August Institute Teacher Professional Development Workshop empowered 45 educators with environmental education resources and techniques. North Mountain Park supported the planning and provided oversight to the August Institute Coordinator, Mary Ann Perry. NMP staff provided event support and presented multiple sessions, including a session on grant writing and a World Café brainstorming session.

SOREEL - Remote Education



Early in 2020, field trips and most outdoor educational opportunities were canceled. To keep kids connected with nature, SOREEL educators worked together to film short educational videos for the "Outside Every Day" campaign. Each week for the remainder of the school year, Libby and Laurel shared videos, promoting hands-on outdoor activities.

We also worked with SOREEL to compile and market a directory of providers offering COVID-19 flexible curriculum. Virtual education resources are available to teachers and administrators here: <https://sites.google.com/view/soreel>

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PARTNERSHIPS

Oregon Recreation and Parks Association



NMP participates in ORPA's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee. As an advisory committee for the ORPA Board of Directors, the committee works to recognize diversity in our communities, build equitable systems, and provide inclusive spaces and programs.

Libby has been involved in both the Engagement and Education working groups of this committee. She has helped to plan BIPOC Listening Sessions, a White-ally Listening Session, and monthly Racial Equity Webinars that are accessible to our colleagues, state-wide.

Oregon Natural Resources Education Partners

Nature Journaling Through Two Lenses

Libby VanWyhe
(she/her or they/them)
Manager,
North Mountain Park Nature Center,
Ashland Parks and Recreation

Tara Laidlaw
(she/her)
Education Program Manager,
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

Molly Allen
(she/her)
Environmental Education Specialist,
Bureau of Land Management,
Medford District

Libby worked with ONREP to offer a remote education Teacher PD opportunity. The two-hour program focused on the numerous benefits of a Nature Journaling practice as well as techniques that teachers can apply remotely with their students. We focused on activities that serve the Next Generation Science Standards and support Social and Emotional Learning.

“Nature Journaling Through Two Lenses” was offered twice and served 50 classroom teachers from across the state of Oregon.

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STEWARDSHIP

Service for sustainability

- + *Participated in A Day Without Water 2019, national public awareness campaign.*
- + *In collaboration with City of Ashland Water Conservation, we offered Love Your Water Week.*
- + *Libby submitted ParkViews article on habitat gardening, which was published in the Tidings.*
- + *167 people attended the 2019 Pollinator Garden Tour, which included gardens and local businesses.*
- + *2020 Ashland Pollinator Garden Tour goes virtual, sharing garden videos over Facebook*
- + *The Nature Play Area receives \$191,900 in grants and \$36,900 worth of in-kind support.*
- + *Service learning and Work parties are kept to a minimum due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- + *Construction of Riverwalk Pocket-park Pollinator Garden, and Maintenance at ACP Garden*

“The spirit of service is the heart of humanity.” — Lailah Gifty Akita

OUTDOOR SERVICE

Service organizations of school groups participated in Service Learning programs throughout the entire 2019 season. Groups of all ages engaged in meaningful stewardship, supporting the park while learning about related environmental education subjects.

Programs are generally offered two days of the week during the spring season as well as other times when staff and volunteer availability permits. Volunteers and seasonal hires assist North Mountain Park staff in facilitating these programs.

In 2020, a small number of work parties were conducted at social distance. Although we were prepared to offer Covid-19-flexible Service Learning programs, the community and the school district were hesitant to participate.



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“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.” – Wendell Berry

SUSTAINABILITY

North Mountain Park Nature Center upholds an ethic of sustainability in our programming as well as our day-to-day operations.

We work closely with our facilities managers to improve the efficiency of our lighting, heating and cooling. With the help of our irrigation crew and the City Water Conservation Department we work to reduce our water consumption. Improved control over our local irrigation system allows us to apply water resources where they are most needed.

We also partner with Recology and the Master Recyclers to teach our staff and members of the public how to reduce waste. Thanks to these ongoing partnerships, our Bear Creek Salmon Festival is a successful model of a Zero Waste event.

Finally, through interpretation, we strive to educate the public about our sustainability efforts.



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“The hum of bees is the voice of the garden.” - Elizabeth Lawrence

BEE CITY USA

ASHLAND

On December 16, 2014, Ashland, Oregon, took its place as the fifth Bee City USA in the country. Libby VanWyhe, Nature Center Manager, was established as Staff Liaison to the Bee City USA Subcommittee. She supports the subcommittee in its public meeting process, and she helps them administrate two project goals every year.

The Subcommittee holds quarterly public meetings at North Mountain Park Nature Center. Since its inception, this group has worked tirelessly to: 1) create pollinator-friendly landscapes and 2) educate the public about pollinator conservation. The Approved Pollinator Garden program and the annual Pollinator Garden Tour continue to help the group achieve its goals.

The subcommittee also uses social media, City Council proclamations, classes, letters to the editor, and public events to increase visibility for this important cause.



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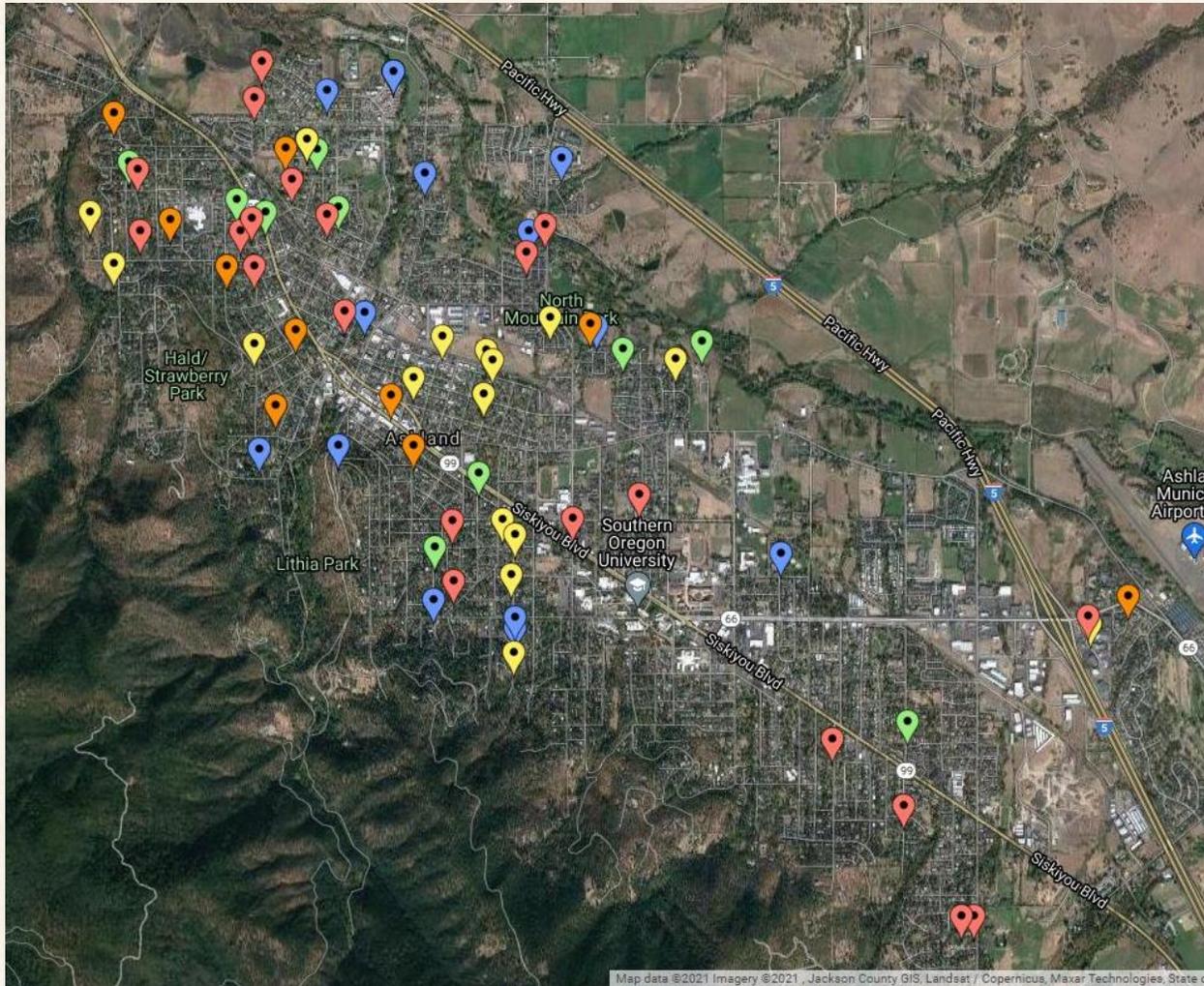
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BEE CITY USA ASHLAND

Certifying Pollinator Habitats and Encouraging Conservation



Year Certified: 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020
All Approved Pollinator Gardens January 2021

Since 2016, Bee City USA Ashland has been acknowledging private pollinator gardens that provide exceptional habitat value in Ashland. Anyone can nominate their own garden or someone else's for this program.

Representatives of the Bee City USA subcommittee visit every garden to ensure they offer high quality habitat, all year long.

There are now 76 of these "approved" pollinator gardens in town. They can be identified by the sunflower signs you may notice in your neighbors' yards and at many local businesses.

These gardens are eligible to be featured in the annual Ashland Pollinator Garden Tour.

In 2019, the third-annual Ashland Pollinator Garden Tour featured 18 local gardens and served 167 participants who were eager to learn how to build their own habitat landscapes. In 2020, the public tour was impossible, so virtual garden tours were shared through social media.

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BEE CITY USA ASHLAND

Riverwalk Pocket Park Pollinator Garden



In 2019, the Bee City USA Ashland subcommittee worked with APRC to construct a new pollinator garden at the Riverwalk Pocket Park. This area of public land was completely covered in crab grass, and it offered very little habitat or recreational value. Carolyn Hunsaker, then a member of the Bee City group, mobilized her fellow homeowners in the Riverwalk development to participate in creating a diverse pollinator habitat.

The project drew 12 volunteers and donors from the Riverwalk Homeowners Association to design, solarize, plant, mulch and irrigate a beautiful new garden in this 900 square foot space.

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“Only by giving are you able to receive more than you already have” - Jim Rohn

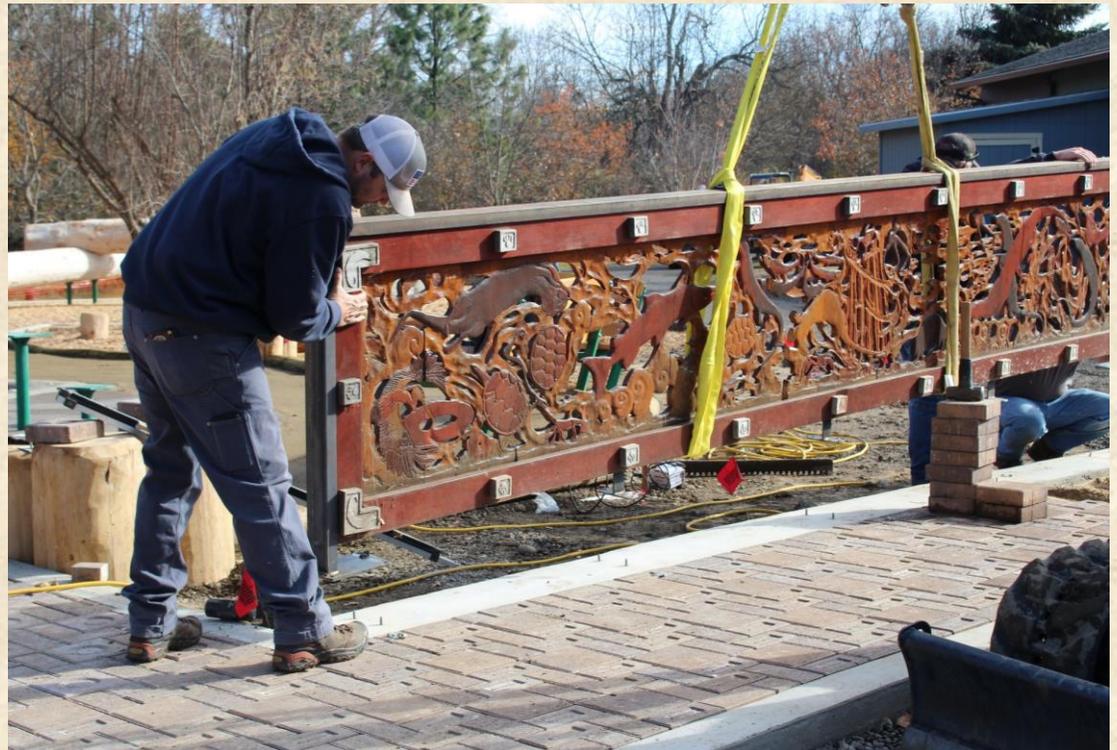
DONATIONS AND GRANTS

The North Mountain Park Nature Center is part of Ashland Parks and Recreation, and, as such, it is supported in part by the Ashland Parks Foundation, a certified non-profit organization.

Nature Center staff continually seek donations and grants to support the School Program Scholarship fund. School Program scholarships make our outdoor environmental education field trips more accessible to elementary teachers and students by offsetting our program registration fees. Our annual events, the Bear Creek Salmon Festival and Rogue Valley Bird Day, were made possible by numerous donations and sponsorships.

Private citizens can show their support through donations and purchases of memorial brick pavers, the proceeds of which support the Center.

The hand-carved fence (shown at right) was a generous donation from Daniel Cooke. The “otter fence” now beautifies the entrance to the new Nature Play Area.



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DONATIONS AND GRANTS

These Contributors Supported Our Work



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