

My husband and I live off of Tolman Creek, so having a large park on this side of town is appealing. I support the concept of having a fenced community garden and/or a garden in partnership with ACCESS. Including fruit trees and berry bushes in the design would be great. I also hope the park will be designed to provide educational components and resources, ie., about composting, water catchment, gardening, birds, fruit tree pruning, veggie gardens, pollinators, winter gardening, xeriscaping, etc. Hopefully there will be a large pavilion that can serve as an educational and community gathering place.

As a member of Bee City USA Ashland, I would like to suggest that the following points be considered:

- Install pollinator hedgerows to buffer houses and also create different areas of the park.
- Plant drought-tolerant, native trees that can act as windbreaks, create shade, and also sequester carbon

I liked the idea of a trail that meanders through the park - I suggest planting native and pollinator plants along the trail with signage to identify the plants or zones. Have a goal of planting only native trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs throughout the park, and have that as one of the primary DIY educational components of the park.

Include a "wild area" for birds and critters like N. Mtn. Park - as you know, bird populations are declining precipitously everywhere - that would also serve bird and wildlife watchers in relation to the community garden - veggies and fruits need pollinators to be the most productive, so having plenty of pollinator forage and habitat is a must. I would also love to see a pond for dragonflies - but I'm probably dreaming in that regard.