

Speaking as both a citizen of Ashland and the Rogue Valley, as well as a member of Ashland's Bee City USA sub-committee, I encourage APRC to ensure that funding and support for our North Mountain Park Nature Center continues. The information, resources, and educational opportunities available there - inside and on the grounds - are invaluable for our community currently and in the future. I realize the city budget is 'tight', but perhaps other funding sources can be considered that could help provide support during this time.

Likewise, I encourage APRC to do all it can to ensure that the important work of the *Volunteer in Parks* program, and the innovative *Adopt A Park* program, continue. I personally have helped support both of these programs (albeit not as much as I would like).

Speaking for myself and Bee City USA Ashland, we strongly encourage APRC:

1. to fully integrate native plant species into APRC's planting plans in parks, greenspaces, and city property as much as possible.
2. plant more trees that will help cool our in-town climate (helping reach our CEAP goals), by increasing shade, sequestering carbon and using less water.
3. prioritize the planting of native species that generally use less water and maintenance, and provide much needed forage and habitat for birds and pollinators.
4. add native shrubs to the mix to support these same outcomes.
5. consider reducing the size of lawn areas that currently require regular mowing and watering, and instead incorporate mulched areas planted with native trees and shrubs, where they are appropriate, aesthetically pleasing, and do not add to fire danger.
6. encourage Ashland citizens to follow these same guidelines.

I am glad that APRC already has a [list of native trees and shrubs](#).

Thank you for considering.

We would be happy to provide additional information.

*Kristina Lefever*

for myself and for Bee City USA Ashland