

JEFF GOLDEN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 3



OREGON STATE SENATE

November 3, 2025

To the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee:

I write to ask for your thorough consideration of the proposal submitted by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. I'm struck by its singular creativity, and how strongly it reflects the values of stewardship, enterprise and ingenuity that the city of Phoenix has displayed over the past five years of recovery. The prospect of bringing such a robust, inclusive display of pollinators, plant diversity and wildlife, just in the wake of the reconnection of Blue Heron Creek into Bear Creek, all in an urban and emerging business setting, is truly exciting.

Phoenix has shown truly amazing resiliency and determination since the devastation of 2020; I'm so proud to point in Salem to what the community has achieved. The proposed center, in parallel with the recovery and advent of new businesses, seems as if it could take your city to the next level, with quality of life and economic benefits that would bring broad agreement as to the wisdom of this investment.

I'm sure your task of electing among worthy project proposals is a difficult one. I hope PPRV's entry enjoys your careful consideration.

With thanks for your service to our Valley,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Golden", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jeff Golden, Oregon Senate District 3

Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee
220 S Main St
Phoenix, OR 97535

November 6, 2025

Subject: Highest and Best Use; Tax Lot 600 on Bear Creek Drive

Directors of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee:

As advisors to the Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency, tonight you have the task of assessing several options presented by interested parties to develop Tax Lot 600 along the southwestern edge of Bear Creek Drive and 4th Street. As you do this, I urge you to consider the more far-reaching long-term project to resurrect the blighted area in downtown Phoenix that this property is a part of. I refer to the Phoenix Springs Nature Complex, which several of you helped to author.

The base map and summary of the Nature Complex were submitted to the City by ten different entities in July 2025. The first feature introduced in the summary of the complex is, ***"North End Welcome / Educational Center: An educational/meeting space with maps of the area and informational signage would serve as an introduction and guide to the Complex."*** It is listed first because it is the keystone to the entire concept.

I remind you of this because the decision you make on what to do with Tax Lot 600 will affect a much larger area within PHURA's purview. This location **must** serve as the visible welcoming entrance to the entire Nature Complex. The education center and butterfly pavilion, and open areas conceptualized by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley will be a start in this wonderful process. If the parcel is developed in some other fashion, the overarching Phoenix Springs Nature Complex will not come to fruition.

There are many yardsticks to measure the highest and best use of a property in a blighted urban area. Receiving immediate dollars from a sale of land is one way. Increasing the tax base on a parcel is another. However, these are short-term aspects, providing instant financial gratification. As stated by the City, PHURA was established as a **long-term investment strategy** to fund and construct capital improvement projects in the Urban Renewal Plan boundary area. The plan is to eliminate blight, rehabilitate property, improve infrastructure and redevelop key sites, assisting with the construction of needed public facilities within the Urban Renewal Area.

Our PHURA byline is *"Small Town Atmosphere • In The Center Of It All"*. Converting this property as proposed by PPRV will continue to build that Center.

Respectfully,

Robert Coffan
Developer, and one of the authors of the Phoenix Springs Nature Complex

Here are the ten entities that submitted the Phoenix Springs Nature Complex to the City.

Save The Phoenix Wetlands

Cascadia Prime Commercial

Travel Phoenix Oregon

Pollinator Project Rogue Valley

Phoenix Industrial Studios

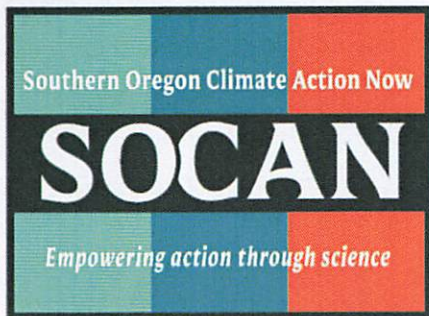
Moxie Brew

Indigo Creek Outfitters

Phoenix Art and Culture Council

Blackberry Academy Phoenix

Phoenix Oregon Chamber of Commerce



Alan R.P. Journet Ph.D.

Cofacilitator

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

November 6 2025

Testimony regarding a Proposed Butterfly Garden and Education Center on Bear Creek, Phoenix

Members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee:

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now is the oldest grassroots climate organization in the Rogue Valley and represents some 2,000 Southern Oregonians, many of whom live in Phoenix, who are concerned about the climate crisis and seek action to address it. We are rural and coastal Southern Oregonians who live on the frontlines of the warming, reducing snowpack, heatwaves, drought, rising sea level and the increasing wildfire risk that these trends conspire to impose on us. Because of our concern, we pay close attention to efforts nationally, statewide, and locally that impact our collective efforts to address the climate crisis. As our logo above indicates, the focus of SOCAN is to promote action through science while encouraging that this be undertaken through a social justice lens.

As The United Nation argues (UN undated):

Biodiversity "is the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms, from genes and bacteria to entire ecosystems such as forests or coral reefs. The biodiversity we see today is the result of 4.5 billion years of evolution, increasingly influenced by humans.

"Biodiversity forms the web of life that we depend on for so many things – food, water, medicine, a stable climate, economic growth, among others. Over half of global GDP is dependent on nature. More than 1 billion people rely on forests for their livelihoods. And land and the ocean absorb more than half of all carbon emissions."

Meanwhile, they note ((UN undated) climate change" has caused the loss of local species, increased diseases, and driven mass mortality of plants and animals, resulting in the first climate-driven extinctions."

Critical to supporting the biodiversity and natural ecosystems we require, if we wish a sustainable planet, are the pollinators. As the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS undated) writes: "The economic value of insect pollination totals over \$34 billion" and "As much as 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on pollinators to reproduce." When we consider that much of the agricultural productivity on which we depend for food is the reproductive output

of crop plants (i.e., fruit, seeds, and grain) it becomes evident that our pollinators are essential. The same source (USF&WS undated) also notes that "Pollinators also pollinate other plants and contribute to ecosystem biodiversity, aid plant growth, prevent soil erosion, increase carbon sequestration, and improve water quality...." and "Threats to pollinators include habitat loss, disease, and climate change." It behooves us, then, to allocate resources to defending, protecting, and promoting pollinators and the habitat upon which they depend.

It is tempting for us to respond, when given the opportunity to promote actions that might result in immediate economic benefit, to support such ventures. However, if we wish to promote a sustainable Rogue Valley and planet and accord future generations of Rogue Valley residents and the planet a livable world, we must also take steps to protect our natural ecosystems, particularly the biodiversity they support. This requires conserving pollinators.

For the above reasons Southern Oregon Climate Action Now urges support for the proposal to establish a pollinator garden and educational facility on Bear Creek in Phoenix

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alan Journet".

Alan Journet Ph.D.

7113 Griffin Lane

Jacksonville

OR 97530-4182

alan@socan.eco

541-500-2331

541-301-4107

Sources Cited

UN undated Biodiversity - our strongest natural defense against climate change. United Nations; Climate Action. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/biodiversity#:~:text=The%20Earth's%20land%20and%20the,and%20adapting%20to%20climate%20impacts>.

USF&WS undated Pollinators benefit agriculture. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. <https://www.fws.gov/initiative/pollinators/pollinators-benefit-agriculture>



Thursday, November 6th, 2025

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A “campus”, with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maia Black', written over a horizontal line.

Maia Black
Executive Director



302 W. 1st St. Phoenix, OR 97535

Community Charter School

Phone 541-535-3287

November 3, 2025

To the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee
City of Phoenix, Oregon

Dear Advisory Committee,

On behalf of Armadillo Charter School, I am writing to express our strong support for the Pollinator Project's proposal to establish an Eco-Educational Center within the City of Phoenix.

As a public charter high school dedicated to hands-on, community-based learning, we are excited about the unique educational opportunities this project will provide for our students. The proposed site's proximity—within walking distance of our school—creates direct access for our learners to engage in real-world environmental education just steps from their classrooms.

This butterfly pavilion and outdoor learning area will allow students to:

- Participate in hands-on science projects focused on pollinator behavior, habitat restoration, and native plant growth.
- Apply classroom knowledge to authentic environmental studies, including biodiversity tracking and sustainability practices.
- Collaborate with community experts and volunteers from the Pollinator Project on long-term research and stewardship efforts.
- Develop environmental literacy and civic engagement skills through service learning projects that directly benefit the local ecosystem.

This project not only enhances our science curriculum but also builds meaningful connections between students, nature, and the Phoenix community. It provides equitable access to outdoor education—something especially valuable for students who may not otherwise experience immersive natural science opportunities.

We believe the Eco-Educational Center will become a community landmark that demonstrates Phoenix's commitment to sustainability, education, and collaboration. We respectfully urge the City Council to support the establishment of this innovative project, which promises to inspire both current and future generations of learners.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important initiative. We look forward to continued collaboration in creating a vibrant, sustainable, and educational community resource.

With appreciation,

Rachel Garner
Executive Director
Armadillo Community Charter School
rachel.garner@armadillocharter.org

I am writing to share my support and complete enthusiasm for an Education Center and Butterfly House in Phoenix! It would add an incredible "walkability" and much needed open greenspace element to the core of the City and continue to build on some of the great projects that Phoenix already has. I don't live in Phoenix and I only find myself there for one task or errand instead of staying and enjoying other businesses. Even with the Phoodery and other enticing businesses, there isn't an outside draw to keep me in town and wandering around to enjoy everything. THIS project would do that. And engage people of ALL ages. When my family visits from out of town, it would be so fun to take them there & explore Phoenix. I could see this having an impactful marketing message and be attractive not only to current residents, but also for many visitors and even bring visitors to Phoenix.

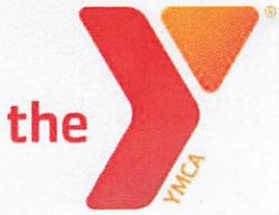
I used to live in Denver and the Butterfly Pavilion (located in Westminster, CO) does just that. They engage with local organizations and schools but also bring people there for unique experiences they can't get in many other locations.

I fully support this project to enhance downtown Phoenix with PPRV's vision and encourage the City to embrace adding this green space and amazing project to this lot!

Humbly,
Jen Radueg

Jen Radueg
Wild Seed Media
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www.wildseedmedia.com

Wild Seed
media



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

November 3, 2025

Dear Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee,

This letter is in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A “campus”, with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Brad Russell
CEO/Executive Director

Rogue Valley Family YMCA



522 West Sixth Street, Medford, OR 97501 – 541.772.6295 – fax 541.772.8427 – www.rvymca.org



November 3, 2025

To the Members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee,

On behalf of **Talent Maker City**, I am writing in enthusiastic support of the proposal from **Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (PPRV)** for the creation of an educational center on the 0.93 acres along Bear Creek Drive. This vision beautifully aligns with our shared regional goals of building a more connected, resilient, and ecologically literate Southern Oregon.

Positioning this center adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown district is not only strategic, it's inspired. It knits together the natural, civic, and cultural heart of Phoenix into an accessible learning hub where students, families, and community members can explore the relationships between native plants, pollinators, and the ecosystems that sustain us all.

At Talent Maker City, we've seen firsthand how hands-on, place-based education can spark curiosity, creativity, and stewardship. The proposed campus - featuring a butterfly house, native plant demonstration gardens, interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor classroom - embodies this same spirit of community-powered learning. It offers a living classroom where youth and adults alike can participate in the restoration and celebration of our local environment.

Projects like this make our region stronger. They create spaces for collaboration between schools, nonprofits, and agencies while offering new opportunities for eco-tourism, intergenerational learning, and local pride. By investing in this educational center, Phoenix is investing in both the health of its people and the resilience of its landscape - now and for generations to come.

Thank you for considering this transformative project and for supporting efforts that help our communities thrive through connection, creativity, and care for the natural world.

With gratitude,

Allison French
Executive Director + Founder
alli@talentmakercity.org

YOU + MAKE + TALENT

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A “campus”, with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies.

In my work in restoration and conservation with the Xerces Society in the Central Valley of California I have first-hand experience in the effectiveness of campuses like the proposed education center. The communities of Southern Oregon will benefit from both the opportunity to learn about their native fauna and flora, but educating the public about the benefits of native plants and pollinators will have a far-reaching impact. This campus can lead to an increase of native species planted, which not only would lead to an increase in food production but also ecological resilience to disturbances like fire.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,
Sylvia Griffin
Phoenix, OR

November 5, 2025

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the 0.93 acres along Bear Creek Drive, as presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. The opportunity to situate this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a unique one. It allows Phoenix to make a significant contribution to the future, creating a place for young people to grow and learn about the natural world in proximity to where they live and work.

A "campus" with a butterfly house, extensive native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that incorporates ecological knowledge of plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be both fantastic and beneficial to property values and community spirit in the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,
Sheryl Wilkins, President
SisQ Bee Club
Yreka, CA 96097

David Lee Myers
(503) 791-6622
david@DavidLeeMyersPhoto.com
681 Nepenthe Rd, Ashland OR 97520

November 6, 2025

To: Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee
Re: Pollinator Project Rogue Valley's Proposal

I'm David Lee Myers, I photograph butterflies out in nature, and authored a book — *Wings in the Light: Wild Butterflies in North America*, published by Yale University Press, in 2019. I give presentations about butterflies and lead field trips, including for PPRV. I have been to several butterfly houses around the world and loved what I've seen and experienced in those enclosures.

Imagine a person — a child or adult — who loves butterflies, who has seen a few — likely some Monarchs, Swallowtails, and the delightful Cabbage Whites around our gardens.

Let's go with them into the butterfly house, to see more butterflies closer to them than ever before. Flying right around us. Sitting on flowers and leaves. Tame, more accustomed to people. Often they land on people, you should see the smiles, the wide grins! These are intimate encounters with delightful nature, something we all could use more of.

There's more: visitors see caterpillars and chrysalises, key steps in the inspiring story of metamorphosis. Sometimes even a new butterfly breaking out of its chrysalis—stretching out its moist, folded wings, drying them for flight.

My goal for this project is to offer people a life-affirming experience with local butterflies, first in the enclosure, giving them encouraging experience, and then with their tuned up eyes, seeing more in their own yards, neighborhoods, and nearby wildlands. This would be effective for school and youth groups, resident families, and visitors.

November 5 2025

To the members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee

My name is Linda Kappen. I am a longtime resident of southern Oregon having lived here since I was a small child 63 years ago.

I am retired from Applegate School K-8 where I worked as a para professional Title 1 Schoolwide Assistant for 22 years. I am still active at our school by substituting and being involved. For many years I have run an Art & Nature After School program inviting 2 through 5th graders.

In the year 2000 I created with students a Butterfly Habitat on the school grounds. The garden and outdoor area have grown and modified since then. The maintenance is done by me only and some years I have had the opportunity to expand with after school groups.

The main focus over the years has been growing Milkweed for Monarchs and other pollinators. This is done with the students every year. We rear monarchs and tag them for research as well. I am a naturalist specializing in Lepidoptera and the plants they use. This brings me to the point of writing this letter in support of Pollinator Project of the Rogue Valley's latest project plan.

Allowing them to use the space next to their current operations will turn that portion of the city into another great public education space for all ages. The idea will bring surrounding communities and towns into the city for shopping, eating and attending local events. Places of natural science can provide high school senior project opportunities, possible employment, chances for the volunteering people of our communities to connect, learn, and to teach others. Small children to high schoolers can find a place to learn about many different things of the world around us.

It is a unique plan worth looking into and possibly find ways to allow the requested space to be used or even add to it.

Thank you for listening to us and feel free to contact me personally.

Kind regards,

Linda Kappen

humbugkapps@hotmail.com

November 4, 2025

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

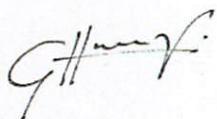
I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

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Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,



Gabriela Chavarria
Executive Director

The Shady Cove Seed Library

22477 OR-62, Shady Cove, OR 97539



To the Members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee,

I am pleased to send this letter in strong support of Pollinator Project Rogue Valley's proposal for an educational center on the .93-acre site along Bear Creek Drive. As the founder and organizer of the Shady Cove Seed Library, housed in the Jackson County Library branch in Shady Cove, I have seen firsthand the powerful ripple effect that PPRV's educational outreach can create in rural communities like ours.

Our community has been fortunate to welcome members of Pollinator Project Rogue Valley for presentations that inspired both children and gardeners. In direct response, we reorganized our seed library to feature native plant seeds and have since applied for the Community Green Infrastructure Grant on behalf of the Upper Rogue Community Center. If funded, this grant will transform the URCC campus into a demonstration garden showcasing native plants, nearly \$8,000 worth, sourced through our partnership with Pollinator Project Rogue Valley.

Beyond the classroom, our members have engaged deeply with the Phoenix area through eco-educational experiences. During the Rogue Farm Tour, we made a special trip to visit the site where PPRV was featured, followed by a stop at the Phoodery and a walk through the PPRV demonstration gardens. These experiences have helped connect our Upper Rogue residents to the broader regional movement for native plant awareness and pollinator conservation.

I can say without hesitation that Pollinator Project Rogue Valley has become our "school," our source of knowledge, plants, and inspiration. Many of our members now travel to Phoenix to attend PPRV plant sales, workshops, and community events, returning home with new enthusiasm and arms full of native plants. Phoenix has become a hub for ecological learning, native plant commerce, and community connection, a model for what urban renewal can truly mean in Southern Oregon.

The proposed educational center would amplify this success, creating a landmark destination that connects Heron Park, Bear Creek, and the Greenway into a living showcase, not unlike a "Central Park" for Southern Oregon, where beauty, ecology, and education meet. This project will enhance both community value and environmental resilience, attracting not only pollinators but also people who care deeply about the future of our shared region.

Thank you for considering this exceptional opportunity to support an organization that continues to cultivate hope, learning, and environmental stewardship across our valley.

Sincerely,

Laura K. Brubaker

Founder, Shady Cove Seed Library

LauraKBrubaker@gmail.com



SISKIYOU CHAPTER

Native Plant Society of Oregon

*Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation, and study
or Oregon's native vegetation*

November 6, 2025

Dear Members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee:

The Siskiyou Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon strongly supports the proposal for an educational center on the 0.93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (PPRV). Our primary mission is to support native plants and plant communities via education, conservation, and research. This includes encouraging planting native plants into yards, gardens, and even deck planters for beauty, biodiversity, and to feed and shelter pollinators, birds, and other animals.

We have over 175 local members who support our work. One of the most common questions we get is: where do I find native plants for my garden? For several years, we have tabled at the twice a year PPRV native plant sale in the "parking lot", the property being discussed for development. Our members and throngs of other community members come to buy plants, and there is always a line of people waiting for the opening. This event brings folks into Phoenix, where they also grab some lunch, and visit local shops. The dream of creating a broader PPRV facility with a butterfly house, large native plant gardens with interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and nonprofit support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a further draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies - and all the other native pollinators.

The Klamath Siskiyou Bioregion is a hotspot for plant and pollinator biodiversity, with 300 plant species that grow nowhere else on earth. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, birds, and more into a city setting will be a great gift to the broader region, and will provide an economic boom for the City of Phoenix.

Thank you for your consideration,

Best Regards,

Kristi Mergenthaler, Outreach Coordinator and Interim Conservation Chair
Siskiyou Chapter, Native Plant Society of Oregon



FRIENDS OF
CASCADE-SISKIYOU
NATIONAL MONUMENT

November 2025

Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee
City of Phoenix, Oregon

Re: Letter of Support for Pollinator Project Rogue Valley's Eco-Educational Center Proposal

Dear Members of the Committee,

Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (FCSNM) is pleased to offer our strong support for the proposal by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley to establish a native plant demonstration garden, butterfly house, and eco-educational center on the .93-acre property along Bear Creek Drive in Phoenix.

As a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and restoring the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument through service, advocacy, and education, FCSNM values partnerships that connect ecological learning and community stewardship across southern Oregon. The vision presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley reflects the same core principles—linking habitat restoration, native plant conservation, and public education in ways that engage people of all ages.

FCSNM has partnered with Pollinator Project Rogue Valley on community education and stewardship initiatives that highlight the essential relationships among native plants, pollinators, and healthy ecosystems. Their proposed center would expand these opportunities, creating a living classroom that fosters curiosity, ecological literacy, and a stronger sense of connection to place.

We also support the broader ecological ties of this vision—to Bear Creek, the surrounding springs, and the watershed that sustains this region. FCSNM's work in beaver-based restoration and riparian health aligns closely with the goals of this project, which demonstrates how native plants and pollinators strengthen water quality, habitat resilience, and community well-being.

This proposal represents an inspired step toward a more connected and ecologically vibrant future for Phoenix. We urge your support for this project and the vision it embodies.

Sincerely,

Daniel Collay
Executive Director
exec@cascadesiskiyou.org
541.378.3039

November 3, 2025

Dear Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee,

As a person in my mid-60s, deeply concerned about the future of our generations and the state of nature, I urge you to prioritize the educational center proposal presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (PPRV) on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive.

PPRV has demonstrated a proven positive impact in the Rogue Valley. This beautiful parcel could be transformed into a commercial development or a vibrant hub for youth, native plants, and insects. The current school systems are burdened with excessive requirements and limited time for students. This visionary project would provide parents of all ages with a meaningful learning and support environment that fosters growth and development.

By embracing this initiative, Phoenix can position itself as a leader in native plant and pollinator propagation. Educating our youth about native bees is crucial for understanding pollination, its role in the food system, and its connection to the environment.

This educational center could serve as an enticing attraction for youth from across the Rogue Valley. The success of Talent Maker City and the Medford Children's Museum demonstrates the potential of such educational institutions. Phoenix could capitalize on this opportunity to showcase its commitment to future generations and provide a platform for youth to learn and engage.

Imagine a city where the primary focus is not profit but the well-being of all species, including future generations. Wouldn't it be a beautiful vision to create a place where people of all ages, can learn how to nurture and protect the natural world?

Sincerely,

Christine A. Brautigam

Outdoor Educator at The Crest at Willow-Witt & Siskiyou Field Institute, Ashland resident

11/5/2025

Dear Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am a 44-year Oregon resident and recent transplant from Corvallis to Talent. As one who has become increasingly involved in research, education and insect documentation throughout Southern Oregon from both a personal and professional standpoint, I fully support the Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (PPRV) proposal to purchase the property of interest along Bear Creek Drive for the creation of an educational center with a native-species butterfly house and outdoor demonstration/interpretive garden.

If realized, this well-matched PPRV vision for the site would offer both area residents and destination eco-tourists a convenient and inspiring educational introduction to a rich assemblage of exquisite local species. Local schools and naturalist organizations would likely be regular visitors, as would outdoor-loving greenway goers. Area businesses offering meals, lodging, wine-tasting and other services would also likely benefit from the anticipated increased tourism to the area.

I am personally poised to contribute my experience and knowledge of area butterflies, moths and other insects toward the success of the proposed PPRV facility, both during and upon completion.

Thank you for your consideration of this potential Phoenix gem.

Sincerely,

Dana Ross, M.S. (Entomologist)

Talent, Oregon



November 4, 2025

To: Members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee
Re: Support for PPRV's Eco-Educational Center Along Bear Creek

The strength of an urban center draws on the local environment for a higher quality of life. The more nature an urban area can maintain, the more pleasant and enjoyable it is. Property values are always higher when they are next to a natural area with scenic views, and it is no different for the economic vitality of an urban area in general — if natural and scenic aspects are maintained, it will have a higher value.

For these reasons we are pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (PPRV). Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

Although we live in the Applegate, we have to go to town to shop and for events, and we do so in places that have a more pleasant vibe, and a continued connection to nature. We would visit Phoenix more often and spend more money in Phoenix at restaurants and stores if there were also nature-based and eco-educational opportunities as well.

A “campus”, with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies.

Southwest Oregon's Siskiyou Mountains, which Phoenix sits at the base of, have world-class biodiversity and are renowned for species richness, a high rate of species endemism, and intact wild nature. Phoenix should be embracing these special attributes and providing opportunities to highlight and celebrate what makes Phoenix location unique. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Our business, Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds (KSNS), has benefitted financially from selling native plants at PPRV's native plant sales, and we foresee, with the creation of this eco-educational campus, an opportunity for more local businesses and non-profits to thrive.

KSNS also donates to PPRV to support its work, and we intend to continue donating to support this big vision for the future. If you build it, they will come! And they will support!

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,
Suzie Savoie and Luke Ruediger
Co-owners, Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds
Applegate Valley, Oregon

The Southern Oregon Mom <thesouthernoregonmom@gmail.com>
To: pollinator@pollinatorprojectroguvalley.org

Wed, Nov 5, 2025 at 10:28 AM

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee,

I run The Southern Oregon Mom website and social media pages. I serve as an informational hub for what's happening for children and families in our community. I keep a database for the public to find family friendly things to do in Southern Oregon. I include everything from physical businesses / storefronts to small local community events and everything in between.

Southern Oregon has very few educational centers for our children. We are lucky to have phenomenal places like The Children's Museum in Medford and ScienceWorks in Ashland. While they are huge draws, neither of those places provides what the Pollinator Project is proposing. They might have one or two events annually near Earth Day, but they don't provide anything beyond those events on a consistent basis.

Having a dedicated educational center for local children to visit and learn about plants and wildlife would be advantageous to our community. Letting children explore the natural world in a hands-on experience, and providing educational opportunities will help them connect to where they live while gaining a unique understanding of why nature is important to prioritize.

There are no other places like this in Southern Oregon / Northern California that I have found. I cover from Roseburg to Yreka, and from the coast to eastern Klamath. Because of the uniqueness and desirability an education center with a Butterfly house offers, I believe this addition will bring a lot of school field trips and families across Southern Oregon to Phoenix as they visit.

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. I will also be glad to share updates to the community as the project progresses and promote its opening and events. Southern Oregon families will be eagerly awaiting their visit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laura Flanders
Central Point, OR



Laura Flanders
The Southern Oregon Mom
www.theSOMom.com
<https://www.facebook.com/thesouthernoregonmom>

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee –

I just heard about a proposal put forth by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (PPRV) for the creation of an educational center in Phoenix. I strongly encourage you to consider and accept this proposal. I know the staff of PPRV will be presenting their proposal to you on November 6th so you'll get the details from their presentation. Just to be clear this is regarding a 0.93-acre parcel along Bear Creek Drive. It's located adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district. This is a unique opportunity to create something that will serve not only the city of Phoenix and its residents, but residents of the entire Rogue Valley and those who pass through this beautiful area. This is especially important for the young people of our area as a way for them to experience nature and learn about the natural world—something that is very much lacking in our day to day lives.

An educational center, with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies.

Southern Oregon is one of the most biodiverse regions in the country, especially when it comes to butterflies. More than 100 species of butterfly call the valleys and mountains of southern Oregon home. As a wildlife biologist who for over 30 years worked in the mountains and valleys of this area including the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, I can attest that this area is truly extraordinary in terms of the plants, animals, and insects present. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and unique ecosystems into a city setting will be beneficial to both property values and community spirit in both the short and long term. An added benefit of such a facility is that as people of all ages learn more about the remarkable natural world of which we are a part they are more likely to value to the continued preservation of this beautiful area we all call home.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of our Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,
Steven Godwin
Wildlife Biologist/Ecologist
Ashland, Oregon

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee

I am writing to express my strong support for the establishment of an educational center on the 0.93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. This project represents an inspiring vision for connecting people with the natural environment while strengthening the social and economic vitality of our downtown.

The City of Phoenix has committed to the creation of a nature trail in the wetlands behind the Civic Center. They have received a grant from the Oregon Parks Department for \$615,000 to develop this area and is seeking an additional \$230,000 from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development to complete this project. Developing a Welcome Center, Education Center, Native Gardens and Butterfly house will transform an ordinary downtown visit into an opportunity for discovery, learning and connection with nature. The Center will attract residents and visitors alike – families, students, and life long learners – bringing new energy and activity to local streets, shops and restaurants. Beyond it's educational mission, this project will act as a cornerstone for downtown revitalization. Increased foot traffic will benefit small businesses, while community events, workshops, and exhibitions will create partnerships between educators, entrepreneurs, and civic groups. The project embodies sustainability, community health, and economic growth all in one initiative.

The combined project would be an asset to the viability of downtown businesses by attracting families to the downtown area to enjoy the natural features on display. I believe that this project would benefit the City of Phoenix far more than commercial development of this space.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely

Pam Thornhill

Phoenix Oregon.

Melodie Picard
The Oregon Cheese Cave
312 n. Main st, Unit A, Phoenix OR
Est. 2018

To The PHURA Board and PHURAC,

I have been here on Main street for seven years, next to PPRV and in front of the property in question. Kristina already had this property plan started in 2021 for a plot of land near Blue heron and I thought it was such a wonderful idea. But it was sold to a commercial entrepreneur for some RV housing (project that fell through, and plot is still empty and not developed. What a waste and disappointment).

That plot behind my shop and their PPRV office seems so perfect for that education center, butterfly house etc concept. And they can be the stewards of land being developed for nature along the creeks and pathways.

(The 2 commercial projects in line for that PHURA offer have other options of plots in Phoenix...)

The Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency needs to give back to its people and that Pollinator project really would accomplish that.

Phoenix and its citizens have had a hard many heartaches in recent years, The People NEED something lovely, something free, and FOR them.

The Project also fits right in with what the valley is trying to achieve with its eco tourism.

It WILL bring people to Phoenix.

Sincerely, Cheese Cheers,
Mélodie

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am writing in support of the Pollinator Project Rogue Valley's bid to create an education center as part of the Phoenix Springs Nature Complex (if that is still the name of the project).

I cannot speak highly enough of the Pollinator Project as an organization. They improve both the aesthetics of the rogue valley as well as restoring our area to a sustainable, healthy environment for all of the living species here. I would be enthusiastic about supporting their education center as I own a small business adjacent to the space in consideration. This center can only benefit our community, expanding their reach both via public education and introducing the science of our world to young minds that will eventually inherit the earth.

Thank you for taking my thoughts into consideration.

Valerie Schank
Phoenix Dripp Café, owner
312 N Main Street ste A
Phoenix, OR 97535

Educational Center Pollinator Project External Inbox x



Steve Wilson <steve.wilson.ashland@gmail.com>

3:04 PM (52 minutes ago)



to me ▾

Attn: City of Phoenix Urban Renewal

I am very much in favor of the proposal by RV Pollinator Project to enhance the vacant lot existing on the East side behind the offices of RVPP. In addition to the many benefits detailed by RVPP I believe it will greatly complement the existing businesses in the area creating more value both aesthetically and commercially.

Thank you,

Steve Wilson

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A “campus”, with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies - and all the other native pollinators.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Erikia Ramseur, FNP-C
Grants Pass, OR

I am writing in support of PPRV's proposal that includes a butterfly house, educational resources, and native plant support. I think this is an amazing option for the City of Phoenix in that it will help foster tourism and will provide a green zone "highway" that supports dwindling pollinators. It will also attract local foot traffic to the area, boosting local businesses. The Native Plant greenhouse will boost the supply of native plants, a resource desperately needed in this area as demonstrated by the overwhelming attendance at the semi-annual sales. I am 100% in support of this option and hope you consider it.

Regards and thank you for your service.

Karen Layfield
Talent Resident

I would like to see all of the above implemented. However, I have a major concern. About 20 years ago (after the establishment of the successful North Mountain Park Nature Area in Ashland), people tried to do something similar in Medford. I don't know the exact date, but these were dedicated volunteers who wanted to make a nature center in Medford. Unfortunately, they did not succeed. Or only succeeded for a year or so until the project ended.

I have the name and contact info for one of the people working on the project, but I don't know who the leadership team was. I think it would be good to learn from their experience.

Elaine Plaisance

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am sending this letter in enthusiastic support of the proposal for an educational center on the 0.93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. This project is in the ideal location to bring together many features of Phoenix that the public already enjoys: 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district. An educational center would not only link together the features that make Phoenix a desirable place to live and visit, it would create a space within the city that people of all ages can enjoy while learning about the natural world and fostering a new appreciation for the nature and wildlife that occurs right here in our backyards.

A "campus", with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. As someone that has lived in many parts of the Rogue Valley from a young age and currently a local wildlife biologist, I have mused about just this sort of educational center and demonstration gardens being built for everyone to enjoy. It is just the sort of year-round enjoyment this valley needs. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save pollinators and create habitat for all sorts of wildlife, or simply enjoy a lovely afternoon!

Although Southern Oregon is one of the most ecologically diverse regions in the country, many are unaware of this fact. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting would be beneficial to all who visit and enjoy it, humans and wildlife alike.

Thank you for considering this valuable proposal that would benefit people of all ages with entertainment, connection, and education to Southern Oregon communities and beyond.

Sincerely,
Amanda Huffman
Talent, Oregon

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A "campus", with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies - and all the other native pollinators.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Jasmine sirianni
Ashland, OR

November 6, 2025

Honorable Members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee
Phoenix, OR

Dear Members,

I strongly support the concept of an ecological education center coupled with the Phoenix Community Center, the Foodery and, safely, with the Bear Creek Greenway and Blue Heron Park.

This would certainly create a repetitive draw for my grandson and myself. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pete Gonzalves

Eagle Point, OR

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A "campus", with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies - and all the other native pollinators.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Most sincerely,

KIYA COTE

Ashland OR

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am writing this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Establishing this center on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of drawing together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for the city of Phoenix to make a mark and a difference for the future by creating a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A "campus", with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. The only educational centers in the entire state of Oregon besides the Pollinator Project Rogue Valley are those at Oregon State University (OSU) and the University of Oregon (UO). This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mina M. Montfort', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mina M. Montfort
Medford, Oregon

To the Members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the proposal presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley to create a Native Plant Demonstration Garden, Butterfly House, and Eco-Educational Center on the .93-acre parcel located behind the PPRV office at the corner of 4th Street and Bear Creek Drive.

This project represents a unique and forward-thinking opportunity for the City of Phoenix to invest in education, ecology, and community engagement all in one place. Situated adjacent to the Greenway, Bear Creek, and the downtown business district, this site is ideally located to connect people, nature, and commerce in a way that reflects Phoenix's identity as a vibrant, resilient, and environmentally conscious community.

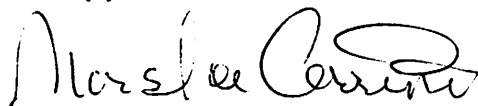
The proposed Eco-Educational Center would provide a living classroom where residents, students, and visitors can experience firsthand the importance of native plants and pollinators to our ecosystem. The butterfly house and native gardens will not only support biodiversity but also inspire stewardship and curiosity among all who visit. Few cities have the foresight to dedicate central urban space to projects that strengthen both environmental health and community well-being—Phoenix has that chance now.

Beyond the ecological and educational benefits, this project would enhance local tourism and economic activity. Eco-tourism and environmental education are growing sectors, and a facility like this could easily become a regional attraction, drawing visitors from throughout Southern Oregon and beyond.

By supporting this proposal, the City of Phoenix can showcase its commitment to sustainability, education, and long-term community resilience. This is an investment in the future—one that will continue to yield environmental, social, and economic value for generations.

Thank you for considering this visionary proposal and for your ongoing commitment to thoughtful urban development in our region.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marsha Carrino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marsha" being more prominent than the last name "Carrino".

Marsha Carrino
4624 S. Pacific Hwy #5
Phoenix, OR 97435

In support of an PPRV educational center External Inbox x



Diana Roome

to me ▼

To: members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee

The thought of a pollinator-focused educational center in the available lot along Bear Creek Drive makes my heart sing.

Phoenix is making such a positive recovery, and this would be a crowning achievement.

It would be a statement of the city's commitment to education, healthy and joyful outdoor activity (especially for children), and a future that values nature in all its diversity.

I believe it would also bring visitors to Phoenix, who will then get to know the city's other attractions and advantages.

I will support this project by visiting myself, bringing others, and making donations (though admittedly small).

I hope you will go ahead and vote in favor of this life-giving plan!

Sincerely,

Diana Roome (Talent)

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am urgently sending this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. This location, adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district, is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. Phoenix has truly reinvented itself since the Almeda fire and this project adds to the uniquely vibrant environment that is arising in this renewed town. Phoenix can make a difference for the future, and continue to create a community for people of all ages to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A "campus", with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students and workers, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that would benefit all cities. Much has been written about the mental and physical health benefits of green space within cities, as well as improved air quality and diversity. In addition, this concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as local and regional people who want to learn about how to help save the earth while saving the butterflies, and other native pollinators.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term. This plot of land is small for development and has tremendous potential for environmental use. Please support this project!

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Cory Ross and Greg Conaway
541-601-7409

November 1, 2025

Hello members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee,

I'm writing to you today as a new resident of Southern Oregon, who moved here just four years ago. I felt a bit lost and out of place after leaving the Midwest, so I started looking for ways to connect with nature and learn about the local environment. That's when I discovered Pollinator Project Rouge Valley (PPRV). They're an incredible organization that provides resources and information on plants and pollinators that support local ecosystems.

I was so impressed with PPRV's work that I became a volunteer and eventually became a Board Member. They're doing amazing things with so little resources, and I'm proud to be a part of their community.

I would like to express my support for PPRV's proposal for an educational campus on the .93 acres behind their headquarters. I think it would be an incredible opportunity to create a unique and educational space that would be a great addition to Phoenix's renewal efforts.

Imagine an indoor-outdoor educational "campus" with a butterfly house, interpreted native plant demonstration gardens, and built with the community in mind. It would be an amazing place for students of all ages to learn about the natural world and get hands-on experience. And with the support of local businesses and the government, it could become a destination for eco-tourists and locals alike.

This project is a perfect example of how cities can make a positive impact on the environment and create a better future for their residents. It's a great opportunity for young people to grow and learn about the natural world in a place that's close to where they live and work.

I hope you'll consider supporting PPRV's proposal for an educational center. It would be a huge step forward for Phoenix and for the environment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Best regards,

Sally Jeppson
12632 Dead Indian Memorial Road
Ashland, OR 97520

November 3, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my full support for the **Educational Center**, led by the **Pollinator Project Rogue Valley**. This project seeks to transform an underused space into a place for people of all ages to learn about the natural world, and a place for neighbors to connect.

The Pollinator Project Rogue Valley has demonstrated strong leadership, collaboration, and commitment to our community's well-being. Their vision aligns perfectly with a shared goal of fostering a greener, healthier Phoenix.

I strongly endorse the **Educational Center** and encourage your support in helping make this initiative a success.

Sincerely,

Cathy Stone

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley.

Rogue Valley Farm to School has partnered with PPRV to engage students with native plants and pollinators. They are striving to make our community a better place. I hope you will consider all the long term benefits of this project.

Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A "campus", with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Slosberg
Talent, OR

--

Rebecca Slosberg (pronouns: she/her/hers)
Rogue Valley Farm to School
Co-Executive Director of Programs & Staff
541-416-4015
www.rvfarm2school.org

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am sending this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

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Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of ALL Southern Oregon communities.

Thank you!

Rosanne Lewis

Medford, OR

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

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Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Deanna Muiaskey
Phoenix OR

Nov. 3, 2025

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee:

I am a resident of Talent who regularly shops at Phoenix businesses and who believes that the future of both communities is closely related.

I understand that you are deciding the fate of a parcel of land near the current base of operations of the Pollinator Project.

I've seen the plans proposed by the Pollinator Project and hope you will support their idea.

Talent Maker City is a key anchor for the revitalization of Talent after the Alameda fire. The proposed education center can do something similar for Phoenix.

My wife and I look forward to participating in programs at the new education center and bringing visitors to Phoenix in the process.

Whether it is in Talent or Phoenix, we have all seen that businesses tend to come and go, or run into problems that may or may not be of their own making, whereas a center like the one proposed by PPRV will provide stability over the years.

It's also worth considering that a magnet like the education center is a best use of a downtown location, whereas many businesses that could be proposed for that property really could be located anywhere and are not likely to draw large numbers of people to downtown Phoenix.

I hope you will support this timely idea. Thank you.

--

Matt Witt

Website: [Matt Witt Photography](#)

Book: [Monumental Beauty](#): Wonders Worth Protecting in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

Talent, OR

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A "campus", with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies - and all the other native pollinators.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Kathleen Medeiros
Jacksonville, Oregon

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

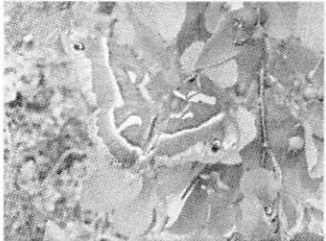
I support the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. **The benefits of a project like this can be astonishing. Look no further than Talent Maker City, or Science Works and their positive community and economic impacts in Talent and Ashland respectively. Phoenix could enjoy similar benefits from this undertaking.**

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Lynn Kunstman
Master Gardener
Medford Oregon

Native Plants support Wildlife



Garden for Life

Lynn Kunstman

Monarch Waystation # 17027

Jackson County Master Gardener

<http://www.somonarchs.org/>

11/3/25

Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee
City of Phoenix, Oregon

Re: Support for Pollinator Project Rogue Valley's Eco-Educational Center Proposal

Dear Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Talent and someone who has worked in the natural resources field for more than a decade, I am writing to express my strong support for Pollinator Project Rogue Valley's proposal to create a native plant demonstration garden, butterfly house, and eco-educational center on the .93-acre property along Bear Creek Drive in Phoenix.

I am a graduate of Southern Oregon University's Environmental Studies program, and throughout my career, I have worked to connect people with the land through restoration, stewardship, and education. As a nearby resident, I use Bear Creek Drive frequently and have watched with appreciation the improvements taking shape along that stretch—the tree plantings, the reconnection of Blue Heron Creek, and the thriving beaver pond that sits just next to this property. These projects have already transformed the area into something special, and this proposal would continue that momentum.

This project would not only enhance the ecological health and beauty of the Bear Creek corridor, but it would also strengthen the town's economy and sense of place. Much of the revitalization effort in Phoenix has focused along Highway 99, and I believe Bear Creek Drive deserves that same attention. A well-designed, nature-based destination would attract visitors coming from that direction and help tie the whole downtown area together as a beautiful, vibrant, and functional community hub.

I attend Pollinator Project Rogue Valley's plant sales every year, and I know many families who would bring their children to experience and learn from this center. It would truly become a destination for residents and visitors alike, a place that celebrates nature, education, and the spirit of Phoenix.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting projects that invest in the beauty and resilience of this community.

Sincerely,

Daniel Collay

Talent Resident and Environmental Professional

Hi there! It's me, Judy Grillo from the Bee Mural at exit 24.

You have my total support. And appreciation .

Don't give up! They need is as much

As we need them!

Judy Grillo

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A "campus", with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,
Ling Helphand
1008 Clay street
Ashland, Oregon, 97520

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I support the brilliant proposal for an educational center along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is an awesome way of linking together the features that make Phoenix special and is an opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future: to create a place for people to grow in and learn about the natural world close to where they live, play and work.

A butterfly house, native plant demonstration gardens and an indoor-outdoor educational center is a great model that many cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies and other pollinators indigenous to the Rogue Valley.

I was a volunteer at the Pollinator Project Rogue Valley and learned so much about pollinators and how to garden. From that experience, I have created 2 pollinator gardens: 1 in Talent where I previously lived and 1 in Ashland where I currently live.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in our country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a small town setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Paige Farrell
Ashland, OR

To whomever this concerns. I have seen lots of activity happening along the highway in south Phoenix.

The Butterfly Pavillion is a wonderful idea. I would visit.

The more exciting things that happen in Phoenix, the more people will want to come hang out, go to the park, get something to eat, and walk around the area. Spend money.

I live in the local hills, and I see that Talent is trying to be more like Phoenix.

Sandra Baker
6454 Coleman Creek Rd.
Medford OR 97501
541 535-9848

Dear Members of the Phoenix Renewal Committee:

I am so excited about this proposed project for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. This is such an innovative and creative possibility for the city of Phoenix, the health of Bear Creek and the short and long term benefit to Southern Oregon. Situating this project on the property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A "campus", with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a phenomenal model that all cities would benefit from following. This concept will be a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

It's unusual to have this golden opportunity that benefits so many related aspects of the Phoenix area and beyond. It is a Win Win Win, at a minimum.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Risa Buck

Ashland, Oregon

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am sending this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

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Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,
Cian Murty and Sonya Smith
Ashland, Oregon

I would like to urge support of the unused almost-acre of land along Bear Creek Dr for an educational center. The Pollinator Project is presenting a brilliant proposal which looks to make Phoenix an eco-tourist attraction.

Having an educational center, butterfly house and more will surely benefit Phoenix and other towns who follow this example. These days folks are wishing ecological knowledge and having a city setting where they live and work is a very good plan.

I believe this will benefit both property values and civic spirit, as well as augmenting the health and resilience of Southern Oregon communities.

Please look carefully at this proposal, keeping in mind the future of our citizens, especially the young.

Thank you.

Janet levins

Talent, OR

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I enthusiastically support the proposal for an educational center on the .9 acre along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. I have noticed that Phoenix has changed in wonderful ways in a short time, and the project proposed by PPRV would blend in superbly with that area with its Civic Center and with the very popular Phoodery. Both places have attractive and well-thought out landscaping and are inviting to locals and visitors alike. The businesses in the development that includes Clyde's Corner also draw in many people both local and travelling . The idea of a learning area, demonstration garden, butterfly pavilion and more is a great idea and will be just what Phoenix needs. And being located in that particular space is the best possible area. It is adjacent to the most desirable new businesses and entities now in Phoenix.

But also, pollinator habitat, diverse plantings, butterfly gardens, and monarch butterfly help have started to be very popular now worldwide. Phoenix would be wise (and of course helpful) if it gives its support to the wonderful plans that Pollinator Project Rogue Valley has for the space. Pollinator Project Rogue Valley has proven itself to be dedicated to these good causes and completely capable of planning and managing things planned for the area. (Have you attended their native plant sales of pollinator helpful plants? Those events draw hundreds of eager people wanting to help the very things that the proposed plan does.)

I believe that this educational center plan will be a great asset to the community and to Southern Oregon and even to tourists and travelers looking for worthwhile places.. and even to those just passing through the area. Please lend your support to the plan.

Sincerely Pat King

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee –

I support the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16–Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make Phoenix special and desirable.

Phoenix needs this project not just to beautify but also to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A “campus”, with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor–outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a model that will definitely attract e and my friends and family, including my grandchildren.. This concept will be a huge draw for eco–tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies, bees and moths.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term. It will contribute to the health of our community.

Thank you for considering the future of our children and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Rose Gerstner
5198 Sterling Creek Rd
Jacksonville OR 97530

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

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Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Martha Wilhelm
1867 Holton Road
Talent, OR 97540

Good afternoon kristina,
i am super excited for you, and your proposal;
attached is my letter of support. i have shared
and added a note on facebook. i hope all goes
well for you and PPRV. doranne

--
Doranne Long
541-643-9289
1005 Sharon Drive Grants Pass, OR 97527
[Link to Your Body Book Facebook Page](#)

Dear People, To Whom i Hope is Concerned,

I absolutely Love the idea and proposal that the Pollinator Project has for along the Bear Creek Greenway in Phoenix, Oregon; I can picture it right now; a landscape of a wide range of flowering plants that attract a lot of kinds of butterflies, flutterbyes, hummingbirds and other pollinator friendly forms of life; I can hear the harmonious hum with the sound of the running water of Bear Creek in the background and people using the Greenway passing by.

What better ideas are there for this section of Mother Earth ? It's near the already existing Pollinator Project office and an educational/nature center and demonstration garden/landscape. I feel the Earth needs us to assist in the recovery of nature from the devastation of habitat that we humans have perpetrated. Therefore we need us to do things like this whenever and wherever we can. If we have the desire we can manifest the means !!!!

Thank You for reading this and considering this wonderful proposal.....Daniel Gregg Ashland, Oregon

My name is Candy. I have been attending the native plant sale for a few years now and am beyond thrilled that you have plans for an education center focused on native ecosystems. Our ecosystems are hurting and we need change. This is the type of change we need to correct the damage that has shaped our world to what it is today. If we can become better steward of the earth like Pollinator Project Rogue Valley is doing, we will be better off. I applaud this organization for proposing such an important and needed plan. This education center is not only necessary but imperative to changing the narrative on nature.

Best regards,

Candy Mitchell

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

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Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,
Laura Bradley
Mt. Shasta, CA

Good luck at the meeting Thursday, and thanks for your efforts to promote native plants and their pollinators. Susan Hoehn, Phoenix resident

Dear members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee,

I strongly support the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley.

Moving from Colorado to Oregon in 2020, I was struck by the the lack of support for public green spaces that increase the natural areas around Phoenix, Talent and Medford. Colorado has made it a mission to provide natural areas for people, plants and animals for the last 40 years and it shows how much these spaces impact not only the feeling of community but the health of neighborhoods, cities and everyone who lives there.

Businesses come and go but natural areas last forever. Please decide to give our community space to enjoy nature and space for nature to thrive by creating this wonderful project for our town. This space will also enhance the area so that business thrives as well.

Thank you for taking the time to listen before making decisions that impact our area.

Suz Porterfield

Hello Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee.

I am writing to express my support for the pollinator garden and butterfly house proposal for the vacant space at 4th St. along Bear Creek Drive.

I have followed and supported the Pollinator Project of Rogue Valley for nearly four years. Their commitment to educating the community is evident and admirable. From having tables at Earth Day events to formal presentations at Herb Pharm and inside school classrooms, and more, their approach is both passionate and scientific.

Their following in the community and on social media is impressive and far reaching. I have no doubt that this project would instantly add to the charm and unique environment that draws visitors to Phoenix.

Respectfully,

Donna Mulvey
Grants Pass Resident

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

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Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Raven Gillen
Grants Pass, Oregon

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

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Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Destinee Crane
City of Shady Cove

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

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Southern Oregon is one of the most bio-diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Gwyn Peridot
Ashland, Oregon

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

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Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Lucy Francisco Medford OR

11/5/25

To the members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee:

I am writing to express my support for the educational center being proposed by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. This is the best idea that I have heard in a long time! I believe that a center including butterfly house, native plant demonstration gardens and educational center would be a boon for the entire Rogue Valley community, and would serve to help reinvigorate Phoenix in particular. It would really show off Phoenix as forward thinking in the best possible way, while providing crucial education on the important issues of native plants, pollinators, fish and birds.

It's refreshing to see a project that would most certainly further your goal of urban renewal that is not retail/business/housing related. While those areas are certainly of great importance and concern, I feel that a project like this would really enhance the look, spirit and draw of the city. It would bring together the community in an amazing, positive, forward thing way. There isn't a better, more central place in the valley to locate it.

Thank you for considering this project to benefit the future of our community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Johnston
Jacksonville, Oregon

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

I am writing in support of the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley.

This center would not only draw tourists, but Southern Oregon neighbors as well. And the location of the Pollinator Project Education Center is certainly a bonus for the neighboring businesses. Take a walk through the demonstration gardens, get ideas for your own project, buy some native plants at the nursery and then take a stroll downtown Phoenix. Have lunch, check out the other businesses. Win - win!

Phoenix has done an amazing job rebuilding and redesigning after the fire. Including this exciting educational center in the heart of the city would show the heart of Phoenix.

Sincerely,
Debra Blair
Ashland, OR

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee -

My name is Shayne Hayes, and I'm a resident in Central Point, OR who visits Phoenix regularly. I strongly support the proposal for an educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley.

Southern Oregon needs more unique activities for residents and tourists of all ages to engage in, and a "campus" with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center would be an amazing addition to the area. I grew up in the Bay Area and miss being able to visit butterfly sanctuaries such as the Natural Bridges Monarch Trail. I'm sure many others who moved here from California feel the same.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering this proposal and making Southern Oregon a better place to live!

Sincerely,
Shayne Hayes
Central Point, Oregon

To the Members of PHURAC, City Representatives, and Community Partners,

My name is Zoya Michelle Strebels, and I am writing to express my full and unwavering support for the Phoenix Springs Nature Center — a visionary project that represents not only environmental renewal but also community healing and pride.

Over the past several years, I have dedicated my work and heart to this region Save the Wetlands, and the Rogue River Watershed Council of Central Point, where I have proudly served for the last three seasons and am honored to be returning for the upcoming one. In addition, I operate my own business, Zoya's Maintenance Services, which focuses on community-based environmental care, pollinator garden maintenance, and sustainable land stewardship.

Through this work, I have witnessed firsthand how much transformation can occur when people come together to care for the land — from restoring native habitats and maintaining green spaces to protecting water sources and encouraging community involvement. The Phoenix Springs Nature Center captures that same spirit of collaboration and purpose. It offers our community a chance to transform an area once burdened by loss and neglect into a thriving place of education, conservation, and natural beauty.

This project is not just a development idea — it is a living vision. The creation of a Welcome Center and Butterfly Pavilion would not only attract visitors and students but also serve as a hub for environmental learning and community connection. It aligns perfectly with our shared goals: reducing fire risk, protecting waterways, restoring native ecosystems, and fostering safe, inclusive outdoor spaces for all residents.

As someone who works directly in the field, I understand the importance of long-term care, regular maintenance, and genuine stewardship. The Phoenix Springs Nature Center has the potential to unite nonprofits, schools, and local organizations under one meaningful purpose — the restoration and celebration of our shared environment.

I fully support this initiative and am ready to contribute in any capacity — through environmental maintenance, educational outreach, or hands-on community engagement. Together, we can turn this vision into a lasting legacy for Phoenix and beyond.

Respectfully,
Zoya Michelle Strebels
Owner, Zoya's Maintenance Services
Community Environmental Steward & Developer

Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee:

I support the proposal for an educational center along Bear Creek Drive being presented by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley.

Situating this project on this property adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way of linking together the features that make your town special and desirable. This is a perfect opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world in close proximity to where they live and work.

A "campus" with a butterfly house, large native plant demonstration gardens and interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor educational center, built for and with community members, students of all ages, and with agency and governmental support, is a model that all cities would benefit from following.

This concept will be a draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies.

Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more, into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Sincerely,

David Hall

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee:

I am pleased to express my strong support for the proposed educational center on the 0.93 acres along Bear Creek Drive, presented by **Pollinator Project Rogue Valley**.

Placing this project next to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district is a brilliant way to connect the natural and cultural landmarks that make Phoenix such a special place to live.

This initiative offers a meaningful opportunity for Phoenix to invest in its future—to create a space where children, families, and community members can experience and learn about the natural world right where they live, work, and gather.

The planned campus—with a butterfly house, expansive native plant gardens, interpretive signage, and an indoor-outdoor learning center—will be a source of pride for the community. Developed in collaboration with residents, students, agencies, and local partners, it represents a model of environmental education and civic engagement that other cities would do well to follow.

Southern Oregon is one of the most ecologically diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that highlights this diversity—while teaching how to care for pollinators, native plants, and local ecosystems—will enhance community spirit, attract visitors, and strengthen the region's resilience for years to come.

No other development project could enrich the Phoenix community as much as a native butterfly pavilion and indoor educational center.

Thank you for supporting a project that truly reflects the values, creativity, and vision of Phoenix and the people who call it home.

Kenda Swartz]

Former resident of Jacksonville, OR

To members of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Advisory Committee

I am pleased to send this letter in support of a new educational center on the .93 acres along Bear Creek Drive, situated adjacent to the 16-Spring Miracle Mile, the Greenway, Bear Creek, the Civic Center, and the downtown business district, as proposed by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley.

I believe this center will be an opportunity for Phoenix to make a difference for the future, to create a place for young people to grow in and learn about the natural world, as well as a huge draw for eco-tourists as well as locals who want to learn about how to help save the butterflies.

Southern Oregon is one of the most diverse regions in the country. Creating a place that brings ecological knowledge of the plants, pollinators, fish, birds, and more into a city setting will be amazing and beneficial to both property values and community spirit for both the short and long term.

Thank you for considering the future of our children, and the health and resilience of the Southern Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Haila Williams
Phoenix, Oregon