

Merideth, Zoe

From: Laura Kindsvater <quercust@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 2:48 PM
To: Planning Division
Subject: Item 8-2 (Radix Growth proposal) for January 17 meeting

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Dear Planning Commissioners:

I would like to see plant species that are native to Antioch incorporated into the Radix Growth project.

The project proposal states that the new landscaping will consist of lavender, grasses including prairie dropseed and morning light miscanthus, and creeping phlox. And they also plan to plant six missing trees.

None of the plants that are currently specified in the landscaping plan are native to Antioch or California.

As you know, pollinators are in trouble. And humans need pollinators to provide a lot of the food that we consume.

Wildlife in California has declined by 20 percent, and at least 600 species in California are endangered.

Two of the top reasons why pollinators and wildlife in general are in decline are habitat loss and pesticide use.

Keystone native plant species feed native pollinators and other wildlife, provide habitat, and beautify an area too.

More information about keystone native plant species is available at <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/keystone-species-signs> and <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/douglas-tallamy-resources>.

Instead of lavender, which is native to Europe, why not plant a shrub that is native to Antioch or nearby, such as Ceanothus (California lilac), silver lupine (Lupinus albifrons), or California rose (Rosa californica)?

Instead of prairie dropseed and morning miscanthus grasses, why not plant native grass species, like purple needle grass, nodding needle grass, or June grass? See www.calscape.org for more details.

Instead of creeping phlox, perhaps a prostrate species of manzanita, a lupine species, or a Ceanothus species that is native to Antioch or nearby could be incorporated. These are all beautiful plants.

For the missing trees, please improve the plan by planting tree species that are native to Antioch, such as coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia) or blue oak (Quercus douglasii).

Thank you.

Laura Kindsvater
Antioch resident