

Bear Creek Stewardship Day: September 16th, 2023

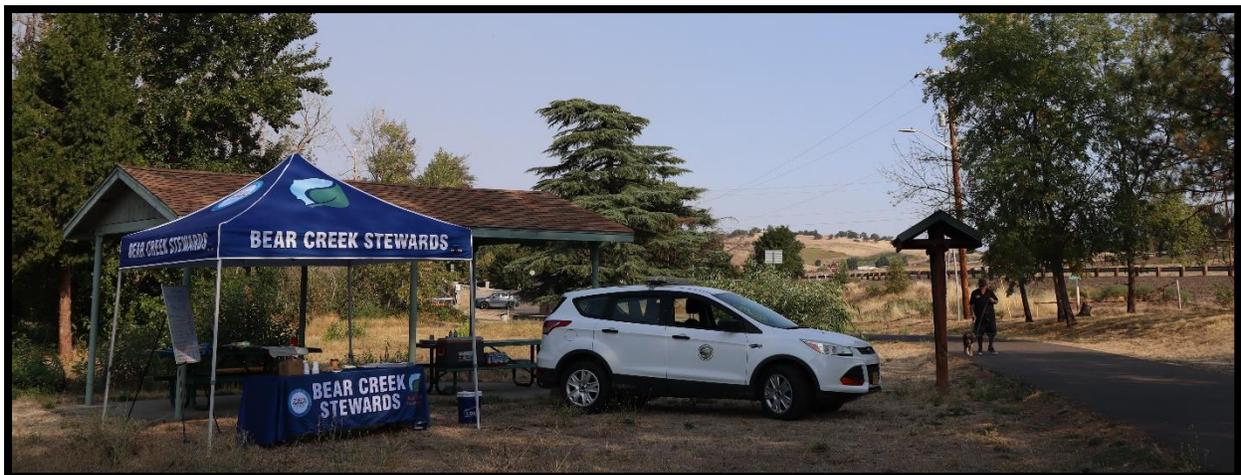
The Bear Creek Stewards is a collaboration of individuals and organizations that promote a thriving Bear Creek Greenway corridor through the convergence of art, environmental stewardship, and recreation. Since 2015, the group has organized a Bear Creek Stewardship Day clean-up every April and September, with the exceptions of the April 2020 event (which was canceled due to COVID-19) and the September 2020 event (which was canceled due to the Almeda Fire).

The Bear Creek Stewards hosted a Stewardship Day on September 16th, 2023 as part of the Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLVE)-sponsored fall clean-up. We want to thank the 114 volunteers that removed 4,895 pounds of trash and 1,700 square feet of branches, blackberry, and invasive species during the event.

While SOLVE is the state-wide sponsor, we had several local donors for the event including The Gordon Elwood Foundation, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, Lithia & Driveway, Medford Food Co-op, Recology, and Rogue Disposal. The event ran from 9:00 am-12:00 pm and had 9 check-in locations scheduled along or near Bear Creek from Central Point to Ashland.

1. Pine Street, Central Point (Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Stream Smart, and the City of Central Point)
2. McAndrews Road, Medford (Rogue Riverkeeper)
3. Hawthorne Park, Medford (City of Medford)
4. Alba Dr., Medford (Medford Food Co-op)
5. Coyote Trails Nature Center, Medford (Rogue River Watershed Council)
6. Northridge Terrace, Medford/Phoenix (Rogue Valley Sewer Services)
7. Blue Heron Park, Phoenix (Save The Phoenix Wetlands and Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates)
8. Lynn Newbry Park, Talent (City of Talent)
9. Wranglers Arena, North Ashland (Southern Oregon Geocaching)

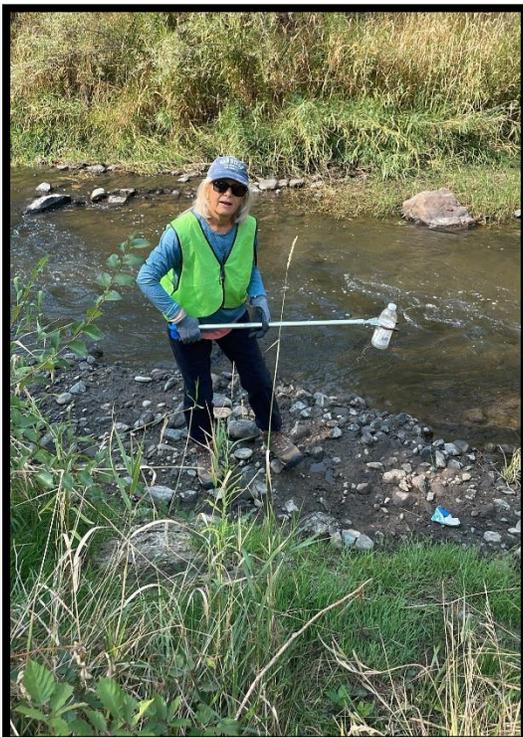
Since 2015, the Bear Creek Stewards have removed approximately 74,737 pounds of trash from the Bear Creek corridor. This would not have been possible without the tireless effort of volunteers. For more information about the Bear Creek Stewards, visit: <http://www.bearcreekstewards.org>.



| Fall 2023 Clean-Up Event Registration | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Location/Date: | Attended | Adults | Minors | Pounds of Trash | Pounds of Recycling | Invasive Species Removed |
| Pine Street | 18 | 18 | 0 | 1800 | 0 | 0 |
| McAndrews Road | 7 | 7 | 0 | 1000 | 31 | 0 |
| Hawthorne Park | 9 | 9 | 0 | 275 | 4 | 0 |
| Alba Drive | 11 | 10 | 1 | 540 | 0 | 0 |
| Coyote Trails Nature Center | 7 | 7 | 0 | 60 | 0 | 120 |
| Northridge Terrace | 10 | 8 | 2 | 450 | 1 | 1500 |
| Blue Heron Park | 25 | 24 | 1 | 120 | 0 | 0 |
| Lynn Newbry Park | 7 | 7 | 0 | 150 | 0 | 0 |
| Wranglers Arena | 20 | 18 | 2 | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 114 | 108 | 6 | 4,895 | 36 | 1700 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 93% | 95% | 5% |
| Attended vs registered | were adults | were under 18 |

Our efforts resulted in over 100 participants removing over 2 tons of trash and 1,700 square feet of dead plants/invasive species from approximately 10 miles of the Bear Creek Greenway corridor. Not only do these tasks lead to a more aesthetically-pleasing Bear Creek Greenway, but also the potential for water quality improvements, an increase in biodiversity due to invasive species removal and native plantings, and a bolstered sense of environmental stewardship.



Changes noted between the previous 7 events:

- The percentage of children participating in events:
 - 31% were under 18 in 2019
 - 14% were under 18 in April 2021
 - 23% were under 18 in September 2021
 - 20% were under 18 in April 2022
 - 14% were under 18 in September 2022
 - 20% were under 18 in April 2023
 - 5% were under 18 in September 2023
- There are fluctuations between events with the participation no-show rates:
 - In September 2019, more people than registered participated (123%)
 - In April 2021, less people than registered participated (88%)
 - In September 2021, again, less people than registered participated (71%)
 - In April 2022, more people than registered participated (104%)
 - In September 2022, more people than registered participated (118%)
 - In April 2023, more people than registered participated (107%)
 - In September 2023, less people than registered participated (93%)



| Date | Participants | Check-In Locations | Miles Cleaned Up | Pounds of Trash | Other Tasks | Location |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| April 2015 | 81 | 1 | 1 | 2,000 | | Medford |
| September 2015 | 32 | 2 | 2 | 1,200 | | Medford |
| April 2016 | 101 | 3 | 3 | 1,500 | | Medford |
| September 2016 | 52 | 3 | 3 | 2,000 | | Medford |
| April 2017 | 118 | 5 | 5 | 4,800 | | Medford and Phoenix |
| September 2017 | 81 | 7 | 6.5 | 4,500 | | Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, and Talent |
| April 2018 | 191 | 8 | 7 | 5,100 | 0.25 acres of blackberry removed | Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland |
| September 2018 | 93 | 8 | 7 | 4,000 | 0.5 acres of blackberry removed | Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland |
| April 2019 | 232 | 9 | 8 | 5,600 | 1 acre of blackberry removed | Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland |
| September 2019 | 167 | 11 | 10 | 3,345 | Planted 420 plants and removed 10 cubic yards of blackberries | Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland |
| April 2021 | 215 | 8 | 10 | 6,960 | 100 plants mulched, 480 lbs of dead juniper removed, over 1/3 acre of blackberries removed, and 500 lbs of metal recycled | Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|----------------------------|------|-------|---|--|
| September 2021 | 173 | 9 | 10.5 | 7,605 | Weeded, 1000 square feet of invasive plants removed, 20 plants mulched, removed dead pine branches and limbs, Trees of Heaven (invasive species), and blackberry brambles and vines | Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland |
| April 2022 | 180 | 9 scheduled *2 canceled | 9 | 7,860 | Pollinator garden planted and maintained, invasive plant removal, weeding, mulching, and graffiti removal | Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland |
| September 2022++ | 118 | 8 scheduled *1 canceled | 9 | 4,385 | Pollinator garden weed removal, watering planted conifers, invasive plant removal, mulching, trash removal | Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland |
| April 2023 | 191 | 9 | 10 | 8,987 | Pollinator garden weed removal, watering planted | Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|---|----|-------|--|--|
| | | | | | conifers, invasive plant removal, mulching, trash removal | |
| September 2023 | 114 | 9 | 10 | 4,895 | Pollinator garden weed removal, invasive plant removal, mulching, trash removal | Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland |

