

Bear Creek Stewardship Day: September 16th, 2023

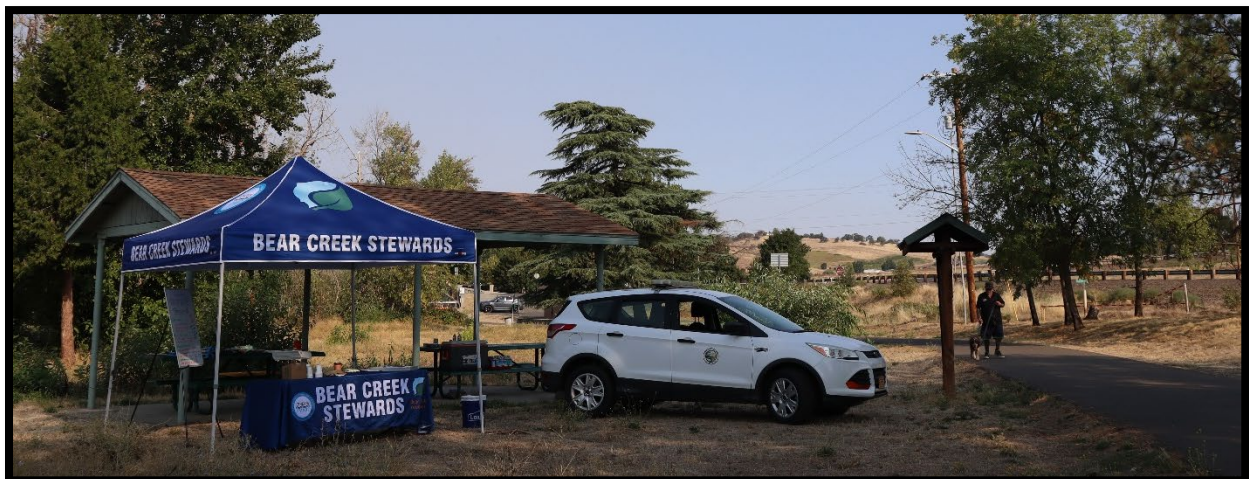
The Bear Creek Stewards is a collaboration of individuals and organizations that promote a thriving Bear Creek Greenway corridor through the convergence of art, environmental stewardship, and recreation. Since 2015, the group has organized a Bear Creek Stewardship Day clean-up every April and September, 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, 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)

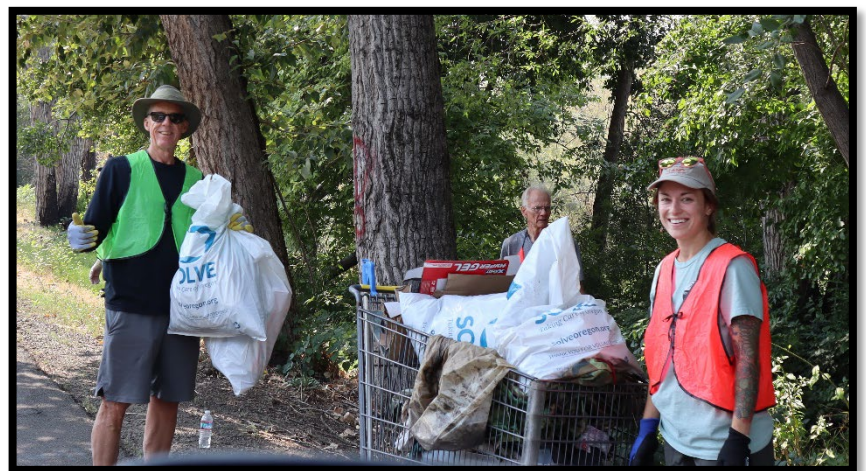
Since 2015, the Bear Creek Stewards have removed approximately 74,737 pounds of trash from the Bear Creek corridor. This would not have been possible without the tireless effort of volunteers. For more information about the Bear Creek Stewards, visit: <http://www.bearcreekstewards.org>.



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 nearly 115 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

