

## Bear Creek Stewardship Day, April 17, 2021

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 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 Alameda Fire.

The Bear Creek Stewards hosted a Stewardship Day on April 17, 2021 as part of the Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLVE) sponsored Spring Cleanup. We want to thank the 215 volunteers that removed 7,000 lbs of trash blackberry during the event.

While SOLVE is the state-wide sponsor, we had several local donors for the event including Crater Sand and Gravel, Extreme Terrain, The Gordon Elwood Foundation, Grants Pass Clinic, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, Lithia Auto Group, Medford Food Co-op, Recology, Rogue Disposal and Starbucks.

The event ran from 9 am-12 pm at 8 check-in locations along or near Bear Creek from Central Point to Ashland.

1. Pine Street, Central Point. (Rogue Valley Council of Governments)
2. McAndrews Road, Medford. (City of Medford)
3. Hawthorne Park, Medford. (Rogue Riverkeeper)
4. Bear Creek Park, Alba Dr., Medford. (Medford Food Co-op)
5. CTNC, Medford. (Rogue River Watershed Council)
6. Blue Heron Park, Phoenix. (Rogue Valley Sewer Services and City of Phoenix)
7. Lynn Newbry Park, Talent. (Rogue Valley Sewer Services and City of Talent)
8. Wranglers Arena, North Ashland. (Southern Oregon Geocaching)

Since 2015 the Bear Creek Stewards have removed more than 42,000 pounds of trash from the Bear Creek corridor. This would not have been possible without the tireless effort of volunteers.

Fall 2019 Clean-Up Event				
Location/Date:	Attended	Adults	Minors	Pounds of Trash
Pine Street	18	16	2	40
McAndrews Road	35	30	5	4000
Hawthorne Park	42	40	2	500
Alba Dr.	23	18	5	700
Coyote Trails Nature Center	16	14	2	220
Blue Heron Park	35	26	9	400
Lynn Newbry Park	16	15	1	100
Wranglers Arena	30	26	4	1000
Total				
	<b>215</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6960</b>

<b>88%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Attended vs registered</b>	<b>were adults</b>	<b>were under 18</b>

Our efforts resulted in 215 participants removing nearly 3 ½ tons of trash, 1/3 of an acre of invasive blackberries, 100 plants mulched, 480 pounds of dead juniper, and over 500 pounds of metal recycled from approximately 10 miles of the Bear Creek Greenway corridor.

Changes noted between the previous 2 events:

- The percentage of children participating in event was much lower
  - 31% were under 18 in 2019
  - 14% were under 18 in 2021
- While the number of participants were similar, there were noticeable differences
  - In September 2019, more people than registered participated (123%)
  - In April 2021, less people than registered participated (88%)



### Summary of Cleanup efforts 2015 - September 2021

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 removal	Medford, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland
September 2018	93	8	7	4,000	0.5 acres of blackberry removal	Medford, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland
April 2019	232	9	8	5,600	1 acre of blackberry removal	Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland
September 2019	167	11	10	3,345	Planted 420 plants 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 500 lbs of metal recycled	Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland