

Bear Creek Greenway

Volunteer Program



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Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Volunteer with the Bear Creek Greenway! Jackson County and the cities of Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland have joined forces through a collaborative agreement to enable Greenway volunteers to work anywhere along the trail regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Jackson County is the main contact for the program, but each of the Cities is committed to the program through the Joint Powers Committee (JPC).

The Bear Creek Greenway would not be where it is today without the support of our local community. Volunteers play a huge role in supporting the trail. The trail is connected from Central Point to Ashland, allowing a new level of on-the-ground volunteer involvement. Volunteers supplement our existing maintenance efforts by providing an increased regular presence on the trail and a mechanism for work to be completed in the time between regularly scheduled crew work.

On behalf of the Bear Creek Greenway Joint Powers Committee, we would like to recognize your commitment and willingness to donate your time, knowledge, and skills by participating in the Greenway Volunteer Program. We sincerely appreciate your willingness to cooperate with us as we care for a facility we all know and love.

Bear Creek Greenway Background

The Bear Creek Greenway is a 17.5-mile paved multi-use trail that links the cities of Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford and Central Point. The Greenway is continuous from the Ashland Dog Park to Pine Street in Central Point, with only two at-grade road crossings. The newest section from Upton Road to the Dean Creek Frontage Road (just north of the Jackson County Fairgrounds) adds nearly another mile to the trail, and plans to "fill the gap" through the Expo by Fall 2013 are underway. (See www.pinetoupton.org)

The first segment of the Bear Creek Greenway was built in the City of Medford by Oregon Department of Transportation in 1973. Additional trail sections have been constructed over the years as property has been acquired and funds have been secured. Local funds are used to match ODOT and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department grants.

The Greenway is managed on two levels. Routine maintenance, such as vegetation management, sweeping the pavement, litter and weed removal, and hazard tree identification and removal, is performed by the cities in all areas within urban growth boundaries and Jackson County in unincorporated areas. Major maintenance projects, such as asphalt repair and facility-wide improvements (such as signage), are accomplished through a fund set aside by the jurisdictions through the Joint Powers Agreement. The Joint Powers Committee prioritizes projects based on protecting the investment of the asphalt and maintaining the trail for the best possible safety and enjoyment of all trail users.

Volunteering

What is a Volunteer?

A volunteer is a person who is willing to donate their time and energy toward the accomplishment of a goal, often working with others who are similarly engaged. Volunteers serve with the knowledge they will not receive paid compensation for their time and efforts, and offer their services freely and without pressure or coercion.

Volunteers on the Greenway might participate as Greenway hosts, as part of organized workdays, or as part of a group or organization through the Adopt-a-Greenway Program. Activities completed by Greenway volunteers:

1. Would not otherwise get done because of resource limitations

Or

2. Allows paid employees to accomplish work that would not otherwise get done because of resource limitations

Volunteers help make the Bear Creek Greenway a more enjoyable and beautiful facility!

Volunteer Rights and Responsibilities

As a volunteer, you have a right to:

- Be treated fairly, with respect and understanding
- Be provided proper safety training and orientation
- Request feedback regarding your work from your coordinator
- Have your concerns and ideas heard

In return, we ask that you:

- Perform your volunteer duties to the best of your abilities
- Take pride in your accomplishments
- Treat the volunteer coordinator, fellow volunteers, Greenway staff, and the general public with respect and understanding
- Conduct yourself professionally
- Communicate any concerns with your coordinator (staff or volunteer)
- Ask for advice or direction if you are unsure how a task should be completed
- Be reasonably flexible in the duties, dates, and times we ask of you
- Notify the Volunteer Coordinator in the event you are unable to volunteer
- Adhere to safety requirements and policies

Youth Volunteers

People younger than 18 years of age are welcome to become General Greenway Volunteers and participate as part of an Adopt-a-Greenway sponsorship, but are not eligible to be Greenway Hosts. They undergo the same application process as adult volunteers, and must be accompanied by their parent/legal guardian to both the interview and the background check at the Human Resources Department. A liability waiver for minor youths must be signed by their parent/legal guardian, and they are not allowed to volunteer without adult supervision.

Volunteering on the Bear Creek Greenway

So, what exactly does a Greenway Volunteer do? There are currently three programs to choose from: Greenway Hosts, General Greenway Volunteers, and Adopt-a-Greenway Sponsors. No matter what you are interested in, we want your volunteer experience to be fun, rewarding, and most of all, safe.

All Volunteers are asked to:

- Provide information and assistance to trail users, such as giving directions or answering questions regarding the trail and helping cyclists fix a flat tire.
- Report controversial interactions, suspicious activities, concerns, and maintenance requests to the appropriate jurisdiction, law enforcement, and/or volunteer coordinator
- Be willing to participate as available in special projects and events, for example trail counts and surveys, workdays, or organized walks/runs/rides

Greenway Hosts

Greenway Hosts are volunteers who patrol the trail wearing an identifiable vest and interact with trail users as opportunities and needs arise. Hosts are the eyes and ears of the trail, providing feedback to trail managers about trail activity and maintenance concerns. Hosts are also the face of the trail, providing trail users with assistance or information and reminding them of the rules. Hosts will often be the only official contact for a trail user, and customer service skills are a must. If you like to interact with people and spend time on the Greenway, this volunteer opportunity is for you!

Greenway Hosts are asked to:

- Be present on the Greenway as a Host for a minimum of 1 hour weekly or 4 hours monthly
- Be willing to inform users politely if they are not conforming with posted rules/regulations
- Carry a cell phone
- Report any maintenance needs on the trail to the volunteer coordinator and/or appropriate jurisdiction
- Report law enforcement concerns such as illegal camping to the appropriate authorities
- Complete light work such as moving small branches and picking up litter

General Greenway Volunteers

Volunteers who are interested in doing occasional work on the trail can participate as general volunteers. General volunteers are "on call" to tackle minor work on the trail. They will be contacted by the volunteer coordinator or jurisdiction when work is needed and are expected to participate when available, at a minimum 4 hours per month.

General Greenway Volunteers are asked to:

Be present on the Greenway when called on by the coordinator or jurisdiction to complete a variety of tasks, including but not limited to pulling weeds, cleaning or painting over graffiti, trimming vegetation, blowing or sweeping the pavement, picking up trash/litter, or painting pavement hazards. General volunteers could also be called upon to participate with special events, and can propose projects they're interested in to trail managers.

Steps to becoming a Greenway Host or General Volunteer:

1. Submit your completed Volunteer Application & Signed Liability Waiver. (If applicant is a minor, parent/guardian must sign the Volunteer Application and Liability Waiver for Minors)
2. You will be contacted to schedule an interview
3. Attend a volunteer orientation
4. Request and satisfactorily pass a criminal history/background check at Jackson County Human Resources- 10 South Oakdale, Medford

– Jackson County reserves the right to use their own discretion when approving or declining potential volunteers or adoptive sponsors, as well as removing volunteers or cancelling sponsorships. –

Adopt-a-Greenway Sponsors

The Adopt-A-Greenway program encourages organizations or groups to help take care of a 1-2 mile section of the Greenway. Sponsors are responsible for minor maintenance, such as sweeping/blowing, trimming vegetation, pulling puncture vine/goathead, and graffiti removal. Sponsors are expected to work autonomously and on a monthly basis, and are encouraged to check their section weekly. The minimum adoption duration is one year, at which time the agreement may be renewed. A sign will be installed on each end of the adopted section informing users of the commitment to the Bear Creek Greenway. Adopting a section of trail is a great way for you or your organization to feel “pride of ownership” of a section of Greenway!

Adopt-a-Greenway Sponsors are asked to:

- Complete maintenance tasks on Greenway for a minimum of 4 hours monthly, or the necessary amount of time to fulfill the terms of the Adopt-a-Greenway Agreement
- Be present on the Greenway when called on to complete maintenance tasks
- If a sponsor wishes to go above and beyond the minimum expectations, they can speak with the Volunteer Coordinator and local jurisdiction to explore the possibility of additional projects, such as bench/structure repair/construction, riparian restoration,, or fundraising or outreach projects.

Steps to becoming an Adopt-a-Greenway Sponsor:

1. Submit a completed Adopt-a-Greenway Application
2. You will be contacted to schedule an interview
3. Attend an Adopt-a-Greenway volunteer orientation
4. Complete and sign the Adopt-a-Greenway Agreement

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Adopt-a-Greenway Trail Sections

Number	Landmark		Distance (miles)	Mile Marker		Jurisdiction
	Start	Finish		Start	Finish	
1	Ashland Dog Park	South Valley View Rd	2	8	10	Ashland
2	South Valley View Rd	Bridge over Bear Creek	1.8	10	11.8	Jackson County
3	Bridge over Bear Creek	Suncrest Road	1.7	11.8	13.5	Talent
4	Suncrest Rd	Anderson Creek	1.75	13.5	15.25	Jackson County
5	Anderson Creek Bridge	Fern Valley Rd	1.25	15.25	16.5	Phoenix
6	Fern Valley Rd	Glenwood	.75	16.5	17.25	Jackson County
7	Glenwood	US Cellular Community Park - Parking Lot	1.25	17.25	18.5	Medford
8	US Cellular Community Park - Parking Lot	Barnett Rd	1.25	18.5	19.8	Medford
9	Barnett Rd	East Main St	1.5	19.8	21.3	Medford
10	East Main St	McAndrews	1	21.3	22.3	Medford
11	McAndrews	Biddle Rd/Railroad Park	1.2	22.3	23.5	Medford
12	Biddle Rd/Railroad Park	Tablerock Rd	.7	23.5	24.2	Medford
13	Table Rock Rd	Pine St	1.3	24.2	25.5	Central Point
14	Pine St*	Upton Rd	1.5	25.5	27	Jackson County
15	Upton Rd	Dean Creek Trailhead	1	27	28	Jackson County

*Construction in 2013