

Bear Creek Clean-ups

Annual creek clean-ups are conducted twice annually, in April and September, to provide opportunities for community members to participate in watershed stewardship and help remove litter and debris from local waterways. A summary of clean-up activities conducted through September 2025, along with examples of outreach materials and advertising, is presented below. The September 2025 clean-up engaged 109 volunteers.



Bear Creek Stewardship Day Flyer: September 20th, 2025



Bear Creek Stewardship Day Flyer: April 19th, 2025

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 Alameda Fire).

The Bear Creek Stewards hosted a Stewardship Day on September 20, 2025, as part of the Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLVE)-sponsored fall clean-up. We want to thank the 109 volunteers that removed almost 5,000 pounds of trash and 700 square feet of Himalayan Blackberry, Yellow Star Thistle, and other invasive weeds during the event.

While SOLVE is the state-wide sponsor, we had several local donors for the event including The Gordon Elwood Foundation, Medford Food Co-op, and Rogue Disposal. The event ran from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and had 7 check-in locations scheduled along or near Bear Creek from Central Point to Ashland.

1. Pine Street, Central Point* (City of Central Point, Eugene Weir, Rogue Valley Council of Governments, and Stream Smart: A Rogue Basin Clean Water Project)
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. Lynn Newbry Park, Talent (City of Talent and Rogue Valley Sewer Services)
7. Wranglers Arena, North Ashland (Southern Oregon Geocaching)

*Bear Creek/Rogue River Confluence meets at Pine Street



Since 2015, the Bear Creek Stewards have removed 89,742 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: [Bear Creek Clean-Ups \(Bear Creek Stewards\) – Stream Smart](#).

2025-2026 CLEAN-UP SUMMARIES

	September 2025 Clean-Up Event Registration					
Location/Date:	Attended	Adults	Minors	Pounds of Trash	Pounds of Recycling	Invasive Species Removed (square feet)
Pine Street	15	14	1	585	0	0
McAndrews Road	9	9	0	875	65	0
Hawthorne Park	20	17	3	250	3	0
Alba Drive	15	15	0	725	0	0
Coyote Trails Nature Center	23	17	6	1800	6	200
Lynn Newbry Park	14	11	3	165	0	500
Wranglers Arena	13	13	0	500	0	0
Total	109	96	13	4,900	74	700

Our efforts in September 2025 resulted in nearly 110 participants removing over 2 tons of trash and approximately 700 square feet of invasive weeds from approximately 9 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.



Summary of Clean-Up Efforts: April 2015 – April 2025

Date	Participants	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	Central Point, Medford, Phoenix,

2025-2026 CLEAN-UP SUMMARIES

					plants mulched, removed dead pine branches and limbs, Trees of Heaven (invasive species), and blackberry brambles and vines	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 conifers, invasive plant removal, mulching, trash removal	Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland
September 2023	114	9	10	4,895	Pollinator garden weed removal, invasive plant removal, mulching, trash removal	Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland
April 2024	126	9	10	5,000	Invasive weeds removal and pollinator garden maintenance.	Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland
September 2024	98	8	10	1,480	Invasive weeds removal and pollinator garden maintenance.	Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland

2025-2026 CLEAN-UP SUMMARIES

April 2025	245	9	10	3,625	Invasive weeds removal and pollinator garden maintenance.	Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland
September 2025	109	8	9	4,900	Invasive weeds removal and pollinator garden maintenance.	Central Point, Medford, Talent, and Ashland





Rogue River Clean-up

The Rogue River Clean-Up is a long-standing event supported by numerous partners, including local TMDL programs in Grants Pass and Josephine County, the Solid Waste Agency, the Jackson and Josephine County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), the Rogue Aquatic Invasive Network (RAIN), the Bureau of Land Management, and others. The event includes trash collection at boat launches, overlooks, and along roads adjacent to the river, as well as trash removal by boat-based crews working along the river. The event also includes invasive weed control led by local experts (CWMA members). Weed control activities are conducted by crews working from roads and river access points, as well as by boat-based crews accessing areas along the river that are difficult to reach from land..

34TH ANNUAL ROGUE RIVER CLEAN-UP 2026 EVENT SUMMARY

Another successful clean-up and weed pull event along the Rogue River from Whitehorse to the Grave Creek boat ramp is in the books!

Number of volunteers that participated on May 16th: 150
Amount of trash recovered: 9 cubic yards; ~20 tires retrieved

Number of invasive plants removed
(Dyers Woad, Yellow Starthistle, Diffuse Knapweed, and Maltese Thistle): ~800
Number of acres treated for invasive plants: 46

For more details about the event, including a list of sponsors, visit:
www.stream-smart.com/rogue-river-clean-ups/
or click on the QR code in the lower right-hand corner.

Thanks to all of our volunteers, partners, and donors for the support!

