



# Bear Creek Greenway

FOUNDATION

## Spring 2011 Newsletter

### Looking Back On Our Accomplishments

by Bear Creek Greenway Foundation President Lee Mills

The Bear Creek Greenway has come a long way since the first section was built in 1973, over 17 miles to be exact! The last several years have seen many improvements. Since 2004, the following has been accomplished:

- Trail from Blue Heron Park in Phoenix to Suncrest Road was constructed.
- Trail from Blue Heron Park to Barnett Road was constructed.
- The Jean Marie Chinn Memorial Shelter was constructed near the Jefferson Nature Center.
- The bridge over Barnett Road was constructed.
- Trail from Upton Road to Dean Creek Road in Central Point was constructed.

The costs of these projects add up to over \$7 million and the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation provided crucial funding, as well as community support and energy for each one.

Improvements to facilities adjacent to the trail include a new vehicle bridge at Valley View Road in Talent which provides a much better bicycle and pedestrian connection to the Greenway, new restrooms in several park facilities along the trail, and the opening of the Jefferson Nature Center in U.S. Cellular Community Park.

Area residents and visitors can ride or walk on a continuous trail between the dog park in Ashland to Pine Street in Central Point and only navigate across one road (Suncrest Road near Talent). The Greenway is a great place to exercise, experience nature, ride your bike, and take the kids where you know you won't have to compete with cars for space.

With cutbacks in federal and state budgets, rising gasoline prices, and increasing health problems in both our youth and adult populations, the Greenway is looking brighter and brighter. I truly believe that it's going to be more important to the future of our community than we all realize.

### Join us!

Greenway Member  
Annual Meeting

May 10th at 6pm

The Jefferson Nature Center  
2931 S. Pacific Hwy  
Medford, OR 97501

### The Greenway is Going Green!

In an effort to cut down on resources we will be sending future newsletters by email. Please sign-up for our online newsletter at [bearcreekgreenway.com](http://bearcreekgreenway.com).

### Did you know?

The Bear Creek Greenway Foundation has a Facebook page! For all the latest events, news and information find us on Facebook.



### Have you renewed your membership for 2011?

The Greenway Foundation's budget is reliant upon private donations. Have you renewed your membership yet this year? If not, please visit [www.bearcreekgreenway.com](http://www.bearcreekgreenway.com) to pay via Paypal, or send a check to Bear Creek Greenway Foundation, P.O. Box 4561, Medford, OR 97501 (Federal tax ID: 93-0907054). Basic memberships are \$40/year. Students/Seniors are \$25/year. Business sponsorships and family memberships are also available.

## Looking Forward - What's Next?

Jenna Stanke, Jackson County Roads & Parks

Many exciting projects are in the hopper that will improve upon and expand the trail, including:

- **Revised map-** for the new kiosks, internet, and a new brochure. The newest section of trail from Upton Road to Dean Creek Road is included, as are mile and quarter-mile markers. This is the first of several improvements to signage that will be seen along the trail.
- **Test plot project to study repair solutions to root bumps-** small sections of concrete, recycled rubber pavers, decomposed granite, and pervious paving will be installed near Phoenix and monitored. \$63,000 project- Recreational Trails Program of the Oregon State Parks with \$12,500 match from the Joint Powers Committee (JPC).
- **Major reconstruction project-** will repair approximately 7 miles of trail in 3 sections- .25-mile section with large cracks near mile marker 9 near Ashland, 3.5-mile segment from Valley View in Ashland to Suncrest in Talent, and 3-mile segment from Barnett to Biddle in Medford. \$1.4 million project- ODOT Rapid Readiness and Flexible Funding programs with \$145,000 match from the JPC. Summer of 2012.
- **Pine Street to Upton Road through the Jackson County Expo-** funds have been applied for through the ODOT Transportation Enhancements program. The \$1.7 million project would require \$175,000 match from the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation if awarded. Construction would occur in 2013/2014.

As you can see, there is a lot of work on the horizon. Sections of the trail will need to be closed temporarily as work is completed. Please use caution, be patient, and respect the work zones. These projects will greatly improve the Bear Creek Greenway by improving your experience on the trail and adding one more link in the chain in connecting through the Expo. See you on the trail!



## Bike to Work Week!

**May 16-20**

Break out your bike and leave the car keys at home this week. Pledge to ride and learn more at [www.goRogueValley.org](http://www.goRogueValley.org) or call 541-774-6231.

Join us for a Bike Happy Hour on Friday, May 20th from 4 to 6 pm. Arrive by bike and enjoy giveaways, free food, and fun! The events will be located in Medford, Ashland and Central Point.

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## Trail Etiquette

- Keep right, pass left, give an audible signal when passing
- Dogs must be on leash no longer than 6', pick up after your dog
- Dispose of waste and litter appropriately- pack out or put in trash receptacle
- Horses only allowed where designated- on dirt trails and shared portions of paved trail where marked
- No motorized vehicles
- No fires, firearms, fireworks, camping or alcohol
- Speed limit is 15mph