



Meet Board Member Shana Thomas

I grew up in a family where spending time outdoors was just the norm. We would camp and hike year round, and I developed a deep appreciation for green spaces. I continue this lifestyle today with my own children, fostering in them the same love for the outdoors.

My family and I moved to the Rogue Valley in the summer of 2015 for my job at a co-op where my personal and professional passions align. We were ecstatic at the opportunity to live so close to rivers, mountains, and trees. We often refer to our family as "the circus," raising three rambunctious daughters, and we couldn't wait for the outdoor adventures that would ensue. Shortly after we arrived in Medford, our youngest daughter was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis and Acute Flaccid Paralysis, a neuro-muscular condition with an unknown prognosis. Once we wrapped our heads around our new reality of life with a special needs child, we made a commitment to continue to prioritize outdoor experiences as a family. We seek solace in our local outdoor spaces, we are reenergized after a day spent on the trail, and we continue to adapt to our new normal.

I view the Bear Creek Greenway as a treasure in the Rogue Valley. It is a place where I have seen commuters on their way to work, families teaching their kids how to ride bikes, even local roller derby teams practicing their skills. I have had the opportunity to participate in stewardship projects and cleanups along the greenway, witnessing community members taking ownership of our public spaces to make them enjoyable for all. I am proud to be on the board of the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation, for I wholeheartedly believe that the Bear Creek Greenway is a tremendous asset in our community.

Greenway Update July 2018

During this hot and dry (and now smoky month), work crews have continued to work on vegetation removal and cutting along the sides of the path. As you know, Jackson County and its partners have placed an emphasis on removing vegetation along the path this past year. With recent fires that have occurred on the Greenway, we are continuing this effort to reduce fuel loads immediately adjacent to the path to help prevent fires from starting and if started to reduce fuel load. Fire precaution levels are now at Extreme which limits the amount of work we can do for the remainder of the summer. As such, we will be doing our best to concentrate on areas where we can make progress without using motorized equipment.

I have been working closely with the Jackson County Sheriff's doing extra homeless camp patrol and cleanup. Because of the fires on the Greenway, we did a big sweep on July 25th from Pine Street to Dean Creek in Central Point. County Parks and the Sheriff's Department wants extra patrol so we can reduce the risk of any wildfire during the busy Country Crossings Festival. I will continue to work with Law Enforcement on these issues for the remainder of the fire season to help with any potential fires on the Greenway.

Andrew Austill
Jackson County Parks Dept

Passports Now Available For Purchase

The Greenway Passport offers big savings with discounts in local restaurants, hotels and activity businesses. Businesses include Rogue Rock Gym, Ostras Tapas Bar and Lithia Springs Resort. 100% of the Passport sales go to the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation to help with the maintenance and extension of the trail! The Greenway Passport can be purchased on the Bear Creek Greenway website bearcreekgreenway.com for a tax deductible \$50.

Buy your passport today and support the Greenway!



Roxy Ann

On the Central Point Section of the Greenway Trail at Mile 24 looking to the southeast, you'll see a prominent, cone-shaped peak called "Roxy Ann" (elevation 3,756 feet). The upland Takelma (or Latgawa) Indians that lived in the Table Rock/Central Point area called this mountain "Alwiya." They gathered acorns and hunted deer on its slopes. The Rogue Valley's first Euro-American settlers dubbed the peak "Skinner's Butte" for Alonzo A. Skinner (whose log cabin, the first settler's house in the valley, sat somewhere within about a mile from this location). Skinner served as the Rogue Valley's first Indian Agent in the early 1850s and later became a county judge.

The origins of the name "Roxy Ann" are uncertain. Although at least three different stories have been handed down, all of them agree that the name honors an early woman settler. But which one? Roxana Baker? Ann Taylor? Roxy Ann (McKee) Bowen? Most local historians believe that Roxy Ann Bowen is the mountain's true namesake. She and her husband, John settled on a Donation Land Claim in the vicinity of the present Rogue Valley Medical Center near the lower slopes of Roxy Ann Peak.

Roxy Ann's conical profile leads some people to assume the peak is a volcano, but is that really the case? Although the upper slopes are indeed composed of 30 million-year-old basalt (a lava that may have flowed here from many miles away), its lower slopes expose sandstones and other sedimentary rocks of the even older Payne Cliffs Formation. Roxy Ann's shape was formed by gradual uplift and erosion of these different rock layers. It is not a volcano. However, geologists do consider Roxy Ann's summit to be a part of the Western Cascades, the early volcanic development in southern Oregon that preceded the build-up of the High Cascades by millions of years.

The City of Medford's Prescott Park (over 1,700 acres) includes much of Roxy Ann. It offers hiking, biking, bird watching and botanizing. One day it will be linked to the Bear Creek Greenway by the Larson Creek Trail.

