



## From the Board: Steve Gressett

Growing up in Medford, I spent summers riding my bike to Hawthorne Park to play baseball and swim. What is now Bear Creek Park was weeds and wetlands, with trails to explore. My aunt and uncle owned 40 acres of farmland on Bear Creek in Ashland and my uncle would take us fishing at Emigrant Lake. I never imagined all of these places would be connected by a trail system and accessible by bicycle.

My wife and I moved back to Medford in 1989 after our oldest daughter was born; that same year we added another baby girl to our family. My daughters and I spent many hours on the swings at Bear Creek Park and more pulling them in a bike trailer on the greenway. I commuted on the Greenway and was happy to have a way through town that avoided traffic. It now provides almost 20 miles of traffic free riding.

It has been rewarding to watch the progress of the Greenway Trail. There are many conscientious board members, past and present, who have contributed their time and expertise to the success of the trail. Of course it couldn't have been done without the support of the community. I look forward to sharing the Greenway with my 4 grandchildren and I am proud to be part of a community that supports the Bear Creek Greenway vision!

## Greenway Update: August 2018

Another month with smoky/bad air quality has kept the Greenway relatively quiet, with users deciding to stay indoors more often. The fire precaution levels have been extreme so we had to take our focus off of the brushing until the levels go back down, then we can resume making improvements with vegetation. We have focused a lot on garbage/litter removal this last month. In one day, with the assistance of Medford Police and Jackson County Sheriff's Office, myself and the Corrections crew removed 80 cubic yards of trash off of the Greenway along Bear Creek. This was mainly in the Medford section of the Greenway in old illegal camping locations. We are also covering up and painting over graffiti in sections where graffiti is starting to grow. This next month we will have our annual SOLV (Stop Oregon Littering & Vandalism) event. This is a great event with lots of volunteers that come out for a day to help clean up along the Bear Creek Greenway. There are many organizations that help to put on this event and it takes place on September 29th. Please check out the website [www.bearcreekstewards.org](http://www.bearcreekstewards.org) for all the information on this great event!

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](http://bearcreekgreenway.com) for a tax deductible \$50.

Buy your passport today and support the Greenway!



## Tasty Pears Are Big Business

Bear Creek has flooded many times in the past and will again. The most recent flood in 1997 damaged the old "boxcar" bridge on the Talent section of the Greenway Trail. In 1998, the Federal Management Agency (FEMA) replaced the bridge with a new precast concrete bridge which, as it is twice as high and three times as long, should be able to survive future floods.

From the east end of the bridge and looking east you will see a Comice pear orchard which typifies the many pear orchards in the Rogue Valley. Thousands of boxes of pears are marketed internationally through mail order operations.

The trees, which are pruned to a height of 10 1/2 feet, produce 15-17 tons of pears per acre. Irrigation of this orchard is provided by creek water rights and the Talent Irrigation District. Soil moisture content is measured to determine when irrigation is necessary.

Insects, such as pear psylla, the codling moth, and the two-spotted spider mite are among the problems faced by growers. Monitors take frequent samples from the orchard to find the type and density of infestation, then spray accordingly.

Another major orchard problem in our area is frost. You can see the equipment used here to raise the temperature: the orchard heaters underneath the trees are called "return stacks," and the wind machines are used to draw warm air down to mix with the colder air produced by a temperature inversion.

