



## From the President

This month Ashland Parks & Recreation, as well as Alta Planning + Design and the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation organized a public meeting regarding the Bear Creek Greenway extension feasibility study.

Over 25 Ashland residents joined us in the meeting at North Mt. Park's Nature Center on June 21st 2018, where we introduced extension possibilities and discussed concerns and opportunities. Christo Brehm from Alta Planning + Design provided attendees with an overview of the framework, which was taken into consideration when designing the different extension possibilities, as well as three main routes. The meeting's PowerPoint presentation will be made available on the Ashland Parks & Recreation website.

During engaging conversations, residents were able to provide feedback on their concerns and general feelings regarding the extension possibilities. Positive feedback included the increase in easy access to the Greenway, closeness to Bear Creek and the possibility of introducing an interim trail in the near future. Also communicated were concerns included safety issues of pedestrians using vehicle roads, as well as parking on trail heads.

I would like to thank all participants for their feedback and general support for the extension of the Bear Creek Greenway from the Ashland Dog Park to North Mt. Park. This public meeting showed us, as the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation Board, that we are heading in the right direction.

As we mentioned during the meeting, the extension will only be possible through the support of residents and donations made by the community. We hope to increase donations in the next months, so we are able to push the project forward on a timely matter.

As President of the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation, I would again thank all participants, as well as Christo Brehm from Alta Planning + Design and Michael Black Ashland Parks & Recreation Director.

*David Jordan*

David Jordan - Bear Creek Greenway Foundation Board President

## The Bear Creek Greenway Passport is Here!

The Bear Creek Greenway Foundation is excited to introduce the first Bear Creek Greenway Passport! The foundation has partnered with local businesses to provide a book of discounts to "Passport Holders." The Bear Creek Greenway Passport can be presented by the holder to any of the participating businesses to receive discounts and special offers on things ranging from meals at local outstanding restaurants to a free tune-up for your bike at REI! Each time the Passport is used, the holder obtains a signature or stamp from the participating business. Once a Passport has each page signed or stamped, the holder can mail it in to the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation and be entered into a year end raffle for a great prize!

The Bear Creek Greenway Passport contains deals worth in excess of \$200 but is available for only \$50 and the cost is tax deductible as all of the proceeds go to the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation, which is a 501c3 and who's mission is to support and expand the Bear Creek Greenway.

Passports will go on sale after July 1st, and to order one, simply go to the Bear Creek Greenway website [www.bearcreekgreenway.com](http://www.bearcreekgreenway.com) click on the "Passport" tab. A Bear Creek Greenway Passport will then be mailed out to the address given at the time of purchase.

The Bear Creek Greenway Passport is not only a great collection of deals, but also a wonderful way to support our local businesses and our Bear Creek Greenway!

## Blue Heron Park

Blue Heron Park is one of the community parks linked by the Bear Creek Greenway Trail. This well-landscaped, 24-acre park, offers facilities that include two spacious picnic shelters, well-equipped playgrounds, restrooms, sand volleyball court, pollinator as well as community gardens and an open stage with lawns area. Extensively developed since the 1997 Flood, it reflects a community interest and effort of which the citizens of Phoenix can be justifiably proud.

About 70 yards south of the Greenway Trail entrance to Blue Heron Park on the west side of the trail, there is a small tree with a battered gray-bark trunk. This is a Klamath Plum (*Prunus subcordata*). Native to this region it has leaves, which are dark green turning red. In the spring its cluster of flowers are white to pinkish in color. This tree has a substantial crop of small dark red fruit (plums) that matures in late summer and is enjoyed by wildlife. The plums are tart, but edible, and its flavor stand out in pies and preserves.

By contrast from edible to inedible across the trail at this point on the east side, you will find a stand of Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). This plant with parsley-like leaves is as deadly today as it was when it was ingested by Socrates in 400 BC and was used to dispatch the condemned. Extensively branched, it grows to six feet or more and its hollow stems are marked by purplish-red splotches. Each plant has many umbels of small white flowers. There are many stands of Poison Hemlock along the Greenway trail as it thrives in moist waste areas, especially west of the Cascades.

