



# City of Medford

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## **City of Medford Supports Local Volunteers**

**Oregon Stewardship:** Oregon Stewardship is a project-oriented 501(c)(3) non-profit based in Medford, Oregon. Jim Hutchins, the organization's Program Manager, works with students from kindergarten through high school to instill the value of stewarding the land, water and creatures of our beautiful state.

Oregon Stewardship has partnered with other local organizations to restore the Bear Creek riparian area. The work started in the fall of 2014, with the removal of non-native blackberries, invasive plants and dead vegetation. The cleared areas were then replanted with native plants and trees. The plants will be watered and weeded as necessary until they have become established.

The City is a proud sponsor of the Oregon Stewardship's efforts in the Bear Creek riparian area. They volunteer long hours to beautify our City and it is truly appreciated. For more information on this program and their ongoing support of ecology in our area, please visit their website at [www.oregonstewardship.org](http://www.oregonstewardship.org).

For an update on the Bear Creek Riparian Project, please visit Rogue Valley Council of Government's website at [www.rvcog.org](http://www.rvcog.org).



Bank of Bear Creek  
Before Cleanup



After Cleanup

**West Side Beautification:** Three months ago, Randi Brock, Noshia Reyes and Errin Parker decided to get together and remove trash along the streets and alleys in their West Medford neighborhood. They welcomed friends to join them. Soon, the group grew to more than 500 citizen volunteers and supporters.

The formalized group has been named West Medford Beautification. Since that first meeting, they have included graffiti cleanup, planting vegetation, clearing sidewalks and painting a mural to their goals list. Adding to their good deeds, their Facebook group's tip led to the arrest of two individuals for graffiti violations this past February. "Anything we see we can make better we will!" is a motto they live by.

Although the labor was provided by volunteers, the group needed supplies to pickup and remove the debris. This dedicated group didn't give up. They got creative in their fundraising and cashed in pop cans, sold scrap metal, picked up free items and sold them, held yard sales and recently sold t-shirts to raise the funds to pay for the supplies needed to continue the cleanups. Local businesses and citizens have stepped up to help, donating paint, supplies and time to support the effort. When the group contacted the City, the Police Department's Graffiti Eradication Program and the Neighborhood Improvement Matching Grant Program worked together to locate funds to sponsor the cost of two dumpsters.

However, donations are needed to continue the effort. They recently received their non-profit status and can now receive cash contributions, but they need trash collection supplies such as gloves and trash bags.

The City is proud of these citizens and supports their service to our community. If you would like to learn more about West Medford Beautification, visit their website at [www.facebook.com/groups/westsidebeauty](http://www.facebook.com/groups/westsidebeauty) or email [westsidebeauty@hotmail.com](mailto:westsidebeauty@hotmail.com).

**Possible Tribal Casino in Medford:** You may have heard about a proposed casino on the former Kim's Restaurant property along South Pacific Highway. The Coquille Tribe has purchased that property and is requesting that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) allow them to build and operate a casino there.

In May 2013, the City Council passed a resolution requesting the BIA to review the Coquille Tribe's casino proposal using a rigorous process, which will allow the City's concerns to be taken into consideration.

The BIA has not yet made a decision regarding whether a casino will be allowed. Currently, the agency is in the process of gathering and reviewing public comments on the environmental impacts of the proposed casino. They will then publish an Environmental Impact Statement. This process may take up to two more years.

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**Possible Marijuana Ordinance:** The City Council met on March 12 to discuss the possibility of an ordinance regulating Measure 91 outdoor marijuana homegrows in Medford. They addressed issues such as odor, plant containment in City permitted enclosures, screening plants from public view, and enforcement through fines/abatement.

The proposed ordinance would be similar to other public nuisance ordinances, such as garbage accumulation, already identified in the Medford Code. Complaints would be handled through the City's Code Enforcement Department, which determines violations based on evidence gathered. Investigations would occur with the intent of public safety and compliance. In addition, Council agreed that complaint-driven enforcement would allow neighborhoods to accept different standards through reporting.

The Council also discussed the current moratorium on dispensaries in Medford and the possible outcomes of lifting the moratorium.

Throughout the meeting, Councilmembers discussed the pros and cons of this issue, given the Measure 91 language and the current lack of OLCC rules. Councilmembers requested a future study session to further discuss marijuana regulation after the OLCC determines their position.

**City's Social Media in Solving Crime:** The Medford Police Department joined Facebook in July of 2013. Their page gained popularity in 2014, when followers grew from approximately 2,000 to more than 12,000. Currently, 13,400 people follow MPD's Facebook page, which is much more than most metropolitan police departments.

Because Medford Police Department often shares information on criminal activity and wanted subjects on their Facebook page, their followers have assisted them in solving crimes. For example, police had been looking for a wanted sex offender with no luck. After posting his picture on Facebook, a tip was received within hours and the person was caught. Medford Police Department's Facebook page has improved public relations and helps hold criminals accountable.

To view Medford Police Department's Facebook page, please visit [www.facebook.com/pages/Medford-Police](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Medford-Police).

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**Report Crimes Online:** You can easily report limited crime incidents online using the Medford Police's Coplogic reporting system. This system enables citizens to submit reports of criminal activity directly to the Medford Police Department as well as print their own case report.

To use the Coplogic system, please visit our website at [www.ci.medford.or.us](http://www.ci.medford.or.us).

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**Emergency Preparedness Tips of the Month:** During an emergency, cell phone service may be lost or unreliable. To contact loved ones, try these suggestions:

1. Keep all calls to a minimum. The cell phone system may get overloaded with the number of calls trying to go through.
2. Have a spare phone battery charged and ready to use during extended power outages.
3. Save a copy of important phone numbers in your purse or wallet, in case you can't access your cell phone's contact list.
4. Send a text instead of calling. Text messages use a fraction of the resources of a voice call (including your battery power). Often, when calls aren't going through, text messages will.