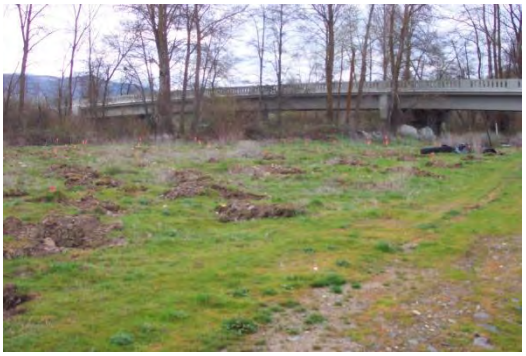
Bear Creek Watershed

Project Showcases

Improving facilities at Jefferson Nature Center

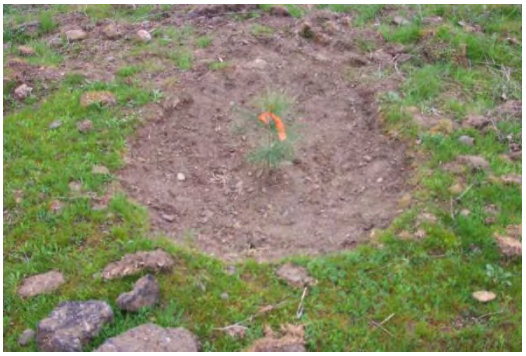
Several projects large and small contributed to reduced pollution levels in Bear Creek. At the Jefferson Nature Center in Medford, Oregon, Bear Creek is a centerpiece providing an ideal setting to educate the public about the stewardship of aquatic habitats. The photos below depict some of the work performed to enable people to get close to the creek and close to nature while reducing pollution runoff.

Workers prepare the wooden form for the installation of a pervious concrete driveway at the Jefferson Nature Center Sports Park.



Riparian area flagged and prepped for planting.

Using this special type of concrete allows water to seep into the ground rather than running directly to Bear Creek.



Ponderosa Pine planted in the Riparian area.

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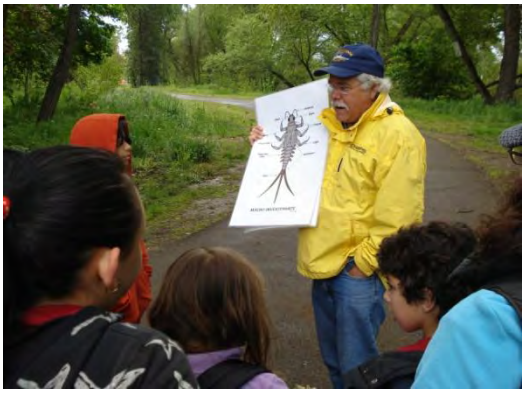
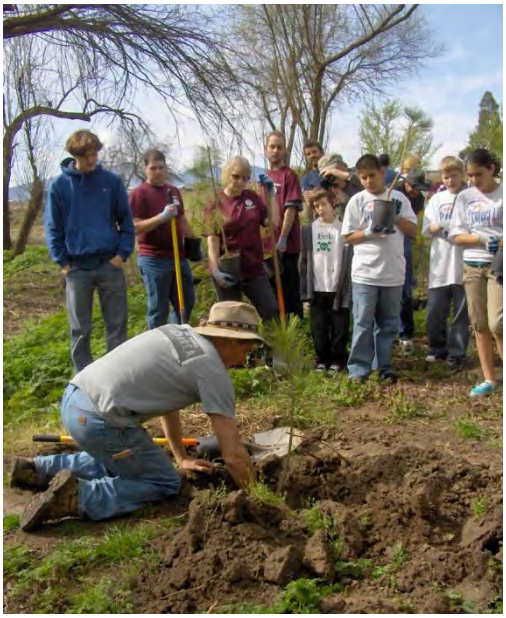
Education, Volunteers and Teamwork from the Bear Creek Watershed Council

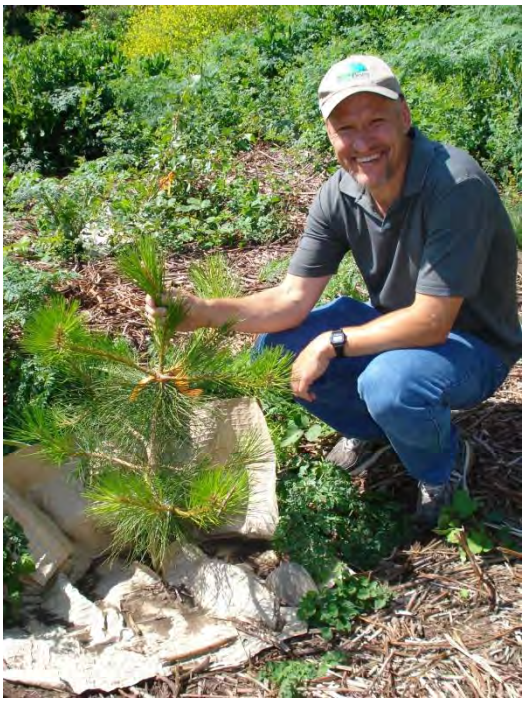
Educating residents about their watershed is crucial to success. The Bear Creek Watershed Council hosts field trips, tree planting sessions and helps prepare volunteers to participate in water quality improvement projects.



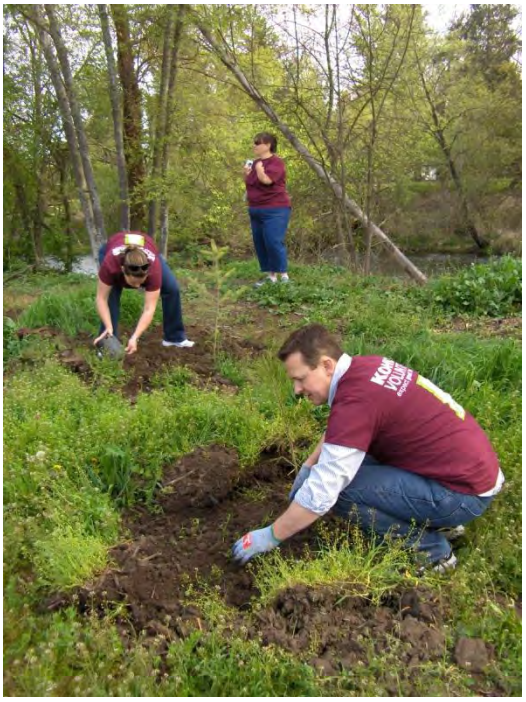
Area students learn about macro-invertebrates – also known as "bugs." Creatures large and small tell scientists about the health of a river system.



A hands-on demonstration on how to properly plant a tree.



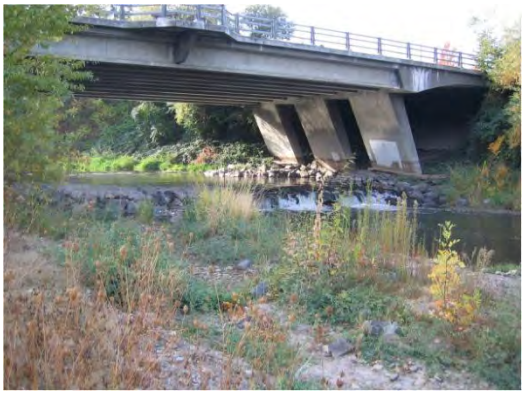
Tree planting is important to help strengthen the banks of the river and prevent erosion from upland areas.



After training, volunteers get down and dirty, doing their part to help improve the health of Bear Creek. Every tree counts!

Before and After: Jackson Creek Dam Removal

Before: *An old concrete dam in Medford at Jackson Street disrupts the flow of Bear Creek making fish passage difficult. Lack of streamside vegetation allowed pollution to runoff into the creek.*



After: *The old dam has been removed, the creek returned to a more natural state and the vegetation on the banks replanted.*