



## Fall into winter work

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Late fall into winter will continue to be a busy time at Cantrall Buckley Park, with blackberry removal, tree cleanup, and fine-tuning the irrigation system. Throughout the winter months, park personnel will install interpretive signs for several sites and replace some of the worn-out picnic tables.

Caleb Galloway, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council's (APWC) riparian restoration project manager, is directing and assisting the restoration crew in the removal of blackberry and other invasive species. This work will improve the area near the edge of the Applegate River, the riparian zone, in both the main park and the wayside. All work has been coordinated with the parks manager's approval and has been funded through a Title II grant from the Bureau of Land Management.

Building partnerships is the best way to complete much-needed work about the park. Jackson County Parks and the Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD) make one such partnership. Brien Dallas, operations manager for the parks, will be meeting soon with folks from AVFD to discuss their continued partnership. Another partnership is handled by Fire Marshall Brian Mulhollen, who has worked

with and coordinated the Northwest Youth Corp (NWYC) work crew for the last two years. Their work has benefited the park through trail maintenance, fallen log removal, debris cleanup, and hazard tree removal. Multiplying partnerships, the Parks Department let NWYC use the park's campground during their stay in November.

Brien Dallas says, "Besides our continuous hazard tree work this winter, parks personnel will be working to fine-tune our new irrigation system, installing air relief valves, replacing electric valves, and installing new sprinkler heads." The park will be disturbed again this winter with lots of work, but we hope that we can report successful completion of the fall and winter projects in the spring park update.

### Replacing trees

As mentioned in the last issue of the *Applegater*, Jackson County Parks will be replacing some trees removed from the lawn areas with hardier species. At our spring park gathering, we were able to raise funds through generous donations from private individuals. The APWC staff will coordinate with the park enhancement committee and park management to determine the best species to provide shade and survive the changing



Janis Mohr-Tipton, APWC volunteer park enhancement committee chair, examines the work needed to replace the large valves for the eight-inch pipelines required for irrigation. Photo: Janelle Dunlevy.



Students from Ruch Community Outdoor School (ROCS) continue to help with maintenance of blackberry vines that were initially cut in spring 2024. Students also helped plant new tree species and are learning how necessary maintenance is for the survival of new native species. Photo: Janelle Dunlevy.

climate conditions at the park. With help from some local nonprofits, we hope to begin planning and implementation in 2025. If you are interested, please contact me (contact information below). Replacing trees in a mature tree setting takes replanting with trees that have four to six years of growth, so that they can also become dominant trees in the setting.

"All in all," Brien said, "I'm excited to be moving forward with the upgrades, changes, and cleanup, and look forward to a much-improved park going into next summer."

### Volunteer opportunities

It's time for more weeding and preparations for fall and winter planting. The late fall rains have finally come, and we need more help tackling invasive species and cleaning up in several areas of the park. Various landscaped beds and the solar site need volunteer care too.

We can still get a lot accomplished with individuals, small groups, organizations,

and family groups. Once you sign up, I will arrange to meet with you and go over the details before you start. You pick your preferred date(s) and time of day that works for you or a group. Once you are familiar with your job, you can work independently and record your hours each month. I will join you as needed or requested.

At our last scheduled SOLVE cleanup, we had four mighty helpers, and we collected 19.5 cubic yards of weeds, blackberry vines, debris, and dead, small-diameter stems in three hours! A big *thank-you* to those four helpers for their time and energy!

Let's see how much more we can clean up to assist our park's personnel in making Cantrall Buckley a much improved and safer park for everyone.

Janis Mohr-Tipton  
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Park personnel are in the process of opening up valve intersections and replacing electric valves with air-pressure valves. Photo: Janelle Dunlevy.

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