

# Coyote's Swallowing Match with Grizzly Bear

## Heritage Artwalk #1 & 2

Rooted in Molalla Tribal Heritage is the story of Coyote and Grizzly. This art piece, created by Ben Dye, is inspired by this story of the origin of the Molalla Tribe, the namesake of our community. Traditionally stories are only told during winter. We are providing a summary of the story to provide context while meeting the needs of tradition out of respect for tribal practices.

Coyote was heading up toward Mt. Hood when he ran into Grizzly Bear. Coyote informed Grizzly that he was making the world.

Grizzly didn't take too kindly to that statement and challenged Coyote to a fight. Coyote, in turn challenged Grizzly to a fire heated rock swallowing match instead.

Coyote tricked Grizzly into swallowing the very hot rocks while Coyote swallowed strawberries in their place. Eventually, swallowing the very hot rocks caused Grizzly to burst open.

Coyote took Grizzly's heart and it became the Molalla Tribe. They became a great people and were great hunters as they continue to be today.

The Molalla people signed the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855 and were forcibly removed from their homelands. Today, their descendants are members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde located in Grand Ronde, Oregon. Molalla is proud of our rich Native American heritage as shown in our local school curriculum and our heritage banners.



The City of Molalla works closely with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to ensure that the Molalla's Heritage is appropriately relayed to the public.



The Molalla Heritage Art Walk is brought to our community through a tourism grant from Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory.

The sculptures of Coyote & Grizzly are provided to the citizens of Molalla through a generous donation from Molalla Communications.



Artist: Ben Dye  
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