



Annual Report

2020

RIVER PARKWAY TRUST

Presidents Messages

Throughout the last year, we've had more time to pause and reflect on both the past and future work of the River Parkway Trust. The pandemic affirmed the critical need for access to open space for the health and wellbeing of the community. We are grateful to the Trust's founders, who recognized the value of land conservation. And we are thankful for everyone who has played a role in creating the San Joaquin River Parkway during the last three decades.

Thanks to you, public lands throughout the Parkway served as places of respite and renewal for many people last year. This Annual Report demonstrates the impact you made on the Parkway and people living in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Trust has had four individuals serve as President of the Board over its 33 year history; here are some observations on the state of the Parkway from each of them.



San Joaquin River
Parkway and
Conservation Trust, Inc.



Coke Hallowell

Board President 1988-2008

I remember the very first time I met with anyone to talk about the Parkway. I was teaching in Del Rey at the time, and I had to rush to make it to a meeting that Jim Costa put together. We sat around a large square table at Guarantee Savings and Loan Company. Jim presented the idea that we should form a group to protect the river. I thought to myself, "Wow, that's a good idea." Until that first meeting, I hadn't heard anyone mention such an idea. I'd say there were about 12 people at the first meeting. For some reason, the group nominated me to serve as the first chairman. There were important business people there like Lewis S. Eaton, and here I was a housewife and teacher. I couldn't believe they nominated me. Everything took off from there.

I am so proud that the Parkway has attracted so many wonderful people for support. The land acquisitions are coming along so beautifully, especially our acquisition of Sumner Peck Ranch. It's exactly what we envisioned at that first meeting. And, of course, the River Center has a special place in my heart.

Looking ahead, I am most excited about having public land and trails on the whole length of the Parkway along the river. It's within our grasp!

George Folsom

Board President 2008-2015

I first became involved with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust as a volunteer for one of the early River Fairs at Lost Lake Park. Coke Hallowell was there, and I had not seen her since she was my second-grade teacher. She invited me to get involved in other volunteer opportunities, and that cemented my continuing support and work for the Parkway.

The River Center is an important community resource. I am proud of being part of the acquisition and restoration of the River Center and all the activities it now supports.

The efforts and possibilities of funding and creating an operations and maintenance program so more of the Parkway can be opened to the public is exciting to me.

Bart Bohn

Board President 2015-2019

I was born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley near the Delta. I spent 34 years away but moved back to CA permanently in 1997. I was introduced to the San Joaquin River Parkway on my first workday as CalTrans District Director. During my lunch hour, I wandered over to Roeding Park, where I saw a little wooden house with a Zoo Director

sign. I thought it was a good idea to stop in and introduce myself. And that is how I met Ralph Waterhouse, who was on the River Parkway Trust's board at the time. We had shared interests in wildlife, rivers, and the environment. He told me about the Trust and mentioned I should get involved. Within about six months, I was on the board, and here we are 23 years later.

Our founders had incredible foresight; they were on the right track. The tragic experience of the pandemic has confirmed everything they envisioned at the beginning. There is a tremendous benefit to having venues to enjoy the outdoors safely. If anything, the pandemic should help accelerate the Parkway effort.

I'm encouraged by what I see as the Great Leap Forward for the Parkway. New resources are becoming available that will support enhancing sites to attract more visitors. We can develop a coordinated effort for capital improvements, better service, improved operations, and enhanced experiences. And more people will come.

Julia O'Kane

Board President 2019-Present

In the early days of Parkway development, Coke Hallowell was considering forming an outdoor education program at the river. She contacted Madera Unified School district as a possible partner. I was appointed by the Superintendent to meet with Coke and begin the planning. We formed a partnership among Fresno, Clovis and Madera schools. The teacher we hired to develop the field trip curriculum was from Madera, so I had the opportunity to be involved from the beginning.

When it was time to develop the volunteer docent program to continue offering field trips, Anna Wattenbarger became that coordinator. I guess she never forgot my early involvement; so when I retired in 2006, Anna came knocking on my door to join the Board.

First and foremost, I am so proud that we have been able to build a huge program for children in outdoor education. From our early field trips, to River Camp, and now to weekend science exploration experiences and virtual field trips, thousands of local young people have come to explore and learn about the wonders of the San Joaquin River.

When I joined the Board, I came to understand the community's frustration with lack of access to the river. I am proud that we can now offer great access at Sycamore Island on the Madera side. Now we have added Peck Ranch which links to Ball Ranch and Ledger Island for great access on the Fresno and Madera sides of the river. We continue to focus on trails and pathways our residents can use to get close to the great resource we have in the San Joaquin River.



A view of the San Joaquin River from Sumner Peck Ranch, the Trust's most recent land acquisition.

Conservation

In 2020, more people discovered the benefits of outdoor recreation to their physical and mental health. As public use of protected Parkway properties increased, so too did the need for increased stewardship and care.

Your support in 2020 helped the River Parkway Trust address the impacts of increased public use on thousands of acres of land throughout the Parkway. Generous donors also helped the River Parkway Trust maintain critical riparian habitat projects at Jensen River Ranch and Fresno River West.

90%

Survival rate for 2,600 native trees and shrubs planted at Jensen River Ranch in 2019

100

Silver bush lupines grown in-house in partnership with the Scout Island Outdoor Education Center

350

Acres of invasive plant species mapped within the San Joaquin River Parkway

20

Acres of invasive plant species treated

76 Acre

Sumner Peck Ranch Acquired

12

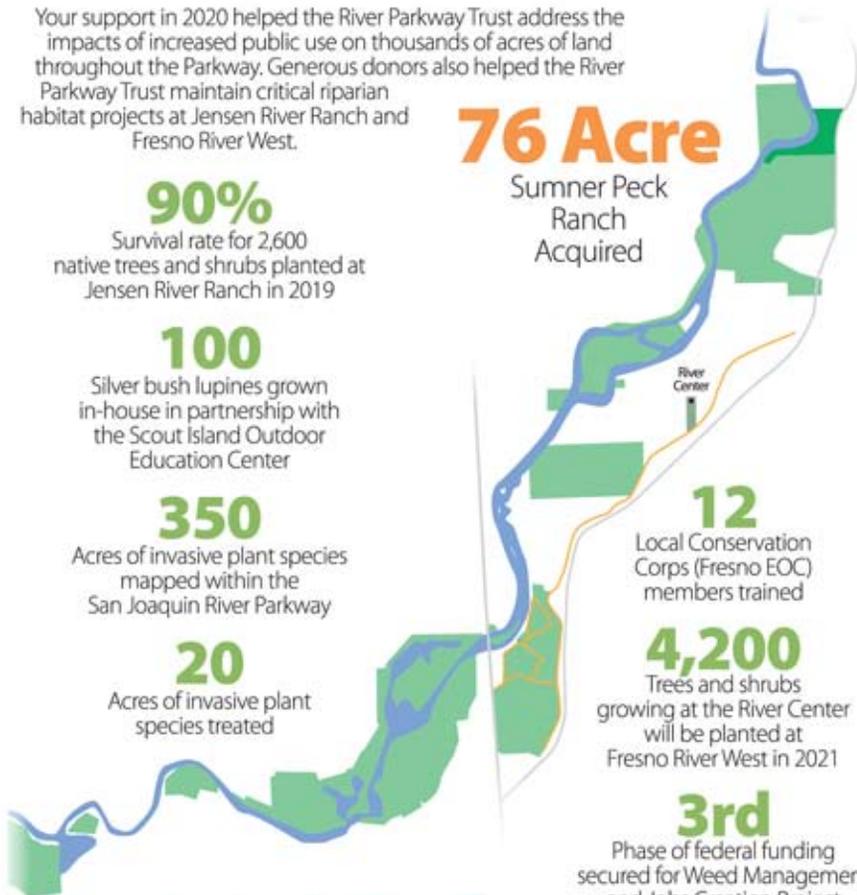
Local Conservation Corps (Fresno EOC) members trained

4,200

Trees and shrubs growing at the River Center will be planted at Fresno River West in 2021

3rd

Phase of federal funding secured for Weed Management and Jobs Creation Project



4,716 Acres

Stewarded by the River Parkway Trust

Education

In 2020, your support helped the River Parkway Trust adapt our education programs to serve local children both in-person and virtually. Thanks to you, children of all ages could participate in River Camp, virtual River Field Trips, and in-person outdoor weekend programs.

2,051 **Students**

Learned about the San Joaquin River watershed and ecosystems during in-person field trips at Lost Lake Park, the River Center, and Sycamore Island between January and mid-March 2020.



405 **Education Docent**
Volunteer hours

1,824 **Students**
Participated in virtual field trips from the River Center

201 **River Buddies**
Preschool-aged children learned about birds, bugs, and frogs in lively program activities at the River Center.

153 **Public Youth Programs**
Children and high-school-aged youth joined in-person weekend outdoor programs at the River Center, Owl Hollow, and Sycamore Island.

536 **River Campers**
River Camp at the River Center, Owl Hollow, and the Young Explorers Program

120 **River Campers**
River Camp in Firebaugh

Recreation



Your support helped provide public access to open space areas along the Parkway in 2020. Throughout the pandemic, outdoor activities were among the safest, and we were encouraged to see more people discover the recreational opportunities available throughout the Parkway.

Sycamore **9,408**
Island Visitors

Anglers, wildlife watchers, hikers, cyclists and equestrians in 2020.

River **111** 
Tours People

Explored the San Joaquin River by kayak during July, August, and early September 2020.

Nature **215**
Walks People

Joined Bald Eagle hikes and members' walks last year.

River Center

At the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies (River Center), the community can connect to the cultural and natural history of the San

16,835
River Center Visitors



Joaquin River. Throughout 2020, the River Center served as a safe outdoor space for families, hikers, cyclists, and wildlife watchers to get out of their homes. The River Center was also an essential part of the 2020 season of River Camp.

Today, the River Center grounds, Riverview Ranch House, and River Store are open to the public. For more information and current hours of operation, visit:

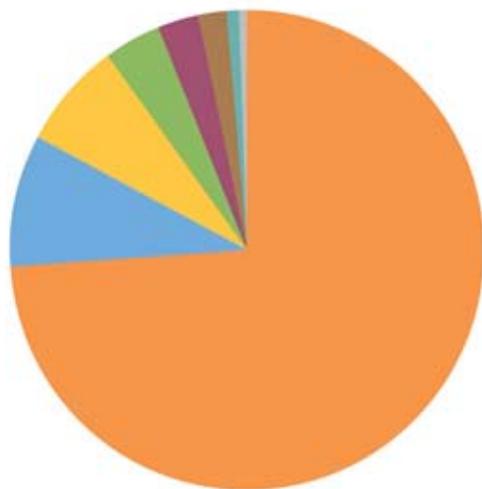
riverparkway.org/river-center

Parties for the Parkway

The 2020 Parties for the Parkway Kickoff happened just days before the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order went into effect. The River Parkway Trust is grateful for every Party Host, guest, contributing artist, sponsor, and volunteer who helped make the Kickoff a success.

250 Kickoff **Guests** **46** Contributing **Artists**

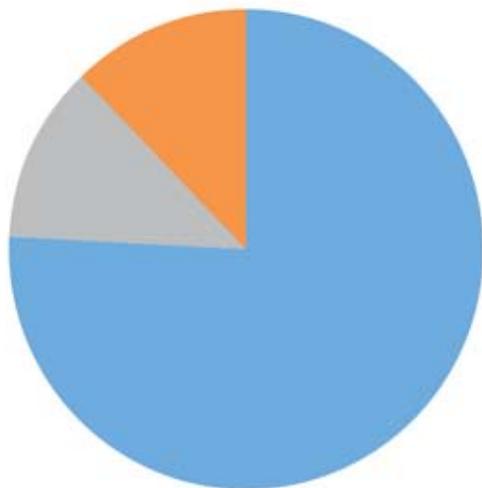
2020 Financials



Revenue

	Grant Income	74% \$4,257,141
	Investment Income	9% \$503,273
	Contributions and Donations	7% \$410,828
	Memberships	4% \$232,856
	Program Services	2.75% \$135,688
	Park Operations	2% \$99,432
	Other Revenue	.75% \$45,278
	Educational Scholarships	.5% \$25,375
	Total	\$5,709,871

This revenue includes the grant received for the acquisition of Sumner Peck Ranch.



Expenses

	Program Expenses	76% \$1,355,532
	Fundraising	12% \$215,218
	General and Administrative	12% \$195,626
	Total	\$1,766,376

The expenses shown in this report do not include the asset purchase of Sumner Peck Ranch.

The financial information included in this report is from the Audited Financials Consolidated Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2020.

You can view the River Parkway Trust's Audited Financial Statements and Form 990 at riverparkway.org/about-us/irs-form-990.

Volunteers

Volunteers play a critical role in creating and protecting the San Joaquin River Parkway

In 2020, individuals like you contributed

10,219 **Hours**
of volunteer
service

Thank you to each and every volunteer for
the gifts of your time and talent.



Social Media Engagement

12,781

Followers



@SJR PCT

@SycamoreIslandPark

4,035

Followers



@riverparkwaytrust

550

Followers



@sjrparkwaytrust

8,421

Email Subscribers



\$150,000+ LIFETIME DONORS

We'd like to thank these individual donors who have generously supported the River Parkway Trust through the years.

Frank and Florence Caglia Family
Dr. Virginia S. Eaton
Mary and Gerald Finch
George and Jackie Folsom
Paul Gibson and Joan Eaton
Rodger and Terry Glaspey
Coke and James Hallowell
Margaret Hunsburger
Margaret and Rodger Jensen
Norman and Nancy Liddell
Edward K. Martin Trust
Jim and Carrie Moen
The Everett Rank Sr. Family
Bud and Evelyn Rank
Thomas and Louise Richardson
Joseph T. Ring
The Slater Family
Rolein Smith
Raymond and Oweta Wicks

2020 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

We're proud to recognize these individual donors who gave generously to the River Parkway Trust between January and December 2020.

\$50,000+

Anonymous

\$20,000+

Dr. Virginia S. Eaton
Coke and James Hallowell
Elise Moir
Edward B. Morgan and Alicia K. Bennett
Louise Richardson

\$10,000+

Paul Gibson and Joan Eaton
Sharon Hanley
Lynn and Ellen Hemink
Margaret Hudson
Michael Linton
Robert Truxell

\$5,000+

George and Jackie Folsom
Diane Kirk
Eldon and Diana Marks
Will Murray and Margie Williams
Julia O'Kane
Michael and Ellen Patton
Carson and Sonja Smith
W. E. and Anna Wattenbarger
Sharon Weaver

\$2,500+

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Sarah Hedrick
Brian Miller and Dora Lau
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Sommer Moss
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Stuart and Lisa Woolf
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\$1,000+

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Bob and Judy Swenson
John and Jolene Telles
Jean and William Thompson
Jennifer and Hugh Williamson
Man and Eun Yoo
Tom Zimoski

\$500+

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Anne Betancourt
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2020 DONATIONS RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS

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Rose Caglia
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Lewis S. Eaton
Colleen Edwards
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Anidelle Flint
William Head
Larry Howey
Vicky Waughal Kincaid
Michael Newel
Robert Scott Patton
Delma Pecora
Roy C. Ramsing
Gerry Stokle
Harold and Barbara Tokmakian
Mike Urrutia

2020 AGENCIES, BUSINESSES, FOUNDATIONS, AND ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE RIVER PARKWAY TRUST

We're grateful to these agencies, businesses, foundations, and organizations that supported the River Parkway Trust between January and December 2020.

\$250,000+

State of California,
Department of Fish and Wildlife
State of California,
Wildlife Conservation Board

\$50,000+

US Bureau of Reclamation

\$15,000+

J P Lamborn Company,
John and Pam Lamborn
LandValue Management, LLC
Jim and Jennifer Huelskamp
Leon S. Peters Foundation
MUFG Union Bank Foundation
Valley Children's Healthcare
Vulcan Materials Company

\$10,000+

Central Valley Community Foundation
Fresno Rotary Club
State Compensation Insurance Fund

\$5,000+

CalViva Health
Donaghy Sales
Educational Employees Credit Union
PG&E Employee Giving

\$2,500+

Anonymous
Colibri Ecological Consulting, LLC
Doerksen Taylor, LLP
E & J Gallo Winery
East Fresno Rotary Charity Foundation
Fig Garden Rotary Foundation
Rappaport Foundation
Recreational Equipment, Inc.
Stanislaus Community Foundation
United Security Bank
Westlands Water District

\$1,000+

AgriLand Farming Company, Inc.
Beneficial State Bank
California Bank & Trust
Cemex, Inc.
Coleman Farming Company, LLC
Eye-Q Vision Care

Falcon Financial & Insurance Solutions, Inc.
Firebaugh Rotary Club
Fresno Convention & Visitors Bureau
Gage Farms
Gary McDonald Homes
LJL Farming
Lyles Diversified Charitable Fund
Michael Giffen Ranch, Inc.
Mid Valley Disposal
Neil Jones Food Company
San Joaquin Running
Shasta Wildlife Conservation Foundation
Sierra Endocrine Associates
Suncrest Bank
The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation
The Sierra Fund
The Wicks Charitable Fund
Trinity Fruit Sales
Val Print
West Hills Community College Foundation

\$500+

Armey-Harvey Family Foundation
Central Valley Community Bank
Fresno Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Group, Dr. Allen Chien
Hammonds Ranch, Inc.
Heart Group Medical Clinic, Inc., Dr. John Telles
Hedrick's Chevrolet
K Arakelian Foundation
Madera Sunrise Rotary Club
Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California
Paul Halajian Architects, Inc.
Price Paige & Company
River View Financial, F Thomas Biglione

We value everyone who contributes to the creation of the San Joaquin River Parkway. If you discover an omission from this list, please let us know by calling the River Parkway Trust's offices or emailing sparkes@riverparkway.org.

Creating and protecting the San Joaquin River Parkway

The River Parkway Trust's Mission is to preserve and restore San Joaquin River lands having ecological, scenic, or historic significance; to educate the public on the need for stewardship; to research issues affecting the river; and to promote educational, recreational, and agricultural uses consistent with the protection of the river's resources.

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Bryna De Fede
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Restoration Technicians

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Jenae McCarthy
Dornary Reyes

River Center

Jesus Luviano
Rental Events Manager

Sunmer Peck Ranch

Marcelino Cervantes
Ranch Foreman

The River Parkway Trust relies on the generosity of people like you to help advance the Parkway effort. You can make a donation today by returning the envelope enclosed in this report, visiting www.riverparkway.org, or by calling 559-248-8480.

We want to hear from you! If you have any feedback or questions about this report please give us a call at 559-248-8480 or email sparkes@riverparkway.org.



San Joaquin River
Parkway and
Conservation Trust, Inc.

www.riverparkway.org



A young angler shows off his big catch at Sycamore Island.

A new accessible fishing area with pier, boat launch, and restroom was completed at Sycamore Island in 2020.



The new amphitheater at Owl Hollow provides ample space for fun camp songs and group time. "Have you ever seen a penguin dancing?"