

## **The American River Parkway (Parkway)**

### **Introduction**

The American River Parkway is a 23-mile greenbelt that encases the Lower American River and winds often unseen through suburban Sacramento communities. The “Jewel of Sacramento” features shimmering waters, dense oak woodlands, wide, open spaces and steep bluffs. Yet, this unique, regional asset, used by eight million people each year, is endangered by deep funding cuts and conflicting uses that continue to threaten its beauty, its habitat and the safety of those who use it. Cyclists and bike commuters, hikers, rafters, bird watchers, farmers, wildlife, educators, families walking dogs, urban developers and the homeless all make claims to using the Parkway.

### **Outline**

#### **1. Overview of American River Parkway**

##### 1.1 Maps

1.1.1 Four-page color aerial map of the Parkway

1.1.2 One-page map of the Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail

1.1.3 Map captions

1.1.3.1 Twenty-three miles of open space greenbelt serve an area of more than one and half million people. The American River Parkway extends from the Nimbus Dam in the Northeast flowing 25 miles until reaching the American River’s confluence with the Sacramento River (near Old Sacramento) at its Southwest point.

1.1.3.2 More than two dozen distinct areas of the Parkway offer individual features that contribute to their separate identities

1.2 Scenic American River photos

Caption: Fair Oaks Bluffs feature a spectacular panoramic vista looking down from a 140-foot cliff to the river. An ancient Blue Oak juts out over the cliff.

1.3 Printed guidebooks (cover copy of “Hiking and Biking on the American River Parkway,” American River Natural History Association)

## **2. Historical development of the American River Parkway**

2.1.1 Timeline graphic

2.1.2 Key leaders - Effie Yeaw, William B. Pond, Jim Jones, and James C. Mullaney led grass roots efforts

2.1.3 Sacramento County Parkway Plan Update 2008 (1962 initial concept, 1975, 1985 updates)

2.1.3.1 The Parkway Plan establishes policies to guide and balance the management of the Parkway and its relationship to the surrounding region.

2.1.4 Funding partners and supporters

2.1.4.1 Photo of “Adopt the Parkway” sign on Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail

2.1.4.2 List of Current cooperating partners: Sacramento County, Save the American River Association (SARA), American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF), American Natural History Association (ARNHA) and American River Parkway Preservation Society (ARPPS).

2.1.5 Sustained collaborative efforts caption

From the birth of the idea to create a parkway, community residents and advocates, governmental and nonprofit agencies have worked collaboratively to acquire property, secure funding, preserve habitat, wildlife and recreation opportunities, and assure its safety and upkeep.

#### 2.1.6 Opportunity to create Parkway

“We have in the Sacramento region a perfect stage for a conservation project of note. Sacramento, at the Apex of two great river courses, is perhaps the only city of its size in the country that has not developed them into parks or at least made them available for public use.” Elmer Aldrich, conservation educator for California State Park Commission, Sacramento Audubon Society, *The Observer*, 1951.

### **3. Preserve, protect and interpret the resources of the Parkway**

#### 3.1 Photos / Artifacts

3.1.1 wildlife, birds, trees, Effie Yeaw Nature Center facility and educational programs

3.1.2 Soil Born Farms interpretive panel photos (original jpg available and to inspire ideas for exhibit artifacts)

#### 3.2 Video,

3.2.1 “In our Hands,” 10 minute Nimbus Fish Hatchery Visitor Center descriptive video of American River Chinook salmon life cycle

3.2.2 Soil Born Farms introductory video 3 minutes - 40-acre farm on land historically used for farming

#### 3.3 Effie Yeaw Nature Center mission (photos in 3.1)