

## Letter from the Board President

### A Year of Firsts

As I reflected on the River Parkway Trust's last year of work to create and protect the Parkway, I found I returned to a common theme. 2022 was a year of firsts for the organization, which might seem surprising given it was also the Trust's 34th. Throughout last year, the Trust met with community members, educators, recreationists, elected officials, and supporters to find opportunities for meeting the community demand for quality access to the Parkway. Generous friends like you enabled the Trust to form new partnerships and pursue additional funding to provide more programs and access along the Parkway.

In February, the first Living River Speakers Series event was held in the River Center Barn, and throughout the spring, many community members joined us to learn about issues affecting the San Joaquin River. While adults were learning about the river through the Speakers Series, our youngest program participants were building a connection to nature during the Trust's first entirely outdoor preschool program. The first cohort of preschool participants spent 8 weeks learning about the river and the plants and animals it supports through repeated experiences at the River Center and Sumner Peck Ranch.

By the summer, things were really bustling on the Parkway as River Camp programs began, including the first-ever River Camp Academy Program dedicated to serving Fresno Unified students from around the City. Our partnership with the school district and expanded capacity across the camp programs enabled the Trust to serve almost 100% more children than in 2021.

The firsts continued into the fall as the Trust's program team piloted the first cohort of Youth Parkway Ambassadors (YPA), an outdoor and leadership skills training program. YPA members learned how to canoe, lead nature hikes, facilitate environmental education activities, and how to plan an event. Using the skills they developed, YPA members planned and hosted two public open house days on the Parkway. The YPA pilot cohort was such a great success the Trust hired several cohort members as counselors for the first-ever Winter Wonderland River Camp in December.

Last year the San Joaquin River Conservancy Board approved the Trust's proposal to operate Sycamore Island 7 days per week, one of the first major investments from the State's \$15 million for Parkway operations. Some patience was required to see the contract through to the finish line, but Sycamore Island is now open daily.

Your generosity and support contributed to many exciting firsts last year and helped the Trust reach more people than ever before.

Julia O'Kane  
*Board President*



San Joaquin River  
Parkway and  
Conservation Trust, Inc.

11605 Old Friant Road  
Fresno, CA 93730-9701  
[www.riverparkway.org](http://www.riverparkway.org)



San Joaquin River  
Parkway and  
Conservation Trust, Inc.



# 2022 Annual Report

RIVER PARKWAY TRUST



## Message from the Executive Director

Friends,

I am filled with gratitude for the achievements your support made possible in 2022. Although I'm writing this letter mid-way through 2023 due to the timeframe for completing our annual financial audit, it's exciting to look back and think about how the Trust's work in 2022 set us up to accomplish big things in 2023.

In 2022, our Restoration Project Team successfully completed floodplain restoration at Sycamore Island and Fresno River West. Tree cages and other signs of human intervention were removed during the project closeout, leaving a diverse array of planted and naturally recruited native trees and understory plants to anchor the soil and provide food and shelter for native wildlife. It was thrilling to witness the restored floodplain doing what it was designed to do during the high river flows this year: flooding. Floodplains are important for the survival of juvenile salmon as they provide a rich feeding ground for the tiny fry so that they can gain weight and strength before migrating to the ocean. I'm incredibly proud of our team for implementing this project, and grateful for your support that led to this conservation project success.

Last year the Trust continued advocating for the State Conservancy to begin utilizing the \$15 million operations and maintenance funding to improve and increase public access to the San Joaquin River Parkway. In the fall of 2022, the State Conservancy board voted to approve the Trust's bid to operate Sycamore Island 7 days per week. Patience in navigating the State Contracting process was necessary, but today we can celebrate 7 day per week operations of the property. The groundwork laid during this contracting process should set the Trust up for success in opening Ball Ranch for public access in the months ahead.

With funding from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), the River Parkway Trust launched the Youth Parkway Ambassadors, a program that empowers high school students to take on leadership roles in outdoor education. Through this program, we are not only nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards but also fostering a sense of responsibility and leadership. These young ambassadors played a vital role in educating their peers and the community about the importance of preserving the San Joaquin River. Several of the Ambassadors from our first cohort are now in college and will be part of the Trust outdoor education program staff this year.

These milestones are not just individual achievements; they represent a collective commitment to creating and protecting the Parkway for future generations. Your generosity and support provide the foundation upon which progress is made.

Thank you for your support and dedication to the San Joaquin River Parkway.

Sharon Weaver  
Executive Director

## Creating and Protecting the San Joaquin River Parkway for Everyone



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.

### Board of Directors

Julia O'Kane  
President

Anna Wattenbarger  
Vice President

Lorna Milligan  
Treasurer

Lyn Peters  
Secretary

Coke Hallowell  
Chairman of the Board

Bart Bohn  
Vicki Crow  
Debbie Doerksen  
George Folsom  
Rodney Grant  
Thomas Harmon  
Jeanette Ishii  
Gene Kallsen, MD\*  
Elise Moir  
Samuel Molina  
Angel Moreno  
Edward B. Morgan  
Carol Ann Moses  
Irene Romero  
Marcia Sablan, M.D.  
T'Shaka Touré  
\*In Memoriam

Fennemore Dowling Aaron  
Christopher A. Brown  
General Counsel

### River Parkway Trust Staff

Sharon Weaver  
Executive Director

Sarah Parkes  
Assistant Director

Nicole Davis  
Executive Assistant

Bryna De Fede  
Donor Relations Manager

**Community Programs**  
Molly Schnur-Salimbene  
Director of Programs  
Administration

Katie Kincaid  
Director of River Camp Programs

Landon Reyes  
Director of Early Childhood  
Programs

Carina Damian  
High School Programs Manager

Gabi Santellano  
1st – 8th Grade Programs  
Manager

Anneliese Wagner  
Inclusion Coordinator

**Parkway Projects**  
Jake Salimbene  
Senior Restoration Project  
Manager

Jenae McCarthy  
Restoration Project Manager

**Restoration Technicians**  
Jelani Lewis  
Docnary Reyes

**River Center**  
Jesus Luviano  
Rental Events Manager

**Sumner Peck Ranch**  
Marcelino Cervantes  
Ranch Foreman

**Sycamore Island**  
Bonnie Hill  
Park Manager

**Park Hosts**  
James Allison  
Myles Borboa  
Cixen Normen  
Pensue Normen  
Noah Osburn  
Pensue Vang

The River Parkway Trust relies on the generosity of people like you to help create the Parkway and provide outdoor programs for all. You can donate today by returning the enclosed envelope, calling 559-248-8480, or by visiting [www.riverparkway.org](http://www.riverparkway.org).



### Directors Emeriti

Paul Chaffee\*  
Jim Costa  
Clary Creager  
Lewis S. Eaton\*  
Duane Furman\*  
Rebecca Gomes

Edward Grootendorst\*  
David Grubbs  
Lynn Hemink  
Karen Humphrey  
Garland Johnson\*  
Ed Kashian

Rick Lehman  
Tom MacMichael Sr\*  
Leonard Meyers\*  
Michael Paoli  
Joseph Penbera  
Ron Rempel

Thomas Richardson\*  
Gene Rose  
Mary Ellen Savala  
Margaret Thorburn\*  
Ralph Waterhouse  
John Wissler\*

\*In Memoriam

## Conservation

In 2022, the River Parkway Trust's conservation work focused on monitoring and maintaining restoration plantings, removing invasive plant species, and increasing habitat for pollinators throughout the 22-mile Parkway. Your support last year helped steward projects that are increasing biodiversity and contributing to flood resiliency along the San Joaquin River.

**4,190**

Plants propagated and acquired for future installation at Fresno River West



**2,600**

Native trees, shrubs, and grasses previously planted at Jensen River Ranch were monitored and maintained

**384**

Narrowleaf Milkweed plugs were installed at Jensen River Ranch to benefit Monarch butterflies and other pollinators

**50**

Acres of invasive plant species *Sesbania punicea* (Scarlet Wisteria) were treated and removed

**4.5**

Acres of the Floodplain Revegetation Project at Fresno River West and Sycamore Island were monitored and maintained

River Stewards volunteered to help plant native trees and shrubs, remove invasive plant species, and pick up trash along the River Parkway

**184 Volunteers** **533 Hours**

## Volunteers

From helping plant trees to leading nature hikes on the Parkway, volunteers play a critical role in the River Parkway Trust's core mission areas of conservation, education, and recreation.

**13,824** Hours of volunteer service contributed by individuals like you

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

## Social Media Engagement

**14,700** followers  
@SJRPCT, @SycamoreIslandPark

**6,682** followers  
@riverparkwaytrust

**575** followers  
@sjrparkwaytrust

**10,409** email subscribers

## Education

Your support in 2022 helped expand education programs for community members of all ages, including new programs for pre-schoolers, high school students, and adults. The first local, completely outdoor pre-school gave children ages 3½ through Kindergarten a chance to develop confidence in and curiosity about natural spaces. Local high school students developed their leadership and outdoor recreation skills in preparation to teach younger children about the San Joaquin River through the Youth Parkway Ambassadors Program. The new Living River Speakers Series engaged adult lifelong learners in building their knowledge about the complexity of water in California through engaging presentations.

**6,213**

Students Participated in River Field Trips at the River Center, Owl Hollow, Sumner Peck Ranch, Lost Lake Park, and Sycamore Island

**1,542**

Students learned about the San Joaquin River Watershed through in-class presentations

**2,160**

River Campers in Fresno at the River Center, Owl Hollow, Scout Island, Sycamore Island, and Sumner Peck Ranch through the spring, summer, AND winter, and River Camp in Firebaugh

**166**

Public Youth Program Participants Children and youth in pre-school through high school enjoyed outings to explore the San Joaquin River through outdoor weekend programs

**306**

Pre-school Program Participants Children learned about the plants and animals found along the river in lively program activities at the River Center, Sumner Peck Ranch, and Lost Lake Park.

**11**

Youth Parkway Ambassadors High School Students participated in an average of **34.5 hours each** of leadership and outdoor skills development along the Parkway

**42% Increase** in the number of children reached through outdoor education programs over 2021

## River Center

Throughout 2022, the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies was open to the public and served as a point of access to the San Joaquin River Parkway. Trail users, families, birders, and artists came to enjoy the respite found here. The River Center was also an important part of the 2022 season of River Camp programs and the base of the Young Explorers Enrichment Program.



**37,763** Visitors enjoyed the River Center in 2022

**19%** increase in visitorship over 2021

## Recreation



In 2022, your support played a pivotal role in increasing access to the Parkway through park operations and guided outdoor recreation programs. Thanks to you places like Sycamore Island and Sumner Peck Ranch were open to the public for fishing, hiking, wildlife watching and more. You also helped provide guided nature walks on Parkway properties not typically open to the public and paddling adventures on the river and ponds at Sycamore Island.

**Sycamore Island Visitors**  
**15,209**

Anglers, wildlife watchers, hikers, runners, cyclists, equestrians, and paddlers in 2022

**6,650\*** Sumner Peck Ranch Visitors

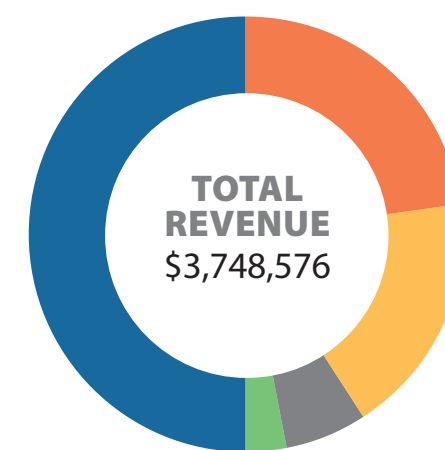
Community members picked citrus and blueberries, and enjoyed spending time along the river

**652** Nature Walks

**141** River Tours

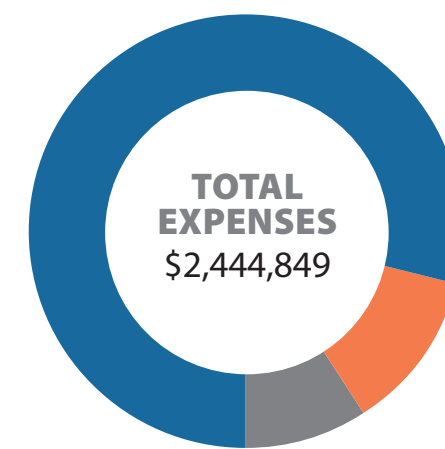
\*This number does not include Solitary Cellars patrons.

## 2022 Financials



### REVENUE

■ Donations	50%	\$1,862,782
■ Grants	23%	\$870,814
■ Program Services	18%	\$668,903
■ Events, Sales, and Rent	6%	\$236,082
■ Farm	3%	\$109,995



### EXPENSES

■ Program Services	79%	\$1,916,212
■ General Administrative	12%	\$295,710
■ Fundraising	9%	\$232,927

The financial information included in this report is from the Audited Financial Consolidated Statement of Activities for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Scan QR code to view the River Parkway Trust's Audited Financials and Form 990 or visit our website: <https://riverparkway.org/what-we-do/irs-form-990>



SCAN ME

### \$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  
Roger and Terry Glaspey  
Coke and James Hallowell  
Sharon Hanley  
Margaret Hunsberger  
Margaret and Rodger Jensen  
J.P. Lamborn Co., John and Pam Lamborn  
Norman and Nancy Liddell  
Edward K. Martin Trust  
Jim and Carrie Moen  
Edward B. Morgan and Alicia Bennett  
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

### 2022 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

We're proud to recognize these individual donors who gave generously to the River Parkway Trust between January and December 2022.

**\$50,000+**  
Edward B. Morgan and Alicia Bennett

**\$20,000+**  
Ray Falkenberg (Sandra L. Williams Fund)  
Delores M. Gerards  
Coke and James Hallowell  
Michael Linton

**\$10,000+**  
Anonymous  
Sean Clines and Jennifer Williams  
Dr. Virginia S. Eaton  
George and Jackie Folsom  
Paul Gibson and Joan Eaton  
June Gill  
Sharon Hanley  
Sarah Hedrick in Honor of Jennifer and Hugh Williamson  
Lynn and Ellen Hemink  
Eldon and Diana Marks  
Elise Moir  
Jenny Naef-Macmichael  
Julia O'Kane  
Karen Wright

**\$5,000+**  
Dr. Richard Berquist and Anna Fong, O.D.  
Bart and Suna Bohn  
Patricia Caffrey  
Gene and Pamela Kallisen  
Eric and Teresa Kurtz  
Carol Moses  
Sommer Moss  
Will Murray and Margie Williams  
Michael and Ellen Patton  
Susan and Newton Seiden  
W. E. and Anna Wattenbarger  
Stuart and Lisa Woolf

**\$2,500+**  
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Cortopassi  
Debbie and Charles Doerksen  
Alfred Dakin and Kimberly Snyder  
Ann and Nat Dellavalle

Christine and David Erickson  
Jeanette and Anthony Ishii  
Lyn Peters  
William and Lura Reddington  
John Scholefield and Kristene Petrucci Scholefield  
Sharon Weaver

**\$1,000+**  
Sally Ayer  
Nancy Baker  
Herbert John Blossom  
Steve and Jackie Bradley  
Walter and Susan Buster  
Mary and Daniel Comelli  
Carol and Lee Copeland  
Kaye Cummings  
Susan and Jon Edwards  
Kimberly Ellis  
Donn Furman and Cynthia Fialho  
Helen Gigliotti  
Nathaniel Gildersleeve  
William and Shirley Golden  
Lynn and Raymond Gorman  
Joell Hallowell and Tricia Garlock  
Brandon and Alya Hill  
Mary Hung  
Don Huntley  
Jim and April Kaufmann  
Dave and Sharon Koehler  
James Kus and Ananda Aspen  
Tom and Cindy Kusaka  
Dee Lacy and David Hill  
Cindy and Steve Lindstrom  
Kathleen Lopes  
Wendell Lum  
Joanna McCloskey-Dalldorf  
Robert McParland  
Dale Melville  
Gail Newel and Kelli Beingesser  
Judith Pecora

Mary and Phil Pigott, Pigott Family Foundation  
Dr. Leah Press and Dr. Scott Ahles  
Jeff and Bev Robinson  
Mary and Rudy Savala  
Alix Frazer  
Anita Shanahan  
Carson and Sonja Smith  
Sheila Smith  
Frances Squire and Ed Wilson  
Gary Steinert and Fred Smith  
Robert and Judy Swenson  
John and Jolene Telles  
Linda and Neil Thompson  
Courtney Turner  
Nichole and Timothy Walsh  
Betty Wang-Garcia and Joe Garcia  
Rosemary and Jerry Waters  
Jennifer Williamson  
HS Wright III  
David Yamaguchi  
Tom Zimoski  
Marilyn Zitterkopf

**\$500+**  
Susan and Rod Anderson  
Neil and Marianne Angellilo  
R David and Kathryn V Arnold  
Barbara Berberian  
Anne Betancourt  
F Thomas Biglione  
Janice and Paul Bissonnette  
Megan and Ron Bohigian  
Joel Brownell and Jolie Limon-Brownell  
Charles Coker  
Robert Croeni and Lauri Robinson  
Vicki Crow  
N. Leon Dermerjian  
Elizabeth Desmond  
Beth Dooley and Tom Williams  
Stephen Dougherty  
Jim and Diana Durham  
Michael and Dolores Elkins  
Connie and Kevin Enns-Rempel

Marcia and Ted Falk  
Phoebie Farnam  
Robert Fena  
Elizabeth and Byrne Finkle  
Alix Frazer  
Kathleen Grassi and Tina Starks  
Cathi Graves-Tudman  
Kathleen and Robert Grazier  
Paul and Janet Hanchett  
Brett Hedrick  
Laurel and Wayne Huber  
Diane Hughes  
Larry and Victoria Johnson  
Glenda Josey and Tim Reyes  
Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Karian  
Marianne Kast  
James Kemp  
Robin Kraemer, Jones Cleaning Centers  
Rodney Krueger  
Jason and Terra Lamborn  
Thomas and Terri Larson  
Claude Laval  
Russell and Rebecca Lindquist  
Elaine Lynn  
Dr. Rose Marie Lyon  
Malcolm J. Macdonald and Jane Wilson  
Carol and Terry Manning  
Barbara Marsella  
Donna McCloskey  
Dee Anne and Dennis Megriditchian  
Diane Merrill  
The Reginald C. Mohun Family,  
Lori and Reginald Mohun  
Thomas Mulholland  
Georgia and Mike Murach  
David and Nikki Nalchajian  
Donald and Hannah Norman  
Gary and Leilani Overstreet  
Sarah and Ryan Parkes  
Larry G. Patten and Jean Behrend

Bonnie and Richard Polson  
Patt Rank  
Linda and Michael Rogers  
Susan Ryan  
Mrs. Oscar and Marcia Sablan  
Joan and Bob Schoettler  
Barbara Scott  
Bill and Judy Seiler  
Paula Siegel and Jerry Radinoff  
Caroline and Peter Simis  
Tara Sivent  
Judith Stewart  
Lynn Taylor  
Megan Thompson and Michael Shultz  
Darlene Young  
Nyla Zender

### 2022 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 2022.

**\$200,000+**  
US Bureau of Reclamation  
State Of California, Wildlife Conservation Board  
State of California, San Joaquin River Conservancy

**\$30,000+**  
State of California, Department Of Conservation, Division of Land Protection  
State of California, Department of Fish & Wildlife

Dyer Family Foundation  
**\$20,000+**  
J.P. Lamborn Co  
Lance-Kashian and Company  
Land Trust Alliance  
Leon S. Peters Foundation  
Vulcan Materials Company

**\$10,000+**  
Central Valley Community Foundation  
Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino  
Friant Ranch LLP  
Gavin Gladding Foundation

**\$5,000+**  
American Ambulance  
CalViva Health  
Candlelight Guild  
Educational Employees Credit Union  
Fig Garden Rotary Foundation  
Hedrick's Chevrolet  
MUGF Union Bank Foundation  
N.F. Davis Drier & Elevator, Inc.  
Penny-Newman Grain Company, Inc.  
PG&E Employee Giving  
REI Fresno Co-op  
State of California, Natural Resources Agency

Stanislaus Community Foundation  
Trinity Fruit Sales  
United Security Bank  
Westlands Water District  
**\$1,000+**  
California Eye Institute  
Coleman Farming Co., LLC  
Eagle Building Materials  
Falcon Financial & Insurance Solutions, Inc.  
Firebaugh Rotary Club  
Gary McDonald Homes  
Hammonds Ranch, Inc.  
Johanson Transportation Service  
LPL Financial  
Lyles Diversified Charitable Fund  
Michael Giffen Ranch, Inc.  
Mid Valley Disposal  
National Environmental Education Foundation  
Norman S. Wright Duckworth Mechanical Equipment Company  
S&K Gage Farms  
San Joaquin Running  
Shasta Wildlife Conservation Foundation  
Sierra Pacific Orthopedic & Spine Center Medical Group, Inc.  
The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation  
The Heart Group Medical Clinic, Inc.  
West Hills Community College Foundation

**\$500+**  
Arney-Harvey Family Foundation  
Belmont Nursery  
Brooks Ransom Associates, Inc.  
Constellation Brands  
Fresno Folklore Society  
The Ingham Family Fund

K Arakelian Foundation  
Manco Abbott, Inc.  
Milano Restaurants Intl., Inc.  
Noble Credit Union  
Ooh De Lolli  
Paul Halajian Architects, Inc  
Republic Services

### 2022 DONATIONS RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS

Dean Blankinship  
Sydney Buestone  
Sheri Bohigian  
Doug Broten  
Patricia Caffrey  
G. Wayne Cederquist  
Lewis and Virginia S. Eaton  
Sandy Gavello  
Merle Hanson  
Mary Diane Haze  
Dale Matson  
Eleanor Merzolan  
Russ Minick  
John O'Sullivan  
Robert Scott Patton  
Marie Polzin  
Walter Brough-Stevenson  
Harold and Barbara Tokmakian  
Hugh Williamson  
Bruce Willford

The River Parkway Trust values everyone who contributes to creating and protecting the San Joaquin River Parkway. If you discover an omission from this list, please inform us by calling the River Parkway Trust's offices or emailing [sparkes@riverparkway.org](mailto:sparkes@riverparkway.org).