

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 Running River 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



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.

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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.



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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, Running River 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 Running River 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, Running River 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

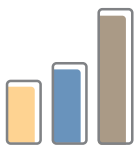
River Center

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 Running River 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* Running River Ranch Visitors

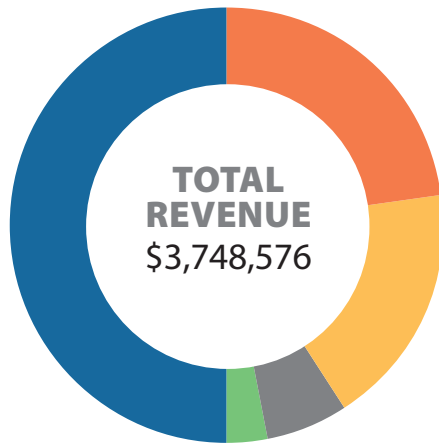
Community members picked citrus and blueberries, and enjoyed spending time along the river

652 Nature Walks

141 River Tours

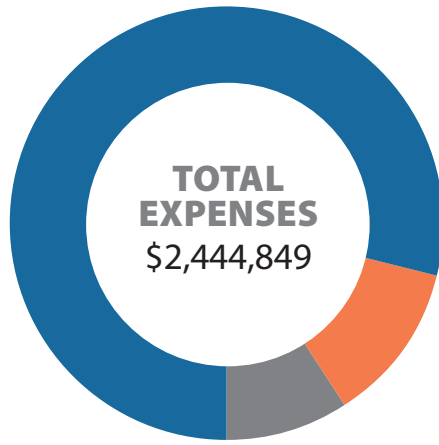
*This number does not include Solitary Cellars patrons.

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.

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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
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Conservation Board
State of California, San Joaquin
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Of Conservation, Division of Land
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