



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sycamore Island Park to stay open year-round

Fresno, CA – The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (Trust) in cooperation with the San Joaquin River Conservancy (Conservancy) will continue to operate Sycamore Island for public access all winter long. Valley residents have come to know and appreciate the fishing and recreation opportunities at Sycamore Island. The 3 miles of riverbank and seven inland ponds offer some of the best bass, crappie, catfish and bluegill fishing in the region. River goers will no longer have to lament the park closing its gates each year for a 2-month winter break. For the first time, the park will remain open to the public year-round.

Sycamore Island is a 600-acre natural open space area conveniently located in Madera near Valley Children’s Hospital. It is an excellent place for families to fish, bird watch, hike, bike, run, kayak, canoe, picnic, or simply relax and take in the beauty of the San Joaquin River and the wildlife inhabitants that make it their home. One of the ponds includes an ADA accessible fishing pier and restroom with a concrete boat ramp. The CA Department of Fish & Wildlife stocks the trout pond with rainbow trout beginning in December and continuing through March. A bait shop with basic supplies and canoe and kayak rentals is located onsite.

Sycamore Island will be open seven days a week from 6:00 am to 5:30pm throughout the fall and winter months. The closing time changes seasonally. The park is free to enter Monday through Friday. There is an entry fee of \$9.00 per vehicle and \$5.00 per trailer on weekends. Day-use fees can be paid at the park or purchased online at www.riverparkway.org. twelve-month annual passes are available for \$85.00. The park entrance is located at 39664 Avenue 7 ½, Madera, CA.

Sycamore Island is owned by the State of California San Joaquin River Conservancy and is operated for public access by the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust.

About the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit land trust established in 1988 working to create and protect the 22-mile San Joaquin River Parkway. The 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 of the riverbottom consistent with protection of the river's resources. The Trust offers programs in its three core mission areas of conservation, education, and recreation.

About the San Joaquin River Conservancy

The San Joaquin River Conservancy is an agency of the State of California created by the legislature to create the San Joaquin River Parkway by: acquiring 5,900 acres from willing sellers for Parkway purposes; enhancing and restoring riparian, floodplain, and other habitats; conserving natural and cultural resources on its lands; and developing and managing its lands for public recreational and educational uses compatible with resource protection.

For more information about Sycamore Island visit www.riverparkway.org and www.sjrc.ca.gov. Or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SycamoreIslandPark

