



## **American River Parkway Fact Sheet**

### ***Updated 2009***

The American River Parkway is 23 miles in length and is designated both a State and National Wild and Scenic River. It is governed by the American River Parkway Plan, which is approved by the State Legislature upon recommendation of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, and endorsement of the Sacramento City Council and Rancho Cordova City Council.

The American River Parkway Division is comprised of the following sections, to provide the services as described below:

- **Park Ranger Services** – law enforcement, interpretation, collection of fees, resource protection, response for first aid and other emergencies, user education for safe use of park areas, and special event support.
- **Park Maintenance Services** – routine maintenance of parks and facilities, turf and tree maintenance, bike trail and hardscape maintenance, special projects and project inspection.
- **Park Ranger Contract Services** – law enforcement services provided to other Districts under contract. Although these are not American River Parkway services, they have been retained within the Division because of the specialized nature of the services provided, and because Parkway rangers actually perform the service to the Districts on a rotational basis.
- **Effie Yeaw Nature Center** – on-site interpretive programming and exhibit development and outreach programs to local schools focusing on the natural and cultural history of the American River Parkway.

### ***Fast Facts:***

- The first known reference to the concept of the American River Parkway is from 1915, when city planner John Nolen submitted a city plan that would meet the future needs of the capital. This study included a continuous park along the American River, which was referred to as the “American River Parkway.”
- In 1929, after the passage of the first state park bond act, Fredrick Law Olmsted surveyed the entire state of California for potential park and recreation sites. In Sacramento, he proposed a parkway plan for the Sacramento River and its tributaries. In 1947, he updated this plan to include the development of recreation facilities, public parking areas and docks. This plan also called for the control of development adjacent to the parkway through local planning and zoning.

- In 1949, the River Beautification Commission was formed and tasked with developing plans to beautify and develop recreational areas on the American River.
- In March 1959, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance that formed the County Department of Parks and Recreation. William B. Pond was hired as the first Parks Department Director.
- In 1960, the first master plan was developed that included a 23-mile American River Parkway from Nimbus Dam to the confluence of the American and Sacramento rivers. The first County acquisitions of land on the American River Parkway began.
- County voters approved a \$12.6 million bond in 1972, of which approximately 80 percent was spent on acquisition and development in the American River Parkway.
- The latest parcel of land acquired by the County on the American River Parkway was the Camp Fire Girls parcel, in 2008
- There are approximately 8 million visitors to the American River Parkway annually.
- The American River Parkway generates an estimated \$364,218,973 annually for the local Sacramento economy. (*American River Parkway: Financial Needs Study Update*, The Dangermond Group, 2006)
- Budgeted revenues for Fiscal Year 2008-09 (includes kiosk, iron ranger, annual pass sales, EYNC programming, leases, grants and contribution revenues): \$2,073,116
- There are 82 miles of maintained trails in the American River Parkway, including the bike trail, equestrian trail and others...roughly the same distance between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe, or the distance between Sacramento and San Francisco, as the crow flies.
- There are 125 acres of maintained turf on the American River Parkway. That equals 94.7 football fields of turf.
- For Fiscal Year 2008-09, programs provided by the Effie Yeaw Nature Center served 87,440 people.
- In 2008, the illegal camping patrol removed approximately 40 tons of garbage from illegal camps on the American River Parkway.