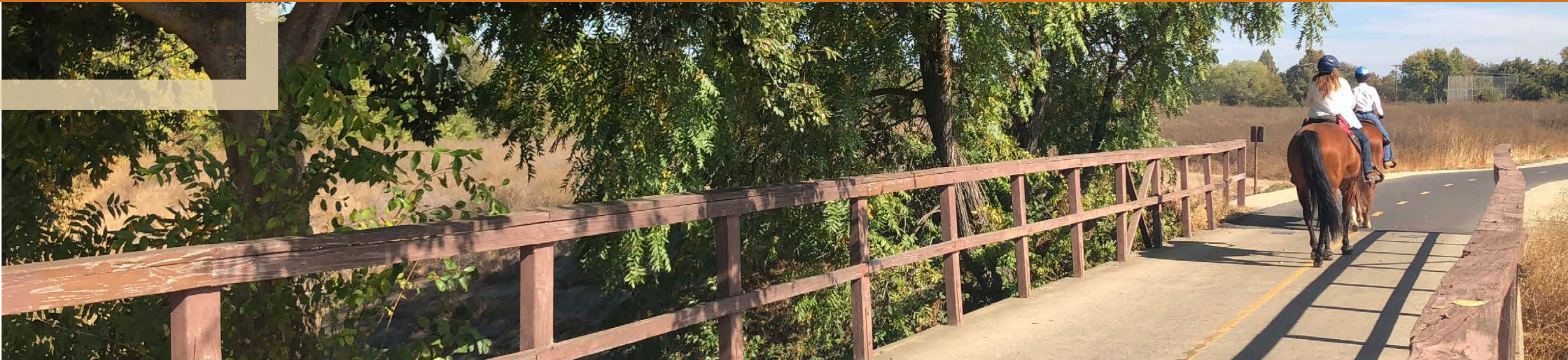




NRMP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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CHAPTER 2

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW



The Goals and Objectives serve as the backbone of the Natural Resources Management Plan, establishing standards for success and providing managers with a reference point to determine where resources should be focused. The goals and objectives guide the monitoring plan.

This chapter outlines the Regional Parks' overarching mission statement and goals, as well as the Parkway Plan concept and goals. The chapter also presents a summary of both the federal and state Wild and Scenic River Acts (WSRA). The final section of the Chapter highlights the NRMP's mission and vision, and presents the Plan's goals, objectives, and performance metrics through the "SMART" framework, the components of which are defined as follows:

- **SPECIFIC:** Objectives are linked to a goal or strategic plan and answer the questions, "Who?" and, "What?"
- **MEASURABLE:** The success toward meeting the objective can be measured.

- **ATTAINABLE:** Objectives are realistic and can be achieved in a specific amount of time.
- **RELEVANT:** Objectives are aligned with current interests of the implementing entity.
- **TIME ORIENTED:** Objectives have a clearly defined time-frame for completion.

Tables for each goal area include specific goals and objectives, along with information about agency roles, funding, and timing to help ensure effective implementation.



TOP LEFT Aerial view of a parking lot and the Howe Avenue Bridge in the Howe Avenue Area. Photo Credit: Josh Hannon. **TOP RIGHT** Bikers on the Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail in the Discovery Park Area. Photo Credit: MIG. **BOTTOM LEFT** Accessible ramp to fishing platform in the Arden Bar Area. Photo Credit: MIG. **BOTTOM RIGHT** Foot trail and trailhead in the Ancil Hoffman County Park Area. Photo Credit: MIG.

2.1 WILD AND SCENIC RIVER LEGISLATION

The Lower American River falls under both the National and State WSRA and provides context and guidance to managing resources in the Parkway. Congress passed the National WSRA in 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) to create a nationwide wild and scenic rivers system through which rivers meeting select criteria would receive special protections. Specifically, the Act states:

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes. (Section 1. (b) Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.)

In 1972, the California Legislature passed the State WSRA (PRC Section 5093.0-5093.70) and entered the LAR from Nimbus Dam to the confluence of the American River and Sacramento River into the State Wild and Scenic River System (State System). This area matches almost exactly the overall boundaries of the Parkway. In 1981, that same portion of the LAR was adopted into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System) under Section 2(a)

(ii) of the National Act by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior upon request of the Governor of California. The designated portion of the LAR was incorporated into the State and National Systems because of its recognized outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs)—recreation and fishery values—which must be preserved under the Acts along with the river’s free-flowing condition and water quality (National Wild and Scenic Rivers System 2020). The National WSRA (Section 7(a)) prohibits the federal government from constructing or supporting water resource projects (e.g., dams, bridges, bank armoring, gravel extraction) that would adversely impact a designated river’s ORVs. The National Park Service (NPS) ensures consistent enforcement of Section 7(a), usually prompted when the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issues project permits under the Clean Water Act or Rivers and Harbors Act, or when the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) reviews permit applications for its Lake and Streambed Alteration Program (Parkway Plan 2008).

The State and Federal WSRA effect how Parkway resources are managed by requiring activities must not adversely impact the Parkway’s recreation and fishery values. As a political subdivision of the State of California, Sacramento County has principal administrative and management responsibility for the designated portion of the Parkway (Parkway Plan 2008). As a result, Regional Parks is responsible for ensuring projects in the Parkway do not adversely impact recreational opportunities, fishery values, water quality, or the free-flowing condition of the river and the Parkway.



*Aerial view of network of social trails in the Cal Expo Area.
Photo Credit: Josh Hannon*



2.2 SACRAMENTO COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS

Sacramento County Regional Parks is responsible for managing the Parkway. Regional Parks' mission and goals reflect the need to both provide public access while protecting the resources. This requires Regional Parks to both consider how humans impact resources along with how natural resource decisions may effect recreational use. Thus, the NRMP seeks ways in which recreational uses are accommodated in the Parkway while minimizing the effects on natural resources.

REGIONAL PARKS' MISSION STATEMENT: *Enhance the health, enjoyment, and quality of life in the region by:*

- *Acquiring, managing, and protecting park and open space lands;*
- *Educating the public on the uses and values of leisure time activities, and the cultural and natural history of the County;*
- *Growing and linking a system of regional parks, trails, and open space in Sacramento and neighboring counties;*
- *Providing a broad range of recreational activities for the community's diverse populations;*
- *Providing stewardship and protection of Sacramento County's regional park system through partnerships, planning, and community involvement.*

REGIONAL PARKS' GOALS:

- *Provide affordable, accessible, clean, and safe recreational activities and facilities for all.*
- *Protect natural habitats and the environment.*
- *Preserve cultural and historical resources.*



Levee borrow pit in the Discovery Park Area between River Mile 12 and the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail. Photo Credit: Wildlife Conservation Board

2.3 AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY PLAN

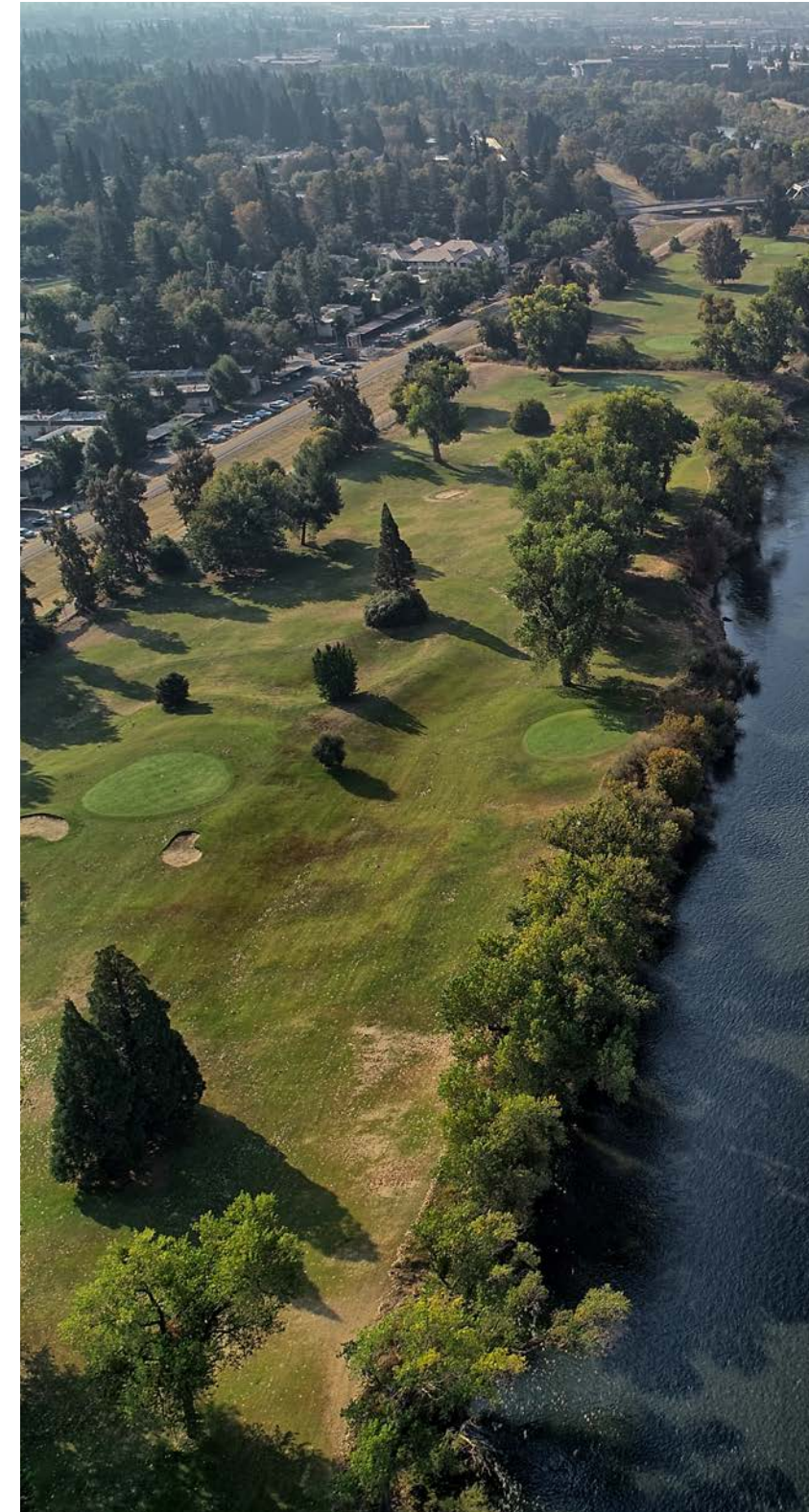
The American River Parkway Plan is the guiding management document for the Parkway. The plan guides land use decisions, including those related to recreation and other human uses. The NRMP is designed to be consistent with the Parkway Plan while the NRMP specifically addresses natural resource management in the Parkway. In this section, the Parkway Plan concept and goals are described.

Parkway Plan Concept: The American River Parkway is a unique regional facility which shall be managed to: a) preserve naturalistic open space and protect environmental quality within the urban environment, and b) contribute to the provision of recreational opportunities in the Sacramento area.

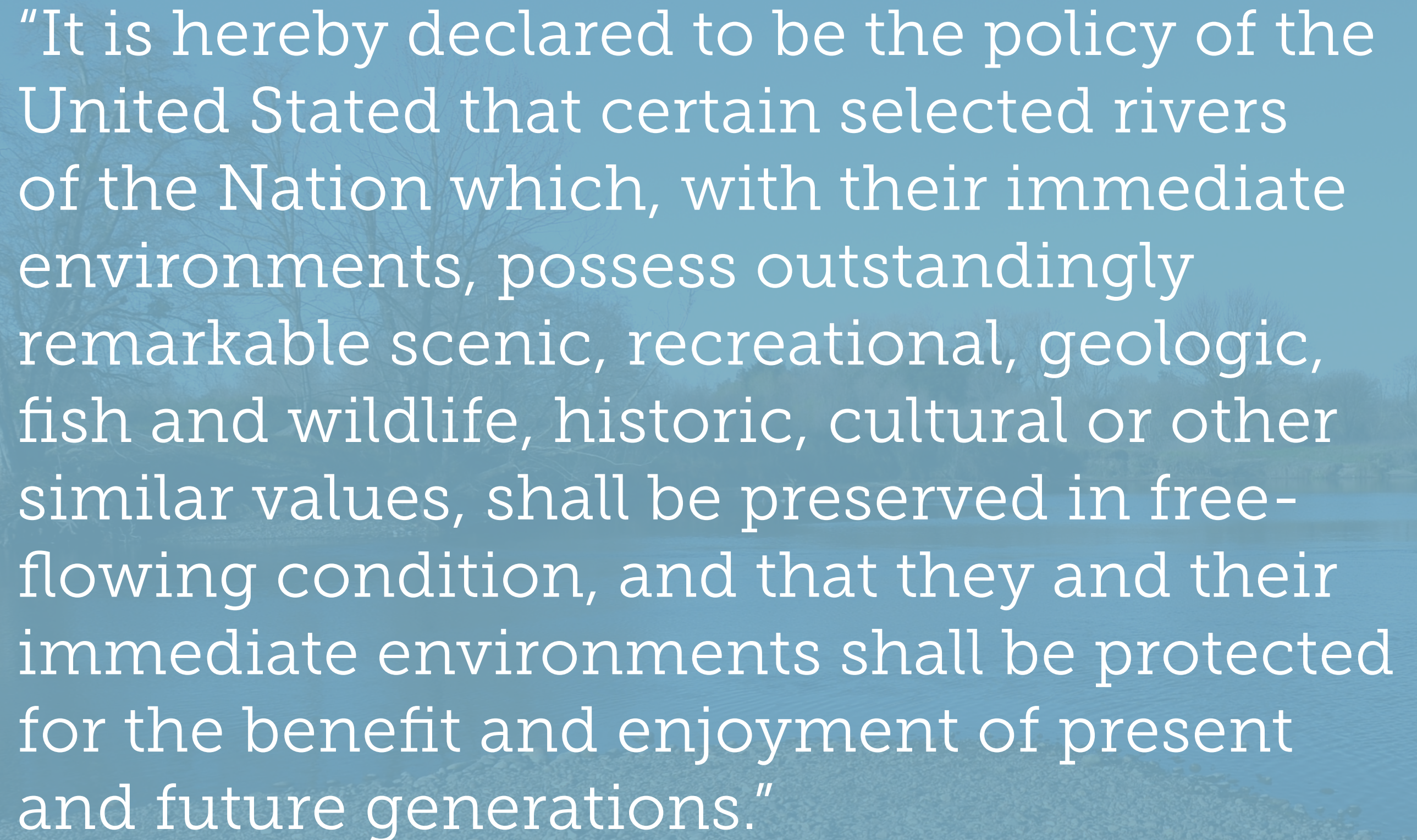
PARKWAY PLAN GOALS:

- *To provide, protect, and enhance for public use a continuous open space greenbelt along the American River extending from the Sacramento River to Folsom Dam.*
- *To provide appropriate access and facilities so that present and future generations can enjoy the amenities and resources of the Parkway.*

- *To preserve, protect, interpret, and improve the natural, archaeological, historical, and recreational resources of the Parkway, including an adequate flow of high-quality water, anadromous and resident fishes, migratory and resident wildlife, and diverse natural vegetation.*
- *To mitigate adverse effects of activities and facilities adjacent to the Parkway.*
- *To provide public safety and protection within and adjacent to the Parkway.*



Aerial view of the Campus Commons Area, including the Campus Commons Golf Course. Photo Credit: Josh Hannon



"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

– WILD & SCENIC RIVERS ACT, OCTOBER 2, 1968

2.4 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

The NRMP is consistent with the Parkway Plan. The purpose of the NRMP is to provide relevant and defensible information to the Parkway Manager for making informed decisions for managing, maintaining, and enhancing Parkway resources. The Plan's goal areas, goals, objectives, and performance measures (PM) are listed in the tables below and follow the framework shown in Figure 2-1. Each goal area includes relevant goals which are linked to specific objectives and performance measures. The tables also identify key implementation categories, including lead and support roles, funding sources, and planned completion dates.

SMART objectives clarify expectations and provide the means to determine if the objective is successfully completed. Initial performance will be measured in a five-year timeframe as follows:

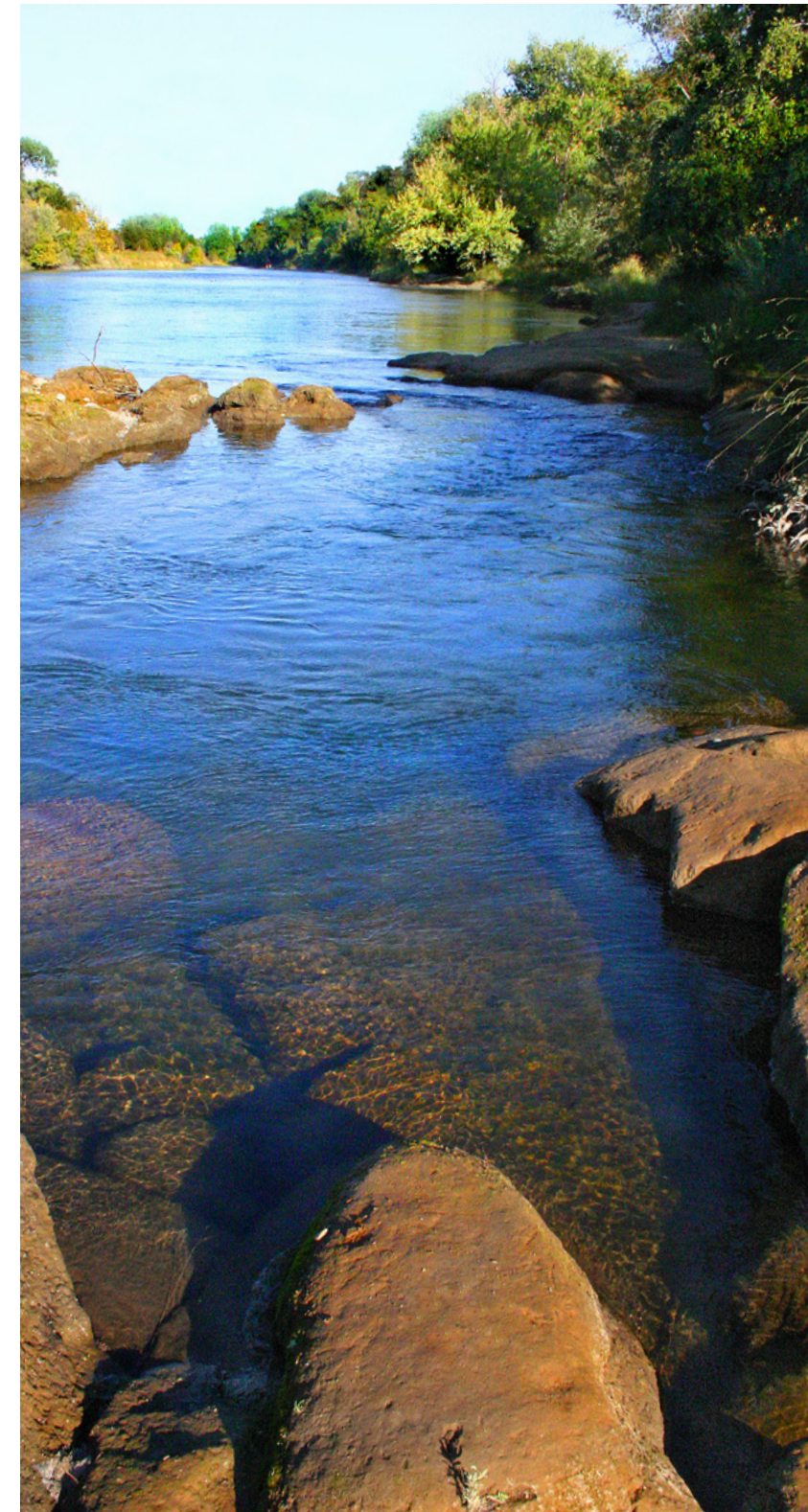
Specifically, where feasible, success criteria will be established for individual projects to enable monitoring of each project's success over a 5-year period. After 5 years, the success of the projects will be evaluated to determine if modification of the NRMP's goals and objectives, and projects is needed to improve resource protection, enhancement, and restoration within the Parkway.

Completion dates for the objectives are placed into three categories: (1) 1-2 years after NRMP completion; (2) 3-5 years after completion and (3) 6-10 years after completion (this timeframe only applies to Goal #4.1). The completion date of the NRMP is when the document is approved by the

Board of Directors. After five years, the NRMP will undergo a comprehensive review.

In order to be consistent with the SMART Objectives framework, the objectives associated with *Goal #1.4: Naturalize habitats that have been altered by human activity*, were tied to projects likely to be funded over the term of the Plan. The assumptions are provided to provide context to the objectives. Also, funding of the projects could change both the number of acres proposed for naturalization or the timing. These items will be considered when the NRMP is evaluated annually. It should be noted that all of the naturalization projects would undergo their own environmental review.

The assumptions for the numerical targets for which the Objectives 1.4a-1.4d are based on potential proposed projects shown in Table 2-1. The table shows the entity that is funding the project along with the reason for the project. Then, the number of acres or projects associated followed by the project timeframe are shown.



Close-up of the LAR channel from the SARA Park Area.
Photo credit: Regional Parks


TABLE 2-1: ASSUMPTIONS FOR GOAL AREA 1-4 ACREAGES

FUNDING ENTITY	RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED PROJECT	POTENTIAL NUMBER OF ACRES AND/OR PROJECTS	TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION
USACE	Mitigation for the proposed bank protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 115 acres of native riparian vegetation communities; and • 30 acres native elderberry 	3-5 years
PG&E	Mitigation for clearing and hardening of transmission lines	11 acres of native woodland	3-5 years
WCB	Potential future funding from WCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three acres of native riparian vegetation communities; • Three acres native elderberry; • Two acres of native grassland; and • Two acres of native woodland. 	3-5 years
USACE	Potential Ecosystem Restoration Projects	<p>Woodlake</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 acres of native riparian vegetation communities; • 50 acres of native grassland; and • 41 acres of native woodland. <p>Cal Expo (Bushy Lake)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 acres of native riparian vegetation communities; and • 70 acres of native woodland. 	6-10 years
Water Forum	Mitigation for upstream dams	One salmonoid habitat enhancement project annually.	3-5 years


FIGURE 2-1 NRMP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FRAMEWORK


NRMP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FRAMEWORK





GOAL AREA	GOAL	OBJECTIVES/PERFORMANCE MEASURES	LEAD	SUPPORT	FUNDING	COMPLETION DATE
 <p>GOAL AREA 1 Biological Resources</p>	1.1 Assess biological resources within the Parkway.	1.1a Completion of periodic updates to vegetation community maps. 1.1b Completion of shaded riverine aquatic habitat map. 1.1c Completion of systematic sensitive species surveys. 1.1d Completion of systematic invasive species surveys. 1.1e Completion of periodic updates to wildfire and homeless encampment maps.	Regional Parks	Agencies and entities with an interest in conducting habitat/ecosystem restoration, mitigation or construction projects	WCB conservation programs, Water Forum, Regional Parks, CNPS, Project proponents, State/federal grants	Within two years of NRMP completion
	1.2 Preserve high-quality native habitats.	1.2a Preservation of 176 ac of high-quality native riparian vegetation communities. 1.2b Preservation of 17 ac of high-quality native grassland vegetation communities. 1.2c Preservation of 54 ac of high-quality native woodland vegetation communities. 1.2d Preservation of 14 ac of high-quality native elderberry vegetation communities.	Regional Parks	NPOs, State agencies, Project proponents	CDFA, WCB conservation programs, Regional Parks, Mitigation projects, Other applicable grant programs	3-5 years
	1.3 Conserve high-quality native habitats that require improvement.	1.3a Conservation of 1184 ac of high-quality native riparian vegetation communities. 1.3b Conservation of 99 ac of high-quality native grassland vegetation communities. 1.3c Conservation of 578 ac of high-quality native woodland vegetation communities. 1.3d Conservation of 43 ac of high-quality native elderberry vegetation communities.	Regional Parks	USACE, Local jurisdictions, Landowners (e.g., Cal Expo, State Lands Commission)	USACE, WCB conservation programs, CSU Sacramento or UC Davis, Landowner general fund, Local jurisdiction general fund, Fire suppression authorities, Applicable state grants	3-5 years
	1.4 Naturalize habitats that have been altered by human activity.	1.4a Naturalization of 118 ac (3-5 years) and 64 ac (6-10 years) of native riparian vegetation communities (total = 182 acres). ¹ 1.4b Naturalization of 2 ac (3-5 years) and 50 ac (6-10 years) of native grassland vegetation communities (total = 52 acres). ¹ 1.4c Naturalization of 13 ac (3-5 years) and 111 ac (6-10 years) of native woodland vegetation communities (total = 124 acres). ¹ 1.4d Naturalization of 33 ac (3-5 years) of native elderberry vegetation communities. ¹ 1.4e Completion of five salmonoid habitat enhancement projects in cooperation with the Water Forum (3-5 years). ¹	Regional Parks	Local jurisdictions, Landowners, Project proponents (e.g., SAFCA, USACE)	WCB conservation programs, USACE, grant funds, Mitigation projects, USACE's Ecosystem Restoration and Tribal Partnership programs	3-5 years / 6-10 years
	1.5 Rehabilitate habitats damaged or degraded by fire or homeless populations.	1.5a Mapping and evaluation all areas damaged or degraded by wildfire or encampments annually. 1.5b Preparation of plan to determine if areas can be passively rehabilitated or if active rehabilitation.	Regional Parks	CSUS, SAFCA, Project proponents, Parkway stakeholders	CVPIA, CDFW, WCB conservation programs, USFWS Section 6 Conservation Grants, DWR grants, mitigation funds	3-5 years


¹ Projects must undergo a separate environmental review independent of the NRMP.

GOAL AREA	GOAL	OBJECTIVES/PERFORMANCE MEASURES	LEAD	SUPPORT	FUNDING	COMPLETION DATE
 GOAL AREA 1 Biological Resources	1.6 Expand corridors that connect disparate native vegetation communities and wildlife habitat	1.6a Reduction of barriers to fish and wildlife movement in the Lower Parkway.	Regional Parks	Water Forum, Project proponents	USACE, WCB conservation programs, CDFW, Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act, NFWF grant programs, mitigation funds	3-5 years
	1.7 Reduce the prevalence of invasive, non-native species.	1.7a Completion of Invasive Species Management Plan Update 1.7b Replacement of five acres of invasive, non-native species with native species identified in the NRMP.	Regional Parks	NPOs, ARPF, USACE, Project proponents, Parkway stakeholders	Regional Parks, Grants, USACE, state bond-funded projects that restore habitat, County general fund, grant funds and mitigation funds	3-5 years

GOAL AREA	GOAL	OBJECTIVES/PERFORMANCE MEASURES	LEAD	SUPPORT	FUNDING	COMPLETION DATE
 GOAL AREA 2 Physical Resources	2.1 Stabilize bank conditions throughout the Parkway to minimize erosion and retain natural riverine processes.	2.1a Stabilization of 100% of all levees throughout the Parkway consistent with maintaining a natural riverine environment	Regional Parks, USACE, SAFCA	Reclamation Districts	USACE, SAFCA	3-5 years
	2.2 Improve water quality.	2.2a Coordination with State Water Quality Control Board to monitor E. coli consistent with guidelines for aquatic recreation activities.	Regional Parks, SWRCB	DWR, Cities of Sacramento and Rancho Cordova	WCB conservation programs, DWR grant programs, stormwater violation dollars/supplemental environmental projects	Within two years of NRMP completion

GOAL AREA	GOAL	OBJECTIVES/PERFORMANCE MEASURES	LEAD	SUPPORT	FUNDING	COMPLETION DATE
 GOAL AREA 3 Cultural Resources	3.1 Protect archaeological and historical resources.	3.1a Protection of 100% of the officially designated archaeological and historical resources (listing is provided in the data management system).	Regional Parks	Tribal governments	WCB conservation programs, tribal partnerships, cultural resources grant programs	3-5 years
	3.2 Form a partnership with tribal governments to protect and manage cultural resources in the Parkway.	3.2a Establishment of regular annual meetings with tribal government representatives.	Regional Parks	Tribal governments	WCB conservation programs, USACE Tribal Partnership Program, local tribes, state/federal grant programs	Within two years of NRMP completion

GOAL AREA	GOAL	OBJECTIVES/PERFORMANCE MEASURES	LEAD	SUPPORT	FUNDING	COMPLETION DATE
 <p>GOAL AREA 4 Human Use Impact Reduction</p>	4.1 Minimize human use impacts on all Parkway resources.	4.1a Location of future recreational use areas and facilities 100 feet from a waterway as long as allowable recreational activities can be maintained. 4.1b Documentation and mapping of social trails in the Parkway.	Regional Parks	Cities, Event organizers, Recreation focus groups	WCB conservation programs, REI grants, federal grants, organized event sponsors	3-5 years
	4.2 Reduce impacts associated with homeless encampments in the Parkway.	4.2a Elimination or mitigation of the detrimental consequences associated with homeless encampments, such as: (1) accumulated debris; (2) environmental degradation; and (3) health and public safety issues including degradation of public infrastructure such as levees (as directed by the Martin vs. Boise court decision).	Regional Parks	Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services, Cities of Sacramento and Rancho Cordova	County General Fund	3-5 years
	4.3 Reduce impacts related to large group gatherings and special events.	4.3a Containment of large special event activities within developed recreational areas.	Regional Parks	Event sponsors	Event fees from permits issued by County	Within two years of NRMP completion
	4.4 Maximize environmentally beneficial opportunities within transmission line corridors.	4.4a Utilization of transmission line corridors for environmentally beneficial vegetation as long as access for maintenance and safety is maintained.	Regional Parks	WAPA, PG&E, SMUD, Utility Arborist Association	Utility companies, County general fund, WCB conservation programs	3-5 years
	4.5 Reduce the amount of ambient light impacting biological resources in the Parkway while ensuring a safe park environment.	4.5a Identification of areas in the Parkway where there is an unnecessary amount of ambient light and create a plan for reducing the light.	Regional Parks	Cities, Landowners	County and/or city/state general funds	3-5 years
	4.6 Interpret environmental, archaeological, and historical resources and educate the public on the significance of the Parkway in the greater Sacramento region.	4.6a Development of an interpretation plan for the American River Parkway. 4.6b Inclusion of interpretive elements with large mitigation projects.	Regional Parks	ARNHA, Soil Born Farms, ARPF, SCOE, other NPOs	WCB conservation programs, state/federal grant programs, NGO grants, County departments, tribes, project proponents	3-5 years

GOAL AREA	GOAL	OBJECTIVES/PERFORMANCE MEASURES	LEAD	SUPPORT	FUNDING	COMPLETION DATE
 <p>GOAL AREA 5 Agency and Community Coordination</p>	5.1 Convene a Parkway resource group to oversee NRMP implementation.	5.1a Creation a sub-committee of the American River Parkway Advisory Committee to meet at least once per year with Regional Parks staff to evaluate the implementation of the NRMP.	Regional Parks	SAFCA, Water Forum, ARPAC, RPC, LARCP, Parkway stakeholders	In-kind contributions from County, stakeholders, and partners	Within two years of NRMP completion
	5.2 Reduce wildfire fuel and hazards in the Parkway.	5.2a Development and implementation of a plan for wildfire prevention, response, and recovery. 5.2b Development of a tracking system for wildfires in the Parkway.	Regional Parks	Sacramento Metro Fire, Sacramento City Fire, Utility companies, Cities, Landowners	WCB conservation programs, Cal Fire Grants, Urban Corps grants, federal grant programs	Within two years of NRMP completion
	5.3 Support scientific research programs to increase the quantity and quality of data describing the condition of Parkway resources.	5.3a Establishment of ongoing research and data collection programs with CSUS, UC Davis, and other local colleges. 5.3b Development of a citizen science data program.	Regional Parks	CSUS and UC Davis	State and federal research grants, grad student research, project proponents	3-5 years
	5.4 Implement a robust environmental monitoring program.	5.4a Provision of annual updates of monitoring data to the NRMP geodatabase.	Regional Parks, SAFCA, USACE	Regulatory agencies, Project proponents	WCB conservation programs	Within two years of NRMP completion
	5.5 Encourage public outreach and educational activities to increase the public's understanding and appreciation of Parkway resources.	5.5a Establishment of one educational partnership, per year, with local school districts and community-based organizations to develop curriculum for teaching environmental stewardship and proper use of Parkway resources.	Regional Parks, SCOE	ARPF, ARNHA, Soil Born Farms	County programs, in-kind contributions from partners	3-5 years