

{ RIVER PARKWAYS IN CALIFORNIA

the
ventura
river
parkway



Up and down California, river parkway and other greenway projects are improving water quality, protecting and restoring critical habitat and creating recreational outdoor space for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Each project demonstrates how the right vision, leadership, and effort can transform a river corridor into a prime natural asset for a community. Because each river has its own history, geometry and community concerns, every project is different and requires tailored solutions.

BIG RIVER CONSERVATION PROJECT MENDOCINO

A vigorous community fundraising effort, coupled with \$18 million in state bond funds, helped in the acquisition of nearly 8000 acres of the lower Big River watershed on the Mendocino coast, including its entire 8.2-mile estuary. The scenic property, now part of the Big River Unit of Mendocino Headlands State Park, links more than 100 miles of public trails and connects with 60,000 acres of wildlife habitat.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY FRESNO AND MODESTO

This 22-mile regional greenway and wildlife corridor was the result of a 30-year community effort to protect open space along the San Joaquin. A mosaic of parks, trails and ecological reserves, the parkway offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities that have helped the Central Valley prosper.



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NAPA RIVER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

This large-scale effort to restore the Napa River to its natural state provides a sustainable, non-structural solution to accommodate the river's chronic flooding. Steps include converting more than 18 acres of vineyards into flood terraces and riverbank habitat. When it's completed, the project will restore 650 acres of tidal wetlands, reconnect the river to its historical floodplain, sustain migrating fish and wildlife, create terraced riverbanks and bypass channels and reestablish the river as a natural system.



GUADALUPE RIVER PARK - SAN JOSE

Once a contaminated, little-known asset, the Guadalupe River now features a 250-acre park that winds along the river through the heart of downtown. It includes 27 plazas, playgrounds, tennis courts and other open space facilities for children and adults. The 2.6 miles of trails that meander through the park provide a critical link to the Bay-Ridge trail system that will eventually circle the entire Bay area. Importantly, this parkway was one of the first major park developments in the nation to incorporate flood protection measures.



OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK CHULA VISTA AND SAN DIEGO

This 13-mile linear park, four miles north of the international border, will become the centerpiece of what is now one of the most underserved and park-poor areas of the region. A joint effort of San Diego County, the cities of Chula Vista and San Diego, and their community partners, the 8000-acre park will provide a mesa-to-mesa corridor of habitat and recreational open space from South San Diego Bay to the Otay Lakes Region and Jamul Mountains.

These cities and regions have done great things. And we can, too. By forming partnerships and making ourselves heard, we can conserve and restore the Ventura River in a way that celebrates its special character and connects each of us to it.