

# { RIVER PARKWAYS AN OVERVIEW

the  
ventura  
river  
parkway



Greenways are linear parks or corridors of open space that follow natural or man-made features. River parkways are greenways comprised of the lands bordering a river and its floodplains. They're often our most important greenways, protecting and connecting biologically important ecosystems and offering vital gathering spots for recreation and relaxation.

RIVER PARKWAYS BENEFIT PEOPLE, WILDLIFE, COMMUNITIES, BUSINESSES AND TOURISM BECAUSE THEY:

## PROVIDE CONNECTIONS.

Greenways link parks, historic sites, natural areas and neighborhoods. They provide migration corridors for wildlife and create trail networks that bring neighborhoods together. They connect communities to each other, and all of us to the natural world.



## NURTURE A SENSE OF PLACE.

River parkways grow from local initiatives that reflect a consensus of community needs and values. They allow people to access natural areas and engage with the land. They ensure cherished places are protected and can be shared for generations.



## CREATE OUTDOOR SPACES FOR PEOPLE.

Conserving lands along a river preserves them as scenic and recreational places for us all to enjoy. They provide ideal spaces for much-needed parks, fishing and rafting spots, trails, soccer fields and other recreational facilities.



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**RIVER PARKWAYS BENEFIT PEOPLE, WILDLIFE, COMMUNITIES, BUSINESSES AND TOURISM BECAUSE THEY:**

## **ATTRACT JOBS AND INVESTMENT.**

By providing scenic and recreational areas for the public to enjoy, river parkways make communities more inviting for businesses, encouraging more job opportunities. Parkway can also increase property values in adjacent neighborhoods, or stimulate investment in once blighted areas.



## **BENEFIT THE LOCAL ECONOMY.**

Parks and trails attract visitors who, in turn, support local businesses such as hotels, restaurants and recreation services. In fact, a recent study found the 23-mile American River Parkway in Sacramento brought 8 million visitors to the region every year and generated more than \$364 million in revenue annually for the local economy.



## **PROTECT FLOODPLAINS.**

Conserving natural floodplains helps local government avoid the long-term costs of protecting property and infrastructure. Floodplains provide natural flood management, erosion control, groundwater recharge and natural storm water filtration, saving communities million of dollars over the years.



## **PROTECT HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY.**

Rivers and stream banks are home to hundreds of species, including many threatened or endangered plants and animals. River parkways also protect biodiversity, restore wildlife corridors and improve water quality.