



CALIFORNIA  
STATE PARKS  
FOUNDATION

# parklands

The Newsletter for Members of CSPF | Fall 2016

## 2015-16 Annual Report Edition



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California State Parks Foundation is a member-supported nonprofit dedicated to protecting and improving our state parks and expanding access to their natural beauty, rich culture and history, and recreational and educational opportunities for all Californians, now and in the future.

With your support, we advance this mission by providing financial and technical assistance for park projects and partners, mobilizing volunteers statewide, bringing insight and awareness to pressing park issues, influencing policy and legislation that supports an excellent and sustainable state park system, and rallying the voices of members, park users and advocates.



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# Thank you

This special 2015-16 Annual Report issue of *Parklands* highlights just some of the many ways your California State Parks Foundation membership and contributions have helped strengthen and sustain our state parks for current and future generations of visitors.

Your generous support this year helped provide Californians with rich recreational and educational experiences in our magnificent state parks, from weekend family gatherings and wildlife sightings to first-time campouts and awe-inspiring hikes through pristine habitat.

As you know, California's state parks have weathered significant challenges in recent years. Your voice, your time, your financial support—your contributions have made all the difference. The expanding role of park partners in maintaining and managing park resources and the recently approved 2016-17 state budget, which includes millions of dollars in special funds to advance major park initiatives, are very encouraging signs of the impact we are making together.

We hope you'll read through the following pages to see even more evidence of the vital work you're making possible—much-needed park improvements big and small, thousands of hours put in by volunteers throughout the state, innovative outdoor learning programs for urban youth, and a unified community of park supporters rallying on behalf of our parks, to name just a few.

Thank you, again, for your support—we are deeply grateful for your partnership in keeping our state parks vibrant and healthy for all to enjoy, today and in the future.



ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK © CLIFF LAPLANT



**WE LOVE  
HEARING FROM YOU**

Contact us at any time at [members@calparks.org](mailto:members@calparks.org), sign up for eNews and action alerts at [calparks.org](http://calparks.org), or follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates and news.

David Mandeklern, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Mandeklern'.

Elizabeth Goldstein, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Goldstein'.





# You help improve parks for millions of visitors

EL CAPITÁN STATE BEACH © RAY FORD

## Your gifts become grants for important park projects

Park Enrichment Grants provide direct financial support for facility upgrades; restoration of habitat and historic buildings; trail, river and beach cleanups; and other vital projects that keep parks healthy and accessible.

Since 2009, CSPF has awarded over \$1.2 million to enhance the experiences of park visitors. In 2015-16, 44 grants totaling \$225,000 were made possible by the ongoing and generous support of CSPF members, donors and funders.

One grant is opening up a world of possibilities at El Capitán State Beach with improved signage drawing visitor attention to an underutilized 2,500-acre scenic wilderness area. Funds are allowing the Santa Barbara County Trails Council to install an entrance sign, kiosk, trail markers and maps. These wayfinding tools will not only eliminate confusion about the location of the entrance and parking lot, but also provide visitors with hiking options and directions for getting from the main oceanside park to the wilderness area. *This grant was funded by Anchor Brewing Company, which has partnered with CSPF since 2013 to help fund improvements in our parks.*

Although its annual Early California Days event has grown in recent years, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation has not been

able to serve all third-grade classes that want to participate in this living history program at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park. Grant funds supported transportation costs for students who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. "The ability to offer free transportation not only increased attendance, but also raised the visibility of the Early California Days program in the community," says Executive Director Anne Peterson. "This year we served 85 students from Lompoc and 300 students from Santa Maria who would not have been able to attend without the support of the CSPF grant."

*This grant was funded by the Margaret Donner Spencer Endowment Fund, which was established by a generous donation from the William H. Donner Foundation.*

Several recent grants emphasized capacity building for park partner organizations, which play an increasingly important role in managing and stewarding state parks. One such grant is revitalizing a remote park that was threatened with closure in 2012 by supporting organizational planning for a new

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**"We are very excited to receive a grant from CSPF, which will ensure that more people can experience this wild and scenic recreation area with its spectacular ocean and mountain views."**

**MARK WILKINSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY TRAILS COUNCIL**

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partner, Friends of North Bloomfield and Malakoff Diggins. "The grant will make it possible for us to do the in-depth strategic planning and capacity-building work that is so essential to successful support of the park, both short and long term," says Executive Board Member Holly Mitten. ●

Learn more about the impact of other recently funded projects at [calparks.org/whatwedo/grants](http://calparks.org/whatwedo/grants).



FOLSOM STATE RECREATION AREA © STEPHEN VAN LYDEGRAF



PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK © BETTY DI REGOLO

## Your generosity mobilizes volunteers to keep parks healthy

The Park Champions Program, supported by generous CSPF donors, mobilizes volunteers who want to make a positive impact on their state parks. In 2015-16, more than 1,400 volunteers completed over 10,000 work hours and 180 projects to improve park facilities and protect habitat and wildlife.

Since its launch in 2010, Park Champions has grown from just 10 participating parks to 38. At Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park near Bakersfield, dedicated volunteers help steward the important but underfunded site of the only California town founded, financed and governed by African Americans. Volunteers from as far south as Los Angeles and as far north as Sacramento gather regularly to help maintain the park's facilities and historical buildings so that visitors from the local community and beyond can enjoy relaxing at the park and learning about its rich history.

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**“Volunteers are some of the best people you will meet, and that starts with their shared interest in making our parks a better place for this and future generations.”**

STEPHEN VAN LYDEGRAF, PARK CHAMPIONS CORE LEADER

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Volunteers at Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area in Southern California and Folsom Lake State Recreation Area in Northern California—new sites added in 2015-16—have spent several workdays clearing trails of brush and invasive plants and collecting more than one ton of garbage, among other activities. Their work will ensure safer and improved recreational experiences for the thousands of youth and adults who visit the parks each year. ●

Learn more or sign up to help at [calparks.org/help/park-champions](http://calparks.org/help/park-champions).

### KEY VOLUNTEER CHAMPIONS PARKS STATEWIDE

Stephen Van Lydegraf began his lifelong love affair with the outdoors as a young Cub Scout and Boy Scout. He became concerned several years ago when he learned of possible state park closures, and he joined CSPF to show his support for parks.

Stephen learned about the Park Champions program and was eager to become more involved as he thought about approaching retirement. “I wanted to focus on doing something that was fun and rewarding but also made a contribution to society,” he says.

Over the past two years, Stephen has worked at 11 different parks and is now a Core Leader, roving up and down the state to lend his time and expertise where needed. Core Leaders play a critical role in the Park Champions Program by making an ongoing commitment to plan and lead regular workdays.

“In each and every park, you can see the difference. Every volunteer goes home with a feeling of accomplishment,” says Stephen. “As a Core Leader, I look forward to my continuing role in protecting, preserving and improving these special places.” ●



HUMBOLDT REDWOODS STATE PARK © SUSAN TAYLOR



CARDIFF STATE BEACH © JULIANNE BRADFORD

# You help protect parks and their natural and cultural treasures

## Together we empower park partners to make a bigger impact

Recognizing that park partners are vital to the transformation underway for state parks, CSPF’s Technical Assistance Center (TAC) empowers and professionalizes the grassroots community of park partners that have stepped up to steward state parks.

Since its launch in 2011, and through the support of important foundation and individual contributions, TAC has provided expert, no-cost assistance to more than 100 nonprofit park operators, cooperating associations, and other park partners.

In addition to ongoing convenings, webinars and other services, in 2015-16 TAC launched comprehensive wraparound services to provide targeted, high-intensity organizational assistance to nine invited park partners. Through the program, Friends of Cardiff and Carlsbad State Beaches conducted an organizational assessment, adopted its first formal strategic plan, redefined its mission statement and communications plan, and developed successful fundraising events and new donor relationships.

The wraparound services team of consultants helped Mendocino Area Parks Association more than double the number of donations and memberships it receives, expand its social media presence to reach a younger

and more diverse audience of park users, and strengthen its volunteer board. “This work will result in more community connections, more funding, more quality programming and, ultimately, better support for our state parks,” says the organization’s executive director, Jenny Heckeroth.

Mountain Parks Foundation enlisted TAC’s help to build its capacity to lead a major campaign to renovate the much-loved Nature Lodge Museum at Big Basin Redwoods State Park. “The new museum will inspire a new generation of park visitors to become stewards of this special place, making a real difference now and for years to come,” notes Brenda Holmes, executive director of the foundation.

By ensuring the success of park partners in providing the best possible visitor experiences to millions of Californians, TAC plays a fundamental role in protecting and strengthening our state parks. ●

“Technical assistance from CSPF has helped transform us from a group of campers and surfers to a viable and sustainable business-minded nonprofit—all in one year. Thank you!”

KATHLEEN KOOIMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
FRIENDS OF CARDIFF AND CARLSBAD STATE BEACHES



CANDLESTICK POINT STATE RECREATION AREA © TERI LENFEST



COURTESY TOP GRADE CONSTRUCTION

## You are helping restore and create a “park for the people”

The development of Candlestick Point State Recreation Area is one of the most inspiring stories in state park history.

### TELLING CANDLESTICK’S STORY

In anticipation of the opening of the expanded park, CSPF is collaborating with DPR, longtime community partner Literacy for Environmental Justice and other local groups and partners to develop rich place-based educational programs.

“For over a decade, we have been engaging Bayview-Hunters Point youth and residents in the restoration and stewardship of Yosemite Slough. We are excited to tap local knowledge and experience to help develop interpretive programs at the park that will tell the many important stories of the nature and history of this community.”

**PATRICK RUMP**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
LITERACY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

A group of passionate community members fought to establish San Francisco’s Candlestick Point as California’s first urban state park in 1977 as a “park for the people.” In the following decades, state funds dwindled and the northern section of the park has remained inaccessible for decades. Since 2003, CSPF has partnered with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and others to develop a comprehensive plan to realize the park’s full recreational, educational, and environmental potential.

Thanks to your generous contributions and the sustained collaboration of key partners, in 2015-16 CSPF successfully concluded fundraising to launch Phase 2 of the Yosemite Slough Restoration Project. Once completed, this major wetlands restoration and park development effort will open the northern Yosemite Slough section of Candlestick Point to the public.

With its state-of-the-art education center and programs, waterfront hiking and biking trails, and stunning natural setting, the park expansion



will help connect local residents to open space, protect vital habitat and wildlife, improve quality of life in a historically underserved part of San Francisco, and transform a former industrial pollution site into a world-class urban park.

CSPF Advisory Board Member and former teacher Connie Lurie and her husband, Bob (an owner of the San Francisco Giants from 1976 to 1993) made a major gift to support the project. “We spent 17 years at Candlestick Park with the Giants, so we feel that we have a real connection to this area and to the community,” notes Connie. “We look forward to seeing schoolchildren, families from the community, and people from the whole Bay Area enjoying this park.” ●



You help  
engage  
Californians  
in using and  
stewarding  
our parks

## California youth enjoy park-based learning

Research increasingly points to the need for children to spend time outdoors in natural settings to maximize their physical and intellectual potential. Since 2009, the Summer Enrichment Program has given nearly 15,000 urban youth the chance to experience state parks—most for the first time—and expand their education by connecting with nature.

In summer 2015, the program hosted students at 11 parks statewide. Generous support from CSPF members and funders including the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Community Benefit Programs enabled us to engage new partners and youth groups and expand to serve over 3,000 students at 13 parks in summer 2016.

Elementary and middle school children from Oceanside and San Dieguito Boys and Girls Clubs got to apply their classroom knowledge in the outdoors at the new South Carlsbad State Beach program site. They learned about marine debris and water quality, ocean flora and fauna, and lifeguards and what they do. In addition to collecting trash and recycling along the beach, the students got to meet veteran lifeguards and try some of their equipment, watch dolphins and swimmers through binoculars, and use hydrometers and testing kits to measure salinity and oxygen content in water samples.

Also new to this year's program was a partnership with Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods in Sonoma County. High school students spent two weeks at Armstrong Redwoods State Park in a combined work and educational program focused on habitat restoration and environmental

careers. Fifth through eighth graders participated in citizen science monitoring of seabirds and pinnipeds at Sonoma Coast State Park. And a three-day bilingual family campout with Latino Outdoors introduced new families to hiking, camping and kayaking in their local state parks.

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**“Thank you a million times for making this opportunity available for our kids. It was indeed a life-changing experience.”**

TOMMY BREWER II, THINK TOGETHER

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And for the first time, students from Los Angeles area summer programs tuned in to PORTS (Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students) at Crystal Cove State Beach. This live video conferencing component enabled over 1,300 youth to benefit from park-based environmental learning that helps stem the summer learning gap, improve academic performance, and increase knowledge of their natural environment. ●



## CSPF's Earth Day turns 18!

In 2016, CSPF held its 18th Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup on April 16 to engage members of the public in a day of action and stewardship at their local state parks. Over 2,000 volunteers rolled up their sleeves and tackled dozens of improvement projects at 27 state parks from Mendocino down to Los Angeles.

The thousands of work hours contributed by volunteers in honor of Earth Day made much-needed park improvements possible at a time when many state parks continue to face limited staff and budget resources and helped get parks throughout the state ready to welcome more park users during the busy summer season.

Volunteers planted over 1,800 native plants and trees, removed over 2,200 cubic yards of non-native plants, collected more than 450 bags of trash and recycling, built split rail fences, installed new signs and trail markers, refurbished campgrounds, removed graffiti, repaired restrooms, built animal-proof food storage lockers, and beautified parks for all to enjoy.

At Bolsa Chica State Beach, 83 do-gooders rehabilitated the Campfire Center, installed rain barrels and cleared invasives in the native plant garden, and more. "I think a lot of community minds were changed that day as our everyday visitors learned about ice plant and sea rocket and how they are detrimental to the area," reports the park's interpretive specialist Elizabeth Bremmer.

At Sonoma Coast State Park, over 80 volunteers renovated Pomo Campground, repaired a bridge, cleared overgrowth, and cleaned up tires, trash, and other debris at North Jenner Beach. "The volunteers can all feel proud that we saved many seabirds and marine life from the dangers of plastic, and the new fence at Pomo will protect the fragile understory plants in the redwood forest from being trampled to death," says Michele Luna, Executive Director of Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, the nonprofit partner that operates Sonoma Coast and other nearby parks.

Thank you to our members, volunteers and sponsors for making great things happen for the parks we all love! ●



CALIFORNIA  
STATE PARKS  
FOUNDATION  
**EARTH DAY**  
— 2016 —

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“Eighty-five volunteers were able to collect over 50 bags of trash and litter, plant 40 native oak trees, and replace over 200 feet of split rail fence. What an achievement! I’m proud to be called part of this team.”

STEVE BARBER, MILLERTON LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA

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# You help rally critical support for state parks



## ADVOCATES RAISE AWARENESS

CSPF lobbies for state parks year-round, but one day each year we bring together park supporters from throughout California to make a huge impact at the State Capitol. In May 2016, over 150 park supporters joined CSPF in Sacramento for our 14th Annual Park Advocacy Day. Collectively, our advocates met with over 120 policymakers, making a compelling statement of support for California's 280 state parks and urging their support for legislation that will:

- Fund state parks for the future
- Increase park access and relevance
- Support efforts of state park partners
- Ensure that the names of public state parks and key facilities cannot be claimed for private gain or purposes

Our State Park Action Network works with member organizations statewide to raise awareness of California's state parks and advocate in support of policies that will help achieve state park excellence. Over 110 member organizations include businesses, chambers of commerce, local governments and nonprofit organizations. Learn more at [stateparkaction.org](http://stateparkaction.org).



## Your voice in Sacramento for parks

Thanks to you and many other park supporters, CSPF carries a strong voice to Sacramento to advocate for park-friendly policy and legislation.

The 2016-17 State Budget approved by Governor Brown includes several big victories for park users and the state parks community.

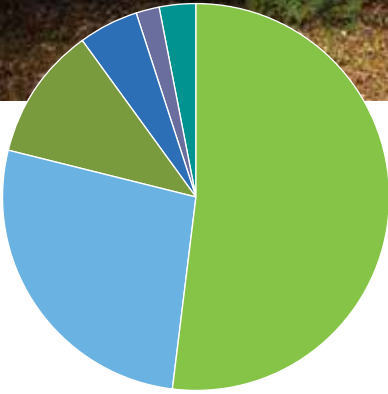
- \$60 million for deferred maintenance will allow DPR to make critical repairs necessary to preserve visitor safety and enjoyment and protect our natural and cultural resources.
- \$3 million will support renovation of the historic hospital at the Angel Island Immigration Station.
- \$700,000 will enable work to begin on a solar electric project at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park, a remote and off-the-grid park. CSPF has provided financial and other support for this project since 2012.
- \$367,000 will support a pilot community outreach project to engage underserved and underrepresented communities from two of the largest urban population centers in the state, Los Angeles and the Bay Area.
- \$181,000 will enable a pilot project to develop and implement a new model of interpretation of California's rich history and culture through the state parks system.

In addition, CSPF supported two bills that were passed in fall 2015, strengthening the role of park partners in stewarding parks and serving visitors. Assembly Bill 549 by Assemblymember Marc Levine (D-San Rafael) encourages the development of more overnight accommodations in state parks and allows DPR to partner with nonprofits to operate the accommodations. Senate Bill 204 by Senator Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills) acknowledges the important role of nonprofit organizations in managing state parks and removes the 2017 sunset on DPR's authority to enter into operating agreements with nonprofit partners. ●

Learn more about CSPF's legislative and advocacy agenda at [calparks.org/whatwedo/advocacy](http://calparks.org/whatwedo/advocacy).

# 2015-16 numbers in review

RICHARDSON GROVE STATE PARK © TIM WILLEY



**CONTRIBUTIONS: \$9.7 million**

#### Sources of Contributions

- Individuals 52%
- Foundations and Nonprofits 27%
- Corporations 11%
- Legacy Gifts 5%
- Government 2%
- Other 3%

Since its founding in 1969, CSPF has raised over \$256 million to benefit state parks and park users.



Volunteers Engaged: 4,200



Park

Champions Workdays: 180 (over 10,000 volunteer hours!) at 38 state parks



Grants Awarded:

44 grants totaling \$225,000 Summer Enrichment

Youth Participants: 3,000+ at 13 parks statewide



Member Actions: 4,450 messages from our

advocates were delivered to legislators at the State

Capitol to support important parks legislation



CSPF's 2015-16 audited financial statements will be posted in January 2017 at [calparks.org/aboutus/financials](http://calparks.org/aboutus/financials), where you can also find financial and annual reports from previous years.



# Members and donors make all the difference

## Thank you for your support

CSPF members and donors make all our work possible! We truly appreciate the generous support of individuals, foundations, corporations and government agencies and are pleased to recognize contributors of \$1,000 or more between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

### **\$500,000+**

S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation  
Hellman Foundation  
Connie & Robert Lurie

### **\$100,000-\$499,999**

Loews Coronado Bay Resort  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
Betty Quayle\*  
Raintree Foundation  
Resources Legacy Fund  
Subway Restaurants  
TI Media Solutions, Inc.

### **\$50,000-\$99,999**

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The Boyle Family Trust\*  
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Kaiser Permanente Northern CA  
Community Benefit Programs  
Toyota Motor Sales USA  
Arlin Weinberger

### **\$25,000-\$49,999**

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Foundation  
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### **\$10,000-\$24,999**

Anonymous (5)  
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Shirley Bogardus  
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John & Diane Furlan  
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Jennifer Chaiken &  
Sam Hamilton  
Jimmie & Helen Cho  
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Catherine M. & James Fisher  
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Richard Ross  
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Leslie Smith  
Pearl Stedman  
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Megan & Guy Albertelli  
Madelyn Alfano  
John & Maureen Alvarez  
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Marcia Anderson  
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“Our values—including our love of unspoiled places—have to be passed on, and that inheritance has to include the parks themselves.”

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# Get involved

We could not accomplish any of our work without the support of our members, donors and volunteers. You make an enormous difference in helping us carry out programs and projects for the benefit of state parks and the millions of Californians who use them. Learn more about the many ways you can help support our work.

## CONTRIBUTE

Our donors enable us to continue our steadfast support of California's state parks. We welcome and appreciate gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations, as well as estate gifts and in-kind donations.

## BE A MEMBER

Our power comes from thousands of people like you who have joined together as CSPF members to show their support for state parks. As a member, you help protect the natural and cultural beauty of our parks, and enjoy membership benefits too! For information, visit [calparks.org/membership](http://calparks.org/membership) or contact us at [members@calparks.org](mailto:members@calparks.org) or (800) 963-7275.

## JOIN THE CALIFORNIANS LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

As a member of the Californians Leadership Circle, you can help shape the future of our magnificent parks as one of their most valued leaders. Membership begins with a donation of \$1,000 or more, and benefits include invitations to special events, a California Explorer annual parks pass, and more. Visit [calparks.org/leadershipcircle](http://calparks.org/leadershipcircle) for more information or call (800) 963-7275.

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## SPEAK UP

Your voice matters! Speak out for parks online, to your legislators or at our annual Park Advocacy Day. For ways to use your voice to help state parks, visit [calparks.org/speakup](http://calparks.org/speakup).

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California's 280 state parks need you! Please visit them, be inspired, learn, relax and have fun. To stay up-to-date about California's magnificent state parks, connect with CSPF by joining our email list on [calparks.org](http://calparks.org) and following us on Facebook.



## Leave Your Legacy

Legacy gifts allow many people to support state parks in a way that they may not be able to do during their lifetime. Their foresight, and yours should you choose to join them, strengthens and helps ensure the future of California's state parks.

We would be especially grateful to you for naming California State Parks Foundation as a beneficiary of your will, life income gift, retirement account or other planned gift.

We'll recognize your commitment by inviting you to join our William Penn Mott, Jr. Legacy Society, whose members are recognized in our publications and with invitations to special events. Anonymity is always an option.

For more information, visit [myplanwithcalparks.org](http://myplanwithcalparks.org) or contact Vice President of Development Margie Shurgot at (415) 262-4403 or [legacy@calparks.org](mailto:legacy@calparks.org).



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