

2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION

Protecting and preserving
the California state park
system, for the benefit of all.



WHAT WE DO

It has been over 50 years since California State Parks Foundation was founded, and a lot has happened in that time. In 1969, a group of men and women sat in the governor's office in Sacramento discussing an idea. When they left the office, they had volunteered to be the first board members of California State Parks Foundation, and the organization was born.

This past year marked an exciting milestone for us: the 50th anniversary of protecting and preserving the California state parks system. Since October 2, 1969, we have risen to the challenge of meeting park needs, no matter the circumstances. Early in our history, we helped grow the system by acquiring land for the state. As California's state parks were in a period of rapid growth, we were a leader in safeguarding our state's natural and historical resources. When parks were threatened with closure in the early 2000s, California State Parks Foundation fought to keep parks open. As state parks have faced budget cuts and a lack of resources, our volunteerism program has been a critical partner in stewarding parks for the visitors and wildlife who rely on them. When COVID-19 hit, California State Parks Foundation provided grants for safety in parks and helped keep parks open for visitors. We worked with the legislature to keep California state parks funded when the budget was tight, and funds were nearly cut due to the pandemic.

Through advocacy, volunteerism, partnerships, and membership, California State Parks Foundation empowers Californians to experience, engage with, and champion their state parks – ensuring they will thrive now and for future generations.

POLICY CHAMPIONS

No matter what is happening in Sacramento, we always make sure parks have a seat at the table. Parks generate revenue for California; protect open space; help fight climate change; and create health, recreational, and educational opportunities for people throughout the entire state. We continuously fight for parks because the benefits they provide are necessary for the well-being of all Californians.

Our team is active in the Capitol and has a pulse on what is important to policymakers every year. We work to create legislative champions to protect and preserve state parks.



ENGAGING ADVOCATES



Hosting the Pathways to Parks Policy Forum:

At the end of 2019, this event brought together a cross-section of state leaders and advocates to discuss the status of children's health in California today. The panel discussions focused on developing solutions to leverage California's state parks as a tool to improve youth health, especially for those in underserved communities. To learn more about the speakers and panels, read the full recap on our blog at calparks.org/forum.

Bringing advocates together for Park Advocacy Day:

In May, we came together as a parks community for our 18th annual Park Advocacy Day. While this year looked and felt different, it was still an impactful day for parks. Even though we had to make the difficult decision to meet virtually and not walk the halls of the Capitol, it didn't stop us from advocating for parks! We were joined by two park champions and leaders for parks: Angela Barranco, Undersecretary of the California Natural Resources Agency and Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, Chair of the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. Read more at calparks.org/pad2020.



Angela Barranco,
Undersecretary of the
California Natural Resources
Agency and Assemblymember
Eduardo Garcia



State budget wins during uncertain times:

In June, Governor Newsom signed California's 2020-2021 state budget. This maintained critical funding for California's state parks as social distancing became the new normal, which increased demand for state parks and outdoor recreation. The final budget represented a shift from the May Revise, which outlined reductions in funding for the state park system, including a \$30 million annual reduction. Responding to public demand and support for parks, legislative champions stepped up to deliver necessary funding for parks, passing a budget that the governor supported. Learn more about this year's state budget at calparks.org/statebudget2020.

2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The State Legislature passed and the governor signed several key park bills in the 2019 legislative session. We are proud to have moved these key issues forward, while recognizing continued advocacy is needed for parks to remain a priority. Below are some of the highlights.



Reviewed, analyzed, and tracked over **2,000 introduced bills**.



An exciting **win in support of gender equity** was achieved through Assembly Bill 467 (Boerner Horvath) requiring competitions on state property and public lands to offer equal prize and compensation among all genders.



Through Assembly Bill 1680 (Limón), a **coastal access plan** for Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara will be developed, ensuring this public land is available for all to experience.



A new **smoking ban on state parks and state beaches** will become law now that Senate Bill 8 (Glazer) was also signed, hopefully reducing cigarette litter that pollutes these lands.



Assembly Bill 209 (Limón) ensures that **new pathways to the outdoors** will be created for California's youth through a new educational grant program.



Senate Bill 367 (Hueso) bolsters protection of our coastal resources through education grants and programs.

CALIFORNIA'S 2020-21 STATE BUDGET

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Californians have made their need for parks heard loud and clear – the fact is, the need for parks has never been greater and support for them has never been more apparent. Together, we fought to keep parks funded in California's 2020-21 state budget. Some major wins include:

\$20

million for the Assembly Bill 209 outdoor equity grants

The proposed

\$30

million baseline cut to the Department of Parks and Recreation (2021-22) was rejected

\$197.33

million for local assistance grants through Proposition 68

\$4.875

million from Proposition 68 for nonprofit operated park unit deferred maintenance

\$150

million to backfill the loss of revenue from park fees and fuel tax as a result of COVID-19

\$44.34

million of deferred maintenance funds from Proposition 68

\$572

thousand from Proposition 68 for the Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park Visitor Center

\$178

thousand in Special Funds for low-cost accommodations study at the Silver Strand State Beach



PARTNER CHAMPIONS

California State Parks Foundation also enhances and improves state parks by serving as a leader in the field – providing resources, financial support, networking opportunities, and other guidance to park partner organizations. We strategically award grants to support park projects aligned with our mission to maximize our collective statewide impact.



ENGAGING FUTURE PARK STEWARDS

Our leading champion and chair of *Pathways to Parks*, First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, spent time with us visiting California state parks, meeting with partners, and learning more about impactful programming working to improve the health and wellness of California's youth. It was a day of learning and listening to the trailblazers making equitable access to our public lands a reality for all Californians. Read about the day and the incredible partners that came together for the future of parks at calparks.org/LAday.



KEEPING PARKS WHOLE

Park closures due to COVID-19 resulted in massive revenue loss for state parks. To support California's state parks and park partner organizations, we created a grant round to ensure parks were supported during the initial adjustment to the pandemic. The Keeping Parks Whole grant round gave \$100,000 in funding to support needs such as staff positions, park maintenance, and park programs. For more detail on the grant round, visit our blog at calparks.org/keepingparkswhole.

Some highlights of the grant round include:

Anza-Borrego Foundation Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

A grant provided Junior Ranger adventure kits and technology updates to help youth and adults stay connected to the park through digital experiences. It also supported costs associated with new COVID-19 regulations and helped maintain programming of interpretive experiences such as Camp Borrego.



South Yuba River Citizens League Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park and South Yuba River State Park

This grant helped resume critical programming and provided additional training for volunteer "River Ambassadors" to comply with public health guidance around COVID-19. River Ambassadors set up various educational booths that operate during busy weekends. They provide park maps and pamphlets with information on trail locations, safety signage, children's activities, and satellite phones to reach emergency personnel.

Mendocino Area Parks Association Greenwood State Beach, MacKerricher State Park, Mendocino Headlands State Park, and Van Damme State Park

This grant helped expand the PORTS program at this park and helped create a Backyard Junior Ranger program. This program featured a free kit with a summer's worth of fun, and shared educational activities designed for kids.



PARKS FUNDED IN THE KEEPING PARKS WHOLE GRANT ROUND



VOLUNTEER CHAMPIONS

California State Parks Foundation's year-round volunteerism program organizes over 100 workdays annually to protect and preserve state parks across California. In partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation, California State Parks Foundation generates high-quality workday service projects to attend to unmet needs and engage Californians with their local parks. We recruit, train, and support individuals to do hands-on volunteer work to restore and improve parks to build current and future park stewards. Workdays throughout the state are made possible by volunteer "Core Leaders" who take their involvement to the next level by helping plan and lead our events.

Our volunteers provide consistent, sustainable support for park staff and help with critical projects, such as planting native plants, removing invasive species, repairing trails, and clearing brush to reduce wildfire risk.



VOLUNTEERING ACROSS THE STATE

We held over 100 volunteer workdays throughout the year to benefit more than 40 parks across California, including workdays in response to COVID-19 that were planned to be safe for volunteers and park staff. Over 1,000 volunteers contributed over 8,000 hours to make improvements to our parks. From Candlestick Point State Recreation Area to Border Field State Park, supporters helped protect these priceless resources for today and for generations to come. To read a full overview of volunteer projects in parks in the last year, read our blog at calparks.org/volunteers2020.



100% of park staff reported that our volunteer workdays had a noticeable positive impact on their state park(s).



86% of park staff felt that new people became engaged with their park(s) as a result of California State Parks Foundation's volunteer program.



91% of volunteers reported that participation in our volunteer workdays made them feel more connected to state parks.



EARTH DAY 2020

Due to COVID-19, we shifted resources and redirected \$75,000 in Earth Day funds to help address immediate needs in parks. Grant funding was directed to California state parks and partner groups stretching from north to south and serving both urban and rural families, with the goal of helping parks address new safety needs, distance learning, and ongoing maintenance needs for trails and facilities.

For a list of all the projects, read our blog at calparks.org/earthdaygrantees.

Some projects made possible through this support include:

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park Gold Discovery Park Association

This grant helped **repair existing ADA trails** and brought the trails back to ADA required standards. ADA trails provide park access for people with disabilities, especially people in wheelchairs or those who have difficulty walking on steep or uneven trails.

Jack London State Historic Park Jack London Park Partners

These funds **addressed the park's overwhelming fire hazards**, which included clearing dangerously overgrown eucalyptus groves, fixing backcountry trails, and removing understory to maintain vital emergency access.

Leo Carrillo State Park California State Parks

This grant helped purchase the equipment to **implement distance learning programs for the first time**, in order to continue educating the public about this beautiful park and its resources.



PARKS FUNDED IN THE EARTH DAY GRANT ROUND

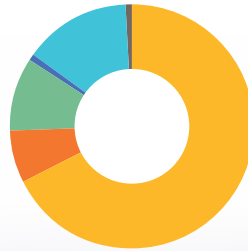


FINANCIALS

Since our founding in 1969, California State Parks Foundation has raised over \$300 million to benefit state parks and park users. **In 2019-20, our supporters contributed \$6.76 million*.**

SOURCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

- Individuals 67.7%
- Legacy Gifts 6.9%
- Foundation 9.6%
- Government Grants 0.8%
- Corporate Gifts 14.4%
- Other 0.6%



*Contribution data is unaudited. California State Parks Foundation's 2019-20 audited financial statements will be posted online when available at calparks.org/financials, where you can also find financial and annual reports from previous years.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

California State Parks Foundation members and donors are protecting and preserving the California state parks system, for the benefit of all. The generous support of individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies makes our work possible, and we are pleased to recognize contributors of \$1,000 or more between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

\$100,000+

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BY THE NUMBERS

125

workdays in **42** state parks between July 1, 2019 and March 8, 2020 (last workday prior to COVID-19).

8,618

volunteer hours for parks

1,255

volunteers in parks

41

grants awarded totaling **\$175,000** to support parks impacted by COVID-19

9,114

action alert responses asking legislators to support parks and protect public land

6,645

advocates raised their voices for the future of state parks

207

grassroots advocates engaged at our first virtual Park Advocacy Day

1,924

participants attended **six** virtual events to expand our coalitions



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

We could not accomplish any of our work without the support of our members, donors, and volunteers. They 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. For more information on ways to donate, visit calparks.org/donate.

DONATE MONTHLY

Monthly giving is an easy way to make a big impact. Your reliable monthly support will ensure we have the resources to protect, improve, and advocate for all of California's state parks — today and in the future. To set up your monthly gift today, visit calparks.org/monthly.

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.

EXPLORE OUR NEW WEBSITE

With our 50th anniversary this past year came a branding refresh and a new website. We hope this new website gives insight into the incredible work we do that is only possible through partnership with our members, donors, park partners, and legislators. Visit the new website at calparks.org.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are critical to the work we do taking care of state parks. Together, we can accomplish so much to make our parks safe and enjoyable for visitors and their natural inhabitants. To sign up for a volunteer day near you, visit calparks.org/volunteer.

SPEAK UP

Your voice matters! Speak out for parks online, to your legislators, or at our annual Park Advocacy Day. To learn more about our ongoing advocacy efforts and how you can take action, visit calparks.org/advocacy.

CONNECT

California's 280 state parks need you! Please visit them, be inspired, learn, relax, and have fun. To stay up-to-date on our projects and programs, park events and activities, and more ways you can support parks every day, visit our blog at calparks.org/blog and connect with us on social media:

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