MISSION

Protecting and preserving the California state park system, for the benefit of all.
A LEGACY FOR PARKS

California’s state parks comprise the largest and most diverse natural and cultural heritage holdings of any state in the nation. They include beaches, underwater refuges, museums, lighthouses, ghost towns, wilderness areas, and more. State parks’ peaks, deserts, redwoods, and coastlines are some of the most immediately recognizable natural features in the world. For 52 years, California State Parks Foundation has been the leading statewide voice advocating for a sustainably funded state park system, access to parks for all, and enduring park protection.

The organization was founded in 1969 by William Penn Mott, Jr., to be a partner to the California Department of Parks and Recreation in protecting and preserving state parks. As Director of California State Parks, William Penn Mott, Jr., rallied a core group of friends and park supporters to form California State Parks Foundation. This group believed that parks needed an independent nonprofit partner to help engage a broader audience of park supporters, access and inspire philanthropy, and better serve more diverse communities. They committed to improving the quality of life for all Californians by expanding access to the many benefits of state parks.

Over the course of 52 years, California State Parks Foundation has built a dedicated community of over 70,000 members and raised more than $300 million to benefit state parks. Today, California has the largest and most biologically diverse state park system in the nation, with 280 park units that are vitally important to the well-being of our state’s environment, economy, and quality of life. California State Parks Foundation continues to fight for our state parks wherever and whenever they need us.
If we learned anything in the 2020-21 fiscal year, it was to be resilient, accept uncertainty, and do our best to meet the challenges of the moment.

The 2020 historic fire season damaged Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve, and many other California state parks – burning more than 4 million acres in California. This amounted to more than double the previous record for the most land burned in a single year in the state. California State Parks Foundation supporters stepped up, funding $50,000 in emergency grants to parks and park employees to replace lost equipment and personal possessions, and then an additional $160,917 to help parks be more resilient and protected from future fires.

Perseverance and resilience were required to endure a 15-year-long fight to protect San Onofre State Beach, an important natural habitat and cultural site threatened by a proposed toll road. The efforts paid off when Assembly Bill (AB) 1426 was signed into law by Governor Newsom, protecting this storied park forever.

Sometimes our parks need our help to be resilient. Rather than encouraging volunteers to gather at events, we pivoted to a do-it-yourself Earth Day, encouraging park lovers to pick up trash at their local parks. This helped build champions and stewards and more resilient communities.

Finally, we recognized that resilience is much more difficult for some people than for others, and we are deepening our commitment to fully integrate the principles of justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity into our work. We’re working to address systems of oppression and create a future California state park system that is welcoming and accessible to all.

Our work would not be possible without the many corporations, foundations, donors, and members of California State Parks Foundation. Thank you for continuing to be champions for California state parks!

Rachel Norton
Executive Director
THEORY OF CHANGE
How we create change for parks

MISSION
WHY WE ARE HERE.
Protecting and preserving the California state park system, for the benefit of all.

LEARN
To determine the best solutions and practices, we work to develop a deep understanding of significant issues facing parks and monitor current trends in the environmental, social justice, and parks space.

EDUCATE
The future depends diverse and constituents individuals partners engaged a voice in of power.

OUR APPROACH
HOW WE DRIVE IMPACT.

LEARN
To determine the best solutions and practices, we work to develop a deep understanding of significant issues facing parks and monitor current trends in the environmental, social justice, and parks space.

EDUCATE
The future depends diverse and constituents individuals partners engaged a voice in of power.

GOALS
THE CRITICAL WORK THAT WILL LEAD TO SUCCESS.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY
Building climate resilient parks and impacts of climate change and remain

EQUITABLE ACCESS
Reducing barriers and expanding accessibility to the positive impact parks have on

HONORING HISTORY AND CULTURE
Preserving and honoring sites, artifacts, contributions, and experiences of everyone who has called California home.

PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND NATURE
Stewarding native habitats so that wildlife and plants in California state parks are protected and preserved for future generations.

PARK EXPERIENCES
Improving parks and innovating programs so that state park visitors have meaningful and relevant experiences while visiting

PARK FUNDING
Advocating so that California state
Every program, every initiative, every action we take at California State Parks Foundation follows an intentional through-line.

The through-line: we learn, we educate, we activate, and we influence. This through-line extends and amplifies our in-the-field learnings, model programs, and innovative solutions to ultimately influence policy and funding decisions in Sacramento and address the critical needs of our state park system, for the benefit of all. While every effort starts at learn, the rest of our through-line approach can be applied with flexibility, informed by the goals we are working to fulfill.

Every step of the way, we carry our legacy and foundational values. Our Theory of Change is how we drive impact and change to achieve our mission.
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 finger on the pulse of what is important to policymakers every year. We work to create legislative champions to protect and preserve state parks.
ENGAGING ADVOCATES

Park Advocacy Day 2021

On April 28, we came together as a parks community for our 19th annual Park Advocacy Day. While we weren’t able to meet in person again this year, attendees showed a passion for parks, with over 300 advocates joining the General Session webinar for two hours of engagement on park issues and hearing from park leaders. Read more at calparks.org/pad2021.

Pathways to Parks – Youth Access for Health and Wellness with the First Partner of California

On August 6, we hosted a discussion with California’s First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom to explore solutions on Pathways to Parks. We were honored to have an incredible panel joining us for a thoughtful conversation about park access and the essential benefits parks provide specifically for youth during this extraordinary time. To read more, visit calparks.org/accesswebinar2020.

Policy Forum 2020: All In For Parks

California State Parks Foundation hosted its second annual Policy Forum: All In For Parks. The two-day event brought together leaders in parks, policy, youth access, public health, climate, and beyond to take on some of the most urgent issues facing our state parks. To learn more about each day, sessions, and speakers, read our blog post at calparks.org/forum2020.
2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The State Legislature passed and the governor signed several key park bills and investments in the 2020 legislative session. We are proud to have moved these key issues forward. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many other priority bills did not move forward. We ended the session recognizing continued advocacy is needed for parks to remain a priority. Below are some of the highlights.

POLICY VICTORIES

Assembly Bill (AB) 1426, California State Park Foundation’s sponsored legislation established permanent protections against road development at San Onofre State Beach.

We successfully fought to restore $20 million in funding for Outdoor Equity grants established by the passage of AB 209 in 2019.

A bill we supported to expand Chino Hills State Park, Assembly Bill (AB) 2021, did not move forward in 2020. Happily, in 2021 Governor Newsom signed a different bill, Senate Bill (SB) 266, to acquire land to expand the park.
CALIFORNIA’S 2021-22 STATE BUDGET

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Californians have made their need for parks 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 2021-22 state budget.

Some major wins include:

$185 million for deferred maintenance in state parks. This will cover cottage rehabilitation at Crystal Cove State Park, lighthouse restoration at Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park, and more investments to improve visitor experience.

$40 million in additional funding for Outdoor Equity grants.

$217 million in spending for fire restoration projects, including planning, removal of post-fire hazards like dead trees, and rebuilding parks that burned.

$68 million to expand existing programs linking state parks with K-12 public schools.

$9 million to launch a pilot program to expand park pass distribution, including a “California State Park Adventure” program for fourth graders and new statewide partnerships with the California State Library and Department of Social Services.

$11.5 million in initial funding for the Department of Parks and Recreation’s Sea Level Rise adaptation strategy.
PARTNER CHAMPIONS

California State Parks Foundation builds partnerships through deep collaboration with state park staff and affiliate nonprofit organizations. We activate a statewide network of champions to address state parks’ most critical needs, create model solutions, and provide immediate help during crises. Through strategic grantmaking, convening of cohorts, and exchanging of lessons learned, we amplify key strategies and solutions to maximize our collective statewide impact.
Endowments & Funds in Action

For over 50 years, California State Parks Foundation has been a trusted partner of donors who have a vision for leaving a legacy to sustain projects and programs they value. Through the establishment of endowments and funds, we help ensure that parks have a future. In Fiscal Year 2021, we were able to provide $2,681,459 from these sources in direct funding for state parks projects and programs. Below are some of the highlights.

**Endowments**

**Margaret Donner Spencer Endowment Fund:** For grants that protect and preserve California’s state parks.

**Ranger Lane Volunteer Enhancement Fund:** Dedicated to volunteer work in California state parks.

**Año Nuevo Steele Ranch Endowment Fund:** Dedicated to the maintenance and protection of habitat for the San Francisco garter snake and the California red-legged frog at the Steele Ranch property, Año Nuevo State Park.

**Funds**

**Candlestick Point State Recreation Area:** $2,276,643 for the restoration and completion of park infrastructure of the Yosemite Slough unit of Candlestick Point State Recreation Area.

**Silver Strand State Beach Expendable Fund:** $200,000 to support park operational needs, help enhance the visitor experience, and protect the resource values at Silver Strand State Beach.

**Outdoor Youth Connection:** $7,000 to connect youth with their peers, their community, the great outdoors, and their own leadership potential.

**San Onofre State Beach:** $25,906 to protect San Onofre State Beach.

**Adopt-A-Beach Program:** $29,949 to support activities related to California Coastal Cleanup Day and programs that seek to educate the public about the coast and ocean and engage the public in coastal stewardship activities.

**Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park:** $12,929 to support Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park Interpretive Fund with the purchase of a John Deere Gator (the “Edu-Gator”) to be used for the interpretive program. The “Edu-Gator” will provide programming from building to building and, during special events, will be used to transport volunteers around the park to support the interpretive programs.

**Cuyamaca Rancho State Park:** $57,660 to support the reforestation of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to reestablish native conifer trees, prescribed burns, seed storage, and reforestation.

**Best Family Fund:** $8,930 to fund volunteer Earth Day projects in Marin County state parks.
In response to the horrifically destructive 2020 California wildfires, California State Parks Foundation raised funds to meet the immediate and urgent needs of parks and their staff who experienced catastrophic losses. The immediate phase totaled $50,000 in grant funding that directly supported California state parks.

In the next phase, we provided 16 amazing state parks and park partner organizations with grants. These grants helped restore fragile habitats and rebuild parks while helping parks become more resilient to climate change. The Wildfire Resiliency and Prevention Grant opportunity included $160,917 in grant funding that supported programs or projects in state parks in one or more of the following four categories:

**Assessment** – Assess fire impact and climate threats to the park, risks to natural habitats, biodiversity, and parklands.

**Restoration** – Restore the natural and built environments impacted by fires and other climate change events.

**Preparedness** – Prepare for the real threat of climate change in parks and build a climate-resilient California.

**Education** – Raise awareness of the impact of climate change and ways to engage in climate resilience activities.

To learn more about this grant round, visit calparks.org/wildfiregrant2020.

**Highlights of the grant round include:**

**Poppy Reserve Mojave Desert Interpretive Association | Arthur B. Ripley State Park**
Restoration included de-compacting soils that were disturbed from fire lines, replanting and restoring Joshua trees that have been destroyed or damaged, and weeding invasive plants that may pose a threat to the local flora.

**California State Parks, Sierra District | Ed Z’Berg Sugar Pine Point State Park**
This project will develop the Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) Fire Ecology Program. The virtual programming will focus on fire ecology in the Sierra District and describe local ecology, indigenous practices, fire history, and modern efforts to build climate-resilient forests, highlighting 20+ years of prescribed fire management in Ed Z’Berg Sugar Pine Point State Park.

**Los Angeles Audubon Society | Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park and Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area**
This project recruited high school students and college interns to the Climate Action Youth Network. Students developed plans to restore native habitat at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park, led community volunteers in removing invasive species that reduce the risk of wildfire ignition and spread, and planted native coastal sage scrub to benefit the surrounding environment.
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.
When you volunteer in a California state park, you’re not only helping dedicated park staff care for these special places, you also are healing the land and enabling others to connect more deeply to it. Volunteers give back and restore landscapes that have nurtured Californians for thousands of years and ensure that they endure for the enjoyment of future generations.

The hard work of a volunteer not only creates positive impact on the park’s resources – it also ripples out in other ways. Each volunteer gains a deeper understanding, learning how the improvements they make will bring real change. With this deeper understanding, volunteers become some of the biggest champions for the environment. They take that knowledge with them as they make choices when they shop, vote, and more. To learn more about volunteer projects in parks across the state, visit calparks.org/volunteer.

100% of volunteers indicated feeling at least moderately connected to state parks due to program participation, with 46% of respondents feeling extremely connected.

100% of volunteers indicated feeling at least moderately part of a community of park supporters, with 50% of respondents indicating extreme connection.

100% of park staff rated the quality of workday impact as high or very high.
EARTH DAY 2021

After a tumultuous year, we were excited to celebrate our state parks for Earth Day. For 2021, we were able to host small in-person volunteer events as well as DIY Earth Day Climate Action events to make sure everyone could participate in this impactful month for parks and the environment. We were blown away by the participation and support. Throughout April, participants showed us they were ready to make a positive impact in their parks. To learn more, visit calparks.org/earthday21.

Highlights of Earth Day 2021 include:

DIY Earth Day Climate Action
Throughout the month of April, we partnered with our friends at REI Co-op to bring our Earth Day Climate Action cleanups to volunteers. Californians across the state were encouraged to register online to receive a free Earth Day Climate Action kit to help clean up their own neighborhoods and local parks. Across California, over 5,300 volunteers participated and collected over 1,300 bags of trash!

In-Person Earth Day Climate Action Events
Due to COVID-19, our in-person Earth Day Climate Action volunteer workdays looked a little different this year. We hosted five in-person workdays across California with a total of 123 volunteers. This small but mighty group of volunteers was able to make a massive impact by working to make parks more climate resilient now and for generations to come. In addition, we also hosted an educational scavenger hunt at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, allowing visitors to learn about the urban park and efforts to combat climate change.

Earth Day Climate Action Webinar
On April 22, we kicked off Earth Day with a special Earth Day Climate Action webinar. Together with a dynamic panel, we discussed what we need to do to make our California state parks more climate resilient on Earth Day and every day. Panelists included California State Parks Environmental Scientist Cara Stafford, California State Parks Foundation Youth Volunteer Core Leader Tanisha Gupta, and REI SoCal Regional Experiences Manager Scott Ammons.
PARKS FUNDED IN THE EARTH DAY 2021 GRANT ROUND

- Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park
- Chino Hills State Park
- China Camp State Park
- Los Angeles Historic State Park
- Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park
- Angel Island State Park
- Crystal Cove State Park
- Montaña de Oro State Park
- South Carlsbad State Beach
- San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park
- Candlestick Point State Recreation Area
- Half Moon Bay State Beach
FINANCIALS

Since our founding in 1969, California State Parks Foundation has raised over $300 million to benefit state parks and park users. In 2020-21, our supporters contributed $9.49 million.*

SOURCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

- Individuals 56.7%
- Legacy Gifts 2.3%
- Foundation 8.1%
- Government Grants 7.9%
- Corporate Gifts 22%
- In-kind 2.9%

*Contribution data is unaudited. California State Parks Foundation’s 2020-21 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, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Stat</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,353</td>
<td>volunteers collected 1,307.5 bags of trash for DIY Earth Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,747.5</td>
<td>volunteer hours for parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>workdays in 16 state parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>542</td>
<td>volunteers in parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>$263,547</td>
<td>to support fighting climate change and wildfire resiliency and prevention in state parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>100,938</td>
<td>action alert connections asking legislators to support parks and protect public land</td>
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<tr>
<td>11,253</td>
<td>advocates raised their voices for the future of state parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>326</td>
<td>grassroots advocates engaged at our second virtual Park Advocacy Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,738</td>
<td>participants attended six virtual events to expand policy education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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:

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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.

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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.

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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.

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