



CALIFORNIA
STATE PARKS
FOUNDATION

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2024–2025



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Our Mission

California State Parks Foundation is an independent, member-supported nonprofit dedicated to protecting and preserving the California state park system, for the benefit of all.

Our Vision

Californians have a state park system that is accessible and relevant, adequately and sustainably funded, and stewarded for future generations.

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Officers

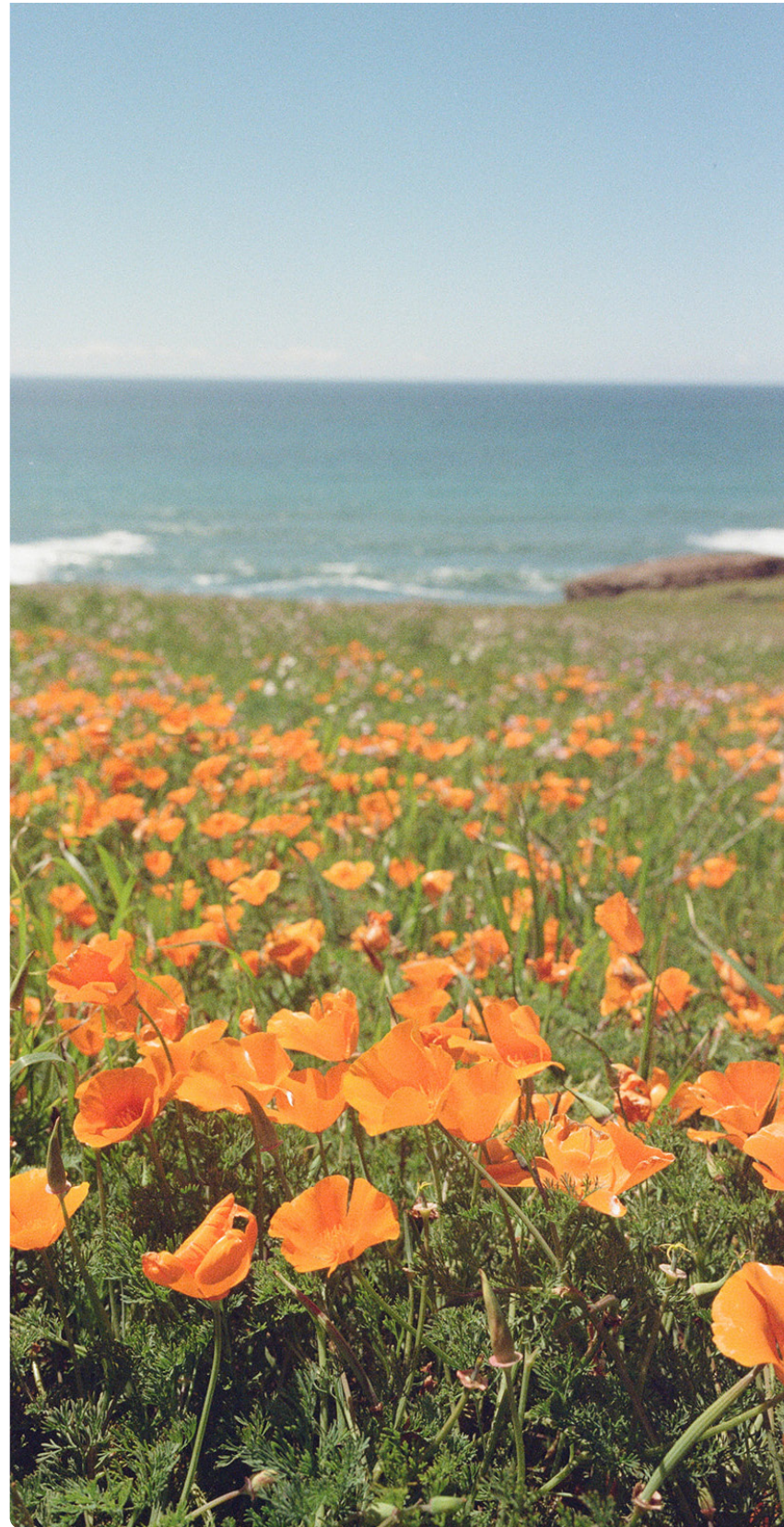
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COVER: Garrapata State Park | PHOTO CREDIT: Ryan Tuttle
 RIGHT: Montaña de Oro State Park | PHOTO CREDIT: David Pierce

Letter From Our Leaders

Dear Friends,

This past year reminded us just how powerful California's state parks can be when people, ideas, and resources come together with purpose. These places are not only landscapes — they are also living systems where biodiversity thrives, history is honored, and communities find connection. They are places where your generosity is driving real, measurable change. At California State Parks Foundation, we work to **connect** people with state parks and to **preserve** and **protect** the parks, for the benefit of all. These goals are woven into our work and surfaced repeatedly throughout the past year as we served people and California's state park system.

We **connected** thousands of Californians to their state parks, deepening their relationship with nature. Our expanding volunteer program in the North Coast Redwoods District is one example. Community members came together to restore ecosystems, build new partnerships, and demonstrate that stewardship is strongest when it's shared. Across the state, volunteer workdays, Earth Day celebrations, and California State Parks Week events invited people into parks, creating moments that sparked a lifelong bond and a personal stake in their future.

Your support **preserved** state parks by fueling innovative projects that confront some of the most pressing challenges facing our state. The Climate Crisis Relief Fund backed resilience initiatives addressing drought, wildfire, and sea level rise. These aren't one-off projects; they are proof points showing how parks can adapt to a changing climate while continuing to safeguard the natural and cultural treasures Californians hold dear.

Together, we pledged to **protect** California's climate resilience through the passage of Proposition 4. By securing billions of dollars in climate and park investments, California voters affirmed what you already know: that parks are central to our shared future. Our coalition building and advocacy made sure parks were prioritized, and now we are working to ensure these funds reach the projects and communities where they are needed most.

Every story in this report is also your story. Your commitment has allowed us to grow programs, secure funding, and expand opportunities for people across the state to connect with, preserve, and protect California's state parks.

The challenges ahead are significant — climate change, inequity in access, and decades of deferred maintenance. But so is our collective resolve. Together, we are proving that parks are not a "nice to have" but a vital part of California's environmental security, economic vitality, and community well-being.

Thank you for standing with us and for standing with California's state parks.

With deep gratitude,



Rachel Norton,
 Executive Director



Diane Ross-Leech,
 Board Chair

Connect

We believe that meaningful experiences in nature foster lifelong connections to parks. At California State Parks Foundation, we help make those moments possible by creating opportunities for individuals and communities to engage directly with California's state parks. From the hands-on restoration of our year-round volunteer program to the community spirit and celebration of Earth Day and California State Parks Week events, we invite people to build lasting relationships with these places. We also provide funding and support that help more people access and enjoy parks, because everyone deserves the chance to feel at home in nature.

3,144

volunteers brought into 29 state parks in 12 state park districts

142

volunteer workdays hosted statewide

10,915

volunteer service hours contributed

Connecting People to Parks in the North Coast Redwoods

On a foggy March morning at Trinidad State Beach, Volunteer Core Leaders Perry and Larisa King rallied a group of California State Parks Foundation volunteers, mobilizing them to remove English ivy and other invasive species to safeguard the ancient and unique Sitka spruce forest that defines their community. That moment reflected years of persistence to establish a regular volunteer presence in the North Coast Redwoods District — home to California's northernmost state parks and more than half the world's remaining old-growth redwoods. Today, our volunteer program is active in more than half of California's 21 official state park districts, and our ambition is clear: expand to every district

across this enormous state.

For more than 25 years, California State Parks Foundation volunteers have been donating

their time and dedication to state parks, beginning with Earth Day workdays in April 1998 and expanding to year-round service in 2010. Since then, we have led more than 2,000 workdays statewide. Our volunteers amplify the capacity of often-under-resourced park staff, multiplying what can be accomplished for California's state parks. From planting native species to reducing wildfire risk around historic buildings to maintaining accessible trails, volunteers help create safe, welcoming, climate-resilient state parks for all.

"Having the extra assistance from the California State Parks Foundation volunteer team lets us address additional areas that we may not otherwise get to and also frees my staff up to continue ongoing projects," said Jason Finlay, Angeles District Trails Coordinator, who partners with our volunteers in Malibu Creek State Park and beyond.

Our iconic quail logo is a familiar sight on Volunteer Core Leader T-shirts and signs nearly every weekend in the Angeles and Bay Area Districts, where our volunteer programs thrive. This consistency delivers lasting impact, ensuring project goals are not only achieved but sustained long-term. At Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, for example, our trash removal and invasive species work has been ongoing since the year-round program began. At Candlestick

"Having the extra assistance from the California State Parks Foundation volunteer team lets us address additional areas that we may not otherwise get to and also frees my staff up to continue ongoing projects."

alone, we have hosted 230 workdays, engaged more than 2,500 volunteers, and contributed nearly 10,000 hours of work.

Yet further north, in the misty redwoods of the North Coast, our organization's presence has been lighter — until now. Our mission compels us to steward the entire California state park system, forging connections across every landscape, not just those near major population centers. In 2018, we set our sights on the North Coast Redwoods District.

While we had hosted occasional workdays throughout the years at parks such as Little River State Beach, Trinidad State Beach, and Sue-meg State Park, we lacked a local Volunteer Core Leader — a trusted guide to welcome volunteers and manage events when our staff could not reach these remote locations. That changed this March, when Perry and Larisa King stepped forward to become official Volunteer Core Leaders.

"We love the Trinidad coast and want to do everything we can to help care for it," Perry said. "When we discovered that there were no Volunteer Core Leaders in the area — so California State Parks Foundation was having Volunteer Core Leaders drive up from Auburn to help with volunteer days, while we lived right around the corner — it made sense that we could help."

Like all our Volunteer Core Leaders, the Kings plan, coordinate, and lead restoration and maintenance projects that keep parks thriving. They provide critical leadership and on-the-ground support that ensures every workday succeeds. In the process, they have become trusted community pillars, standing tall among the redwoods and welcoming their neighbors into the parks they cherish.

"Through volunteering, I have not only deepened my connection with the gorgeous beauty of this natural place, but surprisingly, it has become the main way I connect to the charming community of people who live here," King said.

Their service — and that of all our volunteers — is indispensable to advancing our mission and vision. In fiscal year 2024–2025 alone, volunteers in the

North Coast Redwoods District removed more than 16,790

"We love the Trinidad coast and want to do everything we can to help care for it."

square feet of invasive plants and logged over 116 volunteer hours of service. With the continued dedication of our volunteers, we will continue weaving a powerful network of connections between people and parks throughout California.

To find volunteer opportunities in state parks, please scan the QR code or visit calparks.org/AR25volunteer.



BELOW FROM LEFT: California State Parks Foundation Senior Program Manager, Melissa Potts with Volunteer Core Leaders Hanna Katarzyna, Larisa King, and Perry King at a Trinidad State Beach volunteer workday.



Preserve

Preserving California's natural and cultural resources is at the heart of our work. Through climate adaptation and place-based investments — powered by strategic grantmaking, dedicated funds, and endowments — we invest in innovative programs that address urgent challenges and safeguard what makes our parks extraordinary. We help fill critical funding gaps, scale successful solutions, and pilot new approaches that support long-term resilience. By supporting bold ideas and proven practices, we're ensuring California's state parks remain thriving, relevant, and preserved for generations to come.

\$1 million+

granted to California State Parks and partners

44

state parks supported across 16 districts

10

partner organizations funded



LEFT AND CENTER: Topanga State Park. RIGHT: Will Rogers State Park.
PHOTO CREDIT: © Brian Baer, 2025, California State Parks.

Preserving California's Living Legacy Through Crisis

In the wake of disasters — especially those fueled by climate change — people are often left reeling. The wave of destruction can be overwhelming, and it is difficult to know where to begin. This was clear in the aftermath of the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire, which devastated Big Basin Redwoods State Park, destroying 97% of California's oldest state park. Amid the loss, we responded to park lovers' urgent desire to help and quickly fundraised to support the park. This experience taught us that we would be able to respond even faster if we had a fund established before a crisis so we could activate it right away, even as we continued fundraising to fully meet the need. That prompted us to create the Climate Crisis Relief Fund last year.

The fund exists to meet urgent unanticipated needs when disaster strikes. As a nonprofit partner to the state parks system, we can act quickly. It is our responsibility to direct resources when and where they are needed most. This nimble support helps park staff move from shock to action. Removing financial barriers lowers one of the biggest hurdles to recovery.

In January, the Palisades Fire created another urgent need when it ravaged Will Rogers State Historic Park and Topanga State Park. The fire burned for 21 days, more than a third of it on state park lands. California State Parks lost 47 structures, including the historic Will Rogers Ranch House, the stables, the Topanga Ranch Motel, and employee housing.

Mary Calvaresi, Program Manager of Interpretation and Education for the Angeles District, noted the overwhelming public reaction.

"People wanted to help. They wanted to know what happened," she recalled. "But in those first few days, we didn't even know yet ourselves. We just knew it was bad."

California State Parks Foundation immediately asked what Will Rogers and Topanga needed most. In partnership with the Ranger Foundation, we provided direct financial support to park staff who lost homes or were displaced, helping them cover urgent expenses.

"It's really the type of support that we can't get elsewhere," Richard Fink, Superintendent of the Angeles District, shared. "It helps our displaced staff and families get through a difficult recovery process."

"People wanted to help. They wanted to know what happened. But in those first few days, we didn't even know yet ourselves. We just knew it was bad."

the still-smoldering landscape, a small off-road vehicle to access damaged backcountry trails, a drone to monitor sensitive areas and support patrol operations, and a mobile visitor center to engage visitors during the park's recovery period.

Climate Crisis Relief Fund grants also provided fencing to protect people and

The Climate Crisis Relief Fund was created for emergencies, and as climate change accelerates, they are becoming more frequent. Ancient sequoia groves are burning, coastal parks are eroding, and endangered species are losing vital habitat.

In the future, the fund could help rebuild piers destroyed by storms, mitigate flooding from sea level rise, or respond to unprecedented heat waves. It is a critical tool to help preserve California's state parks when they are threatened.

At California State Parks Foundation, we hold our responsibility to support parks with care. After the Palisades Fire, we allocated \$100,000 to address the parks' immediate needs. This agile response is only possible with the generosity of our donor community replenishing the fund after it is used.

As Calvaresi put it, "it's no longer if there will be a fire, it's when. So we're asking, 'What are we doing now to prepare?'"

We are so grateful to our members and donors for making the Climate Crisis Relief Fund possible.

To contribute to the Climate Crisis Relief Fund and help us respond rapidly in times of need, please **scan the QR code** or visit calparks.org/AR25CCRF.



Protect

We advocate to ensure California's state parks remain protected, prioritized in state budget and policy, and properly funded. Through our legislative work, we fight for policies and budgets that strengthen the park system and keep parks open, accessible, and resilient. We also defend parks from threats like inadequate funding or non-mission uses that compromise their purpose. By elevating parks in the halls of power, we make sure these public treasures have a voice — and a future.

6,152

messages sent to Legislators regarding various park threats

4,671

individuals engaged in park advocacy

\$425 million

secured for state parks through advocacy

Protecting Proposition 4 Funding for California's Climate Future

Imagine a California where storm-battered shorelines are fortified by thriving native ecosystems, where crumbling infrastructure is repaired quickly before it becomes unsafe, and where families from every background have access to green spaces close to home. This is the future voters invested in when they overwhelmingly approved Proposition 4 in November 2024. Over the past fiscal year, we have worked hard to protect this vision.

Proposition 4 authorized \$10 billion in bond funding to protect California's climate future. Of this, \$425 million is dedicated to parks — for completing deferred maintenance projects, adapting coastal parks for sea level rise, and expanding parks in underserved communities. Proposition 4 is not only California's largest-ever natural resources bond but also one of the most substantial environmental bonds in United States history.

California State Parks Foundation was a key advocate for passing Proposition 4 — sharing educational materials, raising awareness on social media, attending rallies in Sacramento, and gathering support through an online pledge to vote yes on the ballot.

The win was the culmination of a grassroots movement, nurtured for decades in the hearts and minds of park and nature lovers. Since 2000, California voters have passed four major environmental bond measures to support conservation (see graphic below). In 2018, we partnered with other stakeholders to form the Coalition for Clean Water, Natural Resources, and Parks (CWNRP), a political action committee that pools resources and works to protect the natural world. CWNRP helped secure key wins through Proposition 68 and came back even stronger for Proposition 4, raising \$2.7 million in contributions and giving state parks both a seat at the table and a strong presence in the public campaign.

“The damage our state parks are already experiencing from climate change is clear.”

California Climate Bond History

Portion of each bond invested in California's state parks.



We emphasized early on that this money is intended to fund **new** climate resilience projects, not to replace existing funding commitments. With so many concurrent threats, the state has been tempted to use Proposition 4 to pay for older projects that should have been funded elsewhere, and each time, California State Parks Foundation has spoken up. Our warnings were warranted. In January 2025, Governor Newsom's budget proposed to replace \$14 million in already-promised General Fund dollars with Proposition 4 dollars to pay for deferred maintenance. We went to work immediately to ensure that this was rectified before the budget was revised in May. Through a series of action alerts, 1,619 supporters contacted the Governor and their legislators to demand action.

We didn't stop there. Executive Director Rachel Norton went to the press, writing an op-ed in the Sacramento Bee: "The damage our state parks are already experiencing from climate change is clear. We have seen it in the Palisades Fire's catastrophic damage to Will Rogers State Park and Topanga State Park, and in the unprecedented winter storms that destroyed Seacliff State Beach's infrastructure and a historic pier in Santa Cruz. To maximize the bond's impact, California's leaders must ensure Prop 4 investments build on existing programs and create new initiatives rather than replacing or reallocating current funding streams."

While the idea of backfilling Proposition 4 investments drew sharp comments from Legislators in budget hearings, the final 2025–2026 state budget ultimately included provisions to backfill previously appropriated General Fund dollars with funding authorized under Proposition 4. Legislators told us that the dire nature of the state's budget outlook — including cuts to federal funding California had been counting on — left them with no alternative.

Even so, the fight to protect Proposition 4's original purpose continued into this summer. Even though the budget called for Proposition 4 funding to be used for many priorities in the current fiscal year, the state can't actually spend budgeted money until the California Legislature appropriates it. After returning from their summer recess,

Assemblymembers considered waiting to appropriate Proposition 4 dollars until the new session begins in January 2026, citing a heavy workload. We again rallied our community to speak up for their parks and successfully secured action this year.

By passing Proposition 4, we proclaimed that a bright climate future — one where our parks thrive as vibrant, resilient sanctuaries for all — is possible and worth fighting for. But this work is far from finished. It takes decades of persistence, patience, and passion to ensure these promises become reality. We must continue envisioning a world where our state parks are protected with the care they deserve. The path forward demands all of us, and we need your voice, your energy, and your advocacy to keep state parks a priority for California's future.

To learn more about California State Parks Foundation's work on Proposition 4, please [scan the QR code](#) or visit calparks.org/AR25Prop4.



ABOVE: Executive Director Rachel Norton holds a Yes on Proposition 4 campaign sign during an event at the California State Capitol.

A Lifelong Love for Parks, a Legacy for the Future

For Kiera Madigan and her husband, California's state parks are truly part of the family. Together they have visited nearly every state park in California, and they made their first gift to California State Parks Foundation over 25 years ago. This year, the Madigans deepened their commitment by including California State Parks Foundation as a beneficiary in their trust. Legacy gifts like theirs are indispensable, enabling us to plan for the future and ensure our programs thrive for generations. We are deeply grateful to members like the Madigans, whose generosity has sustained parks for decades, and will continue to do so far into the future.

The Madigans' relationship with parks began in childhood, rooted in the misty forests of Northern California. "We grew up going to state parks in northern coastal California, and they were an exciting part of our childhood, especially Richardson Grove State Park! When we moved further south as adults, we still appreciated the coastal parks — we are really California appreciators," Madigan said.

The couple's love for parks continued to grow alongside them. "It's funny that we keep finding parks that we didn't experience earlier. Even though we grew up nearby, we'd never been to Trinidad State Beach, so it was a delight to discover it!"

When asked to name her favorite state parks in California, Madigan expressed her love for the south shore walk at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and the big trees at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park.

But that was just the start of a long list of parks as diverse as California that Madigan holds dear. She spoke with enthusiasm about the rich histories of Bodie State Historic Park, Empire Mine State Historic Park, and Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park; the resilience of Seacliff State Beach and Big Basin Redwoods State Park; and the diverse perspectives presented by Point Sur State Historic Park, China Camp State Park, Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, and Mount Diablo State Park. "These natural and historic elements need to be shared with all ages and cultures of California," she said.

This passion turned into action when state budget cuts threatened to close nearly half of California's beloved state parks. "In 2012, when we realized many parks were facing closure, we knew we wanted to experience as many state parks as we could before it became impossible," Madigan said. For more than three years, they set out to explore as many state parks as possible, discovering California's natural beauty and remarkable history along the way. Since then, they have visited more than 275 of our 280 state parks.

That same year, the Madigans increased their annual donation, helping fund a grassroots movement led by California State Parks Foundation that kept 70 threatened parks open.

As the Madigans continued exploring state parks, their connection with California State Parks Foundation deepened. They began attending special member events, including an online speaker series and in-person guided tours in parks. "The presentations you organized were magical for providing additional perspectives!" Madigan said. "I love being able to have guided tours in historical parks like Mount Diablo State Park, Trione-Annadel

State Park, and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park! While I usually research every park as we visit it, the additional perspective is always a joy!"

This year, we were honored to learn that the Madigans had taken the extraordinary step of including California State Parks Foundation in their trust. The decision reflects both a lifelong love of parks and a determination to protect them for future generations. "The joy and information you share and the pure beauty of all our parks — and the fear that some governmental choices are not supporting the parks as they should be — triggered us to include California State Parks Foundation as a beneficiary," Madigan stated. "The process for signing up for giving was easy. The website has clear instructions on easy steps for identifying California State Parks Foundation legally."

BELOW: Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
PHOTO CREDIT: Kiera Madigan



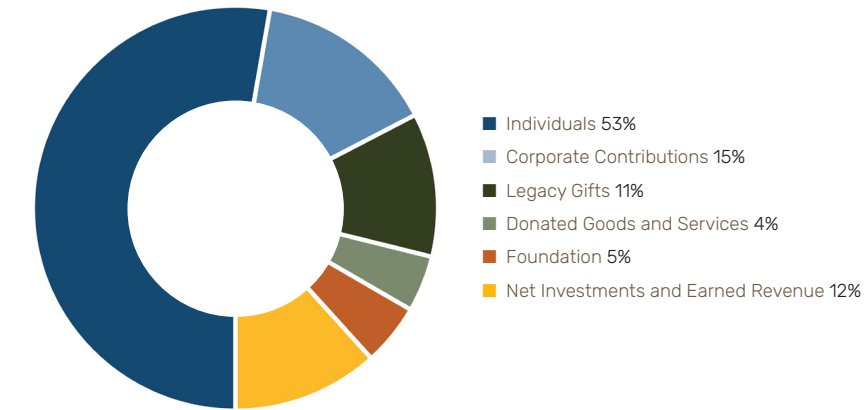
To learn more about creating your own legacy for parks, visit calparks.org/AR25legacy.



Financials 2024–2025

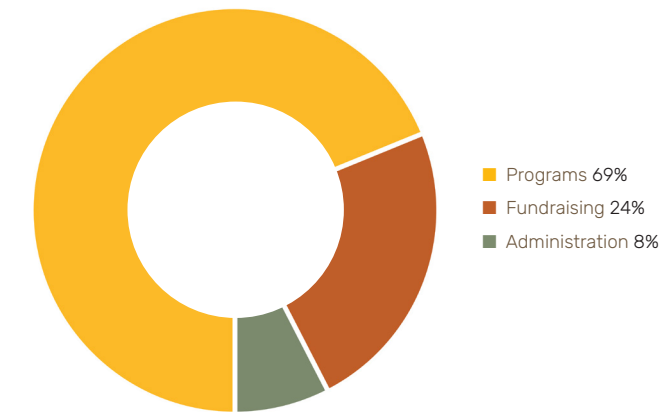
Revenue by Category

California State Parks Foundation's revenue for the fiscal year was **\$11.5 million**. We received significant support through gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations for our work. Some revenue (such as investment returns on future projects, endowments, and operating reserves) has restrictions for how it can be spent.*



Expenses by Category

California State Parks Foundation's expenses for the fiscal year were **\$8.9 million**. Expenses reflect the work of California State Parks Foundation throughout the year to protect and preserve parks, broken down by programs, fundraising, and administration.



*Financial data is unaudited. California State Parks Foundation's 2024–2025 audited financial statements will be posted online when available at calparks.org/AR25financials, where you can also find financial and annual reports from previous years.

Statement of Activities for year ended 6/30/25

REVENUE	
Individual Contributions	\$1,877,061
Member Dues Contributions	\$4,206,336
Corporate Contributions	\$1,688,772
Legacy Gifts	\$1,325,223
Donated Goods and Services	\$518,370
Foundation Grants	\$570,115
Net Investments	\$1,180,179
Earned Revenue	\$169,110
Total Revenues	\$11,535,166
EXPENSES	
Programs	\$6,137,238
Fundraising	\$2,105,593
Administration	\$675,716
Total Expenses	\$8,918,547
Change in Net Assets	\$2,616,619

Statement of Financial Position for year ended 6/30/25

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and Equivalents	5,839,019.92
Restricted Money Market Accounts	4,411,174.72
Receivables	5,825.30
Inventory	85,168.75
Prepays and Other Current Assets	275,121.64
Current Assets	10,616,310.33
Long-Term Assets	
Investments	10,087,151.55
Property Plant and Equipment, Net	419,196.01
Due to/From Other Funds	0.07
Other Long-Term Assets	90,282.39
Long-Term Assets	10,596,630.02
Total Assets	21,212,940.35
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	651,515.06
Operating Lease Liability	434,964.70
Current Liabilities	1,086,479.76
Long-Term Liabilities	1,130,388.41
Total Liabilities	2,216,868.17
Net Assets	18,996,072.18
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	21,212,940.35



ABOVE: Redwood National and State Parks

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