



AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY FOUNDATION
Preserving the legacy through community stewardship

American River Parkway Foundation Volunteer Programs

Adopt-the-Parkway

The ARPF Adopt-the-Parkway program was founded in 1993. It allows people to have a close, personal stake in the well-being of the Parkway. Individuals, businesses, and organizations adopt a mile of the Parkway as either a financial sponsor or volunteer steward.

Volunteer stewards commit to spending 20 hours per quarter to clean-up and maintenance projects on their mile. Each year, Volunteer Stewards provide about 3000 hours along the Parkway. Volunteer activities include trash pick-up, trail maintenance, weed removal, graffiti removal and other special projects.

Trash Cleanups

Every year thousands of volunteers join forces for the annual Great American River Cleanup in September and the annual Spring Cleanup in April. The volunteers include cyclists, scuba divers, equestrians, anglers, runners, and paddlers. Local businesses, schools, and service organizations also come out and volunteer for this event.

Participation in these cleanups is a real contribution to the health of the Parkway and river. Removing trash and debris prevents pollutants from entering the watershed, harming the wildlife, or creating hazards for recreational users. Additionally, keeping the Parkway clean protects ocean life by preventing trash from being washed downstream during the winter rains.

Invasive Plant Management

Along the American River Parkway, plants of various forms sprout up and mature. Some of those are non-native invasive plants that out-compete the native plants. Native plants are beneficial for wildlife and can sustain themselves with very little water. Some of the non-native plants use enormous amounts of water and are actually harmful to the wildlife.

Over the past five years the ARPF has removed many acres of invasive plants. Since January 2009 it is our responsibility to remove the invasive plants along the *entire* parkway.

Adopt-a-Grove

A grove consists of anywhere between 30 to 150 trees. The trees are valley oak, interior live oak, California box elder, Oregon ash, and California sycamore. These trees are planted to bring about re-forestation of the riparian corridor that is the American River. To insure the success of these seedlings each grove is adopted by an individual, or by a group, whose job it is to maintain the grove. These stewards will agree to perform the following tasks:

- Watering
- Weed removal
- Cage repair
- Report and replace dead trees

Student Internships

The youth program is designed for students to adopt a grove during the summer months. They work in conjunction with the Adopt Stewards. The duration of the program is fifteen weeks. Each student group chooses a grove to watch over and is given a watering and maintenance schedule. He/she is then introduced to the grove steward who will maintain communication with the student throughout the program. The student will report his/her volunteer hours to the Volunteer Manager at the ARPF every week. After the fifteen-week duration, the hours are submitted to the school volunteer coordinator.

Special Events Volunteer

Special events volunteers assist with activities, conferences or events hosted by ARPF or in which ARPF is participating. Volunteers work on an on-call basis depending on event location and time frame. Volunteers who choose to participate in this program need to be flexible, enjoy working with a variety of people and ages, prefer to work on an on-call basis and complete multiple tasks. Commitment and duties vary depending on the location of events and activities.