

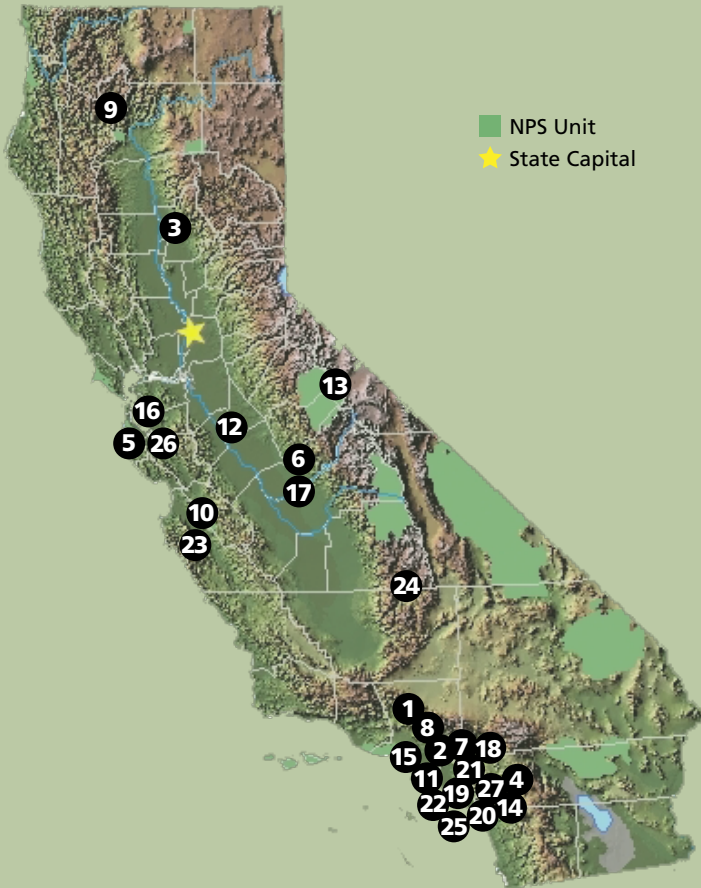


California News



The new Nature Spotter smart phone app is engaging Riverside County residents in citizen science. Photos: James Bryant

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Success

Riverside Citizen Science, Riverside County

Riverside, once renowned for its science community, is returning to its roots with the advent of the Riverside Citizen Science partnership. James Bryant, of the Riverside Metropolitan Museum, and Rusty Russell, of the Smithsonian Institution, reached out to like-minded individuals to create Citizen Science Week. The partners and community response was so favorable that the idea to make citizen science available to the community year round was pollinated.

A working group was formed in 2011 to create a strategic plan to bring this vision to the community. The partnership coalesced to write several successful grants together, including a Proposition 84 Nature Education Facility Grant to fund the construction of the Ameal Moore Nature Center in Sycamore Canyon, where the heart of the citizen science activities will begin. Scheduled to open in spring 2014, the nature center will host citizen science programs, including a Bioblitz where participants have limited time to count species. A recently-awarded Ticket to Ride Grant from the National Park Foundation will connect junior high school students to Joshua Tree National Park where they will learn about building sustainable trails and camp out under the desert starry sky.

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Current Projects

1. Big Tujunga Trails

Project Partner: Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee
NPS Contact: MaLisa Martin
Location: Northeast boundary of Los Angeles
Congressional Districts: CA - 28, CA - 29

The focus of this project is the 25 miles of trails in the Sunland/Tujunga and Verdugo Hills area that were damaged by the 2009 Station Fire. These trails cross over various jurisdictions and therefore have different standards, guidelines, and management. Trail development, restoration, and coordination have been delayed and many of the trail plans are decades old. The NPS will work with interested parties to create a multi-agency taskforce to address trail restoration, connectivity, and protection.



The YMCA Youth Institute chose to spend their spring break walking and auditing the streets of their neighborhood to identify needed improvements to crosswalks and sidewalks, and to determine if more trees are needed on their local streets. Photo: NPS

2. Boyle Heights Urban Pathways

Project Partner: Amigos de Los Rios
NPS Contact: MaLisa Martin
Location: Boyle Heights, an historic Latino neighborhood in East Los Angeles
Congressional Districts: CA - 34

Project Goal

The NPS is working with the Amigos de los Rios and the Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA to audit streets in the Boyle Heights community for

walkability. The auditing process provides an inventory of necessary improvements to pedestrian infrastructure for implementation in future street and beautification projects. Also, the YMCA Youth Institute will design six to eight urban pathways, or walking loops, for the community to take inspiring and interesting walks throughout the neighborhood.

3. Butte County Outdoor Education for All

Project Partner: California State University, Chico
NPS Contact: Barbara Rice
Location: Butte County in north-central California at the northern end of the Sacramento Valley
Congressional District: CA - 1

A diverse group of education partners and providers in Butte County are coming together to coordinate and deliver outdoor education services and



The trails around the Sunland/Tujunga area of Los Angeles are popular with a variety of trail users. The NPS will work with a variety of partners to address trail restoration, connectivity, and protection. Photo: NPS

Current Projects cont.



Outdoor educators and students along Butte Creek take a closer look at aquatic invertebrates.
Photo: Scott Huber

programs that will connect youth to the outdoors. These efforts will yield improved local stewardship of natural resources and more environmentally aware and active youth. The NPS will facilitate strategic planning for this growing outdoor education partnership to promote its success and sustainability in the years ahead.

4. Butterfield Overland Trail

Project Partner: Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District
NPS Contact: Patrick Johnston
Location: Temescal Valley, located in southwest Riverside County between the cities of Lake Elsinore and Corona.
Congressional District: CA - 42

The NPS is supporting local land managers, resource agencies, and community partners on a collaborative planning process to identify a preferred recreational trail alignment for a 16-mile segment of the historic Butterfield Overland Trail running through Temescal Valley. This effort will lead to the development of

a prioritized action plan for trail implementation and corridor resource protection, including key linkages to nearby natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

5. California Coastal Trail

Project Partners: Fifteen coastal counties of California
NPS Contact: Barbara Rice
Location: 15 coastal counties in California
Congressional Districts: CA - 2, 14, 18, 20, 24, 26, 44, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52

This organizational planning effort will help facilitate completion and improved operation and stewardship of the 1,200-mile California Coastal Trail. The NPS will continue to work with CoastWalk California, the State Coastal Conservancy, California State Parks, and local partners to build organizational capacity, assist with outreach and define a blueprint for success for an emerging California Coastal Trail Association.

6. Carless California

Project Partner: US Forest Service
NPS Contact: Barbara Rice
Location: Central California
Congressional Districts: CA - 4, 7, 9, 10

The goal of CarLess California is to improve and promote accessibility and mobility to outdoor recreation destinations on federal lands for all of California's diverse population. The NPS is participating on an interagency extended team to help identify potential linkages between target communities and multiple outdoor destinations using alternative transportation systems.

7. Glendora Wash Trails

Project Partner: City of Glendora
NPS Contact: Anne Dove
Location: Glendora
Congressional Districts: CA - 27, 32

The long-term project goal is to create 11 miles of multi-use trails along three stream/wash corridors in Glendora, focusing on San Dimas Wash as a pilot project. In partnership with the city, key stakeholders, and community members, the NPS will help develop a replicable process for planning and implementing these streamside trails.

8. Griffith Park Anza Trail

Project Partner: Friends of Griffith Park
NPS Contact: Patrick Johnston
Location: Los Angeles
Congressional District: CA - 28

The NPS will help develop a concept plan to enhance Griffith Park's 4-mile certified segment of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The plan will include identification of opportunities for improved community trail connections, improved signage and interpretation to increase trail visibility, and recommendations for trail enhancements focused on long-term conservation and sustainability of the historic resource.

Current Projects cont.



Hikers on the California Coastal Trail, which will eventually extend along the coast of the entire state. Photo: Coastwalk California

9. Hidden Valley Trails

Project Partner: The Watershed Center
NPS Contact: Steve Bowes
Location: The Trinity Alps of northern California
Congressional District: CA - 2

This effort will focus on improved access to the South Fork of the Trinity River within the Shasta Trinity National Forest. The NPS will help the US Forest Service and local community partners develop a trail connectivity plan linking existing and proposed segments of a US Forest Service managed trail along 25 miles of this wild and scenic river.

10. Landowners Toolbox for San Benito County

Project Partner: Pinnacles Partnership
NPS Contact: Peg Henderson
Location: San Benito County
Congressional District: CA - 20

This is a project of the San Benito Working Landscapes Group, an emerging collaborative of agencies, non-governmental organizations, ranchers, and farmers, developing common ground for protecting and enhancing the working landscapes

of San Benito County and adjacent lands. The NPS will assist the group in developing a toolbox of resources that address various concerns identified by landowners. Some of the resources may include communication tools, technical assistance, and funding programs.



An interagency field tour stops in Ripon's Oak Grove to discuss existing and potential public access opportunities along the Lower Stanislaus River. Photo: Laura Podolsky

11. Los Angeles River Recreation Map

Project Partner: Friends of the Los Angeles River
NPS Contact: BriAnna Weldon
Location: Los Angeles River in Los Angeles County
Congressional District: CA - 28, 30, 34, 40, 44, 47

This project will result in a comprehensive printed map and an online portal for recreation opportunities, amenities, and ecological features on and around the 51-mile stretch of the Los Angeles River and surrounding riverfront cities. As part of the mapping, the community partners will highlight key sites for visitors to see the beauty of the river while recreating. The NPS is assisting with compiling information about existing and proposed river opportunities, restoration, and the design of the final maps.

Current Projects cont.

12. Lower Stanislaus River Access and Conservation

Project Partners: Cities of Oakdale, Ripon, and Riverbank
NPS Contact: Linda Stonier
Location: Lower Stanislaus River
Congressional District: CA - 9,10

The cities of Oakdale, Ripon, and Riverbank are working together to spearhead a multi-jurisdictional effort for the Lower Stanislaus River, from Goodwin Dam just above Knight's Ferry to Caswell State Park. The effort balances outdoor recreation, conservation, flood management, hazard mitigation, water quality, and economic development. The three cities know that their shared goals for this 50-mile corridor can only be achieved if they genuinely represent those of area residents as well and those of other key public agency partners and private stakeholder groups. The NPS will help facilitate a planning process and community engagement strategy for the project. To date, the NPS has conducted a workshop for the Oakdale working group to define, prioritize, and set tasks for several river-related projects along the Lower Stanislaus River. The NPS has also helped the 3 cities conduct an "opportunities and issues" river tour for public agency representatives at the local, state, and federal level.

13. Mono Yosemite Gateway Trail

Project Partner: Mono County
NPS Contact: Deborah Reardon
Location: Lee Vining
Congressional District: CA - 8

Mono County seeks to formalize existing trails in Lee Vining that connect the Mono Lake, Mono Basin Scenic Visitors Center, downtown Lee Vining, and recreation opportunities on US Forest Service lands. Conceptual long-term connections to Yosemite

National Park will also be identified. The NPS will facilitate a collaborative planning process in order to identify viable trail alignments and prepare a conceptual plan.

14. Murrieta Creek Trail

Project Partner: Santa Margarita Group of the Sierra Club
NPS Contact: Patrick Johnston
Location: Cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore
Congressional District: CA - 42, 50

This project will assess a 15-mile stretch of the Murrieta Creek corridor, which runs through the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, and Wildomar within southwest Riverside County, for opportunities to establish a regional trail linkage along the creek. NPS staff will facilitate a team of local agencies and community stakeholder groups to identify opportunities for trail connections, establish development priorities, and create a collaborative action plan for trail implementation.

15. Northeast Los Angeles Riverfront Collaborative

Project Partner: City of Los Angeles
NPS Contact: Anne Dove
Location: Los Angeles
Congressional District: CA - 34

This collaboration, led by the City of Los Angeles and made possible by a grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, will support multi-agency, cross-disciplinary planning for a comprehensive, complementary system of community revitalization improvements along a portion of the Los Angeles River's ecologically-vibrant, 10-mile Glendale Narrows stretch. Building on efforts from the Urban Waters Federal Partnership and the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, both of which focused on the Los Angeles River, the NPS will support development of recommendations for enhanced river access, including water-based recreation.



Mono-Yosemite Gateway Trail partners explore potential trail connections in Lee Vining. Photo: NPS

Current Projects cont.

16. Point Molate Beach Park

Project Partner: Citizens for a Sustainable Point Molate
NPS Contact: Barbara Rice
Location: Richmond
Congressional District: CA -11

Point Molate Beach is a 1/3-mile strand of beach located on San Francisco Bay. This 11-acre park (part of a former navy fuel depot) was a popular destination for Richmond area residents from the early fifties through the latter half of the 1990's, but is now in need of improvements. The site includes a potential connection to the San Francisco Bay Trail and a proposed access point for the San Francisco Bay Water Trail. The NPS will assist with landscape architectural design support and conceptual site planning to improve access.

17. San Joaquin River Recreation

Project Partner: San Joaquin River Partnership
NPS Contact: MaLisa Martin
Location: The San Joaquin River from Devils Post Pile National Monument to the San Francisco Bay Delta
Congressional Districts: CA - 4, 9, 10, 16, 21, 22

The NPS is assisting partners with the creation of an online river recreation guide to public access locations, to support and increase public enjoyment and appreciation of the San Joaquin River for residents and visitors. The online guide will help visitors locate river activities along the 300 miles of river and will include a calendar of events and programs.

18. Santa Ana River Access

Project Partner: Inland Empire Water Keeper
NPS Contact: MaLisa Martin
Location: Riverside County, through the cities of Riverside and Corona located along a 20-mile stretch of the Santa Ana River
Congressional District: CA - 36

The NPS is working with the Inland Empire Water Keeper and partners to analyze opportunities along 20 miles of the Santa Ana River within Riverside that can be considered viable for access to the river. The Santa Ana River is an important and unique natural resource in the Inland Empire, with the potential to provide much needed outdoor passive recreation for the community.



Partners are working to explore opportunities for water-based recreation access along the Santa Ana River. Photo: Megan Brousseau

We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance?
Contact us to find out.

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2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online
at
www.nps.gov/rtca



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Success cont.



The Nature Spotter mobile device app is available to anyone interested in participating in identifying and reporting flora and fauna in Riverside County. Data is curated by scientists at University of California, Riverside, and the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.
Flyers: Riverside Metropolitan Museum

The upcoming year of citizen activities will be coupled with technology and social media. The USDA Forest Service Pacific Research Station Forest Fire Laboratory at Riverside is working to create a social media platform where citizen scientists can create a profile on “My Sycamore Canyon” for sharing, discussion, and observations in the park. Lastly, the City of Riverside completed the development of a smartphone app Nature Spotter. The Nature Spotter app sends photos of plants, insects, and animals to the Riverside Metropolitan Museum Curator and other scientists for verification of species. To date, Nature Spotter users have made 130 observations of 95 species in the greater Riverside area. These observations range from the Western screech owl to the California swollenstinger scorpion and are shared using the iNaturalist website under the Riverside Citizen Science project.

Cooley Landing, East Palo Alto

For decades, Cooley Landing, with 360 degree views of San Francisco Bay, was out of reach to the people of adjacent East Palo Alto. Named for its one-time owner, this spit of land had supported various commercial uses until 1998, when the major portion of the property was purchased by a local land trust to protect it from future development. By 2004, the City of East Palo Alto was considering Cooley Landing as a possible location for outdoor recreation facilities, but faced a complex pattern of ownership and jurisdiction that had evolved at the site.

The NPS played a key role in facilitating discussions between the city, owners, and stakeholders, bringing them to agreement on appropriate uses and level of recreation development at the site. This agreement opened the door for further cooperation and eventual donation of the site to the city. This year, the city completed site remediation and began construction on planned facilities. Upon completion of the project, targeted for 2015, the community will be able to fully enjoy the spectacular views, walking trails, fishing, wildlife viewing, and indoor and outdoor gathering spaces.