



On The Trail

The Newsletter of the Friends of Folsom Parkways

August 2023

Flora and Fauna in Folsom

Wow! Ask a question and get an answer. We were curious about plants and animals found in the parkways. The answer turned out to be much larger than imagined. According to the iNaturalist website (Which is a joint initiative by the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society) there are 844 known plants and animals in the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area which includes the area covered by Folsom's Parkways. Of those 844 plants and animals it turns out that 338 are plants, 389 are animals, 108 are fungi (things like mushrooms) and 6 are protozoa (things like molds).

Flora has been talked about as has birds (Animalia – Chordata – Aves for those of you that like the scientific name) so the area of interest today is the animals known as in general as warm-blooded animals. The list is much shorter and therefore able to fit in the newsletter. There are only 21. Below is the list with the common name.

Mule Deer, California Sea Lion, Broad-footed Mole, Columbian Black-tailed Deer, Common Raccoon, Black-tailed Jackrabbit, California Mule Deer, Bobcat, American Beaver, Coyote, California Mountain Lion, Botta's Pocket Gopher, Gray Fox, California Black Bear, Western Gray Squirrel, Striped Skunk, American Black Bear, Fox Squirrel, North American River Otter, Virginia Opossum, and California Ground Squirrel

Now some of these are not usually seen, like the bears, others are frequently seen on our trails. The only other four-legged creature from the above list this writer has not seen is the mole. In the coming months with the weather cooling down now would be a good time to go out on the trails and see how many you can see. A note on the deer. Some references say that the Columbian Black-tailed Deer and the California Mule Deer are just subspecies of the Mule deer, but all are listed anyway. Saw a young buck this morn-

ing on the Willow Creek trail this morning nibbling on a shrub. It was so calm as I bicycled by. I later regretted not taking its picture. While your writer has seen both the Bobcat and the Mountain Lion in the area, he has never seen a bear and does not want to.

So, take advantage of our great trails and go look for some wildlife.



This month it is the California Mountain Lion.

More than half of California is mountain lion habitat. Mountain lions generally exist wherever deer are found. They are solitary and elusive, and their nature is to avoid humans.

Mountain lions primarily eat deer, but, if allowed, they will prey on vulnerable pets and livestock. In extremely rare cases, even people have fallen prey to mountain lions.

THE NEXT MEETING...

The next regular Friends of Folsom Parkways meeting will be held on August 10th at 7:00 p.m. in The Parkway at Folsom Owners' Association Building, 1455 Willow Bend Road, Folsom.

To get to this meeting take Blue Ravine east, past Oak Avenue Parkway to Parkway Drive. Make a right turn on to Parkway Drive. Go one block and turn left on to Willow Bend Road. The club house is immediately on the right.

Our Vision

Our vision is to promote the usage, preservation and development of parkways within the City of Folsom.

Our Mission

Our mission is to make the citizens of Folsom aware of the parkways, raise funds for parkway development, work to educate the community on parkway issues, work to influence development proposals to the benefit of the parkways, and work to identify areas of Folsom worthy of inclusion in the parkway system.

Look for us on Facebook, on Meetup, and at our web site

<http://www.enjoyfolsomtrails.org/>

Volume XXXII Number 8

Officers

President	Robert Goss
1st Vice President	Bruce Cline
2nd Vice President	Lynn LePage
Secretary	Carol Ramstad
Treasurer	Jim Ramstad
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Membership Director	Eric James
Special Projects Director	Glenn Hermanson
At-Large Director	Maynard Johnson
At-Large Director	Jan O'Brien
At-Large Director	Jay O'Brien
President Emeritus	Jim Kirstein

Board of Directors

Bruce Cline	Glenn Hermanson
Eric James	Maynard Johnston
Jim Kirstein	Jan O'Brien
Jay O'Brien	Hitha Varganti
Max Hoffstadt	

In recent years, there have been ever-increasing interactions between people and mountain lions. As a result, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has developed strategies to address the risk of mountain lions on the landscape, and highly trained scientific and law enforcement staff address all cases of human conflicts with mountain lions. Importantly, cases where mountain lions threaten people are immediately addressed. In cases when livestock or pets are killed by mountain lions, the CDFW has established decision-making processes in issuing permits for mountain lion depredation, which are rooted in the depredation provisions of Proposition 117 (CDFW Code sections 4800-4810). Since 2017, CDFW's approach has been deliberative, starting with a three-step policy being implemented in the Santa Monica Mountains and Santa Ana Mountains. In February 2020, the policy was expanded to the larger proposed evolutionarily significant unit contained in the petition to the CDFW to list mountain lions under the California Endangered Species Act. The proposed ESU encompasses an area stretching from San Francisco in the north to the Mexico border the south and from I-5/I-15 in the east to the coast. A primary focus of the three-step deliberation is to prioritize and pursue approaches and actions that are non-lethal in accordance with CDFW section 4801.5, which provides that non-lethal measures shall be used when issuing depredation permits unless otherwise stated in Code.

In July 2019, the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned the Commission to list mountain lions as threatened under CESA within a proposed ESU located in Southern California and along the central coast of California. In April 2020, the Commission found that listing of this ESU may be warranted and designated mountain lion within the ESU as a candidate species under CESA. As a result, CDFW is now completing a 12-month status review of mountain lions within the proposed ESU. At the end of the review, CDFW will make its recommendation on listing to the Commission. Under CESA, species classified as a candidate species are afforded the same protection as listed species. As a result, mountain lions in this proposed ESU are CESA-protected during the review period. Help prevent unwanted conflicts with these beautiful wild animals. Do your part, keep them wild.

Oak Trees of the Folsom Parkways

Romi Holmes, Sacramento Tree Foundation

The Friends of Folsom Parkways has benefited greatly from support by individuals, organizations, businesses, and corporations. For corporations and businesses, there are different levels of sponsorship named after the great oak trees of the Folsom area.

Live Oak (bronze, \$250)

The Interior Live Oak, also named *Quercus wislizeni*, can be found throughout California from the Sierra Foothills to the Coast. Its canopy is dense and spread widely providing excellent shade to those who encounter them. Young trees have dark green toothy edged leaves that smooth out as they grow.



Blue Oak (Sliver, \$500)

The Blue Oak, also named *Quercus douglasii*, is endemic to California, and they are incredibly important to California's Oak woodlands. They are named for the blue-green tint of their leaves. Blue Oaks prefer dry soil and do not like to be over watered.



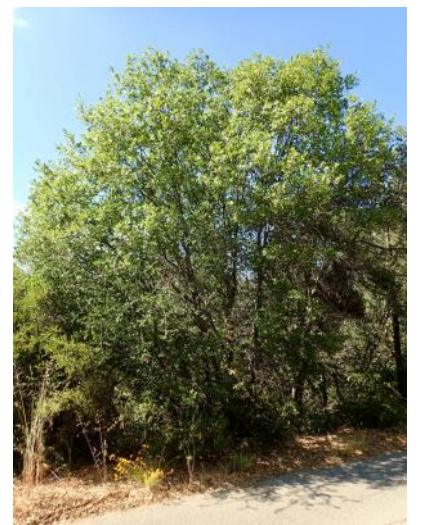
Valley Oak (Gold, \$1000)

The Valley Oak, also named *Quercus lobata*, is one of the largest species of oaks in North America. Valley Oaks are the backbone of our local ecosystem providing a home and food to many native birds, pollinators, and small mammals. They are known for their majestic twisting branches and matte green leaves.



Oracle Oak (Platinum, \$2,500)

The Oracle Oak, also named *Quercus x morehus*, is a natural hybrid of Black Oak and Interior Live Oak. They are semi evergreen, losing some of their leaves and turning yellow or brown in the winter.



Learn more about how to support the Friends of Folsom Parkways on our [website](#) and be sure to like the FOFP on Facebook and follow on the new Instagram Page!

Interested in getting trees for your home? You can check out the Sacramento Tree Foundation's [Free Shade Trees Program!](#)"

From the President:

Thinking Long Term

Parkways are more than just a nice paved trail for walking and biking. Our parkways include large open space properties, riparian forests and varied wetland ecosystems, vast oak woodlands, AND our beloved multi-use trail system. Our parkways are vital "green infrastructure" within our community and require maintenance and re-investment over time similar to traditional civic infrastructure such as streets, sidewalks, utilities, etc.

Unlike our city-provided utilities (water, sewer, storm drainage) whose service and long-term maintenance are provided for in our monthly service charges, our green infrastructure, roads and sidewalks, public safety and parks, recreation and library services are primarily paid for through the city's General Fund (property and sales taxes). While property taxes have consistently grown over time in-line with city growth, our sales tax receipts are not growing at the same consistent rate. In fact, according to the reports to the city council this spring, the reduced sales tax growth is significant enough to cause a structural deficit in the city's coming budget years...likely beginning with the 2024/2025 fiscal year starting next July.

This isn't surprising news. The city manager and chief financial officer have projected this structural deficit for several years and discussed it at the last several budget hearings. To their credit as well as the various city councils over recent years, many operational efficiencies and changes in cost obligations have been made to save public tax dollars. The recession years beginning in 2008 required city management and city councils to make significant and needed changes to balance the budget while maintaining service levels.

I was personally involved in this effort as the City of Folsom's parks and recreation director from 2004 – 2018. During that time, we implemented many operational efficiencies to save money and maintain or increase service levels. Other cost-saving measures included major changes to employee pension and healthcare programs, as well as adjustments to employee pay scales. The fundamental problem is that cost-cutting cannot con-

tinue indefinitely without impacts to the service levels we all enjoy. There is a real limit to how much can be cut, and I worry we are at or very near the point where we will see a visible decline in the maintenance and reinvestment in our green infrastructure and other city services.

At its July 25th meeting, the city council considered an agenda item to form a citizens advisory committee regarding the long-term projections for General Fund revenue and demands for service, the structural budget deficit, and potential revenue solutions. The staff report for this item recommended the Friends of Folsom Parkways be considered for representation on this committee. Several of your board members addressed the city council on this issue and recommended the committee be formed. We understand the upcoming budget problems and would like to contribute to possible solutions. Unfortunately, the city council decided not to form the citizens advisory committee.

Now with less than a year before the next budget must be adopted, it doesn't seem like the city council has a consensus to address this problem, nor is the Council engaging in a process that could lead to a plan. I worry that next year we could see the Council have to wrestle with cuts to precious reserves and/or services we enjoy and appreciate...think recreation and cultural services, parks and parkways maintenance, library services, street sweeping, senior services and potentially even public safety.

It hasn't happened yet, and it isn't inevitable. However, to avoid a decline in the elements of our 95630 experience and Distinctive by Nature community that we love, some serious budget work must be done. Your Friends of Folsom Parkways board of directors will continue to monitor this evolving situation and participate whenever it will be constructive. I also encourage you to engage and seek opportunities to understand the various options to resolve the upcoming deficit. Contact your city council representatives to ask questions and express your concern for declining service levels. To a person, your city council members care about the community and the residents they serve, and they need to hear from you to understand your priorities.

Meet the Board Members

Our youth board members are high school seniors from Folsom High School.
WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE THEM ON BOARD

MAX HOFFSTADT – Folsom High School Senior
– Class of 2024

Max can be seen riding to school, board meetings and around town on his E-Bike. Riding to Folsom High from his home south of highway 50 on his E-Bike makes the morning commute much easier and he also gets around on his bike on light rail.

Max's interest in urban planning fits great with the mission of the Friends to promote connectivity of communities through trails. Max commented, "As I research urban environment, I've learned how valuable parkways and green space



are to a community." He is a student volunteer at the Folsom History Museum and enjoys trivia with his friends at Trivia nights in Folsom.

The Friends Board loves the results already as Max presented at the July meeting on the benefits of an Instagram account and is now administering the new account. Follow us on Instagram @friendsoffolsomparkways. Welcome Max.

HITHA VARGANTI – Folsom High School Senior
– Class of 2024

Hitha is a very busy young woman and the Friends are very excited to have her energy and

enthusiasm on our Board for the coming year. Hitha has incorporated a sense of community in the activities in which she has been involved from a battery drive project as a Junior where she and a team focused their efforts in a SMUD YES 2023 program on enhancing battery dispos-



al to working as a volunteer at Mercy General Hospital. The Rotary selected Hitha to participate in the Rotary Leadership Conference in 2022 as one of a few select Juniors to enhance leadership and advocacy skills. Hitha worked as a Vacation Zone counselor for kids with the Folsom Parks and Recreation program last summer and returned helping kids at summer camps this year, as well as working on the Holiday Lights program at the zoo. In her "free" time she enjoys Indian Classical dancing, painting silhouettes, reading, is the President of the SkillsUSA club at Folsom High School, volunteered in a campaign and, of course walking, biking and running on Folsom trails. Our future is bright, Welcome Hitha.

Hitha
year

Friends of Folsom Parkways Meeting Minutes: July 13, 2023

Opening

Held at the Parkway Community Room

Peggy Blair (notetaker in absence of secretary Carol Ramstad)

Bruce Cline, Vice President, presiding for President Robert Goss. VP Cline noted the presence of a quorum.

Lynn LePage moved, and Jan seconded, approval of the meeting minutes for June 8.

Vice Presidents Report

FOFP has issued a letter of support for a trail grant to establish a connection from Oak Parkway and Willow Creek to McFarland Dr (currently dirt trail).

CITY ISSUES & COMMITTEE REPORTS

3a. Update on El Dorado trail

3b. Lynn will represent FOFP for the August meeting of the River District Commission. Others may attend.

3c. Folsom has received a \$425,000 grant made possible by Asm. Josh Hoover to fund art for the Johnny Cash Trail.

The Folsom City Council has approved fuel ladder reduction (removing low growth that promotes spread of fire especially into trees) in the Parkways.

Steve Schweigert provided information on a trail to Folsom from Rancho Murieta area in conjunction with the Deer Creek Trail and a solar project. Bruce explained that the request to support letter from President Goss to the County environmental staff requesting they re conserve rights of way for trails and wildlife. Glenn moved, Lynn seconded. Motion passed.

Urban forestry: Romi Romi@sactree.org updating for Aimee. The Sacramento Tree Foundation is sponsoring an Oak Avenue Parkway Tree Mulching & Clean-up on Saturday, August

19, 7-10AM), next to the Folsom Fire Station 36 (9700 Oak Ave Pkwy). Sign up at <https://bit.ly/folsomtrecare>.

Trails Update (from Brett via an email and presented by Bruce)

–Rail trail progress

–A permanent Highway 50 undercrossing at Old Placerville Road has been decided to solve the problem of off street bicycle access between Folsom and the south of 50 area.

–Lynn updated activity and reported concerns regarding trails in the Russell Ranch area. Lynn will set up a meeting with Robert Goss and Councilmember Sarah Aquino.

–FOFP will follow up with Brett on trail naming.

–Wayfinding signage in Folsom Ranch is needed.

Development: two planning commission meetings have been canceled as no action was needed.

Folsom Blvd overcrossing. A meeting is scheduled for 3PM Tuesday, July 18, reporting out public comments on proposals. The city is trying to find funding.

Oak Avenue Parkway – Bruce discussed the continuing need to pursue a Landmark Tree designation for the grove between the Water Treatment plant and BT Collins park. He will be seeking volunteers to walk the area and document the trees. Romi indicated that there may be some news coming on a landmark status for those trees and also update with PGE on trimming efforts. Bruce has also talked to the City about fuel ladder reduction in the area.

Photo contest: Max agreed to pick the final winners.

FOFP Instagram: Max presented on the benefits of an Instagram account. The consensus of

Friends of Folsom Parkways Meeting Minutes: July 13, 2023

the Board was to set up the account and Max agreed to take the lead on setting it up.

FOFP Website - Jerry Beckett gave a presentation on recent changes to the FOFP website, now on the Wild Apricot web platform. Jerry and Eric (Membership) have been working to make this changeover. Work is underway to put all past FOFP newsletters on the website. Bruce urged all the Board to sign in the Wild Apricot by the August meeting and to update their profile and to see some of the features.

Special Projects (Glenn) The goal is to organize one special project per quarter with significant impact. For the 3rd quarter, FOFP will participate in the citywide Community Service Day and has submitted a project to complete work on the “duck pond” area in the Parkway.

A communications director is needed. Current Director Ian has been very busy with other projects and needs to step down.

Bruce addressed the desire to get some branded logo apparel and Peggy agreed to assist on this project. Bruce will contact Hitha to work with Peggy Blair to develop FOFP branded apparel (tshirts, hats, badge) to sell.

Future newsletter topics: Jim Kirstein agreed to put out the newsletter for August and requests content by July 20 or 21.

Romi – a tree article

Bruce – Meet the Members

Next Meeting August 10, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

FOFP Youth Directors Make Presentations at City Council

Hats off to Friends of Folsom Parkways Youth Board members Hitha Varganti and Max Hoffstadt for making their first presentations at the July 25 City Council meeting. Our goal in bringing on Youth Directors was to give them hands on exposure to local advocacy and they both delivered. Both also had the opportunity to gauge the discussion on their items and adjust their

commentary based on the discussion by the City Council. Max presented on the Folsom Rail Trail segment and recounted his own experience navigating the non-bike friendly segments of East Bidwell near Folsom Lake College. Hitha expressed the need to involve community groups and to advocate on important financial issues facing the City. Great work Max and Hitha!





CALENDAR

August 10 FOFP Monthly Meeting
 September 14 FOFP Monthly Meeting
 October 12 FOFP Monthly Meeting

----- Membership Form -----

I would like to become a new member of Friends of Folsom Parkways or renew my membership for 2023. My yearly membership fee of Individual, \$25.00 or Family, \$40.00 is enclosed made out to: **Friends of Folsom Parkways**. Send to Friends of Folsom Parkways, P. O. Box 1501, Folsom, CA 95763-1501 or go to <http://www.enjoyfolsomtrails.org/> to join.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Day Telephone: _____ Evening Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Circle the activities you are interested in helping with:

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|
| TRAIL WALKS | TREE PLANTING | ADOPT-A-CREEK/TRAIL | PROJECT REVIEW |
| TRAILS | FUND RAISING | MEMBERSHIP | WILDLIFE HABITAT |
| FUN RUN | TRAILS DAY | BIKE PATHS | FINDING SPONSORS |