

Here's what's new ON THE TRAIL
From Friends of Folsom Parkways



On the Trail

FRIENDS OF FOLSOM PARKWAYS NEWSLETTER

April, 2026

Message from the President



Tom Aceituno
President
Friends of Folsom Parkways

Hey, what happened to the rain? Mother Nature is certainly being fickle. What started out looking like a wet year has turned into extended dry periods and rainfall totals that are far below average. But of course, there is always a silver lining - absolutely beautiful spring weather for us to get out and enjoy Folsom's parks and trail systems. I always feel a little guilty enjoying yet another great day outdoors while our friends across the country endure late season blizzards. But that's why we live in California, right?

March also bought us a new challenge that we were happy to tackle, namely the preliminary work to prep for the Castle Park rebuild coming up this month. FoFP was asked to help place dozens of foundation posts that will form the structure, and our team certainly came through. Over the course of three days, the crew worked with the city and the contractor to place these posts, some weighing as much as 200 pounds, into their designated spots. The work required not just serious manual labor, but very specific standards to ensure everything lined up correctly. I'm happy to say that in spite of the brutal sunshine and a couple of minor bumps and bruises, we accomplished our goal. I can't wait to bring my grandkids to the new park when it's finished!

As you can see, FoFP has a lot of projects and events all year long. In addition to routine fire fuel ladder reduction, April will also see our teams passing out trail information at the

Lace Up For Learning Charity Run, starting to plan for a Founder's Grove in a suitable site, re-stenciling trail signage where needed, and helping the city bring new trails online south of Highway 50.

As Folsom trail lovers, you know that we have an incredible 50+ miles of trails just sitting there waiting for us. Quick question - how many of us actually stick to the same two or three trails every time we head out? (Guilty as charged.) Time to change that.

I'm officially launching a **President's Challenge, kicking off May 1st**. My personal mission: walk every single inch of Folsom's trails over the following four to six weeks. My plan is to knock out two or three miles at a time, at least three days a week — and I'll be sharing my planned routes ahead of time, so if you want to tag along, the more the merrier.

But here's where YOU come in. I'm not asking you to match my schedule or my mileage. Just set your own goal, make your own plan, and see how much of this amazing trail system you can explore. Big goals, small goals — it all counts.

We'll have all the details up on our social media and website later this month, so stay tuned.

Let's get out there and knock this out — one mile at a time.

Hope to see you on the trail!

Tom



A heartfelt thank you to the Carlsen Muir Foundation, our newest Legacy Member of Friends of Folsom Parkways, and an incredible addition to our community of supporters!

The Carlsen Muir Family Foundation is a true force in local philanthropy, not just through financial grants, but through hands-on volunteering across Folsom and the greater Sacramento area. Their latest gift of \$10,000 to FoFP is a meaningful investment in the parks, trails, open spaces, and oak tree preservation efforts that define our city.

Founders Jim and Beth Carlsen are dedicated to helping neighbors and our community and we're proud to have them as partners in our work. Rest assured, we'll put every dollar to good use. Thank you, Jim and Beth!

Adopt-a-Trail spotlight



With the lovely flowers and trees blooming, now is a great time to get out on our trail system. As the coordinators of the Adopt-A-Trail program for the City, we are happy to share a few new updates about the program. The most exciting one is that the [AAT map](#) is live on the City of Folsom's website again making it easy to locate trails that are available to adopt. A big thanks to the City employees who helped revive it.

Second, we have one trail segment currently available for adoption (#46) and a newly empty waitlist so if you've been wanting to adopt a trail, NOW is the time! We are constantly in search of groups, organizations, or individuals who might like to *sponsor a trail* (this involves a monetary contribution rather than actual trail work). Remember, trail adopters and sponsors receive their name on a sign posted on the trail for all to see!

Next month, emails will be sent out to current trail adopters about renewal for another year and we may see trails become available at that time. Stay tuned! Questions about the Adopt-A-Trail program can be sent to FoFP coordinator [Kaye Hermanson](#). [Learn about](#) the Adopt-A-Trail program and start the adoption process today!



Castle Park before it was demolished



Castle Park... Step 1 of the reconstruction.

Before the Castle Rises

After 30 years of brave knights and fair princesses at play, the wooden structure, rope bridges, and steepled turrets of Castle Park (Folsom Children's Play Park) came tumbling down to make way for a new and improved castle, complete with non-splinter-inducing beams and walkways.

But before the new castle could rise, the foundation had to be laid. And guess who answered the call?

We did.

Once the old castle was reduced to rubble and cleared away, Friends of Folsom Parkways volunteers came to the rescue. Over three days, March 23 - 25, our volunteers hoisted beams like caber-tossing Scottish Highlanders (minus the kilts!). The City planned the kingdom, a contractor dug the foundation holes, and we got to work.

And what does that work actually look like? Turns out, planting 180 posts isn't as simple as just sticking them in the ground. The crew built jigs to make sure every post was correctly oriented, because a wonky post makes for a wonky castle, and nobody wants that! Then they installed all 180 posts across the entire site - for the big kids castle and the little kids castle. They even built work tables so the hundreds of volunteers for the Community Big Build, April 7 - 12, would have proper surfaces to work on.

And just when you'd think they'd hang up their work gloves and take a rest, FOFP volunteers are stepping up as team captains for the Big Build, leading hundreds of community volunteers with the confidence that only comes from having already gotten their hands dirty.

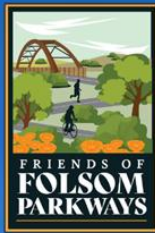
To every FOFP volunteer who showed up before the crowds, before the fanfare, and before the castle walls went up, the kingdom thanks you. Your work will stand beneath the feet of every child who plays there.

Long live Castle Park! Huzzah!









SPECIAL PROJECTS SCHEDULE

APRIL - MAY 2026

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				5 PM - 7 PM Near Crail Ct.		9 AM - 11 AM Near Crail Ct.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	CASTLE PARK COMMUNITY BUILD	CASTLE PARK COMMUNITY BUILD	CASTLE PARK COMMUNITY BUILD	CASTLE PARK COMMUNITY BUILD	CASTLE PARK COMMUNITY BUILD	CASTLE PARK COMMUNITY BUILD
12				5 PM - 7 PM Near Crail Ct.		9 AM - 11 AM Near Crail Ct.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				5 PM - 7 PM Near Crail Ct.		9 AM - 11 AM Near Crail Ct.
26	27	28	29	30		
				5 PM - 7 PM Near Crail Ct.		

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						9 AM - 11 AM Near Crail Ct.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				5 PM - 7 PM Near Crail Ct.		9 AM - 11 AM Near Crail Ct.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				6:30 PM FoFP Meeting Hinkle Creek Nature Center Members & Public Welcome		9 AM - 11 AM Near Crail Ct.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				5 PM - 7 PM Near Crail Ct.		9 AM - 11 AM Near Crail Ct.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				5 PM - 7 PM Near Crail Ct.		9 AM - 11 AM Near Crail Ct.
31						

Castle Park Build
201 Prewett Dr.
Folsom

Fire Fuel
Reduction
Near Crail Ct.
Folsom

FoFP Meeting
Hinkle Creek
Nature Center
Folsom

Fire Fuel Reduction
Meeting Point: Trail near Crail Court in
Lexington Hills
Thurs. mtg. time: 5 PM - 7 PM
Sat. mtg. time: 9 AM - 11 AM



**MORE
INFORMATION**

No pre-registration required. If you have your own gloves, bring 'em! Tools & gloves will be provided. Dress: Gloves, long pants, closed-toed shoes, and weather-appropriate clothing. Questions? Contact Glenn Hermanson at specialprojects@friendsoffolsomparkways.org
Updates posted on our website Events page: www.friendsoffolsomparkways.org



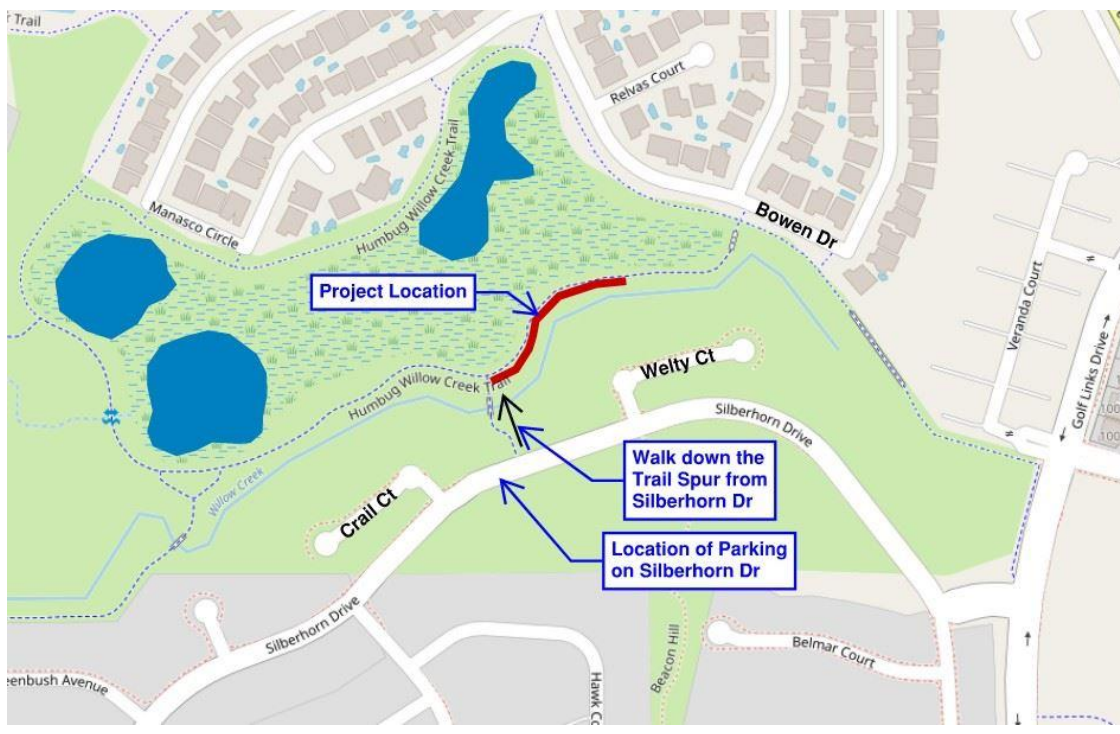
No Pile Left Behind

If you've been on the Humbug Willow Creek Trail lately, you may have noticed those tidy piles of branches and clippings left behind from our fire fuel reduction events. We're proud of the work, but we'll be the first to admit those piles aren't exactly scenic. And leaving cut brush sitting on the trail? Well, that's a bit of a fire hazard, which rather defeats the whole point.

Normally, the City steps in after our events to haul the debris away. But when they're stretched thin, our volunteers don't just sit on their hands, they roll up their sleeves and finish the job themselves. Armed with the City's mulcher, our scrappy crew of "Chippy Chippers" turn mountains of cut branches into something useful: mulch. So what starts as an eyesore ends as a resource. No more eyesore, no more hazard, and a fresh batch of mulch ready to give back to the land.



Want to do something that *really* matters this Earth Day? Help us fight fire before it starts. Join our fire fuel removal crew on **Saturday, April 18, from 9 AM to 11 AM**, on the Humbug Willow Creek Trail in Lexington Hills. We'll be clearing brush, breathing fresh air, and earning that post-volunteer snack. If you missed the city event registration, no worries - just show up. Come help us clear the way for a safer future.





A fun day of making new friends at the Historic Folsom Farmer's Market on Sat., March 21.

Come As You Are!

Casual trail walker or die-hard parkways devotee, the Friends of Folsom Parkways booth has something for you this season. Free maps, the latest trail news, logo'd gear if you're in the market, and an easy way to get more involved if the spirit moves you. We'll be at community events and popping up on the trails themselves. Come find us.

- Sat., April 18: [Folsom Earth Day Event](#) - We'll have a pop up booth at our fire fuel removal project site in Lexington Hills near Crail Court. See the calendar flyer above for location.
- Sun., April 26: [Lace Up for Learning Charity Run](#) - A 5k, 10K, and kids fun run on Folsom city trails.
- **NEW!** Sat., May 2: Pop-up booth at our fire fuel removal project in Lexington Hills near Crail Court. See the calendar flyer above for location.
- Sat., May 9: [Folsom 80th Anniversary Celebration](#) - Don't miss the Snail Races! City Lion's Park, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (We'll also be staffing the check-in booth)
- Sat., May 16: [Sutter Street Historic Folsom Farmers Market](#) - 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

As Seen on the trails



Folsom's Vernal Pools: Small Puddles, Enormous Importance

If you've spotted a patch of yellow in Folsom's grassy fields this time of year, you're looking at one of California's most remarkable and endangered ecosystems – a vernal pool.

Vernal pools have developed over thousands of years and form each winter as rainwater collects in clay-lined depressions in the soil. From above, they may look like golf bunkers, but as spring warms the landscape, the water slowly evaporates, leaving behind rings of daisy-like goldfield flowers around the shrinking water. These small, seasonal pools support insects, birds, amphibians, and pollinators not to mention plants and animals that exist nowhere else on Earth.

Within the pools, fairy shrimp and tadpole shrimp hatch from eggs that may have lain dormant in the soil for decades. Before adults die as the pool dries out, they leave behind shell-encased eggs called cysts that wait in the soil for the right conditions to hatch. The entire lifespan of a vernal pool fairy shrimp is just 91 days.

Folsom's open space preserves protect many vernal pools, but more than 90% of California's vernal pools have already been lost to agriculture and development and they can't truly be replaced. Artificial "mitigation pools" created by developers rarely replicate the real thing. That's why vernal pools are protected under the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and California state law.

When you see one this spring, enjoy the view from the trail and leave it exactly as you found it. What looks like a puddle or a field of flowers is actually an ancient, irreplaceable world.



Looking For Activities On Our Trails?

When you've got miles and miles of trails, it's only natural that groups and organizations want to host their activities on your trails. Socialize, exercise and see new parts of the trail system while enjoying the great outdoors at these upcoming events.

Folsom Community Bike Ride - Join the 50 Corridor TMA and Bike Lab on a 9-mile bike ride on **Saturday, April 25**. This ride is perfect for beginners, riders who have been on a break, or anyone wanting to enjoy a leisure ride with good people. Check out the flyer above, learn more and [register](#).

Lace Up For Learning Charity Run - This year's Charity Run returns to the beautiful Folsom Parkway Trails on **Sunday, April 26** with a 10K, 5K, and a Kids Fun Run, all with an ambitious goal of raising \$25,000 for local classrooms. Check out the flyer above and [register](#).

Folsom Pedal Quest - Our friends at Clipped In For Life are hosting [Folsom Pedal Quest](#) on **Saturday, May 2** to explore the city and kick off Folsom Bike Month! Riders will choose their "Quest" from self-guided routes that showcase the connectivity of Folsom's paved bike paths. Routes start and finish in Historic Folsom, with distances ranging from

1.5 to 30 miles for all ages and abilities to enjoy. This is a Free event! Limited to 500 registrants.

Route options include:

- Rainbow Bridge Loop (1.5 miles, 15-20 minutes)
- Parkshore Loop (3.5 miles, 30-45 minutes)
- River District Loop (5 miles, 45-60 minutes)
- Johnny Cash Loop (6.5 miles, 45-75 minutes)
- Lake Natoma Loop (11.5 miles, 60-90 minutes)
- Central Folsom Loop (13 miles, 60-90 minutes)
- Empire Ranch Loop (18 miles, 90-120 minutes)
- Folsom Big Loop (30 miles, 120+ minutes)

Report Trail Issues

- You can report maintenance issues online or by smartphone using [SeeClickFix Folsom](#).
 - [Download the SeeClickFix Folsom app](#)
 - Report abandoned shopping carts by phone or text to 800-913-5639 or [online](#).
 - Contact Senior Trails Planner Brett Bollinger at 916-461-6632 or email bbollinger@folsom.ca.us.
-

**New Members***We're glad you're here!*

Claudia Goss
James Knapp
Jennifer Walker
Nate Weiland

Lifetime Members

Karen DeBenedetto
Glenn & Kaye Hermanson
Eric James
Mary James
Ken & Eileen Johnstone
Sally Kalaghan
Jim Kirstein
James Knapp
Tony Powers
Ken Press

Sponsors

Parkways Legacy
Carlsen Muir Foundation
Eichenlaub Foundation

Platinum - Oracle Oak
Folsom Times

**MEETING
CALENDAR**

Thurs., April 9
Thurs., May 14
6:30 PM

LOCATION

Hinkle Creek Nature
Center
7000 Baldwin Dam Rd.
Folsom, CA 95630

*Members & Public
invited!*

Resources[Upcoming Events](#)[Volunteer](#)**Our Vision**

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

Our Mission

Our mission is to increase awareness of our trails, open spaces, and parkways, raise funds for parkway development, educate the community on parkway issues, influence development proposals to the benefit of the parkways, and identify areas of Folsom worthy of inclusion in the trail system.

**Officers**

President - Tom Aceituno
1st Vice President - Bruce Cline
2nd Vice President - Lynn LePage
Secretary - Kaye Hermanson
Treasurer - Peggy Blair
President Emeritus - Jim Kirstein

Board of Directors

[Learn about the Adopt-A-Trail Program](#)

[Get on the Adopt-A-Trail waitlist](#)

[Sponsor a Trail](#)

[Donate](#)

[Increase your membership level](#)

Communications Director - Megan Annis
Special Projects Director - Glenn Hermanson
Membership Director - Eric James

At-Large Directors:

Robert Goss
Brad Kortick
Kishore Namala

Youth Directors:

Akshobh Jahagirdar
Kinga Major
Tania Thomas

Let's **connect**

Follow Friends of Folsom Parkways on Facebook & Instagram for trail events and wildlife sightings. Be sure to like, share, and help spread the word about the beauty of Folsom's miles of trails.

Look for us on [Facebook](#), [Meetup](#), [Instagram](#), and at our website <http://www.enjoyfolsomtrails.org/>



Enjoy the trails!



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