

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



On the Trail

FRIENDS OF FOLSOM PARKWAYS NEWSLETTER

May, 2026

Message from the President



Tom Aceituno
President
Friends of Folsom Parkways

What do work projects, racing snails, and trail walking have in common? They are all part of what promises to be a very busy month for Friends of Folsom Parkways.

In addition to the Board and General membership meeting scheduled for May 14th, the usual fire fuel ladder reduction projects scheduled for most Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings throughout the month, and participation in the Sutter Street Farmer's Market on May 16th, we're also helping at the City of Folsom 80th Year Celebration on May 9th in Lion's Park (next to the library). And how do we celebrate you ask? By bringing back the Great Folsom Snail Races!

What's a Snail Race? Well, if you lived in Folsom late in the last century, the Snail Races were a fundraiser originally started by the Chamber of Commerce and later run by the Folsom Athletic Association. The race was simple. Take a garden variety snail, put it on the bottom of an 18 inch stick, and see which snail makes it to the top of the vertical stick first. For twenty years, the races were a hit in the park by the zoo every year. Winners took home beautiful snail shaped plaques and lots of bragging rights.

Now, as part of the city's 80th year Celebration, the Snail Races are back. They are part of a larger festival of fun that will include music, food and family friendly games. FoFP will

be helping stage the races and will have a nearby information booth. Registration is open at www.folsom.ca.us/80; Grab a snail and come on down for a day of fun and frivolity.

If this isn't enough to keep you busy, let's not forget what we are here for - improvement of the Folsom trail system. I'm sure most of you know we have an expanding network of trails, now reaching out into the new Folsom Ranch area. But how many of you have been on the whole network? I'll admit, I haven't. So, I am hereby officially challenging myself and each of you to lace up your walking shoes (or put air in your bike tires) and walk, run or ride the entire system between May 1st and June 11th. We're calling it the 2026 President's Challenge. Working at your own pace, simply cover as much of the system as you can, keep a log, and send me your total by June 11th. Details are below, but the ultimate goal is to experience parts of the trail you have not seen and have fun along the way.

My first day of walking will be May 1st starting at the Historic Truss Bridge (next to Rainbow Bridge) starting at 7:00 AM. My last day will be June 11th from Folsom Auburn Road along the Johnny Cash Trail back to the Folsom Community Center starting about 5:00 PM, where we will be having our Board and General Membership Meeting at 6:30 PM. I'll post the rest of my schedule regularly on our Facebook page. I plan to hit the trails roughly three days a week, two to three miles each day. You're welcome to meet me or set up your own schedule. There's nothing like a walk along our beautiful parkways, especially this time of year.

Hope to see you on the trail!

Tom



FoFP President Issues Trail Challenge

Friends of Folsom Parkways President, Tom Aceituno, is challenging all members of FoFP as well as their friends, family, and colleagues, to see all there is to offer along Folsom's 50+ miles of trails. The challenge is simple: walk, run, or bike as much of the parkway as you can between May 1st and June 11th, focusing on areas of the trails that you have never experienced. You'll keep a log, post about your time on social media, and send us your total mileage at the end. Interested? Here are the details:

The Challenge: To walk, run, or bike all of the trails in the Folsom Parkways trail system between May 1, 2026 and June 11, 2026.

Participants: Open to all.

How to participate:

1. Let us know you're participating. Send an email to: president@friendsoffolsomparkways.org
2. Download a City trails [map](#). (Another good source is the [Adopt-A-Trails map](#) on the City website.) As often as you can, take a walk, run or bike on Folsom's trail system.
3. Keep a log. Email your total miles to president@friendsoffolsomparkways.org on or shortly before June 11th.
4. Each walk/run/ride must be on a different section of trail. Count each section only once.
5. Count only one-way mileage. (Two miles out and two miles back is just two miles).
6. Post about your experience on social media and tag Friends of Folsom Parkways on Facebook or Instagram (@friendsoffolsomparkways).
7. Take and post pictures of anything unusual: Wildlife, etc.
8. Have fun!

There's a lot to see out there. This is your chance to check it all out.

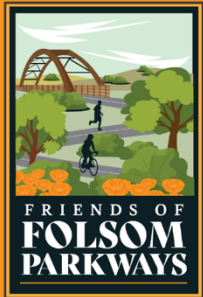


JUNE & JULY MEETING UPDATE

MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

LOCATION CHANGED TO:
FOLSOM COMMUNITY CENTER
52 NATOMAS ST. FOLSOM

DATES AND TIME:
THURSDAY, JUNE 11
THURSDAY, JULY 9
6:30 PM



FRIENDS OF FOLSOM PARKWAYS

Adopt-a-Trail spotlight



Three Trails Available for Adoption

Following Earth Day and the recent efforts to rebuild Castle Park, we invite you to continue giving back to our community by participating in the Adopt-a-Trail program.

Folsom features over 50 miles of trails that require ongoing care. Our volunteers spend a minimum of one hour per month picking up litter and reporting hazards, helping to maintain our city while enjoying the outdoors.

We currently have three trail segments available for adoption: 4, 26, and 46. You can locate these segments using the [adopt-a-trails map](#) on the City's website.

If you are interested in adopting or sponsoring a trail, please visit the AAT program [website](#) for more details or email coordinator Kaye Hermanson at secretary@friendsoffolsomparkways.org.

Meet the Board

Meet Bill Woodruff – Director-at-Large

We are excited to welcome Bill Woodruff to the Friends of Folsom Parkways Board as an At-Large Director.

Bill, his wife Crystal and their two sons have called Folsom home since 1994. Living along the Willow Creek trail, he has watched much of the trail system take shape and often begins his mornings with a fast-paced walk on them.

A retired U.S. Sales SVP from Gainwell Technologies, he now embraces what he calls "Retired with Purpose," and he means it. For the past seven years, Bill has maintained the upkeep of a 1.5-mile trail section through the Adopt-A-Trail program, and can frequently be found volunteering at fire fuel mitigation events, earning him the nickname "Chainsaw Bill". Last year, for his many volunteer hours and dedication to the trails, he was recognized as our Volunteer of the Year.



Bill Woodruff
Director At Large

Now, in addition to volunteering on the trails, Bill has joined the board to deepen his impact and expand community engagement across Folsom's more than 50 miles of trails, with a focus on involving trail-adjacent neighborhoods. As he puts it, "I have been fortunate to benefit from the work that so many board leaders and members have contributed to our trails, and I look forward to helping continue the legacy they created."

In his elected position, he will attend board meetings, participate in discussions, and vote on all matters before the board. And if you see Bill out on the trail, be sure to say hello, just make sure you say it loud enough to be heard above the roar of the chainsaw!

Spring is the perfect time to see your support in action. As Friends of Folsom Parkways works behind the scenes, we know it wouldn't happen without members like you. Here's what your membership helps make possible:

Miles of Trail Maintained
Volunteer crews clear debris and keep pathways safe and accessible for thousands of walkers, joggers, and cyclists throughout the seasons.

Wildlife Habitat Protected
Your membership supports hands-on work like clearing invasive plants and reducing fire risk, efforts that directly benefit wildlife and the landscapes they rely on.

Advocacy That Works
We show up at city meetings, partner with local agencies and nonprofits, and raise our voice for the long-term health of Folsom's parkway system.



How Your Membership Makes a Difference

FriendsofFolsomParkways.org

Volunteers Engaged
Hundreds of community members roll up their sleeves to work on our trails during Community Service Day, Earth Day and attend fire fuel reduction workdays. Your membership helps us organize, equip, and grow our volunteer community.

Native Trees & Plants Installed
We continue expanding habitats by growing Oracle Oak seedlings for future parks, and planting native species along parkway corridors to reduce erosion, support pollinators, and keep Folsom's green spaces thriving without heavy irrigation.



Monthly Meeting Spotlight: Folsom Police Chief Breaks Down E-Bike & E-Scooter Rules

At our April board meeting we were joined by a special guest speaker, Folsom Police Chief Adam Green, who delivered an informative presentation helping to clarify many of the questions we often have as trail users about e-bikes and e-scooters. This is a great

example of the kind of valuable discussions that take place at our meetings, and a reminder that members and guests are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

With the growing variety of motorized bikes and scooters available today, it can be difficult to know which types are appropriate for trail use, bike lanes, and other public areas. The Folsom Police Department and the Friends of Folsom Parkways are working together to help educate our community about these issues. Medical centers throughout California are reporting increasing incidents of serious injury from e-bike and e-scooter use as these vehicles gain speed/power. These injuries predominantly affect children and adolescents.

The following handout from Chief Green provides an overview of the basics and is well worth a read. Feel free to share it with others who might find it helpful.

A few highlights:

- All e-bikes must have a red rear reflector or flasher
- Helmet requirements for e-bikes vary by rider age
- E-bikes should have a sticker indicating their class (Class 1, 2, or 3)
- Class 3 e-bikes are not allowed on multi use trails
- Some e-bikes have minimum age requirements
- E-motorcycles are for use on private property only, unless made "street legal"
- E-scooter riders must be at least 16 years old and have a permit or license
- Passengers are not permitted on e-scooters

This is a rapidly evolving area of transportation, and rules continue to adapt as new technologies emerge. Staying informed helps all of us have a safer and more enjoyable experience, whether we ride, walk, or share the trail system.

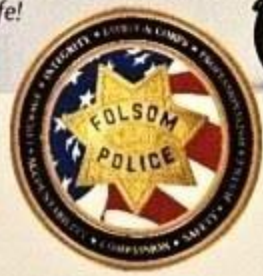
Know the Rules Before You Ride!

Class 1 E-Bike Red light or reflector required, day or night  Pedal assist - No age restriction - Max speed: 20 mph - Helmet required under 18 - Bike lanes & trails OK	Class 2 E-Bike Red light or reflector required, day or night  Pedal assist and throttle - No age restriction - Max speed: 20 mph - Helmet required under 18 - Bike lanes & trails OK	Class 3 E-Bike Red light or reflector required, day or night  Pedal assist - Riders must be 16+ - Max speed: 28 mph Helmet required for all - For roads and bike lanes but not multi-use trails
E-Scooter  16+ with permit or license No passengers - Max speed: 15 mph - No riding on sidewalks	Moped / Motorized Bicycle  - Driver's license required - Must be registered & plated - DOT helmet required - Not allowed on bike trails	E-Motorcycle  - Must be registered with DMV - DOT helmet required for all riders. - Off road use only unless street legal and license plate



FREE E-BIKE SAFETY COURSE:
Learn the rules and ride safe!





Folsom Police Department



Wait, There's More! Last Month's Stories Continue...

Remember when we shared the pre-work we did for the Castle Park rebuild and all that trail debris chipping? Well, there's more to those stories!



Storming the Castle: Through Rain, Hail, and Dark of Knight, the Castle Park Rebuild Weathered On

In an average April, Folsom receives about 1.8 inches of rain. This year, April delivered 2.4 inches, and for the volunteers working to rebuild Castle Park, it felt like most of it fell during the very week the Big Build major construction community effort was underway.

Despite the very soggy conditions, volunteer spirits stayed high, and significant progress was made. While weather delays prevented the project from advancing as quickly as hoped, the momentum continues. City staff and FoFP volunteers are now focused on completing the play structures, with a target timeline of early May. Final site improvement, including landscaping and irrigation, are scheduled for the second half of May.

The Grand Re-Opening of Castle Park is planned for early June, and we look forward to sharing more details in next month's newsletter.

Rain or shine, the volunteer dedication behind Castle Park is outstanding! Thank you to everyone who has helped bring it back to life.



From Fire Fuel to Garden Gold, Free Mulch Available Now!

All those cut branches and brush we've been clipping, chopping, and chipping from our fire fuel removal events is now a giant pile of mulch behind City Hall. Not to brag or anything, (well, maybe just a *little!*) we've created SO MUCH mulch that the City is running out of

space to store it all! If they run out of room, they'll have to *leaf* it to a compost company to take the excess, and that costs money!

This is where YOU come in! Spruce up your garden with some fresh mulch... for FREE! Yep, you *wood* not believe it - *FREE* mulch!

Head to the area behind City Hall, load up your truck, and enjoy FREE mulch. Not only will your garden thank you, but you'll also be part of an eco-friendly recycling effort, turning fire fuel into garden gold! Thanks *mulch*!



Earth Day Volunteers Tackle Fire Fuel Removal in the Parkway

What a day! Twenty-eight dedicated volunteers turned out for our Earth Day fire fuel removal project along Willow Creek in Lexington Hills and the results were nothing short of inspiring. It was especially heartening to see so many new faces working alongside seasoned trail stewards through the parkway, sleeves rolled up and ready to make a difference.

Our crew focused on three key tasks: removing dead plant material, thinning dense brush, and pruning low-hanging branches. Each of these steps helps interrupt the path that fire travels - keeping flames from climbing from ground level up into the tree canopies, where wildfires become far harder to control. It's hands-on, tangible conservation work and you can see the difference when you walk the trail afterward.

Here's the thing though: for us, Earth Day isn't just once a year. We're out there every **Thursday and Saturday**, and we'd love for you to join us. It's a genuinely fun way to spend a few hours and you leave knowing you actually made a difference.

Check the calendar and locations below or on our [website](#) and come out, bring a friend, and be part of the crew!



Right on Target

Folsom Team Clears the Way for Safer Trails

A huge thank you to the Target Folsom team for investing in our community and helping keep Folsom's trails safe and beautiful! Their incredible volunteers jumped right in to our fire fuel removal work and made a huge difference clearing out overgrown brush.

Interested in bringing your company's team out to a fire fuel reduction event? We'd love to have you! Reach out to us at specialprojects@friendsoffolsomparkways.org



They Laced Up, Showed Up, and Raised \$20,000

A little rain didn't keep **Lace Up For Learning Charity Run** from being a big success on April 26th at Cohn Park. The race, organized entirely by a group of local Vista Del Lago high school students, Rocco Jerwers, Asher Chang, Minho Kim, Jack Armstrong, and Landon Simpson, brought together runners, families, and furry friends in support of local education. The event welcomed an estimated 275 runners and walkers, at least 50 kids, to an obstacle course and 5K & 10k runs along our parkways.

Thanks to strong community participation and generous donors, the event raised more than \$20,000 to support under-resourced classrooms across Sacramento County. Over the past three years, the event has now raised over \$50,000. The Friends of Folsom Parkways was proud to support the run by providing advance promotion and race day volunteers. We congratulate the student organizers and thank all runners, volunteers, and supporters for making Lace Up For Learning another memorable community event.



A Scout, a bench, and a bridge

Folsom's trail partnership with the Scouts is back

After a years-long pause, Eagle Scout projects are returning to the city's trail system and Friends of Folsom Parkways is getting involved make it happen.

The City of Folsom paused Eagle Scout trail projects some years ago due to limited resources for review and approval, leaving a gap in a once-fruitful partnership. FoFP at-large directors Brad Kortick and Bill Woodruff saw an opening and stepped in, offering trail expertise and project guidance to help candidates get proposals trail-ready before City submission.

The first project under this renewed model is underway. Folsom High School senior and Eagle Scout candidate from Folsom Troop 94, Prajit Suresh is building a commercial-grade memorial bench at the entrance to the Jim Konopka Bridge, complete with concrete footings, decorative stone pillars, and a bronze plaque honoring Dave Delparte, who passed away while biking the bridge in 2023.

Prajit handled the concrete and mortar work himself, calling it the most rewarding part of the project and the most time-consuming. "I did a good job with planning, sharing my vision, and leading the team of scouts to help execute the project," he said, "and I'm proud that it turned out well."

What's next?

FoFP plans to build connections with District-level Scout leadership across Folsom and neighboring areas, opening the door to more Eagle projects that will enhance and beautify the city's trail network for years to come. If you know a Scout who has an idea for an Eagle project on the Folsom trail system, have them [get in touch with us!](#)



Speaking of Scouts...

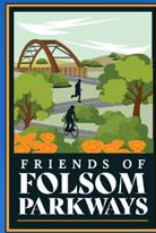
Boy Scout Troop 1855 Prepare Willow Creek Trail for Fire Season

"Be Prepared" is the longtime motto of Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America), and it's also an apt theme for the recent fire fuel reduction events held in April along the Willow Creek Trail. Two volunteer workdays took place near Bowen Drive and Elsworth Drive, where approximately 20 Scouts from Troop 1855 rolled up their sleeves and made a huge difference lowering wildfire risk in the area.

Removing dead vegetation and dense brush makes our trail corridors safer for nearby neighborhoods and first responders alike and supports healthier ecosystems by giving native plants more room to thrive and improving access along the creek sides and waterways for wildlife.

The Scouts also removed invasive, non-native Himalayan blackberry bushes, which can outcompete native species and create impassable thickets. Thanks to the Scouts' hard work and community spirit, the Willow Creek Trail is better prepared for fire season and more enjoyable for everyone who uses it.





SPECIAL PROJECTS SCHEDULE

MAY - JUNE, 2026

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9 AM - 11 AM Willow Creek Trail near Bowen Dr. & Elsworth Way
3	4	5	6	7 5 PM - 7 PM Willow Creek Trail near Bowen Dr. & Elsworth Way	8 NO TRAIL WORK SCHEDULED TODAY	9
10	11	12	13	14 6:30 PM FoFP Meeting Hinkle Creek Nature Center - Members & Public Welcome	15	16 9 AM - 11 AM Willow Creek Trail near Bowen Dr. & Elsworth Way
17	18	19	20	21 5 PM - 7 PM Willow Creek Trail near Bowen Dr. & Elsworth Way	22	23 9 AM - 11 AM Willow Creek Trail near Bowen Dr. & Elsworth Way
24	25	26	27	28 5 PM - 7 PM Willow Creek Trail near Bowen Dr. & Elsworth Way	29	30 9 AM - 11 AM Willow Creek Trail near Bowen Dr. & Elsworth Way
31						

JUNE 2026

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

NEW LOCATION
for June & July



Fire Fuel Reduction
Near Bowen Wy.
Folsom

FoFP Meeting
Hinkle Creek Nature Center
7000 Baldwin Dam Rd.,
Folsom

MAY - Fire Fuel Reduction
Meeting Point: Willow Creek Trail near Bowen Dr. & Elsworth Way in Lexington Hills
Thurs. mtg. time: 5 PM - 7 PM
Sat. mtg. time: 9 AM - 11 AM



JUNE - Fire Fuel Reduction
LOCATION: TO BE DETERMINED
Thurs. mtg. time: 5 PM - 7 PM
Sat. mtg. time: 9 AM - 11 AM

Fire Fuel Reduction
LOCATION TBD

FoFP Meeting
Folsom Community Center
52 Natoma St. Folsom

Stay tuned to our website and social media for updates on June project locations.

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



FoFP Encourages Master Plan for Sacramento to Placerville Railway Corridor

Imagine a trail system that connects Folsom's 60+ miles of trails to a neighboring trail system along the old Southern Pacific rail lines that extends from Sacramento all the way to Placerville.

The Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority, known as SPTC-JPA, consists of the City of Folsom, El Dorado County, Sacramento County and Sacramento Regional Transportation District. SPTC-JPA has acquired the right of way (railroad corridors) and is in the process of planning for multiple uses including connecting to the Folsom trail system.

The SPTC-JPA Board will meet on May 11, 2026 in Folsom to consider its annual budget. In fulfilling our role to advocate for Folsom's trail system, **FoFP has sent a letter encouraging the board to include funding in its budget for master planning that will include all three proposed uses for the right of way, including a tourist rail, Class 1 Bike Trail and natural surface trail.** This will help create a transportation and recreation facility of unique quality that will contribute to regional mobility and economic development. All communities between Sacramento and Placerville will benefit from its improvement and help the trail system become an attraction of statewide and even national interest.

As Seen on the trails

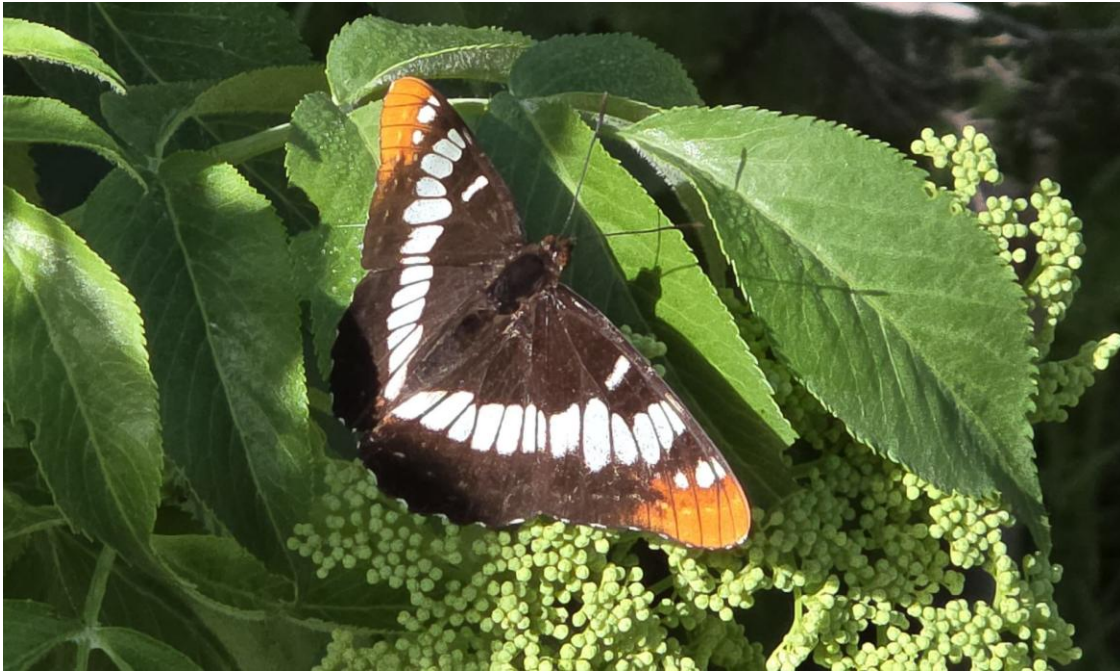


Photo submitted by Glenn Hermanson

All Hail the Admiral!

Lorquin's Admiral (*Limenitis lorquini*) is a striking black-and-white butterfly with a distinctive orange patch at its wingtip and one you might spot along our parkway trails.

It's named after Pierre Lorquin, a French naturalist who came to California during the Gold Rush and became the first person to systematically document the state's butterflies.

One of the Admiral's cleverest tricks is *Batesian* mimicry - it mimics the appearance of the California Sister butterfly, a butterfly that predators have learned to avoid because its caterpillars feed on oak leaves, and the tannins make them unpalatable. So by resembling the Sister butterfly, Lorquin's Admirals benefit from that learned avoidance.

Males are famously feisty, chasing off not just rival butterflies but dragonflies and even birds from their territory. And for all its beauty, the Admiral isn't picky about dining. It's equally happy with a nice meal of nectar, or even bird droppings and cow pies.

Flight season runs April through September, peaking in May. Adults live about 30 days. Look for them near willows, cottonwoods, and creekside along our Folsom trails.

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!*

Carol Vargas
Binoj Xavier

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., May 14
6:30 PM

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

**NEW LOCATION
for June & July
Meetings**

Thurs., June 11
Thurs., July 9
6:30 PM

LOCATION
Folsom Community
Center, 52 Natomas St.,
Folsom, CA 95630

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

**Members & Public
invited!**

Resources

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[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

Bill Woodruff

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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