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

On the Trail

FRIENDS OF FOLSOM PARKWAYS NEWSLETTER

September, 2026

Tom Aceituno
President
Friends of Folsom Parkways

Message from the President

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our entire team, but especially to Glenn Hermanson our Projects Director, I'm proud to announce that Friends of Folsom Parkways has been awarded the Spirit of Folsom Award by the Folsom City Council. The Spirit of Folsom Award is an annual city recognition program that honors local residents, businesses, volunteers, and students who make significant contributions to the quality of life in Folsom. One nomination is made by each Folsom City Councilmember from their respective council district. FoFP was nominated for the award by Vice Mayor Anna Rohrbough. Focus areas for the award include health and well-being, economic development, youth and recreation, collaboration, and public safety. The award was presented at the September City Council Meeting. We're so thrilled to be recognized for our focus on the trails and parkways in our city and the outstanding work of our dedicated volunteers who bring our mission to life.

I want to thank our tireless volunteers for getting out on our work projects, primarily off East Bidwell at the pedestrian bridge and now along Humbug Creek in the Parkway development. While the month was a little less hot than usual, the work was still a challenge, especially in the evening.

I also want to give a shoutout to Chris O'Keefe and his crew at the City's Parks and Recreation division. What many of you don't see is the effort it takes to remove mountains of tree limbs, vines, and other debris from the clearing projects. We managed to work out a plan to use the City's "green waste" containers for much of the smaller cuttings, with the help of the City's Solid Waste division. But the larger material required a shredder supplied by the City. After a two month delay while the shredder was under repair, we managed to get it back in operation. Our volunteers and a city crew cleared most of the backlog in just three days. Great job all.

The value of these clearing projects came into focus just recently. Last fall, our crews had cleared a large section of trail in the Natoma Station neighborhood, from Natoma Station Drive across toward Folsom Boulevard. Clearing the space provided a nice view across a seasonal pond that runs along Natoma Station Drive. As luck would have it, further down the trail along Folsom Boulevard, a vegetation fire broke out, totally destroying a bench along the bike trail in that area. Folsom's terrific Fire Department quickly put out the fire. With many of Folsom's neighborhoods running along, and sometimes through, open nature areas, fire risk is always a danger. So, if you can, please join us in helping to reduce the risk as much as we can.

A trail bench along the trail on Folsom Boulevard, destroyed by a vegetation fire that Folsom Fire quickly brought under control. A stark reminder of why fuel reduction work along our trails is important.

Looking ahead, we have some fun stuff coming up. September 19th will be **Community Service Day** in the City of Folsom. Not content to stick to just one project, we decided to do two projects that day. One is our regular fire fuel reduction project (off Buckbrush Drive in the Parkway). The other will be a litter cleanup along Folsom Boulevard starting at Parkshore Drive. Normally, we do not require signups for our projects, but the City wants everyone to sign up for their Community Service Day project in advance - you get a free T-shirt, too! Here's the link for sign-ups.

On September 26th, we've been invited to participate in a special **National Public Lands Day** event at the Folsom REI store on Iron Point Drive. We will have an information booth set up from Noon - 3:00 PM, so come by and say hello.

Finally, I want to ask all of you to help us continue to grow as an organization. We've added many new members this year already, but we're just getting started. You can help by spreading the word, sharing our social media posts with your friends, and encouraging

your friends and neighbors to join up. Nothing beats word-of-mouth when it comes to marketing. Your influence carries a lot of weight.

See you on the trails!

Tom

FoFP Wins Spirit of Folsom Award

Friends of Folsom Parkways was honored with the Spirit of Folsom Award, nominated by City of Folsom Vice Mayor Anna Rohrbaugh for the organization's trails work. It's a humbling recognition, shared alongside four other Folsom residents who give so much to the community, and one that comes 35 years after FoFP started with a simple mission to make the city's trails accessible, preserve open space, and build a real sense of place.

The award truly belongs to the volunteers who show up to keep the organization running, maintain the trails through the Adopt-A-Trail program, and do the hard work of fire safety.

Vice Mayor Rohrbaugh captured why the recognition matters. "It's kind of like Community Service Day when all these people volunteer, but you guys do that consistently," she said in her presentation. "I really appreciate all the time and the effort. I just couldn't be prouder."

Special Projects Director Glenn Hermanson accepted the award on behalf of FoFP, thanking the City's maintenance team, especially Chris O'Keefe's crew, for hauling equipment and chipping branches, and the solid waste division for the more than 40 green bins now placed around Folsom that volunteers fill twice a week. "Without those guys, it just wouldn't work," he said.

City of Folsom Parks and Recreation Director Kelly Gonzalez shared her thoughts on FoFP's impact in a recent letter. "Seeing the total - *5,828 volunteer hours* - really puts into perspective the incredible amount of time, energy, and care that our volunteers have given to our parks, trails, and community over the past year. These hours represent so much

more than a number. They reflect people showing up, giving their time, and taking pride in making Folsom a better place. From Castle Park and our trails to (fire) fuel reduction and all of the other projects along the way, their efforts make a real and lasting difference. Folsom is fortunate to have volunteers who care so deeply about our parks, trails, and community."

Congratulations to our volunteers, board members, and City partners who make this work possible, and thank you for continuing to show up for Folsom's trails. Remember, there's always room for more hands on the trails. Visit our website events page for the most up-to-date volunteer info.

Fire Safety Collab on Johnny Cash Trail

Friends of Folsom Parkways volunteers recently teamed up with both the Folsom Fire Department and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office to help reduce wildfire fuel along the Johnny Cash Trail behind the rodeo grounds. The project supported a Sheriff's work crew clearing vegetation in an area with heavy accumulations of fire fuel, uneven terrain, and a steady stream of trail users including walkers, runners, and bicyclists.

Special thanks go to Robert Goss and Bill Woodruff, who answered the call for help and volunteered their time and equipment to cut and remove limbs, making the area safer for both the public and emergency responders. Their efforts are another great example of how FOFP volunteers support the Folsom community through partnership, service, and stewardship.

Milestone Reached!

We're there! Friends of Folsom Parkways just wrapped our 100th Fire Fuel Reduction event on Saturday, September 12th.

Since February 22, 2025, what began as a single volunteer effort has continued and grown into a twice-weekly commitment to clearing wildfire fuel and caring for Folsom's treasured open spaces.

None of this happens without the volunteers who keep showing up, rain or shine, to do the work. Thank you to every single one of you for the time, sweat, and community spirit that got us to 100. We can't wait to hit our 200th!

Join Us For Community Service Day 2026

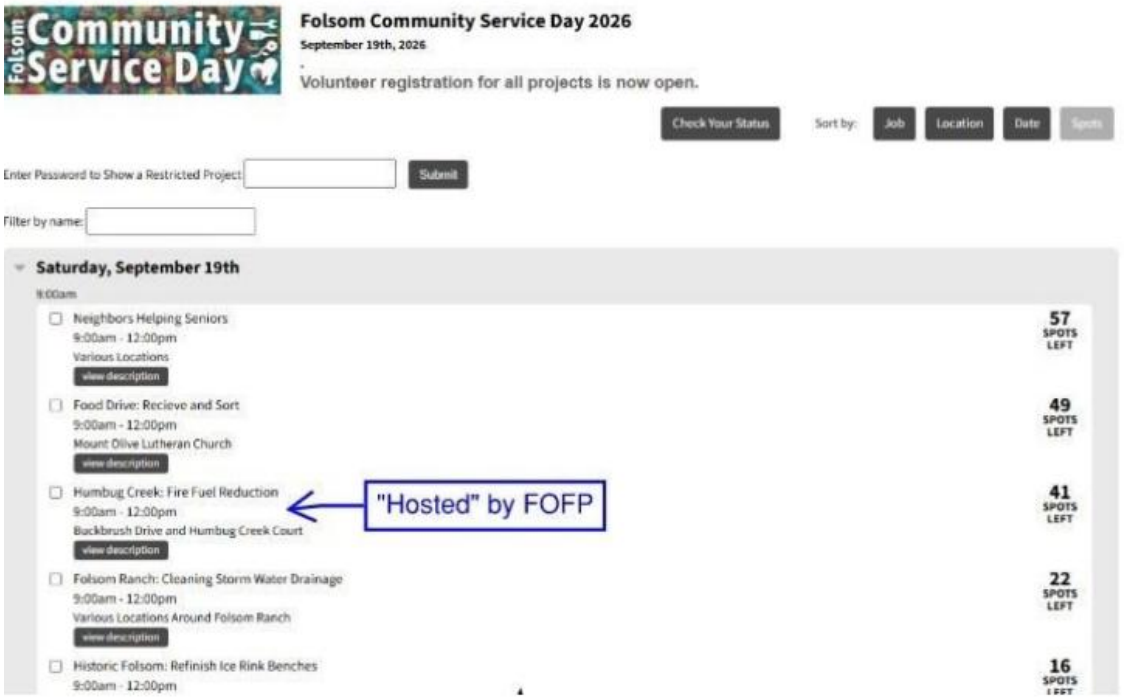
Community Service Day returns on Saturday, September 19! Organized by the City of Folsom, this annual event brings together hundreds of volunteers to complete over 40 projects that improve our parks, trails, open spaces, schools, and support our food pantries, seniors, military, and neighborhoods, just to name a few.

Friends of Folsom Parkways (FoFP) is proud to sponsor **two projects** this year.

1. Our **Folsom Blvd. Litter Pickup** project generated a lot of interest when it was first posted on the city's website, with **all volunteer positions filled** now. FoFP President Tom Aceituno will lead this team to beautify one of Folsom's busiest corridors by removing litter and improving the appearance of the roadway.
2. FOFP's second project, **the Humbug Creek Project**, led by Bill Woodruff, Brad Kortick, and Gina Silvernale, will focus on removing fire fuels and non-native invasive plants from open space near Buckbrush Drive in the Parkway development. This important habitat improvement and wildfire risk reduction project has **60 volunteer positions**, and ***openings are still available***.

Interested in helping? Sign up through the City's Community Service Day registration page and join us for a rewarding day of service to our community!

Thank you to all the volunteers who make Community Service Day a success year after year.



Volunteer hours that pay off

Got a kid, grandkid, niece, nephew, or neighborhood young person who's part of a youth group looking for funds for their group? We've got just the thing.

Friends of Folsom Parkways' **Youth Stewardship and Fundraising Program** lets youth groups (scouts, school clubs, church groups, you name it) earn real money for their club, simply by helping us take care of our trails.

Here's the fun part. We donate $10/hr. to each club member that volunteers at a trail event. (i.e. Five youth work 10 hours over the course of several events, $500 earned) And let's be honest, it's a win-win for both of us: your kids group gets funding - whether their goal is a conference, a camp trip, or gear for the season - and our Folsom trails get more fire-safe.

The program rules are simple. Groups need to be an official youth club, submit an application to FoFP, and maintain a bank account to receive funds. Kids, and at least one adult representative must accompany the group during the work activity, and show up to our work projects with signed waivers (parents included). We track names and hours, and every month the club gets a check in the mail. It really is that easy.

We've set aside funding for up to 300 volunteer hours, made possible by a generous grant from the Dyer Family Foundation. We look forward to supporting our local youth organizations while helping preserve and protect Folsom's parks, trails, and open spaces.

Program details and an application can also be found on our FoFP home page.

Adopt-a-Trail spotlight

Adopt-A-Trail Update and Fall Leaf Blowing Opportunities

Two trail sections are still up for grabs. Trails 9 and 30 remain available for adoption, so if you've been thinking about getting involved, now's the time. You can find all the details on the City of Folsom's Adopt-A-Trail webpage.

Behind the scenes, our Special Projects team has been working hard to get every adopter and sponsor sign posted over the next few months. Most are done, but the handful that remain need a new post set in concrete, which has slowed things down a bit. Hang tight, they're coming.

We're also still looking for businesses, organizations, and individuals interested in sponsoring a trail section. For $500 a year, or $2,000 for five years, your contribution goes directly to the City of Folsom to support the upkeep and beautification of the trails, and in return you get a sponsorship sign right there on the trail for everyone to see. It's a great way to support the community while getting some genuine, feel-good visibility. If that sounds like you, don't wait, trail sections don't stay open long.

Meanwhile, fall is creeping up, which means our crews are gearing up for leaf blowing season on the trails that tend to get buried under leaves this time of year. If you've never driven the leaf blower tractor, come on out and give it a try. It's a surprisingly fun way to spend a morning outdoors. Contact Special Projects Director Glenn Hermanson if you're interested.

Interested in adopting or sponsoring a trail? Visit the Adopt-A-Trail program website for full details, or reach out to coordinator Kaye Hermanson at for more information.

A New Brew for a Good Cause: Parkways Pilsner Is Coming!

Get ready, because Red Bus Brewing and Friends of Folsom Parkways are teaming up on something we're genuinely excited about. Say hello to Parkways Pilsner, a fundraiser brew crafted specifically to support FoFP's work here in the community.

Here's the deal. When you grab a pack, you're directly supporting our trail work, fuel reduction projects, and everything else we do to keep Folsom's parkways beautiful and safe.

Mark your Calendars! Preorders open October 1st and run through Halloween. Place your orders on the Red Bus Brewing website, with a 4-pack priced at $30 and a full case at $125. Get your order in during that window and your Parkways Pilsner will be ready for pickup right around Thanksgiving, just in time to stock up for the holidays or share with friends and family.

This is a fun, easy way to support the trails you love while enjoying a great local beer. Be sure to preorder, spread the word, and let's make Parkways Pilsner a sellout success.

Helping Protect the Esplanade Neighborhood

Over the past month, Friends of Folsom Parkways' volunteers have completed three fire fuel reduction events along the open space bordering the Esplanade neighborhood and the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. Volunteers removed dead tree limbs, low-hanging branches, and other combustible vegetation to help reduce wildfire risk and create a more defensible buffer between homes and nearby wildland areas.

These efforts are part of FOFP's ongoing commitment to protecting our community, trails, and open spaces. A big thank you to all of the volunteers whose hard work is helping make Folsom safer and more resilient to wildfire.

Neighbors Take the Lead on the East Natoma Trail

One of the best things about Folsom's trail system is that it isn't just pavement. Many of the paved Class 1 trails have a natural dirt shoulder running right alongside them and that’s on purpose. The dirt gives runners and walkers a real choice underfoot, one that's easier on the knees, hips, and shins than the repetitive pounding on asphalt.

Friends of Folsom Parkways runs trail projects twice a week, but there's always more trails than there are hands to maintain them. So, when a local group of neighbors contacted us and offered to tackle clearing a stretch of the dirt shoulder on their own, it was a great reminder of what this community can do when people take initiative.

On September 12th, a crew led by Matt Brayton headed out to the trail behind the Raleys on East Natoma to rid the dirt shoulder of plants and shrubs that had crept up through the soil, creating obstacles and tripping hazards.

FoFP supported the effort by getting the City of Folsom's Waste Management team to provide green waste cans for the volunteers.

If you and your neighbors or group have a stretch of trail you've been eyeing for clean up or improvements, don't wait for an official FoFP workday. Reach out and we'll work with the City to help you get started properly. Email specialprojects@friendsoffolsomparkways.org.

The project aims to create a safer connection across East Bidwell Street for people walking and biking. The proposed overcrossing would connect the future Folsom-Placerville Rail Trail and nearby neighborhoods and offices with shops, parks, schools, and other destinations west of East Bidwell Street.

- Date: Thursday, October 1, 2026
- Time: 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM
- Location: 330 Palladio Parkway, Folsom, CA

Join the discussion about the project and share your thoughts on safer walking and biking connections.

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

UPCOMING TRAIL WORK DAYS

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 5: 8AM to 10AM @ Esplanade
Saturday, September 12: 8AM to 10AM @ Esplanade
Thursday, September 17: 5PM to 7PM @ Esplanade
Saturday, September 19: FOLSOM COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY - 9AM to Noon @ Buckbrush Dr.
Thursday, September 24: 5PM to 7PM @ Esplanade
Saturday, September 26: 8AM to 10AM @ Trail Segment 28 Peterson Place Apts

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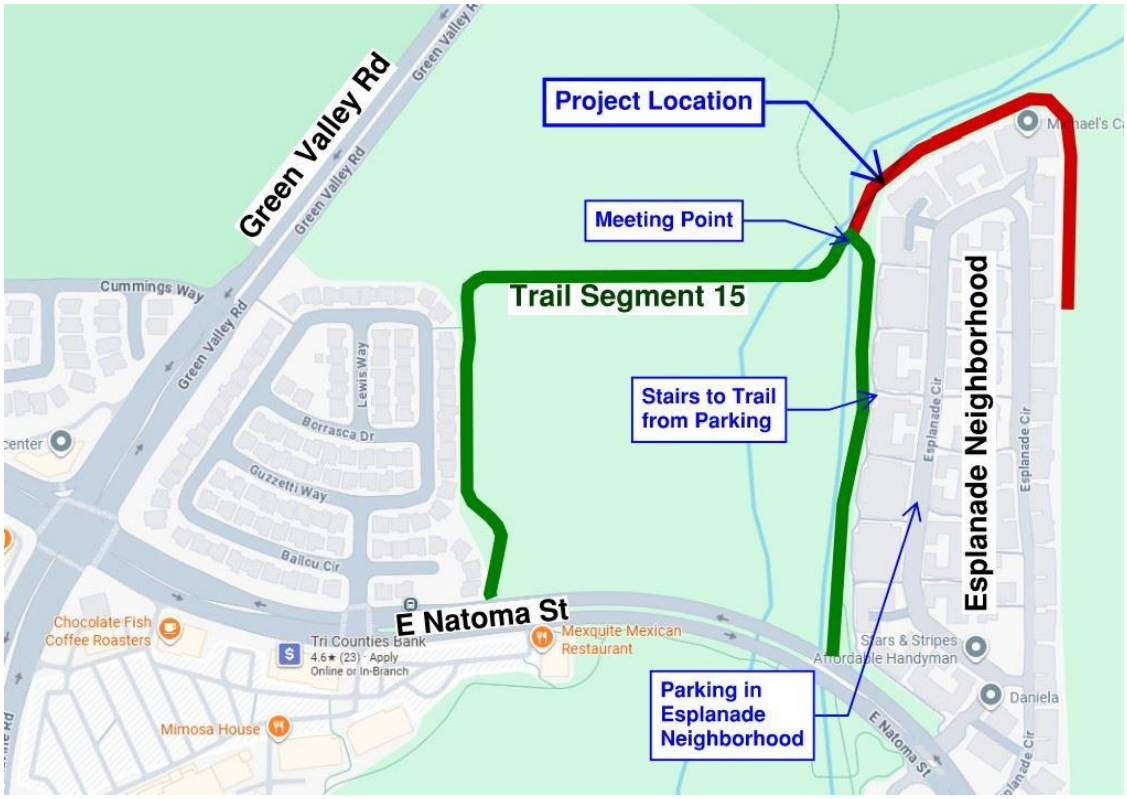
Thursday, October 1: 5PM to 7PM @ Trail Segment 28 Peterson Place Apts.
Saturday, October 3: 8AM to 10AM @ Trail Segment 28 Peterson Place Apts.
Saturday, October 10: 8AM to 10AM Trail Segment 28 Peterson Place Apts.
Thursday, October 15: **3PM to 5PM** @ Trail Segment 28 Peterson Place Apts.
Saturday, October 17: 8AM to 10AM @ Trail Segment 28 Peterson Place Apts.
Thursday, October 22: 3PM to 5PM @ Trail Segment 28 Peterson Place Apts.
Saturday, October 24: 8AM to 10AM @ Pond View Drive
Thursday, October 29: 3PM to 5PM @Pond View Drive
Saturday, October 31: 8AM to 10AM @Pond View Drive

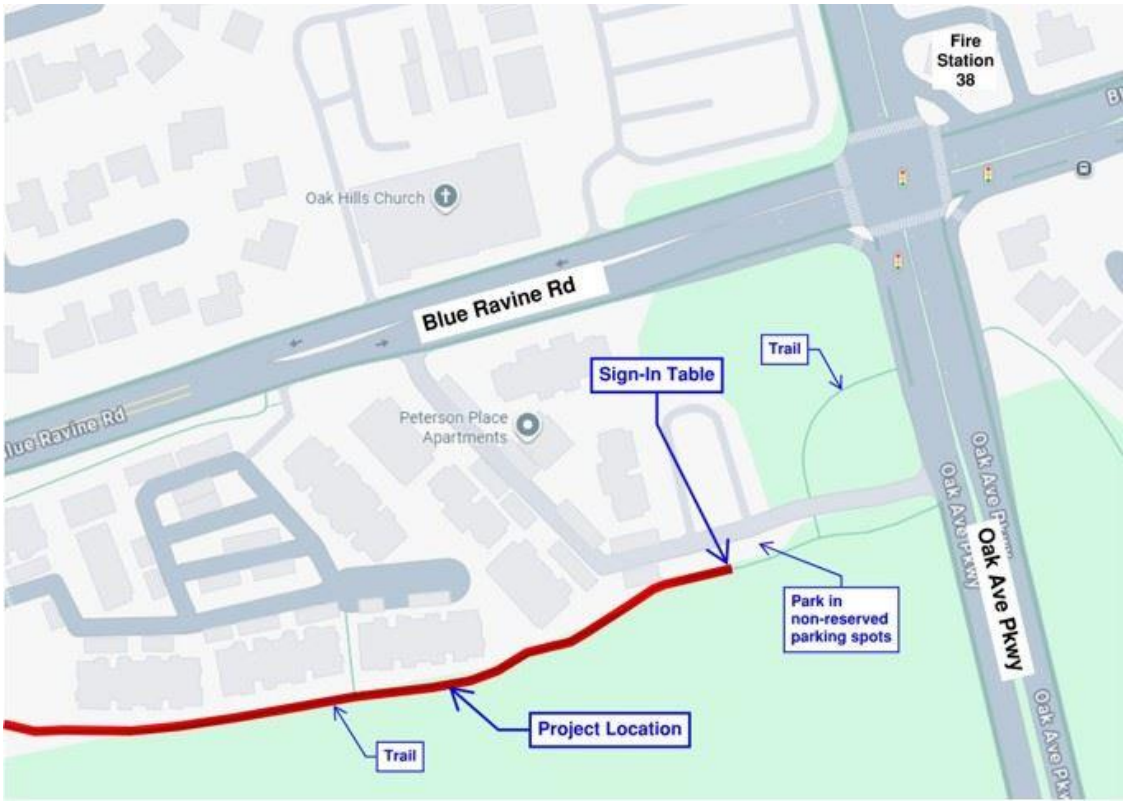
Locations subject to change. Check FOFP Events webpage to confirm location. FriendsOfFolsomParkways.org

Map of Esplanade location

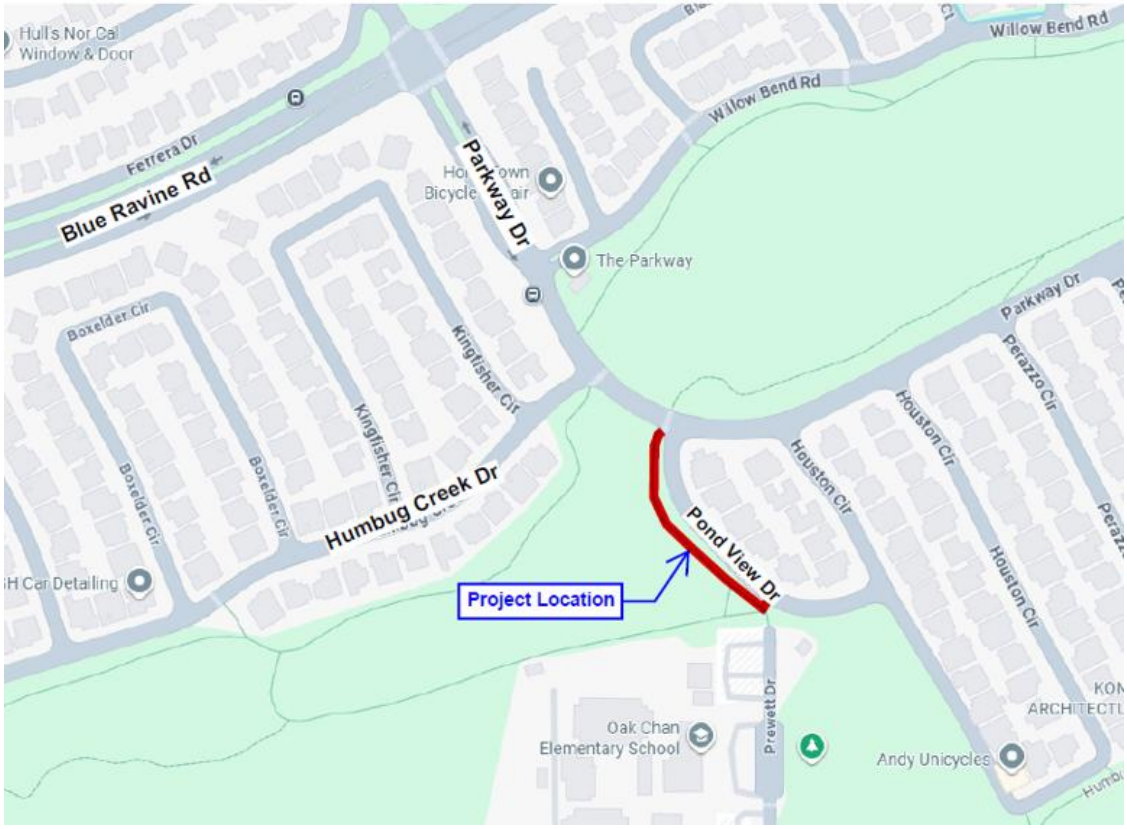


Map of Buckbrush location for Community Service Day - Sept. 19

Map of Peterson Place Apts. location



Map of Pond View Dr. location



OCTOBER MEETING NOTICE

Members and the public are invited to attend

LOCATION:
HINKLE CREEK NATURE CENTER
7000 BALDWIN DAM RD, FOLSOM,

DATE AND TIME:
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8
6:30 PM

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.

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.

New Members
We're glad you're here!

Sarah Cevallos
Julianna Greenhaghl
Chrystal Tobias

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., October 8
6:30 PM

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

Members & Public invited!

Resources

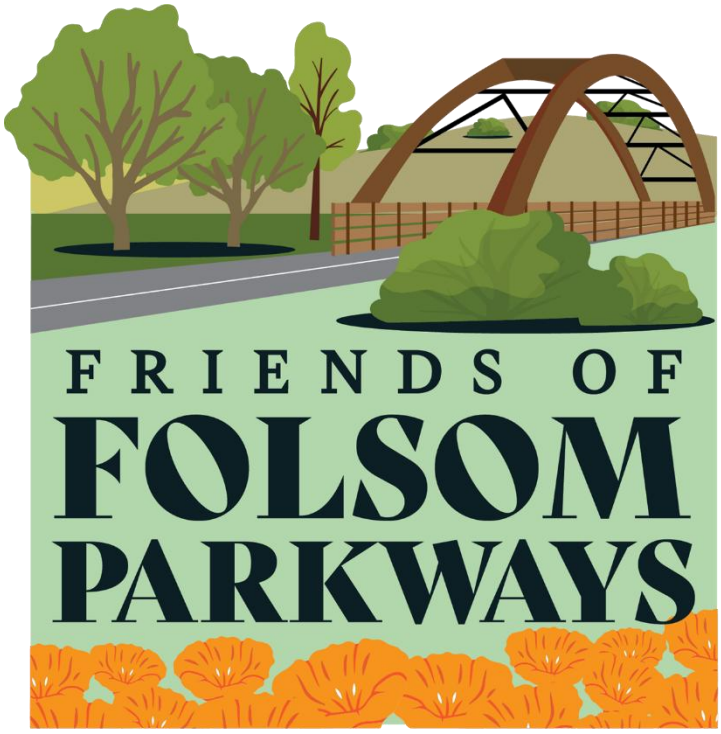
Upcoming Events

Volunteer

Learn about the Adopt-A-Trail Program

Sponsor a Trail

Donate



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

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:
Asher Chang
Saanvi Peddi
Fatima Rasheed
Nandika Tiwari
Jason Wooster

[Increase your membership level]

[Ask a Question]

As Seen on the trails

See anything interesting on your trail walks or rides?

Whether it's an enormous leaf, local wildlife or plants, or even a beautiful sunset full of goats, send us your trail pictures and we could showcase your photo in our "As Seen On The Trails" feature.

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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