

**Old Sacramento**

Walk, pedal or ride a horse: the trails all begin (or end) here, where the early American settlers made their most visible marks. After the discovery of gold in 1848, merchants and hoteliers were needed to support miners and the rapidly growing population. Seasonal flooding and devastating fires failed to deter these early pioneers. They built their businesses of brick and then physically raised the ground level of their waterfront city by a dozen feet to protect against flooding. Sacramento became so successful the west coast terminus of the Pony Express, telegraph and trans-continental railroad found its home here. Old Sacramento's many fine museums will help you experience the tumultuous early days.



**Schoolhouse Museum**

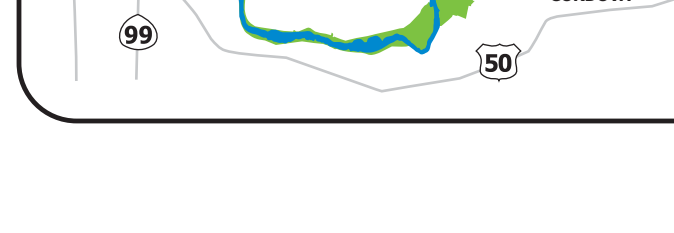
Old Sacramento  
12TH ST.  
10TH ST.  
9TH ST.  
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5TH ST.  
4TH ST.  
3RD ST.  
2ND ST.  
1ST ST.  
RIVER

**Sutter's Fort**  
Sutter's Fort, the oldest restored fort in the West, is located at 27th and L Streets (self-guided tours, 7 days a week, Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year's excepted).  
Having been granted land by the Mexican government, Sutter established his fort as the biggest and best in all of California at the time. Sutter's rancho, New Helvetia, stretched from the mouth of the American River along the south bank to the present Bradshaw Road.

**Golfing**  
Two golf courses are located within the Parkway. Ancil Hoffman Park (named for a Sacramento County Supervisor) contains an 18-hole golf course and Campus Commons is a 9-hole course located just downstream of the "H" Street Bridge.

**Sutter's Landing Park**  
The former City of Sacramento landfill, including the 29th and B Streets point near which John Sutter stepped ashore in 1839, will be developed as a city park.

**California State University, Sacramento**  
CSUS occupies the site which was once Brighton, an important agricultural settlement. Vast fields of hops became Campus Commons after Folsom Dam was completed in 1955. A Pony Express remount station - the 5-Mile House - was located near the southern edge of the campus.



**Discovery Park**

Bannon Slough, the American River and the Sacramento River merge at the western end of the Parkway - Discovery Park. Reservable picnic sites, an archery range, large beach, boat ramp and many acres of habitat make it a desirable destination. Bannon Island and the slough provide year-round riparian and open water habitat for wildlife.

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**State Capitol**  
12TH ST.  
10TH ST.  
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4TH ST.  
3RD ST.  
2ND ST.  
1ST ST.  
RIVER

**Bushy Lake - Cal Expo**  
Once filled from recurrent high water in the river, Bushy Lake now receives most of its water from wells at Cal Expo, site of the California State Fair. The lake and surrounding grasslands provide important habitat for wood ducks and other waterfowl and for elderberry bushes which are home to the valley elderberry long horned beetle, a federally and state protected endangered species. Bushy Lake is popular with bird-watchers and hikers seeking uncrowded and natural conditions.

**John Sutter**  
Portrait of John Sutter, a man with a mustache and a top hat.

**Arden Bar / William Pond Recreation Area**  
Extensively mined for gravel, Arden Bar was reclaimed and named for William B. Pond, former director of Sacramento County Parks Department. The Recreation Area now features a warm water fishing pond regularly stocked with trout, largemouth bass, sunfish, crappie and catfish and is equipped with a handicapped accessible fishing pier. The American River Parkway Foundation's Visitor Center will be located at the site of the old gravel company office.

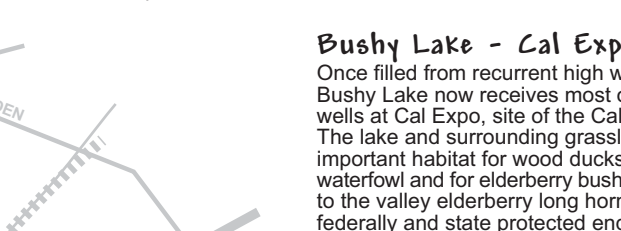
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**TRAIL SYSTEM**

The Jedediah Smith Bicycle Trail extends nearly 32 miles from Old Sacramento to Beal's Point. Bicycles share the trail with pedestrians, who walk and jog on the left shoulder, facing traffic. No motor vehicles, skateboards, or rollerskis are allowed on the trail. An unpaved equestrian trail roughly parallels the bicycle trail through the Parkway, generally providing spatial separation between wheeled and hoofed transportation.



**Bicycling**  
Sacramento has always had bicycle enthusiasts, beginning with the Capital City Wheelmen who lobbied successfully for a cinder path from Sacramento to Folsom. At its completion in 1896, 500 cyclists pedaled off on the inaugural journey over what would become the Jedediah Smith Memorial Bicycle Trail. The existing trail runs almost 32 miles from Old Sacramento to Beal's Point on Folsom Reservoir.

**Boating**  
Most boating within the Parkway is by way of muscle-powered canoes, kayaks and rafts which launch upstream and take out downstream, using the many access points for boats. Raft rentals and shuttle services are available during the summer season. Daily river flow rates are available by calling the Bureau of Reclamation, (916) 978-5117. Motorized boats and fishing dories can be launched at some boat ramps and some auto access points. There is a 5 mph speed limit on the Lower American River.

**Equestrian**  
Shown by a dashed red line where it winds away from its parallel course with the bicycle trail, the equestrian trail winds through some of the more scenic and serene segments of the Parkway, with staging facilities located at the points designated by the horseshoe symbol.

**Fishing**  
The American River boasts the only fall migration of king (also known as chinook) salmon to occur in an urban setting. Natural spawning occurs where appropriately sized spawning gravels exist, from about Watt Avenue upstream to the fish hatchery. Viewing this magnificent spectacle is best in the Sunrise Boulevard area, where hundreds of salmon can be observed completing their mating ritual. The Nimbus Fish Hatchery also provides self-guided tours and educational displays. During the fall and early winter months, the river is closed to fishing between Ancil Hoffman Park and Hazel Avenue to protect natural spawning. Steelhead also naturally spawn in the river and the introduced species, shad and striped bass, make their presence known during the late spring and summer months. A current fishing license is required at all times. Poaching can seriously endanger our resources and should be reported to CalTIP 1-800-952-5400.

**Folsom Reservoir**  
Completed in 1955, Folsom Dam brought the era of piecemeal reclamation of the flood plain to an end and opened it to residential and commercial development. A part of the federal Central Valley Project, Folsom Reservoir provides water, electricity, flood control and recreation for the region. More information is available from California State Parks.

**Old Folsom**  
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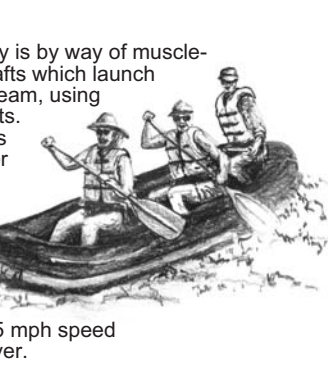
# American River Parkway

## Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail

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**Effie Yeaw Nature Center**  
The Nature Center and 73-acre nature area is located in Ancil Hoffman Park and named for schoolteacher Effie Yeaw. Yeaw led nature walks primarily for school children to share her love and knowledge of the natural history of the American River. The Nature Center is funded by fees for nature tours and underwritten by the American River Parkway Foundation, American River Natural History Association, the County of Sacramento and contributions by individuals. Featured are exhibits, trails and interpretive programs in 77 acres of riparian woodland, grassland and oak woodland.



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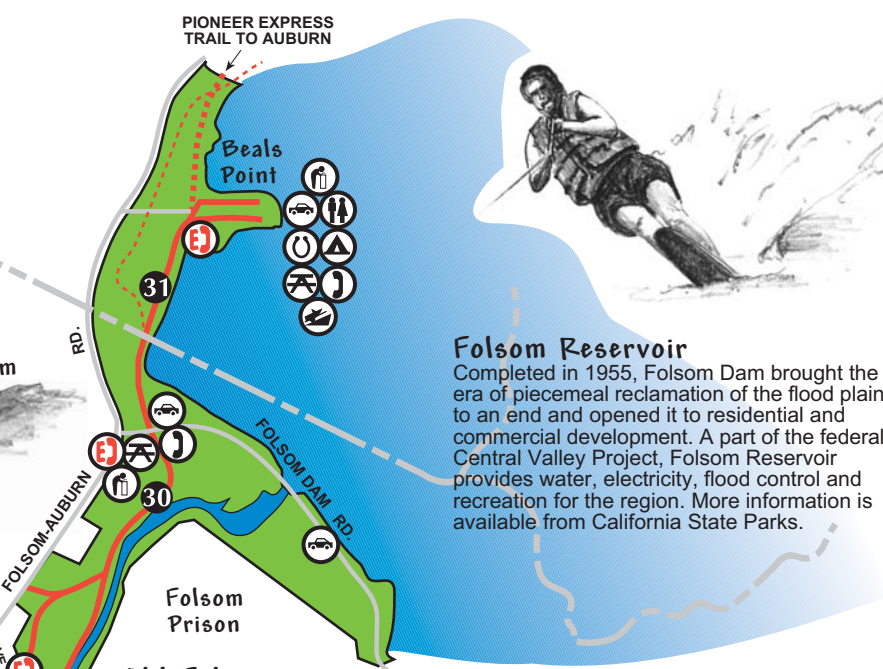
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**Chinese Diggins/Gold Mining**  
Located at Highway 50 and Folsom Boulevard, this is an example of one type of hydraulicking, a form of gold mining using water under gravitational flow. Presumably, Chinese miners created this shoulder-wide, 30 foot deep trench which still exists, but on private property. Remnants of the gold mining era exist throughout the Parkway.

**Nimbus Dam**  
Nimbus Dam forms a reservoir called Lake Natoma that serves as the regulator of flows from Folsom Dam and diverts water into the Folsom South Canal, capable of carrying 3,500 cfs into the San Joaquin Valley. CSUS operates its Aquatic Center here and provides opportunities for flatwater recreation including rowing, wind-surfing and canoeing.

**Nimbus Fish Hatchery**  
Made necessary by Folsom and Nimbus Dams blocking access to historic spawning gravels, the hatchery artificially spawns king salmon and steelhead, raises the young and releases them back to the river as well as into the Delta. The best time to take advantage of the self-guided tour of the hatchery's educational displays and visitor center is during the peak migration time for salmon, October through December.

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**Legend**

- Jedediah Smith Trail
- Equestrian Trail
- Vehicle access with parking\*
- Equestrian trail staging
- Handicap fishing pier
- Restroom
- Public telephone
- Emergency call box
- Picnic area
- Camp site
- Boat ramp\*\*
- Mile marker
- County bike route
- Drinking fountains throughout parkway

\* Facility locations as of July 2002  
\* Parking fees are enforced and citations are treated as parking violations.  
\*\* Parking and boat-launch permits are available at the Sacramento County Parks office.  
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