

# PLANNING FOR AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREAS BEGINS

## PARC'S Idea for ASRA General Plan Campaign

# THE CONFLUENCE

December 2015



**Let's make the connection!**  
ARD overlook to China Bar Bridge to Cool

- \* Boost local economic opportunities.
- \* Improve trail connectivity from Auburn to Cool and Georgetown Divide trails and communities.
- \* Provide convenient river trail crossing for organized and competitive athletic events.
- \* Diversify use of a "naturally" recovering industrial area currently under-used in the Auburn SRA.
- \* Decrease recreational pressure from the over-used, congested Confluence Area.
- \* Design geologic and historical interpretive panels for education.
- \* Improve access for river recreation, including fishing, kayaking, rafting, canoeing, and paddleboarding.
- \* Create the beautiful big "backyard" and Overlook downtown Auburn deserves.

For more information on Protect American River Canyons go to [www.PARC-Auburn.org](http://www.PARC-Auburn.org) Email comments on the Auburn SRA to: [www.parks.ca.gov/PLANASRA](mailto:www.parks.ca.gov/PLANASRA)

### Now is the time to send your comments to California State Parks

After a seven year delay, work has resumed on a new general plan/resource management plan for the Auburn State Recreation Area ("ASRA"). Development of the new plan was suspended in 2008 amid uncertainty

about ASRA's long-term future. With adoption of a new 25 year managing partner agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and State Parks in 2012, the two agencies are again cooperating on a much-needed blueprint for future management of the popular park.

The existing "interim" plan, adopted in 1992, assumed that the ill-fated Auburn Dam would still be constructed, and consequently discouraged recreational use and facility development in the American River

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### DATES TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR:

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# ASRA General Plan Needs Your Input...

Continued from pg 1

canyons. Twenty-three years later it seems obvious the dam will never be built, and it is with great anticipation that we look forward to adoption of a new management plan that recognizes the tremendous recreational resource ASRA has become, and that plans for the future protection and enhancement of this Sierra foothill river canyon treasure.

Recreational use of ASRA has mushroomed in the last 20 years, jumping from 250,000 visitors a year to nearly one million. State Parks has done an admirable job of managing that growth under challenging circumstances, but clearly new strategies are needed in the face of the park's ever-increasing popularity.

If the turnout at the first public workshop held since work on the general plan resumed is any indication, public interest in helping shape those strategies is sky high. More than 200 people packed the Skyridge School gymnasium in Auburn on November 12 to offer their suggestions on how to make one of California's greatest state parks even better.

PARC has offered its own proposal for development of the new general plan. "The American River Confluence Parkway," published in 2004 (and currently posted on our website at [parc-auburn.org](http://parc-auburn.org)) discusses the key issues we believe should be addressed in the plan, emphasizing the need to balance resource protection with enhanced recreational opportunities for park visitors.

The Confluence Parkway

proposal focuses on that portion of the canyon lying directly below the City of Auburn, and calls for additional trails, improved canyon access, and the construction of a trail bridge across the river at China Bar. We believe this part of the canyon, with its proximity to Auburn and existing network of trails and access roads on both sides of the river, along with boating access to the man-made rapids at the former dam construction site, has the potential to become a premier recreational venue in its own right.

China Bar still bears the scars of a canyon scraped clean to anchor a concrete monolith that thankfully was never built. Long off limits to the boating public, China Bar became partially accessible again in 2007 thanks to closure of the Auburn Dam diversion tunnel and restoration of the river to its reconstructed river channel as part of Placer County Water Agency's pump station project.

Access to China Bar remains limited, however, with the paved dam construction road off Maidu Drive in Auburn open only on weekends between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Furthermore, while there are trails leading down to China Bar from both Auburn and Cool, since the river was restored trail users have been unable to cross the river and take advantage of additional trail options such a crossing would afford.

The solution to this problem is simple: the construction of a trail bridge at China Bar that links the trails on each side of the river, adding much-needed trail connectivity and spurring visitation

to a fascinating but currently under-utilized part of ASRA.

PARC believes a trail bridge at China Bar should be one of the new general plan's highest priorities. ASRA is only going to become increasingly popular in the future, and something has to be done to improve access to some parts of the park other than just the Confluence, which often reaches its vehicle capacity on weekends. China Bar is a great option to fulfill that need, with easy access possible by existing roads and trails. A new bridge across the river, coupled with expanded access by the existing roads leading to China Bar, is the key to making this happen.

We encourage you to submit your ideas for the future of ASRA as State Parks develops the new general plan. Comments and suggestions can be submitted by visiting [www.parks.ca.gov/PlanASRA](http://www.parks.ca.gov/PlanASRA). In your comments, please urge State Parks to make construction of a bridge at China Bar an essential goal of the new plan!

To make your comments about the American River known to California State Parks visit:

[www.parks.ca.gov/PlanASRA](http://www.parks.ca.gov/PlanASRA).



# **Fourth Annual PARC High School Scholarship Essay Contest**



2015 PARC Scholarship winners attended their scholarship awards ceremony at the Confluence Area of the American River below Auburn. They each read their winning essays to family members, PARC staff and the public.

PARC Scholarship winners, from left to right: Moses Wolf-Polgar, Del Oro HS; Kiera Jordan, Placer HS; Allie Clark, Colfax HS; Elisabeth Russell, Granite Bay HS; Kaitlyn Clark, Rocklin HS

## **Scholarship Awards Total Increased to \$2500 for 2016 Essay Contest**

The Essay Contest topic for High School Seniors graduating in 2016 will be:

### **Why are the American River and its canyons important to me and what is my vision for improving the Auburn State Recreation Area?**

Students can apply for the PARC Scholarships by submitting an original essay of no more than 500 words describing their response to the topic question about the North and Middle Fork American Rivers and canyons located upstream of Folsom Reservoir, in the Auburn State Recreation Area.

Details and application forms for the 2016 PARC High School Senior Scholarship Essay Contest are NOW available on the PARC website [www.parc-auburn.org](http://www.parc-auburn.org).

#### **THE CONFLUENCE...**

is a seasonal, or as needed, publication of **Protect American River Canyons**.

THE CONFLUENCE is included with basic annual membership. Email us to get on our digital e-news list.

**P.O. Box 9312**

**Auburn, CA 95604**

<http://www.parc-auburn.org>

E-mail: [parc@jps.net](mailto:parc@jps.net)

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## ***George and Joyce Beland PARC Founder Profile***



George, 87, and Joyce Beland are pictured here at the American River Confluence in November 2015. They, along with other concerned citizens, founded PARC in the early 1970's to stop the construction of the Auburn Dam. To quote George, who worked at the Auburn Medical Clinic at the time, "Development was on a rampage and something had to be done to protect the river and canyons". He went on to be elected to two terms as an Auburn City Councilmember from 1980 to 1988. Each term included a year as Mayor. He was also elected to the Placer County Board of Supervisors from 1988 to 1992 and served a year as Chairman of the Board. Protection of the river and canyons was a central critical theme of his tenure as an elected official while the debate over the Auburn Dam raged on the local, state and national theater. On the

political stage he and Joyce worked tirelessly to point out the unsafe earthquake faults, the enormous expense and the negative impacts the dam and the reservoir "bathtub ring" would have on the City of Auburn.

George and Joyce moved to Auburn in 1955 where they raised their 3 children, twin daughters, Suzy and Nancy and son Tom –often taking them to picnic and swim, and fish at Robie Beach on the river below their home. They were both avid hikers who loved to hike with family and friends on canyon trails. George, an amateur birder since childhood with his brothers, helped initiate an Audubon Club chapter in our area. He also was instrumental in developing a Heritage Oak tree ordinance for the Auburn area. George and Joyce are retired now living near the canyon rim. They enjoy visits with family and friends, identifying the birds that visit their feeder and an occasional jaunt out to the canyon rim to soak up the canyon view "worth more than a dam!"

Find us on 

<https://www.facebook.com/Protect-American-River-Canyons-Auburn-CA-PARC>

Special thanks to our FaceBook Guru Andrea Rosenthal for keeping the PARC FB Page current and beautiful.

## ***PARC Summer Intern 2015***

Zach James, a student at UC Santa Cruz, volunteered to help PARC this summer with river trips and social media. Zach graduated from Placer High School, where he ran track, and was one of the winners in the 2014 PARC Scholarship Essay contest.

"For me, the American River is a place where I can escape the chaos of everyday life yet grow closer to the ones that I love. The American River holds a special place in my heart and I can't imagine why people wanted to build a dam here which would have destroyed this irreplaceable environment. The best thing that our generation can do for the canyons is to love them and share them with others and reflect those values in our leadership roles in the future."

Follow us:

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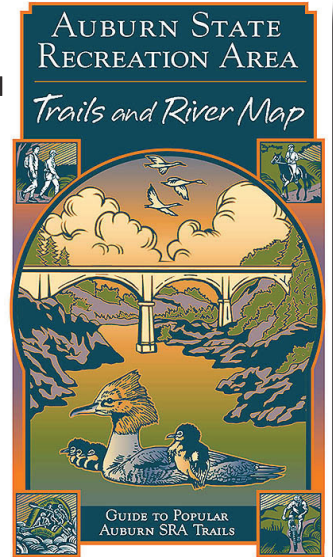
# PARC Publishes New Trails and River Map

The new Auburn SRA Trails and River Map provides visitors with excellent entry level information to access the entire park and its labyrinth of trails and roads from Auburn to Colfax, Foresthill, Cool and Georgetown along 48 miles of the North and Middle Forks of the American River. The level of information provided by the map is valuable for both casual visitors as well as seasoned, dedicated canyon explorers.

Mystic Design's Laurel Mathe annotated the trails and river with user icons that highlight trail use and river rapid locations as well as popular names for both. The maps large format allows visitors to select from a variety of trails and roads to form short and long loop excursions. The over 30 miles of the legendary Western States Trail used by runners and equestrians that passes through the park is clearly noted. Road access information provides options for shuttles and loops.

A brief description of the park and a thumbnail sketch of the Native American and Gold Rush history as well as plant and animal illustrations from Jack Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada provide a glimpse into the richness of the American River experience. Useful park rules, safety considerations, camping and visitor resource contact information and related river guides are included in the map. Local history museum locations and contact information are also noted. The map has been converted into display panels that are being installed in popular visitor locations in the park. This map project was made possible by generous grants from Placer ARTS and the Placer County Water Agency.

For a preview of the map visit PARC's website [www.parc-auburn.org](http://www.parc-auburn.org).



## Outings and Hikes



### Orange is the New Green.

The Washington Ridge Fire & Work Crew installs the new Codfish Creek Discovery Trailhead sign complete with a self-guided interpretive trail brochure box. The sign was donated by PlacerArts, PARC and the Placer Land Trust.

### Auburn Area Winter Birds with Deren Ross

Sunday, December 13th 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Heavy rain cancels.

Meet at the front parking lot of the Historic Placer County Courthouse.

This outing is recommended for the casual or new birdwatcher and offers an opportunity to become better acquainted with the winter birds in our area. We plan to visit several good winter locations by car and on foot.

Bring binoculars, field guides, snacks and water. For more information contact Deren Ross at [derenross@sbcglobal.net](mailto:derenross@sbcglobal.net) or call 530-885-9740.

### New Years Hike in the Knickerbocker Creek Area

Sunday, January 3rd 9:30 am to mid-afternoon. Heavy rain cancels.

Meet at the front parking lot of the Historic Placer County Courthouse.

We will hike a 6 to 8 mile moderate loop trek through the rolling blue oak woodlands between Cool and Auburn in El Dorado County. There may be wet stream crossings and short steep climbs -but we will try to minimize. We will be on the look out for flocks of bluebirds and wild turkeys, stealth coyotes, bobcats, early CA newts, fungi and more.

Bring your new Auburn SRA Trails Map to update and mark for future reference. Also bring water, lunch, a sock change and wear sturdy shoes. For more information contact Eric Peach at [parc@jps.net](mailto:parc@jps.net) or call 530-885-8878.

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# Membership and Donation Opportunities

**P**rotect American River Canyons is a river education and conservation organization dedicated to the protection of the natural, cultural and historical resources of the North and Middle Forks of the American River and its canyons. PARC is very active in the community, sponsoring a variety of social, educational and river service events each year. PARC remains vigilant to destructive development and political threats to the river and canyons. Visit our website [www.parc-auburn.org](http://www.parc-auburn.org).

Yes! I want to join/renew membership with PARC and help shape the future of the American River!

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- (  ) \$25 Regular Member ~ Receive three river cards
- (  ) \$50 River Guardian ~ Receive waterproof version of PARC's new Auburn SRA Trails and River map
- (  ) \$100 River PARCster ~ Receive the American River Insiders Guidebook
- (  ) \$250 River Crusader ~ Receive Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada
- (  ) \$500 River Champion ~ Receive both the AR Guidebook and Laws Field Guide to Sierra
- (  ) \$1,000 River Angel ~ Receive a surprise!

***Please take a moment now to complete and return the enclosed envelope to renew your membership.*** If you prefer to renew online, go to [www.parc-auburn.org](http://www.parc-auburn.org) and click on "Join PARC."

There is also a link on our website for contributing to the **PARC Legacy Fund and Scholarship Award Fund.**

**PARC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.**

You can request your entire donation go to protect the American River by us sending you no premium gifts.

### **Other Giving Opportunities Noted on Renewal Envelope:**

Support the PARC High School Scholarship Program with an additional tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Support the PARC Legacy Fund with an additional tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You can also remember and support the PARC Legacy Fund in your Estate Planning by contacting Veronica Blake of the Placer Community Foundation by phone 530 885-4920 or email [vblake@placercf.org](mailto:vblake@placercf.org).



**(530) 823-9900**

*Jim Doughty*

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# 2016 "On Tour" Wild & Scenic Film Festival with PARC

This upcoming March the "On Tour" 2016 Wild & Scenic Film Festival returns to the State Theatre in Auburn with another incredible selection of films to change your world. The theme of this year's festival is "A Change of Course." It was chosen because issues surrounding water and our watercourses are timely and warrant special attention. Considered one of the nation's premiere environmental and adventure film festivals, this year's films combine stellar filmmaking, beautiful cinematography and first-rate storytelling to inform, inspire and ignite solutions and possibilities to restore the earth and human communities while creating a positive future for the next generation. Festival-goers can expect to see award winning films about nature, community activism, adventure, conservation, water, energy and climate change, wildlife, environmental justice, agriculture, Native American and indigenous cultures.

Please join PARC and the Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center (APPAC) on Saturday March 19th for a fun filled day of films, great food & drinks and American River Canyon news & updates. Tickets & information at [LiveFromAuburn.com](http://LiveFromAuburn.com) or [PARC-Auburn.org](http://PARC-Auburn.org).



## Estate Planning and Leaving Your Own River Legacy



The PARC Legacy Fund is available for those who want to protect the American River and its canyons forever. This endowment fund will grow and provide PARC with a solid financial foundation to continue protecting this unique and irreplaceable environment. The Placer Community Foundation professionally manages the PARC Legacy Fund.

To learn more about estate planning options, please contact Veronica Blake, Executive Director, Placer Community Foundation by phone (530) 885-4920 or email [VBlake@placercf.org](mailto:VBlake@placercf.org). *Thank you for considering leaving a river legacy.*

## S.H.A.R.E.S Cards Support PARC

Support PARC at no cost to you when shopping at Save Mart Supermarkets. Get a S.H.A.R.E.S. card from PARC and use it when checking out. Up to 3% of qualified purchases adds to the quarterly check to PARC. To get a card, contact Gary Estes by calling (530-889-9025) or emailing ([gary32@dg4135.us](mailto:gary32@dg4135.us)) with your name, address and how many cards you want mailed.



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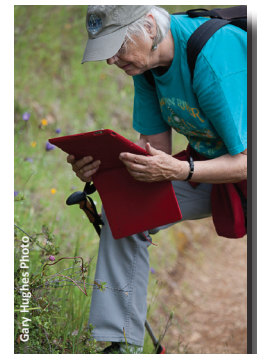
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 amazing job. Thanks Ellen!

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*Protect American River Canyons  
 is dedicated to the protection and  
 conservation of the natural,  
 recreational, cultural and  
 historical resources of the North  
 and Middle Forks of the American  
 River and its canyons for all to  
 responsibly care for and enjoy.*

## Meet PARC's Dynamic Duo...

Roger and Sue Groghan have served the American River for over 20 years. Together they collaborate as Canyon Keepers developing nature programs for children via the Auburn State Recreation Area Junior Ranger Program. They are also docents at the Placer Nature center. Sue has been very involved in editing/proofreading the new edition of our PARC Guidebook. Roger has been an oracle, river guide, "amateur naturalist," PARC board member, "plein air poet" and face painter. He is also a volunteer with the Sierra Native Alliance. Many thanks to these active outdoor enthusiasts who have given so much of their time to the American River and our community. Roger and Sue have made their retirement project to "alleviate Nature Deficit Disorder" in others. If you share similar interests, please consider joining the PARC Board or Advisory Council. Visit [parc-auburn.org](http://parc-auburn.org) for info.



## A Poem by Roger...

They want you to go away  
 At the meeting they were talking into each other's ears  
 Like hummingbirds among flowers  
 They want you to go away  
 They don't want your bulldozers and backhoes  
 And your North Fork Industrial avenue  
 They want you to go away  
 This is their recreational habitat  
 Boaters and hikers runner and rider bikes and horses  
 Poets and artists looking for a rock  
 And those keeping a eye  
 On the leaves and feathers of the seasons  
 This is their recreational habitat  
 It is also our habitat  
 We are the Raccoons of the North Fork