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# Urban & State Parks

## Essential Investments in Urban and State Parks

With California voters' strong support for ballot measures to fund conservation, our state has invested wisely in protecting our land, water and parks. These essential investments have strengthened California's economy by enhancing our environment, attracting tourists and creating jobs.

By investing in expansive and accessible parks in our most densely populated areas, we help California's children lead healthier lives by providing opportunities for exercise and enjoying the outdoors. These investments also provide education about our natural resources and help green our crowded urban communities.

Although we have made great improvements, there is still much to be

done. The future of all of California — from its wide diversity of plants and animals to the wide diversity of people who live here — depends on these essential investments in the land, water and parks that make the Golden State the unique and promising place we all cherish. Among the many noteworthy investments in California's urban and state parks are:

### GUADALUPE RIVER PARK

More than 1 million visitors a year enjoy this spacious oasis in downtown San Jose. With \$1.7 million from Proposition 12, the City of San Jose added landscaped open spaces, continuous trails along the banks of the Guadalupe River, interpretive signs and other amenities. Guadalupe River Park links to the region's network of parks and trails, and it serves as a flood control project, representing a creative and effective way to create recreational areas.

### GOLDEN GATE PARK

Golden Gate Park in San Francisco is larger than New York's Central Park and draws more than 75,000 visitors on an average weekend for a wide range of outdoor activities, museums and cultural attractions. It is the ultimate haven, with its expansive open spaces for activities ranging from tossing a Frisbee to quietly reading a book in the outdoors. With more than \$13 million in Proposition 40 grants to repair and revitalize its many attractions, Golden Gate Park has regained its luster and is more ready than ever for visitors from around the world.

### LOS ANGELES RIVER

Once so blighted that a lawmaker proposed turning it into a freeway, the Los Angeles River is coming back to life and providing outdoor recreation for families. The Los Angeles River passes through 13 cities and countless communities as it flows from the western end of the San Fernando Valley to the Pacific Ocean in Long Beach. Proposition 40 and other public investments are transforming the land along the river's 51-mile course and bringing more parks to Los Angeles, the city with the fewest acres of parkland per person in the U.S.



**Guadalupe River Park (San Jose)**

Photo: Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens & Phil Cornish



**Japanese Tea Garden, Golden Gate Park (San Francisco)**

Photo: California Travel & Tourism Commission & Robert Holmes



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### OTAY RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

The Otay River Valley is a critical habitat link and open space corridor between San Diego Bay and the backcountry for wildlife and for the nearby underserved communities that need access to recreational and educational opportunities. The park provides much-needed green space for South Bay residents. The valley also hosts populations of the California gnatcatcher, coastal cactus wren and several endemic plant species, such as snake cholla. More than \$25 million from Propositions 12 and 40 helped purchase more than 5,000 acres, build trails and create other recreational opportunities at the park.



**Otay River Valley Regional Park (San Diego County)**  
Photo: Duane Bazzel

### ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK

At 600,000 acres, this is the largest state park in California. Located on the eastern side of San Diego County and extending into Imperial and Riverside counties, this park is home to an abundance of recreational opportunities and unique habitats for plants and wildlife. It has 500 miles of dirt roads, 12 wilderness areas and miles of hiking trails. With investments from Proposition 12 and many other sources, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park offers an unparalleled opportunity to experience the unique California Desert.



**Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (Imperial, San Diego & Riverside counties)**  
Photo: California Travel & Tourism Commission

### BALBOA PARK

Balboa Park is the nation's largest urban cultural park, covering 1,200 acres near downtown San Diego. It draws more than 500,000 residents and visitors from around the world to its sprawling gardens, museums and renowned performing arts venues each year. More than \$8 million from Proposition 40 alone has helped advance the projects that make Balboa Park such an integral part of the San Diego community.

### LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK ("CORNFIELDS")

One of downtown Los Angeles' first parks, the Cornfields give low-income and transit-dependent families a place to gather and enjoy the outdoors. The 32-acre park is an ecological and cultural gem for the city, as well as an important part of the Los Angeles River greenway project. With investments from Proposition 40, the park is a model of accessibility to the outdoors in the city's core.

#### CONSERVING CALIFORNIA

A public education program about our essential investments in land, water and parks presented by Audubon California, California Council of Land Trusts, Ocean Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy and WiLDCOAST.

For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.conservingcalifornia.org](http://www.conservingcalifornia.org)

