Imagine.

You are passionate about fishing. You have the best rod and reel; the perfect bait. You’ve been waiting for two months to drop your line in the ponds at Sycamore Island. It’s opening day. You pack your tackle box and rouse your son from bed. It’s time. Except it is 3 am and the gate won’t open until 6 am.

When the Trust’s Project Manager Jake Salimbene arrived early at Sycamore Island on opening day, he was surprised to see a car waiting at the gate. He approached the driver and received an excellent response. “I was just so excited and I wanted to be the first one here.” The local fisherman’s son had no comment. He was asleep in the front seat.

Today you have the chance to make experiences like this possible. With your support, Sycamore Island and Camp Pashayan will be open to all for fishing, canoeing, picnics and wildlife viewing this year.

Imagine.

You’re a 3rd grade student. You live in an urban neighborhood without a local park. You’ve never been to the beach and you don’t have many opportunities to leave your neighborhood. But today will be different. You’re going with your class on a field trip to the San Joaquin River.
A River Docent takes you on a nature hike and now you know about oak tree galls and how Native Americans processed their food. You can’t wait to tell your parents about all the wonderful things you saw. “It was like the forest in the *Wizard of Oz,*” you say.

With the support of individuals like you, children from inner city neighborhoods in Fresno and Madera will take a field trip to the San Joaquin River. For most, it will be their first time in a wild environment. You give local children the chance to spark their curiosity about the world we live in. The best part is these students are visiting parks and public access sites they can share with their families.

You help introduce people in the community to the San Joaquin River.

*Imagine.*

You’re a birder and you often visit the San Joaquin River Parkway hoping to add to your life list. On a visit to Jensen River Ranch at Woodward Park, you see brown and white feathers in the distance. You bring your binoculars up to your eyes. What is that? You see a burrowing owl hiding out in the grass along the edge of the bluff. Another bird species to add to your list.

Support from people just like you has helped protect 4,600 acres of open space for wildlife and people. Your dollars are leveraged to secure state and federal grants for land acquisition and habitat enhancement projects. As properties are added and restoration projects are completed, biodiversity will increase along the San Joaquin River Parkway.

You are making an impact on the diversity of wildlife found along the San Joaquin River Parkway. You make the Parkway a place people want to visit.

*Imagine.*

Early morning, you’ve laced up your shoes, and you’re out getting some exercise on the Lewis S. Eaton Trail. You’ve logged several miles and now you’re ready for a drink of water and a few moments of rest. You arrive at the River Center on Old Friant Road and are greeted by the friendly face of a River Parkway Trust volunteer. He or she shows you to the water fountains, and tells you about upcoming community events and nature hikes.

At the River Center you can set out on the Lewis S. Eaton Trail, explore an interpretive center focused on the San Joaquin River, take in the beauty of the gardens, and visit larger-than-life-sized animal habitats on the Hidden Homes Trail. You can catch a glimpse of turtles and migrating ducks in the pond.
During the summer, bright River Camp shirts set the scene at the River Center. Campers meet their counselors and new friends while they wait for the camp bus to arrive. Monthly Respite by the River programs bring local authors and musicians out to perform for the community as the sun is setting and the evening breezes pick up.

The River Center is a hub of community activity. Your support means keeping one of the most well-used public access sites on the Parkway open 7 days a week.

*Imagine.*

You are a parent with young children at home. When you were a child you spent all your free time playing outside. You see that times have changed and children today are disconnected from the natural world. But you want to instill a love for the outdoors in your children. You bring the kids out to join a nature walk with the River Parkway Trust. The nature guide tells stories about how the table-top mountains got their flat tops and how the river smoothed the rocks beneath your feet. He takes your family to the river’s edge, dips his hands in the water and tells your children he has a surprise. A tadpole! On the way home you can hear chatter from the backseat. “I can’t wait to go back to the river.”

The San Joaquin River Parkway provides outdoor nature experiences that are close to home.

With you we can provide programs that connect people to the Parkway and the San Joaquin River. Because of you we can take people to places along the Parkway that aren’t usually open to the public.

You don’t have to be a Parkway user to support the effort. When you contribute to the River Parkway Trust, you are not only supporting the concept behind the Parkway. You are also creating many opportunities for people to get out and enjoy what the Parkway has to offer.

Every day, thousands of people just like you appreciate and enjoy the San Joaquin River Parkway.

- Anglers drop their lines in the ponds at Sycamore Island.
- Students come off of a school bus ready to explore a new environment.
• Birders search for that next species to add to their life list.

• Recreationists set out on the trails and paddle the river.

• Parents and grandparents nurture a curiosity for nature in their children.

• Believers stand behind the concept for creating the 22-mile Parkway.

*Imagine the impact you can make today...*

The generosity of individuals advances the effort to create the Parkway and provide our community access.

That’s right, you can contribute to providing Parkway access—for your family, your friends, and your neighbors. Please make a generous donation today. Your gift of $50, $100, or any amount that is appropriate for you, will make an impact. Every gift makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Coke Hallowell
Chairman of the Board

Sharon Weaver
Executive Director

PS. Your spring time donation will directly support the program services and park operations that provide public access to the San Joaquin River Parkway.