

# THE GUADALUPE GAZETTE

The Guadalupe River Park Conservancy provides community leadership for the development and active use of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens through education, advocacy and stewardship.

This newsletter is generously supported by



## Meet Us at the River Park

### UPCOMING EVENTS & UPDATES

- **August 20, 10:30-11:30am:** Summer Trail Tour starts at the Rotary PlayGarden
- **September 15, 5:30-7:30pm:** Window on the River Park in Little Italy
- **October 8, 10:00am-4:00pm:** Pumpkins in the Park at Discovery Meadow

### PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Historic Orchard Workdays:** 1st Saturday of the month, 9-11:30am
- **Trail Clean Ups:** 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 9-11am
- **Heritage Rose Garden Workdays:** Every Saturday, 8:30-11:30am
- **Trail Ambassador and Tag Team** recruitment (ongoing)



### Become a Member!

Support programs and initiatives that uplift community through the River Park by joining our membership program!

Visit [grpg.org](http://grpg.org) to learn more and join.



## Nurture Inclusion with Parks

We strive to create a welcoming River Park where a healthy river sets stories of civic aspiration. Featured in this Issue are stories of community creativity, and discovery, sparked by people's connection to the Guadalupe River Park. From art, to clean ups, to education and public events, we delight in sharing some of these stories here, few of many that occur regularly along the Guadalupe River Park. We look forward to learning of yours as well.

- The Conservancy Team

Stewardship Metrics	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Number of volunteers	603	542
Acres maintained	55	51
Volunteer hours	1,616	1,556
Trail patrols	14	24
Trash bags filled	169	310
Pounds of trash removed	5,070	9,300
Park features restored	1	9

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# River Park Round Up

## RHYMES & ROSES

Thank you to those who came and attended our first ever poetry workshop and slam, Rhymes & Roses, at the Heritage Rose Garden this past April. We enjoyed soaking up the beauty of the Heritage Rose Garden and hearing how the park inspires your creativity!

## JOIN OUR UPCOMING SUMMER TRAIL TOUR SERIES

Trail Tours are an opportunity to learn more about the Guadalupe River Park, with Guadalupe Guides stopping along the route for observations according to what piques the group's interest. Expect a unique experience each time you join! The next Trail Tour will be August 20 at 10:30am.

## ROTARY PLAYGARDEN EXPANSION

On Saturday, April 30 we broke ground on the Rotary PlayGarden expansion project. This Expansion addresses the need for more inclusive and welcoming playgrounds in the Bay Area; and would not be possible without support from the Rotary Club of San Jose, City of San Jose, and the County of Santa Clara.



Please join the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy at our annual celebration, Window on the River Park, as we uplift our community's commitment to nurturing and cherishing San Jose's front yard, a civic greenway that connects people to the River and each other.

Consider sponsoring this treasured event that convenes generations of River Park stewards, advocates, and champions. Your support ensures that we continue to provide community leadership for the active-use and development of our unique natural resource.

### Sponsorship Levels

- Presenting Conservator: \$25,000
- Conservancy Champion: \$10,000
- Gardens Keeper: \$5,000
- Green Guardian: \$2,500
- Meadow Circle: \$1,000
- Trail Steward: \$500

Visit [grpg.org/window-on-the-river-park/](https://grpg.org/window-on-the-river-park/) or email [info@grpg.org](mailto:info@grpg.org) to support.



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## Finding Community through Cleaning



“I have a passion for [this work] because the thing is when you help somebody else, it makes you feel good about what you have. You don’t have to make a lot of money to be happy in life, but you have to feel good about what you’re doing. As long as you feel that, everything else is icing on the cake” - Evelyn Bonato, DST volunteer for 9 years

Since its inception in 2005, Downtown Streets Team (DST) has helped clean up communities and provided pathways out of homelessness throughout California. Along the Guadalupe River Park, with funding from Valley Water and in partnership with Guadalupe River Park Conservancy and the San Jose Conservation Corps, DST engages homeless, formerly homeless, or housing insecure individuals in cleaning up the Guadalupe River Park—the very park where some of them once resided.

This program supports participants by providing social services such as case management, housing connections, and record expungement to those who commit to helping remove litter and beautify communities. A key to success is the sense of community developed through the program. Kary, a Team Member for over a year, says, “I’m so proud of myself that I’m finally part of a community. I found people who appreciate me, and people who say Good Morning and Thank You when they see me picking up trash on the trail. It’s a good feeling to be recognized for my hard work. It makes me feel like I belong.”

A sense of belonging is especially sought after experiencing homelessness and the recent pandemic. Evelyn, who has been a volunteer with DST for nearly 10 years, made the point that people never stop needing community no matter their circumstance. “They say it takes a community to raise a child. But it also takes a community to help an adult and get them off the street... I wanted to help myself, and put myself in rehab, but when I got out I still needed support.”

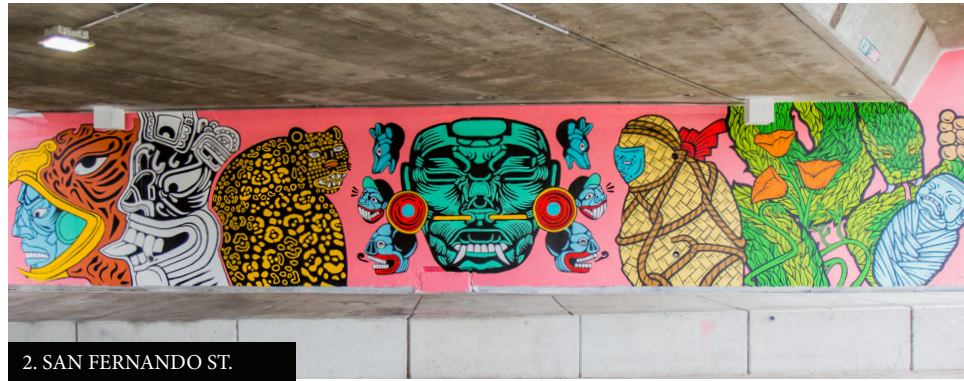
Through case management and community service, Downtown Streets Team is helping traditionally overlooked San Jose residents gain confidence, skill development, and kinship with fellow community members, all while stewarding the Guadalupe River Park. If you see a Team Member while you’re out along the trail, be sure to say hello!







1. COLEMAN AVE.



2. SAN FERNANDO ST.



3. PARK AVE.



4. WOZ WAY



5. WOZ WAY



6. WOZ WAY

## Guadalupe River Art Walk

There is serenity to be found within the stillness of beauty and nature, a calmness that occurs when one stops to bask in the present moment. Beauty and nature are often experienced hand-in-hand; by the variations on a shell, the changing colors of leaves with the seasons, or the textures of trees seasoned with time.

The craft of an artist is also an expression of beauty, and by merging art and nature through the expansion of the Guadalupe River Art Walk, we aim to amplify the sense of tranquility visitors of the Guadalupe River Park experience, stirred with relics of artists inspired by such a place.

Partnering once more with San Jose Walls, the Guadalupe River Art Walk contributes to the largest public art corridor in the Bay Area. Between April 30 to May 8, 17 artists created nine new mural installations at five different locations along the Guadalupe River Trail.

With themes ranging from culture, identity, and nature, these murals convey a rich anthology of San Jose with artwork as diverse as the artists behind them. Take for example "New Wave", made up of a collection of murals from artists with the Humble Beginnings Tattoo Collective. These murals weave the artists' passions, cultures, and traditions in a visually cohesive mural compilation showcasing San Jose's diversity and artistic talent.

Coupled with the production of new murals was an art showcase, public paint days, bike tour, dance party, and popup crafts fair. Park visitors and art enthusiasts discovering these new murals would leave enjoying positive physical health and mental wellness benefits that derive from spending time in nature and in the presence of public art.

This Initiative highlights the impact of community-driven placemaking, leveraging the energy of the arts, the respite of a natural resource, and ingenuity of our community. We believe artwork in the park will encourage more visits, foster community spirit, and spark inspiration and regeneration while nurturing a connection to the ecological and creative culture of San Jose.

### Artist Roster

1. Horimoto
2. Bryan Sanchez
2. Edgar Sanchez
3. Jacquelin de Leon
4. Jordan Gabriel
5. Melissa Manuel
6. Ricardo Gonzalez
7. Jeff Quintano
8. Alan Pham
9. Orly Locquiao

### Festival Sponsors

Applied Materials  
Anne and Mark's Art Party  
County of Santa Clara  
City of San José  
Cresco  
Exhibit Itown  
FOMO MOFO  
Kelly Moore Paints  
Montana Cans  
SJ Conservation Corp  
SJ Downtown Association  
Team San Jose  
Valley Water  
YBCA



7. WOZ WAY



8. WOZ WAY



9. WOZ WAY



# How Our Park Builds Bonds Beyond Borders



The Capital of Silicon Valley continues to attract people across our country and world in search of new opportunities. Many remain and grow roots, strengthening community and contributing to the cultural vibrancy that defines our city. To call a place home extends beyond work and a place to live - a connection to place and a sense of community are vital elements that lead to a feeling of belonging. Deepali Joshi, an active volunteer and former environmental educator, found her connection to San Jose through her discovery and involvement with the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy.

Deepali moved to New Jersey in 2016 with her husband and daughter, then to California less than a year later following work opportunities he found. Having completed her Masters in Environmental Sciences and working as a lecturer for three years in India prior to immigrating, she sought opportunities to continue her vocation. However, her first connection with the Conservancy came through a serendipitous bike ride through the Guadalupe River Park.

"I still remember when we moved to California and visited the Rotary PlayGarden and cycled around the area. We reached the Shivaji-Maharaj statue, a great warrior from my home state in Maharashtra, India. At that time I wished to work here, and the next month I started working!"

**"This is my home to home journey... I never felt alone in a new country as an immigrant after joining the GRPC!"**

As an Environmental Educator, Deepali instructed topics covering specific interdependence and adaptation, biomonitoring, and human impacts on the environment. While teaching, she also continued to learn, building confidence in her communications skills and expanding her knowledge of local ecologies and wildlife. She would often bring her daughter with her, Myrunmayee, then in kindergarten, to also nurture her connection to our city and natural resource. Now in fifth grade, Myrunmayee and Deepali, now an Instructional Assistant with Moreland School District, are proud reptile lovers. Myrunmayee still joins her mother on weekends to care for our animals.



## Host your next party or team-building event at the Rotary PlayGarden!

With dynamic play structures and multiple gathering areas, situated among other Guadalupe Gardens features like the Heritage Rose Garden and River Trail, consider hosting your next team-building event, company meeting, or community celebration in this treasured civic amenity.

Please email [picnic@grpg.org](mailto:picnic@grpg.org) for pricing and availability.



# Junior Guadalupe Guide

New this year with our Camp Guadalupe summer offering is our Junior Guadalupe (Guad) Guide program. The program aims to include former participants and youth leaders into the planning and programming of this treasured experience.

Our current Junior Guad Guide, Daniel, is a former CHIRP (Community Homeschool Investigators of the River Park) student who not only showed an interest in learning about environmental education, but who was also a leader and supporter to other students in the program. He helps our Camp Guadalupe leaders with setting up camp activities, joining in ecology walks, and working on developing an environmental-related independent interest project.

Our Junior Guad Guides continue to nurture their interest in environmental science and connection to the River Park, with this program encouraging the opportunity for them to further explore their curiosity and develop their leadership skills.

Fostering appreciation for the environment at an early age nurtures a lifelong love of nature. Students like Daniel continue to inspire us to develop ways to encourage this fondness for the outdoors in youth of all ages through the River Park.



# Work Study Year with the Conservancy



At Cristo Rey High School students learn professional skills and different career paths by participating in a work study program along with their regular schooling. This past academic year, we were fortunate to have some wonderful interns join our team and support the Conservancy. Elijah, pictured to the left, says they have developed not only on-the-job skills by assisting here, but also a deeper appreciation for nonprofits and nature.

**"I feel like many people my age have a lot of things on their plate between school, clubs, and applying to colleges, and don't always have time to hang out outside. But it's nice to feel the air and be outside, we should all try to more often."**

Helping with our reader boards in particular has been their favorite activity because they get to enjoy their impact immediately and know they are helping bring awareness to the different programs and events happening around the River Park.

Summing up their time with us here, Elijah said, "Getting to see happy kids using the Rotary PlayGarden and park has been really nice. I can see connections to people and the environment happening in real time."