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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.



Become a Member!

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

Visit grpg.org to learn more and join.

THE GUADALUPE GAZETTE

WINTER 2021

What's Up Down Stream?

Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Guadalupe Gazette- a seasonal newsletter from the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy updating our donors, members, and friends on what's happening "behind the scenes" at the Park, in the Gardens, and in the (virtual) office. In this issue, you'll read about our new membership program, the Guadalupe River Art Walk, and how to adopt a rose in time for Valentine's Day.

We hope to GRPC you on the trail soon!
- the Conservancy Staff



Meet Us at the River Park

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Historic Orchard workdays on Saturday mornings
Monthly Trail Clean Ups
Trail Ambassador recruitment (ongoing)
Weekly Rotary PlayGarden maintenance support (ongoing)

PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

Virtual Field Trips now being offered
CHIRP Virtual Homeschool is live
Adopt-a-Rose for Valentine's Day

RIVER PARK UPDATES

Rotary PlayGarden is NOW OPEN
Friday - Sunday 10am - 4pm
Beginning Saturday January 23, 2021

Letter from the Board President



Photo by Kara Brodgesell

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy –

Happy 2021! We want to thank everyone for your ongoing support and encouragement as our entire community faced so many challenges. We know that parks, open space, and access to shared amenities are vital to feeling connected to nature, our communities, and each other. We hope you will continue to walk+run+ride with us on our journey to become the premier urban riverfront of the Bay Area.

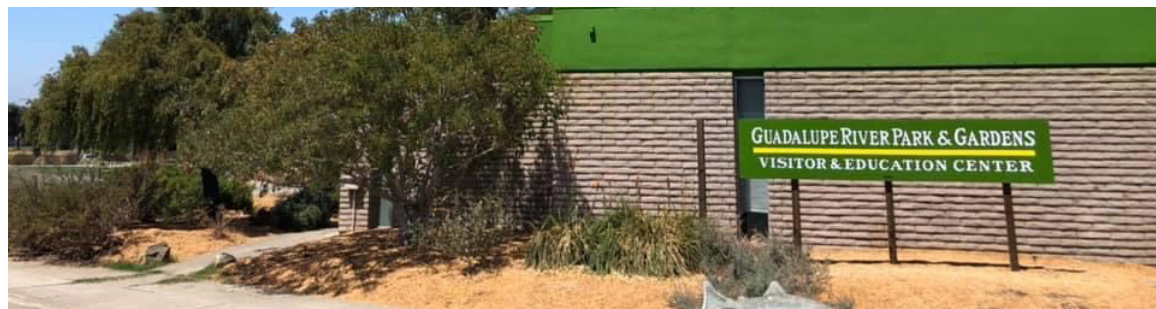
There's no hiding from the fact that last year was tough! As a community, we collectively created new routines and habits, home-schooled, ordered groceries and food deliveries, checked on family and friends online, volunteered, and did more walking and biking around parks and trails than ever. Like all organizations, the Conservancy adapted to State and County mandates and protocols. With limited education and volunteer programs in 2020, we were given time to strengthen our civic+community partner relationships and also step back for self-reflection. We reprioritized, assessed our capacity, and worked to further recommit to our brand as both an influencer and leader in our greater region.

I am proud of the Conservancy Staff and Board of Directors for pivoting, strategizing, fundraising, and actively participating in extra committee meetings, Board development sessions, and visioning exercises. Together with our long-time neighbor and friend Adobe, we achieved our very first virtual Window on the River Park event in October. To our delight, we even met our goal with new corporate sponsors!

As San José transforms, so must our shared spaces transform. Our Guadalupe River Park and Gardens have amazing public assets and this year we are excited to celebrate our 25-year anniversary. We look forward to creating future enhancements that are inclusive, active, vibrant, and safe spaces for all. We hope to physically see more of everyone this year! **#lovethegrp**

Best,

Marguerite Lee
Board President



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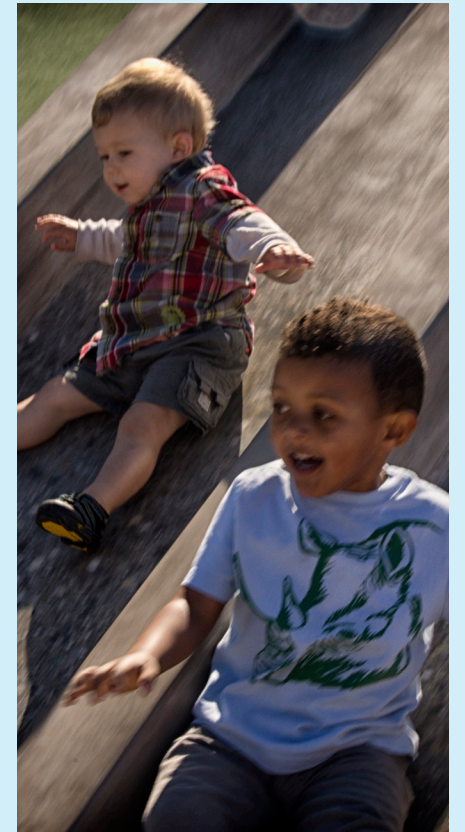
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The Rotary PlayGarden Reopens

Our beloved play space, the Rotary PlayGarden reopened on January 23 after being closed for 10 months due to COVID-19 restrictions. We are thrilled to welcome back over 800 visitors in the first weekend. Located at the southern end of the Guadalupe Gardens and the Mineta San Jose International Airport, the PlayGarden was a centennial gift to the city by the Rotary Club of San Jose, opening to the public on May 23, 2015. Prior to the pandemic, the PlayGarden saw 150,000 visitors a year.

“Our team is very excited to reopen the Rotary PlayGarden again and safely operate this community amenity to support play that transcends physical limitations,” says Joe Salvato, Deputy Director of the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy.

The PlayGarden will be open on a limited basis between Fridays through Sundays, 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Capacity of the PlayGarden is limited to 60 visitors at any given time, and in accordance with public health guidelines, visits are limited to 30 minutes maximum. Visitors are asked to sanitize their hands, maintain six-foot distance, and wear masks at all times. Additional details around safety practices while visiting the PlayGarden and other information around the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens are at **www.grpg.org**.



Remembering Richard Tiede

The Conservancy mourns the passing of Richard Tiede (1941-2020), a great community leader, who passed away in the summer of 2020. Richard was a prolific master gardener, committed Rotarian, and ardent advocate for our horticultural history- supporting our Heritage Rose Garden for many years with his wife, Bracey, who passed away in 2018.

Born in Detroit, Richard worked in the airline industry before becoming a mechanical engineer in San Jose where he designed robots for automated assembly in the electronics industry. He devoted many hours to the Santa Clara Master Gardeners. He was a past president of the Western Horticultural Society and a member of the California Horticultural Society. Later in life, Richard moved to Princeville, Hawaii where he was a member of the Rotary Club of Hanalei Bay, a Paul Harris fellow, and a volunteer at the Kilauea Agricultural Park.

GRPC is grateful to be a beneficiary in Richard's estate plan. We humbly bear his commitment to and championing of supporting our community, horticultural history, and natural resources.



Photo by Marjorie Gifford

Our New Membership Initiative

During the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy had a chance to focus on how to re-envision how we connect with our community. Through a membership survey sent in July 2020, we better understood the priorities of our community, and what worthwhile ways you all would like to connect with the River Park. Thank you to all who completed our membership survey, and sharing your thoughts, concerns, and priority areas of focus. Below is the summary from the collected feedback.

The River Park

What you enjoy -

- Unique combination of natural and urban elements in the River Park
- Extensive network of trails
- Place for volunteer and community events

What are your concerns -

- Safety concerns in the River Park
- High volumes of trash in the River Park
- Presence of homelessness and impacts of encampments on ecology and park use

“In an urban area like San Jose it is essential that we have natural spaces to enjoy. Being able to walk or ride a bike along a river is something everyone should be able to do and the Guadalupe River Park makes this possible.”

- Steve, resident and local worker of San Jose

The Conservancy

What we do well -

- Volunteer workdays supporting Gardens and Trail stewardship
- Community events
- Environmental education programs

What should we do more -

- Improve the cleanliness of the River Park
- Advocate for more Park Rangers and improved security
- Community events (park walks, nature workshops, etc.)

While the feedback provides confidence in our current programs that welcome our community to care for and connect with our River Park, it also reveals how much more of this work is needed. The future of the Guadalupe River Park requires ongoing cherishment, and our members are vital to that foundation.

The feedback from our survey has also helped us better understand how you would like to connect with our work, particularly as we look to refresh our membership program; and **we learned that you care more about our mission, rather than tote bags and baseball caps.**

The two things that survey respondents agreed most on was that the Conservancy provides important learning opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages and that their financial support is paramount to our success.

This past year has truly cemented this feeling in the staff of the Conservancy and in our community, as well. Owing to the events of 2020 and the information gleaned from the survey, we were inspired to create a **Guided Eco-tour** that members will be able to take advantage of when we are all able to gather in the Park again. Guided eco-tours of the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens will provide a unique opportunity for Conservancy members to learn first-hand about some of the most interesting and beautiful natural environments in Silicon Valley.

In the RIVER WALK: explore the riparian corridor and learn about the feathered, furry, and scaled critters that call the Guadalupe River home.

In the GARDEN STROLL: you will visit our Historic Orchard and Heritage Rose Garden and discover the interconnections shared between plants and animals allowing them to thrive.

In the NATURE EXPLORATION WALK: see an overview of the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens, journeying to several areas and experiencing the resident flora and fauna of an urban park.

If you would like to learn more about the Guided Eco-tours or support the Conservancy today through a membership, visit: www.grpg.org/membership

Adopt a Rose for Valentine's Day 2021



A Gift that Gives Twice

Looking for a distinctive Valentine's gift? A bouquet of roses will last a week, but a rose bush will bloom throughout the year. With your donation of \$50 (no package) or \$60 (with package), we will help you select the perfect rose. The gift package includes:

- An announcement card that informs the recipient about the rose adoption, location, variety name, and inscription
- A large gourmet cookie from Catered Too!
- One free red rose each month for a year from Citti's Florist
- A wildflower seed-bomb project for two (with \$15 additional donation)
- Your personal message on a plaque by the rose bush of your choice in the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden for a full year



The San Jose Heritage Rose Garden (HRG) is a unique collection of 3,600 antique and modern roses. Established in 1995 through an extensive community effort, the garden contains 2,600 varieties, more varieties than any other rose garden in the Western Hemisphere. The garden is open daily from dawn to dusk and there is no admission charge. Its stewardship relies on the ongoing dedication of our Master Gardeners, community volunteers, and adopters of our heritage roses.

Introducing: Virtual Field Trips

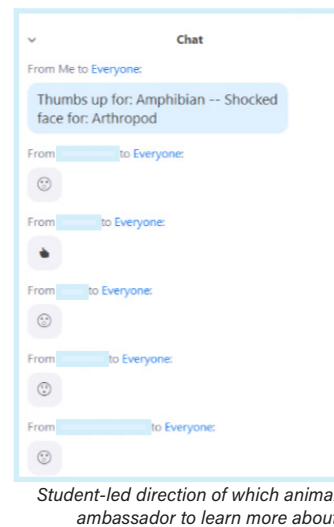
The GRPC Education Team has been excited to roll out our new Virtual Field Trip package this year. While registration opened in late 2020, the start of 2021 has seen the start of materials being sent to teachers across Santa Clara County to support elementary-aged students in their science learning while safely socially distanced. Through the generosity of our funders, we are able to offer this experience free of charge to Title One schools.

After careful and extensive conversations with long-term teacher partners, other environmental organizations, and parents, we hope that we have created an educational experience that will meet the needs of learners and teachers alike. While nothing can replace an in-person visit to the beautiful Guadalupe River Park, our field trip is designed to come as close as possible!

These are challenging times for everyone, students and teachers alike. We didn't want to add to the burden with rigid, inflexible schedules or demands. Our field trip is entirely modular, so that whether a class has twenty minutes or three hours per week for science, our materials fit into the plan. We want to make experiential learning easy for teachers, so we created suggested timelines and standards documents to make planning easier. We understand that students have different access to technology, so all of our materials are unlocked - they can be downloaded and shared with students. We have made as many of our materials bilingual as possible, and are working to expand these resources, and add more languages as we move forward.

Our goals for the Virtual Field Trip go beyond accessibility. We hope that this experience, despite being internet-based, will ultimately lead to students spending more time away from the computer. Our activities are designed to get students out into the world around them, whether that be by dissecting a piece of fruit or completing a scavenger hunt in their neighborhood that they began by watching our videos. We know that when students get outside, stress levels go down, intrinsic motivation goes up, and future environmental stewards - perhaps future supporters of the Guadalupe River Park - are made.

To learn more about our Virtual Field Trip program, or to register your class, please visit: www.grpg.org/education/virtual-field-trips/



The Guadalupe River Art Walk



One of our various program pivots includes this exciting partnership with POW! WOW! San Jose, an internationally-branded, locally led mural arts collective, to create the Guadalupe River Art Walk project. Originally slated to be a week-long festival, POW! WOW! San Jose has evolved their offerings into an artist in residence program leveraging the Guadalupe River Park as a "nature studio." The Guadalupe River Art Walk aims to:

- Create a unique destination within the Bay Area as the region's longest continuous art corridor
- Catalyze community healing and spark civic connections
- Promote neighborhood development through the local arts economy, connection to nature, and pride in our city

In November 2020 the first mural of the Guadalupe River Art Walk was installed. The work, titled "The Flow of Life," by local artist and business owner, Roan Victor, now sits on the north side of the Woz Way bridge behind the Children's Discovery Museum crossing over the Guadalupe River. Featuring stunning imagery that exhibits wildlife and plants that can be found within the GRP, the 160 foot long mural gives new life to the hardscape of San Jose.



Mural painting by Kristina Micotti. Photos by Lanny Nguyen

The second residency artist, Kristina Micotti, another local artist and illustrator, will complete her first public mural this February along the Guadalupe River Trail under Santa Clara Street. This initiative is supported by POW! WOW! Worldwide, Applied Materials Foundation, Kelly-Moore Paints, City of San Jose, Knight Foundation, Montana Cans, and Monster Energy.

Connect Now Through Your Phone!

Using the QR code

1. Open the camera app on your phone
2. Hold the camera up to the code
3. Wait for a banner with a link to appear
4. Click the banner to go to www.grpg.org
5. Become a member!

