

## CHAPTER 6

# NON-RECREATIONAL USE OF THE PARKWAY

Although the American River Parkway is a public recreational area, certain activities and facilities occur which are not recreational in character. Some, but not all, of these activities and facilities are incidental to the recreational use of the Parkway. The purpose of this section is to identify non-recreational uses in the Parkway and to provide guidance in permitting or prohibiting those uses.

### Non-recreational Use of the Parkway

- 6.1** Commercial activities shall be permitted only if compatible with the goals of the Parkway, as determined by this Plan.
  - 6.1.1** Commercial activities shall not be permitted solely for the purpose of raising revenue to fund the management of the Parkway.
  - 6.1.2** All proposed commercial activities, whether on land or water, shall be subject to review by the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks and the Recreation and Parks Commission. Final approval shall be by the Board of Supervisors.
  - 6.1.3** The following criteria shall be considered during the review of commercial proposals:
    - a** Services or sales shall be necessary to the enhancement of permitted recreational activities.
    - b** Services or sales shall not attract customers who would not otherwise be Parkway users.
    - c** Services or sales shall be dependent upon the Parkway environment and be consistent with its stated purpose.
  - 6.1.4** Commercial activities determined to be compatible with the goals of the Parkway shall only be considered for location in Developed Recreation areas and only as an auxiliary component to permitted recreational or interpretive/educational facilities.
  - 6.1.5** Commercial activities in association with special events, including the sale of food and beverage from mobile day-use units, will only be considered in fixed locations in association with a special event permit. Staff shall review each special event permit request on an individual basis to assess potential adverse impacts on the Parkway such as litter and other nuisances.
  - 6.1.6** Proposed commercial activities shall be designated on appropriate area plans.
- 6.2** Caretaker facilities may be installed in Developed Recreation, Limited Recreation and Recreation Reserve Areas whenever lack of surveillance is a problem.



#### Non-recreational Use of the Parkway

- 6.3 Caretaker facilities shall be accessible by vehicle, but should not be highly visible to Parkway users. Location, architectural design and screening shall be considered in the placement of the facilities, and such facilities shall conform to the Combining Zone Ordinance policies for architectural standards and consistent with the visual impact policies herein.
- 6.4 Agricultural activities that promote land stewardship, provide educational/interpretive services to Parkway users, or help to transition land to a restored state are consistent with the goals and policies of this Plan.
  - 6.4.1 Agricultural activities in the Parkway should incorporate educational and interpretive programs. Sustainable, organic and wildlife-friendly farming practices are preferred.
  - 6.4.2 Agricultural activities, as permitted per land use designation, may be used as a management tool on an interim basis to inhibit the spread of invasive species.
  - 6.4.3 It is the preference of this Plan that lands previously leased for agricultural purposes be converted to uses that improve wildlife habitat and ensure a wildlife corridor.

## COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Commercial activities in the Parkway are intended to augment and improve the Parkway visitor's experience. The primary purpose of any permitted commercial activity should be consistent with the goals and policies of this Plan.

Commercial activities may be permitted in Developed Recreation areas as an auxiliary component of a permitted recreational facility or interpretive/educational facility. Commercial activities which occur on the Parkway are usually operated by private concession rather than by the County. A concession is a privately operated activity, usually for profit, which occurs on public domain by authorization of the responsible land use authority. A number of concessions have been awarded within the Parkway, including raft and canoe rentals, activities associated with the Ancil Hoffman Golf Course and operations of the Effie Yeaw Interpretive Center. Concessions are normally awarded when a desired activity or service can be accomplished more efficiently by a private entity than by the County.

Commercial activity by concession can be divided into two general groups: services and sales. Commercial services include such activities as garbage pickup, maintenance of grounds and structures, restoration planting and monitoring, professional instruction, and rental and boarding of horses. Commercial sales include food and beverages, recreation equipment, "convenience items" and other recreational or educational/interpretive merchandise. In the future, commercial sales could also include a stand for the sale of produce and/or plants at the proposed native plant nursery and farm (preferably organic farm) in American River Ranch.

These two groups, service and sales, may occasionally overlap. For example, a raft rental may include the sale of food and beverage. Recommended criteria to facilitate determinations on the establishment of commercial activities in the Parkway are included in the Implementation Measures section (Chapter 11) of this Plan.



Commercial activities in the Parkway must be approved by the County Board of Supervisors. Vendor sales associated with special events may be approved by permission of the Parkway Manager as part of a special event permit. Further, while the sale of food and beverage in the Parkway may be considered for mobile day-use units in fixed locations as part of a special event permit, they shall not be permitted on a seasonal basis or as a regular facility or feature in the Parkway. Staff shall review each special event permit request on an individual basis to assess potential adverse impacts on the Parkway such as litter, nuisances, impacts upon the vegetation, wildlife or other permitted Parkway users.



*Agricultural production and programs provide environmental education and working examples of sustainable land stewardship.*

## CARETAKERS

Caretaker facilities currently exist at Ancil Hoffman Park. Caretakers reside in the Parkway, usually in mobile quarters, in exchange for specified maintenance and surveillance responsibilities.

The use of caretakers should be considered wherever lack of surveillance is a problem. Caretakers are not presently acting in an enforcement capacity. Law enforcement is the responsibility of the rangers and other law enforcement agencies.

## AGRICULTURE

Various forms of agricultural production have been occurring along the American River Parkway for the last half century. At the time of the 2006 update of this Plan, active agricultural leases exist in the American River Ranch and Rossmoor Bar areas of the Parkway.

Once only valued for food production, farms now are increasingly recognized as open space resources that can be compatible with wildlife and educate the urban public about agriculture and ecology. As farmland continues to disappear in the Sacramento region, the maintenance of model agriculture within the Parkway can help preserve the agricultural heritage of our region and serve as a valuable interpretive tool that brings together environmental, stewardship and food production activities unique to our river ecosystem. Farming in the Parkway should include an educational component, such as interpretive signage or farm tours, as a part of the lease agreement.





Agriculture can also be used as a management tool to transition areas planned for restoration into a more naturalistic state. Actively farming the land can provide food for native wildlife and foraging species, while inhibiting the establishment of invasive non-native vegetation. Areas of the Parkway that are no longer in agricultural production should be restored in order to improve the habitat values of the area, in association with the land use designation.

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Parkway, which extends approximately twenty-nine miles through an urban area, is crossed by electrical lines, sewer trunk lines, water lines, and other public utility facilities. Several pumping stations, including the Sacramento City Main Pumping Station, are located along the river. The use or modification of the existing facilities and the establishment of new facilities in the Parkway should be consistent with the goals and policies of this Plan. Public utilities can have a visual impact within the Parkway. Methods to reduce their visual impact are addressed in Chapter 7—Land Use, policies 7.19 and 7.20.

## LOCAL DRAINAGE

The Parkway's primary role is to provide a natural drainage course for the American River. The American River not only carries run-off from the Sierra Nevada Mountains, but also accepts run-off from the urban areas that it flows through. Local run-off is carried to the river by way of natural streams, underground culverts and lined channels. Local drainage outfalls to the river can be described a number of different ways: drainage cascading down open rock slopes, flowing from protruding culverts through gate valves and sometimes drainage flows through vegetation so dense that flows cannot be seen, only heard. Any modifications to existing drainage facilities or any additional drainage facilities constructed in the Parkway should be done so in a way that is consistent with the goals and policies of this Plan.

## ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS FOR STRUCTURES

Whether intended for recreational or non-recreational use, structures of any kind affect the character of the Parkway. A structure can be as small as a garbage can enclosure, or as large as a freeway crossing, yet each significantly affects the Parkway. In order to minimize their potential negative impacts, all structures in the Parkway should be consistent with the goals and policies of this Plan.

