Species on the American River Parkway

The American River Parkway is a 4,800-acre (19.4 km²) park located along the American River in the State of California, United States. It was designated as a National Wild and Scenic River in 1972 and acquired by the State of California in 1994. This natural area provides a variety of habitats for wildlife and plants, including riparian and wetland ecosystems. The park offers a wide range of recreational opportunities, such as hiking, biking, fishing, and birdwatching.

River

The American River Parkway is a linear system of parks and natural areas that stretches for 49 miles (80 km) along the American River, one of California’s premier rivers. It is part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, a complex network of waterways and wetlands located in the Sacramento Valley. The river flows through a variety of landscapes, including urban and suburban areas, farmland, and natural ecosystems.

Riparian Forest

The riparian forest along the American River Parkway is a critical habitat for many species. It provides a variety of resources, such as food, cover, and water, and supports a diverse community of plants and animals. Along the lower American River, riparian forest is one of the most biotically rich habitats in the park. The diverse vegetation in the riparian forest supports a wide range of wildlife, including birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates.

Riparian Forest

Woodland and Oak Savannah

The woodland and oak savannah along the lower American River Parkway is a complex habitat that supports a variety of species. It is characterized by a mixture of oak trees, shrubs, and grasses, and provides a range of resources, such as food, water, and cover. This habitat is home to a diverse array of wildlife, including birds, mammals, and reptiles.

Oak Woodland and Oak Savannah

Riparian Forest

Great Blue Heron

River Otter

Great Blue Heron

River Otter

Meadowland and Wetland

Meadowland and Wetland

Gold mining activities in the early part of the 20th century left behind large piles of cobbles, some of which remain visible today. These tailings are situated along the western side of the American River Parkway, near the confluence with the Sacramento River.

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Jedediah Smith Bicycle Trail extends nearly 32 miles from Old Sacramento to Beal’s Point. Bicycles share the shoulder, facing traffic. An unpaved equestrian/hiking trail with pedestrians, who walk and jog on the left from Old Sacramento to Beal’s Point.