

# #179

**COMPLETE**

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**Q1** Name of your organization.

San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.

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**Q2** Grant #

20170866

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**Q3** Grant Period

December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2018

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**Q4** Location of your organization

City	<b>Fresno, Madera, Firebaugh</b>
State	<b>California</b>

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**Q5** Name and Title of person completing evaluation.

Sarah Parkes, Director of Annual Giving

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**Q6** Phone Number:

559-248-8480 ext. 107

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**Q7** Email address.

sparkes@riverparkway.org

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Page 2: Key Outcomes and Results

**Q8** Total number of clients served through this grant funding:

1,207 students and youth participated in the program. In addition, approximate 100 teachers and adult chaperones were engaged through the programs offered with this grant support.

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**Q9** Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on the goals and objectives. Use the following format: State the Goal: State Objective 1: Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 1: State Objective 2 (if applicable): Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 2: State Objective 3 (if applicable): Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 3:

1. Partner with five Fresno Unified School District early learning centers to provide River Buddies field trips for 160 preschool aged children to the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies.

In May 2018, the Trust ran five River Buddies field trips for Fresno Unified School District Early Learning Centers. In total, we reached 6 classrooms and 116 preschool-aged children. During their field trip to the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies (River Center), students participated in a guided nature hike, a story time, craft activity, and exploration of a pond. Field trip activities revolve around a program theme including Bug Buddies, Pond Pals, or Bird Buddies. Teachers selected a program theme for their students. Each teacher completed a post-field trip survey to provide feedback about the experience. We received positive scores and feedback from each of the participating teachers. During each of the field trips teachers and chaperones expressed to our staff that they didn't know about the River Center and were planning to visit again in the future.

2. Provide a half-day field trip to the Andrew Firebaugh Community Center and Park for 950 children in first through fifth-grade. We will hold 10 field trips during the fall of 2018, working in collaboration with the Firebaugh Las Deltas School District.

This fall, the Trust provided field trips for every Transitional Kindergarten through fifth-grade classroom in the Firebaugh Las-Deltas Unified School District. Through this program the Trust served 1,079 students and 41 individual classrooms. Field trips were held at the Andrew Firebaugh Community Park, located on the banks of the San Joaquin River in central Firebaugh. Students were able to walk to the park from their school site. The Trust's Program Director and support staff developed three new program activities and correlated them to Next Generation Science Standards for multiple grade levels. In Stream Science students modeled the creation of a stream, learned about the force of moving water, and how humans impact streams and rivers. Seed Survival gave students the opportunity to learn about seed dispersal and design their own seed to meet a specific dispersal challenge. The Trash Timeline/Recycle Relay helped students understand how long their trash will take to decompose or biodegrade. This activity was especially impactful as the park where field trips were held is often littered with trash. As the students began to better understand the environmental impacts of litter, they became eager to help clean up the park. At the end of each field trip, all students had something related to one of the activities to take home. Take home projects included a bird nest craft, water cycle key chain, or biodegradable pot and cilantro seeds to grow at home. Each field trip also included team-building activities and physically active games. In keeping with the program theme of reducing waste and litter, the Trust provided every student with a reusable water bottle to take home. The water bottles included the logo for the Trust's River Camp Firebaugh program as a way to help outreach for next summer's camp program. Each teacher completed a post-trip survey to provide feedback to Trust staff and we received positive responses related to activity relevance, quality, and student learning. Over the next few months the Firebaugh Las-Deltas Director of Education Services will be collecting additional feedback from teachers and administrators to determine which field trip programs should be offered next season. The Trust anticipates scaling back the program and focusing on specific grades.

3. Hold three outings to the San Joaquin River for 90 participants in Big Brothers Big Sisters Central Valley. Outings will be held on three Saturdays during summer/fall 2018.

The Trust provided one outing to Sycamore Island for Big Brothers Big Sisters (BB/BS) on November 10, 2018. Trust staff worked in partnership with BB/BS staff to coordinate the outing and advertise it to all local 'matches' in Clovis, Fresno, and Madera. In total, 12 participants took part in the day. Participants canoed on a calm water pond known as Old Muddy, enjoyed a nature hike with a scavenger hunt, and learned about the importance of aquatic macroinvertebrates by catching and observing various aquatic insects along the banks of the river. The Trust is treating this first program as a pilot of what we hope will be a larger program in the future. Trust staff is working in collaboration with BB/BS staff to determine the best season for program offerings and how we can help alleviate transportation challenges for participants.

**Q10** Please describe any challenges/obstacles the organization encountered (if any) in attaining goals & objectives.

The Trust's encountered scheduling difficulties in trying to coordinate three program dates for Big Brothers Big Sisters. There were staff capacity challenges with both organizations that made it difficult to get dates on the calendar.

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**Q11** How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles?

Trust staff persisted in working with Big Brothers Big Sisters staff to coordinate at least one program date, which was successfully held in November. We are working collaboratively to determine what program offering will best suit the needs of the BB/BS 'matches'. We are looking at program location, activities, season, and opportunities to help relieve transportation challenges. We plan to hold at least one nature hike day with the organization this spring.

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**Q12** Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.

Through this program, the Trust developed new relationships with Big Brothers Big Sisters staff, and strengthened our existing partnerships with the Fresno Unified and Firebaugh Las-Deltas School Districts. Our strengthened partnership with Firebaugh Las-Deltas was especially meaningful as we were able to learn more about the needs of the students and their families. We have already started to make updates to our River Camp Firebaugh program based on feedback and advice from district administrators. We anticipate that we will be able to reach students we haven't reached in the past to provide scholarships to attend River Camp Firebaugh in 2019.

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**Q13** Briefly describe the impact this grant has had on the organization and community served.

Funding from the Gimbel Foundation enabled the River Parkway Trust to pilot two new programs and connect 1,200 children to the natural world found along the San Joaquin River. The programs funded by this grant served children from low income communities and with limited experience in a natural setting. At the beginning of each field trip program leaders ask participants if they have ever been to the field trip location before. During field trips held at the River Center or Sycamore Island very few hands went up in response to question. In many cases, the major barrier for local families to enjoy outdoor recreation is being unaware of the places available to them. The programs funded by this grant introduced students, teachers, and chaperones in Fresno to two areas along the San Joaquin River Parkway that they can visit again in the future. In the community of Firebaugh the experience of participants and the impact of the program funded by this grant was somewhat different. Most of the children who participated in a Firebaugh field trip had previously visited the park where the program was held. When asked the question "have you been here before?" the students shared that they have attended parties, community picnics, and rodeos held on the grounds nearby. The Firebaugh field trip program gave students a new perspective of the park by introducing them to the more natural areas as they searched for seeds and wildlife clues, and teaching them about the impacts of the trash often left behind after large events. The students in Firebaugh left with a much deeper connection to the park in their community, a place that is readily accessible to them and their families to explore and enjoy the natural world of the San Joaquin River.

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## S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund

**Q14** Please provide a budget expenditure report. Also, provide a budget narrative that explains how the funds were utilized, what was purchased, what were the expensed items based upon the budget that was submitted.

### Staff Salaries

\$5,068.67 Community Programs Director – This position provided program oversight, developed the new curriculum and correlated it to Next Generation Science Standards, hired and training program interns, served as the primary point of communication with program partners, and helped facilitate program activities as needed.

\$4243.28 Education Program Assistant – This position helped with curriculum development and program activity preparation, supported training additional program interns and volunteers, and served as the lead educator for all field trips.

\$2093.74 Program Interns – Interns assisted with program facilitation during the River Buddies field trips to the River Center and the Firebaugh Field Trip Program. Interns also helped with program activity preparation.

Total Salaries: \$11,405.69

### Program Fees

\$812 River Buddies Field Trips – \$7 per child/total 116 participants. All preschool students participating in the River Buddies Field Trips were from Fresno Unified School District Early Learning Centers.

\$7312 Firebaugh Field Trips – 33 classrooms/\$180 and \$7 per child/total 196 participants. All first through fifth-grade students participated in a half-day field trip to the Andrew Firebaugh Community Park. These trips were billed at the per classroom rate. The Trust also provided field trips for all Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students at the park. These trips were billed at \$7 per child.

\$500 Big Brothers Big Sisters Field Day at Sycamore Island – Fees for program day at Sycamore Island. Participants enjoyed canoeing, guided nature hike with a scavenger hunt, and water quality study looking at the macroinvertebrates found in the ponds at Sycamore Island and in the San Joaquin River.

Total Program Fees \$8624

### Supplies

\$1810.30 – Included providing a reusable water bottle for each student participating in the Firebaugh Field Trip Program and activity kit supplies for the new activities developed as part of this program.

Total Supplies \$1810.30

### Transportation

\$768.45 – mileage for travel from Fresno to Firebaugh for field trip preparation and for field trips. Mileage was billed at the 2018 CA rate of .545.

Total Transportation \$768.45.

Total Expenses \$22,608.42

The remaining balance from this grant is \$693.58. The Trust budgeted funds to provide transportation for the River Buddies Field Trips for Fresno Unified Early Learning Centers. Trust staff made numerous attempts to receive an invoice for bus transportation from the time of book the field trip dates through mid-October. We were recently informed that because the school district's fiscal year ended in June and their books were closed, they would not bill the Trust for bus transportation for those trips. In addition, we budgeted for portable toilet rentals for the duration of the Firebaugh Field Trip program this fall. The local company Firebaugh Septic refused our attempts to make a payment of \$650 and notified us they were donating their services. Because of our difficulties scheduling the additional Big Brothers Big Sisters program outings this fall/winter, we would like to propose utilizing the remaining funds to provide a guided nature hike and larger program activity day this spring for BB/BS participants.

**Q15** Please relate a success story:

The Trust held an outing for 'matches' from Big Brothers Big Sisters this fall at Sycamore Island. Participants had the opportunity to canoe, take a nature hike, and investigate aquatic insects collected from the river bank. When ten-year old Princess arrived with her match, she immediately made a beeline for the canoe activity. She was nervous, but her match had gone canoeing before and reassured Princess that everything would be fine. The duo got into a canoe and began paddling out on the Sycamore Island pond known as Old Muddy. After paddling around for about 20 minutes they headed back to shore to participate in the Creepy Crawlies activity, which helps children learn about water quality through the exploration of aquatic macroinvertebrates. Princess grabbed a net and bucket and headed down to the river bank to search for aquatic insects. She brought her bucket up to the picnic tables and together with her match began investigating what she had collected. A small fish was swimming in the bucket. The Trust's activity leaders and Princess's match were not familiar with the fish species. They asked Princess to describe the fish and think about what would help them identify the species. She mentioned the size, color, and shape of the fins. Working together, and with the help of some Google searching, Princess and her match identified the fish as a sculpin. That day Princess learned that things can be known and they can be named. After finishing Creepy Crawlies, Princess asked the Trust's staff if she could do an activity more than once. We asked if she'd like to go canoeing again and she smiled and nodded yes. She said that she was scared of going out on the water at first but that she had fun and once she tried canoeing she wasn't scared anymore. In just a few hours this ten-year old girl made a deep connection to the natural world of the river and built new confidence to try things outside her comfort zone.

**Q16** Please relate a success story here:

**Respondent skipped this question**

**Q17** Please relate a success story here:

**Respondent skipped this question**

Page 5: Organizational Information

**Q18** Which category best describes the organization. Please choose only one.

**Environmental**

**Q19** What is the organization's primary program area of interest?

**Environment/Environmental**

**Q20** Percentage of clients served through grant in each ethnic group category. Total must equal 100%

Caucasian	<b>5</b>
Hispanic Latino	<b>90</b>
Unknown	<b>5</b>

**Q21** Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each age category.

Children Birth-05 years of age	<b>314</b>
Children ages 06-12 years of age	<b>893</b>
Adults	<b>100</b>

**Q22** Approximate percentage of clients served with disabilities from grant funds.

Physically Disabled	<b>1</b>
Learning Disabled	<b>1</b>
Speech Impaired	<b>1</b>

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund

<b>Q23</b> Approximate percentage of clients served in each economic group.	At/Below Poverty Level	<b>90</b>
	Migrant Worker	<b>65</b>

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<b>Q24</b> Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each population category.	Ethnic Minority	<b>90</b>
	Immigrants	<b>60</b>
	Students	<b>100</b>
	Children/Youth (those not included in Family)	<b>100</b>

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