

FRIENDS OF CALIFORNIA CITRUS PARK



WINTER 2023/24 NEWSLETTER



TRANSFORMING CALIFORNIA CITRUS STATE HISTORIC PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT UPDATES - THE DESIGN PHASE



When the California Citrus State Historic Park was created, the General Plan included several key facilities to depict the wide-ranging impacts that citrus had on the growth and development of California and the transformation of communities with the migration of many peoples from different countries and cultures. The park opened to the public in 1993 without many of these planned features.

All of that is about to change because of Assembly Member Sabrina Cervantes and Senator Richard Roth allocating funding in the 2022 State Budget to complete several facilities, including a Workers Bunkhouse, Packing House, Grove House, and a pedestrian bridge to allow visitors to easily access these features.

To support the design and construction of these facilities, State Parks assembled an outstanding project team from their capital projects staff. From the start, the project team committed to working collaboratively with the Friends on all phases of the development of these projects. The first team meeting was held on January 20, 2023 with additional meetings throughout the year as they worked to refine the design, scope, and use of each facility. Once the designs are completed, the team will take the next step to develop budgets for each project. The Friends look forward to sharing the designs and more details with you soon!

Below: Capital Improvement Project Team meetings with the Friends Executive Committee.

October 31, 2023



December 14, 2023

Welcome the New Interpretive Team



We are excited to introduce you to the District Interpretive Chief, Teresa (Teri) Pope who oversees the interpreters at the parks in the Inland Empire District. Teri joined us in the fall of 2022. She brings 23 years of experience working within a variety of State Parks.

Teri shared that she is a 4th generation Californian that comes from a family of storytellers and history buffs, which makes interpretive programs a natural fit for her. Teri worked on Angel Island for ten years and while there she ran a living history program for kids, where they could experience being a union soldier.

Since joining the Inland Empire District, Teri has been focused on filling several key interpreter positions at the Citrus Park. She was also instrumental in bringing Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors" to the Park in July. The play was performed by a non-profit community theater group, Full Circle Players, of which Teri is a member.



Pictured Above (Left to Right):
José Cabello (Interpreter I),
Giovana Barajas (volunteer docent),
Jayshree "Jay" Dhruva (volunteer docent),
Jayden Zambrano (volunteer docent), and
Richard Saretsky (volunteer docent).

The Interpreters, seasonal staff and volunteers provide in-person and virtual tours to schools and frequently plan other events that include crafts and other educational activities for visitors.

One of our new interpreters is Jose Cabello, who joined us this spring. Jose joined State Parks at the North Coast Redwoods District in 2019 and was promoted to Interpreter while working at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. The Redwoods State Parks can have over 1,000 visitors a day during their peak season.

Since joining the Citrus Park, Jose has been working on ways to increase awareness and visitation to the park, and to develop programming that encourages families to visit. Jose organized a Camping 101 workshop for families, helped develop the program for the 30th Anniversary celebration, and supports the in-person and virtual school tours. His favorite part of the job is connecting with visitors and being able to share the interpretation of the park with them.

Earlier this year, the Visitor Center sign was repainted.

Robert Luna, Groundskeeper at the park, is also a free-hand artist.

Many thanks to Robert for his beautiful work!

Visitor Center Sign is Refreshed!



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UCCE MASTER GARDENERS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Attendees at the
October 25th
workshop



Friends' Board Member Tom Spellman has been partnering with Master Gardeners across Southern California for many years and promoted the idea of creating a partnership with the Riverside County Master Gardeners to foster educational and hands-on learning opportunities for them within the varietal grove at the park.

Beginning in the fall of 2021, Tom in partnership with fellow board member, Dr. Tracy Kahn, UC Riverside Curator and Givaudan Citrus Variety Collection Endowed Chair, and Thurman Howard, Community Garden Coordinator for the Master Gardeners of Riverside County, met to develop a series of workshops that began in November 2021. As we bring 2023 to a close, we have held 10 workshops and are developing the calendar for more workshops throughout 2024.

These workshops have featured presentations by Tom, Tracy as well as other experts and researchers from UC Riverside. Interest in the workshops continues to grow. The most recent workshop in October included members from the Master Gardeners of San Bernardino County.

After the presentation, the group heads out to the grove to practice their techniques for pruning, skirting, etc. and to learn about different issues that trees present with and what the underlying issues may be as well as treatment options, where appropriate.



Dr. Tracy Kahn shares information about UCR's Citrus History.

In the grove, Tom Spellman answers questions and provides guidance to the group.





EVENTS, EVENTS, EVENTS



The Citrus Festival Returns

This year we were excited to reintroduce the Citrus Festival – a fun-filled day featuring an abundance of citrus tasting, cooking demonstrations, live music, food and many craft and educational booths! We had over 2,500 people come out to enjoy the festival. Plans are already underway for the 2024 Citrus Festival which will be on Saturday, April 6. We hope you will join us for an event that will be even bigger and better this year



Brad Martin,
Executive Chef
giving a cooking
demonstration.



California Citrus Park turns 30!

We were ready to celebrate this milestone occasion on September 30, 2023 with a special evening of music and citrus history, but inclement weather caused us to postpone the event. The good news is that you still have an opportunity to join us. The event has been rescheduled to the evening of **Friday, April 5** to kick off the Citrus Festival.

Other fun events held at the park...

- Paint and Sip
- Movie Night
- Rag & Bone Vintage Flea Market
- Merry Holiday Market.

Many of these events will return in 2024 and we hope to add more!



SAVE THE DATES

Upcoming Events

April 5 ~ 30th Anniversary Celebration

April 6 ~ Citrus Festival

July 11-13 ~ Shakespeare in the Park





2022-2023 Members & Donors

Thank you to all our members and donors.
We greatly appreciate all the support you provide!

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Jenna Brockman, Program Assistant

WEDDINGS & EVENTS

Classic Coordinating & Events Management (CCEM)
Shelby Loomis
Ashleey Dean

For tours of the Sunkist Center for private events
email citruspark@cceminc.com or call (951) 515-6689

Please send correspondence & donations to:

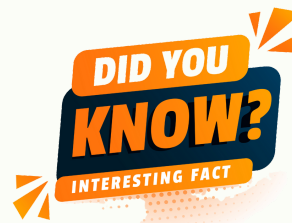
**California Citrus State Historic Park
Non-Profit Management Corporation (NPMC)
(dba Friends of California Citrus Park)**

P.O. Box: 21292,
Riverside, CA 92516
(951) 333-6786

Location

Corner of Van Buren Blvd. and Dufferin Ave.

Credit: Image by starline on Freepik



Opportunities to Support the Park

There are many ways that you can support the Friends and invest in the Park.

- Become a Member or make a Donation at:
<https://www.californiacitruspark.com>

- Donate part of your IRA's "required minimum distribution."



- Are you a member of Altura Credit Union? Donate to the Friends through their Netgiver Program.



- Do you shop at Ralphs? If you register your Ralphs Rewards Card online with our organization name, "CA Citrus State Historic Park NPMC," each time you shop, we earn a rebate from their community contribution program. Sign up at www.ralphs.com/i/community-contribution-program.



- Do you have a car, boat, airplane, or RV that you might donate to the Citrus Park? The process is easy and straightforward! Go to careasy.org, click the "Find a Nonprofit" button, and find the Friends of California Citrus Park and follow the directions. You can also call (855) 500-7433 to complete the process.



- Do you bank with Provident Bank? Provident Bank makes donations to local non-profit organizations through their Community Partnership Program. You can link your account to the Citrus Park as your favorite non-profit by calling (951) 686-6060. Provident Bank recognizes us by our formal name, California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation. At the end of each year, Provident Bank will donate based upon the balance of the individual accounts.