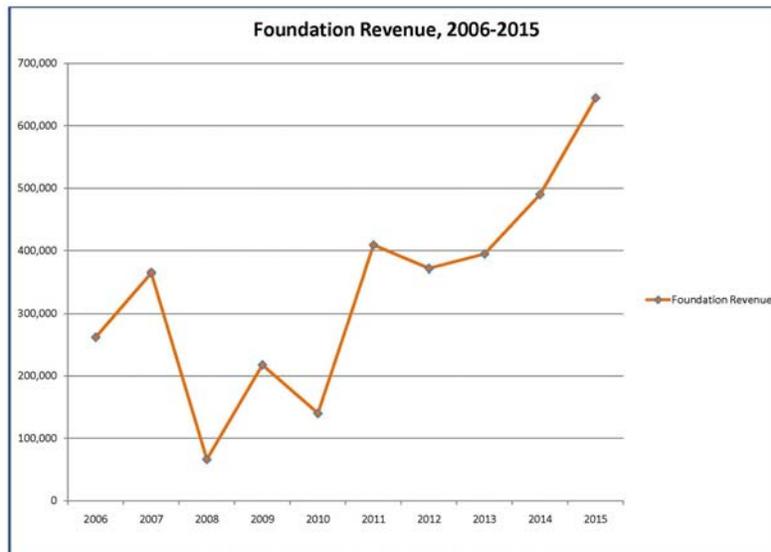




August 2016

Dear Friend of the Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation:

I am pleased to share with you this report on the exceptional year the Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation had in FY 2015-16. Last year the Parks Foundation raised more money than in any other year in its 18-year history: \$644,703! This graph shows how much our nonprofit has grown in just the past five years.



With all of this growth, the Parks Foundation can support more and more county parks and special programs and projects. Following are a few highlights from 2015-16.

Building New Trails at Taylor Mountain

In 2015-16, we provided \$30,000 towards the construction of new trails at Taylor Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve. Even more importantly, the Foundation pledged to raise \$80,000 to help meet the local match requirement for the upcoming \$1.7 million federal grant for new Taylor Mountain trails. This federal grant, combined with the Foundation's commitment, will more than triple the mileage of trails at this park – from 5 miles to more than 15!

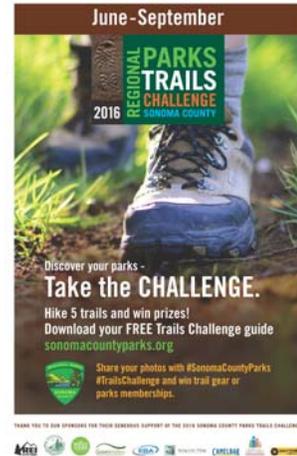


Promoting Water Safety

Funding from the Parks Foundation subsidized staffing costs for the River Patrol, covered all swim lesson fees associated with Vamos a Nadar, and sponsored youth who wanted to attend lifeguard camp. These contributions totaled more than \$20,000. In addition, the Foundation was awarded 240 new children's life vests through the California Kids' Plates Safety Equipment grant program, providing loaner life vests that will help save even more lives on the Russian River.

Enhancing Public Outreach for the Trails Challenge

We contributed \$15,000 to Regional Parks to hire graphic design support for the Trails Challenge. The result was a spectacular, full-color Trails Challenge Guide, printed in both English and Spanish.



Bolstering Environmental Education

We continued to raise funds for field trip scholarships and to underwrite the staffing costs of the Environmental Discovery Center. The Foundation contributed \$24,000 to the EDC and enabled more than 2,000 students to participate in EDC field trips.

Procuring the Mobile Discovery Van

The Foundation donated \$10,000 towards the purchase of the new Mobile Discovery Van, giving Regional Parks' staff an outstanding new resource for outreach and retail sales.



Equipping Regional Parks Staff

We continue to expand the Foundation's grant program for Regional Parks' staff. In 2015-16, we awarded 15 grants totaling \$30,000. The grants purchased a variety of tools and equipment, including a post driver, plate compactor, brush cutter and more. They also supported a new Junior Ranger program at the coast.

Sustaining Spud Point Crab Fishermen

As we all know, 2015-16 was a devastating year for the crab fishermen and deckhands in Bodega Bay. With exceptional help from our generous community, the Parks Foundation raised more than \$100,000 to help pay several months of berthing fees for the Spud Point fishermen and provide gift cards for groceries. We particularly wish to acknowledge Spud Point's Lori Cavanaugh for her remarkable efforts to raise funds to address this catastrophe.

These incredible results are made possible by the hard work of our Foundation staff and our enthusiastic and engaged board of directors. We are also grateful to Regional Parks' managers and staff, who help the Foundation in numerous ways, including:

- Support for events like Funky Fridays and the Spring Lake Water Bark
- Contacts with in-kind contributors or businesses, such as for Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Andy's Unity Park
- Outreach to major donors, such as for the \$50,000 Helen Putnam Challenge Grant that is currently underway
- Serving as ambassadors for the Parks Foundation every day when you talk to the public.

What's up for the Foundation in 2017?

Watch for more great work from the Parks Foundation in the coming year! Here are a few of the projects we'll focus on in 2016-17:

- Fundraising for the local match to the \$1.7 million grant for new trails at Taylor Mountain
- Fundraising to match the \$50,000 challenge grant for Helen Putnam Regional Park
- Support for programs, including the Environmental Discovery Center, Vamos a Nadar, Water Safety Patrol, Nuestros Parques, Trails Challenge and more!
- Funds for the new Natural Play Area at Taylor Mountain
- Support for Natural Resources projects, and
- **\$60,000 of grants to parks staff!**



Thank you for all that you do to help the Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation keep our county parks strong!

Best wishes,

Melissa Kelley

Melissa Kelley
Executive Director