



2024

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**American  
River  
Parkway  
(Jedediah  
Smith  
Memorial  
Trail)**

*California*



# American River Parkway (Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail)

California

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## Overview

The American River Parkway (Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail) follows the American River as it flows through riparian habitat preserved by the American River Parkway. The scenic trail runs for 32 miles between Folsom Lake's southwestern banks at Beal's Point and Discovery Park in Old Town Sacramento.

## About the Route

The two-lane trail is fully paved, with mile markers, trailside maps, water fountains, and restrooms along the way. Note that signage advises walkers and runners to stay on the left side or shoulder of the trail; stay alert while passing.

The trail is mostly level, although the route does traverse some rolling terrain. About half the route is shaded by trees, while the other half offers views of wildflower fields. Along the way, you'll pass through several parks and swimming areas, as well as the suburban enclaves of Sacramento.

The trail's western endpoint is located in Discovery Park at the confluence of the American River and the Sacramento River. Heading east from here, the trail continues to meander through the American River Parkway. Throughout the trail's entire route, in fact, the trail stays primarily within the Parkway, a series of parks and protected greenspace that hugs the American River throughout Sacramento.

The next 8 miles traverse a narrow greenspace that border suburban neighborhoods before passing William. B Pond, River Bend Park and Hagan Community Park.

In Rancho Cordova, where the river takes a steep u-bend, the trail takes a more straightforward path through the dry shrubland before reaching Sunrise Recreation Area.

Following Sunrise Recreation Area, it leaves the banks of the American River and heads up of northside of Lake Natoma, Mississippi Bluff

The northernmost 8.4 miles of the trail are managed by California State Parks; here, signage refers to the trail as the American River Bikeway. South of Hazel Avenue, the trail is signed as the Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail and is managed by Sacramento County.

Many beautiful pedestrian bridges cross the river along the route: the Fair Oaks Bridge, a truss bridge built in the early



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**States:** California

**Counties:** Sacramento

Length: 32miles

**Trail end points:** Jibboom St & Natomas Park Dr in Discovery Park (Sacramento) to Beal's Point Recreation Area (Granite Bay)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Greenway/Non-RT

**Trail activities:** Bike,Inline Skating,Fishing,Wheelchair Accessible,Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

The American River Parkway (Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail) Jibboom St & Natomas Park Dr in Discovery Park (Sacramento) and Beal's Point Recreation Area (Granite Bay).

There is a fee to park at Beal's Point in Granite Bay. All listed locations have at least one accessible space.

See [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



# American River Parkway (Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail)

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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