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## Inside Our 2021 Annual Report

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INTRODUCTION

2021 IN REVIEW & WHAT'S AHEAD

Dear Friends,

2021 was all about new ways to get outdoors and connect with nature. With Covid affecting daily life, we sought safe ways to make getting outdoors exciting and engaging.

One of the most visible projects was the Heart Your Parks campaign. Throughout the month of February, oversized wooden hearts were on display, each lovingly painted by a local artist to reflect their connection to the outdoors. This campaign quickly became a local sensation, attracting visitors from the Bay Area. Designed to encourage people to get outdoors, draw attention to our local parks and trails, and promote physical activity, it wrapped up with a Heart Your Parks auction to fund future art in parks programs.

Heart Your Parks is just one example of the creative, fun, and unique ways ACCPF brings people and nature together. We also developed the new “Teen Play Team”. This inaugural group of 25 high school volunteers helped run Park & Play visits, facilitated on-site play, and supported the Curiosity Kids garden science program. We quickly learned how motivated, engaged, and helpful our teens can be as they develop mentoring skills that will help in future careers.

These creative programs are just the beginning. ACCPF officially launched a new project – the development of a Wetlands Ecology Center. This beautiful site is the future home for environmental education, nature art, and community programs for American Canyon and beyond. As climate change affects our daily lives, the environment and personal stewardship are growing concerns that our work will address. The Wetlands Ecology Center is one way that we empower the community to take action.

We are grateful for your ongoing support and shared enthusiasm for parks, programs, and play. This year we challenge you to help spread the word about our work in the community. Bring a friend to a Wetlands Coffee Morning, share a social media post, or encourage a relative to become an ACCPF member. Help us expand our network of supporters with a shared passion for the outdoors, community, and making a difference.

With Gratitude,

Janelle Sellick, Executive Director
OVERVIEW

In 2021 the ACCPF Board and Staff continued serving the community through the ups and downs of COVID19. We were able to safely gather the community for a fun summer kickoff event, which was featured on KTUV TV. StoryWalk was launched to get the community moving and reading at the same time. An Evening At The Ruins was back and the Reindeer Run had a record-breaking 465 participants.

PARKS IMPROVEMENTS

In just six years ACCPF has contributed over $259,000 to make our parks and open space safer, more accessible, and fun. In 2021 we Partnered with the City of American Canyon to beautify the Wetlands Fitness Center with new native plants. At Shenandoah Park, ACCPF installed the county’s first-ever StoryWalk! This literacy and wellness project gets families outside, walking, and reading together. We continue to manage the bench and picnic table sponsorship program this year.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Programs such as educational hikes, Watershed Explorers Online, Curiosity Kids Meetup, and the Park and Play Mobile Recreation Van have served over 3,000 kids, families, and adults in our community in 2021. ACCPF identified service gaps in the community and has been honing our new programs to fill those needs. We believe that time outdoors can improve community health, children’s education, and social opportunities for our residents. New programs are always in the works!

PLAY FOR ALL

Through scholarships, sponsorships, and creative programming and planning, we strive for every community member to be able to participate in play for all. In 2021, ACCPF donated $2,500 to recreation scholarships so that no child is turned away from city park & recreation programs. Event sponsorships, Community Giving, and student scholarships totaling over $9,500 support our community’s efforts to keep program costs low and open to all. We work hard so that everyone has access to quality programs and parks.
OUR IMPACT
2021 BY THE NUMBERS

- 28 Heart Your Park artists spreading the love
- 465 people participated in Reindeer Run
- 10 community partners
- 1,110 youth served at our StoryWalk kickoff celebration
- 1,100 youth served at eight mobile recreation visits
- 570 people participated in outdoor, community events
- 504 volunteer hours from 25 Teen Play Team Members
- 1426 Curiosity Kids online participants
- $9,500 donated for ACHS scholarships & community giving
- $200,000 in 6 years ACCPF has over provided in direct support to our community
- 66 Curiosity Kids Meet Up participants
- 350 youth served at our Year in the Napa Valley Give!Guide
CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD
Scott Thomason, President
Sean Hughes, Vice President
Gladys Milligan, Treasurer
Crystal Mallare, Secretary

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Cathy Margolati
Dr. Jeffrey Nichelini
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Joy Hilton, Education Coordinator
Andrea Long, Program Coordinator

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Alan Tran & Saeko Sugo
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Brent Cooper
Carrie Strohl
Cassandra Walker
Catherine Orate-Pott
Cathy Margolati
Cecilia Wyatt
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Charlie Plummer
Charlotte Chioro
Christine Barnett
Christopher James
Clarence Mamaril
Danielle & Todd Schofield
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Debra Casper
Dianne Weyna
Dolores Benjamin
Dorothy Blake
Elaine Boloyan
Eric Altman
Fanny Woo
Fayza Hamid
Gigi Sapida
Gina Griggs
Heather Banks
Heather Keffer
Heidi Zipay
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Jeanette Goyetch
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Jennifer Lacap
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Karen Ritter
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Maria P Countouriotis
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Megan Dameron
Melissa Ramirez
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Michelle Ryan
Mike & Ashley Young
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Nancy Nabynski
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Penny Bellotti
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Renee Ross
Richard Peterson
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Taufi Gaskins
Tara McClintock Horner
Teresa Hamilton
Terry England
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Violeta Leslie
Wenderella Wade
Wenona Garside
Yarissa Martinez
Zita Latona

2021 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Canyon Oaks Elementary School
City of American Canyon
KHOPE International
Napa County Resource Conservation District
Napa County Park & Open Space District
The Napa County Bicycle Coalition
American Canyon Soroptomist
American Canyon Arts Foundation
American Canyon 4H Club
American Canyon Starbucks

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Teresa Abeyta
Violeta Leslie
William Birmingham

2021 GRANTORS

The Gasser Foundation
Napa Valley Community Foundation
PG&E
Redwood Credit Union
Sierra Club Napa Group and Redwood Chapter

thank you!
With the return of Evening at the Ruins revenue increased to pre-Covid levels. We continued to diversity our revenue sources with the addition of new grants and increase in membership revenue. We also developed a program for accepting donations of stocks and securities.

Thanks to successful Evening at the Ruins Fund-A-Need we raised $90,000 in seed money for the Wetlands Ecology Center. These restricted funds will be used to hire the architects and contractors needed to design the building and surrounding property. These funds will help ensure that the projects is well researched and planned to meet the needs of the community for years to come. Donations to the restricted Eco Center Fund can be made year round at www.acparks.org.
5TH ANNUAL EVENING AT THE RUINS
BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER

With incredible art displays, an energized crowd, magical lighting, and unique auction items, the 5th annual Evening at the Ruins was our most successful fundraiser yet! Thank you to everyone who helped make this special fundraiser possible. We raised over $300,000 for parks, programs, and play in our community and kicked off fundraising for our newest project, the Wetlands Ecology Center. A huge thank you goes to the Sierra Club Napa Group and Redwood Chapter for starting off the fund-a-need with a $50,000 contribution! More thanks go to Terry McGrath, of McGrath Properties and the Watson Ranch Project, for so generously allowing us to use the Ruins and working so hard alongside us to make the evening as perfect as possible. To our amazing volunteers, we could not have done it without you! To our generous donors, you make all of the hard work worth it, you make our programs possible!

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Mile & Roo
McGrath Properties
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Napa Valley Casino
Council Member David Oro
PMI Northbay
Alan Tran - Transtar Accounting
The Ramirez Family
Matt Plate and Anne Garner
32 Dental
Del Sur Mortgage
Napa Junction
Fran Lemos

Over $300,000 Raised
IN THE COMMUNITY

A YEAR OF BUILDING PROGRAMS

TEEN PLAY TEAM

In 2021 ACCPF kicked off our first year of the Teen Play Team! This is a great opportunity for local teens to volunteer in our community and to mentor younger children. Teens helped with the weekly Park & Play events as well as mentoring younger children during our Curiosity Kids Meetups. Lots of good stuff to say about how the kids stepped up, got involved in our community, and helped with An Evening At The Ruins. Over four months 25 teens gave 504 volunteer hours to our community!

"I wanted to help kids and community over the summer. The experience was even better than anticipated." Tashanda Corpus, ACHS Student & Play Team Participant

PARK & PLAY

Park & Play was created in 2020 to offer safe social distancing play opportunities in small group settings during COVID shutdowns. ACCPF revamped Park & Play for its 2021 return, featuring six Friday afternoon in-person play dates facilitated by Teen Play Team volunteers.

Park & Play featured a variety of lightly structured free play activities encouraging kids, families & the community to get outside to play together! Thanks to the financial support of Redwood Credit Union the 2021 Park & Play was a rocking good time featuring the musical talents of community member Clarence Mamaril and the addition of light snacks provided by food truck vendors at each location.

We brought community play to more than 1,000 local children with Park & Play activities in 2021.

"During the beginning of the pandemic park and play drive-thrus were a big thing my kids looked forward to. They loved all the little crafts and nature activities." said Christa King

"Then we were able to go back to in-person get together's and the kids absolutely loved all the activities and being able to get outdoors and socialize. Both my kids' favorite thing to do was build with the giant blue blocks. We look forward to these events every year."
HEART YOUR PARKS

2021 brought the return of in-person programming & the introduction of art in parks with February’s Heart Your Parks celebration. The month-long Heart Your Parks celebration combined the community’s love of nature & art with exciting new ways to experience local parks & trails. The multi-faceted program was designed to encourage nature exploration as a means to improve physical and mental well-being. In addition to the 21 hearts and seven frames displayed in local parks & trails, Heart Your Parks included a found nature art hunt and partnerships with the City of American Canyon’s Parks & Recreation Department on Search & Solve puzzles at three locations.

The inaugural Heart Your Parks celebration featured the artwork of 28 local artists ranging in age from seven to 70. The corresponding heart auction raised $5,000 for future arts in parks programming.

STORY WALK

In June, ACCPF brought the first Napa StoryWalk® installation to Shenandoah Park. StoryWalk® American Canyon is an innovative program that supports literacy, outdoor time, family connection, and awareness of our parks. The concept is simple. Deconstruct a beloved children’s book, weatherproof it and post it along a popular trail, blending the joys of reading and the outdoors for all to enjoy. The 16-kiosk StoryWalk® American Canyon trail borders the perimeter of the park and features a different, interactive, nature-themed picture book quarterly.

“We were so excited to see StoryWalk in the park since my girls love books and being outside!” Kristen Gutierrez, mother of two said, “They are excited to see what the next book will be and hope that it will get more families outdoors.”
COVID brought many changes to ACCPF and our community. We first introduced Curiosity Kids as a free online educational program consisting of short video “bites” for kids and parents. In the summer of 2021, we were able to offer safe, outdoor, Curiosity Kids Meetups! With the generous help of Liz Corey, third-grade teacher at Canyon Oaks, kids were able to meet up in person, connect with each other and the outdoors in a meaningful way.

“This program reinforced what we’ve known all along - children love to discover and learn in the outdoors! During the month of July, we learned how to make scientific observations, slow down and listen to nature, create ways to beautify vacant areas with flowers and plants, and search for the colors of the rainbow in our garden. Students arrived ready to learn, create, and unearth all the fascinating things nature has to offer.” - Liz Corey, 3rd Grade teacher and ACCPF Board Member

AC Blooms

Spring 2021 brought the return of AC Blooms, another COVID response program launched in 2020. The popular social media campaign celebrates all things spring & encourages engagement with nature along our popular trails.

New to AC Blooms in 2021 was the addition of Poetry on the Trail and a Wildflower Hike Pop Up. Poetry on the Trail featured hand painted signs with poetry verses celebrating spring along Wetlands Edge & Newell Open Space trails.

ACCPF welcomed JoeJoe, a Naturalist with Napa Open Space District to join us at the Newell Open Space trailhead for a Wildflower Pop Up Hike. Hikers were greeted at the trailhead and provided wildflower seeds, fun wildflower collection ideas for kids, and lots of wildflower viewing tips for their self-guided wildflower hike.
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

WETLANDS ECOLoGY CENTER
WHERE NATURE MEETS COMMUNITY

With environmental concerns at an all-time high, ACCPF is leading the way for community conservation efforts. The Wetlands Ecology center will provide a home for environmental education, art, and science programs for students and community members from Napa County and beyond. With an estimated reach of over 12,000 people annually, the Ecology Center will strengthen American Canyon as a leader in environmental leadership, research, and programming. Most importantly, it helps us “root” our families in nature and develop the next generation of nature lovers who will help solve our most complex environmental issues. Special thanks to the Sierra Club Napa Group and Redwood Chapter for seed funding to help kick start the project.

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