

CASE FOR SUPPORT

The Napa River Ecology Center is a unique repurpose project that provides new public access to wetlands, expands watershed and wildlife programs, and supports wetlands restoration and conservation efforts.

This grand vision to repurpose an aging industrial site along the Napa River Wetlands results from many years of research, community outreach and planning by the American Canyon Parks Foundation, a 501(c)3 non profit organization. The Foundation is Napa County's fastest growing provider of education, conservation, and ecology programs for community and students. Currently serving over 3,000 youth each year, the Foundation is a trusted community partner with dedicated professional science and naturalist staff.

Ecology Center plans include new walking paths, teaching gardens, native landscaping and the renovation of a 5,000 square foot building which will include indoor and outdoor classrooms, workshops, conference spaces and community meeting areas. In addition, the Ecology Center will provide a wildlife viewing deck, nature based playground, and environmental artist workshop for community use.



The Ecology Center property is a three-acre parcel adjacent along the Napa River Wetlands and along the San Francisco Bay Trail. Under a 50-year lease, the Foundation has acquired the land and property from the City of American Canyon for \$1 per year.

The 55 mile long Napa River Watershed plays a vital role in the environmental and economic health of the Valley. In American Canyon the Napa River Wetlands draw over 5,000 visitors each month for passive and active recreation and are home to four protected and endangered species.

CASE FOR SUPPORT (CON'T)

Despite recent restoration efforts the Napa River wetlands face growing threats due to climate change, increased “grey” and built areas, and habitat degradation. American Canyon’s population is growing rapidly and expected to increase from 21,000 to 33,000 residents within the next ten years. Building the Ecology Center now will **ensure the protection of the Napa River Watershed** and it’s sensitive wildlife habitats through education and conservation programs unique to the region. These programs will serve over 25,000 youth and families each year for generations to come.

In addition to protecting the the watershed, the Ecology Center **supports education and wellness of our youth.** Recent studies of Napa County students found that elementary and middle school test scores were disproportionately lower than state averages. Teachers and parents seek learning opportunities that bring curriculum concepts to life yet currently there are no ecology centers filling this role in Napa Valley. The Napa River Ecology Center provides an important solution that will engage students in hands-on learning experiences aligned with school STEAM curriculum. As the leading provider of these programs now, the Foundation can only accommodate one our of every four requests for without a permanent location.

Building the Napa River Ecology Center will allow the Foundation to quadruple program capacity and expand to serve the North Bay. This expansion will meet the growing demand for hands-on education and connect our diverse communities with nature.

Key planning and funding milestones have been reached and the project is near shovel ready. *We need your support to close the funding gap, break ground and open the Napa River Ecology Center. Your support will protect the watershed, support youth education, and build an environmental legacy for Napa County.*





BUILDING AN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY FOR NAPA COUNTY

BEFORE

Industrial site along
the Napa River
Wetlands with former
use as City of American
Maintenance Yard



AFTER

Inspirational design
connects community with
nature. Includes
indoor/outdoor classroom,
learning gardens, wetlands
demonstration ponds, and
environmental artist
workshop.

SITE SPECIFICS

- Centrally located with easy access to Hwy 80, Hwy 37 & Hwy 29
- Prime location along the San Francisco Bay Trail
- Planned Access to the San Francisco Bay Water Trail

SITE ADDRESS

205 Wetlands Edge,
American Canyon, CA 94503

P1104



A PROJECT TIMELINE

2019

A Dream is Born

The American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation, 501(c)3 non-profit, begins research on the Ecology Center project

2020

Location Identified

Together with the City of American Canon the City's Corporation Yad is identified as an ideal location

2021

Planning and Outreach Begins

ACCPF meets with partners and community groups to better understand community need. After raising \$100,000 in seed funding architect and engineering teams are hired

2022

Community Engagement

Tabling, surveys, and community events gather input from residents on the project. The Foundation works with the City of American Canyon on agreements for repurposing the site. City of American Canyon vacates site

2023

Open Houses

Scheduled open houses and Ecology Center tours bring the public out to view and walk the property

2023

Capital Campaign & Funding

Estimated costs to repurpose the Ecology Center building and improve the two-acre site outdoor parcel are \$10 million.

2024

Break Ground

Ground breaking is scheduled for late 2025 wrapping up a successful funding initiative

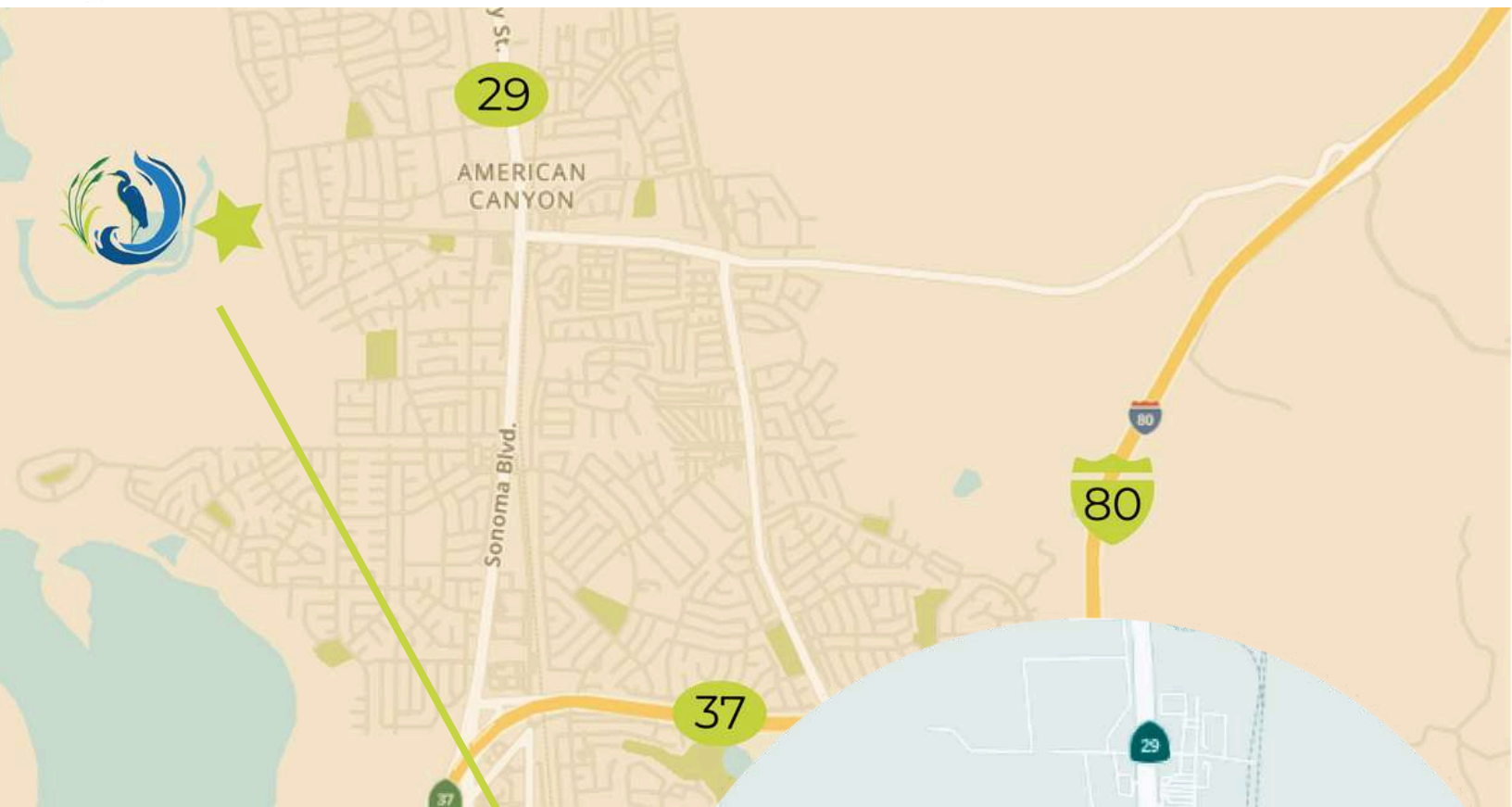
2025

The Ecology Center Opens For All

As a hub for environmental education and community activity the center will serve over 25,000 people each year

2026





SITE ADDRESS:

205 Wetlands Edge
American Canyon
Napa County
CA 94503

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
THIS PROJECT:

NAPARIVERECOLOGYCENTER.ORG





About the Parks Foundation

After launching as a grassroots community led non-profit organization in 2015, the Foundation grew quickly to become the top provider of community and school-based outdoor science education in South Napa County. *Today the Foundation serves over 3,000 youth and families each year in watershed, conservation, and environmental programs. Our staff of five professionals are highly qualified project managers, educators, and leaders.*

The Foundation has researched, planned, facilitated, and managed over a dozen ongoing programs including the following:

- Watershed Explorers: Education program that protects watershed and wildlife habitats by providing 350+ fourth graders each year with hands on learning experiences related to watershed, birds, aquatic animals, and mammals of the wetlands.
- The Outdoor Connection Mobile Classroom: Mobile educational classroom for youth and adults that provides hands on demonstrations, microscope and water study, wildlife habitat education.
- Discovery Days: Community trailside education events focused on environment and wildlife
- Teen WILD: Year-round youth leadership and volunteer program that provides 30 teens each year with mentoring opportunities, conservation experiences, and real-life work experiences.

These unique programs serve students and community through Napa County and the North Bay. Each year demand grows. Currently the Foundation receives two to four inquiries per month from educators throughout Napa County but is unable to meet the need due to lack of facilities.

The Parks Foundation has assembled an experienced and professional project team that manages the development of the Napa River Ecology Center.

- Foundation Executive Director: Janelle Sellick, M.S.
- Project Manager: Pound Project Management, Leads Leslie Alspach and Brian Dodd
- RIM Architects: Project Lead Naveen Mathur, Senior Architect AIA, CASp, LEED AP
- RSA+ Civil Engineers: Project Lead Jeremy Sill
- Studio 1515 Landscape Architects: Project Lead Susan Heiken
- ColeBRITT
- Axiom Engineers
- ZFA Engineers

For more about the Foundation, our staff, and board please visit www.acparks.org