



*Kristina Ellis, Tours and Education Manager at Jack London State Historic Park, shares “Nature’s Design” with local students.*

### **Community Foundation Sonoma County awards Jack London Park Partners \$49,200 grant for “Nature’s Design” education program**

[Community Foundation Sonoma County](#) (CFSC) has awarded [Jack London Park Partners](#) a \$49,200 grant from their Expanded Learning Advancing Educational Equity Initiative.

The grant will support “[Nature’s Design](#),” a Benziger Family Environmental Education Program with Jack London State Historic Park for seventh grade students at Title 1 schools in Sonoma County. Schools participating in Spring of 2023 include Altimira Middle School in Sonoma, Washington Middle School in Cloverdale, and Petaluma Accelerated Charter School in Petaluma.

Guided by Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for California schools, the “Nature’s Design” seventh grade ecology program is a multiple-visit field trip program focused on ecosystem dynamics and biodiversity. Over the course of three learning interactions (two at school and one field trip to the park), students work in teams to explore questions like, “How can we mitigate some of the impacts of climate change in our communities now and how can we fortify our ecosystems for the future?”

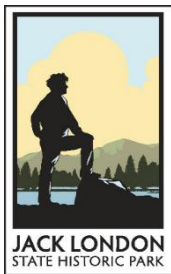
“Through this program, we are introducing the next generation of environmental stewards to new ways of looking at nature. They will use critical thinking, hands-on learning and comparative analysis, skills that will help them succeed in any field. Working in small teams, students learn the importance of collaboration in coming up with solutions to environmental challenges. We are grateful to Community Foundation Sonoma County for their investment in this impactful program,” said Jack London Park Partners Executive Director Matt Leffert.

The program culminates in a design competition titled "Rewild My School" where students redesign their schoolyards to increase biodiversity levels, while honoring the school grounds as a place of learning and human-centered activities. [Rewilding](#) is a conservation movement that is gaining ground, so to speak, throughout North America and around the world.

Community Foundation Sonoma County is one of eight community foundations across California to participate in the Expanded Learning Advancing Educational Equity (ELAEE) initiative. This statewide effort is designed to provide academic and socio-emotional support for marginalized youth in the K-12 system through high-quality expanded learning programming.

“Nature has a [powerful impact](#) on our physical and mental health, especially for young people,” said Elly Grogan, CFSC’s Interim Vice President for Community Impact. “CFSC is excited to support Jack London Park Partners and the students participating in this program, who will reap the numerous benefits of connecting with nature. We can’t wait to see the positive results of this experience.”

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**Jack London State Historic Park**, in the heart of the Sonoma Valley, is operated and funded by Jack London Park Partners, one of the first non-profit organizations to be entrusted with management of a state park on behalf of the people of California. Funding to keep the park going strong is generated from visitors, members, and generous donors. Learn more about the park at <https://jacklondonpark.com/> and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).



**Community Foundation Sonoma County** is the hub of philanthropy for the county, connecting people, ideas, and resources to benefit all who live here. Founded in 1983, CFSC works with philanthropists to create plans that will make an impact in our community and become part of their family’s legacy. Since 1983, the Foundation has made more than \$275 million in grants to nonprofit organizations working to better their communities. More information: [sonomacf.org](http://sonomacf.org)

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