

**Jack London Park Partners receives Route to Parks grant from
Parks California and California State Parks**

Funds will support the Spanish-language Rutas Y Aventuras Program



Carlos Barragan (right) walks backwards as he leads a guided hike in Spanish at Jack London State Historic Park. Photo credit: Jack London Park Partners.

Jack London Park Partners, the non-profit organization that funds and operates Jack London State Historic Park (Glen Ellen, CA) has received a [Route to Parks](#) grant from Parks California and California State Parks.

The grant of nearly \$30,000 will support the [Rutas Y Aventuras Program](#), designed to connect Sonoma County's Spanish-speaking communities with Jack London State Historic Park through culturally relevant storytelling and nature experiences delivered in Spanish.

Launched in 2024 with ongoing support from Vadasz Family Foundation, the Rutas Y Aventuras Program offers a free hike or activity in Spanish each month, including free park entry.

With support from the Route to Parks grants program, the organization will expand the program to include transportation assistance, supplies and three community days highlighting seasonal and watershed changes, all presented in Spanish.

The park has historically been underutilized by Sonoma Valley's large Hispanic/Latinx community, which represents nearly 30% of the population.

“While Jack London Park Partners has always welcomed all visitors, we recognize that ‘open to all’ is not the same as ‘meaningfully accessible to all.’ Our bilingual community program coordinator has helped narrow that gap. Through his leadership, JLPP has begun co-developing programs in Spanish, partnering with trusted community-based organizations like La Luz Center, and piloting low-barrier, family-friendly hikes and events designed with cultural relevance and approachability in mind. Our goal is to make Jack London State Historic Park a beloved, familiar, and frequently used resource for Sonoma Valley’s Latinx residents,” said Jack London Park Partners Executive Director Matt Leffert.

Program Coordinator Carlos Barragan developed the Rutas y Aventuras Program as a way to connect the Spanish-speaking community with the beauty, history, and activities that the park has to offer. The approach builds long-term connections to California State Parks and expands opportunities for independent, repeat visitation.

Attendance at Rutas y Aventuras events has grown to at least 30 participants of various ages. Recent bilingual interpretive hikes have received enthusiastic community feedback, demonstrating the powerful impact of culturally relevant storytelling and nature experiences delivered in Spanish.

“Route to Parks shows what’s possible when community organizations and California State Parks come together to meet people where they are,” said California State Parks Director Armando Quintero. “Parks are for everyone, and these partnerships help ensure more Californians experience a true sense of belonging — whether it’s a first camping trip, time on the water or reconnecting with lands that hold deep cultural significance.”

Launched in 2020, Parks California’s Route to Parks grants program addresses transportation and access challenges that prevent many communities from visiting state parks. The program is supported through a joint agreement between California State Parks and Parks California, along with private philanthropic investments, including support from BMO, PG&E Corporation Foundation and other partners.

“At Parks California, we believe everyone deserves a world-class park experience and the opportunity to create a lifelong connection with nature. However, barriers like limited transportation options can prevent many from enjoying the great outdoors. To bridge this gap, we launched the Route to Parks grants program in 2020. This initiative supports local organizations in overcoming transportation challenges, ensuring historically marginalized communities can visit and enjoy California State Parks,” said Kindley Walsh Lawler, president and CEO of Parks California.

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About Jack London State Historic Park:

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 by visitors, members, and generous donors. Learn more about the park at <https://jacklondonpark.com/> and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).