

The Reedley Parkway

History

Community Volunteers

Community Donations

Programs and Projects

Community and City Leaders



Parkway History

Development

- Tulare Valley Railroad abandoning its railway tracks.
- City had control of downtown portion of the right-of-way, which they planned to dedicate to existing landowners.
- In 1997, a grass roots citizens effort approached the City with option of developing a parkway trail on the abandoned railway..
- Citizens and City staff were given a few months to develop funding and design concepts; public meetings followed.
- The Rails to Trails Committee (now the Reedley Parkway Committee (“RPC”) was formed as a forum for public input to the design process, raise funds for Parkway amenities, and provide volunteers to assist in the construction and maintenance of the Parkway. The RPC was first organized to report to the City Council, then later and currently to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- The RPC’s efforts have resulted in planting of more than 850 trees and raising money from the community to purchase more than two dozen benches plus drinking fountains, picnic tables, bike racks, signage, murals, storage container for volunteers’ equipment, and more.

On-Going

In 2013, as a result of recession and City budget cuts that minimized the City’s maintenance of the Parkway, several interested groups approached the City and RPC offering to assist in Parkway maintenance. Since then the RPC has coordinated an effort to maintain the 2.5 mile Parkway; the City is an integral participant and operates and maintains the hardscape and irrigation systems, The RPC volunteers maintain the landscaping (pruning, weeding, general clean-up) and perform fundraising to purchase additional amenities for the Parkway. The RPC currently includes eight “Adopt-a-Parkway” entities that at least monthly maintain their section of the Parkway.





Committee Accomplishments

- Coordinated and assisted with the planting of more than 850 trees and over 150 shrubs/vines.
- Engaged over 75 youth, school, church, business, and civic organizations to become involved with the Parkway.
- As of February 2016, raised nearly \$75,000 in donations from involved businesses and citizens to purchase amenities for the Reedley Parkway, including:
 - 25 benches
 - 2 drinking fountains
 - 2 bicycle racks
 - 3 picnic tables
 - 1 kiosk for posting community events
 - \$1,000 in financial support for the Japanese garden
 - 2 donor boards with over 100 tiles
 - \$12,000 financial support for the gazebo overlooking the river
 - 3 Mutt Mitt stations
 - 1 ornamental fountain
 - 1 art sculpture (“Railroad in the Sky”)
 - 5 murals of Reedley’s past (by the Fresno Area Workforce Youth group)



General Parkway Statistics

•2.5 miles of paved trail completed from the Kings River to Buttonwillow Ave

•3/4 mile extension from Buttonwillow Ave to the Reedley Sports Park to be completed in spring 2016

•Approximately 1000 trees in total (more than 850 planted by volunteers).

•Thousands of hours of pruning, weeding and litter control performed by “Adopt-a-Parkway” volunteers just since 2013.

•Daily usage estimated in the hundreds of walkers, runners, bicyclists, and others of individuals and families from the community.

• **Capital Outlay for the Parkway**

– 2000	\$1,331,506
– 2001	457,291
– 2002	360,722
– 2003	255,420
– 2004	284,569
– 2005	51,495
– 2008	<u>307,300</u>
• Total	\$3,048,311

• **Funding for the Parkway from:**

- **Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (federal program administered by Cal Trans)**
- **Community Development Block Grant (federal program administered by Fresno County)**
- **Measure C (Fresno County transportation tax)**
- **Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (federal program administered by Cal Trans)**
- **Park Development Impact Fees (City of Reedley)**
- **Community donations**
- **Tree Fresno**
- **PG&E Safe Tree Program**





Community Volunteers

The City Council and Parks & Recreation Commission has provided the RPC (a volunteer committee) a large amount of autonomy to improve the Parkway and engage the community in this effort.



Tree Plantings

First Section – 2000

Downtown section
between Reed and
11th.

Trees installed by
contractor; City was
hesitant at the time
that the landscape
planting was beyond
the capabilities of
citizen volunteers.



Tree Plantings

Second Section – May 2002

11th St to 13th St.

200 trees installed by about 80 volunteers; this effort convinced City of the benefits of allowing volunteers to plant the landscaping.

- Cost savings
- Educational value
- Buy-in and ownership of Parkway







Tree Plantings

**Third Section –
December 2003**

13th St to Dinuba Ave.

240 trees installed by
about 120 volunteers.







Tree Plantings

Fourth Section – January & February 2004

Dinuba Ave to Buttonwillow Ave.

465 trees installed by about 120 volunteers on 2 separate mornings, including:

- RHS Generation Green
- RC Forestry Club
- RC Upward Bound
- CSUF students
- Pacific University students
- Elkhorn Correctional cadets
- Boy & Girl Scouts

Grant for trees from:

- Tree Fresno
- National Tree Trust
- PG&E Safe Tree Program





Tree Plantings

Fifth Section – October 2008

Manning Ave to Kings River
along Reedley College (“RC”).

90 trees and irrigation system
installed by about 80
volunteers, including

- RHS Generation Green
- RC Upward Bound
- RC horticulture students
- RC administrative staff











Community Donors

Benches – 25 benches donated at \$1500 each.

First donor board started in 2000 – structure by IHS students under leadership of Bill Olinger; 69 custom made tiles with RHS students under direction of Jim Gregory; donations of \$100-\$2,500 per tile; 69 total tiles; donor board filled in 2003.

Second donor board started in 2003 at request of Dr. Ramon Da Pena– structure by IHS students (Bill Olinger); tiles commercially made until 2006 (Hans Sumpf) then handmade by Dave Salmu; as of February 2016, about 25 spaces remain available of the 80-tile structure.

Trees - Trees planted by volunteers continue to be dedicated for \$25; 12th Street south to Buttonwillow and from Manning west to the river; displayed on City website.





In Memory of
Steve Fernandez

Donated by His Friends

ANGELITA

CELAYA

DE DA PEÑA

CONCHA

CELAYA

DE GARACHANA

RUTH

MYERS

GARACHANA

GILBERT

GARACHANA

RAMÓN

DE PEÑA

COENELINS J

KLASSEH

RUSSELL

GARACHANA

MARK

GARACHANA

THE RAY R

GUILLEN

FAMILY

ALFONSO

MENDEZ, JR

MELVYNA

GIBBONS

MENDEZ

CHRISTOPHER

MENDEZ

BETTY CELAYA

DE CANTU

CARMEN

DANIEL

DE CELAYA

BRITTANY

MICHELLE

GUILLEN

LISA

GARACHANA

HOLYBEE

FIG

GARACHANA

ANTONIA

CANTU

SALINAS

EUGENE J

RYAN

RICHARD

BARRACK

JULIO CELAYA

JOSÉ MARÍA

DIEGO

THE SCRANTONS

Jerry & Cathy
Yada

Nick & Mary
Friesen

The Melville Family

Myron & Ruth Leibet

The Roy J. Huerta Family

Kings Canyon Adult School

The Allison Family

Mel & Lois

Dennis And Marge Gobby

Melville



Dale & Nancy



Reedley Historical Society

During the initial planning for the Parkway, space was provided just north of 10th Street for displaying antique farm equipment.

Shown here are a burn wagon and a turbine water pump.



Olive Tree

Dedicated in 2006 by the First Mennonite Church, commemorating their 100th year anniversary.



**FIRST MENNONITE
CHURCH
1906 - 2006**



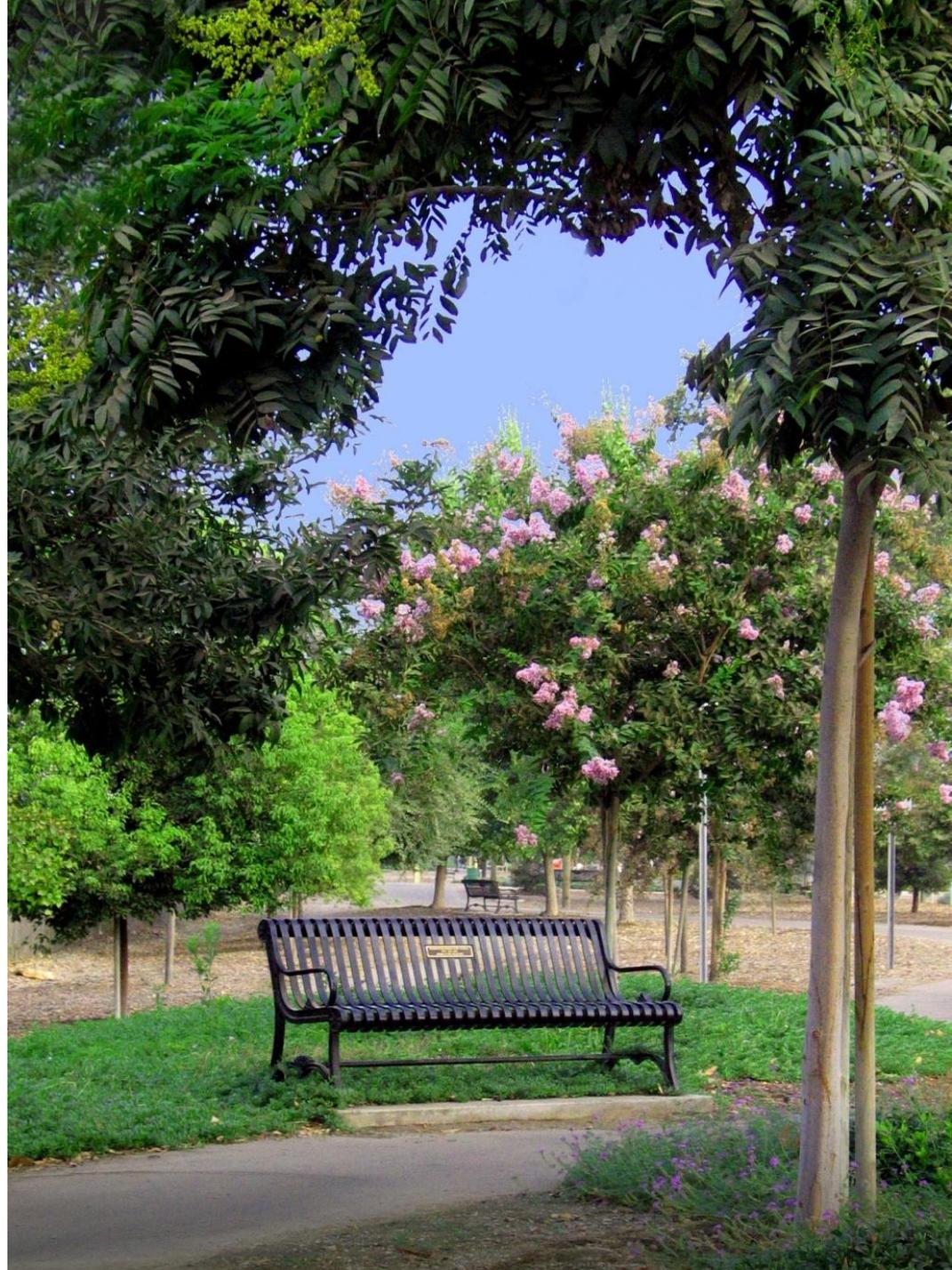


Kiosk

Constructed in early 2000s by HIS students under the direction of Bill Olinger. Provides a bulletin board to advertise City and community events.



Benches,
bike racks,
picnic tables,
drinking
fountains,
Mutt Mitts,
and more!









GERBRANDT
UNIVERSITY BEHAVIOR
JUNE 28, 1992

NEW
ORLEANS
FRENCH QUARTER

Rails to Trails Mural

Dedicated November 18, 2006

This mural was designed and painted by members of the Fresno County Workforce Investment Board Youth Commission. It depicts the history of Reedley, from the founding of the Kings River in 1805 to the present day. It was conceived as way to get local youth involved with their community. With the help of several local agencies and individuals it has succeeded in that respect. It also serves as a challenge to all people who view it, to go out and inspire someone in your own community!

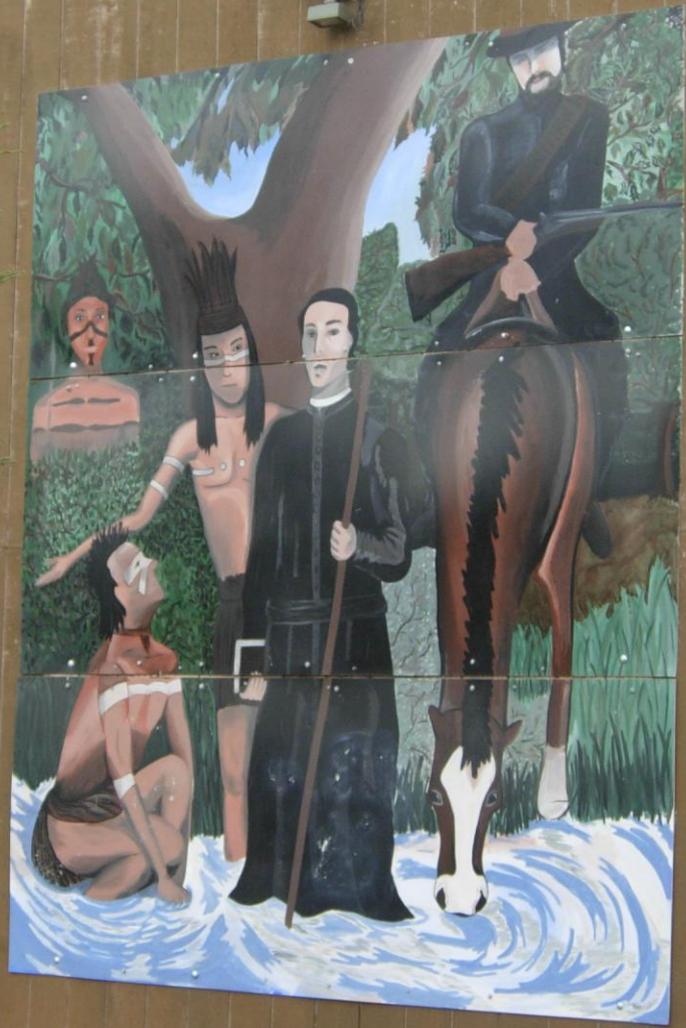




Photo by David Wood
www.davidwood.com







Dog waste dispensers

– donated by Dr. John Gray (Reedley Veterinary Hospital) both for the Reedley Parkway (3) and parks in Reedley (2)



Railroad in the Sky

Sculpture designed by Bob Kizziar (former Reedley College art instructor)

Sculpture fabricated by:

- Reedley College Industrial Technology section
- Don McCain of McCain Electric
- Sheet metal work by Jack's Refrigeration

Sculpture installed by:

- City of Reedley Public Works Department
- McCain Electric



RAILROAD IN THE SKY

BOB KIZZAR
FEBRUARY 2004

REEDLEY COLLEGE

FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF
"RAILROAD IN THE SKY"

PROVIDED BY:

REEDLEY COLLEGE

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION

MCCAIN ELECTRIC

JACK'S REFRIGERATION

CITY OF REEDLEY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Downtown Fountain

Fountain donated by
Buttonwillow Nursery
(installed by City)

Bricks donated by Reedley
Lumber (installed by RPC
members)



Gazebo

Materials purchased by the City with a grant circa 2006.

Installation by Beckenhauer
Construction in early 2008, funding split between the Rails to Trails Committee and the City of Reedley.

Landscaping around the gazebo provided via donated materials and labor by Reedley College students under the direction of Ron Nishinaka (Reedley College landscape horticulture instructor).





Kings River



River

This photo illustrates the present status of the monument for the Railroad in the Sky sculpture (shown earlier in this presentation with the plaques intact).



**Summer
2013...the
Reedley
community
steps up to
assist City with
maintenance of
the Parkway**



Monthly Volunteers

- Reedley Kiwanis
- Knights of Columbus
- Tom & Sherril Hannon
- Greg Essman Family
- Thiele Technologies
- Reedley Social Services



Reedley Parkway

Major Donors



Contributing Donors

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Sign Ranch | |
| Lee's Service | |
| Fresno Roofing | |
| Tom & Sherril Hannon | |
| Reedley Lumber | |
| Melville Family | |
| Rod's Body & Paint | |
| Greg Essman | |
| Thiele Technologies | |



STAR WARS
CELEBRATION

want six?







Parkway Programs and Projects

Adopt-a-Parkway

Program initiated in 2004 where about a dozen organizations, businesses, families, and individuals have volunteered for at least a year to provide pruning, litter and weed control to specific sections of the Parkway. Since 2013, this program was elevated to include pruning and other maintenance activities.



On-Going Activities

- Maintenance activities
 - Tree trimming
 - Weeding
 - Litter control
 - Graffiti removal
 - Removing nursing stakes from trees
 - Repaint mileage markers and bollards
 - Replace mutt-mitt bags
- Replacing vandalized items
 - Bench plaques
 - Railroad in the Sky plaques
 - Parkway dedication plaque
 - Adopt-a-Parkway signs
- Fundraising and Community Activities
 - February (heart month) Walk/Run



Vandalism

Since 2006, vandalism has escalated on the Parkway. Bronze plaques have been regularly broken off from benches and monuments. The RPC has replaced some of the bench plaques 4 times...with bronze, plastic, aluminum, and vinyl nameplates.

In 2015, Theile Technologies manufactured stainless steel plaques to precisely fit the openings. The City welded up the old mounting holes and Rod's Body & Paint provided special epoxy for the RPC to mount the plaques.



Storage Container for Volunteers' Tools

In 2013, Adventist Health made a significant donation to the Reedley Parkway Fund that allowed for the purchase of a large storage container. During 2013-14, the City painted a primer and Bobby Rawson (a Reedley College art student) painted the mural depicting the Reedley environment. Reedley Kiwanis provided the paint materials.

Signage was donated by Sign Ranch to recognize the current volunteers and donors for the Parkway improvements.



Monthly Volunteers

- Reedley Kiwans
- Knights of Columbus
- Tom & Sherri Hannon
- Greg Essman Family
- Thiele Technologies
- Reedley Social Services

MAINTAINING THE



Reedley Parkway

Major Donors

- Adventist Health
- DAVID'S

Contributing Donors

- Sign Ranch
- Lee's Service
- Fresno Roofing
- Tom & Sherri Hannon
- Reedley Lumber
- Melville Family
- Pro's Body & Pain
- Greg Essman
- Thiele Technologies



Knights of Columbus

(maintaining $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the Parkway south of Dinuba Ave)



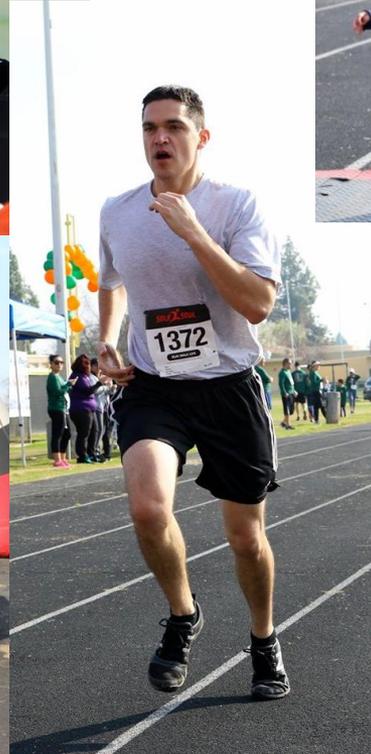
Parkway Extension to Sports Park



- Funding:
 - \$212,472 CMAQ
 - \$40,000 City
 - \$ 32,330 Cal Fire (plus \$16k/y for 3 years to maintain the trees)
- Planting/Staking: KCUSD students
- Maintenance:
 - City hand watering until irrigation system installed in spring 2016
 - Community volunteers needed to maintain this $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section
- Construction of pavement and irrigation improvements scheduled for completion in June 2016.



2016 Reedley "College to Parkway" Walk/Run





Community and City Leaders

Community Leaders

Mary Allison – active RPC member from 1999 to 2004.

Ted Tartaglia – RPC volunteer from 1998 to 2005.

Madeleine Mitchell – RPC volunteer from 2004 to 2009.

Henry Laemmlin – Community leader in re-initiating the Adopt-a-Parkway program in 2013; active on Parkway maintenance from 2013-2015.

Tom & Sherril Hannon, Ruben Macedo, Susan Chapman, and Greg Essman active RPC members and maintenance volunteers from 2013 to present.

Dale Melville – Chair of the RPC from 1997 to present.

Dozens other community members and City staff that from time to time, came through in big ways when asked. Since 1997, well more than 100 citizens have attended RPC meetings, some for one meeting, others for several years.



Community and City Leaders

City Leaders

Marge Gobby – supporter on Council & active RPC member from 1997 to 2007.

Andrew Benelli – City engineer and project supporter from 1999 to 2004.

Dana Ritschel – City capital improvements manager, key for grants, & active RPC advisor from 2004 to 2009.

Dana Logan – City parks superintendent, hands on leader, & active RPC supporter from 2006 to 2013.

Chris Tamez – City public works superintendent, involved leader, and active RPC member since 2013

Rick Rodriguez – City Councilman and active RPC member since 2013.

Joel Glick – City parks director from 1999 to present.

Dozens other community members and City staff that from time to time, came through in big ways when asked. Since 1997, well more than 100 citizens have attended RPC meetings, some for one meeting, others for several years.



2013-2016 Community Leaders:

Knights of Columbus (2013-present)

The Hannon Family (2013-present)

Greg Essman (2013-present)

Noe Agabo Martinez (2014-present)

First Mennonite Church (2015-present)

Reedley Social Services (2015-present)

Thiele Technologies (2015-present)

RHS Leo Club (2016-present)

Reedley Pirate Youth Wrestling (2016-present)

Washington Afterschool Program (2016-present)

Reedley Kiwanis (2013-2016)

NAJA (2014)

Heritage Church (2014)

Reedley Apostolic Church (2014)



Current Regular Participants in the Reedley Parkway Committee

- Chris Tamez (City)
- Rick Rodriguez (City Councilman)
- Ruben Macedo (Knights of Columbus)
- Greg Essman (Kiwanis)
- Tom & Sherril Hannon (citizens)
- Susan Chapman (Adventist Health)
- Aureilo Otriz (Reedley Social Services)
- Maria Rodriguez (Thiele Technologies)
- Neng Moua (Fresno County Department of Public Health)
- Joanna Lemus (Washington Afterschool Program)
- Juan Heredia (Reedley Pirate Youth Wrestling)
- Dale Melville (Chair)

The Reedley Parkway

...an excellent example of a
community project supported
by the City and citizen
volunteers.



How You Can Contribute

1. Tree Donation (\$25/tree)
2. Tile Donation (\$100/tile)
3. Bench Donation (\$1500/bench)
4. Unique Donation (\$_____)
5. Adopt-a-Parkway (volunteer to monthly maintain 0.1 mile or more of the Reedley Parkway)

Contact Information:

Dale Melville 559-355-5880

OR

Pam Melville, c/o David's
1034 G Street, Reedley 93654
559-638-2635

