



Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation Board of Directors Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation?

The Parks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that raises funds, fosters partnerships and advocates on behalf of Sonoma County Regional Parks. The Regional Parks Department consists of more than 55 parks throughout Sonoma County, including the highly popular Spring Lake, Doran, Ragle Ranch and Foothill Parks.

How many individuals serve on the Parks Foundation's board of directors?

A full board is 19 individuals. Ten are appointed by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors; nine positions are elected by the Parks Foundation board.

When does the board meet?

The board typically meets the first Friday of each month from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the large conference room of Building A, 2300 County Center Drive in Santa Rosa.

What are the responsibilities of board members?

The primary responsibility of the Parks Foundation and its board is to raise funds to support Regional Parks' projects and programs. This is an exciting time for Regional Parks, with new parks opening to the public, such as Tolay Lake Regional Park and Mark West Regional Park and Open Space Preserve. Recent Parks Foundation fundraising projects include:

- New or restored trails at Helen Putnam, Taylor Mountain, Hood Mountain and Doran Regional Parks
- A Natural Play Area at Taylor Mountain
- The updated master plan at Maxwell Farms Regional Park
- Field trips and summer camps for underserved children, and
- The Water Safety Patrol at the Russian River.

We are proud of the fact that 100% of board members contribute financially to the Foundation at a personally significant level. In addition, board members assist the Foundation in fundraising in a variety of ways. The following table lists typical activities of a Parks Foundation board member.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hike or meet with potential donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call/write/email donor thank yous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit/become familiar with Regional Parks programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit/become familiar with Regional Parks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donate to Parks Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask others to donate to Parks Foundation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer or sell tickets to Foundation events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host or plan a Foundation event
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use professional skills to help the organization, e.g.: write grants, write press releases, use graphic design or marketing skills, assist with social media outreach, etc. 	

What is the time commitment of board members?

Board members spend approximately 3 hours per month preparing for and attending board meetings. The executive committee members (chair, vice chair, treasurer and secretary) spend an additional 5-10 hours per month meeting with the executive director, supervising the administration of the nonprofit, and undertaking critical tasks such as developing or updating policies or financial documents.

The monthly time commitment for other board members varies depending upon the activities that month. The Foundation frequently presents events or programs at which board involvement is needed.

What is the financial commitment of board members?

Board members are asked to contribute at a “personally significant” level. The Foundation offers a guideline of at least \$500 per year.

How should an interested person apply to the Parks Foundation board of directors?

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Melissa Kelley at the email or phone number below and plan to attend one or more board meetings and other Parks Foundation events. Applications are available online at www.sonomacountyparksfoundation.org/board-of-directors.html. Applications are due March 1 and September 1 each year, and applicants are notified within 4 weeks of the review date.

For more information, contact Melissa Kelley, Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation executive director, at (707) 565-1830 or melissa.kelley@sonoma-county.org.