

Guadalupe River Park Walking Tour Guide

1. Woz Way Plaza - the Army Corps of Engineers started the final flood control work in this area in late



2001. The work includes widening the river channel and constructing gabions (wire baskets filled with rocks, used to prevent erosion) on the west bank of the river to match the work done on the east side of the river in 2000. In a previous construction phase, an underground box culvert was installed to carry overflow flood waters from Woz Way all the way to Park Avenue. The inlet structure into the box culvert is covered by a plaza area that includes spaces for reflection, resting and education. Trails from Upper Guadalupe will meet here eventually.

2. San Jose, Costa Rica Sister City Seating Area – this garden area features a Casuarina tree and a multi-trunked Jacaranda tree and Adoquin stone from Mexico. The tiles on the seating area were donated from the people of San Jose, Costa Rica. The sister city relationship was established in 1962.



3. Vera Cruz, Mexico Sister City Seating Area – located under an old California pepper tree, this seating area overlooks the river and the Children's Discovery Museum. Adoquin paving stone and cobblestone insets reflect the craftsmanship of Mexico. The sister city relationship was established in 1975.



4. Ridder Plaza – Named for Tony Ridder, publisher of the San Jose Mercury News, for his philanthropic efforts in San Jose. The plaza was dedicated to Tony before the Night Ridder firm went to Miami, but now it has returned to San Jose. As a runner, the bronze shoes symbolize Tony’s support of the park and San Jose and serve to give children something to aspire to by trying to “fill his shoes”. Two stairways on either side of the plaza lead down to a great, secluded overlook of the river.



5. AIDS Grove – the grove, located on the northeast side of the Children’s Discovery Museum, was planted by volunteers on September 17, 1995 with 30 Chinese pistache trees. It was dedicated on September 30, 1995 to honor those who have – and will – die of AIDS. The Chinese pistache trees were chosen because they are deciduous and renew themselves every year, and because they thrive when they are planted in groups where their branches can intertwine.

6. Discovery Meadow/ Children’s Discovery Museum - discovery Meadow is the largest open space in the Guadalupe River Park and is capable of holding 20,000 people during an event or festival. The River Walk along this area follows closely along the river and offers many comfortable benches for sitting. The Children’s Discovery Museum, designed by world-renowned Mexican architect Ricardo Lagoretta, is just one of the attractions of Discovery Meadow. Discovery Meadow is capable of holding 20,000 people during an event or festival.



7. Parade of Animals – created by Michael Boris, these six bronze sculptures, dedicated to the children of the city of San Jose, represent some of the animals that might be found along the Guadalupe River. The animals are arranged so that the owl, hawk and fox are eyeing the rabbit and frog as food sources, as the raccoon looks on as an observer. Don’t forget the mouse hiding from the hawk!



8. Dublin, Ireland Sister City Seating Area – this seating area features a poem by Irish poet Arthur O’Shaughnessy engraved on a rock that sits at the entrance to the area. A bench and a donated lamppost and mailbox from Dublin further add to the area as well as the Irish clover that appears around St. Patrick’s Day. Also featured are masonry-style cream flueri limestone paving and a Washington thorn tree. The sister city relationship with Dublin was established in 1986.



9. Monopoly in the Park – this is the world’s largest Monopoly game board! It measures 930 square feet. It is interactive and available to rent. Large groups can reserve the giant game board and game pieces for organized events. The participants play with jumbo dice and wear token shaped hats as they play the game. The game board is brought to you by the non-profit organization, Friends of San Jose Beautiful, and will help to raise funds for community grants, education and other worthwhile causes supported by Friends of San Jose Beautiful.



10. Children’s Bridge at Discovery Meadow – the link to Discovery Meadow from Convention center on the east side of the river. The bridge was designed by Thomas Aidala and Mark Munoz and its unique cable-stayed suspension was used to give children an example of basic engineering. The colorful children at play on a half wheel indicated the entrance to Discovery Meadow, where the CDM is located.



Across the bridge, the IBM building (to the left) is an example of how NOT to build along the river. The part of the building that takes advantage of the river scenery is the parking garage. To the right, Boston Properties will be developing three office towers and a garage that will have plaza areas and cafes underneath that will take advantage of the river.



11. Okayama, Japan Sister City Seating Area - this is the first sister City of San Jose, established in 1957. The landscaping includes a Japanese maple, heavenly bamboo and mondo grass, reflecting the peacefulness of a Japanese garden. A statue of Momotaro (the Peach Boy) with his friends, the dog, monkey and pheasant was given as a gift from Okayama to San Jose, along with the English translation of the Peach Boy story.

12. Center for Performing Arts Pedestrian Bridge/Center for Performing Arts - this bridge was made



as narrow as possible to maintain a maximum amount of the existing vegetation. The green concrete on the deck is used to make it appear to float above the river. The east end of the bridge is decorated with intricate metal sculptures of flora and fauna that can be found along the Guadalupe River.

The Center for the Performing Arts was designed by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. Events at the Center for the Performing Arts are supported by full staging facilities, reception, box office, concessions, coat check for patrons, rehearsal rooms, and an elegant intimate after-theater area. The theater features continental seating with 2,665 seats and can accommodate up to 10 wheelchair seats. In addition, an infrared system for the hearing-impaired is installed through the in-house audio system.

13. River Park Towers and Fountain – this is the first development along the River Park that takes

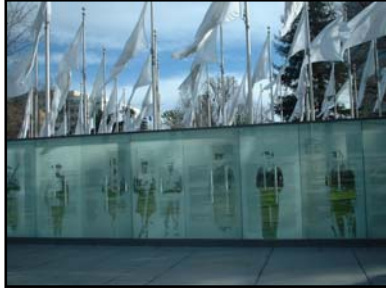


advantage of the river scenery. Prior to the towers, the property housed a dry cleaning plant that had contaminated the water. The developer of the towers, Metropolitan Life, had a carbon filter added to the fountain that cleans the ground water as the water flows through the fountain.

Untitled Art Piece- Artist Kenneth Matsomoto, created in 1983.



14. Veterans Memorial – located near Park Avenue and dedicated on November 11, 1997, this



memorial is a tribute to all men and women who have served our country in both war and peace. The design, by the architectural firm Manhattan Projects in New York City, was the result of a competitive process conducted by the City of San Jose's Public Arts Committee. It consists of 76 flags on 30 ft. steel poles that represent soldiers in formation as well as the formation of headstones in a military cemetery. White flags fly from the poles representing peace and the anonymity of each person who has served in the military. The etched glass panels tell the stories and experiences of local veterans of various wars through letters.

The American flag near the panels has the insignias of all armed services of the US – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard

15. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribute – The Muwekma Ohlone people are the Native Americans who once lived along the Guadalupe River. This tribute, located on the Park Avenue Bridge, contains sculptures of a coyote, hummingbirds (on top of flag poles) and an eagle, which are represented in the Muwekma Ohlone creation story. In the story, Coyote was the father of the human race and was responsible for creating people and teaching them how to live properly, Hummingbird was wise and clever and Eagle was a leader. The flags flying over the bridge represent all the flags that have flown over San Jose, representing the past and present governments of the area. The flags are Spain, Mexico, California and the United States. The coyotes were created by Peter Schiffrin and the eagle and hummingbirds were created by Tom Andrews.

16. Park Avenue Outlet Plaza – this plaza is situated on the north side of Park Avenue and is a great



spot for viewing diverted flood waters (that entered at the Woz Way Inlet Plaza) returning to the Guadalupe River.

17. Wall Map of Guadalupe Master Plan – a unique mural that shows the map of the whole River Park.



18. McEnergy Park – this children’s park located near San Fernando Street is named for John P.



McEnergy, Tom McEnergy’s (former mayor of San Jose) father, who was active in the local politics and community from the 1940’s to the 1960’s. The play areas are created to represent the Guadalupe River landscape. The large boulders represent the mountains where the river originates and the mist is the rain coming down from these mountains. The sandy area represents the foothills where the river flows over and then enters the fields. Dragonflies and other water bugs hover over the area and represent part of the fauna that needs a clean and pollution free river.

19. Tainan, Taiwan Sister City Seating Area – this sister city area features a marble table and benches donated from Tainan and plantings that reflect Tainan’s tropical climate. Plants include tree of heaven, bamboo and other tropical grasses. The relationship between San Jose and Tainan was established in 1975.



20. Remembering Agriculture – this art piece, created by Tony May, represents more than 150 years of



agricultural history of San Jose’s past. The structures include a water tank tower, a windmill, a barn and a small shed and many tiles surrounding the structures that tell the history of the *Valley of Heart’s Delight*. The art piece came about because Tom McEnergy wanted to put up a Fallon Statue in San Jose. He commissioned a statue of Fallon on horseback with the US flag flying over the Spanish pueblo, which became very controversial. The end result was a compromise which stated that although Fallon was a historic person, there were many other historic occasions that are as important and

should also be represented. Five art pieces were commissioned due to this compromise and *Remembering Agriculture* is one of them.

21. Five Skaters Art Piece – the Five Skaters Art Piece, located at Arena Green (near HP Pavilion),



represents the five Olympic Champion Skaters from the Bay Area: Peggy Fleming, Debbi Thomas, Brian Boitano, Kristy Yamaguchi and Rudy Galindo. The art piece is made up of five mosaic pillars, a symbolic ice rink that features time capsules and quotes from each of the five skaters, medal platforms and a plaque which lists each skater’s awards.

22. Carousel – the carousel contains 33 painted fiberglass animals that include a coyote, hummingbird and eagle, which are part of the Muwekma Ohlone creation story, a salmon, which is native to the Guadalupe River and two sharks for the San Jose Sharks hockey team. Proceeds from the cost of riding the carousel go to the non-profit Sharks Foundation. The children on the fences around the carousel and the play areas are children of the employees of San Jose’s Redevelopment Agency.



22A. Arena Green Playgrounds – play areas for both older children and younger children are located next to the carousel.



23. Arena Green/HP Pavilion – the area of the park between Santa Clara Street and St. John’s Street.



Donor Walkway – the Donor Walkway features both tiles and benches that can be purchased and personally inscribed to become a permanent part of the park. The Friends of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens manage this program and the funds are used to support the park.



24. Guadalupe River Park & Gardens Old Ranger Station. This is now just an office for the City of San Jose’s Maintenance Workers.

25. Confluence Point (Los Gatos Creek and Guadalupe River) - confluence point is the meeting point of the Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River and also represents the confluence of ecology and technology as well as the multiple cultures that make up San Jose.



26. The Weaver's Gifts – located near the Visitor Center, this area celebrates the Costanoan-Ohlone people who lived within the territory of Confluence Point. It is composed of three main elements: a large granite carving of a mortar that is split in half, suggesting a broken tradition; a large limestone carving of a traditional Ohlone Gift basket, symbolizing the welcome of food and artifacts given to the first colonists; and a limestone representation of an unfinished spiraling storage basket inlaid in the existing park paving. Quotes from the Costanoan-Ohlone people, both in English and their language, are inscribed into the paving, and the names of all the Costanoan-Ohlone peoples at the time of contact with colonists are inscribed on the stone seat walls.



27. Santa Clara Inlet Plaza – this plaza is situated above the second inlet structure that will divert floodwaters underground. The waters that enter this inlet structure will be carried to the Coleman Avenue Outlet Plaza where they will be freed into the natural flood plain, north of Coleman Avenue and away from populated downtown areas. The plaza will contain benches for resting and educational areas.

28. Confluence River Monument – this monument celebrates the confluence of the Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River. The monument consists of two spiraling pieces that meet at a central focal point and have the two rivers engraved on the spirals. Granite benches will surround the piece along with evergreen trees.



29. Tennis Courts – four tennis courts offer an opportunity for active recreation in this area.

30. Confluence Park East – this area is comprised of multiple sites that can be used for events of all sizes. The areas within Confluence East are: Confluence (Tributaries) Monument, Santa Clara Street Overlook Plaza, St. John Street Overlook Plaza, tennis courts, Crossing Paths Monument and Braided Path Plaza with Pool of Genes.



31. St. John's Plaza – this plaza is located next to the secondary inlet for the flood-protection culvert and highlights the civil engineering system of the flood protection project.

32. Crossing Paths Monument – this area celebrates the diversity of San Jose and represents the many different cultures of this site.

33. Braided Path Plaza with Pool of Genes – the north entrance into Confluence East showcases San Jose as a modern, multi-cultural society. The braided paths contain the names of many of the ethnic groups that comprise the city's current demographics and meet at a reflective pool. The pool has a sitting wall around it with the first names of children on it that represent the diversity in San Jose.



34. Coleman Outlet Plaza – this plaza is located on top of two flood protection culverts and will offer a view of the floodwaters returning to the Guadalupe River during flooding times. This plaza's educational feature is a paving that contains four bands representing four different years of flood events.



35. Ekaterinburg Sister City Seating Area - as of early 2005, this seating area is not yet complete. This sister city relationship was established in 1990.

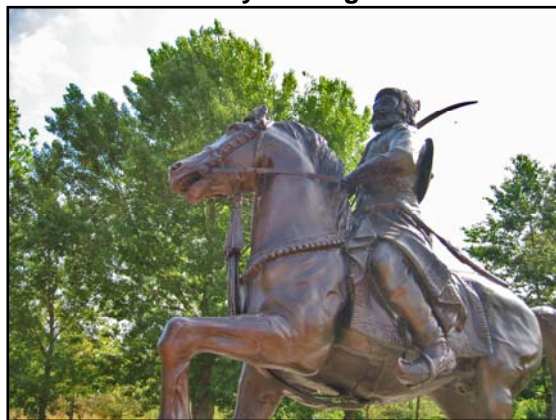
36. Flood Meadow/Riparian Habitat – the flood plain (meadow) allows water to flow through the box culverts and into this area that provides a natural area for the river to run and overflow its banks if necessary without causing any property damage. The riparian habitat is an area where native species of plants and animals can thrive without the threat of development.



37. Wave Berms – the rolling hills in the flood plain area of the river park are a part of the flood protection system.



38. Pune Sister City Seating Area – this seating area features a statue of Shivaji Maharaj, donated from Pune, India. Shivaji founded Pune in 1640 and was the first modern warrior who successfully fought foreign invaders for 40 years and established a Maratha kingdom that lasted 200 years with Pune as the capitol. This sister city relationship was established in 1989.



39. Secondary Channels – these manmade channels are a fish's “second chance” to return to water if they are displaced out of the Guadalupe during flooding.

40. Guadalupe Gardens – a 120-acre site adjacent to the River Park that currently contains four gardens. An additional 16 acres of this land had recycled water irrigation installed in 2004/2005. Eventually, this area will be developed into garden demonstration areas. Initially this area will contain turf on the west side and native grasses on the east side that will blend into the existing grasses of the River Park. Community Gardens are scheduled to be completed as early as spring of 2009.

41. Courtyard/Recycled Water Garden – Guadalupe River Park & Gardens, in conjunction with South Bay Water Recycling and the City's Conventions, Arts & Entertainment Department, has turned the Courtyard Garden on Taylor Street into a demonstration area showcasing the use of recycled water on a variety of plants. In October 1999, scores of volunteers arrived to plant the well-designed demonstration garden. The Courtyard Garden is already rich with a variety of plants. From Japanese cherry trees and California poppies, to roses and evergreen shrubs, it represents an ideal opportunity for evaluating the effects of recycled water use in public gardens. South Bay Water Recycling personnel, with input from the City park staff and the Horticultural Department at the University of California, Davis selected additional test plants for empty beds in the Courtyard Gardens based on their needs for testing.



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42. Historic Orchard- the Historic Orchard is a 3.3-acre orchard, planted in 1994, to showcase the fruit varieties that once made the Santa Clara Valley famous as "The Valley of Heart's Delight". It is located in Guadalupe Gardens just north of Taylor Street near the river park. The orchard contains over 250 fruit trees, including cherries, apricots, prunes, apples, and more. Fruit harvested from the orchard is donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara County.



43. Heritage Rose Garden - the Heritage Rose Garden is a unique collection of 3,700 antique and modern roses. Established in 1995 through an extensive community effort, the garden contains more varieties than any other rose garden in the western hemisphere. It is maintained primarily by volunteers, with assistance from the City of San Jose. A catalog of roses in the garden is available for purchase from the South Bay Heritage Rose Group.



44. Drought Tolerant Rock Garden – planted in 1990, this garden features rocks and plants that are drought tolerant and adapted to live in our Mediterranean climate. Since 2002, new plantings of drought tolerant California natives have been added to the garden.



45. History Plaza – not indicated on the map, this plaza will represent the rich history of the Guadalupe River and will be located near the River Street Historic District.

46. Visitor and Education Center – the new visitor and education center will be directly adjacent to the River Park Trails and Guadalupe Gardens. The much larger facilities will allow for more space to provide classes and educational demonstrations.

