

**Regional Parks Department**  
Jeffrey R. Leatherman, Director



**Divisions**  
Administration  
Golf  
Leisure Services  
Maintenance  
Rangers  
Therapeutic Recreation Services

## County of Sacramento

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### NOTICE

Starting on Tuesday, February 25, you may see a small tractor clearing vegetation near the archery range in Discovery Park. While the tractor clearing may seem destructive, it is actually a first step in a long-planned riverbank restoration project being undertaken by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. The clearing work will take several days to complete, likely extending into early March.

The ultimate goal of the restoration project is to reconnect the river to the floodplain and to improve the habitat available for fish and wildlife. Prior to 2003, this area once supported a cottonwood forest but was destroyed by a fire. Since the fire, invasive vegetation, particularly Himalayan blackberry, has dominated this area, overgrowing many elderberry shrubs.

There are several steps required to restore this site to a healthy functioning native riparian woodland. First, it is necessary to remove the Himalayan blackberry and other invasive vegetation from the site to uncover the numerous elderberry shrubs. Second, elderberry shrubs near the river bank will be transplanted to open areas further from the river previously cleared of blackberry vines. This will allow the bank to be graded so the river reconnects to what will be the restored floodplain habitat. The final step after grading work will be the planning and establishment of a native riparian plant community that will support many fish, including juvenile salmonids, and other wildlife species, as well as improve the overall values of the American River Parkway. The entire project is expected to be completed by summer 2015.

For more information contact Mary Maret, Senior Natural Resource Specialist at (916) 875-4918 or [maretm@saccounty.net](mailto:maretm@saccounty.net).