

# 2019 Annual Report



*Providing For Yosemite's Future*



## OUR MISSION

*We inspire people to support projects and programs that preserve Yosemite and enrich the visitor experience.*

## CHAIR & PRESIDENT'S NOTE

# Dear Friend of Yosemite



Bob Bennitt, Chair

As we write this, our communities, country and world are grappling with the coronavirus crisis. The pandemic has prompted Yosemite to close for much of the spring to protect park staff, residents and the public. At the Conservancy, we've paused or adapted our programs and operations, and we're more grateful than ever for our colleagues, friends and supporters.



Frank Dean, President

Amid the tumult and uncertainty, we're finding light in constants: Yosemite's inspiring beauty and biodiversity, and the meaningful difference our donors make in the park.

In 2019, your generous donations helped us provide almost \$16 million in total support for Yosemite, inclusive of grants, enriching visitor programs, and wilderness conservation and management projects.

You helped the park conduct cutting-edge research and restoration work to save vulnerable amphibians, complete a 30th year of songbird studies, and provide educational programming that reached more than 20,000 young people. Two important youth programs, Parks in Focus and Adventure Risk Challenge, both recently celebrated a decade of connecting kids to Yosemite. Gifts from our donors also helped rehabilitate a historic Chinese laundry building in Wawona, lay the groundwork for new climbing-focused exhibits, safeguard Snow Creek Cabin and much more.

Our programs and retail operations connect people to Yosemite in unique ways and inspire visitors to engage with and participate in the Conservancy's mission. In 2019, our volunteers donated more than \$473,000 in labor to restore trails and habitat, and to help visitors navigate, learn about and stay safe in the park. Our naturalists, visitor information assistants, performers, art instructors and wilderness staff helped more than 830,000 people connect with Yosemite through enriching programs.

At this point, 2019 might feel like a world away, but the gifts you made last year are still making a difference in the park. As a result of these gifts, we see rejuvenated meadows, high country lakes that support endangered Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs, rehabilitated trails ready to welcome hikers, and much more. And while we can't predict what the coming months might hold, we are confident our donors will continue to play an indispensable role in the park for years to come. We can't overstate our gratitude. Thank you.

Bob Bennitt, Chair

Frank Dean, President



## Thank You, Bob!

As we started the new decade, Bob Bennitt wrapped up his term as our board chair. We're grateful to Bob for steering our board with such dedication, and for his longtime and continuing support as a stalwart champion of Yosemite and the Conservancy!

As we move through this challenging, unpredictable moment, we're especially thankful for the steady guidance of our board and council members, and for the expertise and tireless efforts of our new chair, Matt Adams, who stepped to the helm in January.

PHOTOS: (COVER) © DAVID E. GRIMES. (RIGHT) © GRANT MELTON.





# Your Gifts at Work

## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

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**T**he impact of your support was visible throughout Yosemite in 2019. In the Valley, the donor-funded Yosemite Bike Share cycled through a successful second year, climbing rangers and stewards engaged nearly 25,000 visitors through the Ask a Climber program, and crews restored critical wetland habitat near Royal Arches and Lower River Amphitheater. In farther-flung corners of the park, biologists surveyed bighorn sheep herds, wilderness restoration crews erased traces of campfires and informal trails, and wetland experts created natural beaver dam–like structures to repair a gully in Ackerson Meadow.

The highlights on the following pages represent just a sliver of the work you made possible last year. To learn more about how donors such as you make a difference, visit us online at [yosemite.org/impact](https://yosemite.org/impact).

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**LEFT** Through Yosemite’s donor-funded Climbing Stewardship program, volunteers helped improve trails for climbers and hikers at the base of El Capitan in 2019. **ABOVE** A donor-supported planting project has expanded healthy habitat for pollinators in the park.

PHOTOS: (LEFT & TOP) © COURTESY OF NPS.





PHOTOS: (LEFT TO RIGHT) © YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY/RYAN KELLY. © KYLIE CHAPPELL.

After breaking ground on a major donor-supported restoration effort at the base of **Bridalveil Fall** in late 2018, Yosemite crews made notable progress on the project throughout 2019. They worked on a **new trail system** that will include accessible paths and viewing areas, and they completed designs for a boardwalk, restroom-related utilities, an improved parking lot and more. With your support, this ongoing project is creating a more enjoyable, safe and environmentally sustainable visitor experience at one of Yosemite's most iconic waterfalls.

In 2019, with your support, Yosemite researchers gathered data on more than **2,100 individual birds** (including the Townsend's solitaire pictured at right) while completing a 30th consecutive year of songbird studies in the park. Their **three decades of research** have helped advance scientific understanding of avian populations in the Sierra Nevada and beyond.

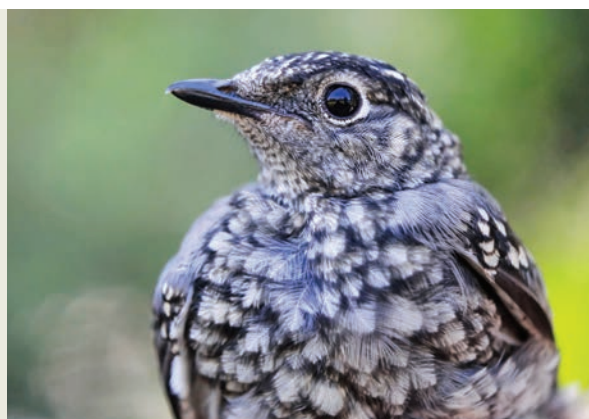


PHOTO: © INSTITUTE FOR BIRD POPULATIONS/AMY HOGAN.





PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS.

Thanks to your support of the park's partnership with the **University of California, Merced**, undergraduates completed 7,500 hours of volunteer service during summer Yosemite internships, led park field trips for local youth, and benefited from the Yosemite Leadership Program academic course.



Your support helped park rangers launch **¡Aventura Yosemite!**, a bilingual educational program with activities in Spanish and English focused on ecology, safety and stewardship.

PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS.

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS.

Your gifts enabled park crews and **California Conservation Corps** members to improve more than **100 miles of trails** parkwide, from the Valley's popular Mist and Four Mile trails, to less-traveled backcountry routes in the Merced and Tuolumne river drainages.



PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS.

A donor-supported project near the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona restored a **historic Chinese laundry building**, as part of an effort to share lesser-known stories of people who lived and worked in Yosemite during its early days as a national park.





More than 10,000 people connected with Yosemite in creative ways through activities, such as painting workshops, family-friendly crafts, and films and live storytelling, all part of our **art and theater programs**.

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



PHOTO: © YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY/KEITH WALLETT.

Our **wilderness team** helped more than 94,000 Yosemite visitors in 2019, by renting out bear-proof food canisters, processing permit requests, sharing trail guidance and Leave No Trace tips, and more.



**ABOVE** A peregrine falcon soars over Yosemite Valley in 2019. **RIGHT** A remote camera image of a Sierra Nevada red fox in early 2020. PHOTOS: (LEFT TO RIGHT) © JAMES MCGREW, © COURTESY OF NPS.

With your support, wildlife researchers covered **560 square miles** while searching for signs of the rare Sierra Nevada red fox, documented **14 peregrine falcon pairs**, and surveyed **20 climbing routes** for roosting bats.







PHOTO: © YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY/MARK MARSHALL.

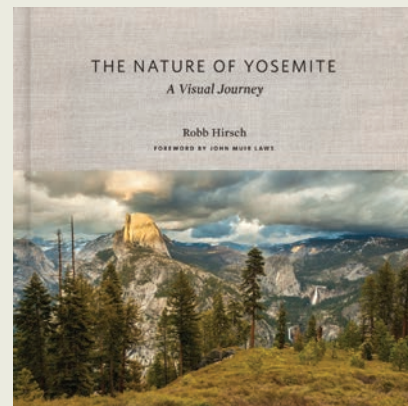
In 2019, our 419 volunteers helped restore trails and habitat, and assisted more than **half a million visitors**. They also provided critical support to the park's Preventive Search and Rescue activities, an effort that earned Yosemite's Volunteer Program of the Year award.



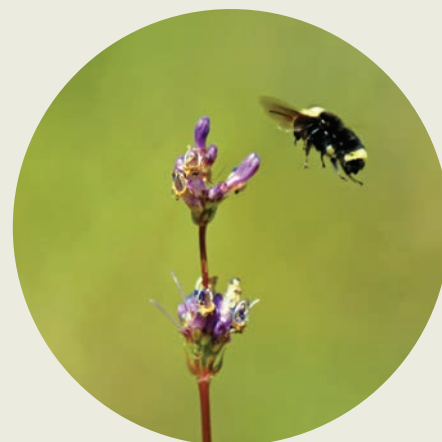
PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS/RALPH ANDERSON (YOSEMITE HISTORIC PHOTO COLLECTION).

At the Yosemite Archives, interns researched and digitized **7,000 historical park photos**, saving snapshots that otherwise might have been lost to deterioration, and they made a trove of antique images available to the public.

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



The 2019 books from our **long-running publishing program** — *Little Muir's Song*, *The Nature of Yosemite* and *Wildheart: The Daring Adventures of John Muir* — earned high praise from critics and readers, alike.



Park staff worked with volunteers to sow more than **6,000 native plants** in Yosemite Valley, as part of a continuing donor-funded effort to create havens for monarch butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

PHOTO: © COURTESY OF NPS.

## Statement of Financial Position

As of Dec. 31, 2019

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Cash & Investments                  | \$22,346,643 |
| Pledges, Receivables & Other Assets | \$2,107,466  |

**Total Current Assets \$24,454,109**

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Pledges Receivable, Net of Current Portion | \$122,875   |
| Deposits                                   | \$16,150    |
| Land Held for Future Use                   | \$3,075,400 |
| Investments, Net of Current Portion        | \$1,545,093 |
| Charitable Gift Annuities                  | \$124,099   |
| Property & Equipment, Net                  | \$569,427   |

**Total Noncurrent Assets \$5,453,044**

**TOTAL ASSETS \$29,907,153**

### LIABILITIES

#### Current Liabilities

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses      | \$861,042   |
| Grants Payable to Yosemite National Park | \$2,334,392 |

**Total Current Liabilities \$3,195,434**

### NET ASSETS

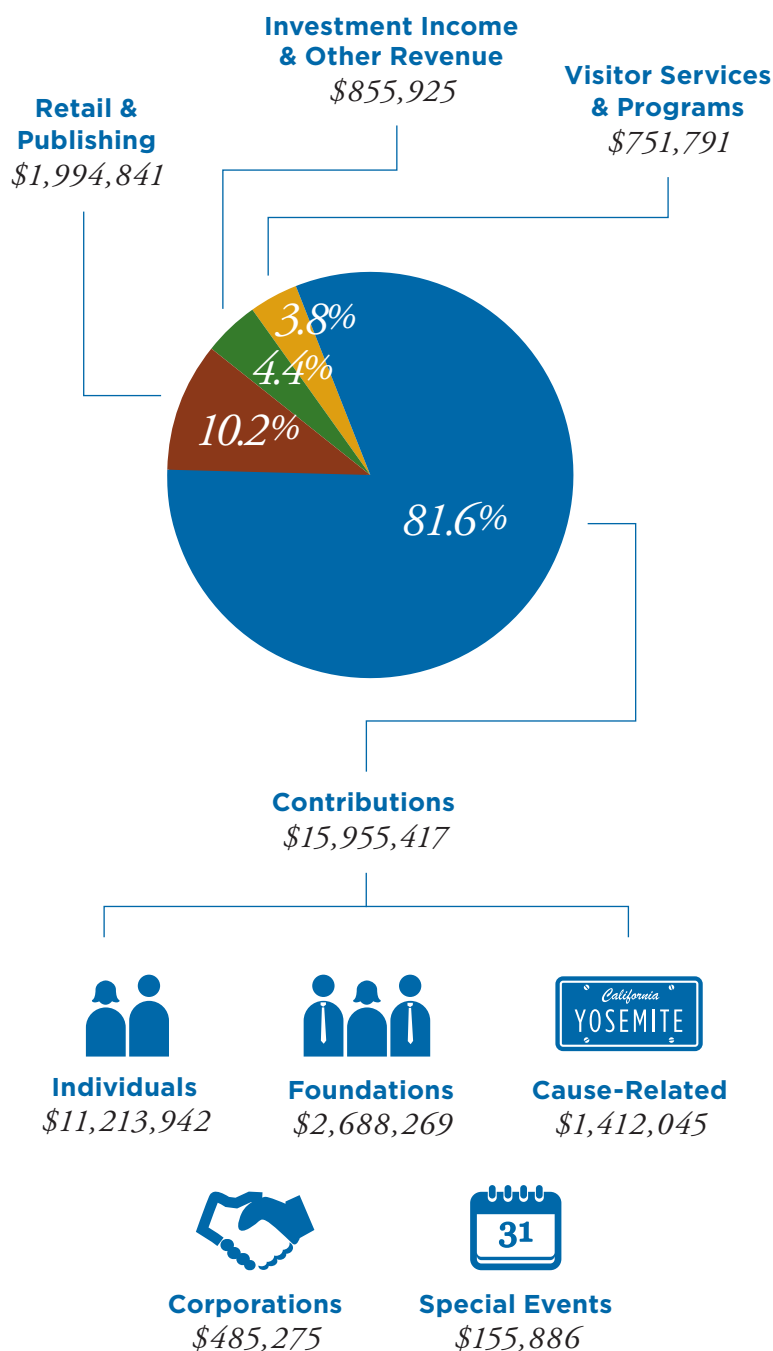
|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Without Donor Restrictions | \$20,116,445 |
| With Donor Restrictions    | \$6,595,274  |

**Total Net Assets \$26,711,719**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$29,907,153**

## Support & Revenue

\$19,557,974





## Statement of Activities

As of Dec. 31, 2019

### SUPPORT & REVENUE

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Contributions                     | \$15,955,417 |
| Retail & Publishing               | \$1,994,841  |
| Visitor Services & Programs       | \$751,791    |
| Investment Income & Other Revenue | \$855,925    |

**TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE \$19,557,974**

### FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

#### Program Services

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Park Enhancements           | \$9,228,873 |
| Retail & Publishing         | \$1,299,705 |
| Visitor Services & Programs | \$2,856,460 |

**Total Aid to Park \$13,385,038**

#### Support Services

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Administrative | \$1,244,594 |
| Fundraising    | \$2,444,082 |

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$17,073,714**

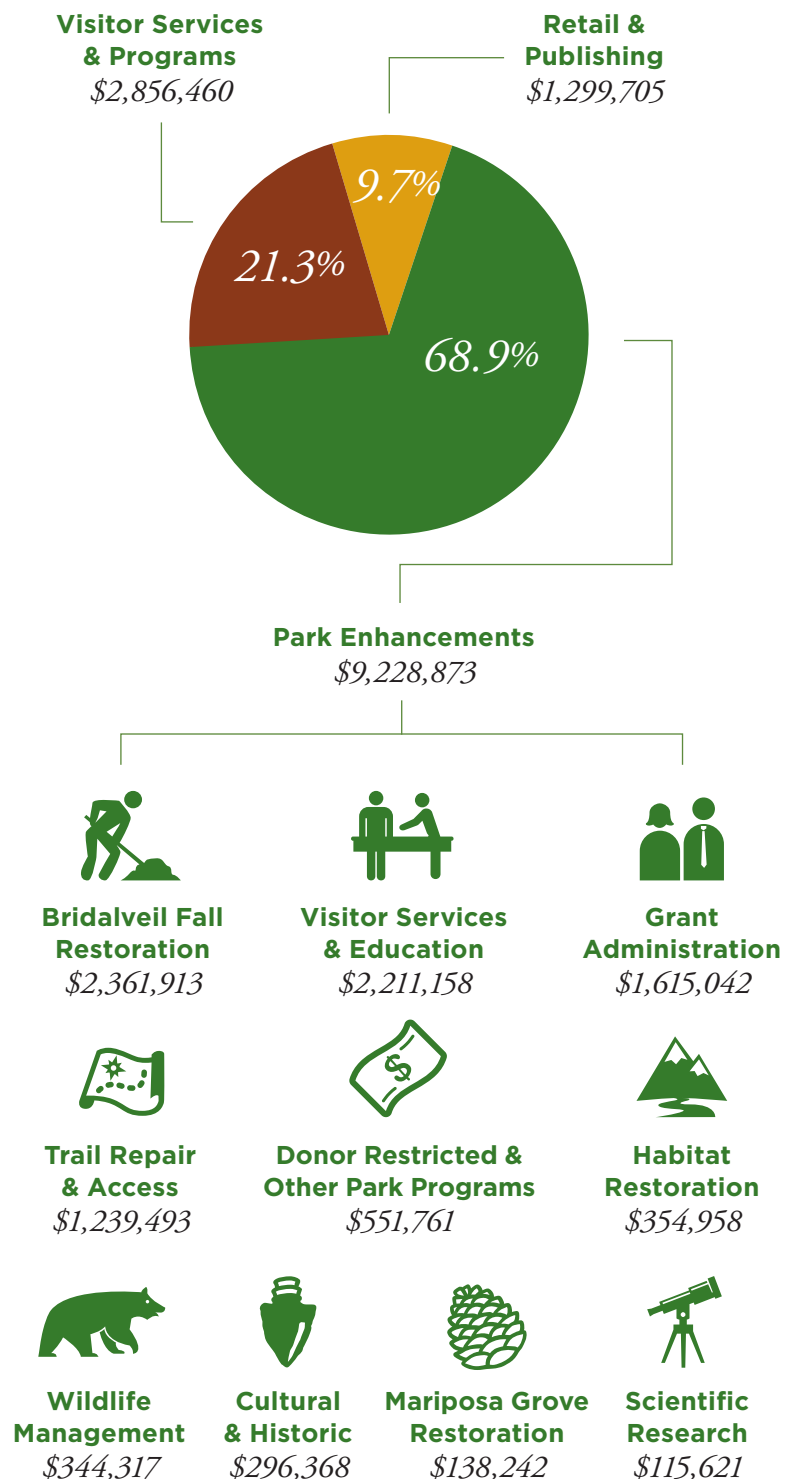
**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$2,484,260**

#### NET ASSETS

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Beginning of Year | \$24,227,459 |
| End of Year       | \$26,711,719 |

## Aid to Yosemite National Park

\$13,385,038





## COUNCIL MEMEBERS

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As of Dec. 31, 2019

### YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### CHAIR

Bob Bennitt\*

#### VICE CHAIR

Dana Dornsife\*

#### PRESIDENT & CEO

Frank Dean\*

#### COUNCIL

Hollis & Matt Adams\*  
Jeanne & Michael Adams  
Gretchen Augustyn  
Jenny Augustyn & Ali Meghdadi  
Suzy & Bob Bennitt\*  
David Bowman & Gloria Miller  
Marilyn & Allan Brown  
Steve & Diane Ciesinski\*  
Kira & Craig Cooper  
Hal Cranston & Vicki Baker  
Carol & Manny Diaz  
Leslie & John Dorman\*  
Dave\* & Dana Dornsife\*  
Jewell\* & Bob Engstrom  
Kathy Fairbanks  
Sandra & Bernard Fischbach  
Cynthia & Bill Floyd\*  
Jim Freedman & Karine Joret  
Susan & Don Fuhrer\*  
Bonnie Gregory  
Rusty Gregory\*  
Karen & Steve Hanson  
Laura Hattendorf & Andy Kau  
Christy & Chuck Holloway  
Christina Hurn  
Jennifer & Gregory Johnson  
Walt Lemmermann  
Melody & Bob Lind  
Sam & Cindy Livermore  
Steve Lockhart & Karen Bals  
Anahita & Jim Lovelace  
Mark Marion & Sheila Grether-Marion  
Patsy & Tim Marshall  
Kirsten & Dan Miks  
Robyn & Joe Miller  
Kate & Ryan Myers  
Janet Napolitano  
Dick Otter & Judy Wilbur  
Sharon & Phil Pillsbury\*  
Gisele & Lawson Rankin  
Bill Reller  
Pam & Rod Rempt\*  
Frankie & Skip Rhodes\*  
Liz Robbins  
Dave Rossetti & Jan Avent\*  
Lisa & Greg Stanger\*  
Jennifer & Russ Stanton\*  
Ann\* & George Sundby  
Clifford J. Walker\*  
Wally Wallner\* & Jill Appenzeller  
Jack Walston & Sue Estes

#### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent Michael Reynolds

*\*Indicates Board of Trustees*

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PHOTO: © MATTHEW SCOTT.

## Contact Us

### Visit

yosemite.org

### Email

info@yosemite.org

### Phone

415-434-1782

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### CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Marion Ingersoll  
mingersoll@yosemite.org  
415-434-8446 x324

### MAJOR GIFTS — NORTHERN CALIFORNIA & NATIONAL

Caitlin Allard  
callard@yosemite.org  
415-434-8446 x318

### MAJOR GIFTS — SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Julia Hejl  
jhejl@yosemite.org  
323-217-4780

### Mail

Yosemite Conservancy  
101 Montgomery Street, Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA 94104

### Fax

415-434-0745

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### PLANNED GIVING & BEQUESTS

Catelyn Spencer  
cspencer@yosemite.org  
415-434-8446 x319

### ANNUAL, HONOR & MEMORIAL GIVING

Isabelle Luebbbers  
iluebbbers@yosemite.org  
415-434-8446 x313

### GIFTS OF STOCK

Eryn Ligon  
stock@yosemite.org  
415-434-8446 x330

### FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

Laurie Peterson  
lpeterson@yosemite.org  
415-434-8446 x328

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