



## Paradise Recreation and Park District

6626 Skyway  
Paradise, CA 95969  
Email: [info@ParadisePRPD.com](mailto:info@ParadisePRPD.com)

Phone: 530-872-6393  
Fax: 530-872-8619  
Website: [www.paradisepprd.com](http://www.paradisepprd.com)

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## Media Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Dan Efseaff  
**ORGANIZATION:** Paradise Recreation and Park District  
**PHONE:** 530-872-6393 **FAX:** 530-872-8619  
**EMAIL:** [defseaff@paradisepprd.com](mailto:defseaff@paradisepprd.com)  
**WEB ADDRESS:** [www.paradisepprd.com](http://www.paradisepprd.com)

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## Healing Trauma Through Nature Grant Awarded

Paradise, CA 10/25/19 — The Paradise Parks and Recreation District (PRPD) announced the kickoff of a new program, called “Healing Trauma Through Nature” made possible from a \$100,000 grant from the Butte Strong Fund and the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Fund.

The District will administer the funds to support a new partnership formed in response to the traumatic effects of the Camp Fire on those residing in the service area of Paradise, Concow, Yankee Hill, Magalia and Butte Canyon.

The grant will help coordinate and encourage partnerships with organizations throughout Butte County with the goal of developing a comprehensive program to deliver expanded outdoor experiences designed to heal youth and provide training, collaboration, and services to providers, identify needs and match resources to partners, and to build capacity to develop funding sources to support services.

The group formed as a result of the Youth Services Summit held in Paradise in June. The initial group members include: The Paradise Parks and Recreation District, the Butte County Office of Education, CSU Chico Ecological Reserves, Outdoor Education for All (OEFA), Odyssey Teams, and Feather River Center. However, many more organizations will likely participate in the collaboration starting next year.

Anne Stephens, an Assistant Professor at CSU Chico and Director of the Inland Northern California Science Project supports the efforts and noted, “Ultimately, our goal is to help students find a sense of wonder and appreciation for the outdoors that will help them heal and develop resiliency skills.”

Another outcome of the meeting was the development of the Camp Courage program for pre-teens and teens held this summer. The Camp came about as a partnership with Odyssey for Youth, Golden Feather Unified School District, Paradise Unified School District, Forebay Aquatic Center, and PRPD. Scott Amick with Odyssey for Youth noted that “students-built leadership and life skills, made friends, while enjoying 3 days of adventurous activities.” He added, “The partnership provided an excellent foundation and demonstration for us to successfully provide these types of programs in the future.”

The first action step for the group will be hiring a part time Program Director to bring to life the vision of the Healing Trauma Through Nature collaborative group. More information may be found on the PRPD webpage ([www.ParadisePRPD.com](http://www.ParadisePRPD.com)) or phone number (530)872-6393.

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Since 1948, the Paradise Recreation and Park District provides recreation facilities and programs to the residents of Paradise, the Butte Creek Canyon area, and the unincorporated communities of Magalia/Paradise Pines and Concow/Yankee Hill. The District serves 50,000 people living in a 170-square mile area and manages nearly 500 acres of park land and facilities.

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