



# Delta Protection Commission

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Ready for the Delta to leave its stamp on you?

DELTA.CA.GOV/PASSPORT



**Passport Stamping Stations**

**Other Local Attractions**



THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA  
California's First National Heritage Area

**Delta NHA**  
By the Numbers

- 1,237 Square Miles
- 178 Square Miles of Water
- 52 Islands
- 1,300 Miles of Levees
- 5 Counties
- 41 Communities
- 11 Legacy Communities
- 15 National, State and Regional Park Sites
- 1 State Scenic Highway
- 2 National Historic Trails
- 5 Trails in the Great California Delta Trail Network
- 3 National Landmarks
- 17 National, State, and Local Wildlife Areas
- 16 Historic Bridges
- 19 Museums
- 73 Marinas
- 55 U-Pick Farms
- 38 Wineries

Established by Congress in 2019

**What is a National Heritage Area?**

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are places where historic, cultural, natural and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important living landscape.

NHAs support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects through public-private partnerships. These dynamic collaborations ensure that NHA activities reflect local interests and needs.

**Why was the California Delta designated as an NHA?**

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a vast inland tidal estuary where the state's two largest rivers converge, forming California's most crucial water and ecological resource. It boasts abundant resources that tell a unique American story and enrich California's quality of life and economy.

Historically, it was one of the most biologically productive and diverse ecosystems on the West Coast. It remains an ecological gem for waterfowl, which have adapted to using the farmlands as habitat, and fish that travel its waterways between the Pacific Ocean and the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Originally, numerous distinct Native American communities lived along the banks of the Delta's meandering waterways. The landscape and culture have also been shaped by American, Chinese, Filipino, Italian, Japanese, Mexican, Portuguese, and Sikh settlers and their descendants.

In modern times, the Delta has become a recreational attraction. Boaters, anglers, bicyclists and other adventurers appreciate its maze of levees, sloughs, waterways and views. U-pick farms, wineries and restaurants welcome culinary tourists.

# Delta National Heritage Area

- Delta Heritage Forum: November 5
- Branding and Marketing: new logo coming soon!

# Delta National Heritage Area

## Delta Leadership Program





## Other Areas of Focus

- Keeping Delta Farmers Farming
- Levee Funding
- Delta Protection Advisory Committee

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### Watercolor Show Featured in Benicia



The California Watercolor Association's 56th International Exhibition runs through March 15 at the Arts Benicia Gallery.

### Western Railway Museum



The Western Railway Museum in Suisun City is hosting its annual **Pumpkin Patch Festival** on the weekends of Oct. 11-12, 18-19, and 25-26.

Visitors take a scenic 5-mile train ride to Gum Grove Farm, where they can pick out a Halloween pumpkin, clamber on a giant hay fort, ride tractors, and get up close and personal with cute farm animals at the petting zoo. Other activities include pumpkin chucking (!) and zip-lining; and there are food and beverage options on-site for visitors.

Museum Hours are 9:20 a.m. and the last train is at 3:30 p.m. Train tickets are required for the year for the festival.

Tickets here

### Delta Heritage Courier

March/April 2026



SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN  
**DELTA**  
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

### Rio Vista Students Promote Improved Air Quality



...ing attention to the importance of improving air quality and walkability in local communities, Sustainable Solano is hosting the **Little Free Library and Pollinator Garden Celebration** on Sept. 6 at the Rio Vista Community Garden.

A new "Little Free Library," built and painted by the Youth Air Protectors of Rio Vista High School, will be unveiled at the event. The colorful Library will contain educational resources relating to air quality and environmental action; and the event includes the planting of a native pollinator garden and an exploration of "air quality issues and solutions."

RSVP here

Did You Know

### Benicia Has its Very Own Song?



Benicia's 8th Poet Laureate (2020-2023), **Mary Susan Gast**, is author of the lyrics for "Benicia Our Home," set to the traditional hymn "Morning Has Broken." The song has been recorded by a number of community groups in a collaborative effort with co-author Roger Straw.

Gast started writing poetry in her early 20s, "when the enormous awakening to global issues of justice and peace kind of pressed me into using the imagery and rhythm of poetry to convey my thoughts," she says. Benicia's Poet Laureate program, notes David Dodd, City of Benicia's director of Library and Cultural Services, "promotes the importance of poetry in daily life in our community."

Hear the Song

### Benicia's Sparkly-New Fishing Pier



Benicia has announced that the **City of Benicia Fishing Pier restoration** is complete and "officially open again." The pier (no parking required!) boasts new decking, a fish cleaning station, and a new viewing platform.

Sought-after species for anglers using the pier include striped bass, sturgeon, flounder and salmon, with the pier also providing a scenic view of the bay.

### Rio Vista Museum Gets a Birthday Plaque



The **Rio Vista Museum** celebrated its 50th anniversary by debuting a **commemorative plaque**. The museum, which occupies a converted turn of the 20th Century blacksmith's shop, opened its doors in September 1975.

Artifacts featured at the site – including pictures, clothing and farm equipment – are available to visitors Saturday through Sunday.