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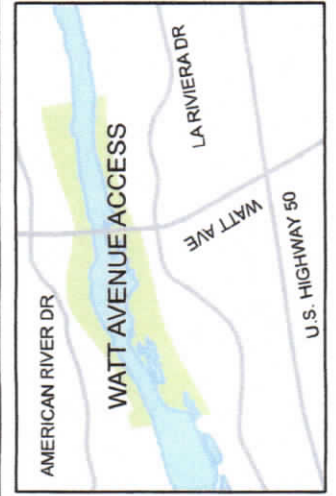
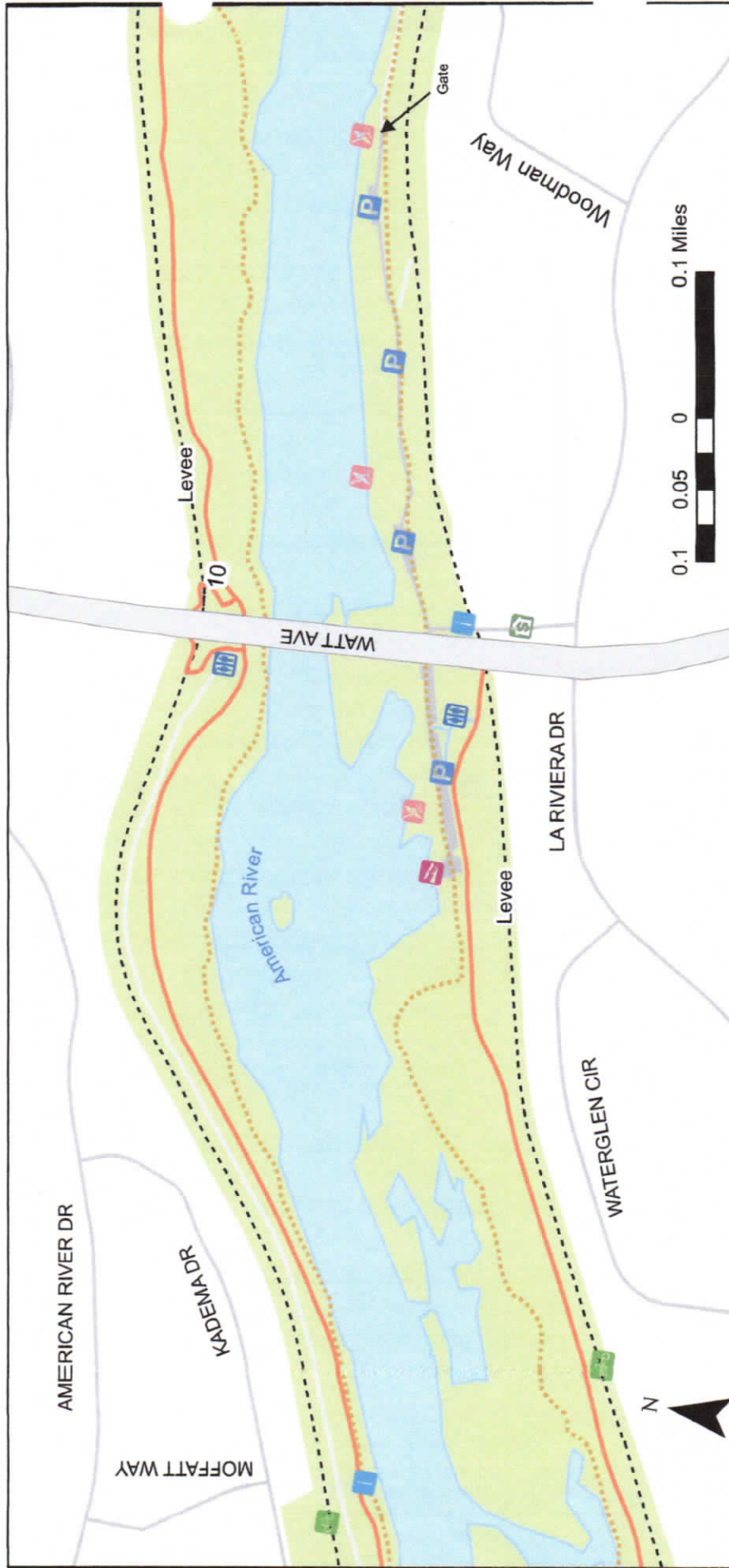
Watt Avenue Access

8703 La Riviera Drive,

Sacramento, CA 95826



SACRAMENTO COUNTY



- Pay Station
- Wayfinding Signage
- Parking
- Restroom
- Boat Ramp, Trailer Boat
- Car Top Boat Launch
- Bicycle, Pedestrian Access
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail (with mile marker)
- Equestrian/Hiking Trail
- Sidewalk
- Parkway Road
- Maintenance Road
- Levee



Regional Parks

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American River Parkway - Watt Avenue Access

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Welcome:

Watt Avenue Access is conveniently located just off busy Watt Ave. If it's fishing season, find a shady spot beside the river and relax and enjoy this favorite outdoor sport. Enjoy your stay at the convenient, riverside location off Watt Avenue!

Fast Facts:

- The Watt Avenue access point is a perfect example of the proximity of the river to the urban environment.

How to Get There:

From U.S. Highway 50, take the Watt Avenue North exit. Stay in the right lane and exit at La Riviera Drive. Make a left at the end of the La Riviera ramp, and then make a right into the park's gates.

View Watt Avenue Access Map

(http://www.regionalparks.saccounty.net/Parks/Documents/Watt_Avenue_Access_Map.pdf)

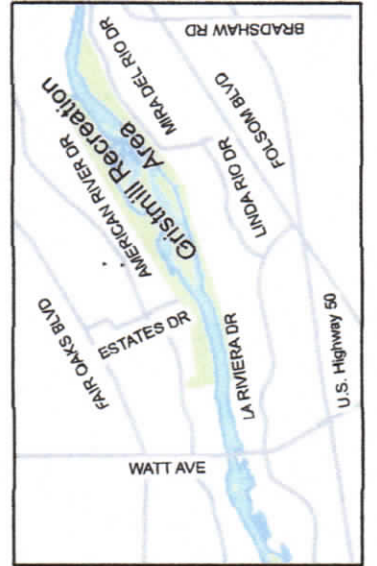
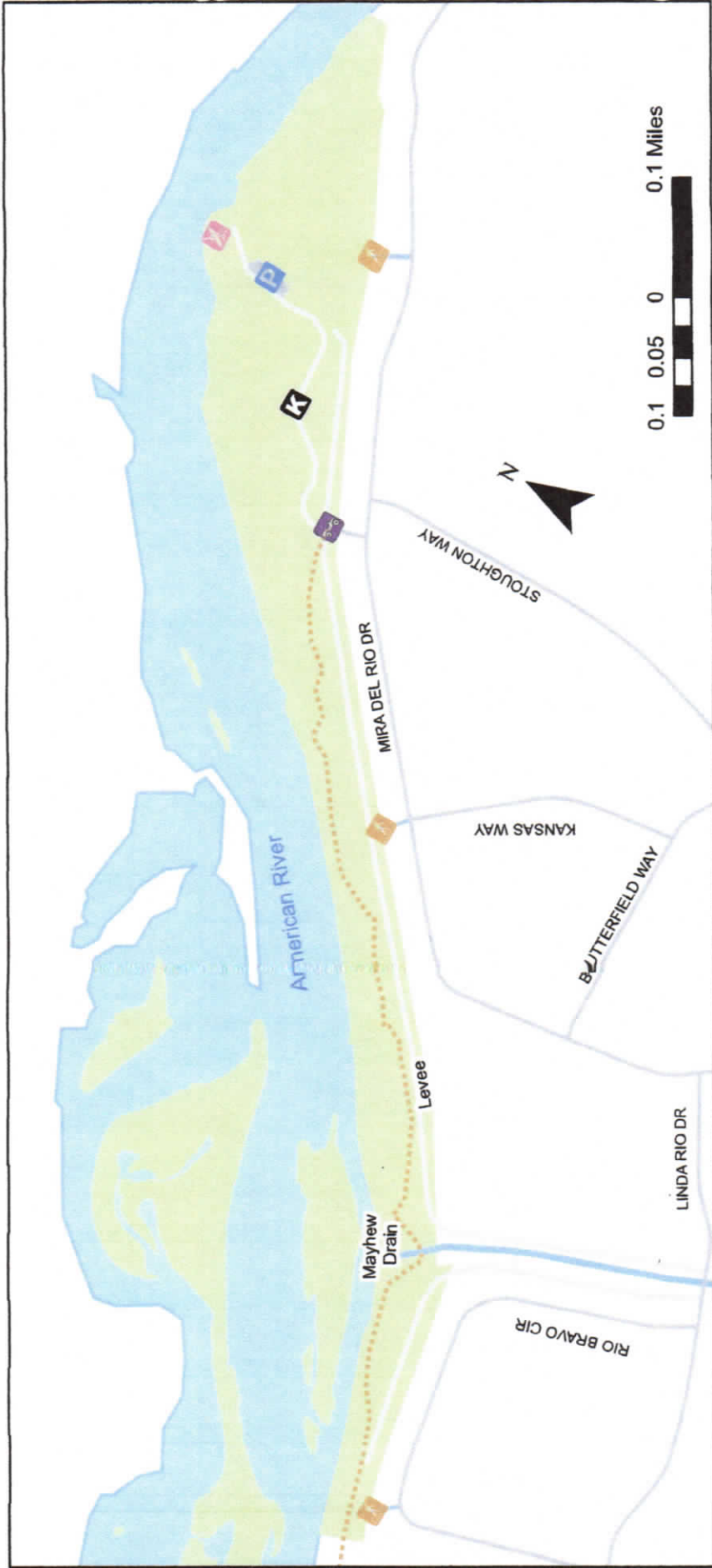
Activities:



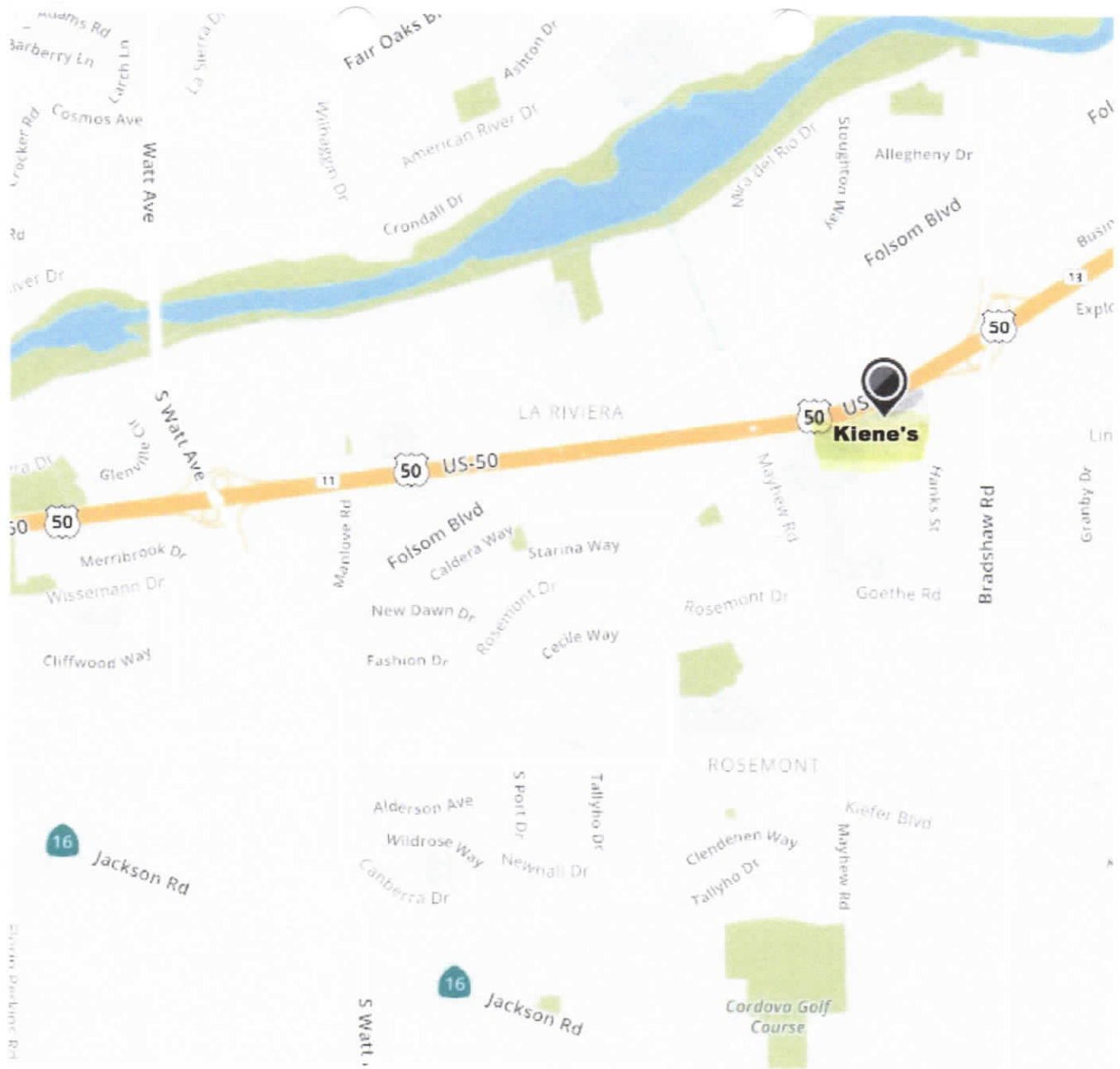
Gristmill Recreation Area

9517 Mira Del Rio Drive, Sacramento CA, 95827

SACRAMENTO COUNTY



- Kiosk
- Wayfinding Signage
- Parking
- Car Top Boat Launch
- Car, Bike, Pedestrian Access
- Pedestrian Access
- Equestrian/Hiking Trail
- Parkway Road
- Maintenance Road
- Sidewalk
- Levee



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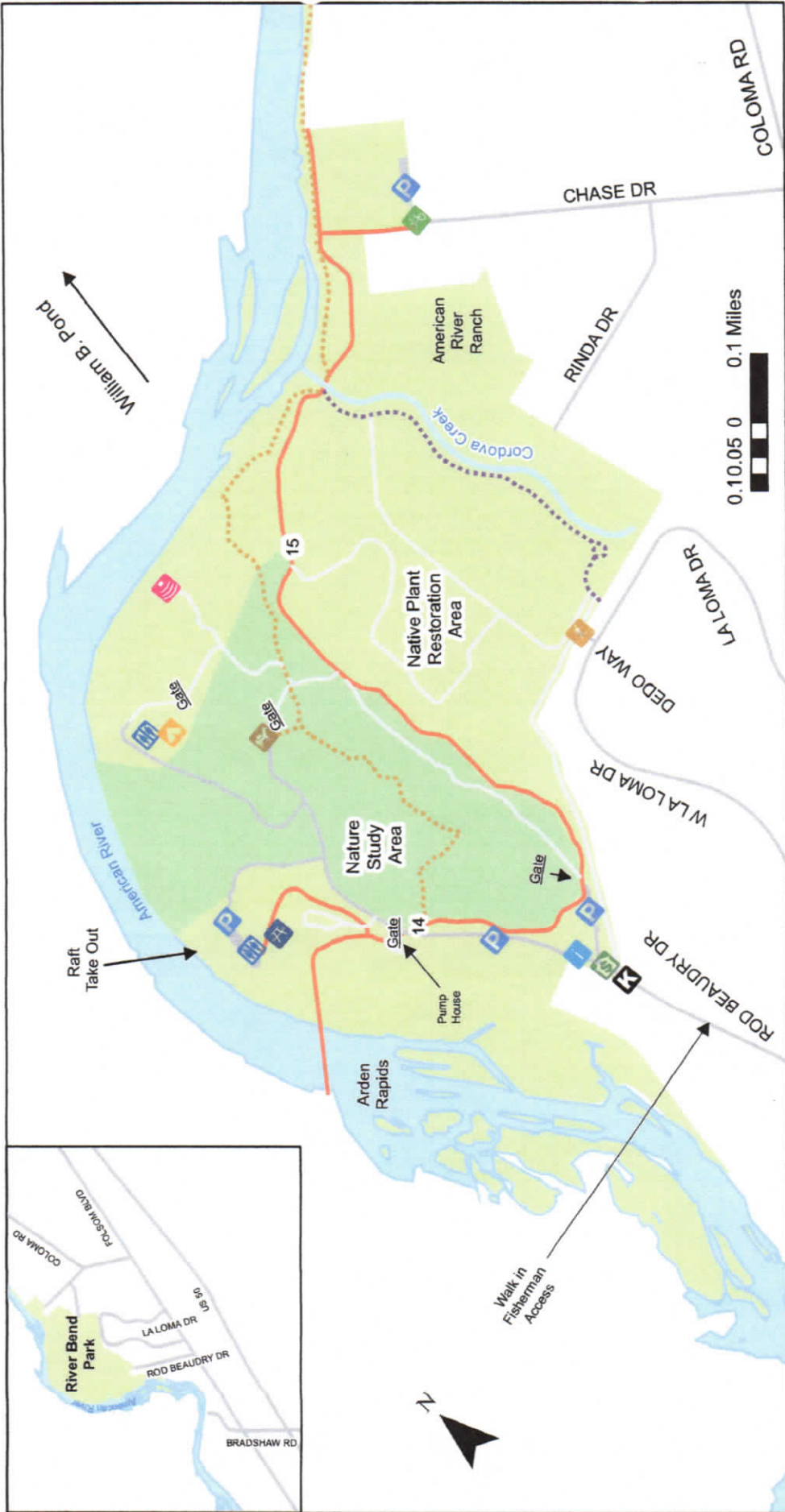


**Car trouble mid-trip?
MapQuest Roadside
Assistance is here:**
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River Bend Park

2300 Rod Beaudry Drive, Sacramento, CA 95827



Nature Study Area Guidelines:
 Please stay on designated trails.
 No pets.
 No picnicking.

Youth Day Camp:
 Reservable for Youth Group Camping Only
 (916) 875-6336

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail (with mile marker)
- Equestrian/Hiking Trail
- Parkway Road
- Maintenance Road
- Pay Station
- Kiosk
- Wayfinding Signage
- Parking
- Restroom
- Youth Day Camp
- Picnic Area
- Amphitheater
- Equestrian Staging
- Car, Bike, Pedestrian Access
- Bicycle, Pedestrian Access
- Pedestrian Access



(<http://www.saccounty.net>)



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American River Parkway - River Bend Park

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Welcome:

River Bend Park is one of Sacramento's oldest county parks. A long central road paralleling the river links you to this park's many recreation facilities. Wild turkeys and deer rustle in the grass beneath young oaks, while the bright green, carefully cared-for picnic area is a delicious place to stop for lunch.

Fast Facts:

- River Bend Park has 444 acres, and was acquired in stages between 1961 and 1964.
- It was one of the original three areas along the Parkway purchased by the County.

How to Get There:

From U.S. Highway 50, take the Bradshaw Road off-ramp. Turn right at Folsom Boulevard and follow the brown-and-white signs to the park entrance on Rod Beaudry Drive.

View River Bend Park Map

(http://www.regionalparks.saccounty.net/Parks/Documents/River_Bend_Park_Map.pdf)

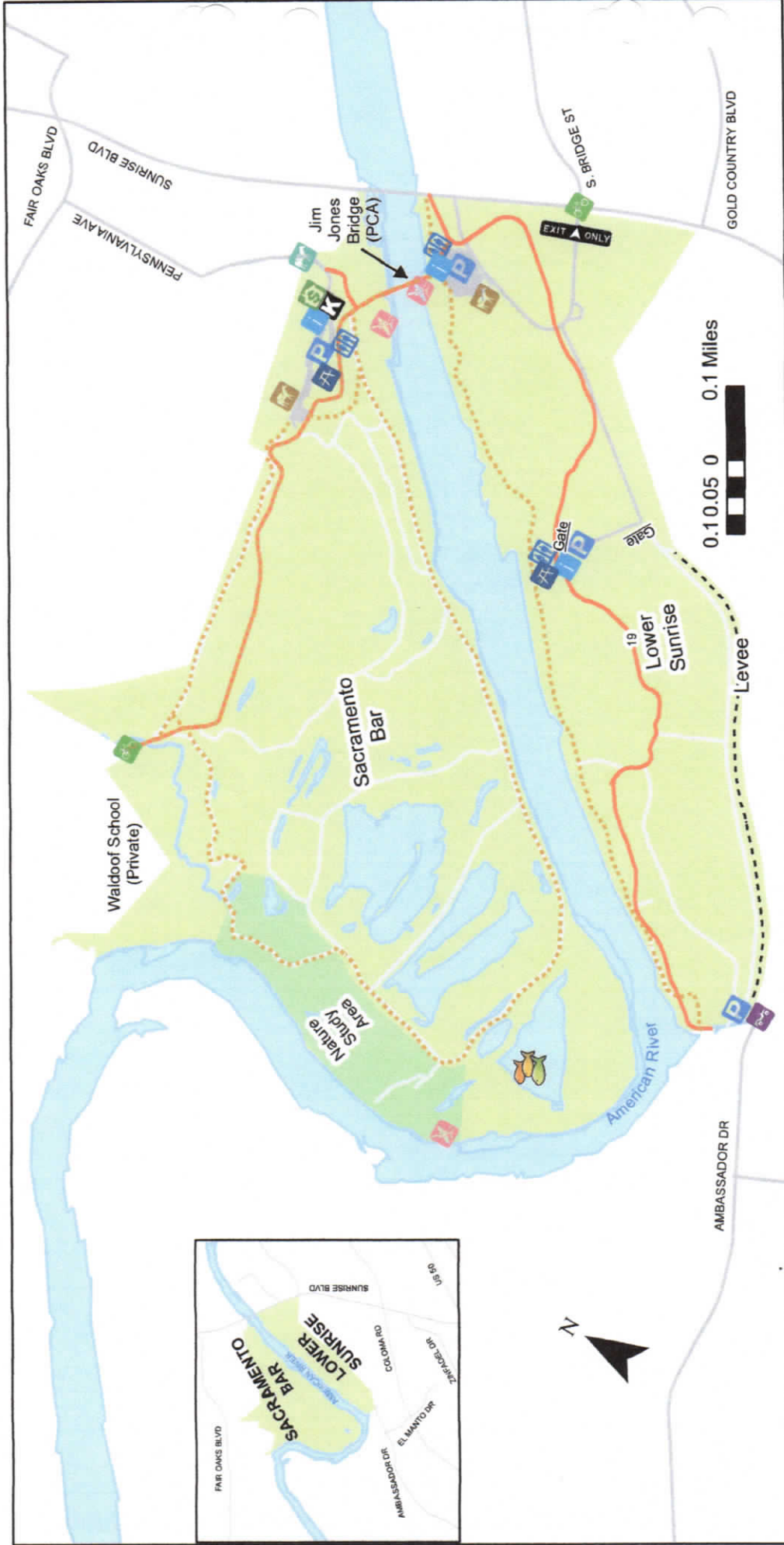
Activities:



Sacramento Bar & Lower Sunrise

3900 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Sacramento, CA 95827

3690 Sunrise Boulevard,
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670



- Pay Station
- Kiosk
- Wayfinding Signage
- Parking
- Restroom
- Picnic Area
- Equestrian Staging
- Car Top Boat Launch
- Fishing Pond
- Bicycle, Pedestria Access
- Car, Bike, Pedestrian Access
- # Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail (with mile marker)
- Equestrian/Hiking Trail
- Sidewalk
- Parkway Road
- Maintenance Road
- Levee



Regional Parks

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American River Parkway - Sunrise Recreation Areas, Upper and Lower

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Welcome:

These parks provide recreation and education for thousands of visitors each year. The park is divided into two areas, Upper Sunrise and Lower Sunrise. Upper Sunrise has a boat launch, while Lower Sunrise provides fishing, equestrian trails, picnicking and nature walks. Both Upper and Lower Sunrise provide special interests and visitors with ample sights to see.

Fast Facts:

- Lower Sunrise is a popular raft launch area during the summer

How to Get There:

From U.S. Highway 50, exit at the Sunrise Blvd. off-ramp. Head north. Just before the American River overpass, turn right into the park entrance, which is marked by a sign. Past the entry kiosk, turn left to get to Lower Sunrise and right to enter Upper Sunrise. Upper Sunrise may also be accessed from Gold Country Blvd just west of Hazel Avenue (north of Highway 50). The fish hatchery parking lot is accessible only from the Hazel Avenue access to Upper Sunrise.

View Upper and Lower Sunrise Map (/Parks/Pages/MapSunrise.aspx)

Activities:

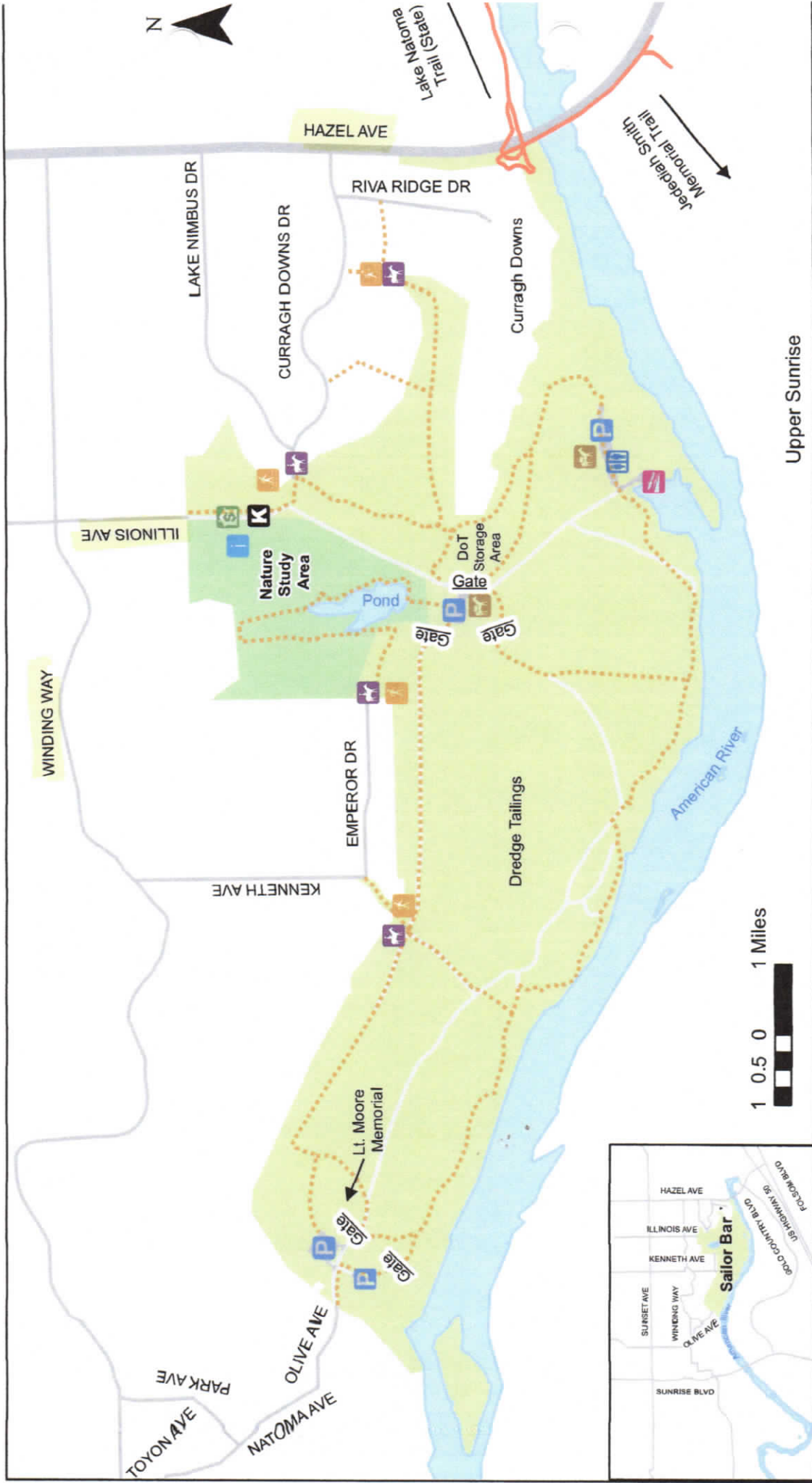


Sailor Bar

4253 Illinois Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 96628

or

8220 Olive Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 95628



Upper Sunrise



- Pay Station
- Kiosk
- Wayfinding Signage
- Equestrian Staging
- Equestrian Access
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail
- Equestrian/Hiking Trail



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American River Parkway - Sailor Bar

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Welcome:

Sailor Bar is a park with a lot of history and wonderful present day opportunities. Settled by gold-seeking sailors, this park was dredged for gold during the Gold Rush. Today, visitor activities such as rafting, fishing, horseback riding and nature gazing, have replaced the adventures of historic explorers.

Please note, this site will be closed to vehicles effective 9/14/09 until further notice.

Fast Facts:

- Legend has it that Sailor Bar is so named because a sailor jumped ship to stake his claim during the Gold Rush.

How to Get There:

From U.S. 50, exit onto Hazel Avenue. Make a left at Winding Way, then another left on Illinois Avenue. The park entrance will be at the bottom of a small hill.

View Sailor Bar Map (http://www.regionalparks.saccounty.net/Parks/Documents/Sailor_Bar_Map.pdf)

Activities:



ZACK'S ZACKMASTER SHAD - #6

☆☆☆☆☆

Zack Ferguson

\$2.50

This is crack for shad! A few of our guides won't even grab another fly during shad season. The Holographic Tinsel underneath the Hot Gold Stren glows in the water and attracts shad. They can't stay off of it. The fly also has lead wire under the Hot Orange Bead, which provides a dipping action much like you find on the standard shad darts.

FLY RECIPE:

HOOK: TFS 7258, size 6

THREAD FOR HEAD: Flat Waxed Nylon Thread, fl. fire, coated completely with Head Cement

BEAD HEAD: Hot Bead, 3/16" hot orange - with .020 Lead Wire underneath (about 5 wraps)

THREAD FOR BODY: Flat Waxed Nylon, fl. fire

TAIL: Mirage Krystal Flash

UNDERBODY: Silver Holographic Tinsel, large

OVERBODY: Stren Monofilament, gold - 14LB, wrapped over the Holographic Tinsel



Zack's Zackmaster Shad - Chartreuse #6



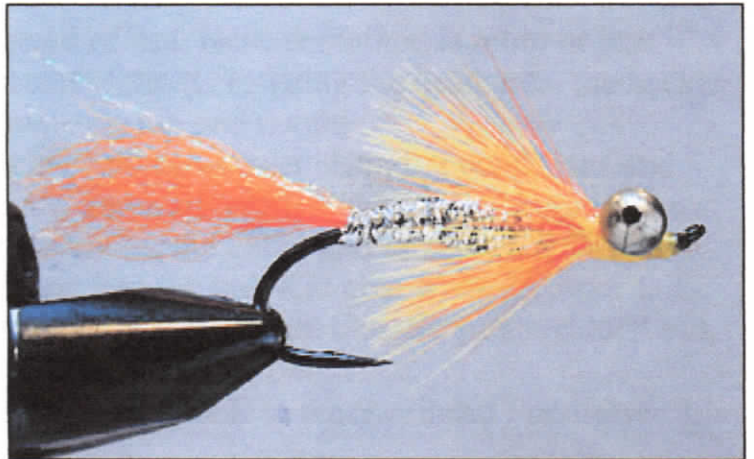
Zack's Zackmaster Shad - #6 **PINK**



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PATTERN OF THE MONTH - Silver Comet

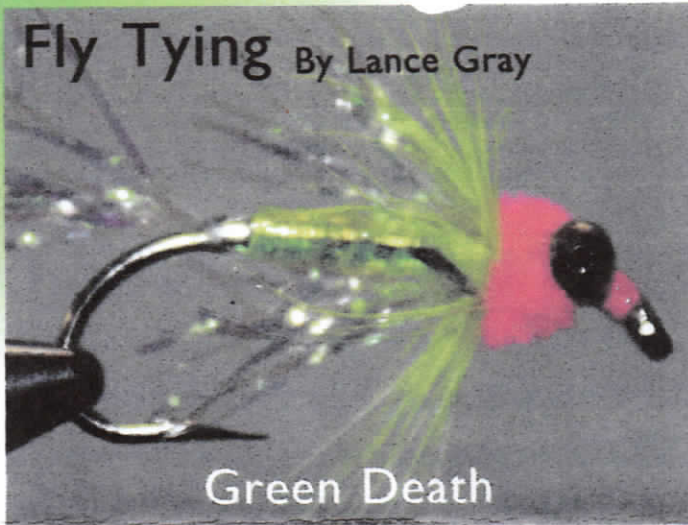
Hook: Standard salmon/steelhead size 2-6
Thread: Orange 6-0.
Tail: Orange calf tail.
Body: Silver diamond braid.
Hackle: Orange and yellow, one of each.
Eyes: Silver bead chain.



Tying Instructions:

Step 1: Start the thread 2 eye lengths behind the eye. This is your thread base for the eyes and marker for the collar tie-in point. Wind a thread base back to just above the barb of the hook.
Step 2: Select a bunch of calf tail about one shank-length long and tie it in on top of the hook so the butts cover the full length of the body.
Step 3: Tie in the diamond braid at the front of the body and bind it down the full length of the body to the base of the tail.
Step 4: Wrap the braid once under the tail to cock it up slightly, then forward in tight, close turns to cover the body, then bind off and trim.

Fly Tying By Lance Gray



Green Death

In early summer this fly comes alive – out of the dormant fly box to take both flight and a swim in search of a willing shad to eat it. It's a fly that takes me back to the "good old days" with the cotton falling from the trees, mosquito buzzing in my ear, and hot summer nights at the washout in Chico. Wading in the cool Sacramento River catching shad one after another and reeling them in as fast as you can; wanting to get to the next grab!

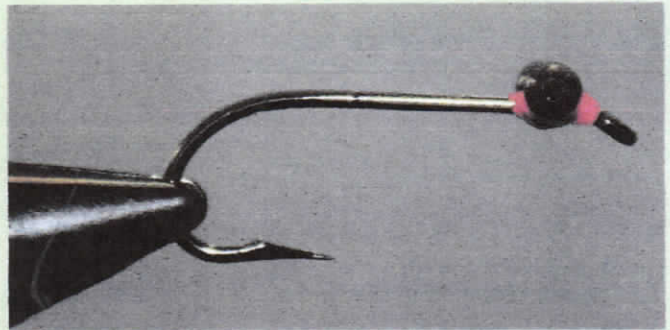
I was first introduced to this pattern by my friend Alan Clements. Alan had brought the fly back from Alaska. Fly-fishers used it for silvers and pink salmon, tied a little bigger in 1/0 & 2's. At the shop (Powell's Fly Shop) we redesigned the fly to be simpler and smaller. The original fly was heavily dressed. We took the fly and lightened it up, sparsely dressed the fly with just one turn of hackle. We didn't use the flat, straight original pearl Flashabou. Even better, we took pearlescent mylar tubing and unraveled it. This method gave the fly a bulkier look in the water, and gave the appearance of bubbles. It was an instant hit with the fish!

The fly can be tied from size 1/0 to size 10, sparsely or heavily dressed. You can use bead chain, lead eyes, jig hooks or tungsten beads as weight. The color combination is perfect – and I believe the sparser, the better! The only other combination or change I do to the pattern is I use black chenille rather than the fire engine red chenille. It seems that in low-light conditions the black is much easier seen by the fish.

GREEN DEATH

- Hook** – Eagle Claw 1197N Size 4-8 (any heavy shank hook)
- Eyes** – Large Bead Chain Eyes (any eyes, beads, or jig hook)
- Thread** – Fire Engine Orange Flatwaxed and Flymaster, white Flatwaxed for body work.
- Tail** – Pearlescent mylar tubing unravel 6-8 strands
- Tag** – Silver Tinsel
- Body** – Silver Tinsel with chartreuse Edgebright
- Wing** – Pearlescent mylar tubing top and bottom of hook shank and one turn of chartreuse saddle hackle
- Head** – Fire Engine Orange Chenille, head cement thread.

Tying Instructions



- De-barb hook and place in vise
- Attach the bead chain eyes right behind the hook eye on the top of the shank with Danville Flatwaxed thread – glue and let dry.



- Tie in the unraveled pearlescent tubing on the top of the hook shank, extending behind the hook bend as the tail and extending out above the bead chain eye, for the top wing.
- Tie in the body materials. Wrap forward the large silver tinsel and then the chartreuse Edgebright body material. Leave a small silver tinsel tag at the tail. Tie off right behind bead chain eyes.



- Pull back the pearl mylar tubing that extends over the front as the fly and tie off so the material is not extending back over the body as a wing. Tie in additional pearl mylar tubing fibers directly under the top wing as a beard so the material is extending toward the hook point. Tie in a chartreuse hackle and take one complete turn around the fly. Tie off.



- Tie in the chenille. Make one complete turn around the fly and tie off. Head cement to complete the fly



Don't think of these as set patterns, but rather as jumping off points for your own imaginations' flight of shad fly fancy. The bead heads and bead-chain eyes are obvious. Those that don't have them have lead wire wrapped onto the hook before tying in the remaining materials.

Cheers you all, from Trout Thompson and the Hook & Hackle Company.

And remember, spring is always coming.

PROFILE

by Greg Vinci

Jeff Ching

The American River shad master.

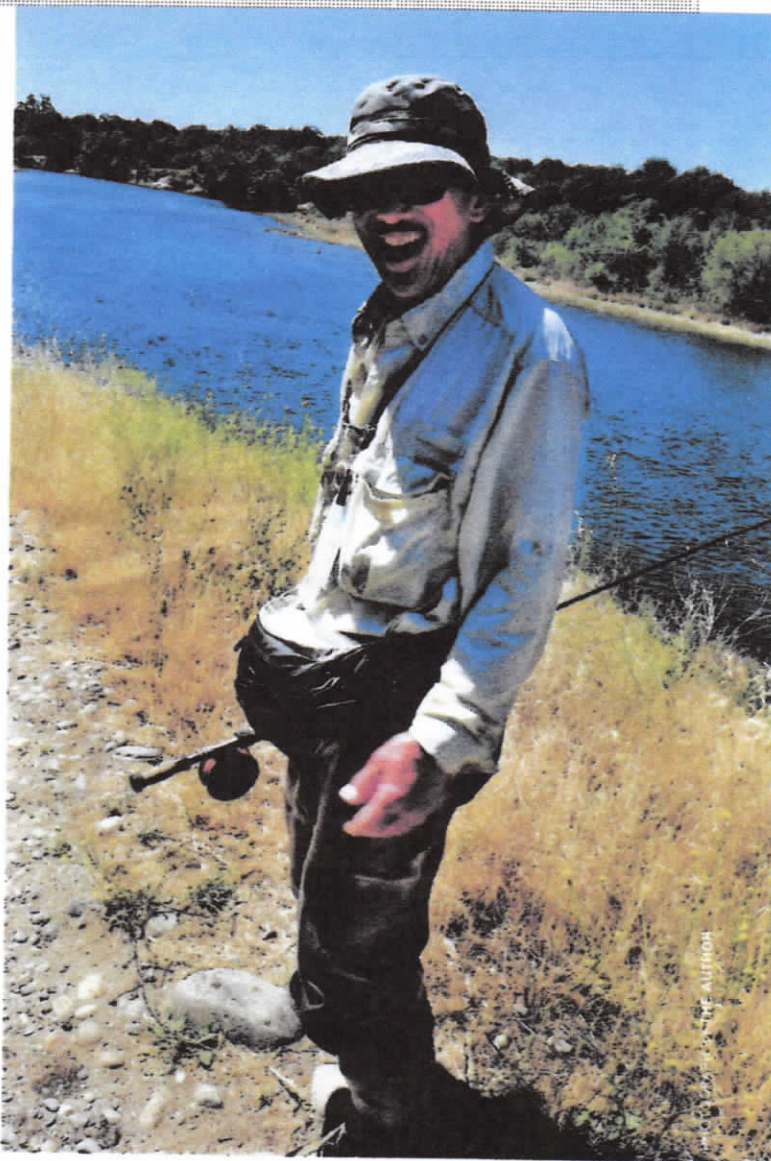
➔ TO BE A SUCCESSFUL BUM, AND TO BE RECOGNIZED for it, is something anyone with testosterone running through his veins should admire.

Jeff Ching is the consummate bum. In his younger days he was a surf bum. Then he became a snowboard bum. Finally a fishing bum. Each time the type of bumming changed, he attained some level of fame. In some cases national fame and in other cases local fame; in any case, he has definitely experienced the taste of celebrity. He's not a household name, but to some outdoor enthusiasts, including the Sacramento, California fly-fishing community, he is legendary.

I met Ching on a hot evening in June, 2008 as the sun slipped below a bluff along the American River, which runs through Sacramento. He was wearing his trademark floppy hat and Spey-casting for shad with a two-hand rod. After 10 minutes he hooked up on a fish, and it wasn't long before he hooked up again. In ensuing years it seemed like I would always run into Ching during shad season on the American. When the shad were gone we would each go our separate ways, knowing we'd probably see each other again the following May. Over time I learned that this austere guy lives a life that many outdoorsmen can only dream about.

Ching was born in 1947 and raised in Hawaii, where he began surfing at the age of 13. In 1965 he moved to San Diego for college; surfing at Sunset Cliffs soon followed. That is where he experienced his first taste of fame. The late 1960s and early '70s were a time of innovation in the surfing world, and there was a lot of experimentation in surfboard design. Many surfers, as youngsters, learned the waves on what were called paipo boards, three- or four-foot sections of plywood ridden in the prone position. Soon a new style of shortboard—called a kneeboard—made its appearance. These are very short versions of the standard surfboard and highly maneuverable. Because of design improvements to these shortboards, Ching thought he could ride one in a standing position. Being the first to do so attracted the interest of the surfing media, and from then on he was often mentioned in or written about in the two most popular surfing publications, *Surfer* and *Surfing* magazines.

In time, Ching's real career (we'll get to that) took him to Sacramento, which was a long way from his beloved surfing. The



closest thing to surfing in Sacramento is snowboarding in the Sierra Nevada Mountains; when snowboarding began to get traction on the ski slopes, it was only natural for Ching to cast aside his skis and begin surfing on a snowboard. His well-honed skills led quickly to competing in amateur snowboard events, and he eventually became the USASA national overall champion in his age group, and held that distinction for seven years.

In the late '90s Ching began fly-fishing nearby alpine meadows for brook trout. Fly-fishing wasn't a passion like surfing and snowboarding, but it was a perfect pastime for the summer months, plus it was something he could do outdoors in the mountains that he loved. While frequenting the fly shops in Sacramento, he heard about the annual shad run on the American. Fly-fishing for American shad during their spring spawning run begins, generally, in April and lasts through June. Once Ching caught his first shad on a fly rod, and experienced the adrenalin rush landing what are locally called "the poor man's tarpon," he was hooked.

Most shad fishermen wait until May, but Ching was on the water in early April to catch the vanguard of the run on the lower river. Then, as the shad gradually moved upstream, Ching did, too. In the beginning he fished shad by throwing shooting heads with a single-hand rod. It was inevitable that he would eventually encounter Bruce Bertagna, another local fish-head (and coincidentally an ex-San Diego surfer) who spent dawn to dusk on the river, winter through spring. Bertagna caught two fish for every one that Ching landed. Ching quickly realized that the distance that Bertagna cast using his two-hand rod was the difference. With Bertagna's guidance Ching got set up with a Spey-style rig and his fish count increased exponentially—he started averaging 600 shad a season, and in 2012 he caught and released 1,800 of those silver missiles, which might be the most shad caught in a single season

by any individual angler in the entire country.

Ching, of course, began experimenting with different shad patterns and eventually developed the **Bloody Maria**, which is now commercially tied via special order through Umpqua Feather Merchants, and is considered the go-to fly on the American and many other West Coast rivers.

One evening I asked Ching why his passion for shad outweighs his interest in other species. My expectations for some kind of philosophical response were dashed when he simply said, "Because they're so easy to catch." He added, "When you know where to find them and have the right line to get your fly to the proper depth you're going to do real well."

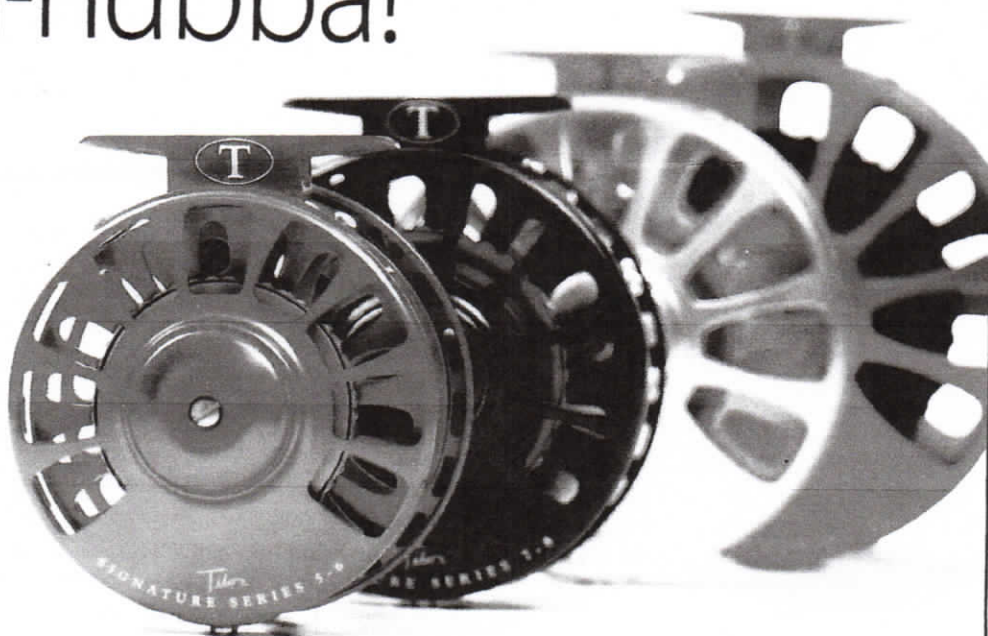
As I talked with Ching I wondered whether he would burn out, with his passion for shad diminishing over time. He

said, "I don't think there will ever be a point where I won't fish for shad. The only thing that will stop me is if I'm physically not able to fish for them. Every year I am literally consumed by thinking about shad for the two or three months they are here."

Surf bum, snowboard bum, fish bum . . . what a life! Actually, I neglected to mention that Ching has a life away from the water, as the associate radiation safety officer at UC Davis. In my mind, Ching is one of those individuals who, instead of going the marriage/children route, has traveled different paths and found success down each of them. I suppose in the grand scheme attaining notoriety as the first guy to stand up on a kneeboard, or the best old-guy snowboarder, or the best shad fisherman is somewhat insignificant. On the other hand, how many of us will ever attain fame at anything in our lifetimes, let alone in a trio of entertaining pursuits? ■

hubba-hubba!

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"BLOODY MARIA"

June 2013 Fly of the Month

Tied and photographed
By *Jim Berdan*



MATERIALS

HOOK: Tiemco 2457, Size 10

THREAD: Danville's Flymaster 6/0 -
White

BEAD: Brass 1/8"

TAIL: White Antron with two strands of
pearl Flashabou

BODY: Red Floss

RIB: Chartreuse Ultra Wire

COLLAR: White tying thread behind
the bead

Fly Originator: Jeff Ching

Brief History: There is a lot of chatter on Kiene's Grizzly Hackle Forum about shad fishing on the Lower American and the consensus is that the Bloody Maria is the go to fly. Here I have tied it with a red body and chartreuse rib, but it can be tied with an orange body and black rib, pink body with a black rib, or a chartreuse body with red rib.

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

→ **(PHOTO 1)** Pinch the barb, add the bead, and attach the tying thread behind the bead and wrap to the bend as shown.



← **(PHOTO 2)** Tie in the Antron tail at the bend and wrap forward to form an underbody.



→ **(PHOTO 3)** Tie in a strand pearl Flashabou on both sides of the shank and the same length as the tail.



← **(PHOTO 4)** Tie in the chartreuse rib and then the red floss.

→ **(PHOTO 5)** Wrap the floss forward to just behind the bead and tie off. I add a half-hitch or two to make sure the floss does not unravel.



← **(PHOTO 6)** Wrap the wire forward as shown, tie off and build a small collar just behind the bead. Whip finish and you are done.

→ **(PHOTO 7)** The finished fly. That's it. Give it a try.



"Bloody Maria"