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## Foundation Launched to Help SJ Parks

SAN JOSE, Calif. (KCBS) - As funding for green spaces dries up, San Jose leaders are looking for some outside help in keeping parks pristine.

A private foundation is getting off the ground to raise money from people who use the parks.

San Jose has more than 200 parks and some 55 miles of trails, used by thousands of people each year.

"I come walking on my breaks to enjoy the greenery and fresh air," explained one such woman.

However, the city's budget for parks has dwindled from \$70 million in 2008 to \$62 million in 2009. There were also a dozen layoffs in the Parks Department.

That's why officials are looking for a nonprofit foundation to step in and help out. "A foundation allows a whole new line of support and creativity," explained San Jose Recreation Superintendent Neil Rufino, who is spearheading the foundation effort to raise money from the community. "We're hoping a lot of this can be coming from private donations, from individuals who want to do some creative, innovative things inside our parks."

[▶ KCBS' Matt Bigler reports](#)

Is there community support for such a venture? "Absolutely, I would. I would support it," one park visitor offered.

The foundation, which launches this fall, is also looking for support from businesses and government grants.

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