



BUTTE STRONG

FUND



AARON RODGERS
NORCAL
FIRE RECOVERY
FUND at NVCF



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The Butte Strong Fund has awarded 10 grants totaling \$460,000 for organizations doing community development projects in the Camp Fire burn area.

The grants, between \$25,000 and \$50,000 apiece, are designed to augment efforts to help build or rebuild community landmarks and gathering places. The grants will boost such venues as the Honey Run Covered Bridge, Paradise Performing Arts Center, Paradise Community Center, Concow Pool and the Paradise Branch Library.

Here's a rundown of the grants:

- **Paradise Performing Arts Center:** A \$50,000 grant will help the Paradise Performing Arts Center address several deferred maintenance problems, including providing new stage lighting, stage repairs and fixing drainage issues. As one of the oldest surviving community meeting places on the ridge, the PPAC provides a space for concerts, the symphony, community chorus, ballet, school programs and graduations.
- **Golden Feather Union Elementary School District:** A \$50,000 grant will provide much-needed improvements to the Concow Pool and Concow School property. The Concow Pool is a multigenerational touchstone for the community and has served students for school-related events, lessons and summer use with the Paradise Recreation and Park District for more than 50 years. This grant will focus on the look, feel and landscaping of the facility – not the function of the pool itself.

- **Honey Run Covered Bridge Association:** A \$50,000 grant supports phase two construction to rebuild the Honey Run Covered Bridge, which burned in the Camp Fire. Phase two includes rebuilding the floor and trusses. This phase is set to be completed in the summer of 2022. It is estimated that 3,000-5,000 people visit the Covered Bridge and park each year as a place to admire and study the bridge, picnic, swim, kayak, tube and host special events such as an annual pancake breakfast, weddings, end-of-life celebrations, an artisan fair and community movie nights. The goal of the Honey Run Covered Bridge Association is to build a precise replica of the bridge, except for updated engineering and structural requirements.
- **Butte County Library, Paradise Branch:** A \$50,000 grant will support the purchase and installment of technology to automate library operations and allow the Paradise Branch of the Butte County Library to extend its hours of operation. The technology will allow the branch library, now open 15 hours a week, to be in operation up to 40 hours per week for card-carrying members.
- **Paradise Recreation and Park District:** A \$50,000 grant supports a 20-mile multi-use trail loop that will connect Magalia to recreation resources. This grant is supporting funding gaps in a project that has several other funding sources and partners.
- **Youth on the Ridge Community Foundation:** A \$45,000 grant will support the Youth on the Ridge Community Foundation (YRCF) to rebuild its infrastructure back to what it was pre-fire, specifically around the Paradise Chocolate Festival. Since its inception, Paradise Chocolate Fest has contributed more than \$360,000 in financial support to 55 organizations and programs serving youth. This grant will support YRCF as it works to replace and rebuild infrastructure, including a multitude of unique and whimsical decorations that had been procured and created from 2006-2018.
- **Paradise Arts, Theater and Culture Hub (Patch):** A \$50,000 grant will benefit five Paradise arts organizations that have combined on a project to help rebuild the arts community. The Paradise Arts, Theater and Culture Hub (PATCH) hopes to weave their ideas and resources together and build a multi-use center with moveable seating that includes a 200-seat theater, sound stage, art and museum display area, workshop and community hall with commercial kitchen, among other features to be decided by the community. The group is in the process of deciding on a location for the center, then will present it to the community for input, and begin holding fundraising events to purchase the property and develop the plans.
- **Paradise Community Center:** A \$40,000 grant will allow the Paradise Community Center to start the process of rebuilding by paying for building estimates, community engagement and a conceptual design for a new center. Paradise Community Center, located next to the Paradise Performing Arts Center on Nunneley Road, was destroyed by the Camp Fire. Since the 1980s, the center served as a focal point for low-cost community-centered services and recreation, especially for seniors.

- **Paradise Art Center:** A \$50,000 grant will provide the Paradise Art Center on Almond Street with funding to improve an inadequate electrical system in an old building and to help improve access for people with physical handicaps. Paradise Art Center has been an important part of the ridge scene for 55 years and, after the Camp Fire, is hoping to provide more opportunities for enrichment, social engagement, art studio space and art education.
- **Green Paradise Garden:** A \$25,000 grant provides seed money for development of a community garden. The garden will provide a space in Paradise that is therapeutic for children and the community, where people can work the land and grow foods that are healthy, nourishing and affordable or free.

In October and November, the Butte Strong Fund accepted applications for the community development projects, then approved the grants this month. In the guidelines, the Butte Strong Fund said partnerships are vital and it would prioritize organizations with multiple sources of funding and those projects that have a strong chance of success.

NVCF has now awarded \$47,597,160 for community recovery since the Camp Fire on Nov. 8, 2018.

Learn more about Butte Strong Fund projects that have been approved and how to donate at <https://www.nvcf.org/buttestrongfund>.