

Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Campground

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (updated 4.26.21)



What is the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP)?

The Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP) encompasses approximately 1,800 acres of land in south San Diego County. The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) owns and manages 1,552 acres of those acres, which include 22.5 miles of trails, a Bird and Butterfly Garden, a community garden and ballfields. Weekly programs highlight local wildlife, preservation efforts and recreation opportunities. In Spring 2021, the department opened a 79-acre campground with dozens of tent, RV, equestrian and yurt campsites.

What is special about the Tijuana River Valley and TRVRP?

Tijuana River Valley is one of the only remaining areas in San Diego County with connected beach, dune, salt marsh, riparian and upland ecosystems. The area contains a number of historic sites and viewpoints – providing cultural, aesthetic and recreational value. The valley is rich in diverse natural resources and is home to dozens of sensitive species, along with more than 340 bird species as part of the Pacific Flyway. TRVRP also includes opportunities for diverse park activities for a variety of user groups. Recreational activities range from passive activities like hiking, biking, bird watching, and horseback riding to more active things like organized sports and community gardens.

What is the TRVRP Campground and Nature Education Project?

The addition of the campground enhances an already thriving river park in the South Bay that currently includes baseball fields, a community garden, bird and butterfly garden and a 22.5 mile network of trails. The campground project is designed to enable visitors to extend their park stay overnight by providing affordable camping accommodations. Tent, RV, equestrian and yurt campsites are planned (without electrical and sewer hook-ups), along with a public restroom. The campground includes nature education amenities such as nature play apparatus and an amphitheater

Where is the TRVRP Campground and Nature Education Project Located?

The project is located along Monument Road within the Tijuana River Valley. It lies about 0.5 miles north of the international border, a little over a mile from the coast and just east of Border Field State Park. The campground lies approximately 1 mile south of the main Tijuana River channel.

How much will this campground project cost? Who's paying for it?

The TRVRP Campground and Nature Education Project cost \$14,330,363. Funding was approved by the BOS in 2017 and was provided through: The County of San Diego General Fund, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program, a California State Coastal Conservancy Grant and a State of California Parks and Recreation Grant.

Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Campground

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (updated 4.26.21)



Why is the County adding a campground to the Tijuana River Valley?

The County of San Diego's Department of Parks and Recreation's mission in pursuing this campground is two-fold: 1) To provide exceptional parks and recreation experiences and (2) to balance those opportunities with efforts to preserve significant natural resources. A campground has long been a part of the County's vision for the region and will enhance the already thriving TRVRP the community enjoys today. In 2002 the County completed a Management Framework Plan for the TRVRP, which is a master planning document that facilitates long-term and short-term planning decisions that guide development and operations of the TRVRP. The Management Framework provides a vision and planning framework for future projects with the ultimate goal of meeting diverse interests and recreational needs of the region while protecting the natural habitat that serves as the setting for the TRVRP. In addition, the California State Legislature has passed legislation that supports implementation of a campground within the Tijuana River Valley by requiring state funding to be spent on a campground within this area.

How much will it cost to camp at the new campground?

Camping fees for tent, RV and equestrian sites are \$24 plus a \$5 reservation fee per booking. Yurt costs are still being determined.

Are there trails that connect to the ocean?

There are trails just west of the campground to Border Field State Park that will bring you a little over a mile to the Pacific Ocean. Additionally, the County's Tijuana River Valley Regional Park includes 22 miles of trails which connect to the campground and throughout the river valley.

What about mosquitos? Isn't this area prone to them?

As in other coastal areas in San Diego County, both tidal influence and natural creeks and waterways in the Tijuana River Valley can create areas of intermittent standing water that may allow mosquitos to breed. In response, the County's Vector Control staff routinely conducts mosquito monitoring in the Tijuana River Valley and treats problematic areas with larvicide to minimize mosquito populations, protecting local community residents and visitors from these insects. Mosquito treatment schedules are adapted to the climatic conditions of this sensitive region and closely consider tidal conditions and the risks of mosquito-borne disease prior to larvicide applications. As with many outdoor recreational areas, it is also recommended that visitors take precautions to protect themselves from mosquitoes and other insects by using repellants that contain DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. More information is available at www.sdfightthebite.org.

What about traffic? Won't nearby roads and cars make the campground noisy?

Monument Road lies just south of the campground and is a very low volume road. The only destination beyond the campground on Monument Road is Border Field State Park, which is open 9:30am to sunset.

Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Campground

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (updated 4.26.21)



Is this campground in a FEMA floodway?

Although the main channel of the Tijuana River lies about 1 mile north of the campground site, some of the project is in the Tijuana River floodway and floodplain. The Tijuana River Valley is home to many residents and businesses – demonstrating the long-term stability of the environment and rarity of significant flooding events. During the rainy season, this site typically stays dry; with larger rainstorms, the site receives some runoff from Monument Mesa, just south of the campground. Flow from the Tijuana River rarely reaches the site of the future campground. During the flood of 1993 there was some modest water flow to the site. After this flood, the City of San Diego constructed a pilot channel to quickly bring runoff to the main Tijuana River channel to help avoid future flooding. The site has not been impacted by Tijuana River flood water since that time. If significant rain in the Tijuana River watershed is forecast, DPR will evaluate the site conditions and the potential impact from the anticipated storm to determine whether to close and evacuate the campground.

Why is there sewage in the Tijuana River Valley?

Much of the Tijuana River watershed lies within Mexico where stormwater requirements are less stringent and sewage treatment infrastructure is less developed. TRVRP lies just downstream of where the Tijuana River enters the United States after flowing through Tijuana.

Transboundary sewage and stormwater flows are an important international public health and safety issue. We share significant concerns with continued polluting of the Tijuana River because pollution impacts our park visitors and the native flora and fauna we're trying to protect. The County has been an active member of the TJ Recovery Team which is a multi-agency team that works to reduce pollution in the Tijuana River. Through the TJ Recovery Team, the County partners with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), City of San Diego and City of Imperial Beach to ensure the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is developing ways to stop pollution from entering the US through the TJ River Valley.

The County is currently leading a Tijuana River Study to identify short- and long-term solutions to address public safety concerns associated with the Tijuana River. This comprehensive analysis will result in identification of priority projects that can be implemented to address trash, sediment, sewage, and flooding within the main stem of the Tijuana River as well as major tributaries.

Will the campground flood with sewage and pollution?

The campground is located approximately 1 mile south of the main Tijuana River channel. When dry-season sewage and pollution flows occur, they are far from the campground site. During the rainy season, this site typically stays dry; with larger rainstorms, the site receives some runoff from Monument Mesa, just south of the campground. Flow from the Tijuana River rarely reaches the site of the future campground. During the flood of 1993 there was some modest water flow to the site. After this flood, the City of San Diego constructed a pilot channel to quickly bring runoff to the main Tijuana River channel. The site has not been impacted by Tijuana River flood water since 1993. During extraordinary rain events, when the river valley floods, the campground may be subject to flooding and will be closed/evacuated.

Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Campground

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (updated 4.26.21)



Is it safe to camp on the ground there?

Many residents live, and businesses operate, in the Tijuana River Valley floodplain. To ensure the site does not contain any health hazards, the Department of Parks and Recreation pulled and tested twenty-nine samples from the 79-acre campground site. Soil test results show no chemicals or constituents that constitute a health hazards or show contamination from sewage.

Would the money being spent on the campground project be better spent addressing sewage problems in the Tijuana River?

Funds allocated to this project are required to be spent on the campground and cannot be reallocated elsewhere. Additionally, the Tijuana River problem is a large-scale international issue that will require federal funding for very costly infrastructure, international policy changes, and the involvement of multiple jurisdictions and organizations over the long term. The County is working with partner agencies to understand and develop solutions to address the sewage and pollution problems in the Tijuana River. The effort to address pollution in the Tijuana River does not impede the County's goal to of providing exceptional parks and recreation experiences such as the campground for generations to come.