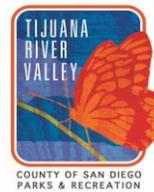


Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Campground

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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. By spring of 2020, a 79-acre campground that is planned to open, featuring dozens of tent, RV, yurt and equestrian campsites, along with nature education opportunities, an amphitheater and other amenities.

What is special about the Tijuana River Valley and the 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. The TRVRP also includes opportunities for diverse park activities for a variety of user groups. Recreational activities range from passive activities such as hiking, biking, bird watching, and horseback riding to active activities such as organized sports and community gardens.

What is the TRVRP Campground and Nature Education Project?

The addition of the campground will enhance 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 camping accommodations. Tent, RV and yurt campsites are planned (without electrical and sewer hook-ups), along with a public restroom. The campground will also include nature education amenities such as an amphitheater, interpretive signs and trails.

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.

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

The TRVRP Campground and Nature Education Project is expected to cost between \$6M and \$12M and includes 2 phases. To date \$7.3M has been funded through a State Parks Grant (\$1.59M is State funding designated to the TRVRP campground project and cannot be spent elsewhere) and County General Fund (\$5.7M). The first phase of the project includes the main campground and nature education amenities. The second phase, which will be constructed as funding is available, is a separate cluster of equestrian focused campsites east of the main campground. The County will request low-cost overnight coastal accommodations funding from the Coastal Commission and will seek additional project funding through other grant programs.

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 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. Planned future TRVRP projects include a local park and soccer complex. 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. 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.

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. When dry-season sewage and pollution flows occur, they are far from the campground site. 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 1993. 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.

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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 one 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.

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

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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.

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

Specific camping fees have not yet been determined, but the campground will provide low-cost, coastal accommodations.

When will the campground open?

Construction will be complete on the campground in March 2020.

Can I bring my horse camping?

Yes, phase one of the campground will include some campsites with a horse pen; phase two of the campground project provides an additional equestrian focused camping area.

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.