

OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK



Park Rules & Regulations

Obey all posted regulations. SDMC 63.20.13; CVMC 2.66.330

Stay on existing, designated trails. All plants, animals, natural features, and archeological resources are fully protected and are not to be damaged, injured or removed. SDMC 63.0102 (b)(4); CVMC 2.66.160 & 17.35.100 (A)(3)(a)

Motor vehicles are not permitted on dirt roads, trails, or paths. SDMC 63.0102 (b)(20); CVMC 17.35.100 (A)(3)(b)

Dogs must be on a leash of no more than 8 feet. Owners must clean up after their pets. SDMC 63.0102 (b)(2); CVMC 2.66.130

Do not litter and/or dump. SDMC 63.0102 (b)(6) & 63.0102 (b)(8); CVMC 2.66.090

Helmets are required for children on bicycles who are under 16 years of age. SDMC 21212 (A)

Fishing is permitted under CA Fish and Game codes in designated areas and with appropriate license for those over 16 years of age. FGC 7145 (a); CVMC 2.66.210

Open fires and fireworks are prohibited. CVMC 2.66.200 & 2.66.140

No overnight camping. SDMC 63.0102 (b)(12); CVMC 2.66.260

Alcoholic beverages or glass containers are NOT permitted anywhere in the park. SDMC 56.54 & SDMC 63.0102 (b)(7); CVMC 2.66.043

No soliciting or posting of flyers, posters, notices, advertisements, etc. SDMC 63.0102 (b)(1); CVMC 2.66.060

Bicycles must yield to hikers and equestrians. Hikers must yield to equestrians. The speed limit is 10 mph. Stay on designated trails at all times. CVMC 2.66.250

Loud noise and amplified music are prohibited. SDMC 56.50 & 59.5.0502; CVMC 2.66.185

Remote controlled toys and vehicles are prohibited.

Boats, float tubes, or any other watercraft are not permitted on the river or ponds.

Possession of firearms or weapons of ANY type is prohibited, including paintball guns, slingshots, air rifles, bows, etc. SDMC 63.08; CVMC 2.66.200 & 2.66.290

Otay Valley Regional Park Trail Map

- Trailhead
 - Ranger Station (1)
 - Staging Area (1)
 - Future Staging Area (1)
 - Future Multiple Use Staging Area (1) (2) (3)
 - TS Trolley Station
 - Multi-use Trail
 - Hike/Bike Trail
 - Future Hike/Bike Trail (3)
 - Future Hike Only Trail (3)
 - Bridge or River Crossing
 - Signaled Trail Crossing
 - City Boundary
- (1) Includes picnic area, restroom, kiosk (2) Includes equestrian parking
(3) To be completed in 2009

PARK INFORMATION

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset year round.

PARKING: Gates open 1/2 hour after sunrise and close 1/2 hour prior to sunset. Vehicles in the parking lots after hours may be locked in overnight.

LOCATION:
Otay Valley Regional Park Ranger Station
2155 Beyer Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92154
(619) 424-0463

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PARK
County of San Diego
City of Chula Vista
City of San Diego

This brochure was printed thanks to the Friends of OVRP

OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

The Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP) is located in the southern part of San Diego County four miles north of the international border with Mexico and eight miles south of downtown San Diego. The OVRP offers its visitors a relaxing sense of well being in a natural river valley. The park map depicts various trail segments for hikers, bikers and equestrians. Those with a passion for angling will find peaceful fishing holes along the trails throughout the OVRP.



A Park is Created

The Otay Valley Regional Park has a rich history of human occupation and resource use. Over 9,000 years ago, prehistoric Kumeyaay Native Americans were early inhabitants, taking advantage of the abundant natural resources found in the valley. In the 1770s, Father Serra chose the Otay River Valley as his first camp as he traveled north to establish the missions in what is now California. In the early 1800s, vast Spanish ranchos covered the area and cattle grazed on the gentle mesas surrounding the river. In the 1900s, Otay Dam was built to support the growth in San Diego and the length of the river has been a source of sand and gravel since the 1920s.

In the 1990s, the County of San Diego, City of Chula Vista and the City of San Diego entered into a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for the coordinated planning, acquisition and design of the Otay Valley Regional Park. The planning area for the park (8,869 acres) extends

13 miles through the Otay Valley just west of I-5, along the Otay River to the Lower and Upper Otay Lakes. Currently the western part of the park (west of I-805) is primarily publicly owned and the eastern part (east of I-805 to Otay Lakes) is primarily privately owned.

Native Plants & Animals

The park is as rich in natural history as it is in human history—and many of the resources found in the park are protected and shall not be harmed or removed from the park. Coyote, gray fox, raccoon, desert cottontail and American badger are all residents in the park. Over two hundred species of birds can be spotted during the year within the park. Great blue herons, snowy egrets, American coot and several species of ducks can be found at the ponds along the trail. Riparian woodland provides habitat for the endangered Least Bell's Vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher. The coastal California gnatcatcher (pictured below), a threatened species, can be found in coastal sagescrub and in the habitats found in the OVRP. The upper part of the river valley is home to the white-tailed kite, northern harrier, and the red-tailed hawk.

Not all winged creatures are birds; many butterflies and moths live in or pass through the park. Especially interesting is the Quino checkerspot butterfly, which has been observed in the eastern part of the park. The Hermes copper butterfly can be found near the



spiny redberry plant which occurs in the coastal sage scrub. The pacific tree frog and garden salamander live adjacent to and within the pond areas.

Supporting the abundant wildlife is a mixture of maritime succulent scrub, southern cottonwood willow riparian forest, alkali marsh, and Diegan coastal sage scrub. The Orcutt's bird's-beak is localized in several areas along the river valley and is the largest known population of this rare plant in the United States.

Facilities

Otay Valley Regional Park offers day use of hiking, biking and equestrian riding. Currently there are three official staging/parking areas located on Beyer Boulevard, Beyer Way North, and Rios Avenue.



The Beyer Boulevard staging area features the Ranger Station, where visitors can meet with a ranger and get additional information. The Ranger Station also contains an interpretive panel that gives a brief overview of the different parts of the river valley and the wildlife in those areas. Anglers can fish for bass and bluegill at Hollister, Fenton, and Le May Ponds only (California Fish & Game laws do apply).

See reverse side for trail map.



Tips for Hikers

Take the time to enjoy your outdoor experience. Binoculars will help you observe the plants and animals as you walk along the trails and a camera will preserve memories of your visit.

Carry water and a snack. Otay Valley can be very hot and dry in the summer months; there is no drinking water available on the trails. For a full day's hike in moderate temperatures, expect to bring at least one gallon of water. *Do not drink from any of the ponds.* If you are planning a longer hike, carry light trail snacks to maintain your energy.

Wear suitable clothing and footwear. Sturdy shoes and a hat are indispensable and sunglasses, sunscreen, and insect repellent are highly recommended.

Tell a friend or family member about your hiking plans. Be specific about your route and what time you should return. Hike with a companion and a cell phone. If you are unsure about a particular trail and have questions, talk to a park ranger at the Beyer Boulevard Ranger Station, or call (619) 424-0463.

Stay on the trails. The natural resources of Otay Valley Regional Park are fragile. Their survival and your safety depend on correct trail etiquette.

Emergencies: If you have an emergency, call 911 and be prepared to describe where you are in the park. Native animals should never be fed or approached. Keep your dog(s) on a leash at all times, and carry a small first aid kit with you.

