



## 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 animals. 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.** CPC 647(e); CVMC 2.66.260

**Alcoholic beverages or glass containers are NOT permitted** anywhere in the park. SDMC 56.34 & 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

**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

**Remote controlled toys and vehicles are prohibited.**

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

**Equestrians must not go west of Beyer Way or east of I-805.**

## Otay Valley Regional Park Trail Map

- Trailhead
- Future Trailhead
- ▣ Ranger Station (1)
- ▣ Staging Area (1)
- ▣ Multiple Use Staging Area (1) (2) (3)
- ✿ Overlook
- TS Trolley Station
- Multi-use Trail (3)
- Hike/Bike Trail
- Hike Only Trail
- Bridge or River Crossing
- Signaled Trail Crossing
- City Boundary
- Accessible Path (4)
- Accessible Area (4)

(1) Includes picnic area, restroom, kiosk  
 (2) Includes parking for equestrian trailers  
 (3) Trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use  
 (4) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

## 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 and must be picked up the following day.

**LOCATION:**  
 Otay Valley Regional Park Ranger Station  
 2155 Beyer Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92154 • (619) 424-0463  
 This material is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting (619) 424-0463.

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

# 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.



## 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 Junipero 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 San Diego and the City of Chula Vista entered into a Joint Powers of Agreement for the coordinated planning, acquisition, design, maintenance and operation 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 some of the various animals found 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 gnatcatcher (pictured below), a threatened species, can be found in coastal sagescrub and other 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

The Otay Valley Regional Park offers multi-use trails for hiking, biking and limited equestrian riding. Currently there are seven official staging/parking areas located on Rios Avenue, Mace Street, Beyer Way North, Beyer Boulevard, 27th Street, Hollister Street and Saturn Boulevard. 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. The Mace Street Multi-Use Staging Area includes equestrian parking. 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.

**Use caution when crossing streets.**

**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, approached or harmed in any way. Keep your dog(s) on a leash at all times, and carry a small first aid kit with you.

