

Otay Valley Regional Park Overview

Background: The Otay River Valley on the south side of Chula Vista has been inhabited since prehistoric times, the early natives of the Otay River Valley were the Kumeyaays. Their main village was the Village of Otay, on the north side of the Otay River. Prior to the secularization of the missions, vast land tracts were granted to several prominent Spanish families who settled in what is south San Diego County today. Among the early Italian immigrants was the Deneri family. In 1878, they set up ranching and wine making operations near the mouth of Dennery Canyon, on the south side of the river, east of I-805. At the height of its productivity, the Deneri Winery was one of the leading wine producers in San Diego County. Euro-American settlement in the Otay River Valley began in earnest during the expansion of San Diego. Otay Town was established north of the Otay River. .

Lower Otay Lakes and Sweetwater Reservoir's Ruptures: In 1916, after a five-year drought, rainmaker, Charlie Hatfield was commissioned by the San Diego City Council to produce rain. Hatfield built several towers at the base of the Laguna Mountains where he mixed various chemicals and then set them afire. Coincidentally, the rising heat caused rain to fall without ceasing for several days, causing the Lower Otay Dam to overflow and burst on January 16, 1916. Over 13 billion gallons of water spilled down the Otay River Valley, wiping out the town of Otay, killing 26 persons, including four from the Deneri Winery when it was destroyed by the floodwaters. Ten days later, the Sweetwater Reservoir Dam northwest of the upper Otay Dam burst, releasing 16 billion gallons of water and flooding the Sweetwater Valley. These two reservoir dam ruptures filled the South San Diego Bay with mud, effectively curtailing small boat sailing. Hatfield was never paid the \$10,000 promised to him by the San Diego City Council. The lower Otay Lake's Savage Dam was rebuilt in 1919.

Otay Valley Regional Park: In April 1989, Chula Vista Mayor Greg Cox, during a meeting with San Diego City Councilman Bob Filner and San Diego County Supervisor Brian Bilbray, suggested that a plan be developed for a Regional Park in the Otay River Valley. In 1990, a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA) among the Cities of Chula Vista and San Diego, and the County of San Diego was developed to guide the planning, acquisition and design of the Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP). A Focused Planning Area (FPA) was established, which set the outer limits of planning and a framework for creating the Park. At the same time, a 30-person Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was formed, divided equally among the Cities of Chula Vista, San Diego and the County of San Diego, to advise the Policy Committee of local communities' desires and to work with County Park Staff on matters related to Park Design and Construction. Park planners from each of the three jurisdictions provide technical support and park planning, property acquisition, administrative assistance to the Policy Committee and to OVRP CAC members.

Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP) Concept Plan: Dated February 21, 1997, the Concept Plan provides for a 13 mile linear park consisting of more than 8,869 acres, protecting environmentally sensitive areas, cultural resources in the open space core, areas adjacent to open space for active and passive recreation, a trail system on both sides of the Otay River with seven staging areas, view points, an overlook facility, with connections to adjacent public lands and trails. Most of the initial information about land uses, biological, hydrology and culture resources was compiled in an Otay River Resources Report dated September 1994. Prior to preparing the Concept Plan, information was gathered from a variety of sources, eight formal studies and 19 public meetings. The plan lists 52 policies that apply to developing the Otay Valley Regional Park, including 16 recreational areas totaling about 900 acres. Currently planned in the Western Otay Valley Regional Park (Nestor Creek, east to Heritage Road) are seven staging areas and three recreational areas. With the exception of Rock Mountain, the majority of the land between Heritage Road and the Lower Otay Lake Reservoir is part of the planned Otay Ranch Preserve, which will contain trails and OVRP Recreational Areas #10 and #11.

Western Otay Valley Regional Park (WOVRP), Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP): Dated July 10, 2006, prepared by the City of San Diego, recognizes the value of natural resources in the WOVRP (Nestor Creek east to Heritage Road), and provides for the protection, enhancement and management of these resources. The Plan establishes guidelines for present and future use and maintenance of the WOVRP. The NRMP will help bridge human activities and natural resource protection and management. The document also provides for the assignment of City of San Diego Park Rangers, whose responsibilities include reviewing development documents, overseeing enhancements, restoration efforts, interpretive activities, coordination of training volunteers, and maintenance of the Western Otay Valley Regional Park.

Eastern Otay Valley Regional Park (EOVRP). Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP): This portion of the Otay Valley Regional Park extends from Heritage Road east to the south and eastern end of the Lower Otay Lakes Reservoir and north to the upper end of Upper Otay Reservoir. A draft plan developed by the City of Chula Vista (Otay Valley Regional Park Joint Staff) and JPB Development Company was submitted February 6, 2008. The draft proposal is primarily subject to the Chula Vista MSCP Subarea Plan, the Otay Valley Regional Concept Plan, and the Otay Ranch Resource Management (RMP) 1 and 2. The plan will cover those areas discussed above for the WOVRP Resource Management Plan.

Habitat Restoration Plan: Dated June 2006, the Non-Native Plant Removal and Habitat Restoration Guidelines contains goals for removing non-native vegetation in order to minimize the expansion of non-native species within the Otay Valley Regional Park. The plan conforms with the Otay River Watershed Management Plan, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Otay River Watershed Management Plan: Dated May 2006, the Management Plan is a comprehensive framework plan to guide the watershed's future. The Otay River Watershed consists of numerous streams in a pear-shaped area covering approximately 143 square miles. Savage Dam who forms the Lower Otay Reservoir controls sixty-nine percent (99 square miles) of the watershed. The maximum north-south and east-west dimensions are about 10 and 20 miles respectively, with elevations ranging from 3,300 feet above sea level at White Mountain, to sea level at the south end of San Diego Bay. Within the western portion, the Otay Valley Regional Park extends 11 miles, from the lower end of South San Diego Bay, east to the Lower Otay Lakes Reservoir and north to the upper Otay Lakes Reservoir. The Plan contains monitoring strategies and protocols for evaluating the effectiveness of implemented strategies.

Ecosystem: The Otay River Valley west of the Lower Otay Lakes Reservoir To Nestor Creek is a diverse ecosystem containing at least 16 habitats of rare and endangered plants and animal species. Nineteen different birds inhabit the valley, six types of herons, including the rare little blue heron, three types of hawks, California least tern, burrowing owl, willow flycatcher, coastal cactus wren, California gnatcatcher, quail, and doves, and mammals such as bobcats, raccoons, opossums, striped skunks, cottontails, wood rats, long-tailed weasels, and California ground squirrels. A variety of reptiles, such as the red diamond and western rattlesnake, the whiptail lizard, western fence lizard, coast horned lizard, garter snake, the common king snake and western pond turtle also live here. Vegetation communities include Maritime succulent scrub, Diegan coastal sage scrub, Southern Riparian Cypress Forest, and Tamarisk scrub. In all, 63 sensitive plant species are known to exist in the Otay River Valley.

Otay River Valley Flood Plain: The valley's flood plain, west of lower Otay Lakes Reservoir to the south end of San Diego Bay, southeast of the salt flats, has been a source of sand and gravel extraction from the 1920s to the late 1980s, creating numerous large and small ponds which now provide breeding and foraging habitat for various birds. Fenton Corporation and Nelson & Sloan's sand and rock extraction, with an average depth of 12 to 25 feet, has stopped. Hansen Aggregates leases the Nelson & Sloan facilities (a sand/gravel / cement processing plant off 7th Street in Chula Vista, and a batch processing plant for sand / gravel / cement / asphalt on the west side of 27th Street in San Diego). The Otay River flows west from the lower Otay Reservoir under SR-125, I-805, Beyer Way and Beyer Blvd bridges and then divides into three directions: 1) Fenton Pond on the south side of the river, 2) a stream flowing into a center pond, and 3) around the north side of a habitat area and then west under 27th Street, around the north side of Hansen Aggregates western plant, west under the Hollister Street bridge prior to entering Hollister Pond, west side of under I-5 bridge to the south end of San Diego Bay, adjacent to the salt flats.

Otay Valley Regional Park Location: The Park has regional significance in terms of its location as a major part of Chula Vista's Greenbelt Corridor between South San Diego (Otay Mesa / Nestor), National City and Chula Vista. The OVRP corridor constitutes a substantial portion of Chula Vista's Greenbelt, a 28-mile continuous open space and park system around the north, east and south of Chula Vista, linking its communities with principal parks and recreational resources throughout the City.

Open Space: Heritage Road east to the Lower Otay Reservoir includes open space, which will contain several proposed recreational areas. San Diego County's Otay Lakes Park, adjacent to the Savage Dam, overlooks the lower reservoir to the north and the Otay Valley Regional Park to the west. Nearby are picnic areas, Lower Otay Reservoir's fishing pier with rental boats, the United States Olympic Training Center's Canoe, Kayak and Rowing facility on the West Side of the lower Otay Lake Reservoir and the San Diego Air Sports Field at the eastern end of Lower Otay Reservoir.

Planning / Development: The eleven mile Otay Valley Regional Park's 6500 acres is divided into three parts: 1) Western Otay Valley Regional Park (WOVRP), from the southern end of San Diego Bay (Nestor Creek) east to Heritage Road; 2) Eastern Valley Regional Park (OVRP), from Heritage Road to the west end of Lower Otay Reservoir; and 3) Lower and Upper Otay Reservoirs, and the Air Sports Field at the eastern end of the Lower Otay Reservoir.

Otay Valley Regional Park Land Acquisition Report: Dated May 1, 2007, this report identifies areas that were obtained for ParkLand or Habitat Restoration. They do not include areas dedicated by private developers. Total Park Acquisition includes 22 Properties. Total Acreage is 902.98. Jurisdictional Ownership in acres includes 418.1 in the County of San Diego; 301.57 in the City of San Diego, and 183.98 in the City of Chula Vista 183.98. Funding grants include a CALTRANS settlement, MSCP, Coastal Conservancy, Southwest Interpretative Land Swap, City of Chula Vista Park Acquisition and Development (PAD) Fees, Habitat Conservation Funds, and City of San Diego Land Swap.

Otay Valley Regional Park's Trails Guidelines: Dated October 16, 2003, the document refers to the Otay River Valley from below the Lower Otay Lakes Reservoir to the western end of the river valley (Nestor Creek), which contains approximately 22 miles of dirt trails created by people traversing the area and about 12 miles of dirt utility maintenance roads and old farm roads, which will be reduced when the trails are fully implemented. The trails document proposes multi-purpose and single use trails within the 11 mile, 3000 acre Otay Valley Regional Park. The Trails Guidelines, serves as policy document to guide the development, management, operations and maintenance of the Otay Valley Regional Park trail system. The Plan's goal is to provide a system of non-motorized trails for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians which will include connections with other public facilities such as parks, open space, trail systems of other jurisdictions, and points of interest. The Trails Guidelines document divides the Park into five segments, South San Diego Bay to Interstate 5, Interstate 5 to Interstate 805, Interstate 805 to Heritage Road, Heritage Road to Lower Otay Lake Reservoir, and the Otay Lakes Reservoir's Vicinity. The trail system will offer a wide variety of outdoor experiences for people of all ages and abilities. They will have minimal impact on natural and cultural resources.

WOVRP Trail Construction: The first phase of trail construction began in October 2006, and was completed in May, 2007, coordinated by the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, between the east side of Beyer Boulevard (across from the Rangers Facility) to the west side of Beyer Way. The second phase of the Western Otay Regional Park Trails construction, coordinated by the County of San Diego started in February 2007, completing a trail from Rancho Drive west to Rios Drive Staging Area, a trail crossing Poggi Creek and the Otay River northeast to the west side of the paint ball facility and then turning west, to west side of Beyer Way. A connection at the midpoint links north to the Palm Avenue crossing where on the north side a second trail leads off the trail from Palm Avenue west to the proposed Mace Street Staging Area. The third phase of trail construction commenced on November 9, 2009, from the west end of Fenton Pond to Saturn Blvd. Where feasible, trails on both the north and south sides of the Otay River Valley will connect loop trails, and trails east to the County of San Diego County Lower Otay Lakes Park, City of Chula Vista and City of San Diego Trails, and National Wildlife and federal wilderness areas. Long range planning includes trail connection to the California Hiking and Riding Trail in the Campo area. Ultimately, OVRP Trails will connect to Chula Vista's Greenbelt, Sweetwater River Park, Jamul / Dulzura Trail system, Eastlake Community Trails and Otay Ranch Neighborhood Trails. Trails for equestrian use will start at the Mace Street Staging proceeding east. A Global Information System (GIS) documents multipurpose hiker / bicyclists / equestrian trails, and staging and recreation areas for the Otay Valley Regional Park. Where feasible the trails use utility maintenance dirt roads. Second Phase of trail construction commences October 24, 2008 from Beyer Blvd west to Saturn Blvd including three staging areas, and equestrian's staging area at the end of Mace Street.

Otay Valley Regional Park Design Standards & Guidelines: Dated October 27, 2005, the design standards for are publicly owned facilities within the OVRP provide guiding principles for adjacent land development that interfaces with the OVRP in order to provide consistency in the architectural style. It expands on Concept Plan and Trails Guidelines for the connection, but not limited to the California Riding and Hiking Trail, Chula Vista Green Belt Open Space and Trail System, Bayshore Bikeway, Eastlake and Otay Ranch Community Trails, Jamul / Dulzura Trail System, the Otay Lakes County Parks and Otay Mountain Ecological Preserve. In 2004, Joint Staff and CAC members chose the California theme characteristic of the early Spanish influences, also known as Southwest Territorial, for the Otay Valley Regional Park.

OVRP Security: City of San Diego Park Rangers monitor the security of the Western Otay Valley Regional Park (WOVRP), installs signs such as "Please Help US Keep The Park Clean", "No Litter Dumping", "Overnight Camping Not Allowed", and "Stay On Designated Trails" around the Otay River Valley's entrances. The Rangers also participate along with the City of Chula Vista, City of San Diego, San Diego Police and Chula Vista Police Teams in the Western Otay River Valley Cleanup. WOVRP Rangers periodically patrol the area between Nestor Creek and I-805 bridge. Trash and transient camp locations are forwarded to the Cleanup Coordinator for removal. County of San Diego Lakes Rangers monitor and assist in the cleanup of the San Diego County Park at the south end of the Lower Otay Reservoir, and a portion of Proctor Valley, north of Upper Otay Lakes Reservoir. Over 8,300 feet of chainlink fencing has been installed along both sides of Beyer Boulevard, Beyer Way, south side of Rancho Drive housing area to Rios Ave, South end of Date Street, area bounding the eastern side of Recreational Area #5, the north side of Recreation Area #6 and the end of Saturn Blvd.

Otay River Valley Cleanup: The first two-day volunteer cleanup, coordinated by the South San Diego Police Department and the OVRP CAC Chair John Willett occurred on a Saturday and Sunday in October 1989, removing 40 tons of trash between Saturn Blvd and Beyer Way on the south side of the river. In February 2001, a long term Clean-up Project Organization was assembled using R. J. Donovan Prison Community Work Crews and volunteers working four days, the first week of each month. In January 2004, California Governor Gray Davis canceled the use of R. J. Donovan Community Crews at the expense of the State. In October 2004, a formal contract for use of the R. J. Donovan Prison Community Crew was signed among the County of San Diego, City of Chula Vista, and the State of California for the R. J. Donovan Prison to furnish an eight-person community crew working four days a week.

Cleanup Project Area: The project encompasses the Otay River Valley between Nestor Creek at the south / east lower end of San Diego Bay, east to San Diego County's Otay Lakes Park, Lower and Upper Otay Lakes Reservoir area and the southwest portion of Proctor Valley. The Cleanup Project's first phase was the Western Otay Valley Regional Park, (Saturn Blvd east to I-805 highway and the southwest portion of Proctor Valley. The Otay River Valley is a major part of Chula Vista's 28-mile Greenbelt Corridor, a continuous open space and park system around the City.

Clean-up Project Goals:

- 1) Remove extensive household, commercial, and industrial debris, including concrete and asphalt dumping sites in the Otay River Valley, from Nestor Creek at the lower end of San Diego Bay east to San Diego County's Otay Lakes Park, Lower and Upper Otay Lakes Reservoirs and southwest lower portion of Proctor Valley;
- 2) Encourage homeless personnel living in unsanitary encampments to leave the area in order to protect sensitive habitat and create safer surroundings;
- 3) After the homeless have left, the area will be cleaned so that it may return to open space / habitat area. Standard practice is to clean up a site within two to three hours, so as to disturb wildlife as little as possible. Return visits to these areas indicate wildlife have returned.
- 4) Improve the security of the Otay River Valley Area installing fencing and signs along sidewalks, streets and adjacent property.
- 5) Where feasible, remove noxious exotic plants and trees adjacent to trails, overlook facilities, staging areas;
- 6) Participate in re-vegetating the area;
- 7) Identify City of Chula Vista, Otay Mesa Nestor and Otay Mesa storm water run-off sites entering the Otay River containing household and commercial trash; and
- 8) Erect fencing / rock barriers to discourage off-road vehicle activity in the southwestern end of Proctor Valley, adjacent to the northern end of the upper Otay Lakes Reservoir.

Cleanup Project Results: From October 29, 1999, to April 2010, over 24,520 hours have been expended by Donovan Prison and Volunteer Crews in removing over 1,400 tons of trash (portions of an automobiles and motorhome frames, household, yard, and industrial waste items, including 16 tons of concrete and asphalt), requiring 185 trips to the Otay Landfill. Clean-up of the Western Otay River Valley during this period, between Nestor Creek and I-805, included removing 148 homeless camps, trash, 699 tires, 29 drug transfer dens, and numerous castor bean, and tamarisk trees. City of Chula Vista Public Works coordinated with the County of San Diego and Allied Waste in removing 60 asbestos / concrete pipes ranging from 9" in diameter to 18" and ranging from 6' to 21' feet in length from three different locations.

Concrete and Asphalt Removal : The County of San Diego developed a GIS map created from a map submitted by the OVRP CAC Chair to identify locations of 51 concrete / asphalt sites dating back to the late 1950s on the north side of the River. The Cleanup Crew removed 60 of an estimated 400 tons. In December 2007, a commercial task was awarded to the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to remove the remaining concrete and asphalt, Approximately 360 tons for transfer to the Otay Landfill. Pictures of each area were taken before and after removal for historical record.

General Trash Separation: Glass and plastic bottles, aluminum cans, batteries, tires, oil, paint, electronic equipment are sorted and taken to different local recycling activities adjacent to the area for disposal. Some concrete suitable for recycling has been picked by Hansen Aggregate for recycling.

Cleanup Project Personnel Training: Prior to commencing work, the Project Coordinator of the Otay Valley Regional Park Cleanup Project (Western and Eastern) provides a history of the area and overview of work requirements to the R. J. Donovan Prison Community Crews and Volunteers,. The San Diego County's Otay Lakes Park Ranger's provides briefings on safety measures when using power equipment to the Donovan Community Work Crew and volunteers, the wearing of protective clothing, the type of non-native material that will be removed and cautions to be observed while working in protected habitat area. Insures Sanitary equipment and First Aid equipment are on hand.

I Love a Clean San Diego (ILACSD): As a part of this program, 130 volunteers have participated in the past four years in "Creek to Bay Cleanup" from 9 Am.. until noon on Saturdays, expending over 620 labor hours, removing some 3.60

tons of trash. On Saturday, April 12, 2003, 72 volunteers (12 adults, 26 Junior College, 24 High School and eight elementary school students from 11 different activities in the South Bay area participated in Creek to Bay Clean-up. In September 2004, promoted by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, over 1200 pounds of trash were collected from the Hollister Pond area under Interstate 5 bridge and east to Hollister St. Hollister Pond was one of over 30 locations selected to participate as a Creek to Bay Clean-up project. The Creek to Bay Clean-up of April 29, 2006, involved cleaning up habitat area adjacent to and under the Interstate 805 Bridge, removing 1,900 pounds of trash. On Saturday, April 28, 2007, the Otay River Valley Creek to Bay Cleanup encompassed the Beyer Way Bridge and adjacent Habitat Area.

Commercial Recreational Activities: The area adjacent to the west side of Hollister St. (east side of Interstate 5), south of the Otay River, currently has a golf practice range located on the west side of Hollister Street, south side of the river. The 20,000-seat Cricket Amphitheater, built in 1998 on the south side of the Otay River and west of Heritage Road, east of Interstate 805, contains reserved seating for 10,000 and lawn seating for an additional 10,000 guests. Kott's Soak City Water Slide Park, west of the amphitheater, was built in 1997.

Sports Complex: The City of San Diego and the County of San Diego funded a study in May 2001, to construct a Otay Valley Sports Complex consisting of a skateboard park, soccer and baseball fields, swimming pool and recreation center within the proposed 35-acre Recreational Area #1, at the north end of Saturn Blvd., between Nestor Creek and Interstate-5. The Otay Valley Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee's Sports Complex sub-committee members coordinated five community meetings to determine what the public would like to have in this complex. Lack of funding, by the City of San Diego has put the Sports Complex on hold.

Finney Elementary School Overlook: Planning the facility at 3950 Byrd Street, on the south side of the Otay Valley River Valley on Finney School property, overlooking the Otay River Valley, began in February 2002. The Overlook land was acquired October 2004 from the Chula Vista Elementary School District, with groundbreaking on April 15, 2005, and a Grand Opening on November 15, 2006. The Finney Elementary School Overlook provides two outdoor classroom amphitheaters, a public area with interpretive signage, picnic and game tables for visitors and students. City of San Diego Park Rangers provide maintenance. The Overlook is a joint project between the Chula Vista Elementary School District, the Cities of Chula Vista, San Diego, and the County of San Diego. The final concept plan included design recommendations submitted by the Finney Elementary School Site Committee, Otay Valley Regional Park CAC sub-committee, and Public Members.

Recreational Area #3 Feasibility Study: The San Diego County Board of Supervisors in December 2006 allocated to District One, \$250,000 in funding for a feasibility study of a proposed Recreation Facility within the Gardner / Escondido, San Douval and adjacent property. The 42 acre site is adjacent to the east side of the trolley lines, south of the Otay River, east of Fenton Pond and accessible from Palm Avenue to the south. An OVRP Citizens Advisory Committee Sub-Committee has been assigned to the project to ensure that the community desires are considered.

Mace Street Multipurpose Staging Area (Design Phase): Located on the north side of the Otay River, west side of the south end of Mace Street, South of Main Street, midway between Beyer Way and I-805 and entrance to a multipurpose trail, this facility will include equestrian facilities with a drive through to support vehicles pulling horse trailers, hitching rails and watering facilities. The area will also provides for maintenance of several large storm drain inspection facilities.

Western Otay Valley Regional Park Rangers Facility / Staging Area: Construction of the Rangers Facility and Staging Area by the City of San Diego on the west side of Byer Blvd, south of the Otay River, began in October 2006 and opened on September 21, 2007. The Rangers Facility includes two offices and storage areas. The Staging Area includes ten parking spaces, picnic tables, open area, and restrooms. The Rangers Facility is adjacent to a trail that leads west around Fenton Pond, and then connects to a trail west to Hollister Street. A second short trail leads to the crossing of Beyer Blvd, connecting to a trail south of the river east to Beyer Way and to the west side of the I-805 bridge.

Beyer Way Staging Area: Located on the east side of the south end of 3rd Avenue, north end of Beyer Way, north side of the river, the facility contains ten parking spaces, bicycle racks, picnic tables, open area, portable rest rooms and entry to the trail crossing the Otay River to join with the major trail, south of the Otay River leading east to the Rios Drive Staging Area adjacent to the west side of I-805 or leading west to the Western OVRP Rangers Station and Staging Area on the west side of Beyer Blvd, south of the Otay River.

Rios Drive Staging Area: Located on the east side of Rios Drive, south of Main Street, adjacent to the east side of the Church of Christ, north side of the river, the facility contains ten parking spaces, bicycle racks, picnic tables, open area, portable rest rooms and entry to the trail crossing Poggi Creek and the Otay River to join up with the major trail, south of the Otay River leading west to the Palm Avenue Crossing. proceeding to Mace Street Staging Area on the north side of the

river, or continuing west and then north to the Beyer Way Staging area on the north side of the river, or west to the Western OVRP Ranger's Station and Staging Area on the west side of Beyer Blvd, south of the Otay River.

Otay Valley Regional Park Tree Planting: On Saturday, October 26, 2002, OVRP CAC members and Park staff members from the three jurisdictions were joined by 187 local volunteers who planted 500 trees in four hours in the area on the south side of the Fenton Pond (west side of Beyer Blvd.) and Hollister Pond area (west side of Hollister St.) Trees were planted in order to improve the Otay River Valley's image and the quality of life for the birds and animals that inhabit it. Coast Live Oak, Western Cottonwood, Western Sycamore, Toyon (Christmas Berry) and Mexican Elderberry). The trees were purchased through a grant from PG&E, Calpine, and the County of San Diego District 1.

Otay River Valley Pond Water Study: In January 2005, Khosro Aminpour, City of Chula Vista's Department of Works (Urban Storm Water Runoff Management Director), requested D-Max. Engineering Inc....., to perform a water sampling of Hollister Pond and Fenton Pond to determine if excessive contaminants were contained in the water. D-Max. letter of July 13, 2005, forwarding laboratory test results and analysis of data collected revealed that none of the sampling showed values outside of normal ranges for those taken during the summer months. Mr. Aminpour requested D-Max to perform additional studies during the rainy season in late January or February 2009 to ensure that fish from the ponds were not harmful to those eating them.

US EPA Brownfields: The City of Chula Vista's letter dated December 2006, to the Regional Water Quality Control Board requested an assessment grant to determine the extent of Brownfields (Contaminated sites) within the Southwest Redevelopment Area, which includes the area south of Main Street, adjacent to the north side of the Western Otay Valley Regional Park. The contaminated sites along Main Street presents both a problem, to residents in the area and the sensitive habitat in the Otay Valley River Watershed. As of 1 July 2009, funding has not been received.

Friends of Otay Valley Regional Park: This non-profit organization was established in 1996, to offer South Bay residents and visitors opportunities to assist in nature and educational programs, public outreach, restoration and preservation, volunteer patrol, neighborhood park watch and docent programs. Friends of the Park organized several cleanups around the Lower Otay Lake, Upper Otay Lake and the south west portion of Proctor Valley, including the acquisition of boulders and placing them along both sides of Proctor Valley to discourage off-road vehicles damaging the habitat area. President is George Hanson, a CAC Member.

Otay Valley Regional Park Volunteer Manual: In the summer 2007, a OVRP CAC member revised and developed an proposed OVRP Docent Activity, whose mission statement is to help maintain the OVRP, interpret its unique value to the public through a variety of educational programs, including manning interpretive centers, lookout points, preparing teachers guides and assisting staff in performing maintenance tasks. This document was based on the outline developed in 2003 by the Chair of the OVRP CAC. In August 2008, with the assistance of the Cities of San Diego and Chula Vista, WOVPR Ranger John Barone is coordinating the development of a Volunteers Manual.

Websites: In the fall 1999, students of Montgomery High School created a Public Awareness Article of the Otay Valley Regional Park on the High School's website, the results of which showed that students and their parents supported developing a Park. In January 2001, an OVRP website (www.ovrp.org) was developed and hosted by the Otay Real Estate Company. The OVRP website contains pictures and information on park planning updates, news, valley history, clean-up project, concept plan, events calendar, area maps, favorite links, Policy and Citizens Advisory Committee and Staff Members. The webmaster's email address is <fdo@otayrealestate.com>. An additional web site associated with the OVRP is San Diego County Parks' www.co.san-diego.ca.us/cntydepts/parks/OVRP.

Western Otay Valley Regional Park: Since January 2009, the Park has been host to expansion of numerous educational programs. Finney Elementary School assisted by Wildcoast (environmental activity) has been involved in native plant restoration and a "Hands On" visit to the park to learn about natural and cultural resources with over 160 students participating. City of San Diego Recreational Centers are sending inner city students to learn about natural and cultural resources with help from Project Wildlife. Wildcoast (Environmental Activity) is coordinating two activities within the next two months, Water Conservation and Native Plants landscaping and Regional Park Bird Walk. In addition, the park is seeing an increase in the numbers of visitors to the park. The facility is manned by a San Diego Rangers on Saturdays and Sundays

Western OVRP Cleanup, Community Involvement: The Otay Valley Regional Park is becoming a reality thanks to the many groups and individuals participating in the Otay River Valley Clean-up Project, Otay Valley Regional Park's Citizens Advisory Committee, City of Chula Vista, City of San Diego and County of San Diego Community Development, Allied Waste Industries, ALPHA Project, Chula Vista Elementary School District, Church of Christ Rios Drive volunteers, Chula Vista City Planning & Department, Chula Vista and San Diego Police Departments, Chula Vista

Public Works Recycling Division, Chula Vista Parks and Recreation, City of San Diego Environmental Service, Friends of Otay Valley Regional Park, Hanson Aggregates, O'Neill Construction Company, Otay Landfill, Otay Mesa / Nestor Planning Committee, Otay Ranch Project Team, Otay Real Estate Company, Otay Valley Regional Park Technical Staff, R.J. Donovan Prison Community Work Crews, San Diego County (Otay Lakes) and City of San Diego Park Rangers.

Otay Valley Regional Park Development

Sub-Committee Chairs

Trails:	Jack Brandsford
Sports Complexes:	John Vogel
Recreational Facilities:	Wayne Dicky
Recreation Area #3)	Duane Bazzel
Habitat Restoration:	Mike McCoy
Equestrian Facilities / Mace Street Regional Staging Area	Mark Kukchek
Cyclist Facilities:	John Carroll
Staging Areas Construction	Kevin O'Neil
Docents Manual Revision:	Senior Ranger John Baron
Technical Polices / Directives	Kevin O'Neil
Proctor Valley Clean up:	Frank Ohrmund
Interpretive Centers	Frank Herrera-A
Public Relations	Katie Westfall
Finney Overlook:	Ranger Matt Sanford

Sources of Information related to the Creation of the Otay Valley Regional Park

Otay Valley Regional Park Joint Powers Agreement (draft)	May 31, 1989
Lower Otay River Wetlands Enhancement Plan	July 14, 1989
Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (Initial)	January, 1990
Otay River Valley Resource Enhancement Plan	October 1, 1991, (Draft)
Otay Valley Regional Park Issue Paper	December 19, 1991
Otay River Valley Resource Enhancement Plan	September 23, 1992
Otay River Valley Resources Report	September 16, 1994
Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP)	December 1996
Otay Valley Regional Park Concept Plan	February 2, 1997
OVRP Citizen Advisory Committee Guidelines Amended	July 18, 1997
Chula Vista MSCP Subarea Plan	February 2003
Otay Valley Regional Park Trails Guidelines	October 16, 2003
Otay Valley Regional Park Design Standards	October 27, 2005
OVRP Mitigated Negative Declaration	April 10, 2006
Habitat Restoration Plan & Non-Native Plant	July 6, 2006
Otay Valley Regional Park Resource Plan	July 10, 2006
Otay Valley Regional Park Trails DWG's	September 1, 2006
Otay Valley Regional Park Design	February 13, 2007
Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (Current))	July 5, 2006

Information: Contact OVRP CAC Chair John Willett <jawillett@cox.net>, or WOVRP Park Ranger John Barone, <JBarone@sandiego.gov> or Otay Lakes County Park Ranger Bill Lipowacan <Bill.Lipowcan@sdcounty.ca.gov>, Friends of the Park, Frank Ohrmund <fdo@otayrealestate.com>.

Joint Exercise Powers of Agreement (JEPA) among the County of San Diego, Cities of Chula Vista and San Diego, revised July 5, 2006. [Original JEPA, signed May 31, 1989]

John A. Willett,

Chair, Otay Valley Regional Park, Citizens Advisory Community Email: jawillett@cox.net, Tel: 619-420-1607

14 May 2010