

San Diego River Habitat Restoration FACT SHEET



What is the purpose of this project?

The purpose of this project is to remove invasive plants and trees within the San Diego River to support native flora and fauna.

What is an invasive plant?

An invasive plant is non-native (meaning it was not originally found in this ecosystem). Once introduced, invasive plants often become established, quickly reproduce and spread, and cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health. See the next page to view some examples of plants considered invasive to Mission Valley.

Why are invasive plants bad for the San Diego River?

Invasive plants can increase risks of hazards (like soil erosion, fire and flooding). Many invasive plants are also very thirsty, consuming large quantities of water and even altering the water table. Invasive plants outcompete and displace our native plants and trees, taking up valuable resources like water, sunlight, and space. These plants also provide comparatively poor habitat for wildlife, so invasive plants can reduce overall biodiversity.

How will this project benefit the San Diego River?

Removing invasive plants will improve water quality and stabilize streamflows, provide space for native plants to thrive, and increase habitat quality.

How will this project benefit the community?

Restoring the San Diego River will benefit the community by:

- Increasing native green space and improving the aesthetic value of the San Diego River
- Increasing habitat quality and opportunities for wildlife viewing
- Reducing the risk of flooding and property damage associated with storm events
- Reducing bad odors from stagnant water
- This project will also clean up unattractive trash sites

What is the project timeline?

This project began in fall 2022, and the initial restoration phase will continue through 2024.

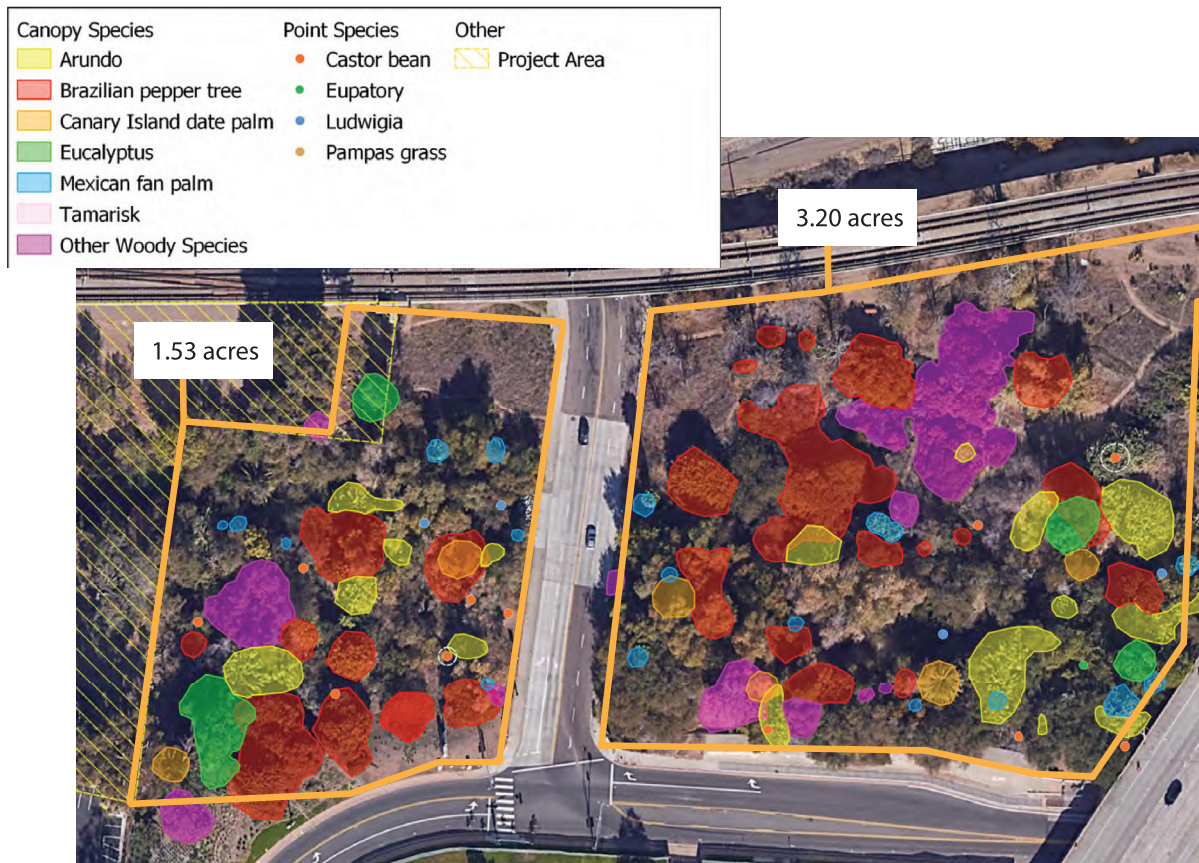
Who is involved?

This is a partnership between Fashion Valley Mall, The San Diego River Park Foundation and Urban Corps of San Diego County.



What should I expect to see during the restoration of this site?

The project will work on lands owned by the Fashion Valley Mall in the riverbed between CA - 163 extending west of Avenida del Rio. A project map is included below.



During this project, you may see work crews using tools to remove non-native trees from the riverbed. You may see some areas stacked with wood temporarily. Dumpsters and green waste bins will be staged on-site periodically. Once the non-native trees have been removed, views of the San Diego River will be more open and there will be more sunshine and water for the native trees and plants to fill in through natural recruitment and supplemental planting.

What kind of plants will be removed?

The main species targeted for removal are giant reed, Brazilian pepper tree, palms, eucalyptus, and acacia.



Giant reed



Brazilian pepper tree



Mexican fan palm



Canary date palm



eucalyptus



acacia

Can I get involved?

Absolutely! Volunteers are needed to advance this work. Learn more about joining this effort by emailing volunteer@sandiegoriver.org, or calling (619) 297-7380. You can also visit our website:

www.sandiegoriver.org

