

WATCH OUT FOR INVADERS!

Like many ecosystems, the health of the San Diego River Headwaters is threatened by invasive species.

WHAT IS AN INVASIVE SPECIES?

A plant or animal from outside our region that causes ecological or economic harm to the environment in which it is introduced.

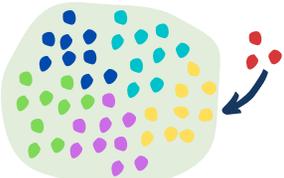
INVASIVE SPECIES CAUSE HARM BY:

- Disrupting natural ecological processes.
- Causing stress or extinction to local species.
- Creating flooding and fire hazards.

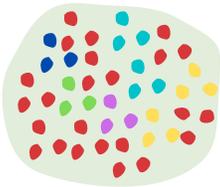
HOW THE INVASION WORKS:

Native species: ●●●●● **Invasive species:** ●

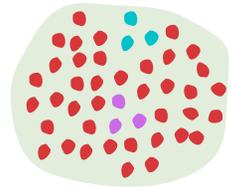
Notice how one invasive species can displace multiple native species and completely alter an entire habitat.



NATIVE HABITAT



HABITAT 5 YEARS LATER



HABITAT 10 YEARS LATER

YOU CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES BY:

- Replacing invasive plants on your property with native plants!
- Cleaning your hiking gear before exploring new areas to prevent seeds from spreading!
- Volunteering with the San Diego River Park Foundation!

EXPLORING THE UPPER SAN DIEGO RIVER

Streams feed the San Diego River as it flows from its source, in the Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve, to El Capitan Reservoir.



This mountainous area, considered the headwaters of the San Diego River, is one of the most biologically diverse places in the entire county and a beautiful space to explore!

WHAT WE DO

In this area, the San Diego River Park Foundation conserves land, restores habitat, works to keep waterways clean and free-flowing, conducts scientific research, and organizes education and recreation outings.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

VOLUNTEER

Help care for these lands as a volunteer!

STAY CONNECTED

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter or follow us on social media to stay up to date!

DONATE

Support future land conservation projects!

CONTACT US

San Diego River Park Foundation
 PO Box 80126
 San Diego, CA 92138
 (619) 297-7380
 volunteer@sandiegoriver.org

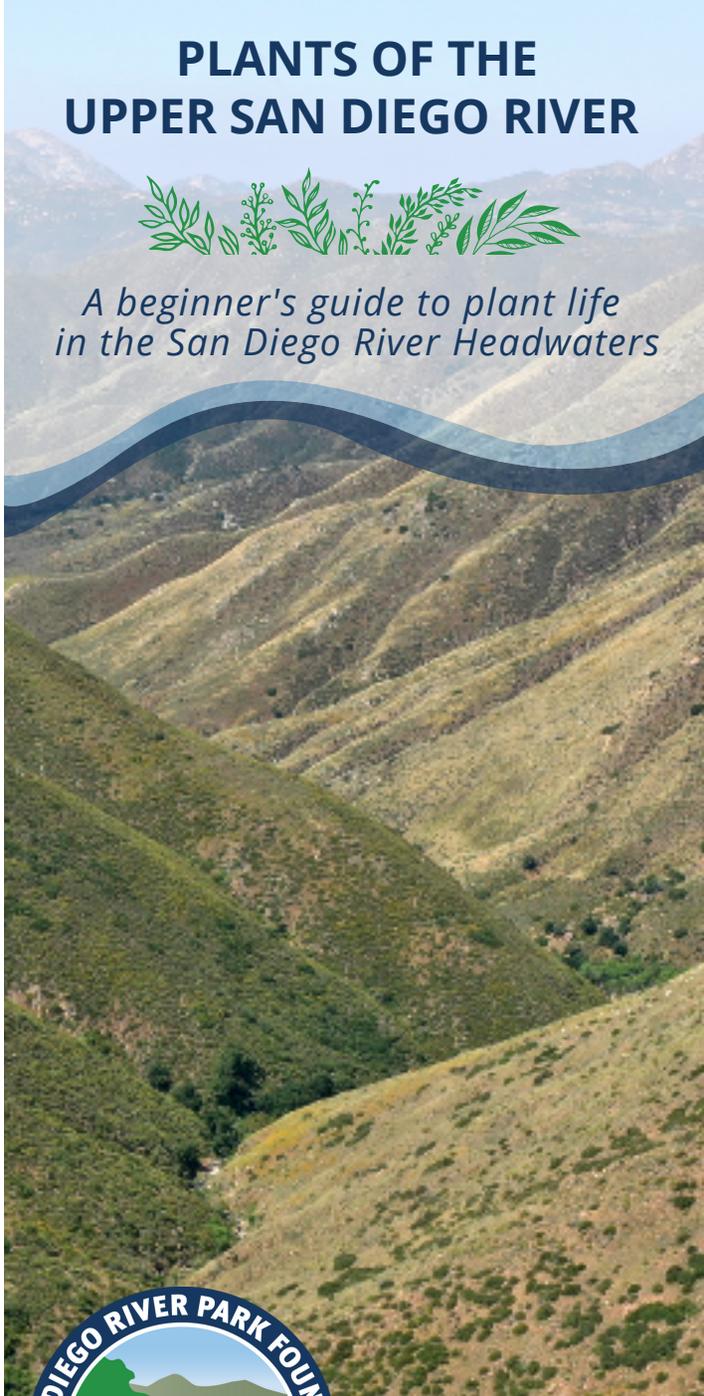
www.sandiegoriver.org

Funded by the California Department of Water Resources and the San Diego County Water Authority.

PLANTS OF THE UPPER SAN DIEGO RIVER



A beginner's guide to plant life in the San Diego River Headwaters



*Connect.
Create.
Conserve.*

COMMON NATIVE PLANTS

The San Diego River Headwaters are home to hundreds of species of native plants that provide valuable food and shelter to a variety of wildlife! Native plants are originally from our region, are naturally part of the local ecosystem, and play an important role in the health of our habitats.



Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia

Adapted to survive in warm, dry climates, this evergreen tree has small, cupped leaves that hold onto moisture and limit exposure to the sun.



Woolly Indian Paintbrush
Castilleja foliolosa

The brightly colored, linear-shaped flowers of this plant look just like a paintbrush dipped in red-orange paint.



White Sage
Salvia apiana

This aromatic shrub has clusters of pale gray leaves and white-purple flowers that emerge in the summer.



Chaparral Whitethorn
Ceanothus leucodermis

This thorny, evergreen shrub is decorated with long flower clusters in shades of white, blue, or lavender.



Winecup Clarkia
Clarkia purpurea

This annual wildflower gets its name from its trademark purple and pink flowers shaped like wine cups.



Blue-eyed Grass
Sisyrinchium bellum

This small plant grows up to 1 ft. tall and gives grassy areas a pop of color with its purplish-blue flowers.

COMMON INVASIVE SPECIES

You are likely to come across habitats impacted by invasive species while exploring the San Diego River Headwaters. These invasive species threaten the health of our riparian ecosystems.



Eucalyptus
Eucalyptus globulus

This tall evergreen tree increases fire hazards and alters the composition of native plant and animal communities.



Tamarisk
Tamarix spp.

By infesting wetlands across California, this ornamental plant displaces important native trees and increases flood and fire risks.



Mexican Fan Palm
Washingtonia robusta

These tall palm trees increase fire risk by holding onto their dead palm fronds, which are highly flammable.



Giant Reed
Arundo donax

This bamboo-like invader grows in thick stands that degrade habitat and create flood and fire hazards.



French, Spanish, & Scotch Broom

These invasive shrubs grow in dense stands that create fire hazards and take over native plant communities.



Gold Spotted Oak Borer
Agrilus auroguttatus

This pest has killed thousands of oak trees in southern California by causing damage to the tree beneath its bark.