



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marina Varano, Community Engagement Manager  
The San Diego River Park Foundation  
Mobile (858) 366-2352  
marina@sandiegoriver.org

### **San Diegans Get Outside to Explore the San Diego River**

*As the region reopens, the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego River Days encourages safe exploration and stewardship*

San Diego, CA – Thousands of residents from all over San Diego County are expected to join the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego River Days, a weeklong celebration of the San Diego River starting Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and running through Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Year-round, The San Diego River Park Foundation, partner organizations and volunteers throughout the watershed work to protect the River's unique and bountiful natural resources, but each May, we come together to offer a series of events that highlight all the San Diego River has to offer! This year, over 15 events are free and open to the public: environmental education events for kids and families, virtual workshops, guided hikes to exclusive locations, trash clean-ups, self-guided activities, and more! For a complete list of activities, partners, and project sites, please visit [www.SDRiverDays.org](http://www.SDRiverDays.org).

"We have always believed that time outside heals and renews us. This past year has really highlighted the need for safe, high-quality open spaces in our own neighborhoods and communities that are accessible to all," says Sarah Hutmacher, Chief Associate Director of The San Diego River Park Foundation. "We are thrilled that this year's River Days events can provide opportunities for stewardship and exploration, and can't wait to be out there again!"

The San Diego River runs 52 miles from the mountains near Julian to Ocean Beach and offers opportunities for nature exploration, recreation, and discovery. River Days is hosted by the [San Diego River Park Foundation](http://www.sandiegoriver.org), and advances their mission to connect people with the historic San Diego River while empowering people to create a better future for the River and our region.

San Diego River Days events are free to join, thanks to lead sponsor [Think Blue San Diego](http://www.thinkbluediego.org). The San Diego River Park Foundation puts on these events in partnership with 12 different partner organizations and businesses.

#### Recommended Media Site:

**TITLE:**Clean & Green River Cleanup

**DATE:**Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:**9am-12pm

**LOCATION:**Mission Valley Preserve. The nearest address for the meeting location is the Mission Valley YMCA at **5505 Friars Rd, San Diego, CA 92110**. Park in the YMCA lot then walk to the northwest corner of the YMCA lot to the Mission Valley Preserve sign, located near a wooden pavilion and Friars Rd.

**WHAT:**20+volunteers, including kids,removing trash from along the San Diego River at our first community cleanup open to the public in over a year. Remarks from elected officials expected at 9 am.

**EVENT LINK:**<https://sdriverdays.org/activity/clean-green-river-cleanup/>

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#### ***About The San Diego River Park Foundation***

*The San Diego River Park Foundation's mission is to engage people to work toward a better future for the historic San Diego River and the creation of a 52-mile river parkway from the mountains to the ocean. The River Park Foundation is a non-profit community-based organization founded in 2001. Visit [www.sandiegoriver.org](http://www.sandiegoriver.org) for more information.*