

LOS PEÑASQUITOS OUTDOOR CLASSROOM | FAQs

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Where is the new classroom?

The new classroom will be located at the Los Peñasquitos Ranch House, just West of the existing outdoor classroom and the domesticated animal area.

How much funding is available for the classroom?

\$715,000 is available for design, environmental, and construction.

What is the roadmap for the project?

The first public meeting was held May 24, 2022. An online circulated from May 24th through June 10th to collect community feedback. This feedback from the first phase of outreach will be used to guide the development of a classroom concept. Development staff will reach out to the community again to share the concept plan and assess whether the design reflects community preferences. Feedback from this second phase will be used to help staff refine a final concept plan and begin design development of that plan by drafting construction documents. After the construction documents are complete, the County will solicit construction bids and enter construction of the project.

What will the classroom be used for?

The classroom will be available for reservation and general use by anyone who would like to use it. Some activities may include youth classes or field trips, but the space will be open for general public use.

What groups will have access to the classroom?

Any public groups or individuals will have access to the classroom space. Some groups we expect may benefit from this space include school or youth groups, but any groups are welcome to reserve and use the space. If you have a specific group in mind that may benefit from this space, please let us know!

CIRCULATION | PARKING

How will the classroom be accessed?

The classroom will be accessible by foot from the main Los Peñasquitos trail, near the entrance to the Ranch House and the domesticated animal area.

Will there be parking nearby?

The closest parking available is the Ranch House parking lot. There will additionally be a dedicated ADA space near the classroom, and ADA access will be provided from the space to the classroom.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Will the project comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)?

Yes.

FACILITIES

What features will be at the new outdoor classroom?

Some features will include an ADA accessible parking space, seating for around 40 people, and low-level lighting to ensure safety depending on the time of year. Other features that may be added depending on the results of the public engagement process include shade structures and nature play elements, among others. If you have suggestions or ideas for features, please complete the survey or reach out to Riley DeWitt-Rickards, riley.dewittrickards@sdcounty.ca.gov, (619)695-6010.

Will the outdoor classroom be reservable?

Yes. Reservations will be able to be made through sdparks.org by navigating to the “Reserve” tab.

Are there restrooms nearby?

Yes, there are restrooms at the Ranch House and a portable toilet next to the community garden. Both are open during regular park hours. (8am – sunset daily)

What are the hours the classroom is available?

The Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve is open from 8am – sunset daily. The outdoor classroom will match these hours.

Will Park Staff be available for group questions or talks?

Yes, Park Operations staff are available and can answer questions or facilitate learning opportunities depending on the needs of the group.

What security will the classroom have?

Park rangers currently patrol the park seven days a week. DPR also partners with law enforcement to report and mitigate safety concerns. We encourage all park users to flag issues in/around the area by calling park staff, the Sheriff’s Office, or 911.

TIMELINE | NEXT STEPS

How can I stay informed?

If you would like to receive e-mail updates throughout the development process, please e-mail Park Project Manager Riley DeWitt-Rickards to be added to the distribution list. DPR will also work with local school and youth groups and may post event announcements on social media (Facebook and Twitter). To learn more about the new outdoor classroom, and other DPR development projects, visit sdparks.org > Plans > Development Projects. The Park Project Manager for this project is Riley DeWitt-Rickards, riley.dewittrickards@sdcounty.ca.gov, (619) 695-6010.