

## Cultural Heritage & Historic Resources

Photo: Máyyan 'Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve

## HISTORY OF COYOTE VALLEY

Indigenous Peoples live in

Indigenous Peoples live in and steward Coyote Valley for millennia, relying on Laguna Seca, Coyote Creek and the surrounding area to provide a variety of resources.

Spanish explorers and colonists pass through the area as part of the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition. They name prominent geographic features, like Arroyo del Coyote ("Coyote Creek").

A trail connecting the Spanish missions, El Camino Real, runs through Coyote Valley (today, Monterey Road). Coyote Valley becomes part of the lands of Mission Santa Clara de Asis.

Indigenous Peoples are relocated to Mission Santa Clara and other nearby missions, where disease kills much of the population and traditional culture is restricted. The Spanish mission system is disestablished, and many Indigenous Peoples are displaced. The nearly 20,000-acre Rancho Laguna Seca is granted to Juan Alvires, encompassing most of Coyote Valley.

Captain William Fisher, an English immigrant, acquires Rancho Laguna Seca. Today, the Fisher family's historic homestead is part of the Coyote Ranch event venue in the Coyote Creek Parkway.

TIME IMMEMORIAL

1776

1777

1834

1845

1848

The City of San José designates Coyote Valley for development and annexes the Monterey Road corridor. The County of Santa
Clara begins purchasing
land to create the
Coyote Creek park chain
stretching from Anderson
Reservoir to Kelly Park in
San José

Laguna Seca drainage canal, now known as Fisher Creek, is completed and drains the 1,200-acre Laguna Seca pond and wetland to make way for farmland.

The Mexican American war ends, and California becomes part of the United States. The Gold Rush spurs a population boom in the Bay Area.

The 12 Mile House, an inn and stagecoach stop named for its distance to San José, is established on Monterey Road.

corridor.

1960

San José.

1959

1936

1916

1882

1862

1975

1984

The City of San José rezones Coyote Valley back to agricultural and open space uses.

1977 — IBM opens campus in Coyote Valley.

City of San José rezones Coyote

US 101 rerouted off Monterey Road onto new freeway to the east.

Valley for development (again).

Year-round releases of
water from the new
Coyote Reservoir raise the
groundwater levels in Coyote
Valley and unintentionally
reflood farmland in the
drained Laguna Seca.

The Santa Clara Valley
Open Space Authority
opens Coyote Valley
Open Space Preserve at
the end of Palm Avenue.

2015

The town of Burnett, established in 1862 on Monterey Road, and its post office are renamed Coyote.

Nearly 1,000 acres of North Coyote Valley protected by the Open Space Authority, POST and the City of San José; including the historic Laguna Seca. The 12 Mile House and the small village that grew up around it is named Burnett, after the first American governor of California.

Seven years later, the Southern Pacific Railroad expands to Burnett and a depot is constructed.

City of San José rezones most of Coyote Valley back to agricultural and open space uses.

1999

Dot-com boom: Cisco

announces plans

for headquarters in

Coyote Valley.

2001

Dot-com bust: Cisco abandons plans for Coyote Valley headquarters.

Protect Coyote Valley campaign created by Committee for Green Foothills.

Open Space Authority Releases Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage Report.

Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) protects first two valley-floor properties along Fisher Creek. ate Assembly Bill 948

State Assembly Bill 948
establishes the 17,400-acre
Coyote Valley Conservation
Program Area and formally
recognizes all of Coyote
Valley as a landscape of
statewide importance for
its natural infrastructure
benefits.

2021

Coyote Valley Conservation
Areas Master Plan team is
formed to plan the future
use and restoration of
1,500 acres of protected
valley floor land.

TODAY

Do you have more Coyote Valley history to share? This timeline only captures some of the many milestones in Coyote Valley's rich history. If you have stories or photos to share, contact us!



KEY FINDINGS

We acknowledge that the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority works within lands that were originally stewarded by the Awaswas-, Chochenyo-, Mutsun- and Thámien-speaking peoples. Today we are honored to partner with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area and the Tamien Nation in our shared work to protect and restore the environment and connect people to land.

Photo credits: David Mauk, Cassie Kifer, Vivarium



Coyote Valley is a culturally significant landscape for Native Americans. Coyote Valley is home to one of the oldest recorded archaeological sites in Santa Clara County and has a high density of pre-contact sites overall. Sensitive areas may be better understood, protected and stewarded through ongoing study and engagement with local tribal partners.



Coyote Valley connects people to Santa Clara Valley's history. All major eras of Santa Clara Valley's history are evident in Coyote Valley, including natural history, Tribal history, Spanish and Mexican eras, "Valley of Heart's Delight" agricultural era and early Silicon Valley. This rich cultural landscape is ripe with opportunities to interpret the region's complex history.