



Cultural Heritage & Historic Resources

Photo: Máyyan 'Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve

HISTORY OF COYOTE VALLEY

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.



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!



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

KEY FINDINGS



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.