RESTORING COYOTE VALLEY

Reviving a Resilient Landscape

ABOUT LAGUNA SECA

The Reappearing Lake

Laguna Seca is a seasonal lake and natural floodplain in Coyote Valley where stormwater soaks into the ground, creating wetlands for wildlife, refilling the underground water supply, and reducing flood risks for nearby communities. Although the area has changed a lot over time, upcoming restoration work will strengthen Laguna Seca as both wildlife habitat and natural infrastructure.

BEFORE 1916
Laguna Seca was a 1,000-acre freshwater wetland, with shallow ponds and large areas of tule reeds and willow groves that provided important habitat for wildlife.

1917
Ditches were dug to drain the wetland and the marsh was burned to clear the land for farming. In the early 2000s, more ditches and levees were added as the area was being prepared for future development.

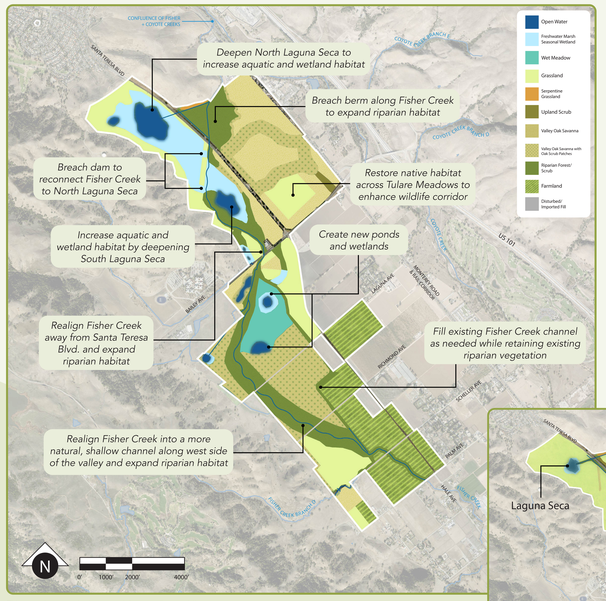
2019
Laguna Seca was permanently protected as open space in a partnership between the Peninsula Open Space Trust, Open Space Authority and City of San José.

TODAY
Laguna Seca is coming back to life. By filling old drainage ditches with natural materials (much like beavers do), water can stay in the wetland longer into the dry season, helping wildlife and conserving water.

THE FUTURE...

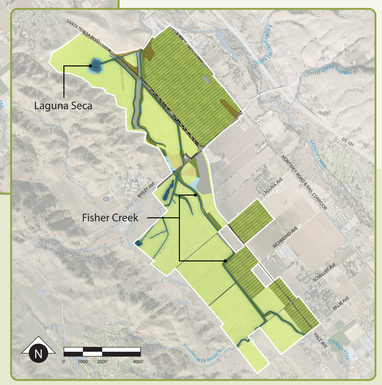
A Restoration Vision for Coyote Valley

This map shows one possible way to restore habitat in the project area. Key restoration actions are highlighted.



This map does not depict potential new trails or public use areas. Conservation grazing may take place across multiple habitat types.

Scan the QR code to learn more about these habitats and other restoration options.



EXISTING HABITATS

This map shows the types of habitats that exist in the project area today. Much of the area is now covered by non-native grassland, which has the potential to be restored to native habitat.

ABOUT FISHER CREEK

From drainage ditch to wildlife corridor

Fisher Creek flows south to north through Coyote Valley into Coyote Creek. Despite being man-made, it provides habitat and travel paths (corridors) for wildlife. Planned restoration will improve the creek's habitat and slow stormwater, which can help reduce flooding downstream.

1916
At the same time Laguna Seca was drained, Fisher Creek was constructed as a large ditch made to drain the western side of Coyote Valley for agriculture.

2017
Peninsula Open Space Trust began protecting land along Fisher Creek. Since then, the northern four miles of Fisher Creek in Coyote Valley have been permanently protected.

2018
Despite its manmade channel and 90-degree bends, studies of GPS-collared bobcats confirm they use the trees and plants along Fisher Creek to move through Coyote Valley.

TODAY
Work is underway to improve Fisher Creek by removing invasive weeds and planting native plants.

THE FUTURE...

Open Water

Freshwater Wetland

Riparian Forest & Scrub

Oak Savannah & Woodland

Grassland

Serpentine Grassland

Chapparal

RESTORING HABITATS IN COYOTE VALLEY

Protecting and restoring a mix of habitats in Coyote Valley helps native wildlife thrive and makes the landscape stronger and more resilient.

By conserving wetlands, creeks and groundwater, we create more habitat for rare species while also improving flood protection and water supply for the entire Santa Clara Valley.