

# Coyote Valley Restoration & Public Access FAQ

*Through the Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan, the Open Space Authority is planning for habitat restoration, public access and agricultural uses across 1,600 acres of protected land in Coyote Valley. In this FAQ, readers will learn about these plans and how to get involved in the planning process.*



## About Coyote Valley

Coyote Valley is a natural and rural area located at the southern edge of San José, nestled between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range. This unique landscape, designated as a landscape of statewide significance, connects over one million acres of core habitat and acts as a natural passageway for wildlife looking for food, water and mates. Coyote Valley also consists of agricultural land where farmers grow food, and natural features that protect communities from the impacts of extreme weather. [Learn more about Coyote Valley here.](#)

## Restoration of Coyote Valley

The Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan will address how the Open Space Authority can care for the land it owns and/or manages in Coyote Valley. Thanks to the protection of 1,600 acres in Coyote Valley, the Open Space Authority and its partners now have the exciting opportunity to bring back much of the habitat and natural plant communities that once existed, increasing the health of the landscape for people and wildlife.

## What does restoration in Coyote Valley look like?

Restoration in Coyote Valley means helping the land and water become healthy again. The Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan includes projects that will improve wildlife habitat and our water system. This may include returning floodplains to more natural conditions by modifying old drainage ditches, caring for water-based habitats to improve populations of aquatic animals and planting native trees and shrubs to help re-establish a natural landscape. [Learn more about our restoration plans here.](#)

## How has Coyote Valley's landscape changed over the past century, and why does it now need restoration?

The Coyote Valley landscape has been greatly altered from its natural conditions. Starting in the 19th century most of the valley's oak trees were cut down for lumber, its freshwater wetlands were drained and new settlers to the region converted land for agricultural purposes. In the late 20th century, developers purchased working lands in Coyote Valley with the intention of converting the landscape into industrial and tech campuses. These modifications had unintended consequences for wildlife habitat, our water supply and local agriculture that we continue to feel today. [Learn more about the history of Coyote Valley.](#)

## Why can't the natural lands of Coyote Valley just be left alone to let nature run its course?

In collaboration with our partners, the Open Space Authority studied the natural lands of Coyote Valley to better understand their current condition. The valley floor, once a diverse mix of native grassland, freshwater wetland, willow groves, oak savanna and woodland is now mostly non-native grassland. Although non-native grassland can be valuable habitat, in Coyote Valley there's great potential to restore a much healthier landscape that's better for wildlife and more resilient to flooding and wildfire.

[Learn more by reading "Coyote Valley: A Case for Conservation."](#)



## Why do healthy lands matter?

Healthy lands support healthy communities! When we care for the land, it cares for us by creating clean air to breathe, water to drink and food to eat. It also acts as a natural defense against extreme weather events, provides beautiful places for people to connect with nature and healthy habitat for wildlife to live in and safely move through. [Explore how the Open Space Authority cares for land in Coyote Valley.](#)

## Future Public Access in Coyote Valley

The Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan will guide how the Open Space Authority provides future access for visitors, helping connect people with nature in Coyote Valley and through regional trail connections.

## Which open space land will the public be able to access?

The Open Space Authority is considering four new open space destinations for the Coyote Valley landscape as well as trails connecting these destinations to the larger regional park network. These potential destinations include nature observation points, gathering spaces, new trails, a farmstand and an education center. [Take a look at the proposed destinations here.](#)

## What is the timeline for this project?

Through the Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan, the Open Space Authority will finalize the design plans for Coyote Valley in 2027. The plans will then go through environmental review. Once environmental review is complete, the Open Space Authority Board of Directors will vote on whether to approve the plans. Afterwards, the implementation process will begin. Project updates will be regularly shared on our [website](#), [Instagram](#) and via [the Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan newsletter](#).

## What types of recreation will be allowed on the new trails?

The Open Space Authority's goal is to create a multiuse trail that connects pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians with Coyote Valley's new and existing open space destinations. Detailed trail designs, routes and policies are still being planned.

## Supporting the Future of Agriculture

The Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan will support local agricultural producers as they navigate the industry and maximize resources to provide food for the Santa Clara Valley community.

## How will local agriculture be incorporated into the Master Plan?

Supporting local agriculture is one of the key goals of the master plan. Most of the project area was purchased from developers who used short-term leases with farmers to maintain the land while awaiting development. Permanent land protection now offers exciting opportunities to secure a future for farming. Current plans for agriculture in Coyote Valley will support existing and future farming tenants across 300 acres of farmland, primarily along Santa Teresa Boulevard. In addition, cattle grazing is expected to continue to reduce the fire fuel load, manage invasive plants and increase native plant diversity. [Learn how we plan to support agriculture here.](#)

### How to Get Involved

*Our CVCAMP email interest list is the best way to receive updates about the project's progress, explore ways to get involved and provide feedback. [Join the CVCAMP interest list here.](#)*

