How to Get There

The Coyote Creek Parkway has many access points along Hellyer County Park and Anderson County Park. Trailheads with dedicated parking include:

- Hellyer County Park: 985 Hellyer Ave, San Jose (take entrance off Star Dr. and Monterey Rd at Forsum Rd to reach main trail)
- Silver Creek Staging Area: 1650 Silver Creek Valley Rd at Blossom Hill
- Basking Ridge Staging Area: Basking Ridge Ave at Chelsea Crossing (take sidewalk along Silicon Valley Blvd to arrive at trailhead)
- Metcalf Ponds Staging Area: Monterey Rd at Forsum Rd
- Burnett Ave: Burnett Ave ends at trailhead
- Chelsea Crossing (take sidewalk along Silicon Valley Blvd south to Blossom Hill)
- Blossom Hill (take northbound exit at Coyote Ranch Drive)
- Silver Creek Valley Rd at Silver Creek Staging Area
- Hellyer County Park: 985 Hellyer Ave, San Jose (take entrance off Star Dr. and Monterey Rd at Forsum Rd to reach main trail)

Activities

- Hiking, running, rollerblading, bicycling along a sixteen mile, multi-use paved trail
- First-come, first-served picnic areas along the Coyote Creek Trail, open year-round
- Fishing along Coyote Creek is open from the last Saturday in April to November 15th.
- Be aware of trail conditions. Please carry adequate water.
- For centuries, the native Tamien and Matalan tribes lived along what is now the Coyote Creek Parkway. The family occupied the property until their home was destroyed by fire in the 1930s. The last commercial use of the site was by the Klinke family from 1957 to 1971 as a chicken ranch.

Natural Diversity

Coyote Creek is the longest creek in Santa Clara County, flowing northwest over 60 miles through Coyote and Anderson Reservoirs, San Jose, Milpitas, and finally through tidal marshlands into the San Francisco Bay. The creek environment is comprised primarily of oak savanna with riparian woodland species. Valley oak, coast live oak, big leaf maple, cottonwood, sycamore, and willow are typical trees of this community.

The banks of the Coyote Creek are home to a wide variety of riparian wildlife, including the great blue heron and the wood duck. Visitors to the creek area may also see beavers, bobcats, coyotes, wild pigs, or turkeys. Poison oak abundant throughout the park, is an important ground cover that reduces soil erosion and helps stabilize stream banks. The woody vines offer excellent cover and protection for many species of wildlife.

The Coyote Creek channel itself is habitat for a number of native aquatic species, including chinook salmon.

Cultural History

For centuries, the native Tamien and Matalan tribes lived along what is now the Coyote Creek Parkway. The temperate climate, abundant wildlife and plant species attracted these Native Americans to this site.

In March of 1776, Juan Bautista de Anza and his party of explorers crossed the river on their way to San Francisco. They named the river Arroyo Del Coyote, most likely after the coyotes they saw during that journey. Just south of Coyote Ranch Drive lies the Historic Coyote Ranch House within the former Rancho De La Laguna Seca. Captain Fisher purchased this 19,973-acre ranch at a Monterey auction for $6,000, and lived in an adobe house with his family on the site of the present house, which was built at the end of the 19th century. Following the death of Captain Fisher’s grandson-in-law, Gertie Fisher in 1954, the property was divided up into equal shares and the 4.5 acres of the ranch remained, and continue to be used for raising livestock, training horses, stages, and barns.

At the southern end of the park is the site of the Malaguerra Winery, near Anderson Lake. Built in 1869 from basalt stones hauled up from Coyote Creek, the winery was also used to cure sausage and salami by hanging the meat from the rafters. The family raised 11 children and operated the winery until 1898.

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