Welcome to Hellyer County Park. This 178-acre urban park is located in the heart of Santa Clara County’s regional park system. The Coyote Creek, which meanders through the center of the park, is the focus of the park’s natural environment. A thick understory and tall trees characterize the well-defined creek channel which is home to many different species of wildlife. Visitors to the park can escape from the nearby hustle and bustle of city life and enjoy the quiet solitude of Hellyer County Park.

Activities
- A visitor center/ranger office with natural history displays is located near the entrance to the park.
- First-come, first-served family picnic areas are available year-round and are limited by ordinance to 30 people. Group picnic areas are available by reservation.
- Dog owners can unleash their dogs in the dog park.
- Kids will enjoy the slides and climbing structures in the play area.
- The Olympic-size velodrome is an open air, banked, concrete bicycle racing track used to stage professional and amateur cycling events.
- Hikers, runners, bicyclists and skaters can enjoy the multiple use paved trail which extends south of the Park through Coyote Creek Parkway for more than fifteen miles.
- Fishing is permitted year-round at Cottonwood Lake and during fishing season in the Coyote Creek.

Hours, Fees and Location
The park is open year-round from 8 a.m. until sunset. Fees are required for vehicle entrance, and for use of group picnic areas, and are posted at the entrance station.

Contact Information:
Park Headquarters: P.O. Box 298, San Jose, CA 95102
Phone: (408) 225-0225

Accessibility
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its programs, services, activities, and policies. To ensure that programs and services are accessible to people with disabilities, the Department will make reasonable modifications to its policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy our programs, services and activities. If you need assistance with an ADA request, please contact our ADA Coordinator at ADACoordinator@sccco.ca.gov.

About Hellyer
For millennia, the Tsimshian and Makah Tribes of the Ohlone Indians lived along what is now the Coyote Creek Parkway. The temperate climate, abundant wildlife, and plant food sources 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 their journey.

In addition to being named after the river which is its dominant characteristic, the park was also named after an Anglo-Saxon settler to the area, George Washington Hellyer. Born in Ohio in 1832, Hellyer came to California in 1850 to find gold. In 1853, he and his brother settled in what was then a rural area several miles from San Jose. Although he was educated and trained in agriculture, Hellyer first mined the hills near the park for cinnebar. Eventually, he returned to farming. One of Hellyer’s neighbors was William Alfred Senter, a farmer from Maine, for whom Senter Road is named.

Hellyer left the area in 1872. For many years, the land maintained its agricultural character. However, as the urbanization of San Jose spread south, the land was used as a site for a machine shop, a rock quarry and a landfill. A velodrome was built in 1962 as a training site for cyclists wishing to compete in the 1962 Pan American Games. San Jose had once been considered the bicycle capital of the United States. In the early 1980’s, bicycling was the most popular recreation activity in the Valley and the enthusiasm has lasted for decades. The existing Santa Clara County Velodrome is the fifth in a succession built in San Jose. Coyote Hellyer Park first opened to the public in 1966. In the same year, Cottonwood Lake was developed out of the old rock quarry. Since that time, the County has purchased ninety-eight parcels along the creek totaling 1,973 acres.

Take Only Photographs... Leave Only Footprints
Millions of people visit Santa Clara County’s regional parks each year. Please help preserve the natural beauty of our parklands and ensure the safety of our visitors by complying with these general rules and any posted regulations. Visitors are responsible for the rules and regulations applicable to each jurisdiction.

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