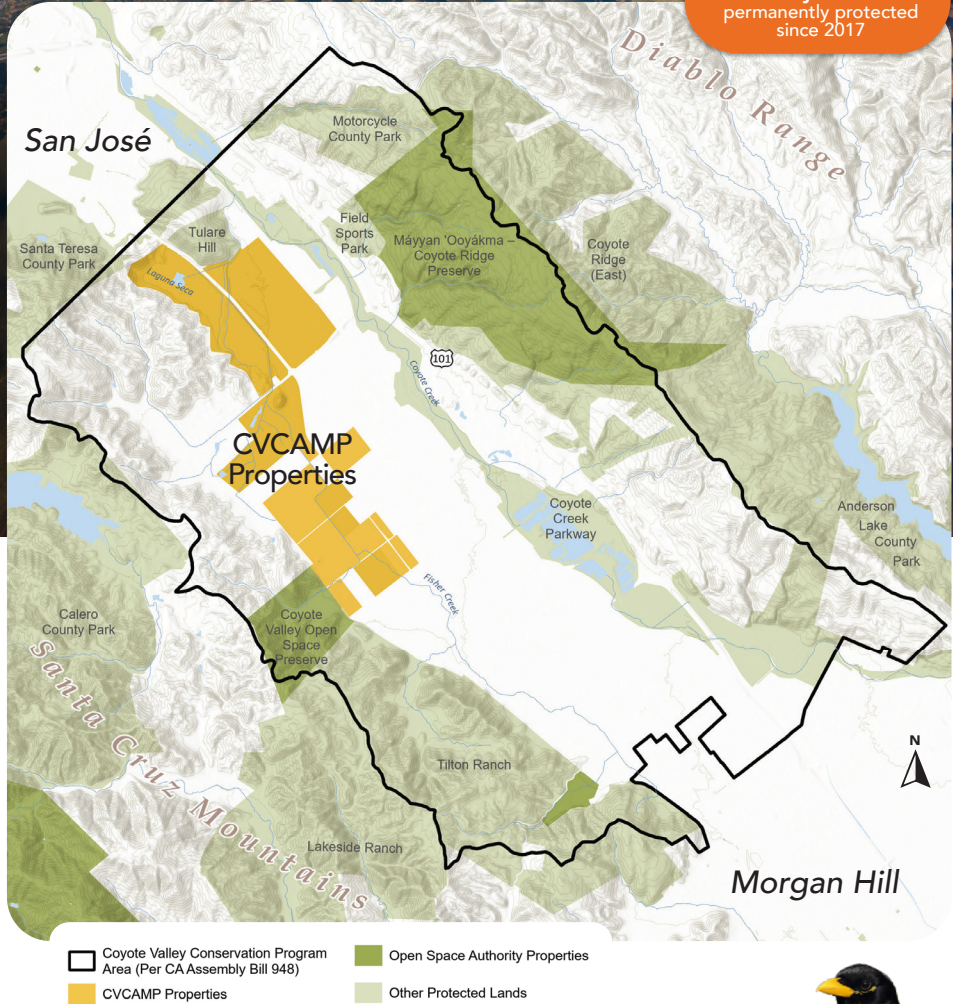


Coyote Valley A Vital Landscape



Coyote Valley is a remarkable landscape located between the cities of San José and Morgan Hill. Situated at the narrowest point between the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west and the Diablo Range to the east, the valley is a critical "landscape linkage" that allows wildlife to move between 1.13 million acres of core habitat in the surrounding mountain ranges and maintain healthy populations. Coyote Valley not only provides important valley floor habitats, but also scenic beauty, recreational areas, farmland and crucial water resources.

1,550+
of valley floor land
permanently protected
since 2017



Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, in partnership with Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), City of San José and other partnering agencies, are currently creating the Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan (CVCAMP), a science-based and community-informed plan focused on the future restoration and use of the protected valley floor lands in Coyote Valley. CVCAMP involves multiple phases, leading to the publication of a master plan document and environmental review.

Understanding Coyote Valley - Existing Conditions Summary Report

The release of *Understanding Coyote Valley: Existing Conditions Summary Report* is a major milestone in the planning process and summarizes the existing knowledge in ten key topic areas from many recent reports and studies. These are summarized below.



Enhance Wildlife Habitat & Ecological Connectivity

Large-scale habitat restoration is needed to increase biodiversity, promote healthy wildlife movement, and protect both common and rare native species. Coyote Valley continues to support a wide variety of flora and fauna; however, the land has been heavily altered by human use. Habitat restoration, including restoration of vital aquatic habitat, is a central focus.

Sustainably Manage & Restore Water Resources

Coyote Valley contains important water resources that have been extensively modified by human development. Conserving and restoring both surface and groundwater water resources are high priorities. Reconnecting historic floodplains and restoring unique aquatic habitats will reduce downstream flood risk, enhance habitat and improve water quality.

Improve Public Health via Access to Nature

Coyote Valley already offers many recreational activities in scenic settings including hiking, golfing, model aircraft flying, fishing and shooting sports. Additional opportunities that Coyote Valley can provide include:

- Important regional trail connections
- Unique opportunities for more easily-accessible nature experiences for people of varying physical abilities on flat valley-floor lands
- Carefully-sited public access to limit impacts to wildlife



Respect, Honor, Preserve, and Interpret Cultural Heritage & Historic Resources

Coyote Valley is a culturally significant landscape for Native Americans and provides an opportunity to connect all people to Santa Clara Valley's rich history. It is home to one of the oldest recorded archaeological sites in the County and has a high density of pre-contact sites. Local Tribal partners can provide unique knowledge and perspectives to be integrated into restoration scenarios.



Foster On-Going and Inclusive Community Engagement

Over 10K people have engaged through events and outreach to date. Continuing to incorporate perspectives from diverse groups will be crucial to crafting a plan that meets the needs of the community and conservation goals. So far, we've learned there is a desire for:

- Trails for hiking, walking, and running; wildlife viewing areas; and places to enjoy scenic views
- Educational programming, docent-led group activities, and youth and family programs
- Prioritizing safety, access to shade, and parking and transportation options.



Promote Equitable and Sustainable Transportation

Today hundreds of thousands of people use Coyote Valley's highways, roads, and railroads every day—creating both challenges and opportunities for the open space areas. Now that much of North Coyote Valley is permanently protected as open space, overly wide roadways designed to accommodate once-planned development can be redesigned to promote safer and comfortable access to open space, for both people and wildlife.



Support Local Agriculture

Coyote Valley's protected lands include active farmland producing locally-grown crops, connecting people to the region's rich agricultural heritage and contributing to Santa Clara County's agricultural economy. To ensure long-term viability local agriculture could benefit from:

- Reliable land access and long-term leases
- Marketing and branding that distinguishes local agricultural products
- Regulatory and policy support



Adapt to Changing Climate Conditions

Coyote Valley experiences occasional extreme weather events, including droughts, flooding and wildfire with frequency anticipated to increase due to climate change, urban development along waterways, and fuel loads in adjacent wildland areas. Future planning will need to consider impacts of climate change and how to increase adaptability and resilience.



Leverage Unique Landscape Features to Boost the Local Economy

Coyote Valley is used in numerous ways that support the local economy like agritourism and outdoor recreation. The restoration of CVCAMP lands can create further opportunities by generating green jobs and supporting nature-based tourism. Public uses must be carefully planned and managed to prevent lands from being over-visited at the expense of wildlife.



Consider a Holistic Vision for the Entire Coyote Valley

CVCAMP aims to achieve an ambitious conservation vision in a constrained area, so alignment and tensions between the plan's varied goals must be thoughtfully balanced. The 1,500 acres of protected open space that are the focus of CVCAMP must also be planned with careful consideration of the opportunities and constraints created by surrounding land uses in the larger Coyote Valley area.

Read the full report here



What's next?

The planning team will use this data and information to develop preliminary restoration and use scenarios, conceptual designs, environmental documentation and ultimately the final CVCAMP master plan document. Throughout this process, we will continue to seek input and feedback from the community.

Share your thoughts on the future of Coyote Valley by email at cvcamp@openspaceauthority.org or at an upcoming community event.

