**A Wildlife Refuge**

**HISTORY** The Tuubin, a Chochenyo Ohlone-speaking tribe, thrived in this area for more than 2,000 years, balancing human needs with that of the land and all of its other inhabitants. The Tuubin people had a vast knowledge of the plants and animals in their area, and managed the land in ways that increased the health and numbers of plants and animals alike. While travelling through the area in 1775, one Spanish expedition observed five villages, each with “close to six” spherical houses. A 1776 expedition remarked on the “little hills.” Or Los Cerritos, the Tuubin name for the “Coyote Hills.” The 1797 establishment of Mission San Jose in the place now known as Fremont foreshadowed the end of the old way of life under the Spanish, then Mexican, then early American governments.

In the 1850s George Patterson began purchasing farmland in the area, eventually acquiring the Coyote Hills. Since then, the land has been used as a hunting club, quarry, dairy land, military NIKE missile installation, and Stanford Research Institute’s Bio-Sonar Lab. In 2014, heirs of the Patterson family donated to the Park District 296 acres of agricultural land adjacent to Coyote Hills. Naturalist-led programs, including tours of a more than 2,000-year-old Tuubin village site, highlight the park’s cultural and natural history. An annual Gathering of Ohlone Peoples highlights the ways today’s Ohlones are bringing their cultures into the future. To learn more about the Ohlone, the park’s history and natural wonders, the nectar garden, or naturalist-led walks and other programs, visit the Visitor Center Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**NATURALIST PROGRAMS** Experience the wonders of the natural and cultural world. More information is available in the Visitor Center. Weekday programs are available for schools and organized groups by reservation. Call (510) 544-3220.

**VISITOR CENTER** View exhibits, talk to a naturalist, visit the gift shop, stroll through the nectar garden, or attend a program at the Visitor Center, open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas. When you explore the marsh on hills on your own, bring a magnifying glass, camera, binoculars, and sketch pad. An “Explorer Backpack” may be borrowed from the Visitor Center.

**PICNICKING** Fires are limited to the barbecue stands provided at each site. Hoot Hollow is reservable.

**HIKING & BICYCLING** See scenic vistas of the marshes from the boardwalk near the Visitor Center, and view San Francisco Bay and southern Alameda County from the hills. Bicycle 3.5 miles of the paved Bay View Trail, which connects with 11 miles of bicycle trail along the south levee of Alameda Creek Trail.

**CAMPING** The Dairy Glen area is available for group overnight camping.

**WILDLIFE REFUGE** The waters to the west and south of Coyote Hills are part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Hikers and bicyclists can access the refuge via the Shoreline, No Name, Apay Way, and Alameda Creek trails. Apay Way leads to the Refuge Visitor Center via a bridge over Highway 84. Dogs are not allowed in the refuge.

**ALAMEDA CREEK REGIONAL TRAIL** The trail, which borders Coyote Hills on the north, connects westward to the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and eastward to the Niles Staging Area on Old Canyon Road in Fremont’s Niles District. There are two parallel trails – a 12.41-mile, unpaved, hiker/bicycle/equestrian trail on the northern levee and an 11-mile, paved, hiker/bicycle trail on the southern levee. The southern trail connects to Coyote Hills’ Bay View hiker/bicycle/equestrian trail. NO MOTOR VEHICLES OF ANY KIND are permitted on the trails. Citations will be issued to violators.