A Wildlife Refuge

Year opened: 1968
Acres: 1,274
Highlights: Hiking, biking, and horseback riding; adjacent wildlife refuge, birdwatching, visitor center, naturalist-led programs, reservable picnicking, group camp, reconstructed Ohlone village.

Did you know? Coyote Hills is home to an Ohlone village site dating back about 2,400 years.


HISTORY The Tuibun, a Chochenyo Ohlone-speaking tribe, thrived in this area for more than 2,000 years, balancing needs with that of the land and all of its other inhabitants. The Tuibun 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 Tuibun name for the “Coyote Hills.” The 1797 establishment of Mission San Jose in the place now known as Fremont foreclosed 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 Tuibun 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 or hills on your own, bring a magnifying glass, camera, binoculars, and sketch pad. An “Explorer Back-pack” 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 the park 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, Patricia, South Bay View, and Port Chicago levees.

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 Suisun City Stage 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.
Welcome!

Please enjoy the Regional Parks safely, and help us protect and preserve your parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

SAFETY and ETIQUETTE

- Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and causes erosion.
- Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas may be dangerous and may harm the watershed.
- Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a leading cause of injuries on the trail.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Trails can be slippery, rocky and steep. Proceed carefully at your own risk.
- Wildlife may be present on the trails at any time. Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
- Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

RULES

- Dogs must be leashed at all times in Coyote Hills.
- Dogs and horses are not permitted in any marsh area, on the Chochenyo trail, or in the Nectar Garden.
- Commercial dog walking is not allowed at Coyote Hills.
- Fishing is not permitted at Coyote Hills.
- Smoking is prohibited.
- Drones are prohibited.
- No motorized or electric vehicles allowed on the trails.

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules and regulations. See www ebparks org/ rules. Hiking and biking trails lead out of Coyote Hills Regional Park into wildlife refuge marshes of San Francisco Bay. The park and the adjoining marshes are stopovers for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds on the Pacific Flyway.