

THE COYOTE CREEK HOWL



"Mayyan Rummey"

The Muwekma Ohlone name for Coyote Creek

Our Creek. Our City. Our Future.

About The Howl

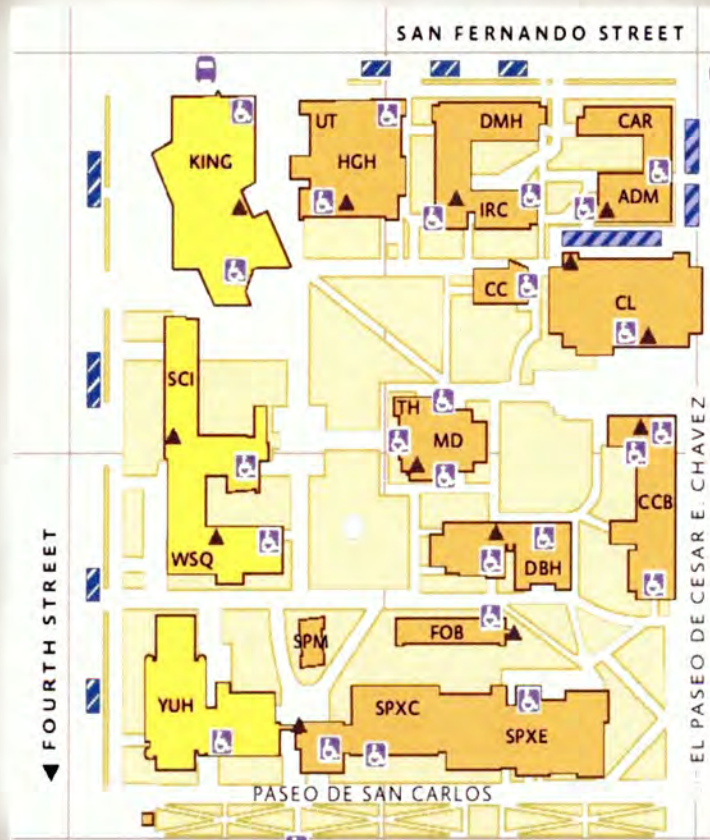
The Coyote Creek Howl is a one-day summit focusing on the ecology and human issues related to the Coyote Creek watershed in Santa Clara County. The summit will culminate in actions that you can take to help restore the creek. Many weekend recreational and educational outings will follow.

Coyote Creek is a troubled river, a shadow of what it once was. With your help, Coyote Creek can be restored and developed. Join scientists, neighbors, stakeholders, activists, students and faculty as we forge ways to revive the life of our watershed.

Refer to the highlighted sections on the SJSU map below to find where sessions will be held.

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Welcome



Howl Steering Committee:

- Stephanie Anderson
- Peggy Arana
- Olivia Azevedo
- Emily Barnett
- Bettina Brockmann
- Katherine Cushing
- Drew Davis
- John Delacruz
- Chris Di Salvo
- Michael Fallon
- Scott Fosdick
- Oona Hatton
- Katja Irvin
- Chris Jones
- Alice Kaufman
- Deb Kramer
- Adam Lagos
- Alan Leventhal
- Liz Neves
- Stella Nwoye
- Irving Perez
- Lorraine Rodvold
- Kenneth Rosales
- Coraima Sanchez
- Jameel Sumra
- Anne Marie Todd

THANK YOU for participating in this inaugural conference with your chance to “howl at the Creek.” Organizers made a decision to hold this conference on a Friday workday in order that San José State faculty and students might attend; therefore, we truly appreciate your special effort to join us today.

THANK YOUs go out to those whose largely volunteer efforts have inspired an awareness and motivation to restore Coyote Creek, especially Richard McMurtry, Ted Smith and Anne Marie Todd and members of their teams. The Santa Clara Valley Water District values this conference and provided a grant to the Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition to hold it. Also, the City of San José, notably Environmental Services, has been part of this process.

Although this conference highlights “Coyote Creek” – it is really about water, the drought, our waterways, and the homeless, particularly those encamped along our rivers and creeks. You can learn from experts about how all our South Bay creeks can once again become the natural beauties that provide habitat for our threatened Steelhead Trout, Chinook Salmon, and wild birds; while recognizing the needs of people camped and homeowners along our creeks. Creeks also offer recreational activities to enjoy.

We are honored to have Mayor Sam Liccardo offer opening remarks on this landscape. Our plenary speaker, Barbara Rose Johnston, is an international expert on the sustainability of water and energy. The County Board of Supervisors, and specifically, the Homeless Task Force, are also represented today. We hope you have an opportunity to talk with officers of the Water District. And, we must recognize SJSU faculty & students who teamed up with the Restore Coyote Creek Project to make today possible. Most of all, we commend you, the everyday citizen for demonstrating your care and concern for both our waterways and our homeless.

We hope that today is a beginning for some, and a next step for others, as we strive together, community members, volunteer & nonprofit organizations, businesses & corporations, City & County – to coordinate and collaborate on these critical issues of our times. So now, let’s go “howl at the Creek.”

Michael Fallon and Deb Kramer
Co-Chairs, Coyote Creek Howl

Current Threats and Restoration Efforts for Wildlife

Coyote Creek features many different types of wildlife and plants. However, nature faces many threats, such as lack of wildlife passages for deer and barriers to full flow restoration, including diminished water supplies during drought. This session will explore current threats while also demonstrating current restoration efforts. Learn how you can assist the restoration.

For more information about speakers and how to take action, visit CoyoteHowl.org



Ducks at play by Deb Kramer

Panelists:

- Alex von Feldt, Acterra Stewardship Director
- Ryan Phillips, De Anza College; Wildlife Corridors for Coyote Valley.
- Greg Kerekes, Urban Wildlife Research Project: Burrowing Owl Habitat
- Bill Leikam, Urban Wildlife Research Project: A Year with the Urban Gray Fox

Actions

- Write a letter to a governing agency about your interests related to wildlife habitat restoration.
- Participate in activities offered by these groups, such as hikes, bike and kayak trips, and advocacy.
- Support artists by attending galleries, shows, and performances.

My Thoughts

The Need to Restore Coyote Creek Fisheries

The San Francisco Bay Area's fisheries are struggling to survive. The drought, competing demands for food production, and built environments have taken a toll on the Bay's fisheries. Steelhead trout is a federally threatened species which historically has used Coyote Creek as spawning grounds before heading out to the ocean. This panel will share the current state of fisheries in Coyote Creek, why it's so important to restore them, what is currently being done to protect them, and what you can do to help.

For more information about speakers and how to take action, visit CoyoteHowl.org



Chinook salmon by Steve Holmes

Panelists:

- Stephanie Moreno, Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District
- Jerry Smith, SJSU Biology Professor: Water Quality Issues and Endangered Species in Coyote Creek
- Richard McMurtry, Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition Program Coordinator: Fish Barrier Impacts on Fisheries

Actions

- Participate in a creek cleanup on any neighborhood creek, especially on National Rivers Day in May or Coastal Cleanup Day in September.
- Subscribe to an e-newsletter from at least one local environmental organization to remain informed on creek issues.
- Take a photo at the nearest creek at least once each season to compare the changes that occur.

My Thoughts

Toward Resolving Homelessness on Coyote Creek.

More than 7,000 people are homeless in Santa Clara County. Although “the Jungle” has been evacuated, countless still live creekside. Four speakers will inform and discuss with attendees the plight of these homeless, impacts on the creek, stories of those who moved into housing and jobs, and options to respectfully relocate remaining creek dwellers. Outcomes include understanding the scope and complexities of homelessness, feasible options for sheltering these homeless, and the need for collective involvement in restoring Coyote Creeks’ beauty.

For more information about speakers and how to take action, visit CoyoteHowl.org



Camping along Coyote Creek by Irving Perez

Panelists:

- Michael Fallon, SJSU Center for Community Learning and Leadership Director
- Sergio Salazar, Health and Human Services: Knowing Homelessness
- Ray Bramson, City of San Jose Homelessness Response: City and County Actions
- Chris Richardson, Downtown Streets Team: Transition Stories
- Robert Aguirre, Homeless Advocate: Advocating Solutions

Actions

- Participate in the Street Retreat to Understand Homelessness outing on Saturday, 4/18 or another similar event.
- Attend a Downtown Streets Team Success Team meeting on a Wednesday.
- Volunteer at a shelter or kitchen to learn more about the people being served.

My Thoughts

Citizen Engagement for a Healthy Creek

Cities and agencies can make things in a community happen—but so can the citizens. By working together, citizens can make a difference in the health of the creek and their communities. This panel will explore the many avenues for citizen engagement. You will be invited to participate in an activity to learn more about the creek from a community perspective.

For more information about speakers and how to take action, visit CoyoteHowl.org



Black-crowned Night-Heron by Deb Kramer

Panelists:

- Bettina Brockmann, SJSU Communications Lecturer
- Anne Marie Todd, San Jose Sustainable 3D: Creek as Community Resource
- Deb Kramer, Restore Coyote Creek Project Manager: Cleanup Events
- Matt Vu, Clean Creeks, Healthy Communities Community Activity Worker: Clean Creeks Mean Healthy Communities

Actions

- Join the Coyote Creek Nature Walk outing on Sunday, 4/19.
- Participate in a creek cleanup on any neighborhood creek, especially on National Rivers Day in May or Coastal Cleanup Day in September.
- Sign up for e-newsletters about sustainability or wildlife, such as with San Jose Sustainable 3D or the Sierra Club's Cool Cities Teams.

My Thoughts

Creekside Neighborhood Issues and Solutions

Residents who live along Coyote Creek face a host of issues, including erosion and flood control, vandalism and illegal dumping, and sustainability issues of living along a creek. At the end of this session, you will know more about the neighborhood issues along this creek and how you can participate in solutions.

For more information about speakers and how to take action, visit CoyoteHowl.org



Near the tidal area of Coyote Creek by Deb Kramer

Panelists:

- Scott Fosdick, SJSU Journalism Professor
- Anne Marie Todd, SJSU Communications Professor
- Greg Cajina, City of San Jose: Keeping the Community Clean
- Darryl Ospring, Coyote Creek Neighborhood Association
- John Turner, President of the Campus Community Association
- Raul Peralez, City of San Jose Council Member (D3)
- Ash Kalra, City of San Jose Council Member (D2)

Actions

- Participate in your local neighborhood association meetings and events.
- Pick up at least two pieces of trash that you come across, or better yet, join the Anti-Litter volunteer program.
- Report illegal dumping or graffiti or other concerns to your city, and through the San Jose Clean mobile phone app.

My Thoughts

Get Out There! Experience the Creek

The Coyote Creek Watershed hosts many outdoor activities for all to enjoy. You will hear about the historical and recent cultural uses of the area, become familiar with ways to explore your local creek, and learn some new ways to get active. At the end of this session, we hope you will be inspired to get out there and enjoy the beauty and recreational opportunities of the creek.

For more information about speakers and how to take action, visit CoyoteHowl.org



Cleanup team at Hellyer County Park by Deb Kramer

Panelists:

- Shirley Reekie, SJSU Kinesiology Professor
- John Delacruz, SJSU Advertising Professor: Let's Not Get Lost In Coyote Creek: A Case For Signage And Good Information Design
- Jake Waltemeyer, Santa Clara County Parks: Recreation Abounds along Coyote Creek

Actions

- Take a hike, walk, or bike ride along the Coyote Creek Trail, such as the Hellyer Park/Coyote Creek Bike Ride outing or the Coyote Creek Nature Walk outing on Sunday, 4/19.
- Kayak the mouth of the creek, such as on one of the outings offered as part of the conference or with a kayaking group.
- Take a docent-led walk or drop by a Visitor's Center in a park, such as Hellyer County Park.

My Thoughts

Riparian Corridor Advocacy



Coyote Creek by Richard McMurtry

San Jose is criss-crossed with creeks that provide some of the only habitat in urban areas for a host of wildlife species.

Development projects that cut down trees in riparian corridors and bring pollution, noise and nighttime lighting close to creeks can have devastating impacts on this wildlife habitat. Learn what has been done to protect San Jose's creeks, what still needs to be done and how you can help.

For more information about speakers and how to take action, visit CoyoteHowl.org

Panelists:

- Laura Handayami, Student, San Jose State University
- Larry Ames, San Jose Neighborhoods Commission: Coyote Creek Long Range Land Utilization Task Force
- Alice Kaufman, Committee for Green Foothills: Legislative Advocacy

Actions

- Sign-up for action alerts to join organizations in speaking up for the land, wildlife, and natural resources in your area with groups like Committee for Green Foothills and the Sierra Club.
- Write a letter to a governing agency about your interests related to wildlife needs and development.
- Celebrate family and friends' milestones by making a donation in their name to a local organization that works to keep the creeks clean and healthy.

My Thoughts

Green Career Catalyst

Ever wondered how your background and interest in the environment can lead to a green career? SJSU faculty will guide you through a catalyst session that is focused on helping you find your green career path. Participants will need a computer, tablet, or smartphone and WiFi or data access to login to a website to maximize their experience.

For more information about speakers and how to take action, visit CoyoteHowl.org



Coyote Creek marshland by Deb Kramer

Panelist:

- Emily Barnett, Green 360

Actions

- Meet people who work in green careers by attending career events or Green Drinks mixers to learn about their jobs.
- Create or update your LinkedIn profile and join at least one environmental career group.
- Create your personal job elevator speech and share it with at least three people following this session.

My Thoughts

Tabling and Sharing Projects

SJSU students, community members and agencies are involved in activities related to Coyote Creek. Featured tables will include art, photography, journalism, advertising, homeless organizations, government programs and community and environmental groups. Learn how people have been engaging with the creek and working towards its ultimate restoration.



Tabling by the Sierra Club by Deeya Ranjan

For more information about speakers and how to take action, visit CoyoteHowl.org.

Actions

- Join one of the featured groups as a member or a volunteer.
- Participate in activities offered by these groups, such as hikes, bike and kayak trips, and advocacy.
- Support artists by attending galleries, shows, and performances.

My Thoughts

Tabling Participants

- Downtown Streets Team: Provides homeless people with resources to rebuild their lives. StreetsTeam.org
- City of San José: Provides utility service and programs to residents. Download the San José Clean App for your Smartphone. SanJoseCA.gov
- San José Project: Organizes service projects to create a sense of unity and to positively impact our community. SJProject.org
- Plein Air Paintings: Donald Neff has been painting one *plein air* image of the creeks and rivers of Silicon Valley each week for a year. DonaldNeff.com
- San José Conservation Corps: Provides at-risk young men and women with academic education and hands-on training. SJCCcharterschool.org
- SJSU Global Climate Change Projects: Develop scientific and social approaches related to climate change in cross disciplinary course.
- CommUniverCity: Builds community by engaging residents and students in service-learning projects that accomplish neighborhood-driven goals. CUCSJ.org
- Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter: Promotes water quality, water conservation, and the protection of natural ecosystems throughout the watershed. LomaPrieta.SierraClub.org
- Race to the Bottom: This sculpture helps to inform the public about the “invisible government” World Trade Organization (WTO), which impacts every part of our lives on issues including the environment, labor issues, and consumer protection.
- Committee for Green Foothills: Protects the open spaces, farmlands, and natural resources of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties through advocacy, education, and grassroots action. GreenFoothills.org

Additional art and performances provided by SJSU students and friends of the creeks:

- SJSU Ensemble (COMM 125P): Students present an excerpt from an original performance they developed about homelessness in Santa Clara County.
- SJSU Performing Culture and Society (COMM 25): Individual student performances on a social issue using Coyote Creek as a backdrop.
- Friends of Los Gatos Creek: Art from found objects in Los Gatos Creek. SBCleanCreeks.com
- Irving Perez, SJSU Alumni

Outings

- Saturday, 4/18: Kayak Adventure on San Francisco Bay Slough, 8:30AM - 1PM
- Saturday, 4/18: Bird Banding Demo at Coyote Creek Field Station, 8AM - 10AM
- Saturday, 4/18: Street Retreat to Understand Homelessness, 9AM - 5PM
- Sunday, 4/19: Hellyer Park/Coyote Creek Bike Ride, 9AM - 12PM
- Sunday, 4/19: Coyote Creek Nature Walk, 10AM-12PM
- Saturday, 4/25: Coyote Creek Cleanup at Capitol Expressway, 9AM - 12PM
- Saturday, 5/2: Kayak the Coyote, 11AM - 2PM
- Saturday, 5/16: Kayak the Coyote, 11:15 - 2:15 PM



Learn more and register for all events at CoyoteHowl.org

Sponsors

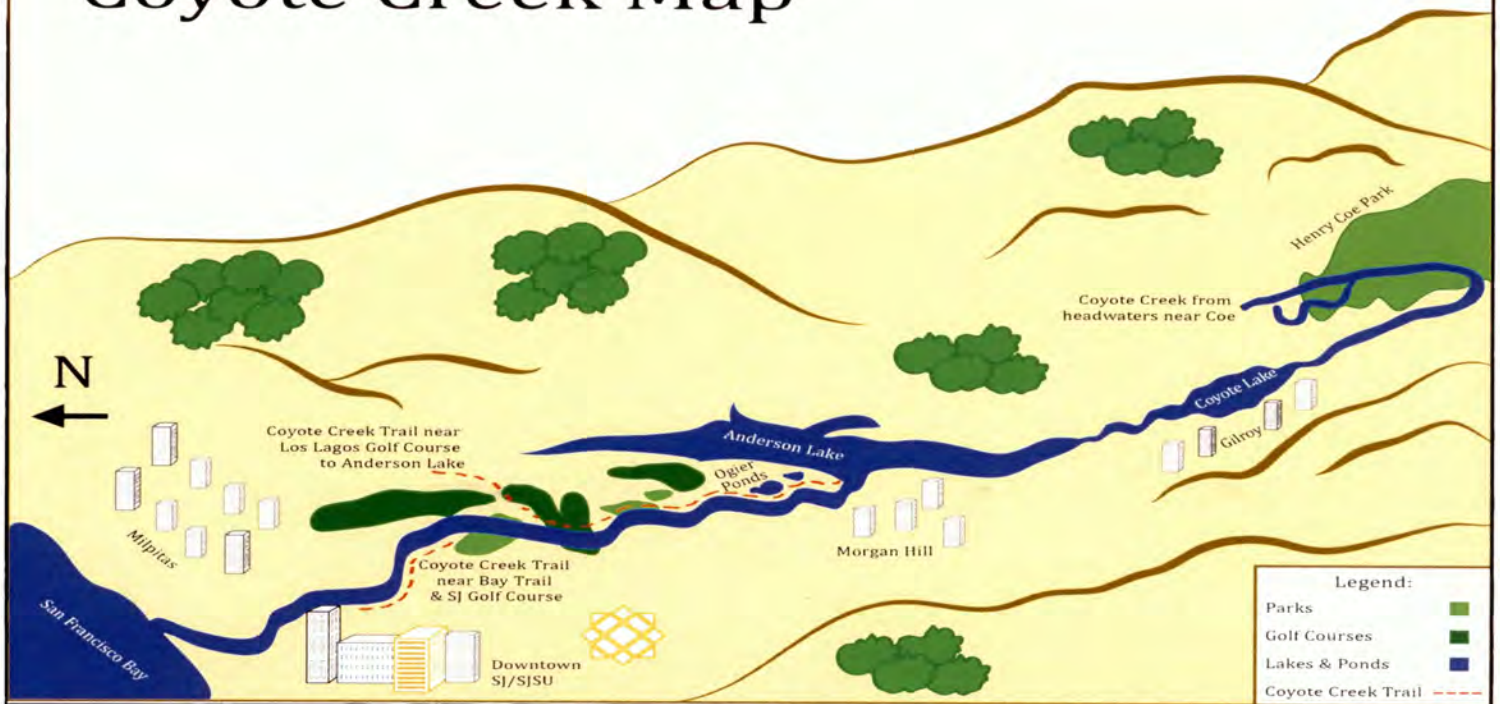
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- City of San José Environmental Services Department
- Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition/Friends of Coyote Creek Watershed
- San José State University Center for Community Learning & Leadership
- San José State University Sustainability Board



This program created by the Dwight Bentel Hall Communications Team.

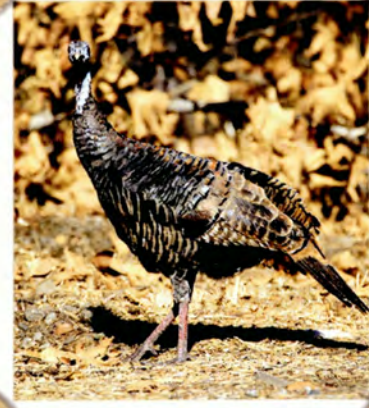
About speakers and how to take action, visit CoyoteHowl.org

Coyote Creek Map





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Thank You
CoyoteHowl.org