



Coyote Point Park Self-guided Tour

Coyote Park is a 149 acre regional recreation area on the edge of SF Bay that provides a wide variety of opportunities: picnicking, swimming, windsurfing, bicycling, jogging, fishing, boating, and sailing. The history of the property spans many uses and generations that can be seen throughout the park. **Start your tour at the Marina Trail near the park offices.**

Self-guided Tour Routes (Approximate Time):

-  Marina Tour: 0.9 miles (25 mins)
-  Knoll Tour: 1.1 miles (30 mins)
-  Perimeter Tour: 2.1 miles (60 mins)

History:

Coyote Point was originally a rocky island used as a fishing site by the Ohlone Indians 4000 years ago. In the 1700s the Spanish padres claimed the area for the missions. The Mexican government took over after the Mexican Revolution in 1830. After the land passed to Mexico, Governor Pio Pico granted it to Coyetano Arenas. It was later sold by the Arenas family to the firm of Mellus and Howard. Howard bought it from the firm in 1850, and it remained in the Howard family until acquired by the County and the Federal Government in 1942. The Howard family built a pier at Coyote Point for loading lumber in the late 1800's. Mr. Howard built a bathhouse and pool on the beach in 1880, and had eucalyptus, cypress and pine trees planted on the knoll. The Howard family reclaimed the marsh between the island and the mainland for the purpose of creating a dairy pasture.

A. Pacific City:

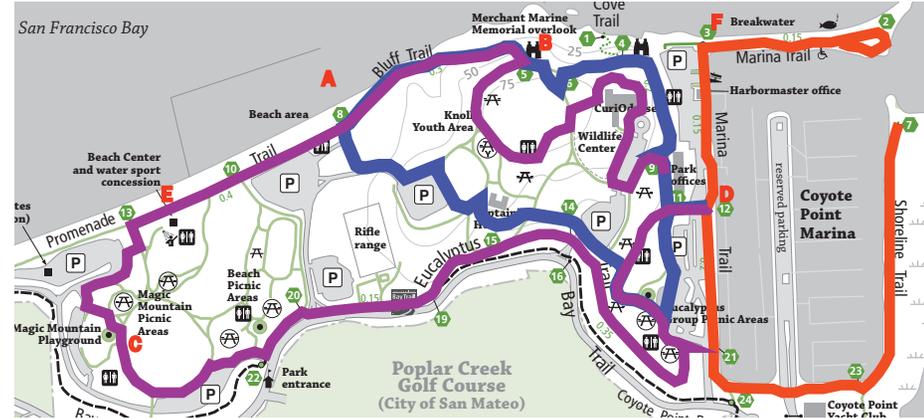
Advertised as the "Coney Island of the West", Pacific City Amusement Park opened in 1922 at Coyote Point. On July 1 the grand opening, a four-day celebration began. A crowd of 17,000 each paid a dime to pass through the gates, anxious to experience the park that investors poured-in nearly a million dollars to develop.

Crowds increased by the thousands each day until July 4, 1922, the single most glorious day in the brief history of Pacific City. 100,000 people entered the park which included a boardwalk, wooden roller coaster, ferris wheel, carousel, dance pavilion and children's train.

Pacific City closed in 1924 due to chilly afternoon winds



and raw sewage from nearby growing towns being discharged into the bay. Today, a lone palm tree, west of the Peninsula Humane Society, stands as a last reminder of the once elegant Pacific City. After the demise of Pacific City, the carousel became one of San Francisco's Zoo first attractions in 1925. The zoo's carousel, named to honor the bay area philanthropist, Eugene Friend, is one of the last machines constructed by William H. Dentzel. Built in 1921, it showcases the lavish, expensive, intricately detailed, hand-carved wooden artwork that disappeared during the Great Depression of the 1930s.



B. Merchant Marine and San Mateo Jr. College

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, the U.S. engaged in an aggressive undertaking to build new ships and train new naval officers. The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point New York was incapable of turning out an adequate number of officers. The Maritime Commission believed that the knoll amid the trees at Coyote Point would be an ideal site for training. In the spring of 1942, the Federal government was given 26 acres by San Mateo County. Just 65 days later, the Merchant Marine Cadet School was built on the knoll. The school trained Merchant Marine cadets in these buildings until they were sold to the college of San Mateo in 1946. It was operated as a college until it was acquired by the San Mateo County for use as a park and recreation area in 1962.



C. Magic Mountain Playground



Magic Mountain Playground re-opened in 2006 after a complete redesign. It features two play areas, one for 2-5 year olds and another for 5-12 year olds. Children enjoy eleven slides and thirteen swings, plus spring riders, balance beams, and a 42-foot high castle flanked by two huge purple dragons.

D. Marina

Afternoon winds typically blow 15–20 knots and taper off towards evening making Coyote Point an ideal location for sailing. Early yachting activity is centered around the old Pacific City beach. The facilities comprised eucalyptus logs for floats and rickety piers. In 2000 dredging began for a new harbor for 565 boats and two basins. Coyote Point Marina offers berths for sailboats, motorboats, and multi-hull boats at competitive prices in a beautiful and convenient location. The Coyote Point Yacht Club holds numerous recreational and social activities, such as weekly sailboat races and a summer youth



E. Coyote Point Views

Looking north from the marina, one can see the San Francisco skyline, the Bay Bridge and San Bruno Mountain. The San Mateo-Hayward bridge is visible looking south from the marina. The older bridge can be seen below the current bridge. Piles of broken concrete salvaged from the old San Mateo bridge piled nearby for projected construction of a third marina basin.



F. Water Sports

The same afternoon winds that led to the demise of Pacific City in 1924 are welcome by windsurfers, kitesurfers and sailors. On calmer days, stand up paddle boarding and sea kayaking are common activities. Coyote Point is one of the most popular windsurfing locations in northern California. From spring to fall, many days are suitable for windsurfing due to fairly regular and constant winds. On some days the water can get very choppy. Wetsuits are recommended for any extended period in the cold bay waters. Windsurfing and kiteboarding gear and lessons are available for rental in the park.



G. Environmental Education Museum

In 1954 the San Mateo County Junior Museum opened in a surplus Quonset hut on college property.

The facility was upgraded and renamed Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education in May 1981. CuriOdyssey currently occupies the museum space. CuriOdyssey is a science playground, where kids can get up-close to observe wild animals, experiment with scientific phenomena through exhibits, and dive deeper into science and nature through classes and workshops. The zoo houses rescued animals that are native to the S.F. Bay Area.



Nature

Many different animals and birds are seen at Coyote Pt. park, including owls, jack rabbits, pelicans, and shore birds. The flora includes eucalyptus, cypress, and pine trees planted by Howard in the late 1800s for lumber.



Blue dicks, a native California plant can be seen blooming on the knoll in the late spring. Pickle weed provides food and cover for residents of the tidal marshes. Leopard sharks, rays, jack smelt and striped bass can be found in the bay off the shores of Coyote Point.

When you're done with your tour, please return this guide to the kiosk for the next visitor. If you find this guide, please return it to: Coyote Park, 1701 Coyote Point Dr. San Mateo, CA 94401

Coyote Park is a part of **San Mateo County Parks**, which manages parks, preserves, trails, and historic sites throughout the county to preserve public lands and provide opportunities for education and recreation.

For more information, visit www.SMCoParks.org.

San Mateo County Parks
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