Welcome to Anderson Lake County Park, site of Santa Clara County’s largest reservoir. The 2,365-acre Anderson Park also features the Coyote Creek Parkway multiple use trails, the Jackson Ranch historic park site, the Moses L. Rosendin Park, and the Cochrane Park area. This unique combination of recreational resources make Anderson Lake County Park a magnet for power boat enthusiasts, bicyclists, equestrians, picnickers, and nature lovers. Enjoy your visit today, and return often to experience the many recreational opportunities of Anderson Lake County Park.

HOW TO GET THERE
Anderson Lake and the picnic areas along the Coyote Creek are located on Cochrane Road in Morgan Hill, east of Highway 101. To reach the Woodchopper’s picnic area or the Jackson Ranch, follow Dunne Avenue east from Highway 101. The Coyote Creek Parkway multiple use trails can be reached by following Cochrane Road west from Highway 101 to Monterey Road. Turn right onto Monterey Road and after approximately one mile, turn right (east) onto Burnett Avenue to the trail head.

ACTIVITIES
Anderson Reservoir, a seven-mile long, 1,250 surface acre lake, provides opportunities for power and non-power boating and fishing. Shoreline picnic and barbecue facilities are provided at the Woodchopper’s picnic area, which can be accessed by boat or vehicle at the south end of the lake. First-come, first-served family picnic areas are available year round along Coyote Creek below Anderson Dam. Two group picnic areas are available by reservation. Fishing is permitted year round in Anderson Lake, and during fishing season in Coyote Creek (April-November).

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**Access to the Trails**

The Coyote Creek Parkway multiple use trails offer recreational opportunities for equestrians, bicyclists, skaters, bladers, and hikers. Helmets are required for all bicyclists under age 18, and are recommended for all riders. For the safety and protection of all visitors, please adhere to the following trail etiquette guidelines:

**Stay on Designated Trails:** Horses are not allowed on the paved trail. Bicycles are not allowed on the equestrian trail.

**Be Considerate:** Keep speed at a safe pace. Yield to slower trail users. Use particular caution when passing children and senior citizens. Respect everyone’s right to use the trail.

**Be Aware of Conditions:** Riding when conditions are poor, such as shortly after a rain, should be done with caution.

**Plan Ahead:** Know your equipment, your ability and where you are going. Carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions.

**Natural Diversity**

Coyote Creek is the longest creek in Santa Clara County, flowing north and south through Coyote and Anderson Reservoirs. The temperate climate, abundant wildlife and plant food sources attract these Native Americans to this area. In March of 1776, Juan Bautista de Anza and his party of explorers crossed the river on their way to San Francisco. They named the river Arroyo Del Coyote, most likely after the Coyotes they saw during their journey.

**Cultural History**

For centuries, the Teman and Matalab Tribes of the Ohlone Indians lived along what is now the Coyote Creek Parkway. The temperate climate, abundant wildlife and plant food sources attracted these Native Americans to this site. In March of 1776, Juan Bautista de Anza and his party of explorers crossed the river on their way to San Francisco. They named the river Arroyo Del Coyote, most likely after the Coyotes they saw during their journey.

**Coyote Creek Parkway also includes an area at the terminus of Barnett Avenue in Morgan Hill, commonly called the “Barnett Area.”** This portion of the park is part of the Spanish land grant of Rancho De Laguna Seca. The area has been used over the years for cattle grazing, chicken ranching, and orchard farming.

Anderson Reservoir, named for Leroy Anderson, is the largest lake in Santa Clara County. Anderson was a devoted conservationist and a leader on the Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation Committee. Construction of the lake and dam was funded from a $1 million Bond Act approved by voters in 1949. Anderson Reservoir now serves as part of the Santa Clara Valley Water District’s linked system of reservoirs for groundwater recharge and as a secondary drinking water source.

At the bottom of what is now Anderson Reservoir, is land once farmed by the Cochrane/Jackson family. In 1869, John Cochrane purchased part of the Spanish land grant Ojo de Aqua de la Coche. Cochrane came from New Hampshire, sailing around Cape Horn to reach California. He worked the ranch as a dairy using Swiss landhums. At its peak, the ranch encompassed 5,500 acres in the Mount Hamilton foothills.

Cochrane and his wife, Aphelia Farmington, had five children. After Cochrane’s death in 1889, his wife took over the ranch operation. She began raising beef cattle after the 1906 earthquake destroyed the stone dairy barn. In 1914, Aphelia built a new ranch house near the original adobe house. Over the years, she became a prominent citizen of Morgan Hill, and died in 1949 at the age of 103. The following year, her estate was assessed $155,000 for 500 acres along the Coyote Creek where Anderson Dam and Reservoir were constructed. The new house and some other buildings were moved to the lake’s southeastern shoreline—where they remain today.

Gladys Jackson, one of the Cochrane granddaughters, and her foster sister, Ruth Losee, lived at the ranch until it was badly damaged in the 1984 Morgan Hill earthquake. Soon after, Gladys died at the age of 68. Ruth died in 1997 at age 91. Gladys Jackson’s will bequeathed the ranch to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County. The ranch house was recently restored and is now part of Anderson Lake County Park.