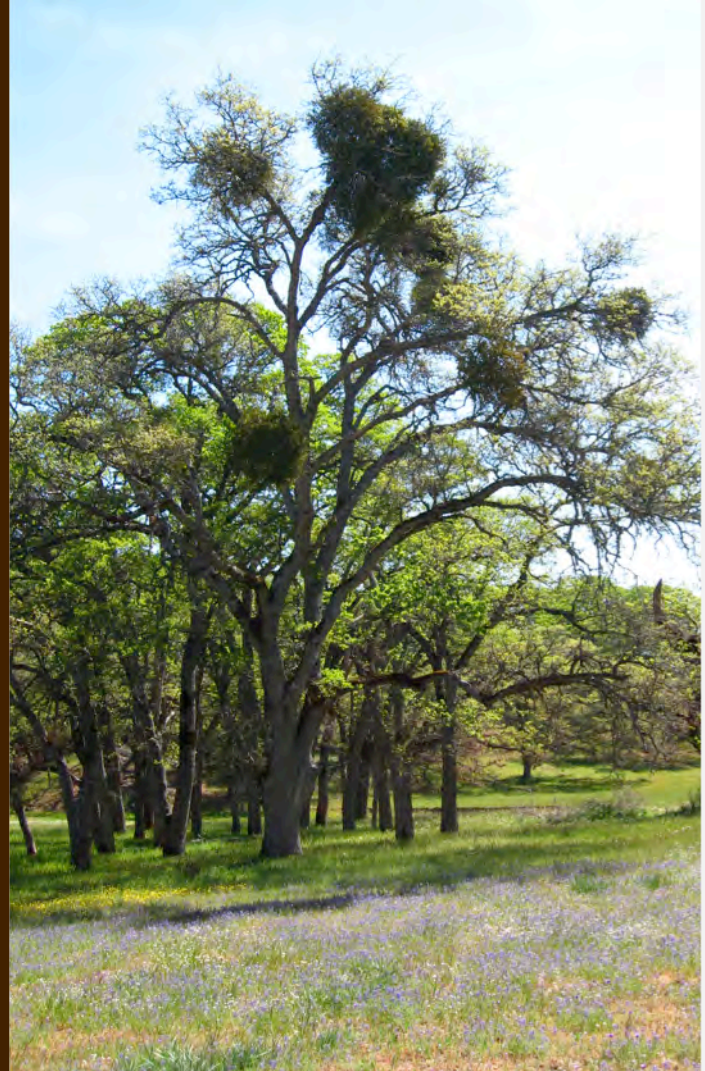


**Coe Park  
Preservation Fund**

***The Wilderness Next Door***

**Working Together to Preserve and Keep  
Henry W. Coe State Park  
Open and Accessible to All for  
Generations to Come**



*The Closure of Henry W. Coe State Park – an Immeasurable and Inexcusable Loss –  
Denying Citizens Access to their own Magnificent Property*

*“Coe” as friends call it  
Rich in History and Natural Beauty  
A Place of Sanctuary*

**Coe Park is the largest state park in Northern California with more than 87,000 acres of wild open country, the size of Silicon Valley. Coe is tucked into the eastern mountain range we view during our daily commute. We have been gifted with this beautiful wilderness next door.**

**This vast natural landscape has been open year-round for everyone including hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, campers, picnickers, and other non-motorized recreation, as well as for education and important scientific studies.**

**Severe state budget cuts currently threaten it with imminent closure. Following are the logical and major consequences of that closure...**



### ***Coe Park Closure means...***

*These special educational opportunities will be denied to the public*

### **Educational Programs – Reaching both to Children and Adults**

**Coe Connections** is a docent-led field trip for 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades that teaches nature interdependence, stewardship, and conservation. **Summer Learning Program**, a partnership between Gilroy United School District and Coe Connections, supported by the Packard Foundation, provides summer enrichment, designed to teach students from Gilroy schools observational and scientific-method skills by participating in ‘hands-on’ activities. These programs serve many hundreds of children each year.

## An Ecological Treasure



The rugged landscape, with elevations that range from below 1,000 feet to over 3,500 feet, supports a remarkable range of living organisms. There are forests, meadows, the rocky brush-land we call chaparral, and rich riparian ecosystems deep in the canyons along the several major creeks. Together, these provide a remarkable range of environments. The area encompasses parts of three major watersheds: Coyote Creek, Orestimba Creek, and Pacheco Creek. These contribute to recharging ground water basins both in the Santa Clara and San Joaquin valleys. Coe Park boasts dozens of sizeable reservoirs, many with excellent fishing.



Coe Park supports over 700 species of plants; mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, and foxes are the major predators; deer, raccoons, skunks, badgers, and several species of rodents abound; the bird populations, both resident and seasonal, are rich with species; rare amphibians and reptiles, are occasionally spotted. The reservoirs, originally stocked by the ranchers, provide several game fish species. The endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox and the threatened Swainson's hawk are occasionally sighted in the park. Three endangered bird species- bald eagles, California condor, and the American peregrine falcon also hunt in the park.



With urban development encroaching, natural ecosystems are becoming increasingly rare. Large natural ecosystems with a great range of physical environments are a crucial reservoir to preserve genetic diversity. Species with genetic diversity are better able to acclimate and adapt to short and long-term changing climate. The vast diverse area also provides a buffer against short-term catastrophic events, providing refuges for animals and sources for reseeding for plants. A healthy population of mountain lions provides a crucial element in stabilizing populations of other animals. These majestic creatures require thousands of acres each for their population to remain stable.

***Coe Park Closure means...***

*This remarkable biological community will be lost to the public*



## **Research in a Magnificent Natural Laboratory**

### ***Ecosystem Recovery after the Flames***

Since 2007, when the Lick fire burned over 40,000 acres within the park, thirty volunteers, led by a professional plant biologist, have been following the changes the various impacted ecosystems as they recover. The study is also monitoring the survival of seedlings from some of Coe's most notable shrubs - for example the giant big-berry Manzanita. Twenty-three additional plots are monitoring the profuse flowering from bulb plants right after a fire and are investigating whether it is in response to certain chemicals known to release from smoke. Satellite images are providing fascinating information on the recovery of the several different ecosystems as the whole region regains its full capacity to do photosynthesis. Seventy very precise panoramic images taken at least twice a year allow following the time course of recovery from the fire on a scale ranging from landscapes down to a few square meters. These provide a valuable adjunct to the above studies. Finally, experts are monitoring twelve four-mile-long transects to document the impact of the fire on songbird populations, and the recovery of those populations.

***Coe Park Closure means...***

*These projects will be terminated*

*Coe Park Closure means...*

*These remarkable resources will be lost*



### **Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS)**

RAWS is a self-contained weather station that monitors rainfall, wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity, fuel moisture, and solar radiation and transmits the data by radio telemetry. This will be the first of an anticipated network of remote weather stations across Santa Clara County. This installation will be a joint venture with California State Parks, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and San Jose State University. The data will be used to calculate the fire-danger rating for the park and may assist with implementing fire-use restrictions for park visitors during periods of elevated fire danger and in identifying periods when prescribed burns are allowable.

### **Hunting Hollow ADA Accessible Trail**

Volunteers have plans and considerable funding for constructing Coe's first ADA accessible trail in one of the few places where Coe Park's rugged topography relaxes into a gentle valley - Hunting Hollow. The full length of the trail will be more than five miles. It will provide access to Hunting Hollow year - round for those with mobility limitations, families with young children, and anyone who prefers an easy stroll in Coe Park. Visitors will enjoy shade in the heat of summer because much of the route is forested, and will have access through the wet winter months because the hard- surfaced trail will be well above Hunting Hollow Creek.

### **Volunteers - Partnering with the State**

For the past three decades, Coe Park has been immeasurably enriched by a large and gifted group of volunteers. These highly trained volunteers, over 100 strong, contribute to the park's extensive programs in countless different ways: assist in the formal educational programs for children; publish an award-winning map; lead informative wildflower and ecology hikes; present evening programs for visitors in the campground; and, offer short courses on everything from trees to mountain lions. Volunteers manage the visitor center and organize five major events for the public with between 300 and 1,000 adults and children participating. Volunteers help plan, install, and maintain the park's hundreds of trails; patrol backcountry trails; and carry out extensive scientific investigations of the park's ecology. Over the past two decades, volunteers have contributed more than 40,000 hours directly to Coe Park – the equivalent of 10 full-time employers per year.

## Coe Park Closure means... These vital recreational activities will be denied



### Mountain Biking

Coe Park is the largest area in the California state park system open to bicycles. Apart from the 22,000 acres of state wilderness and a group of single-track trails within about a 3-mile radius from the Headquarters trailhead, it is all open for mountain biking.

Avid bikers often head out for challenging rides, frequently making a loop of 40 or more miles, and crossing three or four steep ridges- with over 10,000 feet of elevation change- before angling back to the road's end.



### Horseback Riding

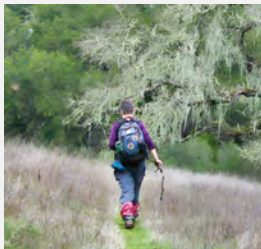
With over 87,000 acres of ridges and canyons and gorgeous views, Coe Park is a wilderness paradise for equestrians. There are eight designated horse camps in the park, each with pipe corrals.



### Backpacking

Coe Park is the only park in the Bay Area where one can plan a backpacking route for a weeklong trip without ever repeating any trail segment. Those who have experienced the glories of backpacking in Coe invariably come back again and again.

A friend of Coe described best, *"The solitude had given me a great gift. I had witnessed and been truly present for a shift in the wind, the first drops of rain, the interplay of light and clouds on the edge of a coming storm."*



### Hiking

Coe Park with its extensive trail system is a favorite destination for hikers. Where else in the vicinity can hikers find the challenge of 15 miles and a net elevation change of over 4,000 feet? Many hard-core hikers set out for the most remote, beautiful, and secluded destinations. There are many trails accessible at both of the entrances to the park. A few of them are short (3-6 miles) and relatively gentle. The rest are challenging and provide a highly rewarding workout deep in stunning wilderness.



### Recent History

South of Mt. Hamilton, Henry W. Coe State Park straddles the wild Southern Diablo Range. It began as the Pine Ridge Ranch, a private cattle ranch of 12,230 acres. It belonged to Henry Willard Coe, Jr. and his family from 1905 until his death in 1943. Coe left the ranch to his son, Henry Sutcliffe Coe, who sold it to the Beach Land and Cattle Company of Fresno County in 1948. Coe's daughter, Sada Coe Robinson, re-purchased the ranch in 1950 and donated it to Santa Clara County in 1953, at which time it became Henry Willard Coe County Park. It became a state park in 1958.

In the years following 1958, the park has continuously expanded in the southern and eastern direction, and now covers almost 87,000 acres. This current size is approximately three times the size San Francisco.

Coe Park lies close to San Jose, Morgan Hill, and Gilroy, with over 1.1 million people combined. With 16.5% average population growth in these cities expected over next five years, Coe has provided and will continue to provide an irreplaceable resource and support system for this expanding population.

### *Coe Park Closure means...*

*Sada Coe's incredible generosity will be sacrificed*

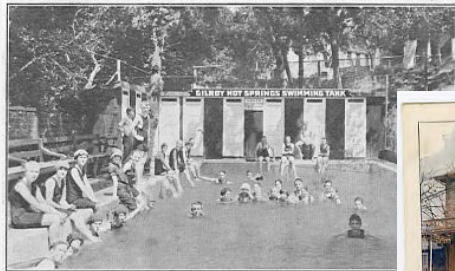
*Musing on top of any Coe ridge – visualizing the fascinating ghosts of the past will be forbidden*

### Early History

The Native Americans lived in harmony with nature with few possessions. When the Spanish missionaries arrived, promising them a new way of life, they left their hills for life in the missions. Many of them would later return to the hills (including Coe Park) to escape abuse and diseases, seeking refuge.







The Swimming Tank at Gilroy Hot Springs, California



### **Gilroy Hot Springs – A Glimpse into a Remarkable Past**

Acquired by Jose Quintín Ortega and Ignacio Maria Ortega in 1865, Gilroy Hot Springs was known as a place of healing. From the 1880s through the 1920s, the resort attracted stressed San Francisco Bay area business and civic leaders as a welcome retreat destination. The large hotel, the Lick House sleeping annex, the Club House, the individual cabins, and the soaking tubs, hosted up to 500 guests with fine dining, dancing, gaming, and relaxation. H. K. Sakata acquired ownership in 1938, and injected new life into the aging resort. The resort became a quiet Mecca for the Japanese and Japanese Americans. After World War II, Mr. Sakata generously offered his resort as a transitional shelter for those Japanese that had lost their homes through forced relocation, thus providing them with beautiful surroundings, mineral waters, and above all a welcoming community.

Gilroy Hot Springs, now part of Coe Park, is a [State Historic Landmark](#) and listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#). Descendants and former residents and guests have formed *Friends of Gilroy Hot Springs*, a non-profit group working with State Parks to re-define and renew public access.

#### ***Coe Park Closure means...***

*Restoration project will be stopped and the public access to a historical treasure will be denied*

### CPPF Mission

The Coe Park Preservation Fund brings corporations, foundation, and individuals dedicated to preserving Henry W. Coe State Park together to ensure it remains open and accessible to all in perpetuity.



### Our Strategy

We seek sponsorships to assure that the basic financial needs of Henry W. Coe State Park – park staff personnel and maintenance – is supported for a minimum of three years. After this initial goal is accomplished, create an endowment to keep the park open – immune from future economic fluctuations, assuring continuous public access.

### Be a Sponsor: Adopt An Acre

To keep Coe Park open for three years, the CPPF needs to raise nearly a million dollars. Spread over 87,000 acres, the “**adoption**” cost for one acre is about \$11.50, the cost of a couple of large cups of coffee.

While small contribution may not seem significant, every effort is crucial in demonstrating that Coe Park has broad community support and safeguard our magnificent wilderness from closure.

### Pine Ridge Association (PRA): Partnership with the CPPF

The Pine Ridge Association is an official state park cooperating association formed in 1975 to assist park staff in designing interpretive and educational programs and presenting the programs to the public. It began with six members and has grown to a healthy membership of 450. Its mission is to give aid to the state of California to conserve, develop, and interpret the park for the benefit of the public.

Together with the CPPF, PRA works to keep Coe Park open and provide an invaluable training and education programs.

Ways to Help

## Questions & Answers

**Q:** Why should a corporation support Henry W. Coe State Park over others?

**A:** Henry W. Coe State Park is the second largest state park in California and, unlike other large wilderness areas it is easily accessible to corporate employees and the communities where they live.

California businesses thrive because their ability to recruit exceptional talents attracted to California, in part by the rich natural resources the State has to offer. Most companies spend 20 to 30 percent of total labor cost on employee benefits. By Investing in wellbeing of their employees and protection of a local treasure, business leadership demonstrates a commitment to its local community and employees.

**Q:** Will donation qualify for tax exempt?

**A:** Yes, CPPF operates under the Pine Ridge Association 501c(3) tax exemption. All donors will receive appropriate tax-exemption acknowledgement information.

**Q:** Will donation support Henry W. Coe State Park exclusively?

**A:** Yes, under the CPPF Articles of Incorporation, funds raised will be used exclusively to ensure that Henry W. Coe State Park remain open and accessible to the public, until such time as the state can resume park operations.

**Q:** How will funds be used to prevent closure?

**A:** Working closely with California Department of Park and Recreation, CPPF will develop a management plan that will fund essential park personnel and basic maintenance costs.

**Q:** What happens to the revenue generated by the park (eg., park use fee)?

**A:** All revenue generated by the Henry W. Coe State Park will remain to provide direct support to the park, and will augment the funds provided by the CPPF for Henry W. Coe State Park.

**Q:** If CPPF raises a large sum, will the state stop supporting the park when its budget improves?

**A:** We believe that the state is mandated to support its state parks—especially when bond-issue funds voted in by citizens and financed by their taxes were used to acquire park properties. Additionally, working closely with the state, CPPF intends to develop a management plan that includes restoration of future state funding. At such time funds raised by CPPF will be directed to subsidize Coe Park development and improvement projects to further enhance public access and usability.

**Q:** How can I stay informed of the progress?

**A:** Regular updates will be made available at the CPPF website [www.coeparkfund.org/](http://www.coeparkfund.org/) and an Annual Report will be published and distributed to all donors.



## **Coe Park Preservation Fund**

5610 Scotts Valley Drive, Suite B113  
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

<http://www.coeparkfund.org/>