

Coyote Meadows Park

Brainstorming introduction of
CA Native Plants
by Patrick Pizzo

Coyote Meadows Park

objectives

- Introduce CA native plants to increase wildlife habitat, provide natural landscape, add color/texture, improve visibility for commuters on 280 and Senter Roads, and for park users
- Work with Valley Water to improve high-water flow in Coyote by removing non-native trees whilst strategically adding native varieties such as box elder, alder, cottonwood, elderberry, etc.

Assumptions

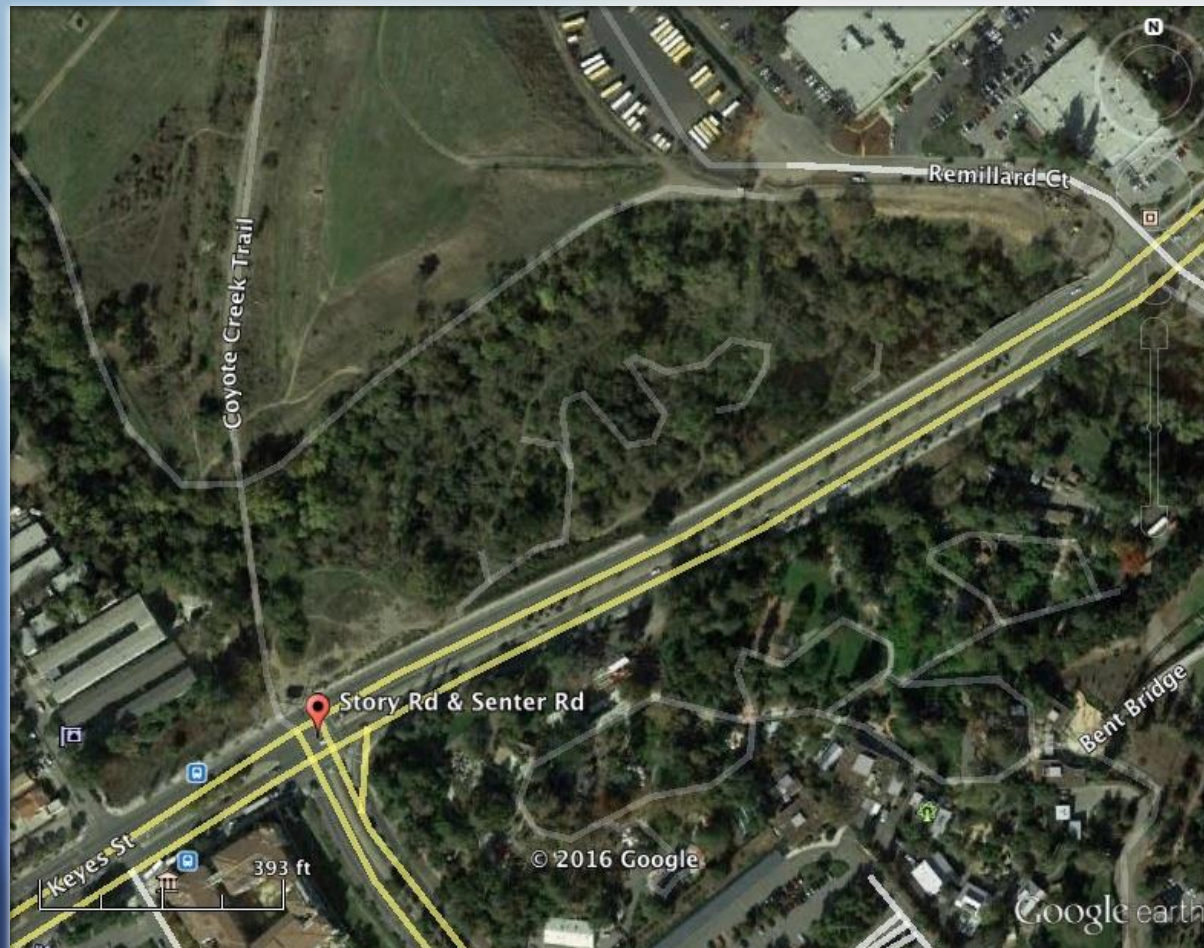
- The following areas and discussions assume no intrusion in riparian restricted areas and/or on actual landfill (mound)
- This is brainstorming so no rules, other than above, applied
- Water access, to establish trees and shrubs, is a requirement, not addressed at this point
- Don't know actual park boundary, so ignore for the moment! :-)

Overview of Areas of Interest

- There are five specific areas depicted on the following Google Image
- These areas will be considered one by one
- Area 6, unmarked, is the entry area off of Senter. I recommend adding CA native plants to improve visibility and ambiance along this busy thoroughfare
- Area 7, also unmarked, is the Riparian Corridor, addressed in the last foil



Area 6, Senter Road Entry



We need a park-like landscape strip along Senter Road for commuters along this corridor

- *Aesculus californica*; California Buckeye
- *Arbutus menziesii*, Madrone
- *Arctostaphylos bakeri* 'Louis Edmunds'
- *Arctostaphylos* 'Dr. Hurd'
- *Arctostaphylos glauca*, Bigberry Manzanita
- *Arctostaphylos pajaroensis* 'Paradise' Manzanita
- *Berberis fremontii*, Desert Barberry
- *Ceanothus* 'Ray Hartman'
- *Cercis occidentalis*, Western Redbud
- *Dendromecon harfordii*; Island Bush Poppy
- *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, CA Buckwheat
- *Eschscholzia californica*, CA poppy



Areas 1, 2 and 3

- These areas are suitable for CA native trees and shrubs (in non-landfill areas)
- The plants would be located on the west-facing bank along existing ditches and shrubs within the ditches.
- Madrone, Buckeye, Valley Oak and Desert Olive trees
- CA Native Shrubs listed previously (with the addition of *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, Christmas Berry or Toyon) would be featured.

Area 4

- This is a high visibility to park-users and residents on the north-side of HWY 280
- This would be a CA native Shurb and Wildflower garden.
- It would be similar in concept to the following:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLGX6CPQBw0>

Area 5

- The objective here would be similar to that for commuters on Senter.
- Landscape, using CA native shrubs to 8-foot maximum height, would present to the HWY 280 commuters, the indication of park and/or natural preserve

The Riparian Corridor

- Must work in concert with the SCVWD to retain and/or improve flood control abilities of this reach of the Coyote
- Removal of non-native trees and shrubs combined with the addition of CA native trees, endemic to the Coyote, at a net loss seems like a good strategy
- New additions would be on the east-bank or shoulder of the Coyote riparian corridor
- box elder, red alder, elderberry, cottonwood Valley Oak, etc, are likely candidates

Grassy Meadow

- Just to the east of the Radio Towers is a grassy meadow
- Currently, this area contains mostly european grasses and weeds
- Clump grasses, CA Native Grasses should be introduced (such as deer grass and our CA State needle grass
- Water is crucial to the establishment of a grassy meadow so I place this on the back-burner at this time

CA Native Plant/Tree Additions

- The addition of CA native plants should contribute to, and help define, the Coyote Meadows Park
- The landscape should welcome park users and commuters along Senter Road and HWY 280 equally
- Park landscape must minimize the attraction of the park to transients and provide safe access and use by park users and local residents