

LTSCV Newsletter

November 2025

N°13



Property Profile: Van Dyke Ranch

Along the valley edge in Gilroy lies Van Dyke Ranch, a 100 acre agricultural property. Van Dyke Ranch is a highly diverse operation, with a wide variety of specialized crops being grown, from flowers to nearly any fruit and vegetable you can think of. The property has been utilized for agriculture since the late 1800s, and is currently leased by Spade and Plow, an organic, family run business.

A Rich History

The Van Dyke Family has owned this piece of land since 1968. Facing the foothills, the Ranch was planted with its first 40 acres of Blenheim apricots and 20 acres of Bing cherries. The family shares decades of fond memories working from sunrise to sunset picking the sweetest apricots off the ground, sending them off to canneries or drying them on handmade wooden trays.



The property has nearly always been farmed organically. They made it official in 1986, when Van Dyke Ranch became one of the first California certified organic growers. Thanks to the conservation easement on the property, it will stay in agriculture forever!

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Saturday, December 6th - 9 am - 11:30 am

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful - BioBlitz at Spreckels Hills

Located in the heart of San Jose, the park we will be at is a safe haven for many species of plants and animals right along Coyote Creek. Join Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful and partners in cataloging and documenting all of the wildlife that reside there. We will have experts in various fields to help guide participants through all the cool plants and wildlife. Community service hours available.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spreckels-hill-bioblitz-tickets-1798852268559?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

Sunday, December 7th - 9:00 am - noon

San Benito Agricultural Land Trust Ranch Day

The first Sunday of every month SBALT hosts work parties and/or hikes on Nyland and/or Rancho Larios protected lands in San Juan Bautista. Everyone is welcome! More information and registration: <https://www.sanbenitolandtrust.org/ranch-days>

Sunday, December 14th - 9 am - noon:

Join Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful for a community creek cleanup event!

Join Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful for a community creek cleanup event. Meet new people; improve a neighborhood park; build community around a shared sense of service. Free litter kits! Community service hours available.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/feathered-friends-cleanup-day-registration-1867453907909?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

Saturday, December 20th - 9 am - noon:

Join Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful for a community creek cleanup event!

Come help us clean the Coyote Creek and Trail!

Join Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful for a community creek cleanup event. Meet new people; improve a neighborhood park; build community around a shared sense of service.

Free litter kits! Community service hours available.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tidings-of-clean-joy-cleanup-registration-1910064346879?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

Sunday, December 21st- 8:45 am to 12 pm

Join Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful for a wetland restoration event!

Help restore our wetlands to benefit the native plants and local wildlife.

Come out to the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge for a few hours to restore wildlife habitat. While you are removing invasive vegetation, planting new plants, or laying down mulch, you'll get to enjoy fresh Bay air, see lots of birds, and learn from restoration experts about why this work is so important. Community service hours available.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tending-for-tomorrow-tickets-1918910526039?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

Make a difference and donate here:

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