

## A History of Coyote Point

- 4,000 Years Ago** Originally an island that the Ohlone Indians used as a fishing site. Shell mounds were found on the north side of Coyote Point.
- 1700s** Spanish padres claimed the area for mission lands.
- 1830** Mexican government took over the area after the Mexican Revolution.
- 1850** Island sold to shipping firm of Mellus & Howard. Howard family connected the island to the mainland. Area used for dairy farming. Pier built to ship out lumber.
- 1880** Addition of swimming tank and large bath house at the beach attracted many San Franciscans on the weekends.
- 1922** Pacific City Amusement Park opened. It was called the “greatest fun community since Coney Island.” Pacific City closed after only two years.
- 1940** The Howard Estate sold its 402 acres of Coyote Point to San Mateo for a park.
- 1942** The Federal Government was given 10 acres of land to establish the U.S. Merchant Marine Cadet School at Coyote Point.
- 1946** U.S. Merchant Marine Cadet School was purchased by the College of San Mateo as its first campus through 1963.
- 1963** County Park established at Coyote Point



## A History of CuriOdyssey

- 1953** The San Mateo County Junior Museum is opened on the knoll in a Quonset Hut by the San Francisco Junior League, later named the museum’s Auxiliary.
- 1958** The San Mateo County Junior Museum Auxiliary established the Decorator’s Show House fundraiser.
- 1974** San Mateo County Junior Museum becomes Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education.
- 1981** New museum building opened with an 8,000 square foot permanent exhibition in the Environmental Hall, classroom space, a resource library, and a theatre.
- 1991** Animal Habitats opened, providing naturalistic habitats for native, non-releasable animals.
- 2006** Museum almost closed as a result of financial challenges. The museum was saved with a \$500,000 campaign completed in 30 days to keep the doors open under new leadership.
- 2011** Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education becomes CuriOdyssey, to better reflect the institution’s revitalization and renewed focus on hands-on science education.



Source: Coyote Point Museum 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary materials