

Coyote Pond Geology Hike

Thursday, March 26, 2026

DIFFICULTY (Rating): Moderate+

HIKE DISTANCE: Total miles: 5.5

ELEVATION/GAIN: 367 feet. Mostly level with rolling hills, along with some steep uphill and downhill sections. There are a few sections on suburban streets.

PACE: Relaxed/Moderate with stops at many points of interest.

TRAIL CONDITIONS: Both paved and earth sections. Trail is narrow, steep, and muddy in places. Hiking poles and boots are highly recommended. Short sections are off-trail.

DESCRIPTION: The trail begins on pavement at Coyote Park, just off Kenmare Drive where we will park our cars. Our hiking club member, geologist Mark Smelser, will be explaining the geologic features of the area. From Coyote Pond, we will head toward Whistler Pond, to see rock layers along a roadcut, then leave the pavement to hike in a loop around a large escarpment. We will take a long loop to return and hike along the creek. Afterwards we will hike to Twelve Bridges Park and up Mt. Terracotta. Along our return to Coyote Pond we will see a section of creek that has lots of beaver dambuilding activity. At Coyote Pond we will have lunch and afterwards take a streamside walk to see some grinding rocks. After that we will return to Coyote Park and Kenmare Drive to end the hike. Preview from Mark: "Join us for a hike in our own backyard . . . as we explore geologic outcroppings that explain the rocks in our backyards as well as the explosive history of the Sierra Nevada. We will capture views from Mount Terracotta (60 feet of relief) . . . and analyze grinding stones left behind . . ."

[Proposed Hike Route on AllTrails](#)

FACILITIES: Twelve Bridges Park

DRIVE TIME/MILES: 10 minutes

DRIVER DONATION: \$2.

LEADER/SWEEP: Tess Devenish 530-957-5106 /Marilyn McCullough

MEET/LEAVE TIME: Meet 8:45 AM, Leave at 9:00

Meet at far right end of Orchard Creek Parking Lot, rows 12-14

Preparation for Hike:

- Being prepared physically as well as having the right equipment makes for a better experience, not only for you, but for your fellow hikers.
- **If you have any health issues, please consider your condition before hiking at high altitude or at a fast pace. (Continued next page)**

What to Bring:

- **PLENTY OF WATER!** Recommend 50 oz. /1.5 liters minimum for 5-mile hike – more if longer. Electrolytes suggested. Higher altitudes are dehydrating even when cool.
- Hiking boots/shoes, hat, sun protection, insect repellent, small first aid kit. Wind/rain jacket always advisable in the mountains. Trekking poles recommended.
- ID (driver's license), health insurance card, and emergency contact / phone number.
- Extra pair of shoes to change into after hike and a plastic bag for muddy/dusty hiking boots to keep your driver's car clean.
- Lunch

Driving Directions:

Navigate to Coyote Park on your device, or follow the directions below.

From the Orchard Creek parking lot, turn right onto Del Webb Blvd.

In 1 mile, turn left onto Spring Valley Parkway. In .3 miles turn right onto Parkside Drive. Continue on Parkside to Twelve Bridges Drive. Turn left onto Twelve Bridges. In .7 miles turn right onto Dunlewy Way. In 495 feet, turn left onto Nolen Dr. In .1 mile turn right onto Old Kenmare Rd. In 150 feet, turn left into the parking lot.