



## Miwok Park History

- Meaning: Man or People
- Habitat Location: Northern California
- Dwelling Types: Conical Shelters and Earth Lodges
- Clothing Material: Animal Skins
- Food: Acorns, Fish, Meat, and Wild Plants

The Miwok lived along the California coast between present day San Francisco and Monterey, and inland to the Sierra Nevada Mountains where the moist, mild winds nourished coastal ranges and inland valleys. The Coast Miwok built conical, or circular, houses, which they framed with forked poles and covered with grass. Their villages had ceremonial lodges similar in style to their houses, but covered in pine needles. The Inland Miwok built round houses digging out floors below ground, framing them with poles, and covering them with grass and soil.

The Miwok obtained most of their food from the many varieties of acorns they collected each year. The firm shells of acorns made them easy to store without any preparation. The Miwok did not plant crops, but gathered wild foods all year round. Salmon and sturgeon filled their rivers and streams, clams and mussels abounded along the coast, and deer and elk flourished in their mountains and valleys. In many parts of the region, men collected wild tobacco to smoke on special occasions. Both the Miwok men and women wore two sided fringed deerskin aprons and sleeveless tunics and capes woven of strips of jackrabbit fur.

In modern times many Native Americans have come to California from other states, settling in urban areas and small reservations. These reservations are often called rancherias, such as the Wilton Rancheria just south of Elk Grove. We celebrate the opening of Miwok Park, a park named to honor the native pioneers of our country.

*The information within this document was created at the time of park dedication and may not be current.*