

# A Double Trail

Alameda Creek Regional Trail follows the banks of Alameda Creek in southern Alameda County from the mouth of Niles Canyon (in the Niles District of Fremont) westward to San Francisco Bay—a distance of 12 miles.

The trail on the south bank provides access to Coyote Hills Regional Park. Making the run west from Niles Canyon along the south-side trail through an additional 3.5-mile loop trail in Coyote Hills and back again qualifies in distance for marathon runs. For those who want to clock shorter distances along the trail, markers have been installed at half-mile intervals.

The trail is accessible from several thoroughfares in the Fremont, Union City, and Newark areas. **MOTOR VEHICLES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE TRAIL.**

The paved, south-side trail is suggested for bicyclists, hikers, joggers, and runners. The north-side trail is designed for horseback riding. There is no direct access to Coyote Hills Regional Park from the north-side trail. Households along the trail do have access from backyards. **PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY.** Bicyclists under age 18 must wear an approved helmet, and all other bicyclists and all equestrians are strongly encouraged to wear a helmet. Riders should call out or sound a warning when overtaking other trail users.

**ALAMEDA CREEK** This creek is Alameda County's largest, and is home to a host of birds and other wildlife. Long ago its rushing waters provided a valuable resource for the Ohlone Indians who first settled in camps and villages along its banks. For information about Ohlone shellmound tours and Native American studies at Coyote Hills Regional Park, phone (510) 544-3220.

**HISTORY** The area was visited and explored by members of five Spanish expeditions led by Ortega, Fages, de Anza, and Amador between 1769 and 1795. Mission San Jose de Guadalupe, located near the intersection of Washington and Mission boulevards in Fremont, was dedicated in 1797. The 30,000-acre mission thrived for 49 years until the Secularization Order liquidated mission lands in 1834.

After secularization, the mission acreage fell into private ownership. Corruption grew, and in 1846 the lands of Mission San Jose were sold by the governor for \$12,000 to Juan Alvarado. This sale was declared fraudulent in 1858 in United States courts and the lands became part of public domain.

Alameda Creek was the boundary of the mission lands and the 17,000-acre Rancho Arroyo de la Alameda granted to Jose de Jesus Vallejo, who built a flour mill near the mouth of Niles Canyon. The mill and the importance of the canyon as a passage through the hills led to growth of Niles in the 1850s.

A favorable climate, excellent soils, and a fast-growing population helped agriculture to boom. Early roads led to landings where small ships would load grain and other foodstuffs for transport to market. Completion of the transcontinental Central Pacific Railroad through Niles Canyon in 1869, and the Western Pacific in 1906, improved the situation for shipment of goods—a service that is still beneficial to the area.

Movie-making came to the Niles District for a short stay during World War I with the Essanay production studio. Charlie Chaplin, Ben Turpin, Gloria Swanson, and others began in movies there before the industry settled in Hollywood. Another star, Gilbert M. "Broncho Billy" Anderson, was recently recognized in the Cowboy Hall of Fame as the first film-hero cowboy.

Quarrying for gravel began early in this area and continues today. Gravel taken from today's Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area was used in the construction of the transcontinental railroad. The 538-acre park adjacent to the Alameda Creek Trail offers boating, swimming, fishing, picnicking, and hiking.

The Alameda Creek Trail opened in January 1973. The project was funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the East Bay Regional Park District.

**POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY** ..... 9-1-1  
**PARK POLICE (evenings/weekends)**.....  
..... (510) 881-1833  
**ALAMEDA CREEK TRAIL PARK OFFICE** .....  
..... 1-888-EBPARKS, option 1, ext. 4501  
**EBRPD HEADQUARTERS** ..... 1-888-EBPARKS  
**PICNIC, CAMPING RESERVATIONS** .....  
..... 1-888-EBPARKS, option 2, 1  
**PROGRAM RESERVATIONS**.....  
..... 1-888-EBPARKS, option 2, 3  
**QUARRY LAKES REGIONAL RECREATION AREA**  
..... 1-888-EBPARKS, option 1, ext. 4552  
**WEBSITE**.....www.ebparks.org

## PARKLAND RULES

Welcome to your Regional Parklands. Help protect park resources and ensure an enjoyable visit for everyone by complying with these rules, as stated in EBRPD Ordinance 38, and any posted regulations. Violators will be subject to citation or arrest. For further information, ask a Park Ranger, Police Officer, Volunteer Trail Patrol member, or telephone (510) 881-1833.

**BICYCLES** may be ridden on designated bicycle trails, and on fire or service roads, unless otherwise posted. Bicycles are not permitted, either ridden, walked or carried, off designated trails or in areas posted "No Bicycles," or on narrow hiking or riding trails. All bicycles must be operated in a safe manner and must yield for pedestrians. Speed limit is 15 MPH. Violators may be subject to fine or confiscation. State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. Riders should call out or sound a warning when overtaking other trail users.

**DOGS** must be leashed (six-foot maximum) and under control at all times on the **SOUTH SIDE** (paved side) of the Alameda Creek Trail. Dogs must be under control at all times on the **NORTH SIDE** (unpaved side) of the trail (including Shinn Pond), in parking lots, picnic sites, lawns or developed areas, or any area so posted. Owners must carry one leash per dog (six-foot maximum) at all times. Dangerous animals are not allowed in the parks or on the trails. Your dog's waste must be removed from all developed areas or public trails; please dispose of it by placing it in a garbage can. Plastic bags are available at certain locations along the trail. Persons who walk more than three dogs at a time, or who walk dogs for a fee, must obtain a permit; call (510) 690-6508 for information.

**HORSES** must stay on the **NORTH SIDE** (unpaved side) of the trail and on designated trails at all times.

**MOTOR VEHICLES** are restricted to designated parking areas and paved public roads. They are not allowed on trails, (wheelchairs excepted).

**SWIMMING, WADING** and other water contact activities are not permitted along Alameda Creek Trail or in adjoining Coyote Hills Regional Park.

**SCUBA** diving is prohibited in any District lake or inland waters.

**FIRES** and **FIREWORKS** are not permitted in staging areas or on trails.

**CIGARETTES** Extinguish and safely dispose of cigarette butts.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** are not permitted on any Regional Trail, in parking areas, staging areas or posted areas, or within 50 feet of paved roads.

**HUNTING** and **SHOOTING** are not permitted.

**HELP PROTECT OUR PARK WILDLIFE** by not releasing or feeding ducks, cats or other animals. Do not feed wild park animals; enjoy them from a distance.

**PLANTS** and **WILDLIFE** are protected by law and must not be disturbed. A state license is required to **FISH** at all Regional Parks. A District fishing permit is also required when posted.

**TRAILS USERS** must stay on designated trails.

**SOUTH SIDE** (paved side) of the trail is for bicycles, walkers and joggers. Horses are not allowed on the south side.

**NORTH SIDE** (unpaved side) of the trail is multiple use, which includes equestrians.

**ASSEMBLIES, PERFORMANCES, SPECIAL EVENTS** or similar gatherings require a permit.

Please be considerate of other park visitors if you use a **RADIO**. A permit is required for **AMPLIFICATION** of voice, music or other sounds.

**FIREARMS** or **BOWS AND ARROWS** are not permitted on Regional Parklands except at established ranges. Crossbows, spears, slingshots, air pistols or rifles, and other dangerous weapons are prohibited anywhere on Regional Parklands.

**CURFEW** Trails are closed between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

**PARK VISITORS** are responsible for knowing and following park rules.



### East Bay Regional Park District

2950 Peralta Oaks Court,  
P.O. Box 5381  
Oakland, CA 94605-0381  
1-888-EBPARKS www.ebparks.org

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East Bay  
Regional Park District

