Welcome to Quarry Lakes

Year opened: 2001  Acres: 471

Highlights: Swimming, boating (no gasoline engines), fishing, numerous picnic areas (many reservable), lawn areas, hiking, ADA accessible pier, access to the 12-mile-long Alameda Creek Trail which provides access to the Bay shoreline.

Did you know? Gravel quarried from today’s Shinn Pond was used to build UC Berkeley in the late 1800s.

Fees–Parking: $5/vehicle, $4/trailer, $25/bus

HISTORY
Native Americans inhabited this region for many generations, notably in the sites that are now preserved at Coyote Hills Regional Park west of Quarry Lakes. Quarry Lakes incorporates the boundaries of two Mexican ranchos and the former Mission San Jose lands.

The quarries for which Quarry Lakes is named were established in the mid-19th century. Gravel taken from the banks of Alameda Creek was used in the construction of the transcontinental railroad’s western section. After quarrying came to an end, the lakes were used for groundwater recharge by the Alameda County Water District (ACWD), which diverts water from Alameda Creek into the pits.

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Quarry Lakes is the culmination of many years of planning and partnership between ACWD and the Park District. The property that now comprises the park was acquired by the two agencies between 1975 and 1992. Of the park’s 471 acres, some 350 acres are the lakes. The first phase of park construction began in 1997, when ACWD flattened the slopes of the quarry pit to minimize erosion and sedimentation, and to provide contours more suitable for parkland.

In August 2000 the Park District began creating the parkland’s recreational facilities, including turfgrass lawns, picnic areas, shade pavilions, a swim beach, a boat launch ramp, and a trail network. The cost of the project’s first phase was $5.8 million, of which $3.65 million was a grant from the City of Fremont Redevelopment Agency. The remainder came from Measure AA, the Park District’s open space bond measure approved by voters in 1988. The result is a beautiful, water-oriented recreation area, which offers recreational activities such as picnicking, boating, swimming, and fishing, as well as hiking and wildlife viewing. The park’s trail network connects to the Alameda Creek Regional Trail, which extends from Niles Canyon westward to Coyote Hills and Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge on San Francisco Bay.

SWIMMING
The beach area includes a sandy beach, restrooms, and volleyball courts. Lifeguard service is available in the summer months through September. No water contact of any type is allowed in Willow Slough or Lago Los Osos.

FISHING
permits are valid at Horseshoe Lake and Rainbow Lake. Lead weights are not allowed. A California fishing license and an EBRPD Daily Fishing Access Permit are required for all anglers age 16 and older. Daily Fishing Access permits may be purchased at the park entry kiosk or at machines located at gate entrances along Alameda Creek Regional Trail. Permit sales fund trout and catfish plants in Horseshoe Lake. For fishing information, see www.ebparks.org.

PICNICKING
Picnic sites with barbecues are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There are five reservable sites with space for 35 to 200 people. Alcohol is not allowed at Niles but is permitted at Ensenada North and South, Osprey, and Lampert Knoll with a permit only: call 1-888-327-2757, option 2, for reservation and permit information.

ALCOHOL
Alcoholic beverages are not allowed, except by permit in picnic areas noted above.

BOATING
Boats (electric only) and car-top watercraft may be launched into Horseshoe Lake from the boat launch. All watercraft must be absolutely clean and dry to pass invasive mussel inspection.

DOGS
Must be on leash and out of the water at all times while in the park. Leashes may not exceed six feet in length. 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.