

## History

The Alameda Creek Regional Trails, which follow along on either side of its namesake waterway, stretch across what is now known as the Fremont Plain – an area that currently encompasses southern Alameda County’s towns and cities of Hayward, Sunol, Niles, Fremont, Union City and Newark. The Ohlone-speaking Tuibun tribe thrived for many generations in this region. Some Tuibun married nearby Causens (also known as Patlans), a tribe or village in the present-day Sunol Valley.

The arrival of the Spanish Fages expedition in 1772 signaled a time of great disruption for the Tuibun and their neighbors. In 1776 the de Anza expedition passed through on its way to establish Mission Dolores in San Francisco, mapping the nearby Coyote Hills before they left. By 1803 and 1804, the Tuibun tribe were introduced to and endured struggles with religious conversion and indentured labor by the Mission San Jose de Guadalupe, which was dedicated in 1797. In 1846 under Mexican governance of Alta California, a Secularization Order liquidated mission lands. Although the Spanish had promised to return these lands to Native people, by 1858 the area became public domain, with the Tuibun and their neighbors working as laborers on large Mexican land grants, including the 17,000-acre Rancho Arroyo de la Alameda granted to Jose de Vallejo, who built a flour mill near the mouth of Niles Canyon. The mill and the importance of the canyon as a transportation route led to the growth of Niles in the 1850s, after California became a state.

Agriculture supported the fast-growing Fremont-Niles population. Early roads led to landings where small ships coming up the creek from the bay loaded 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, expanded shipment of goods.

**Niles Staging Area:** At the easternmost section of the trails, a brief history of a movie-making era came to the Niles District during World War I with the Essanay production studio, featuring Charlie Chaplin, Gilbert M. “Broncho Billy” Anderson, the first film-hero cowboy, and others.

**Quarry Lakes:** Gravel was taken in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century from today’s Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area for the construction of the transcontinental railroad’s western section. Directly west of Quarry Lake’s entrance gate, you can see a small segment of Alameda Creek enveloped in the type of streamside vegetation that once existed along the entire watershed, Alameda County’s largest. At forty-five miles long, the creek drains 700 square miles, two-thirds of it in Alameda County. Historically the creek was a major run for steelhead and salmon, and efforts are under way to restore the fishery. (Fishing is not allowed in this section of Alameda Creek.)

**Coyote Hills:** The most westward regional park along the trail is Coyote Hills where you can experience the wonders of the natural and cultural world. Visitors can participate in programs with and about area Ohlones and visit a 2,000+-year-old

Tuibun village site. Learn more about these programs at [ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org). Weekday programs are available for schools and organized groups by reservation. Call (510) 544-3220.

**Regional Trails Development:** Development of the trails was approved in 1968 by the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors, in funding partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Alameda County Flood Control District, as part of a major flood control project along the creek. The trail was completed and dedicated in January 1973. Keynote speaker at the ceremony was Stewart Udall, former Secretary of the Interior and head of the firm that was preparing the Park District’s master plan. Udall noted that this was one of the first major Park District trails established outside of a regional park.

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## Park Activities

At nearby Coyote Hills you can experience the wonders of the natural and cultural world, participate in programs with and about area Ohlones, and visit a 2,000+-year-old Tuibun village site. Learn more about these programs at [ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org). Weekday programs are available for schools and organized groups by reservation. Call (510) 544-3220.

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY ..... 9-1-1  
 PARK POLICE (evenings/weekends) ..... 510-881-1833  
 ALAMEDA CREEK TRAIL OFFICE ..... 510-544-3137  
 QUARRY LAKES REGIONAL REC. AREA OFFICE .....  
 ..... 1-888-327-2757, option 1, ext. 4552

## Ours to Explore, Enjoy and Protect

Please enjoy Regional Parks safely and help protect and preserve the parklands by following all park rules and regulations.

### Safety

- Stay on trails. Shortcuts are dangerous and damage natural resources.
- Carry and drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Trails can be slippery, rocky and steep. Proceed carefully at your own risk.
- Keep the parks clean. Pack out what you pack in.
- Inform someone where you are going and will return.
- Store our 24/7 Dispatch Center number on your cell phone: **Emergency** (510) 881-1122; **Nonemergency** (510) 881-1833.

### Rules

- **Dogs must be leashed** (six-foot maximum) and under control at all times on the *paved* SOUTH SIDE trail.
- Dogs may be off leash but must remain under voice control and within sight at all times on the NORTH SIDE (unpaved) trail (including Shinn Pond).
- Clean up after your pet; bag it, bin it.
- State law requires all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. Equestrians and bicyclists are strongly encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. E-Bikes on designated paved regional trails only. Bicyclists yield to pedestrians and equestrians. Call out or sound a warning when passing trail users. Speed limit is 15 mph.
- HORSES must stay on the *unpaved* NORTH SIDE trail and on designated trails at all times.

### The following are prohibited:

- Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas
- Releasing animals into parklands
- Consuming alcohol in non-designated areas/parks
- Damage to plants, geological, or archaeological features
- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Smoking/vaping
- Flying Drones

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38). See [ebparks.org/rules](http://ebparks.org/rules).



## Alameda Creek Regional Trails

Fremont, CA 94555

### East Bay Regional Park District

2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605  
 1-888-EBPARKS or 1-888-327-2757 (TRS 711)  
[ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org)



### Regional Parks Membership

RECEIVE FREE DAY-USE PARKING, SWIMMING, DOG PASS, AND MORE. 510-544-2220  
**REGIONALPARKSFUNDATION.ORG**

Cover photo: Kevin Fox

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# Alameda Creek Regional Trails

FREMONT, HAYWARD, UNION CITY



East Bay Regional Park District

Healthy Parks Healthy People

# Alameda Creek Regional Trails – A Double Trail

**Year Opened:** 1973

**Miles Long:** 12 and 12.4 miles

**Highlights:** The two trails straddle Alameda Creek and provide access to Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area, Coyote Hills Regional Park, and Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

**Did You Know:** Shinn Pond, the first gravel pit in California, provided gravel to build the UC Berkeley stadium – 75 rail carloads for the first order!

## About the Trails

Alameda Creek Regional Trails, hugging the banks of Alameda Creek from the mouth of Niles Canyon westward to San Francisco Bay, are accessible from several roadways in the Fremont, Union City, and Hayward areas.

The 12-mile paved “south-side” trail provides access to Coyote Hills. It is popular with bicyclists, hikers, joggers, and runners. Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are allowed on this trail, but not at Coyote Hills or Quarry Lakes.

The 12.4-mile unpaved “north-side” trail is designed for horseback riding. There is no direct access to Coyote Hills.

**Please respect private property** of households along the trail.



Eastern view of the creek flanked by the trails.

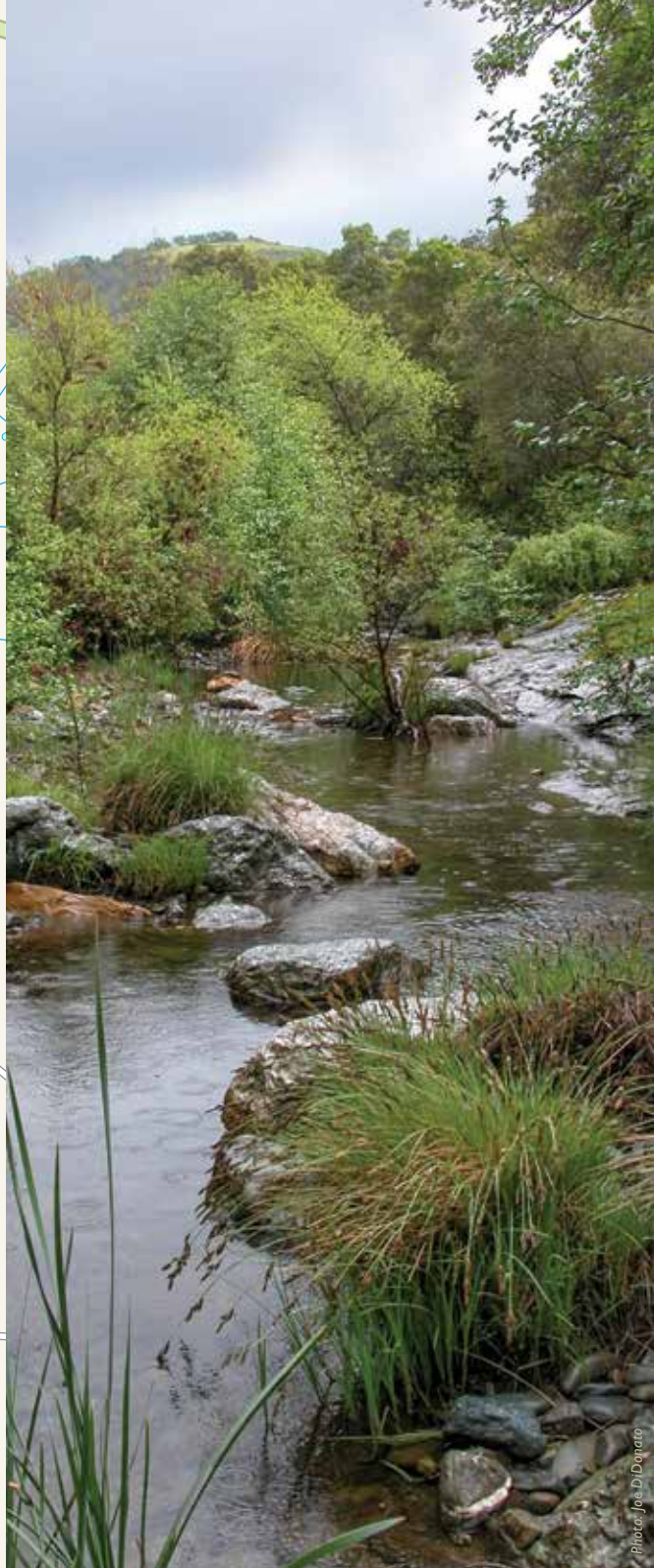


Photo: Joe DiGregorio