

# **Alameda County**











#### Dear Fellow Citizens,

On behalf of the Parks, Recreation and Historical Commission, and the Alameda County Community Development Agency, we are proud to present this Sesquicentennial edition of the Alameda County Parks Recreation and Historic Sites Directory.

The Spanish word 'Alameda' means 'avenue lined with trees' and records show the new county was created from sections of Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties, two of the state's original counties. Our historical archives reveal that the act of incorporation of Alameda County was signed on April 6, 1853 by Governor John Bigler and that the first court of sessions took place on June 6, 1853 in the township of Alvarado, the first county seat. By 1860 more than 465 residents lived in Alameda. Today over 1.4 million people live here and our diverse population makes this a special place to live and work.

We wish to express specific thanks to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and Mr. James Sorensen, Alameda County Planning Director. Without their support and dedication of significant staff resources, the updating of this Directory would have been impossible. Also thanks to Lisa Asche, our Commission staff person who was project manager on the directory update and oversaw all aspects of creating this new document.

Please join us in celebrating Alameda County's 150th Birthday by visiting and exploring our beautiful parks, recreational sites and unique historical landmarks.

Signed,

Annales allen

Annalee Allen, Chair 2003 Parks, Recreation & Historical Commission

Adolph<sup>I</sup>Martinelli, Director Alameda County Community Development Agency

## Alameda County Parks, Recreation & Historical Commission 2003

This book is dedicated to the people of Alameda County, California, for the continued enjoyment of their environment.



## Alameda County Parks, Recreation & Historical Commission Roster

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THE ODOMETER

A county mapper using an odometer. Originally created for the Bates Harrington, <u>How 'Tis Done</u> (Chicago, 1879) and reproduced in the <u>New Historical Atlas of Alameda Co., California, Illustrated, Thompson & West, 1878</u>.



The area we now know as Alameda County has been the beneficiary of a number of diverse cultures and each has left its distinctive mark. The Native Americans left shell mounds scattered at various sites along the Bay and grinding rocks at Berkeley's Mortar Rock Park. The Spanish-Mexicans left Mission San Jose and the large ranchos of the 1830's and early 1840's whose memories are largely in name only, along with a few adobe ranch houses. The Gold Rush Argonauts brought, in sharp contrast to the agricultural and rural Spanish era, a bustling, urban commercialism. Joining these early settlers were, among others, African Americans, Asians, Irish and the Portuguese.

Time has wrought many changes. The original Mexican ranchos are now almost completely covered with homes instead of cattle and sheep. Dublin crossroads, once a stop on the Gold Rush land route, is now a fast-growing community. Recreation now takes place where once-tall San Antonio redwoods grew in the Oakland hills. The orchards of the Fruitvale district have been replaced with housing tracts. When you reach your chosen place through the maps that follow, close your eyes and envision how that place may have looked a hundred or more years ago. When you open them, the evidence of an earlier time may still be there today.



Dublin

Pleasantor



Albany Berke

Riedmont

Alameda Oakland

Sangrandisco Bay

Leandro

San

VLorenzo=

Hayward

Union

City

Newark

Fremont

Emeryville

- Did you know there is overnight camping in Alameda County? .
- Did you know that there are over 7,300 acres of urban park land and over 53,000 acres of state and regional park land in Alameda County?
- Did you know that Lake Merritt in downtown Oakland was the first wild fowl refuge in the United States?
- Are you looking for a tennis court or a senior center in your neighborhood?

Alameda Couty is blessed with an extraordinary geographical setting from the bay shoreline and beaches to rolling hills, mountains, redwood forests, lakes, streams and meadows full of wildflowers. In the midst of a major urban area (almost two million people?) there is an unusually large number of neighborhood parks and wilderness areas to be explored and enjoyed.

We hope this directory will guide you in an exciting discovery of the historical sites and recreational opportunities that exist right in your own backyard.

Livermore

## Methodology

The <u>2003 Alameda County Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Directory</u> is a general reference guide to sizable areas, parks, recreation centers, historic sites, and points of interest, which focuses on enrichment for our community and improvement of the quality of life in Alameda County by providing numerous and diverse recreational opportunities.

The scope of the Directory provides the public with a comprehensive list of significant parks and their amenities, recreational facilities, and a selection of historical sites and points of interest unique to Alameda County.

Park information has been organized by city jurisdiction and districts for locales outside city limits. Each matrix serves as an index of pertinent park information. In order to qualify for the matrix, all of the following criteria had to be met:

- The municipal property or facilities must have been improved or developed in order to
  provide the public with passive and/or intensive recreational opportunities and services.
- 4 acres minimum.
- Public use and accessibility.
- Conform to National, State and Regional definitions, categories, guidelines and standards.
  - (N) Neighborhood Parks are 4-12 acres.
  - (C) Community Parks are 12-20 acres and are intended for local use.
  - (R) Regional Parks are 20+ acres and usually have special features, unique qualities, and amenities which serve the entire Alameda County region.

Community buildings or other recreational facilities operating under city contract to provide public access and use have been categorized as either a Recreation Center, Swim Complex, Senior Center, Youth Center, or Golf Course.

The Historic Sites section provides a sampling of significant and unique places within Alameda County, some of which are listed on the National Register of Historical Places, or as California State Landmarks.

## Contacts

Please contact your local parks and recreation department for field schedules, recreation programs, and rental information.

For public transit information please contact www.TransitInfo.org or dial 511.

East Bay Regional Park District recommends making reservations for campgrounds from April-August at (510) 562-7275 or **www.ebparks.org**.

## **Table of Contents**

Activities
Albany/Berkeley/Emeryville
Map
FacilitiesA.B.E-2
Park MatrixA.B.E-3
North Oakland/Piedmont
MapNO.P-1
FacilitiesNO.P-2
Park MatrixNO.P-3
South Oakland
Map
Facilities
Park Matrix
Alameda/San Leandro
MapA.SL-1
FacilitiesA.SL-2
Park MatrixA.SL-3
Castro Valley/Fairview
Map CV.F-1
Facilities CV.F-2
Park Matrix CV.F-3
Ashland/Cherryland/Hayward/San Lorenzo
MapA.C.H.SL-1
FacilitiesA.C.H.SL-2
Park MatrixA.C.H.SL-3
Newark/Union City
Map
Facilities
Park Matrix N.UC-3
Fremont
Map
Facilities
Park Matrix
Dublin/Pleasanton/Sunol
MapD.P.S-1
FacilitiesD.P.S-2
Park MatrixD.P.S-3
Livermore
MapL-1
FacilitiesL-2
Park MatrixL-3
State/Regional Park Section
Park Information
Map
Park Information Continued
Historical Sites, Districts & Points of Interest
Listing



## ARCHERY

Redwood Regional Park pg. S.RP-1

## ARCHEOLOGY

Coyote Hills Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Sunol Regional Wilderness pg. S.RP-2

#### BALLFIELDS

All City Areas

#### BASKETBALL

All City Areas

## BEACH

Lakeside Park, North Oakland pg. NO.P-3 Puerto Penasco Swim Lagoon at Central Park, Fremont pg. F-3 Cull Canyon Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Del Valle/Lake Del Valle Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Don Castro Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1 Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline pg. S.RP-1 Middle Harbor Shoreline Park, pg. S.RP-1 Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1 Robert Crown Memorial State Beach pg. S.RP-2 Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2 Timescal Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2 Tilden/Lake Anza Regional Park pg. S.RP-2

## **BIKING PATH**

All City Areas Refer to State & Regional Parks

## **BOCCE BALL**

North Oakland pg. NO.P-3 Alameda pg. A.SL-3 Pleasanton pg. D.P.S-3

## BOATING

Berkeley/Emeryville pg. A.B.E-3 North Oakland pg. NO.P-3 San Leandro pg. A.SL-3 Fremont pg. F-3 Anthony Chabot/Lake Chabot Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Bethany Reservoir State Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1 Del Valle/Lake Del Valle Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline pg. S.RP-1 Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1 Robert Crown Memorial State Beach pg. S.RP-2 Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2

## **BOAT LAUNCH**

Berkeley/Emeryville pg. A.B.E-3 North Oakland pg. NO.P-3 Alameda/San Leandro pg. A.SL-2 Fremont pg. F-3 Anthony Chabot/Lake Chabot Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Bethany Reservoir State Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1 Del Valle/Lake Del Valle Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline pg. S.RP-1 Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1 Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2

## BOAT RENTAL

Lakeside Park, North Oakland pg. NO.P-3 Lake Elizabeth, Central Park, Fremont pg. F-3 Anthony Chabot/Lake Chabot Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Del Valle/Lake Del Valle Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Robert Crown Memorial State Beach pg. S.RP-2 Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2

## CAMPING

Anthony Chabot/Lake Chabot Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Carnegie Vehicular State Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1 Coyote Hills Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Del Valle/Lake Del Valle Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Ohlone Regional Wilderness pg. S.RP-1 Redwood Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Sunol Regional Wilderness pg. S.RP-2 Tilden/Lake Anza Regional Park pg. S.RP-2

## CAROUSELS

Kennedy Park, Hayward pg. A.C.H.SL-3 Knowland Park/Oakland Zoo, South Oakland pg. SO-3 Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton pg. D.P.S-1 Tilden/Lake Anza Regional Park pg. S.RP-2



Waterslide at Bengtson Aquatic Center, Pleasanton



BMX Track, Payne Park, Livermore

### CONCESSIONS

Anthony Chabot/Lake Chabot Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Bay Trail pg. S.RP-2 Carnegie Vehicular State Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1 Coyote Hills Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Cull Canyon Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Del Valle/Lake Del Valle Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Don Castro Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1 Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline pg. S.RP-1 Roberts Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2 Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2 Temescal Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2 Tilden/Lake Anza Regional Park pg. S.RP-2

#### **DOG PARK**

Berkeley pg. A.B.E-3 Alameda pg. A.SL-3 San Lorenzo pg. A.C.H.SL-3 Fremont pg. F-3 Pleasanton pg. D.P.S-3. Livermore pg. L-3 Del Valle/Lake Del Valle Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Robert Crown Memorial State Beach pg. S.RP-2

#### EQUESTRIAN CENTERS

Piedmont pg. NO.P-2 South Oakland pg. SO-2 Castro Valley pg. CV.F-2 Livermore pg. L-3 Sunol Wilderness Pack Station pg. D.P.S-2, pg. S.RP-2

#### EQUESTRIAN TRAIL

Robertson Park, Livermore pg. L-3 Refer to State & Regional Parks pg. S.RP-1

#### EXERCISE/FITNESS COURSE

Berkeley pg. A.B.E-3 North Oakland pg. NO.P-3 South Oakland pg. SO-3 Alameda/San Leandro pg. A.SL-3 Castro Valley pg. CV.F-3 Hayward/San Lorenzo pg. A.C.H.SL-3 Newark/Union City pg. N.UC-3 Fremont pg. F-3 Dublin/Pleasanton pg. D.P.S-3 Livermore pg. L-3 Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline pg. S.RP-1

#### FAIRGROUNDS

Alameda County Fairgrounds – Site of the annual Alameda County Fair. pg. D.P.S-1

#### FISHING

Berkeley/Emeryville pg. A.B.E-3 North Oakland pg. NO.P-3 South Oakland pg. SO-3 Alameda/San Leandro pg. A.SL-3 Newark pg. N.UC-3 Fremont pg. F-3 Alameda Creek Trail pg. S.RP-2 Anthony Chabot/Lake Chabot Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Bay Trail pg. S.RP-2 Bethany Reservoir State Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1 Cull Canyon Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Del Valle/Lake Del Valle Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Don Castro Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1 Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Hayward Regional Shoreline pg. S.RP-1 Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline pg. S.RP-1 Middle Harbor Shoreline Park pg. S.RP-1 Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline pg. S.RP-1 Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Center pg. S.RP-1 Robert Crown Memorial State Beach pg. S.RP-2 Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2 Temescal Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2 Tilden/Lake Anza Regional Park pg. S.RP-2

#### FRISBEE GOLF

Berkeley pg. A.B.E-3 San Leandro pg. A.SL-3

#### GARDENS

Berkeley pg. A.B.E-3 North Oakland pg. NO.P-3 South Oakland pg. SO-3 Hayward pg. A.C.H.SL-3



# Activities

## GARDENS (cont.)

Union City pg. N.UC-3 Livermore pg. L-3 Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Tilden/Lake Anza Regional Park pg. S.RP-2 Ardenwood Historical Site pg. HS.D.POI-2

## **GOLF COURSES**

Berkeley pg. A.B.E-2 South Oakland pg. SO-2 Alameda/San Leandro pg. A.SL-2 Castro Valley pg. CV.F-2 Hayward pg. A.C.H.SL-2 Fremont pg. F-2 Dublin/Pleasanton/Sunol pg. D.P.S-2 Livermore pg. L-2

## HANG GLIDING

Mission Peak Regional Preserve pg. S.RP-1

## HIKING PATH

All City Areas All State & Regional Parks



Meek Estate, Cherryland

## HISTORICAL SITES

Refer to Historical Sites, Districts and Points of Interest pg. HS.D.POI-1

## HORSESHOES

North Oakland pg. NO-3 Alameda/San Leandro pg. A.SL-3 Castro Valley/Fairview pg. CV.F-3 Cherryland/Hayward pg. A.C.H.SL-3 Newark/Union City pg. N.UC-3 Pleasanton pg. D.P.S-3 Livermore pg. L-3 Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park pg SRP-1 Robert Crown Memorial State Beach pg. S.RP-2 Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2

## ICE RINK

Berkeley pg. A.B.E-2 North Oakland pg. NO.P-2 Fremont pg. F-2 Dublin pg. D.P.S-2

## MARINAS

Berkeley/Emeryville pg. A.B.E-3 North Oakland pg. NO.P-2 Alameda/San Leandro pg. A.SL-2

MARKSMANSHIP Anthony Chabot/Lake Chabot Regional Park pg. S.RP-1

## MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES

Lakeshore Park (Children's Fairyland), North Oakland pg. NO.P-2

Kennedy Park, Hayward pg. A.C.H.SL-3 Ardenwood Historical Site pg. HS.D.POI-1, S.RP-3 Tilden/Lake Anza Regional Park pg. S.RP-2 Knowland Park/Oakland Zoo, South Oakland pg. SO-3

## MODEL AIRPLANE FIELD

Bill Osborne Model Airplane Field, Alameda pg. HS.D.POI-1

## MODEL BOATING

Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1

## **OFF-ROAD VEHICULAR RECREATION**

Carnegie Vehicular State Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1

## PICNIC TABLES

All City Areas Refer to State & Regional Parks pg. S.RP-1

## PLANETARIUM

Chabot Space & Science Center pg. SO-2 Holt Planetarium at Lawrence Hall of Science pg. HS.D.POI-1



Petting zoo at Kennedy Park, Hayward

## PLAYGROUND

All City Areas Refer to State & Regional Parks pg. S.RP-1

#### PRESERVE

Lakeside Park pg. HS.D.POI-3 Refer to State & Regional Parks pg. S.RP-1

### RECREATION CENTER

All City Areas

## SENIOR CENTER

All City Areas

#### SKATE PARKS

Albany/Berkeley pg. A.B.E-3 Piedmont pg. NO.P-3 Alameda pg. HS.D.POI-1 San Leandro pg. A.SL-3 Hayward pg. A.C.H.SL-3 Fremont pg. F-3 Dublin/Pleasanton pg. D.P.S-3 Livermore pg. L-3

## SOCCER/FOOTBALL FIELDS

All City Areas

### SWIM CENTER

All City Areas Refer to State & Regional Parks pg. S.RP-1

## **TENNIS COURTS**

All City Areas

#### VOLLEYBALL

Berkeley pg. A.B.E-3 Alameda/San Leandro pg. A.SL-3 Castro Valley/Fairview pg. CV.F-3 Hayward pg. A.C.H.SL-3 Union City pg. N.UC-3 Fremont pg. F-3 Dublin/Pleasanton pg. D.P.S-3 Livermore pg. L-3 Anthony Chabot/Lake Chabot Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Center pg. S.RP-1 Robert Crown Memorial State Beach pg. S.RP-2 Roberts Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2 Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2

### WATERSLIDES

Newark pg. N.UC-2 Dublin/Pleasanton pg. D.P.S-2 Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2

## WINDSURFING

Bethany Reservoir State Recreation Area pg. S.RP-1 Del Valle/Lake Del Valle Regional Park pg. S.RP-1 Robert Crown Memorial Beach pg. S.RP-2 Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area pg. S.RP-2

YOUTH CENTERS

All City Areas

#### **ZOO**

Knowland Park/Oakland Zoo, South Oakland pg. SO-3 Kennedy Park Petting Zoo, Hayward pg. A.C.H.SL-3 Sulphur Creek Nature Center, Fairview pg. CV.F-2



Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center