






Quarry Park Self-guided Tour

This 517-acre park is located in the community of El Granada, 25 miles south of San Francisco, and just 4 miles north of Half Moon Bay's historic district. It offers a play area for tots (ages 1-5) and youth (ages 5-12), ten picnic tables with four double barbecues and one single barbecue, a community garden, a tree house, open grassy areas, a restroom, and a parking area. **Start your tour at the parking lot.**

Self-guided Tour Routes (Approximate Time):

-  Vista Point North Trail: 1 mile (30 minutes)
-  Vista Point South Trail: 1.5 miles (45 minutes)
-  Vista Point to Middle Ridge, then South Ridge to Vista Point: 2.5 miles (1.5 hours)

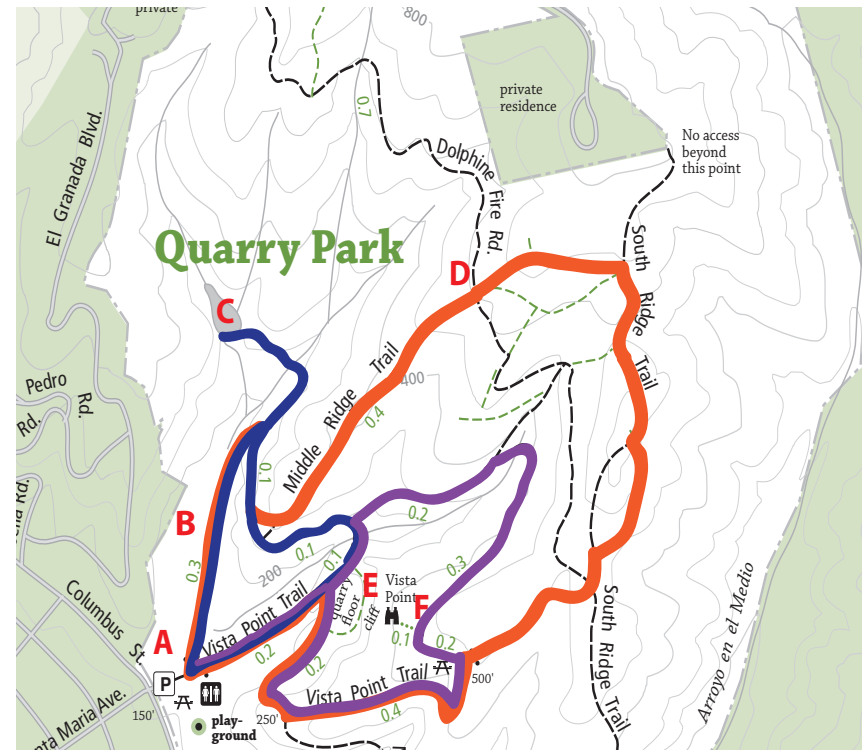
A. Community Garden

The Quarry Park Community Garden was a direct result of local grassroots organization. The quest for the community garden was led by local resident and master gardener Pam Manuel, with the mission of getting local residents of El Granada back to nature. People who wish to get involved in the community garden can have a plot assigned to them by emailing QPCGarden@gmail.com.



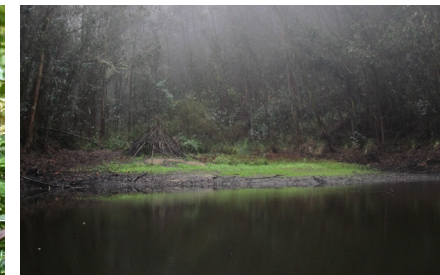
B. Eucalyptus Trees

Look around Quarry Park and you'll notice it is dominated by one type of tree- the Blue Gum Eucalyptus. These trees are not native to California, but rather Australia. So how did they get here in such abundance? During the gold rush era in the 1850's, Eucalyptus were brought from Australia with the intention of growing them for lumber for railroad ties. This proved to be a fruitless pursuit as the harvested lumber from the young trees twisted when dried and was so tough that it was far too difficult to hammer spikes into. Without the Eucalyptus being harvested at the intended rate, the groves have grown unmanaged in some areas and have pushed out other native flora. These groves cause challenges for fire management with their large amount of fuel buildup on the forest floor and highly flammable oils. While Eucalyptus trees are invasive, they are also valued for their old-growth timber and the oils can be used for products like fuel, fragrances, and insect repellent. Groves of trees are used as windbreaks in the central valley, native monarch butterflies have adapted to prefer to winter-over in Eucalyptus trees, and in places like here at Quarry Park the Eucalyptus is appreciated for its beauty and shade on a warm day.



C. Newt Pond

This spond was likely used as a source of water for cattle when the land was used for grazing. Today, it serves as habitat for organisms, such as rough-skinned newts. Look closely under the surface of the water where you may see newts swimming, or look for them lying camouflaged amongst leaves on the pond's bottom.





D. Wicklow Property

You are currently standing on the Wicklow Property. In the early 1900s, the city planner of El Granada was Daniel H. Burnham. He was also known for being the city planner of Chicago, and for being the architect of the Flatiron building in New York City. He originally designed the Wicklow Property to be a recreation area for the community, despite the fact that four luxury homes could have been built on this space. The space ended up being used for cattle grazing. Later in 1994, the property was purchased by a bay area builder named Mike O'Neill, with the intention of forever preserving the grassy hillsides, coastal ridges, and massive eucalyptus forest that was found on the Wicklow property. In 2002, the property was donated by the O'Neill family to the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), a trust that protects and cares for open space, farms, and parkland in and around the Peninsula. In 2014, POST donated the Wicklow property to San Mateo County Parks, and the land became a part of Quarry Park, allowing the property to fulfill Burnham's original intent for the land. The private property that is contained within Quarry Park still belongs to the O'Neill family to this day.



E. Quarry Floor

The quarry you are standing in provided rock for building Highway 1, as well as a World War II airport runway, which is now Half Moon Bay Airport. The space has also been used as horse boarding facility and the many trails enjoyed by equestrians. In 1995, San Mateo County purchased the land as a community park managed until 2013 by the non-profit Midcoast Parklands. The labyrinth seen on the old quarry floor was built in 2012 by Lars Howlett. Walk the winding path and clear your mind.

Invasive Species

Many plants in Quarry Park are non-natives, or invasives. These include Eucalyptus, French Broom, and Cape Ivy. Plants such as these have the unique ability to grow quickly and densely which crowds out native vegetation, causing the native plants to compete for resources such as space, sunlight, and water. Some even change the soil composition, making it more difficult for native plants to establish in that area. While many invasive species were introduced with positive intentions, such as the Eucalyptus for timber, they now are affecting the health of the natural ecosystem. In order to help stop the spread of invasive plants, do not pick flowers from invasives, avoid driving and camping in areas where there are invasive plants, and scan yourself and any animals you have with you for seeds or plant materials before you leave an area. By limiting the amount of invasive plants that are spread, we encourage biodiversity and the balance of the natural ecosystem.



F. Vista Point

You are looking west towards the Pacific Ocean. Some landmarks include, Pillar Point, Pillar Point Harbor, and the Half Moon Bay Jetty. Down below you is the quarry floor with a birdseye view of the labyrinth.

When you're done with your tour, please return this guide to the kiosk for the next visitor. If you find this guide, please return it to: Quarry Park, 1195 Columbus St. El Granada, CA 94018,

Quarry Park is a part of **San Mateo County Parks**, which manages parks, preserves, trails, and historic sites throughout the county to preserve public lands and provide opportunities for education and recreation.

For more information, visit www.SMCoParks.org.

San Mateo County Parks

Wild places & friendly spaces