

OAKES QUARRY PARK

Where can you find world-class fossil beds, old-growth forest, a native-grass prairie, and miles of hiking and horseback riding trails combined with some of the most stunning natural vistas in the area? Oakes Quarry Park has all of this and more. The 190-acre park, formerly a rock quarry, features one of the world's largest and most diverse collections of marine organism fossils from the Silurian age—a time more than 425 million years ago when the area was covered with warm, shallow seas. It includes:

- Two preserved coral reefs teeming with fossils of reef-building organisms.
- Glacial grooves, polishings and other rock formations that were created as Ice Age glaciers moved through the area.
- Some of the world's largest crinoid fossils. More than 29 species of the spiny-skinned organisms have been documented through research conducted at the park.
- Spoil piles available for guests to uncover and keep their own ancient fossil finds.

IN ADDITION TO INVESTIGATING THE TREASURES OF ANCIENT HISTORY, VISITORS CAN:



- Discover native grasses as well as bird, butterfly and insect species in the 30-acre prairie.
- Study leaf and tree species as well as woodland insects and amphibians in the forested zone.
- Enjoy walking and horseback riding trails with panoramic views from the highest point in Fairborn. A two mile mulched path loops around the perimeter of the park.
- Take in fascinating aquatic life at the park's four ponds. The pond in the southwest corner is stocked with bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish for catch-and release fishing. No permit is required.

OAKES QUARRY MAP

Oakes Quarry Park is located in Fairborn just east of the intersection of I-675 and State Route 235. A parking lot and portable public restrooms are located on site.



In the Oakes Quarry Park the fossils are parts of organisms that once lived in an ocean. The Brassfield Formation was deposited around 440 million years ago during the Silurian Period when Ohio was covered by a shallow, warm, clear, tropical sea. This environment was ideal for the existence and preservation of organisms which are preserved in the rocks we see today. The sea floor would have been covered with organisms like corals, molluscs, brachiopods, and many other invertebrate animals.

For more information, please contact
the City of Fairborn Parks & Recreation Division:

937 | 754 | 3090