

A Place for Nature ...

Year opened: 1949 **Acres:** 740
Highlights: Little Farm, Environmental Education Center, Jewel Lake, hiking, self-guided trails.
Did you know? Tilden Nature Area and the EEC was established to create the “most innovative, creative interpretive program ever devised, and [the most] innovative, creative interpretive center that would set new standards in programs and exhibition for the park field.” – William Penn Mott, former director of the National Park Service and former Regional Parks general manager.

HISTORY Huchuin Ohlone Indians once lived along the banks of lower Wildcat Creek. For centuries they found abundant food, including shellfish, game, and plants. Spanish explorers and Mexican ranchos eventually displaced the Native American communities, and for years the lands were used for ranching and dairying. By 1890, water lured new interests to the canyon. Water companies built wells, pipelines, diversion dams, and a water tunnel over the next several decades. But Sierra water ultimately proved a more dependable water source and local watershed lands were opened to development. East Bay residents organized to protect the open space as parkland, and in 1934, Alameda County voters created the country's first regional park district.

From 1935 to 1941 a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp called “Camp Wildcat Canyon” was established in today's Tilden Nature Area. Workers built roads, shelters, and picnic sites. Some of their skilled stonework remains. After WWII, local schools used the area for nature study. In 1949, the northern portion of Tilden was formally designated as “Tilden Nature Area.” A small nature center was established and the District hired a fulltime naturalist staff. The old center was replaced by the Environmental Education Center in 1974, built on the site of the old CCC camp.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
 The Environmental Education Center (EEC) offers








POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY 9-1-1
TILDEN NATURE AREA OFFICE (510) 544-2233
 or 1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4564
PICNIC, GROUP CAMP RESERVATIONS.....
 1-888-327-2757, Option 2
EBRPD HEADQUARTERS 1-888-327-2757
TRS RELAY FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED..... 711

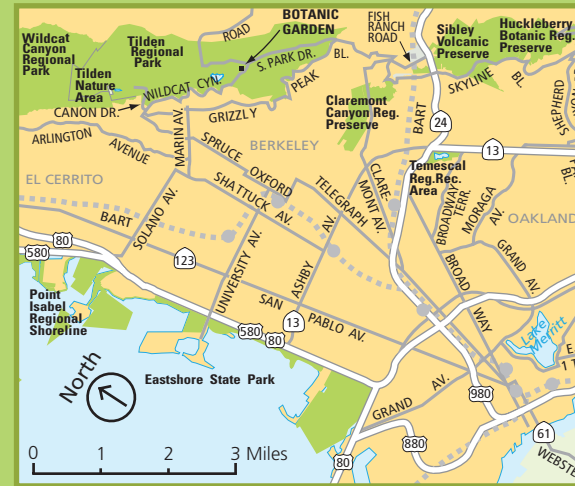
exhibits that tell the story of the Wildcat Creek Watershed, information on park activities and wildlife, and nature-related books and other items. A self-guiding trail booklet is available for loan or purchase. The EEC is open from 10am-4:30pm, Tuesday through Sunday.

TILDEN LITTLE FARM The historic Tilden Little Farm is adjacent to the EEC. The red barn was constructed in 1955 by Berkeley High School carpentry students, with materials donated by the Berkeley Kiwanis Club. The Little Farm is home to a variety of farm animals including cows, sheep, goats, rabbits, chickens, and pigs. Several heritage breeds of livestock are preserved, including Milking Shorthorn Cattle. Visitors are welcome to bring lettuce or celery (but nothing else) to feed the animals. The Little Farm is open daily from 8:30am-3:30pm.

NATURALIST PROGRAMS Park naturalists offer a variety of interpretive programs for schools, organized groups, and the public. Programs provide exciting opportunities to learn about the area's natural and cultural history. Program information can be found inside the EEC, online at www.ebparks.org, or in the District's activity guide, *Regional in Nature*. To make school or group program reservations, please call the EEC at (510) 544-2233, or visit the District's website.

TILDEN NATURE AREA TRAILS The Nature Area is still a land of wild places. Help keep it natural and beautiful for generations to come. Please leave all plant, wildlife, and geological features undisturbed. Be do not litter; if you carry it in, carry it out. To avoid poison oak, stay on the trails. Hikes range from the leisurely, self-guided Jewel Lake Nature Trail, to a vigorous climb up to Wildcat Peak for panoramic Bay views. The trails vary in length and difficulty, and are designated by these symbols on trailside directional posts:

-  Jewel Lake Trail—.90 miles, gentle loop.
-  Pack Rat Trail—.86 miles, moderate.
-  Sylvan Trail—.68 miles, gentle.
-  Wildcat Peak Trail—1.5 miles, steep.
-  Pine Tree Trail—.93 miles, moderate.
-  Laurel Canyon Trail—1.11 miles, moderately steep.
-  Memory Trail— .51 miles, moderate.



To Reach Tilden Nature Area:
 From Hwy 80, take the University Avenue exit in Berkeley. Follow University east towards the hills. Turn left on Oxford Street, right on Rose Street and left on Spruce Street. Follow Spruce to the stop sign at the top of the hill at Wildcat Canyon Drive. Go through intersection and make immediate left on Canon Dr. At the bottom, turn left on Central Park Drive and follow to parking area.

From Hwy 24, exit at Fish Ranch Road. Take Fish Ranch Road to Grizzly Peak Blvd. and turn right. Continue on Grizzly Peak Blvd. through the Berkeley hills until you reach the intersection of Spruce St., Wildcat Canyon Drive and Canon Drive. Turn right on Wildcat Canyon Road, then immediately make a sharp left on Canon Drive. At the bottom, turn left on Central Park Drive and follow to parking area.

Public Transit: AC Transit—Weekends: take #67 from Downtown Berkeley BART directly to the EEC. Weekdays: the closest stop of the #67 is at Spruce and Grizzly Peak, about one-half mile from the EEC. Call to confirm bus schedule—AC Transit: 817-1717; 800-448-9790 (TDD/TTY). See also www.transitandtrails.org/.

PLEASE LET US KNOW how this map may be improved to help you use this park. Write, email, or call with your suggestions: 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605; info@ebparks.org; (510) 544-2210.

East Bay Regional Park District
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 P.O. Box 5381
 Oakland, CA 94605-0381
 1-888-327-2757 (1-888-EBPARKS)
www.ebparks.org Rev. 8/15

Tilden Nature Area

Berkeley, Oakland, Orinda

East Bay Regional Park District

