

## 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 Environmental Education Center were 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** Huchiun 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 Wildcat Canyon. Water companies built wells, pipelines, diversion dams, and a water tunnel over the next several decades. But water from the Sierra ultimately proved a more dependable source, and local watershed lands 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 naturalist staff. The old center was replaced by the Environmental Education Center in 1974, built on the site of the old CCC camp.

**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








### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

The Environmental Education Center (EEC) offers 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 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 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 represented, 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 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**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](http://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. 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/](http://www.transitandtrails.org/).

# Tilden Nature Area

Berkeley, Oakland, Orinda



**East Bay Regional Park District**  
 2950 Peralta Oaks Court,  
 Oakland, CA 94605-0381  
 1-888-327-2757 (1-888-EBPARKS)  
[www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org)      Reprint 4/18



IN ORDER TO REDUCE OR PREVENT THE RISK OF SERIOUS HEAD INJURY OR DEATH, STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT ALL BICYCLISTS UNDER AGE 18 WEAR AN APPROVED HELMET WHILE RIDING ON TRAILS AND ROADWAYS. THE DISTRICT ALSO STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT ALL EQUESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS WEAR HELMETS AT ALL TIMES.

EBMUD land. EBMUD hiking permit required: (925) 254-3778 or (510) 287-0459

NO DOGS IN TILDEN NATURE AREA EXCEPT ON LEASH ON NIMITZ WAY AND IN INDIAN CAMP PICNIC AREA.

**WELCOME!**

Please enjoy our Regional Parks safely, and help us protect and preserve your parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

**SAFETY and ETIQUETTE**

- Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and causes erosion.
- Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas may be dangerous and may harm the watershed.
- Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a leading cause of injuries on the trail.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Trails can be slippery, rocky and steep. Proceed carefully at your own risk.
- Wildlife may be present on the trails at any time. Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
- Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

**RULES**

- **Dogs are not permitted anywhere in Tilden Nature Area.** In Regional Parks that allow dogs, they must be leashed 200 feet from any trail or park entrance. Dogs must be leashed in parking lots, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns and play fields, and on some trails. They must be under voice control at all times.
  - Bicycles are not permitted in Tilden Nature Area except on Loop Road and Wildcat Creek Trail north of Jewel Lake.
  - Equestrians are only permitted on Loop Road, Laurel Canyon Road, and Wildcat Creek Trail north of Jewel Lake.
  - Fishing is not permitted in Nature Area lakes, ponds, or streams.
  - Collecting of plants and animals is prohibited
  - Drones are prohibited.
  - Smoking is prohibited, except in overnight campsites.
- Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38). See [www.ebparks.org/rules](http://www.ebparks.org/rules).

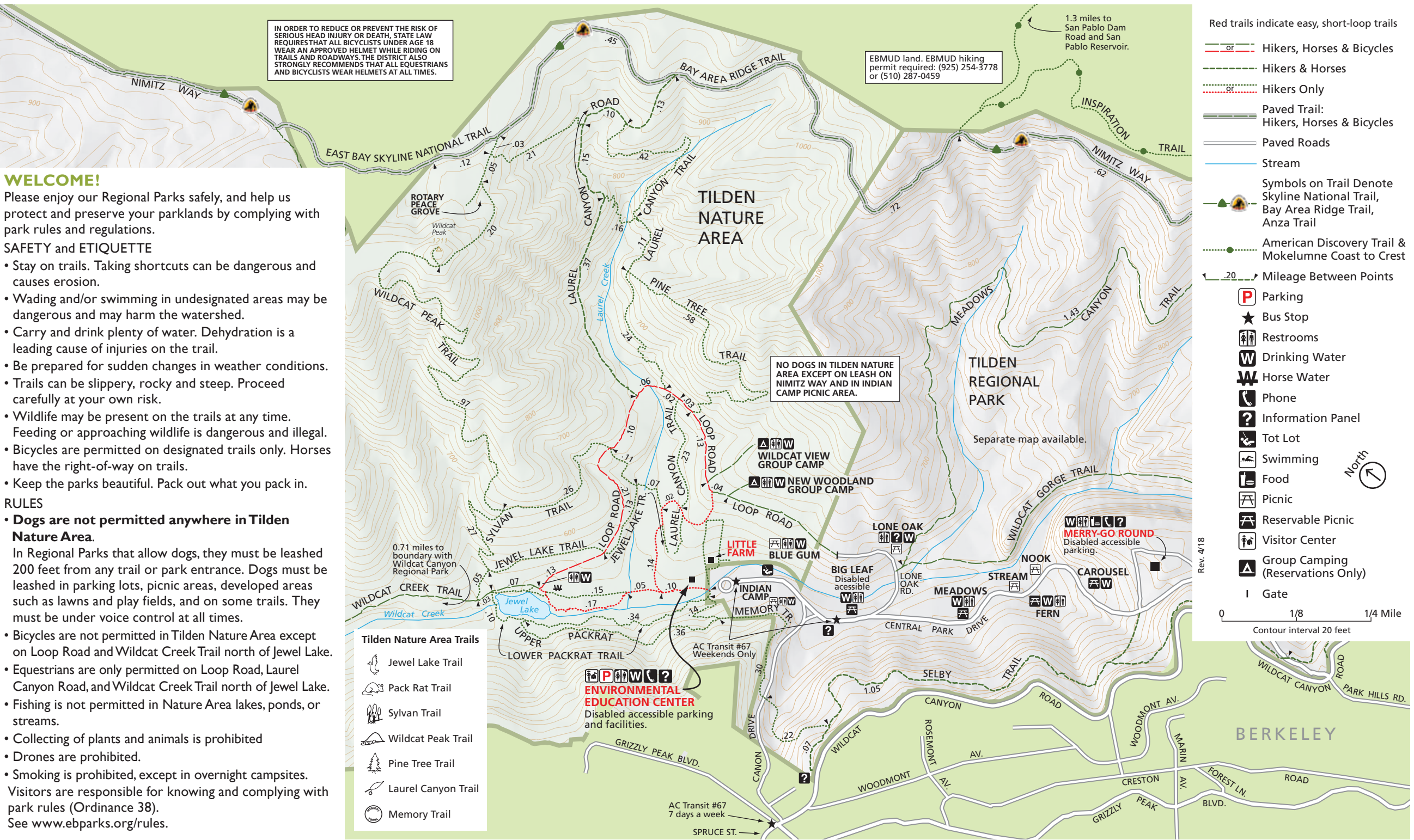
**Tilden Nature Area Trails**

- Jewel Lake Trail
- Pack Rat Trail
- Sylvan Trail
- Wildcat Peak Trail
- Pine Tree Trail
- Laurel Canyon Trail
- Memory Trail

Red trails indicate easy, short-loop trails

- or Hikers, Horses & Bicycles
- Hikers & Horses
- or Hikers Only
- Paved Trail: Hikers, Horses & Bicycles
- Paved Roads
- Stream
- Symbols on Trail Denote Skyline National Trail, Bay Area Ridge Trail, Anza Trail
- American Discovery Trail & Mokelumne Coast to Crest
- Mileage Between Points
- Parking
- Bus Stop
- Restrooms
- Drinking Water
- Horse Water
- Phone
- Information Panel
- Tot Lot
- Swimming
- Food
- Picnic
- Reservable Picnic
- Visitor Center
- Group Camping (Reservations Only)
- Gate

0 1/8 1/4 Mile  
Contour interval 20 feet



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