

## **Tilden Nature Area to Wildcat Canyon Regional Park – Laurel Canyon/ Nimitz Way/ Havey Canyon/ Wildcat Creek Trails**

*This hike exemplifies the diversity and beauty of the Berkeley hills while awakening and freeing the senses with an ever-changing landscape of habitats.*



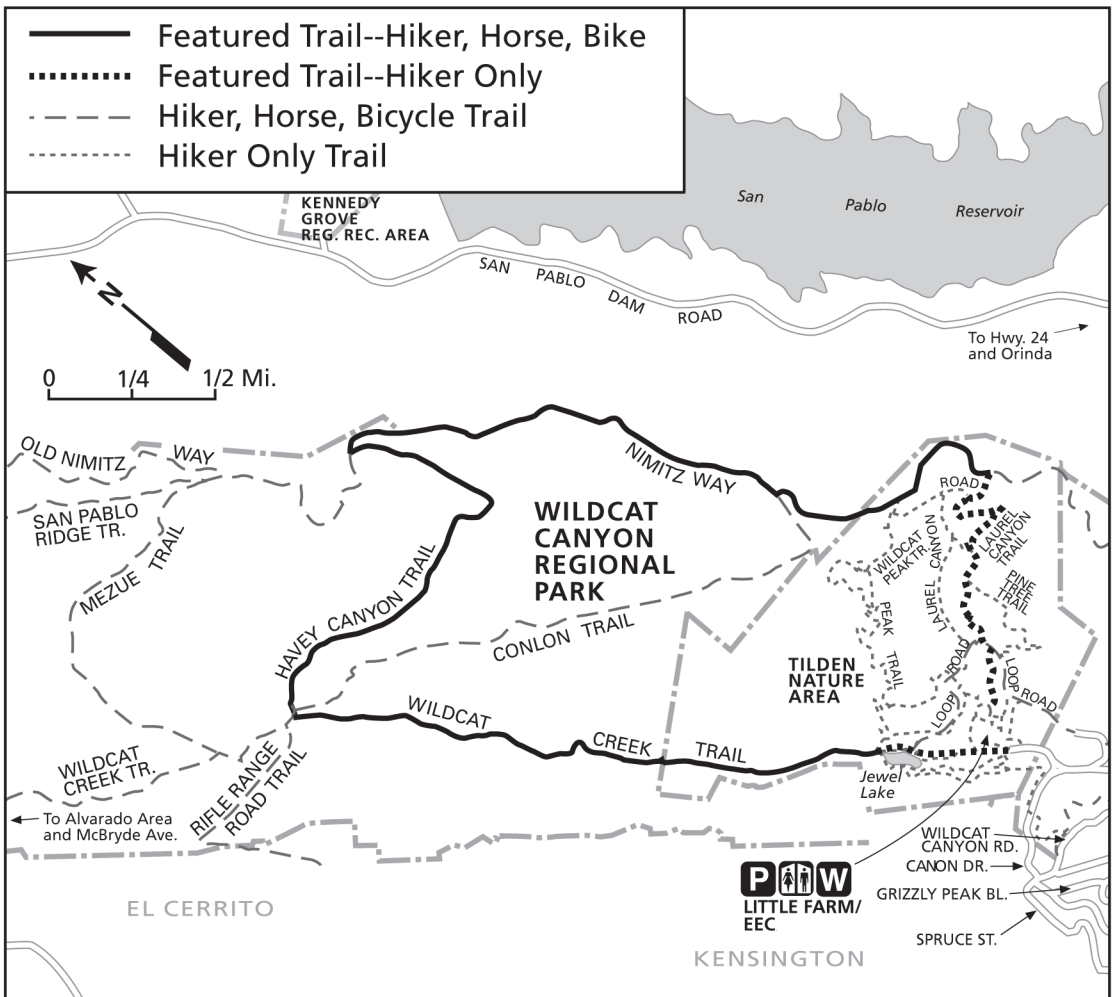
**Length:** 7 miles round trip

**Location:** Berkeley

**Intensity:** Challenging

**Trail Features:** This loop trail traverses multiple habitats (including two riparian areas), and provides various ridgeline vistas. Fill up your water bottles and use the restroom before departing the EEC: there are no amenities along this route. Please note that dogs, bikes, and horses are not allowed in the Tilden Nature Area.

**Trail Directions:** Begin at the Environmental Education Center (EEC) in the Tilden Nature Area. Find the markers for the Laurel Canyon Trail on the back lawn of the EEC. The route is indicated on sign posts by an outline of a leaf with a “berry” attached. This trail goes uphill through shaded oak and bay woodland. After hiking a short distance, cross a dirt road; the trail jogs to the left and continues through a eucalyptus grove. Once through the grove, you will come to another wide dirt road: the Loop Road. The Laurel Canyon Trail continues 90 feet to your left, on the other side of the Loop Road. After a few ups and downs, you will see a sign post that says “To Nimitz Way” with an arrow pointing to the right. This is where the Laurel Canyon Trail splits; follow it to the right towards Nimitz Way. About a tenth of a mile after the split, look up in the oak canopy for an aerial pack rat nest made of sticks; remnants of last year’s collapsed nest are piled below it! After passing through a Monterey pine grove, you will join with the Laurel Canyon Road. Take a right on this dirt road and follow it up until it dead-ends at Nimitz Way. It is not marked by a sign post at this junction but take a left turn at the paved and flat Nimitz Way. Continue into Wildcat Canyon Park and take in views of EBMUD’s reservoirs. Once in Wildcat Canyon, you will notice interpretive signs discussing native grasses and grazing experiments. At the Havey Canyon Trail junction, turn left. Descend from the meadowed ridge into Havey Canyon. This trail is shaded, full of native trees and shrubs. If wet, it will be a very muddy walk with a steep creek crossing. Once you emerge into direct sunlight, you will be at the intersection of Havey Canyon Trail/ Conlon Trail/ Wildcat Creek Trail. Take a left onto the wide, gently rolling dirt road that is the Wildcat Creek Trail. This trail parallels the willow-obscured Wildcat Creek back to the EEC. You will see dragonflies, grassland flowers, and mammal tracks sun-baked into the mud. Once you reach Jewel Lake in the Tilden Nature Area, there are bathrooms and drinking fountains. Rest your weary haunches at the benches to reflect after this beautiful hike! Continue straight on the Wildcat Creek Trail to return to the EEC.



**Driving Directions:** From Highway 80, take the University Avenue exit in Berkeley. Follow University Avenue towards the hills, turn left onto Oxford Street. Turn right onto Rose Street. Turn left onto Spruce Street. Follow Spruce Street up the hill, you will reach a stop sign at the top of the hill, proceed through the intersection and turn immediately left down Canon Drive. At the bottom of Canon Drive, veer left onto Central Park Drive and follow into the parking lot for the Nature Area. From Highway 24, exit at Fish Ranch Road. Take Fish Ranch Road to Grizzly Peak Boulevard and turn right. Continue on Grizzly Peak Boulevard until you come to the intersection of Spruce Street, Wildcat Canyon Road and Canon Drive. Turn right on Wildcat Canyon Road, then immediately make a sharp left down Canon Drive. At the bottom of the hill, veer left onto Central Park Drive and follow into the parking lot for the Nature Area.

**Park Hours:** Open between 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. **No fees.**