











Mills Canyon Wildlife Refuge Map

-  Trailhead
-  Trail
-  Not in Service
-  Bridge
-  Service Road
-  Trash Can
Help Keep Your Community Clean!
-  Staircase
-  Creek (partially underground)

Ed Taylor Loop Trail Path Distances

A ➔ B = .38 mi	C ➔ D = .17 mi	E ➔ F = .20 mi
B ➔ C = .17 mi	D ➔ E = .36 mi	F ➔ A = .04 mi

Total Loop Trail Distance = 1.35 mi



Mills Canyon Wildlife Refuge

Map & Information

Mills Canyon: Natural Features

Mills Canyon is home to diverse flora and fauna. Entering the Ed Taylor loop at any of the 5 entry points to Mills Canyon, you will be greeted to a chaparral landscape of trees and grasslands. Shrubbery in the canyon such as coyote brush, toyon, blackberry, ivy and even poison oak grow outside of, under, and even on trees. Take time to recognize poison oak and avoid any contact with it! As you hike along the upper loop look for a scrub jay, wood pecker or perhaps a red-tailed hawk on the hunt for a field mouse.

The Coast Live Oak is the dominant tree in the canyon, though pine, Bay Laurel, Big Leaf Maple and California Buckeye species are present. Our oaks have been threatened by the spread of Sudden Oak Death Syndrome (SODS) caused by the fungus *Phytophthora Ramorum*. This fungus lives in, but does not detrimentally affect, many plant species. To help protect our oaks, please do not remove or introduce plant matter into the area. Similarly, clean your footwear before and after each visit to Mills Canyon.

Along the service road and lower trail loop, visitors are treated to riparian habitat along the creek bed. In these areas, insects, amphibians and reptiles can be observed in their natural element. Visitors are more likely to see evidence of deer, rabbit, raccoons, foxes and coyotes in the form of tracks and scat, as these mammals are more active in their nocturnal state. However, should you encounter them, do not run. Always face the animal, maintain a large presence and slowly back away. Please report concerning encounters with wildlife.

These plants and animals all play an important role in their ecosystem. It is up to us to carefully observe their environment while leaving their home undisturbed. Please pack your trash and report concerns to the Parks and Recreation Department at 650-558-7330.

Mills Canyon: A Brief History

Mills Canyon is part of the Buri Buri Ridge that began its rise from the ocean bed 3.5 million years ago as the Pacific and North American plates collided to form the San Andreas fault.

The Ohlone tribe lived in the Canyon for many generations. They were fishermen and gatherers. Archeological explorations have revealed mounds along Mills Creek consisting of food remains, tools, mortars and pestles.

In 1859, banker Darius Mills and his brother-in-law, Ansel Easton, each purchased 1500 acres between Millbrae and Sanchez Avenues, with Mills Creek representing the border between the two estates.

In 1977, with approval from the City, Ed Taylor, in his mid-70's, began building a trail in Mills Canyon. With help from the Burlingame Parks Department and many friends, Ed spent five years planning and building the trail. In 1983, after Ed's death, the City Council voted to name the trail after him. Mills Canyon is now an 18 acre wildlife area.

Burlingame Parks & Recreation Foundation

The Foundation raises funds to provide scholarship assistance, additional programs and facility improvements.

For More Information on Mills Canyon &
Burlingame Parks & Recreation Foundation

Go to www.supportburlingameparks.org



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The Foundation thanks all those that have spent their time,
love and sweat to Mills Canyon and helping make this
pamphlet possible.

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