



Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve Self-guided Tour

Edgewood Park is the first and only Natural Preserve in San Mateo County. The Park's 467 acres of woodlands and serpentine grasslands afford wonderful hiking and excellent spring wildflower displays. **Start your tour at the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center and take the Edgewood Trail.**

Self-guided Tour Routes (Approximate Time):

- █ Edgewood Trail to Old Stage Road and return: 1 mile (30 mins)
- █ Edgewood Trail to Franciscan Trail to Baywood Glen Trail to Sylvan Trail: 1.5 miles (1 hour)
- █ Edgewood Trail to Sunset Trail to Serpentine Trail to Sylvan Trail: 3.5 miles (2 hours)



A: Wildflowers:

Over 550 different plants have been identified at Edgewood Park, 70 percent of which are natives. The varied plant and animal life found in the park reflects its diverse environment.

The Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve and the California Native Plant Society conduct habitat restoration through the “weed warrior” program which removes invasive, exotic plants that threaten native plants, including the San Mateo thornmint and the White-rayed pentachaeta, both endangered.

B: Cordilleras Creek:

Cordilleras Creek flows along the northeast side of Edgewood Park and drains to the San Francisco Bay. The creek was known as Arroyo de los Cadillos or Cockleburr Creek in Spanish. However the name was misspelled when recorded and became Cordilleras Creek. It has also been known as Finger Creek after Simon Theodore Finger, a German immigrant who farmed the land in the 1850's.



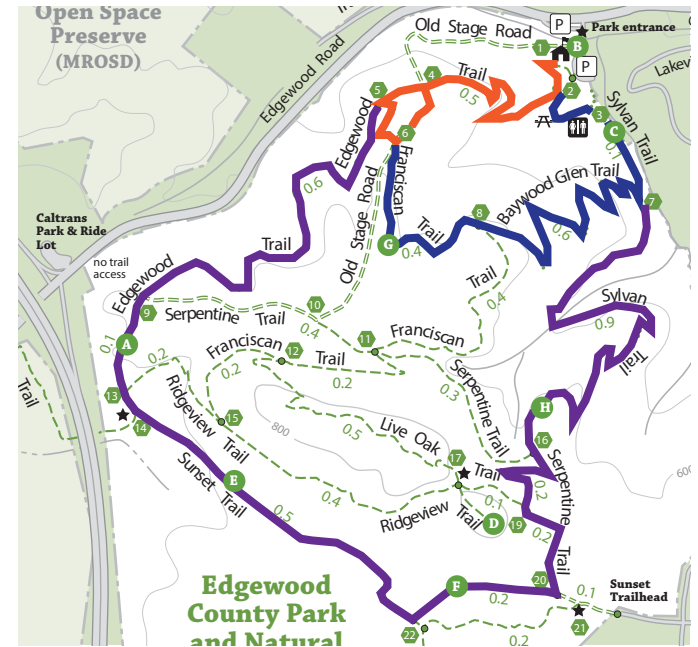
C: Property History:

A few notable historic persons lived on the property prior to it becoming a park. One was Henry C. Finkler, once secretary to the California Supreme Court. In the early 1900s, he meticulously gathered and recorded weather data for the Redwood City area, the only known climate studies of the San Francisco Peninsula. It is believed that his data is the basis for Redwood City's slogan “Climate Best by Government Test.”



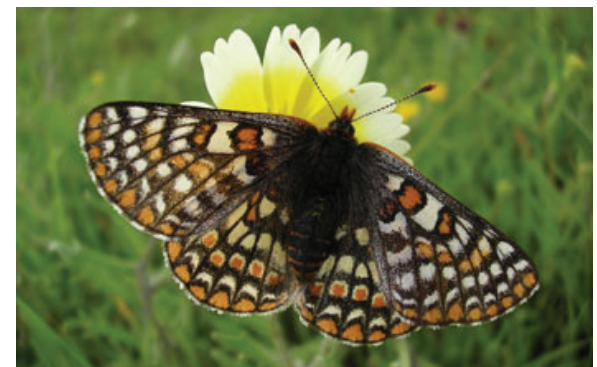
D: Inspiration Point:

From this point you can see panoramic views of the eastern and western sides of the peninsula. On a clear day you can pick out Hayward and Union City across the San Francisco Bay and to the west you can see the beautiful, expansive Peninsula Watershed.



E: Bay Checkerspot Butterfly:

This federally listed insect, once abundant throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, is now found in only a few locations. Edgewood's serpentine grassland habitat supports the growth of the California plantain and owl's clover, both essential food plants for the Bay checkerspot caterpillar.





D: Watershed:

From this point look west of Highway 280 to see the Peninsula Watershed, made up of 23,000 acres of diverse plant and animal life. Recently nesting Bald Eagles have been observed – the first in over a century. San Mateo County Parks manages the 17.5-mile-long Crystal Springs Regional Trail which runs along the Crystal Springs Reservoir.

F: Off-Roading:

Before Edgewood gained its preserve status, off-road vehicles and mountain biking scarred and significantly impacted its sensitive habitats. Local resident Susan Sommers worked to stop the abuse by initiating a plant identification effort. Over the years hundreds of species were listed; some were endangered. In 1992 a petition with 15,000 signatures seeking action was submitted to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors who recommended that the park become a natural preserve protected from future development.



G: Hidden Homes:

Woodrats are nocturnal mammals that commonly live in chaparral, woodland and forested habitats. They create large domed dens to protect them from predators, such as hawks, owls, coyotes, and skunks. Their homes can be seen from the trail. Scientific studies have found that woodrats place California Bay leaves at the entrance of their dens reducing fleas and other parasites.

H: Serpentine Rock: Geology and Associated Plants

The well-known San Andreas Fault is the junction of the North American and Pacific Plates. Plate movement has caused the jumble of rocks and formations seen in the park, including Serpentine, a type of Franciscan rock. The glassy, blue-green Serpentine is the state rock of California. Originally formed on the ocean floor, the rocks were pushed upwards through plate movement approximately 100 to 150 million years ago. Serpentine soil and rocks create a habitat poor in nutrients yet rich in heavy metals. The plants at Edgewood Park are specialized to live in the harsh soil environment, which allows native wildflowers to flourish.



“Leaves of three, let them be”

The oil on the Poison Oak plant can cause rashes. If you think you have brushed against poison oak, wash the area in soap and water as soon as possible to avoid spreading the oil.

When you're done with your tour, please return this guide to the kiosk for the next visitor. If you find this guide, please return it to: Edgewood Park, 10 Old Stage Road, Redwood City, CA 94062.

Edgewood Park is a part of **San Mateo County Parks**, which manages parks, preserves, trails, and historic sites throughout the County to preserve public lands and provide opportunities for education and recreation.

For more information, visit www.SMCoParks.org.

San Mateo County Parks
Wild places & friendly spaces