

**February 13, 2024 Easy Hike – South Park Drive, Tilden Park – 10:00 a.m.**

**Hike Description** – Every Year, Tilden’s South Park Drive is closed to vehicle traffic for a few months so that newts can safely make their way to mating ponds and streams. This road closure affords Sir Easy Hikers an excellent wet-season opportunity to hike on paved surfaces and explore one of nature’s more intriguing migrations in our own backyard.

We start at the South Park Drive gate near the Tilden Botanical Gardens and hike uphill for about a mile before reversing direction to our parked cars. We can round out our hike by entering the Botanical Gardens if we so choose. Total distance is about 3.0 miles with a net elevation gain of about 350 feet. Hope for mist or light rain on this day.

For an interesting primer on the newts of Tilden Park, please read [It's newt crossing season in the Bay Area \(berkeleyside.org\)](https://www.berkeleyside.org/article/its-newt-crossing-season-in-the-bay-area)

**Directions to Trailhead** – From Walnut Creek, take Highway 24 west to Fish Ranch Road (last exit before the tunnel). Turn right onto Fish Ranch Road and head uphill. At the 4-way stop turn right onto Grizzly Peak Road. Turn right in 3.0 miles onto Golf Course Road (at stop sign) and right again in 1.0 miles at Shasta Road (stop sign), merging right onto Wildcat Canyon Road toward the Botanical Gardens in 200 yards. There is a small parking lot on the right across from the main entrance to the Botanical Gardens and along the road/gate at South Park Drive and Wildcat Canyon Road. Restrooms can be found at the parking lot. Meet at 10:00 at South Park Dr. gate.

**What to Bring** – Water, appropriate footwear, trekking poles, jacket/rainwear

**Optional Lunch** – in downtown Orinda at the Europa Hofbrau, 64 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA.

**Hike Leader** – Carl Ludwig, [cludwig171@gmail.com](mailto:cludwig171@gmail.com), 415.350.7372

**Hike Coordinator** – Phil Trapp,; [prtrapp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:prtrapp@sbcglobal.net), 925-963-1819

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