

Through the Forest and Around Jewel Lake

Length: 0.9 miles

Time: 20-40 minutes

Difficulty: 1

Elevation Gain: 25 feet

Starting Point: the end of Central Park Dr/Little Farm parking lot

Transportation:

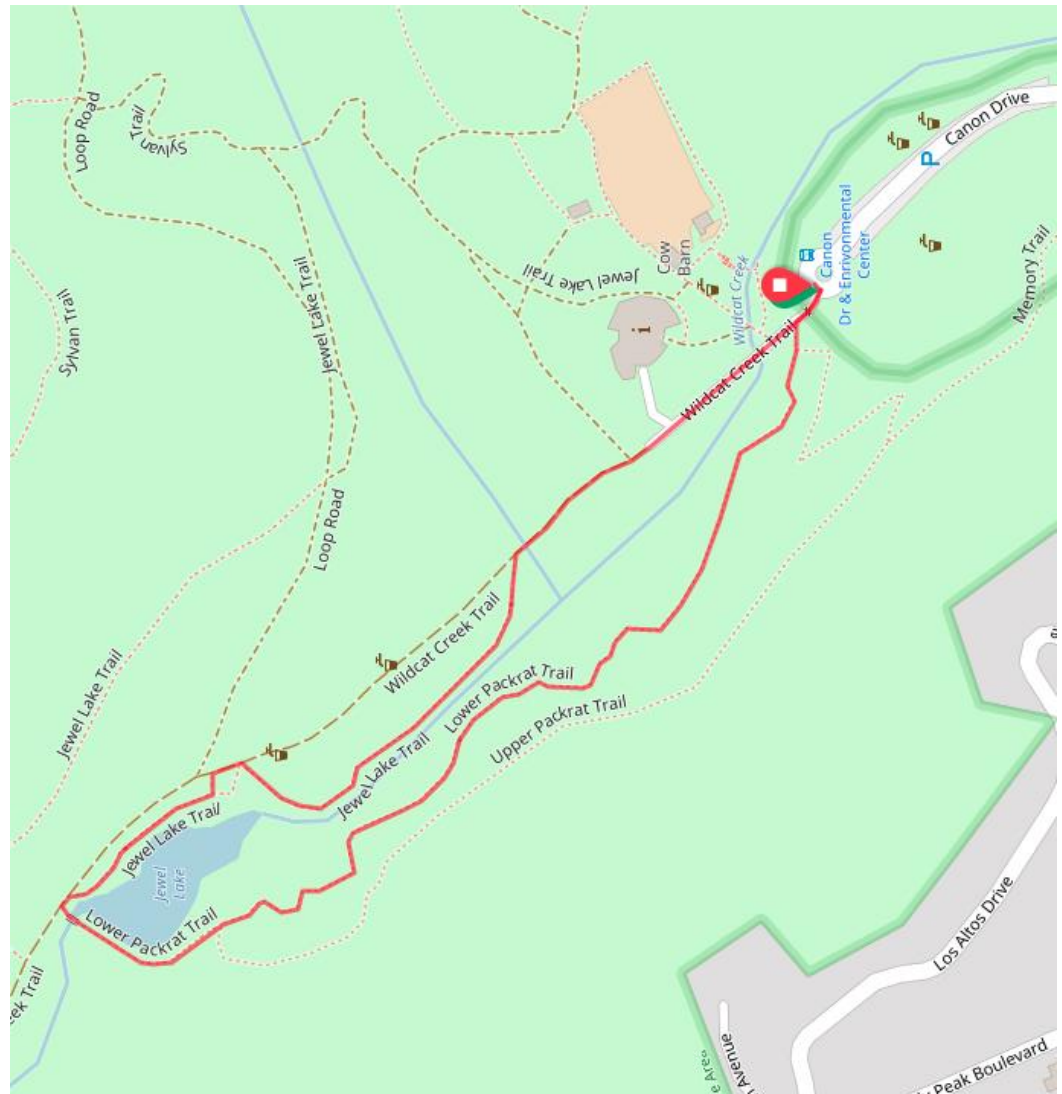
AC transit bus

67 stops at the starting point.

There is parking available in the nearby lot, as well as further south on Central Park Dr. if the lot is full.

Overview:

This lovely, little loop is perfect for people of all ages, from toddlers to grandparents. Starting from the Little Farm (a great destination for young kids), you'll head north along the Packrat Trail through a sort of tree tunnel in a small forest. You'll come out of the trees at Jewel Lake, where turtles and ducks are often visible. Rounding the lake, you'll return on a long bridge by Wildcat Creek and finish back at the Little Farm.





A short detour up the hill to the Little Farm is worth it for anyone, especially young kids bearing celery.

Directions and pictures:

Start at the end of Central Park Dr, accessible from Berkeley by driving down Cañon Dr, then making a left. At the very end of the road, stay left to walk north on the Lower Packrat Trail. Follow this for about a half mile through overhanging trees near the western side of Wildcat Creek. Where the Upper Packrat Trails comes in, stay right to continue around Jewel Lake. Look for turtles sunning themselves on logs and ducks swimming and diving as you turn right and cross a bridge over Wildcat Creek. Make a right onto the trail closest to the lake and follow it past the east bank and along a very long bridge over a swampy area. Where the bridge ends, stay slightly right and keep going along Wildcat Creek to where the trail joins the larger Wildcat Creek Trail. Make a slight right to continue south for another 0.15 miles, to where the trail ends becomes paved and ends back at the end of Central Park Dr. where you started. This is a fabulous loop for people who aren't looking for an epic hike but want a scenic stroll with great views and a lot of trail variation. It can also be extended in many ways to go farther north through Tilden and Wildcat Canyon.