

# exploring GLEN CANYON

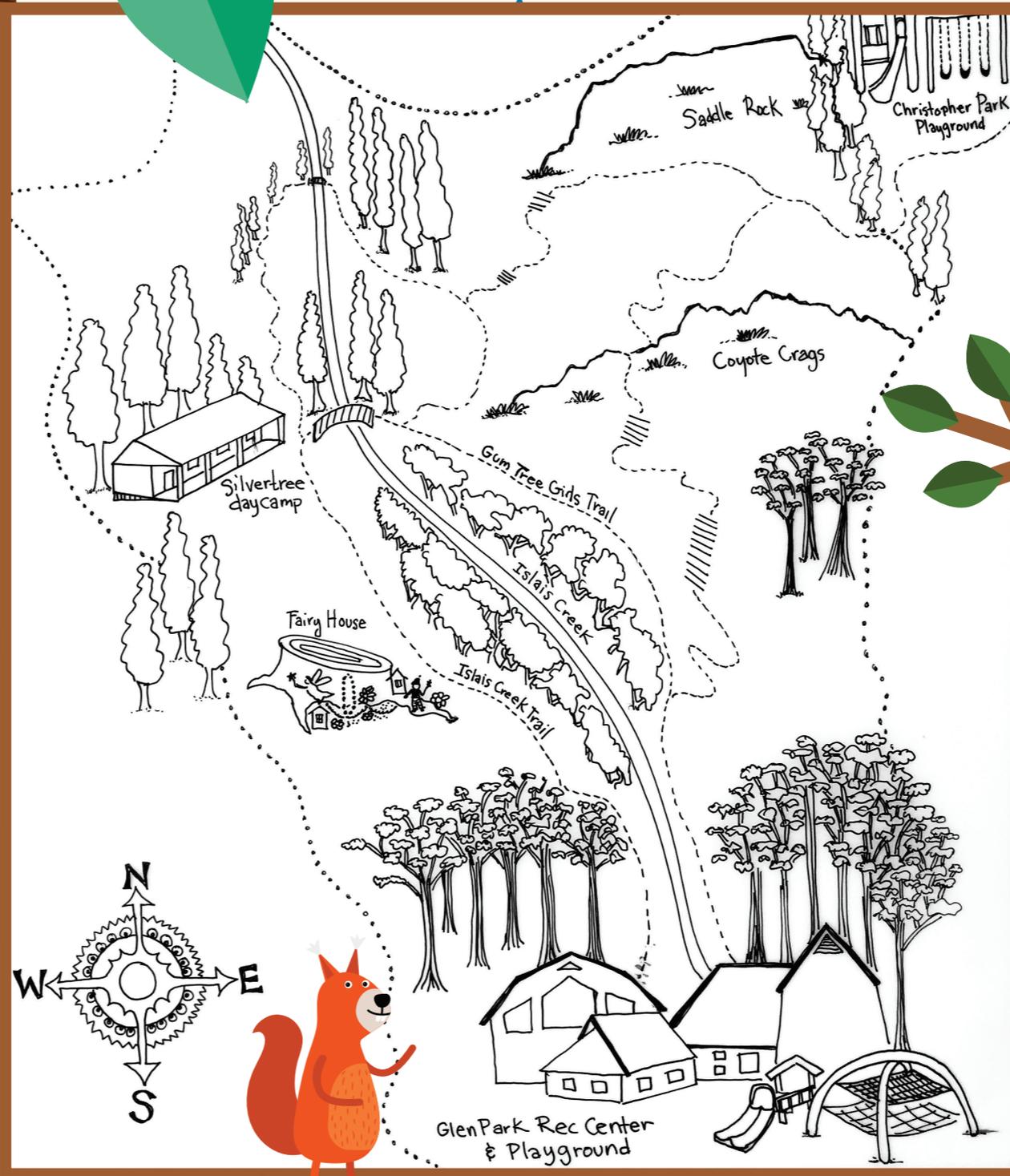
## A Guide for Curious Kids

Close your eyes and listen. Can you hear wind rustling the trees? The chirp of songbirds or the call of the red-tailed hawk? Sniff the air. What do you smell? Look up – gigantic rocks tower overhead. Peek among scrubby bushes to find Islais Creek.

Long ago, Muwekma Ohlone Indians likely stalked elk and antelope, maybe even bear, in the Canyon and fished in the creek. Later, dairy cattle grazed its grassy slopes. A dynamite factory lasted 18 months—then exploded! An amusement park once thrilled visitors with hot air balloons and daring acrobats. Today, children who visit Glen Canyon Park can enjoy a Recreation Center and playground, Silver Tree Day Camp, ball fields, and tennis courts.

You are in a special place—a wilderness in the heart of San Francisco—the home to animals and plants rarely seen anywhere else in the city.

SEE WHAT YOU CAN DISCOVER IN GLEN CANYON!



COYOTE



BANANA SLUG



TINY FAIRY HOUSE



GREAT HORNED OWLET

## CANYON CREATURES

Overhead, red-tailed hawks soar in the sky. Beneath your feet, pocket gophers tunnel through soil, then pop up for a look around. A lizard basks on a warm rock. Butterflies flutter by. Roly-poly bugs nestle under logs. A great horned owl swoops through the trees. You may glimpse the Canyon's top predator – the coyote. Animals and insects nest and find food in the trees, bushes, and grasslands.



The Canyon belongs to them; humans are visitors. Our role is to respect and protect what is wild.

Enjoy the sight of a coyote, but walk away. Always keep a safe distance between people, pets, and Canyon animals.



COYOTE



GREAT HORNED OWL



POCKET GOPHER



RED-TAILED HAWK



## COLORFUL PLANTS

Glen Canyon changes color with the season. Native grasses turn brown in the dry months of summer and fall, then burst into brilliant green with winter rains. Spring brings spectacular wildflower blooms.

## ROCKS & WATER

The Canyon's towering rocks once lay on the ocean floor. Look closely to see layers of Franciscan chert in the rock. Chert formed from the shells of sea creatures during the time of the dinosaurs. Shifting earth slowly shoved the chert hundreds of feet above the Canyon floor. Some say that Canyon caves once provided hide-outs for cattle rustlers. Today, rock climbers scramble up those outcroppings.

Islais Creek trickles through the heart of the Canyon nurturing willows, monkeyflowers, and wild blackberries. Once it was eight feet deep, the largest creek in San Francisco, providing much of the city's drinking water.



JOHNNY JUMP-UP



POISON OAK



ISLAIS CREEK



CHERT



## PROTECTING GLEN CANYON

Glen Canyon has changed over the years. People planted trees, channeled Islais Creek into underground pipes, and built nearly four miles of trails. But they prevented other damaging changes that would have dammed Islais Creek to create a reservoir or built houses throughout the Canyon. Glen Park women – known as the Gum Tree Girls – rallied neighbors to block a highway that would have run through the heart of the Canyon.

Today, volunteers help San Francisco Recreation and Park preserve Glen Canyon. They control erosion, improve trails, restore Islais Creek, and plant native plants. What can you do to protect this special place?

**This brochure is a gift from Noe Valley Nursery School to San Francisco kids**

**Photo & Art Credits:**  
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Poison Oak: [www.poison-oak.org](http://www.poison-oak.org)  
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