


GRASSLANDS

You will know that you're in the grasslands because it is hot and dry. Grass is the main plant growing here. Huddart is a park (not a preserve), so it has non-native grasslands that were planted for recreation. These non-native grasses are the home to many wild plants and animals. Look for “belly” flowers—flowers that are so tiny you have to lie on your belly to see them. Find holes that lead to underground tunnels. Who lives here? Look up in the sky: Is there a bird looking for a meal?



One of the belly flowers you might see is the **Scarlet Pimpernel**. During the day the flowers are open and they close at night, which is why some people call this flower shepherd's clock.

The **Black-Tailed Deer** have long legs for running and jumping, and large ears to listen for predators. The male deer, bucks, have antlers that grow in the spring and shed in the winter. You might see them in the grasslands eating one of their favorite foods. Do you see heart-shaped deer tracks on the trail? 



See those mounds of dirt? This is the entrance to the home of the **Pocket Gopher**. This gopher has little pockets in its cheeks for collecting grass seed.



The **California Poppy**, our state flower, is well adapted to the grasslands. Look inside the flower and you might see small black beetles living there.



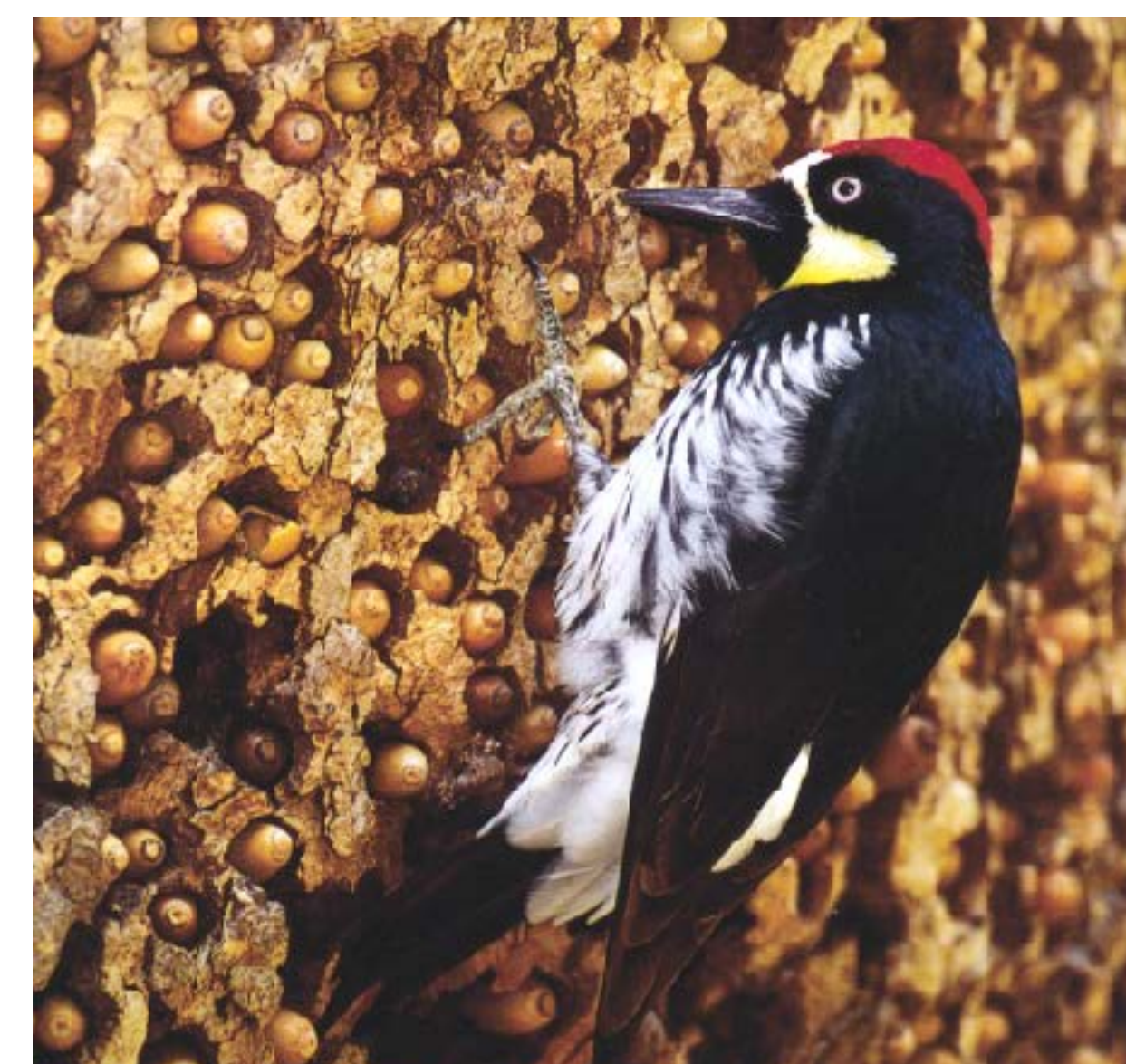
MIXED EVERGREEN

The mixed evergreen habitat is where you will be walking among madrones, oaks, bay trees, shrubs, and leaf litter. You will notice that it is very shady compared to the grassland. Do you smell the scent of bay leaves? These leaves are used as seasoning in foods but are so strong that we do not eat the leaf itself. In fact, the leaves were used by Native Americans in their lodges as an insecticide. Similarly the clever dusky footed woodrat uses it to line its nest to repel bugs. Listen and you may hear a tap, tap, tapping on a tree. Who is making that sound?



The **Coast Live Oak** is a common tree in the mixed evergreen forest. It produces lots of acorns in the fall that feed many forest animals, such as squirrels, deer, and scrub jays. Acorns were highly valued by the Native Americans as a food source.

LEAVES OF THREE, LET IT BE **Poison Oak** can produce an itchy rash if touched. Birds feed on their berries and spread the plant throughout the forest. Do you think the birds get an itchy rash?



Acorn Woodpeckers live in family groups. They collect acorns in the fall and store them in holes they have created in old or dead trees called granaries. Along with acorns, they also eat insects.

Look for a pile of sticks in the forest. This is the home of the **Dusky-Footed Woodrat**. This cleverly designed home has lots of rooms for storage and sleeping, plus it has a trophy room. The woodrat explores the forest at night, sometimes collecting shiny objects.



HABITAT HOP

A self-guided nature walk beginning at the Upper Crystal Springs Trail



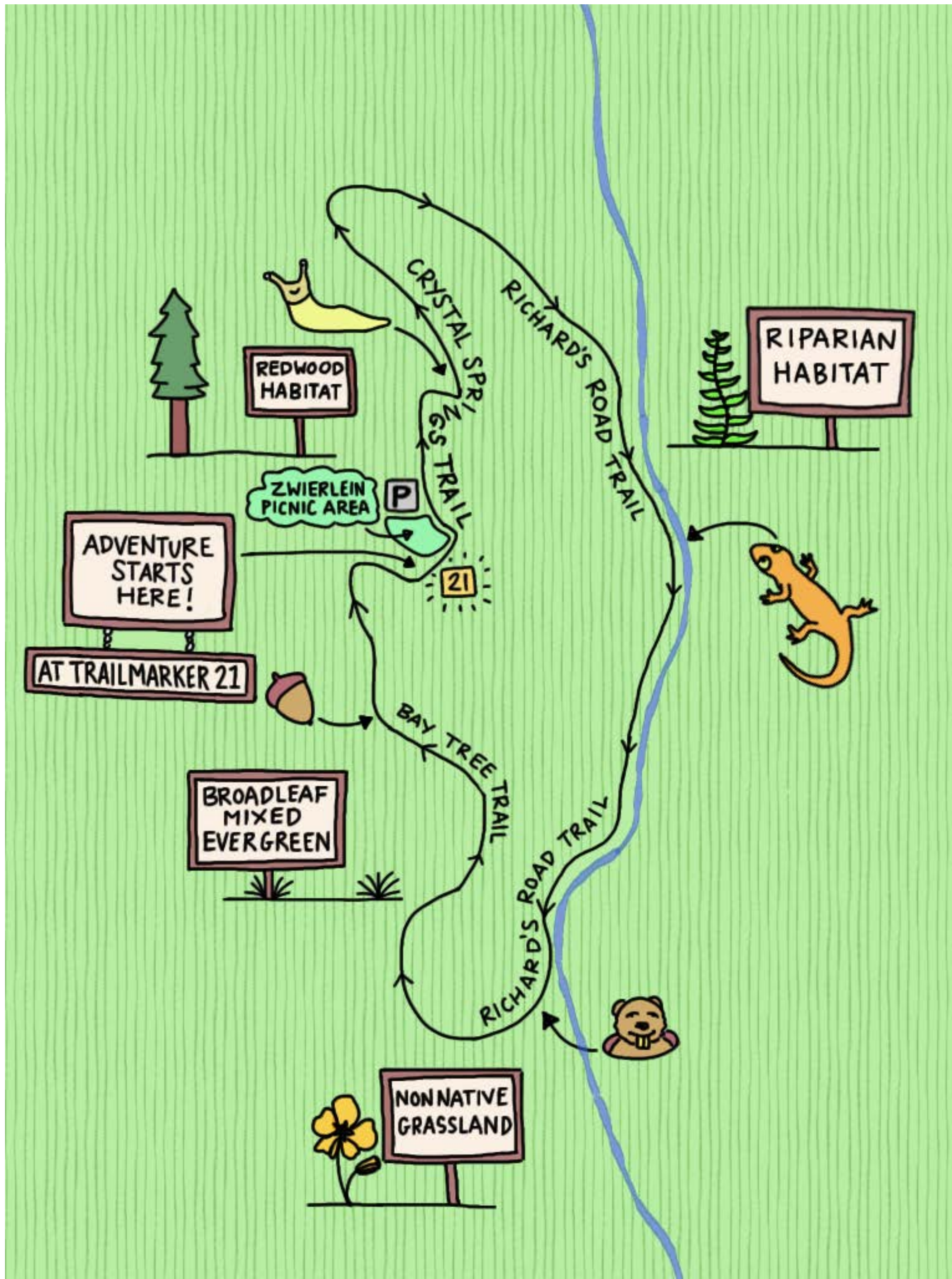
Crystal Springs to Spur to Richard's Road to Bay Tree
Approximately 3 Miles



- * BE A NATURE DETECTIVE and hop from habitat to habitat investigating 4 different plant and animal neighborhoods.
- * LOOK FOR CLUES that animals have been there (leaves with bites, scat, feathers, nests, and tracks).
- * WONDER who lives in that neighborhood and how they protect themselves.
- * NOTICE that the plants, the temperature, and the amount of sunlight change from habitat to habitat.
- * BE CURIOUS AND CONNECT WITH NATURE

Huddart Park
San Mateo County

TRAIL ROUTE



PARKING: Zwierlein Picnic Area
TRAILHEAD: Trail Junction 21
DISTANCE: About 3 miles

- Trail Junction 21** Start here. Turn left onto Crystal Springs Trail.

- Trail Junction 17** At this post continue straight on Crystal Springs Trail.

- Trail Junction 13** Go straight on Spur Trail, keeping the creek on your left.

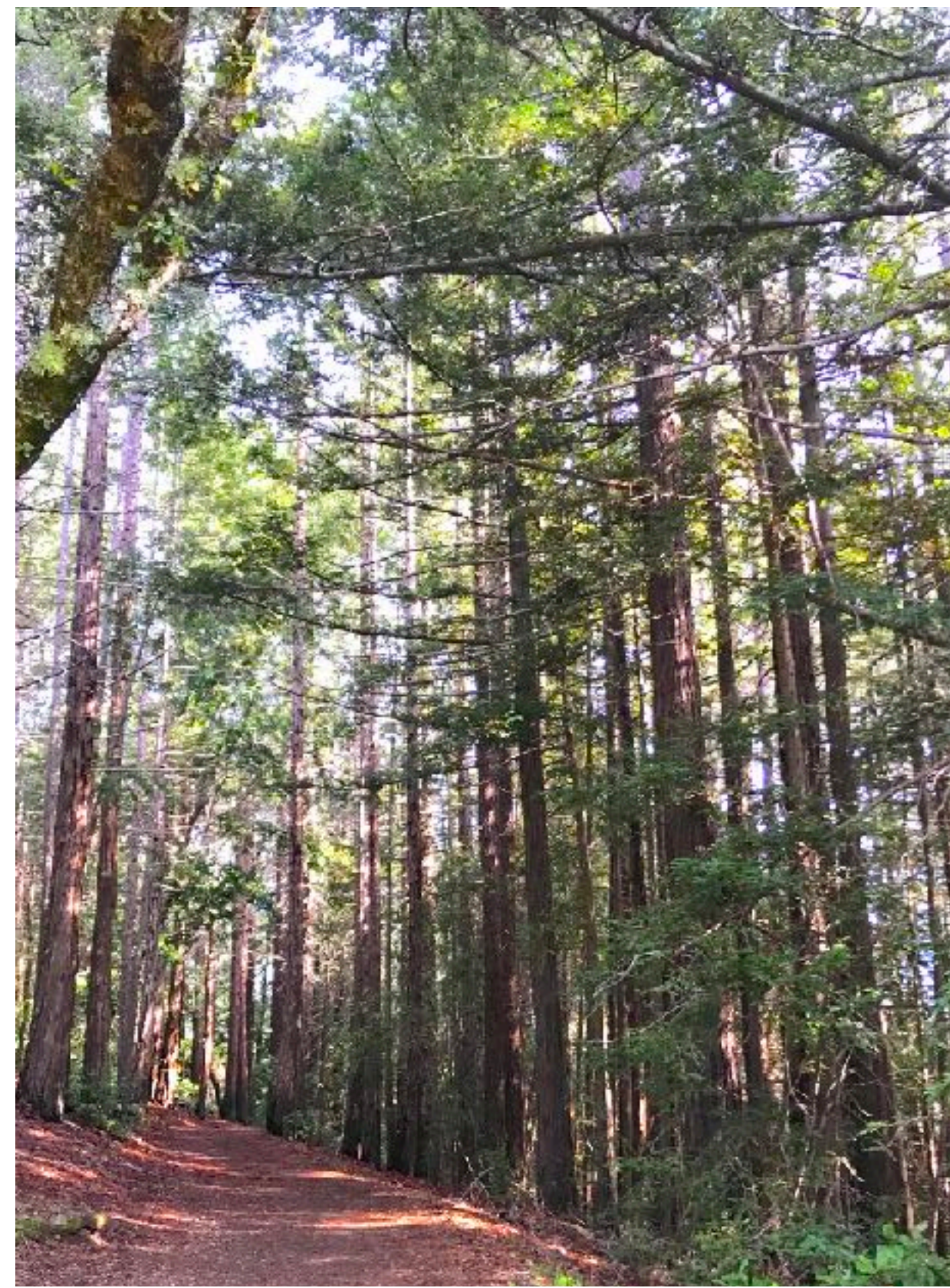
- Trail Junction 12** Spur Trail ends. Continue straight on Richard's Road.

- Trail Junction 20** Continue heading straight on Richard's Road (remember to keep the creek on your left).

- Trail Junction 37** The grassland will be on your left. Begin your gradual ascent up Bay Tree Trail back to the Zwierlein Picnic Area.

REDWOODS

You will know you are in the **Redwoods** when you see tall, straight trees and it is cool and damp. You will feel the softness of redwood needles under your feet (redwood duff). Did you know that redwoods can live as long as 2000 years and are the tallest living thing on our planet? Do you wonder what their secret is? Could it be their thick bark that protects them? Below are some plants and animals you may discover in the redwood forest.



What is that sweet smelling vine growing on the forest floor? It's **Yerba Buena**, a member of the mint family, which the Native Americans used to make a delicious tea. Yerba Buena was the original name for San Francisco. Look for these vines growing close to the ground on the left near trail junction 17 .

Over 100 years ago many of the old growth **Redwoods** of Huddart Park were cut down at the base of their trunk. In many cases, little redwoods sprouted around the base of the tree where the mother tree had been. Over the years they grew into adult trees, growing in a circle. We call this a fairy ring. There is a very beautiful fairy ring on Crystal Springs Trail. Can you find it?



Follow a trail of slime to discover one of the forest's clean up crew. **Banana Slugs** feed on anything they find on the forest floor. Their slime helps them move, protects them, and keeps them from drying out. They thrive in foggy, damp forests. These slugs provide nutrient rich fertilizers to the redwood trees.

RIPARIAN

Riparian habitat is found along the banks of rivers and creeks. At Huddart Park you will discover a creek at the bottom of Crystal Springs Trail. The plants and animals that live here need a wet habitat to survive. Listen to the sounds of the water. Are you curious about what lives at the bottom and top of the creek? Do you see any signs of life? Nature is always changing. As you walk along Richard's trail, look for signs of big leaf maple trees, ferns, and other plants that like to have their feet wet.



The **Water Strider** looks like it is walking on water. In fact, it has tiny hairs on its legs that capture air and repel the water. It's looking for insects that fall on the water surface.

Many **Sword Ferns** are growing on the uphill side of the trail. Look closely at the sword like leaflets and you will see the sword handle (hilt) where it attaches to the stalk. Did you know that ferns were around during the time of the dinosaurs?



The riparian habitat provides the perfect conditions for salamanders to survive and reproduce, such as the **California newt**. These amphibians need water to lay their eggs. The newts have bright yellow bellies that warn predators to stay away.

They are deadly if ingested and their only predators are the garter snake.

