

Trails and Recreation

The new 3.7-mile Mt. Umunhum Trail extends from the Bald Mountain parking area to the Summit, crossing through varied habitats and offering incredible views of the valley below, the ridgelines above, and the other great peaks of the Bay Area. This multi-use trail offers moderate terrain for hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders and, at the Summit, is the highest point on the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Note, the highest 0.2 mile section is limited to hiking only.

Mount Umunhum Trail

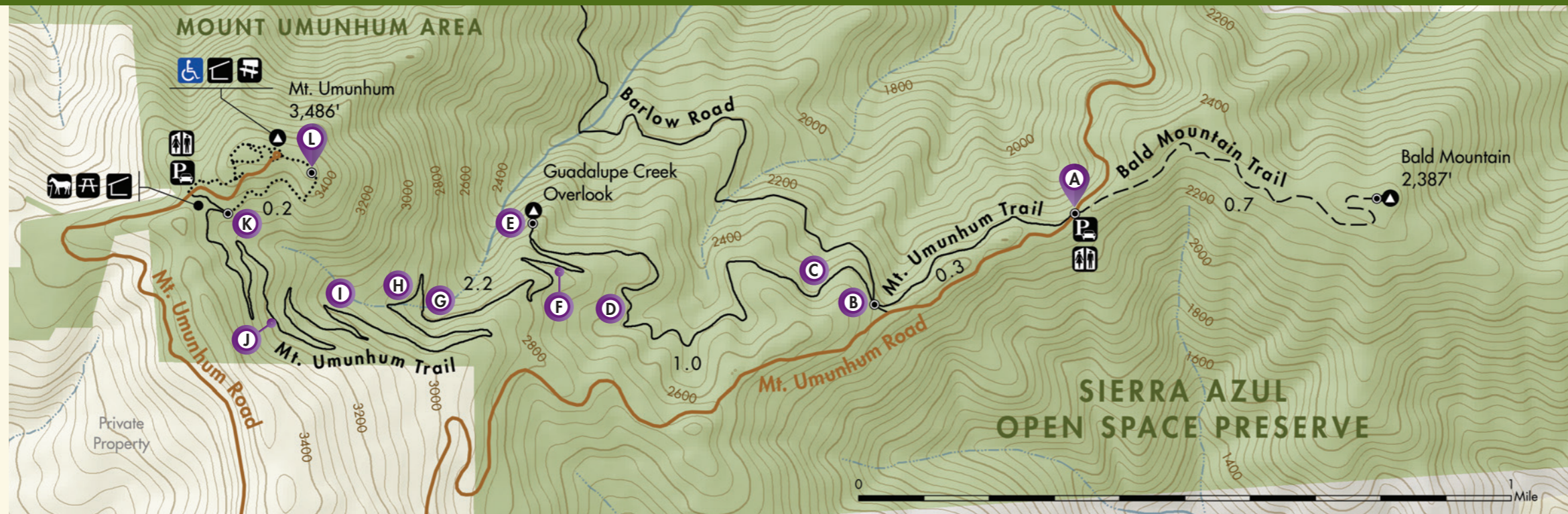
This gorgeous trail passes through mixed chaparral scrub dominated by chamise, big berry manzanita, birch-leaved mountain mahogany, and poison oak. With elevation gain, the trail passes through knobcone pine woodland, and eventually enters the coastal woodlands dominated by coast live oak, foothill pine, and California bay interspersed with Pacific madrone. The majority of the trail – approximately the upper 3.0 miles – is under the cool canopy of these trees. Eventually, the trail emerges near the top onto steep terrain with cliffs and rocky outcrops, including serpentine boulders. Rocky, nutrient-poor serpentine soils are home to numerous endemic plant species, including rare flowering plants that continue to reveal themselves each spring.

Restoration in Progress

Please Stay on the Trails

The rock gardens at the Summit of Mount Umunhum support fragile plant communities.

Vegetation can take years to establish in newly planted restoration areas. Thank you for protecting these sensitive resources.



Map Legend

- Hiking Only
- - - Hiking, Bicycling
- Hiking, Bicycling, Equestrian
- ⊙ Trail Junction
- ▲ Point of Interest
- P Parking Lot
- ♿ Restroom
- 🏠 Shelter
- 🪵 Picnic Table
- 🪑 Bench
- 🐎 Water Trough (Non-Potable)
- ♿ Accessible Features

Mt. Umunhum Trail Profile

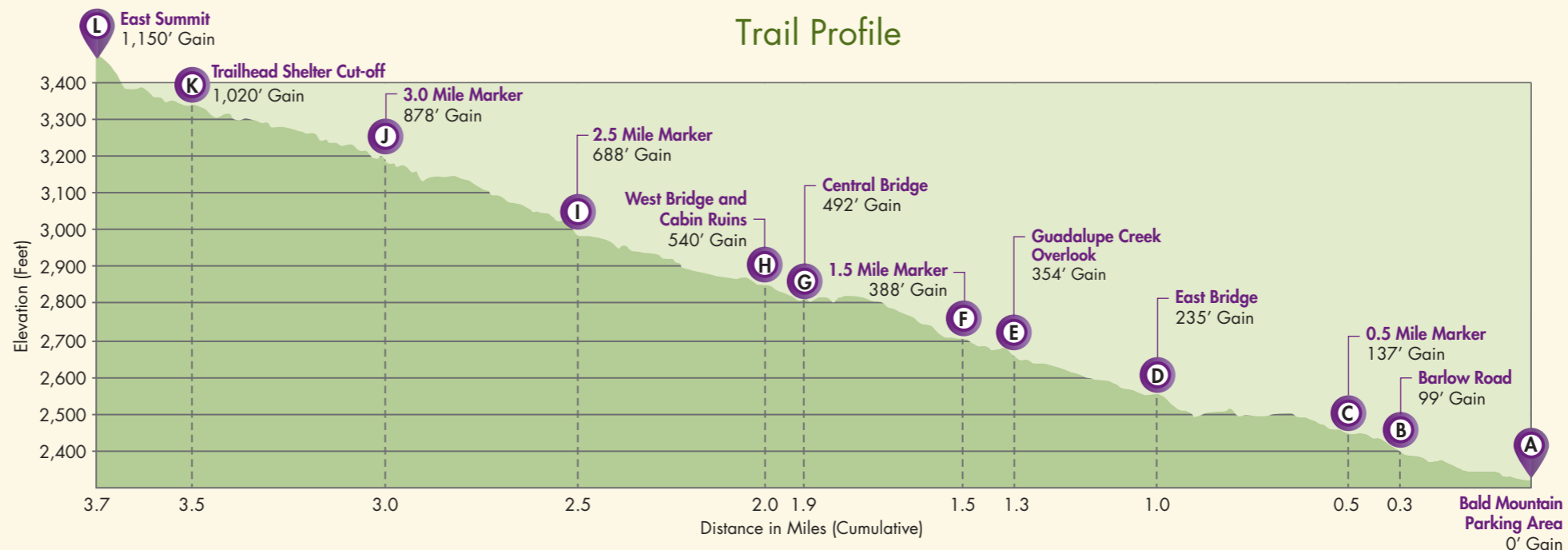
Trail Entry Point: The Mt. Umunhum trailhead is located at the Bald Mountain parking area. The Trail can also be accessed via Barlow Road from Woods Trail.
Bald Mountain Parking Area Elevation: 2,336 feet.
Mount Umunhum Summit Elevation: 3,486 feet.

Total Elevation Gain: 1,150 feet of continuous gain at approximately 10% grade.
Total Length: 3.7 miles; multi-use = 3.5 miles, hiking only (at Summit) = 0.2 miles.

At the Summit: The 0.2 miles of trail between the trailhead shelter to the east Summit is hiking only and includes steps, facilities to secure horses and bicycles are provided at the trailhead shelter. A second bike rack is also provided near the Summit shelter. Summit paths at the very top are ADA accessible and open to hiking only.

Bicyclists: Can access the Summit by using the final 0.2 miles of Mt. Umunhum Road instead of the Trail and using the Summit bike rack; bikes are not permitted on Summit paths.

Equestrians: Horses are not permitted beyond the trailhead shelter.

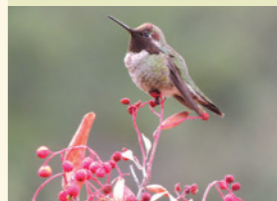


Trail Profile

Photos to left by Ken Hickman



The distinctive canyon liveforever thrives on exposed rocky outcrops



The mountain is called "Umunhum", which contains the root word for hummingbird in five Ohlone languages



Hummingbirds love scarlet beardtongue flowers and the Summit's abundant flowering plants



Bobcats, like this baby one, live at Mount Umunhum



Lindley's blazing star is limited to a small range in California



Soaring and peak-loving birds such as golden eagles are frequent Summit visitors



Brewer's clarkia is a rare endemic flower found only on local Bay Area peaks

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