

Who started this place and how long has it been here?

The answer depends on how you define this place. If you mean the Bay Area, the hills that make up much of the peninsula rose up several hundred thousand years ago and the San Francisco Bay filled with water at the end of the last ice age about 18,000 years ago (prior to that much of the bay was filled with sand dunes!).

If you mean more specifically Foothills Park: the city bought the land for Foothills Park in 1958 and dedicated it as a park in 1965 (the interpretive center used to be Mr. Lee's (he was the previous owner) barn. Part of the reason Mr. Lee sold the land to the city was to have it maintained as open space and to remain undeveloped; this property has been operated as open space (it will never be turned into a housing development or other built up use) ever since.

Prior to the Lee family owning the land the earliest occupants were Native-American peoples (at least 3,000 years ago maybe more), in 1833 the governor of Alta California granted 4,400 acres to Domingo Peralta and Don Maximo Martinez, one of the Martinez daughters married in to the Boronda family and the land became known as Boronda Farm, the Dougherty family leased land from the Borondas until the Lee family purchased it.

A short answer could be that the land has been here for a very long time and has been occupied by many people and has been a park for just over 40 years.