



## Visiting the Garden Club of America Grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park

### Grove History

Humboldt Redwoods State Park is home to the largest contiguous old-growth redwood forest in the world. At the core of this majestic park is **The Garden Club of America Grove**. The protection of this awe-inspiring grove began in the 1930s when The Garden Club of America partnered with Save the Redwoods League to purchase four parcels, containing 2,552 acres, from a timber company.

This property was protected from logging and incorporated as The Garden Club of America Grove in 1931 and formally dedicated in 1934. Over the next several decades the League, GCA and California State Parks partnered to protect more priority lands surrounding the initial acreage. The Garden Club of America Grove now contains more than 5,100 acres, and is the third-largest dedicated grove in the entire California State Park System!

### Visiting the Grove

The Garden Club of America Grove is located off Highway 101 along the scenic Avenue of the Giants Parkway (Hwy 254) which winds through Humboldt Redwoods SP.



The GCA Grove is approximately **220 miles north of San Francisco**, and **45 miles south of Eureka**. If viewing this document electronically, click [HERE](#) to view the GCA Grove trailhead in Google Maps or visit <http://goo.gl/maps/ZNhPH>.



Two wooden signs mark the turn off into the GCA Grove Day Use Area. Follow the short road into the Grove to reach the parking and restroom area.



The vast majority of the GCA Grove acreage is located across the Eel River, west of the parking area. A seasonal bridge provides access across the river between **June 1 to September 31, so visiting during this timeframe is recommended.**

Hiking through the GCA Grove occurs along the **River Trail** which runs north to south on the west side of the Eel River and connects the Grove to other areas of the Park.

## Trail Restoration Work in Progress

Due to a fire in 2003 and storms in 2006, the trail that goes through the GCA Grove and connects to other areas of the park was significantly damaged and consequently closed to the public.

Thanks to the support of GCA clubs and members from across the country, a project is currently underway to restore the River Trail and reopen this beautiful area of the park to the public. This project involves restoring and rerouting the trail, replacing multiple footbridges and building several small retaining walls to prevent erosion. Because this is an active project area, substantial areas of the River Trail are likely to be closed during your visit.

## What part of the trail is most likely to be open?

Until the trail project and improvements to the Day Use Area are complete in 2018, your best bet for accessing the grove is to:

- Plan your visit between **June 1 to September 31**
- Park in the GCA Grove Day Use Area
- Walk down to the bank of the Eel River
- Walk across the seasonal footbridge and walk into the forest area
- Head north/turn right onto the River Trail where you should be able to hike for about 2 miles on a portion of trail that has already been restored
- When you reach a closed area, turn around and hike back to the parking area



Photo above: Sam Hodder, Save the Redwoods League CEO & President, meets members of a League-funded Student Conservation Association (SCA) trail crew that helped restore a portion of the River Trail through the GCA Grove in the summer of 2014.



## Suggested Lodging

### The Benbow Inn

[www.BenbowInn.com](http://www.BenbowInn.com)

30 minutes south of the GCA Grove in the town of Garberville. This elegant, historic inn offers fine dining and comfortable rooms with historic charm. It is among the nicest lodging options in the area and can accommodate large groups.



### Best Western Plus, Garberville

[www.HumboldtHouseInn.com](http://www.HumboldtHouseInn.com)

20 minutes south of the GCA Grove in the town of Garberville. Convenient location to nearby restaurants. They offer nice and affordable rooms.



### The Carter House

[www.CarterHouse.com](http://www.CarterHouse.com)

45 minutes north of the GCA Grove in the town of Eureka. An enclave of four Victorian hotels that offer luxurious suites and fine dining.



### Myers Inn

[www.MyersInn.com](http://www.MyersInn.com)

Only 5 minutes south of the GCA Grove located in Myers Flat. Cozy 10 room B&B that is located along the Ave of the Giants in Humboldt Redwoods SP, a short drive south from the Grove.

