

# AMAZING SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA REDWOOD PARKS



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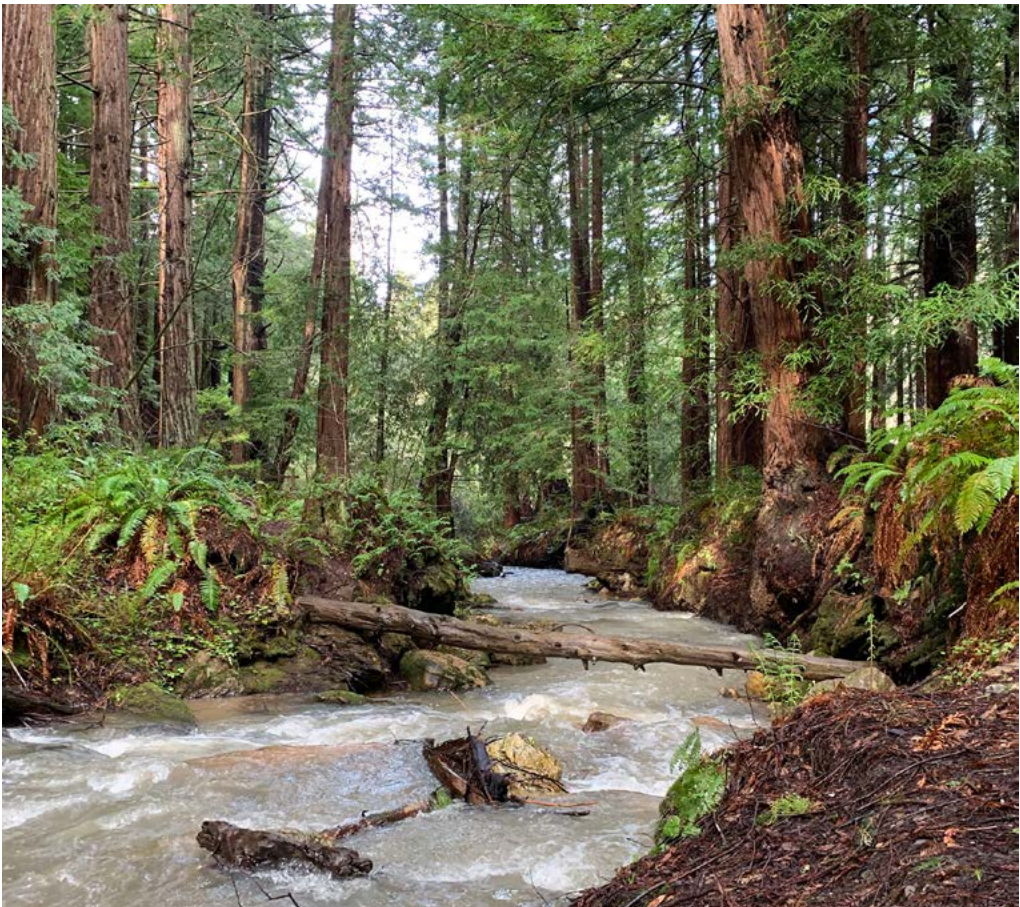


Photo by Michael Li, Flickr Creative Commons

The centerpiece of Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve is Purisima Creek Canyon, with its towering redwoods, rushing creek, and understory of ferns, berries, and wildflowers.

## INTRODUCTION

The San Francisco Bay Area is home to more than 40 spectacular coast redwood parks, many within a one-hour drive from San Francisco. In this guide, we feature six of these parks and link to profiles of 36 others. Most of these parks are a short ride from urban areas. Others are wilder and farther afield.

No matter what you like to do outside, an unforgettable experience awaits you, your friends, and family in San Francisco Bay Area redwood parks. Nothing compares to standing in the cathedral-like groves, next to trees whose beauty and size is almost beyond belief, witnessing golden light filtering through the canopies, and seeing fairy-tale blankets of redwood sorrel and trillium on the forest floor. These experiences can be yours. This guide will help you plan your visit, with tips on where to go for activities such as hiking, camping, bicycling, and picnicking. The guide also covers features accessible to people with disabilities. Keep scrolling and start planning your adventure.

You can learn more about the parks in this guide and get directions, weather forecasts, and information on fees, camping, and lodging by visiting our free trip-planning website, [ExploreRedwoods.org](https://exploreRedwoods.org).



### COVID-19 Updates

Park operations continue to adapt to changing public health orders in response to COVID-19. Right before visiting, be sure to check the parks' websites linked on the following pages for their operating status and visitor guidelines. This guide was published in March 2021.

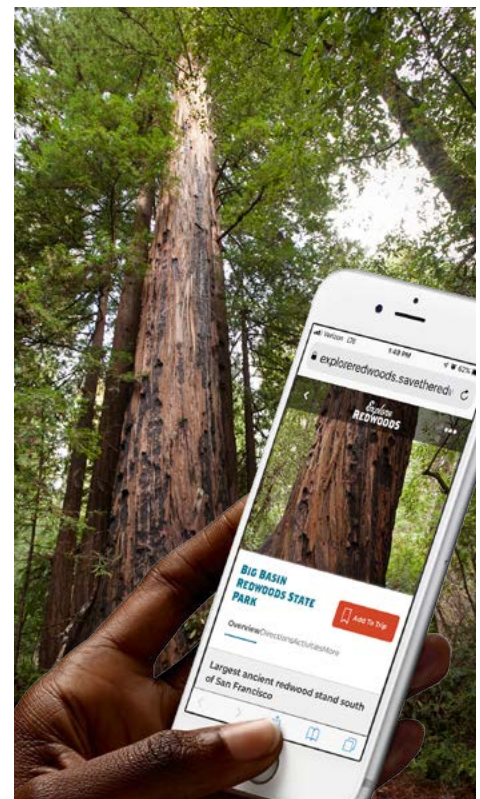


Photo by Peter Buranizon

## ABOUT REDWOODS

The California coast redwood and giant sequoia forests are among the most important natural treasures in the world. Home to the world's tallest, largest, and some of the oldest trees, as well as biodiversity found nowhere else, these forests also store more carbon per acre than any other type of forest. Coast redwoods live in a narrow band stretching 450 miles from southern Oregon to the Big Sur coast. Giant sequoia, or Sierra redwoods, grow on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada in about 73 scattered groves.

## JOIN US

For 100 years, Save the Redwoods League has stood between California's iconic redwood trees and the axe. We held the line, saving the last of the world's ancient redwoods. These purchases helped to create 66 parks and reserves for future generations to experience. Today, by dramatically scaling up our pace, reach, and impact, we're changing California's story, restoring the forests that we almost lost, welcoming visitors from around the world, and inspiring them to follow our lead. We are working with our park partners to create inclusive redwoods experiences that honor the cultural diversity of California and inspire all people to build meaningful connections with the outdoors. You can help, and we'll leave the world better than we found it. Please join us!

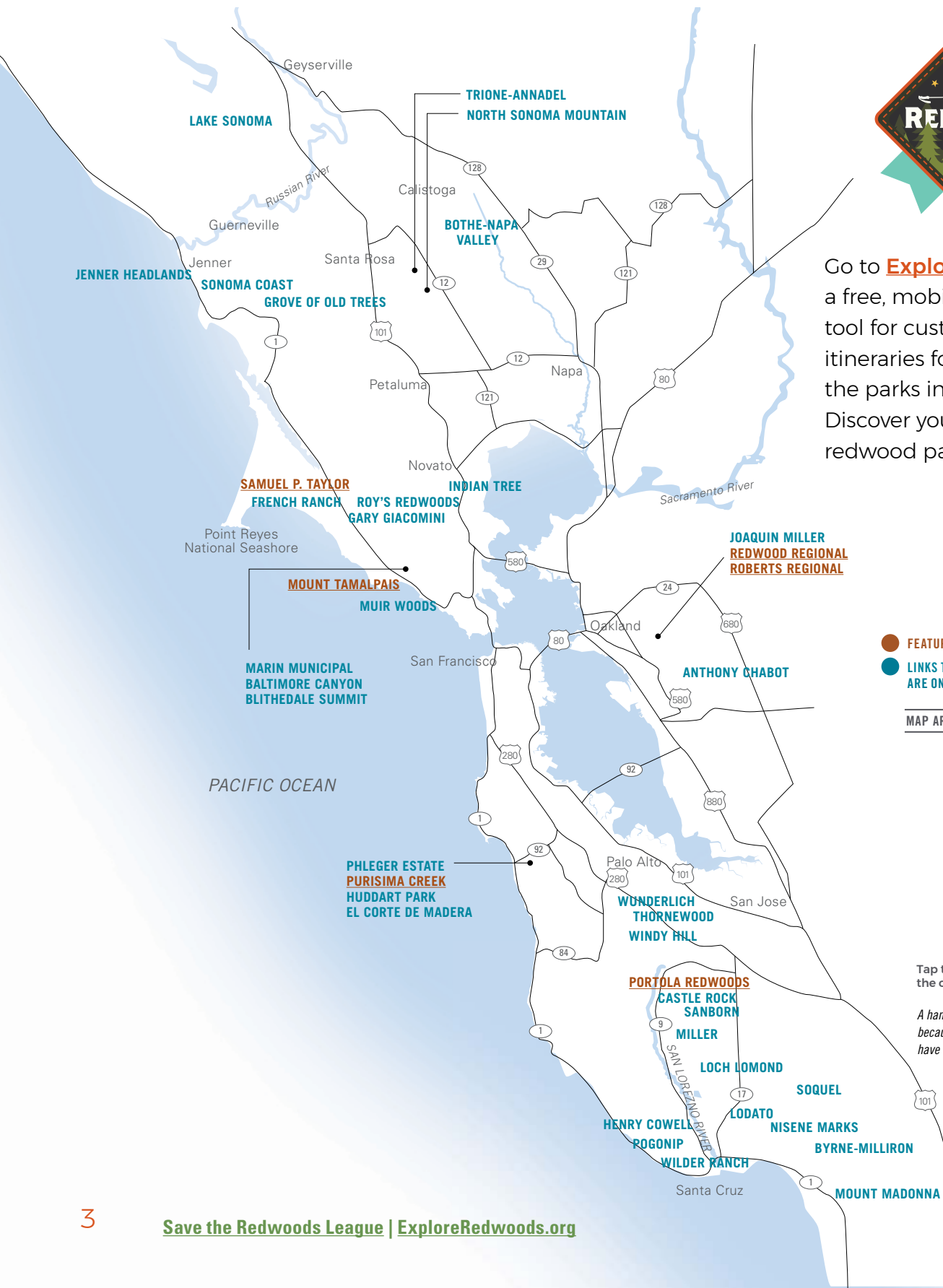
Visit [SaveTheRedwoods.org/give](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/give), and become a member with a tax-deductible contribution today. Learn more at [SaveTheRedwoods.org](https://www.savetheredwoods.org).



# COAST REDWOOD PARKS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



Go to [ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreRedwoods.org), a free, mobile-friendly tool for customizing your itineraries for your visits to the parks in this brochure. Discover your favorite redwood parks!



- **FEATURED PARKS**
- **LINKS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE PARKS ARE ON PAGE 9.**

## MAP AREA



Tap the brown links to jump to the corresponding page

*A handful of parks were not included because as of March 2021, wildfire impacts have closed them until further notice.*

## SAMUEL P. TAYLOR STATE PARK

### Best alternative to Muir Woods for big trees

Less than a one-hour drive from San Francisco, this park's big redwoods are easily accessible, making this place a great alternative to Muir Woods National Monument, which requires reservations for all vehicles and shuttle riders. At Samuel P. Taylor, you can picnic, hike, bike, and camp among large coast redwoods. A panoramic view of the rolling countryside is a reward for a hike to the top of Barnabe Peak. Bicyclists can ride on the scenic Cross Marin Trail through the forest and along a creek.



Photo by Fig & Olive Photography

Coast redwoods surround visitors in the campground area of Samuel P. Taylor State Park.

**ACTIVITIES:** Camping, biking, hiking, picnicking, horseback riding.

**FEATURES ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:** Some campsites and cabins, restrooms, parking, South Creek Trail, and Cross Marin Trail.



**DOGS:** Allowed on leash in day-use picnic area, campsites (excluding the hike-and-bike campsite and in the cabins) and the Cross Marin Trail. Dogs are not allowed on any other trails or in undeveloped areas or the creek.

### LEARN MORE

Plan your visit on [ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreredwoods.org). For the latest on park operations and guidelines in response to COVID-19, visit the [park's website](#) or call 415-488-9897.

# MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK

## An oasis from sea to peak

A walk on 2,571-foot Mount Tamalpais, just north of San Francisco, puts Northern California in perspective. On a clear day you can see the Farallon Islands 25 miles to the west and the Sierra Nevada 150 miles to the east. Here you will find deep canyons, cool redwood forests, oak woodlands, open meadows, and chaparral.



Photo by Charles Wohlers, Flickr Creative Commons

Mount Tamalpais State Park is a lush haven 22 miles north of San Francisco.

**ACTIVITIES:** The park offers 60 miles of hiking trails, plus picnicking, stargazing, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, birdwatching, rock-climbing, mountain biking, and geocaching. Ocean swimming is permitted nearby at Stinson Beach.

**FEATURES ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:** Parking, campsites, restrooms, cabins, Mountain Theater, 0.75-mile-long Verna Dunshee Trail, and parts of the Old Mine and McKennan Trails.



**DOGS:** Allowed on the Old Stage Road just west of the Bootjack Campground and Day Use Area. While dogs are not allowed on Mt. Tam's other trails, dirt roads, or backcountry areas, they are allowed on paved roads in developed areas, and in family campgrounds and picnic areas. Dogs must remain attended and in a tent or vehicle at night.

## LEARN MORE

Plan your visit on [ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreRedwoods.org). For the latest on park operations and guidelines in response to COVID-19, visit the [park's website](#) or call 415-388-2070.



# PORTOLA REDWOODS STATE PARK

## A marvelous forest in the Santa Cruz Mountains

Portola Redwoods State Park offers visitors solitude and some of the tallest, most majestic redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The park centers on two creeks, Peters and Pescadero.



Photo by Ray Krebs, Flickr Creative Commons

Massive redwoods frame a visitor in Portola Redwoods State Park.

**ACTIVITIES:** Hiking, picnicking, camping, and backpacking. Biking and horseback riding on Old Haul Road only.

**FEATURES ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:** Visitor center, restrooms, one campsite, and one picnic site.



**DOGS:** Allowed only in campsites and picnic areas, and on paved roads and the Upper and Lower Escape Roads. Must be on leash and always attended and inside a tent or vehicle at night. Except for service animals, dogs are not allowed in the visitor center or on hiking trails or dirt roads.

### LEARN MORE

Plan your visit on [ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreRedwoods.org). For the latest on park operations and guidelines in response to COVID-19, visit the [park's website](#) or call 650-948-9098.



## PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

### Sweeping views of Half Moon Bay and the Pacific Ocean

On the western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains, this 4,711-acre preserve has tall second-growth redwoods and a lively creek, as well as ferns, berry bushes, and wildflowers. Panoramic views of the Pacific coast and Half Moon Bay are highlights at the northern part of the preserve.



Photo by Buddha Dog, Flickr Creative Commons

Hikers savor a dream-like scene above the clouds at Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.

**ACTIVITIES:** The preserve's 24 miles of trails and historical logging roads offer easy walks such as the wheelchair-accessible Redwood Trail, as well as strenuous hikes with 1,600-foot elevation gains. Mountain biking and horseback riding are allowed on designated trails; check the park's website below for seasonal closures.



**DOGS:** Not allowed.

### FEATURES ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH

**DISABILITIES:** Picnic tables, restroom, and Redwood Trail.

#### LEARN MORE

Plan your visit on [ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreredwoods.org). For the latest on park operations and guidelines in response to COVID-19, visit the [park's website](#) or call 650-691-1200.

# REINHARDT REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK & ROBERTS REGIONAL RECREATION AREA

## The East Bay's largest stand of coast redwoods

The slim, 150-foot-tall trees you can see in these two regional parks are a generation removed from those that helped build the San Francisco Bay Area during and after the Gold Rush, but they are the largest remaining stand of coast redwoods in the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area.



Photo by Fig & Olive Photography

Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park (pictured) and Roberts Regional Recreation Area are favorite destinations in Oakland for a break from city life.

**ACTIVITIES:** Picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, kite flying, archery, camping, swimming in the Roberts Pool complex (after Memorial Day and to Labor Day), baseball, volleyball, and visiting Chabot Space & Science Center.

### FEATURES ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH

**DISABILITIES:** Restrooms, picnic areas, playground, and a path from Canyon Meadow to Trail's End.



**DOGS:** Allowed on leash in developed areas. Can be off leash on most trails. A \$2-per-dog fee applies for non-service dogs on weekends and major holidays from April through October. Fees are collected only at the Redwood Gate entrance for Reinhardt Redwood Regional.

### LEARN MORE

Plan your visit on [ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreRedwoods.org). For the latest on park operations and guidelines in response to COVID-19, visit the [Reinhardt Redwood](#) or [Roberts](#) web pages or call the East Bay Regional Park District at 888-327-2757.



## ADDITIONAL COAST REDWOOD PARKS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

[Anthony Chabot Regional Park](#)

[Baltimore Canyon Open Space Preserve](#)

[Blithedale Summit Open Space Preserve](#)

[Bothe-Napa Valley State Park](#)

[Byrne-Milliron Forest](#)

[Castle Rock State Park](#)

[El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve](#)

[Forest of Nisene Marks State Park](#)

[French Ranch Open Space Preserve](#)

[Gary Giacomini Open Space Preserve](#)

[Grove of Old Trees](#)

[Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park](#)

[Huddart Park](#)

[Indian Tree Open Space Preserve](#)

[Jack London State Historic Park](#)

[Jenner Headlands Preserve](#)

[Joaquin Miller Park](#)

[Lake Sonoma Recreation Area](#)

[Loch Lomond Recreation Area](#)

[Lodato Open Space](#)

[Marin Municipal Water District](#)

[Miller Property](#)

[Mount Madonna County Park](#)

[Muir Woods National Monument](#)

[North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve](#)

[Phleger Estate](#)  
[Pogonip Open Space](#)  
[Roy's Redwoods Open Space Preserve](#)  
[Sanborn County Park](#)  
[Sonoma Coast State Park](#)  
[Soquel Demonstration State Forest](#)  
[Thornewood Open Space Preserve](#)  
[Trione-Annadel State Park](#)  
[Wilder Ranch State Park](#)  
[Windy Hill Open Space Preserve](#)  
[Wunderlich Park](#)

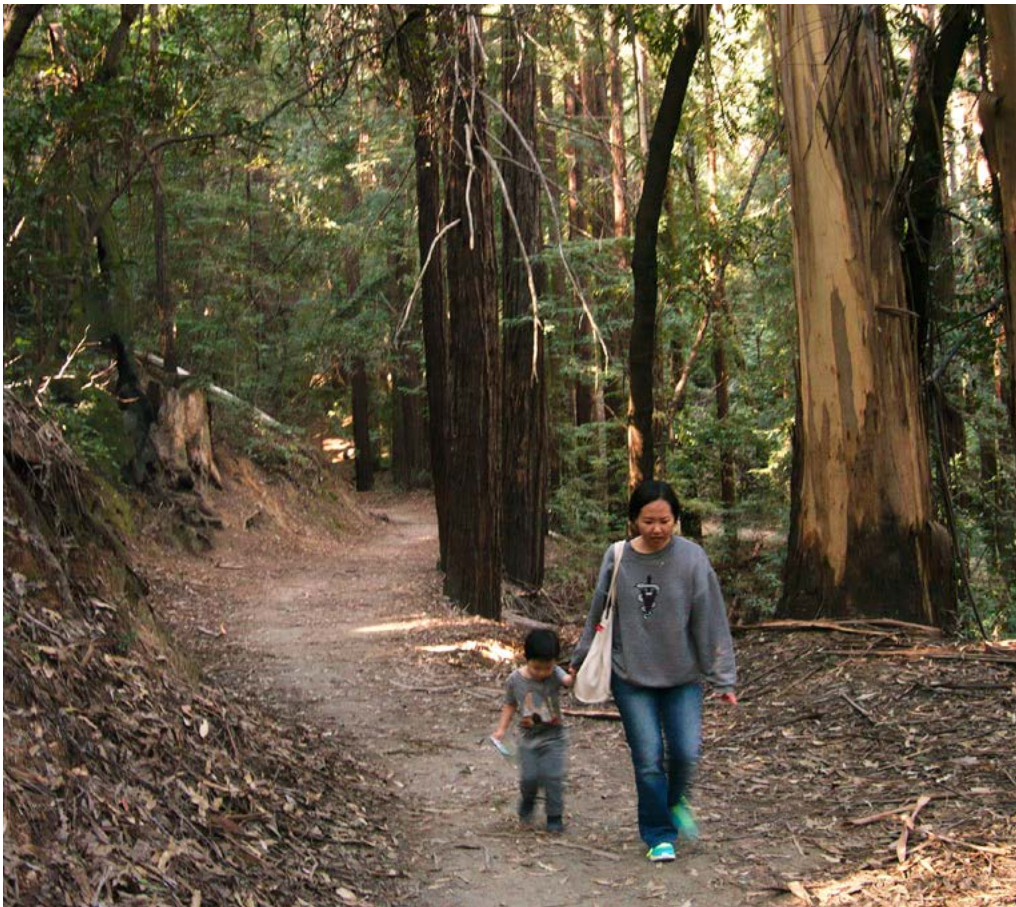


Photo by mliu92, Flickr Creative Commons

Wunderlich Park in Woodside offers lovely trails through the redwoods and is home to historical stables.





Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park, page 8.

## HELP PROTECT REDWOODS FOREVER

Your contributions help Save the Redwoods League safeguard special places, allowing us to purchase redwood land, study and restore logged forests, and connect people with these magical expressions of life.

With your help, we know that we can realize our vision: vibrant redwood forests of the scale and grandeur that once graced the California coast and the Sierra Nevada, protected forever, restored to grow old again, and connected with all people through magnificent parks that inspire all of us with the beauty and power of nature.

# DONATE TODAY



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**[SaveTheRedwoods.org](https://www.savetheredwoods.org)**  
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