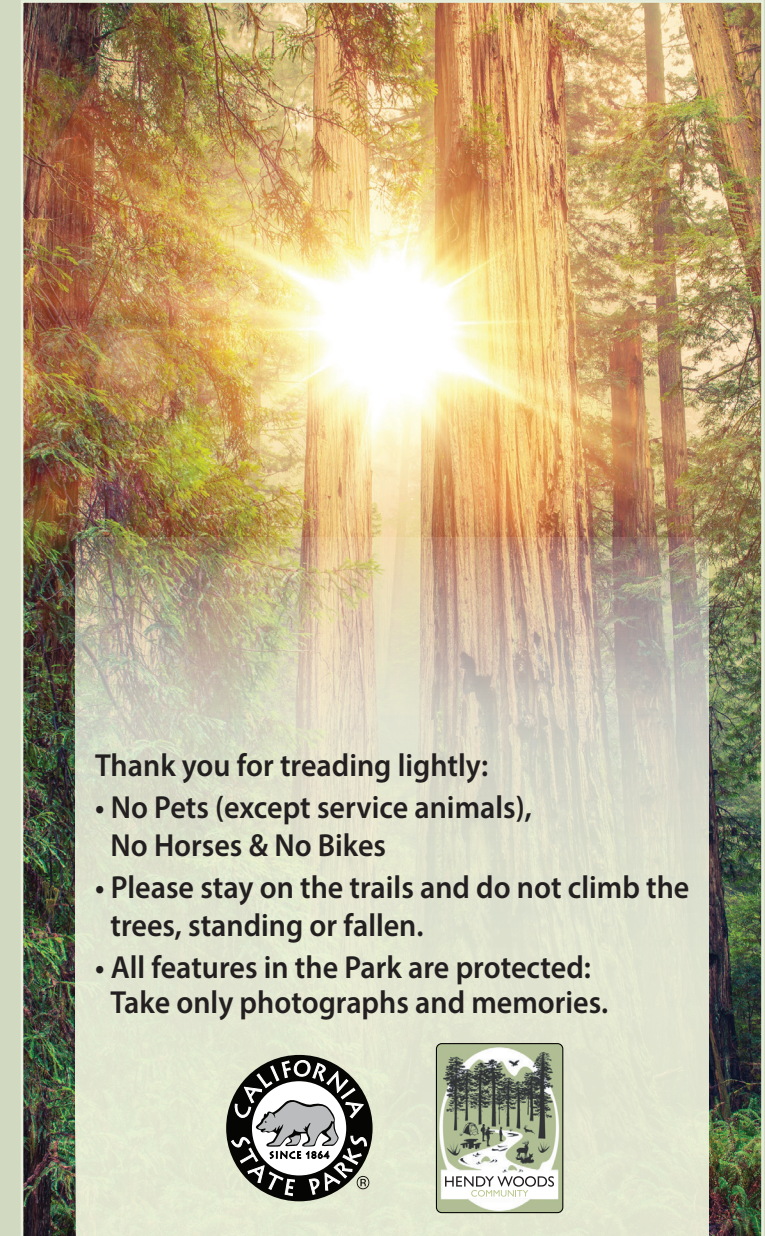


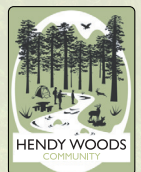
Hendy Woods State Park Discovery Trail Self-guided Walk

.6 mile loop, the **Discovery Trail** is easily accessed on foot and is wheelchair accessible.



Thank you for treading lightly:

- **No Pets (except service animals), No Horses & No Bikes**
- **Please stay on the trails and do not climb the trees, standing or fallen.**
- **All features in the Park are protected: Take only photographs and memories.**



12 Watch your head! As you walk the trails you may notice branches laying on the ground or even sticking out of the ground like those behind you. These are called “widow makers,” a term coined in the early days of logging, when unlucky people were struck by them. These huge branches can weigh hundreds or even thousands of pounds and can be dislodged by strong winds or logging. Or less common but even more dangerous is when the whole tree falls down like these two new fallen giants. They fell together on January 10th 2023 during a very wet and windy storm series. The top of the tree on the right can be seen between stops 7 and 8 on this loop.

13 It Takes Us All Why are these ancient redwood groves still here? The original people, the Pomo, used plants growing here but did not cut the trees. Around 1853, Joshua Hendy owned the forest but chose to leave some areas untouched. By 1938, local people, particularly the Unity Club, were working with Save the Redwoods League to keep the big trees safe. In 1958, the State of California bought the groves from a timber company and created this park, which opened in 1963. Now, it’s up to us to make sure the trees, plants, and creatures of Hendy Woods remain protected and safe.

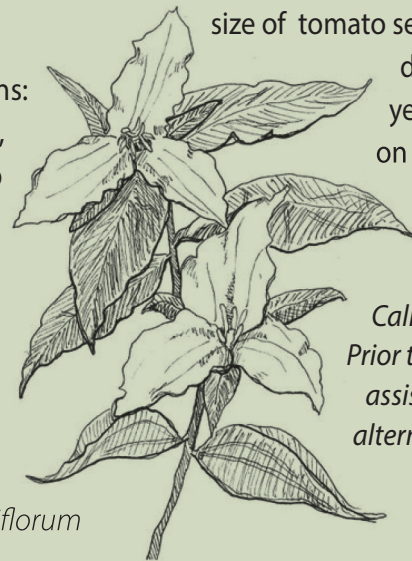
Mendocino Coast District Office: (707) 937-5804
Hendy Woods Kiosk: (707) 895-3141
www.parks.ca.gov
www.HendyWoods.org
Facebook: HendyWoodsCommunity

10 Life on the Top Scientists have discovered only fairly recently that there is an entirely different ecosystem in the crowns of these giants, with some animals, like the wandering salamander, spending their entire lives in the treetops! The huge upper branches and “reiterated trunks” (side trunks) serve as landing pads for duff and soil to accumulate, creating habitats for ferns, shrubs, other trees, and animals.

11 Fortunate seed Notice that this stump has two small redwood trees growing out of its center. The rich soil of this decaying stump has created a great landing pad for redwood seeds like these to grow. Although, root-sprouting is their main form of reproduction, a small number of redwoods grow from seed. Redwood cones are only about the size of olives and filled with seeds about the size of tomato seeds. Since redwoods live so long they don’t “need” to produce cones every year and do so irregularly, depending on rain, drought or fires.



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance, or who need this publication in an alternate format, should contact 707-937-5804, mendocino.admin@parks.ca.gov, 711, TTY Relay Service.



White Trillium
Trillium grandiflorum

7 Strong survivors This tree, with its large fire scar, is still alive, giving testament to the incredible resilience of redwoods. According to scientists, their longevity and size allow them to store more climate-changing carbon dioxide (carbon sequestration) than any other plant. Even after they die their rot-resistant wood continues to keep that carbon out of the atmosphere for hundreds of years.

8 Recycling for life Don’t mourn these fallen giants! They are called “nurse logs” and are essential to the health of the forest! They not only let much needed light onto the forest floor, but are home to over 4000 plant and animal species over the 400 long years it takes them to rot back into the soil. These nurse logs provide essential habitats, as well as nutrients for the forest soil. Please help by staying off these fragile habitats.

9 At the feet of giants Although the Coast Redwood dominates, there are a variety of understory plants and fungi adapted to the acidic soil and shade. Most common are ferns: dark green arching sword fern, light green chain fern, and the bracken fern with a triangle shaped leaf atop its long stalk. Depending on the season you can also enjoy Western trillium, Douglas iris, and wood rose. Winter rains bring mushrooms from under the thick duff (leaf litter) and on dead wood. But please don’t touch or taste them. Many are quite toxic!



1 Habitats Mingle, Life Thrives Look around! Is this a forest or a meadow? This transition zone is both. The plants here take advantage of the protection of the redwood forest but are not inhibited by the forest's deep shade. Edge habitat is important for a diversity of animals, including deer, chipmunks, squirrels, gray foxes, raccoons, birds and rabbits.

2 Step Back in Time Look up! Can you see the top of the world's tallest trees – the Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) - or the sky for that matter? These giants can reach heights of 380' (the park's tallest is 351') and widths of over 29' (our widest is 18') and live more than 2,000 years (with the oldest recorded in the park is 921 year old). The original ancient redwood forest formed a nearly unbroken strip near the coast from southern Oregon to central California, but after years of logging, less than 5% of it remains and is now found in scattered groves like the park's 60-acre Big Hendy Grove and 20-acre Little Hendy Grove to the west.

Coast Redwood
Sequoia sempervirens



3 Fire! Fire! Notice the black fire scars on the bark of these redwood trees! Fires are a natural part of the forest ecosystem and the trees have adapted accordingly. Redwood bark is thick, fibrous, and lacks flammable resins, protecting it from fires. The bark and wood also contain tannins (a bitter chemical) that protect it from insects and fungi, making it a great lumber wood. These factors contribute to the longevity of redwoods; therefore these fire scars may be hundreds of years old!

4 Horizontal trees Why is this tree in front of you leaning so drastically? Living in the deep shade of the redwood forest is challenging, but plants like this California Bay tree have found a way. Growing nearly horizontally allows this contortionist to gather as much light as possible. Other understory flora, like redwood sorrel (resembles clover and has pink flowers), have large leaves to collect the limited sunlight and fold down to reduce water loss if it's sunny.



Redwood sorrel
Oxalis oregana

5 Ouch, my roots! Surprise! Redwoods don't have deep taproots, but as you can see they are shallow and broadly reaching. This allows them to absorb the summer's fog drip, interconnect with neighboring trees for stability, and re-grow higher after being covered by soil left by floods. However, shallow roots are more vulnerable to damage – so please tread lightly by staying on the trails.

6 Burls: The next generation... See the lumps protruding from this tree? Many look like furrowed faces! Burls are clumps of dormant sprouts, often concentrated at the base of the tree. They contain rapidly growing cells that can send up shoots, that are nearly identical clones, when the parent tree is damaged or destroyed. This ability makes the coast redwoods unique among conifers (cone-bearing trees) as this is their main form of reproduction. This feature has allowed them to re-grow after logging – usually in a circle called a "fairy ring" around a stump. Look behind you for an example. The stump may have been removed, or it rotted away.