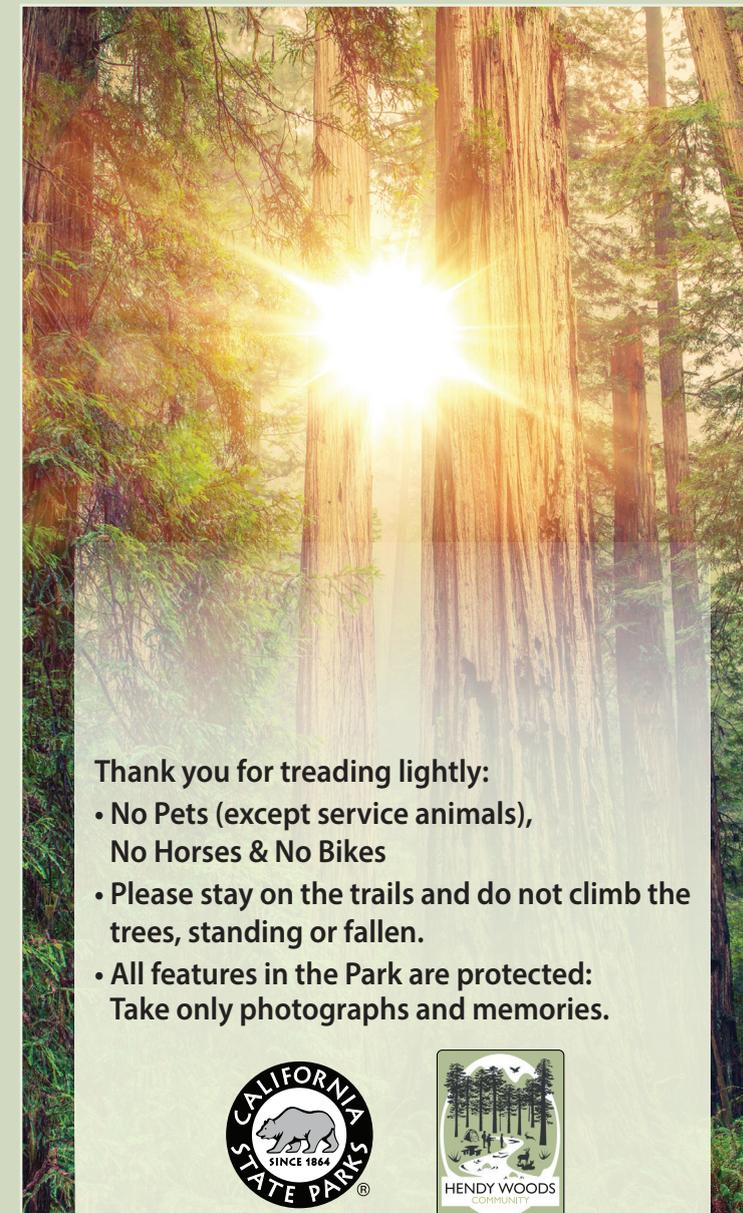


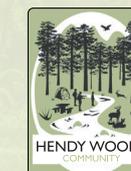
Hendy Woods State Park Discovery Trail Self-guided Walk

.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.

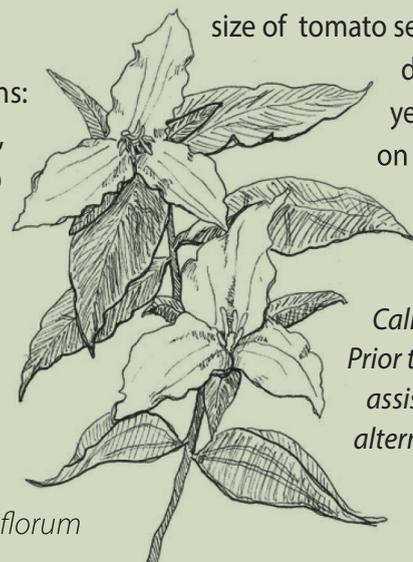


California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance, or who need this publication in an alternate format, should contact 707-937-5804, mendocino.admin@parks.ca.gov. 711, TTY Relay Service.

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!



White Trillium
Trillium grandiflorum

