

# Welcome to Redwood

Descendants of a great forest of *Sequoia sempervirens*, commonly known as coast redwood, grow more than 100 feet tall in Redwood Regional Park in Oakland. The original stand stretched from Rancho de San Antonio, through the middle redwoods (in the vicinity of the current park) to El Rancho de Los Palos Colorados. These Spanish land grants were granted in 1820 and 1841, respectively.

The trees of the original forest served as landmarks for sea captains sailing into San Francisco Bay, as illustrated in the 1826 logs of the Royal Navy: "... in order to miss treacherous Blossom Rock between Alcatraz Island and San Francisco, one should line the northern tip of Yerba Buena Island with two trees south of Palos Colorados, over San Antonio, too conspicuous to be overlooked." The landmark trees would have been 16 miles from where the sailors entered the Golden Gate.

Commercial logging of the old-growth redwoods took place between 1840 and 1860. Prince Mill, Spicer Mill, Tupper and Hamilton Mill, and Egar and Brown Mill were in operation within the area that became Redwood Regional Park. Throughout the rest of the forest there were six additional mills. Shantytowns sprang up around the mills to house workers. The huge redwoods made it necessary to build platforms around the bases of trees to support the workers as they cut into the virgin wood.

The Alameda-Contra Costa county line traces the importance of the forest resource in 1853. When the citizenry split off the southern part of Contra Costa to gain more political influence in the state, they took great care to divide the redwood lands evenly between Contra Costa and the new county of Alameda.

Ranching followed the logging era and the land went into numerous holdings, with homesteads built along the streams. Grazing was a major activity, although there were some orchards and other crops grown.

**HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 970** The naming of the rainbow trout species was based on fish taken from the San Leandro Creek drainage. Trout seen in Redwood Creek today are descendants of that pure strain of native trout. A historical marker is located a short distance inside the Redwood Gate park entrance off Redwood Road, just to the left of the entrance road. Because these

fish are unique, and to allow for further research, FISHING IS NOT PERMITTED in Redwood Creek, either in the park or along Redwood Road.

**RESOURCE PROTECTION AND DOGS DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH in the resource protection area.** The creek in Redwood Regional Park has been designated a Resource Protection Area to enhance the habitat of the rainbow trout and the riparian community. This area includes the Stream and Bridle trails from Redwood Road north to Skyline Gate. Please keep your dog(s) on leash (6-foot maximum length) at all times. The vegetation that makes up the riparian corridor provides shade, food, and protection. The first step in enhancing trout habitat is restoring vegetation to the creek banks. To help with this vital restoration, please observe the following when in the Resource Protection Area along Redwood Creek and the Stream Trail:

- Stay on the defined trail.
- Keep dogs on leash.
- Clean up feces deposited by your dog(s).
- Keep out of the creek and off the creek banks.

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please contact the EBRPD Public Affairs Department at (510) 544-2200, fax (510) 635-3478, TDD (510) 633-0460, or info@ebparks.org.

## PARKLAND RULES

The Park District's Ordinance 38, summarized below, lists specific rules for use and protection of regional parklands. Violators will be subject to citation or arrest. For further information, ask a Park Ranger, Public Safety Officer, or telephone (510) 881-1833.

**PARK GATES ARE OPEN** to the public during hours posted at the park entrance. Unless otherwise posted, CURFEW is between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. **MOTOR VEHICLES** are restricted to designated parking areas and paved public roads. **DOGS** must be leashed and under control at any posted area, parking lot, picnic site, lawn or developed area, and in Resource Protection Areas. No dogs or other animals are permitted in any creek, wetland, or marsh. Dogs may be off-leash in open space and undeveloped areas of parklands, provided they are under control at all times. Owners must carry a leash at all times (six-foot maximum). Dangerous animals are not allowed in the parks. Please dispose of your dog's waste by placing it in a garbage can. Persons who walk more than three dogs at a time on Regional Parks trails must obtain a permit; commercial dog walkers are required to obtain a permit regardless of how many dogs they walk at one time (limit of six). Please call (510) 690-6508 for information.

**SWIMMING, WADING** and other water contact activities are not permitted. **PLANTS, ANIMALS, GEOLOGIC, ARCHAEOLOGIC OR HISTORIC OBJECTS** are protected by law. Please do not disturb or remove any of these features. **HELP PROTECT PARK WILDLIFE** by not releasing or feeding ducks, cats or other animals.

**FIRES** are permitted in barbecue pits or personal cooking equipment in designated picnic areas or irrigated turf areas only, placed at least 30 feet from flammable materials. Please do not place hot coals on the ground or in a garbage can. Dispose of hot coals or other burned fuel in barbecue pits or in designated hot coal disposal receptacles.

**FIREWORKS** are not permitted in any regional park.

**FISHING** is not permitted at Redwood Regional Park.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** are not permitted at pools, swim beaches or within 50 feet of paved roads, parking lots or posted areas. Otherwise, beer and wine are permitted at picnic areas and elsewhere on parklands.

**GAMES and ACTIVITIES**, including model rockets, model airplanes, hang gliding, golf and other activities with potential risk to property or park visitors are permitted only in designated areas.

**PARK VISITORS** are responsible for knowing and following park rules.

# Responsible Trail Use Rules

Violations of any of the following may result in citation:

## ALL TRAIL USERS:

- Be safe, considerate, and aware of your impact on the trails and other trail users.
- For everyone's safety, keep to the right. Proceed single file around blind curves.
- For your safety, headphones are not advised.
- Dogs must be on leash where posted, and under full verbal control elsewhere. Please clean up after your dog.

## BICYCLES:

- Bicycles are not permitted, either walked, ridden, or carried, on trails marked "No Bicycles."
- Bicycles shall not be ridden at an unsafe speed, or greater than the posted speed limit. Be aware of how you are perceived by other trail users.
- Bicycles must always yield to pedestrians. Before passing, SLOW DOWN and establish verbal contact or sound a warning.
- When approaching equestrians, call out or sound a warning and STOP, whether you are seen or not. Ask for instructions on how to pass safely.
- State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. To prevent head injury, the Park District strongly recommends that all bicyclists wear a helmet.

## DOGS:

- Dogs must be on leash (six-foot maximum) where posted, and under full verbal control elsewhere. Carry a disposable bag to clean up after your dog and dispose of the waste in a trash receptacle. Persons who walk more than three dogs at a time on Regional Parks trails must obtain a permit; please call (510) 690-6508 for information.

## PEDESTRIANS:

- Keep to the right when approached by other trail users.
- Always yield to equestrians.
- Check behind and to both sides before changing course.

## EQUESTRIANS:

- Keep your horse to the right or where safe when encountering other trail users.
- To prevent head injury, the Park District strongly recommends that all equestrians wear a helmet.
- Communicate. Let other trail users know how to pass your horse safely.
- Please clean up after your horse in the staging area.
- Please note: equestrians are restricted from the following trails during the rainy season: Golden Spike Trail, Redwood Peak Trail, and Fern Trail (between West Ridge and French trails).

Trail conflicts or violations should be reported to the Trail Hotline at (510) 733-6991. For a more immediate response, call the Regional Parks Police Department at (510) 881-1833. In case of an emergency call 9-1-1.



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# Redwood Regional Park

East Bay Regional Park District



West Ridge Trail, by Jerry Ting



Bewick's wren, by Jerry Ting