

Monte Rio Redwoods Regional Park and Open Space Preserve FAQs – June 2025

Overview

What is Monte Rio Redwoods Regional Park and Open Space Preserve?

Monte Rio Redwoods is a regional park and open space preserve located in the community of Monte Rio in western Sonoma County. The park is open for interim public access while a master plan is developed, meaning that you can visit the park now while Regional Parks works on a long-term plan to guide the development of trails, recreational and educational uses and the stewardship of natural resources. [Find out more about the park.](#) [Find out more about the planning process.](#)

What is the Monte Rio Redwoods expansion project?

In October 2020, Sonoma County Regional Parks acquired the 515-acre Dutch Bill Creek property, establishing Monte Rio Redwoods Regional Park and Open Space Preserve. Following that, [Save the Redwoods League](#) led a collaborative funding effort with partners to purchase an additional 1,517 acres of redwood forest and creek corridors and donated that land to Regional Parks. Called the Monte Rio Redwoods expansion, this land was added to Monte Rio Redwoods Regional Park and Open Space Preserve in June 2025. The expansion property has an established pattern of recreational use, including mountain biking and hiking, on legacy logging roads and trails.

Why is this land important to protect and manage as a park?

The park protects redwood forest, important for carbon storage and building climate resilience and preserves wildlife corridors and stream tributaries that support coho salmon and steelhead. The expansion property is a critical link in connecting over 22,000 acres of protected lands from the Russian River to the Sonoma Coast and offers new opportunities for recreation, habitat restoration and wildfire-resilient forest management. Coordinating with partners who manage nearby lands creates a connected, large-scale stewardship approach that makes a bigger impact and helps make neighboring communities safer.

Who owns and manages the park?

Sonoma County Regional Parks owns and manages Monte Rio Redwoods Regional Park and Open Space Preserve, which now totals 2,030 acres.

How do I access the park and trailheads?

A parking lot for pedestrians and cyclists is at 9610 Main St. in Monte Rio, located .5-mile south of Creekside Park. (Equestrian parking is not available.) Ample parking is available off the road is allowed along Main Street. The park also can be accessed from Sonoma Coast State Park trails via the Freezeout Road trailhead at 25572 Freezeout Road. California State Parks is working to have the trailhead's vehicle gate open regularly, and parking also is allowed along Freezeout Road for hike-in or bike-in access. Additionally, a hike-in and bike-in only trailhead (no parking) is located at upper/lower Willow Creek Road. If using this side of the park, cyclists are encouraged to ride up from downtown Occidental. For more information and a trail map, [visit the park webpage](#).

What activities are allowed in the park?

Hiking, mountain biking and picnicking are allowed in the park. The original park property includes 3 miles of trails, and the expansion property also includes an existing road and trail network. Most of the park's trails are open to pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians (multi-use) and bi-directional. However, some singletrack trails are designated as uni-directional (one-way direction of travel) and/or biker-only or hiker-only. Please respect these use patterns for your safety and the safety of others. Trail designations are noted on the map and will be reflected on signs as Regional Parks installs new signs and maps across the park in the coming weeks. [Check the trail map on the park's webpage for more information](#).

Thank you for your patience as we transition; our goal is to maintain access while ensuring visitor safety and long-term sustainability. For additional information about allowed activities in parks, see our [park policies](#) page.

The master planning process provides an opportunity for community input and feedback, including trail use designations. Regional Parks welcomes your input during its master planning process (see more info below).

Are dogs allowed on trails?

Dogs on leash are OK on most trails, with the exception of bike-only trails due to safety. Trails with dog restrictions are noted on the map and will be reflected on future signage. [Check the trail map on the park's webpage for more information](#).

Note: If accessing the regional park through Sonoma Coast State Park, or vice versa, dogs are not permitted on California State Park trails.

Are e-bikes allowed on trails?

Class 1 electric bicycles (e-bikes) are allowed in regional parks wherever conventional bicycles are allowed, unless otherwise posted. Class 1 e-bikes are pedal-assist only, with no throttle, and have a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph. E-bike riders must adhere to the same trail rules as conventional bicycle riders, including posted speed limits.

Are public restrooms available?

The park has a portable restroom, but no drinking fountain, at the Main Street trailhead and parking lot, located at 9610 Main St. in Monte Rio. Outside the park, the nearest public restroom is at Creekside Park next to the Lightwave Cafe in Monte Rio, during regular business hours.

Are trash cans available at the park?

At this time, trash cans are only available at the main trailhead in Monte Rio, 9610 Main St. and at the trailhead on Freezeout Road at 25572 Freezeout Road, Monte Rio. Please pack out all trash with you to a trash can. Trash hurts wildlife and contaminates waterways.

Are the trails ADA accessible?

The park has no ADA accessible features, though they are planned as part of the park's development. Regional Parks welcomes your input during its master planning process (see more info below).

Planning and community engagement

When will the master planning process start?

The master planning process for the original Monte Rio Redwoods Regional Park and Open Space Preserve began in early 2024. With the addition of the expansion property, Regional Parks is pausing the planning timeline to incorporate the expansion property into the project.

Why is a master planning process necessary?

A master plan, and its related environmental studies, guides trail and amenity development, helps us prioritize habitat restoration and wildfire resilience projects, and guides educational and interpretive elements. Regional Parks aims to enhance the existing access, and the master planning process provides an opportunity for community input and feedback.

How long does the master planning process typically take?

The master planning process, which includes compliance with state environmental laws, typically takes up to 24 months, although it can sometimes take longer due to park-specific needs and includes multiple opportunities for public input.

How can I get involved in the park's master planning process?

You can familiarize yourself with the project and [master planning process here](#). [Sign up for our monthly parks newsletter](#) to receive updates about public input opportunities.

Conservation and land use

What will happen to the areas that were just logged?

The property has been logged for many decades with the last timber harvest occurring just a few years ago. Portions of the redwood forest show old-growth characteristics, but much of the remaining redwood consist of young second- and third-growth trees. Our goal is to restore the young dense stands into a mature, vibrant forest ecosystem that helps protect water quality, provides habitat for endangered species and help protect adjacent communities from future wildfires. Areas that were recently logged will be assessed by our Natural Resources staff and projects that support forest restoration and reduce wildfire risk will be prioritized.

How will the park be managed for wildfire risk and forest health? What are the planned vegetation management activities?

Past logging activity left behind woody debris that could increase future wildfire severity. Also, the remaining forest now consists of dense stands of trees competing for resources such as water, nutrients and sunlight.

Working with CAL FIRE, local fire departments and community groups such as the Bohemian Collaborative, Regional Parks will reduce fuels by removing old logging slash and managing vegetation to support a healthier, more resilient forest. Dense areas will be selectively thinned and prescribed fire will be used to reduce field loads and restore natural nutrient cycling.

Some of this work is already underway. On the original 515-acre Monte Rio Redwoods Regional Park property, Regional Parks improved water quality by upgrading roads to reduce sediment in streams and removed miles of invasive French broom, which created a continuous fuel load.

With funding from the State Coastal Conservancy and support from CAL FIRE and Monte Rio Fire Protection District, Regional Parks established 33 acres of shaded fuel breaks and used prescribed fire to reduce fuels and encourage forest regeneration.

Future efforts will expand on this foundation. To learn more about Regional Parks' approach to natural resource management, [click here](#).

Will the old-growth trees be accessible to the public?

A small number of old-growth redwoods and Douglas firs are scattered in the property and some are visible from existing roads and trails. The old-growth trees are being evaluated during the planning process to determine the best way to protect them while balancing public access, recreation and conservation.

What kinds of wildlife or habitats does the park protect?

The park protects primarily redwood and mixed evergreen forests, but also has grassland, riparian woodland, chaparral and coastal scrub. This variety of habitats creates corridors for wildlife to move across the landscape, such as coyote, deer, bobcats, mountain lions, several amphibian species, and a diversity of birds. The upland habitats within the park are also home to several special-status wildlife species including American badger, Sonoma tree vole, California giant salamander and northern spotted owl. The Willow and Dutch Bill Creek watersheds support endangered coho salmon and threatened steelhead. Wildlife and habitat protection will guide park planning, including trail placement, seasonal use restrictions and restoration projects to support healthy ecosystems.

Partnerships and stewardship

Who are the partners involved in this project?

Monte Rio Redwoods Regional Park and Open Space Preserve is the result of years of collaboration among conservation groups, public agencies, Tribal partners and the local community. Key partners include Save the Redwoods League, Sonoma County Ag + Open Space, Sonoma Land Trust, California Wildlife Conservation Board and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. Local groups like the Gianni Cycling Association also support ongoing stewardship through trail maintenance and monitoring.

The property lies within the traditional territories of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. Regional Parks has been working closely with Tribal partners in the planning process for the original park property and are excited to begin consultations with Tribal partners on the expansion property.

What has been the role of the Gianni Cycling Association on the property in the past and what will it be going forward?

[The Gianni Cycling Association](#) has played a key role in stewarding the expansion property for decades. Their work has included building and maintaining trails, promoting trail etiquette and safety, supporting emergency responders and fostering community through recreation and education. Going forward, Gianni and Regional Parks have a formal license agreement to continue their partnership. The association will work with Regional Parks and the community to support trail maintenance, monitoring, stewardship, education and community outreach on the expansion property.

Are volunteer opportunities available?

Yes! Volunteers provide critical support for trail work and monitoring, habitat restoration and other stewardship. Volunteer opportunities are available through [The Gianni Cycling](#)

[Association](#) and [Redwood Trails Alliance](#). Visit their websites for more information on how to sign up.