

# A Walk Through Time

The coast redwoods that surround you are all young, the offspring of massive old-growth trees that once covered the East Bay hills. Here, a giant redwood stump remains, and helps tell the story of previous generations and the span of time.

Match the events in human history below with the growth of the giant redwood.



- 1 **1,000 Years Ago – Seedling**  
Imagine the parents of the redwoods in this park beginning as a tiny seedling more than 1,000 years ago.



- 2 **1,000 Years Ago and More – Native Peoples**  
This region was home for thousands of years to Saclans and Jalquins, who spoke Bay Miwok and Ohlone languages. Some used redwood sprouts for basketry. They used other forest plants for food, medicine and tools. Today's Ohlones and Bay Miwoks continue to cherish redwood forests.



- 3 **1769 – Early Spanish Exploration**  
Father Juan Crespi is credited with writing the first description of California redwoods. His land expedition traveled through "plains and low hills, well forested with very high trees of a red color ... and because none of the expedition recognizes them, they are named redwood (*palos colorados*) from their color."



- 4 **1820 – Rancho San Antonio**  
From ridgetop to bay, these lands were once part of a vast 44,000-acre Spanish cattle ranch that stretched from El Cerrito to San Leandro. Luis Peralta, a one-time Spanish soldier, received the land grant for his military service, and divided the land among his four sons and their families.



- 5 **1845 – Logging of East Bay Hills**  
Roughly 5 square miles of old-growth forests was logged, leaving only a "sea of stumps" by 1860. They even dug out the stumps for firewood or shingles. The Palo Seco Mill was built at the confluence of the nearby Palo Seco and Sausal Creeks to process the wood from this forest.



- 6 **1934 – Establishment of East Bay Regional Park District**  
"Parks for the People!" was the rallying cry of an East Bay grassroots campaign during the Great Depression. Farsighted citizens saved pristine watershed lands from development, creating one of the first regional park agencies in the country in 1934. The opening ceremony for the new park system was held right here in Redwood Bowl in 1936.



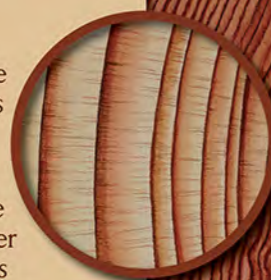
- 7 **2018 – Redwoods and Global Climate Change**  
Parks can be a living laboratory for scientists studying the effects of rising global temperatures. Both the size and longevity of redwoods help the trees store more climate-altering carbon dioxide than other plants. While redwoods cannot solve our climate problems by themselves, the protection of redwoods and other forests is part of the climate-change solution.

## Rings of the Forest

Did you know you can gaze into the hidden past of a coast redwood tree's life by looking closely at its rings?

Trees grow new wood every year in distinct bands called tree rings. The lighter wood shows spring and summer growth and the darker wood indicates growth at the end of the growing season.

Scientists study tree rings to learn the age of a tree and how it responds to the climate. Wider tree rings across an area or population can be indicators of wet years. Thinner rings may be linked to years of drought. Ring width is also influenced by other factors such as competition, injury, fire and soil nutrients.



## Magnified View

The size of the rings on this depiction have been exaggerated for clarity. One ring pictured here represents approximately 10 rings on a real tree the same size.

printing press

rock art

## Fire Scars

Fire plays an important role in the life of a redwood. When a fire sweeps through a redwood forest, it burns understory plants, preventing fuel buildup and overcrowding. It also provides fresh, fertile soil and reduces competition for new seeds to germinate and grow. Although fires may singe a redwood's bark, these mighty trees will continue to thrive for years to come after the flames pass by.