

**HOW TO QUEST:**

You are holding a treasure map! Follow the movement clues (*italicized*) between stops (numbered) and discover the natural and cultural treasures within this forest. At your final destination you will find your Quest Clue, this is the "key" to your prize! (See the "Now that you've finished..." section for your next step.) Have fun, be safe, and stay on marked trails on this adventure.

**ARCATA COMMUNITY FOREST QUEST TRAIL INFORMATION:**

**Start:** Redwood Park Playground, near the Redwood Lodge, 490 E. Park Rd, Arcata.

**Contact:** City of Arcata Recreation Division, (707) 822-7091

<http://www.cityofarcata.org/rec>

**Quest Trail Name:** Trail # 1 "Nature Trail Loop"

**Total Length:** ~1 mile loop/~1 hour

**Difficulty:** Moderate (some hills and stairs)

**Driving Directions:**

**From the south,** take the 14th St/ Humboldt State University Exit from HWY 101. Turn right onto 14th St, right on Union St, left on 11th St and left on Bayview St.

**From the north,** take the Sunset Ave/ Humboldt State University Exit from HWY 101. Turn left on Sunset Ave, right on LK Wood Blvd, left on 14th St (see 14th St turns above).

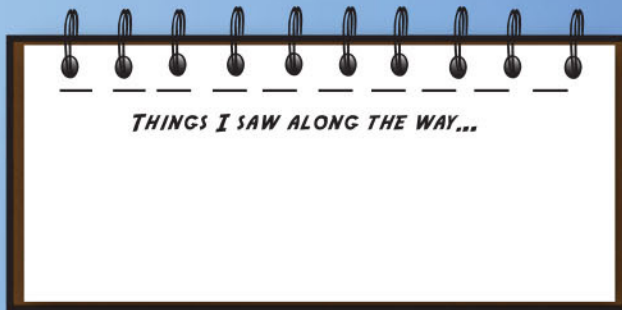


**NOW THAT YOU 'VE FINISHED YOUR QUEST:**

Go to the Recreation Office at Arcata City Hall (736 F St, Arcata; open M-F 9-5) or the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center (569 South G Street, Arcata; open 9-5 Tues.-Sun. and 1-5 Mon.) to claim your prize. If they are closed, log on to the Redwood EdVentures website (below) and we'll mail your prize to you.

**WHERE WILL YOUR NEXT QUEST TAKE YOU?**

The journey you've just completed is one of many Redwood EdVentures Quests. Find Quest locations and download free copies at [www.redwood-edventures.org](http://www.redwood-edventures.org). Teachers, students, and families can also explore hundreds of outdoor places and educational opportunities on the beautiful Redwood Coast. Find out why **nature is closer than you think!**



**Rivers to Redwoods**  
CHILDREN'S FOREST



This quest has been recreated by the City of Arcata and Arcata Recreation Division.

Produced in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, which is an equal opportunity service provider and employer.

Cover photo: Dillon Savage; Inside photos: (unless otherwise noted): Roman Ortega

# REDWOOD EDVENTURES QUEST

## ARCATA COMMUNITY FOREST



**COMMUNITIES UNDER THE CANOPY QUEST**



Begin this quest at the Redwood Park Playground.



## DISCOVER THE COMMUNITIES UNDER THE CANOPY OF THE COMMUNITY FOREST!

Coastal Giant Salamander



Photo: Dave Huth

- 1 Today Redwood Park is a place to play. Families come here every day. But there's much more to see here. An important forest habitat lies very near.

*To begin your quest, walk across the field and don't look back. Stop when you reach the rock (at trailhead 1) with a plaque.*

- 2 Our Community forest was the first in the state. In 1955 the City set it aside to secure its fate. Then in 1998 Arcata was filled with pride. When it became the first sustainable community forest to be certified.

*Now follow trail 1 up the steps, the fun of this quest has just begun! While you're walking let the forest do the talking. It has so much to say, its growing and changing every day. A community of plants and animals call this their home. A redwood ecosystem where they roam. Walk along the trail and soon you will see what is called an octopus tree.*

- 3 The roots of this Sitka Spruce are set above the ground. Like Octopus tentacles they tightly wrap around logs and stumps that have been downed. Most trees need their roots in the ground where vital nutrients abound; But the Spruce gets nutrients in another way, absorbing them from the fog and ocean spray.

*Now follow the trail up the hill, your next stop is sure to be a thrill. Stop at the green bench on the left and be still.*



Octopus Tree

- 4 With your back to the bench take a good look around. How many old growth stumps can be found? Now try to imagine each 300 feet high, their branches stretching up to the sky. Picture all the redwoods that big around, their branches so tight light can't touch the ground.

150 years ago they were all cut down; some may have been used to build this town. Now look again and count the new forest stand. How many secondary trees are now on this land? Redwood, Fir and Spruce grow hand in hand making today's forest look just as grand.

*Continue to follow trail 1 down the hill for more fun. Go over the bridge and climb up the ridge, soon you will see a special seat to rest your feet.*

- 5 Take a seat and look down at the lush valley below, a perfect place for ferns to grow. Now listen closely and you may hear the trickle of water is also near. Creeks like these are where ferns thrive, They need plenty of water for them to survive.

*Climb ten more steps to the top, then turn left down the trail and do not stop. Keep walking until something big comes into view. It is a remnant of the old growth that are now very few.*

- 6 Before you rises a massive stump from the land. How many of you can circle it hand-in-hand? Think of the hundreds of years it took to grow so wide and tall, And in only a few minutes a lumberjacks axe made it fall.

*Continue down the trail with your focus to the right, until a unique downed tree comes into sight.*

- 7 Growing on top of this dead tree are members of the redwood ecology. Even after a tree falls to the ground, a diverse range of life can still be found. A slimy slug or maybe a bug or even a salamander using the moss as a rug. In ancient days native Wiyot may have used this to make a canoe and paddle around the bay so blue.

*Continue downhill and around the bend. We are getting closer to the quests end. As you step down seven stairs, stop and pause. View many downed trees; consider the cause.*

- 8 Even with strong roots interlocking underground, the wind ripped and roared bringing many trees down. While once this place was deep in shade, now it's a place where new forest is made.

*Continue onward until you reach Campbell Creek. Stop at the first bridge and think about what's unique.*

- 9 Imagine the healthy streams of the past that supported populations of salmon swimming so fast. With your help they can return for you to see and once again continue their migration from the sea.

*The quest has come to an end. Now think about the forest's most common amphibian. At the second bridge look under the rail and you will find the clue that has a soft tail.*

*Write this animal's name below.*

**WRITE YOUR QUEST CLUE HERE:**