

Make Your Entrance

The New Portal to the Majestic Santa Cruz Mountains Is Now Open.



Sempervirens
Fund



Photo by 7Roots Creative

To every one of our supporters, thank you!

Your gifts to Sempervirens Fund brought about one of the greatest transformations in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Because of you, we were able to turn a 33-acre Christmas tree farm into a spectacular portal fit for the redwoods beyond. Now, we encourage you to head over to Castle Rock State Park, enjoy the new facilities and take a beautiful hike among your favorite trees (turn the page for three trail ideas).

Sempervirens Fund has permanently protected more than 53 square miles of local redwood forests and watersheds in the Santa Cruz Mountains for people, wildlife, and future generations. Learn more at www.sempervirens.org.



Photo by Rebecca Thomas

Children play on UPROOTED, a redwood root burl sculpture next to the native plants garden.

CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK



34 MILES OF CRAGS, CREEKS, AND QUIET FOREST TRAILS.



Photo by zRoots Creative

CASTLE ROCK TRAIL

EASY (1HR)

From the Robert C. Kirkwood Entrance, take the Castle Rock trail through the old parking lot around Castle Rock — the world-renowned hiking tafoni sandstone formation. From there, return to the old parking lot and take the Waterfall Trail down until you see a bridge crossing the stream. Go across the bridge and you will soon reach the Native Plants Demonstration Garden, which shows plants that native Californians used for food, medicine, and utilitarian needs. Continue up the path to reach the Sempervirens Fund Welcome Plaza at the Kirkwood Entrance.

SARATOGA GAP TRAIL

MODERATE (1.5 - 2.5HRS)

From the Robert C. Kirkwood Entrance, walk down through the native plants garden to the new connector trail to the Waterfall Trail. At the trail fork, the path on the right will lead you up to Goat Rock on the Ridge Trail, where you can enjoy sweeping views of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The path on the left will take you down to the Castle Rock Falls Overlook (a deck with railings) on the Saratoga Gap Trail. For the adventurous, both the Saratoga Gap Trail and the Ridge Trail continue and loop together via the Connector Trail or the longer route through the Castle Rock Campground.

TRAVERTINE SPRINGS TRAIL

STRENUOUS (6HRS+)

Follow the directions for Moderate Hike (left), but continue past the Castle Rock Trail Camp via the connector trail to the Travertine Springs Trail. From here, you will reach the Saratoga Toll Road Trail, which to the right connects to Saratoga Gap (and the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail) or to the left, which takes one further down to the edge of the park and other connector trails. Be very aware how long it takes you to reach this point, since it will take you at least as long to return to the Robert C. Kirkwood Entrance. The entrance closes at 8:00 p.m. every day. Campers should park the old parking lot.

DOWNLOAD OUR FREE TRAIL MAP APP AT CASTLEROCK.SEMPERVIRENS.ORG FOR MORE!