

# MUWO Alternative 3 Evaluation of Proposed Changes

## Question

**Should the boardwalk area along the flood plan be maintained as Scenic Corridor and the rest of the mature redwood forest be zoned natural?**

## Concept for MUWO Alternative 3

A window into the complex world of nature and conservation.

Present Muir Woods as a contemplative outdoor museum where visitors would discover the primeval redwood forest and the Monument's place in the early US conservation movement.

A system of thematic trails would lead visitors into the forest to touch, see, and learn, in different ways, about the essential qualities of the forest. These include its iconic giant trees, the ecology of Redwood Creek, and William Kent's generous donation of the forest to the American public.

Rather than continue to concentrate visitation along a main trail, visitors would be encouraged to take different thematic interpretive trails, some new and some existing, to experience the different parts of the park.

Other trails would link the Monument with the surrounding lands managed by other organizations.

Visitors would continue to be drawn to the Monument to see the trees, but they would leave with a richer understanding of this precious ecosystem and how these few acres helped spark conservation across the United States. They would be motivated to return and learn more of the story.

Collaboration with other public land managers would continue to address watershed restoration and stewardship.

## Management Actions in the Mature Redwood Forest

**Could these actions be done if zoned Natural?**

### **Scenic Corridor Zone (Large corridor around Redwood Creek and up the south-facing slopes of the canyon)**

1. This area would be managed to create an outdoor museum-like experience where visitors discover and interact with the features and setting of the primeval redwood forest.
2. Each trail within the Monument would unveil a different story and experience. The trails would be rehabilitated or relocated and each would be individually designed and managed to provide visitors with opportunities to learn, explore, and become immersed in the resources that illustrates a particular theme.

3. An ecology-themed trail would use interactive exhibits so visitors could examine the forest canopy high above or the dynamic hydrogeology of the creek.
4. A history-themed trail would highlight how Muir Woods has been shaped by more than a century of park managers and could quietly usher visitors into Cathedral Grove. A self-discovery trail would encourage visitors to see, touch, and smell, and possibly taste parts of the forest, providing a very personal and sensory experience.
5. Some trails would start in a restored meadow where the upper parking lot now exists, and highlight the main redwood groves along the creek. Others would bring visitors down into the woods from higher in the canyon along historic traces.
6. The historic Dipsea Trail and other trails from Mount Tamalpais State Park also would be highlighted, offering opportunities for self-discovery.
7. The experience would be further reinforced through ranger led activities that engage the visitor with the Monument's natural and cultural resources.
8. The Administration-Concession Building would be rehabilitated as a traditional park visitor center.
9. The structures and features that represent the conservation movement would be preserved and rehabilitated, and used to support visitor programming and services. These include the historic Superintendent's Residence, Administration-Concession Building, trails, creek **stabilization rock work**, monuments, and named groves.
10. Retain concession building for other park serving functions.

**Sensitive Resources Zone (Northeast facing slopes of the canyon)**

11. This large area would be managed to preserve the redwood forest and natural sounds that provide a backdrop to the adjacent scenic corridor. Visitor access to this area would be carefully managed and limited to retain the pristine setting and protect its resources.