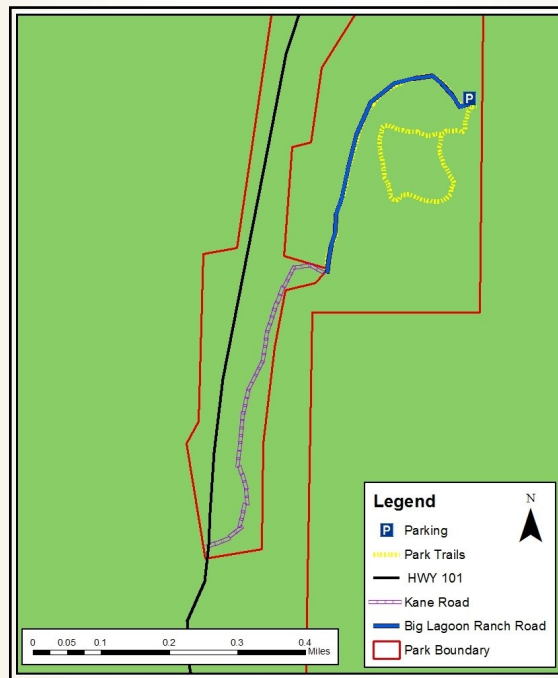


Azalea State Reserve

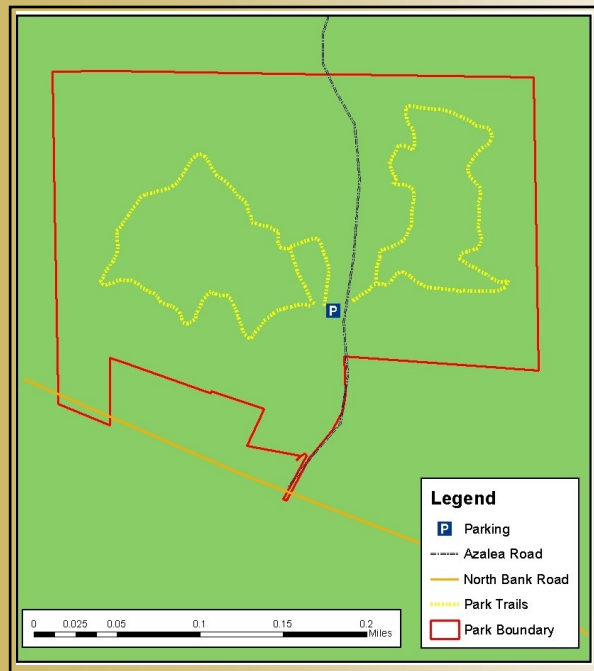
Located 1 mile east of US Hwy 101 off North Bank Road, the 30-acre reserve opened in 1943 and has two loop trails with scenic overlooks and a day use area with picnic tables. The purpose of the Reserve is to perpetuate western azaleas for viewing pleasure and enjoyment by the visiting public.



Western Azalea



Management Areas



Stagecoach Hill Azalea Management Area

Located just north of Big Lagoon, off of Kane Road, east of Hwy 101, the 40-acre management area was established in 1983 and is said to be one of the most extensive stands of wild western azaleas on the north coast. For more information call (707) 677-3570.



Photos by Mary Lou Goodwin

Western Azalea Basics

Western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) are the only species of native azaleas growing west of the Rocky Mountains. Azaleas are deciduous shrubs that require plenty of sunlight and can be shaded out by taller vegetation. Between April and July, azaleas produce aromatic and beautiful white blooms edged in shades of pink, yellow and orange. Azaleas are closely related to California rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*), another native showy shrub.



Management Strategies

The North Coast Redwoods District of California State Parks has two azalea management areas: Azalea State Reserve and Stagecoach Hill.

Azaleas occur in a transitional vegetation zone within the successional series between open grassland to shrub land to a closed canopy forest. If left unmanaged, larger shrubs and woody trees will shade the azaleas out.

California State Parks employs a variety of techniques to suspend the natural succession progression

in the reserves to provide visitors an opportunity to enjoy these spectacular blooms.

Management strategies are based on site-specific conditions. Grasslands are typically brushed and mowed. Conifers and alders, along with larger shrubs such as coyote brush, are removed around the perimeter of forestlands. Within the azalea community, competing native and non-native species are removed and mature azaleas are pruned.

For more information about volunteering for California State Parks and western azalea management please contact: Michelle Forys at (707) 677-3109 or Michelle.Forys@parks.ca.gov.

