



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, January 29, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF FORT BRAGG ANNOUNCES "SOFT" OPENING OF NEW COASTAL TRAIL

On Saturday, January 31st, the City of Fort Bragg's newly constructed Coastal Trail will be officially opened for public use. The trailhead and parking lot are located at the west end of Elm Street adjacent to Glass Beach. A new 8-foot wide paved trail extends along more than a mile of carefully restored coastal bluff drainage, soils and tender native seedlings with access to a stretch of coastline that has been behind the fences of the former mill site for more than a century. The trail will be open from dawn until dusk.

The north segment of the Coastal Trail extends from Glass Beach to Otsuchi Point on the north side of Soldier Bay. Eventually it will connect to a trail through the central portion of the mill site and extend to the southern segment of the Coastal Trail. However, as this central portion of the site, including the beach at Fort Bragg Landing, is still owned by Georgia-Pacific (GP) and includes contaminated and unsafe areas, public access is NOT permitted and trespassers will be cited. Do not go beyond the security fencing that separates the City's property from GP's property to the east. The southern segment of the Coastal Trail, from Noyo Point Road to Johnson Point on the south side of Soldier Bay, will be constructed this year. The central connecting segment is expected to be constructed in 2017 or 2018.

Construction activities on the Coastal Trail are not entirely finished. Over the next couple months, the contractor, Granite Construction, will install a restroom, complete the staircase to the beach, and complete improvements to two plazas. Additionally four benches, made by local fine-woodworkers, will be installed in February. The City expects to have a Grand Opening celebration in the late spring when all of the work is complete.

The City's new Noyo Headlands Park is comprised of 93 acres of coastal property extending along more than three miles of coastline. It was acquired with \$4.1 million in grant funds from the State Coastal Conservancy and a generous donation of land by Georgia-Pacific. Design, permitting and construction of the Coastal Trail and other park facilities is funded by over \$6 million in State grants from the State Coastal Conservancy, State Parks, and Caltrans. Starting Saturday, the public is welcome to come and enjoy the northern segment of the new trail and park facilities. The City requests that park users abide by posted signage and park rules.

Questions regarding this information should be directed to Tom Varga, Public Works Director, at (707)-961-2824, x117.