

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES

REDWOOD CITY HISTORY



[VISIT US](#)

California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Built on the historic Rancho de las Pulgas, Redwood City boasted an estimated population of 86,200 as of 2018. This city, as its name might suggest, has deep roots in San Mateo County’s logging history, serving as a shipping point for the redwood logs harvested in the region. As such, it boasts historic buildings, including some dating back to the 1850s, as well as an active historic preservation advisory committee and local history room. If you are looking for exciting local information resources in the [California History Section's](#) rich collections, then check out what we have for this city!

Digitized Resources	4
General Research Tips	5
Specific Resources in our Catalog	7
On-site Research Resources	8
Other On-site Resources	9
Other Places to Look	10

ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!

DIGITIZED RESOURCES

Can't come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore related to Redwood City!



[Digitized Publications](#)

A few years ago we digitized some of our more fragile publications. You can now see documents related to Redwood City on Internet Archive!



URL: <https://archive.org/>

Type in Search Box: (Redwood City) AND collection:(californiastatelibrary)

Select Option: "Search Full Text of Books"



[Digitized Images](#)

We have scanned and digitized a portion of our extensive photograph collection, including images related to Redwood City. You can see them on Calisphere!



URL: <https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/>

Type in Search Box: ("Redwood City")

GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

While many of our materials are online, even more are only in hard copy. You can use the following resources to learn about our Redwood City resources.



Catalog

If you are looking for Redwood City materials, your best source is our [catalog](#).

You can do a general search on the catalog, but also be sure to check out our specialized resources on page 7 of this research guide!



URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank



California Information File II

Sometimes the catalog doesn't provide as much detail as you might like. This is why we created the California Information File II, successor to the analog California Information File I. In this resource, you can find indexing to individual articles, as well as Redwood City deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more!



URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

Type in Search Box:

1. Redwood City

GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS



The screenshot shows a search interface for "City and County Directories". It includes a search box and several dropdown menus for "County", "City", "Year", "Title", "Author", "Publisher", and "Material type". There is an "Advanced Search" link and a "Help" icon.

City Directories

Looking for a person? How about the history of a location? You can trace this information and more via our city directories! See what we have by checking our specialized database.



URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm

Type in Search Box:

1. Redwood City



The screenshot shows a search interface for "Telephone Directories". It includes a search box and dropdown menus for "Location-White Pages", "Location-Yellow Pages", "Year", and "Material type". There is an "Advanced Search" link and a "Help" icon.

Telephone Books

Are you not finding what you need in our city directory collection? No worries, you might find it in our telephone book collection. See what we have by checking our phone book database.



URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm

Type in Search Box:

1. Redwood City

SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Redwood City has a long and distinguished history! Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this city's complex past!

Type

[Maps](#)

[Books](#)

[County Histories](#)

[Images](#)

[Manuscripts](#)

[Newspaper Indexes](#)

[Newspapers](#)

[Statistics](#)



Subjects and Residents

[Agriculture](#)

[Art](#)

[Business](#)

[Cooking](#)

[Fire](#)

[Jewish Americans](#)

[Land](#)

[Medicine](#)

[Politics](#)

[Shipping](#)

[Railroads](#)

[Religion](#)

[Streets](#)

[Vitals](#)

[Water](#)

ON-SITE RESEARCH RESOURCES

Our collection predates computers and so do some of our access points! If you are in the library, be sure to check the following analog files for leads on more resources.



California Information File

In the library? Check the California Information File before you do anything else! This file indexes over 130 years of California articles, books, and manuscript collections from a variety of counties.



Subject Headings: Counties: San Mateo:
Redwood City

Map File



Looking for a Redwood City map? Our map file is a great place to start. We have a wide variety of maps, including Sanborn fire insurance maps. Some of our maps cover settlement patterns and even natural history.



Subject Headings: San Mateo County

Photographic File



Sometimes a picture is worth a 1000 words and not all of our pictures are online. To check the rest of the collection search our picture file card catalog.



Subject Headings: Counties: San Mateo:
Redwood City

OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about Redwood City information contained in the following resources.



Vertical Files

Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of topics, including individual cities. You can check them for pamphlets, certificates and even posters related to organizations, individuals, and area histories.



Subject Headings: Counties: San Mateo:
Redwood City



Postcard Files

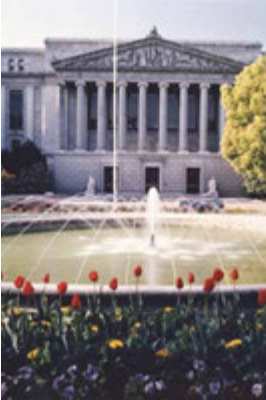
Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to Redwood City. Most are not online.



Subject Headings: Counties: San Mateo:
Redwood City

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

Of course, the California History Section doesn't have everything, so we suggest that in addition to looking at our collections, you contact the following organizations.



Other California State Library Sections

[Government Publications Section](#)

[Witkin Law Library](#)

[Sutro Library](#)

[General Information](#)



URLs:

- <http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/>
 - <http://www.library.ca.gov/law/>
 - <http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/>
 - <https://www.library.ca.gov/services>
-

Other Organizations



[Redwood City Historic Resources](#)

[Advisory Committee](#)

[Redwood City Public Library](#)

[County Clerk-Recorder](#)



URLs:

- <https://www.redwoodcity.org/city-hall/advisory-bodies-and-committees/regulatory-and-advisory-boards-commissions-and-committees/historic-resources-advisory-committee>
 - <https://www.redwoodcity.org/departments/library>
 - <https://www.smacre.org/clerk-recorder>
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This guide is also available online at:
<http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/>