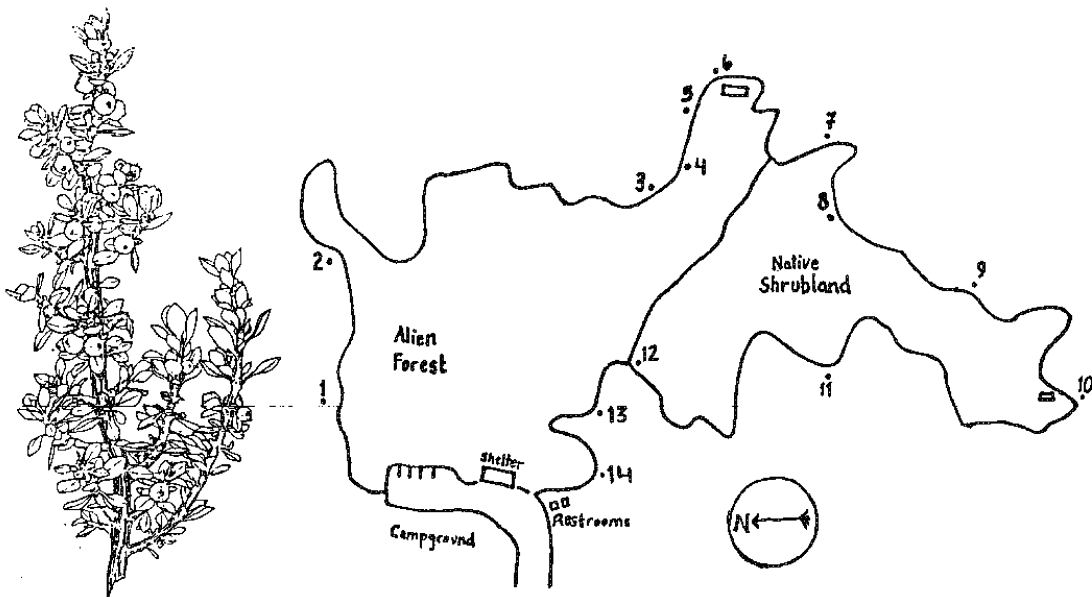


HOSMER GROVE TRAIL GUIDE

Welcome to Hosmer Grove, at the edge of Haleakala National Park. This half-mile trail will lead you on a 30 minute walk through one of the biological battlegrounds of the Park. The trail begins in the shade of a 20th century alien forest and ends in native Hawaiian shrubland that looks as it did centuries ago. Numbered posts and plaques are found along the trail.

Haleakala National Park was established in 1916 to preserve the original Hawaiian habitat. Alien plants and animals that have been introduced by man make it a difficult challenge. Today the Park's Resource Managers are reclaiming remnants of the native shrubland around Hosmer Grove by removing thousands of invasive alien eucalyptus and pines. Without the removal of adult seed-bearing plants and their rapidly spreading seedlings, an alien forest would soon overrun the native shrubland between here and the crater, thereby erasing a fragile Hawaiian ecosystem that has taken millions of years to develop.



HOSMER GROVE NATURE TRAIL



The Alien Forest

Plants and animals that were brought to Hawai'i by people are called "alien". The trees of Hosmer Grove include pine, spruce, cedar and eucalyptus imported from all over the world. They were planted around 1910 by Hawai'i's first territorial forester, Ralph Hosmer, as part of a forestry experiment. Most of the grasses seen in this area are also aliens that became established when cattle were grazed here.

The Natives

Plants native to Hawai'i got here via the three W's: wind, bird wings or waves. The Hawaiian Islands emerged from the sea millions of years ago and a colonizing plant managed to become established once every ~100,000 years. Plants evolved to take advantage of a variety of new habitats. Most plants differ from their ancestors, and 86% are "endemic" to Hawai'i, found nowhere else on earth.

Safety

This trail is uneven, has high steps and may be slippery. To protect plant and animal life, stay on maintained trails. Bikes and pets are not allowed on trails - they are restricted to roadways only. Due to the elevation, persons with heart or breathing problems should use caution. Sunscreen is advised. Litter receptacles are near the shelter. Camping is allowed only in the signed area by the parking lot.