

Experience the Humboldt Bay Area Beaches and Dunes

The Humboldt Bay Area Beaches and Dunes consist of a mixture of public and private land ownership. The rare and fragile habitats of the dunes offer unique opportunities for nature study, beachcombing, picnicking, hiking and more. This map highlights areas where you can enjoy the beaches and dunes with a description of services and facilities available to you.

Beach & Dunes Etiquette

- Stay on the trails to preserve plants and protect wildlife
- Always have animals under immediate control
- Respect other beach and dunes users - both people and wildlife
- Leave no trace- pack out your trash and pet waste
- Obey posted rules and regulations

Moonstone Beach County Park

The rocky cliffs surrounding Moonstone Beach create a dramatic landscape at this popular surfing and picnicking area. Parking and primitive toilet.

Clam Beach County Park

With miles of wet sandy beaches, this is an ideal place for an afternoon stroll or a weekend of camping and beachcombing. Hikers can enjoy walking south to the mouth of the Mad River, picnickers can spread out and enjoy the spectacular view of Trinidad and fishermen can surf-fish or

clam for Pacific Razor clams (see Fish and Game Department for current regulations). Street legal four-wheel drive vehicles (no ATVs, motor cycles, dune buggies) may access the beach but must stay on the waveslope (hard sand by the water) and not exceed 15 mph. No recreational dune riding is allowed. Clam beach is home to the threatened western snowy plover. Special restrictions require all people, vehicles, and animals to stay away from signed nesting enclosures. Keep your activities to the wet sand during the breeding season from March through September.

Mad River County Park

Over 90 acres of low coastal sand dunes front both the Pacific Ocean and the Mad River. Along the river's edge, willows and alders are the predominant species. The combination of both dune and river habitats supports an area rich in wildlife. Fishing is one of the most popular recreational activities. There are three completely different types of fishing available: salmon and steelhead fishing, surfperch fishing and net fishing for night fish. Facilities include parking, restrooms, boat launch, picnic tables and equestrian staging area.

AT ALL COUNTY PARKS: Dogs must be on a leash during snowy plover breeding season (March 1 - September 30) except on the waveslope (wet sand). At all times dogs must be under owner control.

Lanphere Dunes

This pristine area is home to several environmentally sensitive plants and lichens and is rich in bird life. Lanphere Dunes are a unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Public access is provided through special permit (call 444-1397), or through guided walks. Trained docents from Friends of the Dunes lead walks on the first and third Saturdays of each month all year round. Meet the guide at 10:00 a.m. at the Pacific Union School parking lot at 3001 Janes Road, Arcata, to carpool to the refuge. Lanphere Dunes has no restroom facilities. Dogs are not allowed.

Ma-le'l Dunes Cooperative Management Area

These 450 acres of forest, dune, and salt marsh habitat are managed by the BLM and USFWS. The southern portion (*Ma-le'l South*) is open for day use, including hiking, dog walking on trails or open sand areas, and horseback riding on designated trails only. Access to the area is from Young Lane, off Highway 255 south of Mad River Slough Bridge. See information kiosks on site for additional regulations. The northern portion, (*Ma-le'l North*) is a unit of Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge and is scheduled to be open for day use in late 2006. Current access is limited to public guided walks offered by Friends of the Dunes (444-1397). For more information, call 822-6378 (USFWS), or 825-2300 (BLM).

Manila Dunes Recreation Area

Over 100 acres of beach and dune habitat are accessed through the Manila Community Center at 1611 Peninsula Drive, Manila. Call (707) 445-3309 for information. Facilities include rest rooms and ample parking. Owned and managed by the Manila Community Services District, the area has a trail system, a dune forest and excellent examples of dune mat species. Dogs are allowed on a leash or under voice control. Horse use is limited to designated trails. Friends of the Dunes lead guided dune walks on the second and fourth Saturday of every month at 10:00 a.m. Call (707) 444-1397.

Samoa Beach U.S.S. Milwaukee Marker The "T"

These three access sites between Manila Dunes and Samoa Dunes Recreation Area provide quick entry to the beach. At low tide the remains of the U.S.S. Milwaukee can be seen. The cruiser was beached in January of 1917 trying to free the grounded submarine, the Garfish. Samoa peninsula received its name in 1889 to honor the first protectorate of the U.S., the Samoa Islands. Since then the peninsula has seen shipbuilding, lumber mills, shipwrecks, world war, power plants, and is now the site of one of the nation's only chlorine-free pulp mills.

Samoa Dunes Recreation Area

The Samoa Dunes Recreation Area is a 300-acre park which hosts a wide variety of recreational activities including off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. When walking in the recreation area please be aware of OHV riding areas. The Samoa Dunes Recreation Area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and is open from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset. The area is closed to overnight camping, nighttime vehicle use, firearms use, and vegetation collection. For more information call the BLM Arcata Field Office at (707) 825-2300.

Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge

The Hookton Slough unit and Salmon Creek units of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge can be accessed off Highway 101 at Hookton Road. The Salmon Creek unit, which includes the refuge office, visitor center and trail system, is open Monday through Saturday, 7am to 4pm. For information about environmental education opportunities and/or guided walks, please call (707) 733-5406. The Lanphere unit (see above) and the Table Bluff unit both contain dunes.

Eureka Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary

The Elk River is Humboldt Bay's largest tributary and is a spawning ground for salmon, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout. A sand spit began to form at the river's mouth in 1930 and now extends over a mile into Humboldt Bay. A parking area off Hilfiker Lane west of Highway 101, provides access to trails through 100 acres of restored riparian woodland, freshwater marsh, salt marsh, and dunes. Please stay on trails to avoid impacts to endangered plants and sensitive resources.

South Spit Cooperative Management Area

The South Spit Cooperative Management Area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Game, Humboldt County, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The area is open from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset, with earlier opening during waterfowl season. Equestrian use is limited to the west side of jetty road and vehicle access is restricted to the waveslope, not to exceed 15mph. The South Spit is home to the

threatened western snowy plover. People, vehicles, and animals are required to stay away from posted areas during the plover nesting season from March 1-September 15. Dogs must be leashed on the west side of Jetty Road during snowy plover nesting season. The area is open to commercial fishing use by permit. For more information call the BLM Arcata Field Office at (707) 825-2300.

Eel River Wildlife Area and Crab County Park

The Eel is California's third largest river and carries ten percent of California's yearly runoff. It is important to our coastal dunes because it carries a tremendous amount of the sediment that forms the building materials of dunes. The Eel is federally classified as a wild and scenic river. The Eel River delta can be explored from Crab County Park and the Eel River Wildlife Area, accessed four miles west of Loleta, at the end of Cannibal Road. Eel River Wildlife Area is home to the threatened western snowy plover. In the Wildlife Area vehicles are restricted to the wave slope (wet sand) and the back dune road. Dogs must be on a leash between March 1st and August 15th.



Western Snowy Plover

The western snowy plover is a small shorebird that often nests in open sandy areas along our beaches and dunes.

- Populations have declined dramatically in the last twenty years
- Listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act
- Nests from beginning of March to the end of September

Within plover habitat areas and during the plovers' breeding season March 1st to September 30th:

- Obey posted rules and regulations
- Be careful to remove all litter- it attracts predators of the plover
- Stay out of signed nesting areas
- Keep pets on a leash

For more contact information...see back side



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