

Planning Your Visit

DAY USE FEES*

Parking: \$7 or free for Sonoma County Regional Parks members.

Launch: \$4 for trailered boats or free for members

*Fees subject to change

ACCESSIBILITY

ADA-accessible features include restrooms, parking, campsites, boardwalk with benches and a kayak launch. All-terrain beach wheelchairs are available for free use. Inquire at entry station.

TRAILS

Visitors can walk 2 miles (one way) along the shoreline from the rock jetty at the west end of the park to the rock formations near Pinnacle Gulch on the east end. The .07-mile Cheney Creek Trail connects Doran to the 1.3-mile Bird Walk Coastal Access Trail loop, which also can be accessed via Highway 1.

BEACH

Doran is probably best known for its expansive sandy beach. The beach is about 2 miles long and faces south, making it more protected than other Sonoma Coast beaches. It's a popular place for picnicking, kite flying, surfing, sea kayaking, fishing, playing in the sand or taking a stroll. Horses and dogs on leash are allowed on the beach.



FISHING & BOATING

The park features a renovated boat launch and one of the first ADA-accessible kayak launches in Sonoma County. The launches provide access to Bodega Harbor and Bodega Bay for sport fishing, kayaking, stand-up paddling and kite surfing.

The rock jetty on the park's west end is a popular spot for fishing, crabbing and investigating sea life.



CAMPING

There are approximately 150 tent and RV campsites available for reservations year-round. Please visit SoCoParks.org/Doran for more information.

Sonoma County Regional Parks

provides essential opportunities for people to connect with nature. We contribute to the vibrancy and well-being of our community by expanding access to recreation experiences, serving as responsible stewards of cultural and natural resources, and ensuring that our parks are clean, safe and welcoming.



SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS

Membership Information:

Annual membership is the easiest, most affordable way to regularly enjoy Sonoma County's Regional Parks.

General memberships are only \$69. Senior memberships are only \$49 (ages 62 and older.) Access memberships are only \$29 (for people with permanent disabilities.)

Member benefits include:

- 12 months of parking at more than 55 parks
- 1 night of camping at a Regional Park campground
- Discounts at the Spring Lake Water Barks
- 12 months of boat launching at Doran, Westside and Spring Lake Regional Parks
- Discounts with local recreation providers
- Parks map
- Monthly newsletter
- Discounted camping rate for Access members

Learn more about becoming a member at:
SoCoParks.org/Member

Doran Regional Park



SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS

201 DORAN BEACH ROAD

BODEGA BAY | 707-875-3540

SOCOPARKS.ORG/DORAN

PLAY



CAMP



EXPLORE



Doran Regional Park, which includes Doran Beach, is at the southern end of Sonoma County's stunning 55-mile coastline. Located in the popular visitor destination of Bodega Bay, the park is bordered by the bay on one side and Bodega Harbor on the other.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Doran was the first Sonoma County Regional Park and totals 120 acres.
- Doran is the most-visited of the Sonoma County Regional Parks as it offers something for everyone. Visitors enjoy walking on the beach, picnicking, flying kites, surfing, birdwatching, camping, kayaking, fishing and more.



History

Bodega Bay has a long history of human activity. It has been the home of the Coast Miwok and Pomo people for thousands of years and has provided abundant resources for hunting, fishing and gathering.

The first recorded European contact in Bodega Bay was by Spanish explorer Juan Francisco de la Bodega in 1775. Russian, Spanish, Mexican and Anglo-American settlers arrived in the 1800s.

By the 1940s, the parkland was part of ranchland owned by William "Billy" Doran. During World War II, the federal government took control of a portion of it to create a safe harbor for rescue operations. The harbor was dredged and jetties of locally quarried rock were built at its entrance. By 1948, the north side of Doran Beach was filled and the harbor opened to small commercial and sports craft.

The land eventually passed to the County of Sonoma and the beach was established as a Regional Park in 1967. The U.S. Coast Guard Station Bodega Bay has been on park grounds since 1963.



PLANTS & ANIMALS

The sand dunes, saltmarsh and beach are important habitat for many species of plants and animals. Shorebirds - such as sandpipers, gulls, pelicans and the threatened western snowy plover - can be seen on the beach. Doran is on the Pacific Flyway and migratory birds like terns, egrets and loons stop over for part of the year.

The park is part of a complex ecosystem and hosts two locally uncommon vegetation communities: sand dunes and pickleweed marsh. Monterey pine and Monterey cypress trees are common and provide sheltered areas along the beach to camp or walk. Through the spring and summer, hundreds of species of native wildflowers, like pink sand verbena, dune tansy and marsh rosemary, can be seen throughout the park. Unfortunately, many of these plants are threatened by invasive species such as iceplant and European dunegrass, which were introduced in the early 1900s to stabilize the dunes.

Mammals that live in and around Doran Regional Park include black-tailed deer, rabbits, grey foxes, bobcats, striped skunks, harbor seals, California sea lions and migrating gray whales (December-April). Tide pools host a variety of sea life, but please do not disturb these creatures or expose them to sun or air, as it can destroy them.

Please keep your dog leashed, and your pets and yourself at least 100 yards away from wild animals. Disturbing or harassing wildlife can result in fines or jail time.



Photo credit: Jenny Erbes



WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER

The western snowy plover is a small shoreline bird that forages on the beach for small invertebrates. Males and females share incubation duties and will often perform a broken wing display to distract predators from their nests. Once widespread on Sonoma Coast beaches, they have been designated as a threatened species since 1993, which makes it a crime to harass, harm or pursue these birds. They tend to nest in the open on beaches and are vulnerable to birds of prey, terrestrial predators, dogs off leash and human disturbance. They can startle easily, which causes them to lose energy needed for foraging and nesting.

Here's how you can help the plover:

- Give them a wide berth.
- Walk in the wet sand versus dry sand where they might be nesting or roosting.
- Keep dogs on leash. Never allow dogs to chase birds.
- Stay out of fenced-off areas.
- Avoid flying kites near fenced-off nesting areas.
- Pack out and/or properly dispose of all garbage. Garbage attracts predators like crows, skunks and gulls.

TIPS

- Dogs must be on leash.
- Horses are allowed on a 1-mile stretch of beach east of the second day-use parking lot.
- A California sport fishing license is required for anyone over 16.
- Doran is busy during summer, holidays and warm weather weekends and the entrance will close when parking lots are full. Plan to arrive by mid-morning or late afternoon and have an alternate destination in mind in case the park is full.
- Weather conditions change rapidly and can be unpredictable. Wear layers and be prepared for fog, wind, rain or sun, especially if camping.
- Winter storms can create dangerous surf conditions. Pay attention to high-surf advisories and be aware of sleeper waves and rip currents.

NEARBY ACTIVITIES



Explore nearby activities, including whale watching and hiking at Bodega Head or birdwatching at "Hole in the Head" near Campbell Cove (pictured above), both part of Sonoma Coast State Park. Tour the UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, join a chartered trip from the Sport Fishing Center or enjoy the galleries, souvenir shops and restaurants of Bodega Bay.