

Doran Regional Park



**SONOMA
COUNTY
REGIONAL
PARKS**

201 DORAN BEACH ROAD
BODEGA BAY | 707-875-3540

PLAY

CAMP

EXPLORE



DID YOU KNOW?



- Doran is the first Sonoma County Regional Park and totals 120 acres.
- Doran Beach is a wide 2-mile stretch on Bodega Bay and offers something for everyone. It is ideal for walking, picnicking, flying kites, surfing, birdwatching, camping, kayaking, fishing and more.

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 parks
- Discounts with local recreation providers
- Park map
- Monthly e-news
- Discounted camping rate for Access members



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.

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 Native population on the Coast is still involved in protecting their historical lands.

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.

Planning Your Visit

DAY USE FEES*

Parking: \$7 or free for Sonoma County Regional Parks members. Please visit SonomaCountyParks.org to learn more about membership.

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

*Fees subject to change

ACCESSIBILITY

ADA-accessible restrooms and parking, accessible campsites, an ADA-accessible boardwalk with benches and birdwatching areas, an ADA-accessible kayak launch and beach wheelchairs available at no charge.

TRAILS

Trails include a 2-mile (one way) walk along the shoreline from the rock jetty at the west end to the rock formations near Pinnacle Gulch on the east end. The 1.3-mile ADA-accessible Bird Walk Coastal Access loop trail is accessed via Highway 1 and connects to Doran via Cheney Creek Trail.



BEACH

The expansive, sandy beach is probably the most well-known feature of Doran Regional Park. 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 are allowed on the beach.

FISHING & BOATING

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



NEARBY ACTIVITIES



PLANTS & ANIMALS



PHOTO CREDIT: JENNY ERBES

Explore nearby activities, including whale watching and hiking from Bodega Head, birdwatching at “Hole in the Head” near Campbell Cove (pictured above), tours of the UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory and boating at Spud Point Marina. You’ll find restaurants, galleries and souvenir shops in Bodega Bay and many state park beaches.

- 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.

- PLEASE REMEMBER**
- 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.

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. Through the spring and summer, hundreds of species of native wildflowers, like pink sand verbena, common yarrow 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 yourself and your pets at least 100 yards away from wild animals. Disturbing or harassing a wild animal could result in fines or jail time.

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.