

James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

200 Nevada Avenue, Moss Beach, CA 94038
Park Headquarters 650-728-3584
Police, Fire, or Medical Emergency 911

San Mateo County Parks

Reservations 650-363-4021
General information 650-363-4020
www.SMCoParks.org

The Department manages parks, trails, and historic sites to preserve public lands and provide opportunities for education and recreation. The system's 18 parks, regional, county, and local trails, and two historic sites are located throughout the County and encompass nearly 16,000 acres.

The parks represent our region's wondrously diverse natural settings, from rugged tidepools, lush mountain forests, and remote campsites to Bayfront shoreline, sunny picnic areas, and popular playgrounds.

The Department sells annual passes, offering unlimited entrances to all County Parks for a year.

Support your parks

You can volunteer to help rangers protect and improve parklands and serve park visitors.

The San Mateo County Parks Foundation raises funds to improve the quality of County Parks for our community. For information, visit www.SupportParks.org.

Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve promotes protection and enjoyment of the Reserve. For information, visit www.FitzgeraldReserve.org.

San Mateo County Parks
Wild places & friendly spaces

Fitzgerald

A San Mateo County Marine Reserve



Mary DeLong



Wild places & friendly spaces

James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

The Reserve was established in 1969 to protect hundreds of marine plant and animal species. Since then scientists have studied this rich and complex habitat, and discovered 25 new marine invertebrate and plant species here.

Fitzgerald is recognized as a State Marine Reserve and is managed by San Mateo County and the California Department of Fish and Game. It is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The Reserve is easily accessible from Highway 1 in Moss Beach, north of Half Moon Bay.

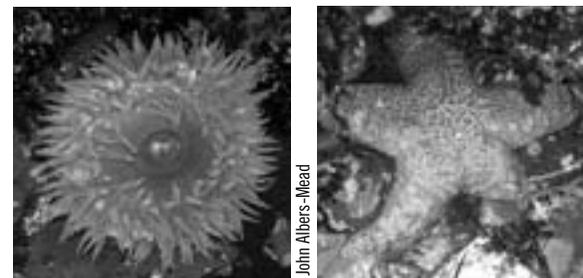


Natural features

The rich coastal upwelling and dynamic geological features of the San Mateo County coast combine to favor the abundant and diverse marine life found at Fitzgerald. Best seen at low tide, a colorful variety of seaweed, crabs, sponges, anemones, sea stars, mollusks, and fish live in the intertidal area.

The Reserve is also home to a variety of shorebirds, harbor seals, and the occasional sea otter foraging offshore. Marine life in the Reserve is protected, and collecting is prohibited.

In addition to many Monterey cypress trees, Fitzgerald includes northern coastal bluff scrub, arroyo willow riparian corridors, and freshwater marsh. The erosion-prone coastal bluffs are always changing.



John Albers-Mead

Activities and facilities

Activities in the Reserve focus on education and interpretation of natural resources, including the ecosystems of the intertidal reef, beach, upland, and wetlands.

The Reserve is largely unimproved. Trails along the bluff are accessible for walking and running. Stairs lead from the parking lot down to the tidepools.

The Pillar Point Marsh, southeast of the Reserve, offers excellent opportunities for bird-watching.

The scenic Pillar Point Bluff, home to a section of the California Coastal Trail, is a natural extension of the Reserve, and is popular with local hikers, joggers and dog-walkers.

Rangers and trained volunteer docents offer interpretive tours for adults and youth in the third grade and older. The Reserve is not suited for younger children.

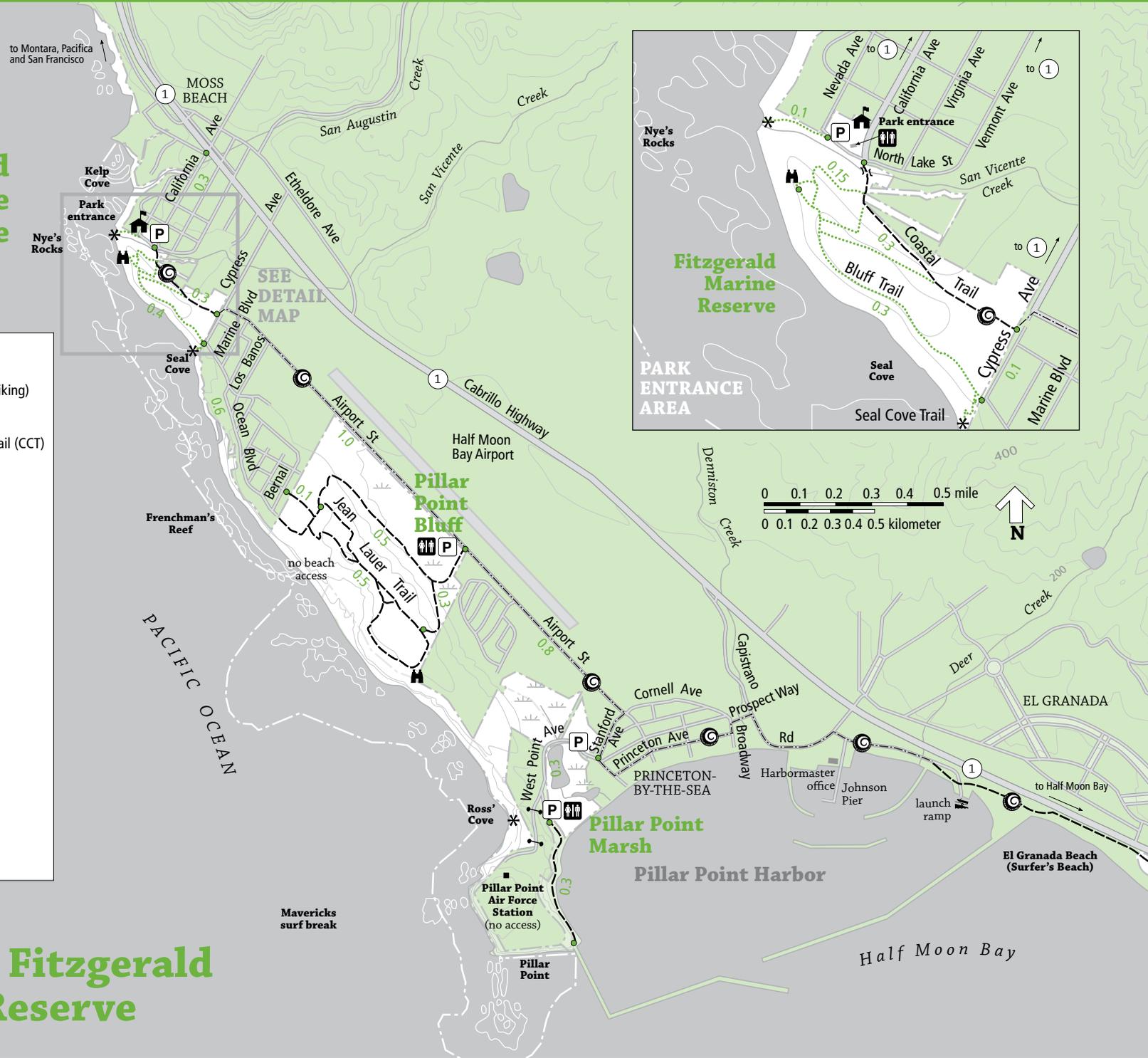
In order to protect the sensitive natural resources of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, groups of 10 or more are required to make reservations before visiting.

To make reservations for groups and tours, call 650-363-4021.

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

LEGEND

- Multiple-use trail (bicycle/equestrian/hiking)
- Hiking trail
- ⊙ California Coastal Trail (CCT)
- CCT hiking/bicycling route along road
- 0.2 Trail distance (miles)
- Other public lands
- Private property
- Tide pools and exposed rocks
- P Parking
- Restrooms
- Ranger station/visitor information
- Gate
- Marsh
- * Beach access
- Overlook
- Bridge



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Park hours and use

- Hours** The Park opens at 8am. Closing time changes seasonally, and is posted.
- Pets** Pets are allowed only on designated trails. They are not allowed on beaches or in the tidepool area.
- Smoking** No smoking in County parks, on trails, or at historical sites.

Please protect the Park's natural environment and do not disturb or remove any plants or animals.

Fishing is prohibited.

Tidepool etiquette

- Watch your step and walk carefully around the tidepools. Avoid stepping on barnacles, anemones, mussels, and other tidepool life.
- Do not move shells, vegetation, rocks, or animals. Marine life growing on the bottom of the rocks will die when exposed to the sun and air.
- Do not pry sea stars, mussels, limpets, or other animals off of rocks. This makes them vulnerable to predators.
- Look at marine organisms in their tidepool homes and do not place them in containers or remove them from the Reserve.
- Stay at least 300' from all marine mammals, including harbor seals, who often seek refuge in the area for birthing and raising their young.

