



SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH

GENERAL PLAN

PARTNERS IN PLANNING

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is embarking on a process to develop a General Plan for Sonoma Coast State Beach – and we would like you to join us in planning its future! The General Plan will define a long-term vision for the park, identify desired improvements, and provide a framework for protection of its unique resources.

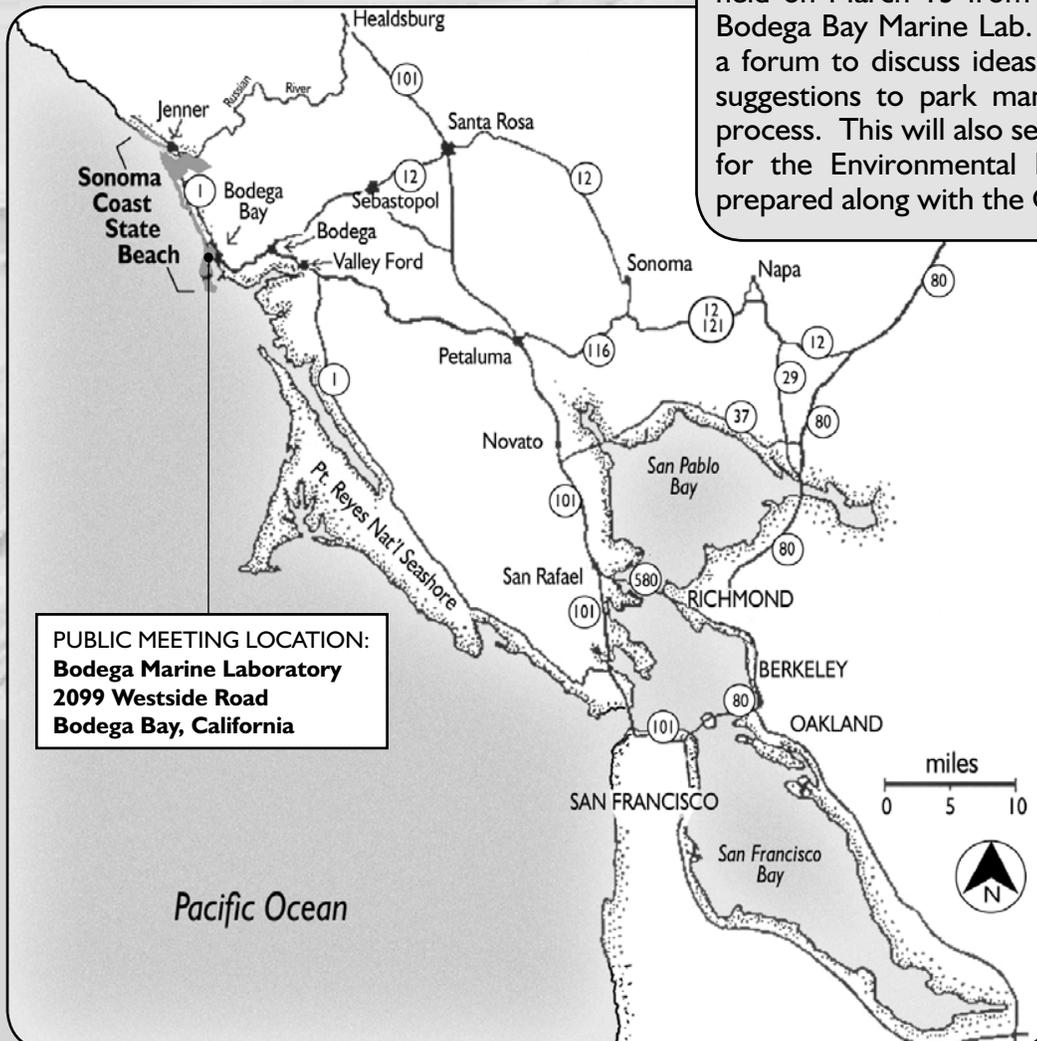
Your participation in this process will help us explore new ideas and suggestions for managing and enhancing the area. We hope you will take some time to become involved in planning the future of Sonoma Coast State Beach. You can start by filling out the enclosed survey and attending the Public Planning Workshop on March 13. We look forward to hearing from you!

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

Stay Informed: Updates of this newsletter will be published to keep you informed about public meetings, reports available for review, and overall progress of the planning process. If you did not receive this by mail, please contact us to get on the mailing list.

Fill out the Survey: You can use the enclosed survey to share your ideas, concerns and suggestions for improving Sonoma Coast State Beach. Tell us what you like, what's missing, and what could work better. Please mail the survey back by March 31. If you prefer to fill it out online, please log onto our Web survey link at <http://www.edaw.com/survey/takesurvey.asp?surveyid=57>

Attend the Public Planning Workshop: To kick-off the planning process, a public workshop will be held on March 13 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Bodega Bay Marine Lab. The workshop will provide a forum to discuss ideas, identify concerns, and give suggestions to park managers early in the planning process. This will also serve as the "scoping" meeting for the Environmental Impact Report that will be prepared along with the General Plan.



Please join us
for the first
**PUBLIC PLANNING
WORKSHOP**

**Thursday
March 13, 2003
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Bodega Marine Laboratory
2099 Westside Road
Bodega Bay, California**

Sonoma Coast State Beach



Sonoma Coast State Beach is one of the most visited parks in California. It is actually a series of beaches separated by rocky bluffs and headlands. Known for its rugged shoreline, sandy coves and sweeping ocean vistas, the park stretches for 19 spectacular miles along the Sonoma County coastline – from Bodega Head at the south end to Vista Trail at the north (4 miles above Jenner).

Beachcombers, anglers, sunbathers and picnickers access the park from more than a dozen points along Pacific Coast Highway 1. Other favorite visitor activities include camping, horseback riding, whale watching and scenic driving. It is not a beach for swimming, unfortunately, because of the jagged rocks, powerful waves, riptides and strong currents.



This dramatic landscape supports a rich diversity of wildlife and plant communities. The mouth of the Russian River, large parts of the Willow Creek watershed, and numerous creeks and gulches are located within the park.



Known resources at Sonoma Coast State Beach include:

- Scenic coastline
- Popular recreation areas such as Goat Rock, Sunshine Rock, and Bodega Dunes
- Sensitive natural resources including tide pools, riparian scrub habitat, freshwaters marshes, coastal prairie and coastal bluff wetlands
- Endangered fish, terrestrial wildlife and plant species habitats
- Historic and prehistoric sites

During the planning process we will explore many topics related to the protection of the area's unique resources, as well as ideas for enhancing the visitor experience.

Some topics that will be considered in the General Plan include:

- Improvement and expansion of recreation facilities
- ADA access to the beach and recreational facilities
- Development of interpretive signs and programs
- Public safety
- Incorporation of new and planned property acquisitions
- Water supply and water quality
- Long-term protection of sensitive cultural and biological resources
- Management of invasive species and sudden oak death syndrome

These are just some of the topics that will be addressed during the planning process. We hope to hear more suggestions from you! Along with the General Plan, we will be producing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analyzing the potential impacts of future management actions on the environments. If you have knowledge of unique resources in the area or concerns about their protection, please let us know.

NEXT STEPS

With input received from the enclosed survey and the Public Planning Workshop, we'll begin looking at alternative management strategies and opportunities for facility improvements. These will be presented in a second Public Planning Workshop sometime in spring 2003. Following that meeting, a draft General Plan and EIR will be produced for public review and comment in fall 2003. Public comments on the draft report will then be incorporated into the final General Plan and EIR in spring 2004. Please see the back page for a calendar of key events. We look forward to hearing from you!





California Department of Parks and Recreation
 Russian River District
 P.O. Box 123/25381 Steelhead Boulevard
 Duncans Mills, CA 95430

SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH

Calendar of Events

GENERAL PLAN PROCESS AT A GLANCE

WINTER 2003	SPRING 2003	SUMMER 2003	FALL 2003	SPRING 2004
Information Gathering PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1 (see front page)	Fieldwork Develop Alternatives PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2	Prepare Draft General Plan & EIR Conduct Environmental Analysis	Public Review of Draft General Plan & EIR PUBLIC WORKSHOP #3	Publish Final General Plan & EIR Agency Approvals

If you have questions or comments about the General Plan process please contact us at:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
 Russian River District
 P.O. Box 123/25381 Steelhead Boulevard
 Duncans Mills, CA 95430
 707.865.2391

Contact Information

For general information about park use
 (e.g. hours, activities), please call 707.875.3483

Visit Our Website
www.parks.ca.gov



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Sonoma Coast State Beach General Plan Survey



Please mail by March 31, 2003, or if you prefer to fill this survey out on-line, please log onto our Web link at <http://www.edaw.com/survey/takesurvey.asp?surveyid=57>

Your Name: _____

Organization (if any): _____

Address²: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (optional): _____

E-mail (optional): _____

¹ All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, may be available for public inspection in their entirety.

² If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the State Public Records Act, you must state this prominently below. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law.

Would you like to remain on our mailing list to receive future planning updates?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How often do you visit Sonoma Coast State Beach?

- once a year to several times a year
- every few years
- I've never visited

What do you value most about Sonoma Coast State Beach? _____

What do you like the least? _____

What improvements should be made to better accommodate beach visitors (e.g., camp sites, trails, signs) and where should they be located? _____
