

Samuel P. Taylor State Park



Our Mission

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at **(415) 488-9897**. If you need this publication in an alternate format, contact interp@parks.ca.gov.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

P.O. Box 942896

Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

For information call: (800) 777-0369

(916) 653-6995, outside the U.S.

711, TTY relay service

www.parks.ca.gov



SaveTheRedwoods.org/csp

Samuel P. Taylor State Park

8889 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

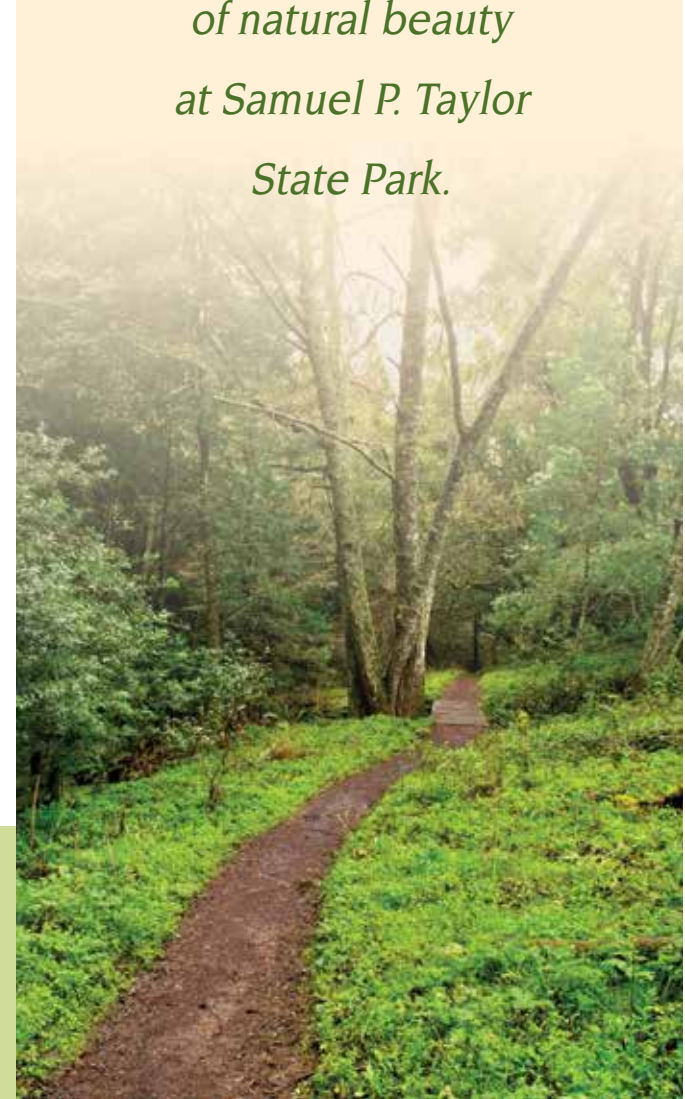
Lagunitas, CA 94938

(415) 488-9897

*California freshwater shrimp photo courtesy
of Dr. Larry Serpa, The Nature Conservancy*

© 2009 California State Parks (Rev. 2018)

*Majestic redwoods,
open grasslands, and
pristine creeks unite
in a stunning display
of natural beauty
at Samuel P. Taylor
State Park.*



Samuel P. Taylor State Park's landscape

ranges from shady canyon groves to oak-studded grasslands to the rolling hills atop Barnabe Peak. Nestled in the wooded countryside of West Marin County, the 2,882-acre park invites visitors to camp, bike, ride horses, and savor a piece of paradise.

This redwood forest community enjoys a mild climate varying from dense fog and rain to full sun. Summer temperatures average in the low 80s, while winter days drop to the low 50s with frequent rainfall.

PARK HISTORY

Native People

Archaeological evidence shows that the indigenous Coast Miwok people inhabited the area now known as West Marin County for at least 3,000 to 4,000 years before Spanish missionaries and settlers arrived. The Miwok, one of the most populous native groups in California, have a cultural heritage that includes shamanism and complex, elaborate languages. The Coast Miwok lived on nature's abundance, sustaining the land and coastal waters by fishing and hunting only for what was consumed and burning the grasslands after their seed harvest to encourage new growth.

European explorers began incursions into Coast Miwok tribal lands in the 1500s. By the 1700s, the Spanish mission builders had forced many Coast Miwok natives into servitude. The land was taken over by Spanish and Mexican land grantees,

and many Miwok tribespeople died from diseases introduced by the settlers.

Today, Miwok descendants continue to live in or near Marin County.



Samuel P. Taylor

Samuel P. Taylor

The 1848 discovery of gold drew fortune-seekers to California. The son of a paper mill owner on New York's Hudson River, adventurous Samuel Penfield Taylor purchased a schooner with some friends and set sail for San Francisco Bay. Upon arrival in 1849, 22-year-old Samuel found

a wooden cask filled with eggs floating near shore. He cooked the eggs and set up a food stand on the beach.

Food sales proved profitable. With his earnings, Taylor and a partner opened a lumberyard in San Francisco; two years later he left for Hawkins' Bar, Tuolumne County, to pan for gold. In 1852, at the peak of the gold rush, Taylor shipped just over 21 pounds of gold dust to his San Francisco bankers. The gold dust netted Taylor \$5,692; that quantity is worth more than \$400,000 today.

Taylor found and purchased 100 acres in western Marin County from Mexican land grantee Rafael Garcia. Drawing on his father's paper mill experience, Taylor opened the first paper mill on the West Coast. The Pioneer Paper Mill Company used rags, rope, jute, and wood pulp to make paper. The company grew rapidly due to demand

for paper and the expense of importing it from the East Coast. The bustling community of Taylorville grew up around the paper mill.

In 1874 the North Pacific Coast Railroad built a narrow-gauge railroad running from Sausalito through Marin to serve Point Reyes and Tomales Bay. The route was important to commerce and brought tourists to the area.

Camp Taylor, one of California's first recreational camping sites, became an extremely popular northern California weekend destination from the late 1870s to the early 1900s. Guests were encouraged to spend summers in the wilderness, where they could camp, swim in the millpond, fish, hunt, explore the natural wonders, and relax.

NATURAL HISTORY

Chert and sandstone underlie well-drained soil that hosts profuse vegetation. Shaded, fern-filled groves of coast redwoods, *Sequoia sempervirens*, are found along the canyon bottoms and up the north-facing slopes. The striking *Aralia californica*, or elk clover, displays immense leaves with huge cream-colored flowers blossoming in early summer. Oak and madrone hardwoods dominate the park's grasslands.



Pioneer Paper Mill

Wide, grassy slopes characterize Devil's Gulch. A succession of native wildflowers adds an ever-changing highlight to the landscape—buttercups and milkmaids early in the spring, followed by Indian paintbrush as summer approaches. Live oak, laurel, Douglas-fir, and madrone trees grow in this part of the park, as do big-leaf maples that drop their leaves in fall.

Wildlife

Black-tailed deer, raccoons, and skunks are common. Coyotes, bobcats, and gray foxes may be spotted; river otters are seen occasionally. Rarely, mountain lions come out in the daytime.

On Barnabe Peak, turkey vultures circle while kestrels and red-tailed hawks watch for prey. Swallows, owls, and woodpeckers nest in the park.

In the late fall through winter, coho salmon and steelhead trout migrate from the ocean to spawn in Lagunitas (Papermill) Creek. Sadly, fewer fish make these annual runs; both the coho and steelhead are now endangered species. Fishing is no longer permitted in Lagunitas Creek or within the park.

The California freshwater shrimp, *Syncaris pacifica*, is another endangered species. Lagunitas Creek is one of the few prime habitats left for this two-inch crustacean.

RECREATION

Trails—A wide network of fire roads and hiking, nature, and equestrian trails wind through the park. The scenic,



California freshwater shrimp

paved Cross Marin Trail follows the historic North Pacific Coast Railroad right-of-way; vehicular traffic is very limited.

Camping—The main campground has about 60 single-family campsites with restrooms, hot showers, and piped drinking water. Some parking spaces can hold small trailers or RVs; none have hookups.

The Madrone Group Camp can be reserved for up to 50 people. Four cozy cabins at Madrone may each be reserved for up to five people. There are three sites at Devil's Gulch. Two tent-only sites can each accommodate up to 10 people. The larger, equestrian-use-only campsite has a corral, hitching racks, and water troughs; it can accommodate up to 20 people.

Picnicking—The park's main picnic area sits in a shady grove along Lagunitas Creek. Each site has a table and barbecue. Piped drinking water and restrooms are nearby. The reservable Redwood Grove and Irving group picnic areas hold groups of up to 80 and 30 people, respectively.

Reservations—To reserve a cabin, campsite, or group picnic site, call (800) 444-7275 or visit www.parks.ca.gov/samuelptaylor.

ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

Parking, campsites, restrooms, and showers in the Creekside and Orchard Hill loops, the Azalea Hill picnic area, and day-use restroom are accessible. Two



Lagunitas (Papermill) Creek

Madrone cabins are wheelchair-accessible. The South Creek Trail follows Lagunitas Creek for approximately 1.5 accessible miles, complementing the 3 accessible miles of the Cross Marin Trail. For updates, visit <http://access.parks.ca.gov>.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- The park and its natural and cultural resources are protected by state law. Nothing may be disturbed or removed.
- Firearms and hunting are prohibited.
- Dogs (except for service animals) are permitted only in campgrounds, picnic areas, paved trails/roads, and the Cross Marin Trail. Pets must be on a six-foot-maximum leash and confined to a tent or vehicle at night.
- Poison oak can trigger a severe rash. Stay in developed areas to avoid the plant.
- Please help preserve the natural features of the park by staying on the trails and respecting the signs designating trail usage.



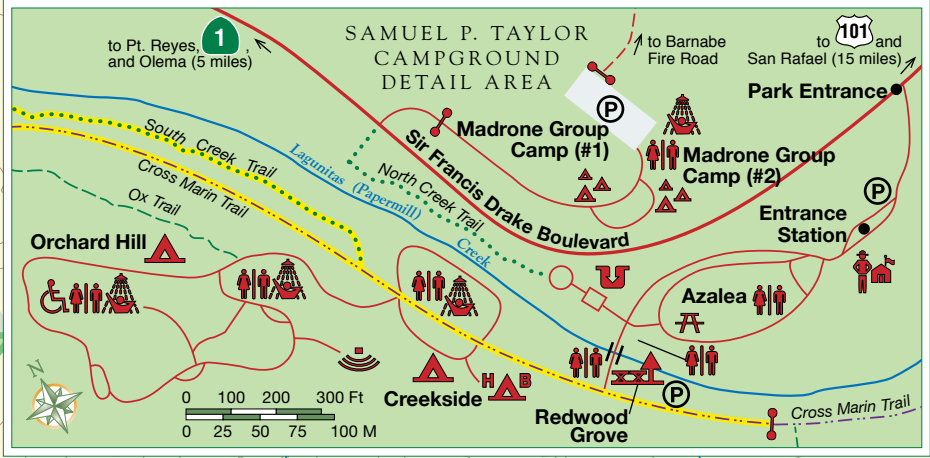
Poison oak

NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Mount Tamalpais State Park
3801 Panorama Highway, Mill Valley 94941
(415) 388-2070
- China Camp State Park
From Hwy. 101, go east on North San Pedro Road for 5 miles to the park
San Rafael 94901 (415) 456-0766

Samuel P. Taylor State Park

SAMUEL P. TAYLOR STATE PARK



Legend

- Major Road
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road: Multi-use
- Trail: Accessible
- Trail: Hike
- Trail: Hike & Horse
- Trail: Multi-use
- Accessible Feature
- Bridge
- Cabins
- Campfire Center
- Campground
- Campground: Group
- Campground: Hike & Bike
- Campground: Horse
- Fire Lookout
- Locked Gate
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Area: Group
- Ranger Station
- Restrooms
- RV Sanitation Station
- Showers

