

News Release



For Immediate Release

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Fort Ord Dunes State Park to Open Tuesday March 3rd

California has a new State Park! On Tuesday February 24th the deed was recorded that transferred the 979-acre property from the federal government to the State of California. The new State Park, which includes 4 miles of ocean beach, has been a work in progress for over 20 years, even before the closure of Fort Ord was being considered. The property was transferred at no cost to the State through the National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks Program.

Although the park has been open to the public for walkers and bicyclists for the last year, vehicle access had to wait until the property transferred. With the transfer complete, public vehicle access to the park will begin on Tuesday March 3rd. Beginning on Tuesday morning the public will be able to drive into the park from the City of Marina, over the 8th Street overpass and park in a 50 space coastal access parking lot at the former site of Stilwell Hall. The park will be open to vehicle access daily from 8 AM to ½ hour after sunset.

From the parking lot visitors will be able to walk on a 1,500 foot trail to the beach or take a short stroll on a new boardwalk to a bluff top viewing platform. Existing park roads will also be open to bicyclists and hikers. Eight educational panels have been installed that will inform the public about the natural and cultural history of the park.

To protect park resources public access will be limited to designated roads and trails. Dogs on leash will be allowed only on the paved roads in the park. Horses will not be allowed. Due to the presence of the federally threatened Western Snowy Plover, dogs, horses and campfires will not be allowed on the beaches.

The park is being open now to provide public access as soon as possible. A ceremony to celebrate the new park and its opening to the public is being planned for April. For more information contact Ken Gray at (831) 649-2862.

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