

## 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](http://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 properties include parks, preserves, trails, and historic sites located throughout the County and encompassing more than 17,000 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](http://www.SupportParks.org).

Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve promotes protection and enjoyment of the Reserve. For information, visit [www.FitzgeraldReserve.org](http://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

James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve was established in 1969 to protect hundreds of marine species. Since then scientists studying this rich and complex habitat have discovered 25 new invertebrate and plant species here.

The Reserve has been designated by the State of California as a Marine Protected Area and is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Fitzgerald is managed by San Mateo County and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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



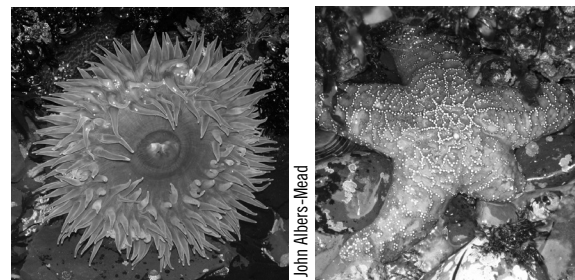
Mary DeLong

### 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 and joggers.

Rangers and trained volunteer naturalists offer interpretive tours for groups and students in third grade and older. The Reserve is not suited for younger children.

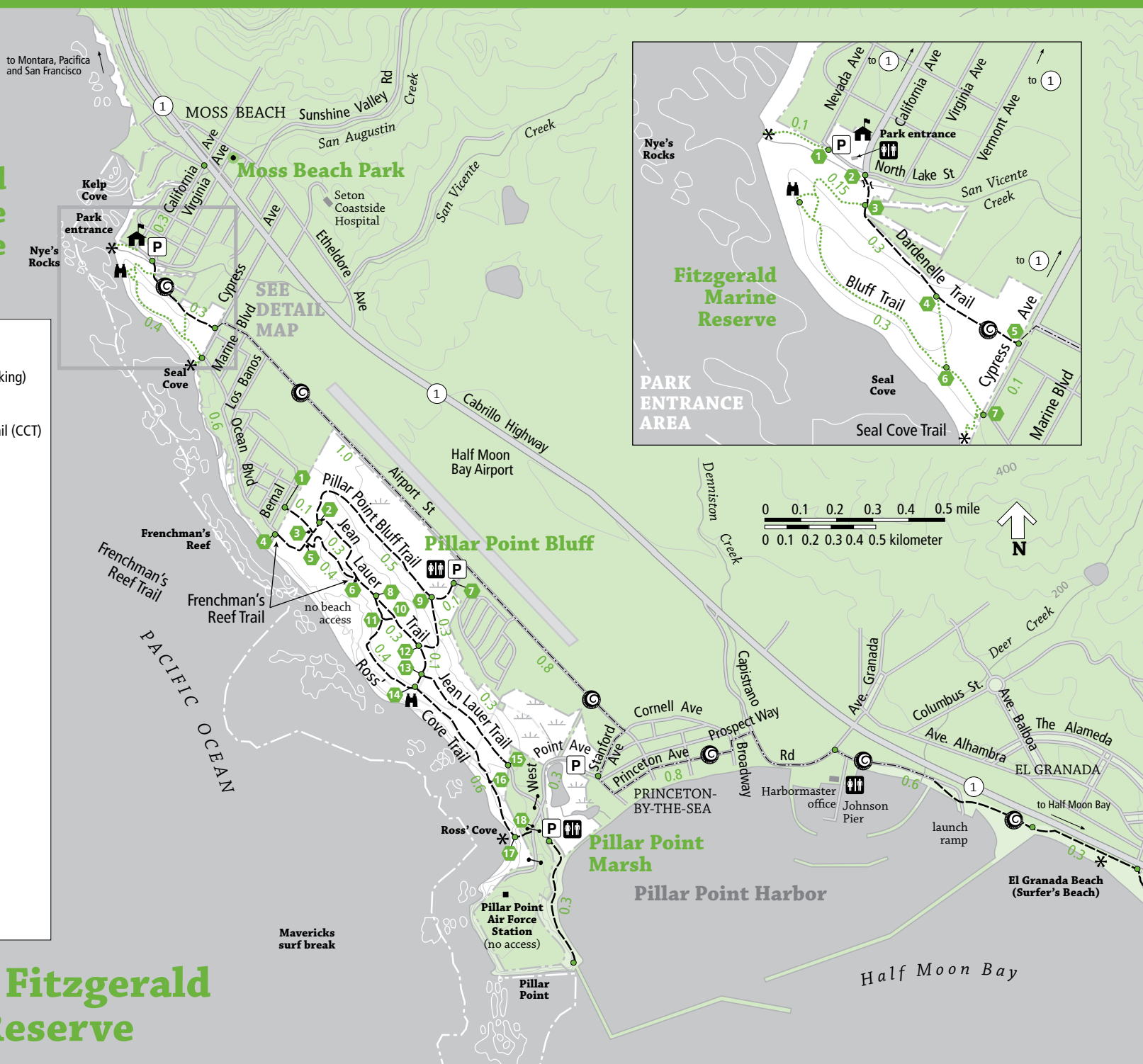
In order to protect the sensitive natural resources of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, **groups of 10 or more** are required to make reservations before visiting.

**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
- H Overlook
- Bridge
- Playground
- 2 Junction number



# James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

## Park hours and use

**Hours** The Park opens at 8am. Closing time changes seasonally, and is posted.

**Pets** Pets are not allowed in the Park.

**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 in a Marine Protected Area

- Walk gently around the tidepools, taking care not to step on plants or animals.
- Never pick up animals – observe them where they are.
- Never move rocks, shells, or plants.
- Do not remove animals, shells, or rocks from the tidepools.
- Stay at least 300 feet from all marine mammals, including harbor seals, for your safety and theirs.

