

**Tunitas Creek Beach**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

*January 7, 2021*

**Q: Will I be able to bring my dogs to the beach?**

A: San Mateo County Parks will use the evaluation criteria established through the department's dog work group, which assesses park conditions and pertinent studies on recreation and sensitive resources when determining if and at what level dog access can be implemented.

Some of the park conditions that are evaluated include present plant and animal species, water quality and any potential conflict with existing uses.

Existing conditions that we know require evaluation include negative impacts on Tunitas Creek Beach as a result of years of unmanaged use and the observation of the threatened Western Snowy Plover at Tunitas.

**Q: Will there be opportunities for overnight camping?**

A: Overnight camping is among the various programming opportunities that will be reviewed as we develop an operational plan. Other programming opportunities include environmental and cultural education and land stewardship.

**Q: Will trash receptacles be provided? How will waste be managed?**

A: Yes, trash receptacles are reflected in the preferred plan and located in the bluff area.

As the county's newest park and beach, the department has an opportunity to educate visitors about the environmental impact trash can have on outdoor spaces, especially on coastal areas where errant debris can harm the creek, beach, ocean and animal life.

For this reason, San Mateo County Parks will educate visitors about the Leave No Trace principle, which encourages visitors to plan to pack out whatever they have packed in. This is a well-established, environmentally focused approach throughout national, state park systems and local open space areas.

**Q: How will the park be protected from poaching, vandalism, and other illicit activities?**

A: A team of enforcement agency personnel collaborate to monitor and protect Tunitas Creek Beach. This includes San Mateo County Park rangers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife wardens and San Mateo County Sheriff Office deputies.

Since assuming management responsibilities in 2018, poaching, vandalism, and illegal parking at the beach have dramatically reduced. Once park facilities are constructed and staffed, we expect the negative activities to further decline.

**Q: What will happen to the trail along Tunitas Creek?**

A: Neither Tunitas Creek or the trail that runs along the creek are owned by San Mateo County.

**Q: Can the electric and phone lines next to Highway 1 be removed/undergrounded?**

A: The preferred plan as of December 2020 show the utility lines being relocated underground. If doing so proves too costly, we intend to relocate the utilities on the property.

**Q: Will drinking water be available at the beach?**

A: Due to site constraints, drinking water will not be available at Tunitas Creek Beach. Visitors should plan accordingly and bring the drinking water they will require for their visit.

**Q: How many visitors per year are anticipated?**

A: While we cannot predict annual number of visitors at this time, the proposed parking configuration can accommodate approximately 65 vehicles with options for overflow parking.

Traffic studies were conducted over a summer holiday weekend and at the peak time (between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm) documented 63 parked vehicles. The studies indicated the average length of stay was approximately 2 hours.

**Q: Will access to the beach be ADA-accessible?**

A: Due to the terrain and topography of the Tunitas property, the beach will not be accessible. The [preferred plan](#) does include accessibility from the parking lot through to the mid-bluff area where ADA accessible seating and picnic areas will be located.

**Q: What will be the operating hours for Tunitas Creek Beach?**

When the project is complete and the park is fully open, Tunitas will operate according to the same hours as all other county parks. Parks open at 8 a.m.; [close times](#) vary based on daylight hours and daylight savings time.

**Q: Can I drive down the driveway?**

A: A variety of walking, stroller and ADA accessible paths are included in the design. The paved road is intended for staff and emergency access.

**Q: Is Tunitas Creek Beach open right now?**

A: Because there are no services on site the park and beach are closed.

**Q: What kind of surface will the parking lot have?**

A: With longevity in mind, the parking lot will be impermeable asphalt pavement. Impermeable water run-off is being assessed and will be captured via bioretention basins where the water can be filtered naturally and allowed to re-enter as ground water rather than being directed immediately off the paved surface further exasperating cliff erosion.

**Q: Will there be public restrooms?**

A: Yes, public restrooms will be located in the bluff area along with other facilities, including drinking fountains.