

Bluff Trail Accessibility Guide

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Introduction

Experiencing parts of the Sea Ranch Bluff Trail from the Gualala Regional Park to the Sea Ranch Lodge is the central shared activity of all Sea Ranch homeowners and visitors. The ocean vistas, active surf, and ever-changing wildlife help define what makes The Sea Ranch unique.

Unfortunately, the Bluff Trail was laid out – decades ago – without disability access in mind. Several sections of the trail have steps or are too rough or too steep for safe use by wheelchairs and scooters, and present challenges for some others with mobility problems. TSR is addressing this issue with a **Barrier Free Trail** segment and seven **Easy Access Trail** segments, all quite suitable for persons with mobility issues.

However, no one with mobility problems should assume that they need to avoid other parts of the Bluff Trail. In fact, more than 90 % of the Bluff Trail should be regarded as accessible by just about anyone.

This guide describes all segments of the Bluff Trail, including connectors between the trail and nearby paved roads, with an emphasis on factors affecting those with mobility problems. More details on the *Barrier Free Trail*, *Easy Access Trails*, and other recommended trails can be found in the [Accessibility Overview](#) following the table of contents. A detailed description of each of the Bluff Trail segments then follows.

The guide includes descriptions (location, views, wind exposure, and height) of all the rest/view logs on the Bluff Trail. It also describes some other logs (and rocks) on the edge of the Bluff Trail that can serve as resting spots. It also covers some trails in Gualala Point Regional Park, and accesses to the various Sea Ranch beaches.

Each Bluff Trail segment has been assigned a rating – admittedly subjective – based on the length of the trail segment, the lengths of any connectors (which are usually bumpier), and the ocean views that can be seen from the trail. The higher the number, the greater the experience.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: *Anyone using a wheelchair or mobility scooter on the Bluff Trail should realize that no part of this trail or its connectors was laid out with disability access in mind; many parts are bumpy, and a few have side-to-side tilts as well as longitudinal slopes. Parts of the trail (especially a few of the connectors) may be impassible for the mobility-impaired in the rainy season.*

Each user of a wheelchair or mobility scooter is strongly urged (1) to go with a companion who can help traverse any potentially dangerous spots, and (2) have a cell phone to be able to call for assistance (such as 9-1-1 or Sea Ranch Security at 707-785-2701) in case of a mishap such as a stuck or overturned scooter.

All parts of the Bluff Trail that this guide describes as “accessible” have been traversed by at least one person on a mobility scooter. However, such scooters vary widely in terms of stability, clearance, and power. Thus, some scooter models are relatively light in weight and designed to be folded up for transport. These models are less stable than most. While they should be able to negotiate the Barrier Free Trail and all the Easy Access Trails, they may founder – or tip over – on other “accessible” parts of the Bluff Trail.

The Sea Ranch Association does NOT guarantee that any specific trail or trail segment is safe.

NOTE TO USERS: You can make this Accessibility Guide more useful by telling us of any problems you have encountered but that were not described – or any described problems that have been cured. Or any other comments or suggestions you may have. You can email us at trails@tsra.org.

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Accessibility Overview

What Bluff Trails Are Easiest to Access via Wheelchair or Mobility Scooter?

Barrier Free Trail

This trail is near [Trail Post \[TP\] 35A and TP 36A](#) (Piper's Reach) and has a special surface that is very level and smooth, accessible by mobility scooters, manual and powered wheelchairs, and strollers.



Easy Access Trails

There are seven **Easy Access Trails** connecting parking areas to the Bluff Trail, and including short sections of that trail, that anyone with a mobility problem should be able to access without difficulty. They can be found at:



- [TP 3B at west end of Brigantine's Reach](#) – about .15 miles long
- [TP 6A at west end of Galleon's Reach](#) – about .7 miles
- [TP 10 at west end of Navigator's Reach](#) – about .7 miles
- [Leading both west and northwest from Stengel Beach Access \(parking area\)](#) – about .12 miles
- [TP 31 at west end of Cormorant Close](#) – about .14 miles
- [TP 43A, leading west from Sea Pine Reach](#) – about .12 miles
- [TP 71B at intersection of Rock Cod and Buckeye](#) – about .14 miles

What other Bluff Trail Segments are easy to enjoy for wheelchair- or scooter-users?

The main problem for wheelchair- and scooter-users on the Bluff Trail is the center berm (ridge or hump) that has resulted from more than 50 years of hikers walking up and down the trail, creating ruts toward each edge but leaving a raised center. The berm can usually be negotiated by a powered wheelchair or a scooter, but only if the user is paying careful attention.

The following segments either have no large center berms, or large berms less than 10 % of the way:

- [TP 3](#) (Brigantine's Reach) south to TP 2 – about .26 miles long
- [TP 3](#) (Brigantine's Reach) north to TP 6 (Galleon's Reach) – .58 miles
- [TP 8](#) (accessed from Whaler's Reach) south to TP 7 – .60 miles
- [TP 10A](#) (Navigator's Reach) south to TP 9 – .11 miles
- [TP 12](#) (Sculpture Point Drive) to TP 25B (Breaker Reach) – 2.0 miles
- [TP 29](#) (Breaker Reach) to TP 34 (Shell Beach Access) – .89 miles
- [TP 42B](#) (Seal Rock Reach) to TP 43A (Sea Pine Reach) – .18 miles
- [TP 46A](#) (Pelican) to TP 49) – .24 miles, but no access by wheelchair or scooter from north
- [TP 70A](#) (Sea Lion) to TP 75A (Ballast) – about .68 miles

What Bluff Trail segments are most enjoyable for others with mobility issues?

Each trail segment description (below) includes a "value" with a number from one to ten. That value is a rather subjective estimate of the desirability of a trail segment for all hikers (especially for those with mobility issues), but does not factor in the center berm problem.

The following Bluff Trail segments have values of 9 or 10:

- [TP 3B](#) (Brigantine's Reach) south to TP 2 – about .26 miles long
- [TP 12](#) (Sculpture Point Drive) to TP 15A (Arch Rock Road) – .87 miles
- [TP 36A](#) (Piper's Reach) to TP 37 (Dune Drift) – .35 miles
- [TP 60A](#) (Helm) to TP 64A (Fish Rock) – .45 miles

The following have values of 7 to 8:

- [TP 3B](#) (Brigantine's Reach) north to TP 6A (Galleon's Reach) – about .47 miles long
- [TP 22A](#) (Wild Iris) to Stengel Beach Public Access (near TP 24) – about .24 miles
- [Stengel Beach Public Access parking or Wild Iris near TP 22B](#), to TP 27A (Breaker Reach) – about .5 miles
- [TP 31](#) (Cormorant Close) to TP 32A (Cormorant Reach) – .35 miles
- [TP 43A](#) (Sea Pine Reach) to TP 56A (Del Mar Point) – 1.4 miles
- [TP 64A](#) (Fish Rock) to TP 67A (Grey Whale) – .32 miles
- [TP 69A](#) (Mail Sail) south to TP 68 and north to TP 74B (Broad Reach) – .72 miles

The following have values of 5 to 6:

- [TP 10A](#) (Navigator's Reach) south to TP 9 – about .11 miles long
- [TP 10A](#) (Navigator's Reach) north to TP 11 (Sculpture Point Drive) – .24 miles
- [Ohlson Recreation Center parking area to TP 22A](#) (Wild Iris) – .15 miles
- [TP 41A](#) (Osprey Reach) to TP 42B (Seal Rock Reach) – .12 miles
- [TP 56A](#) (Del Mar Point) to TP 64A (Fish Rock) – .45 miles

What Bluff Trail segments have areas that are impassible for wheelchairs and scooters, and present challenges for others with mobility problems?

- [TP 1 to TP 2](#), Southernmost end of Bluff Trail – about .08 miles long
- TP 6 to [TP 7](#), north of Galleon's Reach – .07 miles
- [TP 33 to TP 34](#) (Shell Beach Public Access) – .01 miles
- [TP 39A](#) (Walk-On Beach) to TP 41 (Osprey Reach) – .33 miles
- [TP 49A](#) (Tide Pool/Sea Drift) to TP 49 – about .02 miles
- [TP 67-68](#) (down to and up from Salal Trail) – .05 miles

Detailed Description of Trail Segments

This guide covers each *segment* of the Bluff Trail, starting from the south, from one connector trail to the next. A *segment* is a portion of the Bluff Trail along with any connector trails needed to get from a paved road to that portion. Although the guide may seem to be focused on access by persons who must use mobility scooters, there is a lot of material of interest to others with less severe mobility problems, and to all hikers. Thus, the guide includes descriptions (location, views, wind exposure, and height) of all the rest/view logs on the Bluff Trail. It also describes some other logs (and rocks) on the edge of the Bluff Trail that can serve as resting spots. And it highlights the various Historical Markers and Architectural/Landscape markers that can be found along the Bluff trail.

At the end of each trail section description is a *value* with a number from one to ten. This *value* is only a subjective estimate of the desirability of the trail segment to anyone with mobility issues as well as to all hikers. It is based on the length of the trail segment, the lengths of any connectors (which are usually bumpier), and the ocean views that can be seen from the trail. The higher the number, the greater the experience.

The main problem for scooter users (sometimes “scooterers”) on most of the “accessible” segments of the Bluff Trail is the *center berm* (ridge or hump) that has resulted from more than 50 years of hikers walking up and down the trail. This berm can usually be negotiated by a scooter, but only if the user is paying careful attention – indeed, more attention to the trail than to the scenery. The higher the center berm, the greater the problem, so the descriptions of each trail segment note the approximate length of the berms and the percentages that are relatively small or relatively large.

All distances given for the Bluff Trail segments are for only for the Bluff Trail itself, not the connectors (which are usually, but not always, quite short). Connector distances are given separately.



1 Southernmost part of Bluff Trail from Trail Post [TP] 1 north to TP 2 (about .7 miles) is **not passable** on a scooter or wheelchair because of seven steps down (heading north), then 12 steps up, just north of TP 1. Since all but one of these steps are relatively shallow, they should not be a barrier to most hikers with mobility problems.

2 TP 3B (Brigantine's Reach) south to TP 2 (about .26 miles)

This is an **Easy Access Trail** from the parking lot at TP 3B to the Bluff Trail and then 90 yards south to Architecture/Landscape Marker 1-29, *The Sea Ranch Design Concept*, and the turnoff to a rest/view log. This turnoff (35 yards in length) is easily accessible via wheelchair or mobility scooter. The rest/view log is 18 inches high, well shielded from northwest winds, and provides a beautiful view to the south over Black Point Beach.

From Architecture/Landscape Marker 1-29, for about a quarter of a mile to the south, the trail is about 60 % relatively flat and about 40 % with a relatively small center berm. All should be passable, even though this segment is not part of the *Easy Access Trail*; however, the center berms can be somewhat challenging for scooter-users. Also, there are two short areas with pronounced side-to-side tilts that could cause scooters to tip over if not traversed carefully.

Just beyond the southernmost of the two bridges (33 inches wide, which should be wide enough for any wheelchair or scooter) is Architecture/Landscape Marker 1-28, *Hedgerow Houses*; right at this marker the trail comes to three steps that are relatively shallow but that prevent further access to scooters and wheelchairs.

Value 9 – length, beautiful ocean views

3 TP 3B (Brigantine's Reach) to TP 4A (Spindrif Close) (.12 miles)

South connector is **easy access** – see above.

Trail is about 60 % relatively flat, about 30 % with a relatively small center berm, and about 10 % with a larger center berm. Although all should be passable, the center berms (particularly the larger ones) could be challenging.

North connector (TP 4 to TP 4A on Spindrif Close) is short (.04 miles) and a little bumpy, but certainly passable.

Value 8 – beautiful ocean views

4 TP 4A (Spindrif Close) to TP 6A (Galleon's Reach) (.46 miles)

South connector is short (.04 miles) and a little bumpy but certainly passable.

Bluff Trail here is about 70 % flat, about 20 % with a relatively small center berm, and about 10 % with a larger center berm. All should be passable, but the center berms can be challenging. About 40 yards south of TP 5 are a series of roots in the middle of the trail that scooters should be able to negotiate easily.

North connector (TP 6 to TP 6A, Galleon's Reach) is very short (.03 miles) and **easy access** for any wheelchair or scooter.

Value 8 – length, beautiful ocean views

5 TP 6A (Galleon's Reach) to TP 7 (.07 miles)

North connector (from Galleon's Reach) to the Bluff Trail at TP 6 is short and **Easy Access**. Note the Architecture/Landscape Marker 3-31, *Signature Hedgerows*, just across from TP 6A.

The Bluff Trail to the north is also **easy access**, including the short downward slope (about 50 yards north of TP 6) at the northern end of the cypress grove. Between TP 6 and the downward slope are several logs, between 26 inches and 19 inches high, that can be rest spots for those who need to sit down for a spell.

Just beyond this slope a trail stub, easily accessible, leads 15 yards west to a rest/view log, 19 inches high, with beautiful ocean views to the north, but not shielded from northwest winds.

However, just 25 yards or so beyond the above turnoff, the Bluff Trail has a short but steep rise with two steps, **impossible for any scooter or wheelchair**, but likely OK for others with mobility concerns.

Value 2 – short length, but with good ocean views from the stub trail and rest/view log

6 TP 7d (Whalers Reach) to TP 9, and back south towards TP 7 (.60 miles)

The connector from TP 7D on Whaler's Reach to TP 8 is rather long (.15 miles) and somewhat bumpy, with little in the way of ocean views.

The Bluff Trail **south** from TP 8 to TP 7 is quite long, about 60 % of which is relatively flat, while about 25 % has a smallish center berm, and about 15 % a larger center berm. The downward or upward slopes on either side of the bridge (about 160 yards north of TP 7) are easily negotiable by a scooter but could present problems for a manual wheelchair.

Midway between TP 8 and TP 7 is a stub trail leading west 30 yards to a rest/view log, easily accessible by wheelchair or scooter, 21 inches high, with a nice ocean view to the west and sheltered from northwest winds. This stub trail continues about another 20 yards west on a downward slope to much better views (to both north and south), but not shielded from the winds. **Scooter users should be careful not to go too far here.**

Just beyond TP 7 are two downward stairs that constitute **a barrier to further travel south by wheelchairs or scooters**, but that should be negotiable by other hikers with mobility issues..



The Bluff Trail **north** from TP 8 is relatively flat for about 45 yards, then runs rather steeply downhill and is quite rutted — probably negotiable by most hikers with mobility problems, canes, but **difficult to impossible for wheelchairs and scooters. Best that they avoid.**

Value 4 – nice ocean views, but long connector from TP 7D to TP 8; restricted access from the south

Pebble Beach Access Trail to TP 9 (.24 miles) is probably passable but is quite narrow and very bumpy (because of roots) in places – a **real challenge to negotiate in a wheelchair or scooter** but probably OK for almost all other hikers with mobility problems. This public access trail then joins the Bluff Trail at a spot with **pronounced side-to-side tilt**, then down a small slope, but soon comes to stairs down to Pebble Beach. (For more details on these stairs, see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#). The public access terminates at the beach.

7 TP 10A (Navigator’s Reach) south to TP 9 (.11 miles)

This is an **Easy Access Trail**, very flat and smooth and easily accessible, from the Navigator’s Reach parking area to the Bluff Trail, then south to a rest/view log, which is 21 inches high and overlooking Pebble Beach but not sheltered from northwest winds.

From the rest/view log south the trail, although no longer part of the *Easy Access Trail*, is a little bumpier, but still should be quite accessible (even though it is quite narrow and close to the bluff edge for a few feet). The trail then climbs a short hill, probably negotiable by most scooters. **Wheelchair and scooter users should turn around here (at TP 9)**, since the Bluff Trail becomes rather steep and very rutted uphill. The Pebble Beach Public Access Trail turns left (east) at TP 9 but is very narrow and bumpy, and the left turn at TP 9 has pronounced side-to-side tilt (see above).

Value 6 – short, but beautiful ocean view and overlook of Pebble Beach

8 TP 10A (Navigator's Reach) north to TP 11 (Sculpture Point Drive) (.24 miles)

The connector trail from Navigator's Reach is **easy access**, very short and completely accessible.

The Bluff Trail from here north is about 50 % relatively flat, about 40 % with a smallish center berm, and about 10 % with a larger center berm, plus a short rocky area (less than 5 yards). Scooters should be able to access this part of the trail, but with some challenges. Just north of TP 10 is a wide bridge with a 2-inch drop-off on one end.

About 40 yards south of TP 11 (Sculpture Point Drive) the trail ascends a short (less than 10 yards) but steep slope and is quite rocky. While most people with mobility concerns should be able to negotiate this slope, **any attempt by a wheelchair- or scooter-user to go here could result in tragedy**. It would be better for them to turn back to TP 10A. To get to further north parts of the Bluff Trail, turn east from TP 10A on Navigator's Reach, then north on Sculpture Point Drive to TP 12 (a distance of about 1/4 mile), and head north from there.

Note: On the other side of the steep and rocky slope mentioned just above, the trail has a small ridge and is somewhat tilted side-to-side. And the transition from the trail to Sculpture Point Drive (at TP 11) is a little rough.

Value 7 – length, beautiful ocean views

9 TP 12 (Sculpture Point Drive) to TP 14 (Green Cove Drive) (.49 miles)

The trail from TP 12 to TP 14 is almost all relatively flat, with only about 10 % with smallish center berms and less than 5 % with larger center berms.

- The trail includes a series of small, deep holes (gophers?) near TP 12. Further north, near the stairs down to the Smuggler's Cove Beach (see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#)), the trail has a small but pronounced side-to-side tilt that could be a problem for anyone on a scooter.

NOTE: The connector trail from TP 13A on Mariner's Drive to TP 13 on the Bluff Trail is **not accessible** to wheelchairs or scooters, since the top part of the trail goes through a hedgerow with many roots. These roots could also be a challenge for some other hikers with mobility problems. But just across the trail from TP 13 (on the Bluff Trail) is a long log, up to 19 inches high, that can be used as a resting spot by weary hikers.

At Historic Marker 18-21, *Smugglers Cove*, is a short stub trail that leads 15 yards south to a rest/view log, 22 inches high, well sheltered by cypresses from northwest winds, with a great view of Smugglers Cove. This stub is negotiable on a mobility scooter (though the first few feet are a challenge) to a few paces beyond the rest/view log, but **be careful of going much further towards the cove**.

North connector (TP 14 to TP 14A) is short (.04 mile) and relatively smooth.

Value 9 – length, magnificent ocean views

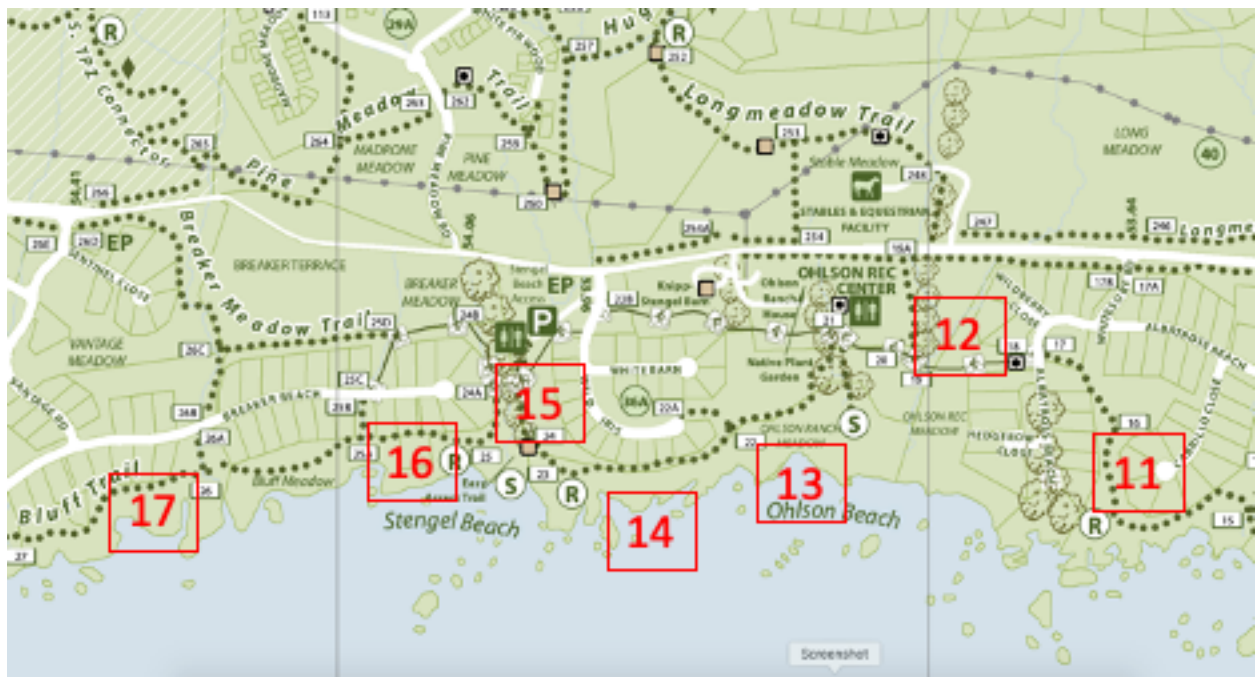
10 TP 14A (Green Cove Drive) to TP 15A (Arch Rock Road) (.38 miles)

South connector (TP 14A to TP 14) is short (.04 miles) and quite smooth.

The Bluff Trail here is about 60 % relatively flat, 30 % with a smallish center berm, and about 10 % with a larger center berm.

The north connector (TP 15 to TP 15A) is relatively long (.06 miles) and bumpy, with multiple places where a **side-to-side tilt might cause problems for scooters**. The transition from the trail to the Arch Rock Road pavement is somewhat rough.

Value 10 – views, length, seal rookery, but best for scooters to avoid the north connector



11 TP 15A (Arch Rock Road) to TP 17 (Albatross Reach) (.33 miles)

The south connector (TP 15 to TP 15A, Arch Rock Road) is longer than some (.06 miles) and rather bumpy, with two places where a **side-to-side tilt might cause problems for scooters**. Might be best to approach this segment from the north.

The Bluff Trail here is about 65 % relatively flat, about 30 % with a smallish center berm, and about 5 % with a larger center berm.

There is a rest/view log about midway between TP 15 and TP 16, about 20 yards west of the trail. It has views to the south and is sheltered from northwest winds but is only 11-12 inches high.

Value 4 – nice ocean views and relatively long, but more than 50 % of the trail is away from the ocean

12 TP 18 (Albatross Reach) to Ohlson Recreation Center parking area (.21 miles)

The Bluff Trail here is part of the bicycle link system and is the only part of the Bluff Trail that is open to bicycle riders. About a third of this segment has a smallish center berm. Architecture/Landscape Marker 18-33, *Binker Barns*, is about 20 yards north of TP 18.

About 65 yards north of TP 19, a spur leads west 90 yards down to an overlook for Ohlson Beach, then 23 steps down to the beach itself (see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#)). The path to the overlook is probably accessible to mobility scooters – just be sure you have enough power to go back up!

Just before that spur and just west of the Ohlson Recreation Center pool are two picnic tables, well sheltered from northwest winds but without ocean views. Their benches can be used as resting spots.

Northern connector (from TP 21 to parking area, about 75 yards long) is quite flat and smooth, but with a short yet substantial uphill that scooters and powered wheelchairs should be able to negotiate, while being a real problem for manual wheelchairs. Transition to parking area pavement should be OK. A right turn (south) just before the uphill leads to Architecture/Landscape Marker 36A-35, *Ohlson Recreation Center*.

Value 3 – distant ocean views for most of the way but close to Ohlson parking area

13 TP 21 (Ohlson Recreation Center parking area to TP 22A (Wild Iris) (.15 miles)

Southern connector from parking area to Bluff Trail at TP 21 is about .03 miles, quite flat and smooth. The downward slope from the parking lot should be easily negotiable by careful users of wheelchairs and scooters. Note the Architecture/Landscape Marker 18-33, *Ohlson Recreation Center*, a few yards beyond the right turn at the bottom of the downhill.

Bluff Trail here is about 60 % flat, about 30 % with a smallish center berm, and about 10 % with a larger center berm.

North connector (TP 22 to TP 22A, Wild Iris) is relatively long (.06 miles) and somewhat bumpy but certainly passable.

Value 6 – great ocean views from northern half, close to Ohlson parking

14 TP 22A (Wild Iris) to TP 24 (Stengel Beach Access) (about .24 miles)

South connector is relatively long (.06 miles) and somewhat bumpy but certainly passable.

Bluff Trail here is about 35 % relatively flat and about 65 % with a smallish center berm. There is also a small hill that should not be a problem, except perhaps for manual wheelchairs.

A rest/view log is 60 yards south of TP 23 and about 20 yards west of the trail. It is 19 inches high and has great ocean views to the north but is not sheltered from northwest winds.

The northern part of this segment of the Bluff Trail, starting just south of the turn-off to the rest/view log and continuing to the Stengel Beach Access parking area, is part of an **Easy Access Trail**.

Value 8 – great ocean views, close to Ohlson parking, Stengel Beach access stairs (currently closed).

15 North connector (TP 24 to TP 24A) to Stengel Beach Access parking or to Wild Iris near TP 22B) (about .12 miles).

Western part of Bluff Trail here is actually two trails on either side of a fence that runs west-east. Both are quite passible, although the southern trail is **easy access**, smoother and much wider.

At the end of the fence, at the unnumbered trail post, the two trails noted above become three.

(a) One is a connector that runs about 120 yards southeast to Wild Iris, where TP 22B is across the road and several yards to the east. This trail post marks a bicycle-pedestrian link that leads south to TP 21. (This link is somewhat bumpy but scooter-accessible despite some side-to-side tilt; however, it ascends a substantial hill, a real challenge for a manual wheelchair.) The connector itself is quite wide, with a low but unusually wide berm between two ruts that themselves should be wide enough for any scooter.

(b) The connector directly to the Stengel Beach public parking (about 75 yards) is wide and smooth, part of the **Easy Access Trail**.

(c) The third trail is actually part of the Bluff Trail and is wide and smooth. It runs north, crosses a wide bridge, and comes immediately to TP 24A; total length about 35 yards. TP 23 to TP 24 is also part of the **Easy Access Trail**.

NOTE: The trail from the Stengel Beach public access parking to the bluff is the only public access trail across Sea Ranch that is easily accessible to users of wheelchairs and scooters. However, the stairs down to the beach have been closed by the County as unsafe.

Value 4 – short, limited ocean views

16 Stengel Beach Access parking or Wild Iris near TP 22B, to TP 25B (Breaker Reach) (about .19 miles). See above about the two connectors that come together at the unmarked trail post just east of a section of fence. From that point through TP 24A the Bluff Trail is entirely flat and smooth; it then turns left (west) to get back to the bluff, then north, and is **easy access** as far as the turn-off to a rest/view log (17 yards west of the trail, 19 inches high, pleasant ocean views but subject to northwest winds, about 30 yards north of TP 25). The trail is no longer officially **easy access** but only has a little more in the way of center berms.

The trail goes over a driveway, where the transition from trail dirt to driveway paving is not entirely smooth.

North connector (TP 25A to TP 25B) is .03 miles and relatively flat but with a slight side-to-side tilt and quite bumpy.

Value 7 – good ocean views

17 TP 25B (Breaker Reach) to TP 27A (Breaker Reach) (.31 miles)

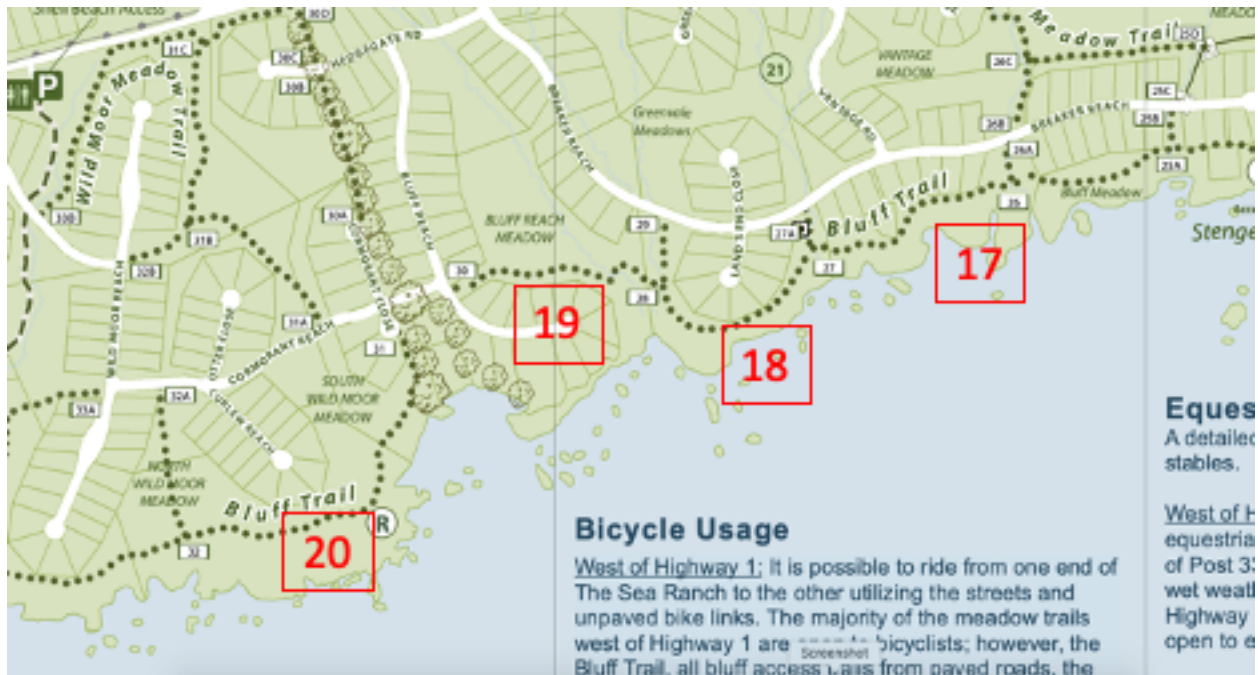
South connector (TP 25A to TP 25B) is .03 miles and relatively flat but with a slight side-to-side tilt and relatively bumpy.

Bluff Trail here is about 55 % flat and about 45 % with a smallish center berm.

Center connector (TP 26 to TP 26A) is .05 miles and relatively flat but somewhat bumpy and with a slight to moderate side-to-side slope. The transition from the connector to the Breaker Reach pavement could be a problem. It is fine in some places but more challenging only a few feet away.

North connector is .03 miles and relatively flat, with comparatively few bumps.

Value 8 – length, beautiful ocean views.



18 TP 27A (Breaker Reach) to TP 29 (Breaker Reach) (.19 miles)

South connector is .03 miles and relatively flat. Note the Architecture/Landscape Marker 21-40, *Living Roofs*.

Bluff Trail here is about 10 % relatively flat, about 60 % with a smallish center berm, and about 30 % with a larger center berm.

North connector (TP 28 to TP 29, Breaker Reach) is .06 miles and relatively flat but bumpy and with some side-to-side slope. The last few feet to Breaker Reach at TP 29 are quite steep – **too dangerous for a wheelchair or scooter—and perhaps challenging for anyone else with mobility problems, especially**

in the rainy season. People with mobility issues who want to access the Bluff Trail in this area may want to use either TP 30 (Bluff Reach) to the north or TP 27A (Breaker Reach) to the south.

Value 4 – beautiful ocean views but short length, and north connector too dangerous for some

19 TP 29 (Breaker Reach) to TP 30 (Bluff Reach) (.16 miles)

South connector (TP 29 to TP 28) is .06 miles, relatively flat, but the first few feet are quite steep downhill, **too dangerous for a wheelchair or scooter, and perhaps challenging for some others with mobility concerns.** There is also some side-to-side tilt further west that may be a problem.

Bluff Trail here is about 80 % relatively flat, about 20 % with a small center berm, 10 % with a larger center berm.

Trail runs directly to Bluff Reach (a paved road) at TP 30 – no connector – then goes along Cormorant Close to Cormorant Reach (both paved roads) to TP 31. The curb at TP 30 can be avoided by going a few yards north, but the terrain there is quite bumpy, as well as soft in wet weather.

Value 2 – limited ocean views, difficult access from south

20 TP 31 (Cormorant Close) to TP 32A (Cormorant Reach) (.35 miles)

This is an **Easy Access Trail** from Cormorant Close for about 260 yards to the turnoff to a rest/view log (16-17 inches high with great views to the south, and well shielded from northwest winds), at the end of a 25 yard-long stub trail. Bluff Trail for the remaining 250 yards or so to TP 35 is mostly flat, with only about 30 % with a small center berm.

North connector (TP 32 to TP 32A, Cormorant Reach) is quite long (.14 miles) and completely flat. It has been covered with wood chips to deter gophers and reduce muddy spots, making this connector less bumpy than most others, but likely a challenge for manual wheelchairs with thin tires.

Value 8 – beautiful ocean views



21 TP 32A (Cormorant Reach) to TP 33A (Wild Moor Reach) (.21 Miles)

South connector is quite long (.14 miles) and flat; it has been covered with wood chips to deter gophers and reduce muddy spots, making this connector less bumpy than most, but likely a challenge for a manual wheelchair with thin tires.

Bluff Trail is about 95 % relatively flat and about 5 % with a smallish berm.

About 185 yards north of TP 32 is a spur to the west, quite accessible, that leads 35 yards to a rest/view log, 20 inches high, with nice ocean views over Shell Beach to the north, but not sheltered from northwest winds.

North connector (TP 33 to TP 33A at Wild Moor Reach) is quite long – .24 miles – and rather bumpy, with some very pronounced side-to-side tilt near TP 33A – **too dangerous for any scooter, at least without a companion to walk on the downhill side and guard against tipping over** – but probably OK for most others with mobility problems.

A much safer way for scooters to get from the Bluff Trail to the Wild Moor Reach/Cormorant Reach area is via the connector a little to the south, from TP 32 to TP 32A, described above.

Value 5 – beautiful ocean views, but long connectors (one rather dangerous for scooters)

22 TP 33 (Wild Moor Reach) to TP 35A (Pipers Reach) (.06 miles)

The Bluff Trail is impassible to wheelchairs and scooters because of stairs leading down to a narrow bridge. Likely OK for most others with mobility concerns.

The *Public Access Trail from Highway One to Shell Beach* is **impassable for scooters** from the parking area to Pacific Reach because of a step-up to a small bridge, a large root, and a small

but narrow bridge that is difficult to see and has no side barriers. The rest of the route (starting at Pacific Reach) should be passable, though a little bumpy, until it gets to the Bluff Trail and for about 50 yards thereafter (to the north), but the stairs then prevent further access by wheelchairs or scooters. This public access trail should, however, be negotiable by almost anyone else with a mobility issue.

23 TP 35A (Piper's Reach) to TP 37A (Dune Drift Close) (.35 miles) The Bluff Trail from TP 35 north to TP 36 and on to the One-Eyed Jack's hedgerow is all **Barrier Free Trail**, as are the two connectors to Piper's Reach – from TP 35 to TP 35A and from TP 36 to TP 36A. Each of these connectors leads to a parking area.

The Barrier Free Trail has a special hardened surface that is quite flat and smooth, suitable for wheelchairs (both manual and powered) and for mobility scooters, as well as for strollers. However, there is a slight upwards tilt on the connector from TP 35 to TP 35A as well as on the Bluff Trail itself from TP 35 towards TP 36, that could be a problem for some people in manual wheelchairs.

The TP 35-TP 35A connector splits about 85 yards west of TP 35A, *one branch* continuing straight (and somewhat downhill) to the Bluff Trail at TP 35, and then down a ramp to Shell Beach, *the other branch* veering right (north) and avoiding the downhill. The ramp down to Shell Beach is rather steep, **likely too dangerous for all wheelchairs and mobility scooters**. And since the bottom of the ramp has recently been eaten away by the 2024 winter storms, **access to Shell Beach is now a real challenge for everyone, even those with no mobility concerns**. However, after the ramp is repaired, Shell Beach is likely more accessible to people with mobility issues than any other Sea Ranch beach.

The other branch of the TP 35A-TP 35 connector reaches the Bluff Trail a little to the north, behind a rest/view log, 13 inches high, with very attractive views over Shell Beach but not sheltered from northwest winds. This branch is the best route for anyone in a wheelchair or mobility scooter, and for anyone else seeking to avoid slopes, since the Bluff Trail from here to TP 36 and on to the One-Eyed Jack's hedgerow is almost completely flat.

About 135 yards from the rest/view log noted above are another two logs just west of the trail, one very low, the other somewhat taller, an OK resting spot with pleasant ocean views and somewhat sheltered from northwest winds.

The TP 36-TP 36A connector also leads west from the Bluff Trail, a few yards to an overlook of the Tidepool seal rookery, plus two sets of two stairs (one to the south, the other to the north) down to pocket beaches. These stairs should be accessible by any persons whose mobility problems do not preclude stairs (see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#)). However, the stairs are closed from April 1 to Labor Day. To see why such a long closure and to get more information on harbor seals, scan the QR code you will find near the top of the stairs to the south.

Also near the stair tops is a rest/view log (actually a bench), 17 inches high but subject to northwest winds. Just east of TP 35 are two posts with several metal circles, intended to hold dog leashes (with dogs attached to the other end), since dogs at the overlook are very likely to scare any harbor seals on the beach, and such scares would constitute harassment, prohibited – with hefty penalties – by the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The Bluff Trail continues north for a few yards beyond TP 36, where a trail branches right and runs south of the One-Eyed Jack's hedgerow for about 100 yards toward an unmarked trails post (discussed further below). This trail is not part of the *Barrier Free Trail*, and its surface grass and dirt – rather bumpy, but likely passible by any mobility scooters and perhaps by some wheelchairs.

The Bluff Trail itself continues as part of the ***Barrier Free Trail*** to the One-Eyed Jack's hedgerow. Just before the hedgerow is another seal rookery overlook with another rest/view log, 13 inches high and well sheltered from northwest winds. It provides great ocean and surf views, frequently including basking and/or swimming harbor seals.

The Bluff Trail then goes into the hedgerow for about 150 yards, where its surface is flat and smooth (despite a few small roots), quite suitable for wheelchairs – both manual and powered – and for mobility scooters and strollers, even though the trail here is no longer officially *Barrier Free*. This Bluff Trail segment skirts a very large cypress tree that fell over in 2023, then reaches opening where you have three options. (a) to the left – the Bluff Trail itself veers left (north) to leave the hedgerow and proceed northeast alongside a fence for about 100 yards before coming out on Dune Drift Close at TP 37. Much of the trail that parallels the fence is thick sand, **where wheelchairs and mobility scooters can get stuck**, especially when traveling from northeast (Dune Drift Close) to southwest. (b) straight – a trail segment goes straight up the hedgerow toward TP 37B on Leeward Road, but it quickly becomes **completely inaccessible to wheelchairs and mobility scooters and to anyone else with mobility issues** as it climbs up, then down, a very high sand dune with multiple very large roots. (c) to the right, 18 yards takes you to the unmarked trail post mentioned a few paragraphs above.

This trail post is on the trail segment that runs just south of the hedgerow. So turning right (west) for about 100 yards would get you back to the *Barrier Free Trail*. But you can also turn left (east) and head to the One-Eyed Jack's playground, except that two problems await you en route. First is about 40 yards of rather deep sand that would **likely immobilize any wheelchair or scooter**. Second is a stile over the fence that surrounds the playground. This stile has one small low stair and two rather high ones (11 inches), **enough to keep out not only scooters but also some others with mobility issues**. You can also go around the playground (and the trees surrounding it) to the picnic area on yet another trail, about 180 yards long, but this would be through some sandy spots where scooters might get stuck. Finally, you can try an unofficial trail that is right next to the fence, only about 150 yards, thereby avoiding most of the sandy areas.

All in all, the trails in this area are challenging for mobility scooters and downright impossible for wheelchairs. **So anyone on a wheelchair or scooter who gets to the unnumbered trail post should take the other trail (or retrace his/her route) back to the bluff, and leave the area at either TP 36A or TP 35A on Piper's Reach**. If they want to proceed further north on the Bluff Trail, they should follow the pavement south on Piper's Reach, then left on Pacific Reach to Leeward Road, then left on Dune Drift Close. But the Bluff Trail from Dune Drift Close north has its own problems, described just below.

Value 10 – Barrier Free Trail, Tidepool seal rookery, Shell Beach access, Tide Pool Beach access half the year, beautiful ocean views

24 TP 37A (Dune Drift Close) to TP 39A (Walk-On Beach) (.18 miles)

Bluff Trail from TP 37A proceeds 25 yards on flat, smooth ground to the top of the stairs down to Dune Drift Beach (TP 38 is supposed to be at the top of these stairs; for more on the this beach, see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#)), then turns north along the bluff to a bridge. However, just before the top of the stairs is a side-to-side tilt toward the bluff, which is so pronounced that **anyone using a scooter should be guarded by a companion walking at his side and holding his shoulder, to prevent a tip-over**. The trail from TP 38 then goes about 120 yards, first flat, then with a significant ravine in the middle – **scooterers, be careful!** – to a bridge. At the north end of the bridge is an area of sand, yet another potential problem for scooters, particularly when traveling from north to south. Beyond the bridge the trail is relatively flat and smooth (about 115 yards, of which about 25 yards is sand).

North connector (TP 39 to TP 39A, Walk-On Beach) is generally flat and relatively short (.04 miles) and smooth, but includes a bridge with step-ups at each end that would likely **prevent access by wheelchairs and scooters**.

Value 2 – beautiful ocean views over Dune Drift Beach and to the north, but short, and difficult access for wheelchairs and scooters

25 TP 39A (Walk-On Beach) to TP 41 (Osprey Reach) (.33 miles)

South connector (TP 39A to TP 39) has a bridge with two small steps on each end that likely **prevent wheelchair and scooter access**.

The Bluff Trail is relatively flat and smooth from TP 39 north for about 65 yards to a set of stairs down to rocky beach with great tidepooling, but identified on the Trails Map only as “TSRA Marine Preserve”, with beautiful ocean views. (For more on access to this beach, see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#).) After these stairs, the trail goes away from the ocean on a generally flat and smooth surface (but with about 10 % small berm) all the way to TP 40, a distance of about 225 yards, although there are some sandy areas. Just beyond TP 40 is a very narrow, tilted, sandy portion that makes the trail **completely inaccessible to anyone using a wheelchair or scooter, and perhaps a challenge for some others with mobility problems**. Thus, anyone using a wheelchair or scooter, and perhaps some others with mobility issues, must turn around at or before TP 40.

Anyone travelling from *north to south* on the Bluff Trail should know that just west from TP 41 are several steps down to a bridge – steps that also **prevent wheelchair and scooter access** well before one reaches the narrow, tilted, sandy portion.

Those using wheelchairs or scooters could instead drive to the northern end of Walk-On Beach (the road) and take the connector from TP 39B to TP 41, a distance of .16 miles. This connector – which many people no doubt consider to be part of the Bluff Trail itself – is certainly passable (except perhaps in the rainy season, when it can be very wet and sloppy) but somewhat bumpy and has no ocean views.

Value 1 – Some nice ocean views for a part of the route, but difficult access for wheelchairs and scooters



26 TP 41A (Osprey Reach) to TP 42B (Seal Rock Reach) (.12 miles)

South connector is about .07 miles; it has a small side-to-side tilt near TP 41.

Bluff Trail here is about 60 % relatively flat and about 40% with a largish center berm. There is a wide bridge with a 1-1/2 inch drop-off on its northern end.

About 15 yards north of TP 41 are a large log and two smaller ones, several yards west of the trail. The larger one is 15 inches high and can provide a rest for any hikers needing same.

North connector (TP 42 to 42B, Seal Rock Reach) is .05 miles, flat but somewhat bumpy. The transition to the Seal Rock pavement is also rather bumpy.

Value 6 – short length, but beautiful ocean views over Walk-On Beach

27 TP 42B (Seal Rock Reach) to TP 43A (Sea Pine Reach) (.18 miles)

South connector is .05 miles, flat but relatively bumpy. Transition from pavement to connector is rather rough.

The Bluff Trail here is relatively flat about 67 % of the time, with smallish center berms about 33 %. There is a wide bridge just north of TP 42, with 1- to 2-inch drop-offs.

But about 40 yards after the stairs down to Walk-On Beach is a bridge across a ravine, with 6 or 7 steps at both ends, **making further travel north on the Bluff Trail completely inaccessible to wheelchairs and scooters** and perhaps a problems for anyone who has difficulty negotiating stairs.

For further information on Walk-On Beach access, including possible ways to avoid the 50 stairs here, see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#).

The Bluff Trail segment just to the north of the bridge that prevents access to wheelchairs and scooters can be reached from TP 43A (Sea Pine Reach) (see below). That bridge is the only way to access Sea Pine Reach. For more on that access, see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#).

Value 4 – beautiful ocean views over Walk-On Beach and (north of bridge) over Sea Pine Beach, but short length, and no through access for wheelchairs or scooters

Note: Bluff Trail all the way from Walk-On Beach to Gualala Point Regional Park is **public access**, under the control of Sonoma County Regional Parks.

Walk-On Beach Public Access Trail runs from the parking area on Highway One down to Leeward Road and then to the Bluff Trail just north of TP 43, a distance of about 240 yards. The top few feet of the route from the parking area down to Leeward Road may be too steep for most scooters, but if that can be negotiated, the remaining 125 yards are more gentle. Don't go downhill, of course, unless you think your scooter can get you back!

The segment from Leeward Road to the Bluff Trail (about 180 yards) is relatively flat except for a short section with largish roots, but scooterers should be able to avoid the roots by going a few feet to the south.

28 TP 43A (Sea Pine Reach) to TP 46A (Pelican/Foremast) (.28 miles)

South connector (TP 43A to just south of TP 43) is .06 miles and relatively flat (part of an **Easy Access Trail**). The small rise where the trail goes over some roots should be negotiable by a wheelchair or scooter.

Bluff Trail *south* from this connector is relatively smooth and flat all the way to the bridge that prevents further access to wheelchairs and scooters (noted above), a distance of about 90 yards. Great ocean views over Sea Pine Beach.

Bluff Trail *north* from this connector is **easy access** here and generally flat for about 90 yards, despite a few small roots.

Eighty yards north of TP 43 and just north of a short bridge is a short stub trail (quite accessible despite a few more small roots) leading to a rest/view log, 17 inches high and well sheltered from northwest winds, with wonderful views to the south over Sea Pine Beach. Just north of TP 44 is Architecture/ Landscape Marker 34A-42, *The Bane Bill*.

Overall, this long segment from Sea Pine Reach to Pelican is relatively flat about 10 %, has a smallish center berm for about another 10 %, and a larger center berm (likely a challenge for mobility scooters) for the remaining 80 %.

The north connector starts at about 20 yards south of TP 46 and is covered with wood chips – relatively smooth, but perhaps a challenge for anyone in a manual wheelchair with thin tires. The connector splits after about 20 yards, the northern leg going to Foremast (TP 46A), the southern leg to Pelican (unmarked TP). Best to use Pelican, since it has more room to park.

Value 8 – length, beautiful ocean views, but large center berm for most of route

29 TP 46A (Pelican/Foremast) to just south of TP 49A (Tide Pool/Sea Drift) (.24 miles)

South Connector is actually a “Y” that starts at either Pelican (more parking) or at Foremast and runs about 0.1 mile to the Bluff Trail about 40 yards south of TP 46. It is covered with wood chips, making it quite flat, but perhaps a challenge for anyone in a manual wheelchair with thin tires.

Bluff Trail here is about 25 % relatively flat, and about 75 % with a smallish center berm.

North connector (just south of a bridge that itself is just south of TP 49) to TP 49A (Tide Pool/Sea Drift) parallels a creek and **is too narrow and bumpy for wheelchairs or scooters**. End of this connector (up to Tidepool [the road]) is **dangerously steep** for wheelchairs and scooters, and possibly a challenge for some others with mobility concerns. Also, two logs near the Bluff Trail are situated so as to prevent wheelchair or scooter access, but these logs (especially the northern one, which is 17 inches high) can be used as resting spots for the weary hiker. They are well sheltered from northwest winds but do not afford any ocean views.

Value 7—length, beautiful ocean views, but inaccessible to wheelchairs and scooters from north

30 TP 49A (Tide Pool/Sea Drift) to TP 53B (Solstice) (about .27 miles).

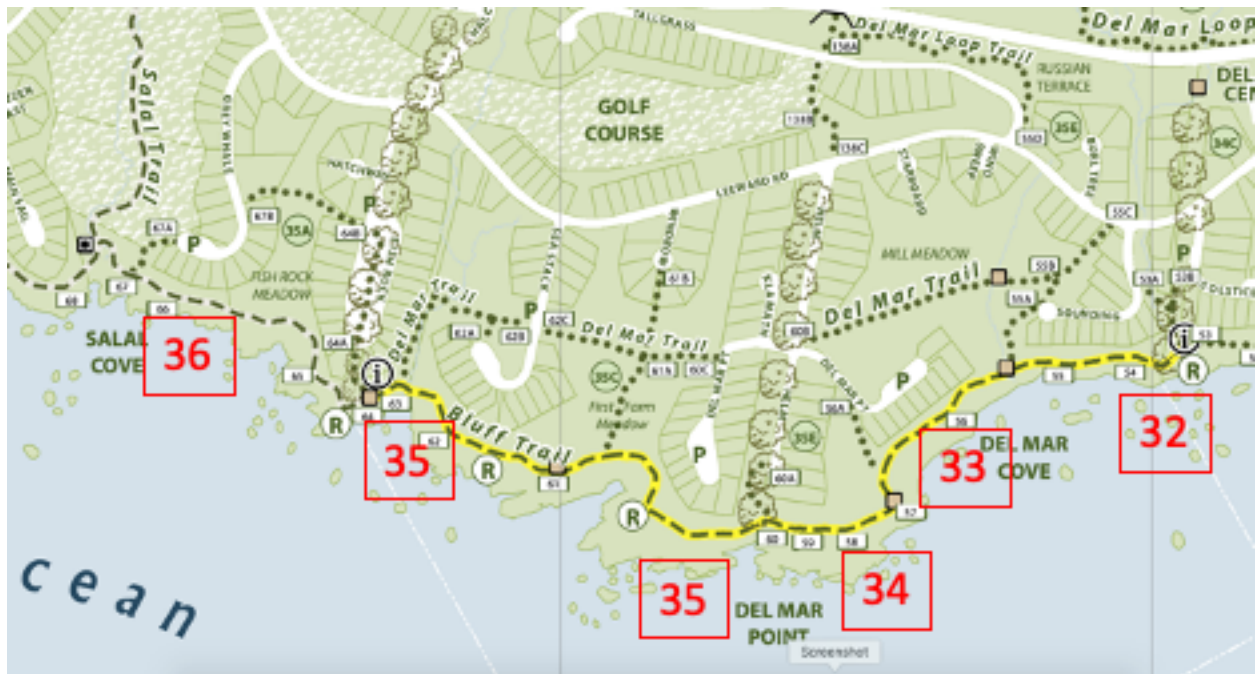
This Bluff Trail segment **cannot be accessed via wheelchair or scooter** from the southern connector, because of 6 stairs just north of TP 49 leading down to a bridge (which itself has a drop-off of 5 inches on its northern end). So we discuss this segment under **TP 50 to TP 55, Solstice South and North**, just below, even though most hikers with mobility issues should have little or no trouble with the stairs.

31 TP 50 to TP 55 (Solstice south and north) (.37 miles)

Connector (TP 53B to TP 53) .08 miles, is partly through a hedgerow whose roots make for a bumpy ride in places, but certainly not an impassible one. Just before the connector reaches the Bluff Trail, it goes through two logs, 24 inches apart – wide enough for most scooters.

The Bluff Trail **south** from TP 53 is about 45 % relatively flat and about 55 % with a small center berm. The trail crosses a small bridge (narrower than most, but still wide enough), then another small bridge. Beyond that, the trail is OK for about 35 yards until it reaches a series of rocks, mostly flat, and Historical Marker 34A-12, *Site of Klamath Sinking*.

Scooter- and wheelchair-users should stop and turn around here, because the trail gets progressively rougher until it comes to a small bridge with a 6-inch drop-off at the far (southern) end, after which the trail becomes even rougher until it comes to yet another bridge, followed by 6 stairs on the other (south) side. But there are beautiful ocean views from the accessible part of this segment of the Bluff Trail.



The Bluff Trail **north** from TP 53 is relatively flat about 30 % of the way and with a largish center berm for about 70 %.

About 70 yards north of TP 53 and five yards west of the trail is a rest/view log, 16 inches high, that provides nice views to the west but is not sheltered from northwest winds. Then 15 yards south of TP 55 is a short stub that leads 15 yards northwest to another rest/view log (not marked on the 2020 Trails Map), 15 inches high, fairly well shielded by coyote bushes from northwest winds, and with nice views to the west and south.

Just beyond TP 55 is Historical Marker 35E-6, *Mill Buildings*, then a connector trail inland that leads east .10 miles to TP 55A (Sounding). There are two logs, 18 and 21 inches high, on either side of the start of this connector, one with a “Private Property No Trespassing” sign. These logs can serve as temporary resting places. They provide good ocean views but are subject to northwest winds. There are similar logs further north, about 60 yards south of TP 57; those logs are 15 inches and 16 inches high.

Loop Trail. For a good loop trail here, park at Solstice (TP 53B) and walk to the Bluff Trail, then north on that trail to the connector at just beyond TP 55. Take the connector southeast to TP 55A, then go down a down a 4-inch curb (or avoid the curb by proceeding about 10 yards to the west) to Sounding. Proceed south along the Sounding pavement about 150 yards to TP 53A and follow the narrow trail into the woods and across a small bridge (24 inches wide), then turn left at the fork and continue just a few yards back to Solstice. But note that this is not feasible for wheelchair- and scooter-users until the 24-inch wide bridge is widened or replaced.

Value 7 – beautiful ocean views

32 TP 55A (Sounding) to TP 56A (Del Mar Point) (.24 miles)

South connector (TP 55A) to Bluff Trail at Historical Marker 35E-6, *Mill Buildings*, is .10 miles, relatively flat but somewhat bumpy, and requires getting over (or proceeding about 10 yards to the west to avoid) a 4-inch curb) at the end of Sounding.

Bluff Trail here is about 40 % relatively flat, 30 % with a smallish center berm, and 30 % with a larger center berm.

The northern connector, which leaves the Bluff Trail just south of TP 57, more than 3/4ths of the way between TP 56 and TP 57, is .11 miles long and relatively flat but a little bumpy.

Value 7 – beautiful ocean views

33 TP 56A (Del Mar Point) to TP 60A (Helm) (.12 miles)

Southern connector (TP 56A to Bluff Trail just south of TP 57) is .11 miles, relatively flat but a little bumpy.

Bluff Trail here is about 15 % relatively flat, about 5 % with a smallish center berm, and about 80 % with a largish center berm.

Northern connector (TP 60 to TP 60A, .06 miles) is through a hedgerow, with many roots (likely negotiable by wheelchairs and scooters but with some difficulty), and a short slope near the Bluff Trail, easily negotiated. There is a 4-inch curb at Helm, which could be **a serious problem for scooters**. This curb can be avoided by proceeding 12 yards to the southwest, until the curb disappears.

Value 6 – short, challenging access from the north, but beautiful ocean views

34 TP 60A (Helm) to TP 64A (Fish Rock) (.45 miles)

South Connector (TP 60 to TP 60A, .06 miles) starts with a **4-inch curb**, which can be avoided by starting 12 yards to the southwest, where the curb starts. The connector proceeds through a hedgerow with multiple roots, making for a bumpy ride for any wheelchair or scooter. The short slope near the Bluff Trail is easily negotiable.

Bluff Trail here is about 10 % relatively flat and about 90 % with a largish center berm.

There is a rest/view log about 150 yards north of TP 60 and 25-30 yards west of the trail. It is 17 inches high and affords great views south but is subject to full northwest winds.

A log with a “Private Property No Trespassing” sign, a few yards south of TP 61 (where the connector from Windrow [TP 61A] joins the Bluff Trail) is only 9-10 inches high, too low for comfortable sitting, but just across the Bluff Trail is a very large rock that has a comfortable – and wind-protected – spot that one person can sit on and rest.

About 45 yards south of TP 62 is a log with a “Marine Protected Area” sign. It also serves as a rest/view log, even though it is only 11 inches high and subject to northwest winds.

Where the northern (Fish Rock) connector reaches the Bluff Trail is a Del Mar Landing Marine Reserve Guide signpost and Historical Marker 35A-3, *Tongue Landing Area*. A few yards south and just to the east of the Bluff Trail are a series of rocks, the highest of which, at 18 inches, is high enough to provide a resting spot for most hikers.

Northern connector (from about 40 yards south of TP 64, at Historical Marker 35C-4, *Russian Colony*, to TP 64A) is .07 miles long, through a hedgerow, and quite smooth except for some very large roots near Fish Rock and a 4-inch curb at Fish Rock – **both very difficult, likely impossible, for a wheelchair or scooter to negotiate**. The roots can be avoided by turning left (north) about 20 yards before Fish Rock, then right after 3-5 yards, and proceeding the final 20 yards to Fish Rock. The curb at Fish Rock can be avoided by using the driveway 3-4 yards to the south.

Note: This Bluff Trail segment can also be accessed at about the half-way point by the connector from Windrow (TP 61B to TP 61), which is very flat but rather long at about .22 miles.

Loop trail. For a good loop trail here, park near the west end of Helm and proceed past TP 60A on the connector to the Bluff Trail at TP 60. Go north past TP 61 and TP 62 to a bridge over a creek. Immediately after the bridge is a trail to the east (away from the bluff). Follow this trail east, then south, passing TP 62B, TP 62C, and TP 61A, to TP 60C, a distance of about 570 yards. You are now on Del Mar Point, a paved road. Proceed south on this pavement just a few yards to Helm, then west and back to your car.

Value 9 – length, beautiful ocean views

35 TP 64A (Fish Rock) to TP 67A (Grey Whale) (.32 miles)

South Connector (TP 64A to Historical Marker 35C-4, *Vicinity of Tongue Landing and Rutherford Dairy*, 40 yards south of TP 64) is .07 miles through a hedgerow, relatively smooth except for two very large roots – **difficult and perhaps impossible for a wheelchair or scooter to overcome** – near Fish Rock and a 4-inch curb at Fish Rock. See above on how to avoid.

Bluff Trail here is about 50 % relatively flat, about 10 % with a smallish center berm, and about 40 % with a larger center berm.

There is a rest/view log at TP 64, less than 5 yards west of the trail. It is 16-17 inches high and fully exposed to northwest winds, but affords great ocean views to the north.

Northern connector (TP 67 to TP 67A, Grey Whale) would require negotiating a short but narrow bridge (24” wide) by the 8th green of the Sea Ranch golf links. This bridge is **too narrow for wheelchairs or scooters**, thus requiring people using wheelchairs or scooters to turn around and go back to TP 64A (Fish Rock) (or perhaps even further because of roots at Fish Rock). 4-inch curb at Grey Whale (TP 67B).

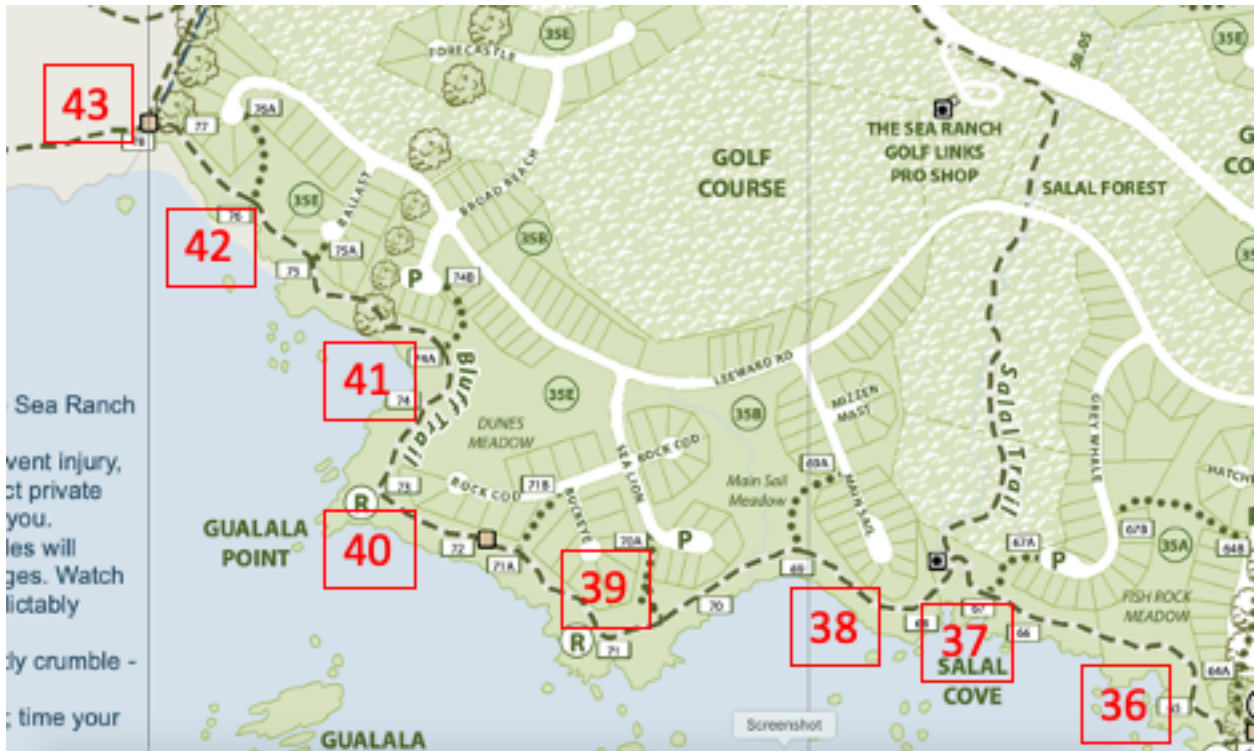
LOOP TRAIL. Fish Rock is a good place to start if you want to make a loop instead of retracing your steps. Park anywhere on Fish Rock and go west to TP 64A, then take the connector to TP

64 and head north on the Bluff Trail. Scooters and wheelchairs will have to stop at TP 67 because of all the steps after that trail post down to the Salal Trail. Turn instead at TP 67 and cross the bridge (although this bridge is currently **too narrow for wheelchairs or scooters**), and walk up to TP 67A on Grey Whale, then along Grey Whale about 100 yards to TP 67B, which takes you across a meadow on a flat but rather bumpy trail about 150 yards to TP 64B (Fish Rock) and back to your car.

Value 8 – length, great ocean views

36 TP 67A (Grey Whale) to TP 68 (north of Salal Trail)

Bluff Trail is completely inaccessible to those with wheelchairs or on scooters here – and quite a few people with other mobility issues – because of multiple steps down into and back up from the Salal Trail. But for those who can get down to where the Salal Creek goes under a Bluff Trail bridge, be sure to read Architecture/Landscape Marker 35A-44, *Riparian Passage: Salal Creek*. And see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#) for a hint on how to glimpse of Salal Cove.



37 TP 69A (Main Sail) south to TP 68 and north to TP 70A (Sea Lion) (about .28 miles)

South Connector (TP 69A to TP 69) is .07 miles, relatively flat but quite bumpy and with a pronounced side-to-side tilt in places. **Scooter-users should negotiate these places with extra care.**

Bluff Trail **south** from TP 69 to TP 68 is about 10% relatively flat, about 20 % with a smallish center berm, and about 70 % with a larger center berm. **Scooters should turn around as soon as they can see the**

water in Salal Cove to the south, since the Bluff Trail becomes impassable to scooters just beyond that point (before one gets to TP 68).

Figures for Bluff Trail **north** from TP 69 to TP 70 are about 60 % relatively flat, about 10 % with a smallish center ridge, and about 30 % with a larger center ridge.

The north connector (starting about two-thirds of the way from TP 70 to TP 71) is .08 miles, relatively flat and smooth.

Value 8 – beautiful ocean views from both south and north of TP 69

38 TP 70A (Sea Lion) to TP 71B (Rock Cod) (.17 miles)

South connector (TP 70A to the Bluff Trail between TP 70 and TP 71) is .08 miles, relatively flat.

Bluff Trail from north of the connector to the rest/view log at TP 71 is about 90 % relatively flat and about 10 % with a smallish center berm.

There is a rest/view log just a few feet west of TP 71. It provides views to the north (especially of Gualala Point Island) and south, and is 27 inches high but is fully exposed to northwest winds.

North of TP 71 and the rest/view log, the Bluff Trail becomes part of an **Easy Access Trail** that runs north to a few yards beyond TP 71A then turns right to connect to Rock Cod at TP 71B. The connector (.06 miles) is a little bumpier than the Bluff Trail but is nonetheless flat and relatively smooth.

Five yards south of TP 71A is a log with a “Private Trail No Trespassing” sign. The log is 13 inches high, enough to serve as a resting place for anyone who needs to sit for a few minutes. OK but not great views.

Value 8 – beautiful ocean views

39 TP 71B (Rock Cod) to TP 74B (Broad Reach) (.27 miles)

South connector (TP 71B to TP 71A, .06 miles) is part of an **Easy Access Trail**, flat and relatively smooth.

Bluff Trail here is almost all relatively flat, with only about 10 % with larger center berms.

The trail goes through a long cypress tunnel, at the north end of which, near TP 73, is a stub trail, flat and smooth, that leads about 25 yards west to a rest/view log, 20 inches high, with great views west to Gualala Point Island and north toward Gualala Point Regional Park, but fully exposed to northwest winds. This area is accessible to wheelchair- and scooter-users, and extensive roots beyond the rest/view log should keep such users well away from the drop-off onto the rocks.

Just beyond the cypress tunnel and the rest/view log turnoff is about 100 yards of sand. It is almost all flat but does have one small slightly uphill section that could create a **problem for scooters**. Also, the sandy trail is relatively narrow because of encroaching ice plant. Trails Committee volunteers

occasionally cut this ice plant back.

Northern connector (TP 74A to 74B) is .10 miles, very short and generally flat but somewhat bumpy.

Value 8 – length, no ocean views from inside the long cypress tunnel, but elsewhere on the trail and at the rest/view log are great ocean views (including of Gualala Point Island).

40 TP 74B (Broad Reach) to TP 75A (Ballast) (.14 miles)

South connector (TP 74B to TP 74A) is .10 miles, generally flat but somewhat bumpy.

Bluff Trail is almost all relatively flat, with only about 5% with a smallish center berm.

North connector (TP 75 to TP 75A, Ballast) is rather bumpy but extremely short (.02 miles). The substantial curb (7 inches) at TP 75A can easily be avoided by using the driveway only 6 feet to the south. This is the best place to get to the northern part of the Bluff Trail, despite rather limited parking.

Value 4 – short length, intermittent ocean views

41 TP 75A (Ballast) to Gualala Point Regional Park (TP 78) (.20 miles)

South Connector (TP 75A to TP 75) is rather bumpy but extremely short (.02 miles). The substantial curb (7 inches) at TP 75A can easily be avoided by using the driveway less than 6 feet to the south.

This is best place to get to the northern part of the Bluff Trail, despite the rather limited parking.

The Bluff Trail here is about 55 % relatively flat, about 25 % with a smallish center berm, and about 20 % with a larger center berm.

About 25 yards north of TP 76 is a log with a “Private Property No Trespassing” sign. At 17 inches high, the log can be a resting place for the weary hiker.

Note: There is also a connector from TP 76 to TP 76A at the northern end of Leeward Road. This has more parking area but is less desirable for wheelchair- or scooter-users because the connector is .08 miles long and very bumpy, with a pronounced side-to-side tilt near TP 76A that might present a **real challenge to scooter users** and perhaps a problem for some others with mobility concerns.

Value 4 – good but not unlimited ocean views, because of cypress trees

42 Gualala Point Regional Park

Persons using wheelchairs or mobility scooters can park near the visitor center (parking fee or annual pass required) and use a trail – mostly unpaved but quite flat and smooth – to the west (left) to get to the coastal bluffs, arriving just to the north of the northernmost part of TSR’s Bluff Trail.

They can then take a trail (unpaved but generally quite smooth, with less than 10 % having a smallish center berm) with great ocean views – also whales in season – all the way north to Whale Watch Point (about 400 yards), which affords excellent views of the beach and of the town of Gualala. Although the northern portion of this trail squeezes between a fence to the west and cypress limbs to the east, the trail is 26 to 28 inches wide, enough for most scooters. However, this trail could get narrower if park personnel neglect to trim the cypresses. Also, the trail at its northern tip splits into a small circle. Take the right (eastern) route, since the other one is **impassable for wheelchairs and scooters, and likely the same for many others with mobility problems because of low overhanging branches.**

There are quite a few benches along this route, and throughout the park.

Wheelchair- and scooter-users can also take a paved trail from the Visitor Center area north .5 miles down toward the beach access trail and perhaps to the beach itself if they can negotiate the final 35 yards of that trail, which runs through deep sand. And, of course, the beach itself is deep sand. The park has two all-terrain wheelchairs that visitors can use to and on the beach. For more information on these wheelchairs and on other aspects of the park, click on somona-county.org, then on Sonoma County Regional Parks, then on Visit, then on Find a Park, then on Select a Park by Name.

43 Sea Ranch Beaches

The Sea Ranch is blessed with numerous beaches, but **none of them are wheelchair or scooter accessible, and most can be challenging access for many others with mobility problems.**

Black Point Beach (near TP 1) can be accessed only by descending 100 stairs, then walking back up. Enough said.

Pebble Beach (south of TP 10) has two sets of stairs. The southern set (part of the Pebble Beach public access) has 37 steps. The last one, down to the sand, can be challenging when the surf has pulled some sand out to sea. The northern set has 46 stairs, mostly shallow, except that the bottom four stairs are of wood that has been damaged by winter storms, making access a little more difficult.

Smugglers Cove (north of TP 13) has a small pocket beach (actually rocks instead of sand) reached by a set of 39 stairs that starts about 90 yards north of Historical Marker 18-21, *Smuggler's Cove*.

Ohlson Beach (between TP 20 and TP 21) is reached by a stub trail that goes about 90 yards downhill to an overlook, then to a concrete ramp and 23 stairs. The trail to the overlook might be OK for mobility scooters, assuming the rider is confident she can get back up to the Bluff Trail. The stairs are all quite short except for the last one down onto the beach. A rope attached to the railing can help here.

Stengel Beach (at TP 24). Stairs to this beach have been closed by Sonoma County Regional Parks for several years as unsafe. No repair or replacement has yet been scheduled.

Shell Beach (at TP 35) is normally the most accessible beach to persons with mobility issues, since access is by a ramp that is too steep for wheelchairs or mobility scooters but accessible to most others with mobility concerns. However, the bottom of the ramp was wiped away by storms in January 2024; Facilities & Resources is waiting until the likely end of the winter storms before they try to repair the damage. In the meantime, agile hikers can scramble down to the sand, then back up. But it isn't easy.

Tide Pool Beach (at TP 36) is actually two beaches, one (sandy) reached by set of stairs going south from the Tidepool rookery overlook, and one (rocky) from a set of stairs going north. Both are easily accessible, down 14-15 rather shallow steps, even for most people with mobility issues. But these beaches are blocked off from April 1 through Labor Day to protect harbor seals. Scan the QR code on the railing at the top of the southern stairs to see the reason for the closing, and to learn other details about harbor seals.

Dune Drift Beach (at TP 38) has difficult access even though the first 25 steps are easy. The last few steps are more challenging and leave you on a ledge where you have to find your way through or around various rocks (some quite sandy), along with wet spots after rains.

TSRA Marine Preserve is about 75 yards north of TP 39 and down 21 steps to a rocky beach. Last step is rather high, but a rope attached to a last stair post can help get down. Great area for tide pooling.

Walk-On Beach (north of TP 42). The only official access is down a 50-step staircase that starts north of TP 42. However, there are several unofficial access trails to this beach: (a) About 35 yards north of TP 41 is a trail to the west, but it soon comes to a sea of driftwood logs. Getting over these would be challenging for almost any adult. (b) About 70 yards beyond that trail is another trail, just before a small bridge, that also heads west, but it also soon becomes almost impassable because of roots, narrowness, sideways tilt, and so forth. (c) So the best alternative route starts about 40 yards north of TP 40 and goes down to the southern end of the beach. Its slope is rather steep but it is all sand – no stairs – thus more accessible to people who cannot negotiate the 50 stairs at the beach’s northern end.

Sea Pine Beach (south of TP 43) has only one access, very challenging. Twenty-one rather easy steps lead to a steep ramp (about 15 yards), then to a 4-5 foot drop-off down to the rocks. A rope attached to the railing helps get down, but access is still most difficult.

Salal Creek (north of TP 67) does not end up at a beach, but one can walk a few steps beyond the Bluff Trail by turning left just after the bridge across Salal Creek, for nice views of the ocean waves hitting the shore. **But don’t try this at high tide or when the creek is running high.**

People who must use wheelchairs or scooters might wish to try [Gualala Point Regional Park](#) (described above), or the Gerstle Cove entrance to *Salt Point State Park*, about ten miles south of The Sea Ranch. You won’t find beaches at Salt Point, but the surf against the rocky promontories is magnificent, and there is a .46 accessible loop trail that gets you – even most manual wheelchairs – very close the coast. For further details, see parks.ca.gov, then click on Visit a Park, then on Find a California State Park, then on By Name, then on Accessible Features of State Parks.

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