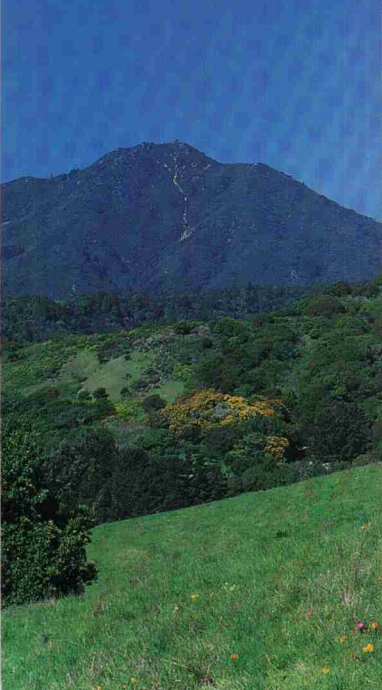
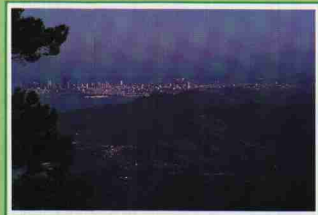


Mount Tamalpais State Park



Mount Tamalpais (Tamal-pie-us) State Park is located in the heart of Marin County north of San Francisco and the Golden Gate. Deep canyons filled with solemn redwood groves alternate with chaparral-covered ridges, grassland, oak woodlands, and other natural environments. The mountain can be seen from many parts of the Bay Area, and the view from the 2,571-foot peak is spectacular! On clear days, the Farallon Islands can be seen some 25 miles out to sea. To the east beyond the rolling hills of Marin County, San Francisco Bay can be seen with all of its many arms and inlets. To the south, the City of San Francisco stands out on the far side of the Golden Gate, while to the east beyond the bay, the hills and cities of the East Bay can be seen. Still farther east, Mount Diablo dominates the horizon, partly blocking the view into the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and California's great central valley. On rare occasions, it's possible to look inland, beyond the central valley to the snow-covered crest of the Sierra Nevada some 150 miles away!



San Francisco from Mt. Tamalpais

Cultural History

Coastal Miwok Indians lived on and near Mount Tamalpais for thousands of years before the first European explorers and settlers began to arrive. In 1770, two of those explorers, Captain Pedro Fages and Padre Juan Crespi, named the mountain *La Sierra de Nuestro Padre de San Francisco*. This was later changed to *Tamalpais*, which appears to be a combination of two Miwok words meaning "bay mountain," or "coast mountain."

Starting with the great California gold rush of 1849, the City of San Francisco began to grow rapidly. Before long, an increasing number of people began to frequent the slopes of Mount Tamalpais for recreational purposes. Trails were developed, and in 1884 a wagon road to the mountaintop was built. The Mount Tamalpais Scenic Railway was completed in 1896, and the following year a hotel and restaurant, the Summit Tavern (later called the Tavern of Tamalpais), was built near the summit. In 1907, a gravity car line to Muir Woods was added so that passengers could travel by rail all the way from Mill Valley to the mountaintop, down to Muir Woods, and back out to Mill Valley. The railroad route from Mill Valley to the mountaintop had to climb an extremely steep slope and was therefore very circuitous. There were 281 curves—the equivalent of 42 complete circles. In the section known as the "Double Bow Knot," the track paralleled itself five times within 200 yards. Little wonder that Mount Tam's little railway came to be known as the "Crookedest Railroad in the World."

The railway remained popular until the advent of the automobile and construction of Ridgecrest Boulevard in 1923. Rail service continued but was finally abandoned in 1930, after a wildfire seriously damaged the line.

Over the years, millions of people have hiked the mountain and successive generations of Mount Tam enthusiasts have worked hard to protect the mountain and keep it open to the public. The oldest of these citizen groups is the Tamalpais Conservation Club, which was organized in 1912. William Kent, an ardent Marin County conservationist, had already purchased Muir Woods and donated it to the Nation in 1907. In 1928, Kent and his wife donated another 200 acres of land in Steep Ravine in order to help create Mount Tamalpais State Park. The park was later enlarged when a number of hiking clubs, led by the Tamalpais Conservation Club, carried out a grassroots campaign to purchase 520 acres of land for state park purposes.

Now one of the oldest and most popular units of the California State Park System, Mount Tamalpais State Park has grown over the years to its present 6,300 acres. The park completely surrounds Muir Woods National Monument, and is bordered by Marin Municipal Water District land on the north and by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area on the northwest and south.

Natural History

Many people think that the 2,571-foot peak is the remains of an extinct volcano. Geologists have decided, however, that Mount Tamalpais was created by a gradual process of folding and buckling within the earth's crust. The San Andreas Fault, one of the most active faults in the world, lies just offshore to the west. It marks the division between two large pieces of the Earth's crust: the North American plate and the Pacific plate. The Pacific plate is moving eastward and down under the North American plate, thus uplifting the Coast Range.

While the mountain has been using over millions of years, erosion has also been at work—carrying away much loose material and leaving only solid rock exposed in the highest peaks and ridges.

Common rock types in the area are sandstone (graywacke), shale, greenstone, chert, quartz, tourmaline, and the easily identified green serpentine, which is the state rock of California.

The varied topography of Mount Tamalpais supports a tremendous diversity of plant life. A preliminary list of plants includes more than 750 species, including both the stately coast redwood and the delicate Calypso orchid. A hiker can pass through open grassland and oak-covered knolls and chaparral, or drop down through dense stands of Douglas-fir and California laurel into deep canyons filled with redwoods and ferns.



Kent Falls

In springtime, the slopes of Mount Tamalpais come alive with wildflowers. Open hillsides are sprinkled with California poppies, many species of lupine, all shades of Douglas iris, blue-eyed grass, goldfields, shooting stars, and many other flowering plants. Spotted coralroot, fetid adder's tongue, Pacific trillium, and others hide in the deep shade of the forest.

Mount Tam's abundance of wildlife is due both to its diverse topography and protected status as a state park. Raccoons, gray fox, squirrels, bobcats, coyotes, and herds of black-tailed deer are present. Mountain lions are seen occasionally. Bear and elk once roamed the land, but vanished as a result of hunting and ranching before the park was established.

Red-tailed hawks, northern harriers, and turkey vultures can frequently be seen soaring over the open grasslands by day, while great horned, spotted, barn, and screech owls can be heard at night. The pileated woodpecker as well as the acorn and hairy woodpecker are present and can often be heard in the woods. Steller's jays and black ravens are always in the area.

Along the coastline, numerous ocean and intertidal birds can be found. In all, there are over 150 species of birds to study, photograph, and enjoy within or very near the park.

Facilities

Mount Tamalpais State Park features a variety of campgrounds that are open all year.

Pantoll Campground is located on the Panoramic Highway and includes 16 family campsites that are short walk (about 100 yards) from the parking area. All sites have a table, stove, food locker, and space for a tent. Phones, drinking water, firewood, and restrooms with flush toilets are nearby. There are no showers. All sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

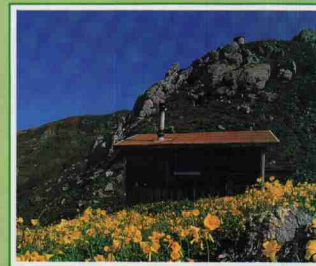
Pantoll is also considered an "enroute campground." That is, the lower parking lot can be used for overnight stays by self-contained RVs on a one-night basis. There are no hookups. Panoramic Highway, leading to the camp, is narrow and winding. RVs over 25-feet are not recommended.

Rocky Point-Steep Ravine Environmental Campground is located on a marine terrace about one mile south of Stinson Beach. The campground features six primitive campsites and ten rustic cabins. Each cabin has a small wood stove, picnic table, sleeping platforms, and outdoor barbecue. The cabins do not have running water. Primitive toilets, water faucets, and firewood are nearby.

The campsites are located a short distance from the cabins. Each site has a table, fire pit, food locker, and space for a tent. Primitive toilets and piped drinking water are nearby.

In order to protect the natural and scenic environment of these cabins and campsites, only one vehicle and five people are allowed per cabin or site. Pets are not allowed.

The campsites at Steep Ravine are very popular and reservations are highly recommended. For reservation information, call 1-800/444-7275. For specific campground information, call 415/456-5218 or 415/388-2070.



Steep Ravine Cabin

Alice Eastwood Group Camp entrance gate is located on the Panoramic Highway near Mountain Home Inn. It has two camps that are suitable for organized groups of up to 75 people. Both camps have tables, primitive toilets, piped water with sinks, barbecue grills, and a large area for tents. There is also a campfire center suitable for group use. Call 1-800/444-7275 for reservation information.

Frank Valley Group Horse Camp is located on Frank Valley/Muir Woods Road, approximately one mile north of State Route 1 at Muir Beach. It has tables, fire rings, piped drinking water, pit toilets, two horse troughs, and corrals for up to 12 horses. Reservations must be made at least seven days in advance. Call 415/388-2070.

Day Use Areas

Bootjack Picnic Area is located on the Panoramic Highway a quarter mile east of Pantoll. It has tables, stoves, piped drinking water, and flush toilets. It is intersected by two of the park's major hiking trails. Bootjack's group area can accommodate up to 50 people. For reservation information, call 415/456-5218.

East Peak Summit features a visitor center, refreshment stand, phone, picnic tables, and a fully accessible restroom. Fires and barbecues are not allowed.

Mountain Theater, officially known as The Cushing Memorial Theater, is a beautiful natural-stone amphitheater that was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s. With seating for 3,750 people, the Mountain Theater is a popular location for weddings and other special events, including the traditional Mountain Play, which has been staged each spring since 1913.



Park Watch: Report all suspicious activities. Phone 911, or the appropriate number listed below:

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Stinson Beach 868-0942

Marin Municipal Water District
Skyoaks Ranger Station 459-5267

Muir Woods National Monument
388-2595

Mt. Tamalpais State Park
388-2070

Hiking

The trails of Mount Tam are well maintained and very popular. More than fifty miles of trail lie within the park and connect to an even larger, 200-mile-long trail system on adjacent public land.

Dogs are not permitted on state park trails or in undeveloped areas, though they are permitted in certain parts of the adjacent Golden Gate National Recreation Area and on Marin Municipal Water District lands. Leash and other dog regulations are strictly enforced.

Horseback riders and bicyclists should also be aware of trail restrictions. Horses are allowed on all fire roads and on certain clearly designated (posted) trails. Bicyclists are allowed on fire roads only. For more information, check at the Pantoll Ranger Station (note, that the Ranger Station is intermittently staffed).

There are many scenic and delightful trails on Mount Tamalpais. Listed below are a few of the more popular loops that one can hike starting from Pantoll.

Mileage	Route and Description
2	Pantoll-Easy Grade Trail-Mountain Theater-Old Mine Trail-Pantoll This is a pleasant hike following a moderate grade up through a mixed evergreen forest to the Mountain Theater. The Old Mine Trail back down to Pantoll features magnificent views of the bay, the ocean, and Mount Tamalpais. Elevation change: 600 feet.
3.5	Pantoll-Old Mine Trail-Dipsea Trail-Steep Ravine Trail-Pantoll This slightly strenuous hike starts out through a mixed evergreen forest, then goes out onto rolling hillsides with beautiful views of the bay and ocean. Dropping down into a spectacular redwood canyon, Steep Ravine Trail follows Webb Creek back up to Pantoll. Elevation change: 1,000 feet.
6	Pantoll-Matt Davis Trail-Coastal Trail-Willow Camp Fire Road-Laurel Dell Fire Road-Cataract Trail-Old Mine Trail-Pantoll Traveling through alternate patches of forest and open grassy areas, this generally level loop trail is probably the best for enjoying spring wildflowers and beautiful views. Bring a snack and stop at the Laurel Dell Picnic Area for a rest at the midway point. Drinking water is available. Elevation change: 600 feet.
8.5	Pantoll-Easy Grade Trail-Mountain Theater-Rock Springs Trail-West Point Inn-Old Railroad Grade Fire Road-East Peak-Old Railroad Grade Fire Road-West Point Inn-Old Stage Fire Road-Pantoll This is a popular way to reach the summit of Mount Tamalpais. The trail starts in an evergreen forest and climbs up to the Mountain Theater. Crossing through a south-facing slope of serpentine outcrops and chaparral, the trail then goes to West Point Inn, the westernmost point reached by the "Crookedest Railroad in the World" on its way to the summit. Following the old railroad right-of-way (which passes behind West Point Inn), hike to the 2,571-foot peak of Mount Tamalpais. Then, retrace your steps to West Point Inn and follow the route of the Old Stagecoach Road to Pantoll. Elevation change: 1,200 feet.

Mount Tamalpais State Park is a truly unique and outstanding natural resource in the midst of one of the world's major metropolitan areas. To help protect and maintain this park...

Please Remember

- Camping and fires are permitted in designated areas only.
- Observe park hours as they vary by season.
- Dogs are not allowed on trails or in undeveloped areas. Dogs are permitted on leash in the picnic areas and campgrounds except Steep Ravine Environmental Campground.
- Horses are allowed only on fire roads and designated (posted) hiking trails.
- Bicycles are allowed only on fire roads. Speed limit is 15 mph; 5 mph on curves or when passing.
- When hiking, lock your car and take your valuables with you.
- Learn to identify poison oak. Be alert for rattlesnakes in the area.
- All park resources are protected by law.
- Report any problems you observe to the Pantoll Ranger Station, or dial 911.

A complete listing of all state park rules and regulations is available at the ranger station.

Mount Tamalpais State Park
801 Panoramic Highway
Mill Valley, CA 94941
415/388-2070

For Stinson Beach weather information, call 868-1922.

For Golden Gate Ferry information, call 332-6600.

For Red & White Ferry information, call 546-2815.

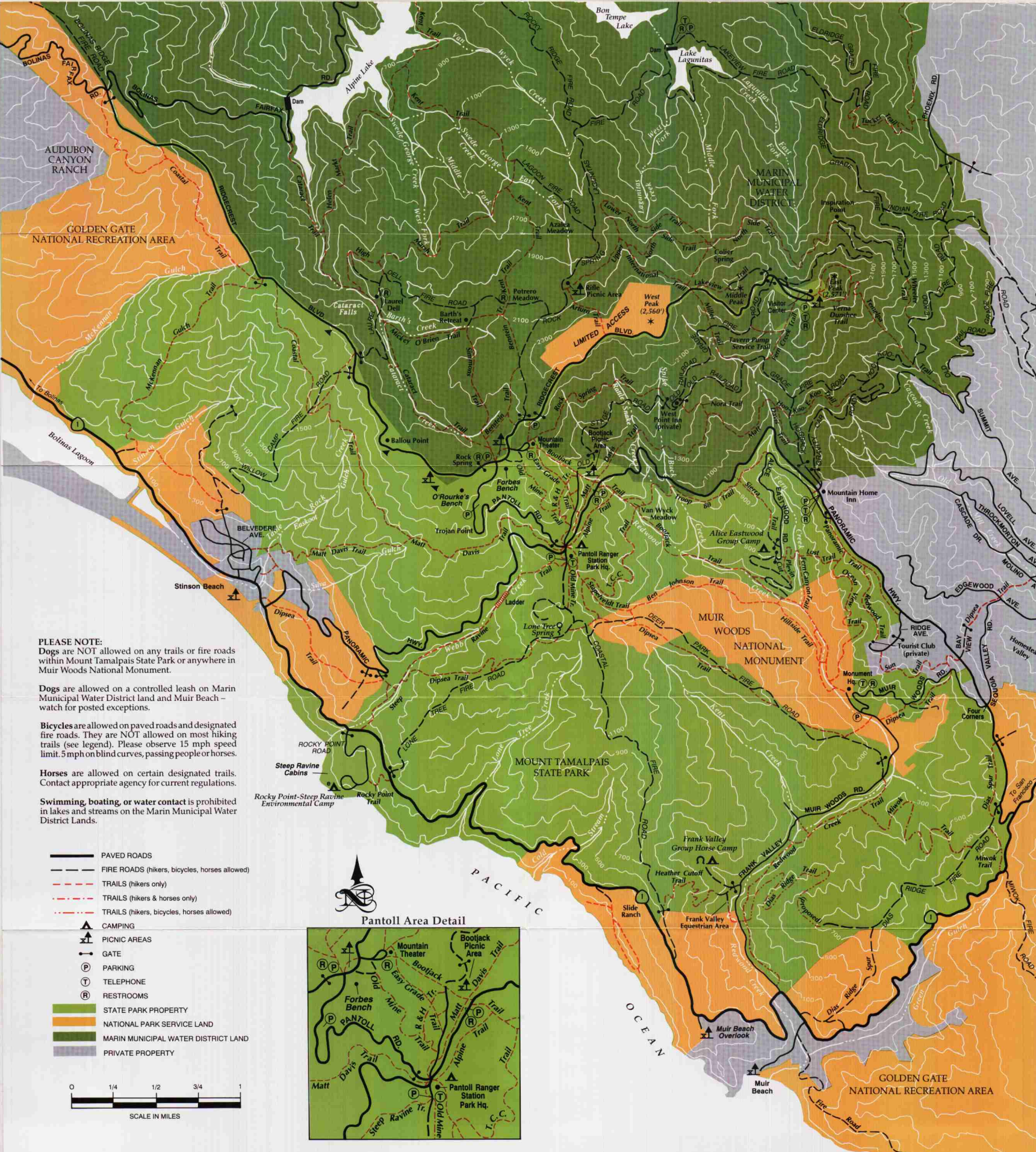
For Golden Gate Transit Information, call 453-2100.

State of California • The Resources Agency
Department of Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 942896 • Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

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Design and layout by Ron Ware
Map coordination by Jim Vittek
Cover Photo by Jim Grove

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PLEASE NOTE:
Dogs are NOT allowed on any trails or fire roads within Mount Tamalpais State Park or anywhere in Muir Woods National Monument.

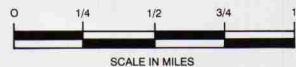
Dogs are allowed on a controlled leash on Marin Municipal Water District land and Muir Beach - watch for posted exceptions.

Bicycles are allowed on paved roads and designated fire roads. They are NOT allowed on most hiking trails (see legend). Please observe 15 mph speed limit, 5 mph on blind curves, passing people or horses.

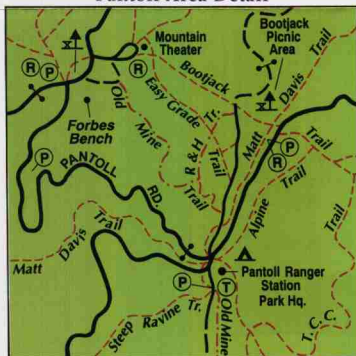
Horses are allowed on certain designated trails. Contact appropriate agency for current regulations.

Swimming, boating, or water contact is prohibited in lakes and streams on the Marin Municipal Water District Lands.

- PAVED ROADS
- - - FIRE ROADS (hikers, bicycles, horses allowed)
- - - TRAILS (hikers only)
- - - TRAILS (hikers & horses only)
- - - TRAILS (hikers, bicycles, horses allowed)
- ▲ CAMPING
- ▲ PICNIC AREAS
- GATE
- P PARKING
- T TELEPHONE
- R RESTROOMS
- STATE PARK PROPERTY
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LAND
- MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT LAND
- PRIVATE PROPERTY



Pantoll Area Detail



GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA