

# STINSON

## STATE BEACH





## STINSON STATE BEACH

Marin County can boast the most popular swimming beach in the San Francisco Bay area — Stinson State Beach, at the northwestern foot of Mount Tamalpais just off Highway 1. Open for day use only, the beach fulfills the needs of urban dwellers for a place to picnic, swim, hike, surf fish, and sunbathe; and it is near enough (only 27 miles north of San Francisco) to make a pleasant one-day outing.

During the late 1800s, Stinson was part of a popular resort area, and it continued to attract tourists as its facilities changed hands many times. In 1939, the County of Marin purchased it for camping and picnicking, and the U. S. Coast Guard used part of it during World War II. The beach was turned over to the State in 1950.

The headland at Point Reyes National Seashore protects the 3200-foot beach from the strong currents coming from the north, making it one of the safest swimming beaches on Northern California's coast. Ocean swimming is always somewhat hazardous, however, so swim with caution and keep a close eye on children. Lifeguards are on duty only during the summer months. Also be careful in climbing the large rocks southeast of the beach; they are slippery with surf spray. Beach facilities include a snack bar under the lifeguard tower (open only during the summer months), restrooms, and outdoor cold-water showers.

### Picnicking

The picnic area is located in a serene setting, shaded with willows, alders, beach pines, oaks, and Monterey cypresses; during the spring and summer, thousands of monarch butterflies can be seen clinging to them, adding to the brilliant display of color created by the morning glories and nasturtiums blooming in the picnic and undeveloped, natural areas. Less conspicuous is the poison oak — but it's there, in all its itchy glory.

The 51-acre park has about a hundred tables and forty charcoal-grill stoves in the picnic area, and there are fire rings on the beach for weiner-roast-type outings.

### Fishing

Surf fishing is a popular activity all along the coast, and nowhere is it more popular than at Stinson State Beach. A salmon run takes place from April to September and the catch is usually

good. The fishing also includes bass, sea trout, cabazone, and rock cod. Digging for littleneck, razor, geoduck and Washington clams is allowed, and though scarce in this area, abalone is also legal. Of course, a fishing license is required. The county of Marin prohibits the collecting of mussels and a quarantine is placed on all shellfish during certain months of each year by the State Department of Public Health — check with the park ranger for the dates.

### Wildlife

The ocean attracts such birds as gulls, sooty shearwaters, pelicans, and western grebes. Other birds native to the area are swallows, killdeer, and herons. Raccoon and deer will come down from the hills on occasion to feed near the beach too, so please respect their rights in the park by keeping your dog on a leash. Too often, if allowed to run loose, the dogs will either kill the deer outright or chase them into the ocean to drown.

### When You Visit

Temperatures at Stinson don't vary much from season to season; during the winter daily highs are usually in the mid-50s and, in the summer, the mid-60s with occasional days in the 70s. Heavy rains are common in winter, and summer mornings are often foggy, but there are some brilliantly clear days in the spring and fall.

Stinson State Beach opens at 9 a.m. year around. In the summer, closing time is 10 p.m. and in the winter the beach closes at 6 p.m. The gates are closed and locked during the night.

Stinson State Beach  
P.O. Box 56  
Stinson Beach, California 94970  
Phone: (415) 669-1140



← STATE HWY 1 TO BOLINAS

PARK ENTRANCE



NORTH  
PARKING AREA

COMFORT STATION  
AND DRESSING ROOM

KIOSK

PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE

DUNE AREA

PICNIC AREA

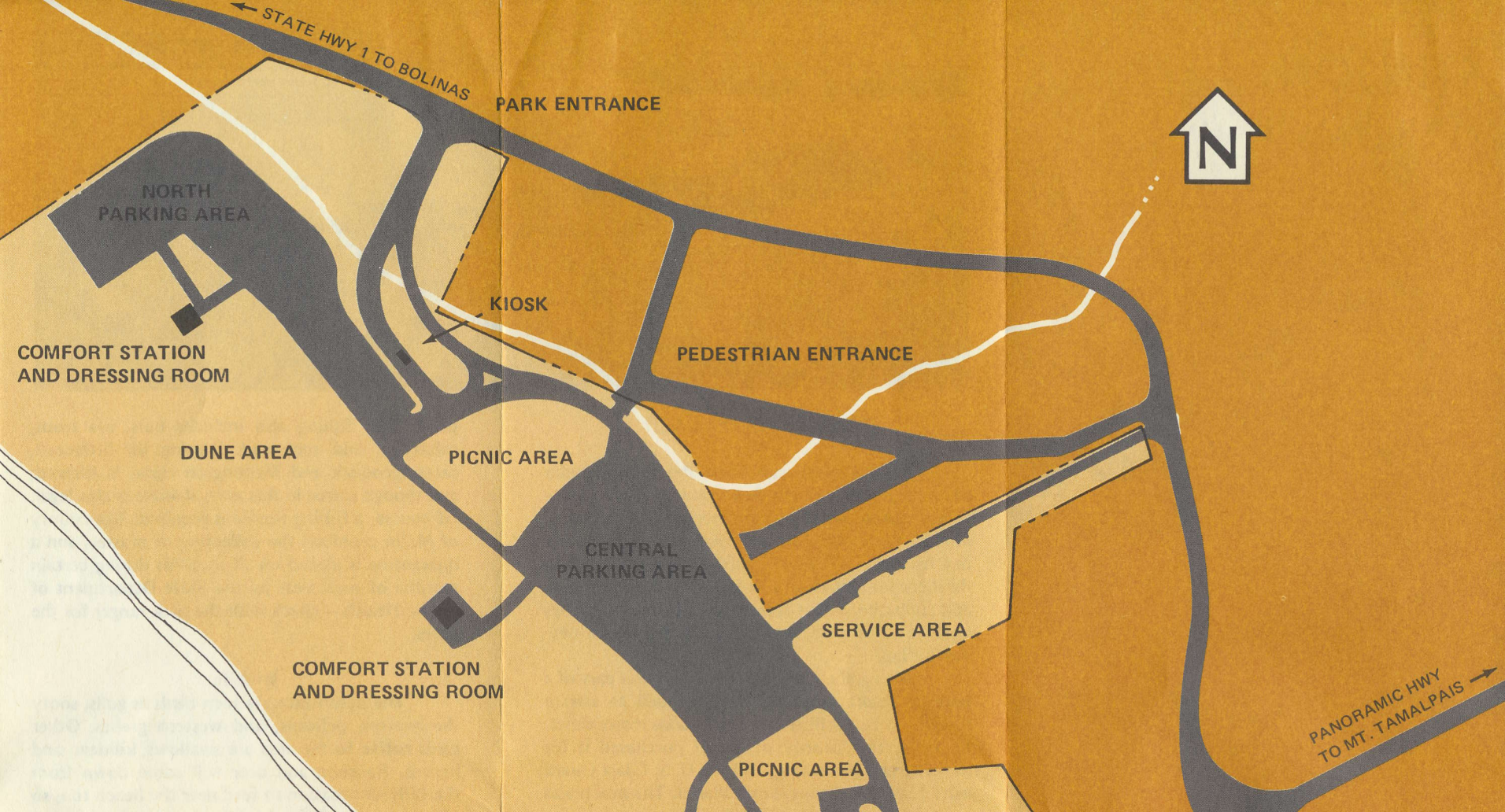
CENTRAL  
PARKING AREA

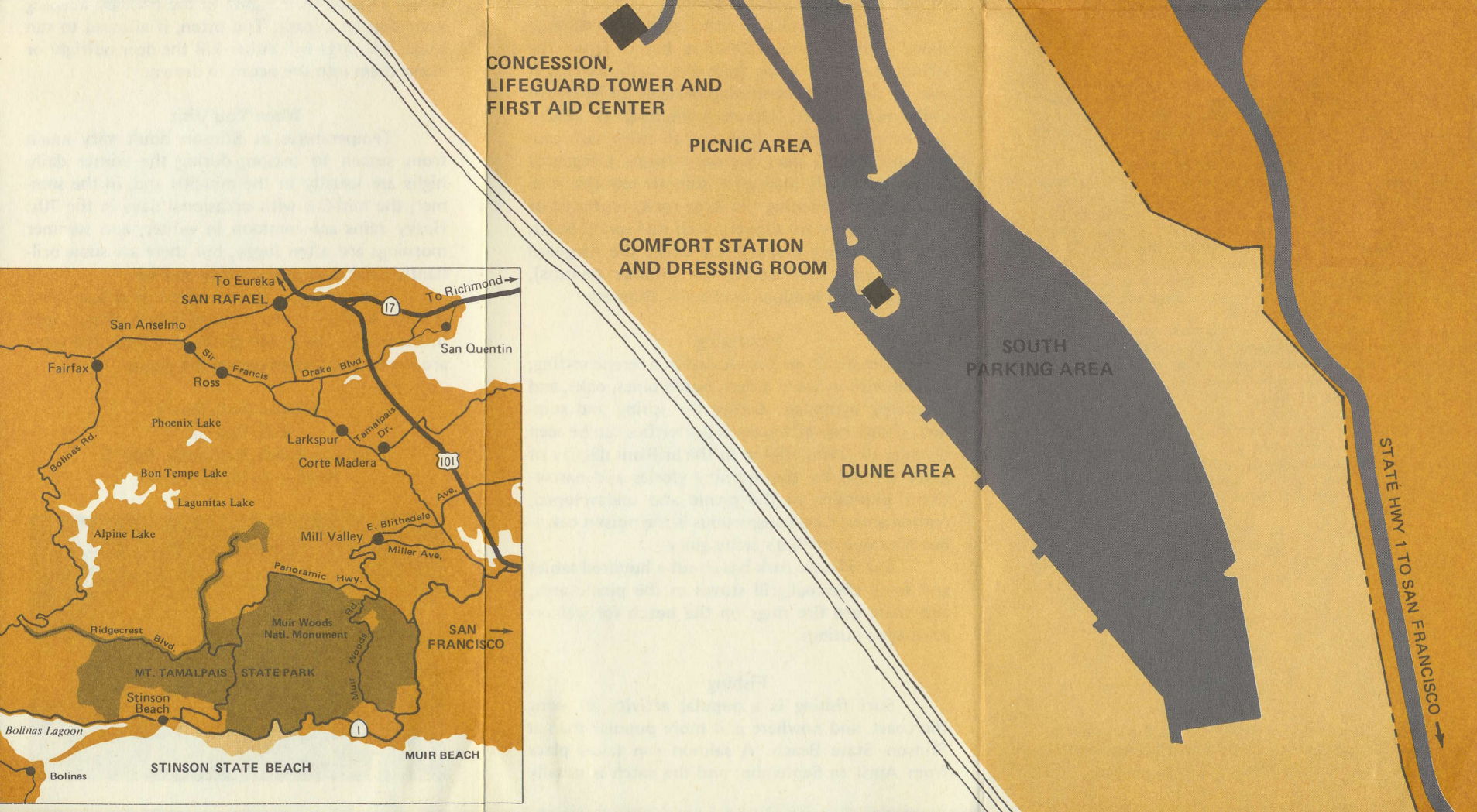
SERVICE AREA

COMFORT STATION  
AND DRESSING ROOM

PICNIC AREA

PANORAMIC HWY  
TO MT. TAMALPAIS →





CONCESSION,  
LIFEGUARD TOWER AND  
FIRST AID CENTER

PICNIC AREA

COMFORT STATION  
AND DRESSING ROOM

SOUTH  
PARKING AREA

DUNE AREA

STATE HWY 1 TO SAN FRANCISCO →



To Eureka

SAN RAFAEL

To Richmond

San Anselmo

San Quentin

Fairfax

Ross

Francis

Drake Blvd.

Larkspur

Corte Madera

Tamalpais Dr.

Phoenix Lake

Bon Tempe Lake

Lagunitas Lake

Alpine Lake

Mill Valley

E. Blithedale

Miller Ave.

Panoramic Hwy.

SAN FRANCISCO

Muir Woods

Natl. Monument

Ridgecrest Blvd.

Stinson Beach

MT. TAMALPAIS STATE PARK

Muir Woods

Bolinas Lagoon

MUIR BEACH

STINSON STATE BEACH

Bolinas

*In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln authorized a federal grant transferring the area known as the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Redwoods to California. This act marked the beginning of the state park concept, not just for California but for the entire nation. These properties were subsequently returned to the federal government to become part of Yosemite National Park. The first of California's present-day parks, the California Redwood Park at Big Basin, Santa Cruz County, was created in 1902 following an avalanche of public demand to preserve these magnificent redwoods for posterity. This was followed by state acquisition of other redwood groves and several historic sites. Finally, public sentiment prevailed on the Legislature to create a State Park Commission and a Division of Parks in 1927 to look after park properties then in state ownership and to develop a system of state parks. Today, the Department of Parks and Recreation administers nearly 200 units including scenic and natural parks and reserves, historical units and museums, ocean beaches, underwater parks, recreation areas, and wayside campgrounds. The California State Park System thus offers an outstanding opportunity to learn about the matchless environment and rich cultural heritage being preserved for present and future generations of Californians. For further information, write the Department at P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento 95811.*



State of California — The Resources Agency  
**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION**  
P. O. Box 2390 Sacramento 95811