

Accessibility Guide -- Bluff Trail Dec 20 , 2024

Author: Bob Mulford. cdmulford@aol.com

2024 Trails Map inserts by Henry Band



Bluff Trail

Del Mar Cove

Photo by Bob Mulford

Introduction

Experiencing parts of the Sea Ranch Bluff Trail from the Gualala Point 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 terrain is not always conducive to easy access for everyone, especially given the desire not to “pave over paradise.” Several sections of the trail have steps or are 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 eight **Easy Access Trail** segments, all quite suitable for almost all persons with mobility issues.

However, no one with mobility problems should assume that they need to avoid all 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 segments of the Bluff Trail 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 describes some other logs (and rocks) on the edge of the Bluff Trail that can serve as resting spots. And it covers some trails in Gualala Point Regional Park and salt Point State Park, as well as accesses to the various Sea Ranch beaches.

Other trails west of Highway One – including those on lands owned by The Sea Ranch Lodge – are covered in Accessibility Guide – Non-Bluff Trails West of Highway One.

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), the ocean views that can be seen from the trail, and whether the trail segment leads to a beach. The higher the number, the greater the experience.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: *Anyone using a wheelchair or mobility scooter on the Bluff Trail should realize that many sections 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 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

Easy Access Trails



There are eight **Easy Access Trails** connecting parking areas to the Bluff Trail and including short sections of that trail to rest/view logs, that anyone with a mobility problem -- including many of those using manual wheelchairs -- should be able to access without difficulty. They can be found at:

- [TP 3B at west end of Brigantine's Reach](#) – about .015 miles long
- [TP 6A at west end of Galleon's Reach](#) – about .07 miles
- [TP 10 at west end of Navigator's Reach](#) – about .05 miles
- [Leading both west and northwest from Stengel Beach Access \(parking area\)](#) – about .12 miles
- [TP 31 at west end of Cormorant Close](#) – about .19 miles
- [TP 43A, at west end Sea Pine Reach](#) – about 09 miles
- [TP 64A, at west end of Fish Rock](#) – about .06 miles
- [TP 71B at intersection of Rock Cod and Buckeye](#) – about .14 miles

What other Bluff Trail segments are easy to enjoy for scooter- and wheelchair-users?

The main problem for *scooter-users* (sometimes "*scooterers*") 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 mobility 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) – .43 miles
- [TP 8](#) (accessed from Whaler's Reach) south to TP 7 – .45 miles
- [TP 10A](#) (Navigator's Reach) south to TP 9 – .13 miles
- [TP 12](#) (Sculpture Point Drive) to TP 25B (Breaker Reach) – 2.18 miles
- [TP 29](#) (Breaker Reach) to TP 34 (Shell Beach Access) – about .9 miles
- [TP 42B](#) (Seal Rock Reach) to TP 43A (Sea Pine Reach) – .29 miles
- [TP 46A](#) (Pelican) to TP 49) – .24 miles, but no access by wheelchair or scooter from north -- .34 miles
- [TP 70A](#) (Sea Lion) to TP 75A (Ballast) – about .58 miles

For users of wheelchairs the problems are much more severe. Such wheelchairs have large rear wheels, small front wheels, and very thin, solid rubber tires, because they are designed for floors and other surfaces that are very flat and smooth. Since Sea Ranch trails are not paved, they are anything but flat and smooth. Nonetheless, they can probably access most of the above trails – and indeed many

of the other parts of Bluff Trail (but not necessarily the connectors to the Bluff Trail), particularly if the *pushee* (the person riding in the wheelchair) is relatively light. But expect the ride to be quite bumpy.

Powered wheelchairs are treated the same as mobility scooters, even though powered wheelchairs may not be as maneuverable.

What Bluff Trail segments are most enjoyable for others with mobility issues, as well as for other hikers?

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, not just those with mobility concerns.

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

- [TP 3B](#) (Brigantine's Reach) south to TP 2 – about .22 miles long
- [TP 12](#) (Sculpture Point Drive) to TP 15A (Arch Rock Road) – 93 miles
- [TP 36A](#) (Piper's Reach) to TP 37 (Dune Drift) – .26 miles
- [TP 60A](#) (Helm) to TP 64A (Fish Rock) – .5 miles

The following have values of 7 to 8:

- [TP 3B](#) (Brigantine’s Reach) north to TP 6A (Galleon’s Reach) – about .49 miles long
- [TP 22A](#) (Wild Iris) to Stengel Beach Public Access (near TP 24) – about .29 miles
- [Stengel Beach Public Access parking or Wild Iris near TP 22B](#), to TP 27A (Breaker Reach) – about .6 miles
- [TP 31](#) (Cormorant Close) to TP 32A (Cormorant Reach) – .49 miles
- [TP 43A](#) (Sea Pine Reach) to TP 60 (Helm) – 1.35 miles
- [TP 64A](#) (Fish Rock) to TP 67A (Grey Whale) – about .37 miles
- [TP 69A](#) (Mail Sail) south to TP 68 and north to TP 74B (Broad Reach) – .55 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 can present challenges for some others with mobility problems?

- [TP 1 to TP 2](#), southernmost end of Bluff Trail – about .06 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) – .37 miles
- [TP 49A](#) (Tide Pool/Sea Drift) to TP 49 – about .07 miles
- [TP 67 to 68](#) (down to and up from Salal Trail) – .05 miles

Detailed Description of Trail Segments

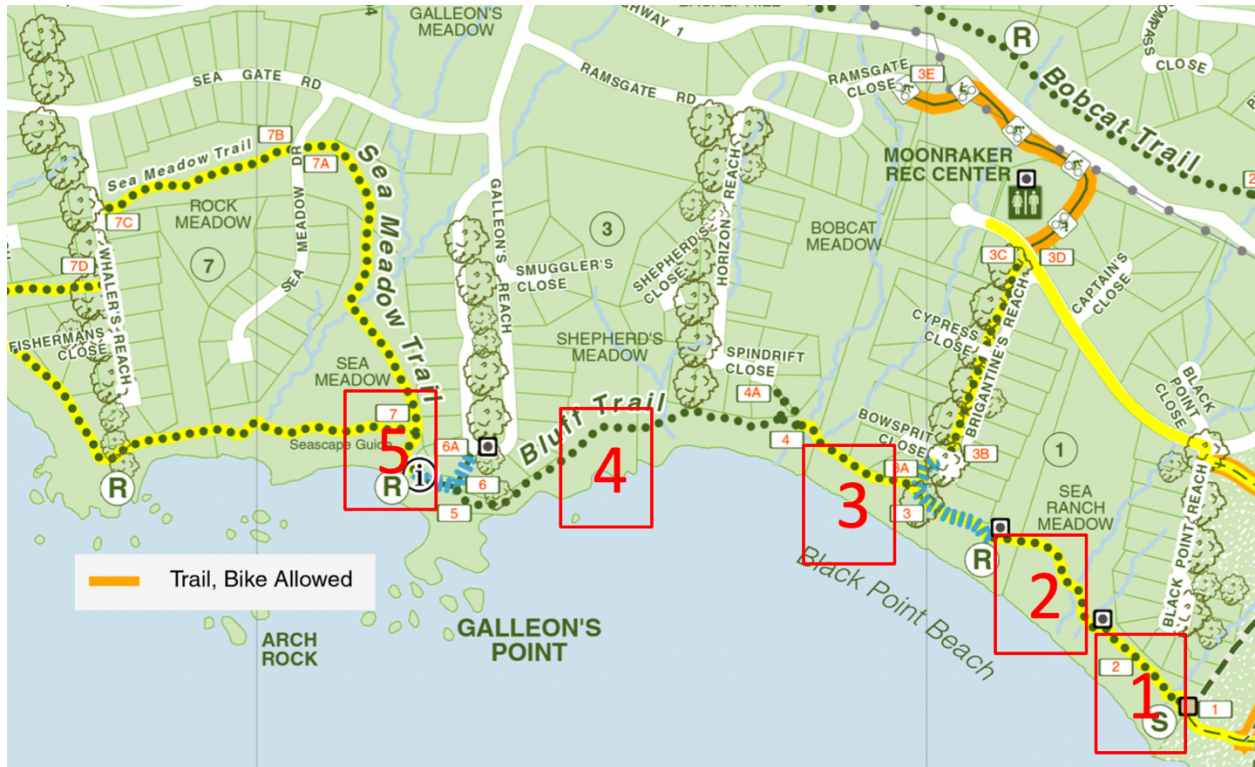
This guide covers each *segment* of the Bluff Trail, starting from the south, from one connector trail to the next. A *segment* is a portion of the Bluff Trail along with any connector trails needed to get from a paved road to that portion. The guide is not focused only on access by persons who must use wheelchairs or mobility scooters; instead, *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 .

on the Bluff Trail. It also describes some other logs (and rocks) near the sides 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 all hikers, not just those with mobility issues. It is based on the length of the trail segment, the lengths of any connectors (which are usually bumpy), the ocean views that can be seen from the trail, and whether there is access to any beaches. The higher the number, the greater the experience.

The main problem for scooter-users (sometimes “scooters”) 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, much more bumpy but 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)

Trail is **not passable** on a scooter or wheelchair because of seven steps down, then 12 steps up (when heading north), 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.

Value 2- short length, most ocean views blocked by foliage

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

This is an **Easy Access Trail** – and thus fine for both mobility scooters and at least some manual wheelchairs -- 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 mobility scooter, probably OK for manual wheelchairs

The *rest/view log* is 18 inches high, well shielded from northwest winds, and providing beautiful views to the south over Black Point Beach (and occasional surfers) to Black Point.

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 by scooters and perhaps by many manual wheelchairs, even though this segment is not part of the *Easy Access Trail*; however, the center berms can be somewhat challenging for scooter-users. Also, just beyond the first (wide) bridge 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*; at this marker the trail comes to three steps that are relatively shallow but that prevent further access to scooters and wheelchairs but should be no problem for others with mobility concerns.

Value 9 – length, beautiful ocean views

3 TP 3B (Brigantine's Reach) to TP 4A (Spindrift 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 by most wheelchairs, the center berms (particularly the larger ones) could be challenging for scooterers.

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

Value 8 – beautiful ocean views

4 TP 4A (Spindrift Close) to TP 6A (Galleon's Reach) (.31 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 by scooters and possibly by many wheelchairs.

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

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 very short and **Easy Access**, fine for both scooters and many wheelchairs. Note the Architecture/Landscape Marker 3-31, *Signature Hedgerows*, just across Galleon's Reach from TP 6A.

The Bluff Trail to the north is also **Easy Access**, although the short downward slope (about 50 yards north of TP 6) at the northern end of the cypress grove could be challenging in a manual wheelchair.

Between TP 6 and the downward slope are several logs, between 26 inches and 19 inches high, that can be resting spots for those who need to sit down for a spell. At the top of the slope is a post with a QR code that can access the *Reading our Seascape Guide*.

Just beyond this slope is a trail stub, easily accessible to scooterers and possibly accessible to some wheelchairs, that 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 30 yards 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 (perhaps too rough for most wheelchairs), 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. There are also some sandy areas south of TP 8, likely a real problem for manual wheelchairs.

The slope on north side of the bridge that is about 200 yards north of TP 7 is easily negotiable by a scooter but would present problems for a manual wheelchair. The slope on the south side of this bridge, however, has some ruts caused by winter rain runoffs that could be challenging for scooters and is likely impassable for most wheelchairs.

Midway between TP 8 and TP 7 is a stub trail leading west 30 yards to a *rest/view log*, easily accessible by scooter (and probably by most wheelchairs), 21 inches high, with nice ocean views 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. **Wheelchair- and scooter- users should be careful not to go too far here.**

For a description of the *Sea Meadow Trail* (which branches off the Bluff Trail at TP 7 and goes to TP 7C on Whaler's Reach), see the *Accessibility Guide -- Non-Bluff Trails East of Highway One*.

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, but **difficult to impossible for wheelchairs, and likely so for 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 – **impassible for any manual wheelchair and a real challenge to negotiate in a 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 by scooters and probably by most wheelchairs, from the Navigator's Reach parking area to the Bluff Trail, then south to a *rest/view log*.

At TP 10A is post with a QR code that can be used to access the *Reading our Seascape Guide*.

The *rest/view log* is 21 inches high and overlooks Pebble Beach but is 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, at least to scooters. The trail then climbs a short hill, probably negotiable by most scooters. **Scooters and wheelchairs 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 a 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)

South connector trail is **easy access**, very short, completely accessible by scooters and even by most manual wheelchairs.

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). Scooterers should be able to access this part of the trail, but with some challenges; manual wheelchairs would likely find the surface too rough. 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 scooter- or wheelchair-user to go here could result in tragedy**. 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 for about ¼ mile on Sculpture Point Drive to TP 12 and head further north from there.

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, but difficult access for some

9 TP 12 (Sculpture Point Drive) to TP 14A (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. It should be passable for scooters and perhaps for some wheelchairs, despite a small uphill when going north.

NOTE: The connector trail from TP 13A on Mariner's Drive west to TP 13 on the Bluff Trail is **not accessible by scooter or wheelchair**, 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 such as sore ankles, knees, or hips. 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.

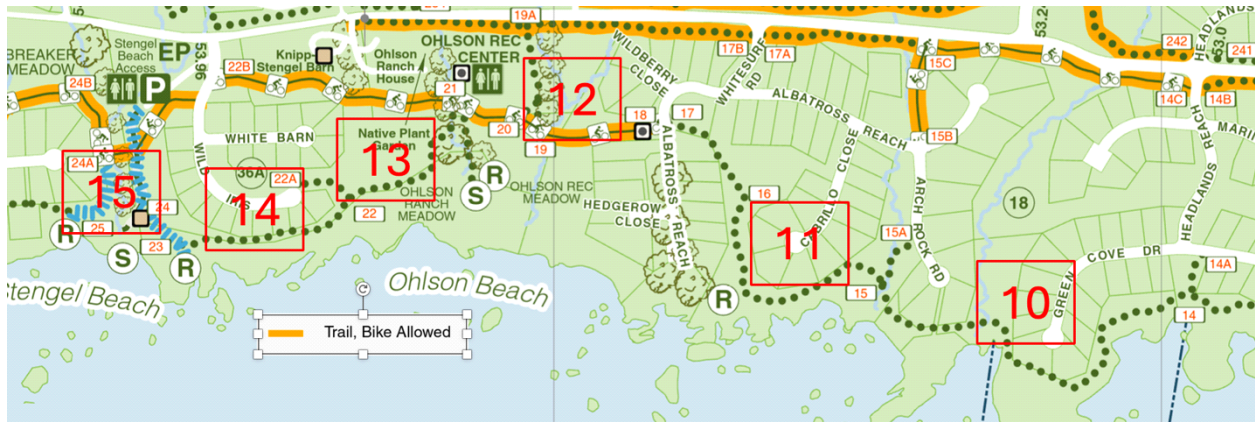
At Historic Marker 18-21, *Smugglers Cove*, is a short stub trail that leads 15 yards south to a *rest/view log*, 22 inches high, well sheltered from northwest winds, with a nice view of Smugglers Cove. This stub is negotiable on a mobility scooter and perhaps by a manual wheelchair (though the first few feet are a real challenge) to a few paces beyond the rest/view log but **be careful not to go much further towards the cove**.

Just north of this historic marker the trail has a small but pronounced side-to-side tilt that could be a problem for anyone on a scooter or wheelchair.

Ninety yards north of the historical marker is a set of 39 stairs that lead down to Smugglers Cove Beach, a small pocket beach. See [Sea Ranch Beaches](#).

North connector (TP 14 to TP 14A) is short (.04 mile) and relatively smooth, OK for scooters and probably most manual wheelchairs.

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, OK for scooters and probably most manual wheelchairs.

Bluff Trail here is about 60 % relatively flat, 30 % with a smallish center berm, and about 10 % with a larger center berm. It should be accessible to scooters and probably to most wheelchairs.

North connector (TP 15 to TP 15A) is relatively long (.06 miles) and bumpy (too rough for manual wheelchairs), 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 difficult access from north for some

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 (too rough for wheelchairs), with two places where a **side-to-side tilt might cause problems for scooters**. Probably best for scooterers and wheelchairs to approach this segment from the north.

The Bluff Trail here should be accessible to scooters and perhaps to some wheelchairs; the surface 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. There are two paths to this rest/view log. Best for wheelchairs and scooters to take the northern path, since the southern one runs perilously close to the bluff edge. northern

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. The surface has been hardened and is relatively smooth, with only about a third of this segment having a smallish center berm. The trail here should be easily accessible to scooters, and probably OK for many

manual wheelchairs.

Architecture/Landscape Marker 18-33, *Binker Barns*, is about 20 yards north of TP 18.

About 75 yards north of TP 20 is a spur that leads 100 yards west (OK for scooters but too rough for manual wheelchairs) to a *rest/view log*, 13 inches high, with nice views over Ohlson Beach. About 20 yards north of this stub trail are two picnic tables, well sheltered from northwest winds but without ocean views, that can serve as resting spots.

A few yards north of this picnic table is another spur trail. This one 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 too steep for wheelchairs but probably accessible to mobility scooters – just be sure you have enough power to go back up!

Trail Post 21 is quite misleading. It has arrows pointing north (to a bicycle-pedestrian link, described in the Accessibility Guide -- Non-Bluff Trails West of Highway One), and east (to the Ohlson Recreation Area parking lot), while *the Bluff Trail is actually to the west!*

North connector (from TP 21 to parking area, about 75 yards long) is quite flat and smooth, but with a short yet substantial uphill that both scooters and most 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; access to Ohlson Beach

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 straight south, 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. Fine for scooters, probably OK for most manual wheelchairs.

North connector (TP 22 to TP 22A, Wild Iris) is relatively long (.06 miles) and somewhat bumpy but certainly passable for scooters, probably OK for most manual wheelchairs.

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 for scooters, probably OK for most manual wheelchairs.

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 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**, fine for both scooters and most manual wheelchairs

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 two trails on either side of a fence that runs west-east. Both are quite passable by mobility scooters and most manual wheelchairs, 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.

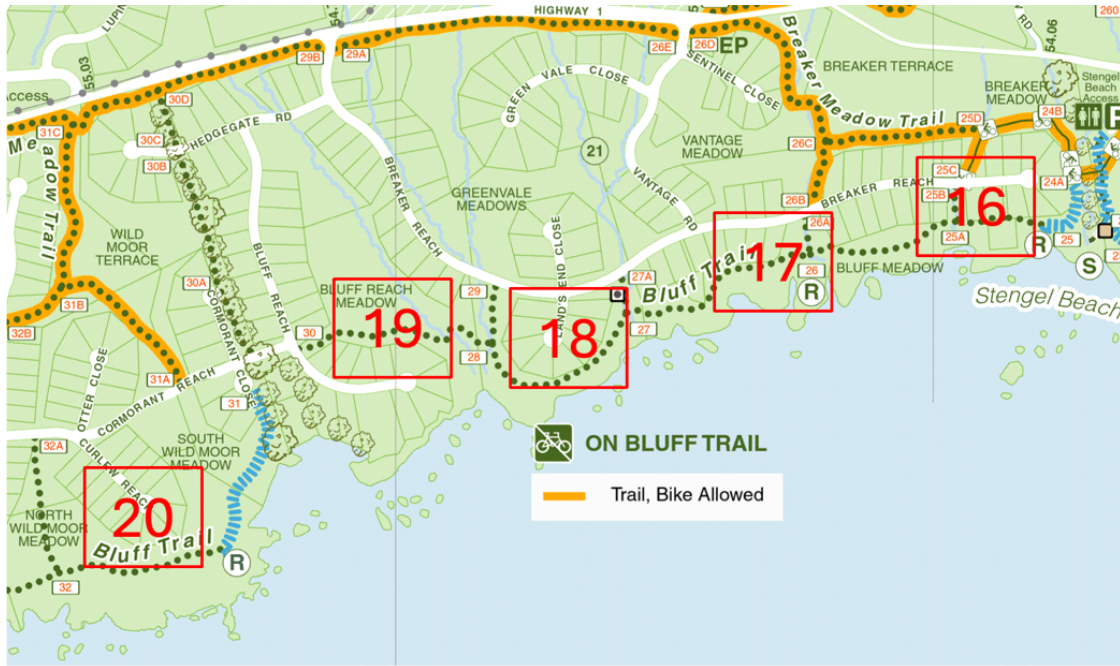
(a) One is a connector that runs about 120 yards southeast to Wild Iris, where TP 22B is across the road and several yards to the east. This trail post marks the start of a bicycle-pedestrian link that leads south to TP 21 (described in the *Accessibility Guide – Non-Bluff Trails West of Highway One*). The connector to Wild Iris is very flat and smooth, fine for scooters and perhaps for some for manual wheelchairs.

(b) The connector directly to the Stengel Beach public parking (about 75 yards) is wide and smooth, part of the **Easy Access Trail**. Again, fine for scooters and probably for most manual wheelchairs

(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**, fine for scooters and probably even for most manual wheelchairs.

NOTE: The trail from the Stengel Beach public access parking to the bluff is the only public access trail across The Sea Ranch that is easily accessible to scooters and perhaps to most manual wheelchairs. However, the stairs down to Stengel 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* -- easy access for scooters, probably OK for at least some manual wheelchairs.

This *rest/view log* is about 35 yards north of TP 25 and 17 yards west of the trail, 19 inches high, with pleasant ocean views but subject to northwest winds.

The trail after (north of) the *rest/view log* is no longer officially *easy access* but has only a little more in the way of center berms. It is probably accessible to at least some manual wheelchairs.

North connector (TP 25A to TP 25B) is .03 miles and relatively flat but with a slight side-to-side tilt and quite bumpy, perhaps too rough for manual wheelchairs.

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, perhaps too rough for most manual wheelchairs

Bluff Trail here is about 55 % flat and about 45 % with a smallish center berm. OK for scooters, but probably too rough for manual wheelchairs.

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. Probably too rough for most manual wheelchairs. 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.

This connector extends about 30 yards toward the bluff, where there is a very worn *rest/view log*, only 10-11 inches high. Nice views, but fully exposed to ocean winds. Connector surface is probable too rough for most manual wheelchairs.

North connector is .03 miles and relatively flat, with comparatively few bumps. Probably too rough for manual wheelchairs.

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, probably too rough for manual wheelchairs. 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. Fine for scooters, but probably too rough for manual wheelchairs.

North connector (TP 28 to TP 29, Breaker Reach) is .06 miles and relatively flat but bumpy (probably too rough for most manual wheelchairs) and with some side-to-side tilt. The last few feet to Breaker Reach at TP 29 are quite steep – **too dangerous for a 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 for scooters.

Bluff Trail here is about 80 % relatively flat, about 20 % with a small center berm, 10 % with a larger center berm. Probably too rough for manual wheelchairs.

The trail runs directly to Bluff Reach (a paved road) at TP 30 – no connector – then goes along Cormorant Close (paved) for 95 yards, then west along Cormorant Reach (also paved) for 40 yards 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.

On the east side of Cormorant Reach, at the bottom of the Highway One Trail-Cormorant Reach connector, are two logs, the larger of which at 21 inches high can serve as a resting spot for the weary hiker.

Value 2 – limited ocean views, difficult access from south for some

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

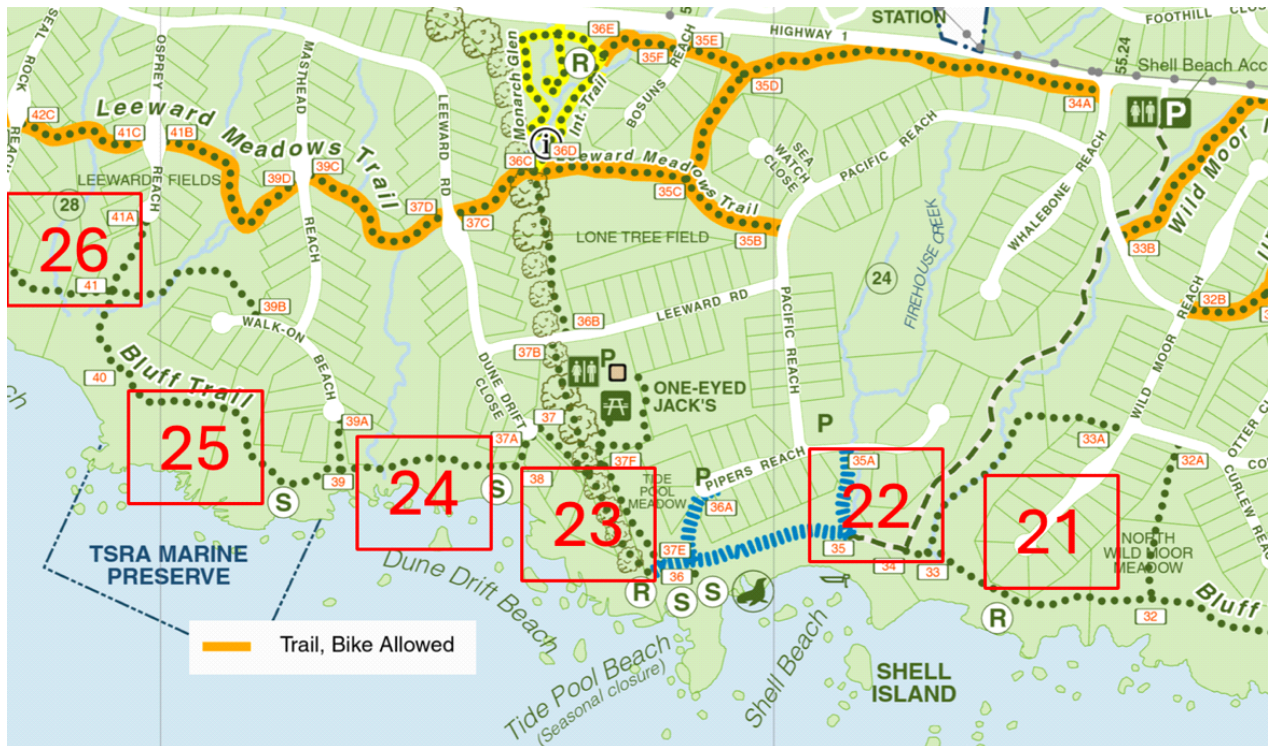
This is an **Easy Access Trail** from Cormorant Close for about 260 yards to the turnoff to a *rest/view log*. Fine for mobility scooters but probably too rough for most manual wheelchairs.

This *rest/view log* is 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 that should be accessible to scooters, but probably is too rough for most manual wheelchairs.

Bluff Trail for the remaining 270 yards to TP 35 is mostly flat, with only about 30 % having a small center berm. Fine for wheelchairs, but probably too rough for manual wheelchairs.

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 impossible for manual wheelchairs.

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 impossible for manual wheelchairs.

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

About 185 yards north of TP 32 is a spur 35 yards long, quite accessible to scooters **and probably OK for most manual wheelchairs**, 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 – too rough for manual wheelchairs, and 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.** Probably OK for most others with mobility problems, except perhaps for those with sore ankles, knees, or hips.

A much safer way for scooterers 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 scooterers)

22 TP 33 (Wild Moor Reach) to TP 35A (Pipers Reach) (.06 miles) **The Bluff Trail is impassible for wheelchairs and scooters because of stairs leading down to a narrow bridge.** Likely OK for most others with mobility concerns that do not preclude stairs.

The *Public Access Trail from Highway One to Shell Beach* is **impassable for wheelchairs and scooters** from the parking area to Pacific Reach (about 190 yards) because of a step-up to a small bridge, a large root, and two narrow bridges. The rest of the route (from Pacific Reach to the Bluff Trail, about 550 yards) is probably too rough for most manual wheelchairs but should be passable for most mobility scooters, though extremely bumpy in places. The public access trail then goes north along the Bluff Trail for about 60 yards, until seven stairs prevent further access by scooters (and wheelchairs). This public access trail should, however, be negotiable by almost anyone else with a mobility problem.

Value 1 -- nice ocean views, but very short

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* going very slightly south (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, **probably too dangerous for all wheelchairs and mobility scooters.**

Shell Beach is likely more accessible to people with mobility issues than any other Sea Ranch Beach except Walk-On Beach. However, the bottom of the ramp is sometimes eaten away by winter storms (as happened in 2024), rendering access to Shell Beach a real challenge for everyone, even those with no mobility concerns. Facilities & Resources generally waits until the end of the rainy season before trying to repair the ramp

The other branch of the TP 35A-TP 35 connector reaches the Bluff Trail 35 yards 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 even a 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 north of the *rest/view log* noted above and just west of the trail is a log with a "Protected Wildlife Area" sign, 12 inches high, that can serve as a 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 30 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 anyone 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 either of the QR codes you will find near the top of each set of stairs, or the one at the overlook noted below.

Also near the stair tops is a *rest/view log* (a bench), 17 inches high but subject to northwest winds.

Just east of TP 36 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. Such scares could constitute harassment, prohibited – with hefty penalties – by the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The Bluff Trail continues north beyond TP 36 for 35 yards to TP 37E, where a trail branches right and runs south of the One-Eyed Jack's hedgerow for about 175 yards to TP 37F. This trail is not part of the *Barrier Free Trail*, and its surface grass and dirt – rather bumpy -- likely passable by a mobility scooter but too rough for manual 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. There is another QR code here, with information about harbor seals.

The Bluff Trail then goes into the hedgerow for about 175 yards, where its surface is flat and smooth (despite a few small roots), quite suitable for many 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 proceeds through a cut in a large cypress tree that fell over in 2023, then reaches an opening where you have three options:

(a) to the left – the Bluff Trail itself veers left (north) to leave the hedgerow and proceeds 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 within 25 yards it 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, where 18 yards takes you to TP 37F, mentioned a few paragraphs above.

This trail post (37F) is on the trail segment that runs just south of the hedgerow. So turning right (west) for about 175 yards would get you back to the *Barrier Free Trail* (unless you are in a manual wheelchair). But you can also turn left (east) and head to the One-Eyed Jack's playground, except that two problems await you on route. *First* is about 40 yards of rather deep sand that would **certainly immobilize any wheelchair, and likely immobilize any mobility 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 wheelchairs and 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 (and wheelchairs definitely would do the same). Finally, you can try an unofficial trail that is right next to the fence, only about 80 yards long, thereby avoiding most but not all of the sandy areas.

All in all, the trails in this area are very challenging for mobility scooters and downright impossible for wheelchairs. **So anyone on a wheelchair or scooter who gets to TP 37F 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 (east) on Pacific Reach to Leeward Road, then left (north) on Leeward, then left (west) on Dune Drift Close to TP 37A. But the Bluff Trail from Dune Drift Close north has its own problems, described just below.

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

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 access to this beach, see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#)), then turns north along the bluff to a short 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 or power wheelchair should be guarded by a companion walking at his side and holding his shoulder, to prevent a tip-over**.

The trail from turn to the north then goes about 120 yards, first flat, then with a significant ravine in the middle – **scooters and wheelchairs, be careful!** – to a short bridge.

Before you get to the bridge, you will see a small peninsula jutting out to the northwest. The Board of Directors in April 2024 approved a *rest/view log* here because of the views over Dune Drift Beach, but F&R has not yet had time to install one. In the meantime, hikers can enjoy the views while standing up.

From the north end of the bridge to the north connector, about 115 yards, the trail is relatively flat and smooth, but with about 25 yards of sand, yet another potential problem for scooters and wheelchairs.

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 both wheelchairs and scooters**.

Value 2 – beautiful ocean views over Dune Drift Beach and to the north, and access to Dune Drift Beach, 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 beautiful ocean views and great tide pooling but identified on the Trails Map only as “TSRA Marine Preserve.” (For more on access to this beach, see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#).) After these stairs, the trail goes away from the ocean for about 225 yards on a generally flat and smooth surface (but with about 10 % small berm), 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. However, hikers who want to access the southern end of Walk-On Beach can take a path that branches west from the Bluff Trail about 40 yards north of TP 40. This path is about 35 yards long and rather steep but entirely sand – no stairs.

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 .16 miles from TP 39B to TP 41. This connector – which many people no doubt considers to be part of the Bluff Trail itself – is likely too rough for most manual wheelchairs but should be passable by mobility scooters (except perhaps in the rainy season, when it can be very wet and sloppy). No ocean views here.

Value 3 – nice ocean views for small part of the route, access to Walk-On Beach, but difficult access for wheelchairs and scooters

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

South connector, about .07 miles. has a small side-to-side tilt near TP 41. OK for scooters, probably too rough for manual wheelchairs.

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

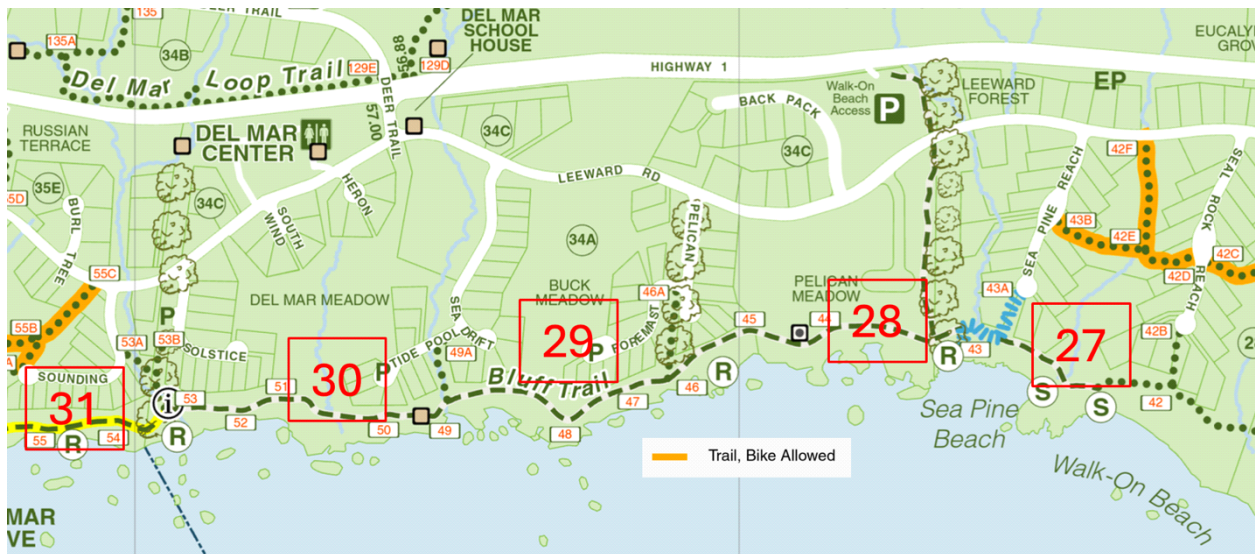
About 30 yards north of TP 41 and several yards west of the trail is a large log, 15 inches high and can provide a rest for any hikers needing same. Nice views over Walk-On Beach to the ocean.

Twelve yards beyond that log is a "Service Vehicles Only" sign, then a relatively gentle slope down to the beach. The slope is the easiest route for anyone to the beach – except that its surface is sand, not at all scooter-or wheelchair friendly.

About a third of the way from TP 41 to TP 42 and 35 yards west of the Bluff Trail is a sandy knoll that is just south of a grove of cypress trees. The Board of Directors approved a *rest/view log* here in April 2024 because of the pleasant views over Walk-On Beach to the ocean. F&R has not yet installed the log, but a detour to the site – well-sheltered from northwest winds – is nonetheless worthwhile.

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 – probably too rough for manual wheelchairs

Value 6 – short length but easy access to Walk-On Beach, beautiful views over that beach



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

South connector is .05 miles, flat but relatively bumpy (perhaps too rough for manual wheelchairs). 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. Both connector and trail are accessible to mobility scooters, perhaps even for manual wheelchairs, although bumpy. But about 40 yards after the stairs -- 50 of them! -- 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 problem for anyone else who has difficulty negotiating stairs.

For further information on Walk-On Beach access, see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#).

Just beyond the stairs to Walk-On Beach is an unofficial but well-worn trail that leads about 65 yards out to the end of the peninsula that separates Walk-On Beach from Sea Pine Beach. This trail is too narrow for wheelchairs or scooters but should be accessible to anyone else with mobility issues, and the views – to south, west, and north, as well as of crashing surf – are among the most memorable at The Sea Ranch.

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 Beach. For more on that access, see [Sea Ranch Beaches](#).

The 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 part of the trail is much too steep for wheelchairs, and the top few feet may even be too steep for most scooters. 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.

Value 4 – beautiful ocean views over Walk-On Beach and (north of bridge) over Sea Pine Beach, and access to both beaches (but problematic to Sea Pine Beach for those with mobility issues), but short length, and no through access for wheelchairs or scooters

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 is part of an **Easy Access Trail** but is nonetheless rather bumpy. It should be accessible to all scooters and most manual wheelchairs (but of course bumpy for them).

Bluff Trail *south* from this connector is relatively smooth and flat, OK for both scooters and most wheelchairs all the way (90 yards) to the bridge that prevents further access to wheelchairs and scooters (noted above). 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, even by manual wheelchairs, 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*, as well as a log that can be used for a short (or long) rest. Beautiful ocean views but not sheltered from northwest winds.

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 %. Segment is probably accessible to at least some mobility wheelchairs.

One hundred yards south of TP 46 and 10 yards west of the trail is a low *rest/view log* with beautiful views but exposed to northwest winds. **{{NEED TO REVISIT THIS AREA}}**

North connector starts at about 20 yards south of TP 46 and is covered with wood chips – relatively smooth, but a definite 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.

There are several large logs **[[[height?]]** where the north connector meets the Bluff Trail, great for resting and enjoying the views but exposed to northwest winds.

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 a definite 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. It is accessible to mobility scooters -- and probably for most wheelchairs -- but only on an out-and-back basis, since neither scooters nor wheelchairs can proceed on the trail as far as TP 49.

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.**

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). We discuss this segment, just below, even though most hikers with mobility issues should have little or no trouble with the stairs.

31 TP 50 to TP 55A (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 impassable one for scooters, probably not impassable for manual wheelchairs. Just before the connector reaches the Bluff Trail, it goes through two logs, 24 inches apart – wide enough for most scooters and wheelchairs.

The Bluff Trail **south** from TP 53 is about 45 % relatively flat and about 55 % with a large center berm, possibly accessible by many manual wheelchairs as far as TP 51. 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*.

Scooters 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 wheelchair- and scooter-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 8 yards south of TP 55 is a short stub that leads 15 yards northwest to *another rest/view log*, 15 inches high, fairly well shielded by coyote bushes from northwest winds, and with panoramic ocean views to the west and south.

Just beyond TP 55 is Historical Marker 35E-6, *Mill Buildings*, then a connector that leads inland .10 miles to TP 55A (Sounding). This connector is relatively flat but somewhat bumpy – but likely passable for many manual wheelchairs but requiring getting over (or proceeding ten yards to the west to avoid) a 4-inch curb at the end of Sounding.

There are two logs, 18 and 21 inches high, on either side of the start of the above 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, where the connector from Del Mar Point [Road] meets the Bluff Trail; those logs are 15 inches and 16 inches high. The connector itself is described in the next section.

Loop Trail. For a short 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 ten 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 57 (Del Mar Point) (.24 miles)

South connector (TP 55A at Sounding to the Bluff Trail at Historical Marker 35E-6, *Mill Buildings*) is .10 miles, relatively flat but somewhat bumpy; it is likely passable for many manual wheelchairs but 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. Likely passable for manual wheelchairs.

North connector leaves the Bluff Trail just south of TP 57, more than 3/4ths of the way between TP 56 and TP 57. It is .11 miles long and relatively flat but too rough for manual wheelchairs.

Value 7 – beautiful ocean views

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

South connector (TP 56A to Bluff Trail just south of TP 57) is .11 miles, relatively flat but too rough for manual wheelchairs.

Bluff Trail here is about 15 % relatively flat, about 5 % with a smallish center berm, and about 80 % with a largish center berm. Probably OK for most manual wheelchairs.

North connector (TP 60 to TP 60A, .06 miles) is through a hedgerow, with many shallow roots and a short slope near the Bluff Trail -- easily negotiated by scooters but too difficult for manual wheelchairs.

Value 6 – beautiful ocean views, but short

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

South Connector (TP 60 to 5 yards south of TP 60A, .06 miles) is through a hedgerow and ends with a short slope near the Bluff Trail. This slope is likely too steep for manual wheelchairs, while multiple roots

make for a bumpy ride on a scooter. Some logs along the connector provide useful resting spots, but without ocean views.

Bluff Trail here is about 10 % relatively flat and about 90 % with a largish center berm – probably accessible (though bumpy) via manual wheelchair.

About 150 yards north of TP 60 a stub trail heads northwest 25-30 yards to a *rest/view log*, 17 inches high and affording splendid views south but subject to full northwest winds.

At TP 61 is a long a connector (about one-fourth mile) to Windrow on Leeward Road (at TP 61A), probably too rough for manual wheelchairs. Also at TP 61 is a log with a “Private Property No Trespassing” sign, 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 50 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 north (Fish Rock) connector reaches the Bluff Trail is both a Del Mar Landing Marine Reserve Guide signpost QR Code), 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.

North connector (from about 40 yards south of TP 64, at Historical Marker 35C-4, *Russian Colony*, to TP 64A) is part of an ***Easy-Access Trail*** (marked on the 2024 Trails Map as “proposed”). It is .07 miles long, through a hedgerow, and quite smooth and likely accessible to most manual wheelchairs. The 4-inch curb at Fish Rock can be avoided by using the driveway 3-4 yards to the south.

Loop trail. For a good loop trail here -- fine for scooters but not for manual wheelchairs -- 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 total 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 an ***Easy Access Trail*** (marked on the Trails Map as “proposed”) .07 miles through a hedgerow to the Bluff Trail, then north about 40 yards to a *rest/view log* at TP 64. Very smooth and likely accessible to most manual wheelchairs. The 4-inch curb at Fish Rock can be avoided by using the driveway 3-4 yards to the south.

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

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

North 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 their users to turn around and go back to TP 64A (Fish Rock). 4-inch curb at Grey Whale (TP 67B).

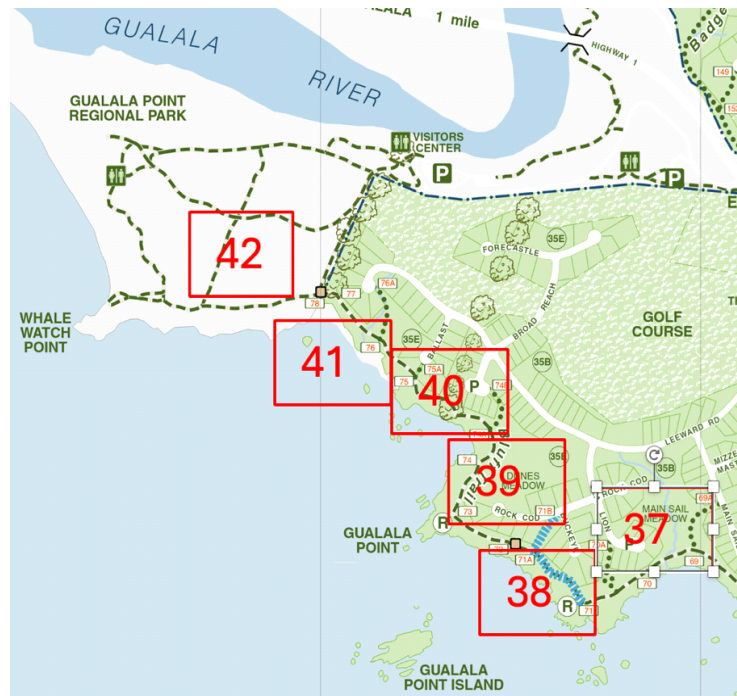
LOOP TRAIL. Fish Rock is a good place to start if you want to make a loop instead of retracing your steps. Park anywhere on Fish Rock and go west to TP 64A, then take the connector to TP 64 and head north on the Bluff Trail. Turn inland at TP 67 and cross the bridge (although this bridge is currently **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 to 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 get a glimpse of Salal Cove.

Value – 1 nice but rare ocean views, very short, difficult access for some.



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. Too rough for manual wheelchairs but OK for scooters using 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. **Scooterers 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.

North connector starts about two-thirds of the way from TP 70 to TP 71 and is .08 miles, partly smooth but partly “paved” with very large grave. Bumpy for scooters, too rough for manual wheelchairs.

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, bumpy for scooters, too rough for manual wheelchairs.

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.

The *rest/view log* is 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 -- and bumpier than most other East Access Trails -- but is likely accessible to many manual wheelchairs.

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**, but bumpier than most other such. Likely passable nonetheless by many manual wheelchairs but expect a bumpy ride.

Bluff Trail here is almost all relatively flat, with only about 10 % with larger center berms. It is probably accessible to both scooters and many manual wheelchairs at least as far as the sandy area noted below.

Forty-five yards north of TP 71A is Historical Marker 35E-2, *WWII Practice bombing Target*.

At TP 71 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*.

This *rest/view log* is 20 inches high, with magnificent views west to Gualala Point Island and north toward Gualala Point Regional Park, but fully exposed to northwest winds. This area is likely accessible to wheelchair- and scooter-users; 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 where **manual wheelchairs and even some powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters could get stuck**, until pulled back by a companions or passers-by. Also, the sandy trail can be relatively narrow because of encroaching ice plant. Trails Committee volunteers occasionally cut back this ice plant.

North connector (TP 74A to 74B) is .10 miles, very short and generally flat but somewhat bumpy, perhaps impassable for many manual wheelchairs.

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), but sand an issue for some

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, perhaps impassable for many manual wheelchairs.

Bluff Trail is almost all relatively flat, with only about 5% with a smallish center berm. Likely OK for most manual wheelchairs.

North connector (TP 75 to TP 75A, Ballast) is rather bumpy but extremely short (.02 miles). Likely OK for many manual wheelchairs.

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), likely OK for many manual wheelchairs.

This is the 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. Likely OK for many manual wheelchairs

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. Thirty yards farther north and 25 yards west of the trail is a site where the Board of Directors has approved a *rest/view log*. Although F&R has not installed the log yet, hikers can certainly enjoy the beautiful views towards Gualala Point Island, while sheltered from northwest winds.

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 -- much too rough for manual wheelchairs with thin tires -- and 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 sore ankles, knees, or hips.

Value 4 – good but limited ocean views, because of cypress trees

Sea Ranch Beaches



Sea Pine Beach Walk-On Beach

Photo by Bob Mulford

The Sea Ranch is blessed with numerous beaches, but scooters can get close only to **Shell Beach and Walk-On Beach, and most other beaches 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 flights 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 (more rocks than sand except at low tide), 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 (but too steep for manual wheelchairs), 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 as unsafe 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 one of the most accessible beaches to persons with mobility issues (Walk-On Beach is the other), since access is by a ramp that is too steep for wheelchairs or mobility scooters but is accessible to most others with mobility concerns. However, the bottom of the ramp can be eaten away by winter storms, as happened in 2024. Facilities & Resources repaired the damage after the rainy season, but the cycle can repeat itself in future years. When the bottom of the ramp has been washed away, agile hikers can usually 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 (except those who cannot negotiate stairs). 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 either set of stairs to see the reason for the closing, and to learn other details about harbor seals.

Dune Drift Beach (at TP 38) has somewhat 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 any rain.

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 the last stair post can help get down. Great area for tide pooling.

Walk-On Beach (north of TP 42). There are two official access and two unofficial ones to this beach. The *first official access* is down a 50-step staircase that starts north of TP 42. The *second official access* is about 50 yards north of TP 41, just past a "Service Vehicles Only" sign, then down a gentle slope to the beach -- too steep for manual wheelchairs but probably OK for most mobility scooters. And, of course, going onto the beach itself on a scooter or a wheelchair risks getting seriously stuck in the deep sand.

The *first unofficial access* trail is only 20-30 yards of the second official access trail described just above and just before a small bridge; it heads west but soon becomes quite difficult because of roots, narrowness, sideways tilt, and so forth. The *second unofficial access* 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.

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 quite 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.**

Non-Sea Ranch Trails and Beaches

1 Gualala Point Regional Park

People who must use wheelchairs or scooters might wish to try [Gualala Point Regional Park](#). 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; scooters can 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, google [parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/visit/find a park/...](http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/visit/find_a_park/)

2 Salt Point State Park



Salt Point State Park

Photo by Bob Mulford

People who must use wheelchairs or scooters might also wish to try the Gerstle Cove entrance to *Salt Point State Park*, just south of Mile Marker 39.98 -- about 10 miles south of The Sea Ranch's

southern border. You won't find beaches here, but the surf against the rocky promontories can be magnificent, and there is a .46-mile accessible loop trail that can get scooterers – and even manual wheelchairs – very close to the coast. For further details google salt point state ca, then click on Park Accessibility Information.

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 might have. You can email us at trails@tsra.org.