

MORE



Ocean Safety Know Before You Go

CAUTION: At any time, the beach and jetty can be hit by large waves that wash away anything in their path. Don't fall victim to these hazardous conditions.

- Never turn your back on the ocean.
- The jetty is not safe for recreational use and is not managed by the BLM.
- Consult a tide chart and check the weather for optimal conditions.
- Never attempt to rescue a dog from the ocean. Dogs are better swimmers than us and almost always get out safely on their own.



Contact Us

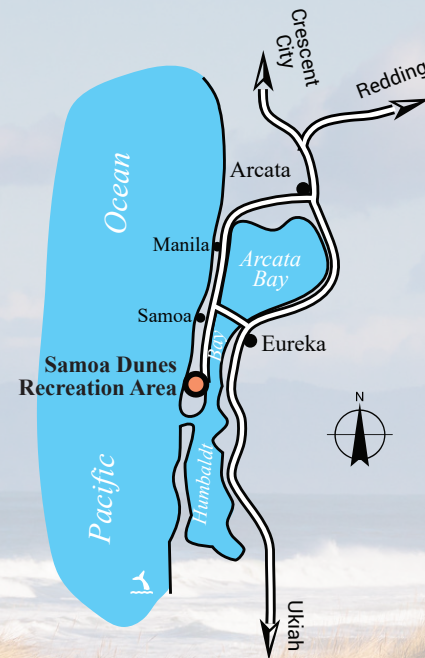
Bureau of Land Management
Arcata Field Office
1695 Heindon Rd, Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 825-2300
www.blm.gov/office/arcata-field-office



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Samoa Dunes

Recreation Area



Plan Your Visit

From U.S. Hwy 101 in Eureka, take Hwy 255 across the Samoa Bridge. Turn south (left) onto New Navy Base Road. Drive about four miles to the parking area.

From Arcata, take Samoa Blvd. west then south until it intersects with the Samoa Bridge, then follow above directions.



Map & Guide

EXPLORE



Welcome to Samoa Dunes Recreation Area

As a visitor to this 300-acre area, you can enjoy many recreational activities, including hiking, surfing, fishing, sightseeing, beach combing, off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, birdwatching, picnicking and kayaking.

Before you explore, make sure to familiarize yourself with OHV riding areas and respect the rights of other visitors.

Those on foot should be cautious while in or around OHV riding areas.

Samoa Dunes Recreation Area is open during daylight hours only.

Beach morning glory
(*Calystegia soldanella*)



Off-Highway Vehicle Use

- It is unlawful to operate any vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- For the safety of all visitors the use of firearms, bow and arrows, and fireworks are prohibited.
- Unless your off-highway vehicle (OHV) is designed to carry a passenger, carrying passengers on an OHV is prohibited.
- All vehicles must be registered and a green or red sticker or license plate must be clearly displayed.
- OHVs must be equipped with an approved spark arrester and muffler.
- Flags are required on all OHVs and passenger vehicles operating off highway.
- Observe posted signs and fenced areas.
- Limit your speed to 15 mph when within 50 feet of people and gathering areas.

A War on Our Shore?

During World War II, the Coast Guard was responsible for the surveillance of the Pacific coastline. To prepare for a potential threat, they constructed bunkers to house ammunition. Although the war never reached the Northern California shores, the bunkers are a reminder of what might have been. You can learn more about the history of the bunkers at the OHV staging area.

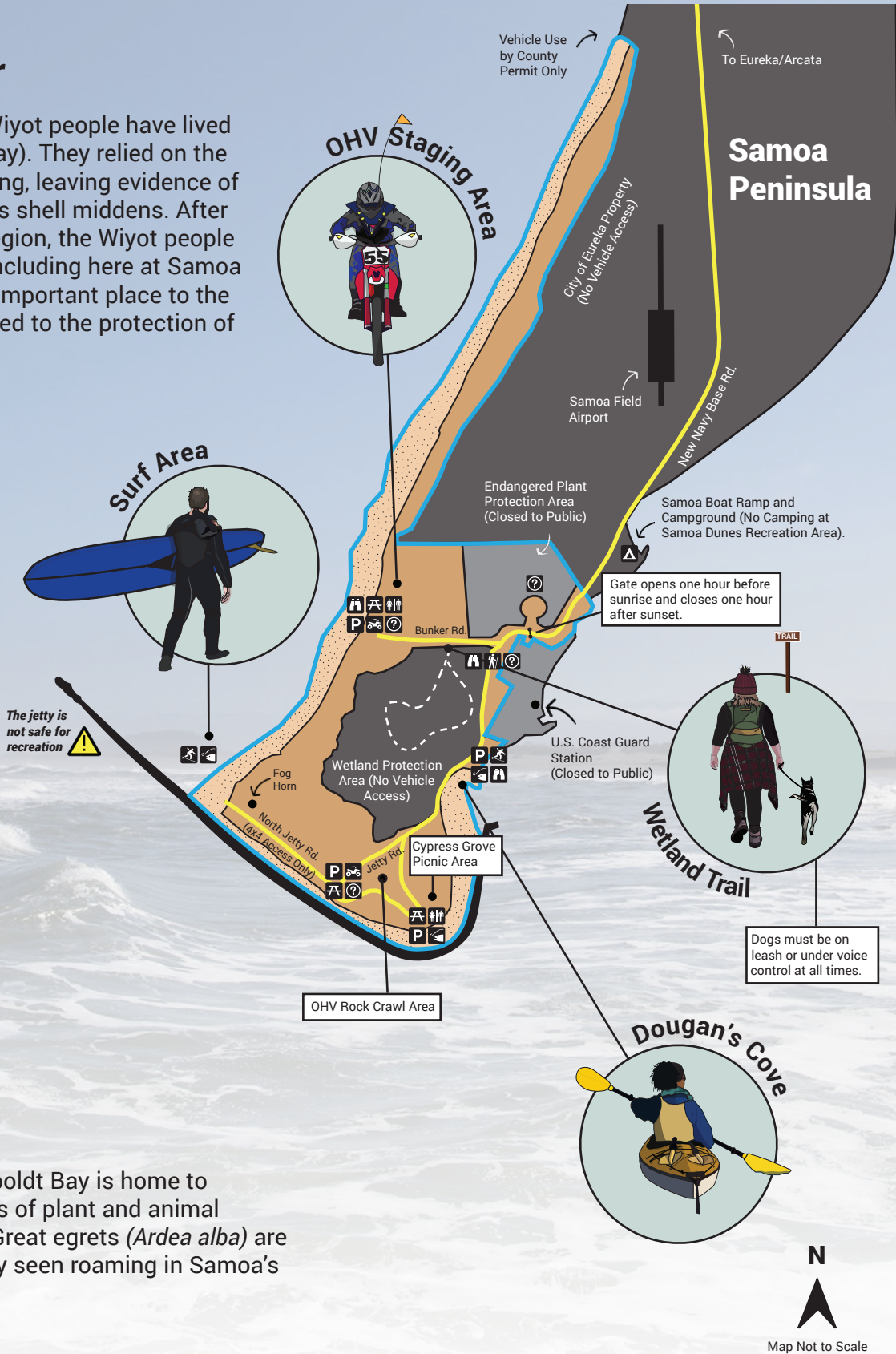
A Place to Gather

Since time immemorial, the Wiyot people have lived around Wigi (the Humboldt Bay). They relied on the bay for seasonal food gathering, leaving evidence of their harvest in piles known as shell middens. After the discovery of gold in the region, the Wiyot people were forced from their land, including here at Samoa Dunes. This area remains an important place to the Wiyot people who are dedicated to the protection of their ancestral homeland.



Great Egret

The Humboldt Bay is home to thousands of plant and animal species. Great egrets (*Ardea alba*) are commonly seen roaming in Samoa's wetlands.

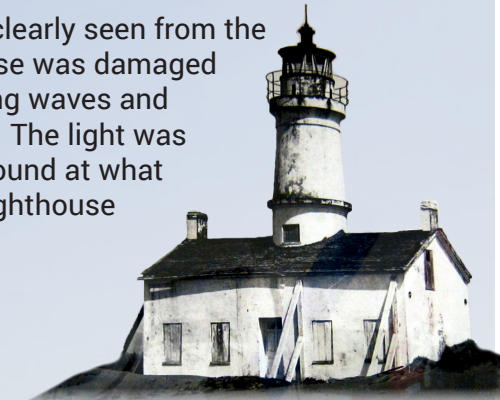


The Lighthouse That Couldn't

This area was the site of the Humboldt Harbor Lighthouse, built in 1856 to mark the entrance of Humboldt Bay and help ships navigate dangerous coastal waters.

Built too low to be clearly seen from the ocean, the lighthouse was damaged by constant crashing waves and abandoned in 1892. The light was moved to higher ground at what is today Waluph Lighthouse Ranch.

Remnants of the Humboldt Harbor Lighthouse can still be seen from the one-mile Wetlands Trail loop.



Humboldt Harbor Lighthouse

A Botanical Treasure

Hidden within the dunes grows the Menzies' wallflower (*Erysimum menziesii*), a rare plant found only on the coast of California. It is an essential part of the dune ecosystem, providing habitat and food for pollinators like bees and butterflies.

To survive and thrive, The Menzies' wallflower requires sparsely vegetated, open sandy areas. Threatened by habitat loss, invasive species, and human activity, its survival depends on careful stewardship.

To conserve this botanical treasure, the northeastern most 40-acres of Samoa Dunes Recreation Area has been set aside and **closed to public access**.

Menzies' wallflower

