

Pebble Beach

Pebble Beach is a part of Bean Hollow State Beach. There is a trail along the bluff leading from the small parking lot at Pebble Beach south to the parking area at Bean Hollow Beach.

Telephone: 650-879-2170

Operating hours: Day-use area, 8:00-sunset.

Location/Directions: Off Highway 1, 16 miles south of Half Moon Bay.

Facilities

Free entrance and parking for only a few cars.
Chemical toilets.

A few picnic tables and a barbecue grill.

Dogs are permitted provided they are controlled with a leash of no more than six feet at all times.

Features

The beach features outcrops of Pigeon Point Formation sandstone. The surface of many of the rocks has been weathered in a honeycomb-like surface texture—known as tafoni (pictured above).

The beach has deposits of varicolored, water-worn pebbles several feet deep, including agate, chalcedony, jasper, moonstones, and sardonyx.



Many native plants, such as the coast angelica in the picture, can be found along the trail between Pebble Beach and Bean Hollow State Beach.



History

Pebble Beach was a part of Rancho Butano, given to Ramona Sanchez on in 1838. Manuel Rodriguez received the United States patent for it in 1866. The rancho was later purchased by Clark & Coburn of San Francisco.

Loren Coburn was born in Vermont and moved to California in 1851. He worked first in mining and then as a businessman in San Francisco. He moved to the Pescadero area in 1872 and entered into land development. Coburn erected a large hotel on the bluff above Pebble Beach in the 1890s, hoping to make it a popular destination for vacationers taking the planned Ocean Shore Railroad from San Francisco. The San Francisco earthquake in 1906 ended construction on the railroad, and the hotel permanently closed.



Loren Coburn's Pebble Beach Hotel, as depicted in a watercolor by local artist Galen Wolf. (<http://www.halfmoonbaymemories.com/category/loren-coburn/>)

Bean Hollow State Beach



Bean Hollow State Beach includes two sheltered coves, separated by a rocky point. The beach is frequented by dog owners, as it is one of the few local state beaches that allows dogs. The bedrock at Bean Hollow consists of sandstone and conglomerate beds of the Cretaceous Pigeon Point Formation. A native bunchgrass (*Nassella pulchra*) colony occurs at the beach.

The beach, originally known as Arroyo de Los Frijoles, marked the southern extent of Rancho Butano, which was granted in 1838 to Ramona Sanchez.

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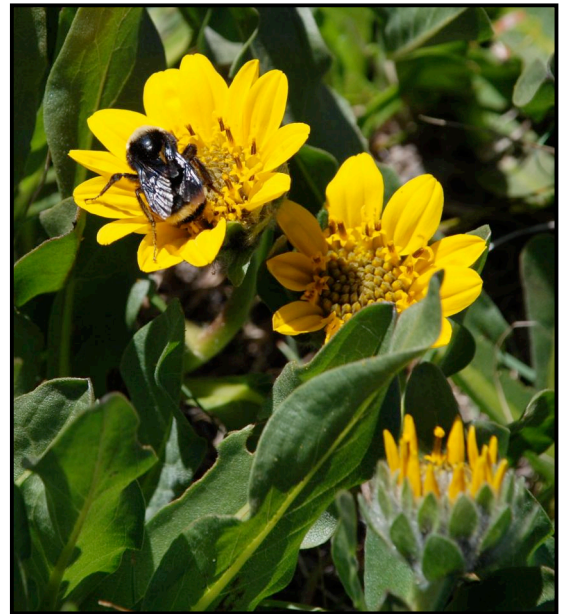
Location/Directions: Off Highway 1, 17 miles south of Half Moon Bay.

Facilities

Free entrance and parking for only a few cars. Portable toilets.

A few picnic tables.

Dogs are permitted provided they are controlled with a leash of no more than six feet at all times.



Flowers along the trail north of the beach include the coast trefoil (left) and narrow-leaved mule ears (right).

Features

The one-mile walk between Pebble Beach and Bean Hollow Beach offers a close-up look at tide pools, wild flowers, and colonies of harbor seals and shorebirds. The trail is one of the best places along the San Mateo coast to see a largely undisturbed landscape of native coastal plants.



Interpretive signs (such as the one below) are being installed along the trail to help visitors appreciate the rich natural beauty and diversity of the area.

A Seaside Garden

Thriving in Harsh Conditions

The trail between Pebble Beach and Bean Hollow winds among native wildflowers and shrubs that manage to thrive in this rugged habitat. This diverse and well-established coastal strand plant community is a riot of bloom in late spring and early summer. Stay on the trail to protect the plants and enjoy the beauty around you.

Plants Adapt to Survive
Wind, waves, and salt spray create a tough environment. Plants adapt to these conditions in different ways.

The coyote brush here grows low and close to the ground with smaller leaves that help it survive the high winds.

Stone crop stores water in its leaves to make it through long, dry summers.

Other plants have waxy or hairy leaves to reduce water loss from evaporation.

Plants shown in the illustration: Coyote Brush, Beach Burr, Stone Crop, Yellow Bush Lupin, Seaside Daisy, Coast Buckwheat, Lizard Tail, Beach Primrose, Leather Leaf Fern.

BEAN HOLLOW STATE BEACH