



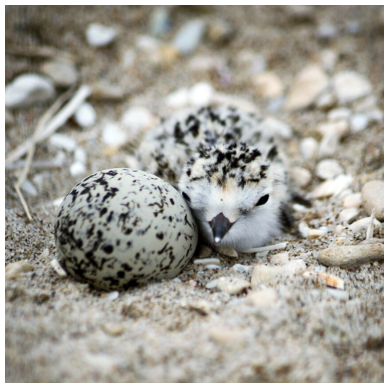
Public Access at Surf Beach

Frequently Asked Questions

LEARN MORE ABOUT PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS FOR THE LOMPOC COMMUNITY

Which parts of Surf Beach are open? When is the beach open?

Surf Beach can be accessed from the Surf Station entrance year-round, and from the Ocean Park entrance outside of the March-September nesting season for western snowy plovers. The beach is open to the public seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.



Why has Surf Beach closed in the past while other beaches with snowy plover habitat remained open?

Surf Beach is federal military land, meaning it is under stronger regulations under the US Endangered Species Act than other beaches. While Oceano Dunes also has habitat for the western snowy plover, it is state land managed by California State Parks.

Does the Lompoc community have a voice in decision-making about beach access?

Historically, the voice of Lompoc residents did not receive enough attention in decisions about beach access. In 2019, the community's concerns were finally heard! Public comments from local community members motivated the California Coastal Commission to help improve beach access.



Why are parts of the beach fenced-off all the way to the tideline?

Western snowy plovers need habitat for both nesting and foraging. While nesting tends to occur in dune and sandy beach habitat, foraging often takes place near the shore. When a human is near, a snowy plover may be deterred from feeding and could become separated from its chick.

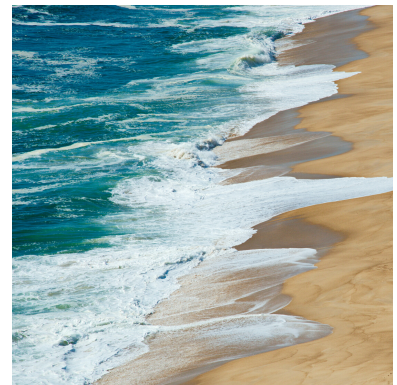


Why are there law enforcement officials on the beach?

Surf Beach is part of Vandenberg Air Force Base, and the U.S. Air Force often monitors the beach to ensure that rules are adhered to. These rules benefit both people and wildlife. Please enjoy the half-mile of beach that is open to the public and be mindful of fenced-off areas.

What safety measures should I keep in mind while at Surf Beach?

Surf Beach is a wild, open stretch of California coastline. Large waves, swift ocean currents, high winds, and adverse weather conditions can occur. Please always keep an eye on the ocean and maintain awareness of yourself and others. If there is a safety emergency, call 911.



What can I do to help keep Surf Beach open for years to come?

The 2019 policy update to keep Surf Beach open represents a promising future for beach recreation in Lompoc! You can help maintain public access by respecting beach rules. Please do not trespass into closed areas, walk dogs between March-September, camp, fish, or have fires.