

How the Tour Works

- Look for signs with a location and cell tour stop number:



- Use your cell phone to call **(831) 998-9458**
- Type the Stop Number into your phone
- Listen to the recorded message to learn about the history and natural features of the Fort Ord Dunes

Have a Smartphone?

- Install the **Discover OnCell App** to view photos and transcripts for tour stops
- Tour content is also available on the mobile web at <http://myoncell.mobi/18319989458> or by scanning the QR Code below:



The tour is free, but mobile data and calling rates still apply.

Our Mission

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the district office well in advance at (831) 649-2836. This publication, including tour stop information, is available in alternate formats by contacting:

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

**Monterey District
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93933**

For information call: (831) 649-2836

711, TTY relay service

www.parks.ca.gov

Discover the many states of California.™

Fort Ord Dunes State Park

Cell Phone Tour



Out on the dunes where soldiers danced in Stilwell Hall,
Smith's blue butterflies dance from buckwheat to buckwheat.

WILDLIFE AND PLANTS

Smith's Blue Butterfly

This small butterfly has a lot to lose. In 1976, the Smith's blue butterfly became one of the first insects protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act. Their survival depends entirely on coast buckwheat and seacliff buckwheat which grow along the central coast of Monterey County. These butterflies are still endangered and have lost over half of their buckwheat habitat to coastal development, human activities, and invasive plants. Without buckwheat, they will lose their source of food and shelter and become extinct.



Iceplant

Iceplant comes from South Africa where it is known as the Hottentot fig. It was brought to California in the early 1900s to stabilize soil. The U.S. Army planted it in Fort Ord to control erosion and drifting sand on the dunes. Iceplant is a drought resistant succulent that can absorb water and nutrients much faster than native plants. As a result, iceplant spreads quickly and crowds out native plants such as buckwheat, sand gilia (endangered), and Monterey spineflower (threatened).

Western Snowy Plover

The Western snowy plover is a Pacific Coast shorebird that is listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Plovers nest on the ground along the beach. They are easily flushed away from their chicks or their nests by dogs and people which can make them vulnerable to predators and exposure. The females leave the nest after the eggs hatch and the males must rear the chicks on their own. They lead their chicks to where they can find food instead of feeding them directly.

Safety & Stewardship

Protect the Dunes

- Stay on designated trails. Native dune plants are fragile, and local populations can be eliminated by foot traffic.
- Leashed dogs are allowed on the paved trail. Dogs are not allowed on the beach.

Stay Safe

- Water recreation is not advised. Strong rip currents and undertow are common in this area—use caution when wading.
- Do not allow children near the water without adult supervision.
- These beaches are not staffed. For emergencies, call 911. For other issues call (831) 649-2836 on weekdays.

Get Involved

- Join a planting event to help restore native plants to the dunes. Go online or check your local paper for events.
- Volunteer with CA State Parks. Contact Patricia Clark-Gray at (831) 649-2855 for opportunities!
- Pick up litter when you see it.

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A Threat to Biodiversity on the Dunes

FORT ORD'S TROOPS

A Foundation of Cultural Diversity

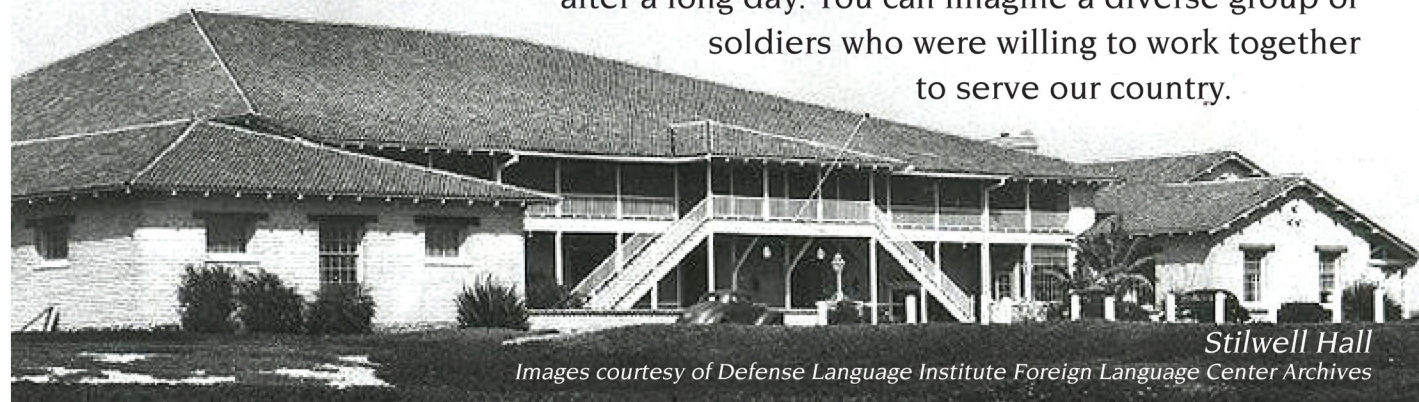
Near the end of World War I, the U.S. Government purchased 15,000 acres of land just north of Monterey for field artillery training in 1917. The artillery field—known as Gigling Reservation—was named after the German family that originally settled in the area. The reservation was renamed Camp Ord in 1933 and then officially designated as Fort Ord in 1940.



Fort Ord played a vital role in processing and training over 1,500,000 soldiers during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Fort Ord was also uniquely diverse at the time. The 2nd Filipino Infantry was established in Fort Ord in 1942. African Americans were regularly stationed at Fort Ord because it was the first army post that implemented racial integration and accepted interracial marriage. The orderly conduct and ethnic diversity of the military in Fort Ord created a culture of racial tolerance in nearby communities.



There is a lot of military history left to explore at the dunes. You can imagine the sound of rifle training at the firing ranges, the careful organization of ammunition in the bunkers, or maybe what it was like for soldiers to relax and unwind at Stilwell Hall after a long day. You can imagine a diverse group of soldiers who were willing to work together to serve our country.

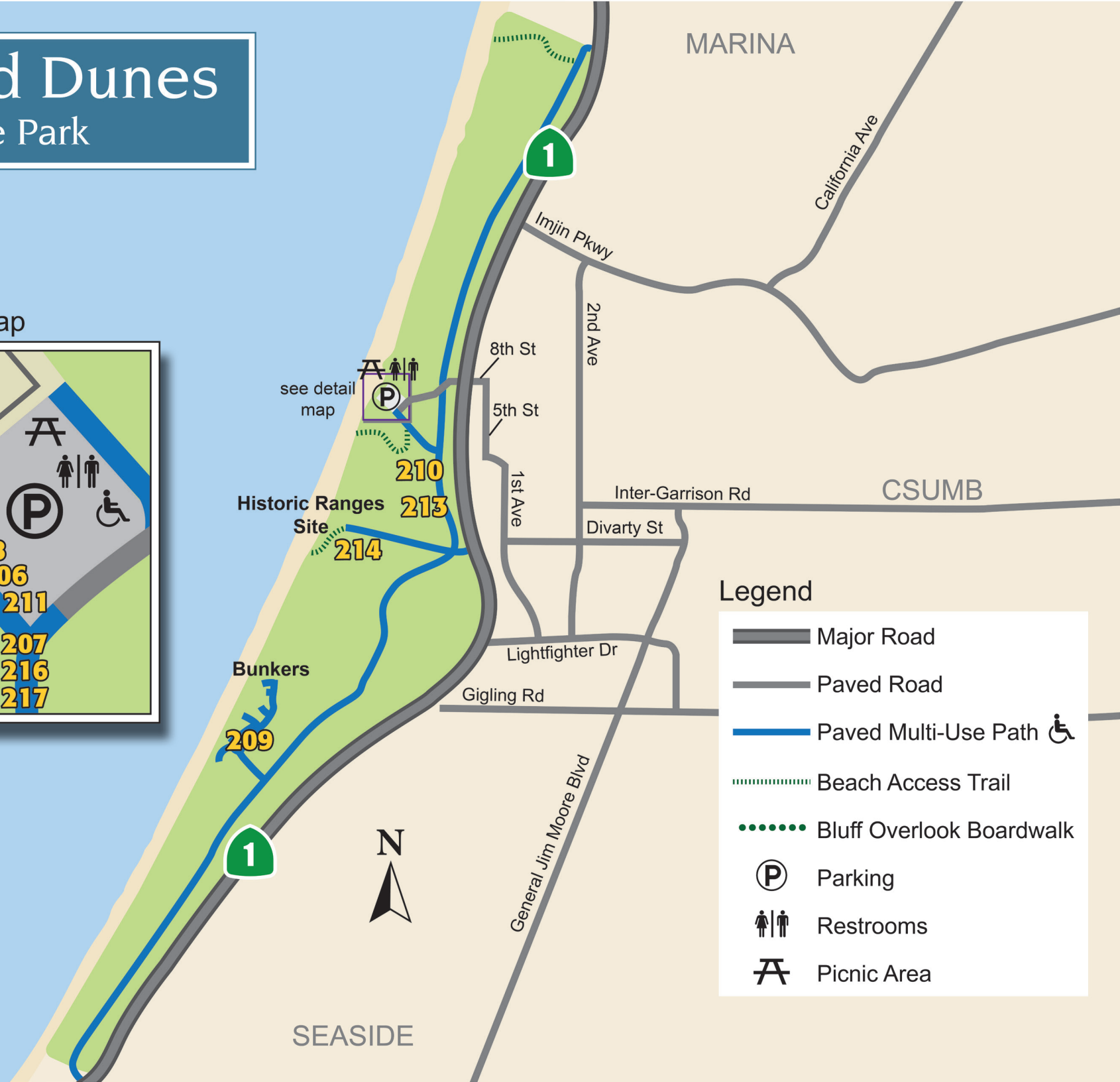
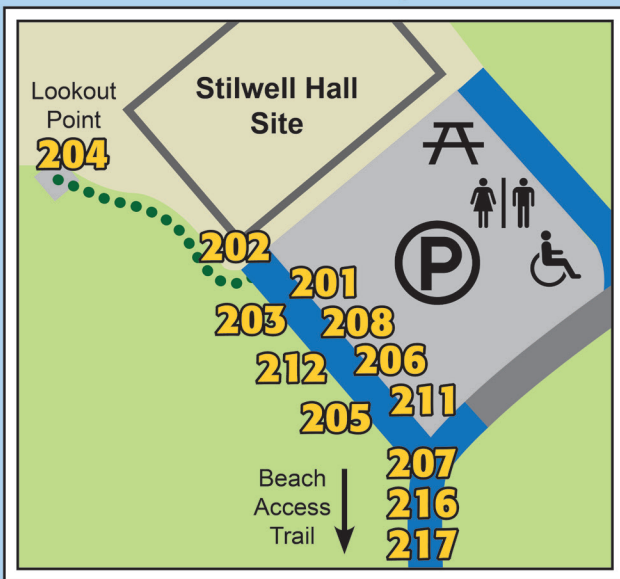


Stilwell Hall

Images courtesy of Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Archives

Fort Ord Dunes State Park

Stilwell Hall Area Map



Legend

- Major Road
- Paved Road
- Paved Multi-Use Path
- Beach Access Trail
- Bluff Overlook Boardwalk
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Picnic Area