



You're Invited!

The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking your input for the Stinson Beach Parking Area Rehabilitation Project (project) at Golden Gate National Recreation Area (the park). NPS is soliciting your comments to help develop a proposed action, preliminary alternatives, and identify potential impacts on natural and cultural resources.

The park is welcoming public comments on initial planning processes from November 10 through December 10, 2021. To present information about the project, learn about potential impacts to the local community, and receive public comments, **NPS will host one virtual webinar on November 18, 2021 at 5:30 PM Pacific Standard Time.** You are invited to attend this webinar to learn more about the project and to ask NPS representatives any questions that you may have.

For additional information about the project, the virtual webinar, and how to provide comments, please visit <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/StinsonBeachParkingRehab>.

Background

Stinson Beach is located in Marin County, California, approximately 15 miles north of San Francisco and is a unit of the park (**figure 1**). It is a very popular destination with a large white sand beach that is easily accessible from California State Route 1 (Shoreline Highway). Parking at Stinson Beach is divided into three main parking areas (i.e., north, central, and south), each served by public restrooms, picnic areas, and beach access. Parking capacity at Stinson Beach is approximately 840 cars, but the parking areas are sometimes filled beyond capacity. This creates congestion and safety issues and causes conflict with town residents due to spillover parking in neighborhoods. Stinson Beach can experience a peak of 10,000 visitors on warm days and holidays.

Currently, the parking areas at Stinson Beach are prone to frequent flood damage from Easkoot Creek and coastal storm surges. The channel capacity of Easkoot Creek, which flows adjacent to the parking areas, has decreased over the past several years due to sediment deposition from storm events in the watershed. Easkoot Creek now overflows its channel during 5- to 10-year storm events and floods the Stinson Beach parking areas.

Prior to 2017, flooding often affected the adjacent residences and businesses. At that time, an improved berm was constructed along the northern side of the north parking area to contain flood flows until the water could pass through an outfall to the ocean. The armored outfall was constructed to reduce damage caused by flood flows and wave run-up (i.e., the maximum onshore elevation reached by waves) during storm surges. However, heavy rains in 2018 caused major damage to the north parking area. Subsequent repairs and site drainage improvements have helped to address the flooding and this project would continue to build on those improvements.



Stinson Beach Parking Area Rehabilitation Project Civic Engagement

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
California



Legend

- Roads
- ▭ Project Area
- ▭ Park Boundary



Sources: ESRI 2021;
Marin Co 2021; WSP 2021
Coordinate System:
SPSC California Zone III

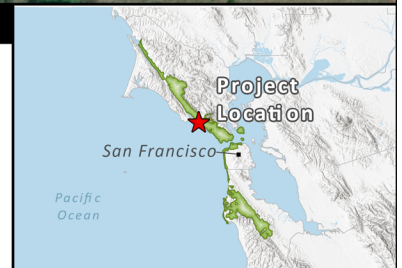


Figure 1 | Project Area.



Purpose of and Need for Action

The purpose of the project is to provide continued safe and sustainable visitor access to Stinson Beach by renovating badly deteriorated parking facilities.

The project is needed because deteriorated pavement and poor subgrade conditions are making it increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain safe driving and pedestrian conditions in the parking areas. Normal wear-and-tear over time, the flooding of Easkoot Creek, and coastal storm surges have damaged pavement and stormwater drainage facilities (**figure 2**).



Figure 2 | *Photograph of flood damage near the Central Parking Area at Stinson Beach.*



Figure 3 | *Vehicles parked at the North Parking Area at Stinson Beach.*



Figure 4 | *The South Parking Area at Stinson Beach.*



Project Goals

The project would provide sustainable visitor access and flood protection within the constraints of the natural environment while also considering the existing built environment. The overall goals of the project are to:

- Maintain visitor amenities that are resilient with respect to flood risk in the area;
- Improve traffic circulation to reduce congestion and accommodate bus turnaround;
- Maintain parking capacity within the constraints and limitations of the site; and
- Design for climate adaptation so that facilities can handle the increasing intensity and frequency of storms.

Specific objectives for each of the three parking areas are to:

North Parking Area

- Minimize flood risks to adjacent downstream property owners north of the parking areas from uncontrolled flood waters and storm surges;
- Reduce flooding in the parking area from Easkoot Creek; and
- Address flood risks from coastal storm surges and extreme tides.

Central Parking Area

- Provide an overflow channel to prevent flooding from Easkoot Creek; and
- Improve the visitor arrival experience by accommodating vehicular turnarounds, maintaining the existing bus stop.

South Parking Area

- Remove earthen berms to facilitate the maneuvering of vehicles;
- Improve parking layout to better accommodate emergency response vehicles;
- Provide better pedestrian pathways and beach access; and
- Protect the sand dunes, wetlands, and sensitive plant species in the area.



Figure 5 | *The Central Parking Area nearly at full capacity.*



YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL HELP SHAPE THE ALTERNATIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

How to Comment

Your comments are a fundamental aspect of park planning processes and NPS wants to better understand what you value about Stinson Beach as it relates to the project. Your input will be used by NPS to help develop preliminary alternatives for the project.

The park will be utilizing the NPS' Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website to share project information and request your feedback. As part of this process, we are reaching out to gather input by initiating a comment period, starting **Wednesday, November 10, 2021**, which will be open for 30 days through **Friday, December 10, 2021**.

Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personally identifiable information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personally identifiable information) may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

You can submit your comments in two ways:



Submit your input electronically (preferred method):
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/StinsonBeachParkingRehab>



Attend the virtual webinar on **November 18, 2021**, at **5:30 PM PST**.
Please click this URL to join.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81955560003?pwd=bEQyejBUem8vdzRmZVNmRVF0RnlpUT09>

Project Schedule

NOVEMBER 2021	CIVIC ENGAGEMENT 
FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) PUBLIC SCOPING
JUNE-JULY 2022	DRAFT EA RELEASE, PUBLIC MEETING & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
AUGUST 2022	FINAL EA RELEASE