



Shore Acres State Park

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

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Salem, OR 97301

1-800-551-6949



oregonstateparks.org



Friends of Shore Acres
www.shoreacres.net
1-866-888-6100

All photos except where noted courtesy of Shirley Bridgham and the Friends of Shore Acres. Thanks!

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Perched on a scenic bluff high above the Pacific Ocean, Shore Acres began as a private estate with luxurious gardens featuring trees, shrubs, and flowering plants brought from around the world aboard the sailing ships of lumberman and shipbuilder Louis J. Simpson.

Simpson developed the summer home into a showplace three-story mansion complete with



Louis J. Simpson, entrepreneur

a heated, indoor swimming pool and a large ballroom. The grounds featured five acres of formal gardens, including a Japanese-style garden built around a 100-foot lily pond.

When fire destroyed the mansion in 1921, Simpson began to build an even larger replacement – two stories high and 224 feet long. However, financial losses during the Depression caused both house and grounds to fall into disrepair. In 1942, Simpson’s beloved Shore Acres was purchased by the state of Oregon for use as a public park.

While structural deterioration eventually forced the mansion to be razed, the restored formal gardens continue to attract thousands of visitors. The garden features year-round displays of floral and scenic beauty and the annual “Holiday Lights at Shore Acres” event that runs from Thanksgiving through New Year’s Eve.

A fully-enclosed observation building now occupies the site of Simpson’s mansions, offering spectacular views of rugged

Photo: Coos County Historical Society



“The showplace that was”

seascapes, towering storm waves, and glimpses of migrating whales from December through June.

One mile north of Shore Acres, Sunset Bay State Park offers extensive picnic and overnight camping facilities. One mile to the south, Cape Arago State Park has hiking trails, picnic tables, and excellent opportunities for viewing tidepool life and marine mammals (whales, seals, and sea lions). All three parks are connected by a segment of the Oregon Coast Trail.



Photo: Luis Velasquez



The Year of Beauty...

Seasonal Peak Bloom Periods

Ever since its beginnings as Louis Simpson's private estate, the plantings at Shore Acres have been designed to take advantage of the area's mild climate. They have created a garden for all seasons—with showy peaks of different kinds of flowers for almost every time of the year.

*Hundreds of spring bulbs and daffodils
—Late February through March*



*5,000 tulips
—Late March through April*



*Hundreds of rhododendrons and azaleas
—April through mid-May*



*More than 800 rose bushes
—June through September*



Thousands of flowering annuals/perennials— May through September

*300 dablis
—August through mid-October*



*300,000 or more holiday lights
Thanksgiving Day through New Years Eve*



Year-Round Flora

Interesting and unique flowers, evergreen shrubs and trees, including the largest Monterey Pine in Oregon (near the greenhouse).

Bloom times are based on normal/average conditions at Shore Acres and may vary. If you have questions, please talk to a member of the garden staff or call (541) 888-3732.

Shore Acres State Park is located on the Cape Arago Highway, 13 miles southwest of Coos Bay/North Bend and U.S. Highway 101.

The park is open every day from 8 a.m. to dusk. Please check posted times at park entrance for exact closing times. A daily vehicle parking fee is charged. Annual day-use permits are available for purchase. An Oregon Pacific Coast Passport or your camping receipt from Sunset Bay State Park or any other Oregon State Park campground are accepted as a daily permit.

Please display the receipt on the driver's side of your dashboard.

No pets permitted outside of vehicles.

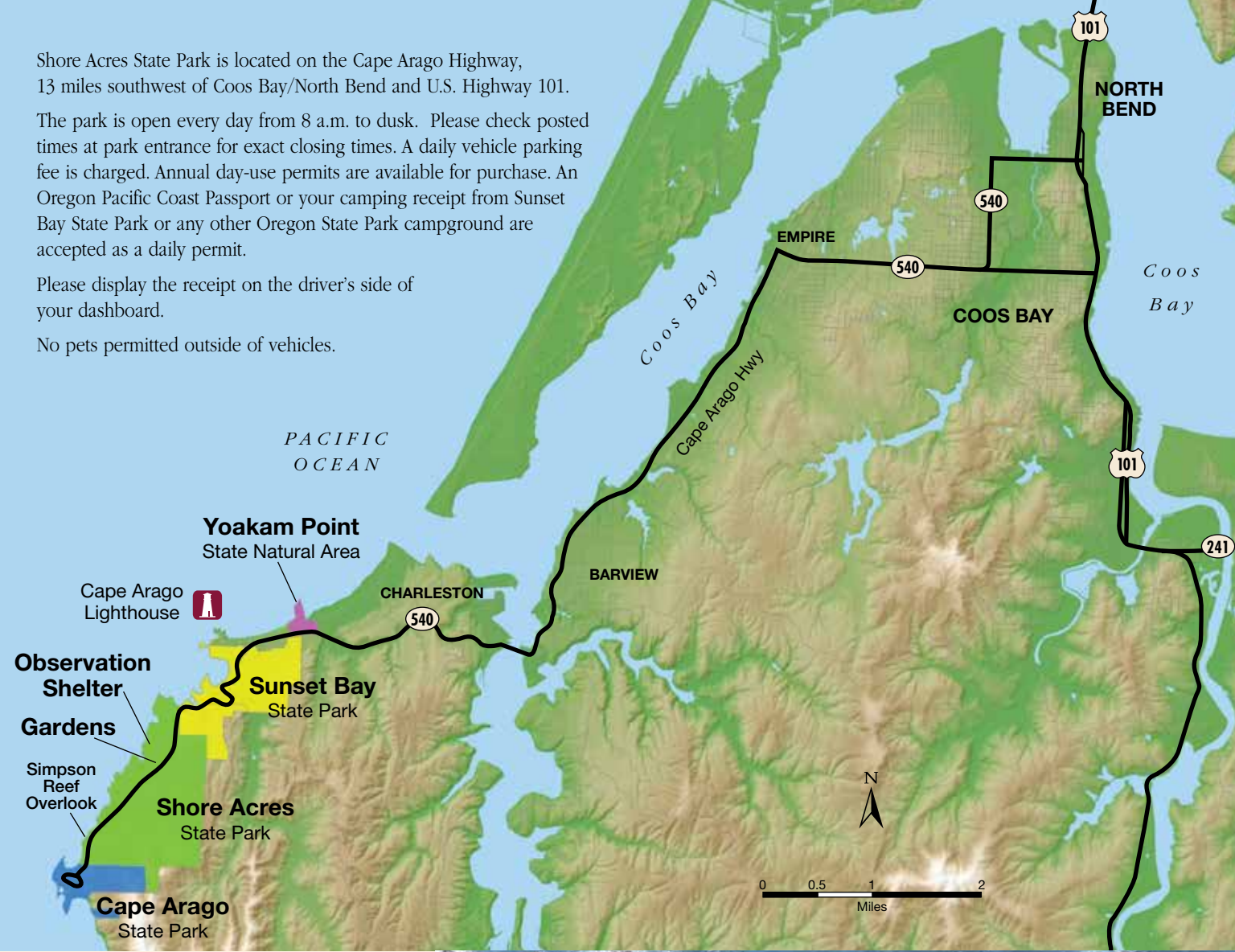


Photo: Luis Velasquez



Photo: Memo Jasso