Beaches and tide pools at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve are closed until further notice to protect people against the spread of COVID-19. Here are some nearby San Mateo County Parks that are open and offer hikes, ocean views, wildflowers and redwoods. Enjoy!

Just south of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is **Pillar Point Bluff**, a 220-acre park with sweeping ocean views. A walk along the marsh at Pillar Point is a great way to see many birds as the area provides essential habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl during migration. Night herons roost in trees nearby. Great blue herons, egrets, ducks, and geese are some of the birds you will find in the marsh with various raptors hunting overhead.

Just north of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is **Devil’s Slide**, a paved multi-use trail that was once part of Highway 1. Learn about local history and geology as you stroll the 1.3-mile trail. On a clear day, look for the Farallon Islands, a national wildlife refuge that protects a large seabird colony and attracts sea lions, whales and sharks.

Tucked in the foothills of Pacifica to the east of Linda Mar Beach is **San Pedro Valley Park**. San Pedro Creek flows through the park and provides critical spawning areas for steelhead trout. A good hike through eucalyptus, lush coastal scrub and beautiful Manzanita groves gets you to this view on the left of the Pacific Ocean.

Offering both easy and challenging hikes as well as breathtaking views of San Francisco and the bay, **San Bruno Mountain** is an ecological island surrounded by development. The Mountain is home to four threatened or endangered butterflies as well as a plethora of wildflowers. Make sure to read up on the park’s history as it is a great study on park and habitat preservation.

A little further afield, but very much worth the drive, **Sam McDonald Park** is a hidden gem, nestled in the redwoods near the town of La Honda. Included within this park is the Heritage Grove, a magnificent old-growth redwood forest easily accessible from a small parking lot on Alpine Road.