

McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park



100th Anniversary 2026 Visitors Guide

Published for our visitors by the McArthur-Burney Falls Interpretive Association

100 Years a State Park

Burney Falls was named after Samuel Burney of South Carolina, who died in the area in 1859. Several local features came to be named after Burney. John and Catherine McArthur arrived in the 1860s, purchased thousands of acres, and opened a mercantile store in the area. Over time, several family farms and the small settlement of Peck's Bridge sprang up along the Pit River near the falls. Early pioneer Isaac Ray established a shortlived lumber mill above the falls, but the area was sparsely populated well into the 1900s. The nearby Pioneer Cemetery bears witness to some of the historic names associated with this part of California.

In 1917 the newly formed Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) began buying up land and water rights in the area. Alarmed residents foresaw that PG&E, in the interests of providing more hydroelectric power, would dam the Pit River and destroy Burney Falls. Frank and Scott McArthur, sons of John and Catherine, purchased 160 acres surrounding the falls; in 1920 they deeded the property to the State, requesting only that it be named for their parents. **The land officially became a state park in 1926.** The Pit River was eventually dammed; the Pit 3 dam formed the Lake Britton reservoir. Some of the park's oldest features—including a historic cabin and Diablo stone stoves—were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps prior to World War II.

We extend a warm invitation to all nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers. McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, nestled in the heart of natural splendor, awaits your exploration. Here's what you need to know for an unforgettable visit.

What's Inside

- 1. Local History and Historic Photos:** Dive into the past as we share captivating stories and vintage images of the park. Discover the people who shaped its legacy and the events that unfolded here.
- 2. Natural History Unveiled:** Explore the ecosystems that thrive within our boundaries. Learn about the delicate balance of life—where every plant, insect, and critter play a vital role.
- 3. Meet the McArthur-Burney Falls Interpretive Association:** Our dedicated volunteers work tirelessly to enhance your experience. Get to know this passionate group and their commitment to preserving our natural heritage.
- 4. Embark on the Discovery Quest:** Earn this year's coveted patch by answering thought-provoking questions. Strengthen your connection to McArthur Burney Falls as you delve deeper into its resources.

THE HEARTBEAT OF THE PARK: BURNEY FALLS



Our park owes much of its vitality to Burney Falls and its meandering creek. These life-giving water sustain an abundance of flora and fauna. From majestic trees to elusive wildlife, the park teems with diversity. Follow our Facebook and Instagram accounts for glimpses into our rich ecosystems. We are pleased to announce the reopening of the Falls Loop Trail after undergoing important construction last year. You will now have access again to the base of Burney Falls and be able to make the full loop around the falls enjoying the spectacular views and nature. This construction greatly improved the beauty, safety, and access to the Falls Pool area. We hope you enjoy. Please make sure you are staying safe and obeying all signs and rules. Important information can be found throughout the park. But you can always feel free to ask any Park Staff and we be happy to give you an answer or point you in the right direction.

WE ARE A BIODIVERSE HAVEN IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Nestled between the rugged dry Southwest and the lush wet Pacific Northwest, McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park is on the eastern edge of a swath of notable biodiversity. From the coast to near the Nevada border, this region rivals tropical rainforests in the variety of animals and plants that thrive here. The secret lies in its varied elevations and diverse soil compositions, influenced by the surrounding mountain ranges. Traveling just a few miles can reveal entirely different rainfall patterns, weather conditions, and niches to be filled by the adaptable.

California State Parks Mission Statement

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.



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On the Internet:

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=455
https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25720
<https://burneyfallspark.org/about-mbfia>
<https://www.facebook.com/mbfmfsp/>
<https://>

www.visitcalifornia.com/experience/burney-falls/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burney_Falls
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McArthur%20%93Burney_Falls_Memorial_State_Park
<https://burneyfallspark.org/>
<https://www.tripadvisor.com/>

[Attraction_Review-g32125-d102684-Reviews-McArthur_Burney_Falls_Memorial_State_Park-Burney_California.html](#)
<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/california/burney-falls-loop-trail>

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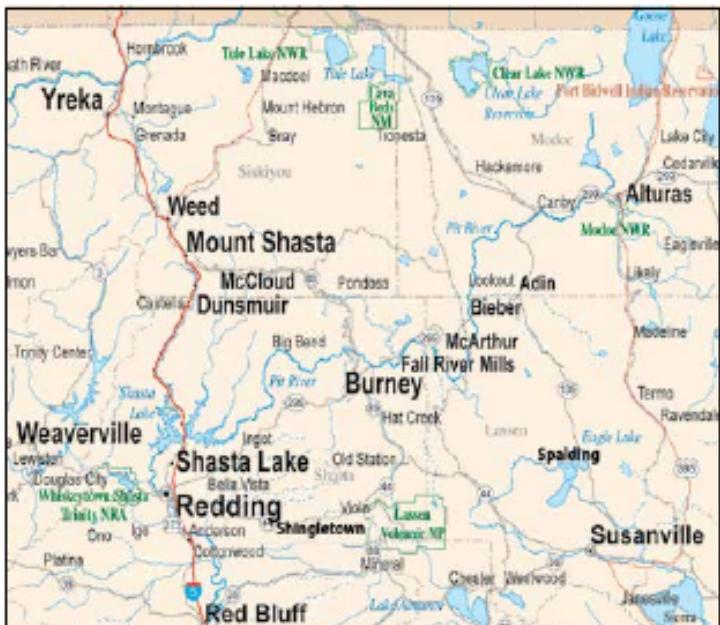
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To view more photographs, visit
www.vtbo.com/1913-18



Places to Visit in the Area



Volcanic Scenic Highway: For road warriors, the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway passes by Burney Falls State Park and offers majestic views of the eastern Shasta volcanic country from Lassen National Park, up past Mt Shasta and into Oregon. Pick up a brochure or book at the Visitor Center and plan some daytime road trips.

Medicine Lake Highlands: Approximate 53 miles from the park, Medicine Lake Highland is an ancient shield volcano with Medicine Lake at the top. Glass Mountain, found here, is a significant outcropping of obsidian rock used by Native Americans for arrowheads and other tools. You can drive right to the base of the mountain.

Lava Beds National Monument: Numerous underground caves and an information visitor center are available. A full day or more can be spent exploring the caves or Captain Jack's stronghold.

Subway Cave: A river of lava over 20,000 years ago left tube-like caves and Subway Cave is the largest accessible tube in the flow. A self-guided trail in the Lassen National Forest is located near the town of Old

Station, ¼ mile north of the junction of Highway 44 and 89 across from Cave Campground. Contact the Old Station Information Center between April and December. Hours vary.



Ahjumawi State Park and Big Lake: The ancestral lands of the Achomawi, whose name translates to “where the waters come together,” is only accessible by boat, canoe, or kayak. The park is situated on the Fall River. Visitors can launch boats into Big Lake at a Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) public boat launch known as Rat Farm in McArthur.



Fort Crook Museum and Historical Society: This park is located in Fall River Mills just west of the central town, and is on Highway 299, 15 minutes east of crossing Highway 89. The museum and round barn offer a look at the European settler's life in the late 1800s.

Baum Lake: Baum Lake is perfect for a peaceful afternoon kayaking or canoeing. Open only to non-motorized vessels it is a sanctuary for exotic bird life and an archaeologically significant site for Native Americans. The lake is one of the region's most popular fly fishing locations.

McCloud Waterfalls: The McCloud River Trail passes three beautiful waterfalls as it winds through a canyon of basalt lava rock. This smooth, well maintained trail offers summer swimming, fall foliage, and an early spring thaw, making it fun and accessible almost year-round. Follow Highway 89 north. Turn south on Road 40N44. (Look for a Fowlers Camp/McCloud Falls sign.)

Fishing Rules

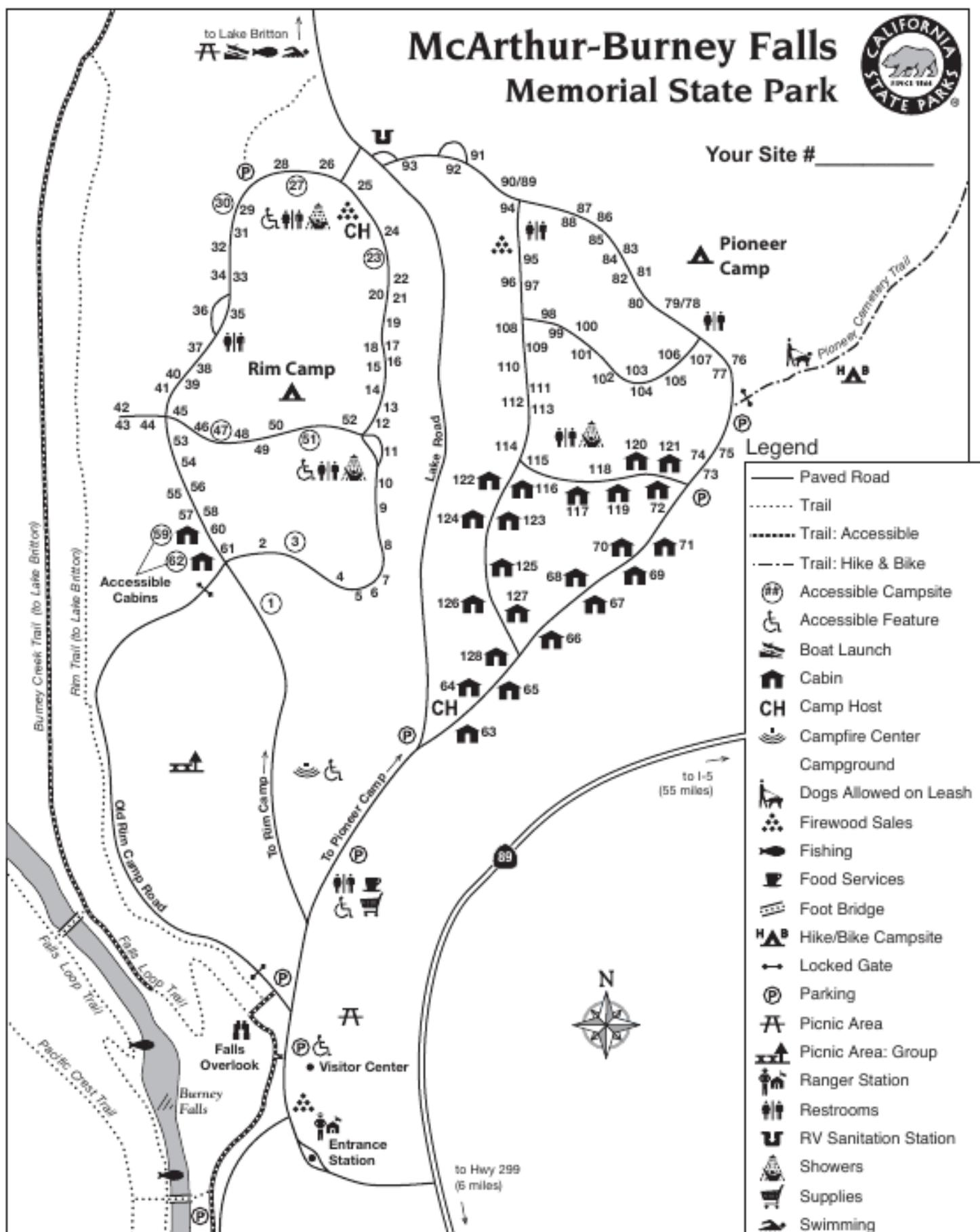
Dog Rules



McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park



Your Site # _____



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For Emergencies, Dial 911.

Map not to scale

| |
|------------------------|
| Paved Road |
| Trail |
| Trail: Accessible |
| Trail: Hike & Bike |
| Accessible Campsite |
| Accessible Feature |
| Boat Launch |
| Cabin |
| CH Camp Host |
| Campfire Center |
| Campground |
| Dogs Allowed on Leash |
| Firewood Sales |
| Fishing |
| Food Services |
| Foot Bridge |
| HAB Hike/Bike Campsite |
| Locked Gate |
| Parking |
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| Ranger Station |
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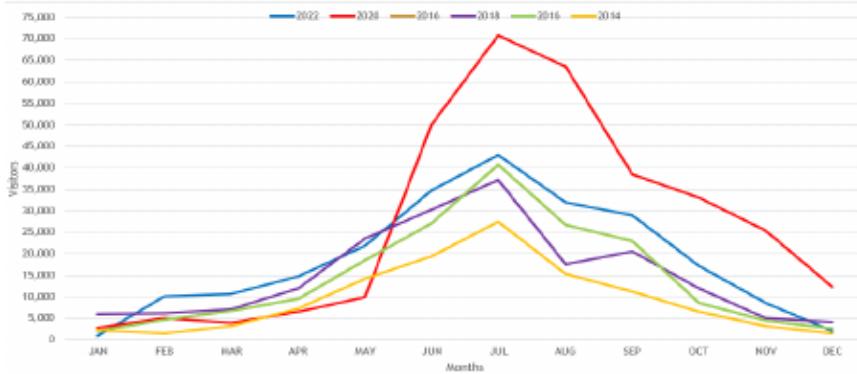
Camping Rules

ADA Access

Grocery Outlet

Visitor Information

Burney Falls Day Use Visitation



If you've visited the park over the last several summers you have probably noticed the increase in visitation. Long lines and wait times, nowhere to park, and the trails being crowded are just a few of the issues affecting this beautiful park.

The graph above illustrates our jump in Day Use visitation from 2014 to 2022. Keep in mind this graph doesn't include campers or those that park outside the park and walk in. In 2014 we had around 114,000 Day Use visitors come to Burney Falls. In 2022 that number almost doubled to 224,000. The busiest year this park has had in its history was in 2020 when we reached 322,000 Day Use visitors.

The increase in social media popularity and the pandemic in 2020 played a huge role in the increase in visitation.

These drastic increases in visitation have thus taken their toll on the park infrastructure (and its employees) resulting in the trail closure for rehabilitation.

What else can be found inside the State Park

TIMING MATTERS

Summer weekends at McArthur-Burney Falls Park are bustling with activity. To ensure the best experience, we recommend visiting outside peak hours. Otherwise, you might find yourself parking a bit farther from the Overlook or being asked to return later when the park reaches capacity.

CAMPING AND CABINS

With over 125 camping sites, including reservable cabins, we offer a variety of options for your stay. Wake up to the sounds of nature and immerse yourself in the serene surroundings. Don't forget to explore our two large picnic areas and enjoy a leisurely meal amidst the beauty of the outdoors.

LAKESIDE ADVENTURES

Head down to the lake for a refreshing swim or rent a boat from our launch ramp. Whether you're paddling across the water or simply basking in the sun on the beach, the reservoir called Lake Britton offers a tranquil escape. There are restrooms and a fish cleaning station down at the marina.

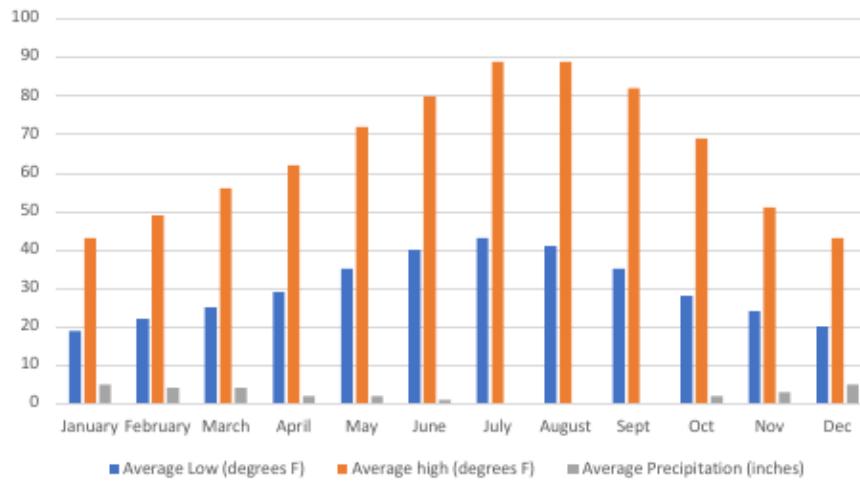
CAMPFIRE DELIGHTS

Our camp store stocks essential supplies and tasty snacks. Plus, they generously donate the ingredients for S'mores for our campfire programs. Join us most Saturday evenings at the Campfire Center for a cozy and delightful experience. Public Restrooms are located near the camp store.

INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

Immerse yourself in the park's rich history and natural wonders through our interpretive activities. From guided walks and talks to Art in the Park sessions, Jr. Rangers, and singalongs, there's something for everyone. Keep an eye out for weekly interpretive notices posted near the restrooms to stay informed.

Average Temps and Precipitation at McArthur Burney Falls



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