

McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park



100th Anniversary 2026 Visitors Guide

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

Becoming 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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Supervisor's Welcome

Welcome from MBFIA

Meet the Ranger



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Hooked on FRESH



Ask about our Responsible Choice seafood.



Any changes? Update coupon!



Do we have new art for
2026?

Friends of the Falls 2025 Donations

Updated List

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Discover gifts, decor & antiques

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Albaugh Ranch Guest House & Wedding Venue

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To view more photographs, visit www.vbo.com/191318

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Water sports and fishing -
Lake Britton
Pit River and Baum Lake
Biking -
Great Shasta Rail Trail
Hiking -
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Golf -
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Services
Grocery Stores
Gas Stations
Vehicle maintenance
Entertainment
Movie Theatre
Mother Nature's bounty
Accommodations and restaurants

Please use our app
FALL4NORCAL for additional information

BURNEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
36879 Main Street, Burney, CA 96013
Phone: (530) 335-2111 • Email: burneycoc@gmail.com

**Do you love this park? So Do We!
Become a Board Member**

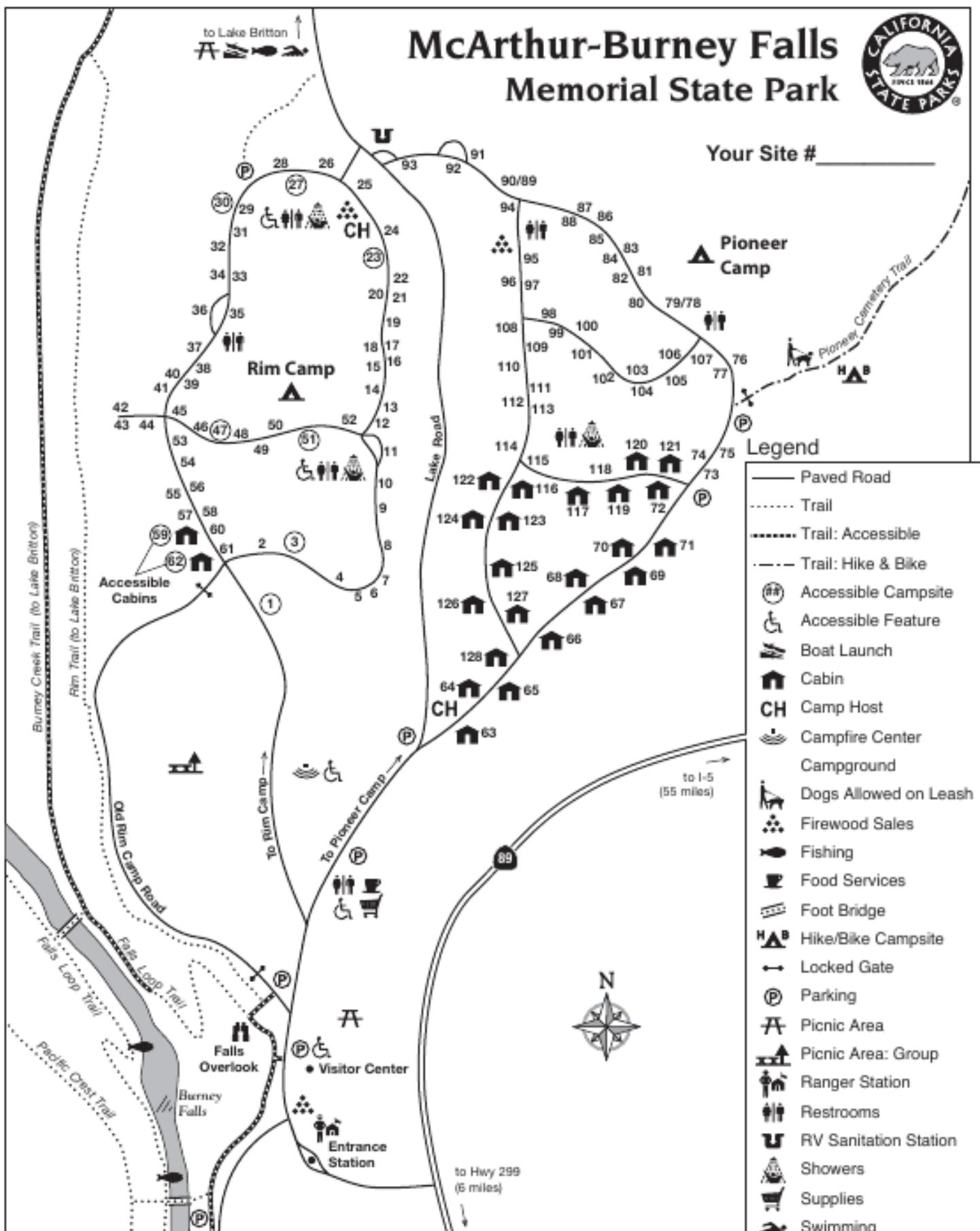
Any updates?



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 |
| Hike/Bike Campsite |
| Locked Gate |
| Parking |
| Picnic Area |
| Picnic Area: Group |
| Ranger Station |
| Restrooms |
| RV Sanitation Station |
| Showers |
| Supplies |
| Swimming |
| Viewpoint |
| Waterfall |

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