

McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park



VISITORS GUIDE

Published for our visitors by the McArthur-Burney Falls Interpretive Association
McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, 24898 State Highway 89, Burney, CA 96013 • (530) 335-2777

Burney Falls: A Wonder of the World

Few places stop you in your tracks the way Burney Falls does. Cascading 129 feet over a mossy cliff, the falls emerge not only from Burney Creek above but also from dozens of spring-fed seeps within the rock face itself. The result is a shimmering curtain of water that flows year-round — an unforgettable scene that led President Theodore Roosevelt to call it “A wonder of the world.”

Whether you're here for a day, a long weekend, or a full week of camping, McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park offers experiences to match the majesty of the falls themselves: scenic trails, lake side recreation, geology, wildlife, and quiet corners for reflection.

TOP THINGS TO DO

1) Take in the Falls from Multiple Vantage Points
• **Main Overlook:** A short, paved path from the parking area brings you to the iconic viewpoint — ideal for first-timers, families, and visitors with limited mobility.

• **Falls Loop Trail (~1 mile):** Descend to the base for the sound and cool mist, then circle back up for changing angles and photo opportunities.

• **Upper Creek Views:** Continue along the loop to glimpse serene stretches of Burney Creek framed by forest.

How to enjoy it best: Arrive **early (morning light)** or visit **late afternoon** for fewer crowds and softer photography. Bring a light layer — mist can be cooling even on warm days.

2) Explore the Trail System

• **Falls Loop Trail:** Signature route with elevation changes and benches for breaks.

• **Burney Creek Trails:** Peaceful riparian corridors rich in bird life and native plants.

• **Lake side Paths at Lake Britton:** Gentle grades; great for a stroll with views of boats and shoreline.

• **Pioneer Cemetery Trail:** Visit a little used cove on Lake Britton and learn about some of the first settlers to the area at the cemetery used by the inhabitants of the town Peck's Bridge.

How to enjoy it best: Wear sturdy footwear; trails can be **wet, slippery, and uneven**. Carry

water, and yield courteously on narrow sections. Keep your pace relaxed — you'll notice more wildlife and geology.

3) Lake Britton: Paddle, Fish, and Relax

• **Paddling & Boating:** Kayaks, canoes, and small boats are perfect for exploring coves.

• **Fishing:** Seek trout, bass, and pan fish (valid California fishing license required).

• **Shoreline Picnics:** Pack a lunch and enjoy breezes off the water.

How to enjoy it best: Check local conditions before launching, wear a **properly fitted life jacket**, and mind wakes and wind. Early in the day often means calmer water and better fishing.

4) Wildlife Watching & Photography

• **Birds:** Watch for ospreys near the lake, swallows around the cliffs, and songbirds in forest and riparian edges.

• **Mammals & More:** Deer at dawn/dusk, plus squirrels, lizards, and occasional river otters.

• **Photography:** Neutral-density filters and a tripod help capture silky water and vibrant greens — always from **designated areas**.

How to enjoy it best: Move slowly and quietly. Use a long lens rather than approaching wildlife. Protect your camera from mist near the base of the falls.

5) Camping & Cozy Overnights

• **Campgrounds:** Family-friendly sites beneath conifers, close to restrooms and park amenities.

• **Cabins (where available):** Rustic charm with quick access to trails.

How to enjoy it best: Reservations are required from May 16th through September 15th. Keep food secured, follow quiet hours, and enjoy the night sky — Burney's dark evenings are excellent for stargazing.

Protecting Burney Falls & Park Resources: Basic Rules

To keep this “wonder of the world” thriving for future visitors, please follow these essentials:

Stay on designated trails and overlooks.

Off-trail travel causes erosion, tramples fragile plants, destabilizes slopes, and can be dangerous near cliffs and wet rock.

No swimming or wading near the base of Burney Falls or in closed areas.

Cold, swift water, submerged hazards, and slippery surfaces pose serious risks. Swim only in **designated lake areas**.

Leash pets (max 6 feet) and keep them in approved areas.

Pets are welcome in many developed zones but are **not allowed** on any trail but the Pioneer Cemetery Trail. Do **NOT** leave pets unattended. Always clean up after your pet.

Pack it in, pack it out.

Use trash and recycling receptacles where provided; otherwise carry out all waste — especially food scraps and fishing line.

Respect wildlife.

Observe from a distance. Never feed animals; human food harms their health and changes natural behavior.

Fires & stoves only in designated facilities.

Follow posted fire rules and seasonal restrictions. Keep fires small and attended; fully extinguish with water until cool.

Fishing requires a valid license and adherence to regulations.

Check current **California Department of Fish and Wildlife** rules for seasons, limits, and methods.

No drones.

Unmanned aircraft disturb visitors and wildlife and are prohibited.

Protect sensitive features.

Do not climb on wet rock, enter closed zones, or touch mossy seeps that feed the falls — their delicate root systems sustain year-round flow.

Be considerate of others.

Share viewpoints, keep voices low in quiet areas, and step aside on narrow trails. The sound of water is part of the experience — let it lead your attention to the awesome beauty of the area.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR A SMOOTH VISIT

• **Timing:** Weekday mornings and shoulder seasons (spring/fall) offer lighter crowds.

• **Weather & Layers:** Mountain conditions change quickly; bring a jacket even in summer.

• **Footwear:** Non slip shoes are essential — expect damp surfaces and uneven steps.

• **Hydration & Snacks:** Carry water; there are limited services once you're on trails.

• **Accessibility:** The main overlook is on a paved path; ask staff about accessible viewpoints and facilities.

• **Safety:** Keep children close near overlooks; heed all posted signs.

• **Leave No Trace:** Plan ahead, travel on durable surfaces, dispose of waste properly, respect wildlife, and be mindful of others.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR DAY

Start at the overlook for the “wow,” walk the loop to feel the mist and cool of the canyon compared to the warmth of the rim, break for a lake side picnic, then return for golden hour views. If you're staying overnight, catch the hush that settles after sunset — you'll hear Burney Falls in a new way when the forest grows quiet.

IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW

BURNEY FALLS VOLUNTEER DAY, Saturday, September 12th — Come and help out with the park!

HERITAGE DAY, Sunday, October 11th — Come celebrate the rich heritage of the park and area!

Thank you for helping us protect this extraordinary place — so every visitor can discover why Burney Falls truly feels like a wonder of the world.

Need current conditions, closures, or reservations? Stop by the park entrance station or visit the official California State Parks website/app before you travel. Regulations and access can change with season and safety needs.

Supervisor's Welcome

Hello and welcome to McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, a true natural wonder of the world. Those of us at the park are honored to care for such a special place and are dedicated to ensuring your visit to the park is memorable and inspiring.

I still remember clearly my first visit to the park years ago. Before arriving I naively thought something along the lines of, "Oh I've seen lots of waterfalls. How much different could this one be?" Nothing could have prepared me for the sense of awe and wonder I experienced standing at the bottom of the trail and looking up at the magnificent cascade of water before me. No photo, video, or description truly captured the indescribable power and energy of this place. Now, years later and after experiencing the waterfall thousands of times I'm grateful that I still feel that same sense of awe I experienced on my very first visit. Our mission at the park is to share those experiences with you by ensuring a safe, smooth, and memorable visit.

Part of that mission involves always working to improve our operations and visitor experience. This year I am pleased to announce that the park will be testing a day-use reservation system. The goal of this system is to create safer traffic conditions, lessen impact on park infrastructure, respect and protect the falls and surrounding area, and to facilitate a more enjoyable visitor experience. Advanced day-use reservations will be required to visit the park on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from the beginning of May until the end of September. The number of reservations each day will be limited to a sustainable amount and those arriving without a reservation will be turned away and encouraged to visit another time. If you have tried visiting the park in recent years and experienced the dangerous traffic conditions on Highway 89, full parking lots, park closures, or long lines for the restrooms – this project aims to address those issues. Visitors with camping or cabin reservations are exempted and we believe this will contribute to a smoother check-in process and more enjoyable camping experience.

Another less-obvious but important upgrade for this year was the work performed on our restroom septic system. The project began at the end of last season and is now ready to allow our main day-use restroom to better accommodate the increased crowds. Our visitors should hopefully experience fewer restroom closures and shorter wait times.

The park has so much to offer and I hope your visit leaves you refreshed, inspired, and with a sense of awe. Our goal is to facilitate such a smooth visit for you, that you hardly notice our presence. You can help with that by following park rules, staying safe, and by respecting your fellow park visitors. If you have any questions about how to do that, please talk to one of our friendly park employees or volunteers.

Be sure to check out the rest of the park while you are here. Many will soak in the inspiration of the falls without ever taking the time to explore everything else the park has to offer. Go ask some questions in the visitor center and be inspired to read more about the origin of the falls. Take the trek on the headwaters trail to the Headwaters pool and think about the journey of water and what your role in the water cycle is. Read the gravestones at the pioneer cemetery and consider the people buried there who made this place home, and the native peoples who have lived (and continue to live) here long before the pioneers. Cast a rod down at Lake Britton and appreciate how great a day of fishing is. Whether you're here for an hour or camping for a week, we are glad you visited.



– Blair Pubols, Supervising Ranger

Welcome to a new season at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park

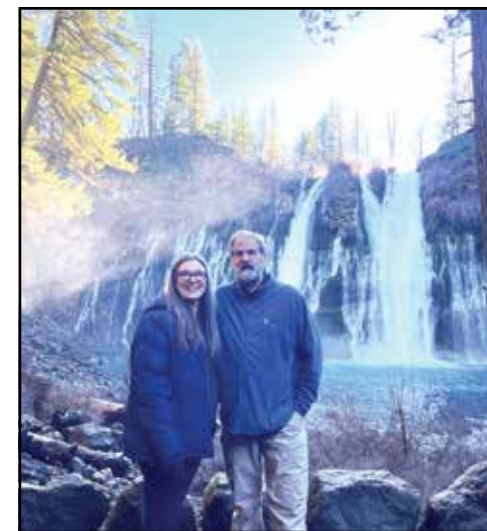
It is hard to miss the wonder, awe and curiosity that draws us to the base of Burney Falls. It seems impossible that the meandering stream above is pouring 100 million gallons of water a day into the pool below. This amazing feat is made possible by the Volcanic geology of this area. Another natural feat is how the mist of the falls creates a rainbow when the morning sun peeks through the trees. Abundant birds and fish thrive in and around the falls, too. These are just a few of the wonders you can experience.

Please stop by the Visitor Center for more information and educational materials to learn more. We also have California State Park gift items, t-shirts and original local artwork for sale.

As President of the McArthur-Burney Falls Interpretive Association (MBFIA), I want to invite you to consider volunteer opportunities in our State Park. We are actively seeking volunteers to keep the Visitor Center open throughout the 2026 season. If interested, there are Volunteer workdays, Board Membership opportunities and Special Event days to help in the park. We also have volunteer opportunities at Castle Crags and Ahjumawi State Parks.

Our overall goal is to include all our guests in preserving the natural beauty of this area. We support the local community, the heritage and the ancient history of this region. Members and volunteers help decide how to use the talents, resources and donations the MBFIA has received. McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park is a wonder that you can be a part of preserving.

– Sincerely,
Jim Sacson, President, MBFIA



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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.

Campground Hosts Needed at Burney Falls

Have you ever wondered who helps keep the campground running smoothly at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park?

Campground Hosts are dedicated volunteers who serve from mid-May through mid-September, contributing about 25 hours per week. In exchange, they receive a full hookup campsite with water, sewer, and electricity — and the opportunity to live in one of California's most beautiful parks.

Many hosts are retirees from a wide range of professions. They bring valuable life experience, strong work ethics, and a passion for giving back. Their presence adds tremendous support to park staff and enhances the visitor experience.

Campground Hosts help manage the campground, answer visitor questions, post park activity notices, assist with interpretive programs, sell firewood, and provide general support throughout the park. They serve as friendly ambassadors and play a vital



role in protecting and preserving this unique natural treasure.

The program is more than just a summer stay — it's an opportunity to contribute, be valued, and enjoy life outdoors while making a difference.

Interested in becoming a Campground Host?

Contact park staff for more information and learn how you can help live — and protect — the parks life.

HIKING & BICYCLING OPTIONS

McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park and Surrounding Areas

THE RIM TRAIL TO THE LAKE (Easy)

Falls Overlook to Lake Britton
(via Rim Trail)
1.54 miles, approx. 1 hour

Distances from Falls Overlook:

- Rim Campground Site #10: 0.20 miles
- Burney Creek Trail Junction: 0.98 miles
- Lake Picnic Area: 1.43 miles
- Swim Beach: 1.54 miles

Description:

A mostly level point-to-point trail connecting Rim Campground to the lake. A short stretch near the Picnic Area is wheelchair accessible. Wildlife sightings may include Osprey, Bald Eagles, Turkey Vultures, and Western Pond Turtles.

BURNEY CREEK AND CANYON TRAILS

THE FALLS TRAIL (Moderate)

Falls Trail Loop
1.22 miles, approx. 45 minutes

Distances from Falls Parking Area:

- Falls Overlook: 0.03 miles
- Base of Falls: 0.30 miles
- Rainbow Bridge: 0.53 miles
- Fisherman's Bridge: 1.0 mile
- Return to Overlook: 1.19 miles
- Full loop to parking: 1.22 miles

Description:

The park's most popular trail. Features a steep stone stairway (63 steps) descending to the base of the falls. The trail follows both sides of Burney Creek via two bridges and includes several steep switchbacks. Connects to the Pacific Crest Trail and Clark Creek Road.

Look for water-loving plants and wildlife such as otters, dragonflies, water ouzels, wild ginger, creek dogwoods, and currants.

HEADWATERS - PCT LOOP TRAIL (Easy to Moderate)

Headwaters Loop
1.67 miles, approx. 1 hour

Distances from Fisherman's Lot:

- PCT Junction: 0.10 miles
- Headwaters Camp: 0.75 miles
- Upper Bridge: 0.94 miles
- Pumphouse: 1.42 miles
- Loop complete: 1.67 miles

Description:



Begins with an easy, accessible walk to an upper-creek fishing pier. The trail then narrows and continues past multiple springs, meeting the PCT via a Forest Service-built bridge. In summer, the creek diminishes upstream, and the headwaters pool hosts turtles, frogs, toads, and insects.

CREEK TRAIL (Closed)

Closed due to significant erosion. Previously offered a quiet, lush walk along lower Burney Creek and Burney Creek Cove.

PIONEER CEMETERY TRAIL (Easy)

Pioneer Cemetery Cove Trail
1.94 miles, approx. 1.5 hours

Distances from Campsite #75 Parking:

- Hike & Bike Camp: 0.05 miles
- Road dropping to cemetery/lake: 0.53 miles
- Pioneer Cemetery: 0.67 miles
- Cemetery Cove: 0.90 miles
- Cemetery Cove Point: 0.96 miles
- Return: 1.95 miles

Description:

Follows a historic wagon road east toward Pioneer Cemetery, then descends to a scenic cove on Lake Britton. Passes the park's only meadow, often dry by midsummer.

Note: This is the only trail in the park where **dogs and bicycles are allowed**.

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL (PCT)

Description:

Crosses the park's eastern boundary from Shasta-Trinity National Forest, descends across Highway 89, intersects the Headwaters Trail, then crosses Burney Creek on the PCT bridge before skirting the western rim of Burney Canyon.

GREAT SHASTA RAIL TRAIL

Description:

A 40-mile multi-use trail system on the former McCloud-Burney rail line. Suitable for cycling, horseback riding, and hiking.

Answer Merganser: ON FISHING

IS FISHING ALLOWED HERE?

Yes: the park offers excellent fishing opportunities.

Above the falls – Burney Creek catchable trout are stocked throughout the summer by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Below the falls – Lower Burney Creek - This is a wild trout fishery with special regulations. You can read about these regulations at the visitor center or on the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife website.

Lake Britton- A still-water fishery which contains smallmouth bass, bluegill, crappie, and trout. All of these species are present in significant numbers. Your best option is to use a boat or kayak to get to the best spots.

REMEMBER

The top of Burney Falls is a closed area, from near the Fisherman's Bridge to the top of the waterfall. This area is closed for resource protection and public safety as it is an extremely sensitive area and unstable. It is a criminal misdemeanor to enter this area.

WHAT ARE THE FISHING RULES AT THE PARK?

- All person 16 years of age and older must have a fishing license. (Licenses are available for purchase at the General Store)

- From the Falls Pool, downstream on Burney Creek to Rainbow Bridge, trout fishing is open year-round. This section of the Burney Creek is **catch and release only**. Only barbless hooks with artificial bait or lures can be used. **No** power bait can be used in this area



Photo by Bengt Nyman from Vaxholm, Sweden • Via Wikimedia Commons Attribution 2.0

- Beginning 60 yards upstream of Burney Falls on Burney Creek, trout fishing is open year-round.

- From the last Saturday in April through November 15, there is a five-trout bag limit with no gear restrictions.

- From November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April, a zero (0) trout bag limit applies, and only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.

- Fishing at and on Lake Britton is open year-round.

- In the waters where the bag limit for trout

is zero (0), trout must be released unharmed and should not be removed from the water.

WHERE IS THE FISH HATCHERY?

Approximately 10 miles west of MBFMSP the Department of Fish and Wildlife operates the Crystal Lake Fish Hatchery located by Baum Lake in Cassel.

They breed various species of trout. If you are looking for a great place to catch fish, make the short trip over to Baum Lake and put in a few casts.

McArthur–Burney Falls Interpretive Association WEBSITES AVAILABLE

The Association maintains two websites with current information about special events & individual park news – www.burneyfallspark.org and www.castlecragspark.org with both providing a wealth of information about what is available to do at each park, park rules, and with links to websites of nearby points of interest.

You can also make donations to the Association directly using links provided on the sites.

New Day-Use Reservation System at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park

To reduce the impacts of overcrowding and to create a significantly improved visitor experience, California State Parks will begin a pilot program requiring reservations to visit McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park on Friday-Sunday and holidays during peak visitation season, starting Friday, May 1, through Sunday, Sept. 27. The goals of this new day-use reservation system are to alleviate the strain on the park's resources and infrastructure, and to improve visitor safety during the busiest summer days, when large crowds often overwhelm the park and the surrounding area.

"Burney Falls is a crown jewel of the California State Park System, and we want all visitors to have an enjoyable and memorable experience when visiting this one-of-a-kind destination," said State Parks Director Armando Quintero. "By allowing visitors to make a reservation in advance, we can help keep crowds manageable and not push the park's resources past the breaking point. I thank our guests for their understanding as we work together to create a better visitor experience while helping to preserve this iconic place for generations to come."

HOW WILL THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR RESERVATIONS WORK?

Under the pilot program, reservations purchased in advance via the Burney Falls webpage – https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=455 – will be required for day-use entry. The park will offer a limited number of parking passes valid between 8 a.m. and noon, an additional set of passes valid between 1 and 5 p.m., and a select number of passes valid for the entire day. The cost will be \$10 per vehicle plus a 55-cent processing fee. Senior and disabled discounts apply if eligible, as well as entry for annual pass holders, though reservations are still required. Same-day reservations will not be accepted.

Reservations will be limited to one per vehicle per day. Vehicles must be passenger vehicles requiring only one standard-size parking space. Passenger vehicles trailering a boat for day-use must also make an advanced reservation, pay their boat launch fees upon arrival at the park, and will be required to park in the marina day-use lot, which has limited pull-through parking capacity. Oversized vehicles, vehicles pulling other types of trailers, buses, and recreational vehicles are not allowed in the park during the day-use reservation period. Tour buses and commercial tour groups are not allowed in the park without a pre-approved permit.

Guests with a campground or cabin reservation, including those with boats and trailers, will not need to make a separate day-use reservation; it will be automatically included with the overnight reservation. Check-in time for camping reservations is after 2 p.m. and will continue to be strictly enforced. It is anticipated that the new day-use reservation system will help alleviate the wait times required for campers to enter and re-enter the park. Day-users with a boat reservation from the concessionaire-operated marina will need to also make a day-use reservation.



Traffic along SR-89 and cars being ticketed for illegally parking along the highway. Photos from California State Parks.

WHY THE CHANGE?

With its breathtaking waterfall, natural scenery and access to world-class outdoor recreation, Burney Falls is one of the most iconic parks in the California State Parks System and a popular destination for visitors from all over the world – but it wasn't always this way. Despite being California's second-oldest state park, for much of its nearly 100-year history, Burney Falls experienced limited visitation due to its rural location in northeastern California and lack of publicity. For generations of visitors, it had the reputation of a small, family-oriented park and one of California's best-kept secrets. However, over the past decade, and especially with the growth of social media, that secret is now world-famous.

Annual visitation has approximately doubled since 2015, pushing the park beyond a sustainable capacity and creating a host of problems, including an increase in erosion, damage to sensitive vegetation and sacred tribal land, traffic backups, illegal

parking, public safety concerns and sanitation issues. Park facilities built in the 1960s were not designed to handle current visitation levels. The annual surge in visitation has resulted in long lines to enter the park and frequently creates unsafe traffic conditions on State Route (SR) 89, which threatens public safety and the park's resources. Campers with reservations are hesitant to leave the park, knowing that it may take up to two hours to re-enter on busy days. Due to limited parking, Burney Falls will typically reach its capacity on weekends, forcing the park to close for several hours each day. Visitors who have driven multiple hours to reach the picturesque park are met with the unfortunate news that they can't enter and will need to try again later.

If lucky enough to gain entry, visitors inside the park are met with extreme overcrowding, long restroom lines, and overflowing trash cans instead of a peaceful, rejuvenating experience at one of the nation's most awe-inspiring natural landmarks. To avoid crowds, off-trail use increased to such a level that the park was forced to close access to the base of Burney Falls during summer 2024 to complete a trail restoration project to prevent a catastrophic trail failure.

Because of the park's small footprint, proximity to SR-89 and the sensitivity of the surrounding area, there are limited expansion options to better accommodate more visitors without additional impacts to resources.

BENEFITS OF DAY-USE RESERVATION SYSTEM

To help address these issues, State Parks is testing the day-use reservation system during the busiest time of the year. Day-use reservation systems have become a common feature at many national and state parks throughout the country since 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic. As a leader in outdoor recreation, State Parks is committed to adopting new tools to meet the increasing challenges facing parks in an effective and equitable manner. Reservation systems have been tried and tested throughout the country and have helped alleviate overcrowding and improve the visitor experience. With the ability to reserve park entry ahead of time, visitors to Burney Falls can make the most of their time outdoors – with less stress and the confidence that they will have access to the park for a memorable and positive experience.

After the pilot program this summer, State Parks will evaluate its effectiveness and make adjustments if necessary for future peak visitation periods.

VALLEY HARDWARE & NURSERY

Building Supplies, Lumber, Paint
Sporting Goods, Camping Supplies,
Housewares, Electronics,
Nursery and Garden Supplies,
Appliances and Flooring

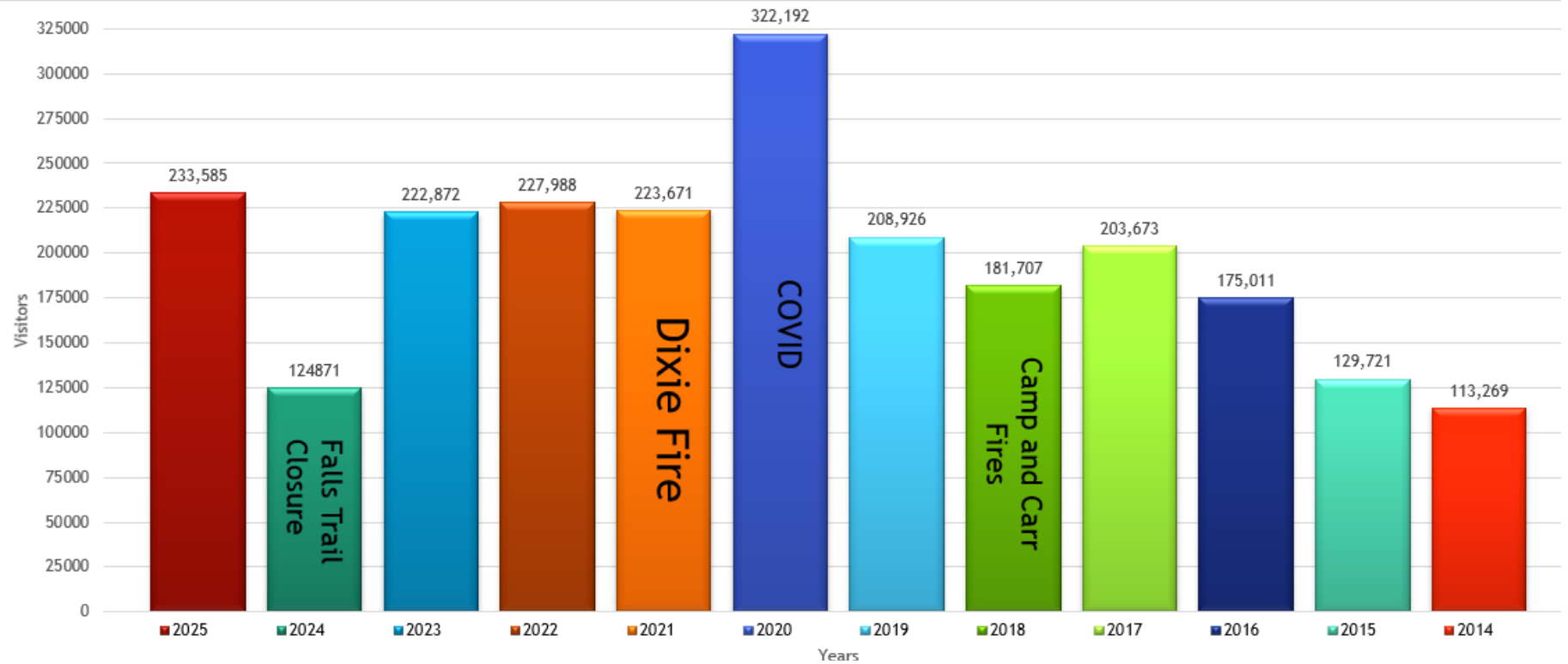
43185 Hwy 299 • Fall River Mills

336-5583

Do I need a day-use reservation at Burney Falls?	
No Reservation Needed	January - April
	May - September Monday - Thursday
	October - December
Advance Reservation Required*	May - September Friday - Sunday
	Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day
	Number of Vehicle Passes Issued Daily 8 a.m.-noon — 103 passes 1-5 p.m. — 103 passes All day — 35 passes

*Pass quantities may be adjusted based on impacts from new reservation process

Burney Falls Day Use Visitation From 2014 through 2025



Burney Falls: A Park Loved by Many

If you've visited McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park over the last several summers, you've probably noticed that you're not alone. Longer lines at the entrance, full parking lots, and crowded trails have become familiar sights. While it's wonderful to see so many people enjoying this incredible place, the growing popularity has also brought some challenges.

The graph above shows just how

much Day Use visitation has increased over the years. Back in 2014, about 114,000 Day Use visitors came to Burney Falls. By 2025, that number had more than doubled to 234,000 visitors. The busiest year in the park's history was 2020, when Day Use visitation reached an all-time high of 322,000. It's important to note that these numbers don't include campers or visitors who park outside the park and walk in, so

actual visitation is even higher.

So, what's driving this surge? Social media has played a big role. A quick search for "Burney Falls" on Instagram brings up tens of thousands of photos, showcasing the falls to people all over the world. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 also contributed, as more people turned to outdoor spaces for recreation and fresh air.

With so many visitors, the park's

trails and facilities have seen increased wear and tear. This heavy use has impacted both the park's infrastructure and the staff who work hard to keep everything running safely. As a result, the trail closure in 2024 was necessary to allow for much-needed rehabilitation and repairs. These efforts help protect the park and ensure that Burney Falls remains a special place for everyone to enjoy — now and in the future.

A Tribute to Generations of Families Who Vacation At Burney Falls

For more than 40 years and probably longer, families have gathered at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park to spend time together. Grandparents, uncles and aunts, cousins, moms, pops and children were camping, swimming, fishing, hiking, cooking, sleeping under the stars, roasting marshmallows, singing, and making strong memories. You may find their names on tables and benches throughout the park in memory of loved ones.

We would like to acknowledge the families that call this park home and have supported its interpretive services for at least the last ten years. The ones we know about are listed on the next page. If you are not on the list, please let us know who you are and how long your family has been trekking to Northern California to spend time at our beautiful park. Just complete the form at right or email the information to:

friends@burneyfallspark.org

Family Name:	
Number of Years vacationing here:	
Memories or Family Members you would like to share:	



Commemorating Your Family with a Memorial Picnic Table

Through a partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), you can place a picnic table inscribed for your family in the McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park.

The Commemorative Picnic Table Program provides amenities for state parks and their users, generates revenue for the Friends of the Falls Association, and is a way for donors to commemorate someone special.

For a tax-deductible gift of \$2,500.00, donors can place a picnic table in McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park.

The table is an 8' Wheelchair Accessible Picnic Table, made of 3" select Con-Heart Redwood. The Sonoma County Probation Camp (SCPC) produces the tables for state parks. Manufacturing takes 8-12 weeks. Table inscriptions are placed on the crossbars located at the ends of the table. Each crossbar has room for a 32-character inscription routed with 2-inch letters.

To apply for a Memorial Table, complete an application form, which you can get at the Visitor Center or download from the website: burneyfallspark.org. Send the application to McArthur-Burney Falls Interpretive Association, PO Box 777, Burney, CA 96013 or email to Webmaster@burneyfallspark.org.

After your application is approved by DPR you may submit payment with a Check or Credit Card.



Kids art while at the park



HAZEL AGE 8



JERRY AGE 6



JUNIPER AGE 4



LAUREL AGE 8



LINCOLN AGE 6

Tribute to Families that call McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park Home

- The Ashby Family – Susan, Bill, Bryan, Leslie & Brayden – 46 years
- The Busalacchi Family – 51 years
- The Calkin Family – In Memory of Sandy Stefenoni
- The Case Family & the Kelly's Wishes Foundation - In Honor of Kelly Case Moulton
- The Coughlin Family – In memory of Rober Vajretti and his Burney Legacy - 45 Years
- The Damato Family – 52 years
- The Doo Family – In honor of Jack & Cathy Doo
- The Garcia Family – In Memory of Dale Berliner - 30 years
- The Germeraad Family – In Honor of Stewart & Clare Smith – 4 generations
- The Gomez Family – In Memory of Sandy Stefenoni - 46 years
- The Gutilla Family- In Honor of Daniel Ries. Our families have been visiting Burney Falls for decades.
- The Hesselroth & Russell families - In memory of Mrs. Pamela Russell and her husband, John, who began vacationing at Burney Falls in the 1970s. – 50-plus Years

- Kamp Kearney – A family tradition for more than 46 years and keeping the tradition going for 100 more in honor of Tim and Joy Kearney.
 - The McKay Family – 52 years
 - The Miller Family - 46 years
 - Tom & Mary Pilla- Honoring John Roderick McArthur, nephew of Frank McArthur of the McArthur Family, who bequeathed the park to the citizens of California.
 - The Stefenoni Family – 46 Years
 - The Strickler Family
 - The Taube Family
 - The Towle Family – In Memory of Tom Garcia – 116 years
 - The Van Aken Family – 62 years
 - The Vitale Family – In Memory of Scott Lunger – 29 years
 - The Wilbur Family – In Memory of Linda Wilbur - 51 years
 - The Zwanziger Family – In honor of grandchildren Callen, Cassidy, Kamille and Chase - 60 years
- Thank you all for your love and support of this beautiful park.

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McArthur-Burney Falls Interpretive Association BECOME A BOARD MEMBER

OPPORTUNITY

This is your opportunity to have a positive impact on your favorite parks. We are currently recruiting board members committed to enhancing the quality of visits to McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, Castle Crags State Park and Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park.

ABOUT US

Just like you, members of the Board of Directors of the McArthur-Burney Falls Interpretive Association (MBFIA) are excited to work together as a team to provide ideas, assistance and

funding for activities which enhance the quality of experiences for visitors of the McArthur-Burney Falls, Castle Crags and Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Parks. Our all-volunteer association was founded in 1984 to promote greater appreciation of the cultural and natural history of the region

VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Directors are selected from a broad range of backgrounds and disciplines to provide varied skills necessary for the board's mission and activities. Skill in

any of the following areas would greatly contribute to our continued successes.

- Leadership ability to help board members operate as a team and to ensure a successful cooperative relationship with State Parks
- Familiarity with the local State Parks and willingness to learn more
- Knowledge of and interest in the Intermountain region; its people, history and ecology
- Fiscal and accounting background and ability
- Experience in merchandising, sales and advertising
- Knowledge of, or experience with, the operations of other non-profit organizations
- Record keeping, writing, and editing skills

HOW TO APPLY

Please send a letter of interest to: McArthur-Burney Falls Interpretive Association, PO Box 777, Burney, CA 96013 Or by email to: friends@burneyfallspark.org. For more info:

burneyfallspark.org

Be sure to include your contact information!

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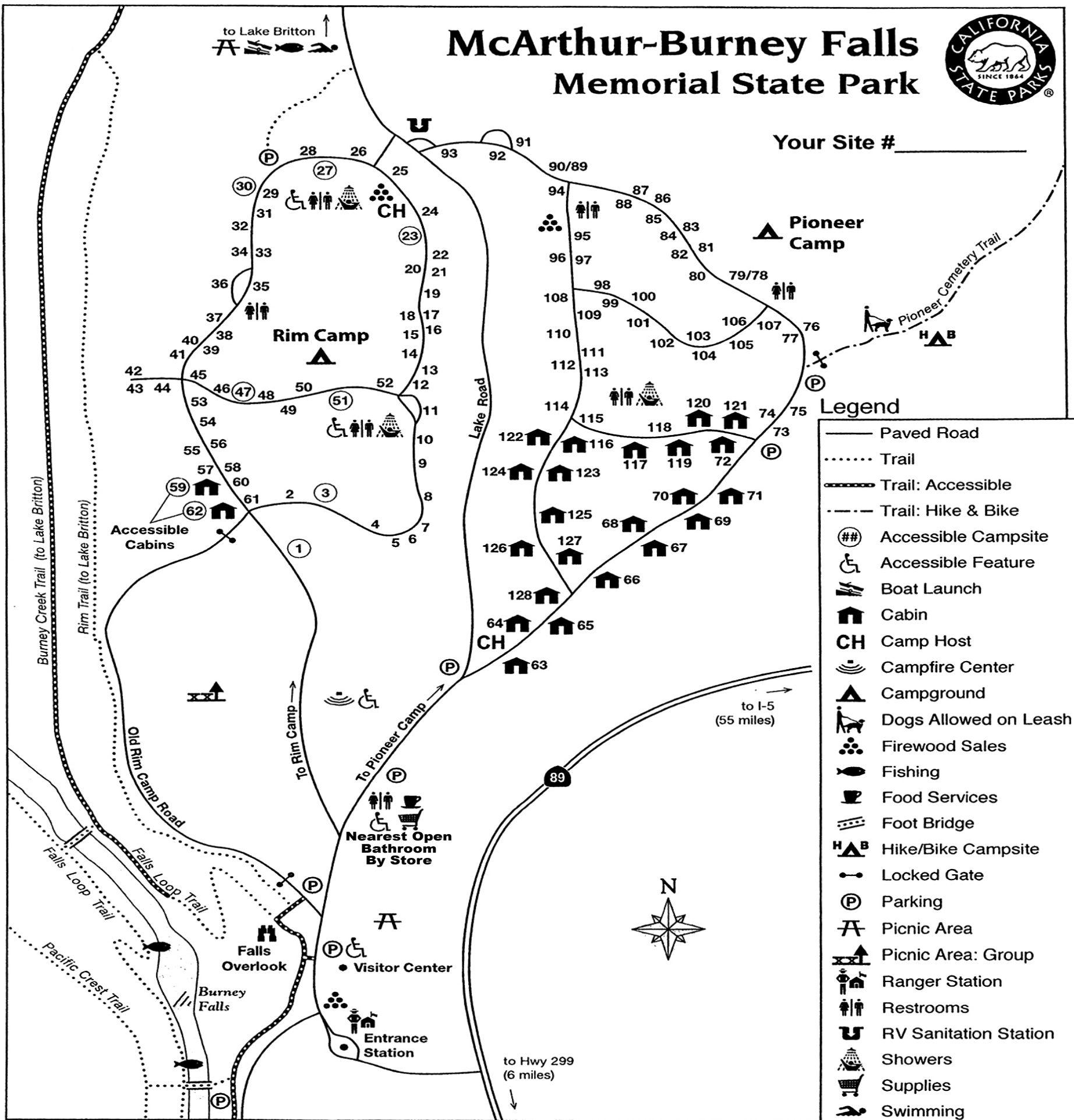
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McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park



Your Site # _____



- ### Legend
- Paved Road
 - Trail
 - Trail: Accessible
 - Trail: Hike & Bike
 - Accessible Campsite
 - Accessible Feature
 - Boat Launch
 - Cabin
 - 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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For Emergencies, Dial 911.

Map not to scale



DISCOVERY QUEST!

This activity is designed as a treasure hunt and information gathering game for guests to the park. The end reward is knowledge and this beautiful custom-made embroidered patch. The Quest is for individuals of all ages or as a family activity – we want you to have fun, find adventure and discover the many sides of McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park. To find the answer to these questions, we invite you to explore the park, attend our interpretive programs, check out the displays and bulletin boards, read the Visitors Guide and visit the overlook of the park. Only one completed quest is necessary for the entire family so you can work on it together. We present a new Discovery Quest challenge each year and you can collect a new, limited edition patch each year as well. Bring your completed pages to the Visitor Center or the entrance kiosk to receive your patch. We ask that an adult accompany children under age 12.

Earn a patch!

1.

How tall is Burney Falls?

What is the temperature of the water?

Daily Flow?

(Hint: look for large wooden interpretive sign overlooking the Overlook)

2.

How many names can you find at the pioneer cemetery?

You can provide just the number or include the names for extra credit

(Hint: walk the Pioneer Cemetery Trail)

3.

When was the Visitor Center building built?

(Hint: look at the interpretive panels outside of the Visitor Center)

4.

When was the current General Store building built?

(Hint: look at the interpretive panels outside of the Visitor Center)

5.

What are 3 birds you can watch in the park?

(Hint: look at the signs outside of the Visitor Center)

6.

When did Scott McArthur buy the parcel of land surrounding Burney Falls?

(Hint: look at the interpretive panels outside of the Visitor Center)

7.

What did the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC, the three C's) build in the park in the 1930's?

(Hint: look at the interpretive panels outside of the Visitor Center)

8.

What is Burney Falls known as to the Pit River peoples?

(Hint: Look for the large interpretive sign across the street from the Visitor Center)

9.

What are 2 ways to tell the difference between the ponderosa pine and the Douglas fir?

(Hint: Look at the interpretive panel at the top of Falls Loop Trail near the Overlook)

10.

How do the Ilmawi and other Native Americans living in the area consider Burney Falls?

(Hint: look at Trees Tell Tales display across the street from the entrance kiosk)

11.

In the summer, what is Burney Creek like one mile upstream from the Falls?

(Hint look at the interpretive panel next to Trees Tell Tales display)

12.

Which tree is better adapted for fire, ponderosa pine or Incense cedar? How?

(Hint: look for interpretive panel on Falls loop trail next to the road to Fisherman's Parking Lot)

13.

What are 4 things incense cedars can be used for?

(Hint: look for interpretive sign on Falls loop trail next to the road to Fisherman's Parking Lot)

14.

What are 3 ways healthy riparian (Creek or other water side) areas help the ecosystem?

(Hint: look for interpretive panel near the pumphouse on the Upper Creek Trail)

15.

How many bathtubs can be filled by the daily flow of Burney Falls?

(Hint: look for the interpretive panel in the picnic area down by Lake Britton)



Is it too warm to take my dog along today?

Warm weather can be a killer for a dog left inside a car. When it's 85 degrees outside, the temperature inside a car – even with the windows cracked – can soar to 120 degrees!

Leaving a dog for “just a minute” may be too long! Dogs rely on panting and aren't able to sweat. They can't cool themselves like people and their body temperature can rise quickly. Dogs left in the heat can suffer severe illness, organ damage, or even death in a matter of minutes.

If you see a dog in a hot car: Try and locate the dog's guardians and then notify a Park Ranger. If the dog is overcome by heat, wet the dog's feet, coat it with water, and seek veterinary care immediately.

Your Dog at the Park



General Dog/Pet Rules

- Must be on a leash and under control
- Are **NOT** permitted in buildings, on the beach, or on trails (except for Pioneer Cemetery Trail)
- Must be confined to a vehicle or tent at night
- **CANNOT** be left unattended at any time

Violations may result in \$400 citation

Why can't I bring my dog on the Falls Loop Trail?

Your dog is a predator

- Its scent will linger and scare off wildlife
- Even the best trained dog will chase after a squirrel

Be considerate of your fellow visitor

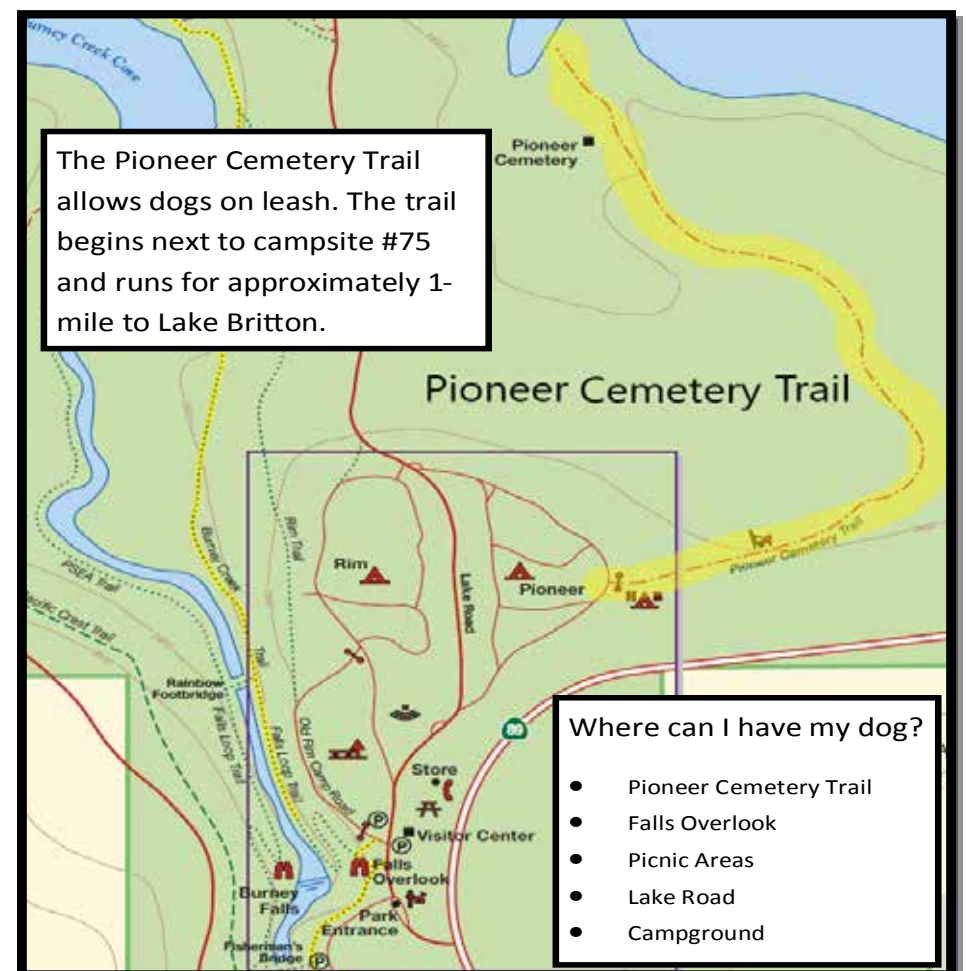
- Not everyone enjoys dogs or feels comfortable around them
- Some people are intimidated by dogs—even friendly ones

Park Regulation, common courtesy, and good judgement all require that you take special care when bringing your pet to this natural area. **Thank you for your cooperation!**

Service Animals

Service Animals are trained to assist individuals with disabilities as they go about their normal lives. Service Animals are allowed and welcome on all trails and any areas open to the public.

A service Animal is one as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). An emotional support animal does not meet this definition and must follow all applicable rules.





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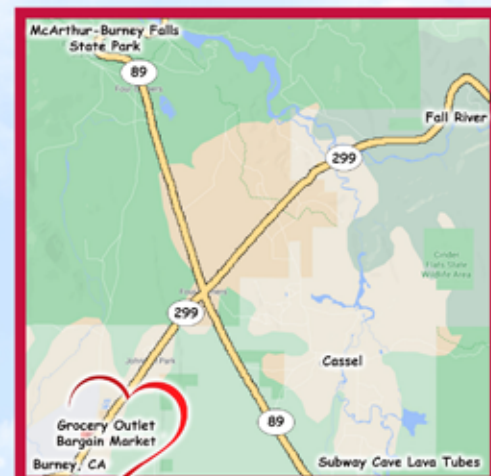
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Keeping it Cosmic: A Window to the Observable Universe

STARGAZERS, WELCOME!

We offer to you a guide of nighttime wonders that can be observed from our area. McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park offers unique and light pollution free stargazing campers can enjoy on a clear night.

Here's a guide to the celestial wonders you can look forward to this year at the park.

FULL MOONS

May 1: Flower Moon

May 31: Blue Moon

June 29: Strawberry Moon

July 29: Buck Moon

August 28: Sturgeon Moon

(Partial Eclipse starting 7:26 pm, peaking at 10:15 with 93% coverage by Earth's shadow, ending at 1:02 am)

September 26: Harvest or Corn Moon

October 26: Hunters Moon

November 24: Beaver Moon

(supermoon)

December 23: Cold Moon

(supermoon)

The summer solstice will take place June 20 at precisely 7:41 p.m. PST.

The fall equinox in 2026 for Pacific Standard Time (PST) will occur on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026, at 8:04 P.M



The upcoming summer will feature a planet parade where six planets align in the sky, including Uranus and Neptune.

This event will be visible just before dawn, making it a perfect opportunity for stargazers to observe the celestial alignment.

The planets will be positioned in a giant arc across the sky, with Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune forming the core of the parade.

Saturn will be visible to the naked eye, while Uranus and Neptune will require a telescope to spot.

The parade is expected to be a spectacular sight, offering a chance to witness the beauty of the solar system's planets in alignment.

STARGAZING SPOTS

New moons are when the sky is darkest and best for stargazing.

The dates for the darkest nights fall perfectly between the full moons. We recommend viewing our park's night sky from our Campfire Center, Visitor Center parking lot, or Fisherman's Bridge parking lot for the clearest views.

Remember it can take up to 30 minutes for eyes to gain their best night vision. So take your time.



Pygmy Owl by Charles Barilleaux Creative Commons Attribution 2.0

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation schedule for Burney, Castle Crag Campfire Evening programs

Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation serves Shasta, Tehama, Siskiyou, and Trinity counties as one of the primary wildlife rehabilitation centers for Northern California.

We are located in Anderson, California, in beautiful Anderson River Park.

We are an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, orphaned and injured wildlife in Northern California.

Through all of our activities we educate and encourage our community to value the connection between people and the natural environment.

Each year we get between 700-1,000 animals into our care.

Our organization is only able to do this because of amazing volunteers who donate their time and care to help these animals in need.

We offer our services at no charge to the public and rely solely on donations to save the wildlife that come through our doors.

Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation will be at the Saturday Evening Campfire programs on these dates at the following locations:

Burney Falls

June 6, July 4, July 25,
August 8, September 5

Castle Crag

June 13, June 27, July 11,
August 15, August 29

Hope to see you there.



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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.

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.

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.

Medicine Lake Highlands: Approximately 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 obsid-

ian rock used by Native Americans for arrowheads and other tools. You can drive right to the base of the mountain.

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.



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.)

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BIRDS OF BURNEY

Many visitors arrive at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park excited to see the popular and iconic waterfall. The waterfall is a precious part of the park, but many types of organisms, including birds, also help make it spectacular.

Yup...the birds.

If you sit for a second and listen, you may hear a tweet that draws you in and beckons you to search for the origin of that sound. These are songs that the wind carries throughout each path and trail. Perhaps you hear the aggressive tapping of a pileated woodpecker searching for sweet treats underneath a tree's bark, or the call of the red-breasted nuthatch as it climbs up the tree, reminding you that there is more than a waterfall here, but also an opportunity to experience nature.

The park is a home for species to thrive in and work together in to take advantage of the always flowing water.

There are black swifts that nest within the rocks behind the waterfall itself. They fly beautifully through the air faster than most

can snap a photo. The Steller's jay likes to confuse guests by mimicking different birds and sounds. You will see them jumping from branch to branch, overseeing everything that is happening at your campsite or picnic experience. They are mostly just curious. They are the "foremen" of the park really, but also the gardeners, hiding seeds and acorns in the ground to create new growth within the park.

If you head down to the lake for some sun and water fun, you can see bald eagles enjoying their day from the tops of the trees across the lake, calling out to each other with sounds that draw your attention towards the sky.

Most days, the osprey dives down into the water for a taste of local cuisine. If it sounds like maybe a bird is "yelling" at you from the water's edge, it's likely a belted kingfisher. They like to make their presence known, but don't like to stick around for a meet and greet. They have places to be and there are only 24 hours in a day.

The Pioneer Cemetery Trail is where the

acorn woodpeckers have a very popular hangout spot and can be heard carrying on as though they have their own comedy club and laughs are abundant.

By the group camp there is a great horned owl that likes to hoot just to let you know it's watching. Make sure to share if you see it. Tall trees give it cover to live its best life, camouflaged from many.

At the rainbow bridge, the great blue heron has a throne where he moves slowly to conquer many fish. A great egret sidekick is usually close by, searching for fish, knowing it must be a good spot if the heron is there.

There are many birds that help maintain the health and wellness of the ecosystems here. Everything living and growing in this park has a purpose, and while the waterfall is spectacular, please take a moment to see the beauty in all the things found here in the park.

Happy birding, camping, hiking, and adventuring.

— A friend of the birds,
Samantha Morris

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.

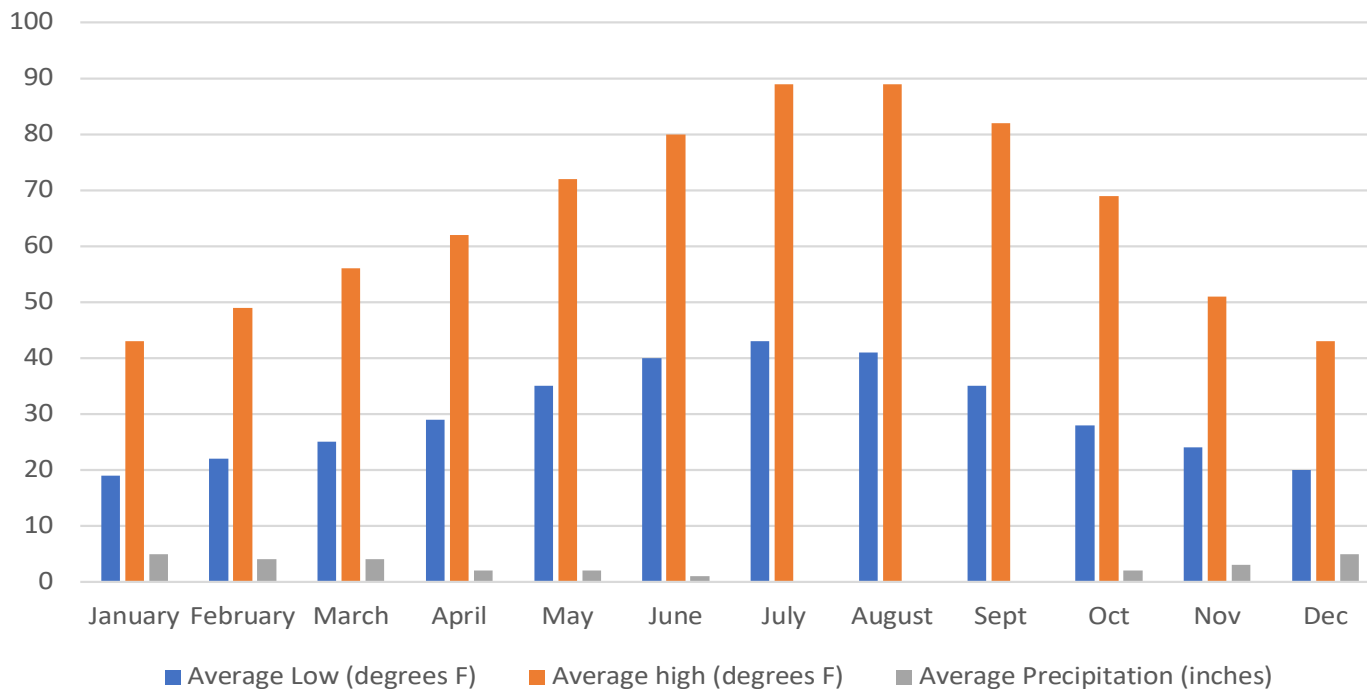
CAMPFIRE DELIGHTS

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



Mountain Jewels – The team that supports McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park

And what Jewels they are! The men from the Mountain Jewels Ranch travel each month to spend the morning sorting, recycling, and bagging firewood to raise funds that support activities for campers and visitors to McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park.

What would campers do without the firewood bundles that keep them warm and provide flames for those famous S'mores we all loved as kids? You may see them in their van picnicking or hiking the trails...Give them a big Thank You!!

Buying firewood from the park not only supports important programs, it also helps protect our forests. Transporting outside firewood to the park can introduce nasty pests and diseases including the pine bark beetle and sudden oak death.

Protect the park's forest and BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT



WE RECYCLE!

All California State Parks are required to recycle their trash where appropriate, and you can help.

The proceeds from recycling help support interpretive activities at the park and contribute to our friends at Mountain Jewels Ranch, who assist us with the sorting of recyclables. The appropriate materials for going in the recycling cans and bins are:

- All aluminum cans.
- Plastic containers that say CA-CRV on them or a triangle with a number. Plastics that do not have these cannot be recycled at this time.
- Glass: clear, green, and brown can all be recycled.

We are truly fortunate that the ranch helps us with recycling throughout the season. They are a licensed, non-profit, residential care facility for developmentally disabled adults, located on a large ranch outside the town of McArthur.



