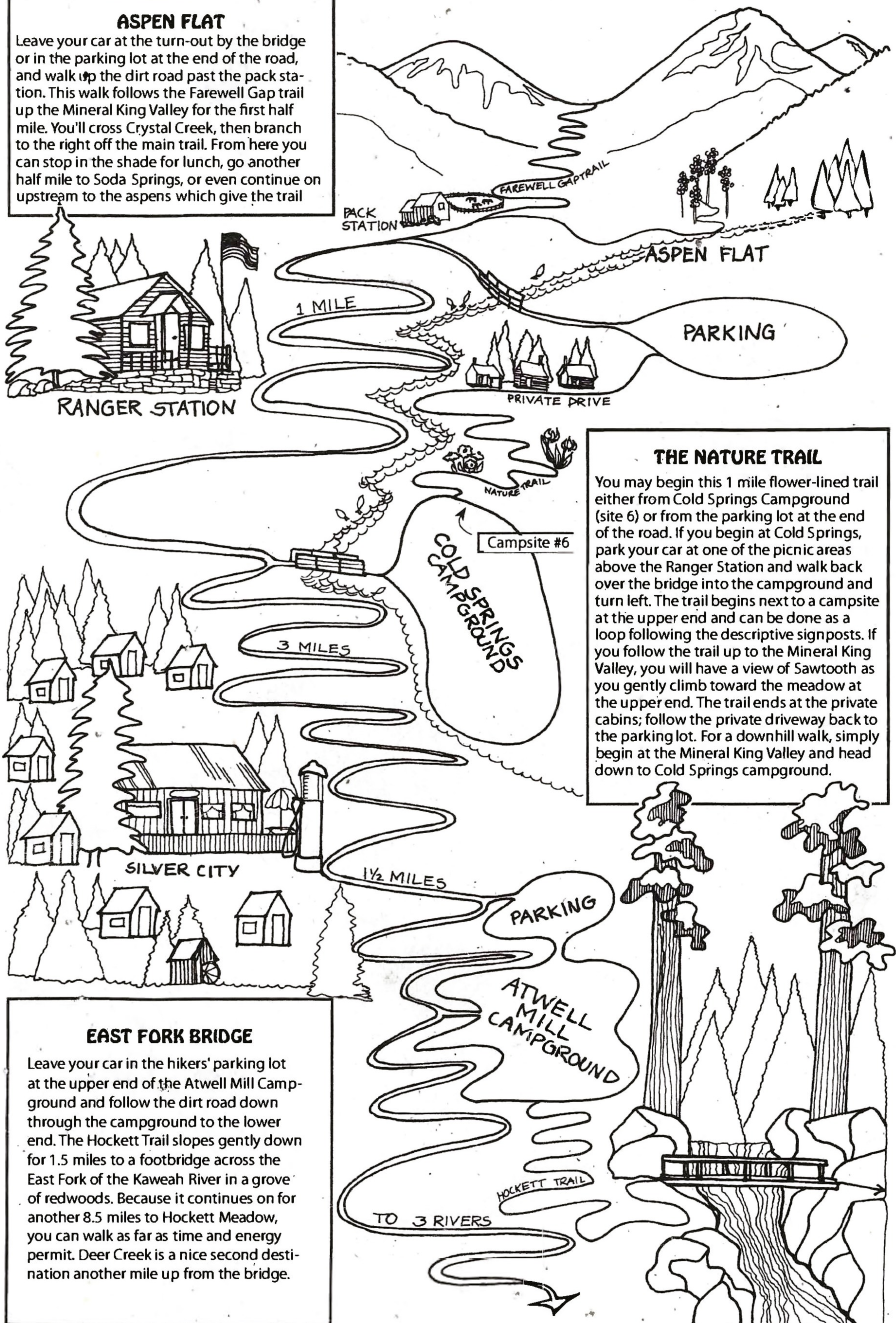


FUN SHORT WALKS in the Mineral King Area

ASPEN FLAT

Leave your car at the turn-out by the bridge or in the parking lot at the end of the road, and walk up the dirt road past the pack station. This walk follows the Farewell Gap trail up the Mineral King Valley for the first half mile. You'll cross Crystal Creek, then branch to the right off the main trail. From here you can stop in the shade for lunch, go another half mile to Soda Springs, or even continue on upstream to the aspens which give the trail



THE NATURE TRAIL

You may begin this 1 mile flower-lined trail either from Cold Springs Campground (site 6) or from the parking lot at the end of the road. If you begin at Cold Springs, park your car at one of the picnic areas above the Ranger Station and walk back over the bridge into the campground and turn left. The trail begins next to a campsite at the upper end and can be done as a loop following the descriptive signposts. If you follow the trail up to the Mineral King Valley, you will have a view of Sawtooth as you gently climb toward the meadow at the upper end. The trail ends at the private cabins; follow the private driveway back to the parking lot. For a downhill walk, simply begin at the Mineral King Valley and head down to Cold Springs campground.

EAST FORK BRIDGE

Leave your car in the hikers' parking lot at the upper end of the Atwell Mill Campground and follow the dirt road down through the campground to the lower end. The Hockett Trail slopes gently down for 1.5 miles to a footbridge across the East Fork of the Kaweah River in a grove of redwoods. Because it continues on for another 8.5 miles to Hockett Meadow, you can walk as far as time and energy permit. Deer Creek is a nice second destination another mile up from the bridge.