

# GROVER HOT SPRINGS State Park

## Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is 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.



California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Prior to arrival, visitors who need assistance should contact the park at the phone number below. To receive this publication in an alternate format, write to the Communications Office at the following address.

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Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

For information call: (800) 777-0369

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711, TTY relay service

[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

### Grover Hot Springs State Park

P.O. Box 188

Markleeville, CA 96120

Park Office (530) 694-2248

Pool Phone (530) 694-2249

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# GROVER HOT SPRINGS State Park

The 700-acre park lies in Hot Springs Valley at an elevation of nearly 6,000 feet, with mountains rising abruptly on three sides. Hawkins Peak, at 10,023 feet, is three miles northwest of the valley, and Markleeville Peak, 9,417 feet, lies four miles to the southwest.

These bare granite peaks are best viewed from the Burnside Lake Trail, which begins at the extra-vehicle parking lot and ascends rapidly towards the west end of the valley. Burnside Lake Trail continues northwest, passing a small waterfall before switchbacking up a steep mountainside. The trail rises more than 2,000 feet in less than four miles before it reaches Burnside Lake, which is also reachable by road from State Highway 88. The Charity Valley Trail goes southwest to Charity Valley and Blue Lakes Road.

Ever since the mid-1850s, when journalists began putting their impressions of Grover Hot Springs into words, the descriptions have been generous.



The area is one of alpine beauty with a large variety of plant and animal life.

A self-guided loop trail, with descriptions of the area's natural history, begins at the Campground Bridge.

During the summer months, the nighttime temperature at the park drops to around 50 degrees, and the daytime reading reaches about 80 degrees. Frost is not uncommon in early June and sometimes even in late August or early September, when colder

weather brings a rich display of orange and gold in stands of quaking aspen. In winter visitors enjoy Nordic skiing and snowshoeing as well as soaking in the hot pool.

## THE HOT SPRINGS

The park's hot springs are a phenomenon associated with the faulting that developed when the Sierra Nevada began to rise millions of years ago. Surface water courses its way through the cracks in the earth's crust until it reaches hot rock thousands of feet below; then it bubbles to the surface, dissolving minerals along its way. For many years before the advent of modern medicine, people sought the curative powers they believed existed in the springs. They were sure that the springs cured a long list of chronic illnesses.



The water's total mineral content of 74.7 grams per gallon breaks down as follows: sodium chloride, 19.91; sodium sulfate, 12.02; sodium carbonate, 34.10; calcium carbonate, 6.38; magnesium carbonate, 1.16; iron and alumina, 0.32; and silica 0.82; plus a trace of organic matter. Unlike the water from most hot springs, it contains little sulphur.

One of the park's two concrete pools is fed by the runoff from six mineral springs. Although the water comes to the surface at 148 degrees F., the hot pool's inflow is regulated so the temperature remains between 102 and 104 degrees. Excess water and overflow from the

pools are diverted into nearby Hot Springs Creek, a year-round stream that flows through the middle of the park's large meadow. Pool hours depend on the season; call the park before you plan to visit.

Visitors can fish the creek during the summer months. Catchable-size trout are planted periodically as long as the creek maintains an adequate

waterflow. Four miles east of the park is the Carson River, and farther upstream is Silver Creek, both noted for their excellent trout fishing.

## CAMPGROUNDS

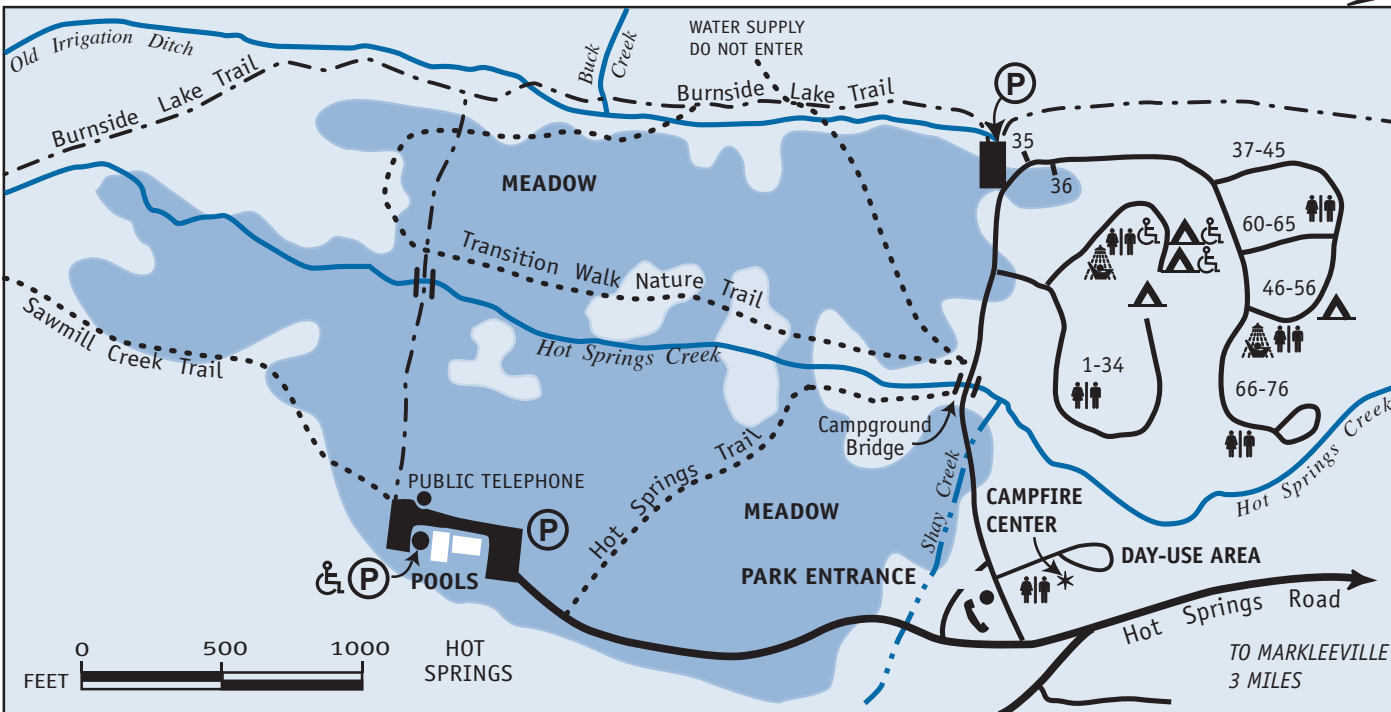
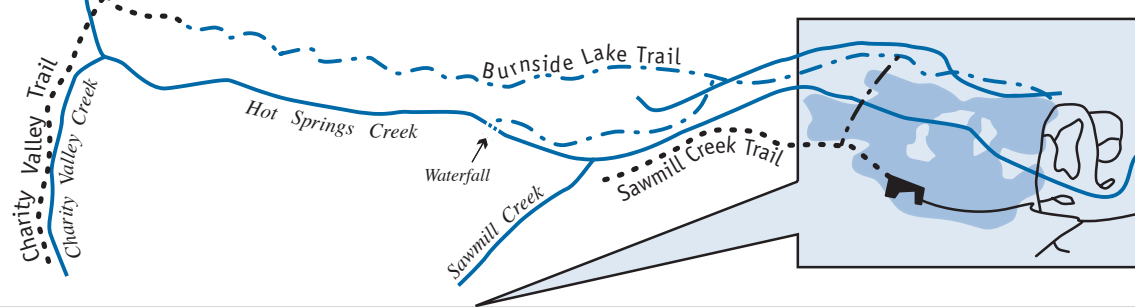
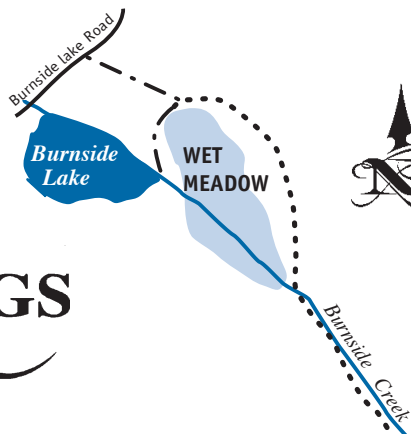
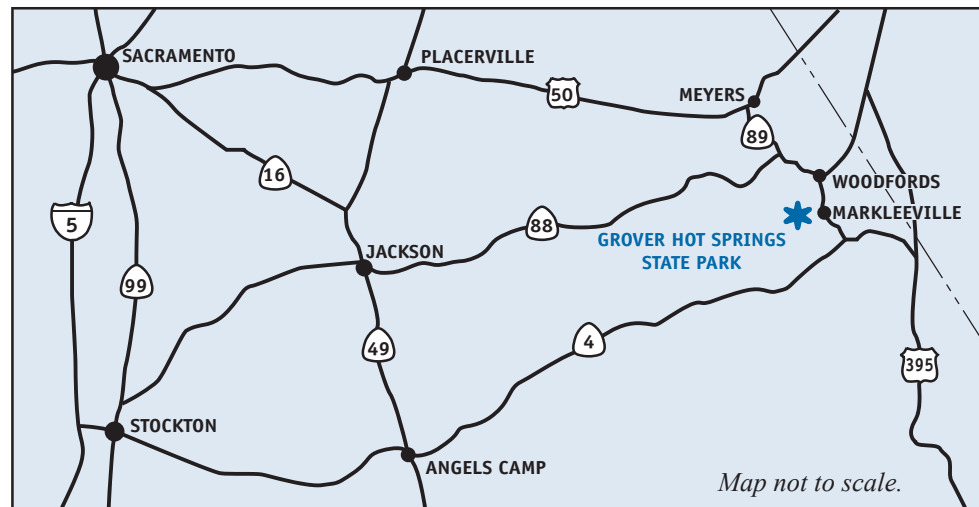
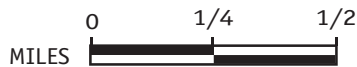
The park has 76 sites equipped with firepits and grills, cupboards, bear-proof lockers and tables. Each campsite is close to piped drinking water and restrooms. Two of the 76 sites are designed specifically for wheelchair use, and accessible restrooms are nearby. Campsites may be reserved by calling 800-444-PARK (7275).

The campgrounds are closed from early October to May. Camping is permitted in the day-use area adjacent to the park entrance during the winter. Each of the 20 units has a firepit with a grill and a table. Piped water and restrooms (no showers) are always available.



# GROVER HOT SPRINGS State Park

This park is supported in part through a nonprofit organization. For more information contact:  
 The Sierra State Parks Foundation  
 P. O. Box 28 • Tahoma, CA 96142  
 (530) 525-9460 • [www.sierraspf.org](http://www.sierraspf.org)



### LEGEND

- Paved Road
- Hiking and Mountain Biking Trail
- Hiking Only Trail
- Seasonal Creek
- Accessible Feature
- Bridge
- Campground
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Showers
- Telephone