



MCCONNELL

STATE RECREATION AREA

WELCOME! Named after Thomas McConnell, who homesteaded the site in 1871, this 74-acre recreation area became the San Joaquin Valley's first state park in 1950. With shady trees, tranquil campgrounds, grassy fields for play, and the Merced River offering fishing, swimming and relaxation, McConnell State Recreation Area is a year-round haven for outdoor enthusiasts.



McConnell State Recreation Area
8800 McConnell Road
Ballico, CA 95303



Day-Use Areas:
6 a.m. to sunset



Day-Use Parking:
\$10/vehicle/day



California State Parks Passes Accepted: Disabled Discount, Distinguished Veteran, Explorer, Golden Bear, Senior Golden Bear, Golden Poppy, State Library



Park Office: 209-394-7755
711, TTY Relay Service
parks.ca.gov/McConnell



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at 209-394-7755. If you need this publication in an alternate format, contact 209-394-7755.

ACTIVITIES

Fishing—Many species thrive in the slow-moving, muddy river. Summertime fishing yields largemouth, smallmouth and striped bass, bluegill, catfish and more. A valid California fishing license is required for ages 16 years and older.

Nonmotorized Boating—Launch from beach areas to recreate on the water via kayak, canoe or raft.

Day-Use/Picnic—Group and standard picnic areas are on a first-come, first-serve basis. No picnics in campsites.

Bicycling—**NOT ALLOWED ON TRAILS**, but permitted on paved roads and fire roads. Bicyclists under 18 years must wear approved helmets. At dark, bicycles must have a headlight and reflectors.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Water Safety—Beaches and swimming areas are located near the park's day-use and campground facilities (**NO LIFEGUARD SERVICE**).

Dogs—No dogs on trails or beaches. All dogs must be on leash 6 feet or less in length and under control of owner.

Wildlife—Please do not feed or disturb wild animals.

Trash—Support keeping the park clean by making sure all trash is picked up and thrown away.



ADA Accessibility

Two paved campsites and two picnic tables, restroom facilities with coin-operated showers, picnic tables on level terrain at the edge of the river, a campfire center and a paved trail to the river.

CAMPING

Quiet Hours—Campground quiet hours 10 p.m.–6 a.m. No loud voices during quiet hours. Be courteous; allow everyone to enjoy their visit.

Generators—Permitted 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Check In/Check Out—2 p.m./noon

Capacity—Campsites limited to eight persons/two vehicles. One vehicle per campsite included with reservation fee. Additional vehicles will be charged an overnight vehicle fee.

Fires—Gathering wood is prohibited. Campfires are permitted in fire rings provided in the campsites only. Stoves and barbecues are permitted.

Reservations—Reserve your site by visiting ReserveCalifornia.com or calling 800-444-7275.

BOATING

Please remember when boating or rafting on the Merced River:

- Tell family or friends where and when your river trip is to take place, including start and finish points.
- Currents in low flow periods are very slow. An hour of paddling may result in only 1 to 3 miles of travel, depending upon the water's depth.
- Wear life jackets at all times.
- Beware of dangerous currents.

NO LIFEGUARD SERVICE is available. Visitors may swim and fish in the river, but should be aware of deep holes beneath the surface and the steep and narrow banks along the river.

