



PARK WEBPAGE  
FOR MORE INFO



## GEORGE J. HATFIELD STATE RECREATION AREA

**WELCOME!** George J. Hatfield State Recreation Area in the San Joaquin Valley encompasses 46.5 acres bordered to the south by the Merced River. With more than a mile of river frontage, the recreation area offers riparian habitat and opportunities for fishing, swimming and other water-related activities.

The park was named after the former California lieutenant governor and state senator who donated this land to the state to establish the recreation area.



**George J. Hatfield  
State Recreation Area**  
4394 North Kelley Road  
Hilmar, CA 95324



**Day-Use Areas:**  
8 a.m. to sunset



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



**Day-Use Parking:**  
\$10/vehicle/day  
Main Parking area is on  
North Kelley Road.



**Park Office:** 209-632-1852  
711, TTY Relay Service  
[parks.ca.gov/GeorgeJHatfield](https://parks.ca.gov/GeorgeJHatfield)



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at 209-632-1852. If you need this publication in an alternate format, contact the park at 209-632-1852.

### PARK ACTIVITIES

**Fishing**—Several species of fish including bass, catfish, crappie and more await your fishing technique. A valid California fishing license is required for ages 16 years and older.

**Swimming**—A small beach offers access to the river for swimming.

**Boating**—Small watercrafts may be launched to explore the Merced River that flows through the park.

**Day-Use/Picnic**—Group and standard picnic areas are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**Camping**—Opportunities for camping are available for both group and single sites.

### PLEASE REMEMBER

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

**Bicycling**—NOT ALLOWED on trails, but are permitted on paved roads and fire roads. Bicyclists under 18 years of age must wear approved helmets.

**Weather**—Winter temperatures range from 45-50°F while summer temperatures range from 85-100°F. It is not unusual to have 100-plus temperatures for consecutive days.

**Collecting**—The park's natural and cultural resources are protected by state law and may not be removed or disturbed.



### MERCED RIVER

From the headwaters in Yosemite National Park, the Merced River flows 145 miles before flowing into the larger San Joaquin River.

BOATING AND SWIMMING

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.

CAMPING

**Capacity**—First-come, first-serve camping. Campsites are for tents only and require a short walk from the parking area. They are equipped with tables with drinking water, and two restrooms are nearby.

**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

**Group Site**—The group campground can serve up to 25 people and can be reserved in advance. It has a large barbecue pit, sinks, water, serving areas, picnic tables and benches. Reserve your group campsite by visiting [ReserveCalifornia.com](https://ReserveCalifornia.com) or calling 800-444-7275.

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

