



# GREAT VALLEY GRASSLANDS STATE PARK

**WELCOME!** Nestled along the San Joaquin River, just 25 miles west of Merced, Great Valley Grasslands State Park spans 2,826 acres of pristine native grasslands, wetlands and riparian woodlands. Established in 1992 and part of the larger Grasslands Ecological Area, the park preserves one of the few intact examples of native grasslands in the region and contributes to the largest contiguous wetlands block in California. It is home to rare and endangered species, including the delta button celery, California tiger salamander and vernal pool fairy shrimp. While largely undeveloped, the park offers parking, a boat launch and a short trail on the west side. The eastern side features 5 miles of unpaved roads for hiking and biking. Spring wildflower displays, fishing and wildlife watching draw visitors to this serene, natural sanctuary.



**Great Valley Grasslands  
State Park**  
Hwy 140  
Stevenson, CA 95374



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



**Day-Use Parking**  
No day-use fees.



**No California State Parks  
Passes Needed**  
No day-use fees.



**Park Office:** 209-596-9032  
711, TTY Relay Service  
[parks.ca.gov/  
GreatValleyGrasslands](http://parks.ca.gov/GreatValleyGrasslands)



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at 209-596-9032. If you need this publication in an alternate format, contact 209-596-9032

## PARK ACTIVITIES

**Fishing**—Many species thrive in the slow-moving, muddy river. Summertime fishing yields largemouth, smallmouth and striped bass, bullhead, sturgeon, bluegill, catfish, crappie, shad, and buffalo carp. A valid California fishing license is required for everyone 16 years of age and older.

**Wildlife Viewing**—The park offers a rich variety of wildlife viewing. Bird-watching is a favorite among nature lovers. Red-shouldered and red-tailed hawks and dozens of other winged artists are often seen.

**Bicycling**—is permitted on the hike and bike trails. Bicyclists under 18 years of age must wear approved helmets.

## BOATING

Please remember when boating or rafting on the San Joaquin 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.



## IMAGINE THE FUTURE AT GREAT VALLEY GRASSLANDS STATE PARK

California State Parks announces the development of the General Plan to guide long-range management and operations of Great Valley Grasslands State Park.

To learn more and get involved, visit: [parks.ca.gov/gvgsp\\_gp](http://parks.ca.gov/gvgsp_gp)

