



California State Parks

Quick Facts



Welcome to *Quick Facts*! *Quick Facts* includes statistics - number of park units, number of visitors per year, budgetary figures, etc. - as well as information that will help you understand the places and people that make up California's State Park System. From the many different types of park units, to the variety of natural and cultural resources protected by the department, to educational programs, California State Parks are part of life in California today and in the future.



Sincerely,

Ruth Coleman, Director

- ❖ Learn more about California State Parks with these *Quick Facts* sheets:
 - Parks by the Numbers* – a summary of important California State Park facts and statistics
 - At a Park Near You* – the connection between State Parks and California residents
 - Camping In Your California State Parks* – reservation tips
 - Dollars and Cents* – State Park funding, local grants and concessions
 - The Future of California State Parks* – State Parks are part of the California lifestyle
 - Interpretation and Education* – learning is fun in California State Parks!
 - The Natural and Cultural Resources of California State Parks* – California State Parks are more than picnic areas and campgrounds
 - California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division* – fun off the road in California State Parks
 - Park People* - the people that protect and operate California's State Parks
 - Topical Matters* - important State Park topics in the news
 - What's in a Park?* –the wide variety of places and experiences you can find in California State Parks
 - Top Parks* – units within the California State Parks System that were included in ReserveAmerica's annual *Top 100 Family Campgrounds*, a guide to help campers and their families plan camping trips at locations across America's great outdoors.

Quick Facts will be updated as new information becomes available.



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As of 8/8/2011

Parks by the Numbers

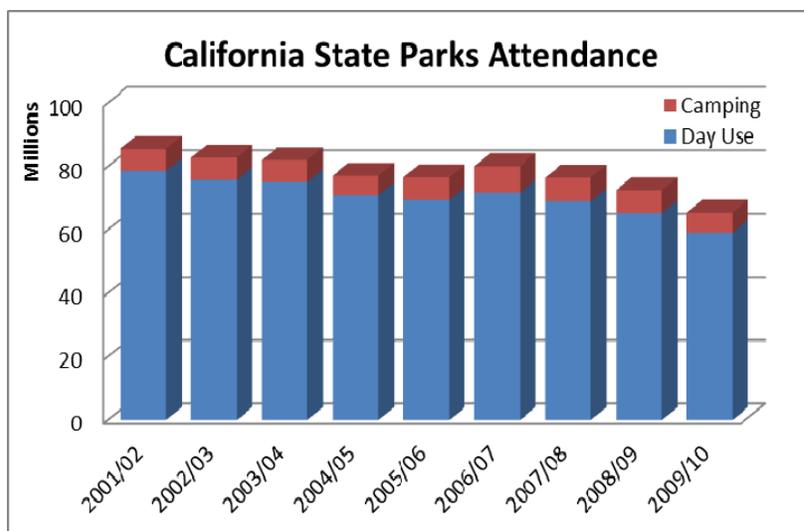
- ❖ There are 279 classified and unclassified units in the California State Park System in 25 districts.
- ❖ Over 1.3 million acres of land are owned or managed by California State Parks (CSP). This is nearly 1.5% of the total area of California.
- ❖ Almost 1,638 miles of waterfront are owned by CSP. This includes over 647 miles of lakefront, almost 318 miles of ocean front, and over 327 miles of river front.

- ❖ **Top Ten State Parks** (2009/2010 Attendance):
 1. Old Town San Diego SHP
 2. Sonoma Coast SP
 3. Bolsa Chica SB
 4. Huntington SB
 5. San Onofre SB
 6. Morro Bay SP
 7. Torrey Pines SB
 8. Doheny SB
 9. Oceano Dunes SVRA
 10. Cardiff SB

❖ Top Attendance by Unit Type

(2009/2010 Attendance):

- State Historic Park—Old Town San Diego
- State Beach – Bolsa Chica State Park – Sonoma Coast State Vehicular Recreation Area – Oceano Dunes State Recreation Area – Folsom Lake
- State Natural Reserve – Armstrong Redwoods
- State Seashore - Eastshore State Park
- State Wayside Campground – Reynolds
- State Historic Monument – Hearst San Simeon



- ❖ CSP provides the public with: 14,531 individual and group camp sites, 652 non-camping overnight facilities, 7,245 individual picnic sites, and 5,095 miles of non-motorized trails.
- ❖ Over 65.5 million people visited California State Parks in the 2009/10 fiscal year. At 1 fl. oz. of sunscreen per person, that equals over 511,739 gallons of sun protection!
- ❖ Over 3% of park visitors operate off-highway vehicles in state park units each year.

- ❖ Six California State Parks were named to the **2009 Top 100 Family Campgrounds in the U.S.** in a survey conducted by ReserveAmerica (listed alphabetically):
 - Anza-Borrego Desert SP
 - Castle Crags SP
 - Lake Del Valle SRA (*operated by East Bay Regional Park District*)
 - Millerton Lake SRA
 - Morro Bay SP
 - Sonoma Coast SP

- ❖ A significant portion of California's natural and cultural resources are protected by California State Parks:



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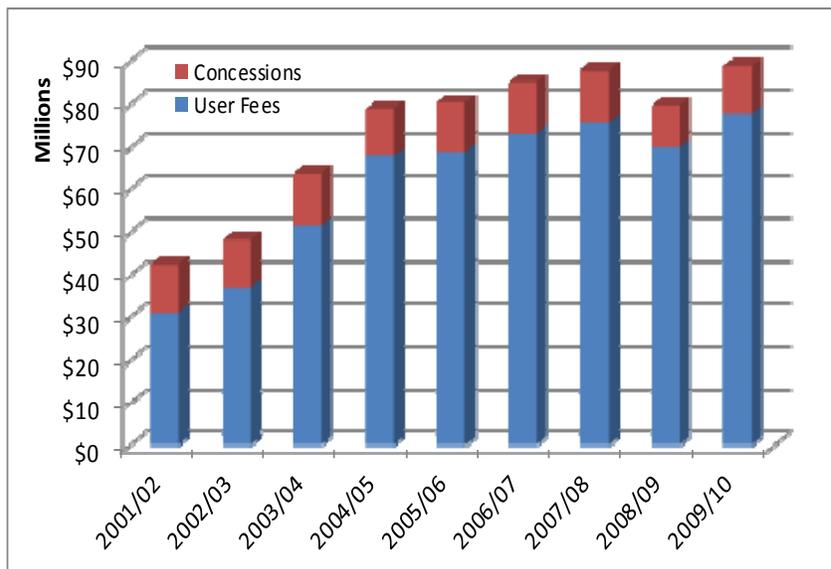


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- 93% of the 1.5 million acres of the State Park System is managed for natural resource values.
- California State Parks is responsible for documentation, preservation and care of 11,008 known prehistoric and historic archeological sites, 3,195 historic buildings, and more than 6 million museum objects, archival documents and specimens.
- Since 1965 California State Parks' Office of Grants and Local Services has administered over \$3.3 billion in local assistance grants, including funds approved by the passage of Park Bond Acts, and federal monies such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Volunteers help staff visitor centers, maintain trails, serve as camp hosts, present interpretive (educational) programs and special events, and do much more.

- ❖ California State Parks' Concessions Program includes approximately 190 concession contracts, including 54 operating agreements as of 2010/2011.
- ❖ California State Parks' 2009/10 budget totals \$845,148 million. The largest sources for these funds are:
 - State's General Fund (~\$123 million)
 - State Parks and Recreation Fund (~\$126 million)



- ❖ Interpretive (educational) programs add to the appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural resources preserved in California State Parks:

- In 2003/04*, 3.15 million visitors enjoyed guided hikes, tours, talks and demonstrations.
- In 2003/04*, approximately 535,000 school children attend formal interpretive programs in state parks.

- ❖ The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division has administered \$331.3 million in off-highway vehicle grant funds.
- ❖ California State Parks is authorized to employ 1,844 permanent staff and approximately 805 seasonal staff to administer, protect, operate and maintain the State Park System.
- ❖ 34,510 volunteers contributed 1,118,261 hours to the department in 2010.

- Young visitors also participate in programs designed specifically for them, such as the Junior Rangers and Junior Lifeguards.

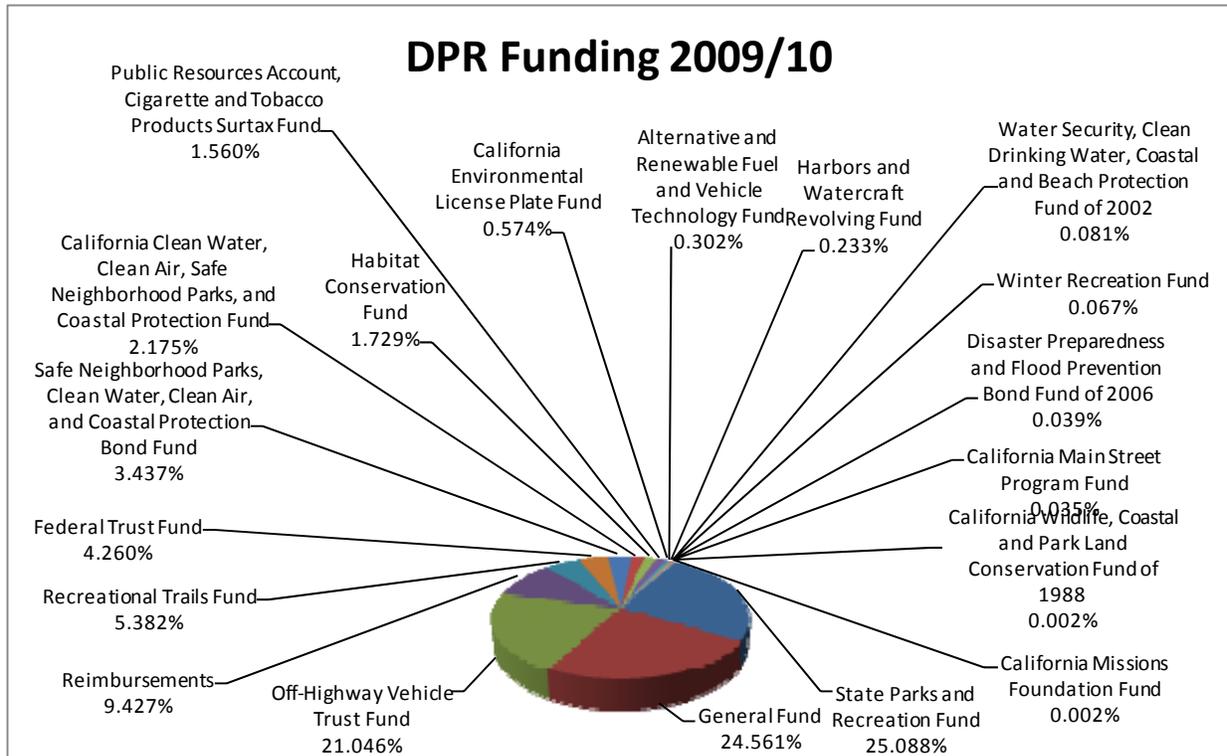
* *The latest data available*



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❖ Learn more about California State Parks with these *Quick Facts* sheets:

At a Park Near You – the connection between California State Parks and California residents

Camping In Your California State Parks – reservation tips

The Cultural Resources of California State Parks – California State Park units contain a wide variety of cultural resources

Dollars and Cents – California State Park funding, local grants and concessions

The Future of California State Parks – California State Parks are part of the California lifestyle

Interpretation and Education – learning is fun in California State Parks!

The Natural Resources of California State Parks – California State Parks preserve some of the state's most important natural treasures

California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division – fun off the road in California State Parks

Park People - the people that protect and operate California's State Parks

What's in a Park? – the wide variety of places and experiences you can find in California State Parks

Top Parks – California State Parks acknowledged by ReserveAmerica in their annual *Top 100 Family Campgrounds* guide



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At a Park Near You

Parks in your neighborhood

- Almost half of California's state parks are adjacent to urban or residential development. There are 21 state parks in Los Angeles County, providing 43,926.61 acres of public parkland to the most populous county in the state.
- The largest state park in the Los Angeles region is Topanga State Park (12,666 acres), considered the world's biggest wildland park within the boundaries of a major city. Topanga State Park extends from the Santa Monica Mountains to the beaches of the Pacific Ocean.
- The California State Parks Foundation sponsors the FamCamp program to introduce camping to families who would otherwise not have the opportunity. FamCamp helps community organizations or agencies work with selected parks throughout the state to set up a trip. The program provides all necessary camping equipment, campsites, and state park staff to facilitate the outing.
- Over 34,000 volunteers contributed 1,118,261 hours to California State Parks in 2009/10. Volunteers help staff visitor centers, maintain trails, serve as camp hosts, give interpretive (educational) programs,

present special events and much, much more to share their love of parks with the visiting public. Many parks with volunteer programs are located in urban areas.

Connecting with schools

- In 2009/10*, approximately 371,000 school children attend formal interpretive (educational) programs at state parks, underscoring the importance of parks as a component of the California Department of Education's standards and frameworks. Field trip statistics (2009/10* fiscal year):
 - Natural History and Cultural Heritage field trips - 354,000 students
 - Environmental Studies and Environmental Living Programs – 17,000 students
- California State Parks staff also visit schools, bringing the park to the classroom. Over 31,500 students benefited from this type of program in the 2009/10* fiscal year.
- More and more students live in urban areas where distance or economic and social barriers prevent them from visiting California State Parks. In response to these situations, California State Parks has initiated the Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) program.
 - Using California's K-12 High Speed Network, PORTS is able to deliver video conference



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presentations to classrooms from parks throughout the state.

- PORTS provides fully developed units of study that furnish support, structure, preparation and follow-up for the video conference. Students study science, history, language arts and other academic content standards while interacting with California State Park staff by video conference.

facilities in communities all over California.

- The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division has administered \$331.3 million in off-highway vehicle grant funds to local, federal agencies, education institutions, and eligible organizations.

** The latest data available*

Grant Funds for Local Park Projects

- Since 1965, California State Parks' Grants and Local Services Division has administered over \$3.3 billion in local assistance grants. Several bond acts have been approved by California voters, the most recent being Proposition 84, the California water quality, safety and supply, flood control, Natural resource protection, park improvement bond and initiative statute of 2006, which provides \$368 million in state park system acquisition, development, restoration, Nature education and research facilities.
- These funds are distributed rough per capita, block and competitive grants. A significant portion of these grant funds are utilized by local park and recreation districts, non-profit organizations, and other qualified recreation agencies to fund recreation



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Camping in Your California State Parks

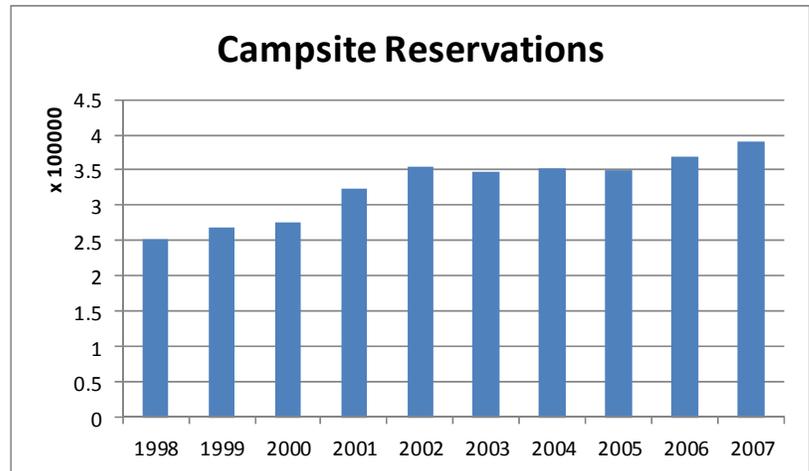
- 119 of the 279 California State Park units have campgrounds, providing the public with 14,207 individual camp sites.

- In addition to traditional camp sites, California State Parks also offers accessible campsites, cabins with varying levels of amenities, environmental (walk-in) campsites, floating campsites, and equestrian campsites. Many parks offer hook-ups for recreational vehicles.

- Lake Oroville State Recreation Area has the most campsites - 1,525 - including land based campsites, floating campsites and mooring sites for overnight camping on private boats.
- If your camping group is too large for a traditional campsite, there are also 324 group camp sites available through the State Park System. Group sites can accommodate from 9 to as many as 100 persons, depending on the campsite.
- While some campsites are available on a first-come first-served basis, many may be reserved in advance. Reservations can be made through ReserveAmerica at 800/444-PARK (7275), or on-line in the Reservations & Fees Section at

www.reserveamerica.com.

Reservations can be made up to seven months in advance, all



year long.

- Important facts about traditional campsites:
 - Accommodate up to 8 people
 - Camping fee includes entry for 1 vehicle and 1 legally towed vehicle or trailer
 - A maximum of 2 licensed vehicles/autos, travel, boat and utility trailers may be parked at most campsites. There is an additional charge for the second vehicle or trailer.
 - Amenities in developed campsites vary from park to park, and may include fire pits or fire rings, picnic tables, a cleared area for your tent, and near by showers and water supply.



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- Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6' and in a tent or enclosed vehicle at night.
- Check in time is 2 PM on your reservation start date. Check out time is noon on your departure date.
- Six California State Parks were named to the **2009 Top 100 Family Campgrounds in the U.S.** in a survey conducted by ReserveAmerica (listed alphabetically):
 - Anza-Borrego Desert SP
 - Castle Crags SP
 - Lake Del Valle SRA (*operated by East Bay Regional Park District*)
 - Millerton Lake SRA
 - Morro Bay SP
 - Sonoma Coast SP

Tips for successful camping reservations:

- Flexibility – If the camp site you usually stay in is reserved, try another site on the same loop or in the neighboring loop.
- If you want to reserve more than one camp site on the same days for the same trip (for example, if more than one family wants to camp at adjacent sites), you will have to make more than one reservation. Each reservation will have a separate confirmation number.
- Reservations for weekends and holidays fill up first.
- Consider camping mid-week and during the off season when the park is less crowded.

Camping Fees per Night

(Fees are based on the level of campground development)

○ Family campsite (developed)	\$10 to \$60
○ Family campsite (primitive)	\$9 to \$25
○ Group campsite (developed)	\$53 to \$550
○ Group campsite (primitive)	\$35 to \$280
○ Trail/Hike and Bike sites	\$5 to \$10 per person
○ Cabin rentals	\$40 to \$356
○ Lake Oroville floating sites	\$150
○ Premium sites	\$15 additional per site
○ Hookups	\$10 additional per site
○ Additional motor vehicles	Same as Day Use fee



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The Cultural Resources of California State Parks

California State Parks are more than campgrounds and picnic areas. Within the State Park System are: forts, missions, ghost towns, cemeteries, churches & temples, lighthouses, gold mines, and much, much more.

Cultural Resource Facts

- 235 of the 279 park units in the California State Parks contain significant cultural resource features.
- California State Parks contain a wide variety of cultural resources. California was originally home to the widest diversity of cultures and languages anywhere in the United States. With the influx of many national and ethnic groups after contact between the California Indians and Europeans and during the Gold Rush, this diversity was expanded and enhanced. Representations of the diversity of people in the state are reflected in traditional tribal buildings, historic structures and communities, prehistoric archaeological sites and cultural landscapes.
- A wide variety of collections are housed at California State Parks. They include natural history collections, ethnographic collections and artifacts from all time periods. California State Parks is responsible for 1 million museum objects, more than 3 million archival documents and 2 million archaeological specimens. Farming equipment, botanical specimens, tapestries, Californian basketry, wagons or all types, stone tools, and fine art can all be found in park collections.
- Chumash Painted Cave State Historic Park contains the most extensive collection of Native American rock art in California.
- The most productive gold mine in California history was the Empire Mine, now part of Empire Mine SHP. More than 5.8 million ounces of gold were brought out of the mine in the more than 100 years it was in active operation.
- The Joss House at Weaverville Joss House SHP is the oldest continuously used Chinese Temple in California.
- The oldest theater in California is The First Theatre, located in Monterey SHP.
- Fort Ross SHP is the site of the only Russian colony and settlement in the lower 48 states.



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- Hearst San Simeon SHM has 165 rooms and was toured by 673,449 visitors in 2007/08. It houses the largest collection of European antiquities in California State Parks.
- Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park contains California's only town founded, financed and governed by African Americans.
- La Purisima Mission, founded in 1787, was largely restored by the Civilian Conservation Corps beginning in 1934. It is the most completely restored of California's 21 Spanish and Mexican-era Missions. Today, the mission complex buildings and a portion of its lands are La Purisima State Historic Park.
- The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, located primarily in Anza Borrego Desert State Park, was the first of five dedicated National Historic Trails in the United States in 1990. It was elevated to National Millennium Trail status in 1999. The trail also passes through 22 other state park units. The entire trail totals nearly 1,000 miles.
- Sumeg Village, located in Patrick's Point State Park, is a reconstructed Yurok village with three traditional houses, a sweat house and a dance house. It was constructed in 1990 in cooperation with the Yurok people and plays an important role in modern tribal life.
- Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park is also known as Chaw'se and has been a center of activity for the Northern Sierra Miwok people since pre-contact time. The village site has a bedrock mortar complex with at least 1,185 mortar holes and 363 petroglyph designs. In 1973-1974 the tribe rebuilt a 60-foot diameter roundhouse with assistance from California State Parks. This roundhouse is the site of celebrations every year.
- Wassama Roundhouse is another traditional California Indian building located on State Park property. This roundhouse, used by Southern Miwok and Yokuts people, was dedicated in 1986. It is a living structure of great religious significance for the local California Indian people and is used for social, religious and ceremonial events.

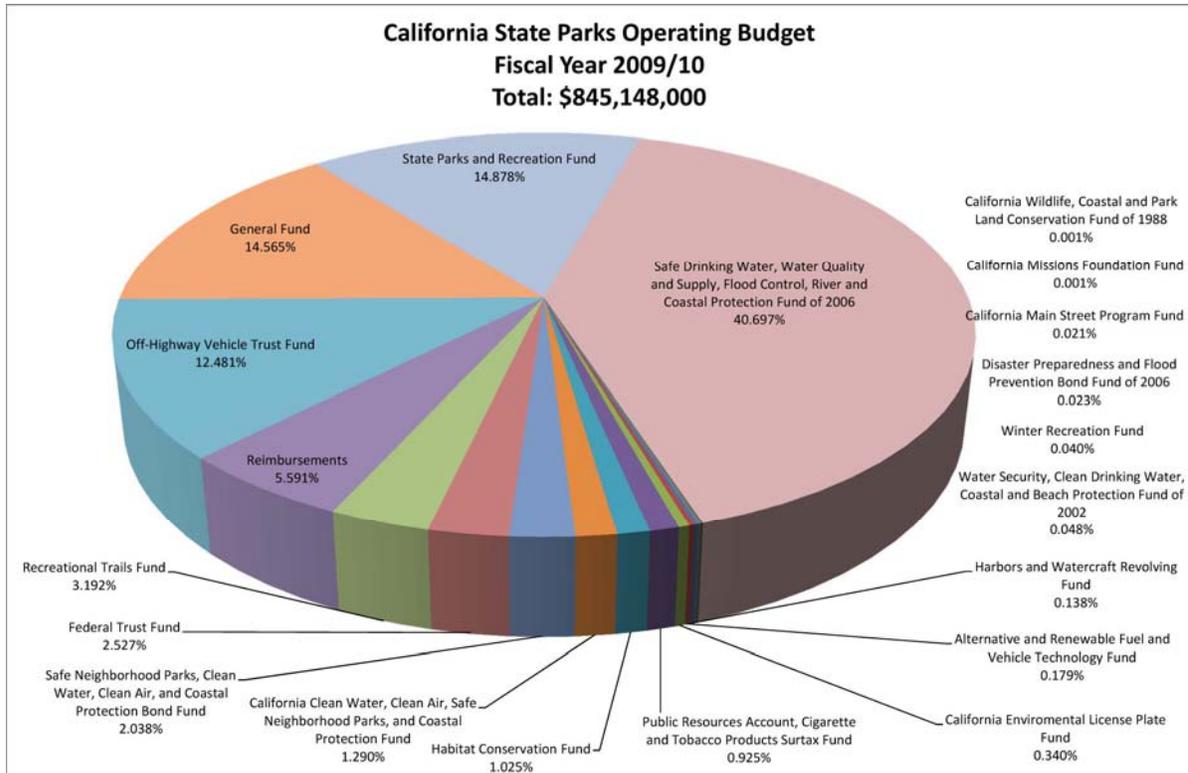


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Dollars and Cents



California State Parks' 2009/10 fiscal year Operating Budget is over \$845 million, from the following sources:

- Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 = \$343.9 million
- State Parks and Recreation Fund = \$125.7 million
- General Fund = \$123.1 million
- Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund = \$105.5 million
- Reimbursements = \$47.2 million
- Recreation Trails Fund = \$27 million
- Federal Trust Fund = \$21.4 million
- Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund = \$17.2 million
- California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund = \$10.9 million
- Habitat Conservation Fund = \$8.7 million
- California Environmental License Plate Fund = \$2.9 million
- Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Fund = \$1.5 million

*State Parks and Recreation Fund - The State Parks and Recreation Fund (also called SPRF) was created by legislation in 1979, Chapter 1065, Statutes of 1979 (Public Resources Code 5010). All fees[#] earned by the department from camping, day use, museums, concessions, etc. are deposited into SPRF and are "available for expenditure for state park planning, acquisition, and development projects, operation of the state park system, and resource and property management and protection, when appropriated by the Legislature." Historically, SPRF revenues have been used for the support of the State Park System. None of the fees earned by the Department are deposited into the State's General Fund. #Note: exception—fees earned at State Vehicular Recreation Areas are deposited in the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund and fees earned at Sno-Parks are deposited into the Winter Recreation Fund.



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- Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund = \$1.2 million
 - Winter Recreation Fund = \$ 336 thousand
 - State Park units act as an economic boost to local communities. For example, a study by California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo in 2003 found that visitors to Morro Bay State Park added \$15 million to the local economy in direct and indirect expenditures over two years. The visitors' expenditures were responsible for 364 jobs in Morro Bay, primarily in recreation and amusement, hotels, restaurants, and retail shops.
 - There were more than 65.5 million people who visited the State Park System in the 2009/10 fiscal year. A study prepared for the Department in 2002 determined that approximately \$2.6 billion was generated by visitor spending in local communities during that year. These dollars supported over 100,000 jobs statewide.
- Concessions and Cooperating Associations in California State Park Units**
- California State Parks' Concessions Program includes approximately 190 concession contracts, including for-profit and non-profit concessionaires. (2010/11)
 - California State Parks (CSP) has 54 operating agreements with public agencies to operate select state park units or portions thereof. (2010/11)
 - Gross sales through the Concessions Program totaled \$87,885,077 and CSP collected \$12,298,483 in rent during the 2010/11 fiscal year.
 - The largest grossing concessions are located in the following CSP units:
 - Asilomar
 - Old Town San Diego
 - Crystal Cove Alliance
 - Pfeiffer Big Sur
 - Hearst Castle
 - Lake Oroville
 - Destination Cinema
 - Lake Tahoe Golf Course
 - Pismo
 - Malibu Pier
- Grants and Local Funding**
- Hearst Castle® generated revenue from gross sales in the amount of \$4,861,877 and \$1,121,963 from rent in 2009/10.
 - Unique concessions:
 - Fremont Peak State Park, Fremont Peak Observatory Association - Uses the Association's telescope to present educational astronomy programs to the public. Run exclusively by volunteers.
 - Concessionaires of Columbia and Old Town San Diego SHP - provide a wide variety of retail goods (such as a Chinese import store, gold jewelry, and hand made candy) and services (such as metal smithing and personal portraits) that recreate the atmosphere of the villages during their hey day.
 - Mendocino Woodlands State Park - Rent historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era cottages for an affordable family reunion, Girl Scout Camp, or company retreat. The large cottages come complete with stone fireplaces and wooden decks.
 - Organ Grinder with a Monkey – a visual and audio touch of history at Monterey State Historic Park



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- Natural resource protection, park improvement bond and initiative statute of 2006, which provides \$368 million in State park system acquisition, development, restoration, Nature education and research facilities. These funds are being distributed through per capita, block and competitive grants.
- California State Parks also administers several other annual grant programs: the Habitat Conservation Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Recreational Trails Program.
- Funding amounts and filing dates for current grant programs are as follows:
 - The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division has administered \$331.3 million in off-highway vehicle grant funds to local, federal agencies, education institutions, and eligible organizations.

Program Name	Available Funds	Final Application Filing Date
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$ 2 Million	October 1, 2011
Recreational Trails Program	\$2.3 Million	October 1, 2011
Land and Water Conservation Fund	Approximately \$1.2 Million	November 1, 2011

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California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

- The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVRD) was established in 1971 by the Chappie-Z'berg Act.
- The Division is funded by sources directly related to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use such as fuel tax revenue, OHV registration fees, and day use and camping fees at State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs). These funds are listed separately from those of California State Parks in the Governor's budget, and are used to support OHV recreation statewide.
- The OHMVR Commission was established by the Legislature in 1982. New legislation, passed in 2008, changed the makeup of the Commission to nine members; five are appointed by the Governor, two by the Senate Rules Committee, and two by the Speaker of the Assembly. The legislation also changed the duties of the Commission to be primarily advisory in nature, although they still approve General Plans for the SVRAs and provide a forum for public input.
- The eight SVRAs, 29 snowmobile trailheads and 19 Sno-Parks offer a wide variety of opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized recreation.
- Management of the SVRAs is done with a focus on long term sustainability. Resource protection actions include, but are not limited to:
 - Wildlife monitoring and adaptive resource management
 - Conducting surveys and inventories of plant and animal communities
 - Conserving and restoring natural areas
 - Identification and monitoring of cultural resources
- Off-Road PALS is a partnership between the OHMVR Division and the Police Activities League. The program teaches safe, responsible operation of OHVs to at-risk children, with special focus on environmental values.
- Annual visitation to the SVRAs has increased from 1,720,548 to 4,160,989 over the last 10 years.
- In collaboration with the ATV Safety Institute, SVRAs provide on-site ATV safety training and certification.
- Over half the property managed by Oceano Dunes SVRA is set aside for resource protection. These lands are available for less intensive recreational uses such as hiking and bird watching.
- Prairie City SVRA is home to the Environmental Training Center. This facility is part of an outreach and education effort, and includes OHV training grounds and a classroom. The office and classroom building was constructed using energy efficient designs and is equipped with solar (photovoltaic) panels that provide the electrical power used at the Center.
- At the Ocotillo Wells District Office you will find a native plant garden and an exhibit featuring seven desert habitats.
- Several alternative fuel vehicles are being tested by the OHMVR Division and SVRA staff. From electric dirt bikes and ATVs to side-by-sides that run on vegetable oil – the OHV program is going green.



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California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

- The coal mines at Tesla, part of Carnegie SVRA, were serviced by the Alameda and San Joaquin Railroad. This railroad was later expanded by owner Walter J. Bartnett and business associate Arthur Keddie into the giant Western Pacific Railroad.
- The State Vehicular Recreation Areas are home to a wide range of plant and animal life. Those who take the time to explore will see wildflowers, the tracks of countless small mammals and insects, and a variety of birds, which may include hawks, owls, pelicans, or gulls flying overhead.
- Clay Pit SVRA started out as a barrow pit where clay was mined and used in the construction of the Oroville Dam.
- On the Renz property at Hollister Hills SVRA, trails are designed to be sustainable and not interfere with existing water drainage patterns. Riders are routed away from sensitive habitat, and trails are closed seasonally to protect the migratory route of the California Tiger Salamander.
- Heber Dunes is the southern most SVRA, unique because it is a diverse sand oasis located in the middle of agricultural land just 3 miles north of the Mexican Border.
- Ocotillo Wells SVRA participates in an active geocaching program. Geocache tour brochures are available at the Ranger Stations.
- Carnegie SVRA worked in conjunction with the Office of Surface Mining and the Department of Conservation to recently install bat gates on many open mines within the park. These gates allow for bat habitat while protecting the public.
- The San Andreas Fault slices through Hollister Hills SVRA, marking the boundary between the North American continental plate and the Pacific oceanic plate.
- Oceano Dunes SVRA offers many recreation options for individuals with disabilities:
 - Vehicle access to the beach to get right to the water's edge.
 - Sand wheelchairs available at the park entrance.
 - A concessionaire offers an accessible dune buggy with all hand controls.
 - A mile long accessible boardwalk at Oso Flaco Lake.
- At the end of 2007, there were 1,135,000 off-highway registered OHVs and 4,134,000 highway registered 4x4's in California.
- Wildlife surveys are conducted at all of the SVRAs. Recent surveys of wildlife include:
 - Flat-tailed Horned Lizard
 - Western Snowy Plover
 - California Least Tern
 - California Tiger Salamander
 - California Red-legged Frog
 - California Horned Lizard
- Each May brings the Hang Town Motocross Classic to Prairie City SVRA. 30,000 spectators come out to watch this nationally televised event which showcases the start of the professional outdoor motocross season.
- 73% of OHV use occurs on weekends.
- Hungry Valley SVRA publishes a wildflower tour brochure which visitors can pick up each spring to tour the park's Poppy Preserve.



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California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

- In 2006, Oceano Dunes celebrated 100 years of motorized recreation occurring on the beach.
- California has more than twice the number of registered OHVs than any other state in the nation.
- For more information about OHV recreation and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, go to: www.ohv.parks.ca.gov or call 916-324-4442

Last updated 1/06/2010.



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The Future of California State Parks

California State Parks Camping

- The mission of California State Parks 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.
- The Department actively tracks trends in outdoor recreation and leisure travel, both on a national and a statewide basis, and conducts periodic user surveys to determine the needs and interests of park visitors. The *Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California* indicated that the following recreation opportunities were important to the public:
 - Camping in developed sites
 - Trail hiking
 - Nature study
 - Visiting museums or historic sites
 - Recreational walking
 - Visiting zoos or arboretums
 - Picnicking in developed sites
 - Use of open grass or turf areas
 - Camping in primitive sites
- This information helps direct the future of California State Parks.

Parks' Connection to Tourism

- California State Parks provide a valuable and vital resource to both U.S. residents and travelers from other countries. According to the California Division of Tourism, 73 percent of travel by U.S. residents in California was for leisure purposes (2006). These travelers enjoyed the wide variety of leisure activities available in California, many of which can be found in California State Parks. Park-related activities and the numbers of leisure travelers who reported participating in them are as follows:

Activity	California Resident Leisure Travelers (% of people - stays)	Non-California Resident Leisure Travelers (% of person - stays)
Sightseeing	21	33
Beach/ Waterfront	8	17
Parks: Nat'l, State, etc.	5	10
Visit Historic Site	4	10
Hike, Bike, etc.	5	2
Nature/ Culture: Observe and Conserve; Eco-travel (Bird/Wildlife Watching)	3	3
Camping	2	1
Hunt, Fish, etc.	2	1
Boat/Sail	2	1



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The Future of California State Parks

- Overseas travelers also participate in park-related activities and are an important part of the California State Parks' visitor base.

Activity	Percentage of Overseas Travelers (2007)+
Visit Historical Places	34.8%
Visit National Parks	16.0%
Touring Countryside	14.1%
Watersports/ Sunbathing	9.5%
Environ./Eco. Excursions	5.3%
Camping/Hiking	1.1%

Travel Dollars and State Parks

- On the average, each California county earns approximately \$1.5 billion per year in direct travel expenditures by visitors (2006). While it is not possible to tie all of these funds to specific drawing points in each county, it is a fact that California State Parks are vital to the economies of many communities.

Transportation Modes

- The majority of leisure travelers in California use private vehicles for their trips. This is good news for California State Parks. The average distance traveled one-way by California residents on leisure trips is 165 miles, bringing many state park units within driving distance of urban centers. Also important to note is that 57% of leisure travel by California residents is for day trips, and 19% is for getaway weekends. California State Parks are convenient destinations for California residents for all types of leisure travel.

Transportation Usage by Leisure Travelers in California

Point of Origin	Auto (net)*+	RV/Campers+
U.S. Residents	49%	1%
CA Residents	90%	1%
Total Overseas	71%	2%
Australia/New Zealand	54%	5%
United Kingdom	71%	2%
Japan	66%	1%
Mexico (air travelers)	85%	0.1%

* Includes rented and private cars, trucks and small vans
+ Cited in 2007 from the Market Profile of Overseas and Mexican Visitors to California.

Last updated 12/09/2009.



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Last updated 6/15/2011

Interpretation and Education

The role of California State Parks as a partner in education cannot be underestimated. Education of visitors to parks is termed interpretation. Interpretation is part education, part inspiration, part entertainment. It is a sharing of knowledge, enthusiasm, appreciation and wonder.

- Within the many units of the State Park System visitors will find a wide variety of interpretive programs:
 - Audio/visual programs
 - Campfire and amphitheater programs
 - Cell phones tours
 - Demonstrations and participatory activities
 - Dramatic presentations
 - Environmental Living Programs
 - Environmental Studies Programs
 - Festivals and fairs
 - Guided walks and tours
 - Hands-on and Discovery areas
 - Junior Engineer/Lifeguard/Naturalist/Ranger Programs
 - Litter Getter/Adopt-a-Beach program
 - Live domestic animals
 - Living History/Re-enactment Programs
 - Museums
 - Observatories
 - Puppet shows
 - Recycling Programs
 - School Programs
 - Self guided tours and nature trails
- In 2009/10*, 2.8 million visitors enjoyed guided hikes, tours, talks and demonstrations; 63,000 attended campfire programs; 2.5 million visited museums and visitor centers in the parks; and 5.4 million went on self guided walks or tours.
- Young visitors can participate in programs designed specifically for them, such as Junior Rangers and Junior Lifeguards.
- More and more students live in urban areas where distance or economic and social barriers prevent them from visiting State Parks. In response to these situations, California State Parks initiated the Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) program.
 - Using California's K-12 High Speed Network, PORTS is able to deliver video conference presentations to classrooms from parks throughout the state.
 - PORTS provides fully developed units of study that furnish support, structure, preparation and follow-up of the video conference.
 - Students study science, history, language arts and other academic content standards while interacting with California State Park staff through a video conference presentation.



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Last updated 6/15/2011

- Interpretive programs in California State Parks help teachers meet the core academic content standards adopted by the California Board of Education. State Park employees align all school group interpretive programs with appropriate California Academic Content Standards. Field trips for schools to the natural and cultural areas administered by California State Parks offer students opportunities to relate the concepts taught in the classrooms to real examples they can see, touch and understand.
- In 2009/10*, approximately 371,000 school children attended formal interpretive programs in state parks, underscoring the importance of parks as a component of the California Department of Education's school curriculum standards. Field trip statistics (2009/10 fiscal year):
 - Natural History and Cultural Heritage field trips - 354,000 students
 - Environmental Studies and Environmental Living Programs – 17,000 students
- California State Park staff also visit schools, bringing the park to the classroom. Over 31,000 students benefited from this type of program in the 2009/10 fiscal year.
- Volunteers provide invaluable support to state parks staff. Over 34,000 volunteers contributed 1,118,261 hours to the department in 2010. Volunteers help staff visitor centers, maintain trails, serve as camp hosts, give interpretive programs, present special events and do much, much more to share their love of the parks with the visiting public.

**The latest data available*



California State Parks

Quick Facts



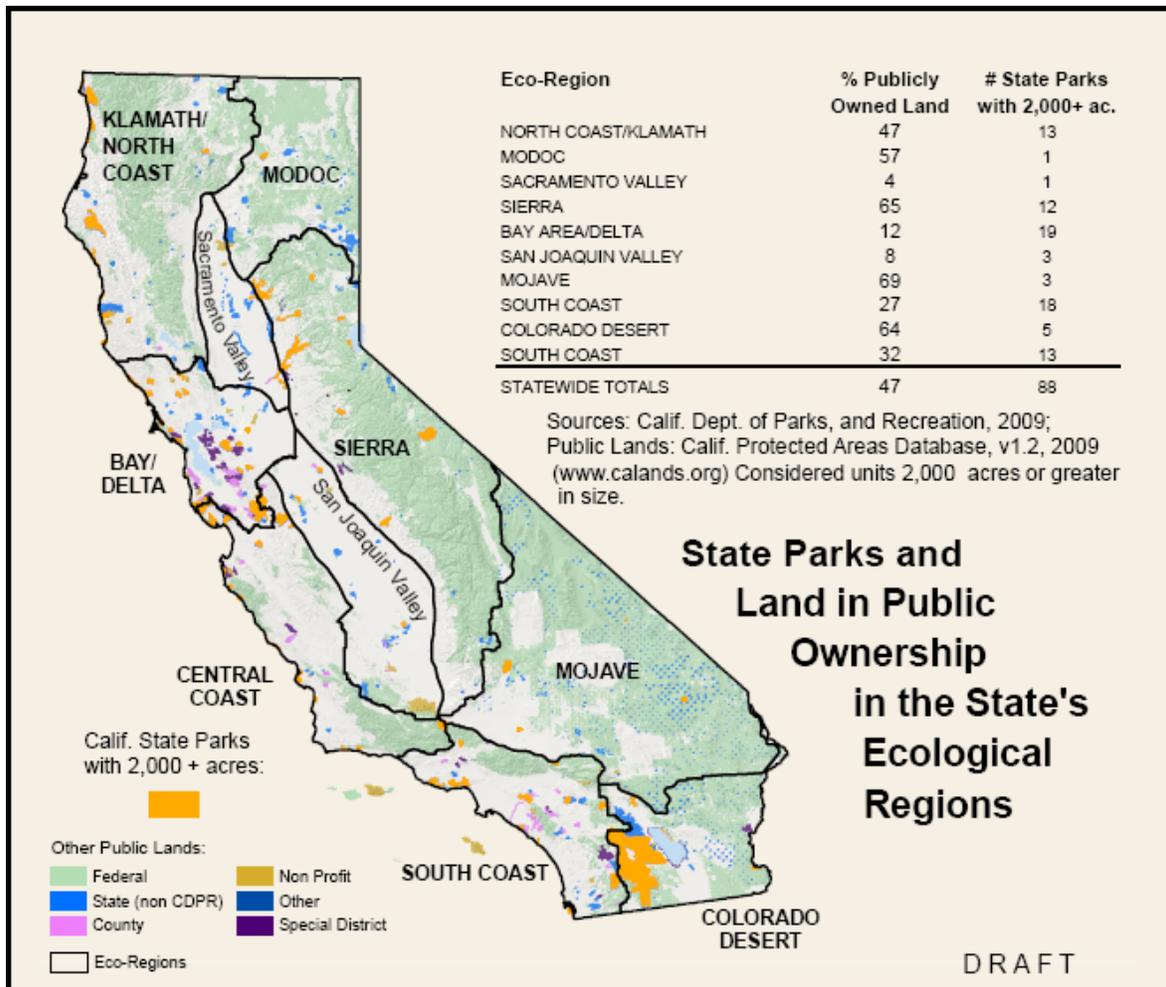
Last updated 8/8/2011

The Natural Resources of California State Parks

The California State Park System supports the most diverse assemblage of natural resource values of any land management agency in California. These values include underwater areas, beaches, dunes, marshes, lakes, streams, rivers, deserts, forests, meadows, and grasslands. Of the 1,566,899.1 acres in the State Park System, 93% are in protected habitats.

Natural Resource Facts

- State Park System Diversity. The State Park System has major units within all of the state's ecoregions and geomorphic provinces. The State Park System is the only land management system in California with large reserves in all 10 ecological regions.





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- Ecological Diversity. The State Park System is the most ecologically diverse system in California; of all California's 202 major vegetation types (alliance level), 65% exist within SPS, e.g. sycamore alluvial woodlands, blue oak savanna, riversidean sage scrub.
- Habitat Preservation. Most of the State Park System is managed for habitat preservation. The State Park System has 279 units and over 1.5 million acres. 78.5% of the acreage is classified State Park (87 units) or State Natural Reserve (16 units) where habitat preservation is the highest objective. Currently we have 279 units, which span 1,566,899.1 acres of California. For the most part, these are large parks, averaging 5,616 acres. Of all State Park System acreage, 94% remain in native habitat while 6% is in other categories.
- Rare Habitat Types. The State Park System protects examples of almost 50% (46 types of 94) of rare habitat types in California. Examples include coastal prairie, valley oak woodland, and Mendocino pygmy cypress forest.
- Watchable Wildlife. The State Park System manages 28% of California's Watchable Wildlife locations currently the database shows 69 sites entered: Refer to <http://www.cawatchablewildlife.org>
- Park Research. On the average 125 natural resource *research* projects, primarily related to wildlife habitat, are in progress each year in the State Park System. The University of California conducts 43% of these projects while another 47% is conducted by the California State University System.
- International Recognition. Seventeen (17) State Park System units have national or inter-national recognition such as World Heritage Site, National Natural Landmark or Biosphere Reserve.
- Marine Parks. In 2006 the State Park System had 22 marine parks and reserves (33,755 acres), or nearly 28% of the total 95 marine areas managed by the state of California.
- Coastal Dunes. Of all of California's habitat types, coastal dunes are the most impacted. There are an estimated 28,523 acres of remaining coastal sand dunes in this state, and 9,614 acres (33.7%) are in the State Park System.
- Wilderness. There are 549,500 acres of designated State Wilderness within the State Park System, making up 99.7% of the entire California Wilderness System.
- Coastal Wetlands. The State Park System has 12 of the 41 most significant Southern California Wetlands.



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- Ancient Redwood Forests. California State Parks manages 49,200 acres of old growth coast redwood forest, or 58% of what remains anywhere. Rockefeller Forest, in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, is the largest remaining contiguous old-growth coast redwood forest in the world (20,000 acres).
- Listed Species. The State Park System has more rare, threatened and endangered species (162), than any other system in California with the exception of the National Forests. However, the National Forests within California are 14 times larger in area than the State Park System. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of all state and federal listed species are found in the SPS.
- Invasive Non-Native Plants. The ten most invasive non-native plant species requiring eradication in order of most to least effort in the State Park System are, European beach grass (*Ammophila arenaria*), arundo or giant reed (*Arundo donax*), ice plant (*Carpobrotus sp.*), yellow star thistle (*Centavrea solstitialis*), pampas grass, or jubata grass (*Cordaderia jubata*), Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Cape ivy or German ivy (*Delairea odorata*), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus spp.*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), tamarisk or salt cedar (*Tamarix spp.*). Currently 63 parks are being monitored long term for 26 of the non-native species.
- Ecoregions. California State Parks has identified 55 parks that are most representative of California's 10 ecoregions. There are 29 parks that are truly outstanding from a natural resource perspective and 33 key watersheds that are representative of aquatic ecosystems in the 10 ecoregions and are capable of being fully protected from habitat conversion.
- San Andreas Fault. Over 93 miles (14.1%) of the 657 mile-long San Andreas Fault Zone within California passes through 18 units of the State Park System. The Salton Trough, a part of the San Andreas Fault Zone, is the largest continental rift on the North American Continent and includes Salton Sea State Recreation Area.
- Oldest Lake. Mono Lake (Mono Lake Tufa Reserve) is thought to be the oldest Lake on the North American Continent. As it has no outlet, evaporation of freshwater has left the salts and minerals behind so that the lake is now about 2 1/2 times as salty, and 80 times as alkaline, as the ocean.
- Geologic Features. California State Parks has identified 57 outstanding geologic features or process within the State park System. Refer below*



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Geologic “Gems” of the California State Park System (in part)

Park Unit	Geomorphic Province	*Features and Processes
Ahjumawi Lava Springs SP	Modoc Plateau	Volcanics, views of province
Anza Borrego Desert SP	Peninsular Ranges and Salton Trough	Fossils, differential erosion, groundwater links with structure, faults, and vegetation, oases, sand caves, type localities for geological formations, geological history record (continuous deposits across the Pliocene-Pleistocene boundary), concretions, paleozoic metasediments, intrusive granitics, volcanics, folds and minerals—gypsum, calcite, desert varnish, badlands
Castle Crags SP	Klamath Mountains	Granitics/ plutonic domes/views of Shasta and the crags
Cuyamaca Rancho SP	Peninsular Ranges	Regional and contact metamorphism; granitics, metasediments, minerals (pegmatities)
Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP	Coast Ranges	Ultramafics/tectonics
Emerald Bay SP	Sierra Nevada	Granitics/glacial effects—moraines, erratics, striations
Gaviota SP	Transverse Ranges	Fossils, dip slope bedding/diatomite
Grover Hot Springs SP	Sierra Nevada	Thermal springs/granitics
Hollister Hills SVRA	Coast Ranges	San Andreas Fault, erosion, sedimentary sequence (stratigraphic column)
Humboldt Redwoods SP	Coast Ranges	Youthful geomorphology (inner gorge), landslides, jade



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Last updated 8/9/2011

Park People

- As of FY 2009/10, California State Parks is authorized 1,844 permanent positions to administer, protect, operate and maintain the state park system. Staff perform the following functions:

Lifeguards	Resource protection/interpretation
Rangers	Planning, design & development
Maintenance	Administration & support
- In addition to the permanent positions, approximately 805 seasonal employees are hired annually. These employees supplement the permanent work force in functions such as maintenance, lifeguarding, interpretation and visitor services.

Lifeguards and Rangers

- In calendar year 2010, State Park Rangers and Lifeguards:
 - rescued 6,062 persons from the water
 - provided aquatic safety personnel medical aid to 12,139 injured persons
 - issued 15,410 citations
 - arrested 1,071 persons
 - found 831 lost persons
- State Park Ranger and Lifeguard duties also include:
 - patrolling (with vehicles, boats, motorcycles (61), fire trucks (12), patrol dogs, horses, bicycles, ATV, one sand rail, and one airplane)
 - conducting interpretive programs
 - resource protection

Maintenance Staff

- State Park Maintenance workers are responsible for keeping all state park facilities safe and open for public use. More specifically, the skills they utilize are:

Road and trail maintenance	Water treatment
Plumbing	Housekeeping
Electrical	Litter and trash pickup
Carpentry	Landscape work
- The maintenance staff utilizes:

865 maintenance vehicles	45 boats
254 tractors	30 forklifts



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Volunteers and Cooperating Associations

- 34,510 volunteers contributed 1,118,261 hours to the department in 2009/10. Volunteers help staff visitor centers, maintain trails, serve as camp hosts, give interpretive programs, present special events and do much, much more to share their love of the parks with the visiting public.
- 84 cooperating associations, 501 (c) 3 non profit organizations that raise funds and advocate for state park units, have over 27,000 members and actively support park units throughout the state. Cooperating associations provide support for visitor centers and undertake fund raising to further the interpretive and educational programs in the parks they serve. Hundreds of special events and thousands of individual interpretive programs reaching hundreds of thousands of visitors would not be possible without their support.

Commissions

- The State Park and Recreation Commission has specific authorities and responsibilities defined in California law, including:
 - Approval of general plans for units of the State Park System
 - Classifying units of the System
 - Approval of concession agreements that: exceed \$500,000; are for more than 20 years; or that include the sale of alcoholic beverages..
 - Establishing general policies for the guidance of the Director of State Parks in the administration, protection and development of the System
 - Recommending to the Director a comprehensive recreation policy for the state
 - The Commission's nine members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
- The California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission is separate from the Park and Recreation Commission consisting of nine members, five of whom shall be selected by the Governor and subject to Senate confirmation, two of whom shall be selected by the Senate Committee on Rules, and two of whom shall be selected by the Speaker of the Assembly. The Commission appointments are primarily advisory in nature, although they approve General Plans for the SVRAs and provide a forum for public input.



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- The State Historical Resources Commission is a nine-member state review board appointed by the Governor, with responsibilities for the identification, registration and preservation of California's cultural heritage. California State Parks' Office of Historic Preservation serves as staff to the Historical Resources Commission.
 - The mission of the Commission and California State Parks' Office of Historic Preservation, in partnership with the people of California, is to preserve and enhance California's irreplaceable historic heritage as a matter or public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, recreational, aesthetic, economic, social and environmental benefits will be maintained and enrich the lives of present and future generations.
- The Commission reviews applications for listing historic and archaeological resources on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historic Resources, and the California Historical Landmarks and California Points of Historical Interest registration programs.



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What's In a Park?

- There are 279 classified and unclassified units in the California State Park System. Classifications and the number of units in each are as follows:

▪ State Park	87
▪ State Beach	63
▪ State Historic Park	51
▪ State Recreation Area	33
▪ State Natural Reserve	16
▪ State Vehicular Recreation Area	8
▪ State Historical Monument	1
▪ State Seashore	1
▪ State Marine Park	1
▪ Wayside Campground	1
▪ Unclassified properties	17

- These units are organized into 25 districts including the five districts of the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division.
- 34 state park units are operated by other governmental entities for California State Parks.
- California State Parks include: beaches, forests, marshes, underwater areas, lakes, reservoirs, streams, rivers, off-highway vehicle areas, deserts, golf courses, sand dunes, meadows, and much more.
- California State Parks contain a wide variety of cultural resources. California was originally home to the widest diversity of cultures and languages anywhere in the United States. With the influx of many national and ethnic groups after contact between the California Indians and Europeans and during the Gold Rush, this diversity was expanded and enhanced. Representations of the diversity of people in the state are reflected in traditional tribal buildings, historic structures and communities, prehistoric archaeological sites and cultural landscapes.
- A wide variety of collections are housed at California State Parks. They include natural history collections, ethnographic collections and artifacts from all time periods. California State Parks is responsible for 1 million museum objects, more than 3 million archival documents and 2 million archaeological specimens. Farming equipment, botanical specimens, tapestries, Californian basketry, wagons or all types, stone tools, and fine art can all be found in park collections. Many items are on



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display, while others are held in storage for study or future exhibits.

- California State Parks is responsible for the document-tation, preservation and care of 11,008 known prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, 3,195 historic buildings, a recreated Yurok village site, two traditional Miwok roundhouses, numerous light stations, cemeteries, roads and trails, houses of worship (alphabetically from Buddhist to Taoist), theaters and early recreation sites. The full scope of human activities is reflected in our park units.
- Hearst San Simeon SHM contains 165 rooms and was toured by 673,449 visitors in 2007/08. Five different tours are currently offered.
- California's geologic features, natural habitats, and a wide variety of native plants and animals are well represented and protected in California State Parks.
- 37% of the state and federally listed rare, threatened or endangered species can be found in California State Parks.
- California State Parks has major units within all of the state's ecoregions and geomorphic provinces.
- The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, located primarily in Anza Borrego Desert State Park, was the first of five National Historic Trails dedicated in the United States in 1990. It was elevated to National Millennium Trail status in 1999.
- The nationally recognized Pacific Crest Trail passes through 5

As of 8/8/2011
California State Park units. From north to south, they are: Castle Crags State Park, McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area, Mt. San Jacinto State Park, and Anza Borrego Desert State Park.

- The first operating weather station in the 11 western states is located at Fort Ross State Historic Park.
- The 125 coastal units of the California State Park System provide access to over a quarter (28.7%) of California's 1,100 mile long coastline, half of which is sandy beach. The coastal units encompass half of the total coastal land in California open to the public.



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Top Parks

As of 5/26/2011

ReserveAmerica is the largest provider of campsite reservations in North America facilitating over 4 million transactions per year.

2009 marked ReserveAmerica's seventh annual *Top 100 Family Campgrounds*, a guide to help campers and their families plan camping trips at locations across America's great outdoors. The list also included ReserveAmerica's top biking trails, beaches, scenic views, water recreation parks and much more.

To determine the top campgrounds and locations, over 4,000 parks were reviewed and evaluated on criteria including educational programs, overall beauty and scenery, family beaches, visitor centers and camping amenities such as hot showers and laundry facilities. The featured locations were also selected based on testimonials, campground ratings and feedback provided by park rangers, regional park management and campers throughout the year.*

Included in this Quick Facts are the California State Parks units that were acknowledged in this guide.

- ❖ *Top 100 Family Campgrounds in the United States*(listed alphabetically):
 - Anza-Borrego Desert SP
 - Castle Crags SP
 - Lake Del Valle SRA (*operated by East Bay Regional Park District*)
 - Millerton Lake SRA
 - Morro Bay SP
 - Sonoma Coast SP
- ❖ *Top 25 Amazing Spots in the United States:*
 - San Simeon SP near Cambria
- ❖ *Top 25 Biking Trails in the United States:*
 - Cuyamaca Rancho SP near San Diego
- ❖ *Top 25 Bird-Watching Spots in the United States:*
 - Salton Sea SP near Riverside
- ❖ *Top 25 Canoeing Spots in the United States:*
 - Lake Oroville SRA near Oroville
- ❖ *Top 50 Educational & Historical Facilities in the United States:*
 - Colonel Allensworth SHP near Tulare
- ❖ *Top 50 Fishing Spots in the United States:*
 - Bolsa Chica SB near Orange
- ❖ *Top 50 Hiking Trails in the United States:*
 - Castle Crags SP near Shasta
- ❖ *Top 25 Horse-Friendly Parks in the United States:*
 - Anza-Borrego Desert SP near San Diego
- ❖ *Top 25 Kid-Friendly Parks in the United States:*
 - Morro Bay SP near San Luis Obispo



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❖ *Top 25 Park Beaches in the United States:*

San Elijo SB near San Diego

❖ *Top 25 Picnic Areas in the United States:*

Benbow Lake SRA near Humboldt

❖ *Top 25 Romanic Spots in the United States:*

Sonoma Coast SP near Bodega Bay

❖ *Top 50 Scenic Views in the United States:*

Saddleback Butte SP near Lancaster

❖ *Top 25 Tours & Events in the United States:*

Año Nuevo SNR (now SP) near San Mateo

❖ *Top 25 Unique Cabins in the United States:*

McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial SP near Shasta

❖ *Top 25 Water Recreation Parks in the United States:*

Millerton Lake SRA near Fresno

Learn more about California State Parks with these *Quick Facts* sheets:

Parks by the Numbers – a statistical overview of the California State Parks system.

At a Park Near You – the connection between California State Parks and California residents

Camping In Your California State Parks – reservation tips

The Cultural Resources of California State Parks – California State Park units contain a wide variety of cultural resources

Dollars and Cents – California State Park funding, local grants and concessions

The Future of California State Parks – California State Parks are part of the California lifestyle

Interpretation and Education – learning is fun in California State Parks!

The Natural Resources of California State Parks – California State Parks preserve some of the state's most important natural treasures

California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division – fun off the road in California State Parks

Park People - the people that protect and operate California's State Parks

What's in a Park? –the wide variety of places and experiences you can find in California State Parks

* from www.reserveamerica.com



California State Parks *Quick Facts*



We hope you enjoyed *Quick Facts*!

These publications are also available online at www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23509.

Parks by the Numbers - summary of important California State Park facts and statistics

At a Park Near You - the connection between State Parks and California residents

Camping In Your California State Parks - reservation tips

Cultural Resources of California State Parks - State Parks have a wide variety of cultural resources

Dollars and Cents - State Park funding, local grants and concessions

California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division - fun off the road in California State Parks

The Future of California State Parks - State Parks are part of the California lifestyle

Interpretation and Education - learning is fun in California State Parks!

Natural Resources of California State Parks - State Parks preserve some of the state's most important natural treasures

Park People - the people who protect and operate California's State Parks

What's in a Park? - there is a wide variety of places and experiences in California State Parks

Quick Facts will be updated as new information becomes available.