campsite layout

campsite layout plays a crucial role in enhancing the camping experience by ensuring safety, comfort, and efficient use of space. Whether designing a campsite for a family outing, a group adventure, or a commercial campground, understanding the elements of an effective campsite layout is essential. This article explores the fundamental principles and best practices for organizing a campsite, including zoning, positioning of tents, placement of amenities, and consideration for environmental factors. Additionally, it examines various campsite configurations and offers practical tips for maximizing space and maintaining ecological balance. By mastering campsite layout strategies, campers and campground managers can create functional, enjoyable, and sustainable outdoor environments. The following sections delve into key aspects of campsite design, starting with the basic principles and moving towards detailed layout techniques.

- Principles of Effective Campsite Layout
- Essential Components of a Campsite
- Common Campsite Layout Designs
- Environmental and Safety Considerations
- Tips for Optimizing Campsite Space

Principles of Effective Campsite Layout

Designing a campsite layout involves strategic planning to balance convenience, safety, and environmental stewardship. The core principles focus on maximizing functionality while minimizing impact on the natural surroundings. Understanding these principles helps to create a campsite that caters to the needs of campers and respects the ecosystem.

Space Optimization

Efficient use of available space is fundamental in campsite layout. Proper spacing between tents and facilities prevents overcrowding and allows for privacy and ease of movement. This includes allocating sufficient distance between sleeping areas, cooking zones, and recreational spaces to reduce noise disruptions and hazards.

Accessibility and Flow

A well-organized layout facilitates smooth traffic flow within the campsite. Clear pathways and logical arrangement of amenities ensure that campers can access key points like restrooms, water sources, and fire pits without

difficulty. Accessibility considerations also include accommodating individuals with mobility challenges.

Safety and Risk Management

Safety is paramount in campsite design. The layout should minimize risks by situating tents away from potential hazards such as steep slopes, unstable trees, or flood-prone zones. Fire safety is addressed by maintaining safe distances between fire pits and flammable materials, as well as providing clear emergency exit routes.

Environmental Protection

Preserving the natural environment is integral to campsite layout planning. This involves selecting locations that avoid sensitive ecosystems, implementing erosion control measures, and designing sites that reduce waste and pollution. Sustainable practices ensure the campsite remains viable for future use.

Essential Components of a Campsite

A comprehensive campsite layout includes several fundamental components that support the camping experience. Each element must be thoughtfully placed to enhance functionality and camper comfort.

Tent and Sleeping Areas

Designated spaces for tents should be level, dry, and offer some protection from the elements. Selecting areas with natural windbreaks and shade improves comfort and reduces exposure to weather conditions. Adequate spacing between tents promotes privacy and reduces noise interference.

Cooking and Eating Zones

Cooking areas should be situated downwind from sleeping sites to prevent smoke intrusion. These zones require flat surfaces for stoves and tables, as well as proximity to water sources for cleaning and food preparation. Eating areas may be combined or separated depending on the available space and group size.

Sanitation Facilities

Restrooms and waste disposal units are critical for hygiene and environmental health. Their placement should be convenient yet distant enough to avoid

contamination of water sources and living areas. Proper signage and maintenance routines support cleanliness and user comfort.

Recreational and Social Spaces

Open areas for socializing, games, or relaxation contribute to a positive camping atmosphere. These spaces should be centrally located but not disturb quieter sleeping zones. Amenities like picnic tables, benches, and fire rings enhance usability.

Common Campsite Layout Designs

Various campsite layout designs cater to different settings, group sizes, and purposes. Understanding these common configurations assists in selecting or creating the most suitable arrangement.

Cluster Layout

The cluster layout groups tents and facilities closely around a central common area. This design fosters social interaction and easy access to amenities, making it ideal for family groups or organized camps.

Linear Layout

A linear arrangement aligns tents and services along a single pathway or road. It is often used in campgrounds with elongated terrains, providing straightforward access and ease of navigation.

Radial Layout

In a radial layout, tents and sites are arranged around a central hub such as a fire pit or pavilion. This design balances communal space with individual site separation and is effective for medium-sized groups.

Dispersed Layout

This layout spaces campsites widely apart to maximize privacy and minimize environmental impact. It suits wilderness camping areas where maintaining natural conditions is a priority.

Environmental and Safety Considerations

Integrating environmental and safety factors into campsite layout ensures a secure and sustainable camping experience. These considerations guide site selection and design to protect both campers and the environment.

Water Source Protection

Locating campsites at a safe distance from water bodies prevents contamination and preserves aquatic ecosystems. Buffer zones with vegetation help filter runoff and maintain water quality.

Wildlife Interaction Management

Layouts should minimize human-wildlife conflicts by avoiding food storage near sleeping areas and providing secure trash containment. Clear guidelines and site design reduce the risk of attracting animals.

Fire Safety Measures

Fire management includes establishing fire rings, maintaining clear zones free of combustible materials, and providing accessible water for fire control. Proper spacing and signage contribute to safe campfire practices.

Drainage and Erosion Control

Effective drainage prevents water pooling and soil erosion, which can degrade campsite conditions. Incorporating natural land contours and installing drainage features ensures long-term site stability.

Tips for Optimizing Campsite Space

Implementing practical strategies enhances the usability and comfort of a campsite layout. These tips assist in making the most of available space while maintaining organization and safety.

- 1. **Use Multi-Functional Areas:** Design spaces that serve multiple purposes, such as a picnic area doubling as a meeting spot.
- 2. Incorporate Natural Features: Utilize trees for shade and wind protection instead of clearing large areas.
- 3. **Plan for Group Sizes:** Adjust spacing and amenities based on the expected number of campers.

- 4. Ensure Clear Signage: Mark pathways and facility locations to improve navigation and reduce confusion.
- 5. Maintain Flexibility: Design layouts that can be easily modified to accommodate different camping scenarios.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the ideal spacing between tents in a campsite layout?

The ideal spacing between tents in a campsite layout is typically 10 to 15 feet to ensure privacy, safety, and reduce noise disturbances.

How should a campsite layout accommodate vehicles and parking?

A campsite layout should designate clear parking areas separate from sleeping and recreational zones to minimize noise and ensure safety, with easy access for vehicles without disturbing other campers.

What are key considerations for placing campfire rings in a campsite layout?

Campfire rings should be placed away from tents and flammable materials, in a location protected from wind, with enough space for seating, and adhering to local regulations to prevent wildfires.

How can a campsite layout maximize accessibility for people with disabilities?

To maximize accessibility, the campsite layout should include level ground, wide pathways, accessible restrooms, and designated tent sites with firm, stable surfaces suitable for wheelchairs and mobility aids.

What role does natural landscape play in designing a campsite layout?

Natural landscape features like trees, water bodies, and terrain can be used to enhance privacy, provide windbreaks, shade, scenic views, and influence the placement of tents, facilities, and trails in the campsite layout.

How can a campsite layout promote environmental sustainability?

A sustainable campsite layout minimizes impact by concentrating use in designated areas, protecting vegetation, managing waste properly, using ecofriendly materials, and incorporating features that reduce soil erosion and water contamination.

Additional Resources

- 1. Designing the Perfect Campsite: A Comprehensive Guide
 This book offers an in-depth exploration of campsite layout principles,
 focusing on maximizing comfort, safety, and environmental sustainability. It
 covers topics such as site selection, tent placement, fire pit positioning,
 and waste management. Ideal for both novice campers and seasoned outdoor
 enthusiasts, it provides practical tips and design templates to create an
 efficient and enjoyable campsite.
- 2. The Art of Campsite Planning: From Wilderness to Backyard
 A detailed resource that blends creativity with practicality, this book
 teaches readers how to plan campsites in various environments. It discusses
 natural terrain utilization, privacy considerations, and how to incorporate
 natural features into your campsite design. The book also includes case
 studies and illustrations to inspire thoughtful campsite arrangements.
- 3. Eco-Friendly Campsite Layouts: Sustainable Outdoor Living
 Focusing on sustainable camping practices, this book guides readers in
 designing campsites that minimize environmental impact. It emphasizes Leave
 No Trace principles, eco-friendly materials, and renewable energy sources.
 Readers will learn how to create campsites that coexist harmoniously with
 nature while providing comfort.
- 4. Backcountry Campsite Design: Essentials for Remote Adventures
 Tailored for those who venture far from developed campgrounds, this book
 covers the essentials of campsite layout in remote and rugged environments.
 It highlights safety considerations, shelter options, and efficient use of
 limited resources. The guide also offers advice on navigation, water
 sourcing, and wildlife awareness to enhance backcountry camping experiences.
- 5. Family-Friendly Campsite Planning: Creating Safe and Fun Outdoor Spaces This book focuses on designing campsites that cater to families with children, ensuring safety, accessibility, and entertainment. It includes tips on setting up play areas, organizing cooking spaces, and establishing clear zones for different activities. The book also addresses common challenges and solutions for camping with young kids.
- 6. Minimalist Campsite Layouts: Simplifying Your Outdoor Experience
 For campers who prefer a stripped-down approach, this book explores
 minimalist campsite designs that prioritize functionality and simplicity. It
 discusses multi-use gear placement, compact shelter setups, and efficient
 packing strategies. Readers will find inspiration to reduce their campsite
 footprint without sacrificing essential comforts.
- 7. Winter Campsite Design: Staying Safe and Warm in Cold Conditions
 This specialized guide delves into campsite layout considerations unique to
 winter camping. Topics include insulation techniques, windbreak construction,
 snow shelter options, and safe fire management in snowy environments. The
 book aims to help campers maintain safety and warmth during cold-weather
 adventures.
- 8. Group Camping Layouts: Organizing Large Outdoor Gatherings
 Perfect for organizing campsites for large groups, this book covers spatial
 planning, communal areas, and resource management. It provides strategies for
 minimizing conflicts, ensuring privacy, and coordinating group activities.
 The guide also addresses environmental considerations when accommodating
 multiple tents and campers.

9. Off-Grid Campsite Design: Creating Self-Sufficient Outdoor Spaces
This book focuses on designing campsites that operate independently of modern
utilities. It includes advice on water collection, solar power integration,
composting toilets, and food storage. Ideal for long-term campers and
survivalists, it offers practical solutions for maintaining comfort and
sustainability off the grid.

Campsite Layout

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Campsite Layout: Design and Optimize Your Dream Campground

Are you struggling to create a campsite layout that maximizes space, caters to diverse needs, and leaves a lasting positive impression on your guests? Do you find yourself overwhelmed by regulations, safety concerns, and the sheer logistics of planning a functional and enjoyable camping experience? Creating a successful campsite isn't just about pitching tents; it's about crafting a memorable experience. This ebook provides the expert guidance you need to navigate the complexities of campsite design and build the campground of your dreams.

Campsite Layout: The Ultimate Guide to Designing and Building a Successful Campground by [Your Name/Business Name]

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Introduction: Understanding the Importance of Campsite Layout

A well-planned campsite layout isn't just about finding space for tents; it's the cornerstone of a successful and profitable campground. It dictates the flow of traffic, the efficiency of services, the overall ambiance, and ultimately, the guest experience. A poorly designed layout can lead to overcrowding, safety hazards, unhappy campers, and decreased revenue. This comprehensive guide will walk you through each step of the process, enabling you to design a campsite that is functional, aesthetically pleasing, and environmentally responsible.

Chapter 1: Site Analysis and Planning: Assessing Your Land and Resources

Before you even think about placing a tent, you must thoroughly analyze your land. This involves:

Topographical Survey: Understanding the land's slope, elevation changes, and drainage patterns is crucial. This informs decisions about site placement, road construction, and potential erosion issues. Soil Analysis: Knowing the soil type is vital for determining suitable locations for campsites and infrastructure. Some soils might be unsuitable for building or could lead to drainage problems. Resource Assessment: Identify available water sources, potential wastewater disposal options, and access to electricity and gas. This assessment will dictate your infrastructure design. Vegetation and Wildlife Survey: Understanding the existing vegetation and wildlife helps in planning for landscaping, minimizing environmental impact, and ensuring camper safety. Access and Accessibility: Evaluate existing access roads and potential challenges for both vehicles and pedestrians. Consider accessibility requirements for people with disabilities. Zoning and Regulations: Begin by researching local zoning regulations and environmental permits. These will significantly impact your layout choices.

Chapter 2: Zoning and Regulations: Navigating Legal Requirements and Best Practices

Navigating local, regional, and potentially national regulations is critical. Failing to comply can result in costly fines and delays. This chapter focuses on:

Zoning Ordinances: Understand permitted land uses, building setbacks, and any specific regulations for campgrounds in your area.

Environmental Permits: Secure necessary permits related to water usage, wastewater treatment, and potential impact on natural habitats.

Building Codes: Adhere to local building codes regarding structures, electrical systems, plumbing, and fire safety.

Accessibility Standards: Comply with accessibility standards (like ADA in the US) to ensure inclusivity for all campers.

Health and Safety Regulations: Meet requirements related to food handling, waste disposal, and sanitation.

Chapter 3: Campsite Types and Configurations: Choosing the Right Layout for Your Needs

Different campsite layouts cater to varying needs and preferences. This section explores:

Tent Sites: Consider size, spacing, privacy levels, and proximity to amenities.

RV Sites: Plan for appropriate dimensions, hookups (electricity, water, sewer), and maneuvering space.

Cabin Sites: Factor in site size, access, and proximity to shared facilities.

Group Sites: Design larger areas for families or groups, with shared facilities and ample space.

Walk-in Sites: Plan for accessible trails leading to sites further from roads.

Layout Configurations: Explore different arrangements like linear, clustered, or dispersed layouts, considering their pros and cons for your specific setting.

Chapter 4: Infrastructure Design: Water, Sewer, Electricity, and Roads

Efficient infrastructure is essential for a functional campsite. This chapter covers:

Water Supply: Source, storage, distribution, and treatment systems.

Sewer System: Wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal methods. Consider septic systems or connection to municipal sewer lines.

Electricity Supply: Determine power needs, choose power sources (generators or grid connection), and plan for distribution throughout the campground.

Road Network: Design a road network that provides access to all sites while minimizing environmental impact. Consider material choices (paved or gravel) and width requirements.

Chapter 5: Amenities and Facilities: Planning for Comfort and Convenience

Campers value convenient amenities. This chapter addresses:

Restrooms and Showers: Plan for adequate facilities, considering capacity and accessibility.

Laundry Facilities: Provide washers and dryers, a welcome amenity for longer stays.

Recreation Areas: Design designated spaces for activities like volleyball, horseshoes, or playgrounds.

Camp Store: A convenience store can sell supplies, snacks, and souvenirs.

Common Areas: Include spaces for socializing, like picnic tables, fire pits, or gazebos.

Dump Station (for RVs): A vital amenity for RV campers.

Chapter 6: Safety and Security: Protecting Your Guests and Your Investment

Prioritize safety to create a welcoming environment. This involves:

Emergency Services Access: Ensure easy access for emergency vehicles.

Fire Safety: Implement fire prevention measures (fire rings, designated fire pits, readily available extinguishers) and develop an evacuation plan.

Security Measures: Consider lighting, surveillance systems, and security patrols, especially in remote locations.

First Aid Station: Provide a designated area with first aid supplies and trained personnel.

Chapter 7: Accessibility and Inclusivity: Designing for All Campers

Accessibility ensures that all individuals can enjoy the campground. This includes:

ADA Compliance: Adhere to ADA guidelines regarding ramps, accessible pathways, and restroom facilities.

Universal Design Principles: Incorporate design elements that benefit a wide range of abilities, including visual, auditory, and mobility impairments.

Accessible Campsite Options: Offer campsites specifically designed for wheelchair users and other guests with mobility challenges.

Chapter 8: Environmental Considerations: Minimizing Your Impact

Sustainable practices are crucial. This chapter addresses:

Waste Management: Implement effective recycling and composting programs. Water Conservation: Utilize water-efficient fixtures and irrigation systems.

Energy Efficiency: Choose energy-efficient lighting and appliances.

Preservation of Natural Habitats: Minimize impact on surrounding ecosystems.

Conclusion: Implementing Your Design and Future Planning

This final section emphasizes the importance of detailed planning, efficient execution, and ongoing monitoring. It also looks toward future expansions and improvements to your campground.

FAQs

- 1. What software can I use to design a campsite layout? Several CAD programs and landscape design software packages can assist with campsite layout planning. Research options based on your budget and technical expertise.
- 2. How much space should I allocate per campsite? This depends on the type of campsite (tent, RV, cabin) and local regulations. Research best practices and local guidelines.
- 3. How do I determine the best location for amenities like restrooms and showers? Place amenities centrally but consider factors like proximity to campsites, ease of access, and minimizing noise disruption.
- 4. What are the crucial safety considerations for a campsite? Prioritize fire safety, emergency access, adequate lighting, and security measures.
- 5. How do I handle wastewater disposal in my campground? Consult with professionals to determine the appropriate wastewater treatment system based on your location and size of the campground.
- 6. What are the legal requirements for building a campground? Research local zoning ordinances, building codes, and environmental permits well in advance.

- 7. How do I ensure my campsite is accessible to people with disabilities? Adhere to ADA guidelines and incorporate universal design principles in all aspects of the campground's design.
- 8. How can I minimize the environmental impact of my campground? Implement sustainable practices such as water conservation, waste management, and the preservation of natural habitats.
- 9. What are some tips for marketing my campground after it's built? Utilize online platforms, social media, and local partnerships to attract potential guests.

Related Articles:

- 1. Campsite Drainage Solutions: Strategies for effective drainage to prevent water damage and erosion.
- 2. Sustainable Campground Design: Eco-friendly practices for minimal environmental impact.
- 3. Campground Lighting Design: Choosing safe, energy-efficient, and aesthetically pleasing lighting.
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- 8. Choosing the Right Campsite Software: A comparison of available software for campsite layout design.
- 9. Marketing Your Campground Online: Effective strategies for attracting guests through digital marketing.

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inherently paradoxical nature of camps and camping in contemporary American society. Offering a new understanding of the complex relationship between place, time, and architecture in an increasingly mobile culture, Hailey explores campsites as places that necessitate a unique combination of contrasting qualities, such as locality and foreignness, mobility and fixity, temporality and permanence, and public domesticity. Camping methods reflect the rigid flexibility of the process: leaving home, arriving at a site, clearing an area, making and then finally breaking camp. The phases of this sequence are both separate and indistinct. To understand this paradox, Hailey emphasizes the role of process. He constructs a philosophical framework to elucidate the placefulness -- or sense of place -- of such temporary constructions and provides alternative understandings of how we think of the home and of public versus private dwelling spaces. Historically, camps have been used as places for scouting out future towns, for clearing provisional spaces, and for making semipermanent homes-away-from-home. To understand how cultures of camping develop and accommodate this dynamic mix of permanence and flexibility, Hailey looks at three basic qualities of the camp: as a site for place-making, as a populist precursor for modern built environments, and as a method. Hailey's creative and philosophical approach to camps and camping allows him to construct links between such diverse projects as the philosophers' camps of the mid-nineteenth century, the idiosyncratic camping clubs that arose with the automobile culture in the early 1920s, and more recent uses of campsites as temporary housing for those displaced by Hurricane Katrina. In Campsite, Hailey makes a singular and significant contribution to current studies of place and vernacular architecture while also reconfiguring methods of research in cultural studies, architectural theory, and geography.

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philosophy to new heights in a variety of styles, from the Adirondack camp to the Western lodge to the classic log cabin. Thirty unique homes, most planned by architects or interior designers, are showcased here, each lavishly photographed to allow readers exclusive access to interiors, exteriors, and noteworthy details in unusual rustic houses from New York to California, from Montana to Ontario, from North Carolina to Minnesota. These spotlighted projects, plus photos of dozens of additional homes, cover the full spectrum of rustic—renovations and new construction, traditional and cutting edge. A bonus chapter on decoration spotlights the craftspeople who are the creative forces of the movement.

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campsite layout: The Best in Tent Camping: The Carolinas Johnny Molloy, 2011-06-15 Written to steer campers away from concrete slabs and convoys of RVs, The Best in Tent Camping: The Carolinas is the only guide for tent camping in the state. Pointing tent campers to the most scenic and serene campsites in the Palmetto and Tar Heel States, this latest edition has a campground to suit nearly every camper's taste. In North Carolina, experience the rare spruce-fir forest of Balsam Mountain Campground or the sand dunes of Frisco Campground. Visit Cherry Hill,

South Carolina's finest upcountry campground, or pitch a tent by the Atlantic Ocean in Hunting Island State Park. Travelers will find essential information about each campground (including season, facilities, rates, directions, GPS coordinates, and websites), as well as a description of the campground, the best sites, and nearby activities such as hiking, canoeing, fishing, and mountain biking.

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shade and storm protection, hanging hammocks, and battening down before bedtime; dozens of simple, but delicious meal suggestions that can be easily prepared on a campfire or small camp stove; how to plan basic tent camping trips to popular state and federal campgrounds during the peak summer camping season; information about the history of tent camping and current ethical guidelines; misconceptions and controversies related to basic tent camping; and how to care for each piece of camping equipment to extend its lifetime. A valuable resource for both novice and veteran campers, Basic Tent Camping details a fresh approach to basic tent camping that emphasizes comfort and convenience.

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most scenic campgrounds in the country. But do you know which campgrounds offer the most privacy or the best lakeside views? Monica Parpal Stockbridge traversed the entire state—from the historic Mesa Verde National Park to the bird watcher's paradise at Pawnee National Grassland—and compiled the most up-to-date research to steer you to the perfect spot! With Best Tent Camping: Colorado, you'll always know what to expect. The new full-color edition of this proven guidebook provides everything you need to know. Inside you'll find: 50 campgrounds in national parks, state parks, and other breathtaking locales, organized into five distinct regions Selections based on location, topography, nearby activities, and overall appeal Detailed maps of each campground and key information such as fees, restrictions, dates of operation, and facilities Driving directions and GPS coordinates Ratings for beauty, privacy, spaciousness, noise level, security, and cleanliness Whether you seek a quiet campground near a fish-filled stream or a family campground with all the amenities, grab Best Tent Camping: Colorado. It's a keeper for all who wish to find those special locales that offer a true connection with nature.

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campsite layout: Best Tent Camping: Missouri & the Ozarks Steve Henry, 2014-01-07 Best Tent Camping: Missouri and the Ozarks by Steve Henry leads readers to 50 guiet and beautiful camping hideaways in Missouri and northwest Arkansas. In addition to scenic beauty and relaxing atmosphere, campground profiles also include tips for outdoor activities and points of interest. Best in Tent Camping Missouri and the Ozarks is unique and important simply because there's no similar printed guide available. Key Information and Campground Ratings boxes prominently displayed in each chapter make it easy for readers to scan and find a camping spot perfect for their weekend getaway. Have a history buff in your group? Several campgrounds are located near historic sites and many others were constructed by CCC companies in the 1930s. Rivers for floating, tubing, or fishing are covered too. Camping with a road biker? Several profiles recommend good road biking loops. Especially helpful is a set of Best For... lists in the front of the book, guiding readers to the best campgrounds for scenic beauty, families, hiking, swimming, cycling and mountain biking, canoeing, and more. Whether campers are looking for a place where they can also go fishing, hiking, or canoeing or the best sites for photography, Henry provides plenty of information to make choosing the right campsite easy. Not only does each campsite profile include a description and map, Henry has even included ratings on the beauty, privacy, spaciousness, and cleanliness of each site. Best Tent Camping: Missouri and the Ozarks makes planning your camping trip easy and enjoyable!

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outdoor writer and native Tennessean Johnny Molloy methodically set forth into his home state, searching for campgrounds to include in this new edition of Best Tent Camping: Tennessee. Having camped the state for decades, Molloy, with over 50 outdoor guides to his credit, uaed his wealth of experience and scoured the entirety of Tennessee -- choosing only the most pristine campgrounds that included not only a great locale for tent campers but with fun outdoors activities nearby, most as close as your tent door. Included in this book is a rating system for the Southern Appalachian's 50 best tent campgrounds. Certain campground attributes -- beauty, site privacy, site spaciousness, quiet, security, and cleanliness/upkeep -- are ranked using a star system.

campsite layout: Hydropower License, South Feather Power Project, 2009

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