

Merritt Park

# Manzanar National Historic Site



## Help Uncover History

You are invited to help the National Park Service conduct archeological investigations and stabilization at historic Merritt Park. Built by Japanese Americans while they were interned at Manzanar, Merritt Park is the largest single landscape feature at the Historic Site, and the largest remaining at any of the relocation centers. Numerous historic photographs reflect Merritt Park's importance to the internees. Now, Merritt Park is buried by sediments and overgrown with vegetation. Uncovering and restoring the park will help increase visitor understanding of the internee experience.

National Park Service Archeologist Jeff Burton is recruiting volunteers to assist with this project. Work will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, May 19 to May 31, July 21 to August 1, and August 30 to September 2, 2008. You may volunteer any number of days, and any number of hours, but a full day (and multiple days) is preferred. The work will be conducted outdoors, regardless of weather. Please be prepared.



Previous archeological experience is helpful but not necessary. While much of the work is physically demanding, there will be a variety of tasks each day appropriate for anyone. All that is needed is an interest in history and a willingness to get dirty.

**If you are interested in participating and for local lodging options, please contact Manzanar Volunteer Program Manager, Carrie Andresen at 760-878-2194 x2714 or [Carrie\\_Andresen@nps.gov](mailto:Carrie_Andresen@nps.gov)**



Steele at Merritt Park in 1943



Steele at Merritt Park today



The 2008 project at Merritt Park will involve a variety of work, including:

- counting, recording, and cleaning artifacts
- pruning trees, raking, and removing brush and debris
- uncovering and recording features
- repairing concrete
- reconstructing landscape features
- repainting calligraphy
- detailed mapping
- digging with shovels, picks, and small hand tools
- operating wheelbarrows
- screening sediments to retrieve artifacts
- taking notes, filling out forms and labels
- or assisting others in these and other tasks