The town of Paradise originally contained five parks that acted as centers for outdoor recreation. These were complimented by performing-arts theaters and art galleries. There were two arcades and a movie theater, as well as two museums depicting the mining and railroad history of the town. Additionally, there were a number of places of worship that formed the spiritual heart of the town.

There were six public institutions serving students from preschool age to adults. Four charter schools operated as alternatives to the public ones. Two private schools were options for parents seeking non-traditional educational opportunities, and two religious schools served the religious community.

Cultural Events in Paradise

Before the Camp Fire, the town of Paradise held seven major festivals yearly. In April, Gold Nugget Days celebrated the gold rush history with costumes and a parade. Paradise Chocolate Fest, in May, was a celebration of chocolate with tasting events, contests, and a bike marathon. Johnny Appleseed Days in October, was a celebration of the town’s history and baking skills, pie contests, a court of royals, events based around the Appleseed myth, and other agrarian events were highlights of the festival. The Lighted Truck Parade, in December, was a celebration of the holiday season, lighting up the night with trucks themed and lighted by the parade participants. The event gathered the people of the town in a common area to enjoy the festivities. Other festivals included the Dutch Oven Cook-off (to benefit the Gold Nugget Museum), the Arlan Hudson Make-a-Difference Day (a community clean-up in memory of a local townsperson), and the Paradise Pow-Wow (an intertribal event intended to celebrate Native American traditions).