



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Chickasaw National  
Recreation Area

1008 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Sulphur, OK 73086

580 622-3161 phone  
580 622-2296 fax

<http://www.nps.gov/chic/>

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

2 January 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Bald Eagle Watch 2009

Bald eagles are flying once again over Lake of the Arbuckles at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The annual return of the bald eagles to this area is always a cause for celebration during the winter season.

This year park rangers at Chickasaw National Recreation Area would like to invite the public to attend Bald Eagle Watches scheduled for Saturday, January 24 and 31, 2009. The day will begin at 9:00 am with a program at the Travertine Nature Center. After the program the group will caravan with park rangers to Lake of the Arbuckles to locate and observe eagles in the wild. Those attending should dress for the weather, bring a camera and binoculars, and a sack lunch. To learn more about this annual event, please call the Travertine Nature Center at 580 622-7234.

The American bald eagle almost reached the point of extinction, but the combined efforts of many private citizens, elected officials, and government agencies led to the removal of bald eagles from the endangered species list in 2007. This increase in the eagle population allows us the privilege of seeing these birds in the wild. Come join us at Chickasaw National Recreation Area for Bald Eagle Watch 2009!

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

2 January 2009

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Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### 2009 Lake of the Arbuckles Launching Permits Now Available

2009 annual lake use permits (stickers) for use in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area on the Lake of the Arbuckles are now available for purchase. The annual permit can be purchased for \$30.00 from the automated fee machines at Guy Sandy, The Point, and Buckhorn launch ramps and the lobby of Sulphur Chamber of Commerce, 717 W. Broadway, Sulphur, OK. The annual permits will be placed on both sides of the watercraft and trailer.

If visitors are eligible for the Senior Pass (formerly Golden Age Passport) or Access Pass (formerly Golden Access Passport) discount, they must have their Senior Pass or Access Pass card in hand to input the card number for permit purchase. The fee machine, which will accept either cash or credit card, dispenses two receipts for each transaction. These receipts, which are heat and light sensitive, are redeemable for a **green** sticker within one week of purchase. The receipts may be redeemed at the following locations: Travertine Nature Center, 7 days a week, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Park Headquarters (1008 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street), Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; the Visitor Information Station (717 West Broadway), seven days a week, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., or when NPS staff are present; and the Buckhorn Ranger Station when personnel are available. Boat owners will also need to bring their current boat registration to obtain the annual sticker. These permits will expire December 31, 2009.

The Travertine Nature Center sells the Senior Pass (U.S. Citizen and 62 years of age) for \$10. There is no charge for the Access Pass, and they can also be obtained at the nature center. For more information about passes and lake permits, call the Travertine Nature Center at 580 622-7234 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/chic/>

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

16 January 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Chickasaw National Recreation Area Seeks Volunteers for Trails & Rails Program Aboard Heartland Flyer

Chickasaw National Recreation Area is seeking outgoing, friendly volunteers for the Trails & Rails Program on Amtrak's *Heartland Flyer*. Trails & Rails is an innovative partnership between the National Park Service and Amtrak to provide on-board education programs to train passengers on routes throughout the United States. Volunteers will serve as ambassadors for the National Park Service and Chickasaw National Recreation Area aboard the *Heartland Flyer*. After boarding the train in Norman, Oklahoma, volunteers will present an interpretive program about the natural and cultural resources of Oklahoma between the Pauls Valley, Oklahoma and Ardmore, Oklahoma stations. Volunteers will then continue on the train to Fort Worth, Texas, returning to Norman the same day.

At least eight Trails & Rails trips are scheduled from May-September, 2009, with two volunteers staffing each trip. Volunteers will receive eight hours of classroom training and a two-hour training aboard the *Heartland Flyer* this spring. Uniforms will be provided. The T&R program is an excellent opportunity to learn more about Oklahoma's National Parks and to interact with train passengers from across the country.

If you are interested in being a part of the Trails & Rails program this summer and would like further information, please contact the Volunteer-In-Parks Coordinator Lauren Gurniewicz, at 580 622-7285 or [Lauren\\_Gurniewicz@nps.gov](mailto:Lauren_Gurniewicz@nps.gov).

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

13 January 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Buffalo Springs Comfort Station rehabilitation continues at Chickasaw National Recreation Area**

National Supply and Installation has been selected to complete the Slip Line Sanitary Sewer Project at the Buffalo Springs Comfort Station. The contractor has begun to install approximately 3,100 feet of 4" diameter plastic line inside the existing 6" diameter clay pipe. The contractor will be working along the existing trail that stretches from the Travertine Nature Center to the Buffalo Springs Comfort station. The trail may be closed for brief periods while the contractor is working close to the trail. The public is asked to exercise caution around stored materials or equipment using the trail. The work is expected to be completed by March.

This is the second part of a multi-year project to rehabilitate the Buffalo Springs Comfort Station for public use. This comfort station was constructed in the 1930s and once served the popular Antelope and Buffalo Springs picnic area. After the Nature Center was constructed (1969) and roads and picnic grounds closed, this building was closed for public use in 1973 due to continued vandalism and clogged sewer problems. This is one of seven CCC era historic comfort stations within the Platt Historic District.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

16 January 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Low flow conditions at Antelope Springs and Travertine Creek

Due to extended dry weather and other influences, the Antelope Springs in the Platt Historic District have ceased to flow. Some water is still flowing in the area of Buffalo Springs. Low amounts of water are currently flowing throughout Travertine Creek downstream from both Buffalo and Antelope Springs. Some of the waterfalls along the creek no longer have water flowing over them.

Antelope Springs last ran dry for a short period in October 2006; historically the springs at the head of Travertine Creek occasionally experience low or no flow generally coinciding with periods of drought. Once rains come again, the aquifer is recharged, and the spring volume should return to normal. Park Superintendent Bruce Noble stated "Given that normal flows from the springs into Travertine Creek average five millions gallons of water per day, the present low flow conditions serve as a reminder of the fragile nature of resources we often take for granted. We look forward to the rains of spring to recharge the aquifer in time for our summer visitor season."

-NPS-



## Documented dry periods for Antelope Springs

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Mar 1911 - Apr 1912

Sep 1912 - Nov 1913

Mar 1918 - Dec 1919

Apr 1927 - Aug 1927

Aug 1934 - Sep 1936

Sep 1937 - Feb 1938

Sep 1938 - Jun 1940

Dec 1951 - Apr 1952

Sep 1952 - Jun 1954

Aug 1954 - May 1957

Jan 1959 - Dec 1959

Aug 1963 - Nov 1964

Aug 1965 - Jul 1967

Dec 1, 1976 - Mar 31, 1977

Dec 23, 1977 - Mar 31, 1978

Dec 15, 1978 - Feb 28, 1979

Dec 31, 1979 - Sep 30, 1981

Jul 10, 1984 - Oct 31, 1984

Oct 6, 2006 - Oct 13, 2006

**Jan 12, 2009 - present**



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

16 January 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Upper Guy Sandy boat ramp closed due to low water conditions

The boat dock and launch ramp is closed at the Upper Guy Sandy boat launch area (located at the corner of Shepard Hills and Primrose) due to low water levels on the Lake of the Arbuckles. The end of the road is still open for vehicle access. This temporary closure is expected to last until water levels on the lake rise enough to allow safe operation of the dock and launch ramp.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

6 February 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Centennial Celebration at the Lincoln Bridge

On Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 1:30 PM, join park staff, members of the community and local students for a gathering at the Lincoln Bridge in the Platt Historic District to celebrate the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth and the centennial of the bridge's construction. A short reception will follow at the Visitor Information Station in the Sulphur Chamber of Commerce building at 717 West Broadway. For more information, please contact Park Ranger Lauren Gurniewicz at 580 622-7285.

One hundred years ago, on a cold February day, residents of Sulphur and park officials gathered to celebrate the completion of the first permanent improvement in Platt National Park. The rock arch foot-bridge was christened "The Lincoln Bridge," in honor of the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth on February 12, 1909. This Gothic Revival structure has stood for one hundred years as a treasured part of Platt National Park and today's Platt Historic District in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

20 February 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Volunteer Opportunities Available at Chickasaw NRA

Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Sulphur, OK, is now accepting applications for a wide variety of volunteer opportunities.

#### Visitor Services

If you enjoy working with people, visitor services may be for you. Multiple opportunities exist to work with Park Rangers to staff the Travertine Nature Center, Visitor Information Station, Junior Ranger Station, and Buckhorn Ranger Station in the Park. Volunteers will provide information to visitors, answer telephones, issue boat launch permits and federal park passes, answer visitor questions, and assist with bookstore sales. Volunteers may also have opportunities to present interpretive programs and guided walks. Work schedules are flexible, with opportunities available for volunteers who can work as little as 8 hours per month or 24 hours per week. One RV site with full hook-ups is available for one volunteer couple in return for 48 total volunteer hours per week.

#### Campground Host

Campground Hosts are the eyes and ears of the Park campgrounds. As a Campground Host, you will help grateful visitors relax, find their campsite, and settle in for their stay at the Park. Hosts greet visitors, answer questions, inform campers of rules and regulations, respond to minor emergency situations, conduct light grounds maintenance, groom fire pits, and restock restroom supplies. In addition to a free RV site with full hook-ups, you will be given training and support to ensure you will look forward to your job every day. The Park is now filling positions for the Spring, Summer, and Fall 2009.



### Adopt a Spot

Park Rangers are seeking interested groups and individuals to adopt their favorite area of Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Volunteers will conduct light maintenance and trash removal several times per year in their designated area. These are excellent opportunities for volunteers who like to work outside. The Adopt an Spot program will be supervised by the Park's Law Enforcement Division and will provide a way for volunteers to give back to their Park.

All volunteers should possess a desire to learn, excellent communication skills, and have an interest in park resources. These exciting volunteer opportunities are wonderful ways to meet interesting people and to learn about the National Park Service. All volunteers will receive on-the-job training, uniforms, and the opportunity for growth. For more information or to apply, visit <http://www.volunteer.gov/gov/results.cfm?states=OK>, call Volunteer Coordinator Lauren Gurniewicz at 580 622-7285, or email [Lauren\\_Gurniewicz@nps.gov](mailto:Lauren_Gurniewicz@nps.gov).

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

27 February 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Seeking Youth Conservation Corps Applicants at Chickasaw NRA

Are you between the ages of 15 and 18, looking for employment, and like to work outside? Here is a wonderful opportunity to join the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Chickasaw National Recreation Area is looking for young men and women, ages 15 through 18, who work, learn, and earn together on projects that further the development and conservation of the natural resources of the United States. Period of employment may be up to eight weeks beginning on June 1 through July 31, 2009. Rate of pay will be \$6.55 per hour.

Applications are available beginning Monday, March 2, 2009. Headquarters located at 1008 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Sulphur. Applications are due Friday, March 27, 2009. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applications will also be available at Sulphur, Davis, Wynnewood, Roff, and Springer High Schools.

Employees will be selected by public drawing at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2009 at park Headquarters. Applications received after March 27, 2009 will be accepted and held in reserve for any vacancies.

The Youth Conservation Corps was established by Public Law 93-408 as a summer employment program with the following objectives:

1. To accomplish needed conservation work on public lands
2. To provide gainful employment for 15-through 18-year-old males and females of all social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds
3. To develop in participating youth an understanding and appreciation of the Nation's natural environment and heritage.
4. Employment is contingent on passing a background check.

For further information about this wonderful job opportunity, call 580 622-7207 or 7204.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

13 March 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Superintendent's Compendium Annual Review

The annual review period for the Superintendent's compendium is now underway, with comments required to be received by April 3, 2009. The Superintendent's Compendium is a supplemental document that addresses specific management needs and concerns of an individual national park area. The compendium is authorized by Title 16, United States Code, Section 3, and Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1 through 7, which allow the superintendent to establish these regulations. The Superintendent's Compendium is revised annually to continually address specific management needs of the park. These regulations apply in addition to the criminal laws of the United States and the regulations contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Three primary changes have been proposed:

- Suspension of antlered hunting (all seasons) to improve the deer population.
- Annual closure of the Cold Springs campground and the swimming and picnic areas east of U.S. 177 and along Travertine Creek in the Platt Historic District to alcohol between the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend through the Monday of Labor Day Weekend.
- Reduction of maximum number of occupants in campsites throughout the park. This provision calls for no more than six campers per site for Platt Historic District campgrounds (Cold Springs, Rock Creek), except group sites and no more than eight campers per site for Lake District campgrounds (Buckhorn, Point, Guy Sandy). Camping equipment must be kept within designated areas provided per site (i.e. on site pads).



To see the full draft document please visit the park's website at the following address:  
<http://www.nps.gov/chic/parkmgmt/compendium.htm>

Comments regarding the 2009 Compendium are due by April 3, 2009 and can be emailed to  
[chic\\_web\\_coordinator@nps.gov](mailto:chic_web_coordinator@nps.gov) or mailed to:

Superintendent  
1008 West Second Street  
Sulphur, OK 73086

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

13 March 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Prescribed Fires Planned At Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Due to recent precipitation and in consultation with local officials, National Park Service fire managers hope to implement prescribed fires within the recreation area during a ten-day period beginning March 18, 2009, as **weather conditions allow**. The areas targeted are the Southern boundary in the area north of the Arbuckle Dam, and the north towards the West Hunting area; in the Platt Historic District burns are scheduled for the old Golf Course, North boundary, and sections of the north bank of Rock Creek between the low water crossings at Black Sulphur Springs and Rock Creek. The burns are a part of the National Park Service's prescribed fire program at Chickasaw National Recreation Area, to help protect local communities from the catastrophic effects of uncontrolled wildland fires while promoting the natural ecosystem's ability to thrive.

Fires will be ignited when environmental factors such as temperature, wind direction, relative humidity, and fuel moisture levels are within a very specific range. Fire is an essential part of many healthy ecosystems. Prescribed fires improve forest health by promoting nutrient recycling, increasing habitat diversity, and reducing fuels that lead to unwanted, out-of-control wildfires. Numerous plant and animal species have evolved with fire and depend upon it to create the conditions they need to flourish.

Smoke from these prescribed fires may be visible in downtown Sulphur, Davis, Rock Creek, Veterans Lake, Buckhorn areas, Goddard Road, and along Chickasaw Trail but every effort will be made to minimize smoke production. **If you have health problems that will be aggravated by smoke, we strongly encourage you to contact us at 580 622-3161.** Some minor inconveniences to driving on U. S. Highway 177 South, and the Platt District Perimeter Road may occur as firing adjacent to the road progresses. Wind direction and upper level mixing of smoke will be utilized to eliminate or reduce these inconveniences.

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Qualified personnel will monitor the fires throughout the burn period. During burn periods, property owners will be notified about work in their area, and will be advised of any special procedures that would minimize the effects of smoke such as turning off central heat and/or air conditioning units.

The scientific use of fire is a management tool that benefits animals, plants and people. Well-planned and executed fires promote the healthy growth of native plants, which support the variety and abundance of birds and animals found in these natural areas. Residents near these burn areas also benefit because the fuel from dead plant material that has accumulated over the years is reduced under controlled conditions. This significantly reduces the threat a wildfire would pose to people and property in and near the park.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

13 March 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Business Opportunities at Chickasaw NRA

Chickasaw National Recreation area is offering a unique opportunity to develop a partnership with a high visitation National Park Service site located in Sulphur, Oklahoma. The park is seeking proposals for three business ventures to support visitor services in the areas of fire wood sales, motorized and non-motorized boat rentals and food services.

This partnership opportunity is based on a commercial use authorization requiring liability insurance, transparency of revenues and minimal permit and service fees. The approved proposals will be authorized to conduct business within the boundaries of Chickasaw National Recreation Area for a two-year period. The sites available for business enterprises include firewood sales in five campgrounds, motorized and non-motorized boat rentals on Lake of the Arbuckles and Veterans Lake, and food service locations at Buckhorn and the Point boat launch facilities.

These opportunities can be acted on by picking up an information packet at the park's headquarters or by requesting one by mail, fax (580 622-2296) or email ([chic\\_web\\_coordinator@nps.gov](mailto:chic_web_coordinator@nps.gov)). The requests for proposals and additional information can also be found on the park website at: <http://www.nps.gov/chic/parkmgmt/businesswithpark.htm>

A business plan or commercial use permit application must be submitted to the park by April 6, 2009 to be considered for these identified opportunities.

-NPS-



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Oklahoma City  
National Memorial

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Oklahoma City, OK 73102

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## Oklahoma City National Memorial News Release

26 March 2009

For Immediate Release

Skip Wheeler, 405-609-8860

### National Park Service Junior Ranger Day Activities Planned at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

OKLAHOMA CITY — Children ages 6-12 can become a Junior Ranger at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The National Park Service at the Oklahoma City National Memorial, an affiliated area within the National Park System, will provide the Junior Ranger Program to help children ages 6 through 12 appropriately learn about the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, its aftermath, and the symbolic Memorial components. National Park Rangers will present the program from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will provide support materials to help the Junior Rangers make a special connection with the Memorial.

“This activity is designed to help participating children feel a sense of hope and encouragement. Children learn through the program that many came together after the bombing to help overcome evil by committing acts of kindness and public service. They see ways that they can help make this world a better place,” said Skip Wheeler, Supervisory Park Ranger, National Park Service, Oklahoma City National Memorial. “Each child receives a Junior Ranger badge and a certificate at the end of the program when they are sworn in as Junior Rangers.”

Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> has been deemed National Junior Ranger Day in conjunction with National Park Week (April 19-25), an annual presidentially proclaimed week for celebration and recognition of the country’s nearly 400 national park areas. The Junior Ranger program engages young people in age appropriate activities that allow them to discover the significance of a specific site and introduce them to the national park system and to the mission of the National Park Service.

No reservations are required. A parent or guardian is asked to attend with each participating junior ranger. For reservations or more information on how your child can participate, please call 450.235.3313.

The Junior Ranger Program is one of many educational opportunities for children, students and families to experience at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. Educational items, including Junior Ranger hats, are available in the Memorial store.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

3 April 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Celebrate Spring by Picking Up the Platt Historic District

Chickasaw National Recreation Area is seeking local volunteers to roll up their sleeves and devote one morning to cleaning up the Platt Historic District. Interested volunteers can meet at 9 am on April 25, 2009 at the Lincoln Bridge parking area, just off of U. S. Highway 177 south of Sulphur.

“As spring approaches, it is time to begin thinking about cleaning up the accumulated winter debris and putting forward our best appearance for the summer visitor season,” said Park Superintendent Bruce Noble. “We invite those of you who regularly use the trails of the Platt District and Flower Park to assist us in making these parts of the park more enjoyable and inviting.”

Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants, sturdy shoes and bring work gloves. The park will provide trash bags, work gloves and tools, if needed. For more information or to sign up for the event, contact volunteer coordinator Lauren Gurniewicz at 580 622-7285.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

3 April 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Deadline extended for Youth Conservation Corps Applicants

The deadline for applications for Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) positions this summer in Chickasaw NRA has been extended to Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

Applications are available at Park Headquarters, located at 1008 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Sulphur. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applications will also be available at Sulphur, Davis, Wynnewood, Roff, and Springer High Schools.

Chickasaw National Recreation Area is looking for young men and women, ages 15 through 18, who work, learn, and earn together on projects that further the development and conservation of the natural resources of the United States. Period of employment may be up to eight weeks beginning on June 1 through July 31, 2009. Rate of pay will be \$6.55 per hour.

Employees will be selected by public drawing at 4:00 p.m. on Friday April 17, 2009 at park headquarters. Applications received after April 15, 2009 will be accepted and held in reserve for any vacancies.

The Youth Conservation Corps was established by Public Law 93-408 as a summer employment program with the following objectives:

1. To accomplish needed conservation work on public lands
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3. To develop in participating youth an understanding and appreciation of the Nation's natural environment and heritage.
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For further information about this wonderful job opportunity, call 580 622-7207 or 7204.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

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### Junior Ranger Day at Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Saturday, April 25th has been designated National Junior Ranger Day in conjunction with National Park Week (April 19-25), an annual presidentially proclaimed week for celebration and recognition of the country's nearly 400 national park areas. The Junior Ranger program engages young people in age appropriate activities that allow them to discover the significance of a specific site and introduce them to the national park system and to the mission of the National Park Service.

Park rangers at Chickasaw National Recreation Area will host a series of children's activities at the entrance to the Cold Springs Campground from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. No reservations are required. A parent or guardian is asked to attend with each participating junior ranger. Each child receives a Junior Ranger badge, patch, and a certificate at the end of the program when they are sworn in as Junior Rangers.

The highlight of the day will be the dedication of the Junior Ranger Station at 12:00. This building was originally built in March of 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps as a campground checking station. As the Junior Ranger Station, it will be open during weekends this coming summer as a central location for children visiting the park to begin their Junior Ranger experience.

If you have questions about Junior Ranger Day at Chickasaw National Recreation Area, please call the Travertine Nature Center at 580 622-7234.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

24 April 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Recovery Act projects to benefit national park areas in Oklahoma

The National Park Service (NPS) has announced nearly 800 projects totaling \$750 million that can be completed across the country with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This major effort includes projects in the agency's Intermountain Region, which includes Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Texas.

“These projects are an investment in America’s future that will create jobs, stimulate the economies of local communities, and get our country moving again,” Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said. “They are also an investment in telling the story of America to future generations through our national parks by conserving our awe-inspiring landscapes, our rich culture, and our great heritage.”

“We will use Recovery Act funding to make a difference in parks,” said NPS Acting Director Dan Wenk. “We will fix trails, invest in energy-efficient vehicles, build new visitor facilities, clean up abandoned mine sites, increase our ability to generate power from the sun, and finally complete overdue maintenance on our buildings and roads.”

A full list of National Park Service projects is available at <http://www.interior.gov/recovery/nps>.  
Approved projects for Oklahoma national park areas include:

Chickasaw National Recreation Area; Sulphur, Oklahoma

- Rehabilitate Comfort Stations to Improve Health and Safety
- Rehabilitate the Travertine Nature Center
- Repair the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail
- Repair trails at Buckhorn Campground to Improve Accessibility

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Washita Battlefield National Historic Site; Cheyenne, Oklahoma

- Replace Fence Along Park Boundary

Chickasaw Total (all dollar amounts in thousands)	\$522
Washita Battlefield Total	\$37
<b>OK Total</b>	<b>\$559</b>

“As the largest region of the National Park Service, we are very pleased that these and scores of other projects will begin soon at parks across our eight states, from Montana to Texas,” said Intermountain Region Director Mike Snyder. “This is an important opportunity to help boost local economies and put more people to work when our country most needs it. We are especially grateful that this recovery effort will help us do the job America asks of us daily: To protect and improve our national parks, and to make these scenic, historic and cultural jewels available to more generations of park visitors.”

“We look forward to spending this money in a manner that will help the local economy and improve the visitor experience for everyone who treasures our fabulous national park areas in Oklahoma,” said Bruce Noble, Superintendent of Chickasaw National Recreation Area and Oklahoma State Coordinator.

All the projects announced are long-standing priorities of the National Park Service and meet the criteria put forth in the Recovery Act: namely, that a project addresses the Department’s highest-priority mission needs; generates the largest number of jobs in the shortest period of time; and creates lasting value for the American public.

Secretary Salazar has pledged unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Department’s economic recovery projects. The public will be able to follow the progress of each project on the recovery web site and on <http://www.interior.gov/recovery/nps>.

-NPS-



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Chickasaw National  
Recreation Area

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Sulphur, OK 73086

580 622-3161 phone  
580 622-2296 fax

<http://www.nps.gov/chic/>

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

27 April 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Prescribed Fires Planned At Chickasaw National Recreation Area

As part of the on-going prescribed fire program at Chickasaw National Recreation Area, National Park Service fire managers will be implementing prescribed fires within the recreation area April 30 and May 1. If **weather conditions allow**, portions of the West Hunting Area will be burned. The burns are a part of the National Park Service's efforts to help protect local communities from the catastrophic effects of uncontrolled wildland fires while promoting the natural ecosystem's ability to thrive.

Fires will be ignited when environmental factors such as temperature, wind direction, relative humidity, and fuel moisture levels are within a very specific range. Fire is an essential part of many healthy ecosystems. Prescribed fires improve forest health by promoting nutrient recycling, increasing habitat diversity, and reducing fuels that lead to unwanted, out-of-control wildfires. Numerous plant and animal species have evolved with fire depend upon it to create the conditions they need to flourish.

Smoke from these prescribed fires may be visible in the West Hunting area but every effort will be made to minimize smoke production. **If you have health problems that will be aggravated by smoke, we strongly encourage you to contact us at 580/622-3161.**

The scientific use of fire is a management tool that benefits animals, plants and people. Well-planned and executed fires promote the healthy growth of native plants, which support the variety and abundance of birds and animals found in these natural areas. Residents near these burn areas also benefit, because the fuel from dead plant material that has accumulated over the years is reduced under controlled conditions. This significantly reduces the threat a wildfire would pose to people and property in and near the park.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

1 May 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### NPS Trails & Rails Program on the Amtrak Heartland Flyer

Park Superintendent Bruce Noble is pleased to announce the 2009 season for the Trails & Rails program aboard Amtrak's *Heartland Flyer*. "Trails & Rails" is a partnership between the National Park Service and Amtrak to provide on-board education programs. The program is coordinated through the Volunteer-In-Parks Program at Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Sulphur, Oklahoma.

Volunteers act as tour guides and provide Amtrak passengers with information while aboard the *Heartland Flyer*. Passengers will be introduced to topics including the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Oklahoma and Texas; the history of the area; the geological story of these areas; descriptions of the Oklahoma and Texas landscape and its animals and plants; the economic story; and the role of the railroad in this region. Volunteers board the *Heartland Flyer* in Norman, Oklahoma and are available for information and questions along the route to Fort Worth, Texas and return. The following dates have been set for the Trails & Rails 2009 season:

Saturday, May 23, 2009  
Saturday, June 6, 2009  
Saturday, June 13, 2009  
Saturday, June 20, 2009  
Saturday, July 4, 2009  
Saturday, July 18, 2009  
Saturday, August 1, 2009  
Saturday, August 15, 2009  
Saturday, September 5, 2009

Reservations and information on the Heartland Flyer can be made by either calling toll-free 1-800-USA-RAIL (872-7245) or [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com). More information on the park's Trails and Rails program can be found at [nps.gov/chic/planyourvisit/trails-and-rails-program.htm](http://nps.gov/chic/planyourvisit/trails-and-rails-program.htm)

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

8 May 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Spring rains bring a return of the Freshwater Springs

More than seven inches of rain in the last week have returned water to both Travertine Creek and the freshwater springs that feed the creek in the Platt Historic District of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Three inches of rainfall on April 29 delivered storm run-off which refilled Travertine Creek and its numerous swimming holes. That storm and accumulated rains in the last week led to flow returning to Antelope Springs on Sunday, May 3.

At present both Buffalo and Antelope Springs are flowing, though flow levels remain slightly below average. These freshwater springs are fed by the groundwater portion of the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer; while the recent heavy rains have brought the springs back to life, sustained rainfall throughout the spring and summer will be needed to ensure a continued flow.

Both Buffalo and Antelope Springs ran dry between late-December 2008 and mid-January of this year. This is the twentieth recorded instance in which the springs have run dry since the park was established in 1906. The longest recorded dry period for the springs and Travertine Creek was 33 months in the mid-1950s.

Park Superintendent Bruce Noble said, "We encourage visitors to come to the park to experience the return of the water along the creek and in the springs for themselves. Please exercise caution along trails and swimming holes as storm run-off and debris may still be present."

More information on the freshwater springs of the Platt Historic District, including links to real-time flow information for Antelope Springs can be found on the park website at:

<https://imrcms.nps.gov/chic/naturescience/freshwatersprings.htm>

-[www.nps.gov/chic/](http://www.nps.gov/chic/)-

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## Documented dry periods for Antelope and Buffalo Springs

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1. Mar 1911 - Apr 1912 (13 months)
2. Sep 1912 - Nov 1913 (14 months)
3. Mar 1918 - Dec 1919 (21 months)
4. Apr 1927 - Aug 1927 (5 months)
5. Aug 1934 - Sep 1936 (25 months)
6. Sep 1937 - Feb 1938 (6 months)
7. Sep 1938 - Jun 1940 (21 months)
8. Dec 1951 - Apr 1952 (5 months)
9. Sep 1952 - Jun 1954 (21 months)
10. Aug 1954 - May 1957 (33 months)
11. Jan 1959 - Dec 1959 (12 months)
12. Aug 1963 - Nov 1964 (15 months)
13. Aug 1965 - Jul 1967 (23 months)
14. Dec 1, 1976 - Mar 31, 1977 (8 months)
15. Dec 23, 1977 - Mar 31, 1978 (4 months)
16. Dec 15, 1978 - Feb 28, 1979 (3 months)
17. Dec 31, 1979 - Sep 30, 1981 (21 months)
18. Jul 10, 1984 - Oct 31, 1984 (4 months)
19. Oct 6, 2006 - Oct 13, 2006 (2 weeks)
20. Jan 12, 2009 - May 3, 2009 (4 months)



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

29 May 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **The summer season is off to a safe start on the Lake of the Arbuckles and Chickasaw National Recreation Area**

The recently past Memorial Day weekend holiday was a safe and successful one for park visitors and staff at the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. To assist in making the remainder of the summer safe and enjoyable, the National Park Service is reminding visitors to keep safety in mind while visiting the park. Important tips for a safe and enjoyable visit to Chickasaw NRA and the Lake of the Arbuckles include:

- In the summertime, temperatures here at Chickasaw can reach over 100° F. If you are outside anywhere in the park, listen to your body. You need to drink water, replenish electrolytes, and stay cool. Sodas and alcohol only dehydrate you. Keep your skin protected with light-colored clothing, sunglasses, a hat, and sunscreen.
- Oklahoma is a land of extreme weather with possibilities ranging from hypothermia in the winter to heat stroke in the summer. Tornadoes and severe thunderstorms are also possible. Know what type of weather is forecast and be prepared. Keep a watch on the skies and be ready to get off the lake. Check park bulletin boards for the locations of city storm shelters.
- Keep your campsite clean. Take trash and food scraps to a trashcan. Do Not Feed the Animals. Not even once. It's bad for them and they can hurt you. Don't touch, don't feed.
- The beautiful varied landscape here at Chickasaw is very tempting to climb and jump from, especially into our lakes and streams. Understand that this can cause serious injuries. Be smart, check the area, only jump feet first or not at all!
- Our lakes do not have flat bottoms and have very irregular shorelines. When the water levels change, the underwater hazards also change. Always be alert to other boats on the lake, assume the other boats and personal watercraft can not see you, and steer clear. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death in children. Keep life jackets handy and make sure kids and non-swimmers are wearing them at all times.
- Everyone knows that driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs is dangerous, illegal and a good way to die or kill someone. The same goes for boating and swimming. Even if you aren't driving a boat, drinking alcohol impairs your judgment, your reflexes and your ability to save yourself or others.

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Visitor facilities throughout the park will have extended hours through the Labor Day weekend:

**Travertine Nature Center** — Open Daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For information, call 580-622-7234.

**Visitor Information Center** — 717 W. Broadway, Sulphur. Open Daily 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Closed for lunch. For information, call 580-622-7236.

**Buckhorn Ranger Station** — Open Wednesday through Monday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Closed for lunch. For information, call 580-622-7292.

Each summer weekend, Friday through Sunday, two programs daily will be offered at the Travertine Nature Center. Join a park ranger at 9:00 a.m. for the **Travertine Traverse** walk to explore the natural and cultural environment along Travertine Creek. At 3:00 p.m. visitors are invited to **Beat the Heat**, in the Travertine Nature Center auditorium for ranger-led programs exploring a variety of topics.

New this year is an emphasis on encouraging children to learn about and appreciate better the natural environment of the park while they enjoy the recreational opportunities found here. A **Junior Ranger** program is available for kids of all ages. You can start your Junior Ranger experience at the Travertine Nature Center or the new **Junior Ranger Station**. Located at the entrance to the Cold Springs Campground, the Junior Ranger Station is open during summer weekends; Fridays; 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays; 10:00 p.m. – 12:00 noon and 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Families are invited to bring the kids to the Cold Springs campground amphitheater children’s program at 8:00 p.m. every Friday. Beginning in July, a morning children’s program will also be offered at the Cold Springs campground amphitheater at 10:00 a.m. Sundays.

Evening programs are also offered at the Point and Buckhorn campgrounds at 9:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings. These programs may cover a variety of park resources.

Program schedules and additional information is always available on-line at the park’s website: [www.nps.gov/chic/](http://www.nps.gov/chic/)

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

08 June 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Special Program Scheduled for Chickasaw NRA Nature Center on June 13**

Is the summer heat already too much for you? Would you like to get away on a trip to Alaska without having to pay the airfare? Let Chickasaw National Recreation Area bring Alaska and the Canadian North to you in a special program scheduled for the Travertine Nature Center auditorium at 3 pm on Saturday, June 13.

The program will be presented by Carlin “Buckwheat” Donohue, executive director of the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau in Skagway, Alaska. Buckwheat is a national expert in the poetry of Robert Service whose lyrics chronicled the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898 and other tales of adventure in the Yukon. The program will feature information about Robert Service as well as recitations of several of his most famous poems. Please join us for a program that will be both entertaining and educational.

For more information about this exciting program, please contact the Travertine Nature Center 580 622-7234.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

29 June 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Celebrate Independence Day with a special program at the Travertine Nature Center**

To commemorate the 233rd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Travertine Nature Center will host a special display of historic flags of the United States of America. Collected by Mr. Ducky Day of the Platt National Park American Legion Post #148, the flags will be on display in the Nature Center auditorium on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the July 4th holiday weekend. Mr. Day will conduct special programs about the flags at 3:00 pm in the Nature Center auditorium on Friday, July 3, Saturday, July 4, and Sunday, July 5. Park staff invites visitors to beat the summer heat while learning about our nation's history.

For more information about this program, please contact the Travertine Nature Center 580 622-7234.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

29 June 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Man dies after attempting to assist drowning child in Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Monday, June 29, 2009 at approximately 5:15 p.m. a group swimming in a stream near Veterans Lake Creek in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area reported that an eight-year old child was having difficulty swimming. A thirty-two year old male from Shawnee, Oklahoma went in to assist the child and encountered difficulty while saving her life. Bystanders and other park visitors pulled the man from the water. CPR was begun when emergency personnel arrived. Murray County EMS transported the man to Arbuckle Memorial Hospital where hospital staff pronounced him dead shortly after arrival at the hospital. The girl whose life was saved was treated and released. Identification of the parties involved is being withheld pending full notification of the family.

This incident underscores the importance of the water safety rescue sequence: *reach, throw, don't go*.

Agencies responding to the incident were the National Park Service, Murray County Sheriffs Department, Murray County Emergency Services, Sulphur Fire Department, Sulphur Police Department, Chickasaw Lighthouse Police and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

30 June 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Update — Man dies after attempting to assist drowning child in Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Monday, June 29, 2009 at approximately 5:15 p.m. a group swimming in a stream near Veterans Lake Creek in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area reported that an eight-year old child was having difficulty swimming. Gregory Barker, a thirty-two year old male from Shawnee, Oklahoma went in to assist the child and encountered difficulty while saving her life. Bystanders and other park visitors pulled the man from the water. CPR was begun when emergency personnel arrived. Murray County EMS transported the man to Arbuckle Memorial Hospital where hospital staff pronounced him dead shortly after arrival at the hospital. The girl whose life was saved was treated and released. Alcohol use is not suspected to be a factor in this incident.

Agencies responding to the incident were the National Park Service, Murray County Sheriff's Department, Murray County Emergency Services, Sulphur Fire Department, Sulphur Police Department, Chickasaw Lighthouse Police and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

This incident underscores the importance of the water safety rescue sequence: *reach, throw, row, don't go*. Most people drown within 10 to 30 feet of safety. Remembering these few simple techniques to help someone in trouble and keep yourself safe.

- **Reach:** To help someone in the water, reach first with a fishing pole, towel, boat oar, but don't get in the water yourself.
- **Throw:** Scan your area for items such as an empty milk jug, cooler, or ring buoys that can be thrown to someone in the water.
- **Row:** It's not safe to go near a swimmer with the boat motor running. Use the oars to bring the boat close enough to reach or throw.
- **Don't Go:** Without expert training and experience in lifesaving techniques, you could put yourself in danger along with the person you are trying to help.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

10 July 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### *Read with a Ranger at the Travertine Nature Center*

Park Rangers at Chickasaw National Recreation Area invite children ages 5-8 to come to a “*Read with a Ranger*” program on two Thursday mornings during the month of July. Children will learn about the park, Oklahoma history, and share good books and stories with friends and the rangers. The park’s Teacher-Ranger-Teacher, Amy Trenkle, will conduct the “*Read with a Ranger*” program at the Travertine Nature Center auditorium. The programs will occur July 16 and July 23 at 10:00 a.m.

For more information on this or other summer programs, please call the Travertine Nature Center at 580 622-7234. See you there!

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

10 July 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Public Comment Sought on Planning Options for an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Project: Paving Veterans Lake Trail along the North Shore**

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to begin exploring appropriate alternatives for construction of approximately 4,000 linear feet of concrete-paved accessible multi-use trail along the north shore of Veterans Lake in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

Veterans Lake currently has approximately 2 miles of multi-use trail along its south shore, extending from the northeastern corner of the lake to the south end of the dam. The proposed trail would be approximately 1.04 miles long and be placed between the North Shore Road and the shoreline, with a connecting trail to Rock Creek Campground. An option under consideration is the removal of the road across the dam and the parking lot at the south end of the dam and replacing them with a trail and new parking lot at the north end of the dam.

A section of the trail would also be constructed between the lake and the nearby Rock Creek Campground. That section would connect the trail with the 12-mile-long Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail and to the Platte Historic District and the adjacent City of Sulphur. Construction activities would begin in fall of 2010.

Objectives for the project include: selecting a safe and comfortable route that will safely separate trail users from the roadway; providing trail access to picnic, pavilion, swimming, fishing, and boat ramp areas along the north shore of Veterans Lake; while minimizing impacts on the natural environment and cultural resources.



The NPS intends to develop alternatives for this project and prepare an environmental analysis for public review. The park welcomes input during the public scoping phase of the project.

Questions and/or comments must be submitted in writing. Comments may be submitted by mail to the Superintendent at Chickasaw National Recreation Area, 1008 W. Second Street, Sulphur, OK 73086-4814, or submit comments to [chic\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:chic_superintendent@nps.gov). Please include the phrase “Veterans Lake North Shore Trail” at the top of your comments or in your email subject line. Comments will be accepted throughout this scoping process; however those that have been postmarked or transmitted no later than August 3, 2009 will be of the most use.

Please note that names and addresses of people who comment become part of the public record. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identity may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. As always, the NPS will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses; and, anonymous comments may not be considered.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

7 August 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Chickasaw NRA invites you to a Junior Ranger Field Day

Summer is not over yet! You are invited to join Chickasaw NRA at its Junior Ranger Field Day event for kids. Come by Flower Park, immediately southwest of the intersection of Highways 7 and 177 in Sulphur on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Children 12 and younger will enjoy entering their work in coloring, poetry, poster, and costume contests and participating in field events to win prizes! A craft activity will be available on site. Park Superintendent Bruce Noble describes the upcoming field day as, “a debut to the community of our new efforts to step-up the Junior Ranger program within the park.” Bring the whole family to cheer the kids on, and end the morning with a family picnic as a Park Ranger presents a program for all of your enjoyment. This event is open to everyone at no charge. More information on this event is available by calling the Travertine Nature Center at 580 622-7234.

#### **Bring your Entries!**

Coloring contest: “Chickasaw National Recreation Area” (Age Groups: 0-7, 8-12)  
Poetry contest: “Chickasaw National Recreation Area” (Age Groups: 0-7, 8-12)  
Poster Contest: “How I can be Earth-friendly”  
Costume Contest: “Things in the Park”

#### **So Much to Do!**

Ongoing: “Fishy-Fishy” craft table  
Ongoing: Become a Junior Ranger!  
10:30 a.m.: Entries due  
11:00 a.m.: Costumes judged  
12:30 p.m.: Park Ranger program  
12:30 p.m.: Bring a sack lunch to enjoy

#### **Contests**

11:30 a.m.: Egg race & Egg toss  
11:45 a.m.: Sack race & Three-legged race  
12:00 p.m.: Watermelon seed spit & Fishy race  
12:15 p.m.: Crawdad Catch

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

13 August 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Swimming areas closed in Chickasaw National Recreation due to water contamination.**

The National Park Service has closed swimming areas within the park due to unusually high bacterial levels. Testing of the water of Travertine Creek below the Colds Springs Campground confirmed the contamination, which may be due to a leak on a park sewage line discovered by park staff on Wednesday, August 12, 2009. Park staff repaired the problem and cleared the sewage line early that afternoon, but will await further testing before reopening the affected swimming areas. Park rangers are investigating the potential causes of the leak.

The following swimming areas are temporarily closed until further notice:

**Travertine Creek**, west (downstream) of the Cold Springs Campground

**Panther Falls**, .3 miles east of Highway 177 on the northeast Perimeter Road.

**Black Sulphur Springs**, .15 miles west of Highway 177 on the northwest Perimeter Road.

**Rock Creek**, from Highway 177 to the Lake of the Arbuckles

Testing shows that swimming areas east (upstream) of the Cold Springs Campground are not affected by the contamination and remain open. These locations include Garfield and Bear Falls, and Little Niagara. If testing reveals no contamination Friday afternoon, the effected swimming areas along Travertine Creek will reopen. Please call the Travertine Nature Center at 580 622-7234 for the current status of the swimming areas.

-NPS-



**National Park Service**  
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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

15 August 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Swimming area closure ended in Chickasaw National Recreation Area

The National Park Service has ended the closure of certain swimming areas within the park. Testing of the water of Travertine Creek below the Colds Springs Campground since Wednesday has confirmed the absence of contamination. Park staff repaired the problem causing the contamination on Wednesday, August 12. Due to recent high bacteria counts, Panther Falls and Black Sulphur will remain posted with a caution notice. The park will continue to monitor the bathing beach areas along Travertine Creek. Additional information on the bathing beach monitoring program can be found at: <http://www.nps.gov/chic/planyourvisit/bathing-beach-monitoring-program.htm>

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

10 September 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Chickasaw National Recreation Area Selected for the America the Beautiful Quarters™ Program

Chickasaw National Recreation Area will be featured on a quarter-dollar produced by the U.S. Mint in 2011. It will be the tenth of 56 quarters issued in the recently announced America the Beautiful Quarters program. Approximately every ten weeks, starting in April of 2010, a new quarter depicting a national park or other federally preserved area will be released.

“The coin presents an excellent opportunity to shine light on the park as one of the oldest national park areas in the United States, and our role in protecting the region’s water resources, as well as providing a safe place for millions of Americans to relax and enjoy the natural environment,” said Superintendent Bruce Noble. Shelly Sawatzky, Executive Director of the Sulphur Chamber of Commerce said, “We are proud of the selection of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area to represent Oklahoma, and welcome the opportunity for more Americans to discover this often overlooked gem which has drawn generations of families.”

Established in 1902 as the Sulphur Springs Reservation, the land for the park was purchased from the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations to ensure free access to the freshwater and mineral springs located here; making it the first and only national park established at an Indian Tribe’s request. In 1906, the reservation became the nation’s seventh national park, Platt National Park. For seventy years, Platt was the nation’s smallest National Park, yet drew visitors by the thousands. In 1976 Platt National Park was combined with the Arbuckle Recreation Area to create Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The name of the park honors the vision of the Chickasaw Nation in acting to preserve the resources found here.

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Congress authorized the America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008 to celebrate the nation's legacy of conservation. The legislation recalls noteworthy steps in the nation's preservation movement and quotes Theodore Roosevelt who said that nothing short of defending this country in wartime "compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendents than it is for us."

The legislation directs the Mint to strike and issue 56 circulating quarter-dollars with reverse (tails side) designs showcasing a national park or other national site in each state, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories — Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. The quarters will be issued sequentially each year, in the order in which the featured area was first established as a national park or site.

The coins will feature 48 National Park Service areas, two U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service refuges, and six U.S. Forest Service sites. The Mint worked in consultation with each jurisdiction's governor or chief executive as well as Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to select the sites. The list was also approved by Secretary of the Treasury Timothy F. Geithner.

In addition to the coins for circulation, the Mint will produce collectable items including proof sets, silver proof sets, a five ounce silver bullion coin, coin bags, and coin rolls for each quarter. For more information about the America the Beautiful Quarters Program, please visit [http://www.usmint.gov/mint\\_programs/NSQuartersProgram/index.cfm](http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/NSQuartersProgram/index.cfm).

-NPS-



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Chickasaw National  
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<http://www.nps.gov/chic/>

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

18 September 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Park to host a preview of National Parks documentary and premiere of short film about Chickasaw NRA**

From 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, September 27, 2009, a special preview of the upcoming Ken Burns television documentary “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea” will be shown at the Travertine Nature Center in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Following the preview of the documentary, the park will premiere the director’s cut of a short film, *Oka’*, produced by KERA which will air September 28 on public broadcasting stations in Oklahoma and Texas following the second episode of the documentary.

This special event is hosted by the park’s new support group, the Friends of Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Refreshments and membership materials will be provided. Park staff will be on hand at the program to comment on the film and answer questions about the park.

The larger documentary series offers an opportunity to explore individual parks found in our region, including the historic Platt National Park. *Oka’* - a short film by native Oklahoma filmmaker Rick Thompson - focuses attention on the history of the unique freshwater and mineral springs in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Although it was the smallest in the system, the former Platt National Park was one of the more frequently visited parks in the early parts of the 20th century. Even today, the renamed national recreation area attracts a million visitors a year. This high-definition film also showcases opportunities on the horizon for the Arbuckle region with the opening of the new Chickasaw Cultural Center in 2010.

“The National Parks: America’s Best Idea” is directed by Ken Burns and produced with his long-time colleague, Dayton Duncan, who also wrote the screenplay. It will be shown on the Public Broadcasting System starting Sunday, September 27, 2009 and runs for six consecutive nights. The

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film highlights the origins of the idea of preserving and protecting significant lands and resources for future generations. Ken Burns is known for his past award-winning documentaries on the American Civil War, the history of the West, baseball, and jazz, among other fascinating topics.

At its heart, the film is the story of an idea, as uniquely American as the Declaration of Independence and just as radical – that the most special places in the nation should be preserved, not for royalty or the rich, but for everyone. As such, it follows in the tradition of Burns' exploration of other American inventions, such as baseball and jazz.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

25 September 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Important Changes to the Deer Hunting Season at Chickasaw National Recreation Area**

In an effort to improve the deer herd and provide a quality hunting experience, the park is instituting new park-specific regulations. An additional 515 acres have been opened to archery and shotshell hunting. In addition, for a period of no less than two years, the deer harvest will be antlerless only. Over a ten year period, deer surveys have indicated an over abundance of females (does), compared to a very low number of bucks. Of these bucks, very few are over three years old. These regulation changes should help to control the doe population, and eventually provide for a chance at a quality buck.

Archery season will begin on October 1st, through January 15, 2010. Modern gun season for deer hunting is coming up November 21st through 29th, 2009. The most significant change for the park this year is that all areas are closed to antlered hunting (all seasons). A valid Oklahoma hunting license, along with appropriate special tag, is required and must be in possession while hunting in the park. These licenses are NOT available from the park but can be obtained at local sporting goods stores.

Hunting in the National Recreation Area is limited to designated locations. See the new hunting map for designated areas. Some areas, those with nearby housing, are open only to the use of archery and shotshell hunting. Hunting maps with these areas shown and the 2009-2010 Oklahoma Hunting and Guide are available at Park Headquarters, the Travertine Nature Center, the Visitor Information Station, and from patrolling Park Rangers.

All deer taken within the Chickasaw National Recreation Area must be checked-in at the nearest certified Oklahoma Game Check Station - the Sulphur Fire Department.

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The current Oklahoma Hunting Regulations DO NOT contain the NEW special Federal regulations for Chickasaw NRA. Most state hunting regulations are applicable in the recreation area with the following exceptions:

- Guns carried in a vehicle must be unloaded and either broken down or encased. New firearms regulations will take effect in February 2010.
- Baiting of wildlife is also prohibited.
- The use of artificial light to view wildlife is prohibited.
- All tree stands must be portable and removed after each hunt.
- Before entering or exiting tree stand, unload gun.
- Practice safe and ethical hunting.

Hikers, bikers and horseback riders using the Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail need to be aware that the trail is located in a designated hunting area. Please wear fluorescent orange and be aware of hunters.

For more information about hunting in the recreation area, please contact the Travertine Nature Center at 580 622-7234 or Supervisory Park Ranger Randy Scoggins at 580 622-7245 or Oklahoma Game Warden Jerrod Davis 580 618-0044.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

17 October 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Special ranger-led programs explore the mineral springs of the Platt Historic District

The mineral springs found here are focal point of the Platt Historic District, and the primary reason behind the park's original establishment in 1902. Join park rangers on a two-part series of guided walks this month which explore the natural and cultural history of the park's "healing" waters and learn more about the past, present, and future of water resources in the region.

The first program in the series, "*Living Waters*," will start at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 24, 2009. A guided walk beginning at the Vendome Well and ending at Pavilion Springs, this program addresses the historic use and vitality of the mineral springs. Participants should meet the ranger at the Vendome Well parking area located along Broadway Avenue.

The second program in the series, "*Hope Springs Eternal*," will start at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2009 in the historic Bromide area. This program discusses the loss of water resources inside the park. Participants should meet the ranger at the Twelfth Street Fountain, just inside the park boundary at the end of Twelfth Street.

Please bring water, appropriate clothing, and wear comfortable shoes. Each walk or program will last about an hour.

For more information about these programs, please contact the Travertine Nature Center at 580 622-7234.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

30 October 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Chickasaw National Recreation Area recognized with two state tourism awards

The Chickasaw National Recreation Area was honored with two awards recently at the Governor's Conference on Tourism. The park received Redbud Merit awards as Outstanding Attraction, and for Best Partnership, for the park's work with the Sulphur Chamber of Commerce.

Lt. Gov. Jari Askins and Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department Executive Director Hardy Watkins announced the winners during a special gala held on Oct. 19, 2009 at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa. "Redbud Awards represent the highest honor given in the Oklahoma tourism industry," said Watkins. Entries are evaluated by out-of-state judges based on criteria including customer service, marketing effectiveness, media relations, variety of audiences reached, value, and overall creativity. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department partners with the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association (OTIA) to present the annual Redbud Awards.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

6 November 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Special ranger-led programs explore the mineral springs of the Platt Historic District to be offered twice in November

Due to demand, the two-part series of guided walks on the history of the park's springs will be repeated twice during November. The mineral springs found here are the focal point of the Platt Historic District, and the primary reason behind the park's original establishment in 1902. These programs explore the natural and cultural history of the park's "healing" waters and offer the chance to learn more about the past, present, and future of water resources in the region.

This month, the programs will run Saturday and Sunday during two consecutive weekends, on November 14 & 15, and 21 & 22. The first program, "Living Waters," will begin at 2:00 p.m. each Saturday, and the second program, "Hope Springs Eternal," will begin at 2:00 p.m. each Sunday.

The first program in the series, "*Living Waters*," is a guided walk beginning at the Vendome Well and ending at Pavilion Springs, this program addresses the historic use and vitality of the mineral springs. Participants should meet the ranger at the Vendome Well parking area located along Broadway Avenue.

The second program in the series, "*Hope Springs Eternal*," focuses on the historic Bromide area. This program discusses the loss of water resources inside the park. Participants should meet the ranger at the Twelfth Street Fountain, just inside the park boundary at the end of Twelfth Street.

Please bring water, appropriate clothing, and wear comfortable shoes. Each walk or program will last about an hour. For more information about these programs, please contact the Travertine Nature Center at 580 622-7234.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

20 November 2009

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Public comment sought regarding a proposed camping fee increase at the Chickasaw National Recreation Area

The National Park Service is proposing an increase in camping fees at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. If approved, these new fee rates will go into effect in the spring of 2010. Before implementing this proposed change to camping fees, the park is soliciting input from the public.

The proposed camping fees would be an increase of \$2.00 for individual sites and \$6.00 for group sites.

- Lakeview premium campsites with electric utility hook-ups will be \$24.00 per night.  
(Buckhorn Loop D #24, 25, 26 & Loop C #4, 5, 6, 7 and the Point #20, 21, 22, 23, 24)
- Campsites with electric utility hook-ups will be \$22.00 per night.  
(Buckhorn and the Point Campgrounds, and one site at Rock Creek Campground)
- Campsites without electric utility hook-ups will be \$16.00 per night at the Buckhorn and the Point Campgrounds.
- Campsites without electric utility hook-ups will be \$14.00 per night at the Cold Springs, Guy Sandy, & Rock Creek Campgrounds.
- All group campsites will be \$30.00 per night.  
(Rock Creek, Cold Springs & Central Campgrounds)

One hundred percent of the camping fees collected are returned to Chickasaw National Recreation Area where they provide direct benefits to our visitors. The fee increase will cover increased utility costs for electricity, and provide additional revenue which will be applied to our highest priority visitor needs. These funds have been, and will continue to be, used for maintenance, repair projects, public service programs, signage, and natural and historical resource preservation.

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Questions and/or comments must be submitted in writing. Comments may be submitted by mail to:  
Superintendent

Chickasaw National Recreation Area  
1008 W. Second Street  
Sulphur, OK 73086-4814

Comments may also be submitted via email to [chic\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:chic_superintendent@nps.gov). Please include the phrase “Camping Fee Increase” at the top of your comments or in your email subject line. Comments will be accepted until January 15, 2010.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

3 December 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Holiday Open House Scheduled At Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Superintendent Bruce Noble would like to invite the public to a Holiday Open House in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The Open House will be held at the Platt District Ranger Station, on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Ranger Station is located in the former park headquarters building, approximately one-half mile south of the 4-way stop on Highway 177.

The staff at Chickasaw National Recreation Area wishes everyone a joyous holiday season and invites the public to attend this Open House event.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

23 December 2009  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### Travertine Nature Center to Close for Cleaning

Travertine Nature Center will be closed Wednesday, January 6, 2010 and Thursday, January 7, 2010, to conduct annual cleaning and maintenance on the exhibits and facilities inside the Travertine Nature Center. Located in the eastern portion of the Platt Historic District, the nature center is a popular park site to visit and is intensively used by area school groups for interpretive and educational programs. The nature center contains exhibit dioramas, live reptiles, amphibians and birds of prey, and an interactive learning area for visitors of all ages. The Travertine Nature Center was built in 1969 during the period of National Park Service environmental education initiatives in the later 1960s and early 1970s. It is built in a unique rockwork design. The nature center sits on top of Travertine Creek offering visitors a relaxing view of the mix of water, stream, and forest.

According to Park Superintendent Bruce Noble, “This two day closure is necessary to complete work on exhibit displays and to rearrange existing live animal and other exhibits. We apologize for this inconvenience to park visitors, but look forward to their next visit.”

On January 6 & 7, 2010, visitor services will be available at the Visitor Information Station (717 West Broadway), 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The nature center will resume regular winter hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., daily on Friday, January 8, 2010.

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