

# Manhattan Project National Historical Park

## Oak Ridge, Tennessee

The Official Visitors Guide

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

2018 Edition



Welcome to Manhattan Project National Historical Park. This guide is designed to provide you with information such as directions, things to do, and help you plan your visit. You can always speak with a park ranger or volunteer at our information desk, located in the Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge, to get the latest information about upcoming programs and events. Be sure to ask for our Visitor Guide and Map to help you become more familiar with the surrounding area.

With the park entering its third year of existence, the range of experiences and things to do in the park has grown considerably. Last year we hosted a Naturalization Ceremony, welcoming 80 of our nation’s newest citizens. We also hosted the very exciting Great American Eclipse viewing and coordinated with NASA to display a moon rock from the Apollo 15 moon landing mission. As we continue into our third year we hope to continue to have wonderful and exciting events throughout the park.

The park provides public programs at various locations around Oak Ridge at no cost to the visitor. Some of our more popular programs include talks at the Gatehouse on the Oak Ridge Turnpike, bike rides in and around Oak Ridge, and hikes through the historic district. If you would like more information about upcoming ranger-led programs, please call the park for the next scheduled program. Park volunteers are excited to provide information and details about what to see and do during your visit.

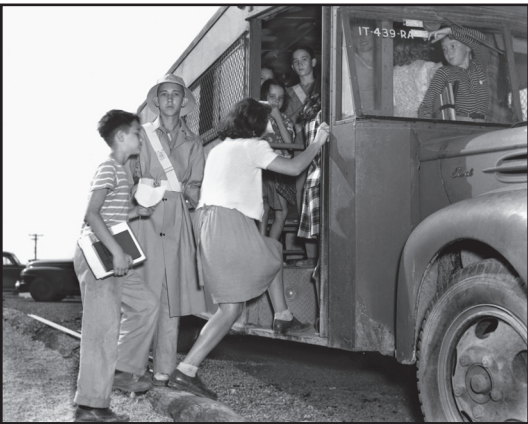
We also encourage you to visit the other two units of Manhattan Project NHP, located in Los Alamos, New Mexico; and the Hanford unit, in Richland, Washington.



EARLY CONSTRUCTION IN OAK RIDGE



ELZA GATE-OAK RIDGE



HIGHLAND VIEW SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL

### Welcome to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park!

Welcome to one of America’s newest units of the National Park System. With three sites located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Hanford, Washington, this far-reaching park tells the story of the people, events, science, and engineering that led to the creation of the atomic bomb, which helped end World War II.

Manhattan Project National Historical Park is unique in another way as the National Park Service is in partnership with the Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge (CMOR) to help tell this powerful story. Together, we look forward to presenting more information about the many people who worked to create the atomic bomb, which helped bring an end to World War II.

As you explore the Oak Ridge site, please look for information about the people who were instrumental in the Manhattan Project. Their contributions and efforts to end World War II are thought-provoking and inspirational. It took many people from all walks of life to make this all become an integral part of America’s history.

In addition to Manhattan Project NHP, there are twelve other National Park Service units located in Tennessee. Each of these special places shares a unique story, preserves a part of our collective history, or offers an opportunity to view incredible landscapes. We encourage you to make time to discover these places for yourself. As you Find Your Park and discover what these places mean to you, whether it’s the history of the Manhattan Project, or a large natural area like the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area, take a moment to think about what makes these places so special.

If you have questions, please contact either a park ranger or one of the staff at CMOR. They are there to help you discover the history, significance, and importance of this site.

We hope you enjoy your visit and will continue to come back to see the growth and development of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park

#### Mailing Address

461 W. Outer Drive  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

#### E-mail

[mapr\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:mapr_information@nps.gov)

#### Park Visitor Desk

(865) 482-1942



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**Manhattan Project National Historical Park**



The National Park Service cares for the  
special places saved by the American people  
so that all may experience our heritage.

## Lost & Found

Report any lost items to rangers at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge located at 461 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Found items should be turned in at this location as well.

# Oak Ridge's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Seventy five years is celebrated with diamonds and diamonds are forever; just like the history that shaped the town of Oak Ridge.

Several small farming communities occupied the rule valleys that make up Oak Ridge today. The memories of the communities of Robertsville, Scarboro, Wheat and others live on in the names of the schools, roads, housing districts, and church's that still remains standing today.

In September 1942 General Leslie R. Groves, of the Manhattan Engineering District selected this location, shortly after residents of these communities were informed that the War Department was acquiring their land in order to support the War Effort. The exact reason why, remained a secret until the end of the war.

Oak Ridge took on the monumental task as the administrative headquarters and the production site of Uranium 235 for the Manhattan Project. Construction of the production sites and a supporting town began very quickly. Security gates were closed to outsiders and the population of Oak Ridge grew rapidly. The original plan for residents of only 13,000 was a far cry from the peak population of 75,000 people. Residents lived in prefabricated homes, dormitories, apartments, single family dwelling units and single room structures called hutments. Shopping centers, cafeterias, recreation buildings, and even schools were created for the residents and their families. The development of this community occurred at breathtaking speed. With the need for a large workforce, segregation was still an ever present factor.

After six years of secrecy from the outside world the "Secret City" of Oak Ridge opened the gates to the public on March 19, 1949. The opening was celebrated by an estimated crowd of 10,000 people; with a ribbon cutting ceremony powered by an electrical charge sent from the X-10 Graphite Reactor, a parade, and the opening of the American Museum of Atomic Energy the day before.

African-Americans lived in a segregated community of hutments throughout the war and were not allowed to bring their families into their homes. Following the war a segregated neighborhood was developed in Gamble Valley creating permanent housing for families. The neighborhood became known as Scarboro. African-American children could attend Scarboro Elementary School but high school students had to be bused to Knoxville, until 1950 when Scarboro High School was established. Following the Supreme Court decision on Brown v. Board of Education in 1954, Oak Ridge integrated the junior and senior high school in 1955. This integration was the first to occur in Tennessee. The nearby community of Clinton began to desegregate their high school in the fall of 1956 but on the early morning of October 5, 1958 Clinton High School was bombed causing the school to close for repairs. While repairs were underway in Clinton, Oak Ridge provided the former Linden Elementary School to both black and white students of Clinton until repairs were complete and Clinton High School reopened in 1960.

May 5, 1959 Oak Ridge citizens voted by a margin of 14 to 1 in favor of incorporating the city of Oak Ridge. The official transfer took place on June 1, 1960. Since then Oak Ridge has been known for its advancements in science and technology and has helped shape the world we live in today.

On November 10, 2015 Manhattan Project National Historical Park was established by a partnership of the National Park Service and the Department of Energy. The park is located in three different sites across the United States; Los Alamos, New Mexico, Hanford, Washington, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee and tells the story of the people, events, science, and engineering that led to the creation of the atomic bomb, which helped end World War II.

Oak Ridge has seen many changes in the past 75 years, only time will tell where the next 75 years will take them. If history continues with new and exciting advancements in science and engineering as it has in the past Oak Ridge will surely be involved in these events.

## Become A Junior Ranger



Manhattan Project NHP has a Junior Ranger book and a patch for you to earn for your jacket or book bag. Kids from age 4 to 12 are invited to use this book to explore Manhattan Project. Many activities will help you learn about the science behind the project.

## Become A Volunteer

For information on how you can become a National Park Service volunteer, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Effie Houston, at (423) 569-9778, or email us at [Effie\\_Houston@nps.gov](mailto:Effie_Houston@nps.gov). Visit us online at <http://www.nps.gov/mapr/workwithus.htm> to see all of the wonderful opportunities that are available.





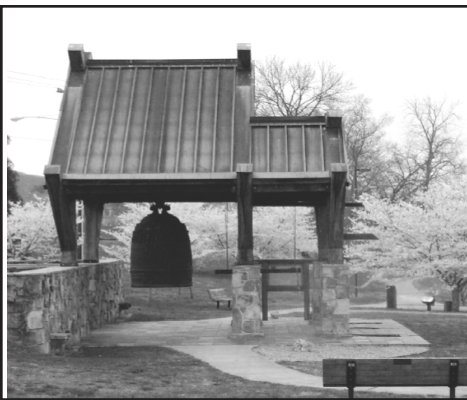
# Things to Do

Manhattan Project National Historical Park is pleased to partner with the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge. The park's visitor center contact station is

found within the Children's Museum front entrance, located inside the former Manhattan Project grade school, Highland View Elementary.

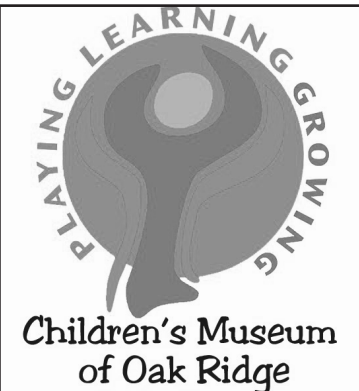
The Children's Museum provides fun and diverse educational programs and exhibits emphasizing play and hands-on learning for all ages in arts, science, history, culture and healthy living, while collecting and preserving objects in a historic Manhattan Project Community.

The Children's Museum was conceived in 1973 as a Girl Scout project by Troop 69 and its leader, Joyce Maienschein. It was formally opened on March 11, 1973 in the library of the former Jefferson Junior High School in 2,000 square feet of space and later moved to the former Highland View Elementary School in January 1974. The museum purchased the building and land from the city of Oak Ridge in 1983 and now operates in 54,000 square feet with exhibits, classes and programs for all ages.



Alvin K. Bissell Park is home to the Peace Pavilion that houses the International Friendship bell. The 8,000 lb. bell symbolizes the peace and reconciliation between Japan and the U.S. after WWII ended. Just east of the park is the Secret City Commemorative wall, Birth of a City Monuments, and the Public Library. The Library is home to the Oak Ridge Room which preserves the city's history and oral history records of early Oak Ridge residents.

## Children's Museum of Oak Ridge Information



### \*ADMISSION FEES

Adults - \$8.00  
Seniors - \$7.00  
Children 3 & Up - \$6.00  
Children under 3 - FREE  
Members - FREE

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Mondays: Closed except during the summer months of June, July, & August 9am—5pm  
Tuesday-Friday: 9am—5pm  
Saturday: 10am—4pm  
Sunday: 1pm—4pm

*\*There are NO admission fees to visit the NPS desk and/or attend any ranger-led programs.*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S

## OAK RIDGE FACILITIES BUS TOUR

Historic Jackson Square, also known as Townsite, and Grove Center are original dining, shopping and recreation centers of Oak Ridge. Both locations still offer restaurants and recreation. Jackson Square features restaurants, a Playhouse and specialty shops with the Historic Alexander Inn Guest House nearby. The Guest House was where many scientists stayed during the secret project in the 1940s. Grove Center features the Oak Ridge Outdoor Swimming Pool. The pool was constructed in 1944 and was considered the largest spring fed pool in the United States at that time with a grass beach, offshore island, diving boards, and depths up to 13 feet.

Oak Ridge offers over 80 miles of public greenways for walking, hiking, running, and biking. Greenways are open during daylight hours, some trails are closed during hunting season be sure to read all posted signs prior to hiking on the trails. Oak Ridge is proud of their flat water, with what some call the smoothest rowing water around, rowers travel from all over just to paddle on Melton Hill Lake.



## March - November\*

\*except federal holidays

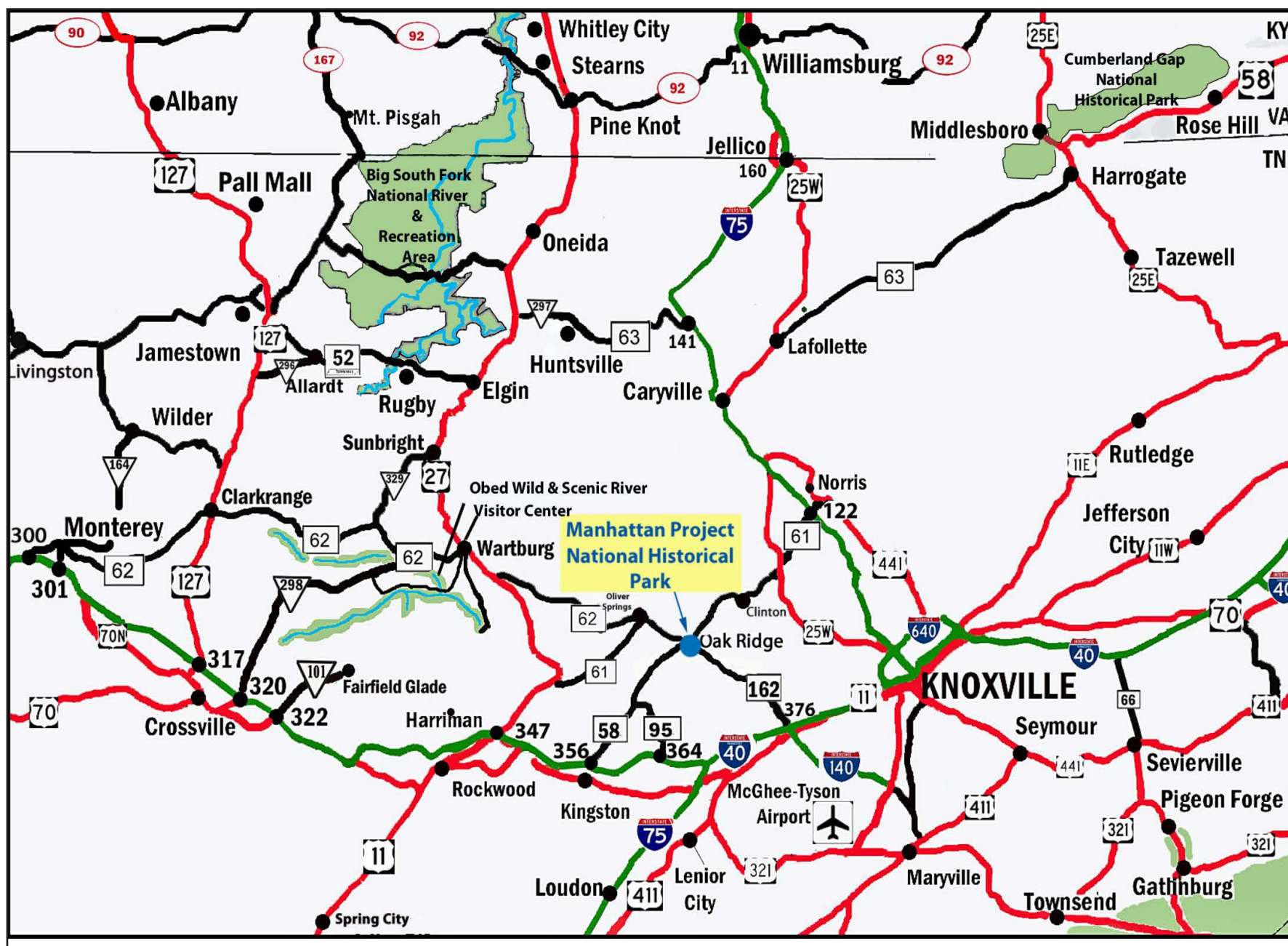
March	Mon & Fri
April-May	Mon, Wed, & Fri
June-Aug	Mon-Fri
Sept-Oct	Mon, Wed, & Fri
November	Mon & Fri

**11:30 am—2:30 pm**  
Registration begins at 9:00 am each day at the AMSE admission desk.  
(first-come, first-served)



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Manhattan Project National Historical Park  
Oak Ridge, TN



## Manhattan Project NHP

**Oak Ridge Site**  
461 W. Outer Drive  
Oak Ridge, TN  
(865) 482-1942

**Hanford Site**  
1000 Logston Boulevard  
Richland, WA  
(509) 376-1647

**Los Alamos Site**  
475 20th Street  
Los Alamos, NM  
(505) 662-8105



SCAN THIS CODE  
for directions from website

DIAL **911**  
for EMERGENCIES

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**Oak Ridge Police Department**  
200 S. Tulane Ave.  
Oak Ridge, TN  
(865) 425-4399

**Anderson County Sheriff's Department**  
101 Main Street  
Clinton, TN  
(865) 457-2414

**Methodist Medical Center**  
990 Oak Ridge Turnpike  
Oak Ridge, TN  
(865) 835-1000

**Oak Ridge Fire Department**  
Station 2 (East End)  
609 Oak Ridge Turnpike  
Oak Ridge, TN  
(865) 425-3912