

National Park Service Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park Oak Ridge, Tennessee



May 2020

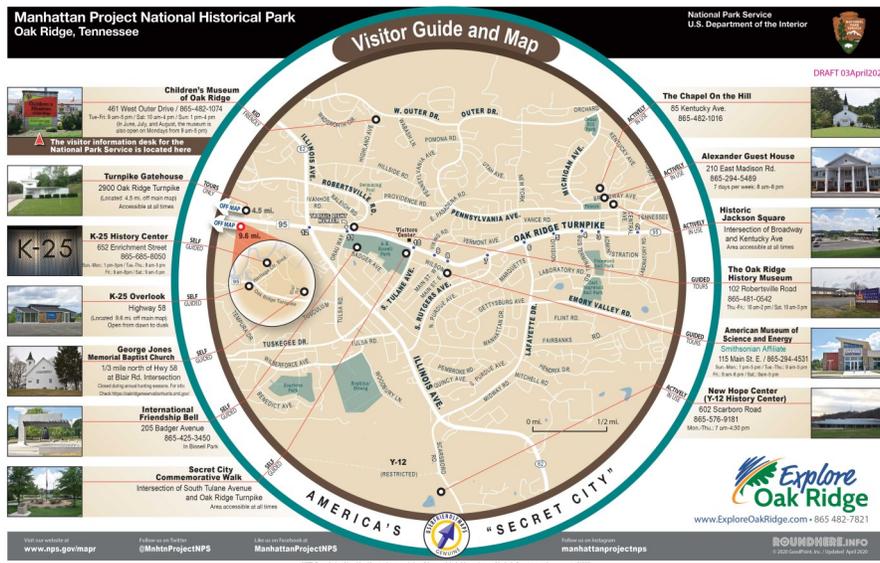
Manhattan Project History in May

- British physicist James Chadwick would later be awarded the Nobel Prize for his discovery of the neutron in May 1932.
- The discovery of radioactive element 93, neptunium, is announced in a report submitted by Edwin McMillan and Philip Abelson on May 27, 1940. The same day Leo Sizlard received a manuscript from Louis Turner arguing that the isotope of element 94, still undiscovered plutonium, should be highly fissionable like uranium-235.
- On May 3, 1941 Glenn Seaborg was able to prove that plutonium-239 is more fissionable than uranium-235 through his research at the University of California, Berkeley.
- In May of 1942 the S-1 executive committee recommended that the project move to the pilot plant stage and build reactors to produce plutonium and electromagnetic and gaseous diffusion plants to produce uranium-235.
- Less than one month after the death of President Roosevelt, German armed forces surrender in Europe on May 7, 1945.

Every Wednesday Rangers Will Be Hosting Our Virtual Visitor Center. Virtual visitor center hours will take place until our visitor center are open for face to face interactions. Please tune in to our Facebook page every Wednesday 1-3 pm (ET) to speak with a ranger and ask your Manhattan Project related questions.

DYK? Our Junior Ranger Booklet is Available in English, Spanish, and Japanese. We have also added a Victory Garden worksheet just in time for spring planting. Go to

<https://www.nps.gov/mapr/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm>.



The 2020 version of the Visitor Guide and Map will be available as soon as we return to normal operations.

With a keen eye you may notice some different behaviors among fireflies in late May. **Keep An Eye Out for *Photuris frontalis*, also Known as the Snappy Sync.** These fireflies will synchronize their flashes when gathered in larger groups. Snappy Syncs are semisynchronous fireflies and are fun to watch and can often be

Our Victory Garden has

Started to Produce Vegetables Again. So far, we have harvested over 6 pounds of radishes and expect lettuce, kale, and spinach soon. All harvested vegetables are being donated to a local food pantry to be given to those in need. The Pollinator Garden has begun flowering and attracting insects and we can't wait to see all the native species blossoming during the garden's second year.

observed in and around the wooded backyards in Oak Ridge. The season for these fireflies is short, lasting only 2-3 weeks starting in late May. Flashing usually occurs around 45 minutes after sunset lasting for an hour or two. Nature's curiosities can be observed from home while still practicing social distancing.

Park Visitor Center Desk at the

**Children's Museum of Oak Ridge
461 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
(865) 482-1942
or visit us at:**

www.nps.gov/mapr
www.twitter.com/MnhtnProjectNPS
www.facebook.com/ManhattanProjectNPS
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