



Little Niagara, Chickasaw National Recreation Area - NPS photo

## The National Park Service Cares for the American Legacy

The National Park Service, established by the Organic Act of 1916, connects all Americans with the boundless natural and cultural wonders found throughout this great nation. Together with our partners we preserve, protect, and provide for the unimpaired enjoyment of our national treasures and heritage so they may be passed on as an inheritance to guide, educate, inspire, and enrich future generations.

*"...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."*

National Park Service Organic Act, 16 U.S.C. 1

## Experience Oklahoma's National Parks

Oklahoma has two national park units and one affiliated area. These three sites are part of a National Park System with nearly 400 sites. You will also find two national trails and one preservation corridor within Oklahoma. The National Park Service assists local communities through its work with the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmarks and National Natural Landmarks programs.

Although these parks and trails represent the diversity of Oklahoma's natural and cultural resources, one theme flows through them all: resilience. From Oklahoma's earliest settlements to modern times through harsh weather and the challenging landscape, the people of Oklahoma have endured.

In Oklahoma's national parks, you can learn about this land and its people and the resilience of humans and nature. At Chickasaw National Recreation Area, enjoy the natural beauty and recreational opportunities or learn about the importance of water to human existence and the drive to protect this essential resource. At Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, experience the place where Cheyenne Peace Chief Black Kettle's village was attacked by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's U.S. Army troops. At the Oklahoma City National Memorial, an affiliated site, learn about the response of a city and a nation to its first major terrorist attack and remember those who lost their lives. Travel the route of the

Trail of Tears to learn about the trials of the Cherokee people as they were forcibly removed to their new home in Indian Territory, present-day Oklahoma. Explore the Santa Fe Trail, a 19th-century commercial highway traveled by American Indians, soldiers, explorers, traders, and settlers. Journey along Route 66 to envision early automobile travel in the U.S.

The stories in each of these places reveal nature's majesty and the strength of the human spirit. These stories place Oklahoma at the heart of this nation and tell about the heart of its people. Explore this brochure and take time to learn more about the rich resources of the state. Then, become a part of the story by exploring the natural wonders and cultural heritage in your Oklahoma national parks.

### Visit a Park Today!

For more information on your Oklahoma national parks or National Park Service programs, contact:  
NPS Oklahoma State Coordinator  
P.O. Box 676  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101  
Phone: 405-609-8855

## Chickasaw National Recreation Area

901 West 1st St.  
Sulphur, OK 73086  
580-622-7234  
[www.nps.gov/chic](http://www.nps.gov/chic)

Oklahoma's oldest national park unit, Chickasaw National Recreation Area, was established as Sulphur Springs Reservation in 1902 from land that had been sold to the United States by the Chickasaw Nation Indian Tribe to protect the area's mineral and freshwater springs. In 1906, the area was renamed Platt National Park in honor of Senator Orville H. Platt, who supported the legislation that made the area a federal reservation.

In 1976, Platt National Park and the adjacent Arbuckle Recreation Area were combined to form a new national park area. Known today as Chickasaw National Recreation Area, the park offers public use and enjoyment of the Lake of the Arbuckles along with the springs and streams of the original Platt National Park that have been cherished by visitors for decades. The lakes, springs, cool streams, and surrounding shady forests continue to entice visitors today to camp, hike, fish, boat, wade, and relax in this Oklahoma oasis. The park's Platt Historic District attracts visitors to rustic stone structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Vendome Well, Chickasaw NRA  
NPS photo



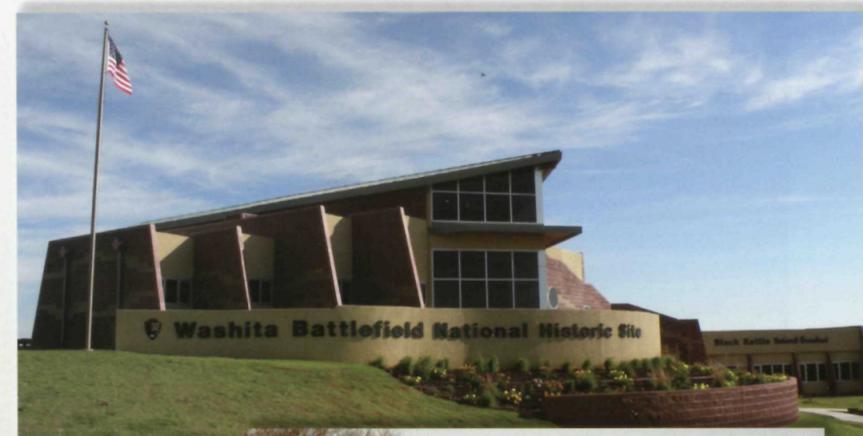
Lincoln Bridge over Travertine Creek, Chickasaw NRA  
NPS photo



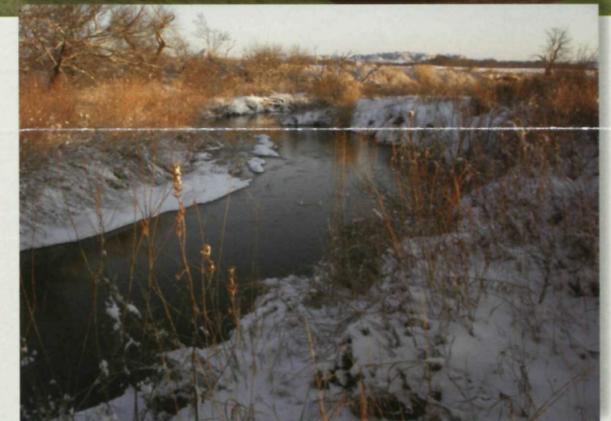
## Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

1855 Hwy 47A, Suite A  
Cheyenne, OK 73628  
580-497-2742  
[www.nps.gov/waba](http://www.nps.gov/waba)

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site preserves and interprets the site of the Southern Cheyenne village of Peace Chief Black Kettle that was attacked by the 7th U.S. Cavalry under the command of Lt. Col. George A. Custer just before dawn on Nov. 27, 1868. Black Kettle and more than 30 Cheyenne and 22 soldiers were killed in the battle. The controversial strike was hailed at the time by the military and many civilians as a significant victory to reduce Indian raids on frontier settlements. Many Indians and whites labeled Custer's attack a massacre. Black Kettle is still honored as a prominent leader who never ceased striving for peace. Washita became a unit of the National Park System in 1996 to preserve this important Plains Indian War site and to tell the story of the Battle of the Washita.



Top photo: Visitor center, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site; Right: Washita River  
NPS photos



## Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

301 NW 6th St., Suite 305  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
405-609-8855  
[www.nps.gov/okc](http://www.nps.gov/okc)

April 19, 1995, was a beautiful spring day in Oklahoma City. That beauty was shattered by an act of terrorism that killed 168 men, women, and children, wounded hundreds of others, and changed the city and nation forever. Created in 1997 and opened in 2000, the Oklahoma City National Memorial tells the story of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The Memorial consists of a 3.3-acre Outdoor Symbolic Memorial and the Oklahoma City National Memorial Center, a 30,000-square-foot interactive learning museum.

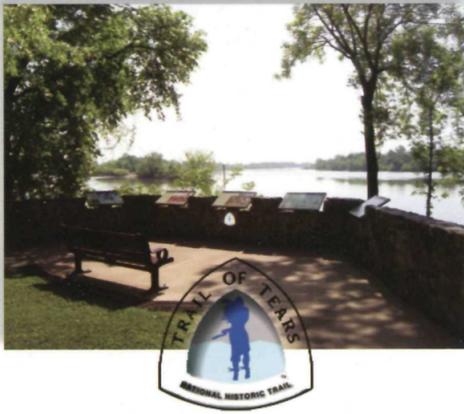
The Oklahoma City National Memorial is an affiliated unit of the National Park Service. Our partner, the Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation, owns, operates, and maintains the memorial. The foundation is a private 501(c)(3) organization and does not receive any annual operating funds from the federal, state, or local governments. Museum admissions, store sales, the OKC Memorial Marathon, private fundraising and earnings from an endowment allow the memorial and museum to be self-sustaining.

For more information about the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum go to [www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org](http://www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org).



Top: Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum; left: Survivor Tree; above: 168 empty chairs where the Alfred P. Murrah Building once stood. Each chair symbolizes a person who died in the bombing. NPS photos

# The National Park Service in Oklahoma



### Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

[www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte)

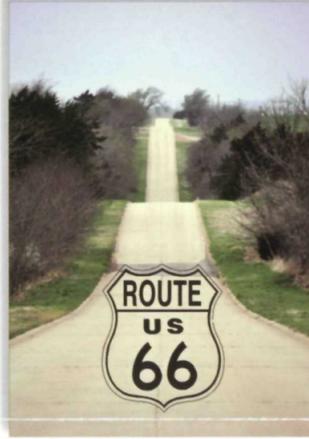
Established in 1987, this trail commemorates the tragic and forced removal of the Cherokee Indians from their traditional homelands in the southeastern United States to Indian Territory by the U.S. government in 1838 and 1839.



### Santa Fe National Historic Trail

[www.nps.gov/safe](http://www.nps.gov/safe)

From 1821 to 1846, the Santa Fe Trail was an international road for American and Mexican traders. In 1848, the Mexican-American War ended and the New Mexico Territory was added to the United States. The trail became a national road for commercial and military freight, stagecoach travel, emigration, and mail service.



### Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program

[www.nps.gov/rt66](http://www.nps.gov/rt66)

Designated from 1926 to 1985 as part of the first U.S. highway system, Route 66 was a popular all-weather route connecting Chicago to Santa Monica, CA. It saw the movement of emigrants from the Dust Bowl, World War II military convoys, and the advent of automobile tourism. Perhaps more than any other highway, Route 66 has come to symbolize nostalgia, hope, progress, and the spirit of adventure.

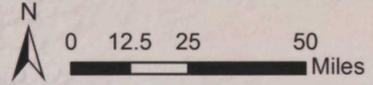
The National Park Service National Trails System administers these trails and corridors in partnership with American Indian tribes, federal, state, and local agencies, non-government organizations, and private landowners. For more information, contact the NPS Oklahoma state coordinator at 405-609-8855. You may also contact:

Superintendent  
National Trails  
Intermountain Region  
P.O. Box 728  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
Phone: (505) 988-6098



### Legend

- ☆ State capital
- City
- ★ National Historic Landmark
- ▲ National Natural Landmark
- National park unit
- Interstate Highways
- Santa Fe National Historic Trail
- Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
- Historic Route 66



Map created by National Park Service's Intermountain Region Geographic Resources Program, Denver, CO