

Platt NATIONAL PARK

Oklahoma



United States Department of the Interior

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Director

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THE GENTLY ROLLING HILLS of Platt National Park offer a pleasing relief from the comparatively level surrounding country. Most of the area is well wooded and traversed by picturesque streams with a number of springs, small waterfalls, and cascades. Travertine Creek, which flows through the eastern portion of the park, is a beautiful stream of clear, sparkling water, fed by numerous springs. Rock Creek enters the park from the north, just below the principal entrance from the City of Sulphur, and Travertine Creek empties into it.

To the south of Rock Creek is Bromide Hill, a steep wooded bluff 140 feet high. From its summit, easily reached by trail or road, visitors may obtain a splendid view to the north and east. Far in the distance to the southwest can be seen the picturesque



Buffalo

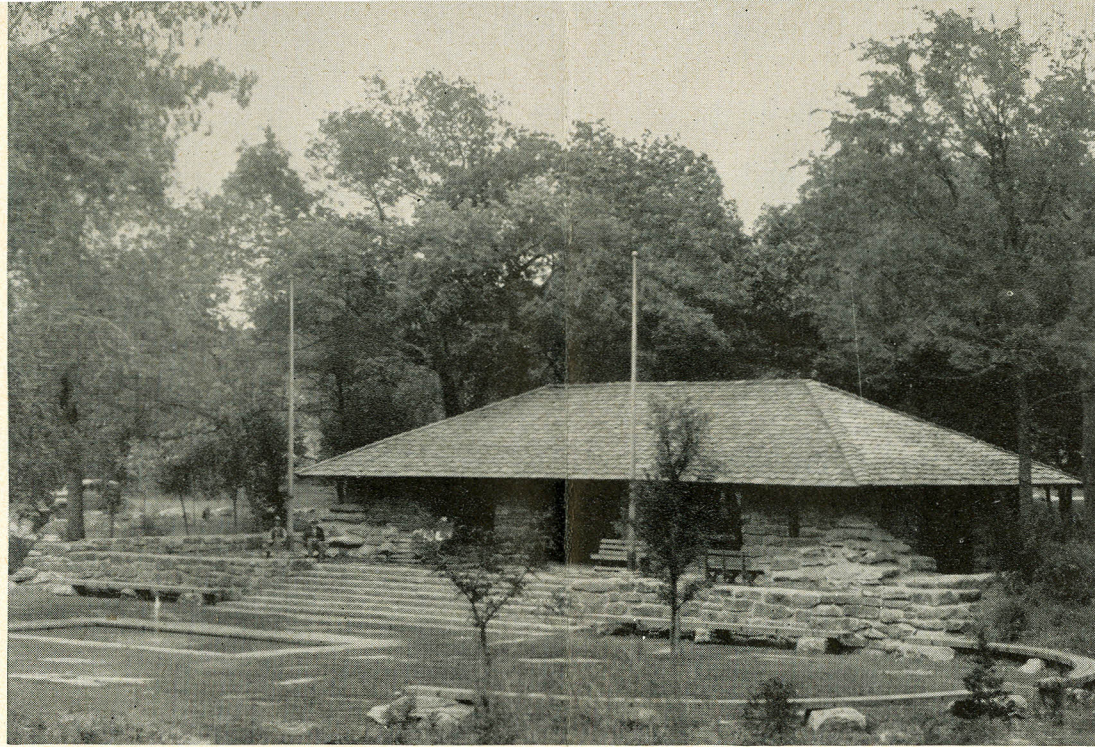
Arbuckle Mountains and the Washita River Valley. The principal mineral springs of the park issue from the base of this hill.

It is not definitely known when the spring waters were first used for curative purposes. Tradition has it that the waters were known to the Indians and that for many decades before the coming of the white man the creek banks were dotted with the tepees of the Indians who came to drink the waters at certain seasons of the year.

Platt National Park is located within the holdings of the Chickasaw Nation of the old Indian Territory, established in 1867, and the greater part of the area was purchased from the Indians when the Sulphur Springs Reservation was established in 1902. On June 29, 1906, the name was changed to Platt National Park in honor of Orville Hitchcock Platt, Senator from Connecticut for 26 years, who, as a member of the Com-



Springs



Bromide Spring Pavilion

mittee on Indian Affairs, was distinguished for his service to the Indians.

Principal Springs

Of the numerous springs in the park, many may be classed broadly as sulphur, some as

fresh water, and three as bromide springs.

While waters of the springs are for the use of all visitors, they should be taken extensively only on the advice of a competent physician. The National Park Service facilitates the usefulness of the springs only by protecting and maintaining them according

to the best possible standards. There are no provisions in the park or at the town of Sulphur for free consultation of physicians or free treatment of the sick.

Pavilion Springs, Bromide Spring, and Medicine Spring are among the best known of the mineral water springs of the park. These springs are located in the valleys along Travertine and Rock Creeks. Bromide Spring issues from the base of Bromide Cliff and is dispensed from the Bromide Pavilion. Medicine Spring is also located here and dispensed from the pavilion.

The waters of Black Sulphur Spring are strongly impregnated with sulphur. This spring is located directly across Rock Creek from Flower Park and is dispensed from a small pavilion. Hillside Springs are in a rock wall just below the park office. These are also sulphur springs.

U. S. Analysis—Bromide Spring

Ingredients¹ (parts per million)

Ferric oxide	8.0	Silica	29.6
Calcium	60.8	Carbon dioxide ²	114.0
Magnesium	20.00	CO ₃ in normal carbonates	277.0
Sodium	1,700.0	SO ₄ in sulphates	42.1
Potassium	6.0	Chlorine	1,986.0
Lithium	Trace	Bromide	12.4

¹No iodine or sulphites.

²Excess of CO representing bicarbonates.

Natural Springs

In the eastern end of the park along Travertine Creek are two natural springs of considerable volume, flowing more than 5,000,000 gallons of pure natural water per day. It is said that these springs, called Buffalo and Antelope, were so named because of the herds of antelope and buffalo from the surrounding prairies which formerly came there to drink.

Trails and Circuit Drive

A carefully planned trail leads from the summit of Bromide Hill to Buffalo Springs, a distance of nearly 4 miles. From the main entrance to Robbers' Roost, on Bromide Hill, is one-half mile and from the same place to Buffalo Springs is 3 miles. Another trail, known as the Cliffside Trail, leads from about halfway up Bromide Hill to Sulphur Springs and the Perimeter Road. The trails are suitable for horseback riding from Pavilion Springs to the intersection of Cliffside Trail and along that trail to Sulphur Springs; also from Pavilion Springs to Buffalo Springs. Usually, the park superintendent or the local hotel managers can arrange for hiring saddle horses.

Within the park there is a complete circuit drive 8 miles in length. This road has been designed according to park standards and gives motorists as comprehensive and scenic a view of the park as possible.

Camp Grounds and Picnic Areas

Free camp grounds, with water, lights, and sanitary facilities, are maintained at Cold Springs, Central Camp Grounds, and Bromide Springs.

There are also a number of attractive picnic sites, most of which are equipped with tables, fireplaces, and water. Picnic areas accommodating large parties have been constructed at Travertine Island and Buffalo Springs.

Swimming

Swimming and wading are allowed along Travertine Creek. There are several swimming pools, with bathhouses and showers in the town of Sulphur, immediately adjacent to the park.

Administration

The superintendent of Platt National Park is in immediate charge, and information regarding the area may be secured from him at the park office. Communications should be addressed to the Superintendent, Platt National Park, Sulphur, Okla.

You can help the superintendent to maintain the park for present and future generations by cooperating in the following matters:

Do not disturb flowers, birds, shrubs, or trees; mar or deface signs or buildings; carve initials on any object.

Help keep the park clean by throwing trash into receptacles.

Extinguish fires completely; be sure matches and cigarettes are out before disposing of them.

Do not kill or injure the wildlife. Firearms, unless adequately sealed, cased, broken down, or otherwise packed to prevent their use, are prohibited within the park, except upon written permission from the superintendent.

Keep your dog or cat on leash or otherwise under restrictive control while in the park. Dogs and cats are not permitted in pavilions or near springs.

Season

Although the principal season for visitors is during the summer months, the park is open throughout the year.

How To Reach the Park

Platt National Park is easily reached via U. S. Highway 77 from the north and south at Davis and U. S. Highway 70 from the east and west at Ardmore. Connection with major bus lines both north and south may be made at Davis, while service to Ada on the east and Durant to the southeast is maintained from Sulphur.

Railway service is maintained by the Santa Fe Railway at Davis, with direct service north to Oklahoma City, Kansas City, and Chicago, and direct connections at Newton, Kans., for Denver, Colo., and Pacific Coast points. From Davis south there is direct service to Dallas and Fort Worth, with interchange service to Houston, Galveston, and south Texas points. At Scullin, on the east, connections are made with the Frisco Lines for Tulsa and St. Louis to the north and east and to Dallas to the south.

Nearby Points of Interest

There are a number of interesting points to visit near the park.

Turner Falls is a picturesque area in the heart of the scenic Arbuckle Mountains. The falls are a beautiful spectacle, and the entire region is one of rich geologic interest, particularly structural geology and paleozoic fossils. Prices Falls is also located in the heart of the Arbuckles and consists of numerous falls in a sparkling mountain stream. White Mound is an unusual heap of fossil shells found near Dougherty.

The Devil's Den, near Tishomingo, 26 miles away, is a grotesque formation of high granite boulders of considerable interest and beauty.

