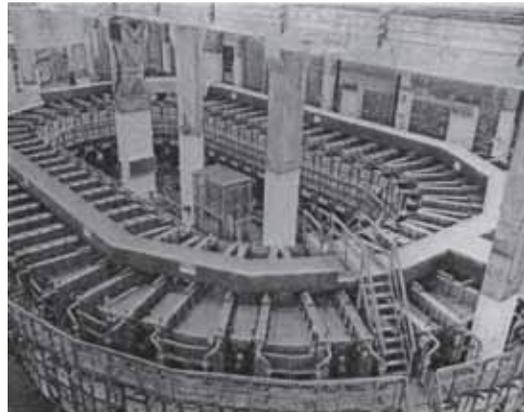




# Where Science Made History



Before 1942, the 59,000 acres that would become Oak Ridge, Tennessee, consisted of family farms in four rural communities in Anderson and Roane Counties. A decision by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to pursue the creation of an atomic bomb that summer changed everything in those communities. The government bought farms and property, moving about 1,000 families out of Elza, Robertsville, Scarborough and Wheat. Construction began on a new city that would be central to the high-stakes race to end World War II.



Giant Alpha racetrack at Y-12

Oak Ridge, created 74 years ago to help end the war, was one of three cities across the nation built for the unprecedented, secret effort to design and build an atomic bomb. That secret effort was code named the Manhattan Project. Along with Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Hanford, Washington, Oak Ridge played a key role in developing a new force for destruction that ended the war.



Teen Dance Oak Ridge Tennessee 1945

The Manhattan Project National Historical Park was established in November 2015 and spans across three historic cities in Tennessee, New Mexico and Washington. The new park is managed in partnership by the National Park Service and the Department of Energy.



V-J Day celebrations-in Jackson Square, Oak Ridge

In 1942 President Roosevelt put the  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 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 Department of Energy and the American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE) 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 AMSE. 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**

300 S. Tulane Avenue  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

**E-mail**

mapr\_information@nps.gov

**Park Visitor Desk**

(865) 576-6767



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

# The History of Manhattan Project NHP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in charge of the Manhattan Project, with Brigadier General Leslie Groves in command. Each city built for the project had a different assignment. The mission in Oak Ridge was production of the uranium isotope U-235 by three different methods—gaseous diffusion, electromagnetic separation and thermal diffusion—for a bomb. Also, the world’s first continuously operating nuclear reactor in Oak Ridge produced gram quantities of plutonium, another source of material used for a bomb, and served as a model for the full-scale plutonium production in Hanford.

Oak Ridge was the largest of the three Manhattan Project communities, the first to be established, and as the fifth largest city in Tennessee at the height of wartime production.

As scientists experimented on the enrichment processes in other locations, construction workers arrived in Oak Ridge, building the K-25 site for the gaseous and thermal diffusion processes, X-10 (now Oak Ridge National Laboratory), where the Graphite Reactor was built, and Y-12, for the electromagnetic separation of uranium. K-25 was the largest building under one roof in the world, a U-shaped structure measuring nearly a mile from end to end. The S-50 thermal diffusion plant was built in ninety days and provided slightly enriched uranium feedstock for further enrichment at Y-12 and K-25.

Construction workers built a city that eventually grew to 75,000 people, mostly young men and women recruited for the war effort, who were told they were going to a secret city to work on a secret project. Only a few scientists and government officials at the highest level knew the secret.

Oak Ridge in the war years was a city behind a fence. Military police watched those entering and leaving the city from seven guardhouses along the fence line. Every resident older than 12 wore a

badge at all times. No visitors were allowed without prior approval. Visiting scientists registered at the local Guest House under fictitious names to keep their travels secret. Residents were known for their muddy boots, as the nearly constant construction left mud in roads and walkways. Populated by young men and women, Oak Ridge was reported to have the highest birth rate in the country in 1945, the last year of the war.

On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb struck Hiroshima, Japan. Little Boy, as the bomb was called, contained enriched uranium produced in Oak Ridge. The Oak Ridge workforce discovered the results of their labors at the same time the world learned the news. Japan surrendered days after a second weapon, the plutonium bomb, hit Nagasaki, Japan, ending World War II.

The path to creating the bomb was lengthy, expensive, and experimental. The decision to drop the bomb was a difficult one, prompted by a will to end the war. Was it the right decision, the ethical decision? That question continues to be debated today.

The Manhattan Project and subsequent scientific developments in Oak Ridge ushered in the nuclear age and laid the groundwork for new uses for isotopes and other scientific and technological discoveries in the decades that followed. The Y-12 National Security Complex continues to help maintain the nation’s nuclear arsenal and provides fuel for the nuclear navy, while scientists at Oak Ridge National Laboratory provide international leadership in neutron science, advanced materials, supercomputing and nuclear energy. Meanwhile, the environmental legacy of nuclear weapons research and production is being addressed by a robust cleanup effort nearing completion of the East Tennessee Technology Park remediation. This “Secret City” remains at the forefront of scientific and technological innovation today, while honoring its legacy and answering its challenges.

## Lost & Found

Report any lost items to rangers at the American Museum of Science and Energy located at 300 S. Tulane, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Found items should be turned in at this location as well.

## 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.

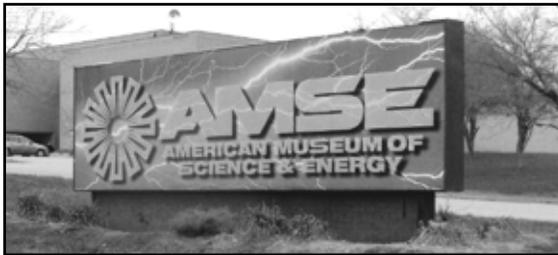
## Become A Volunteer

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 [biso\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:biso_information@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

Visitors in Oak Ridge can learn the city's history in exhibits at the American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE), headquarters of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, and at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge. AMSE offers seasonal tours from March through November which highlight two local facilities that continue to serve national interests today: Y-12 and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the site of K-25, where the gaseous diffusion plant has recently been demolished. A K-25 Virtual Museum is at <http://k-25virtualmuseum.org/>.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S

## OAK RIDGE FACILITIES BUS TOUR

## 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 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. each day at the AMSE admission desk. (first-come, first-served)



The Secret City Commemorative Walk just east of Alvin K. Bissell Park, near the Oak Ridge Public Library, honors the city's founders. At the library, the Oak Ridge Room preserves the city's history, and the Center for Oak Ridge Oral History there maintains the oral histories of early Oak Ridgers.

Tourists may walk in the footsteps of those who shopped and dined at Historic Jackson Square and Grove Center, two retail centers remaining from the first days of Oak Ridge. Near Jackson Square, with its restaurants, specialty shops and community playhouse, is the recently restored and renovated Guest House, also known as the Alexander Inn, where renowned scientists checked in under assumed names to keep the secrets of the Secret City. It now serves as an assisted living facility for some of Oak Ridge's older residents.

From there, visitors may drive through the city's original neighborhoods to see the "alphabet" houses intended to be temporary, though many were renovated and are still homes to residents today. Letters were assigned to the houses built in the 1940s to indicate their size and style.



Once a new Peace Pavilion is constructed to house the International Friendship Bell, visitors will again be able to experience the pure, peaceful sound of the 8,300-pound bronze bell, designed and cast in Japan. The bell, fabricated to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Oak Ridge, symbolizes the peace and reconciliation Japan and the U.S. experienced after World War II ended.

# Donate

The American Museum of Science and Energy Foundation is pleased to partner with the Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Oak Ridge by creating a fund in which tax-deductible contributions can be received to support the specific and defined needs of one of the nation's newest national parks. As you may know, funding for the new park will be somewhat limited, as is funding for all our nation's national parks.

Make your donation today to the Friends of Manhattan Project National Historical Park Fund by visiting <http://amsefoundation.org/friends-of-manhattan-project-national-historical-park-fund/>. Support can also be provided by check mailed to:

AMSE Foundation  
300 S. Tulane Avenue  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

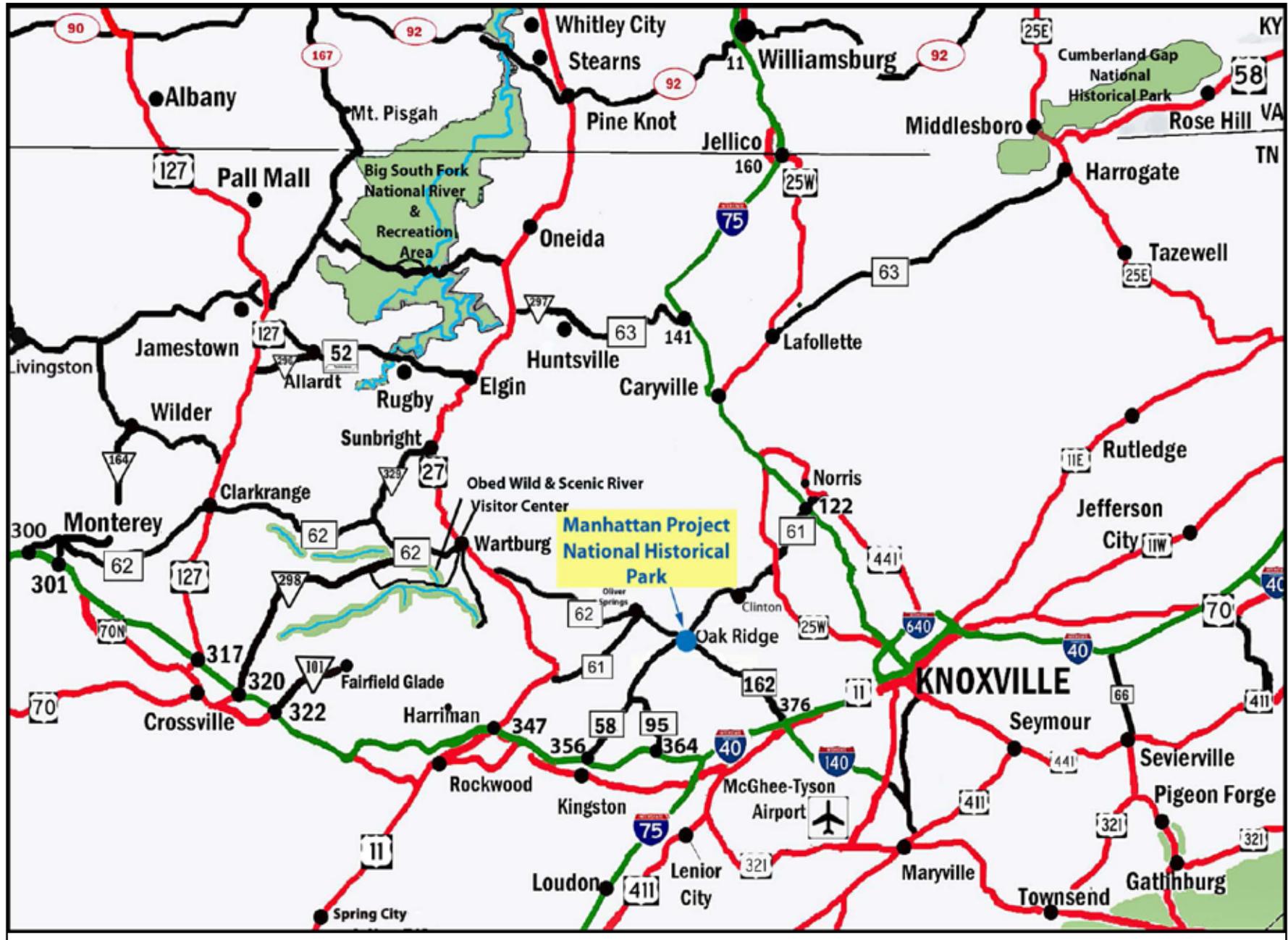
Checks can be made out to: Friends of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Fund – Oak Ridge





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park  
Oak Ridge, TN



**Manhattan Project NHP**

**Oak Ridge Site**  
300 S. Tulane Avenue  
Oak Ridge, TN  
(865) 576-6767

**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**

**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

**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