

Manhattan Project National Historical Park Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Official Visitor Guide

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

2019 Edition



Welcome to Manhattan Project National Historical Park. This guide is designed to provide information about how to make the most of your visit to the park. The Children's Museum of Oak Ridge is a great place to start your adventure. There you can speak to a park ranger for information on the latest events and activities. You can pick up our visitor guide and map to help navigate the many historic sites of Oak Ridge. Be sure to stamp your NPS passport book while you're there.

The park provides free year-round ranger-led programs at various locations across the city. Programs include informative talks at the Gatehouse, bike rides around the city, and hikes through the historic district. For more information about upcoming ranger-led programs, call (865)482-1942.

Often referred to as "the nation's storytellers," National Park Service staff work to bring you the stories that make the Oak Ridge so special. Walk or bike to cemeteries and churches which tell the stories of the farmers and store owners who lived here before the Manhattan Project. Take the bus tour to see Y-12, X-10 and K-25 Complexes, drive by the original houses and eat lunch at historic Jackson Square to learn about the soldiers, scientists and construction workers who built the "Secret City." Visit the American Museum of Science and Energy or ring the International Friendship Bell to see what current residents are doing to lead Oak Ridge into the future.

Manhattan Project NHP at Oak Ridge is one of three sites where the atomic bomb was developed. We encourage you to visit the other Manhattan Project NHP sites in Hanford, Washington; and Los Alamos, New Mexico.

FIND YOUR PARK
FINDYOURPARK.COM



ED WESTCOTT IMAGES TOP TO BOTTOM -- PINE VALLEY SCHOOL, 1947; YANK MAGAZINE REPORTER & PHOTOGRAPHER, 1945; BASEBALL GAME ON PLAYGROUND FOR RECREATION WELFARE, 1947; SCARBOROUGH SCHOOL TEACHERS, 1949

Welcome to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park

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 12 other National Park Service units located in Tennessee. Each of these special places share 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

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.

Education in the Shadow of the Manhattan Project

The rapidly-expanding population of Oak Ridge during the early 1940s led to a high demand for housing. During the peak of the secret city, homes were being completed every 30 minutes. With such a rapidly expanding city, Oak Ridge needed a school system. Schools were constructed within walking distance of most homes. By 1946, Oak Ridge had roughly 7,000 students enrolled in ten elementary schools, one high school, and one junior high, some of which are still used today.

Education in these valleys did not start with the Manhattan Project. The communities of Robertsville, Scarboro, and Wheat already had permanent schools. In Robertsville and Scarboro these buildings continued to be used as schools for the residents of Oak Ridge. In Wheat, however, the original school was converted into an office building, while another structure built in nearby Happy Valley became known as Wheat School.

Scarboro School went through several changes related to segregation for roughly 10 years. From 1944-1946, it was used as a school for Caucasian students. As the war ended, and the population shifted, the use of the building changed, being used as an elementary school for African-American students, until 1949. That same year the school's location was later moved to Gamble Valley, and high school classes were added, in 1950. Oak Ridge schools would later be the first in Tennessee to integrate students into their junior and senior high schools, in 1955, following the Supreme Court decision on Brown v. Board of Education.

Robertsville first operated in 1915, and closed in December 1942, when the land was acquired by the federal government for the Manhattan Project. It reopened in October 1943, as one of the first schools in Oak Ridge and operated as an elementary school until it was renamed Jefferson Junior High School in 1945. This building closed again in 1951, only to reopen in 1954 as Robertsville Middle School. In 1951 Jefferson Junior High moved to the former location of Oak Ridge High School near Jackson Square.

Jefferson Middle School moved one final time to its present location in 1968. Today, the gymnasium of the original Robertsville School remains in use as the Robertsville Middle School auditorium.

Linden School, originally located in today's Lasalle Park had over 800 students in 1946. After closing in 1955, Linden remained dormant until the neighboring community of Clinton's high school was bombed in protest of school integration. From 1958-1960 Linden Elementary School became the Clinton High School while Clinton rebuilt the damaged building.

Highland View Elementary, today's Children's Museum of Oak Ridge and the location of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park visitor contact station, opened to students in September 1944, and was home to over 800 students in 1946. The Children's Museum, formed by Girl Scout Troop 69, formed in March 1973. Like many other schools at the time Highland View Elementary was scheduled for closing in 1974, when the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge moved into the vacated building. The Museum continues its mission to provide educational programs and exhibits with an emphasis on play and hands-on learning for all ages.

Oak Ridge High School, located on Kentucky Avenue, near Jackson Square, was built to accommodate 500 students, but had a student body of 746, by 1946. The student body grew rapidly from 112, in 1943, and quickly required additions to the building and was moved to the current location in 1951.

None of this could have occurred without dedicated leadership within the school system. Dr. Alden Blankenship was hired as superintendent for the Oak Ridge School System and was given freedom to operate without interference from the Army. He hired experienced teachers that were required to have at least a bachelor's degree and most of the teachers at the high school had master's degrees.

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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. Visit us online at <http://www.nps.gov/mapr/workwithus.htm> to see all of the wonderful opportunities that are available.



The quality of education was very high and Dr. Blakenship ensured that by requiring teachers to participate in professional development programs.

Today, the high standards that laid the foundation for the Oak Ridge School System are still in place and the schools are commonly ranked high among the state and the nation. Oak Ridge Schools recently became the first in Tennessee and second school district in the world to receive official Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Certification from AdvanceED.

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.



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 am-2:30 pm

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

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.



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

DIRECTIONS FROM OAK RIDGE:

-HEAD SOUTHWEST ON OAK RIDGE TURNPIKE
-TURN RIGHT ONTO ROBERTSVILLE ROAD
-TAKE THE 2ND RIGHT ONTO HIGHLAND AVENUE
-TURN LEFT ONTO WEST OUTER DRIVE
-THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM WILL BE ON YOUR LEFT

DIRECTIONS FROM WEST KNOXVILLE:

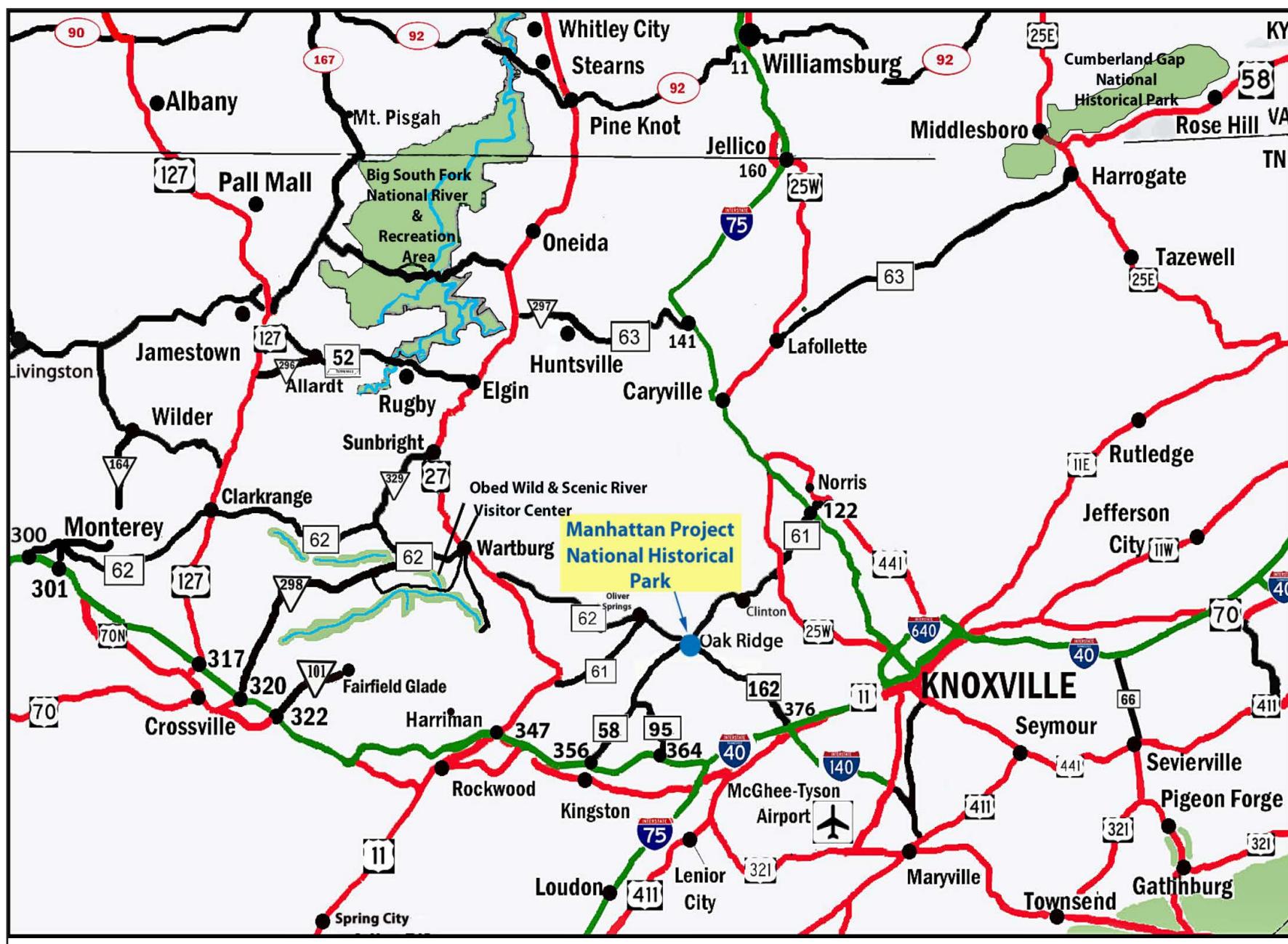
-TAKE I-40 TO TN-162 N / PELLISSIPPI PARKWAY
-CONTINUE ONTO TN-62 W / OAK RIDGE HIGHWAY
-CONTINUE TO FOLLOW TN-62 W / S. ILLINOIS AVENUE
-GO STRAIGHT THROUGH THE THE INTERSECTION OF ILLINOIS AVENUE AND OAK RIDGE TURNPIKE
-TURN RIGHT ONTO WEST OUTER DRIVE AT THE TOP OF THE HILL
-THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM WILL BE ON THE RIGHT - WATCH FOR THE CABOOSE!

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



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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