

# Obed Wild & Scenic River

Official Visitor Guide

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

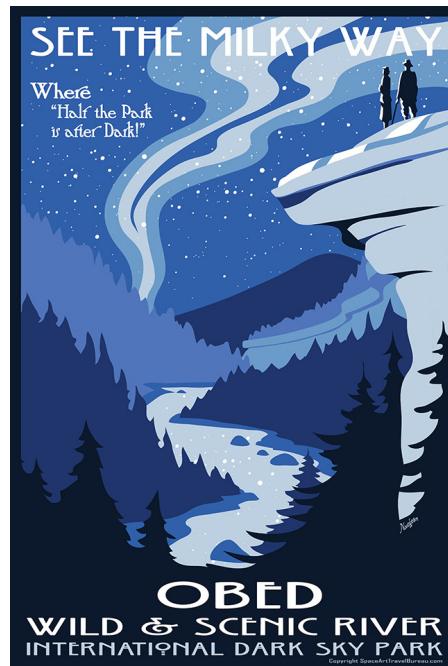
Fall & Winter Edition 2018



Throughout the final months of 2018, Obed Wild & Scenic River continues to celebrate and honor the 50th anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. During this special year, attendees to every ranger-led event will learn about the importance of this piece of landmark legislation, as they discover in groups or individually how vital it is to preserve the splendor of the Obed, just as the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act has done for the past 50 years.

Perhaps no other seasons of the year better represents the scenery of Obed Wild & Scenic River than fall and winter. Every year beautiful colors fill the landscape of the Cumberland Plateau in autumn, and eventually changes to the stark and bold statement of evergreens and snow that winter provides. Many people concede this time of year as the most beautiful time to visit and explore the 5,000 acres and 45 river miles that comprise the Obed Wild & Scenic River. The rejuvenating visions of autumn leaves changing colors spark an unmistakable contrast to the surging whitewater rapids of various sections of the river. Many photographers come to the Obed during fall and winter to capture some of their best images of the year.

But Obed is not just a place for scenery. Rather, it is a place to enjoy activities. Be it rock climbing, fishing, hiking, camping, and, of course, kayaking, the Obed stands as a place of active enjoyment for every member of the family. There is something in this park that will inspire everyone, and that is a testament to the success of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, now so celebrated in its first 50 years. We look forward to the next 50 years with you.



*Be sure to check out the new Night Sky items for sale at the visitor center.*



*Kayaking with friends is a favorite activity no matter the time of year.*

## Welcome to Obed Wild & Scenic River!

Happy Anniversary! As we enter the fall and winter months, we are still in the mode for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. Throughout 2018, the Obed staff has been informing visitors about the importance of the act at a variety of special events, in the visitor center, and out on the trails. The Obed is just one of 209 Wild & Scenic Rivers in 40 different states across America, which benefit from the protection and the stewardship that the act provides.

Be it learning how to rock climb through our Climb with a Ranger program, fly and spin cast fishing at the Nemo and Lilly Bridge sections of the park, or enjoying a leisurely stroll along the Point Trail, there is no limit to the fun that visitors can have at the Obed. Young and old alike can discover the uniqueness of our park.

A great first place to visit is inside the Obed Visitor Center, located at 208 North Maiden Street in downtown Wartburg, Tennessee. Once there, you can watch our award winning film *The Obed: Find Yourself Here*, obtain a park map and guide, view the display of winning shots from our annual photo contest, and plan your trip to the different sections of the Obed Wild & Scenic River with the help of our courteous park rangers and volunteers. Regardless of how much free time you have, our dedicated staff will help you and your family and group develop an itinerary that will be enjoyable for all!

As the celebration of the signing of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act continues throughout 2018, we invite visitors to spread the word of the beauty, the activities, and the fun that the Obed offers to all of your friends and neighbors. We look forward to your next visit...and to the next 50 years as well!

*Niki Stephanie Nicholas*

Niki Stephanie Nicholas  
Superintendent

## 4 Park Map

This map shows how to get to the most popular points of interest in our park.

## 6 Hiking Trails

Take a hike down one of our many beautiful scenic trails.

## 7 Hey Ranger!

See what the commonly asked questions are for the park.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Obed Wild & Scenic River

Mailing Address  
PO Box 429  
Wartburg, TN 37887

E-mail  
obri\_information@nps.gov

Park Headquarters  
423-346-6294



STAY CONNECTED WITH US

Follow us on Twitter  
@ObedNPS

Like us on Facebook as  
ObedNPS

Follow us on Instagram as  
ObedNPS

Subscribe to our YouTube channel at  
Obed Wild & Scenic River

Visit our website at  
[www.nps.gov/obed](http://www.nps.gov/obed)



WiFi is available at the  
Visitor Center.

# Events Calendar

All events are Eastern Time. All interpretive programs are subject to change.  
Contact Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitor Center at (423) 346-6294 for program details.

## NIGHT SKIES OVER THE OBED

The Obed is one of the newest Dark Sky Parks designated by the International Dark Sky Association. Come join us in 2018 and 2019 at our Night Sky programs, which feature the full stellar display of our exceptional dark sky, through the lens of our 12-inch Dobsonian Reflector Telescope. Selected dates of the Night Skies programs will be posted on the Obed's Facebook page (ObedNPS).

## HEALTHY HIKES

The Obed Healthy Hikes provide the public with ranger-led hikes that allow park visitors the opportunity to further discover our national parks. Many of the hike have themes that are tailored to the season, such as wildflowers, birds, trees, etc. Check with the Obed Visitor Center for upcoming dates and times.

## COFFEE AND CLIMB WITH A RANGER PROGRAM

On the first Saturday of each month, the Climb with a Ranger program introduces rock climbing to individuals who have always wanted to try the activity but who did not know where to begin. All necessary gear is provided. Depending on interests and ability levels, participants will travel with rangers to one of several different climbing areas around the park. Would be rock climbers of all ages are encouraged to attend. These programs will be held regardless of weather conditions. Attend one program or both. No reservations are necessary for these free events.

## TRAIL RUNS AT THE OBED

If you like to run with others, and if you enjoy single track running in a woodland setting, then our trail runs are for you! The trail runs are a challenging alternative to our healthy hikes. Selected dates of the Trail Runs will be posted on the Obed's Facebook page (ObedNPS).

## ADOPT-A-CRAG

This annual event will occur on September 9, 2017 this year. Climbers and any interested volunteers help to pick up trash and do trail maintenance work around the park. Climbers and any interested volunteers help to pick up trash, perform trail maintenance work around the park, and treat hemlock trees to protect them from the Woolly Adelgid. <https://www.nps.gov/obed/planyourvisit/adopt-a-crag.htm>

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- All programs are free.
- Programs may be cancelled due to extreme weather conditions.
- All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.
- Inquire at the Visitor Center about other programs offered during the week.
- Wear sturdy walking shoes for hikes. You may also want to bring along bug spray and drinking water.
- Black bears and other wildlife frequent the area; visitors must follow food and garbage storage regulations.
- Pets must be restrained on a leash at all times. Owners are expected to clean up pet waste and dispose of it properly.

## Become A Junior Ranger

Obed WSR has a Junior Ranger book and a cool cloth 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 Obed with Obediah, the Owl. Many activities will help you learn about animals, plants, rocks, and rivers.



## Become A Volunteer

For information on how you can become a National Park Service volunteer, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Veronica Greear, at (423) 346-6294, or email us at [obri\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:obri_information@nps.gov). Visit us online at <http://www.nps.gov/obed/getinvolved/workwithus.htm> to see all of the wonderful opportunities that are available.



## User Fees of Obed WSR

### CAMPING FEES

ROCK CREEK CAMPGROUND

11 SITES

\$10—NIGHT (8 PERSON MAX.)\*

Make reservations at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov)  
or by calling 1-877-444-6777



### PERMITS

HOG PERMITS \$5\*/PERSON

### PASSES

INTERAGENCY SENIOR PASS-ANNUAL—\$20

INTERAGENCY SENIOR PASS-LIFETIME—\$80 ONE TIME FEE

INTERAGENCY ACCESS PASS—FREE WITH PROOF OF DISABILITY

INTERAGENCY PARK PASS—\$80

INTERAGENCY MILITARY PASS—FREE WITH PROOF OF ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY

GET YOUR INTERAGENCY PASS ONLINE AT  
[store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html](http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html) or at one of our visitor centers.

## Attention All Fourth Graders!

If you are 10 years old or in fourth grade, you can participate in a fun online activity and receive a voucher for a free 4th Grade Annual Pass. Print out the voucher and take it with you and your family to a national park, where you can serve as an ambassador and introduce your family to the National Park System. This program, called Every Kid in a Park, can be found online at <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/>. National parks and other federal lands and waters all across America are excited to share their heritage with young people.



## Pets

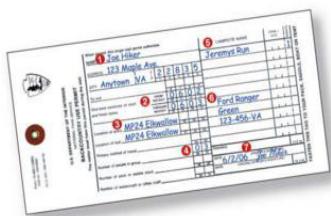
Pets are allowed within the park. However, in order to protect your pet and the park's wildlife, all pets must be kept on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) at all times even if you have your dog with you when riding a horse. Be sure to clean up after your pet.

Before coming to the park make sure your pet is up to date on all vaccinations including rabies. Pets should have identification and rabies tags on their collars. Make sure you check for ticks on you and your pet after visiting the park.



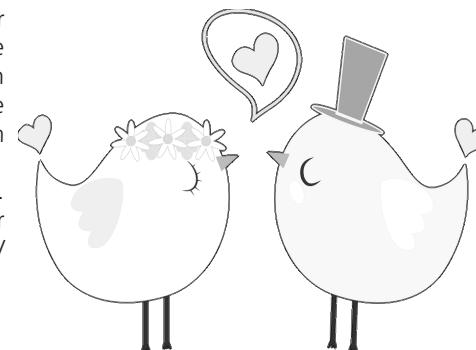
## Backcountry Camping Permits

Anyone planning to camp overnight in the backcountry must obtain a free backcountry permit. A permit can be obtained at the Obed Visitor Center or you may download the form online by scanning the QR code here (<http://www.nps.gov/obed/planyourvisit/upload/OBRI-Backcountry-Use-Permit.pdf>).



## Having a race or getting married?

Special events in the park such as river races or weddings require a special use permit. If you need more information about how to obtain a special use permit, contact the Fee Program Manager, Letitia Neal at 423-569-7321 or by email at [tish\\_neal@nps.gov](mailto:tish_neal@nps.gov). Information can also be found on our website at <http://www.nps.gov/obed/planyourvisit/special-use-permits.htm>.



### CONCESSIONAIRE

**Eastern National**

Bookstore

(423) 346-6295

[www.eparks.com/store](http://www.eparks.com/store)

### PERMITTED OUTFITTER

**Ace Kayaking School**

River Guide

2368 Old Federal Rd

Ocoee, TN 37361

(865) 385-3204

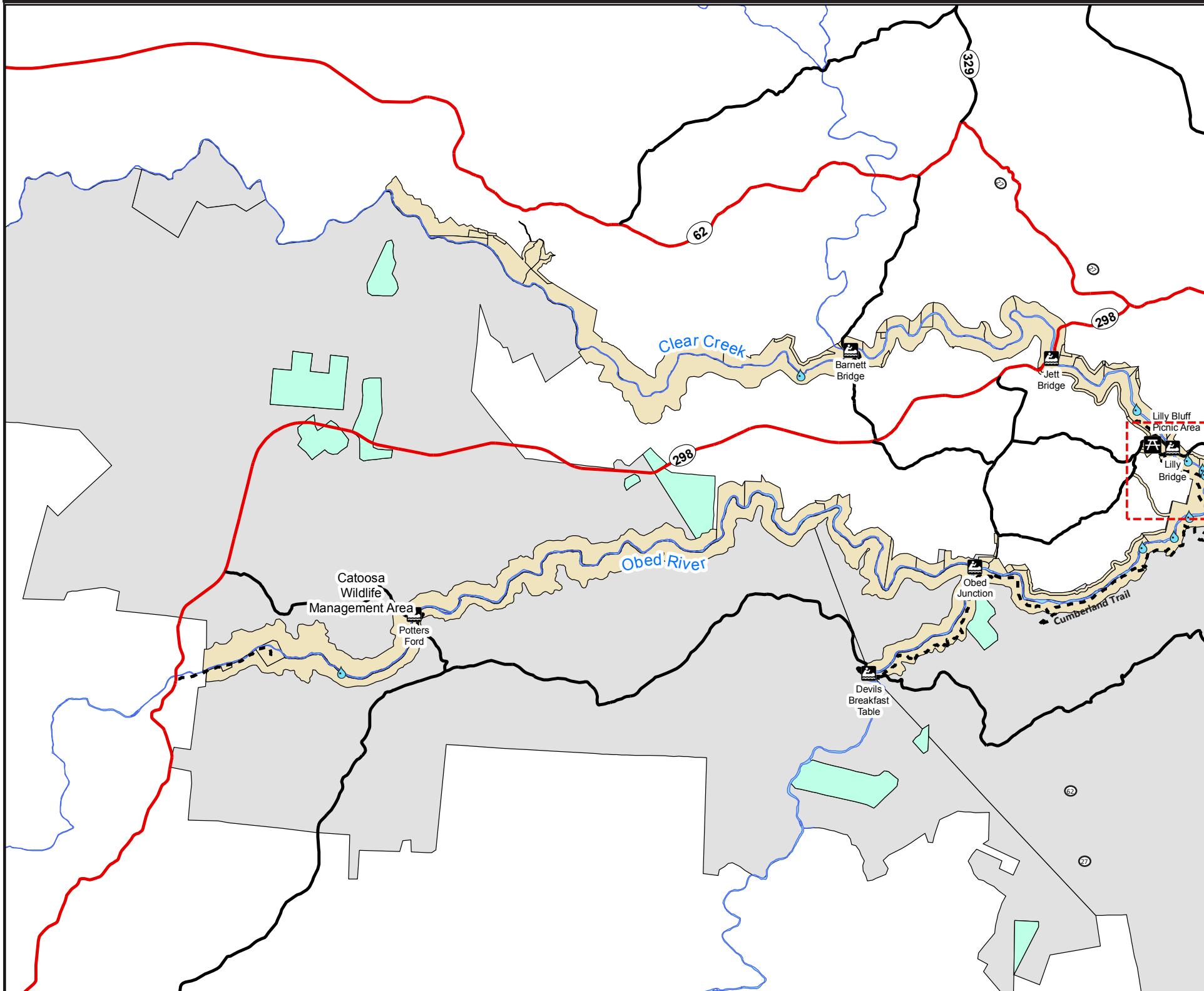
[acekayaking@gmail.com](mailto:acekayaking@gmail.com)

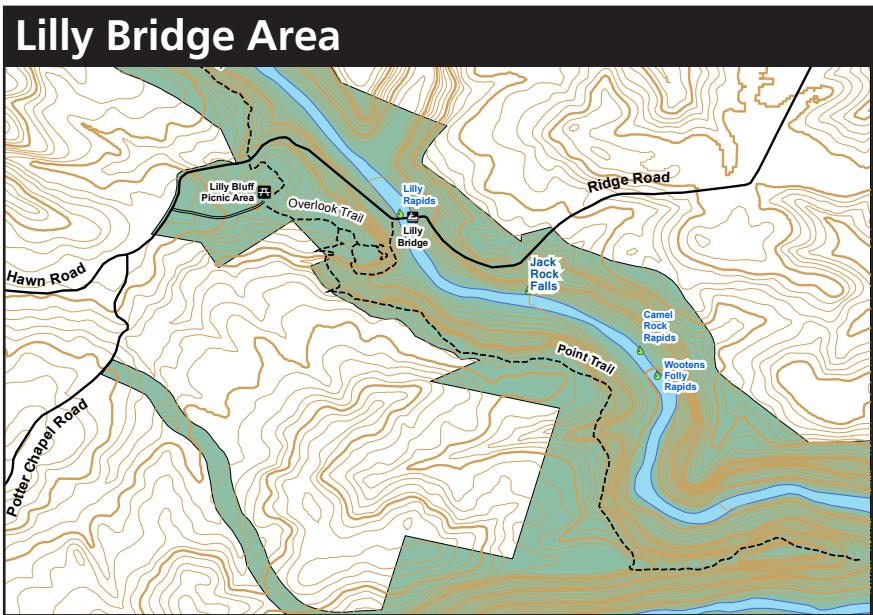
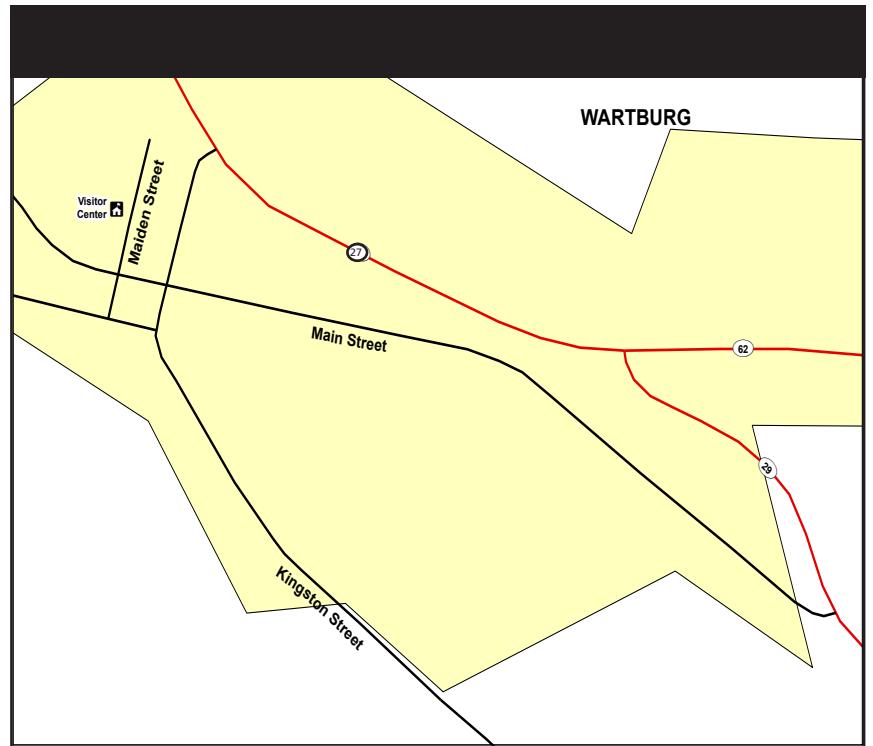
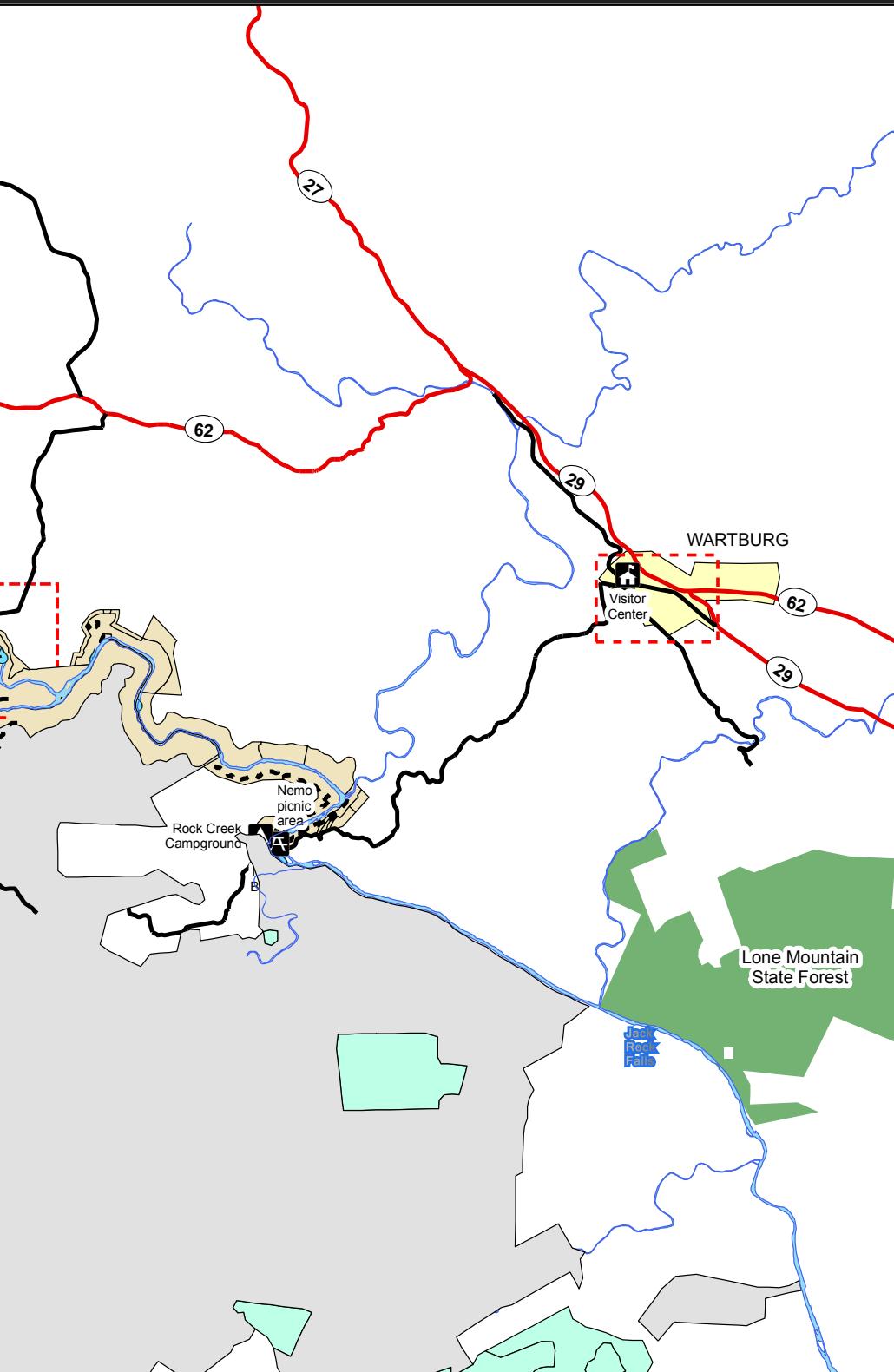
[www.acekayaking.com](http://www.acekayaking.com)

## Lost and Found

Report any lost items to rangers at the Obed Visitor Center located at 208 North Maiden Street in downtown Wartburg, Tennessee. Found items should be turned in at this location as well.

# Obed Wild & Scenic River





# Hiking Trails of the Obed

	Trail Name	Rating	Distance	Time	Description
<b>1</b>	Point Trail	Moderate	1.9 miles	2 hours round trip	This trail culminates on the narrow, exposed ridge that separates the Obed River from Clear Creek before the two flow together.
<b>2</b>	Bridge Trail	Moderate	.3 mile	15-20 minutes	This trail follows steep terrain from Lilly Bridge to the Overlook Trail.
<b>3</b>	Overlook Trail	Easy	.3 mile	10 minutes	Flat stroll through Hemlock forest to a great overlook of the Clear Creek Gorge.
<b>4</b>	Boulder Field Trail	Easy/Moderate	.2 mile	10 minutes	Trail leaves the Lilly Bluff Overlook parking area and winds through huge boulders and impressive stands of Hemlock.
<b>5</b>	Nature Loop	Moderate	1 mile round-trip	30 minutes	Trail leaves from Rock Creek parking area and follows the Cumberland Trail to loop back to parking area. Portions of this trail follow the river.
<b>6</b>	Cumberland Trail-Obed River Section	Difficult	2.6 miles	2 1/2 hours	Trail follows the Cumberland Trail to an old popular river ford site.
<b>7</b>	Devil's Breakfast Table - Rock Creek	Difficult	14.2 miles	8 hours minimum	This trail passes through rugged terrain and offers numerous overlooks of the river canyon. Large portions of this trail are within the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area and are subject to periodic closures
<b>8</b>	Cumberland Trail-Emory River Gorge Section	Moderate	2.6 miles round trip	1 hour	This section of the Cumberland Trail starts at Historic Nemo Bridge and follows the Emory River upstream to the confluence of the Emory and Obed rivers.

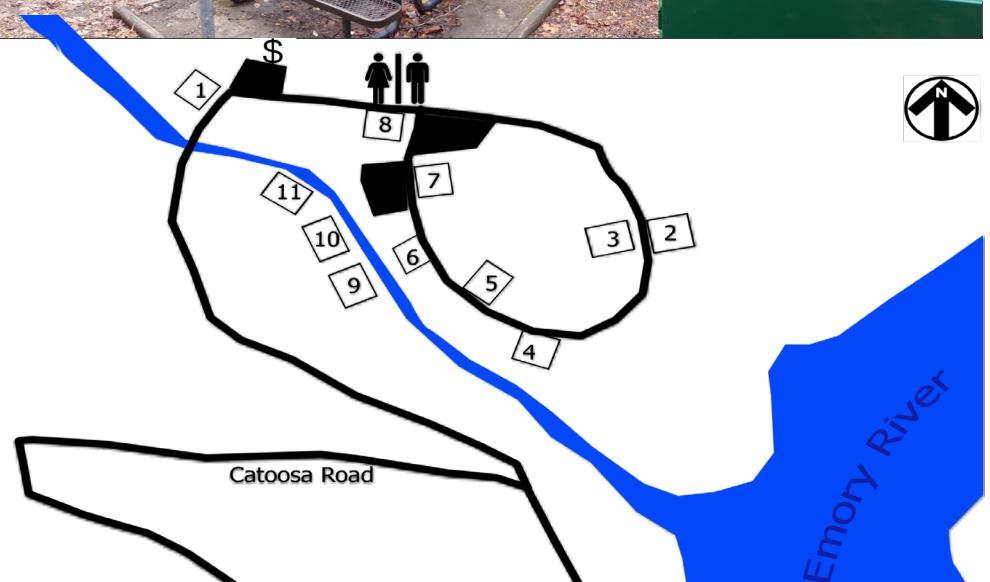
# Rock Creek Campground



Rock Creek is a primitive campground open year-round and offers eleven campsites at \$10 per night. There are food storage lockers and wildlife-proof garbage cans to use throughout the campground as well as a centrally located vault toilet facility. No drinking water is located at this area.

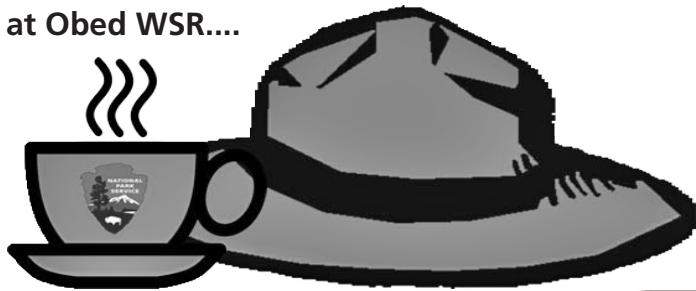
On October 1, 2016, the campground became available for reservations on the National Recreation Reservation Service. Reservations can be made up to 6 months in advance by calling 1-877-444-6777 or going online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). For more information call (423) 346-6294.

***Experience all that Obed has to offer by staying a while.***



# Hey Ranger!

Most commonly asked questions  
at Obed WSR....



## How often is the Climb with a Ranger Program?

The Climb with a Ranger Program takes place on the first Saturday of each month. Contact the Visitor Center for more details. This monthly year-round program occurs rain or shine.

## Are there any handicap accessible trails?

Besides our fully accessible visitor center, the Lilly Bluff Overlook Trail is on level ground and is handicap accessible.

## Do you have a park movie?

Yes. The Obed park movie is shown upon request inside the Obed Visitor Center. It is about 15 minutes long.

## Where can I enjoy a picnic lunch at the Obed?

Many people picnic at the Nemo section of the park, where picnic tables and small grilling stations are located. Still others enjoy taking a bag lunch to Lilly Bluff and enjoying the scenery at the Overlook while eating.

## How much does it cost to visit the Obed?

The Obed is free to all visitors year-round. For those wishing to camp overnight at the Rock Creek Campground, the fee is \$10 per night. Campsite reservations can be made by calling 1-877-444-6777 or by going online to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

## What type of fish can be caught at the Obed?

Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass, Bluegills, Catfish, and even an occasional Muskie can be caught at the Obed.

## What type of license does one need to fish at the Obed?

A Tennessee fishing license is all that is required.

## Where are the recycle bins located?

They can be found at the Obed Visitor Center, Rock Creek Campground, Nemo Day Use Area, and the Lilly Bluff Parking Lot.

## Are there restroom facilities in the park?

Yes. Restroom facilities can be found at the Nemo, Lilly Bridge, Lilly Bluff, Jett, and Barnett sections of the park.

## Where are your hiking trails located?

Most of Obed's hiking trails are located at the Lilly Bluff section of the park. They include the Overlook Trail, the Point Trail, the Bridge Trail, and the Boulder Trail. Several trails can also be found at the Nemo section of the park. They include the Emory River Nature Trail, and our section of the Cumberland Trail.

## Is backcountry camping allowed in the park?

Yes. A free backcountry camping permit is required and can be obtained at the Obed Visitor Center or online. See page 3 for more information.

## What is a Designated Dark Sky Park?

The Obed was recently designated by the International Dark Sky Association as an International Dark Sky park. This signifies a park of exceptionally starry nights, and a nocturnal environment that is protected for its scientific, natural, educational, and cultural heritage, as well as its public enjoyment.

## Can I bring my dog to the Obed?

Certainly. However, all pets must remain on a leash of no more than six feet in length. Never leave your pet unattended.

## Where is the Obed Visitor Center located?

The Obed Visitor Center is located at 208 N. Maiden Street in downtown Wartburg, Tennessee. It is open from 9 am to 5 pm ET daily.

## How many rock climbing routes does the Obed have?

The Obed currently has almost 400 different rock climbing routes, ranging from sport and traditional climbing to bouldering.

## Are there any river outfitters?

Yes. Refer to page 3 under permitted outfitters for more information.

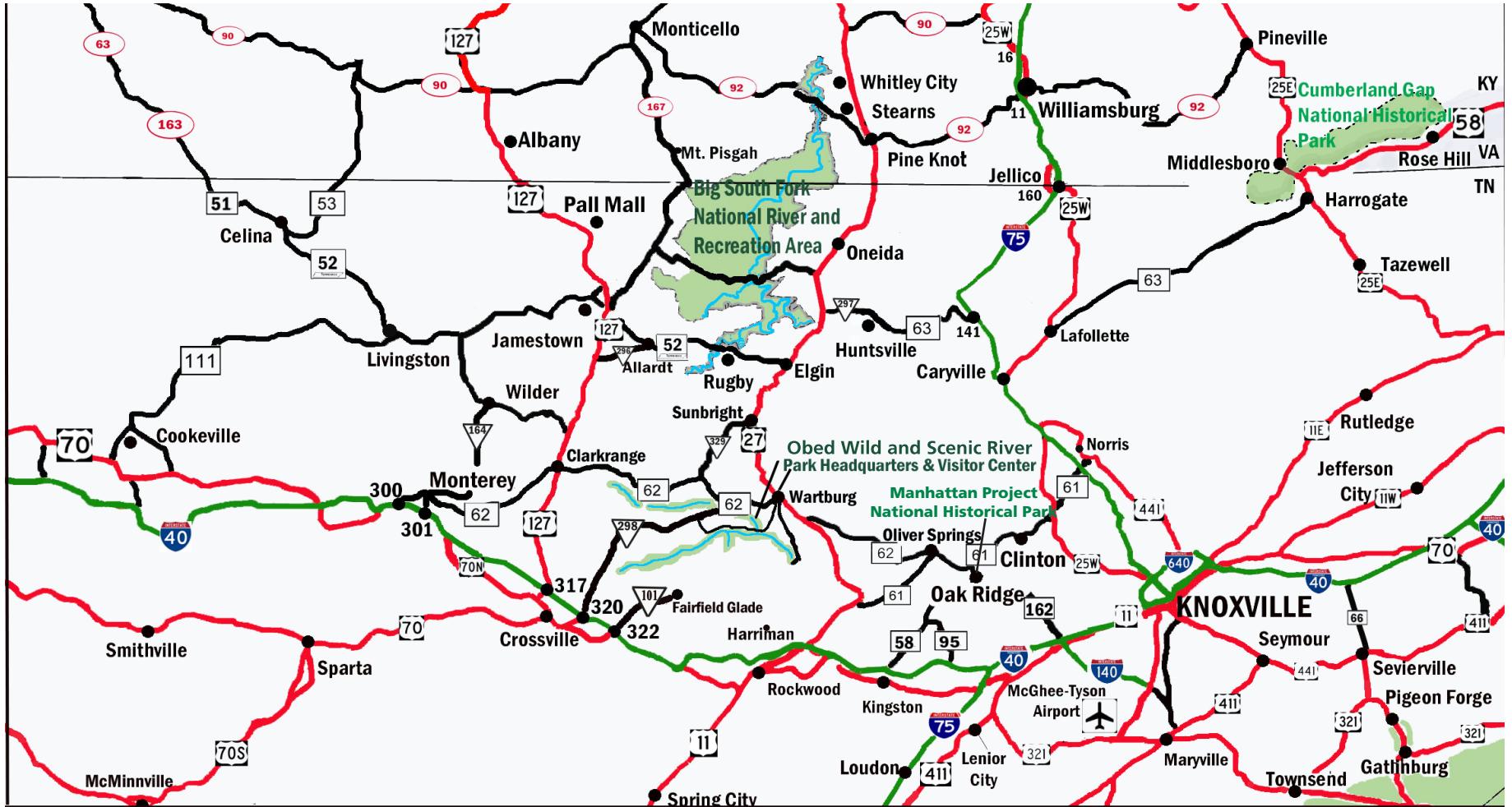
## What classification of rapids are available at the Obed?

The various sections of the Obed WSR run from a Class II to a Class IV rapid. The sections include Clear Creek, Daddys Creek, the Emory River, and the Obed River.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Obed Wild and Scenic River  
PO Box 429  
Wartburg, TN 37841



### Obed Wild and Scenic River

PO Box 428  
208 N. Maiden Street  
Wartburg, TN  
(423) 346-6294  
9 am to 5 pm ET daily.

### Crossville Visitor Center

176 River Otter Drive  
Crossville, TN 38571  
(931) 787-1755  
9 am to 5 pm CT daily.



SCAN THIS CODE  
for directions from website

**DIAL 911**  
for EMERGENCIES

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Morgan County Ambulance  
Wartburg, TN  
(423) 346-6601

Morgan County Sheriff  
Wartburg, TN  
(423) 346-6262

Morgan County Medical Center  
224 Old Mill Road  
Wartburg, TN  
(423) 346-6221

Roane Medical Center  
412 Devonia Street  
Harriman, TN  
(865) 882-1323

Ambulatory Care Center  
1236 Knoxville Hwy  
Wartburg, TN  
(423) 346-5566