

Obed Wild & Scenic River

Official Visitor Guide

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Spring/Summer Edition 2017



Adventure Awaits

"Spring and summer at the Obed," a phrase that conjures up images of warmer weather, colorful wildflowers in bloom, songbirds chirping, and visitors getting outside to enjoy the great outdoors. Obed Wild and Scenic River is the perfect place to experience the sights and sounds of spring and summer, and a variety of exciting and challenging outdoor activities.

Whether it's whitewater paddling, fishing, rock climbing, bird watching, camping, hiking, attending a ranger-led program, or enjoying an afternoon picnic, Obed WSR has many different recreation opportunities for virtually all age ranges and interests. For those who enjoy rock climbing, the Obed has more than 300 sport and boulder routes from which to choose from.

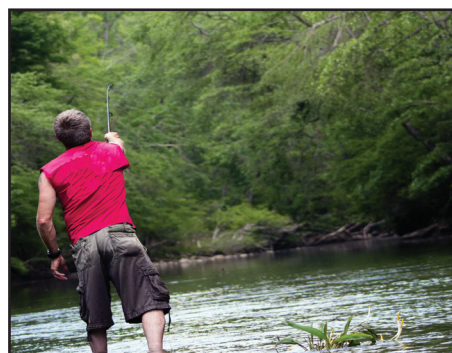
Just by taking a leisurely walk on the park's popular and scenic Overlook Trail, or a more moderate hike on the Point Trail, visitors will experience the beauty and significance of Obed Wild and Scenic River. Regardless of your interest, your choices for adventure, or leisure will leave you with memories that will last a lifetime.

This guide is designed to help you choose the best activity for the time that you have available to spend exploring the Obed. Regardless if you visit for an hour, a day, or a week, you'll find important information and answers to many of your questions within the pages of this guide. And don't forget to visit the Obed Visitor Center in downtown Wartburg, where you can chat with a park ranger and get up to date information on the latest goings-on within the park.

Thank you for spending a part of your spring and summer at Obed Wild and Scenic River.



Pink Ladyslipper



Fishing in the Obed

Welcome to Obed Wild & Scenic River!

Although spring officially begins March 21, signs of its arrival can be seen, and felt much sooner, with the sounds of frogs croaking, trees budding, and warmer weather beckoning. During this exciting time of seasonal change, many visitors eagerly come to the park to experience these familiar, and missed, sights and sounds.

As park staff prepare for the year ahead, the magic of spring also requires visitors to plan ahead and be prepared. Water levels at Obed may change quickly from one day to the next, trail conditions may be impacted by weather, as well as other unforeseen events.

Regardless of what your interest is, the best place to begin your visit to the park is at the visitor center. Our knowledgeable staff is available to answer your questions, provide park updates, and offer recommendations on how to best spend your available time.

Whether it's your first time experiencing the Obed, or your 20th, I hope you come prepared and have a safe visit. And may your experience exceed your expectations.

Niki Stephanie Nicholas
Superintendent

4 Park Map

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

6 Walks & Talks Schedule

Find out when the next ranger program will take place and join us.

7 Hey Ranger!

See what the commonly asked questions are for the park.

FIND YOUR **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



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.

ANNUAL CLEANUP AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION POTLUCK LUNCH

Join us on Saturday, April 22, 2017 for this annual event. Volunteers, scouting groups, and whitewater paddling groups team up to clean up all access to the park. Following the cleanup, a picnic lunch at the Obed Visitor Center is provided to all volunteers.

ASTRONOMY/DARK SKIES PROGRAM

As part of the Obed's Dark Sky Initiative, the Obed offers Night Sky programs to provide visitors an in-depth look into the night sky, while promoting its importance as a global resource. Like us on Facebook to stay up to date on upcoming viewing events, where telescope viewing is provided.

ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Photographers are invited to submit entries for the fourth annual photography exhibit at the Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitor Center. The NPS is looking for striking digital images in one of five categories: action/adventure, artistic, flora/fauna, landscapes, and youth (17 and under). Photos must be submitted by July 3, 2017. Gala award celebration will occur on August 25, 2017. Submission information and rules and regulations can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/obed/learn/photosmultimedia/obed-photo-contest.htm>.

HEALTHY HIKES

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.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING EVENT

Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime event to view the total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017. The entire area of the Obed will fall under the path of totality, providing opportunities for viewing (weather permitting). Viewing locations will be provided at several locations in the park. Check with the Obed Visitor Center for more information.

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.

OBED RANGER'S CHOICE PROGRAM

Join us every Friday at 10:30 am (ET) for a Ranger's Choice Interpretive program. The topics being discussed will vary, as will the location. Please check with the Obed Visitor Center for details on each week's program.

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.

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 4-12 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 the Volunteer Coordinator, at (423) 346-6294, or email us at 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
ALL SITES 11 SITES

\$10—NIGHT (8 PERSON MAX.)*

Make reservations at recreation.gov
or by calling 1-877-444-6777



PERMITS

HOG PERMITS \$5*/PERSON

PASSES

INTERAGENCY SENIOR PASS
\$10 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 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.



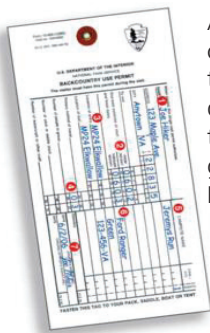
Pets

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

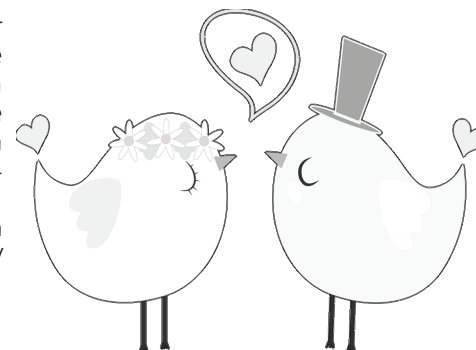


Anyone planning to camp overnight in the backcountry must obtain a free backcountry permit. A permit can be obtained at the Obed Visitor Center or you may download the form online by scanning the QR code here (<http://www.nps.gov/obed/planyourvisit/upload/OBRI-Backcountry-Use-Permit.pdf>).



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 423-569-2404 ext. 240 or by email at 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

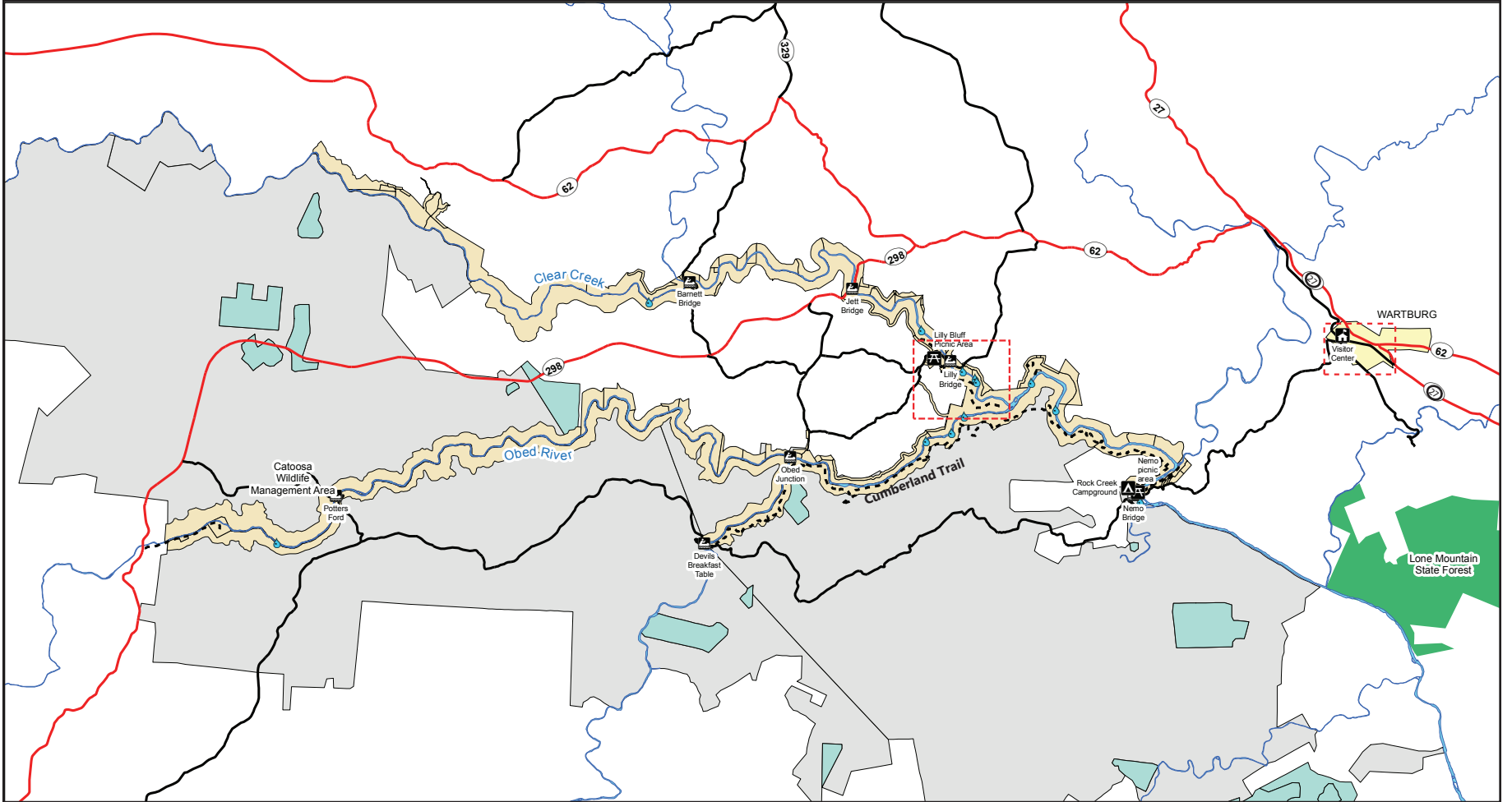
PERMITTED OUTFITTER

Ace Kayaking School
River Guide
2368 Old Federal Rd
Ocoee, TN 37361
(865) 385-3204
acekayaking@gmail.com
www.acekayaking.com

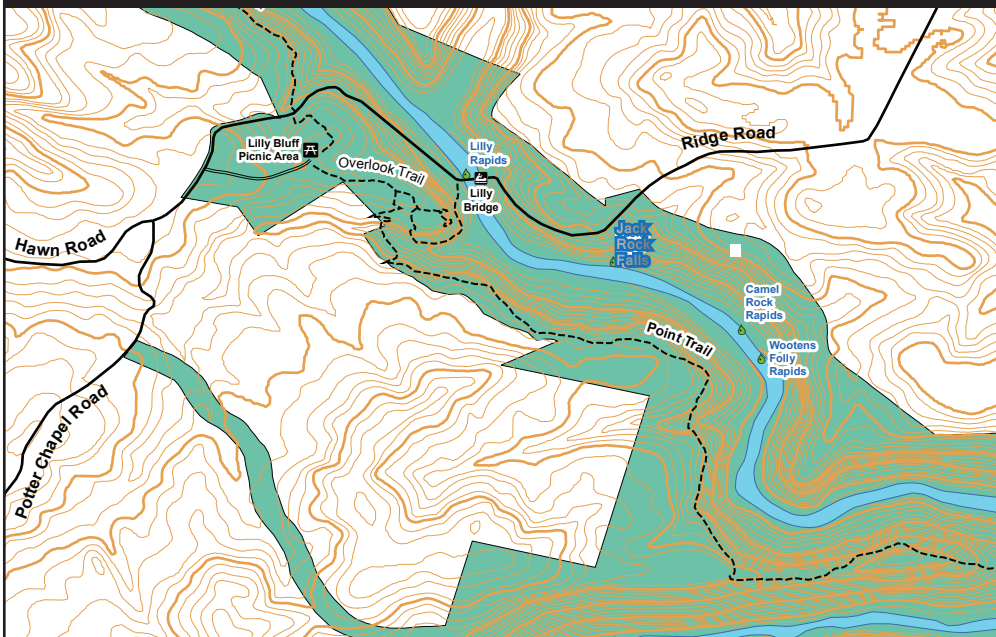
Lost and Found

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

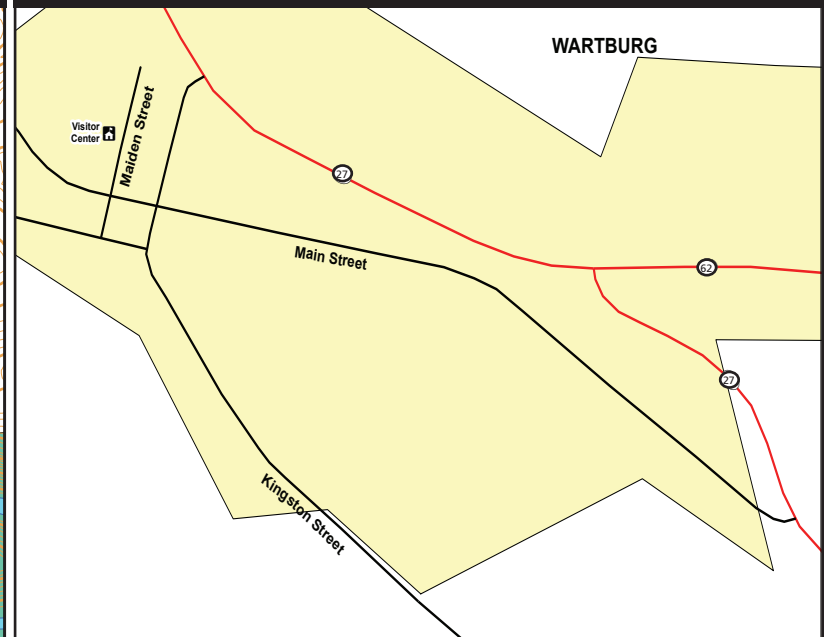
Obed Wild & Scenic River



Lilly Bridge Area



Obed Visitor Center



Hiking Trails of Obed

	Trail Name	Rating	Distance	Time	Description
1	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.
2	Bridge Trail	Moderate	.3 mile	15-20 minutes	This trail follows steep terrain from Lilly Bridge to the Overlook Trail.
3	Overlook Trail	Easy	.3 mile	10 minutes	Flat stroll through Hemlock forest to a great overlook of the Clear Creek Gorge.
4	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.
5	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.
6	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.
7	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
8	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.

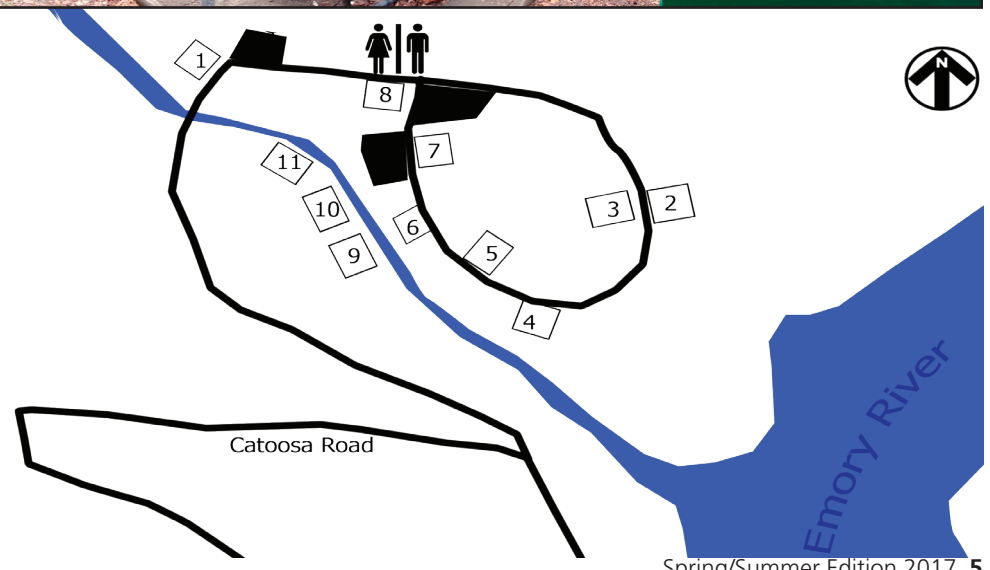
Rock Creek Campground



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. For more information, call (423) 346-6294.

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



Guided Walks and Talks

Schedules are effective from Memorial Day Weekend until Labor Day 2017.



PROGRAM TITLE	LOCATION	DURATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Healthy Hikes Ranger-led hikes are held on different trails throughout the park on some Fridays and Saturdays (weather permitting). They often include educational talks such as botanical, historical, cultural, or geological subjects. As hikes are scheduled, they are posted on the park's social media pages.	<i>Locations Vary</i>	<i>Times Vary</i>						Varies	Varies
Coffee with a Ranger The first Saturday of every month meet at Lilly Bridge at 10 a.m. Bring any questions you may have and come have a free cup of coffee with a National Park Service ranger.	<i>Lilly Bridge</i>	<i>30 minutes</i>							10:00 AM
Climb with a Ranger - Kids Only The first Saturday of every month meet at Lilly Bridge at 11 a.m. This program is for kids ages 12 and under. The park will provide all of the gear. Children must be accompanied by an adult.	<i>Lilly Bridge</i>	<i>1 hour</i>							11:00 AM First Saturday of each month.
Climb with a Ranger The first Saturday of every month meet at Lilly Bridge at 12 p.m. The park will provide all of the gear. All that you need to bring is drinking water, sturdy footwear, a willingness to try new things and a can-do attitude. Depending on participant interests and ability levels, we will travel to one of several different climbing areas around the park and will have participants back to their vehicles by approximately 3 p.m. (ET). Event is held regardless of most weather conditions.	<i>Lilly Bridge</i>	<i>3 hours</i>							12:00 PM First Saturday of each month.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, all programs subject to change, or cancellation. *Additional interpretative programs will be presented throughout the summer. Please inquire at the visitor center about other programs offered during this week.*

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

All programs are free. Above programs schedule is effective from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day.

Wear sturdy walking shoes for hikes. You may also want to bring along bug spray and drinking water.

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.

Programs may be cancelled due to extreme weather conditions.

Black bears and other wildlife frequent the area; visitors must follow food and garbage storage regulations.

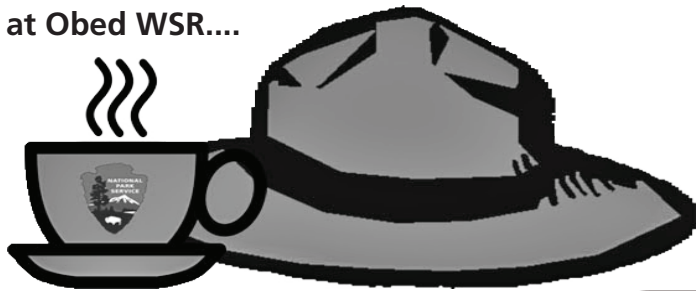
Pets must be restrained on a leash at all times. Owners are expected to clean up pet waste and dispose of it properly.

Inquire at the Visitor Center about other programs offered during the week.



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.

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.

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.

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 online at: 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.

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.

Are there any river outfitters?

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

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 the best time of year to see the Obed?

You can find something of interest every time of the year. However, many people come during the spring to kayak the river. Many others come during the fall to view the wide variety of leaves changing colors. Avid campers populate our Rock Creek Campground most often during the summer months.

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.

Where is Obed Visitor Center located?

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

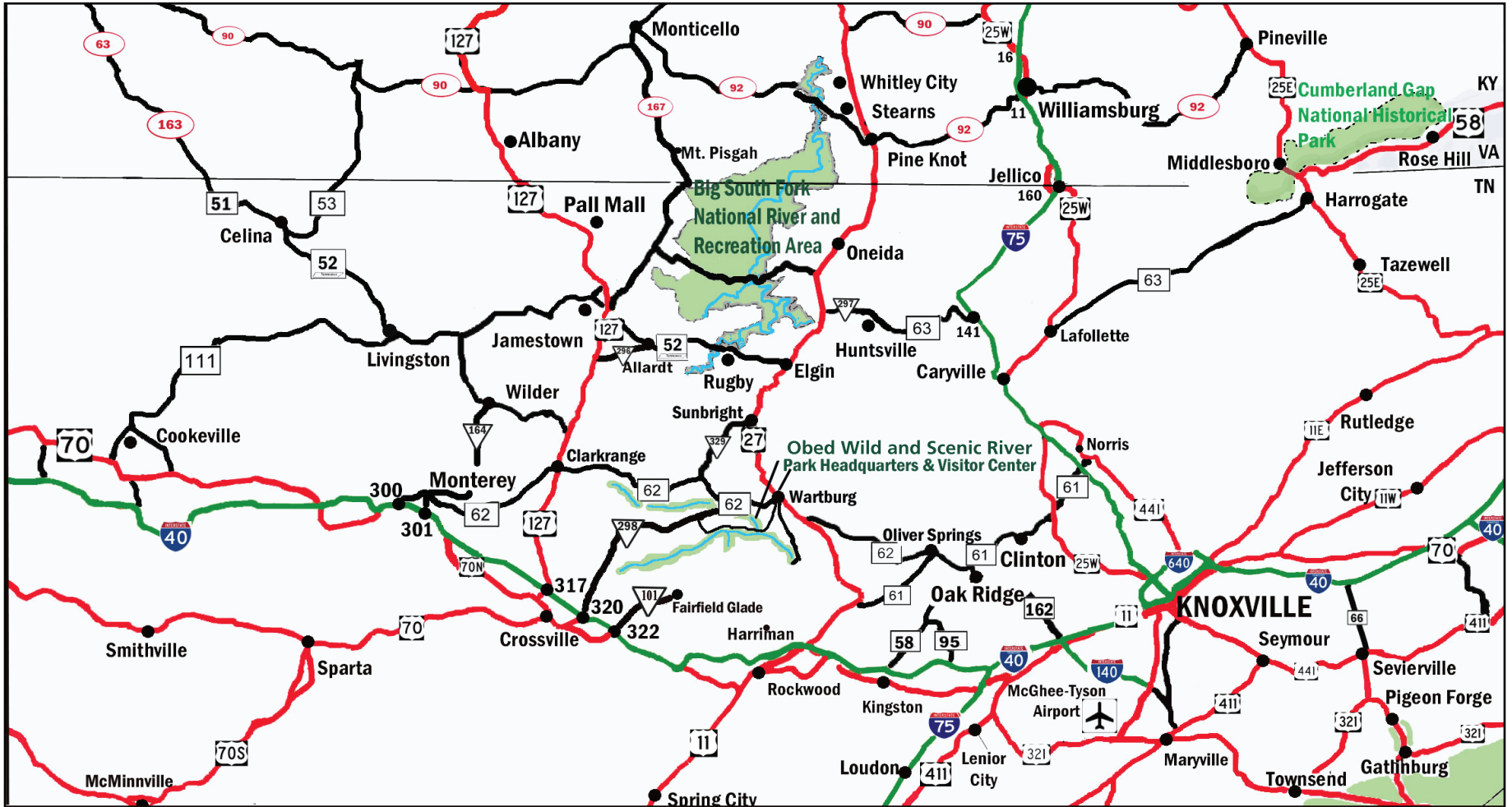
What classification of rapids are available at the Obed?

The various sections of 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 & Scenic River
PO Box 429
Wartburg, TN 37841



Obed Wild & Scenic River

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

Crossville Visitor Center

176 River Otter Drive
Crossville, TN 38571
(931) 787-1755
Memorial Day through Labor Day
9 am to 5 pm CT
Saturdays and Sundays



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