

Regarding Natural Resources: Do You Know That the Oak Ridge Reservation

- Was originally 58,525 acres? (33,508 acres remain)
- At the time of purchase in 1942 approximately half of the area was cleared?
- has become mostly native forest? (about 75% is now forested)
- Has over 1,100 vascular plant species? (Compare to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most biologically diverse of all National Parks in contiguous U.S. with respect to vascular plants, which lists about 1,650)
- Has 21 state-listed rare plants? (the population of tall larkspur is one of the largest in the world, possibly the largest)
- Has seven registered State Natural Areas?
- Is a Tennessee Wildlife Management Area? (called Oak Ridge Wildlife Management Area, and one of the top 5 requested for hunting)
- Provides homes for over 315 wildlife species?
- Has at least 20 state-listed or federally-listed rare wildlife species?
- Is one of seven Department of Energy National Environmental Research Parks? (others are Fermilab, Hanford, Idaho, Los Alamos, Nevada Test Site, and Savannah River)
- Is an International Biosphere Reserve and part of the Southern Appalachian Biosphere Cooperative (which provides a network of data and research opportunities)
- Is an Oak Ridge National Laboratory User Facility? (with over 700 users from colleges, universities, industries, ORNL, and other state and federal agencies over the past five years)
- Has over 270 occurrences of significant species and communities spread across the site (identified by The Nature Conservancy, 1995)
- Plays a significant role in nesting and migration of birds (18 of 20 breeding birds identified as priorities for conservation in the Ridge and Valley occur on the reservation)
- Has more species of breeding birds documented than any other single tract of land in Tennessee? (around 200 species have been documented through Partners in Flight surveys)

For additional information, contact the ORNL Area Manager

History of recent land transfers on the Oak Ridge Reservation

About 5,000 acres of land formerly included in the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation have been made available for private development in roughly the last 15 years.

* 1100-acre former site for the Clinch River Breeder Reactor, now owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority and being offered as a potential industrial development site.

* two tracts totalling 380 acres sold for development of the City of Oak Ridge's Bethel Valley Industrial Park and Lockheed Martin's Commerce Park industrial park.

* 1220 acres sold to the Boeing Corporation in 1988 for a missile project (never used for that purpose, and currently slated for development for mixed residential-commercial-industrial use). [An adjacent tract of floodplain land on the lakefront of Watts Bar Reservoir, totally approximately 100 hectares or about 246 acres, is still held by DOE, with TVA easements. DOE is currently considering a proposal to sell this land to the owner of the Boeing tract for inclusion in the development.]

* 756-acre Parcel A, sold to the City of Oak Ridge in the early 1990s, now developed as a golf course and residential subdivisions, but with few homes sold.

* 960 acres leased to the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) in 1997 for development as an industrial park.

* Currently, the proposed leasing of 450-acre Parcel ED-3 to CROET for commercial and industrial development.