

**TENNESSEE NGOS STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES  
AS PART OF THE MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
June 22, 2015**

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) across Tennessee (see list below) enthusiastically support the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. We also support conservation of other elements of the Oak Ridge Reservation that represent the cultural landscape of the Manhattan Project and the history of scientific investigation that grew out of the early days of research and development in Oak Ridge. These cultural landscape features include the Three Bends Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area, the Walker Branch Watershed, and various churches and cemeteries located in the Wheat Community and other places throughout the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). The Three Bends Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area was established in 1999 by former Energy Secretary Bill Richardson to conserve natural and cultural resources on the ORR and is a unique area remaining in Oak Ridge under federal ownership that represents the rural landscape that existed prior to development of the Oak Ridge facilities in the early 1940s. The Walker Branch watershed represents the important scientific research that grew out of the Manhattan Project and has been the source of classic ecological and hydrological research that originated at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The churches and cemeteries located on the ORR represent an important part of the heritage of the people who lived, worked, and died in the area before the Manhattan Project. And there are other natural features of the ORR that merit inclusion as features of the cultural landscape because they contain truly unique ecological or cultural resources (such as the Old Growth Forest).

Together these areas make up key elements of cultural landscape of the ORR and represent some of the original conditions present at the time the government assumed ownership of the area for the Manhattan Project and the scientific achievements that grew out of that legacy. We believe that the cultural landscape is important to preserve so that future generations can gain a full understanding of the importance of the Manhattan Project and the vast influence that project had on an array of scientific disciplines and the lives of the people in the local community and the world.

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) who support this statement:

- Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR)
- Greenways Oak Ridge
- Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club
- Oak Ridge Heritage & Preservation Association
- Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP)
- The Land Trust for Tennessee
- The Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy