

Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR)

June 26, 2015
212 Whippoorwill Drive
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Senator Lamar Alexander

Honorable Senator Alexander,

It was a great pleasure to meet with your staff on Monday, June 22, to discuss the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. We in Oak Ridge are very excited about this new National Park. Keith Kline and I were glad to be able to share the insights learned from our visit earlier in the day with Vic Knox (Associate Director for Park Planning, Facilities and Lands) that the Park Service is especially interested in positive interactions among the three sites. The Park Service is now focused on preparing a report by December 2015 that would address administration of the aspects of the Historical Park mentioned in the establishing legislation (see attached). As per that establishing legislation, the Historical Park will include "facilities and areas ... as determined by the Secretary [of Interior] in consultation with the Secretary of Energy." Eligible areas for Oak Ridge include facilities, land, or interest in lands that are "determined by the Secretary [of Interior] to be suitable and appropriate for inclusion in the historical Park." This language does not occur for the other sites, and AFORR and NGOs across the State think it is imperative that the Oak Ridge site include areas that have strong cultural landscape values (see attached letter).

Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) is especially interested in cultural landscapes that can add additional ways to reach out to the underserved populations. We see a prime example of such cultural landscapes being the Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area. The agreement establishing this area in 1999 makes it clear that this area is retained under DOE ownership and managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). We would anticipate that such an arrangement would continue if the Three Bends was mentioned as part of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park. The mention of Three Bends in the December 2015 Historical Park planning document would add

- Accessible cultural landscape features (it is not "behind the fence")
- Examples of movement of people off the land during the Manhattan Project
- Experience of living on the land during the war years (provided by the Freels Bend cabin, the City's oldest structure and Oak Ridge's only remaining residence that was built in the 19th century – building began in 1810).
- Radiation experiments performed on animals including the first kidney transplant ever performed (on a cow). (see links below)
- Unique ecological values that have remained well-preserved under DOE's tenure
- Recreation: swimming, boating, hiking, biking and birding

Therefore, we would appreciate your sending the attached letter to the National Park Service.

We appreciate Lindsay Garcia taking the time to talk with us on Monday and your help in supporting the cultural landscapes on the Oak Ridge Reservation. Please let me know if Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) can be of any assistance in regard to the Historical Park.

Best wishes,

Virginia Dale

Virginia H. Dale
President, Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR)

Cc: Lindsay Garcia, Legislative Director

Post script:

D. Ray Smith published a series of five articles in the Historically Speaking column of The Oak Ridger and also included in the book, 2009 Historically Speaking, on the Comparative Animal Research Laboratory located at the old site of Scarborough (better known as the "UT Farm") on the Three Bends area. The cattle from the Trinity Test fallout were brought there and monitored until all of them died much later. The first kidney transplant ever performed was performed there...on a cow. Following are links to the Historically Speaking articles in the series:

Part one:

<http://smithdray1.net/historicallyspeaking/2009/10-20-09%20A%20brief%20history%20of%20the%20Comparative%20Animal%20Research%20Laboratory%20-%20Introduction.pdf>

Part two:

<http://smithdray1.net/historicallyspeaking/2009/10-27-09%20A%20brief%20history%20of%20the%20UT-AEC%20Agricultural%20Research%20Laboratory%20-%20part%20two.pdf>

Part three:

<http://smithdray1.net/historicallyspeaking/2009/11-3-09%20A%20brief%20history%20of%20the%20UT-AEC%20Agricultural%20Research%20Laboratory%20-%20part%20three.pdf>

Part four:

<http://smithdray1.net/historicallyspeaking/2009/11-17-09%20A%20brief%20history%20of%20the%20UT-AEC%20Agricultural%20Research%20Laboratory%20-%20part%20four.pdf>

Part five:

<http://smithdray1.net/historicallyspeaking/2009/12-1-09%20A%20brief%20history%20of%20the%20UT-AEC%20ARL%20-%20CARL.pdf>

DRAFT LETTER

Victor W. Knox (victor_knox@nps.gov)
Associate Director of Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Suite 2218
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Knox,

My constituents in east Tennessee and I are very enthusiastic about the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. We would like to work with you to promote positive interactions among the three sites. We recognize that your first major task is to prepare the report by December 2015 that addresses administration of the aspects of the Historical Park mentioned in the establishing legislation. As per that establishing legislation, we note that eligible areas for Oak Ridge include facilities, land, or interest in lands that are "determined by the Secretary [of Interior] to be suitable and appropriate for inclusion in the historical Park."

We hope that this language supports inclusion of sites in Oak Ridge that have strong cultural landscape values that should be a part of the interpretation of the Historical Park. Such cultural landscapes can add additional ways to reach out to the underserved populations. A prime example of such cultural landscapes is the Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area. The agreement establishing this area in 1999 (<http://aforr.org/3bend.html>) makes it clear that this area is retained under DOE ownership and managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). We would anticipate that such an arrangement would continue if the Three Bends was mentioned as part of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park.

Mention of Three Bends Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area in the December 2015 Historical Park planning document would add

- Accessible cultural landscape features (it is not "behind the fence")
- Examples of movement of people off the land during the Manhattan Project
- Inclusion of native American presence on the landscape
- Experience of living on the land during the war years (provided by the Freels Bend cabin, the City's oldest structure and Oak Ridge's only remaining residence that was built in the 19th century – building began in 1810).
- Radiation experiments performed on animals including the first kidney transplant ever performed (on a cow).
- Unique ecological values that have remained well-preserved under DOE's tenure
- Recreation: swimming, boating, hiking, biking and birding

Thank you for your work on the Historical Park and for considering mention of the Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area in the December 2015 report on administration of the Park.

Sincerely,
Senator Alexander