

## Clark Center Park

Clark Center Park was named for [Clark E. Center](#), "Mr. Carbide," Superintendent of the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant during the Manhattan Project, the park is an 80-acre parcel (half of which was put underwater upon completion of the Tennessee Valley Authority's [Melton Hill Dam](#) in 1963). Before the park was opened to the public, it was the site of large company picnics for employees of the federal facilities in Oak Ridge.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is interested in donating the property to an entity that will maintain it as a public recreation area. The Park has picnic tables, a boat launch, handicapped fishing access, bathrooms, and a swimming area. The Park is the gateway to the Gallaher Bend Greenway [Gallaher Bend Greenway, Tennessee - 126 Reviews, Map | AllTrails](#). The Park also provides access to Solway Bend and Freels Bend, which have important scientific, historic, habitat, and biodiversity attributes - however to protect those assets access to those areas is limited by DOE to special permits or participation in occasional guided walks.

Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) have been exploring options for an agency or coalition to acquire and manage Clark Center Park. To date, neither the City of Oak Ridge nor Anderson County have expressed interest in acquiring this property because they are concerned about some construction needs (largely related to the bathrooms) and future maintenance costs. Designating it as a Tennessee state park might be possible. Even though Clark Center Park is only 40 acres, the new Fort Southwest Point is about the same size – see [Future Tennessee State Parks — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](#).

