Clayton Lake State Park
Resource Management Plan

Pushmataha County, Oklahoma

6/30/2015

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Acknowledgements

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Assistance was also provided by Kris Marek, Doug Hawthorne, Don Shafer and Ron McWhirter – all from the Oklahoma City office of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. Merle Cox, Regional Manager of the Southeastern Region of Oklahoma State Parks also attended these meetings and assisted throughout the project.

It is the purpose of the Resource Management Plan to be a living document to assist with decisions related to the resources within the park and the management of those resources. The authors’ desire is to assist decision-makers in providing high quality outdoor recreation experiences and resources for current visitors, while protecting the experiences and the resources for future generations.

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# Abbreviations and Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADAAG</td>
<td>Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>Civilian Conservation Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFR</td>
<td>Code of Federal Regulations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLEET</td>
<td>Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training</td>
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<td>CPSC</td>
<td>Consumer Product Safety Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>Endangered Species Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>geographic information systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>global positioning system</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEPA</td>
<td>National Environmental Policy Act</td>
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<td>NHPA</td>
<td>National Historic Preservation Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPRM</td>
<td>Notice of Proposed Rule Making</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSU</td>
<td>Oklahoma State University – Stillwater</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTRD</td>
<td>Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>OWRB</td>
<td>Oklahoma Water Resources Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBCR</td>
<td>Primary body contact recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Range</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMP</td>
<td>Resource Management Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROS</td>
<td>Recreation Opportunity Spectrum</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCORP</td>
<td>Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHPO</td>
<td>State Historic Preservation Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Township</td>
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<tr>
<td>USACE</td>
<td>United States Army Corps of Engineers</td>
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<tr>
<td>USFWS</td>
<td>United States Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>USGS</td>
<td>United States Geological Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBDO</td>
<td>Waterborne Disease Outbreak</td>
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<tr>
<td>WROS</td>
<td>Water Recreation Opportunity Spectrum</td>
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Mission Statement of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

The mission of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department is to advance Oklahoma’s exceptional quality of life by preserving, managing, and promoting our natural assets and cultural amenities.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department is to promote and enhance tourism throughout the state; protect and preserve the environment and natural resources; educate the public about Oklahoma’s people and places; provide exceptional customer service to all citizens and visitors; create a team environment in which all employees are successful, productive, and valued; embrace and seek diversity in our workforce and those we serve.

OTRD Values

- Responsibility and leadership
- Respect
- Quality
- Exemplary customer service
- Balance and self-fulfillment
- Teamwork and communication
- Flexibility
- Creativity and innovation
- Coordination
- Commitment
- Integrity
Chapter 1 – Introduction

Resource Management Plan: Purpose and Process

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) program and policy is to document management responsibilities to balance the use of water and land resources as they relate to recreation; in this instance, Clayton Lake State Park. As a guiding plan, the RMP seeks to propose long-term policies that limit adverse impacts to critical resources while providing protection and management of fish, wildlife, and other natural and cultural resources. In addition, the RMP will provide guidelines for public health and safety, public access, and a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities.

Within the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the purpose and scope of the RMP is to provide background information, identify the policies and goals governing the management of Clayton Lake State Park and its incorporated resources, summarize the plan’s components, and provide descriptive and historical information related to the project. Clayton Lake State Park is on property owned by the State of Oklahoma and leased to Little Dixie Community Action Agency (http://www.littledixie.org/) for management of the property. Little Dixie Community Action Agency has contracted management of Hugo Lake State Park, Raymond Gary State Park, and the group camps at Beavers Bend State Park, in addition to Clayton Lake State Park. These properties are managed as part of the tourism and economic development focus for Little Dixie, “creating jobs in southeast Oklahoma.”

The ultimate purpose of the RMP is to establish a management framework for the conservation, protection, enhancement, development, and use of the physical and biological resources at Clayton Lake State Park. With regard to Clayton Lake State Park, the RMP is to:

- Provide managers and decision-makers with long-term direction and guidance for the successful management of the resources at Clayton Lake State Park;
- Ensure that management of the resources is compatible with authorized purposes;
- Ensure that recreation experiences and facilities are compatible with other environmental resources;
- Ensure that planned developments are based on public need and the ability of the environmental resources to accommodate such facilities and use; and
- Resolve issues and concerns related to management of the environmental resources.

Planning Process

The planning process for preparation of this Resource Management Plan included discussion between research staff at Oklahoma State University (OSU) and management personnel from Oklahoma State Parks. In addition, the process incorporated (1) the acquisition of archival information from libraries, state parks, books, research reports, and other sources; (2) interviews of state park personnel; (3) records provided by state park management; (4) input from members of the public through surveys, comments cards, and focus groups; and (5) searches of the Internet for information that expanded on other archives.
The purpose of public involvement are to inform the public and solicit public response regarding their needs, values, and evaluations of proposed solutions. Public involvement programs are designed not only to meet state and federal regulations, but also to include interested individuals, organizations, agencies, and governmental entities in the decision-making process. Techniques used for public involvement include interviews, workshops, advisory committees, informational brochures, surveys, and public hearings. The process of public involvement is important to help strengthen the relationship between public and government agencies involved in the proposed plan. The relative success of public involvement techniques and the participation of supporting government agencies regarding the program as a whole is indicated by how well informed the public is and by how much the public has contributed to making environmentally sound, feasible decisions that are supported by a significant segment of the public. The public involvement process for the Clayton Lake State Park RMP is incorporated into the text of this document.

The original concept in preparation of an RMP is a federal action that requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); therefore, the public involvement process must fulfill the RMP and NEPA requirements as well as those of other entities. Oklahoma State Parks has committed the agency to follow a similar model at the state level for all state parks.

Using several public involvement methods to gain insight into the concerns of the public and governmental agencies potentially affected by provisions of the Clayton Lake State Park RMP, representatives from OSU compiled and analyzed the data. The public involvement process offered citizens and various interest groups information about the project and its potential impacts. This course of action was used to gather information, ideas, and concerns regarding the different issues to be compiled and addressed to determine issues of public concern. The issues were then evaluated resulting in alternative solutions and recommendations for the park.

Finally, the RMP process included integration of global positional system (GPS) technology into geographic information system (GIS) software to document features and attributes within the park. This component of the process permits an on-going record of facilities with their respective attributes, locations, and conditions. As a result, the GPS and GIS components of the RMP process are integral to on-going implementation and application of the planning effort.

**Authorization and Agencies Involved**

In 2006, Oklahoma State Parks, through the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD), contracted with Oklahoma State University to prepare Resource Management Plans for each park. This agreement has been renewed annually since 2006. The current agreement specified Clayton Lake State Park during 2014 – 2015, and the intent of the agreement is to continue the RMP process across all state parks in Oklahoma.

The RMP agreement became effective July 1, 2014 between Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and Oklahoma State University. Following a meeting between OTRD and OSU staff, information, reports, and comment cards were provided to OSU for review. In accordance with the RMP contract, OSU performed research services and delivered reports to OTRD concluding with a written plan for Clayton Lake State Park in June 2015.

The authority for the agreement between OTRD and OSU is based upon Title 74 § 2213 as authorized by Engrossed Senate Bill 823 of the 2005 session: “The Commission may contract for the study, analysis, and planning as reasonably necessary to aid in determining the feasibility of
leasing, selling or privately managing or developing the property or facilities under the control of the Commission. The Commission shall be exempt from the competitive bidding requirements of the Competitive Bidding Act for the purpose of soliciting, negotiating, and effectuating such a contract or contracts.”

Further, this authority is specified in Title 74 § 2215 which states: the Division of State Parks, subject to the policies and rules of the Commission shall formulate, establish, maintain, and periodically review, with public participation, a resource management plan for each state park. The resource management plan, upon approval by the Commission, shall be considered a guide for the development, utilization, protection, and management of the state park and its natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources.

Effective January 14, 2019 as authorized in Enrolled House Bill 3603, “all duties and powers of the Commission shall be transferred to the Executive Director. Any provision in statute that provides to the Commission authority that is not advisory in nature shall be deemed to grant the duty or power to the Executive Director.”

Figure 1.1 – Entry sign for Clayton Lake State Park
Chapter 2 – Project Description

About Clayton Lake State Park

The Division of State Parks, a part of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, is governed by the laws of the state of Oklahoma. These laws define the authority for the Division and the context in which individual state parks are managed. Title 74 § 2214 of the Oklahoma Statutes states that the Division of State Parks shall, subject to the policies and rules of the Commission:

1. Conserve, preserve, plan, supervise, construct, enlarge, reduce, improve, maintain, equip and operate parkland, public recreation facilities, lodges, cabins, camping sites, scenic trails, picnic sites, golf courses, boating, and swimming facilities, and other similar facilities in state parks reasonably necessary and useful in promoting the public use of state parks under the jurisdiction and control of the Commission;

2. Supervise the management and use of state properties and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission may adopt rules to lease concessions in any state-owned facility if the Commission deems it feasible;

3. Authorize those employees in the Park Manager job family classification series, as established by the Oklahoma Office of Personnel Management, to maintain administrative control over all facilities, programs, operations, services, and employees in the park to which they are assigned; and

4. Enforce the rules and policies governing the use of and conduct of patrons in all recreational facilities and properties of the Commission.

Operations of Clayton Lake State Park have been contracted to Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc., although the property belongs to the State of Oklahoma. This places Clayton Lake State Park into a contractual management agreement with Raymond Gary State Park, Hugo Lake State Park, and the group camps at Beavers Bend State Park.

Purpose and Significance of Clayton Lake State Park

An initial requirement of the RMP process is the development of a purpose statement for the property under consideration. The process selected for the development of resource management plans for state parks requires purpose statements and statements of significance for each park. These statements drive the decisions as to planning for the respective parks, since individual parks in the state park system do not have identical purposes or intents.

As stated previously, Clayton Lake State Park is managed under contract by the Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. The purpose of Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. is “To assist in developing, executing, and coordinating plans and the programs authorized under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and subsequent amendments which may be made to that act, and other Federal, State, and local laws and programs which will tend to alleviate and
eradicate poverty within the area of operation of this agency, exclusively for charitable purposes.”

The mission of Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. is, “Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.”

At the initiation of this project, a purpose statement for Clayton Lake State Park did not exist. As a result, it was necessary that one be developed. Research staff from OSU worked with OTRD staff, and personnel from Little Dixie Community Action Agency representing Clayton Lake State Park and the broader agency, to develop a draft purpose statement. During that process staff created the following statement.

The purpose of Clayton Lake State Park is to provide for the protection, conservation, and public enjoyment of the natural, scenic, historic, and ecological values that exist within the park property. As one of the Oklahoma State Parks that benefited from New Deal-era development, Clayton Lake encompasses a forest, stream, and lake ecosystem and provides visitor amenities compatible with that environment. Clayton Lake State Park provides a tourist destination designed and developed to stimulate the local economy, provide opportunities for tourists and other visitors to enjoy the scenery, supplemented by a built and modified park environment.

Similarly, in response to requests from the research staff, OTRD personnel, in cooperation with the research staff, developed a statement of significance for Clayton Lake State Park. That statement follows:

Clayton Lake State Park is significant because it encompasses an historic, culturally, and environmentally important setting. Clayton Lake State Park provides and protects the natural, cultural, and historic resources, including New Deal-era structures, present in that ecosystem for a population in an under-served portion of Oklahoma. These developments and the surrounding environment form valuable memories for visitors and influence the lives of generations of guests.

Figure 2.1 on the following page demonstrates the inter-relationship of purpose and significance statements with the mission of the management agency in decisions related to a given park or property. This model has been developed by the National Park Service to assure consistency between the mission of the National Park Service and the operation of their respective properties. In a similar manner, park purpose statements and park significance must be consistent with the mission of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.
Figure 2.1 – Utilization of purpose and significance statements
Source: National Park Service

Figure 2.2 – Geographic location of Clayton Lake State Park
Geographic Location of Clayton Lake State Park

Clayton Lake State Park is located in southeastern Oklahoma in Pushmataha County. This portion of Pushmataha County is rolling hills with pine forests. The Kiamichi River flows from the northeast portion of the county to the southwest, crossing the county just north of Clayton Lake State Park. The park is about five miles south of Clayton along federal Highway 271. Much of the adjacent wooded property is designated as Pushmataha Wildlife Management Area west of Clayton Lake State Park and Honobia Creek Wildlife Management Area to the east and south of the park.

As stated, Clayton Lake State Park is located along federal Highway 271, approximately five miles south of Clayton, Oklahoma, and 33 miles north of Antlers, Oklahoma. A map with various insets (Figure 2.2 on the preceding page) of Clayton Lake State Park shows its location in the rural environment of Pushmataha County.

Antlers, with a population of 2,453, is the county seat of Pushmataha County. There are numerous other small communities distributed throughout Pushmataha County. The largest population base in the region is Hugo, approximately 20 miles further south than Antlers and 50 miles from Clayton Lake State Park.

Travel to and from Clayton Lake State Park requires access along federal Highway 271 extending north and south across the county. Highway 271 connects to state Highway 2 in Clayton and state Highway 43 just north of Clayton allowing for good highway access from the Indian Nation Turnpike. Further north, Highway 2 intersects with Highways 1 and 63 linking to McAlester. Highway 271 continues northeast toward Talimena and Poteau.

Community and Regional Context

Brief History of Pushmataha County

The following history of Pushmataha County was written by James C. Milligan for the Oklahoma Historical Society and retrieved from the website for the Oklahoma Historical Society (http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/P/PU005.html).

“Located in southeastern Oklahoma, Pushmataha County is bounded by Le Flore County on the northeast, McCurtain County on the east, Choctaw County on the south, Atoka County on the west, Pittsburg County on the northwest, and Latimer County on the north. At the turn of the twenty-first century the incorporated towns included Albion, Clayton, Rattan, and Antlers, the county seat. Named for the Pushmataha District of the Choctaw Nation and Choctaw Chief Pushmataha, the county lies mostly in the Ouachita Mountains physiographic region with a thin band across the southern part of the county lying within the Coastal Plains region. The county has 1,422.78 square miles of total land and water area and is drained by the Little and Kiamichi rivers. Pushmataha County’s prehistory is represented by three sites dating to the Paleo period (prior to 6000 B.C.), 145 dating to the Archaic period (6000 B.C. to A.D. 1), fifty to the Woodland period (A.D. 1 to 1000), and twenty-two to the Plains Village period (A.D. 1000 to 1500). Of significance is the Kiamichi Fish Weir Site, a stone fish weir (trap) dating to the late Archaic period.
French explorer Jean Baptiste Bénard de la Harpe came through present Pushmataha County in 1719 to trade with the American Indians. In 1817 Maj. Stephen H. Long followed the Kiamichi River north into present Le Flore County searching for a suitable site for a fort. However, Long located the fort at Fort Smith, Arkansas. Prior to 1907 statehood the county was part of the Choctaw Nation with their national capitol located at Tuskahoma.

The site of present Antlers was originally inhabited by three Choctaw families who located near a natural spring that was originally named Kuniotubbee, for one of the Choctaws. Victor M. “Uncle Dick” Locke, Sr., a Confederate veteran from Tennessee and father of Choctaw chief Victor M. Locke, Jr., established the first mercantile business in 1886. Beginning in 1886 the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway built a line from Fort Smith to Texas with this early settlement along the route. The name was changed from Kuniotubbee to Antlers, probably due to deer horns hanging on trees near the spring. The first passenger train arrived in Antlers on July 1, 1887, and the post office was established on August 26, 1887. A Harvey House, opened in 1900, accommodated weary travelers. In 1887 Maj. John G. Farr and his family arrived and started a sawmill near the confluence of Beaver Creek and the Kiamichi River. In 1897 Rev. William Henry Ketcham founded the St. Agnes Academy for Choctaws in Antlers. The school remained in operation until 1945. One of its first students was Victor M. Locke, Jr., Choctaw chief from 1911 to 1918. Paul Stewart, a Democrat who served as U.S. representative from 1943 to 1947, lived in Antlers.

After 1907 statehood Pushmataha County’s 8,295 residents were served by five cotton gins, twelve gristmills, two newspapers, and three banks. The county had 450,000 acres of timber and 225,000 acres of farmland. Cotton, corn, potatoes, and sweet potatoes were the principal crops. In the early 1930s industry centered around cotton and lumber. Dreams of oil wealth stimulated by the 1890 discovery of a twenty-five-foot vein of asphaltite near Jumbo have continued to the gas and wildcat explorations of the 1960s. The Jumbo mine produced daily six to eight tons of asphalt in 1905. However, the mine closed soon after an explosion killed fourteen men in 1910, and oil and gas industry never developed.

In 1910 and 1920 the federal census reported 10,118 and 17,514, respectively. Numbers declined during the Great Depression with 14,744 counted in 1930. The county’s population peaked at 19,466 in 1940. Following World War II Pushmataha County had 12,001 residents in 1950. The population dropped to 9,088 in 1960 before rebounding to 11,773 and 10,997 enumerated in 1980 and 1990, respectively.

The county commissioners purchased a two-story, wood-frame building in Antlers to serve as the county courthouse in 1910. The present courthouse was built in 1934 and rehabilitated in 1964. Among the buildings listed in the National Register of Historical Places are the Fewell School in Nashoba (NR 88001419), the Snow School in Snow (NR 88001420), and the Choctaw Council House (NR 70000537), located two miles north of Tuskahoma. At the turn of the twenty-first century the Choctaw Council House was home to the Choctaw Nation Museum. The Pushmataha County Historical Museum in Antlers offered local genealogical reference materials, artifacts, and a memorial to the victims of the April 12, 1945, tornado.

At the turn of the twenty-first century Pushmataha County had a population of 11,667, of whom 78 percent were white, 15.6 percent American Indian, 1.6 percent Hispanic, 0.8 percent African American, and 0.1 percent Asian. The economy was based on tourism, timber, ranching, and agriculture. Sardis Lake, Clayton Lake State Park, and the Kiamichi Mountains provided
sporting and recreational opportunities. The county was served by U.S. Highway 271 north and south and by State Highways 2, 3, and 147.”

Demographic and Socioeconomic Conditions and Impact

The U.S. Bureau of Census provides summary data related to the demographic profile of the residents of Pushmataha County. The 2010 Census provided the statistical basis for the detail related to the population of Pushmataha County. In addition, the Bureau of Census provides population estimates based upon the 2010 Census. These estimates are projected in several tables into 2013.

The following tables provide this summary based upon data retrieved during October 2014 from http://factfinder2.census.gov.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2.1 – Population of Pushmataha County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pushmataha County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The population of Pushmataha County has decreased at a rate of slightly less than 1% over the past ten years. This pattern of decreasing population is opposite that for the population of Oklahoma which has increased during that same period. However, it is similar to the decrease of population in several rural Oklahoma counties.
### Table 2.2 – Demographic Characteristics of the Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Detail on factor</th>
<th>Pushmataha County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex and Age</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5,721 (49.4%)</td>
<td>1,816,749 (49.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5,851 (50.6%)</td>
<td>1,858,590 (50.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median age (years)</td>
<td></td>
<td>44.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Under 18 years of age</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,595 (22.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 years of age and over</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,977 (77.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65 years of age and over</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,338 (20.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>8,675 (75.0%)</td>
<td>2,720,135 (72.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td></td>
<td>77 (0.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,037 (17.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>26 (0.2%)</td>
<td>61,581 (1.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 (0.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>658 (5.7%)</td>
<td>263,896 (7.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>Of any race</td>
<td>280 (2.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interestingly, Pushmataha County reports a population in which the median age of male residents is two years lower than the median age for resident females. In addition, Pushmataha County shows a population with less diversity than that present within the population for the state of Oklahoma with the notable exception of American Indian. Pushmataha County reports a population in which 5.7% of the residents represent two or more races. This composition of the population represents part of the history of the county in that 4.9% of the population reported their race to be “White & American Indian.” In addition, Pushmataha County presents a population with a much smaller percentage of Hispanic residents than is true across Oklahoma.

Table 2.3 provides detail on the household characteristics of the population of Pushmataha County. Of particular note is the much higher percentage of households in Pushmataha County
with one or more members over the age of 65 than is true in the state of Oklahoma. On most measures related to household characteristics, Pushmataha County is similar to the household characteristics represented across Oklahoma. However, the percentage of occupied housing units in Pushmataha County is below that for the state of Oklahoma, and similarly, there is a higher percentage of vacant housing units in the county.

**Table 2.3 – Household Characteristics in Pushmataha County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Related Factor</th>
<th>Pushmataha County</th>
<th>Oklahoma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number (Percent)</td>
<td>Number (Percent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households</td>
<td>4,809</td>
<td>1,421,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population in households</td>
<td>11,462 (99.0%)</td>
<td>3,563,497 (96.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with a child or children under 18</td>
<td>1,402 (29.2%)</td>
<td>425,149 (29.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with person 65 years and over</td>
<td>1,693 (35.2%)</td>
<td>140,851 (9.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied housing units</td>
<td>4,809 (78.7%)</td>
<td>1,421,705 (86.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant housing units</td>
<td>1,301 (21.3%)</td>
<td>222,523 (13.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner occupied housing units</td>
<td>3,653 (76.0%)</td>
<td>969,959 (68.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter occupied housing units</td>
<td>1,156 (24.0%)</td>
<td>451,746 (31.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One characteristic on which the population of Pushmataha County differs from that across Oklahoma is household income. The median household income in Pushmataha County is $14,000 below the statewide average. Median household income as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Census may be somewhat misleading: by definition 50% of the population in the county is above the median income level and 50% is below that number. In Pushmataha County, the mean household income is $38,441 indicating that a small number of residents are in the upper levels of income while a larger number are in the lower income categories.

It is equally important to recognize that 20% of the population of Pushmataha County is identified as being below federal poverty guidelines. The percentage of households below poverty levels and the percentage of individuals in those households are above the comparable statistics for the state of Oklahoma. It can be concluded that the residents of Pushmataha County are financially limited as compared to the general population of Oklahoma.
Table 2.4 – Financial Characteristics in Pushmataha County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic or Factor</th>
<th>Pushmataha County</th>
<th>Oklahoma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median household income</td>
<td>$28,587</td>
<td>$42,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households below poverty level</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals below poverty level</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Residents of Pushmataha County also present education characteristics that are associated with the financial status of the county. In Pushmataha County, the greatest variation from the statewide educational pattern is in the percentage of individuals with high school diplomas or equivalent educational achievement. County residents have achieved a higher percentage at this level. But Pushmataha County lags behind state statistics for education beyond the high school diploma. Education levels have been shown to be highly correlated with other economic measures.

Table 2.5 – Education Characteristics in Pushmataha County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Pushmataha County</th>
<th>Oklahoma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,988 persons 25 years of age and above</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 9th grade</td>
<td>559 (7.0%)</td>
<td>115,248 (4.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th to 12th grade, no diploma</td>
<td>1,046 (13.1%)</td>
<td>232,987 (9.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma or equivalency</td>
<td>3,195 (40.0%)</td>
<td>775,478 (32.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>1,838 (23.2%)</td>
<td>559,367 (23.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s degree</td>
<td>455 (5.7%)</td>
<td>159,557 (6.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>559 (7.0%)</td>
<td>362,043 (15.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
<td>304 (3.8%)</td>
<td>176,139 (7.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another demographic factor that is highly correlated with financial characteristics and educational characteristics is employment. The employment figures for Pushmataha County are reported in Table 2.6. As of 2010, Pushmataha County reported unemployment to be approximately 11.0% as compared with a statewide 7.7%. While those percentages have changed since 2010 as economic conditions have improved, Pushmataha County continues to show higher unemployment than is true statewide.
Table 2.6 – Employment Characteristics in Pushmataha County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic or Factor</th>
<th>Pushmataha County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population in the labor force (16 years and over)</td>
<td>4,733 (51.8%)</td>
<td>1,806,858 (63.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>4,235 (89.5%)</td>
<td>1,674,765 (92.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private wage and salary workers</td>
<td>2,423 (57.2%)</td>
<td>1,260,965 (75.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government workers</td>
<td>1,236 (29.2%)</td>
<td>285,562 (17.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed (non-incorporated business)</td>
<td>561 (13.2%)</td>
<td>124,013 (7.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>15 (0.4%)</td>
<td>4,225 (0.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In summary, Pushmataha County comprises a rural area with approximately 7.9 persons per square mile as compared to an average of 50.3 for Oklahoma. About 22% of the population of Pushmataha County resides in Antlers, the county seat. The county population shows an average household income below the statewide average; additionally, a higher percentage of Pushmataha County residents are below the poverty level than is true statewide. A higher percentage of residents of the county have achieved their high school diplomas, but the county is below statewide educational statistics at higher levels of education.

Competing and Complementary Recreational Opportunities

Southeastern Oklahoma provides the setting for private and public recreation opportunities. Among the public properties available for recreation, there are state and federal properties distributed throughout the area.

Two large state parks are located to the north and to the southeast of Clayton Lake State Park. To the north, Robbers Cave State Park offers a combination of recreational, historic, cultural, and natural resources that is matched only by Beavers Bend State Park located to the southeast of Clayton Lake. These two parks are separated by distance of 120 miles and therefore do not directly compete with each other. Both parks offer New Deal-era historic structures in large park areas. Both parks offer campgrounds, cabins, and lodges. Both parks offer nature centers, interpretive programs, large festivals, hiking trails, and water-based recreation. The natural environment for the two parks is also similar with hilly to mountainous terrain, pine forests, and a sense of seclusion. Robbers Cave State Park and Beavers Bend State Park draw a different clientele than is true at Clayton Lake and complement rather than compete with Clayton Lake State Park.

There are three other state parks in the general southeast region of Oklahoma. Lake Eufaula State Park – Arrowhead area and Lake Eufaula State Park – Fountainhead area offer camping experiences, but in the setting of a large lake. These parks are also much more accessible by highway than Clayton Lake State Park. Talimena State Park is about 35 miles from Clayton Lake State Park and serves primarily as a staging location for access to the Ouachita National Forest.
Just northeast of Talimena State Park is Lake Wister State Park, at some distance from Clayton Lake State Park. Due to its location in the pine woods and hills on a smaller lake, Clayton Lake State Park attracts a different clientele and offers a different recreation experience than is available at these other state parks.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers locations on Lake Eufaula and Sardis Lake offer camping experiences in a lake environment. However, both settings are quite different in atmosphere and management from that at Clayton Lake State Park due to lake size and boat use.

Cedar Lake in the Ouachita National Forest is the most similar recreation setting to Clayton Lake State Park. However, Cedar Lake includes a much larger campground complex, with an equestrian area. The similarities are most noticeable between Cedar Lake and Clayton Lake.

As shown in Figure 2.4, the recreational environment of Clayton Lake State Park emphasizes the wooded hills surrounding a small lake with limited boating capacity. This quiet, natural environment encourages a recreation experience appropriate to this setting. As a result, Clayton Lake State Park is different from public recreation areas in southeastern Oklahoma and is complemented by these other facilities.
Regional and Park History

During the 1920s, the State of Oklahoma acquired property near Clayton for use as a camp for convicted prisoners. This camp was established on the property that now includes Clayton Lake. The prisoners at this camp began impounding Peal Creek to form the lake. That effort changed dramatically in 1933, when the Civilian Conservation Corps Project P-66, Company 875 working out of Nashoba was assigned work at this camp location. The Works Progress Administration with assistance from the Civilian Conservation Corps completed the work started by prisoners. As a result, the impoundment permitted expansion of Clayton Lake to 95-acres at that time. Clayton Lake is 87% spring-fed.

The CCC personnel also developed and built other portions of the property on the east side of Clayton Lake. These developments included recreational features and structures designed to provide a park environment.

A flood in May 1943 destroyed the lake and dam making the park area less desirable. However, Governor Robert S. Kerr encouraged and approved legislation passed in 1945 to provide funds for the reconstruction of Clayton Lake and acquisition of additional lands for the park. The new impoundment reduced the lake’s acreage to 66 acres. At the urging of citizens from the Town of Clayton, other lands were acquired by the Department by purchase and/or condemnation.

The recreational property at Clayton Lake was added to the growing number of state parks in Oklahoma in 1947 along with Greenleaf State Park. With the addition of Clayton Lake State Park and Greenleaf State Park, the Oklahoma State Park system in 1947 included the original seven properties, Lake Murray, and these two new additions. As a result, Clayton Lake State Park was one of the first 10 state parks in Oklahoma. In 1953, legislation approved by Governor Johnston Murray officially transferred all Clayton Lake recreational lands to the Planning and Resources Board (a forerunner of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department), for development as a recreational area. The 1971 purchase (10.54 acres), and a land swap in 2008, provided a net increase of 0.38 acres, resulting in slightly less than an 11-acre increase over the original area, now approximately 582 acres.

OTRD literature states that Clayton Lake State Park is the only place in the nation where there is igneous intrusion through sedimentary sand. A 4’x4’ example is found near the Big Shelter area.

\[\text{Figure 2.5 – Clayton Lake dam}\]
Natural Resources in the Park

Climate and Air Quality

The northern portion of Pushmataha County is part of the Ouachita Uplift region of Oklahoma, in a humid subtropical climate, while the southern portion of the county is Cypress Swamps and Forest. Average annual precipitation is 50.43 inches, although the wettest year occurred in 1990 with 88.28 inches of precipitation and the driest year occurred in 1963 with less than 27 inches. May and October are the wettest months on average, but much of the spring through fall receives sufficient rainfall for successful vegetative growth. Average snowfall is about three and a half inches annually, providing snow cover on the ground for about two days each year.

Temperatures average near 63°F, with a slight increase from north to south. Temperatures range from an extreme daytime high of 116°F recorded in Antlers (August 10, 1936) to a low of -14°F in Clayton (February 2, 1951). The county’s average growing season is 210 days, and plants that can withstand short periods of colder temperatures may have an additional two to five weeks.

Winds from the south to southeast are quite dominant, averaging 5 miles-per-hour. Relative humidity, on average, is 74% during the day. During the year, humidity is highest in May and June and lowest in August. Winter months tend to be cloudier than summer months. The percentage of possible sunshine ranges from an average of about 55% in winter to 75% in summer.

Thunderstorms occur on about 55 days each year, predominantly in the spring and summer. During the period 1950 – 2003, Pushmataha County recorded 29 tornadoes. The most recent significant tornado (F2 intensity or greater) occurred on April 23, 2000 passing near the towns of Moyers, Finley, and Cloudy. This F2 tornado had a nine-mile-long path without injury to humans. On April 12, 1943, an F5 tornado stayed on the ground through the county for 28 miles causing 353 injuries and 69 deaths. As information collection has improved, both the number of reported tornadoes and the number of severe hail events have increased (OK Climatological Survey).

The Pollution Information Site (Scorecard) reports that 88% of all days in Pushmataha County show good air quality, with the primary pollutants being particulate matter (PM-2.5 and PM-10). Having said that, according to the Clean Air Task Force website, Pushmataha County is among the lower 30% of the “dirtiest counties in the United States” (Clean Air Task Force).

Archeology of Clayton Lake State Park

While archaeological history was reported in the earlier presentation of Pushmataha County, an archeological survey of Clayton Lake State Park has not been completed. This portion of Oklahoma is associated with “Caddoan origins.”

Pushmataha County’s prehistory is represented by three sites dating to the Paleo period (prior to 6000 B.C.), 145 dating to the Archaic period (6000 B.C. to A.D. 1), fifty to the Woodland period (A.D. 1 to 1000), and twenty-two to the Plains Village period (A.D. 1000 to 1500). Of significance is the Kiamichi Fish Weir Site, a stone fish weir (trap) dating to the late Archaic period. Although outside of Clayton Lake State Park, the Kiamichi Fish Weir Site offers a view of early human activity in the area. As stated by the Oklahoma Archeological Survey:
“The rock wall was composed of large, roughly rectangular rocks, probably from a ridge outcrop about one-quarter of a mile to the south. The rocks were stacked in a linear fashion without mortar. We straightened the nearly 6 ft. tall terrace remnant overlaying the rocks, and revealed a thick layer of blue (organic stained) sand over the rocks. As archeologists removed the sand at the west end of the alignment, they exposed what seemed to be the end of another rock wall extending to the south and forming a wide V with the exposed wall. At the apparent apex, two large and several smaller rocks lay parallel to one another and seemed to form an opening or chute between the ends of the walls. Further excavation over the next week revealed the second wall bearing off to the south, but unlike the first wall, this one was more disturbed rather than being stacked. After studying the stream and the gravel bar, archeologists concluded the south wall extended across the stream flow to divert water, and fish, through the chute or funnel. Water flowing against this wall dispersed it over time, while the first wall was parallel to the stream flow and was therefore not disturbed. Archeologists realized they had identified an archeological feature unique in Oklahoma prehistory, a fish weir (trap), before it was destroyed by natural processes.

Archeologists wanted to learn if the weir was associated with the archeological materials found in the upper part of the terrace. In the process of excavation, they recovered several samples of wood, one from beneath one of the largest undisturbed rocks of the feature, and one from within the arms of the weir. Charred hickory and pecan hulls were recovered from the culture bearing deposits in the terrace. All these materials were radiocarbon dated. The wood from beneath the large rock was identified as oak and dated to 3150+60 B.P. (about 1200 B.C.). The wood from inside the arms of the weir dated to 2990+80 B.P. (about 1100 B.C.), but the charred nut hulls dated much later, 2380+80 B.P. (about 400 B.C.) showing the use of the weir was far earlier than the better known occupation of the site. Interestingly, the cypress trees found after the 1992 floods dated to 2990+60 B.P., or virtually contemporary with the dates from the weir” (Oklahoma Archeological Survey).

Topography

Clayton Lake State Park and the northern portion of Pushmataha County are situated in the Interior Highlands division using the Fenneman Physiography Classification (National Geographic Society). This area is further defined as within the Ouachita Highlands province and the Ouachita Mountains section.

Geology

The northern portion of Pushmataha County and Clayton Lake State Park are situated in the Ouachita Uplift south of the Arkoma Basin (Figure 2.6). The Ouachita Uplift or orogeny is one of three such mountain belts in Oklahoma where a series of folding, faulting, and uplifting occurred during the Pennsylvanian Period. The east-to-west formations of the Ouachita Mountains are mostly cherty marine limestone, 200 – 3,000 feet thick in the north. Rocks are mostly marine shale and sandstone (Johnson, 2008; Keller, 2012).
Information provided by Oklahoma State Parks and OTRD indicated the presence of an igneous intrusion through sedimentary sand within the boundaries of Clayton Lake State Park. This material further indicated that this igneous intrusion through sedimentary sand is the only such formation in the United States. An igneous intrusion is the movement of magma from within the earth’s crust into spaces in overlying strata to form igneous rocks.

Clayton Lake State Park on the boundary between “cherty red clay” and “residuum with abundant quartz”

**Figure 2.6 – Geological regions in Oklahoma**
Source: Charpentier (2010)

**Figure 2.7 – Geology of southeastern United States**
Source: Guccione and Zachary
Guccione and Zachary assert, “Plate boundaries are especially active areas. The plates may split apart or diverge, collide with each other or converge, or may move past each other. Earthquakes and faulting are associated with all three types of plate motion, and volcanic activity is associated with the first two types.” Based on geological reports, such plate movement in the geological history of this region permitted magma to move to the earth’s surface within Clayton Lake State Park. It is more difficult to ascertain whether this is the only such formation in the United States. Igneous intrusions occur elsewhere including Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming.

Tarr and Keller (1933) detailed a post-Devonian igneous intrusion found on private property in Missouri. In their discussion of this finding, Tarr and Keller also provide evidence of other igneous intrusions in southern Missouri. Hanson et al. (2013) examined igneous intrusions in the Cambrian Wichita igneous province along the southern Oklahoma rift zone. Clayton Lake State Park is at the eastern end of that area, with more igneous intrusions exposed in the Arbuckle Mountains and the Wichita Mountains.

The igneous intrusion at Clayton Lake State Park is demonstrated by basalt, a volcanic rock, intruding into sedimentary stone. This example is shown in Figure 2.8 just south of the picnic shelter in Area 1.

It was impossible to document this igneous intrusion into sedimentary sand as being the only such occurrence in the United States. For the average visitor, these are “rocks” without differentiation. As a result, few visitors would notice the presence of or be able to identify either the igneous rock formations or the sedimentary rocks more commonly found within the park.

**Soil**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) gathers data and prepares custom soil resource reports for specific areas. In each report they define various terms related to soils and the related capacities. Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a soil series. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into soil phases. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series. Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A complex consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of
the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An association is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An undifferentiated group is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, are an example.

Some surveys include miscellaneous areas. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example of a miscellaneous area (NRCS, 2010).

Material about soils in the study area provides background information about suitability for recreational development. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides information related to soils. The detail of the soil report for Clayton Lake State Park is provided in Figure 2.9 on the following page.

Almost 86% of Clayton Lake State Park is classified as Clebit-Pirum-Carnasaw association, numbered 18 in Figure 2.9, with 20 to 45 percent slopes. The only variation from this soil type is shown in the northeast portion of the property parallel to Highway 271 and the outflowing creek. This area includes Carnasaw-Pirum-Clebit association with 12 to 20 percent slopes and a strip of Ceda-Rubble land complex with 3% or less slope that is frequently flooded. The developed portions of Clayton Lake State Park are entirely within the Clebit-Pirum-Carnasaw association.

Soil Suitability for Recreational Development

Various soils have characteristics that may limit development for recreational purposes without additional investment for remediation or engineering. This is true within Clayton Lake State Park. For development of campgrounds, Clebit-Pirum-Carnasaw association is considered to be ‘very limited’ due to depth to bedrock, slope, and slow water movement.

In the same manner, Clebit-Pirum-Carnasaw association is considered very limited for trails and footpaths. The primary limiting factor of this soil association for trails is due to slope and probability of erosion. These same limiting factors are also considerations for picnic areas and playground locations.
Figure 2.9 – Soil map of Clayton Lake State Park
Source: Natural Resource Conservation Service
The entire property is very limited for septic tank absorption fields and sewage lagoons. These limitations for the majority of Clayton Lake State Park are due to depth to bedrock and slope. However, the northeastern portion of the property is limited due to potential for flooding and seepage.

**Hydrology**

Pushmataha County straddles portions of three watersheds, two of which cross state lines into Texas. These watersheds are:

- Muddy Boggy (OK and TX) – 11140103
- Kiamichi (OK and TX) – 11140105
- Upper Little (OK) – 11140107

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**Figure 2.10 – Legend for soil map on previous page**

Source: Natural Resource Conservation Service

**Figure 2.11 – Watersheds of Pushmataha County**

Source: Environmental Protection Agency
Figure 2.11 on the previous page depicts the three watersheds affecting Pushmataha County. Clayton Lake State Park is entirely within the Kiamichi watershed (11140105) which originates in the Ouachita Mountains near the Oklahoma/Arkansas border and arcs southwest then south before emptying into the Red River.

Waters in the Kiamichi watershed are tested at various locations along the Kiamichi River. Current impairment of these waters as tested at the Highway 271 bridge in Antlers include copper and lead as well as enterococcus bacteria.

Figure 2.12 – Clayton Lake
Source: Oklahoma Water Resources Board
Vegetative Cover

Clayton Lake State Park is in the Oak-Hickory-Pine forest using the Kuchler Vegetation Classification. The area is in the “sub-tropical regime mountain” division and the Ouachita Mixed Forest-Meadow province.

The Lenihan Vegetation Classification identifies these areas with slightly different descriptors. The northern portion of Pushmataha County is in the South Mixed Forest. The vegetation associated with this area is identified as Oak-Pine.

Wildlife

As is true with all Oklahoma state parks, Clayton Lake State Park is a wildlife sanctuary. Due to its location near two wildlife management areas, Clayton Lake State Park serves a variety of roles for many forms of wildlife. For some, Clayton Lake State Park is a temporary or seasonal habitat as part of the migratory movement of birds and animals through the area. For others, Clayton Lake State Park may be the permanent habitat, providing an appropriate setting for the entire lifecycle.

Being adjacent to Pushmataha WMA and in proximity to Honobia Creek WMA enhances the variety and quantity of wildlife present within Clayton Lake State Park. Quail, deer, rabbits, coyotes, raccoons, bobcats, doves, a wide variety of waterfowl, turkeys, and raptors may be observed within Clayton Lake State Park or in the immediate area. According to ODWC, there is a good population of black bears in the region. Also of note, there is an ‘encapsulated’ elk herd in the WMA and controlled hunts are managed in both areas. Non-game species that are present include Bachman’s sparrow, brown creeper, various owls, and the eastern wood pewee. Clayton Lake State Park is within the identified range for copperheads, timber rattlesnakes, western diamondback rattlesnakes, western pygmy rattlesnakes, and western cottonmouth.

Nuisance Species

Feral hogs are present in Pushmataha County and have been observed throughout the county with populations dating back prior to 1970. The estimated feral hog density for Pushmataha County was moderate at 13 to 58 hogs per square mile for the majority of the county. However, higher densities were reported for those portions of Pushmataha County adjoining the Kiamichi
River (Stevens, 2007). In those locations, the density of the feral hog population was abundant at 64 or more hogs per square mile.

**Endangered or Threatened Species**

At present there are no state-listed threatened or endangered species listed for Pushmataha County. However, federally listed endangered and threatened species that may be present in Pushmataha County include: American Burying Beetle (*nicrophorus americanus*), Indiana bat (*myotis sodalis*), Interior Least Tern (*Sternia antillarum*), Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Ouachita Rock Pocketbook (*Arkansia wheeleri*), Scaleshell (*leptodea leptodon*), winged mapleleaf (*quadrula fragosa*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and leopard darter (*percina pantherina*). The American burying beetle, Indiana bat, interior least tern, red-cockaded woodpecker, Ouachita rock pocketbook, scaleshell, and winged mapleleaf are listed as endangered, whereas the Piping Plover and leopard darter are listed as threatened.

The American Burying Beetle is believed to be present in southeastern Oklahoma. In its remaining territory, the beetle is listed as endangered regardless of where they are found. This is a large beetle, approximately one to one-and-a-half inches long, predominantly black with red or orange markings (Figure 2.14). According to ODWC, a pair of beetles will find a carcass “the size of a rat, bury it a few inches below the surface of the ground and lay a small clutch of 10 to 25 eggs on it.” Loss of habitat and reduction in available and suitable carcasses are believed to be primary causes in the reduction of the population.

Indiana bats are also endangered in Oklahoma. These small bats, about four to five inches long with 9 to 10 inch wingspans, are dark gray to grayish-chestnut in color. They feed entirely on insects and live in forest areas. Oklahoma is on the extreme western edge of the range for Indiana bats, but they are observed in the Ouachita Mountains.

As is true across much of Oklahoma, the Interior Least Tern (Figure 2.16) is a migratory bird that nests along isolated areas of several rivers. As a result, the Interior Least Tern is possible along stretches of the Kiamichi River, but unlikely in Clayton Lake State Park. The Interior Least Tern is migratory and may be present during spring and summer.
The male red-cockaded woodpecker has a red patch behind each eye, but the large white cheek patch is the most conspicuous field mark for this species. Red-cockaded woodpeckers are endangered in Oklahoma largely because they depend on large tracts of mature pine woodlands. Forest activities that include cutting of old-growth pine forests have reduced the natural habitat for the woodpecker and adversely affected their populations.

According to ODWC, the Ouachita Rock Pocketbook is a very rare mussel, comprising a fraction of one percent of the mussel community in which it occurs. In Oklahoma, the pocketbook is found in the Kiamichi River and the Little River. As a result, it is highly improbable that this mussel would be found in Clayton Lake State Park.

In the same manner, the scaleshell remains only in the Kiamichi and Little rivers and would not be found in Clayton Lake State Park. Reservoir construction, reducing stream flow, may be a factor in the decline of the population.

The third freshwater mussel that is federally endangered in Pushmataha County is the winged mapleleaf (Figure 2.20). It was recently discovered in the Little River in Oklahoma and may be in the Kiamichi River and the Boggy River. As with the other mussels, it is unlikely that the winged mapleleaf would be found in Clayton Lake State Park.
The remaining two protected species in Pushmataha County are designated as threatened. The leopard darter is a small fish, rarely exceeding three inches in length. The only remaining populations of leopard darters in Oklahoma are found in the Little River, the Glover River, and the Mountain Fork River. The darter is not found in Clayton Lake State Park.

Piping plovers are migratory shorebirds that prefer sandy beaches and mud flats. It is much more likely to find piping plovers in western Oklahoma, although it is possible they may be found in the upper reaches of Clayton Lake.

**Accessibility**

The Oklahoma State Parks Division strives for accessibility for those with disabilities in all its park locations and facilities and has an access plan for the Division. Many parks and facilities were designed and constructed before the passage of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and well before the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) were developed. Further, by its very nature, the natural environment may not lend itself to easy access for those with mobility impairments.

The technical provisions of the ADA permit deviation from the stated guidelines. These provisions allow deviation from full compliance if accessibility cannot be provided because (1) compliance would cause substantial harm to cultural, historic, religious or significant natural features or characteristics; (2) substantially alter the nature of the setting or purpose of the facility; (3) require construction methods or materials that are prohibited by federal, state or local regulations or statutes; or (4) would not be feasible due to terrain or the prevailing construction practices.

In 2007, the United States Access Board issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for outdoor developed areas. The United States Access Board has since issued requirements that are now part of the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards and apply to national parks and other outdoor areas developed by the federal government. The final rule became effective on November 25, 2013. This does not apply to outdoor areas developed with federal grants or loans or to other entities. The Board intends to develop guidelines for non-federal outdoor sites covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and areas developed with federal grants and loans covered by the ABA in subsequent rulemaking. However, it has been the practice of OTRD to apply available standards once they are established, even if they are not yet in force for the agency. These rules and their associated interpretations have direct bearing on the
consideration of access in Clayton Lake State Park. The minimum requirements found in the NPRM for outdoor developed areas are based on several principles developed through the regulatory negotiating process. They include (U.S. Access Board, 2009):

1. Protect the resource and environment
2. Preserve the experience
3. Provide for equality of opportunity
4. Maximize accessibility
5. Be reasonable
6. Address safety
7. Be clear, simple, and understandable
8. Provide guidance
9. Be enforceable and measurable
10. Be consistent with Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (as much as possible)
11. Be based on independent use by persons with disabilities

Most of the trails within Clayton Lake State Park are natural surfaces, although hard surface sidewalks have been installed in the developed areas leading to various buildings. Any one designated trail may make use of all or several surface types. If major trail redesign or construction were to occur, it would be important to ensure compliance with the ADA standards where appropriate. The NPRM addresses ten provisions that must be considered related to trail accessibility. These provisions are:

1. Surface – must be firm and stable
2. Clear tread width – minimum of 36 inches
3. Openings in surface – may not permit passage of sphere one-half inch in diameter
4. Protruding object – minimum of 80” of clear headroom above the trail
5. Tread obstacles – cannot exceed a maximum of two inches
6. Passing space – minimum of 60” by 60” at intervals of 1000’ or less
7. Slope – addresses cross slope and running slope
8. Resting intervals – at least 60” in width
9. Edge protection – not necessarily required, but may be provided
10. Signage – information on distance and departure from technical provisions

An example of possible signage for trails as suggested by the National Center on Accessibility is shown in Figure 2.23. As of 2010, no specific signs have been designated for universal communication related to accessible trails. However, these signs communicate the concept of

Figure 2.23 – Accessible Trail Signage
accessibility in outdoor developed recreation spaces that include trails.

Other considerations related to access for persons with disabilities include “Braille trail” concepts that allow persons with visual limitations to enjoy the features of a trail. This is particularly true if the trail is interpretive in nature, with signs communicating information related to natural, cultural, historic, or other significant topics related to the park environment.

In an effort to fully disclose the extent of accessibility within state parks, the Oklahoma State Park Division developed terms to describe two levels of access; these terms are used in State Parks publications: accessible and usable.

Accessible indicates that the park “substantially complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). The facility is connected with a barrier-free-route-of-travel from an accessible parking area.”

Usable indicates that the “facility allows significant access. Some individuals with disabilities may have difficulty and need assistance. Due to topography and the primitive nature of some sites, parking and connecting routes may not be accessible to all with disabilities” (OTRD, 2007).

OTRD began development of the properties at Clayton Lake State Park before the passage of the ADA; thus, many of the established structures do not meet the explicit requirements of the law. In several locations, Little Dixie Community Action Agency has added accessible restrooms, developed hard surface campsites, installed walkways, and made other efforts to improve accessibility. However, the number of designated accessible campsites and parking spaces in several locations are inadequate. In other settings, the restrooms are not accessible. The playgroups within Clayton Lake State Park tend to be of earlier installation dates and are not presently in compliance with accessibility standards or Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines. The existing trails in these properties are not currently accessible trails, and such modification may not be desirable. The natural terrain varies considerably and is quite rocky; in addition, the environment includes vulnerable species. Thus, ADAAG-defined accessibility to every area of the park is not practical, nor necessarily desirable.

Throughout Clayton Lake State Park, it will be necessary to complete a thorough review of accessibility. In addition, and in light of continuous updating, new rule-making, and interpretation of rules on-going vigilance related to accessibility is required.

An example of this rule-making and interpretation took effect March 15, 2011 under the Department of Justice ruling that specified “other power-driven mobility devices” (OPDMD) that could be used on trails by individuals with mobility limitations. At present, the expectation is that the operating entity (OTRD) shall “make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of other power-driven mobility devices by individuals with mobility disabilities, unless the public entity can demonstrate that the class of OPDMD cannot be operated in accordance with legitimate safety requirements that the public entity has adopted based on actual risks” (American Trails, 2011).

Another example of interpretation of rules took place in mid-2014 with publication of 7 Things Every Playground Owner Should Know about the Accessibility of their Playground Surfaces by the U.S. Access Board and the National Center on Accessibility.
Chapter 3 – Current Status of the Resource

Recreational Development

As one of the first ten Oklahoma State Parks, Clayton Lake State Park is a historic, cultural, economic, natural, and recreational resource. The physical development of Clayton Lake State Park began in the late 1920s as a camp and work site for convicted prisoners. Then in the early 1930s with the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Clayton Lake became one of the sites for an active camp and CCC project. In 1947, this project and property were added to the Oklahoma State Park system and officially designated as a state park.

The map on the following page, Figure 3.2, provides an overview of the features of Clayton Lake State Park. The park boundaries include 582 acres of land owned by the state of Oklahoma and adjacent to the Pushmataha Wildlife Management Area, also owned by the state of Oklahoma. The property enircles Clayton Lake, an impounded spring-fed lake of 66 surface acres. Clayton Lake State Park encompasses campgrounds, day use areas, lake access areas, trails, and other facilities. These facilities are detailed in the following discussion. For ease of presentation, the discussion and presentation begins at the main entrance to the property comprising Clayton Lake State Park and proceeds west and south along the main road through the property.

For all visitors entering Clayton Lake State Park by automobile, the only highway access route is along U.S. Highway 271 between Clayton and Antlers. Entry from the highway into the park is located on the east side of the property. There are two entries into Clayton Lake State Park from a single drive. One entry passes a fence and gate into the main portion of the park. The second entry parallels Highway 271 southward outside the fenced property line and provides access to the southern portion of Clayton Lake State Park.

Figure 3.1 shows the boundaries of Clayton Lake State Park overlaid on aerial photography from Google Earth. This figure shows the location along Highway 271 and the relationship between the impounded lake and the main body of the park.

By contrast Figure 3.2 on the following page shows the developed portions of this property, about one half of the eastern side of the lake. This map is the portable document file (PDF) provided on the OTRD website and describes the primary publicly used portion of the park.

Entry Drive and Environs

The environs surrounding Clayton Lake State Park are pine covered hills. Entry from Highway 271 is downhill into the park whether along the main entry drive or the secondary entry to the south.
Figure 3.2 – Map of Clayton Lake State Park

CLAYTON LAKE STATE PARK

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- PARK OFFICE
- COMFORT STATION
- CABINS
- RV CAMPING
- RV DUMP STATION
- TENT CAMPING
- PICNIC PAVILION
- PLAYGROUND
- PICNIC AREA
- BOAT RAMP
- BOAT COURTESY DOCK
- FISHING PIER
The secondary entry drive outside the fence is important since this serves as a driveway for access to private property at the south end of Clayton Lake State Park. The relationship between the private property and the state park facilities is presented later in the discussion of Area 2. There is a gate that can be closed across this entry drive as well (Figure 3.3).

**Area 1**

Upon entry into Clayton Lake State Park, a visitor has a downhill perspective of the main part of the park looking west toward the lake. The manager’s residence is on the left and the park appears to open to the visitor to the front and to the right. For ease in discussion, the following presentation begins to the visitor’s right or north.

**Area 1 Campground**

The first structure within Clayton Lake State Park to the visitor’s right is a picnic shelter (Figure 3.4). There is limited parking at this location, but visitors may park along the roadway and in a larger parking area about 100’ west of the shelter. The shelter includes several concrete picnic tables and a pedestal grill. This shelter is not ADA compliant, but is usable depending upon the access route taken by visitors.

The entry drive into Area 1 Campground extends for about a quarter mile to the north as an elongated loop. Picnic sites and campsites are distributed along the roadway, although the terrain is quite rocky and hilly (Figure 3.5). Limited parking along the roadway requires visitors to drive onto the natural surface or to park in the large central parking lot and walk to their desired location. These picnic areas and campsites show evidence of erosion, soil compaction, and exposed tree roots (Figure 3.5).

There is more development near the end of the loop road with most of the campground amenities at this location. Several of these amenities are shown in Figure 3.6 on the following page. These amenities include a picnic pavilion located between the entry and exit drives with a playgroup including swings. This playgroup is not in compliance with ADA or CPSC guidelines. An older comfort station is located at the end of the loop, but is not in compliance with current ADA requirements.
The semi-modern RV campsites shown in Figure 3.6 are arrayed along the east side of the entry drive at an elevation above the parallel Highway 271. These sites are defined by an electrical pedestal with 50-amp service, a water hydrant, and a sign. Little additional landscaping defines this area. The wooded and hilly terrain in Area 1 is evident in these photographs.

One additional structure adjacent to the Area 1 campground is located just north of the comfort station. This structure, shown in the lower left of Figure 3.6, is a sand filter and part of the waste management treatment system to treat effluent from a septic system before it is distributed.

Table 3.1 – Campground Detail for Area 1 Campground

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Area 1 Campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)</td>
<td>8 sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>15 – 20 sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion (capacity of 25)</td>
<td>1, electricity, water and grill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroup</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>1, including showers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The drive loop through Area 1 campground parallels the lakeshore as it returns to the main portion of the park. Along the lakeshore there are a couple of structures that are evident to visitors, but that are not directly intended for current use. These are shown in Figure 3.7. As can
be seen in Figure 3.7, these two structures are in close proximity to each other as shown by the fenced waste treatment facility, connected to an aerobic system with drip lines and serves the comfort station and park office shown in Figure 3.8. These are also fairly close to the larger parking lot as shown in the background. The WPA changing house was part of the beach front. This structure “does not appear to possess sufficient significance” to warrant listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Weisiger, et al. 1993).

Area 1 Lake Front

The main portion of Clayton Lake State Park is centered on a large parking lot surrounded by visitor amenities near the lakeshore. Several of these visitor amenities are shown in Figure 3.8 below. The park office fronts directly onto the parking lot and is immediately evident to visitors. A modern, ADA compliant comfort station is situated to the east (right) of the office, while a picnic pavilion is located to the southwest (left) of the office. Hard surface walkways lead to each of these buildings from the parking lot.
A gated driveway passes the park office and leads to a rental cabin overlooking Clayton Lake (Figure 3.9). As shown in the photographs, this cabin has been designed to be accessible for persons with mobility limitations. It has been modified to include a large outdoor deck facing and overlooking Clayton Lake. An aerobic system with sprinklers serves as the liquid waste management system for the two-bedroom cabin.

Recreational amenities are located along the lakeshore north and east of the park office. These include a playgroup that is not in compliance with ADA requirements or CPSC guidelines as shown in Figure 3.10. In addition, an area is designated as a swimming beach, but is largely overgrown as shown in Figure 3.10.
To the south of the large parking lot, the lakeshore is predominantly developed for anglers. This area includes a boat ramp, courtesy dock, and fishing pier as shown in Figure 3.11. Parking for vehicles using the boat ramp is available in the large parking lot. Clayton Lake is limited to 10 horsepower motors and a 10 mile-per-hour speed. A courtesy dock with four piers and three slips is located just south of the main boat ramp. Between the courtesy dock and the ramp there is a fishing pier. All of these facilities are designed to be ADA compliant.

Tent camping is permitted and signed in the open area to the south of the main parking lot. These sites are designated by picnic tables and are primitive in development.

**Area 1 Management Area**

A loop road circles from near the boat ramp toward the south and swings back east before intersecting again with the main entry road. This loop road passes the maintenance area and the manager’s residence.

This portion of the property is elevated from the area nearer Clayton Lake and somewhat hidden from view by foliage. In addition to the residence, the management area includes a maintenance building, a storage building, and a garage as shown in Figure 3.12 on the following page.
As shown in Figure 3.12, the management area includes essential structures and supporting features for park management. The large storage building at the lower portion of Figure 3.12 is located along the south side of the drive loop through the area. The residence, the garage, and the maintenance area are to the northeast. Liquid waste management for this area consists of a septic tank and lateral field.

**Area 2**

Area 2 is accessed from Highway 271 by the entry drive into Clayton Lake State Park that parallels Highway 271 to the south outside the fence line for the main body of the park. This entry drive is depicted in Figure 3.3 on page 30 of this document. The entry drive into Area 2 is quite narrow and descends steeply toward Peal Creek at the southeast side of Clayton Lake. Area 2 is developed as two loops for camping and picnicking. It also provides access to private property and permits access beyond the developed portion of Clayton Lake State Park.
Area 2 Campground 1

About 400 feet south of the intersection of Highway 271 and the entrance into Clayton Lake State Park, there is a loop drive into a campground. This campground extends about 100 feet toward Clayton Lake at which point the road loops back to the entry drive into Area 2. The campground includes campsites with electricity, a picnic shelter, comfort station, and playgroup as shown in Figure 3.14. The comfort station is not accessible in design and requires visitors to climb steps to enter the building. Liquid waste management for this comfort station consists of a septic tank and lateral field. The playgroup is not in compliance with current ADA requirements or CPSC safety guidelines.

**Table 3.2 – Campground Detail for Area 2 Campground 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Area 2 Campground 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)</td>
<td>6 sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>1 sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion (capacity of 25)</td>
<td>1, electricity, water and grill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroup</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>1, including showers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As is shown in Figure 3.14, this campground is well shaded by trees. The playgroup is in close proximity to the picnic shelter. The comfort station is located at a higher elevation than the campground resulting in the need for steps leading up to the comfort station. Campsites are developed as spurs radiating from the loop drive.

Returning to the entry drive into and through Area 2, the drive extends southwest to a second campground and cabin area. Shortly after exiting the loop campground, the road crosses a spring fed creek as shown in Figure 3.15. At this point, the roadway requires a low water crossing.
which is quite narrow shown in Figure 3.15. This entry drive is quite attractive, although it may present difficulties for vehicles with large travel trailers.

The road then continues to a second campground at the southern end of Clayton Lake State Park. This second campground is situated at a higher elevation than the entry drive at the low water crossing.

**Area 2 Campground 2**

The second campground in Area 2 is a circular loop encompassing the crest of a hill. Campsites are located around the loop as spurs on the inside and outside of the loop. As shown to the right in Figure 3.16, these campsites are defined by electrical pedestals, tables, and grills. There is little landscaping to aid in defining these sites. The area is quite well shaded and offers panoramic views across Clayton Lake.

This campground also includes such amenities as a comfort station and playgroup swings as shown on the following page in Figure 3.17. These amenities are not in compliance with current ADA and safety expectations.

**Table 3.3 – Campground Detail for Area 2 Campground 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground amenity</th>
<th>Area 2 Campground 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)</td>
<td>9 sites, with 50 amp service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved (no utilities)</td>
<td>9 sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion (capacity of 25)</td>
<td>1, electricity, water and grill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroup</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary dump station</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition to the swings and comfort station, this campground does include the only dump station in Clayton Lake State Park. As a result, to access the dump station, larger recreational vehicles must cross the low water crossing. The campground also includes a picnic pavilion with moveable wooden picnic tables, electricity, and grills (Figure 3.17).

Probably the most attractive features in Area 2 Campground 2 are three cabins arrayed on the outside of the drive loop, situated on the west side of the campground. These cabins are shown in Figure 3.18. The cabins are designed with spur parking radiating from the drive loop. As shown in Figure 3.18, the cabins include ramps to permit accommodation of persons with mobility limitations. The cabins are heated and air-conditioned, with each cabin including a wood-burning fireplace. An aerobic system with sprinklers serves the three Cabins, the Comfort Station, and the RV Dump Station.
This campground also includes a boat ramp as shown in Figure 3.19. However, the water access is overgrown with aquatic plants, making access to the lake quite difficult. Figure 3.19 also depicts a roadway that extends south from the developed portion of Clayton Lake State Park. This roadway is not intended for general use by the public.

One other aspect of this campground is the adjacent private property to the southeast. This proximity to the private property is shown in Figure 3.20 demonstrated by the location of a campsite with picnic table and grill immediately adjacent to a drive onto private property. The boundary between Clayton Lake State Park and the private holding is partially fenced with a gated drive.
**Hiking/Walking/Riding Trails**

There are no developed trails within the main portion of Clayton Lake State Park. The roadways serve as the primary routes of foot or bicycle transit from location to location within the park. Due to the terrain and limited space, it is unlikely that accessible trails could be developed.

On the west side of Clayton Lake, there is a system of trails. At one time the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation permitted use of ATVs in the wildlife management area. As a result, people developed trails in the wooded area. That practice has been curtailed in recent years. Only one foot trail remains as a visible and usable trail. This trail circles most of Clayton Lake, limited by private property and water at the southern end. The trail is not adequately marked by signage for the average park visitor.

A second footpath leads along Peal Creek below the impoundment forming Clayton Lake. This trail is not marked or well-organized in design. The trail has been formed by visitors walking along the creek to enjoy the water flow over the spillway and down the valley (Figure 3.21). Visitors also frequently walk along the top of the earthen impoundment north of the spillway although this requires a walker to retrace his or her route.

**Property Summary at Clayton Lake State Park**

Clayton Lake State Park is composed of 582 acres of land, owned by the state of Oklahoma, surrounding a 66 acre impounded lake. Within the park, there are 60 campsites, one two-bedroom rental cabin, and three one-bedroom cabins for overnight lodging.

The initial acquisition of property associated with what is now Clayton Lake State Park occurred in 1939 with purchase of a tract of land from Estelle and J.B. Caswell by the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission. In May 1946, additional lands were purchased from Leta Rooks, including one-half of the oil and gas mineral rights associated with that property. By 1971, the former Game and Fish Commission had been replaced by the Oklahoma Industrial Development and Park Department, which then acquired a tract of land from D. R. and Maurine Green Cravens. A final tract was acquired in a land swap in 2008. Martin and Jolene Fry deeded a tract

![Figure 3.21 – Peal Creek below the dam](image)

Left: spillway
Below: falls below the spillway
of land to OTRD, and OTRD deeded a smaller tract of land to the Frys. This resulted in a 0.38-acre net increase of land in the park. This land trade was necessitated when the Frys constructed a cabin, which encroached on the park property. The land swap gave them title to the land that included the cabin in exchange for a larger tract that they deeded to OTRD. Copies of warranty deeds and descriptions of the respective properties are included in the appendix.

A joint resolution was passed by the Oklahoma Senate on February 25, 1953, followed immediately by passage in the House of Representatives on March 26, 1953, to establish Clayton Lake as a “recreational area.” The property was assigned to the State Planning and Resources Board, a forerunner to the current Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

One additional agreement is related to the property at Clayton Lake State Park. A 1991 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement defines water service provided by Pushmataha County Rural Water District #1 to the state park. This included payment for a right-of-way for a four-inch water line across Highway 271, district membership, meter fee, and additional services.

**Public Access and Entry Aesthetics**

Public access to Clayton Lake State Park was discussed earlier. All vehicular access is from federal Highway 271 parallel to the eastern border of the park. Highway 271 is two-lane for the distance from Clayton, five miles to the north from the park, to Antlers about 35 miles south of the park. Highway 271 intersects with a number of east-west state and county roadways including Oklahoma Highway 144 which intersects Highway 271 in Nashoba.

The area near the entrance to Clayton Lake State Park is agricultural and forested, fitting for the park environment. Pine forests, agricultural fields, and mixed hardwood stands border Highway 271 for most of the distance between Clayton and Antlers. Small communities such as Nashoba, Divide, and Snow are situated along Highway 271, but offer few commercial services.

To the east and west of Highway 271, the Jackfork Mountains and other ranges of the Ouachita Mountains provide topographic relief that is unexpected by many first-time visitors. These mountains tend to extend from southwest to northeast with creeks and valleys defining the area between the ranges.

Signs for Clayton Lake State Park are in place along Highway 271. Most visitors to Clayton Lake State Park are likely to have some knowledge of the park’s location prior to a visit. Incidental visitation for travelers along Highway 271 is somewhat unlikely.

**Park Visitation**

Attendance records have been kept since the opening days of the park. It should be noted that counting park visitors is an inaccurate process. Technically, every person entering the park is a park visitor – but not all of those visitors are recreational visitors. At Clayton Lake State Park a certain percentage of the visitors recorded in the park would include park staff, vendors, and members of the general public entering the park to utilize the restroom or for other purposes. The physical location of Clayton Lake State Park along Highway 271 requires that motorists leave the highway and deliberately enter the park. These motorists would be park visitors. However, private property owners who access their property by passing through the park would be considered as park visitors.
Other aspects of park visitation can be calculated more accurately. This would include those situations in which there is an exchange of a fee for a specific service. As a result, the following discussion reports total visitation to Clayton Lake State Park and specific usage of particular areas within the park.

For clarity in understanding of visitation patterns, total park visitation is presented in the following discussion. This would include campers and day visitors, as well as cabin guests.

**Recreational Use of Park Facilities**

Visitation for Clayton Lake State Park has decreased during the past five years according to park management. The number includes day visitors and overnight visitors. The day visitors include pass-through sightseers, anglers, boaters, picnickers, trail hikers, and many other recreational visitors. Overnight visitors include campers who spend one or more nights within Clayton Lake State Park.

Under traditional management practices, determining the number of camp sites rented is more accurate than is the calculation of total visitors to the park. Total visitors are calculated based on traffic counters and a proxy variable for number of occupants in vehicles passing entry points into the park. Total number of visitors should not be interpreted as “individuals” in that numerous individuals are repeat visitors to the park on a daily, weekly, monthly, or annual basis. In addition, guests may enter the park, leave the park, and return to the park multiple times on a single visit. In such cases, traffic counters would record each entry. At Clayton Lake State Park, the number of day visitors has not been calculated using the traffic counter in recent years. As a result, the total visitation of 54,000 is an estimated annual visitation.

Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. did not provide data related to campsite rentals at Clayton Lake State Park. However, campsites were occupied and visitation was observed throughout the preparation of the resource management plan.

The occupancy rate on unimproved campsites is hindered by extremes of weather since many of the campsites do not have electricity. The heat of the summers in 2011 and 2012 certainly had an adverse impact on occupancy in unimproved sites as shown in several other parks.

Based on comments from park management, the occupancy rate for all campsites at Clayton Lake State Park has been trending downward over the past five years. There is a combination of factors that may explain this trend. Among those factors are: (1) reduction in public participation in camping; (2) economic conditions that limited outdoor experiences for potential guests; (3) climatic conditions that reduced the attractiveness for an experience at Clayton Lake State Park; (4) market preference for a level of service or quality of service that is not available at Clayton Lake State Park; or other factors. At Clayton Lake State Park, it appears that there is demand for modern and semi-modern campsites. However, the condition of roadways and lack of landscaping limits the utility of the current sites for many of the larger recreational vehicles and camping units presently in use.

More accurate records were available for rental of cabins at Clayton Lake State Park. As shown in Table 3.4, the demand for cabins at Clayton Lake State Park is increasing each year. During 2014, the two-bedroom cabin maintained a 41% occupancy rate, while the three one-bedroom cabins maintained a 28% occupancy rate.
Table 3.4 – Cabin Rentals at Clayton Lake State Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Rental of 2-bedroom cabin</th>
<th>Rental of 1-bedroom cabins</th>
<th>Total cabin rentals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>457</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public Perception of Clayton Lake State Park

At the time of preparation of this resource management plan, the authors reviewed numerous websites and marketing sources related to Clayton Lake State Park, which were provided by private sources. In addition, Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. maintains a website linking to information related to Clayton Lake State Park. Further, private citizens and visitors to Clayton Lake State Park maintain personal “blogs” and social networking sites that address their experiences and visits to the park. These blogs often were associated with activities such as hiking the various trails, camping, fishing, or boating, but addressed Clayton Lake State Park in some manner.

The following comments are examples of public perception of Clayton Lake State Park. These comments are taken directly from online sites and include verbatim comments which may also include errors.

- this place is wonderful, i come here once sometimes twice a year and rent the big cabin for a weekend.
- one of the most beautiful places I’ve ever been !!!!!!!
- i love going there it is like my home away from home
- people are very friendly ,take my granson fishing he loves it there . i will be taking him more. its so pretty there. i go out there ch as posible.
- We have stayed at the big cabin on numerous occasions and love the relaxing getaway. No TV No Phone. Great hiking around the lake with the dogs. The cabins are very nice. The small cabins have everything but a kitchen. Big cabin overlooks the lake with a covered deck. All have fireplaces. We bring our ATVs to go four wheeling but not in the park. It is quiet and peaceful. We love this place as our weekend getaway.
- We were there several years ago and can’t wait to come back again. Beautiful, peaceful, fun, lazy-I loved everything about the park.
- Great place to stay. Can not say enough good things about the park. Brought the family, including the dog, and had the perfect weekend. Park ranger was awesome, keep the place stocked and spotless. A must for backwoods adventure.
User Evaluations of Clayton Lake State Park

The most formal and scientific evaluations for Clayton Lake State Park were generated during the 2003 park visitor survey (Caneday & Jordan, 2003). These evaluations were the result of on-site interviews with park visitors contacted at various locations throughout the park. The analysis of the data from these interviews was reported by category of type of visitor: day visitor or camper. Although dated, this visitor survey is the most recent thorough analysis of attitudes and opinions represented by visitors to Oklahoma state parks. Since contacts were made at public locations throughout the park, the determining factor for classification of the visitors was their respective place of lodging during the visit on which they were contacted.

Day visitors to Clayton Lake State Park were familiar with the park, averaging seven visits per year with a mode of four visits annually. Eighty percent of all day visitors interviewed were repeat visitors to the park. The most frequent recreational activities reported by these day visitors were picnicking, relaxing/sunbathing, and hiking or walking. Day visitors tended to be satisfied with their experiences at the park, showing the least satisfaction with public restrooms and showers. The park was the primary destination for 80% of the day visitors, who were motivated to visit the park to because of tradition such as reunions, to be with friends or family, and to have an inexpensive recreation experience.

Day visitors tended to be in groups, averaging eight individuals, but the most common grouping of day visitors was two members. The day visitors contacted during the survey tended to be white or Native American, non-Hispanic with a high school education or above. They ranged in age from 21 to 71 years of age, with a median of 44 years of age; they included similar numbers of males and females. Since these individuals were day visitors, they had traveled a limited distance to get to Clayton Lake State Park, but still reported a median of 42 miles in travel. It is likely that a substantial number of these day visitors were from the larger surrounding communities including Clayton and Antlers.

Campers at Clayton Lake State Park were also quite familiar with the park in that they were repeat visitors. Approximately 80% of responding campers were repeat visitors; they had visited the park an average of ten times in a year, although that mean was skewed by several campers who stayed at the park for extended periods. These campers participated in a wide range of recreation activities, but most frequently they walked or hiked, drove for pleasure (sightseeing), fished, observed wildlife, or just relaxed in the park. Campers expressed great satisfaction with the facilities provided in the park.

Clayton Lake State Park was the primary destination for 94% of the campers contacted in the survey. They chose to visit the park to relax or rest and to be with friends or family, with the single highest factor in motivation being “rest and relaxation.” The majority of the campers were white and non-Hispanic; however, about one quarter of respondents indicated they were American Indian and a similar number indicated they were African American. In addition, the campers were well educated in that they presented a high school education or above as the highest level achieved by 90% of campers.

Campers reported having traveled an average of 132 miles on their visit to Clayton Lake State Park. This would indicate that the majority of campers at the park had traveled for at least two hours to visit the park. Thus, the majority of campers were truly tourists in that they had traveled more than 100 miles and spent at least one night away from home.
**Park Management**

Over the years of operation, the management structure for Clayton Lake State Park has changed at the direction of leadership within OTRD from Oklahoma City. However, in recent years, Clayton State Park has been quite stable in organization and operation under the management contract with Little Dixie Community Action Agency.

Clayton Lake State Park is included in the Southeast Region of Oklahoma State Parks and under contract to Little Dixie. This intermediate management structure allows park management to work with regional oversight as an intermediary or in direct contact with the Oklahoma City office. Under the management contract, Oklahoma state statutes, policies, and procedures govern various aspects of park management, while Little Dixie’s policies and procedures are in place for day-to-day operations. These day-to-day operations include essential maintenance, purchasing, employment, and other details.

**Staffing**

Staffing for Clayton Lake State Park has been stable over the past five years, with minor adjustments in the full-time-equivalent seasonal staff appointment during that time. The biggest change in staffing occurred with the reduction of salaried staff by 0.5 full-time-equivalency in 2013. Table 3.5 documents the staffing pattern for Clayton Lake State Park in recent years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Permanent salaried staff</th>
<th>Seasonal staff Park</th>
<th>Total park staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most state parks in Oklahoma experienced similar staffing adjustments in response to budgetary appropriations. Clayton Lake State Park has sustained a dedicated, loyal staff over the years.

**Revenue and Expenses**

Data related to revenue and expense at Clayton Lake State Park was provided by the Associate Director of Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. Table 3.6 on the following page reports this revenue and expense data for the past four years. Under the management contract between Oklahoma State Parks and Little Dixie, Oklahoma State Parks pays a management fee as shown in Table 3.6.

The principal revenue sources for Clayton Lake State Park are cabin and campsite rentals. These revenues earned on-site are detailed in Table 3.6. As a result, the difference between revenue
earned on-site combined with the state management fee and expense for operation of Clayton Lake State Park has varied from a loss of $26,715 in fiscal 2012 to a positive balance of $7,868 in fiscal 2014.

There are various perspectives on revenue and expenses associated with state park operations. For Clayton Lake State Park, the annual investment by Oklahoma State Parks through the management fee has varied from 47% of operational cost in fiscal 2012 to almost 62% of operational cost in fiscal 2014. Little Dixie has generated revenues from operation of Clayton Lake State Park to cover from 32% of operation in fiscal 2012 to 46% of operation in fiscal 2014. In addition, Little Dixie has shown a net loss in operating Clayton Lake State Park in three of the past four years.

### Table 3.6 – Expense and Revenue at Clayton Lake State Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Revenue on-site</th>
<th>State contract</th>
<th>Net gain (loss)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011 Total</td>
<td>$123,131</td>
<td>$40,652</td>
<td>$62,667</td>
<td>($19,812)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expense</td>
<td>$80,754</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expense</td>
<td>$42,377</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 Total</td>
<td>$129,248</td>
<td>$41,210</td>
<td>$61,323</td>
<td>($26,715)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expense</td>
<td>$85,645</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expense</td>
<td>$43,603</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 Total</td>
<td>$118,565</td>
<td>$45,033</td>
<td>$63,205</td>
<td>($10,327)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expense</td>
<td>$80,127</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expense</td>
<td>$38,438</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Total</td>
<td>$104,757</td>
<td>$48,075</td>
<td>$64,550</td>
<td>$7,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expense</td>
<td>$72,499</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expense</td>
<td>$32,258</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hazards Analysis – Natural and Operational**

Any recreational activity includes the exposure to hazards, and the probability of specific risks may increase in many outdoor settings. In most current discussions related to hazard and risk, hazards are defined as conditions or events. Risk is the likelihood of injury resulting from a given hazard and is typically defined as a probability of adverse effects from those conditions or events. Everything people do exposes them to hazards. It is how people conduct themselves that
determines the risk. An agency or site risk management plan addresses potential loss from anticipated hazards.

**Natural Hazards**

As with all natural areas, Clayton Lake State Park includes a number of hazards. Some of those hazards are natural and related to such things as topography, flora, and fauna. Some of the hazards are structural or related to design; other hazards are operational in nature.

Natural hazards in Clayton Lake State Park include the steep and rocky terrain, flora and fauna, as well as a number of other natural conditions or events. In addition, the development of facilities encourages visitors to interact with the natural environment, encouraging people to participate in recreation in an outdoor setting. For example, trails invite visitors to engage the varied terrain and, while signage exists, distressed and lost hikers are not uncommon. Quite commonly, the visitor is not informed of the various hazards and is not prepared for the risks involved in their interactions. Due to the topography of Clayton Lake State Park, it is possible for an individual to become “lost” on property, but that is an unlikely occurrence. Boating, swimming, and other aquatic activity present greater risks for most visitors.

Among the natural hazards present in the park are those associated with weather events. The National Climatic Data Center reports a variety of such hazards by county over several years. These hazards include hail, floods, thunderstorms with accompanying wind and lightning, tornadoes, snow, ice, excessive heat, and drought. Staff members are prepared to notify park visitors in the event of severe weather, but appropriate shelter is limited. At the present time, neither signage nor printed visitor materials provide severe weather information to park visitors.

Other natural hazards are related to life forms in the natural environment. Any time people are hiking and recreating in an outdoor environment, a chance exists that they will inadvertently encounter such wildlife; this is the case in Clayton State Park. The park environment encompasses habitat suitable for venomous snakes including the copperhead, rattlesnake, and water moccasin. There are no recent records of any adverse encounters between people and snakes within the park.

A number of mammals common to the park are subject to rabies. They include raccoons, opossums, skunks, badgers, and bats. Additional animals in this environment include armadillos and the possibility of black bears, bobcats, and mountain lions – although these are less likely.

The wooded and grassland environment in and around Clayton Lake State Park is home to mosquitoes, ticks, and spiders—all of which may be hazards or present hazards to recreational visitors. The Brown Recluse spider and the Black Widow are native to Pushmataha County. Both spiders have produced adverse effects for humans in recreational settings (and other environments). Both types of spiders were observed within the park making it likely that these spiders may occur in structures throughout the park. In addition, ticks are known carriers of a number of serious diseases in humans.

The 2002 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (Caneday, 2002) stated:

> An “environmental problem” of increasing occurrence in Oklahoma in recent years is related to ticks and tick-transmitted diseases. Although there are a number of tick-transmitted diseases, the most frequent occurrence is shown by Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Lyme disease, and Tularemia. A number of factors are
related to this increased occurrence of disease including demographics, living preferences, and recreational behavior. Oklahoma has experienced significant increases in tick-transmitted diseases over the past decade. While most of these diseases can be treated, the diseases can also be life threatening. Participants in outdoor recreation are among those who encounter the ticks and who contract the tick-transmitted diseases. A concerted, unified effort is necessary to educate the recreational visitor regarding the results of recreational behaviors.

At the time of the writing of the 2002 SCORP, the author contacted the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta regarding rumors (at that time) of a mosquito borne virus – West Nile virus. The CDC assured Caneday that Oklahoma would not experience West Nile virus within the five-year period covered by the 2002 SCORP (2002-2007). However, by summer 2003, Oklahoma was experiencing cases of West Nile virus among horses and humans. Often these resulted from outdoor recreation activity, and that pattern is continuing.

Some plants are also hazardous to some individuals and the risk varies by degree of exposure and response to that exposure. Poison ivy is among those potentially hazardous plants at Clayton Lake State Park.

Another potential natural hazard in a recreation environment is waterborne disease. As stated in the 2002 Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for Oklahoma (Caneday, 2002):

> Since 1971, Federal agencies (CDC and EPA) have maintained a collaborative surveillance system for collecting and reporting data related to occurrences and causes of waterborne-disease outbreaks (WBDOs). As an environmental hazard, waterborne diseases have always been present in the United States; however, outbreaks linked to drinking water have steadily declined since 1989. By contrast, the number of outbreaks linked to recreation activity has increased (Center for Disease Control). It is not clear whether this is due to increased outdoor recreation activity, larger numbers of people involved in outdoor recreation, or greater hazard present in the water environment. CDC reports for 1995 – 1996 have shown that the exposure to the disease occurred in lakes in 59% of waterborne-disease outbreaks of gastroenteritis associated with recreational water. Equal percentages (27%) of *Cryptosporidium parvum* and *Escherichia coli* as the etiologic agent were reported during that period.

Clayton Lake State Park receives its potable water from approved public water supplies through the local rural water district. As with all water supplies, there is the potential to be a host for waterborne disease through the drinking water provided on-site. Such a risk is no greater for a park visitor than would be true in a private residence. By contrast, surface waters in Clayton Lake, in streams, and in ponds have a greater chance of being a source of a waterborne-disease.

**Operational Hazards**

Operational hazards include those vulnerabilities to park staff, the park system, or the state of Oklahoma that exist as a result of management or operation of the resource and application of policy. Management and operational decisions are made on a daily basis and are affected by budgets, prioritization within the state park system, staffing patterns, local and state politics, and other external influences.
At present, emergency fire service and other emergency services are provided by the Clayton volunteer fire departments. The Oklahoma Department of Forestry provides secondary support in a fire emergency, especially in those cases of wildfire. Emergency response time is estimated to be one hour or more. Emergency medical service is available in Clayton or in Antlers including ambulance service.

As part of the data collection for the development of this RMP, the researchers conducted several on-site visits to Clayton Lake State Park. Common issues that could be dangerous for visitors include play structures which utilize a variety of surfacing materials. A thorough examination of the play structures and the applicable surface materials for compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines for public playgrounds is warranted at this time. The play structures are not in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines or accessibility guidelines.

Further, weather-related events (e.g., ice storms, strong winds) in Oklahoma often result in tree and limb damage throughout the park. The locations in which downed trees and limbs have immediate impact on visitors include the camping areas, trails, and day use areas. Currently, Clayton Lake State Park does not have a formal limb management or tree replacement program; this is common throughout the state park system. Park staff members attend to downed trees and limbs as they discover them and/or are notified of the hazard.

**Law Enforcement**

In most state parks in Oklahoma, the CLEET certified rangers and reserve-CLEET certified rangers are responsible for primary activity related to law enforcement within the boundaries of the park. At present under the management contract provided at Clayton Lake State Park, there are no CLEET certified rangers as shown in Table 3.7. It is common for law enforcement units to have mutual aid agreements with other law enforcement agencies, but no memorandum of agreement has been established with any local law enforcement agency. As a result, enforcement of applicable laws at Clayton Lake State Park relies on the support and cooperation of the Pushmataha County sheriff in the appropriate jurisdiction. In addition, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol makes regular routes through the park.

**Table 3.7 – Ranger Staff at Clayton Lake State Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>CLEET Certified</th>
<th>Reserve CLEET</th>
<th>Total ranger staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Since there is not an on-site law enforcement presence, citations and incident reports that are available in most Oklahoma State Parks were not applicable to Clayton Lake State Park. In conversation with park management personnel, there have been no serious incidents in recent years requiring arrest or citation.

**Policy-Related Exposures**

Some aspects of management of hazard risk are incorporated into law enforcement. Park rangers are the law enforcement personnel for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, although they frequently have cooperative (mutual aid) agreements with county sheriffs and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. Law enforcement authority for Oklahoma State Park Rangers is authorized by state statute as follows (Title 74 § 2216, 2005):

> Park rangers, when commissioned, shall have all the powers of peace officers except the serving or execution of civil process, and shall have in all parts of the state the same powers with respect to criminal matters and enforcement of the laws relating thereto as sheriffs, highway patrolmen [sic] and police officers in their respective jurisdictions and shall possess all immunities and matters of defense now available or hereafter made available to sheriffs, highway patrolmen, and police officers in any suit brought against them in consequence of acts done in the course of their employment, provided, however, they shall comply with the provisions of Section 3311 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

In parks with CLEET certified or reserve certified personnel, written logs are maintained by park staff to document incidents. In addition to the regular log, staff members complete incident reports when notified of property damage or personal injury to visitors or staff. While the incident reporting form requires information regarding personal injury or property damage, the process does not appear to require follow-up with the reporting party.

In terms of wildlife, while a formal management plan does not exist, staff operates under an agreed-upon plan approved by the Oklahoma Division of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC). As an important natural resource in the park, the vulnerable and endangered species in the area lack a management plan other than classification by ODWC.

Perhaps one of the most essential operational hazards related to the public is the concern that cell phones and radios have limited to sporadic service in rural areas, and possibly within the park. During the preparation of the RMP, research staff members were able to acquire and maintain cell phone signals throughout Clayton Lake State Park, but service was highly dependent upon specific carriers. Thus, in case of injury, illness, fire, or other emergency, park visitors with personal cell phones may be able to contact necessary emergency services. Those without personal cell phones or with inadequate signals must use a landline based telephone to call emergency personnel.

**Waste Management**

The relatively concentrated area of development at Clayton Lake State Park requires multiple programs in waste management. There are two primary concerns related to waste management within the park: solid waste and liquid waste.
Solid waste is transported off-site for disposal. Dumpsters have been located at strategic points within the park. Visitors are expected to dispose of waste properly in these dumpsters.

Liquid waste is managed on-site through septic systems, as well as aerobic systems for developed areas in Clayton Lake State Park. The park residence and the Comfort Station in Area 2 have septic systems with lateral fields. The Comfort Station at the north end of the Area 1 Campground has a septic system with a Sand Filter. The remaining facilities in the park are connected to one of the three aerobic systems situated at various locations in the park.

As with any area that is utilized by the public, some trash and litter is present within the park. This solid waste presents a visual detraction, but presents limited problems other than clean-up of the area.
Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Preferred Plans

Overview and Summary

In this Resource Management Plan, background is provided related to Clayton Lake State Park. This background information was gained through review of literature, interviews and meetings with park management personnel, input from the public, multiple on-site visits, and through other sources. When analyzed, this information raises several issues for consideration with alternatives for possible management action. These issues are presented in the following discussion with alternatives for management to consider. In each case, based on the available information a preferred alternative is identified.

Issues and Alternatives

Issue Statement 1: Qualification and branding as a state park

One of the central issues for consideration related to each of the properties being reviewed during the Resource Management Plan project is qualification and branding as a state park. That question is applicable for Clayton Lake State Park as for other properties.

What is a state park? Jordan and Caneday addressed this question in an earlier report for OTRD as a part of the state park visitor study in 2003 (Caneday and Jordan). As stated in that report –

- The research team believes that the term “state park” should mean something specific. The term, “state park,” should identify a property distinctively through management practices, quality of experience and appearance to the public. The research team believes that visitors to Oklahoma “state parks” should know immediately that they are in a State Park because of the distinctive “branding” apparent to the visitor and deliberately intended by management. The research team believes that the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department must jealously guard the use of the term “state park” in much the same manner as companies protect symbols of intellectual property.

An example of resource qualifications for specific classifications can best be demonstrated through the National Park Service. For a property to be classified as a National Park there must be (1) evidence of national significance for a natural, cultural, or recreational resource, (2) management of the property must be feasible, and (3) the property must be suitable within the mission, purpose, and system of the National Park Service.

By contrast, other classifications of National Park Service properties include National Monuments, National Recreation Areas, and National Preserves. National monuments must be significant natural, cultural, or recreational resources, but may be managed by entities other than the National Park Service. National preserves are limited to significant environmental resources and may vary in ownership and management of the resource. National recreation areas, including Chickasaw National Recreation Area in south-central Oklahoma, are managed for more intensive recreation in outdoor settings.
OTRD policy related to acquisition of property uses some of this language, thereby establishing a general pattern of resource qualification. These criteria include (1) state-wide significance for natural beauty, uniqueness, or other recreational and resource preservation purposes, and (2) sites which will improve the overall availability of public recreation facilities to the recreating public while possessing resource significance (Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission, 1988).

In addition, branding and classification of properties within the Department has varied over the years. Minutes of the Oklahoma Planning and Resource Board (a precursor to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission) from September 18, 1953 record the passing of a motion defining state parks, state recreation areas, state memorials, and state monuments. That variation in descriptive classification was changed by legislation during the 1980s.

Applying the national concepts to state parks in Oklahoma and utilizing the earlier definitions in Oklahoma, it could be concluded that a state park must (1) have a significant statewide natural, cultural, or recreation resource, (2) be feasible to manage by the agency, and (3) be suitable within the mission, purpose, and statewide system of state parks. If this set of qualifications is applied to Clayton Lake State Park, it could be concluded that:

1. Clayton Lake State Park offers historical, cultural, geological and environmental resources of statewide significance with the additional benefit of regionally important recreation significance. As indicated in the statement of significance of Clayton Lake State Park, this property is significant because it offers public access to the lake (public waters), to natural and recreational resources adjacent to a wildlife management area while protecting the natural environment and providing education and recreation appropriate to that environment.
2. Clayton Lake State Park is feasible to manage within the agency and fits within the mission of Oklahoma State Parks. However, at present, Clayton Lake State Park is managed under contract by Little Dixie Community Action Agency, and that management contract is also a feasible action. Clayton Lake State Park is located in an under-served region of Oklahoma from the perspective of public recreation resources. It is a relatively small park offering a quiet recreation experience in a forested lake environment.
3. Clayton Lake State Park property fits within the mission of OTRD and the park’s stated purpose to conserve the natural, cultural, historic, scenic, and environmentally-based recreational resources within the park, and make them forever available for the education and enjoyment of all people. Oklahoma State Parks will protect, manage, restore and conserve these resources and associated values of Clayton Lake State Park and provide appropriate programs, facilities, and opportunities for public use consistent with the conservation of these resources and values.

As a result, the research team recognizes the value of Clayton Lake State Park as a state park.

Alternatives

A. Terminate the management contract for the property at Clayton Lake State Park;
B. Seek to transfer Clayton Lake State Park to some other management agency;
C. No change – Retain Clayton Lake State Park as an integral property in the Oklahoma State Park system.
Preferred alternative:

Alternative C: No change – continue management as it is. Retain Clayton Lake State Park as an integral property in the Oklahoma State Park system.

**Issue Statement 2: Maintenance of Clayton Lake impoundment**

Clayton Lake is a 66-acre reservoir impounded by an earthen dam with a concrete spillway. At present there are a number of woody plants growing on both sides of the embankment of that impoundment. The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA, 2005) asserts “trees and woody vegetation growth have no place on the embankment of an earthen dam.”

*Figure 4.1 – Mid-life crisis of a dam*

Source: FEMA, 2005.

The risk associated with plants on the embankment varies by zones. FEMA identifies five zones for inspection and evaluation on earthen dams. FEMA also addresses proper procedures for management of those situations in which woody plants are present and should be removed.

Failure of the Clayton Lake impoundment is unacceptable, but must be recognized as a possibility. Therefore, appropriate inspection and remedial measures are essential. At present, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board classifies this impoundment (OK21490) as “high” for hazard potential, meaning there is a “probable loss of human life” in the event of failure. The dam is inspected annually.
Alternatives

A. Employ qualified inspectors to evaluate the condition of the impoundment and make recommendations regarding existing woody plants;
B. No change – continue management as it is, which includes annual inspection.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative B: No change – continue management as it is, which includes annual inspection.

**Issue Statement 3: Maintaining water quality**

Clayton Lake and the quality of that fishery are crucial to the existence and value of Clayton Lake State Park. The park exists because of lake; significant recreational value is provided by the presence and quality of the lake; and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation relies upon appropriate water quality to sustain the fishery.

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board does not test water quality in Clayton Lake. However, ODWC has a primary interest in the fishery and the water quality. Limited development around the lake or in the watershed reduces the likelihood of impaired water quality. Probably of greatest concern would be the introduction of an invasive aquatic species through contaminated boats or fishing gear.

Most of the issues associated with water quality are beyond the responsibility of Oklahoma State Parks. However, Oklahoma State Parks can be an advocate for best management practices upstream to encourage improvement of water quality. In addition, Oklahoma State Parks provides the primary recreational access to Clayton Lake for anglers and boaters. Appropriate educational information regarding invasive nuisance species, algae, and potentially dangerous boating conditions are the duty of park management.

Alternatives
A. Ignore the issues of water level and water quality as being outside the domain of state park operations;
B. No change – continue management as it is. Continue as an advocate for best management practices related to water conservation and water quality. Employ appropriate signage and management interventions as needed to permit safe access for boaters and anglers and to educate boaters and anglers regarding aquatic nuisance species.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative B: No change – continue management as it is. Continue as an advocate for best management practices related to water conservation and water quality. Employ appropriate signage and management interventions as needed to permit safe access for boaters and anglers and to educate boaters and anglers regarding aquatic nuisance species.

Issue Statement 4: Property concerns and trails

Clayton Lake State Park presently offers few trails to encourage visitors to explore the surrounding forests and streams. However, the two trails that are part of the park include issues that must be addressed.

First, as mentioned in the RMP, a trail leads to the west side of Clayton Lake. At present that trail is poorly marked and receives only limited use. Use of the trail is further hindered because of lack of adequate signage and the fact the trail requires doubling back along the same route taken.

Second, the trail leading along Peal Creek below the dam has not been designed or developed for foot traffic. This trail exists only because of use by park visitors. As a result, compaction of soils, exposure of tree roots, reduction of ground cover, and resulting erosion make this trail hazardous and less than acceptable within a state park. An appropriate walkway should be developed leading to an observation point along the south side of Peal Creek to permit visitors to enjoy the view.

Alternatives

A. Redesign and properly sign the trail to the west side of Clayton Lake;
B. Design and install an appropriate walkway with observation point along Peal Creek;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives A and B: Redesign and properly sign the trail to the west side of Clayton Lake;
Design and install an appropriate walkway with observation point along Peal Creek.

Issue Statement 5: Safety and Playgroups

As indicated in the RMP, the playgroups that are on property at Clayton Lake State Park were installed in the 1970s. Since that time, laws related to accessibility for persons with disabilities
have established new requirements. Safety guidelines related to public play apparatus have changed the legal expectations related to safety in the provision of playgroups.

Technically, it is not necessary to remove the existing playgroups, but reasonable accommodation is required. This generally requires accessibility to playgroups for persons with disabilities. In addition, reasonable remediation for safety is expected. This generally requires an inspection and installation of a safe surface beneath and surrounding the playgroup. It also requires an inspection of the apparatus to eliminate catch points and protrusions.

Alternatives

A. Replace playgroups within Clayton Lake State Park with apparatus that complies with current laws and safety requirements for persons with disabilities and appropriate ages;

B. If replacement of playgroups cannot be accomplished, conduct a thorough inspection of the existing apparatus, and provide remediation of the play surface;

C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives A and B: Replace playgroups within Clayton Lake State Park with apparatus that complies with current laws and safety requirements for persons with disabilities and appropriate ages; If replacement of playgroups cannot be accomplished, conduct a thorough inspection of the existing apparatus, and provide remediation of the play surface.

**Issue Statement 6: Interpretive Services at Clayton Lake State Park**

Clayton Lake State Park has a story to tell in many locations. The story of Clayton Lake State Park would include the natural and geological history of the area, the history of the impoundment and the history of the WPA and CCC. The interpretive message of Clayton Lake State Park should be told on property and off, to any interested audience, and to audiences yet uninformed.

Interpretive services are variously defined depending upon the source or the agency involved. The classic definition of interpretation was given by Freeman Tilden (1977) as “An educational activity that attempts to reveal meaning and relationships through the use of original objects, by firsthand experience, and by illustrative media, rather than to simply communicate factual information.”

William E. Brown (1971), in _Islands of Hope_, presented the role of parks in the interpretive process. His definition of interpretation encompassed technology as well as process, as he stated that interpretation is “That body of communications, devices and facilities that conveys environmental knowledge, stimulates discourse on environmental problems and results in environmental reform.” Brown also indicated that interpretation has a distinct purpose, especially in a sensitive natural environment. Brown argued that “Environmental interpretation not only informs, it motivates to action – sometimes it is action. Even at the informing level, it ceases to be innocent nature study or whitewashed history. It questions value systems, folk heroes, and conventional wisdom.”

The National Association for Interpretation (2008) has developed a professional, contemporary definition of interpretation that incorporates the theory from Tilden, the purpose from Brown,
and the mission of the agency delivering the service. “Interpretation is a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource.”

Clayton Lake State Park offers multiple resources with inherent meaning and interest for the audience, allowing for forging of emotional and intellectual connections. The story includes the people, the place, the organizations, the events, the habitat, the wildlife, and much more.

Properly developed and delivered programming could be presented on a fee-for-service basis. These programs could and should be delivered on-site and off-site. These programs become the educational foundation and outreach for Clayton Lake State Park and the state park system more broadly. This would require staff at a time when finances are limited for employing personnel.

Clayton Lake State Park and Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. could host one or two collegiate interns continually to create and deliver interpretive messages. Such interns could easily be shared between the three state parks presently managed by Little Dixie as well as the group camps at Beavers Bend State Park. This would accomplish several goals for Clayton Lake State Park and for Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc.: (1) it would bring creative and energetic personnel into the park system; (2) it would achieve an educational goal for the park and the park system; (3) it would provide a link between the park system and the formal college and university education system; and (4) it would provide a message that Oklahoma’s state parks serve an educational role as well as a recreational role.

Alternatives

A. When finances permit, expand the interpretive programming within and beyond the park;

B. Encourage the development of internship agreements focused on interpretive services and other aspects of park management;

C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternative A and B: When finances permit, expand the interpretive programming within and beyond the park; encourage the development of internship agreements focused on interpretive services and other aspects of park management.

**Issue Statement 7: Green practices related to energy and conservation**

Within the past few years Americans have begun to take conservation practices seriously. On behalf of citizens and as a representative of the park and recreation profession – a field with a strong connection to the environment – Oklahoma State Parks has initiated several practices that are intended to conserve energy and other resources. This has been initiated with energy efficient lighting in the lodge and office structures, and needs to be expanded to other management practices.

Among the many possible areas that would benefit from conservation practices are: (1) park policies related to mowing, maintenance, debris removal, and waste disposal; and (2) recycling opportunities for the entire operation and its guests.

At present, state laws do not encourage a state agency to recycle waste or trash products, especially when private citizens generate (and thereby ‘own’) those materials. Inventory
management and accounting procedures prevent the sale of, or revenue production from, recycled materials. However, volunteer groups such as a possible “Friends of Clayton Lake State Park” are permitted to serve as an agent for the collection and sale of recyclable materials. Certainly Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. can serve as an agent for the collection and sale of recyclable materials. Another challenge to the establishment of a recycling program is the difficulty in finding a consistent market for the various products that might easily be recycled: glass, aluminum, and paper. These challenges do not lessen the desirability of establishing a recycling program in the state park system.

Clayton Lake State Park can have a significant role in modeling and educating other managers and guests regarding best management practices. One state park in Oklahoma – Keystone State Park – has been eco-certified. Clayton Lake State Park should be a leader in this effort as well.

Alternatives

A. Seek to change state accounting regulations to permit operation of the recycling program by park staff;
B. Encourage the development of a “Friends of Clayton Lake State Park” or work through Little Dixie Community Action Agency to create, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive recycling program throughout the park;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative B: Encourage the development of a “Friends of Clayton Lake State Park” or work through Little Dixie Community Action Agency to create, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive recycling program throughout the park.

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**Issue Statement 8: Erosion control and landscaping**

As addressed in Issue Statement 3, water quality in Lake Clayton Lake is dependent upon activities that occur on land. Within Clayton Lake State Park, several campsites, picnic areas, and play areas reveal considerable erosion from loss of ground cover, soil compaction, and normal human activity, particularly on the soil type and topography present in Clayton Lake State Park. Some remediation of erosion and run-off is accomplished through the grassy median maintained along the shoreline.

Beyond the concern for water quality, erosion leads to uneven surfaces for campsites, play areas, and walking. As a result, landscaping of campsites, cabin areas, and play areas should be considered as a means to reduce the adverse effects of erosion.

Alternatives

A. Landscape campsites, cabin areas and play areas to reduce erosion potential and provide safe footing for guests, while complying with accessibility guidelines;
B. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternative A: Landscape campsites, cabin areas and play areas to reduce erosion potential and provide safe footing for guests, while complying with accessibility guidelines.
**Issue Statement 9: Marketing and Reservation System**

OTRD and Little Dixie maintain webpages related to Clayton Lake State Park, but very little additional marketing related to the park is presently in place. The OTRD [webpage](#) provides a basic description of the property, with directions and photographs. The Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc. [webpage](#) provides a listing of features within the park and encourages viewers to visit the OTRD website. No printed literature was available. The directional signage along major highway routes is minimal. There is an outdated entry sign for Clayton Lake State Park. Clayton Lake State Park is worthy of a stronger marketing presence.

Park visitors have commented on the difficulty of making reservations or finding out whether cabins or campsites are available. Visitors expect – and deserve – a higher level of service prior to their arrival onsite. Once onsite at Clayton Lake State Park, visitors are impressed with the property, the management, and the experience available.

For experienced visitors to other Oklahoma State Parks, older signage and buildings are representative of the appearance of Oklahoma State Parks from the 1970s and 1980s. However, most Oklahoma State Parks have seen investment in new signage, new branding through colors and designs, and a general updating in appearance. Clayton Lake State Park needs to have the same branding in appearance, signage, and design to distinguish the property as being a state park.

**Alternatives**

A. Improve the marketing materials related to Clayton Lake State Park and brand it as a property in the Oklahoma State Park system;
B. Consider implementing an up-to-date reservation system for visitors to Clayton Lake State Park;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

**Preferred alternative:**

Alternatives A and B: Improve the marketing materials related to Clayton Lake State Park and brand it as a property in the Oklahoma State Park system; Consider implementing an up-to-date reservation system for visitors to Clayton Lake State Park.

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**Issue Statement 10: Park roads**

The roadways within Clayton Lake State Park vary in quality and durability. The main entry drive leading to the central parking lot is appropriate in width and construction to handle vehicles that enter the park. By contrast, the roads leading north through the picnic area and to the camping area are minimally engineered. Asphalt that has been laid on these roadways is inadequate to support the traffic or weight of vehicles that utilize the park. Tree roots and shifting rock bases have resulted in uneven surface. Inadequate design of water flow has resulted in ponding and erosion.
The drive into Area 2 is narrow, but of more substantial design. However, once within Area 2, the roadways are minimal in engineering and present the same problems as those in the northern reaches of Area 1.

All the roadways in Clayton Lake State Park need to be redesigned, properly engineered, and properly surfaced. The size and weight of recreational vehicles in use demand better roadways in a state park. It is acknowledged that this would be expensive.

Alternatives

A. Design and develop properly engineered roadways within Clayton Lake State Park;
B. Install signs informing visitors of weight and size limits for roadways in Area 1 and Area 2;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives A and B: If it is financial feasible, design and develop properly engineered roadways within Clayton Lake State Park; if not, install signs informing visitors of weight and size limits for roadways in Area 1 and Area 2.

Recommendations beyond the Issues

Recommendation 1: Standardized signs

As mentioned in Issue Statement 9, Clayton Lake State Park needs and deserves branding as a property in the Oklahoma State Park system. Within the past several years, Oklahoma State Parks has initiated an effort to standardize signs within the parks and to brand each property as being part of the system. The signs within Clayton Lake State Park and at its entrance must be updated.

Recommendation 2: Playgroups and safety

As mentioned throughout the RMP, the playgroups at all locations in Clayton Lake State Park are of the older design typical of the 1970s. These playgroups do not comply with current safety and accessibility standards. All the playgroups throughout Clayton Lake State Park need to be reviewed for basic safety, particularly related to fall zones and surfaces. However, a review of these playgroups should also include examination of protrusions and potential for other injuries. A Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) could review the existing playgroups and make recommendations. However, a better alternative is to plan for replacement of these older playgroups and replace them with accessible, safe, and modern playgroups.

Recommendation 3: Social media presence for Clayton Lake State Park

Clayton Lake State Park is one of the few Oklahoma State Parks without a presence on social media. The park would benefit greatly from having a presence on social media, particularly in expanding its market to the younger generation. While it would take some time for an employee, there may be creative solutions to developing and maintaining that presence. For example, an intern could benefit the park manager in many aspects of operation and could take on the project of developing and sustaining a social media presence. If an intern cannot be arranged, it is
possible that an Eagle Scout from the area may be interested in developing a social media presence for Clayton Lake State Park.
References

Access Board and the National Center on Accessibility. (2014) 7 things Every Playground Owner Should Know About the Accessibility of Their Playground Surfaces. The Access Board, Washington, D.C. and National Center on Accessibility, Bloomington, IN.


Appendix A – Documents related to Property

1. 1939 Caswell warranty deed
2. 1945 House Resolution to rebuild the dam
3. 1946 Rooks warranty deed
4. 1953 Senate resolution for a state park
5. 1971 Cravens warranty deed
6. 2008 Fry warranty deed
WARRANTY DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THAT Estelle S. Caswell and J. B. Caswell, her husband,

of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,

part Y of the first part, in consideration of the

sum of One Dollar and other

valuable consideration DOLLARS

in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell and Convey unto Fish and Game Department of the State of Oklahoma

of Oklahoma County, State of Oklahoma, part Y of the second part, the following described real property and premises situate in Pushmahaha County, State of Oklahoma, to wit:

A tract of land in Section 21, Township 1 North and Range 19 East more particularly described as follows, to wit: Beginning at a point on the center Section line of said Section 21, 990 feet easterly from the center of said Section 21, THENCE running in an easterly direction on said center section line and parallel to the North Section line of said Section for a distance of 900 feet; thence in a Northerly direction and parallel with the east section line for a distance of 500 feet; THENCE in a Westerly direction and parallel with the North Section line for a distance of 500 feet; thence in a Southerly direction and parallel with the east Section line of said section for a distance of 500 feet to the point of beginning.

together with all improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereto belonging, and warrant the title to the same. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said part Y of the second part, ite heirs and assigns, forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, taxes, judgments, mortgages and other liens and incumbrances of whatsoever nature.

Signed and delivered this 3rd day of April 1939

[Signature]

[Signature]
INDIVIDUAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF Oklahoma  County of Oklahoma

Before me the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, on this 27th day of April, 1939 personally appeared Estelle S. Caswell and J. B. Caswell, her husband, to me known to be the identical person(s) who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year last above written.

My commission expires _________________. Notary Public

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CORPORATION ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF  County of ________________

On this __________ day of __________, A.D. 19__, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for the county and state aforesaid, personally appeared ________________
to me known to be the identical person(s) who signed the name of the maker thereof to the within and foregoing instrument as its ________________, President and acknowledged to me that ________________ executed the same as ________________, free and voluntary act and deed, and as the free and voluntary act and deed of said corporation, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year last above written.

My commission expires _________________. Notary Public.

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WARRANTY DEED

FROM 

TO 

NUMERICAL INDEX TO PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKLAHOMA

This instrument was filed for record on the 26th day of __________, 19__, in Book __________ at page __________ of __________, and recorded in County Clerk's Office, County of __________, State of Oklahoma.

RETURN TO 

---

NOTARY ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SIGNATURE BY MARK

STATE OF Oklahoma  County of ________________

Before me, ____________________________, a Notary Public in and for said County and State on this day of __________, 19__, personally appeared ____________________________ and to me known to be the identical person(s) who executed the within and foregoing instrument by ____________________________ mark in my presence and in the presence of ____________________________ and as witnesses and acknowledged to me that ____________________________ executed the same as ____________________________ free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the day and year last above written.

My commission expires _____________________________. Notary Public.

Note—The signature by mark of a lessee who cannot write his name must be witnessed by two witnesses, one of whom must write lessee's name.
AN ACT

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 434.

BY: THOMPSON (Push.), CANTRELL, CHOATE, CRANE, FLOWERS, FRIX, HATHCOAT, IMPSON, MEDLOCK, MITCHELSON, REED, TOAZ and WELCH of the House; FINNEY of the Senate.

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CLAYTON LAKE IN PUSHMATAHA COUNTY; REQUIRING THE OKLAHOMA PLANNING AND RESOURCES BOARD TO CONDUCT A SURVEY OF THE LAKE SITE AND DETERMINE NECESSITY OF ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND AND PERFECTION OF PRESENT TITLE; AUTHORIZING REASONABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING PUBLIC USE OF THE LAKE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES; MAKING THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED NONFISCAL IN CHARACTER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated out of any moneys to the credit of the General Revenue Fund of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1946, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of Thirty-five Thousand ($35,000.00) Dollars, to be used by the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board in the reconstruction of Clayton Lake in Pushmataha County, which was destroyed by flood in the year 1943.

SECTION 2. The Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, upon the effective date of this Act, shall proceed to make a survey covering the lands in and about the lake site now vested in the State, or any of its agencies, and from such survey it shall be determined whether the Title the State, or any of its agencies, now possesses should be perfected by obtaining further conveyances, and also whether additional land should be acquired in or about the lake site suitable for the purposes of such lake. The moneys herein appropriated may be used not only for reconstruction costs but also for the acquisition of additional land or perfection of the present Title.

SECTION 3. The Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board shall have the power to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations covering public use of the lake and recreational facilities established upon the lake site.

SECTION 4. The funds herein appropriated shall not be subject to fiscal year limitations, and said appropriation, after it becomes effective, may be contracted against and expended to and including the close of the constitutional lapse period of thirty (30) months from the passage of this Act.
Passed the House of Representatives the 16th day of April, 1945.

H. I. HINDS
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Passed the Senate the 19th day of April, 1945.

HOMER PAUL
President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

Correctly Enrolled:
WEAVER, Acting Chairman,
COMMITTEE ON ENGROSSED AND ENROLLED BILLS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
This Bill was received by the Governor
this 20th day of April, 1945 at 5:30
o'clock P.M

By RALPH TRASK
Private Secretary
T I T L E

APPROVED by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma the 24 day
of April, 1945.

ROBT S KERR
Governor of the State of Oklahoma.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE
Received by the Secretary of State
this 25th day of April, 1945 at
8:45 o'clock A. M.

F. C. CARVER, Secretary of State

By Frances A. Stanwood
Warranty Deed

Know All Men by These Presents: That James T. Rowley, single, of Dalestys, Oklahoma, part of the first part, in consideration of the sum of $1920.00 DOLLARS in hand paid, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell and Convey unto State of Oklahoma for use and benefit of State Game and Fish Commission of part Y of the second part, the following described real property and premises situate in Pushmatah County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit:

West Half (1/2) and all that part of NE-1/4, lying West

of State Highway No. 271, of Section 33, 1st 1st North,

Range 19 East,

the grantor herein expressly reserving one half of all oil and gas mineral rights under said lands with the right of ingress and egress for purpose of developing same

together with all improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and warrant the title to the same.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said part of the second part his heirs and assigns forever, free, clear and discharge of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages and all other liens and incumbrances of whatsoever nature by through or under the grantor herein said instrument being intended to operate as a quit claim deed.

Signed and delivered this 22nd day of May 1946.

[Signature]
WARRANTY DEED

FROM

INDEXED CONVENTED

DIRECT IT
NUMERICAL

No. 14075

Leta J. Hooks

State of Okla.

21-171-19 East

Dated: 19

Lot: 19

Block: 1

Section: 21

Township: 17

Range: 11

County: Pittsbug

No. of Acres: 1

Term: 1

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

COUNTY

This instrument was filed for record on the 17th day of March, 1967, and recorded in Book 130, Page 184, of the records of this office.

Return to:

GRAACE F. CARTER, COUNTY CLERK

When Recorded:

J. C. HAMILTON, DEPUTY

EYLER PRINTING COMPANY

Phone 13

McALLEN, OKLAHOMA

Call for other legal forms

Notary Public
A Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY: McLendon of the SENATE and WELCH (Pushmataha) of the HOUSE.

A JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION TO TRANSFER AND SET OVER UNTO THE STATE PLANNING AND RESOURCES BOARD CERTAIN LANDS IN PUSHMATAHA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA; AUTHORIZING THE STATE PLANNING AND RESOURCES BOARD TO ACCEPT SAID LANDS AND TAKE CHARGE OF AND SUPERVISE SAID LANDS FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, in 1934 and 1935 certain lands situated in Section 13, Township 4 South, Range 15 East in Pushmataha County, Oklahoma, were conveyed to the State of Oklahoma for the use and benefit of the State Game and Fish Commission for the purpose of erecting a dam and building a lake thereon; and also other conveyances were made to certain lands in Section 21, Township 1 North, Range 19 East in Pushmataha County to the State for the use of said Game and Fish Commission; and also deeds were executed in 1939 conveying other lands in Section 21, to said State of Oklahoma, and again in 1941 conveyances were made to certain lands in Section 21 to the State of Oklahoma for the use and benefit of the State Game and Fish Commission; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to House Bill No. 484 of the Legislature of 1945, an appropriation of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars ($35,000.00) was made to the Planning and Resources Board to be used by said Board in erecting a new dam and enlarging Clayton Lake, and also to be used in the acquisition of certain lands adjoining Clayton Lake and adjacent to the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 21, Township 1 North, Range 19 East, and directing that the purchase of said tract of land be by direct purchase or by condemnation; and

THEREAFTER, an action was brought in the District Court of Pushmataha County, Case No. 6213, to quiet title in the State to the lands theretofore acquired by purchase upon which said Clayton Lake had theretofore been established, and to also acquire
title to five (5) tracts of land adjoining said Clayton Lake, all situated in Section 21, Township 1 North, Range 19 East, consisting of approximately fifty (50) acres of additional lands, and which resulted in a judgment entered in said Court confirming the title to said lands in the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, and in 1946, there was conveyed to the State of Oklahoma for the use and benefit of the State Game and Fish Commission by deed, a tract of land described as the West Half (W½), and all that part of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of Section 21, lying West of State Highway No. 271, all in Township 1 North, Range 19 East, which immediately adjoins said tract of land theretofore condemned by the State of Oklahoma, and lies immediately to the northwest of said tract of land, upon which said Clayton Lake had been established; and

WHEREAS, said two tracts of land are wholly insufficient upon which to establish a Game Refuge and by reason thereof, the State Game and Fish Commission has not heretofore exercised any control, administration or management thereof, but has permitted the Planning and Resources Board to exercise control and management of said last above described tract of land in connection with the lands theretofore acquired by the Planning and Resources Board for recreational purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. That the State Game and Fish Commission is hereby requested, authorized, and directed to transfer and set over unto the State Planning and Resources Board all of said lands hereinabove described to be used by said Planning and Resources Board as a recreational area, and that said Planning and Resources Board be, and is hereby requested, authorized, and directed to accept said transfer of said jurisdiction and supervision of said
A Resolution

ENR. S. J. R. NO. 10

lands for said purpose.

SECTION 2. Be it further resolved that copies of this Joint Resolution be duly certified and furnished to the said Game and Fish Commission, and the State Planning and Resources Board.

Passed by the Senate the 25th day of February, 1953.

JOE A SMALLEY
ACTING President of the Senate

Passed by the House of Representatives the 26th day of March, 1953.

JAMES C NANCE
Speaker of the House of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Governor this 1st day of April, 1953, at 1:25 o'clock P. M.

By: VIVIEN HULSEY

APPROVED by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma the 7th day of April, 1953.

JOHNSTON MURRAY
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Secretary of State this 7th day of April, 1953, at 10:00 o'clock A. M.

By: JOHN D. CONNER
ks
WARRANTY DEED
Statutory Form — Individual

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THAT, D. R. Cravens and MAURINE GREEN CRAVENS

Husband and wife

of P.O. Box 167, Smithfield, Terrell County, State of Texas, parties of the first part, in consideration of the sum of Ten dollars, more or less, DOLLARS in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell and Convey unto Oklahoma Industrial Development and Park Department of County, State of Oklahoma, party of the second part, the following described real property and premises situate in Pushmataha County, State of Oklahoma, to wit:

A tract of land in the NE/4 of the NE/4 of Section 28, Township 1 North, Range 19 East of the Indian Base and Meridian described as follows:- Beginning at the NE Corner of said Section 28; thence South along the East Section line 775 feet; thence due West 510 feet; thence in a Northwesterly direction to a point on the North section line 675 feet West of the point of beginning, thence East to the point of beginning, a distance of 675 feet.

Together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and warrant the title to the same.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said party of the second part, its heirs and assigns forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages and other liens and incumbrances of whatsoever nature.

Signed and delivered this 18th day of August, 1971.

D. R. Cravens

MAURINE GREEN CRAVENS

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
COUNTY OF PUSUMATAHA

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State on this 18 day of August, 1971, personally appeared D. R. Cravens to me known to be the identical person who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth. Given under my hand and seal the day and year last above written.

My commission expires 6-1-73

Notary Public

DOMINGO GARCIA

OKLAHOMA FORM
INDIVIDUAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ___________ , County of ___________ , ss:

Before me the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, on this day of ___________ , 19__, personally appeared _________

To me known to be the identical person _______ who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that _______ executed the same as _______ free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year last above written.

My commission expires ___________ Notary Public

INDIVIDUAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ___________ , County of ___________ , ss:

Before me the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, on this day of ___________ , 19__, personally appeared _________

To me known to be the identical person _______ who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that _______ executed the same as _______ free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year last above written.

My commission expires ___________ Notary Public

WARRANTY DEED

STATE OF ___________ , County of ___________ , ss:

This instrument was filed for record on the day of ___________ , 19__, in the office of County Clerk of ___________, at the ______ o'clock of ______ M. and recorded in Book ______ at page ______. Fee $ ______.

By ___________, Deputy.

RETURN TO ___________, ____________

NOTARY ACKNOWLEDGMENT of SIGNATURE BY MARK

STATE OF ___________ , County of ___________ , ss:

Before me, ___________, a Notary Public in and for said County and State on this day of ___________ , 19__, personally appeared _________

To me known to be the identical person _______ who executed the within and foregoing instrument by _______ mark in my presence and in the presence of ________, ________, ________ as witnesses and acknowledged to me that _______ executed the same as _______ free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the day and year last above written.

My commission expires ___________ Notary Public

NOTE—The signature by mark of a lessor cannot be his name must be witnessed by two _____________.one of whom must write lessor's name.
GENERAL WARRANTY DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THAT ROBERT MARTIN FRY, a/k/a MARTIN FRY and JOLENE FRY, husband and wife, party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of Ten & no/100 dollars, and other valuable consideration, in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, party of the second part, the following described real property and premises situated in Pushmataha County, State of Oklahoma, to wit:

Beginning at a point 775 feet South of the NE corner of Section 28 Township 1 North Range 19 East along the East section line of said Section 28, thence South along the East section line of Section 28, a distance of 130 feet; thence West a distance of 255 feet; thence North a distance of 130 feet; thence East a distance of 255 feet to the point of beginning, all situated in Pushmataha County, State of Oklahoma.

together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and warrant the title to the same.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever, free and discharged of all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages, and other liens and encumbrances of whatsoever nature or kind.

Signed and delivered this 21st day of October, 2008.

Robert Martin Fry
Jolene Fry

INDIVIDUAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT-OKLAHOMA FORM

STATE OF OKLAHOMA )
) ss.
COUNTY OF CHOCTAW )

Before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this 21st day of October, 2008, personally appeared Robert Martin Fry and Jolene Fry, to me known to be the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free act and deed for the purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year last above written.

My Commission expires: May 23, 2010
My Commission number: 02609117
Notary Public
QUIT CLAIM DEED
Special form

This Indenture, made this 24th day of October, 2008, between the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, an agency of state government, and the successor agency to the Oklahoma Industrial Development and Parks Department, of the first party and Robert Martin Fry and Jolene Fry, husband and wife, of the second part, WITNESSETH, that the party of the first part pursuant to 74 O.S. Supp. 2005 § 2212 and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars and other valuable consideration to it in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby quitclaim, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the party of the second part, all its rights, title, interest, estate and every claim and demand, both at law and in equity, in and to all the following described real estate situated in Pushmataha County, State of Oklahoma, to wit:

A tract of land in Section 28, T1 North, Range 19 E, more particularly described as beginning at a point 775 feet South and 255 Feet West of the Northeast corner of Section 28 T1NR19E, thence North a distance of 65 feet, thence West a distance of approximately 255 feet to the center of Peel Creek, thence Southerly along the creek center line to a point 510 feet West and 775 feet South of the Northeast corner of Section 28 T1N R19 E, thence East a distance of 255 feet to the point of beginning.

Together with all the appurtenances thereon belonging, but subject to all easements or reservations of record and specifically excluding and exempting all mineral interests for the real estate and reserving them to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

To have and to hold the above described premises unto Robert Martin Fry and Jolene Fry, husband and wife and their assigns forever, so that neither the first party, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, nor any person in its name and behalf, shall or will hereafter claim or demand any right or title to the said premises or any part thereof; but they and everyone of them shall by these presents be excluded and forever barred.

In Witness Whereof, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department has set its hand, pursuant to the authority granted to it by its Commission, the day and year first above written.

[Signature]
Hardy Watkins, Executive Director

State of Oklahoma )
County of Oklahoma )

This instrument was acknowledged before me on Oct, 24, 2008 by Hardy Watkins, the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department who executed this instrument on behalf of the Department and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission.

[Signature]  
Commission Expiration 
Number
Signature of Notarial Officer
Appendix B – New Deal-era history for Clayton Lake

FINAL SURVEY REPORT

INTENSIVE-LEVEL SURVEY OF NEW DEAL-ERA STATE PARKS
IN OKLAHOMA

Prepared by

Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office
Marsha Weisiger, Project Director
Susan Allen, Assistant Director
Suzanne H. Schrens, Ph.D., Project Historian
Neysa Clark, Field Survey Researcher
Gary Zaepfel, Field Survey Researcher and Cartographer
Cari Vandiver, Clerical Assistant

Prepared for

Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

June 1993
The activity that is the subject of this publication has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendations by the Department of the Interior. The Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or handicap in its federally assisted programs.
ABSTRACT

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office conducted an architectural/historic resource survey of ten state parks in cooperation with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. All ten parks were developed during the New Deal (1933-1942). The survey was designed to assist the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department in understanding which parks contained historically and architecturally significant resources, identifying resources that were eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and planning for the preservation of significant resources.

Of the ten parks surveyed, Greenleaf State Park, Lake Murray State Park, Osage Hills State Park, and Robbers Cave State Park appear to be eligible in their entirety for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as outstanding examples of park landscapes designed by the national Park Service and built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and other New Deal agencies. Lake Murray State Park and Robbers Cave State Park merit consideration as National Historic Landmarks, due to the quality of the park designs, the integrity of the historic landscapes, and the histories of the parks, all of which incorporate significant aspects in addition to their primary association with the CCC. In addition, portions of Beavers Bend State Park, Boiling Springs State Park, Quartz Mountain State Park, and Roman Nose State Park appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register as locally outstanding designed landscapes or as historic districts. Neither Clayton Lake State Park nor Lake Okmulgee State Park appear eligible as designed landscapes or districts. The dam at Lake Okmulgee State Park, however, may be eligible for individual listing.
INTRODUCTION

In 1993, at the request of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTR), the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) conducted an intensive-level survey of ten state parks that reportedly were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the New Deal of the 1930s and are presently under the jurisdiction of OTR. This project was funded jointly by OTR and the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the Oklahoma SHPO. The purposes of the project were to develop a historic context for the parks, to record minimum-level documentation on the resources in each of the parks, to identify historically and architecturally significant resources in each of the parks, to identify historically and architecturally significant resources worthy of preservation, and to make recommendations regarding the eligibility of the park resources for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as designed landscapes, historic districts, and individual resources. Related long-term purposes included increasing the awareness of the historical significance of the parks within OTR and among the general public, and providing a data base so that advice regarding appropriate rehabilitation measures can be provided by the SHPO upon request of the OTR Division of Planning and Development. Also during the course of the survey, the National Park Service (NPS), Historic Architecture Division, began conducting a theme study of CCC-related parks, including national and state parks. At the request of NPS, we also evaluated the parks for potential eligibility for National Historic Landmark status. The survey was directed by Marsha Weisiger, Architectural Historian, with the assistance of Susan Allen, Preservation Research Assistant. Suzanne Schrems served as Project Historian, and Neysa Clark and Gary Zaepfel served as Field Survey Researchers. Cari Vandiver served as the clerical assistant. Bruce Travis functioned as the OTR liaison for the project, and valuable assistance was provided by Gary Harrington of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries,
which cooperated in making available the original plans for many of the parks. Pat
Hernandez and Sharon Burr of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation assisted the
project by printing drawings from the aperture cards.

The ten parks included in this study were located throughout the State of Oklahoma
(refer to Map 1). They were Beavers Bend State Park, Boiling Springs State Park, Clayton
Lake State Park, Greenleaf State Park, Lake Murray State Park, Lake Okmulgee State Park,
Osage Hills State Park, Quartz Mountain State Park, Robbers Cave State Park, and Roman
Nose State Park. Initially the survey focused exclusively on CCC-related resources, but as
field work and historical research revealed that some resources were constructed by the
Works Progress Administration (WPA), the scope of the study was broadened to encompass
park development by the New Deal as a whole. The chronological limits of the New Deal
are 1933-1942, but resources constructed prior to 1933 and incorporated into the general
landscape design of the parks also contribute to their significance.

The survey was conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s
Standards and Guidelines for Planning, Identification, Evaluation, and Registration and the
CLAYTON LAKE STATE PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS

Clayton Lake State Park (Map 8) does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The park was not designed by the National Park Service, and only the bath house, which was constructed by the Works Progress Administration, is associated with the New Deal. The bath house, by itself, does not appear to possess sufficient significance to warrant individual listing in the National Register. The original dam constructed by the WPA was replaced in 1945.