

A self-guided driving tour of the historic cultural landscapes of Central Oklahoma



Driving Loop



The concept for the Oklahoma City Civic Center was inspired by the City Beautiful Movement that was started in America at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The exposition was the first example of civic design which approximately 27.5 million people experienced. The Civic Center represented not only unity and sophistication, but efficiency in government and intelligent municipal growth that was modeled for years in the future.

The Oklahoma City Civic Center is located in an abandoned railroad right-of-way that divided the city's business district. The land was purchased in 1927 and dedicated for public use after the tracks were removed in 1930. The landscape architectural firm of Hare and Hare from Kansas City, Missouri prepared a report and conceptual city plan that was submitted to the Planning Commission on Dec. 24, 1930. However, due to the Great Depression the land sat unused until assistance was provided from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935.

The civic center was based largely on the Hare and Hare plan of a large park plaza encompassing the City Hall, City Jail and the Municipal Auditorium. Since the original plan was implemented much of the landscaping has been removed to provide better traffic circulation for the increasing patronage to the business district.



THE OVALS, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA



The Ovals on the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman are the basis for the landscape design concept that enhance the center piece of campus. J.H. Craven, a landscape designer, was the 'Director of Landscape Gardening' for the campus in 1914. He was challenged with a shortage of man power and funds when he began working on the north end of the oval. His skill as a designer and experience in conserving trees of the Southwest helped him create a beautiful and functional landscape on the university campus.

The campus is also home to The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. Considered one of the finest university based museums in the country, it houses 500 million years of exhibits and artifacts from Oklahoma's natural history.

The University of Oklahoma's Western History Collections is also on campus and is one of the largest most complete collections of historic media about the American West. The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located on the campus as well and contains works of art from Georgia O'Keefe to Vincent Van Gogh.

The City of Norman , also offers many activities. These include the Jacobson House Native Art Center, The Little River Zoo and others. The area provides many opportunities for exploration.



CAPITOL HILL PARK, GUTHRIE, OK

Guthrie, Oklahoma, the state's first Territorial Capitol, is a city that can claim one of the richest histories in the state. It began with the land run of 1889 and has never stopped being as dramatic as its origins. With the land run came three settlers who created a strong start for Scottish Rite Masons. After Oklahoma City was elected as the new State Capitol by a vote of the state citizens, the organization chose to build a new temple at Capitol Hill Park. The property was purchased from the City for \$1.00 on June 20, 1919 and soon afterward the Oklahoma architectural firm Hawk and Parr were hired to complete the renovations of the existing structure and design the new temple. The first cornerstone of the new temple was laid on January 20, 1921 and witnessed by over 8000 people. By 1924 the temple was ready to be used for meetings, and is now considered to be the world's largest Scottish Rite Temple.

The landscape design was prepared by Hare & Hare of Kansas City, Missouri. It called for the planting of 171 trees, 5200 evergreens and 388 perennials in a mature state. The original landscape plan called for a water feature and tennis courts that were never completed due to budget restrictions.

Guthrie has much more to boast about. The eclectic Victorian era architecture is unique and can be toured with daily trolley rides. It is also home to historical museums and the restored Pollard Theater that is still in use today for live productions.



THE PASEO



The Paseo was built in 1929 and is now one of Oklahoma City's finest Arts Districts. It was originally a shopping district north of downtown Oklahoma City, designed by the landscape architectural firm of Hare and Hare, in a Spanish Village style, complete with tile roofs and stucco walls. In the 1930s it was the place to be and be seen for the city's elite. In the 1950s, it became a retail area, and with the addition of a community pool, the Paseo Plunge, a recreational area as well. During the 1960-70s it became a home of hippies, bohemians and artists of many styles.

Today the Paseo is a thriving community for some of Oklahoma's finest artists and galleries. The original Spanish architecture is maintained with pride and the district hosts a celebrated arts festival each spring.

*Additional information on Oklahoma City Civic Center and other historical sites in the area visit: <http://www.ok-history.mus.ok.us/>
<http://www.travelok.com>*

*Additional information on Guthrie and other sites such as the Scottish Rite Temple is available at: <http://www.guthrieok.com/>
<http://www.cityofguthrie.com/>*

*Additional information on the Paseo Arts District and other sites in Oklahoma City available at: <http://www.thepaseo.com/>
<http://www.travelok.com/cities/city.asp?city=Oklahoma+City>*

The historical drawings pictured on this flyer are the work of measured drawings done by students of the Landscape Architectural Department at Oklahoma State University, submitted to the Charles E. Peterson Prize Competition under the direction of Dr. Charles Leider, and then submitted to the Library of Congress as Case Studies. Brochure prepared by Michelle A. Bryant, a student of Landscape Architecture at OSU. More documents and sites may be found at the Library of Congress web site: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/