

Auto-Walking Tour of Greenleaf State Park's Historic Structures

A guide to some of Greenleaf State Park's
distinctive and important historic structures.



OKLAHOMA
STATE PARKS

Introduction

The location of Oklahoma's first state parks was often dictated by local community support and the fact that an area had distinctive natural features. In a few instances the federal government chose park locations based upon other factors. Called Recreation Development Areas (RDAs), these were places where the land was not suitable for farming. The Resettlement Administration, along with other federal agencies, purchased these farms from their destitute owners. The government then re-located many of these farm families to more productive land in the same region. Once the eroded lands were under federal ownership, the RDAs were re-forested and recreational facilities were built.



In the 1930's, Oklahoma had two RDAs: Greenleaf and a portion of Lake Murray State Park. The Lake Murray RDA was soon incorporated into Lake Murray State Park. Greenleaf followed a different path in becoming a state park.

In 1935, the U.S. Department of Agriculture purchased land from area farmers as they initiated the Cookson Hills Forestry Project. A component of this resettlement program was the establishment of Greenleaf Recreation Area. Greenleaf Lake and park facilities were built by the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Greenleaf Recreation Area opened in 1938 and featured the lodge, bathhouse (now nature center), and over 14 cabins.



There was a restaurant and dance floor within the lodge and its great hall was frequently used by many civic and youth organizations.

In 1939, as America recognized the urgent need for military training facilities, the entire Cookson Hills Project, including Greenleaf Recreation Area, was assigned to the U.S. Army. Named Camp Gruber, this facility was a training ground for about 80,000 soldiers during World War II. The lodge served as an Officer's Club. In 1947 Camp Gruber was decommissioned as a federal training facility. Those portions of the camp containing recreational facilities were leased by the federal government to the State of Oklahoma for park operation. In 1954 Greenleaf officially became an Oklahoma state park. The State of Oklahoma continued to operate the park facilities located here. In 1984 the lodge and its group camp cabins were placed under the jurisdiction of the Oklahoma Army National Guard. The lodge and group camp cabins are available for rental by the general public.



Description of the Auto and Walking Tour

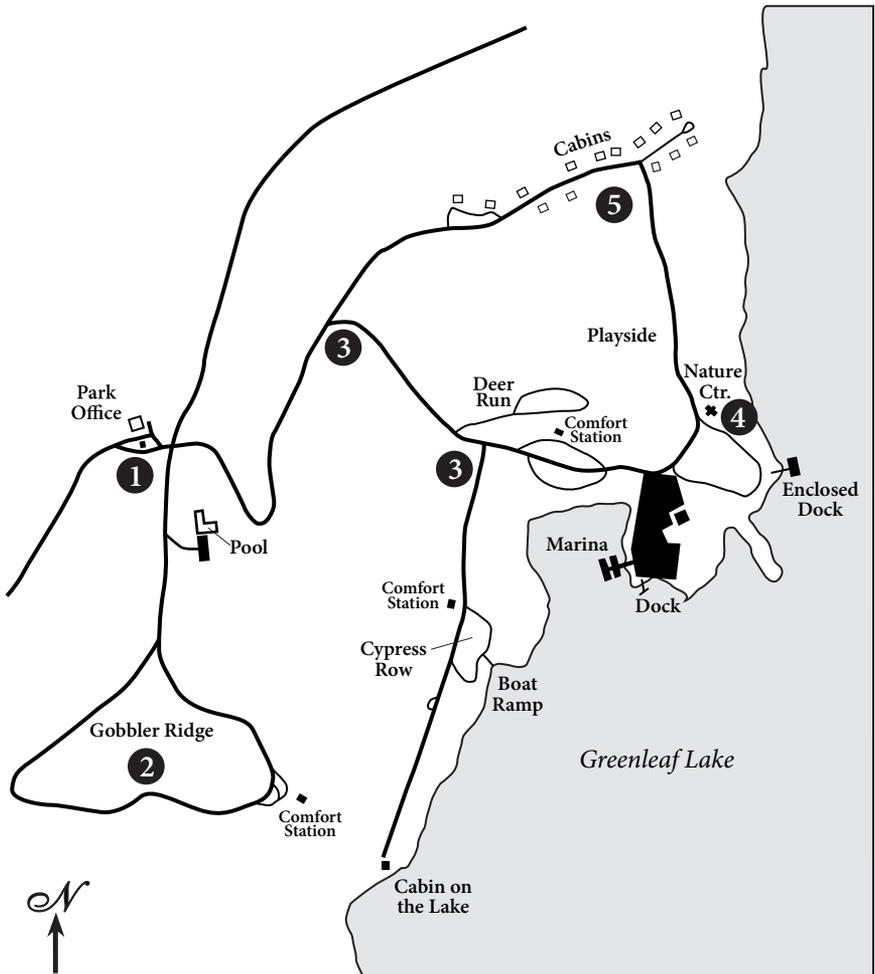
This tour highlights some of Greenleaf State Park's historic structures. Those facilities that are easily viewed from a car or that have a hard-surface walkway are listed in this pamphlet as (Easy View).

Before walking up to cabins, please check with the park office to determine if these facilities are already being used by other park guests. If they are rented, please do not walk near to these buildings.

The lodge is only available for park guests who have rented this facility. Check with the park office to see when guided tours of this facility may be scheduled.

For Your Safety

Please be careful as you stop your vehicle and walk to each viewing station. Park your vehicle off of the roadway. Always be alert to traffic and never let your children walk unattended. Always keep your children at your side.



Station No. 1 Park Office Area

One of the most beautiful WPA structures in the park is the park manager's residence, which can be viewed from the parking lot at the park office.



The Family Fun trail, which begins at the park office, also highlights several WPA relics. This handicap-accessible path goes past the warehouse that was used by the WPA during the park's construction. The remnants of a loading dock, gas pump island, night watchman's quarters and a pit toilet are all within view from this trail. (Easy View)

Because of the possible presence of historical artifacts in this area, the use of metal detectors is prohibited. No artifacts of any kind can be picked up.

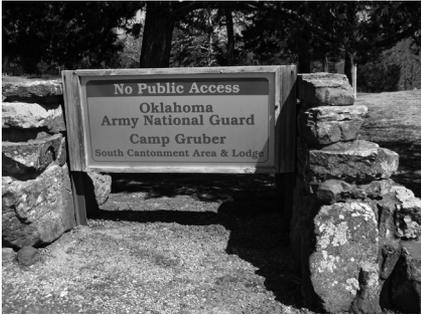
Station No. 2 Gobbler Ridge Campground

There are two WPA constructed features within this campground: a large, sandstone leg, picnic table, often called "T" table, and the remains of a wading pool. (Easy View)



Station No. 3 Park Signs

Many of this park's signs offer examples of WPA stonework. The signs that have stacked stone pillars were made by the WPA. The park's highway entrance sign features such stonework. (Easy View)



Station No. 4 Lakeview Area

This area of the park has many WPA features. The distinctive and beautiful park nature center was built by the WPA to serve as a bathhouse and restroom facility. Road culverts, the rock-lined flower beds at the marina parking lot, picnic tables, stone grills and rock-lined water faucets are other historic relics from the 1930's. (Easy View)



Station No. 5 Cabin Area

Cabins 5 through 14 were built by the WPA. Notice that the stonework has a natural stacked appearance. Also, there are stone flanges at each corner of these cabins. (Easy View)



Cabins #1, 2, 3 and 4 are believed to have been constructed during World War II as cabins for Army officers from Camp Gruber. Unlike the other cabins, these cabins do not have fireplaces. The smooth-stone exterior of these cabins is much different

from the other cabins. It is believed that these cabins were built by German prisoners of war who were held at a large POW camp at Camp Gruber during World War II. (Easy View)

Group Camp Facility and Lodge

As was previously noted, the group camp and lodge facilities are operated by the Oklahoma National Guard. These facilities are only available to those who have made a reservation for their use.





**Interested in the Restoration and Preservation
of this Park's Historic Structures?**

**Contact Oklahoma State Parks at
(405) 230-8300**

**to find out ways that you can help to preserve
these irreplaceable structures.**