

National Park Service Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park Oak Ridge, Tennessee



January
2020

Manhattan Project History in January

- Arthur H. Compton started the Metallurgical Laboratory at the University of Chicago on January 19, 1942. Less than one year later Chicago Pile-1 will go critical.
- Hanford, WA was selected by General Leslie Groves for plutonium production on January 16, 1943.
- Construction of “Jumbo”, a 214 ton steel container was authorized in January 1944 to recover any lost material if the test bomb at the Trinity test site fizzled. At a cost of \$12,000,000 with 14 inch thick walls that was 25 feet long Jumbo was never used.
- In January 1945 the X-10 Graphite Reactor changed mission from plutonium production to production of radioactive isotopes for scientific, medical and agricultural uses but not before delivering 160 grams of plutonium to Los Alamos, NM. Hanford would deliver the first batch of plutonium in February.
- The Atomic Energy Commission took control of the Manhattan Project’s research and production facilities on January 1, 1947 and the Manhattan Engineering District was abolished later that August. The AEC would remain responsible for the facilities until the U.S. Department of Energy was established in 1977.



Outdoor (January 1948 Ed Westcott photo) and Indoor Wintertime Fun in Oak Ridge.

Join Park Rangers for a Unique Opportunity Inside the Oak Ridge Turnpike Gatehouse on Saturday, January 11 at 3:30 pm (ET). Rangers will host the popular “Secrecy, Security, and Spies” program at the Turnpike Gatehouse. The program will begin at 3:30 pm (ET) giving visitors some insight to what life was like in Oak Ridge during the Manhattan Project with the need for secrecy, all of the security that surrounded the city, and the threat of spies. The Turnpike Gatehouse is located at 2900 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

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Roll the Dice and Move 5 Spaces, But We Won’t be “Sorry!” if You Have to Start Over. We’re Inviting Everyone to Come Play Board Games Saturday Afternoon, January 25 at the Oak Ridge History Museum starting at 1 pm ET. Board games were just one form of entertainment during the Manhattan Project and we plan on taking part in the same family friendly and fun experience. The Oak Ridge History Museum is located at 102 Robertsville Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

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Letitia Neal has Joined the MAPR

Team for a few months as a Visual Information Specialist to help with some projects. Tish normally works at Big South Fork. She has a special connection to MAPR; her paternal grandmother, Dora Mae Neal, was a Calutron Girl who worked at Y-12 during WWII.

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With the Beginning of 2020 We’re

Looking Forward to New Opportunities at Manhattan Project. This coming year visitors will be able to enjoy activities such as public paddling programs along the Clinch River that will allow us to talk about the history of Oak Ridge and the Manhattan Project using the waterways as a guide. Rangers have been brainstorming new ideas for the upcoming year and can’t wait to put them in action.

Park Visitor Center Desk at the

Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge
461 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
(865) 482-1942

or visit us at:

www.nps.gov/mapr

<https://twitter.com/MnhtnProjectNPS>

www.facebook.com/ManhattanProjectNPS

www.instagram.com/ManhattanProjectNPS

