

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE CHICKASAW NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, OKLAHOMA

LOCATION: The Chickasaw National Recreation Area is located in southeastern Oklahoma, some seventy-five miles SSE of Oklahoma City. The NRA covers some sixteen square miles surrounding the Lake of the Arbuckles, plus what used to be Platt National Park adjoining the town of Sulphur. The 32 cold mineral springs that were set aside as Platt National Park in 1906 are now the Platt District of the NRA. Both the native Americans and the early settlers believed the springs to have therapeutic properties. The NRA is not spectacular, but is a very pleasant and virtually unknown jewel in the National Park Service collection. Emphasis is on family-oriented activities: camping, boating, fishing, hunting, swimming, picnicking, and general relaxation in natural surroundings.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:09	10:56	11:57	13:02	13:57	14:25	14:13	13:27	12:26	11:22	10:25	9:55
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:39	6:14	7:29	8:23	9:05	10:45	11:13	10:27	9:06	7:41	6:23	5:29
AREA OF BLUE SKY	43%	43%	44%	44%	43%	52%	58%	57%	56%	56%	50%	45%
LOW FOR MONTH	6°	13°	18°	31°	43°	55°	61°	59°	44°	32°	18°	11°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	29°	34°	40°	50°	58°	67°	71°	70°	63°	52°	39°	32°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	53°	59°	66°	75°	81°	90°	95°	96°	89°	78°	65°	56°
HIGH FOR MONTH	80°	86°	90°	95°	96°	101°	105°	108°	104°	97°	87°	81°
FROSTY MORNINGS	64%	50%	25%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	25%	52%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	5%	16%	62%	89%	87%	49%	10%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	59%	55%	50%	50%	55%	53%	47%	46%	50%	52%	53%	57%
DRY DAYS	81%	84%	82%	73%	70%	75%	84%	82%	81%	81%	85%	84%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	90%	88%	85%	83%	79%	85%	88%	90%	86%	86%	89%	90%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.34	0.40	0.43	0.71	0.93	0.68	0.46	0.45	0.55	0.56	0.39	0.36
LIKELY SNOWFALL	2.2"	1.7"	1.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.2"	1.2"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	4%	6%	11%	20%	25%	25%	17%	18%	14%	10%	5%	4%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	8%	6%	4%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	3%	5%	8%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on two-thirds of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 55% in December, to a high of 79% in July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 4° on some calm and clear January sunrise, and the highest should be near 109° on some sunny and windless August afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 6° cooler than actual ones during the summer months, due to the relatively low afternoon humidity. During a Great Plains "cold snap", three or four days will remain below freezing all day long. Below zero winter temperatures are not unknown, but are rare. Snowfall is extremely variable from one winter to the next. Spring and autumn are the nicest seasons, with October probably being the best month of the year.