

Collector's Journal

A Service of Collectors Alliance

2011 Chickasaw National Recreation Area Quarter - Oklahoma

Tenth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

The fifth America the Beautiful Quarter issued in 2011 honors Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Oklahoma. Five different coins are issued each year, starting in 2010, and each coin is issued for only about 10 weeks before production starts on the next coin. The complete collection will include one coin for each of the 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and the five overseas U.S. territories.

Each coin in the series highlights a National Park – or a national site of natural or historic significance if there is no National Park in the featured state. In the case of Oklahoma, Chickasaw National Recreation Area was selected because no National Parks are located in the state.

The America the Beautiful series will continue in 2012 with five additional coins. They will feature El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico, Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico, Acadia National Park in Maine, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park in Hawaii, and Denali National Park in Alaska.

Each America the Beautiful Quarter is struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two different coins are identified by a small “P” (Philadelphia) or “D” (Denver) mint mark under “In God We Trust.”

Chickasaw National Recreation Area was originally established in 1902 following the federal government’s purchase of the land from the Chickasaw Nation. The Chickasaw wanted to protect the area’s springs, streams, lakes, and other natural features. The area became Platt National Park, which was the nation’s seventh – and smallest – National Park.

In 1976, Platt National Park merged with the Arbuckle Recreation Area and was renamed Chickasaw National Recreation Area. It covers an area of nearly 10,000 acres and is renowned as a transition zone between the Eastern deciduous forest and the Western prairie. Plants and animals from both environ-



ments can be found at Chickasaw. Among the animals are bobcats, buffalo, coyotes, and bald eagles.

The most popular sights at Chickasaw National Recreation Area include Bromide Hill that overlooks the surrounding countryside, Bison Pasture that is home to a herd of buffalo, and Travertine Nature Center that contains exhibits highlighting the region’s natural history.

The reverse of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area Quarter shows the Lincoln Bridge, a stone bridge that was built in 1909 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. It was dedicated on February 12, 1909 – the precise 100th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth. The bridge is a favorite scenic spot and it came to symbolize the park in the early 20th century. The design was developed by the U.S. Mint in consultation with representatives of Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

The Lincoln Bridge design was one of three distinct designs suggested by the U.S. Mint for the Oklahoma coin. One of the unused designs showed Buffalo Springs and the surrounding stone perimeter that was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930’s, while the other unused design featured a cascading river and lush tree-lined riverbanks.

The Chickasaw National Recreation Area Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in November 2011.

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