CHICOT STATE PARK

Evangeline Parish
Ville Platte, LA.

State of Louisiana
State Parks Commission
New Orleans, LA.
VACATION CABINS
These cabins are completely furnished and equipped with linens and utensils.

THE BOATHOUSE AND HARBOR
Fishing boats are available for rental.

CONCESSION BUILDING
Groceries, refreshments, ice and wood may be bought here.

A CATCH OF SMALL FRY
CHICOT STATE PARK

STATE OF LOUISIANA
STATE PARKS COMMISSION

LOCATION: Chicot State Park is located in Evangeline Parish, approximately eight miles north of Ville Platte, the parish seat. It is only forty-five miles from Alexandria, seventeen miles from Bunkie, twenty-five miles from Opelousas and eighty miles from Baton Rouge. Directional signals lead to the park entrance.

DESCRIPTION: Chicot is one of the largest state parks in the south, comprising 6,000 acres of rolling woodland and pasture land which is particularly well adapted to the development of a sanatorium park. Recognizing this advantage, the State Parks Commission has provided simple but adequate structures in the developed areas so that they blend with nature and so that the head of man is not too evident.

VACATION OR OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS: Ten overnight cabins have been built near the lake. They are completely furnished and equipped with water facilities, cooking utensils, and linen. Each cabin has two bedrooms connected by a bedroom which contains an air conditioner, sink, drying tables, and chairs. Each cabin will comfortably accommodate four persons. Picnic tables and camp fireplaces are also provided with each cabin for those who prefer to prepare and serve meals in the open.

Cabin reservations should be made well in advance and addressed to the Cabin Custodian, Chicot State Park, Route 3, Box 494, Ville Platte, Louisiana, or telephone Ville Platte 805-F-3.

DAY-USE FACILITIES: In the day-use area numerous picnic tables and camp fireplaces have been provided for family picnics. For larger groups a picnic shelter and barbecue pit has been constructed.

At the boat house fishing boats may be rented for a reasonable fee. The Department of Wild Life and Fisheries has stocked the lake generously and many fine catches are being made. Fishing licenses for those who have overlooked obtaining them may be purchased at the park.

A concession building where cold drinks, ice and groceries may be purchased is conveniently located at the end of the parking area.

An organized group camp, a lodge, additional picnic shelters, swimming facilities and additional overnight and vacation cabins are scheduled for construction as soon as funds are available for the completion of the general development plan.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION: Chicot is a public park maintained and operated by the State Parks Commission of Louisiana for the purpose of providing healthful and wholesome outdoor recreational facilities. Although the area has been posted against any hunting, many other forms of outdoor sport such as camping, fishing, boating, photography, nature study, hiking, and eventually swimming can be enjoyed.

WILDLIFE PROGRAM: Experiments in propagating deer and wild turkey are being carried out at Chicot State Park under a cooperative arrangement with the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries. Its purpose is to develop proper rearing methods for the largest park areas so that they may become a protected reserve for fowl and other species of native wildlife. An experimental station has been constructed in a restricted area of the park where the experiments are being conducted.

The Wildlife Exhibits at Chicot, Longbeach-Burlington, and Fontainebleau State Parks are an important phase of the program. The exhibit at Chicot is located in the day-use area between the boat house and the picnic area. Its purpose is to display living examples of native wildlife as an educational feature.

Of immense importance is the work being carried out by a biological council engaged in studying conditions in the artificial reservoir created by Chicot Lake. It is expected that their experiments in the control of undesirable water weeds will have far reaching effects and will provide invaluable data for the management of this and other reservoirs. Research work of this type has never before been done in the south. One of the experiments is a draw-down of several feet in the water level of the lake during the fall and winter months in order to expose part of the lake bottom to evaporation. This occurs at a time which does not interfere with the natural recreational use of the lake.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT: An organized group camp is under construction and will be put into operation for the 1954 camping season. It is planned to double the capacity for next season. Reservations for the use of this camp are made with the State Parks Commission, 218 Butler Bldg., New Orleans 12, telephone Magnolia 5006. Additional picnic shelters, swimming facilities, a lodge and additional overnight and vacation cabins are scheduled for construction as soon as funds are available for the completion of the general development plan.