Our Newest State Park

The opening of the big Chicot state park north of Ville Platte in Evangeline parish will be noted and appreciated by Louisianans as another step in carrying out the park program adopted several years ago. Next to the Tchefuncte reserve on Lake Pontchartrain, Chicot is the largest recreation development in the state and with the return of normal conditions will become a major attraction for vacationists.

Development of the parks has proved one of the most economical and advantageous of the state services. With appropriations amounting to $40,000 for the land and relatively small amounts for improvements and upkeep, the 6000 acre reservation, including a 2500-acre lake, recreation buildings, cabins and camping equipment have been placed at the service of the public. For the improvements, of course, the state is somewhat indebted to the efforts of the national park service, the Civilian Conservation Corps and the WPA. With this investment Louisiana has obtained a permanent recreation area of great natural beauty that will do much to build up the reputation of Louisiana for its outdoor vacation facilities.

Construction at both Chicot and Tchefuncte is far behind the original schedule, due to war conditions and the limited appropriations made available by the state. But the work has carried forward nevertheless with the result that both reservations will be developed suitably to meet the demands to be made upon them with the resumption of peacetime travel and normal vacation spirits.

1/24/83 T.P.