



Chief Hicks of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Chief Smith of the Cherokee Nation returning the eternal flame to Red Clay during the 2009 Joint Cherokee Council.



The Eternal Flame of the Cherokee Nations



Masks represent the 7 Cherokee Clans

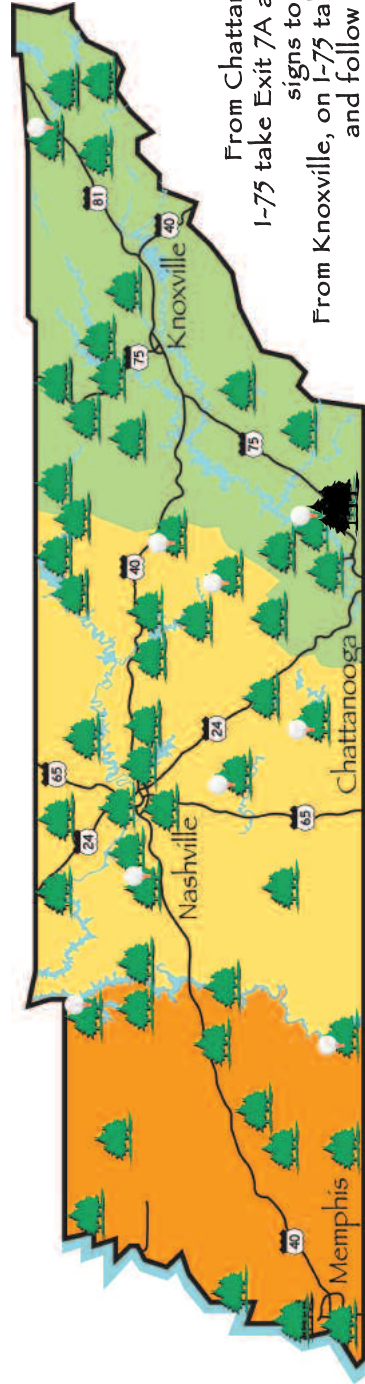
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From Chattanooga, on I-75 take Exit 7A and follow signs to the park.  
From Knoxville, on I-75 take Exit 25 and follow the signs.

**RED CLAY**

**Hours of Operation**  
March through November: 8:00 a.m. until sunset.  
December through February: 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.  
Park closed December 25; Visitor's Center closed December 20 through January 1.

**For Further Information, Contact**

Red Clay State Historic Area / 1140 Red Clay Park Rd., S.W.  
Cleveland, TN 37311 / Phone (423) 478-0339

**Or Contact**

Tennessee State Parks / 401 Church St., 7th Floor / Nashville, TN 37243  
Phone (888) 867-2757 / [www.tnstateparks.com](http://www.tnstateparks.com)



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TENNESSEE STATE PARKS  
**RED CLAY**  
STATE HISTORIC AREA







### Red Clay State Historic Area

located in southeast Tennessee on the Tennessee-Georgia border encompasses 260 acres of forested ridges bordering a narrow valley formerly used as cotton and pasture land. The site contains a natural landmark, the great council spring or blue hole, which rises from beneath a limestone ledge to form a deep pool that flows into Mill Creek. The spring was used by the Cherokee for their water supply during council meetings.

### Historical Significance

Red Clay served as the seat of Cherokee government from 1832 until the forced removal of the Cherokee in 1838. By 1832, the State of Georgia had stripped the Cherokee of their political sovereignty, and had banned all political activity in Georgia. As a result, the Cherokee capital was moved from New Echota, Georgia, to Red Clay, Tennessee. Here, at Red Clay, the Trail of Tears really began, for here the Cherokee learned that they had lost their mountains, streams, and valleys forever.

### Gift Shop

Inventory includes books on Cherokee history and culture, Cherokee videos, replicas of arrowheads, Red Clay T-shirts, Red Clay patches, and other native American educational materials.

### Picnic Pavilion

One picnic pavilion seats 80-100 people and includes a large grill, fireplace and restrooms. Reservations are recommended, especially on weekend days and holidays. If the shelter is not reserved for the day, it may be used on a first-come basis.

### Hiking

Over three miles of hiking trails range from easy paved trails to a moderate, marked trail that winds through the woods.

### Visitor's Center

"The James F. Corn Interpretive Facility contains exhibits on the 19th century Cherokee, the Trail of Tears, and prehistory, Cherokee art, a video theater, gift shop and a small library."

### Planned Programs

Programs for all age groups are available, and are scheduled year-round. Our primary programs concern Cherokee history and culture, significance of Red Clay, natural history and conservation. Please call the park visitor center at 423-478-0339 for more information and to schedule programs.

### Amphitheatre

Red Clay's Amphitheatre seats 500 people and may be reserved for a small fee. Electrical outlets are available for use for musical and/or theatrical activities.

### Other Nearby State Parks

Harrison Bay State Park, 21 miles

Booker T. Washington State Park, 20 miles

### Annual Event

March – Red Clay Homecoming

May – Heritage Craft Fair

August – Cherokee Days of Recognition

September – Labor Day Weekend Craft Fair

October – Red Clay Intertribal Heritage Gathering

December – Trail of Lights

### Nearby Attractions

- Nancy Ward Gravesite
- Museum Center at Five Points
- New Echota Cherokee Capitol State Historic Site
- Chief Vann House State Historic Site
- C. E. Blevins Avian Learning Center (by appointment)

