

District, University to provide sites for patients

Little Rock District and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences entered an agreement July 29 to provide at least six new campsites in Maumelle Park to accommodate patients undergoing extended medical treatment in the Little Rock area.

The Challenge-Cost Share Agreement outlines how the Corps and UAMS will share in constructing and operating the new campsites. Maumelle Park has historically been an economical source of lodging for out-of-town patients who come to Little Rock for medical treatment.

“Throughout the past year, more than 81 people were documented in Maumelle Park as seeking long-term stays related to medical treatment,” said Miles Johnson, the acting project operations manager of the Corps’ Russellville Project Office. “The funding provided by UAMS will meet a definite need.”

UAMS is providing \$90,000 for the

partnership to be led by its hospital, UAMS Medical Center, its Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, and the UAMS Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy.

“We see patients from around the world, many of whom must stay in Little Rock for weeks or months while undergoing treatment,” said Peter Emanuel, M.D., director of the Cancer Institute at UAMS.

“Having these campsites available for extended periods of time will provide patients and their loved ones with an affordable option for lodging in a beautiful setting and at the same time help ease financial burdens.”

“UAMS is very pleased to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to make these campsites available for patients,” said UAMS Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson, M.D. “We are very appreciative of the support and compassion the Corps has shown in helping make this possible.”

Current regulations limit the time individuals may stay in federal parks. UAMS funding will enable patients to enjoy extended, uninterrupted stays in the park, contributing to their recovery in a restive setting.

The Corps obtained seed money to be used for construction management, septic needs and daily utilities and maintenance. UAMS funds will provide for the remaining campsite building needs. The extended stay campsites will be reserved specifically for medical care patients as recommended through Patient Advocates Services of Little Rock Hospitals.

Maumelle Park is on the bank of the Arkansas River west of Little Rock. The park’s unique environment provides an excellent setting for camping, boating, fishing or getting away from it all. The park offers eight group picnic shelters and 129 campsites with electricity and water hook ups. Other amenities include a boat launch ramp, playground, hot showers, public telephones and a dump station.



Maumelle Park on the Arkansas River

Little Rock Chief of Operations Lee Bass and UAMS Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson, M.D., sign the Challenge Cost-Sharing Agreement between the Corps and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to provide extended-stay campsites at Maumelle Park for long-term-care patients. (Photo by J.P. Jones, UAMS.)