



NEWSLETTER

November/December 2017

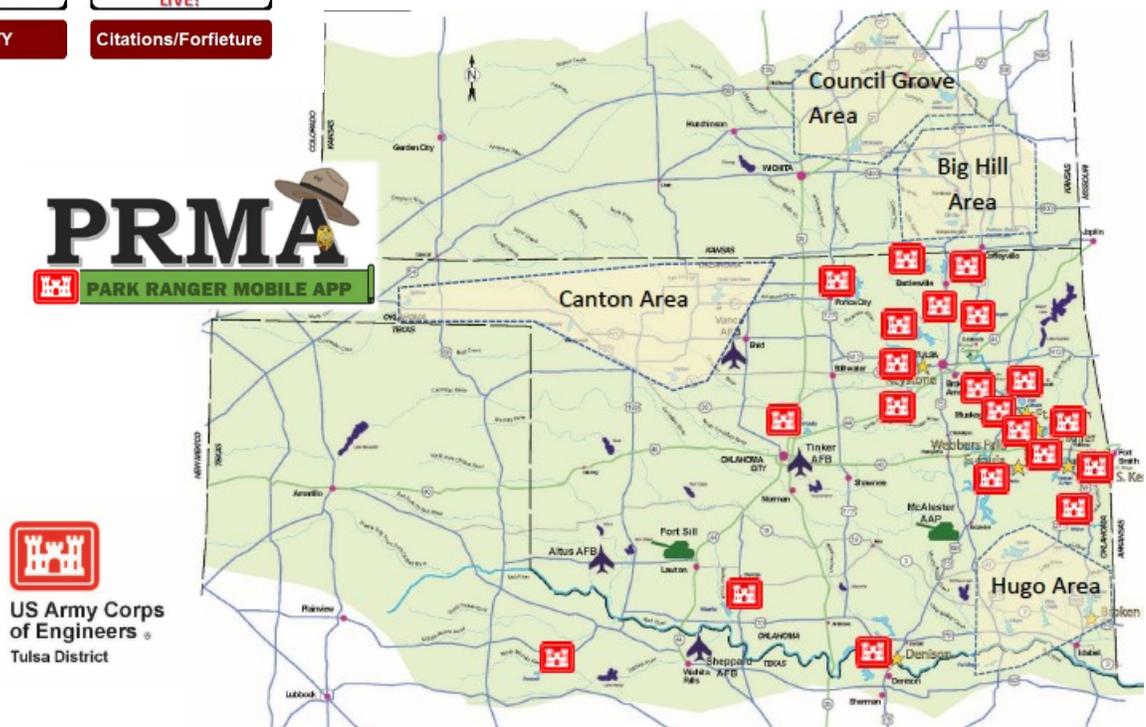
*“Don’t wait for inspiration, build the foundation for it.”
Casey Williams, CE Tech John Redmond Lake, Innovations Team Member*

Welcome Skiatook, Birch, Copan, & Hulah Lakes to the PRMA Family!

SKIATOOK LAKE

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On September 30th 2017, Skiatook, Birch, Copan, and Hulah Lakes became the newest lakes to join the Park Ranger Mobile App Family. There are now 22 lakes across two districts that operate the app. With these additions, the Tulsa District Coverage Map is starting to expand as we develop this technology throughout the district. Below is the current PRMA coverage map for the Tulsa District, with highlighted areas for planned expansion for FY 2018.

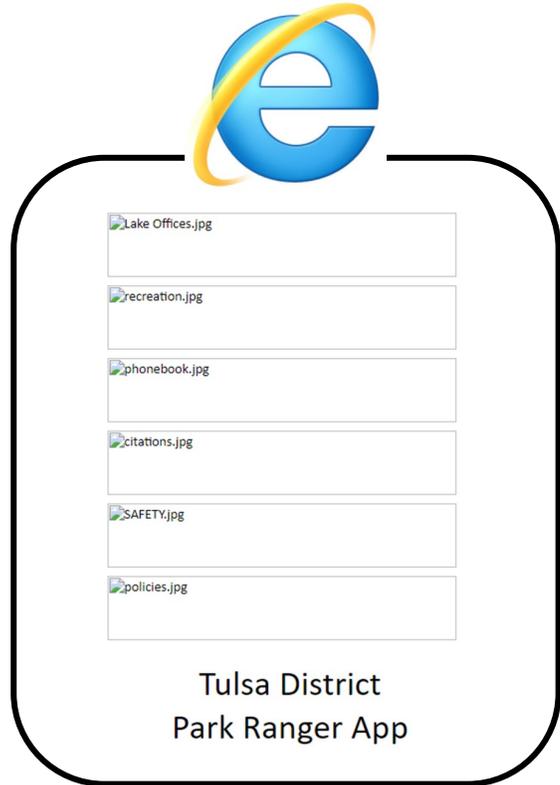


Compatibility Issues on MIE

With the upgrade to Windows 10, recent updates to Microsoft Internet Explorer will no longer read the programming on the Park Ranger Mobile App. If you access the App through your normal PC web browser, you probably have encountered the screen to the right, or received the error prompt "page will not display".

We are hopeful that this is just a glitch in the Microsoft programming and perhaps future updates will remedy the problem. For now, open the App in either Google Chrome or Firefox, and the App should work with no problems.

Currently, the App runs off Google Chrome on our smartphones, which is compatible with our programming, so there should be no issues. However, if you encounter future problems, please contact the [Park Ranger Mobile App Focus Team](#).



PRMA Test Drive Site

In the past, we have received a lot of inquiries from outside the Tulsa District about the Park Ranger Mobile App. So, we have created a test drive site that lets you preview the mobile app. For best results, open this link into your smartphone's browser and explore. To open the link, click on the logo to the right. If you have any questions, [email us here](#).



Test Drive Site
The Park Ranger Mobile App



PRMA & Innovations Resources on the NRM Gateway



Need more resources or would like to know what we are up to? Or perhaps you would like to see past PRMA Newsletters? We post as much as we can to our NRM Gateway pages so that resources are always available for those who want them. Just click on the logos to the left for direct links to each site. Remember to check back for updates periodically!



Happy New Year! As of October 17, 2017 we have officially kicked off a brand new Innovations Season... year two!



This year's Innovations Summit was held at the Broken Arrow National Guard Armory. Listed below are some of the items we looked at as a team:

- We added 4 new team members for our second Innovations Season.
- Discussed last year's Innovations that we did not get the opportunity to work on.
- Discussed last year's work items that we did not get the chance to complete.
- We looked at possible partnerships.
- We explored what resources the team had access to be able to accomplish the goals laid out.

Wrapping up day one of the Summit, the team all agreed upon continuing to work on the RETS Starter Application and the Jr. Ranger App for FY 18, as time ran out for us during FY 17. The team also picked up a third innovation for FY 18 - Self Service Campgrounds.

On October 18th, we had a special addition to our Summit with an Innovations Workshop. At the workshop, everyone was able to get hands on experience with both the Park Ranger Mobile App and our New RETS Starter Application.

Want to know more about what we are working on for FY 18? Check out the following pages...



FY 2018 Innovation: RETS Starter

Now that RETS Starter has been officially test driven at this year's Innovations Summit Workshop, we are close to getting this innovation into pilot stage. This app does not replace the current RETS system, but rather pulls all the resources for a RETS package together in one place and automates the package creation process all the way through uploading into the RETS System and selecting assignments. Currently, there are two levels of RETS Starter available, depending on your level of comfort in putting Real Estate Packages together.

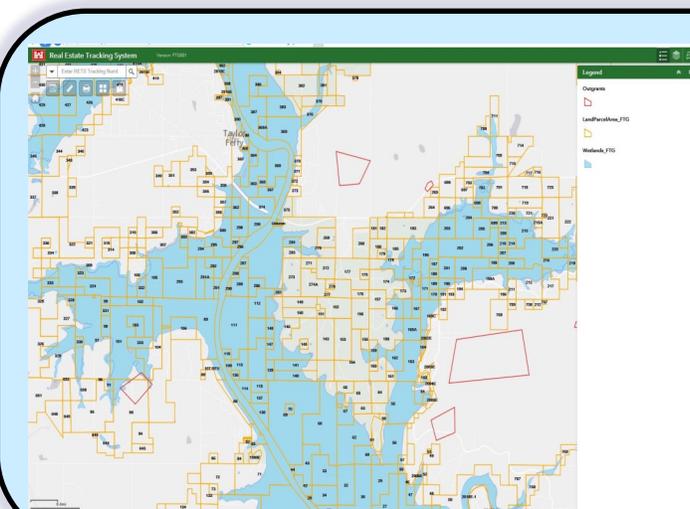
Beginner Mode: This mode walks you through the entire process of creating a RETS package and putting it into the RETS system. It is not a fast process as the system holds your hand and guides you through every step. Large projects that do lots of packages will want to start here and switch to the advanced once comfortable. For lakes that do not create a lot of packages, Beginner mode is just right for you.

Advanced Mode: This mode still pulls all the information you need together, but assumes you know how to fill out the paperwork inside the package. This mode will help with uploading the package and assigning the package in the RETS System.



Did you know?

Not only are we making a one-stop, easy-to-use system for RETS package creation for upload, but we made it fun to! All over the site are hidden Dunlaps. If you can find one, click on it, and you will get a surprise.



RETS Mapping...

Thanks to the awesome work of Cory Bowlin and Dan Hernandez in the Geospatial branch, RETS Starter should also feature an easy to use mapping system. As part of the Civil Works Land Data Migration effort, this will not roll out in the initial pilot phase of RETS Starter. However, when completed, it will be incorporated, making the mapping portion of the RETS package creation a breeze. Stay tuned for more updates!!!

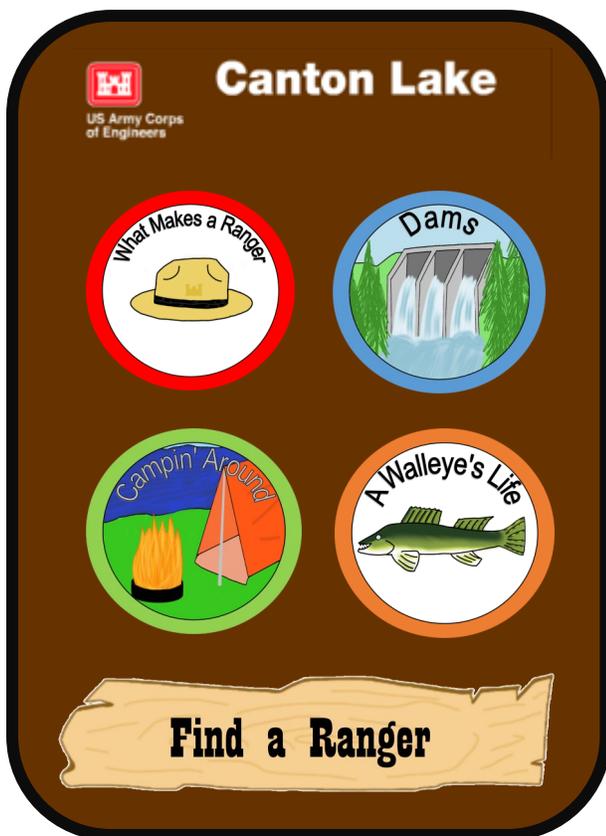
FY 2018 Innovation: Jr. Ranger App

This innovation was also continued into the FY 2018 Season as we ran out of time in 2017.

What do you do when you are short on staff and have no time for interpretation with exception of Water Safety? You create an interpretive app for everything else.

Through the Jr. Ranger App, our visitors will be able to guide themselves through a network of pre-programmed interpretive experiences that are specifically built to the Lake they are visiting.

Upon completion of the interpretive games, the user will be able to contact a ranger for the presentation of their Jr. Ranger Badge. We plan for each badge to be Lake Specific so that visiting neighboring lakes will give you a completely new experience.



Innovative Partnerships



With the difficulty of creating games on an app, we are reaching out to local universities and organizations seeking partnering help and opportunities. Can we make this app without partners? Sure we can. However bringing specialized partners into our innovations helps us create a better product and recreational experience for our visiting public. We are also looking for partners, and some have already come on board, to help supply the badges the kids get at the end of their Jr. Ranger App experience.

New for FY 2018: Self Service Campgrounds



To make this Innovation work in the Tulsa District, many changes will need to be made. There are also many challenges and issues that have to be worked out by the sub-team to make sure this Innovation is as advanced and streamlined as possible.

Some of the **Pros** of this Innovation include:

- No cash to count.
- No honor vaults.
- No Gate Attendant Contracts OR Reduced Gate Attendant Contracts.
- No NRRS paperwork or deposits.
- Less liability for theft.
- No equipment to purchase.

Some of the **Cons** and issues to work through:

- Adaptation to the new Recreation One Stop Site.
- Checking campers in and out.
- Cellphone service reliability.
- Cash customer issues.

This Innovation is a new and simple way to make the administration of our campgrounds a little easier. Based off a successful model currently used at Lake Lanier in the Mobile District, this Innovation is a very attractive concept for most of our Lake Managers and Park Rangers in the field.

While this innovation is new to the Tulsa District, it is not new to the Corps. Lake Lanier credits Robert Daniel who pioneered the idea initially and left Lanier for another position. Tim Campion then stepped in to that role and developed and piloted this idea to what the Lake uses today.

Site 25
FLAT ROCK CREEK



To check availability for this site or to reserve this site, scan the QR code above with your smart phone

You can also call the number listed below for site availability and reservations.

1-877-444-6777

A Forbes Story: Why the ability to fail leads to Innovation

A few months ago, someone from another USACE District emailed me an article that Forbes Magazine published about how failure often leads to Innovation. The article talked about how important it is to create an innovative culture in the workplace and how many of the best innovations that we know of today did not come about until they failed several times. This goes along with everything we are attempting to do here in the Tulsa District with both the Innovations Team and the Park Ranger Mobile App. It is important that we look forward and push the limits of what we can do and how we can do things better. One of the key quotes in the article states "***The essence of creativity and innovation is the will to improve***". To many times we are just putting out the fires that we see in our day to day work. Its very easy to get complacent with how things are and fall into a mindset of this is how things are and they are never going to get better, and worst of all, there is nothing I can do about it. For most it is easier to complain and do nothing than to take action and make a difference. Rather, let's foster a culture and an environment that states this is how we have to do things now, and we build it better tomorrow through innovative solutions. The article wraps up with four goals from the author that are vital to foster a sense of innovation in the workplace:

Goal #1: Organizations need to create an innovative ecosystem. Those organizations who are successfully and sustainably innovative have a living, breathing innovative ecosystem. And right at the core of this is a strong clear vision of what they are trying to achieve and how innovation fits within that.

Goal #2: Organizations need a leadership team which can motivate, inspire and bring the organization along with them to deliver on that vision and the innovation part of it.

Goal #3: The third part of that ecosystem is having people with the right skills and capability who are trained on how to have ideas and who know what their remit is and have the tools and resources to prototype, test and learn from their customers.

Goal #4: Underneath all of that is a structure and process which encourages, enforces, and empowers innovation. All of those together create a culture of innovation.

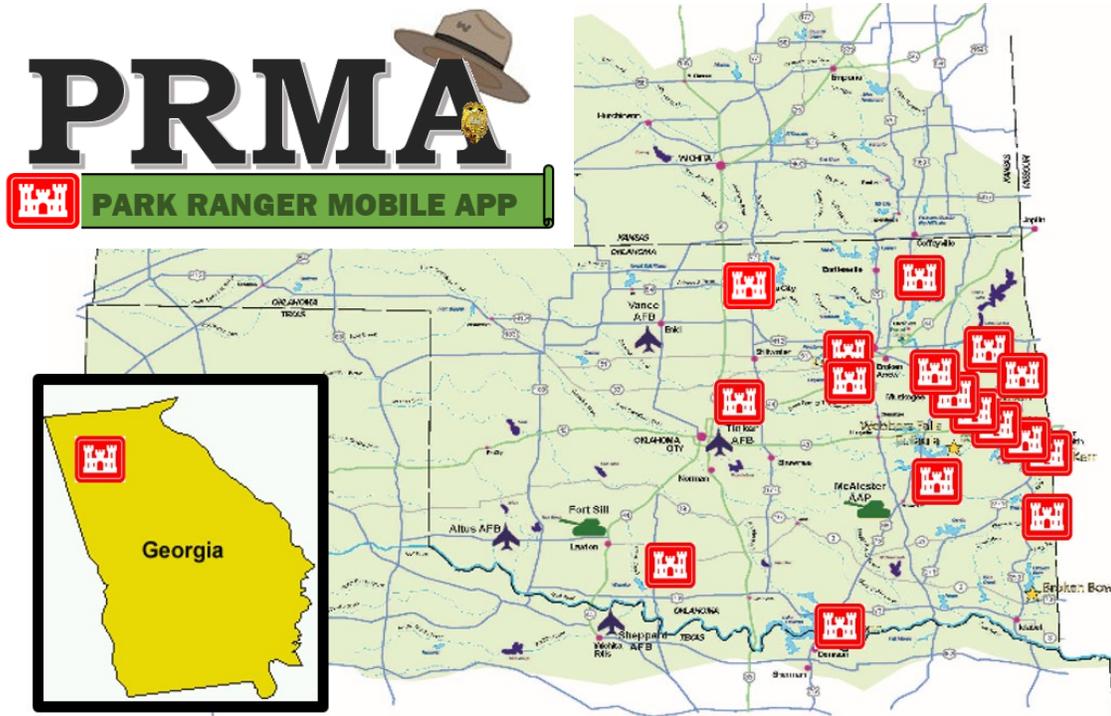
Here in the Tulsa District, it is our belief that we are pretty successful at hitting these goals. As always there is still work to be done. Thanks to all of Tulsa District Management for their support and help to create an innovative culture and to our Innovations Team members who make these innovations happen every season.



To see the actual article from Forbes Magazine click on the newspaper below or follow the link to the Forbes site:



<https://www.forbes.com/sites/karenhigginbottom/2017/08/03/why-the-ability-to-fail-leads-to-innovation/#506c5f6f36f6>



PRMA Current Participants:

Allatoona Lake (SAM) 2013
 Oologah Lake (SWT) 2015
 Tenkiller Lake (SWT) 2015
 Webbers Falls L&D (SWT) 2015
 Keystone Lake (SWT) 2016
 Arcadia Lake (SWT) 2016
 Heyburn Lake (SWT) 2016
 Lake Texoma (SWT) 2016
 Waurika Lake (SWT) 2016
 Truscott Lake (SWT) 2016
 Ft. Gibson Lake (SWT) 2017
 Newt Graham L&D (SWT) 2017
 Chouteau L&D (SWT) 2017
 Eufaula Lake (SWT) 2017
 RS Kerr L&D (SWT) 2017
 W.D. Mayo L&D (SWT) 2017
 Wister Lake (SWT) 2017

Kaw Lake (SWT) 2017
 Skiatook Lake (SWT) 2017
 Birch Lake (SWT) 2017
 Copan Lake (SWT) 2017
 Hulah Lake (SWT) 2017

Up Next:

Hugo Lake (SWT)
 Sardis Lake (SWT)
 Pat Mayse Lake (SWT)
 Broken Bow (SWT)
 Pine Creek (SWT)

Carter's Lake (SAM)

AS ALWAYS feel free to share this email/newsletter with any USACE Employee. If they would like to be part of the Users Group and receive updates please forward their email address [HERE](#) and I will add them to the distribution list.

The Park Ranger Mobile App...Inspired, Developed, Created, & Maintained by Park Rangers...Always.