

JANUARY 1, 2010

PARK DIRECTIVE 6280

**POLICY ON THE TREATMENT OF HUMAN REMAINS
AND ASSOCIATED OBJECTS**

State Parks owns several thousands of acres of land and it is likely that known and unknown graves exist on that property. If there are known marked and registered graves or cemeteries, they will be treated according to current State Law. Until such time as unmarked graves and cemeteries are covered by State Law, they will be protected and preserved as are any other graves on State Land, and according to other State Park policies. If unmarked and/or unknown graves or cemeteries are discovered on State Park property, their treatment will be guided by the following policy.

I. DISPLAY AND DEFINITIONS

No human remains will be displayed or exhibited at any State Park.

DEFINITIONS:

- A. Grave - the prepared area for placement of burial.
- B. Burial - the human remains placed in a grave.
- C. Associated Objects - any objects placed with human remains at the time of burial or in apparent and intentional association with the burial.

II. GENERAL POLICY

- A. Graves and Cemeteries will be protected and not disturbed on State Park property. If graves are inadvertently discovered or unavoidably disturbed, either through land alteration during construction or during scientific excavation, the procedures in IV and V will apply.
- B. Graves and associated objects will be treated with dignity and respect.

III. INADVERTENT DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

If unmarked and unknown human remains are uncovered in the course of any land alteration work on State Park property, all work will immediately stop, the area will be covered and protected, and notification of the discovery will be made in the following order:

1. Work Supervisor
2. Park Superintendent
3. Historic Sites Specialist in the Planning and Development Section
4. State Archeologist

Efforts will be made to determine if the construction must continue or whether the grave(s) can be avoided and left without further disturbance.

- A. If the grave(s) can be avoided, a map must be made of the location, and the disturbed area returned to its original condition. This documentation must be filed with the park superintendent and the Arkansas Archeological Survey consulted when there is any further land alteration at the park.
- B. If the grave(s) cannot be avoided, or was/were badly disturbed upon discovery, the site will be turned over to the Arkansas Archeological Survey for appropriate study and a written report on the result of the study deposited with the superintendent/museum director and the Arkansas Archeological Survey.
- C. If the forensic and archeological study provides adequate information to identify the individual or its ethnic or racial identity, and contemporary direct descendants or relatives can be identified, those individuals will be notified of the find. Decisions concerning final disposition of the remains will be made by the Director of Arkansas State Parks on a case by case basis in consultation with any identifiable descendants or relatives.
- D. If no such identification is possible, then disposition of the human remains will be decided upon by the Director of Arkansas State Parks on a case by case basis.
- E. If artifacts are found in the grave associated with human remains, their disposition will follow the procedures of 3 and 4 above.

IV. HUMAN REMAINS AND ASSOCIATED OBJECTS FOUND DURING SCIENTIFIC EXCAVATIONS

- A. If unmarked and unknown human remains are uncovered in the course of scientific excavations at a State Park, all appropriate records concerning that burial(s) and associated grave goods will be made. A forensic study will be made on the human remains and a report submitted to the superintendent and the Arkansas Archeological Survey. The information from this report must become a part of the larger report on the rest of the scientific excavations.
- B. If there are associated objects with the human remains, they will also be scientifically recorded as a part of the normal archeological study.
- C. If the forensic and archeological study provides adequate information to identify the individual or its ethnic or racial identity, and contemporary direct descendants or relatives can be identified, they will be notified. Decisions concerning final disposition will be made by the Director of Arkansas State Parks on a case by case basis in consultation with the identified descendants or relatives.
- D. If no direct descendants or relatives can be identified, then decisions concerning disposition will be made by the Director of State Parks on a case by case basis.
- E. Any artifacts found in association with human remains for which no descendants or relatives are identified will be treated as outlined in 3 and 4 above.

V. REBURIAL

After scientific study is completed, the remains may be re-entered. Refer to POLICY ON KEPSAFE PROGRAM, PD 6290.

VI. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND STANDARDS OF PRACTICE


The park will adhere to the following Codes of Ethics:

- A. Code of Ethics, Department of Parks and Tourism Employee Handbook.
- B. Code of Ethics for Museums, American Association of Museums, 1994.
- C. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990, DOI 43CFR Part 10, as amended.

Replaces PD 6280 dated January 17, 1995

Related PD: 6290 Policy on Keepsafe Program

APPROVED BY



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Arkansas State Parks