

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

October 4, 2012

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Oasis State Park Celebrates 50th Anniversary

PORTALES, NM – Fifty years ago, on Sunday October 7th, Oasis State Park opened its doors to the public. Celebrating with speeches, music, and picnics, hundreds of people came out to enjoy this new park. In honor of this anniversary, Oasis State Park will again celebrate on October 7, 2012 and the public is welcome to this free event.

Sunday's festivities will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a ceremony featuring multiple speakers, who will honor the park and give their perspectives on the park's history. At noon, the Friends of Oasis State Park have sponsored a barbecue lunch, catered by Gary Tate, owner of Pop's Place of Clovis, NM. Visitors are welcome to enjoy music by local musician Andy Mason and a vintage car show by Desert Cruzers Car Club. Activities will take place until 2:00 p.m.

"We welcome visitors to enjoy our special day with us," said State Park Director, Tommy Mutz. "We are happy that this park can provide fun experiences for the citizens of eastern New Mexico."

The concept for Oasis State Park was formalized in 1961, when Governor Mechem signed Senate Bill 191, creating the park from property known as Taylor's Grove. Much work happened during that next year, particularly under then-area manager, Richard Mutz, who later became a State Park Director and was the father of Tommy Mutz, the current State Park Director. Ed Fenton was the first park manager.

The park was named "Oasis" because the scenery at Taylor's Grove. In order to complete the "Oasis" feel of the park, a pond was created in 1971 and has been the center of family fishing since that time.

Creating the park was truly a community effort and the American Legion, 4-H club provided early clean-up projects. This sense of community involvement in the park has continued to this day and the many programs and special events are always very well-attended.

"I have been honored to work at Oasis for 18 ½ years," says Oasis State Park Manager, Jim Whary. "We have excellent staff, great volunteers and wonderful visitors. Please join us on Sunday."

Oasis State Park is located 7.6 miles north of Portales, 18.5 miles south of Clovis off of NM 467, 1891 Oasis Road.



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Short Trips, Long Memories: Your Best Recreation Value Close to Home

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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