

BOOMER LAKE PARK

Bounded by East Richmond Road to the north, West Franklin Lane to the south, North Washington Street to the west, and North Husband Street to the east

Stillwater

Payne County

Oklahoma

HALS OK-44

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240-0001

# HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

## BOOMER LAKE PARK

HALS NO. OK-44

- Location:** Bounded by East Richmond Road to the north, West Franklin Lane to the south, North Washington Street to the west, and North Husband Street to the east.  
Stillwater, Payne County, Oklahoma  
Lat: 36.151108 Long: -97.063433 (Center of Lake, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84)
- Significance:** Boomer Lake was the registration site for the Oklahoma Land Rush of 1889. The reservoir on Boomer Creek was constructed in the 1940s as a multipurpose project principally for flood control but also for power generation. As the city grew, the park was gradually landscaped and developed for public recreation for the citizens of Stillwater and the region.
- Description:** Boomer Lake Park is located in north Stillwater, Oklahoma on 510 acres of land. The dam was built to prevent flooding downstream development in the flood plain of Boomer Creek. The lake itself is 296 acres. The site for the reservoir and park were developed on a prairie landscape without trees. The park around Boomer Lake was designed with a naturalistic style.
- The David Lewis Payne Memorial is located in the southwest corner of the park and is surrounded by a grove of red bud trees. The west side of the park provides most of the public recreational activity opportunities including 2 tennis courts near a playground, most of the park's picnic shelters, fishing docks, and a large disc golf course.
- In the 1990s when the lake was drained and dredged, the dredged material was used to create small peninsulas into the lake for fishing and public viewing purposes. At the end of one of these peninsulas on the east side of the lake, is the Freedom Flame, a United States Military Memorial.
- Also in the 1990s, a 10-foot concrete walk was built as part of the Kameoka Trail for walking and biking. The trail travels three miles around the lake and connects back to the trail leading to Couch Park in the south part of Stillwater.
- History:** Boomer Lake was the registration site for the Oklahoma Land Rush of 1889. The reservoir on Boomer Creek was constructed in the 1940s as a multipurpose project principally for flood control but also for power generation. As the city grew, the park was gradually landscaped and developed for public recreation for the citizens of Stillwater and the region.
- Sources:** Interview with Dr. Charles Leider, Landscape Architecture Professor at

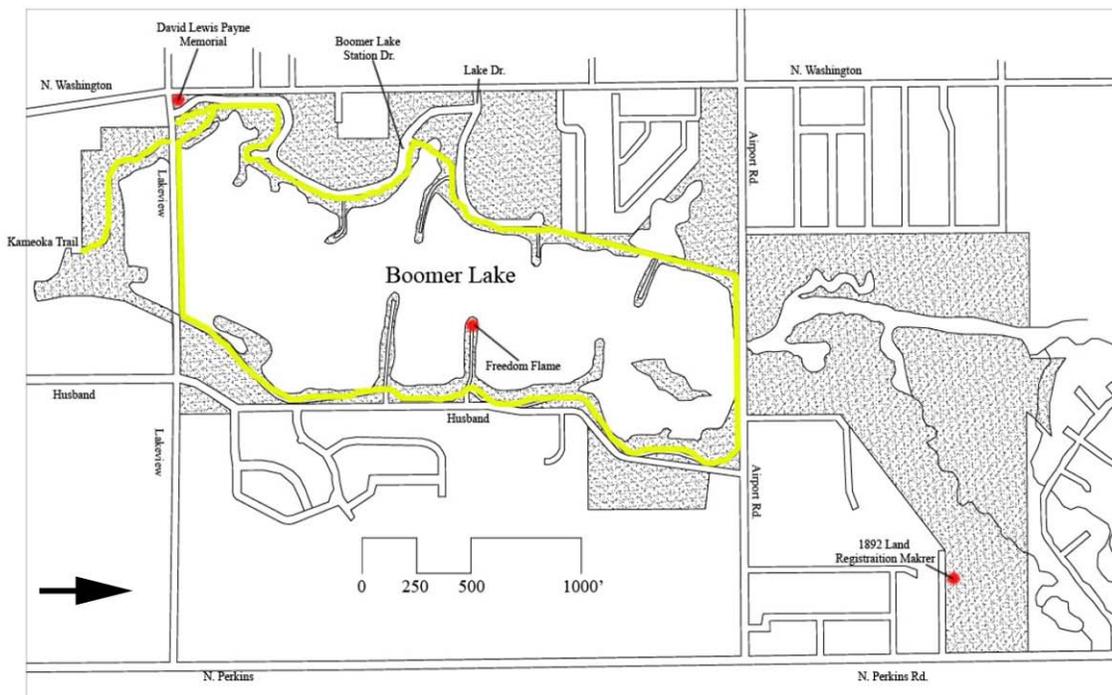
Oklahoma State University, April 14, 2011.

Interview with Dr. Lowell Caneday at Oklahoma State University, April 16, 2011.

Interview with Eve Morgan, Park Planner, Department of Parks, Events, and Recreation, City of Stillwater, April 16, 2011.

Historian: Cameron Rouze, May 5, 2011

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Map of Boomer Lake Park with park land hatched, the Kameoka Trail highlighted, and the locations of the Freedom Flame and the David Lewis Payne Memorial marked (Cameron Rouze, May 2011).



Photo taken from Lakeview Dr. looking towards the southwest corner of the lake (Cameron Rouze). The lake is lined with trees and shrubs in a natural style with the lake water gradually moving up the beaches.