



# BOATHOUSE DISTRICT

OKLAHOMA RIVER • OKLAHOMA CITY

CHESAPEAKE BOATHOUSE  
DEVON BOATHOUSE  
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA BOATHOUSE  
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA BOATHOUSE  
CHESAPEAKE FINISH LINE TOWER  
OKLAHOMA RIVER STADIUM  
WHITewater RAFTING & KAYAK CENTER

## WELCOME TO OKLAHOMA CITY'S BOATHOUSE DISTRICT!

The rejuvenated **Oklahoma River** has quickly become a center of community activity in Oklahoma City, and the focus of national and international attention as it has emerged as a premier site for both rowing and kayaking. The venue now includes the \$3.5 million community **Chesapeake Boathouse**, the \$10 million **Devon Boathouse**, and new in 2011, the \$6 million **Chesapeake Finish Line Tower**, with plans for two additional boathouses, grandstands and a world-class whitewater kayaking and rafting center under way.

What makes the **Oklahoma River** so special? First, it is urban. Located next to the Bricktown Entertainment district in downtown OKC, hotels and restaurants are within walking distance, and it is at the crossroads of the nation, the intersection of I35 and I40. The river itself offers 2000m of straight racing that rivals Olympic courses worldwide. Plus it has two, 4000m stretches of water for both training and distance racing. In July of 2009, it was named a US Olympic & Paralympic Training Site by the US Olympic Committee and is now home to the **OKC National High Performance Center** for both rowing and canoe/kayak.

But it takes more than a river to create a destination, and it is the people of Oklahoma City who've created the enthusiasm that caused Rowing News magazine to hail the city as "**America's Next Great Rowing City.**" On a community level, the OKC Corporate Rowing League has grown to more than 45 teams who practice weekly, then race for office bragging rights. Adult and youth rowing teams are on the water daily, and when racing events are held, the city turns out to the tune of 50,000+ spectators for Oklahoma City's premier fall event, the Oklahoma Regatta Festival held each October.

Nationally, thousands of rowers and kayakers have made their way to Oklahoma City to race in events ranging from the annual Head of the Oklahoma rowing regatta to the **USA Canoe/Kayak Olympic Trials** for Flatwater Sprint in 2008. International athletes compete on the Oklahoma River on a regular basis, but never more memorably than in the 2007 USA Rowing World Challenge, a challenge to be repeated in 2011.

By all accounts, it has been the corporate community working in partnership with City leaders who've fueled the development of this world-class development. Public dollars first funded the \$53 million rejuvenation of the once-dry riverbed into the current Oklahoma River. Private donations funded the Chesapeake Boathouse and are now are making it possible to construct three additional boathouses and a FISA compliant finish line tower, all adding up to Oklahoma City's new "**Boathouse District.**"

The Oklahoma River development received another historic boost in 2009 when the citizens of Oklahoma City voted in favor of MAPS 3, a one-cent sales tax that will provide \$777 million in new development city-wide, with \$60 million earmarked for the Oklahoma River. The centerpiece of the new river projects is a \$25 million **Whitewater Rafting & Kayak Center** offering rafting and kayak experiences for families and visitors, plus world-class whitewater slalom racing for elite kayakers. The addition of grandstands, a floating stage and permanent lighting on the river will complete the venue, creating a one-of-a-kind river stadium ready for sporting events, music, theater and community activities of all kinds.

Oklahoma City has always been known for its pioneering spirit, a spirit which continues to take us in new directions....this time, on the Oklahoma River.



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## QUICK FACTS

### Oklahoma River

Seven miles of river rejuvenated in 2005 with a \$53 million sales tax (MAPS) funded initiative. Originally named North Canadian River, the seven-mile segment was renamed “Oklahoma River” in 2007. Designated an official US Olympic & Paralympic Training Site for rowing and canoe/kayak in 2009. 2000m sprint course; two 4000m race courses

### Boathouse District

Oklahoma River, adjacent to Bricktown Entertainment District in Downtown OKC. Master-planned development showcasing iconic architecture by Rand Elliott, Elliott & Associates.

**Chesapeake Boathouse** – Community boathouse opened in January 2006. Offers “Riversport” day/month/season passes for rowing, kayaking, dragon boating, cycling, running, fitness center, yoga. Adaptive rowing/kayaking; summer youth camps. Bike and kayak rentals daily, \$10, March through October. Free tours.

**Devon Boathouse** – \$10 million Oklahoma City University boathouse completed in October 2010. Headquarters for OKC National High Performance Center. Includes indoor rowing tank, state of the art sports performance technology, extensive strength, conditioning and training facilities.

**University of Oklahoma Boathouse** – construction drawings being finalized.

**University of Central Oklahoma Boathouse** – construction drawings being finalized.

**Chesapeake Finish Line Tower** – four-story, 70-foot structure meeting FISA international racing standards. Construction of \$6 million facility to be completed in 2011.

**Whitewater Rafting & Kayaking Center** - \$25 million recreation and training center for whitewater rafting and kayaking. To be completed as part of MAPS 3.

**Oklahoma River Stadium** – grandstands, floating stage, permanent lighting, additional race infrastructure to complete world-class “river stadium” concept. To be completed as part of MAPS 3.

### More OKC Boathouse Foundation Boathouses

**Exchange Boathouse** – Western Basin of the Oklahoma River; US Olympic & Paralympic Training Site

**Route 66 Boathouse** – Lake Overholser, south of historic Route 66 in west Oklahoma City. Row/kayak into 1000 acre Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge. Bike/pedestrian trails. Bike and kayak rentals, seasonal.

### Contact

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