



Ocmulgee Old Fields Boundary Study & Environmental Assessment



January 2014



OLD FIELDS BOUNDARY STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT

JANUARY 2014

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Ocmulgee Old Fields in the Macon, Georgia, area were once home to prehistoric Mississippian people who lived along the Ocmulgee River and farmed its floodplain terraces. Ocmulgee National Monument was authorized by Congress in 1934 and created by land donations in 1936 to protect some of the more prominent features of the Ocmulgee Old Fields. However, there is evidence that prehistoric settlements extended well beyond the two units that comprise the existing national monument. Recently, opportunities have arisen for Ocmulgee National Monument to receive donations of land that lie adjacent to the park, but outside the current park boundary. This study examines the appropriateness of expanding the boundary to incorporate these lands. It also considers whether the boundary should be expanded to take in certain other nearby properties that have important resources related to the purpose of the national monument, or that would help address specific, long-standing management issues. Finally, this study includes an environmental assessment that examines the impacts that expanding the park could have on the natural and human environment. The environmental assessment has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the National Park Service Director's Order 12.

Purpose of and Need for Action

The purpose of this study is to determine whether a boundary expansion is appropriate for Ocmulgee National Monument, and if so, which properties are suitable and feasible for inclusion within an expanded park boundary. This boundary study is needed for the following reasons:

- The Archeological Conservancy is holding approximately 300 acres of land that it wishes to donate to Ocmulgee National Monument. The National Park Service (National Park Service or NPS) cannot accept this land unless it has been found appropriate for addition to the monument and formally included in a revised boundary by Congress.
- There exist other culturally significant lands adjacent to Ocmulgee National Monument that may be appropriate for inclusion in a revised boundary.
- Certain other lands within the Ocmulgee Old Fields Traditional Cultural Property may warrant further protection via inclusion in Ocmulgee National Monument.
- By acquiring intervening private land, it may be possible for the NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide a physical connection between Ocmulgee National Monument and the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Such a connection would create a protected corridor of public land and make that corridor available for public use.
- Providing a dedicated access to the Lamar Unit owned in fee, and a physical connection to the remainder of the park, would greatly enhance the park's ability to protect the resources in the Lamar Unit and enhance opportunities for public enjoyment of the Lamar Unit.
- A revised boundary could protect the resources of Ocmulgee National Monument from further urban encroachment.

To be eligible for inclusion in an existing National Park Service unit, new lands must

- protect significant resources and values, or enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes;
- address operational and management issues, such as the need for access or the need for boundaries to correspond to logical boundary delineations such as topographic or other natural features or roads; or

- otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes. (NPS 2006).

This study identified a study area and analyzed how well the lands within the study area met the National Park Service criteria for expansion. The properties that met the criteria were then further evaluated to determine whether the added lands would “be feasible to administer considering their size, configuration, and ownership; costs; the views of and impacts on local communities and surrounding jurisdictions; and other factors such as the presence of hazardous substances or nonnative species” (NPS 1991b). Lands were also evaluated to determine whether there exist any alternatives to National Park Service management that are adequate for resource protection.

Once the criteria analysis was complete, the National Park Service developed both a “no-action” and an “action” alternative for detailed analysis in the environmental assessment. The action alternative is the preferred alternative of the National Park Service, as described below.

Proposed Action

The National Park Service proposes to protect additional important cultural and natural resources outside the existing boundary of Ocmulgee National Monument. The NPS preferred alternative would authorize acquisition of all property in the study area meeting the expansion criteria. Property would be acquired only from willing donors or sellers, subject to availability of funding. Under the preferred alternative, a total of up to approximately 2,100 acres is proposed for addition to the Ocmulgee National Monument. If fully implemented, the action alternative would result in a park that would be approximately 2,800 acres in total.

The proposed expansion boundary would include (a) lands generally between the Main Unit of Ocmulgee National Monument on the north, and the acquisition boundary of Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge on the south, (b) specified lands to the east and north of the Main Unit, and (c) the railroad corridor that passes through the Main Unit. The majority of the lands to the south and east of the Main Unit of Ocmulgee National Monument would provide improved protection of, and access to, the park’s Lamar Unit and its resources. It would also protect other archeological resources associated with the Old Fields and link the Ocmulgee National Monument with the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. That link would provide protection for a large portion of the Ocmulgee Old Fields Traditional Cultural Property, which was designated in 1999 for the area’s role in the history of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and other American Indian tribes. The link would also provide protection for a large wildlife corridor that roughly corresponds with the extent of the Traditional Cultural Property. Properties to the north of the Main Unit would provide opportunities for improved connection with the City of Macon, and address operational and management issues.

It should be noted that the preferred alternative is not intended to foreclose other planning efforts along the greater Ocmulgee River corridor by members of the local community and various governmental and non-governmental organizations. These initiatives, under way now for some time, are exploring the possibility of protecting a far larger area than the one encompassed in this study. The objective of these ongoing efforts is to provide increased protection of the Ocmulgee River corridor, together with expanded opportunities for public use and enjoyment. The National Park Service has recently provided technical assistance on the Ocmulgee River Water Trail, and it will continue to participate in discussions regarding the future of the Ocmulgee River corridor.

It should also be noted that the boundary adjustment outlined in this study cannot be accomplished without legislation from the United States Congress. The implementation of actions related to a boundary adjustment will depend on future funding and National Park Service priorities. The approval of a

boundary adjustment does not guarantee that funding needed to acquire new lands will be forthcoming. Full implementation could be many years into the future.

Impacts from the no action alternative and proposed action alternative were analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act and Council on Environmental Quality regulations for the following topics: archeological and ethnographic resources, historic structures and districts, wetlands, wildlife and wildlife habitat, socioeconomic resources and adjacent land use, visitor use and experience, and park management and operations. Most of the impacts would be beneficial, providing additional protection for archeological, ethnographic, and natural resources, and new opportunities for improved visitor experience. There would be some slight adverse impacts on socioeconomic resources related to removing land from the local tax inventory, and increased responsibilities for park staff, affecting park management and operations. The proposed expansion boundary would also include lands in the East Macon Historic District, although the change in ownership would not create adverse impacts on the historic resources. The impacts are summarized in table ES-1. In addition, streamlined procedures for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were followed.

TABLE ES-1. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Impact Topic	Alternative 1: No Action Alternative	Alternative 2: (Preferred Alternative) Expand the Boundary to Include All Suitable and Feasible Lands within the Study Area
Archeological and Ethnographic Resources	Impacts on archeological and ethnographic resources under the no action alternative would be long term minor to possibly moderate and adverse, if instances of large-scale looting occur.	Sixteen known archeological sites would be brought into federal ownership and protection. There would therefore be long-term benefits to archeological and ethnographic resources because of the boundary expansion.
Historic Structures and Districts	The historic structures and districts in the study area would not be affected by the no action alternative, and they would continue to exist as they are.	There would be no adverse effects on historic districts and structures under Section 106.
Wetlands	Wetlands in the study area would continue to be vulnerable to disturbance, including limited filling and timbering, resulting in possible slight, but noticeable adverse effects on the wetlands related to their vulnerability. The impacts would not be significant.	Under the action alternatives, there would be beneficial impacts on wetlands, because they would be better protected as they are acquired by the NPS, and they would be subject to the protective NPS wetland policies.
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	There would most likely be no impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat from the no action alternative, although there could be some limited short- and long-term adverse impacts in the form of disturbance to wildlife associated with allowable disturbance in wetlands. The impacts would not be significant.	There would be beneficial impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat under the action alternative. The wetlands and bottomland swamp forest would be protected from development, and threats such as timbering would be removed.

Impact Topic	Alternative 1: No Action Alternative	Alternative 2: (Preferred Alternative) Expand the Boundary to Include All Suitable and Feasible Lands within the Study Area
Socioeconomic Resources and Adjacent Land Use	Overall, there would be no direct or indirect impacts on the social or economic environment or on adjacent land use under the no action alternative. Existing socioeconomic parameters are anticipated to continue as they are. The land use status in the study areas would not change.	There would be some beneficial impacts on socioeconomic resources from the action alternative, stemming from the potential for employment and from increased property values and subsequent tax increases. There would be some slight adverse impacts on socioeconomic resources related to removing land from the local tax inventory. These impacts would not be significant.
Visitor Use and Experience	There would be several small but noticeable adverse impacts on visitor use and experience associated with the no action alternative, as a result of limited access to the Lamar Unit, and other small negative effects. These impacts would not be significant.	Under the action alternative, there would be long-term beneficial impacts on visitor use and experience by providing more areas to visit, eventually unifying the park where it is divided by the railroad as opportunities arise, and creating improved opportunities for the public to enjoy the Lamar site and the bottomland swamp that surrounds it. There would also be opportunities for improved links to the community if the lands to the north of the park would be added to the park.
Park Management and Operations	Under the no action alternative, the park boundaries would not be expanded and there would be no impacts on Park Management and Operations.	Under the action alternative, there would be no direct impacts on park management and operations resulting from legislated expansion of the park boundaries, because the NPS would not yet own the properties. However, there would be small short- and long-term indirect adverse impacts, because staff time would be required to perform research and other activities related to acquisition of expansion properties, and once the properties were transferred to NPS ownership, staff responsibilities would expand, although it is not anticipated that new staff would be required. Impacts would not be significant.

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CHAPTER 1: PURPOSE AND NEED

INTRODUCTION

The Macon Plateau in middle Georgia has been a site of human habitation since the first nomadic people arrived as early as 12,000 years ago. According to Muscogee (Creek) Indian tradition, it was here that their ancestors “first sat down” and began farming the rich alluvial bottomlands along the Ocmulgee River. Part of the great Mississippian culture that flowered in the Mississippi valley and Southeastern United States between the fifth and twelfth centuries of the present era, these farmers built the great mounds that still characterize the site and created vast agricultural fields that extended fifteen or twenty miles downstream. Efforts to preserve the site date to the late nineteenth century, but it was not until 1936 that Ocmulgee National Monument was established to preserve the mounds and the core of the Indians’ “Old Fields.”

It has long been known that significant prehistoric archeological sites remain unprotected outside the boundaries of the national monument, but opportunities have now arisen for the park to incorporate additional lands within the national monument. The National Park Service proposes to protect additional important cultural and natural resources outside the existing boundary of Ocmulgee National Monument. This study examines the feasibility and appropriateness of a boundary expansion, and identifies which lands would be included within the expanded boundary. This study also includes an environmental assessment (EA) that examines the impacts a boundary expansion would have on the natural and human environment. The EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the National Park Service (NPS) Director’s Order 12.

OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

Ocmulgee National Monument was created to protect “lands commonly known as the ‘Old Ocmulgee Field,’ upon which certain Indian mounds of great historical importance are located” (16 USC 447a). The original authorizing legislation for the park envisioned a park of approximately 2,000 acres, a much larger area than the current 702-acre park (NPS 1958). The park was created during the Great Depression through the donation of land. By the time the park was established in 1936 (figure 1-1), local citizens had raised enough funds to procure only 678 acres—638 acres of the Main Unit and 40 acres at the Lamar Unit. An additional 5 acres was added to the Lamar Unit in 1945, and an additional 18 acres were added to the Main Unit in 1991 (the Drake Field addition).

Today, the park remains two separate units, the Main Unit and the Lamar Unit (figure 1-1). The 656-acre Main Unit is located east of downtown Macon, Georgia, in Bibb County, and the 45-acre Lamar Unit is approximately 2 miles south of the Main Unit. The Lamar Unit protects a grouping of mounds and associated features and sites. Taken, together, the park and the remainder of Ocmulgee Old Fields represent a continuous record of human life in the Southeast from the earliest time to the present. There is evidence of at least 12,000 years of human habitation.

Main Unit

The Main Unit contains archeological evidence of a long period of human occupation, including the mound builders of the Mississippian Period; evidence of a British trading post from the late 17th century; and a mid-nineteenth century residence, the Dunlap House (1858); and Confederate and Union earthworks constructed in 1864 (NPS 1991a).

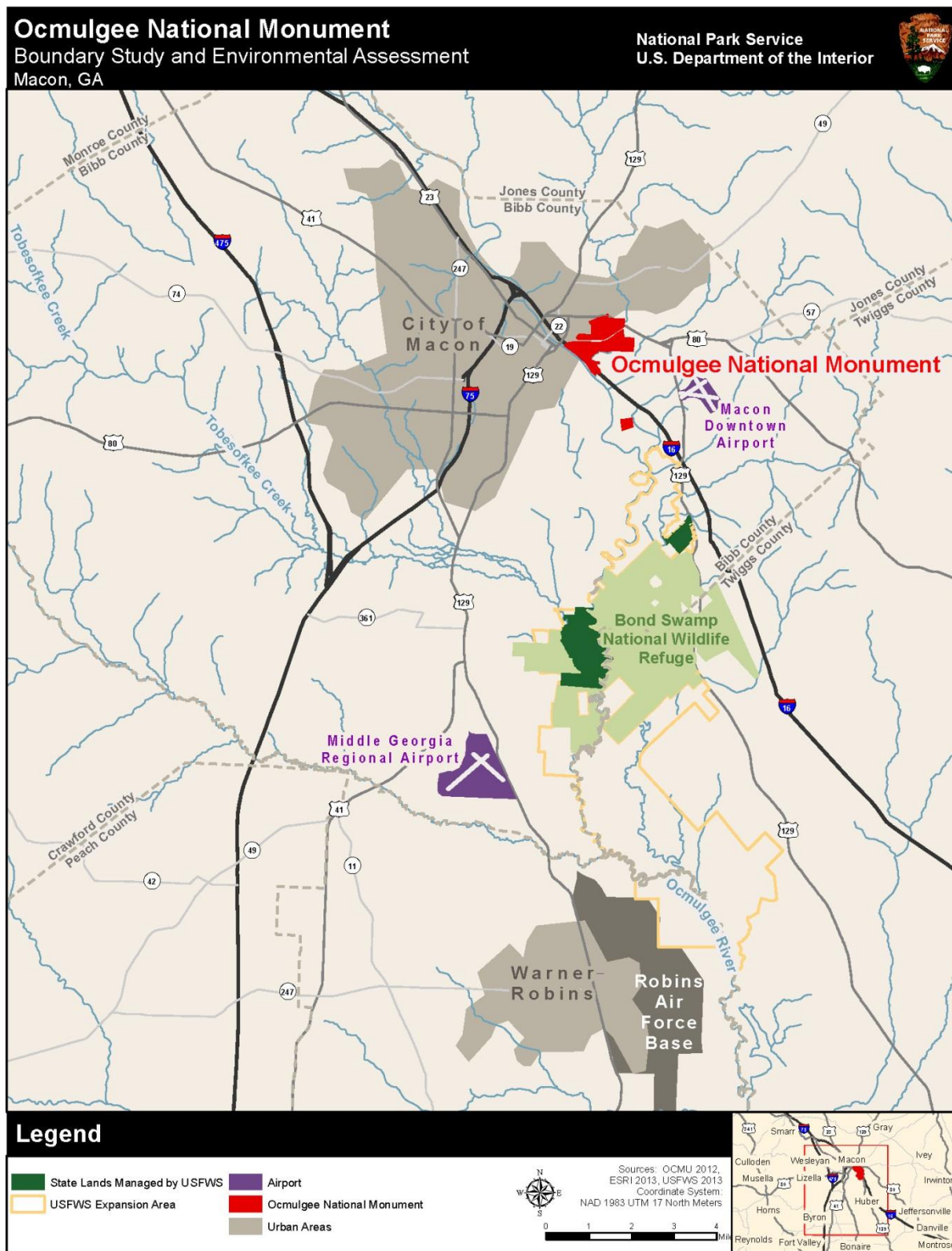


FIGURE 1-1. LOCATION AND CURRENT CONFIGURATION OF OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT

The people of the Mississippian Period had a complex culture, and they built an extensive town on the Macon Plateau. The park's Visitor Center is an Art Moderne structure built by the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Main Unit borders the Ocmulgee River to the west, and is surrounded by a variety of land uses, including residential and commercial structures to the north in East Macon, and commercial and residential uses along Emery Highway / U.S. Route 80 / Georgia State Route 19, which serves as the eastern border. The southern edge of the Main Unit borders on a mix of publicly and privately owned, mostly undeveloped bottomland forest and wetlands that stretch south along the Ocmulgee River and eventually link to the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. A railroad (which precludes at-grade crossings) currently passes through the heart of the Main Unit near the Earth Lodge, and separates the Main Unit of the park into two distinct pieces. Visitors may cross under the railroad track by vehicle at a narrow one-lane crossing, or can cross over the tracks using a pedestrian bridge installed in 2003.

Lamar Unit

The roughly rectangular Lamar Unit, approximately 2 miles south of the Main Unit, is located in a wetland and bottomland forest area. The site is landlocked with access to the unit on a shared right-of-way through several properties on an unimproved road that is often flooded. The Lamar Unit contains the remains of a late Mississippian village of the Lamar Culture from around 1350 CE. The site contains two significant mounds (figure 1-2), including one with an unusual spiral ramp, evidence of prehistoric palisades surrounding the mounds and village, and additional archeological features (NPS 1991a).



Source: NPS, Collection at Ocmulgee National Monument

FIGURE 1-2. AERIAL VIEW OF THE LAMAR MOUNDS IN 1938

Museum and Archeological Artifacts Collection

The third significant component of Ocmulgee National Monument is its significant collection of archeological artifacts from excavations conducted in the area in the 1930s under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution and the NPS. The largest such archeological investigation east of the Mississippi, the excavations were conducted with assistance from the Works Progress Administration, Civil Works Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, and other agencies. Over 2.5 million artifacts were collected during that time and are held in the park's museum collection (NPS 1991a).

PARK PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

The park's enabling legislation authorized the national monument on June 14, 1934, in order to protect "lands commonly known as the 'Old Ocmulgee Field,' upon which certain Indian mounds of great historical importance are located, comprising approximately 2,000 acres, in and around the City of Macon" (16 USC 447a). The legislation also stipulated that appropriated funds should not be used to acquire lands for the national monument, but that the Secretary of the Interior could accept donations of land. The national monument was established by presidential proclamation on December 23, 1936, and included 678 acres of donated land, which was further expanded by 5 additional acres at the Lamar Unit on June 13, 1941. Congress expanded the national monument by 18 acres with the Drake Field addition to the Main Unit in 1991 (Public Law 102-67 (1991)).

The purpose of the national monument is to "present a story of many stages of prehistoric cultural development, emphasizing the influences of agriculture, the Mound Builder period, and the relationship of these various cultures to each other and to life today" (NPS 1991a).

The national monument, which is listed in its entirety in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP, or National Register), is a unique concentration of archeological and historic resources that document over 12,000 year of human occupation on the Macon Plateau and more generally in the southeastern United States (NPS 1991a). Four significant periods of prehistoric occupation are evident, including (a) the Ice Age Paleo Indian period, from approximately 10,000 BCE to 9000 BCE; (b) the later Archaic period, from between 9000 BCE to 1000 BCE; (c) the Woodland Period, from 1000 BCE to approximately 900 CE; and (d) the Mississippian period. Inhabitants of the area from both the Woodland Period and the Mississippian Period constructed mounds (NPS 1991a).

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE BOUNDARY STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PURPOSE

The NPS proposes to expand the boundary of Ocmulgee National Monument in order to (a) protect important cultural and natural resources at Ocmulgee Old Fields associated with the primary purpose of the park, and (b) address other park management issues. The resources to be protected are both within existing park boundaries and on lands adjacent to the existing park. This boundary study / EA is being conducted to determine if a boundary expansion is appropriate and, if so, which properties are appropriate for inclusion in an expanded park boundary.

No boundary adjustment outlined in this study may be accomplished without authorization by the United States Congress. The implementation of actions related to a boundary adjustment will depend on future funding and NPS priorities. The approval of a boundary adjustment does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the proposed actions will be forthcoming. Full implementation could be many years into the future.

NEED

This boundary study is needed for the following reasons:

- The Archeological Conservancy is holding approximately 300 acres of land that it wishes to donate to Ocmulgee National Monument. The NPS cannot accept this land unless it has been found appropriate for addition to the monument and formally included in a revised boundary by Congress.
- There exist other culturally significant lands adjacent to Ocmulgee National Monument that may be appropriate for inclusion in a revised boundary.
- Certain other lands within the Ocmulgee Old Fields Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) (see below) may warrant further protection via inclusion in Ocmulgee National Monument.
- By acquiring intervening private land, it may be possible for the NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to provide a physical connection between Ocmulgee National Monument and the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Such a connection would create a protected corridor of public land and make it available for public use.
- Providing a dedicated access to the Lamar Unit owned in fee, and a physical connection to the remainder of the park, would greatly enhance the park's ability to protect the resources in the Lamar Unit and enhance opportunities for public enjoyment of the Lamar Unit.
- A revised boundary could protect the resources of Ocmulgee National Monument from further urban encroachment.

There are several reasons to explore a connection between the Main Unit at Ocmulgee National Monument and the Lamar Unit in the monument as well as the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to the south. As noted above, the Lamar Unit is landlocked, surrounded by privately held lands, and is accessible by a shared right-of-way that several property owners use to access their lands. Linking the Lamar Unit with the Main Unit and continuing that link south to the national wildlife refuge would not only protect cultural resources known or suspected to exist in the area but would also provide additional protection for an important wildlife corridor, and a nearly continuous habitat of bottomland swamp that extends for several miles south of the park, beyond the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

From a management and public enjoyment perspective, amending the boundary so that the Lamar Unit is no longer landlocked would provide an opportunity to improve protection of the resources at the Lamar site and also opportunities to provide new and improved public enjoyment. The NPS would have direct access to the Lamar site, enabling the agency to better protect it, and expand on opportunities for the public to enjoy and appreciate the mounds at the Lamar site, as well as enjoy the surrounding lands.

The area under consideration is also part of the larger Ocmulgee Old Fields TCP, designated by the Keeper of the National Register in 1999 (appendix A). The Keeper determined that approximately 14,000 acres of Ocmulgee Old Fields are eligible for the National Register as a TCP because of their historic significance to the Muscogee (Creek) people who were forced to abandon these lands in the early 19th century. William Bartram, an 18th century naturalist and botanist, observed traces of mounds, terraces, and other evidence of settlements extending for 15 to 20 miles along the Ocmulgee River.

The lands today are largely wetland, and owned by various landowners. Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge lies to the south of Ocmulgee National Monument and serves to protect part of the southern portion of the TCP. The refuge has also conducted its own boundary expansion study to better protect the wildlife corridor and the TCP, and can now acquire lands both north and south of its current boundary.

Figure 1-3 shows the study area and properties considered for inclusion in the boundary expansion, and also shows some of the lands included in the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge expansion boundary.

It should be noted that the preferred alternative is not intended to foreclose other planning efforts along the greater Ocmulgee River corridor by members of the local community and various governmental and non-governmental organizations. These initiatives, under way now for some time, are exploring the possibility of protecting a far larger area than the one encompassed in this study. The objective of these ongoing efforts is to provide increased protection of the Ocmulgee River corridor, together with expanded opportunities for public use and enjoyment. The National Park Service has recently provided technical assistance on the Ocmulgee River Water Trail, and it will continue to participate in discussions regarding the future of the Ocmulgee River corridor.

BOUNDARY STUDY CRITERIA

This boundary study examines the cultural, historic, and natural significance of the properties to determine how they fit into the thematic context of Ocmulgee National Monument. The study evaluates the properties under consideration according to criteria set forth originally in the 1991 NPS Boundary Criteria document (NPS 1991b) and clarified in Section 3.5 of the NPS *Management Policies 2006* (NPS 2006). For a property to be included in a boundary expansion, at least one of three criteria must be met. The inclusion of the property must

- protect significant resources and values, or enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes;
- address operational and management issues, such as the need for access or the need for boundaries to correspond to logical boundary delineations such as topographic features or roads; or
- otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes (NPS 2006).

Those lands found suitable under the foregoing criteria must further meet the following two requirements:

- The added lands will be feasible to administer, considering size, configuration, and ownership; costs; the views of and impacts on local communities and surrounding jurisdictions; and other factors such as the presence of structures, hazardous substances, or nonnative species.
- Other alternatives for management and resource protection are not adequate (NPS 2006).

Although the current enabling legislation for Ocmulgee does not allow for appropriated funds to be used for the acquisition of property, this study analyzes potential additions under the assumption that authorization to use appropriated funds would be forthcoming from Congress. Congressional action would be required to revise the boundary; Congress could include language in any expansion legislation stipulating that appropriated funds may be used to acquire additional lands.



FIGURE 1-3. STUDY AREA

ELEMENTS OF THE BOUNDARY STUDY

In evaluating properties for possible inclusion within the park's boundary, the process used the following steps:

- Review of the enabling legislation for Ocmulgee National Monument;
- Evaluation of the capacity for the current boundary to protect and preserve cultural, natural, and other resources that are integral to the park;
- Identification of a study area to identify the extent of possible properties to include in the study, and evaluation of those properties for history, ownership, and potential to complement the purpose of the park;
- Application of the boundary criteria to potential addition lands;
- Development of alternatives;
- Assessment of the impacts of each alternative (including a no action alternative) on cultural, natural, and socioeconomic resources;
- Analysis of impacts of the expansion related to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area.

STUDY PROCESS

Scoping

Scoping for this study included both internal and public scoping. Internal scoping was conducted with staff from the park, the NPS Southeast Regional Office, and other members of the project team, and included an extensive tour of the properties in the study area. There was additional outreach with researchers at the University of Georgia Archeology Library and elsewhere, as well as geographic information system specialists at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission. Park staff reached out to owners of the properties in the study area with letters and phone calls informing them of the study, explaining what an expansion would mean to property owners in an expanded boundary, inviting them to participate in the public scoping process, and gauging their interest in having their properties be considered in the study.

Park and regional NPS staff also met with USFWS regional staff, and staff at Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to resolve potential issues involving an overlap of properties within both the Ocmulgee National Monument study area and the approved acquisition boundary of Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The properties in question are important for access to the Lamar Unit but had already been designated as being within the refuge's acquisition boundary. In a letter dated June 20, 2012, the USFWS affirmed that it would accept the park's inclusion of these properties in its expansion boundary (USFWS 2012a).

Public Involvement

There were three public scoping meetings on April 19, 2012. These consisted of (a) a meeting with interested federal, state, and local agencies; (b) a meeting with interested nongovernmental stakeholders, such as the Conservation Fund, the Archeological Conservancy, Middle Georgia Regional Commission, and others; and (c) an evening meeting with the general public and landowners.

ISSUES AND IMPACT TOPICS

NEPA regulations require an “early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.” To determine the scope of issues to be analyzed in depth within this boundary study / EA, meetings were conducted with NPS staff, interested stakeholders, and members of the public. An internal scoping meeting was held with the NPS in February 2012 at the Ocmulgee National Monument Visitor Center and Headquarters. Subsequent calls were held in September 2012 to develop alternatives and analyze properties against the boundary expansion criteria. At these meetings, several issues were identified that required further analysis in this document.

Issues describe problems or concerns associated with current impacts from environmental conditions or current operations, as well as problems that may arise from the implementation of any of the alternatives. These following issues were identified:

- Managing the Lamar Unit more effectively, given its landlocked status;
- Addressing threats to cultural resources, primarily related to looting;
- Improving opportunities for park access and interactions with the community, particularly at the northern end of the park; and
- Ensuring there are opportunities to work with the railroad to reduce and minimize the intrusion of the railroad into the visitor experience at the park, and to reduce potential adverse impacts associated with the vibrations of passing trains.

The issues and concerns identified during scoping were grouped into impact topics that are discussed in “Chapter 3: Affected Environment” and are analyzed in “Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences.”

IMPACT TOPICS RETAINED FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

Set forth below are the impact topic retained for detailed analysis in the EA portion of this document, together with the rationale for retaining them:

Archeological and Ethnographic Resources

The Old Fields include many known archeological sites of significance ranging from the Paleo to Late Mississippian cultures and are likely to include additional undiscovered resources. The Old Fields TCP, commemorating the history of settlement in the Ocmulgee Old Fields, was designated in 1999 and encompasses approximately 14,000 acres, extending south along the floodplain and floodplain terraces from Ocmulgee National Monument through Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The archeological resources on nonfederal property are at greater risk for looting than those resources on federal property, due to the stronger penalties associated with federal laws.

Historic Structures and Districts

There are several historic structures or districts in or around the study area, and the railroad line that passes through the Main Unit contains a bridge listed in the NRHP, and these resources may be affected by the alternatives.

Wetlands

Much of the land south of the Main Unit in the study area is wetland bottomland hardwood forest. These wetlands perform a variety of important natural functions, including providing wildlife habitat and flood control. Property owners may take timber from their land and may alter their wetlands in certain ways if the alteration complies with federal and state laws. Expansion could affect the future condition of these wetlands.

Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

The land in the study area south of the Main Unit is a part of a much larger corridor along the Ocmulgee River that is home to a large number of species of plants and animals. Protection of this area as part of an expanded national monument would have long-term impacts on plants and animals.

Socioeconomic Resources and Adjacent Land Use

Boundary expansion would have both positive and adverse impacts on area socioeconomic resources, as a larger park would likely provide benefits to tourism in the area, but would also remove land from the tax rolls. A new park configuration on the north side by the Clinton Street pedestrian entrance may also provide a stimulus for economic development in the area and better link the park with other tourist and recreational amenities in the area, which would result in likely socioeconomic benefits. Impact of the boundary expansion on other land uses in the area would vary.

Visitor Use and Experience

Boundary expansion would increase the area of the park, and therefore the number of acres open for visitation. It would also likely increase opportunities for visitation. The larger park would change the way many visitors experience the park and would create opportunities for increased recreation in the Ocmulgee Old Fields area between Bond Swamp and the Main Unit, given the network of internal roads, trails, and rights-of-way that exist on the parcels south of the Main Unit.

Park Management and Operations

Expansion of the park boundaries would change park management and operations, and there would be associated impacts resulting from projects related to the expansion, and also management implications related to park expansion.

IMPACT TOPICS DISMISSED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

Air Quality

The expansion of park boundaries would not involve actions that would directly impact air quality, and impacts from subsequent projects, such as possible demolition of non-historic structures, would not be expected to result in noticeable adverse impacts, so this topic has been dismissed.

Soils and Prime Farmland Soils

Although there is a large area of soil in the southern portion of the study area that has been designated as an agricultural soil of state importance (USDA 2012), no “unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses” are expected to occur. The designated soil type is frequently flooded, with poor land capability classification, and is also classified as wetlands. The northern areas are in urban

areas and would not be farmed. The expansion itself would result in no actions that would impact soils, although wetlands and wetlands soils could be disturbed under the no action alternative; therefore, this topic has been dismissed.

Water Resources

Although the Ocmulgee River and Walnut Creek, along with some other minor tributaries, run through the park and the study area, the proposed expansion would have little noticeable impact on these water resources, so this topic has been dismissed.

Floodplains

The NPS *Procedural Manual 77-2: Floodplain Management* (NPS 2002a) provides agency-specific guidance for implementing Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*. According to the guideline, an action class and applicable regulatory floodplain must be identified for a proposed action that is either subject to possible harm from flooding or has the potential for adverse floodplain impacts.

No occupancy, modification, or development of floodplains is expected because of the boundary expansion, although much of the area is designated as a 100-year floodplain for the Ocmulgee River. A separate NEPA analysis would be performed for any future projects in the floodplain, such as installation or improvements to trails or roads, for example, so this topic has therefore been dismissed from further analysis.

Environmental Justice

Presidential Executive Order 12898, *General Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, requires all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice into their missions by identifying and addressing the disproportionately high and/or adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs and policies on minorities and low-income populations and communities. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, environmental justice is the

...fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies. The goal of this “fair treatment” is not to shift risks among populations, but to identify potentially disproportionately high and adverse effects and identify alternatives that may mitigate these impacts (EPA 1997).

The community surrounding Ocmulgee National Monument contains both minority and low-income populations; however, environmental justice is dismissed as an impact topic for the following reasons:

- Implementation of the proposed alternative would not result in any identifiable adverse human health effects. Therefore, there would be no direct or indirect adverse effects on any minority or low-income population.
- Although there are both minority and low-income communities in the area immediately surrounding the park that may be affected by implementing the proposed action, the adverse impacts associated with implementation of the preferred alternative would not disproportionately

and adversely affect these populations or communities. Overall adverse socioeconomic impacts are not expected to be particularly noticeable, and there may be some benefits to the adjacent communities.

- Implementation of the preferred alternative would not result in any identified effects that would be specific to any minority or low-income community.
- The impacts on the socioeconomic environment resulting from implementation of any of the action alternatives would be beneficial. In addition, the park staff and planning team do not anticipate the impacts on the socioeconomic environment to appreciably alter the physical and social structure of the nearby communities.
- The park staff and planning team actively solicited public participation as part of the planning process and gave equal consideration to input from all people regardless of age, race, income status, or other socioeconomic or demographic factors.

Hazardous Materials

A search of a government database was conducted to identify any issues of concern (appendix D). Although there are sites adjacent to the proposed expansion area with identified storage of hazardous materials, these are businesses where storage of such materials would be expected. There are not any known issues that would affect a boundary expansion, and this impact topic has therefore been dismissed.

APPLICABLE FEDERAL LAWS, REGULATIONS, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, PLANS, AND POLICIES

The NPS is governed by laws, regulations, and management plans before, during, and following any management action related to the developed NEPA document. The following are those applicable to the proposed action.

APPLICABLE FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979

The Archeological Resources Protection Act was enacted in 1979 and recognizes that archeological resources on public and Indian lands represent an accessible and irreplaceable part of the heritage of the United States, and that many of these resources are endangered because of their commercial attraction. The act provides protection for archeological resources on federal lands and provides for a permitting system for excavation of archeological resources for a variety of reasons. Excavation without permits or in violation of permit conditions is punishable by federal law. Bringing additional lands in the TCP and Old Fields under federal ownership would place archeological resources on these lands under the protection of the Archeological Resources Protection Act.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as Amended

NEPA was passed by Congress in 1969 and took effect on January 1, 1970. This legislation established this country's environmental policies, including the goal of achieving productive harmony between human beings and the physical environment for present and future generations. It provided the tools to implement these goals by requiring that every federal agency prepare an in-depth study of the impacts of "major federal actions having a significant effect on the environment" and alternatives to those actions. It also required that each agency make that information an integral part of its decisions. NEPA also requires

that agencies make a diligent effort to involve the interested and affected public before they make decisions affecting the environment.

Besides setting environmental planning policy goals, NEPA created the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), an agency of the president's office, to oversee the implementation of NEPA. CEQ published NEPA regulations in 1978 (40 CFR 1500–1508). These regulations apply to all federal agencies, and in them, CEQ requires each federal agency to “implement procedures to make the NEPA process more useful to agency decision-makers and the public” (40 CFR 1500.2). Agencies are to review and update these regulations as necessary. The NPS has in turn adopted procedures to comply with the act and CEQ regulations, as found in Director's Order 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making* (NPS 2011), and its accompanying handbook.

National Historic Preservation Act, as Amended (16 USC 470)

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended through 2000 (NHPA), protects buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects that have significant scientific, historic, or cultural value. The act established affirmative responsibilities of federal agencies to preserve historic and prehistoric resources. Effects on properties that are listed in or are eligible for listing in the National Register must be taken into account in planning and operations. Any property that may qualify for listing in the NRHP must not be transferred, sold, demolished, substantially altered, or allowed to deteriorate except under conditions that ensure their continued preservation and comply with regulations in 36 CFR 800 (*Protection of Historic Properties*).

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment. The historic preservation review process mandated by Section 106 is outlined in regulations issued by ACHP. The regulations, *Protection of Historic Properties* (36 CFR 800), were last revised in August 2004.

By the terms of the 2008 Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 Compliance between NPS, ACHP, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers: “The Streamlined Review Process may be used for the acquisition of land for park purposes, including additions to existing parks.” The second criterion for use of the Streamlined Review Process (identification and evaluation of all types of historic properties within the project area of potential effect (APE); see Section III.A.2) does not apply to this activity, provided the acquisition does not include any further treatment or alteration of properties, since access to land for inventory and evaluation prior to NPS acquisition may be limited. Any known or potential historic properties on the land acquired should be protected from demolition by neglect. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(vi), demolition by neglect constitutes an adverse effect. If any undertakings are proposed in conjunction with the acquisition that have the potential to affect historic properties, the Streamlined Review Process may not be used. Streamlined review means that no State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) consultation is required.

The preferred alternative in this study would authorize the NPS to acquire from willing donors or sellers all tracts within the study area that meet NPS' expansion criteria (see Chapter 2 for discussion of the alternatives considered in this study). The preferred alternative does not make any treatment recommendations for any historic properties that may be located on lands within the expansion area. Any treatment recommendations for historic properties would be developed at a later date in consultation with the Georgia SHPO. Accordingly, the streamlined Section 106 review process has been used in this study.

NPS Organic Act

By enacting the NPS Organic Act of 1916 (Organic Act), Congress directed the U.S. Department of the Interior and the NPS “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such a means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations” (16 USC 1). Congress reiterated this mandate in the Redwood National Park Expansion Act of 1978 by stating that NPS must conduct its actions in a manner that will ensure no “derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, except as may have been or shall be directly and specifically provided by Congress” (16 USC 1a-1). Despite these mandates, the Organic Act and its amendments afford the NPS latitude when making resource decisions that balance resource preservation and visitor recreation. By these acts, Congress “empowered [the NPS] with the authority to determine what uses of park resources are proper and what proportion of the parks resources are available for each use” (*Bicycle Trails Council of Marin v. Babbitt*, 82 F.3d 1445, 1453 [9th Cir. 1996]).

Because conservation remains predominant, the NPS seeks to avoid or to minimize adverse impacts on park resources and values. However, the NPS has discretion to allow impacts on park resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park (NPS 2006, Sec. 1.4.3). Although many actions and activities cause impacts, the NPS cannot allow an adverse impact that would constitute impairment of the affected resources and values (NPS 2006). The Organic Act prohibits actions that permanently impair park resources unless a law directly and specifically allows for those actions (16 USC 1a-1). An action constitutes an impairment when its impacts “harm the integrity of park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values” (NPS 2006). To determine impairment, the NPS must evaluate “the particular resources and values that would be affected; the severity, duration, and timing of the impact; the direct and indirect effects of the impact; and the cumulative effects of the impact in question and other impacts” (NPS 2006).

National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998

The National Parks Omnibus Management Act (16 USC 5901 et seq.) underscores NEPA and is fundamental to NPS park management decisions. Both acts provide direction for articulating and connecting the ultimate resource management decision to the analysis of impacts, using appropriate technical and scientific information. Both also recognize that such data may not be readily available; therefore, the acts provide options for resource impact analysis should this be the case.

The National Parks Omnibus Management Act directs the NPS to obtain scientific and technical information for analysis. The NPS handbook for Director’s Order 12 states that if “such information cannot be obtained due to excessive cost or technical impossibility, the proposed alternative for decision will be modified to eliminate the action causing the unknown or uncertain impact or other alternatives will be selected” (NPS 2006, Sec 4.4).

Redwoods National Park Act of 1978, as Amended

All national park system units are to be managed and protected as parks, whether established as a recreation area, historic site, trail, or any other designation. This act states that the NPS must conduct its actions in a manner that will ensure no “derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, except as may have been or shall be directly and specifically provided by Congress.”

Code of Federal Regulations, 1992

The Code of Federal Regulations provides the regulations “for the proper use, management, government, and protection of persons, property, and natural and cultural resources within areas under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service” (36 CFR 1).

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as Amended

This act requires all federal agencies to consult with the Secretary of the Interior on all projects and proposals that have the potential to impact federally endangered or threatened plants and animals.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS / DIRECTOR’S ORDERS

Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment

This executive order directs the NPS to support the preservation of cultural properties and to identify and nominate to the NRHP cultural properties within the park and to “exercise caution...to assure that any NPS-owned property that might qualify for nomination is not inadvertently transferred, sold, demolished, or substantially altered.”

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898. This order directs agencies to address environmental and human health conditions in minority and low-income communities to avoid the disproportionate placement of any adverse effects from federal policies and actions on these populations.

Executive Order 13589, Promoting Efficient Spending, and Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-12-12, Promoting Efficient Spending to Promote Agency Operations

This executive order and accompanying memorandum direct federal agencies to reduce combined costs by 20 percent in fiscal year 2013 over fiscal year 2010 levels. The memorandum directs federal agencies to reduce real property inventory, and new acquisition of real property assets must be offset through consolidation, colocation, or disposal of other property. The NPS therefore has implemented a policy of disposing of underused properties, and any new structures would need to be offset by disposal of other structures.

Director’s Order 17: National Park Service Tourism

The purpose of Director’s Order 17 is to promote and support sustainable, responsible, informed, and managed visitor use through cooperation and coordination with the tourism industry. It is in each park unit’s best interest to work with the tourism industry. Tourism can help provide park funding as well as contribute to the local and regional economies. However, NPS managers must take into account the negative as well as positive impacts of tourism on the park and park neighbors.

Director’s Order 17 states that through planning efforts, the NPS must seek to “provide cost-effective park visitor orientation and information services to visitors in parks and, as funding and partnerships allow, at the visit planning stage, at park gateway communities, and at appropriate threshold locations

within park units.” These planning efforts can address park facilities and maintenance needs as well as long-term, tourism-related trends.

Director’s Order 28: Cultural Resource Management

Director’s Order 28 (NPS 1998a) calls for the NPS to protect and manage cultural resources in its custody through effective research, planning, and stewardship and in accordance with the policies and principles contained in the NPS Management Policies 2006 (NPS 2006). This order also directs the NPS to comply with the substantive and procedural requirements described in the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation, the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Treatment of Cultural Landscapes, and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings. Additionally, the NPS would comply with the NPS Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) (NPS 2008b). The accompanying handbook to this order addresses standards and requirements for research, planning, and stewardship of cultural resources as well as the management of archeological resources, cultural landscapes, historic and prehistoric structures, museum objects, and ethnographic resources.

Director’s Order 77: Natural Resource Protection

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to park managers for all planned and ongoing natural resource management activities. Managers must follow all federal laws, regulations, and policies. This document provides the guidance for park management to design, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive natural resource management program that will guide other management decisions so park resources are not impaired.

Director’s Order 77 directs park management to make decisions, such as where to build facilities, based on knowledge of the park resources and their conditions. A program of natural and social science research including inventory and monitoring should be conducted to help facilitate and provide an accurate scientific basis for management decisions. Managers must establish baseline conditions to be able to monitor or detect changes resulting from management decisions.

Director’s Order 77-2: Floodplain Management

Director’s Order 77-2 was issued in response to Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*. This order applies to all proposed NPS actions that could adversely affect the natural resources and functions of floodplains or increase flood risks. This includes those proposed actions that are functionally dependent on locations in proximity to the water and for which non-floodplain sites are not practicable alternatives.

LOCAL PLANS

General Management Plan / Environmental Assessment, Ocmulgee National Monument (1982)

The NPS completed the General Management Plan for the Ocmulgee National Monument in September 1982. The plan specifies objectives and practices to be observed in the management of the monument, including the protection and preservation of cultural and natural resources in the park; ensuring that visitors have opportunities for educational, interpretive, and limited recreational experiences that are compatible with long-term preservation of the park’s cultural resources; fostering public understanding of

the long history of Indian occupation and settlement of the Macon Plateau; and reducing and eliminating (when possible) adverse impacts of vandalism to the park's cultural resources (NPS 1982).

Macon-Bibb County Comprehensive Plan: Shared Visions 2030 (2006).

The *Macon-Bibb County Comprehensive Plan* was approved in 2006, and contains a community assessment and the comprehensive plan. The community assessment evaluates population, economic development, housing, natural and cultural resources, community facilities and services, intergovernmental coordination, transportation, and land use within the City of Macon and Bibb County (Macon-Bibb County 2006).

NPS MANAGEMENT POLICIES 2006

The *NPS Management Policies 2006* (NPS 2006) is the basic NPS-wide policy document, adherence to which is mandatory unless specifically waived or modified by the NPS director or certain departmental officials, including the secretary of the interior. Actions under this boundary study / EA are in part guided by these management policies. Sections that are particularly relevant to the proposed boundary expansion are described below.

Section 3.5, Boundary Adjustments

This section of the management policies presents the criteria used for NPS park units to make adjustments to their boundaries. As discussed elsewhere in this document, proposed boundary adjustments may be authorized only as authorized by law. Types of boundary adjustments include “(1) technical revisions; (2) minor revisions based on statutorily defined criteria; and (3) revisions to include adjacent real property acquired by donation, purchased with donated funds, transferred from any other federal agency, or obtained by exchange.” Adjustments may occur if the adjustment is found to protect significant resources or values, address operational or management issues, or otherwise protect resources that are critical for fulfilling park purposes. The new lands must also be feasible to administer, with no other adequate available options for management and resource protection.

Section 4.1.3, Evaluating Impacts on Natural Resources

The NPS will ensure that the environmental costs and benefits of proposed actions are fully and openly evaluated before taking implementing actions that may impact the natural resources of parks. The process of evaluation must include public engagement; the analysis of scientific and technical information in the planning, evaluation, and decision-making processes; the involvement of interdisciplinary teams; and the full incorporation of mitigation measures and other principles of sustainable park management.

OTHER PROJECTS THAT RELATE TO THE EXPANSION

Fall Line Freeway / Eisenhower Extension

The Fall Line Freeway / Eisenhower Extension is a Georgia Department of Transportation project that was originally proposed over the Ocmulgee River and through properties in the study area, including the Main Unit and the Lamar Unit, to better connect Macon and areas east of it. The Macon Area Transportation Study Policy Committee officially removed this project from its list of projects in December 2012 (Stucka 2012). Should it be revived, it could affect the configuration of an expanded park, although there is also a southern route under consideration.

Boundary Expansion, Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

The Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge approved a boundary expansion in 2009 that would provide more formal protection to a portion of the Ocmulgee Old Fields TCP and more permanently protect a large area of bottomland hardwood (river swamp) forest for habitat purposes. The approved acquisition boundary of Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge overlaps the southern end of the study area evaluated in this document (USFWS 2009).

CHAPTER 2: APPLICATION OF BOUNDARY CRITERIA FOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the properties evaluated for possible inclusion in the national monument, the significance of the resources in the study area, and the results of applying the boundary-modification criteria to the properties under study. The chapter then presents the alternatives to be analyzed in the EA.

PROPERTIES EVALUATED FOR INCLUSION

The study includes several properties that for the purposes of evaluation have been sorted into groups. For ease of reference, clustered properties are referred to herein as “parcel groups.” Each “parcel group” has been evaluated for the significance of associated cultural or natural resources related to the park’s mission. The study area includes 14 parcel groups, as follows:

- Five adjacent parcel groups in the undeveloped wetland and bottomland forest area south and east of the Main Unit in the Ocmulgee Old Fields, including properties providing access to the Lamar Unit, totaling approximately 2,600 acres;
- Four discrete parcel groups to the north of the Main Unit, on the east side of the river, totaling approximately 98 acres;
- The railroad corridor running through the Main Unit of the park, totaling approximately 43 acres; and
- Four parcel groups on the west side of the Ocmulgee River.

Information on the specific parcels in each group is available in tables B-1 and B-2 in appendix B. The parcel groups are shown in figure 2-1.

PROPERTIES SOUTH AND EAST OF THE MAIN UNIT, INCLUDING PROPERTIES RELATED TO ACCESS TO THE LAMAR UNIT

Of the 14 parcel groups that make up the study area, five are particularly important. These five groups join the Main Unit with the Lamar site, and provide access to that site, which is currently landlocked. A principal focus of this study has been to determine which parts, if any, of these parcel groups should be proposed for addition to Ocmulgee National Monument.

Parcel Group 1—East of the Main Unit

This parcel group consists of a roughly triangular set of mostly upland parcels. These properties are adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Main Unit of Ocmulgee National Monument and extend to Emery Highway. An abandoned railroad corridor bisects the parcel group. There are residences and operating businesses along the highway. The parcels would be accessible from the Main Unit or from the highway, and from the abandoned railroad corridor. The Archeological Conservancy owns a small tract in this parcel group. The tract is located immediately adjacent to the Main Unit and the Archeological Conservancy has expressed interest in donating it to the park.

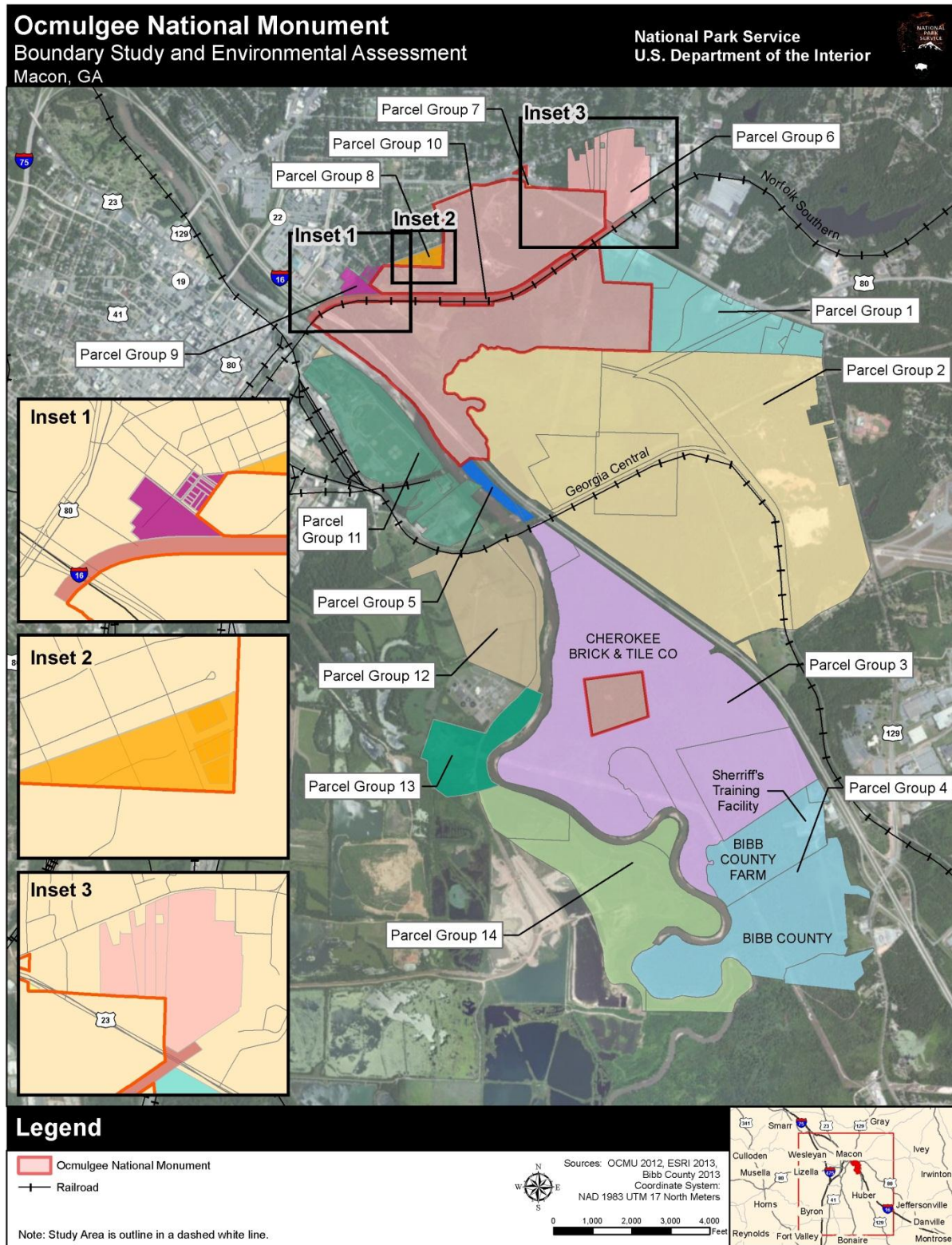


FIGURE 2-1. PROPERTIES EVALUATED FOR INCLUSION IN THE BOUNDARY STUDY, SHOWN BY PARCEL GROUPS

The parcels in this group were part of the Ocmulgee Old Fields, although there are no documented archeological sites on any of the parcels. These properties are partially within the boundary of the Ocmulgee Old Fields TCP, which extends due east of the upper horizontal boundary of the Main Unit and curves gently to the south before it reaches Ocmulgee East Boulevard. Two additional parcels were originally included in the study area immediately east of the park, and northwest of the other parcels, but are commercial properties with existing businesses and structures, and were eliminated from consideration early in the process because they did not meet the criteria for boundary expansion.

Parcel Group 2—South of the Main Unit to Interstate 16

The parcel group borders the Main Unit and extends southwest to Interstate 16 and east to Ocmulgee East Boulevard. The Archeological Conservancy owns a large tract in this parcel group. The tract is located immediately adjacent to the Main Unit and the Archeological Conservancy has expressed interest in donating it to the park.

Several of the small developed parcels along Ocmulgee East Boulevard are residential and commercial properties with existing businesses and structures, and were eliminated from consideration early in the process because they did not meet the criteria for boundary expansion. The southern extent of the boundary of this parcel group is Lamar Mounds Road. The parcel group is bisected by railroad corridors, both active and abandoned.

These properties are almost completely within the TCP and are part of the Ocmulgee Old Fields. The landscape generally consists of upland forest closer to Ocmulgee East Boulevard, with the remainder being mostly floodplain and river swamp, including a portion of Walnut Creek, the water body that forms the southern boundary of the Main Unit. The properties are traversed by power transmission lines as well as railroad corridors owned in fee by Georgia Central Railway. Only one of these railroad corridors is currently active. There are at least nine documented archeological sites related to the main purpose of the park within this area, and there is a high likelihood that undocumented archeological resources exist elsewhere in this area.

Parcel Group 3—Land Surrounding the Lamar Mounds Site

This parcel group is bounded by the Ocmulgee River on the western side and by Interstate 16 on the eastern side. The southern boundary is the border with the Bibb County Farm parcel considered in Parcel Group 4.

These parcels surround the Lamar Unit of the park. They are strategic in the protection of the Lamar site and the control of access to the site. These properties also contain several known or suspected archeological sites related to the park's primary purpose, and are entirely within the TCP.

Parcel Group 4—Properties Related to Access to the Lamar Mounds Site

This group of parcels extends south from Parcel Group 3 and west to the Ocmulgee River. The eastern boundary runs near the access road parallel to Interstate 16, but excludes already developed parcels along the access road, with the exception of access points on Ocmulgee East Boulevard. These three parcels contain significant and previously identified archeological sites. In addition, each has access points to the properties surrounding the Lamar Unit, and the parcels are strategic with respect to the protection of the Lamar site. These parcels are fully within the TCP and also adjoin the Ocmulgee River and contain high-quality wildlife habitat and floodplain. (It should be noted that the shooting range (approximately 15 acres) for the County Sheriff's Office was eliminated from consideration early in the study process.)

These parcels also overlap with the approved expansion boundary for the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Parcel Group 5—Lucinda Small Property

Not actually part of a group of parcels, this is a single narrow parcel along the Ocmulgee River, situated between the river and Interstate 16, and immediately south of the Main Unit of the park. This parcel adjoins Parcel Group 4 and would link the Main Unit with the parcel group surrounding the Lamar Unit if it were added to the park.

The remaining parcel groups evaluated in this study are described below:

PROPERTIES TO THE NORTH OF THE MAIN UNIT

There are four separate parcel groups north of the Main Unit that have been included in the study area. These comprise (a) a cluster of properties containing Walnut Creek, the main water feature in the Main Unit, and associated wetlands; (b) a small parcel group that was left between the road and the park boundary when Emery Highway was constructed through the park during World War II; (c) another small triangle of undeveloped parcels (and a burned dwelling) near Leaf and Plumtree Streets; and (d) a cluster of properties near the Clinton Street pedestrian entrance to the park. Each of these parcel groups is described in more detail below.

Parcel Group 6—Walnut Creek

This parcel group includes six parcels extending northeast from the park boundary toward Jeffersonville Road, east to Fuller Street, and south to the railroad. This parcel group includes a recycling facility that takes up part of the largest parcel on its easternmost edge. There are also several long narrow lots with residences fronting Jeffersonville Road as well as commercial properties to the west. Residential and commercial properties with existing businesses and structures were eliminated from consideration early in the process because they did not meet the criteria for boundary expansion.

There is a known archeological site on the property with the recycling facility, although it is in the developed portion of the parcel, and a large portion of this archeological site has therefore been disturbed. It is likely, however, that there would still be significant archeological resources present around the perimeter of the site. Walnut Creek, which is one of the primary natural features of the Main Unit, flows through the largest parcel, and expansion is considered to provide riparian protection to this water body.

Parcel Group 7—Emery Highway Area

The two lots in this parcel group were created when Emery Highway was built through the park during World War II. The parcel currently contains a vacant, fire-damaged commercial structure (a former tavern) and a parking lot that was graded to the edge of the park boundary. The parking lot has caused issues with the stability of the park boundary fence, which needed to be moved farther onto park property. It is not likely that significant archeological resources would be present on this property.

Parcel Group 8—Plumtree and Leaf Streets

This triangular group of parcels includes several small undeveloped lots owned by the city, the Macon Housing Authority, or by a real estate firm representing the organization New Town Macon. This parcel group also includes a property that contains a structure that was burned, but has not been demolished. The study area extends from the park boundary north to Plumtree Street (extending the line that Plumtree

Street creates, although the road does not run northeast of Fairview Avenue). There may be undocumented archeological resources on these properties, given what has been found in the surrounding neighborhood in the past. The primary reason to add these properties to the park boundary would be to provide some room between the internal park trail and the park's boundary and fence.

Parcel Group 9—Clinton Street Area

This group of parcels includes property along the length of Dewitt Street and the southeast side of Taylor Streets, and then extends the line that Dewitt Street creates to the southwest until it intersects with the railroad/park boundary. There are aboveground tanks on one of the properties, and some existing residences along Taylor Avenue and Dewitt Streets, including two dwellings that have been identified as contributing structures to the East Macon Historic District.

THE RAILROAD LINE THROUGH THE PARK

Parcel Group 10

The park was created through donation of properties, and at the time, there was an existing railroad line running through the land that became the Main Unit. As a result, the railroad was not included within the park boundary and currently divides the Main Unit into two pieces. The railroad line is still active at the time of this boundary study / EA, and precludes any at-grade track crossings for safety reasons.

Parcel Group 10 extends in a primarily east-west orientation through the Main Unit from the river to the recycling center on Emery Highway, and from there connects to Parcel Group 6.

PROPERTIES ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE OCMULGEE RIVER

The study area includes four parcel groups west of the river, as follows:

Parcel Groups 11 – 14

Parcel Group 11 is the northernmost parcel group on the west side of the Ocmulgee River. It includes Central City Park, now owned by Bibb County. Central City Park is rich with documented archeological resources, and likely also with undocumented resources, and also contains several structures associated with the park that are listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP.

Parcel Group 12 includes a recycling facility south of Central City Park and portions of the Macon Levee. The Macon levee is a flood control structure with footpath along the top that is accessible to the public for some of its length. The levee is listed in the NRHP.

Parcel Group 13 is located south of Parcel Group 12 and the Macon wastewater treatment plant. This parcel group was included in the study area because an initial review of tax records showed it being owned by NPS. However, it was ultimately determined that the NPS does not own Parcel Group 12 and that the Macon Water Authority has owned the property for several years.

Parcel Group 14, located south of Parcel Group 13, includes lands across the river from Parcel Group 4 (properties related to access to the Lamar Mounds site). The properties in Parcel Group 13 are being mined currently for clay and are partially within the Cherokee Brick & Tile Company Historic District. This district covers a number of acres on the western side of the river.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE STUDY AREA

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

As Ocmulgee National Monument is an archeological park commemorating the history of habitation by pre-European cultures, the archeological and ethnographic resources in the potential expansion area are extremely important. The Macon Plateau is an extraordinary archeological zone, with many famous sites that have been studied for over 125 years. The study area is thought to contain a wealth of archeological sites.

Properties South and East of the Main Unit

The tracts south of the Main Unit are mainly situated on the floodplain of the Ocmulgee River, the area known historically as Ocmulgee Old Fields. Except for areas that have already been disturbed by clay mining or construction, most of this area has very high potential for archeological resources. In Mississippian and early historic times, the area was inhabited. Across the Southeast, the larger Mississippian mound centers were always surrounded by subsidiary settlements, so each is now the center of a large complex of archeological sites. If the Lamar Mounds represent the town of Ichisi visited by de Soto, as many historians believe, then the site and its associated hamlets should spread a considerable distance across the floodplain, well beyond the small property now held by the NPS (Mason 2005).

The Muscogee (Creek) seem to have lived at times in a similar dispersed fashion (Deaver 2000). The Ocmulgee Old Fields, the areas that had been cleared and planted by their ancestors, were said by William Bartram to extend for about 20 miles along the river (Deaver 2000). This implies a number of towns or hamlets rather than a single large center, because it would not have been feasible to walk 20 miles back and forth to their fields every day. Some of these hamlets were probably within the southern properties in the study area. The environment of the floodplain would have been appealing to earlier Indians as well, going back to Paleoindian times.

Several known archeological sites are present within these properties. However, the known sites probably only scratch the surface of the resources in this area. Much of the floodplain is buried under several feet of historic alluvium. Many archeological sites dating to prehistoric and early historic times are therefore not accessible without deep excavation. Testing carried out within the Ocmulgee National Monument prior to the construction of Interstate 16 showed stratified cultural deposits extending from 7 to 12 feet below the surface, and such buried deposits may be present in many locations across the floodplain (Butler et al. 2001).

The existing documentation on the archeology of the region lists several sites as “destroyed” (table 2-1). However, it is not certain that these sites have been entirely destroyed. Archeological deposits buried by 7 to 12 feet of alluvium would survive many sorts of disturbance. Even if near-surface deposits have been destroyed, deeper strata may survive. At other sites, the most visible parts of the site may have been destroyed, but not necessarily all of it. At the Swift Creek Mound Complex, the mounds themselves have suffered severe damage, but other parts of the site, such as the habitations of ordinary villagers, may well still be present. Even when the recorded location of a site has been thoroughly disturbed, for example by clay mining, there is usually no exact mapping available for the site’s boundaries, so some part of it may yet remain beyond the edge of the clay pit. Statements in the records that this or that site has been “destroyed” should not be considered to rule out the presence of significant archeological remains.

Properties to the North of the Main Unit

The properties north of the Main Unit are situated on the upland of the Macon Plateau. No known archeological sites have been recorded on these tracts. However, both prehistoric, Mississippian settlement and historic Muscogee (Creek) settlement probably extended beyond the northern boundary of the Ocmulgee National Monument. The Old Fields Reserve claimed by the Creek Confederacy in 1805 extended well to the north of the current Ocmulgee National Monument boundary (Deaver 2000). Archeological testing carried out for Alternative F of the proposed Eisenhower Parkway Extension led to the discovery of prehistoric artifacts at Site 9BI145, within the yard of the Davis Homes Community Center on Main Street, a block north of the Ocmulgee National Monument boundary (Hobgood 2003). It therefore seems likely that Mississippian and historic Creek archeological sites could be present in the undisturbed portions of all the northern parcels. In addition, sites of earlier periods may well be present to the south, especially along Walnut Creek (table 2-1).

TABLE 2-1. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES ON THE PROPERTIES SOUTH AND EAST OF THE MAIN UNIT

Site Number	Name	Type	National Register Status
9BI3	Swift Creek Mounds	Middle Woodland Mound Complex	Largely destroyed; remainder not evaluated
9BI4	Adkins Mound	Mound/village site plus Archaic Camp	Destroyed
9BI17	Gledhill No. 1	Camp, Archaic	Recommended not National Register eligible
9BI18	Gledhill No. 2	Camp, Paleoindian, Archaic, and Mississippian	No determination
9BI27	Gledhill No. 3	Camp, undated prehistoric (Paleo-Indian Clovis point recovered from this site)	Recommended not National Register eligible
9BI31	Gledhill No. 4	Camp, Early Woodland to Historic	No determination
9BI32	New Pond	Camp, late Archaic to Mississippian	Destroyed
9BI52		Camp, early to Middle Woodland	Recommended National Register eligible
9BI62		Camp, undated prehistoric	No determination
9BI63	Talameca	Camp, undated prehistoric	No determination
9BI67	Atktayatci	Camp, undated prehistoric	No determination
9BI79	Black Lake	Camp, Late Archaic	No determination
9BI80	Goat Field	Camp, Archaic	No determination
9BI81	Randall Gaskins	Camp, Early Woodland and Mississippian	No determination
9BI82	Swift Creek Village	Village, Woodland	No determination
9BI83		Camp, Archaic and Woodland	No determination

Source: Butler et al. 2001

Properties on the West Side of the Ocmulgee River

Ethno-historic information on the Muscogee (Creek) towns at Ocmulgee Old Fields indicates that settlements were present on both banks of the river. Numerous archeological sites have also been found on the west bank, although many of these have been at least partially destroyed. Two historic Creek town

sites, 9BI7 and 9BI8, were investigated in the 1930s within what is now Central City Park (Southerlin and Jordan 1995). These have been disturbed by subsequent development, but probably not completely destroyed (table 2-2). Both sites also produced evidence of earlier occupation extending back to Archaic times. Artifacts related to historic Indian occupation were also found at Site 9BI73, across the river from the Lamar Mounds (Butler et al. 2001). A large village site of Late Woodland and Historic date, 9BI10, has been identified on the west bank at the sharp bend in the river west of the Lamar Mounds, but little is known about this site. Numerous other sites of all dates are no doubt present throughout any undisturbed areas along the west bank.

TABLE 2-2. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES ON THE PROPERTIES WEST OF THE OCMULGEE RIVER

Site Number	Name	Type	National Register Status
9BI7	One Mile Tract	Village, Early Archaic to Historic	Largely destroyed; remainder not evaluated
9BI8	Deer Park	Village, Late Archaic to Historic	Partially destroyed, remainder not evaluated
9BI9	Napier	Village, Mississippian and Historic	Destroyed
9BI10	Horseshoe Bend	Villages, Late Woodland and Mississippian	No determination
9BI73		Camp, Late Woodland and Historic	Determined National Register eligible

Source: Butler et al. 2001: 67–71

ETHNOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

The primary ethnographic resource in the study area is the Ocmulgee Old Fields TCP that extends from the northernmost boundary of the existing Main Unit of the park south along the Ocmulgee River to Robins Air Force Base, and west along the Tobesofkee Creek, stopping at Houston Road. Although the Old Fields were likely to have extended north of the park and artifacts are known to be present, this area was not included in the TCP.

The TCP is significant because of its important place in the sacred history of the Muscogee (Creek) and related tribes, and its documented role in the history of the Creek Confederacy and in relations between the Muscogee (Creek) and European settlers. The Lower Towns, one of the two main branches of the Creek Confederacy, were centered on Ocmulgee from about 1690 to 1715. Muscogee (Creek) oral tradition records a much older association with the location. As far back as 1735, Chief Chekilli told General James Oglethorpe that the Ocmulgee area was a key place in their history, where they “first sat down” after entering Georgia from the west (Deaver 2000). The Muscogee (Creek) abandoned their towns at Ocmulgee after the Yamasee War of 1715 to 1717, but they continued to camp on the site. They said that they could hear the ghosts of ancient warriors dancing around the old towns. The significance of this region to the tribe was shown by the Treaty of 1805. Under that treaty, the Creek Confederacy ceded all their land east of the Ocmulgee River to the state of Georgia, except for a 3 by 5 mile “reserve” encompassing the core of the Ocmulgee Old Fields. The continued attachment of the Muscogee people to the Ocmulgee site was documented by tribal consultations and less formal interviews in the 1990s, and is reflected in the widespread participation in the annual Ocmulgee Indian Celebration held at Ocmulgee National Monument. During consultation, the Indian tribes have emphasized not just the historic Creek villages but also the connections to distant ancestors, as represented especially by the mounds.

Properties South of the Main Unit, including Properties Related to Access to the Lamar Unit

The properties south of the Main Unit are all within the Ocmulgee Old Fields TCP. This area was farmed by the Muscogee (Creek), and several hamlets or small villages may have been present. The reserve claimed by the Creek in 1805 encompassed most of this area, so it was clearly designated by them as part of their home. Contemporary Creek and Seminole spokespeople have expressed a strong feeling of connection with the Lamar Mounds site as well as the main Ocmulgee Mounds, and domestic sites related to those mounds are almost certainly present in the surrounding tracts (Deaver 2000).

Properties on the West Side of the Ocmulgee River

The Ocmulgee Old Fields TCP includes a narrow strip of land on the west bank of the river, including the locations of Creek-related archeological sites 9BI7 and 9BI8, within Central City Park, and 9BI73. These sites show that historic Creek occupation included the west bank, as written records suggest. The west bank, which is topographically similar to the east bank, would have been part of the Ocmulgee Old Fields complex and therefore part of the spiritual home of the Creek People. The question of how much of the developed and disturbed land on the west bank to include in the TCP was much debated in the 1990s, and the decision to include only a small amount of the west bank opposite the Ocmulgee National Monument was reached only after much back and forth between preservation officials and Indian leaders (Butler et al. 2001; Deaver 2000).

HISTORIC RESOURCES

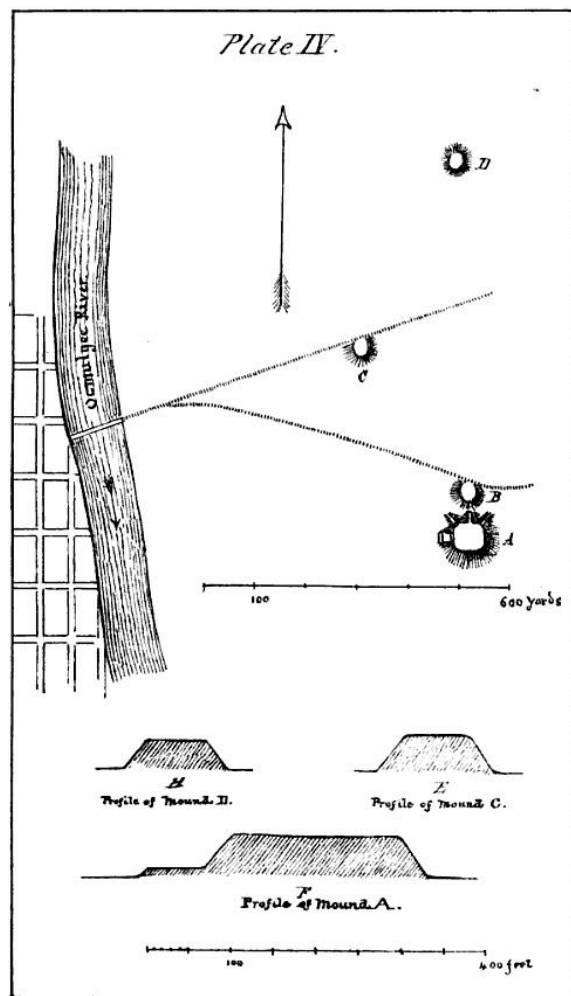
Early Euro-American settlement began in this area in the 19th century. In 1805, the Creek ceded all land east of the Ocmulgee River to the United States government, except an approximate 15-square-mile tract that included the Ocmulgee and Lamar Mounds. Led by Colonel Benjamin Hawkins, a fortification named Fort Hawkins was constructed and soon became an active trade center between the United States government and the Creek Nation. In 1826, the Treaty of Washington was signed, which passed all Creek holdings east of the Chattahoochee (including the 15-square-mile tract around the mounds) to the United States government.

Although the development of Macon began in the early 1820s, the City of Macon was officially chartered in 1823. The population of the city increased with the cotton boom, and the city began to establish itself as a trading and textile hub. Traders initially used the Ocmulgee River for transportation of goods, but in 1835 construction began on the Central of Georgia Railroad which connected Macon and Savannah when it was completed in 1843. Intense agricultural use of the land surrounding the Ocmulgee and Lamar Mounds began in the 1850s. The Civil War brought fighting to the area, and in November of 1864, the Battle of Walnut Creek brought changes to the landscape surrounding the mounds. In an effort to protect the Central of Georgia rail lines in this area, Confederate troops constructed earthworks in this area, including a U-shaped earthwork that falls within the current park boundary. The decades following the Civil War brought further development of industry in Macon, including the production of clay bricks in the area. Civic improvements continued in Macon, including the construction of a new railroad depot and the development of Central City Park.

Efforts to protect the archeological resources at the Ocmulgee Mounds began in the nineteenth century through the work of Charles Colcock Jones Jr., but it was not until the 1920s that a concerted campaign to preserve the site was initiated under the leadership of General Walter A. Harris, a Macon attorney. Federally funded archeological work at Ocmulgee began in 1934 and continued until 1942. President Franklin D. Roosevelt established Ocmulgee National Monument in December 1936, but the monument was less than a third the size originally proposed (678.48 acres versus the originally proposed 2,000).

During World War I and World War II, the Macon, Dublin & Savannah (MD&S) Seaboard rail line south of the current park site supplied soldiers at nearby Camp Wheeler. This camp was a training ground for the military during both World Wars. Camp Wheeler was abandoned in 1947. In the 1960s, Interstate 16 was constructed through Ocmulgee Old Fields on the east side of the Ocmulgee River east of downtown Macon.

According to the 2007 *Ocmulgee National Monument Cultural Landscape Report*, when the Central of Georgia Railroad built a rail line across the Macon Plateau in the 1840s, “the initial railway cut destroyed portions of the Lesser Temple Mound (B), left a littering of artifacts, and exposed prehistoric burials” (NPS 2007a). Archeologists working at the site in the 1930s estimated that about three-quarters of Mound B were removed during the construction of this line. In 1873, the Central of Georgia Railroad leased the section of line that passes through present-day Ocmulgee National Monument to the MD&S Railroad (figure 2-2). The line was moved, and construction of the new alignment exposed and destroyed more artifacts and burial areas at Mound C. Historian Charles C. Jones, Jr., in his *Antiquities of Southern Indians* describes the construction and its effect on Mound C, “its outlines marred by the excavation for the new track for the Central Railway.” Jones continues that, in excavation for the railway, workers “unearthed, a few feet below the surface, several skeletons” and multiple artifacts (Jones 1999).



Source: Plate IV, Charles C. Jones, Jr., *Antiquities of Southern Indians* (Jones 1999)

FIGURE 2-2. 1873 RAILROAD ALIGNMENT ACROSS OCMULGEE MOUNDS

SIGNIFICANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

With the exception of some of the properties in the study area on the northern side of the Main Unit, the land is mostly bottomland forest and swamp in the floodplain of the Ocmulgee River, with some upland forest in the terraces above the floodplain. Although the area was once fertile agricultural land, which is a driving reason that the area has been inhabited for so long, hydrological changes caused by the construction of the Macon Levee on the western bank of the Ocmulgee River, and the construction of Interstate 16 on the eastern side of the river have caused the lands in the floodplain in this area to become wetter and revert to forest, providing a wildlife corridor connecting the Main Unit to Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and other wetland areas to the south.

The *National Wetlands Inventory* maps (based on analysis of satellite imagery) now indicate that the majority of Parcel Groups 1 – 5 are freshwater forested / shrub wetlands, and the transmission line and abandoned rail corridors contain freshwater emergent wetlands (please refer to chapter 3 for a more detailed description of these wetland types). There are also some freshwater forested / shrub wetlands and a small amount of freshwater emergent wetlands along Walnut Creek in Parcel Group 6 (the parcel group on the northeast side of the Main Unit) (USFWS 2012b). These wetlands contain vegetation and hydrology that is typical of bottomland wetland forests; are notable for their physical extent; and are significant in that they provide excellent habitat for several species of wildlife, including listed species, and serve important hydrologic functions within the Ocmulgee River floodplain.

The study area includes a large portion of a wildlife corridor that extends from the Main Unit south through publicly and privately owned wetlands, down through Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and farther south to wetlands adjacent to Robins Air Force Base. The variety of biological communities at the fall line of the Ocmulgee River, as well as the many acres of undeveloped wetland and floodplain habitat stretching south from the Main Unit, constitute excellent habitat for many species of wildlife. Several migratory bird species use the area, and there are also resident bird species that can be found in the corridor area year round.

During informal consultation with the USFWS, the NPS learned that the study area provides potential habitat for several federally listed endangered or threatened species; however, because the land is privately held, no surveys have been completed (USFWS 2012c). The USFWS notes that there are federally listed animals, specifically the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), often observed in the area during summer months, and the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), as well as two plants, the fringed campion (*Silene polypetala*) and the relict trillium (*Trillium reliquum*), that could be supported by the habitat in the study area. The agency also notes that there are several species known to occur in Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge immediately south of the study area. The habitat at Bond Swamp is very similar to the habitat in the study area. The refuge, and by extension the study area, also contains habitat that may be suitable for plants such as the yellow flytrap (*Sarracenia flava*) (state unusual), ovate catchfly (*Silene ovata* Pursh) (state rare), sweet pitcher plant (*Sarracenia rubra*) (state threatened), Indian olive (*Nestronia umbellula*) (state threatened), and Ocmulgee skullcap (*Scutellaria ocmulgee*) (state threatened, federal candidate), as well as leechbrush (*Nestronia umbellule*) (state threatened), which has been found on an upland site adjacent to rock outcroppings. The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) (state endangered) has been nesting in Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge for many years and can be found year round on the refuge, and likely in surrounding areas. The river and associated aquatic systems include the shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) (endangered), robust redhorse (*Moxostoma robustum*) (state endangered), Altamaha shiner (*Cyprinella xaenura*), goldstripe darter (*Etheostoma parvipinne*), spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), Southern dusky salamander (*Desmognathus auriculatus*), coal skink (*Plestiodon anthracinus*), and the federally-endangered Altamaha spinymussel (*Elliptio spinosa*).

The Ocmulgee River floodplain and the study area also represent the northern edge of the range for the middle Georgia black bear population (*Ursus americanus*). This population of bears is genetically distinct and one of three populations of bears in Georgia. Although the population is concentrated in the wetlands east of Robins Air Force Base, the males range widely, and bears have been seen recently in Macon and in the national monument. There are estimated to be only between 200 and 300 individuals in this population. The bears typically live in swamp and forest, and the Ocmulgee River drainage and the wildlife corridor discussed here serves as their home range (GA DNR 2010).

APPLICATION OF CRITERIA FOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

The project team evaluated each parcel group in the study area against the criteria set forth in NPS *Management Policies 2006* (NPS 2006) and in the NPS white paper on boundary criteria (NPS 1991b). As discussed in chapter 1 of this EA, the properties within the study area were first evaluated to determine if the inclusion of the properties would:

- protect significant resources and values, or enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes;
- address operational and management issues, such as the need for access or the need for boundaries to correspond to logical boundary delineations such as topographic or other natural features or roads; or
- otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes.

The results of this suitability evaluation are found in table B-1 in appendix B.

The properties that met the suitability criteria were then further evaluated to determine whether the added lands would “be feasible to administer considering their size, configuration, and ownership; costs; the views of and impacts on local communities and surrounding jurisdictions; and other factors such as the presence of hazardous substances or nonnative species.” The study team also attempted to determine whether there exist any alternatives to NPS management that would be adequate for resource protection.

The results of the feasibility evaluation are found in tables B-1 and B-2 in appendix B.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Based on application of the NPS expansion criteria, as described in appendix B, the following parcel groups have been found to be suitable and feasible for addition to Ocmulgee National Monument (see figure 2-3 below):

1. Parcel Groups 1 – 5, but excluding most portions of parcels having commercial or residential structures.

These parcel groups are located east and south of the Main Unit.

Note: Two small areas in Parcel Group 2 meet the expansion criteria despite having residential structures. The first, located on Ocmulgee East Boulevard, meets the criteria because it provides the best point of access to the interior of Parcel Group 2. The second, located north of and adjacent to Lamar Mounds Road, meets the criteria because it forms part of an easily identifiable and manageable exterior boundary. See discussion below for additional details.

2. Parcel Groups 6 – 9, but excluding most portions of parcels having commercial or residential structures.

These parcel groups are located north of the Main Unit.

Note: Portions of Parcel Groups 7, 8, and 9 have been found appropriate for inclusion in the monument boundary despite containing structures. The structures in question are as follows: two abandoned structures on Parcel Group 7; a fire-damaged house in Parcel Group 8; and a row of nine lots (some with houses) along Clinton and Dewitt Streets in East Macon in Parcel Group 9, next to the park's current pedestrian entrance. The areas containing these structures meet the expansion criteria because they form part of an easily identifiable and manageable exterior boundary. See discussion below for additional details.

3. Parcel Group 10

This parcel group includes the railroad line through the Main Unit.

The following parcel groups were found not suitable or feasible for addition to Ocmulgee National Monument:

1. Parcel Groups 11 – 14, located west of the Ocmulgee River.

For a discussion of why Parcel Groups 11 – 14 were found not suitable or feasible for inclusion in the monument, see the “Alternatives Considered but Dismissed” section below.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS – PROPERTIES SUITABLE FOR ADDITION TO OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT

This section provides additional discussion of why particular parcel groups are suitable for inclusion in an expanded Ocmulgee National Monument.

Suitable Properties East and South of the Main Unit

The properties south of the Main Unit would all serve five principal purposes—to protect documented and potential undocumented archeological resources associated with the Old Fields; to protect lands that have been designated part of the Ocmulgee Old Fields TCP; to provide and protect a physical connection between the Lamar Unit and the Main Unit of the park; to better protect the Lamar Unit and its resources, which are significant and critical to the purpose of the Ocmulgee National Monument; and to provide enhanced recreational opportunities that increase visitor understanding of how Native Americans interacted with the bottomland and riverine environments of the Ocmulgee Old Fields and the Ocmulgee River.

Parcel Group 1

Addition of lands in Parcel Group 1 would protect significant resources and values related to park purposes, and would also create a more logical boundary, expanding the park toward Emery Highway. There is a high likelihood that undiscovered archeological resources related to the main purpose of the park are present, although no known sites have yet been documented in this group of parcels.

The expanded park area would also allow for enhanced opportunities for the public to enjoy the park and additional lands within the park. Addition of these parcels would also enhance protection of cultural and natural resources in the Main Unit by including wetlands and forest area associated with Walnut Creek.

Two commercial properties immediately east of the Main Unit (see Figure 2-1) are not suitable for addition to the monument. These areas have been extensively disturbed in the past and are not likely to have intact archeological resources on them. In addition, there are concerns about the possible presence of hazardous materials and underground storage tanks in these areas, making them undesirable to the NPS. Excluding these commercial properties would allow existing businesses to continue to operate.

Parcel Group 2

Addition of the undeveloped lands in Parcel Group 2 would protect properties that fall almost completely within the TCP, contain documented archeological resources, and are part of Ocmulgee Old Fields. The additions of these properties would thus protect significant resources and values related to park purposes. There are nine documented archeological sites related to the main purpose of the park within this area, and there is a high likelihood that archeological resources exist elsewhere in this area. The landscape consists of upland forest and floodplain bottomland swamp, including a portion of Walnut Creek, and presents an opportunity to protect not only cultural resources but also wildlife corridors and habitat.

Inclusion of these lands within the boundaries of the park would add lands that would make the boundaries more logical, following south along Ocmulgee Boulevard and along Lamar Mounds Road. These properties, which are important in linking the Main Unit with the Lamar Unit, would be instrumental in addressing management and operational issues related to the Lamar Unit and the fact that it is landlocked.

Expanding the boundary to include the undeveloped portion of Parcel Group 2 would also allow the public more opportunities to experience the park, and would present the public with more opportunities to understand the history and prehistory important to the park. Permanent protection of Walnut Creek near the Great Temple Mound would enhance public enjoyment by preserving vistas and the environment around the Great Temple Mound. There are plans for rails-to-trails conversions through some of this area (NPS 2012b) that would continue to be developed. Several existing roads and paths in Parcel Group 2 could be converted to hiking trails for public enjoyment related to the park purpose.

This parcel group is traversed by three power transmission line corridors and one active railroad corridor with spurs that no longer have track on them, and have long since become overgrown with vegetation. There is no practical way to preserve the resources in this parcel group without including these corridors.

In addition to the utility and rail corridors, there exists a cluster of soil borrow areas on the east side of Parcel Group 2. By including the borrow pits in an expanded boundary, further degradation of the area would be prevented and recreational and administrative access to the interior of the area would be enhanced.

Two small developed areas in this parcel group are suitable and feasible for inclusion in the monument. The first area is a small site located on Ocmulgee East Boulevard that includes a set of four rental houses and related structures, all owned by a single landowner. This area is suitable for inclusion because it includes the best entry point from Ocmulgee East Boulevard to the interior of Parcel Group 2. Including this area would optimize public and administrative access to the large area encompassed by Parcel Group 2. The second area is located along the north side of Lamar Mounds Road and likewise includes a set of four rental structures. The latter area is suitable and feasible for inclusion because the Lamar Mounds Road would constitute an easily identifiable and manageable boundary that could be patrolled by vehicle. Carving out the structures in this area would result in a boundary that was difficult to locate in the field and to patrol, thereby potentially increasing long-term staffing and administrative costs for the monument.

Parcel Group 3

Addition of the undeveloped lands in Parcel Group 3 would protect the area surrounding the Lamar Unit of the park. Expansion would provide a significant amount of additional protection to the Lamar Unit and connect the Lamar Unit to the Main Unit. These tracts also contain several known or suspected archeological sites related to the park's primary purpose and are entirely within the TCP. Addition of these parcels to the park would provide additional protection for the TCP and for large wetland and bottomland forest areas, and riparian areas along the Ocmulgee River.

By linking the Lamar Unit to the Main Unit, and increasing opportunities for access to the Lamar Unit, there would be more opportunities for public enjoyment and opportunities for curation of the resources associated with the Lamar site. Addition of these properties would provide a physical connection to the Main Unit and enhance access to the Lamar Unit, which is currently landlocked and presents associated management and operational challenges.

Parcel Group 4

The three properties in Parcel Group 4 contain significant and previously identified archeological sites, comprising approximately 392 acres. In addition, each provides access points to the Cherokee Brick & Tile Company property, which surrounds the Lamar Unit. These access points need to be controlled to better protect the Lamar Unit. These properties are fully within the TCP, adjoin the Ocmulgee River, and contain high-quality wildlife habitat and floodplain. The suitable and feasible portion of Parcel Group 4 does not include the training center and shooting range for the County Sheriff's Office (approximately 15 acres).

Access to the Lamar site currently depends, in part, on the cooperation of the property owners in Parcel Group 4. High water can make the site inaccessible, and limited vehicle access makes regular patrol of the site difficult and time-consuming. Since 1988, the site has been subject to two looting incidents. Improving access and protection of the Lamar Site is a major goal of the current boundary study.

In addition, the Bibb County Farm parcel is the location of the Swift Creek site (9Bi3). This archeological site contains artifacts typical of the Swift Creek culture, and inclusion of this site in the expansion would protect this resource, which is directly related to park purpose. This highly significant Woodland culture site is located under the present Bibb County Sheriff's Office Training Facility and is considered largely destroyed. However, archeologists familiar with the site believe that intact portions of the Swift Creek site could still be found along the perimeter of the training facility. Although the remainder of the Bibb County parcels has not been surveyed, the presence of numerous sites on the Cherokee Brick & Tile Company parcel (9Bi79, 9Bi81, and 9Bi83), as well as the Lamar site (9Bi2), would indicate a likelihood of other undiscovered archeological resources.

These parcels are also part of an expansion boundary for the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, which was created in 1989 "to protect, maintain, and enhance the ecosystem of the Ocmulgee River floodplain." The present refuge consists of more than 7,000 acres and is managed by the USFWS office located at the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge in Round Oak, Georgia. The USFWS, in a letter dated June 20, 2012, agreed to allow an overlap of the acquisition boundaries for the refuge and national monument at Parcel Group 4 (USFWS 2012b).

The USFWS permits hunting and other recreational activity on the refuge. Archeological site looting has been a constant issue on the refuge since its creation. Present refuge developmental plans call for the addition of a single refuge law enforcement officer to patrol the refuge, which is projected to expand to

18,000 acres. The NPS prohibition on hunting would limit the nature of public access to Parcel Group 4, allowing, for example, day use only.

At the core of the present boundary study is the desire to enhance the preservation and protection of the Lamar site. Because these properties in Parcel Group 4 provide access to the Lamar Unit and contain archeological resources related to the primary purpose of the park, the NPS is an appropriate agency to protect the resources on these properties. In particular, acquisition of the Bibb County properties would allow the NPS to control access to the Lamar Unit. With two law enforcement rangers on staff, duty stationed locally at Ocmulgee National Monument, the NPS is well-situated to enforce federal law in this area.

Parcel Group 5

This single property is located between the river and the interstate. Its value is primarily in that it would provide additional connections and access between the Main Unit and Parcel Group 3 on the river side of the interstate, and protect the riparian area along the river. Addition of this property would create a logical boundary for the park along the river, particularly if Parcel Groups 1 and 2 are included in the expansion. Presence of archeological resources related to the purpose of the park is possible, although they may have been disturbed during the construction of the interstate.

Suitable Properties to the North of the Main Unit

Properties north of the Main Unit, described below, are considered suitable and feasible for inclusion due to the opportunities they provide for more logical boundaries and to eliminate some conflicts in use. Furthermore, there are still likely to be undocumented archeological resources in many of these properties, given anecdotal accounts of discoveries of artifacts throughout the area north of the Main Unit and the fact that the site of Fort Hawkins is located farther north of the Main Unit of the park.

Parcel Group 6—Walnut Creek

Six parcels to the northeast of the park, across Emery Highway, along Jeffersonville Road are suitable and feasible for inclusion in the monument. See figure 2-3. It is likely that significant archeological resources still remain in this parcel group. The group includes the large 50-acre parcel owned by Kuei Lin Inc. that includes Walnut Creek and related wetlands. (The recycling facility on the property is not suitable for inclusion in the park.) The parcel also contains a documented archeological site where the recycling facility is located. It is hoped that a portion of this site remains undisturbed beyond the limits of the recycling facility. The area suitable for addition to the monument excludes all structures in this parcel group. Current land owners would not be left with uneconomic remnants of property if this area were acquired by the NPS.

Another reason this area qualifies for inclusion in the monument is the protection it affords the stretch of Walnut Creek above the Main Unit. Erosion is already a significant problem along Walnut Creek inside the Main Unit. Upstream development could make the problem substantially worse.

Parcel Group 7—Emery Highway Area

The two lots in this parcel group were created when Emery Highway was built through the park during World War II. The lots are suitable for inclusion in order to regularize the park boundary. There is an existing structure on the lots (a vacant, fire-damaged former tavern) and a parking lot that is graded to the edge of the current park boundary. Inclusion of this parcel group in the park boundary would also prevent incompatible uses adjacent to the park.

It is not likely that significant archeological resources are present on this property.

Parcel Group 8—Plumtree and Leaf Streets

Portions of Parcel Group 8 are suitable for inclusion in the monument. Suitable areas include undeveloped parcels along Plumtree Street owned by the City of Macon or the Macon Housing Authority, and one parcel that contains a burned house. These parcels would move the park boundary and its associated chain link fence away from the internal circulation road in the park. This change would straighten the boundary and improve the visitor experience. In addition, there may be undocumented archeological resources on these properties, given what has been found in the surrounding neighborhood in the past.

Parcel Group 9—Clinton Street Area

Portions of Parcel Group 9 are suitable for inclusion in the monument. Suitable areas include the triangular section of a parcel owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad, while excluding the dialysis center at the northern end of this property, and a row of nine lots along Clinton and Dewitt Streets in East Macon next to the park's current pedestrian entrance. Should the railroad that runs through the park be rerouted to other railroad corridors in the area, addition of these parcels would allow for an improved pedestrian entrance or alternative vehicular entrance that would better link with recreational and tourist uses along the Macon Heritage Greenway. Many of the lots on Dewitt Street have been purchased by a real estate firm that is working with the organization New Town Macon. New Town Macon has demolished structures on the lots it purchases in the past, and might do so in the future prior to transferring ownership to the NPS. The NPS would be amenable to such an arrangement if the boundary were expanded, but only if there were no adverse impacts on historic structures or to the East Macon Historic District. Note that all lots with structures previously listed as contributing to the East Macon Historic District have been found not suitable for inclusion in an expanded monument boundary. The reasons for this determination are as follows: (a) the structures do not relate directly to the purpose of the monument; (b) the lots do not otherwise address access or operational issues for the monument; and (c) NPS cannot ensure adequate future funding to maintain the historic structures.

The Railroad Line through the Main Unit

Parcel Group 10

As noted previously, the Main Unit is currently bisected by Parcel Group 14. This parcel group is suitable for inclusion in the boundary because including it would allow NPS to unify the two portions of the Main Unit if the rail line were ever to be abandoned or re-located away from its current alignment through the park.

Discussion of Results – Properties Feasible for Addition to Ocmulgee National Monument

As indicated in tables B-1 and B-2 in appendix B, all of the properties found suitable for inclusion in the monument would also be feasible to administer as part of Ocmulgee National Monument. A comparison of staffing needs for similarly sized and situated national park units indicates that an expanded monument, that included all suitable lands, would be feasible to administer without the need for additional personnel. The great majority of the lands found suitable for addition to the national monument are undevelopable wetlands. In addition, monument personnel already traverse the distance between the Main Unit and the Lamar Unit as part of their regular duties. If all suitable tracts were to be acquired in an expansion, NPS staff would still traverse this same area, but now NPS would own (and could control) the intervening land. In fact, expansion would make the entire monument more feasible to administer because it would create one contiguous park and resolve access and enforcement issues. Another consideration regarding

feasibility is that the bulk of expansion could be achieved by acquiring a handful of large tracts, and some large (and small) tracts would likely be donated. While some large tracts would need to be purchased, acquisition costs would be reduced because these tracts are wetlands. The principal downside regarding feasibility is that many of the suitable parcels have infestations of nonnative species (in particular, feral pigs and privet). Dealing with these infestations would entail additional costs for the NPS.

ALTERNATIVES

NEPA requires federal agencies to explore a range of reasonable alternatives aimed at addressing the purpose of and need for the proposed action. The alternatives under consideration must include the “no action alternative as prescribed by CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1502.14).

The alternatives analyzed in this document, in accordance with NEPA, are based on the analysis described in this chapter as well as the results of internal scoping and public scoping. The alternatives described in this section meet the overall purpose of and need for proposed action.

Also described in this section are alternatives that were considered but dismissed from further analysis. These alternatives were dismissed because they are not technically feasible; do not meet the purpose and need of the project; would create unnecessary or excessive adverse impacts on cultural or natural resources; and/or would conflict with the overall management of the park or its resources.

The NPS explored and objectively evaluated two alternatives in this EA, including the following:

- Alternative 1: No Action Alternative
- Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative): Expand the Boundary to Include All Suitable and Feasible Lands within the Study Area.

ALTERNATIVE 1: NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the no action alternative, the park boundaries of the Main Unit and the Lamar Unit would remain as they are, and no property would be added, either by donation or through the use of appropriated funds. The Main Unit would continue to border private property with known archeological resources. As a result, archeological resources related to the TCP and the cultural resources that are the purpose for the park’s existence would lack assured long-term protection. Views from the park would be at risk of modification from timber harvests and some development, such as construction of roads, although there is not high risk of development of the lowland properties, given that they are regulated wetlands, and some are owned by the Archeological Conservancy. The railroad would continue to bisect the Main Unit, and there would be no mechanism in place to acquire the rail corridor should the railroad be relocated, and that corridor be abandoned, as has been discussed by the Mayor of Macon (NPS 2012b).

The Lamar Unit would continue to be landlocked, with limited access to the property by way of an easement across other properties. Management of the Lamar Unit and protection of its resources would continue to be challenging.

Local and regional development authorities could still attempt to develop trail systems through the area south of the Main Unit on the unused rail corridors and old rail beds, but such efforts might meet resistance from affected adjacent landowners.

On the north side of the park, the park boundary would continue to border the East Macon neighborhood, and there would continue to be awkward boundary configurations resulting from construction of Emery Highway during World War II. The trail inside the park boundary would continue to hug the chain link fence by Plumtree Street, providing no buffer between the trail, the fence, and the neighborhood. There would continue to be only minimal opportunity to improve the entrances to the park and better connect with the community and other recreational and visitor experience opportunities, should the railroad line through the park be rerouted in the future.

ALTERNATIVE 2 (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE): EXPAND THE BOUNDARY TO INCLUDE ALL SUITABLE AND FEASIBLE LANDS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Under alternative 2, Ocmulgee National Monument would expand its boundary by up to approximately 2,100 acres. (See Figure 2-3. In the event of a conflict between this acreage figure and the map, the map is controlling.) The expanded boundary would include all lands that this study has found suitable and feasible for inclusion in the national monument (see discussion above and Figure 2-3). New lands would be acquired in fee simple to protect cultural and natural resources and to allow for public access. The Archeological Conservancy, City of Macon, New Town Macon, Georgia Department of Transportation, and Bibb County have all indicated a willingness to donate some or all the land they own inside the proposed expanded boundary (LaChine, pers. comm. 2013). Other lands would need to be acquired with appropriated funds. Acquisition would be *from willing sellers only*. For NPS to implement this alternative, Congress would have to pass new legislation expanding the boundary. The legislation would also need to authorize the use of appropriated funds to acquire land in the expanded boundary.

Alternative 2 would regularize the boundary of the national monument on the north and east, and link the Main Unit to the Lamar Unit to the south. Making this connection would allow NPS to better protect the resources in both units. More broadly, the proposed boundary would protect an array of resources in the TCP between the monument's Main Unit on the north and the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to the south. In so doing, it would also increase opportunities for public use and enjoyment of the Ocmulgee River corridor below the City of Macon.

In crafting alternative 2, the NPS has sought to minimize the number of structures included in the proposed boundary expansion. The reasons for this approach are as follows: (a) excluding structures avoids impacts to homeowners and businesses; (b) none of the structures in the study area is needed for park purposes; and (c) including unneeded structures in the boundary expansion triggers long-term operation and maintenance costs for the NPS. Accordingly, this alternative excludes most developed areas in the study area. Among the excluded areas are two commercial properties on the north edge of Parcel Group 1, the Sheriff's Office training facility in Parcel Group 4, and most other properties or portions of properties in the study area that contain structures.

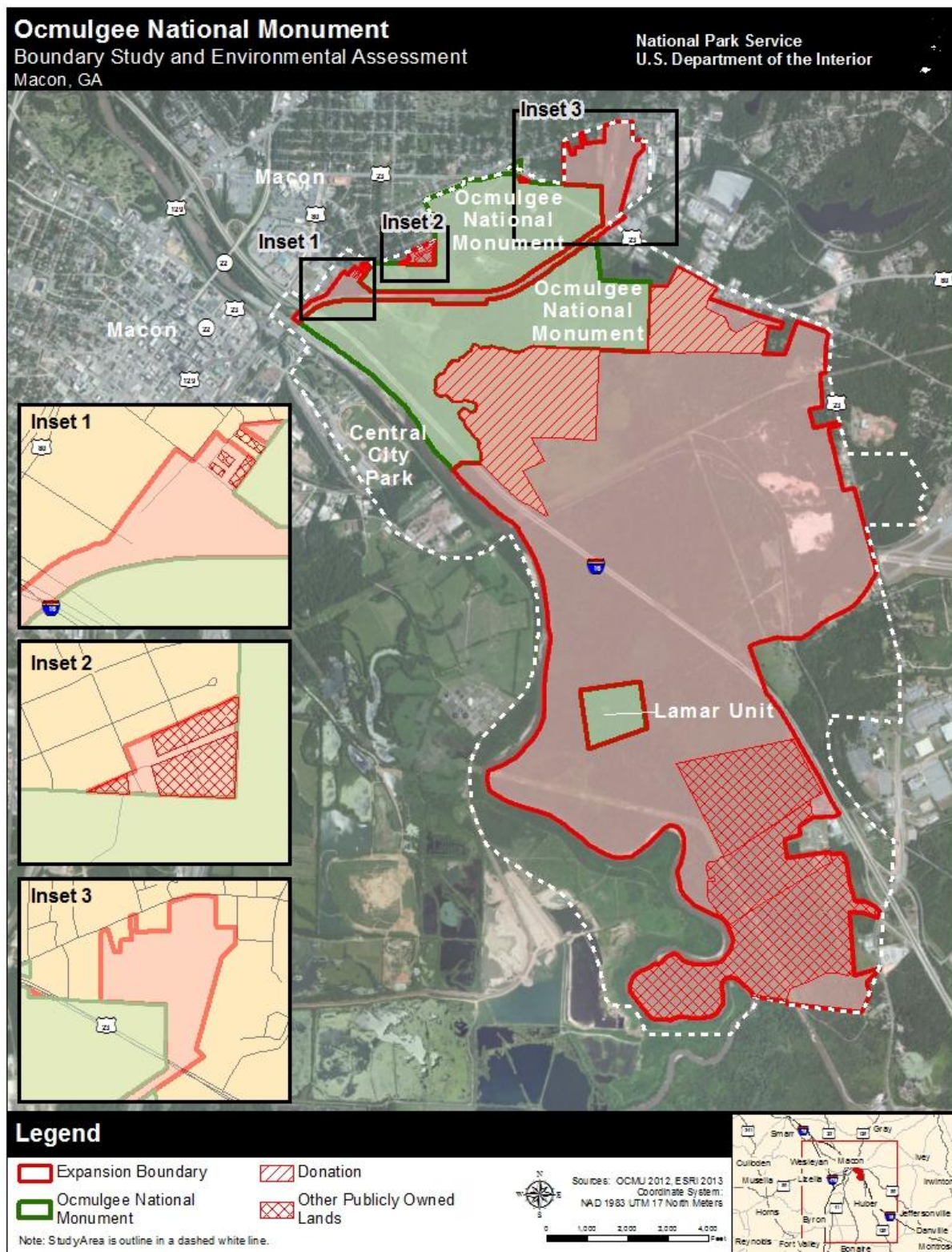


FIGURE 2-3. PROPOSED EXPANSION BOUNDARY

Under this alternative, some structures would be included in the boundary as a side-effect of establishing a regularized boundary that was efficient to administer and that met other long-term management goals (such as providing alternate access points to the monument). These include:

- Four rental houses, with outbuildings, along Ocmulgee East Boulevard in Parcel Group 2. These structures are located immediately adjacent to the preferred access point to the interior of the proposed expansion.
- Four rental houses (two trailers and two frame structures) in Parcel Group 2 located along the north side of Lamar Mounds Road. (Lamar Mounds Road would form part of the exterior boundary of the expanded monument.)
- A small abandoned commercial structure (fire-damaged) on Emery Highway.
- A fire-damaged dwelling on Plumtree Street.
- Four existing buildings near the Clinton Street pedestrian gate (these are non-contributing structures).

Overall, the area included within the proposed expansion boundary includes eight rental houses, a small, fire-damaged abandoned commercial structure, an abandoned fire-damaged residence, and four residences near the Clinton Street pedestrian gate (site of potential new park entrance if rail line is ever abandoned). There are twelve occupied structures within the proposed expansion boundary, including one owner-occupied structure.

This alternative does not include any treatment recommendations for any structures within the expanded boundary. Should it be determined that any of the structures in the expanded boundary is historic, then the NPS would consult with the Georgia SHPO to develop treatment recommendations for any historic property that NPS decided to acquire. Similarly, the NPS would condition any acquisition or acceptance of real property on full participation by the conveying landowner, as appropriate, in the consultation process of the NHPA. The purpose of imposing this condition would be to avoid any adverse effect to historic structures or the East Macon Historic District.

It should be noted that non-historic structures acquired by NPS within the expanded boundary would be treated differently. Most or all non-historic structures would be demolished to comply with the NPS policy of no net gain of inventory of real property assets (structures). Refer to Executive Order 13324 and Presidential Memorandum 12-12 (Office of Management and Budget 2012). Conforming to this policy would minimize long-term operation and maintenance costs for the NPS.

Two borrow pits on Parcel Group 2, totaling approximately 50 acres, would also be included under this alternative. This site of the pits is included because it is strategically located for access to the interior of the property. Moreover, inclusion of the borrow pits would preclude future mining, an incompatible use adjacent to the national monument. Inclusion would also avoid leaving the current property owner with a possibly uneconomic remnant of land.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT DISMISSED

The park considered a variety of configurations associated with the proposed expansion. Acquisition of properties on the west side of the river was considered, but it was determined that the properties either would not protect resources or values vital to the purpose of the park, had development on them that was undesirable to the NPS, or that another group or government agency could better manage the properties and their resources. Central City Park and the other properties on the west side of the river contain several documented, and also likely undocumented, archeological resources related to the park purpose, but they

also contain additional important historic resources not directly related to the primary mission of the park, including the Cherokee Brick & Tile Company Historic District, and historic resources in Central City Park. Several of the properties have been extensively disturbed with activities such as mining and recycling operations, and Macon's wastewater treatment plant is approximately halfway down this group of parcels.

Central City Park is managed by Bibb County, and previously by the City of Macon as a recreational park with ball fields and other amenities. It was therefore determined that although there is a potential to improve protection of the resources related to the park purpose, the park does not meet the criteria for expansion. The county is better situated to manage and protect the resources at Central City Park and manage the recreational activities at the park. Recycling and mining operations reduce the significance of the sites downstream. Furthermore, the Cherokee Brick & Tile Company Historic District is related to modern industrial process, and is not central to park purpose. Management of these properties would be difficult for NPS to achieve across the Ocmulgee River. Costs related to management of the properties would be high. These properties were therefore found to not meet the expansion criteria.

Acquisition of scenic or access easements between the river and the Macon Levee was also considered because protection of the riparian corridor is important for natural resources, and views from other expansion areas in alternative 1. Easements would be difficult to manage effectively and would not achieve protection objectives better than the required riparian buffers currently in place.

NPS PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

NPS must identify a preferred alternative for proposed actions. CEQ guidance states:

The “agency’s preferred alternative” is the alternative which the agency believes would fulfill its statutory mission and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical and other factors.

The preferred alternative for the Ocmulgee National Monument Proposed Boundary Expansion is the action alternative, because it would best fulfill the NPS’ statutory mission and responsibilities and protect important archeological, ethnographic, and natural resources associated with Ocmulgee Old Fields and the purpose and values of Ocmulgee National Monument. The Lamar Unit would be better protected, have better access, and be physically linked to the Main Unit. In addition, the resources within the expansion boundary would be better protected than under private, state, or local government ownership, because the federal laws protecting archeological resources are stronger. Expansion of the park would enhance tourism opportunities for the region and, although it would remove land from the local tax rolls, the majority of the land is wetland and does not have high economic potential.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE

The NPS is also required to identify the environmentally preferable alternative, which may not necessarily be the same as the preferred alternative. CEQ guidance defines the environmentally preferable alternative as one that:

causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment; it also means the alternative which best protects, preserves and enhances historic, cultural and natural resources.

In this case, the preferred alternative is also the environmentally preferable alternative. The action alternative would protect large amounts of archeological, ethnographic, and natural resources, and allows for extensive interpretive opportunities not currently in place.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

TABLE 2-3. SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Impact Topic	Alternative 1: No Action Alternative	Alternative 2: (Preferred Alternative) Expand the Boundary to Include All Suitable and Feasible Lands within the Study Area
Archeological and Ethnographic Resources	Impacts on archeological and ethnographic resources under the no action alternative would be long term minor to possibly moderate and adverse, if instances of large-scale looting occur.	Sixteen known archeological sites would be brought into federal ownership and protection. There would therefore be long-term benefits to archeological and ethnographic resources because of the boundary expansion.
Historic Structures and Districts	The historic structures and districts in the study area would not be affected by the no action alternative, and they would continue to exist as they are.	There would be no adverse effects on historic districts and structures under Section 106.
Wetlands	Wetlands in the study area would continue to be vulnerable to disturbance, including limited filling and timbering, resulting in possible slight, but noticeable adverse effects on the wetlands related to their vulnerability. The impacts would not be significant.	Under the action alternatives, there would be beneficial impacts on wetlands, because they would be better protected as they are acquired by the NPS, and they would be subject to the protective NPS wetland policies.
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	There would most likely be no impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat from the no action alternative, although there could be some limited short- and long-term adverse impacts in the form of disturbance to wildlife associated with allowable disturbance in wetlands. The impacts would not be significant.	There would be beneficial impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat under the action alternative. The wetlands and bottomland swamp forest would be protected from development, and threats such as timbering would be removed.
Socioeconomic Resources and Adjacent Land Use	Overall, there would be no direct or indirect impacts on the social or economic environment or on adjacent land use under the no action alternative. Existing socioeconomic parameters are anticipated to continue as they are. The land use status in the study areas would not change.	There would be some beneficial impacts on socioeconomic resources from the action alternative, stemming from the potential for employment and from increased property values and subsequent tax increases. There would be some slight adverse impacts on socioeconomic resources related to removing land from the local tax inventory. These impacts would not be significant.

Impact Topic	Alternative 1: No Action Alternative	Alternative 2: (Preferred Alternative) Expand the Boundary to Include All Suitable and Feasible Lands within the Study Area
Visitor Use and Experience	There would be several small but noticeable adverse impacts on visitor use and experience associated with the no action alternative, as a result of limited access to the Lamar Unit, and other small negative effects. These impacts would not be significant.	Under the action alternative, there would be long-term beneficial impacts on visitor use and experience by providing more areas to visit, eventually unifying the park where it is divided by the railroad as opportunities arise, and creating improved opportunities for the public to enjoy the Lamar site and the bottomland swamp that surrounds it. There would also be beneficial opportunities for improved links to the community if the lands to the north of the park would be added to the park.
Park Management and Operations	Under the no action alternative, the park boundaries would not be expanded and there would be no impacts on Park Management and Operations.	Under the action alternative, there would be no direct impacts on park management and operations resulting from legislated expansion of the park boundaries, because the NPS would not yet own the properties. However, there would be small short- and long-term indirect adverse impacts, because staff time would be required to perform research and other activities related to acquisition of expansion properties, and once the properties were transferred to NPS ownership, staff responsibilities would expand, although it is not anticipated that new staff would be required. Impacts would not be significant.

CHAPTER 3: AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

The “Affected Environment” describes existing conditions for those elements of the natural and cultural environment that could be affected by implementation of the actions considered in this boundary study / EA. Cultural resources addressed in this EA include archeological and ethnographic resources, and historic structures and districts. Natural resources addressed are wetlands, wildlife, and wildlife habitat. Other topics are socioeconomics and neighboring land use, visitor use and experience, and park management and operations. Relevant impact topics were selected based on agency and public concerns, regulatory and planning requirements, and known or expected resource issues. The information provided in this chapter will be used as context for comparing the potential impacts of each alternative, which are presented in “Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences.”

Because the lands in the study area are owned by a combination of private owners, and state and local government agencies, the NPS has not conducted a detailed study of the resources within the study area and has instead relied on inventories at the nearby Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the *Macon-Bibb County Comprehensive Plan*, and past studies, including Georgia Department of Transportation studies exploring the feasibility of placing a highway corridor through the center of the study area. Many of the resources in the study area have already been discussed in chapter 2 in the discussion of the significance of the resources in the proposed expansion boundary, and are referenced in this chapter, as appropriate.

ARCHEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

As discussed in chapter 2, the study area is a zone of great archeological importance. Twenty-one archeological sites have been recorded within the study area, in addition to 9BI1 and 9BI2, the mound groups already within the Ocmulgee National Monument. These sites span the entire prehistory of the region, from Paleoindian times to the arrival of Europeans. During Mississippian times, the floodplain and high terraces of the Ocmulgee River would have been dotted with hamlets, several of which have been identified archeologically. Some sites have been partially destroyed, but in the absence of detailed investigations, it is possible that some part of all these sites survives. Other sites are almost certainly present. Little of the Ocmulgee floodplain has been explored by archeologists, and sites of earlier periods may be buried under several feet of alluvium. More detailed descriptions of these resources are given in chapter 2.

The ethnographic resource in the study area is the Ocmulgee Old Fields TCP. Most of the study area south of the Ocmulgee National Monument overlaps with the much larger 14,000-acre Ocmulgee Old Fields TCP. The area was designated a TCP because of its importance to the Muscogee (Creek) and allied Indian tribes, who consider it a major part of their spiritual home. The Muscogee (Creek) occupied the area from around 1650 to 1805, moving westward after the Yamasee War. However, they continued to camp on the spot for many decades, and in the Treaty of 1805, in which they ceded most of their land east of the Ocmulgee River to Georgia, they retained a 3 by 5 mile rectangle (the Old Fields Reserve) encompassing the Ocmulgee Old Fields. The Creek also have traditions, which were recorded as long ago as 1739, that they have an ancient association with the location, going back to centuries before 1690. During the consultations that led to the establishment of the TCP, Muscogee (Creek) and other Indians expressed a strong sense of connections with the prehistoric inhabitants of Ocmulgee as their distant ancestors, and they attach special spiritual value to the mounds and associated village sites.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND DISTRICTS

HISTORIC RESOURCES WITHIN THE CURRENT PARK BOUNDARY

Historic structures within the current park boundary include not only archeological resources but also the Dunlap House (1856), Civil War Earthworks (1864), Visitor Center (1938–1941, 1950–1951), Civilian Conservation Corps camp (New Deal Era), and reconstructed Earth Lodge 1936–1937). The park unit also contains many cultural landscape features including historic small-scale features and circulation elements. Existing conditions of these elements is described in the 2007 *Ocmulgee National Monument Cultural Landscape Report* (NPS 2007b).

All 18 of the park's historic structures have been documented for the National Register and contribute to the Ocmulgee National Monument Historic District, which was originally listed in 1976. In 1996, an amendment was submitted to and accepted by the Keeper, which expanded the period of significance to include the period of park development and added the visitor center and commemorative flagpole to the district. Presently, the district is listed under criteria A, C, and D, and represents four separate periods of significance, 900-1000 CE, 1250-1650 CE, 1690-1715 CE, and 1936-1951 CE. In the 1996 amendment, 5 structures were listed as being non-contributing.

PROPERTIES INTERIOR TO THE MAIN UNIT

Historic structures interior to the main park unit but outside the current park boundary include the Railroad Overpass at Ocmulgee and the Southern Railroad line and associated rail right-of-way traversing the park property. As discussed in chapter 2, the Railroad Overpass is listed in the National Register. According to the *Ocmulgee National Monument Cultural Landscape Report*, “the overpass has been repaired and modified in recent years, compromising its integrity” (NPS 2007b). The Georgia Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has stated that most historic railroad corridors are eligible for the National Register. This is true of the corridor running through the Main Unit.

Railroad Overpass at Ocmulgee

According to the 1979 National Register nomination form for this structure, this small, arched, brick masonry overpass dates from the early 1870s. The boundary for this resource includes the structure itself and “a 200-foot square, centered on the overpass, within the 200-foot-wide railroad right-of-way. This square includes the overpass, railroad embankment and highway approaches” (NRHP 1979). The rail crossing provided by the overpass was originally part of an agreement between the Central of Georgia Railroad and Samuel S. Dunlap. This agreement stated that construction of the railroad should include a crossing point on the tracks to connect his property on either side of the rail right-of-way. According to the nomination, “The overpass is an unusual feature in that other engineering elements along the line seem necessary to the public such as the bridges over Walnut Creek or Boggy Gut, but because the Dunlap house was north of the rail line and accessible from a public road, the overpass gave access only to the southern portion of the plantation and was for private needs only” (NRHP 1979).

The railroad overpass at Ocmulgee is significant for its design and construction. “The design of the overpass features a tunnel-like horseshoe-shaped arched passageway, highlighted by four rows of radiating brick voussoirs, and sweeping, broadly curved retaining walls, framed by a projecting brick watertable and a corbelled brick cornice.” The nomination states that this construction method and detail level is unusual for a railroad overpass of this era; especially one surrounded by private property (NRHP 1979).

Railroad Lines through the Main Unit

The original rail line traversing the Main Unit was constructed in 1843 “south of the present line containing the overpass.” The Central Railroad and Banking Company of the State of Georgia (later the Central of Georgia Railroad/Railway) obtained land from Samuel S. Dunlap for a “change of location” of this line in 1870. A new line was constructed in 1872 north of the original 1843 alignment (NRHP 1979). Both the NRHP nomination for the railroad overpass and the *Cultural Landscape Report for Ocmulgee National Monument* state that the line was leased at some point to the MD&S Railroad. It is unclear when the lease ended for this line, but ownership eventually reverted to the Central of Georgia Railway (now operated under the Norfolk Southern Company.)

The construction of these railroad lines and their rights-of-way by the Central of Georgia Railway resulted in damage to the archeological resources within the current park boundary. The new northern alignment included the railroad overpass at the Main Unit of the park. The National Register nomination for the overpass states that the rail line was likely relocated to provide a better angle of access to the trestle crossing at Walnut Creek and to alleviate flooding conditions associated with the original location (NRHP 1979).

According to a 2002 historic resources survey for the area near Ocmulgee National Monument, the Central of Georgia Railroad corridor is one of the earliest in Georgia, chartered in 1833. The line to the Ocmulgee River was completed in 1843 and a bridge into Macon crossing the Ocmulgee River was completed in 1851. “This addition gave the Central of Georgia a direct connection with the Macon & Western Railroad, and thus Atlanta and the railroad beyond.” The Central of Georgia Railroad operated independently until 1963. Norfolk Southern Railroad now owns the rail line. The historic resources survey states the Georgia HPD “has completed a Georgia railroad historic context and has stated those most historic railroad corridors[s] are considered eligible for the National Register. The Central of Georgia Railroad corridor is no exception; HPD staff considers it National Register eligible. It was assessed eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (significant events)” (Brockington 2002).

HISTORIC RESOURCES OUTSIDE THE CURRENT PARK BOUNDARY, BUT WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Properties South and East of the Main Unit

Macon, Dublin & Savannah Railroad Corridor

The Macon and Dublin Railroad Company was chartered in 1885. Due to an anticipated extension of the line to Savannah, the company changed its name to the MD&S. The section of rail through Macon was completed in December 1891 (though connections farther south took many more years to complete). MD&S Railroad constructed tracks as far south as Dublin, Georgia, falling approximately 80 miles short of the planned Savannah endpoint. According to the publication *Central of Georgia Railway*, the MD&S “connected with the Southern and Central of Georgia to form a route between points such as Atlanta and Birmingham and Seaboard points in Florida and along the Georgia coast. Important sources of local traffic were several clay and kaolin mines along the line. During the 1940s the road operated two through freight trains in each direction daily, including an overnight run between Macon and Savannah in conjunction with Seaboard. The MD&S also operated a pair of local passenger trains, Nos. 17 and 18, between Macon and Vidalia. . .it finally dropped its passenger service in 1949.” The MD&S Railroad merged with Seaboard Air Line in 1958 (McQuigg, Galloway, and McIntosh 1998).

According to a historic resources study of the area, the MD&S Railroad corridor is considered National Register eligible under Criterion A (significant events). Because the railroad was crucial for transporting

troops during World War I and World War II, it is considered a contributing element to the nearby Camp Wheeler Historic District (Brockington 2002). This rail line remains active under the Georgia Central Railway, Macon to Vidalia route.

Parcel Group 1

There are no historic structures located within this parcel group. Neighboring properties include mid-century commercial strip development. Building types range from masonry to metal-sided structures from the 1950s and 1960s, as well as nonhistoric construction. An architectural survey of these resources was not conducted for this project, but it is likely that most of the structures in this area are ineligible for the National Register due to lack of architectural integrity. This conclusion has not been submitted to the SHPO for concurrence.

Parcel Group 2

Brockington and Associates conducted an architectural field survey of the area near Parcel Group 2 in 2002 while preparing the aforementioned historic resources survey. Several National Register eligible structures were identified during this survey. The criterion for selecting historic resources was the 50-year minimum age necessary for inclusion in the National Register. Because this study was conducted in the late 1990s, historians used a date of pre-1950 for their criteria. Most of the structures adjacent to the proposed expansion are mid-century residences. Due to architectural changes and declining condition, most of these resources were evaluated by Brockington and Associates as ineligible for the National Register. The following residences are adjacent to, but outside, the proposed boundary expansion and were evaluated as eligible for the National Register:

- Resource BI-EI-6, located at 4153 Ocmulgee East Boulevard. This circa 1940 residence is considered eligible under Criterion C (architecture) at the local level of significance. The Georgia SHPO concurred with the report recommendation.
- Resource BI-EI-17, located at 3353 Ocmulgee East Boulevard. This circa 1950 residence is considered eligible under Criterion C (architecture) at the local level of significance. The Georgia SHPO concurred with the report recommendations.

Parcel Group 2 includes two pre-1960s structures. Both are one-family wood-frame residences located on the north side of Lamar Mounds Road. The easternmost structure is an asbestos-sided, wood-frame building with asphalt shingle roof on part of the structure and a metal roof on the remaining part of the house. This residence exhibits poor architectural integrity and fair physical condition. An architectural survey of this resource was not conducted for this project, but it is likely that this structure is ineligible for the National Register due to lack of architectural integrity. This conclusion has not been submitted to the SHPO for concurrence.

The western structure is adjacent to two manufactured homes. This 1940 metal-roofed building exhibits poor architectural integrity and fair physical condition. This house is most likely ineligible for the National Register. An architectural survey of this resource was not conducted for this project, but it is likely that this structure is ineligible for the National Register due to lack of architectural integrity. This conclusion does not have SHPO concurrence.

Properties to the North of the Main Unit

Parcel Group 7

Parcel Group 7 includes one 1950s-era masonry commercial structure. The structure has been fire-damaged and currently has a hole in the roof, and does not retain architectural integrity. An architectural survey of this resource was not conducted for this project, but it is likely that this structure is ineligible for the National Register due to lack of architectural integrity. This conclusion has not been submitted to the SHPO for concurrence.

East Macon Historic District / Parcel Group 9

Historic resources north of the Main Unit include the East Macon Historic District and one mid-century brick commercial building. The properties adjacent to the current park unit within the East Macon Historic District are not well-tended. Many houses are vacant, and some include boarded windows. An auditorium on the corner of Clinton and Taylor Streets is well-preserved and is currently owned by the city. Lot configuration on the northeast side of Clinton Street is intact from the original mill community layout; however, many houses have been demolished from the lots immediately adjacent to the Ocmulgee National Monument boundary.

According to the National Register nomination for the East Macon Historic District, East Macon was settled before the establishment of Macon (founded in 1823). “A small settlement called Newtown developed along the Ocmulgee just east of Fort Hawkins in the late eighteen-teens. Newtown was eventually incorporated into what would become East Macon and later Macon. Most growth in this area is associated with the rise of Bibb Manufacturing Company” (NRHP 1993). Figure A-2 in appendix A shows the extent of the historic district boundaries.

Founded in Macon in 1876, Bibb Manufacturing Company was an important part of Georgia’s cotton and textile industry. Bibb Manufacturing established its first factory on the east side of the Ocmulgee River across from downtown Macon and easily accessible by the Central of Georgia Railway. Transportation (principally rail) played a key role in the factory’s establishment and operation. The company established mill communities surrounding their factories throughout Georgia. These communities provided support services and housing for mill workers and their families. East Macon was this type of community supporting the Bibb Manufacturing Mill in Macon, and it contained a school, churches, and community buildings for its residents. According to the National Register nomination for the East Macon Historic District, the City of Macon annexed all of East Macon into the city limits in 1910. “This allowed the extension of sewer lines, street lights, paved streets, and fire protection.” The nomination continues, “most of the portion of East Macon nearest to the river was built out by 1930...Craftsman houses were the dominant style, but other revival styles were also represented. Much of the development which took place during this period was housing for lower middle and working class residents.” Although much of the mill village was destroyed with the construction of the Macon Coliseum, surviving elements include the auditorium (located at the corner of Taylor and Clinton Streets) and a collection of mill houses located along Clinton, Hydrolia, Schell, Taylor, and Dewitt Streets (NRHP 1993). The East Macon Historic District is listed in the National Register as significant in the areas of architecture, community planning, and industry. Its approximate boundaries are Emery Highway, Coliseum Drive, and Clinton, Fletcher and Fairview Streets. An architectural survey report was conducted in connection with the National Register nomination for this district.

Properties on the West Side of the Ocmulgee River

There are several historic resources within the study area on the west side of the Ocmulgee River.

Central City Park (Parcel Group 10)

The 120 acres of parkland between downtown Macon and the Ocmulgee River make up Central City Park. The parkland was deeded to the City of Macon in 1826. Major development in the park began in the early 1870s as the site was developed to host the 1871 Georgia State Fair. The park then became the State Fair's home. Newly constructed park elements included a masonry entry gate, exposition buildings, a horse racing track, and a bandstand. Most of these elements were destroyed by fire in 1913. The site is now home to the City of Macon Park and Recreation Department, Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety, and Luther Williams Baseball field (constructed in 1926). One structure, the Central City Park Bandstand is listed in the National Register. The entire park is not listed, but is considered eligible for the National Register. This conclusion has not been submitted to the SHPO for concurrence.

Macon Levee (Parcel Groups 10, 11, 12, and 13)

According to a 2002 historic resources survey, the Macon Levee was constructed in 1906 by the United States Army Corps of Engineers to alleviate flooding in the area adjacent to downtown Macon by the Ocmulgee River. "The levee ran for approximately five miles from the Central City Park and extended to the embankment of the Macon & Brunswick (present-day Norfolk Southern) Railroad." Since its construction in 1906, the Corps of Engineers has repaired the structure on several occasions. The historic resources survey recommended the structure as eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C (engineering), at the local level of significance (Brockington 2002). The Georgia HPD concurred with this assessment.

Macon Railroad Industrial Historic District

The Macon Railroad Industrial Historic District is roughly bounded by Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Streets, and the Central of Georgia Railroad, Southern and Seaboard Railroad tracks. The areas of significance for this district are architecture, commerce, and industry. The National Register nomination states, "the district is comprised of late 19th- and early 20th-century industrial, commercial, warehouse, and railroad buildings situated in an area of low, flat terrain. Other structures include railroad trestles, overpasses, and bridges." One of the most notable architectural pieces of the district is the 1916 Beaux Arts style Macon Terminal. The area was listed in the National Register in 1987.

Cherokee Brick & Tile Company Historic District (Parcel Group 12)

This district consists of approximately 4,000 acres in the southwestern quadrant of the study area. The area was developed in connection with brick manufacturing between 1877 and 1949. Documented prehistoric archeological sites are present within the district. The district includes elements from the entire brick-making process from mining and transportation of clay to the manufacture and shipping of brick. Structures include kilns, clay storage buildings, company offices, and sheds. Transportation operation elements include a railroad spur, overhead conveyors, and a 1928 plate-girder turntable bridge that crosses the Ocmulgee River. The district is significant in the areas of industry, engineering, and architecture and was added to the National Register in 2002.

WETLANDS

As discussed in the natural resources significance section in chapter 2, the majority of the area in the study area south of the Main Unit has been classified as wetlands in the USFWS *National Wetlands Inventory* (USFWS 2012b). Although the lands in the floodplain along the river used to be much dryer and were arable, the construction of Interstate 16 along the Ocmulgee River, and probably the construction of the Macon Levee on the far side of the river, have caused changes to the hydrology in the area, and the floodplain is now very wet, and the lands are no longer suitable for cultivation without use of drainage.

As noted in chapter 2, the *National Wetlands Inventory* indicates that the majority of Parcel Groups 1 – 5, the lands south of the Main Unit and surrounding the Lamar site, are freshwater forested / shrub wetland, and the transmission and abandoned rail corridors contain freshwater emergent wetlands. There are also some freshwater forested / shrub wetlands and a small amount of freshwater emergent wetlands along Walnut Creek in Parcel Group 6 (the parcel group on the northeast side of the Main Unit). These wetlands provide excellent habitat for several species of wildlife and serve important hydrologic functions within the Ocmulgee River floodplain (figure 3-1).

The landscape between the Main Unit and Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is very similar to what is found at the refuge. The Bond Swamp *Comprehensive Conservation Plan* indicates that water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) is the principal overstory species in the bottomland hardwood swamp forest wetlands. These wetlands also contain black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*); red maple (*Acer rubrum*); sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*); elm (*Ulmus* spp.); ash (*Fraxinus* spp.); hickory (*Carya* spp.); and water, willow, overcup, and swamp chestnut oaks (*Quercus nigra*, *Q. phellos*, *Q. lyrata*, and *Q. michauxii*). These wetlands are subject to extended or very regular periods of inundation. Common understory species include poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), rattan vine (*Berchemia scandens*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), eastern hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), boxelder (*Acer negundo*), privet (*Ligustrum* spp.), a nonnative shrub common in the Macon area, and others, including giant cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*) that is present in small patches throughout the area (USFWS 2009).

The emergent palustrine wetlands in the Walnut Creek floodplain northeast of the Main Unit have not been surveyed, but likely resemble the wetlands along Walnut Creek in the park adjacent to the Great Temple Mound.

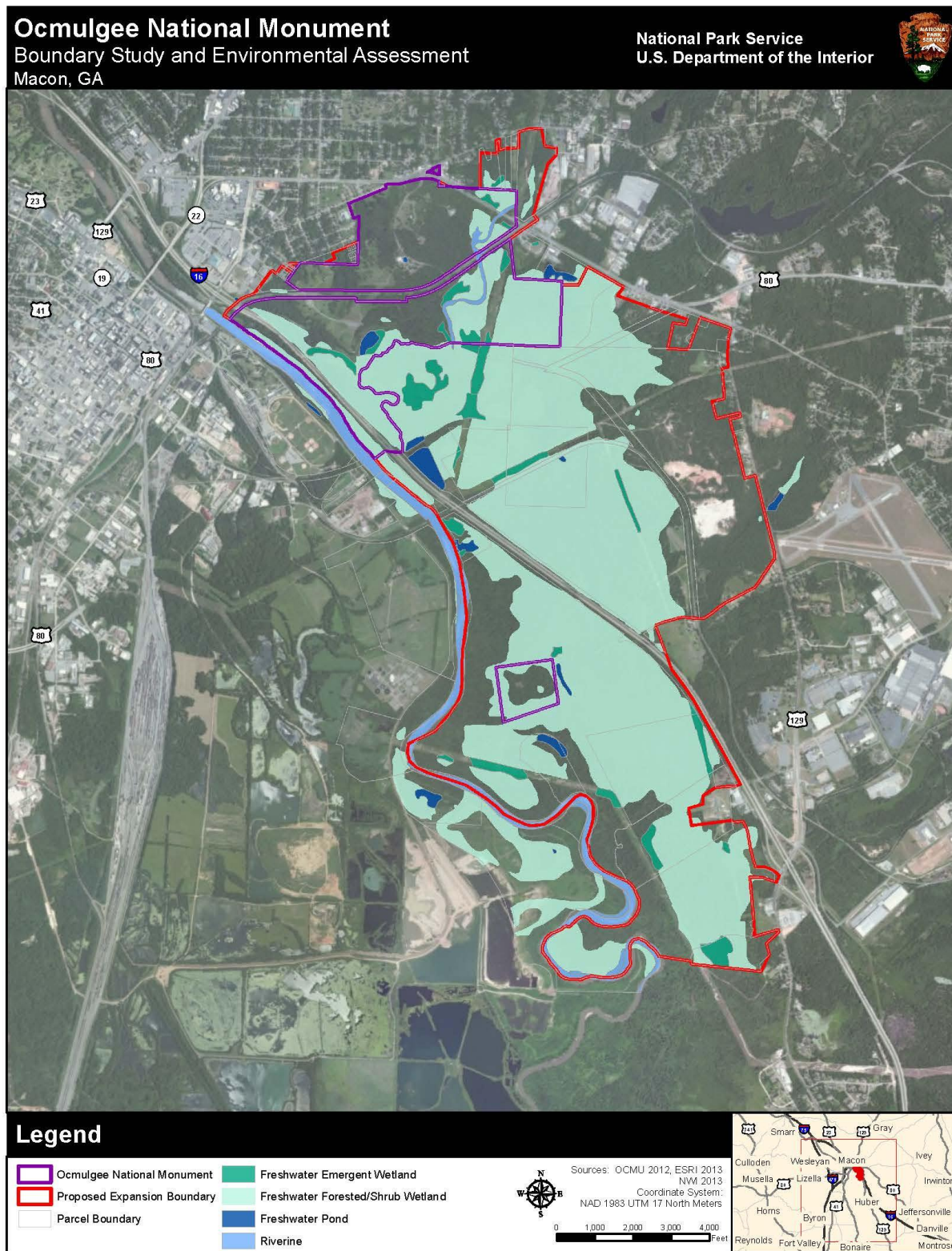


FIGURE 3-1. WETLANDS IN THE STUDY AREA

WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Although the properties in the expansion area have not been surveyed for wildlife species, both Ocmulgee National Monument and Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge have studied and inventoried wildlife species that occur on their properties. It is reasonable to assume that similar flora and fauna would be found in the areas between the Main Unit and Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and that the properties containing Walnut Creek to the northeast of the Main Unit (Parcel Group 6) would contain similar habitat. The floodplain and wetlands system extending from Main Unit of the Ocmulgee National Monument south for several miles to around Robins Air Force Base has created a long natural corridor, known locally as the “greenway,” suitable for several species of wildlife, including several species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the USFWS under the Endangered Species Act, or by the state of Georgia. The corridor provides habitat for many species of wildlife. Several bird species are found in the area year-round, and migratory birds also make use of the corridor (NPS 2012a; USFWS 2009).

Ocmulgee National Monument and the surrounding area sit on the “fall line,” the geologic transition between the Piedmont and the Atlantic Coastal Plain, allowing for overlap and convergence of several ecotones. At the Main Unit of the park, there are several types of habitat—forested uplands, open fields, year-round wetlands, and thickly wooded river floodplain (NPS 2012a). In a 2009 inventory, 71 species of birds were found at the park (Byrne et al. 2011). The most widely distributed bird species were the Carolina wren, northern cardinal, tufted titmouse, red-bellied woodpecker, Carolina chickadee, American crow, and white-eyed vireo (NPS 2012a). Ocmulgee National Monument also has a large number of amphibian species. Twenty-five known species occur at the park, including several newt, salamander, amphiuma, and siren caudate species, and 16 frog and toad anuran species. The bird-voiced tree frog (*Hyla avivova*) was the most widely distributed species. The Ocmulgee National Monument website lists 30 species of fish found in park waterways and 50 mammals, including several species of bats (mostly *Lasiurus* and *Myotis* spp.), armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), several species of rabbit (*Sylvilagus* spp.), foxes, white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and other species.

Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge has documented a similar diversity of species. The 2009 *Comprehensive Conservation Plan* for the swamp notes that there are as many as 200 bird species found in the refuge, including bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Swainson’s warblers (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), which are listed as a species of concern in the USFWS Partners in Flight program. The plan also notes that there are several rare species of butterfly found in the swamp, 80 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 50 species of mammals, including a population of black bears (USFWS 2009).

As discussed in chapter 2, the area provides habitat suitable for wood storks and the gopher tortoise, both federally listed species, as well as for several listed plant species. The Ocmulgee River Valley on the east side of the river from the park south to the Robins Air Force Base is also home territory to the Middle Georgia population of the black bear.

The area also provides habitat for nonnative species, such as feral hogs. Feral hogs are found in large numbers throughout the greenway and in other bottomland areas, and they can cause extensive damage to the habitat because they root on the forest floor, upturning roots and consuming items from across the food web (USFWS 2009).

SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES AND ADJACENT LAND USE

Table 3-1 displays key basic demographic and socioeconomic data about the population of Bibb County, Georgia (location of Ocmulgee National Monument). The population of Bibb County, although increasing since 2000, has grown at a considerably smaller rate than the state of Georgia (U.S. Census Bureau 2012a). Bibb County has population that is overwhelmingly black or African American and non-

Hispanic white. The median household income of Bibb County is considerably lower than the state median, which could be partially explained by the urban to suburban character of the project area. Poverty rates in Bibb County are also above the state average, and Bibb County has seen a far greater reduction in nonfarm employment in the past decade than the state of Georgia, with employment shrinking by approximately 16 percent compared to approximately 5 percent for the state of Georgia.

Table 3-2 shows employment by major industry in Bibb County.

TABLE 3-1. DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC DATA FOR BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

	Bibb County	Georgia
Population, 2011	156,433	9,812,460
Population, % change, 2000 to 2011	1.6%	18.8%
White persons, % in 2011	44.1%	63.2%
Black or African American persons, % in 2011	52.5%	31.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, % in 2011	0.3%	0.5%
Asian persons, % in 2011	1.7%	3.4%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, % in 2011	3.1%	9.1%
Housing units, 2011	69,272	4,102,992
Homeownership rate, 2011	57.5%	66.8%
Median household income, 2007–2011	\$37,975	\$49,736
Persons below poverty, percent, 2007–2011	23.0%	16.5%
Private non-farm employment, 2010	70,570	3,315,274
Private non-farm employment, % change, 2000 to 2010	-15.6%	-4.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2012a

TABLE 3-2. EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY IN BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

	Employment	Percent
All Industries	108,683	100
Construction	3,766	3.5
Manufacturing	5,548	5.1
Wholesale Trade	3,248	3.0
Retail Trade	13,327	12.3
Information	1,526	1.4
Finance and Insurance	9,992	9.2
Real Estate	3,561	3.3
Services	52,650	48.4
State and Local Government	11,451	10.5
Other	3,614	3.3

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce 2012

Macon, where the park is located, is the county seat of Bibb County and contains approximately 60 percent of its residents. The town is home to Mercer University, with an enrollment of about 8,300. The town and county's major employers include the Medical Center of Central Georgia, GEICO, and the Bibb County Board of Education, employing approximately 4,000, 3,936, and 3,300, respectively (Macon Economic Development Commission 2012).

In 2011, Bibb County had approximately 69,272 housing units. The median home value of these units is approximately \$120,300, and the median monthly rent is \$660. Within the City of Macon, median home values are \$95,500, approximately 20 percent lower than Bibb County, and the median monthly rent was \$601, approximately 9 percent lower.

In the area of the proposed boundary expansion for identified Parcel Groups 1 – 5 and 10 – 13, there are an estimated 998 housing units in the census tracts containing the study area, which is larger than the study area. Housing units are defined as a house, an apartment, mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms or a single room that is occupied. The median home value of these units is \$74,000, which is significantly lower than those in the City of Macon and Bibb County. The median monthly rent is \$635, which is on par with the larger areas. Approximately 35 percent of housing units in these areas are vacant. In the area of Parcel Groups 6 and 7, there are an estimated 1,297 housing units. In the area of Parcel Groups 8, 9, and 14, there are an estimated 955 housing units. Both of these areas have significantly lower median home values than the City of Macon and Bibb County, with values of \$48,800 and \$62,100, respectively. Both have monthly rents somewhat similar to those of the City of Macon, at \$571 and \$632, respectively. Similar to the other parcel groups, vacancy rates equate to approximately one-third of all housing units, with rates being approximately 31 and 34 percent, respectively (U.S. Census Bureau 2012b). It is important to note that the number of housing units, values, median rents and vacancy rates presented above for the identified parcel groups were obtained using census tracts as the distinguishing geographic factor. As such, data presented characterizes the census tract as a whole, representing a much larger area than the study area and consequently the numbers presented do not necessarily depict the study area itself. This is particularly true when considered estimated housing units as the numbers presented are much larger than the number of housing units in the study area alone.

Similar to housing characteristics, economic characteristics in the area of the proposed boundary expansion are significantly poorer when compared to Bibb County and the state of Georgia. The median household income is \$27,783 in the area of Parcel Groups 1 – 5 and 10 – 13; \$14,293 in the area of Parcel Groups 8, 9, and 14; and \$15,451 in the area of Parcel Groups 6 and 7. Income is approximately 27, 62, and 59 percent lower than the median household income of Bibb County, respectively. In addition, it is estimated that in the area of Parcel Groups 1 – 5 and 10 – 13, 35 percent of people are considered to be in poverty. In the area of Parcel Groups 8, 9, and 14, approximately 47 percent of people are considered to be in poverty. In the area of Parcel Groups 6 and 7, 49 percent are considered to be in poverty, which is significantly higher than Bibb County as a whole (U.S. Census Bureau 2012b).

ADJACENT LAND USE

Ocmulgee National Monument is located at the eastern edge of Macon. The neighborhood of East Macon is adjacent to the park on the north. Most of the properties immediately adjacent to the park are either clusters of small undeveloped lots or are residential, and include several townhouses owned by the Macon Housing Authority. There are commercial properties and medical facilities on Clinton Street near the pedestrian entrance to the park. Macon's convention center is only a few blocks up Clinton Street.

South of the park, the properties in the expansion area are mostly undeveloped wetlands and are classified as floodplain in the *Macon-Bibb County Comprehensive Plan* (Macon-Bibb County 2006). Several acres at the intersection of Emory Highway and Ocmulgee East Boulevard have been designated as community

commercial. Some of this acreage falls within alternative 2, the expansion alternative. However, the area included in alternative 2 has not been developed (Macon-Bibb County 2006). There are existing businesses to the east of the roads. Hunting takes place on some of these privately owned properties south of the park in the study area.

The Macon Downtown Airport is on the east side of Ocmulgee East Boulevard across from where Lamar Mounds Road joins it from the west. East Macon Park, a recreation center and park, is just north of the airport on the east side of Ocmulgee East Boulevard. An office and industrial zone extends south of Lamar Mounds Road and east of Ocmulgee East Boulevard, as well as south of the airport on the east side of Ocmulgee East Boulevard (Macon-Bibb County 2006). The area south of Lamar Mounds Road has mostly not yet been developed, although a major insurance company has constructed a call center and office complex in this area, and there is a relatively large amount of light industrial and warehouse development on the other side of Ocmulgee East Boulevard south of the airport.

Both Emery Highway and Ocmulgee East Boulevard contain several residences on the west side of the road adjacent to, but excluded from, the expansion alternative.

The area to the northeast of the park including Walnut Creek is surrounded by residences and some land designated as community commercial property along Jeffersonville Road. There is a recycling facility to the east of this area. The recycling facility denotes the western edge of another industrial district (Macon-Bibb County 2006) that has been built out to a large extent, and houses businesses similar to the recycling center.

The area included within the proposed expansion boundary includes eight rental houses, a small, fire-damaged abandoned commercial structure, an abandoned fire-damaged residence, and four residences near the Clinton Street pedestrian gate (site of potential new park entrance if rail line is ever abandoned). Overall, there are twelve occupied structures within the proposed expansion boundary, including one owner-occupied structure.

VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

The park is popular in the region and is one of Macon's most important tourist attractions. Recreational visitation between 2001 and 2011 ranged between 102,631 and 174,340 (table 3-3), drawing tourists, students, and local visitors to the park. Annual visitation has been consistently between 110,000 and 125,000, with occasional years that are slightly higher, since the late 1980s. Prior to that time, visitation was higher, up to 250,000. A decline occurred during a three-year experiment with an entrance fee and has never recovered (David, pers. comm. 2012).

The focus of the park for visitors is the archeological and cultural resources such as the mounds, earth lodge, and visitor center and museum. These features are connected by trails and a road network, and there are also trails through the woods, and a boardwalk through the wetland by the Great Temple Mound along Walnut Creek at the southern edge of the Main Unit. Visitors sightsee, hike, jog, and picnic. Fishing, primarily by local visitors, was also mentioned in the park's general management plan. The museum houses a large collection of artifacts related to the inhabitants of the Old Fields, and there is an interpretive tape in the Earth Lodge (NPS 1982).

TABLE 3-3. PARK VISITATION 2001–2011

Year	Annual Visitation
2001	118,565
2002	109,482
2003	174,340
2004	138,526
2005	130,281
2006	140,239
2007	114,379
2008	102,631
2009	110,819
2010	109,413
2011	122,722

The park hosts several special events each year. For six nights every March, the park holds Lantern Light Tours in association with Macon’s Cherry Blossom Festival. There are field trips to the Lamar site that take place once per quarter. The Lamar Unit is not generally open to the public otherwise, given the challenges of accessing the site, which can only be done on foot or by all-terrain vehicle across private property, across which the NPS has an access easement. The park also offers the Earth Lodge Walk, a guided walk to Earth Lodge offered weekly on weekends.

Youth-oriented offerings include children’s summer workshops presented four times during the summer, children’s clay workshops (Clay Play) presented numerous times per year on the weekends, and other youth-oriented offerings presented several times each during the year, as well as more than 100 annual school group programs that consist of 30-minute talks presented to organized groups by reservation.

One of the annual highlights at the park is the three-day Ocmulgee Indian Celebration held on the third weekend in September. This event commemorates the history and resources of the park and attracts a large group of visitors. The Ocmulgee Indian Celebration contributes between 15,000 and 20,000 of the annual number of visitors.

There are several local and regional projects that relate directly to the park and visitor use. Although they are discussed as cumulative impacts projects in chapter 4, they are also described here.

Ocmulgee Heritage Trail: The Ocmulgee Heritage Trail is a paved multiuse trail that extends along both sides of the Ocmulgee River from Jackson Spring Park to just south of Coliseum Drive near Ocmulgee National Monument. (On the west bank, the trail extends down past the end of Central City Park.) The trail currently links to the Clinton Street pedestrian gate to the park using surface streets through the East Macon neighborhood. Expansion plans for the trail include extension of the trail south along the river through NPS land along the river between the interstate and the river, and through proposed expansion land, linking in with existing trails, and railbeds that could be converted to multiuse trails. The trail would end with primitive trails around the Lamar site (New Town Macon 2012).

Ocmulgee River Water Trail: This is a water trail that extends downstream along the Ocmulgee River from Bullard Landing south of Macon near Robins Air Force Base to Sandy Hammock, Georgia (Georgia

Water Trails 2010). There has been discussion of extending the trail north to begin in Macon, although there are not many good locations to land paddle craft between Macon and Bullard Landing.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

Ocmulgee National Monument currently includes 10 permanent full-time employees and 1 permanent (subject to furlough) employee. In 2012, there were 1 temporary ranger, 3 part-time park guides, 2 temporary laborers, and 2 temporary biological science technicians (natural resource management). The 2011 annual operating budget was \$1.3 million, divided among the three divisions, with the remainder making up fixed costs, such as utilities, fuel, supplies, uniforms, equipment, and service contracts. There are also additional special project-specific funds that vary by year. The staff is divided into three divisions: Administration, Maintenance, and Ranger. The Ranger Division at Ocmulgee National Monument has responsibility for three core areas: interpretation (education) and visitor services, law enforcement and resource protection, and natural and cultural resource management (David, pers. comm. 2012).

ADMINISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE DIVISIONS

The Administration Division includes the park superintendent (park manager), an administrative officer, and an administrative assistant. This division has an approximate annual budget of \$284,000. The Maintenance Division includes a facility manager, tractor operator, maintenance worker, and one full-time, and two temporary laborers, and has an approximate annual budget of \$249,000 (David, pers. comm. 2012).

RANGER DIVISION

The Ranger Division is led by the supervisory park ranger, who is the park's chief of operations, supported by park rangers that include a cultural resources specialist, a full-time law enforcement ranger, a ranger in charge of interpretation and education. There is also one temporary law enforcement ranger, three part-time park guides, and the two temporary biological science technicians mentioned above. The law enforcement rangers ensure the general welfare of visitors to the park, as well as ensure that natural and cultural resources are protected. This division has an approximate annual budget of \$511,000 (David, pers. comm. 2012).

CHAPTER 4: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Consequences chapter describes impacts that would result from implementing the alternatives described in this boundary study / EA. An impact can derive from any action that may foreseeably affect resources on national parkland, the experiences and behavior of park visitors, and NPS management or operations, either directly or indirectly.

GENERAL METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING IMPACTS

The intensity and duration of each impact was also considered in determining overall impacts on a resource by a proposed alternative. Additionally, cumulative effects of the proposed alternative on NPS resources are considered. Some environmental consequences can be mitigated to offset potential adverse impacts. Mitigation measures are designed to offset or minimize the effect of an impact caused by a proposed action.

This chapter addresses the potential impacts on each of the impact topics discussed in the “Affected Environment” chapter for the no action and action alternatives. The action alternative is compared to the no action alternative, or the baseline condition for the project, to determine impacts on resources. In the absence of quantitative data, best professional judgment was used. In general, impacts were determined through consultation and collaboration with a multidisciplinary team of NPS and other professional staff. Regulatory agency consultation with the USFWS, the Georgia SHPO, and tribes, and other existing data sources such as park and local planning documents, the Ocmulgee National Monument website, and professional scientific research papers were also used to assess the potential impact of each alternative.

Potential impacts of the alternatives are described in terms of type (beneficial or adverse), duration (short or long term), and context. For cultural resources, impacts are also described in terms of intensity (negligible, minor, moderate, major), in order to relate them to the NHPA Section 106 consultation process, where the analysis looks to whether or not there would be an “adverse effect” on historic properties. Otherwise, impacts are described qualitatively without intensity thresholds. Definitions of impact descriptors include:

Beneficial: A positive change in the condition or appearance of the resource or a change that moves the resource toward a desired condition.

Adverse: A change that declines, degrades, and/or moves the resource away from a desired condition or detracts from its appearance or condition.

Context: Context is the affected environment within which an impact would occur, such as local, park-wide, regional, global, affected interests, society as whole, or any combination of these. Context is variable and depends on the circumstances involved with each impact topic. As such, the impact analysis determines the context, not vice versa.

Duration: The duration of the impact is described as short term or long term. Short-term impacts will last for a year or less, or for periods during which construction takes place. Long-term impacts last longer than a year.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

NEPA and NHPA regulations require an assessment of cumulative effects in the decision-making process for federal projects. Cumulative effects are defined as “the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative effects can result from individually minor, but collectively moderate or major, impacts that take place over a period of time.

Cumulative effects are considered by each resource area for all alternatives, including the no action alternative. Cumulative effects were determined by combining the impacts of the alternative being considered with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions and identifying the contribution of the action to the overall cumulative effect. Preliminary analysis identified the following actions as having the potential to contribute to the impact of the analysis evaluated in this boundary study / EA.

CUMULATIVE ACTIONS

- **Ocmulgee Heritage Trail:** The Ocmulgee Heritage Trail has recently been developed along the east side of the Ocmulgee River, and links to Central City Park in Macon on the west side of the river. Plans are currently under development to extend the trail south to Walnut Creek along riverside property owned by Ocmulgee National Monument. The trail would ultimately tie into other trails on the Main Unit.
- **Ocmulgee River Water Trail:** The Ocmulgee River Water Trail is a water trail developed by counties south of Bibb County along the Ocmulgee River. There are plans under consideration to extend the trail north into Bibb County toward Macon.
- **Widening of Jeffersonville Road:** Jeffersonville Road is being widened from a two-lane road to a five-lane road in the area immediately north of the main entrance to the park. The project will result in the loss of several residences, some of which are eligible for listing in the National Register, and two businesses.

SPECIFIC METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING EFFECTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

Federal actions that have the potential to affect cultural resources are subject to a variety of laws and regulations. The NHPA, as amended, is the principal legislative authority for managing cultural resources associated with NPS projects. Generally, Section 106 of the NHPA requires all federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on cultural resources listed and/or determined eligible for listing in the National Register and to give the ACHP the opportunity to comment. Such resources are termed “historic properties.” Agreement on mitigation of adverse effects on historic properties is reached through consultation with the SHPO; Tribal Historic Preservation Office, if applicable; and, as required, the ACHP and others. In addition, Section 110 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take actions to minimize harm to historic properties that would be adversely affected by a federal undertaking. That section also charges federal agencies with establishing preservation programs for the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties under their jurisdiction to the National Register.

Other important laws and regulations designed to protect cultural resources are the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 1990; the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 1978; NEPA; Archeological Resources Protection Act, 1979; and Executive Order 11593, *Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment*, 1971.

In addition, the NPS is charged with the protection and management of cultural resources in its custody. This is furthered through the implementation of Director's Order 28: *Cultural Resources Management Guideline* (NPS 1998), *NPS Management Policies 2006* (NPS 2006). These documents charge NPS managers with avoiding, or minimizing to the greatest degree practicable, adverse impacts on park resources and values. Although the NPS has the discretion to allow certain impacts in parks, that discretion is limited by the statutory requirement that park resources and values remain unimpaired, unless a specific law directly provides otherwise.

The NPS categorizes cultural resources by the following categories: archeological resources, cultural landscapes, historic districts and structures, museum objects, and ethnographic resources. As noted in the "Issues and Impact Topics" section in chapter 1, impacts on archeological and ethnographic resources and on historic districts and structures are of potential concern for this project. There would be no impacts on cultural landscapes or museum objects, therefore these topics were dismissed from consideration.

This EA includes an analysis of the effects that the two alternatives may have on relevant cultural resources in the study area (i.e., archeological and ethnographic resources, and historic structures and districts). The method for assessing effects on cultural resources is designed to comply with the requirements of both NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA, and with implementing regulations 40 CFR 1500 and 36 CFR 800, respectively, while considering the differences between NEPA and NHPA and recognizing that compliance with one does not automatically mean compliance with the other. Accordingly, the assessment of effects discusses the following characteristics of effects:

- Direct and indirect effects
- Duration of the effect (short term, long term)
- Context of the effect (site-specific, local, regional)
- Intensity of the effect (negligible, minor, moderate, major, adverse and beneficial)
- Cumulative nature of the effect.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800, the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA, effects on cultural resources are identified and evaluated as follows:

- Determining the APE (36 CFR 800.4(a)).
- Identifying historic properties in the APE that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register (36 CFR 800.4(b)-(c)). The results are either:
 - *No historic properties affected* – either there are no historic properties present or there are historic properties present but the undertaking will have no effect upon them (36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)); or
 - *Historic properties affected* – there are historic properties that may be affected by the undertaking (36 CFR 800.4(d)(2)).
- Applying the criteria of adverse effect to affected historic properties in the area of APE (36 CFR 800.5(a)(1)), as follows:
 - An *adverse effect* is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Consideration shall be given to all qualifying characteristics of a historic property, including those that may have been identified

subsequent to the original evaluation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Adverse effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the undertaking that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance or be cumulative. (Examples of adverse effect are provided in 36 CFR 800.5(a)(2).)

- A finding of *no adverse effect* is found when the undertaking's effects do not meet the criteria of 800.5(a)(1) (36 CFR 800.5(b)).
- Considering ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate or otherwise resolve adverse effects. The following are considered:
 - Consultation with the SHPO/THPO and others to develop and evaluate strategies to mitigate adverse effects (36 CFR 800.6).
 - CEQ regulations and Director's Order 12 call for the discussion of mitigating impacts and an analysis of how effective the mitigation would be in reducing the intensity of an impact, such as reducing it from moderate to minor intensity. Any resultant reduction in impact intensity is, however, an estimate of the effectiveness of mitigation under NEPA only.
 - Such reduction in impact intensity does not suggest that the level of effect as defined by NHPA Section 106 and 36 CFR 800 is similarly reduced. Cultural resources are non-renewable resources and adverse effects generally consume, diminish, or destroy the original historic materials or form, resulting in a loss of integrity that can never be recovered. Therefore, although actions determined to have an adverse effect under Section 106 and 36 CFR 800 may be mitigated, the effect remains adverse.

A NHPA Section 106 summary is included in the impact analysis sections. The Section 106 summary provides an assessment of effect of the undertaking (implementation of the alternative), on historic properties, based on the Section 106 regulations cited above. The NPS guidance for evaluating impacts requires that impact assessment be scientific, accurate, and quantified to the extent possible (NPS 2011). For cultural resources, it is seldom possible to measure impacts in quantifiable terms; therefore, impact thresholds must rely heavily on the professional judgment of resource experts.

Under the implementing regulations for NHPA Section 106, if no historic properties are identified, if there is no effect on historic properties, or if there is no adverse effect and the SHPO concurs, then the Section 106 process is complete (36 CFR 800.d). If, on the other hand, there is a determination that there are adverse effects on historic properties, continued consultation among the SHPO and consulting parties may be required (36 CFR 800.5a). An adverse effect occurs whenever an undertaking directly or indirectly alters characteristics of a historic property that qualify it for inclusion in the National Register. Adverse effects include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the proposal that would occur later in time, be farther removed in distance, or be cumulative (36 CFR 800.5). A determination of no adverse effect means that the effect would not diminish the characteristics of the historic property that qualify it for listing in the National Register and that the project has been modified or conditions are imposed to ensure consistency with *The Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (36 CFR 68).

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON ARCHEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Archeological resources consist of buried and aboveground prehistoric and historic remains and artifacts significant to the study of prehistory and history. As these resources exist primarily in subsurface contexts, potential impacts on archeological resources are assessed according to the extent to which the proposed alternatives would involve ground-disturbing activities such as excavation or grading. Analysis

of possible impacts on archeological resources was based on a review of previous archeological studies, consideration of the proposed alternatives, and other information provided by the NPS. The analysis of potential impacts on archeological resources begins with the identification and evaluation of archeological sites in the study area. Information concerning site location, type, age, and National Register eligibility provides an essential understanding of not only known sites but also where potential undocumented archeological resources may be found. National Register listed and eligible archeological sites are then assessed for potential impacts from the proposed alternatives.

As mentioned earlier in this document, ethnographic resources are “landscapes, objects, plants and animals, or sites and structures that are important to a people’s sense of purpose or way of life” (NPS 2007a). The ethnographic resource in this case is the Ocmulgee Old Fields TCP, designated in large part because of the archeological resources in the Old Fields, so the analysis of impacts of these two resources is discussed together.

STUDY AREA

The study area for the expansion boundary was used for analysis of impact to cultural resources. Pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA and 36 CFR 800, the APE will be defined in consultation with the SHPO and the NPS. The APE is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist (36 CFR 800.16 (d)).

For the purposes of this analysis, the APE for historic districts and structures includes the study area on the eastern side of the Ocmulgee River.

IMPACT THRESHOLDS

For archeological and ethnographic resources, potential impacts of the alternatives are described in terms of type (beneficial or adverse), duration (short or long term), intensity (negligible, minor, moderate, major), and context. Section 106 “effects” of the alternatives are assessed in terms of whether there would, or would not, be an adverse effect. For purposes of analyzing potential impacts on archeological sites, intensity thresholds are defined as follows:

- Negligible:* The impact is at the lowest levels of detection or barely perceptible and not measurable. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be no adverse effect.
- Minor:* The impact would not affect the character-defining features of an archeological site listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be no adverse effect.
- Moderate:* The impact would alter a character-defining feature or features of the archeological site, but would not diminish the integrity of the archeological site to the extent that its National Register eligibility would be jeopardized. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be no adverse effect.
- Major:* The impact would alter a character-defining feature(s) of the archeological site, diminishing the integrity of the site to the extent that it would no longer be eligible to be listed in the National Register, and would be significant. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be adverse effect.

Beneficial: No levels of intensity of beneficial impacts are defined. Beneficial impacts can occur under the following scenarios: when an archeological site is stabilized in its current condition to maintain its existing level of integrity or when an archeological site is preserved in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (NPS 1992), to accurately depict its form, features, and character as it appeared during its period of significance. For purposes of the NHPA, a beneficial effect is equivalent to no adverse impact.

Duration: All impacts are considered long term.

ANALYSIS

No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the park boundaries would not be expanded to the south to link the Main Unit of the park with the expansion area for Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and the Lamar Unit would remain landlocked. The TCP would not be further protected, and archeological resources on nonfederal land would continue to be protected by state laws. The park boundaries would also not be expanded to the northeast of Emery Highway along Walnut Creek, or to include the parcels along Plumtree Avenue or along Hydrolia (Dewitt) Street by the Clinton Street pedestrian gate to the park. The railroad land that bisects the Main Unit would remain under the ownership of the railroad and outside park boundaries, and there would be no opportunities to incorporate this land into the park should the railroad line be abandoned or rerouted around park property.

There would be no planned disturbances or construction activity that would affect archeological resources or the TCP. However, the Lamar Unit would continue to be vulnerable to unauthorized access from the private properties and several access points to these properties, and there would continue to be increased risk of looting of the archeological resources than would exist were the property under federal ownership. The laws protecting these resources under state law are not as protective of the resources as under federal ownership, and the penalties under federal law provide strong disincentives to loot resources on federal land. Impacts on archeological and ethnographic resources under the no action alternative would therefore be long term minor to possibly moderate and adverse, if instances of large-scale looting occur.

Action Alternative

Under the action alternative, the park would be expanded to include the lands south of the Main Unit, joining the Main Unit with the expansion boundary of the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and allowing the lands around the Lamar Unit to be transferred into the ownership of the NPS. It would be possible for the NPS to acquire title to the access points to the properties surrounding the Lamar Unit. The land owned by the railroad that bisects the Main Unit would be included within the park boundaries.

The boundary would also be expanded to include the properties along Walnut Creek northwest of the Main Unit, as well as the parcels along Plumtree Street, and Hydrolia (Dewitt) Street, and the triangular railroad parcel.

By expanding the boundary of the park to include much of the area between the Main Unit and Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, 16 known archeological sites, of variable integrity, would be able to be brought into federal ownership and management by the NPS. In addition, ethnographic resources would receive greater protection because it would be possible for the northernmost portion of the Ocmulgee Old Fields TCP to be acquired and managed by the NPS, in consultation with associated Tribes.

Under the action alternative, archeological and ethnographic resources would be ultimately protected by federal laws protecting these resources, which are stricter than state laws and contain harsher penalties, providing greater disincentives to disturb these resources for commercial or other gain. There would therefore be long-term benefits to archeological and ethnographic resources because of the boundary expansion.

Any future ground-disturbing activities associated with the expansion would be subject to compliance with both the NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA, and potential impacts would be identified and either avoided or mitigated accordingly.

Cumulative Impacts

Construction activities associated with the development of multiuse trails and widening of Jeffersonville Road have the potential to disturb archeological resources and adversely impact archeological resources throughout the study area, as well as ethnographic resources within the TCP.

The no action scenario would contribute long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts on what are likely to be long-term negligible to moderate cumulative impacts. These impacts could be mitigated through excavation and curation of the archeological resources in the area, in consultation with the Georgia SHPO. The overall cumulative impact under the no action scenario, when the minor to moderate long-term adverse impacts are combined with the long-term negligible to moderate adverse impacts of the cumulative actions, would result in long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts. The no action scenario would contribute minimally to the cumulative scenario.

The action scenario would contribute long-term benefits to the cumulative scenario, still resulting in long-term negligible to moderate adverse cumulative impacts.

Conclusion

Archeological and ethnographic resources would be less well protected and more vulnerable to looting under the no action alternative, resulting in long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts on archeological and ethnographic resources. Cumulative impacts under the no action alternative would be long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts.

There would be noticeably more protection of archeological and ethnographic resources under the action alternative, resulting in long-term benefits to archeological and ethnographic resources. Cumulative impacts would still be long term negligible to moderate adverse.

Section 106 Summary: After applying ACHP criteria of adverse effects (36 CFR 800.5, *Assessment of Adverse Effects*), the NPS concludes that implementation of the action alternative (preferred alternative) would have no adverse effect on archeological or ethnographic resources.

IMPACTS ON HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND DISTRICTS

METHODOLOGY AND ASSUMPTIONS

The methodology and assumptions used in the analyses of effects on historic structures and districts are predicated on the same set of rules, regulations, and guidance documents as those for archeological and ethnographic resources.

STUDY AREA / AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

The study area for the expansion boundary was used for analysis of impacts on cultural resources. Pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA and 36 CFR 800, the APE will be defined in consultation with the SHPO and the NPS. The APE is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist (36 CFR 800.16 (d)).

For the purposes of this analysis, the APE for historic districts and structures includes the study area on the eastern side of the Ocmulgee River.

INTENSITY THRESHOLDS

For an historic district or structure to be listed in the National Register, it must possess significance (the meaning or value ascribed to the historic district or structure) and have integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance.

For historic districts and structures, potential impacts of the alternatives are described in terms of type (beneficial or adverse), duration (short or long term), intensity (negligible, minor, moderate, major), and context. Section 106 “effects” of the alternatives are assessed in terms of whether there would, or would not, be an adverse effect. For purposes of analyzing potential impacts on historic districts and structures, intensity thresholds are defined as follows:

- Negligible:* Impacts at the lowest level of detection with neither adverse nor beneficial consequences. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be no adverse effect.
- Minor:* Alteration of a pattern(s) or feature(s) of a historic district or structure listed in or eligible for the National Register is easily detectable but would not diminish the integrity of a character-defining feature(s) or the overall integrity of the historic property. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be no adverse effect.
- Moderate:* The impact would alter a character-defining feature(s) of a historic district or structure and diminish the integrity of that feature(s) of the historic property, and would be significant. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be adverse effect.
- Major:* The impact would alter a character-defining feature(s) of the historic district or structure and severely diminish the integrity of that feature(s) and the overall integrity of the historic property. For purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be adverse effect.
- Beneficial:* No levels of intensity for beneficial impacts are defined. Beneficial impacts can occur under the following scenarios: when character-defining features of the historic district or structure would be stabilized/preserved in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (NPS 1992) to maintain its existing integrity; when the historic district or structure would be rehabilitated in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* to make possible a compatible use of the property while preserving its character-defining features; or when the historic district or structure would be restored

in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* to accurately depict its form, features, and character as it appeared during its period of significance. For purposes of Section 106, a beneficial effect is equivalent to no adverse effect.

Duration: Short-term impacts would last for the duration of any construction activities associated with the proposed alternative; long-term impacts would last beyond the construction activities.

ANALYSIS

No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the park boundaries would not be expanded to the south to link the Main Unit of the park with the expansion area for Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and the Lamar Unit would remain landlocked. The TCP would not be further protected.

The historic structures and districts in the study area would not be affected by the no action alternative, and they would continue to exist as they are. There would therefore be no effects on historic structures and districts under the no action alternative.

Action Alternative

Under the action alternative, the park would be expanded to include the lands south of the Main Unit, joining the Main Unit with the expansion boundary of the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and allowing the lands around the Lamar Unit to be transferred into the ownership of the NPS. It would be possible for the NPS to acquire title to the access points to the properties surrounding the Lamar Unit. The land owned by the railroad that bisects the Main Unit would be included within the park boundaries.

The boundary would also be expanded to include the properties along Walnut Creek northwest of the Main Unit, as well as the parcels along Plumtree Street, and Hydrolia (Dewitt) Street, and the triangular railroad parcel.

The expanded boundary in the action alternative includes the following known historic properties: the railroad line through the park and the associated bridge, and a corner of the East Macon Historic District, which would preserve the lot configurations but not involve any contributing structures. The historic railroad bridge owned by Norfolk Southern is a special case. This bridge would only become part of the park if Norfolk Southern were to abandon the existing rail line. Until such time, responsibility for maintaining the bridge would remain with Norfolk Southern.

The action alternative would prevent incompatible development on the southwest edge of the East Macon Historic District. As a result, this alternative would have beneficial impacts on the historic district. Negligible adverse impacts to the historic district would result from change in ownership, because lot lines would remain the same, and no contributing structures would be affected. Changes to lot lines would constitute minor adverse effects under NEPA, and no adverse effect under Section 106, because part of the significance of the historic district is its community form and lot configurations.

The boundary proposed in the action alternative also includes approximately 16 structures (residences or associated outbuildings). These structures are located along Dewitt Street, Emery Highway, Ocmulgee East Boulevard, and Lamar Mounds Road. At present, the NPS does not believe that any of these

structures is eligible for listing in the National Register. However, in order to confirm this judgment, existing studies on some of the structures need to be updated and other structures would need to be studied for the first time. In the meantime, this boundary study does not include any treatment recommendations for any structures within the expanded boundary. Should it be determined that any of the principal structures or outbuildings in the expanded boundary is historic, and should NPS decide to acquire these structures, the NPS would develop treatment recommendations for these structures in consultation with the Georgia SHPO. Similarly, the NPS would condition acquisition or acceptance of real property on participation by the conveying landowner, as appropriate, in the consultation process of the NHPA. That being the case, the boundary expansion, in and of itself, would not have any adverse impacts on structure(s) in this group that may be historic.

Adjacent historic structures along Ocmulgee East Boulevard discussed in the affected environment section would benefit from the addition of lands to the park in that area by protecting the landscape context in which these structures exist. The railroad bridge on the train line in the Main Unit would also benefit from transfer of ownership to a federal agency.

The result of the action alternative would be negligible adverse impacts on the historic railroad corridors, because there would be no changes other than change in ownership, and possibly removal of track prior to transfer, and negligible adverse impacts on the East Macon Historic District, because no contributing structures would be affected, change in ownership does not constitute an adverse effect, and underlying property configurations important to the historic district would remain unchanged. Under Section 106, there would therefore be no adverse effects on historic districts and structures.

Cumulative Impacts

Development of the multiuse trails would likely not affect historic districts or structures, unless there were additional improvements to the surface street bicycle network near the park's pedestrian gate at Clinton Street. The widening of Jeffersonville Road, however, involves demolition of several structures that are eligible for listing in the National Register, resulting in long-term moderate adverse impacts.

Because the no action alternative would not affect historic structures or districts, there would be no cumulative impacts on these resources associated with the no action alternative.

The action alternative would result in negligible impacts for the Norfolk Southern, and Georgia Central rail corridors. The action alternative would not result in a change in the underlying parcel configurations in the East Macon Historic District, resulting in no noticeable adverse impacts in this area. When combined with the moderate adverse impacts on historic resources resulting from the widening of Jeffersonville Road, there would be cumulative long-term moderate impacts on historic resources, with relatively inconsequential contribution from the proposed expansion.

Conclusion

There would be no impacts on historic districts or structures from the no action alternative. Therefore, there would be no cumulative impacts on historic districts or structures from the no action alternative.

Implementation of the expansion boundary in the action alternative would result in negligible and/or minor adverse impacts on historic districts and structures. Cumulative impacts would be long term, moderate and adverse, with no adverse effect under Section 106 of the NHPA.

Section 106 Summary: After applying ACHP criteria of adverse effects (36 CFR 800.5, *Assessment of Adverse Effects*), the NPS concludes that implementation of the action alternative (preferred alternative) would have no adverse effect on historic structures and districts in the APE.

IMPACTS ON WETLANDS

METHODOLOGY AND ASSUMPTIONS

The NPS has adopted a policy of “no net loss” of wetlands. Executive Order 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, states that federal agencies are to avoid to the extent possible long-term and short-term impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands and avoid direct and indirect support of new construction in wetlands whenever practical alternatives exist. The United States Army Corps of Engineers regulates development in wetland areas pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 CFR, Parts 320–330). The NPS Director’s Order 77-1: *Wetland Protection and Procedural Manual* (NPS 2002b) provides NPS policies and procedures for complying with Executive Order 11990 (1977), as follows:

Actions proposed by the NPS that have the potential to have adverse impacts on wetlands will be addressed in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If the preferred alternative in an EA or EIS will result in adverse impacts on wetlands, a “Statement of Findings” documenting compliance with this Director’s Order and Procedural Manual 77-1 will be completed. Actions that may be excepted from the Statement of Findings (SOF) requirement are identified in the Procedural Manual.

Impact analysis and the conclusions for possible impacts on wetlands were based on review of existing literature and studies and information provided by park staff and other agencies.

STUDY AREA

The study area includes all wetlands within the action alternative for the proposed boundary expansion.

ANALYSIS

No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the park boundaries would not be expanded to the south to link the Main Unit of the park with the expansion area for Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and the Lamar Unit would remain landlocked. Wetlands in the study area would continue to be vulnerable to disturbance, including logging, clay mining, and filling, resulting in possible adverse impacts on wetland functions and values. These impacts would not be the result of a federal action, or under the control of the NPS.

Action Alternative

Under the action alternative, the park would be expanded to include the lands south of the Main Unit, joining the Main Unit with the expansion boundary of the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and allowing the lands around the Lamar Unit to be transferred into the ownership of the NPS. It would be possible for the NPS to acquire title to the access points to the properties surrounding the Lamar Unit. Under the action alternative, there would be beneficial impacts on wetlands, because they would be better protected as they are acquired by the NPS, and they would be subject to the protective NPS wetland

policies. No commercial timbering would be allowed, and no filling of wetlands would occur, except for negligible amounts associated with possible construction of recreational facilities.

Cumulative Impacts

There are no projects in the cumulative projects scenario that would affect wetlands, so there would be no related cumulative impacts on wetlands.

Conclusion

Wetlands in the study area would continue to be threatened with disturbance under the no action alternative, resulting in potentially adverse, but not significant, impacts. There would be beneficial impacts under the action scenario, as the wetlands would be protected by federal and NPS wetland protection policies.

There would be no cumulative impacts on wetlands.

IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

METHODOLOGY AND ASSUMPTIONS

The Organic Act of 1916, which directs parks to conserve wildlife unimpaired for future generations, is interpreted by the agency to mean that native animal life should be protected and perpetuated as part of the park's natural ecosystem. Natural processes are relied on to control populations of native species to the greatest extent possible; otherwise, they are protected from harvest, harassment, or harm by human activities. According to the *NPS Management Policies 2006* (NPS 2006), Section 4.1.5, "the NPS will use the best available technology, within available resources, to restore the biological and physical components of these systems, accelerating both their recovery and the recovery of landscape and biological community structure and function." Efforts may include, for example, restoration of native plants and animals. Management goals for wildlife include maintaining components and processes of naturally evolving park ecosystems, along with the natural abundance, diversity, and the ecological integrity of plants and animals. Information on wildlife and wildlife habitat occurring within the project area was taken from park documents and records. Analysis of possible impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat was based on a site visit to the land in the study area, inspection of aerial imagery, review of existing literature, extrapolation of information provided by the NPS, the USFWS, and other agencies, and professional judgment.

STUDY AREA

The study area includes the area considered in the action alternative, as well as the continuation of the wildlife corridor as it extends south to Robins Air Force Base and the larger tributary stream valleys that flow into the Ocmulgee River.

ANALYSIS

No Action Alternative

There would most likely be no impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat from the no action alternative, although there could be some limited short- and long-term adverse impacts in the form of disturbance to wildlife associated with allowable disturbance in wetlands. Under the no action alternative, the park

boundaries would not be expanded to the south to link the Main Unit of the park with the expansion area for Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and the Lamar Unit would remain landlocked. The park boundaries would also not be expanded to the northeast of Emery Highway along Walnut Creek, or to include the parcels along Plumtree Avenue or along Hydrolia (Dewitt) Street by the Clinton Street pedestrian gate to the park.

Because much of the property under consideration in the expansion area is currently wetlands and would likely not be developed, the habitat would not be disturbed. However, under Georgia wetland laws, the properties or portions of the properties could be timbered, disturbing and altering wildlife habitat in the areas where timber was harvested. If portions of the land were to be timbered, there would be adverse impacts on wildlife requiring forested habitat, but they would not be significant, because it is unlikely that large areas would be harvested at any one time, and loggers would be required to use best management practices and avoid habitat of species of concern, such as the bald eagle or wood stork.

There would be no impacts on wildlife or wildlife habitat in the northern properties under consideration for expansion. The areas by Hydrolia (Dewitt) Street and Plumtree Street are urban with limited habitat value, and any development or redevelopment would be unlikely to affect wildlife or wildlife habitat. The parcels around Walnut Creek are not likely to be otherwise disturbed by timbering or development because they are surrounded by a more urban area and are floodplain and wetlands. However, these parcels could be further developed in the upland areas, which could result in very limited long-term adverse impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat because most of these upland areas have already been disturbed. The impacts would not be significant.

Action Alternative

Under the action alternative, the park would be expanded to include the lands south of the Main Unit, joining the Main Unit with the expansion boundary of the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and allowing the lands around the Lamar Unit to be transferred into the ownership of the NPS. It would be possible for the NPS to acquire title to the access points to the properties surrounding the Lamar Unit. The land owned by the railroad that bisects the Main Unit would be included within the park boundaries.

The boundary would also be expanded to include the properties along Walnut Creek northwest of the Main Unit, as well as the parcels along Plumtree Street, and Hydrolia (Dewitt) Street, and the triangular railroad parcel.

There would be beneficial impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat under the action alternative. The wetlands and bottomland swamp forest would be protected from development, and threats such as timbering would be removed. The northern section of the wildlife corridor along the Ocmulgee River and its floodplain would be protected under NPS ownership and policy. It is also likely that biological surveys and other inventories of wildlife would be conducted in the expansion area, providing a better idea of the species that reside in this portion of the wildlife corridor. The park would also likely engage in management planning activities that would result in improved management of the expansion area to reduce the establishment of invasive species of plants and animals, and improve the habitat in areas where it makes sense.

There could also be possible adverse impacts resulting from the elimination of hunting on the tracts within the expansion boundary where hunting currently takes place. The feral hog population on these properties would be less controlled.

Cumulative Impacts

The projects in the cumulative scenario would not have noticeable impacts on wildlife or wildlife habitat. There would be some disturbance and short-term effects associated with construction of the Heritage Trail, but there would be no long-term impacts. The Jeffersonville Road widening project is taking place in an urbanized area that would also keep impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat relatively unnoticeable. The no action alternative would contribute minimally to already relatively unnoticeable adverse impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat, and the action alternative would contribute beneficial effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, resulting in overall cumulative beneficial impacts.

Conclusion

There would likely be no impact on wildlife and wildlife habitat under the no action alternative, although the wetlands would still face the threat of small amounts of clearing or timber harvest that would result in localized to widespread short-term to long-term adverse impacts, although they would not be significant.

There would be beneficial impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat south of the Main Unit under the action alternative because the portion of the wetlands and wildlife corridor in the expansion area would be protected more permanently than they would be under the current scenario. There would be no impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat in the areas north of the park.

The effects of the no action alternative on wildlife and wildlife habitat would contribute minimal long-term adverse impacts to minimal short-term impacts associated with the projects in the cumulative scenario, and the action alternative would contribute beneficial effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, resulting in overall beneficial cumulative effects.

IMPACTS ON SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES AND ADJACENT LAND USE

METHODOLOGY AND ASSUMPTIONS

Expansion to the Ocmulgee National Monument proposed by the action alternative could have a direct effect on some parts of the social and economic environment in Bibb County. Planning team members applied logic, experience, and professional expertise and judgment to analyzing the impacts of each alternative on the social and economic setting. Socioeconomic data, property values and tax revenue, projected visitor spending, and the number of needed NPS staff anticipated were considered in identifying and discussing the potential socioeconomic effects. The study area for each alternative, including the no action alternative, is limited to Bibb County. A qualitative analysis of the effects of each alternative was completed.

It was assumed that beneficial impacts are those that individuals or groups would accept or recognize through increased economic activity, either in general or for a specific group of people, businesses, organizations, or institutions. Adverse impacts are those that most individuals or groups would generally recognize as diminishing economic welfare, either in general or for a specific group of people, businesses, organizations, or institutions. Examples of adverse effects include fewer job opportunities or lost tax revenue for the local jurisdictions.

Short-term impacts on the local and regional economy would be immediate, occurring during implementation of the alternative. Long-term impacts would persist after implementation of the alternative.

STUDY AREA

The study area for socioeconomic resources for this study is the City of Macon and Bibb County, with emphasis on the neighborhoods and lands immediately surrounding the park and the proposed expansion boundary in the action alternative.

ANALYSIS

No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the park boundaries would not be expanded to the south to link the Main Unit of the park with the expansion area for Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and the Lamar Unit would remain landlocked and vulnerable to access and looting from the private properties surrounding it. The park boundaries would also not be expanded to the northeast of Emery Highway along Walnut Creek, or to include the parcels along Plumtree Avenue or along Hydrolia (Dewitt) Street by the Clinton Street pedestrian gate to the park. The railroad land that bisects the Main Unit would remain under the ownership of the railroad and outside park boundaries, and there would be no opportunities to incorporate this land into the park should the railroad line be abandoned or rerouted around park property.

Overall, there would be no direct or indirect impacts on the social or economic environment because of the no action alternative. Existing county-level and project-specific location trends in population, employment, income and poverty levels, and other socioeconomic parameters are anticipated to continue. There would also be no impacts on adjacent land use from the no action alternative, because the land use status in the study areas would not change.

Action Alternative

Socioeconomic Resources

Under the action alternative, the park would be expanded to include the lands south of the Main Unit, joining the Main Unit with the expansion boundary of the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and allowing the lands around the Lamar Unit to be transferred into the ownership of the NPS. It would be possible for the NPS to acquire title to the access points to the properties surrounding the Lamar Unit. The land owned by the railroad that bisects the Main Unit would be included within the park boundaries.

The boundary would also be expanded to include the properties along Walnut Creek northwest of the Main Unit, as well as the parcels along Plumtree Street, and Hydrolia (Dewitt) Street, and the triangular railroad parcel.

The action alternative has the potential to have very small changes to the resident population of the area due to the acquisition of lands. There would be some limited beneficial effects related to a minimal number of new jobs that could be created by the boundary expansion and any subsequent demolition and possible construction. It is likely that any new jobs would be filled by local residents. In addition, there could be some eventual long-term increases in permanent employment in the park, resulting in some beneficial effects. The proposed expansion would involve the eventual elimination of hunting in the south portion of the expansion area, leading to potential lost revenue in the form of hunting licenses and hunting equipment leading to some localized, long-term, adverse, but not significant economic impacts.

The expansion of the Ocmulgee National Monument boundary could result in a number of existing non-historic structures being demolished, either by the NPS or by other entities as part of the expansion. It is not expected that the loss of these structures would affect property values in the area adversely because

the majority of the structures that might be demolished are not currently contributing beneficially to existing property values. In addition, the expansion of the Ocmulgee National Monument is not expected to have any significant impacts on neighboring property holders and their values because all boundary expansion configurations have been formed to not leave property holders with uneconomic remnants after the expansion and could in fact have beneficial impacts on existing property values by protecting against incompatible land uses. There would be some short-term socioeconomic benefits because of compensation for the land, but these impacts are not expected to be noticeable over the long term. The benefits would be realized at a localized scale.

The expansion of park boundaries would also eventually remove up to approximately 1,940 acres from the local property tax rolls through acquisition by the federal government, not including land proposed to be acquired that is already tax exempt. The majority of these acres are wetlands and are undeveloped, or are in areas where property values are dropping, and their removal from the local property tax inventory would not result in noticeable impacts. The effects would be long term and adverse, but not significant.

In the event of transit expansion, the increased access to transit throughout the area has the potential to bring in development, increase tourism, increase property values and jobs overall, and subsequent increase tax revenue, resulting in long-term localized beneficial impacts. However, none of the impacts would occur until the development of transit opportunities.

Adjacent Land Use

Under the action alternative, existing wetlands south and east of the Main Unit would not change, although they would be transferred into federal ownership, and would not affect adjacent land use in this area. Some non-historic residential structures and outbuildings could be demolished on Lamar Mounds Road and at the access drive on Ocmulgee East Boulevard, converting the land use on these properties from residential to parkland. The expansion boundary in the action alternative has been drawn around other existing structures to the extent possible, in order to minimize any adverse impacts.

At the north side of the park, currently undeveloped property by Plumtree Street would be moved under federal ownership and become parkland, but would probably not be altered at all, so there would be no effects on adjacent land use in this area.

The small triangular area (two lots) on Emery Highway would change from commercial to parkland, which would remove an incompatible land use adjacent to the park, and the structure would likely be demolished if found to be non-historic. There would be no adverse effects on adjacent land use, and possible benefits would result from removing deteriorating and unused structures.

The expansion at the Clinton Street pedestrian gate would encroach into the existing East Macon neighborhood. This area is in a state of change, with the development of the hotel and convention center and growth related to health care services and the hospital taking place, such as the dialysis center, resulting in land use changes in the area.

The lands by Walnut Creek would change from undeveloped land to parkland and would probably not be altered, although several of the long, thin parcels would be subdivided, leaving shallower, residential parcels fronting the road, but the land use of the remaining parcels would not change, resulting in minimal beneficial or adverse impacts on adjacent land use.

Cumulative Impacts

Construction activities associated with the development of multiuse trails and widening of Jeffersonville Road have the potential to bring in jobs and contribute funds to the local economy, creating some beneficial impacts. However, due to the relatively small scale of these projects, it is not expected that the benefits would be significant, and they would be localized.

Conclusion

Overall, there would be no impacts from the no action alternative, and some beneficial impacts on socioeconomic resources from the action alternative, stemming from the potential for employment and from increased property values and subsequent tax increases. Adverse impacts on existing property owners and impacts related to removal of land from the tax rolls are not expected to be significant, because many of the neighborhoods are in a state of change with property values already decreasing, and because the lands south of the Main Unit are wetlands with relatively low taxable value. In addition, all potential boundary expansion configurations have been aligned to ensure that property owners are not left with uneconomic remnants of their land.

IMPACTS ON VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

METHODOLOGY AND ASSUMPTIONS

The purpose of this impact analysis is to assess the effects of the proposed expansion alternatives on the visitor use and experience in the park and expansion area, and also in relationship to other recreational amenities. The analysis for this resource area is focused on visitor use and experience within the existing park, and potential changes to visitor use and experience because of park expansion. Analysis includes the direct impacts of the expansion and indirect impacts related to possible improvements in the expansion area of the park, including new trails, potential for improved curation and access of the Lamar site, and other factors.

STUDY AREA

The study area for visitor use and experience is the proposed expansion area and the East Macon neighborhood north of the Main Unit.

ANALYSIS

No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, there would be no changes to the visitor use and experience. Visitors would continue to enjoy the park as they do now. There would be some continued adverse effects associated with hunting on the lands immediately south of the Main Unit near the Great Temple Mound; visitors would continue to be able to hear hunting-related noises during hunting season, and the land would not be protected from disturbances to the viewshed, such as forest harvests or development. The railroad would also not be included within the park boundaries, and the rail corridor in the park would be vulnerable to land use changes that would adversely affect visitor use and experience should the railroad be rerouted out of the park but remain in railroad ownership. The park would also not be able to improve its pedestrian entrance or change its vehicular access if the railroad were not within the park boundaries. There would therefore be several small but noticeable adverse impacts on visitor use and experience associated with the no action alternative. These impacts would not be significant, however.

Action Alternative

The action alternative would add noticeable acreage to the park and the potential for improvements to existing trails, roads, and railbeds would result in a variety of beneficial impacts on visitor use and experience. The expansion and public ownership of the land would provide better potential for connections with railbeds and potential rails-to-trails systems by the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail that follows the river on the east side through Macon, but currently ends south of Coliseum Drive. The Ocmulgee Heritage Trail website shows plans for extended trails (improved multiuse trails and primitive trails around the Lamar site), and expansion would increase opportunities to complete trail plans, as well as explore opportunities to create safe public landings for paddle craft and expansion of the Ocmulgee River Water Trail. Expansion would also increase the ability of the park to secure the Lamar site while increasing visitation, and allow a larger number of visitors to experience this important resource, and more often than the current four times a year.

Cumulative Impacts

The expansion would secure the east side of the Ocmulgee River in federal ownership for several miles, which would contribute benefits to the development of the Ocmulgee River Heritage Trail, and provide potential opportunities for development of safe public landings for paddle craft along the river. Expansion of Ocmulgee National Monument would contribute additional long-term benefits to the beneficial impacts of these projects.

Visitor experience would also be improved over the long term by providing a buffer between the park and adjoining parcels where the park trail passes right by the fence at Plumtree Street. The expansion of the park by the gate would also contribute beneficially to the neighborhood and to the entrance area along Clinton Street where the existing bike trail brings visitors to the park. Should the railroad line ever be rerouted or abandoned, the additional lands at Clinton Street would provide an opportunity for a new vehicular and multimodal entrance that is better aligned with existing transportation and bicycle networks and more easily accessible to the Macon convention center and other tourist attractions.

Conclusion

Overall, under the no action alternative, there would be several small long-term adverse impacts on visitor use and experience related to hunting noise and future restrictions on improvements to the park should the railroad ever be rerouted out of the park.

Under the action alternatives, there would be long-term beneficial impacts on visitor use and experience by providing more areas to visit, eventually unifying the park where it is divided by the railroad should the opportunity arise, and creating improved opportunities for the public to enjoy the Lamar site and the bottomland swamp that surrounds it. Expanding the boundary at Clinton and Plumtree Streets would result in an improved park entrance at Clinton Street and provide the potential for a new or alternate vehicular and multimodal entrance to the park, should the railroad ever be rerouted or abandoned, that would coordinate better with bike and transportation networks than the existing entrance.

Cumulatively, expansion would contribute beneficial impacts to the beneficial impacts of other trail projects in the area.

IMPACTS ON PARK MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

METHODOLOGY AND ASSUMPTIONS

The purpose of this impact analysis is to assess the effects of the proposed expansion alternatives on the park management and operations in the park and the proposed expansion area. The analysis for this resource area is focused on potential changes to park management and operations that would result from park expansion. Analysis includes the direct impacts of the expansion, and indirect impacts related to possible improvements in the expansion area of the park, including new trails, potential for improved curation and access of the Lamar site, and other factors.

STUDY AREA

The study area for visitor use and experience is the proposed expansion area and the East Macon neighborhood north of the Main Unit.

ANALYSIS

No Action Alternative

There would be no direct or indirect impacts on park management and operations under the no action alternative. The park would continue to operate as it currently does, and no additional resources would be required, nor would additional responsibilities be required of existing staff.

Action Alternative

There would be no direct impacts on park management and operations resulting from legislated expansion of the park boundaries, because the NPS would not yet own the properties. However, there would be small short- and long-term indirect adverse impacts, because NPS staff time would be required to perform research and other activities related to acquisition of expansion properties, and once the properties were transferred to NPS ownership, staff responsibilities would expand, although it is not anticipated that new staff would be required.

The biggest issue for Ocmulgee National Monument staff would be addressing the law enforcement issues that arise in such parks, including looting and emergency response. A comparison of Ocmulgee National Monument and its expansion area with five other similar parks in the region indicate that there is an economy of scale (table 4-1), and although the law enforcement staff would need to amend its current approach to managing the smaller park, current staffing would be adequate to handle the larger acreage the expansion would create. These parks range from 2,000 acres to more than 26,000 acres and are served by one to five law enforcement rangers. Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge immediately south of the expansion area under consideration in this EA is served by a single law enforcement officer based at the 35,000-acre Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge in Jones, Georgia, several miles north of Macon. In addition, new acquisitions would have proprietary jurisdiction, meaning that local officers would retain full authority on NPS property (LaChine, pers. comm. 2012).

TABLE 4-1. LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFFING AT SIMILAR PARKS

Park	Acreage	Number of Law Enforcement Rangers	Notes
Congaree National Park, Hopkins, South Carolina	26,020	3	Primarily bottomland forest similar to the land included in the expansion area, but in a more rural area
Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, Daviston, Alabama	2,040	2	Commemorates a battle in the Creek War of 1813–1814, part of the War of 1812
Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, St. Augustine, Florida	19	4	Downtown location with high visitation
Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and Lookout Mountain, Tennessee	9,036	5	Divided into several parcels in two states
Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, Jacksonville, Florida	46,301	1	Rural, with low visitation, and contains only 7,533 acres of federal land

Source: LaChine, pers. comm. 2013

Cultural and natural resources management staff, and staff working on any improvements on expansion land, would also benefit from a similar economy of scale as the law enforcement officers but they would need to spend focused time on the new expansion areas, but they should be able to accommodate new responsibilities in their current workload.

There would likely be several projects associated with improving expansion lands to prepare them for visitation and also for securing important resources. These could include such items as road/parking lot removal, maintenance of existing access roads, demolition of non-historic structures, rehabilitation of borrow pits, etc.). The Main Unit is currently fenced in, and the mounds at the Lamar site are posted and secured with fencing, and new fencing would be required in some areas. However, it is not anticipated that the expansion areas to the south would be fenced, other than to protect significant resources or to prevent public health and safety issues, such as fencing off the borrow pits.

The action alternative includes no treatment recommendations for structures included within the expanded boundary. If these developed areas were ever acquired, and if the structures were determined to be non-historic in consultation with the SHPO, then it is likely the NPS would incur demolition costs. Non-historic structures would likely be demolished to comply with the NPS policy of no net gain of inventory of real property assets (structures). Refer to Executive Order 13324 and presidential memorandum 12-12 (Office of Management and Budget 2012).

In addition, it is anticipated that trails and roads through the expansion area now might be improved to handle park visitors, and other projects might take place that would require park planning resources.

Impacts on park management and operations would therefore be adverse and noticeable, but not significant. Staff would need to refocus current efforts to accommodate the larger amount of parkland, and staff and fiscal resources would be needed to execute various expansion-related projects, but new staff should not be necessary because of the expansion.

Cumulative Impacts

There are no projects in the cumulative scenario that would affect park management and operations, so there would be no cumulative impacts for either alternative under this resource topic.

Conclusion

There would be no impacts on park management and operations associated with the no action alternative. Under the action alternative, expansion of the park and related projects would require changes to existing staff practices, but staffing levels would not change much, if at all. Impacts on park management and operations would therefore be adverse and noticeable, but not significant. There would be no cumulative impacts.

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CHAPTER 5: CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The NPS places a high priority on public involvement in NEPA and Section 106 processes and on giving the public an opportunity to comment on proposed actions. As part of the NPS NEPA process, issues associated with the proposed action were identified during the internal scoping meeting held with the NPS and have been communicated to other affected agencies and stakeholders.

PUBLIC SCOPING

The NEPA regulations require an “early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.” To determine the scope of issues to be analyzed in depth within this boundary study / EA, meetings were conducted with NPS staff, interested stakeholders, and members of the public. An internal scoping meeting was held with the NPS in February 2012 at the Ocmulgee National Monument Visitor Center.

A public scoping newsletter was published on the NPS Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC) website describing the project background, the time and location of the public meeting, the project purpose and need, information about the NEPA process and boundary study, project schedule, and opportunities to comment. Public scoping began on April 19, 2012, and ended on May 19, 2012.

A public scoping meeting was held on Tuesday, April 19, between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Ocmulgee National Monument Visitor Center in Macon, Georgia. Two additional scoping meetings were held on April 19—one for local, state, and interested federal agencies, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and a second meeting for nongovernment agencies and organizations between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The meetings with government and nongovernmental stakeholders consisted of a presentation followed by a facilitated round table discussion. Attendees to the evening meeting included individuals, organizations, and government representatives interested in learning more about the project, providing comments about the boundary study, and expressing issues and concerns. The meeting consisted of an open house during which attendees had the opportunity to read about the project on information posters, a brief presentation by NPS staff, and then an additional open house period. The presentation included information about the project background, the purpose and need, boundary study requirements, information informing the boundary study, the project schedule, and how to comment. The NPS and consultant team were available to answer questions and to solicit comments. Meeting attendees were also provided the opportunity to submit comments via a standard form or online via the Ocmulgee National Monument Old Fields Boundary Study / EA project website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OCMU>). The public comment period remained open until May 19, 2012, an additional 30 days from the date of the public meeting.

To initiate scoping, the NPS posted a public scoping notice on the PEPC website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/meetingNotices.cfm?projectID=38186>). Letters announcing public scoping were sent to interested tribes, potentially affected landowners, and various public agencies and nongovernmental organizations. The sign-in sheets at the public meetings indicated the following numbers of attendees for a total of 62 participants, not differentiating those attending multiple meetings:

- Government Stakeholders—9 participants
- Nongovernmental Stakeholders—7 participants
- Landowners and Public—46 attendees

Attendees included individuals, organizations, and government representatives interested in learning more about the project, providing comments about the preliminary alternatives, and expressing issues and concerns. The meeting consisted of an open house during which attendees had the opportunity to read about the project on information posters. The NPS and the consultant team were available to answer questions and to solicit comments. Meeting attendees were also provided the opportunity to submit comments via a standard form or online via the park's boundary study / EA project website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/meetingNotices.cfm?projectID=38186>).

At the end of the public comment period on May 19, 2012, 55 public comments had been submitted via e-mail, U.S. Postal Service, or on the NPS PEPC website. Of these comments, 95 percent were submitted by unaffiliated members of the public and 5 percent were submitted by organizations including government agencies or conservation associations. The nongovernmental organizations included the National Parks Conservation Association, Save Our Rivers, and the Georgia Conservancy. Comments expressed support for the boundary expansion (98 percent) and offered comments on the lands to be added to or removed from the study area. Commenters also provided input on resources in the study area, particularly the archeological resources.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

The NPS (park and region) met with Muscogee (Creek) Tribal representatives in September 2012, when they traveled to the park to begin the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee bike ride event. Superintendent David and NPS staff met with them in the Visitor Center and described the study area we were looking at. The Tribal representatives were supportive, but did not provide detailed comments. In addition, a letter describing the proposed expansion was sent to the tribal chiefs or elders of 13 Tribes, including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation:

- Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Miccosukee Indian Tribe
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Poarch Band Creek Indians
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
- United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Alabama-Quasserte Tribal Town

AGENCY CONSULTATION

Coordination with local and federal agencies and various interest groups was conducted during the NEPA process to identify issues and/or concerns related to the proposed actions. Correspondence related to the consultation process is available in appendix C.

SECTION 7 CONSULTATION

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, consultation letters were sent from the NPS to the USFWS and the Natural Heritage Program at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources on April 3, 2011.

The USFWS responded that habitat in the expansion area is consistent with habitat that would support four federally listed species, the wood stork (endangered), gopher tortoise (candidate), the fringed campion (endangered) plant, and the relict trillium (endangered plant). The agency also listed several additional species known to occur at Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge south of the proposed expansion area. The agency recommended evaluating the study area for potential habitat for these species and for any other species that Georgia Department of Natural Resources identify.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources did not submit a response.

SECTION 106

Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. In accordance with the regulations implementing Section 106, letters initiating the process were sent to the Georgia SHPO and to the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Creek Nation on April 3, 2012. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation expressed informal support for the proposed expansion. Streamlined procedures for Section 106 consultation have been used in this EA.

LIST OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS PUBLIC WHO WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE BOUNDARY STUDY / EA

Stakeholders	
State and Federal Elected Officials	
Senator Saxby Chambliss, U.S. Senate	Senator John Hardy Isakson, U.S. Senate
Congressman Sanford Bishop, U.S. House of Representatives, 2 nd District	Senator David Lucas, Georgia State Senate
James Beverly, Georgia House of Representatives	
Other Stakeholders	
The Ocmulgee National Park & Preserve Initiative	John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
New Town Macon	The Trust for Public Land
The Conservation Fund	The Peyton Anderson Foundation
Georgia Wildlife Federation	Ocmulgee Archaeological Society
National Parks Conservation Association, Southeast Regional Office	Community Foundation of Central Georgia, Inc.
Development Authority of Bibb County	Georgia Conservancy

Stakeholders	
Macon, Georgia Convention & Visitors' Bureau	The Society for Georgia Archaeology
Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce	

Property Owners	
Alfred Garland	Kuei Lin Inc.
Anderson Walker and Reichert LLP	Lamar Mounds Inc.
Ben N. Sisters Inc.	Macon Roots
Bibb County	Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority
Bibb County Commission	Macon-Bibb County Urban Development
Bibb County Farm	Macon-Bibb County Water Sewage
Bibb Manufacturing Company	New Town Macon Inc.
Charlotte Ethridge	Norfolk Southern Railroad
Cherokee Brick & Tile Company	Poplar KOP LLC
City of Macon	Richard W. and Robbie Croom
City of Macon Housing Authority	Roy Epps Jr.
Curtis T. Stephens	Scott H. Irving
Dan W. Worsham	Speedway Video Inc.
Dr. Loretto Grier-Cudjoe	State Bank and Trust Company
Eleanor Lane and Jane Thompson	Tammy Davis
Elizabeth Petty	Tequilla Latrise Watson
Georgia Department of Transportation	The Archaeological Conservancy
Georgia Power Company	UDC Realty LLC
Georgia Timberlands Inc.	Vernon E. Gillis
Hoke S. Walker	Walker 6 LLC
James E. Donofrio	Walker Land and Cattle LLC
K.T. Recycling	William Darrell Bowden
Bernice Ford	Thomas F. Cudihy
Glenda Faye Taylor	Judith H. Fluellen
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COMMENT PERIOD

To comment on this boundary study / EA, you may mail comments or submit them online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OCMU> and follow the appropriate links. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. Although you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Please mail comments to:

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CHAPTER 6: ACRONYMS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
APE	area of potential effect
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EA	environmental assessment
HPD	Historic Preservation Division (Georgia)
MD&S	Macon, Dublin & Savannah
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPS	National Park Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places (also called National Register in document)
PEPC	Planning, Environment & Public Comment website
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
USC	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

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CHAPTER 7: REFERENCES

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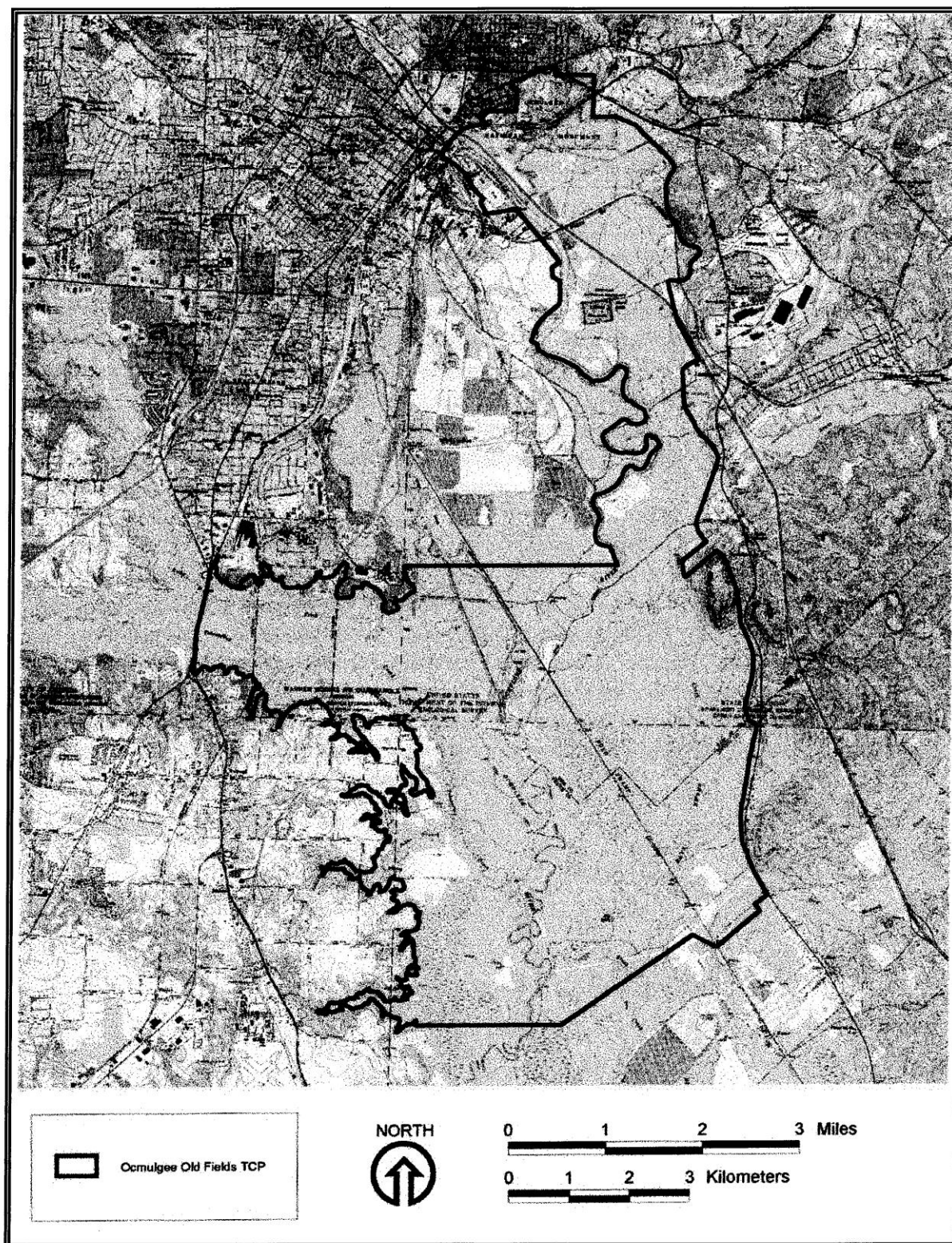
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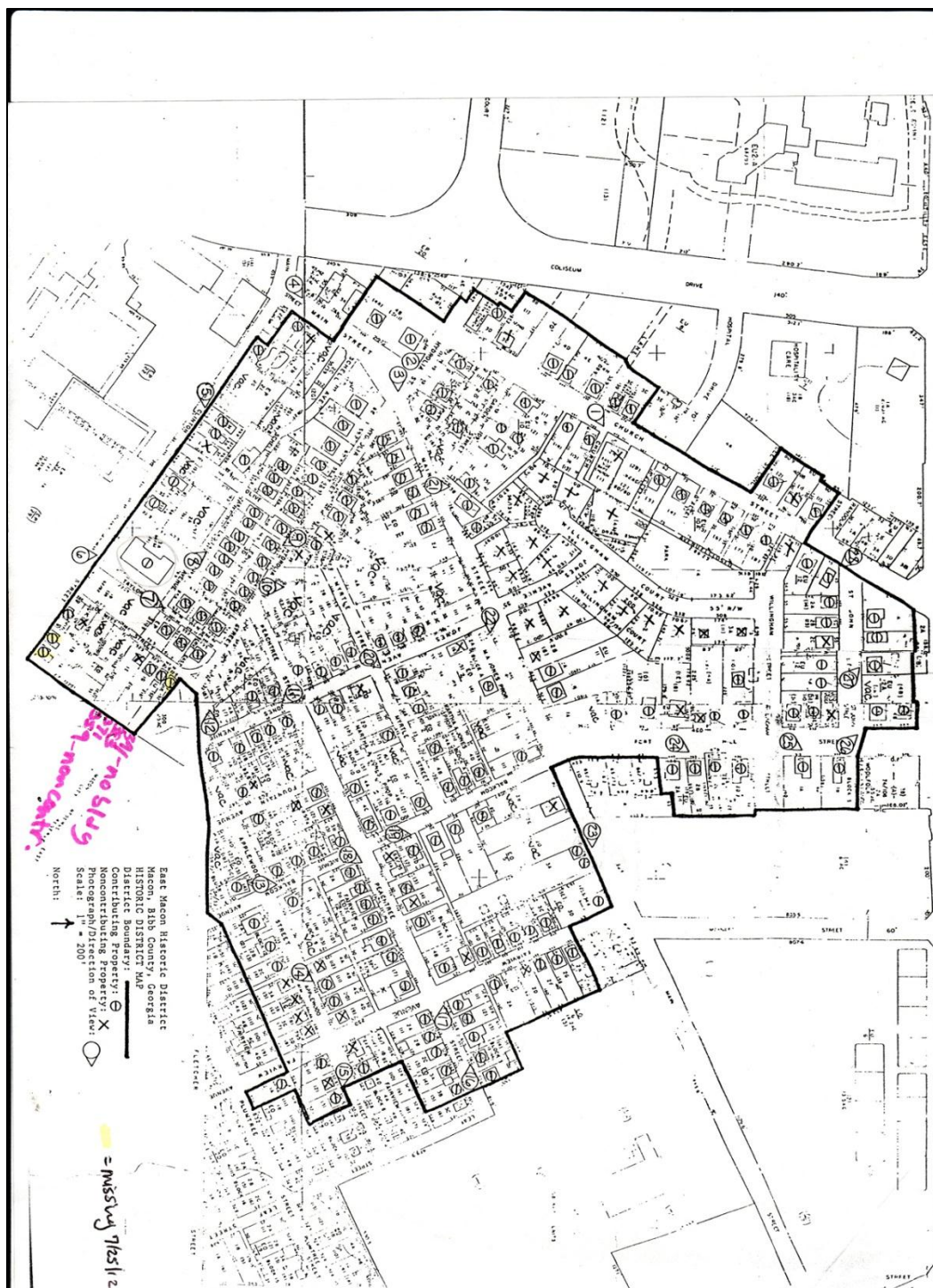
APPENDIX A: OCMULGEE OLD FIELDS TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY AND EAST MACON HISTORIC DISTRICT

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Source: Butler et al. 2001

FIGURE A-1. CONFIGURATION OF THE OCMULGEE OLD FIELDS TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY





Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division

FIGURE A-2. EAST MACON HISTORIC DISTRICT


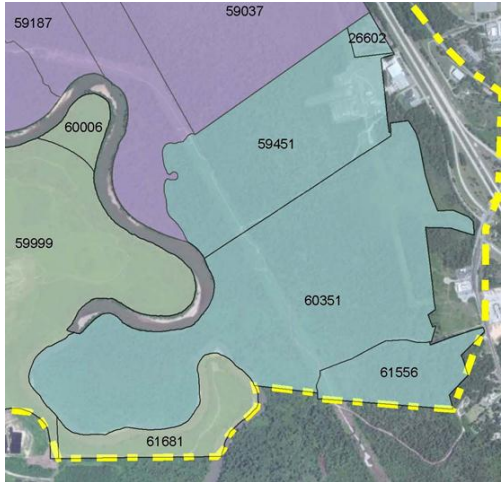
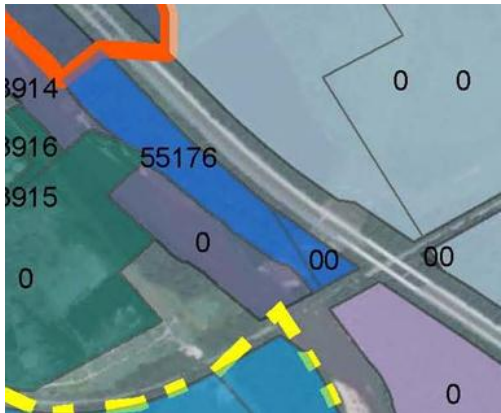
APPENDIX B: APPLICATION OF CRITERIA FOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

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TABLE B-1. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT CRITERIA EVALUATION; FIRST TIER CRITERIA

Parcel Group	Map	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 1a: Would the addition of this site protect significant resources and values related to park purposes*?	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 1b: Would the addition of this site enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes?	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 2: Would the addition of this site address operational and management issues, such as the need for access	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 3: Would the addition of this resource otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes?	National Register of Historic Places Status	Key Resources
1		Yes, excluding the two commercial properties shown as 48917 and 49577, which have been extensively disturbed in the past and are not likely to have intact resources on them. On the remaining properties, there is a high likelihood that archeological resources related to the main purpose of the park are present. The TCP extends due east of the upper horizontal boundary of the Main Unit and curves gently to the south before it reaches Ocmulgee East Blvd. Revised boundary should exclude the two commercial properties and the developed portions of the other properties along the road.	Yes. Expanded park area would allow for enhanced opportunities for the public to enjoy the park and additional lands within the park, and to better understand how Native Americans interacted with the bottomland and riverine environments of the Ocmulgee Old Fields and Ocmulgee River.	Yes. Expansion would extend the park boundaries to the road, and create additional access to Emery Highway, thereby creating new, logical boundaries. Note: New boundary would be best drawn behind the developed areas along U.S. 80, so the extension to the road would not be uniform, but would still improve the logic of the park boundary.	Addition of these parcels would enhance protection of cultural and natural resources in the Main Unit, including wetlands and forest area. By not including the commercial properties, it would allow incompatible neighboring uses to continue. In addition, there are concerns about the possible presence of hazardous materials and underground storage tanks, making these properties undesirable.	Yes, these properties are partially within the TCP, although there are no documented sites on these properties.	NPS Priority #5. Relatively high potential for cultural resources in the undeveloped portions of these properties, forest, and wetlands.
2		Yes. These properties are almost completely within the TCP, and are part of the Ocmulgee Old Fields. There are at least nine documented archeological sites related to the main purpose of the park within this area, and a high likelihood that archeological resources exist elsewhere in this area. The landscape generally consists of upland forest and floodplain bottomland swamp, including a portion of Walnut Creek, and presents an opportunity to protect not only cultural resources critical to park purposes, but also wildlife corridors and habitat. The properties are crisscrossed with power transmission line and railroad rights-of-way, however. One of the railroad lines is currently active; the rest have been abandoned.	Yes, an expanded boundary in these parcels would allow the public more opportunities to enjoy the park, and would allow more opportunities to understand the history and prehistory important to the park. Addition of these properties would move the park toward being able to link the Main Unit to the Lamar Unit, and increase opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes. Permanent protection of Walnut Creek near the Great Temple Mound would enhance public enjoyment by preserving vistas and the environment around the mound. There are plans for rails-to-trails conversions through some of this area, and several existing roads and paths that could be converted to hiking trails for public enjoyment, and additional opportunities to learn about the cultural resources related to park purposes.	Inclusion of these lands within the boundaries of the park would add lands that would make the boundaries more logical, following south along Ocmulgee Blvd. and along Lamar Mounds Road. These properties are also key in linking the Main Unit with Lamar Unit, which would be instrumental in addressing management and operational issues related to the Lamar Unit and the fact that it is landlocked.	Addition of these parcels would enhance protection of cultural and natural resources in the Main Unit by protecting wetlands immediately adjacent to the Main Unit from logging and poaching, and would secure buffers to Walnut Creek, the stream that currently serves as the Main Unit on the southwest portion of the park. Protection of natural resources would be enhanced by ensuring preservation of wildlife habitat and corridors. These natural resources relate directly to the park purpose, as the archeological resources are present because of the river and its floodplain. Inclusion of the borrow pit area (approximately 50 acres) would prevent further mining, an incompatible use adjacent to the park. Addition of these parcels would also allow for access to abandoned railroad rights-of-way.	Yes. These properties are within the TCP. Also, there are two National Register eligible homes (20th century structures) on Ocmulgee East Blvd. adjacent to the parcel groups, but they would not be included in the expansion boundary.	There are several known and significant archeological sites associated with the Ocmulgee Old Fields and the TCP. Key natural resources include Walnut Creek and its floodplain, Bobby Branch and its floodplain, a mix of upland and bottomland forest and swamp, providing extensive wildlife habitat.



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Parcel Group	Map	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 1a: Would the addition of this site protect significant resources and values related to park purposes*?	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 1b: Would the addition of this site enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes?	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 2: Would the addition of this site address operational and management issues, such as the need for access	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 3: Would the addition of this resource otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes?	National Register of Historic Places Status	Key Resources
3		These parcels surround the Lamar Unit of the Park. Expansion would provide a significant amount of additional protection to the Lamar Unit, and connect the Lamar Unit to the Main Unit (but more protection if parcels in Parcel Group 2 are added). These tracts also contain several known or suspected archeological sites related to the park's primary purpose, and are entirely within the TCP. Addition of these parcels to the park would also continue to provide protection for large wetland and bottomland forest areas, and riparian areas along the Ocmulgee River.	By linking the Lamar Unit to the Main Unit, and increasing opportunities for access to the Lamar Unit, there would be more opportunities for public enjoyment and opportunities for the public to understand how Native Americans interacted with the bottomland and riverine environments of the Ocmulgee Old Fields and Ocmulgee River. This would also protect the riverfront and possible undocumented resources. Protection of the riverfront would provide secondary enhanced public enjoyment for users of the river and the Ocmulgee Water Trail and allow extension of the Ocmulgee Greenway Trail further south.	Addition of these properties would provide a physical connection to the Main Unit, and enhance access to the Lamar Unit, which is currently landlocked and presents several management and operational challenges.	Addition of these properties would enhance protection of the Lamar Unit, which is critical to fulfilling park purposes. The Lamar Unit is landlocked and management of this resource can be challenging as a result.	Yes. These properties are entirely within the TCP.	There are several known archeological sites associated with the Ocmulgee Old Fields and the TCP. Key natural resources include a mix of upland and bottomland forest and swamp and floodplain, providing extensive wildlife habitat. The western edge is the Ocmulgee River.
4		These three parcels contain significant and previously identified archeological sites. In addition, each has access points to the properties surrounding the Lamar Unit, which need to be controlled to better protect the Lamar Unit. These parcels are fully within the TCP, and also adjoin the Ocmulgee River and contain high quality wildlife habitat and floodplain. The expansion boundary would exclude the shooting range for the County Sherriff's Department (approximately 15 acres).	Yes. The addition of these properties would enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes by securing additional (including the most practical) access points to the Lamar Unit.	Adjustment of the boundary to include these pieces of property would secure access to the Lamar Unit, which will allow improved management and protection of this landlocked unit.	In addition to providing access to and allowing the NPS to control access to the Lamar Unit, expansion to include these parcels would protect the Ocmulgee River on the east side of the river.	Yes. These properties are entirely within the TCP.	There are known significant archeological sites, with high potential for additional archeological resources related to the park's primary purpose. Key natural resources include Swift Creek, floodplain, wetlands, and forest.
5		This property is between the river and the interstate. Its value is mostly in that it would create a logical boundary for the park, particularly if Parcel Groups 1 and 2 are included in the expansion boundary. Presence of archeological resources is possible, although they may have been disturbed during the construction of the interstate. Expansion of the boundary onto this property would also provide additional access to the river and protection of its riparian area.	Expansion onto this property would allow for additional riverfront access and would allow for expansion of the Macon greenway system, and connections to other trails, thereby providing new opportunities for public enjoyment and recreation related to park purposes.	Addition of this property would create a logical boundary and would help connect the Main Unit west of the interstate to the parcels surrounding the Lamar Unit.	No.	Yes. This property is entirely within the TCP.	There is a potential for presence of unknown archeological resources. Key natural resources include the Ocmulgee River and its floodplain.



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Parcel Group	Map	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 1a: Would the addition of this site protect significant resources and values related to park purposes*?	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 1b: Would the addition of this site enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes?	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 2: Would the addition of this site address operational and management issues, such as the need for access	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 3: Would the addition of this resource otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes?	National Register of Historic Places Status	Key Resources
6		This group of properties contains a known archeological site, although it is in the developed portion of the parcel group, and the principal parts of this site have been disturbed. It is likely, however, that there would still be significant archeological resources present around the perimeter of the developed area. Walnut Creek, which is one of the primary natural features of the Main Unit, flows through the largest parcel, and NPS ownership would provide additional protection to Walnut Creek and its riparian area.	Expanding the park to include both upland and wetland areas in this group of properties (and excluding the developed portion of this property) would provide additional opportunities for public enjoyment, including enjoyment related to park purposes.	The park was divided by Emery Highway construction during World War II. Expanding the monument to include this parcel group would provide additional lands in a logical configuration and enhance the value of the piece of park on the northeast side of the highway.	Expansion would afford some additional protection of Walnut Creek and its floodplain.	No. This group of properties is outside the TCP.	There are known archeological resources, and the potential for undiscovered resources. Natural resources include Walnut Creek and its riparian area.
7		No.	No.	Addition of this small parcel (Parcel No. 47767) would create a more logical boundary and address management issues caused several years ago when the owner of this property encroached into the NPS boundary when constructing a parking lot. Adding this property and bringing the park boundary to the road would allow for restoration of that area and would create a more logical park boundary, as well as prevent future incompatible uses. Note: the "divot" in the boundary was created when Ocmulgee East Blvd. was built through the park.	No.	No, although property might be considered to be within the TCP.	None identified. Important for adjacency.
8		This group of parcels includes several small lots owned by the city or by New Town Macon, and also includes a parcel not delineated on the map that contains a structure that was recently burned. There might also be undocumented archeological resources on these properties, given what has been found in the surrounding neighborhood in the past. The primary reason to add these properties to the park boundary is to provide some room between the internal park trail and the park's fence.	The expansion into these properties would improve the visitor experience by moving the park's boundary, and the chain link fence around the park, further from the trail. The fence currently hugs the trail from necessity.	These properties would be drawn to mapped roads, creating a boundary with similar logic as the existing boundary.	No.	No, the properties are outside the TCP.	None identified. Important for adjacency.

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Parcel Group	Map	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 1a: Would the addition of this site protect significant resources and values related to park purposes*?	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 1b: Would the addition of this site enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes?	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 2: Would the addition of this site address operational and management issues, such as the need for access	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 3: Would the addition of this resource otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes?	National Register of Historic Places Status	Key Resources
9		Most likely yes. It is likely that these properties contain archeological resources, given that many artifacts were found during the development of the dialysis center at the front of property 19500 (the dialysis center would not be included in the expansion boundary, but the rear of the parcel is being considered).	Addition of these parcels (excluding the commercial building on the railroad parcel) would allow for the possibility of enhanced access that could be coordinated with New Town Macon and the City of Macon, which could improve opportunities for public enjoyment and also create more logical boundaries and address management issues.	Addition of these parcels (excluding the commercial building on the railroad parcel) would allow for the possibility of enhanced access that could be coordinated with the City of Macon and New Town Macon, which could improve opportunities for public enjoyment and also create more logical boundaries and address management issues.	No.	Outside the TCP. Two houses on Dewitt Street and two on Taylor Street are NRHP-eligible and are in the East Macon Historic District—371 and 383 Dewitt, and 375 and 395 Taylor Street.	
10	Railroad Corridor through the park	Yes. At the least, it would add protection to existing park resources and unify the Main Unit into a single property. There may also be archeological resources beneath the railbed; when the railroad was constructed, it was placed through existing mounds.	Yes. The addition of the railroad corridor would allow more opportunities for the public to cross from one side of the Main Unit to the other, which could enhance visitor use and enjoyment of the existing park resources.	Yes. The corridor bisects the park, and vibrations from the trains have in the past caused adverse impacts on park resources, and represents a threat of incompatible development should the railroad line be abandoned and was not under park control. Having the railroad corridor under park control should the line be abandoned would also create opportunities for other entrances into the park closer to the river, which could provide better links to the City of Macon.	Yes. Would provide additional protection to resources in the Main Unit.	The railroad falls within the TCP and within the Main Unit, which is listed. The railroad bridge and the corridor itself is NRHP-eligible.	This property relates to the mounds and other sites/resources in the Main Unit. On the property itself, the arched railroad bridge is eligible for the NRHP, and possibly other railroad structures are as well.
11		Yes. This parcel group includes Central City Park and properties immediately around it on the west side of the river. The park contains not only known archeological sites, but also several buildings on the National Register, so expansion would provide additional protection.	No, the park is already managed by the county, and provides ample opportunity for public enjoyment of park resources, including recreational sports activities not directly related to the purposes of Ocmulgee National Monument.	No, inclusion of these properties would create additional management issues.	No.	The property is within the TCP. Also contains NRHP-listed structures. The Macon levee is also eligible for the NRHP.	Archeological resources and historic structures, including the Macon Levee.

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Parcel Group	Map	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 1a: Would the addition of this site protect significant resources and values related to park purposes*?	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 1b: Would the addition of this site enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes?	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 2: Would the addition of this site address operational and management issues, such as the need for access	Boundary Adjustment Criterion 3: Would the addition of this resource otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes?	National Register of Historic Places Status	Key Resources
12		These parcels have a likelihood of having undocumented archeological resources (prehistoric human remains were found in the river bank on this parcel recently).	Yes. The levee is publicly accessible along the river up to this property line, at which point there is a fence preventing public access.	No. It is possible that addition of land in this parcel group to the park could create more issues than it would address. It would be more difficult for the NPS to manage lands on the far side of the river from the Main Unit, as the nearest crossing is several miles north in Macon. The next nearest crossing is south of Robins Air Force Base.	No.	No. This land is partially within the TCP.	Unknown.
13	Macon/Bibb Parcel No. ST89-0017 Note: Tax records mistakenly show this parcel as the property of NPS	Partially. This parcel has a high likelihood of containing undiscovered archeological resources.	Expanding the boundaries to the riparian areas along the river would enhance visitor use and enjoyment for those travelling on the river or experiencing the park from the other side.	It is possible that addition of land in this parcel group to the park could create more issues than it would address. It would be more difficult for the NPS to manage lands on the far side of the river from the Main Unit, as the nearest crossing is several miles north in Macon. The next nearest crossing is south of Robins Air Force Base.	No, other than protecting the riparian areas of the Ocmulgee River, and protecting undiscovered archeological resources.	The properties are not within the TCP.	There are possible undiscovered archeological resources. Natural resources include floodplain and riparian areas for the Ocmulgee River.
14		Partially. These parcels have a high likelihood of containing archeological resources within the undisturbed areas, although the lands away from the river have been mined for various natural resources and it is likely that the archeological resources have been disturbed. The largest value to the park would be the riparian areas along the river. The Cherokee Brick and Tile Historic District is partially on these properties.	Expanding the boundaries to the riparian areas along the river would enhance visitor use and enjoyment for those travelling on the river or experiencing the park from the other side by providing screening from the mining activities. Protection of the riparian areas is also required for mining operations, so the western river banks are somewhat protected currently.	It is possible that addition of land in this parcel group could create more issues than it would address. It would be more difficult for the NPS to manage lands on the far side of the river from the Main Unit, as the nearest crossing is several miles north in Macon. The next nearest crossing is south of Robins Air Force Base.	No, other than protecting the riparian areas of the Ocmulgee River, and protecting undiscovered archeological resources.	The properties are not within the TCP.	There are possible undiscovered archeological resources. Natural resources include floodplain and riparian areas for the Ocmulgee River.

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TABLE B-2. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT CRITERIA EVALUATION; SECOND TIER CRITERIA

Criterion 1: The added lands will be feasible to administer considering their size configuration, and ownership; the views and impacts on local communities and surrounding jurisdictions; and other factors (e.g., the presence of hazardous substances or exotic species).

Criterion 2: Other alternatives for management and resource protection are not adequate.

Parcel Group	Criterion 1 (defined above)	Size	Boundary Configurations	Current and Potential Uses of the Study Area and Surrounding Lands	Land Ownership Patterns	Public Enjoyment Potential	Costs Associated with Acquisition, Development, Restoration, and Operations	Access	Current and Potential Threats to the Resources	Existing Degradation of the Resources	Local Planning and Zoning	Criterion 2 (defined above)
1	Unknown—must consider existing commercial properties and their use history. Recommend excluding the commercial properties. The residential structures by the railroad corridor might need to be demolished, or should be excluded from the boundary.	The size of the parcel group overall is 81.17 acres. This would be smaller, once the businesses and residences fronting the highway are taken out of consideration.	These parcels are adjacent to the boundary of the Main Unit of Ocmulgee National Monument, and extend to Emory Highway. An abandoned railroad right of way bisects the parcel group. There are structures and operating business along the highway, so the boundary should be drawn behind these structures, allowing them to continue. The parcels would be accessible from the Main Unit or from the Highway, and from the right of way.	A large portion of these parcels are forest and wetlands, although there are commercial businesses and some residences fronting Emory Highway.	The two commercial properties have had a range of businesses on them, including auto body repair and painting. The other properties have mostly been owned by one family. The Archeological Conservancy now owns at least one parcel and has spoken with the family about acquiring more of the properties.	Public enjoyment potential of these parcels by themselves is limited, but together with parcel group two would provide additional opportunities for public enjoyment.	A large portion of this parcel group is owned by the Archeological Conservancy, and would be donated to the park.	These properties can be accessed from U.S. 80, and the railroad right-of-way. As a group, they abut the Main Unit of the park and can be accessed from the Main Unit.	Threats include additional development/ disturbance of the properties and looting of potential archeological resources.	Several properties fronting the highway have been developed, increasing the likelihood that archeological resources have been disturbed, at least along the road and along the railroad right of way. The backs of the properties have greater potential for undisturbed archeological resources.	Zone A (agri-culture).	The archeological resources are not as well protected under non-federal ownership in Georgia, even on the Archeological Conservancy-owned site. Natural resources are also vulnerable; it is possible to harvest timber in wetlands (which could harm archeological resources and adversely affect natural resources), and fill limited amounts of wetlands. No state or private protection initiatives have been identified.

Parcel Group	Criterion 1 (defined above)	Size	Boundary Configurations	Current and Potential Uses of the Study Area and Surrounding Lands	Land Ownership Patterns	Public Enjoyment Potential	Costs Associated with Acquisition, Development, Restoration, and Operations	Access	Current and Potential Threats to the Resources	Existing Degradation of the Resources	Local Planning and Zoning	Criterion 2 (defined above)
2	<p>These lands would be feasible to administer, and would not adversely impact the surrounding communities (mostly wetlands); might affect hunting activities.</p> <p>Note that there is a borrow pit from soil excavation for the interstate that requires attention and may require restoration.</p>	<p>The parcel group contains 1,096.12 acre. The borrow pit is approximately 50 acres.</p>	<p>The parcel group borders the Main Unit, and extends to the southwest to I-16, and to the east to Ocmulgee East Blvd., with some small developed parcels along Ocmulgee East Blvd. not included. The Southern extent of the boundary of this parcel group is Lamar Mounds Road. The parcel group is bisected by railroad right of ways, both active and abandoned.</p>	<p>Agriculture, wetlands. There is an abandoned borrow pit from a soil excavation operation (approximately 50 acres). Potential for development of trails. Addition of these parcels would provide protection of archeological and natural resources.</p>	<p>The Gledhill family has owned the largest tract for several decades. The Archeological Conservancy recently purchased its tract several years ago.</p>	<p>The site has a relatively high potential for public enjoyment, given the existing trail system that is available for improvement, and the natural resources on the properties (excluding the borrow pit). However, the site is not ready for visitation, and would require considerable rehabilitation to make the area safe for public visitation.</p>	<p>Restoration of the borrow pit could include fencing the area and closing it to the public, and grading the very disturbed areas that wouldn't be vulnerable to further disturbance of cultural resources. Trail system throughout this parcel group might be improved.</p>	<p>This site is accessed via the Ocmulgee East Blvd. or from Lamar Mounds Road by way of the railroad rights of way or access from driveways into the parcels. There is also access to part of the site and to the railroad right of way through the borrow pits.</p>	<p>Threats include additional development, wetlands logging, continued mining activities in the borrow pit, and looting of archeological resources.</p>	<p>The borrow pit has been worked only occasionally over the last several decades and does not have significant vegetation. The property owner continues to mine the land on occasion. This area is also adjacent to a known archeological site.</p>	Zone A	<p>The archeological resources are not as well protected under non-federal ownership in Georgia, even on the Archeological Conservancy-owned site. Natural resources are also vulnerable; it is possible to harvest timber in wetlands (which could harm archeological resources and adversely affect natural resources), and fill limited amounts of wetlands. No state or private protection initiatives have been identified.</p>
3	<p>Yes, these lands would be feasible to administer. There are no known factors of concern, such as hazardous substances.</p>	<p>This parcel group contains 567 acres.</p>	<p>The boundary of the parcel group extends along the Ocmulgee River on the western side, and along I-16 on the eastern side. The southern boundary is the border with the Bibb County Farm parcel considered in Parcel Group 4.</p>	<p>These parcels comprise private and state-owned wetlands and forest.</p>	<p>Mostly private. One tract owned by Georgia Department of Transportation.</p>	<p>There is high potential for public enjoyment, depending on the approach the park takes to management and access to this part of the park. Because of the wetlands and floodplain, access to this land is often difficult, because of standing water. There are regional plans for extensions of greenways and trails through this group of parcels.</p>	<p>The properties would either be donated or sold to the NPS. It is likely that new fencing would be required, and some improvements to trails through these properties would be necessary. Access to the Lamar site currently requires an all-terrain vehicle, and the path is sometimes impassable.</p>	<p>Access to these parcels is currently through a shared right of way through the Georgia Department of Transportation parcel and into the Cherokee Brick and Tile parcel, and is used to access the Lamar Unit. The roads are often impassable, and require an all-terrain vehicle.</p>	<p>Looting of archeological resources is the primary threat.</p>	<p>The resources on these properties are in generally good shape. There was some observed damage from feral hogs (rooting activities) during the site visit.</p>	Zone A	<p>These parcels link directly to management of the Lamar Unit, which could be improved by connecting the Main Unit and the Lamar Unit, and also acquiring the properties to the south (Parcel Group 4). There have been several instances of looting on non-federal property near the Lamar site. Wetland and natural resources are subject to exploitation. No state or private protection initiatives have been identified.</p>

Parcel Group	Criterion 1 (defined above)	Size	Boundary Configurations	Current and Potential Uses of the Study Area and Surrounding Lands	Land Ownership Patterns	Public Enjoyment Potential	Costs Associated with Acquisition, Development, Restoration, and Operations	Access	Current and Potential Threats to the Resources	Existing Degradation of the Resources	Local Planning and Zoning	Criterion 2 (defined above)
4	Yes, these lands would be feasible to administer, excluding the firing range currently owned by the sheriff's department. There are no other known issues or factors.	This parcel group contains 345.78 acres. The shooting range acreage would be excluded from the expansion boundary.	This group of parcels extends south from the Georgia Department of Transportation parcel and extends to the river on the west. The eastern boundary runs near the access road parallel to the interstate, but excludes already developed parcels along the access road, with the exception of access points on Ocmulgee East Blvd.	The county owns two of the properties and they are currently mostly wetlands and forest, other than the firing range. Railroad or transmission line rights of way cross through. The properties would remain unimproved. These properties provide crucial access to the lands surrounding the Lamar site, and the Lamar site itself.	The two parcels have been owned by the County for several years.	These parcels would enhance public enjoyment of the lands around the Lamar site and protect the views and undeveloped feel of the east bank of the Ocmulgee River for those using the river for recreational purposes.	Costs would be related to obtaining the properties, securing access, subdivision of the firing range, and improving the trail and road system.	All parcels provide access to the lands that surround the Lamar site, primarily by linking up with the rights of way. Control of these access points would be beneficial for the Lamar site. Parcels are accessed off Ocmulgee East Blvd. or from Confederate Way.	Looting of archeological resources, timber harvest in the wetlands, filling in the wetlands, as allowed by Georgia law.	These properties are in good condition. The development of the firing range may have disturbed archeological resources.	Zones A and M-2	Protection of archeological resources under Georgia law is not as comprehensive as it would be under federal law. Wetland and natural resources are subject to exploitation. No state or private protection initiatives have been identified.
5	Yes, it would be feasible to administer.	16 acres	This parcel is between the river and the interstate, south of the park boundary, west of Parcel Group 2, and north of Parcel Group 3.	Currently undeveloped. Could provide an extension of the Ocmulgee Greenway Trail, and would connect existing parkland with other additional parcels.	The same family has owned the land for several years.	Access to Ocmulgee River; possible extension of the greenway trail.	Costs of acquisition, and development of any trails.	Access would be from the park, or from the river. This property is generally hard to access because of the interstate, although it could be a crucial piece in the development of the Greenway.	none	Archeological resources may have been disturbed during the construction of the interstate.	Zone A	Private ownership would not allow for extension of the greenway trail. No state or private protection initiatives have been identified.
6	These lands should be feasible to administer. Concerns about what is on the commercial property (47020). That may need to be subdivided out if this is added to the expansion. That would eliminate/minimize concerns of issues such as hazardous substances.	72.6 acres	Exclude the recycling facility, leaving acceptable border between proposed NPS boundary and the facility, then draw northern most boundary along road, except at existing residences; take line behind the residences, leaving a reasonably sized lot.	Currently several residences on the long thin parcels to the west. Large parcel includes a recycling facility on the east side, and Walnut Creek, wetlands, and forest west of the recycling facility.		Somewhat limited, unless park develops an access point on the north end of the parcel group. The existing Ocmulgee National Monument land along Emery Highway is wetlands and inaccessible.	Land acquisition; subdivision of parcel 47020, possible demolition of structures, fencing. Demolition is currently estimated to cost approximately \$10,000 per structure, given the size of the structures in the study area.	Access would be from Jeffersonville Road, although backs up to current Ocmulgee National Monument boundary.	There is a known archeological site of significance at the recycling facility. It is thought that there would still be undisturbed resources in the undeveloped areas around the facility.	The archeological resources at the recycling facility have been disturbed.	Zones R-2, M-2	The land would remain in private ownership and Walnut Creek and its riparian area would not be as fully protected as under federal ownership. Remaining archeological resources would also not be as fully protected under Georgia law, as they would be under federal ownership. No state or private protection initiatives have been identified.

Parcel Group	Criterion 1 (defined above)	Size	Boundary Configurations	Current and Potential Uses of the Study Area and Surrounding Lands	Land Ownership Patterns	Public Enjoyment Potential	Costs Associated with Acquisition, Development, Restoration, and Operations	Access	Current and Potential Threats to the Resources	Existing Degradation of the Resources	Local Planning and Zoning	Criterion 2 (defined above)
7	Yes	0.19 acre		Currently vacant commercial structure and parking lot.		Limited; this is a boundary adjustment to fix an illogical boundary created when Emory Highway was built through the Main Unit of the park.	Costs associated with acquisition of property, demolition of the structure and parking lot and restoration of the site to green space, moving the fence to the road.	Access is currently off Emory Highway. If added to the Main Unit, access would be available from within the park.	None	Past regrading of parking lot caused erosional damage on parkland, and forced the NPS to move its fence further into the park.	Zone C-4	If the property were to remain in private ownership, there could be future incompatible uses of the property, and continued issues with erosion related to the parking lot expansion. No state or private protection initiatives have been identified.
8	Yes	1.12 acres plus the parcel with fire-damaged house (tax record acreage unavailable).		Could be developed as residential property.		Would allow more room between the park fence and the trail and provide a buffer to the neighborhood, which is currently visible right outside the fence.	Costs associated with demolition of fire-damaged house, relocation of fence, landscaping.	Access to these properties would be from within the park. Lots are currently adjacent to park trail inside the park fence.	Properties could be developed and any present archeological resources could be disturbed.	none	Zones R-2, M-2	By not expanding the boundary on these parcels, the trail would continue to run along the fence. Any existing archeological resources on these properties would not be as fully protected as they would be under federal ownership. No state or long-term private protection initiatives have been identified.
9	Yes, these lands would be feasible to administer, depending on what is done with the eligible historic structures. Would probably require subdivision of the railroad parcel so that only undeveloped part of parcel would be added to the park boundary (research underway on whether the tax maps are correct, and the property has not been subdivided already).	unknown	Along the lines at the back of the dialysis clinic and along Dewitt Street to triangular parcel at the northeast end of Dewitt, and back to the park. Start at the existing wood line. There are what appear to be above-ground tanks in the cleared area just north of the wooded area.	Current uses include residences, many of which are in disrepair and are being bought by New Town Macon and demolished. The railroad parcel is currently undeveloped. Should the railroad line be abandoned, these parcels provide opportunity for new entrance to park that would provide a more direct link with the community and the City of Macon than the current main entrance.	Lots are owned by individual property owners. New Town Macon is currently acquiring these parcels as they become available. New Town Macon generally demolishes the structures on these lots, as they are usually in disrepair. The railroad owns the large lot, and may have subdivided it.	This group of parcels presents an opportunity for a new entrance into the park and improved relations with the City of Macon and the community.	Costs associated with acquisition of property, demolition of the structures if not done already, fencing and any relevant improvements. It is unlikely that a new entrance would be created until the railroad line is abandoned, if that should ever occur.	The pedestrian entrance to the park is on Clinton Street, which is in the middle of this parcel group. Access would be from within the park or from Clinton Street.	Any undiscovered archeological resources could be disturbed or looted. Several artifacts located during the development of the dialysis clinic.	None related to the park.	Residential zoning	No state or long-term private protection initiatives have been identified.

Parcel Group	Criterion 1 (defined above)	Size	Boundary Configurations	Current and Potential Uses of the Study Area and Surrounding Lands	Land Ownership Patterns	Public Enjoyment Potential	Costs Associated with Acquisition, Development, Restoration, and Operations	Access	Current and Potential Threats to the Resources	Existing Degradation of the Resources	Local Planning and Zoning	Criterion 2 (defined above)
10	Yes	unknown	Continue northern boundary along the northwest side of the railroad right of way to the river; on the southeast end, continue along right of way until the recycling center and cut to the north to join Parcel Group 6.	Railroad; could potentially be sold should rail line be abandoned. Possible for use as a rail to trail, and opportunities to better connect the two sides of the park, as well as locate a new/alternate entrance.	Has been owned by the railroad (not a right of way) for more than a century.	Will enhance public enjoyment of Main Unit; potential for conversion to multiuse trail or other recreational use.	Costs associated with acquiring the property, as well as possibly removing the rail lines, fencing?		Any extant resources in the rail line are currently secure, but the current use is adversely impacting the resources within the Main Unit (vibrations from the trains affects the nearby earth lodge and other resources).			This is a currently active rail line. Should it be abandoned, other management would not be adequate, due to the location. No state or private protection initiatives have been identified.
Prop- erties west of the River	All properties west of the Ocmulgee River were determined to be not feasible for inclusion in an expanded boundary, because difficult to administer.			Current uses include a public park, clay mine, recycling facility, and agriculture. The suspected NPS parcel is owned by the wastewater treatment authority.								For Central City Park, there are other organizations that are better equipped to manage the property, and other properties do not meet other criteria for NPS to consider these lands in the expansion area.

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APPENDIX C: CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION CORRESPONDENCE

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United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

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Athens, Georgia 30606
Phone: (706) 613-9493
Fax: (706) 613-6059

West Georgia Sub-Office
Post Office Box 52560
Fort Benning, Georgia 31995-2560
Phone: (706) 544-6428
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Coastal Sub-Office
4980 Wildlife Drive
Townsend, Georgia 31331
Phone: (912) 832-8739
Fax: (912) 832-8744

MAY 11 2012

Mr. James S. David
Superintendent
Ocmulgee National Monument
1207 Emery Highway
Macon, Georgia 31217-4339

Re: FWS Log Number: NG-12-149-Bibb

Dear Mr. David:

Thank you for your April 3, 2012, letter requesting our comments regarding endangered and threatened species for your boundary study for potential expansion of the Ocmulgee National Monument (Monument). We submit the following comments as informal consultation in accordance with section 7(a) (2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

The proposed undertaking is a boundary study and environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that will study and assess impacts that a revised boundary south of the existing property could have on the human environment. Part of the assessment will involve an evaluation of the potential effect that project implementation would have on critical habitat and endangered and threatened species.

No critical habitat occurs in the expansion area. However, the habitat may support federally endangered and threatened species. No comprehensive on-site surveys have been done for endangered or threatened species in the area, but listed below are the most likely species that could occur in the project area and a brief description of their habitat requirements;

Wood Stork (Endangered). Wood storks use a variety of wetland and estuarine wetlands for breeding, feeding, and roosting. In Georgia, wood stork breeding occurs along the coast and in the southern region of the state, but not in the Piedmont area. Following breeding season, however, wood storks may disperse northward and be seen in the Georgia Piedmont during the

late summer and fall (Georgia Department of Natural Resources. 1999.) Over the years, several observations of wood storks have been reported in Bibb and Twiggs Counties and near the Monument. Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), immediately south of the Monument, reports that post-breeding wood storks frequent the refuge (Fish and Wildlife Service 2009). Likely habitats in the expansion area would include forested wetlands and the shallow edges of ponds.

Gopher tortoise (Candidate). The gopher tortoise requires deep, sandy soils. They prefer open habitats with abundant groundcover vegetation, such as frequently burned longleaf pine and scrub oak woodlands (especially sandhills), although some disturbed habitats such as road and utility rights-of-way, field edges, and fence rows are also used. Areas with thick, shrubby vegetation are avoided or abandoned (Jenson et al. 2008). The Ecology Assessment for Eisenhower Parkway Extension (Edwards-Pitman Environmental Inc. 2001) states that “Preliminary research revealed the occurrence of six discrete areas classified as Lakeland soil type, within the study area”, which suggests that there may be some areas of suitable habitat for the gopher tortoise.

Fringed campion (Endangered). The range of this plant includes the lower piedmont plateau of west central Georgia in both the Flint and Ocmulgee River drainages. Its habitat includes mature hardwood or hard-wood-pine forests on river bluffs, small stream terraces, moist slopes and well-shaded ridge crests (Georgia Department of Natural Resources 1995). Several populations of this species have been found in Bibb and Twiggs Counties on both the west and east sides of the Ocmulgee River (Pete Pattavina, Fish and Wildlife Service. Pers. comm. 2012).

Relict trillium (Endangered). Relict trillium is found near the Fall Line in hardwood forests on both the coastal plain and the piedmont plateau in west central Georgia. Populations of this species have been found in Bibb County. In the coastal plain, they are often found with boulders or ledges with soft limestone; in the piedmont, it occurs in deep loamy soils, either in rich ravines or adjacent alluvial terraces with numerous other spring-flowering herbs (Georgia Department of Natural Resources.1995).

The following additional species are known to occur on Bond Swamp NWR, just south of the proposed project area (Fish and Wildlife Service 2009; email from Carolyn Johnson, Piedmont NWR 2012): the shortnose sturgeon (Endangered) and robust redhorse (State endangered) occur in the Ocmulgee river system; *Nestronia umbellula* (State threatened) has been found on an upland site adjacent to rock outcroppings; and bald eagle (State endangered) which has been nesting in Bond Swamp NWR for many years, and can be found year-round on the Refuge. The Refuge also contains habitat that may be suitable for the yellow flytrap (State unusual); ovate catchfly (State rare), sweet pitcher plant (State threatened), Indian olive (State threatened)

Ocmulgee skullcap (State threatened, Federal candidate), Altamaha shiner, goldstripe darter, spotted turtle, Southern dusky salamander, coal skink, and the federally-endangered Altamaha spiny mussel.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) provides information about other rare species including State-listed species as well as any additional observations of federally-listed species in your project area at their web site: <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/node/1374>. We have enclosed recent lists from their website for Bibb and Twiggs Counties and the US Geological Survey quarter quadrangle lists for the general boundary study area.

We recommend that you evaluate the boundary study project for the species listed above and any additional species identified by GADNR. If any of the federally-listed species or their potential habitat is found during your environmental studies, additional surveys may be needed. Please coordinate with our office after your initial evaluation to determine the need for further consultation under the ESA.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact Deborah Harris in our Athens office (706-613-9493 ext. 224) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra S. Tucker". The script is cursive and fluid.

Sandra S. Tucker
Field Supervisor

cc:

Andrew Hammond, Piedmont NWR, Round Oak, GA
Jake Tuttle, Bond Swamp NWR, Round Oak, GA.

References Cited

Edwards-Pittman Environmental, Inc. 2001. Eisenhower Parkway Extension: Vo. 5. Appendix J, Ecology Assessment. Prepared for Georgia Department of Transportation, Atlanta, GA. pp 33-41.

Fish and Wildlife Service. 2009. Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge: Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Southeast Region, Atlanta. GA. p 26.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. 1995. Protected plants of Georgia. Social Circle, GA. pp 183-184 and 207-208..

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. 1999. Protected animals of Georgia. Social Circle, GA. pp 52-53.

Jenson, J.B., C.D. Camp, W. Gibbons, and M.J. Elliott. 2008. Amphibians, and reptiles of Georgia. University of Georgia Press, Athens. pp 514-516.



WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

Known occurrences of special concern plants, animals and natural communities Twiggs County — Fips Code: 13289

Find details for these species at [Georgia Rare Species and Natural Community Data](#) and [NatureServe Explorer](#).

[US] indicates species with federal status (Protected or Candidate).
Species that are federally protected in Georgia are also state protected.
[GA] indicates Georgia protected species.
 link to species profile on our site (not available for all species).
 link to report for element on NatureServe Explorer (only available for animals and plants).

Animal Occurrences

- *Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus* (Atlantic Sturgeon) - fish
- *Clemmys guttata* (Spotted Turtle) [GA] - reptile
- *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Bald Eagle) [GA] - bird
- *Moxostoma robustum* (Robust Redhorse) [GA] - fish
- *Necturus punctatus* (Dwarf Waterdog) - amphibian

Community Occurrences

- (*Quercus sinuata*) / *Sorghastrum nutans* - *Ratibida pinnata* - *Hedyotis nigricans* var. *nigricans* - (*Glandularia bipinnatifida*) (Georgia Eocene Chalk Prairie)
- *Schizachyrium scoparium* - *Sorghastrum nutans* - *Andropogon gerardii* - *Bifora americana* Vertisol Herbaceous Vegetation (Vertisol Blackland Prairie)

Plant Occurrences

- *Bouteloua curtipendula* (Side-oats Grama)
- *Nestronia umbellula* (Indian Olive) [GA]
- *Sarracenia flava* (Yellow Flytrap) [GA]
- *Sarracenia rubra* (Sweet Pitcherplant) [GA]
- *Scutellaria ocmulgee* (Ocmulgee Skullcap) [GA]
- *Silene polypetala* (Fringed Campion) [US]
- *Trillium reliquum* (Relict Trillium) [US]

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WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

Known occurrences of special concern plants, animals and natural communities Bibb County — Fips Code: 13021

Find details for these species at [Georgia Rare Species and Natural Community Data](#) and [NatureServe Explorer](#).

[US] indicates species with federal status (Protected or Candidate).
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 link to species profile on our site (not available for all species).
 link to report for element on NatureServe Explorer (only available for animals and plants).

Animal Occurrences

- *Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum* (Eastern Tiger Salamander) - amphibian
- *Corynorhinus rafinesquii* (Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat) **[GA]** - mammal
- *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) **[GA]** - fish
- *Desmognathus auriculatus* (Southern Dusky Salamander) - amphibian
- *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Bald Eagle) **[GA]** - bird
- *Micropterus cataractae* (Shoal Bass) - fish
- *Necturus punctatus* (Dwarf Waterdog) - amphibian
- *Passerina ciris* (Painted Bunting) - bird

Other Occurrences

- *Wading Bird Colony* (Wading Bird Colony)

Plant Occurrences

- *Sarracenia flava* (Yellow Flytrap) **[GA]**
- *Sarracenia rubra* (Sweet Pitcherplant) **[GA]**
- *Scutellaria ocmulgee* (Ocmulgee Skullcap) **[GA]**
- *Silene ovata* (Ovate Catchfly) **[GA]**
- *Silene polypetala* (Fringed Campion) **[US]**
- *Trillium reliquum* (Relict Trillium) **[US]**

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WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

**Known occurrences of special concern plants, animals and natural communities
Macon East, GA, SW Quarter Quad — Quarter Quad Code: 3208375SW**

Find details for these species at [Georgia Rare Species and Natural Community Data](#) and [NatureServe Explorer](#).

[US] indicates species with federal status (Protected or Candidate).
Species that are federally protected in Georgia are also state protected.
[GA] indicates Georgia protected species.
 link to species profile on our site (not available for all species).
 link to report for element on NatureServe Explorer (only available for animals and plants).

Animal Occurrences

- *Micropterus cataractae* (Shoal Bass) - fish
- *Necturus punctatus* (Dwarf Waterdog) - amphibian
- *Passerina ciris* (Painted Bunting) - bird

Other Occurrences

- *Wading Bird Colony* (Wading Bird Colony)

Plant Occurrences

- *Sarracenia flava* (Yellow Flytrap) **[GA]**
- *Sarracenia rubra* (Sweet Pitcherplant) **[GA]**

Generated from Georgia DNR's NatureServe Biotics conservation database on October 13, 2011



WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

Known occurrences of special concern plants, animals and natural communities
Macon East, GA, SW Quarter Quad — Quarter Quad Code: 3208375SW

Find details for these species at [Georgia Rare Species and Natural Community Data](#) and [NatureServe Explorer](#).

[US] indicates species with federal status (Protected or Candidate).
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[GA] indicates Georgia protected species.
 link to species profile on our site (not available for all species).
 link to report for element on NatureServe Explorer (only available for animals and plants).

Animal Occurrences

- *Micropterus cataractae* (Shoal Bass) - fish
- *Necturus punctatus* (Dwarf Waterdog) - amphibian
- *Passerina ciris* (Painted Bunting) - bird

Other Occurrences

- *Wading Bird Colony* (Wading Bird Colony)

Plant Occurrences

- *Sarracenia flava* (Yellow Flytrap) [GA]
- *Sarracenia rubra* (Sweet Pitcherplant) [GA]

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WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

Known occurrences of special concern plants, animals and natural communities Macon East, GA, NW Quarter Quad — Quarter Quad Code: 3208375NW

Find details for these species at [Georgia Rare Species and Natural Community Data](#) and [NatureServe Explorer](#).

[US] indicates species with federal status (Protected or Candidate).
Species that are federally protected in Georgia are also state protected.
[GA] indicates Georgia protected species.
 link to species profile on our site (not available for all species).
 link to report for element on NatureServe Explorer (only available for animals and plants).

Animal Occurrences

- *Corynorhinus rafinesquii* (Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat) [GA] - mammal
- *Desmognathus auriculatus* (Southern Dusky Salamander) - amphibian
- *Micropterus cataractae* (Shoal Bass) - fish
- *Necturus punctatus* (Dwarf Waterdog) - amphibian
- *Passerina ciris* (Painted Bunting) - bird

Plant Occurrences

- *Sarracenia flava* (Yellow Flytrap) [GA] - plant
- *Sarracenia rubra* (Sweet Pitcherplant) [GA] - plant



Generated from Georgia DNR's NatureServe Biotics conservation database on October 13, 2011







WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

Known occurrences of special concern plants, animals and natural communities
Warner Robins NE, GA, NW Quarter Quad — Quarter Quad Code: 3208365NW

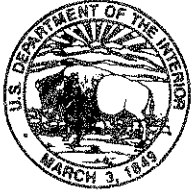
Find details for these species at [Georgia Rare Species and Natural Community Data](#) and [NatureServe Explorer](#).

[US] indicates species with federal status (Protected or Candidate).
Species that are federally protected in Georgia are also state protected.
[GA] indicates Georgia protected species.
 link to species profile on our site (not available for all species).
 link to report for element on NatureServe Explorer (only available for animals and plants).

Animal Occurrences

- *Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum* (Eastern Tiger Salamander)  - amphibian
- *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Bald Eagle) [GA]   - bird
- *Necturus punctatus* (Dwarf Waterdog)  - amphibian

Generated from Georgia DNR's NatureServe Biotics conservation database on October 13, 2011



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R4/RF/Area III

JUN 20 2012

Mr. Mark Kinzer
Environmental Protection Specialist
National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office
100 Alabama Street, 1924 Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Kinzer:

Following the outcome of the meeting on Monday, June 4, 2012, between personnel at Piedmont and Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) and the Ocmulgee National Monument (NM), I agree with the decision to allow the overlap of the approved acquisition boundary of Bond Swamp NWR and Ocmulgee NM.

Specific to the Ocmulgee NM boundary expansion study area, I support the proposed overlap of the boundary expansion on portions of two tracts owned by Bibb County and the Bowden Tract all located adjacent to the north side of Cross Creek Road in Bibb County. In addition, I agree that the study area for the Ocmulgee NM boundary not extend further south than these three tracts. I feel that this agreement will serve both the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service equally well and allow both agencies to continue their respective efforts in pursuing boundary expansion study areas, land acquisition, and protecting natural and cultural resources.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact, Andrew Hammond, Project Leader, Piedmont and Bond Swamp NWRs, at (478) 986-5441, x 221.

Sincerely yours,

For David Viker
Regional Chief, NWRs



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Ocmulgee National Monument
1207 Emery Highway
Macon, Georgia 31217-4399



April 3, 2012

«Prefix» «First_Name» «Middle» «Last_Name» «Suffix» «Job_Title»
«Company»
«Address»
«Address_2»
«City», «StateProvince» «ZIPPostal_Code»

Dear «Salutation»:

The National Park Service (NPS) has begun the process of developing a Boundary Study for Ocmulgee National Monument. A principal purpose of the study is to assess a proposed donation of land to the monument from the Archeological Conservancy. The study will also determine whether there exist other lands adjacent to the monument that may be needed to protect important resources and values and provide opportunities for public enjoyment.

The Ocmulgee boundary study will be developed with a companion Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA will analyze the consequences of various alternative boundary configurations on area resources and the community at large, including federally recognized tribes traditionally associated with the Macon Plateau and the Ocmulgee Old Fields.

In keeping with Federal regulations, implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, the National Park Service wishes to consult with federally recognized American Indian tribes potentially affected by the boundary study (36 CFR 800.2). Consultation would be undertaken on a government-to-government basis, as specified in Executive Order 13175. Accordingly, I am writing to inquire if the «Company» desires to consult with the National Park Service regarding the boundary study. If you wish to consult, please contact me at the address above, or call me at (478) 752-8257, extension 211.

We are presently in the beginning “scoping” stages of the boundary study process. As you are aware, during scoping, the study team consults with federal, tribal, state, local and private partners, and stakeholders, to establish the range of ideas, possibilities, and concerns that will become the foundation of the boundary study. We would be pleased to meet separately with tribal representatives as part of this process. However, if you would prefer to meet in a public setting, we will be holding a series of meetings with partners and stakeholders at the Ocmulgee National Monument headquarters on Thursday, April 19, 2012. The meeting with government and agency officials is scheduled to take place at the monument’s administrative offices on Emery Highway. We will be meeting in the monument’s conference room between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., and we invite you to attend.



We will also be holding a public "open house" meeting on the evening of the 19th between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The open house will be held on the main floor of the Ocmulgee National Monument visitor center. Tribal representatives are certainly welcome to attend this meeting as well.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

James S. David
Superintendent

JSD

Bill Baker Principal Chief
Cherokee National of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

James Billie Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Stirling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024

Colley Billie Chairman
Miccosukee Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 440021 Tamiami Station
Miami, FL 33144

Leonard Harjo Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74884

Michell Hicks Principal Chief
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
P.O. Box 455 Qualla Boundary
Cherokee, NC 28719

Tiger Hobia Mekko
Kialegee Tribal Town
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Wetumpka, OK 74883

Buford Rolin Chairman
Poarch Band Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

George Scott Mekko
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
P.O. Box 188
Okema, OK 74859

Kevin Sickey Chairman
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
P.O. Box 818
Elton, LA 70532

George Tiger Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

George Wickliffe Chief
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee
Indians
P.O. Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Kyle Williams Chairman
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Road 56
Livingston, TX 77351

Tarpie Yargee Chief
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
P.O. Box 187
Wetumpka, OK 74883

APPENDIX D: REPORT ON DATABASE SEARCH OF GOVERNMENT DATABASES ON HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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Site South of Macon, GA
Macon, GA 31217

Inquiry Number: 3677955.1s
July 26, 2013

EDR DataMap™ Area Study

Thank you for your business.
Please contact EDR at 1-800-352-0050
with any questions or comments.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TARGET PROPERTY INFORMATION

ADDRESS

MACON, GA 31217
MACON, GA 31217

DATABASES WITH NO MAPPED SITES

No mapped sites were found in EDR's search of available ("reasonably ascertainable ") government records within the requested search area for the following databases:

FEDERAL RECORDS

NPL	National Priority List
Proposed NPL	Proposed National Priority List Sites
Delisted NPL	National Priority List Deletions
NPL LIENS	Federal Superfund Liens
LIENS 2	CERCLA Lien Information
CORRACTS	Corrective Action Report
RCRA-TSDF	RCRA - Treatment, Storage and Disposal
RCRA-LQG	RCRA - Large Quantity Generators
RCRA-SQG	RCRA - Small Quantity Generators
US ENG CONTROLS	Engineering Controls Sites List
US INST CONTROL	Sites with Institutional Controls
ERNS	Emergency Response Notification System
HMIRS	Hazardous Materials Information Reporting System
DOT OPS	Incident and Accident Data
US CDL	Clandestine Drug Labs
DOD	Department of Defense Sites
LUCIS	Land Use Control Information System
CONSENT	Superfund (CERCLA) Consent Decrees
ROD	Records Of Decision
UMTRA	Uranium Mill Tailings Sites
DEBRIS REGION 9	Torres Martinez Reservation Illegal Dump Site Locations
ODI	Open Dump Inventory
US MINES	Mines Master Index File
TRIS	Toxic Chemical Release Inventory System
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
FTTS	FIFRA/ TSCA Tracking System - FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, & Rodenticide Act)/TSCA (Toxic Substances Control Act)
HIST FTTS	FIFRA/TSCA Tracking System Administrative Case Listing
SSTS	Section 7 Tracking Systems
ICIS	Integrated Compliance Information System
PADS	PCB Activity Database System
MLTS	Material Licensing Tracking System
RADINFO	Radiation Information Database
RAATS	RCRA Administrative Action Tracking System
RMP	Risk Management Plans

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COAL ASH EPA.....	Coal Combustion Residues Surface Impoundments List
SCRD DRYCLEANERS.....	State Coalition for Remediation of Drycleaners Listing
US HIST CDL.....	National Clandestine Laboratory Register
PCB TRANSFORMER.....	PCB Transformer Registration Database
FEDERAL FACILITY.....	Federal Facility Site Information listing
US FIN ASSUR.....	Financial Assurance Information
EPA WATCH LIST.....	EPA WATCH LIST
PRP.....	Potentially Responsible Parties
2020 COR ACTION.....	2020 Corrective Action Program List
COAL ASH DOE.....	Steam-Electric Plant Operation Data
FEMA UST.....	Underground Storage Tank Listing
LEAD SMELTERS.....	Lead Smelter Sites
US AIRS.....	Aerometric Information Retrieval System Facility Subsystem

STATE AND LOCAL RECORDS

AUL.....	Uniform Environmental Covenants
HIST LF.....	Historical Landfills
SWRCY.....	Recycling Center Listing
INST CONTROL.....	Public Record List
BROWNFIELDS.....	Brownfields Public Record List
VCP.....	Voluntary Cleanup Program site
COAL ASH.....	Coal Ash Disposal Site Listing

TRIBAL RECORDS

INDIAN RESERV.....	Indian Reservations
INDIAN ODI.....	Report on the Status of Open Dumps on Indian Lands
INDIAN LUST.....	Leaking Underground Storage Tanks on Indian Land
INDIAN UST.....	Underground Storage Tanks on Indian Land
INDIAN VCP.....	Voluntary Cleanup Priority Listing

SURROUNDING SITES: SEARCH RESULTS

Surrounding sites were identified.

Page numbers and map identification numbers refer to the EDR Radius Map report where detailed data on individual sites can be reviewed.

Sites listed in ***bold italics*** are in multiple databases.

Unmappable (orphan) sites are not considered in the foregoing analysis.

FEDERAL RECORDS

CERCLIS: The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System contains data on potentially hazardous waste sites that have been reported to the USEPA by states, municipalities, private companies and private persons, pursuant to Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). CERCLIS contains sites which are either proposed to or on the National Priorities List (NPL) and sites which are in the screening and assessment phase for possible inclusion on the NPL.

A review of the CERCLIS list, as provided by EDR, and dated 02/04/2013 has revealed that there are 2 CERCLIS sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
<i>GEORGIA STEEL INC</i>	<i>1825 FULLER ST</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>15</i>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
ATLANTA GAS LIGHT-MACON MGP SI	137 MULBERRY STREET	44	126

CERC-NFRAP: Archived sites are sites that have been removed and archived from the inventory of CERCLIS sites. Archived status indicates that, to the best of EPA's knowledge, assessment at a site has been completed and that EPA has determined no further steps will be taken to list this site on the National Priorities List (NPL), unless information indicates this decision was not appropriate or other considerations require a recommendation for listing at a later time. This decision does not necessarily mean that there is no hazard associated with a given site; it only means that, based upon available information, the location is not judged to be a potential NPL site.

A review of the CERC-NFRAP list, as provided by EDR, and dated 02/05/2013 has revealed that there is 1 CERC-NFRAP site within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
FICKLIN AND WALKER	577 MULBERRY ST	36	118

RCRA-CESQG: RCRAInfo is EPA's comprehensive information system, providing access to data supporting the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) of 1984. The database includes selective information on sites which generate, transport, store, treat and/or dispose of hazardous waste as defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Conditionally exempt small quantity generators (CESQGs) generate less than 100 kg of hazardous waste, or less than 1 kg of acutely hazardous waste per month.

A review of the RCRA-CESQG list, as provided by EDR, and dated 02/12/2013 has revealed that there are 4 RCRA-CESQG sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY CO	225 WALNUT ST	35	90
ABRA AUTO BODY & GLASS - MAC	111 RIVERSIDE PKWY	38	119
GENERAL RAILWAY SVCS INC	200 7TH ST	41	122
AW VICKERS TRANSMISSION	3413 OCMULGEE E BLVD	48	138

RCRA NonGen / NLR: RCRAInfo is EPA's comprehensive information system, providing access to data supporting the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) of 1984. The database includes selective information on sites which generate, transport, store, treat and/or dispose of hazardous waste as defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Non-Generators do not presently generate hazardous waste.

A review of the RCRA NonGen / NLR list, as provided by EDR, and dated 02/12/2013 has revealed that there are 9 RCRA NonGen / NLR sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
CIRCLE K #2070	1920 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	6	9
GEORGIA STEEL INC	1825 FULLER ST	9	15
FLASH FOODS #159	1208 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	11	25
MACON HOUSING AUTHORITY DAVIS	905 MAIN ST	19	43
PEREZ TRUCKING CO INC	2601 EMERY HWY	30	73

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
BIBB COMPANY GRAPHIC DIV	155 COLISEUM DR	34	87
GREENWAY BROTHERS BODY SHOP	353 WALNUT STREET	35	108
ATLANTA GAS LIGHT-MACON MGP SI	137 MULBERRY STREET	44	126
FARMERS FAVORITE FERTILIZER	370 14TH STREET	50	140

US BROWNFIELDS: The EPA's listing of Brownfields properties from the Cleanups in My Community program, which provides information on Brownfields properties for which information is reported back to EPA, as well as areas served by Brownfields grant programs.

A review of the US BROWNFIELDS list, as provided by EDR, and dated 12/10/2012 has revealed that there are 2 US BROWNFIELDS sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
COCA COLA PROPERTY	658 WALNUT ST	33	82
ATLANTA GAS PLANT	137 MULBERRY STREET	44	132

FUDS: The Listing includes locations of Formerly Used Defense Sites Properties where the US Army Corps Of Engineers is actively working or will take necessary cleanup actions.

A review of the FUDS list, as provided by EDR, and dated 12/31/2011 has revealed that there is 1 FUDS site within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
HERBERT SMART AIRPORT		51	142

FINDS: The Facility Index System contains both facility information and "pointers" to other sources of information that contain more detail. These include: RCRIS; Permit Compliance System (PCS); Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS); FATES (FIFRA [Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act] and TSCA Enforcement System, FTTS [FIFRA/TSCA Tracking System]; CERCLIS; DOCKET (Enforcement Docket used to manage and track information on civil judicial enforcement cases for all environmental statutes); Federal Underground Injection Control (FURS); Federal Reporting Data System (FRDS); Surface Impoundments (SIA); TSCA Chemicals in Commerce Information System (CICS); PADS; RCRA-J (medical waste transporters/disposers); TRIS; and TSCA. The source of this database is the U.S. EPA/NTIS.

A review of the FINDS list, as provided by EDR, and dated 03/08/2013 has revealed that there are 26 FINDS sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
CIRCLE K #2070	1920 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	6	9
GEORGIA STEEL INC	1825 FULLER ST	9	15
OCMULGEE NATIONAL PARK	1207 EMERY HIGHWAY MACO	11	22
FLASH FOODS #159	1208 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	11	25
QUALITY FOOD MART	1208 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	11	27
RACEWAY FOOD MART	736 EMERY HWY	13	35
MACON HOUSING AUTHORITY DAVIS	905 MAIN ST	19	43
R&R TRUCKSTOP	2025 EMERY HWY	21	55
C&J #1	2900 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	29	71

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
PEREZ TRUCKING CO INC	2601 EMERY HWY	30	73
HORNET #3	2579 EMERY HWY	30	77
COCA COLA PROPERTY	658 WALNUT ST	33	82
BIBB COMPANY GRAPHIC DIV	155 COLISEUM DR	34	87
NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY CO	225 WALNUT ST	35	90
OSAN MARATHON	277 WALNUT ST	35	93
CASSIDYS GARAGE	423 MULBERRY ST	35	98
PUBLIC SAF-T-OIL SERVICE	301 WALNUT ST	35	103
GREENWAY BROTHERS BODY SHOP	353 WALNUT STREET	35	108
GENERAL RAILWAY SVCS INC	200 7TH ST	41	122
ATLANTA GAS LIGHT-MACON MGP SI	137 MULBERRY STREET	44	126
STRAIGHT EIGHT CORP/TERMINAL W	454 TERMINAL AVE	46	135
ANDERSON MCGRUFF	398 EIGHTH ST	47	136
EAST MACON PARK	3326 OCMULGEE EAST BLVD	48	137
AW VICKERS TRANSMISSION	3413 OCMULGEE E BLVD	48	138
FARMERS FAVORITE FERTILIZER	370 14TH STREET	50	140
MACON IRON & PAPER STOCK CO IN	950 LOWER POPLAR RD	53	144

STATE AND LOCAL RECORDS

SHWS: The State Hazardous Waste Sites records are the states' equivalent to CERCLIS. These sites may or may not already be listed on the federal CERCLIS list. Priority sites planned for cleanup using state funds (state equivalent of Superfund) are identified along with sites where cleanup will be paid for by potentially responsible parties. The data come from the Department of Natural Resources' Hazardous Site Inventory.

A review of the SHWS list, as provided by EDR, and dated 07/01/2012 has revealed that there are 2 SHWS sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
MACON MGP SITE	137 MULBERRY STREET	44	134
TRANSCO RAILCAR FACILITY (FORM	989 SEVENTH STREET	52	143

GA NON-HSI: Georgia Non Hazardous Site Inventory Sites.

A review of the GA NON-HSI list, as provided by EDR, and dated 03/31/2013 has revealed that there are 11 GA NON-HSI sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
CHILDREN'S SESAME	2750 WALNUT CREEK ROAD	1	3
PARKER AUTOMOTIVE SHOP	1878 SHURLING DR	2	3
1610 SHURLING DRIVE	1610 SHURLING DRIVE	3	5
RIVERSIDE DRIVE PROPERTY	695 RIVERSIDE DRIVE	28	70
SE TERMINAL: MACON	US HWY. 41 N	32	82
CADUCEUS PROPERTY (FORMER)	167 RIVERSIDE DRIVE	38	121
FORMER MIDDLE GEORGIA HOSPITAL	831 PINE STREET; 818 FO	39	121
(FORMER) DENNARD SINCLAIR SERV	681 SPRING STREET	39	122
MIDDLE GEORGIA HOSPITAL	600 NEW STREET	40	122
YOMANS CHEVROLET	601-647 3RD ST.	45	135

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
FARMERS FAVORITE FERTILIZER	872 LOWER POPLAR RD	53	151

SWF/LF: The Solid Waste Facilities/Landfill Sites records typically contain an inventory of solid waste disposal facilities or landfills in a particular state. The data come from the Department of Natural Resources' Operating Solid Waste Facilities' list.

A review of the SWF/LF list, as provided by EDR, and dated 11/07/2012 has revealed that there are 2 SWF/LF sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
REPUBLIC WASTE SERVICES DBA SO	2201 TRADE DR	17	36
COLUMBIA COLISEUM MED	350 HOSPITAL DR	20	44

NPDES: A listing of NPDES wastewater permits issued by the Watershed Protection Branch.

A review of the NPDES list, as provided by EDR, and dated 01/27/2011 has revealed that there are 2 NPDES sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
KT RECYCLING LLC	1773 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	7	14
THOMAS RECYCLING	1488 EMERY HWY	12	27

LUST: The Leaking Underground Storage Tank Incident Reports contain an inventory of reported leaking underground storage tank incidents. The data come from the Department of Natural Resources' Confirmed Release List.

A review of the LUST list, as provided by EDR, and dated 02/05/2013 has revealed that there are 24 LUST sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
TRIANGLE FOOD GAS	2112 MILLERFIELD RD	4	5
JIM FOOD MART	1920 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	6	7
NATIONAL UNIFORM SER	685 MILLERFIELD RD	9	14
QUALITY FOOD MART	1208 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	11	23
RACEWAY FOOD MART	736 EMERY HWY	13	35
REPUBLIC WASTE SERVICES DBA SO	2201 TRADE DR	17	36
COLUMBIA COLISEUM MED	350 HOSPITAL DR	20	44
R&R TRUCKSTOP	2025 EMERY HWY	21	55
FLAV-O-RICH INC	567 INDUSTRIAL WAY EAST	23	62
HORNET #3	2579 EMERY HWY	30	77
LAZY LARRY'S/J N ROWLAND	2588 EMERY HWY	30	78
MACON FEED & SEED CO INC	2458 EMERY HIGHWAY	30	81
BIBB YARNS INC COLISEUM PLANT	155 COLISEUM DR	34	84
CASSIDYS GARAGE	423 MULBERRY ST	35	98
PUBLIC SAF-T-OIL SERVICE	301 WALNUT ST	35	103
MAULDIN & JENKINS PROPERTY	439 MULBURY STREET	35	107
MACON TELEGRAPH PUBLISHING COM	139 BROADWAY	35	115

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Site	Address	Map ID	Page
PALMER IND INC	450 MLK JR BLVD	42	124
OLD WESTERN UNION	310 CHERRY STREET	43	125
ATLANTA GAS LIGHT-MACON MGP SI	137 MULBERRY STREET	44	126
STRAIGHT EIGHT CORP/TERMINAL W	454 TERMINAL AVE	46	135
ANDERSON MCGRUFF	398 EIGHTH ST	47	136
MACON IRON & PAPER STOCK CO IN	950 LOWER POPLAR RD	53	144
YKK USA INC MACON	4234 OCMULGEE EAST BL	54	162

UST: The Underground Storage Tank database contains registered USTs. USTs are regulated under Subtitle I of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The data come from the Department of Natural Resources' Underground Storage Tank Database.

A review of the UST list, as provided by EDR, and dated 03/08/2012 has revealed that there are 32 UST sites within the searched area.

Site	Address	Map ID	Page
TRIANGLE FOOD GAS	2112 MILLERFIELD RD	4	5
JIM FOOD MART	1920 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	6	7
EASTSIDE LUMBER CO INC	1855 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	6	13
NATIONAL UNIFORM SER	685 MILLERFIELD RD	9	14
OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT	1207 EMERY HWY	11	22
QUALITY FOOD MART	1208 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	11	23
EMERY HWY SPUR	727 EMERY HWY	13	30
RACEWAY FOOD MART	736 EMERY HWY	13	32
R&R TRUCKSTOP	2025 EMERY HWY	21	55
FLAV-O-RICH INC	567 INDUSTRIAL WAY EAST	23	62
THE BIBB CO TRUCK SHOP	237 COLISEUM DR	25	63
ACKERMANS WRECKER SVC	315 MAIN ST	25	67
C&J SUPERMARKET #1	2901 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	29	70
C&J #1	2900 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	29	71
HORNET #3	2579 EMERY HWY	30	74
LAZY LARRY'S/J N ROWLAND	2588 EMERY HWY	30	78
MACON FEED & SEED CO INC	2458 EMERY HIGHWAY	30	81
BIBB YARNS INC COLISEUM PLANT	155 COLISEUM DR	34	84
GENERAL STEEL CO	224 WALNUT ST	35	89
OSAN MARATHON	277 WALNUT ST	35	93
CASSIDYS GARAGE	423 MULBERRY ST	35	98
PUBLIC SAF-T-OIL SERVICE	301 WALNUT ST	35	103
MAULDIN & JENKINS PROPERTY	439 MULBURY STREET	35	107
MACON TELEGRAPH PUBLISHING COM	139 BROADWAY	35	115
MACON TELEGRAPH PUBLISHING CO	120 BROADWAY	35	116
PALMER IND INC	450 MLK JR BLVD	42	124
OLD WESTERN UNION	310 CHERRY STREET	43	125
ATLANTA GAS LIGHT-MACON MGP SI	137 MULBERRY STREET	44	126
STRAIGHT EIGHT CORP/TERMINAL W	454 TERMINAL AVE	46	135
ANDERSON MCGRUFF	398 EIGHTH ST	47	136
MACON IRON & PAPER STOCK CO IN	950 LOWER POPLAR RD	53	144
FRIENDLY GUS #20	4845 OCMULGEE EAST BLVD	55	173

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AST: A listing of LP gas tank site locations.

A review of the AST list, as provided by EDR, and dated 06/04/2012 has revealed that there are 7 AST sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
JIM FOOD MART	1920 JEFFERSONVILLE ROA	6	11
MACON FEED & SEED	2458 EMERY HIGHWAY	30	81
DOLLAR GENERAL	2797 EMERY ROAD	31	82
THE BIBB COMPANY(CLOSED)	155 COLISEUM	34	88
MARATHON #1	277 WALNUT STREET	35	97
WALTHALL OIL COMPANY #419	4900 OCMULGEE EAST BLVD	55	172
FRIENDLY GUS #20	4845 OCMULGEE EAST BLVD	55	174

DEL SHWS: A listing of sites delisted from the Hazardous Site Inventory.

A review of the DEL SHWS list, as provided by EDR, and dated 07/01/2012 has revealed that there is 1 DEL SHWS site within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
MACON FORMER MANUFACTURED GAS	SPRING STREET AND RIVER	26	68

Emergency Response Incident Reporting System comes from the Dept. of Natural Resources

A review of the SPILLS list, as provided by EDR, and dated 04/03/2013 has revealed that there are 4 SPILLS sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
PARKER AUTOMOTIVE SHOP	1878 SHURLING DR	2	3
MACON WATER & SEWAGE DEPT	1707 EMORY HWY (OFF EXI	18	40
MACON WATER AUTHORITY	PLUM TREE ST @ FAIRVIEW	27	69
NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY CO	225 WALNUT ST	35	90

DRYCLEANERS: A list of drycleaners in the state. The listing includes drycleaner facilities, that use perchloroethylene, that responded to the Notification of Compliance Status forms. It also includes those businesses that are pick-up stores only and do not conduct dry cleaning on site.

A review of the DRYCLEANERS list, as provided by EDR, and dated 09/18/2009 has revealed that there are 2 DRYCLEANERS sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
A & T CLEANERS	1353 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	10	20
ONE HOUR VALET	444 WALNUT ST	35	112

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AIRS: A listing of permitted Air facilities and emissions data.

A review of the AIRS list, as provided by EDR, and dated 12/31/2011 has revealed that there are 3 AIRS sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
COLUMBIA COLISEUM MED	350 HOSPITAL DR	20	44
FARMERS FAVORITE FERTILIZER	872 LOWER POPLAR RD	53	151
YKK USA INC MACON	4234 OCMULGEE EAST BL	54	162

TIER 2: A listing of facilities which store or manufacture hazardous materials and submit a chemical inventory report.

A review of the TIER 2 list, as provided by EDR, and dated 12/31/2011 has revealed that there are 2 TIER 2 sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
REPUBLIC WASTE SERVICES DBA SO	2201 TRADE DR	17	36
MACON IRON & PAPER STOCK CO IN	950 LOWER POPLAR RD	53	144

EDR PROPRIETARY RECORDS

EDR MGP: The EDR Proprietary Manufactured Gas Plant Database includes records of coal gas plants (manufactured gas plants) compiled by EDR's researchers. Manufactured gas sites were used in the United States from the 1800's to 1950's to produce a gas that could be distributed and used as fuel. These plants used whale oil, rosin, coal, or a mixture of coal, oil, and water that also produced a significant amount of waste. Many of the byproducts of the gas production, such as coal tar (oily waste containing volatile and non-volatile chemicals), sludges, oils and other compounds are potentially hazardous to human health and the environment. The byproduct from this process was frequently disposed of directly at the plant site and can remain or spread slowly, serving as a continuous source of soil and groundwater contamination.

A review of the EDR MGP list, as provided by EDR, has revealed that there are 2 EDR MGP sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
MACON GAS LIGHT AND WATER CO	WILLOW STREET	24	63
MACON GAS LIGHT AND WATER CO	137 MULBERRY STREET	44	132

EDR US Hist Auto Stat: EDR has searched selected national collections of business directories and has collected listings of potential gas station/filling station/service station sites that were available to EDR researchers. EDR's review was limited to those categories of sources that might, in EDR's opinion, include gas station/filling station/service station establishments. The categories reviewed included, but were not limited to gas, gas station, gasoline station, filling station, auto, automobile repair, auto service station, service station, etc. This database falls within a category of information EDR classifies as "High Risk Historical Records", or HRHR. EDR's HRHR effort presents unique and sometimes proprietary data about past sites and operations that typically create environmental concerns, but may not show up in current government records searches.

A review of the EDR US Hist Auto Stat list, as provided by EDR, has revealed that there are 45 EDR US

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hist Auto Stat sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
Not reported	1974 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	6	7
CROSS KEYS SERV CENTER SERV	1894 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	6	11
Not reported	1874 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	6	12
KINCHEN EUG AUTO REPR	1613 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	8	14
Not reported	1825 FULLER ST	9	19
STONES OIL CO GAS STA	1208 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	11	26
THISTLEWOODS SERV STA	1488 EMERY HWY	12	27
GIBSONS GARAGE	1464 EMERY HWY	12	28
TEXACO SERVICE STATION	1432 EMERY HWY	12	28
BRYANTS PAINT & BODY SHOP	1430 EMERY HWY	12	29
CHAPMAN RALPH R SERV STA	1410 EMERY HWY	12	30
BELLS FOOD & SERVICE CENTER	736 EMERY HWY	13	34
DUNLAP HILL FILL	1028 MAIN ST	14	35
PHILLIPS W T RADIATOR SHOP	970 MAIN ST	15	35
LYNN F DEWEY AUTO REPR	796 WILLINGHAM ST	16	36
Not reported	813 MAIN ST	19	42
R & R AUTO PARTS	2025 EMERY HWY	21	59
Not reported	523 COMMERCE DR	21	60
CS CYCLE SHOP	546 COMMERCE DR	21	60
FORD EQUIPMENT CO GAS STA	550 COMMERCE DR	21	61
EVANS ERNEST F AUTO REPR	617 MAIN ST	22	61
BUSBEES SERV STA	619 MAIN ST	22	61
TAYLORS ED GARAGE	310 MAIN ST	25	65
308 10 TAYLORS ED AUTO REPAIR	308 MAIN ST	25	65
280 RED STAR FILLING STATION	282 MAIN ST	25	65
TEXAS FILLING STA	280 MAIN ST	25	65
ACKERMAN WRECKER SERVICE	315 MAIN ST	25	66
Not reported	315 MAIN ST	25	68
Not reported	329 MAIN ST	25	68
REAR EMERY HIGHWAY GARAGE AUTO	2579 EMERY HWY	30	77
Not reported	2588 EMERY HWY	30	80
Not reported	2511 EMERY HWY	30	80
STANDARD OIL CO SERV STA	2465 EMERY HWY	30	81
BUCKS GARAGE	225 WALNUT ST	35	89
CENTRAL OIL CO	277 WALNUT ST	35	98
PEOPLES OIL CO STA NO 2 FILL S	301 WALNUT ST	35	106
GREENWAY BROTHERS BODY SHOP	353 WALNUT ST	35	110
HUGHES AUTOMOTIVE	355 WALNUT ST	35	111
CUSTOM BUILT TRANSMISSIONS	399 WALNUT ST	35	112
STEWART HOOK TEXACO	185 BROADWAY ST	35	112
SOLOMON STEVE M JR INC AUTO	139 BROADWAY ST	35	114
Not reported	3046 OCMULGEE EAST BLV	37	119
VICKERS TRANSMISSIONS AUTO TRA	3413 OCMULGEE EAST BLV	48	138
Not reported	3401 OCMULGEE EAST BLV	48	140
Not reported	3447 OCMULGEE EAST BLV	49	140

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

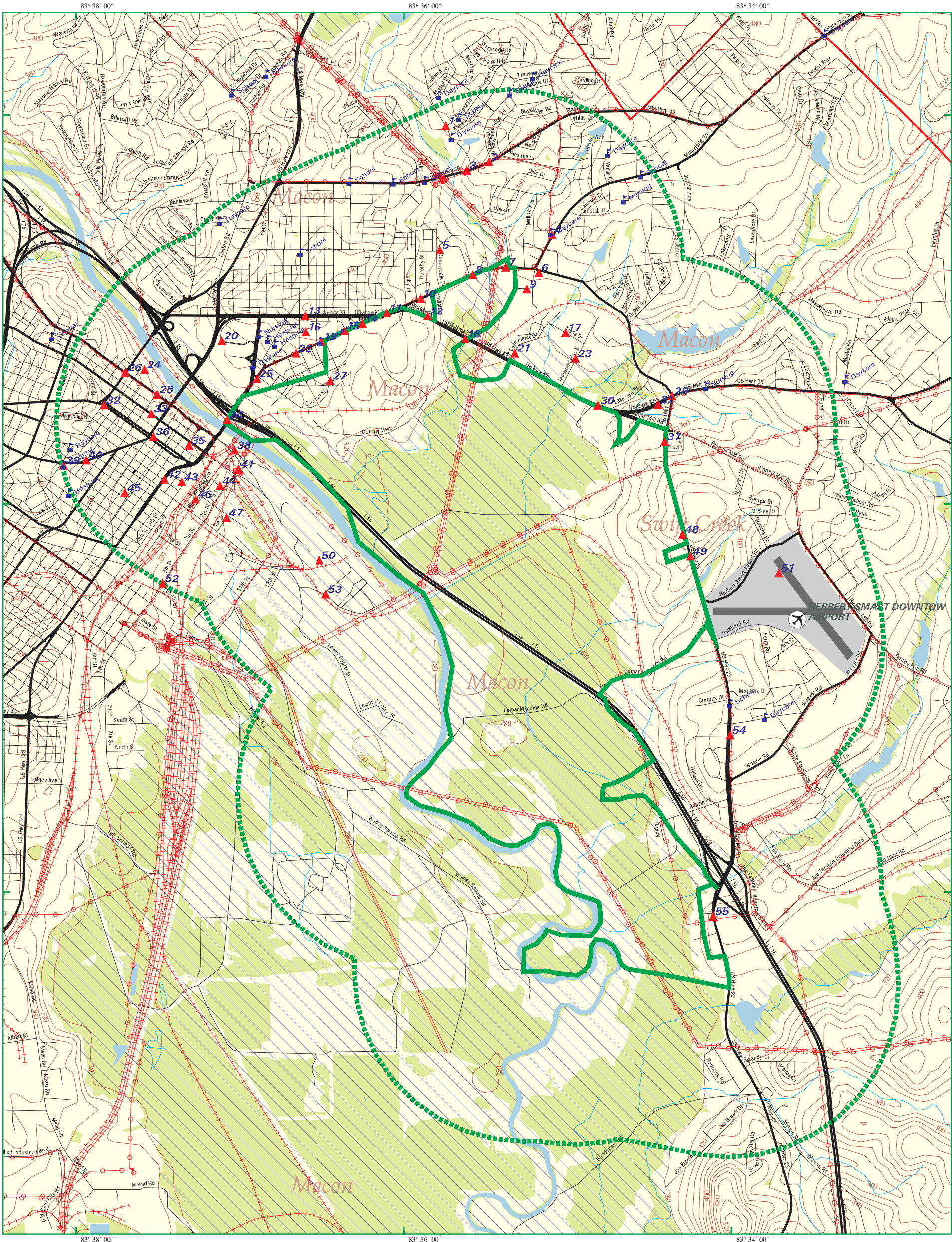
EDR US Hist Cleaners: EDR has searched selected national collections of business directories and has collected listings of potential dry cleaner sites that were available to EDR researchers. EDR's review was limited to those categories of sources that might, in EDR's opinion, include dry cleaning establishments. The categories reviewed included, but were not limited to dry cleaners, cleaners, laundry, laundromat, cleaning/laundry, wash & dry etc. This database falls within a category of information EDR classifies as "High Risk Historical Records", or HRHR. EDR's HRHR effort presents unique and sometimes proprietary data about past sites and operations that typically create environmental concerns, but may not show up in current government records searches.

A review of the EDR US Hist Cleaners list, as provided by EDR, has revealed that there are 15 EDR US Hist Cleaners sites within the searched area.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Map ID</u>	<u>Page</u>
Not reported	953 SUNNYDALE DR	5	7
Not reported	1034 SUNNYDALE DR	5	7
SUNSHINE CENTER INDY COIN OP	1961 MILLERFIELD RD	6	14
A & J CLNRS	1620 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	8	14
Not reported	1353 JEFFERSONVILLE RD	10	19
EASTIDE LAUNDERETTE SELF SERV	807 MAIN ST	19	42
EASTSIDE LAUNDERETTE SELF	807 MAIN ST	19	42
701 03 RELIABLE CLNS	701 MAIN ST	22	61
A J STALWORTH	316 MAIN ST	25	64
SOL SANFORD CLDO	246 MAIN ST	25	65
INDEPENDENT LNDY CO BR	322 MAIN ST	25	66
CRESCENT SNO WHITE LNDY PICK	332 MAIN ST	25	66
SANFORD S LAUNDERETTE	334 MAIN ST	25	66
SNOWS LAUNDRY	340 MAIN ST	25	66
Not reported	444 WALNUT ST	35	114

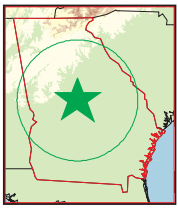
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Please refer to the end of the findings report for unmapped orphan sites due to poor or inadequate address information.



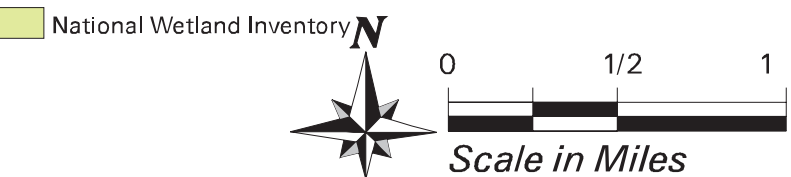
EDR DataMap® - Area Study

Site South of Macon, GA



Macon, GA

- | | | | |
|--|---------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Listed Sites | Major Roads | Pipelines | Superfund Sites |
| Earthquake Epicenters (Richter 5 or greater) | Waterways | Powerlines | Federal DOD Sites |
| Search Boundary | Railroads | Fault Lines | Indian Reservations BIA |
| Roads | Contour Lines | Water | 100-Yr Flood Zones |





As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The department also promotes the goals of the Take Pride in America campaign by encouraging stewardship and citizen responsibility for the public lands and promoting citizen participation in their care. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

January 2014