

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park  
Eric R. Smith, Acting Superintendent  
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Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park  
Moccasin Bend National Archeological District  
Tennessee

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# Moccasin Bend National Archeological District

Development Concept Plan/Environmental Assessment

Newsletter #1 Winter, 2005/2006

Dear Friends,

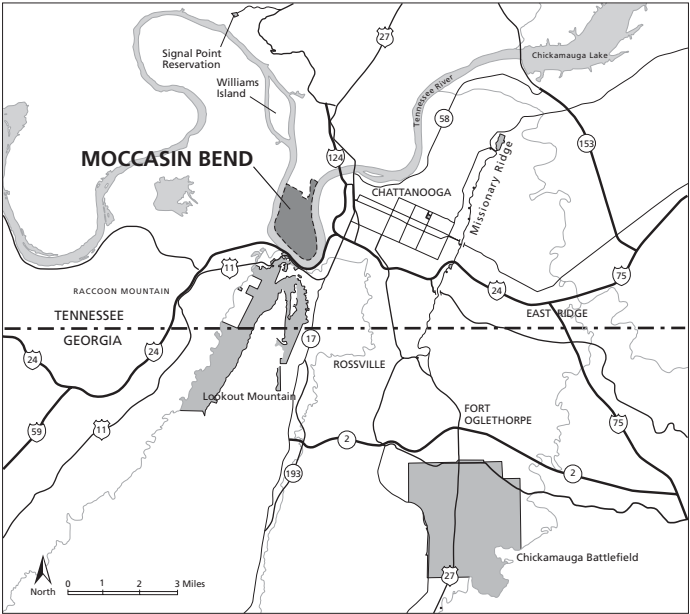
After many years of hard work by local individuals and groups, the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District unit was added to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in February 2003. The National Park Service has begun the process of determining the future management direction and development needs for the Moccasin Bend unit and we invite you to become involved in this two-year planning effort.

Please review this short newsletter to gain information about our project — the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District, Development Concept Plan/Environmental Assessment. We encourage you to become involved by providing your comments on the enclosed questionnaire or via email, and by joining us on March 9th for a public workshop where you can help us envision the future for Moccasin Bend.

Your input is critical to the success of our projects, and I look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,  
Eric R. Smith

Acting Superintendent,  
Chattanooga and Chickamauga National Military Park

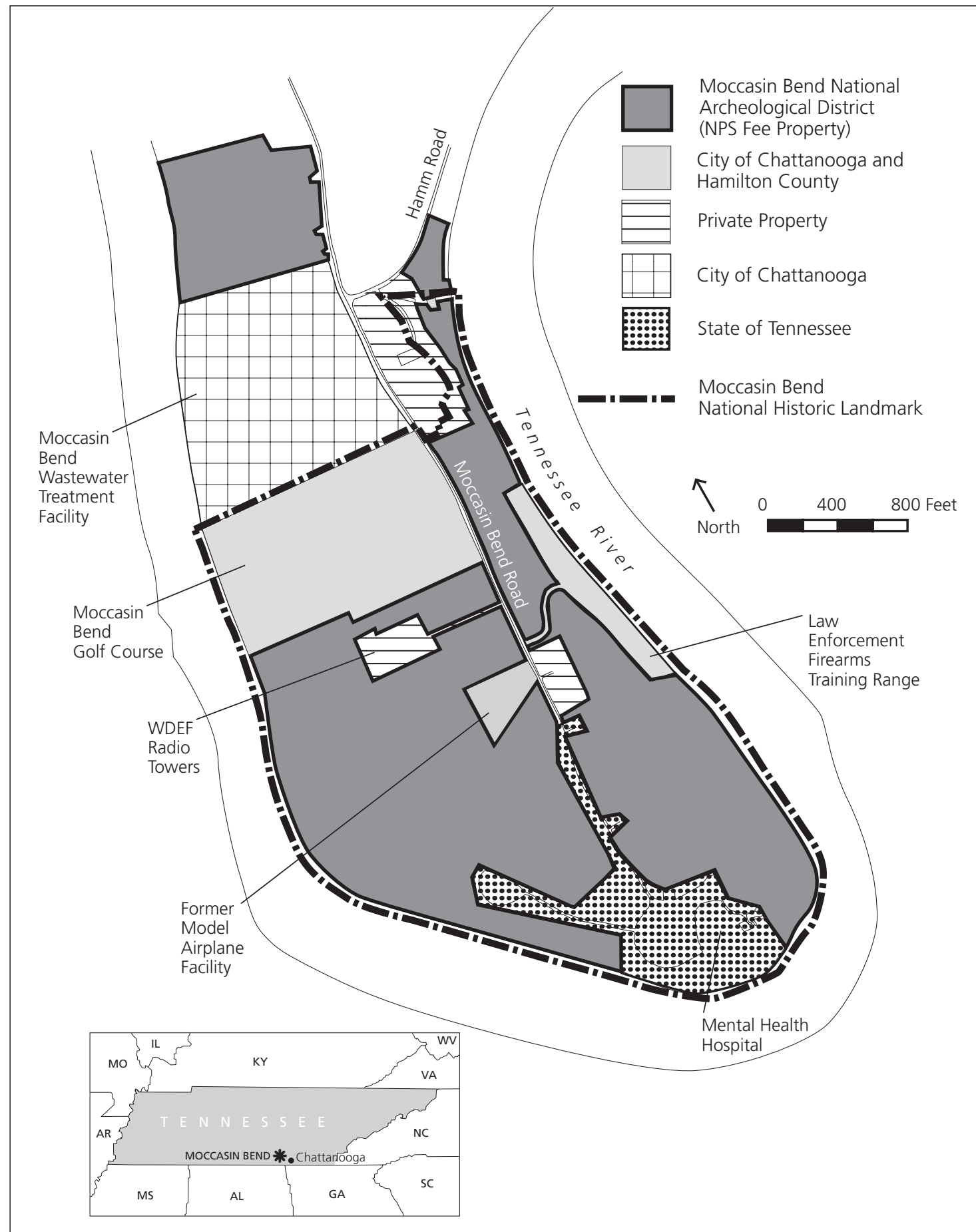


## Project Background

Moccasin Bend is a prominent bend in the Tennessee River just northwest of downtown Chattanooga. On the bend is the best preserved and most important compact, diverse sample of archeological remains known in the entire 650-mile Tennessee River Valley. The area contains a special collection of sites that chronicle important aspects of human history from almost 10,000 years of continuous occupation on the North American continent including: 1) transitional Paleo-Archaic and Archaic sites, 2) woodland period settlement sites, 3) fortified protohistoric villages, 4) an area representative of Spanish exploration and settlement of the southeastern United States and a contact point between native and nonnative peoples, 5) a location along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, and 6) the location of Union earthworks such as cannon emplacements, rifle pits, bivouac pads, and access roads that were of strategic importance in breaking the Confederate siege of Chattanooga. The area offers the potential for historic preservation and public education that could enrich the appreciation of America's history. The quality, diversity, and broad accessibility of these archeological resources cannot be matched within any other American metropolitan area.

On Moccasin Bend is the 956-acre Moccasin Bend National Historic Landmark (NHL) that was designated in 1986 (see map for boundary details). In 2003, 755 acres on the bend were added to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (park) as the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District (unit) of the park. These 755 acres are the focus of this Development Concept Plan/Environmental Assessment (DCP/EA) for a proposed interpretive/cultural center.

There are varied land uses on Moccasin Bend including government facilities and residential, recreational, and industrial development. There are five major categories of land ownership: the National Park Service (755 acres), the City of Chattanooga (184 acres), the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County (183 acres), the State of Tennessee (102 acres) and private property (22 acres). On the northern-most area of the bend is a 99-acre tract of National Park Service (NPS) land that was previously owned by the Rock-Tenn Company. At that tract's southern boundary is the City of Chattanooga-owned Moccasin Bend Wastewater Treatment Facility.



## Contact Information

To learn more about the project, read project updates, or provide comments on the Moccasin Bend Development Concept Plan log on to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park's home page at [www.nps.gov/chch](http://www.nps.gov/chch), connect to the National Park Service *Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC)* website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, or contact the following individuals:

**Sam Weddle, Chief Ranger**  
**Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park**  
 (423-752-5214, x119)  
[sam\\_weddle@nps.gov](mailto:sam_weddle@nps.gov)

**Carla McConnell, Project Manager**  
**Moccasin Bend Unit DCP/EA**  
 (303-969-2287)  
[carla\\_mcconnell@nps.gov](mailto:carla_mcconnell@nps.gov)



Please be aware that due to public disclosure requirements, the National Park Service, if requested, is required to make the names and addresses of commenters public. However, individual respondents may request that we withhold their name and address from the public record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to withhold your name and and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments or check the box on the comment form.

## Public Involvement and Partners

The public and partners involved throughout the planning process will include:

- Federally Affiliated Tribes
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- State Historic Preservation Office
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- City of Chattanooga
- Hamilton County
- State of Tennessee
- The Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park
- Other appropriate state and local agencies
- General public and other interested parties

## The Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park

The purpose of the Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park is to effect the preservation, protection and interpretation of the cultural, historical, and natural resources of Moccasin Bend and to work for the establishment and maintenance of an interpretive center. It is a non-profit, tax-exempt, corporation. The Friends of Moccasin Bend and the National Park Service have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of coordinating philanthropy, preservation, interpretation and other activities intended to benefit Moccasin Bend.

For more information contact:

Shelley Andrews, Executive Director  
Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park  
PO Box 4953, Chattanooga, TN 37405  
(423)785-3030

fomb@tnaqua.org  
www.moccasinbendpark.org

## How You Can Participate

Help Us Envision the Future for Moccasin Bend  
Please Join Us for a Public Workshop

**March 9, 2006**  
**5:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Sheration Read House**  
**Silver Ballroom**  
**827 Broad Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402**  
**423-266-4121**

At this workshop we will brief you on the project activities to date, review the public comments we have received, and ask for your ideas about the type and location of facilities which will serve visitors at Moccasin Bend.

Support for this workshop is being provided by the Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park and the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency, Planning and Design Studio.

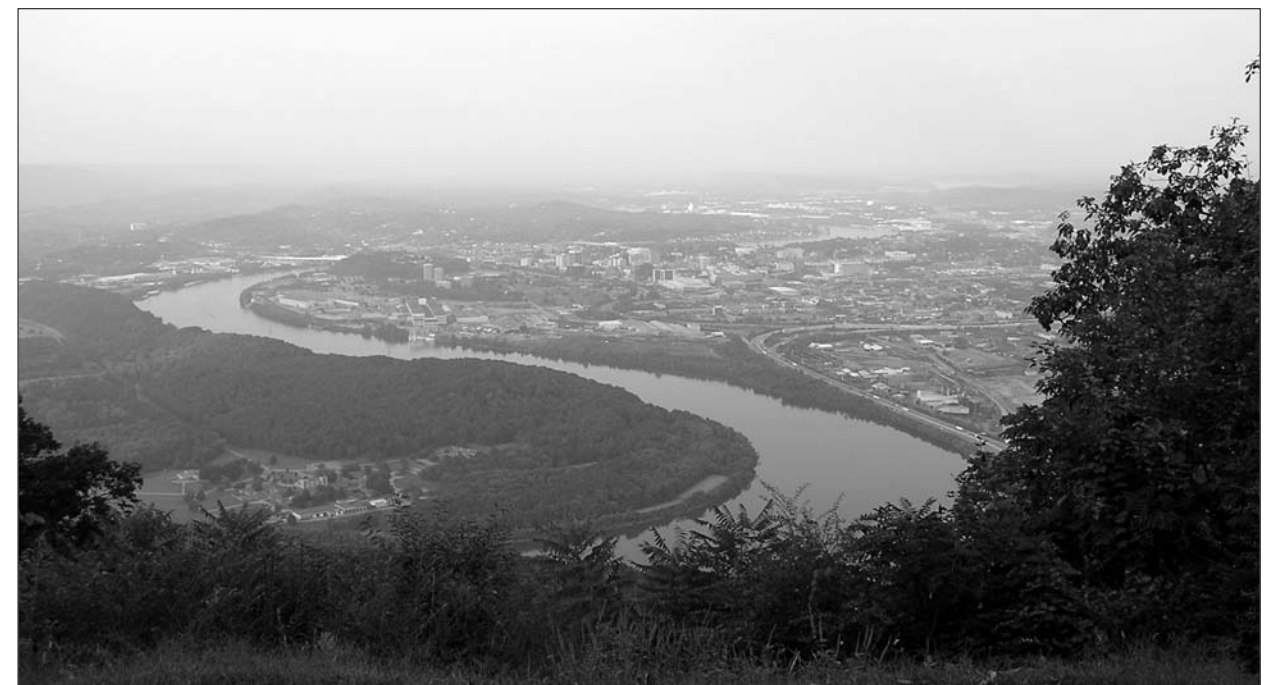
We look forward to your participation.

Also please provide us with your comments and concerns by filling out the enclosed comment form or by submitting your comments electronically (see comment form for details).

Near the junction of Hamm Road and Moccasin Bend Road there is a small residential area, a City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County tract, and an NPS tract (often referred to as the Serodino property). The City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County jointly own the Moccasin Bend Golf Course, the Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range, and the former model airplane facility. Private ownership accounts for 22 acres including the WDEF radio towers and a private residence. The state-owned mental health hospital occupies 102 acres on the southern portion of the bend. Traversing the bend are two Colonial Pipeline 50-foot petroleum pipeline rights-of-way and a Chattanooga Electric Power Board 150-foot high tension power line right-of-way. Interspersed amongst these various properties and interests are NPS tracts, one of which includes the Blue Blazes Trail between the golf course and the WDEF radio towers. The National Park Service also owns shoreline easements along the waste water treatment facility, golf course, mental health hospital, and firearms training range.

## Significant Milestones

- 1950** — Congress first enacted legislation which authorized the addition of up to 1,400 acres of Moccasin Bend to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. Property was acquired by state, county, and city governments but never transferred to the National Park Service.
- 1984** — Moccasin Bend was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1986** — A 956-acre area was designated as the Moccasin Bend National Historic Landmark.
- 1999** — A special resources study and environmental assessment was completed for the site and transmitted to Congress.
- 2003** — The 755-acre Moccasin Bend National Archeological District was added to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park as part of the Consolidated Appropriation resolution (Public Law 108-7). This law also authorized the Secretary of the Interior to develop an interpretive/cultural center for the site.
- 2005** — The National Park Service begins work on a Development Concept Plan/ Environmental Assessment for the Moccasin Bend unit of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.



View of Moccasin Bend from Lookout Mountain.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District, Development Concept Plan/Environmental Assessment is to:

Establish the management direction for the Moccasin Bend unit including guidance on resource protection and visitor use. Determine the location and development needs for the Moccasin Bend interpretive/cultural center. Analyze an appropriate range of alternatives and involve federally affiliated tribes, partners, agencies, and the public in the project through the environmental assessment process.

Primary Tasks

- 1. Identify the purpose, significance, legislative mandates, and fundamental resources associated with the site.
- 2. Determine the primary interpretive themes for Moccasin Bend.
- 3. Develop alternative concepts for the design and location of the interpretive/cultural center.
- 4. Analyze transportation and access issues for Moccasin Bend.

- 5. Conduct *Level 1* archeological surveys of each site considered for the interpretive/cultural center.
- 6. Develop initial capital and annual operating costs for each alternative concept for the interpretive/cultural center.
- 7. Complete environmental analysis of the alternative concepts.
- 8. Provide guidance on the scope of collections.
- 9. Provide guidance on future commercial services.
- 10. Select a preferred alternative for the facility programming and location of the interpretive/cultural center.
- 11. Publish the DCP/EA.

The Planning Process and Where We Are

Consultation with the federally affiliated tribes on the Moccasin Bend DCP/EA began on September 20 and 21, 2005. On September 22, 2005 the planning team initiated consultation with other stakeholders and partners at a mid-day public open house in the Chattanooga Theater Lobby at Coolidge Park and an evening public meeting at the Tennessee Aquarium.

	Step	Planning Activity	Public Involvement Opportunity
Fall 2006	1	<b>Initiate Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consultation with federally affiliated tribes, stakeholders and partners</li></ul>	
We Are Here	2	<b>Define Planning Context and Foundation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publish a newsletter</li><li>• Consultation with federally affiliated tribes, stakeholders and partners on preliminary purpose, significant, fundamental resources, and interpretive themes</li><li>• Conduct public workshop to help generate ideas about the purpose, type and location of visitor facilities for Moccasin Bend.</li></ul>	Read newsletter and send us comments. Participate in public workshop.
Summer-Fall 2006	3	<b>Develop and Evaluate Alternatives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Determine range of reasonable alternatives</li><li>• Publish an alternatives newsletter</li><li>• Conduct public workshop on alternative concepts for the design and location of the interpretive/cultural center</li><li>• Complete environmental analysis on alternatives</li></ul>	Read the newsletter and send us comments. Attend public workshop and provide input on alternative concepts
Winter 2006/07	4	<b>Select a Preferred Alternative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete internal review of DCP/EA</li><li>• Complete public review of DCP/EA</li></ul>	Review and provide comments on DCP/EA
Fall 2007	5	<b>Revise and Print DCP/EA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare and issue environmental findings as determined through this process</li></ul>	

We heard a range of comments on: 1) what the focus, scale, and type of development should be on the site, 2) concerns about the future development of the site, and 3) recommendations on how the project should precede. Please visit the PEPC website mentioned at the end of this newsletter for all of the public comments we have received to date.

Project Givens

- The planning project will take approximately two years.
- Congress will not likely authorize the National Park Service to spend more than \$5.0 million on the interpretive/cultural center.
- The National Park Service will work closely with the non-profit Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park organization and other partners to explore the scope of the interpretive/cultural center and potential funding options above the \$5.0 million authorized by Congress.
- There will be extensive involvement with the federally affiliated tribes, the public, and other interested parties.

Other Related Projects

Bank Stabilization Project for Moccasin Bend National Archeological District, performed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the National Park Service

Riverbank erosion threatens the valuable cultural resources on Moccasin Bend that chronicle almost 10,000 years of human history including Native American occupation and Civil War sites. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is in the process of developing bank stabilization design alternatives for almost six linear miles of riverbank along the Tennessee River around the bend. The alternatives range from stone-fill designs to soil-fill designs incorporating native plant species.

For more information please contact Sam Weddle, Chief Ranger, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park at 423-752-5214, x119; Walter Green, USACE at 615-736-7854; or visit [www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/issues/moccasinbend/](http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/issues/moccasinbend/).

General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, National Park Service

The General Management Plan (GMP) for Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is 17 years old and inadequate to address the policy and operational issues now facing the park. A new GMP is required due to significant changes at the park including the addition of the Moccasin Bend unit and the relocation of US Highway 27 around the Chickamauga Battlefield. Although the GMP planning effort is separate from the Moccasin Bend DCP/EA, the two projects will be closely coordinated. The GMP effort will begin later this year.

For more information please contact Sam Weddle, Chief Ranger, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park at 423-752-5214, x119.

North Shore Plan, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency

The North Shore Plan will expand the boundaries from the previous plan adopted in 1992 to reflect current growth issues. It will examine the built environment, transportation, public spaces, and natural systems, and primary commercial corridors within the district. The interface between the commercial corridors surrounding residential areas as well as connections to Moccasin Bend will be considered.

For more information please contact the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency, Planning and Design Studio at 423-668-2262.