



## Letter from Park Superintendent

Dear Friends,

In 2008, we asked for your suggestions as we started the process to plan for the future of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. Subsequently the National Park Service (NPS) determined that the planning needs for Lookout Mountain Battlefield and Moccasin Bend National Archeological District (Moccasin Bend) could be better addressed in separate planning efforts. The plan for Lookout Mountain Battlefield has been completed and we are now turning our attention to Moccasin Bend. Over the last few months, the planning team has pulled information from previous planning efforts, including your comments, to produce the proposed alternatives for Moccasin Bend described in this newsletter. When the planning process is completed, this general management plan amendment will help guide our decision making for Moccasin Bend for the next 20 years.

Input from tribes, input from agencies and organizations, and recent reports on Moccasin Bend (a development concept plan for the gateway site and a cultural landscape report) have contributed to the development of the preliminary alternative concepts for Moccasin Bend.

We are now seeking your thoughts, suggestions, and comments on the alternatives provided in this newsletter. Sharing your ideas and concerns for management of Moccasin Bend will help us make the best decisions for the park.

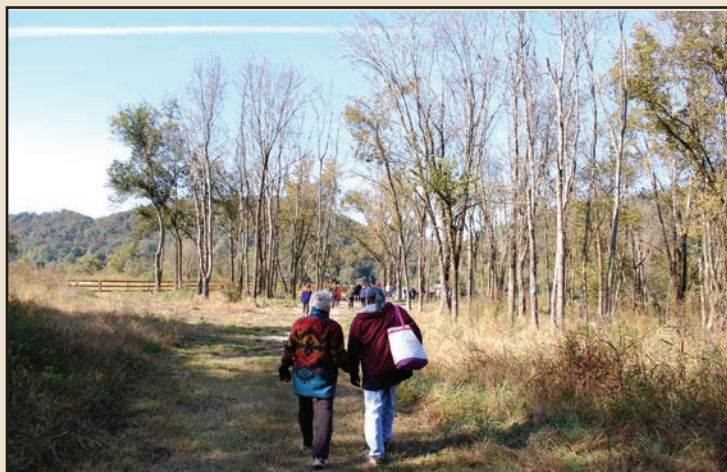
We would like to invite you to provide us with your comments on the alternatives for Moccasin Bend through our website at [www.parkplanning.nps.gov/chch](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/chch), by attending a site visit with the planning team, and/or by attending an open house. (Meeting times and locations can be found on the back of the newsletter.) We hope you will join us at a site visit and the open house to learn more about the general management plan amendment, meet the planning team, and share your ideas. Please bring this newsletter with you to the open house for your reference as we go through a brief introduction to the planning process and the alternatives for Moccasin Bend.

Thank you for your interest in Moccasin Bend National Archeological District. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Brad Bennett

Superintendent, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park





## *The Plan's Purpose*

General management plans represent the broadest level of planning conducted for a national park and provide guidance for making informed decisions about the future of park resource conditions and visitor experiences.

The purpose of the general management plan amendment / environmental assessment is to develop the plan to guide management of Moccasin Bend National Archeological District for the next 20 years. When complete, this plan will amend the general management plan completed for the national military park in 1988. At the time, Moccasin Bend was not part of the park and therefore was not included in the plan. The planning team is considering how to provide appropriate access to Moccasin Bend while protecting tribal interests and the nationally significant and sensitive resources at the park. This includes how to orient visitors to the park and management of current and proposed trails. The team is considering potential partnerships as well as linkage efforts by the City of Chattanooga related to bicycle access along Moccasin Bend Road and connections to the Tennessee River Blueway.

A table with the plan schedule, including opportunities for public input is available on the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/chch>).



## *Moccasin Bend Management Zones*

Management zoning outlines the criteria for appropriate uses and facilities necessary to support the desired conditions. Some desired conditions may apply parkwide, but the delineation of management zones illustrates where there are differences in intended resource conditions, visitor experiences, and management activities (NPS *Management Policies* 2006). Each zone defines a set of desired conditions for cultural resources, natural resources, visitor experiences, and appropriate visitor activities and identifies appropriate types of facilities.

These desired conditions are different in each management zone and reflect the overall focus of that particular zone. Three management zones have been developed for Moccasin Bend National Archeological District: a cultural protection zone, a cultural interpretation zone, and a visitor services zone.



## Potential Management Zones For Moccasin Bend

Desired Conditions	Cultural Protection Zone	Cultural Interpretation Zone	Visitor Services Zone
<b>Overview</b>	These areas would be managed to ensure the protection of historic and archeological sites. Visitor access would be strictly managed to protect these sites, while still providing visitors with limited opportunities to experience and learn about these cultural resources.	These areas would be managed to protect and interpret the area's cultural resources, including American Indian and Civil War history. Visitors would have opportunities to experience cultural resources through low-impact interpretive programming, self-discovery, and ranger-led tours.	These areas would be managed to provide visitors with opportunities to learn about and enjoy Moccasin Bend. This zone would provide orientation amenities and services that support a safe and satisfying visitor experience. This zone contains most of the visitor and administrative facilities of the unit. A wide variety of activities, programs, and facilities may be provided, which support higher levels of visitor use, including special events, and educational and interpretive opportunities.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	This zone would include the most sensitive cultural resources. Cultural resources would be regularly monitored to ensure their protection. Visitor activities would be controlled to allow for access with the least amount of impact. The tolerance for adverse impacts would be very low—resource protection would take precedence over visitor use.	This zone would be managed to provide a high level of resource protection. Emphasis would be on preserving/maintaining the resources contributing to the district's national historic landmark designation. Resources would be periodically monitored to ensure they are protected. Some minimal impacts could be allowed for research and interpretation purposes.	Some impacts to cultural resources from visitors and development would be tolerated in this zone. Impacts would be minimized through careful planning, design, and monitoring.
<b>Natural Resources</b>	Natural resources would be managed to preserve and protect the area's historic and archeological resources.	Cultural resources would be preserved with low levels of impacts on natural resources. Natural resources would be managed to preserve and protect archeological resources and historic sites. Selective vegetation clearing could occur to enhance historic views.	Natural resources would be managed to maintain the character of the cultural and historic setting, and to provide for visitor use.
<b>Visitor Experience</b>	Visitor access would be limited to maximize resource protection. Public access to some archeology sites would be limited to only ranger-led tours. Users that are entitled to access under federal laws (e.g., authorized tribal members under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act) would be allowed to enter the zone.	The primary experience in this zone would be visiting and learning about the area's cultural resources. Visitors would be provided a wide range of interpretation and education opportunities. Visitors could expect moderate levels of encounters with other visitors. However, visitors still would have the opportunity to experience some solitude, tranquility, and quiet.	Frequent levels of interaction with visitors, NPS staff, and programs would be expected. A variety of interpretive opportunities may be provided to promote visitor education about the resources and their values.
<b>Appropriate Visitor Activities</b>	Only ranger-guided tours would occur.	Low-impact activities could include walking, hiking, self-guided interpretation, and guided walks. Self-discovery options would be available. Most visitors would access the area by foot	A variety of low-impact activities would be permitted; including walking, hiking, self-guided interpretation, and ranger programs. Biking would be allowed in appropriate locations. Additional programming could include audio-visual programs and opportunities for people with impaired mobility.
<b>Appropriate Types of Facilities</b>	Minimal developments, such as unpaved trails, may be provided in a manner that avoids sensitive archeological sites and features.	Trails, interpretive waysides, and signs may be provided, however, they will be designed to protect cultural resources. Facilities would be unobtrusive and blend with the natural and cultural environment.	Facilities may include a visitor center, orientation plaza, administration space, storage buildings, parking areas, roads, paved walkways and multi-use trails, benches, interpretive kiosks, restrooms, cultural demonstration areas, docks, overlooks, and utilities

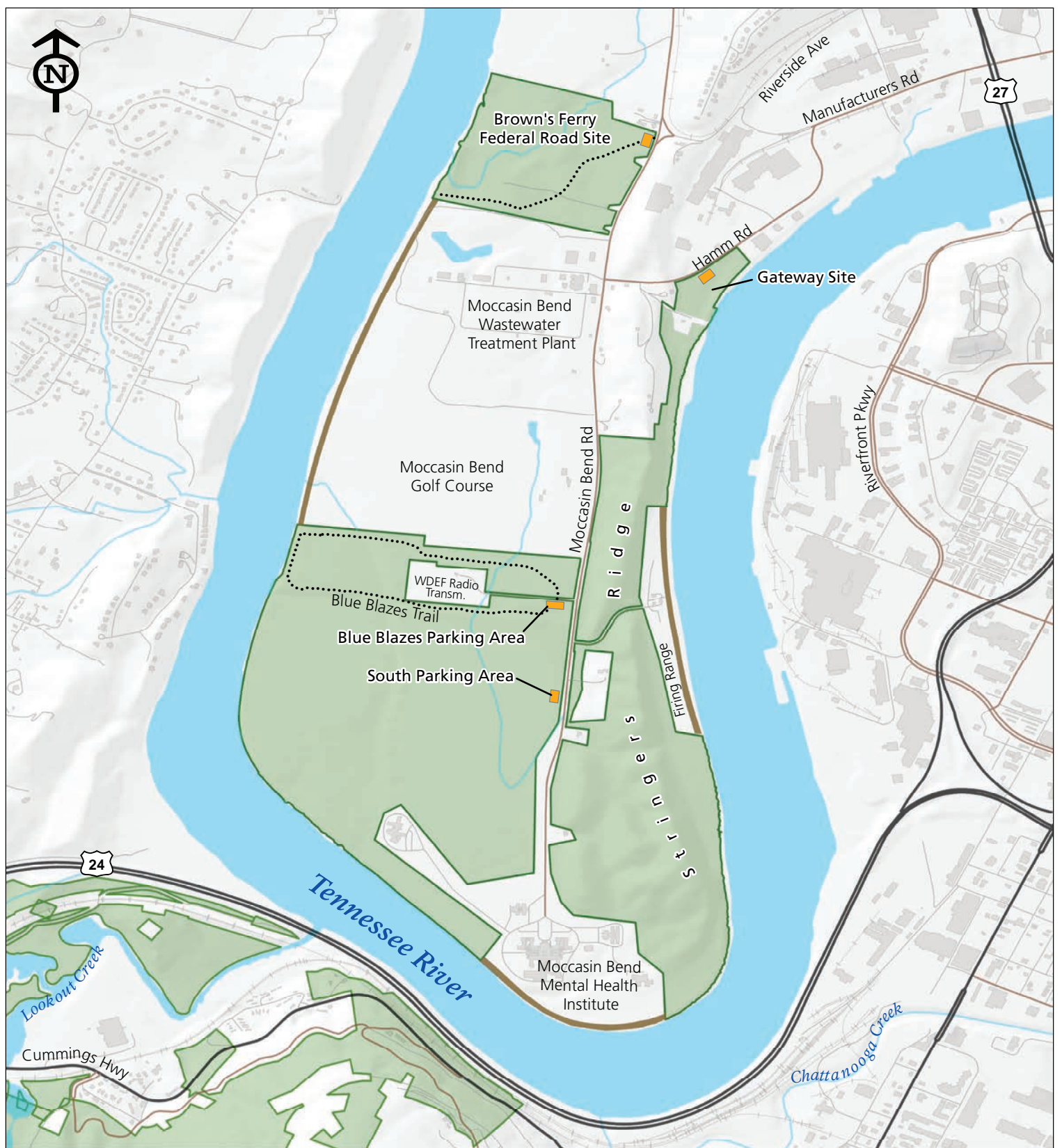
## Alternatives

The National Park Service is required to examine a full range of reasonable alternatives when preparing an environmental assessment. Reasonable alternatives propose different ways to fulfill the purpose and need of the plan, while minimizing impacts to national park resources. Reasonable alternatives are also economically and technically feasible and evidence common sense. Please note a summary table of the preliminary alternatives is available on the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/chch>).

### *Alternative A – No Action*

Concept and general actions	
Continuation of current management so no new access opportunities would be provided. Only actions would be those that are already planned, existing, or funded.	
Recommended actions by area	
Gateway site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No additional visitor orientation planned.</li><li>• Gate opened only for special events and programs.</li><li>• Maintain current parking along the road near the fence.</li></ul>
Brown's Ferry Federal Road property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain existing trails, wayside exhibits, and viewsheds.</li><li>• Continue to maintain existing parking area.</li><li>• Continue to provide opportunity for self-guided tours and occasional ranger-led tours.</li></ul>
Riverside easements on east / south / west sides of Moccasin Bend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NPS would not exercise easements to develop trails.</li></ul>
Blue Blazes Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain current trail and parking area.</li><li>• Ranger-led and self-guided access.</li><li>• No wayside exhibits.</li></ul>
Archeological sites on the west side	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue scheduled ranger-led tours from the south parking area.</li></ul>
Stringers Ridge including Civil War Earthworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interpretive sites would remain undeveloped.</li><li>• Continue limited access to site through periodic ranger-led tours.</li><li>• Self-guided access permitted on unmarked, unimproved trail.</li></ul>
South parking area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gate opened only for special events and programs.</li><li>• Continue to maintain parking area.</li></ul>
Bicycle use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No new access.</li></ul>





8/25/2015

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## Moccasin Bend National Archeological District No Action

*Chickamauga and Chattanooga  
National Military Park  
Georgia, Tennessee*

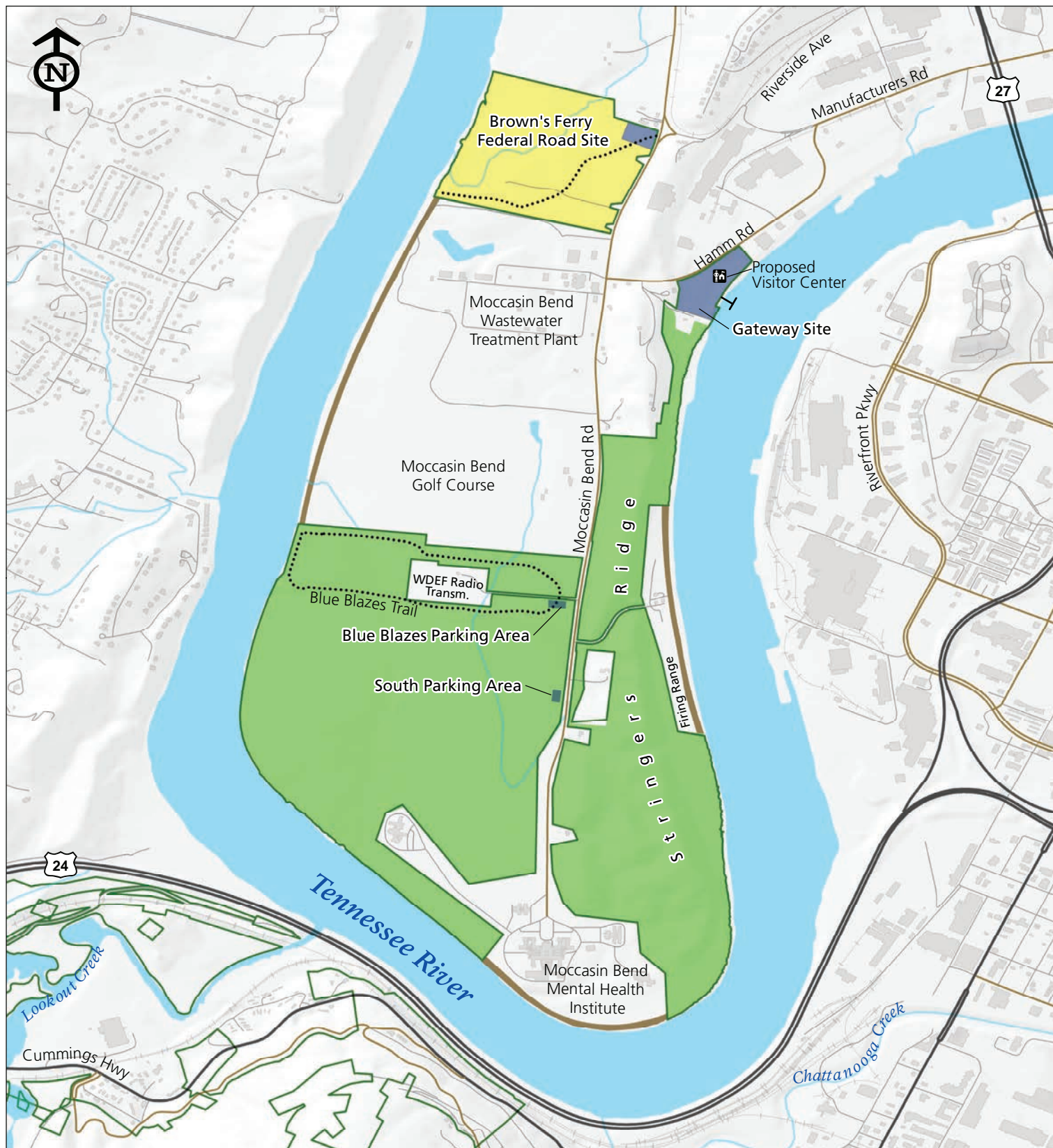
### Legend

- Existing Foot Trail
- Easement
- Parking
- Park Boundary

## *Alternative B*

Concept and general actions	
Visitors would have opportunities to learn about the park resources at a visitor center, through ranger-guided tours and cultural demonstrations.	
Recommended actions by area	
Gateway site	<b>Zone: Visitor Services Zone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gateway site would include a staffed visitor center with museum exhibits, a film, and interpretive messaging.</li> <li>• Develop formal parking area and consider ways to incorporate parking for alternative forms of transportation.</li> <li>• Develop a permanent dock structure as part of the river walk initiative for motorized boat access such as private boats, water taxi, or bike ferry.</li> </ul>
Brown's Ferry Federal Road property	<b>Zone: Cultural Interpretation Zone</b> Same as alternative A.
Riverside Easements on east / south / west sides of Moccasin Bend	<b>Zone: Cultural Protection Zone</b> Same as alternative A.
Blue Blazes Trail	<b>Zone: Cultural Protection Zone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open for scheduled ranger-led tours only.</li> <li>• No wayside exhibits.</li> <li>• Gate the road to the Blue Blazes Trailhead.</li> </ul>
Archeological sites on the west side	<b>Zone: Cultural Protection Zone</b> Same as alternative A.
Stringers Ridge including Civil War Earthworks	<b>Zone: Cultural Protection Zone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Stringers Ridge would be limited to ranger-led tours.</li> <li>• As recommended in the cultural landscape report, Stringers Ridge would be closed to self-guided visitor access to protect resources.</li> <li>• Maintain historic road trace.</li> <li>• Improve viewsheds to key battle points of Downtown Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, and Bald Hill as recommended in cultural landscape report treatment plan.</li> </ul>
South parking area	<b>Zone: Cultural Protection Zone</b> Same as alternative A with the addition of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to archeological sites through ranger-guided tours only.</li> <li>• Improved gravel parking area.</li> </ul>
Bicycle use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing roads from gateway site along Hamm Road to Brown's Ferry Federal Road Site along Moccasin Bend Road.</li> </ul>





8/25/2015

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# **Moccasin Bend National Archeological District Alternative B**

*Chickamauga and Chattanooga  
National Military Park  
Georgia, Tennessee*

## **Legend**

- Proposed Visitor Center
- Dock For Motorized Watercraft
- Existing Foot Trail
- Park Boundary

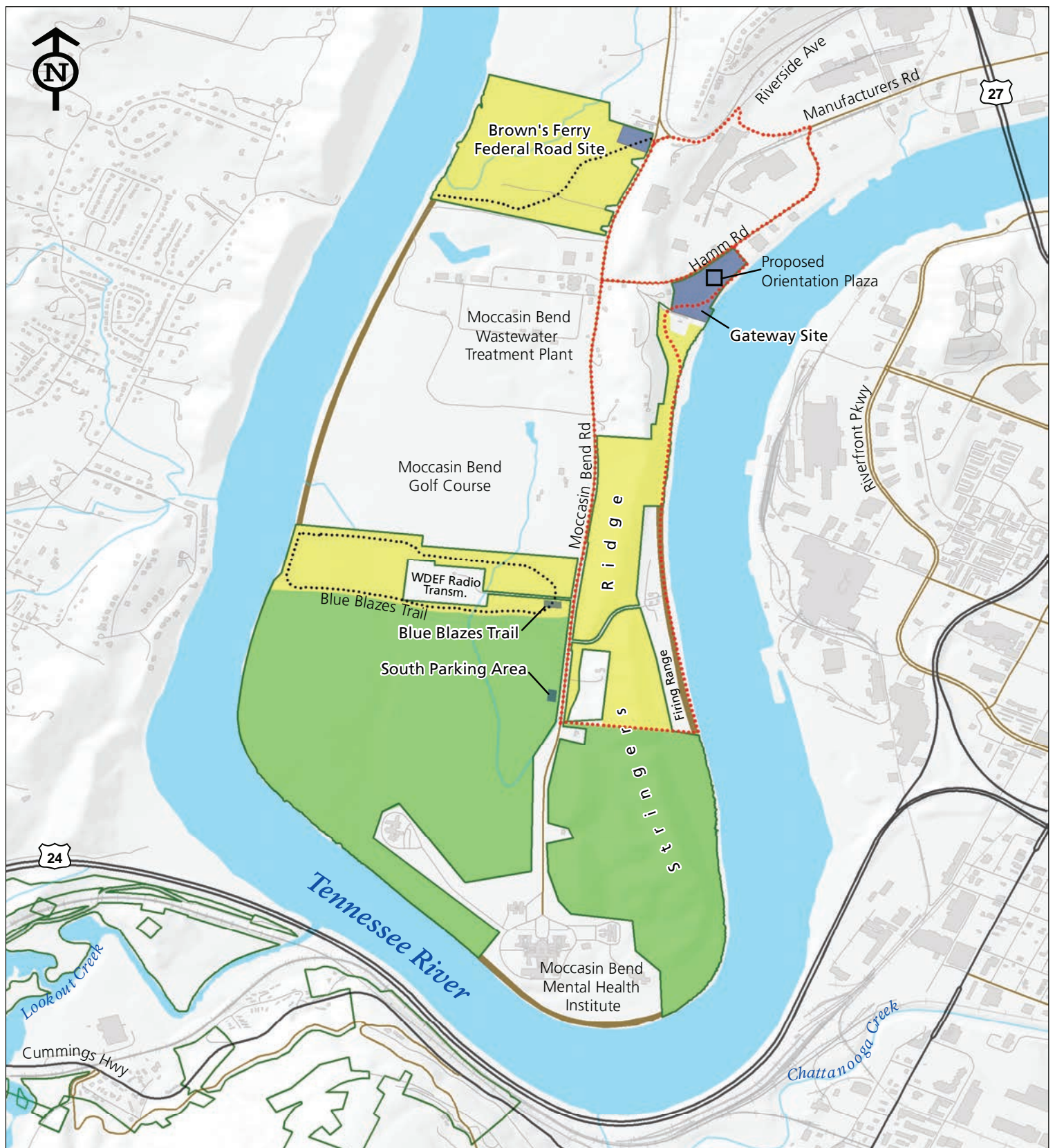
## **Alternative B Zones**

- Cultural Interpretation Zone
- Cultural Protection Zone
- Visitor Services Zone
- Easement

## *Alternative C*

Concept and general actions	
Visitors would have opportunities to learn about the park resources through self-guided experiences using network of roads and trails that would include outdoor interpretive exhibits.	
Recommended actions by area	
Gateway site	<b>Zone:</b> Visitor Services Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unstaffed visitor information plaza with orientation kiosk and interpretive information.</li> <li>• Develop formal parking area for visitor information plaza.</li> <li>• Provide restroom.</li> </ul>
Brown's Ferry Federal Road property	<b>Zone:</b> Cultural Interpretation Zone Same as alternative A.
Riverside Easements on east / south / west sides of Moccasin Bend	<b>Zones:</b> Cultural Protection Zone (east/west); Cultural Interpretation Zone (east) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPS would exercise easement to develop multi-use (walking and bicycling) riverfront route creating a loop trail.</li> <li>• Add wayside exhibits along riverfront trail.</li> </ul>
Blue Blazes Trail	<b>Zone:</b> Cultural Interpretation Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular ranger-led tours and self-guided tours access.</li> <li>• Develop wayside exhibits.</li> <li>• Connect Blue Blazes Trail to south parking area via a roadside trail.</li> </ul>
Archeological sites on the west side	<b>Zone:</b> Cultural Protection Zone Same as alternative A.
Stringers Ridge including Civil War Earthworks	<b>Zones:</b> Cultural Interpretation Zone; Cultural Protection Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Stringers Ridge would be limited to ranger-led tours.</li> <li>• Improve viewsheds to key battle points of Downtown Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, and Bald Hill as recommended in cultural landscape report treatment plan.</li> </ul>
South parking area	<b>Zone:</b> Cultural Protection Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gate opened daily.</li> <li>• Provide restroom.</li> <li>• Access to archeological-sites through ranger-guided tours only.</li> <li>• Paved parking area.</li> <li>• Parking area would accommodate alternative transportation</li> <li>• Interpretive waysides would be developed along riverfront trail.</li> <li>• An interpretive kiosk would provide orientation and maps.</li> </ul>
Bicycle use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed riverfront trail and from the south parking area to Federal Road property.</li> </ul>





8/31/2015

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# **Moccasin Bend National Archeological District Alternative C**

*Chickamauga and Chattanooga  
National Military Park  
Georgia, Tennessee*

## **Legend**

- Proposed Orientation Plaza
- Existing Foot Trail
- Proposed Multiuse Riverfront Route
- Park Boundary

## **Alternative C Zones**

- Cultural Interpretation Zone
- Cultural Protection Zone
- Visitor Services Zone
- Easement

## Alternative D

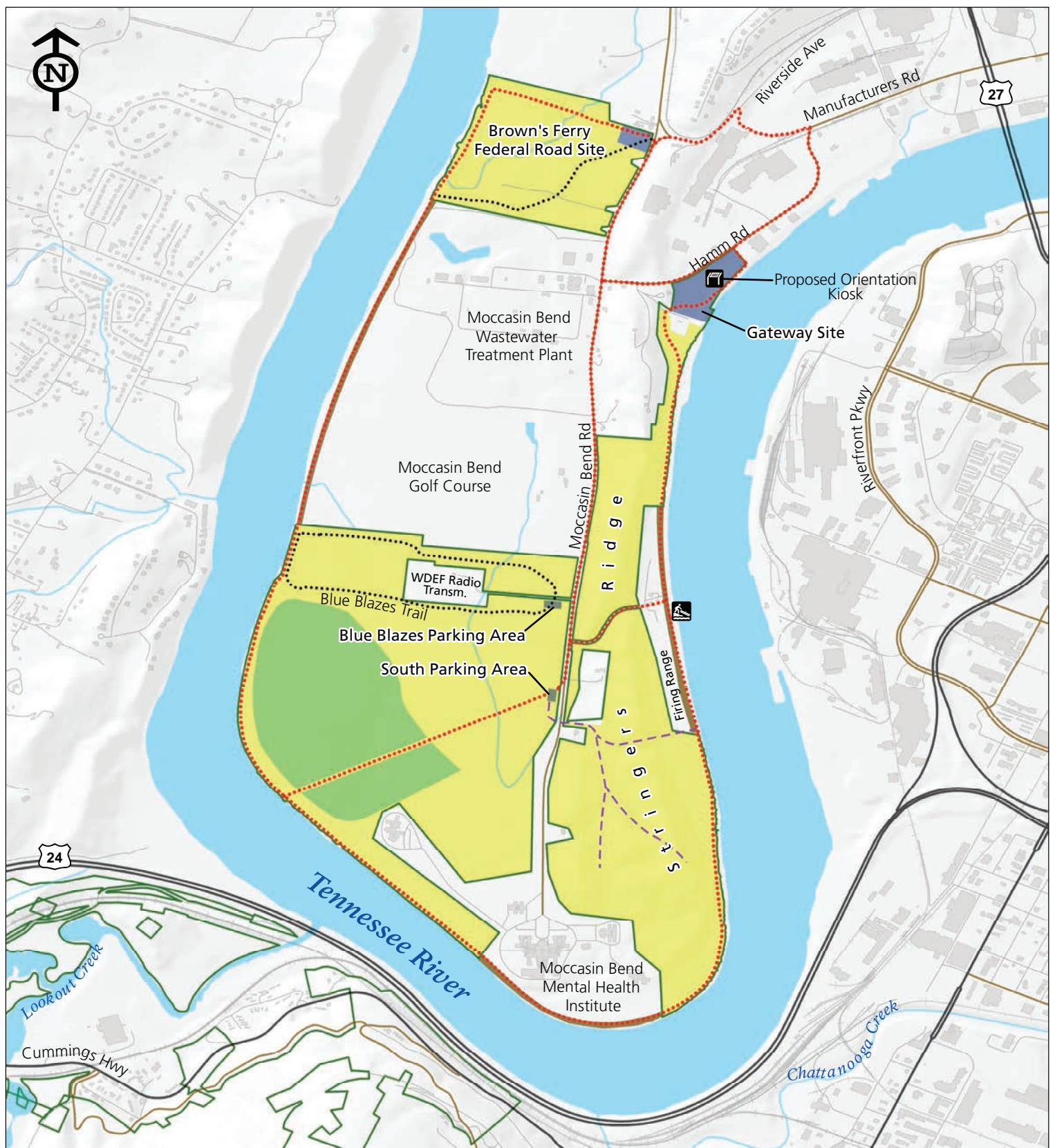
### Concept and general actions

The visitor could learn about the park resources from a NPS ranger at a partner facility; this facility could be in Chattanooga or elsewhere.  
On-site, visitors would have opportunities to learn about the park through mainly self-guided experiences on a network of roads and trails that would include outdoor interpretive exhibits.

### Recommended actions by area

Gateway site	<b>Zone: Visitor Services Zone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gateway site would include orientation kiosk.</li> <li>Develop formal parking area.</li> </ul>
Brown's Ferry Federal Road property	<b>Zone: Cultural Interpretation Zone</b> Same as alternative A with the addition of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide restroom.</li> <li>Develop separate trail to allow bicyclists to return to Moccasin Bend Road.</li> </ul>
Riverside Easements on east / south / west sides of Moccasin Bend	<b>Zone: Cultural Interpretation Zone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPS would exercise easements to develop a multi-use riverfront trail on the east, south and west sides of Moccasin Bend, creating a loop trail that connects the Gateway site to Brown's Ferry Federal Road. Acquisition of the firing range would allow the creation of a loop from the Riverfront Trail across the access road through Stringers Ridge to Moccasin Bend Road.</li> <li>Add wayside exhibits along Riverfront Trail.</li> <li>A Blueway access point would be added at the firing range (following acquisition).</li> <li>Find suitable location for restroom.</li> </ul>
Blue Blazes Trail	<b>Zone: Cultural Interpretation Zone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular ranger-led and self-guided tours.</li> <li>Develop wayside exhibits.</li> <li>Connect Blue Blazes Trail to south parking area via a roadside trail.</li> </ul>
Archeological sites on the west side	<b>Zone: Cultural Protection Zone</b> Same as alternative A with the addition of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waysides installed along the Riverfront Trail would interpret the archeological sites.</li> </ul>
Stringers Ridge including Civil War Earthworks	<b>Zone: Cultural Interpretation Zone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to Stringers Ridge would be open to self-guided access.</li> <li>Develop self-guided trail to earthworks from south parking area.</li> <li>Develop a trail along the historic road trace.</li> <li>Improve viewsheds to key battle points of downtown Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, and Bald Hill as recommended in cultural landscape report.</li> <li>Add wayside exhibits.</li> </ul>
South parking area	<b>Zone: Cultural Interpretation Zone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gate opened daily.</li> <li>Provide restroom.</li> <li>Ranger-guided tours, self-guided access to new interpretive trail connected to south parking area, Blue Blazes and Riverfront Trails.)</li> <li>Access to archeological sites through ranger-guided tours only.</li> <li>Paved parking area. Parking area would accommodate alternative transportation.</li> <li>Interpretive waysides would be developed along Riverfront Trail.</li> <li>An interpretive kiosk would provide orientation and maps.</li> </ul>
Bicycle use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Riverfront Trail and from the south parking area to the Federal Road property.</li> </ul>











9/4/2015





# **Moccasin Bend National Archeological District Alternative D**

*Chickamauga and Chattanooga  
National Military Park  
Georgia, Tennessee*

## **Legend**

-  Proposed Orientation Kiosk
-  Launch for Nonmotorized Watercraft
-  Existing Foot Trail
-  Proposed Foot Trail
-  Proposed Multiuse Riverfront Route
-  Park Boundary

## **Alternative D Zones**

-  Cultural Interpretation Zone
-  Cultural Protection Zone
-  Visitor Services Zone
-  Easement

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## *How to Get Involved*

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is soliciting public feedback on the preliminary alternatives. This comment period will extend from October 5 to November 13, 2015. We invite you to review this newsletter, attend the public meetings, and share your comments. Public comments will be used to refine and finalize the range of alternatives that will be analyzed in the general management plan amendment. There are three ways to get involved; please join us for one or more of the following:



1. Join the park planning team for a site visit of Moccasin Bend.
2. Join the park planning team for a presentation and provide your comments to park staff at an open house meeting.
3. Provide your comments to park staff through our website:

### *Tuesday, October 20*

Site Visit from  
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

With presentations at  
4:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Moccasin Bend National  
Archeological District  
Gateway Site, Hamm Road  
Chattanooga, TN

### *Thursday, October 22*

Open House from  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

With presentations at  
5:00 & 6:00 p.m.

Outdoor Chattanooga  
200 River Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37405

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/chch>

Or in writing at this address:

Chickamauga and Chattanooga  
National Military Park  
PO Box 2128  
Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742  
423-752-5213 Ext. 115