



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Park Friends,

On behalf of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, thank you for your continued interest in the Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an update on the project, discuss the range of reasonable alternatives under consideration for development of the interpretive/cultural center, and announce a forthcoming public open house and comment period in September 2007.

I hope the information presented in the newsletter is valuable in describing the status of the project and helpful in preparing your thoughts for the upcoming public comment period. The intent of the open house and comment period is to gather ideas, comments, and concerns that interested citizens may have regarding the proposed alternatives. Public participation ensures that the National Park Service fully understands and considers the public's interest in our national heritage, cultural traditions, and community surroundings. I encourage you to attend the open house and share your thoughts and comments during the comment period.

Your input is important and highly valued. I look forward to your continued involvement throughout the planning process.

Sincerely,

Shawn T. Bengé
Superintendent
Chickamauga and Chattanooga National

Open House

An Open House will be held on September 24, 2007.

Please join us

Monday, September 24, 2007

5:00 P.M. – 8:45 P.M.

**Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial
Library**

**1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402
423-757-5310**

At the Open House you will have the opportunity to comment on our preliminary facility-development alternatives.

You may also provide comments by filling out the enclosed mail-back form or by submitting comments to our website.

It would be most helpful if your mailed or website responses were received before October 15, 2007.

PROJECT UPDATE

The National Park Service (NPS) planning team continues work on the development concept plan / environmental assessment (DCP/EA) for construction alternatives of a visitor facility within the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

The planning process began in 2005 and public outreach to date has included a public open house (fall 2005), a public work session (spring 2006), and three American Indian consultations.

Archeological surveys were conducted on four potential development sites, resulting in no findings that would prevent any of the four areas from being considered. Using a process called "Choosing by Advantages," the former Serodino property was identified as having the greatest advantage for any development. The identification of an appropriate site was the final step before returning to you with a range of facility-development alternatives. We are now planning for a public open house this September. In this newsletter, you will find further information about the public comments we have

received, the tribal consultations, the interpretive themes for Moccasin Bend, the range of alternatives, and the project schedule.



Public Comments Summary

We received numerous comments from participants in public meetings and on comment forms. In general, these comments affirm the positive value of developing a visitor facility at Moccasin Bend, suggesting how the facility might incorporate interpretative methods ranging from low technology to high technology, and address what broad topics might be interpreted to visitors. Visions for future development of the archeological district included stated concerns about properly protecting and preserving the district and developing interesting and effective ways for visitors to experience and appreciate Moccasin Bend. Concerns included how to develop programs that would encourage active use so that Moccasin Bend not only protects and preserves resources of American Indian history, but also attracts local residents to visit on a regular basis.

The statements below represent the majority of responses received to three specific questions:

1. Why is Moccasin Bend important to the American public?

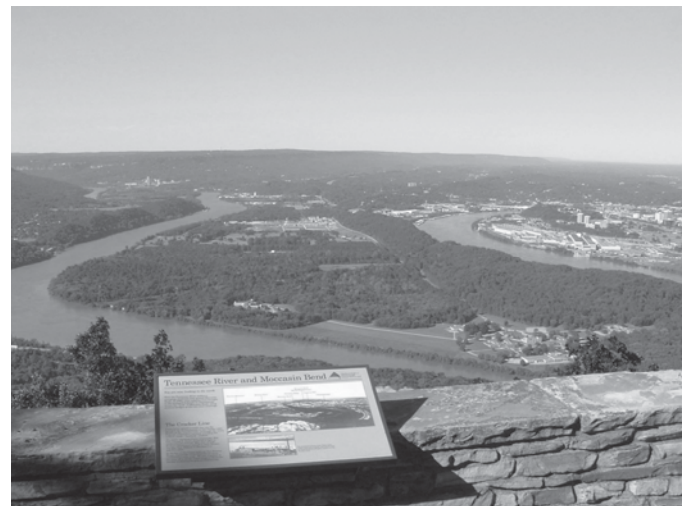
Moccasin Bend has an extremely rich history telling the story of over 10,000 years of life on the North American continent. This site is important to American Indians and conveys a message that

Moccasin Bend is a spiritual place as well as one of everyday life. The site is also associated with the Trail of Tears and offers an opportunity to educate visitors regarding the role Moccasin Bend played in removal of the Cherokee from the region and ensure that past mistakes are not repeated.

In the latter stages of the campaign for Chattanooga in 1863, Union troops positioned on Moccasin Bend helped guard the side and back doors to the city. Many of the earthwork fortifications of the Union artillery complex survive.

2. What should visitors to Moccasin Bend experience?

Visitors should have a “transformative” experience, develop a sense of personal connection to the stories, feel the connection to a spiritual presence, and experience the American Indian connection with the land and water. Visitors should experience the Bend from a tribal perspective. Visitors should come to understand tribal history and to enjoy Moccasin Bend as an integral part of the historical and recreational fabric of Chattanooga. Visitor experience should include environmental awareness. Visitors could be offered “*A Walk Through Time*” to better understand the different eras of the prehistory and history of the river and the Bend.



3. What types of interpretation and facilities are needed to provide the experience?

Suggestions focused on developing programs that foster active use so Moccasin Bend not only

protects and preserves resources of American Indian history, but also attracts local residents to visit on a regular basis.

Any facilities that are constructed need to exhibit a “Wow” factor, have a contextual design using materials appropriate to the natural surroundings, and reflect American Indian traditions. State of the art features using new technology should be incorporated to allow visitors to visualize and experience the site as it may have been. Many suggested that space must accommodate hands-on experience, live demonstrations, festivals, and reenactments.

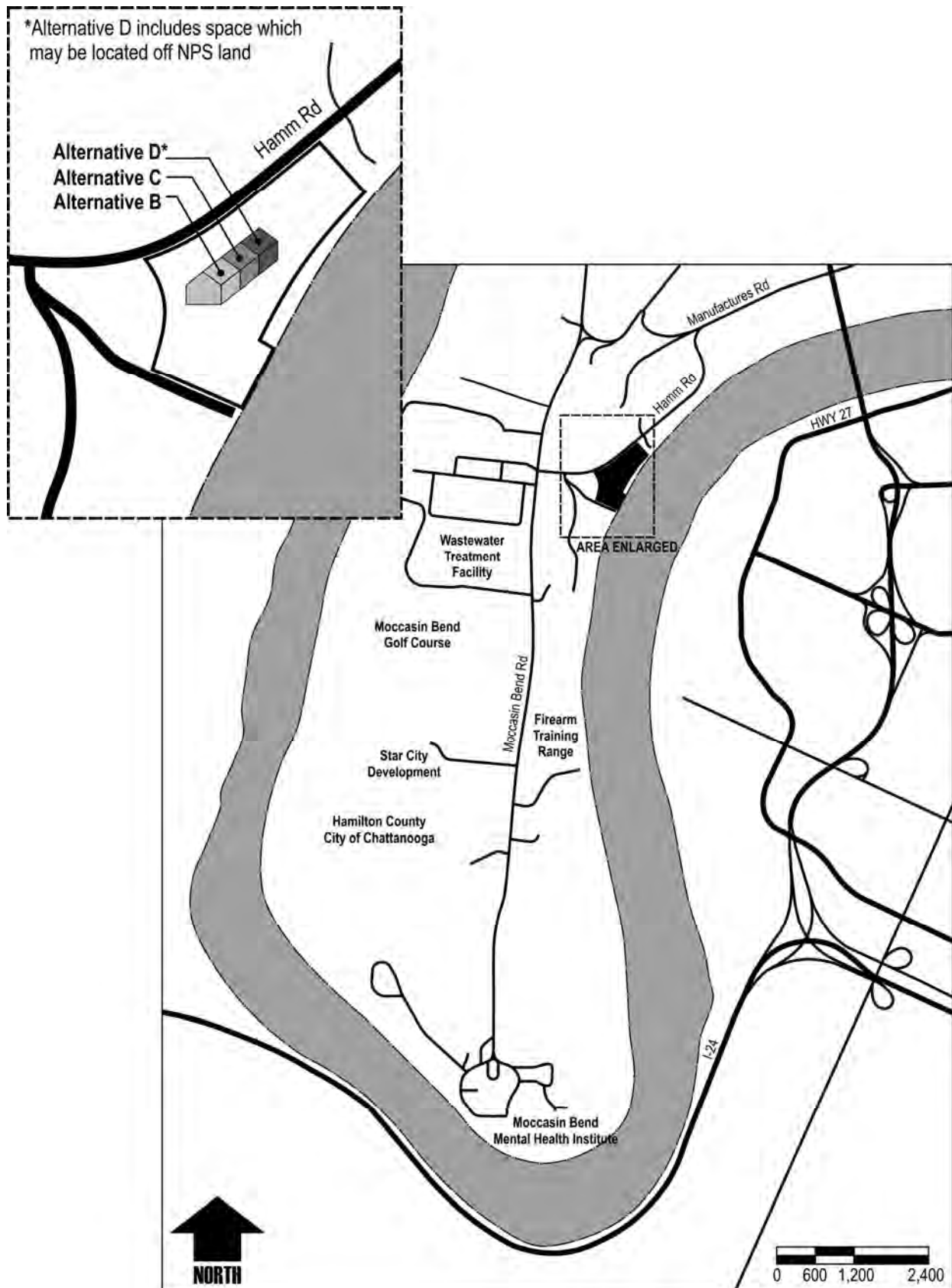
Development of walking and biking trails is encouraged to help visitors observe and feel history in ways that accurately place in an ecological context what we know about the American Indian peoples who lived at Moccasin Bend. Many people urged that recreation trails connect to the community’s planned north shore improvements. A water taxi could link Moccasin Bend to Ross’s Landing and Coolidge Park.

Respondents offered a range of development suggestions from maintaining a wildlife refuge to allowing a marina and restaurant to be there. A restaurant serving traditional American Indian food could be developed.

Site Selection

The former Serodino property was chosen as the proposed site for a possible visitor facility during a workshop held in Chattanooga on June 7, 2007. Workshop participants included Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park staff, members of the NPS planning team and Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park (FOMB). The sites considered were the former Serodino property, the Law Enforcement Firearms Training Range, (police firing range), the Blue Blazes Trail area, and the “central properties” area that encompasses the S-shaped road from Moccasin Bend Road to the police firing range. Factors taken into account in evaluating the four sites include topography and how it affects site development, tribal concerns, resource protection, quality of the visitor experience, park operational efficiency, and potential for partnership opportunities with the National Park Service. The evaluation process showed the former Serodino property to have the greatest advantages within the criteria mentioned above.





Draft Planning Alternatives

The planning team has prepared five preliminary alternatives to develop a possible visitor facility, or not, for the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District. They reflect a range of alternatives from no new facility to a structure representing NPS cooperation in a partnering effort.

The No-action Alternative

The no-action alternative serves as the basis of comparison with the action alternatives. It represents continuation of current conditions and strategies for resource protection and interpretation in which there would be no formal interpretation of Moccasin Bend except occasional presentations by park rangers. Ranger-led tours could be arranged for very special purposes. There would be no other dedicated interpretation of Moccasin Bend, including no museum collection efforts dedicated to Moccasin Bend for retrieval, display, or storage of associated artifacts.

Alternative A – No facility development on Moccasin Bend, interpretation of Moccasin Bend would be offered in existing Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park facilities.

No new NPS facilities would be developed at Moccasin Bend. Increased interpretation of Moccasin Bend would occur using existing park facilities, which could be modified to accommodate the Moccasin Bend story. There would be NPS interpretation of Moccasin Bend beyond current levels, including museum collection efforts dedicated to Moccasin Bend for retrieval, display, or storage of associated artifacts consistent with the NPS Southeast Region's overall collection management strategies.

Alternative B – New facility constructed on Moccasin Bend to provide visitor services and interpretation constructed with NPS funding.

A basic facility would be constructed on NPS land at Moccasin Bend to provide basic visitor services and space for interpretation. Construction of the facility would be accomplished utilizing federal

funds (approximately \$5 million dollars). This funding would also cover all associated design, site development, and utility infrastructure costs.

The building would include a lobby with information desk, site orientation exhibits, a small seating area and restrooms. An exhibit/museum area would include displays about all five primary interpretive themes. A small sales area would have books and merchandise directly related to the five themes. Exterior space would be provided to allow for interpretive programs. Site development would include an access drive, parking, landscaping, and limited trails.

The NPS-dedicated interpretation of Moccasin Bend under this alternative would include museum collection efforts dedicated to Moccasin Bend for retrieval, display, or storage of associated artifacts commensurate with the interpretive exhibit/museum space provided for in the proposed basic facility. Incorporation of museum collections would be consistent with the NPS Southeast Region's overall collection management strategies.

Alternative C – New facility of expanded design constructed on Moccasin Bend to provide visitor services and interpretation, constructed with NPS and partnership funds.

An expanded facility would be constructed at Moccasin Bend. Construction of the facility would be accomplished utilizing a combination of federal and partnership investments. Federal contributions would be approximately \$5 million dollars. This facility would include all the basic elements from Alternative B: lobby, exhibit/museum area, sales area, exterior interpretive space, and site development. Additionally, the expanded facility would include a theater for film, lecture, and performances related to the Moccasin Bend stories, classroom, an expanded lobby, expanded exhibit/museum area, expanded sales area, a multi-purpose space, library and curatorial space, and expanded exterior interpretation space.

Interpretation of Moccasin Bend under this alternative would include museum collection

efforts dedicated to Moccasin Bend for retrieval, display, or storage of associated artifacts commensurate with the interpretive exhibit/museum curatorial space provided for in the proposed, expanded facility. Incorporation of museum collections would be consistent with the NPS Southeast Region's overall collection management strategies.

Alternative D – New facility of expanded design constructed on Moccasin Bend to provide visitor services and interpretation plus services offered by the NPS partner, constructed with NPS and partnership funds.

An expanded facility would be constructed at Moccasin Bend. This facility would be funded with federal funds of approximately \$5 million and partnership funds. This facility would include all the basic elements from Alternative B (lobby, exhibit/museum area, sales area, exterior interpretive space, and site development), additional elements from Alternative C (theater, classroom, expanded lobby, expanded exhibit/museum area, expanded sales area, a multi-purpose space, library and curatorial space, and expanded exterior interpretation space).

Additional spaces, to be funded and managed by the partner, would be located on non-NPS lands. This space could include a meeting and conference center, visiting scholar facility, a restaurant, amphitheater, and gallery space for sales of American Indian art.

The NPS-dedicated interpretation of Moccasin Bend under this alternative would include museum collection efforts dedicated to Moccasin Bend for retrieval, display, or storage of associated artifacts commensurate with the interpretive exhibit/museum curatorial space provided for in the proposed expanded facility. Incorporation of museum collections would be consistent with the NPS Southeast Region's overall collection management strategies.

Archeological Surveys

Two archeological surveys were conducted, one in the fall of 2006 and the other during the spring of

2007. The first survey included the former Serodino property, the western part of the police firing range, also called the central properties area, and the eastern part of the Blue Blazes Trail area. The second survey included the western part of the Blue Blazes Trail area and the eastern part of the police firing range. These archeological surveys produced no findings that would disqualify any potential sites from consideration.

Moccasin Bend Stories

Interpretive themes guide the stories told to visitors about Moccasin Bend. Through Native American and other consultations, these themes have been developed.

- Moccasin Bend contains many layers of resources representing approximately 10,000 years of human history and many different cultures that connect with American Indian peoples living today.
- The river and the peninsula, combined with abundant resources throughout the area, provided the peoples of Moccasin Bend with the necessities for sustaining community life.
- Moccasin Bend was a part of a larger network of trade routes, crossroads, and corridors, and was a focal point of multi-cultural contacts, interactions, and conflicts.
- The Trail of Tears, an event that forced the removal of American Indians from their Southeastern homelands, is an important story of Moccasin Bend.
- Moccasin Bend was an important strategic location for Union forces in Chattanooga, and was utilized to break the Confederate siege of the town in November, 1863.

American Indian Consultations

Indigenous peoples may well have traditional and contemporary interests and ongoing rights in lands now under National Park Service management, as well as concerns and contributions to make for the future through projects like the Moccasin Bend development concept plan.

Three American Indian consultation meetings have been held. The first was in September 2005, focusing on bank stabilization of the Tennessee River. A second consultation meeting was held March 7 to 9, 2006, and a third was conducted October 17 to 18, 2006. All three meetings were held in Chattanooga with visits to Moccasin Bend for site orientation. American Indian participants represented the following tribes: Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Kialegee Tribal Town, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The American Indian consultations stressed the importance of recognizing and honoring the people who lived and established viable, flourishing communities at Moccasin Bend. Being able to offer input into interpreting Moccasin Bend to visitors is one way to show respect for their history and culture. What stories to tell? Who should tell them and how? These are vital questions for future discussion. American Indian involvement in the interpretation of the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District will be paramount. The consultations clearly established this desire and expectation of interpretation and involvement.

Website Contact Information

To provide comments and view Newsletter #1, log on to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park's home page at www.nps.gov/chch, or connect to the National Park Service *Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC)* website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>

Contact Information

The following individuals may be contacted for further project information;

Sam Weddle, Chief Ranger
Chickamauga and Chattanooga
National Military Park
(423) 752-5214 x 113
sam_weddle@nps.gov

Carla McConnell, Project Manager
Moccasin Bend Unit DCP/EA
(303) 969-2287
carla_mcconnell@nps.gov

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 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

Time Period	Step	Planning Activity	Public Involvement Opportunity
Fall 2005	1	Initiate Project - Consultation with affiliated tribes, stakeholders and partners.	
Spring-Fall 2006	2	Define Planning Context and Foundation - Publish a newsletter. - Consultation with federally affiliated tribes, stakeholders, and partners on preliminary purpose, significance, fundamental resources, and interpretative themes. - Conduct a public workshop to help generate ideas about the future for Moccasin Bend.	- Read newsletter and send us comments. - Participate in public workshop.
WE ARE HERE	3	Develop and Evaluate Alternatives - Determine range of reasonable facility-development alternatives. - Publish an alternatives newsletter. - Conduct public workshop on the alternative concepts.	- Read the newsletter and send us comments. - Attend public workshop and provide input on alternative concepts. .
Fall 2007	4	Select a Preferred Alternative - Do preliminary environmental analysis on alternatives. - Complete internal review of DCP/EA. - Complete public review of DCP/EA.	- Review and provide comments on DCP/EA.
Spring 2008	5	Revise and Print DCP/EA - Prepare and issue environmental findings as determined through this process.	