



Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park



YOU'RE INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE

- To help launch the General Management Plan
- Learn more about the park's resources
- Talk with the planning team
- Discuss your ideas, concerns, and thoughts

VISITOR CENTER AT CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

3370 Lafayette Road, Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742
March 10th, Tuesday 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm*

THE WALKER PAVILION AT COOLIDGE PARK

150 River Street, Chattanooga, TN 37405
March 12th, Thursday 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm*

*A brief presentation will be given at 4:00 and 6:30 pm.

A Message from the Superintendent



Dear Friends,

We invite you to help develop a vision for the future of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. Officially dedicated in 1895, this park was the first national military park in the country; its protection and preservation helped lay the foundation for historic preservation programs in the nation. The park's cultural and natural resources continue to educate new generations about the battles that took place here, and serve as lasting reminders of the terrible struggles and sacrifices of the Civil War. Now, Moccasin Bend National Archeological District has been added to the park, offering visitors the opportunity to learn about and reflect on 12,000 years of contiguous human history.

The last general management plan (GMP) for the park was adopted in 1988. Since then, significant changes have occurred in the park: additional lands on the Lookout Mountain Battlefield have been acquired, Moccasin Bend has been added to the park, and U.S. Highway 27 has been rerouted outside the core area of the Chickamauga Battlefield. Now it is time to look forward again—we must explore how to best preserve the unique cultural history of the park and continue to make it an educational and inspirational place for all of us to visit and enjoy.

We need your help to create the framework that will guide Chickamauga and Chattanooga's management for the next 20 years. In March, the National Park Service (NPS) will host 2 open houses in the Chattanooga/North Georgia area. We hope you will join us at one of these open houses to learn more about the GMP; meet the planning team; and share your ideas, concerns, and thoughts about this special place.

The most efficient way for us to receive and accurately review your comments is through the National Park Service planning website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/chch>.

Alternatively, you may fill out the enclosed comment form. Please select the appropriate box on the backside of the form if you would like to be added to the GMP mailing list. Your input, coupled with NPS expertise, is a powerful combination for maximizing the potential of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. I look forward to creating our collective vision for this wonderful park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Bengé".

Shawn Bengé

Superintendent, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

What Is a General Management Plan?

A general management plan serves as a foundation and framework for the management and use of the park and articulates the desired conditions for natural and cultural resources and visitor experiences that will best fulfill the park's purpose. The plan looks ahead 20 years and lays the groundwork for more detailed planning and day-to-day decision making that will follow. Providing long-range guidance for NPS managers, the plan also represents an agreement with the American public about how the park will be managed in the future.



Why Do We Need a New General Management Plan?

The GMP considers the park as part of larger ecological, cultural, and socioeconomic systems. This comprehensive approach includes coordination with the park's neighbors to ensure that the decisions made through this process are widely supported and sustainable over time.

The new GMP will be our blueprint for the future. It has been 20 years since the original plan for Chickamauga and Chattanooga was approved. Since then, the park has increased in size, with the addition of Moccasin Bend National Archeological District and parts of Lookout Mountain. Moccasin Bend is particularly important to consider as we create a vision for the park's future. The relocation of U.S. Highway 27 around the Chickamauga Battlefield is another significant change since the last GMP. At the same time, the growing population of the Chattanooga metropolitan area now enjoys Chickamauga and Chattanooga in a variety of ways, creating new and different demands to be addressed by the National Park Service.

Photos on page 1 -

Top: Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center

Bottom: Moccasin Bend and Chattanooga

Photos this page -

Top photo: Outside the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center

Bottom photo: Cravens House, Lookout Mountain



Next Steps and How to Get Involved

The GMP process will take approximately four years to complete. During that time, we will be looking for your assistance. We will look to you to

- Share your concerns, expectations, values and information *now* – at the beginning of the process
- Review and comment on the preliminary planning alternatives
- Review and comment on the *Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS)*

	Estimated Timeframe	Planning Activity	Public Involvement Opportunities
WE ARE HERE	Fall 2008 – Spring 2009	Scoping — Identify concerns, expectations, and values related to the park with input from the public, park partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter #1 and send us your ideas and concerns using the response form. Attend public meetings and voice your ideas and concerns.
	Spring – Fall 2009	Develop Preliminary Alternatives — Outline different possible futures for the park and provide opportunities for review and comment by the public, park partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter #2 and send us your ideas and concerns using the response form. Attend public meetings and comment on the preliminary alternatives.
	Fall 2009 – Summer 2011	Prepare and Distribute a Draft GMPIES — Review and comment by the public, park partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review the <i>Draft GMPIES</i> and provide written comments. Attend public meetings, and voice your ideas and concerns.
	Spring 2012	Prepare a Final GMPIES.	Review the <i>Final GMPIES</i> .
	Summer 2012	Implement the Approved Plan — Prepare and issue a “Record of Decision” and implement the general management plan.	Work with the park to implement the plan.

Park Background

On these fields and hills, Union and Confederate armies clashed during the fall of 1863 in some of the most difficult fighting of the Civil War. The prize was Chattanooga, key rail center and gateway to the heart of the Confederacy. Between 1890 and 1899, the United States Congress authorized the establishment of the first four national military parks: Chickamauga and Chattanooga, Shiloh, Gettysburg, and Vicksburg. The first and largest of these, and the one upon which the establishment and development of most other national military and historical parks was based, was Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

In 2003, 755 acres on Moccasin Bend were added to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park as the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District. Moccasin Bend is a peninsula formed by 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 over approximately 12,000 years of continuous occupation.

Other Planning Efforts Underway

A related ongoing planning effort is the **Moccasin Bend Development Concept Plan**, begun in 2005. This plan will recommend a location and programmatic requirements for visitor interpretation services related to the stories associated with Moccasin Bend.

The park staff are also undertaking a planning study for **replacement or rehabilitation of the Alexander and Slough Bridges**, in the southeastern portion of Chickamauga battlefield.



Park Purpose and Significance

Park purpose is a clear statement of why Congress or the president established the park as a unit of the national park system. Statements of **park significance** define what is **most important** about the park's resources and values; they are based on the park's purpose. The park significance statements and the park purpose are used to guide all planning and management decisions made about the park.

Park Purpose

The purpose of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of the public the nationally significant history, stories, and resources associated with the Civil War campaign for Chattanooga, including the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga; and the 12,000 years of American Indian presence on the Moccasin Bend Peninsula.

Park Significance

The participation of Chickamauga and Chattanooga veterans (Union and Confederate) in the creation of the national military park provided a heightened degree of accuracy and legitimacy to the marking of specific battle locations and the placement of monuments and other commemorative features.

As the first national military park, the preservation and commemoration of the history, stories, and resources of the campaign for Chattanooga served as a catalyst for the subsequent preservation of other Civil War battlefields and historic sites.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park was established in part for the purpose of historical and professional military study and continues to offer exceptional opportunities for study of some of the most remarkable maneuvers and most brilliant fighting of the Civil War.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park preserves resources associated with one of the deciding campaigns of the Civil War, where a Union victory assured access through the "Gateway to the Deep South", ultimately hastening the end of fighting and the reunification of the United States.

- Soldiers of 29 of the 35 existing states participated in the campaign.
- The slopes of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge presented unusually formidable natural obstacles to military operations requiring extraordinary efforts and persistence by the soldiers to overcome.
- Chickamauga had the highest casualty rate of any two-day battle in the Civil War.

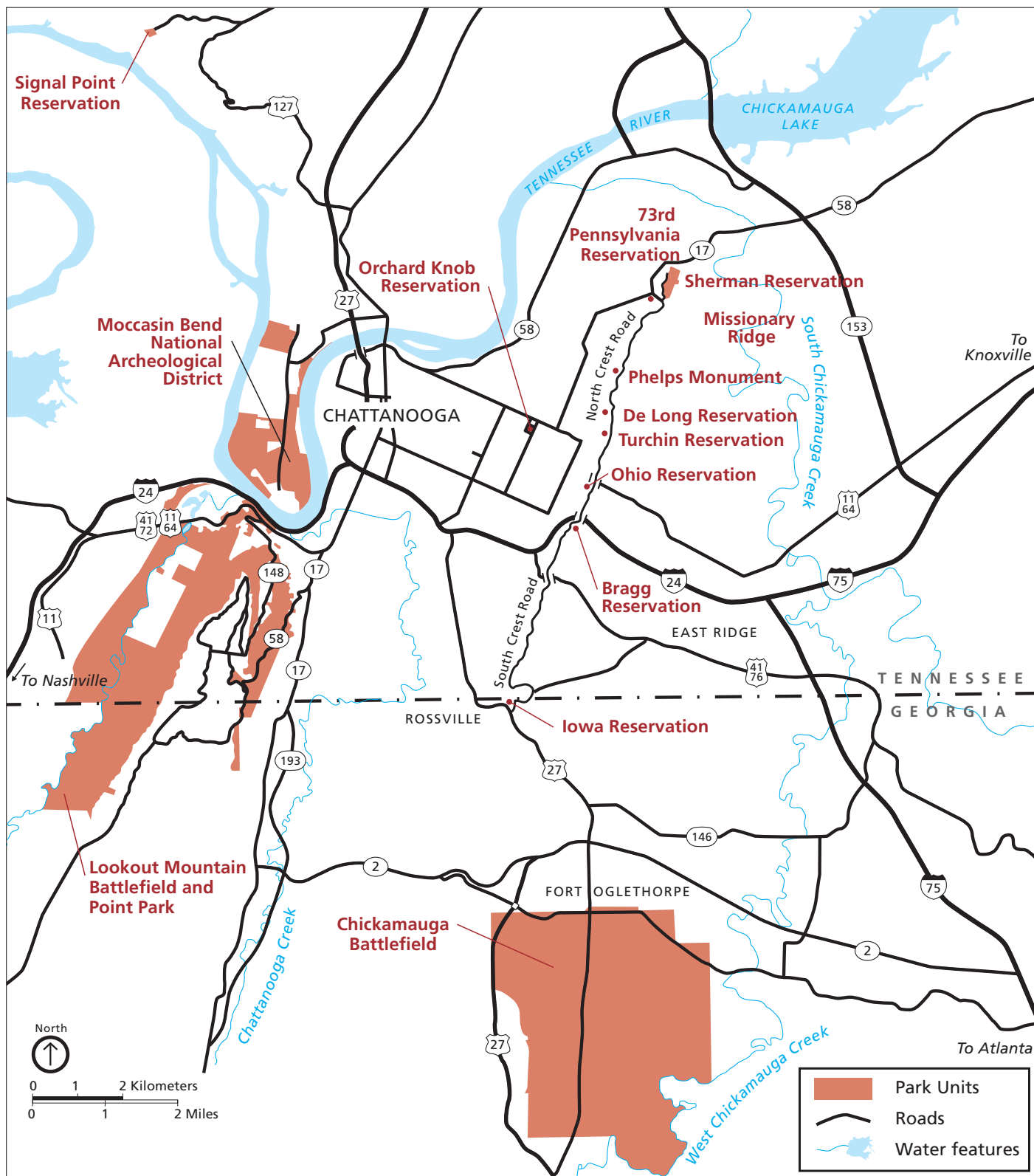
Located at an important geographic crossroads, the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District is the best preserved, most important, and most concentrated archeological assemblage representing the sequence of Southeastern American Indian cultures known to be located in the Tennessee River Valley.

The Moccasin Bend National Archeological District provides an outstanding opportunity for education and research furthering the understanding of the periods of American Indian habitation, including those of transitional Paleo – Indian/Archaic, Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian, and historic periods.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park includes Indian removal and Trail of Tears resources, which mark the tragic forced removal of American Indians—primarily Cherokee—from their Southeastern homelands. Powerful stories tell of the struggles for survival and the triumph of the American Indian spirit.

Moccasin Bend retains profound spiritual importance for many contemporary American Indian tribes with ancestral ties to the area.





Region

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service

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How to participate in the Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP General Management Plan process

Send Us Your Comments and Sign Up for the GMP Mailing List

- Post your comments directly on our website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/chch> (only project team members will be able to view your comments on the website), or
- Return the enclosed response form with your comments and contact information, or
- Send a letter: National Park Service General Management Planning, Attn: Carla McConnell, DSC-P, Denver Service Center, National Park Service, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287

Visit Our Website

- For regular updates on the process, public meeting announcements, copies of newsletters, and planning documents, please visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/chch>

Attend an Open House

- The National Park Service will kick off the planning process with 2 open houses in March.

CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

Address:

National Park Service
P.O. Box 2128
Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742

Telephone:

423-752-5213 Ext. 113

Planning Website:

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