

PARK SIGNIFICANCE

Statements of park significance define what is most important about the park's resources and values and are guided by the park's legislation and our better understanding of the resources as a result of management activities, research, and civic engagement. Park significance statements are used to guide all planning and management decisions to ensure that the resources and values that contribute to the park's designation are preserved.

Statements of the park's significance:

- describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context;
- are directly linked to the purpose of the park;
- are substantiated by data or consensus;
- reflect the most current scientific or scholarly inquiry and cultural perceptions, which may have changed since the park's establishment.

The Significance of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park

- 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 34 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 and 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 National Archeological District retains profound spiritual importance for many contemporary American Indian tribes with ancestral ties to the area.