

FALL 2023

RESPECT THE PAST
INVEST IN THE PRESENT
PRESERVE FOR THE FUTURE



National Park Partners

CHICKAMAUGA CHATTANOOGA MOCCASIN BEND

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NPPCHA.ORG

National Park Partners champions the conservation of the natural, historic, and cultural resources of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, including Moccasin Bend National Archeological District. We engage current and future generations in preserving and promoting the stories of these national treasures.

National Park Partners

CHICKAMAUGA CHATTANOOGA MOCCASIN BEND

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SAVE MOCCASIN BEND, AGAIN

Chattanoogans and all Tennesseans face a **once-in-a-generation chance** to see Moccasin Bend grow into the national park and archaeological preserve intended by the people of the region and by Congress (signed into law 20 years ago). As the State of Tennessee looks to invest CARES Act funds into improving mental health care services, National Park Partners believes it is possible to achieve two major initiatives in the near future: a new, modern hospital that meets the growing needs of our residents - AND - a **fully expanded Moccasin Bend National Archeological District** within minutes of downtown Chattanooga.



Since we believe both are possible, we do not accept the State of Tennessee's proposal to build the new mental health hospital on its current campus, which lies **within a National Historic Landmark boundary** and is completely **surrounded by a National Park site** meant for public benefit. While a state legislative committee approved the concept of new construction on Moccasin Bend to rebuild the now 61-year-old hospital, **that decision can and must be reversed.**

The City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County, as well as voters, express support for a new state-run hospital but not on the same iconic Moccasin Bend landscape that **generations of Chattanoogaans fought to preserve** for its incredibly rich history and culturally sensitive Indigenous resources.



Though opportunities have been missed in the past, we now have a chance to make a fully realized and interpreted National Park site - and the tremendous annual economic benefits associated with such places - a reality in our lifetime.

National Park Partners calls for a way forward that **fulfills the commitments made by Tennessee officials** twenty years ago to remove the nonconforming uses and for the state to build the new mental hospital elsewhere. As stakeholders in this publicly owned land, Tennesseans deserve an open and transparent process resulting in a better-informed, more thoughtful land use decision - one that respects the past, meets the needs of the present, and is defensible to future generations.

Join the effort - visit nppcha.org/savethebend and make your voices heard!

2023 MOCCASIN BEND LECTURE SERIES

Our annual Moccasin Bend Lecture Series features three speakers each fall. These insightful presentations tell the stories of conserving National Parks and Indigenous cultural history; as well as events before, during, and after the U.S. Civil War. The series was founded in 2006 by Tennessee State Representative Greg A. Vital and is sustained through his generous support. Troy Wayne Poteete, Executive Director of the National Trail of Tears Association, kicked off the series in September with his fascinating talk titled 'Cherokee Resilience: Triumph Over Tragedy.' October brought Dr. Frank Varney, Professor of US History at St. Michael's College, who presented his research related to 'General Grant and the Civil War Campaign for Chattanooga.' The 28th Chief of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, Richard Sneed, wrapped up the series with his thoughts on what it means to be 'Culturally Deliberate in the 21st Century.' Thank you to our speakers, our guests, our hosts at the Tennessee Aquarium IMAX Theater, and our sponsor, Greg Vital, for a another memorable series!



Greg's mother, Rita Vital, has never missed a Lecture Series event in 18 years!



Julius Rosenwald & Booker T. Washington

ROSENWALD SCHOOLS PROJECT

BAKEWELL | BOOKER T. WASHINGTON | CHICKAMAUGA
 GEORGETOWN | HIXSON | ROLAND W. HAYES
 SUMMIT | WASHINGTON

What began in 1912 as a partnership between an ex-slave, Booker T. Washington, and Julius Rosenwald, CEO of Sears, Roebuck and Company, led to the construction of more than 5,300 schools for rural Black children across 15 states. In Tennessee, at least 375 schools were built between 1912 and 1932.

Chattanooga was home to eight Rosenwald Schools and though none of the original buildings remain, NPP volunteers are leading a project to dedicate a plaque honoring the program's local legacy.

LAND PRESERVATION + RESTORATION

To meet the emerging need of the National Park Service to provide interim ownership of places like the Brown's Ferry landing, for future inclusion into the National Park boundary, *we're excited to announce our new Land Preservation + Restoration Program* as the umbrella under which our Brown's Tavern Fund and the Jewell Memorial Fund for Landscape and Monument Restoration will reside. Grants from the Lyndhurst Foundation and the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) support this new initiative.



Through our partnership with ABT, we took title in August to Brown's Tavern, along with 14 acres on the Tennessee River where the Battle of Brown's Ferry took place (the Brown's Ferry landing). Brown's Tavern is a National Register of Historic Places site, built in 1803 by John Brown, a Cherokee businessman. The Tavern is an important witness structure to the Trail of Tears and the Civil War Campaign for Chattanooga in 1863.

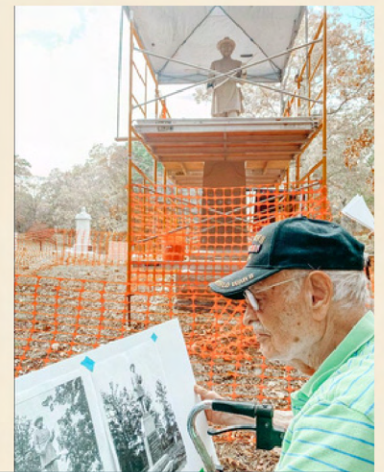
Each year, 5th graders from neighboring Lookout Valley Elementary School make the short walk to the Tavern for living history programs from the Trail of Tears Association and Civil War reenactors - including a recent visit from 'General Grant' in October. Plans are in the works to restore the Tavern and offer more programs and events to the public.

The Resource Management team at CCNMP works year-round to maintain more than 9,100 acres and 1,500 commemorative features throughout the park, connected by 80 miles of multi-use trails across two states and six units - whew!



Highlights from 2023 include improving Chickamauga Battlefield's rare cedar glades ecosystem through the use of prescribed fire; deploying goats to clear invasive plants; and staffing up a NPS trail crew - check out the recently-built bridge on the Yellow Trail!

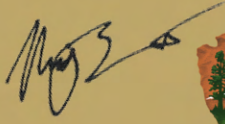
Bringing in stoneworkers from the Historic Preservation Training Center to painstakingly re-cast missing elements on several monuments provided opportunities for the NPS Resource Education team to develop interpretive monument restoration programs for the public.



"Thank you all for all the hard work you do in preserving history. I am overwhelmed with what a gift it was to see four living generations of descendants on the same battlefield where our great grandfather fought... To be there with my young boys was amazing."

GROW YOUR PARK'S LEGACY

A NOTE FROM BRAD BENNETT AND TRICIA KING MIMS



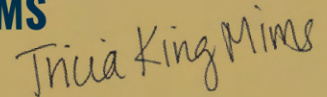
BRAD BENNETT

SUPERINTENDENT, CHICKAMAUGA AND
CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK



TRICIA KING MIMS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL PARK PARTNERS



If our 2023 community engagement is any indication, we know one thing for certain - **YOU LOVE YOUR PARK!** Throughout these pages, you'll find highlights of our projects and programs that preserve, promote, and enhance the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. We'd like to use this space to offer a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all the families, businesses, foundations, and individuals who attended events, made contributions to our campaigns, and volunteered time and talent. Sadly, we said goodbye in 2023 to the late Hugh Odom, volunteer extraordinaire who welcomed thousands to the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center over the years. RIP, and thank you, sir.



In a year filled with magical moments and major milestones, the October visit from **Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland** to Moccasin Bend National Archeological District takes the prize. Joined by Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Shannon Estenoz, Tricia and Brad led Secretary Haaland on a tour of Moccasin Bend, beginning with a boat ride around the Bend. We had an up close view of the ongoing riverbank stabilization partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers, designed to protect sensitive Native American sites from erosion.

Secretary Haaland's visit concluded with a walk on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail; en route, we passed the Hamm Road entrance to Moccasin Bend and shared an update on the "Open the Gateway" plans for the new visitor orientation plaza. With final approvals now in hand, we anticipate a construction contract award this winter and a **groundbreaking soon to follow in 2024.**



Coincidentally, 2024 also marks the 20th anniversary of the land transfers by the State of Tennessee, Hamilton County, and the City of Chattanooga to implement the legislation that created the National Archeological District. Our friends from the National Trail of Tears Association (including ToTA and NPP board member, Cleata Townsend, pictured above with Secretary Haaland) are holding their annual conference in Chattanooga next fall - a perfect time to **celebrate Moccasin Bend's 20th Anniversary!**

SAVE THE DATE of Monday, October 14, 2024 for a full day of events and activities honoring the civic leaders, Tribal partners, government agencies, and dedicated preservationists whose efforts to **forever protect this sacred land from further harmful development** made the National Historic Landmark and the Moccasin Bend National Archeological District a reality. We hope you'll join us and continue supporting our mission. *Together, we will write the newest chapter in Chattanooga's National Park legacy.*

Your donation makes a difference that will last forever. Thank you for growing Chattanooga's National Park legacy!



National Park Partners

CHICKAMAUGA CHATTANOOGA MOCCASIN BEND

Donate Online!



OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT

Artwork Purchases
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GIVING LEVELS

Friend of the National Park	\$50+
National Park Partner	\$100+
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National Park Steward	\$500+
National Park Champion	\$1,000+
National Park Visionary	\$2,500+
National Park Legacy Gift	\$5,000+



FIND YOUR PARK

The National Park belongs to everyone and everyone belongs in the National Park!



WAYNE-O-RAMA HISTORY FUNHOUSE

National Park Partners teamed up with RISE Chattanooga and the Shaking Ray Levi Society to present the Wayne-O-Rama History Funhouse hosted by the Chattanooga Public Library. The exhibit features puppets created by local artist Wayne White for his 2016 Wayne-O-Rama installation. General William Sherman (pictured left), Nancy Ward, Dragging Canoe, and other legendary figures tied to our National Park history are displayed alongside interpretive panels authored by NPP's Jennifer Crutchfield and artifacts from the library's Chattanooga history collection.

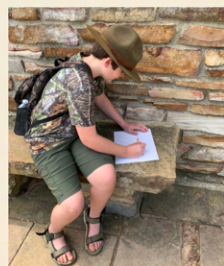
OPEN OUTDOORS FOR KIDS

The Open Outdoors for Kids (OOK) program is designed to engage students in the history of the wonderful National Park sites in their backyard. Through a grant from the National Park Foundation, NPP hosted a series of spring break activities on the Chattanooga Green, where visiting and local kids alike learned about Sequoyah, inventor of the Cherokee syllabary.



TEACHER RANGER TEACHER

Donations to National Park Partners support the annual Teacher Ranger Teacher (TRT) program, linking National Park units and teachers from schools with underserved student populations in urban and rural school districts.



This year's TRT summer camps at Chickamauga Battlefield and Lookout Mountain Battlefield provided fun and educational activities for dozens of area youth.

ENCUENTRA TU

PARQUE

¡El Parque Nacional pertenece a todos y todos pertenecen al Parque Nacional!



Chattanooga Football Club players visited Point Park (above) to promote National Park Partners as a “Cause of the Match” this season - we had a blast engaging the community at our NPP/NPS booth (right).



Our annual Ranger-guided kayak tour (below) follows the route of Jacob Cummings, an enslaved African-American who escaped from a plantation on Moccasin Bend in a canoe and paddled north. Cummings later became a conductor (and Moccasin Bend an official location) on the Underground Railroad National Network of Freedom. Big thanks to Outdoor Chattanooga for your partnership!



National Park Night with the Chattanooga Lookouts combines two American icons - National Parks and baseball - into one fun evening for all ages. Thank you, Lookouts, for a great time!



All year long, NPP board volunteers share their passion for preservation. Dr. Greg Grant led Outdoor Chattanooga “Silver Adventurers” on a history hike to Sherman Reservation (left); Southeast Archeological Conference (SEAC) participants toured Hampton Place village sites on Moccasin Bend with Jay Mills (above); Dr. Anthony Hodges spoke to the Moccasin Bend DAR Chapter on the history of Brown’s Tavern (right).

NATIONAL TREASURES PARTY AT POINT PARK

PARTYATPOINTPARK.COM

PRESENTED BY



NATIONAL PARK VISIONARIES



Mary Alice &
Jim Wyatt

RECORD ATTENDANCE IN 2023!



STUNNING VIEWS



DINNER + ENTERTAINMENT



FUN FOR ALL AGES

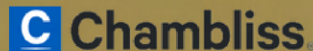
Music from The New Dismembered Tennesseans, scrumptious Southern food from C&W Cafe, and the best view in town are the recipe for a perfect evening at Point Park!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS

Shelley & Jack Deaton



Anonymous



RUBY FALLS



Doyle Attaway/Raymond James

National Park Partners dedicated the 2023 Party at Point Park to the memory of our dearly departed friends, Alan Cooper and Cartter Patten. In addition to being staunch advocates for growing Chattanooga's National Park legacy, they exemplified the ideals of living with integrity, treating others with respect, and giving of themselves in service to their community.

May we all follow their example of a life well lived.



Party at Point Park guests enjoyed a beautiful display of photos by Alan Cooper, framed by Art Creations as a gift to NPP. A lovely bouquet courtesy of Cartter's Trail Floral Design Studio complemented the memorial table.

The annual "Party at Point Park" brings families and friends together to celebrate the natural, historic, and cultural resources of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, including Moccasin Bend National Archeological District.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS + TABLE HOSTS

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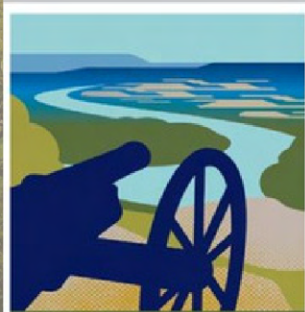
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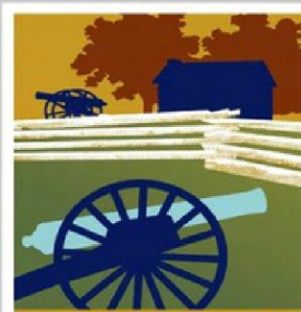
SIGNAL POINT



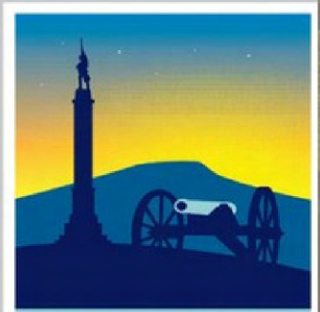
MISSIONARY RIDGE



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
BATTLEFIELD



CHICKAMAUGA
BATTLEFIELD



ORCHARD KNOB