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1998 ANNUAL REPORT  
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

- Continued working with Friends Group, Kennesaw Mountain Historical Association, contracting officer, Harpers Ferry, exhibit designers and staff to finish the 6,700 square foot addition to the park visitor center. The dedication and grand opening is set for June 25, 1999, the 135th anniversary of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain.
- Continued working with local preservation groups to mitigate development along the park boundaries and along related lands including historic homes and earthworks.
- The park received an award from the American Association of Architects for the work done on the Brushy Mountain to Lost Mountain Line. It is a unique way of documenting on computer the remaining portions of the union and confederate earthworks.
- Assisted a group of preservationist in Cobb County to form the Cobb Preservation Foundation. The purpose of the new group is to raise funds to assist in preservation efforts before historic sites become controversial in zoning and development cases. The group is now incorporated and fully functional.
- Repaired two miles of trail along the southern loop of five and one-half miles, including in partnership with the Chattahoochee Road Runners completed board walk along the Ward Creek, which had been flood much of the year. That same day, 12 large hazard pine beetle kills along the same trail were cut and removed.
- Spent budget to within one-half of one percent. Reduced staffing to produce a 80 percent personnel services ratio to all other expenditures.
- Worked with Cobb County DOT to improve the intersections at John Ward Road and Dallas Road and Stilesboro and Old US 41. The John Ward intersection is finished however, it will likely be March 1999, before the Old US 41 intersection with Stilesboro.
- Two "pull-arounds," were also installed along Dallas Highway at the entrance to Cheatham Hill and Battleview Subdivision to assist with allowing automobile traffic to flow more smoothly and cut down on accidents.
- A new pole shed was constructed in the maintenance area to help protect the valuable mowing equipment and chipper, however it also allowed the equipment and gasoline to remain on the trailers cutting down on the potential for accidents and fire.
- Although there were three motor vehicle accidents at Kennesaw last year, none were serious and there were no lost time injuries.
- We still are trying to mitigate the storm damages from Hurricane Opal and the three tornados that hit the park in 1992, 1993 and 1994. Our most serious problem continues to be hazard trees

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along the park boundary with neighbors. On two occasions this year, park personnel repaired fences for neighbors after trees fell through them.

--The new organization seems to be working well, with the Chief of Operations as the focal point of park operations, there is a greater sense of involvement among the workers. During 1999, there will be a personnel evaluation to assist the park in identifying needed positions and those not needed.

--Park Ranger Richard Burgren was selected from among all the public safety agencies in Cobb County as Public Safety Officer of the Year. Richard is a 13 year veteran and has been at Kennesaw Mountain since 1991.

--Overall, visitation was down this year, perhaps the greatest reason being the lack of restrooms, tours, and basic visitor services.

--This year the Park Superintendent served on the following boards:

- Cobb County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Cobb County Youth Museum
- Marietta Kiwanis, Inc.
- The General Museum, Inc.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Cissell  
Superintendent