



ARTICLE

# Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Spring Newsletter 2021

[Trail Of Tears National Historic Trail \(https://www.nps.gov/trte/\)](https://www.nps.gov/trte/)

Read the latest project updates and completions from the National Trails Office of the National Park Service (NPS).

*To print this newsletter, or save it as a pdf: CTRL + P or Right Click with your Mouse, and select "Print."*

## Cherokee Youth Fellowship

The National Trails Office (NTIR) is partnering with American Conservation Experience (ACE) to hire a Cherokee Youth Fellow for an 18 month term position. The fellow will assist with developing web media components and videos about traveling the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, taking into account the many meanings of the trail and sharing its relevance to a variety of audiences from a Cherokee and youth perspective. ACE will **begin recruiting in May** with a target date of **September** to fill the position.

## Blythe Ferry

The retracement trail from The Cherokee Removal Memorial Park to the Historic Blythe Ferry site in Tennessee has been completed! This project was funded jointly by NPS through Connect Trails to Parks (CTTP) funds and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). **Check out the listing below to see the transformation!** The newly constructed trail is approximately ¼ mile long and includes a beautiful section of puncheon bridge to keep it above the waterline and accessible to visitors in the summer months. The next phase of this project will include the development of interpretive exhibits to be placed at the trailhead and historic ferry landing site, and the installation of pedestrian signs to mark the trail as the “Historic Route” and guide visitors to both the landing site and Cherokee Removal Park. TVA is also planning to hold a volunteer trail building day this summer to complete the trailhead area at the parking lot.



New trail from The Cherokee Removal Memorial Park to the Historic Blythe Ferry site.

## Tuscumbia Landing

The development of construction documents for a trail system and trailhead at Tuscumbia Landing in Alabama have been

funded through NPS CTP. Working with the City of Sheffield and TVA, the architectural and engineering firm Alta Planning was selected and recently awarded the contract. Alta planning has begun work on the project and hopes to conduct an in person site visit this summer. The construction documents are scheduled to be completed by this December 2021.



Imagine what it will look like! Here is a perspective image for the trail at Tuscumbia Landing.

## Middle Tennessee State University, Center for Historic Preservation Update

- Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) submitted the booklet, “Rivers, Rails & Roads: Transportation During the Cherokee Removal 1837 – 1839,” which is now available online at [Trailwide Research \(or through the listing below\) \(https://www.nps.gov/trte/learn/historyculture/trailwide-research.htm\)](https://www.nps.gov/trte/learn/historyculture/trailwide-research.htm). MTSU is also preparing printed copies of the booklet which will be shared with TOTA and other trail partners.
- In early April, MTSU also submitted a draft of the Georgetown Road Segment National Register nomination; this segment is on Greg Vital's property. They are currently working on revising the Brown's Ferry Tavern updated nomination.
- This agreement will end in June 2021.

## Partnership Certification

- In January 2021, NTIR signed an agreement with Manitou Cave of Alabama, recognizing this site as an important site on

the Trail of Tears. Manitou Cave of Alabama is hosting a dedication and Sequoyah 200 event on Saturday, September 18th.

- NTIR has also been in discussion with several trail partners about potential partnership certifications opportunities (trail partners Sandra Smith, North Little Rock History Commission; Shirley Lawrence in Tennessee; Pam Mathews on the behalf of Charles Hall Museum & Heritage Center and the Coker Creek Welcome Center).
- NTIR received and is reviewing certification documentation for the Trail of Tears site, Pack-Allen-Stanley Homeplace in Fort Payne, Alabama.

## Signing Updates

### Alabama

Sign plans in progress in Alabama this year include Lawrence County.

### Georgia

#### **Funk Heritage Center:**

Ordered for replacement SiteID sign on 4/26/21.

### Kentucky

#### **Hill Cemetery:**

Ordered pedestrian and private property signs to mark the historic swale that runs though the site on 2/4/21.

### Missouri

Pending route refinements, sign plans in progress in Missouri this year include St. Francois County and Pulaski County.

### Tennessee

#### **Sequoia Birthplace Museum:**

Ordered a replacement site id sign on 10/22/20.

#### **Blythe Ferry Retracement Trail:**

Ordered pedestrian signs to mark the trail on 4/19/2021

#### **Other Tennessee Sign Plans:**

OtherTennessee sign plans that are in progress this year include, The City of Memphis, Sequatchie County, Cannon County, and

Port Royal State Park.

## External Projects on the Trail

Hickman County, KY project proposed

North Alabama Utility-Scale Solar Facility EIS

Programmatic Agreement for project in Graham County, NC

Unicoi Turnpike: Tellico Ranger District Remediation of Damage

## Virtual Trail Stories & Experiences

Have you been following the trails on social media? You may have noticed an increase in articles, virtual visits, and virtual kids' activities. People can't travel to experience the trails in person, so the national trails' staff has been working to bring the trails to your house. You can check out recent and past articles, become a junior ranger, take virtual visits to learn more about trail sites, and more - click the links below!

## Highlights

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### TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

#### Trail of Tears: Trail Transformation

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/trail-of-tears-trail-transformation.htm>

Type: Article



<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/trail-of-tears-trail-transformation.htm>

Check out the newly constructed trail at Blythe Ferry on the Trail of Tears NHT! The trail begins at the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park and leads to the historic Blythe Ferry landing site. This was the last time many of the Cherokee would be in their native lands as they were forced west. Once the Cherokee crossed the river they were no longer on their native land. The trail is approx. 1/4 mile long and of natural surface. Thank you to our partners for making this happen!



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**TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL**

## Rivers, Rails & Roads: Transportation During the Cherokee Removal 1837 - 1839

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/rivers-rails-roads-transportation-during-the-choerokee-removal-1837-1839.htm>

**Type:** Article



<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/rivers-rails-roads-transportation-during-the-choerokee-removal-1837-1839.htm>

The Trail of Tears involved mile after mile of hard travel through miserable conditions. Yet detachments bound for Indian Territory did more than just walk. Although time-honored methods like wagons, keelboats, flatboats, and ferries played major roles, some of the technology used to transport Cherokees on the Trail of Tears was actually quite new.

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**TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL**

## Hike on the Trail of Tears

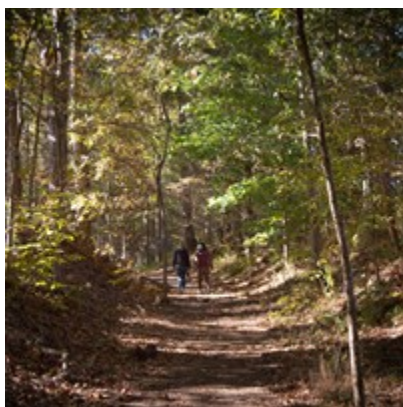
<https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/hike-on-the-trail-of-tears.htm>

**Type:** Things To Do

**Subtype:** Hiking

**Reservations:** No

**Pets:** Yes



<https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/hike-on-the-trail-of-tears.htm>

The trail commemorates the forced removal of Cherokee from their homelands; the paths that 17 Cherokee detachments followed westward; and the revival of the Cherokee Nation. We encourage you to retrace the trail on foot—to sacred sites that tell the story of suffering and intolerance, but just as important, one of survival. There are a variety of hiking opportunities across the full length of the trail, but we've selected a few places for you to experience.

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## Become a Trail of Tears Junior Ranger

<https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/become-a-trail-of-tears-junior-ranger.htm>

**Type:** Things To Do

**Subtype:** Junior Ranger Program

**Sites:** National Trails Office - Regions 6, 7, 8, Trail Of Tears National Historic Trail

**Reservations:** No

**Pets:** Yes

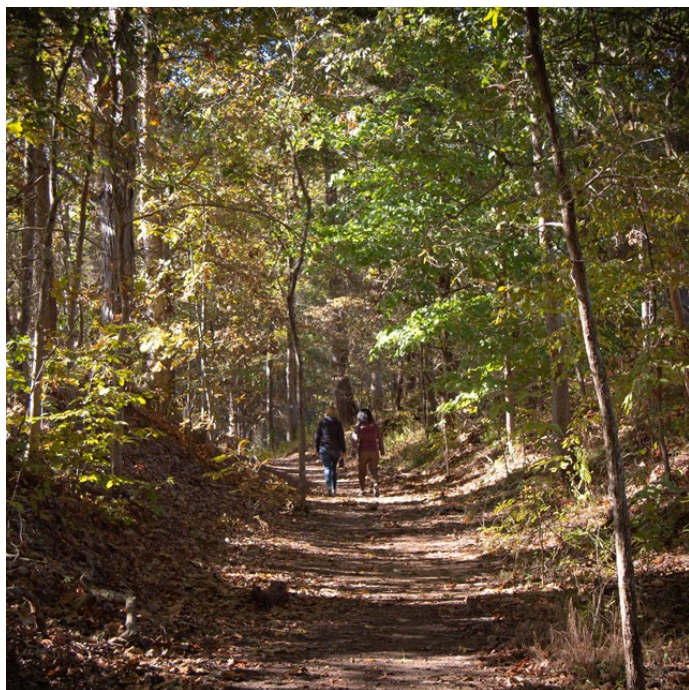
**Location:** Virtually or at a trail site



<https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/become-a-trail-of-tears-junior-ranger.htm>

Learn about the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and earn your junior ranger badge! This activity can be completed virtually or after visiting a site along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Booklets can be submitted either electronically or by mail. Take a look and start exploring the trail today!

CONNECT WITH THE TRAIL OF TEARS



EXPLORE HISTORY ON THE TRAIL

**Trail of Tears National Historic Trail**

<https://www.nps.gov/trte/index.htm>



LEARN MORE ABOUT HISTORIC TRAILS!

**National Trails**

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1453/index.htm>