



Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

Project Updates - Protection, Development, and Promotion

Cultural Resource Update

Preservation workshops will be held on May 9 and 10 in Jackson, Missouri, for the Trail of Tears Association (TOTA) western chapter members and partners and on May 12 and 13 in Dalton, Georgia, for TOTA eastern chapter members and partners.

The workshops will highlight (1) the historic building survey and condition assessments done by the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) over the past three years, (2) cultural resource conservation and restoration tools and practices, (3) archaeological site preservation, and (4) identification and protection of historic trail segments.

The workshops are being organized by MTSU, TOTA, and National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR).

To register, please contact Mike Killingsworth at TOTAadmin@arindianctr.org, (501) 666-9032.

NTIR routinely works with TOTA, tribes, and other partners to avoid and minimize damage from earth-disturbing activities along the Trail of Tears, and wherever possible, cooperates in finding ways to mitigate damage such as has occurred on the Unicoi Turnpike.

Damage to the Unicoi Turnpike



NTIR and other consulting parties examine damage to the Trail of Tears near Fort Armistead

Sometime between 2013 and 2015, personnel from Cherokee National Forest (USFS), Tennessee excavated 35 "erosion control" trenches across a 0.8-mile section of the trail along the Unicoi Turnpike (about one mile southeast of Fort Armistead), diverted a stream, and dug more trenches along other access roads near the turnpike.

Most of these trenches are nearly three feet deep and span the width of the roadbed, with the dirt from the trench bermed adjacent and parallel to the trench. According to USFS, this work was done without proper process, review, consultation, and approval. As a result, both tangible and intangible qualities of the trail have been severely impacted.

This section of the NHT is considered sacred by many consulting tribes. Tribal representatives view this as more than just physical damage—for many it is irreparable spiritual damage.

Staff from USFS, NTIR, and consulting tribes met in Catoosa, Oklahoma on February 2-3 to discuss the damage, and on March 15-17 gathered for on-site meetings and assessments at the disturbed section. NTIR will be preparing a report for USFS with recommendations for remediation of the trench features, as well as recommendations for mitigation along the entire Unicoi Turnpike.

National Park Service Centennial

2016

Let's celebrate the NPS 100-year anniversary and raise awareness for trails! New publications that incorporate the **Find Your Park** logo are available to boost interest in visiting or learning about national historic trails.

The official Trail of Tears NHT centennial event will be held in Waynesville, Missouri on June 17. If TOTA or others hold additional events, we ask that they be held *in honor of the centennial*.

Questions about events or materials? Email carole_wendler@nps.gov and include Centennial Help in the subject.

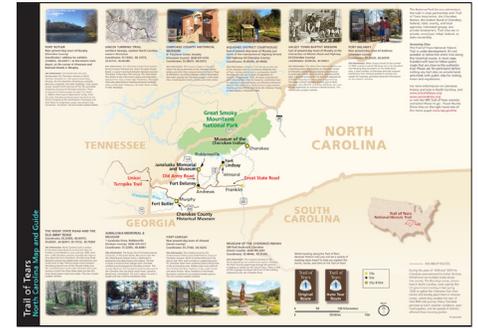


Examples of materials developed for the **Find Your Park** centennial campaign.

Project Queue

Have a project idea? Please contact NTIR staff early in the process. The project queue is scheduled years ahead. If your project is time sensitive, we can discuss other options for moving forward.

State Brochure



The North Carolina state brochure was completed in March with Western Carolina University, TOTA, and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Contact Andrew Denson at denson@email.wcu.edu for a printed version.

Interpretation Update

- Find Your Park local itineraries have been developed for Missouri, Illinois, and Kentucky; and are planned for Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee.
- This year's TOTA interpretation workshop focused on local itinerary planning for eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas. Over two days, participants planned local area tours that offer multiple ways for visitors to access a variety of materials, such as media tours, exhibits, websites, or publications. Workshop products will include two local itinerary rack cards (one for visiting the Oklahoma chapter's marked graves and one to retrace the trail as it entered Indian Territory to visit end-of-the-trail sites), website pages to support rack card itineraries, and wayside exhibits in Webbers Falls.

Design & Development Projects

- The development concept plan (DCP) for the proposed retracement trail between Decatur and Tuscumbia, Alabama, has been finalized and is being distributed to participants of the 2011 Tuscumbia Landing design charrette and other interested partners.
- A design charrette to explore options for site development and interpretation of the Trail of Tears between Jonesboro, Illinois, and the Mississippi River was held in Jonesboro, February 29-March 4. Representatives included National TOTA, the Illinois chapter of TOTA, Shawnee National Forest, Illinois DOT, local nonprofit organizations, and interested community members. A DCP outlining the results of the charrette work is being developed by NTIR staff.
- Planning is underway for signs in Henry and McMinn counties in Tennessee, the City of Springfield, Missouri, and Whitfield, Georgia.



Walking the Hamburg Hill Trail during the Jonesboro, Illinois design charrette

National Trails Intermountain Region

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Comments? Write to:

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