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## Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park News Release

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### Alexander's Bridge Road To Reopen Friday, December 23, 2011

Fort Oglethorpe, GA: Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Superintendent Cathy Cook, in partnership with the Federal Highways Administration, announced today that Alexander's Bridge Road and Alexander's and Slough bridges will be open to motor vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic on Friday, December 23, 2011. Alexander's and Slough bridges were closed to motor vehicle traffic in February 2009 due to substandard load ratings and other unsafe conditions. In May 2011, the Federal Highways Administration awarded a \$1.6 million contract to Bluegrass Construction Corporation, based in Lexington, Kentucky to replace the bridges and complete associated work including replacement of the wood guardrail and reconstruction of the stone masonry walls. The area has been closed to all pedestrian and bicycle traffic since June 2011 while bridge replacement was underway.

A safety walk-through on Thursday, December 22 by staff from Federal Highways Administration and the National Park Service confirmed that Bluegrass Construction had reached a substantial completion milestone that would allow vehicles to safely use the roadway and bridges. Finish work by Bluegrass Construction will continue over the next few months, but the road and bridges will remain open while the final work is completed. A formal re-dedication of the new bridges is being planned and will be announced after the first of the year by Superintendent Cook.

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*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 395 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*

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