



April 2007

### **National Park Service Signs Agreement in Principle with Georgia Power Chattahoochee Fish Declared the Winner**



Atlanta, GA (March, 2007) – After nearly three years of study and collaboration with a variety of stakeholders, the National Park Service has reached a tentative agreement with Georgia Power concerning the relicensing of the Morgan Falls Hydroelectric Project within the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

Under the agreement, negotiated with support from the NPS's Hydropower Assistance Program, Georgia Power will be able to continue operating the 100-year-old dam, which helps satisfy Atlanta's thirst for drinking water and hydroelectric power. In return, Georgia Power has agreed to offset some of the continuing environmental impacts to the park that are implicit with hydropower generation.

Among the enhancements that Georgia Power agrees to make are shoreline stabilization, improvements to many of the park's trails located near the reservoir, and further study and restoration shoal bass, a species that inhabits the park and is native only to the Chattahoochee River basin. Final details are still being worked out before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission can issue a new license, but all parties view this as a win-win agreement. For more information, please contact Jeff Duncan, SE Region Rivers Program Manager, at [jeff\\_duncan@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_duncan@nps.gov) or 423-266-1150.

### **At Long Last, Abandoned Army Site Becomes Park Community Gains Critical Open Space**



Lexington, KY (March 29, 2007) – It's been nearly 20 years since the Department of the Army decided to close down the Bluegrass Station complex. The National Park Service has been working at the request of the State of Kentucky to help

secure the land's future since 1995. Finally, this spring, the 211.71-acre green space was transferred, at no cost, to the Commonwealth of Kentucky for a new regional park.

Valued at over \$1.4 million, this portion of the former military research complex property will provide much-needed open space for the growing Lexington-Fayette County area. In addition to the open grasslands, recreational facilities have been developed and include a 9-hole golf course, driving range, swimming pool, sand volleyball court, tennis courts, and picnic shelters; and in the future, the park will also contain a community amphitheater.

The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact: Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, Atlanta, GA, at [bill\\_huie@nps.gov](mailto:bill_huie@nps.gov) or 404-562-3175.

## **De Soto Trail Ready to Launch**

### **Conquistador Route Retraced to Interpret Significant History of our Country**

Southwest Florida (March 2007) – Almost 470 years after Hernando de Soto and his small army of Spanish *conquistadors* slogged through “La Florida”, a new trail will help modern-day explorers make their own discoveries. In late 2006, the Florida Department of Transportation pledged the \$425,000 needed to fully develop the new De Soto Trail, linking historic places, parks, archeological sites, and scenic wilderness along 375 miles and seventeen Florida counties between Bradenton and Tallahassee. The trail will re-trace the steps of early explorers and relate the hardships endured by De Soto and his army; while also conveying the devastation these new arrivals brought to the Florida Indians and other aboriginal peoples of the region.

Funding secured through the collaboration of the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and De Soto National Memorial will pay for an estimated forty informational kiosks, website design, a map/brochure, and educational materials for the public. Numerous partners also include the Florida Park Service, Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Protection, and Office of Greenways and Trails; and numerous municipalities are hosting kiosks throughout Florida, enhancing the partnership link statewide. For more information, please contact Jaime Doubek-Racine at [Jaime\\_Doubek-Racine@nps.gov](mailto:Jaime_Doubek-Racine@nps.gov) or 941-330-8047.



## Keizer, OR Gets New Riverfront Park

### NPS First Helps with Land, Then with Plan

Marion County, OR (March 2007) – The City of Keizer lacked public access to the Willamette River which flows right through town, and City officials struggled to find a way for residents to enjoy the river within city limits. The City contacted the National Park Service, which helped develop a partnership including the Trust For Public Land (TPL) and the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department. Keizer officials secured a long-term lease for an undeveloped parcel of riverside land adjacent to the City Limits. TPL and the City of Keizer worked together to purchase an additional 28 acres funded primarily by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.



The National Park Service also helped Keizer come up with the optimal plans for developing its new 113-acre park. Thanks to an ongoing partnership with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), NPS was able to work with ASLA's Oregon chapter to plan and host a "charrette." This intense design workshop involved over a dozen landscape architects working alongside City officials and dozens of adjacent landowners and other key stakeholders, and created six choices of design for the park. Immediately after the charrette, an open house helped residents visualize the designs, discuss their merits with the designers, and provide feedback through a questionnaire. The Keizer Rapids Master Plan has now been adopted by the City of Keizer, and the partners are securing funding and moving the new park toward development. For more information, please contact Dan Miller, RTCA Community Planner, at [dan\\_miller@nps.gov](mailto:dan_miller@nps.gov) or 360-816-6232.

**Upcoming Conferences:** The NPS maintains a list of upcoming recreation and conservation related conferences, meetings, and training events on our website at:  
[http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/news&events/ne\\_conferences.htm](http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/news&events/ne_conferences.htm)

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