



Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

Project Updates - Protection, Development, and Promotion

Remember the Removal



2016 riders in Wayneville, Missouri
Photograph by Jax, City of Waynesville

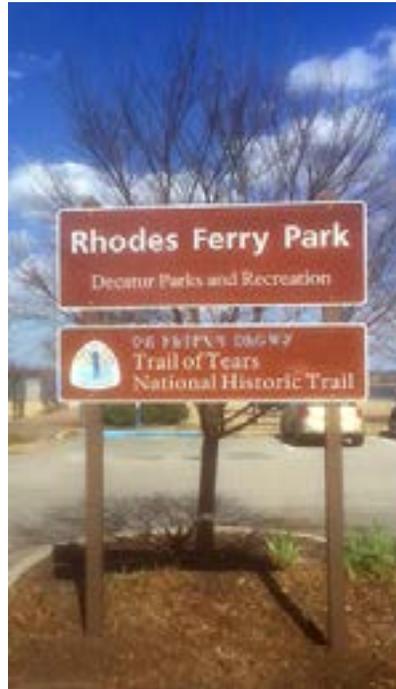
The National Park Foundation is supporting the 2017 Remember the Removal Ride through an Active Trails Grant.

Three public events, spaced out along the retracement route will provide an opportunity for the public to meet the Cherokee youth riders and learn about the impact of the retracement journey.

Archaeology Funded

Cherokee National Forest received funding from the National Park Service (NPS) Connect Trails to Parks Program for 2017 to support further archaeological studies of Old Furnace Road, which connects the site of Fort Armistead to Tellico Plains, Tennessee. The funding will provide for schematic plans for a pedestrian retracement route from Unicoi Gap to Fort Armistead.

Retracement Experience in Decatur, Alabama



Photographs provided by the City of Decatur

New exhibits and signs are in place in Decatur, Alabama, at Rhodes Ferry Park and the nearby historic district. National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) staff worked closely with the City of Decatur and the Trail of Tears Association (TOTA) to implement part of a larger Trail of Tears retracement trail concept, funded through the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program.

Road signs direct visitors to the parking area in Rhodes Ferry Park, where two wayside exhibits provide orientation to the retracement walking tour and an overview of the Trail of Tears in the area.

Pedestrian signs direct visitors to the waterfront and three wayside exhibits interpreting the landscape, town, and historic port at which the Cherokee arrived and transferred to a railroad bound for Tuscumbia Landing.

The walking tour also leads visitors through town. Site identification signs highlight the sites and structures present during removal.

Project Compliance E-Blasts

NTIR has begun sending out monthly “e-blasts” about federal undertakings that have potential to affect national historic trails. The purpose is to let you know about National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 compliance processes that TOTA might wish to

track or engage with, and we also welcome tips from you about federal undertakings in your area that we might not be aware of. While TOTA and NTIR cannot collaborate in our reviews and comments, our staff can help you find the information you

need and provide guidance for participating in these public processes. The “e-blasts” will be sent out through TOTA to board members, but they can be forwarded to anybody who is interested in receiving them.

GIS Trail Data—Open to All



The alignment data for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is now publicly available on the Integrated Resource Management Application (IRMA). IRMA is the National Park Service (NPS) web-based one-stop for data and information related to natural and cultural resources. Visit <https://irma.nps.gov> and use “Search Data Store” feature to find the GIS data and metadata.

More News

Eight sign plans are underway in 2017 with TOTA and other partners across Tennessee, North Carolina, Alabama, and Missouri.

Wayside projects for 2017:

- Cherokee Garden
- Welch’s Mill
- Paducah Waterfront
- Forts Massac and Defiance
- Webbers Falls (installation before fall conference)

Biographical Sketches



Left: Rev. Ainsworth Blunt (1800-1865), an American missionary to the Cherokee at the Brainerd Mission, accompanied the Cherokee on the Trail of Tears in 1838.

Right: George Featherstonhaugh (1780-1866), British surveyor, explorer, and railway pioneer, attended the Cherokee National Council at Red Clay, TN, in August 1835.



A new research project is underway that will help the NPS and partners tell trail stories. Angela Reiniche (doctoral student, University of New Mexico, Department of History) is developing approximately 10 historical biographical sketches of Trail of Tears participants, telling the trail story through a diversity of voices.

The overall project, which includes writing biographical sketches for nine national historic trails began in

October 2016 and will extend through September 2017. The final narratives will be available for interpretive exhibits, on podcasts, web pages, and social media.

Currently, for the Trail of Tears, Angela is researching George Featherstonhaugh, Reverend John Freeman Schermerhorn, Reverend Ainsworth Blunt, Dr. Elizur Butler, Nancy Elizabeth Broom Hicks, and Lydia (Qua LaYu Ga), among others.

Trying to reach us? NTIR has a new general information email that can be used to request brochures, ask a question, or request assistance from our office. Please send your requests to: ntir_information@nps.gov

Lynne Mager, Interpretive Specialist, retired in December. Please contact Carole Wendler, Chief of Interpretation, with any technical assistance needs you may have: carole_wendler@nps.gov

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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