

# Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

# Project Updates - Protection, Development, and Promotion

## **Trail Work Completed**



## **Design & Development Projects**

- Lake Guntersville State Park, Alabama: A site identification sign and a pedestrian sign were installed at Lake Guntersville trailhead/ retracement trail for the 175th anniversary event on September 28.
- New Madrid, Missouri: A site identification sign and two directional signs for the New Madrid Bend Water Route Overlook were installed within the City of New Madrid. NTIR is still working with Missouri DOT on the placement of highway signs also directing to the overlook.
- Reynolds and Iron counties, Missouri: 46 original route signs covering 33 miles were ordered.
- Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Tennessee:
  Signs that will mark a new Trail of Tears pedestrian retracement trail were ordered.
- Giles and Lawrenceburg counties, Tennessee: 86 original route signs totaling 40 miles have been ordered. The sign unveiling is planned for October 11 in Centerville, Missouri.
- David Crockett State Park, Tennessee: Two and one half miles of pedestrian retracement trail have been constructed following the Trail of Tears. The trail dedication event is planned for November 2nd.

# National Register

NTIR staff worked closely with the Trail of Tears Oklahoma Chapter and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office to identify and nominate significant properties associated with the trail to the National Register of Historic Places. Two properties were recently listed: Ballard Creek Road in the Westville vicinity and the Walker Farmhouse in the Welch vicinity. The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. For more information, go to: www.nps.gov/ history/nr/

# **Study Completed**

Dr. Mark Wagner and Kayeleigh Sharp (Center for Archaeological Investigations at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale) completed an NTIR-sponsored study that investigated known and potential locations for trail sites in Illinois. A massive database of businesses that existed along the trail corridor has been compiled and used to suggest the most probable sites for Cherokee camping, purchasing, and similar interactions. Illinois TOTA Chapter members assisted.

## **UPDATE:** Building Survey

Staff at the Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) at Middle Tennessee State University have worked for a year with NTIR and TOTA partners to conduct and record a condition assessment for historic structures identified along the trail in nine states. The project will be funded for another year, allowing the CHP staff to expand their inventory and to provide additional information about the structures they have documented thus far.

## What's New? — Fall 2013

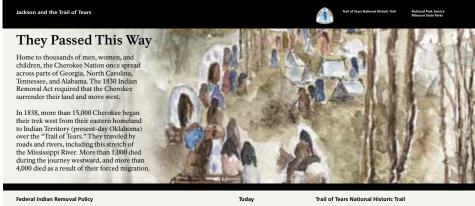
You can find the large print official map and guide at www.nps.gov/trte/planyourvisit/ brochures.htm

Official Map & **Guide - Large Print Formatted for ADA** standards at 11 x 17 inches print size.



## **Exhibits**

- Two wayside exhibits were installed at Cave Spring, Georgia on May 10, 2013.
- In Missouri, contextual wayside exhibits were placed at Trail of Tears State Park in Jackson; at Bollinger Mill State Historic Site in Burfordville; and in Belmont.



Federal Indian removal policy aroused fierce and bitter debate. Supporters of the policy claimed it was a benevolent action to save the tribse east of the Mississippi River from being overwhelmed and lost in the onslaught of an expanding American population. Opponents decried its inhumanity and the tragic consequences it had for the Indian peoples One thing was certain; removal freed millions of acre one thing was certain; removal freed millions of acre

ne Indian Removal Act of 1830 resulted in the moval of thousands of American Indians from the toestral lands for new homes in Indian Territory resent-day Oklahoma). They traveled by existing ads and rivers. Many groups left in the fall, hoping avoid the disease and heat of summer travel, and





You can visit more sites along the Trail of Tears Nati

## Congratulations!

The Trail of Tears Official Map and Guide won first prize in the site publication category from the National Association of Interpretation. The Cherokee Nation and the National Park Service teamed to produce the brochure.

#### **Publications**

Both the Tennessee and Georgia state brochures have been printed: 34,000 Tennessee and 3,000 Georgia. The Georgia brochures have been distributed. A second printing is underway.

## **Exhibit Projects Underway**

- Dirt Town, Georgia (1)
- Island Town, Georgia (1)
- Chatooga Town, Georgia (1)
- David Crockett State Park, Tennessee (6)

#### **New Certifications**

Funk Heritage Center, Waleska, Georgia (4/23/13)

••••••

- Vann Cherokee Cabin, Cave Spring, Georgia (5/11/13)
- Hiwassee River Heritage Center, Charleston, Tennessee (8/2313)

#### **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:**

Lynne Mager Interpretive Specialist National Trails Intermountain Region P.O. Box 728 Santa Fe, NM 87504 NPS 10/2013 Lynne\_Mager@nps.gov