



Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

Project Updates - Protection, Development, and Promotion

Update: Unicoi Turnpike



National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) submitted a preliminary damage report to the Cherokee National Forest in May, 2016, regarding damage across a 0.8-mile section of the trail along the Unicoi Turnpike. Damage included over 35 erosion control trenches and a diverted stream; work done without proper process, review, consultation, and approval. The report facilitated mitigation discussions with the tribes and other consulting parties, culminating in a roundtable discussion held in Tellico Plains in August. The outcome culminated in a tentative plan of how to (1) move forward with the formal damage assessments and (2) to think more about what mitigation and repair measures might look like. The full process is likely to take several years.

Design & Development

NTIR and TOTA partnered to develop five new sign plans. One hundred and twenty-five signs were ordered, which will sign approximately 86 miles of original route in the states of Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Cultural Resource Preservation Workshop



Workshop participants at the Rockdale Plantation

A two-day Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (TRTE) historic preservation workshop was held in Dalton, Georgia, on May 11-12, with about 20 Trail of Tears Association (TOTA) members attending. Preservation priorities were presented by each TOTA chapter and associated tools were shared with participants. Presentations covered:

1. the TRTE historic building survey and other initiatives by Dr. Carroll Van West and Amy Kostine from the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University,
2. archaeological site investigations and protection by Dr. Mark Wagner at Southern Illinois University and Jeff Bishop from TOTA,
3. the National Register of Historic Places and Traditional Cultural Properties by Julie Coco with New South Associates, and
4. identification and protection of TRTE road segments by Heather Mustonen, Georgia Department of Transportation.

Workshop participants visited two significant historic sites on TRTE: New Echota Historic Park, where the December 1835 treaty was signed; and Rockdale Plantation, which has been restored by Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Hix. A discussion among participants at the end of the workshop summarized recommendations for priority preservation and protection measures that the partners would like to pursue.

National Park Service Centennial Event



Cherokee Remember the Removal riders

Photo by Jax, Courtesy City of Waynesville
www.cherokee.org/remembertheremoval/

On June 17th, the City of Waynesville, Missouri hosted the NPS TRTE centennial event for Cherokee bicyclists, students, and the community. Dignitaries, local officials, TOTA members, NTIR staff, and over 100 third graders welcomed the Remember the Removal (RTR) riders to Laughlin Park, the site of a Cherokee encampment in 1837. RTR

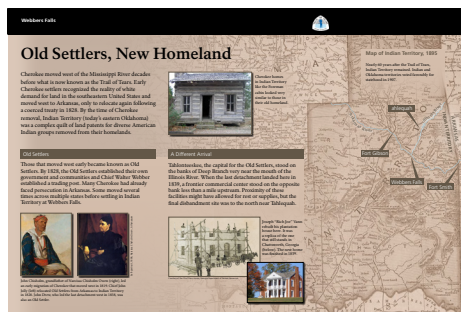
presenter Stacy Leeds shared stories about the forced removal of her family via the B. B. Cannon detachment on the Northern Route. Upon leaving, the RTR riders formed a circle, performed a ceremony, prayed, then left on city routes parallel to TRTE.

As part of the day, Mayor Hardman and the Missouri chapter of TOTA organized a junior ranger event. The third graders completed the new NTIR TRTE junior ranger activity sheet (soon to be online). With a renewed interest in history, the children received a sticker and a certificate.



Interpretation—Planning Local Itineraries

Fifteen TOTA members participated in a local itinerary planning workshop held in Webbers Falls, Oklahoma, in April. Webbers Falls serves as the center of a circle of sites in eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas where trail stories focus on the end of the journey, dispersal, and the creation of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma. Members from both chapters plus Fort Smith National Historic Site and Army Corps of Engineers staff identified the best places to tell TRTE stories. Outcomes included three Webbers Falls wayside exhibits and one Find Your Park itinerary rack card covering Fort Smith, Arkansas to Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Find TRTE local itineraries at: www.nps.gov/trte/planyourvisit/itineraries.htm.



The rack card is at the printer. The exhibits will be installed in October.



NTIR continues to celebrate the centennial by producing Find Your Park—Discover Your National Trail local itinerary rack cards. Look for MO-KY-IL and GA-TN-AL. See web address above.

Columbus-Belmont State Park



Unveiling the exhibits

Norma Pruitt, Executive Director, KYGRRO

On Tuesday, July 26th, more than 200 people attended the dedication ceremony showcasing new outdoor exhibits and road signs at Columbus-Belmont State Park in Columbus, Kentucky. Kentucky chapter of TOTA, Kentucky Great River Region Organization (KYGRRO), and NTIR helped make known the discovery of the TRTE in western Kentucky by marking the route through Graves County, Hickman County, and Columbus-Belmont State Park.

New Certifications

- Stone County Historical and Genealogical Society Museum, Crane, Missouri (06/09/16)
- Bollinger Mill State Historic Site, Burfordville, Missouri, (09/12/16)



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.

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