Description of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park was established by Congress in 1890 (Public Law 51-806) as the country's first national historical park and first designated U.S. national military park. The park encompasses 18 separate units along the Tennessee-Georgia border and is headquartered in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. In addition to preserving the sites of several major battles of the American Civil War (the Battle of Chickamauga and the Chattanooga), the park also protects American Indian cultural and archeological resources.
The purpose of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of the public the nationally significant history, stories, and resources associated with the Civil War campaign for Chattanooga, including the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga and the 12,000 years of American Indian presence on the Moccasin Bend Peninsula.

Significance statements express why the park’s resources and values are important enough to warrant national park system designation. These statements are directly related to the park’s purpose, are substantiated by data or consensus, and reflect the most current scientific or scholarly inquiry and cultural perceptions, which may have changed since the park’s establishment.

Veteran Participation. The participation of both Union and Confederate Chickamauga and Chattanooga veterans in the creation of the national military park provided a heightened degree of accuracy and legitimacy to the marking of specific battle locations and the placement of monuments and other commemorative features.

Research Opportunities. The park was established in part for the purpose of historical and professional military study and continues to offer exceptional opportunities for study of some of the most remarkable maneuvers and most brilliant fighting of the Civil War.

Civil War Resources. The park preserves resources associated with one of the deciding campaigns of the Civil War, where a Union victory assured access through the “Gateway to the Deep South,” ultimately hastening the end of fighting and the reunification of the United States.

• Soldiers of 29 of the 34 existing states participated in the campaign.
• The slopes of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge presented unusually formidable natural obstacles to soldiers and military operations requiring great fortitude and persistence to overcome.
• Chickamauga had the highest casualty rate of any two-day battle of the Civil War.

American Indian Culture. Located on important geographic crossroads, Moccasin Bend National Archeological District is the best preserved and most concentrated archeological assemblage representing the sequence of Southeastern American Indian cultures known to be extant in the Tennessee River Valley.

Moccasin Bend National Archeological District. Moccasin Bend National Archeological District provides an outstanding opportunity for education and research and furthering the understanding of the periods of American Indian habitation, including those of transitional Paleo-Indian/Archaic, Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian, and historic periods.

Trail of Tears Resources. The park includes Trail of Tears resources, which mark the tragic forced removal of American Indians—primarily Cherokee—from their Southeastern homelands. Powerful stories tell of the struggles for survival and the triumph of the American Indian spirit.

Spiritual Importance. Moccasin Bend retains profound spiritual importance for many contemporary American Indian tribes with ancestral ties to the area.

Fundamental resources and values are those that warrant primary consideration during planning and management because they are critical to achieving the park’s purpose and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values may include features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, etc. If the fundamental resources and values are degraded, the purpose of the park and its significance are jeopardized.

The fundamental resources and values of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park are:

• parkwide archeological resources
• American Indian archeological resources at Moccasin Bend
• Chickamauga Battlefield
• Civil War resources at Moccasin Bend
• Trail of Tears
• commemorative features
• ethnographic resources
• cultural landscapes
• museum collections
• outstanding views
• outstanding visitor experience
• Lookout Mountain Battlefield
• the story of the nationally significant 1863 Campaign for Chattanooga
• the history of Southeastern American Indian culture over 12,000 Years
• professional study and training uses

The other resources and values of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park are:

• Civilian Conservation Corps structures and trails
• post-Civil War military use of the park
• traditionally associated peoples
• farm families and their farms.
Significance statements express why the park’s resources and values are important enough to warrant national park system designation. These statements are directly related to the park’s purpose, are substantiated by data or consensus, and reflect the most current scientific or scholarly inquiry and cultural perceptions, which may have changed since the park’s establishment.

Veteran Participation. The participation of both Union and Confederate Chickamauga and Chattanooga veterans in the creation of the national military park provided a heightened degree of accuracy and legitimacy to the marking of specific battle locations and the placement of monuments and other commemorative features.

Research Opportunities. The park was established in part for the purpose of historical and professional military study and continues to offer exceptional opportunities for study of some of the most remarkable maneuvers and most brilliant fighting of the Civil War.

Civil War Resources. The park preserves resources associated with one of the deciding campaigns of the Civil War, where a Union victory assured access through the “Gateway to the Deep South,” ultimately hastening the end of fighting and the reunification of the United States.

- Soldiers of 29 of the 34 existing states participated in the campaign.
- The slopes of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge presented unusually formidable natural obstacles to soldiers and military operations requiring great fortitude and persistence to overcome.
- Chickamauga had the highest casualty rate of any two-day battle of the Civil War.

American Indian Culture. Located on important geographic crossroads, Moccasin Bend National Archeological District is the best preserved and most concentrated archeological assemblage representing the sequence of Southeastern American Indian cultures known to be extant in the Tennessee River Valley.

Moccasin Bend National Archeological District. Moccasin Bend National Archeological District provides an outstanding opportunity for education and research and furthering the understanding of the periods of American Indian habitation, including those of transitional Paleo-Indian/Archaic, Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian, and historic periods.

Trail of Tears Resources. The park includes Trail of Tears resources, which mark the tragic forced removal of American Indians—primarily Cherokee—from their Southeastern homelands. Powerful stories tell of the struggles for survival and the triumph of the American Indian spirit.

Spiritual Importance. Moccasin Bend retains profound spiritual importance for many contemporary American Indian tribes with ancestral ties to the area.

Other Resources and Values

- Civilian Conservation Corps structures and trails
- post-Civil War military use of the park
- traditionally associated peoples
- farm families and their farms.

The purpose of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of the public the nationally significant history, stories, and resources associated with the Civil War campaign for Chattanooga, including the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga and the 12,000 years of American Indian presence on the Moccasin Bend Peninsula.
Description of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park was established by Congress in 1890 (Public Law 51-806) as the country's first national historical park and first designated U.S. national military park. The park encompasses 18 separate units along the Tennessee-Georgia border and is headquartered in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. In addition to preserving the sites of several major battles of the American Civil War (the Battle of Chickamauga and the Chattanooga), the park also protects American Indian cultural and archeological resources.