

KETTLE CREEK

BATTLEFIELD PARK



CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR A NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK
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Introduction

The Kettle Creek Battlefield Recreational Plan was prepared by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government for the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association (KCBA). The plan will inform community efforts to develop a historic recreation park to stimulate economic growth in eastern Georgia's Wilkes County. The plan conceptualizes a vision for developing visitor facilities and installing trails and interpretive displays on the site where a force of about 400 Patriots defeated a much larger assembly of Loyalists in the Revolutionary War's Battle of Kettle Creek. The Patriot victory on February 14, 1779, was significant because it helped to disrupt the British strategy of recruiting from the South and separating it from rebellious colonies farther north.

The battlefield, located southwest of the City of Washington, already features monuments and historical markers on War Hill, which rises above Kettle Creek. Local leaders and the KCBA are working to protect

more of the battlefield, establish an entrance, and install amenities like a campground and a demonstration forest on adjacent land.

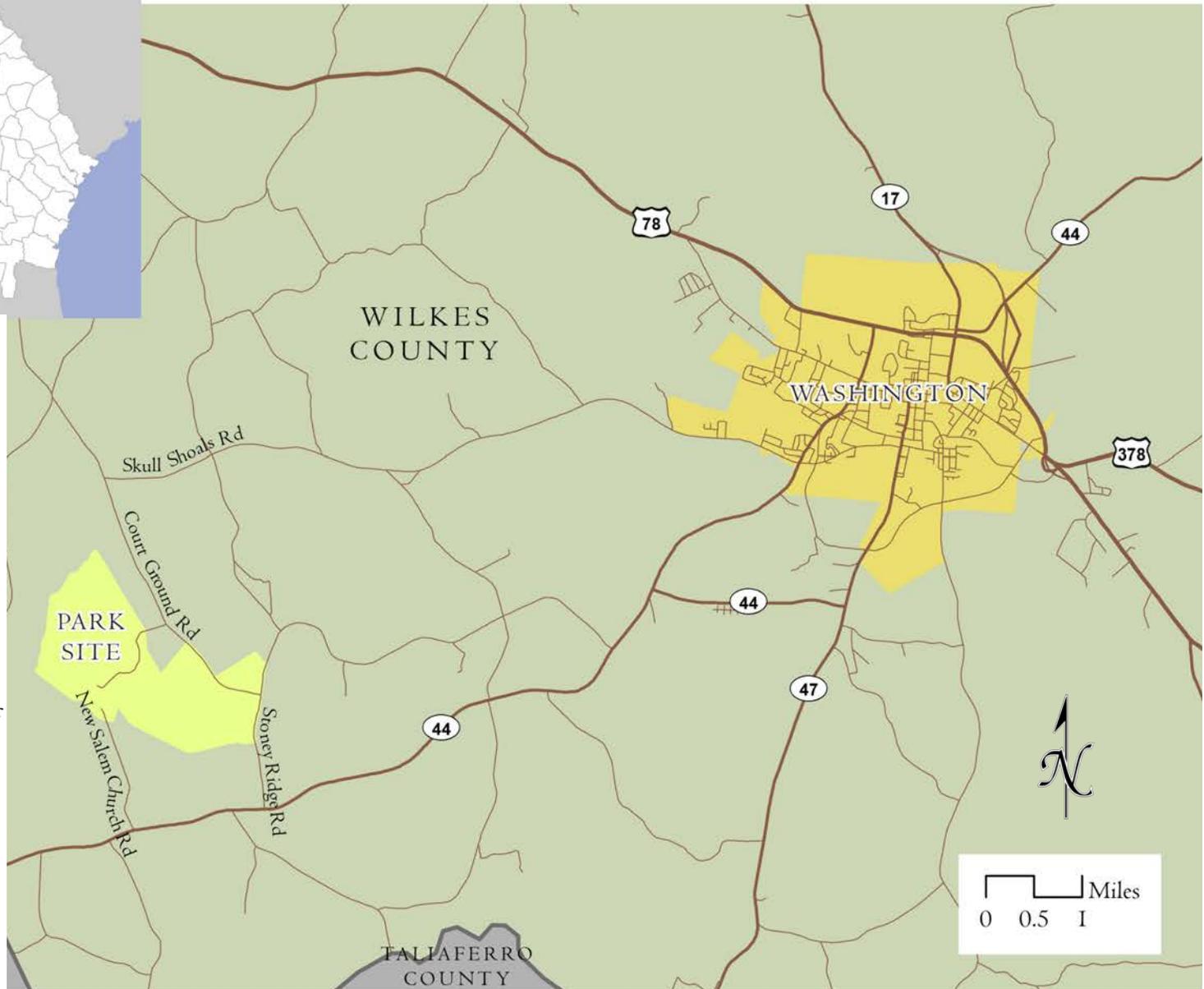
The recreational plan will help community leaders visualize some of the facilities that could be developed in and around the park. The plan gives the KCBA a good starting point for ways to interpret the battle for visitors. It includes artist renderings of how the park could be developed.

Improving access to the Kettle Creek battlefield and providing interpretive displays will enhance the site as a tourist destination--the battlefield could attract 20,000 to 40,000 visitors per year and generate up to \$3 million in spending, according to the *Kettle Creek Battlefield Park Master Plan* (2013). The illustrated conceptual plan will be a major tool in the KCBA's effort to secure government and foundation support to develop the park.



*A view of the possible Dooley's Route,
heading toward Hammett Farm.*

Location Map

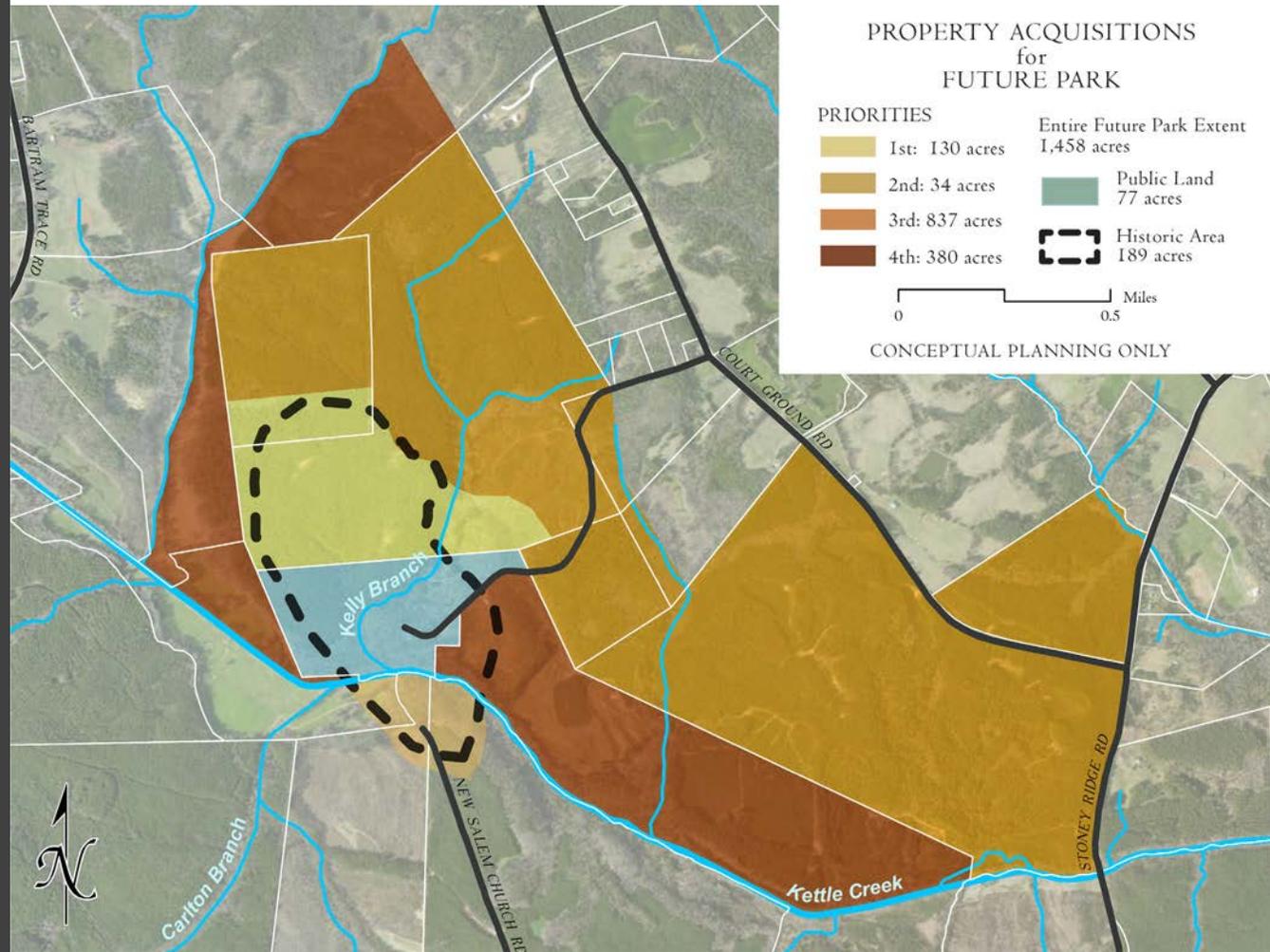


The Kettle Creek Battlefield is located in Wilkes County, Georgia, approximately 10 miles southwest of the City of Washington, Georgia.

Phased Property Acquisitions for a Future Park

This map identifies the order of property acquisitions that were initially outlined in the master plan published by Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission (CSRA RC) in 2013. There has since been a small adjustment due to the recent expansion of public land.

- Entire acreage for future park is 1,458 acres
- Historic core area defined by a 2008 archaeological survey
- Public land on this map is owned by Wilkes County



Design Process & Information Sources

In developing the design concepts for the proposed Kettle Creek Recreational Historic Park, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government's planning team completed the following:

- Analyzed case studies (Ninety Six National Historic Site and Cowpens National Battlefield)
- Conducted a site inventory and analysis of existing conditions, including site visits
- Combined data from multiple sources
- Identified locations of main activity areas and the connections between them
- Designed conceptual plan and basic proposed public amenities
- Created visionary renderings of different locations around the park

References:

- *Kettle Creek Battlefield Park Master Plan*, CSRA RC (2013)
- *Stirring Up a Hornet's Nest: The Kettle Creek Battlefield Survey*, LAMAR Institute Report No. 131

Data Used:

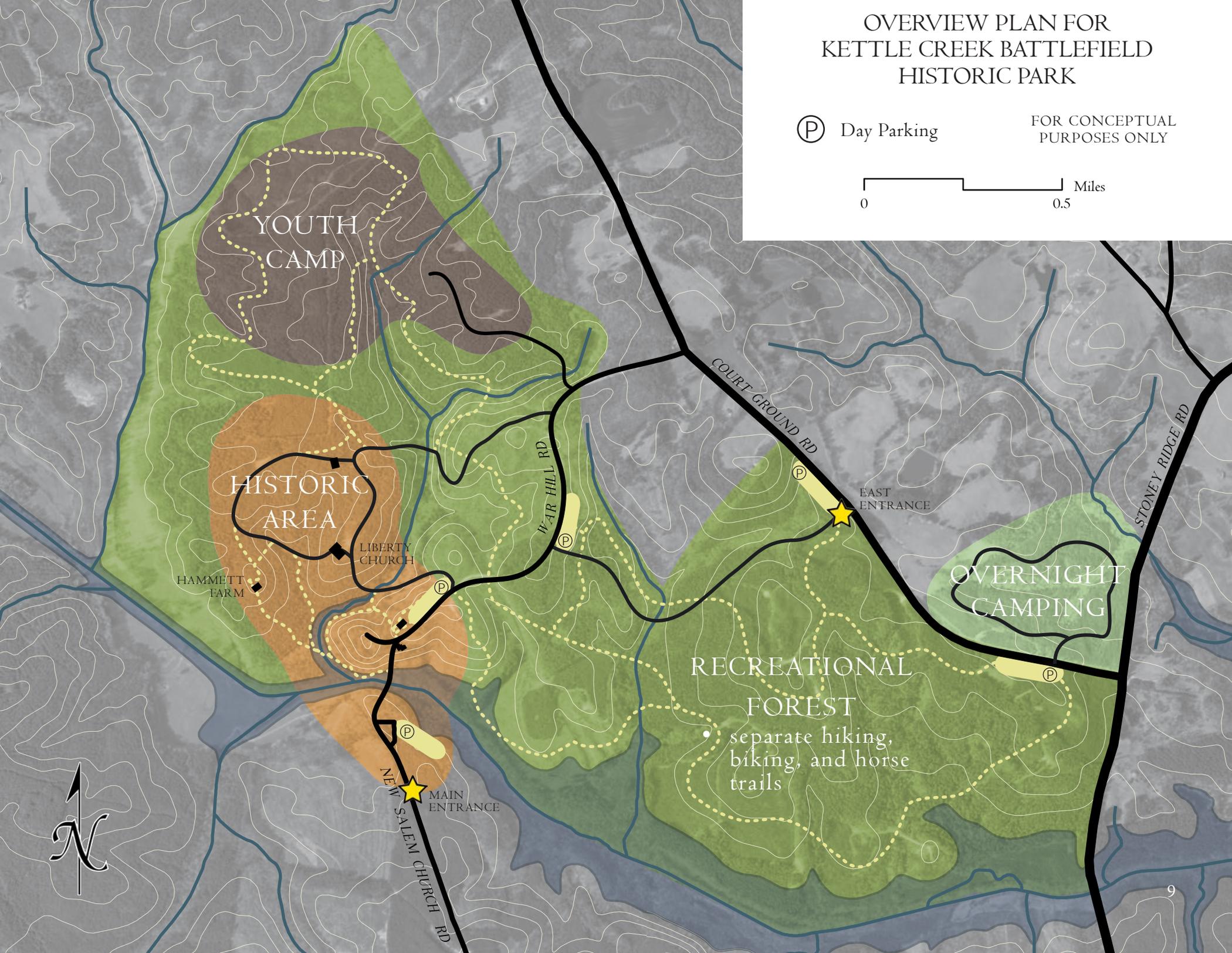
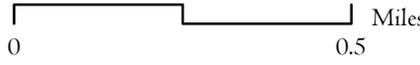
- Wilkes County GIS Department
- On-site photographs
- GPS locations by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government

An overview plan for the Kettle Creek Battlefield Historic Park is shown on the following page. The conceptual plan was designed based on the above listed research and information gathered from various sources. The full extent of the future park will have the historic battlefield area at its core, while the rest of the park will include an assortment of activities such as hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and overnight camping. A youth camp could be located independently to the north, adjacent to the historic area. Day parking will be provided along the main roads into the park, and foot or bicycle trails can connect to all locations throughout the park.

OVERVIEW PLAN FOR KETTLE CREEK BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC PARK

(P) Day Parking

FOR CONCEPTUAL
PURPOSES ONLY





Entrance from Highway 44

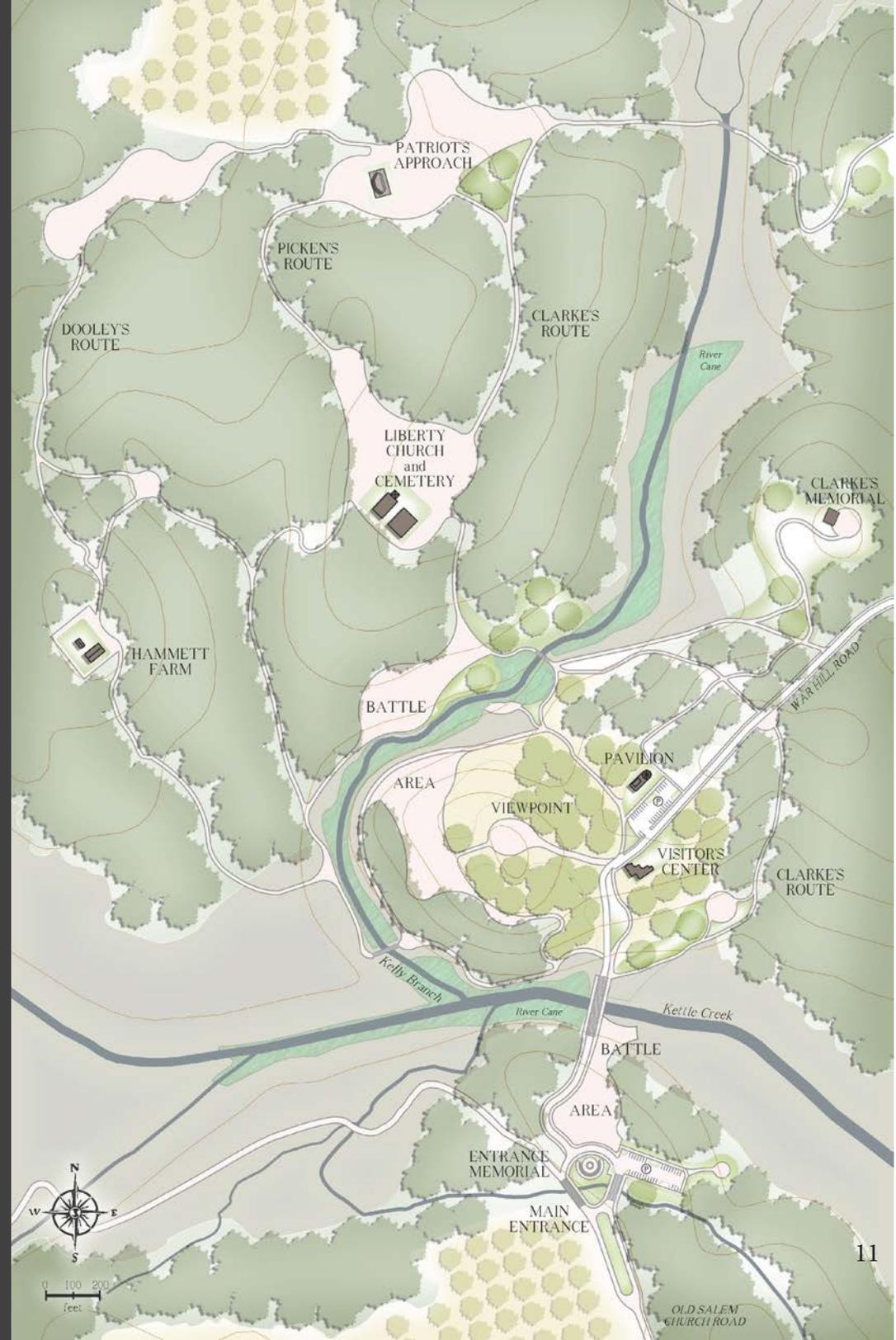
In keeping with the idea that this park might eventually become part of the National Park System, the primary navigation sign off Highway 44 to the south is conceived here in the universally recognized National Park Service (NPS) style. The above concept is inspired by entrances to other NPS sites.

Conceptual Plan of Battlefield Historic Area

Modeled after the features and amenities of the Ninety Six National Historic Site in South Carolina, the historic core of the park will interpret the events that led up to the Battle of Kettle Creek on February 14th, 1779. This plan identifies the general swaths of activity both before and during the battle. Connecting these areas are trails that were either estimated from the historical narrative, or simply served as the best path based on available elevation information.

Included are:

- Main Entrance from Salem Church Road to the south
- Visitor's Center
- Cookout pavilion
- Establish trail system based on troop movements
- Cleared areas for battle interpretation
- Restoration of Hammett Farm complex and Liberty Church & cemetery



Grand South Entrance into the Historic Park

To increase the sense of arrival and importance that Kettle Creek deserves, this entrance concept introduces a long, split-road approach with a distant view of a memorial at the end. This design is patterned after other high-profile historic parks throughout America.





Visitors Center

The visitors center within the historic core of the park is centrally located and accessible from both the grand south entrance and the east entrance. The amenities here are inspired by the Ninety Six Visitor Center, which includes a full museum, a small theater featuring a multi-media presentation, a gift shop, public restrooms, and parking.

- Building concept inspired by Zion Canyon Visitor Center
- Amenities inside inspired by Ninety Six Visitor Center



Day Park & Covered Pavilion

A large turf grass area directly across from War Hill Road and adjacent to the parking area can offer day-use facilities such as covered barbecues and seating areas for small and large groups. The day park and covered pavilion would be located adjacent to the Visitors Center.



Trailside Interpretive Signage

Accessed from both the main south entrance and War Hill Road to the east, the trail has interpretive signage that tells the story of Kettle Creek Battlefield as people move along the historic routes of the park. As visitors move between historic areas, interpretive placards located along the trail can provide context on troop movements.

Hammett Farm Reconstruction

The Hammett farmhouse and property played a key role during the events that preceded the Battle of Kettle Creek on February 14th, 1779. Here you can see the estimated location of the property and a visual rendering of what the farmhouse and garden could look like post-reconstruction. Interpretive signage would be included to help visitors understand this place's role on that day. The farmhouse concept shown in the rendering was modeled after a 1780 farmhouse at Fort Yargo State Park.







Liberty Church Reconstruction Concept

The Liberty Church was not present during 1779 but was nonetheless an important part of early religion in this area. Here it is reconstructed with its associated cemetery, where Colonel Boyd and some other loyalist soldiers may have been buried.





Patriot's Approach Memorial

This memorial concept is located at the approximate northernmost point where the three different militias of Dooley, Pickens, and Clarke divided strategically to approach southward and outflank the loyalist camp and positions. This rendering shows a simple graded trail passing in front of the memorial. The memorial structure relates to the three patriot militias that divided around this location.

Botanic Boardwalks & Interpretation

There are areas in the historic portion of the park that contain unique plant species. Throughout the entire park there are also different types of forest in various stages of growth. The trail system in these areas could be raised above the forest floor to protect the ecological systems underneath, and interpretive signs could be included where plant species of concern are visible.



Wayfinding Signage

To uniquely identify this battlefield park, signs that direct visitors should have a consistent look that is elegant and has a historic appeal.



Recreational Trail Signage

Distinctive signage can be included along certain trails designated for specific activities, particularly throughout the recreational portions of the park outside of the historic area.





The Carl Vinson Institute of Government, a public service and outreach unit of the University of Georgia, supports state and local entities within the state of Georgia with technical assistance and training. The Institute of Government has been successfully working with state and local governments to establish and attain community goals for over 85 years.

The Institute provides access to a multidisciplinary faculty who serve local governments and communities throughout Georgia, the nation, and across the globe. Core service areas include economic analysis and forecasting by experts with a keen understanding of Georgia's economy; facilitation by trained, certified, and experienced facilitators; community economic development with skilled practitioners; city and community planning with proficient and certified city planners; law and public policy with experienced public sector attorneys; strategic planning; and mediation and conflict resolution.

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