



# MCINTOSH RESERVE

P a r k M a s t e r P l a n

# McIntosh Reserve

## M a s t e r P l a n

### *Site Analysis:*

McIntosh reserve is located on a bluff overlooking the Chattahoochee River and is one of the most scenic areas along the entire river. The State of Georgia has purchased land across the river with the intention of developing Chattahoochee Bend State Park, in the planning stages. Additionally there are plans for the Chattahoochee River trail, an effort to link miles of trails and public land along the river from Helen to Columbus to cross through this area. There has also been discussion of expanding the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area southward, making McIntosh Reserve an anchor in this greenspace preservation effort along the river. The ecology of the park consists of plants found along the coastal plain finding homes near the river, such as dense thickets of sweetbay magnolia, and areas of upland oak and pine forests with beech, hickory and many species of ferns mixed in on the upland slopes. Where the bluff drops off to the river are the steepest slopes, with unique smaller bluffs, hills and even cliffs bordering the riverbank. A large open field lies between the river and the McIntosh farm site. The farm site itself provides evidence of the good farm land that characterized this area. There are few developed areas in the park and, currently the park is not in danger of being over used, although maintenance issues on trails and visitor use areas are a constant concern. The park is also the site of significant Native American habitation and historical sites.

### *Summary:*

The design team decided to concentrate the main program facilities in existing developed areas or in areas without sensitive archaeological or natural resources. In some cases new hiking trails or bike trails are recommended but their construction should be carefully planned and monitored on site.

### *Program Components:*

#### **Overview of Proposed Changes:**

McIntosh Reserve served as a model of passive park development operated by a local government. However, improving the facilities within the park to encourage a broader base of visitors and to increase the regional draw of the park will benefit the long term utilization of the park. These added features do not necessarily mean over development of the park. When designed and planned carefully with the land existing slopes, these features will add to the aesthetic character of the park.

**There are many amenities and facilities of the park that should remain, including:**

**Activities that are recommended to be either altered or discontinued include:**

- Equestrian parking in the McIntosh Cabin pasture
- Removal of the Spray and Splash facility
- Vehicular access to the council bluff pavilion

**New elements for the program at McIntosh Reserve are described below:**

#### **Park Entrance Improvements:**

- Park gateway and directional signage
- Scenic byway corridor designation
- Check in station
- Equestrian trailhead
- Equestrian parking area

# McIntosh Reserve

## M a s t e r P l a n

### Cultural Center and Park Headquarters:

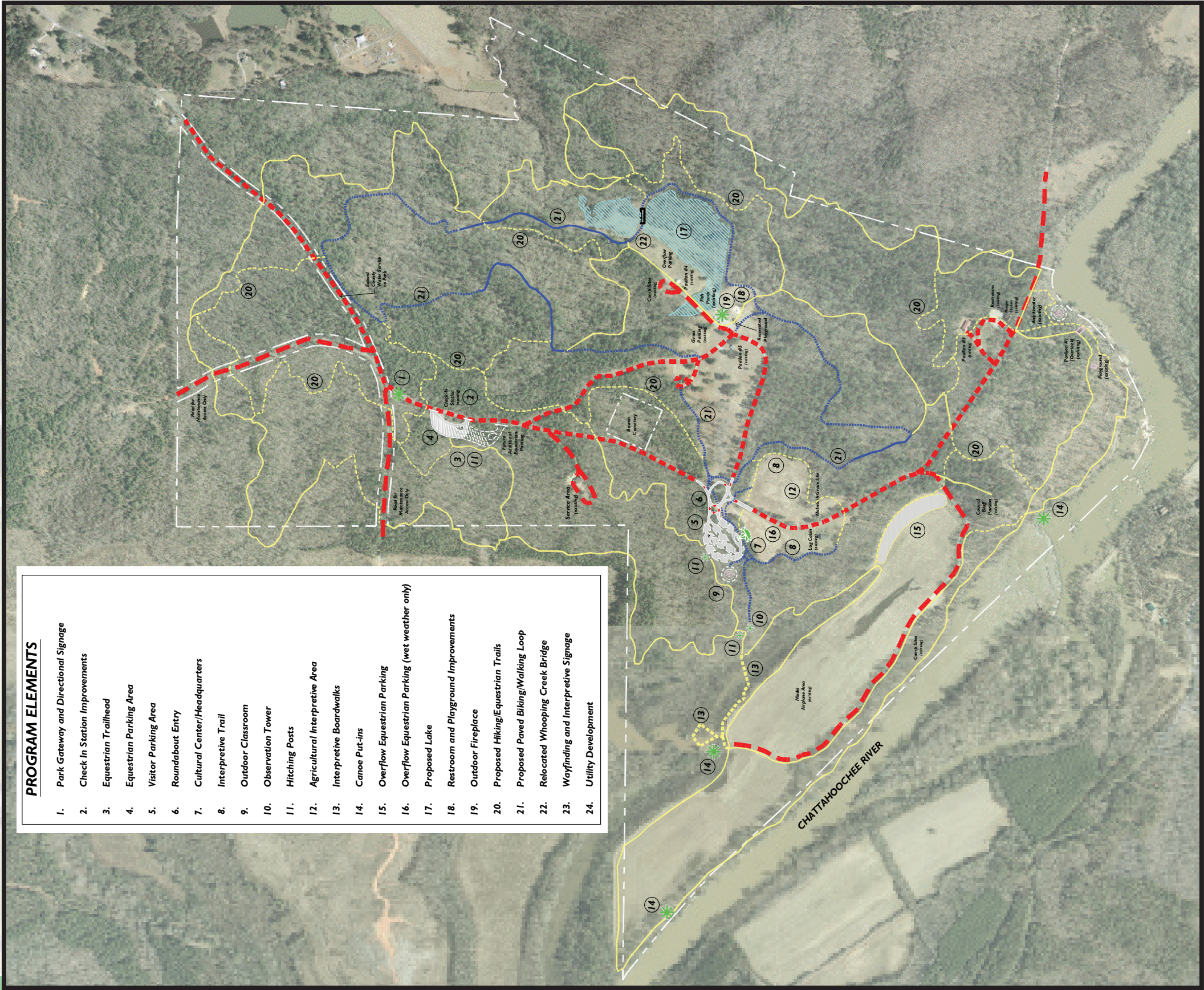
- Visitor parking area
- Roundabout entry
- Cultural center/headquarters
- Interpretive trail
- Outdoor classroom
- Observation tower
- Hitching posts
- Agricultural interpretive area
- Proposed lake

### Fishing Pond Area improvements:

- Whooping Creek Bridge relocation
- Trail system and boardwalks
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Canoe landings
- Road improvements and utility development







LEGEND

Existing Unpaved Roads

Existing Paved Roads

Proposed Parking Area

Park Features

Outdoor Classroom / Amphitheater

proposed trails

Multi-use Hiking / Equestrian / Mountain bike trails

Asphalt Path / Bike Trail

proposed use for existing trails

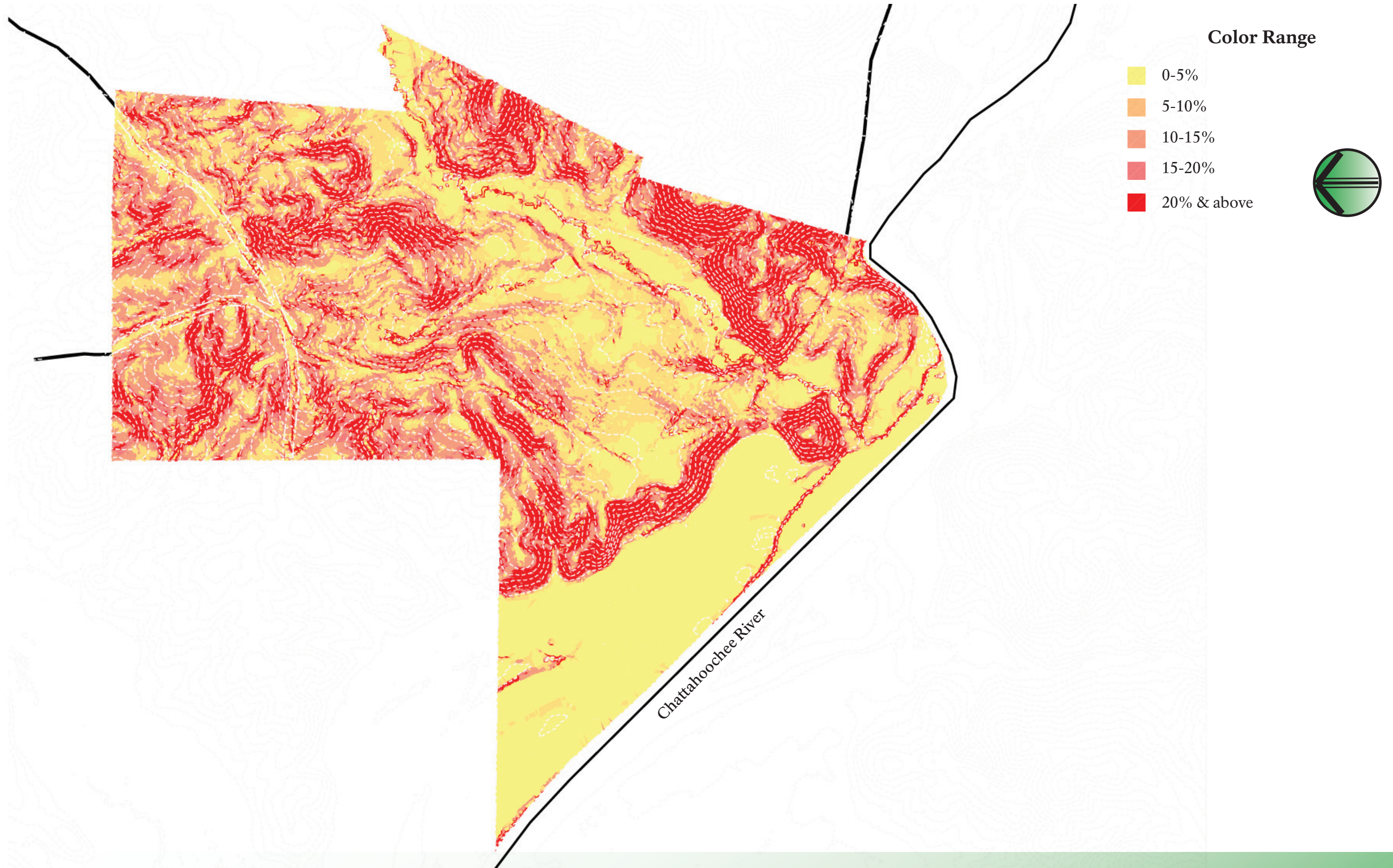
Multi-use Hiking / Equestrian / Mountain bike trails

Asphalt Path / Bike Trail





# SLOPE ANALYSIS







View of existing log cabin



View of Chattahoochee River



View of existing outdoor classroom



View of existing playground, pavilion and fish ponds



View of existing pavilion



# Park Entrance:

## GATEWAY AND DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE:

A new park gateway monument sign should be developed at the entrance. Also, improved signage at SR 5 and within five miles of the park, with directional signs from US 27, US 27A, SR 166 and possibly from Interstates 20 and 85 should also be encouraged.

## SCENIC BYWAY:

There are local groups investigating the possibility of developing a series of scenic and heritage byways in the West Georgia area. Scenic byways are designated by GDOT after a Corridor Management Plan, intended to protect the integrity of the byway, is developed by a local jurisdiction.



Typical Parking Area

The corridor’s eligibility is also determined by GDOT before development of the corridor management plan. The proposed byway will be along SR 5 with the McIntosh Reserve and Blackjack Mountain Park serving as major points of interest on the byway. Scenic byways can be routed through county roads and city streets, as well as State routes. Coordination of developing a long range “West Georgia Byway” from Chattanooga to Columbus is possible with local and state governments working together to accomplish a corridor management plan.

## CHECK IN STATION:

The current park office and check-in station should remain for use on busy weekends or as staffing requires. The park Cultural Center and headquarters will be designed to also serve as a check in station for day use visitors.

## EQUESTRIAN PARKING AREA AND TRAILHEAD:

Currently equestrian users park their horse trailers in the pasture surrounding the most historic area of the park, the McIntosh farm site. Since one of the primary purposes of the park is to interpret the history of the Creek Indian nation and Chief William McIntosh’s life, the farm site will be better suited as an agricultural and historic site for interpretative trails and demonstrations. Therefore, horse trailer parking should be provided in another area of the park. The gravel parking area at the current check-in station will be best suited to develop an “equestrian only” assembly and parking area by enlarging the gravel lot through selective clearing in the woodlands adjacent the check in station. At the edge of the expanded lot will be a group pavilion, hitching posts and water source for use by equestrian groups. This trailhead will be a starting point for use of the trail system. The parking area will hold up to 30 trailers. If the lot is full, it is recommended that overflow parking for horse trailers be located in the open fields of the bottomland further into the park. Only if weather precludes use of the bottomland area will overflow trailer parking be allowed at the McIntosh farm site. Horse trailers will continue to be allowed at the camp sites.



Park Gateways