

# GEORGIA

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# BATTLEFIELDS

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Published by Georgia Battlefields Association, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation of Georgia's Civil War history and sites. Contact newsletter editor by e-mail: [info@georgiabattlefields.org](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## 2017 annual tour will continue to follow the Atlanta Campaign

**Dates:** 9-12 March 2017. We'll cover the River Line, Roswell, Crossings of the Chattahoochee, Battle of Peachtree Creek, and the Atlanta city defense line.

**Hotel:** Embassy Suites, 2815 Akers Mill Rd, Atlanta GA 30339 (near Cobb Galleria). \$139 per night (\$166 with tax) for king suite. 770 984 9300. [www.atlantagalleria.embassysuites.com](http://www.atlantagalleria.embassysuites.com)

**Tour price:** \$395 (includes lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday). Pay online or send check to Georgia Battlefields Association at PO Box 589, Tate GA 30177-0589.

## Georgia Battlefields Association has new web site

GBA's new web site went live on 10 November. You can now apply for or renew a membership and register for our annual tour online using a credit card or PayPal account. If you prefer, you can still print membership and tour registration forms and send those with checks by mail. The secure login section is for a future use. Please visit the site and let us know of any problems.

## Georgia Battlefields Association workday 7 January

Please help clean up GBA's New Hope Church property at 1 p.m. on 7 January. Bill Gurry will lead removal of debris. Let us know if you want to help at [info@georgiabattlefields.org](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org). We'll send an e-mail with details on location and also provide more info in the January newsletter.

## Help Georgia Battlefields Association when shopping

Help Georgia Battlefields Association using the Amazon Smile program. If you haven't already designated GBA to receive a donation, sign-up at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-2163092>.

Be sure to use [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) rather than [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) when you shop.

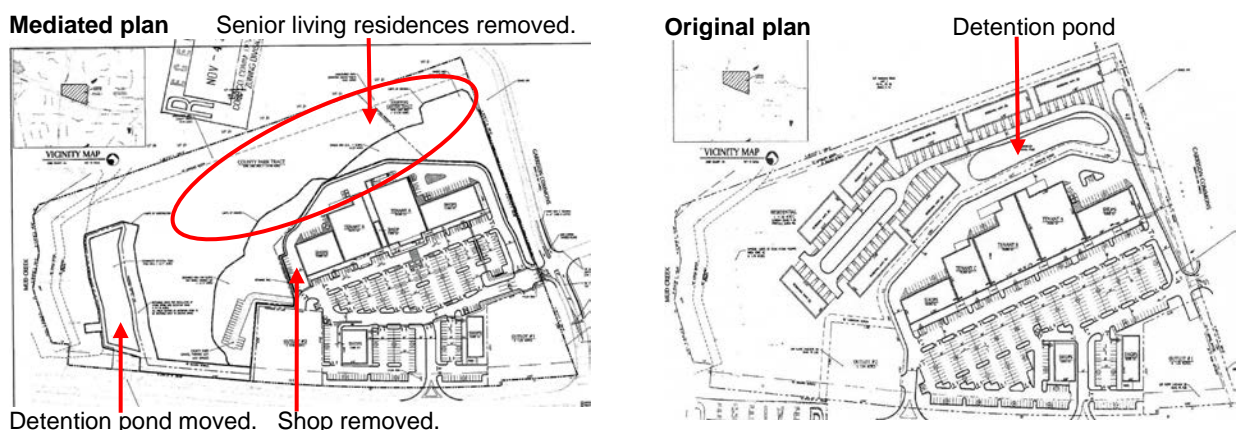
Remember, too, to use your Kroger Plus card to benefit GBA. If you haven't already signed up, search for Georgia Battlefields Association at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com).

## Battle of Atlanta in East Atlanta tour at 11 a.m. on 31 December

In one of her other volunteer commitments, GBA Vice President Mary-Elizabeth Ellard will lead an East Atlanta Frontlines Walking Tour on 31 December. Sign-up at [www.batlevent.org](http://www.batlevent.org).

## Mud Creek Line property update

The May and June newsletters reported on potential development in Cobb County, rezoning application Z-98. The Confederate Mud Creek Line passed through this property. In May, the county commission denied the rezoning application, but the developer and property owner sued, alleging unlawful taking of the property by denying the owner its full value. The court referred the suit for mediation, with Commissioner Bob Weatherford representing the county. The mediated site plan reflects removal of all senior living residences and reduction of the shopping center's size. Although the revised plan avoids the trace of the Mud Creek Line, the relocated detention pond will affect some rifle pits. We feel this is as good as we're going to get, so we don't intend to speak in opposition when the commission votes on 20 December.



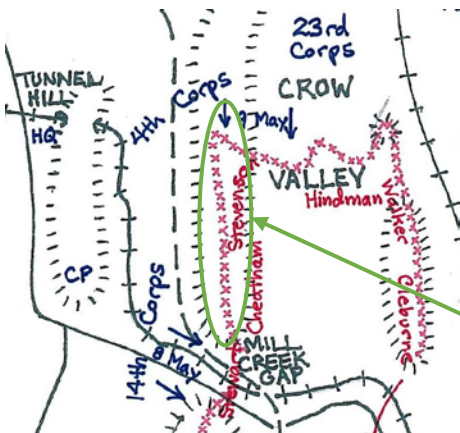
## Still waiting on 2008 Cobb County Parks Bond

Eight years ago, voters authorized Cobb County to issue a \$40 million bond to raise money for acquiring park land. Civil War sites were on the list of potential properties, but the recession of 2008-2009 caused the county commission to defer issuing the bond because it would have to raise taxes. With some economic recovery, park advocates increased calls for the bond to be issued. The county commission asked for a new list of potential land acquisitions and agreed to consider a \$24.7 million bond, but on 8 November, commissioners voted 3-2 against. Interesting that the commission was able to commit about \$400 million to build a stadium and associated infrastructure but couldn't find a way to do what voters specifically approved in 2008.

## Wildfires affect historic sites

The Rocky Face Ridge wildfire has damaged both Confederate and Federal fortifications. The unintentional fire appears to have been started by a county work crew on the west face of the ridge on 27 October. The fire grew quickly under the extreme drought conditions and has affected about 400 acres. The fire flared again on private property to the south on 11 November and moved towards Mill Creek Gap, through which pass I-75 and US 41.

The fire has affected the site in two ways: Trees have fallen, with their trunks damaging and their roots pulling up the rock lined trenches; and bulldozers clearing firebreaks have pushed through the trenches, in some cases scattering rocks down the slope. We anticipate that when rain does come again, erosion will be worse. Regarding specific properties, the 625 acres that Whitfield County has owned since 2001 contain Confederate and Federal lines atop the ridge as well as down the east slope. The 301-acre Grant property, recently bought by Civil War Trust for Whitfield County, has Confederate works from February and May 1864. A 28 November examination indicated about 200 feet of the approximately quarter mile of entrenchments on both properties was damaged by fallen trees and firebreaks.



30 October: Fire on east slope of ridge. Dan Lawson photo.

Affected area

Right: Confederate rock entrenchment damaged by fallen tree and firebreak.

Left: 12 November photo of renewed fire north of Mill Creek Gap.

Greg Cockburn photos.



Georgia Battlefields Association  
P.O. Box 589  
Tate GA 30177- 0589

[www.georgiabattlefields.org](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org)

December 2016

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