

### **Overview & Need**

The Cumberland Community Improvement District (CID) encompasses one of the largest commercial real estate submarkets in the southeast. It also is home to more than 840 acres of the National Park Service's Chattahoochee National Recreation Area (CRNRA). This greenspace – an area equivalent to New York's Central Park – is a critical natural resource in this rapidly urbanizing area. The Cumberland CID has two CRNRA units within its district: Cochran Shoals and the Paces Mill/Palisades Park Units.

The Paces Mill/Palisades Unit is the southern-most site in the CRNRA. Established in 1978, the park unit is a popular destination for people participating in recreational boating, fishing, picnicking, jogging, biking and walking activities. The Paces Mill/Palisades Park Unit hosts over 250,000 visitors a year connecting to 38 miles of multi-use trails and serving as the Bob Callan Trailhead.

In 2017, the NPS and the Cumberland CID entered a formal partnership with the goal of rehabilitating Paces Mill/Palisades Unit, protecting the resources of the Unit and enhancing the visitor experience.

The total estimated \$11.8 million renovations of the Unit includes:

- A more national park-like visitor experience that realigns the entrance road and repositions the central open meadow and the main parking area.
- Improved vehicular circulation at both boat ramps allowing cars and trucks with boat trailers to circulate more easily.
- Additional river access points with new river-viewing platforms and a wide set of river steps.
- An enhanced and expanded picnic area.
- Upgrades to the existing trail system to minimize conflicts with vehicular traffic inside the park.
- A series of bioswales to filter stormwater runoff before it enters the river.
- A new, expanded visitor contact station.
- Upgraded trails

### **Paces Mill/Palisades Unit Renderings**







### **Visitor Contact Station**

The Contact Station will sit in the center of the park and is proposed as a cluster of three structures:

- An open-air pavilion that functions as a central gathering space with information and interpretative signage about the NRA and the connecting Cumberland CID trails.
- The two other buildings will provide individual restroom and changing room facilities.

The architecture is contemporary with a National Park Service style and feel. Made of durable materials, it will be long lasting and easily maintained. Below is a rendering of the visitor contact station facing the entrance of the park.

### **Timeline**

The Paces Mill/Palisades Rehabilitation project will be ready for construction by the end of 2022. The Cumberland CID has funded preliminary and engineering design for the project and the National Park Service has conducted the Environmental Assessment for the rehabilitation. Construction is contingent on funding.





### **Conclusion**

The Paces Mill/Palisades Unit project represents a collaborative effort of the National Park Service/CRNRA and the Cumberland CID. Both parties are excited about the Paces Mill/Palisades Park Unit rehabilitation and confident it will provide an important natural resource to the community and an enhanced visitor experience for many years to come.

**Total Project Cost: \$11,800,000**

**Funding History:** Cumberland CID has fully funded preliminary engineering and design. In FY 2022, Senator Jon Ossoff, Congresswoman McBath, and Congressman Scott supported \$1,000,000 for the rehabilitation through federal appropriations. The \$1,000,000 is currently the only funding on the project for construction.

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