



RENEWING WHAT RENEWS US

PACES MILL/PALISADES REHABILITATION

The Cumberland CID is home to more than 840 acres of the National Park Service’s Chattahoochee River 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 **Paces Mill/Palisades Unit** is the southernmost unit of the CRNRA, which is located at the Cumberland CID’s southern boundary and gateway. Built in the 1978, the park unit is a popular destination for people participating in recreational boating, fishing, picnicking, jogging, biking, and walking activities.

ABOUT THE PACES MILL/PALISADES UNIT

The park unit officially became part of the CRNRA in 1978 with the help of President Jimmy Carter. Since 1978, the park unit has undergone little change or investment in the ensuing decades.

Together with the National Park Service, the Cumberland CID has developed a vision for the park and prepared improvement plans that reflect that vision. The project cost is **\$15.8 million**.



CRNRA AT A GLANCE



Over 3.5 million visitors in 2022



22nd most visited (out of 420) national park in the country. More than Yellowstone National Park



A short video on the history of the CRNRA



The Paces Mill/Palisades Unit hosts over 270,000 visitors a year. One of the most popular park unit in the CRNRA.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE & CUMBERLAND CID PARTNERSHIP

In 2014, the Cumberland CID entered a formal partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) to help with general maintenance at the park and to begin the planning process for the park's rehabilitation. In 2020, the Cumberland CID and NPS entered into two formal agreements. 1) Partner Design & Construction Agreement 2) Philanthropic Support Agreement. The agreements state the Cumberland CID is responsible for assembling the funds for construction.

CURRENT PROJECT FUNDING

- > \$4.3 Million by Cumberland CID
- > \$1 Million awarded through FY24 Appropriations (Support from Senator Warnock/Rep. Loudermilk)
- > \$1 Million awarded through FY22 Appropriations (Support from Senator Ossoff, Reps. Loudermilk, Scott, & McBath)

PROJECT GOAL

To rehabilitate the popular Paces Mill/Palisades Unit helping preserve this critical natural resource for the Atlanta region.

PROJECT NEED

In summer months and most weekends, the park unit is above capacity. Today, the park unit is in desperate need of repair. **No upgrades to the park have been made since the 1970s.** After rainstorms, the park unit often floods affecting the parking lot and grounds. Additionally, stormwater is not filtered back into the Chattahoochee River after rainstorms. The restrooms and changing facilities are outdated and river viewing areas are limited. Federal, state, and local funding options for this project are severely limited to provide the upgrades and rehabilitation needed.

ABOUT THE REHABILITATION

The rehabilitation will create a more National Park-like experience and greatly enhance the park's facilities. The parking lot will be shifted towards the back of the site and new amenities, including the new meadow, will be located towards the front. The visitor information center includes an open-air pavilion that will serve as a central meeting area for park visitors and eventually house large-scale interpretative and wayfinding signage.

PROJECT LOCATION



VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

A new visitor contact center will feature restrooms, changing rooms and information about the CRNRA.



ADDITIONAL RIVER ACCESS

New river viewing platforms/overlooks and enhanced access for boaters/kayakers.



CONSERVATION

A series of bioswales to filter stormwater runoff before it enters the river.

PHASE ONE CONSTRUCTION (\$6.3M)

The project will be broken down into two phases. **Phase One will begin in the fall of 2024 and feature the following:**

- A new parking lot alignment that realigns the entrance road and repositions the central open meadow and the main parking area.
- Increased river access with overlooks and river steps.
- Bioswales to filter rainwater back into the River.
- A new expanded picnic area.
- Improved vehicular circulation.

PHASE TWO CONSTRUCTION (\$9.5M)

Phase Two of construction is planned for fall of 2025/26 and is dependent on construction. A capital campaign will raise the \$9.5 million needed for construction. Phase Two will consist of a new, expanded visitor information center that will feature changing and restroom facilities. Additionally, the west side of the park unit will also be rehabilitated with new river steps and improved parking.

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PROJECT SUPPORTERS

- State Senator Jason Esteves
- State Rep. Teri Anulewicz
- State Rep. Doug Stoner
- Cobb Commissioner Jerica Richardson
- Cobb Commissioner Monique Sheffield
- Cobb Commissioner JoAnn Birrell
- Atlanta Braves
- Cobb Chamber
- Cobb Community Foundation
- Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre
- Cobb Galleria Centre
- Cobb Travel & Tourism
- Cumberland Mall
- Kaiser Permanente
- Powers Ferry Corridor Alliance
- SelectCobb
- Walton Communities