



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Trail of Tears National Historic
Trail

National Trails

National Trails Intermountain Region News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Retrace the Trail of Tears through Greene County, Missouri – Historic Route Signs and Markers Unveiled

Come experience the Trail of Tears in Greene County, Missouri. On Saturday, April 7, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. there will be an unveiling of six new Trail of Tears National Historic Trail signs and 21 Greene County historic markers. This event will be held at the Strafford Sports Complex, 9602 East Highway OO, Strafford, Missouri. Following the dedication, guests will have the opportunity to take an auto caravan retracement tour of the Trail of Tears as it runs through Greene County.

“The installation of these original route signs throughout Greene County, Missouri, will make this painful chapter of American history more visible and recognizable,” says Superintendent Aaron Mahr of the National Park Service’s National Trails Intermountain Region. “We are excited to be working with our partners in Greene County to sign this first original route segment of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in Missouri.”

Along the auto caravan tour will be an opportunity to retrace a short pedestrian section of the Trail of Tears along the Ozark Greenways’ trail in Battlefield, Missouri. The caravan tour will end at the City of Battlefield’s City Hall, 5434 South Tower Drive, Battlefield, Missouri, with a reception to follow. On display will be an art exhibit showcasing Cherokee Master Artist Talmadge Davis (1962-2005). A further option to continue on an additional 170 mile retracement trip through Christian, Stone, and Barry counties after the reception will be available. This second auto caravan tour will end at the Cherokee Heritage Center near Tahlequah, Oklahoma. It should be noted there are no towns, restroom facilities or gasoline stations on this leg of the tour.

The National Park Service works with communities and partners across the trail to increase awareness of the Trail of Tears. The Greene County Historic Sites Board works to identify, protect, retain, and preserve historic sites, including this one that provides the public with an opportunity to recognize and retrace the historic route the Cherokee took as they were removed west to Indian Territory.

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The National Trails Intermountain Region administers the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The trail's purpose is to commemorate the 1838-1839 forced removal of the people of the Cherokee Nation from their homelands in the east to Indian Territory, present-day Oklahoma.

The National Trails System consists of historic, scenic, and recreation trails designated by Congress to provide for outdoor recreation needs, promote the enjoyment, appreciation, and preservation of open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources, and encourage public access and citizen involvement.

Learn more about the National Park Service's Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, and the National Trails System by visiting the following websites:

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

<http://www.nps.gov/trte/>

National Trails System

<http://www.nps.gov/nts/>

-- NPS 03/2012 --