

Richmond National Battlefield Park

Richmond, Virginia

Adaptive White-tailed Deer Management Plan

National Park Service
Department of the Interior



We want to hear from you!

Welcome to the public open house for white-tailed deer management at Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Throughout the room you'll find information on current conditions, the need for management, and potential approaches.

We invite you to share your input to help guide our planning process.

How to comment:

- **Preferred: Scan the QR code**
- Fill out a comment form and place it into the comment box
- Email your comment to: Kristen_Allen@nps.gov
- Mail your comment to: Superintendent,
3215 E. Broad St, Richmond, VA 23223

**Comments must be submitted or postmarked by
October 22, 2026.**



Two white-tailed deer at the edge of the forest at Richmond National Battlefield Park. *Photo Credit: NPS*

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Why a White-tailed Deer Management Plan is needed

The NPS is in the early stages of developing a plan to manage white-tailed deer at Richmond National Battlefield Park.



Group of deer in a field at Richmond National Battlefield Park. Photo credit: NPS

Plan Purpose

The purpose of the plan is to provide a framework that supports a viable deer population while also protecting the park’s cultural and natural resources.

Need for a Plan

The park needs the plan to manage the effects of deer overabundance on:

- Maintaining and preserving cultural landscapes, including representative agricultural fields, historical viewsheds, and earthen fortifications associated with Richmond’s battlefields.
- Protecting natural forest regeneration and forest health.
- Protecting and restoring native vegetation and wildlife biodiversity.

Management Options

To manage the white-tailed deer population in the park, the plan will consider the available options and best available science for managing deer populations.

Public hunting cannot be considered because it is not permitted at Richmond National Battlefield Park under its enabling legislation (see 36 Code of Federal Regulations 2.2).

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Biological Resources

A viable white-tailed deer population is needed for a balanced ecosystem. The park’s deer population density is higher than the ecosystem can support.



Deer by shrubs. Photo credit: NPS

Native Vegetation and Habitats

An overabundant deer population increases browsing pressure on native vegetation, changing vegetation structure and composition and allowing invasive species to establish and spread. This can decrease habitat and food for other native wildlife.



Invasive Japanese privet at the Gaines’ Mill Unit. Photo credit: NPS



Group of deer in the woods. Photo credit: NPS



Indigo bunting on a red maple branch. Photo credit: NPS

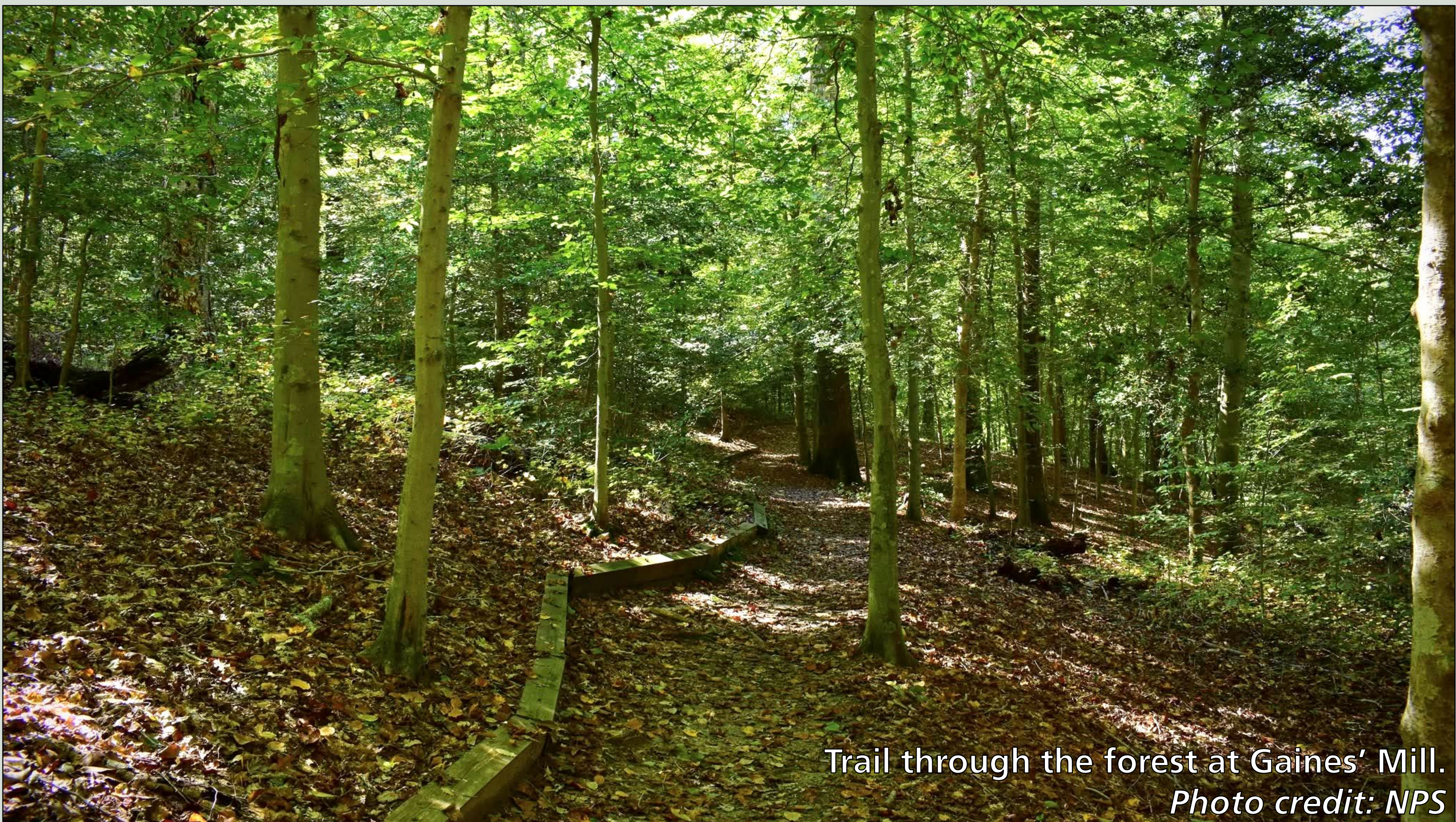


Pine warbler. Photo credit: NPS



Cedar waxwings. Photo credit: NPS

Forest Regeneration



Trail through the forest at Gaines’ Mill. Photo credit: NPS

Richmond National Battlefield Park’s forests are at risk due to reduced natural regeneration.



Forest at Gaines’ Mill. Photo credit: NPS

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Cultural Landscapes

Cultural landscapes are the human and natural environments associated with historic events, activities, and people, or with other cultural or aesthetic values. These landscapes include plants, wildlife, topography, and constructed earthen works, such as military fortifications.

Cultural landscapes at the park include:

- Chickahominy Bluff
- Drewry's Bluff
- Fort Harrison
- Parker's Battery
- Beaver Dam Creek Battlefield
- Cold Harbor Battlefield
- Gaines' Mill Battlefield
- Glendale Battlefield
- Malvern Hill Battlefield
- Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield



The corn crib at Totopotomoy Creek.
Photo credit: NPS



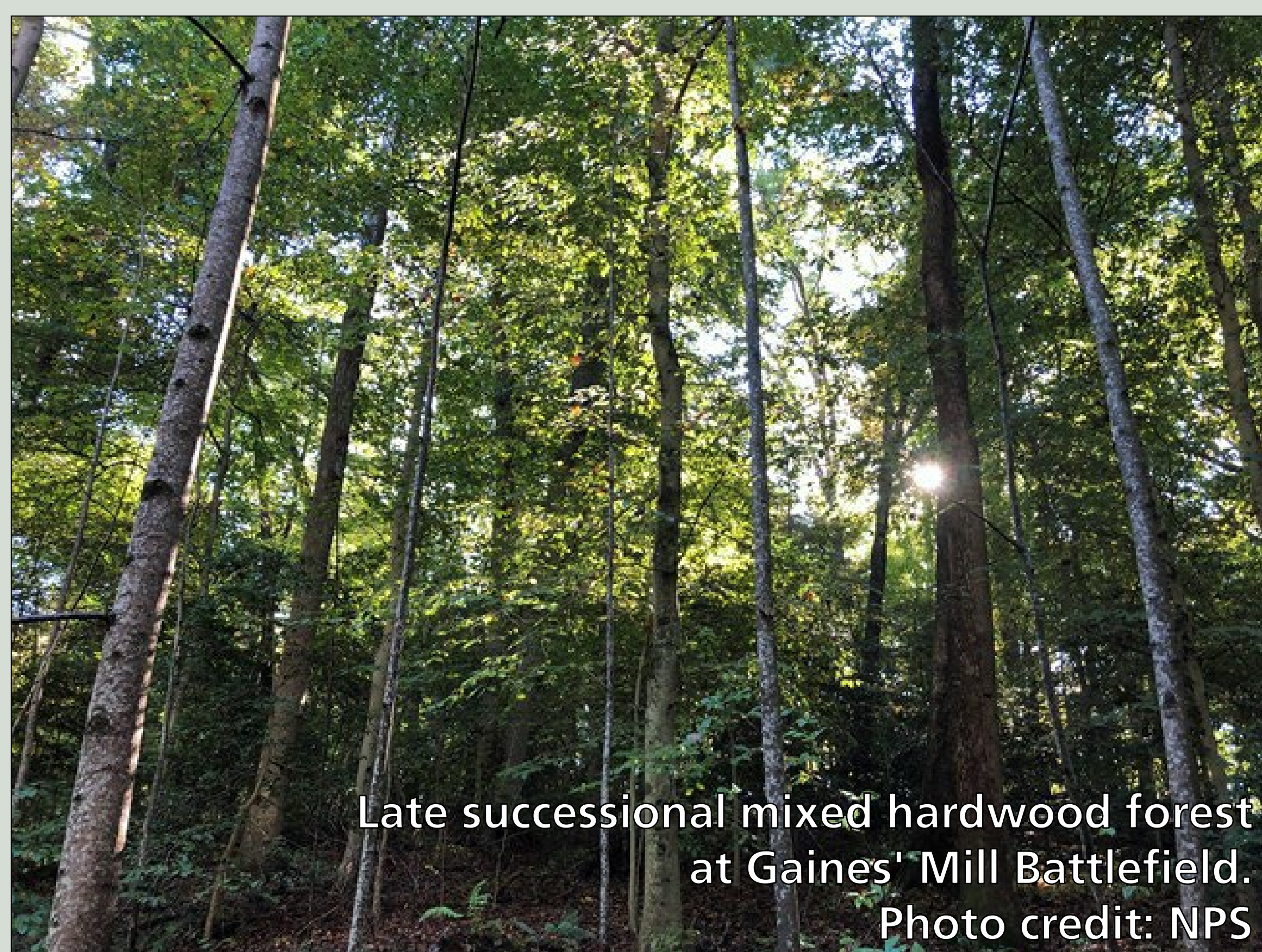
Meadows at Malvern Hill battlefield.
Photo credit: NPS



Walking trail at Cold Harbor battlefield.
Photo credit: NPS

Landscape Preservation

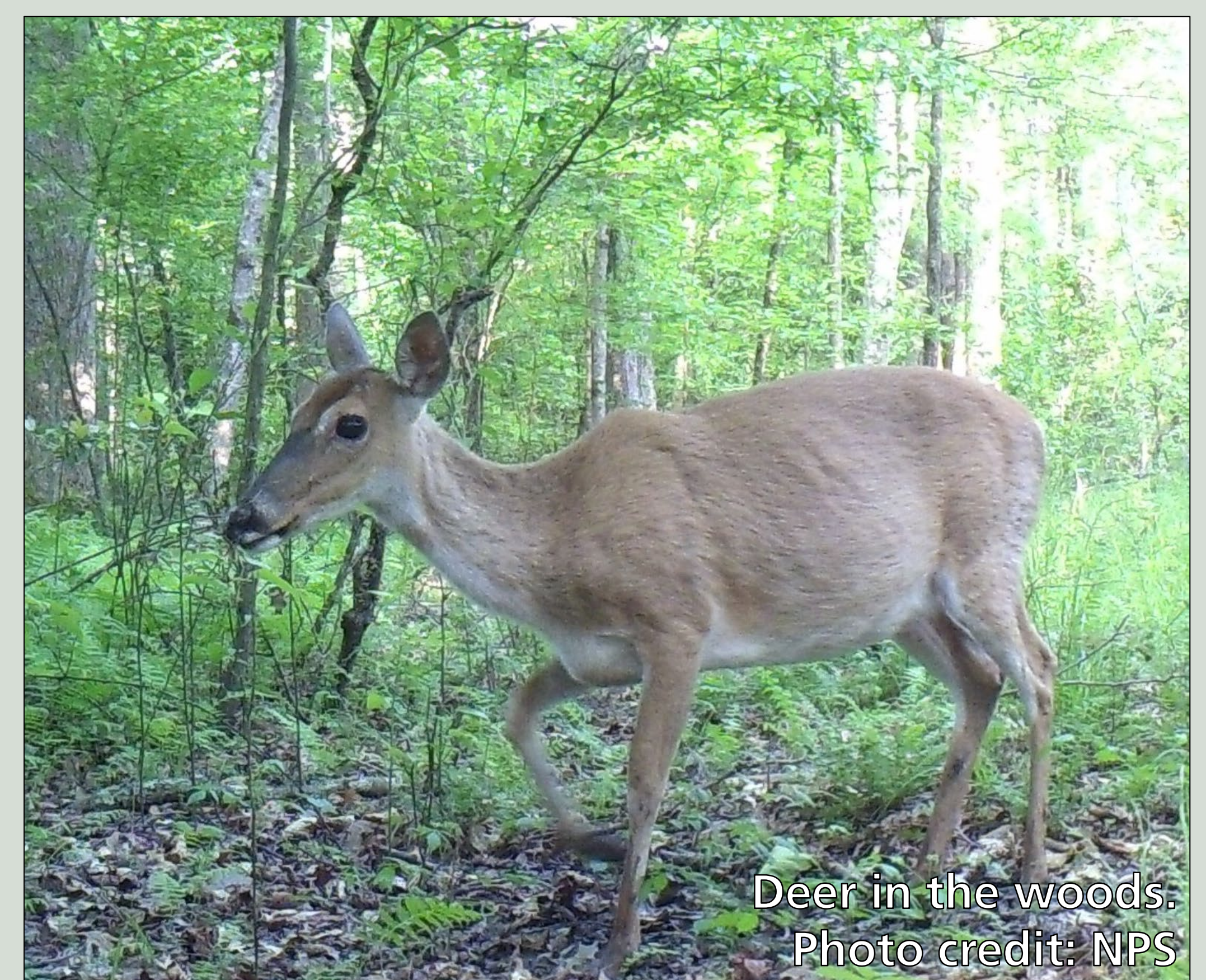
Overbrowse of vegetation by deer inhibits efforts to restore and maintain character-defining features such as the forest understory, earthen military fortifications, and the forest and field configuration of the 1862 and 1864-65 battlefields.



Late successional mixed hardwood forest
at Gaines' Mill Battlefield.
Photo credit: NPS



Deer trail damage to earthworks.
Photo credit: NPS



Deer in the woods.
Photo credit: NPS

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What Is Important To You?

Visitors come to the park for a variety of activities, such as hiking, birding, and experiencing the commemorative space. As we develop the plan, we are interested in learning your thoughts on any issues you see related to an overabundance of deer. What do you think the park should consider when developing a deer management plan? Your input will help inform the development of the plan.

Have you observed deer-related impacts on park resources?



A cannon at Gaines' Mill. Photo credit: NPS



Two deer in the woods. Photo credit: NPS



Deer trail on an earthwork. Photo credit: NPS

Are there other issues related to deer management at Richmond National Battlefield Park that you think the park could consider?

Planning Process and Schedule

Civic Engagement Period Begins	September 22, 2026
Civic Engagement Open House	September 22, 2026
Civic Engagement Period Closes	October 22, 2026
Analysis of Civic Engagement Comments	Fall / Winter 2026
Plan Development	2026 / 2027
NEPA Process Begins	2027
Environmental Assessment Release, Public Comment Period, and Public Meeting	2027
Analysis of Public Comments on Environmental Assessment	2028
NPS Decision	2028

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