





Implementation of Alternative F would increase the opportunities for the National Park Service to expand use to local visitors and increase connectivity to neighboring communities. It would provide diverse opportunities for recreational use and different types of trail linkages to city- and county-funded and supervised parks. This alternate concept would provide an opportunity for a general broadening of park knowledge and interest in the National Park Service through increased use of the park, increased partnering, and increased opportunities for interpretation, education and outreach.

Increased reliance on cooperative efforts with local communities would be necessary to enhance the levels of connectivity, to assist with protection to avoid resource degradation related to park use, and to augment educational outreach activities.

Facilities for the park would be necessarily distributed throughout the 48 miles, based on availability of funding resources and local community support. A greater and more diverse population of visitors would be served. The zoning for Alternative F compared to Alternative E is summarized in the paragraphs that follow.

The distribution of zones in Alternative F is shown in Figure 9. There are six zones that apply to Alternative F: the developed zone, natural area recreation zone, natural zone and three new zones, the river zone, rustic zone and historic resource zone. Both Alternatives E and F include the river zone that allows for boating and fishing limited only by natural conditions on the river. This feature of the alternative has been applied to all waterways in the park so that fishing and boating are permitted wherever they are possible and in accordance with State laws and private property rights.

The zoning of both sides of the river from Buford Dam to State Highway 20 is the same in Alternative F as in Alternative E. The Forsyth County side of the river is zoned natural area recreation zone and the Gwinnett County side is zoned natural zone. The relatively high level of natural resource integrity and opportunities for solitude on the Gwinnett County side of the river provides a rationale for limiting developed facilities in that area to primitive pedestrian trails. Zoning the Forsyth County side for the natural area recreation zone accommodates the existing use of horses on trails and allows for bicycle use and the installation of river access facilities such as step-down ramps.

From Highway 20 south to McGinnis Ferry Road, the zoning on both sides of the river consists of natural area recreation zone for Alternative F and rustic zone transitioning to natural area recreation zone for Alternative E. The developed zone proposed for Settles Bridge remains the same under both Alternatives E and F. From McGinnis Ferry Road to Medlock Bridge, Alternatives E and F are zoned identically.

From Medlock Bridge Road to I-285 there are several zoning differences between Alternatives E and F. Under Alternative F, the area surrounding the existing Chattahoochee River Environmental Education Center (CREEC) is zoned as a developed zone to accommodate greater flexibility to expand the CREEC facility or add future outbuildings such as restrooms or additional parking spaces. This area is zoned as natural area recreation zone under Alternative E. In addition, the rustic zone within the Johnson Ferry North section of the park in Alternative E is zoned as natural recreation area zone in Alternative F. This zoning would allow a more gradual transition from the developed zone at the Johnson Ferry Road area to the Hyde Farm area. From I-285 south to the confluence of Peachtree Creek, the majority of the Cobb County side of the Palisades area is zoned as rustic zone in Alternative E and natural zone in Alternative F.

