

BANDS 101-102 (1992)

Dedication plaques

BANDS 103-104 (1990)

In the Mountain Fountain, rows of water jets trace the mountain profiles in the distance.

BANDS 103-113 (1988-1968)

Pavers set in a traditional quilt pattern mirror the shadows of the trees.

BANDS 114-116 (1966)

Leaf impressions beneath the entry arch symbolize the changing of the seasons.

BAND 115 (1964)

The entry arches abound with birch, ash and evergreen trees characteristic of mountain-top forests. These trees continue through Band 119. On the parapet wall atop the arch is a quotation from the famous speech delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King in Washington, D.C., in 1963. His reference to Lookout Mountain (seen to the south) represented a turning point in the pursuit of equality for all citizens.

The Tennessee River is to the north. To the east, on the bluffs overlooking the River, are Hunter Museum of Art and historic Walnut Street Bridge, the nation's longest pedestrian-only bridge. To the west are Elder and Signal mountains.

BAND 118 (1940)

The rift in the concrete at the source of the stream symbolizes the eruptions which formed area rivers and streams eons ago.

BANDS 119-124 (1930-1885)

Plantings in these bands include red oaks, red maples, white pines, shadbush, witch hazel and redbuds found in mountainside forests.

BAND 120 (1920)

The basket design is inspired by a pattern sewn by Appalachian quilters. Red oaks like those planted within the handles provided material that pioneers used to make baskets. In the stream banks, magnolia leaves memorialize legendary blues artist Bessie Smith, who grew up near the park in Blue Goose Hollow. The alligator gar found in this and other streambeds throughout the park is a native fish that remains virtually unchanged since prehistoric times.

BAND 121 (1910)

Security Station

BAND 122 (1900)

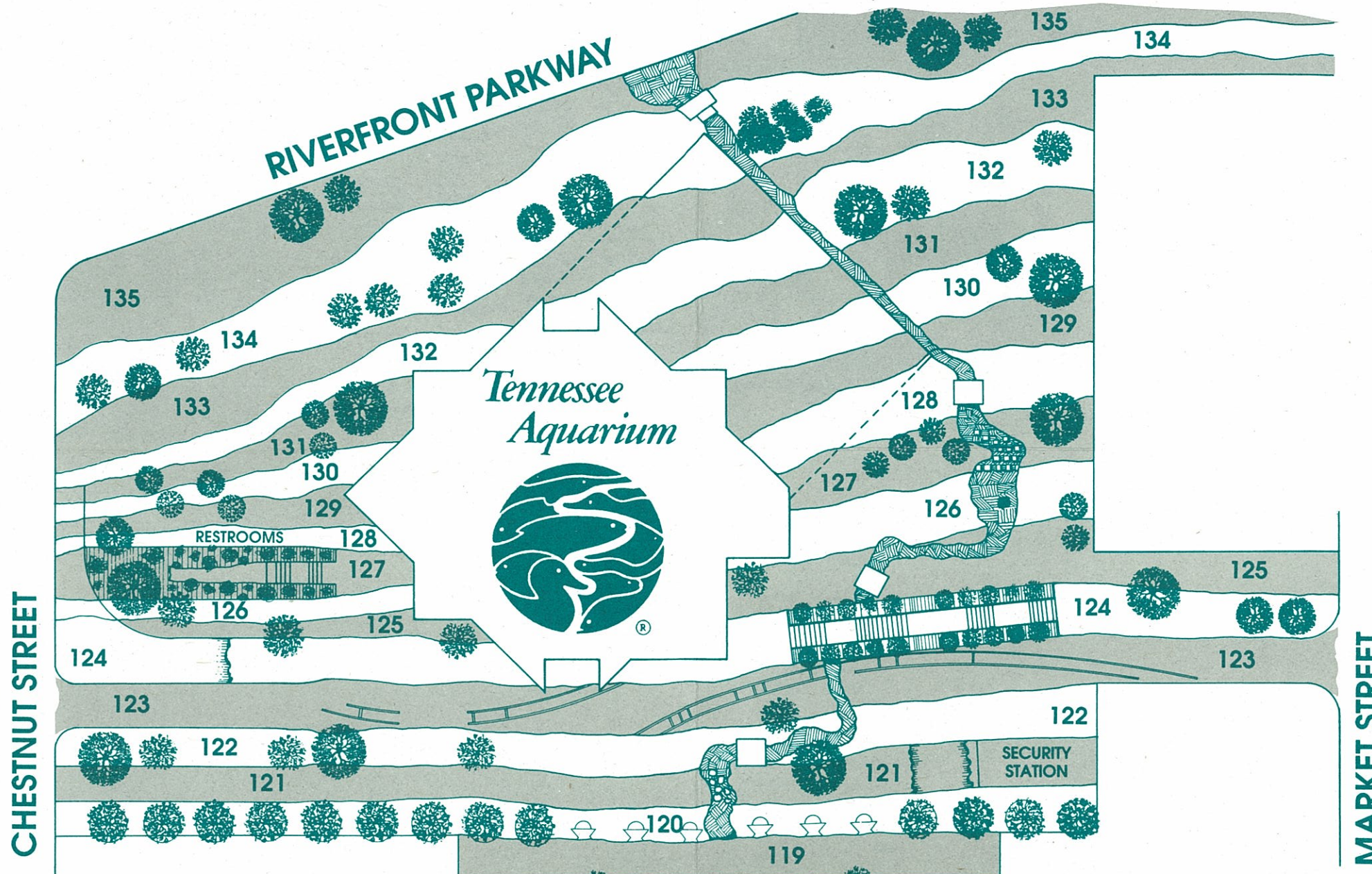
The bridge, set with bottle bottoms cast from original molds, and the green pavers honor Chattanooga as home of the world's first franchised Coca-Cola® bottling plant.

BAND 123 (1890)

In celebration of Chattanooga's railroading past, a section of railroad track frames the lyrics to Glenn Miller's "Chattanooga Choo Choo." Cross-ties at either end of the tracks are inscribed with the names of the early railroad companies which operated here.

BAND 124 (1885)

Underneath the arch along the stream bank are castings of tools used by early industries of the area. Coiled rope recalls the river barge trade; a drawknife, the once-thriving furniture industry.

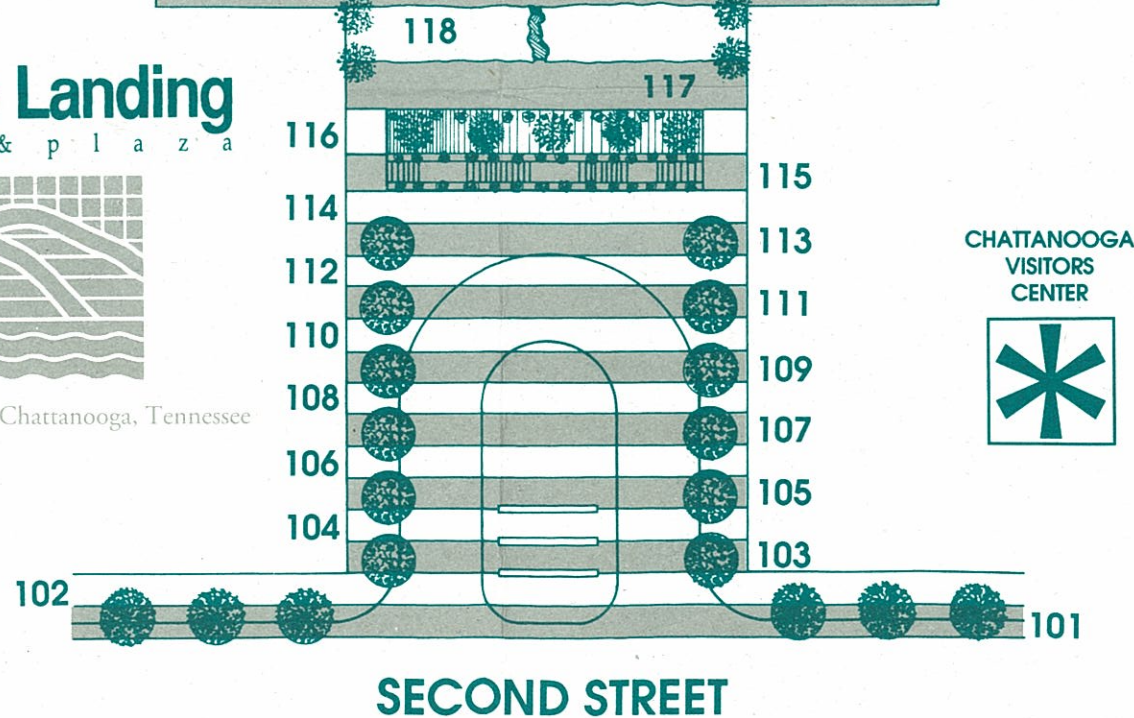


Ross's Landing

park & plaza



100 Broad Street • Chattanooga, Tennessee



BAND 125 (1880)
As the stream cuts deeper into the earth, remnants of earlier cultures are exposed. Through Band 129, American hollies, sweet gums, basswoods, dogwoods, Carolina allspice, sassafras, winter jasmine and mountain laurels replicate a Southern hardwood forest.

BAND 126 (1875)
In the children's play area, moldings of Civil War relics, including Minié balls, uniform buckles and canteens, are embedded in stacked stones reminiscent of the area's natural limestone bluffs.

BAND 127 (1865)
West of the Tennessee Aquarium, a terrarium wall along the front of the restroom area displays the geologic composition of the land.

BAND 128 (1855)
Historic quotations set in the footpath document the events leading to the Cherokee removal. Some of the pavers are cracked to symbolize the broken promises made to the Indians. Four thousand white crocus planted among Cherokee Princess and Chieftain dogwood trees form a living monument to the lives lost along the Trail of Tears. Also etched in the band are symbols from the Cherokee syllabary, a language system created by Sequoyah and used in the tribe's bilingual newspaper. (Across Riverfront Parkway, see the bronze sculpture which pays tribute to the Cherokees.)

BAND 130 (1825)
On stones edging the band, names of Cherokee clans are recorded in their own language. The tribal myth of the trickster turtle, also in the Cherokee language, is told in the pavers. Illustrating this Aesop-like tale of a turtle outwitting a deer is a sculpted snapping turtle, the first of seven appearing in the bands between the River and the Tennessee Aquarium. Here through Band 134 are shrubs and trees typical of protected cove forests. They include ash, tulip poplars, hemlocks, hollies, rhododendrons and azaleas. Virginia creeper, vinca, Solomon's seal and May apples grow underneath.

BAND 131 (1800)
A cornerstone marks the 1815 founding of Chattanooga by John and Lewis Ross. John Ross, a part-Scots trader who was also chief of the Cherokee Nation, built a warehouse near this site. The structure at Ross's Landing would be the first in the settlement of Chattanooga.

BAND 133 (1750)
Replicas of neck ornaments and effigy pots represent the Creek Indian culture, once active along the River.

BAND 134 (1600)
Along with the native American artifacts embedded in the retaining walls of the pool is a lance head which recalls the travels of Spanish explorers through this area. The crack in the wall symbolizes the hope that someday the park will extend directly to the riverbanks.

BAND 135 (Pre-1600)
Here and on the riverside, sycamore, river birch, hornbeam, tupelo and bald cypress trees, along with inkberry, bayberry, summersweet and viburnum shrubs, are typical of a southern bottomland forest. White-flowering crabapple trees are interspersed amid native trees. In spring, their blooms recall those of apple trees which still can be found at pioneer Appalachian homesites.