



AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST ★ ★ ★

3 BATTLES, PLUS 4 TRACTS OF LAND, MULTIPLIED BY A \$34-TO-\$1 MATCH.



It all adds up to OPPORTUNITY.

We must raise \$155,295 before bulldozers erase this history.

Dear Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

Every great general has a moment when his name first rises within the chronicles of history. A moment when courage, skill, and circumstance collide, and a soldier becomes a legend.



Thomas
"Stonewall" Jackson



James
Longstreet



Joseph
"Fighting Joe" Hooker



Winfield
Scott Hancock

For **Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson**, that moment came as he stood like an unshakable wall at Bull Run, rallying the Confederates to one of the war's earliest and most stunning victories.

For **James Longstreet**, it was at Second Manassas when he launched one of the largest and most decisive attacks of the entire war, a hammer blow that shattered the Union flank and secured a remarkable victory for Lee's army.

For **Joseph "Fighting Joe" Hooker**, it came at Williamsburg, when he hurled his men into a fierce assault that won him both his nickname and the admiration of the Union press.

And for **Winfield Scott Hancock**, it was there, too, as he led his brigade through the smoke and carnage to capture a key redoubt, earning the praise of his commander and the name "Hancock the Superb."

These were the proving grounds.

These were the fields where reputations were forged in fire.

And these are the battlefields we now stand to lose.

The tracts of hallowed ground at Bull Run, Second Manassas, and Williamsburg are where these legendary figures first stepped into the spotlight. Together they tell a story, not just of battles and bloodshed, but of the rise of the men whose decisions, victories, and failures would shape the course of the entire Civil War.

And now, we have the chance to save four irreplaceable parcels across these three battlefields — a combined 27.5 acres of hallowed ground.

I'll be honest with you: these are high-value properties. Altogether, they are worth more than \$5 million. When I first saw the number, even I was taken aback. But the good news — no, the great news! — is that we are not starting from scratch.

We are actively pursuing more than \$4.8 million in matching grants from federal and state battlefield preservation programs. That means we are within striking distance of victory before we even begin.

And I am especially grateful to one of our Virginia members who helped launch this effort with a generous gift of \$25,000. He understands how special these battlefields are, and his faith in this mission inspires me.

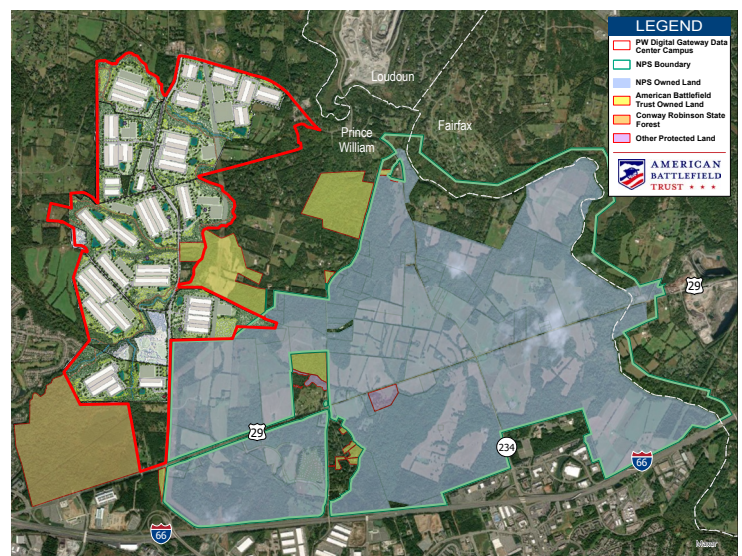
After doing all the math with potential grants and the gift from the dedicated Virginia member, I'm happy to share with you that the total amount we need to raise to secure all four properties and close the books on this \$5 million purchase is just **\$155,295**.

I hope you don't think I sound glib. I know \$155,295 is nothing to sneeze at. And I certainly don't take for granted that it will be easy. But what I think is truly extraordinary is that the amount we need to raise has an unusually large leverage ratio — a \$34-to-\$1 match! You are accustomed to seeing various multipliers that help us reach our campaign goals, but I think you have to agree, seeing a number like 34X presents an opportunity that doesn't come along very often.

Where else can you get 34 times the value from anything you buy? That's the extraordinary value of your gift today. So I hope I can count on you to help us raise this final amount by sending back your most generous gift.

You would think that preserving hallowed ground at the battles of Bull Run, Second Manassas, and Williamsburg would be a top priority for our communities and our country, but sadly, we know all too well that rampant development is a powerful force with few boundaries. It often seems that there is almost no place too sacred or off-limits for developers to build.

Take a look at the rendering of the proposed "Prince William Digital Gateway" adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park. You'll see how the battlefield is almost engulfed by development and the "digital gateway." The Trust is already in litigation there to prevent the



Here's what's at stake: the proposed 'Prince William Digital Gateway' would sprawl across the edge of Manassas National Battlefield Park, overwhelming this sacred landscape. A recent court ruling overturned the rezoning — but the fight to protect this battlefield is far from over.

construction of what would be the world's largest data center campus immediately next door to the National Park. Just last month, we got some good news: the Circuit Court Judge ruled that the lame duck Board of Supervisors in Prince William County improperly approved the rezoning for the Prince William Digital Gateway, and the rezoning has officially been overturned! So the fight continues, but with new momentum against the project.

At Williamsburg, bulldozers were already coming for the two tracts we are trying to save. Engineering plans were drawn for six new houses right on the ground where Hooker and Hancock led their men into history. (Check out the actual proposed plans on your enclosed maps.) Without the Trust's intervention, those houses would already be built. The other tract there is zoned for business — primed for service stations, fast food restaurants, and convenience stores.

These are not “someday” threats.
These are happening now.
Which is why I am asking you to act now.

As I've said many times before, the Trust is not anti-development. We understand the need for new housing, data centers, warehouses, and the like — just don't build them on our nation's cherished hallowed ground. Developers can pick and choose where to build. We can't change where history was made, where our ancestors fought and died, or where our nation was tested and forged.

Let me tell you how these battlefields and generals like Jackson, Longstreet, Hooker, and Hancock shaped the course of the conflict.

In the summer of 1861, Confederate troops were positioned outside Washington. President Lincoln dispatched Gen. Irvin McDowell to quash the opposition and win the Civil War right then and there. But as you know, it didn't work out that way.

Under a blistering Virginia sun, inexperienced Union and Confederate armies clashed near Manassas in the **Battle of Bull Run**, the first major land battle of the Civil War. When Union forces wavered, **General Thomas Jackson's** command stood “like a stone wall” on Henry Hill, helping to turn the tide. The stunning Confederate victory shattered illusions on both sides that the war would be quick or bloodless. It was the first step in a long, brutal road, and for Jackson, the birth of a legend.

The Union licked its wounds, regrouped, and by the spring of 1862 launched the Peninsula Campaign, hoping to strike at Richmond and end the war.

On May 5, 1862, the armies met again in Virginia, at **Williamsburg**. Here, another name rose to prominence: **James Longstreet**, who led a masterful rearguard action that stalled the Union advance and bought the Confederates precious time to withdraw. On the Union side,



General Phillip Kearny at the Battle of Williamsburg, by artist Alfred Rudolph Waud.

Joseph Hooker charged Confederate defenses so fiercely that he was afterward called “Fighting Joe,” while **Winfield Scott Hancock** led a brilliant flanking maneuver, capturing a key redoubt and repulsing a counterattack, earning the praise, “Hancock the Superb.”

The fight at Williamsburg was inconclusive on paper, but strategically, the delay allowed Confederate forces to regroup at Seven Pines, where Robert E. Lee soon assumed command of the Army of Northern Virginia. New leadership and new confidence would set the stage for what came next.

Just three months later, in late August 1862, the war returned to the fields of northern Virginia for **Second Manassas**. By now, Lee had proven his aggressive style, and Jackson and Longstreet had honed their battlefield instincts. Over three days, Jackson fought a desperate holding action while **General James Longstreet** maneuvered into position. On August 30, Longstreet unleashed one of the largest, most devastating assaults of the war — a massive counterattack that smashed the Union left and sent the Army of Virginia reeling toward Washington. The Confederate victory cemented Lee’s reputation, solidified Longstreet’s position at the forefront of Southern command, and opened the door to the first Confederate invasion of the North.

Today, we can save all four tracts where history unfolded — two at Williamsburg and two at Manassas — for \$155,295. Thanks to state and federal partners and a very generous donor, every dollar you give will be multiplied \$34-to-\$1.

Think for a moment of what that means: \$100 becomes \$3,400 for preservation; \$500 becomes \$17,000 worth of saved battlefield land! For less than the cost of dinner out, you can help preserve the very places where Jackson stood like a stone wall, where Longstreet’s rearguard and hammer blow changed battles, where newspapers assigned Hooker’s “Fighting” moniker, and where Hancock’s superb leadership shone.

But we must act before the bulldozers show up. Before the survey stakes go in. Before the view these men saw is gone forever.

You have acted as a tremendous force for preservation before. Please help me do it again and protect these proving grounds of America’s Civil War generals so we can ensure their stories are told there for generations to come. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your commitment to our cause.



With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David N. Duncan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. We have an opportunity to save more than 27 acres of hallowed ground at Bull Run, Williamsburg, and Second Manassas. And your gift will be multiplied **\$34-to-\$1!** Please send your most generous gift today by returning your check in the envelope provided, or you can make your gift securely online at battlefields.org/threat. If you have a donor-advised fund or an IRA and prefer to give using those financial vehicles, please make sure to let us know so we can properly credit you for your generosity.