



CIVIL WAR TRUST

Saving America's Civil War Battlefields

Alabama

Battlefield Preservation
2015 Potential Funding Sources

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THE CIVIL WAR TRUST

Preserving Our Battlefield Heritage

Every year, hundreds of acres of our nation's most important battlefields associated with the Civil War, the American Revolution and the War of 1812 are threatened by uncontrolled development. Preservationists struggle to save these hallowed grounds so that future generations can experience and appreciate the places where the nation's freedoms were won, expanded and preserved.

The Civil War Trust (the "Trust") is America's largest nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields. The Trust also promotes educational programs and heritage tourism initiatives to inform the public of the war's history and the fundamental conflicts that sparked it.

To further support our state and local partners, the Trust, through a grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), have identified a multiplicity of national and state-level funding sources for the preservation of battlefields across the country recognized by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission and the Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States. This information is being made available through both our website and within individual booklets for each of the 30 states examined in the course of this effort. Each booklet offers an in-depth analysis of funding opportunities to save valuable battlefield properties. When available, stories of success are illustrated and past partnerships for funding are explored.

This project is part of a collaborative effort in which ABPP relied on the Trust to use its extensive experience to identify a variety of state-centered preservation funding sources both for battlefields associated with the Civil War as well as the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Authorized by Congress and administered by the National Park Service, ABPP promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil. The goals of the program are to protect battlefields and sites associated with armed conflicts that influenced the course of our history; to encourage and assist all Americans in planning for the preservation, management and interpretation of these sites; and to raise awareness of the importance of preserving battlefields and related sites for future generations.

In 1991, Congress established the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. The Commission was charged with identifying significant Civil War sites, determining their condition, assessing threats to their integrity and offering alternatives for their preservation and interpretation. Classification of each battlefield is based on the level of military importance within its campaign and the war. Class A and B battlefields represent the principal strategic operations of the war. Class C and D battlefields usually represent operations with limited tactical objectives of enforcement and occupation. Some 10,500 armed conflicts occurred during the Civil War, ranging from major battles to minor skirmishes. Of those, 384 principal battles occurred in 26 states.

In 1996, Congress enacted legislation to examine the historical integrity of two of our nation's earliest wars – the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Over the next ten years, the National Park Service identified and documented 677 significant places associated with these conflicts. The resulting study examined the condition of 243 battlefields and 434 associated historic properties in 31 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The identification and assessment of these sites followed the same criteria as those used by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

In addition to these booklets, the Civil War Trust website – www.civilwar.org – provides preservationists with additional up-to-date information on funding in a concise format that we hope will lend guidance to those seeking opportunities for land acquisition and protection. The Trust’s online database, designed to equip preservationists with the essential information needed to pursue these resources, is an important part of our ongoing mission to save significant battlefield properties. On our website you will also find descriptions of the history and significance of the Civil War sites cited in each of these booklets, as well as summaries of the sites’ current preservation status.

Today, the Civil War Trust is working with national, state and local individuals, organizations and agencies to preserve these nonrenewable historic resources: battlefields. We hope the material provided on our website and in these booklets will support your preservation efforts. With your help, we can all make a difference.

Saving Alabama's Battlefields

The American Revolution and the War of 1812

The *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States* from 2007 identified battlefield sites from both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. In Alabama there are two Revolutionary War battlefield sites, both at Mobile; one site needs further study, and one is destroyed or fragmented to such a degree that only commemorative opportunities exist. Alabama has 15 War of 1812 battlefield sites. Six are Priority I sites: Fort Mims, Tallussahatchee, Econochaca, Horseshoe Bend and Fort Bowyer I and II; two are Priority II sites: Tuckabatchee and Autosse; and one site, Hillabee, is a Priority III site. Four sites need further study: Burnt Corn, Emuckfau Creek, Enitachopco Creek, and Calabee. Two sites are destroyed or fragmented to such a degree that only commemorative opportunities exist: Talladega and Fort Charlotte. There are an additional 14 historic properties associated with the War of 1812 in Alabama. One archaeological site, Fort Conde, is associated with both wars.

The Civil War

The 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) report identified seven principal battlefield sites in the state of Alabama. The historic tracts of these battlefields total 102,400 acres. Today, 44 percent, or 45,400 acres, retain sufficient integrity to warrant protection. Using the priority ranking system of the CWSAC Report, these seven battlefields are:

Athens (al002) Class D
Day's Gap (al001) Class C
Decatur (al004) Class C
Fort Blakely (al006) Class A
Mobile Bay (al003) Class A
Selma (al007) Class B
Spanish Fort (al005) Class B

The 2011 CWSAC update for Alabama's Civil War sites found that through fee simple ownership and purchase of development rights, nonprofit as well as local, state and federal stewardship protects more than 4,600 acres of battlefield land. This number represents approximately 10 percent of battlefield lands retaining significance and integrity. At Fort Blakely more than 44 percent of the battlefield retaining integrity is under protective ownership.

Battlefield land at Athens has been mostly compromised by urban development. A small portion falls within the protection of the Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area. North of Athens near Elkmont is the site of the Sulphur Creek Trestle of the former Alabama-Tennessee Railroad. The site is a significant landscape feature of the battle and remains intact. Three of Alabama's Civil War battlefield sites, Decatur, Selma and Spanish Fort, have lost all integrity.

The Day's Gap Battlefield, site of a critical Civil War battle in Morgan and Cullman Counties, Alabama, remains much as it was 150 years ago and still holds significant natural value in addition to historical importance. The Conservation Fund, a national land conservation nonprofit, helped preserve a portion of this historic site by acquiring 82 acres and transferring it to the battlefield. (See federal/national listings for more information on the program.) Still, with more than 2,900 unprotected acres retaining integrity, Day's Gap is one of the most intact and least protected Civil War battlefields in Alabama.

The CWSAC 2011 updated report found that Day's Gap presents an excellent opportunity for battlefield preservation, including listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The rural location has experienced very light development, and the landscape remains largely unaltered.

The Civil War Trust helped protect 40 acres at Hog Mountain. This skirmish site is associated with the principal battlefield of Day's Gap. That battle precipitated several skirmishes between Union colonel Abel Streight and Confederate brigadier general Nathan Bedford Forrest. The Trust also worked to protect land at the principal battlefield of Fort Blakely, where it preserved 67 acres.

Through the Civil War Battlefield Acquisition Grants program, Congress has appropriated \$38.9 million to this program, protecting 16,600 acres in 67 battlefields in 14 states. Only one Civil War battlefield in Alabama has received funding from this program. For the purchase of 67.28 acres at Fort Blakely, a Class A site, \$84,100 were matched with \$85,055 in leveraged funds. Since 1992, the American Battlefield Protection Program has awarded more than \$87,612 among several Alabama Civil War battlefields for preservation planning projects. (See federal/national listings for more information on the program.)

STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING PROGRAMS

Forever Wild Land Trust



The State of Alabama established the Forever Wild Land Trust (FWLT) in 1992. The program enables the acquisition and protection of selected wild lands with special recreational, scientific, educational and natural value. The program was approved by voter referendum and is funded with a portion of the interest earned by the Alabama Trust Fund, a special fund created with windfall money paid to the state from offshore natural gas leases. The program also receives funding through Forever Wild license plates. In addition, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) and partners have developed grant competitive proposals, matching state funds to federal funds and securing more than \$41.4 million to support FWLT land acquisitions. No other state funding sources exist to leverage the power of federal dollars.

The program has no power to condemn or appropriate lands. Lands acquired by the program may come only through purchases or donations. Tracts nominated for possible acquisition by FWLT are evaluated for suitability according to such criteria as size, location, biological diversity and presence of critical species or special habitats, and landowner receptiveness to the nomination. Though the program focuses on recreational use, the conservation goals of the FWLT are compatible with the principles of historic preservation. Across the state, the program protects 280,000 acres.

Forever Wild Land Trust AL State Lands-ADCNR
64 N. Union St.
Montgomery, AL 36130
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alabamaforeverwild.com

PRIVATE FUNDING PROGRAMS

Fort Blakeley State Park (Foundation)

Historic Blakeley State Park covers 3,800 acres along the Tensaw River near the town of Spanish Fort. It is the largest site listed on the National Register of Historic Places east of the Mississippi River. The siege and capture of Fort Blakely was the last battle of the war, occurring on April 9, 1865. African American forces played a major role in the successful Union assault. For more than 100 years, the land remained untouched. In 1976, local civic leaders established the private nonprofit Historic Blakeley Foundation to acquire land and establish the Historic Blakeley State Park. Approximately 44 percent of Fort Blakely Battlefield is encompassed within the Historic Blakeley State Park. The park was created as a private not-for-profit foundation. Private land and monetary donations and public funding contributed to the initial acquisition of land for the park. In 1990, International Paper Company donated 1,000 acres to the foundation, and in 1998, 420 additional acres were purchased through the state's Forever Wild Land Trust program. In 1995, Blakeley was added to the Civil War Discovery Trail, which links more than 300 significant Civil War sites in 16 states. Grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (see federal/nation listings for more information) were used to acquire a 67-acre parcel in 2002. In total, 2,167 acres of the battlefield are protected; this represents a little less than half of the 4,640 acres of intact battlefield. The most prominent features are the five miles of breastworks, earthen fortifications, rifle pits and the remains of artillery emplacements.

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Alabama Land Trust, Inc.

Founded in 1994, the Alabama Land Trust, Inc. (ALT), protects more than 60,000 acres of private land in Alabama with conservation easements. With more than 140 conservation easements, the ALT protects more private land in Alabama than any other known conservation group working in the state. Its land protection priorities include historic or cultural resources; open space, working farms, natural areas or wildlife habitats, recreation lands, wetlands and working forest lands. The ALT and its affiliate organizations, including the Georgia Land Trust, Inc. and founding organization Chattowah Open Land Trust, Inc., permanently safeguard more than 172,000 acres of land with more than 480 conservation easements.

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Land Trust of North Alabama

The Land Trust of North Alabama is a member-supported, not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to protect North Alabama natural lands, scenic areas, freshwater resources and wildlife habitat. Incorporated in 1987 as Alabama's first land trust, the organization has protected more than 6,500 acres to date. The trust maintains five Nature Preserves and 45+ miles of trails that are open to the public. These preserves protect natural and, in some cases, historic resources. One of the Trust's preserves in Madison County includes the Trough

Springs historic site. It is the site of the surrender of lieutenant colonel Milus E. “Bushwhacker” Johnston and 150 Confederate soldiers to Union troops, one month after Gen. Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox.

The Land Trust preserves land for conservation, public recreation and environmental education to enhance quality of life in North Alabama now and for the future. The Land Trust leads the region in planning, preserving and providing stewardship for public green space, including recreation and wildlife corridors; historic and geologic features; wetlands and watersheds; urban open spaces; and mountains, hillsides, and scenic views.

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Land Trusts

There are 11 land trusts operating in the state of Alabama. While many land trusts work strictly in nature conservation, some have resources and often partner with other nonprofit organizations, municipalities and small groups to conserve land containing historically significant cultural resources. A full list of Alabama land trusts can be found here: http://findalandtrust.org/states/alabama1/land_trusts#statewide

ALABAMA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area



The mission of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area (MSNHA) is to promote cultural tourism through education, preservation and conservation of the heritage and culture of the six counties within the designated area. The MSNHA seeks to inform, educate, develop and interpret visitor-ready sites, create living history experiences and chronicle the evolution of the area’s landscape for a wide audience. The Tennessee River runs through the area geographically and culturally and is a major theme of the MSNHA. The river influences subthemes of the area, including North Alabama’s role in the Civil War. Several Civil War sites are featured within the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area. Present-day Muscle Shoals was prized by both Union and Confederates forces because of its location on the Tennessee River and its other transportation routes.

Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area
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Florence, AL 35632-0001
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Judy Sizemore, Director
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The following Civil War related sites are features of the MSNHA:

Athens-Limestone County Civil War Trail

This self-guided driving tour features the Battles of Athens and Sulphur Creek Trestle. The trail follows the 1864 campaign of Confederate major general Nathan Bedford Forrest. Brochures are available at the Athens Visitors Center.

Athens Visitors Center
100 North Beatty Street
Athens, AL 35611
Phone: 256-232-5411
www.tourathens.com
www.visitathensal.com

Blue and Gray Museum of North Alabama

Robert Parham, a Civil War historian, owns this museum and shop that contains one of the largest private collections of Civil War artifacts. The museum features Civil War collectibles, including swords, firearms, photographs, uniforms and other artifacts, many of which are available for purchase.

723 Bank St.
Decatur, AL 35601
Phone: 256-350-4018
www.rparhamsrelics.com

CONTACT

JIM CAMPI, Director of Policy and Communications
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As Director of Policy and Communications at the Civil War Trust, Jim Campi is responsible for the organization's government and media relations. He serves as the Civil War Trust's spokesperson with the press as well as its point man with Congress, state legislators, and local elected officials. Jim joined the Trust in September 2000 after 14 years in political communications and administration. He is the author and contributing writer for several books and publications, including *Civil War Battlefields Then and Now*, *The Political Lincoln*, and *The Civil War 150*. Jim is also a member of the board of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground and Franklin's Charge.

MARK COOMBS, State and Local Relations Manager
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As State and Local Relations Manager at the Civil War Trust, Mark Coombs serves as the organization's advocate in historic communities across the United States, cultivating public and political enthusiasm for battlefield preservation and organizing grassroots activists in support of the Trust's mission. A veteran of political and public affairs campaigns at all levels, Mark is a 2008 graduate of Cornell University, where he was Co-President of the Alpha Beta Eta Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.

PHIL THOMASON, Principal
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Phil Thomason is Principal of the historic preservation planning firm of Thomason and Associates. Founded in 1982, this company provides services such as historic preservation plans, cultural resource surveys, Section 106 review and design guidelines for historic districts. During the past decade the company has completed eight battlefield preservation plans and numerous other studies for the American Battlefield Protection Program in Arkansas, Tennessee, Virginia, Minnesota, Missouri and Georgia.

DAVID CURREY, Principal
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David Currey is principal at Encore, a company that specializes in interpretive planning, exhibit design, and media development for historic sites, museums, government agencies and preservation organizations. Encore also produces independent documentaries, including works on Civil War Nashville, the Battle of Parker's Crossroads, the Civil War in Tennessee and, more recently, an hour-long biography on Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus for the National Park Service.



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