



CIVIL WAR TRUST

Saving America's Civil War Battlefields

Arkansas

Battlefield Preservation 2015 Potential Funding Sources

www.civilwar.org

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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 with associated battlefields from these three wars. 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 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. The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), authorized by Congress and administered by the National Park Service, promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil. The goals of the program are 1) to protect battlefields and sites associated with armed conflicts that influenced the course of our history, 2) to encourage and assist all Americans in planning for the preservation, management and interpretation of these sites, and 3) to raise awareness of the importance of preserving battlefields and related sites for future generations. The ABPP focuses primarily on land use, cultural resource and site management planning and public education.

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 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 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 that 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 current information on battlefield preservation and other educational materials.

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 each of these booklets will support your preservation efforts. With your help, we can all make a difference.

Saving Arkansas Battlefields

The American Revolution

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. The State of Arkansas has one principal battlefield site associated with the Revolutionary War. Arkansas Post is a Priority II site. There were no battlefields or historic sites associated with the War of 1812 identified in the state.

The Civil War

The 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) report identified 17 principal battlefield sites, plus Bayou Meto (Reed's Bridge) in the state of Arkansas. The historic tracts of these battlefields total 139,000 acres. Today, 64 percent or 89,800 acres retain sufficient integrity to warrant protection. Of these, more than 9,600 acres of land are protected by public or private entities. Using the priority ranking system of the CWSAC report, these 17 battlefields are:

- Arkansas Post (ar006) Class C
- Bayou Fourche (ar010a) Class B
- Cane Hill (ar004) Class C
- Chalk Bluff (ar007) Class D
- Devils Backbone(ar009) Class C
- Elkins Ferry (ar012) Class C
- Helena (ar008) Class B
- Hills Plantation(ar003) Class D
- Jenkins Ferry(ar016) Class C
- Marks Mills (ar015) Class D
- Old River Lake(ar017) Class D
- Pea Ridge (ar001) Class A
- Pine Bluff (ar011) Class D
- Poison Spring (ar014) Class C
- Prairie D'Ane (ar013) Class B
- Prairie Grove (ar005) Class B
- Saint Charles (ar002) Class C

The 2010 CWSAC update for Arkansas's Civil War sites reported that almost all protected battlefield lands in the state were acquired through fee purchase and placed in public ownership. Currently, no historic battlefield tracts in Arkansas have been placed by private owners under conservation easements, though the state passed a Conservation Easement Act in 2005 to protect "historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural aspects of real property." Of the 17 battlefields in Arkansas, 12 have a high degree of historic integrity.

At Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, a Priority I site per the CWSAC 1993 Report, 800 acres of historic battlefield are protected. However, another 3,600 acres of battlefield are in private ownership and under increasing pressure of development. The Conservation Fund (see federal/national listings for more information) purchased historic land overlooking the battlefield from the site of the Confederate line. Acquiring this land was possible through the organization's Battlefield Revolving Fund, established with grants from the Gilder Foundation. The Fund held the land until the State of Arkansas had the funding to purchase it and add it to the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park. The Civil War Trust has also worked to protect 270 acres at Prairie Grove Battlefield.

There are five Priority II battlefields in Arkansas: Chalk Bluff, Devil's Backbone, Elkin's Ferry, Marks' Mill and Prairie D'Ane. Prairie D'Ane faces unrelenting pressure from suburbanization. Large-scale timbering threatens archaeological resources at Marks Mill. The remaining three currently are not under duress of imminent development and represent opportunities for coordinated management and protection plans. The Civil War Trust has worked to protect 10 acres at Devil's Backbone Battlefield.

Seven Priority III Arkansas Civil War battlefields remain in good or excellent condition, but could benefit from additional attention and protection. At Saint Charles, 82 percent of the battlefield is protected by the White River National Wildlife Refuge and Arkansas National Heritage Commission. The Pea Ridge National Military Park encompasses 4,300 acres of the battlefield; an additional 3,700 remains outside the boundaries of the park. Four more battlefields, Cane Hill, Hill's Plantation, Jenkins' Ferry and Poison Spring. All have small portions protected permanently, however, at least 89 percent of each site is privately owned. Old River Lake Battlefield remains in very good condition and is entirely in private ownership.

Of the four Priority IV battlefields, Pine Bluff is beyond restoration due to severe fragmentation. At Arkansas Post, changes in the course of the Arkansas River have eroded significant portions of land. Still, the National Park Service protects 758 acres of historic battlefield; an additional 1,300 acres are outside the boundaries of the national military park there. Remaining portions of Bayou Fourche and Helena require immediate planned preservation to survive threats of imminent development.

In addition to the aforementioned federal and state entities protecting historic battlefield tracts, there are some additions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service holds 376 acres at Hill's Plantation and 1,454 at Saint Charles. The U.S. Forest Service holds 760 acres at Cane Hill and 820 at Helena. However, timbering in national forests can still have an adverse effect on historic battlefield resources. The State of Arkansas holds 1,100 acres in seven battlefields.

Two municipalities have acquired portions of battlefields: the City of Jacksonville owns 22 acres at Bayou Meto, and the City of Helena owns two Union battery sites at that battlefield. Only two national nonprofit groups own and protect small tracts of historic battlefield lands of approximately 10 acres each. These are the Civil War Trust (at Devil's Backbone) and the Archaeological Conservancy (at Helena, Union Battery D). The Civil War Trust also helped to protect 56 acres at Helena.

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 Arkansas has received funding from this program. For the purchase of 261 acres at Prairie Grove, a Class A site, \$724,300 were matched dollar-for-dollar with leveraged funds. The American Battlefield Protection Program has awarded more than \$350,000 among several Arkansas Civil War battlefields for preservation planning. For fiscal year 2012, Arkansas Project Grants received \$207,500 from the Civil War Trust and American Battlefield Protection Program. (See federal/national listings for more information on the program.)

STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING PROGRAMS

Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council

In 1987, the State of Arkansas created the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) to manage and supervise a grants and trust fund for the acquisition, management and stewardship of state-owned properties. Grants from this fund are for projects that protect and maintain state-owned natural areas, historic sites and outdoor recreation. The ANCRC is supported administratively by an 11-member voting board of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. The grants are funded through the states real estate transfer tax. Since 1989, annual funding from the ANCRC has ranged from \$1,869,500 in 1989 to \$25,899,000 in 2008.

The ANCRC consists of 11 voting members, as follows:

- 1) the director of the Department of Arkansas Parks and Tourism
- 2) the director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage
- 3) the chairman of the State Parks, Recreation and Travel Commission or a designee
- 4) the chairman of the Natural Heritage Commission or a designee
- 5) the commissioner of State Lands
- 6) a resident elector of the State of Arkansas as a public member, to be appointed by the governor, who is a representative of recreation groups, conservation groups or other groups interested in the wise use, preservation and conservation of Arkansas natural or cultural resources, with the appointment to be made by the governor, insofar as possible, from names recommended to the governor by groups representative of such organizations, with the member representing urban areas
- 7) a resident elector of the State of Arkansas as a public member representing rural areas, to be appointed by the governor, who is a representative of recreation groups, conservation groups or other groups interested in the wise use, preservation and conservation of Arkansas' natural or cultural resources, with the appointment to be made by the governor from a list of names submitted to the governor by the Arkansas Forestry Association
- 8) one (1) member to represent Arkansas cities and towns, to be named by the Governor from a list of three names recommended to the governor by the Arkansas Municipal League
- 9) one (1) member to represent Arkansas counties, to be appointed by the Governor from a list of three names submitted to the governor by the Arkansas County Judges Association
- 10) a member to be appointed by the Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives
- 11) a member to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Arkansas State Senate

Funding from ANCRC has been used for a digital visualization project of the historic events at Prairie Grove Battlefield. Another project funded (in part) by the ANCRC is the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Passport publication. Visitors can get their passports stamped at 23 different Arkansas sites and can redeem the back cover with the 23 stamps for an official Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial coin or patch. For fiscal year 2012, Arkansas Project Grants received \$1,000,020 from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council.

Priority for grant awards will be given to stand-alone projects or phases that can realistically be completed within the grant fiscal year. Applicants for new, complex projects that will span more than one year are encouraged to obtain a planning and design grant.

For more information concerning the ANCRC and its programs please contact:

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Game and Fish Commission and Parks and Tourism Commission

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) and Parks and Tourism Commission share funding from a portion of the state sales tax (1/8 of one cent) in order to purchase land for recreation, open space and habitat. Voters established the sales tax in 1996 through the approval of a constitutional amendment. The Department of Arkansas Heritage also receives funding from the sales tax, however it is not used for land acquisition. AGFC has purchased 46,817 acres of land at a cost of \$26,457,610. Arkansas State Parks operates 1,779 campgrounds, 283 miles of trails, five lodges and 131 cabins, along with preserving 183 historic structures. See: *www.agfc.com/aboutagfc/Documents/consvtax_teny_r_report.pdf*

PRIVATE FUNDING PROGRAMS

Land Trusts

There are seven land trusts operating in the state of Arkansas. 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 Arkansas land trusts can be found here: *http://findalandtrust.org/states/arkansas5/land_trusts#statewide*

Land Trust of Arkansas

Founded in 2007, the Land Trust for Arkansas mission is to preserve farms, forests and open spaces in the state of Arkansas, promoting sustainable watershed and land-use practices. To date, 3,140 acres in the state have been placed under conservation easement.

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Northwest Arkansas Land Trust

The Northwest Arkansas Land Trust (NWALT) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of lands with agricultural, ecological, scenic, historic or recreational significance in Benton, Carroll, Madison, and Washington Counties. The NWALT seeks to conserve land through partnerships with:

- Private landowners
- Government entities
- Real estate developers
- Financial and estate planners

The NWALT engages the community to promote community awareness of local, regional and national land conservation issues and programs. The organization also serves as a means to hold and protect land for a variety of purposes. Landowners can preserve their land through:

- Conservation easements
- Transfer of development rights
- Land donation
- Long-term leases

For more information:

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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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Front cover: Prairie Grove