



CIVIL WAR TRUST

Saving America's Civil War Battlefields

Oklahoma

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 Oklahoma's Battlefields

The Civil War

The 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) report identified seven principal battlefield sites in the state of Oklahoma. The historic tracts of these battlefields total 29,700 acres. Today, nearly 97 percent or 29,000 acres, retain sufficient integrity to warrant protection. Using the priority ranking system of the CWSAC report, these seven battlefields are:

Cabin Creek (OK006) Class C
Chustenahlah (OK003) Class B
Chusto-Talasa (OK002) Class D
Honey Springs (OK007) Class B
Middle Boggy Depot (OK005) Class D
Old Fort Wayne (OK004) Class D
Round Mountain (OK001) Class D

The 2010 CWSAC update for Oklahoma's Civil War sites found that through fee-simple ownership and purchase of development rights, nonprofits, as well as local, state and federal stewardship projects, only protect about 1,400 acres, or five percent, of battlefield lands. The Honey Springs Battlefield is ranked as one of the top priority battlefield sites in the nation. Today, more than 1,000 acres are protected and managed by the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS), with the support of Friends of Honey Springs. The OHS also worked in collaboration with Friends of Cabin Creek Inc. to preserve 10 acres of the Cabin Creek Battlefield. The original 10-acre tract was donated to OHS in 1961 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy Vinita Chapter. The Chustenahlah Battlefield still remains with a majority of its integrity intact, but it is still unprotected land. The land will be threatened by future development along State Route 20 in coming years. In 1993, Old Fort Wayne was characterized as a landscape in need of preservation protection. In 2010, the update report indicated that much of the landscape has been compromised by residential development and industrialized poultry farming; however, a majority of the essential historic landscape remains intact but is not protected by any entity. The Chusto-Talasa Battlefield was classified as having been fragmented due to mining and residential development in 1993; the updated report indicates that the landscape remains intact but is still in need of protection. Both the Middle Boggy Depot Battlefield and the Round Mountain Battlefield were not assessed in 1993 and are yet to be assessed, but preservation opportunities still exist.

Only the Honey Springs Battlefield and the Cabin Creek Battlefield have portions of their acreage listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). All other battlefields listed in the 2010 updated report by the CWSAC do not have any acreage listed on the NRHP. The assessments completed by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) in 2010 indicate the potential National Register boundaries for each battlefield and what is currently protected. The Honey Springs Battlefield has 1,272 acres currently protected and listed on the National Register, but a potential National Register boundary of 6,324 acres. The Cabin Creek Battlefield has 96 acres currently protected and listed on the National Register, but a potential boundary of 2,161 acres for a total to 1,369 acres listed in the NRHP. The other battlefields have potential National Register boundaries, but no acreage is currently listed. The Chustenahlah Battlefield has a potential National Register boundary of 11,938 acres; Chusto-Talasa Battlefield has a potential National Register boundary of 5,880 acres; and the Old Fort Wayne Battlefield has a potential National Register boundary of 2,524 acres. Round Mountain and Middle Boggy Depot were not determined. The assessments indicate that there are 27,461 Civil War battlefield acres eligible for listing on the NRHP, or about 97 percent of the battlefields' total lands.

As of 2010, Congress had appropriated \$38.9 million to the Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants (CWBLAG) Program, protecting 16,600 acres in 67 battlefields in 14 states. Only one Civil War battlefield in Oklahoma has received funding from this program. For the purchase of 78.75 acres at the Honey Springs Battlefield, \$26,250 were matched with \$52,500 in leveraged funds. In 2011, two CWBLAG grants were awarded to the Cabin Creek Battlefield, totaling \$186,000 and matched with \$188,750 leveraged funds for the fee-simple purchase of 86.5 acres. Since 1992, the ABPP has awarded more than \$142,200 among several of Oklahoma Civil War battlefields for preservation planning projects, 75 percent of which went to the Honey Springs Battlefield.

STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING PROGRAMS

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

The Oklahoma Department of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers a program to purchase agricultural easements that are purchased through the Farmland and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). The FRPP is a voluntary program that helps landowners keep their productive farm and ranch land in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides matching funds to state, local or tribal government entities and nongovernmental organizations with existing farm and ranch lands protection programs to purchase conservation easements. Participating landowners choose to keep their land in agriculture and agree not to convert the land for nonagricultural use. Landowners retain all rights to use the property for agriculture. The goal of the program is to protect between 170,000 and 340,000 acres of agricultural land (including farmland, ranch land and private forestland). To qualify for the FRPP, the land offered must be privately owned and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Contain 50 percent or more prime, unique or locally important designated soils
- Contain historical or archaeological resources
- Further a state or local policy consistent with the purposes of the program

If the land cannot be converted to nonagricultural uses because of existing deed restrictions or other legal constraints, it is ineligible for the FRPP.

Oklahoma has three areas designated under the state and local criteria for land eligibility:

- The Tallgrass Prairie Region in northeastern Oklahoma, due to the importance and significance of that ecosystem and the threat of loss of the grasslands from conversion and fragmentation
- The Fort Sill Army Compatible Use Buffer, an area bordering the Fort Sill military installation in Comanche County, due to the incompatible uses from development and expansion of urban populated areas and conversion of agricultural lands adjacent to the military installation and the effects of these on military training exercises and the local infrastructure
- Eucha-Spavinaw Watershed Buffers, an area located in northeastern Oklahoma that has been designated by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the Delaware County Conservation District as having soils of state and local importance. The project will help create riparian buffers in the watershed, which will help preserve water quality and prevent soil erosion

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Oklahoma Transportation Alternatives Program

The Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) administers the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program, a new program under the MAP-21 legislation signed into law July 6, 2012. The TA program allows for increased flexibility in projects and effectively combines project eligibility from the former Transportation Enhancements (TE), Recreational Trails Program and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs, which were enacted under SAFETEA-LU. Since 1991, the INCOG has coordinated with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), which runs the selection process for TE projects at the state level. All projects submitted and selected as part of this process are based on future federal transportation authorizations. Eligible applicants include local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resources and public agencies, school districts, tribal governments and any regional authority responsible for oversight of transportation or recreational trails. To be eligible for this program the project must meet the following criteria:

Transportation Alternatives:

- Construction, planning and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and other nonmotorized forms of transportation
- Construction, planning and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for nondrivers, including children, older adults and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists or other nonmotorized transportation users
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas
- Community improvement activities, including — inventory, control or removal of outdoor advertising; historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities; and vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species and provide erosion control
- Archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under 23 USC
- Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to — address storm-water management, control and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff; reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality; or restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats
- Planning, designing or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the rights-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways

Recreational Trails Program:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails
- Purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment;
- Construction of new recreational trails
- Acquisition of easements and fee-simple titles to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors
- Assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance
- Development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection

Safe Routes to School Program:

- Planning, design and construction of infrastructure-related projects that will substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school, including sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and speed reduction improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, on-street bicycle facilities, off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, secure bicycle parking facilities and traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools
- Activities to encourage walking and bicycling to school, including public awareness campaigns and outreach to press and community leaders; traffic education and enforcement in the vicinity of schools; student sessions on bicycle and pedestrian safety, health and environment; and funding for training, volunteers and managers of safe routes to school programs

Tribal governments and the INCOG have established a goal of funding a diversity of larger and smaller projects. Projects may not request more than \$500,000 in federal funds for large projects and \$75,000 for small projects. There is no limit on overall project size. All projects require a 20 percent match from the applicant. Projects will be selected based on specific criteria. The INCOG staff will check projects for eligibility, then score and rank each project and submit a summary score for consideration by the INCOG Transportation Technical Committee and recommendation by the INCOG Transportation Policy Committee. Projects will subsequently be approved by the INCOG board of directors before being forwarded to the ODOT for project administration.

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PRIVATE FUNDING PROGRAMS

Land Trusts

There are six land trusts operating within the state of Oklahoma. While many land trusts work strictly in nature conservation, some have resources and partner with other nonprofit organizations, municipalities and small groups to conserve land containing historically significant cultural resources. A full list of Oklahoma land trusts can be found here: http://fndalandtrust.org/states/oklahoma40/land_trusts#statewide

Land Legacy



Land Legacy is a nonprofit conservation organization established in 2003 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is a partnership with Kerr Sustainable Agriculture. Its mission is to conserve and enhance rural and urban landscapes, thereby improving quality of life. Land

Legacy projects include urban parks and trails, farm and ranch preservation and water quality protection. Land Legacy also works with public agencies and other conservation organizations to establish long-term conservation goals and programs.

Land Legacy is the only statewide land trust in Oklahoma and works collaboratively with landowners and partner agencies to determine which tools are most effective for any particular project, such as outdoor recreation, water quality, historic preservation, economic benefits and quality of life. Land Legacy offers a conservation easement program to help landowners in their land preservation efforts. Most of the open space protected by Land Legacy is from donations of conservation easements. Easements are normally tax deductible for their full appraised fair market value. When landowners donate a conservation easement, Land Legacy asks for a stewardship gift to pay for ongoing monitoring costs, typically in the range of \$5,000 to \$50,000, depending on the specifics of the easement agreement and land and are also fully tax deductible.

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Edmond Land Conservancy



The Edmond Land Conservancy (ELC) was born out of The Edmond Greenprint, a document produced in July 2003 by the City of Edmond's Green City Task Force.

The ELC was formed by several members of the Green City Task Force in September 2003 and received its nonprofit status as a 501(c)(3) entity in March 2004. Helping to preserve Edmond's natural, cultural and scenic resources— water, forests, open space, historic sites, farmland and floodplains— and identifying and pursuing opportunities to acquire rights in property through conservation easements, outright acquisitions or donations are the main goals of the Conservancy.

The Edmond Land Conservancy provides the citizens of Edmond a vehicle for participating in the creation, preservation and improvement of Edmond's green space and works with landowners who wish to donate land or place their land in a permanent conservation easement that restricts commercial or residential land development. As a member of the national Land Trust Alliance (LTA), the Edmond Land Conservancy adheres to established

guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust organization, which is run legally, ethically and in the public interest and conducts a sound program of land transactions and stewardship.

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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.

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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: Chustenablah