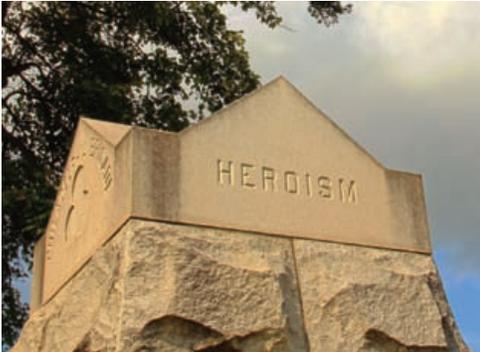


CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Monument of the 71st Pennsylvania Infantry, one of several regiments that confronted Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg.

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program (CWBPP)

is a matching grants program that promotes preservation of America's most historically significant Civil War battlefields. The program, funded through the federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, encourages nonprofit involvement in historic preservation.

The program is the result of a commission created by Congress that recommended the establishment of a matching grants program to protect high priority Civil War battlefields. The program was formally authorized in December 2002, when President George W. Bush signed into law the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act. The program was reauthorized in March 2009, when President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Act (PL 111-11). The program is authorized for up to \$10 million a year.

Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program grants are administered by the American Battlefield Protection Program, an arm of the National Park Service (NPS), which awards all congressional appropriations as competitive grants. Because only a small percentage of America's Civil War battlefields are preserved within the Park Service, CWBPP is used to target only hallowed ground outside NPS boundaries (and thus does not contribute to NPS maintenance costs).

The key to the program's success is a 1-to-1 federal/nonfederal matching grants formula that encourages both public and private sector investment in battlefield protection. The program preserves historic sites by working with willing sellers to acquire properties at fair market value when they become available. CWBPP matching grants can be used for both fee simple and easement acquisition.

Over the years, CWBPP grants have been used to save more than 19,500 acres of hallowed ground in 20 states. Among the sites saved as a result of this program are historic properties at Antietam and South Mountain, Md.; Champion Hill, Miss.; Chancellorsville, Manassas and the Wilderness, Va.; Chattanooga and Fort Donelson, Tenn.; and Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

Since FY 1999, Congress has appropriated \$74 million for CWBPP. Most recently, Congress included \$9 million for the program in the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3547). The White House included an \$8.9 million request for the American Battlefield Protection Program, which includes CWBPP, as part of its FY 2014 budget, released on April 10, 2013.



Students witnessing a cannon firing demonstration at the Third Winchester Battlefield, a site recently protected with a CWBPP grant.



This battlefield brief was prepared by the Civil War Trust, a 55,000-member nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving America's historic Civil War battlefields.