

**Please note:** This text is from the fourth edition of *Federal Historic Preservation Laws*, published in 2006 by the National Center for Cultural Resources, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. This edition contains 24 Federal laws and portions of laws that pertain to the preservation of the Nation's cultural heritage.

The citations in this book are no longer current. We have retained this online edition for its historic value, and for the plain-language context that it provides about these laws.

For up-to-date citations and links to the current text of Federal historic preservation laws, please consult our webpage about **Federal Historic Preservation Laws, Regulations, and Orders:**  
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/laws.htm>.

For information about **Title 54 of the United States Code**, please visit:  
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/laws-intro.htm>.

# American Battlefield Protection Act

AS AMENDED

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This Act became law on November 12 (Public Law 104-333, 16 U.S.C. 469 k). It has been amended once. See 16 U.S.C. 469k notes for the Congressional findings and purposes associated with the establishment of Section (d), the Battlefield acquisition grant program. The description of the Act tracks the language of the United States Code except that (following common usage) we refer to the "Act" (meaning the Act, as amended) rather than the "subchapter" or the "title" of the Code.

16 U.S.C. 469k,  
American Battlefield  
Protection Program

## Section 604

(Paragraph (a) omitted)

Purpose

(b) The purpose of this section is to assist citizens, public and private institutions, and governments at all levels in planning, interpreting, and protecting sites where historic battles were fought on American soil during the armed conflicts that shaped the growth and development of the United States, in order that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from the ground where Americans made their ultimate sacrifice.

Preservation  
assistance

(c)(1) Using the established national historic preservation program to the extent practicable, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program, shall encourage, support, assist, recognize, and work in partnership with citizens, Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and private nonprofit organizations in identifying, researching, evaluating, interpreting, and protecting historic battlefields and associated sites on a National, State, and local level.

Financial assistance

(2) To carry out paragraph (1), the Secretary may use a cooperative agreement, grant, contract, or other generally adopted means of providing financial assistance.

Authorization of  
appropriations

(3) There are authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 annually to carry out this subsection, to remain available until expended.

Battlefield acquisition  
grant program

(d)(1) In this subsection:

Definitions

(A) The term "**Battlefield Report**" means the document entitled "Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields," prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated July 1993.

Battlefield report

Eligible entity

(B) The term "**eligible entity**" means a State or local government.

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Eligible site	(C) The term “ <b>eligible site</b> ” means a site— (i) that is not within the exterior boundaries of a unit of the National Park System; and (ii) that is identified in the Battlefield Report.
Secretary	(D) The term “ <b>Secretary</b> ” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program.
Establishment	(2) The Secretary shall establish a battlefield acquisition grant program under which the Secretary may provide grants to eligible entities to pay the Federal share of the cost of acquiring interests in eligible sites for the preservation and protection of those eligible sites.
Nonprofit partners	(3) An eligible entity may acquire an interest in an eligible site using a grant under this subsection in partnership with a nonprofit organization.
Non-federal share	(4) The non-Federal share of the total cost of acquiring an interest in an eligible site under this subsection shall be not less than 50 percent.
Limitations on land use	(5) An interest in an eligible site acquired under this subsection shall be subject to section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 [as amended 16 U.S.C. 4601-8(f)(3)].
Reports, In general	(6) (A) Not later than 5 years after December 17, 2002, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the activities carried out under this subsection.
Update of battlefield report	(B) Not later than 2 years after December 17, 2002, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that updates the Battlefield Report to reflect— (i) preservation activities carried out at the 384 battlefields during the period between publication of the Battlefield Report and the update; (ii) changes in the condition of the battlefields during that period; and (iii) any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields during that period.

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Authorization of appropriations, Battlefield acquisitions

(7)(A) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to provide grants under this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

Appropriation authorization, Update of battlefield report

(B) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out paragraph (6)(B), \$500,000.

Repeal

(e)(1) This section is repealed on September 30, 2008.

No effect on general authority

(2) The Secretary may continue to conduct battlefield studies and provide battlefield acquisition grants in accordance with other authorities available to the Secretary.

Unobligated funds, after September 30, 2008

(3) Any funds made available under this section that remain unobligated shall be credited to the general fund of the Treasury.