



American Battlefield Protection Program 2017 Grant Awards

The American Battlefield Protection Program announces the awarding of 19 grants totaling \$1.189 million to assist in the preservation and protection of America's significant battlefield lands. The funds will support a variety of projects at battle sites in 12 states and 2 territories.

This year's grants provide funding for projects at endangered battlefields from multiple Indian Wars, Queen Anne's War, the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, the Unification of Hawaii, War of 1812, American Civil War, and World War II. Funded projects include archeology, mapping, cultural resource survey work, documentation, planning, education, and interpretation.

The American Battlefield Protection Program funds projects conducted by federal, state, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions. ABPP's mission is to safeguard and preserve significant American battlefield lands for present and future generations as symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage. Since 1990, the ABPP and its partners have helped to protect and enhance more than 100 battlefields by co-sponsoring 579 projects in 42 states and territories totaling \$19,620,955.00 in federal grant money.

Brief descriptions of each grant project follow, listed by grant recipient. (**Note:** states/territories indicate location of grant project.)

Camden County Historical Society

New Jersey

\$30,000

The Battle of Gloucester faces severe development threats. It is often overlooked that this is the battle which facilitated General George Washington's recommendation to the Continental Congress that Marquis de Lafayette be appointed to command. Development over the past 240 years has all but consumed the identifying features of this battlefield. There are however some surviving features of the battle. This project seeks to identify, and publicize the surviving features of the battlefield, and to identify any archeological sites in order to potentially reconstruct some of the cultural landscape.

Chester County

Pennsylvania

\$50,000

The Battle of Brandywine was one of the largest battles of the American Revolutionary War. As a continuation of the preservation plan adopted by Chester County Board of Commissioners in 2013, this project will examine two adjacent properties related to the battlefield. A technical report will be written that identifies the defining features of the battle that took place on these properties, recording such details as the location of troop movements, encampments, and other referenced locations in historic letters and reports. This document will be the foundation of future preservation activities, interpretation and community preservation efforts

Civil War Preservation Trust

New Jersey

\$118,203

The Continental Army, under the command of General George Washington, experienced their first victory over British Regulars at the Battle of Princeton. There is renewed local and National interest in the portions of the battlefield that still exist. This project will create a preservation plan for the Princeton Battlefield, and recommend improvements to the interpretive resources located on the historic site.

Fairfield Historical Society

Connecticut

\$86,500

The longest continuous engagement of the Pequot War, the Battle of Munnacommock Swamp is a rare example of the tactics used by the English Colonists to fight the Pequot Nation while in marshland terrain. The goals of this project are to define the battlefield boundary using field research, and to assess areas of integrity for a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The product will be useful to Tribes and landholders as they work together to protect this landscapes from the 1637 battle.

Florida Museum of Natural History

Florida

\$20,000

In 1702, the English Governor of the Carolina Colony, James Moore, led a campaign against Spanish Florida that culminated in the month long siege of the Castillo de San Marcos at St. Augustine. This project will research, identify, and provide the status of all battlefields associated with the campaign. GPS data will be used to confirm the boundaries of associated skirmish sites. This information will be made available to preservation groups and local planning authorities for better site preservation.

Georgia American Revolution Preservation Alliance

South Carolina

\$85,600

The Battle of Port Royal Island was the first land battle in South Carolina during the Revolutionary War. The Patriot victory on the Island is seen as a critical moment during the war because it helped to inspire volunteers to join the American cause. Active participants in the battle included two signers of the Declaration of Independence, a Jewish volunteer militia company, and African Americans that served in combat roles within a Continental regiment from Rhode Island. This project seeks to conduct a military terrain analysis of the battlefield in order to define the battlefield boundary and record the battle action within the landscape. This first step of recording the history of the battlefield will assist in all local activities to follow.

Gulf Archaeology Research Institute

Florida

\$72,500

As a part of the Second Seminole War fought in 1836, the Battle of Wahoo Swamp was a failed attempt to re-locate the Seminoles to reservations on the western frontier. A comprehensive study, which will include both the American military and American Indian viewpoints of the battle will be compiled. Additionally, a field survey will be undertaken to establish the battlefield boundaries, and create maps in furtherance of implementing a course of preservation for the nearly 6,000 acre site.

Institute for International Maritime Research

North Carolina

\$67,000

Fort Fisher kept the Port of Wilmington, North Carolina open to Confederate blockade runners until its capture in January 1865. In order to accelerate the Fort's capture, Union commanders planned to blow up USS Louisiana under its walls and render its defenses useless. However, the resulting explosion did not affect Fort Fisher to the extent hoped. This project seeks to use new technology and historical research in order to locate, identify, and investigate the remains of USS Louisiana. The project report will be included in a National Register of Historic Places nomination and inclusion in the Cape Fear Civil War Shipwreck District.

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nations

Connecticut

\$42,200

Expanding the understanding of the Pequot War will increase awareness locally and provide a platform for further study by American and international scholars. The integrity of 17th Century battlefields, like the Battle for Mistick Fort or the Battle of Fairfield, provide insight into the evolution of military strategy and technology during this early colonial period war. The result of this project will be a report and an educational forum to teach and exchange ideas of battlefield preservation .

Northwestern Bands of the Shoshone Nation

Utah

\$72,000

A National Historic Landmark, Bear River was the scene of fighting between the United States Army and the Shoshone Nation. Following the battle, a large number of noncombatant American Indians were killed by the US military with the exact number still in dispute. A battlefield preservation plan will be developed for the Bear River Massacre that can be used by Tribal leaders, landholders and preservationists to find agreement and action in preserving and protection this important battlefield.

Old Saybrook Historical Society

Connecticut

\$43,000

During the first phase of the Pequot War in 1636, the siege of Fort Saybrook marked the first time English forces in New England engaged the American Indian population in a sustained conflict. This project seeks to research the actions at Fort Saybrook and to develop a regional preservation and educational consortium of stakeholders. These stakeholders will be museums, libraries, historical societies, and schools dedicated to the preservation, protection, and interpretation of the Pequot War and sites associated with Fort Saybrook. This grant product will include both a National Register of Historic Places nomination(s) and the development of outdoor interpretive programs for local museums and schools.

Preservation Maryland

Maryland

\$55,000

On September 14, 1862, the Battle of South Mountain took place and was one of the most critical events preceding the Battle of Antietam. Currently there are several parcels protected under several local jurisdictions and no real long range plan. This project seeks to develop a comprehensive preservation plan for the three mountain gaps associated with the battle, and the Shafter Motherway Farmhouse. A single comprehensive plan will give local groups a consensus document to coordinate protection activities.

South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, Inc.

South Carolina

\$75,000

Funds will be utilized to create a master database of South Carolina battlefields, integrating information from the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and the National Register of Historic Places; additionally, the Trust will map and document property identification information which may be useful for future research. Coordinating with the South Carolina Department of Archives & History, they will identify potentially eligible properties for the National Register of Historic Places. Information about properties eligible for nomination will provide landholders and local authorities with much needed information and assistance for historical property advantages.

Ships of Exploration and Discovery

Saipan

\$27,000

The Battle of Saipan, fought during June and July 1944, is considered a major turning point of the American offensive in the Pacific Theater during World War II. The remains of both American and Japanese aircraft, ships, and amphibious vehicles engaged in this battle litter the island's coastline, and face threats from uncontrolled shoreline development and tourism. This project seeks to place the area (12 sites in total) on the National Register of Historic Places, while supplying additional site identification and documentation of artifacts to provide additional historical context. The information will assist local communities to create better strategies of heritage tourism.

Ships of Exploration and Discovery

Palau

\$81,345

As part of Operation Stalemate II, the 1944 Battle of Peleliu was one of the bloodiest in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Over 60 amphibious landing craft and tanks were destroyed in one day of the battle's opening phase. This project will produce a report that will include a military terrain analysis to identify the amphibious approaches to the assault beaches. Remote sensing technology will also be used to identify previously unknown archeological resources. This underwater work will be useful for heritage tourism and preservation minded groups alike.

Texas Tech University

Texas

\$81,252

Palmito Ranch was the last battle to take place during the American Civil War in 1865. This extremely significant site has a high degree of historic integrity, having experienced little change since the time of the battle. This project seeks to develop a comprehensive plan for the battlefield and to increase public awareness by developing communication tools using augmented reality technology.

University of Hawaii

Hawaii

\$79,600

In 1795, King Kamehameha I lead 20,000 warriors in an attack on his nephew, Kalanikupule, at the Battle of Nu'uauu. The outcome of this battle led to the unification of the entire Hawaiian archipelago. Although highly significant in history of the State, the site has never undergone a comprehensive field study to document its remains. This project seeks to define the battlefield's boundaries and to develop a battlefield preservation plan that will include the identification of key battle features. The local preservation groups seeks to preserve and protect this resource while contemplating the potential for future tourism.

University of Montana

Montana

\$53,300

This project will investigate the Rosebud and Pryor (Arrow) Creek Battlefields in order to determine if tribal forces could have deliberately drawn their enemies to these locations as both a matter of military strategy and because of the sites' spiritual importance in 18XX. This project will emphasize the importance of collaborating with descendant communities to understand such landscapes. Better understanding of the military movements can help us understand site placement and help predict where to find lost battlefields.

Wheatland Foundation, Inc

Virginia

\$49,500

A precursor to the more famous Battle of Yorktown, the Battle of Green Spring was fought on July 6, 1781. The battle was between the Marquis de Lafayette's Continentals and Lord Cornwallis's British Regulars. This project seeks to produce a preservation plan for the continued protection of this American Revolutionary War battlefield, using both the Battle of Green Spring and the Governor's Land Archaeological District as examples.

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