



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

Long-Range Interpretive Plan

June 2009



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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Planning Process

This Long-Range Interpretive Plan outlines recommendations for future interpretive services, facilities, and media. Park staff, partners, historians, and stakeholders worked together to develop this plan. Our goal is to promote Wilson's Creek National Battlefield resource values through specially planned visitor experiences and excellence in interpretation.

This Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) recommends actions that should occur over the next seven to ten years. It identifies park themes, describes visitors experience goals, and recommends a wide variety of personal and non-personal interpretive services and outreach activities that will best communicate the park's purpose, significance, and themes. In concert with the park's Annual Implementation Plan and Interpretive Database, it completes the park's Comprehensive Interpretive Plan, as established in DO-6. In addition, this planning process has been customized to meet Wilson's Creek National Battlefield needs, conditions, and special circumstances. The ultimate product is a cost-effective, tightly focused, high quality park interpretive program that achieves management goals, provides appropriate visitor opportunities, and facilitates desired visitor experiences.

The Project Agreement was signed in 2006. A Foundation workshop was held in November 2006 and a Recommendations workshop was held in October 2007. Park staff, partners, regional NPS staff, and two media specialists from Harpers Ferry Center participated in the 2007 workshop. The original planner accepted another position so a new planner was assigned to the project in May 2008. A scoping trip was conducted in July 2008. A Confirmation workshop was held at the park in July 2008 with eight participants representing park staff and Midwest Region NPS staff in attendance.

Barring legislative changes or major new revelations, the foundational elements expressed in this LRIP – purpose, significance, themes, and visitor experience goals – will remain constant over the life of the plan. Specific recommendations about media and programs may need to be updated as staffing, funding, technology, or resource conditions change. Further design documents must be produced to implement some of the goals and recommendations in this plan.



"The death of General Lyon" from a chromolithograph of the Battle of Wilson's Creek by Kurz and Allison.

Plan Highlights

During the next 10 years Wilson's Creek National Battlefield interpretive services will provide visitors with opportunities to increase their understanding and appreciation for the park and its resources; to engage in local and regional educational opportunities; and to participate in nationally significant events.

Visitor Center

- Plan, design and fabricate new exhibits that combine the artifacts from the Civil War Museum with the current visitor center exhibits. Create one visitor flow pattern, one cohesive message and a unified visitor experience that provides a seamless museum exhibit experience. The exhibit plan must address current themes, remove ineffective messages, and upgrade the exhibits to meet NPS exhibit standards.

Education Program

- Hire a Park Ranger, Interpretation (Education Coordinator).
- Limit the number of formal programs offered and provide self-service options for those schools that are not able to participate allowing the staff to have better control of the program and to provide quality programs.

Bloody Hill

- Improve the visitor experience at Bloody Hill by emphasizing its importance during the Battle of Wilson's Creek. New wayside exhibit panels, artillery placement, a shade structure, re-alignment of the trail network and new artwork will create more opportunities for visitors to engage in the resource.

Tour Road

- Establish a new first stop where the Short Farm was located to emphasize the lives of the residence more effectively. The first combat action between the federals and the southerners occurred near their house. Change Gibson's Mill tour stop to Plummer's Crossing. This is where the Union entered the Ray's cornfield and provides more context for the tactics of the battle.

Terrell Creek Acquisition

- Create Double Spring Day Use Area where the Wire Road crosses the creek. Visitors can view a place where both armies are known to have camped and rested. A modest picnic area and wayside exhibits could be placed here.

Special Events

- Plan for and participate in 2011-2015 Civil War Sesquicentennial.
- Plan for and participate in 2016 National Park Service Centennial.

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Foundation for Planning

"I do not see how a war is to be avoided...yet I have no apprehensions about the final triumph of almighty truth, though at the cost of many unnecessary sacrifices. But let them come, I would rather see the country lighted up with the flames of war...than the great rights and hopes of the human race expire before the arrogance of secessionists."

- General Nathaniel Lyon

Site Background

The park was established on April 22, 1960, in order to preserve and commemorate the Battle of Wilson's Creek, the site of the second major battle of the Civil War and the first major battle west of the Mississippi River. On August 10, 1861, 5,400 Union troops under the command of General Nathaniel Lyon clashed in a brutal fight with 12,000 Confederate and Missouri State Guard soldiers under Generals Benjamin McCulloch and Sterling Price. The casualties were about equal on both sides—1,317 Union and 1,222 Southern - and included General Lyon who became the first Union General killed in battle. While the Union lost the Battle of Wilson's Creek, their defeat signaled that Union reinforcements were desperately needed to prevent Missouri's total fall to the South. On March 8, 1862, the Confederate Army was finally driven out of Missouri as a consequence of the Battle of Pea Ridge. This victory by Union forces came partially from the lessons learned at Wilson's Creek.

Located just 10 miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield encompasses 1,902 acres and preserves seventy-five percent of the actual battlegrounds. Many visitors drive along the 4.9 mile tour road and stop at the eight pullouts featuring the major historic points of the battle. The park has 50 known archeological sites, many of which are associated with the battle. Over half of the sites date to pre-European contact. The park also preserves cultural landscapes and historic Civil War era structures including the Ray House, the 19th century home which was used as a field hospital, and where General Lyon's body was taken after the battle. In August 2005 the park acquired the Sweeney Museum adding 8-10,000 unique items specific to the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi West to the park's extant collection of over 60,000. The Sweeney acquisition also resulted in an expansion of the park's interpretive themes to include the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi West.



Wilson's Creek

While serving as a memorial to the battle, the park also provides a place where nature can be enjoyed by cyclists, walkers, equestrians, and runners who utilize the tour road and the 10.6 miles of trails, including the historic Wire Road. With urban growth and population growth expected to expand forty percent by 2020, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield will increasingly serve as a natural and recreational oasis. The park also serves as a sanctuary for wildlife and plant life disturbed by human encroachment including two federal threatened species.

Legislative Background

Public Law 86-434
86th Congress, H. R. 725
April 22, 1960

AN ACT

74 STAT. 76.

To provide for the establishment of the Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park,
in the State of Missouri.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior shall acquire, by gift, purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, the lands (together with any improvements thereon) comprising the Wilson's Creek Battlefield site near Springfield, Missouri, and any other lands adjacent to such site which in his opinion are necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this Act. Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park, Mo.

SEC. 2 (a) The lands acquired under the first section of this Act shall be set aside as a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States, and shall be designated as the Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park. The National Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall administer, protect, and develop the park, subject to the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535). 16 USC 1b.

(b) In order to provide for the proper development and maintenance of the park, the Secretary of the Interior shall construct and maintain therein such roads, trails, markers, buildings, and other improvements, and such facilities for the care and accommodation of visitors, as he may deem necessary.

SEC. 3. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, but not more than \$120,000, as may be needed for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands and for the development of the Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park, of which not more than \$20,000 shall be used for acquisition purposes, and in addition thereto, such sums as may be needed for its administration and maintenance. Appropriation authorized.

Approved April 22, 1960.

Public Law 86-434, 86th Congress, H.R. 725, April 22, 1960
To provide for the establishment of Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park
in the State of Missouri.

Wilson's Creek

An Act to amend the Act of April 22, 1960, providing for the establishment of the Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park. (84 Stat. 1441)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of the Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park, in the State of Missouri", approved April 22, 1960 (74 Stat. 76), is amended as follows:

(a) Strike out "Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park" in the title and in section 2(a), and substitute "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield".

(b) Amend section 3 to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. For development of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, there are authorized to be appropriated not more than \$2,285,000 (March 1969 prices), plus or minus such amounts, if any, as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in construction costs as indicated by engineering cost indices applicable to the types of construction involved herein."

Approved December 16, 1970.

Legislative History

House Report No. 91-1295 (Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs).
Senate Report No. 91-1389 (Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs).
Congressional Record, Vol. 116 (1970):
Sept. 14, considered and passed House.
Dec. 4, considered and passed Senate.

Amendment approved December 16, 1970 to change name to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

Public Law 108-394
108th Congress

An Act

To amend Public Law 86-434 establishing Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri to expand the boundaries of the park, and for other purposes.

Oct. 30, 2004
[H.R. 4481]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004".

Wilson's Creek
National
Battlefield
Boundary
Adjustment Act
of 2004.
16 USC 430kk
note.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF BOUNDARIES, WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD, MISSOURI.

(a) **BOUNDARY EXPANSION; PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTIONS.**—The first section of Public Law 86-434 (16 U.S.C. 430kk) is amended—

(1) by striking "That the Secretary" and inserting the following:

"SECTION 1. WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD: ESTABLISHMENT AND ACQUISITION OF LANDS.

"(a) **ESTABLISHMENT, INITIAL BOUNDARIES.**—The Secretary"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(b) **EXPANSION OF BOUNDARIES.**—(1) The boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield are revised to include lands and interests therein consisting of six parcels totaling 615 acres and identified as parcels '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6' on the map entitled 'Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Proposed Boundary', numbered 410/80,037 and dated January 27, 2004. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

"(2) The Secretary is authorized to acquire the lands referred to in paragraph (1) by donation, by purchase from willing sellers with donated or appropriated funds, or by exchange. The Secretary may acquire by the same methods personal property associated with, and appropriate for, interpretation of the park.

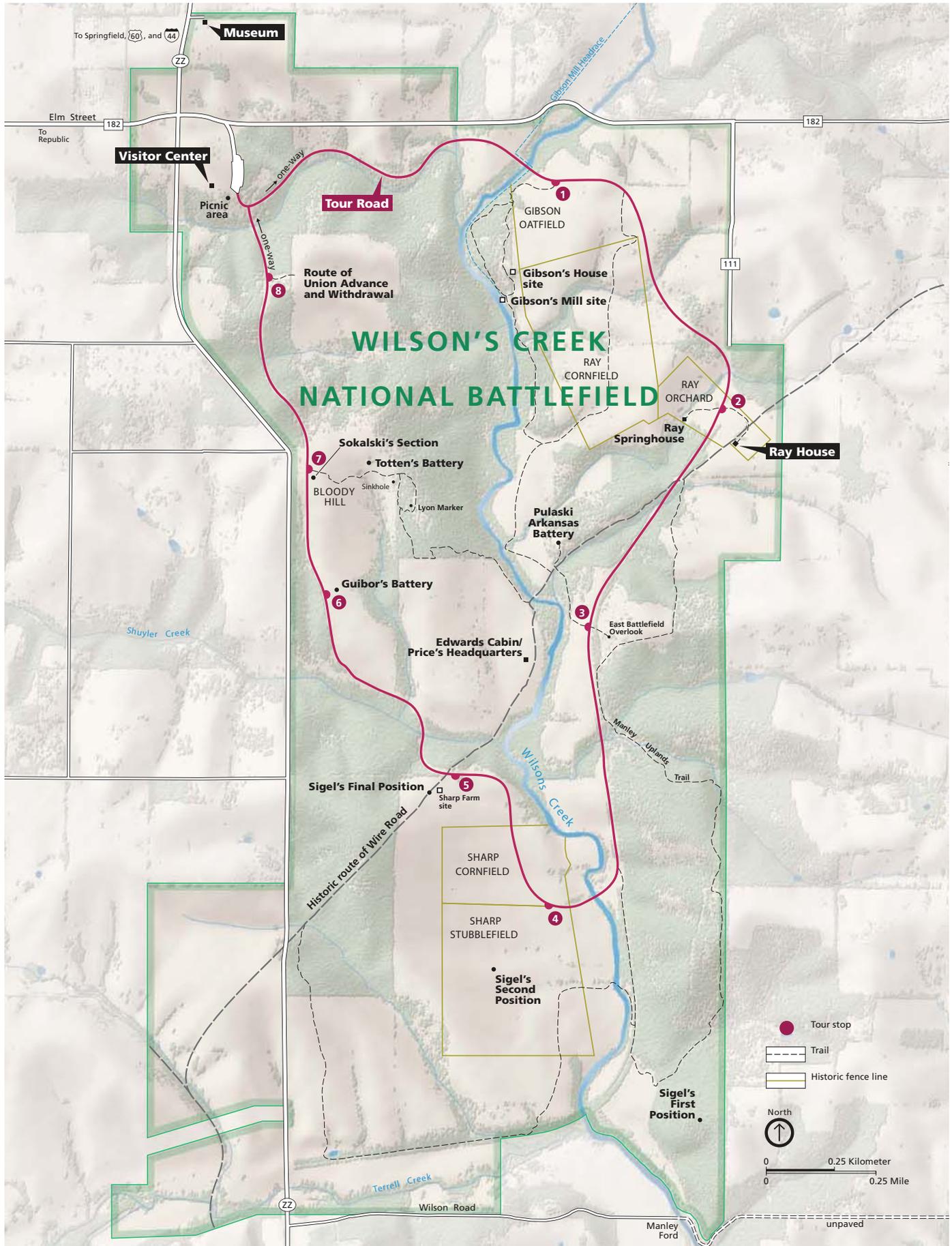
"(c) **ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

"(1) require any private property owner to allow public access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to such private property; or

"(2) modify any provision of Federal, State, or local law with regard to public access to or use of private property.

"(d) **LIABILITY.**—The revision of the boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield by subsection (b) shall not be considered

Public Law 108-394, 108th Congress, H.R. 4481, October 30, 2004
Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Expansion



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, 2009

Park Purpose

Park purpose statements describe why an area was set aside and what specific purposes exist for a park. Purpose statements are derived from legislation, legislative history, public participation, and public rule making. Purpose statements may reflect upon traditional purposes of preservation and enjoyment, the linkages between the management unit and its cultural and natural resources, connections with groups and areas external to the park, and language of the enabling legislation. Additional purposes may have emerged since this area was originally set aside.

The park's 2007 General Management Plan Amendment states that "the purpose of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is to commemorate the Battle of Wilson's Creek, preserve the associated battlefield, and interpret the battle within the context of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi West."

Park Significance

Park significance statements describe the distinctiveness of the combined resources of a park. The statements can reflect upon natural, cultural, scientific, recreational, inspirational, and other resources. The statements embody the power of the place through a factual representation of what makes this place special. Usually stated as facts placed in relevant context, these statements summarize the essence of the importance of this park's resources to our natural and cultural heritage. Significances may evolve over time as a result of discoveries and updates to our knowledge about this place.

- The Battle of Wilson's Creek was the second major battle of the Civil War and the first major battle west of the Mississippi River.
- Wilson's Creek National Battlefield was the site of the death of General Nathaniel Lyon, the first Union general killed in the Civil War. Lyon's death focused national attention on the potential loss of Missouri to the Confederacy.
- Wilson's Creek National Battlefield rural character evokes the setting experienced by the combatants.
- Unlike other major Civil War sites in the National Park Service, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is a combination of comprehensive and accessible resources: the Hulston Library, Sweeney Collection, the cultural landscape and other associated collections and artifacts that allows for an in-depth understanding of the Civil War, the trans-Mississippi theater, and the battle.

Interpretive Themes

Primary interpretive themes are those ideas or concepts about Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield that are keys to helping visitors gain an understanding of the park’s significance and resources. The themes, which are based on the park’s purpose and significance, provide the foundation for interpretive programs and media in the park. The themes do not include everything that may be interpreted, but they do address the ideas that are critical to a visitor’s understanding and appreciating of the park’s significance. Effective interpretation is achieved when visitors are able to associate resources and their values and consequently derive something meaningful from their experiences.

- I. **Missouri’s Position as a Border State:** The Battle of Wilson’s Creek resulted partially from Missouri’s position as a western border (slave) state where social, economic, ethnic, and political differences fueled animosities between groups.
- II. **Political/Military Leaders and Missouri’s Strategic Importance:** Missouri’s key strategic importance, and the diverse personalities, critical decisions, and complex motivations of political and military leaders, greatly influenced the campaign and battle.
- III. **Battle Outcome was the Result of Many Interrelated Factors:** The outcome of the battle of Wilson’s Creek, a bloody and difficult fight, was the result of many interrelated factors: leadership, tactics, lack of communication, terrain, a mix of weapons, a jumble of uniforms and equipment, and men experiencing combat for the first time, culminated in surprise and confusion.

- IV. **Union Defeat and the Death of Lyon:** The Union’s defeat at Wilson’s Creek and the death of General Lyon gave hope and confidence to the Confederacy and focused national attention on the potential of Missouri’s secession, which forced the North to reassess its commitment to the war in the Trans-Mississippi Theater.
- V. **Lives of the Residents:** The lives of residents who experienced the campaign and Battle of Wilson’s Creek reveal the dramatic impacts of war and tragedy of loss on civilian populations.
- VI. **Preservation and Commemoration:** The preservation and commemoration of the battlefield and its associated resources foster an understanding of the era of the battle, encourage respect for the legacy of personal choice, and reflect a desire to remember and honor the dedication to duty, patriotism, and sacrifices of soldiers and civilians.



Living history is an integral part of the interpretive and volunteer program.

Management Goals

Park Mission Goals identified in the 2002 Final General Management Plan:

- Wilson’s Creek’s natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored, and maintained in good condition and managed with their broader ecosystems and cultural contexts.
- Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities. Visitors and the general public understand and appreciate efforts to preserve the park and its resources.
- Natural and cultural resources are conserved through formal partnership programs.
- To better preserve park resources and to better provide for public enjoyment and visitor experience of the park, Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield uses current management practices, systems, and technologies to accomplish its mission.

2008-2012 Strategic Plans:

In accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield developed a strategic plan and management goals through 2012. The following goals address recreation, interpretation, and visitor experiences.

The outcomes or how well the park is achieving its visitor-related goals are measured annually at every unit of the National Park System through survey forms that are distributed to visitors at each NPS unit. Visitors send their completed survey forms to the University of Idaho where the data is collected and compiled for each NPS unit. The survey results reflect visitor opinion about each park’s facilities, services, and recreational opportunities, as well as measures visitor understanding and appreciation of each NPS unit’s significance.

Mission Goal IIa1:

By September 30, 2012, 95% of visitors to Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities.

Mission Goal IIb1:

By September 30, 2012, 87% of Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield visitors understand the significance of the park.

Over the past three years the park has exceeded the visitor satisfaction goal by as much as five percent and has improved the visitor understanding goal from sixty-two percent to eighty-eight percent due to change in survey methodology.

Desired Visitor Experiences

Desired visitor experiences describe what physical, intellectual, and emotional experiences should be available for visitors to Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield. These experiences will be available to visitors of all abilities, including those with visual, auditory, mobility, or cognitive impairments.

Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield will provide visitors with an opportunity to:

- Become immersed in the park resources and the physical challenges of combat at Wilson’s Creek via a system of accessible hiking trails through restored combat areas.
- Experience a historically-accurate battlefield landscape.
- Encounter the drama, challenges, and horror experienced by soldiers and civilians during the Civil War by witnessing historical reenactments, interpretive programs, or special events that include the use of historically accurate uniforms, equipment, and weapons.
- Access the historic Ray House and learn how the battle affected families and enslaved people in Southwestern Missouri.
- Understand the course of the battle through a variety of interpretive media.
- Experience an emotional empathy with the men who fought at Wilson’s Creek and the civilians in the area.
- Participate in meaningful and personally relevant interpretive tours and presentations.
- See and study authentic objects and relics from the battle and the Civil War.
- Choose from a selection of quality, affordable, educational sales items in a wide range of prices.
- Participate in family-friendly activities, such as audio tours, i.e. podcasts, or Junior Ranger guides.
- Make personal connections with the Civil War through investigation of their family’s participation during the conflict.
- Enjoy the scenery and wildlife of the battlefield through a variety of recreational opportunities.
- Be assured of their personal safety during their visit.

Visitation and Visitor Use

Approximately 151,000 visitors come to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield annually. This figure is based on a five-year average of monthly public use data taken during calendar years 2004-2008. There was a forty-two percent decrease in visitation from 2005 (207,199) to 2008 (120,670). The reasons for the decrease in visitation are unknown; however, possible causes are extreme weather episodes, storm damage resulting in trail closures, road closures due to repairs, and a steep increase in gas prices. Monthly public use data for the first three quarters of 2009 (122,737) does reflect a slight rise in visitation.

Peak visitation is during the summer months of June, July and August. The shoulder seasons are March to May and September to October. In 2008, however, there were an almost consistent number of visitors each month from April to October. Visitation during the winter months is almost fifty percent less than the summer.

A 2001 University of Minnesota visitor use survey found that sixty percent of the visitors are local people who come to the park for recreation and fitness; ninety-seven percent of visitors identified themselves as white; and almost all of the visitors were from the United States. Only one other country was represented.

The survey also found that local visitors were very concerned about the condition of the battlefield resources and access while the non-local visitors were concerned about their limited ability to learn about the history of the battle.

The park attracts more than 6,000 students of all ages each year – from elementary school to college institutions. The majority of the school groups visit during the spring creating a challenge for the park staff to accommodate all of the requests for personal services. Groups such as the ROTC and Civil War Round Tables also make occasional visits.



The conference room in the visitor center is used to present school programs during inclement weather.

Most visitors tend to spend approximately one to two hours in the park. The average visitor spends thirty minutes touring the 4.9 mile loop road and spends the remainder of their time at the visitor center watching the park film, viewing the interactive battlefield map, going to the gift shop and the looking at the exhibits. Park staff reported that an increasing number of visitors are coming from or going to Branson and only have an hour to spend in the park. The local visitors include cyclists, walkers, equestrians, and runners who exercise on the tour road and trails.

From the December 2008 Monthly Public Use Report:
 Annual visitation = 120,670
 Visitor center visits = 35,801
 Military visits = 364
 Ray House visits = 9,430
 Tours = 434
 Historic weapons program participants: 3,151
 Library visits = 1,411

The monthly public use data compiled during calendar year 2008 reveals that only twenty-five percent of park visitors are coming into visitor center where the entrance fee is collected. Many local visitors and equestrian trail users purchase annual passes, or they enter before or after visitor center hours. Fees are not collected when the visitor center is closed.

Approximately 15,500 visitors and students went to the Civil War Museum in FY2007, 12,000 in FY 2008, and 11,000 in FY2009.

Issues and Influences Affecting Interpretation

Viewshed protection, development encroachment, and audio intrusions are becoming major issues in and near the park.

In 2004 Congress approved a boundary expansion consisting of two parcels: 1) 154 acres in what is locally called the Terrell Creek Acquisition, and 2) the Civil War Museum and the surrounding 20 acres. The Terrell Creek lands will create open space between the battlefield and new housing developments being built on the western edge of the park and will preserve sites associated with the battle. The preferred alternative outlined in the 2007 General Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment proposed an addition to the visitor center that would feature an expanded “interactive” exhibit area that would display artifacts from the Sweeney museum collection in a seamless exhibit experience concerning both the battle and its context within the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi West. This new museum exhibit experience also would use the space in the visitor center occupied by the current museum exhibits. Since the amendment was approved the Midwest Regional Director ordered that the Sweeney house be converted to required occupant housing for the law enforcement ranger so that enhanced protection of the museum collection is provided. Once the new addition to the visitor center is constructed, the house will be removed. The museum building will be converted to offices for the Heartland Inventory and Monitoring Network based in the park. The lands at both the former Sweeney property and along Terrell Creek will be managed using the same management zoning found on adjacent park lands. Limited visitor parking and pedestrian trails may be developed. Currently, there is no public access to the Terrell Creek land.

A landowner on the southern park boundary is currently hosting very well attended and very loud music concerts that create audio intrusions. Increasing traffic, particularly on Highway ZZ, contributes towards

increasing noise levels within the park, such as the Bloody Hill overlook. The volume of traffic will be affected by the construction of a new high school for Republic to be completed in 2010. The speed and volume of Highway ZZ traffic is becoming a safety concern for park visitors crossing or driving along the highway.

While urban development has impacted the historical integrity of the viewshed outside of the park, the battlefield landscape also is not accurate in many locations throughout the park. The 2004 Cultural Landscape Report offers recommendations for tree and vegetation removal, as well as planting of crops to help visitors better understand what the soldiers saw and experienced during the battle.

Internally, staffing is a major issue. The Interpretation and Visitor Services division lost two positions as the park historian and librarian were switched to the Resources and Facility Management Division. Currently there are four

permanent employees - Chief Park Ranger, Park Ranger (Interpretation), Park Ranger (Law Enforcement), and Visitor Use Assistant - and five NPS Centennial-funded seasonal Visitor Use Assistants available to staff the visitor center, collect fees, operate the Eastern National sales area, and provide interpretive services year round. In addition, the permanent and the seasonal Law Enforcement Rangers are responsible for patrolling the park. In the absence of the librarian and the historian, division staff must also cover the Civil War Museum.

The 150th Anniversary of Civil War begins in 2009 and the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Wilson's Creek is August 10, 2011. In October 2008 the park participated in a Midwest Region planning meeting and will begin planning local commemorative events in coordination with events planned by other nearby NPS Civil War sites and the State of Missouri.



The sinkhole is located on the Bloody Hill Trail and was used as a mass burial site for Federal soldiers following the battle.



Existing Conditions

"I went into the Union Army in 1861...Lots of my friends went into the southern army, but I had fought with this nation in one war, and I couldn't go back on her now..."

- Captain Jimmy Van Zandt, Kirbyville, Missouri

Information and Orientation

Media Outreach

The park informs the public of upcoming events and special programs through public service announcements sent to area newspapers, radio stations, and television stations. The Superintendent's Administrative Assistant handles all press releases and media contacts.

The Superintendent submits information and upcoming events to the Springfield Visitor and Convention Bureau and the Republic, Missouri Chamber of Commerce.

Rack Card (2006): Pre-visit rack card distributed at tourism centers that offer a free gift compliments of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation when turned in at the visitor center.

Personal Services

The park receives information requests on a daily basis via letters, phone calls and e-mail messages. Most requests are for basic information about the park and/or directions to the park. Brochure requests are decreasing, as the park website becomes more popular.

The park phone system does offer a menu of options; however, it is not easy to update every morning. For example, many phone calls are received asking if a horse trail is open during inclement weather. Also people want to talk to a person rather than listen to a recording. Inconsistent information is sometimes given to callers due to many different park staff members answering the phone.

Signs

Highway signs work well to direct visitors to the park. Local place names including Battlefield Mall, Battlefield Road in Springfield, and the town of Battlefield on directional signs do cause some non-local visitors to become confused and lost. Old directional signs on Battlefield Road confuse visitors as the road system has changed and the signs lead to a dead end. The park is currently working with the town of Battlefield to place some signs in that community to direct visitors to the park.

Website

The park website is a very popular way to gain information about the park. Virtual visitors access the website to learn about park history, interpretive programs, operating hours, and to find directions to the park. The park recognizes the importance of the website as a tool to reach "armchair" visitors, long distance researchers, and as a pre-visit information opportunity. The Park Librarian works continually to upgrade this media in consultation with the interpretive staff.

The park website currently includes a photo gallery of battle scenes and many are from the new film. There is a virtual tour of the park tour road, visitor center, library, and museum. There are biographies of important people associated with the battle, places connected to the battle, and many stories of the battle. There is a link to a military staff ride, management plans, and education program materials.

Facilities

Visitor Center



The visitor center features a film, Eastern National bookstore, fiber-optic battle map, and exhibits.

The building was opened in 1982 and includes an information desk, exhibits, auditorium, fiber-optic battle map, Eastern National sales area, and fee collection operation. There are also restrooms, staff offices, museum storage, work room, utility room, and storage. The visitor center is open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily and is closed January 1, Thanksgiving and December 25.

The information desk is the hub for visitor services. The fee collection cash register is on one end, the Eastern National cash register is on the other. There are wall-mounted posters with information on fees, federal passes, program times, and activities. A two-dimensional wall-mounted battlefield map is used to answer visitor questions and describe the battle. The film and fiber-optic battle map are started by the staff member working the desk.

The Hulston collection is housed in the library addition that was built in 2003. A multi-purpose room, exhibit gallery, more restrooms, conference room, offices, kitchen, and break room were also added.

The library is open Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is primarily staffed by the park librarian. Interpreters and volunteers provide backup staffing. Park visitors researching family genealogy and researchers have access to over 7,500+ bound volumes and over 1200+ rolls microfilm. The collection catalog is accessible through the Springfield/Green County Library online system (www.coolcat.org).

The multi-purpose room is used for meetings, volunteer training, receptions, seminars, teacher

workshops, and a student classroom when there is inclement weather, or a need to present special programs to students.

The exhibit gallery contains long-term temporary exhibits featuring artillery and General Price's pistol. Art is displayed on the walkway walls. Temporary exhibits are displayed in cases inside and outside of the multi-purpose room.

Currently there is no standard approach to exhibit development. The interpretive staff is responsible for creating temporary exhibits. Some artifacts are from the park collection and some are on loan. The building doors were constructed to bring in an oversized object such as a cannon for display. The exhibits primarily feature artifacts with labels.

Tour Road

The tour road and battlefield grounds are currently open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in winter; 7:00 p.m. in spring and fall and 9:00 p.m. in summer. Because the tour road and grounds hours are extended beyond the visitor center hours there is no opportunity to contact or collect fees from anyone arriving earlier or later in the day. There is only one gate into the park and one gate into the tour road. When tour road hours are extended in spring, summer and fall, the tour road gate is placed in the upright position until the posted closing time.

The 4.9 mile tour road offers a sequential perspective of the battle and looks over the battlefield site rather than allowing visitors the opportunity to get into and experience the resource. Visitors may stop at any of the eight pullouts located along the tour road. There are wayside exhibits at each pullout. Some pullouts have bike racks,

hitch rails, and bus parking. There is a self-guided tour included in the Official Park Map and Guide and an audio tour available for purchase through Eastern National. Currently the viewshed is not historically accurate. The Cultural Landscape Report calls for the setting to be rehabilitated in many locations throughout the park. Park maintenance and natural resources crews are working to implement the report's recommendations.

Stop # 1 – Gibson's Mill

There is a one-mile self-guided trail to the site of the mill just off of the parking lot. Wayside exhibit panels are used to tell the stories of the Union forces entrance onto the battlefield at the parking area. Wayside exhibits tell the story of the Gibson family and archeological evidence of their buildings along the self-guided trail. The name "Gibson's Mill" for the stop gives some visitors the false impression that there is an actual mill structure down the trail when there is not.

Stop # 2 - Ray House, Springhouse, and Cornfield

Visitors can walk to and periodically tour the original ca. 1852, three-room farmhouse that was used as a post office and post-battle field hospital. There is a short trail that leads to the Ray's springhouse. Wayside exhibit panels and one audio wayside exhibit interpret the battle in the Ray Cornfield, the Ray family, and the Ray Springhouse. Visitors consider the impact of the battle upon the Ray family and begin to understand the significance of the Ray Springhouse.

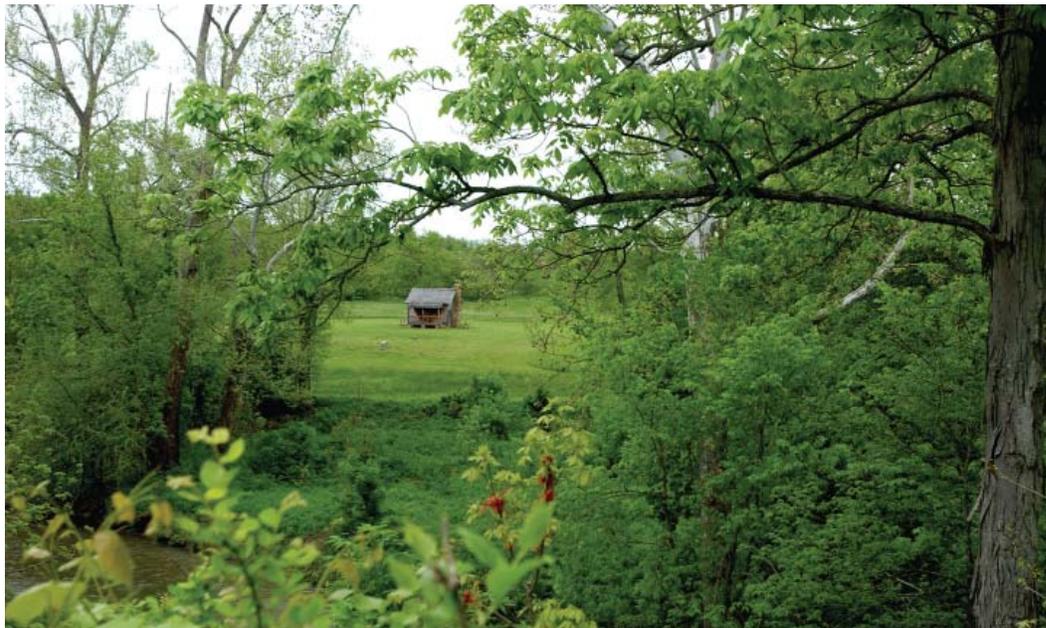
Stop # 3 - Pulaski Arkansas Battery, Price's Headquarters, Edwards Cabin, and East Overlook

Located at the tour road pull-off, wayside exhibit panels and audio message describe the role of the Edwards Cabin and the Pulaski Arkansas Battery in the battle.

Visitors walk down a short trail from the parking lot to the Wire Road where they can follow another short trail up to the site of the Pulaski Arkansas Battery



The Ray Cornfield was where the only major fighting took place on the east side of Wilson's Creek.



Visitors parking at Tour Stop #3 are often surprised to discover that the Edwards Cabin is farther away than it first appears.

where there is one cannon on display and a wayside exhibit. The Wire Road leads across Wilson's Creek, to the Edwards Cabin, and to the site where Price's Headquarters was located. From the creek bottom there is a view of and a trail leading to Bloody Hill. Edwards Cabin is visible from the parking lot and the view creates a misperception for many visitors that the cabin is easily accessible. Once visitors realize that they must walk a longer distance, many choose not to go.

Crossing the tour road visitors walk up a series of steps to the east overlook trail and find a great overview of the battlefield that is supplemented with a wayside exhibit.

Stop #4 – Sigel's Second Position

A small narrow pullout featuring a single wayside exhibit explains how Sigel's forces attacked the Southern troops and moved from across the battlefield toward the Sharp farm.

Stop #5 – Sigel's Final Position

An audio wayside exhibit and an artillery display are used to describe

Sigel's defeat and tell the story of the Germans who fought in the battle. Two cannons mark the position of Lt. Backof's artillery battery. There is a shaded area with wooden benches that seats approximately 75 people. During the summer season, especially for special events, school groups, and weekend visitors, the area is used for artillery and musket firing demonstrations.

Stop #6 – Guibor's Battery

Two cannons and a wayside panel emphasize where Southern troops would have been located at the base of Bloody Hill.

Stop # 7 – Bloody Hill

Visitors must walk around a tall berm to get to the audio wayside panels and the .75 mile Bloody Hill Trail. The Lyon Marker (a memorial to General Lyon) and the sinkhole (a mass burial site) are located along the trail. Totten's Battery and Sokalski's Section artillery displays mark the Union line during the battle.

Bloody Hill glade is the habitat of a federally listed threatened plant species,

Missouri bladderpod (*Lesquerilla filliformis*). The trail uses split rails on the ground to limit visitor access through the plant habitat.

This is the focal point of battle and is the number one park story; however, it is not “number one” with visitors. It is the next to the last stop on the tour road and people are usually ready to leave the park so they decide not to make the stop. A self-guided trail brochure has recently gone out of print, and the ten markers on trail need to be removed. Guided tours are only provided a few times each year.

With the support of the MWR Media Specialist, new wayside exhibits are being developed to replace the trail brochure and should be installed in late 2009 or 2010. Once the wayside exhibits are installed, a self-guided trail brochure plus the ten markers on trail need to be removed.

Stop #8 – Historic Overlook

A short walk leads to a wayside exhibit that explains how this corner of the battlefield represents the beginning and the end of the battle. There is a great overview of the battlefield that is missed by many visitors because it is the last stop on the tour road.

Civil War Museum

Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except December through March. There is no fee collection at the museum and no sales outlet. The museum facility includes a lobby, restrooms, and an information desk with a work area for the Historian. Museum object storage is located in the basement. A small workstation has been placed behind the desk for interpretive staff to use. The Park Historian and interpreters staff the museum.

The museum, acquired by the NPS in 2005, focuses on the Trans-Mississippi Theater of the Civil War. The exhibits interpret what occurred before, during, and after the Battle of Wilson’s Creek west of the Mississippi River (primarily Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas), and other battles where western troops may have fought. Artifacts include three Congressional Medals of Honor, two honoring soldiers who fought at Wilson’s Creek, and one honoring a Wilson’s Creek veteran for his bravery at Grand Gulf, Mississippi; the battle flag of Cherokee Braves; sword belt and sash of Maj. General Patrick Cleburne; presentation sword of Brigadier General Thomas Sweeney; and items used by John Brown.



The Civil War Museum contains an outstanding collection of artifacts relating to the Trans-Mississippi Theater of the Civil War.

Trails

There are 10.6 miles of trails located within the battlefield. The trails primarily provide opportunities for exercise and recreation along with some understanding of the battle. With the exception of the Wire Road and Bloody Hill Trail, most of the trails, like the tour road, are located on the perimeter of the battlefield. The trails are open the same hours as the tour road.

- Bloody Hill Trail loop: .75 miles
- Hiking/Equestrian Trail (includes Wire Road, Southwest boundary trail, and Manley Uplands Trail): 7.2 miles
- Gibson's Mill Trail loop: 1 mile
- Ray Springhouse Trail: .2 miles
- East Battlefield Overlook Trail: .2 miles

John Ray House

The John Ray House was built ca. 1852 and contains three rooms. During the battle, the house was used as a field hospital. After discovering General Lyon's body on Bloody Hill, Confederate soldiers brought his body to the house. The house was restored in 1984, and in 1994 an interpretive display was created using reproduction items and some museum objects

including the bed where Lyon's body was placed. Tours are provided only when volunteers or paid staff members are available. The interpretive stories told here include:

1. Ray Family and the battle.
2. Why the battle was fought here.
3. Field hospital location during and after the battle.
4. Lyon's death and why/how his body was brought to the house for identification.
5. Fight in Ray Cornfield.
6. Slavery in Missouri.

Edwards Cabin

This non-historic log structure was moved from a site near the battlefield and now represents the Edwards Cabin which stood in this location during the battle. The yard of the cabin served as the location of General Sterling Price's headquarters during the battle. The park uses the cabin as a staging/camping area by volunteers during special event living history weekends.

The cabin was restored in 2005 using a Challenge Cost Share grant matched by the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation. That project did not include an interpretive component. The cabin is open but it is primarily a spatial marker for the battle events that took place there. There are no exhibits inside the cabin, but one wayside exhibit is nearby.

Access to the cabin is via the Wire Road. Visitors must either travel north from Stop 5 and cross Skegg's Branch or use the foot bridge if they walk from Stop #3.

Terrell Creek Land Acquisition

Acquired in February, 2006, this 154-acre addition to the battlefield contains about .75 miles of the Wire Road, a short section of the Little York Road, and the Moody Spring along Terrell



Tours and stationed interpretation are provided at the Ray House April through October when volunteers or paid staff member are available.

Creek. The spring and creek area was used as a camp site for military operations along the Wire Road during the Civil War. The area was purchased to protect sites associated with battle that are located between the battlefield and a housing development. There are currently no visitor facilities in the area.

Artillery Placement

Artillery field pieces consisting of original and reproduction cannons mounted on all-metal field carriages have been placed at historical battery locations:

1. Totten's Battery, Bloody Hill (4 guns)
2. Sokalski's Section, Bloody Hill (1 gun)
3. Pulaski Battery, Tour Stop 5 (1 gun)
4. Backof's Battery, Tour Stop 5 (2 guns)
5. Guibor's Battery, Tour Stop 6 (2 guns)

With the exception of Pulaski Battery, none of these locations have supporting wayside exhibits. Other locations for additional artillery field displays have been identified. Many of the artillery placements represent troop locations or movements, but are not specifically identified as such to the visitor. The meaning of their purposeful locations needs to be better explained.



Four cannons are aligned to represent Totten's Battery on Bloody Hill.

Picnic Area

There are five picnic sites and a shelter, all accessible, located adjacent to the library end of the visitor center. Visitors access the picnic area by a short walk from the visitor center parking area. Beverage machines and a bulletin board are nearby. There is a short trail adjacent to the picnic area that is not advertised and little used.

Interpretive Media

Audiovisual Presentation

Film: The 14-minute film "Mighty Mean Fowt Fight" produced by Harpers Ferry Center in 1982 has recently been replaced by a 30-minute film produced in 2008 by the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation. The film is shown every 45 minutes in the fifty-seat auditorium located in the visitor center. In 2006 the park purchased and installed a digital overhead projector. The film is open captioned and will soon initiate assisted listening and audio description projects to meet ADA requirements.

Battle Map: The nine-minute fiber-optic battle map program accommodates fifty people and features a 72-inch three dimensional terrain map with fiber-optic lights and narration. There is also a 12-minute version, Spanish language version, and Ranger-led version of the program available upon request. Unfortunately there are issues with the light sequencing system when these requested programs are used. The program is not captioned and there is no script available for people with disabilities. The park does have an approved PMIS project statement for ADA compliance using the special twenty percent fee demonstration funds, and in 2010 will be working with Harpers Ferry Center for contract assistance.

Audio Tour: A one-hour audio tour was created in 1999. Visitors play a compact disk or cassette, purchased at the Eastern National sales outlet, while driving the Tour Road.

Publications

Official Park Map and Guide (updated 2006): The brochure includes a description of the battle plus biographical information about battle leaders on the front, and a map and self-guided tour on the reverse. The brochure is distributed at the visitor center one per family. It was updated in 2006 to include information about the Civil War Museum and in 2008 with the Terrell Creek land acquisition.

Junior Ranger Booklet (1996): A scavenger-hunt style activity which includes the visitor center, tour road and Ray House. Upon completion, children receive a Junior Ranger Badge. The program is free. The booklet was updated to meet service-wide standards in 2009.

Recreational Use Guide (1994): This is a trail map, list of regulations, and safety tips for recreation and trail use.

Safety Bulletin/brochure insert (2006): This is an insert for the main brochure and map providing safety tips to visitors.

BSA National Historic Trail Guide (1993): This is an activity booklet for use by Boy Scouts along a 7-mile trail. Scouts answer 40 questions based on the visitor center exhibits, audiovisual programs and wayside exhibits. Upon completion, the scout can purchase a patch provided by Eastern National.

Civil War Museum Scavenger Hunt (2005): A scavenger hunt activity for children in which they are asked to find 16 items in the museum and receive a free prize.

A number of sales items have been developed in cooperation with Eastern National:

1. Troop Movement Map
2. Children's Activity Book
3. Wilson's Creek Civil War Series

Sales items produced by the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation and sold by Eastern National:

1. *The Ray House* - A brief history of the house and the Ray Family, including Rhoda, the Ray's slave.
2. *From West Point to Wilson's Creek* - Describes the leadership role of West Point graduates in the battle
3. *Nathaniel Lyon: Harbinger from Kansas* - Brief biography of Lyon
4. *Kansans at Wilson's Creek* - Compilation of letters from Kansas volunteers to hometown newspapers
5. *Up From Arkansas* - Historical overview of the Battle of Springfield, January 8, 1863

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation published an Official Commemorative Booklet for the June 2000 Reenactment that is now distributed to Junior Rangers, to the summer reading participants, for tourism incentives, and as needed.

Since 2008, the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, the NPS, a local bank, and other contributors printed over 1500 calendars featuring photos of the park, stills from the new park film, and quotes from officers and enlisted men who fought during the battle.

Wayside Exhibits

There are nineteen fiberglass embedded wayside exhibits spread among the pullouts along the tour road. Harpers Ferry Center produced and installed them in 1986 and the panels were mounted on traditional bases. All panels were replaced in kind in 2000. There is an audio message at Bloody Hill, the Ray House, Tour Stop #3, and the Rout of Sigel's Column waysides. Many of the wayside exhibits are outdated



The audio wayside exhibit located at the Bloody Hill trailhead was originally designed in 1986.



The Civil War Museum features 46 exhibit cases containing artifacts, photographs, and text.

and none of them conform to current NPS graphic design standards. The audio devices were updated to digital recordings in 1996.

A wayside exhibit plan was initiated in 2008 for the Bloody Hill Trail and consists of ten new wayside exhibits.

Exhibits

A chronological timeline is imbedded in the sidewalk leading the visitor center from the parking area. It features thirty-one granite plaques that highlight dates and events related to the Trans-Mississippi Theater. There is a site bulletin available at the visitor center information desk with an explanation of the events.

The majority of the visitor center exhibits were installed in 1982. The exhibits use the late 1970s design style featuring illustrations, text, and artifacts. Two exhibits are interactive – the fiber-optic battle map program and the soldiers uniform display.

Two exhibits detailing the death of General Nathaniel Lyon were installed ca. 1985. One exhibit is a diorama depicting the death of Lyon and the other includes General Lyon's personal effects. A display of firearms used at Wilson's Creek was installed in 1999. There is also a display of the Confederate first national flag captured at Wilson's Creek.

The Civil War Museum features 46 exhibit cases containing museum objects, photographs and explanation text, four wall mounted flag display cases, and three wall mounted text and graphics panels. An open exhibit features an officer's tent display including a cot, field desk, trunk, saddle, and accoutrements.

Interpretive Media Assets

Media assets include other park resources available to interpretation that support the design of personal services programs or interpretive media.

Museum Collection

The museum collection contains approximately 40,000 artifacts related to the battle and the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi Theater. Many one-of-a-kind pieces are also on site. Acquisition of the Sweeney Museum in 2005 added significantly to the collection and primary resources.

Library

The park holds a large library collection which numbers over 7,500 volumes and extensive primary resources.

Art Work

Harpers Ferry Center Art Collection: Four pieces have been commissioned for the Bloody Hill wayside exhibits.

Archeological Resources

The park includes 50 archeological sites, half of which date from before European contact.

Living History Program Supply Cache

The living history supply cache is located on the second floor of the maintenance carpenter's shop. The space is currently inadequate to properly maintain the equipment, clothing, and accessories. The cache includes clothing and equipment for twenty male volunteers to portray six different units; clothing and accessories for six female volunteers; and five different types of artillery along with a trailer to transport equipment.

Education and Outreach

The battlefield typically receives between 6000 to 8000 students from 125 to 150 different schools during the school year. Approximately ninety-eight percent of these schools visit the park in April and May. When NPS staff and/or volunteers are available, students receive an age appropriate presentation, not a curriculum-based program, at the following locations on the battlefield (in priority order):

1. Visitor Center
2. Ray House
3. Tour Road Stop 5: "Common Soldier" presentation with musket firing demonstration.



During the school year more than 6000 school children come to the Ray House for an age appropriate presentation.

Although offered primarily on a self-guided basis, the Bloody Hill trail (Tour Road Stop 7) and the Civil War Museum are also available for tours upon request if either a volunteer or NPS staff member is available. A teacher guide for each location is provided in the initial confirmation letter sent to each school.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has a variety of educational resources to offer school groups including traveling trunks and educational packets which include age specific activities on a variety of subjects. Educational information can be obtained by accessing the park website,

downloading the reservation forms, and submitting them to the park.

Educators Guide to the Battle of Wilson's Creek is a publication created to inform teachers of all the educational products that the park has available. The guide includes a group reservation form, a historical background and glossary of park history, recommended pre- and post-visit objectives and activities, instructions on how to visit the park, and a suggested reading list. This guide is available at the visitor center and on the park website.

Three curriculum-based education guides are available: *Common Soldier-Common Man* (elementary); *No Easy Choices: Taking Sides in Civil War Missouri* (middle school); and *Hard Times-Hard War* (high school). The guides were developed in cooperation with local teachers to meet “Show-Me” curriculum standards for the State of Missouri and were last reviewed in 2004. The guides are available at the visitor center and on the park website.

Four different traveling trunks containing books, reproduction clothing, display items, and maps help students better understand and empathize with the “Common Soldiers/Common Men” who fought during the battle.



Artillery firing demonstrations are presented four to eight times annually at Tour Stop #5.

Personal Services

Operations

Visitor Center Operations: The visitor center is open daily, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is staffed with NPS-uniformed personnel during operational hours. During peak visitation periods fee collection staff, Eastern National sales staff, and volunteers are available in the visitor center to supplement interpretive staff.

Civil War Museum: The museum hours have varied since 2005. Currently, the museum is open 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. from April through November. The museum is staffed primarily by the Park Historian. When the historian is unavailable, interpreters staff the building.

Ray House Operations: The house features an interpretive display that is only open when volunteers or NPS staff members are available.

Interpretive Programs

Common Soldier Interpretive Talks and Historic Weapons Firing Demonstrations: These programs are offered at Tour Road Stop 5 and are presented by staff and volunteers. Small arms and artillery demonstrations are

offered. Artillery firing demonstrations are presented four to eight times per year.

Other Programs: One to two guided tours of Bloody Hill offered each summer when staff is available. Outreach services are usually limited to requests for guest speakers from heritage or community support organizations.

Ray House: Stationed interpretation and tours are offered on spring and summer weekends. The house is primarily staffed either by a volunteer or seasonal employee when someone is available. School group tours are also provided when staff is available.

Special Events and Programs

Battle Anniversary: Annually on August 10 at 10 a.m., the program commemorates the battle with speeches from area politicians. The program is held in front of the visitor center.

Living History Special Emphasis Weekends: These programs utilize living history volunteers/re-enactors to represent specific Union or Southern

military units. The programs include camp life, uniform and equipment talks, and historic weapons firing demonstrations. These programs are offered two to three times per year.

Moonlight Tour: Begun in the mid-1980s, this annual, first-person living history tour of the battlefield has been held on a summer night. A number of vignettes are located on the battlefield to depict events before or after the battle. Tickets are sold on a first-come, first served basis. Visitors are provided with bus transportation from the visitor center to the stops along the tour.

Memorial Luminary Program: Annually in December over 2,500 luminaries are placed at intervals along the tour road representing the battle casualties. Visitors drive by to view the luminaries. The Ray House is open and decorated for Christmas, hot cider is served and Christmas carols (both traditional and contemporary) are sung.

Performing Arts: Several concerts representing a variety of music styles are held annually, and are sponsored by the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation. Concerts are presented in



The Wilson's Creek Foundation annually sponsors the Ray House Jamboree.

front of the Visitor Center or in the Ray House yard.

Staffing:

According to the FY2007 Servicewide Interpretive Report ninety-six percent of all interpretive programs are currently provided by volunteers. Only four percent (178 hours) are covered by NPS staff.

The Interpretation and Visitor Services permanent staff includes the GS-12 Chief Park Ranger, one GS-9 Park Ranger, Interpretation, one GL-9 Park Ranger, Law Enforcement, and one GS-5 Subject to Furlough Lead Visitor Use Assistant (VUA). The VUA position is supported by cost of collection funding. Seasonal staffing consists of three or four GS-4 Visitor Use Assistant positions, one or two GS-5 Park Ranger positions and one GS-7 Park Ranger, Law Enforcement position. Most of the seasonal positions are supported by NPS Centennial funding.

The GS-9 Park Ranger, Interpretation's collateral duty assignments include Volunteer Coordinator, Education Coordinator, Eastern National Coordinator, Fee Manager, Interpretive Specialist, and seasonal employee supervisor.

The Park Historian and Park Librarian were originally assigned to the Visitor Services division. Both positions are now under the Division of Resources and Facility Management yet continue to provide occasional support to Interpretation. They provide services to the visitor by maintaining the park website and staffing the Hulston Civil War Library and Civil War Museum.

Partnerships

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation is a non-profit park partner. They provide funding for Arts in the Parks special events; park projects including the walkway timeline stones; and production of the new park film. The Foundation obtained a grant to rehabilitate the battlefield map. The Foundation also intends to fund planning services for the new museum exhibits, as well as architectural services for the new visitor center museum wing.

The mission statement for the Foundation is: "To work in cooperation with and to support the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, a unit of the National Park Service and its staff. To further, by all proper and legitimate agencies and means, the acquisition of Civil War historical properties and material, especially those related to the Battle of Wilson's Creek, or usable in the interpretation of the Wilson's Creek battle. To be a friend of the park whose primary purpose is to support Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in a partnership through activities which may include fundraising, volunteerism, education, advocacy, and research."

Cooperating Association

An Eastern National (EN) sales area is located in the visitor center. An EN sales manager works two days per week. After doing administrative tasks, then the clerk is available to staff sales area.

Annual sales are approximately \$80,000 and the park receives approximately \$3-5,000 in annual percentage donations. Most of the percentage donation funds are spent to increase the working hours of the EN clerk, provide publications for library, and support the park's living history program.

Volunteer Program

Approximately ninety-six percent of the total interpretive service hours are provided by volunteers including presenting education programs, staffing the visitor center, museum, library and Ray House, patrolling trails, and providing guided tours of Bloody Hill. Volunteers present musket and artillery firing demonstrations. These programs require specialized firearm and safety training and high levels of park supervision. Many of the volunteers supply their own reproduction, historical clothing and firearms. In FY2007 397 volunteers provided the park with 7,461 documented hours of service.

Training is being provided and resource handbooks have been created to improve interpretive proficiency of volunteers. Training in Interpretive Development Program (IDP) standards is being provided to staff and volunteers. Staff is working towards improving programs to meet NPS IDP standards.



Approximately 96% of the total interpretive service hours are presented by volunteers including living history programs.



Recommendations

"The most amazing thing to me in the whole affair was the total unconsciousness of the flight of time."

- Richard Hubbell, Old Missouri Brigade

Interpretive planning

- Assesses current conditions and formulates recommendations that will provide direction and focus to achieve the desired Future Interpretive Program.
- Analyzes all needs and recommends a wide array of interpretive services, facilities, programs, and opportunities for partnerships to communicate in the most efficient and effective way the park's purpose, significance, and values.

The following is a description of programs and media proposals designed to realize the visions, objectives, themes, and visitor experiences previously described for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. These suggestions should not limit creatively in the development of personal services or media design.

The following principles will apply to all interpretation at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield:

- All interpretation will address physical and programmatic accessibility.
- Where possible, interpretation will use reproduction objects and documented personal stories to bring the story alive for visitors.
- Where possible, the park will partner with neighboring institutions to develop programs, media, and share research.
- The park will follow the standards of the National Park Service Graphic Identity Program as signs and interpretive media are upgraded.
- Interpretation will include examples and perspectives from diverse points of view. It will respond to diverse audiences, varying levels of interest, and different lengths of time for a visit.
- Where possible, "virtual visitors" will have opportunities to view key park vistas and access to new research, studies, management plans, and historical information.

Plan Your Visit

Many first time visitors to the battlefield may face time constraints. Local visitors seeking recreational opportunities also may have limited opportunities for meaningful visitor experiences. The following trip options will be suggested to all visitors to help them maximize their opportunities to become immersed in the resource and experience it physically, intellectually, and emotionally. A “Plan Your Visit” handout will be available at the visitor center and posted on the park website. In the future these options can be incorporated into orientation kiosks, brochures, press releases, and more.

Quick Trip – 1 hour or less; primarily first time visitors

Select 1 item from A and B:

A – Visitor Center

See the 30-minute park film.

See the 9-minute fiber optic battle map program.

Visit the museum exhibits.

B – Drive the Tour Road

Go to Stops #3, #5, and #7 and listen to audio wayside exhibits.

Read the wayside exhibits from the car and read the auto tour text in the park brochure.

Purchase and use the 42-minute

Compact Disk audio tour.

Walk the Bloody Hill Trail.

Walk to the East Battlefield Overlook to get an overview of the battlefield using a troop movement map.

2-3 Hours

Begin with Quick Trip options and add any one of the following:

Complete the activities in the revised Junior Ranger booklet.

Spend an hour in the Civil War Museum (or the future interactive expanded exhibits).

Stop at all of the pullouts - listen to

audio waysides and read the others.

Take a short walk – Gibson’s Mill Trail, Bloody Hill Trail, Pulaski Arkansas Battery, and Edwards Cabin, Guibor’s Battery up to Bloody Hill (future), and Edwards Cabin up Wire Road.

Take a short walk using a trail guide booklet (future).

Take a tour of the Ray House and walk to the Springhouse.

See an artillery or musket demonstration at Stop #5.

Listen to a 30-minute talk at the visitor center.

4-6 Hours

Begin with 2-3 hour experience and add any one of the following:

Picnic near visitor center or Terrell Creek (future).

Walk a park trail – Wire Road from Ray House to Stop #5 (future –foot bridge over Skeggs Branch is recommended), Bloody Hill/Inner Loop (future), GPS trail (future), Sigel’s 1st Position (future). Complete the BSA National Historic Trail Guide.

Stay even longer at the Civil War Museum (or the future museum exhibits).

Go to an interpretive program at Edwards Cabin.

Conduct genealogical research at the library.

See rotating display of documents (future).

Use an interactive computer station at the library (future).

Tour Road User

Listen to a podcast or park audio program (future).

When annual pass purchased, receive an improved information/orientation packet (future) and an invitation to participate in a recognition program for frequent park users. Recognition may include a book or t-shirt.

Information and Orientation

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield staff will continue to provide information and orientation through traditional means such as answering phone, mail, and e-mail requests. A new Plan Your Visit handout will be printed and distributed to assist visitors who are time limited. It will also be added to the park website.

Many local visitors call for information or frequently request trail updates. To provide more efficient and effective responses, park staff will use a separate mailbox to create an information line about horse trail access; allow visitors an opportunity to leave messages requesting more information; and consider purchasing a new phone system that will allow staff to update information easily. Interpretive staff should be responsible for updating phone information.

Community Relations

Informing the Springfield area communities about park activities and special events is an opportunity to create goodwill with local residents. This can be inexpensively done through the local newspapers or community calendars. Other options include:

- Provide the local papers with a weekly or monthly calendar of events.
- Publish events on local civic calendars through local cable television networks.
- Provide the newspaper with a regular column, possibly monthly written by the Superintendent, about topics of interest to the community. Begin this well before a significant issue or change occurs to establish rapport and credibility with residents.
- The cooperating association or the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation can

place ads at non-profit rates for special public events or programs.

- Post notices on local bulletin boards such as the post office, library, and grocery store.
- Participate in local civic organizations and develop relationships with the city, county, and state leaders.
- Identify the role of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation in the community.
- Use banners to promote park events in town.
- Create a section of the park website to promote park activities and special events.

Identity and Orientation Signs

Before visitors can have a meaningful park experience, they need to find their way to the park, determine where the experience begins and take care of their basic necessities. These visitor experience issues such as agency identity and orientation must be addressed before interpretation can begin. Effective highway and road guide signs as well as pedestrian orientation and information are the first steps toward satisfying basic visitor needs.

The park currently has numerous obsolete NPS arrowhead signs on display. All NPS arrowhead signs should be replaced with the current version.

Identity and orientation signs will address several visitor experience goals. Assuring that the NPS arrowhead logo is on appropriate park signs will help visitors understand that Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is a unit of the National Park System. Signs within the park will help visitors safely enjoy their visit by learning about and following safety guidelines and park rules, as well as learning about the battle.

Outside the Park

The park, along with appropriate county, state and federal highway departments will need to work together to correct confusing directional signs on Battlefield Road in Springfield and the need for additional signs in the town of Battlefield.

Inside the Park

Initiate a Sign Master Plan request through Harpers Ferry Center and secure funding to implement the plan. Developing a Sign Master Plan that meets accessibility and NPS graphic identity standards, identifies the battlefield as a unit of the National Park System, and provides orientation for all visitors, whether they enter in a vehicle, on a bicycle or horseback, or on foot.

Signs should be placed at the main gate and at the intersection of Highway ZZ and Farm Road 182 directing visitors to the museum.

A limited number of bulletin boards will be placed around the park to provide visitor orientation, information and posting of safety guidelines and regulations. Four possible locations for bulletin boards are 1) horse trailer parking, 2) overflow horse trailer parking, 3) rest area near the beverage machines, and 4) the picnic area. The bulletin board by the beverage machine should be moved to improve visibility. The bulletin boards at horse trailer areas should include an overview of interpretive opportunities available along the horse trails. Continue to use the visitor center bathroom stall sleeves to advertise events and programs and create an orientation display that includes a park map and plan your visit information.

Park Website

An ever-increasing percentage of park visitors are web users who visit Wilson's Creek National Battlefield website (www.nps.gov/wicr) seeking information. Many of these "virtual visitors" never actually come to the park, but have their needs met solely through the website.

The website should highlight the opportunities and experiences that are available to both on-site visitors and virtual visitors. Currently the *Outdoor Activities* section focuses on activities not available to the majority of visitors such as military staff rides. The experiences of the tour road and trails should also be described here. Photos of people doing a variety of activities would give future visitors an idea of what they will experience. *Indoor Activities* should identify the Civil War Museum and the visitor center separately and describe what visitors can do there as well as show photographs of what they might see. A visit to the Ray House along with photos of the site or an historic illustration should also be included.

In addition to the still photos in the Photos & Multimedia section, add streaming video from new park film. These video clips should address all six of the primary park themes. Themes I, II and IV will be addressed through the creation of an interactive timeline that will be developed in cooperation with Pea Ridge and Fort Scott as a Civil War Sesquicentennial project.

Update the *Suggested Reading* section to include a new reading list and a link to the Eastern National website so that visitors can purchase *Wilson's Creek: the Second Battle of the Civil War and the Men Who Fought It* by William Garrett Piston and Richard W. Hatcher III and other park specific reading materials.

The website should include a section describing the park's ongoing cultural landscape restoration project. Perhaps this section could include a map of the ground already restored; areas proposed for the following year; and the overall area planned for restoration. This section should highlight how this project will enhance visitor experiences while also supporting scientific investigation and natural processes. This section also could interpret the work of the Heartland Inventorying and Monitoring Network activity within the park.

Facilities

Visitor Center

Install an interactive computer station in the visitor center lobby that would enable visitors to gain access to information about the park, so they can plan their visit, and get information on including local, state, federal, and other related sites.

Tour Road

While the tour road route provides a sequential perspective of the battle, improvements can be made. Under the current route, the first stop is at Gibson's Mill, the trail of which leads to an archeological site. Establishing a new first stop near the Short Farm would serve the purpose of introducing the visitor to the battle's opening combat action between Federal and Southern forces, and Lyon's objectives in attacking the camp. (Theme III). It would also provide another example of the lives of the residents in the wake of the battle (Theme V) as the Short family suffered along with their some of their neighbors. A new first stop would provide context for the overall battle when coupled with a new emphasis on the last tour stop (now at number 8). With the additional new, first tour road stop, a total of nine stops would be available.

Change Gibson's Mill tour stop number 2 to Plummer's Crossing. This is where the Union entered the Ray's cornfield and aligns with Theme III and the tactics of the battle.

Wayside exhibits provide visitors with new perspectives of the battle and the battlefield. At Stop #3 create a new wayside panel about the men serving in the Missouri State Guard down by the Creek near the Edwards Cabin. This may be an opportunity to bring out Themes I and II to better understand the differences between the military

leaders and the Missouri State Guards reasons for fighting. The east overlook has a great view and installation of a battlefield map may help visitors better understand the troop movements and locations of specific positions from that side of the field. This is a very different perspective from Stop #8.

At Stop #5 create a new wayside exhibit using a 1880s photo of a clearer view of Bloody Hill with fewer trees. It is now very difficult to imagine a battle fought in a landscape when trees currently are the prominent natural feature.

At Stop #6 create a new wayside exhibit focusing on the Confederate battle line and encouraging visitors to walk a section of the newly proposed trail network up Bloody Hill in the footsteps of the soldiers. This would relate to Interpretive Theme III and how difficult the fighting was.

Three of the primary themes (II, III, and IV) are related to the events on Bloody Hill at Stop #7. This stop needs to become the most important stop for visitors. Trail alignments, new wayside exhibits, interpretive panels, fixed artillery, and a shade shelter will help to tell the thematic stories; however, visitors must be strongly encouraged to stop.

Stop #8 would emphasize the withdrawal of Lyon's forces. This stop would provide closure to the battle sequence and make reference to the battle's lasting significance.

Trails

Interpretation of interior park trails may attract new or untapped users by linking the trails to historic resources and sites. Horseback riders, in particular, may have a greater appreciation for the Wire Road if waysides are created with an emphasis placed on Theme II and its use as a regional conduit for supplies and transportation, and the vital

importance of roads for the movement of armies during the Civil War.

Develop a park trail plan that will create a trail network that will allow visitors to walk the battle lines as well as provide opportunities to better understand the troop movements and the outcome of the battle. Walking on an interconnected system of trails will emphasize Theme III and the reasons why the Battle of Wilson's Creek was a bloody and difficult fight.

Improve visitor access to the interior trails:

- Install an upright orientation exhibit at each trailhead that includes an overview of interpretive opportunities available on the trail.
- Add a short trail link "Lyon's Approach" from the visitor center parking area to proposed new Stop #1 The trail should continue from the new tour road stop towards Bloody Hill with a branch leading to Plummer's Crossing on Wilson's Creek. A new footbridge would cross Wilson's Creek to link with the Union force's advance to the Ray Cornfield.
- A trail from Wilson's Creek would approximate the route used by Plummer's battalion to the Ray Cornfield.
- Construct a trail and footbridge across Skegg's Branch to facilitate visitor access along Wire Road to Edwards Cabin
- Reroute the primary Bloody Hill trail away from bladder pod habitat
- Create a secondary spur trail from the primary trail over to the Lyon Marker.
- Create a trail from Tour Stop #6 to enable visitors to walk up Bloody Hill to experience the physical challenge faced by soldiers charging up the hill. A similar trail from Edwards Cabin

would pass Bledsoe’s Battery site and link with this “Southern Advance” trail.

- A trail would also be established along the approximate route used by Sigel’s column at the Sharp Farm site. If possible, this trail should link Sigel’s first, second and last position.

Rename and change the emphasis on Gibson’s Mill trail to “Plummer’s Crossing” which connects to the battle story more effectively and will not confuse people about the lack of a mill on the trail.

For visitors looking for an even greater resource immersion experience, make the existing Boy Scout Trail Guide available to all visitors and create a GPS trail so visitors can find different battlefield features including Medal of Honor recipients.

John Ray House

The Ray House provides opportunities to connect visitors to Themes III, V, and VI. The Ray House also provides an opportunity to interpret slavery in Missouri, as the Rays were pro-Union, slave-owners. Hang an historic pattern hospital flag on the Ray House porch so that visitors can look for the flag when they get to Bloody Hill. That was one aspect of communication (Theme III) that ultimately saved the lives of the Ray family and the soldiers brought to the hospital. Create outlines of out buildings behind the Ray House to help explain family story and hospital story if archaeological surveys, NPS policy and compliance allows. Understanding the lives of the Rays before during and after the war relates to Theme V. Because the house is open periodically, create a film of the living history tour to post on the website and/or show at the visitor center when Ray House is closed. The dedication and sacrifice of the family and General Lyon (Theme VI) would then be known without access to the

house. Staffing this site should represent a high priority for the park, because this site is a tangible connection to the battle and the civilians impacted by the battle.

Terrell Creek Land Acquisition

Create Double Spring Day Use Area where the Wire Road crosses the creek. Also clear the trail in that area and add wayside exhibits and perhaps a small picnic area. Visitors can picnic and rest at the same place historic residents may have, providing opportunities to connect to Theme V and the lives of the residents. The spring was the site of the southern supply train and supply/ transportation for the army can be addressed as well.

The property provides the opportunity to discuss the link between Wire Road with three major Trans-Mississippi Campaigns, (namely Wilson’s Creek, Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove) and the near epic march of General Francis Herron’s troops to the battlefield at Prairie Grove in December, 1862. This emphasis supports the battlefield’s purpose of extending interpretation into the Trans-Mississippi.

Interpretive Media

Audiovisual Media

Audiovisual media are well suited to the presentation of chronological and sequential material. They can capture realism, provide emotional impact, and create a mood or atmosphere. Also they can reach many visitors at one time and be posted onto the website. Audiovisual elements may be included in exhibits, posted onto the park website, in addition to being shown in dedicated auditorium spaces.

Create virtual tours that would be posted on the website. Visitors unable to see the fiber optic battle map then would have a better understanding of the local tactics (Theme III) and the larger Trans-Mississippi Theater battles (Theme IV).

During the spring when large school groups are visiting use the multi-purpose room to show the park film if needed to provide two showings at one time. The multi-purpose room can also be used to show other films or videos when the auditorium is being used.

When appropriate, the new museum exhibits should incorporate audio-visual elements to enhance the impact of the exhibits and to enhance visitor engagement with the exhibits.

Portable Audiovisual Opportunities

The park's staff should discuss, research and determine the best method to offer "individualized" audio and/or audiovisual opportunities, including compact disks, podcasts, cell phone tours, and other types of audio tours. Portable audio programming can provide opportunities to connect to resource meanings while walking, running, or riding along the tour road and the trails. A priority will be to update and upgrade the existing driving tour to connect to the primary park themes.

Full Accessibility for all Audiovisual Programs

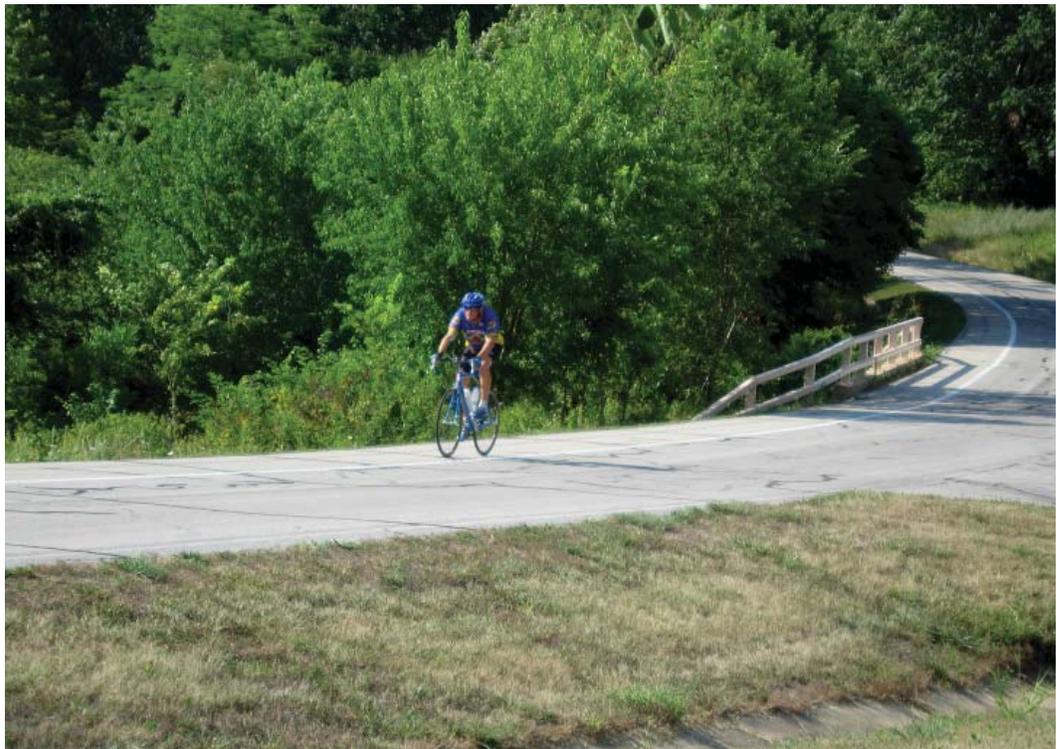
In response to former Director Mary Bomar's memo of October 20, 2006 on the "Audiovisual Accessibility Initiative for Visitors with Disabilities," the interpretive staff has initiated steps to assure that the park's current and future audiovisual programs and auditorium are meeting accessibility requirements. For more information, see the website for *Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media* at www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/index.htm#. Funding for these upgrades, if approved, will include the following improvements:

- Create captioning and audio description for film and fiber-optic battle map.
- Totally upgrade auditorium and fiber-optic battle map to increase accessibility and add high definition equipment (PMIS #132272 and #132341).
- Purchase assisted listening devices for use in Library Addition multi-purpose room. These devices will allow visitors to hear better during programs.

Publications

Visitors typically use publications in two ways for information and orientation during their visit, and for in-depth interpretation following their visit. The park's primary free publication is the NPS unigrid brochure; most history-oriented and traditional NPS visitors use it to guide them around the battlefield. However, the unigrid brochure does not emphasize the significance of Bloody Hill; or encourage visitors to consider certain options when planning their visit. To help upgrade the park brochure and the other free publications, the interpretive staff should take the following actions:

- Develop a park Publications Plan that would outline park needs for publications, their purposes, content, associated interpretive themes, and desired visitor experiences. Then evaluate publications annually in coordination with publications plan.
- Update park brochure including new trails, areas, mileage, and walking options. Emphasize Tour Stop #7—Bloody Hill as the highlight of the tour road experience.
- Revise Junior Ranger program and booklet content so that families and children can connect to the park’s interpretive themes. The Civil War Museum Scavenger Hunt will be incorporated into the Junior Ranger booklet and no longer be offered as a separate activity (2009).
- Create new park handbook (PMIS #87564).
- Upgrade the rack card and update directional information.
- Create new site bulletins on various subjects, such as battle leaders and prominent figures (Theme II).
- Annotate and publish the Official Records (OR) of the Lyon Campaign and the Battle of Wilson’s Creek (Theme III and IV). All of the Official Records are freely available on line. The park website could be linked to the OR website to provide access to the complete record.
- Publish the Durban-Dodd manuscript “O, It is Distressing Times” about the impact of the Civil War on civilians of southwest Missouri (Theme V)
- Create a site bulletin for park trails so that visitors on foot or horseback have a better understanding of where they can go and what they might



Many local residents use the battlefield for exercise, such as bicycle conditioning.

see. This publication could also be posted on the park bulletin boards.

- Explore ways to increase awareness and connections to the resource for all visitors. Frequent or repeat visitors may be recognized by participating in a program designed to encourage visitors to explore more areas of the park and make a stronger connection to the historical resource.

Wayside Exhibits

Wayside exhibits tell the park story on location. They “caption the landscape” and help visitors make direct connections with resources and their meanings. Wayside exhibits provide round-the-clock information and interpretation, and with appealing high quality design, writing, and graphics, they can serve to instill and reinforce respect for important resources.

In association with good graphics, waysides can show what a site looked like at different points in time. In addition, temporary waysides can be developed inexpensively to interpret construction and restoration/preservation projects.

A parkwide wayside exhibit proposal (PMIS #105171) is recommended to ensure the development of a complete and unified system of waysides with an NPS identity. The proposal will provide an in-depth assessment of all potential wayside exhibit sites. It includes informational and interpretive exhibits. The document also can set priorities to guide wayside development in phases as funding allows.

The proposal will describe the purpose of each wayside exhibit, identify graphics available for use, show thumbnail design concept drawings, and determine exact exhibit sizes, base

styles, and locations. A detailed budget estimate also would be part of the document.

The proposal would include all of the recommendations for wayside exhibits listed in the Tour Road section of this plan and an upgrade of all of the audio waysides.

A wayside proposal for the Edwards Cabin (PMIS #111917) has been submitted to increase visitor understanding at that location.

In 2007 the park began working with the Midwest Region Interpretive Media Specialist to create a wayside exhibit proposal for Bloody Hill. At least 12-15 wayside exhibits were identified for development. The proposal will define the purpose of each exhibit, the story it will convey, the intangible meanings and universal concepts that will be incorporated in the visitor experience, as well as fabrication and installation details. The proposal also will recommend modifications to the existing trail at Bloody Hill to enhance visitor experiences and to protect rare and endangered plants.

The wayside exhibits developed in this project will tell the stories from this battle at the places where they actually happened. The stories will relate how the rolling terrain and oak-savannah vegetation affected soldiers’ line of sight and impacted actions on the battlefield (Theme III and Theme IV)

From Tour Stop #7 pull-off visitors will approach a shade structure where exhibit panels might interpret such topics as: battle heroes (Medal of Honor recipients), the significance of Bloody Hill (where the name come from), and battlefield preservation (what the park does to maintain the battlefield landscape). A wayside exhibit may also give an overview of the battle that took place on what was to be known as Bloody Hill. This exhibit

might portray the Union position and the extent of the Union line.

Stops along the trail:

- Sokalski's Section
- Totten's Battery
- DuBois' Battery
- The Confederate Line
- Missouri State Guard Attacks Commemoration on the Battlefield
- 3rd Arkansas
- Price's Headquarters (view of the Edwards Cabin)
- General Nathaniel Lyon's Death "No Man's Land" (The affect terrain had on Southern Army)
- Sturgis Takes Command
- Disposition of the Dead at the sinkhole
- Lyon's Impact on the Battle's Outcome and Afterwards

One exhibit (Entering a Glade) on landscape restoration and the endangered Missouri bladderpod will also be located along the trail, but will have a different look than those that interpret the battle.

New illustrations based on actions described during the battle will offer

visitors an opportunity to visually engage in the battlefield experience a soldier might have had (Theme III).

Exhibits

In 2008 the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation hired a firm to be planning an addition to the visitor center that will include exhibits. An exhibit planner, hired by the Foundation, will work in collaboration with the building architect in order to ensure successful visitor experiences are supported by the building's architecture. The park will rely on Congressional appropriations to fund the construction of the visitor center addition and to fund museum exhibit design and fabrication. The participants in the 2008 LRIP confirmation workshop made the following recommendation:

- Plan, design and fabricate new exhibits for the visitor center that combines the artifacts from the Civil War Museum with the current visitor center exhibits. Create one visitor flow pattern, one cohesive message and a unified visitor experience that



The Lyon marker on the Bloody Hill Trail will be integrated into the new wayside exhibit plan.

provides a seamless museum exhibit experience. The exhibit plan must address current themes, remove ineffective messages, and upgrade the exhibits to meet NPS exhibit standards. These new exhibits also need to be accessible, and include captioning and assistive listening for all audiovisual components with sound, and audio description for all video elements. Appendix B refers to the NPS Accessibility Guidelines and Appendix C includes a list of the recommended topic areas to be included in the Phase I Exhibit Plan.

Also, to provide a cohesive message and unified experience with the current audiovisual media, library displays, temporary exhibits, and outdoor displays the interpretive staff should take the following actions:

- Create changeable displays in the library in collaboration with the Park Librarian.
- Establish criteria for temporary exhibit development in collaboration with the Park Historian/Curator.
- Improve understanding and meanings of cannons and the role of artillery within the park by using waysides, demonstrations, the park brochure, and exhibit text.
- Evaluate the Foundation film to and possibly revise it to compliment the new museum exhibits.
- Conduct a formal evaluation of the function and role of the fiber optic battle map prior to designing the overall museum exhibit concept.

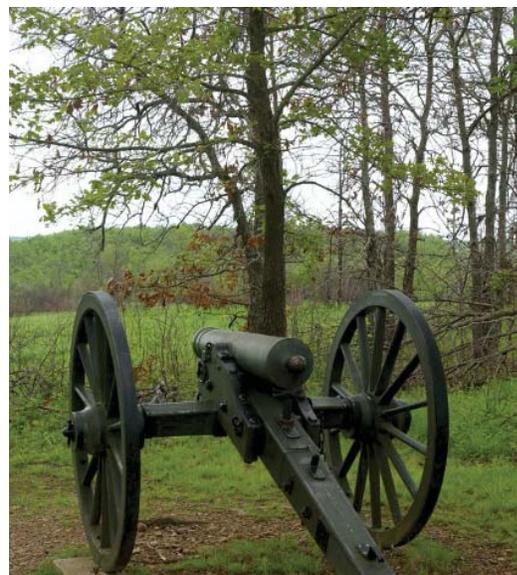
The interpretive staff must be included in all phases of the development of new exhibits to ensure appropriate interpretive themes and stories are addressed and that interpretive development program standards as well as interpretive design standards are met.

Cultural Landscape

Currently trees and other types of vegetation obscure the historic viewshed. Providing visitors the opportunity to see the battlefield as it would have looked in 1861 may increase understanding of the challenges faced by the commanders and troops when meeting on the field (Theme II and III). The following actions would facilitate those opportunities:

Enact recommendations of the Cultural Landscape Report to improve viewshed and visitor understanding of the battle.

Interpret open landscape by explaining that they have dual roles and that restoration of the viewshed also benefits a restored historic habitat.



Enacting recommendations of the Cultural Landscape Report will help visitors better understand why Sokalski's Battery would have been in this location on Bloody Hill.

Historic Furnishings

The park staff, Midwest Region (MWR) Chief of Interpretation, and MWR Interpretive Media Specialist should have an insightful discussion of the overall philosophy for the public use of the Ray House. The discussion should answer the questions: Will it remain a historically furnished house, or will it become an interpretive exhibit venue? Should a Historic Furnishings Plan be developed for the Ray House (PMIS #98064)?

Placing historic furnishings in the Edwards Cabin would create a host of challenges: care of the objects, security, and accessibility inside the cabin. Interpretation at the Edwards Cabin will consist of outdoor wayside exhibits and interior exhibit panels (no artifacts or historic furnishings).

Interpretive Media Assets

Park interpretive staff members need to work closely with Resources Management, Facilities Management, and volunteers to enact the following recommendations:

Museum Collection

Consider digital archiving system for artifacts.

Other Park Resources

Utilize park planning documents and scientific data to support interpretive programming. Cultural Landscape Report, Archeological Survey, GMP, Fire Management Plan, Piston/Hatcher book, and I&M data are all available.



The planning team recommended that only outdoor wayside exhibits and interior exhibit panels be used at the Edwards Cabin.

Living History Program Support

Prepare a Living History Plan that defines the vision, goals, and objectives of the park's Living History Program. The plan should include an insightful discussion of the role of living history in providing interpretive experiences at the battlefield and should emphasize that living history events focus on providing opportunities for visitors to engage with the re-enactors in an interpretive setting.

Elements of plan would include:

- Upgrade the living history interpretive materials (PMIS #78530)
- Management support for the living history program is critical for its success. A facility needs to be indentified within the park where employees and volunteers can change clothing, shower or clean up afterwards, and provide climate controlled storage. Should there not be a facility to provide this support, alternatives for the future need to be considered, including scaling back the program to a minimum level.
- Develop program standards and define the means to enforce them.



Living history volunteers are critical to the park.

Education and Outreach

Due to the overwhelming demand from school groups, park staff will begin to limit the number of formal programs offered and provide self-service options for those schools that are not able to participate. This will allow the staff to have better control of the program and provide quality not quantity programs.

The top three priorities for staffing during school visits will be the visitor center, the Ray House, and Tour Stop #5 "Common Soldier" program.

Beginning in FY2009 Bloody Hill will be offered primarily as teacher-guided option. The park will provide teachers with an outline of stops and pertinent information before they arrive. A volunteer may be stationed at Bloody Hill, but not on a regular basis. This option will help schools connect with three of the primary interpretive themes (II, III, and IV).

Also beginning in FY2009 park staff will recommend a Civil War Museum tour to high school and college groups only. The Battle of Wilson's Creek and the Trans-Mississippi Theater are more frequently found in secondary school and collegiate curricula than elementary or middle schools. High school and college groups tend to be smaller numbers and the museum facility cannot accommodate more than 30 students at one time. A self-guided system similar to Bloody Hill will be implemented.

An effective park education program requires adequate staff for planning, development, implementation, and assessment. The resources and themes of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield offer great potential for the development of dynamic and popular education program in partnership with Springfield area schools, neighboring parks, historic sites, and affiliated areas.

A well designed and run park education program generally depends on establishing an Education Coordinator position. This role has been a collateral duty assignment for the Park Ranger, but to be truly effective it needs to be a full-time position. The primary role of the coordinator will be to secure resources to facilitate the development and growth of a curriculum-based program based on national and state education standards.

Future growth of the park education program is primarily contingent upon hiring the Education Coordinator, an Education Technician and additional Park Guides (see Staffing section). This would allow the park to:

- Prepare an Education Plan that would provide overall direction for the Education Program, helping to explain decisions to both internal and external park audiences and to schools.
- Conduct a complete revision and update of the existing curricula to include multiple perspectives and current scholarship.
- Prepare publications or online features to explain and promote the park’s educational opportunities to local teachers.
- Create a teacher advisory group to advise the park on the most useful ways to offer educational services to local schools.
- Conduct teacher workshops to enable teachers to participate in the teacher-guided school visit option.
- Conduct pre-visit classroom programs to local schools to prepare students for on-site visits. Follow-up activities are needed to evaluate the

effectiveness of the education program.

- Staff the Ray House, and present curriculum-based education programs for school visitation the year-round.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the traveling trunk program. Based on evaluation results perhaps create a more comprehensive traveling trunk and/or a WebQuest that is focused on the Civil War in Missouri.
- Establish a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program to increase interpretive opportunities on-site and in the classroom.
- Develop an electronic field trip and Teaching with Historic Places lesson plans.

With a strong program and ties directly to local, state, and national curriculum standards, more schools will see the value of using the park to help meet their needs. This can be accomplished by involving educators from Springfield area schools directly in the development of both general and specific activities and curriculum guides.



Beginning in FY2009 park staff will limit the number of formal school programs presented to have better control of the program and to emphasize quality interpretation.

Personal Services

Dependence on volunteers to provide ninety-six percent of the personal interpretive services limits the number and type of programs that can be offered. The addition of park guides augmented by Centennial funded seasonal employees will allow for increased numbers of programs offered the year round, as well as more diversified programming. One goal, for example, will be to staff the Ray House seven days a week during the summer busy season and weekends during the fall and spring. In addition, park guides can assist in presenting curriculum based education programs during peak periods and accommodate requests for tours and programs year round. These actions will reduce the reliance upon volunteers to carry the burden of personal services.

Trained interpreters are the best interactive tool in enabling visitors to experience, understand, appreciate and make personal connections with the resource. Park staff should be committed to providing national interpretive development program training; meeting certification standards in interpretive competencies; presenting interpretive services and auditing and evaluating these services. The park will continue to provide costumed interpretation and guided walks through the Ray House; however, special emphasis should continue in the direction of formal 30-minute interpretive talks on theme-related topics, costumed artillery and musket demonstrations, guided walks at Bloody Hill, and roving along the tour road.

Wilson's Creek interpretive staff would like to improve interpretation and tell current interpretive stories more effectively. Some topics, for many years,

were sensitive, controversial, or difficult to explain to visitors. Presently, a variety of interpretive styles and interests, new scholarship, and newly found interest by new employees have opened a door to new interpretive focus, topics and/or projects.

Tell personal stories of minorities that were affected by the battle. Consider using WPA collected stories and other resources to illustrate the affect of the battle on minorities.

Since personal services interpretive programs are relatively easy to change, the activities should be evaluated on a regular basis to discontinue those that are not effective, modify and improve those that require it, and validate those that are successful.

Special Events

All special events must relate to the purpose, significance, and themes and provide interpretive opportunities.

The Sesquicentennial of the Battle of Wilson's Creek will be recognized in 2011. Hosting a sunrise memorial service at Bloody Hill and being consistent with national/regional efforts help visitors reflect a desire to remember and honor the men who fought (Theme VI); understand Missouri's key strategic importance (Theme II) and understand how Missouri's position as a western border state (Theme I) fits into the Civil War on a national scale.

The Memorial Luminary program held annually in December provides visitors an opportunity to honor the dedication to duty, patriotism, and sacrifices of the soldiers and civilians who fought during the Battle of Wilson's Creek (Theme VI).

Partnerships

Interpretive partnerships play a key role in the delivery of essential programs and can also provide opportunities for enhanced interpretive products and services.

Cooperating Association

The availability of quality, scholarly publications as an extension of the park's interpretive efforts will continue to be the cornerstone of the Cooperative Association sales philosophy at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

The park also recognizes that people in the 21st century learn in a variety of ways besides traditional publications. It therefore will work with Eastern National to expand its sales line to include theme-related items appropriate for the park and reflecting the standards and guidelines for sales items included in the park's Scope of Sales Statement.

The park will collaborate with Eastern National to develop reproductions utilizing museum collection to generate ideas for new sales items or interpretive opportunities. For example, sell t-shirts with a flag from this battle that is in the collection along with an interpretive message to extend the educational opportunities.

Create thematic sales using photos and artwork, arms, equipment, uniforms, and biographies.

Deeply discount and, ultimately, discontinue sales of *West Point and Wilson's Creek*, *Nathaniel Lyon*, and *Kansans at Wilson's Creek*. There are other publications available that tell these stories more effectively.

Volunteer Program

The Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) program could be enhanced with more

dedicated NPS supervision, enhanced VIP accommodations and an increase in VIP funding. Greater outreach to those volunteers interested in this specific time in history could produce benefits in research and the availability of costumed interpretation. An effort to enhance and expand the participation of local volunteers would be beneficial as well. When appropriate, the park will encourage or require volunteers to complete online training courses in the Interpretive Development Program. Examples of appropriate courses might include the Foundation of Interpretation, Informal Interpretation, Interpretive Talks, Conducted Activities, Illustrated Programs and other Demonstrations, and Education Programs. Because of the importance of interpretation at the Ray House to meaningful park experiences, the park will pay particular attention to the training and coaching of volunteers providing interpretive services at the Ray House.

Specific recommendations include:

Create a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator position to manage the program. This position would provide program oversight over the park's complex living history and historic weapons program, and also coordinate volunteer services for special park events.

Volunteers participating in trail patrols should be trained in informal interpretive techniques.

Expand the volunteer program to encourage participation by underserved audiences and local residents.

Construct trailer pad (PMIS #132350) for volunteers to provide long-term support to the park.

Research and Evaluation Needs

In order to fully accomplish the actions included in this plan and support the interpretive themes, the Historic Resource Study needs to be upgraded (PMIS #122795) and the park needs research on the following topics:

- Which soldiers and generals that fought at Wilson’s Creek subsequently became important figures in American Civil War history?
- Is Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield the site of one of the earliest or first accounts of American Indian participation in the Civil War?
- What other cultural groups were present at the Battle of Wilson’s Creek? Where did they participate? What were their contributions?
- The story of Missouri as a slave state and why Missouri stayed in the Union but continued to own slaves.
- How St. Louis fits into Missouri’s border state issues.
- The story of the Missouri State Guard.
- The story of “Bleeding Kansas”.
- The composition of the armies: personnel, armament, and uniforms.
- Wilson’s Creek families (Gwinn, Sharp, Manley, and others).
- The Wire Road and its function during the Trans-Mississippi Civil War.

Since the last formal visitor survey was done in 2001, the park needs to continue learning about its visitors and visitation trends. Who visits? What are their motivations, expectations, and satisfaction levels? Why do certain audiences not have an interest or knowledge of the battlefield and its visitor services? What are the interests and expectations of repeat visitors and recreational visitors? How do the answers to these questions vary from season to season or from the 2001 survey?

Evaluation also is important in the development of specific media and programs and will be planned as part of all substantial media projects and special programming. This should definitely be a part of the visitor center exhibit addition project. Front-end evaluations would query potential visitors before products and activities are developed. This type of evaluative study is targeted so that practical use can be made of the results. Formative evaluations would be conducted during conceptual design and would test inexpensive mock-ups of interpretive media and programs before fully investing in final products. Summative evaluations are valuable in helping to determine the effectiveness of final media, facilities, and programs – i.e. whether the intended themes are being communicated, if people are actually making use of the information, or if visitor behavior is affected.

Staffing and Training Needs

In order to fulfill the vision of this plan, additional funding will be required. Increased funds will enable the park to hire additional interpretive staff. Staffing needs include an Education Specialist, an Education Technician, a Volunteer Coordinator and additional Park Guides. An OFS request has been submitted for funding some of these positions possibly as soon as FY2009. These positions then will free

the GS-025-9 Park Ranger to provide Interpretive Development Program (IDP) training sessions; provide oversight of interpretive media projects; provide interpretive programs for the public (on and off-site); provide oversight of publications; and oversee the development and supervision of full-time and seasonal interpreters. Potential exists for this position to provide technical support for neighboring parks. This position has the potential to be reclassified at the GS-11 level.

The lead visitor use assistant, GS-5 position should be converted to full-time. The position would provide training and program oversight of the park's fee collection operations, manage the implementation and maintenance of point-of-sales computer systems, supervise fee collection staff, and oversee visitor services.

A trained and motivated workforce is necessary for any successful park operation. Emphasis should be placed

on accountability for IDP standards to be applied or adhered to when any park employees or volunteers present programs, design exhibits or do off-site educational programs. Ensure that all staff members, including the park's management team, who provide interpretive services be held to the appropriate NPS standards as defined in the IDP and be trained accordingly.

Provide one day training to all park staff and volunteers annually on the essential facts and interpretive themes of the battlefield as well as the answers to commonly asked questions by visitors. Field staff from all divisions is always asked about the battle while they are working in the park. Training will ensure consistency of message to public.

The following table shows the current and projected staffing plan required for full implementation of the recommendations in this Long-Range Interpretive Plan. Information in the table is further supported by the park's FY2009 core organization chart.

Title	Grade	Type	Funded	FTE	Unfunded
Supv. Park Ranger	12	PFT	ONPS	1.0	
Park Ranger, Interpretation	11	PFT	ONPS	1.0	
Park Ranger, Interp. (Education Coordinator)	9	PFT			1.0
Park Ranger, Interp. (Volunteer Coordinator)	9	PFT	ONPS	1.0	
Park Guide	5	PFT			1.0
Park Guide	5	STF			0.9
Park Ranger, Law Enforcement	9	PFT	ONPS	1.0	
Visitor Services Specialist/Fee Manager	5	STF	Cost of Collections	0.9	
Visitor Use Assistant	4	Seasonal	Centennial	0.5	
Visitor Use Assistant	4	Seasonal	Centennial	0.5	
Park Ranger, Interpretation	5	Seasonal	Centennial	0.4	
Park Ranger, Interpretation	5	Seasonal	Centennial	0.3	
Education Technician	5	Seasonal	Centennial	0.5	
Park Ranger, Law Enforcement	7	Seasonal	Centennial	0.5	

FY2009 Core Organization Chart

Implementation Priorities

- Install accessibility enhancements to battlefield map and the new park film.
- Improve Bloody Hill Trail including pulling up stakes from out of print booklet, Wayside Exhibit Plan, fabrication and installation, trail modification, shade structure and ADA alignment for slope.
- Produce VC Alteration/Exhibit Plan (Foundation).
- Begin planning for the observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.
- Improve Education program and hiring Park Ranger, Interpretation (Education Coordinator).
- Revise Junior Ranger program to meet NPS standards.
- Provide support for Living History program and hire a Volunteer Coordinator.
- Upgrade park orientation information including signs and replace NPS arrowhead signs with current version.
- Produce audio tours and podcasts.
- Publish new publications.
- Improve parkwide trails and waysides.



Living history volunteers interact with visitors following a musket firing demonstration. Special weekend programs tell the stories of Union and Southern military units two or three times per year.

Annual Priority Actions

2009

Complete Bloody Hill wayside proposal and the corresponding wayside exhibit designs.

Complete a parkwide wayside exhibit proposal.

Complete visitor center museum exhibit annex construction drawings and Phase I museum exhibit concept plan.

Introduce new and improved education program.

Revise the Junior Ranger booklet including a 3-year print run.

Improve orientation to site including installing bulletin boards and adding the new Plan Your Visit options.

Make theater, film and battle map ADA compliant.

2010

Complete Bloody Hill compliance; then fabricate and install new wayside exhibits.

Complete designs for a comprehensive system of wayside exhibits.

Receive line item construction funding for visitor center museum exhibit annex.

Recruit and hire Education Coordinator.

Create and publish “Plan Your Visit” publications and new site bulletins.

Create new auto tour compact disc in cooperation with Eastern National.

2011

Commemorate 150th anniversary of the Battle of Wilson’s Creek.

Fabricate and install a comprehensive system of wayside exhibits.

Install Bloody Hill Interpretive Shelter.

Complete visitor center museum exhibit annex construction and Phase II exhibit plan.

Update the Official NPS Park Map and Guide.

Create podcasts.

2012

Complete Bloody Hill trail realignment to ensure ADA compliance.

Open the new museum exhibits in the visitor center.

Revise Junior Ranger booklet to incorporate new exhibits.

Create a parkwide trail plan including Terrell Creek, Bloody Hill/Inner Loop, GPS trail, and Sigel’s 1st Position.

Continue to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

2013

Complete compliance for trail plan.

Create a parkwide sign plan and wayside exhibit plan.

Continue to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

2014

Build new trails.

Begin planning for National Park Service Centennial celebration.

Continue to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

2015

Continue to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

2016

Celebrate National Park Service Centennial.



Appendices

"That is your position, colonel; take it and hold it whatever you do. I will see that you are not too hard-pressed. Don't yield an inch."

- General Sterling Price to Colonel John Gratiot of the Third Arkansas

Appendix A: The Planning Team

National Park Service

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

T. John Hillmer	Superintendent
John Sutton	Chief, Interpretation and Visitor Services
Gary Sullivan	Chief, Resources and Facility Management
Dave Hutson	Park Ranger, Interpretation
Lin Donnelly	Lead Visitor Use Assistant
Connie Langum	Historian
Jeffrey Patrick	Librarian
Weldon Young	Park Ranger, Law Enforcement (since transferred)
Kevin James	Natural Resources – Ecologist
Mike DeBacker	Supervisory Biologist, MWR Heartland Inventory and Monitoring

Regional Personnel

Tom Richter	Chief of Interpretation and Education, Midwest Region
Bill Gwaltney	Assistant Regional Director, Workforce Enhancement, Intermountain Region
Roberta Wendel	Interpretive Media Specialist, Midwest Region

Harpers Ferry Center

Toni Dufficy	Interpretive Planner, Team Captain
Katherine Brock	Interpretive Planner (since transferred)
Mark Southern	Audiovisual Specialist
Krista Kovach	Exhibit Planner

Park Partners

Kent Kave	Park Volunteer, Former Park Ranger, US Army, Outdoor School Coordinator, Frederick County Public Schools
Steve Weldon	Archivist, Jasper County Records Center
Lynn McFarland	Historian, US Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood
Cleo Harger	Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, Springfield Public Schools
Dr. Herb Jackson	Park Volunteer
Dr. William G. Piston	Professor of History, Missouri State University
Shane Seley	Wide Awake Films
Lorraine Sandstrom	Springfield-Greene County Library District
David Mills	Park Volunteer
April McDonough	Executive Director, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation

All Photo Credits are NPS unless otherwise noted.

Appendix B: Accessibility Guidelines

Every attempt will be made to provide full access to interpretive media and programs to ensure people with physical and mental disabilities have access to the same information necessary for safe and meaningful visits to national parks. This is in compliance with the National Park Service policy:

“...To provide the highest level of accessibility possible and feasible for persons with visual, hearing, mobility, and mental impairments, consistent with the obligation to conserve park resources and preserve the qualities of the park experience for everyone.”

NPS Special Directive 83-3, Accessibility for Disabled Persons

All interpretation will follow general standards for accessibility as described in the Harpers Ferry Center Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media.



The Battle of Wilson's Creek was fought on August 10, 1861, a bitter struggle between Union and Southern forces for control of Missouri.

Appendix C: Recommended Topic Areas for Phase I Exhibit Plan

Use selected objects from the museum collection to commemorate the Battle of Wilson's Creek and to interpret the battle within the context of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi West.

Branching off from that primary topic are the following:

- Provide context for the battle through prehistory, events leading up to war in 1850s.
- Slavery should be placed in a regional context versus a national context.
- Provide a clear understanding and interpretation of slavery as the principle cause of the Civil War. As a battle early in the war, this site seems an appropriate place to interpret the cause of the war.
- Interpret the military consequences of the battle in the region of Southwest Missouri and Northwest Arkansas, in Missouri, in Arkansas, and in the Trans-Mississippi West.
- Interpret the importance of personal leadership, decision making, prior planning, and preparation in the progression of the battle.
- Interpret the importance of supply lines and corridors upon all the armies involved in the battle.
- Interpret how the advance of technology over stagnant battle tactics contributed to the horrific level of casualties in the battle.
- Tell the stories of the local people and the aftermath of the battle upon the region especially its deterioration into lawlessness, violence, and fear from social, political, and economic perspectives.
- Incorporate the rich eyewitness documentation of the battle by diaries, newspapers, and letters home from the soldiers, as well as official reports.
- Stress that a battle so early in the war required much trial and error by the commanders, officers, and soldiers of all the armies engaged in the battle (e.g. General Price's challenges simply organizing his various companies and regiments into a cohesive fighting force).
- Reveal the lessons learned from first combat experience for enlisted men and young officers.
- Compare and contrast the mixed loyalties of coalition armies.
- Interpret how the organization of companies in individual towns reinforced loyalty and connection to home for the soldiers.
- Tell the stories of different ethnic groups including but not limited to Germans and American Indians.
- Explain the role of volunteers and how the troops were tested during battle.
- Go from a macro scale to an individual scale revealing individual's motivations.
- Provide insight into the relationship between the states and the Federal Government and their relationships to the individuals on the battle lines.
- Provide opportunities to understand why it is important to preserve Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.
- Explain the mechanics of combat: How they fought (weapons, tactic, communications, etc.).
- Explain what happens after the battle: Wilson's Creek was the beginning of events that engulfed the trans-Mississippi in warfare. Includes the rise of guerilla warfare/terrorism tactics used by both sides.

Appendix D: Interpretive Services by Theme Matrix

Interpretive Services for All Themes	
Exhibits:	Exhibits (Visitor Center & Civil War Memorial)
A-V:	Audio Cassette Tour (Tour Road)
	Film (Visitor Center)
Publications:	WICR Civil War Series (Eastern National)
	Self-guided tour (Tour Road)
	Staff Ride (Website)
	BSA Trail Guide (Trails, Tour Road & Visitor Center)
	Commemorative Booklet (Visitor Center)

Theme I: Missouri's Position as a Border State	
Exhibits:	Timeline (Visitor Center)
Publications:	Biographies (Website)
Special Events:	Civil War Sesquicentennial
Waysides:	Short Farm (new Tour Road #1)
	Missouri Guard (Eastern National)
Education:	Educator's Guide (Website & Visitor Center)

Theme II: Political/Military Leaders and Missouri's Strategic Importance	
Exhibits:	Cultural Landscape
A-V:	Battle Map (Visitor Center)
Publications:	WICR Map & Guide (Visitor Center)
	Biographies (Website)
	Site Bulletins (Website & Visitor Center)
Special Events:	Civil War Sesquicentennial
Waysides:	Short Farm (New Tour Road #1)
	Missouri Guard (Eastern National)
	Wire Road/Transportation (Trails)
Education:	Educator's Guide (Website & Visitor Center)

Theme III: Battle Outcome was the Result of Many Interrelated Factors	
Artwork:	Art Work (Tour Road #7/ Bloody Hill)
Exhibits:	Hospital exhibit (Ray House)
	Timeline (Visitor Center)
	Artillery Display (Tour Road & Bloody Hill)
	Cultural Landscape
A-V:	Battle Map (Visitor Center)
	Virtual Tours (Website)
	Photo Gallery of Battle Scenes (Website)
	GPS Trail (Website & Trails)
Personal Services:	Living History (Edwards Cabin & Tour Road #5)
	Guided Tour (Bloody Hill)
	"Common Soldier" talk (Tour Road #5)
	Cannon firing/musket demo (Tour Road #5)
	Stationed Interpretation (Ray House)

Theme III: Battle Outcome was the Result of Many Interrelated Factors (cont...)	
Publications:	WICR Map & Guide (Visitor Center)
	Biographies (Website)
	Troop Movement Map (Eastern National)
	Kansans at Wilson’s Creek (Eastern National)
	Official Records (Eastern National)
	Junior Ranger (Visitor Center)
Special Events:	Civil War Sesquicentennial Moonlight Tour (Tour Road)
Waysides:	Short Farm (new Tour Road #1)
	Plummer’s Crossing formerly Gibson’s Mill (Tour Road & Trails)
	Ray House (Ray House)
	Pulaski’s Battery (Tour Road #3 & Trails)
	Sigel’s 2nd Position (Tour Road #4)
	Sigel’s Final Position (Tour Road #5)
	Guibor Battery (Tour Road #6)
	Bloody Hill (Tour Road #7 & Trails)
	Overlook (Tour Road #3 & #8)
Education:	Educator’s Guide (Website & Visitor Center)
	Traveling Trunk “Common Soldier” talk (Tour Road #5)
	Cannon firing/musket demo (Tour Road #5)

Theme IV: Union Defeat and the Death of Lyon	
Exhibits:	Lyon’s exhibit (Ray House)
A-V:	Battle Map (Visitor Center)
	Virtual Tours (Website)
	GPS Trail (Website & Trails)
Personal Services:	Stationed Interpretation (Ray House)
	Guided Tour (Bloody Hill)
Publications:	WICR Map & Guide (Visitor Center)
	Biographies (Website)
	Troop Movement Map (Eastern National)
	Official Records (Eastern National)
Special Events:	Civil War Sesquicentennial Moonlight Tour (Tour Road)
Waysides:	Bloody Hill (Bloody Hill & Trails)
Education:	Educator’s Guide (Website & Visitor Center)
	Traveling Trunk

Theme V: Lives of the Residents	
Exhibits:	Hospital exhibit (Ray House)
	Lyon's exhibit (Ray House)
	Ray Family exhibit (Ray House)
A-V:	Ray House Video (Visitor Center)
Personal Services:	Stationed Interpretation (Ray House)
	Guided Tour (Ray House)
Publications:	Ray House (Eastern National)
	Biographies (Website)
	Durban-Dodd Manuscript (Eastern National)
	Junior Ranger (Visitor Center)
Special Events:	Civil War Sesquicentennial
Waysides:	Short Farm (New Tour Road #1)
	Ray House (Ray House)
	Double Spring Day Use Area
Education:	Educator's Guide (Website & Visitor Center)
	Traveling Trunk Guided Tour (Ray House)

Theme VI: Preservation and Commemoration	
Artwork:	Art Work (Visitor Center)
Exhibits:	Timeline (Visitor Center)
	Artillery Display (Tour Road & Bloody Hill)
A-V:	Ray House Video (Visitor Center)
	GPS Trail (Website & Trails)
Publications:	Junior Ranger (Visitor Center)
Special Events:	Civil War Sesquicentennial
	Battle Anniversary (VC)
	Memorial Luminaries (Tour Road & Ray House)
Waysides:	Short Farm (New Tour Road #1)
	Lyon's Marker (Bloody Hill)

Appendix E: Interpretive Services by Zone

Visitor Center	
Artwork:	Art Work (T6)
Exhibits:	Exhibits (T1 -6)
	Timeline (T1,3,6)
A-V:	Film (T1-6)
	Battle Map (T2,3,4)
	Ray House Video (T5,6)
Publications:	WICR Map & Guide (T2-4)
	WICR Civil War Series (T1-6)
	BSA Trail Guide (T1-6)
	Commemorative Booklet (T1-6)
	Site Bulletins (T2)
	Junior Ranger (T3,5,6)
	Durban-Dodd Manuscript (T5)
	Troop Movement Map (T3,4)
Official Records (T3,4)	
Special Events:	Civil War Sesquicentennial (T6)
Education:	Educator's Guide (T1-5)
	Traveling Trunk (T3-5)

Tour Road	
Exhibits:	Artillery Display (T3,6)
	Cultural Landscape (T2,3)
A-V:	Audio Cassette Tour (T2-6)
Personal Services:	Living History (T3)
	"Common Soldier" talk (T3)
	Cannon firing/musket demo (T3)
Publications:	Self-guided tour (T1-6)
	BSA Trail Guide (T1-6)
Special Events:	Moonlight Tour (T3,4)
	Memorial Luminaries (T6)
Waysides:	Short Farm (T1,2,3,5, 6)
	Pulaski's Battery (T3)
	Sigel's 2nd Position (T3)
	Sigel's Final Position (T3)
	Guibor Battery (T3)
	Overlook (T3)
Education:	"Common Soldier" talk (T3)
	Cannon firing/musket demo(T3)

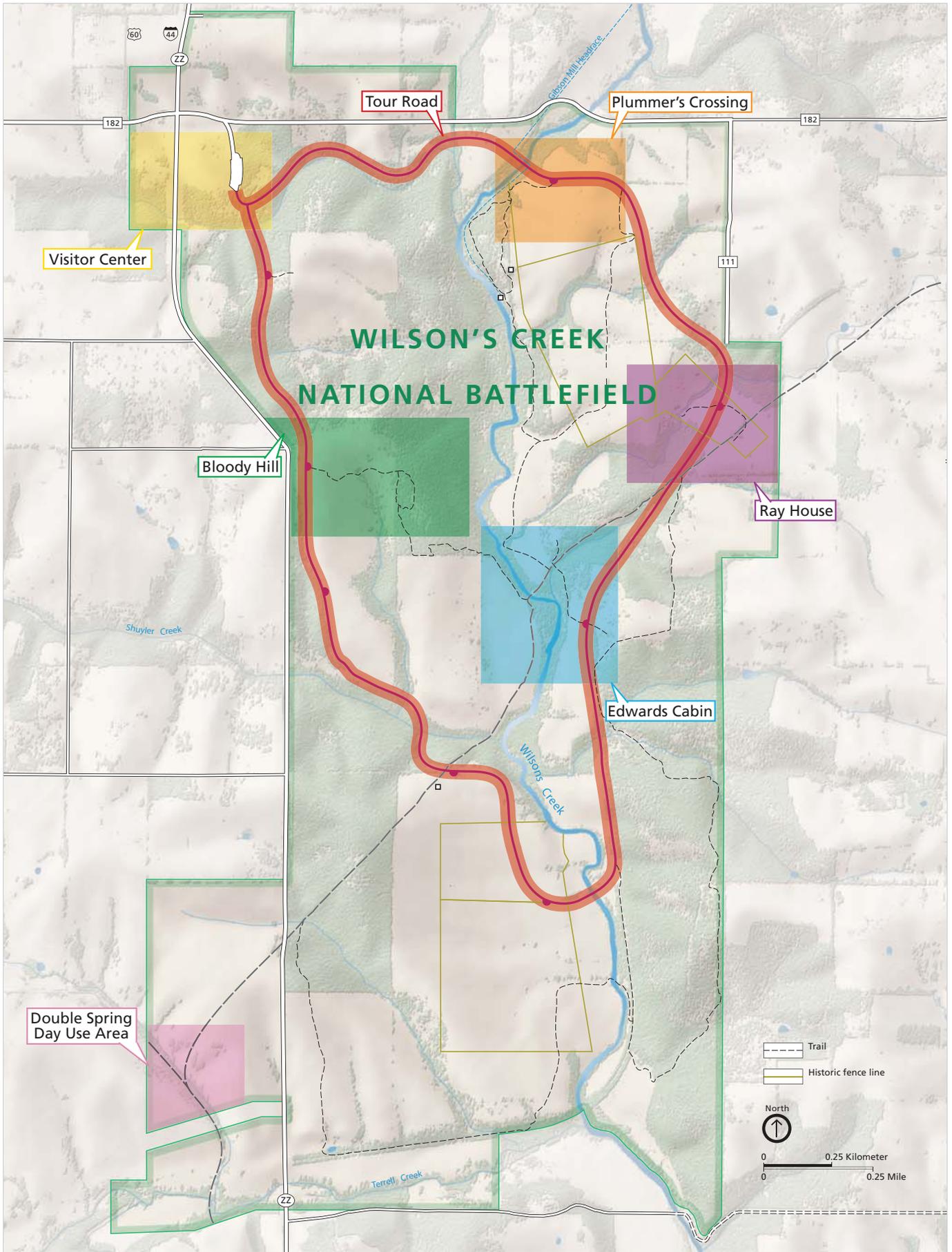
Ray House	
Exhibits:	Cultural Landscape (T2,3)
	Hospital exhibit (T3,5)
	Lyon's exhibit (T4,5)
	Ray Family exhibit (T5)
Personal Services:	Guided Tour (T5)
	Stationed Interp. (T3,4,5)
Publications:	Ray House (T5)
Special Events:	Memorial Luminaries (T6)
Waysides:	Ray House (T3,5)
	Wire Road/Transportation (T2)
Education:	Guided Tour (T5)

Bloody Hill	
Artwork:	Art Work (T3)
Exhibits:	Artillery Display (T3,6)
	Cultural Landscape (T2,3)
Personal Services:	Guided Tour (T3,4)
Waysides:	Bloody Hill (T2,3,6)
	Lyon Marker (T6)

Plummer's Crossing	
Exhibits:	Cultural Landscape (T2,3)
Waysides:	Plummer's Crossing formerly Gibson's Mill (T3)

Edwards Cabin	
Exhibits:	Cultural Landscape (T2,3)
Personal Services:	Living History (T3)
Waysides:	Missouri Guard (T1,2)
	Wire Road/Transportation (T2)

Double Spring Day Use Area	
Waysides:	Wire Road/Transportation (T2)
	Double Spring Story (T5)



WICR Zone Map



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

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Republic, MO 65738-9514

417-732-2662, ext. 227

www.nps.gov/wicr