

Battle of Gaines' Mill

Living History Weekend and Anniversary



Living History Weekend at Gaines' Mill Battlefield | Saturday, June 23 - Sunday, June 24

6283 Watt House Road, Mechanicsville 23111 (*Parking available at Cold Harbor Visitor Center, 5515 Anderson-Wright Dr., Mechanicsville 23111)

Ongoing all weekend
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- A demonstration of the innovative use of balloons during the Civil War
- Living history programs and demonstrations of life and activities in camp and on the battlefield in June 1862
- Interactive family and children's activities
- Visitor orientation and interpretation near the shuttle stop around the Watt House
- At the nearby Cold Harbor Visitor Center, NPS Ranger orientation, exhibits and maps

Saturday, June 23

- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. “Civilians Caught in the Maelstrom: The Story of Sarah Watt and Other Hanover Civilians” – an NPS Ranger-led walking tour of the Watt House area (Near Watt House)
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. “The Confederates Break Through: the Battle of Gaines' Mill” – an NPS Ranger-led talk illustrated with living history infantry, artillery, and cavalry demonstrations (Tactical Demonstration Area)
- Noon – 12:45 p.m. “Gaines' Mill Through the Soldiers' and Civilians' Eyes” – an NPS Ranger-led walking tour with historic vignettes offered by military and civilian living historians (Visitor Information Tent) 
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. “The Confederates Break Through: the Battle of Gaines' Mill” – an NPS Ranger-led talk illustrated with living history infantry, artillery, and cavalry demonstrations (Tactical Demonstration Area)
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. “Gaines' Mill Through the Soldiers' and Civilians' Eyes” – an NPS Ranger-led walking tour with historic vignettes offered by military and civilian living historians (Visitor Information Tent) 
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. “Reconnaissance from Above: Balloons in the Civil War” – demonstration of the use of balloons during the summer of 1862 (Balloon Demonstration Area)
- 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. “The Confederates Break Through: the Battle of Gaines' Mill” – an NPS Ranger-led talk illustrated with living history infantry, artillery, and cavalry demonstrations (Tactical Demonstration Area)

Sunday, June 24

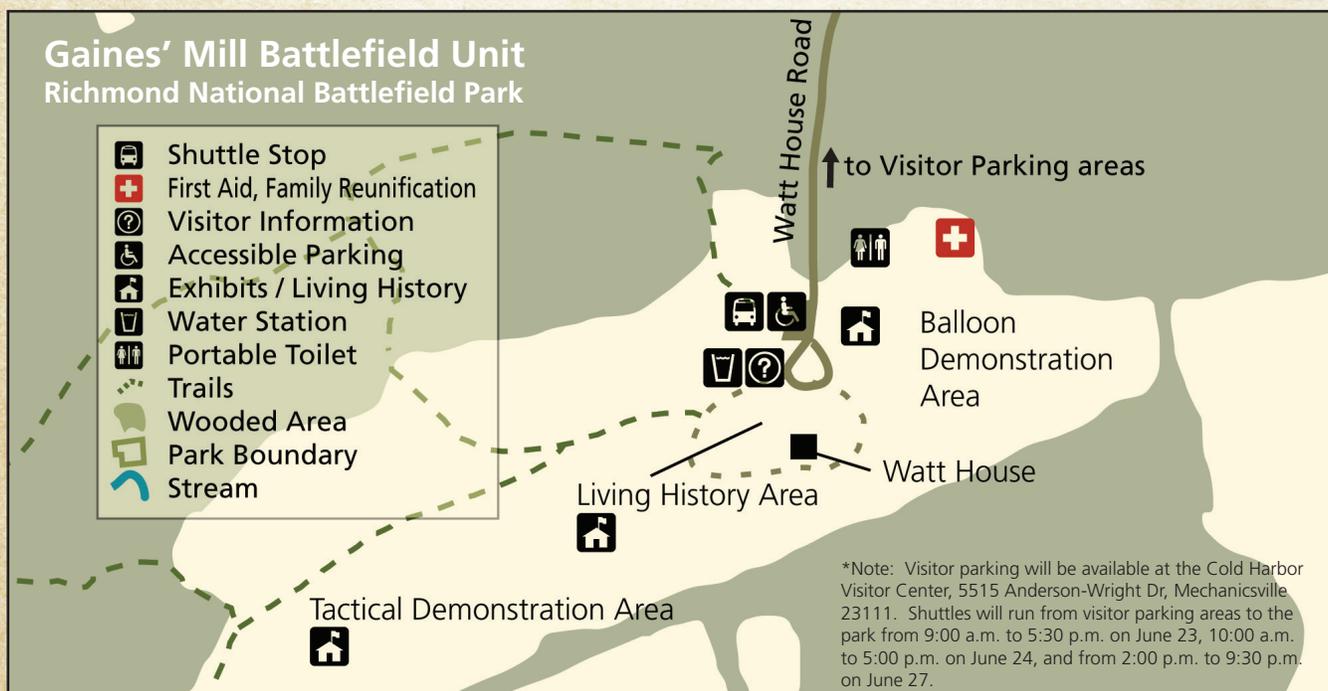
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. “The Battle of Gaines' Mill: Lee's First Victory” – an NPS Ranger-led walking tour overview (Visitor Information Tent) 
- Noon – 12:45 p.m. “The Confederates Break Through: the Battle of Gaines' Mill” – an NPS Ranger-led talk illustrated with living history infantry, artillery, and cavalry demonstrations (Tactical Demonstration Area)
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. “Reconnaissance from Above: Balloons in the Civil War” – demonstration of the use of balloons during the summer of 1862 (Balloon Demonstration Area)
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. “Gaines' Mill Through the Soldiers' and Civilians' Eyes” – an NPS Ranger-led walking tour with historic vignettes offered by military and civilian living historians (Visitor Information Tent) 
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. “The Confederates Break Through: the Battle of Gaines' Mill” – an NPS Ranger-led talk illustrated with living history infantry, artillery, and cavalry demonstrations (Tactical Demonstration Area)

 Please note that these tours take place over rough and uneven terrain not suitable for strollers and scooters. Water bottles and comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Battle of Gaines' Mill Anniversary | Wednesday, June 27

6283 Watt House Road, Mechanicsville 23111 (*Parking available onsite until 3:00 p.m. – please see note on map for shuttle information.)

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| 10:00 a.m. | “Civilians Caught in the Maelstrom: The Story of Sarah Watt and Other Hanover Civilians” – an NPS Ranger-led walking tour of the Watt House area (Near Watt House) |
| 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | “The Battle of Gaines' Mill: Lee's First Victory” – 30-minute walking tour overviews at 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. with NPS Rangers (Visitor Information Tent) |
| 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | “Stonewall Jackson Challenges the U.S. Regulars” – an NPS Ranger-led hiking tour of the eastern end of the battlefield (Visitor Information Tent) |
| 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. | “Terrain Shapes the Battle: A Glimpse into Griffin's Woods” – a walking tour with NPS Historian Robert E.L. Krick (Visitor Information Tent) |
| 6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. | Special Commemorative Anniversary Program: “Gaines' Mill: An Overview of Lee's First Victory” with former NPS Chief Historian Ed Bearss (Program Tent) <i>In case of inclement weather, this program will take place at the VFW Hall, 7168 Flag Lane, Mechanicsville 23111.</i> |
| 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | “Texans Lead the Way: Lee's Largest Attack of the Civil War Breaks the Union Left” – a walking tour with NPS Historian Robert E.L. Krick (Visitor Information Tent) |
| 8:45 p.m. | “Taps Over the Battlefield: A Salute to the Soldiers” |



Battle of Beaver Dam Creek

Anniversary Tours at the Beaver Dam Creek Battlefield | Tuesday, June 26

7423 Cold Harbor Road, Mechanicsville 23111 (*Parking available onsite until 3:00 p.m.; then at the VFW Hall, 7168 Flag Lane, Mechanicsville 23111. Shuttles will run from 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.)

All tours meet at the shuttle bus stop in the Beaver Dam Creek Battlefield park unit.

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| Beginning at 2:00 p.m. | NPS Staff and volunteers available to provide orientation about the Battle of Beaver Dam Creek |
| 2:00 p.m. | “The Stage is Set for Lee's Offensive” – an NPS Ranger-led walking tour |
| 4:00 p.m. | “The Seven Days Battles Commence” – an NPS Ranger-led walking tour |
| 7:00 p.m. | “Battle of Beaver Dam Creek: Lee Takes the Initiative” – an NPS Ranger-led real time walking tour |