

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove
National Historical Park



Remembering *Cedar Creek* 152nd Anniversary



Commemorative
Event Program

October 14 - 16, 2016

A Nation Remembers...

After stirring from the dense fog on the early morning of October 19, 1864, Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early's surprise attack was his last major attempt to control the Shenandoah Valley. Union Major General Philip Sheridan's response forever sealed the Valley's fate and secured a victorious presidential re-election for Abraham Lincoln. The battlefield of Cedar Creek contains these memories along with the struggles and sacrifices of both citizens and soldiers.

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park welcomes you to the 152nd anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Cedar Creek. During this anniversary weekend, take time to learn about the history, walk in the soldier's footsteps, and honor the memory of those who sacrificed everything on this hallowed ground.



...And Preserves a Special Place

Congress established Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park in 2002 to commemorate the rich history of the Shenandoah Valley including a nationally significant Civil War landscape and antebellum plantation. The park is also embedded within the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Historic District.

The park encompasses approximately 3,700 acres across three counties and is administered as a public and private partnership with the National Park Service and five key land-owning partners. Private citizens, local non-profit organizations, and national entities have worked tirelessly to protect more than 1,500 acres of historic land for perpetuity including the 1797 Belle Grove Manor House and pristine Civil War battlefield land. The partner sites continue to be owned and operated independently.



Cedar Creek Battlefield
Foundation



BELLE GROVE
PLANTATION



Shenandoah County



"We create
community
through
people,
parks,
and
programs."

Parks and Recreation



National Trust for
Historic Preservation



Facilities and Social Media



Visitor Contact Station
7712 Main Street
Middletown, VA 22645
www.nps.gov/cebe
(540) 869-3051

Friday, Oct. 14
9am - 4:30pm
Saturday, Oct. 15
9am - 5pm
Sunday, Oct. 16
9am - 4:30pm



Belle Grove Plantation
336 Belle Grove Rd.
Middletown, VA 22645
www.bellegrove.org
(540) 869-2028

Friday, Oct. 14
10am - 4 pm
Saturday, Oct. 15
9am - 4pm
Sunday, Oct. 16
9am - 4pm



Cedar Creek Battlefield
Foundation Headquarters
(CCBF)
8437 Valley Pike
Middletown, VA 22645
www.ccbf.us
(540) 869-2064

Friday, Oct. 14
9am - 5pm
Saturday, Oct. 15
9am - 5pm
Sunday, Oct. 16
9am - 5pm

Hupp's Hill Civil War
Park and Museum
33229 Old Valley Pike
Strasburg, VA 22641
(540) 465-5884



Stay Connected!

Get the latest news from the field, or follow along at home!



- CedarCreekNPS
- BelleGrove
- CedarCreekBattlefieldFoundation
- ShenandoahAtWar

www.nps.gov/cebe • www.bellegrove.org
www.ccbf.us • www.shenandoahatwar.org

Belle Grove Events

Spectators may visit Belle Grove Plantation, the site of Union Major General Philip Sheridan's headquarters during the Battle of Cedar Creek and the location of the death of Confederate General Stephen Ramseur. On view at Belle Grove grounds will be demonstrations by the 10th Virginia Infantry and John Tole of Evergreen Shade will perform Civil War music. In the Manor House, Civil War living history interpreters will depict hearth cooking, herbal remedies, women's handiwork fashions, and children's games. The Ordnance Detachment of the Civil War Dance Foundation will present a display of Civil War weapons and flags. The Belle Grove Museum Shop will also be open and sells Civil War related books, maps, and artwork.

Belle Grove Manor House Tickets

Admissions to the Belle Grove grounds are free. There will be a \$5 fee* for those 12 and older to tour the Manor House. Tickets can be purchased at Belle Grove by entering under the front porch.

*This price does not include entrance to the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation Reenactment



Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation Events (CCBF)

Admission to this area includes the battle reenactments, living history demonstrations, lecture series, sutlers row, and much more.

- A variety of food is for sale on the CCBF event grounds
- More than 30 Civil War merchants are on site along Sutlers Row
- Military camps are closed to the public approximately 1 hour before each reenactment
- Please turn off your car alarms as artillery fire can set them off
- Pets, except for service animals, are not allowed at the CCBF event grounds

Transportation within the CCBF Grounds:

A wagon shuttle will be available during the weekend to points inside the main reenactment grounds.

The shuttle runs frequently on the following schedule:

Saturday, October 15	9am until 5pm
Sunday, October 16	9am until 4pm

CCBF Event Ground Tickets

Only CCBF events are included in this ticket price which does not include entrance to the Belle Grove Manor House (see page 2).

Adults	\$12
Children ages 7 to 17	\$6
Students with ID	\$6
Retired or active military ID	\$6
Persons 65 or older	\$6
Children 6 and under	free

Each ticket provides admission for one day.

Proceeds go to support continued battlefield preservation efforts.

Tickets may be purchased ahead of time at www.ccbf.us or at the main event gate on Route 11. Cash, Visa and Mastercard will be accepted.

*Reenactors, please contact the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation with any questions or concerns: (540) 869-2064

The NEW “Morning Attack Trails”

Free trail brochures are available at the Trail Head (8739 Valley Pike, Middletown, VA 22645), the Visitor Contact Station or the NPS Tent on the CCBF Event Grounds. See pages 17-18 for Park map.

The “Morning Attack Trails” consist of the following three trails, which can be hiked individually or in various combinations:

1. The 8th Vermont Monument Trail - a 300 yard trail (600 yards round-trip) to the 8th Vermont Monument.
2. Thomas Brigade Loop Trail - a 0.6 mile long trail that focuses on the stand of Col. Stephen Thomas’s brigade.
3. Hayes-Ramseur Loop Trail - a 0.7 mile long trail that explores the attack of Stephen D. Ramseur’s Confederates on the Union forces of Rutherford B. Hayes and Howard Kitching.



“Morning Attack Trails” at Cedar Creek - NPS

Family Activities

Calling All Kids!



There is a lot to explore during the anniversary weekend! Talk to a National Park Service Ranger or volunteer to learn how you can become a Junior Ranger. Complete an activity book to earn your Junior Ranger badge!



Interact with History at Belle Grove

Experience the past through a variety of living history demonstrations. Belle Grove's Manor House will have interpreters in every room depicting the Civil War era. Spectators are encouraged to tour the 10th Virginia infantry camps on the front lawn of Belle Grove. Civil War era music will also be performed in front of the Manor House.



Military Demonstrations and more at CCBF

Reenactors will provide a variety of military demonstrations throughout the anniversary weekend. From cavalry demonstrations to the firing of cannons, see history come alive on the Cedar Creek Battlefield.

Friday, October 14, 2016

1pm

The “Fatal Halt” ...Justified? *(free 2 hour program)*

Was Confederate commander Jubal Early’s decision to call off his offensive against the Union Army of the Shenandoah justified? He obviously defended his decision, while others condemned it. Join Ranger Jeff Driscoll on this car caravan tour as he considers the arguments on both sides. Meet at the Visitor Contact Station. (7712 Main Street, Middletown, VA 22645). (90 minutes)

4pm

History At Sunset *(free 2 hour program)* **Battle of Cedar Creek Car Caravan Tour**

Follow Ranger Shannon Moeck for a two-hour guided tour, using a car-caravan system (visitors follow the ranger’s vehicle), which covers the Battle of Cedar Creek in a chronological fashion. It includes approximately 5 stops at the key landmarks associated with the battle. Meet at the National Park Service Visitor Contact Station (7712 Main Street, Middletown, VA 22645).



Cemetery Hill at Cedar Creek Battlefield

CCBF Schedule of Events

Saturday, October 15, 2016

- 9am** **CCBF Event Gates Open**
- 11am** **Artillery Demonstration**
LOCATION: CCBF Event Grounds
- 12:30pm** **Infantry Demonstration**
LOCATION: CCBF Event Grounds
- 2:30pm** **Cavalry Demonstration**
LOCATION: CCBF Event Grounds
- 3pm** **Reenactment: First Battle of Winchester**
LOCATION: CCBF Event Grounds
- 6:15pm** **Candlelight Tours of the Camps**
LOCATION: CCBF Event Grounds, Meet at Symposium Tent
(admission \$5)
- 6:30pm** **Luminaries through Middletown**
- 7pm** **Night firing of Cannons and Signal Corps**
LOCATION: CCBF Event Grounds

Symposium Presentations

- | | | | |
|----------------|--|---------------|--|
| 10:00am | Meet the Generals
Lee's Lieutenants
Living History | 1:00pm | Battle of Tom's Brook
- Bill Miller |
| 11:30am | Black Confederates
- Gregory Newson | 2:00pm | "Sons of a Common
Country:" Healing the
Civil War's Wounds in the
Shenandoah Valley
- Jonathan Noyalas |
| 12:00pm | Concert:
Susquehanna
Travelers | | |

Belle Grove and NPS Schedule of Events

Saturday, October 15, 2016

Belle Grove Manor House

9am - 4pm **Belle Grove Manor House Living Historians and Weapons Display** (fee - see page 2 for more information)

LOCATION: Belle Grove Plantation - 336 Belle Grove Road

Ranger Programs and Infantry Living History

All NPS programs are **free** of charge.

The Union 19th Corps Makes its Stand

9-11am

Union 19th Corps commander William Emory faced an enormous challenge the early morning of October 19, 1864...how to react to the Confederate attack coming from his left and left rear, while still maintaining a strong presence against Confederate forces facing him in front. Join Ranger Jeff Driscoll for this car caravan tour as he looks at the 19th Corps's actions along the Valley Pike and on the fields around Belle Grove the morning of the battle. Meet at the Visitor Contact Station. (2 hours)

11:30am

1:30pm

4pm

Battle of Cedar Creek in a Box

LOCATION: Front Lawn of Belle Grove

10:30am

12pm

2pm

10th Virginia Infantry Demonstrations

Location: Front Lawn of Belle Grove



Ranger Jeff Driscoll leading battlefield tour at Belle Grove

CCBF Schedule of Events

Sunday, October 16, 2016

- 9am** **CCBF Event Gates Open**
- 9am** **Catholic Mass Service**
LOCATION: Symposium Tent at CCBF Event Grounds
- 10am** **Non-Denominational Gospel Service**
LOCATION: Symposium Tent at CCBF Event Grounds
- 12pm** **Artillery Demonstration**
LOCATION: CCBF Event Grounds
- 1:30pm** **Reenactment: Battle of Cedar Creek**
LOCATION: CCBF Event Grounds

Symposium Presentations

- 11am** Amazing Legacy of James Hanger
- Bob O'Connor
- 3pm** Ramifications of Cedar Creek
- Lee's Lieutenants
- Living History
- 12:30pm** Sheridan's Ride in War and Memory
- Jonathan Noyalas



The Battle of Cedar Creek, by Julian Scott, Courtesy of the Vermont State Curator's Office

Belle Grove and NPS Schedule of Events

Sunday, October 16, 2016

NPS Ranger Programs

All NPS programs are **free** of charge.

- 10am** **Battle of Cedar Creek Tour**
Follow Ranger Jimmy Horn for a two-hour guided tour, using a car-caravan system (visitors follow the ranger's vehicle), which covers the Battle of Cedar Creek in a chronological fashion. It includes approximately 5 or 6 stops at the key landmarks associated with the battle. Meet at the National Park Service Visitor Contact Station (7712 Main Street, Middletown, VA 22645).
- 10:30am**
12pm **Battle of Cedar Creek in a Box**
3pm LOCATION: Front Lawn of Belle Grove

Living History and Belle Grove Events

- 9am - 4pm** **Belle Grove Manor House Living Historians and Weapons Display** (fee - see page 2 for more information)
LOCATION: Belle Grove Plantation - 336 Belle Grove Road
- 10:00am** **10th Virginia Infantry Demonstrations**
12:45pm Location: Front Lawn of Belle Grove
- 11am** **The Slave Dwelling Project - Joseph McGill**
Come learn about Joseph McGill's work to document and preserve extant slave dwellings. To date Mr. McGill has spent the night in dwellings in 17 states and D.C. and he'll talk about his experiences, including his previous night's stay at Belle Grove. This talk will be followed by a short presentation by Coming to the Table.
Location: Lower Level of Belle Grove

NPS Schedule of Events

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

NPS Ranger Programs

11:30

Battle of Cedar Creek in a Box

LOCATION: Front Lawn of Belle Grove

1 - 3 pm

152nd Anniversary

Battle of Cedar Creek Tour

A ranger led car caravan tour that covers the battle chronologically.

LOCATION: NPS Visitor Contact Station



Ranger Kyle Rothemich leading a tour, NPS

Plan your visit thoughtfully to ensure that you are comfortable, safe and well-prepared.

Please dial 911 or locate the first-aid tent in the event of an emergency.

Weather:

Check weather forecasts before departing. Most of the events take place outdoors. The Shenandoah Valley weather in the fall can vary and change. Fall days can be warm, foggy, rainy, or cold. Please dress accordingly - wear layers and choose comfortable, sturdy shoes for walking on uneven battlefield terrain. Bring and wear sunscreen.

Water and Food:

Water and food will be available for purchase at the battlefield, but please bring a water bottle and snacks with you. Please dispose of litter and recycling in the provided containers.

Roads and Trails:

Please stay on designated trails and note special event signs on roadways and trails.

Insects:

It is possible for mosquitoes, ticks, and chiggers to still be out on the battlefields in October. Protect yourself by wearing long sleeves and long pants.

Pets:

Due to Health Department regulations, pets are not allowed on the main battlefield event grounds. Service animals will be allowed. Leashed pets are welcome on ranger programs at locations outside of Belle Grove and the CCBF event grounds.

Seating:

If you are planning on being in the park for an extended period of time, consider bringing a blanket or chair that is easy to transport.

The Battle of Cedar Creek

Following his victories in September and October, 1864, Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan and his 32,000 man Army of the Shenandoah conducted a systematic destruction of a 75 mile swath of the Shenandoah Valley. “The Burning” laid waste to the “Breadbasket of the Confederacy.” Confident the campaign was over Sheridan camped his army along Cedar Creek, with his headquarters at Belle Grove. Gen. Jubal Early’s poorly equipped and ill-fed Army of the Valley was reduced to approximately 12,000 men and seemed to pose little threat. Thus Sheridan traveled to Washington, D.C. on October 15th to confer with higher authorities about future movements.



General Jubal Early
Library of Congress

Little did Sheridan realize that on October 13th Early had received 3,000 reinforcements from Gen. Robert E. Lee, along with instructions to launch an offensive to regain the Valley. While the natural strength of the Union position ruled out a frontal assault, Gen. John Gordon devised an unexpected alternative. After toiling up the steep slopes of Massanutten Mountain on October 17th to Signal Knob, from where the entire Union army was visible, he returned with a bold plan. Despite the long odds, Early approved and put the plan into motion on the night of October 18th. It was one of the riskiest and most audacious assaults attempted during the entire Civil War. Early split his smaller army into three columns in order to place the bulk of his force against the Union left, held by the 8th Corps. It would take perfect coordination and absolute surprise to have any chance of success.

Following an all-night march along the base of the Massanutten Mountain, including two river crossings, the Confederates rolled out of a dense fog in the pre-dawn hours of October 19th. Most Northern soldiers were still in their tents and the few who managed to form a line were quickly overwhelmed. Within minutes the 8th Corps was routed and fleeing.

The Union 19th Corps was struck next and although given more warning, it was soon forced back. Belle Grove fell around 7:00 a.m. That left only the Union 6th Corps to face the Confederate advance.

Fighting stubbornly, the Northern line continued to withdraw. Brig. Gen. George Getty’s 6th Corps division made a determined stand on a prominent hill overlooking Middletown and where the town cemetery was located. For 90 minutes (8:00 to 9:30 a.m.) Getty repulsed three attacks and withstood a 30 minute artillery bombardment before finally being forced to withdraw. By 10:30 a.m. the Army of the Shenandoah was bloodied, battered and on the

The Battle of Cedar Creek

verge of a demoralizing defeat. Cedar Creek appeared to be a stunning Confederate victory.

Early assumed the Union army would conduct a full retreat and thus ordered his lines to halt just north of Middletown. Believing his own men were too exhausted, and his lines weakened by the loss of men plundering the Union camps, Early felt the best he could do was “hold what had been gained” (including over 1,000 prisoners and 24 cannon). Despite this success, Gordon urged his commander to continue the advance, later calling this delay the “fatal halt.” Early’s plan was to secure his captured spoils and hold on until darkness could cover his withdrawal. During this debate Early, Gordon and the rest of the Confederate army heard cheering from the Union lines. Although they did not know it, this celebration marked the arrival of Sheridan, and with him, a turning point in the battle.

Returning that morning from Winchester, Sheridan had no idea of the disaster that had befallen his army. Soon, however, the sounds of battle reached him, followed by fleeing Union soldiers spreading rumors of defeat. Riding hard, he arrived on the field around 10:30 a.m. “Sheridan’s Ride,” later celebrated in art and poetry, forever cemented his status in American history. Sheridan immediately rejected all suggestions to order a retreat, and instead began to plan for a counterattack.

At 4:00 p.m. Sheridan ordered this attack to begin. Initially met by determined resistance, the Union advance stalled. But the Confederate left was soon turned, followed by Union cavalry, which struck hard. The Confederate line unraveled and the retreat quickly turned into a rout.

By nightfall the Army of the Valley ceased to exist. Losses included over 1,200 prisoners and 48 cannon. Total casualties numbered approximately 8,600, making it the second bloodiest battle in the Valley.

Cedar Creek was a momentous Union victory which crushed further Confederate resistance in the Shenandoah Valley, and occurred on the eve of the presidential election. For the Confederacy, the campaign was a humiliating disaster, and one of a string of setbacks that fall and winter which ultimately lead to final defeat less than six months later.



Major General
Philip Sheridan
Library of Congress

Explore the Battlefield

Beyond the planned activities, visitors are encouraged to tour the entire battlefield and experience history on the landscape. Visitors can explore the park in several ways:

- **Self-Guided Auto Tour** - Free brochures are available at the Visitor Contact Station or the NPS Tent at the CCBF Event Grounds. The auto tour consists of an 18 mile tour with 10 stops and follows the battle chronologically. An accompanying CD audio narrative can also be borrowed for free.
- **Civil War Trust Mobile App** - Download a free interactive mobile application that contains tours, maps, historic photographs, illustrations, and videos. Download at www.civilwar.org/battleapps (for both iPhone and Android devices).



Thoburn Tract at Sunset - NPS/Buddy Secor

Visit 2 Battlefield Stations -

See map on pages 17-18 for locations.

Thoburn's Redoubt -

Preserved by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF), this property marks the location of the Union left flank, held by Col. Joseph Thoburn's 8th Corps division. It was here that the opening Confederate surprise attack began the battle. A self-guided walking trail, with interpretive brochure, will allow visitors to explore the site.

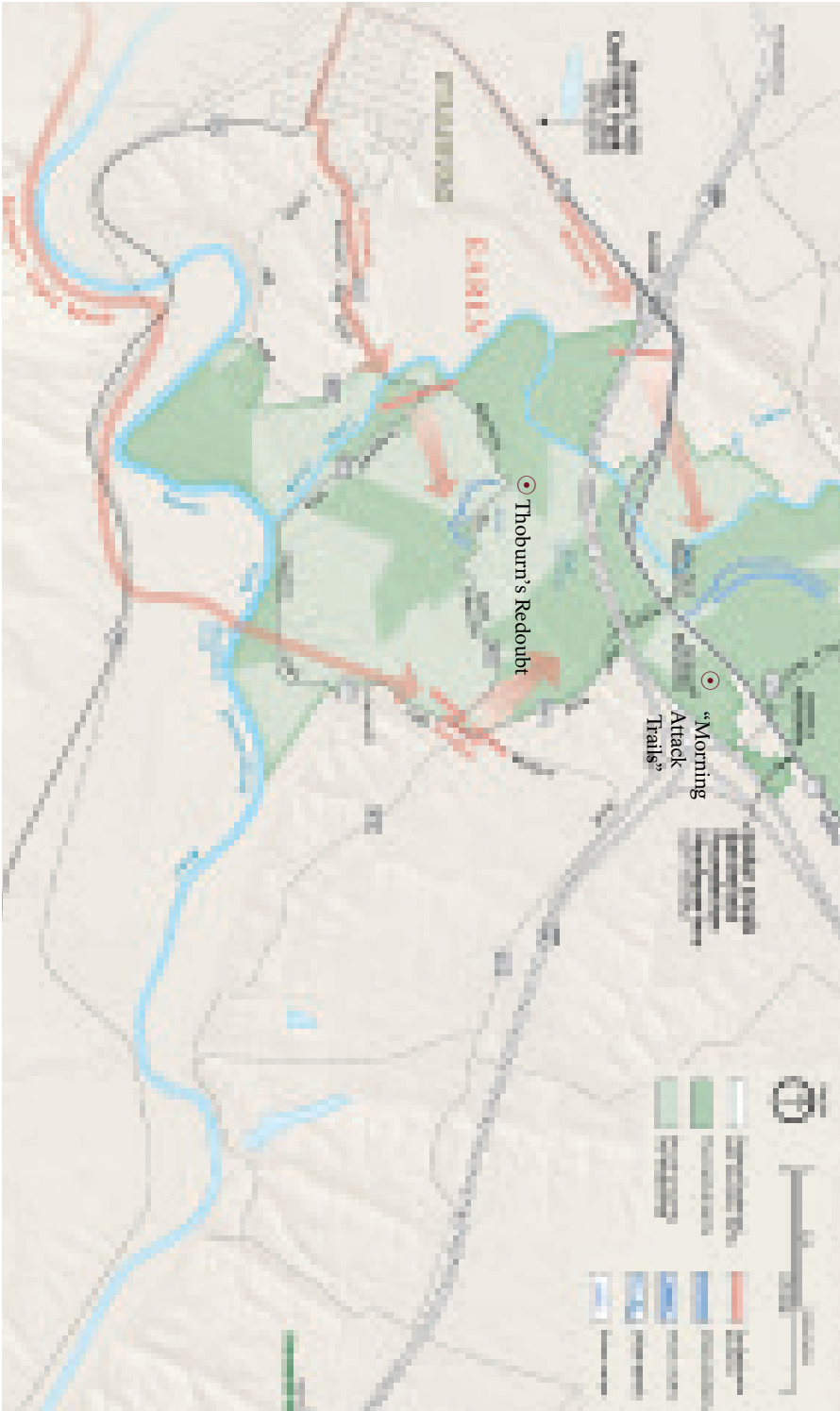
Although normally closed, this location will be open and accessible to the public over the anniversary weekend for self-guided tours.

Cemetery Hill -

Overlooking the town of Middletown to the east and Belle Grove to the south, Mt. Carmel Cemetery is located on a ridge that rises above the banks of Meadow Brook, and provides a commanding view. Before the Civil War, the community of Middletown buried their dead in this cemetery above the town. As the Battle of Cedar Creek raged, this small graveyard became the scene of a desperate struggle to save an army from annihilation.

NPS Volunteers will be manning a tent at Cemetery Hill on Saturday, October 15, from 10am - 3pm to answer any questions you have about the site, or battle.

Park Map



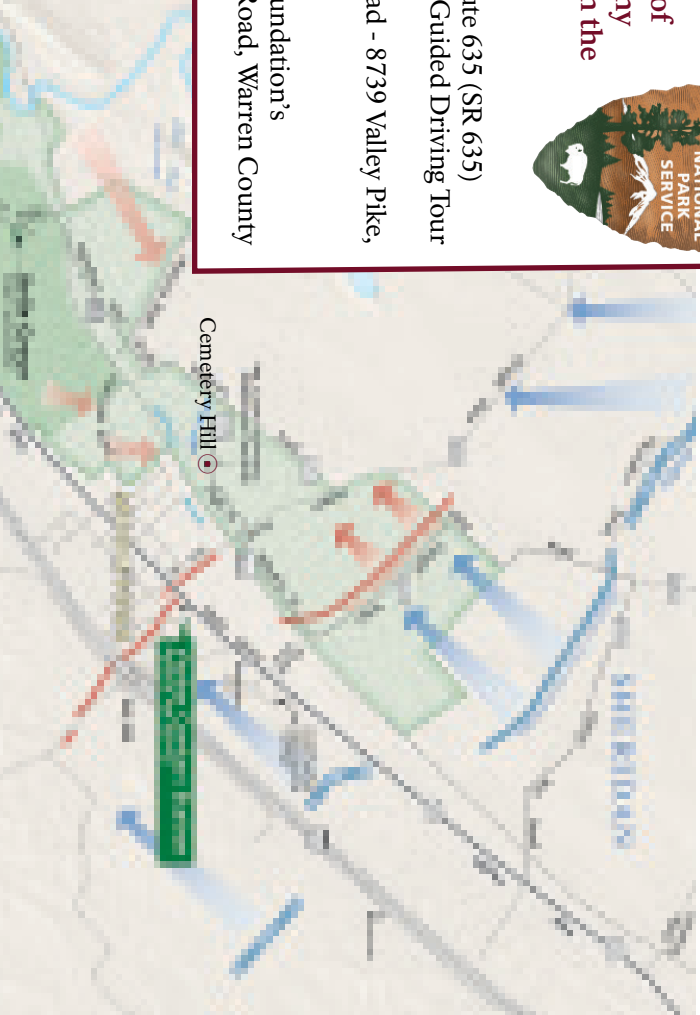
Visit the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Visitor Contact Station

Location: 7712 Main Street, Middletown, VA
Phone Number: 540-869-3051

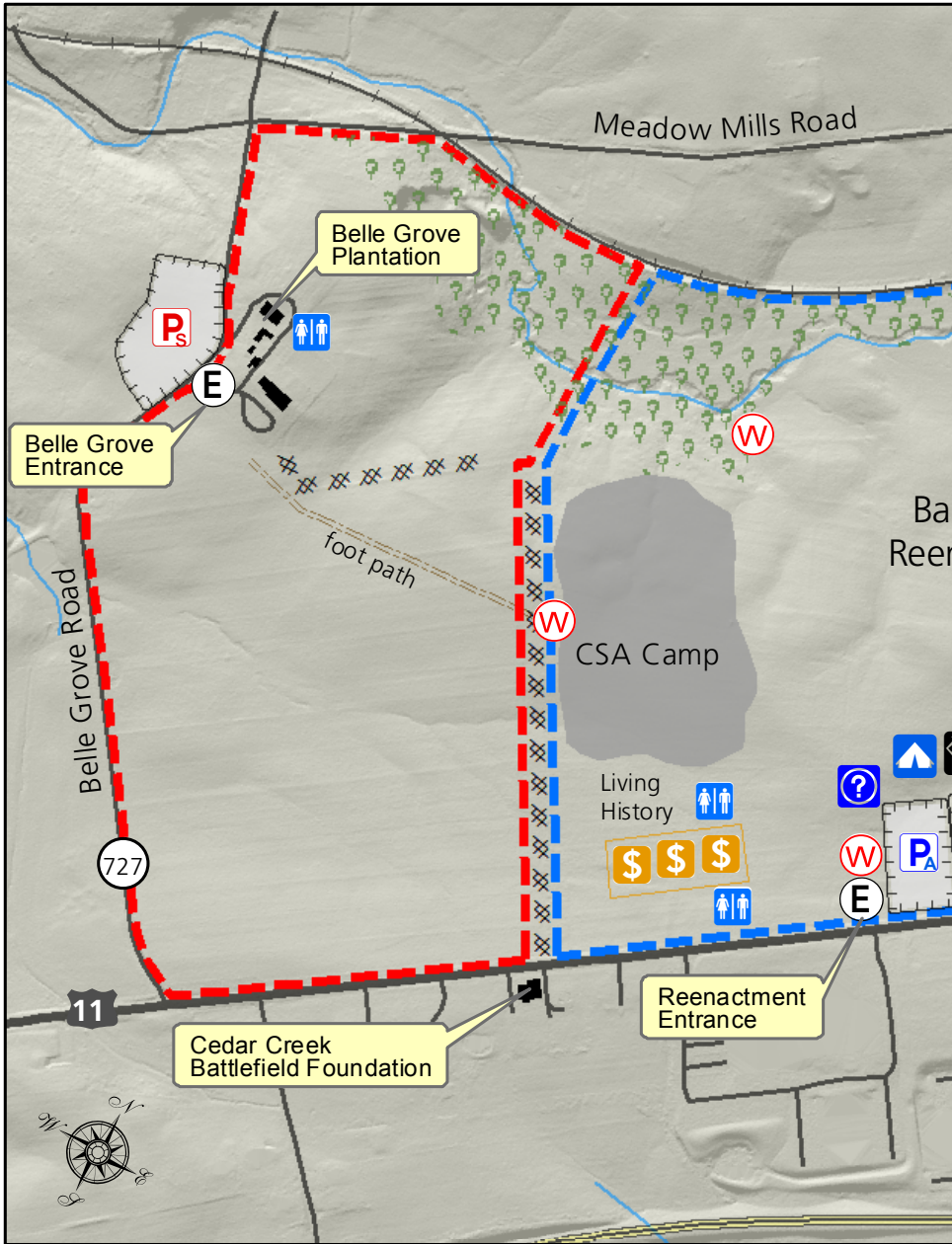
Come watch the fiber optic, topographical map of the Battle of Cedar Creek and explore the many exhibits featuring the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley.

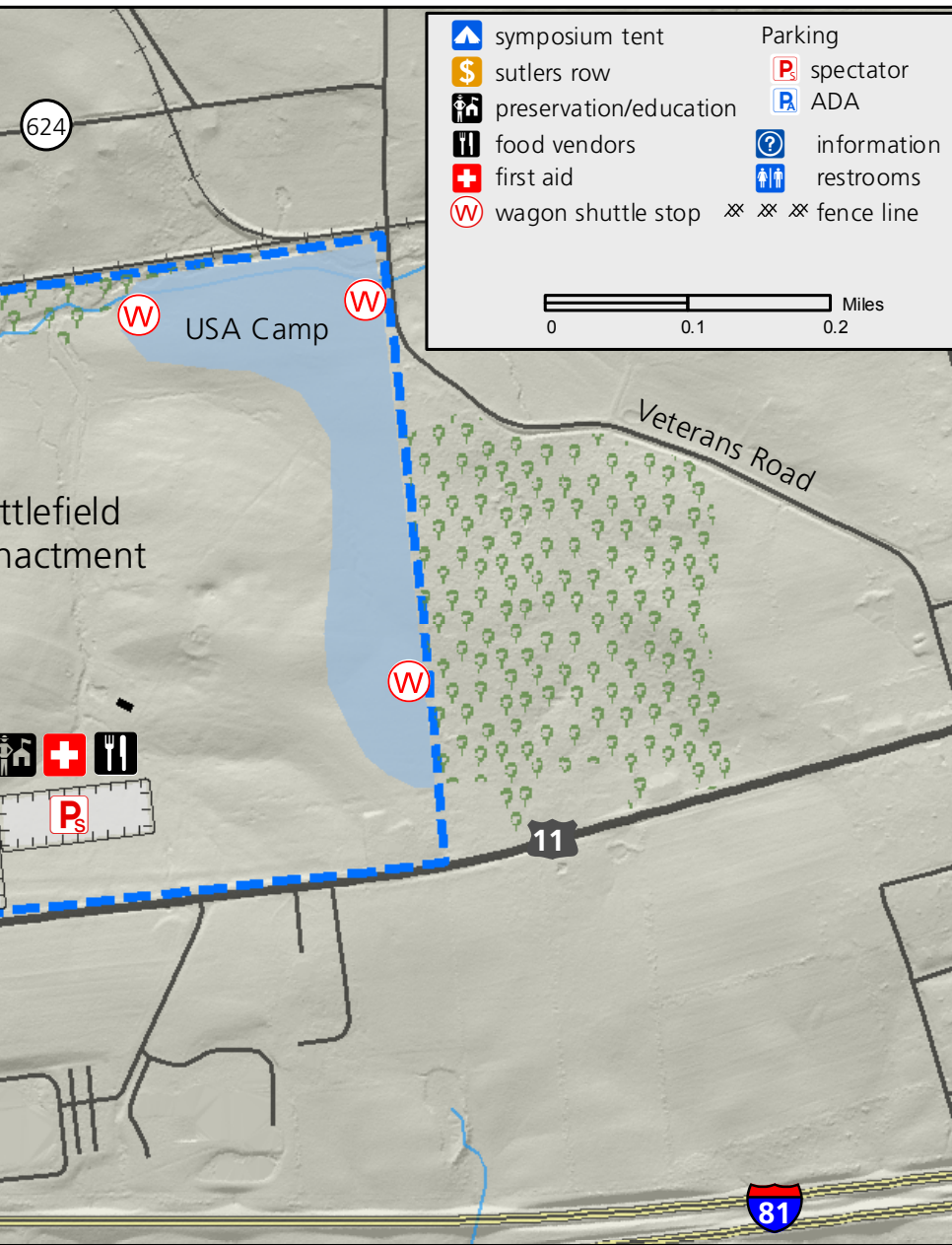


- Mt. Carmel Cemetery - State Route 635 (SR 635) Middletown, Virginia. Stop #7 on Self Guided Driving Tour
- “Morning Attack Trails” - Trailhead - 8739 Valley Pike, Middletown, VA 22645
- Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation’s Thoburn’s Redoubt - Bowman’s Mill Road, Warren County



Event Map





Sketch
of the

BATTLE
of
BELLE GROVE
of
CEDAR CREEK

Wednesday Oct 19th
1864



FIND YOUR
PARK

#FindYourPark