

Monocacy

National Battlefield

Positioned at the northern end of the fertile Valley of Virginia, astride the strategic intersection of the Georgetown Pike, a major road to Washington, D.C. and a main B+O Railroad line to Baltimore, this pastoral area witnessed a pivotal event of the American Civil War.

The Battle of Monocacy took place on July 9, 1864, with Confederate forces under the command of General Jubal Early and the Union forces under General Lew Wallace. General Early and his troops were rushing toward Washington, D.C., which at the time was almost undefended since General Ulysses S. Grant had removed most troops from the capital to aid him in putting pressure on General Robert E. Lee at Petersburg, Virginia. General Early had several objectives in his drive on Washington: 1. the capture of Washington and the probable resultant havoc; 2. the release of Confederate prisoners held in Point Lookout, Maryland; and 3. the removal of some pressure from General Lee.

General Wallace, who was stationed at Baltimore, learned of General Early's movements through personnel of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Realizing the vulnerability of Washington, he assembled what soldiers were available, and marched to Monocacy Junction to mount what, in effect, was a delaying action. General Wallace could not be certain whether General Early was headed for Baltimore or Washington so he placed skirmishers to protect what is now Route 40 to Baltimore, as well as establishing himself on the banks of the Monocacy to defend the Georgetown Pike and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Since General Early was, indeed, marching on Washington, farms surrounding Monocacy Junction became the battlefield.

Although Union forces were far outnumbered and fairly easily defeated, the battle lasted an entire day, thus preventing General Early's journey to Washington from continuing until the

morning of July 10. This delay of approximately 24 hours gave General Grant enough time to return troops to defend Washington, although they arrived in Washington only some two hours ahead of General Early.

In recognition of the battle that took place here, Congress authorized Monocacy National Military Park in 1934, to preserve the battlefield for historical purposes. The park's name was changed to "Monocacy National Battlefield" in 1976. At that time, the Congress found that the original park authorizing act did not include sufficient boundary or authority to ensure the degree of preservation originally envisioned; therefore, the 1934 Act was amended to enlarge the park. Further planning studies and public involvement led to additional boundary modifications in 1978 and 1980. The boundary now contains 1,670 acres of land and the land acquisition process is underway.

The actions described herein present the National Park Service's plan for the general management of the park. The basis for the plan and for future management of this park is embodied in the following goals which will guide the National Park Service in its Congressional mandate to preserve, develop, and use the park.

Goals

In accordance with Congressional mandates, the National Park Service will:

- Preserve and protect as a cultural resource the historic Civil War battlefield scene as well as the significant historical structures therein;
- Provide visitor orientation to the park resources and interpretation of the battle at the Monocacy in relation to the American Civil War;
- Preserve and protect the natural resources in the area and allow public use of these resources

in such a manner that is compatible with the legislative intent of the park.

This preservation and protection of the battlefield will be undertaken in concert with the development of an overall program of public use and access. Interpretive programs will foster an understanding of the area's history in concert with recreation opportunities that are compatible with the preservation and interpretation of the historic resources.

Land Acquisition

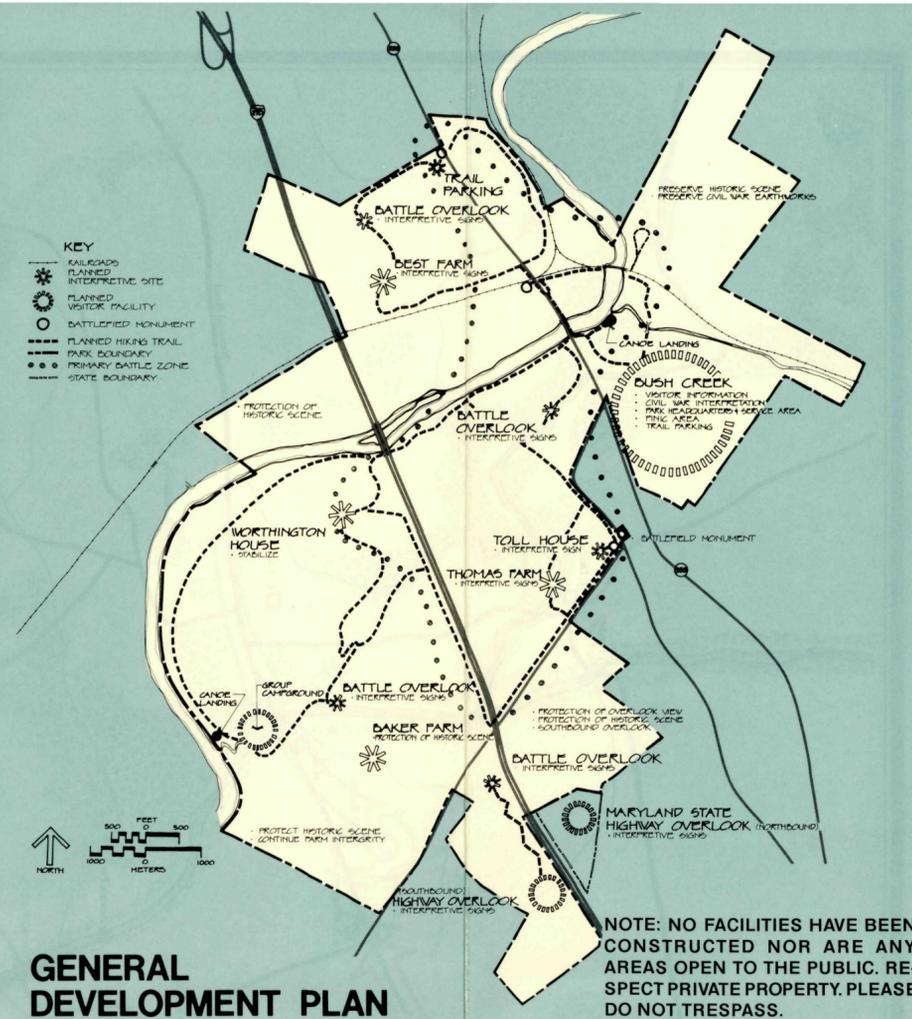
Fortunately, many of the structures and other landscape features are intact from the battle date. Therefore, the approach to ensuring the restoration of the historic scene will be one of acquiring sufficient lands or rights in lands to both satisfy the goal of perpetuation of a scene, and provide the visitor with an understanding of the significance of the battle at the Monocacy.

Park Zones

The natural aspects of this historic site are perhaps as valuable as the physical remains. With a sweep of views across the valley, ultimately contained by low ridges and tree lines, this important natural setting forms a scene that is similar to that which comprised the battlefield in 1864.

Land within the authorized park is identified as either within the historic zone or the scenic preservation zone. The historic zone will be intensively managed to provide the most plausible presentation of the agricultural Monocacy Valley that existed just prior to the battle. Non-historic elements within this zone will, for the large part, be removed.

The scenic preservation zone will be managed to maintain the maximum degree of scenic protection with a minimum amount of management;



Administration

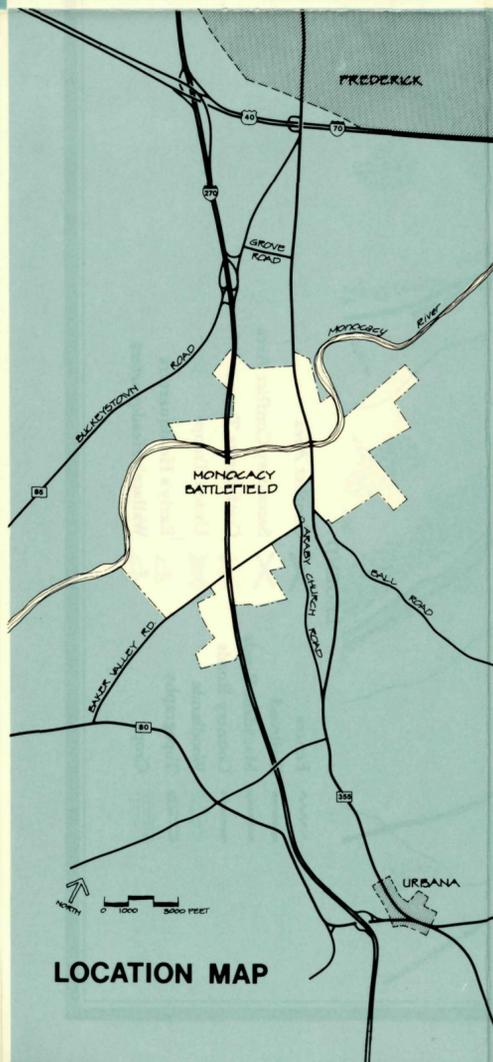
Monocacy National Battlefield is located just south of the junction of Interstates 270 and 70, approximately 3 miles south of Frederick, Maryland. The center of the battlefield may be reached by exiting off of Rt. 270 to State Rt. 355 south. The State Route 355 bridge crossing the Monocacy River is in the general vicinity of the first Union-Confederate confrontation during the battle.

CAUTION: Most of the battlefield is in private ownership. Please respect our neighbors and do not trespass. Please stay on public roads.

Monocacy National Battlefield is administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. Address inquiries to the Superintendent, Antietam/Monocacy National Battlefields, P.O. Box 158, Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



the intent being the provision of a vegetated (either woodland or field crop) backdrop to the battlefield foreground. These lands will not be available to public access, but will be retained through scenic easement to ensure that land uses outside of the park are visually screened or obscured from view.

Managing the Natural Resource

The Monocacy National Battlefield is part of the richly scenic Valley of the Monocacy River and is a patchwork of open field and wooded ridges little changed since 1864.

Wherever possible, the configuration of historically open or wooded lands will be maintained or re-established. Where modern encroachment or intrusion upon the scene exists, such as the I-270 right-of-way and the commercial development to the north, screen plantings and careful location of visitor viewpoints will be provided so as to reduce, as much as possible, this intrusion upon the historic, natural/agricultural scene.

As a means of maintaining the agricultural scene, various forms of leasing, use permits, and easements will be applied to encourage and assure that the image of agriculture will be perpetuated.

The Monocacy River, winding its way through the battlefield, was a key factor in the battle action. It will be a focal point of visitor use in the park. Because its floodplain is expansive within the park, a minimum of facility development will be provided on the river banks. Access to, and along the river will be provided to encourage river oriented interpretation and recreation.

Managing the Cultural Resource

Most of the structures that stood at the time of the battle still stand today. This is largely due to

the agricultural tradition of the river valley. Just as the man-made structures shall be carefully managed to preserve the historic scene, the agricultural landscape shall receive the same degree of attention.

Modern machinery will be used by permittee farmers on park owned pastoral and crop lands. When the equipment is not being used, it shall be removed from the park or stored out of the historic scene.

Those resources which were part of the historic scene shall be stabilized, and either partially or fully restored. Those structures which are intrusive because of their nonhistoric character, and are not needed for administration or interpretation of the park's history, shall be removed.

A pattern of trails and overlooks through the park will provide the primary means of presenting the battlefield. Each vantage point in the park provides an opportunity to present a segment of the larger story and thus assure that park visitors are presented a highly accessible and understandable park.

Since the battle was relatively brief, and the tactics related to troop movements across open country, interpretive emphasis will be upon the action within the context of the northern Virginia campaigns, rather than upon minute by minute details of the Monocacy Battle. Thus, historic structures will be more appropriately maintained as landscape features, to be adaptively used, rather than totally restored to their exact state before the battle.

The trail system will be carefully structured through location and landscaping to prevent undue intrusion upon modern farm activities, residential usage of historic structures in the battlefield, or those private lands over which a scenic easement is acquired.

Park Maintenance

Park support and maintenance facilities will be centralized in the Bush Creek area. This area provides sufficient lands, not directly involved in the armed combat phase of the battle, for park functions not directly related to battlefield interpretation; such as picnic facilities, and maintenance support facilities. Traditional park facilities such as a picnic area shall serve not only the national visitor, but also serve the local population for appropriate park related needs. Visitor orientation will also be located in this area, with direct access to the trail system of the park.

Regional Land Use

If time and progress could be brought to a standstill in the region where Monocacy National Battlefield lies so comfortably today, the present conditions would be considered quite adequate. But man's propensity to change his natural surroundings makes this condition seem all but unattainable. The sparsely developed farmlands now surrounding the battlefield and the adjacent community of Araby are compatible neighbors, but there is no assurance that these lands will not be more intensively developed or that new land uses will not be introduced.

Certain lands within the battlefield will be in a scenic preservation zone managed to preserve the visual integrity of the park. To further strengthen the integrity of the park, protective initiatives by other agencies will be critical. Park managers must maintain relationships with state and local governments to encourage the continuance of surrounding land uses that are compatible with the battlefield's historic setting.

The battlefield park is located on the edge of the rapidly expanding community of Frederick, Maryland. Without careful planning and cooperation among all jurisdictions, the future of the battlefield as both an historic and scenic re-

source will be jeopardized. Frederick County has recognized this concern and agreed, pursuant to its 1975 agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Environmental Protection Agency, that an historic zone around the battlefield is necessary. Such a zoning action by the county will reinforce the efforts undertaken by the National Park Service within the park's authorized boundaries.

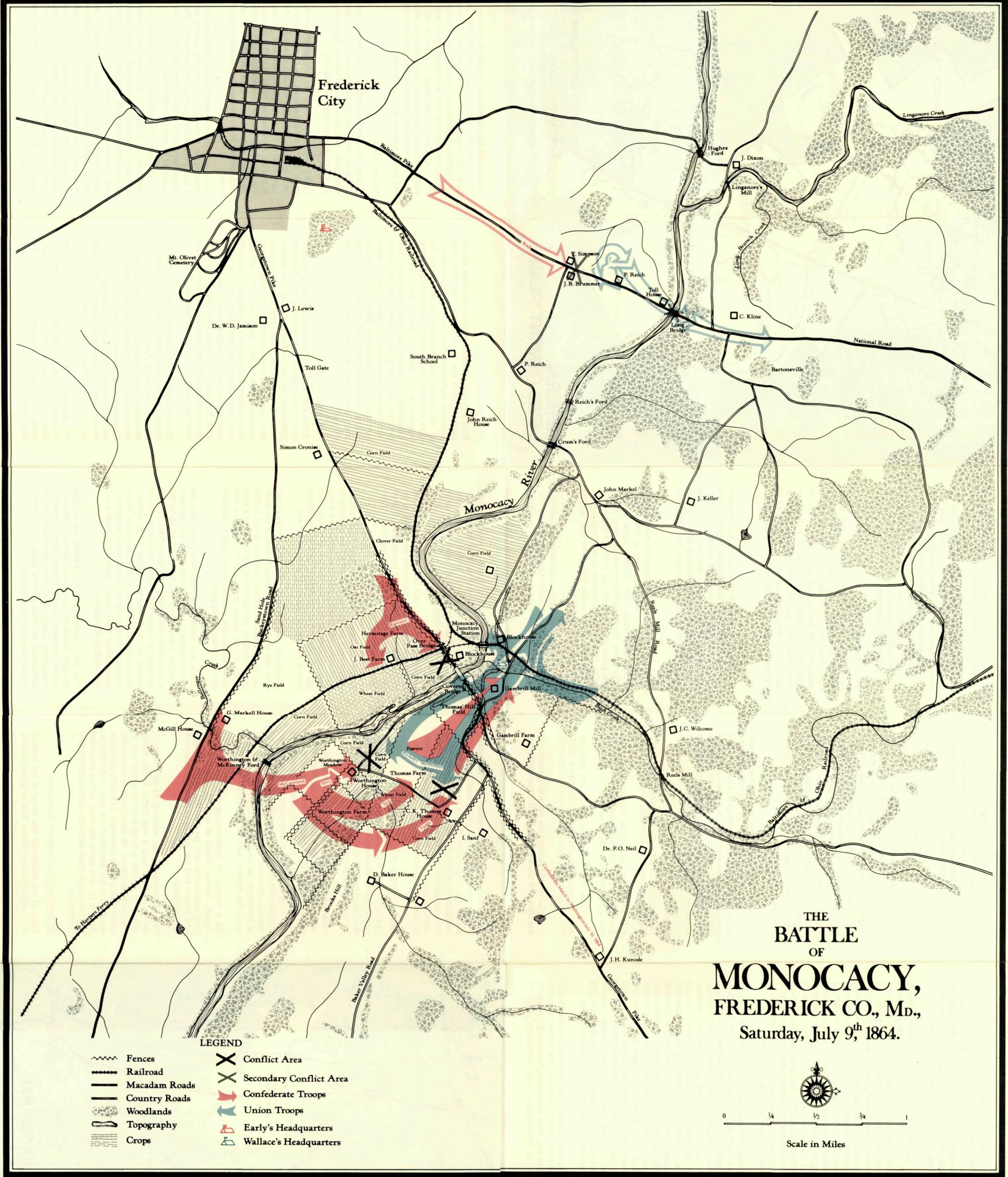
Visitor Use

Visitor use is anticipated to follow, in increasing amounts, the level of development of the battlefield park. The provision of visitor facilities will proceed in three phases or levels:

Level One: Initial facilities will entail management actions that concentrate on efforts to protect and maintain the historic character of the battlefield by controlling the use of lands acquired. A minimum level of visitor use facilities, such as visitor orientation and roadside parking may be provided. A physical park management presence will be established at this time.

Level Two: Subsequent facilities will provide for interpretive overlooks at strategic points along a trail system throughout the battlefield. Picnic space will be provided, thus affording visitors facilities to lengthen their stay.

Level Three: This phase of park development envisions a staffed visitor orientation area in the park. Recreational facilities such as picnic areas, additional trails, and canoe access points will supplement the interpretive programs. The possibilities for the visitor orientation area range from a facility designed to provide the most basic interpretive materials and restrooms, to a more elaborate facility which could encompass audio-visual presentation, exhibit space, and similar facilities. Additional analysis of the park's needs will be undertaken prior to implementing this level of development.



Battle History

When word of General Early's advance up the Shenandoah Valley reached General Lew Wallace in Baltimore, Wallace could not be sure whether Early was marching on Baltimore or Washington; he could be sure he needed to engage Early before the Confederates reached either city.

Knowing that there was no strong Federal force in the area, General Wallace gathered what men he could—around 5,800 men: part of the VI Corps, militia, clerks and invalids—and proceeded west. Realizing that Frederick was difficult to defend, he chose the Monocacy River because the roads to both Baltimore and Washington crossed it. While he stationed troops at the crossing of the National Road to Baltimore, he concentrated his efforts at the Monocacy Junction, since not only the Georgetown Pike to Washington but also the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad crossed the river at this point. Some Confederate troops did encounter Wallace's men on the National Road, but this action was basically peripheral to the battle.

At Monocacy Junction, Wallace's troops occupied two blockhouses which had guarded the junction since 1863 and threw up earthworks along the east bank of the river. The earthworks, in combination with the superior elevations on the east bank, provided the Federal soldiers with a defensible position. To prevent the Confederates from firing artillery at pointblank range, Wallace also established skirmish lines on the west side of the river; the skirmishers used the railroad embankment for cover.

On the morning of July 9, General Dodson Ramseur's division marched down the Georgetown Pike and encountered Wallace's troops. It became quickly apparent to the Confederate generals that a frontal attack across the Monocacy would be costly. Therefore, while General Ramseur and General Robert Rodes' divisions (the latter on the National Road) continued to engage the Federal force, General John McCausland's cavalry brigade rode south on the Buckeystown Road. Their intelligence had indicated the existence of a ford (Worthington Ford) near the Ballenger Creek entry into the Monocacy River. Because the river was low, General Wallace had detached soldiers to guard the known fords. General

McCausland's men encountered a squadron of the Illinois cavalry at the Worthington Ford, but they dismounted and were able to overcome the defense. They regrouped in the Worthington meadow and advanced to attack General Wallace's left flank.

General James Ricketts, however, had learned of the Confederate approach, and at noon, when McCausland's cavalry topped the rise at Worthington House, they were met by General Ricketts' veteran soldiers positioned behind the fence separating the Worthington and Thomas farms. There ensued some of the heaviest fighting of the day, with the Confederates routed and pursued back beyond the Worthington House.

Since danger was obviously arriving from the Worthington Farm, the Federal troops shifted once again to prepare their defense on the Thomas Farm and Baker Valley Road. General McCausland rallied his troops; he attacked and was defeated a second time. However, on this occasion, he was followed by a three-pronged attack by General John Gordon's division. General Gordon had taken the same path as General McCausland

across the Monocacy River, but at the Worthington Farm, he sent Terry's Virginia Brigade to the left across the Worthington Farm, York's Louisiana Brigade in the center across the toe of Brooks Hill, and Evans' Georgia Brigade to the right over Brooks Hill and across the Baker Farm. The Confederates finally reached the Thomas House, where there was heavy fighting.

General Ricketts' troops were unable to hold and retreated toward the National Road to Baltimore; they were quickly joined by the men who had continued to fight Generals Ramseur and Rodes throughout the day. By late afternoon the Confederates had secured the railroad bridge. (General Wallace had ordered the covered bridge for the Georgetown Pike burned earlier in the day.) General Early brought all his troops and supplies across the river that night. The Confederate soldiers did what damage they could to the railroad bridge, but were unable to totally destroy it. The Confederates encamped until daybreak, and then continued their march on Washington, only to be thwarted by Grant's troops who had by this time, reinforced the defenses of Washington.