

Civil War in the Ozarks

Northern Arkansas/Southern Missouri

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior



150th Anniversary Commemoration

**It Started
in Missouri...**



**and Ended
in Arkansas.**

One hundred and fifty years ago, the woods and farm fields of southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas echoed with the sounds of cannon fire. In the summer of 1861, a Confederate army launched a daring effort to drive Union forces out of southwest Missouri. **The Battle of Wilson's Creek**, on August 10, 1861, was the first major Civil War battle west of the Mississippi River, marking the beginning of the Civil War in Missouri.

Wilson's Creek was considered a Confederate victory; however, southern troops were not able to capitalize on it. Early the following year, in an equally audacious winter campaign, Union troops marched into northwest Arkansas and decisively defeated the Confederates during **the Battle of Pea Ridge** on March 7-8, 1862. The Union victory dashed Confederate hopes of occupying Missouri.

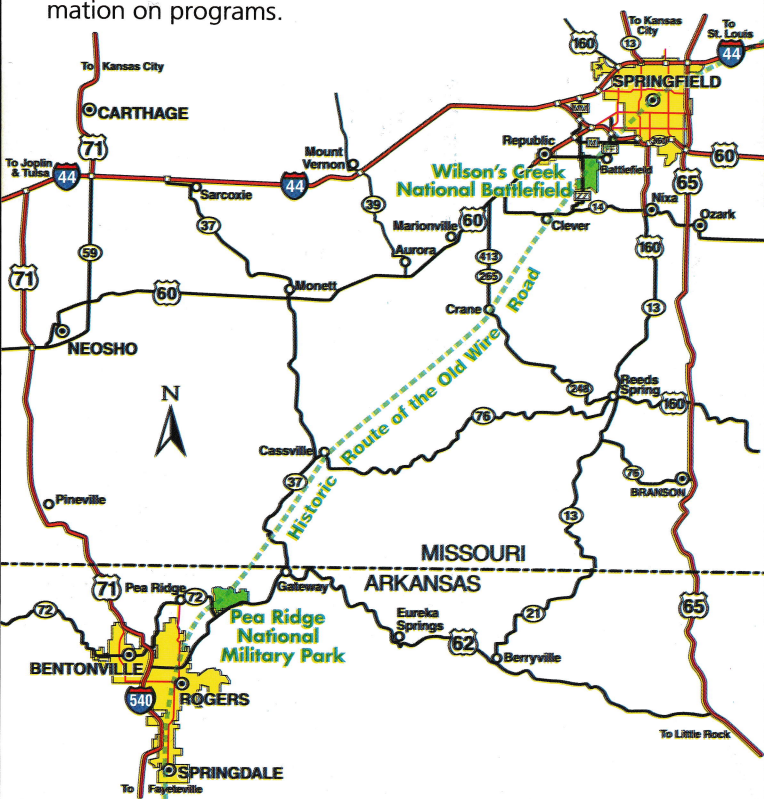
Although smaller in scale than Shiloh or Gettysburg, the battles of Wilson's Creek and Pea Ridge were crucial to the outcome of the Civil War. Help commemorate the 150th Anniversary of both battles by exploring two of the nation's best preserved Civil War sites and learning more about the war's impact on soldiers and civilians in the Ozarks.

150th Anniversary Commemoration

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield preserves over 1,947 acres including a Visitor Center featuring an interpretive film, electric battle map presentation, exhibits, and bookstore. A Civil War museum traces the history of the Civil War in the West with thousands of historical items. A five-mile tour road provides access to the battlefield with stops at key points of interest.

Pea Ridge National Military Park contains 4,300 acres. An orientation film and exhibits are available in the Visitor Center. A seven-mile tour road provides access to the battlefield and stops at important points of interest.

Both sites have outdoor recreation opportunities, including walking, jogging, bicycling, picnicking, and equestrian riding. Entrance fees are collected at the Visitor Centers. Living history programs are offered during the summer. Contact the parks or visit the individual web sites for information on programs.



For More Information:

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

6424 West Farm Road 182
Republic, MO 65738-9514
417-732-2662
www.nps.gov/wicr

Pea Ridge National Military Park

15930 East Highway 62
Garfield, AR 72732
479-451-8122
www.nps.gov/peri