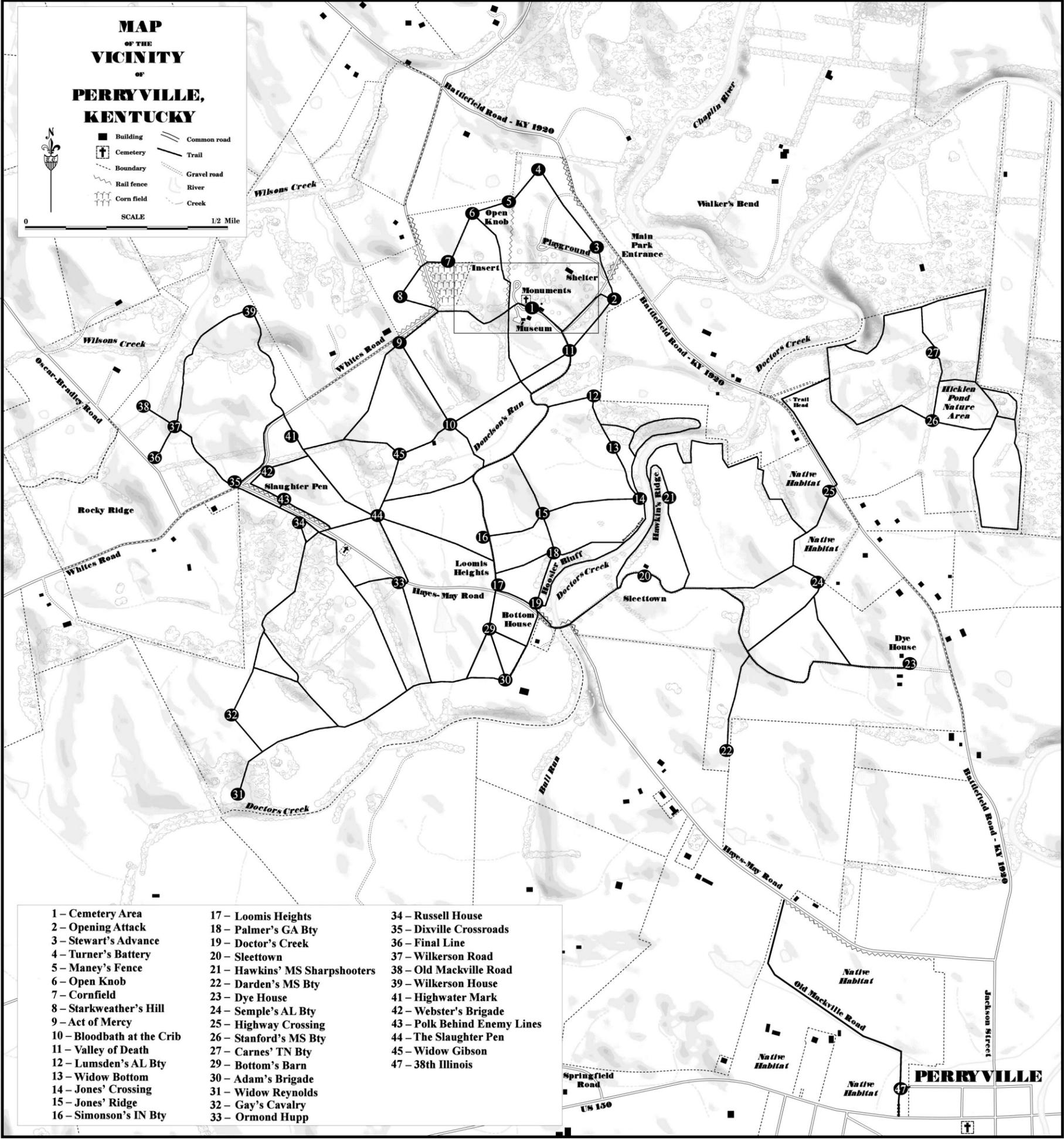


**MAP
OF THE
VICINITY
OF
PERRYVILLE,
KENTUCKY**



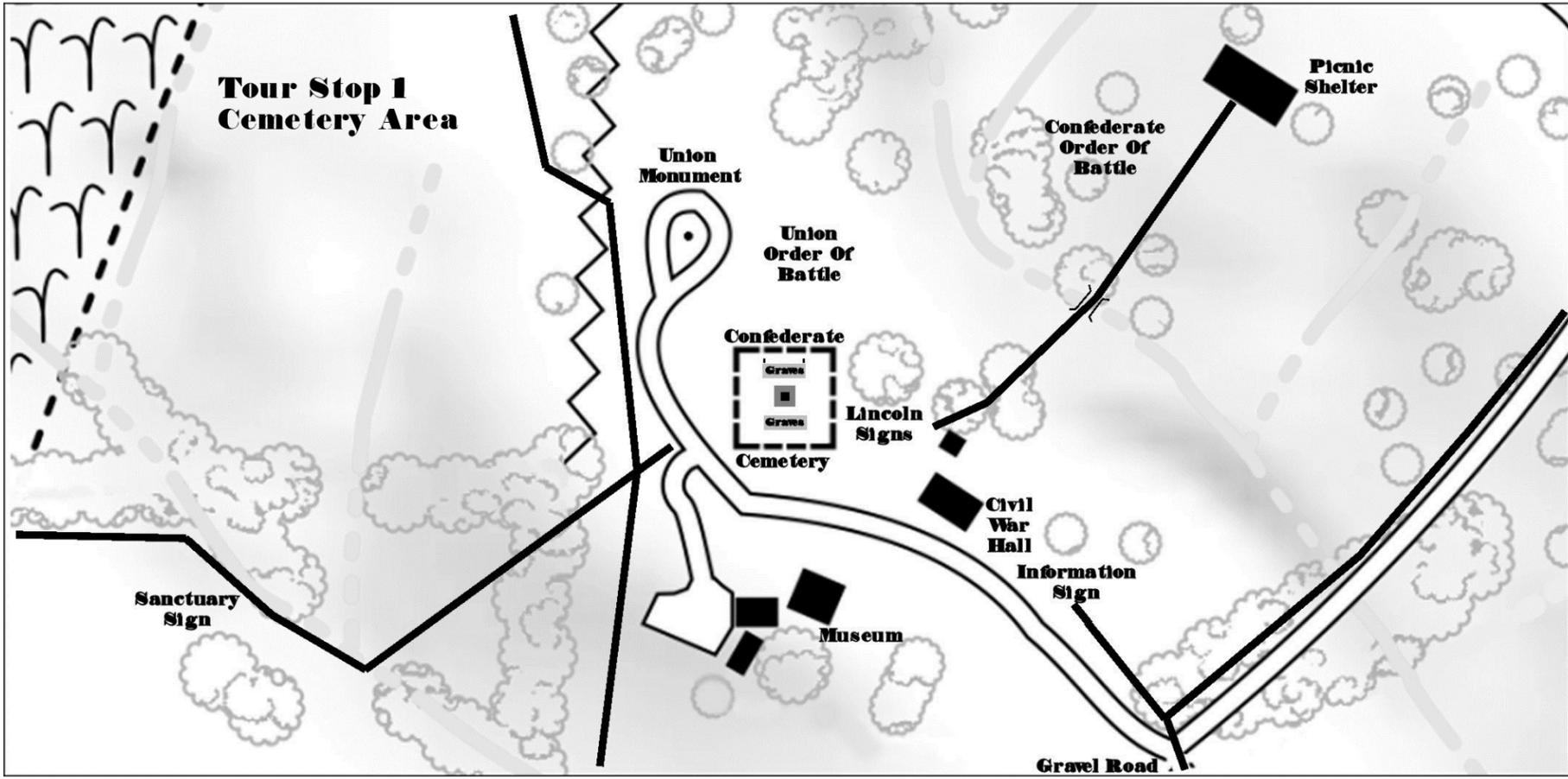
- Building
- ⊕ Cemetery
- Boundary
- - - Rail fence
- ▨ Corn field
- Common road
- Trail
- Gravel road
- River
- Creek

SCALE 1/2 Mile



- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 - Cemetery Area | 17 - Loomis Heights | 34 - Russell House |
| 2 - Opening Attack | 18 - Palmer's GA Bty | 35 - Dixville Crossroads |
| 3 - Stewart's Advance | 19 - Doctor's Creek | 36 - Final Line |
| 4 - Turner's Battery | 20 - Sleettown | 37 - Wilkerson Road |
| 5 - Maney's Fence | 21 - Hawkins' MS Sharpshooters | 38 - Old Mackville Road |
| 6 - Open Knob | 22 - Darden's MS Bty | 39 - Wilkerson House |
| 7 - Cornfield | 23 - Dye House | 41 - Highwater Mark |
| 8 - Starkweather's Hill | 24 - Semple's AL Bty | 42 - Webster's Brigade |
| 9 - Act of Mercy | 25 - Highway Crossing | 43 - Polk Behind Enemy Lines |
| 10 - Bloodbath at the Crib | 26 - Stanford's MS Bty | 44 - The Slaughter Pen |
| 11 - Valley of Death | 27 - Carnes' TN Bty | 45 - Widow Gibson |
| 12 - Lumsden's AL Bty | 29 - Bottom's Barn | 47 - 38th Illinois |
| 13 - Widow Bottom | 30 - Adam's Brigade | |
| 14 - Jones' Crossing | 31 - Widow Reynolds | |
| 15 - Jones' Ridge | 32 - Gay's Cavalry | |
| 16 - Simonson's IN Bty | 33 - Ormond Hupp | |

**Tour Stop 1
Cemetery Area**



1862 had been discouraging for Confederate forces in the war's Western theater. Union troops had pushed the Confederates out of Kentucky, most of Tennessee, and even the strategic rail link of Corinth, Mississippi. Only two Confederate armies remained in Tennessee. The commanders of those armies, Generals Braxton Bragg and Edmond Kirby Smith, were convinced that control of Kentucky was of vital importance to the South. Acting on claims that Kentuckians would rally to the Confederate cause, the two Confederate armies invaded Kentucky.

Kirby Smith's C.S. army moved from Knoxville surrounded and isolated a U.S. division at Cumberland Gap, and soundly defeated a Union army near Richmond in August, 1862. The main Confederate force, the 22,000 men of Braxton Bragg's Confederate Army of the Mississippi slipped around Don Carlos Buell's Union Army of Ohio near Nashville and raced toward Louisville. The Union forces in Nashville followed northward in pursuit. On September 3, Kirby Smith's troops captured the capital city of Frankfort. Bragg captured the Union garrison at Munfordville on September 17.

Upon hearing of the Confederate invasion of Kentucky, the citizens of Louisville and Cincinnati were in a panic. Residents of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio were also uneasy; the governors of the three states hurriedly sent new troops to Louisville and Cincinnati. Finally, Buell's ragged army entered Louisville on September 26. After refitting and reorganizing his army to incorporate new regiments, Buell marched his columns out of Louisville on October 1, 1862, taking four different roads. Two U.S. divisions, about 19,000 men, marched straight toward Frankfort on the Shelbyville Road. General Alexander McCook's I Corps, about 13,000 strong, took the Taylorville Road; General Thomas Crittenden's II Corps, about 22,000 strong, took the Bardstown Road; and General Charles Gilbert's III Corps, about 22,000 strong, took the Shepherdsville Road. Thus the main Union force, consisting of about 57,000, made a sweeping motion to the southeast to trap the Confederates in the state, while the smaller force moving towards Frankfort would act as a diversion. The stage was set for the Battle of Perryville.

The ruse worked. Bragg mistakenly thought the main Union force was marching towards Frankfort. Bragg sent 1/4 of his army north to meet this imagined threat, leaving only 16,000 men to fight at Perryville. The Confederate plan was to attack what they believed to be the small force in the Perryville area then unite all the Confederates to take on the main Union force near the small town of Salvisa, Kentucky.

Kentucky was in the throes of a major drought. Both armies crisscrossed the countryside looking for water. The thirty troops found water in the stagnant pools of Doctor's Fork Creek and the Chaplin River near Perryville. They also found each other. As the Union III Corps approached the town of Perryville from the west on what is now US 150, they encountered the Confederate rear guard about two-and-one-half miles outside town on the evening of October 7. On the morning of October 8, the Union III Corps attacked a Brigade of Arkansas troops and secured the area near where Doctor's Fork Creek crosses US 150.

After capturing Peter's Hill, the Union III Corps was ordered to halt and wait for the rest of the Union army to gain position. The Confederates, believing no more Union troops were in the area, began to shift their forces northwest of town in preparation for a flank attack down the valley of Doctor's Creek. By around 10 a.m., the Confederates were ready to attack. However, when their scouts reported more Union troops in the area, the Confederate forces shifted farther north.

On the far right of the C.S. line, Cheatham's Division began the main attack of the Battle of Perryville at 2 p.m. Like a large swinging gate hinged on the town of Perryville and pointing northward, the Confederate army pushed McCook's I Corps back to the west past the intersection of what is now White's Road and Hayes-Mayes Road (the Dixville Crossroads). The entire Union left flank would have been destroyed had it not been for the gallant defense made by Colonel John Starkweather's Brigade of veteran troops from Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. This stand was made on the large hill about 300 yards west of the Union Monument. After the Union troops were finally able to stabilize their defense of the hill, Starkweather retreated southwest so his troops would not be cut off by Confederate forces advancing from the southeast. The Battle of Perryville was fought despite recurring communication problems and an unstable high command. General Buell, commander of Union troops, did not even know the battle was occurring until it was almost over. By about 11 p.m., the battle was over and the Confederate soldiers were flushed with victory. It was almost midnight on the night of the battle when Braxton Bragg ordered a retreat. When Confederate troops received Bragg's order, they were stunned with disbelief. What they did not know was that the majority of the Union army had not been engaged and were poised to attack the next morning.

There were 72,196 men in the area. (55,396 Union; 16,800 Confederate).

There were 203 cannons here, but only 90 participated in the fighting.

There were at least 21 states represented in the Battle of Perryville: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

General Philip Sheridan became a very famous general later in the war. General Douglas MacArthur's father, Lieutenant Arthur MacArthur, served in the 24th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment at the Battle of Perryville.

Perryville was the "high water mark" for the Confederates in the Western Theater. Never again were the Western Confederates closer to winning the war. The battle kept Kentucky in Union hands for the remainder of the war, which helped contribute to the Northern victory.

1,431 soldiers were killed (890 Union; 532 Confederate), 5,618 were wounded (2,966 Union; 2,652 Confederate), and 669 were missing or captured (433 Union; 236 Confederate). These figures represent 7,718 total casualties (4,298 Union; 3,420 Confederate).

Stats and Facts

"I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game ..."
- Abraham Lincoln

"Today we passed two men lying on the roadside having died from sunstroke - the whole army suffered today severely for want of water." I sent my servant Harrison out with my canteen and told him not to return without water. He came in about 2 o'clock without any; our Division was in the rear, and all the pools of water had already been drunk up."



Henry Hunter
42nd IN Infantry
Killed in Action

- Captain Robert Taylor, 33rd Brigade, US Army

"... you cannot imagine the horror of war. No pen nor tongue can begin to tell the misery that I have seen ..."
- Charles W. Carr, 24th Illinois Volunteer Infantry



George Nichols
1st TN Infantry

"Such obstinate fighting I never had seen before or since. The guns were discharged so rapidly that it seemed the earth itself was in a volcanic uproar. The iron storm passed through our ranks, mangling and tearing men to pieces... Our men were dead and dying right in the very midst of this grand havoc of battle."

— Sam Watkins, 1st Tennessee Infantry, Co. H

The Perryville Battlefield Trail System
The Perryville Battlefield interpretive trail system connects key points of the battle. This system has no "Trail Heads" or "Destinations". The trails consist predominately of mowed paths through grassy fields, although some of them traverse wooded areas. The trails that go north to south generally follow the lines of Union defense whereas the trails that go east to west generally follow the lines of Confederate attack. Supplemental to the interpretive trails are "Nature Trails." Please inquire with staff for more information on the park's natural features.

Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site
1825 Battlefield Rd.
PO Box 296
Perryville, KY 40468
859-332-8631

Hours of Operation
Park is open from daylight to dark.
Museum April 1-October 31
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday
11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday
Call for availability during off season.

Park admission is free.
Museum admission is 4.00/adult & 3.00/child <12

For more information visit us at
parks.ky.gov/parks/historicsites/perryville-battlefield
or
perryvillebattlefield.org

Free Battle of Perryville apps are available on both Droid and Apple devices.



The Friends of Perryville Battlefield helps us preserve our history. Please visit their website at friendsofperryville.org.



**Perryville Battlefield
State Historic Site
Interpretive Trail**



parks.ky.gov

