



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of October 18, 2008**

**DATE:** September 17, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Grant Award to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources' (DPRCR) Conservation and Interpretation Section from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (NPS ABPP).

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Authorize the County Manager to accept grant funds from the NPS ABPP for preservation and interpretation planning at Fort Ethan Allen Park.
2. Appropriate \$60,000 in grant funds (101.374900) to the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources (PRCR) (101.83064) for preservation and interpretation planning at Fort Ethan Allen Park.

**ISSUES:** County Board action will enable the County to develop preservation and interpretive plans for Fort Ethan Allen Park to guide PRCR in managing and presenting the "story" of the fort to the public. No issues have been identified.

**SUMMARY:** The American Battlefield Protection Program is providing grant funds to develop a Preservation and Management Plan for Fort Ethan Allen, which will be a vital tool for the stabilization, preservation and interpretation of this site.

**BACKGROUND:** The Arlington Heritage Alliance has identified Civil War earthworks and trenches as one of "Arlington's Most Endangered Places." This grant follows a grant previously obtained by the Arlington Heritage Alliance from NPS ABPP in 2005 which provided funds to prepare a Cultural Landscape Documentation for Fort Ethan Allen. The ABPP promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil. The goals of the program are: 1) to protect battlefields and sites associated with armed conflicts that influenced the course of our history, 2) to encourage and assist all Americans in planning for the preservation, management, and interpretation of these sites, and 3) to raise awareness of the importance of preserving battlefields and related sites for future generations. The ABPP focuses primarily on land use, cultural resource and site management planning, and public education.

The proposed Preservation and Management Plan, which includes the Interpretive Plan will guide County staff as it seeks to preserve the present earthworks, to plan for future care and the use of Fort Ethan Allen. The project will also address the lack of interpretation at the Fort. The Interpretive Plan provides opportunities that exist for both signage within the present Fort Ethan

County Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: David Farner, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

Allen Historic District and for permanent artifact and interpretation. In addition, the upcoming sesquicentennial anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War and the construction of Fort Ethan Allen provides the County the opportunities to highlight and interpret the Defenses of Washington and Arlington's role in the war. Also, it will highlight ways in which the county can interpret Civil War events within the county as well as programming options at other County Parks where the Defenses of Washington, such as Forts C.F. Smith, Scott, Barnard and Bennett were constructed.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The NPS ABPP will provide federal grant funds of \$60,000 to the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources for this project. No additional net tax support is required from the FY 2009 budget in the acceptance of this grant. Grant funds will be used to hire a qualified consultant who will prepare the plan, involve the public in the planning process and provide copies of the final plan for the National Park Service and Arlington County. In future fiscal years, if implementation of the approved preservation and management plan for Fort Ethan Allen Park requires additional operating or capital funds, then PRCR will seek those funds through the normal budget process or alternative funding streams (e.g. grants, volunteer organizations).