

Criteria for Acquisition of Battlefield Land and Interests

LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY RANKING SYSTEM

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Commission suggests the following system be used to determine priorities for land acquisition within the historic district. The system was developed as a general guide for determining priorities, not as a rigid system from which deviations are not permitted. It should be used to develop specific battlefield management plans as well as to make critical yearly decisions on the appropriate battlefield lands to be acquired or otherwise preserved.

A ranking system similar to the following one was used by the Commission during its three-year life to evaluate parcels that came up for sale during the period. The latter ranking system was designed to evaluate parcels on an emergency basis, and therefore was not entirely appropriate for long term planning. It has been modified accordingly. The Commission tested its emergency ranking system and found that it produced results that Commissioners could agree with and support as representing fairly its land acquisition priorities. The following long-term priority ranking system has not been so tested. This task falls to the Commission's successor, which should test the system on real parcels and may modify it as appropriate to ensure that application of the system reflects the successor's true priorities.

The Land Acquisition Priority Ranking System that follows sets up various criteria for evaluating the value of land for preservation, interpretation, and view management. Other criteria may be needed to evaluate land for visitor services. For each criterion, possible point values are given with guidance provided for the assignment of points. A range of points is provided, say from 0 to 10, with guidance provided for various points along the continuum. Though the system shows points awarded in even numbers, odd number points can be assigned.

The system contains two parts: a system for ranking individual parcels within a battlefield and a system for setting priorities between battlefields. This allows priorities for acquisition/ preservation to be developed for each battle field, and then, if needed between battlefields. This highest number of points a parcel could receive under the A within the battlefield system is 40; the highest for the A between the battlefields system is 20.

The following four pages describe the ranking system. It is recommended that the system and its ranking of battlefield integrity and threat be evaluated every three years to keep the system current with successor's knowledge, experience and priorities.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY BATTLEFIELDS NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Land Acquisition Ranking System for Evaluating Priorities within the Entire District,
i.e., between Battlefields

<u>Category</u>	<u># Points</u>	<u>Guidance for Point Assignment</u>
Integrity of battlefield*	5	GOOD
	4	FAIR
	3	POOR to FAIR
	2	POOR
	1	LOST
Threat of development* to Battlefield	5	HIGHEST
	4	HIGH MODERATE
	2	LOW MODERATE
	0	LOWEST
Historic Significance	5	Nationally significant according to <i>Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation=s Civil War Battlefields</i> - Class A
	4	Having direct and decisive influence on campaign - Class B. Large forces engaged. High fatalities. High attrition.
	3	Having direct and decisive influence on campaign - Class B. Smaller forces engaged. Fewer fatalities. Lower attrition.
	2	Having observable influence on the outcome of a campaign - Class C.
	1	Locally significant - Class D
Non-federal funding available	5	50% or more available
	3	More than 25%, but less than 50% available
	2	More than 5%, but less than 25% available
	0	None available

* The ratings of the battlefields as evaluated by the Commission in 2000 are listed on the next page. These ratings should be evaluated every three years to determine their validity.

RATINGS OF BATTLEFIELDS REGARDING INTEGRITY AND THREAT OF DEVELOPMENT

Integrity of Battlefield

GOOD	McDowell Cross Keys Port Republic
FAIR	Fisher's Hill Toms Brook Cedar Creek
POOR	Second Winchester Second Kernstown New Market Opequon / Third Winchester

Threat of Development to Battlefield

HIGHEST	Opequon / Third Winchester Second Winchester Second Kernstown Cross Keys
HIGH MODERATE	New Market Toms Brook
LOW MODERATE	Fisher's Hill Cedar Creek
LOWEST	Port Republic McDowell

SHENANDOAH VALLEY BATTLEFIELDS NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Land Acquisition Priority Ranking System for Individual Parcels within a Battlefield

<u>Category</u>	<u># Points</u>	<u>Guidance for Point Assignment</u>
Acquisition purpose	2	Historic preservation / interpretation
	1	Visitor services or view management
Preservation value	8	Large parcel (at least 100 acres)
	6	Small parcel contiguous to land already preserved
	4	Small non-contiguous parcel within viewshed
	0	None of the above
Integrity of tract	10	Very High Integrity: Current use mirrors Civil War conditions; historic structures/features still present; no non-contributing features on site; no non-contributing features visible off site.
	8	High Integrity: Current use mirrors Civil War conditions; historic structures/features still present; no non-contributing features on site; some visual intrusions from off site.
	6	Moderate Integrity: Current use mirrors Civil War conditions; historic structures/features still present; minor non-contributing features on site; some visual intrusions from off site.
	4	Low Integrity: Current use mirrors Civil War conditions; historic structures/features damaged or lost; non-contributing features on site and off site, though not so extensive as to mar Civil War ambience.
	0	Lost: Current use does not mirror Civil War conditions; historic structures/features lost; high level of visual intrusions both on and off site.
Threat of development	10	Immediately Threatened: Zoned for development; Comp. Plan recommends development; not in Ag. District; developers interested.
	8	Highly Threatened: Zoned for development; Comp. Plan recommends development; not in Ag. District; currently not a hot area for major growth, but some subdivision occurring. (Could include tracts zoned agriculture, but planned for development and in hot market.)
	6	Moderately Threatened: Zoned for agriculture or conservation; Comp. Plan recommends development; not in Ag. District; developers seem interested, some subdivision occurring.

Category
Threat of development
(continued)

Points Guidance for Point Assignment

4	Somewhat Threatened: Zoned for agriculture or conservation; Comp. Plan recommends development; in Ag. District; developers seem interested, some subdivision occurring. (Could include tracts planned and zoned for agriculture, but weak zoning ordinance allows significant subdivision.)
2	Potentially Threatened: Zoned for agriculture or conservation; Comp. Plan recommends agriculture or conservation; not in Ag. District; some subdivision occurring.
0	Not Threatened: Zoned for agriculture or conservation; Comp. Plan recommends agriculture or conservation; in Ag. District; area not experiencing growth.
0	Lost: planned and zoned for development; development announced; surrounded by land already developed.
Historic Significance	
10	Highest Significance: Located in core. Contains large proportion of key ground (ground where the most important action of the engagement occurred). Historic features / structures present.
8	High Significance: Located in core. Contains moderate proportion of key ground (ground where the most important action of the engagement occurred). Historic features / structures present.
6	Significant: Located in study area or core. Contains ground on which fighting or other important battle activities occurred. Historic features / structures present.
4	Moderate Significance: Located in study area or core. Contains ground on which fighting or other important battle activities occurred. Historic features / structures absent.
2	Moderately Low Significance: Located outside study area. Includes rear staging areas, camp sites, isolated landmarks.
0	Lowest Significance: Located outside study area. Forces may have moved through the area, but otherwise action or events on the tract were not significant.

