

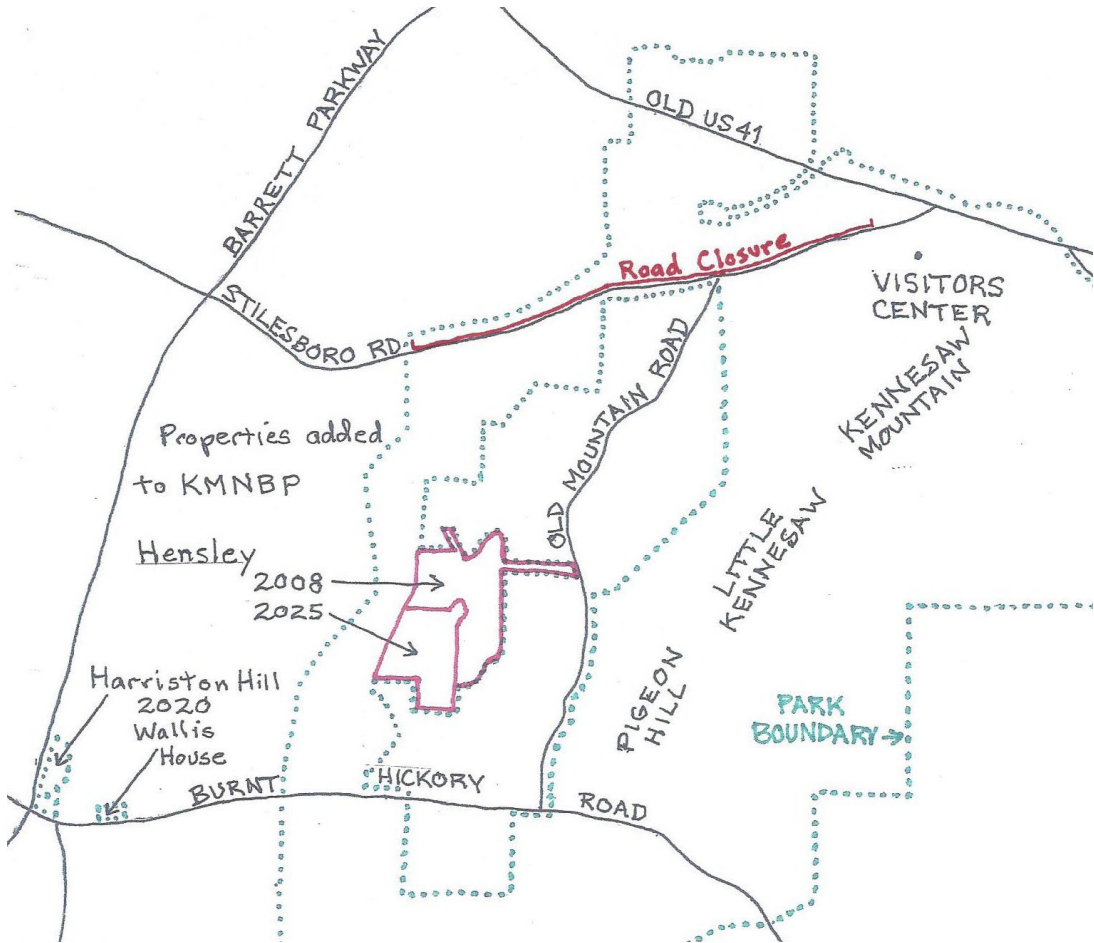
GEORGIA BATTLEFIELDS

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More land preserved at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

Thanks to the Trust for Public Land (TPL), more than 20 acres of land have been added to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP).

In a 24 June announcement, TPL reported the Hensley family had sold a property to TPL rather than sell it to developers who have long sought buildable sites in the vicinity of KMNBP. This is not new for the Hensley family, which in 2008 sold adjacent properties that have since been included in the park boundaries. The newest acquisition is also under National Park Service ownership because both properties are in what is colloquially known as a doughnut hole—i.e., they are both in an area that is completely encompassed by existing KMNBP holdings and thus exempt from requiring Congressional authorization to be added to the park. You can contrast this with the additions of the Wallis House and Harriston Hill (site of a U.S. Army signal station), which the Cobb Land Trust held for 14 years until Congress authorized addition of those properties to KMNBP in 2020.



If you plan to visit KMNBP, you'll notice on the map above another significant, though temporary, event. Those who live in the area are already annoyed by the periodic closures of Stilesboro Road that began in May for underground water pipe replacement. Work is being done in phases and will hopefully be complete sometime in October. Likely around two years later will come realignment of Old US 41 and construction of roundabouts on area roads.

<https://www.cobbcounty.gov/communications/news/stilesboro-road-close-extended-period-may>

The February 2025 Georgia Battlefields newsletter reported on GBA facilitating the preservation of a site (containing three small properties: see map on next page) on the west side of KMNBP. This site—since it is not in a doughnut hole—will be owned by American Battlefield Trust until Congress authorizes its addition to the park.

KMNBP has for several years been the most visited battlefield in the National Park System. The reason is not the citizenry's interest in history. Rather, it is KMNBP's status as the largest maintained greenspace in the vicinity of a booming suburb of Atlanta. People come not so much for the monuments and interpretive signs as for opportunities to walk, run, bike, ride horses,

picnic, bird watch (KMNBP is a major stopover for many migrating birds as well as a sanctuary for local birds), and generally enjoy the respite from traffic, leaf blowers, construction noise, etc. Visitors use facilities, such as the visitors' center, roads, parking lots, and picnic tables, so man-made structures wear out faster than in less visited parks. We don't often think of landscapes wearing out, but tree branches need to be trimmed, downed trees removed, fire prone areas cleared, and walking trails maintained, especially after rain and snow. The National Park Service budget for maintenance is chronically underfunded, and some projects spend years on the planning schedule without coming to fruition. Consequently, many national parks have "friends" groups of volunteers that do much of the maintenance work. KMNBP has such a group that is a relatively recent combining of forces of [Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park](#) and [Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club](#). They publish a [monthly e-mail newsletter](#) that includes news about the park (such as road closings), events (such as artillery demonstrations), recently accomplished work (such as trail maintenance), and work opportunities for volunteers.

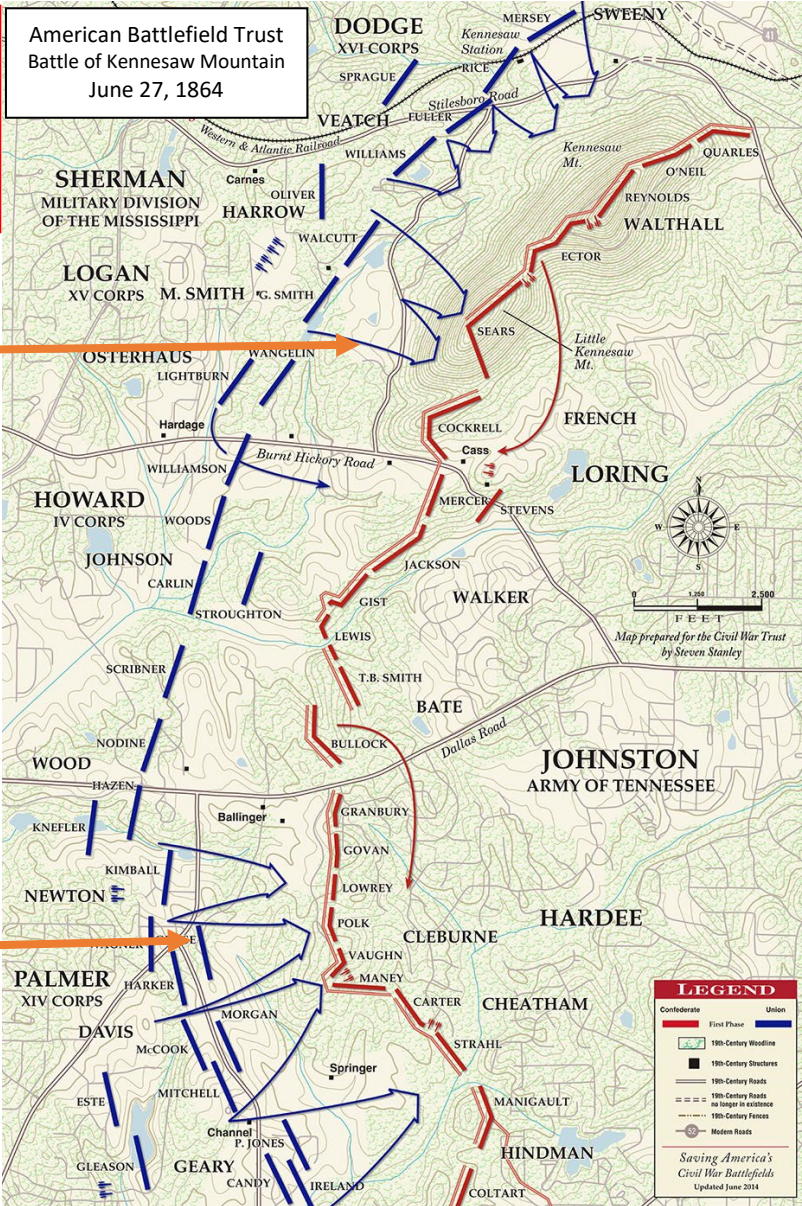
Two current Georgia Battlefields Association trustees have long affiliation with the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club, and a former KMNBP superintendent served as a GBA trustee 2005-2010.

KMNBP is a vital outdoor classroom if you want to understand the Atlanta Campaign.

On 7 September, a fund raiser for Friends of KMNBP will be held in Marietta. The award-winning documentary "Out There" will be featured. Details are at [this link](#).

Recently saved Hensley property

Three small properties saved earlier this year



Note new address
Georgia Battlefields Association
4203 Newpond Trail NE
Kennesaw GA 30144-1667

www.georgiabattlefields.org
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