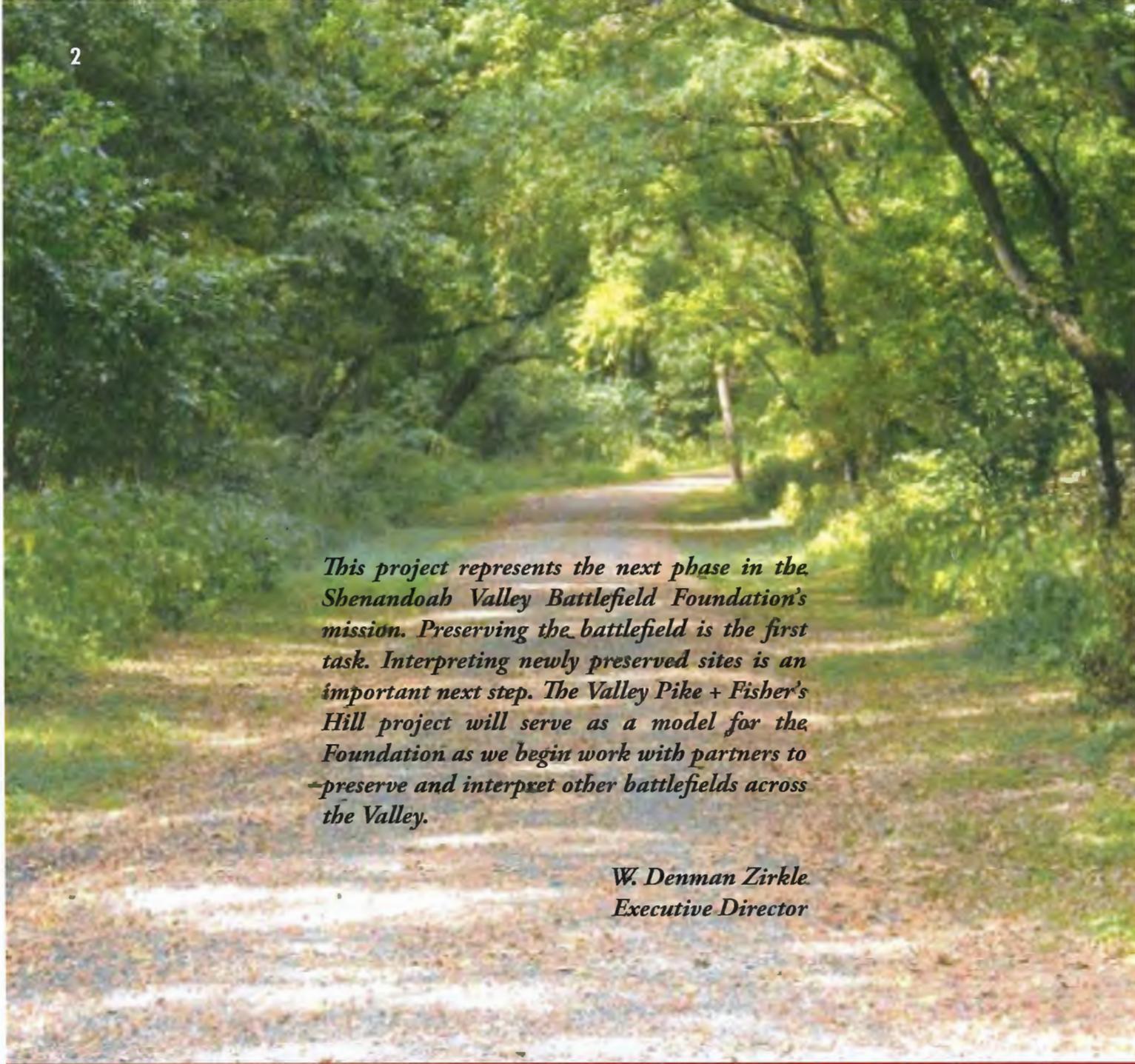


Valley Pike + Fisher's Hill Battlefield Interpretive Trail
 Project Update Spring 2012





This project represents the next phase in the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation's mission. Preserving the battlefield is the first task. Interpreting newly preserved sites is an important next step. The Valley Pike + Fisher's Hill project will serve as a model for the Foundation as we begin work with partners to preserve and interpret other battlefields across the Valley.

*W. Denman Zirkle
Executive Director*

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"Fisher's Hill is a natural fortification of lofty heights thrown across the Shenandoah Valley at a point where the Massanutten Mountain reduces it to a width of barely four miles. ... It was a spot for Rocky Mountain goats to fight in."

*Captain John William De Forest, U. S. A.
12th Connecticut Volunteers*

OVERVIEW

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF) is working with public and private partners on the Valley Pike + Fisher's Hill Trail Project, establishing a vision for an interpretive and multi-use trail along the historic Valley Pike and the North Fork of the Shenandoah River that will connect the Town of Strasburg with nationally significant Civil War battlefields in Shenandoah County.

The Valley Pike is one of the nation's most storied transportation corridors, evolving from an early Native American footpath, to a wagon road, a turnpike, a strategic Civil War route, and finally US Highway 11. The pike served as an important military corridor during the Civil War, especially during the battles of Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek. A remnant of the Valley Pike lies within the core area of the Fisher's Hill battlefield, south of Strasburg, that holds great potential for preservation and interpretation. Of equal significance is the largely undeveloped character of the Fisher's Hill battlefield, the pristine banks of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, and the newly formed Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, offering a critical mass of cultural and natural resources to be preserved and interpreted by the proposed trail system.

To date SVBF and its partners have preserved almost 500 acres of land at Fisher's Hill and more than 1,600 acres at Cedar Creek. The planned 12-mile trail project will stabilize and restore a 1.5-mile long section of the historic Valley Pike and connect the protected lands of both battlefields.

In the spring of 2010 the Foundation began to engage local stakeholders, and allied partners, to plan the routes and scope of the trail system, with the assistance from Hill Studio, a planning and landscape architectural firm. By the spring of 2012, early phases of the trail are complete, with future phases funded in part by the Foundation's already strong history of fund-raising and advocacy.



GOALS: Goals for the project include establishing preferred alignments for the trail system that connect both public and private protected land, partnering with private landowners to establish future easements, connecting visitors and citizens of Shenandoah County with these irreplaceable landscapes, and establishing model patterns and materials for use on other Civil War historic sites throughout the Valley.



SUCCESS FACTORS: Factors critical to the successful planning, design, and implementation of the trail include reaching diverse users, from citizens of Strasburg to Civil War site visitors; establishing durable details and maintenance protocols; supporting local stewards and private property owners; designing for accessibility, and minimizing the trail's physical and visual impact on historic and natural resources.

"I found the rebel army posted with its right resting on the North Fork of the Shenandoah, and extending across the Strasburg valley westward to North Mountain, occupying a position which appeared almost impregnable."

*Major General Phillip H. Sheridan, U. S. A.
Commander, Army of the Shenandoah*

HISTORY + SIGNIFICANCE

At the Battle of Fisher's Hill, fought on the 21st and 22nd of September 1864, Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early was overwhelmed by Federal Major General Philip Sheridan. Although the casualty figures were not high, the battle was a masterpiece of maneuver and surprise. Sheridan sent the Army of West Virginia on a concealed attack along the base of Little North Mountain to flank Early's position on Ramseur's Hill and threw the Confederate army into a panic. The Confederate defeat at Fisher's Hill (on the heels of defeat at Third Winchester) opened the Shenandoah Valley to a Union advance that reached beyond Staunton. When Sheridan withdrew during the first part of October, his army systematically burned mills, barns, crops, and forage, and ran off livestock. By implementing this strategy of total warfare, Sheridan felt that he accomplished the primary objective of his campaign—to deprive the Confederacy of the agricultural abundance of the Valley.

Almost a month later on the 19th of October, the Battle of Cedar Creek dealt the crushing blow to the Confederacy in the Shenandoah Valley and, together with Union successes in the Atlanta Campaign, spurred the reelection of President Abraham Lincoln. The battlefield is one of only 45 sites nationally that received the highest ranking from the congressionally appointed Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. The Confederate surprise attack at Cedar Creek, which was launched from the trenches of Fisher's Hill, is considered one of the most daring and successful maneuvers of its kind and is studied by military theorists today. It was a feat unduplicated during the Civil War and almost brought Confederate victory. However, Sheridan's arrival on the field to rally his broken troops passed into American verse and folklore as "Sheridan's Ride," and offers a dramatic example of the effect of charismatic leadership. Rarely have the scales of victory and disaster swung to such extremes during battle: the morning's brilliant Confederate success was transformed into a Union victory by day's end.

The 1864 Valley campaign initiated the largest and most costly events, in terms of casualties, forces engaged, and frequency of combat, in the history of Valley warfare. Sheridan fielded the largest Union fighting force, the Army of the Shenandoah, to act in concert in the Valley. Early, who learned his art at Stonewall Jackson's feet, conducted a masterful campaign and came close to defeating Sheridan's much larger army at Third Winchester and again at Cedar Creek. Union successes at Fisher's Hill led to "The Burning."

The Cedar Creek battlefield is a National Historic Landmark and is home to one of our newest national parks, the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park designated in 2001. Together, the battlefields of the Valley campaign represent a unique and nationally significant chapter in the history of the Civil War.

"Fisher's Hill is the bluff immediately south of and over a little stream called Tumbling Run, and is a position which was almost impregnable to a direct assault, and as the valley is but about three miles and a half wide at this point."

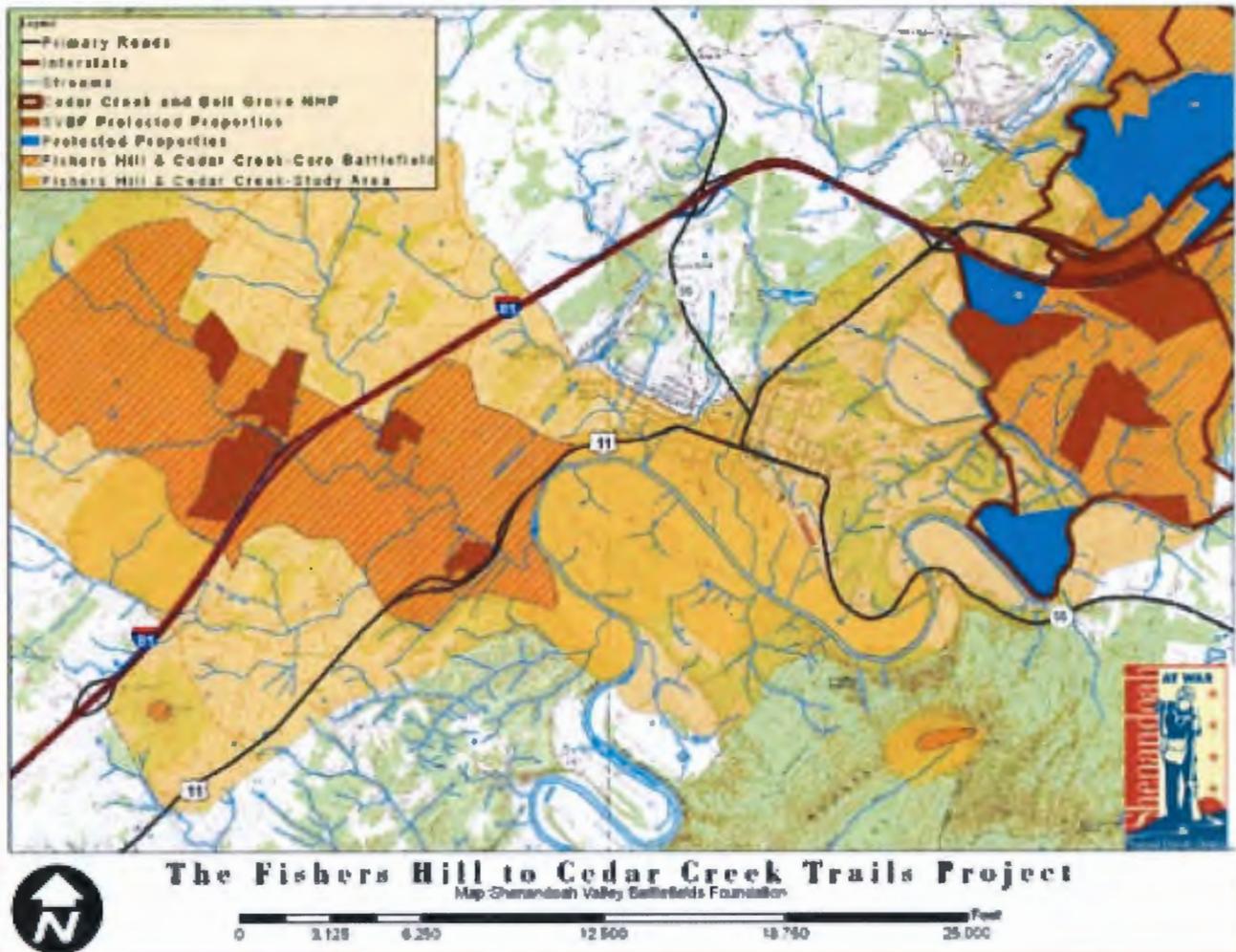
*Major General Phillip H. Sheridan, U.S.A.
3 February 1866*

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Historic plans and photos of Fisher's Hill and surrounds.
 Above: Jed Hotchkis map titled, The Battle of Fisher's Hill
 Left: Encampment along the North Fork of the Shenandoah and Valley Pike
 Above Right: Original Valley Pike stone bridge crossing over Tumbling Run



PROJECT AREA: Through the enlistment of local and regional stakeholders, SVBF has identified the boundaries of the project, within which trail alignments are being investigated and research conducted. As identified on the map above, the project boundaries extend from south of Battlefield Road, on the Fisher's Hill battlefield, north to the southern edge of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. To the west the project area extends to Little North Mountain. On the east it is bordered by the North Fork of the Shenandoah River.

PROCESS

SVBF began its collaborative planning project in the spring of 2010. As the Foundation relies on successful partnerships in fulfilling its mission, the process for planning and design included multiple stakeholder meetings and public workshops to identify research methods, possible trail routes, opportunities, and constraints. A project Steering Committee comprised of battlefield landowners and representatives of local governments and organizations identified a preferred trail master plan, inclusive of detailed site design for trail sections on land presently owned by SVBF.



OUTREACH: SVBF met with key stakeholders and citizens of Shenandoah County to identify opportunities and constraints, trail alignments, traffic conflicts, and user groups. These meetings provided valuable insight regarding design, and prioritization. Key observations included the need to design for multiple users, to prioritize trail construction first on property owned by the Battlefields Foundation, and to establish partnerships for long-term care. Over twelve meetings have been held to date with the project Steering Committee, stakeholders, and the general public.



RESEARCH: James Madison University conducted cultural resource studies of key strategic landscapes of the Fisher's Hill battlefield at Ramseur's Hill, SVBF's Valley Pike property, and related lands as part of this master plan. These studies researched the significance, history, and integrity of the battlefield and investigated archaeological features. The study team also assessed records at local, regional, and national repositories identifying important historic maps of the Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek battlefields. Reviews of historic aerial photographs also lent insight to the level of continuity and change across the landscape over time.



ANALYSIS: The analysis phase of the project included in-depth assessment of research material, initial public and stakeholder input, field investigation, and the selection and weighting of possible trail routes. The assessment of the historic conditions, based on period maps of 1864 and historic aerials, identified alignments of the old Valley Pike and the character of the landscape within the Fisher's Hill battlefield. Together these data sets were weighted to identify a preferred trail alignment connecting Cedar Creek, the Town of Strasburg, and Fisher's Hill that considers such factors as safety, accessibility, property ownership, scenic quality, and cost.



DESIGN: The design of a comprehensive trail system takes place at both the regional scale and at a site-specific scale. With the directive to begin the trail system on land presently owned by SVBF, the design team established detailed concepts for both the Ramseur's Hill property and the Valley Pike property within the Fisher's Hill battlefield. A detailed sequence of trail experience and interpretation was outlined and carried forward by the Foundation's Interpretation and Education Committee. Signs, typical trail construction details, and fencing styles were developed. Key areas and initiatives for future study, like the preservation and reconstruction of the historic Valley Pike bridge over Tumbling Run, were identified and planned.

"[O]n Fisher's Hill proper, the ground elevates, while the Confederate works grow more powerful, which would have seemed madness to attack ... All along the precipitous bluff which overhands Tumbling Run on the south side, a heavy line of earthworks had been constructed where Early retreated to this point in August, and these had been strengthened so as to make them almost impregnable."

*James E. Taylor, Correspondent
Leslie's Illustrated Magazine*

A. FISHER'S HILL TO CEDAR CREEK TRAIL : The regional trail system will include more primitive trails within the battlefield core and multi-use trails along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River and through the Town of Strasburg. The trail will extend from Fisher's Hill battlefield (described below) eastward. In Strasburg, two routes are under further study and design. One route continues along the river, incorporating the town's previously constructed Riverwalk Trail. A northern route winds through the town proper, connecting to local businesses, and the Strasburg historic district. Both alignments reach the southern boundary of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, however the areas east of Route 11 are still under study. Outreach to landowners and stewards is ongoing. The overall layout is shown on the accompanying *Valley Pike + Fisher's Hill Preferred Trail Alignments and Interpretive Plans (East and West)*.

B. FISHER'S HILL BATTLEFIELD TRAIL : The trail design and concept within the core battlefield of Fisher's Hill extends west from the Valley Pike, paralleling Battlefield Road, to Ramseur's Hill. While portions of the trail along the roadside and other locations are multi-use and provide space for bikes and pedestrians alike, loops within areas where the greatest bloodshed occurred are treated with greater sensitivity and designed for pedestrian use only. The trail highlights the preserved portions of the historic Valley Pike, the contested Civil War earthworks, the historic hamlet of Fisher's Hill, and the battlefield scene at Ramseur's Hill. Site-specific plans for the Valley Pike property and Ramseur's Hill are detailed below and on the accompanying *Fisher's Hill Core Battlefield and Trails Plan*.

C. RAMSEUR'S HILL TRAIL : Improvements to Ramseur's Hill include updates to increase accessibility, enhance interpretation, and add a new paved parking area for buses and cars. As this property is actively managed for agricultural use, new snake-rail and post and wire fencing will better facilitate farming on the property. Construction of Phase I trail and parking improvements is complete. The concept plan for the improvements at Ramseur's Hill are detailed on the accompanying *Ramseur's Hill Plan Enlargement*.

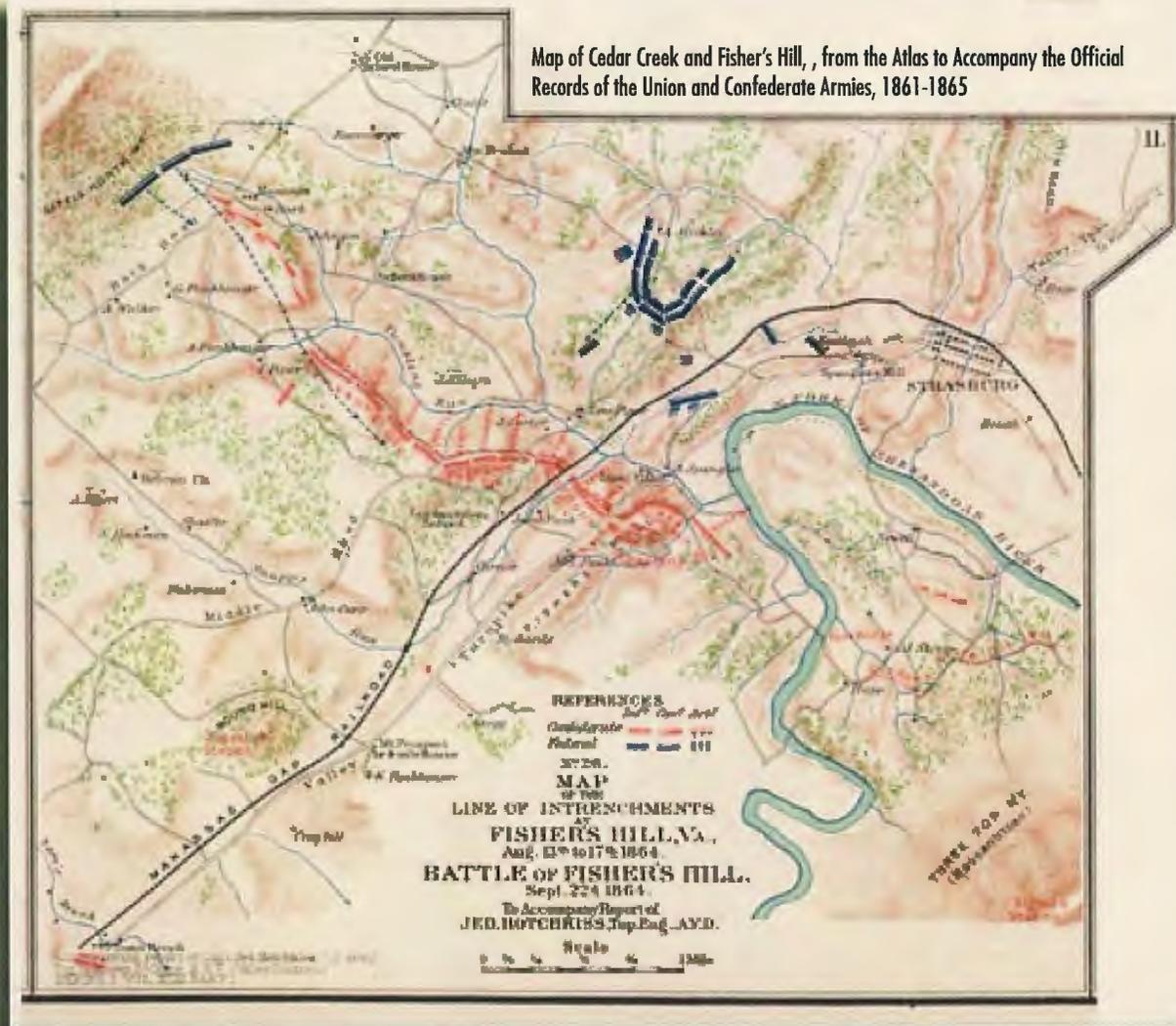
D. VALLEY PIKE TRAIL : Considered one of the most significant preserved sites of the battlefield, this high pinnacle touts long-range views critical to its tactical advantage during the war. The property boasts the longest intact section of the historic Valley Pike as it ascends the hillside "up-the-pike" from Tumbling Run. The extensive network of Civil War earthworks that lined the hill to defend the pike is pristine. The proposed trail is planned with parking at both the north and south ends of this multi-use trail, improvements to the historic crossing at Tumbling Run (see below), and a pedestrian interpretive trail that ascends the hillside, interpreting the earthworks and strategic position of this historic promontory. The concept plan for trails at the Valley Pike property are detailed on the accompanying *Valley Pike Property Plan Enlargement*.

CONCEPTS + COMPONENTS

Since the spring of 2010, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and the project team have established and refined preservation strategies, trail concepts and amenities. The narrative descriptions provided above, describe work planned for key areas of the trail, illustrated on the accompanying plans and renderings.

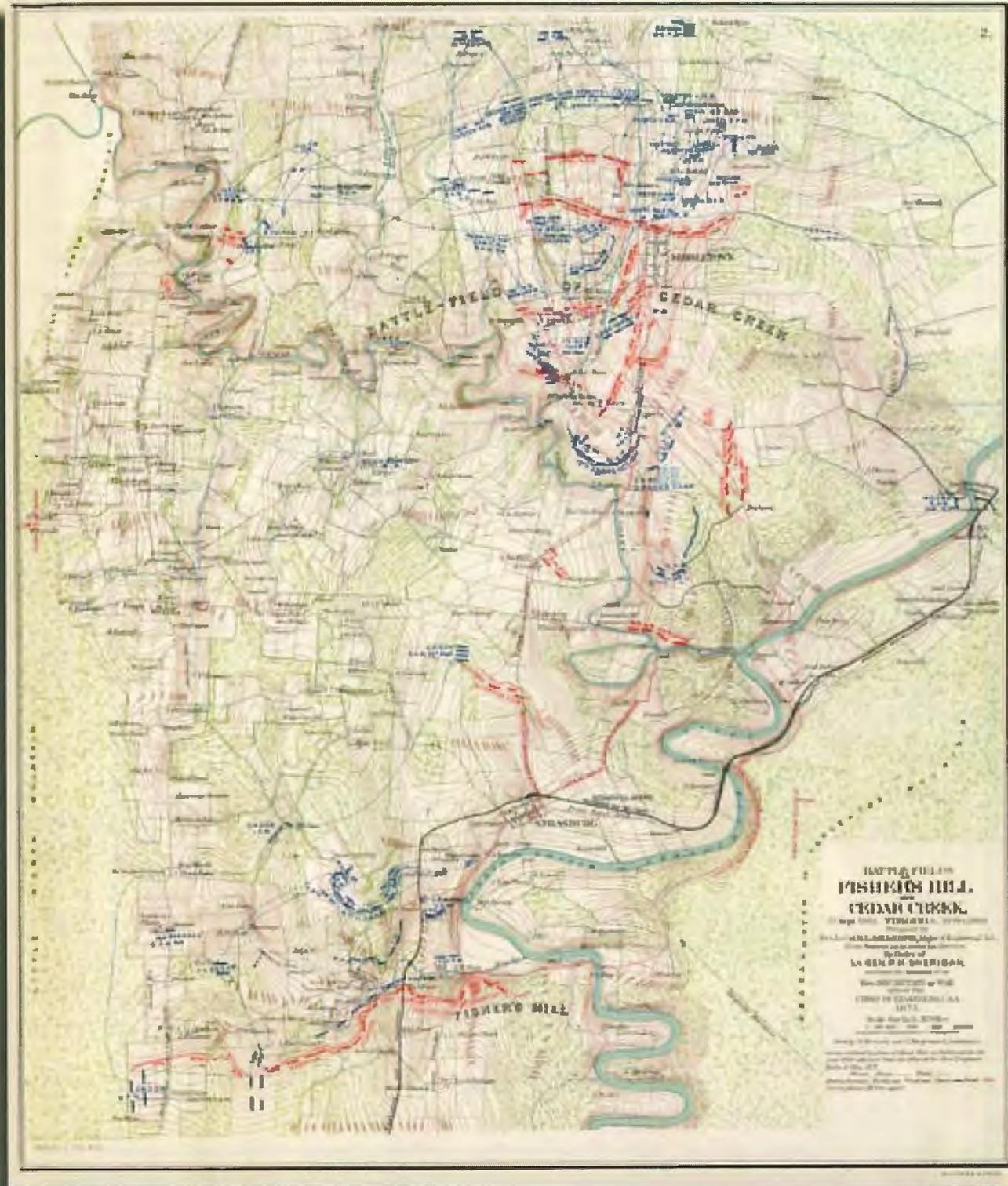
E. SIGNS : A comprehensive family of signs are designed for the project and serve as a prototype for other SVBF properties. Sign types identified during the planning process included trail head signs, primary site identification signs, and directional trail signs. An extensive interpretive sign program is planned by SVBF's Interpretation and Education Committee. A three-dimensional bronze relief map-table, is also proposed atop the Valley Pike property. These signs are illustrated on the accompanying *Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation Family of Signs*.

F. TUMBLING RUN BRIDGE : Visible from present day US Route 11, the historic Valley Pike crossing of Tumbling Run is proposed for reconstruction, based on period images dating to the 19th century. This landmark feature will provide the needed access across Tumbling Run, and serve as a gateway feature for visitors entering Battlefield Road off of Route 11. The concept sketch for the Tumbling Run Bridge reconstruction is detailed on the accompanying illustration.



"At light on the morning of the 20th, my troops moved to Fisher's Hill ... This was the only position in the whole Valley where a defensive line could be taken against an enemy moving up the Valley ... and I determined therefore to make a show of a stand here, with the hopes that the enemy would be deterred from attacking me in this position."

*Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early, C.S.A.
 Commander, Army of the Valley*



Above: Map of Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill, from the Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865

"General Crook's command was transferred to the extreme right of the line on North Mountain, and he furiously attacked the left of the enemy's line, carrying everything before him ... driving the enemy in the greatest confusion and sweeping down behind their breast-works."

*Major General Phillip H. Sheridan, U. S. A.
 Commander, Army of the Shenandoah*

List of Plans/ Illustrations

Valley Pike + Fisher's Hill Preferred Trail Alignments and Interpretive Plan (West) - Courtesy Hill Studio

Valley Pike + Fisher's Hill Preferred Trail Alignments and Interpretive Plan (East) - Courtesy Hill Studio

Fisher's Hill Core Battlefield and Trails Plan - Courtesy Hill Studio

Ramseur's Hill Plan Enlargement - Courtesy Hill Studio

Valley Pike Property Plan Enlargement - Courtesy Hill Studio

Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation Family of Signs - Courtesy 1717 Design

Tumbling Run Bridge Restoration - Courtesy Hill Studio/ Ryan Blau

"[T]he attack was so rapid and vigorous in flank and front that the whole left of the line gave way, thus admitting the enemy to the rear of the whole line northwest of the railroad, which at once gave way, and the whole army retreated in disorder about dark."

*Captain Jed. Hotchkiss, C. S. A.
Topographical Engineer, Army of the Valley*

FUNDING SUCCESS

SVBF and Shenandoah County have been proactive in the pursuit of funds to plan and implement this comprehensive trail system. To date their combined fund-raising has included federal grants from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) and from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The Foundation has provided over \$227,000 in match toward almost \$2 million in grants received to date, as shown in the table below.

| Funds Secured to date for the Valley Pike Project | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | Funds | Match | Total |
| FY 2007/2008 TEP Grant | \$388,000 | \$77,600 | \$465,600 |
| ARRA (awarded 2009) | \$850,000 | \$0 | \$850,000 |
| FY 2009/2010 TEP Grant | \$250,000 | \$50,000 | \$300,000 |
| FY 2010/2011 TEP Grant | \$500,000 | \$100,000 | \$600,000 |
| Total Project | \$1,988,000 | \$227,600 | \$2,215,600 |

Additionally, the Battlefields Foundation has invested over \$5 million in federal, state, local, and private funding to acquire land and conservation easements at Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek. This includes a 28-acre property purchased in 2005 that contains 1.5 miles of the original Valley Pike completed in 1838. Together these investments contribute to the preservation and future connection of the many scenic and culturally valuable sites within the trail corridor.

"The battle, or, to speak more accurately, the bout at Fisher's Hill, was so quickly ended that it may be described in a few words. Indeed, to all experienced soldiers the whole story is told in one word – 'flanked'."

*Major General John B. Gordon, C. S. A.
2nd Corps, Army of the Valley*



This project not only preserves the historic fabric of the valley, it also provides valuable jobs and opportunities for valley residents. Photo of pre-bid meeting for the first phase of construction at Ramseur's Hill.

SUCCESS + INNOVATION

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation holds great responsibility, and proven success to ensure the irreplaceable legacy of the Fisher's Hill landscape is well-preserved, well-planned, and well-funded, so that it may be experienced by future generations of Americans. To date, we have been fortunate to secure funding for this project through combined federal, state, and local sources. In response to these many efforts, this project features innovative approaches to preservation, interpretation, and resource stewardship. The project also continues SVBF's partnership with preservation-minded landowners to protect this landscape, making possible future interpretation and preservation.

INNOVATION



Designing within the context of nationally significant Civil War battlefields demands great care and sensitivity. SVBF employs preservation principles in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. These standards continue to guide landscape stewardship and detailed design.



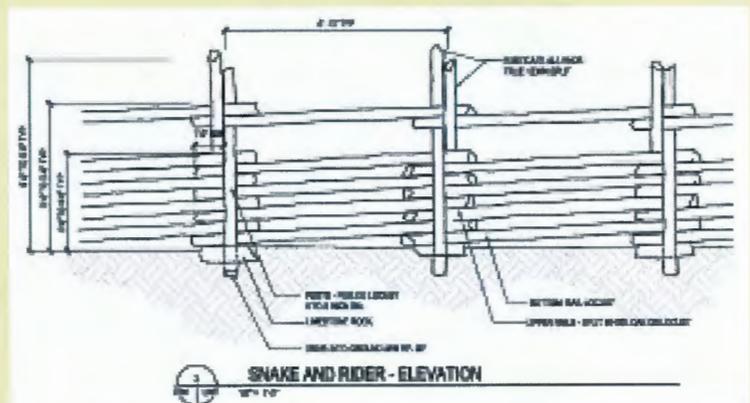
All too often, trails or site improvements intended to provide access for interpretation, unintentionally compromise the integrity and viewshed of historic sites. This project explores new and innovative approaches to trail construction that mitigate visual impacts of trails within the historic landscape, while still attaining a high degree of accessibility.

Designs for the trail system specify an engineered soil and natural surface trail that employs reinforced turf (a mixture of sandy-loam soils and synthetic fibers tilled into the soil) for the pedestrian interpretive trails that traverse the most sensitive areas. The design team researched and field-tested the application as installed on other sites throughout the southeast, and oversaw its installation at Ramseur's Hill. The result is a durable grass trail surface that is less visually intrusive to the cultural landscape and visitor experience.

Above: Photo of the design team's analysis of reinforced turf, as installed for fire-lane access on a college campus. Photo of synthetic fibers tilled into the engineered soil mix at Ramseur's Hill. Detail of snake-rail and rider fence proposed for Ramseur's Hill

Right: Detail of cedar snake-rail and rider fence

Another opportunity for innovation and stewardship under investigation, is the harvest of cedar timbers for use in the construction of snake-rail fences at Ramseur's Hill and other locations. Doing so will allow the Foundation to achieve two objectives at once: providing construction material for the Valley Pike + Fisher's Hill Project, while improving its properties for agricultural and interpretive uses.



"I have the honor to report that I achieved a most signal victory over the army of General Early at Fisher's Hill to-day."

*Major General Phillip H. Sheridan, U. S. A.
Commander, Army of the Shenandoah*

LAND CONSERVATION SUCCESS

The Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill battlefields are part of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historical District, designated by Congress as a National Heritage Area in 1996. The purpose of the eight-county heritage area, which includes Shenandoah County, is to preserve and interpret the places, events, and people that comprise the Valley's Civil War legacy.

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, a Virginia non-profit organization, was created in 2001. The primary goal of the Foundation is to preserve battlefields through fee simple land acquisition and conservation easements. The Valley Pike + Fisher's Hill Project is a vehicle to further these protection efforts. It provides opportunities for the public to access and enjoy the land the Foundation and its partners have protected and to learn about the battles that occurred here in the context of the larger history of the Civil War.

Acres Protected by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation

| | Fisher's Hill | Cedar Creek | Total |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Conservation easement | 167 | 74 | 241 |
| Fee simple acquisition | 272 | 460 | 732 |
| Total | 439 | 534 | 973 |

To date, the Battlefields Foundation has invested more than \$5 million to protect almost a thousand acres on the Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill battlefields. When added to properties protected by other public and private partners, more than 2,100 acres are protected on the two battlefields. Additional projects are underway that will result in the protection of hundreds of additional acres.



The Foundation recently negotiated a conservation easement on this parcel, situated across from the intersection of US Route 11 and Battlefield Road. This property saw action during the Battle of Fisher's Hill, includes frontage along the North Fork of the Shenandoah, and is one of the most visible landscapes along the Valley Pike.

"Late yesterday the enemy attacked my position at Fisher's Hill and succeeded in driving back the left of my line, which was defended by the cavalry, and throwing a force into the rear of the left of my infantry line, when the whole of the troops gave way in a panic and could not be rallied."

*Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early, C.S.A.
Commander, Army of the Valley*

The Valley Pike + Fisher's Hill trail will be about 12 miles long. Based on the configuration and size of properties along the preferred trail alignments and the value of land and easements that the Foundation has appraised and purchased in the corridor, we estimate that between 121 and 145 acres will have to be acquired in fee to provide trail locations and between 400 and 600 acres will have to be placed under conservation easement to protect the historic viewsheds seen from the trail. The estimated cost of this land protection is between \$3.7 million and \$5 million. Estimated land and easements costs for the trail are shown in the table below.

| Valley Pike + Fisher's Hill Trail Land Acquisition Costs | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| | Low Estimate | High Estimate |
| Per acre easement | \$4,000 | \$4,000 |
| Easement acres | 400 | 600 |
| Sub-total easement | \$1,600,000 | \$2,400,000 |
| Per acre fee | \$18,000 | \$18,000 |
| Fee acres | 121 | 145 |
| Sub-total fee | \$2,144,063 | \$2,572,875 |
| Total cost | \$3,744,063 | \$4,972,875 |
| Total acres | 521 | 745 |



SVBF is negotiating with property owners whose land lies between the Valley Pike Property to Ramseur's Hill, west of I-81, along the historic Confederate trench lines.

"The rout of wagons, caissons, limbers, artillery, and flying men was fearful as the stream swept down the pike toward Woodstock."

*Captain Jed. Hotchkiss, C.S.A.
Topographical Engineer, Army of the Valley*

| Phase | Year | Cost | Cumulative Cost |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Phase 1 Planning/ Design | 2009 / 2011 | \$668,043 | |
| Phase 2a Ramseur's Hill | 2011 / 2012 | \$648,212 | \$1,316,255 |
| Phase 2b Ramseur's Hill Extension | 2012 | \$247,814 | \$1,564,069 |
| Phase 3 Valley Pike Parcel | 2013 | \$715,390 | \$2,279,459 |
| Phase 4 Valley Pike Bridge | 2013 | \$550,000 | \$2,829,459 |
| Phase 5 Valley Pike Parking | 2013 | \$320,290 | \$3,149,749 |
| Phase 6 School House Ridge | 2013 / 2014 | \$284,890 | \$3,434,639 |
| Phase 7 Erbach Connector | 2013 / 2014 | \$481,731 | \$3,916,370 |
| Phase 8 Signs | 2011 / 2015 | \$301,000 | \$4,217,370 |

Total \$4,217,370



Phasing Diagram

Phase 1 includes the creation of an overall concept plan for the project as well as construction documents for the early sections of the trail system including Ramseur's Hill, the Valley Pike Parcel, and Tumbling Run Bridge.

Phases 2a and 2b occur at Ramseur's Hill. Phase 2a provides accessible parking for cars and buses, accessible trails throughout the lower portions of the battlefield using reinforced turf trail surfaces, and sites for interpretation. This phase was completed in the spring of 2012.

PHASING + NEXT STEPS

The project is planned in logical, yet flexible phases as shown in the table above. As a result of public input, planning, and design, these phases facilitate the construction of trails and improvements on Foundation land, with future improvements planned on conserved property as it becomes available, and funding is secured. Current committed funds will support the planning and design of phases 1 through 5 (including signage), as well as the construction of phases 2 and 3.

Phase 2b includes the extension of the Phase 2a trail network on Ramseur's Hill, improvements to an existing raised boardwalk, planting improvements, and historically-appropriate fencing to facilitate the management of this landscape in agricultural use. This phase is proposed to begin construction by summer 2012.

Phase 3 will occur on the 28-acre Valley Pike property which retains the most well-preserved segment of the circa 1838 Valley Pike, the ruins of the old bridge that crossed Tumbling Run, remnant limestone retaining walls, and an extensive system of earthworks, campsites, and artillery positions. This phase of work will rehabilitate the Valley Pike as a multi-use trail and provide pedestrian access to the hilltop, where visitors will observe the strategic importance of this location during the Civil War.

Phase 4 will reconstruct the Valley Pike's historic stone arch bridge over Tumbling Run, built in 1838. The preferred option will fully restore the bridge to its condition during the Civil War.

Phase 5 will include parking facilities north and south of the Valley Pike property.

Phase 6 will include the final extension of the initial trail segment on the Foundation's Ramseur's Hill property on the north side of Battlefield Road.

Phase 7 connects the Ramseur's Hill property with the village of Fisher's Hill. This trail segment traverses a key ridge line, affording long-range views of the valley and foreground views of the village.

Interpretation: As phases of trail are implemented, they will also be interpreted. Interpretation will focus on the national importance of the Shenandoah Valley as a transportation corridor, the Valley Pike as a major 19th century transportation route that promoted the Valley's economic prosperity, and the importance of the region to the conduct of the Civil War.



Left : Photo of newly improved parking areas, replete with bike racks, and ADA accessible sidewalks

Below : Photo of new steel-construction bridge rails across Tumbling Run

Below right : Photo of stone apron and locust fence posts at the trail head across the bridge



"This battle practically ended the campaign in the Shenandoah Valley. When it opened we found our enemy boastful and confident, unwilling to acknowledge that the soldiers of the Union were their equal in courage and manliness; when it closed with Cedar Creek this impression had been removed from his mind, and gave place to good sense and a strong desire to quit fighting. The very best troops of the Confederacy had not only been defeated, but had been routed in successive engagements, until their spirit and esprit were destroyed."

*Major General Phillip H. Sheridan, U. S. A.
Commander, Army of the Shenandoah*

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation

As authorized by the US Secretary of the Interior, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation is the non-profit manager of the eight-county Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District, partnering with local, regional, and national organizations and governments to preserve the Valley's battlefields and interpret and promote the region's Civil War story.

Created by Congress in 1996, the National Historic District encompasses Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties and the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester.



Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation

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