



# Foundation Document

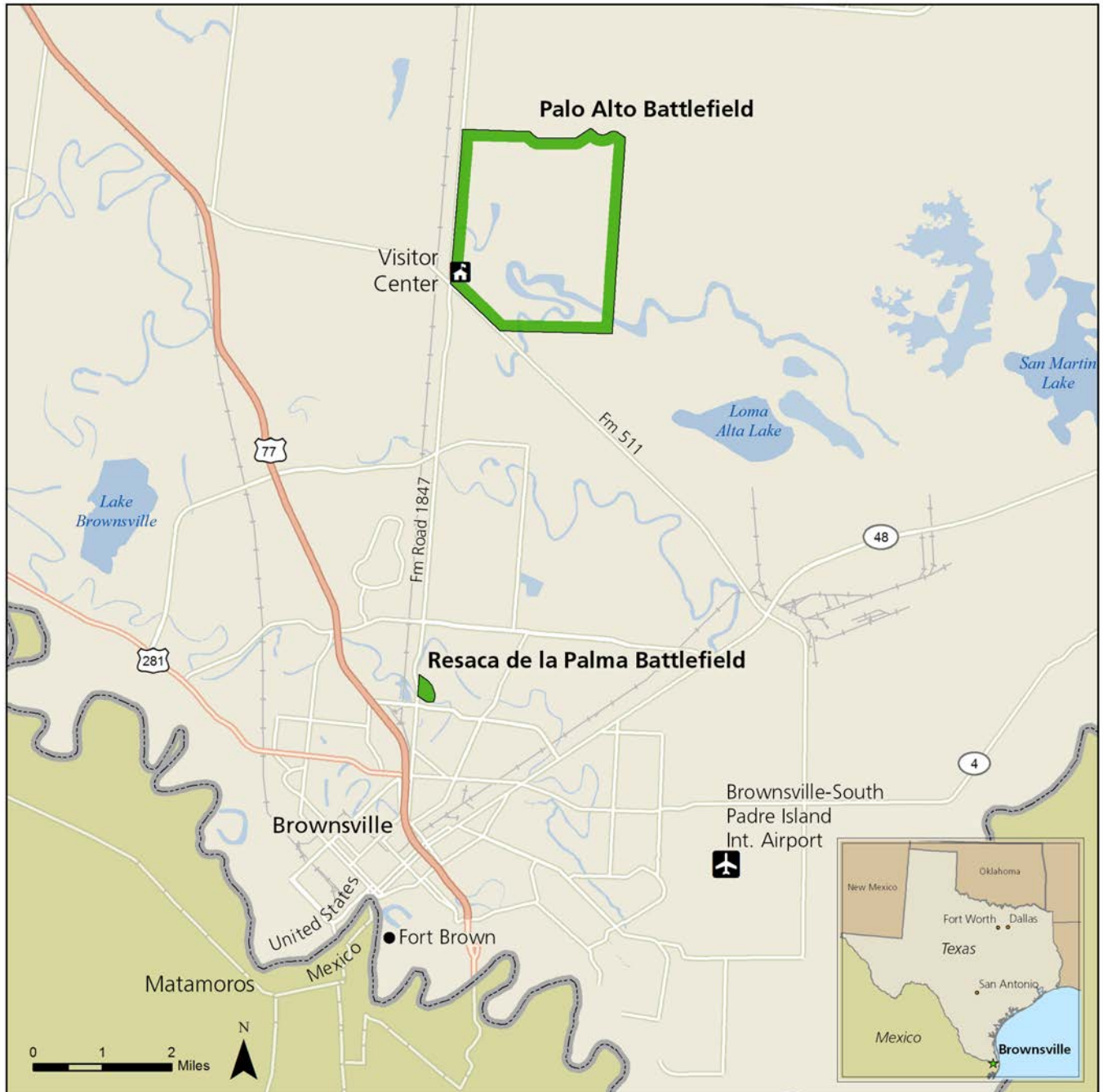
## Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park

Texas

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# Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park





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## Introduction

Every unit of the national park system is required to have a formal statement of its core mission that will provide basic guidance for all planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. Increasing emphasis on government accountability and restrained federal spending demand that all stakeholders are aware of the purpose, significance, interpretive themes, fundamental resources and values, and special mandates and administrative commitments of a park unit. This includes legal and policy requirements for administration and resource protection that factor into management decisions.

The process of developing a foundation document provides the opportunity to gather together and integrate all varieties and hierarchies of information about a park unit. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine the most important attributes of the park. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and stakeholders in identifying information that is necessary for future planning efforts.

A foundation document serves as the underlying guidance for all management and planning decisions for a national park unit. It describes the core mission of the park unit by identifying the purpose, significance, fundamental and important resources and values, interpretive themes, assessment of planning and data needs, special mandates and administrative commitments, and the unit's setting in the regional context.

The foundation document can be useful in all aspects of park management to ensure that primary management objectives are accomplished before addressing other factors that are also important, but not directly essential to achieving the park purpose and maintaining its significance. Thus, the development of a foundation document for Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park is necessary to effectively manage the park over the long term and protect park resources and values that are integral to the purpose and identity of the park unit.

This foundation document was developed as a collaborative effort among park staff, Intermountain Region planning staff, and Denver Service Center staff. A workshop to facilitate this process was held on August 7–9, 2012, in Brownsville, Texas. A complete list of attendees and preparers is included in part 3 of this document.

The park atlas is also a part of the foundation project. It is a geographic information system (GIS) product that can be published as a hard copy paper atlas and as electronic geospatial data in a Web-mapping environment. The purpose of the park atlas is to act as a reference for park projects and to facilitate planning decisions as a GIS-based planning support tool. The atlas covers various geographic elements that are important for park management such as natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, and facilities. It can be developed as part of a planning project (e.g., general management plan, foundation document), although it can also be designed as an independent product. The park atlas is available at [insideparkatlas.nps.gov](http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov).







## Part 1: Core Components

All foundation documents include the following core elements:

The *park purpose* is the specific reason(s) for establishing a particular park. A park purpose statement is grounded in a thorough analysis of the legislation (or executive order) and legislative history of the park, and may include information from studies generated prior to the park's establishment. The purpose statement goes beyond a restatement of the law to clarify assumptions about what the law means in terms specific to the park.

The *significance statements* express why the resources and values of the park are important enough to justify national park designation. Statements of park significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. Significance statements are directly linked to the purpose of the park and are verified by data or consensus that reflect the most current scientific or scholarly inquiry and cultural perceptions because the resources and values may have changed since the park was established.

*Interpretive themes* connect park resources to relevant ideas, meanings, concepts, contexts, beliefs, and values. They support the desired interpretive objective of increasing visitor understanding and appreciation of the significance of park resources. In other words, interpretive themes are the most important messages to be conveyed to the public about the park. Interpretive themes are based on park purpose and significance.

*Fundamental resources and values* are features, systems, organisms, processes, visitor experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes of the park that merit primary consideration during planning and management because they are essential to achieving park purpose and maintaining park significance.

*Other important resources and values* are resources and values that are determined to be important and integral to park planning and management, although they are not related to park purpose and significance.



## Brief Description of the Park

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park consists of two units, the Palo Alto Battlefield and the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield. Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site was authorized by Congress in 1978, and the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield was added to the park as a discontinuous unit in 2008. The 1992 Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act allows the Secretary of the Interior to

... enter into cooperative agreements with the United States of Mexico, in accordance with existing international agreements and with other owners of Mexican-American War properties within the United States of America for the purposes of conducting joint research and interpretive planning for the historic site and related Mexican-American War sites.

The Palo Alto Battlefield encompasses the approximately 3,400-acre historic U.S.-Mexican War battle site 10 miles north of downtown Brownsville, Texas, in Cameron County, near the heart of a growing metropolitan area on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. Palo Alto Battlefield is the site of the first major battle of the war between the United States and Mexico. With the exception of some impact from agricultural and ranching activity, the battlefield looks much as it did at the time of the battle more than 150 years ago.



The Resaca de la Palma Battlefield comprises 34.4 acres and is 3.5 miles north of downtown Brownsville, Texas. This unit represents only a small portion of the actual battlefield, as the remainder has been lost to urban development. The site is bounded on the west by Paredes Line Road and to the north, east, and south by Resaca de la Palma, a former channel of the Rio Grande. Resaca de la Palma is the site of the second major battle of the war between Mexico and the United States and is one of only two protected battlefields of the war on what is now U.S. soil. The Resaca de la Palma Battlefield has been affected by dredging, vegetation removal, and prior uses including a residential dwelling and recreational polo field, the remains of which can be found among dense areas of grasses and overstory tree canopy.





The Battle of Palo Alto on May 8, 1846, was the result of tensions related to boundary disputes between the United States and Mexico. General Zachary Taylor and approximately 2,300 U.S. soldiers engaged the Mexican army, 3,200 strong under General Mariano Arista, near the Rio Grande. The Battle of Palo Alto was primarily an artillery duel, which included two failed Mexican cavalry charges attempting to outflank the U.S. line. The two forces met along a wagon road between Matamoros and Port Isabel and engaged in battle on a broad open plain of coastal prairie scattered with resacas (former channels of the Rio Grande). At dusk, both armies ceased their fire as was customary at the time, with neither side giving up the field of battle, resulting in a military draw. During the night, General Arista moved the Mexican forces about 6 miles down the road toward Matamoros, at the point where the road crossed the Resaca de la Palma. General Arista planned to use the dense brush and natural bunker of the resaca banks to negate the effects of U.S. artillery and to draw the U.S. forces into hand-to-hand combat.

On May 9, 1846, U.S. forces engaged with the Mexican army for the second time at Resaca de la Palma. The U.S. forces concentrated on the Mexican left flank and were able to penetrate the Mexican lines, capturing their camp after roughly two hours of intense fighting. This led to a disorderly retreat of the Mexican forces across the Rio Grande, the end of the Siege of Fort Brown, and the eventual taking of Matamoros. During the course of the U.S.-Mexican War, United States forces subsequently invaded the interior of Mexico, concluding with the capture and holding of Mexico City. The successful military actions during the war demonstrated the superiority of the U.S. military and heightened their prestige at home and abroad. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on February 2, 1848, wherein Mexico relinquished its northern lands to the United States. This acquisition was crucial to the development and expansion of the United States in the mid- to late 19th century.



## Park Purpose

The park purpose is defined by statements identifying the specific reason for the establishment of a particular park. Purpose statements are crafted through a careful analysis of the enabling legislation and legislative history that influenced the development of Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park. The park was designated on November 10, 1978, when the initial enabling legislation was passed and signed into law (see appendix A for enabling legislation and subsequent amendments). The park purpose statement reinforces the foundation for future park management administration and use decisions. The following park purpose statement was developed by a thorough review of park legislation, committee reports, and previous management documents.

The purpose of Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park is to preserve the sites of the opening battles of the U.S.–Mexican War, using historical information and perspectives of both nations to tell the story of the battles; the war; the related political, diplomatic, military, and social causes; and the lasting consequences.

## Park Significance

Significance statements express why Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

The following significance statements have been identified for Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park. (Please note that the statements are in no particular order):

- Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park commemorates and preserves the sites of the first and only major battles of the U.S.–Mexican War fought north of the Rio Grande.
- Palo Alto Battlefield allows visitors to experience one of the few U.S.–Mexican War battle sites on a landscape that is largely unchanged since 1846.
- The battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma opened a war that resulted in Mexico ceding half of its land, thus extending U.S. territory to the Pacific Ocean.
- Numerous individuals who participated in the battles on the Rio Grande, including future presidents Mariano Arista, Rómulo Díaz de la Vega, Ulysses S. Grant, and Zachary Taylor, went on to shape their respective nations as military and political leaders.
- Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park remains a symbol of a war that shaped two nations and provides an emotional and physical focal point for understanding and reflecting on this conflict, its causes, and its consequences.





## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to the significance of the park and fundamental resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. They go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. Themes help to explain why a park story is relevant to people who are unconnected to an event, time, or place.

While themes are important as an organizational tool to guide management decisions, they are not intended for public use. The themes offer park staff guidance on focusing on relevant visitor experiences and how to best represent these themes to the public via park services, media, programming, and facilities.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park:

- The territorial war that began at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma had roots in the earliest days of European colonization. The distinct paths that the United States and Mexico followed from colonies to republics led the two nations into a conflict for control of a vast expanse of North America.
- The war that began with clashes at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma influenced the United States and Mexico in profoundly different ways and those effects continue to create equally distinct perceptions of the conflict.
- The battles on the Rio Grande set the tone for the entire U.S.–Mexican War and opened the way for General Zachary Taylor’s continued campaign into northern Mexico and General Winfield Scott’s advance on Mexico City.
- The battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma demonstrated both existing and new military tactics and technologies of western mid-19th century warfare.
- The battles of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and the U.S.-Mexican War were caused by a diversity of motivations, opinions, political perspectives, and decisions in both the United States and Mexico. Today, citizens from both countries have various opinions and reactions to the battles and the war itself.
- Landscape features that influenced the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma remain a significant part of the park scenery and experience today. This natural landscape, which provides critical habitat for wildlife, offers visitors opportunities to experience the historic battle scene as well as the many unique plant and animal species of the region.



## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

The most important responsibility of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. These qualities are called fundamental resources and values. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to legislative purpose, and are more specific than significance statements. FRVs help focus planning and management processes on what is truly significant about the park. If FRVs are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The identification of fundamental and other important resources and values should not be interpreted as meaning that some park resources are not important. This evaluation is made to separate those resources or values that are covered by NPS mandates and policies from those that have important considerations to be addressed in other planning processes.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park:

- **BATTLEFIELD SITES:** This fundamental resource includes key sites currently managed by the National Park Service, including Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, as well as sites outside the park boundary associated with the 1846 opening campaign of the U.S.–Mexican War, including Fort Brown, Carricitos, Point Isabel, and Camp Belknap.
- **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE OF PALO ALTO:** The Palo Alto battlefield within the park boundary retains a high level of integrity that provides an opportunity to experience the site much as it looked during the time of the battle in 1846.
- **RESACA DE LA PALMA LANDSCAPE:** A green space in an urban setting, the Resaca de la Palma landscape presents a unique opportunity for the park to expand its range of programming and outreach to the community of Brownsville.
- **SCHOLARLY RESEARCH:** Continued scholarly research and data collection about the U.S.–Mexican War utilizing the archeological record, primary documentation, and museum collections allow this fundamental resource to contribute to our understanding of historic events associated with these sites.
- **OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT HISTORY TO PLACE:** The park provides visitors with a place to reflect on and better understand the historic events of the U.S.–Mexican War and its lasting impacts on the relationship between these two nations.







## Other Important Resources and Values

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

Following are other important resources and values for Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park:

- **SPECIES HABITAT:** Habitat protection for native plant and animal species is an important resource management goal for the park.
- **PARTNERSHIPS:** Partnerships in both the United States and Mexico are part of the park's enabling legislation and are an important resource for the park.





## Summary

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park is the only unit of the national park system that preserves and commemorates the U.S.–Mexican War. By stating the park purpose, articulating significance statements, understanding interpretive themes, and identifying the fundamental resources and values that need protection, clear management decisions that fulfill the park purpose can be implemented. This single shared vision of what is most important about the park provides a basis for prioritizing the use of limited resources and the successful long-term protection of the fundamental resources and values of the park. This foundation document serves as the cornerstone for future direction of management of Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.





## Part 2: Dynamic Components

Part 2 consists of two components:

- special mandates and administrative commitments
- assessment of planning and data needs

These components may change after this foundation document is published and may need to be updated periodically.

### Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many of the management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utilities, and other partnering organizations. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park, which expand on or contradict the legislated purpose of the park unit. They are park-specific legislative or judicial requirements that must be fulfilled, along with the park purpose, even if the requirements do not relate to that purpose. Administrative commitments in general are agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, such as memoranda of agreement. These agreements can form a network of partnerships designed to fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. All of these mandates and commitments either dictate some form of management action or will allow particular uses on park lands (e.g., permissible traditional uses, easements or rights-of-way, maintenance needs, use of park facilities or lands, or emergency service responses). Thus, these mandates and commitments are an essential component in the foundation document and in managing and planning for Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

For more information about the existing commitments for the park, please see the inventory of special mandates and agreements matrix in appendix C.





## Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once park purpose, significance statements, and fundamental resources and values have been identified, it is important to consider any additional information and planning tasks necessary to aid the National Park Service in its mission. The assessment of planning and data needs identifies any inherent opportunities, challenges, and trends contained in the gathered information and determines whether any additional planning steps, data needs, and management efforts may be necessary to maintain or protect the existing fundamental resources and values and other important resources and values.

There are three parts that make up the planning and data needs assessment:

1. analysis of fundamental resources and values
2. identification of key or major parkwide issues that need to be addressed by future planning
3. identification and prioritization of data and planning needs

The analysis of fundamental resources and values and identification of major issues leads up to and supports the identification and prioritization of needed plans and studies.



## Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The analysis of fundamental resources and values articulates the importance of each fundamental resource and value, its current status, potential challenges and opportunities, needed data, planning and management decisions, and relevant laws and NPS policies related to management of the resources.



Fundamental Resource or Value	Battlefield Sites, Including Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Fort Brown, Carricitos, and Other Associated Sites
Relationship to Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park commemorates and preserves the sites of the first and only major battles of the U.S.–Mexican War fought north of the Rio Grande.</li> <li>• Palo Alto Battlefield allows visitors to experience one of the few U.S.–Mexican War battle sites on a landscape that is largely unchanged since 1846.</li> <li>• The battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma opened a war that resulted in Mexico ceding half of its land, thus extending U.S. territory to the Pacific Ocean.</li> <li>• Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park remains a symbol of a war that shaped two nations and provides an emotional and physical focal point for understanding and reflecting on this conflict, its causes, and its consequences.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions and Trends	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Park Service currently owns roughly 33% of the total acres within the park’s authorized boundary.</li> <li>• The park owns about 80% of the core Palo Alto Battlefield, and the remaining 20% in the eastern and southern portion of the battlefield are privately, state, or otherwise owned.</li> <li>• The National Park Service currently owns 34 acres of the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield.</li> <li>• The Fort Brown earthworks are not owned by the National Park Service; these earthworks have been altered by a variety of actions, but they still retain subsurface integrity.</li> <li>• Some partnership agreements regarding Fort Brown are being negotiated with the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC).</li> <li>• The National Park Service does not own subsurface mineral rights to these sites.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is increasing development of lands surrounding the battle sites.</li> <li>• Ecotourism, specifically bird watching, is increasing in the region.</li> <li>• The popularity of cultural and heritage tourism continues to grow.</li> <li>• Crime and violence are on the increase along the United States–Mexico border, along with incidents requiring park law enforcement involvement within both Resaca de la Palma and Palo Alto.</li> <li>• The number of wind farms in the region is on the rise.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Battlefield Sites, Including Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Fort Brown, Carricitos, and Other Associated Sites
Challenges and Opportunities	<p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portions of the battlefield within the authorized boundary not owned by the park could be developed in a manner inconsistent with battlefield protection.</li> <li>• Development and urbanization in the Palo Alto area is increasing. Urban encroachment on the south boundary is of particular concern.</li> <li>• There is a lack of recognition, advocacy, and stewardship of battlefield sites within the local community.</li> <li>• Noise and air pollution are increasing.</li> <li>• Wind farms may have an effect on the viewshed at Palo Alto.</li> <li>• Oil and gas development in the area may present challenges to battlefield protection goals.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation of the natural landscape benefits all park visitors by allowing history enthusiasts the opportunity to view the battlegrounds in their historic state and nature enthusiasts the opportunity to enjoy vegetation and wildlife in their natural landscape.</li> <li>• Locating and interpreting the Carricitos site would fulfill the park's congressional mandate of conducting joint research and interpretative planning of related war sites and is an opportunity to increase visitation and recognition.</li> <li>• Expanding heritage tourism could result in increased visitation and recognition.</li> <li>• Institutes of higher learning such as The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College could be engaged in partnerships to create a research center and explore other partnership opportunities.</li> <li>• New development, particularly on State Highway 550, with additional traffic could increase visitation.</li> <li>• Working with the community to interpret and preserve the Fort Brown earthworks is an opportunity for increased visitation to Palo Alto and increased recognition and support from the community of Brownsville.</li> <li>• The bike/hike trail could be expanded to Fort Brown, connecting this site to Resaca de la Palma and Palo Alto.</li> <li>• The park provides youth employment, healthy activities, and exercise opportunities.</li> <li>• There are many opportunities to tie into Call to Action goals including engaging youth in the stewardship and maintenance of the battlefield.</li> </ul>
Existing Information (e.g. data, plans) about the FRV that provides knowledge base for planning and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archeological research.</li> <li>• Historic research.</li> <li>• Park Plans (general management plan, land protection plan, interpretive plan).</li> <li>• Vegetation studies.</li> <li>• City/council planning and zoning documents (important sources of information to evaluate the land use trends surrounding the battlefields).</li> </ul>
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descendants of Mexican War Veterans</li> <li>• The University of Texas at Brownsville</li> <li>• Texas Southmost College</li> <li>• Brownsville Visitors</li> <li>• Convention and Visitor Bureau</li> <li>• Friends groups and stakeholders (PAAL Park Committee, Los Caminos del Rio, Cameron County Historical Society, Descendants of Mexican War veterans, military historians, living history groups)</li> <li>• International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)</li> <li>• City of Brownsville</li> <li>• Palo Verde Homeowners Association at Resaca de la Palma</li> </ul>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Battlefield Sites, Including Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Fort Brown, Carricitos, and Other Associated Sites
Identified Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the national historic landmark nomination in order to expand the boundary for Fort Brown.</li> <li>Research and locate Carricitos site.</li> <li>Gather data on water, sewer, and power at Resaca de la Palma.</li> <li>Complete natural resources inventories at Resaca de la Palma specifically to identify invasive plant species and associated issues.</li> <li>Determine regulatory laws and water rights of the resaca at Resaca de la Palma, and the roles and responsibilities of the National Park Service.</li> </ul>
Identified Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site and management planning for Carricitos and Fort Brown.</li> <li>Plan to form partnerships and a friends group for the park.</li> <li>Unit management plan for Resaca de la Palma (including EA/EIS) or possible amendment to the existing general management plan would be ideal.</li> <li>Interpretive plan for other potential additions including Fort Brown and Carricitos.</li> </ul>
Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Park-specific Laws or Policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General management plan</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management</li> <li>Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Historic Landscape at Palo Alto
Relationship to Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park commemorates and preserves the sites of the first and only major battles of the U.S.–Mexican War fought north of the Rio Grande.</li> <li>Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park remains a symbol of a war that shaped two nations and provides an emotional and physical focal point for understanding and reflecting on this conflict, its causes, and its consequences.</li> <li>Palo Alto Battlefield allows visitors to experience one of the few U.S.–Mexican War battle sites on a landscape that is largely unchanged since 1846.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions and Trends	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cultural landscape of the Palo Alto Battlefield is in good condition and retains its appearance as a battlefield. Some vegetation management work is needed to return the battlefield to its 1846 state.</li> <li>Some nonnative plant and animal species inhabit the Palo Alto Battlefield, impacting the historic landscape.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twentieth century drainage projects and highway construction have truncated the historic floodplain and permanently altered the hydrologic regime, allowing woody vegetation to invade the open prairie. Past land management practices, including land clearing and the suppression of fire, have exacerbated these changes.</li> <li>Hydrology has changed and continues to change, resulting in a shift in vegetation.</li> <li>There are some invasive grasses, but these are not a major problem.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Historic Landscape at Palo Alto
<b>Challenges and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban encroachment and development within the viewshed and soundscape impact the historical landscape and visitor enjoyment.</li> <li>• Visitor use, including visitors engaging in illegal activities, going off-trail, and biking could destroy the historic landscape.</li> <li>• Pigs and nilgai are outcompeting native species and creating animal trails throughout the park causing erosion, impacting the historic landscape, and spreading additional invasive species.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an opportunity to develop infrastructure to support visitor use using innovative 21st-century technologies such as self-composting toilets and solar technology.</li> <li>• Palo Alto Battlefield could be revegetated with cordgrass to restore it to the historic landscape.</li> <li>• These restoration activities would provide an opportunity to educate visitors about the original state of the cultural landscapes and efforts to return them to that state.</li> <li>• Restoration projects could be used to engage and employ youth to assist with rehabilitation of the cultural landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Existing information (e.g., data, plans) about the FRV that provides knowledge base for planning and management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire management plan.</li> <li>• Vegetation management plan.</li> <li>• Some viewshed analyses have been completed for Palo Alto.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Data Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viewshed analysis on the Brownsville industrial park proposed on the southern edge of the boundary of Palo Alto and the launch pad for SpaceX, a commercial space exploration facility that will be visible on the eastern horizon.</li> <li>• Viewshed analysis on surrounding properties to determine potential effects on visual resources resulting from the development of those areas.</li> <li>• Continue efforts to acquire EARL LIDAR technology for monitoring vegetation.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalization of vegetation management plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Park-specific Laws or Policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General management plan</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> </ul>









Fundamental Resource or Value	Resaca de la Palma Landscape
Relationship to Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park commemorates and preserves the sites of the first and only major battles of the U.S.–Mexican War fought north of the Rio Grande.</li> <li>Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park remains a symbol of a war that shaped two nations and provides an emotional and physical focal point for understanding and reflecting on this conflict, its causes, and its consequences.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions and Trends	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The urban areas surrounding the park remain stable with no new development planned within the vicinity of the park.</li> <li>The Resaca de La Palma Battlefield is in poor condition due to past development that has impacted the archeological and historical integrity of the site.</li> <li>The entrance gate to the site remains closed to visitors, except during special tours and events.</li> <li>Visitor facilities on the site are limited; a picnic pavilion, walking trail, and wayside exhibits provide some visitor amenities; however, there is no parking lot, access points, or restrooms for visitors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the community of Brownsville becomes increasingly urbanized, Resaca de la Palma may serve as an important green space within the community.</li> <li>With limited visitor amenities and access, visitation at the site is low, despite its location in an urban population center.</li> </ul>
Challenges and Opportunities	<p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodating visitor use is a challenge without established visitor facilities such as parking, restrooms, or established gateways.</li> <li>A lack of NPS presence on the site leads to visitor misuse and misunderstanding of the site.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revegetating portions of Resaca de la Palma could restore a sense of place to the cultural landscape. The center area of Resaca de la Palma could be retained as a nontraditional use area or as an urban park and could be used for interpretive programs that cannot be given at Palo Alto.</li> <li>There is an opportunity to develop infrastructure to support visitor use using innovative 21st-century technologies such as self-composting toilets and solar technology.</li> <li>Opportunities for visitors to learn about the role of the parks in the community by creating a greater NPS presence on the site.</li> <li>Restoration projects could be used to engage and employ youth to assist with rehabilitation of the cultural landscape.</li> </ul>
Existing information (e.g., data, plans) about the FRV that provides knowledge base for planning and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans from the City of Brownsville, The University of Texas at Brownsville, and Texas Southmost College considering the Resaca de la Palma as a potential observation tower location.</li> <li>A Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) Resaca de la Palma management plan that could be built on to guide management at the site.</li> </ul>
Identified Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine the water rights at the Resaca de la Palma.</li> <li>A quantitative natural resource inventory is needed to complement the basic qualitative natural resource inventory that has already been completed.</li> </ul>
Identified Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit management plan for the Resaca de la Palma.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Resaca de la Palma Landscape
Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Park-specific Laws or Policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General management plan</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Research including the Archeological Record, Primary Documentation, Museum Collections, and Cooperative Agreements
Relationship to Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park remains a symbol of a war that shaped two nations and provides an emotional and physical focal point for understanding and reflecting on this conflict, its causes, and its consequences.</li> </ul>
Current Conditions and Trends	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The archeological record at Palo Alto Battlefield retains a high level of integrity.</li> <li>• Fort Brown has good subsurface integrity.</li> <li>• The archeological record at Resaca de la Palma is in poor condition due to past development and disturbance at the site.</li> <li>• Primary documentation is located in several different locations including The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, but the majority is within the park.</li> <li>• The museum collection is in good condition; a collection condition survey is to be completed soon.</li> <li>• A memorandum of understanding with The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College is in place for the library collection stored at the university.</li> <li>• Archives in both the United States and Mexico have achieved a good level of digitization.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the collection has been photographed—300 artifacts were professionally photographed and nearly 2,500 artifacts that were collected during the recent systematic survey of the core battlefield have pre- and post-conservation photographs (digital images). Artifacts from earlier archeological investigations (1979, 1992) do not have digital images, but some slide film and prints of selective artifacts.</li> <li>• The museum collection is well protected using NPS standards for museum storage cabinets and exhibit cases, barring a major disaster such as a category 3 hurricane or fire.</li> <li>• NPS museum collections standards are not being met for some resources due to the environmental conditions of the collections storage facility at the leased park headquarters space. There is currently no separate HVAC system for the collections storage room.</li> <li>• There is currently no strategy or plan in place for moving microfiche to a digital format.</li> <li>• Looting of artifacts, while still a challenge, has decreased over time due to a greater NPS and Border Patrol presence in the community.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Research including the Archeological Record, Primary Documentation, Museum Collections, and Cooperative Agreements
Challenges and Opportunities	<p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looting due to lack of public education and no law enforcement staff at the park is increasing.</li> <li>• Looting at the Fort Brown earthworks is decreasing due to the border fence and presence of Border Patrol agents.</li> <li>• Organizations managing land on and around the Fort Brown earthworks are unaware of the resources that results in inadvertent archeological resource damage.</li> <li>• A new generation of metal detector enthusiasts is growing in the community.</li> <li>• A change in the internal structure of The University of Texas and Texas Southmost College presents near-term uncertainty and concern to the park's relationship with the university and the future location of the library archives.</li> <li>• Rooting activities of feral pigs can disturb the context of archeological deposits.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for digitization of the primary documentation presents the park with an opportunity to take a proactive role in the process and to provide digital links to the primary documentation.</li> <li>• There are opportunities for new archeological discoveries to engage researchers.</li> <li>• There is an opportunity to partner with universities to digitize records.</li> <li>• By reaching out and embracing the new generation of metal detector enthusiasts, the park can create opportunities for education in archeology and archeological resource preservation.</li> </ul>
Existing Information (e.g., data, plans) about the FRV that provides knowledge base for planning and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collections management plan.</li> <li>• Online historic resources and archives, not managed by the National Park Service.</li> <li>• Archeological record documentation (ongoing).</li> <li>• The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) report on the Cultural Landscape of Fort Brown.</li> </ul>
Identified Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to identify which resources from the archives and collections have been digitized to allow the park to create a strategy for filling the gaps and providing information electronically.</li> <li>• Archival survey for Palo Alto Battlefield collection.</li> <li>• Consolidating park information and institutional knowledge in a single repository would be beneficial for future park managers; this includes interactions with the public and information generated from Facebook.</li> <li>• Informal administrative history.</li> </ul>
Identified Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan or strategy for moving microfiche to a digital format.</li> </ul>
Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Park-specific Laws or Policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General management plan</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management</li> <li>• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment"</li> <li>• Director's Order 24: Museum Collections Management</li> <li>• Director's Order 28A: Archeology</li> </ul>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Opportunities to Connect History to Place
<b>Relationship to Significance Statements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park commemorates and preserves the sites of the first and only major battles of the U.S.–Mexican War fought north of the Rio Grande.</li> <li>• Palo Alto Battlefield allows visitors to experience one of the few U.S.–Mexican War battle sites on a landscape that is largely unchanged since 1846.</li> <li>• Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park remains a symbol of a war that shaped two nations and provides an emotional and physical focal point for understanding and reflecting on this conflict, its causes, and its consequences.</li> </ul>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park is currently providing visitors with an understanding of the history of Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.</li> <li>• The local community is not aware of the park.</li> <li>• Distance learning programs and educational outreach are not being fully utilized and more outreach is needed to increase local visitation of the park.</li> <li>• History enthusiast communities for the U.S.–Mexican War do not exist to the degree they do for the American Civil War.</li> <li>• Unlike the American Civil War, there is no distinct brand or identity for the U.S.–Mexican War.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relationship between the park and the City of Brownsville is improving.</li> <li>• Due to limited school district funding, many local youth do not visit the park unless the park takes the initiative to organize and fund a field trip.</li> <li>• Cuts to school funding for field trips have impacted student visitation to the park.</li> <li>• There is a need to reach the next generation of park visitors through youth programs and youth field trips.</li> <li>• As a large population of local young people live below the poverty line, visitation to the park needs to be made easy and affordable.</li> </ul>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Opportunities to Connect History to Place
<b>Challenges and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no funding to provide facilities at Resaca de la Palma, which could serve as a conduit to raise awareness of the park in the community.</li> <li>• There is no staff to maintain the Resaca de la Palma site and to increase opportunities for visitation.</li> <li>• There are no partnerships to protect the site and raise awareness.</li> <li>• The maintenance of the battlefield trail and visitation could suffer as a result of the lack of funding, staffing, and partnerships.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resaca de la Palma and Fort Brown are blank canvases for both interpretation and site development.</li> <li>• There are opportunities to provide both awareness and advocacy of the battle sites through public outreach.</li> <li>• A hike-bike trail is being developed, connecting the park units to the community, which may increase visitation and awareness.</li> <li>• Expanding partnerships with the City of Brownsville could increase awareness.</li> <li>• There are opportunities to increase outdoor programs, connect with urban youth, and take steps toward the “Connect People to Parks” Call to Action goal.</li> <li>• The location of Resaca de la Palma in an urban area presents the opportunity to increase community engagement and involvement.</li> <li>• The park could develop a volunteer program for Resaca de la Palma and construct an RV hookup to facilitate volunteer presence.</li> <li>• Social media and outreach provide an opportunity to educate people outside the region on what Palo Alto Battlefield is and where it is located.</li> <li>• There are opportunities to pursue grant money to increase outreach.</li> </ul>
<b>Existing Information (e.g., data, plans) about the FRV that provides knowledge base for planning and management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach program and plan.</li> <li>• Recommendations in the long-range interpretive plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Data Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the information and activities needed to engage people and get them to visit the park.</li> <li>• Visitor use survey.</li> <li>• Determine how to relate to out-of-town visitors with a survey to provide measurable data on the expectations and experiences of out-of-town visitors. A CESU project could be used to acquire this data.</li> </ul>
<b>Identified Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan to increase engagement with the local community at Resaca de la Palma.</li> <li>• Traffic and mobility planning for the hike/bike path.</li> <li>• Plan for programming and facilitating visitation to Resaca de la Palma.</li> <li>• Education plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Park-specific Laws or Policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General management plan</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director’s Order 75: Civic Engagement and Public Involvement</li> </ul>

## Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	Species Habitat
<b>Importance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat protection for both native plant and wildlife species is an important resource management goal for the park.</li> </ul>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat condition for native species is fair.</li> <li>Future vegetation management and resources protection zones would provide better habitat for a variety of species. Some native species would benefit from cultural landscape restoration. Restoration would provide habitats for a variety of wildlife such as the Aplomado falcon.</li> <li>Restoration of the resacas would restore amphibian and wetland habitat.</li> <li>Some amphibian species are present, especially after a rain.</li> <li>Migrating birds are plentiful in winter.</li> <li>Fish species inhabit the resacas when water is present.</li> <li>The nilgai, a large nonnative ungulate, inhabits the park.</li> <li>The park provides a refuge for threatened native species such as the Texas horned lizard, Aplomado falcon, Texas tortoise, Texas Indigo snake, and Bailey's ballmoss.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As development increases, Palo Alto Battlefield could be an important green island in the middle of urbanized areas.</li> <li>Native species, including rabbits, javalina, white-tailed deer, as well as local reptiles and insects are being displaced by development.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban encroachment and habitat loss poses a threat.</li> <li>Nonnative nilgai antelope create trails through dense brush and disturb the protected habitat enjoyed by native species.</li> <li>Feral cats and other nonnative species pose a threat to native species and their habitat.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The park can serve as a jump or buffer for other wildlife management areas and provides a haven for native biodiversity and migratory birds.</li> <li>The park provides a wonderful educational opportunity for urban children to see wildlife on a relatively large scale.</li> <li>The park presents an opportunity to provide a natural history component to a cultural resource and to attract visitors who appreciate both natural and cultural history.</li> <li>The Texas tortoise (<i>Gopherus berlandieri</i>) was discovered by and named after Jean Louis Berlandier, a French naturalist and cartographer with the Mexican Army at Palo Alto. This provides a link between ecology and the history of the battles that could be used in interpretive programs.</li> </ul>
<b>Existing Information (e.g., data, plans) about the FRV that provides knowledge base for planning and management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resaca restoration of the adjacent wetland prairie is ongoing.</li> <li>Vegetation management plan.</li> <li>Ongoing monitoring.</li> </ul>





Other Important Resource or Value	Species Habitat
Identified Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing monitoring data for the Texas Tortoise.</li> <li>• Map to document nonnative grass treatments.</li> <li>• Collect baseline data on nilgai herd and hog populations and to identify the extent of destruction to the cultural landscapes caused by these nonnative species.</li> <li>• Identify if there are other nonnative plant and wildlife species in the park.</li> </ul>
Identified Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan to remove nonnative species Nilgai and feral hogs.</li> <li>• Ungulate management plan.</li> </ul>
Laws and Policies that Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Park-specific Laws or Policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General management plan</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director's Order 77-1: Wetland Protection</li> </ul>

Other Important Resource or Value	Partnerships
<b>Importance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships in both the United States and Mexico are part of the park's enabling legislation and are an important resource for the park.</li> </ul>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a lack of community support, partnerships, and follow-through on partnership activities.</li> <li>Partnerships with the Brownsville housing authority have been a success, and youth have visited the park as a result.</li> <li>The local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been an indispensable partner for the resource management staff at the park.</li> <li>Partnerships with Mexico have not been possible due to current border violence. This will likely continue to have a negative effect on future partnership efforts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relationship between the park and the City of Brownsville is improving.</li> <li>Due to limited school district funding, many youth do not visit the park unless the park organizes a field trip.</li> <li>There is a need to reach the next generation of park visitors through youth programs and youth field trips. As a large population of local young people live below the poverty line, visitation to the park needs to be easy and affordable or the park needs to develop youth out-reach.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Underfunded school districts reduce the number of children who have the opportunity to visit Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.</li> <li>There is a general lack of public awareness regarding the existence of the park. Many are unaware of the NPS role within the national government and are unaware they are welcome to visit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an opportunity to encourage an attitude of area youth that "this is my park." Some populations do not feel welcome.</li> <li>There is an opportunity to develop stronger relationships with school districts, both inside and outside Brownsville. This is a key approach to engage youth and the next generation.</li> <li>Listening sessions provide an opportunity to obtain input from the community (Hispanics and youths).</li> <li>There are opportunities to give interpretive presentations in public spaces such as libraries and community centers throughout the community.</li> </ul>





Other Important Resource or Value	Partnerships
Existing Information (e.g., data, plans) about the FRV that provides knowledge base for planning and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-range interpretive plan</li> <li>• General management plan</li> </ul>
Identified Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening sessions provide an opportunity to obtain input from the community (Hispanics and youth).</li> <li>• Determine ways to make Palo Alto Battlefield relevant to the next generation of national park users.</li> <li>• Identify a friends group to facilitate fundraising, political influence, and community advocacy.</li> <li>• Identify alternative ways to take the park to the public.</li> </ul>
Identified Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy for partner and public outreach and engagement.</li> </ul>
Laws and Policies that Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Park-specific Laws or Policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General management plan</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director's Order 75: Civic Engagement and Public Involvement</li> </ul>





## Summary of Servicewide Legal and Policy Requirements

Management decisions at Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park are based on specific laws, policies, and regulations designed to protect environmental quality, preserve historic resources, promote public enjoyment, and ensure the benefits and costs of federal action are equitably shared by all citizens. The primary laws that are of particular importance to the decision-making process and management in the National Park Service are outlined below. (See appendix B for a detailed list of legislation specific to Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park).



The National Park Service and its mandates are authorized under the NPS Organic Act (16 United States Code (USC) 1, 2-4) and the General Authorities Act (16 USC 1a-8). These acts direct the agency to conserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects, and the wildlife, and to provide for the enjoyment of those resources in such a manner as to leave them unimpaired for future generations. Amending the NPS Organic Act, the Redwood Act (March 27, 1978, 16 USC 1a-1) further states that the National Park Service may not allow derogation of the values and purposes for which the various park units were established. This act also affirms that if a conflict occurs between visitor use and protection of resources, the intent of Congress is to favor resource protection.



The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions. The National Environmental Protection Act established the format and process that the National Park Service must use in preparing the environmental analyses that are incorporated in the park's general management plan.



The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, establishes a federal policy that mandates the historical and cultural foundation of the nation's heritage be preserved. Section 106 requires that federal agencies that have direct or indirect jurisdiction over undertakings consider the effect of those undertakings on cultural resources eligible for or included in the National Register of Historic Places.



Repatriation, disposition, and protection of American Indian human remains and other defined cultural items are provided by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act also prohibits the intentional excavation and removal of American Indian human remains and defined cultural property from federal or tribal lands without consultation with American Indian tribes.



The Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, to use their authority in furtherance of the purposes of the act and to carry out programs for the conservation of listed endangered and threatened species (16 USC 1535 7[a][1]). The National Park Service interprets section 7(a)(1) as an affirmative restoration mandate and will comply through positive habitat protection and restoration programs that are integral to the proposed action.



Migratory birds are of great ecological and economic value to this country and to other countries. The United States has recognized the importance of this shared resource by ratifying international, bilateral conventions for the conservation of migratory birds. These migratory bird conventions impose substantive obligations on the United States for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats, and through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the United States has implemented these migratory bird conventions with respect to the United States. Executive Order 13186, “Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds” directs executive departments and agencies to take certain actions to further fulfill the intentions of the act.

Federal regulations state: “for the proper use, management, government, and protection of persons, property, and natural and cultural resources within areas under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service” (36 CFR 1). These regulations are used to fulfill the statutory purposes of units of the national park system: (1) to conserve scenery, natural and historical objects, and wildlife and (2) to provide for the enjoyment of those resources in a manner that will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

The NPS Management Policies 2006 is the basic servicewide policy document of the National Park Service. It is the highest of three levels of guidance documents in the NPS Directives System. The directives system is designed to provide the NPS management and staff with clear and continuously updated information on NPS policy and required and/or recommended actions and any other information that will help them manage parks and programs effectively.





## Identification of Key Parkwide or Major Issues

All parks face a variety of issues that must be addressed now or through future planning. An issue is a point or matter that must be decided. A key parkwide or major issue may raise questions regarding park purpose and significance. Or there may be other questions of importance that, in the judgment of NPS staff, need to be addressed in future planning.

Following are key or major issues and associated planning and data needs for Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park:

**REGIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.** As a border community between the United States and Mexico, the city of Brownsville has seen tremendous regional growth since Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park's establishment and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and other international treaties between these two nations have influenced the development of industrial parkways and new transportation systems around the park. Working with local municipalities and community members to ensure compatible growth meets the needs of regional development, as well as resource protection within the park is an important parkwide challenge that needs consideration.

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.** Fully engaging the diverse community surrounding Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park continues to be a challenge facing the park. Defining the National Park Service identity separately from other federal agencies and creating a better understanding that the park is a place for all members of the community was discussed throughout the workshop. The creation of a park friends group and developing local park advocates were also identified as key issues facing the future success of the park's efforts to address civic engagement.

**MINERAL RIGHTS.** Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park does not own the subsurface mineral rights within the park's current boundary. As interest and demand increases for oil and gas exploration in South Texas, access to and management of these mineral rights needs to be considered a key parkwide challenge.







## Prioritization of Planning and Data Needs

This section prioritizes the need for future plans and studies or research for Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park. It provides a comprehensive review and prioritization of plans and data needed to maintain and protect the park's fundamental (and other important) resources and values, as well as address key parkwide and other major challenges. This information will be used by the park, NPS Intermountain Regional Office, and the NPS Washington planning office to determine priorities and consider the future funding needs of Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.



Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Planning and Data Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV	Unit Management Plan for Resaca de la Palma	H	Developing a unit management plan for Resaca de la Palma is a necessary step before facilities and other management and visitor use needs can be addressed.
FRV	Museum Collections Management Plan	H	A collections management plan is needed to make materials available for research and education. Microfilm needs to be digitized to prevent the loss of information. The collections storage facility needs to be upgraded to meet NPS standards. Moving the collections to a new building is an option, but the primary goal is to keep the collections at the park.
OIRV	Civic Engagement Strategy (Partnership Plan & Economic Study)	H	A civic engagement strategy is needed to increase awareness of the park by the local community, to increase capacity of and visitation to the park, and to determine the public's ideas and attitudes on funding. This strategy could include public outreach activities, creating partnerships with local groups, increasing youth employment and engagement, pursuing grants, and developing programs such as "ticket to ride." An additional component of this plan would include an economic study to provide data, analysis, and information on the economic value of the park for the local community and to identify the park as an economic driver, ultimately improving the position of the park within the community and increasing local support.
FRV	Update Long Range Interpretive Plan to include Resaca de la Palma	M	An update to the long-range interpretive plan is needed to address Resaca de la Palma and possible new additions such as Carricitos and Fort Brown. A component of this update would include education development planning.
FRV	Trail Access, Use, and Needs Plan at Palo Alto Battlefield	M	A trail access use and needs plan is needed to improve capacity, create sanctioned trails for birding and biking, and allow access to the north part of Palo Alto Battlefield.
OIRV	Exotic Species Management Plan (nilgai, feral hogs, invasive plant species)	L	A management plan for the eradication and removal of some nonnative species and the management of others is needed to protect the habitat of native plant and wildlife species.
FRV	Fort Brown Boundary Study	L	A boundary study of the Fort Brown site is needed to determine the full extent of the fortifications and the potential for archeological research. This study would provide needed information on potential future management strategies for the site as well as the need for future legislated boundary adjustments.
OIRV	Visitor Use Survey – "Listening Sessions"	H	A visitor use survey is needed to inform planning efforts. Information on local versus national visitation, winter visitors, visitor demographics, and Easter visitation would be compiled. Quantitative data will allow information to better target the appropriate audience.

Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Planning and Data Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
FRV	Viewshed Analyses at Palo Alto Battlefield – GIS Data	H	A viewshed analysis at Palo Alto Battlefield is needed to provide data to develop tools to address regional growth, help the park demonstrate relevancy within the community, develop buy-in from the community, and provide data to coordinate with the community zoning board.
OIRV	Legal Opinion on Resaca de la Palma Water Rights	H	A legal opinion on the water rights to Resaca de la Palma is needed to determine if there are any existing regulatory issues or challenges and to inform management decisions related to water quality, liability, reasonable care, and access.
FRV	Archival Survey of Park Collections and Archives	H	This project would coordinate with the Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC) archives program. A survey of park collections and archives would explore the concept of the park as a resource/research center and could involve creating a digital clearinghouse for online resources, an interpretive/media center, and would complement collections management and partnership plans. The project could involve a partnership with universities.
OIRV	Natural Resource Inventory at the Resaca de la Palma	H	A quantitative natural resource inventory is needed to complement the basic qualitative natural resource inventory, which has been completed.
OIRV	Exotic Grass Treatment – GIS Data	M	Additional quantitative data is needed to inform planning needs for nonnative plant management.
OIRV	Nilgai and Feral Hog Study	M	A nilgai and hog study is needed to provide baseline data for informed decision making. Currently, no population studies have been completed. This data would also inform the nonnative species management plan.
OIRV	Inventory and Monitoring of Future Land Acquired by the Park	L	Identified as a long-term data need, future inventory, and monitoring efforts on potential land acquired by the park would need to be conducted. The Valley Sound parcel within the park's legislated boundary is privately owned, but the park is currently in the land acquisition process.





## Part 3: Preparers, Consultants, and Workshop Attendees

### Preparers

Jordan Hoaglund, Project Manager, NPS Denver Service Center

Justin Henderson, Cultural Resource Specialist, NPS Denver Service Center

Brenda K. Todd, Cultural Resource Specialist, NPS Denver Service Center



### Consultants

Nancy Shock, Foundation Coordinator, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Division

Pam Holtman, Quality Assurance Coordinator, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Division

Melody Bentfield, Contract Librarian, NPS Denver Service Center



### Workshop Attendees

Mark Spier, Superintendent, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park

Douglas Murphy, Chief of Operations, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park

Rolando Garza, Chief of Resource Management, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park

Daniel Ibarra, Park Ranger, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park

Karen Weaver, Park Ranger, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park

Skip Meehan, Regional Planner, NPS Intermountain Region Office Liaison

Darcee Killpack, Regional GIS Coordinator, NPS Intermountain Region Office

Jordan Hoaglund, Project Manager, NPS Denver Service Center

Justin Henderson, Cultural Resource Specialist, NPS Denver Service Center



# APPENDIX A: ENABLING LEGISLATION AND LEGISLATIVE ACTS FOR PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

PUBLIC LAW 111–11—MAR. 30, 2009

123 STAT. 1201

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out using any assistance made available under this subsection shall be 50 percent.

(B) STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICES.—Matching grants for historic preservation specific to the network may be made available through State historic preservation offices.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

## SEC. 7112. MARTIN VAN BUREN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

New York.  
16 USC 461 note.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term “historic site” means the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in the State of New York established by Public Law 93–486 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) on October 26, 1974.

(2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Boundary Map, Martin Van Buren National Historic Site”, numbered “460/80801”, and dated January 2005.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC SITE.—

(1) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundary of the historic site is adjusted to include approximately 261 acres of land identified as the “PROPOSED PARK BOUNDARY”, as generally depicted on the map.

(2) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may acquire the land and any interests in the land described in paragraph (1) from willing sellers by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Land acquired for the historic site under this section shall be administered as part of the historic site in accordance with applicable law (including regulations).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

## SEC. 7113. PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Texas.

(a) DESIGNATION OF PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site shall be known and designated as the “Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park”.

16 USC 410nnn  
note.

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the historic site referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

16 USC 410nnn  
note.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; Public Law 102–304) is amended—

(A) by striking “National Historic Site” each place it appears and inserting “National Historical Park”;



(B) in the heading for section 3, by striking “**NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**” and inserting “**NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**”; and

(C) by striking “historic site” each place it appears and inserting “historical park”.

(b) **BOUNDARY EXPANSION, PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, TEXAS.**—Section 3(b) of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; Public Law 102-304) (as amended by subsection (a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1) The historical park” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The historical park”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) **ADDITIONAL LAND.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to the land described in paragraph (1), the historical park shall consist of approximately 34 acres of land, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Palo Alto Battlefield NHS Proposed Boundary Expansion’, numbered 469/80,012, and dated May 21, 2008.

“(B) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—The map described in subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.”; and

(4) in paragraph (3) (as redesignated by paragraph (2))—

(A) by striking “(3) Within” and inserting the following:

“(3) **LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**—Not later than”; and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “map referred to in paragraph (1)” and inserting “maps referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2)”.

Kentucky.  
16 USC 217b.

**SEC. 7114. ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in the State of Kentucky shall be known and designated as the “Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park”.

(b) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park”.

**SEC. 7115. NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER.**

Section 1106 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460m-20) is amended in the first sentence by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

**SEC. 7116. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

(a) **GAYLORD NELSON WILDERNESS.**—

(1) **REDESIGNATION.**—Section 140 of division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 108-447), is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “Gaylord A. Nelson” and inserting “Gaylord Nelson”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(4), by striking “Gaylord A. Nelson Wilderness” and inserting “Gaylord Nelson Wilderness”.



106 STAT. 256

PUBLIC LAW 102-304—JUNE 23, 1992

**Public Law 102-304**  
**102d Congress**

**An Act**

June 23, 1992  
 [H.R. 1642]

To establish in the State of Texas the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds that:

(1) The study conducted by the National Park Service under section 506(b) of Public Law 95-625 has resulted in a precise identification of the location of the Battle of Palo Alto and the area requiring protection.

(2) Palo Alto is the only unit of the National Park System directed to the preservation and interpretation of resources related to the Mexican-American War.

**SEC. 3. PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—In order to preserve for the education, benefit, and inspiration of present and future generations the nationally significant site of the first battle of the Mexican-American War, and to provide for its interpretation in such manner as to portray the battle and the Mexican-American War and its related political, diplomatic, military and social causes and consequences, there is hereby established the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site in the State of Texas (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “historic site”).

(b) **BOUNDARY.**—(1) The historic site shall consist of approximately 3,400 acres as generally depicted on the map entitled “Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site”, numbered 469-80,002, and dated March 1991. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

(2) Within 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall file a legal description of the historic site with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate. Such legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographic errors in such legal description and in the map referred to in paragraph (1). The legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Secretary may, from time to time, make minor revisions in the boundary of the historic site.

Palo Alto  
 Battlefield  
 National  
 Historic Site  
 Act of 1991.  
 16 USC 461  
 note.  
 16 USC 461  
 note.

16 USC 461  
 note.





## PUBLIC LAW 102-304—JUNE 23, 1992

106 STAT. 257

**SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.**16 USC 461  
note.

The Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall manage the historic site in accordance with this Act and the provisions of law generally applicable to the National Park System, including the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666). The Secretary shall protect, manage, and administer the historic site for the purposes of preserving and interpreting the cultural and natural resources of the historic site and providing for the public understanding and appreciation of the historic site in such a manner as to perpetuate these qualities and values for future generations.

Conservation.

**SEC. 5. LAND ACQUISITION.**16 USC 461  
note.

Within the historic site, the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands and interest in lands by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange. Lands or interests in lands owned by the State of Texas or political subdivisions thereof may be acquired only by donation.

**SEC. 6. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**16 USC 461  
note.

In furtherance of the purposes of this Act, the Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the United States of Mexico, in accordance with existing international agreements, and with other owners of Mexican-American War properties within the United States of America for the purposes of conducting joint research and interpretive planning for the historic site and related Mexican-American War sites. Interpretive information and programs shall reflect historical data and perspectives of both countries and the series of historical events associated with the Mexican-American War.

**SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT PLAN.**16 USC 461  
note.

Within 3 years after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, a general management plan for the historic site. The plan shall be consistent with section 12 of the Act of August 18, 1970 (16 U.S.C. 1a-7) and with the purposes of this Act and shall include (but not be limited to) each of the following:

- (1) A resource protection program including land acquisition needs.
- (2) A general visitor use and interpretive program.
- (3) A general development plan including such roads, trails, markers, structures, and other improvements and facilities as may be necessary for the accommodation of visitor use in accordance with the purposes of this Act and the need to preserve the integrity of the historic site.
- (4) A research plan.
- (5) Identification of appropriate cooperative agreements as identified in section 6.

106 STAT. 258

PUBLIC LAW 102-304—JUNE 23, 1992

16 USC 461  
note.**SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There is authorized to be appropriated \$6,000,000 for acquisition of lands and interests in lands for purposes of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site.

Approved June 23, 1992.









## APPENDIX B: RELATED FEDERAL LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS, AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS

92 STAT. 3500

PUBLIC LAW 95-625—NOV. 10, 1978

### Native Hawaiians.

For the purposes of this section, native Hawaiians are defined as any lineal descendants of the race inhabiting the Hawaiian Islands prior to the year 1778.

### Kaloko- Honokohau Na Hoa Pili O Kaloko- Honokohau. Establishment. Membership.

(f) (1) There is hereby established the Kaloko-Honokohau Na Hoa Pili O Kaloko-Honokohau (The Friends of Kaloko-Honokohau), an Advisory Commission for the park. The Commission shall be composed of nine members, appointed by the Secretary, at least five of whom shall be selected from nominations provided by native Hawaiian organizations. All members of the Commission shall be residents of the State of Hawaii, and at least six members shall be native Hawaiians. Members of the Commission shall be appointed for five-year terms except that initial appointment(s) shall consist of two members appointed for a term of five years, two for a term of four years, two for a term of three years, two for a term of two years, and one for a term of one year. No member may serve more than one term consecutively.

### Chairman.

(2) The Secretary shall designate one member of the Commission to be Chairman. Any vacancy in the Commission shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of the term.

### Compensation and expenses.

(3) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation. The Secretary is authorized to pay the expenses reasonably incurred by the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities under this section on vouchers signed by the Chairman.

### Duties.

(4) The Superintendent of the park, the National Park Service State Director, Hawaii, a person appointed by the Governor of Hawaii, and a person appointed by the mayor of the county of Hawaii, shall serve as ex officio nonvoting members of the Commission.

(5) The Commission shall advise the Director, National Park Service, with respect to the historical, archeological, cultural, and interpretive programs of the park. The Commission shall afford particular emphasis to the quality of traditional native Hawaiian culture demonstrated in the park.

### Meetings.

(6) The Commission shall meet not less than twice a year. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman.

### Termination.

(7) The Advisory Commission shall terminate ten years after the date of enactment of this Act.

### Appropriation authorization.

(g) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$25,000,000 for acquisition and \$1,000,000 for development.

### PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

### Establishment. 16 USC 461 note.

SEC. 506. (a) In order to preserve and commemorate for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations an area of unique historical significance as one of only two important battles of the Mexican War fought on American soil, the Secretary is authorized to establish the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site in the State of Texas.

### Lands and interests, acquisition.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the Secretary is authorized to acquire by donation, purchase, or exchange, not to exceed fifty acres of lands and interests therein, comprising the initial unit, in the vicinity of the site of the battle of Palo Alto, at the junction of Farm Roads 1847 and 511, 6.3 miles north of Brownsville, Texas. The Secretary shall complete a study and recommend to the Congress such additions as are required to fully protect the historic integrity of the battlefield by June 30, 1979. The Secretary shall establish the historic site by publication of a notice to that effect in the Federal

### Study and recommendations to Congress. Publication in Federal Register.



PUBLIC LAW 95-625—NOV. 10, 1978

92 STAT. 3501

Register at such time as he determines that sufficient property to constitute an administrable unit has been acquired. Pending such establishment and thereafter, the Secretary shall administer the property acquired pursuant to this section in accordance with this section and provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535) and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666).

(c) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for lands and interests in lands and \$200,000 for development to carry out the provisions of this section.

Administration.

16 USC 1 *et seq.*

16 USC 461 note.

Appropriation  
authorizations.



## APPENDIX C: INVENTORY OF SPECIAL MANDATES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITMENTS

Name	Agreement Type	Stakeholders	Purpose
<b>Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991</b>	Authority	NPS, the United States of Mexico, and other owners of U.S.–Mexican War properties within the United States of America	Legislative authority to enter into cooperative agreements and partnerships for the purposes of conducting joint research and interpretive planning on the U.S.–Mexican War
<b>Archival Stewardship Agreement with the University of Texas / Texas Southmost College</b>	MOU	The University of Texas at Brownsville, Texas Southmost College, NPS	Memorandum of understanding regarding the storage, use, and management of the park's archives at the university campus
<b>Cooperative Wildland Fire Management</b>	MOU	USFWS , NPS	Interagency agreement regarding wildland fire protection and management
<b>Farm Road 1847 Right-of-Way</b>	Right-of-way	Texas Department of Transportation, NPS	Right-of-way for state road running along the western border of the park
<b>Park Staff Sharing Agreement</b>	–	Padre Island National Seashore, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park	Agreement between both parks to share staff (administrative officer position)
<b>Structural Fire Protection</b>	MOU	City of Brownsville, NPS	Agreement with local fire department regarding fire and emergency response
<b>Pipe Line Right-of-Way</b>	Right-of-way	Texas Gas Service, NPS	An oil pipeline runs through the northeast section of the park boundary
<b>Office Space Lease</b>	GSA – Lease	GSA, NPS	Off-site administrative office space is currently leased through GSA
<b>Gift Shop / Concessions Agreement</b>	MOU	Western National Parks Association	A concessions agreement to manage and stock the park bookstore and gift shop.



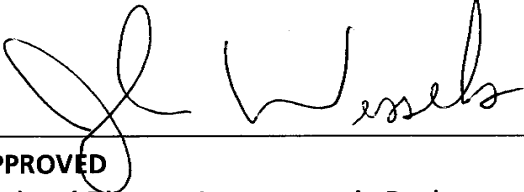
**Intermountain Region Foundation Document Recommendation**  
**Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park**

December 2012

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This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff, facilitated by the Denver Service Center, and is recommended for approval by the Intermountain Regional Director.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**RECOMMENDED**  
Superintendent, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park  
Date Jan. 7, 2013

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**APPROVED**  
Regional Director, Intermountain Region  
Date 1/31/13





As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

PAAL 469/117508;  
June 2013



## Foundation Document • Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR