

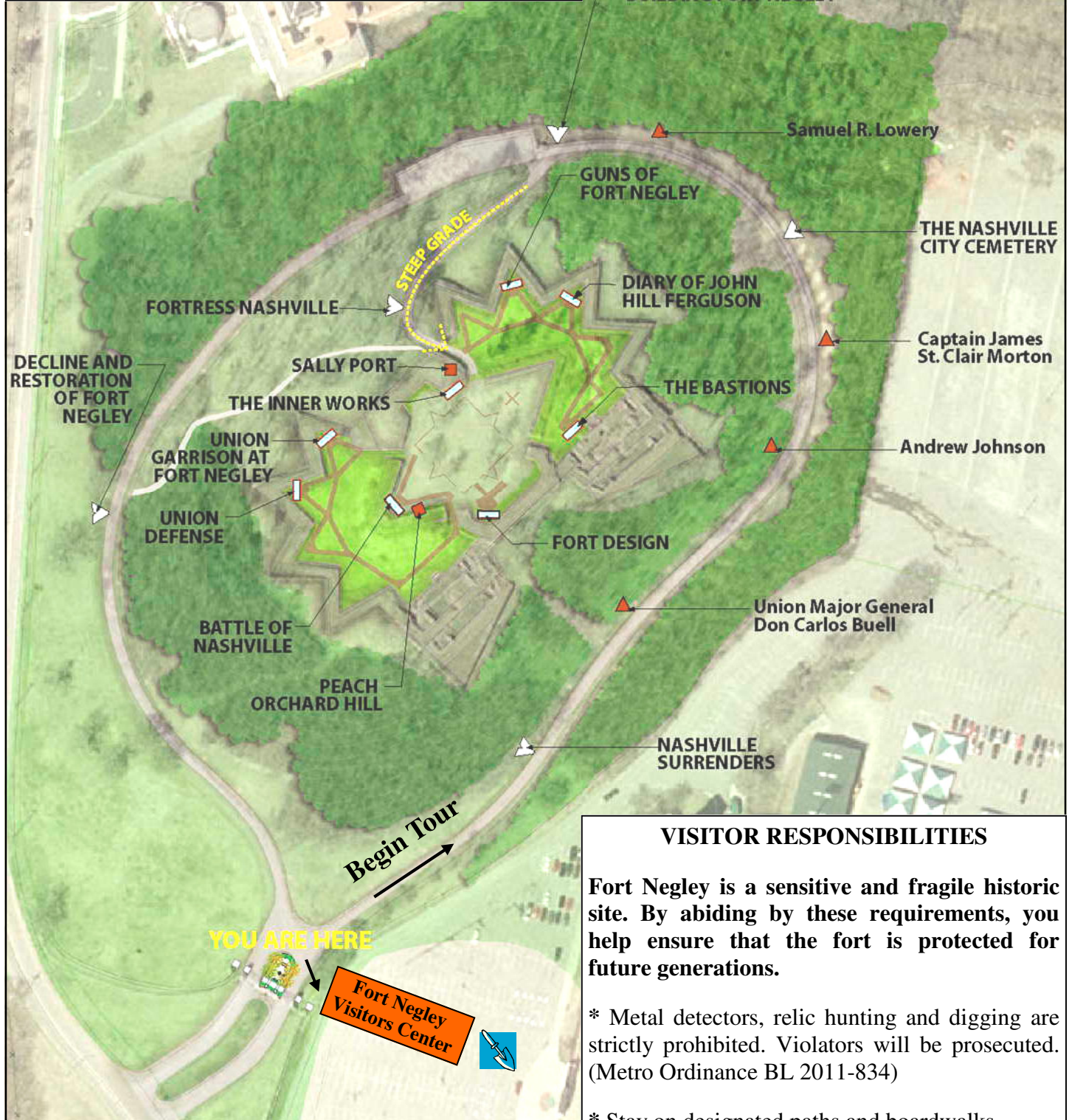


# Fort Negley



1100 Fort Negley Blvd ~ Nashville, TN 37203 ~ 615.862.8470

TO NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY



## VISITOR RESPONSIBILITIES


Fort Negley is a sensitive and fragile historic site. By abiding by these requirements, you help ensure that the fort is protected for future generations.

\* Metal detectors, relic hunting and digging are strictly prohibited. Violators will be prosecuted. (Metro Ordinance BL 2011-834)

\* Stay on designated paths and boardwalks.

\* DO NOT CLIMB on or otherwise disturb stonework. Some walls are unstable; disturbing them puts your safety and the integrity of the site at risk.

## Fossils *at the* Fort

 Fossil Collection Site Sponsored by Vulcan Materials Company  
Explore the pile and discover clues to Middle Tennessee's ancient marine past! Anything you find is yours to keep!

*Fort Negley, the largest inland stone fort built during the Civil War, covers four acres and measures 600 feet long by 300 feet wide.*



*Fort Negley, George Barnard, 1864*

Nashville's strategic location on the Cumberland River and networks of turnpikes and railroads made the city a valuable asset to both the Union and Confederate Armies. Following the surrender to the Union Army on February 25, 1862, Nashville became a fortified stronghold, second only to Washington D.C.

From August through December 1862, more than 2700 conscript laborers, predominately contrabands (runaway slaves) and free Blacks, constructed Fort Negley, atop St. Cloud Hill, as part of a massive fortification system.

Fort Negley's location, size, and guns discouraged Confederate attacks on the city. During the Battle of Nashville, December 15 and 16, 1864, Fort Negley's artillery aided in driving off General Hood's forces.

Tennessee rejoined the Union in July 1867. Union forces occupied Nashville and Fort Negley until September. At that time, the army dismantled the majority of Nashville's defenses.

In 1928, following failed efforts to preserve Fort Negley as a national military park, the City of Nashville purchased the property.

In 1936, 800 men working for the WPA (Works Progress Administration) reconstructed Fort Negley at a cost of \$84,000. The Fort reopened to the public in 1938. The WPA continued to improve the property adding baseball and softball diamonds, bleachers, and restrooms. In 1941, Fort Negley Park, located where Greer Stadium stands today, opened to the public.

Due to severe deterioration throughout World War II, the fort closed in 1945. Fort Negley Park remained in use for another 20 years.



*Aerial View of Fort Negley, 1937*

Interest in Fort Negley grew during the 1990s; *The Parks and Greenways Master Plan* made restoration and interpretation of the Fort a priority. The City of Nashville appropriated \$2.5 million for the project in 2002.

Fort Negley, featuring interpretive panels and accessible walkways, reopened to the public on the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Nashville in December 2004.



Fort Negley Visitors Center, opened in December 2007, features two films, access to the *Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System* maintained by the National Park Service, interactive touch screen exhibits and the Friends of Fort Negley Gift Shop.

Fort Negley Park hosts daily visitors, group tours, school field trips, special events, and history and preservation organizations. The park also serves as the home of the Nashville Civil War Roundtable.

In 2014, *Fossils at the Fort*, an outdoor fossil collection site, opened in partnership with Vulcan Materials Company and Vanderbilt University Department of Earth and Environmental Science. The site encourages visitors to explore Tennessee's ancient marine past and to keep their fossil discoveries.



*Fossils at the Fort Event, 2014*

For more information, please contact Fort Negley Park at 615.862.8470 or [fortnegley@nashville.gov](mailto:fortnegley@nashville.gov) or visit <http://www.nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/Historic-Sites/Fort-Negley.aspx>. Find Fort Negley on Facebook!



For questions, concerns, or requests regarding the American Disabilities Act call 615-862-8470.