



Fort Negley

1100 Fort Negley Blvd ~ Nashville, TN 37203
FortNegley@nashville.gov ~ 615.862.8470
FortNegley.nashville.gov

VISITOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Metal detectors, relic hunting and digging are prohibited. Violators will be prosecuted. (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.


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


Scan here for a free audio tour:





 Interpretive panel


 Fort access trails.


 Historic Fort Structure

 Green shaded area inside fort is open.

 Red shaded area inside fort is closed. Do not cross barricades.

 The Visitors Center offers a film, exhibits, a gift shop, scheduled programs, and restrooms.


 At *Fossils @ the Fort* collection site discover clues to Middle Tennessee's ancient marine past. Anything found in the 250 sq. ft. fossil pile is yours to keep. Removing or digging historic or natural resources elsewhere in the park is prohibited.

 The pollinator garden draws birds, bees and butterflies from April to October.

START



CONTINUE TOUR

Visitors Center

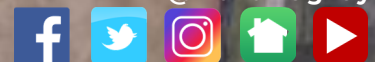


United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

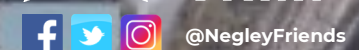
- Site of memory associated to The Slave Route
- Resistance, Liberty, Heritage

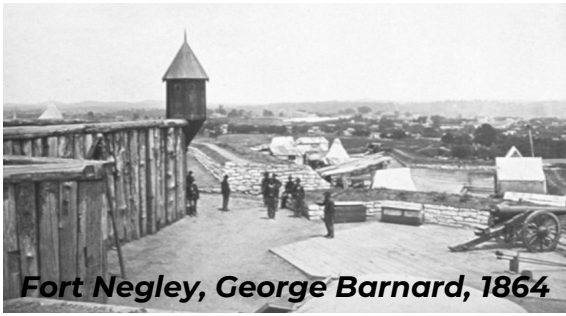
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If you'd like to make a donation please visit FortNegleyPark.org/donate.



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 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.

The army dismantled the majority of Nashville's defenses by the end of 1865, Fort Negley remained occupied until September 1867. Stripped of the cannon, wood, and iron, the fort's stone skeleton represented loss and occupation.

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

In 1935, 800 men working for the WPA (Works Progress Administration) reconstructed Fort Negley at a cost of \$84,000. The fort opened to the public in 1937. The WPA continued to invest in the property adding baseball and softball diamonds, bleachers, and restrooms which opened in 1941. Due to severe deterioration throughout World War II, the fort closed in 1945.

In 1967 and 2015 the city granted Adventure Science Center 50-year leases of the northwest portion of the park.

Fort Negley Park's ball fields remained in heavy use until 1977 when the area was leased out to build Greer Stadium for the minor league baseball team the Nashville Sounds. The Sounds left the park in 2015 for a new stadium downtown. Greer was demolished in 2019.



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 Park, featuring interpretive panels and accessible walkways, reopened to the public on the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Nashville in December 2004.



Fort Negley Visitors Center,

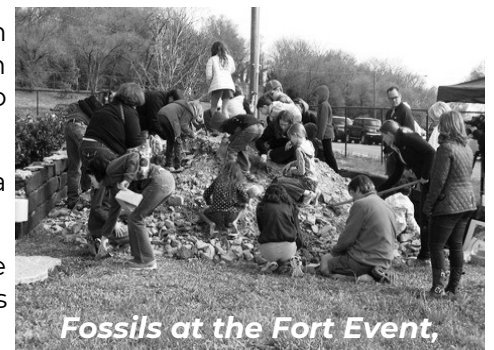
Fort Negley Visitors Center, opened in December 2007, features a film, access to the *Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System* maintained by the National Park Service, touch screen exhibits and the Friends of Fort Negley Park Gift Shop.

Fort Negley Park hosts daily visitors, group tours, field trips, special events, and history and preservation organizations. The park also serves as the home of the Nashville Civil War Roundtable and Sons of Union Veterans Camp 62.

In 2014, *Fossils at the Fort*, an outdoor fossil collection site, opened in partnership with Vulcan Materials Co. and Vanderbilt University Dept. of Earth and Environmental Science. The 250 square foot site encourages visitors to explore Tennessee's ancient marine past and to keep their fossil discoveries.

In 2015, Fort Negley Park again expanded programming to include a milkweed garden in an effort to reestablish lost monarch butterfly habitat.

In 2019 Fort Negley Park was recognized as a UNESCO Slave Route Project site of memory. In 2020 the park was added to National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom trail.



Fossils at the Fort Event,

For more information, please contact Fort Negley Park at 615.862.8470 or fortnegley@nashville.gov or visit FortNegley.nashville.gov.