

**Journey Through Hallowed Ground
Living Legacy Tree Planting Project
UPC 104170**

Overview and Accomplishments to Date

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area is a 180-mile corridor from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania through Maryland and Harpers Ferry, West Virginia to Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia. JTHG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Following the Walt Disney Company's failed attempt to build a "Disney's America" theme park near the Civil War's Manassas Battlefield in the early 1990s, a number of concerned groups, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Civil War Trust, the Piedmont Environmental Council, the Prince Charitable Trust and Scenic America joined in a concerted effort to protect the area's endangered cultural landscapes. Their advocacy led to the establishment of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground. The region was placed on the National Trust's list of the 11 Most Endangered Places in the United States in 2005, declared by Congress as a National Heritage Area in 2008 under the umbrella of the National Park Service, and Route 15/20 was named a National Scenic Byway in 2009.

The Living Legacy Tree Planting Project of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground was started in 2011 to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial by planting or dedicating one tree for each of the 620,000 soldiers who died. **Since 2013, when the first trees were planted, over 6,100 trees have been planted along the JTHG National Scenic Byway (NSB),** which roughly follows the Route 15/20 corridor from Gettysburg, PA through Maryland to Monticello near Charlottesville, VA. Of that total number, **5,059 trees have been planted along the Virginia portion of the NSB.**

The plantings have involved local schools, volunteers, historic sites, garden clubs, the National Guard, and many other members of the community who have been engaged in the history of this region through this fulfilling project. The trees connect Americans, including school children, with the local history of the Civil War and enhances understanding of the individual sacrifices that were made to preserve the Union.

Proposal for Remaining UPC 104170 Funds

Over the next three years, JTHG is planning to plant an estimated 4,860 Living Legacy trees, with the potential for many more, in the JTHG National Heritage Area utilizing the remaining \$184,345 in UPC 104170 funds. We are currently developing partnerships with conservation groups, local, regional and national nonprofits, community organizations, schools, and others, to help us ensure that the plantings best meet identified needs and have a long-term positive impact on the Virginia portion of the JTHG National Heritage Area.

The NSB corridor is defined in the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (CMP). The same document establishes guidelines for projects taking place within the corridor. As such, the CMP is an essential resource as we make plans to utilize the remaining \$184,345 in UPC 104170 funds.

Based on the guidelines set forth in the CMP, **we suggest the following criteria for identifying future Living Legacy Project planting sites:**

1. Within an area that serves and supports the NSB and the network of roads and waterways that it anchors.
2. Publicly accessible for purposes of heritage tourism, for free or a nominal fee.
3. Furthering public education about the Byway corridor, whether through community involvement in the plantings or through ongoing interpretive resources.
4. Contributing to a historically significant site in the National Heritage Area, such as historic landscape restoration efforts on battlefields.
5. Fulfilling urgent environmental needs in the National Heritage Area, such as creating riparian buffer zones along streams and waterways.

All sites must meet **at least three of these five criteria** in order to be suitable as a location for a Living Legacy planting. Each is explained in more detail and connected to the CMP below.

1. Within an area that serves and supports the NSB and the network of roads and waterways that it anchors:

The JTHG National Scenic Byway is the spine of the larger National Heritage Area. It is the primary touring route from which visitors can access the cultural, historical, and environmental resources that the region contains. The Byway, however, is part of a larger, interconnected network that facilitates travel through and discovery of the Journey's unique landscape. Dozens of regional historic, natural, and recreational resources cross the Byway, including Goose Creek State Scenic River, Virginia Route 231 (Virginia Scenic Byway), and Civil War trails. The National Heritage Area encompasses the larger area affected by and connected through the NSB.

The CMP reflects the interconnected nature of the NSB and the rest of the National Heritage Area, and expresses a desire to strengthen those connections. In outlining the Byway corridor, the CMP states that "linkages to regional historic, natural, and recreational resources that cross the Byway are included in the corridor where they intersect to ensure that there is good coordination among signage programs, interpretive programs, and in overall Byway management" (CMP p. 10) These linkages should therefore be taken into account in Living Legacy Project planning.

In the past, Living Legacy Project plantings have been restricted to the JTHG National Scenic Byway and the zone immediately surrounding it. Our preferred planting locations will be within view of the NSB, but that will not be required. Over the next three years, we will expand our reach to include other primary contributing areas, including key historic and cultural resources within the Virginia portion of the JTHG National Heritage Area, including National Parks, State Parks, and community parks, among others. This expansion of the planting area directly serves the Byway corridor while offering greater flexibility and increasing the impact of Living Legacy throughout the JTHG area.

2. Publicly accessible for purposes of heritage tourism, for free or a nominal fee:
Heritage tourism is one of the primary goals of the NSB as established in the CMP. Public access is an important component of this goal, and therefore when selecting Living Legacy planting sites we will particularly seek locations that allow entry for members of the public. Some, like local, State or National Park properties may have restrictions on hours of access or a nominal admissions fee—where possible, however, we will seek sites that offer free admission or a fee that will not be financially prohibitive for the majority of Byway travelers. Some sites that meet a majority of other criteria but are not publicly accessible may be a part of future plantings.
3. Furthering public education about the Byway corridor, whether through community involvement in the plantings or through ongoing interpretive resources:
The CMP explicitly states that the Byway should “improve the quality of life within the region.” With this in mind, we hope that Living Legacy plantings will serve both visitors and residents of the JTHG area. Living Legacy has a long history of involving community members in the planting process. In the past, plantings have included local schools, volunteers, historic sites, garden clubs, the National Guard, and many other members of the community. At plantings, volunteers are exposed not only to the history of the specific site, but also the larger significance of the Byway corridor and the JTHG National Heritage Area. In addition, educational and environmental information about every single tree planted as part of the project is included in Arborscope and will be included in the proposed app, to ensure that visitors can continue to learn about the Byway corridor through Living Legacy for decades to come.
4. Contributing to a historically significant site in the National Heritage Area, such as historic landscape restoration efforts on battlefields:
The CMP predates the Living Legacy Project and therefore does not provide specific guidelines for it, but it does establish larger conservation priorities. In particular, the CMP recommends preserving “lands that form the setting of each of the historic sites and features that contribute to the themes of the JTHG” (CMP p. 64). Many of these areas are not within the immediate vicinity of the NSB, but directly contribute to the character and use of the Byway. For example, the Crewes Tract adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park, recently acquired by the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) was covered with trees during the Civil War. It is now deforested, limiting its interpretive potential as a tool for place-based learning. In Spring 2024, we will work with ABT to replace those trees and restore the historic landscape. Considering sites like the Crewes Tract for Living Legacy plantings aligns with the CMP and will strengthen Living Legacy’s impact in and beyond the NSB.
5. Fulfilling urgent environmental needs in the National Heritage Area, such as creating riparian buffer zones along streams and waterways:
The CMP also calls out the importance of watershed management efforts, stating that “another important strategy for conserving the Byway is to coordinate with related watershed conservation planning already taking place in relation to the Chesapeake Bay”

(CMP p. 75). As such, in our Living Legacy planning we have developed partnerships with local organizations working on these issues. Through these partnerships, including with the Goose Creek Association, we have identified riparian buffer plantings as an area of need where UPC 104170 funds can be effectively deployed, in accordance with CMP guidelines.

Creating riparian buffers stabilizes stream banks and helps to prevent sedimentation and erosion. They also shade and protect streams from adjacent land use. Our partner organizations have identified building riparian buffer zones as one of the most important watershed conservation efforts taking place in the region. Using UPC 104170 funds for this purpose, therefore, is directly in line with the CMP.

Proposed Planting Locations and Timeline

As we utilize the remaining \$184,345 in UPC 104170 funds over the next three years, we aim to do so strategically in order to maximize impact and to coincide with the America 250 commemoration in 2026. Through our partnerships and the planned expansion to our planting zone, we can ensure that the Living Legacy Project addresses the needs of Virginian landscapes and communities.

Spring 2024

- o Crewes Tract near Manassas National Battlefield Park (behind Sudley Church).
 - § Property that can accommodate the earliest planting as it isn't under easement
 - § Slated for reforestation
 - § 3.5 acres – Up to 630 trees
- o Goose Creek Association landowner property
 - § Goose Creek Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to protecting and preserving the environment and quality of life in the Goose Creek Watershed in Fauquier and Loudoun Counties, VA
 - § Pilot collaboration planned with a landowner in Fauquier County.
 - § Property is within the JTHG National Heritage Area
 - § Planting will engage Goose Creek Association's large community of volunteers
 - § Up to 250 trees
- o Gibson Tract, near Manassas National Battlefield Park
 - § Slated for reforestation (estimated at 180 trees per acre)
 - § Requires DHR approval due to the easement
 - § 3 acres – 540 trees
- o Yates Tract, near Manassas National Battlefield Park
 - § Slated for reforestation (estimated at 180 trees per acre)
 - § Requires DHR approval due to the easement
 - § 3 acres – Up to 540 trees
- o Goose Creek Association landowner properties
 - § After pilot planting in the fall, we will appeal to Goose Creek Association's 1,200-member email list

- § JTHG will run training for interested landowners, conduct site visits, and organize planting logistics
 - § Estimated up to 1,000 trees
- o John Champe High School
 - § Supporting Champe TreePlenish, a student organization attempting to sequester 67% of the school's carbon emissions
 - § Up to 1,000 trees
- **October/November 2024**
 - o Pardue Tract, near Manassas National Battlefield Park
 - § Slated for reforestation (estimated at 180 trees per acre)
 - § 5 acres – Up to 900 trees
- **Date TBD**
 - o Albemarle County - working to identify planting locations, including possibility of planting around JTHG Gateway sign.
 - o Tremble Tract at Brady Station State Park in Culpeper – replanting a grove of trees near the house.

All of these proposed sites would meet at least three of the criteria described above. For example, although the Crewes Tract is not directly along the NSB, it will be publicly accessible for the purposes of heritage tourism as a property that will one day be a part of Manassas National Battlefield Park. It will also further public education about the Byway corridor, through a planting effort including community volunteers and historical and environmental information made available on Arborscope and in the proposed app. It will also contribute to a historically significant site in the National Heritage Area—Manassas National Battlefield Park and the adjacent lands are crucial in the region's Civil War-era history, and are valuable sites of discovery and historical education today.

We anticipate the next reimbursement invoice of UPC 104170 to be sent by Spring 2024.

Proposed National Scenic Byway/Living Legacy Travel App

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground is committed to ensuring a positive experience for visitors to the JTHG National Scenic Byway. The current website, www.HallowedGround.org, has limited functionality and is therefore difficult for potential visitors to utilize as a navigation tool. For the Living Legacy Project, the current website is not an optimal platform to host the map of the geotagged trees. An updated interface would better allow visitors to easily navigate between different planting locations.

To that end, JTHG would like to propose updating our current website and “wrapping” it as a travel app for visitors to the JTHG NSB, including those visiting Living Legacy planting sites. The app would offer a richer experience and feature an interactive map which will allow visitors to navigate between historic sites along the NSB. It would also allow visitors to filter sites to locate those specifically related to their interests—for instance, a visitor could easily identify and

get directions to the nearest site where Living Legacy trees have been planted. Updated technology would also allow the following increased functionality:

6. Navigation to, and easily accessible information about, the Living Legacy trees along the JTHG National Scenic Byway
7. A Trip Planner tool which would allow visitors to customize their journey within the region
8. Integration with other popular trip planning apps, such as Roadtrippers, Google Maps, etc.
9. Layers that include stories and history of the region, similar to <https://history-maps.com>

Although apps can be expensive to develop, we believe that focusing on re-developing our current website to be more mobile-friendly and then “wrapping” it as an app will prove both cost-effective and time efficient.

The app would also help to increase the public benefit of Living Legacy plantings, both those already completed and those yet to be done. A clear, easily accessed navigation app will help to incentivize users to visit sites within the JTHG National Heritage Area where trees have been planted. In addition to promoting travel along the Byway, the app would raise awareness about the project and potentially lead to future planting opportunities at other sites along the NSB.

The development of this app would also directly serve the goals established in the CMP and the larger National Heritage Area Management Plan. The latter document specifically calls for the creation of a mobile app for Living Legacy, stating that “trees will be geotagged to allow visitors to learn the stories of each honored soldier through a mobile app” (MP p. 144) Further, in the vision statement set forth in the CMP, it states that “new and exciting multi-media technologies will be used to create memorable and educational experiences” (CMP p. 5). This project will help to make Living Legacy one such “memorable and educational experience,” but will also lay the groundwork for many more. From a Living Legacy planting at Manassas National Battlefield Park, for example, a visitor could use the app to learn about the soldiers who fought during the battle, find information about trees and carbon sequestration, and map out the most convenient route to the next historic site along the Byway. By creating a robust interface that supports both navigation through and exploration of the Byway corridor, we will ensure that the NSB continues to reach its benchmarks for success and provide a visitor experience of the highest possible quality.

The research and discovery phase of the app will continue during the spring of 2024. We already have several proposals, solicited in compliance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act. We anticipate completion of the app in the fall of 2024.

Total Estimated App Cost: \$40,000-\$50,000

Appendix A: Chart of Past Living Legacy Project Plantings

Date	Location	Town	Event	Number of Trees Planted
11/1/12	Oatlands Groundbreaking	Leesburg, VA	Groundbreaking Ceremony	337
11/19/13	<i>Bliss Farm, Gettysburg National Military Park</i>	<i>Gettysburg, PA *</i>		<i>248</i>
5/21/13	<i>Lutheran Theological Seminary</i>	<i>Gettysburg, PA *</i>		<i>76</i>
12/1/13	Town of Leesburg	Leesburg, VA	Town of Leesburg Enhancement	108
3/29/14	<i>Williamsport Community Center</i>	<i>Williamsport, MD*</i>	<i>Community Planting</i>	<i>120</i>
6/29/14	Oatlands Historic House and Gardens	Leesburg, VA		337
10/26/14	Somerset Plantation	Somerset, VA		185
4/20/15	James Madison's Montpelier	Orange, VA		5
8/26/15	<i>Baker Park</i>	<i>Frederick, MD*</i>		<i>200</i>
10/17/15	<i>Outlet Shoppes At Gettysburg</i>	<i>Gettysburg, PA *</i>		<i>100</i>
5/8/15	Route 15 from Oatlands south to Gilberts Corner	Leesburg to Aldie, VA	Tourism Cares	1271
5/29/15	Route 15 from Oatlands south to Gilberts Corner	Leesburg to Aldie, VA	Hilton Hotel Corporate Volunteer Day	100
7/20/15	<i>Lutheran Seminary</i>	<i>Gettysburg, PA *</i>	<i>2015 Vans Warped Tour</i>	<i>75</i>
7/20/15	<i>YWCA</i>	<i>Gettysburg, PA *</i>	<i>2015 Vans Warped Tour</i>	<i>60</i>
2015	Little Oatlands/Oatlands Hamlet	Leesburg, VA		264
4/12/15	Inn at Willow Grove	Locust Dale, VA		5

4/12/15	Inn at Meander Plantation	Locust Dale, VA		152
4/12/15	Kington Farm	Locust Dale, VA		79
	Catoctin Creek			13
5/20/16	Haymarket Gainesville Community Library	Haymarket, VA		15
11/12/16	Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve	Leesburg, VA	Virginia Master Naturalists Volunteer Day	95
4/30/16	Tuscarora High School	Leesburg, VA	THS One to the World Project Day 2016	65
10/28/16	<i>Lee's Headquarters</i>	<i>Gettysburg, PA *</i>	<i>Planted by Civil War Trust</i>	6
2016	<i>Bliss Farm</i>	<i>Gettysburg, PA *</i>		246
2016	Charlottesville, VA	Charlottesville, VA	35 canopy trees were planted along a median on Route 20 between the Charlottesville city line and Piedmont Valley Community College (PVCC).	35
4/1/17	Tuscarora High School	Leesburg, VA	THS One to the World Project Day 2017	125
11/7/17	Woodberry Forest School	Orange, VA		23
5/12/18	Leesburg Animal Park and Morven Park	Leesburg, VA	Eagle Scout organized planting	45
11/8/18	Tuscarora High School	Leesburg, VA	Environmental Science and History class planting	100
4/1/20	Little Oatlands	Leesburg, VA		140
4/1/20	Historic Buckland	Buckland, VA		50
4/1/20	Mount Zion Church	Gilbert's Corner, VA		10

	Chancellorsville		American Battlefield Trust	1500
			TOTAL	6190

**Locations not within the Virginia portion of the JTHG National Heritage Area*

In 2021 and 2022, due to challenges associated with COVID and the retirement of the Journey's employee overseeing the project, no trees were planted.

In addition to the actual planting of the trees, in many cases Living Legacy Trees are connected to a specific Civil War soldier via Fold3.com and all are geotagged using Bartlett Tree Experts' tree tagging software via Arborscope.