

Stones River National Battlefield

The Park

Stones River National Battlefield Park is located in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The 450-acre park remembers the battle that gave the Union troops control of Middle Tennessee in January of 1863. The park is home to the Stones River National Cemetery that has 6,000 Union graves and the Hazen Monument, the oldest Civil War Monument. The Park also features the remains of Fortress Rosecrans, an earthen fort that was used by the Union general of the same name. The visitor center has a small museum with a slide show and bookstore. The park offers opportunities for self-guided driving tours, but a hiking tour is a great way to see the entire park and not miss anything. The tour can be highlighted by the rangers, who provide talks and walking tours during the summer. During certain weekends, living history programs and reenactments take place. Visitors are not allowed to camp in the park, but nearby state and private campgrounds service the area.



The Battle

From December 31, 1862 until January 2, 1863, a battle raged between Union Major General William S. Rosecrans and Confederate General Braxton Bragg. In late 1862, Bragg was forced to retreat toward Chattanooga from Nashville. Rosecrans left Nashville on December 26, 1862 and moved toward Chattanooga via Murfreesboro. The two armies initially clashed at the Stones River on December 31, 1862, and both sides settled down for an extended battle. On January 2, 1863, both armies clashed again, and Bragg beat back Rosecrans army. However, as Confederate forces pursued Union troops over a ridge, they descended a slope and found Union artillery supporting the fleeing Federal troops. The results were 13,249 Union casualties, 10,266 Confederate casualties, and a Union victory.

