



**For immediate release**

October 12, 2016

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## **VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR PARKS ENDORSES CREATION OF BRANDY STATION AND CEDAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**

*Commonwealth's premier statewide park advocacy organization joins  
Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance*

**(Culpeper, Va.)** – The Virginia Association for Parks (VAFP) has formally called on the Commonwealth of Virginia to take the necessary steps to create a new Civil War-centered state park in Culpeper County.

Formed in 1997, VAFP is the nonprofit umbrella organization for the respective friends groups and individual volunteers supporting the 37 state parks; 59 state natural areas; and the 22 national parks, monuments, and historic sites located throughout the Old Dominion.

At VAFP's Fall Conference — held at Bear Creek Lake State Park in Cumberland, Va. — the organization on October 1 unanimously passed a resolution in support of transforming the storied Civil War battlefields at Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain into Virginia's next state park.

“These battlefields present a turn-key opportunity to advance an already well-preserved and interpreted history,” VAFP President Johnny Finch said. “Formed into a Virginia state park, they will lend visibility to — and make accessible — the local area's historic and natural resources and will create significant opportunities for local public-private partnership and investment.”

Further, a Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park will feature “a significantly broader and more comprehensive period of Civil War history and events than the state park system's current battlefield holdings,” Finch added.

With its announcement, VAFP becomes the 11<sup>th</sup> member of the burgeoning Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance. Launched last year, the Alliance additionally includes the Brandy Station Foundation, the Civil War Trust, the Culpeper Department of Tourism, the Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield, the Germanna Foundation, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, the Piedmont Environmental Council, Preservation Virginia, Presqu'Isle and the Remington Community Partnership.

Following its formation, the Alliance partnered with STACH pllc — a preservation landscape architecture and planning firm — and the Community Land Use + Economics Group to produce a feasibility study assessing the opportunities and economic advantages of establishing the envisioned state park. The results of the study were presented to state and local officials in January.

*(MORE)*

**BRANDY STATION FOUNDATION • CIVIL WAR TRUST • CULPEPER DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM  
FRIENDS OF CEDAR MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD • GERMANNA FOUNDATION • JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND PARTNERSHIP  
PIEDMONT ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL • PRESERVATION VIRGINIA • PRESQU'ISLE • REMINGTON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP  
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR PARKS**

## **NEWS from the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance**

Page Two

*October 12, 2016*

Citing the potential of a Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park to serve as a “distinctive destination for heritage and recreational tourism alike,” the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors and Culpeper Town Council each voted unanimously to support the park’s creation. In an editorial published on July 15, 2015, Fredericksburg, Va.-based newspaper *The Free Lance-Star* had provided an early and similarly compelling endorsement for the establishment of the park, calling it “the right thing to do.”

To date, about 1,400 acres of proposed park land have been purchased and permanently protected at the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain battlefields. Individuals interested in supporting the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance are encouraged to visit [BSCMstatepark.com](http://BSCMstatepark.com) to sign and send a letter to the members of the Virginia General Assembly with the power to turn the Alliance’s proposal into a park — and a lasting legacy.

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*(To learn more about the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance,  
visit us online at [www.BSCMstatepark.com](http://www.BSCMstatepark.com))*