



COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The Battle of Great Falls/Wissantinnewag-Peskeompskut, Battlefields of King Philip's War Project

What is the Battle of Great Falls project? The "Battle of Great Falls" project is part of the larger *Battlefields of King Philip's War* research initiative that started in 2010 by researchers from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center (MPMRC). This latest project came into fruition when the Town of Montague, Massachusetts received funding from the National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program to study the Battle of Great Falls (also known as Turners Falls), fought May 19, 1676. MPMRC researchers and archaeologists have been on the ground to find out what happened in your town over 300 years ago, to contribute a balanced history of the Indigenous and Colonial peoples, and how it has shaped your community. Findings will be used to inform community plans for education and interpretation, preservation and management to protect historic sites and best serve the needs of the community.

What is the survey about? We would like to invite residents from the towns of Montague, Gill, Greenfield, Northfield, and Deerfield to participate in a five minute survey (see the attached page). Questions address project interest and barriers, and community assets and weakness. Please accept our reassurance that the information you provide is confidential, and no names or contact information will be released to the public.

Why is the survey important? The short-term goals of the community assessment are to identify community needs that can be interwoven into historical preservation plans, and to assess project impacts and barriers to community involvement. Communities who actively participate in learning about their local history through community conversations, awareness, public programs and research create stronger communities and the potential for preserving historically significant sites. We want to know how we can make this project more accessible to *you* and how the community envisions themselves as advocates – long after the researchers have left. To do so, we need your help to identify stakeholders and partners to contribute to the *Battlefields of King Philip's War* Project, and to speak on community needs to devise appropriate long-term preservation and community-based plans. Surveys will be distributed beginning the summer of 2018, and a report containing recommendations for a community plan will be made available to the public.

Where do I return the form? Please return the form to Ashley Bissonnette at 110 Pequot Trail, PO Box 3180, Mashantucket, CT 06338 or scan, or take a picture with your phone and email to abissonnette@mpnt.org.

Thank you for your participation!

For more about the program you can also visit www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp or www.pequotwar.org

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Information is voluntary and confidential

Town History

- ❖ Are you familiar with your town's history?
 - If yes, what motivated you?** _____
 - No**
- ❖ Are there places where you can go to learn about your town history? **If so, where?** _____
- ❖ What is your highest level of education? **High school/GED** **Some College** **College 4+ years**
- ❖ Do you own property in the town(s) of Montague, Gill, or Greenfield? **Yes** **No**

The Project

- ❖ Have you heard of the *Battle of Great Falls* project prior to this survey? **Yes** **No**
- ❖ If asked, would you grant permission to have your property archeological surveyed?
 - Yes**
 - No, why?** _____
- ❖ Would you and/or anyone you know like to be involved in the *Battle of Great Falls* project?
 - Yes, please provide your name and others' with contact information** _____
- ❖ Would you like to see the Great Falls Battlefield in your town listed in the National Registrar of Historic Places*? **Yes** **No**

Please tell us about your community

- ❖ What do you believe to be your town's greatest asset(s)? _____
- ❖ What would you like to see changed in your community with respect to historic preservation? _____
- ❖ Do you believe your needs are heard by town representatives?
 - Yes**
 - No**
- ❖ Would you like to receive a copy of this survey's results and project updates?
 - If yes, please provide your email address** _____

* Please see attached information for more information on the National Registrar or Historic Places.

Please feel free to use the backside for further comments and information you would like to share.
For more information, please contact Ashley Bissonnette at abissonnette@mptn.org or 1-860-396-6803



The National Registrar of Historic Places

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the National Registrar of Historic Places?

- Administered by the National Park Service (NPS), the National Register is a federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and/or objects significant to both American history and the local community. Bringing community awareness to these sites and cultural resources assists in more easily safeguard these places for future generations.

How is the property listed in the National Registrar of Historic Places?

- Documentation and forms are submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHIPO) for review which has the option to reject the property, list the property on the State Historical Register only, or send the application to the NPS for further review.
- The SHIPO notifies all affected landowners and local governments and solicits public comment, and if the majority of landowners refuse, then the property cannot be listed.

Who is involved in the process of listing properties to the National Registrar of Historic Places?

- Listing sites and districts to the National Registrar of Historic Places is a community effort between the landowners, and local, state and federal governments.

Can private property be taken or impacted by the National Park Service?

- No, private property cannot be taken by any means.

Are there any restrictions to private lands or land use if the property is listed to the National Registrar of Historic Places?

- None. If the property is modified or the integrity is negatively affected the property is simply no longer part of the battlefield. There are no restrictions or requirements placed on landholders.

Are there insurance regulation implications?

- None. No restrictions or requirements are placed on the landowner, and the landowner may do as they wish within the framework of local laws and ordinances.

What are the benefits?

- Community awareness of important local cultural resources
- Federal preservation grants for planning and rehabilitation
- Federal investment tax credits
- Preservation easements to nonprofit organizations
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Adopted from the National Park Service, for a full list of questions and answers, please visit their website at: <https://www.nps.gov/nr/faq.htm>