



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Stones River  
National Battlefield

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## Stones River News Release

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For Immediate Release

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### **GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD TO STONES RIVER NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD**

The staff at Stones River National Battlefield was awarded the Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for Excellence in Natural Heritage Conservation recently. The award was presented by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke at a ceremony in Nashville.



Biological Technician Mark Smith gathers native grass seed using a lawn sweeper

The park staff developed and executed a comprehensive effort to restore the 650 acre park through innovative natural resource techniques. Park staff and volunteers spent thousands of hours not only removing invasive exotic species like Chinese privet and bush honeysuckle, but also planting native species and building fences to replicate the original battlefield appearance. The end result is a diverse mix of native plant that help maintain the patterns of field and forest that were present at the time of the Battle of Stones River. In addition, the park staff has established native grasses on the earthworks at Fortress Rosecrans and Redoubt Brannan to help prevent the earthen structures from eroding. Landscaping around the visitor center and at the fortress parking areas consists of plants native to middle Tennessee.

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Park Ranger John McKay and prescribed fire on the earthworks at Fortress Rosecrans

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards ceremony on June 23rd at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville. The ceremony was set to celebrate outstanding environmental achievements from across the state of Tennessee and recognize people and organizations working effectively to conserve and protect this state's natural resources. This year more than 110 nominations in 14 different categories were submitted. Nominees were evaluated based on achievement, innovation and public education. According to TDEC's Commissioner Jim Fyke, "These individuals, groups and organizations have gone beyond baseline requirements to provide the kind of environmental leadership that will ensure the kind of cleaner, healthier Tennessee we want now and in the future."



Award Presentation - (l-r) Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Stones River National Battlefield Ecologist Terri Hogan, Stones River National Battlefield Operations Chief Gib Backlund, Stones River Superintendent Stuart Johnson and Commissioner Jim Fyke

Stones River National Battlefield, like the Great Smoky Mountains, the Statue of Liberty, and Yellowstone, is one of 390 national park areas in the country. The park preserves a portion of a major Civil War battlefield along with Stones River National Cemetery, and the remnants of Fortress Rosecrans. It is located three miles northwest of downtown Murfreesboro at 3501 Old Nashville Highway.