



National Heritage Areas Program

PLACE-BASED, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A Year in Review: 2023

By the Numbers

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) expand on traditional conservation approaches by supporting large-scale, community-driven initiatives that engage communities in heritage preservation activities. NHA entities collaborate with stakeholders to determine how to make heritage relevant to local needs and interests. These entities serve as catalysts for community and economic development. Data presented here is from reports submitted by 58 of the 62 NHAs.

On Jan. 5, 2023, President Biden signed the National Heritage Areas Act (P.L. 117-339) into law, establishing a National Heritage Area System, a statutory framework for the NPS's role in its administration, and seven new NHAs. In 2023, NHAs continued to serve communities and support their partners with a renewed collective purpose. In summary, NHAs:

- Leveraged **\$87.6 million** in cash and in-kind support to carry out heritage projects and programs, greatly increasing the impact of the **\$28.1 million** in federal Heritage Partnership Program funding received.
- Engaged **2,779 formal partners** and **4,556 informal partners** in heritage area activities.
- Benefited from **26,465 volunteers** contributing over **327,402 hours** for heritage area projects- a **\$10 million-dollar** value.

Preserving our Heritage. Across the country, National Heritage Areas and their partners are reviving historic downtowns, preserving large landscapes and cultural practices, and sharing our nation's history through the arts. In 2023:

- **166 historic sites** and **9,167 acres of cultural landscapes** preserved and maintained, including battlefields.
- **91 collections projects** undertaken, including the conservation of artifacts and creation of oral histories.
- **102 historic preservation grants** awarded totaling **\$1.5 million**.

Recreation and Conservation. Through recreational projects such as access to land and water trails, National Heritage Areas are improving connectivity and accessibility, creating more vibrant and healthy communities. In 2023:

- **181 recreation projects** undertaken.
- **1,284 miles of trails** maintained, and **38 new miles of trails** developed.
- **65 recreation grants** awarded totaling **\$3.2 million**.

Through collaborative conservation activities, National Heritage Area entities and their partners are improving air and water quality and supporting healthy ecosystems. In 2023:

- **12,336 acres of land restored and maintained** via invasive species removal, replanting, and toxic site clean-ups.
- **49 conservation grants** awarded totaling **\$675,556**.

Educating Current and Future Leaders. Through programs such as **Yuma Crossing NHA's 3rd & 4th Grade Yuma Live History Field Trip Program**, National Heritage Areas and their partners are providing meaningful and inspirational connections to our nation's heritage via educators and the (outdoor) classroom. In 2023:

- Capacity-building assistance provided to **980 organizations**.
- **2,064 educational program offerings** developed.
- **325 grants** to support educational programs awarded totaling **\$1.3 million**.

National Heritage Areas 2023

Note: *Denotes NHA that spans multiple states, **Did not provide data for this report

ALABAMA – Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area • Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area

ALASKA – Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area

ARIZONA – Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area • Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area

CALIFORNIA – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area

COLORADO – Cache La Poudre National Heritage Area • Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area • South Park National Heritage Area

CONNECTICUT – *Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor (CT, MA) • *Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area (CT, MA)

FLORIDA – *Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (FL, GA, NC, SC)

GEORGIA – Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area • Augusta Canal National Heritage Area • *Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (FL, GA, NC, SC)

IOWA – Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

ILLINOIS – Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area • Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area • Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor

KANSAS – * Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (KS, MO)

LOUISIANA – Atchafalaya National Heritage Area • Cane River National Heritage Area

MARYLAND – *Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (MD, WV) • Baltimore National Heritage Area • *Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area (MD, PA, VA, WV) • **Southern Maryland National Heritage Area

MAINE– Downeast Maine National Heritage Area

MASSACHUSETTS – Essex National Heritage Area • *Freedom's Way National Heritage Area (MA, NH) • */**John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (MA, RI) • *Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor (CT, MA) • *Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area (CT, MA)

MICHIGAN – MotorCities National Heritage Area

MISSISSIPPI – Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area • Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area • Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area

MISSOURI – *Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (KS, MO)

NEVADA – *Great Basin National Heritage Area (NV, UT)

NEW JERSEY – Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area

NEW HAMPSHIRE – *Freedom's Way National Heritage Area (MA, NH)

NEW MEXICO – Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area

NEW YORK – *Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (NY, VT) • Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor • Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area • Niagara Falls National Heritage Area

NORTH CAROLINA – Blue Ridge National Heritage Area • *Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (FL, GA, NC, SC) • Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor

NORTH DAKOTA – Northern Plains National Heritage Area

OHIO – Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway • National Aviation Heritage Area

PENNSYLVANIA – Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor • *Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area (MD, PA, VA, WV) • Lackawanna Heritage Valley • Oil Region National Heritage Area • Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area • Schuylkill River National Heritage Area • Susquehanna National Heritage Area • **Path of Progress National Heritage Route

RHODE ISLAND – */**John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (MA, RI)

SOUTH CAROLINA – *Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (FL, GA, NC, SC) • South Carolina National Heritage Corridor

TENNESSEE – Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – **St. Croix National Heritage Area

UTAH – *Great Basin National Heritage Area (NV, UT) • Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area

VERMONT – *Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (VT, NY)

VIRGINIA – *Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area (MD, PA, VA, WV) • Northern Neck National Heritage Area • Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District

WEST VIRGINIA – * Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (MD, WV) • *Journey Through Hallowed Ground (MD, PA, VA, WV) • ** National Coal Heritage Area • Wheeling National Heritage Area

WASHINGTON – Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area • Maritime Washington National Heritage Area



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For more information visit: www.nps.gov/heritageareas

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