



National Heritage Areas Program

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

A Year in Review: 2022 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 52 of the 55 NHAs.

In 2022, as the United States started to open up after unprecedented challenges of a global pandemic, NHAs continued to serve communities and support their partners. In summary, NHAs:

- Leveraged **\$75 million** in cash and in-kind support to carry out heritage projects and programs, greatly increasing the impact of the **\$26.1 million** in federal Heritage Partnership Program funding received.
- Engaged **2,633 formal partners** and **4,208 informal partners** in heritage area activities.
- Benefited from **28,183 volunteers** contributing over **331,265 hours** for heritage area projects - a **\$9.9 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 2022:

- **236 historic sites** and **9,248 acres of cultural landscapes** preserved and maintained, including battlefields.
- **81 collections projects** undertaken, including the conservation of artifacts and creation of oral histories.
- **75 historic preservation grants** awarded totaling **\$1.2 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 2022:

- **177 recreation projects** undertaken.
- **902 miles of trails** maintained and **67 new miles of trails** developed.
- **54 recreation grants** awarded totaling **\$609,728**.

Collaborative conservation activities led by National Heritage Area entities and their partners improve air and water quality and support healthy ecosystems. In 2022:

- **8,848 acres of land restored and maintained** via invasive species removal, replanting, and toxic site clean-ups.
- **48 conservation grants** awarded totaling **\$1.7 million**.

Educating Current and Future Leaders. Through programs such as **Kenai Mountain Turnagain Arm NHA's Alaska Outdoor School 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 2022:

- Capacity-building assistance provided to **1,149 organizations**.
- **252 educational programs** offered.
- **329 grants** to support educational programs awarded totaling **\$1.7 million**.



The Border to Boston Trail links 20 communities from the New Hampshire Border to Boston, pictured here is the granite trail marker at the Massachusetts/New Hampshire line.

Photo courtesy of Essex Heritage.

Essex NHA Massachusetts

In 2022, Essex NHA significantly advanced work on the 70-mile, multi-modal Border to Boston Trail, as new sections of trail opened and the design and engineering for other portions moved forward. For more than two decades, Essex Heritage has led an ongoing, collaborative effort to establish and expand the Border to Boston Trail. Developed in coordination with local advocates, partnering organizations, elected officials, and governmental staff at all levels, the Border to Boston's expansive trail network is one of the NHA's most outstanding assets, facilitating safe, scenic recreation for all to enjoy. The public value of the trail work goes beyond the provision of an alternate transportation option, it is a crucial investment in a sustainable future that drives regional exploration and economic stimulation. Funding for the trail has come from NPS HPP, MassDOT, FHWA, municipal funds, private donations, and volunteers' sweat equity.

A Glance at 2022



Photo courtesy of Northern Plains NHA

Northern Plains NHA North Dakota

“Music on the Missouri” was held on July 8, 2022, at Keelboat Park, Bismarck, ND. The project brought together the partnership between Burleigh County Public Health, Dakota West Arts Council, and Northern Plains Heritage Foundation, with the ability to activate a park immediate to the Missouri River in central North Dakota. A maximum of 210 people attended the event at its peak, as it activated a space through dance (Northern Plains Dance) and contemporary folk music (the MoonCats) to get people more engaged with activities immediate to the Missouri River.



Photo courtesy of Cane River NHA

Cane River NHA Louisiana

Like a good gumbo, Louisiana’s first Creole Colony, took time to simmer and evolve into the unique body of people who call this region home. Established in 1714 and positioned at the edge of two colonial empires in the New World, Natchitoches and the Cane River region served as a cultural crossroads for much of its early years. The Cane River African Diaspora Archeology Project also took time to simmer. In 2022, Cane River NHA marked the end of over 20 years of archeological research that adds a new perspective and tangible evidence to this forgotten time in our colonial history. Cooperative archeological fieldwork between the Institute of Archaeology (University College London) and the National Park Service has been ongoing since 2001, with funding from the British Academy, the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK), the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Cane River National Heritage Area. Survey and excavation have been undertaken principally at Melrose Plantation, the Coincoin Plantation, and the original Pierre Metoyer Land Grant site. At the conclusion of the two decades of work, it is CRNHA’s aim to present materials gleaned from these excavations to the wider public via a major museum exhibition.



Photo courtesy of Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership

Great Basin NHA Nevada/Utah

In 2022, Great Basin NHA took the first steps to restore Van’s Dance Hall, an historic dance hall located on Main Street in Delta, Utah. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Van’s Hall is a one-of-a-kind structure in Utah. It represents a time period—heavily affected by the Great Depression--that saw a burgeoning of dance halls, movie theaters, and other social gathering places that provided opportunities for community get-togethers that helped everyone deal with those economically challenging years--and celebrate the post-WWII years of economic recovery, growth, and optimism. Restoration of Van’s Hall has been a goal of many Delta residents for decades. The heritage area was awarded a \$20K grant from the Utah Division of Arts & Museums to conduct a structural engineering assessment and feasibility study of the building. Subsequently, it was awarded another grant (\$50K) for roof repair. Heritage area funds of \$20K will supplement this first phase of restoration, which will take place in spring of 2023. Making the building weather tight is an important step toward preserving the building and advancing the overall effort to return the 2nd-story dance hall to a more functional space for cultural activities and community events.



Yoeme Unidos Mural unveiling event, Tuscon, AZ.
Photo courtesy of Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance.

Santa Cruz Valley NHA Arizona

Yoeme Unidos Mural was the Santa Cruz Valley NHA's most collaborative project in 2022. The NHA partnered closely with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson-Pascua Yaqui Clubhouse to encourage Indigenous youth from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and from the Old Pascua Neighborhood to interpret, express, and celebrate their cultural traditions under the direction of professional mural artists. This mural, located at the Sonoran Stitch Factory building, was created by Anitra "Yukue" Molina, Ignacio Garcia and seven youth from the Pascua Yaqui Clubhouse of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Tucson.

National Heritage Areas 2022

ALABAMA – 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 • 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)

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)

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

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) • Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District

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

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



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

*Denotes NHA that spans multiple states.

** Does not provide data for this report.

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