



2025 Annual Report

National Heritage Area System

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are places designated by the U.S. Congress where historic, natural, and cultural resources combine to form a nationally significant landscape.

The National Heritage Area System expands 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 with financial and technical assistance from the National Park Service.

National Heritage Areas are places where small investments pay huge dividends, providing demonstrable benefits in communities across the country and in partnership with our national parks. Below is a snapshot of the National Heritage Area System Impact in 2025. Data presented here is from reports submitted by 60 of the 62 NHAs.

Serving communities and supporting their partners.



2.5x
impact



Leveraged **\$74 million** in cash and in-kind support to carry out heritage projects and programs, creating over a **2.5 times impact** of the **\$28.1 million** in federal Heritage Partnership Program funding received.



Engaged **2,704** formal partners and **4,788** informal partners in heritage area activities.

Benefited from **24,466 volunteers** contributing over **350,950 hours** for heritage area projects equaling over an **\$11.5 million** value.

Preserving our Heritage.

Historic downtowns, landscapes, and culture.

315 historic sites and over **10,000 acres** of cultural landscapes preserved and maintained, including battlefields.



106 collections projects undertaken, including the conservation of artifacts and creation of oral histories.

85 historic preservation grants awarded totaling over **\$1.2 million**.



315 historic sites and over 10,000 acres

National Heritage Area provides Regional Economic Impacts, New Mexico.

The Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area's 2nd annual Rio Grande Sky Fiesta drew an estimated 3,000 attendees to Los Luceros in 2025 to celebrate the region's cultural heritage and traditions. Presented with New Mexico Historic Sites through the Los Luceros Project, the event boosted public engagement with the site while generating economic benefits for local artists, vendors, and communities. Sponsorship growth expanded the budget from \$15,000 to \$65,000, reflecting the Fiesta's rising impact on heritage tourism and regional partnerships. Photo Credit: Northern Rio Grande NHA



**1,025
miles
of trails**

Recreation and Conservation. Projects that create vibrant, healthy communities.

194 recreation projects undertaken.

1,025 miles of trails maintained, and
10 new miles of trails developed.

60 recreation grants awarded totaling over \$1.1 million.



9,486 acres of land restored and maintained via invasive species removal, replanting, and site clean-ups.

46 conservation grants awarded totaling over \$800,000.

Educating Current and Future Leaders.

Meaningful connections to our nation's history and heritage through hands-on experiences that inspire.



Capacity-building assistance provided to 1,149 organizations, with 307 educational programs developed in 2025.

327 grants to support educational programs awarded totaling over \$2.2 million.



**307 educational
programs**

National Heritage Areas at a Glance



Disaster Recovery Post Hurricane Helene, North Carolina

With support from the Jazz Foundation of America, other donors, and in-kind partners, the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area launched the Blue Ridge Revival Music Concert Series with 11 concerts in 8 Western NC locations, employing 49 traditional musicians and sound techs and drawing over 3,800 attendees. For many small towns, these were among the first music performances since Hurricane Helene hit in September 2024, offering the community a chance to heal through music while boosting local economies. Photo Credit: Blue Ridge NHA



The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor's conservation efforts have helped restore bald eagle populations from the brink of extinction in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Photo Credit: The Last Green Valley NHC



NHAs on the World Stage: Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor commemorated the momentous Erie Canal Bicentennial in New York and hosted the World Canal Conference in September 2025. Photo Credit: Erie Canalway NHC

Protecting Wildlife Habitat and Improving Recreational Tourism, Washington

The Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area completed its largest habitat restoration project yet, enhancing stream complexity in Issaquah Creek to improve degraded salmon habitat. Using hydrologist-designed blueprints and locally salvaged woody materials, crews spent several summer months turning over 20 years of planning into constructed spawning and resting areas for fish. NHA staff also led nearly 500 people on more than 50 project tours of the active restoration sites — inspiring many participants to return as volunteers and plant native trees along the restored banks.

Photo Credit: Mountains to Sound Greenway NHA



For more information about the National Heritage Areas Program and System, including a list of all NHAs, please visit www.nps.gov/heritageareas

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