

National Heritage Areas

Congress has designated 55 National Heritage Areas (NHAs) to recognize the unique national significance of a region's sites and history. Through local and regional partnerships with the National Park Service (NPS), these large lived-in landscapes connect heritage conservation with recreation and economic development. NHAs may be managed by federal commissions, nonprofit groups, universities, and state agencies or municipal authorities, guided by a management plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Through this partnership strategy, heritage areas combine historic preservation, cultural and natural resource conservation, local and regional preservation planning, and heritage education and tourism.

Background

National Heritage Areas are partnerships among the National Park Service, states, and local communities, in which the NPS supports state and local conservation through federal recognition, seed money, and technical assistance. NHAs are designated by individual legislation with specific provisions for operation unique to the area's specific resources and desired goals. NHAs are often organized around a theme, industry, and/or geographic feature that has influenced our national culture and history. Lands within NHAs remain in state, local, private ownership, or a combination thereof. NHA designation does not affect private property rights.



The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor is a 12,000 square mile federal National Heritage Area designated by the U.S. Congress to recognize the unique culture of the Gullah Geechee people. This National Heritage Area celebrates the Gullah Geechee people who have traditionally resided in the coastal areas and the sea islands of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida and explores their history, language, decorative arts, foodways, and spiritual expressions. This image features a sweet grass basket maker, an acclaimed artform unique to the Gullah Geechee people.

PHOTO COURTESY DEIDRE LAIRD

FY 2023 Appropriations Request

Please support \$32 million for National Heritage Areas in the FY 2023 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: National Recreation and Preservation

ACTIVITY: Heritage Partnership Programs/National Heritage Areas

Recent Funding History:

FY 2020 Enacted Funding:	\$21.944 million
FY 2021 Enacted Funding:	\$23.889 million
FY 2022 Enacted Funding:	\$27.144 million
FY 2023 President's Budget Request:	\$22.281 million
FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation:	\$32 million

JUSTIFICATION: According to the National Park Service, NHAs leverage an average of \$5.50 for every \$1 of federal investment to create jobs, generate local government revenue, and sustain local communities through revitalization and heritage tourism. The requested level would provide \$500,000 for each of the NHAs with additional support for NPS management and new heritage areas.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Heritage Areas by State

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 River National Heritage Area
Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area
South Park National Heritage Area

CONNECTICUT

The 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 and 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)
The 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 Valley National Heritage Area
Oil Region National Heritage Area
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area
Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area
Susquehanna National Heritage Area

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 (NY, VT)

VIRGINIA

Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area (MD, PA, VA, WV)
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District

WASHINGTON

Maritime Washington National Heritage Area
Mountains to Sound Greenway 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

Information compiled from: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/visit_nhas_online.htm