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

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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Enacted Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2020</td>
<td>$21.944 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2021</td>
<td>$23.889 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2022</td>
<td>$27.144 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2023 Pres. Budget</td>
<td>$22.281 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation</td>
<td>$32 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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

For additional information, contact Pam Bowman, Senior Director of Public Lands Policy, PBowman@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6347.