Burnside Bridge at Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland is part of the Journey Through Hallowed Grounds National Heritage Area. The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest day in American history. The battle ended the Confederate Army’s first invasion into the North and led Abraham Lincoln to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

PHOTO BY JEN GOELLNITZ

Congress has designated 55 National Heritage Areas (NHAs) to recognize the unique national significance of a region’s sites and history. Through partnerships with the National Park Service (NPS), National Heritage Areas provide community-driven heritage conservation that tells America’s stories.

National Heritage Areas

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FY 2021 Appropriations Request

Please support $32 million for National Heritage Areas in the FY 2021 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 2018 Enacted Funding: $20.321 million
FY 2019 Enacted Funding: $20.321 million
FY 2020 Enacted Funding: $21.944 million
FY 2021 President’s Budget Request: $398,000
FY 2021 NTNP 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. 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, natural resource conservation, local and regional preservation planning, and heritage education and tourism. This activity includes commissions and grants to the 55 individual NHAs, as well as administrative support for coordination, guidance, assistance, and training. Funding has lagged far behind the needs and popularity of the program.

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.
# 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  
Baltimore National Heritage Area (MD, WV)  
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](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/visit_nhas_online.htm)

For additional information, contact Janelle DiLuccia, Associate Director of Public Lands Policy, [JDiLucia@savingplaces.org](mailto:JDiLucia@savingplaces.org), (202) 588-6140.