



# National Heritage Areas Program

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

## How National Heritage Areas Spent 2020 By the Numbers

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) expand on traditional conservation approaches by supporting large-scale, community 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 53 of the 55 NHAs reporting.

In 2020, NHAs:

- Leveraged **\$88.5 million** in cash and in-kind support to carry out heritage projects and programs, greatly increasing the impact of the **\$20.9 million** in federal Heritage Partnership Program funding received.
- Engaged **2,829 formal partners** and **5,210 informal partners** in heritage area activities.
- Benefited from **23,152 volunteers** contributing over **394,463 hours** for heritage area projects - a **\$10 .1 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 2020:

- **247 historic sites** and **8,623 acres of cultural landscapes** preserved and maintained, including battlefields.
- **79 collections projects** undertaken, including the conservation of artifacts and creation of oral histories.
- **83 historic preservation grants** awarded totaling **\$655,192**.

***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 2020:

- **143 recreation projects** undertaken.
- **509 miles of trails** maintained and **64 new miles of trails** developed.
- **78 recreation grants** awarded totaling **\$709,962**.

Conservation activities led by National Heritage Area entities and their partners improve air and water quality and support healthy ecosystems. In 2020:

- **22,033 acres of land restored and maintained** via invasive species removal, replanting, and toxic site clean-ups.
- **33 conservation grants** awarded totaling **\$599,225**.

***Educating Current and Future Leaders.*** Through programs such as South Carolina National Heritage Corridor's Beyond Barbados Education Workshops, National Heritage Areas and their partners are providing meaningful and inspirational connections to our nation's heritage via educators and the classroom. In 2020:

- Capacity-building assistance provided to **991** organizations.
- **256 educational programs** were offered.
- **4,901 grants** to support educational programs were awarded totaling **\$1.3 million**.



### ***NHA Spotlight*** **Appalachian Forest NHA** **Maryland/West Virginia**

**In 2020, the Appalachian Forest NHA, one of six NHAs designated in 2019, continued its management planning process and led a tour of the NHA for its hired consultants. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the group had a masked, outdoor, distanced meeting with an interpreter at Sites Homestead, Seneca Rocks Discovery Center, in Seneca Rocks, WV. Photo courtesy of Appalachian Forest NHA.**

# A Glance At 2020



**Mormon Pioneer NHA  
Utah**

Kanab City, UT, with funding and support from the NHA, completed a paved connector trail to Jackson Flat Reservoir in 2020. The trail is located south of Kanab, UT encircled by the picturesque expansive landscape of the Vermillion Cliffs, providing a non-motorized trail linking Kanab locals and visitors to the existing recreational facilities and paved trail at Jackson Flat Reservoir. Photo credit: Kelly Stowell.



**Sangre de Cristo NHA  
Colorado**

The Rio Grande and Conejos Rivers supports the ecological and human communities of the Sangre de Cristo NHA and the San Luis Valley. While the heritage area is home to diverse wetlands, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, and cultural experiences, the rivers of the Basin face many environmental and water supply challenges. In order to protect and restore the natural and cultural resources of the heritage area, the current condition of these critical rivers and streams must first be documented. In 2020, the heritage area and its partners undertook a Stream Management Plan process, resulting in characterization of the physical condition of the Rio Grande and Conejos Rivers and the development of goals and methods to address environmental, recreational, and community needs facing each stream and watershed. These Stream Management Plans will be used by stakeholders to inform projects that protect the values of the area's natural history, natural resources, and landscape. Photo courtesy of Sangre de Cristo NHA.



**Kenai Mountain-Turnagain Arm NHA  
Alaska**

*Dena'ina qut'ana chiqinik, chin'an gheli gu yeh  
Dena'ina elnen'aq'tuh ch'nidatl' ghu*

(“Thank you Dena'ina people for letting us walk on your land”)

In summer 2020, a Kenai Mountain-Turnagain Arm (KMTA) NHA Mini Grant helped support a community youth Land Acknowledgement mural with the Girdwood Fine Arts Camp. The writing on the mural is in Dena'ina Athabaskan language and is meant to honor the land and its original people to build a strong and grounded foundation for environmental stewardship and relationship to the natural world around us. Photo courtesy of KMTA NHA.



**Freedom's Way NHA  
Massachusetts/New Hampshire**

During 2020, Freedom's Way National Heritage Area and its partners commemorated the Centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment through a year-long thematic focus on the people, places and objects associated with stories of the 19th Amendment, civics, and women's history. A Freedom's Way NHA Partnership Grant provided support to the Lexington Historical Society to develop the exhibit, “Something Must Be Done: Bold Women of Lexington,” which interpreted the ways women in Lexington, MA have participated in protest at the local and national level from the American Revolution through today. Photo courtesy of Freedom's Way NHA.

# National Heritage Areas 2020

**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](http://www.nps.gov/heritageareas)

\*Denotes NHA that spans multiple states.

\*\* Does not provide data for this report.

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