



National Heritage Areas

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

How We Spent 2019

By the Numbers

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) expand 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. Data presented here is from 47 of the 49 NHAs reporting.

In 2019, NHAs:

- Leveraged **\$84.5 million** in cash and in-kind support to carry out heritage projects and programs, greatly increasing the impact of the **\$19.3 million** in federal Heritage Partnership Program funding received.
- Engaged **2,674 formal partners** and **5,286 informal partners** in heritage area activities.
- Benefited from **36,289 volunteers** contributing over **475,511 hours** for heritage area projects – a **\$12.3 million-dollar value**.



Erie Canalway NHC. In 2019, the Erie Canalway NHC piloted the Paddle the Flight event, highlighting the NYS Canalway Water Trail launch and the Canalway Challenge and invited 125 people to discover New York's canals as a recreational resource. PaddleThe Flight Event along the canal in Waterford, NY. Photo courtesy of Erie Canalway NHC.

Preserving our Heritage. Across the country, National Heritage Areas and their partners are reviving historic downtowns, preserving battlefields and industrial sites, and sharing our nation's history through the arts. In 2019:

- **214 historic sites** and **13,840 acres of cultural landscapes** preserved and maintained, including battlefields.
- **104 community development projects** were carried-out, including streetscape improvement and art projects.
- **55 collections projects** undertaken, including the conservation of artifacts and creation of oral histories.
- **82 historic preservation grants** awarded totaling **\$904,294**.

Recreation and Conservation. Through recreational projects such as land and water trails, National Heritage Areas are improving connectivity and accessibility, creating more vibrant and healthy communities. In 2019:

- **154 recreation projects** undertaken.
- **567 miles of trails** maintained and **95 new miles of trails** developed.
- **72 recreation grants** awarded totaling **\$1.2 million**.

Conservation activities led by National Heritage Area entities and their partners improve air and water quality and support healthy ecosystems. In 2019:

- **12,858 acres of land restored and maintained** via invasive species removal, replanting and toxic site clean-ups.
- **54 conservation grants** awarded totaling **\$601,078**.

Educating Current and Future Leaders. Through programs such as Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area's *National History Academy*. National Heritage Areas and their partners are providing meaningful and inspirational connections to our nation's heritage and exploring the qualities and skills of leadership. In 2019:

- Capacity-building assistance provided to **1,162 organizations**.
- **302 educational programs** were offered.
- **2,700 grants** to support educational programs were awarded totaling **\$2.1 million**.

National Heritage Areas, 2019*



South Park NHA. In 2019, the South Park NHA celebrated its 10th anniversary as a National Heritage Area. Also, in 2019, it partnered with History Colorado and received a grant through the State Historical Fund to complete Phase IV Rehabilitation of the historic 1874 Paris Mill. The Paris Mill has been an ongoing preservation project since 2013. In 2019, work at the mill included structural and building envelope rehabilitation. Paris Mill South Elevation. Photo Credit: Jennie



Atchafalaya NHA. In 2019, Atchafalaya NHA collaborated with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology to create a three-week hands-on archaeology curriculum for students at the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired, providing them a better understanding of archaeology and the history of the heritage area through hands-on experiences. Here, students take part in screening for artifacts at a mock archaeological dig. Photo courtesy of Atchafalaya NHA.



Blue Ridge NHA. Basket making demo along the Blue Ridge Craft Trails in Clay and Cherokee counties, NC. Artist Carmen Haynes. Photo Credit Chris Aluka Berry.

National Heritage Areas Program Office

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*List of NHAs as of Sept. 30, 2019. The six NHAs designated in March 2019 were not required to submit data for this report.

**Denotes NHA that spans multiple states.

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 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) • **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 • 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 • *Washington Maritime National Heritage Area

WEST VIRGINIA – /***Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (MD, WV) • **Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area (MD, PA, VA, WV) • Wheeling National Heritage Area • National Coal Heritage Area