

#HeritageArea30: Making a Difference

*National Heritage Areas and the
National Park Service
– a strong partnership*



**30 Years Ago: An idea
Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor**

Today: 30th Anniversary for the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor



CELEBRATING

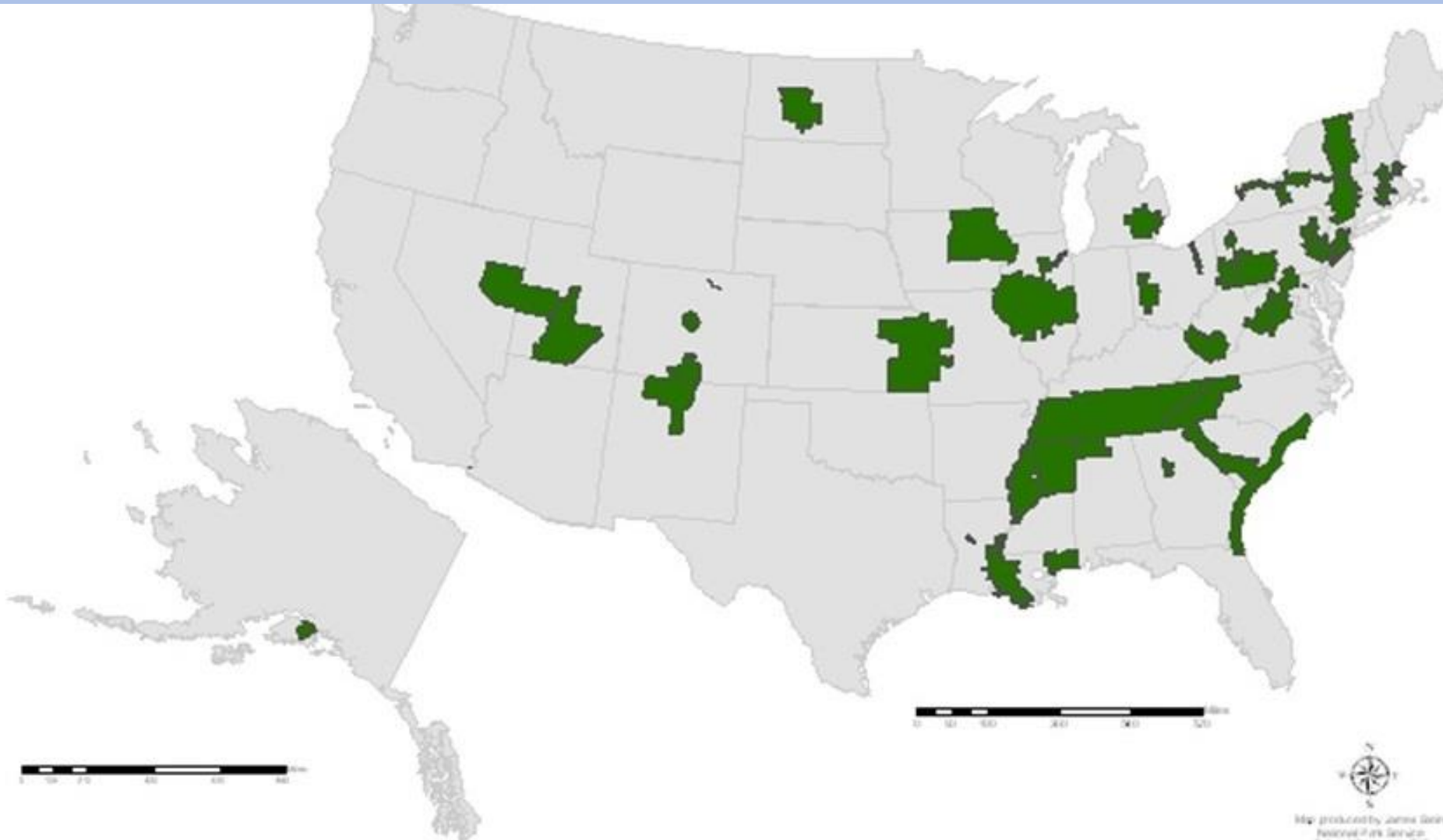
30
YEARS

Waterways that Built Chicago

Discover more at iandmcanal.org

49 National Heritage Areas in 32 States

"I have witnessed the growth and maturity of the heritage areas movement, and of individual heritage areas, and am convinced of their effectiveness," NPS Director Jon Jarvis.



#HeritageArea30



Social Media Campaign

- **Goal: Engaging Partners**
- Toolkit
- Twitter
- FaceBook
- Inside NPS
- Email Newsletters
- Press Releases
- Traditional Media

NHA Newsletter highlighting I&M 30th Anniversary

- Announced Social Media Campaign to larger audience.
- Encouraged partners and NPS units to participate in the Anniversary.
- Reminded partners to attend webinar on the campaign and engage their partners.



#HeritageArea30: Making an Impact

Thirty years ago, National Heritage Area designation was conceived by community and National Park Service leaders looking for a new approach to conserve and develop the historic Illinois and Michigan Canal. This launched a national movement to unite preservation, conservation, recreation, education and economic development through national heritage areas.



Today visitors can hike and bike on the I & M Canal Towpath Trail and ride on replica boats. Looking back to the 1960 - 80's, this was unimaginable as the canal was all but forgotten. Leaders sought to unite the 96-mile region from Chicago to LaSalle-Peru, not as a National Park, but as a National Heritage Area, including historic, cultural and natural sites, with homes, businesses, and industry.

Signed into law by native son, President Reagan on August 24, 1984, I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor's designation sparked a movement.

"I have witnessed the growth and maturity of the heritage areas movement, and of individual heritage areas, and am convinced of their effectiveness," wrote NPS Director Jon Jarvis in the NHA Policy Memo. "National Heritage Areas are places where small investments pay huge dividends, providing demonstrable benefits in communities across the country and in partnership with our national parks."

NHAs are celebrating the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor and 30 years of partnership and accomplishments throughout the country the week of August 24 - 30, 2014. Join the national celebration on the NPS Heritage & Historic Preservation [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Add to the discussion by sharing your stories or images using #HeritageArea30.

Summer 2014

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Learn more about the #HeritageArea30 campaign.

Thursday, August 21, 2:00 EST

Heather Scotten (NPS NHA Assistant Coordinator) and Mera Cardenas (ANHA Marketing Committee Chair & Executive Director Arabia Mountain NHA) will discuss the national media strategy and #HeritageArea30 Social Media Toolkit during Best Practice Call.

RSVP: [Heather Wickens](#) at hwickens@fhlhc.org

[National Workshop on Large Landscape Conservation](#)



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ABOUT

National Park Service (NPS) programs support and assist the preservation and promotion of our shared heritage and historic properties in communities across...

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<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/index.htm>

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PHOTOS



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Heritage & Historic Preservation - NPS shared a link.
August 29

HIKE, BIKE, WALK, PADDLE in a National Heritage Area near you. Last year, NHAs distributed \$3 million for recreational projects. Check-out the #HeritageArea30 Recreation Snapshot.



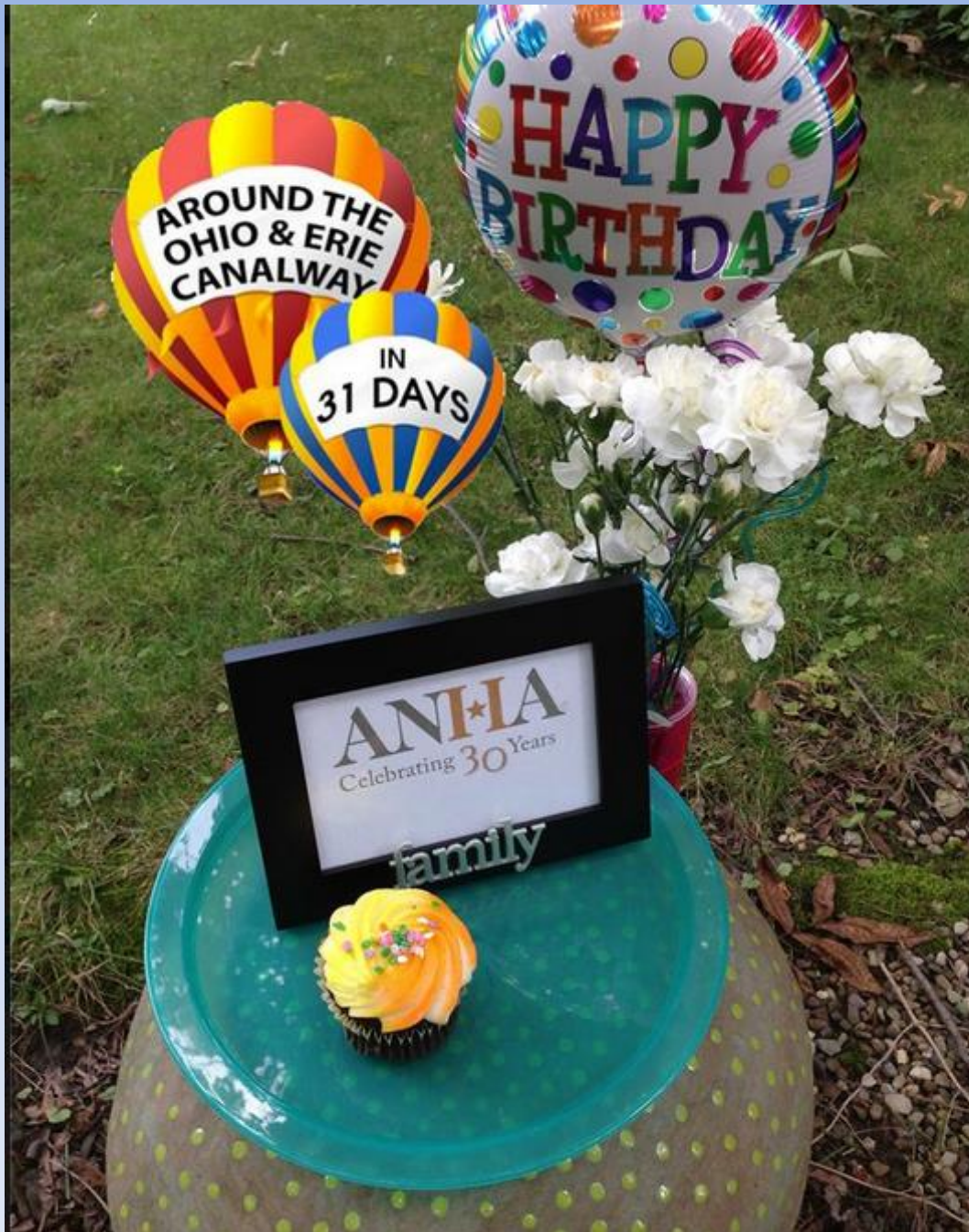
#HeritageArea30 Recreation Snapshot
archive.constantcontact.com

Sharing the Love



In partnership with the National Park Service

*Wishing you many more
years of success!*



Ohio & Erie Canalway

Liked · August 24 · Edited

♪♪ We're havin' a party everybody's singing ♪♪

Thirty years ago today, the first National Heritage Area in the country - the Illinois & Michigan (I&M) Canal National Heritage Corridor - was signed into being by President Ronald Reagan. Today, there are 49 National Heritage Areas (NHAs) across the country - including the Ohio & Erie Canalway. Collectively, the NHAs contribute \$12.9 Billion to... [See More](#)

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Kathy Stella Cole Happy 30th! Proud of our Nations Heritage Areas! Glad we preserve and protect them.

Like · Reply · 🔄 2 · August 24 at 5:20pm



Alliance of National Heritage Areas What a delicious looking cupcake! What better way to celebrate a happy birthday? 😊

Like · Reply · 🔄 1 · August 25 at 12:41pm



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Alaska National Parks



A "Mountain of a Man" A Seward pioneer was honored Tuesday by the Kenai Mountains—Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (www.kmtacorridor.org). LeRoy Vincent Ray was a Seward lawyer and mining investor, a three-time mayor, and Senate president in the first Alaska Legislature. The 4,911 foot L.V. Ray peak can be seen from the south Johnson Pass Trailhead near Moose Pass. About 20 people gathered there for the dedication of a new sign telling some of L.V. Ray's story. The audience included Ray's great-grandson and his family. The national heritage area, established in 2009, uses federal funds from the National Park Service and matches them with private and other non-federal donations to help recognize, preserve, and interpret the historic, scenic, cultural and recreational resources of the area. This week also marks the 30th anniversary of the national heritage area accomplishments around the country, #HeritageArea30

Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm NHA recognizes Alaska pioneer L.V. Ray in Moose Pass project, www.kmtacorridor.org, #HeritageArea30

Tags: HeritageArea30, AlaskaNPS, Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm NHA

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#HeritageArea30 Happy BD I&M from ACNHA



Rebecca Rogers

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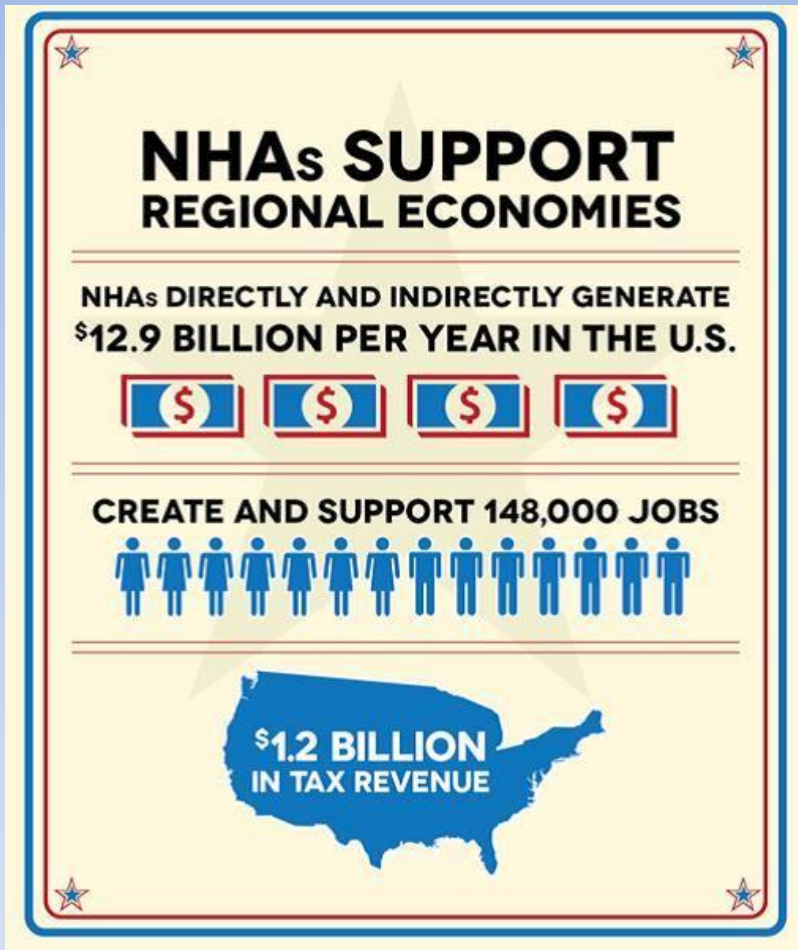
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Published on Aug 22, 2014

Wishing the Illinois and Michigan National Heritage Corridor "Happy Birthday" for 30 years as USA's first National Heritage Area! -From your little sister, the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area in Georgia.

SHOW MORE

Making the Case and Telling Stories



- In 2013, NHAs leveraged approximately \$48 million to the \$16 million from NPS.
- Collectively, NHAs awarded over 600 grants for \$4 million and engaged over 60,000 volunteers.

Preservation Snapshot

\$1 million in preservation grants and collectively preserved or maintained over 100 historic properties.

Stories:

Rivers of Steel: Graffiti Art

Wheeling NHA: Capitol Theatre

Augusta Canal: Textile Mills



PRESERVING PLACES FOR PEOPLE

Thirty years ago, the first National Heritage Area, Illinois and Michigan National Heritage Corridor, was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. In his dedication speech, Reagan, an Illinois native, referred to a "new kind of national park" that married preservation, conservation, recreation, education, and economic development. Today, the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor maintains the 97 mile towpath as a hiking-biking trail that is located on same the path used by mule tenders and American Indians before them. Many historic structures, including canal locks and lock tenders' homes, that trace their existence to the canal still stand.

Since 1984, 49 National Heritage Areas have been established, resulting in much needed preservation projects and leading to significant economic development. **Last year alone, the NHAs distributed over \$1 million in preservation grants and collectively preserved or maintained over 100 historic properties.** Over 30 years, creative preservation strategies are taking root and making an impact in partnership with the National Park Service and many active citizens.

Pennsylvania's [Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area](#) embraced an unique partnership at the historic Carrie Blast Furnace. Unsecured for many years, the former US Steel Homestead Works was a magnet for graffiti artists in the Pittsburgh area. But when an artist noticed some interesting work during a tour, a unique partnership was born. Rather than paying to remove the graffiti, Rivers of Steel joined with artists to manage graffiti in a way that is beneficial to the site. A monthly urban art workshop and tour provides opportunities for visitors to learn about graffiti art, as well as the history of steel production. While steel manufacturing will never return to Carrie, Rivers of Steel is using the site to attract visitors interested industrial heritage and urban art while preserving this National Historic Landmark.



Graffiti art incorporating the Rivers of Steel logo.

In [Wheeling National Heritage Area](#) preservation brought the historic [Capitol Theatre](#) back to life. This spectacular theatre closed its doors in 2006. It was reopened in 2009 with assistance from the Wheeling Convention and Visitors Bureau and Wheeling Sports and Entertainment Authority. Wheeling NHA staff provided grant management and technical assistance for the project, which supported 30 construction jobs and educational opportunities for preservation students. It has welcomed 200,000 guests since 2009.

[Augusta Canal National Heritage Area's](#) preservation program is providing a range of recreational, educational, and economic opportunities. The historic Enterprise Mill, which was shuttered in 1983, is now restored. This vast textile mill houses offices, apartments, a theater, and the Augusta Canal National Heritage Discovery Center. Restored hydroelectric generators provide power to the site while the excess power is sold to Georgia Power, generating revenue for programs. In 2001, The Augusta Canal Authority (ACA) acquired King Mill after the owners ceased operations. They leased it to a textile company, putting hundreds of



LOOKING for AN EXPERIENCE?

New York State Barge Canal System:

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in partnership with NYS Canal Corporation documented over 200 nationally significant structures that reflect early 20th century engineering and commerce. Discover them today.



Detroit River Factories: MotorCities National Heritage Area in partnership with downtown Northville completed rehabilitation of the oldest remaining Detroit Urban Rail station. See it on the Mill Race Village tour, featuring the buildings as they were when Henry Ford operated the Northville Mill in the early 20th century.



Middleport Lift Bridge, 1915 and Today.

Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor is

revitalizing historic towns adjacent to the D & L Trail and historic Canals with The Landmark Towns Project's preservation and business improvement grants, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Inc. is revitalizing historic towns adjacent to the Delaware and Lehigh Trail and historic Canals.

Cherokee Traditions in the Blue Ridge Mountains, NC: Blue Ridge National Heritage Area supports Cherokee traditions, including pottery, dance and storytelling, at important sites throughout Western North Carolina.



Much more to discover: www.nps.gov/heritageareas

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Conserving Places for People

\$4 million in grants for land and water conservation projects and collectively restored over 1000 acres of land through invasive species removal, replanting and site clean-up efforts on public lands.

Stories:

Hudson River Valley NHA

Blue Ridge NHA

Last Green Valley

Yuma

Schuylkill River NHA

30 YEARS CONSERVING PLACES FOR PEOPLE

Conservation is a hallmark of National Heritage Areas. By conserving natural resources, National Heritage Areas in partnership with the National Park Service protect the character of place for the benefit of communities who live and work in the area. Conservation efforts lead to improved air and water quality, healthy ecosystems, beautiful places to live, and countless other benefits. Last year alone the NHAs distributed over \$4 million in grants for land and water conservation projects and collectively restored over 1,000 acres of land through invasive species removal, replanting and clean-up efforts.

In the [Hudson River Valley NHA](#), the Rockland Farm Alliance (RFA) is aiming to increase the number of regional farms and sustainable farming educational programs. Through education and outreach, RFA helps prepare land for farming and provides guidance to new and emerging farmers. Similarly, [Blue Ridge NHA](#) (BRNHA) supports the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project, which links new farmers to available land and stimulates farm tourism. BRNHA highlights traditional agricultural practices such as forestry and orchard keeping, as well as recent specialty crops like wine grapes and Christmas trees. They celebrate agricultural history as well as innovative agricultural development.

[Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District's](#) battlefield conservation plan incorporates environmental protection, watershed work, agricultural development, as well as historic preservation. Since 2000, Shenandoah Battlefields Foundation has worked with local governments and property owners to double the amount of protected acreage in the area through easements. Much of the 6,000 acres are working farms, thus preserving the character of the battlefield while contributing to the economy.



Students help monitor water quality at High Creek Fen in South Park NHA in Colorado.

In [South Park National Heritage Area](#) in Colorado, conservation is incorporated into educational programs. For the second year running, staff partnered with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte to bring middle school students to High Creek Fen, a rare, ecologically diverse wetland. Students learn about water quality monitoring and biological indicators in class before completing field work on World Water Monitoring Day. This unique program combines laboratory science with field ecology, while increasing students awareness of issues in their community.

Community organization is key in the [Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor](#), where volunteers and staff work to maintain 116 miles of waterway. In 2013, 206 volunteers dedicated 1237 hours at over 200 locations to monitor water quality. Water cleanup activities involved 1,100 people retrieving 13,500 pounds of trash.

Ambitious wetland restorations in [Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area](#) resulted in restoration of 1500 acres of wetlands within the challenging desert environment. The East Wetlands project is the result of a partnership with the City of Yuma, the Quechan Indian Tribe, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The partners signed an agreement to each maintain 350 acres of wetlands in the Multi-Species Conservation (MSCP) Program, ensuring 50 years of maintenance.



The [Schuylkill River National Heritage Area](#) manages the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund Grant program, a private and publicly funded grant program designed to improve the quality and quantity of water in the watershed. Since its inception in 2006, 23 projects were successfully completed and an additional 17 are in progress. Results include thousands of feet of repaired stream-bank, invasive species removed along riparian buffers, and many best management practices installed in the five county area.

EXPLORE NATURE & CULTURE

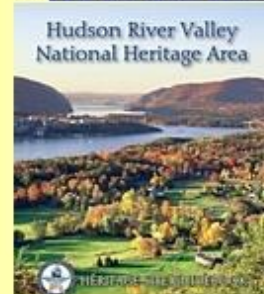
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area:

Atchafalaya River Basin is the nation's largest river swamp, containing almost one million acres of America's most significant bottomland hardwoods, swamps, bayous, and backwater lakes.

Blue Ridge National Heritage Area: See stunning views of the Appalachian Mountains, Snowbird, Slickrock, and Joyce Kilmer Forests and on clear days can see the Great Smoky Mountains that shaped the Appalachian culture, including [Blue Grass Music](#)

Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership

This heritage area includes the interconnected waterways of Lake Champlain, Lake George, the Champlain Canal and portions of the Upper Hudson River watershed in Vermont and New York. The area is the ancestral homeland of Algonquin and Iroquois peoples and, over the past 400 years, played a vital role in the establishment of the United States and Canada. Learn more about the [Lake Champlain Basin Program](#).



Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Great Basin National Heritage Area: Explore a section of the largest U.S. desert and see the Bristlecone pine trees, which can live to be 5,000 years old. Great Basin NHA celebrates the Indians, settlers, miners, and explorers that were shaped by this unique region.

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area: The Hudson River Valley extends 150 miles above the tip of Manhattan. The river runs three miles wide, carving between mountains and promontories - a glittering path followed by Indians, adventurers, George Washington's Continental Army, and Gilded Age millionaires. Today it is home many picturesque towns, parks, and trails to explore.



Feast your eyes on scenery, let the rhythm of the music entice you, and immerse yourself in the culture of Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

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Heritage Education

\$2 million in grants for educational projects and offered over 400 unique educational programs.

Illinois and Michigan Canal

Essex National Heritage Area

Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area:

National Aviation Heritage Area

Journey Through Hallowed Ground.

30 YEARS OF HERITAGE EDUCATION

National Heritage Areas preserve and protect historic and cultural resources by engaging the public through a variety of educational programs. NHAs work to reach new and diverse audiences, share meaningful stories, and connect residents, teachers, and students to history in their own backyards. Since National Heritage Areas need to match federal funding, they work with their partners to connect students and educators with natural and cultural resources as well as fostering civic engagement to strengthen the public understanding and relevance of heritage sites. In 2013 NHAs distributed over \$2 million in grants for educational projects and offered over 400 unique educational programs.



School children on the LaSalle Canal Boat on I & M Canal. Financial assistance to low-income schools allows children to come for field boat trips. In spring of 2014, over 1,000 students came to visit the LaSalle Canal Boat.

Over 30 years, [Illinois and Michigan National Heritage Corridor](#) has worked with community partners to educate the public in many ways, including a bicycle milemarker wayfinding system which was established in 2002. Mile marker signs give a fun fact about the canal and add interpretation and interaction between the trail, its history, and its users. Kiosks let trail travelers know about attractions near that marker. Larger signs interpret major stories along the canal. New 2014 signage with QR codes gives visitors educational and interpretive information to enhance their trail experience.

In 2012, the [Essex National Heritage Area](#) partnered with Seven Gables Settlement Association and the House of Seven Gables in Salem to conduct an outreach program titled *Making the Caribbean Connection*. The goal is to engage underserved Latino youths in discovering the untold stories of Salem and the Caribbean. Through hands-on projects, lectures in Spanish and English and visits to Salem's many maritime historic sites, students explore the interactions - both past and present - between the US and the Caribbean, where many of their families emigrated from. Students connect with the community while also gaining valuable language skills. The program was funded by a grant from the National Park Foundation, partners and volunteers.



Essex students learning some of the finer points of shipbuilding.

[The Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area](#) hosts the Puye Cliffs Hiking Program, which also blends history and language, albeit in a slightly different way. The program, created by the Santa Clara Pueblo, teaches pueblo youth about cliff dwellings, life styles, and the identification of traditional native plants. This information is presented by generational mentors in the Tewa language, helping to preserve the linguistic heritage of the region.

Each summer, [National Aviation Heritage Area](#) manages the [SOAR program](#) at the Dayton Air Show. This hands-on program offers low-income children of the area the chance to experience the air show. Nearly 20 unique STEM-related activities are provided by companies, universities, and programs.

Many NHAs focus on exploring learning opportunities through new media. [Journey through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area's](#) *Of the Student, By the Student, For the Student* service learning project connects students to the American Civil War as they use primary source documents, music, dance, dramatic readings, acting and digital technology to create vodcasts or mini-movies for National Parks within JTHG. Student-generated films become part of the NPS interpretive materials at the sites and are



Nearly 100 volunteers from STEM related groups come together at the Air Show to help foster the future of

LEARN AND EXPLORE

Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, IL: [The Looking for Lincoln History Hunt](#) is the key to unlocking a journey that combines fun, education and historic sites throughout the heritage area.

Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area, AK: curriculum recognizes that much of Alaska's history is recent and can still be found in the remains of old cabins and in the stories of our elders.

Niagara Falls National Heritage Area, NY: Learn about the region through the [Junior Ranger Adventure Program](#). Visit over a dozen sites in the NHA and complete activities culminating with a badge and certificate.



Journey to Greatness

South Park National Heritage Area, CO: Participate in one of the Community Work Day programs, offered by the NHA in partnership with HistoriCorps, upcoming projects include the [Colonel Frank Mayer House](#) and [Alma Ladies Aid Hall](#).

Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area: Explore the state of Tennessee's civil war sites and history, through the [Tennessee Civil War 150 App](#).

Delaware and Leigh National Heritage Corridor, PA: Learn about the historic Delaware & Lehigh Canal through [Tales of the Tow Path](#) traveling trunks or by following the [adventure online](#).

Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, PA: Catch one of the [Big Steel Field Trips](#), such as Life on \$1.85 a Day, an experiential program that recreates a "day in the life" of immigrants to the area.

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30 Years of Recreation: Something for Everyone

\$3 million in grants for recreation projects and developed 1133 new miles of on and off road trails.

Illinois and Michigan Canal NHC

Arabia Mountain

Lackawanna Heritage Valley National Heritage Area

Ohio and Erie Canalway NHC

Champlain Valley National heritage Partnership

Oil Region National Heritage Area

Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm NHA

30 Years of Recreation - Something for Everyone

As we reflect on 30 years since the creation of the first National Heritage Area, let's celebrate the recreational opportunities provided to our heritage area communities. NHAs improve access to the cultural and natural resources they were designated to celebrate and protect. Granting access to recreational opportunities is important for public engagement and stewardship, which are essential to the mission of all NHAs. Last year alone the National Heritage Areas distributed over \$3 million in grants for recreation projects and developed 1133 new miles of on and off road trails.

Many recreation projects in NHAs focus on the creation of multi-use hiking and biking trails such as those along the [Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor](#). Trails often take advantage of historic infrastructure - canals, industrial sites, and historic railways are points of intrigue for hikers, bikers, runners and walkers.

In Georgia, [Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area](#) completed a 30 mile hike-bike trail that connects historic, cultural and natural resources. Interactive maps enable trail visitors to map their route. Plans are also underway in partnership with a local mountain biking group to investigate opportunities for appropriate low-impact mountain biking.



[Lackawanna Heritage Valley National Heritage Area](#) in Pennsylvania developed the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, part of a 70 mile trail.



Working with over 150 partners, Ohio and Erie Canalway National Heritage

Area developed 85 miles of the planned 101 mile Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail. It attracts 2.5 million visitors annually, including those for their annual marathon and much more.

The [Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership](#) and the [Upper Housatonic NHA](#) have collaborated with multiple stakeholders from Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut to design and develop the Western New England Greenway (WNEG). When complete, it will connect the East Coast Greenway with Quebec's route Verte, providing a contiguous 439-mile bike route between New York City and Montreal. CVNHP and UHNHA are using this project to connect historic and natural sites through their shared interpretive themes.

Trails wind through a variety of natural and urban environments, providing a comprehensive view of a region. Just as trails rely on partnerships within communities, they also

serve to create and strengthen connections between communities. In 2013, the [Delaware and Lehigh NHA](#) added 13 miles to the Delaware and Lehigh Trail (D&L), constructed three trailheads, and completed an assessment of a larger Lehigh Valley Trail Network. The success of the D&L Trail prompted the [Landmark Towns Project](#), which aims to bring people from the trail to nearby downtown areas.



Discover fascinating stories and adventure to boot up north at the [Kenai Mountains - Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area](#) in



Fishing, hiking, biking, boating, rock climbing, hunting, canoeing, camping and enjoy the view in [Oil Region National Heritage Area](#).

Across the country, people enjoy National Heritage Areas as destinations for hiking, biking, paddling, walking and running. NHAs support tours and other events that help small towns, draw visitors, shoppers, and diners. Heritage Areas also offer school tours, camps, and other outdoor adventures that help our younger generation get moving and connect with the great outdoors in their own backyards.

RUN, WALK, BIKE or PADDLE

Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, LA - Canoe or kayak the [Bayou Teche Paddling Trail](#) [HMS1] , a 135-mile-long waterway of great cultural significance to Louisiana and the Atchafalaya NHA

Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, PA -Take the Get Your Tail on the Trail [HMS2] wellness program challenge by running, walking or biking the 165-mile D&L Trail.

Essex National Heritage Area, MA: Experience the sights and sounds of the Essex National Heritage Area during the TRAILS & SAILS: Two Weekends of Walks & Water through walks, guided hikes, sails, and other adventures

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, NY: Ramble through the Hudson River Valley and learn about the historic, cultural and natural resources.

Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area, UT - Do you like cycling? Love old barns? Join the annual [Barn Storming](#) tour of Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah hosted by Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area and the Utah Heritage Foundation

Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, PA: Paddle the Schuylkill River on a one, two or seven day [Sojourn](#) in 2015.

Wheeling National Heritage Area, WV: Ohio River Valley residents can "[Trek the Trail](#)" in Wheeling National Heritage Area.



Baltimore National Heritage Area: Stroll along the water in historic neighborhoods on Baltimore's Waterfront Promenade. Take a walking tour on Heritage Walk or any of the Star Spangled Banner Trails.



In Atchafalaya NHA, visitors take a boat trip in the Bayou Teche Wildlife Refuge during the 9th Annual Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival to learn about the Louisiana black bear, a threatened species listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

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