

National Park Service
National Heritage Areas Program



National Heritage Area Partnerships

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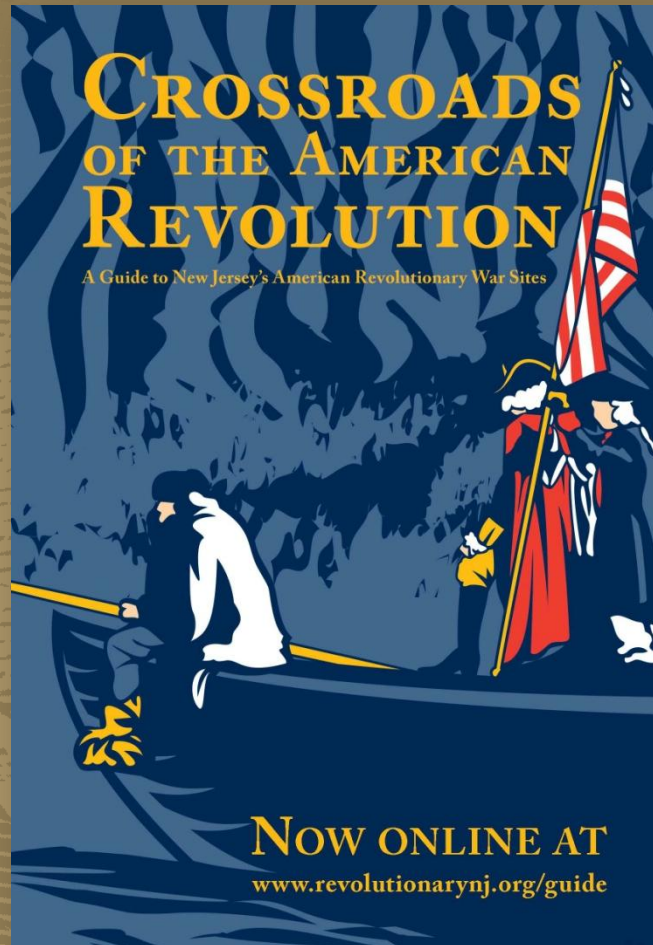
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What are National Heritage Areas?



Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Area, CT and MA

National
Heritage Areas
are places
of national
distinction...



in our nation's
history...



Fort McHenry , Baltimore National Heritage Area, MD

cultural
traditions,



Architecture,

Theater Before Rehabilitation



Theater After Rehabilitation



and scenic
beauty...



Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, NC

Where grassroots initiatives...



Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, GA

lead to lasting partnerships...



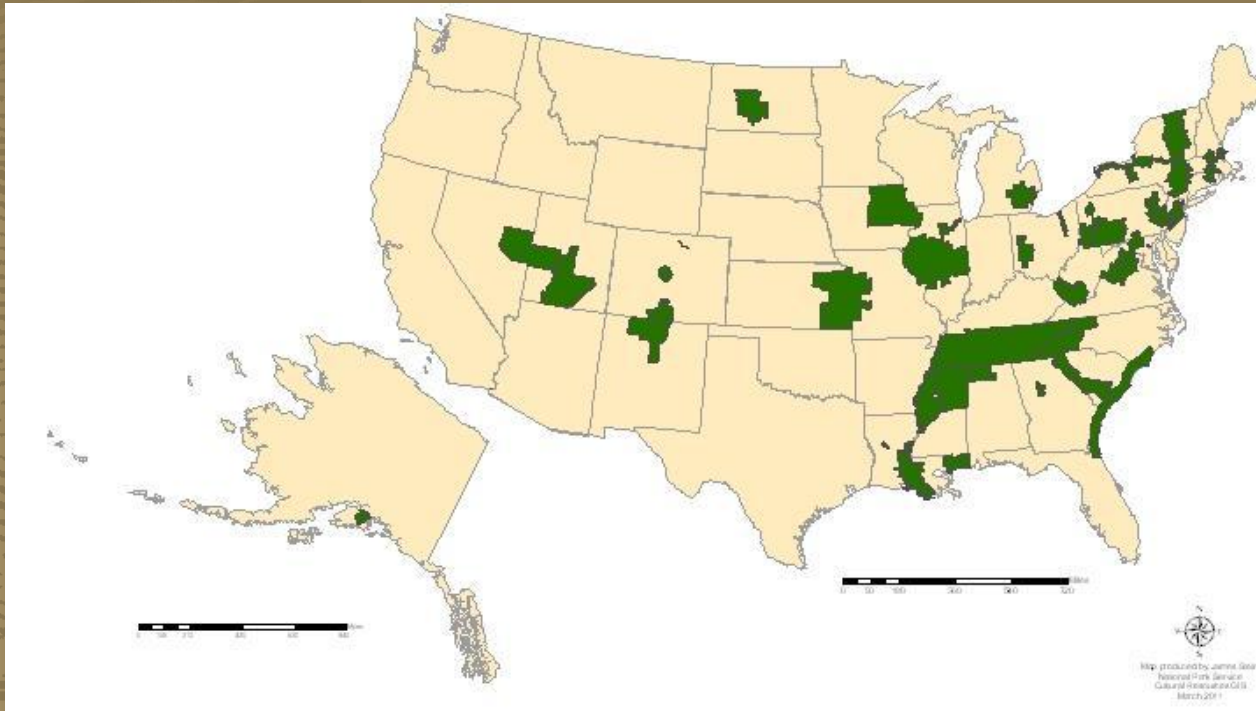
Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, GA

...and conservation
on a landscape scale.



Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, AZ

49 National Heritage Areas



Located in 32 States

National Heritage Area Partnerships

- Preserve and protect our country's unique historic buildings and sites, cultural traditions, and natural and scenic areas.
- Improve access to, awareness and understanding of the nationally important historic events, natural and cultural sites, and cultural traditions.
- Expand economic activity associated with heritage projects and tourism, creating opportunities for small business development, job growth, and a stronger tax base.
- Foster an active presence of the distinctive heritage within our national heritage areas.

Role of Partners

- The Management Entity is the primary partner, coordinating and collaborating with other groups in the heritage area and serving as the liaison with the National Park Service.



Who benefits from partnerships' work?

- Residents and Visitors (opportunities to enjoy natural and cultural resources, health benefit from outdoor recreation)
- Youth (educational and job opportunities)
- Resources (water quality improvements, preservation of built environment, continuation of cultural traditions)
- Local economies (increased tourism, support for local agriculture and working landscapes, Main Street revitalization)
- National Park Service (shared mission) and other federal agencies (shared projects)



What guides the partnerships?

- Congressional legislation and funding
- National Park Service guidance and technical assistance
- Public involvement
- Management plans
- Agreement documents
- Local traditions and culture



Best practices

- Public involvement at all stages
- Clarity of purpose, long-term vision
- Accountability and analysis
- Recognition and thanks



Lessons learned

- Communication at all levels
- Clarity of message
- Balance of support and leadership roles (“secret ingredient”)
- Analysis of outcomes
- Persistence



National Heritage Areas Program

www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas

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