

ANHA

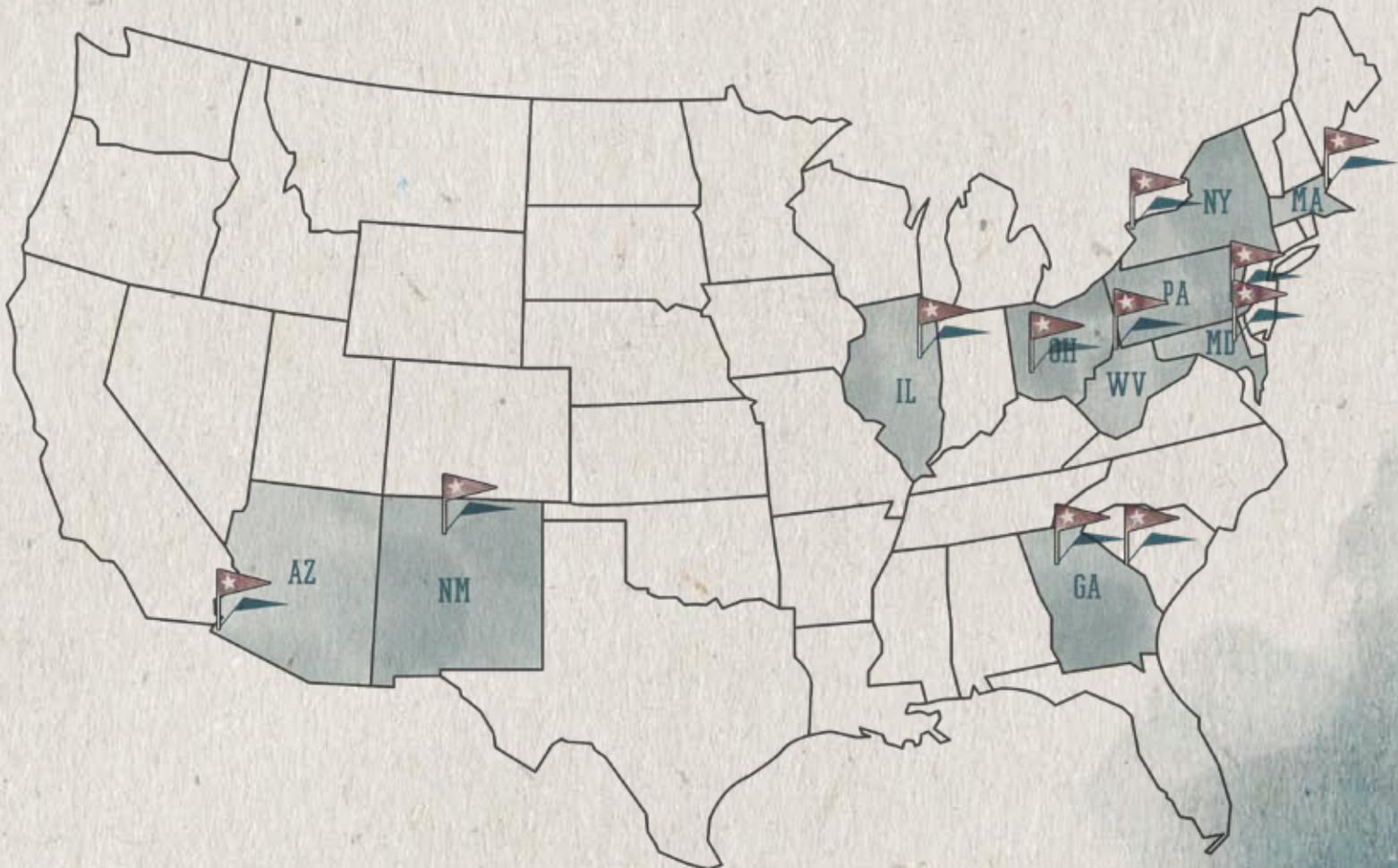
Alliance of National Heritage Areas

CONNECTING THE *Heart & Soul* of American Communities

MAY 2018 | VOLUME 2

While National Heritage Areas generate jobs and tax revenues through economic development, they also impact communities at a deeper level. American history is comprised of soaring accomplishments alongside painful struggle. Together, they embody our national character.

In this edition, we focus on 11 more communities throughout the nation where National Heritage Areas have helped work through those struggles — bringing diverse communities together for the common good.





Commitment, perseverance and know-how. Augusta Canal National Heritage Area brings these to the task of saving Mother Trinity Church. To preserve this nationally significant African-American historic site, it must be moved from its present location by June.



AUGUSTA, GA

Moving Heaven & Earth

Saving Mother Trinity Church

Glowing in the torchlight, the faces of 125 enslaved people shone with piety and excitement. As they made their way through the darkened streets of Augusta, Georgia that night in 1840, no one in the procession could have known they were lighting the way to the birth of a major religious denomination.

Augusta's historic Mother Trinity Church, the birthplace of the Christian Methodist Episcopal denomination, has many stories to tell. Yet, after 158 years of worship at its original location near the banks of the Augusta Canal, the Trinity congregation abandoned their historic sanctuary. The reason: contamination from a defunct manufactured gas plant had poisoned the ground beneath the church. In 1997 Atlanta Gas Light Company bought the church property, the congregation rebuilt and

relocated, and Mother Trinity stood empty for almost twenty years. It became clear the utility planned to demolish the old building.

The Augusta Canal National Heritage Area (ACNHA) stepped in, spearheading the "Save Mother Trinity" initiative. With guidance from Partners for Sacred Places, a national non-profit that specializes in repurposing of historic worship spaces, ACNHA convened more than fifty community stakeholders to look at how the church could be reused for a meaningful, sustainable purpose. "But first and foremost, we needed to save and stabilize the structure," explained ACHNA Executive Director Dayton Sherrouse.

The clock was ticking. The gas company was under orders to clean up the property by 2019. As an alternative to demolition,

ACNHA sought permission to move the structure onto an adjacent parcel, but the gas company resisted. Finally, a formal mediation between the company and Augusta's Historic Preservation Commission yielded an agreement; the gas company would deed both the church and nearby land to the Augusta Canal Authority (ACNHA's management organization) and contribute \$300,000 toward the cost of relocation-- provided the move is completed by mid-June 2018.

"We've contracted with an experienced building mover and he is currently hard at work," Sherrouse said. "We're now hopeful that one day Mother Trinity will again shine her light in this community and beyond."

AUGUSTA CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA — GEORGIA (AUGUSTACANAL.COM)

DAYTON, OH

Aviation Heritage Area Honors WWII Airmen

As a young boy in Amsterdam, Bill Albers was witness to one of the most epic scenes in World War II: massive streams of U.S. B-17 and British Lancaster bombers crossing high over Holland on their way to targets in Germany.

Albers isn't sure he remembers seeing the bombers—he was five when the war ended—but his mother spoke of them so often she etched an indelible image in his mind's eye. It reminds him not just of the bombers, but of the thousands of airmen who flew them—and the thousands who perished.

An aviation heritage group in the National Aviation Heritage Area has given him a chance to repay those airmen by building a flying memorial and sharing his story with younger generations.

Albers grew up in Holland and served in the Royal Dutch Air Force, but he's lived most of his life in the United States. Now a retired engineer and aerospace executive, he lives in Sidney, Ohio and volunteers for the nonprofit Champaign Aviation Museum in nearby Urbana. He's one of more than 100 volunteers who are building the Champaign Lady—a real, flyable B-17G Flying Fortress, the same kind of bomber that filled Holland's sky when Albers was young.

Albers said he learned of the museum about seven years ago and quickly joined. "As an engineer, I fit right in there," he says. Besides working on the airplane itself, Albers speaks frequently to community groups about the project and about B-17s, enriched by his personal memories and extensive research.



The project means much more to Albers than a chance to build a classic airplane. "We are building a memorial for the 24,000 young men who died in this airplane," he says.

NATIONAL AVIATION HERITAGE AREA — OHIO
AVIATIONHERITAGEAREA.ORG

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PA

Rebuilding a Community and its Economy

The headwaters of the Schuylkill River originate in rural Schuylkill County, PA, a region known for its once vibrant and proud economy stemming from a booming coal industry at the turn of the century. Today the area suffers from high unemployment, and approximately 20% of its youth live in poverty. Young residents are forced to leave to find work, which contributes to a steady decrease in population. In response to this dire situation, the Schuylkill River Greenways NHA has established the Heritage Conservation Corps (HCC) in partnership with several key organizations, including AmeriCorps Vista, the PA CareerLink job program, the Schuylkill Vision community group, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Schuylkill County Community Foundation, the USDA and others.

HCC is a program designed to engage and employ local youth in order to teach them the marketable skill of trail construction in addition to exposing them to alternative

careers in a variety of industries and community building. In the summer of 2017, four young men led by an adult supervisor built 1.4 miles of new trail in Schuylkill County, making progress toward closing a critical trail gap in that area. In addition to trail building, the group also worked with community members in Mahanoy City to establish a successful community garden on a vacant lot in this depressed city. Further, over the course of the twelve week program, the HCC team visited several worksites to learn about different career paths, including a construction site and a wind energy farm. The program was a resounding success and plans for 2018 are underway to hire a new round of youth who will focus on building another two mile section of the Schuylkill River Trail while learning about job opportunities and giving back to the community.

The Heritage Conservation Corps program marries several parallel goals that are common to Heritage Areas all over the United States: community building,

economic development, trail building and conservation. With our partners in this challenged region, we are making progress by leveraging the relationships and resources available to SRG as a National Heritage Area and contributing to the positive improvement of the communities around us.

SCHUYLKILL RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
— PENNSYLVANIA (SHUYLKILLRIVER.ORG)



SPRINGFIELD, IL

LEAD: The Spirit Of Lincoln Youth Academy



LEAD is robust, one-of-a-kind youth leadership program that utilizes immersive experiences to empower emerging leaders to develop leadership qualities. We specifically select students who have the potential to be leaders, but may not see it in themselves.

Participants spend a full week exploring the qualities that made Abraham Lincoln such a great leader in his day. They learn why those same qualities are so important in our leaders today, and how, as individuals, they can apply those qualities as they develop their own leadership skills for the future.

During LEAD, the emerging leaders learn about Lincoln's life and times by visiting various historic sites throughout the National Heritage Area to see how individuals were able to make a difference

in their communities and affect change in their state and their nation. They examine how people in today's world face many of the same challenges as those faced by Lincoln and other leaders of his day. The emerging leaders discuss the leadership qualities of honesty, empathy, humility and perseverance and developed a plan for incorporating those qualities into their own lives as they return home.

Clinton, a 2017 participant in the program said; "I learned to be a better leader this week because I was taught how to make my own footsteps." Anna, another 2017 participant described her experience this way; "I loved the group debriefs, a period at the end of the day where we sat in our mentor groups and discussed what stood out to us about the places we visited or about Lincoln's life and what lessons we could draw from that."

LEAD is a public/private partnership between Looking for Lincoln, Union Pacific Railroad, Illinois College, 4H University of Illinois Extension, Lincoln Home National Historic Site/National Park Service, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, Abraham Lincoln Association, Niemann Foods (County Market), the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA – ILLINOIS
LOOKINGFORLINCOLN.COM

WHEELING, WV

Preserving WV's Nail City

In Wheeling, many important stories come together to form our identity. But we like to believe that our slogan, "The Friendly City," was bestowed on the city based on observation of its residents.

Of course, Wheeling's designation as a National Heritage Area took other things into account, including Wheeling's role in commerce and industry. Wheeling's

manufacturing companies helped to build America, and La Belle Iron Works is a key component of this theme.

The company, which began in 1852 as Bailey, Woodward and Company, manufactured cut nails. Using an automatic nail machine, long, flat metal strips were cut and manipulated to form masonry nails.

In the 1870s, La Belle employed 900 people and operated 167 cut nail machines. Wheeling produced nearly a quarter of the nation's supply of nails during this time – garnering Wheeling another nickname: "Nail City."

However, innovation led to the industry's downfall. The company was merged with many others throughout the years, and finally, in 2010, the much-smaller company closed its doors for good.

The building sat empty until 2015, when much of the interior equipment was put up for auction. Wheeling Heritage recognized the significance of La Belle's paper records – and placed a bid on them. As the only bidder, Wheeling Heritage paid \$5 for more

than 100 boxes of documents, photos, architectural and engineering drawings.

With help from a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Wheeling Heritage hired an archivist to process these records. The organization then donated them to the Ohio County Public Library.

More than 130 community members came to a presentation announcing the collection in 2018, including a handful of past La Belle employees. They shared stories of their memories at the plant – how their fathers, who also worked there, told them about the horse that used to pull nail barrels across the factory's floor. As a kid, one of them remembered his dad saying the horse knew when it was break time.

Since then, visitors stop by the reference desk a few times a week asking to see the collection. They want to learn more about the company that employed their families – and gave Wheeling one of its much-earned nicknames.

WHEELING HERITAGE – WEST VIRGINIA
WHEELINGHERITAGE.ORG



YUMA, AZ

Bridging an Historic Gap in Arizona

The mission of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area is to restore the riverfront of the Lower Colorado River at Yuma, Arizona. So how is it that restoring an historic bridge could help make restoration happen?

There had been a historic divide between the Yuma community and the Quechan Indian Tribe—ever since the U.S. military took control of the Yuma Crossing away from the Quechan in the 1850's. Distrust and suspicion weighed heavily on the relationship.

Restoration was only going to happen through cooperation between the City and the Tribe. And more than 2/3 of the Yuma East Wetlands was tribal land. The East Wetlands project was also technically challenging, with soil salinity, restricted river flow, and a jungle of dense non-native vegetation covering the waterfront.

"It was going to be difficult to undertake a complex 400-acre restoration effort without close cooperation, and we had not yet earned the trust of the Quechan Tribe", says Charles Flynn, Heritage Area Director.

Fortunately, Flynn was able to focus on another project that both City and Tribe very much wanted: the restoration and re-opening of the historic "Ocean to Ocean Highway Bridge". Built in 1915, the bridge connected tribal land to downtown Yuma, but was closed in 1989 for structural deficiencies.

The Heritage Area moved ahead with design and secured \$1 million

in grants but needed \$400,000 in local match. The City agreed to provide \$200,000 of the match but wanted the Tribe to enter into a complex Intergovernmental Agreement to assure the Tribe's share of the match. Flynn worried that an overly legalistic approach would hinder the growing trust among the parties. His worries were put to rest when the Tribe voluntarily provided a check of \$200,000, payable to the City of Yuma! "This was the moment when I knew we were building trust", Flynn said.

Eighteen months later, tribal and city residents met on the bridge to celebrate the re-opening of the bridge which both literally and figuratively reconnected the communities. The partnership has grown ever stronger over the years.

**YUMA CROSSING NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
— ARIZONA (YUMAHERITAGE.COM)**



BALTIMORE, MD

Kids In Kayaks

The 2017-18 school year is the third year of the Baltimore National Heritage Area's highly successful Kids in Kayaks program. The program gets Baltimore City Public School eighth graders out on the water, many for the first time in their lives. Students learn the basics of kayaking while simultaneously exploring the history of Baltimore and ecology of the Chesapeake Bay. Despite the fact that Baltimore is a maritime community and port city, many residents have very little access to the water. Children grow up without strong connections to the water and with no understanding of how their daily actions impact the health of the bay and the entire Chesapeake ecosystem. Some participants come back to land very emotional after seeing all of the pollution along the shoreline.

The Baltimore National Heritage Area brought partners together in 2015 after initial conversations with Baltimore City

Department of Recreation and Parks staff. Today's partners include Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, Tree Baltimore, National Park Conservation Association, National Park Service - Chesapeake Bay office, Baltimore Museum of Industry, Outward Bound, Chesapeake Bay program and the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House. This program would not be possible without the Baltimore National Heritage Area serving as the "glue" that connects all of the partners.

To date, more than one thousand city students have participated in the program. With this yearly tradition now in place, seventh graders and younger students hear about what the eighth graders get to do and they look forward to the opportunity when they reach eighth grade.

The program has won four awards, including:

- Baltimore National Heritage Area Organization Partner of the Year 2015- Baltimore City Recreation and Parks
- The Maryland Recreation and Parks Association, "Creative Programming Award"-Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (2017 & 2018)
- The Maryland Recreation and Parks Association, "Writing, Research or Audio Visual Award (Specialty Award)" -Chesapeake Bay Program (video-2017)

**BALTIMORE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA —
MARYLAND (EXPLOREBALTIMORE.ORG)**



NIAGARA FALLS, NY

A Boundary Between Slavery & Freedom

For centuries, Niagara Falls has captured people's hearts and imaginations. It has been long recognized as a natural phenomenon that is considered awe-inspiring and majestic. However, the sheer power of Niagara Falls goes far beyond the Falls themselves. For those escaping slavery in the American South, the Niagara River, presented a final boundary before entering Canada.

The United States was founded on the ideal that "all men are created equal." Yet four million people lived in slavery in the United States in 1860. Between the American Revolution and the Civil War, thousands of people fled enslavement to find new lives of freedom, often crossing the Niagara River into Canada at several access points within the City of Niagara Falls.

African American hotel waiters formed the core of Underground Railroad activism in Niagara Falls providing a network of assistance for freedom seekers who arrived seeking a safe passage across the border.

Within the flourishing hotel and tourism industry, African American waiters lived double lives, openly serving hotel guests and secretly helping freedom seekers cross into Canada.

Their effort made Niagara Falls one of the most important locations of the powerful struggle between slavery and freedom.

In May 2018, the much-anticipated Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center opened. The Heritage Center reveals authentic stories of Underground Railroad freedom seekers and abolitionists in Niagara Falls and inspires visitors to recognize modern injustices that stem from slavery and take action toward an equitable society.

The Heritage Center is a project of the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Commission, in partnership with the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area.

NIAGARA FALLS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA— NEW YORK
(DISCOVERNIAGARA.ORG)



SALEM, MA

Summer Jobs for Future Leaders

A summer job can be a game changer for a teenager. It boosts self-confidence and self-reliance; builds work experience and confidence; and promotes life-long skills in teamwork, responsibility, and leadership. The Future Leaders program that Essex Heritage offers is more than just a job.

Each summer Essex Heritage hires 40 young people to work in their Future Leaders program. The teens learn trades and specialty skills, such as carpentry, farming, shipbuilding, and the ancient art of gilding. They also acquire skills in historic preservation, building maintenance, natural resource management, interpretation, and visitor operations. For many of these teens this is their first job experience, so they receive guidance in workplace expectations, resume preparation, and career development.

Furthermore, historic, cultural, and natural sites in Essex County benefit from the assistance that the Future Leaders provide by helping with projects, supporting their guest services, and engaging with their programs. Future Leader Ryan Duggan learned the art of blacksmithing at the Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site under the direction of Park Ranger Curtis White. After his summer experience, Ryan said, "Getting to be an apprentice blacksmith has been spectacular. I've learned the basics of a fascinating trade, and honed my teaching skills with demonstrations for the visiting public. It's helped me visualize what I would like to do as an adult and has developed my appreciation for history."

ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA – MASSACHUSETTS
(ESSEXHERITAGE.ORG)



STONECREST, GA

Fulfilling a Promise

A well-worn, hand-written land deed from 1925 sits in an archive. It shows the transfer of 45 acres for \$600 in DeKalb County, Georgia. This slip of paper seems unremarkable, but it reflects a promise that continues to be fulfilled today through the partnership of the Flat Rock Archives and the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance.

It wasn't the purchase that was remarkable, but the purchaser – T. A. Bryant, Sr. His acquisition of 45 acres of red Georgia clay freed him from the bounds of sharecropping. It was the beginning of a promise to sustain, nourish, and preserve Flat Rock, one of the oldest African American communities in Georgia. Over 40 years, Mr. Bryant sold nearly 30 parcels of land to community members so they could have a stake in the South while many fled to northern cities during the Great Migration.

The Archives and the Alliance ensure that Bryant's promise endures, and is celebrated.

LYON FARMHOUSE STABILIZATION | The oldest and only remaining intact homestead in DeKalb County, the Lyon Farm was built by a Revolutionary War veteran after the Creek secession in 1821. The vernacular house reflects the westward expansion of a new nation and nearly two centuries of white settlement; slavery and emancipation; reconstruction and Civil Rights. The Flat Rock Archives offers tours of the grounds but the house has fallen into serious disrepair. More than a decade of advocacy work by the Alliance has resulted in a commitment of over \$200,000 by the county to stabilize the historic farmhouse. Through a cadre of local and national partners, the Alliance will lead stabilization efforts and identify an adaptive reuse that will engage the community with its vibrant past.

FLAT ROCK SLAVE CEMETERY PRESERVATION | Obscured by trees on a high ridge, sits a parcel of land marked by simple fieldstones. This is Flat Rock Slave Cemetery. Generations walked a worn quarter-mile dirt path to bury their dead. Due to incomplete property records, the heavily sloped tract has been threatened by insensitive development. The Alliance and The Archives are close to an agreement with a private developer to secure the land and permanently deed it to the Archives, where this story will be shared with future generations.

ARABIA MOUNTAIN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA — GEORGIA
(ARABIAALLIANCE.ORG)



ESPAÑOLA, NM

Querencia Interrupted

“THROUGH HISTORY THOSE MEN ARE HEROES WHOSE DEEDS HAVE BEEN GIVEN PROPER RECOGNITION BY THE HISTORIAN'S PEN. OTHERS, WHOSE LIVES ARE UNRECORDED, SO FAR AS POSTERITY IS CONCERNED, DID NOTHING, FOR OF THESE OUR ANNALS ARE SILENT AND WE KNOW THEM NOT.”

—GASPAR PEREZ DE VILLAGRÁ, HISTORIA DE LA NUEVA MÉXICO, 1610.

At the heart of community interaction is the recognition of story... the acknowledgement of participation... the honoring of contribution. Some events are minor; others can change the course of history.

During World War II, the U.S. government established the Manhattan Project (1942 to 1946). At its center were the project itself and the community of scientists and support teams that came together in a created village on an isolated mesa to create a weapon that would bring an end to the war. Many can recite the story of the bomb and the likes of Robert Oppenheimer and Enrico Fermi. The stories less told are those of the common local populace who helped create and maintain the project at the ground level.

After the explosion of the bomb at Trinity Site, one scientist asked, “What have we done?” The answer to that question would be worldwide change in global politics, the United States' role in the world, and the beginning of a new atomic age.

At a local level, the project contributed to a significant change to the local culture. The established dependence on subsistence farming and

occupations gave way to paid employment, daily travel outside of the community for work, and a new dependence on fixed wages. The growth of “the Lab” and the economic engine of Los Alamos also gave rise to new possibilities for education and technology, and for those who could not seek them, a deeper divide in income and social standing.

The Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area joined with the Northern NM College to present the Historias de Nuevo Mexico conference. The conference theme was, “*Querencia Interrupted: Hispano and Native American Experiences of the Manhattan Project*”. Its purposes were to create a new dialogue — recognizing contributions of locals, allowing participants to share their own stories, opening the discussion of continuing issues, and honoring the surviving participants with a specially commissioned Story Protectors medal. The conference is propelling intercommunity discussion and the inclusion of local oral history profiles in documentation of the project.

NORTHERN RIO GRANDE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA — NEW MEXICO
(RIOGRANDENHA.ORG)

The Alliance

With strong bi-partisan support, the Alliance of National Heritage Areas is dedicated to preserving and promoting America's past to ensure a better, more perfect tomorrow. Here are ways Members of Congress are supporting the National Heritage Area program

- Support increased funding for National Heritage Areas to accommodate the growth of the program. 78 House members have expressed their support for an enhanced level of funding of \$25 million so that all Areas can continue their important work of telling America's stories at the grass roots. The chart below shows that funding has not kept pace with the popularity of the program.
- Pass programmatic legislation including co-sponsorship of H.R. 1002, the National Heritage Area Program Act (Rep. Dent R-PA/15th)
- Join the National Heritage Area Congressional Caucus

- Visit a National Heritage Area and learn more about their important work

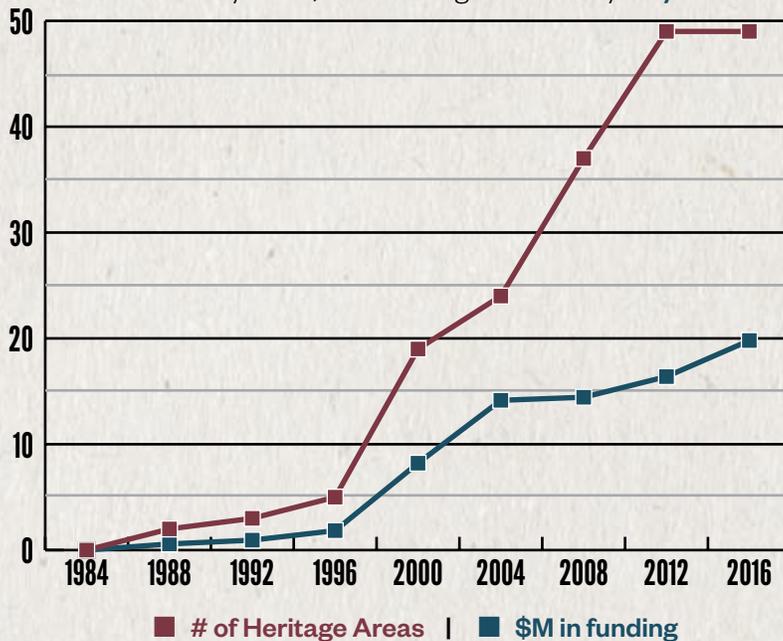
The Alliance is proud to share that the following National Heritage Areas were recognized by the National Park Service for their extraordinary work in 2016:

- Motor Cities National Heritage Area, in Detroit, MI received the prestigious 2017 National Park Service Partnership Award
- Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area received the NPS Centennial Award for the Delta Jewels Oral History Partnership

If you'd like to learn more about how heritage areas in your state or region are putting the heart and soul back into local preservation efforts, please visit the Alliance of National Heritage Areas web page at NationalHeritageAreas.us

ANHA

Between 2004-2016, the number of National Heritage Areas increased by **104%**, while funding increased by **only 33%**.



“National Heritage Areas are considered one of the Department of the Interior’s most cost effective initiatives, relying on a public/private partnership in which every federal dollar is matched with an average of \$5.50 in other public and private financing.”

—Congressmen Charles Dent (R-PA) & Paul Tonko (D-NY)

H.R. 1002: National Program Legislation

ANHA has worked with the National Park Service and members of Congress to draft the National Heritage Area Act of 2017, H.R. 1002, with 62 co-sponsors from 24 different states. The legislation was introduced by Congressman Charles Dent (R-PA) and Congressman Paul Tonko (D-NY).

What does this bill do?

- Establishes a standardized set of criteria for new NHAs
- Establishes a rigorous process for existing NHAs to ensure accountability
- Modernizes the program to ensure long-term sustainability
- Clearly defines an oversight structure that will allow these popular public/private partnerships to better preserve the nation's heritage and spur economic growth with basic federal support
- Remains consistent with recommendations of both the Bush and Obama administrations

To join the Congressional caucus on National Heritage Areas, please contact:

- Dennis J. Petersen, Senior Policy Advisor, Congressman Charles W. Dent (202) 225-6411 Dennis.Petersen@mail.house.gov
- Emily Duhovny, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Paul D. Tonko (202) 225-5076 Emily.Duhovny@mail.house.gov