What are National Heritage Areas?

Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Area, CT and MA
National Heritage Areas are places of national distinction…

Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area, NJ
in our nation’s history...
cultural traditions,
Architecture,
Theater Before Rehabilitation  
Theater After Rehabilitation

Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area, UT
and scenic beauty...
Where grassroots initiatives…
lead to lasting partnerships...
...and conservation on a landscape scale.
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.

Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area, PA
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

Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, LA
National Heritage Areas Program
www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas
202-354-2222

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior