

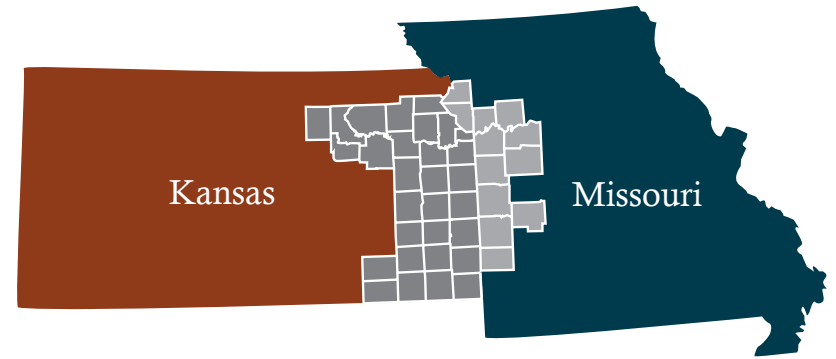
# Freedom's Frontier

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT





## What is Freedom's Frontier?

If you live along the Missouri-Kansas border, how you tell the story of freedom often depends on where you call home.

*Along this border*, a new nation set out in a long trek across the ancestral lands of Native Americans to settle the frontier and, in the process, hoped to find economic and religious freedom.

*Along this border*, the nation violently disputed expanding definitions of freedom based on skin color and gender.

*Along this border*, millions of Americans fought—over school segregation, over Native-American rights, over suffrage, over the right to choose how to live and love—in the enduring struggle for freedom.

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area brings together the stories that started here but grew to change the course of history for the entire country. Whether it is the story of the settlement of the frontier, the Border War and Civil War along this western frontier, or the enduring struggle for freedom.

**Want to support Freedom's Frontier?**

**Head to [freedomfrontier.org](https://freedomfrontier.org) and click the donate button.**

**Freedom's Frontier knits these stories together into one American fabric.** Its threads contain the remarkable stories from partners at more than 165 historical sites and museums. Our mission is furthered through 100 additional partner organizations, such as convention and visitor bureaus, educators, and support societies. Each is deeply invested in telling these stories.

More than three million people call Freedom's Frontier home. More than 30,000 square miles fall into the 41 counties that define Freedom's Frontier along both sides of this border. As we enter our fourteenth year of operation, even more counties, in both Missouri and Kansas, are making plans to join Freedom's Frontier.

How do we tell the story of freedom? Read on to find out.

*On our cover: Youth Camp students at Dole Institute of Politics in Lawrence, Kansas. Above left: Memorial stones from the mid-1800s in Richmond, Missouri. These places, and others along our border, tell the enduring stories of our struggle for freedom.*



## The Value of History

*Wide Awake Films works on the Battle of Liberty documentary. The film is an Interpretive Grant project. Read more about it on page 4*

### Creating Lifelong Learners and Everyday Explorers

Freedom's Frontier engages with learners of all ages, from underserved elementary students, to high schoolers investigating the roots of today's challenges, to curious adults who never stop learning. Our summer youth camps, bus grants, lectures, symposia, and partner programs like the KC Race Project encourage critical thinking, develop engaged citizens, and inspire tomorrow's leaders.

Learn more about the value and relevance of this work by accessing the Value of History Statement at [historyrelevance.com](http://historyrelevance.com).

### Investing in the Future of Our Past

Freedom's Frontier invests in historical assets and organizations across our 41 counties. We bring together public and private support to conserve, preserve, and restore significant landscapes, historic buildings, and sites. Our strong partner network raises the level of professionalism among heritage organizations in our communities. We believe this investment pays off by creating vibrant communities and stimulating economic development that result from heritage tourism.

### Telling a Story of National Significance

Freedom's Frontier centers on a frontier that is like no other in American history. The porous border between the United States and Permanent Indian Territory, and later, between slave state and free state, lacked a geographic barrier. That led to cross-cultural exchange, frequent armed conflict, and an ongoing struggle for equal freedoms. We work to share this contentious history because it comprises not only our **identity**, from which others can learn, but also our **legacy** to preserve for future generations.



## Youth Camps

*Youth Camp participants in period clothing try out musical instruments during a visit to the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, Missouri.*

Youth Camp benefitted Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area in a variety of ways as fourth- and fifth-grade students from the Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Front Porch Alliance, explored the heritage area's nationally significant stories from Civil War to Civil Rights.

Students experienced cultural, natural, and historical activities at museums, historic sites, nature areas, and through a day in canoes and kayaks with Friends of the Kaw. Freedom's Frontier and the sites visited introduced young visitors—and through them, their friends and families—to local history. Boys and Girls Clubs and the Front Porch Alliance received assistance with history programming and lesson plans.

Through our partnerships, campers experienced archives, museums, nature preserves, and historic sites where they were asked to think and journal about their experiences. On the local waterways they learned about water safety, environmental stewardship and teamwork.

One hundred and sixty-four students explored history and developed lifelong connections. Twenty-six adults supported our "everyday explorers" and become explorers as well.

The Boys and Girls Clubs units this year were in Kansas City, and Independence, Missouri; Olathe, Lawrence, Tecumseh, and Topeka, Kansas. The Front Porch Alliance students were from Kansas City, Missouri.

## Bus On Us!

School field trips are more and more often left out of the curriculum because of transportation expenses. When our Bus on Us! program contributes up to 75% of the bus costs, and schools provide the other 25% and admission fees, students of all ages get to experience quality programming at museums, historical sites, and nature areas throughout the heritage area.

To assist educators as they plan history field trips, Freedom's Frontier staff has a list of sites with programming that matches both heritage area themes—the shaping of the frontier, the Missouri-Kansas Border War/Civil War, and the enduring struggle for freedom—and the educational standards in Missouri and Kansas. Bus on Us! provides educational experiences, and a greater connection between educators the history professionals at heritage area sites.

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## Interpretive Grants

Since the Freedom's Frontier Interpretive Grant program began in 2012, 129 grants of up to \$5,000 have been awarded to help fund a variety of projects connected to the heritage area's rich history. Projects selected for funding through this peer-reviewed program interpret stories that inspire new generations of heritage area learners. Recent grant projects:

The **City of Fountains Foundation** recognized Native Americans who lived and traded in the Kansas City region. A bronze statue depicting Native Americans was added to a fountain honoring Kansas City founder Francois Chouteau (pictured at left).

A community event, "65th Anniversary of Brown v Board: An Unfinished Agenda" provided forums, and a visitor experience of the environment leading up to the 1954 Brown v. Topeka Board of Education decision. **The Brown v. Board Sumner Legacy Trust** curated the event, which included conversations about the present environment, and discussions for the future.

Interpreters at **Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site** will wear period clothing created by women in the Topeka Correctional Facility. Clothing construction classes for the residents taught valuable sewing skills and allowed the facility's residents to enrich their own lives, and the experiences of visitors to the historic site.

The Santa Fe Trail brought settlers west, and brought about changes to the frontier. **Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation** is presenting stories about the nature of those changes with a 60-minute documentary, a series of educational videos for elementary students, and a series of audios for radio broadcast.

On September 17, 2019, Clay County Historical Society and the Clay County Museum premiered a short **documentary of the Battle of Liberty**, Missouri. The audience filled a B&B Theatre in Liberty, and included descendants of some of the soldiers in the battle at Mills Landing, on September 17, 1861.

## Map | App | Website

In 2018, staff began a conversation with the board of trustees, and the partnership—representing historic sites, museums, historical societies and archives, libraries, nature centers and parks, and other stakeholders—to discuss the map and website.

As Freedom’s Frontier held focus groups and planning sessions, we learned that our map is popular with visitors to our partner sites, and that our website needs to be more accessible and mobile-friendly. Our research led us to OnCell, a company that has created mobile apps for many units of the National Park Service.

For the past few months, staff has worked with OnCell to create the Freedom’s Frontier travel app. When downloaded to a mobile device, our app provides information useful to travelers about every partner site in the heritage area. In addition, once we have created a new web site, the app will be embedded there as well, so all of the information will be available online.

The app features a series of tour itineraries. To plan your trip to the places to see in Freedom’s Frontier, you can find all the sites in a region, or city, or choose a themed itinerary that will plot your tour—to just the Civil War battlefields, or to the Harry S Truman sites, or Brown v. Board and other sites about desegregation and Civil Rights, and other tour options. As we continue to work on the app, we will also have information about lodging, dining, and shopping along the tour itineraries.

If you would like a Freedom’s Frontier map in hand as you plan your trip, call Freedom’s Frontier at (785) 856-5300, or email us at [info@freedomfrontier.org](mailto:info@freedomfrontier.org) and request our map. We’ll mail it to you.

The map shows the location of many sites that have partnered with Freedom’s Frontier since the heritage area began. As we add seven counties to our 41 in western Missouri and eastern Kansas boundaries, we’ll update the map to include more places to visit.

## Expanding FFNHA & Reauthorization

Seven counties are asking to join Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area. County commissioners in Henry, Saline, and Jasper counties in Missouri, and Dickinson, Doniphan, Lyon, and Morris counties in Kansas have passed resolutions asking Congress to include their counties.

If all are included, Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area will grow to 48 counties.

In order for the additional counties to become part of Freedom’s Frontier, Congress must approve the boundary change, since the heritage area was defined in the 2006 legislation that created Freedom’s Frontier. In the coming year such a change will be part of reauthorizing the legislation for the heritage area.



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# Quindaro

On March 12, 2019, Congress designated an area in Kansas City, Kansas, the Quindaro Townsite National Commemorative Site, only the third commemorative site in the nation. This place in Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area has a rich history, and many advocates who want to see it preserved.

Quindaro Townsite National Commemorative Site was dedicated in a ceremony on April 23, 2019, sponsored by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (UG), Kansas City Kansas Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.



*U.S. Senator for Kansas, Pat Roberts (left) and Secretary Brad Loveless, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism (right) unveil a sign for the new Quindaro Townsite National Commemorative Site.*

In 2018 Freedom's Frontier and other Quindaro stakeholders applied to the National Park Service (NPS) to name Quindaro a National Historic Landmark. The designation as a national commemorative site is a stepping stone to the goal of elevating the site to National Historic Landmark status.

Now that Quindaro Townsite is a national commemorative site, there are more opportunities for assistance from the NPS, the EPA, and other federal agencies. Quindaro stakeholders continue to work toward not only preserving the historic townsite ruins, but also the stories of people who lived in Quindaro. The Kansas City, Kansas Public Library has held several sessions to record oral histories from Quindaro neighborhood residents.

As awareness of Quindaro Townsite grows, private donors and local businesses are also stepping up with ideas for partnerships. Quindaro advocates are looking forward to the site's future, which could include interpretive signs on walking trails through Quindaro, a visitors center, renovations and other improvements to the two museums nearby, the Old Quindaro Museum, and the Quindaro Underground Railroad Museum.

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# Disorder on the Border

*On the left: Ernst Ulmer's "Blood Stained Dawn", depicting William Quantrill's August 1863 raid on Lawrence, Kansas. The original is at Watkins Museum of History in Lawrence. Right: is George Caleb Bingham's "Order No. 11". Weeks after Quantrill's Raid, residents of Missouri's four westernmost counties were evacuated to cut off civilian support to Confederate guerrillas. The original is at the State Historical Society of Missouri's Center for Missouri Studies in Columbia, Missouri.*

Freedom's Frontier is the story of how people who were once adversaries now come together to explore, discuss, and promote multiple perspectives of what is a shared history. The Disorder On The Border symposium is a great example of that shared history.

The symposium explored many factors that led to, and reactions after, William Quantrill's pro-confederate raiders attacking pro-union Lawrence, Kansas, on August 21, 1863. The raiders killed nearly 190 men and boys and wounded others.

The William Clarke Quantrill Society's Missouri Partisan Rangers, and the Watkins Museum of History in Lawrence, collaborated with Freedom's Frontier to sponsor the symposium.

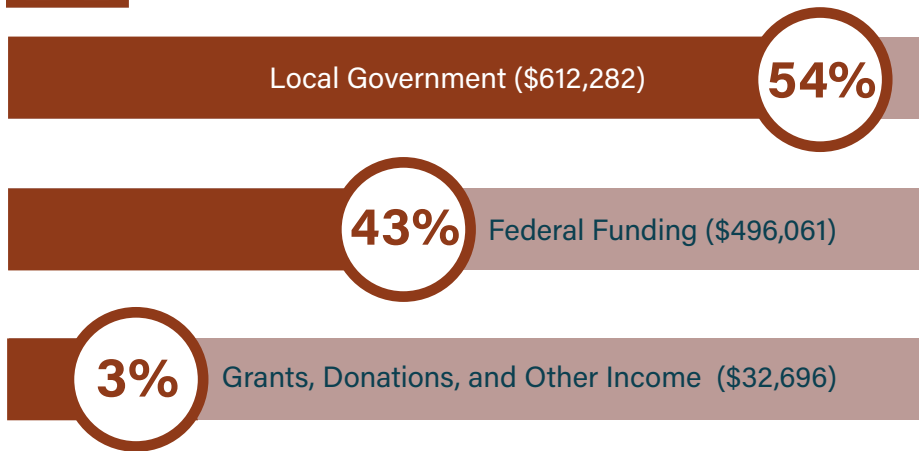
In the two days of programs on August 16-17, 2019, leading academicians and historians treated participants to a variety of historical presentations about the causes of the Raid, perspectives from both sides of the Missouri-Kansas border, and reactions to the Raid, including the infamous Order No. 11, which evacuated southern supporters from several Missouri border counties.

Other symposium events included a concert of period music from the Lawrence Opera Theatre, supported by a grant from Humanities Kansas, and opportunities to tour key sites throughout Lawrence. Many attendees stayed at one of those sites – the current version of the historic Eldridge Hotel, which Quantrill targeted during the raid.

More than 250 people attended one or more of the presentations.

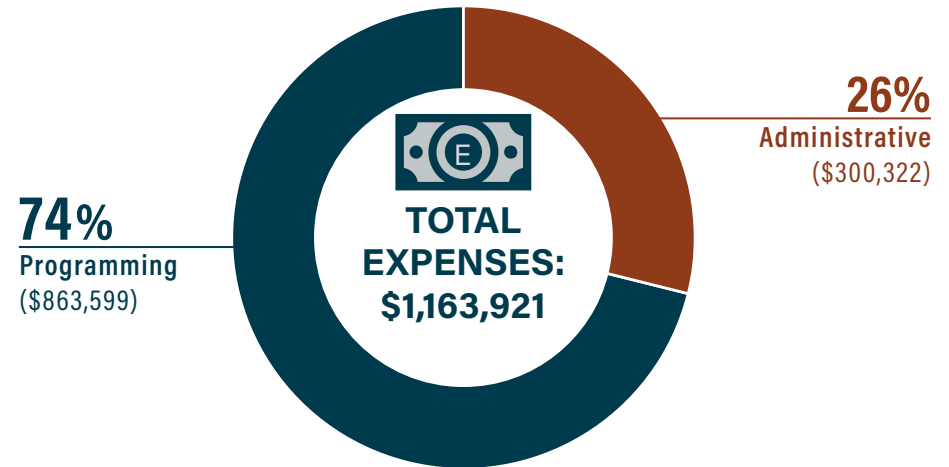
# Financials

## Income



 **TOTAL INCOME:**  
**\$1,141,039**

## Expenses



GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area was awarded the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency, achieved by less than one tenth of 1% of nonprofits.

“One of the things that makes our area unique, is the important contributions of our predecessors to America’s continuing struggle for freedom, evidenced in the many stories that Freedom’s Frontier partner sites strive to tell. Freedom’s Frontier has the important job of helping coordinate and encourage the telling of these stories in a way that is relevant to contemporary events and in a manner that makes visitors excited to attend and participate. By doing so, we help instill the pride of our children and citizens in this important place and help encourage others to visit us to understand and celebrate our Heartland’s heritage.”

*-Grant Glenn, 2020 Chair*



## 2019-2020 Board of Trustees

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### Ex-Officio Members

Jennie Chinn, Executive Director, Kansas Historical Society  
Gary Kremer, Director, State Historical Society of Missouri

### Honorary Co-Chairs

Mike Parson, Missouri Governor  
Laura Kelly, Kansas Governor

\*Elected by Partner Advisory Group to represent Kansas or Missouri.  
+Term ended in 2019.

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**Want to support Freedom’s Frontier?  
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## Partnership

Our Partners—more than 165 historic sites and museums, and nearly 100 other organizations—and the Partner Advisory Board are invaluable resources for staff and the Board of Trustees.

When we create connections among Partners, they create collaborative programs, field trips, artifact loans, special tours, research projects, shared stories, and richer experiences for visitors.

For a list of Partners and Places to See, go to [freedomfrontier.org](http://freedomfrontier.org).

## 2020 Advisory Board Members

### **Steve Nowak, Chair**

Watkins Museum of History,  
Lawrence, KS

### **Erica Layton**

Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum,  
Gladstone, MO

### **Marcia Rozell**

Visit Manhattan  
Manhattan, KS

### **Larry Short**

Santa Fe Trail Association,  
Independence, MO

### **Alexis Radil**

Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm,  
Historic Site, Olathe, KS

### **Alana Smith**

Westport Historical Society,  
Kansas City, MO

### **Paul Bahnmaier**

Lecompton Historical Society,  
Lecompton, KS

### **Alinda Miller**

Lone Jack Historical Society,  
Lone Jack, MO

### **Enimini Ekong**

Brown v. Board of Education  
National Historic Site,  
Topeka, KS

### **Karen Griffin**

American Jazz Museum,  
Kansas City, MO

### **Peggy Buhr**

Bates County Historical Society,  
Butler, MO

### **Cheryl Collins**

Riley County Historical Society,  
Manhattan, KS

### **Mary Billington**

Baxter Springs Heritage Center  
& Museum, Baxter Springs, KS

### **Will Tolerton**

Bushwhacker Museum,  
Nevada, MO

### **Martin Owens**

Community Volunteer  
Lee's Summit, MO



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## Professional Development

Some sites in Freedom's Frontier have small budgets, few employees, or perhaps only volunteers. This may mean that there's no funding to send staff and volunteers to conferences, seminars, and classes. Our Professional Development Scholarships helps provide training, new skills, and professional networking opportunities. Scholarship recipients share their experiences with others in Freedom's Frontier as guest speakers at partnership meetings, or guest columnists for the weekly emailed newsletter, the Monday Minute.

“THE MIDWEST ARCHIVES CONFERENCE RAISED MY AWARENESS OF ARCHIVAL ISSUES I HAD LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH AND I RETURNED HOME ENTHUSIASTIC TO IMPLEMENT THESE NEW IDEAS...I LEFT MAC DETROIT FEELING ENERGIZED AND EXCITED ABOUT THE WORK WE ARE DOING AT THE LIBRARY AND EAGER TO EXPLORE FOR NEW PARTNERSHIPS.

*-Anne Lacey, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library*

“THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY ANNUAL CONFERENCE MADE ME A STRONGER FREEDOM'S FRONTIER PARTNER BY KEEPING ME UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST TRENDS AND ISSUES WITHIN THE HISTORY AND MUSEUM FIELD.

*-Erica Layton, Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum*

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# Looking Forward

## Reauthorization

Federal support through the National Park Service attracts private investment and national interest in our stories. To continue this public-private investment partnership, Freedom's Frontier will join our partners to ask Congress to renew our authorization in 2020. We will ask our congressional delegation to support reauthorizing Freedom's Frontier as part of a larger effort to create a program of National Heritage Areas within the National Park Service.

## How Do You Tell the Story of Freedom?

If you support freedom, we hope you will support Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area. Become a Freedom's Frontier Friend. Go to [freedomfrontier.org](http://freedomfrontier.org) for more details. Through membership, you will receive special programming and tourism options before those available to the general public.

# What are National Heritage Areas?

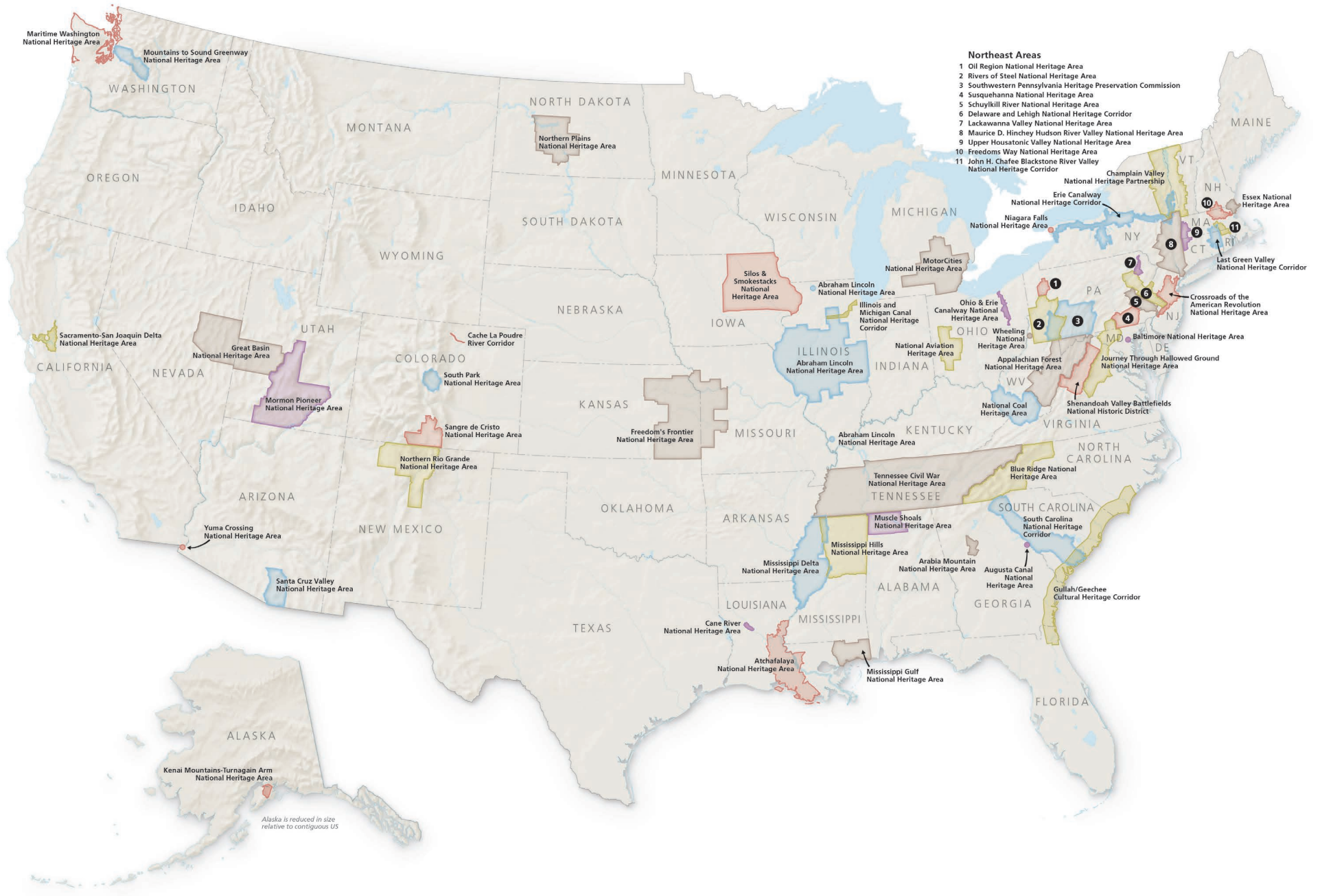
National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress for their unique, nationally significant qualities and resources. They are places where natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources have shaped a nationally distinctive landscape.

National Heritage Areas employ a partnership approach to heritage development involving collaborative planning around a theme that influenced the nation's culture and history. This planning strategy encourages residents, government agencies, nonprofit groups, and private partners to prioritize projects that recognize, preserve, and celebrate many of America's defining landscapes.

National Heritage Areas leverage an average of \$5.50 for every \$1.00 of federal investment to create jobs, generate revenue for local governments, and sustain local communities through revitalization and heritage tourism.

The National Park Service works closely with the 55 designated National Heritage Areas—representing every region of the United States.

**Want to keep up-to-date on Freedom's Frontier opportunities?  
Go to [freedomfrontier.org](http://freedomfrontier.org) and sign up for  
our newsletter, or text FFNHA to 22828.**



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*Courtesy of the National Park Service*

Freedom's  
Frontier  
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



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