

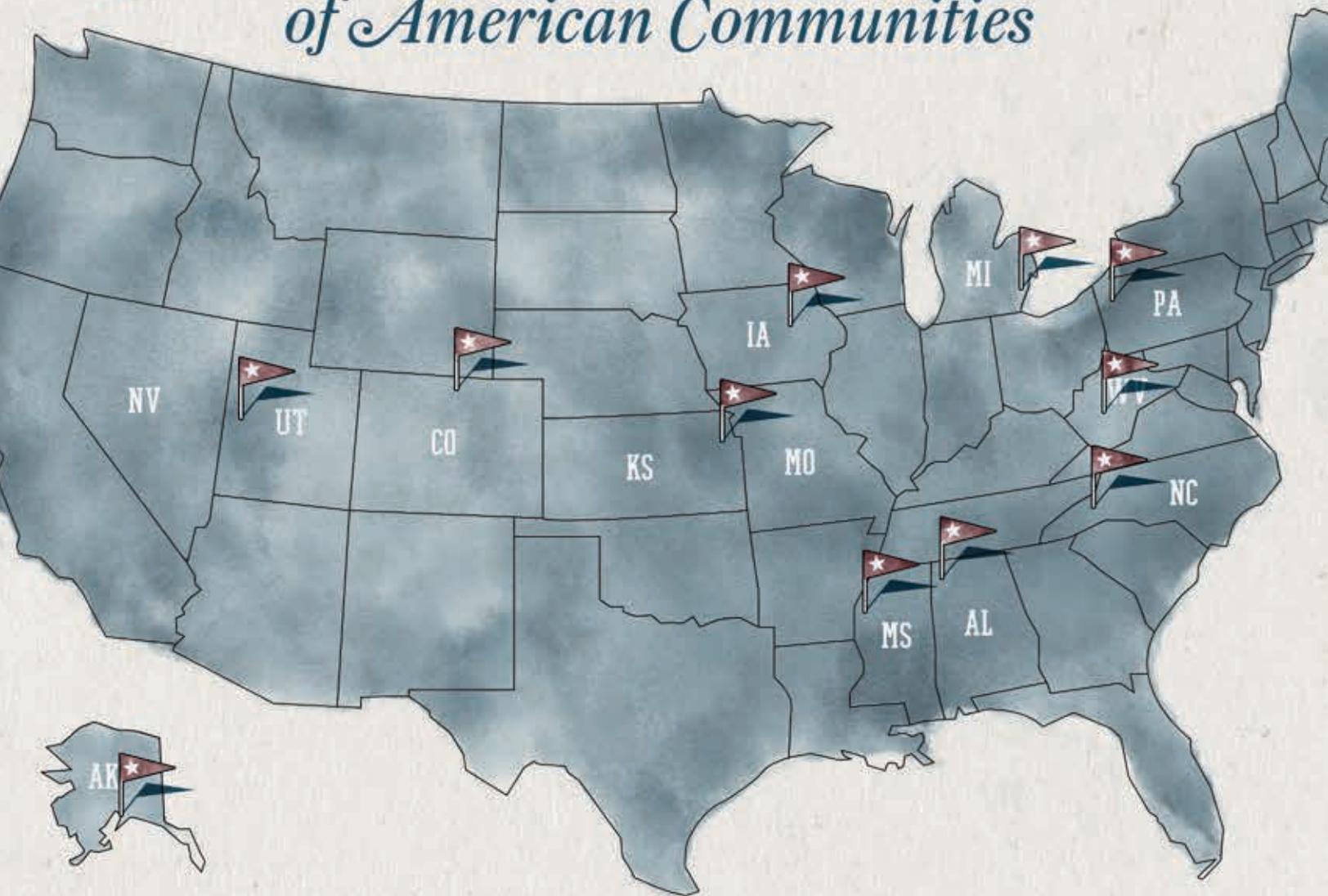
ANHA

Alliance of National Heritage Areas

CONNECTING THE

Heart & Soul

of American Communities



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 communities throughout the nation where National Heritage Areas have helped work through those struggles — bringing diverse communities together for the common good.



At the Grand Opening of the Topaz Museum, a former internee points out her family's barracks on the map. The events included many moving speeches, including one from Hisashi Bill Sugaya, who was born in Topaz and is now on the museum's board of directors.

Topaz Museum— a Poignant Reminder

**GREAT BASIN NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA — NEVADA & UTAH
GREATBASINHERITAGEAREA.ORG**

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941, fear and panic swept through the country, particularly on the West Coast. President Roosevelt issued Executive Order # 9066, which effectively stripped Japanese Americans of their Constitutional rights, as they were ordered to be relocated to internment camps in the nation's interior. The Topaz Camp in Delta, Utah was home to more than 11,000 internees on one square mile of bleak, desert landscape. At war's end, the internees were released and the makeshift camp was disassembled, with only

concrete footings a reminder of this era.

By the 1980's, President Reagan and the Congress offered a formal apology and reparations, but that is only the beginning of the story. Jane Beckwith, a Delta school teacher, began researching the story of Topaz with her Journalism students and became determined to create a permanent memorial to this tragic episode in American history. For three decades Jane maintained her focus and gathered support for her dream. On July 8, 2017, Jane, her dedicated Board of Directors, key partners including the Great Basin National Heritage Area, and hundreds of former internees

and their families celebrated the opening of the Topaz Museum.

The ceremony brought together a diverse group of supporters to commemorate this event. Congressman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) was particularly moved by the occasion, making the point that we must never forget these lessons of untrammelled executive action which circumvent the checks and balances of our Constitution. The Topaz Museum is a perfect example of citizen action—supported by a National Heritage Area as well as the National Park Service—to tell this compelling story that will live on for generations to come.

Connecting Students & Their Food Source

SILOS & SMOKESTACKS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA – IOWA
SILOSANDSMOKESTACKS.ORG

Too few people in America understand where food comes from (and the answer is not the grocery store). Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area is educating people about the rich culture of American farming by providing hands-on learning experiences at farms, museums and historic sites.

To reach the next generation, a Bus Grant program was set up to help teachers take more than 2,000 students on field trips in 2017. In fact, since the program was created, SSNHA has helped more than 12,000 students connect with America's agricultural story and discover the importance of Iowa's role in feeding the world.

Teacher Megan Murphy from Irving Elementary in Dubuque traveled with her third grade class to Reuter Dairy farm in Peosta, Iowa. Students went to the dairy farm to learn about the process farmers go through to support our local economy and their contribution to the national dairy supply.



Murphy said that for many students, this is their first time on a farm. The "outdoor classroom" gave them a real-life picture of the hard work and dedication of dairy farmers.

"I was surprised that the calves were so big," said student Adaya B. "I thought they would be the size of a dog." Averee C. said, "I thought they would use their hands to milk a cow, but they use machines!"

Community Engagement through Volunteerism

CACHE LA POUVRE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA – COLORADO | POUDREHERITAGE.ORG



Attracting and engaging volunteers is a key component of success for National Heritage Areas. The Heritage Culturalist Program (HCP) is an ambassador program that educates volunteers in the rich history and recreation opportunities of the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area through interactive presentations and site visits. These initiatives focus on the Poudre River's integral role in the birth of western water law, and its impact on the agriculture, recreation, and environment of the Northern Colorado community.

Once trained, HCP volunteers share their expertise with the public to educate and increase awareness of the Cache la Poudre River NHA by leading bike tours along the Poudre Trail, engaging the public at community events, organizing speakers' bureaus at local libraries, and more.

Currently, 31 people have been trained through the program over the last two years. Specific sites selected for study during the HCP training include ditches/diversions on the river, historic houses/settlements, and important historical/cultural landscapes.

Judy Firestien, a 2017 Heritage Culturalist Volunteer, had this to say about the program: "The Heritage Area is so special to me because a portion of our farm lies within the Heritage Area, and I have many fond childhood memories of times along the river, mostly exploring with my dog, Duke. I became a volunteer to further solidify the knowledge I have gained over the past years with regard to history of the area, water history and water law, and historic preservation. I hope to further use this knowledge on our farm to educate the public on history, water, and our community's heritage"

Building a Brighter Future by Interpreting its Cherokee Past

BLUE RIDGE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA — NORTH CAROLINA
BLUERIDGEHERITAGE.COM

For more than a decade, the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area (BRNHA) has provided seed monies to develop heritage and recreation assets for Hayesville, a town of 300 residents.

- The Clay County Communities Revitalization Association has created a Cherokee Homestead exhibit with replicas of winter and summer homes that the Cherokee lived in for 10,000 years in this region. Nearly 14,000 students have visited the exhibit, which is home to an annual Cherokee Heritage Festival each fall.
- The Clay County Historical and Arts Center installed a native plant botanical garden along the Cherokee Heritage Trails.
- Recreation has drawn 2,000 avid cyclists a month to the 15-mile Jackrabbit Trail system south of town.
- Hayesville is currently renovating its 1888 courthouse as an event space, craft market and small business center. The Town Square boasts a new Music Heritage sculpture, which marks Hayesville's renovated Peacock Playhouse as a must-see stop on the regional Blue Ridge Music Trails.



"The BRNHA has helped us to host a community theater, the quality of which rivals Atlanta, but where you feel like you know the artists and are listening to the stories of old friends," says Mayor Harry Baughn. "People want to know about places they're visiting," says Rob Tiger, a local merchant and CCRA volunteer. "A lot of our success is due to the help we have gotten from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area."

BUILDING THE ENGINE: *Auto & Labor,* 1932-1937

MOTORCITIES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA —
MICHIGAN | MOTORCITIES.ORG

Michigan has been defined by its leadership in the auto industry. But the road to that success was filled with struggle and strife, often between management and labor. MotorCities National Heritage Area has teamed up with the Michigan Labor History Society to commemorate some of the defining historical events which led to the formation of the United Auto Workers during the Great Depression of the 1930's. Through publications, lectures, and community events, these are some of the pivotal events that are recalled:

1932 Ford Hunger March,

Dearborn: Winter in Detroit in the depths of the Great Depression. Unemployed workers organized a hunger march from Detroit to the Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn where they were met by police and Ford's security force, resulting in the deaths of five

workers. The MotorCities National Heritage Area is working to create an urban park and memorial to the 1932 Hunger March near the original gathering point of this historic event.

Flint Sit-Down Strike, Dec.

1936 – Feb. 1937: Historic 44-day occupation resulting in recognition of the UAW by the first of the Big 3 automakers and the first UAW-GM contract.

1937 Battle of the Overpass,

Dearborn: Walter Reuther leads an attempt to distribute union leaflets at the Ford Rouge Plant in May, atop a public overpass leading to the factory gates. He and several others are severely beaten. Coupled with the results of a hearing in front of the Fair Labor Relations Board, Ford Motor Co. finally signs a contract with the UAW in 1941.



Delta Jewels Oral History Partnership

MISSISSIPPI DELTA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA — MISSISSIPPI
MSDELTAHERITAGE.COM

MDNHA Executive Director Rolando Herts was clearly inspired by Alysia Burton Steele's book, *Delta Jewels: In Search of My Grandmother's Wisdom*, a collection of oral histories and portraits of African American church mothers from the Mississippi Delta. Church mothers are revered in their communities. Appointed by their church pastors based on years of dedication, study of the Bible, worship, and prayer, church mothers counsel families and youth and model good spiritual practices. The Delta Jewels church mothers, in particular, did this in the face of racial discrimination during the Jim Crow Era and social upheavals of the Civil Rights Movement.

The MDNHA created venues to share these stories throughout the Delta—the very communities where the Delta Jewels church mothers have lived for decades. Collaborating with The Delta Center at Delta State University, the MDNHA arranged a series of community gatherings featuring the author and the Delta Jewels church mothers in Clarksdale, Charleston, Indianola, Yazoo City, Ruleville, and Mound Bayou. "This remarkable group of strong women inspired me with their wisdom and humor," commented Dr. Myrtis Tabb, Chair of the MDNHA Board of Directors.

These initial community gatherings fostered even more presentations throughout the Heritage Area, the state of Mississippi, and the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum in Washington, D.C., engaging over 1,000 participants. The significance of this project is best noted by receiving a 2016 National Park Service Centennial Award.



Photos by Bobby Steele, Jr.

Sacred Way Sanctuary



MUSCLE SHOALS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA — ALABAMA | MSNHA.UNA.EDU

On October 21, 2017, over four hundred people gathered at Sacred Way Sanctuary to celebrate the opening of their new museum and education center in Florence, Alabama. Years of work by Dr. Yvette Running Horse Collin and Sean Collin led up to this exciting event. The museum focuses on the relationship between native peoples of the Americas and the horse.

Over one hundred horses associated with many tribes make up Sacred Way Sanctuary's foundation herd. These horses were gathered from across the country.

At the Sanctuary they live in natural family herds consisting of a stallion and a group of mares. The horses help to tell a story that challenges the dominant narrative of conquest, which claims that all of the horses throughout the Americas died out

during the last Ice-Age period and horses were reintroduced by the Spanish to the Americas. The oral histories brought forward by Dr. Collin under the guidance of elders from tribes across the country present a compelling counter narrative, which argues that the horse has always been in the Americas. The markings, bone structure, and behavior of horses that roam the pastures of Sacred Way are very different from the domesticated horse that traces its roots back to the eastern hemisphere. Horses at the Sanctuary breed naturally. Foals are available for adoption in breeding pairs or small herds.

The Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area has strengthened the relationship with the Sanctuary in recent years. The museum and education center also serves as an interpretive center for the MSNHA's Native American heritage theme.

Preserving Our Stories, Respecting Our Past

THE KENAI MOUNTAINS-TURNAGAIN
ARM NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA—
ALASKA | KMTACORRIDOR.ORG

At a curve along Alaska's Kenai River, known for silver salmon fishing and named for its color, Turquoise Bend was recently discovered as an 800-year-old, semi-permanent winter village site of the Dena'ina Athabaskans. To the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, this site is not only a cultural landmark and direct link to their ancestral heritage, but also represents a deep spiritual connection to a place that represents a holistic way of life that has persisted for generations.

So what does one do, today, when such a sacred place is located on private property?

The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area coordinated with many partners to address the challenges of preserving cultural heritage sites in a way that respects indigenous peoples while educating and assisting private land owners in protecting these places.

As a result of the initiative, elders, youth, landowners, and archaeologists teamed up to excavate the Dena'ina settlement site at Turquoise Bend. Teams used non-invasive Ground Penetrating Radar and discovered a semi-subterranean log home built to house multiple families. Their work also included surveying cultural plants, examining the condition of the river bank, and performing site restoration activities

"There were some cultural differences that [landowners] were very willing to hear about, learn about, and work with. I feel like we could have a good conversation that was respectful of the land," said Joel Isaak, Cultural Coordinator of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe.

This project illustrates how members of various cultural communities can collaborate, listen, and be heard as the stories of our nation unfold.



Race Project KC

FREEDOM'S FRONTIER NATIONAL HERITAGE
AREA — KANSAS AND MISSOURI
FREEDOMSFONTIER.ORG

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area has undertaken a challenging task: interpreting a divisive history of segregation and its legacy. Students participating in Race Project KC explore the history, causes, and potential solutions to segregation and racism. In recent years, the National Heritage Area has led this partnership effort, leveraging funds on a 5:1 basis to serve more than 1,000 students.

The project gives students a chance to share their own unique stories, break down barriers between diverse groups of students and use their diversity to understand collective strengths. The catalyst for the project was the book, *Some of My Best Friends are Black: The Strange Story of Integration in America* by Tanner Colby. The book provides history about the geographical racial divide in Kansas City around which students come together for discussion.

Now in its third year, the project has connected students from wealthier suburban schools and majority minority schools in economically depressed areas. One participant commented, "Getting to know people from other parts of the city has been awesome. To learn the history of our city was shocking and makes me want to get more involved."



Commemorating Chief Cornplanter

**OIL REGION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA—PENNSYLVANIA
OILHERITAGE.ORG**

The story of the Native American experience in the United States is a difficult and painful one. The Oil Region National Heritage Area is working with the Seneca Nation to heal historic wounds. Part of that healing process took place when Oil City's Mayor proclaimed October 14, 2017 as "Chief Cornplanter Day" throughout this northwestern Pennsylvania community, unveiling permanent commemorations about this 18th – 19th century diplomat from the Seneca Nation.

The plaque reads: "Cornplanter (1738 – 1836), a defender of Seneca land and culture, allied the Iroquois Confederacy with the fledgling United States after fighting for the British during the American Revolution. He arbitrated conflicts between Native Americans and settlers, though he later became disillusioned when the Nations were not treated equally and fairly. In 1796, Cornplanter and his heirs were granted three tracts of land by the state, one at present-day Oil City."

Representatives of today's Seneca Nation were guest speakers and musicians/dancers at free public events introducing a new two-story outdoor mural as well as a blue/gold outdoor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania historical marker. Both the marker text and artwork for the mural were approved in advance by SNI leadership.

The historical marker is strategically placed along Allegheny River and the Erie to Pittsburgh Multi-Use Trail, which draws tens of thousands of avid bicyclists every year.



Paint Creek Scenic Trail Association

**NATIONAL COAL HERITAGE AREA — WEST VIRGINIA
COALHERITAGE.ORG**

For the group of residents who gather monthly around a table in the back room of the Corner Restaurant in Pax, WV, Paint Creek is more than a creek—it's their heritage. Ensuring its health and telling its story have been the two primary goals of the Paint Creek Scenic Trail Association for over two decades. Most members grew up on Paint Creek and remember it as it was in coal's heyday, when small communities like Mahan and Kingston enjoyed a vibrant social life centered around the church, school, company store, and town hall. Growing up, the creek was the center of everything. They giggered for fish, cooled off in swimming holes, and played games along its banks. But most also have sadder memories of a creek that ran many colors—black from coal slurry, red from acid mine

runoff, and muddy brown from sedimentation. Thanks to the members' environmental restoration efforts, the state now stocks Paint Creek with thousands of trout every year, attracting fishing enthusiasts from across the region.

Through their partnership with the Paint Creek Scenic Trail Association, the National Coal Heritage Area has established 26 informational kiosks along the route. They are also developing the Paint Creek Scenic Trail Audio Driving Tour, available as a CD, app, and on their web site. On this tour you'll hear about the history of Paint Creek from the voices of West Virginians who call it home. The tour is about a place and a time...but mostly it's about a people. To hear the stories of the people of Paint Creek visit PaintCreekWV.org.



Bi-partisan Support Built Heritage Areas

The administration of President Ronald Reagan supported the National Heritage Area concept as a **cost-effective** way of telling America's story and conserving the nation's natural and historic resources. For the past 30 years, this approach has been validated as **49 communities** around the country have developed **dynamic partnerships** among local governments, non-profit groups and businesses.

The Alliance

With strong bipartisan 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 the ways Members of Congress can best support the National Heritage Area program...

- Support level and, if possible, increased funding of the National Heritage Area program, currently at FY2017 levels of \$19.8 million
- 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

ANHLA

“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 57 co-sponsors from 23 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