



Calumet National Heritage Area Initiative

From Chicago's Southeast Side to the Indiana Dunes, the compelling landscape of the Calumet region mixes rare and extraordinary natural areas with scenes of technological wonder. Behind what the eye sees are equally compelling human stories of settlement, construction, inquiry, struggle and renewal.



Creating the Calumet Heritage Area

Illinois and Indiana organizations are working together to create the Calumet Heritage Area.

The Calumet is a region of diverse communities, innovative industries, and resilient ecosystems. To highlight the region's significance, partners are working to create a Calumet Heritage Area (CHA). The CHA will bring people together across state lines to conserve natural and cultural heritage, improve recreational opportunities, promote regional arts, support sustainable economic development, and create heritage-oriented educational programming. The **Calumet Heritage Partnership (CHP)**, a bi-state organization, began this effort and is working in partnership with the **Calumet Collaborative**, a bi-state organization focused on sustainable development, and the **Field Museum**, to create and manage the CHA. These partners have enlisted the help of numerous local historical societies, environmental organizations, arts organizations, planning agencies, companies, and citizens to make the heritage area a reality. In many ways we are already a heritage area!



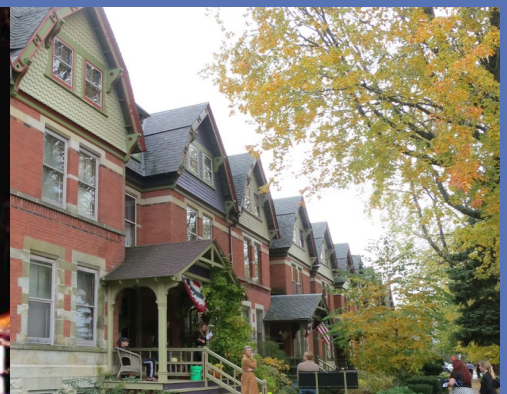
What will the Calumet Heritage Area Look Like?

The CHA will connect the region's two National Parks, local parks, trails, tourism gateways, and historical sites. The CHA will promote these places to locals and tourists with enhanced signage, maps, and educational materials. Most importantly it will bring people together to learn about the Calumet's cultural and natural heritage guided by the following themes:

Nature Reworked: The Calumet's Diverse Landscape

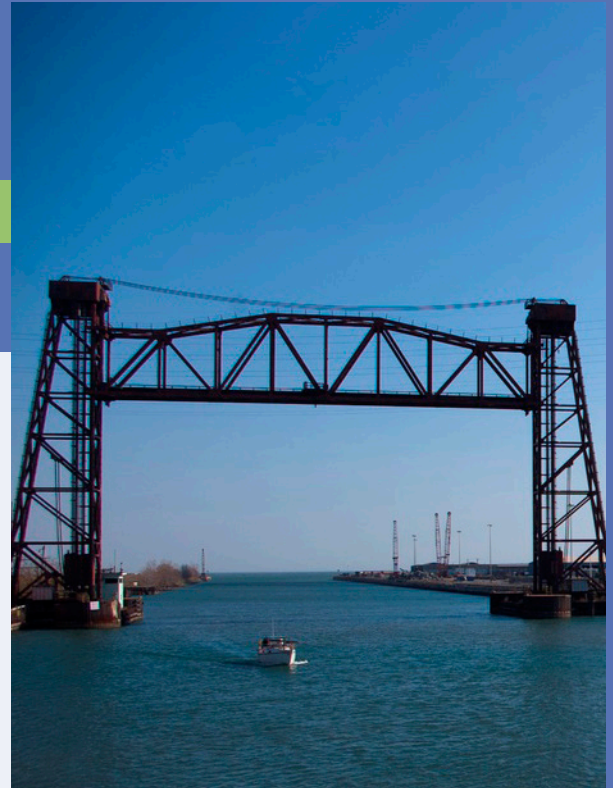
Innovation and Change for Industries and Workers

Crucible of Working Class and Ethnic Cultures





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What is a National Heritage Area (NHA)?

NHAs are lived-in landscapes that tell nationally significant stories and celebrate the United States' diverse heritage.

Congress designates NHAs through legislation to recognize lived-in places where natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources intersect. NHAs form cohesive, distinctive landscapes arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. NHAs collaborate with area residents and organizations by using local, grass-roots, community-driven approaches to heritage conservation, community revitalization, and economic development. NHAs are not National Parks: rather the National Park Service (NPS) partners with the local community, providing technical assistance and distributing matching federal funds from Congress to a NHA. The Calumet region is nationally significant and is why this effort is underway to achieve national designation.

Benefits of National Heritage Areas

“NHAs are places where small investments pay huge dividends, providing demonstrable benefits in communities across the country and in partnership with our national parks.”

- Jon Jarvis, former Director of the National Park Service



Sustainable economic development – For every \$1 of federal funds invested, NHAs leverage an additional \$5.50 to create jobs, generate revenue for local governments, and sustain local communities through revitalization and heritage tourism.

Healthy environment and people – Restoration projects can improve local water and air quality, and new recreational opportunities encourage people to enjoy natural and cultural sites.

Improved quality of life – NHAs bring improved amenities, educational resources, and volunteer opportunities.

Education and stewardship – Educational activities connect communities to natural, historic, and cultural sites, raising awareness and interest in the stewardship of local resources.

Community engagement and pride – Engagement in heritage conservation activities strengthens pride and sense of place.

National profile for a nationally significant landscape - The Calumet Heritage Area would benefit from stronger regional identity and closer cooperation with the National Parks.

For More Information

Visit www.CalumetHeritage.org or contact CalumetHeritage@calumetheritage.org

General Information

www.nationalheritageareas.us
www.nps.gov/heritageareas

Economic & Strategic Impact

www.nationalheritageareas.us/issues-we-care-about/economic-impact

Example Heritage Areas

www.riversofsteel.com
www.ohioandieric canalway.com
www.lookingforlincoln.com

Produced in partnership by



Calumet Heritage Partnership

