

# LEARN MORE ABOUT NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS and the CALUMET REGION

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Alliance of National Heritage Areas  
[www.nationalheritageareas.us/](http://www.nationalheritageareas.us/)
- National Park Service, National Heritage Areas  
[www.nps.gov/heritageareas](http://www.nps.gov/heritageareas)
- National Park Service, Feasibility Study  
[www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/FSGUIDE/feasibility\\_guide.html](http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/FSGUIDE/feasibility_guide.html)

## ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC IMPACT STUDIES:

- The Economic Impact of National Heritage Areas
  - 2013 Report: [www.nationalheritageareas.us/pdf/The-Economic-Impact-of-National-Heritage-Areas-Final-Report.pdf](http://www.nationalheritageareas.us/pdf/The-Economic-Impact-of-National-Heritage-Areas-Final-Report.pdf)
  - 2014 Report: [http://www.nationalheritageareas.us/documents/Economic-and-Community-Impact-of-National-Heritage-Area-Sites\\_Final.pdf](http://www.nationalheritageareas.us/documents/Economic-and-Community-Impact-of-National-Heritage-Area-Sites_Final.pdf)
- The Future of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:  
[www.npca.org/assets/pdf/INDU\\_Report\\_Web.pdf](http://www.npca.org/assets/pdf/INDU_Report_Web.pdf)

## SELECT HERITAGE AREAS:

- Rivers of Steel: <http://www.riversofsteel.com/>
- Ohio & Erie Canalway:  
<http://www.ohioanderiecanalway.com>
- Ruhr Valley, Germany:  
<http://www.route-industriekultur.de>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED IN THE CALUMET NHA EFFORT:

- Visit [www.calumetheritage.org/](http://www.calumetheritage.org/)
- Like the Calumet Heritage Partnership on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/CalumetHeritage](https://www.facebook.com/CalumetHeritage)
- Contact us at [calumetheritage@calumetheritage.org](mailto:calumetheritage@calumetheritage.org)

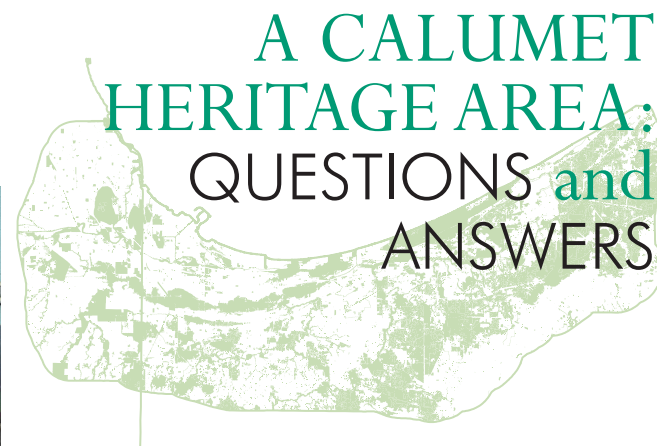
The Calumet Heritage Partnership is a bi-state non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the unique heritage of the Calumet region. The Field Museum is a partner of the Calumet Heritage Partnership. Together, they lead the feasibility study to designate the region as a Calumet National Heritage Area.



The Marquette Plan supports the bi-state effort of the Calumet Heritage Partnership to establish a Calumet National Heritage Area. The Calumet National Heritage Area Feasibility Study is a priority project of the Millennium Reserve.



The Field Museum gratefully acknowledges the following partners for their support of programs in the Calumet Region:



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.

It is time to bind these stories of landscape and life together into a coherent whole. A Calumet Heritage Area is a great way to showcase the assets of this unique American region.

Creating a Calumet Heritage Area will require a full discussion across the region and a good base of information. This brochure introduces the basics of Heritage Areas and how they might apply to the Calumet region.

## WHAT IS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?\*

A National Heritage Area (NHA) is a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape, arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. National Heritage Areas tell important stories that celebrate our nation's heritage. NHAs are usually authorized for a 15-year period after which a Management Plan must be submitted for approval to the National Park Service and to Congress. Currently, there are 49 National Heritage Areas in the United States, some of which take the form of Corridors or Trails. The Illinois & Michigan Canal Corridor was the first, designated in 1984. Two other NHAs of special note are the Rivers of Steel NHA near Pittsburgh and the Ohio and Erie Canalway NHA in the Cleveland area.

## WHAT IS THE LOCAL ROLE IN CREATING A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?

A large one! Heritage Areas are lived-in landscapes. They are created by a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. Through public-private partnerships, NHA entities support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. Heritage Areas are developed by local residents, communities, and leaders in collaboration with government agencies, non-profit institutions, and private partners. They showcase those regional aspects identified as important shapers of the region's natural and cultural heritage. Heritage Areas are a sort of "tent" that overlays and gives national recognition to a range of types and scales of organizations and enterprises that make up the region.

## IS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA A NATIONAL PARK?

No. Though the Heritage Area overlay may include existing units of a National Park, the NHA is not a unit of the National Park Service, and the park service does not own land or impose land-use controls in a heritage area. Heritage Areas are prohibited from using federal funds acquired through designation to purchase real property. The National Park Service does not coordinate National Heritage Areas. The National Park Service partners with, provides technical assistance, and distributes matching federal funds from Congress to Heritage Area entities.

## HOW ARE HERITAGE AREAS CREATED?

Each of the 49 NHAs was created by a unique act of legislation, but Congress is moving toward a standardized set of steps. Most NHAs have followed the following steps:

1. The first step is to draft a National Park Service Feasibility Study, which catalogs the historical, cultural, natural, and recreational assets of the region, outlines the process by which the NHA will be managed, and demonstrates local participation in the development the study.
2. The Feasibility Study is used to support legislation introduced to Congress.
3. If approved, Congress designates the Heritage Area for 15 years and allocates some funding, and a management plan is drafted by the Heritage Area.



## HOW ARE HERITAGE AREAS MANAGED?

Each authorized National Heritage Area completes a Management Plan, which is approved locally and by the Secretary of the Interior. It serves as the framework for actions by the management entity over the initial 15-year authorization period. Most Heritage Areas have an Executive Director and a board comprised of local partner organizations.

Progress toward implementation of the Management Plan also serves as the yardstick by which success of a National Heritage Area is measured. As an NHA nears its initial authorization period, Congress and the National Park Service require a comprehensive evaluation of what has been accomplished, what has yet to be accomplished and whether the management entity has developed a network of sustainable partnerships.

## HOW ARE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS FUNDED?

Heritage Areas are required to match each federal dollar they receive with one from a non-federal source. According to the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, NHAs generate \$5.5 for every federal dollar they receive. On average, federal funding constitutes roughly 40 percent of an NHA's annual budget. In 2009, for example, the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor received a total of \$2,209,664 in revenue and support. Of that amount, the National Park Service contributed \$551,673 or roughly 33.3 percent.

## WASN'T THERE AN EFFORT TO STUDY A HERITAGE AREA IN THE CALUMET REGION SOME YEARS AGO?

The National Park Service conducted a special resource study for a Calumet Ecological Park in 1998. It concluded that the collection of region assets is nationally significant, and suggested that a local effort to create a Heritage Area would be a good way to proceed. The Calumet Heritage Partnership (CHP) was created to manage those discussions. The idea did not gain serious traction at that time. CHP continues to exist as a non-profit entity with a bi-state board. It runs an Annual Calumet Heritage Conference.

## IS THERE A CASE FOR A CALUMET NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?

A Calumet Heritage Area would be an excellent way to tell the story of this compelling landscape at a bi-state regional scale; to coordinate a number of other stories of people and place at the sub-regional level; to honor and celebrate the uniqueness of individual places and initiatives; to coordinate activities that have thematic continuity across the state line; and to do all of this in a way that brings in new visitors and maximizes local buy-in and participation. CHP initiated the feasibility study process for a Calumet National Heritage Area in 2014.

A recent economic impact study of NHAs shows that Heritage Areas go beyond showcasing heritage assets, they also help the economy. Nationally, Heritage Areas contribute \$12.9 billion in economic activity, 148,000 jobs, and \$1.2 billion in tax revenue annually.

*"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, NPS Director

## WHAT COULD A CALUMET HERITAGE AREA LOOK LIKE?

A Calumet Heritage Area could be organized into sets of regional and local trails, anchor points serving as tourism gateways, and panorama points that offer landscape overviews. All would be linked by way-finding mechanisms, and offer interpretive signage and related media. Highlighted themes could include "the unique story of industry and ecology," "the diverse cultural heritage of the people who made the Calumet region home," "environmental activism," and "industry and identity."