Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area Management Plan: JOIN US!

Freedom's Way Heritage Association is preparing a management plan that will guide the organization’s activities, programs, and initiatives to 2023 and beyond. The plan will be the result of a public process designed to update you on our work to date and to enlist your thoughts on directions and opportunities for our work in the future. This process will identify additional stakeholders, build stronger working relationships with the region’s people and businesses, and develop support for programs and a sustainable future.

When Congress designated Freedom's Way as a National Heritage Area (FWNHA), the legislation identified 12 necessary elements of the final FWNHA management plan. One of the most critical elements is public input. We need to hear your views and opinions as we develop the ways we will fulfill our mission. **Please join us.**

What is a National Heritage Area?

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. Through their resources, NHAs tell stories that celebrate our nation’s diverse heritage. NHAs collaborate with communities to make heritage relevant to local interests and needs.

The NHA program is a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. Through public-private partnerships, NHA support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. Leveraging funds and long-term support for projects, NHA partnerships foster pride of place.

The National Heritage Area Program is a Partnership with the National Parks Service

NHAs further the mission of the National Park Service (NPS) by fostering enduring community stewardship of our nation’s heritage. The NHA program currently includes 49 heritage areas. NHAs are not national park units. Rather, the NPS partners with, provides technical assistance, and distributes matching federal funds from Congress to NHAs. NPS does not assume ownership of land inside heritage areas or impose land-use controls. All NHAs are guided by management plans that are approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
The Significance and Mission of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area

The Freedom's Way National Heritage Area (Freedom's Way) includes 45 communities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire that share unique resources and are the home to a series of historic events that influenced democratic forms of government and intellectual traditions that underpin concepts of American freedom, democracy, conservation, and social justice. The communities represent and share common themes that have contributed to this special landscape of American history.

The mission of Freedom's Way is to connect the people, places, and communities in the National Heritage Area to appreciate and preserve the rich historical, natural, and cultural resources of their common landscape.

Freedom's Way is a catalyst that creates unique partnerships with local public and private interests, in cooperation with the National Park Service. The partnership goals are to protect and promote our shared resources, to encourage visitors and residents to explore our history and culture, and to communicate the role that our New England landscape has played in shaping uniquely American ideas and values.

You are Invited! We Need Your Input.

June 8, Sudbury, MA
June 13, Devens, MA
June 22, Hollis, NH

Three public meetings are scheduled in June to get input on the management plan and to show the significance of Freedom's Way, its previous efforts, and some ideas for future plans. All segments will be open to anyone who is able to come. We would love for you to attend the whole meeting and enjoy visiting the locations. Knowing how much you value your time, we have allocated certain activities within each meeting so you can attend some or all of each meeting.

Open House

The first hour of each meeting will involve an open house where participants can learn about Freedom's Way – our resources, programs, history, mission, and themes.

Educational Presentation

Following the open house, there will be a half-hour presentation about Freedom's Way, the natural and cultural resources that contribute to its national significance, and the management plan’s purpose.

Brainstorming Sessions

After the presentation, we will conduct brainstorming sessions in which you will be asked to provide input on planning topics. The topics will include identification of additional resources; how best to use these resources; and how to link resources and partners. We will end the meeting with a summary.
PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY
JUNE 8, 2013
9 AM – 1 PM
Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex
73 Weir Road
Sudbury, MA

THURSDAY
JUNE 13, 2013
5:30 PM – 9 PM
Hilton Garden Inn
59 Andrews Parkway
Devens, MA

SATURDAY
JUNE 22, 2013
NOON – 4 PM
Lawrence Barn
28 Depot Road
Hollis, NH
For more information about Freedom's Way, the management plan, and National Heritage Areas, please go to:

**Freedom's Way**  
www.freedomsway.org/index.html

**Management Plan**  
www.freedomsway.org/mgmt/  
mgmt.html

**National Heritage Areas**  
www.nps.gov/heritageareas