The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

U.S. Department of the Interior
The Department of the Interior protects and manages the nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its special responsibilities to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

National Park Service
The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.
A review of National Park Service programs that extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

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Programs Administered by the National Park Service

Much of the work of the National Park Service\(^1\) is seen and experienced by the public — just not in the national parks. The Service manages programs that reach far beyond national park boundaries. Although the programs operate mainly outside the national parks, they form a vital part of the NPS mission and help sustain and enhance the quality of life throughout America.

This volume describes these programs and the various roles they play in helping the NPS extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. It is intended for those seeking information about why the programs exist, how they are managed, and how they serve communities and the public interest.

The NPS was established by the Organic Act of August 25, 1916 to manage a newly created national park system. The “system” encompassed the 14 national parks and 21 national monuments that existed independently at that time. As of 2013, the system conserves unimpaired about 400 of the world’s most magnificent landscapes, places that enshrine our nation’s enduring principles, and places that remind us of the tremendous sacrifices Americans have made on behalf of those principles. From the Statue of Liberty to the Everglades, from the Great Smoky Mountains to the Grand Canyon, the National Park Service protects many of America’s most iconic and recognizable symbols so that our citizens may enjoy this heritage for generations to come.

NPS Management Policies guides the management of these areas.

National Park Service programs, like the parks and themes represented in the national park system, are diverse in their purpose, scope, and history. Some programs, such as the Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record, have long histories as part of the federal historic preservation movement. Others, like the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, enhance immeasurably the quality of life in America’s communities. Still others, such as the National Heritage Areas program, empower citizens to protect the natural and cultural heritage of their region.

Charged by Congress and the Executive Branch, these programs ensure that the nation’s heritage be conserved, protected, and managed for the benefit of this and future generations.

\(^1\)Throughout this document, the terms “NPS,” “Service,” and “Park Service” all refer to the National Park Service.

Timeline of Statutory Authorities for NPS Programs

By public law and executive orders, the Service’s responsibilities for administering programs beyond park boundaries have accrued gradually over the last century.

At various times in the past, other agencies have administered some of the programs. For example, the Secretary of the Interior established the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) in 1962 to coordinate federal programs, conduct nationwide planning, and assist state and local governments with outdoor recreation matters. It later administered the allocation of Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations. In 1978, several historic preservation programs were added to the BOR’s portfolio and it was reorganized as the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS). The HCRS was abolished in 1981 and its responsibilities were reassigned to the National Park Service.

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Organization of this Volume

The programs are grouped by the breadth of purposes and activities they address.

The first section, Working with Communities, describes the programs that support a diverse range of conservation and recreation activities in communities across the United States.

The second section, History is Everywhere, focuses on the programs that assist cultural resource preservation efforts.

The National Park Service has been involved in international activities since the tenure of its first director, Stephen Mather. Section three, Global Connections - Our International Programs, describes NPS activities related to park and protected area management beyond the borders of the United States.

Each program summary has seven elements:

1. **Authorities**: the laws, statutes, and regulations that authorize the program.
2. **Mission**: a description of the program’s purpose.
3. **Background**: a synopsis of the program’s history, projects, and activities.
4. **Program Requirements**: a description of how interested communities, organizations, individuals, and other eligible entities may become involved and obtain program benefits, such as grants, training, or technical assistance.
5. **NPS Program Administration**: a summary of how the NPS manages the program and which office is responsible.
6. **Program Accomplishments**: highlights of significant accomplishments.
7. **For More Information**: provides links to the program’s website and other sources of related information.

For a graphic, state-by-state illustration of the extent to which these programs are serving America, visit the interactive “State Pages Project” website at [www.nps.gov/](http://www.nps.gov/)
Working with Communities

The programs described in this section help organizations and people at local, state, regional, and national levels to carry out a wide range of conservation and recreation activities that fulfill natural and cultural resource preservation and enjoyment purposes.

More than 170 parks, refuges, museums, historic communities, and water trails in the Chesapeake Bay watershed are part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. NPS photo.
1. Authority
The National Park Service (NPS) administers the Chesapeake Bay program under these authorities:

- **The Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998** (16 USC 461 note) authorized the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.
- **The National Trails System Act** (16 USC 1241—1251)—Congress designated the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT in 2006 and the Star-Spangled Banner NHT in 2008 under this act. It specifies that the John Smith NHT be administered in coordination with the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. In accordance with the act, trail planning and development of the Star-Spangled Banner NHT is coordinated with communities, landowners, volunteer trail groups and federal, state, and local agencies.
- **Executive Order No. 13508** (Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration) specifies that strategies to expand public access, conserve landscapes, and increase citizen stewardship should be coordinated with the John Smith NHT, the Star-Spangled Banner NHT, and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Trails program includes the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network; the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail; the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail; and collaborative federal, state, and local strategies to support Executive Order No. 13508 for the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

2. Mission
This program provides technical and financial assistance to state, community, and nonprofit organizations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The NPS collaborates with state, local, and nonprofit partners to:

- Provide better public access to the Chesapeake Bay and tributary rivers;
- Conserve important landscapes and resources;
- Engage youth in meaningful work and placed-based education;
- Improve recreational opportunities;
- Promote stewardship; and
- Interpret the natural and cultural resources of the Chesapeake Bay region.

3. Background
The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary—where fresh water and salt water mix—in North America. Its watershed extends over 64,000 square miles and is home to 17 million people in New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Described as a “national treasure,” the Chesapeake Bay is a remnant of an ancient sea, home for millennia to American Indian communities, site of the first permanent English settlement in North America, site of a nationally significant maritime heritage, and a seafood basket for the nation.

In 1998, Congress authorized the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network and directed the NPS to provide technical and financial assistance to communities, museums, water trail organizations, historic sites, and community parks around the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers. These partnerships have expanded and strengthened with the recent designation of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake and Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trails and Executive Order No. 13508, directing the NPS to participate in the development of strategies to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

Unlike traditional national parks, with discrete boundaries around parkland, the NPS is a facilitator and coordinator, working with local government partners, non-profit organizations, Indian tribes, and citizens to accomplish work towards common goals in the Chesapeake Bay region. Partners are located throughout the seven jurisdictions in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Numbering in the hundreds, partners include American Indian tribes and descendant communities. Major state partners include departments of economic development, historic resources, natural resources, tourism, and conservation.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network has more than 170 parks, refuges, museums, historic communities, and water trails in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The NPS manages about 10 sites, others are managed by local, state, and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

4. Program Requirements
Potential Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Trails partners must operate within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Memoranda of understanding have been signed with hundreds of partners meeting criteria for inclusion in the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network or along one of the national historic trails. Criteria include: place-based interpretation of the themes of one of the national historic trails or more generally of natural or
cultural resources related to the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries, publicly accessible visitor services, and water or land trail services.

5. NPS Program Administration
The NPS Chesapeake Bay Office in Annapolis, Maryland, part of the NPS Northeast Region, administers the Chesapeake Bay program. Program staff collaborate with many federal, state, and local governments, communities, and non-profit organizations, as well as other NPS programs. The NPS recently assumed responsibilities in the federal Strategy for the Protection and Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, developed in response to Executive Order 13508. The NPS is helping to develop 300 additional public access sites and to conserve two million acres of additional landscapes by 2025.

NPS administration of the National Trails System is described in the National Scenic Trails System section of this document.

6. Program Accomplishments
The NPS collaborates with partners and other conservation organizations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to enhance public access, conserve land, provide youth programs, develop trails, and offer interpretive and educational programs.

Since 2000, over $17 million has been invested in technical and financial assistance projects:

- Financial Assistance—provided more than $1.3 million for 24 community projects for education, youth employment and stewardship programs, and public access and trail development. Each project is leveraged through matching funds, in-kind services, and volunteer hours. Since the program’s inception, every federal dollar invested has leveraged $1.54 in nonfederal contributions

- Water Trail Toolbox—the NPS and state and national partners created the toolbox, an online guide for designing, implementing, and maintaining water trails. Twenty-eight water trails (totaling more than 2,100 miles) throughout the Chesapeake watershed have worked with the NPS to develop map/guides, soft launches, and interpretive, educational, and stewardship opportunities for families.

- Chesapeake Explorer—launched in 2012, this NPS mobile application, helps visitors and residents find and enjoy all of the state, local, and federal parks, trails, tours, and historic places connected to Chesapeake watershed heritage and recreation.

- Orientation, Interpretation, and Education Services—program staff assisted with the development of maps and guides, orientation and interpretive signs, route markers, websites, a mobile application, books, boater’s guides, geocaching trails, Web Ranger and Junior Ranger activities, exhibits, a quarterly Chesapeake Bay tourism newspaper, and educational resources including online lesson plans and reference materials.

- Public Access Inventory—the NPS and its partners produced a baseline inventory of public access in the watershed and a collaborative plan for building 300 new access sites by 2025. Projects range from simple water trail launch sites, to more developed facilities such as fishing piers, boardwalks, and ramps for motorized boating. The projects support water trail development, create access opportunities in traditionally underserved communities, and add recreational assets in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

- Planning, Analysis, and Data Sharing—completed work (viewshed analyses, trail segment planning, and identification of high potential sites and segments and other resources) supporting comprehensive management planning that helped inform more recent work with conservation partners. Through LandScope Chesapeake, a mapping tool developed with USGS and NatureServe, partners can share data layers, narrative elements, and see lands with shared significance or protection. Completed a conservation strategy for the John Smith NHT in 2012; ongoing academic research will further develop a conservation framework of Indigenous Cultural Landscapes.

- Youth Conservation Corps Network—the NPS provides funds and convenes partners to enhance and strengthen a Youth Conservation Corps Network. In 2012, three interns assisted partners with youth corps development and youth engagement opportunities, interpretation and education experiences, and trail development projects. In past years, youth participants worked on trail maintenance and development efforts in Maryland and Virginia.

7. For More Information
A suite of websites offer information about the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Trails program:

- Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network: www.nps.gov/chba or www.baygateways.net.

- Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT: www.nps.gov/cajo or www.smithtrail.net.

- Star-Spangled Banner NHT: www.nps.gov/stsp or www.starspangledtrail.net.

- Visit http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/ for information about the federal strategy in response to Executive Order No. 13508.
Federal Lands to Parks Program

1. Authority
The National Park Service administers the Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) Program under 40 USC 550(b) and (e).

2. Mission
The FLP Program:
- Helps communities create new parks and recreation areas through the transfer of surplus federal land to state and local governments;
- Helps ensure public access and recreation use to those properties in perpetuity; and
- Promotes stewardship of the natural, cultural and recreational resources associated with those properties.

3. Background
When federal lands are no longer needed by the Federal Government, they are designated as “surplus” and become available to serve other useful purposes. The FLP Program was created in 1970 by Public Law 91-485, which amended section 203 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to allow for the disposal of surplus federal real property for public park and recreation purposes. The 1970 Act authorized the Secretary of the Interior to advocate for the disposal of suitable surplus real property for park or recreation purposes. Real property does not include public domain, national forest, or national park lands.

The Secretary has delegated that authority to the NPS Director. On behalf of the Director, the FLP Program monitors the availability of surplus real property and, when those properties are uniquely suited for public park or recreational purposes, advocates for their conveyance to states, counties, municipalities, or other public agencies, usually at no cost. In addition to benefitting communities, the FLP Program helps the Federal Government save money by reducing its unneeded inventory of federal land and facilities.

The FLP Program also monitors approximately 40 former Recreation Demonstration Areas. The demonstration areas consist of federal lands assigned to states in the 1930s and 1940s on the condition that they remain available and protected for public park and recreation purposes.

4. Program Requirements
Successful applicants must document that:
- They need the property for park or recreation purposes, which may also include the preservation of the property’s historical or natural resource values;
- The property is suitable for park or recreational use;
- They are capable of operating and maintaining the property for public park and recreation purposes; and
- They have a utilization program for the property, which describes the proposed park or recreational use and includes a site plan.

Applicants must also agree to:
- Maintain the property in public park and recreational use in perpetuity.
- Submit a brief biennial report on property use and condition.

5. NPS Program Administration
The FLP Program is managed by staff in NPS offices in Washington, D.C. and regional offices in San Francisco, Boston, and Atlanta. Program staff:

a. Monitor Availability. When federal land becomes available for reuse, the General Services Administration (GSA), the military agency (in case of base closures), or another federal “disposing” agency will notify other federal and state agencies. Notices are often posted on military or GSA websites. FLP staff review notices of available property to identify those that have park and recreation potential, and notify appropriate state, regional, and/or local park agencies. A state or local government agency interested in property for parks or recreational purposes is most likely to be successful if they send written notification of their interest to an FLP Program regional office. The NPS typically has 25 days from the “notice of availability” to notify the GSA of state or local park recreation interests.

b. Assist Applicants. State or local agencies apply for property through the NPS regional FLP Program offices. Upon request, the FLP Program staff will help a potential applicant complete the application process.

c. Convey Ownership. If the application is satisfactory, the FLP Program requests the property from the disposing federal agency. The FLP Program staff work as advocates on behalf of the state or community and its request for the park land. If successful, the NPS deeds the land to the applicant with provisions to ensure continued public access, recreational use, and stewardship.

d. Monitor Stewardship. After the land is conveyed, FLP Program staff periodically monitor the use and development of the land and facilities to ensure that they are managed according to the terms and conditions of the deed and approved use plan.
6. Program Accomplishments
Over 1,500 properties, totaling approximately 175,000 acres, have been transferred to state and local governments for park and recreation purposes since the program began. By participating in the FLP Program, communities throughout the nation have:

- Converted abandoned military bases into productive recreational assets;
- Expanded the availability of park and recreational areas for their citizens and improved their quality of life;
- Protected open spaces, extended hiking trails, and opened boating and fishing access;
- Preserved historic and natural resources such as forts and lighthouses, shorelines and wildlife habitat;
- Helped revitalize their communities and create a more attractive business climate; and
- Renewed a sense of community among neighbors through community gardens, senior and cultural centers, local parks, and other gathering places.

7. For More Information
Additional information about the Federal Lands to Parks Program is online at www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/flp/index.htm.

The Historic Surplus Property and National Historic Lighthouse Preservation programs, described elsewhere in this document, are also used to dispose of surplus federal properties.

Hydropower Recreation Assistance Program

1. Authority
A variety of statutes and regulations authorize the Hydropower Recreation Assistance Program’s activities:

- **Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963**—authorizes technical assistance and cooperation on outdoor recreation resources and promotes coordination of federal plans and activities (16 USC 460l-1).
- **Federal Power Act**—the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s regulations require consultation with the NPS (18 CFR 4.38(a); 18 CFR 5.1 (d); 18 CFR 16.8(a)).
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers Act**—this statute (i) Places restrictions on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s licensing activities, as well as assistance provided by other federal agencies, to prevent harm to rivers included in or being studied for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (16 USC 1278(a) and (b)); (ii) Authorizes NPS assistance related to river resources (16 USC 1282(b)); and (iii) Requires federal agencies to consider potential wild, scenic, and recreational river areas when they plan for the use and development of water resources (16 USC 1276(d)).

2. Mission
The Hydropower Recreation Assistance Program works with parties involved in licensing hydropower facilities regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure that public interests in recreation and conservation are addressed. The NPS recommends provisions to FERC to mitigate and enhance conservation and recreation resources associated with licensing dams. The NPS makes recommendations on recreation access and facilities, instream flows for recreation, and protection for riparian corridors and conservation buffer zones.

3. Background
This program promotes national recreation and conservation opportunities by assisting hydropower generators, recreation organizations, and local communities to protect, mitigate, and enhance public recreation affected by hydropower projects. The NPS serves as a knowledgeable participant in collaborative recreation development, primarily through the FERC licensing process.

As the result of a settlement agreement, the public can visit sites at Cohoes Falls, New York, for the first time in a century. The NPS Hydropower Program, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, and Harpers Ferry Center helped develop interpretive exhibits. NPS photo.

This program provides services to create and protect opportunities for river conservation and enhancement of recreation resources and helps FERC
balance decisions about continuing and future operations of hydropower facilities. The NPS makes recommendations for studies; protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures; and is often involved in collaborative settlement negotiations with hydropower operators, other federal and state agencies, and local recreational and conservation interests. In addition, program staff work with national park managers to ensure protection of park resources affected by hydropower licensing proceedings. Increased emphasis on expanding renewable energy and new technologies to generate electricity from waves, tides, and currents is increasing the number of project opportunities.

4. Program Requirements
The NPS document, *Policy and Guidelines for Recreational Technical Assistance in Hydropower Licensing*, outlines project selection priorities based on:

a. **Resource Significance.** Projects are located in areas with high natural, cultural, and/or recreational resource values.

b. **Potential for Positive Impact.** Projects that offer a significant opportunity to create or improve recreation opportunities. With the recent emphasis on new hydropower development, protection of existing recreation opportunities is an additional priority.

c. **Variety of Recreational Opportunities.** Provide assistance on a diverse mix of recreational experiences, settings, and geographical locations.

d. **Concentration of Projects.** Provide special consideration to rivers, or river basins, with multiple projects, especially where a holistic approach will advance public recreation opportunities more than a site-by-site approach.

e. **Assistance Requests.** Provide technical assistance to public and private energy, conservation, and recreation interests. Ensure that those who have little or no access to professional sources of planning assistance and analysis have equal consideration and opportunity to participate in the licensing process.

5. **NPS Program Administration**
NPS Hydropower Office staff in Washington, D.C. and the regional offices administer the program. Program resources are allocated based on the pending hydropower workload and the potential for contributions by the NPS.

In accordance with the *Policy and Guidelines for Recreational Technical Assistance in Hydropower Licensing*, program managers focus on:

a. **Coordination of Planning.** Encourage joint comprehensive planning with other public and private river conservation, recreation and energy interests, and all appropriate land management and resource agencies.

b. **Communication.** Provide a channel for hydropower license applicants to identify and involve recreation and conservation interests in the licensing process.

c. **Conflict Resolution.** Provide a facilitation and conflict resolution role for the involved parties and provide a forum to actively seek input from, and facilitate dialog among, all interested parties.

d. **Balance.** Ensure full consideration of the importance and significance of resources and opportunities to balance competing recreation needs, power production, cultural needs, economics, and other pertinent considerations.

e. **Timeliness.** Early involvement in the licensing process to promote advance planning in a fair manner.

6. Program Accomplishments
Recent accomplishments include:

- Preservation and recreation enhancements, valued at more than $500,000, in the Cohoes Falls area of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (New York). This includes protection, enhancement, and interpretation of the National Historic Landmark District and properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places; Recreation improvements include construction of new trails, a footbridge, fishing access, animal observation sites, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant viewpoints;
- Creation of an ecological corridor between Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Cherokee National Forest (Tennessee), protecting over 10,000 acres in and around the park;
- Protection of recreation experiences on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and James River Face Wilderness where it crosses the James River (Virginia); and

7. For More Information
More information about this program is online at [www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/hydro/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/hydro/index.htm).
Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program

1. Authority
The program is administered under the authority of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 USC 460l-4—460l-11).

2. Mission
The program administers the “State” side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to help state and local governments meet America’s need for well-planned, high-quality public outdoor recreation resources, protected in perpetuity, which will enhance the quality of life and the health and vitality of present and future generations.

3. Background
In 1962, the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC) presented its Outdoor Recreation for America report to the President and Congress. The report championed the vital connection between local recreation facilities and public health, and recommended the establishment of a grants-in-aid program to stimulate and assist the states in meeting the demand for outdoor recreation. Congress and the President responded with Public Law 88-578, establishing the Land and Water Conservation Fund in September 1964. The LWCF authorized matching grants to states and territories, and sub-grants to local government units, for the acquisition and development of close-to-home public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation administered the LWCF from 1965 to 1978 when the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS) was created. HCRS then administered the program until 1981 when it was transferred to the NPS. The LWCF Act also authorized funding for federal acquisitions, separate from the state funding. Chapter 3 of NPS Management Policies addresses the NPS’ use of the federal side of the LWCF.

4. Program Requirements
a. Planning. To be eligible for LWCF grants, each state or territory must prepare and regularly update a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Created with public input, SCORPs evaluate the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation resources (local, state, and federal), identify needs and new opportunities for recreation improvements, and present an implementation program. When a state’s current SCORP has been approved by the appropriate NPS field office, all grant applications submitted must be in accord with the priorities listed in its implementation plan.

b. Project Selection. Each state determines its own project priorities and selection criteria. In most years, states receive individual LWCF grant fund allocations based on a national formula (state population is the most influential factor). Then they start a statewide competition for the available funding (including the current year allocation, any previous year allocations, and any amounts ‘recovered’ due to cost under-runs on earlier projects funded). To make the connection between the SCORP and project proposals, each state must use an Open Project Selection Process that contains:
- Project-ranking selection criteria that allow scoring of each project proposal according to how well it meets the needs and priorities published in the state recreation plan; and
- A process (usually scheduled annually) to ensure that all eligible applicants can be notified of funding availability, application deadlines, and selection criteria when a new project selection cycle starts.

Typically, a state receives applications from state agencies, local units of government, or both up to its specified deadline date. The state scores and ranks applications according to the project selection criteria. The state’s top-ranked applications are forwarded to the NPS for formal approval and obligation of federal grant monies.

c. Project Administration and Closeout. The NPS monitors grant project performance, including the degree of progress towards completion and timely financial performance.

d. Post-completion Compliance Responsibilities and Legal Protection. Post-completion compliance responsibilities apply to each area or facility for which LWCF assistance is obtained, regardless of the type or extent of program participation in the assisted area or facility, and consistent with the contractual agreement between the NPS and the state. The state is responsible for compliance and enforcement for both state and locally sponsored projects.

The LWCF Act has created a legacy of special places where Americans and visitors can get outdoors to stretch their bodies and minds—a public investment that is protected forever. That is because the Act contains a clear and common sense provision to protect grant-assisted areas from conversion to non-recreation uses unless approved by the Secretary of the Interior:
6. Program Accomplishments

Since 1965, the LWCF Grants program has appropriated over $3.6 billion for planning, land acquisition for parks, and development of recreation facilities in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas. State and local matching contributions bring the total LWCF investment to $7.2 billion.

More than 40,000 projects have been approved in every geographic region of the United States, every county, and almost all localities. States received about 8,300 grants, counties about 5,300 grants, and cities, towns, and other local agencies about 26,000 grants.

Approximately 10,500 projects helped states and localities acquire about 2.6 million acres of park land, including projects where donated land values matched the cost of development. Another 29,000 projects were for the development of outdoor recreation facilities.

Seventy-five percent of the obligated funds were for locally sponsored projects that provide close-to-home, readily accessible recreation opportunities to America’s youth, adults, senior citizens, and the physically or mentally challenged.

In addition to thousands of smaller recreation areas, grants helped acquire and develop new parks of statewide or national significance such as the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (Maine), Liberty State Park (New Jersey), the Willamette Greenway (Oregon), Platte River Park (Denver), Herman Brown Park (Houston), and Illinois Beach State Park (Chicago).

7. For More Information

More information, including eligibility requirements, is on the Land and Water Conservation Fund website at www.nps.gov/lwcf/
National Natural Landmarks Program

1. Authority
This program is administered under the authority of the 1935 Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act, as amended (16 USC 461—467), and regulations contained in 36 CFR Part 62.

2. Mission
The National Natural Landmarks (NNL) Program encourages and supports the voluntary conservation of sites that illustrate the geological and biological history of the United States, and strengthens the public’s appreciation of America’s natural heritage.

3. Background
The Secretary of the Interior established the NNL Program in 1962 and the first landmarks were designated in 1963. Since its inception, the program has involved private, municipal, state, and federal landowners, all working together toward the conservation of important natural resource areas.

An NNL is a nationally significant natural area, designated by the Secretary of the Interior, with landowner permission, after scientific study and peer reviews. To be nationally significant, a site must be one of the best examples of a type of biotic community or geologic feature in its biophysicographic province. The Federal Government’s action of designation imposes no land use restrictions that were not in effect before the designation. State or local governments may use their own authority to initiate regulations or zoning. Some states require planners to consider potential impacts from proposed projects.

The foremost benefit afforded to owners of designated landmarks is the prestige associated with voluntarily preserving an important part of America’s natural heritage, which indirectly benefits all citizens. The NPS provides a plaque and certificate that honors that commitment.

4. Program Requirements
a. Outstanding Examples. To be eligible for NNL designation, a site must be one of the “best” examples of a type of biological community or geological feature in its biophysicographic province. “Best” is gauged primarily on illustrative value and condition of the resource. Eligible properties may include terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; geological features, exposures, and landforms that record active geological processes or portions of earth history; and fossil evidence of biological evolution.

b. Voluntary Participation. A property may be included on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks only if the owner of the property does not object. If a property owner objects, then the NPS will not proceed any further with the designation process for that parcel.

Participation in the NNL Program involves a voluntary commitment on the part of the landowner(s) to retain the integrity of their NNL resources. A landowner should not agree to participate in the program if major habitat or landscape destruction is planned.

5. NPS Program Administration
The NPS office of the Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science administers the NNL Program. The NNL program manager is responsible for policy development and direction, budget and staff oversight, and annual report production. Five regional NNL coordinators monitor conditions at NNLs, provide technical support to NNL owners and managers, and oversee the identification and evaluation of potential NNLs.

a. Identification, Evaluation, and Designation of Potential NNLs. The identification and evaluation of candidate sites follows these steps:
   - NPS completes inventory of a natural region to identify the most promising sites;
   - NPS contacts landowners within the areas identified for evaluation and obtains permission to evaluate sites;
   - Scientists conduct detailed site evaluations and prepare reports;
   - Additional scientists peer-review evaluation reports to assure soundness;
   - NPS reviews evaluation reports, notifies owners of sites that meet national significance criteria, and seeks public comments on proposed NNL designations;
   - National Park System Advisory Board evaluates the potential NNL sites and makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior;
   - Secretary of the Interior makes the formal NNL designations; and
   - Landowners, elected officials, and the public receive official notification of NNL designations by letter and publication of a Federal Register Notice.

b. Follow-up Activities. The NNL program regulations require the NPS to monitor the condition of NNLs and ensure they retain the values and conditions that qualified

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2 The National Park System Advisory Board is comprised of citizens having a demonstrated commitment to the NPS mission and outstanding expertise in the conservation of natural, historic, or cultural areas, and representing various geographic regions.
them for landmark designation. Through periodic site visits and other communications, NNL program staff maintain a continuing relationship with the owners and managers of designated landmarks. Threatened or damaged landmarks are visited more frequently to assess changing conditions, while landmarks that change little are visited less often.

6. Program Accomplishments
There are currently more than 590 NNLs in the United States and American Territories. Designated landmarks have benefitted from federal grants to fund research on landmark resources, interpretive signs, films, and brochures, assistance by NPS resource professionals, and other means of conservation support.

7. For More Information
More information about this program is on the program’s website www.nature.nps.gov/nnl. Regulations governing the program are online at 36 CFR Part 62.

National Trails System

National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails

1. Authority
The National Park Service administers this program under the authority of the National Trails System Act (16 USC 1241—1251).

2. Mission
This program facilitates the establishment and operation of national trails “in order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and in order to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation (16 USC 1241).” Each trail is nationally significant to America in the context of recreation, history, culture, and heritage.

3. Background
President Johnson’s 1965 Special Message to Congress on Conservation and Restoration of Natural Beauty called for the development and protection of a balanced system of urban and rural trails. In response, the Secretary of the Interior directed the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to lead a nationwide trails study. The study report, Trails for America, recommended federal legislation to create a nationwide system of trails. In 1968, Congress passed the National Trails System Act and designated the first two national trails—the Appalachian and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails—and identified 14 trails for study for possible inclusion in the National Trails System. The act authorized four types of national trails:

- National Scenic Trails (NSTs) are 100 miles or longer, continuous, and primarily non-motorized routes of outstanding recreation opportunity. An act of Congress establishes such trails.
- National Historic Trails (NHTs) commemorate historic (and prehistoric) routes of travel that are significant to the entire nation. They must meet all three criteria listed in section 5(b)(11) of the National Trails System Act (16 USC 1244 (b)(11)). An act of Congress establishes such trails.
- National Recreation Trails (NRTs) are existing regional and local trails recognized by either the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior upon application. (See also the National Recreation Trails section of this document)
- Connecting and Side Trails provide public access or connections to the other types of trails. The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior designate these trails.

Until 1968, the only federal role was to build and maintain trails on federal land. The National Trails System Act made it federal policy to recognize and promote trails by providing financial assistance, supporting volunteers, and coordinating with states and other authorities. Today, the National Trails System includes 11 NSTs, 19 NHTs, more than 1,200 NRTs, and six connecting and side trails administered by the NPS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

The Federal Interagency Council on Trails, established in 1969 by agreement between the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, coordinates activities under the authorities of the National Trails System Act. Core members include the NPS, BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), USFS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and Federal Highway Administration. The NPS, BLM, USFS, USFWS, and the USACE have key roles in administering and managing national trails, and the Federal Highway Administration is an important source of trail funding.

a. Trail Administration. The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Interior, as designated by Congress through the National Trails System Act, assigns the administration of each national trail to one, or sometimes two, of the national trails agencies. These agencies exercise trailwide responsibilities under the act and the trail’s enabling legislation. Their responsibilities include:

- coordination with planning,
- oversight of trail site and segment development;
- development of trail maintenance standards;
• trail marking, trail segment certification;
• resource protection, trailwide resource inventories and mapping (often using geographic information system or GIS),
• interpretation;
• cooperative and interagency agreements; and
• financial assistance to other cooperating government agencies, landowners, interest groups, and individuals.

The NPS administers six NSTs, 15 NHTs, co-administers two NHTs with the Bureau of Land Management, and manages the NRT program.

b. Trail Management. Various government entities, private groups, and individuals own and/or manage lands along each national trail. Management responsibilities include:
• Inventorysting resources;
• Mapping, planning, and development of trail segments or sites;
• Compliance with environmental and land use regulations;
• Resource preservation and protection;
• Viewshed protection;
• Provision of appropriate public access;
• Interpretation of trail resources and stories;
• Trail marking and maintenance; and
• Management of visitor use.

c. Partnerships. National Trails System partnerships are often complex. The interface between trail administration (trail-wide coordination) and trail management (local on-the-ground activities and services) means that many federal, state, and local agencies; tribal groups; nonprofit organizations; and individuals may be involved. Volunteers, in particular, are extremely important to the success of national trails.

4. Program Requirements
Designation of NSTs and NHTs requires an act of Congress, a process that takes anywhere from six to 15 years. A trail is most likely to succeed in this process if there is a strong, supportive, citizen-based organization working on behalf of the trail.

The establishment of NSTs and NHTs requires four steps:
• Legislation amending the National Trails System Act to authorize a feasibility study;
• Conduct the feasibility study (usually prepared by the NPS) to assess a trail’s significance and suitability for national trail designation;
• Legislation amending the National Trails System Act to add the trail to the system; and
• Prepare a comprehensive management plan after the trail is established, outlining the roles of partners (including federal agencies, state trail program administrators, and nonprofit organizations) along the full length of the trail. The trail’s administering agency usually prepares the management plan.

The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture may designate an NRT in response to an application from the trail’s managing agency or organization. The NRT section of this document contains detailed information on the process.

5. NPS Program Administration
The NPS administers the program through the Division of Conservation and Outdoor Recreation, within the office of the Assistant Director for Partnerships and Civic Engagement, through the NPS Intermountain Regional Office, and through individual trail offices throughout the country.

a. Studies and Plans. When authorized by Congress, the NPS studies the feasibility and desirability of authorizing new NSTs or NHTs. If Congress subsequently authorizes a trail and assigns administrative responsibility to the NPS, the NPS prepares the required planning document, usually called a comprehensive management plan.

b. Trail Administration. When Congress and the Secretary of the Interior assign trail administrative responsibilities to the NPS, the NPS establishes an administration office. Trail administration is largely coordinative and trailwide; it involves working with other agencies and partner organizations on trail planning, marking, segment certification, resource preservation and protection, interpretation, volunteer management, cooperative and interagency agreements, and financial assistance.

c. Trail Management. When the NPS manages a site or segment on a trail administered by another federal agency, the staff of that national park work closely with that agency’s trail administrator.

d. Partnerships. In its trail administrator role, the NPS coordinates partnerships with other federal, state, and local agencies, tribal groups, and nonprofit organizations. The NPS has assistance and cooperative agreements with hundreds of agencies and organizations to carry out the intent of the National Trails System Act.

e. Interagency Coordination. It is important that all federal agencies with trail responsibilities work together to
promote coordination and consistency. Executive Order No. 13195 (Trails for America in the 21st Century) calls on federal agencies “to better establish and operate America’s national system of trails.” Toward that end, the NPS and five other federal agencies, all active in the Federal Interagency Council on Trails, pledged in a 2006 Memorandum of Understanding to work in close partnership “to enhance visitor satisfaction, to coordinate trailwide administration and site-specific management, to protect resources, to promote cultural values, to foster cooperative relationships, to share technical expertise, and to fund lands and resources associated with the National Trails.” Together, the six agencies publish an annual report on the accomplishments achieved under the memorandum.

6. Program Accomplishments
During the more than 40-year history of the National Trails System, the NPS has carried out important leadership, development, and operational tasks to implement the National Trails System, such as:
- Provided staff to administer six of the 11 national scenic trails and 17 of the 19 national historic trails;
- Conducted (or is conducting) 27 of 45 feasibility studies requested in the National Trails System Act;
- Completed 18 comprehensive trail management plans;
- Coordinated the investment of more than $200 million in Land and Water Conservation Funds to protect the 2,175-mile Appalachian NST corridor—the largest land protection effort ever carried out by the NPS;
- Published updated editions of the National Trails System Map and Guide;
- Leveraged, through cooperative agreements, more than $4 million in annual investments to foster trail partnerships;
- Provided financial and staff support to national organizations that support the National Trails System;
- Provided financial and staff support for partnership training, through the National Trails Training Partnership;
- Administered “Connect Trails to Parks,” a $950,000 grants program, to better link national trail and national park areas; and
- Provided strong support for “A Decade for the National Trails, 2008-2018,” to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act in 2018.

7. For More Information
More information about this program is online at www.nps.gov/nts/.

National Trails System
National Recreation Trails

1. Authority
The National Park Service administers National Recreation Trails per section 4 of the National Trails System Act (16 USC 1243).

2. Mission
The National Recreation Trails (NRT) program offers national recognition to local and regional trails in, or easily accessible, to urban areas, acknowledging local and state efforts to build and maintain viable trails and trail systems. The Secretary of Agriculture (for trails on National Forest lands and waters) and the Secretary of the Interior (for all other trails on public or private land) share the recognition function. The Secretary of the Interior has delegated NRT coordination to the National Park Service. Regional foresters approve NRTs in the Department of Agriculture.

3. Background
Federal recognition of local and state effort occurs in many agencies. The development of NRT recognition grew from a discussion in the seminal 1966 Department of the Interior report, *Trails for America*, about “park and forest trails” and “metropolitan area trails.” NRT recognition is part of the services offered by the NPS, and other agencies, to foster trails in all settings.

For many years, the Federal Interagency Council on Trails considered NRT nominations. More recent interagency documents, most notably the 2001 Executive Order 13195, (Trails for America in the 21st Century), and the 2006 National Trails System Memorandum of Understanding, signed by the NPS and five other federal land management agencies, continue to encourage NRT recognition. More than 1,200 NRTs, spanning 18 states and totaling more than 15,000 miles, have been designated.

The NPS and American Trails, a nonprofit partner, maintain an NRT website with a searchable trail database and information on how to apply for NRT designation.

4. Program Requirements
To qualify for NRT recognition, a trail must:
- Exist and be continuous;
- Be open to public use for at least 10 consecutive years after designation;
- Be designed, constructed, and maintained according to best management practices, in keeping with the anticipated use. Trails that demonstrate state-of-the-art design and management are especially encouraged to
1. Authority
The National Park Service administers this program under the authority of the National Trails System Act (16 USC 1241—1251), and in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Order No. 3319, issued February 29, 2012.

2. Mission
This program connects Americans to the nation’s waterways and strengthens the conservation and restoration of these waterways through the mutual support of federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations by:
- Establishing a national system;
- Becoming a catalyst for protecting and restoring the health of local waterways and surrounding lands; and
- Establishing a network of practitioners that mentors and promotes the development of water trails and shares best management practices.

3. Background
National Recreation Trails (NRT) are one of four types of national trails authorized by the National Trails System Act. Section 4 of the act (16 USC 1243) stipulates that NRTs are existing regional and local trails recognized by either the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior upon application. NRTs are designated with the consent of the states, their political subdivisions, other appropriate administering agencies, and permission of any affected private owners of surface land rights.

Secretary’s Order No. 3319 established national water trails as a class of recreation trails, with such trails collectively comprising the National Water Trails System (NWTS). A water trail is a stretch of river, lake, shoreline, bay, stream, estuary, ocean, canal, or any combination of waterways that has been designated, mapped, and publicly identified to provide high-quality outdoor recreational experiences through the application of a defined set of best management practices.

The NWTS celebrates the collaboration of citizens who apply for NRT designation; and
- Comply with applicable land use plans and environmental laws.

In addition, the landowner, public or private, whose property the trail crosses, must support NRT designation. A nonfederal trail should be endorsed by the State Trail Coordinator.

5. NPS Program Administration
For NRTs processed by the NPS, applications are received online by November 1 each year. NPS staff sort, review, and inspect the applications to ensure they meet program requirements, such as trail continuity and adequate mapping, then submit the packages for Departmental review and approval. The goal is to have announcements, certificates, and Secretarial letters ready for the annual National Trails Day, the first Saturday of June. The NPS also maintains the system of record for the more than 1,200 NRTs recognized to date.

6. Program Accomplishments
Since the first NRTs were recognized in 1971, the NPS has:
- Developed and protected the NRT trail marker logo as a Federal Insignia;
- Processed 843 NRT applications for approval by the Secretary of the Interior;
- Recognized 81 NRTs in national parks;
- Established a cooperative agreement with American Trails to make the NRT database available to the public; and
- Worked with American Trails to promote NRTs in print, online, and at trail conferences.

7. For More Information
Visit the American Trails NRT website www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails.
at the local level across the country to create accessible, community-scale water trails. The trails connect people to their water resources close to home. Water trails are often developed and maintained through partnerships that embrace a shared mission of conservation and environmental stewardship. They promote recreation, encourage public service, foster awareness and appreciation of natural areas, and facilitate citizens to actively care for the waterways and the landscapes that the trails traverse. The NWTS is premised on the concept that the quality of life in America is strengthened when more people are able to use and enjoy their local waterways.

4. Program Requirements

A National Water Trail (NWT) must meet the same criteria as other trails that seek National Recreation Trail designation. These criteria are built into the application and verification process. NWTs must incorporate best management practices in the following areas:

- **Recreation Opportunities**—the water trail route has established public access points that accommodate a diversity of trip lengths and provide access to a variety of opportunities for recreation and education.

- **Education**—users are provided with opportunities to learn about the value of water resources, cultural heritage, boating skills, and outdoor ethics.

- **Conservation**—the water trail provides opportunities for communities to develop and implement strategies that enhance and restore the health of the local waterways and surrounding lands.

- **Community Support**—local communities provide support and advocacy for the maintenance and stewardship of the water trail.

- **Public Information**—the public has access to understandable water trail information, including details for identifying access and trail routes; cultural, historic, and natural features; hazards; and water quality. The water trail is promoted to the community and a broad national audience.

- **Trail Maintenance**—water trail managers demonstrate the ability to support routine and long-term maintenance investments in the water trail. Facilities are designed, constructed, and maintained incorporating sustainability principles.

- **Planning**—water trail managers maintain a water trail plan that describes a vision, desired future conditions, and strategies to strengthen best management practices.

Each NWT is locally managed by a local, state, or federal government agency, nonprofit organization, or interagency group. To be designated as part of the NWTS, the sponsoring management entity must submit an application to the Secretary of the Interior, through the NPS Director, describing how the following criteria will be achieved:

- Availability of the water trail for public use for at least 10 consecutive years after designation;
- Application of best management practices;
- Compliance with applicable land use plans and environmental laws; and
- Support of landowner(s), both public and private, who provide public access.

Applications for NWT designation are accepted on a continual basis and are reviewed by a team of water trail administrators by the NPS through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program and the National Trails System (NTS), in Washington, D.C. NPS regional offices promote the system nationwide and encourage networking within the water trail community to assist and support nascent water trails. The RTCA Program assists with:

- Project planning, design, or management;
- Project outreach;
- Public involvement;
- Partnership development;
- Organizational development; and
- Serving as a conservation clearinghouse.

5. NPS Program Administration

The National Water Trails System is an interagency collaborative effort.
specialists and a collaborative interagency group. Upon verification and recommendation by the interagency team, the NPS Director then submits nominations of exemplary water trails to the Secretary for designation. A trail designated as an NWT will receive, at a minimum, Secretarial recognition, signs, and inclusion in an online searchable database.

6. Program Accomplishments
The National Trails System Act of 1968 made it federal policy to recognize and promote trails by providing financial assistance, supporting volunteers, and coordinating with states and other authorities.

The establishment of a National Water Trails System has created additional opportunities for recognition and partnership. In early 2012, the Chattahoochee River Water Trail was the first river designated under the new system. To date, nine water trails – totaling more than 1,600 miles - have been designated.

7. For More Information
More information about this program is on the program’s website at www.nps.gov/watertrails.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

1. Authority
The authority for National Park Service administration of this program is found in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 USC 1271—1287).

2. Mission
The NPS Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) Program develops and implements a comprehensive Service-wide program to:

- Meet the legislative requirements of the WSR Act;
- Improve internal and external communication and coordination;
- Educate NPS staff, stakeholders and the public about the importance of wild and scenic rivers; and
- Protect the river resources under our care.

The NPS also has direct management responsibility for a number of wild and scenic rivers. However, the management of those rivers is not within the scope of this discussion, which focuses only on program activities that take place beyond park boundaries. NPS Management Policies, Chapter 4, contains guidance on NPS-managed rivers.

3. Background
The Service-wide WSR Program was established in 2007 to meet the NPS’ responsibilities under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. When enacted in 1968, the act declared, as a matter of national policy,

that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and . . . they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations (16 USC 1271).

The act is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection. Designated segments need not include the entire river and may include tributaries.

Congress generally designates wild and scenic rivers. However, if a governor of a state applies to the Secretary of the Interior to designate a river for inclusion, the Secretary may approve the request if the river:

- Is first designated as wild, scenic, or recreational by the legislatures of the states through which it flows;
- Meets the criteria established for inclusion; and
- Will be permanently administered without expense to the U.S. by an agency or political subdivision of the state(s) through which it flows.

The state or local administering agency is responsible for establishing the boundaries, classifying the river, and protecting and enhancing water quality and river values.

While rivers administered solely by the NPS are outside the scope of this discussion, it should be noted that Congress has also designated “Partnership Rivers,” which are administered by the NPS in cooperation with other appropriate entities. These rivers flow primarily across nonfederal lands and are usually designated following a congressionally authorized study conducted by the NPS, with interaction and assistance from other entities. Although administered by the NPS, river management is a collaborative partnership between the NPS and state, local, and/or non-governmental entities. Each river has a local river management council or committee.

All designated rivers are classified as wild, scenic, or recreational depending on the level of development of the shoreline, watercourse, and river access at the time.
of designation. Regardless of classification, each river in the system is administered with the goal of protecting and enhancing the values that led to its designation. Designation does not change land ownership or grant new privileges to the public on private lands. If the riverbanks are in private ownership, the landowner continues to control their use after designation. Protection of the river is provided through voluntary stewardship by landowners and river users, and through regulation and programs of federal, state, local, or tribal governments.

The act purposefully strives to balance dam and other construction at appropriate sections of rivers with permanent protection for some of the country’s most outstanding free-flowing rivers. It prohibits the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from licensing new construction of hydroelectric facilities on or directly affecting designated rivers. The act also prohibits other federal agencies from assisting by loan, grant, license, or otherwise in construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on a designated river.

The act also prohibits water resources projects located below, above, or on a stream tributary to a designated river that would invade the river area or unusually diminish certain river values. There is a higher standard for congressionally authorized study rivers.

Designation does not affect existing water rights or the existing jurisdiction of states and the Federal Government over waters under established principles of law. However, federal water rights are reserved at the time of designation sufficient to protect the values for which the river was designated.

4. Program Requirements
To benefit from participation in the WSR System, state and local agencies, and private entities are required only to have an interest in protecting and enhancing rivers and to seek technical or political support for a congressional study under section 5(a) (16 USC 1276 (a)), or a state application under section 2(a)(ii) (16 USC 1273 (a)(ii)) of the act.

a. Eligibility. To be eligible for WSR designation, a river or river segment must be “free-flowing,” and with its adjacent land area, possess at least one outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar value. Section 17(b) of the act defines free-flowing as “existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway.” The presence of impoundments above and/or below the segment, including those which may regulate flow within the segment, and existing minor dams or diversion structures within the study area, do not necessarily render a river segment ineligible. Some segments in the WSR System are located downstream from or between major dams.

b. Suitability. Suitability is assessed by evaluating a number of factors to help determine whether to recommend a river for addition to the WSR System. The benefits of protecting river values are weighed against other resource values, issues, and alternatives. The evaluation typically describes the river’s “outstandingly remarkable values” and identifies significant issues, public concerns, tentative boundaries and classifications, alternatives and impacts, appropriate protective management prescriptions, and mitigation measures. A suitability study addresses such subjects as:
- Current status of land ownership and use in the area;
- Support of or opposition to designation;
- Potential land and water uses that would be affected by designation;
- The federal agency to administer the river, if designated; and
- The ability of, and estimated costs to, state and local agencies to participate in river administration.

Volunteers learn about the macroinvertebrate monitoring program on the Westfield Wild and Scenic River in Connecticut. NPS photo.
The intent of the act is to preserve selected rivers from the harmful effects of water resources projects. Designation will limit development of water resources projects as diverse as irrigation and flood control measures, hydropower facilities, dredging, diversion and channelization, and some bridges. Therefore, the suitability assessment is a vital tool in choosing the appropriate course of action.

c. Designation. To be included in the WSR System, a river must either be authorized by an act of Congress or designated by the Secretary of the Interior upon application by the governor of the state or states through which the river flows. The NPS strongly advocates that studies be conducted first to determine a river’s eligibility and suitability for inclusion in the WSR System, and that those studies include a comprehensive management plan.

d. Administration. A congressionally designated river must be permanently administered in accordance with a river management plan that achieves the purposes of the WSR Act. State administered rivers are not required to have a river management plan under the act.

5. NPS Program Administration
The WSR Program has two key administrative components: (1) a Service-wide steering committee, co-chartered by the Assistant Director of Partnerships and Civic Engagement and the Associate Director of Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, made up of regional, park, and Washington office representatives; and (2) a WSR Program Coordinator, who manages the program, develops necessary standards and procedures, and coordinates the steering committee’s efforts. In addition, the NPS works closely with the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council to guide implementation of the WSR Act among the federal agencies with administrative responsibilities—U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the NPS.

a. General Responsibilities. The WSR program carries out the NPS’ responsibilities, delegated by the Secretary of the Interior, under the WSR Act. Program staff work with other NPS programs to:
- Conduct congressionally mandated studies of rivers for potential inclusion in the WSR System (Park Planning – Special Resources Studies).
- Provide encouragement and technical assistance to others interested in river conservation (RTCA Program)
- Collaborate with state, local, and/or non-governmental entities in the management of “partnership” rivers, as designated by Congress.
- Review section 2(a)(ii) applications that governors submit to the Secretary of the Interior to state rivers designated as part of the WSR System.
- Maintain a nationwide rivers inventory and consult with state and federal agencies on the preservation of the potential WSR values.
- Provide support to all WSRs, including those in the national park system, in meeting the act’s requirements for protecting river values, planning, boundary designation, and classification.
- Prepare determinations required by section 7 of the act (16 USC 1278) as to whether water resources projects located within, upstream, downstream, or on a tributary to (1) designated WSRs, (2) rivers being studied under congressional authorization, and (3) rivers in parks with enabling legislation similar to the WSR Act would have a direct and adverse effect on the river’s values. The NPS personnel responsible for the review must be familiar with the river and its outstandingly remarkable values, and must maintain an effective working relationship with the state administrator on all section 2(a)(ii) rivers.

b. Action Plan. An action plan with three objectives guides the program:
- Meet legislative and legal mandates;
- Establish and implement a Service-wide program; and
- Improve external communication and expand education outreach. High priority activities include developing guidance; training NPS staff and river partners; and clarifying river values to be protected and enhanced.

6. Program Accomplishments
The NPS administers 12 National WSRs in partnership with state and local governments, and has other responsibilities for 17 rivers administered by states and Indian tribes. The NPS also has WSR responsibilities for 30 rivers in national parks. Seven additional park rivers have enabling legislation similar to the WSR Act.

Notable achievements include:
- Creation of Junior River Ranger programs for the Farmington, Sudbury/Assabet/Concord, and Westfield Rivers, that will ideally stimulate development of similar programs on other rivers; and
- Training and river value workshops for designated river segments on the Delaware River and its tributaries.

7. For More Information
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

1. Authority
There are three principal legislative authorities for the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program:
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 USC 1271—1287);
- National Trails System Act (16 USC 1241—1251); and
- Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963 (16 USC 460l-1—460l-3).

2. Mission
The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) assists community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation initiatives that lead to protected waterways, conserved open space, and the development of trails and greenways. This mission seeks to produce a network of national, state, and local parks, rivers, trails, greenways, and open spaces that links all Americans to the natural world and promotes quality of life.

3. Background
This program helps fulfill the NPS mission by advocating and assisting community-based conservation action and the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities. RTCA staff help build partnerships to achieve community-set goals through organizational development, resource assessment, concept plan development, public education and participation, and identification of potential funding sources. An RTCA project applicant may be a federal (including national park areas), state, or local agency; Indian tribe; nonprofit organization; or citizens’ group. Federal agencies may apply for project work only in collaboration with a nonfederal partner. RTCA provides assistance only, not grants-in-aid.

Typical projects assisted by RTCA include revitalizing urban rivers by emphasizing trails or natural habitat restoration, improving trail linkages between national parks and surrounding lands, assisting with rails-to-trails conversions, and improving river access for recreationists.

The RTCA component of the NPS mission is based on a legislative foundation that encourages support of state and local initiatives. Following the 1962 report of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, Congress authorized a broader federal role to ensure the availability and protection of adequate recreation resources for a growing population. Landmark legislation was passed to promote the creation of trails; the protection of river environments; and the conservation, development and use of outdoor recreation resources. RTCA may enter into cooperative agreements with partners, similar to any national park or NPS program, to further the agency’s mission. The program has evolved to fulfill its congressional mandates by providing assistance for river conservation and protection of habitat and open space.

4. Program Requirements
To apply for assistance, applicants must complete a form that is evaluated by a regional RTCA manager. The RTCA staff evaluate the following criteria:
- The project has specific, partner-defined goals and results expected in the near future (such as miles of trail or protected river, or acres of open space);
- The project protects or improves important natural resources or enhances outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Roles and contributions of partners are substantive and well-defined;
- There is evidence of broad community support for the project; and
- The anticipated RTCA role is clear and appropriate.

To be successful, project proposals should support one or more of the following strategic themes. The project:
- Provides physical connection among resources;
- Includes both outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation;
- Partners with or connects to an NPS area;
- Partners with a health organization; or
- Engages youth.

5. NPS Program Administration
RTCA Washington D.C. staff and regional program managers administer the program. In administering its activities, the RTCA Program’s strategic goals for 2010 to 2015 are to:
- Collaborate with community partners in every state to create access to parks, protected waterways, and a network of trails, greenways, and conserved open space;
- Extend the benefits of the NPS throughout the country, connecting Americans to their land and water resources through conservation and outdoor recreation projects; and
- Strengthen the community-based initiatives connecting communities to their national parks, engaging youth partners, and promoting healthy recreation.

In pursuing these goals, the RTCA Program follows these guidelines:
- Undertakes projects only at the request of a local community and when projects include multiple partners;
- Concludes NPS involvement within two years;
- Sets expectations of tangible recreation benefits or
conservation successes; and
- Contributes RTCA staff hours to help project partners leverage funding through public-private partnerships.

Most importantly, RTCA staff serve as facilitators, which is crucial to the success of most projects. A facilitator helps groups with diverse interests—citizen and business groups, local and state government agencies—reach consensus on a plan of action. Since most conservation projects cross several jurisdictions and involve numerous groups, they tend to be complex and need a good facilitator, especially as a project is just getting started.

Projects may follow these steps:
- Recruit a strong, local group of project advisors;
- Identify a group decision-making process;
- Establish a group mission and community vision by consensus;
- Create allies and understand issues;
- Implement a small-scale, highly visible demonstration effort; and
- Set achievable goals, record progress, and build momentum by celebrating small steps.

6. Program Accomplishments
RTCA projects included multi-use trails, single-purpose trails, greenways, water trails, river corridor conservation, land protection, and park and natural area planning.

In a recent survey, 100 percent of partner organizations found RTCA staff helped them achieve their project goals; 93 percent said RTCA helped them develop their ability to succeed at future projects; and 97 percent were satisfied with RTCA assistance.

In 2012, RTCA worked on more than 260 community-based partnership projects, and nearly 50 projects were in urban communities. RTCA partnership projects in 2012:
- Developed 2,154 trail miles;
- Conserved 1,074 river miles; and
- Protected more than 70,000 acres of open space and parkland.

Since 1997, RTCA-assisted projects:
- Built or improved over 21,000 miles of trails;
- Conserved over 11,000 miles of protected river corridors; and
- Preserved more than 1.2 million acres of open space.

7. For More Information
More information about the RTCA Program is online at www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/
devote their time and who are capable of delivering quality interpretive and educational services.

5. NPS Program Administration

NPS staff in the Southeast Regional Office administer the Trails & Rails Program and coordinate with senior Amtrak managers. Staff from other regional offices assist. Staff at host parks recruit, train, and schedule volunteers, and sometimes conduct interpretive programs on the Amtrak routes. The number of host parks varies from 15 to 19.

6. Program Accomplishments

The Trails & Rails Program celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2010. Each year, more than 700 volunteers contribute thousands of hours of service and present interpretive programs that reach 500,000 passengers.

On National Train Day (an annual event commemorating completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869), NPS and Amtrak employees and volunteers set up displays highlighting the partnership at major Amtrak stations and provide information on nearby NPS areas. Amtrak developed a video that highlights the Trails & Rails Program.

In addition to programs presented by volunteers and NPS staff, a series of audio podcasts are available, featuring the history and points of interest along Amtrak’s Sunset Limited (New Orleans-Los Angeles) and Texas Eagle (Chicago-San Antonio-Los Angeles) routes. The podcasts, accessible via smart phones, mp3 players, and computers, include an audio guide, national park anecdotes, and assorted fun facts. Passengers can also download printed versions of the podcasts, a format that is especially suited for teachers and the hearing-impaired.

The podcasts were developed through a partnership between Amtrak, the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University, and the NPS. Working on the podcasts and related materials gave the Texas A&M student interns “real life” work experience.

7. For More Information

More information about the Trails & Rails Program is online at www.nps.gov/findapark/trailsandrails/.


Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program

1. Authority


2. Mission

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) Program gives matching grants and technical assistance to economically distressed urban communities to revitalize and improve recreation opportunities through:

- Remodeling, rebuilding, expanding, or developing existing neighborhood outdoor or indoor recreation areas and facilities;
- Developing innovative cost-effective ideas, concepts, and approaches to improve facility design, operations, or programs for local recreation services;
- Planning activities that set recreation priorities and strategies for overall recreation system recovery; and
- Perpetual protection of urban recreation properties and opportunities.

3. Background

A 1976 amendment to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 directed the Secretary of the Interior to study the needs, problems, and opportunities associated with urban recreation. The resulting National Urban Recreation Study (1978) concluded that urban park and recreation facilities were in a state of deterioration, there was compelling need to restore the facilities, and federal funds would be necessary. In March 1978, President Carter announced a comprehensive national urban policy, A New Partnership to Conserve America’s Communities, including the concept of an urban park and recreation recovery program to encourage revitalization and rehabilitation of urban recreation systems. The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 formally established the UPARR Program, first administered by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS), within the Department of the Interior. When the HCRS was abolished in 1981, the UPARR Program was transferred to the NPS. Appropriations for grants have been sporadic over the life of the program.

The UPARR Program has been used to rehabilitate inner-city playgrounds, tot-lots, recreation centers, parks, ball fields, tennis and basketball courts, and swimming pools, and to turn abandoned and surplus buildings into community centers. UPARR grants have supported recreation opportunities for people of all ages and ethnic
groups, people with and without disabilities, senior citizens, at-risk youth, and young adults.

4. Program Requirements

Upon congressional appropriation of grant funds, the NPS will announce the availability of matching grant funding opportunities and the application process through the Federal Register and Grants.gov. Only local governments and counties meeting the program’s criteria are eligible for assistance, and with proper authorization, may pass-through grant funds to another appropriate public or private nonprofit agency. To be eligible for Rehabilitation or Innovation grants, a jurisdiction must maintain an NPS-approved recreation plan that meets UPARR Recovery Action Program (RAP) requirements. The RAP plan guides local action planning and states a community’s commitment to the UPARR Program’s revitalization goals.

Three types of UPARR matching grants are available:

- **Rehabilitation grants**—capital grants to rebuild, remodel, expand, or develop existing outdoor or indoor recreation areas and facilities, including park landscape, building, and support facility improvements (excluding routine maintenance).

- **Innovation grants**—grants to cover the costs of personnel, facilities, equipment, supplies, or services that demonstrate innovative and cost- or service-effective ways to augment park and recreation opportunities at the neighborhood level; and to address common problems related to facility operations and improved delivery of recreation services (excluding routine operation and maintenance activities). Modest funding amounts support activities that increase recreation programs or improve local government efficiency in operating existing programs.

- **Planning grants**—funds to develop park and recreation RAP plans.

Recipients of UPARR grants must maintain the site or facility for public recreation use in perpetuity. In accordance with section 1010 of the UPARR act (16 USC 2509), no property improved or developed with UPARR assistance shall be converted to other than public recreation uses without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

5. NPS Program Administration

Although Congress has not appropriated new UPARR funds since 2002, the NPS has a continuing responsibility to monitor recreation site compliance with section 1010 for more than 1,500 local recreation areas across the nation. To do this, the NPS conducts site inspections and/or requires local recipients to certify site compliance.

Conversion Process—the NPS provides technical assistance and guidance about the UPARR recreation property conversion process and acts on formal requests to convert section 1010 protected recreation land. A conversion is approved only if the proposal meets certain conditions, including replacement of the converted property with equivalent recreation property and opportunity.

6. Program Accomplishments

Since 1978, the UPARR Program has awarded nearly $314 million in grants to at least 380 urban communities in 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Grants have improved urban recreational opportunities through:
- 714 Rehabilitation grants
- 191 Innovation grants
- 557 Planning grants

Recreation facilities rehabilitated through the program include:
- playgrounds
- recreation centers
- ball fields
- neighborhood parks
- swimming pools
- picnic areas
- tennis courts & basketball courts
- hike/bike/exercise trails
- soccer fields

Through UPARR grants, many non-recreation facilities acquired new lives as community recreation centers:
- An abandoned coal bunker in Jersey City became a Boys and Girls Club;
- A Wilmington, Delaware parking garage turned into a free roller skating ramp on weekends;
- Former firehouses were transformed into a cultural center (Portland, Oregon) and a senior/youth center (Somerville, Massachusetts);
- National Guard armories (Chicago, Illinois and Mohawk, New York) became recreation centers; and
- A shopping center sidewalk serves as a senior citizens’ fitness course in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

7. For More Information

Additional information about the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program is online at www.nps.gov/uprr/.
History is Everywhere

The National Park Service provides grants, technical assistance, and training that support the preservation and enjoyment of our cultural heritage on public lands and private properties throughout the nation.

Built between 1854 and 1864 as barracks for the Spanish infantry, the Cuartel de Ballaja in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, was conveyed to the commonwealth through the Historic Surplus Property Program. It now houses a museum and state offices. NPS photo by Frank Miele.
American Battlefield Protection Program

1. Authority
The National Park Service manages this program under the authority of the American Battlefield Protection Program Act (16 USC 469k-1).

2. Mission
The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil. The program’s goals are to:

- Protect battlefields and sites associated with armed conflicts that influenced the course of our history;
- Encourage and assist all Americans in planning for the preservation, management, and interpretation of these sites; and
- Raise awareness of the importance of preserving battlefields and related sites for future generations.

3. Background
Numerous wars and conflicts—civil wars, wars for freedom, and wars for territory—have been fought on American soil. Each war profoundly affected the history and development of this nation. Today, the remaining fields of battle represent these military struggles and evoke strong emotions of patriotism and dissension, sacrifice and waste, valor and cowardice, and brutality and humanity. Unfortunately, America’s historic battlefields are rapidly disappearing as urban and suburban development engulfs the landscapes that once dictated troop maneuvers and positions, and ultimately, the outcomes of battles, campaigns, and wars. Natural erosion, human neglect, and vandalism also threaten battlefields.

In the American Battlefield Protection Act, Congress identified a need to encourage, support, assist, recognize, and work in partnership with citizens, public and private institutions, and governments at all levels in identifying, researching, evaluating, interpreting, and protecting historic battlefields and associated sites on a national, state, and local level. The legislation also established a federal battlefield acquisition grant program to provide grants to state and local governments for the acquisition of eligible Civil War battlefield land, or for the acquisition of permanent easements in Civil War battlefield land.

4. Program Requirements
The ABPP awards two types of battlefield protection grants:

a. Battlefield Planning Grants. The ABPP supports projects that lead to the protection of battlefield land and sites associated with battlefields. Projects that support this goal include:

- **Site Identification and Documentation Projects**
  - Historical research
  - Resource surveys and inventories
  - Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places
  - GIS and GPS mapping

- **Planning and Consensus Building Projects**
  - Acquisition, strategic, and preservation plans
  - Studies of land related to, or adjacent to, publicly owned and protected battlefield lands
  - Management, landscape, and stabilization plans
  - Interpretation plans
  - Preservation advocacy and consensus building within a community

- **Interpretation or Education Projects**
  - Brochures about preservation
  - Interpretive programs on preservation techniques
  - Sign development and design

The ABPP Battlefield Planning Grants do not fund land acquisition or capital improvement projects. The ABPP encourages, but does not require, matching funds or in-kind services. Projects associated with lands already owned by the NPS are not eligible for ABPP grants.

b. Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants.
Through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies are available to help states and local communities acquire and preserve threatened Civil War battlefield lands. They are protected by the same non-conversion requirements as other LWCF grant-assisted acquisitions. If a private, nonprofit organization seeks to acquire battlefield land with assistance from this program, the organization must apply in partnership with a state or local government agency. LWCF grants are awarded through a competitive process and require a dollar-for-dollar nonfederal match. Grants are available for the fee-simple acquisition of land, or for the acquisition of permanent, protective interests in land at battlefields listed in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission’s report.

5. NPS Program Administration
The ABPP encourages states, tribal governments, communities, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and individual citizens to become the stewards of significant historic battlefields. The program’s “planning and partnerships” approach to battlefield preservation allows for the protection of significant battle sites that cannot or should not be preserved completely or in part by public ownership, but must nonetheless be saved to
give future generations of Americans opportunities to understand the importance of these irreplaceable sites.

The ABPP staff manage the Battlefield Planning Grants program, awarding funds to organizations that sponsor planning and educational projects at historic battlefields. Like most NPS preservation projects, ABPP grant and rehabilitation projects must follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation and Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, as well as other cultural resources management policies.

The ABPP’s historians, preservation planners, and archeologists also give professional assistance to battlefield property owners, battlefield friends groups, and state and local governments interested in preserving historic battlefield land and sites. These public-private partnerships save American taxpayers millions of dollars that would be required for federal acquisition, management, and interpretation of these historic places.

6. Program Accomplishments
The ABPP provided staff support to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, tasked by Congress to identify the country’s most important and most threatened Civil War battlefields, and to make recommendations for their preservation. The commission studied 384 sites of major armed conflict and listed 50 battlefields with the most urgent need for preservation. The ABPP has continued to work toward their preservation. In response to another call from Congress, the ABPP identified and documented 677 significant places associated with the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The resulting report informs federal, state, tribal, municipal, nonprofit, and private entities about at-risk battlefields and associated properties.

Since 1992, the ABPP has awarded over 450 Battlefield Planning Grants, ranging from $5,000 to more than $80,000, to protect more than 100 battlefields in 42 states and territories. Since 1998, LWCF Civil War Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants, matched dollar-for-dollar by nonfederal funds, have helped preserve over 75 Civil War battlefields in 16 states.

7. For More Information
More information about this program is on the website www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/index.htm. Information about LWCF Civil War Battlefield Acquisition Grants is online at www.cr.nps.gov/hps/abpp/grants/CWBLAGgrants.htm.

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Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program

1. Authority
The National Park Service administers this program under authority contained in section 315 of the Revenue Act of 1978 (PL 95-600, 92 Stat. 2828-29, as amended, currently codified to 26 USC 47 (formerly 26 USC 48(g)). The program’s implementing regulations are contained in 36 CFR Part 67.

2. Mission
Administered by the NPS and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in partnership with State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program promotes the use of tax credits as a means of encouraging private property owners to rehabilitate historic buildings.

3. Background
The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program is one of the nation’s most effective federal programs to promote community revitalization and encourage private investment in the rehabilitation of historic buildings. Since the program began in 1976, the tax incentives have spurred the rehabilitation of historic structures of every period, size, style, and type. They have been instrumental in preserving the historic places that give cities, towns, and rural areas their special character, and have attracted new private investments to historic cores of cities and towns. The tax incentives also generate jobs, enhance property values, create affordable housing, and augment revenues for federal, state, and local governments. Through this program, abandoned or underutilized schools, warehouses, factories, churches, retail stores, apartments, hotels, houses, and offices throughout the country have been restored in a manner that maintains their historic character and strengthens communities.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 (PL 99-514; Internal Revenue Code Section 47 [formerly Section 48(g)]) established the current tax incentives for preservation:

- A 20 percent tax credit for the certified rehabilitation of certified historic structures; and
- A 10 percent tax credit for the rehabilitation of nonhistoric, non-residential buildings built before 1936.

In recent years, the amount of dollars invested has reached record highs. While the recent downturn in the economy and the real estate market had an impact on program activity, close to 1,000 new projects were approved in 2011.
The average proposed project investment was just under $4.2 million, with a total investment of $4.3 billion.

4. Program Requirements
There are several steps to follow to receive preservation tax credits for rehabilitation work. The most essential steps include the certification process, processing fees, and IRS requirements.

a. Certification Process. There are three parts to complete the certification process:

   • **Part 1, Evaluation of Significance**—evaluation and certification of historic significance is the first step. A building must be listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places or be certified as contributing to a certified historic district in order to qualify for the tax credit. The NPS also certifies buildings as non-significant (that is, not contributing to a National Register historic district). A building certified as non-significant, but built before 1936 can qualify for a 10 percent tax credit if it is rehabilitated for income-producing, non-residential purposes. The NPS also can certify state or local historic districts that are not in the National Register. This certification allows buildings in these districts to qualify for tax credits if they meet the other criteria of contributing and being income producing, and the rehabilitation meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. In addition, the NPS certifies Part 1 submissions where the applicant only seeks to take a charitable donation for a historic preservation easement (see 26 USC 170(h)). In such case, no Part 2 or 3 submissions are necessary.

   • **Part 2, Description of Rehabilitation**—owners seeking certification of rehabilitation work must complete Part 2 of the Historic Preservation Certification Application—“Description of Rehabilitation.” (Long-term lessees who meet certain conditions may also apply). The owner submits the application to the SHPO, and the SHPO then provides technical assistance and literature on appropriate rehabilitation treatments, advises owners on their applications, makes site visits when possible, and forwards the application to the NPS with a recommendation. The NPS reviews the rehabilitation project, including related demolition and new construction, to determine whether it conforms to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. The project is certified or approved only if the overall rehabilitation project meets the Standards.

   • **Part 3, Certification of Completion**—Certifications of Completion are issued only when all work has been finished. The owner submits the Part 3 request for certification to the SHPO, and the SHPO forwards the application to the NPS with a recommendation as to certification. The NPS then evaluates the completed project against the Part 2—Description of Rehabilitation. Only completed projects that meet the Standards for Rehabilitation are approved as “certified rehabilitations” for purposes of the rehabilitation tax credit. Meeting the Standards is required to ensure that the historic character of the building is retained, a primary purpose of the preservation tax credit. The IRS disallows the tax credit for projects without certification. If a project is denied certification, the owner may appeal the decision to the NPS Chief Appeals Officer.

b. Processing Fees. The NPS charges a fee for reviewing applications, except where the total rehabilitation cost is under $50,000. Fees are charged according to a two-tiered system: the preliminary fee covers NPS review of proposed work; the final fee is for review of completed projects.

c. IRS Requirements. To be eligible for the rehabilitation tax credit, a project must also meet basic IRS requirements:

   • The building must be depreciable. In other words, it must be used in a trade or business, or held for the production of income. It may be used for offices, for commercial, industrial or agricultural enterprises, or for rental housing. It may not serve exclusively as the owner’s private residence.

   • The rehabilitation must be substantial. During a 24-month period selected by the taxpayer, rehabilitation expenditures must exceed the greater of $5,000 or the adjusted basis of the building and its structural components. The adjusted basis is generally the purchase price, minus the cost of land, plus improvements already made, minus depreciation already taken. Once the substantial rehabilitation test is met, the credit may be claimed for all qualified expenditures incurred before the measuring period, during the measuring period and after the measuring period through the end of the taxable year that the building is placed in service.

   • Phased rehabilitations—projects to be completed in two or more distinct stages of development—must also meet the “substantial rehabilitation test.” However, for phased rehabilitations, the measuring period is 60 months rather than 24 months. This phase rule is available only if: (1) a set of architectural plans and specifications outlines and describes all rehabilitation phases; (2) the plans...
are completed before the physical rehabilitation work begins; and (3) it can reasonably be expected that all phases will be completed.

- The historic property must be placed in service (returned to use). The rehabilitation tax credit is generally allowed in the taxable year the rehabilitated property is placed into service.
- The building must be a certified historic structure when placed in service. If the building or the historic district is not listed in the National Register, the owner must have requested that the SHPO nominate the building or the district to the National Register before the building is placed into service. If the building is located in a historic district listed in the National Register, the owner must submit Part 1 of the application before the rehabilitated building is placed into service.
- Qualified rehabilitation expenditures include costs of work on the historic building, as well as architectural and engineering fees, site survey fees, legal expenses, development fees, and other construction-related costs, if such costs are added to the property basis and are reasonable and related to the services performed. They do not include acquisition or furnishing costs, new additions that expand the building, new building construction, or parking lots, sidewalks, landscaping, or other related facilities.

5. NPS Program Administration
This program is a partnership among the NPS, the IRS, and the SHPOs. The SHPOs serve as a points of contact for property owners and provide forms and technical assistance. The SHPOs also make certification recommendations to the NPS. The IRS publishes regulations governing qualifying rehabilitation expenses, the periods for incurring expenses, the tax consequences of certification decisions by the NPS, and all other procedural and legal matters concerning the rehabilitation tax credits.

NPS Technical Preservation Services division staff in Washington, D.C.:
- Develop and publish program regulations, the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, the Historic Preservation Certification Application, and information on rehabilitation treatments;
- Review all applications for conformance to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation;
- Provide guidance to applicants;
- Certify that a building for which tax incentives will be requested is listed in the National Register of Historic Places;
- Approve proposed rehabilitation work;
- Certify project completion when all work has been finished on a certified historic building; and
- Address matters brought to its attention by the IRS or the SHPOs.

6. Program Accomplishments
Since the program’s inception, over 38,000 projects have generated over $63 billion in historic preservation activity. With a 5-to-1 ratio of private investment to federal tax credits, the program is an outstanding means of leveraging private investment in the adaptive reuse and preservation of our nation’s historic buildings.

Rehabilitation work has taken place in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. The program attracts private investment to historic cores of cities and Main Street towns across America and generates needed jobs, enhances property values, creates affordable housing, and augments revenues for federal, state, and local governments.

- **Record Numbers of Jobs Created**—projects, approved by the NPS and completed in FY 2011, created a total of 55,458 new jobs nationwide. With the improving economy, the program remains a strong catalyst for job creation and economic growth in older communities. In FY 2011, each project created an average of 78 jobs—a record number.
- **937 Projects Approved in 2011**—the program continues to be the Federal Government’s largest program to stimulate the preservation and reuse of historic buildings that give our older communities their unique character. In FY 2011, the program approved 937 new projects. Many of these projects involved multiple historic buildings, such as old textile mills, school complexes, farms, and former military bases.
- **$4.16 Billion Investment in Older Communities**—while the historic preservation tax incentives encourage the rehabilitation of historic buildings of national, state, and local significance, they also stimulate major private investment in our older, disinvested neighborhoods. Older cities across the country rely heavily upon the historic tax credits program as an important marketing tool to foster community revitalization. Approved rehabilitation projects represented a private investment of $4.16 billion at a cost to the United States Treasury of less than $832 million in the form of tax credits. In addition to federal income tax generated from the creation of new jobs, taxes generated from other activities involving rehabilitation projects provide new revenue to federal, state, and local governments.
- **Affordable Housing**—the program has led to the creation of more than 117,000 low and moderate-income
housing units. One of the objectives of the program is the retention of affordable housing in historic districts, particularly for longtime residents. In FY 2011, 7,470 low and moderate-income housing units, representing 48 percent of the total 15,651 housing units, were completed.

7. For More Information
The Technical Preservation Services’ website, www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm, has extensive information about the tax incentives program, including the certification application, guidance on the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, and technical information about the treatment of historic buildings.

Technical Preservation Services also publishes information for historic preservation professionals and property owners about caring for historic buildings. A list of free and for-sale publications is online at www.nps.gov/tps/education/print-pubs.htm.

Federal Preservation Institute

1. Authority
The National Park Service’s authority to conduct this program is found in the National Historic Preservation Act (primarily 16 USC 470a(i) through (j)), which requires the Secretary of the Interior to:
- Develop and make available training in, and information concerning, professional methods and techniques for the preservation of historic properties and for the administration of the historic preservation program at the federal, state, and local levels; and
- Develop and implement, in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Center for Preservation Technology, and other federal, tribal, Native Hawaiian, and nonfederal organizations, a comprehensive preservation education and training program.

2. Mission
The Federal Preservation Institute (FPI) provides comprehensive preservation guidance, standards, education, and training for federal agencies. In doing this, the FPI provides historic preservation news and information, with particular emphasis on information and training opportunities for federal agency preservation officers, their staffs, and contractors.

3. Background
The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires each federal agency to have a historic preservation program to manage historic resources and avoid or minimize possible harm from agency decisions and actions. As national leaders in historic preservation, federal agencies must maintain the highest standards of professionalism, technical knowledge, and skills when dealing with historic properties and cultural resources. The FPI was created in 2000 to fulfill the NPS’ responsibilities to assist agencies in providing education, training, and awareness opportunities for people responsible for carrying out the NHPA and related federal laws. In accordance with section 101(j) of the NHPA, the education and training program includes:
- New standards and increased preservation training opportunities for federal workers involved in preservation-related functions; and
- Increased preservation training opportunities for federal state, tribal, and local government workers, and students;
- Technical or financial assistance, or both, to establish preservation training and degree programs at historically black colleges and universities, tribal colleges, and colleges with high enrollment of Native Americans or Native Hawaiians; and
- Coordination, where appropriate with the National Center for Preservation Technology.

4. Program Requirements
Agencies that request services through the FPI are not required to meet any particular program requirements. However, they are required to have a historic preservation program for which the FPI will provide training and technical assistance.

5. NPS Program Administration
The office of the Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science administers the preservation assistance programs, including the FPI. FPI program managers accomplish their mission through these activities:
- Federal Training Work Group—federal historic preservation officials; interested representatives of state, local, and tribal governments; and nonprofit organizations meet monthly to exchange information and present historic preservation training.
- Stewardship Awareness program—a series of publications and materials to introduce senior federal executives and other personnel to federal historic preservation responsibilities.
1. Authority
The National Park Service administers the Heritage Documentation Programs (HDP) — the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS), and Cultural Resources Geographic Information Systems (CRGIS) — under the authority of:

- The Historic Sites, Buildings and Antiquities Act (49 Stat., 666; 16 USC 461—467) directs the Secretary of the Interior, through the NPS, to:
  • Secure, collate, and preserve drawings, plans, photographs, and other data of historic and archeological sites, buildings, and objects;
  • Make a survey of historic and archeological sites, buildings, and objects for the purpose determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States; and
  • Make necessary investigations and researches in the United States relating to particular sites, buildings, or objects to obtain true and accurate historical and archeological facts and information concerning the same.

- The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470—470x-6). Section 110(b) of the Act requires federal agencies, whose actions or assistance will result in the substantial alteration or demolition of a historic property, to make, or have made, appropriate records.

2. Mission
The Heritage Documentation Programs (HDP) create a permanent, documentary record of nationally, regionally, or locally significant historic sites, assigning highest priority to sites of national significance that are in danger of demolition or loss by neglect, and to NPS properties.

3. Background
The HDP produce records that constitute the nation’s largest archive of historic architectural, engineering, and landscape documentation.

Documentation is the first step in the stewardship of historic sites and structures and serves as a preservation, planning, and problem-solving tool within the NPS and across the nation. HABS/HAER/HALS documentation provides a record of buildings, structures, and landscapes in “as-built/as-is” condition to guide rehabilitation and restoration efforts. The CRGIS program helps national parks, State Historic Preservation Offices, and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices develop GIS databases, and provides custom GIS and GPS training to federal, state, and local officials.

The HDP develop and maintain national documentation standards and guidelines for cultural resources. The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Architectural and Engineering Documentation, also called the HABS/HAER/HALS Standards, determine the level to which National Register listed or eligible properties to be adversely affected by federal actions must be documented. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16 requires federal agencies to improve the coordination and use of spatial data. The NPS, through GRGIS, maintains the National Geospatial Data Standards for Cultural Resources.

The HDP also educate and train the next generation of historical architects; architectural, engineering, and landscape historians; GIS specialists; and documentary photographers.

a. Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). HABS, created in 1933 through a joint agreement between the NPS, the Library of Congress, and the American Institute
b. Historic American Engineering Record (HAER). The NPS, the Library of Congress, and the American Society of Civil Engineers (later endorsed by the other major engineering societies) formed HAER to capture vanishing industrial and engineering treasures in rural and urban areas nationwide. HAER combines drawings, history, and photographs to produce a comprehensive, multidisciplinary record that focuses on significant structures and processes related to engineering and industry.

c. Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). HALS documents historic landscapes in the United States and its territories through measured drawings, interpretive drawings, written histories, and large-format black and white and color photographs. The NPS established HALS in October 2000, in consultation with the Library of Congress and the American Society of Landscape Architects.


4. Program Requirements
There are no special requirements for participation in these programs’ activities. The HDP aspire to record and preserve detailed documentation of important components of our nation’s heritage. Any of those components may be the subject of the programs’ attention; however, the programs assign highest priority to nationally significant buildings, structures, and landscapes sites that are in danger of demolition or loss by neglect and to NPS properties.

5. NPS Program Administration
The HDP Division, in the Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science Directorate, administers these programs. HDP staff work with state and local governments, private industry, professional societies, universities, preservation groups, and other federal agencies to document NPS properties and other nationally significant sites that are in danger of demolition or loss by neglect. HABS, HAER, and HALS in-house and field teams (made up primarily of students) produce documentation all over the country, generally for 12-week terms in the summer. In addition, staff in six regional offices oversee the regional documentation of structures and sites. The HDP also receive documentation from mitigation related to sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The four programs adapt new technology, such as laser scanning, often using it in conjunction with traditional methods to create accurate, systematic, and comprehensive documentation of the important details of historic buildings, structures, and landscapes. Beginning with HABS in the 1950s, the programs have had a strong educational focus, training future historians, architects, landscape architects, engineers, photographers,

The Knight’s Ferry Bridge, spanning the Stanislaus River in California, is the longest covered bridge west of the Mississippi River. HAER documented for the Federal Highway Administration. Photo from Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, HAER CA-314-18 (CT)

History is Everywhere 33
6. Program Accomplishments
Records on over 40,000 historic sites, consisting of large-format, black and white photos, measured drawings, and written historical reports, are maintained in a special HABS/HAER/HALS collection in the Library of Congress’ Prints and Photographs Division. This documentation is part of a permanent archive of the nation’s architectural, engineering, and landscape heritage.

The Library’s HABS/HAER/HALS collections are available to the public copyright-free and are among the most heavily used. For example, March 2010 statistics indicate 56,700 visitors viewed almost 1,100,000 pages, or an average of 19 pages each. Visitors also spent considerable time using the Library’s HABS/HAER/HALS website, viewing 396,000 pages five or more times and downloading nearly 47,000 pages. Educational institutions are the largest group of users.

Recent documentation projects for other federal agencies include:
- Covered bridges for the Federal Highway Administration;
- NASA facilities, including Mission Control in Houston and the Santa Susana Field Laboratory in California; and
- Alexandria Cemetery and veterans hospitals for Veterans Affairs.

A variety of smaller documentation projects for state and local governments, and nonprofit institutions include:
- Gillnet boats in Washington State;
- The Bates Hoist Machine, a rare example of a “safety elevator,” for the Baltimore Museum of Industry; and
- The 1847 organ at the Round Lake Auditorium, the oldest and largest unaltered organ in the United States, for the Village of Round Lake, New York.

CRGIS has assisted more than 20 national parks and State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices in developing GIS databases, and provided custom GIS and GPS training to hundreds of federal, state, and local officials across the country. CRGIS was instrumental in developing cultural resource natural disaster mitigation methodology and pioneered the Historic Preservation Disaster Response in post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans.

7. For More Information
Information about the Heritage Documentation Programs, including standards and guidelines, is online at www.nps.gov/history/hdp/.

Heritage Education Services Program

1. Authority
This program is administered under the authority of section 2(j) of the Historic Sites, Buildings and Antiquities Act (16 USC 462(j); 49 Stat. 667), which authorizes an educational program and service to make available to the public facts and information about American historic and archeological sites, buildings, and properties of national significance. In addition, this program is authorized by:
- The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470), states that the educational benefits of preserving historic places is in the public interest, and includes “education” in the definition of historic preservation activities; and
- Executive Order No. 13287 (Preserve America), section 5 calls on federal agencies to assist states, Indian tribes, and local communities in promoting the use of historic properties for heritage tourism. The Executive Order also declares that it is federal policy to provide leadership in preserving America’s heritage by actively advancing the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of federally owned historic properties.

2. Mission
The Heritage Education Services Program (HESP) advances public knowledge and support for cultural resources in communities and parks nationwide. It also promotes the NPS’ role in the identification, preservation, and interpretation of cultural resources.

The HESP accomplishes its mission principally through the Teaching with Historic Places lesson plans and professional development materials, and the Discover Our Shared Heritage online travel itineraries. Since the National Register of Historic Places comprehensively represents the broad themes and contexts of American history, it is the foundation for the lesson plans and travel itineraries.

3. Background
The HESP is an important part of the NPS’ efforts to help restore and maintain the nation’s historic literacy. It encourages the formal and informal study of our heritage resources as an essential part of civic education in America. The program uses the heritage resources and values present in the national park system and those in communities that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The NPS approaches heritage education this way for two reasons: (1) the broad historical themes and contexts that Americans must understand and appreciate are larger than any one park or even the entire national park system, and (2) NPS cultural resources programs promote appreciation,
understanding, and stewardship of all historic places, regardless of ownership. Genuine historic places generate excitement and curiosity about the lives of real people and the impacts of real events. They offer authentic experiences and information that make the past real for the people of today. As such, they are an excellent medium for educating the public about our heritage and for promoting tourism that has substantive value.

a. Teaching with Historic Places (TwHP). In partnership with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and others, the TwHP program has a variety of products, tools, and activities to help teachers engage students in learning about history. The program uses properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places to enliven the study of history, social studies, geography, civics, and other subjects. Products and services include a series of lesson plans based on the inquiry method; guidance on using places to teach; information encouraging educators, historians, preservationists, site interpreters, and others to work together; information on using historic preservation for service learning; and professional development materials. To help educators meet curriculum requirements, the lesson plans are categorized according to the United States History Standards for Grades 5-12 and meet the National Council for the Social Studies’ Curriculum Standards for Social Studies.

With the help of a team of educators, public historians, and others, and with support from the NPS’ National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, TwHP created Teaching Teachers the Power of Place, a professional development section on the TwHP website, www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/. Teaching Teachers gives educators an array of materials and techniques for using historic places in learning activities.

b. Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itineraries. Launched in 1995, the online travel itineraries promote visits to historic places throughout the country. Each self-guided tour exposes travelers to the stories, places, and regions that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The itineraries are developed in partnership with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers; various federal, state, and local government agencies; and private organizations interested in increasing tourism and highlighting unique historic properties.

Each itinerary offers:
- A description of each historic place and its importance in American history, plus contextual essays;
- Tourist information for historic places (hours of operation, tour possibilities, phone numbers, and websites);
- Interactive maps;
- Color and vintage photographs; and
- Links to related tourism and preservation websites.

4. Program Requirements
There are no special requirements for obtaining the program’s materials and other benefits. The Teaching with Historic Places (TwHP) lesson plans and the Discover Our Shared Heritage travel itineraries are available to all who wish to use them.

5. Program Administration
HESP staff collaborate with other NPS cultural resources program staff, other NPS programs, national parks, government agencies, and professional organizations to develop itineraries, lesson plans, and related products, and to conduct and coordinate education, training, and public awareness activities using historic places. The HESP promotes its educational products to a variety of audiences, including educators, students, and the public.

6. Program Accomplishments
- Teaching with Historic Places. Over 140 classroom-ready lesson plans on a range of history topics and historic places across the country are available. The lesson plans have been:
  - Featured in professional education and history journals, and on education websites;
  - Recognized by the American Association for State and Local History, the National Park Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and others for the soundness of the TwHP approach and the excellence of its materials.
  - The Explore Your National Parks kit, funded by Target Stores, Eureka, and the Discovery Channel, was distributed to 34,000 teachers nationwide.
- Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itineraries. There are more than 50 travel itineraries in the expanding series on www.nps.gov, featuring over 2,300 historic places in most states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
  - Produced in partnership with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the American Latino Heritage Travel Itinerary explores historic sites that highlight the contributions of Latino peoples to the rich heritage of the United States over the last 500 years.
  - The Veterans Affairs National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Travel Itinerary features historic
Veterans Affairs medical centers. Funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs in partnership with the NPS, the itinerary calls attention to the sacrifices made by America’s injured veterans.

• The Scotts Bluff, Nebraska Travel Itinerary explores the Scotts Bluff region, in the North Platte River Valley, and tells the story of the exploration and settlement of the Midwest and the West. Produced in partnership with the National Register Program, Scotts Bluff National Monument, the City of Scottsbluff, the City of Gering, the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

7. For More Information
More information on this program can be found on the program’s website at www.nps.gov/history/hes.htm. The website has links to the Teaching with Historic Places online lesson plans www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/ and the Discover Our Shared Heritage travel itineraries www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/index.htm.

Historic Preservation Fund Program

1. Authority
The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Program administers grants under the authority of laws and Executive Orders:

- Section 108 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470h) and Executive Order No. 13006 authorize the HPF.
- Sections 101-103 of the NHPA (16 USC 470a—470c) authorize Grants to States, Tribes, Certified Local Governments, and others. See regulations at 36 CFR Part 61.
- Sections 7302 and 7303 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 USC 469n and 16 USC 469o, respectively) authorize Preserve America and Save America’s Treasures grants through the HPF.
- Executive Order No. 12232 (1980) authorized the Historically Black Colleges and Universities grant program.
- The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and the Hurricane Recovery Act, 2006 (PL 109-234; 120 Stat. 418, 461) authorized the Disaster Recovery grant program to aid the recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (PL 113-2, 127 Stat. 4, 30) appropriated funds “for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Sandy...and costs needed to administer the program.”

2. Mission
This program helps to protect our nation’s historic and cultural resources and our diverse cultural heritage, by providing grants to states, Indian tribes, Certified Local Governments (CLGs), and others for the identification, evaluation, and protection of historic properties.

3. Background
In 1966, the Special Committee on Historic Preservation of the U.S. Conference of Mayors addressed the need for a national historic preservation program, resulting in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The NHPA authorized a State Historic Preservation Officer for each state and created the National Register of Historic Places, a mechanism for better planning by federal agencies. The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) was established in 1977 as a matching grant program funded by Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues. Later amendments to the NHPA created the CLG Program (1980) and authorized Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (1992).
The HPF gives matching grants for surveys, planning, technical assistance, acquisition, and development. Grants may be used to expand the National Register of Historic Places; to assist federal, state, and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private individuals in carrying out historic preservation activities; and to assist Indian tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations in preserving historic properties and cultural traditions.

The HPF is authorized at $150 million per year. Since the HPF’s inception, more than $1 billion has been awarded to federal, state, and local governments, Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions for preservation projects in all 50 states and the U.S. Territories.

4. Program Requirements

a. Grants-in-Aid to States and Tribes. Eligible applicants are states and territories that operate programs administered by a State Historic Preservation Officer. Each state must have a qualified review board, employ professionally qualified staff, and maintain an approved historic preservation plan in accordance with 36 CFR Part 61. Eligible applicants for Tribal Heritage Grants are federally recognized Indian tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

Eligible beneficiaries include state and local governments, public and private nonprofit organizations, and individuals. States select projects according to their own priorities and plans. To accomplish program objectives, states may subgrant to public and private parties, including local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, and individuals. At least ten percent of each year’s state allocations are subgranted to CLGs for local preservation activities.

Grants are awarded at a ratio of 60 percent federal to 40 percent state (public and/or private funds and/or allowable in-kind donations). Public Law 96-205 exempts American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands from the matching share requirement.

b. Certified Local Government (CLG) Grants. Jointly administered by the NPS and State Historic Preservation Offices, the CLG program awards grants for preservation efforts at the grassroots level. Each local community goes through a certification process to obtain CLG status. Upon designation, CLGs become active historic preservation partners and are eligible to obtain program benefits.

c. Preserve America2. The Preserve America matching grant program supports communities that have demonstrated a commitment to preserving, designating, and protecting local cultural resources. The funds help local economies find self-sustaining ways to promote and preserve their cultural and natural resources through heritage tourism, education, and preservation planning. Designated Preserve America Communities, State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and CLGs that have applied for Preserve America designation are eligible to apply for Preserve America grants.

d. Save America’s Treasures2. This is one of the largest and most successful cultural heritage grant programs. Grants aid preservation and conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts, historic structures and sites. Intellectual and cultural artifacts include artifacts, collections, documents, sculpture, and works of art. Historic structures and sites include historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. Grants are awarded to eligible state, local, and tribal governments, and to nonprofit organizations through a competitive process, administered by the NPS in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

e. Hurricane Disaster Relief Grants. Hurricane Disaster Relief grants support the preservation, stabilization, rehabilitation, and repair of storm-damaged historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. Since 2005, several major storms have destroyed lives, families, communities, and countless historic resources. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005. In response to the damage and loss of historic fabric, Congress appropriated $53 million in federal grant funds to aid historic preservation efforts in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. In 2012, Hurricane Sandy, an extraordinary large storm, affected more than 16 Eastern and Midwestern states. Storm damage was particularly severe in New Jersey and New York. Congress appropriated $47 million in grant funds for technical assistance and emergency repairs to historic and archeological resources.


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2 Preserve America and Save America’s Treasures have not received an appropriation since FY 2010; the HCBU has not received an appropriation since FY 2009. Funds for the three programs were not requested in the President’s FY 2013 budget.
(HBCUs) to help HBCUs access, participate in, and benefit from federally funded programs. Succeeding presidents reaffirmed the initiative through later Executive Orders. The Secretary of the Interior’s Historic Preservation Initiative is an outgrowth of the White House HBCU initiative. Recognizing that many HBCUs lacked the resources to meet critical rehabilitation needs, it was created to identify and restore the most significant and physically threatened historic structures on HBCU campuses.

5. NPS Program Administration

The NPS State, Tribal, and Local Plans and Grants Division, in the office of the Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science, administers the HPF on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. The division:

- Provides guidance and technical assistance to state, tribal, and local partners;
- Provides training through webinars and instructor-led classes;
- Reviews and approves State Historic Preservation Plans to ensure state eligibility to participate in the program;
- Oversees distribution of the annual funding apportionments to states and Indian tribes;
- Reviews annual work plans for eligibility and program compliance, and approves individual grant requests;
- Oversees active grants to ensure accurate programmatic and financial management, timely completion, and adherence to federal reporting requirements;
- Ensures compliance with the Office of Management and Budget and NHPA fiduciary requirements; and
- Meets federal audit reporting requirements.

6. Program Accomplishments

HPF matching grants to states and Indian tribes have served as catalysts for the preservation and protection of our nation’s irreplaceable cultural heritage. HPF grants and programs have spurred private and nonfederal investments, as well as job growth for state, tribal, and local governments, while expanding and accelerating historic preservation activities.

In 2012, the NPS and its preservation partners:

- Awarded $748,922 for 20 projects to Indian tribes, Alaska Native Groups, and Native Hawaiian Organizations through the Tribal Grant program;
- Surveyed about 20.9 million acres for cultural resources; evaluated over 610,869 properties for historical significance and addition to state inventories;
- Surveyed approximately 242,175 acres, adding 1,115 properties and 4,746 archeological sites to tribal inventories;
- Added 1,179 new listings to the National Register of Historic Places, including 30,316 contributing properties and 303 historic districts;
- Added approximately 3,084 new listings to the Tribal Register;
- State Historic Preservation Offices reviewed 141,721 federal undertakings, resulting in 104,813 National Register eligibility opinions;
- Tribal Historic Preservation Offices reviewed 32,883 undertakings and made 3,070 eligibility opinions;
- Certified 42 new CLG communities, bringing the nationwide total to 1,839; and
- CLGs designated 101,00 properties under local law, and 74,500 properties took part in local preservation reviews, programs, and incentives.

Preserve America. Since FY 2006, the NPS has awarded more than $21.25 million to 280 projects in 49 states, and leveraged more than $43 million in private funds. The grants have supported regional planning, coordinated marketing strategies, and statewide training programs. In three years, State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices raised $4.8 million to match $3.5 million in Preserve America grants.

Save America’s Treasures. From 1999 to 2010, more than $300 million was awarded to 1,287 projects. Matched dollar-for-dollar, these funds leveraged over $377 million in nonfederal investment and added more than 16,000 jobs to local and state economies. Save America’s Treasures has helped more than 300 National Historic Landmarks (NHL), 28 properties in and contributing to NHL districts, over 250 buildings individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, over 70 properties located in and contributing to National Register-listed historic districts, and 24 properties eligible for the National Register, as well as hundreds of nationally significant collections.

Although Preserve America and Save America’s Treasures have not received appropriations since FY 2010, the NPS has ongoing responsibility to review projects for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. In 2012, more than 30 Preserve America and over 40 Save America’s Treasures projects were completed. Over 120 Preserve America and over 250 Save America’s Treasures projects remain active.

7. For More Information

More information about historic preservation grants is online at www.nps.gov/stlpg.
Historic Surplus Property Program

1. Authority
The National Park Service’s Historic Surplus Property Program is administered in partnership with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) under the authority of 40 USC 550(h) (original legislation: Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949). The implementing regulations are found at 41 CFR 102-75.440 through 102-75.485.

2. Mission
The purpose of the program is to ensure the long-term preservation of historic properties once owned, but no longer needed, by the Federal Government. These properties—whether single buildings or clusters of functionally related buildings—are typically iconic within their respective communities and include former federal courthouses, lighthouses, office buildings, and military structures.

3. Background
When federally owned properties are determined to be excess to the needs of their respective agencies, other federal agencies are given the opportunity to screen them for potential use. If there is no interest from such federal agencies, the GSA declares the properties as “surplus” and reviews them for a variety of state, county, or municipal public uses, or considers them for public sale. In the case of military base closures, the appropriate military service within the Department of Defense makes the surplus determination.

4. Program Requirements
State, county, and municipal governments are eligible to acquire federal historic surplus properties. Property recipients must commit the funds necessary to preserve and maintain them in perpetuity. Private and not-for-profit organizations cannot acquire these properties, but are permitted to enter into long-term leases, approved by the NPS, with property recipients. Under a lease agreement, a historic surplus property may be developed for income-producing purposes, and may qualify for an income tax credit under the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program (described elsewhere in this document).

Properties transferred under the Historic Surplus Property Program may be adapted for new uses. Properties do not have to be preserved as “monuments” or “museums,” although these are allowable uses. For example, past property recipients have created offices, community centers, commercial facilities, and housing. Regardless of the proposed use, the rehabilitation of a historic surplus property must be compatible with the building’s historic character and meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

When a potential state or local government applicant becomes aware of an available historic surplus property, an expression of interest must be submitted to the appropriate GSA property disposal office or the appropriate military branch for base closure properties (these disposal agencies publicize the availability of surplus properties).

The Grove Arcade in Asheville, North Carolina, features elaborate terra cotta detailing. Transferred to the City of Asheville, this grand building is a successful multiple-use facility. Photo by John Warner, Asheville, North Carolina.
property). If, after this initial step, it is determined that the property will be transferred under the Historic Surplus Property Program, the eligible applicant must submit a formal application to the appropriate NPS regional office.

5. NPS Program Administration
NPS regional offices carry out the day-to-day administration of the Historic Surplus Property Program. NPS staff helps state and local governments develop applications for historic surplus properties, to ensure the adequate preservation of these properties. In the final step of the property conveyance process, the NPS formally recommends transfer of the property to the disposal agency (either the GSA or the Department of Defense), which approves the transfer and then prepares the deed. Once the property is conveyed, it must be used in accordance with the terms of the transfer in perpetuity, although these terms may be amended by mutual agreement of the NPS and the recipient. The NPS is responsible for monitoring the property in perpetuity to ensure that it is maintained and protected.

6. Program Accomplishments
Through the Historic Surplus Property Program, historic properties previously in federal use have been adapted and preserved in cities, suburbs, and rural areas nationwide. These historic properties—from fortifications for national defense to courthouses in which federal cases were tried—are physical reminders of our nation’s diverse heritage and reflect our common history. They are often in prime locations, such as downtowns, waterfronts and scenic areas, and are credited with sparking new vitality in their communities.

7. For More Information
Visit the Historic Surplus Property Program website www.nps.gov/tps/historic-surplus.htm to learn more.

The following sections of this document have information on related programs:
- Federal Lands to Parks Program
- National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Program
- Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program

Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program

1. Authority
The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program was authorized December 21, 2006 by PL 109-441, 16 USC 461 note.

2. Mission
This program facilitates the preservation and interpretation of confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II.

3. Background
In 1942, the U.S. Government ordered Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens to leave their homes and move to isolated military-style camps. More than 120,000 men, women, and children were confined in 10 relocation centers in seven states during World War II.

Congress established the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program in 2006 to preserve and interpret these sites. The law authorized up to $38 million for the life of the grant program to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair, and acquire historic confinement sites in order that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from the sites and that these sites will demonstrate the nation’s commitment to equal justice under the law.

“Historic Japanese American confinement sites” are defined as the 10 War Relocation Authority internment camps (Gila River, Granada, Heart Mountain, Jerome, Manzanar, Minidoka, Poston, Rohwer, Topaz, and Tule Lake), as well as other historically significant locations, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II. The program helps to ensure that the full story of America is told, including difficult chapters such as the war-time internment of Japanese Americans.

4. Program Requirements
Grants awarded through the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program may go to the 10 War Relocation Authority camps or to more than 40 other sites, including assembly, relocation, and isolation centers. Projects must benefit one or more of the historic Japanese American confinement sites.

Seven major categories of activities are eligible for grants:
- Capital projects (such as construction of new interpretive centers;
Documentation (such as archeological surveys);
- Oral history interviews;
- Interpretation and education related to historic confinement sites (such as wayside exhibits or educational curricula);
- Preservation of confinement sites and related historic resources (such as historic building restoration or collections conservation);
- Planning projects (such as resource management plans);
- Nonfederal real property acquisition (allowed only at Heart Mountain (Wyoming), Honouliuli (Hawaii), Jerome (Arkansas), Rohwer (Arkansas), and Topaz (Utah), per Public Laws 109-441 and 111-88).

Grant applicants may include nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, state, local, and tribal governments, and other public entities. Nonfederal organizations that are collaborating with federal agencies that own eligible historic resources may submit applications related to the federal property. Grants are awarded through a competitive process and require a 2:1 federal to nonfederal match. The minimum grant request is $5,000 for the federal share.

Grant applicants should understand that:
- The nonfederal match may be composed of cash, supplies, materials, equipment, land, or in-kind contributions.
- The nonfederal match may be raised and spent during the grant period; it does not have to be available at the time of the application.
- Donations of land value must be supported by an appraisal that meets the Uniform Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions.
- Land donated for the preservation of these sites will be considered a match if the land is an integral part of the grant proposal, is part of the historic site, and will be accessible to the public.
- Other in-kind donations are evaluated on established guidelines and must comply with Office of Management and Budget Circulars A-102 and A-110.
- Selected applicants must sign a grant agreement with the NPS and agree to all attachments, certifications, and assurances.
- Grant recipients must determine if their undertaking has the potential to affect historic properties, and complete the consultation process with their State or Tribal Historic Preservation Office and the NPS prior to receiving funds.
- Each applicant may receive no more than $3.8 million total (10 percent of the authorized $38 million) over the life of the grant program.

5. NPS Program Administration
The NPS’ Intermountain Regional Office in Denver, Colorado administers this program, with support from NPS staff in Omaha, San Francisco, and Hawaii. Program managers ensure that:
- The selection process is fair and efficient;
- Emphasis is placed on accountability on the part of grant recipients;
- Applicants have access to helpful information and

training in the grant process; and
• Grant recipients understand their responsibilities.

A Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants Selection Panel, composed of federal agency representatives from the preservation, history, education, and conservation disciplines, reviews and evaluates all eligible applications according to the criteria listed below. The panel provides its recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, who makes the final project selections.

a. Need. The project:
• Has a clear, concise, and well-supported statement of need that describes the problem or issue.
• Mitigates, resolves, addresses or eliminates the problem or issue.
• Preserves or improves the condition or education and interpretation of Japanese American World War II confinement site resources.

b. Impact. The project:
• Will have short- and long-term measurable impacts.
• Increases public awareness and understanding of Japanese American World War II confinement sites.

c. Feasibility. The project is feasible and cost effective. The applicant demonstrates the ability to adequately plan and complete the project in a timely and professional manner, ensuring that laws and standards are met.

d. Sustainability. The project is sustainable over time.

e. Support. Former internees, stakeholders, and/or the public support and participate in the project.

6. Program Accomplishments
Since it began, the program has awarded nearly $10 million in grants for projects in 11 states. Examples of funded projects include:
• Rohwer Relocation Camp Cemetery Preservation (Arkansas)—stabilization and restoration of grave markers in the camp cemetery, a National Historic Landmark.
• Poston Preservation Project (Arizona)—relocation and rehabilitation one of the barracks at the Colorado River Relocation Center.
• The Registry: A Documentary Film about the Military Intelligence Service Language School in Minnesota—a documentary about Japanese Americans who served as interrogators, interpreters, and linguists with the Military Intelligence Service during World War II.

7. For More Information
More information about this program is on the website, www.nps.gov/jacs.

Maritime Heritage Program

1. Authority
The National Maritime Heritage Act of 1994 (16 USC 5401—5408) authorized this program and established the National Maritime Heritage Grants Program.

2. Mission
The Maritime Heritage Program advances awareness and understanding of the role of maritime affairs in the history of the United States.

3. Background
During the 1980s, Congress recognized that preservation planning and funding had generally neglected historic maritime properties and archeological sites. This resulted in a congressional request to the NPS to conduct a survey of historic maritime resources. In addition, Congress authorized the NPS to recommend standards and priorities for the preservation of those resources and appropriate federal and private sector roles in addressing priorities. In response, the NPS created the National Maritime Initiative to survey, evaluate, and recommend preservation methods for historic maritime resources.
The Initiative’s role in maritime preservation expanded with the passage of the National Maritime Heritage Act. It was named as one of several partners responsible for coordinating a national maritime heritage policy and administering a grants program to support maritime heritage preservation and education projects. The Initiative is now known as the Maritime Heritage Program.

4. Program Requirements

There are no special requirements for obtaining the technical assistance and educational offerings of this program.

The Maritime Heritage Grants Program, funded from the proceeds from the disposal of obsolete National Defense Reserve Fleet vessels, is presently inactive because funds have not been provided. The requirements associated with the competitive matching grants program are not currently in use.

5. NPS Program Administration

The Park History Program, part of the office of the Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science, administers the Maritime Heritage Program. The program accomplishes its mission through:

a. Maritime Inventories. Database inventories are prepared for historic maritime properties located in the U.S. and serve as useful tools for making decisions regarding preservation needs and priorities. Data is gathered from a variety of sources including the National Register of Historic Places Information System, other federal agencies, state offices, and the maritime community. Inventories are currently maintained for the following types of resources:

- Large preserved historic vessels;
- Historic light stations;
- Historic life-saving stations (developed through a partnership with the U.S. Life-Saving Service Heritage Association);
- Shipwrecks and hulks; and
- Small craft (developed through a cooperative agreement with the Museum Small Craft Association).

b. Preservation Assistance. Program staff provide technical assistance in preservation planning for historic maritime properties and underwater archaeological resources. These activities include assessment of impacts from redevelopment, construction, demolition, or restoration; mitigation of adverse effects; review of archaeological research designs; and review of restoration plans. The program participates in policy formulation and review of federal maritime preservation planning efforts and provides technical assistance for nominating maritime resources to the National Register of Historic Places.

c. Information and Outreach. The program’s website has information about maritime history and preservation, including connections to reference publications and links to NPS maritime parks and many other historic ships, lighthouses, and lifesaving stations that people can visit.

d. Maritime Grants. When funding is available, program staff review, evaluate, and recommend approval of Maritime Heritage grants for heritage education and preservation projects.

6. Program Accomplishments

Among this program’s accomplishments, it has:

- Educated the public about maritime history and preservation through its website, publications, and technical assistance;
- Published inventories of Large Preserved Historic Vessels and Historic Light Stations;
- Provided guidance on the National Historic Landmark designation process and sample nominations, which led to over 200 properties obtaining Landmark status. These sites included vessels, light stations, lifesaving stations, World War II sites, canals, homes of famous individuals, marine hospitals, dry docks, canneries, and port towns; and
- Helped state and local governments and nonprofit organizations carry out maritime heritage activities through grants, ranging from $2,500 to $50,000. Examples include:
  - The Belle of Louisville Operating Board (Kentucky) repaired the hull plating and cabin siding and installed an electric dewatering and alarm system to preserve the Mayor Andrew Broaddus, the last remaining U.S. Coast Guard inland lifesaving station.
  - Bowling Green State University (Ohio) created an image database of U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes vessels for the period 1850-1980 publicly accessible to researchers at the university and via the Internet.

7. For More Information

Additional information about this program is online at www.nps.gov/maritime.
National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

1. Authority
Section 4022 of Public Law 102-575 (16 USC 470x—470x-6) added Title IV to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), establishing the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT). The Secretary of the Interior assigned administrative responsibility for NCPTT, to the National Park Service.

2. Mission
The NCPTT advances the application of science and technology to historic preservation. The NCPTT accomplishes its mission through training, education, research, technology transfer, and partnerships in the fields of archeology, architecture, landscape architecture, and materials conservation.

3. Background
In 1986, the Congress’ Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) report, *Technologies for Prehistoric and Historic Preservation*, cited the critical need for a federally funded institution “…to coordinate research, disseminate information, and provide training about new technologies for preservation.” In response to this need, the 1992 amendment to the NHPA created the NCPTT, an advisory board, and a grants program.

The NCPTT was formally established in 1994 on the campus of Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The NCPTT’s purposes are to:

- Develop and distribute preservation and conservation skills and technologies for the identification, evaluation, conservation, and interpretation of prehistoric and historic resources;
- Develop and facilitate training for federal, state, and local resource preservation professionals, cultural resource managers, maintenance personnel, and others working in the preservation field;
- Apply preservation technology benefits from ongoing research by other agencies and institutions;
- Facilitate the transfer of preservation technology among federal agencies, state and local governments, universities, international organizations, and the private sector; and
- Cooperate with related international organizations including, but not limited to, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the International Center for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, and the International Council on Museums.

4. Program Requirements
There are no specific requirements to obtain benefits from the research and educational programs and publications offered by the NCPTT.

The NCPTT provides direct and competitive grants to promote research and training opportunities in preservation technology. The grants program funds innovative projects that develop new technologies or adapt existing technologies to preserve cultural resources; it does not fund “bricks and mortar” projects or documentation projects. Proposals may include, but are not limited to:

- Laboratory or field research that explores or assesses novel or adaptive methods;
- Training activities, such as workshops and course or curriculum development that promote the use of new or adaptive technologies;
- Documentation using new methods; and
- Manuscript or website development that disseminates innovative preservation technologies.

To be eligible for Preservation Technology and Training grants, applicants must show a demonstrated institutional capability and commitment to the purposes of the NCPTT, thus ensuring an effective and efficient system of research, information distribution, and skills training in all the related historic preservation fields. Eligible grant applicants may include U.S. universities and colleges, museums, research laboratories, nonprofit organizations, State Historic Preservation Offices; Tribal Historic Preservation Offices; and Native Hawaiian organizations, and NPS parks and programs.

5. NPS Program Administration
The NCPTT is functionally within the office of the Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science, located in the NPS’ Washington Office, and is physically located at Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches, Louisiana. NCPTT staff provide technical expertise on a variety of specialized scientific interests. A statutorily established advisory board provides leadership, policy advice, and professional oversight to the NCPTT, and advises on priorities and grant allocations.

NCPTT training courses instruct participants in advanced preservation practices through hands-on use of the latest technologies in real-world settings. Respected professionals...
in the fields of archeology, architecture, materials research, and historic landscapes develop and instruct the courses, ensuring a comprehensive and relevant training experience.

The NCPTT performs research at its in-house laboratories, which include an environmental chamber that allows researchers to test the effects of pollutants on cultural materials.

More widely, the NCPTT stimulates new research through its nationwide grants program. The NCPTT focuses on seven research priorities:

- Conserve cultural resources;
- Monitor and evaluate preservation treatments;
- Investigate minimally invasive techniques to inventory and assess cultural resources;
- Protect cultural resources against natural and human threats;
- Preserve cemeteries and places of worship;
- Safeguard resources from effects of pollution and climate; and
- Ensure a sustainable future for cultural resources.

6. Program Accomplishments

The NCPTT has undertaken important and varied work to advance the preservation of cultural resources throughout the United States. Federal, tribal, university, museum, nonprofit, and private practice partners are important collaborators in the NCPTT’s accomplishments.

The NCPTT serves as a clearinghouse and web portal to deliver the latest news about preservation technologies to a variety of audiences. An online catalog, http://ncptt.nps.gov/product-catalog, gives access to reports, videos, and other products developed through its grants program. Examples of products are workshops, seminars, training, and educational materials on:

- Understanding traditional and modern paints and stains for exterior wood;
- Archeological survey technologies, data integration, and application;
- Stone wall repair;
- Heritage education mini-grants to teachers;
- Protective coating systems for outdoor bronze sculptures and ornamentation;
- A preservation masonry training manual for high school students;
- Digital recovery of water-damaged manuscripts;
- A polymeric treatment for controlling salt damage to stone and brick;
- Teaching modules on fire safety for historic buildings; and
- A new technique for accurately dating prehistoric rock paintings.

7. For More Information

Additional information about the NCPTT is available on its website at http://ncptt.nps.gov.

National Heritage Areas Program

1. Authority

The National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470—470x-6) established a national policy for federal agencies to, among other things, use measures such as financial and technical assistance to foster conditions under which our modern society and our prehistoric and historic resources can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations. Each National Heritage Area is authorized by a specific statute—codified in 16 USC 461 note—to effectively achieve the national policy.

2. Mission

The National Heritage Areas (NHA) Program plays a vital role in maintaining the physical character and the cultural legacy of the United States by protecting and promoting the nationally important cultural, historical, and natural assets of a region.

3. Background

The NHA Program expands on traditional approaches to resource stewardship by supporting large-scale, community-centered initiatives that connect local citizens to the preservation, conservation, and planning processes. Through the facilitation of a local coordinating entity—which may be a federal commission, nonprofit group, or state or municipal authorities—this program assists residents of a region to improve their quality of life by protecting their shared cultural and natural resources. National Heritage Areas areas are created by Congress to promote the conservation of natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources. Congress has designated 49 NHAs since 1984. A management plan, approved by the Secretary of the Interior, guides the work of each NHA.

NHAs are not units of the national park system, although many have national park lands and other public lands within their boundaries. NHA designation does not change land ownership in the area. The NPS is a partner with NHA management entities, provides technical assistance, and distributes matching federal funds from Congress.
4. Program Requirements

NHAs do not have an overall program authorization, but are individually authorized by Congress. Each NHA operates under provisions unique to its resources and desired goals. Prior to congressional designation, the prospective NHA should:

- Complete a suitability/feasibility study;
- Engage the public in the suitability/feasibility study;
- Demonstrate there is widespread public support among heritage area residents for the proposed designation; and
- Demonstrate commitment to the proposal from key constituents, which may include state and local governments, industry, and private, nonprofit organizations, in addition to local citizens.

The NPS has developed 10 interim criteria for the evaluation of candidate areas by the NPS, Congress, and the public. The feasibility study should analyze and document that:

- The area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships of public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;
- The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folk life that are a valuable part of the national story;
- The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features;
- The area provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;
- Resources that are important to the area’s identified theme or themes retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;
- Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area that are involved in the planning have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the Federal Government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area;
- The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area;
- The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area;
- A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public; and
- A description of the proposed local coordinating entity that will plan and implement the project.

5. NPS Program Administration

The NPS does not manage the NHAs; instead, the NPS is a partner and advisor. NPS staff prepare NHA suitability/feasibility studies prior to congressional designation, and review management plans that are submitted by NHA planning entities for approval by the Secretary of the Interior. After Congress designates an NHA, the NPS provides training, and technical, planning assistance, and limited financial assistance through congressional appropriations for the program, which must be matched by the NHA.
6. Program Accomplishments
The 49 NHAs enjoy the tangible and intangible benefits associated with NHA designation, derived from the program’s collaborative approach to conservation that relies on, retains, and encourages traditional local control over and use of the landscape. For the residents of these areas, pride in the history and traditions of their communities has been validated, and their ability to retain and interpret the landscape for future generations has been enhanced. Federal funds often spur additional investment in the area. NPS support for the NHAs focuses on newly designated area planning and organizational development and ensuring the continued success of older areas.

7. For More Information
Additional information about this program is available online at www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/.

National Historic Landmarks Program

1. Authority
This program is authorized by the Historic Sites, Buildings and Antiquities Act (16 USC 461—467), which requires the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, to “[m]ake a survey of historic and archaeologic sites, buildings, and objects for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States,” and the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470 et seq.). The program was further authorized by section 201 of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 (94 Stat. 2988; 16 USC 470a(a)(1)(B)). Program regulations are published in 36 CFR Part 65.

2. Mission
The National Historic Landmarks (NHL) program manages the process by which nationally significant historic properties are identified, evaluated and designated by the Secretary of the Interior. The program encourages citizens, public agencies, and private organizations to recognize, use, and learn from historic places to enhance livable and viable communities for the future.

3. Background
The Secretary of the Interior established the NHL Program in 1960 to provide Federal Government recognition of buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects determined to be nationally significant in American history and culture. All NHLs are included in the National Register of Historic Places, which is the official list of the nation’s historic properties worthy of preservation (described more fully in the National Register section of this document). While there are many historic places listed in the National Register, only a small number have exceptional value to the nation as a whole; these we call our National Historic Landmarks.

The NPS undertakes theme studies to identify potential NHLs that will provide topic-specific connections to the prehistory and history of the United States. In addition, individuals and organizations recommend some properties as nationally significant when they are nominated to the National Register. The NPS evaluates the historic importance of these potential NHLs. The National Park System Advisory Board then evaluates the potential NHL sites at its meetings that are open to the public. The Advisory Board recommends potential NHLs to the Secretary of the Interior, who determines the final designations.

Listing of private property as an NHL does not prohibit, under federal law or regulations, any actions that a property owner may otherwise take with respect to the property. The NPS may recommend various preservation actions to owners, but owners are not obligated to carry out these recommendations. They are free to make whatever changes they wish if federal funding, licensing, or permits are not involved.

Those who own NHLs may benefit from federal grants through the Historic Preservation Fund. There are also federal income tax incentives for donating easements and for rehabilitating income-generating NHL buildings. State and local governments often have grant and loan programs for historic preservation. Some funding sources give NHLs higher priority for funding than other National Register properties.

Today, more than 2,500 historic places bear Landmark distinction. Working with citizens throughout the nation, the NHL Program draws upon the expertise of NPS regional office staff to nominate new landmarks and provide assistance to those who own or manage existing landmarks.

4. Program Requirements
To be designated as an NHL, a property must be evaluated according to the criteria and procedures in 36 CFR Part 65.

a. Specific Criteria of National Significance. National significance is ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology,
engineering, and culture, and that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and that:

- Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or
- Are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or
- Represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or
- Embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive, and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- Are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or
- Have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation of large areas of the United States. Such sites are those that have yielded, or may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts, and ideas to a major degree.

b. Criteria Considerations. Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years are not eligible for designation. However, such properties will qualify if they fall within the following categories:

- A religious property deriving its primary national significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- A building or structure removed from its original location, but which is nationally significant primarily for its architectural merit, or for association with persons or events of transcendent importance in the nation’s history and the association is consequential; or
- A site of a building or structure no longer standing but the person or event associated with it is of transcendent importance in the nation’s history and the association consequential; or
- A birthplace, grave, or burial of a historical figure of transcendent national significance and no other appropriate site, building, or structure directly associated with the life of that person exists; or
- A cemetery that derives its primary national significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, or from an exceptionally significant event; or
- A reconstructed building or ensemble of buildings of extraordinary national significance when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other buildings or structures with the same association have survived; or
- A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own national historical significance; or
- A property achieving national significance within the past 50 years if it has extraordinary national importance.

5. NPS Program Administration

The office of the Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science administers the NHL program. NPS staff in Washington, DC, with the assistance of regional office staff:

- Conduct theme studies that serve as the primary source for identifying potential landmarks. These studies provide a comparative analysis of properties associated with a specific area of American history, such as Labor or Women’s History;
Evaluate the historic importance of potential landmarks;

Provide staff support to the National Park System Advisory Board in preparation for the Board’s statutorily required evaluation of the historic significance of potential landmarks;

Provide staff support to the Secretary of the Interior in preparation for the Secretary’s final decision about landmark designation;

Provide technical preservation advice to owners of landmarks. Answer questions about preservation issues by phone, by letter, or during on-site visits;

Publish and distribute information for use by landmark owners and administrators on a variety of preservation subjects. A publication catalog is available online;

Monitor the condition of landmarks, in accordance with the law. Periodically contact landmark owners about the condition of their properties and ask permission to visit;

Provide information on each NHL for stewards to use in fundraising and influencing policy affecting their landmarks. The NPS also uses the information to plan its assistance programs and help in grant-making decisions;

As funding permits, select a limited number of landmark buildings for in-depth site inspections, coordinated by the NPS regional offices. The purpose of these inspections is to analyze the condition of the landmark, identify and prioritize recommended work treatments, and estimate the costs for doing this work; and

As funding permits, compile building condition assessment reports, which may be available to owners, preservation organizations, and interested public and private groups.

6. Program Accomplishments

More than 2,500 nationally significant historic properties have been designated as NHLs. By recognizing, documenting, and honoring the most important historic places in our nation, and working with citizens throughout the nation, this program helps to:

- Understand nationally significant patterns, movements, and themes in American history;
- Illuminate our rich and complex national story that spans more than 15,000 years;
- Form a common bond between all Americans; and
- Ensure that the nation’s heritage will be accessible to future generations.

In addition, the science and scholarship applied to this program, together with the National Register of Historic Places, has produced an unrivaled archive of research materials on historic properties. Lawyers, planners, and others use this collection to address questions about significance, boundaries, and contributing or noncontributing resources. Preservationists also use the collection to determine what is eligible for a range of financial incentives and protections. In addition, researchers use the collection to develop educational and interpretive materials.

7. For More Information

More information about this program is online at www.nps.gov/nhl.

National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Program

1. Authority


2. Mission

The National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Program identifies qualified stewards for the no-cost transfer of historic light stations through the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHLPA) and monitors the ongoing use and preservation of those stations.

3. Background

During the 1980s, Congress recognized that preservation planning and funding had generally neglected historic maritime properties and archeological sites. This resulted in a congressional request to the NPS to conduct a survey of historic maritime resources. In addition, Congress authorized the NPS to recommend standards and priorities for the preservation of those resources and appropriate federal and private sector roles in addressing priorities.

Prior to passage of the NHLPA, historic light stations were often neglected due to the changing mission of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and ever-tightening budgets. Some light stations were transferred to new stewards through acts of Congress, while non-profit organizations maintained others under lease agreements with the USCG. Most stations simply languished in the USCG’s property inventory, with funding sufficient only to address the active aids to navigation. The passage of NHLPA created a more efficient mechanism for the identification of potential stewards and the eventual disposal of historic light stations to those stewards.
4. Program Requirements
Light stations listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or determined to be eligible for listing by the Keeper of the National Register, are qualified for no-cost transfer under the NHLPA. Only federal agencies, state and local governments (or their agencies), educational institutions, and qualified non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for the no-cost transfers. Those who apply for and are granted a property must be financially capable and agree to:
- Maintain or rehabilitate the lighthouse in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation in perpetuity;
- Allow the USCG access to the active aid to navigation, if applicable; and
- Provide educational or cultural programming and reasonable public access.

Lighthouse recipients are required to submit annual monitoring reports to the appropriate NPS regional office. In these reports, the recipients summarize their maintenance and preservation activities, finances, and other issues or problems. The NPS must approve in advance any physical changes to a property, including landscape and setting. The NPS must also review and approve any changes to the use plan submitted with the application.

Light stations transferred at no cost through this program could revert to the Federal Government if the steward does not maintain the property or adhere to the plans and procedures set forth through the application process.

5. NPS Program Administration
The NPS, the USCG, and the General Services Administration (GSA) implement the NHLPA through a partnership. Cultural resources staff in Washington, D.C. and regional offices manage the NPS’ program responsibilities.

The coordinator in Washington, D.C. maintains the program files and the procedures manual, serves as the liaison with the NHLPA partners (USCG and GSA), and maintains the NHLPA website. The Washington office houses the inventory of historic light stations and the NHLPA administrative record. The coordinator works closely with partner agencies and NPS regional offices to identify historic light stations, and confirms which stations are eligible for transfer through the NHLPA.

NPS regional offices accept and review applications, maintain the property-specific files for each no-cost transfer, and provide monitoring and oversight for transferred light stations. Regional staff work closely with both applicants and stewards, with the goal of preserving these iconic properties.

6. Program Accomplishments
An NPS maritime initiative led to a comprehensive inventory of historic light stations, culminating in the publication (in conjunction with the USCG) of the 1994 Inventory of Historic Light Stations.

Since the passage of the NHLPA in 2000, more than 80 historic light stations in 21 states have been conveyed to new public and private stewards through no-cost transfers and public sales. Fifty-six lighthouses were conveyed at no cost to qualified stewards, including not-for-profit organizations, state and local governments, the NPS, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Twenty-eight lighthouses were sold at public auction to private entities. Gross public sales of light stations in the NHLPA program have totaled over $2.9 million.

Program staff produced and distributed the Historic Lighthouse Preservation Handbook. They also organized conferences and workshops about historic light station stewardship.

7. For More Information
Additional information is online at www.nps.gov/maritime/nhlpa/nhlpa.htm.

National Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Program

1. Authority
The National Park Service administers this program under the authority of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 USC 3001—3013).

The law addresses the rights of lineal descendants, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations (NHOs) to Native American cultural items, including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. The act assigned implementation responsibilities to the Secretary of the Interior. Regulations for implementing NAGPRA are published at 43 CFR Part 10.

2. Mission
This program supports the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) process by:
- Providing training and informative templates;
- Maintaining compliance documents and databases to
inform NAGPRA consultation;
- Administering a grants program to fund NAGPRA activities by Indian tribes, NHOs, and museums;
- Investigating civil penalty allegations against museums;
- Supporting the NAGPRA Review Committee; and
- Providing technical assistance to museums, Indian tribes, and federal agencies as they work through the NAGPRA process of repatriation and disposition of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.

3. Background
The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, enacted in 1990, provides a process for museums and federal agencies to transfer control of (“repatriate”) Native American human remains and cultural items—i.e., funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony—to lineal descendants, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations, and for disposition of culturally unidentified Native American human remains.

The National NAGPRA Program, within the NPS, assists in carrying out the Secretary of the Interior’s responsibilities under the act, focusing on the administration and implementation of NAGPRA as a neutral central compliance office. The program staff work with lineal descendants, Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, museums, and federal agencies to support NAGPRA implementation. The NPS NAGPRA program is separate from the National NAGPRA program, but provides the same technical and compliance assistance to national park sites throughout the country.

The NAGPRA statute requires the Secretary of the Interior to appoint a seven-member Review Committee to monitor and review the requirements of the act. The Committee is an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

4. Program Requirements
a. NAGPRA Review Committee. The Secretary of the Interior appoints committee members from nominations by Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, traditional Native American religious leaders, and national museum and scientific organizations. The NAGPRA Review Committee monitors and reviews the implementation of the inventory and identification process and repatriation activities. They also hear disputes on factual matters to resolve repatriation issues between Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages and corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations with museums and federal agencies.

b. Responsibilities of Museums and Agencies. The act requires all federal agencies and all public and private museums that have received federal funds (other than the Smithsonian Institution) to:
- Identify and prepare an inventory of Native American human remains and their associated funerary objects in the collections, including new items in the collections.
- Prepare a summary describing the scope of their collection, kinds of objects included, reference to geographical location, means and period of acquisition, and cultural affiliation (where readily ascertainable) for all items that may be unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.
- Consult with lineal descendants, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations about the identification and cultural affiliation of human remains and upon claims for cultural items.
- Submit notices to the National NAGPRA program for publication in the Federal Register to establish the rights of Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and lineal descendants to human remains and cultural items.
- Consult with Indian tribes on transfer of control.

Federal agencies also have the ongoing responsibility to determine disposition of Native American human remains and cultural items newly discovered on federal lands.

c. Claiming Properties. Under NAGPRA, federal agencies and museums have an affirmative duty to make reasonable determinations of cultural affiliation of Native American human remains and publish notices, informed by consultation with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations. They must consult with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations on requests for human remains and upon claims for cultural items disclosed in a summary. Consultation occurs on a government-to-government basis with Indian tribes. NAGPRA does not require museums and federal agencies to consult with nonfederally recognized Indian tribes. However, nonfederally recognized Indian tribes may be appropriate claimants for cultural items in some cases. NAGPRA regulations provide guidance on this matter.

d. Grants. Section 110 of NAGPRA (25 USC 3008) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to museums, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of Native American “cultural items”, including funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.

Two types of grants are available:
- Consultation and Documentation Grants are project-
based awards. Grants, ranging from $5,000 to $90,000, are awarded once a year through a competitive process.

- “Consultation” refers to the efforts of museums, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations to consult with known Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organization that have, or are likely to have a cultural affiliation or relationship with the human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony.
- “Documentation” refers to the inventory and summary of existing museum records surrounding the acquisition and accession of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. Initial museum compliance must exist to apply for a NAGPRA grant. The grants often assist to identify items upon claims or to establish cultural affiliation for previously culturally unidentifiable Native American human remains.

**Repatriation Grants** defray costs associated with the packaging, transportation, contamination removal, reburial, and/or storage of NAGPRA-related human remains and/or cultural items. They are non-competitive and awarded on a continuing basis throughout each fiscal year, in amounts up to $15,000.

**e. Enforcement of NAGPRA Violations.** The Department of Justice has jurisdiction for the enforcement of NAGPRA violations (18 USC 1170; trafficking).

5. **NPS Program Administration**

a. **Primary Activities.** The National NAGPRA Program helps ensure that museums and federal agencies meet their obligations under the law. The program:

- Develops regulations and guidance for implementing NAGPRA;
- Publishes Federal Register notices, submitted by museums and federal agencies, prior to repatriation;
- Administers a grants program to assist museums, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations in implementing NAGPRA;
- Provides administrative and staff support for the NAGPRA Review Committee;
- Provides training and technical assistance;
- Maintains six online databases;
- Posts program documents and publications on the NAGPRA website, including Review Committee reports;
- Coordinates the investigation of civil penalty allegations against museums for noncompliance; and
- In consultation with the Office of the Solicitor, assists federal law enforcement personnel in the investigation of criminal trafficking of Native American human remains and cultural items.

b. **Grants.** The National NAGPRA Program administers the grants program. Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and museums with Native American collections are eligible to apply.

6. **Program Accomplishments**

- **Notices**—the National NAGPRA Program has published over 1,900 notices establishing the rights of Indian tribes—notices of inventory completion for human remains in inventories and notices of intent to repatriate cultural items from summaries—representing:
  - 40,303 Native American individuals and one million associated funerary objects;
  - 146,215 unassociated funerary objects;
  - 4,313 sacred objects;
  - 958 objects of cultural patrimony;
  - 1,210 objects that are both sacred and patrimony; and
  - 292 undesignated objects.

- **Grants**—the National NAGPRA Program has annually awarded approximately $1.8 million in grants to museums, Indian tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations. From FY 1994 to FY 2009, the grant program awarded 629 grants totaling $33 million:
  - 420 NAGPRA grants, valued at more than $22.4 million, to Indian tribes, Alaska Native Villages and corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations; and
  - 209 NAGPRA grants, totaling more than $10.5 million, to museums.

- **Program Databases**—launched in 2005, a series of online databases give the public access to:
  - All federal agency and museum inventories and summaries; and
  - Review Committee meeting transcripts, meeting minutes, and reports; and Committee reports to Congress.

- **Regulations**—published reserved sections of the regulations that were pending for 10 years.

- **Training**—provided general and specialized NAGPRA training to 1,000 to 2,000 participants annually.

- **Civil Penalties**—resolved the first civil penalties in 2006; investigated 166 counts in allegations against 27 museums and collected penalties.

7. **For More Information**

NAGPRA compliance documents, notices, grant information, Review Committee meeting minutes and reports to Congress, and National NAGPRA Program activity reports are online at [www.nps.gov/NAGPRA](http://www.nps.gov/NAGPRA).
1. Authority
This program is administered under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470a(a) et seq.), which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to “expand and maintain a National Register of Historic Places composed of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture” (16 USC 470a(a)(1)(A). Program regulations are published in 36 CFR Part 60.

2. Mission
The National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archeological properties.

3. Background
The National Register of Historic Places (National Register) is the official list of the nation’s historic places as designated by Executive Orders, Acts of Congress, by the Secretary as National Historic Landmarks, and through the nomination process. It is a key part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archeological properties and districts. The NPS receives nominations from State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), Federal Preservation Officers, and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. Currently, there are nearly 90,000 historic properties listed in the National Register that encompass more than 1.6 million individual places.

Listing in the National Register provides formal recognition of a property’s historical, architectural, or archeological significance based on national standards used by every state. The federal law and regulations for the National Register do not prohibit any actions that may otherwise be taken by the property owner with respect to the property and does not lead to public acquisition or require public access. The NPS may recommend preservation actions to owners, but they are not obligated to carry out these recommendations. They are free to make whatever changes they wish if federal funding, licensing, or permits are not involved. If a property loses the historic character that made it eligible, it is subject to delisting.

Listing in the National Register:
- Encourages preservation of historic properties by documenting a property’s historic significance;
- Contributes to heritage tourism, economic revitalization, and educational programming;
- Offers opportunities for preservation incentives, such as:
  - Federal preservation grants for planning and rehabilitation;
  - Federal investment tax credits;
  - Preservation easements to nonprofit organizations;
  - Alternative means of meeting fire and life safety code requirements;
  - Possible state tax benefit and grant opportunities; and
- Triggers consideration under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470f) when federal agency programs affect National Register-listed or eligible properties.

Listing will not take place if a majority of private property owners object to the nomination.

Documentation associated with the National Register of Historic Places constitutes an unrivaled archive of research materials on historic properties. Lawyers, planners, and others use the collection to address questions about significance, boundaries, and contributing/noncontributing resources. It is also used by preservationists to determine what is eligible for a range of financial incentives and protections. In addition, researchers use the collection to develop educational and interpretive materials.

4. Program Requirements
The National Register nomination process usually starts with the SHPO. Interested parties may contact their SHPO or check their web page for National Register information, research materials, and necessary forms to begin the nomination process. If the property is on federal or tribal land, the process starts with the Federal Preservation Officer or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

To be eligible for consideration, a property must meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. This involves examining the property’s age, integrity, and significance. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and that:
- Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- Are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Under the typical process:

- Property owners, historical societies, preservation organizations, governmental agencies, or other individuals and groups submit nominations to the SHPO;
- The SHPO notifies affected property owners and local governments, and solicits public comment. If the owner—or a majority of owners—objects, the property cannot be listed, but may be forwarded to the NPS for a Determination of Eligibility;
- The SHPO and the State’s National Register Review Board review proposed nominations; and
- The state submits completed nominations, with certifying recommendations, to the NPS for final review and listing by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

5. NPS Program Administration

National Register program staff provide extensive guidance on the identification, documentation, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties for government officials, nonprofit private organizations, and individuals interested in the preservation of the nation’s cultural heritage. Program staff:

- Review nominations submitted by states, Indian tribes, and federal agencies, and list eligible properties in the National Register.
- Make certain determinations of eligibility under 36 CFR 63 during the NHPA section 106 process for properties that might be affected by a federal or federally assisted undertaking.
- Offer guidance on evaluating, documenting, and listing different types of historic places through the National Register Bulletin series and other publications.
- Help qualified historic properties receive preservation benefits and incentives.
- Assist Indian tribes in preserving their historic properties and cultural traditions.
- Manage the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Program that transfers historic federal light stations to new owners.
- Sponsor the Cultural Resources Diversity Program, which:
  - administers the Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program;
  - publishes the Heritage Matters newsletter;
  - consults on diversity topics;
  - researches cultural diversity issues; and
  - develops curriculum materials on cultural resources and historic preservation for colleges and universities, targeting minority schools.

6. Program Accomplishments

The National Register of Historic Places has created opportunities to recognize millions of Americans for their efforts to preserve America’s shared heritage. It has also created opportunities for today’s Americans to see and appreciate the historic, archeological, cultural, architectural and engineering accomplishments, craftsmanship, creative energy, and design ingenuity of preceding generations. Since the program’s inception:

- Nearly 90,000 historic properties, encompassing more than 1.6 million individual resources (buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects) have been listed in the National Register.
- Almost every county in the United States has at least one place listed in the National Register.
Federal preservation tax credits have leveraged more than $45 billion in private investment.

More than 70 historic lighthouses were transferred to new owners for preservation and public use.

More than 150 students have explored career opportunities through the Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program.

7. For More Information
Find more information about the National Register of Historic places online at www.nps.gov/nr/index.htm.

National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

1. Authority
The National Park Service administers this program under the authority of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 (16 USC 469l—469l-3).

2. Mission
This program shares leadership with local, state, and federal entities, and interested individuals and organizations, to:

- Promote programs and partnerships to commemorate the Underground Railroad;
- Preserve sites and other resources associated with the Underground Railroad; and
- Educate the public about the historical significance of the Underground Railroad.

3. Background
The Underground Railroad was a civil rights movement founded on the premise that all human beings have an inherent right to self-determination and freedom from oppression. The movement flourished from the end of the 18th century to the end of the Civil War; it sought to address the injustices of slavery and achieve freedom for all who were enslaved in the United States.

In recognition of the importance of preserving stories and places associated with the movement, Public Law 105-203, established the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (Network to Freedom) program. The program:

- Promotes the historical significance of the Underground Railroad in eradicating slavery and the evolution of our national civil rights movement, and its relevance in fostering the spirit of racial harmony and national reconciliation; and
- Coordinates preservation and education efforts nationwide and integrates local historical places, museums, and interpretive programs associated with the Underground Railroad into a mosaic of community, regional, and national stories.

Historic places, educational or interpretive programs, and facilities associated with the Underground Railroad may become part of the Network to Freedom. The Network to Freedom facilitates communication and networking between researchers and interested parties, and aids in the development of statewide organizations for preserving and researching Underground Railroad sites.

4. Program Requirements
While the Underground Railroad existed in the context of abolitionism and anti-slavery thought, those associations alone are not sufficient to include a site, facility, or program in the Network to Freedom. Participation in the Underground Railroad—escaping from enslavement or assisting the freedom seeker—violated the Federal Fugitive Slave Acts of 1793 and 1850, and hence was illegal.

Underground Railroad activity included activities such as sheltering a freedom seeker on one’s property or transporting them between safe havens. However, it also included assisting freedom seekers or diverting pursuers; raising or donating money, food, or clothing; facilitating communications among participants; or assisting in the establishment of destination communities. Through their acts of civil disobedience, these individuals demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the principles of freedom and self-determination.

The Network to Freedom program recognizes this commitment and defines the Underground Railroad as “resistance to enslavement through flight.” This definition incorporates and encourages new and original scholarship, interpretations, and commemorative activities around the country. Associations or connections to the Underground Railroad can encompass a variety of people, resources, activities, and sites.

a. Criteria for Inclusion. The criteria for inclusion in the Network to Freedom establish legitimacy, accountability, and accuracy in telling the Underground Railroad story:

- Any nominated element must have a verifiable association to the Underground Railroad, verified using professional methods of historical research, documentation, and interpretation.
- Any site, facility, or program that applies for inclusion must have the consent of the owner, manager, or director. Publicly owned properties must have written consent from the site manager.
b. Site Eligibility. Places that are ineligible for the National Register or that do not yet have a determination, may be eligible for the Network to Freedom if they have a demonstrated and verified association with the Underground Railroad, and interpret the association through appropriate methods. The site must be identified by name and have a statement about its Underground Railroad association. Interpretation at these sites can take many forms:

- Interpretation by skilled guides;
- Interpretive exhibits;
- Commemorative markers or plaques; and
- Brochures or site bulletins.

Sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places maintain their historic appearance and are not required to have an interpretive component to be eligible for inclusion in the Network to Freedom. They are encouraged to develop and display interpretive signs or materials.

c. Eligibility of Facilities and Programs. Facilities and programs nominated to the Network to Freedom must ensure:

- **Accuracy**—the portrayal of Underground Railroad history must be accurate. Network to Freedom applicants must list the source materials for interpretive activities and presentation of information in their applications. Sources should include primary materials—letters, diaries, autobiographies, official records—where possible, and scholarly publications.

- **Professionalism**—many facilities and programs operate with volunteers and rely on scarce resources. The Network to Freedom focuses on meeting professional standards for facility operations, interpretive activities, and care of collections in museums, archives, and libraries. Museums, archives, and libraries should have:
  - A catalog system for their collections, such as a finding aid or index; and
  - An ability to demonstrate the provenance, or origin, source, authenticity, acquisition history, and ownership of their collections.

All facilities and programs must be in operation, not just in the planning phase, and be able to demonstrate an established, ongoing commitment to interpreting or studying the Underground Railroad.

A goal of the Network to Freedom is to increase public knowledge and understanding of the Underground Railroad; therefore, access to information is a critical component. Facilities, such as libraries, archives, and museums, must be willing to share information with the public and researchers. They must have regular hours of operation or be open by appointment.

d. Benefits of Being Listed in the Network to Freedom.

- National recognition of verified association with the Underground Railroad;
- Inclusion in an online database with standard information on every site, program, and facility;
- Eligibility for Network to Freedom grants (when funds are appropriated) and assistance in locating project funding;
- Use of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom logo; and
- Opportunities for networking and coordinating scholarship, educational, preservation, and commemorative activities with comparable sites, facilities, and programs throughout the country.

5. NPS Program Administration

The NPS’ national coordinator, located in Omaha, Nebraska, and regional coordinators, encompassing states and territories in six regions, administer the Network to Freedom Program.

The NPS facilitates the exchange of information and technical assistance between sites, while the partner organizations retain management of the properties. NPS expertise in historic preservation, interpretation, and planning is available to new communities. Program staff provide technical assistance, educational materials in print and online, and support for professional collaboration between scholars and community advocates. Program staff also work with partners to identify and obtain funds to support interpretive and commemorative efforts.

6. Program Accomplishments

Since the program was established, the NPS has assisted partner organizations, including state and local governments, with the development of almost 500 programs, facilities, and sites in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

- **Annual Network to Freedom conference**—brings grassroots researchers, scholars, community advocates, site stewards, and government officials together to explore Underground Railroad history and highlight new research.

- **Network to Freedom Database**—includes sites, facilities, and programs that have met the basic criteria showing an association to the Underground Railroad.

- **Educational Products**—Network to Freedom members have created curriculum-based lesson plans, services, websites, and other products.
Discovering the Underground Railroad Junior Ranger Activity Book—contains activities that connect children (and adults) to the people, travel routes, and terms associated with the Underground Railroad.

For More Information
More information about this program is online at www.nps.gov/ugrr.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program

1. Authority
The National Park Service administers this program under the authority of the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Act (PL 106-45, 113 Stat. 224).

2. Mission
The program collaborates with private property owners, nonprofit organizations, and governmental organizations to identify, prioritize, and address Route 66 preservation needs.

3. Background
U.S. Highway 66, popularly known as “Route 66,” was the nation’s first all-weather highway linking Chicago to Los Angeles. Although Route 66 was not America’s oldest or longest road, it stands out as the shortest, year-round route between the Midwest and the Pacific Coast. When completed in 1926, it reduced the distance between Chicago and Los Angeles by more than 200 miles, which made it popular with thousands of motorists who drove west in subsequent decades. Route 66 linked rural and urban communities, permitting an unprecedented flow of ideas and economic growth across the country. It spurred one of the most comprehensive movements of people in the history of the United States, and resulted in the irreversible transformation of the American far west from a rural frontier to a pacesetting, metropolitan region.

After the road was decommissioned in 1985, federal and state agencies, private organizations, and the public realized that remnants of the road were quickly disappearing, and recognized the need to preserve the remaining significant structures, features, and artifacts associated with the road. With the passage of the Route 66 Study Act of 1990 (PL 101-400, 104 Stat. 861), Congress authorized the NPS to evaluate:
- The significance of Route 66 in American history;
- Options for preservation and use of remaining segments of Route 66; and
- Options for the preservation and interpretation of significant features associated with the highway.

The resulting Route 66 Special Resource Study (July 1995) identified a variety of management and preservation alternatives for the highway. The study led to enactment of the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Act in 1999, which created the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. The act authorized the Secretary of the Interior to collaborate with private property owners; nonprofit organizations; and local, state, federal, and tribal governments on the development of guidelines that set priorities for the preservation of the Route 66 Corridor.

The act also authorized the Secretary to:
- Enter into cooperative agreements;
- Accept donations of funds, equipment, supplies, and services as appropriate;
- Provide cost-share grants for projects for the preservation of the Route 66 corridor (not to exceed 50 percent of total project costs) and information about existing cost-share opportunities;
- Provide technical assistance in historic preservation and interpretation of the corridor; and
- Coordinate, promote, and stimulate research by other persons and entities regarding the corridor.

4. Program Requirements
a. Cost-Share Grants. Cost-share grants aid in the preservation of the most representative and significant buildings, structures, road segments, cultural landscapes, and other resources along the length of Route 66. Research, planning, oral history, and education outreach projects about the preservation of Route 66 may also qualify for cost-share assistance. Project eligibility criteria require applicants to provide a minimum 1-to-1 cost-share match.

b. Applicants. Eligible applicants include:
- Private individuals and business owners;
- Nonprofit organizations;
- Educational institutions;
- Local government agencies;
- State government agencies; and
- Tribal government agencies.

c. Projects. To be eligible for Route 66 cost-share grants, projects must:
- Preserve, restore, and rehabilitate transportation-related historic properties that were in service and had a strong, direct association with Route 66 during its 1926-1970 period of national significance;
- Be on, or within view of, a Route 66 road alignment;
- Be in their original location; and
- Retain historical and architectural integrity.
All preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation projects must conform with the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. Properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a state historic register, or that have been determined eligible for a register, receive priority consideration.

5. **NPS Program Administration**

The NPS’ National Trails System Office in Santa Fe, New Mexico administers the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. The office manages the cost-share grant program, acts as a clearinghouse for preservation information, and provides technical assistance to aid in the preservation of the Route 66 Corridor.

a. **Cost-Share Grant Review.** NPS program staff review eligible cost-share grant applications to determine award amounts. The program bases its decisions on eligibility and evaluation criteria, and on recommendations from a review panel.

b. **Clearinghouse Functions.** This program serves as a point of contact and network for Route 66 preservation information. Information focuses on the unique needs of historic highways and Route 66. Activities include:

- Management of the Route 66 library and preservation-related materials;
- Addressing general and technical information requests;
- Production of an annual newsletter, brochures, special reports, and the *Directory of Financial and Technical Resources*;
- Development of an inventory database; and
- Development of a Route 66 National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary.

c. **Technical Assistance.** Program staff provide technical assistance, which may include:

- Performing site visits and conducting cursory building inspections;
- Providing advice on the treatment of historic resources;
- Monitoring projects;
- Consultation on community preservation planning;
- Requests for research; and
- Review of management plans.

6. **Program Accomplishments**

Since 2001, more than $3.6 million in Route 66 cost-share grants have helped over 100 historic preservation projects. Examples include:

- Renovation of the historic Seligman Sundries building in Seligman, Arizona;
- Restoration of the National Register-listed Bristow Firestone Service Station, in Oklahoma, for new use as a body repair shop and a tribute to Route 66;
- Condition assessment report and rehabilitation of portions of the historic Rialto Theatre in Winslow, Arizona; and
- Repairs to a 2.2-mile section of post-and-cable guardrail along a segment of Route 66 in Lexington, Illinois.

The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Office has conducted special projects, such as:

- Co-organized the “Preserving the Historic Road Conference”;
- Partnered with the World Monuments Fund, American Express (through their sustainable tourism initiative), and Rutgers University to assess the economic impacts of tourism on Route 66;
- Developed of a GIS base map of Route 66 road alignments and associated features; and
- Consulted with the Hopi Tribe on the preservation of the Twin Arrows Trading Post, Arizona, and the Navajo Nation on the nomination of Navajo-related Route 66 sites to the National Register.

7. **For More Information**

More information about this program is online at [www.nps.gov/history/rt66/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/rt66/index.htm).

The Wigwam Motel was built in Holbrook, Arizona in 1950. Owned and operated by the family of the original owner, it is a popular destination for travelers on Route 66. Grant funds helped to preserve and rehabilitate the motel. Photo from Carol M. Highsmith’s America, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.
Global Connections - Our International Programs

The National Park Service engages with international partners to protect shared resources and to promote conservation of natural and cultural heritage around the globe.
International Affairs Programs

1. Authority

The delegated authority for the National Park Service to administer a program of international affairs stems from federal laws, conventions, and treaties that provide either general authority to federal agencies or specific authority to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary in turn delegates authority to the Director of the NPS. Some of the more significant laws include:

- **The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961** (in particular, 22 USC 2357, 2385, 2387, 2388, and 2392) authorizes federal agencies, when deemed appropriate by the President, to employ or assign personnel to perform certain functions in furtherance of the act outside the United States.

- **The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961** authorizes U.S. representation at international, non-governmental scientific and technical meetings, and permits U.S. Governmental agencies to accept foreign nationals for training or other meetings in and out of the U.S. The Department of State’s Exchange Visitor Program Office has delegated authority to provide visitor exchange programs to the NPS and other federal bureaus. This is the basis for the International Volunteers-In-Parks program.

- **The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969** (in particular, 42 USC 4332) authorizes federal agencies, when consistent with U.S. foreign policy, to lend appropriate support to programs that maximize international cooperation in anticipating and preventing decline in the quality of the world environment.

- **The National Historic Preservation Act** enables federal agencies to “provide leadership in the preservation of the prehistoric and historic resources of the U.S. and of the international community of nations” (16 USC 470-1(2)). Directs the Secretary to “develop and make available to . . . other nations and international organizations pursuant to the World Heritage Convention, training in, and information concerning, professional methods and techniques for the preservation of historic properties” (16 USC 470a(i)). The 1980 amendments to the NHPA authorize the Secretary to direct and coordinate U.S. participation in the World Heritage Convention, including nomination of U.S. properties (16 USC 470a-1).

- **The Endangered Species Act of 1973** (in particular, 16 USC 1537(b)(1-2) and (c)) provides the legislative mandate and the impetus for the Department of the Interior and the NPS to cooperate with other nations and permits the Secretary to assign employees to cooperate with foreign countries and international organizations to further such programs.

2. Mission

The NPS engages with international partners to protect shared resources and to promote natural and cultural heritage conservation around the globe. The NPS Office of International Affairs (OIA) evaluates opportunities and coordinates responses involving the NPS in international programs, projects, and activities. The office also assists with implementation of international treaty obligations that arise from legislative mandates and Presidential initiatives.

3. Background

The NPS has been involved in international activities since the tenure of its first director, Stephen Mather. Mather frequently received requests from other countries seeking advice in developing their own national park systems. The United States’ “national park idea,” born with the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, has contributed to the creation of thousands of national parks and preserves worldwide. Many countries around the world continue to look to the United States as a leader in park and protected area management. At the same time, the NPS often learns about innovative practices from other countries’ park agencies.

In addition, it is now widely recognized that numerous phenomena, such as species migration, invasion by exotic species, air and water pollution, and climate change, connect U.S. national parks to the wider world. It has become increasingly clear that engagement with the international community is essential to the effective protection of resources entrusted to NPS care.

Created in 1961, the OIA facilitates cooperation between the NPS and other agencies that manage parks and protected areas around the globe. Through the OIA, the NPS exchanges technical and scientific information, shares knowledge and lessons learned, and provides technical assistance to other nations on park and heritage resource management issues. By sharing its recognized leadership in natural and cultural heritage resources management worldwide, the NPS assists in attaining U.S. foreign policy objectives set by the President, while also working to enhance the protection of the national park system.
4. Program Requirements
The NPS conducts a variety of international activities and follows basic guidelines in selecting and conducting them. At a minimum, international activities should assist in the protection of natural or cultural resources managed by the NPS or by its partners outside of the U.S. International activities should enhance the ability of NPS employees to address challenges faced in accomplishing the NPS mission through professional growth, experience gained, or both. The activity must also benefit the NPS or help meet U.S. foreign policy objectives.

Since the NPS is not the lead agency in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy, it is imperative that all NPS international activities are coordinated through the OIA to ensure that they have the Director’s support and fit within broader U.S. foreign policy objectives. In order to ensure that international activities meet these objectives, the following criteria must be met.

a. Required Criteria for International Activities. The NPS must have a legal basis or mandate for providing assistance to, or exchange with, the country. Proposed international activities must:
   - Be compatible with U.S. foreign policy objectives and/or help implement U.S. obligations;
   - Be compatible with the NPS mission; and
   - Respect the sovereignty of its international partners, including tribal nations, and involve them and other strategic stakeholders in the planning process.

b. Recommended Criteria for International Activities. In addition to the required criteria listed above, proposed activities, when appropriate and feasible, should:
   - Increase skills for park and conservation authorities and their personnel, both domestically and internationally, to enhance the protection, management, interpretation, and visitor enjoyment of natural and cultural resources.
   - Help prevent a threat to a park or resource, or bring about the conservation of a park or resource.
   - Promote and share “best practices” for park and conservation management.
   - Promote connections with stakeholders that communicate the value of resource protection and involve them appropriately in park planning, management, and resource protection processes.
   - Integrate conservation activities with strategies for sustainable development that strengthens the capacity of surrounding communities to preserve natural and cultural heritage in ways that support local and regional identity, cultural diversity, economic development, and civic engagement.

5. NPS Program Administration
The Office of International Affairs is part of the Office of the Director of the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. OIA personnel advise and represent the Director on international issues and keep NPS leadership informed about pertinent international activities and conservation-related developments.

The OIA is the NPS focal point for international activities and is the primary contact for other bureaus and agencies, foreign governments, and international and private organizations on related matters. It manages, or assists in the management of:
   - Long-term bilateral relationships;
   - Short-term technical assistance projects;
   - U.S. support for the World Heritage Convention;
   - The International Volunteers-In-Parks (IVIP) Program; and
   - The Sister Park program.

a. Bilateral Relationships. The NPS maintains a number of bilateral cooperative agreements with national park and protected areas agencies in other countries. These agreements typically last five years, with work plans agreed upon to implement joint activities. These bilateral relationships enable the NPS to develop and implement strategic priorities in a manner that would not be possible without a long-term commitment.

b. Technical Assistance and Exchange. The NPS receives numerous requests each year for assistance in the planning and management of foreign parks and protected areas. While requests often come directly from protected site managers, other Department of the Interior bureaus, federal agencies, and the Executive Office, periodically ask the NPS to provide assistance to projects in other countries. The OIA evaluates each request based on the NPS’ strategic priorities and availability of resources. Currently, most technical assistance takes place on a cost-shared basis.

c. World Heritage Convention. To help meet U.S. treaty obligations and requirements of section 401 of the 1980 Amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470a-1(a)), the OIA provides staff support to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks on actions associated with the World Heritage Convention. The NPS manages 17 of the 21 World Heritage Sites in the United States, including Everglades and Yellowstone National Parks, Independence National Historical Park, and the Statue of Liberty National Monument. Placement on the World Heritage List imparts international recognition, but does not alter a park’s purpose, change its management
requirements, or reduce NPS jurisdiction. However, the World Heritage Committee closely monitors developments that affect U.S. World Heritage Sites, and the OIA plays a key role in responding to issues the Committee may raise. The OIA also coordinates the development of U.S. World Heritage nominations and administers the reporting and nomination process required under Convention protocols.

d. International Volunteer-In-Parks (IVIP) Program. The IVIP program enables international park professionals and university-level students to volunteer their expertise from three weeks to 18 months at NPS sites. The program, with more than 100 participants annually, encourages direct information exchange between NPS staff and their professional peers, and provides significant volunteer assistance to parks at a modest cost.

e. Sister Parks. The Sister Parks initiative is an informal network of non-binding relationships between U.S. and foreign protected areas that share similar natural or cultural resources and/or management issues. In 1932, the U.S. and Canada designated Glacier and Waterton Lakes national parks as an International Peace Park, inspiring the model for sister park relationships. While the OIA coordinates and provides guidance on the Sister Parks program, each park manages its sister park relationships according to its own interests.

f. Other International Activities. Where advantageous, several NPS regional offices have aligned their functions to enhance the effectiveness of the NPS International Affairs Program at the regional level.

- The Intermountain Region International Conservation Office (IMRICO) provides financial and technical assistance to NPS units and Mexico-Canada partners involved in international conservation programs and projects. The program is intended to improve communications and collaboration between national parks and their counterparts in Mexico and Canada.
- The Pacific West Region’s Micronesian and American Samoa Historic Preservation Assistance Program works with historic preservation offices in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. The program administers Historic Preservation Fund grants and provides technical assistance in historic preservation and cultural resource management.
- The Alaska Region’s Shared Beringian Heritage Program is described in the following section of this document.

6. Program Accomplishments

Since the creation of the OIA in 1961, the NPS has trained and inspired thousands of park and heritage professionals from nearly every country in the world, served as a model for and helped shape the World Heritage Convention, played key roles in the development of parks in such diverse countries as Costa Rica, Jordan and Thailand, worked to protect shared migratory species in locations ranging from the U.S. – Canada border to as far away as Tierra del Fuego, and contributed greatly to the global park and preservation movements. National Parks and conservation have become important public diplomacy tools in promoting American values overseas. Likewise, through international engagement, NPS staff have learned many new skills and gained new perspectives on park management that have influenced the development of NPS programs, ranging from interpretation to wildlife management.

Recent highlights include:

- **Protecting Park and Shared Resources**—the OIA played a critical role in protecting Glacier National Park from a proposed mine in British Columbia in 2009/2010; through technical assistance and exchanges and participation in regional initiatives, the NPS has become increasingly involved in protecting shared migratory species, particularly neotropical birds.
- **Sister Parks**—more than 40 national parks have developed long-term partnerships with counterparts in 20 countries. In the last few years alone, there have been significant accomplishments:
  - Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve helped their Chilean partner develop protocols to minimize ship strikes on whales;
  - Yosemite National Park prepared a restoration plan for Chile’s Torres del Paine National Park after severe fires;
  - China’s Yuntaishan National Park helped Grand Canyon National Park develop a Chinese-language brochure which has been provided to over 40,000 people in the last two years; and
  - Big Bend National Park and its Mexican partners have initiated a comprehensive program of ecological restoration and ecotourism in the Rio Grande river corridor.
- **International Volunteer-In-Parks Program**—more than one hundred individuals from all over the world volunteer in America’s national parks every year. These volunteers contribute the equivalent of approximately $1.5 million annually in free labor to the NPS, but provide many more less tangible benefits as well. Several Latin American biologists working as IVIPs have been
highly effective “Ambassadors” for the NPS in Hispanic communities around national parks, reaching potential park visitors that the NPS had previously not engaged.

- **World Heritage Convention**—in 2010, the World Heritage Committee inscribed Pāpahanaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Hawaii) on the World Heritage List for its cultural and natural values. It was the first U.S. site added to the list in 15 years. The NPS initiated the U.S. World Heritage Fellows training program for site managers from World Heritage sites in developing nations. Selected individuals come to the U.S. and learn about park management and protection by working alongside the managers and staff of U.S. World Heritage sites.

- **Official International Visitors**—each year, the OIA helps arrange and deliver briefings and study tours for more than 500 foreign officials interested in learning more about the NPS’ programs and park management practices.

OIA also develops and disseminates information and briefing materials on NPS international activities for outreach within the Service, with program partners, other U.S. Government agencies, multilateral development institutions, foreign counterpart agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations.

- **Global Protected Areas**—the OIA has detailed an employee to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Global Protected Areas program to develop a global strategy for protected area capacity building and to support the 2014 World Parks Congress.

7. **For More Information**

Visit the NPS Office of International Affairs website at www.nps.gov/oia/.

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**Shared Beringian Heritage Program**

1. **Authority**

Since Fiscal Year 1991, the National Park Service has administered the Shared Beringian Heritage Program pursuant to the appropriations authority for the Operation of the National Park System (ONPS).

2. **Mission**

This program recognizes and celebrates the natural resources and cultural heritage shared by Russia and the United States on both sides of the Bering Strait. The program works to improve local, national, and international understanding of these resources and to sustain the cultural vitality of Native peoples of the Bering region.

3. **Background**

During the Pleistocene Ice Age, which ended nearly 12 thousand years ago, much of the Earth’s water was locked up in vast glaciers up to two miles thick. The sea level fell more than 400 feet and some areas became dry land, forming a land bridge that connected the Asian and North American continents in the present day Bering Strait area and extending into the Bering and Chukchi seas.

During its existence, the land bridge played a vital role in the spread of plant and animal life between the continents. The people who became the first North Americans followed the earlier movements of land mammals and plants. When the Earth entered a climate warming cycle, the melting glaciers raised the level of the world’s oceans and submerged most of the land bridge. Long after the land bridge was submerged, the peoples of Beringia remain united by their language, traditions, and environment.

Today, Beringia is defined as the land and maritime area bounded on the west by the Lena River in Russia; on the east by the Mackenzie River in Canada’s British Columbia; on the north by 72 degrees north latitude in the Chukchi Sea; and on the south by the tip of the Kamchatka Peninsula.

In 1990, the Presidents of the United States and the former Soviet Union endorsed a proposal to establish an international park spanning the Bering Strait. The proposed park included existing NPS units in Alaska and a park or parks to be created in Russia. They also agreed to expand cooperation between the two nations in the study of ecology, archeology, and cultural heritage. Congress has funded the NPS Alaska Region’s Shared Beringian Heritage Program to foster international research and connections in the Bering Strait region since 1991.
In 2012, the U.S. Secretary of State and Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs jointly reaffirmed the long-standing interest in protecting the shared natural and cultural heritage of Alaska and Russia. They also announced their intent to establish, in consultation with local and tribal governments, a Transboundary Area of Shared Beringian Heritage, linking national parks in Alaska with the proposed Beringia National Park in Chukhotka, Russia. According to their statement, “... these protected natural territories will promote conservation of flora, fauna and the natural ecosystem; preservation of kinship ties, cultural traditions, subsistence lifestyle and language of the indigenous peoples of the region; and collaboration on conservation, management scientific research, and effective monitoring of the environment.” They recognized the Shared Beringian Heritage Program’s role in promoting a better understanding of shared history and helping to sustain the cultural vitality of the indigenous people in the region.

4. Program Requirements
Funds are awarded to activities that involve scientists, government officials, teachers, and youth from the United States and Russia, as well as local communities and Native people across the Bering Strait region.

To qualify for project funding through a cooperative agreement under this program, project proposals must be of mutual benefit to the cooperator and the NPS, must include substantial involvement by both parties, and must support the program’s goals, which are to:

- Foster a climate of mutual understanding and cooperation among the United States, Russia, and the indigenous people of Beringia in environmental protection, historic preservation, and interpretation;
- Support subsistence opportunities within Beringia and recognize the unique and traditional activities carried out by the indigenous people of the region;
- Promote the study, interpretation, and enjoyment of the natural and cultural resources of international significance; and
- Support cultural exchanges between the indigenous people on both sides of the Bering Strait.

Projects are selected through a competitive three-step process:

- Review by subject-matter experts, who compile comments;
- Ranking by the Beringia external stakeholder panel; and
- Final selection by the NPS.

The selection panel consists of one member each from the Arctic Slope and NANA Regional Corporations, and from the Bering Strait Native Corporation; an NPS science advisor; and NPS staff from the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

5. NPS Program Administration
The Shared Beringian Heritage Program is managed by the NPS Alaska Regional Office. At present, the program:

- Supports four new and 19 continuing research and community-based projects. Most of these projects involve international collaborators and Alaska Native people;
- Explores different venues for presenting research and project results to the public. These may include hosting a series of public lectures, creating traveling exhibits, and publishing popular articles;
- Translates and publishes Russian language materials on Beringia; and
- Continues broad outreach efforts to inform the stakeholders and public about progress towards the establishment of a Beringian international protected area and solicits their opinions on this matter.

6. Program Accomplishments
The program has funded more than 130 varied scientific and cultural projects since 1991. The projects, selected through a competitive process, range from one to three years in duration. There are 12 to 20 active projects each year, involving:

- Research to gather critical species and habitat information;
- Documentation of traditional ecological knowledge; and
- Establishment of citizen-based science involving youth and local communities in Russia and the U.S.

Recent projects include work on marine mammals, sea ice patterns, reindeer herding, and archeology, as well as documentation of local traditions, language, and culture. Increasingly, projects are related to climate change. As program managers compile the results of scientific and grassroots-based projects with strong Native and international participation, they post the results into a comprehensive database on the Internet, with links to project reports and other products.

7. For More Information
Additional information about the Shared Beringian Heritage Program is online at www.nps.gov/akso/beringia/index.cfm.
Appendix

Laws and Executive Orders Cited in Text

Laws

Act of December 21, 2006 (Japanese-American Historic Confinement Sites)
16 USC 1 461 note; PL 1 109-441, 120 Stat. 3288

(popularly known as) American Battlefield Protection Program Act
16 USC 469k-1; PL 111-11

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)
42 USC 12101—12123; PL 101-336

(popularly known as) Antiquities Act of 1906
16 USC 431—433; June 8, 1906, ch. 3060, 34 Stat. 225

Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998
16 USC 461 note; PL 105-312 (Title V), 112 Stat. 2596

Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013
PL 113-2; 127 Stat. 4

(popularly known as) Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006
PL 109-234, 120 Stat. 418

Endangered Species Act of 1973
16 USC 1531—1544; PL 93-205

Federal Power Act

Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949

Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
22 USC 2151 et seq.; PL 87-195, PL 87-329, PL 98-164

(popularly known as) Historic Sites, Buildings and Antiquities Act
16 USC 461—467; Aug. 21, 1935, ch. 593; 49 Stat. 666

Internal Revenue Code of 1986
26 USC 1 et seq.; Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 1; PL 96-541, PL 99-514

International Environment Protection Act of 1983
22 USC 2151q et seq.; PL 98-164 (Title VII)

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965
16 USC 460-4—460-11; PL 88-578

Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961
22 USC 2451—2463; PL 87-256

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)
42 USC 4321—4370d; PL 91-190

National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000
16 USC 470w-7—470w-8; PL 106-355

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
16 USC 470—470x-6; PL 89-665, 96-515

National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980
16 USC 470 et seq.; PL 96-515

National Maritime Heritage Act of 1994
16 USC 5401—5408; PL 103-451

National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978
16 USC 1a-5 et seq.; PL 95-625

National Park Service Organic Act
16 USC 1—4; August 25, 1916, ch. 408, 39 Stat. 535; see also section 10(a) of PL 108-352

National Trails System Act
16 USC 1241—1251; PL 90-543, 98-11

16 USC 469/—469/-3; PL 105-203

1 The United States Code (USC) may be accessed on the Internet at http://uscodebeta.house.gov or http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text.


4 The American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996, division I, title VI, section 604 of PL 104-333, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, was codified to 16 USC 469k. That section was repealed effective September 30, 2008. However, section 7301 of PL 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, 123 Stat. 991, 1233-14, essentially restated the earlier statute, and has been codified to 16 USC 469k-1.

5 Title X, chapter 7 of PL 113-2 appropriated $50 million for the Historic Preservation Fund “for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Sandy ... and costs needed to administer the program.”


7 PL 96-541, in particular section 6(b), added the provision (currently codified to 26 USC 170(h)) allowing a charitable deduction for a qualifying conservation contribution. See, 94 Stat. 3204, 3206.


9 Title VII of PL 98-164 added 22 USC 2151q and amended 22 USC 2452(b).

10 PL 106-355 added sections 16 USC 470w-7 and 470w-8 at the end of title III of the National Historic Preservation Act, PL 89-665.

11 PL 96-515 amended sections 16 USC 470, 470-1, 470a, 470b, 470c and 470h.
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)
25 USC 3001—3013; PL 101-601

Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009
PL 111-11; 123 Stat. 991 (codified primarily in scattered sections of 16 USC, but also in titles 5, 7, 15, 20, 25, 33, 40, 42 and 43)

(popularly known as) Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963
16 USC 460/l—460/3; PL 88-29

Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992
16 USC 470x—470x-6; PL 102-575

Revenue Act of 1978
26 USC 1 et seq.; PL 95-600; PL 101-508

(popularly known as) Route 66 Corridor Preservation Act
16 USC 461 note; PL 106-45, 113 Stat. 224

Route 66 Study Act of 1990
PL 101-400, 104 Stat. 861

(popularly known as) United States Insular Areas Appropriation Authorization Act, 1980
PL 96-205; 94 Stat. 84

Tax Reform Act of 1986
26 USC 1 et seq.; PL 99-514

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978
16 USC 2501—2514; PL 95-625 (Title X), 92 Stat. 3538

Volunteers in the Parks Act of 1969
16 USC 18g—18j; PL 91-357

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
16 USC 1271—1287; PL 90-542

Executive Orders

Executive Order No. 12232 (Historically Black Colleges and Universities)

Executive Order No. 13006 (Locating Federal Facilities on Historic Properties in Our Nation’s Central Cities)
May 21, 1996, 61 FR 26071 [40 USC 3306]

Executive Order No. 13195 (Trails for America in the 21st Century)
January 18, 2001, 66 FR 7391 [16 USC 1241]

Executive Order No. 13287 (Preserve America)

Executive Order No. 13508 (Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration)
May 12, 2009, 74 FR 23099

2 The entire Federal Register, from its inception in 1936, is accessible online via HeinOnline, at http://www.heinonline.org/HOL/index?collection=fedreg.
3 Section 4022 of PL 102-375 (106 Stat. 4600) added title IV to the National Historic Preservation Act.
4 PL 105-600, in particular section 315, was the genesis of the rehabilitation tax credit. See 92 Stat. 2828-2829. PL 101-508, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, in particular section 1813, revised and restated the rehabilitation tax credit provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as 26 USC 47 (previously, it had been 26 USC 48). See 104 Stat. 1388, 1388-536.
5 Section 603 of PL 96-205 has been codified to 48 USC 1469c.