



A training initiative of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas

Spotlight on National Heritage Areas

In 1984, Congress designated the Illinois and Michigan Canal as the country's first National Heritage Area. Since that time, development based on the

heritage of an area has proven to be a successful method of uniting stakeholders and resources to revitalize a region.

In 1996, the NHA movement exploded with the designation of 11 areas, bringing the total to 17. The number of bills (36) to establish or study the feasibility of heritage areas introduced in the 108th Congress suggests interest in cultural and heritage development remains high. Five bills have already been introduced in the 109th Congress.

The National Park Service has available on its National Heritage Areas website a profile of each NHA (not including the four most recently designated areas). A comparison of basic data reveals much about the current NHA system. For instance, five states con-

NHA Geographic Data	NHA Population Data
<p><i>Most Square Miles</i> 41,219 (Tennessee Civil War)</p> <p><i>Fewest Square Miles</i> 106 (Wheeling)</p> <p><i>Median</i> 3,928 (Shenandoah Valley)</p> <p>Source: www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas</p>	<p><i>Most People</i> 6,932,212 (Illinois & Michigan)</p> <p><i>Fewest People</i> 39,080 (Cane River)</p> <p><i>Median</i> 1,372,565 (Blackstone River)</p> <p>Source: www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas</p>

tain more than one federally designated heritage area, with Pennsylvania topping the list with six. There are several types of management entities, includ-

ing non-profit corporations, non-profit 501(c) 3, joint public and private entities, state agencies, and a university. As the table above shows, geographic and population figures differ widely among NHAs.

The great diversity of today's NHAs makes the development of a standardized system challenging. Nevertheless, with designation becoming increasingly competitive and political, recent GAO and Congressional studies (see bibliography, page 3) indicate the need for the creation of a program to bring consistency and standards to the movement. These increasingly important issues will make the next few years crucial to the long-term sustainability of the NHA system.

In This Issue...

- Spotlight on National Heritage Areas
- 2005 IHDC Update
- Additions to Your Heritage Development Reading List



Creating Economic Futures: One Story at a Time



www.ihdc2005.org

International Heritage Development Conference to be held this June in Nashville.

Join Alliance members and heritage development professionals from around the

Recognizing the success of heritage development as a method of pulling together stakeholders and resources to enhance a region's identity and sense of past, the Alliance of National Heritage Areas

is sponsoring its second

world June 4-8 in Nashville for two days of interactive sessions, a day of mobile workshops, and evening events at Belle Meade Plantation, Fisk University, and the Country Music Hall of Fame. A special HDI course will be offered Sunday, June 5 prior to the start of the conference.

Online registration is expected to be open in early February at www.ihdc2005.org. The website also includes sponsorship and exhibitor information. For more information, contact the IHDC staff at (615) 494-8916 or ihdc2005@mtsu.

Mobile Workshops

Choose from a series of interactive workshops in a variety of historic towns and venues across Middle Tennessee and Kentucky including:

Lynchburg	Pulaski
Spring Hill	Leiper's Fork
Franklin	Murfreesboro
Nashville	Bowling Green, KY

Interactive Sessions Emphasize:

- Best practices in geotourism
- Sharing heritage resources
- Maximizing federal funding
- Creating successful partnerships
- Coordinating preservation with economic self-sufficiency
- Heritage education
- Technology in heritage site management
- Managing adaptive reuse projects

Read recent HDI e-newsletters at
www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org

Subscribe to the HDI e-newsletter
hdi@mtsu.edu

Contact the Alliance

John Cosgrove
Executive Director
anha.cosgrove@adelphia.net
202.528.7549

www.nationalheritageareas.org

Additions to Your Heritage Development Reading List

Books

- Jacoby, Karl. *Crimes Against Nature: Squatters, Poachers, Thieves, and the Hidden History of American Conservation*. Berkeley: University of California, 2001.
- Shortridge, Barbara, and James Shortridge, eds. *The Taste of American Place: A Reader on Regional and Ethnic Foods*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1998.
- Wishart, David, ed. *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004.

Links

- American History Online. www.historynow.org. This Internet site features the writings of renowned historians and focuses on education and historical interpretation.
- United States General Accounting Office. *A More Systematic Process for Establishing National Heritage Areas and Actions to Improve Their Accountability are Needed*. Testimony of Barry T. Hill, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, March 30, 2004. Available at www.gao.gov/new.items/d04593t.pdf
- Vincent, Carol Hardy, and David Whiteman. *Heritage Areas: Background, Proposals, and Current Issues*. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, October 1, 2004. Available at www.ncseonline.org/nle/crsreports/04oct/IB10126.pdf

Submit Information for
publication in our February
e-newsletter

hdi@mtsu.edu

Contact the HDI

Carroll Van West
HDI Chair
hdi@mtsu.edu
615.494.8916

www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org

The Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) established the Heritage Development Institute (HDI) as a way of providing leadership to the heritage development field as well as creating training and analysis of the best practices in our heritage areas across the country. The HDI Newsletter is sponsored by the ANHA, Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation, and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. To submit information and update e-mail addresses, please e-mail us at hdi@mtsu.edu.