



A diverse array of partners works side-by-side with the National Park Service on conservation. Cape Cod National Seashore (Massachusetts), established in 1961, was an early experiment in how to create a national park in the midst of long-settled coastal communities. This arrangement requires a high degree of cooperation and coordination as many privately owned homes in six Cape Cod towns remain within the 43,500 acres of the park's authorized boundary.



In the 1970s, the National Park Service launched a pioneering proposal to create a system of national reserves to conserve special regions or places. Local and state governments would play an important governance role for joint planning in collaboration with the National Park Service providing support. Residents would continue to own their property and carry out compatible economic development within the reserves. Two such reserves were established: (left) Pinelands National Reserve (1978) of over one million acres, managed by a New Jersey commission, and (right) Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve (1978) on Whidbey Island, Washington, managed by a trust board.



Shared ownership, and management through partnerships, are now common practices in national parks across the country, such as Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument (Maryland/New York), designated in 2014 to recognize Tubman's role as a leader of the abolitionist movement and the Underground Railway.



The National Park Service's most dramatic shift towards a management approach based on collaborative partnerships occurred with the introduction of National Heritage Areas in the 1980s. These 49 areas are large, lived-in landscapes that cross political boundaries to tell distinctive regional stories. While each area is designated by Congress and guidance and support is provided by the National Park Service, governance is in the hands of the people who live there. Slater Mill, Pawtucket, Rhode Island, part of John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (Massachusetts, Rhode Island).



Many different American lifeways are represented in national heritage areas: (left, above) Home of plantation worker and folk artist Clementine Hunter and (below) one of her paintings, Cane River Creole National Heritage Area (Louisiana); (center) The Iowa Dairy Center, part of Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (Iowa), fosters dairy farming as a way of life; (right) Sewing sweetgrass baskets—an essential part of Gullah culture—at Charles Pinckney National Historic Site (South Carolina), part of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina).



Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (Iowa) tells the story of one of the country's most attractive and productive agricultural landscapes.



National heritage areas can be linear corridors following historic routes or watersheds. For example, the 165-mile-long Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (Pennsylvania), follows the route anthracite coal took from mine to market in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



International partnerships have enabled Waterton Lakes National Park (Alberta, Canada) and Glacier National Park (Montana, USA) to jointly manage Waterton–Glacier International Peace Park.





National Park Service staff work with multiple partners to manage and interpret the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (comprised of portions of five states and Washington, D.C.). Here you can experience the natural and cultural heritage of the Chesapeake Bay and its many rivers. Pictured: Jug Bay Natural Area (Maryland), part of Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.



For many people in the East, their nearest national park is the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (Georgia to Maine), usually known as the Appalachian Trail or simply the “A.T.,” a park that depends almost entirely on partnerships and volunteers. (above) View of New Jersey section; (below) Crew from one of the park’s partners, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.