



Summary of National Park Service Community Assistance Programs

National Designations | Grant and Financial Assistance | Project Assistance | Investment & Property Acquisition

The National Park Service (NPS) administers national and regional programs that are available to the public and community groups, including nonprofit organizations, businesses, educational institutions, and state, local, and tribal governments. Connections between NPS programs and communities are vital to furthering the mission of the NPS.

NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS

Preserving and conserving nationally important places with community groups

National designations acknowledge the significance of nationally important historic, natural and cultural resources and/or the commitment of partner organizations to steward these nationally important places. Designations occur through an act of Congress, approval by the Secretary of the Interior and the NPS. Many allow specifically identified organizations to receive funding and/or technical assistance from the NPS, such as the National Heritage Areas Program, National Natural Landmarks Program, National Trails System, and National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

National Heritage Areas Program
National Historic Landmarks Program
National Natural Landmarks Program

National Register of Historic Places
National Trails System
National Water Trails System

National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

GRANT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Providing critical grant and project funding to support community projects

Financial assistance opportunities support the work of specific groups in historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, education, and community engagement projects. The financial assistance opportunities identified below are provided through grants and cooperative agreements.

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ASSISTANCE

Challenge Cost Share Program
Chesapeake Gateways and a Trails Program
Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants
Shared Beringian Heritage Program
Southwest Border Resource Protection Program

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND HERITAGE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

African American Civil Rights Grants Program

American Battlefield Protection Program
Certified Local Government Program
Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grant Program
Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program
Maritime Heritage Program
National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
National Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Program

National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom
Preserve America Grant Program
Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program
Save America's Treasures Grant Program
Shared Beringian Heritage Program
Southwest Border Resource Protection Program
State Historic Preservation Program
Tribal Historic Preservation Program
Underrepresented Community Grants Program

PROJECT ASSISTANCE

Providing technical assistance to community groups on preservation, conservation, recreation, education, and other community projects

Project assistance includes resource identification and analysis, and conservation and recreation planning. Some assistance is provided for free by NPS staff, such as assistance through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, and other opportunities are fee-for-service.

CONSERVATION, RECREATION, AND HEALTH ASSISTANCE

Chesapeake Gateways and Trails Program

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network

Healthy Parks Healthy People National Program

Hydropower Recreation Assistance Program

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

American Battlefield Protection Program

American Indian Liaison Office

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units

Cultural Resources Geographical Information Systems Facility

Heritage Documentation Program

Heritage Travel Itineraries

Historic Preservation Training Center

Midwest Archeology Center

National Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Program

National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

Southeast Archeological Center

Submerged Resources Center

Teaching with Historic Places

Technical Preservation Services

Telling All Americans' Stories – Heritage Initiatives and Theme Studies

INVESTMENT & PROPERTY ACQUISITION ASSISTANCE

Helping communities invest in historic buildings and federal surplus property to create new assets

Investment and property acquisition assistance includes programs that support community efforts to rehabilitate historic properties and acquire federal land and property.

Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program

Federal Lands to Parks Program

Historic Surplus Property Program

National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Program