

KANSAS NEBRASKA

HERITAGE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MISSION

Our mission is to connect communities and attractions, instill pride of place and promote immersive experiences for residents and visitors to enhance appreciation for the region's unique landscape and nationally significant cultural history.

GOAL

To establish a National Heritage Area (NHA) within the forty-nine counties between North Central Kansas and South Central Nebraska.

What NHA's are

- A grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development.
- Designated by Congress recognizing the national importance of the region's sites and history.
- Administered by the National Parks Service (NPS) and are provided technical assistance and distribute matching federal funds.
- Authorized to receive up to \$1 million annually in Congressional appropriations, most NHA have actual annual appropriations ranging from \$150,000 - \$750,000.
- Leverage federal funds and are a catalyst for economic development within their region/state: to create jobs, generate revenue for local governments, and sustain local communities through revitalization and heritage tourism.
- NHA's average \$5.50 for every \$1.00 of federal investment through public-private partnerships.
- Will connect existing museums, sites, parks, businesses, and communities to resources to celebrate their NHA themes.

What NHA's are not

- Are not National Park Service units
- Do not assume ownership of land inside heritage areas or impose land use controls
- NHA designation does not affect private property rights

TIMELINE OF WORK

In 2016 the Willa Cather Foundation of Red Cloud, Nebraska partnered with University of Nebraska-Lincoln undergraduate landscape architecture students to expand their regional heritage tourism strategies. The students work inventoried the region's natural, recreation, heritage, cultural and agriculture assets within two hours of Red Cloud bordered by Interstates 80 and 70.

From 2017-2019 a group of key stakeholders advising, and an all-volunteer board devoting countless hours, in its mission to “identify, protect and preserve the natural, cultural and recreational heritage of the Kansas Nebraska region.

KNHAP has identified six nationally important themes to be considered in the feasibility study. Settlement and Migration stories, Homesteading Stories, Land Stories, Native American Stories, Rural Stories, and Nature Stories.

It is vitally important that the Kansas Nebraska Heritage Area truly be a partnership involving all communities and counties in the two states in order to have grassroots support of the project. Over the next year, with the support of area foundations, we will build a resilient and sustainable organization by creating relationships within the region to establish the firm foundation this effort requires.

NEXT STEPS

- Establish a non-profit representing the heritage area of North Central Kansas and South Central Nebraska in both states.
- Develop partnerships in all communities, across forty-nine counties in two states in order to have grassroots support of the project.
- Establish designated funds with the Nebraska Community Foundation and Greater Salina Community Foundation in North Central Kansas receive donations and apply for grants to fund a feasibility study.
- Create a Request For Proposal for the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study to be submitted to the National Parks Service for designation.
- Develop a framework to expand the economic benefits of heritage preservation and tourism by linking resources to historic themes and a network of businesses, sites, structures, routes, trails, and recreation sites.

KNHAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<p>Ashley Olson - NE Co-chair of KNHAP Willa Cather Foundation</p>	<p>Luke Mahin - KS Co- chair of KNHAP Republic County Economic Development</p>	<p>Kyle Peterson - KS Treasurer of KNHAP Mitchell County Historical Society Museum</p>
<p>Jenna Bartja - NE Secretary of KNHAP Nebraska Tourism Commission</p>	<p>Kim Wilson - NE Executive Director of KNHAP University of Nebraska - Lincoln</p>	<p>Jarrold McCartney - NE Heritage Development of Red Cloud</p>
<p>Carol Schlegel - NE McCook/Red Willow Tourism</p>	<p>Kelly Larson - KS Lincoln County Economic Development</p>	<p>Sue Stringer KS Kansas Agritourism</p>
<p>Roger Jasnoch - NE Visit Kearney</p>	<p>Shaley George - KS National Orphan Train Complex</p>	<p>Kristin Malek - At-large University of Nebraska - Lincoln</p>

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