



Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

National Park Service

2021

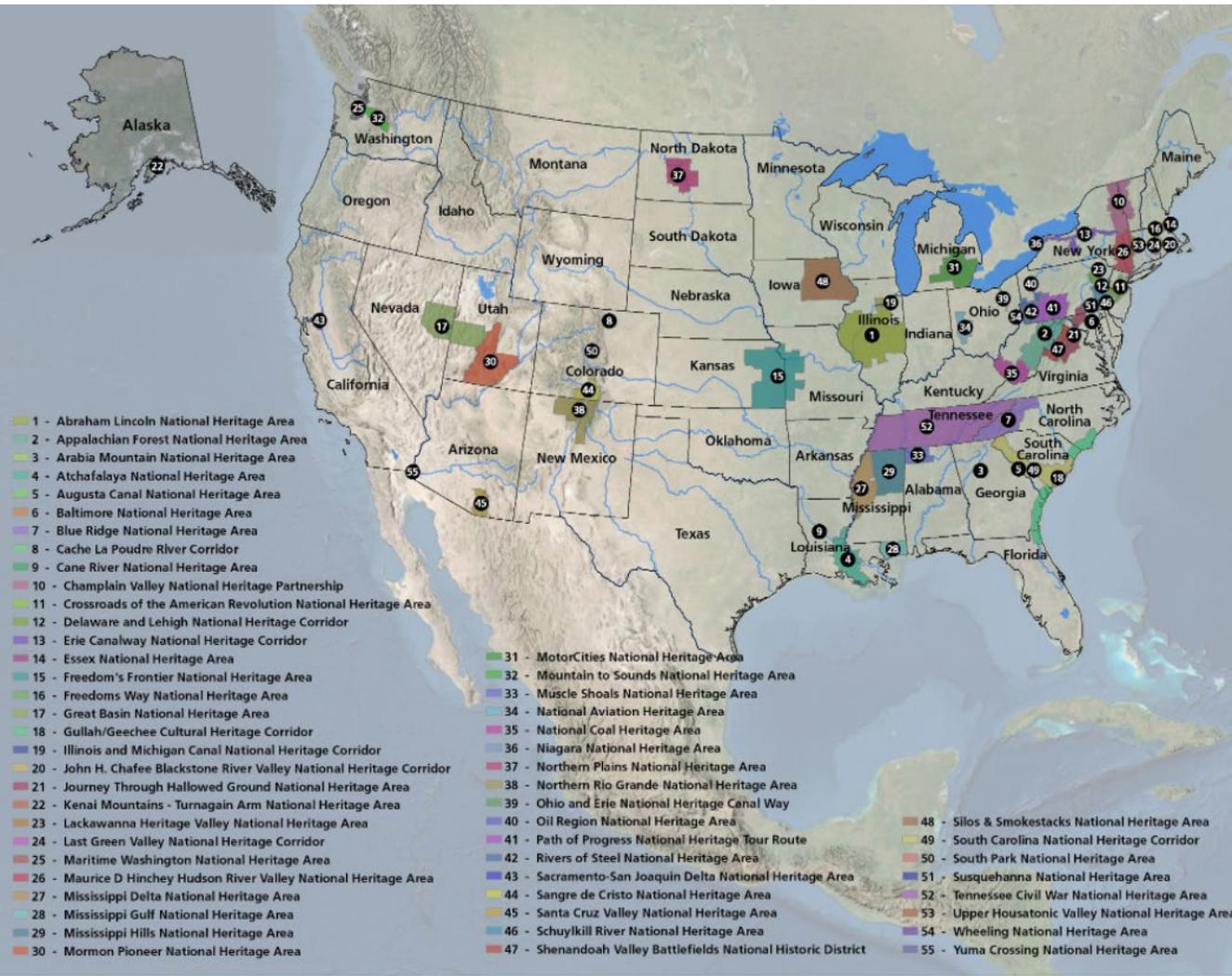


Overview

- What is a National Heritage Area?
- What is a Feasibility Study?
- Purpose of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study
- Criteria overview
- Helpful resources for feasibility studies and the NHA program
- How to comment
- Q&A discussion



What is a National Heritage Area (NHA)?



- A National Heritage Area is a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape.
- While they are not a unit of the National Park System, NHAs further the mission of the NPS by fostering community stewardship of our nation's heritage.

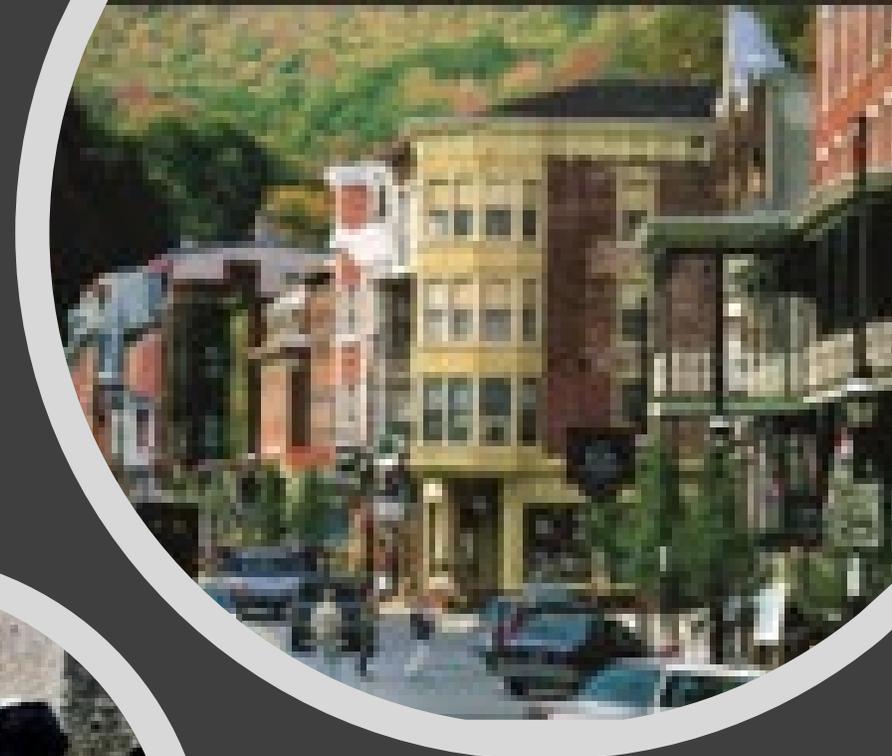


What is an NHA:

- Nationally distinctive landscape
- A lived-in landscape presentative of the national experience
- Planned around a region's shared heritage and place-based resources
- Designated by Congress
- A community-driven, partnership-based conservation model
- Managed by a local entity
- Multi-disciplinary approach – Engaged in preservation, conservation, recreation, education, and economic development
- Receives funding through and technical assistance from the NPS

NHAs are Involved in:

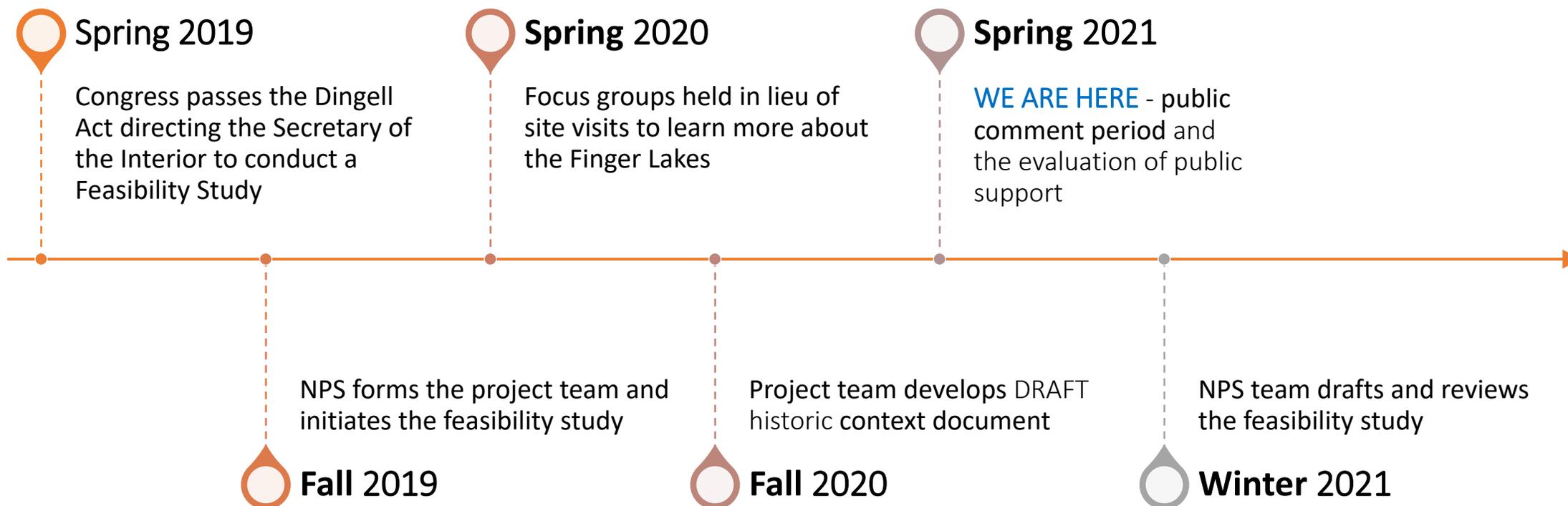
- **Conservation/Natural Resource Protection:** Land restored and maintained via invasive species removal, replanting and toxic site clean-up
- **Historic Preservation:** Cultural landscapes preserved and maintained; Oral histories recorded; Historic properties saved; Historic preservation grants awarded
- **Recreation:** Trails developed and maintained; Events organized
- **Education:** Grants for education programs awarded, online interpretive materials developed and posted
- **Community Development:** Streetscape improvements and art projects fostered
- **Economic Development:** Economic impact from heritage tours and development of tourism infrastructure; Outdoor recreation-based support through trail partnerships



Feasibility Study

- The purpose of a feasibility study is to determine if there is a unique nationally important story being told in a particular study area.
- The study also evaluates if there is public support for a National Heritage Area designation and if an organization is poised to manage it if created.

Feasibility Study Timeline



Criteria Overview

- There are 10 criteria evaluated during the feasibility study process. In short, these criteria seek to answer the following questions.



Does the landscape have an assemblage of historic, cultural, and natural resources that, when linked together, tell a nationally important story?



Do outstanding opportunities exist for improving the quality of the resource assemblage through conservation, recreation, and education?



Are there ongoing traditions, customs, and lifeways associated with a nationally important story?



Does an organization exist that has the financial and organizational capacity to coordinate heritage area activities?



Is there public support for NHA designation and the proposed coordinating entity, and are potential partners interested in working with the proposed coordinating entity on heritage area activities?

NHA Resources and Public Involvement

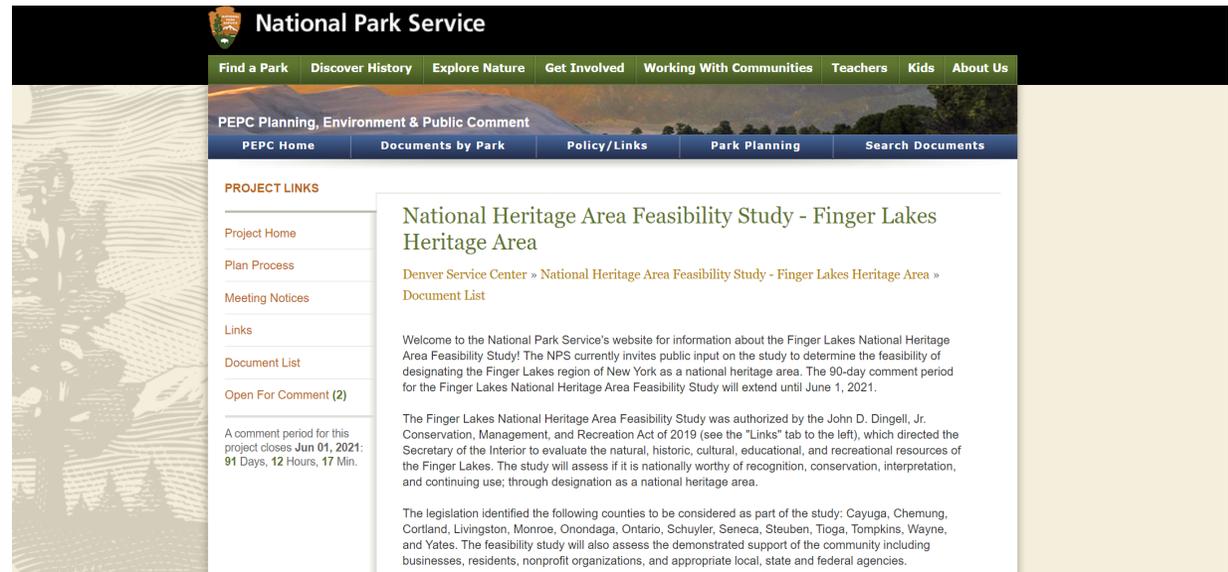
- The National Park Service has various resources published on the agency's website at the following link:
 - <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/index.htm>
- The link above contains resources on:
 - The NHA program
 - Feasibility studies and the associated criteria
 - How the NPS provides technical assistance to NHA management entities

Public Involvement

The public comment period runs through **June 1st, 2021**.

Multiple options for providing feedback and public comment:

- Story Map: <https://arcg.is/0eCKrj>
- Historic Context Document: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/Finger_Lakes_Context
- NPS Park Planning Website: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/FingerLakes>
- Charles_Lawson@nps.gov





Thank you!