

National Heritage Area Success Stories: A Quick Visit to Erie Canalway, Rivers of Steel, and Yuma Crossing NHAs



Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

- Created in 2000 and includes:
 - 2.7 million people
 - 234 municipalities
 - 23 counties
 - 8 regional planning boards
 - 6 NY state tourism regions
- 524 miles of navigable waterways
 - 27 member federal Commission with



The Community asked ...”What if.....?”

- Festivals and events celebrating the canals attracted big audiences and publicity?
- People understood “the Erie Canalway” in the same way they understand “New England” or “the South of France?”
- Friends debated whether the region’s summer or winter recreation opportunities are better?
- Travelers realized when they had arrived in the Erie Canalway—from any direction—by the colors and designs used on the signs?
- Entrepreneurs found that by serving both visitor and resident markets, the region could absorb additional small businesses?
- Museums and historical sites in the region became nationally known for the quality of their interpretation?
- Canal-side real estate attracted new private sector investment that complemented the historic setting?
- The region became renowned for its sensitive historic renovations inter-woven with pristine natural settings?
- Systems were in place to help organizations share information and coordinate their activities?

Erie Canalway activities

- Erie Canalway Trail when completed will be nation's longest multiple-use trail
- Canal-related festivals and events annually
- Canal Clean Sweep Weekend
- Canalway Trail Celebration
- Underground Railroad Sites connected through interpretation efforts
- Partnership with AMTRAK on the Maple Leaf Train or Adirondack Train Program
- 34 NHLs; over 800 NR listings
- 4 NPS units; 1 NF; 2 NWR; 4>NNLs; 1 National Scenic Trail



Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area



- Created in 1996
- 8 counties, including Pittsburgh
 - in Southwest PA:
Monongahela, Allegheny and
Ohio river valleys
- Steel making capital of the
world for over a century
 - Steel Industry Heritage
Commission—coordinating entity

Rivers of Steel activities

- Restoring, protecting and enhancing the land and water resources of the region
 - Building trails along riverfronts and old railroad corridors
- Constructing river landings to capitalize on wealth of natural resources
- Babushkas and Hard Hat Tours; Crayola & Martin Guitar Factory Tours
- Carrie Furnace—operated from 1907-1978—designated an NHL in 2006
 - Celebrate cultural heritage with special events



Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area

- Created in 2000 in Arizona/Mexico border; coordinating entity created 2 years later
- Completed management plan in 2002; 250k visitors annually
 - Conserve, enhance and interpret the natural/cultural resources through collaboration and partnerships
 - Despite low levels of NPS funding, NHA thrived
 - Critical Quechan Indian tribal partnership
- Long-term commitment of city of Yuma critical to success



Yuma Crossing activities



- River clean-ups
- Heritage Festivals
- Murder mystery & dinner trains