

Creating a Calumet National Heritage Area
 Video Transcript
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VISUAL	AUDIO
<p>Slide: Creating a Calumet National Heritage Area</p>	<p>Hi, my name is Mark Bouman. I am the President of the Calumet Heritage Partnership and the Chicago Region Program Director at The Field Museum. The Calumet Heritage Partnership is leading an effort to create a Calumet National Heritage Area. And in the next few minutes I am going to walk you through the process of what is a heritage area, how it would be significant for this region, and where the process is right now.</p>
<p>Calumet map with images</p>	<p>Where is the Calumet region? Well, it's at the Southern end of Lake Michigan where from Pullman in the west, which is now a National Monument, and the Indiana Dunes in the east, which is now a National Lakeshore, you have these two national parks that frame a landscape of high biodiversity, terrific economic power, and huge cultural diversity.</p> <p>In between these national parks, and overlapping them, could be the Calumet National Heritage Area. This includes some of the most significant places of ridge and swale topography, as it's called by geologists, in the nation. And places where there is very high biodiversity, and right next to this is the beating heart of the American Steel industry and the largest refinery in the Midwest, and a huge collection of churches and neighborhood centers, and of course the people, in the landscape of Calumet.</p>
<p>Slide: What is a National Heritage Area?</p>	<p>So what is a National Heritage Area? These are nationally significant places and, based on what I just said, the Calumet region might meet the criteria of national significance. Designated by Congress for natural, cultural, and historic resources that combine to form this story. They are local, grass-roots, community-driven approaches to heritage conservation, community revitalization, and economic development. In short, they are lived-in landscapes. National parks are places that are a little bit set-apart from the lived-in</p>

	<p>landscape.</p> <p>The first National Heritage Area in the country was created in the Chicago region in 1984, it's the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. There are now 49 National Heritage Areas in the United States, and some that might be of special interest to the people this region include those of Pittsburgh and Cleveland that really show how the national heritage area concept can meet well and work well with a large, industrial landscape.</p>
<p>Slide: What would a National Heritage Area do?</p>	<p>What would a National Heritage Area do? Better yet, think about what a national heritage area would look like. Imagine the region's great places, its landmarks, its monuments, its sights of significance. Imagine these places identified, preserved, mapped, interpreted for visitors and for local residents. Imagine the region's great open spaces and conservation areas now seen as a coherent landscape of nationally significant environmental restoration, and also a coherent landscape of nationally significant urban recreation. Imagine a landscape where these great sights and areas are connected to each other through a network of trails that take you across one of the nation's most compelling urban landscapes. So these places on the ground are a part of a coherent story. And imagine a region where the coherent story is reflected through signage that helps you to find your way around, to know where you are, and to know the significance of what you're seeing.</p>
<p>Images with text</p>	<p>Because of this coherence and the coordination represented by a bi-state national heritage area, there is now a political process in place where stakeholders on either side of the state line, respecting each other's differences and particular landscapes, are also committed to and engaged in a process of working out their differences and working towards a common vision for this landscape.</p> <p>One of the reasons it draws them together is that in this imagined national heritage area it can build on the knowledge that every federal dollar invested in national heritage area leverages five and a half program dollars from other sources, not to mention the induced investments from the tourists who come to visit the region. And finally, imagine this national</p>

	<p>heritage area as a place that is well known to locals and outsiders. It's a place, this Calumet Region, bigger than metropolitan Indianapolis, where people are gathered together in one of the nation's most important landscapes.</p>
<p>Slide: Who will direct this National Heritage Area?</p>	<p>Who would direct this National Heritage Area? How would it be managed? How would it be coordinated? All these questions go into something called a feasibility study that is being prepared right now. Feasibility study process is being led by the Calumet Heritage Partnership which has been here now for 16 years. This is a bi-state, non-profit organization. The Field Museum is a key partner in the Calumet Heritage Partnership and is co-leading the feasibility study. There are very strong emergent efforts happening in Illinois and in Indiana as well. The Millennium Reserve project in Illinois, the Marquette Planning process in Indiana, One Region in Indiana. These are all examples of multi-stakeholder efforts that are taking place in this landscape. How those things come together and across the state line is a matter of much discussion.</p>
<p>Slide: How can you find out more?</p>	<p>How can you find out more and how will it effect you? The best place to find out more about the process is at calumetheritage.org. This is the place of record for information about the Calumet Heritage Area. There is also a Facebook page and other resources are listed, including a longer version of this presentation. Thanks very much for listening.</p>