

## Partners

Alabama Art Castings  
 Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
 Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
 Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
 Alabama Department of Transportation  
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 Alabama River Diversity Network  
 Alabama Rural Initiative  
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 Alliance of National Heritage Areas  
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 National Park Conservation Association  
 National Parks Conservation Association  
 National Park Service  
 Old Town Improvements Association, Inc.  
 RC&D Councils  
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 Senator Richard Shelby  
 Senator Tommy Tuberville  
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 Selma-Dallas County Tourism & Convention Bureau  
 Story Tree  
 Sumter County Extension  
 The Center for the Study of the Black Belt  
 The Conservation Fund  
 The Elmore Bolling Initiative  
 Town of Faunsdale  
 Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 U.S. Forest Service  
 University of Alabama's Moundville Archaeological Park  
 University of West Alabama  
 USDA Forest Services  
 Voting Rights Museum  
 Walker Area Community Foundation

## Our Story

The Alabama Black Belt, along with its rivers, is a hub of cultural and biological diversity in North America. Its fertile soil and diverse landscapes have influenced American culture, history, and politics significantly. To grasp the American experience, one must comprehend the Black Belt's significance and how human experiences have been intertwined with its natural diversity for thousands of years.

## What is a management plan?

- The National Heritage Area Management Plan aims to manage, preserve, protect, and interpret cultural, historic, natural, and recreational resources of the area.
- The plan involves a consultant contracting and approval process, public outreach activities, stakeholder and tribal engagement, and draft document review and revision.
- These processes require adequate time for discussion, consensus building, and approval by all relevant parties.
- The cost of the plan can range from \$150,000 to \$250,000, depending on the size and complexity of the NHA.
- Plans must be submitted for approval within 3 years of designation.
- Typically, the plan covers a period of 10 to 15 years.

# Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area

## Where the culture is as rich as the land

### Defining NHAs

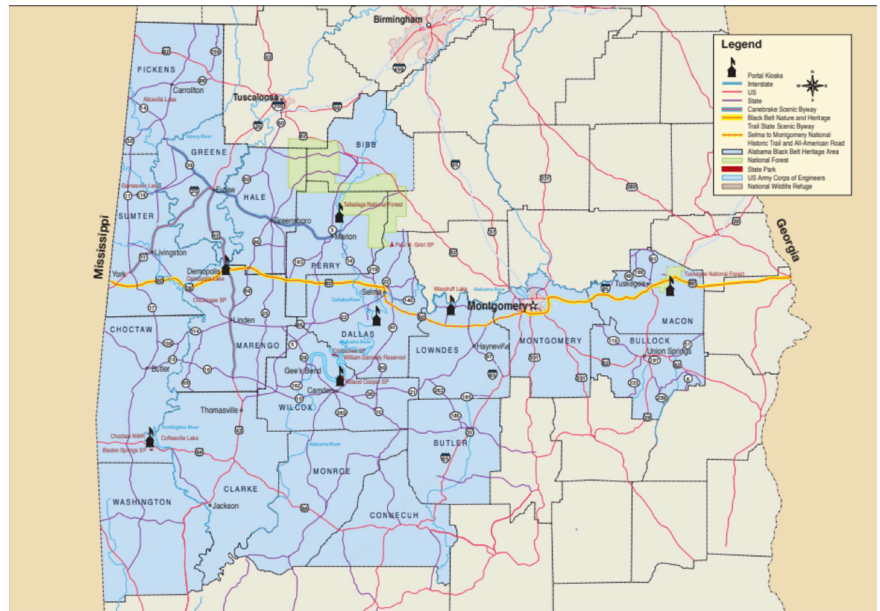
- A place designated by Congress, where natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive and distinct area
- Represents key pieces of our national history and identity, and tells important stories about our nation
- Currently, there are 62 National Heritage Areas in the United States

### Bill S.1942

- The bill reauthorized 45 of the 55 National Heritage Areas for the next 15 years, and designated 7 new national heritage areas, including the ABBNHA. In addition, the bill created a National Heritage Area system that will allow, the Department of the Interior to provide technical and financial assistance to local coordinating entities to support the establishment, development, and continuity of such areas.

### How to get involved

- National Heritage Areas are a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. The community can get involved by attending public hearings, workshops, and committee meetings.



### The road to designation

- ABBNHA's vision is to empower the people and communities of Alabama's Black Belt region to build a positive future by collaborating to preserve, enhance, and promote what makes the area unique.
- The Alabama Black Belt Heritage Task Force was established in 2006 and believed that self-identification by citizens was important in justifying the region's boundaries.
- The 19-county boundary for the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area (ABBNHA) was established through meetings organized by the Black Belt Action Commission with leadership and community members in each county.
- These meetings allowed people to determine if their county identified through natural, cultural and/or historical resources with the the Alabama Black Belt.
- Alabamians' self-identification with the Black Belt and their buy-in is critical since the National Heritage Area boundary identified in the legislation can only be adjusted through the legislative process.