

Maritime WA National Heritage Area



Background

In 2010, the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) completed a feasibility study to designate Washington's saltwater coastline as the Maritime WA National Heritage Area (NHA). That same year, the National Park Service approved the study, clearing the way for designation. Nine years later, in March 2019, the Maritime WA NHA was officially established by Congress, with designation coming as part of the 2019 John Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. The legislation named the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation as the local coordinating entity for the Maritime WA NHA.

Geographic Boundary

- Washington's saltwater coastline, including Seattle's ship canal and Lake Union, excluding Pacific County;
- The boundary extends a ¼ mile upland from the mean high tide line;
- Only lands that are publicly accessible are considered within the NHA;
- Locations outside of the default boundaries that are interested in being included can be considered by request on a case-by-case basis.

Objectives

- Share WA's nationally significant maritime heritage;
- Enhance heritage tourism;
- Benefit community heritage groups and organizations;
- Celebrate working waterfronts;
- Support healthy marine waters

Identified Themes

- Canoe Cultures;
- Voyages of Discovery;
- Trade and Commerce;
- Water Highways;
- Protecting Our Shores/Building the Fleet;
- Harvest from the Sea;
- Communities Shaped by Water
- Navigation and Lifesaving
- For the Love of the Water – Recreational Boating

Management Plan Process

A management plan outlining strategies and recommendations for the Maritime WA NHA must be developed by March 2022. The Governor's proposed 2020 Supplemental Budget includes one-time funding of \$150,000 in DAHP's budget to support development of the management plan – an amount that will be matched with federal funds. Once the management plan is approved, additional federal dollars anticipated for the program can be passed through to ports, local jurisdictions and maritime heritage organizations within the NHA.

The Washington Trust strongly supports this proposal.

Contact

Chris Moore, Executive Director
Washington Trust for Historic
Preservation
(206) 624-9449
cmoore@preservewa.org
www.preservewa.org