



Why a National Heritage Area?

To preserve and celebrate our cultural, historical and natural resource heritage.

Cultural Resort

The upper Housatonic Valley is noted for a long-standing literary tradition, the work of prominent artists and architects, and world-class music, dance, and theater.

Shaping a Scenic Landscape

A phenomenon occurred in the Upper Housatonic Valley of identifying natural resources at risk, the unrealized potential of the landscape, and the planning for restoration and implementation of restoration and beautification on a large scale.

Cradle of Industry

Two of America's earliest industries had a conspicuous presence in the upper Housatonic Valley. Wide availability of superior iron ore and the rich resources of the hills and riverways spawned vigorous growth in the iron- and paper-making industries.

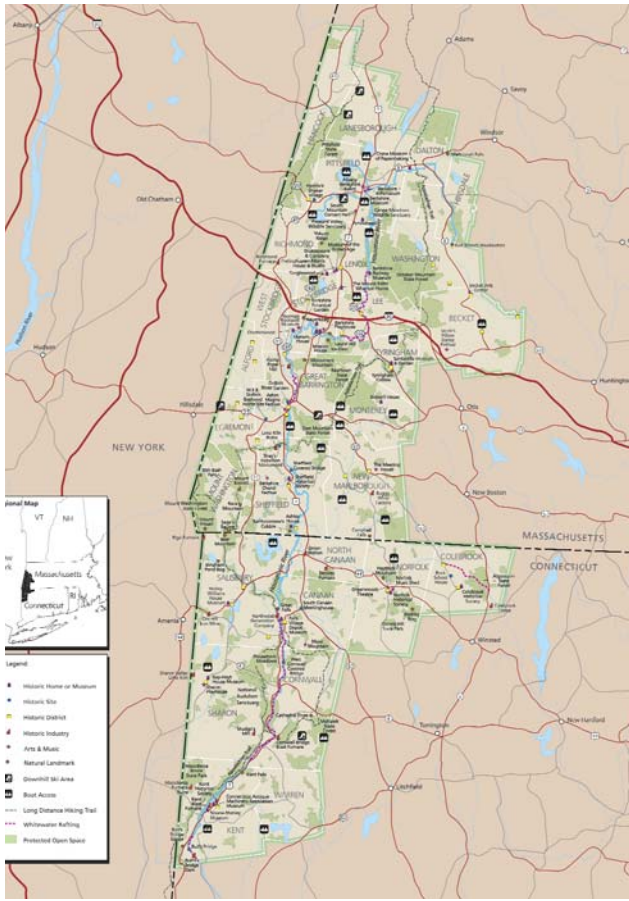
Revolutionary War Era and Development of Democracy

The upper Housatonic Valley was the site of several important events during the American Revolution. Among these - The Sheffield Declaration, an early petition of grievances against British rule, was drafted at Colonel John Ashley's House (maintained by the Trustees of Reservations) in 1773. Other important events included Shays' Rebellion, and early civil rights movements.

Other Heritage Themes: Mohican Indians, Shakers, Historic Towns

At the time of European colonization, the Mohican Indians were lightly settled in the upper Housatonic. Throughout recent times, the Upper Housatonic Valley has proven to be a fertile destination for people of many backgrounds,





Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area

The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area includes nine towns in Connecticut and twenty in Massachusetts.

Connecticut

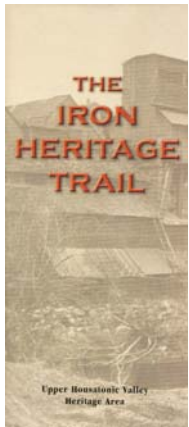
Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, and Warren.

Massachusetts

Alford, Becket, Dalton, Egremont, Great Barrington, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesboro, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlboro, Pittsfield, Richmond, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, and West Stockbridge.

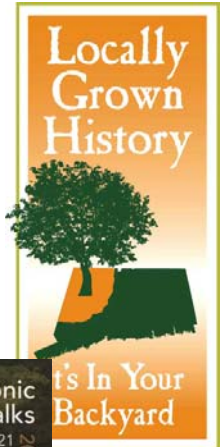
What is Housatonic Heritage doing?

You may recognize some of the ongoing heritage programs...



- o Heritage Walks Weekend (2002-2009), offering over 50 guided walks over two weekends;
- o African American Heritage Trail, included a full-length book, brochures, and special events;
- o Upper Housatonic Valley Experience, a educational course for local middle school and high school teachers in a curriculum on the region's history;
- o The 1734 - 1923 Iron Heritage Trail.
- o The Performing Arts Heritage Trail.
- o Locally Grown History

o Trails & Greenways Network



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