

Landmark Legislation Signed to Impact Eastern PA National Heritage Areas and More

By Claire W. Sadler

Eastern PA. Last week, January 5, 2023, President Biden officially signed the National Heritage Area Act (S. 1942) into law. On December 22, 2022, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the legislation by a bi-partisan vote of 326-95, after the Senate passed the legislation without opposition two days earlier. It was one of the last bills passed in the 117th Congress. Passage of this act will have long-lasting impact on local National Heritage Areas (NHAs) including the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area, and Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area.

The National Heritage Area Act creates standard criteria for the funding, management, and designation of National Heritage Areas (NHAs) across the country and provides them with an annual authorization of funding for the next 15 years. S. 1942 also solves a challenge that as many as 45 existing NHAs would have experienced in the next two years, when their authorizations were set to sunset. Reauthorization requires Congressional approval, typically done through individual bills, but has been combined into an efficient package for this bill. S. 1942 also authorizes seven new NHAs.

"We now have the stability necessary to focus our energy where it's needed most and increase our meaningful, positive impact on the communities that call our National Heritage Area home. We want ev□

The DLNHC, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization headquartered in Easton, Pennsylvania that preserves the nationally significant historic transportation route that carried coal and iron from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol, represents one of many NHAs to receive reauthorization and funding from the passing of S. 1942. Covering the five eastern Pennsylvanian counties of Luzerne, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Bucks, and with signature programs like the D&L Trail and the National Canal Museum, DLNHC works to connect people to nature, culture, communities, recreation, economic development, and the region's enduring industrial heritage.

The National Heritage Area Act was championed by Representatives Paul Tonko (D-NY) and David McKinley (R-WV) in the House and Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) in the Senate. The bipartisan bills are co-sponsored by 16 Senators and 138 House members (through the House companion bill, H.R. 1316).

NHAs are administered by a local coordinating entity and receive matching funds through the National Park Service but are not National Park units. In addition to Congressionally authorized matching funds, NPS provides technical assistance and a strong partnership. NHAs match every federal dollar with an average of \$5.50 in state, local, and private contributions, and a 2012 study determined that NHAs are responsible for a nearly \$13 billion economic impact in the communities they serve. In a 2017 economic impact study, it was estimated that the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor generated \$474.7 million in economic impact, supported 5,665 jobs, and generated \$32.3 million in tax revenue for the five counties it represents.

To learn more about the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Inc., please visit: delawareandlehigh.org. You can also find examples of the organization's work and projects on social media under @DelawareandLehigh on Facebook and @DLNHC on Twitter and Instagram.

To learn more about NHAs, their value, and their work, please visit <https://www.nationalheritageareas.us>. You can also view a short video created by ANHA that explains why the National Heritage Area Act is needed for the future of NHAs.



Bangor Area School District 2023-2024 Kindergarten Registration

**Do you know a child who will be 5 on or before August 28, 2023?
If so, register for kindergarten and follow these three steps:**

- 1**
Gather Your Documents
 1. Parent/Guardian Photo Identification
 2. Proof of child's birth date
 3. Two Proofs of Residency
 - One proof from List A:**
 - Mortgage agreement
 - Lease agreement
 - Rent payment receipts (with address)
 - Property tax payment receipts
 - Moving permit
 - One proof from List B:**
 - Utility bill with current address (dated within the last 3 months)
 - Paycheck stub with employer and employee's address
 - Current voter registration with Bangor residency address
 - PA Driver's license with Bangor residency address
 - PA vehicle registration with Bangor residency address
 4. Immunization Record
 5. Physical Exam Record
 6. Dental Exam Record

- 2**
Register
 - Visit www.bangorslaters.com
 - OR
 - [Register Online Here](#)
 - If you do not have access to a computer or cell phone, please call District registration at 610-588-2163 to schedule a time to complete it at the District office.
 - To complete registration all documents must be:
 - Uploaded online
 - OR
 - Submitted to the registration secretary.
 - Once online registration is complete and approved by the registration secretary, Five Points Elementary School will contact you to schedule a kindergarten screening appointment.

- 3**
Attend Screening Appointment

Kindergarten screening appointments for the 2023-2024 school year are in June.

All screenings are by appointment only, and are only scheduled when the online registration process is complete and approved by the registration secretary. Completed packets must be received and approved no later than May 19, 2023 to guarantee a June screening appointment.

When attending the appointment be sure to bring...

 - Your child(ren).
 - Photo identification to verify parent/guardian identity.
 - Any other updated documents.



Bangor Area School District Kindergarten Registration Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 2, 2023

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION WELCOME CLASS OF 2036!

The Bangor Area School District (BASD) is excited to welcome the Class of 2036! The kindergarten team at Five Points Elementary School is looking forward to working with our new kindergarten class for the 2023-2024 School Year. A child is eligible for kindergarten if he/she

- is at least the age of five (5) years by August 28, 2023.
- resides within the boundaries of BASD.
- successfully completes the district's kindergarten screening process.

Kindergarten registration is online. Online kindergarten registration is available for parents and/or guardians through the district website (www.bangorslaters.com). Once packets are received and confirmed complete, BASD will contact parents/guardians to schedule a kindergarten screening appointment in June of 2023. Completed packets must be received no later than May 19, 2023, to guarantee a screening appointment in June. A completed registration includes:

- Parent/Guardian Photo Identification
- Proof of child's birth date (must be at least five (5) years by August 28, 2023)
- Two (2) proofs of residency
- Immunizations
- Physical Exam Record
- Dental Exam Record

To schedule a screening appointment, the completed online registration and mandatory documents must be submitted and approved by the registration secretary. Kindergarten screenings for the 2023-2024 School Year will occur in June of 2023. All screenings are by appointment only. An adult must accompany the child for their screening appointment. Our kindergarten staff is eager to meet and work with your child!

For more information, please contact:
Dr. Joseph Kondisko, Director of Student Services
Bangor Area School District
123 Five Points Richmond Road
Bangor, PA 18013
610-588-2163