



**MARITIME
WASHINGTON**
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Anacortes Launch Event

We're here to help you preserve, interpret, and celebrate Washington's maritime heritage.

We'll do that by:

- **Advocating** for maritime resources and cultural practices.
- **Connecting** residents and visitors with maritime stories and places.
- **Supporting** those who steward and share water-based heritage.

National Heritage Areas

- Designated by Congress
- Landscapes of national importance
- Each focuses on different stories
- Financial and technical support from National Park Service but not traditional park units
- Non-regulatory!
- Build public-private partnerships to better tell the stories of these places and support communities in maintaining and sharing their unique resources
- Facilitated by a local coordinating entity





Maritime Washington National Heritage Area

- Designated by Congress in 2019
- 3,000 miles of coastline from Grays Harbor to the Canadian border
- $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from mean high tide line
- 13 counties, 21 federally recognized Tribes, 32 incorporated cities, and 33 port districts
- First and only NHA in the country focused entirely on maritime heritage
- Facilitated by Washington Trust for Historic Preservation



Planning Efforts

2019-2022: community effort to define goals and programs for Maritime Washington

- **67 total planning team members** across Steering Committee and 5 Working Groups (including Tribal WG)
- 398 attendees at 17 public workshops, focus groups, and virtual office hour sessions
- 490+ survey respondents and public comments
- 211 maritime sites submitted
- 180+ individual interviews and meetings
- **40 Anchor Organizations**
- 1,500+ volunteer hours
- **1 Management Plan**

What did we hear from Skagit County?

IMPORTANT STORIES

- Tribal history and culture
- Shipbuilding (historic and present-day)
- Active working waterfronts
- Unique environment
- History of transportation

COMMON THEMES

- Strong **pride of place**, especially around working waterfronts
- Desire to share story with residents and visitors while maintaining authenticity
- Interest in centralizing information
- Call for **more resources and stronger relationships** around maritime heritage



Where we are today

- Designated by Congress in 2019
- Completed 3-year regionwide, collaborative planning process in May 2022
- Management Plan approved in October 2022
- First year of operations as a fully-funded National Heritage Area in 2023



Mission

The Maritime Washington National Heritage Area supports a network that strengthens the maritime community and connects people with the stories, experiences, resources, and cultures of our state's saltwater shores and waterways.

Key Functions

1. Advocacy
2. External messaging
3. Partner support

Advocacy

Promote the protection of maritime resources, practices, and ways of life

- Local, regional, and national policies
- Projects that preserve, interpret, and share historic and cultural sites
- Raise awareness of modern maritime careers and trades





External Messaging

Share diverse stories and increase visibility of Washington's maritime heritage – past and present

Encourage sustainable experiences of maritime heritage for residents and visitors alike

- Centralize and amplify
- Help partners tie together using regional themes
- Collaborate on new projects

External Messaging

Stories and experiences from Year One



Partner support

Provide support and resources

- Grant program
 - Fall 2023: Round 1 – \$90,000 for interpretation
 - Spring 2024: Round 2 – \$150,000 for broader range of activities
 - Annual funding rounds in the spring moving forward
- Help connect with additional funding and technical resources





Partner support

Maritime Washington Partner Network

- 45+ cross-sector partners working together to connect, strengthen, and increase appreciation for Washington's maritime heritage
- Any organization (private or public, for-profit or nonprofit), local government entity, or Tribe whose work is aligned with Maritime Washington mission is eligible

What resources are available to partners?

- **Networking** support, including partner Google Group, meetings, roundtable discussions
- **Education and learning** opportunities, such as best practice workshops and learning circles
- **Partners-only newsletter** with curated trainings, educational resources, and funding opportunities
- **Increased visibility** and promotion to new audiences via Maritime Washington website, Maritime Mapper, social media, and other channels
- **Recognition** and use of “Partner of” logo
- **Messaging toolkits**
- Washington Trust for Historic Preservation membership

Maritime Washington Partner Network

Benefits for Partners

- **Networking** support, including partner Google Group, meetings, roundtable discussions
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Maritime Washington Partner Network

Expectations of Partners

- Short **application** explaining how work is mission aligned
- Maintain good **participation** through meetings, workshops, learning circles, sharing best practices, messaging
- Complete annual partner **survey**
- Help **ID projects/activities** aligned with Maritime Washington goals
- **Annual fee** tiered by org type and size



Looking forward

- Second round of grants opening next month
- Networking events, workshops, and learning circle for partners
- Heritage + environmental organizations beach clean up
- Traveling exhibit on Croatian boatbuilding with Maritima Educare and Foss Waterway Seaport
- “Filipinos on the Waterfront” exhibit with the Filipino American National Historical Society
- Photo contest!
- Collaboration with Washington State Ferries to bring historic interpretation to our ferry system
- Advocating for maritime heritage in Washington State’s America250 celebrations

Learn more at
maritimewa.org



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Shaped by Sea & Story