Essex Heritage connects people to culturally significant places within the Essex National Heritage Area. This helps forge deeper relationships between communities, institutions, and environments, leading to improvements in the quality of life today & for generations to come.

The following information is a summary from Essex Heritage’s Annual Program Report submitted to the National Park Service’s National Heritage Areas Program office in January 2023. This report covers Essex Heritage’s fiscal year 2022 from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

**REPORT ON 2022 PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES**

**SMART LEVERAGING**

The National Park Service’s Heritage Partnership Program (HPP) requires at least a 1:1 non-federal match. Essex Heritage leveraged over 5:1 match this fiscal year.
Essex Heritage: Connecting people and places in the Essex National Heritage Area

**Maintaining Momentum**

**Trails & Sails:** The 21st year offered over 200 free experiences by 102 partner organizations to more than 6,900 participants over the course of the 10-day event series.

**Volunteers:** 11,899 hours were worked by volunteers throughout the heritage area, including 50 renovation projects completed at Bakers Island Light Station.

**Heritage Programs:** Provided 9,644 people with unique community programs including walking tours, expert talks, and boat tours to Bakers Island Light Station and Misery Island.

**Trail Development:** Worked with 14 communities to maintain the Border to Boston Trail and helped create almost 4 miles of additional off-road trails.

**Increasing Impact**

**Park for Every Classroom:** Worked with teachers from 8 school districts to inspire place-based civic engagement projects for 460 students, in collaboration with 13 of our heritage area partners.

**Partner Grants:** Awarded 7 matching grants to assist in heritage initiatives, 3 youth jobs grants to partner organizations, and 10 grants to local visitor centers to support their continued operations.

**Future Leaders:** Employed 57 youth at 3 cultural partner sites and 2 National Parks to provide job training and much needed organizational assistance.

**Teaching Hidden Histories:** Continued to explore untold stories of Black, Latino, and Indigenous communities of the heritage area by partnering with local scholars to provide 5 workshops and accompanying resource websites.

These are just some of Essex Heritage's programs & initiatives. To learn more about Essex Heritage, visit www.EssexHeritage.org