

Canal Alliance Pledge for 2011-2012

As a member of the Alliance in the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor (IMCNHC), the undersigned dedicates himself/herself to join other Alliance members in supporting the Corridor's vision, mission, guiding principles, and goals. To uphold the integrity and purpose of the management plan, the undersigned pledges to work on behalf of the common good of the heritage corridor and make decisions that validate the intended vision, mission, guiding principles, and goals of IMCNHC.

Vision 2021

The Illinois & Michigan Canal connected the Illinois River to Lake Michigan, bringing people and commerce to northeastern Illinois. The canal and the towns that grew up along it share a legacy. Through interpretation, preservation and providing educational and recreational experiences, we see the Heritage Corridor creating economic development, recreation and education opportunities for residents and visitors, making the Corridor more prosperous and a place where people enjoy the benefits created by the canal and take pride in the region's history.

Mission Statement

The mission of the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor is to: protect and preserve the natural, historical and cultural resources of the Corridor; advance and stimulate economic development and activity within the Corridor; create and enhance opportunities for recreation in the Corridor; and interpret and cultivate the history of the Corridor and its significance in the settlement and growth of the region and nation.

Guiding Principles

Stewardship:

We hold our history in high regard and will use it to inform our stewardship decisions.

We will respect the environment and property, public and private.

We will respect each community's needs and goals in a way that is consistent with the concept that the Corridor is a region consisting of many communities and places which are geographically, historically and culturally connected by the canal.

We will consider sustainability as an important criterion in making plans, selecting projects and allocating resources.

We will communicate to our partners and the public in multiple ways to reach as many as possible, using technology to bring the Corridor to the world.

We will include all groups, including future generations, in our plans, goals and actions.

History:

We will appreciate the area's history both before and after the canal was created.

We will provide education about the canal and the Corridor.

We will respect our history and culture through honest and authentic portrayals of places, people and events.

We will use multiple forums and media to spread the word about the Corridor's history to as wide an audience as possible.

Economic Development:

We will encourage and foster economic development opportunities in the Corridor.

We will provide places where people can bring their families and friends for recreation and fun.

Goals

STORIES Goal: The rich and complex stories of the history and continuing importance of the I&M Canal Corridor will be told through increasingly accurate, compelling and interesting ways to larger audiences.

SPECIAL PLACES Goal: The Corridor's distinctive sense of place and natural, cultural and historic resources will be recognized, embraced and protected.

RECREATION Goal: The recreational amenities of the Corridor will be enhanced and expanded to facilitate their enjoyment by more people.

CONSERVATION Goal: The stewardship of the corridor's natural resources will be improved. Both the number of stewards and the commitment level and involvement of stewards will be increased.

ECONOMIC IMPACT Goal: The Corridor's economic growth will be built through an increase in heritage tourism and heritage development. Historical and cultural based venues in the Corridor will be enhanced through increased interpretation, use of new technologies, and increases in visitor services and marketing.

The Canal Corridor Association pledges to:

- Keep the Alliance members updated on the implementation of the management plan, events, training workshops, and other opportunities available to members of the Alliance.
- Maintain the IMCNHC website and blog
- Send member a copy of the IMCNHC annual report
- Staff meetings and sponsor events which will bring Alliance members together

I pledge to contribute to the efforts in the following ways: (Check all that apply)

- Contribute \$ _____
- Contribute in-kind goods and services
- I pledge _____ volunteer hours within 2011-2012 and will record my involvement in the IMCNHC on a quarterly basis

I am interested in the following geographic areas of the IMCNHC. (Check all that apply)

- All
- Chicago
- Cook County
- DuPage County
- Grundy County
- LaSalle County
- Will County

Interest Areas (Check all that apply)

- Conservation
- Education
- Heritage Development/Historic Preservation
- Interpretation
- Recreation
- Tourism

I am interested in joining the following Alliance groups

- Special Places Partners/Advocates
- Recreation Partners/Advocates
- Conservation Advocates
- Storytelling Partners
- Education Partners
- Tourism Partners

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Email Address

Address: _____

Street

City

State

Zip

Please return via:

Mail: Canal Corridor Association
754 First Street
LaSalle, Illinois
61301

Email: plan@canalcor.org

Fax: 815-223-6129