

Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor
August 4, 2010, 7 PM, Lemont Village Hall, Lemont, IL
August 5, 2010, 7 PM, Ottawa City Hall, Ottawa, IL
Public Workshops

INFORMATION FOR THE FIVE STATIONS AT THE MEETING

STATION 1: If you were the leader of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor with \$100,000 to spend, how would you divide the money between the different activities of the heritage corridor? (Write your answer below and enter it on the summary sheet posted in the room. Make sure you total \$100,000.)

Conservation	_____
Education and Interpretation	_____
Heritage Development	_____
Recreation	_____
Tourism & Marketing	_____

STATION 2: In your opinion, are the following proposed core activities of the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor: very important (green dot), somewhat important (yellow dot), not very important (blue dot), or definitely not important (red dot). (Please show your response on the summary sheet posted in the room. The dots will be provided by the chart.)

Public Involvement

Allow the general public and stakeholders to participate in the decision making process through a multi-level program. This process will facilitate communication throughout the development and implementation of the management plan and disseminate information to the public through print and multi-media to reach the broadest possible audience.

Partner Coordination

Build/promote partner coordination within the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor. Facilitate the networking of partner organizations around several different interest areas including but not limited to education, interpretation, and tourism. Work with IDNR and local governments to facilitate agreements which promote outstanding stewardship of the I&M Canal and other state resources in the Corridor.

Volunteer Program

Develop/maintain a diverse volunteer program for the Corridor with a variety of volunteer opportunities for all partners including but not limited to tour guides, trail stewards, native habitat stewards, and volunteer educators.

Internship Program

Develop/maintain a student based internship program for college students within the Corridor. The program would match partner organizations with college students to complete projects throughout the Corridor.

IMCNHC Website

Develop/maintain an Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor website. The website will supply large amounts of information about the I&M Canal NHC while encouraging tourists to visit the and enjoy the Corridor's many resources.

Marketing Plan/Program

Develop/maintain a marketing plan/program for the I&M Canal NHC to increase the public awareness of the Corridor, its many resources, and special events within the Corridor.

Maintain the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Infrastructure

Develop/maintain the infrastructure of the Heritage Corridor through a diverse range of activities including by not limited to maintaining interpretive and wayfinding signage and promoting historic preservation.

STATION 3: The committees have established 26 goals/projects. In your opinion, when should the following 26 goals/projects be started: as soon as possible (ASAP), 3-5 years (3-5), 6-10 years (6-10), sometime in the future (SF), never do this project (NP). Fill in the blanks below with the appropriate timetable. (Please fill this section on this handout. It will be collected at the end of our public workshop.)

_____ 1. Establish visitor centers for the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor (IMCNHC) in the major cities of the Corridor.

_____ 2. Promote I&M Canal themed festivals throughout the Corridor and establish content standards for festival recreation, entertainment, food, music, educational opportunities, etc.

_____ 3. Encourage/develop books about the IMCNHC to include, but not be limited to, a travel guide, a definitive history of the I&M Canal, and a scrapbook style journal.

_____ 4. Develop a passport book program for the IMCNHC with cancellation stamps located at a variety of locations throughout the Corridor.

_____ 5. Develop audio tours, podcasts, phone apps, and other media for use along the IMCNHC.

_____ 6. Use the IMCNHC website to distribute lessons plans, guides, materials and programs about the I&M Canal generated by educators inside or outside the Corridor.

_____ 7. Reinstate the 530 AM broadcasting service for information about the Corridor.

_____ 8. Locate, organize, and support a bank of resource experts [I&M Canal Educators and Interpreters] across and within the five counties of the Corridor.

_____ 9. Create learning experiences for use by the schools along the Corridor that expand the canal story to include the local communities.

_____ 10. Generate and disseminate I&M Canal materials to special interest groups such as: young children, naturalists, non-US citizens, history buffs, special needs.

- _____11. Develop a guide and/or include on the IMCNHC website as an informational resource of recreational activities within the Corridor.
- _____12. Develop a guide and/or include on the IMCNHC website as an informational resource of tourism activities within the Corridor.
- _____13. Include conservation activities in the Corridor on the IMCNHC website.
- _____14. Create a Corridor bicycling plan, which will build on existing resources and use partnerships to expand bicycling opportunities.
- _____15. Develop a plan to: (a) link disconnected portions of the I&M Canal Trail from LaSalle/Peru to the Chicago Portage site and (b) connect the I&M Canal Trail to other existing/planned regional trails.
- _____16. Improve maintenance of the I&M Canal Trail by developing a program designed to improve trail conditions and locate funding sources for trail maintenance.
- _____17. Design, construct, install and maintain directional signage along the I&M Canal Trail.
- _____18. Inventory camping facilities within the Corridor with the purpose of developing a Corridor concept plan for additional campgrounds and/or improvement/expansion of existing facilities.
- _____19. Institute an annual state "Canal Day" to raise awareness of the Canal Corridor and to discuss its management issues with state officials and agencies. The CCA will use success stories, from the Corridor, to demonstrate IMCNHC's positive effect on the communities within it's boundaries.
- _____20. Support efforts to secure increased and improved rail service to the Heritage Corridor, i.e. additional commuter passenger train service and high-speed rail between Chicago and St. Louis.
- _____21. Map the Corridor using the geographic information system (GIS) technology.
- _____22. Compile a photographic and text inventory of all public and private resources of the IMCNHC.
- _____23. Institute "CANAL-CAT," a program modeled after IDNR's "ECO-CAT." This system would enable people to ask questions or raise issues with IDNR concerning the I&M Canal. This system would provide a direct and timely form of communication with IDNR, and enable IDNR to direct the issue to the proper office or person.
- _____24. Identify, review, and recommend best management practices for all storm water discharge into the IMCNHC.
- _____25. Removal of invasive tree and shrub species along the canal to: improve ground cover, reduce erosion, and enhance the viewscape along the Corridor.

_____26. Develop intergovernmental and land-use agreements, as well as, private property conservation easements to protect and preserve existing open space along the Corridor.

STATION 4: Add a Project: Are there any goals/projects missing from our list? Please include the title, goal, and description of the project and contact info to obtain more information about the proposed project. (Please feel free to enter any project you have in mind on the summary sheet posted in the room. You can also enter it below if you prefer.)

STATION 5: Do you know of any resources, sites, organizations, or other entities that should be included or involved in the heritage area that you don't think we know about. Please include contact information so our committee can follow-up. (Please feel free to enter any information on the summary sheet posted in the room. You can also enter it below if you prefer.)