



I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor *Management Plan* — FOUNDATION



The 96 mile "water highway" connected Lake Michigan to the Illinois River in 1848 and spurred the growth of Chicago and northern Illinois.

For more Information...

Management Plan Website:
www.iandmcanal.org

Management Plan Blog:
iandmcanal.wordpress.com

Canal Corridor Association Website:
www.canalcor.org

How to contribute your ideas and perspective...

Post a Comment on the BLOG

- 1) Visit the blog at:
<http://iandmcanal.wordpress.com/>
- 2) Select a posting, click on the "Leave a Comment" link
- 3) Type your name, e-mail address, and comment in the appropriate boxes. Then click "Submit Comment." Your comment will be posted within twenty-four hours.

Or Comment via e-mail, fax, or mail

E-mail: plan@canalcor.org

Fax: 815-223-6129

Mail: Management Plan
Canal Corridor Association
754 First Street
LaSalle, IL 61301



The I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor (IMCNHC) is a 450-square-mile region whose centerpiece is the Illinois & Michigan Canal. Established by Congress in 1984, the IMCNHC was the first heritage area in the nation and introduced a new kind of national park. The IMCNHC was reconfigured and reauthorized in 2006 with the promise of up to \$10 million from the National Park Service over the next 10 years. The first task defined by the legislation is to create a management plan for the IMCNHC.

Residents of the IMCNHC have the chance to create a plan to preserve and improve the historic area for enjoyment today and for future generations. Together with local, state, and federal governments and the non-profit and private sectors, residents will work to carry out the next steps in creating the future for the Corridor.

In 2009, citizens came together to establish the foundation of the plan. The foundation is outlined below.

Vision Statement

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.

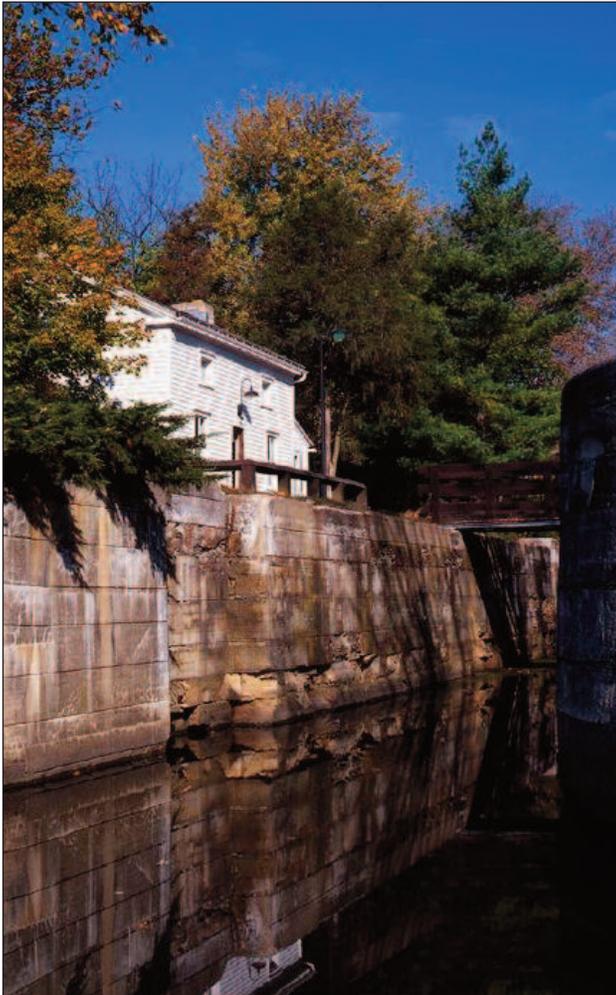


The I&M Canal started in 1836 and continues today—many communities working together, towards one common goal.



Alsip • Bedford Park • Blue Island • Bolingbrook • Bridgeview • Burnham • Burr Ridge • Calumet City • Calumet Park • Carbon Hill • Channahon
Chicago • Coal City • Countryside • Crest Hill • Crestwood • Dolton • Forest View • Hickory Hills • Hodgkins • Indian Head Park • Joliet • Justice
LaSalle • Lemont • Lockport • Lyons • McCook • Marseilles • Minooka • Morris • Naplate • Oglesby • Ottawa • Palos Heights • Palos Hills
Palos Park • Peru • Riverdale • Robins • Rockdale • Romeoville • Seneca • Stickney • Summit • Utica • Willow Springs • Woodridge • Worth

I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor



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 criteria 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.