

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT:

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**PLANNING FORUMS SCHEDULED FOR
THE I & M CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR**

LaSalle, Illinois – The Canal Corridor Association has been named the local coordinating entity for the development of a comprehensive Management Plan for the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor in cooperation with the National Park Service. The Plan is required to take into consideration State and local plans and involve residents, local governments and public agencies and private organizations in the Corridor. Among other things, the Plan is to present recommendations for the Corridor's conservation, funding, management and development and to include actions proposed to be taken by units of government and nongovernmental and private organizations to protect the resources of the Corridor.

To gain a diverse community input, four public forums are scheduled to build a foundation of ideas for the generation of the I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor Management Plan. Since the Corridor extends through 49 communities, four initial input sessions will be held along the length of the Corridor. Topics that will require input include: long-term vision, the mission of the Corridor, concepts of a general management plan, continued public input and feedback and the initial stages of the roadmap for the year-long planning process. The forums are scheduled for the week of November 16 as outlined below.

These idea planning sessions will be open to any person that is interested in participating. We ask that you call to make a reservation so that we can plan the sessions and space to accommodate all participants. Follow-up sessions will be scheduled early in 2010 based on the results of the public input and a review by the civic engagement committee and the Canal Corridor Association's Board of Directors.

Monday, November 16, 2009, 5:30- 7:00 pm
Morris Public Library, 604 Liberty Street, Morris, 815-942-6880

Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 7:00- 8:30 pm
Lemont Village Hall, Board Room, 418 Main Street, Lemont, 630-257-1550

Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 6:30- 8:00 pm
Lock 16 Center, 754 First Street, LaSalle 815-223-1851

Thursday, November 19, 2009, 7:00- 8:30 pm
Four Rivers Environmental Education Center 25055 W. Walnut Lane Channahon, 815-722-9470

Please RSVP by November 12, 2009 for all sessions at 815-223-1851

For more information about The I&M Canal National Heritage Area and its management planning process, e-mail cca@canalcor.org or call 815-223-1851