

CECIL WHIG

SERVING CECIL COUNTY SINCE 1841

Print Page

Design details unveiled for C&D Canal Trail

By Stephanie Lipcius Palko spalko@chespub.com

Posted: Friday, January 18, 2008 3:29 AM EST

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and representatives from Maryland and Delaware hosted open houses in both states this week, giving the public an opportunity to review plans for the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Trail Project.

The first phase of the trail project, created to utilize the miles of waterfront and acres of government land for recreational purposes, is 30 percent designed

Phase I is expected to cost about \$10 million, according to Jeff Dayton, aide to U.S. Rep. Mike Castle (R-Del.)

"This is an untapped gem, a resource that could be better utilized," Dayton said. Castle wants to make certain that current recreational activities continue on the land and that other recreation will be added through the project.

"It is also part of the redevelopment of Delaware City and Chesapeake City," Dayton said.

The bulk of Phase I planning was spent on the north side of the canal. A trailhead would be established in north Chesapeake City in the shadow of the Route 213 bridge. There would be 25 parking spaces, picnic tables, benches and restroom facilities. Under the plan, Bank Street would become one-way westbound. Several trailheads would be established on the north side of the canal in Delaware, giving access to a 16-mile trail that would connect Chesapeake City and Delaware City. These trailheads would have the same amenities as the north Chesapeake City trailhead.

At some sites, composting restrooms will be built. Some sites will offer parking for horse trailers. This phase of the C&D Canal Trail would feature more than 13 miles of horse trails.

The land bordering the canal currently has numerous stone and dirt roads. Some run along the waterway's rip-rap bulkheads while others are further away from the water, running on top of the terraced terrain created by decades of dredging projects needed to create, widen and maintain the federally maintained commercial waterway. The C&D Canal Trail, phase I, would establish an improved path along the waterfront, using surfaces friendly to walking, biking and horseback riding. Park benches, mile markers and interpretive signage would be added.

While only a short trail would be built on the south side of the C&D Canal in Phase I, there would be a trailhead established in south Chesapeake City, under the Route 213 bridge. As on the north side, there would be parking spaces (29), picnic tables, benches and a restroom facility.



Buddy Shepherd and Nicholas Visser of Chesapeake City look over the plans for the new trail along the C&D canal at the information session at Bohemia High School on Wednesday evening. CECIL WHIG PHOTO BY ADELMA GREGORY-BUNNELL

Residents were concerned about the locations of the restrooms in north and south Chesapeake City. Planners tried to keep the restrooms away from homes and attempted to locate them to avoid blocking any waterfront views. The restroom on the north side is now located right beside a bridge pillar and the one on the south side is next to the sewage plant.

Planning on the project will be completed and work should start by 2009, pending funding.

Future phases of the project would see a trail on the south bank of the canal from Chesapeake City to Scott Run and in the Reedy Point area. Plans also call for the waterfront trail to be connected to the promenade in Delaware City and old Fort Du Pont.

TO LEARN MORE

To view the plans and/or submit comments and suggestions, visit <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Projects/CD/index.htm/> or contact Khaalid Walls, Philadelphia District of the Army Corps of Engineers at khaalid.walls@us.army.mil; or write to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, ~~Attn: Khaalid Walls~~, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

[Close Window](#)