

Introduction

The Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor is a linear zone in northern Illinois, one hundred miles long and an average of six miles wide. Designated in 1984, the IMCNHC was the first National Heritage Corridor in the country. The purpose of the IMCNHC was “to retain, enhance, and interpret, for the benefit and inspiration of present and future generations, the cultural, historical, natural, recreational, and economic resources of the corridor.”¹

The Corridor includes major cities such as Chicago and Joliet, industrial enclaves such as Bedford Park and McCook, rural farms in the vicinity of Marseilles and Seneca, and coal towns such as Carbon Hill and Coal City. Forging a collective identity for such disparate communities is a challenge as each community has its own unique story to tell but each has a connection to the I&M Canal, some directly, others indirectly.

The Creation of a Heritage Corridor

The creation of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor has its roots in the Openlands Project. Founded in 1963, Open Lands Project (Openlands) soon became the official voice for open space in the civic community and media in northeastern Illinois. The organization played an early role in advocating for the I&M Canal, as Openlands’ first director Gunnar Peterson lobbied the state legislature for a “Greenstrip” designation along the canal route. In 1966 Openlands formed an “I&M Canal Coordinating Committee,” which pushed for state preservation of the canal as a recreational area. When the State of Illinois was considering selling the canal, a grass roots effort coordinated by Openlands Project forced the state to change its plans. In 1974, the I&M Canal State Trail was designated from Brandon Lock in Joliet to the western terminus in LaSalle.

In the late 1970s Gerald Adelman, an energetic and committed young Lockport native, approached Openlands Project with a proposal to study the Des Plaines River Valley holistically. In February 1980, with a contract from the Illinois Institute of Natural Resources, the Openlands Project launched its Des Plaines River Valley Program, designed to highlight the Des Plaines River Valley’s natural and cultural resources from Summit to Joliet. The study identified preservation opportunities in the 25 miles of canal that was not part of the state trail system. Project director Adelman became convinced that the area had much to offer and enlisted the support of Chicago Tribune sports writer John Husar. Husar became a passionate champion of the area, writing an award winning series called Chicago’s Hid-

den Wilderness. These widely distributed Chicago Tribune articles brought wider public recognition of the region, and helped galvanize support for seeing this largely industrial corridor in a new way.

At the same time, Ottawa resident Leonard Lock agitated for a federal study of the I&M Canal. Congressman Thomas Corcoran advanced the measure, leading to a 1980 National Park Service report entitled Reconnaissance Survey of the I&M Canal. Senator Charles Percy pushed for an additional federal study of Illinois & Michigan Canal by the National Park Service. Around the same time, the Material Service Corporation held a series of breakfast meetings for leaders in various industries to learn more about the I&M Canal and the larger corridor.

In 1981 the Illinois Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities funded a series of public meetings designed to inform and engage the public throughout the corridor. Top scholars, including historical geographer Michael P. Conzen of the University of Chicago, wrote essays on the Des Plaines River valley. Four meetings were held in canal towns that summer, bringing together local advocates of the canal.

Sensing the growing support for turning the canal corridor into a regional showpiece, a group of business leaders took decisive action by forming the Upper Illinois Valley Association (UIVA) (later renamed the Canal Corridor Association), which was duly incorporated July 17, 1981. The involvement of so many business leaders was a critical component of the success that led to the creation of a “new kind of national park.” Momentum continued to build throughout 1981 for the establishment of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. The Wall Street Journal gave prominent coverage to the idea in August, two weeks later a Chicago Sun Times editorial applauded the concept as “imaginative” and an “attractive and immensely creative idea.” A delegation to Washington met with Senator Charles Percy, and by October they had received Secretary of the Interior James Watt’s approval of the heritage corridor, the latter calling the plan “important, daring, and precedent-setting.”

Given these developments, the NPS report entitled *Illinois & Michigan Canal Corridor: A Concept Plan* was completed November 1981. Written by John D. Peine and Debora A. Neurohr, the study provided a conceptual plan for protecting and enhancing the many cultural and natural resources in the I&M Corridor, while at the same time providing an opportunity for economic development. In many ways the Peine report served as the blueprint for all subsequent visions of what is now known as the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor.

The UIVA working with stakeholders throughout the Corridor took the lead role in pushing for federal designation of the Heritage Corridor and after concerted lobbying Congress passed legislation in authorizing the establishment of the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor. In the Senate, the bill was sponsored by Republican Charles Percy and backed by Democrat Alan Dixon. In the House, the entire Illinois Delegation supported the bill sponsored by Rep. Tom Corcoran. President Ronald Reagan signed the bill establishing the first National Heritage Corridor on August 24, 1984. As one author put it, this landmark notion of a public/private urban national park “changed the nature of perceptions of open space preservation in this country.” The Heritage Corridor concept was the first explicit marriage of preservation, conservation, recreation, and economic development. Indeed, the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor helped spark a national trend, one that shows no signs of abating. To date there are 49 national heritage areas, and in a sense all owe their existence to the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor.

Overview of Legislative Mandate

On August 24, 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed Public Law 98-398, creating the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, the first national heritage corridor. The purpose of the heritage corridor was “to retain, enhance, and interpret, for the benefit and inspiration of present and future generations, the cultural, historical, natural, recreational, and economic resources of the corridor, where feasible, consistent with industrial and economic growth.”² The authorizing legislation for the IMCNHC established a nineteen member Federal Commission known as the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission. The Federal Commission was comprised of:

- The Director of the National Park Service, ex officio, or a delegate.
- Three individuals...who will represent the interests of State and local government.
- One member of the board of a forest preserve district... appointments shall rotate among the three forest preserve districts in the corridor.
- One member of the county board of each county.
- Five individuals...who will represent the interest of history, archaeology, and historic preservation; of recreation; and of conservation.
- Five individuals...who will represent the interests of business and industry.

The Federal Commissioners would serve three-year terms and oversee the development of the IMCNHC as outlined in the following eight duties:

1. The Commission shall assist the State, any political subdivision of the State, or any nonprofit organization in the appropriate preservation treatment, and renovation (in accordance with the plan) of structures of the canal.
2. The Commission shall assist the State or any political subdivision of the State in establishing and maintaining intermittent recreational trails, which are compatible with economic development interests in the Corridor.
3. The Commission shall encourage private owners of property that is located in or adjacent to the Corridor to retain voluntarily, as a good neighbor policy, a strip of natural vegetation as a visual screen and natural barrier between recreational trails established under paragraph (2) and development in the corridor.
4. The Commission shall assist in the preservation and enhancement of Natural Areas Inventory, prepared by the Illinois Department of Conservation.
5. The Commission shall assist in the enhancement of public awareness of, and appreciation for, the historical, architectural, and engineering structures in the corridor and the archaeological and geological resources and sites in the corridor.
6. The Commission may assist the State, any political subdivision of the State, or any nonprofit organization in the restoration of any historic building in the corridor. Such assistance may include providing technical staff assistance for historic preservation and revitalization efforts.
7. The Commission shall assist in the interpretation of the cultural and natural resources of the Corridor.
8. The Commission shall assist in establishing recognition for the Corridor by actively promoting the cultural, historical, natural, and recreational resources of the Corridor on a community, regional, statewide, national, and international basis.

The Federal Commissioners were to meet quarterly and would be assisted in fulfilling their duties by a director and additional staff, which were to be appointed by the Commission.

The Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission managed the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor for twenty years from August 1984 to August 2004. For 26 months until October 2006 there was no official management entity. In October 2006 the Canal Corridor Association was Congressionally designated the new coordinating entity.

Partners

While the federal commission had the official duties of the legislation for 20 years, the work of the Heritage Corridor was truly a public-private partnership. The grassroots effort that fought for the original legislation continued after the designation and in fact grew. Before the designation, the Upper Illinois Valley Association (UIVA, 1981) and the I&M Canal Volunteers were organized. As the legislation was passing, the Joliet Visitors Bureau became the Heritage Corridor Convention & Visitors Bureau (1984) and the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Civic Center Authority (1984) was authorized by the Illinois legislature. Soon afterwards the Friends of the I&M Canal was formed.

Also projects that fulfilled the mission of the legislation were completed by state agencies, local government agencies, and local universities.

Below is a listing of the major players who worked with the federal commission.

Canal Corridor Association (CCA) (1981-present)

CCA, formerly the Upper Illinois Valley Association (UIVA), was formed by business and community leaders from northeastern Illinois to promote federal designation of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. It is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization managed by a board of directors and a professional staff. The mission of the Canal Corridor Association is to preserve history, protect nature and open space, create destinations where people can learn and have fun in the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor. It enhances, raises awareness of and expands the parks, trails, landscapes and historic sites that make the I&M Canal region a special place.

Friends of the Illinois & Michigan Canal (1982-2008)

The Friends of the Illinois & Michigan Canal was a non-profit organization established in 1982 to assist in the creation of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. The purpose of the group was to be a “friends” grass-roots organization to involve more stakeholders and to promote retention and enhancement and interpretation of the cultural, historical, natural, archeological, geological, recreational and economic resources of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor for the benefit and the inspiration of present and future Americans. The Friends spearheaded canal workdays and events, which attracted people to the canal corridor.

Figure 3.1. UPPER ILLINOIS VALLEY ASSOCIATION 1984-1985 Work Program

With the passage and signing of federal legislation establishing the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, the demands on the Upper Illinois Valley Association will increase, since the Association occupies a focal point in the Heritage Corridor network. In order to fulfill its purpose, the Association must emphasize its role as a catalyst for the Corridor, stimulating and encouraging local revitalization activities.

The Association cannot be a surrogate for community organizations, nor can it serve as an open-access information center. As a catalyst, the Upper Illinois Valley Association initiates important pilot projects, helps facilitate community action and promotes the Corridor to major media. The Association works to build links between state, local and federal agencies, major corporations and foundations, citizens groups, small businesses, park districts and historical societies. Working along the entire length of the 100-mile Corridor, the Association serves by helping each piece fit into the greater whole.

Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitor Bureau (HCCVB)
(1984-present)

The Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau was incorporated in 1984 to service the communities along the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The Bureau is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of leaders in the tourism industry from the four areas serviced by the Bureau. The mission of the Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau is to ignite, influence and impact the visitor's experience through tourism partnerships.

I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Civic Center Authority (IMCNHCCCA) (1984 – present)

The Civic Center Authority is a municipal corporation created by state legislation in 1984. Their district is composed of twelve cities and villages from Lyons to Lemont including: Bedford Park, Bridgeview, Burr Ridge, Countryside, Hodgkins, Indian Head Park, Justice, Lemont, Lyons, McCook, Summit, and Willow Springs. It was created to promote the historic, recreational & economic development of the National Heritage Corridor in Cook County.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

IDNR is the owner and manager of the Illinois & Michigan Canal and the I&M Canal State Trail. IDNR was formerly called the Illinois Department of Conservation (IDOC). Its mission is to promote an understanding and appreciation of natural resources and to work with the people of Illinois to protect and manage Illinois' resources to ensure a high quality of life for present and future generations.

History of the Heritage Corridor Initiative 1984-2010

1984 Overview

Federal Investment

- No funding.

Administrative

- Congress establishes the IMCNHC as the nation's first Heritage Corridor, (P.L. 98-398) Established the National Heritage Corridor and the Commission for 10 years; Authorized \$250,000 per year for the Commission.
- President Ronald Reagan signs legislation in Chicago on August 24, 1984.

Studies

- None noted.

Publications

- Legislation garnered much publicity including articles in the Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor and The Wall Street Journal.

Activities

- UIVA and Friends of the I&M Canal form a speaker's bureau.
- Partners celebrate legislation by driving a caravan through each corridor town on September 14 and 15.

Physical Improvements

- 2.25 mile trail built along canal in Lockport from north end of town to Dellwood Park , first community trail built since passage of legislation (joint project of Lockport Township Park District and the Illinois Dept. of Conservation). US Senator Percy spoke at groundbreaking. \$200,000. (Source: Outdoor Highlights)
- Rehabilitation of 1862 limestone Lockport Train Station funded for \$225,000. (Source: National Trust Newsletter)
- Material Service Corporation donated the 1862 Fitzpatrick House in Romeoville to the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois.
- \$400,000 grant secured from U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD) towards rehab of the Norton Building in Lockport (estimated \$1.6 million rehab costs) into a mixed use development.

Partners

- I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Civic Center Authority was created by the Illinois General Assembly in 1984.
- Working Conference on the National Heritage Corridor Revitalization held March 21st-23rd in Joliet. (UIVA and others)
- Efforts underway to secure the Lake Renwick Rookery a habitat for herons and egrets. (UIVA, and multiple partners)

1985 Overview

Federal Investment

- The Federal Commission received \$245,000.
- \$419,650 of federal funds were appropriated for restoring and rehabbing historic buildings in IMCNHC. (Source: Herald News, 12/20/1985)
- \$320,000 of federal funds were appropriated for inventorying of resources. (Source: Joliet Herald News, 12/20/1985)

Administrative

- First Federal Commission nominations made by Governor Thompson in January and appointed by Secretary of Interior in May.
- First Federal Commission meeting held at Starved Rock State Park, four other meetings held in 1985.
- The Fitzpatrick House, Romeoville was sold to the IHPA for \$50,000 and leased to the commission for their office. \$330,000 of state funds were used to purchase and rehab the building.
- Commission began working on interpretation in corridor selecting Graphic Solutions of Maryland.

Studies

- Joliet chosen as one of eight communities nationally for the Main Street Program.
- US Steel and National Trust for Historic Preservation fund a reuse study for the mostly vacant US Steel Plant in Joliet.
- HABS/HAER Inventory of Canal structures and historic resources in Lemont and Morris begins, to be completed over three summers.

Publications

- Auto tour brochure completed and distributed. (UIVA)
- Lockport Historical Trail brochure printed. (City of Lockport)

Activities

- First economic development roundtable held in Marseilles on November 12. (UIVA)
- Bridgeport Community Conference held October 22-23. (UIVA)

Physical Improvements

- Rehabilitation of Gaylord Building in Lockport begins.
- Lockport Trail completed.

Partners

- Buffalo Rock Effigy Tumuli Sculptures, the largest earth sculpture in the world completed by artist Michael Heizer near Starved Rock State Park. The project reclaimed a seriously disturbed, former coal strip mine and created a remarkable expression of site sculpture drawing on the tradition of the ancient Native American mound-builders. This sculpture enhanced the IMCNHC for public enjoyment.

1986 Overview

Federal Investment

- The Federal Commission received \$237,000.
- NPS Assistance \$300,000.

Administrative

- Four permanent committees are established within the Federal Commission:
 1. Planning and Priorities
 2. Boundaries Historical Significance and Interpretation
 3. Interpretation and Signage
 4. Economic Development
- Illinois governor James Thompson designates the IMCNHC a “Corridor of Opportunity.”
- The Federal Commission sought to clarify the Corridor boundaries east of Harlem Avenue and submitted a draft of the Corridor boundaries to the Secretary of the Interior.

Studies

- None noted.

Publications

- None noted.

Activities

- The IMCNHC logo design was adopted.
- Labor Day Celebration of the Sesquicentennial of the 1836 start of construction of the I&M Canal.

Physical Improvements

- Thirteen miles of the towpath resurfaced. The canal prism between Utica and LaSalle was dredged and drainage was improved by dredging a portion of the canal near Seneca. The foot bridge over the Fox River parallel to the I&M Canal aqueduct at Ottawa was rebuilt. (IDOC)

Partners

- The Joliet Area CVB expanded and became the regional Heritage Corridor CVB. This destination marketing organization, certified by the State of Illinois, promoted the IMCNHC and all of Will, Grundy, and LaSalle counties.
- The UIVA received the National Trust Honor Award for promoting the development of the IMCNHC.

1987 Overview

Federal Investment

- The Federal Commission received \$250,000.
- NPS Assistance \$351,900.
- The Economic Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce gave a grant to the IMCNHC federal commission to establish a Revolving Loan Fund.

Administrative

- IMCNHC Federal Commission approved their bylaws.

Studies

- A report on the “Geology of the Illinois-Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor” was received and approved by the National Park Service.
- A preliminary Water Resources Study was completed by the University of Illinois’s Institute for Environmental Studies. (Federal Commission)

Publications

- IMCNHC general brochure printed for general distribution. (Federal Commission)

Activities

- Seven visitor information centers were established in the Corridor utilizing existing facilities.

Physical Improvements

- The Aux Sable Aqueduct and Lock 14 were restored. The hiking/biking trail through Ottawa was resurfaced and a pump and spillway were installed in the Utica-Marseilles area. (IDOC)

Partners

- An IMCNHC sign plan was developed for use by the Federal Commission. (IDOT)
- The original canal warehouse in Lockport was rehabilitated for adaptive re-use as a visitor’s center, restaurant, a gallery by the Illinois State Museum, and exhibit space by IDOC. This structure later became known as the Gaylord Building. (Private sector, Gaylord Donnelley family)

1988 Overview**Federal Investment**

- The Federal Commission received \$250,000.
- NPS Assistance \$151,200.

Administrative

- Initial Draft of the IMCNHC Interpretive Plan was completed. (Federal Commission)

Studies

- A hydrology study of the I&M Canal in Lockport was funded. (City of Lockport, Lockport Park District, IDOC)

Publications

- IMCNHC general brochure reprinted for general distribution. (Federal Commission)
- A new brochure was printed entitled, Ice Age Geology of the Corridor. (Federal Commission, Illinois Geological Survey)
- The Journal was published to publicize area attractions. (Federal Commission)

Activities

- A Wayside Exhibit Plan was developed and approved. (Federal Commission)
- Two contests to identify the oldest farm and industry in the Corridor were held. (Federal Commission)
- New interpretive exhibits were opened at the rest area on Interstate 80.
- Of the seven visitor centers established in 1987 one was moved to Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area and an additional visitor center opened at the Little Red School House.

Physical Improvements

- Seven miles of the canal towpath was surfaced. (IDOC)
- Five miles of the canal towpath at Willow Springs was surfaced. (Forest Preserved District of Cook County)
- The Aux Sable Aqueduct, the Little Vermillion Aqueduct, and Lock 14 were rehabilitated. (IDOC)

Partners

- The first I&M Canal Rendezvous was held at Columbia Woods in Willow Springs. (IMCNHCCCA)
- First National Canals Conference was hosted in the Corridor. (Federal Commission, IDOC, Friends of the I&M Canal)
- A 23- mile trail was established between the Chicago Portage Site and Lockport. (Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago)
- IMCNHC logo signs created and distributed to parks and museums throughout the Corridor. (IDOC)

1989 Overview**Federal Investment**

- The Federal Commission received \$250,000.
- NPS Assistance \$150,300.

Administrative

- Preservation Treatment Policy was adopted.
- Three parcels of land were purchased within the Corridor. (Federal Commission)
- All state parks, forest preserve parks, and museums in the Corridor added the IMCNHC logo to their entrance signs.

Studies

- A public relations marketing survey was completed by the Federal Commission.
- A hydrology study was completed for Lockport to determine the feasibility to putting more water into the I&M Canal. (Illinois State Water Survey)
- Profile of Commercial/Industrial Activity and Associated Impacts on Enjoyable Recreational Use of the Upper Illinois Waterway by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Institute for Environmental Studies and the Department of Commerce & Community Affairs. (Federal Commission)

Publications

- A trail guide was developed and printed for Starved Rock State Park. (Federal Commission)

Activities

- Four low-range radio transmitters were set up in the Corridor to give motorists visitors information through their car radio. (Federal Commission)
- A traveling exhibit was created. (Federal Commission)

Physical Improvements

- Rehabilitation was completed on the Aux Sable Aqueduct and the Little Vermillion Aqueduct. Thirty miles of towpath along the I&M Canal was resurfaced. (IDOC)
- 5.5 miles of towpath was surfaced along the I&M Canal in Willow Springs. (Forest Preserve District of Cook County)
- Eleven miles of the 26-mile long Centennial Trail opened for hiking. (Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

Partners

- 16 foot tall Cor-Ten® steel Statue of Marquette, Joliet, and unmanned Native American by Ferdinand Rebeccini was installed at the Chicago Portage National Historic Site. (Cook Co. Forest Preserve and IMCNHCCCA)
- Isle a la Cache museum was renovated. (Forest Preserve District of Will County)
- A fountain adjacent to the Chicago River in downtown Chicago was dedicated. (Metropolitan Water Reclamation District)

1990 Overview

Federal Investment

- The Federal Commission received \$250,000.
- NPS Assistance \$148,000.

Administrative

- None noted.

Studies

- The Federal Commission reviewed the hydrology study of Lockport and authorized \$5,000 to continue the study and develop and plan for putting more water into the I&M Canal.

Publications

- None noted.

Activities

- None noted.

Physical Improvements

- Forty-six wayside exhibit panels were completed and distributed throughout the Corridor. (Federal Commission)

Partners

- U.S. Soil Conservation Service and IDOC met with local officials and landowners along the I&M Canal to study development potential and problems existing with IDOC 's operating procedure.
- Joliet Preservation Ordinance passed. (City of Joliet)
- A training manual was developed for guides to use when giving tours of the I&M Canal through Lockport. (Lockport Township Park District, Illinois Department of Commerce & Community Affairs)
- HCCVB opened a visitor center at 829 LaSalle Street in Ottawa in partnership with the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce.

1991 Overview

Federal Investment

- The Federal Commission received \$249,000.
- NPS Assistance \$153,000.

Administrative

- Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act was passed. (U.S. Congress)

Studies

- A survey of limestone structures in the IMCNHC was completed. (CCA)

Publications

- Ice Age Geology brochure was reprinted. (Federal Commission)
- Cache Magazine made its debut. (HCCVB)

Activities

- The Federal Commission funded a regional Main Street Program with additional funding from the National Trust for Historic Preservation Main Street Program and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. The Canal Corridor Association hired a regional coordinator to administer the program. The three communities that were selected to participate were: Lemont, Lockport, and Ottawa.

Physical Improvements

- None noted.

Partners

- The Upper Illinois Valley Association changed its name to the Canal Corridor Association. (CCA).
- The U. S. Soil Conservation Service and IDOC made an effort to involve local landowners in the decision-making process for future development along the I&M Canal.

1992 Overview**Federal Investment**

- The Federal Commission received \$247,000.
- NPS Assistance \$154,000.

Administrative

- P.L. 102-580, Water Resources Act of 1992 directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study the I&M Canal for navigation with capital improvement authorization. The Secretary is authorized to make capital improvements to the canal.

Studies

- A study on the Seneca Grain Elevator for IDOC including a phased plan for the rehabilitation of the elevator was funded. (Federal Commission)

Publications

- Cache Magazine was published quarterly. (HCCVB)

Activities

- Three wayside exhibits were completed for Navy Pier.
- New exhibits were installed at the Fitzpatrick House about the family, the federal commission and the IMCNHC.
- The Federal Commission identified projects in the Corridor that need funding to preserve or enhance the interpretation of sites.
- The regional Main Street Program entered its second full year. Lemont, Lockport, and Ottawa continue to participate and the program expanded its operation by utilizing students from the architectural design classes at Purdue University to provide drawings for 24 buildings in Blue Island, Joliet, and Riverdale.

Physical Improvements

- Improvements continued along the I&M Canal State Trail with the placement of two bridges across the canal in Utica to improve access to the state trail. The state trail was surfaced from Channahon to Interstate 55. (IDOC)
- Brush was cleared from around the steel railroad swing bridge over the I&M Canal. (Marseilles Rotary Club and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service)

Partners

- A Conservation Congress was formed to advise IDOC. (State of Illinois)
- The central Clock Tower Building at Pullman State Historic Site, a National Register property, was repaired. (IHPA)
- The Main Street Project continues in Lockport, Lemont and Ottawa. (CCA)

1993 Overview**Federal Investment**

- The Federal Commission received \$248,000.
- NPS Assistance \$154,000.

Administrative

- None noted.

Studies

- None noted.

Publications

- An auto tour guide of the Corridor was completed and published. (Federal Commission)
- Cache Magazine was published quarterly. (HCCVB)

Activities

- New messages were recorded for the four low-range radio transmitters. (Federal Commission)
- The Commission participated in the Illinois Conservation Congress, sponsored by IDOC to plan the future direction of the State in conservation.
- The Corridor Main Street Program entered its third and last year. Lemont, Lockport, and Ottawa continued to participate and limited assistance was provided to Blue Island, Utica, and Marseilles.

Physical Improvements

- Improvements were made to the I&M Canal State Trail with the placement of two bridges across the canal at Channahon and an additional bridge across the Aux Sable Creek Aqueduct. (IDOC)
- Several projects in the Corridor were funded by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) including: the Fox River Aqueduct, the Pullman Railroad Car site, locks and the towpath of the I&M Canal, dredging of the Canal prism in three spots, the locktender's house at Lock 8, the Seneca Grain Elevator, stone facing on the Aux Sable Aqueduct, and the steel mill ruins in Joliet Heritage Park. ISTEA awarded \$8,302,900 for projects within the Corridor with an additional \$1,000,000 in matching funds available from the State of Illinois.

Partners

- HCCVB, partnering with the I&M Canal Civic Center Authority opened a visitor center in Willow Springs.
- HCCVB moved their Ottawa Visitor Center to Utica.
- Friends of Community Public Art incorporated.
- The Main Street Project continues in Lockport, Lemont and Ottawa. (CCA)

1994 Overview

Federal Investment

- The Federal Commission received \$250,000.
- NPS Assistance \$153,000.

Administrative

- No activity on the revolving loan fund.

Studies

- None noted.

Publications

- Professor Michael Conzen (University of Chicago) published a new book of student papers entitled *The Industrial Revolution in the Upper Illinois Valley*.

Activities

- One of the four low-range radio-transmitters was modified to allow frequent updates to the taped message.
- A IMCNHC passport book was developed by the Commission with stamps to be distributed to Corridor attractions.

Physical Improvements

- Over \$13 million awarded to Corridor projects by funding under ISTEA. (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act)
- Thirty-two new wayside exhibits were completed. These exhibits supplemented the forty-six wayside exhibits already installed throughout the Corridor. (Federal Commission)

Partners

- Celebrated the 10th anniversary of the I&M Canal NHC at Joliet's Union Station. (HCCVB is partnership with the federal commission, Corridor Chambers of Commerce, and Lewis University.)
- HCCVB opened an office in Marseilles but closed one in Lockport due to lack of local match money.
- Ottawa held its 3rd reenactment of the first Lincoln-Douglas Debate which was broadcast on CNN. There was also a symposium on Lincoln.
- The Main Street Project continues in Lockport, Lemont and Ottawa with lesser efforts in three additional communities – Blue Island, Marseilles, and LaSalle. (CCA)

1995 Overview

Federal Investment

- The Federal Commission received \$250,000.
- NPS Assistance \$152,000.

Administrative

- Sesquicentennial Committee appointed to prepare to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the I&M Canal. (Federal Commission)

Studies

- None noted.

Publications

- The original IMCNHC brochure was revised and reprinted. (Federal Commission)
- A single-page trail map was developed for the I&M Canal State Trail. (NPS Staff)

Activities

- Two more low-range transmitters were modified to frequent updates to the taped messages. Three of the four low-range transmitters have now been modified.
- The Corridor Interpreters Group updated the Corridor's traveling exhibit and constructed three additional traveling exhibits for festivals and events.
- IMCNHC Information was prepared for inclusion on the NPS's web site.
- In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, caption decoders were installed on all interpretive center VCR's in the Corridor.
- NPS staff and Corridor interpreters developed site-specific literature, an I&M Canal State Trail volunteer recruitment flyer, and improved the quality and presentation of their programs.
- The Main Street Project continues in Lockport, Lemont and Ottawa with lesser efforts in Blue Island, Marseilles, and LaSalle. Improvements continue to be seen in structural work on facades of buildings and an increase in the number of businesses in the communities. (CCA)

Physical Improvements

- Lake Katherine Nature Center was developed along the banks of the Cal Sag in Worth.

Partners

- Five tourism offices are maintained throughout the Corridor. (HCCVB)
- Interpretive prospectuses were prepared for: Isle a la Cache Museum, Lake Renwick Rookery, Monee Reservoir and Plum Creek Nature Center. (Forest Preserve District of Will County)
- The Fox River Aqueduct to be rehabbed using ISTEA funds. (IDOC)
- The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie was established through the Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995. (U.S. Congress)

1996 Overview**Federal Investment**

- The Federal Commission received \$238,000.
- NPS Assistance \$152,000.

Administrative

- P.L. 104-333, Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Act, Sec. 902. Congress directs the federal commission to study possible additions to the National Heritage Corridor.

Studies

- An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Structures within the Illinois & Michigan Canal NHC written by Gray Fitzsimons of the Historic American Engineering Record/Historic Building Survey was published.

Publications

- None noted.

Activities

- The main IMCNHC Brochure and Geology Brochure were reprinted. (Federal Commission)
- NPS staff prepared information on the Corridor for inclusion on the NPS's World Wide Web site.
- The Corridor Main Street Program was folded into a new State of Illinois Main Street Program.
- The Marseilles Hydroelectric Plant opened to visitors with funding from Illinois Power.
- A project to microfilm canal archives stored at Gebhart Woods in Morris by IDNR was funded. This is the first phase in an ongoing project to get all the canal archives microfilmed and available to researchers. (Federal Commission, Illinois State Museum)

Physical Improvements

- A two-mile stretch of trail along the I&M Canal east of the Village of Lemont was opened. (Village of Lemont)

Partners

- Four tourism offices were maintained throughout the Corridor. (HCACVB)
- The Canallers in the Corridor, a group of independent historic interpreters, was founded in 1996 to provide interpretation about the story of the I&M Canal. The members of the group portrayed real and composite characters of the 1800's.
- A booklet identifying the I&M Canal State Trail as an integral part of the American Discovery Trail was distributed. (American Discovery Trail)

1997 Overview**Federal Investment**

- The Federal Commission received \$238,000.
- NPS Assistance \$152,000.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released funds that had been earmarked for work in the I&M Canal NHC in 1995.

Administrative

- None noted.

Studies

- The boundary study outlined in Public Law 104-333 was completed and submitted to the Department of the Interior for review.

Publications

- None noted.

Activities

- NPS Staff updated information on the Corridor for the National Park Service's website.
- Rails & Trails program was initiated for the Corridor on trains traveling between Chicago and Joliet.

Physical Improvements

- None noted.

Partners

- A new commemorative license plate highlighting the I&M Canal was created. (State of Illinois) (was not released until 2000)
- A musical play about the I&M Canal was produced. (Canallers & Company and Gallimaufry)
- Four tourism offices are maintained throughout the Corridor. (HCAC&VB)
- The State of Illinois started its own heritage tourism program under the Bureau of Tourism.
- An archeological excavation of seven canal boats in the canal bed near Morris was completed by IDNR. CCA developed an interpretive program for Morris school children and the public around the archeology of these barges.
- The Santa Fe Prairie was donated to the I&M Canal NHC Civic Center Authority. (Santa Fe Railroad)
- Gaylord Building in Lockport was donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. (Gaylord Donnelley heirs)
- Annual I&M Canal Award initiated at the Illinois History Fair in Springfield. (CCA)
- Eighteen grants awarded through a Sesquicentennial Grants Program to canal communities totaling \$41,400. (CCA)

1998 Overview

Federal Investment

- The Federal Commission received \$238,000.
- NPS Assistance \$153,000.

Administrative

- P.L. 105-355, Automobile National Heritage Area Act, Sec. 902, Congress extends authorization of the Commission to 2004.

Studies

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed planning for a trail in Summit, additional studies on the hydrology of the I&M Canal in Lockport, and design work for pilot projects on the Wayfinding Project.

Publications

- Hiking and Biking the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor was published by noted outdoors author Jim Hochgesang.

Activities

- The IMCNHC celebrated the Sesquicentennial of the opening of the I&M Canal from April 1998-April 1999 with organized events throughout the year. (Federal Commission, CCA)
- NPS staff updated IMCNHC information on the NPS website.
- The Santa Fe Prairie opened to the public.

Physical Improvements

- The repair and rehabilitation of the Fox River Aqueduct in Ottawa was completed. (IDNR)
- Face stones were replaced on the Aux Sable Aqueduct. At Aux Sable several old buildings were demolished and later additions removed from the locktender's house. (IDNR)
- The Joliet Iron Works Historic Site and the adjacent four-mile section of the I&M Canal trail linking Joliet and Lockport opened to the public. (Forest Preserve District of Will County)

Partners

- IMCNHC was selected as one of seven demonstration projects for the state of Illinois's heritage program managed by the Bureau of Tourism. Funding for the program was awarded to the Canal Corridor Association.
- The IMCNHC hosted the World Canal Conference in September. (Federal Commission, IHPA, Canal Corridor Association)
- Work continued on the I&M Canal State Trail and the section between Channahon and Joliet is opened. (IDNR)
- A major photographic exhibit on the I&M Canal called "Prairie Passage" completed its run at the Chicago Cultural Center and was displayed in Lockport most of the year. (CCA)

- Prairie Passage: The Illinois and Michigan Canal Corridor, was published by the University of Illinois Press featuring 180 photographs by Edward Ranney. (CCA)
- HCCVB unveils its I&M Canal Collection, a series of ten scenes by artist Paul Aschak.
- I&M Canal Sesquicentennial Quilt Exhibit traveled to sites in Ottawa, Willow Springs, Morris, Palos Hills, Joliet, Utica, Streator, and Plainfield. (Willow Springs Quilters, the Heritage Quilters Guild, the Grundy County Historical Society, and the Illinois Valley Quilters)
- Water Marks, situated in Gateway Park at the entrance to Navy Pier, is one of the country's most monumental community public artworks. A project of the Chicago Public Art Group and the Canal Corridor Association, the mosaic bench sculptures and walkway commemorate the 150-year history of the Illinois & Michigan Canal--its land, the people who built it and who have lived alongside it, and the way the canal has shaped the history of the region.

1999 Overview**Federal Investment**

- The Federal Commission received \$239,000.
- NPS Assistance \$154,000.

Administrative

- None noted.

Studies

- None noted.

Publications

- HCCVB's Passport to the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor received national American Pathways 2000 itinerary award.

Activities

- None noted.

Physical Improvements

- Sixty-one mile marker posts were installed along the I&M Canal State Trail and a William Gooding silhouette south of the 7th Street bridge in Lockport. (CCA)

Partners

- The Canallers in the Corridor were incorporated on May 5, 1999 as a 501 (c) (3) organization having left the umbrella of IDNR's Volunteers in the Parks Program. Their mission is: To continue to develop means of telling the stories of the I&M Canal to groups throughout the National Heritage Corridor, to recruit new members, to raise money for various causes; and to promote knowledge of the Illinois & Michigan Canal through historical interpretation, public speaking, entertaining, and educational school programs throughout the National Heritage Corridor.
- An exhibit entitled: Illinois Passage: Connecting the Continent opens in the first floor of the Gaylord Building. (National Trust)
- The Ottawa Visitor Center publishes the book: The Canal that Built Ottawa by Lawrence Natta one of the Sesquicentennial Grant Projects.
- Canal Origins Park was designated an official project of the Save America's Treasures Initiative, a public-private partnership of the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- The I&M Canal Pioneers: Bringing History to Life in the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor booklet was published. (CCA)
- Three-day teacher workshops were held for 20 teachers grades 3rd-10th on the I&M Canal featuring geography and history lessons. (CCA)
- The I&M Canal Sesquicentennial Celebration was selected by Landmark Preservation Council of Illinois to receive the 1999 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award for innovative and effective programs.

2000 Overview**Federal Investment**

- The Federal Commission received \$240,000.
- NPS Assistance \$182,527.

Administrative

- P.L. 106-554 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Section 126. Congress increases authorization for the Federal Commission's annual appropriations from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. (December 19, 2000).

Studies

- None noted.

Publications

- None noted.

Activities

- A ceremony was held in May to welcome a cross-country team inaugurating the launch of the American Discovery Trail, which incorporates the I&M Canal State Trail. (Federal Commission, ADT)
- 60 minute film Prairie Tides is filmed.

Physical Improvements

- None noted.

Partners

- The Commission renewed its two current cooperative agreements in support of publications and interpretive activities and other public outreach. (CCA, HCCVB)
- CCA completed a five-year strategic plan. The new mission of CCA is to preserve history, protect nature and open space, and create destinations where people can learn and have fun in the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor, from Lake Michigan in Chicago to the Illinois River in LaSalle/Peru.

2001 Overview

Federal Investment

- The Federal Commission received \$239,000.
- NPS Assistance \$182,527.

Administrative

- None noted.

Studies

- A Strategic Plan for the IMCNHC was released. (Federal Commission)
- A series of steering committee meetings organized by CCA on the development of a vision plan for the Corridor, funded through the cooperative agreement. There was not enough interest to pursue the project. (Federal Commission)
- A historical and architectural survey of the downtown commercial area of Morris was contracted. (Federal Commission)

Publications

- A new introductory brochure about the IMCNHC was designed to supplement the Unigrad brochure for distribution in high volume “gateway” locations. (NPS staff, HCCVB)
- A LaSalle Sesquicentennial publication distributed through the local newspaper, the News Tribune was written, produced and distributed. (CCA)
- I&M Canal Driving Tour. (see below)

Activities

- The Federal Commission became an active participant in the Amtrak Trails and Rails program with volunteers on trains between Chicago and St. Louis.
- I&M Canal Awards were presented at the Illinois History Fair for the 4th year. (CCA)
- The I&M Canal Summer Teachers Workshop was NOT held due to lack of funding. (CCA)

Physical Improvements

- 120 driving tour signs installed along a 75 mile tour from Lemont to LaSalle/Peru. 100,000 driving tour map brochures printed. The tour was also put on the website. (CCA)
- Armstrong family silhouettes installed in Morris at Canalport Plaza. (CCA)

Partners

- The Federal Commission executed modifications to its two current cooperative agreements with the non-profits CCA and HCCVB in support of publications and interpretive activities and other public outreach.
- Reuse plans were developed for the Ottawa Toll House. Discussion were held about ways in which the Federal Commission could contribute to development of a master plan for the I&M Canal State Trail. (NPS staff, IDNR)
- Cooperative agreement between NTHP and CCA was signed for CCA to manage the Gaylord Building in Lockport.

2002 Overview

Federal Investment

- The Federal Commission received \$500,000.
- NPS Assistance \$154,900.

Administrative

- The Federal Commission joined the Alliance of National Heritage Areas.

Publications

- Distributed a new Gateway brochure that makes information about the Corridor available in high-traffic Chicago Locations. (Federal Commission)
- The Commission tripled their mailing list, revived their newsletter and launched a new weekly e-mail bulletin for partners.

Activities

- The Partnerships Project Fund, a new competitive funding program, was launched making use of the Commission’s cooperative agreement authority. (Federal Commission)
- The IMCNHC Unigrad (brochure) was revised with technical assistance from the Harpers Ferry Interpretive Center. (NPS Staff)
- Replaced equipment and did new programming for four TIS radio transmitters in the Corridor. They are again operational after a five-year break in service. (Federal Commission)
- The film, Prairie Tides: The Canal That Built Chicago was released. (Federal Commission, CCA)
- I&M Canal Awards were presented at the Illinois History Fair for the 5th year. (CCA)

Physical Improvements

- 70 bicycle racks installed in 8 canal-side communities in Grundy and LaSalle Counties. (CCA)

Partners

- The Commission executed modifications to its two pre-existing cooperative agreements with the Canal Corridor Association and the Heritage Corridor Convention & Visitors Bureau.
- Stories in Stone interpretive pod at Bi-centennial park in Joliet was installed. It included five Cor-Ten® silhouettes and markers and four interpretive panels. (CCA)
- Special Places Project launched. Over 100 citizen photographers submitted over 1,000 photographs of places they considered special in the heritage corridor. (CCA)

2003 Overview**Federal Investment**

- The Federal Commission received \$745,000.
- NPS Assistance \$157,000.

Administrative

- None noted.

Studies

- An update Interpretive Plan for the the IMCNHC was funded and begun. (Funding from Federal Commission to CCA)

Publications

- None noted.

Activities

- Local screenings of Prairie Tides in Morris, Romeoville, Bedford Park, LaSalle and Ottawa took place throughout the year.
- Dinner/Lecture series held in Lockport and LaSalle in the spring and fall. (CCA)
- 15 teachers participate in three day canal training.
- I&M Canal Awards were presented at the Illinois History Fair for the 6th year. (CCA)

Physical Improvements

- 23 new wayfinding panels installed along the I&M Canal Trail in Lemont, Lockport, and Joliet. (CCA)

Partners

- Special Places Project continued with a traveling display, which took a three-month tour around the Corridor allowing 1,200 people to vote for special places of their choosing. The project culminated with a daylong special places showcase with 75 participants. In the fall, the Special Places Advocates Network was launched with monthly meetings in each county. (CCA)

2004 Overview**Federal Investment**

- The Federal Commission received \$596,000.
- NPS Assistance \$121,480.
- The Federal Commission's Revolving Loan Fund, which had operated since 1987 to support economic development projects in the National Heritage Corridor, ceased operations. Its remaining loans and assets were donated to Lewis University in Romeoville to contribute to the endowment for the Canal and Regional History Collection.

Administrative

- Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Renewed Vision and Implementation Strategy released. States that the Federal Commission should be reauthorized. (Federal Commission)
- IMCNHC Federal Commission sunsets on August 24, 2004.
- All Federal Commission records were transferred to the Great Lakes Region National Archives and Records Administration in Chicago.
- HR 4492 passed the House on July 19, 2004 to reauthorize the IMCNHC.

Studies

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed an infrastructure study of the canal at the western terminus, the site of the proposed canal boat. (City of LaSalle)

Publications

- None noted.

Activities

- Work was completed on a publication entitled; The Illinois & Michigan Canal: A Resource Handbook for Project Planning. The handbook summarizes background information on the canal's historic importance, highlights issues that should be considered when contracting for services, explains "best practices" in historic preservation, and outlines compliance procedures to meet federal and state regulations. (NPS staff)
- The Federal Commission gave the Canal Corridor Association the four Traveler Information Radio Stations and related equipment that provided visitor information to drivers along I-55 and I-80. The Commission also gave the Canal Corridor Association the wayside interpretive signs erected by the Commission and replacement materials.
- A five-day teacher workshop was held during the summer entitled The Last Great American Canal: How the Illinois and Michigan Canal United 19th Century America. The 5 day workshop was attended by 150 teachers and was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to the CCA. (with Lewis University)

- Dinner/Lecture series held in Lockport and LaSalle in the spring and fall. (CCA)
- I&M Canal Awards were presented at the Illinois History Fair for the 7th year. (CCA)

Physical Improvements

- The Ottawa Toll House, the last remaining toll house in the canal, was moved and rehabilitated. (IDNR, Federal Commission)

Partners

- Second floor gallery of the Gaylord Building was vacated. (IDNR)
- The IMCNHC 20th anniversary exhibit and booklet was created. The exhibit traveled throughout the IMCNHC in 2004. (Federal Commission, CCA)
- The I&M Canal/Heritage Quarries Recreation Area which is an integral part of Lemont's corridor officially opened. (Village of Lemont)
- A five-day teacher workshop was held three times during the summer entitled The Last Great American Canal: How the Illinois and Michigan Canal United 19th Century America. The workshop educated 150 teachers was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. (CCA, Lewis University)
- Intergovernmental Agreement between IDNR and the City of LaSalle was signed for proposed canal boat attraction. (CCA)

2005 Overview

Federal Investment

- No Federal Money received in FFY05.

Administrative

- No Federal Commission or National Park Service Staff.

Studies

- An Interpretive Plan was developed for the IMCNHC. (CCA)
- A Survey of Downtown LaSalle was completed. (CCA, City of LaSalle)

Publications

- None noted.

Activities

- Dinner/Lecture series held in Lockport and LaSalle in the spring and fall. (CCA)
- I&M Canal Awards were presented at the Illinois History Fair for the 8th year. (CCA)

Physical Improvements

- One hundred concrete interpretive relief panels created by Chicago youth installed in the "canal cut" wall at Canal Origins Park. Additionally two seven-foot sculptural panels were installed depicting present-day landscape on the exterior of the entry-wall, six interpretive panels on the inside of the entry wall. Additionally, two reader rails were installed along the riverside of the park. (CCA)
- Installed 13 full-scale Cor-Ten® Steel Silhouettes at Lock 14. The silhouettes depicted 10-people who rode on the canal between 1848-1852 and 3 that worked on the canal during that time period. (CCA)

Partners

- In February of 2005, a series of three public workshops were held to gather public input for the interpretive themes of the IMCNHC. (CCA)
- A five-day teacher workshop was held three times during the summer entitled The Last Great American Canal: How the Illinois and Michigan Canal United 19th Century America. The workshop educated 150 teachers was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. (CCA, Lewis University)
- Port of La Salle Management Agreement between the City of LaSalle and CCA was signed for CCA to manage the proposed canal boat attraction.

2006 Overview

Federal Investment

- No Federal Money received in FFY06.

Administrative

- No Federal Commission or National Park Service Staff.
- In October, FFY2007, Congress reauthorized the IMCNHC and designated the Canal Corridor Association the local coordinating entity for the IMCNHC.

Studies

- None noted.

Publications

- CCA’s historian Ron Vasile guest edited a special issue of the Illinois History Teacher devoted to the I&M Canal.
- A new exhibit “Generations of Waterways in the Illinois & Michigan Canal Corridor opening in the Gaylord Building, Lockport.

Activities

- Dinner/Lecture series held in Lockport and LaSalle in the spring and fall. (CCA)
- I&M Canal Awards were presented at the Illinois History Fair for the 9th year. (CCA)
- Prairie Tides, a 60 minute film on the building of the I&M Canal was introduced in DVD format.

Physical Improvements

- A new outdoor interpretive exhibit was installed at the western terminus of the canal in LaSalle at Lock 14. The exhibit includes 13 Cor-Ten® steel silhouettes of canal workers and passengers in the 1848-1852 era, nine markers, and six proto-type “barrels and trunks” seating.

Partners

- Canal Origins Park was selected for a City of Chicago 2006 Preservation Excellence Award.

2007 Overview

Federal Investment

- In FFY07 the Canal Corridor Association received \$18,000 for training.

Administrative

- CCA staff attended NPS training on management planning.

Studies

- Research began for new management plan.

Publications

- None noted.

Activities

- Dinner/Lecture series held in Lockport and LaSalle in the spring and fall. (CCA)
- I&M Canal Awards were presented at the Illinois History Fair for the 10th year. (CCA)

Physical Improvements

- None noted.

Partners

- Extensive planning and fundraising was completed for the construction of a replica canal boat and its operation at the western terminus of the canal in LaSalle. Construction of the boat and rehabilitation of a historic downtown building in LaSalle for a western terminus visitor center began. (CCA)

2008 Overview

Federal Investment

- \$148,000 from the Heritage Partnership Program.

Administrative

- Outreach to public officials and organizations began for the new phase of administration of IMCNHC.

Studies

- Research continues for new management plan. Existing documents from 20 years of heritage corridor work reviewed as well as documents from other heritage areas.

Publications

- None noted.

Activities

- I&M Canal Awards were presented at the Illinois History Fair for the 11th year. (CCA)
- The I&M Canal Walk & Ride was held in Morris in September with 150 people walking or riding their bicycles on the canal tow path trail.

Physical Improvements

- A replica canal boat named The Volunteer arrived in LaSalle in May and commenced operations as the LaSalle Canal Boat through the end of October. A dock and other site improvements were made at the western terminus of the canal. 754 First Street in LaSalle was rehabbed and opened as the Lock 16 Visitor Center. Two mules named Larry and Moe came to work along the canal for the first time since the 19th century. A goat named Curly came to keep them company.

Partners

- None noted.

2009 Overview

Federal Investment

- \$148,000 from the Heritage Partnership Program and \$10,000 for training.

Administrative

- First five public meetings for the management plan held in November and December in the communities of Morris, Lemont, LaSalle, Channahon, and Alsip.
- CCA staff was trained by the International Association of Public Participation.

Studies

- The foundation documents for the management plan were drafted.

Publications

- None noted.

Activities

- I&M Canal Awards were presented at the Illinois History Fair for the 12th year. (CCA)
- The Abraham Lincoln and the I&M Canal Exhibit was opened in the Gaylord Building as a permanent exhibit and a traveling exhibit of the same name moved to numerous venues in the corridor as part of the Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration. (funded by the Illinois Lincoln Bicentennial Commission)

Physical Improvements

- A new Cor-Ten® steel silhouette of engineer and Utica resident James Clark was added to the interpretive system in Utica at the LaSalle County Museum.

Partners

- The LaSalle Canal Boat operated from May and October at the western terminus of the canal and the Lock 16 Visitor Center attracted 25,000 visitors year-round.

2010 Overview**Federal Investment**

- \$150,000 from the Heritage Partnership Program.

Administrative

- A staff person was hired to assist in the planning process.
- Six public meetings for the management plan were held over the course of the year in the communities of Ottawa, Lemont, Chicago, Joliet, Seneca, and Alsip.
- A Corridor Steering Committee was formed to guide the management plan and met monthly from May through October and met by phone in December.

Studies

- The drafting of the management plan continued.

Publications

- The IMCNHC website was launched with introductory information concerning the heritage corridor and the planning process.

Activities

- The LaSalle Canal Boat operated from May and October at the western terminus of the canal and the Lock 16 Visitor Center attracted 35,000 people.
- I&M Canal Awards were presented at the Illinois History Fair for the 13th year. (CCA)
- The I&M Canal Walk & Ride was held in Morris in May with 150 people walking or riding their bicycles on the canal tow path trail.

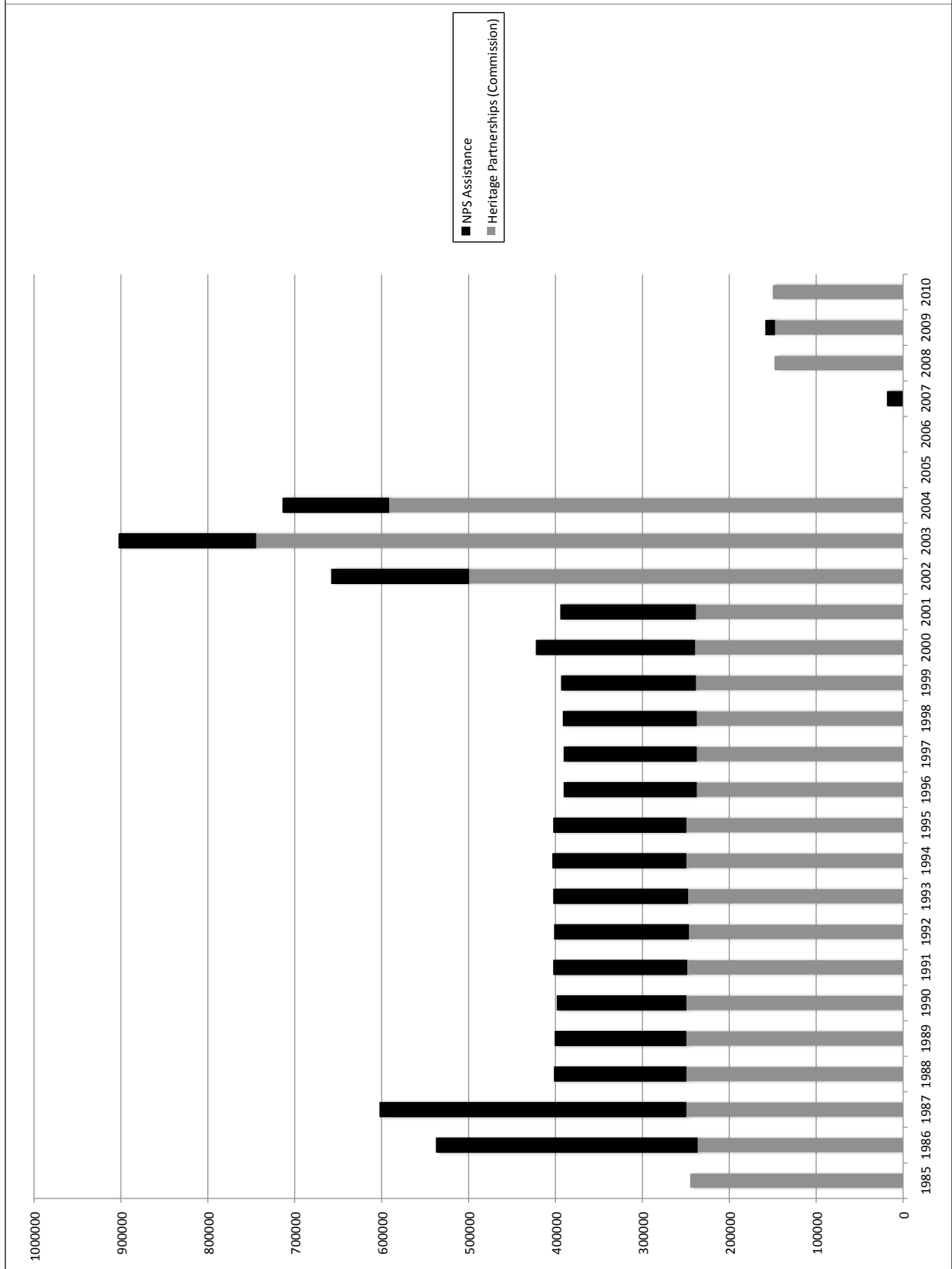
Physical Improvements

- A new Cor-Ten® steel silhouette of Civil War veteran Sgt. James Sanborn was added to the interpretive system in Marseilles.

Partners

- Two training sessions were held for partners in interpretive and tourism related subjects.

Figure 3.2. NPS Funding Summary 1985-2010



(Endnotes)

1 Public Law 98-398- Aug. 24, 1984, pg. 1 (Section 102)

2 Public Law 98-398-Aug. 24, 1984, pg. 1