



**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Philadelphia District

**For Immediate Release**

**April 4, 2005**

**CONTACT: Merv Brokke (ACOE) (215) 656-6032**

**Lisa Godlewski (Rep. Castle) 302-428-1902**

## **CASTLE, ARMY CORPS AND PARTNERS SEEK PUBLIC INPUT TO THE C&D CANAL RECREATIONAL STUDY**

**WILMINGTON, DE** --- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle and Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Col. Robert J. Ruch today announced the next steps in their efforts to enhance existing recreational opportunities and infrastructure along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (C & D Canal).

Two public open houses will be held in April and will serve as forums for Delawareans and Marylanders to voice their opinions and suggestions surrounding the plan to develop the C&D canal into a place of natural beauty and recreation (including biking, hiking, and ship watching).

Additionally, Castle and Ruch unveiled a new website for the public to share its comments, concerns, data, and questions and is located at <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Projects/CD/>.

"Public input into the development of recreational opportunities along the canal is absolutely critical because they are the ones who are going to be using it. We need to know what the demand is -- hiking trails, biking trails, more fishing or boating opportunities, or enhanced picnicking and restroom facilities. These open houses will enable the people of Delaware and Maryland to have a real say into how this area is going to be developed. And for those who cannot attend the open houses, I encourage them to visit the live interactive website and let their voices be heard," Castle said.

"The Philadelphia District is proud to be a partner in this endeavor. Partnerships like this help to make the Corps the world's premier public engineering organization and this is a tremendous opportunity to work with our Delaware and Maryland partners to enhance recreation along the C&D Canal. The canal is a major thoroughfare and is vital to the regional economy. With everyone's input and support we can improve its daily operations and recreation potential to better serve the public. As with other Corps recreation sites, the C&D Canal area and facilities can be enhanced to better serve the public's recreations needs for generations to come. The public must play an important role in identifying improvements and we look forward to their input. I would like to personally thank Congressman Castle for his leadership and pledge that the Corps will hold up our end in this partnership," Ruch said.

Castle first announced his plan to develop the C & D Canal into a recreational site in spring 2004 and since then has secured \$150,000 in federal funding to get the study phase started. The Delaware Department of Transportation, The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and New Castle County have each pledged matching funds towards the study as well.

Castle and Ruch have established the C&D Canal Recreation Study Working Group to work together with agencies, partners, stakeholders, and citizens to investigate potential future recreational usage of the C&D Canal and develop a final report and long-term plan. As a first step in the process, the working group is recommending that a multi-use trail for walkers, joggers and bikers serve as the main element in all plans to enhance recreation along the Canal.

### **OPEN HOUSE DETAILS:**

#### **Monday, April 25, 4 to 8 pm**

Gunning Bedford Middle School  
801 Cox Neck Road  
Delaware City, Delaware

#### **Tuesday, April 26, 4 to 8 p.m.**

Bohemia Manor High School  
Rt. 213, 2755 Augustine Herman Highway  
Chesapeake City, Maryland

### **Each open house will follow the same schedule.**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 4:00 pm | Open House begins<br>Agency personnel available for questions and comments                                   |
| 5:00 pm | Welcome by Congressmen Castle and Gilchrest<br>(Tentative, based on House of Representatives schedule)       |
| 5:30 pm | Presentation by the C&D Canal Recreation Study Working Group   |
| 6:00 pm | Open House continues<br>Agency personnel available for questions and comments                                |
| 7:00 pm | Presentation by the C&D Canal Recreation Study Working Group<br>(Same presentation as that given at 5:30 pm) |
| 7:30 pm | Open House<br>Agency personnel available for questions and comments  |
| 8:00 pm | Open House closes  |

### **WEB SITE DETAILS:**

The group will make every effort to enlist public input in this regional project. A website is now available for the public to share its comments, concerns, data, and questions and is located at

<http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Projects/CD/>. Please visit the site regularly for upcoming public information workshops announcements and study updates and to tell us how we can better serve you through this website.

Comments via mail or email will be accepted until May 26, 2005.

To provide input to the C&D Canal Recreation Study or for further information please contact Merv Brokke, Philadelphia District, at 215.656.6032 or email [mervin.e.brokke@usace.army.mil](mailto:mervin.e.brokke@usace.army.mil); or write to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, ATTN: Merv Brokke, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

**WORKING GROUP DETAILS:**

The partners in the C&D Canal Recreation Study Working Group are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Delaware Congressman Michael N. Castle, U.S. Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Department of Transportation, Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, New Castle County, DE, Cecil County, MD, and Delaware Greenways.