

To the Honorable Brendan T. Byrne,
Governor of the State of New Jersey,
and to the Members of the Legislature:



Enclosed you will find the Annual Report of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission. This report was prepared by the Commission in order to fulfill the requirements of paragraph 11-i of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Law of 1974 (N.J.S.A. 13:13A-1 et seq.)

If further information is desired please contact the Canal Commission.

Yours sincerely,

David J. Bardin,
Commissioner, Department
of Environmental Protection

Benjamin B. Kirkland,
Chairman, Delaware and
Raritan Canal Commission

DJB/sbb
BBK/sbb

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

James C. Amon

COMMISSIONERS

Benjamin B. Kirkland

Chairman

Martin D. Jessen

Vice-Chairman

Donald B. Jones

Treasurer

David J. Bardin

Bruce A. Hamilton

Joseph H. Burns

Arthur J. Holland

James C. Sayen

Frank J. Torpey

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Brendan Byrne, Governor

David J. Bardin, Commissioner

P.O. BOX 1390 25 CALHOUN STREET TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625 609-396-3063

To the Honorable Brendan T. Byrne,
Governor of the State of New Jersey,
and the Members of the Legislature:



During the calender year 1976 the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission worked toward the fulfillment of its mandated duty of planning for the enhancement and protection of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park.

The Commission has produced a draft master plan for the Canal Park which defines the issues and goals for the park and provides a structure to guide the park's development.

We have initiated a number of scientific surveys which will lead to the delineation of the area in which we will exercise land use authority for the Canal Park's protection.

We have made extensive efforts to engage the involvement of public groups, municipal and county governing agencies, and concerned citizens in the development of the Commission's plans.

We have also initiated studies leading to the improvement of the canal's water, a resource which serves up to 600,000 residents of Central New Jersey.

The Commission has proven to be a dedicated group of citizens; they have brought their considerable talents to public service with enthusiasm and effect. We are proud of our accomplishments over the past year and eagerly look forward to 1977.

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin B. Kirkland
Chairman

BBK/sbb

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
James C. Amon

COMMISSIONERS

Benjamin B. Kirkland
Chairman

Martin D. Jessen
Vice-Chairman

Donald B. Jones
Treasurer

David I. Bardin
Bruce A. Hamilton

Joseph H. Burns
Arthur I. Holland

James C. Sayen
Frank I. Turpey

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Brendan Byrne, Governor

David I. Bardin, Commissioner

MASTER PLAN FOR THE CANAL PARK

In June of this year the Canal Commission completed a first draft of its master plan for the development of the Canal Park. Over one hundred copies of this document were printed and circulated to government agencies and concerned citizens. Planning boards, environmental commissions, and historical societies for all of the municipalities and counties adjacent to the Canal Park were given copies and asked for their comments. The Commission also sought critiques from several agencies in the State government and from professional planners involved in the Canal Park.

After critical comments were received the Commission's master plan was rewritten, with substantial changes reflecting the critiques, and has been published and distributed to municipal clerks, government agencies, and public libraries throughout Central New Jersey. Shortly after the first of the year, public hearings will be held at five locations along the canal's route to allow a maximum amount of public participation before a final plan is adopted.

The master plan was prepared by the Commission's staff in order to accomplish several tasks. It defines the issues that must be faced in creating a State Park along the canal; it states the Commission's goals relating to those issues; it provides a set of principles that can act as a framework to guide the development of the Canal Park; and it brings together or points to all of the presently available information on the relevant natural and man-made resources in the Canal Park's region.

The Commission has also prepared a list of seventeen separate properties totaling about 300 acres which are recommended for acquisition. This list has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection for their review and action.

THE CANAL PARK REVIEW ZONE

The Commission's enabling statute instructs the Commission to determine the size of a zone on either side of the Canal Park within which development will have an impact

on the park. This zone is to be called the "review zone" and the Canal Commission will promulgate rules and regulations governing land use within the review zone.

In order to effectively administer land use regulations the Commission has initiated a number of surveys and data gathering projects relating to the natural and man-made resources of the canal's region. Contracts have been made for studies of the soils, vegetation, historic sites, land use, transportation networks, and watersheds for the region surrounding the Canal Park. These studies will describe existing conditions, explain how they effect various kinds of proposed development, and they will make management recommendations to the Commission.

The Commission has established an Advisory Committee on the Review Zone which will help direct the studies listed above, will review them as they are completed, and will help the Commission establish effective land use regulations. The members of this Advisory Committee combine scientific expertise with practical experience in managing regulatory agencies.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Commission is convinced that the success of the Canal Park's development will depend upon the cooperation and the concern of the people who live near and use the park. In order to develop this partnership between a State agency and citizens, the Commission has made great efforts to work with groups outside the State government. The Commission has overseen the preparation of plans for two development projects that involve the joint efforts of the State and local government or citizen groups. The Commission's staff have also spoken to and shown a canal film to groups all over the State. The Commission's work to involve a wide audience in the development of the Canal Park master plan has already been described.

In October the Commission worked with the Delaware and Raritan Canal Coalition, a citizen group, on a sixty mile long celebration of the canal. October 2nd was proclaimed "Canal Day" by Governor Byrne and festivities were held at more than a dozen spots along the canal. By raising people's consciousness about

the Canal Park, the Commission is convinced that the park can become a valuable resource to the State.

WATER QUALITY IN THE CANAL

The Commission's staff have become active participants in the Federal Water Quality Management Programs (Section 208 of P.L. 92:500) that are being conducted around the State. When it became apparent that the ongoing projects were largely ignoring the canal as a waterway the Commission prepared a detailed "Report on Water Quality in the Delaware and Raritan Canal." This report awakened interest in the canal's water quality problems which led to the preparation of a special water quality study program. At the present time a grant request for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars has been submitted to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. This grant would finance thorough analysis of the present water quality problems and recommendations for land use management practices that would alleviate those problems.

Water is one of the State's most precious resources. By protecting the water in the canal the Commission is protecting the interests of the 600,000 people who depend upon the canal for their household water supply.

FINANCES

Attached is a detailed financial statement covering the Commission's operations during the calendar year 1976.

DELAWARE & RARITAN CANAL COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1976
UNAUDITED

CASH RECEIPTS

State of New Jersey Grant	\$65,000.00	
Interest on certificates of deposit	<u>689.56</u>	
Total		\$65,689.56

CASH DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries		
Executive director	\$21,798.46	
Secretarial	<u>8,627.51</u>	
Total		\$30,425.97
Payroll taxes remitted		3,255.04
Hospitalization		655.15
Utilities		910.26
Telephone		1,264.42
Office supplies and expense		3,725.98
Consulting fees and expense		10,252.81
Accounting		850.00
Travel and auto expense		677.03
Acquisition of		
Office furniture and equipment	<u>2,301.29</u>	
Total		54,317.95
Less: Pension deductions withheld	<u>(135.00)*</u>	
Net		<u>54,182.95</u>

CASH RECEIPTS IN EXCESS OF CASH DISBURSEMENTS

CASH BALANCE - JANUARY 1, 1976 \$11,506.61
37,057.45

CASH BALANCE - DECEMBER 31, 1976 \$48,564.06

* This represents amounts withheld from the executive director's pay pending final determination of the Commission's pension status.