

# Canal Place Heritage Area Management Plan Update



## What is a Heritage Area Management Plan?

Canal Place is part of a Maryland Heritage Area, one of 12 locally designated regions where historical, cultural, and natural resources are promoted to provide economic development opportunities through heritage tourism. These certified heritage areas are also eligible for state financial and technical assistance.

The Canal Place Heritage Area is:

- \* The first certified Heritage Area in Maryland
- \* Located in Cumberland, Maryland around the western portion of the C&O Canal
- \* Overseen by the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority (CPPDA), which was established in 1993
- \* Noted as playing a key role in the transportation network in Maryland

Once areas are designated as Certified Heritage Areas, they are required to create and update a Management Plan to designate specific strategies, projects, programs, and partnerships. A Management Plan was developed in 1996 to help guide the development of Canal Place. An update was completed in 2002 and CPPDA would now like to identify ways to guide further development of the area, as well as possible extension of the existing area boundaries.

Project partners include the City of Cumberland, Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority, National Park Service, Cumberland Downtown Development Commission, Allegany County, Maryland Heritage Area Authority and the City of Frostburg.

## Why spend money on a plan?

With the current economic downturn taking place across the country, why would the project partners spend the time and money to complete an update to the Heritage Area Management Plan? What good could come out of a document that will just sit on a shelf and collect dust? Who wants to get involved in when free time seems to be harder to find? And why would someone want to get involved when it seems that nothing ever changes?

These are some of the misconceptions that the project partners may hear as they undertake this important planning process.

In reality, the updated plan will become a guide - a unifying document - for the project partners as they develop strategies to support future opportunities in Canal Place.

The plan will also enable non-profits and local governments to receive grants for up to fifty percent for planning, design, interpretation, marketing, and programming of the Heritage Area. Local small businesses in the Heritage Area are also eligible for loans that create or expand heritage tourism products or services.



# Canal Place Heritage Area Management Plan Update

## What does the Heritage Area Management Plan Update include?

The Canal Place Heritage Area Management Plan Update includes three different components; Heritage Area Planning, Cumberland Downtown Design and Development Plan Update, and an Environmental Assessment for National Park Service land at Canal Place.

The Heritage Area Planning component includes:

- \* Review of existing boundaries
- \* Establish a theme
- \* Survey and evaluation of contributing properties
- \* Educational, interpretive, and recreational programs
- \* Redevelopment of Target Investment Zones
- \* Economic assessment
- \* Preservation and protection of natural and cultural resources
- \* Living history interpretive area
- \* Organizational structure

The Cumberland Downtown Design and Development Plan Update includes:

- \* District image, identity, and visibility
- \* Streetscape
- \* Infrastructure conditions
- \* Signage
- \* Parking
- \* Pedestrian and bicycle enhancements/circulation
- \* Utilities
- \* Traffic
- \* Retail and residential development

The Environmental Assessment includes:

- \* Purpose and need for the project
- \* Issues and impacts
- \* Range of Alternatives

## Questions or Comments?

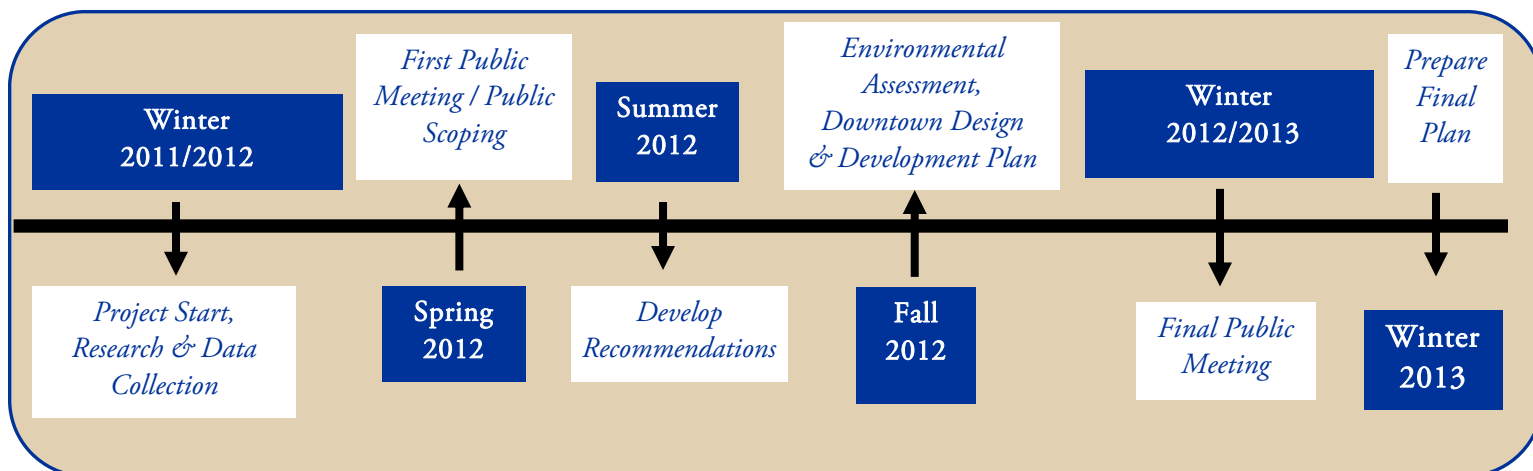
### Project Consultants:

**Mackin, Brandi Rosselli, AICP**  
Project Manager  
RIDC Park West  
117 Industry Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275  
412-788-0472

### Website

<http://parkplanning.nps.org/choh>

## Project Timeline



Mackin Engineering Company  
Attn: Brandi Rosselli, AICP  
RIDC Park West  
117 Industry Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275

**Fold on dotted lines, seal with tape**

---

Return Address

---

---

---

Mackin Engineering  
Attn: Brandi Rosselli, AICP  
RIDC Park West  
117 Industry Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275

**ATTENTION: CANAL PLACE HERITAGE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

---