

175th Anniversary of the I&M Canal
Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Area Proclamation

The I&M Canal opened in 1848 to connect the American heartland to New York Harbor on the east and to New Orleans to the south by water; thereby extending the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. This water highway became an important transportation corridor enhancing commerce trading. It brought people and capital to Illinois, and was instrumental in the development of the towns along its waterway.

WHEREAS; The I&M Canal upon completion linked the Illinois River with Lake Michigan; finalizing an all-water route from New York to New Orleans and establishing a water highway to the west, and;

WHEREAS; The 96-mile I&M Canal ushered in a new era in trade and travel and set the stage for Illinois to become our Nation's most populous inland Empire and home to the nation's greatest inland port, and;

WHEREAS; The I&M Canal gave birth to the growth of the Illinois cities of Chicago, Lemont, Lockport, Seneca, Channahon, Utica, Joliet, Ottawa, Morris, LaSalle-Peru, and;

WHEREAS; The Illinois & Michigan Canal was designated as an National Historic Landmark in 1963 and our Nation's First National Heritage area in 1984; and the Canal Corridor Association designated the coordinating entity for the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Area in 2006 and the [insert of name of community] is within its boundaries designated by the US Congress;

WHEREAS; Today visitors, residents, and school children can visit the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Area from Chicago to Peru and enjoy the historic, cultural, and natural resources including its many trails, prairies, historic canal towns, museums, attractions, and festivals including experiencing a ride on a mule pulled canal boat;

NOW THEREFORE: I FRED BELOTTO Governor / Mayor of the City of BUE ISLAND do hereby affirm a commitment to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the opening of the I&M Canal and to promote Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Area (IMCNHA) as we join others in celebrating its 175th anniversary, by declaring April 2023 to April 2024 as the year of the I&M Canal.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 25TH day of APRIL, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.