

Save our canal

Gary Wagle – President of the Friends of the Hennepin Canal

June 16, 2015

Dear friend of the Hennepin Canal,

I'm writing as one who highly values the Hennepin Canal, a structure that has been a major part of my life for over seventy years. If you have visited the canal sometime within the last ten years or so, you know how, despite valiant efforts by the shrinking numbers of IDNR staff, the canal continues to erode and decline.

We know there is a tipping point where an old structure is no longer worth the resources needed to restore and maintain. Our canal is not at that point, yet. But, without maintenance and repair of neglected infrastructure, our canal could reach that tipping point within a very short time.

Therefore, I'm asking you to actively and creatively use the attached petition that is directed to all citizens who care about saving this wonderful treasure, but especially our law makers. Note there are two pages. One for citizens' names, the other with the addresses of Illinois Legislators. Use this petition any way you can to help the cause.

For example, I intend to print it, put it on a clip board and carry it with me when on the canal. I'll ask fishermen, boaters, walkers, bike riders, and ANYONE who might want to protect the canal to sign the petition. Then, I will send the petition, on my own, using my own paper, stamps and time, to my State Legislators. I might also send or give copies to local town and county officials, for they, too, have a voice in government. I might stop by a bicycle shop or bait shop and see what I can do with the petition. What will you do? Be creative.

Neither the quiet water flowing down our canal nor the entire ecosystem nourished by our canal can speak. It's up to us.

Thanks,
Gary