

Matton Shipyard Preservation and Adaptive Reuse Initiative

Matton Shipyard, established in 1916, is located on Van Schaick Island in Cohoes, New York, at the junction of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. Matton is a rare surviving example of an early 20th century civilian ship building and repair facility. More than 340 tug boats, police boats, submarine chasers, and other vessels, were built by Matton up until the early 1980s. At its height, Matton employed more than 300 people.

Matton Shipyard retains a remarkable degree of structural integrity and has strong potential for capital improvement with direct benefits to the public, including interpretive and educational opportunities, access to the Hudson River, and commercial activities.



Matton Shipyard Circa 1949

The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is part of Peebles Island State Park and is strategically linked to several land and water-based recreational trails. Revitalization of the shipyard has been identified as a priority for many years and put forth in several regional plans that provide a solid foundation of ideas to build upon. **Our vision for Matton Shipyard is that the site, once again, serves as a vibrant intersection of historical, cultural, educational, recreational and commercial activities** and proudly anchors the eastern gateway to the Erie Canal and the southern gateway to the Champlain Canal.

Phase One of the Initiative will include development of a comprehensive preservation and adaptive reuse plan, site and utility assessments, initial revitalization work and providing a foundation for Phase Two plans and resources. Phase One is estimated to cost \$334,982. The Erie Canalway Heritage Fund (ECHF), the nonprofit partner of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, with IRS 501(c)(3) status, has secured a \$238,642 grant through the Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC) and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and an additional \$21,500 in other public and private support. ECHF is now seeking to raise the required matching funds. We have committed \$31,250 and are now trying to secure the remaining resources necessary to meet our matching fund requirements and restore this tremendous site.

Total Needed for Phase One: \$334,982

Sources of Funds

○ NYS OPRHP Grant	\$238,642	Committed
○ ECHF	\$31,250	Committed
○ Hudson River Valley NHA	\$11,500	Committed
○ National Trust for Historic Preservation	\$5,000	Committed
○ Albany County Convention and Visitor's Bureau of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region	\$5,000	Committed
○ The McCarthy Charities	\$3,000	Committed

Current Need \$40,590

(We also have been awarded a \$148,000 grant for capital improvements from New York State Canal Corporation; and have pending capital requests to the National Maritime Heritage Grant program; New York State OPRHP, and New York State Canal Corporation. These resources will support the implementation of Phase Two Construction).

Matton Shipyard presents a prime opportunity to develop a creative demonstration project that addresses flood resiliency for structures located within a flood plain. Four key goals will help guide the master planning process: (1) develop a facility open to the public and with an active public interpretation and educational program that raises awareness of the site and its national significance; (2) provide much needed site stability and Hudson River shoreline improvements and direct public access for residents of the City of Cohoes and surrounding communities; (3) other potential commercial activities such as bike and kayak rentals; and (4) become a successful and replicable model for addressing sites and building designs within a flood plain. Initial conceptual drawings will express the overall vision for a fully renovated Matton Shipyard and be used to build public and private support. This work will include perspective and aerial views, draft elevations in gray scale and full color, a building/street view, and a full color landscape of the revitalized shipyard.

With our key partners – the NYS OPRHP, the NYS Canal Corporation, and the City of Cohoes – we will coordinate the effort to revitalize Matton Shipyard for the benefit of the region. At Matton, nationally-significant history, hiking and biking trails, water trails, and **opportunities for community and economic development all intersect**. Along with our partners, we hope you will join us in preserving and adaptively reusing this amazing site, providing much desired public access, celebrating the historic industrial success of the region **and making Matton Shipyard vibrant once again on the shore of the Hudson River**.

For more information, contact:

Andy Kitzmann, Assistant Director, 518-237-7000 x 201 (andy_kitzmann@partner.nps.gov)
 Bob Radliff, Executive Director, at 518-237-7000 x 203 (bob_radliff@partner.nps.gov)