



Matton Shipyard: Preservation & Adaptive Reuse Initiative

Project Description

Matton Shipyard is located on Van Schaick Island, Cohoes, at the junction of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers and the confluence of the Erie and Champlain Canals. The site is a rare surviving example of an early 20th century civilian ship building and repair facility. The site is located immediately adjacent to the Hudson River's western bank and New York's 750-mile-long Empire State Trail, and is part of Peebles Island State Park.

The Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc. is leading a revitalization effort of the Shipyard in close partnership with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP), and the City of Cohoes, to bring this once vibrant community site back into public service. The vision is to develop a historical, cultural, and recreational hub with restored structures, an active waterfront, and linked trails that are available for residents and visitors to use and enjoy for generations to come.

The current proposed action intends to stabilize the remaining structures, address contaminated soils, and stabilize an eroding shoreline.

Building Stabilization – Will involve removal of vegetation from near building perimeters, repairing and making fully functional strategically selected windows and doors; adding components such as protective glazing, screening, and passive and active ventilation to windows that are not made functional and secure; securing the buildings; incorporating flood mitigation strategies, such as flood louvers or other passive mechanisms; and retaining and stabilizing existing character-defining features of the structures.

Site Remediation - To address shallow soil in the southern portion of the project site that contains lead and/or chromium with levels at, or approaching, applicable Commercial Use Soil Cleanup Objectives (CUSCOs), direct contact and ingestion exposure pathways will be eliminated and remediated, as necessary. Soil remediation will include the removal and off-site disposal of the top six inches where CUSCOs are exceeded. In total 570 cubic yards (CY) of soil would be removed from the site. It is anticipated that removed soil would be disposed at the City of Albany landfill (or equivalent permitted facility) in a regulatory compliant manner. A portion of the work area would be capped with a gravel parking lot (for future site use), with an adjacent area capped with clean topsoil and reseeded. The total anticipated area to be disturbed for the proposed remediation work, parking and site access is 0.81 acres.

Shoreline Stabilization - The northern project site shoreline, which comprises, mainly, unvegetated streambed and stone, from the river's low water level up to the embankment cut, will be stabilized with the construction of a new ecologically enhanced shoreline protection system. Specifically, the existing concrete and man-made debris in this section of the shoreline will be removed from crest to toe, large deciduous trees shading the shoreline will be removed, and the shoreline will be excavated, graded, stabilized using vegetated geogrids of natural material and the planting of native species. To the south of the natural shoreline, new cribbing will be constructed just outside (waterward) of the existing cribbing, with the existing cribbing abandoned, in place. This work will require grubbing, levelling, armoring, and stabilizing the shoreline just outside of the cribbing. Horizontal piles and/or helical tie-backs will be driven to support the new cribbing. The total anticipated area to be disturbed for the proposed shoreline stabilization work is 0.26 acres.

In total, it is anticipated that the proposed project would disturb 1.07 acres of the 5.97 acre project site.