



Fact Sheet: Burlington Island

Burlington Island in Burlington County, New Jersey is a 420 acre island with a 100 acre interior lake. The island is located in the tidal Delaware estuary between Philadelphia and Trenton, The island's ownership is split roughly in the middle between the City of Burlington and the Burlington Public School District. The District's half is managed by the Board of Island Managers, a dedicated group of volunteers that are elected to the Board.

The Board of Island Managers has solicited and received proposals to develop their half of the island. The current Phase 4 of the proposal received includes a hotel. Phase 1, 2 and 3 are for environmental and cultural education and active recreation. Delaware Riverkeeper Network, other area environmental organizations and several residents for the City of Bristol, which is in Pennsylvania, but directly across the River from the Island, have been actively engaged in this process.

Current news (as of 7/1/2010) includes:

- Environmental study - Delaware Riverkeeper Network and other have urged that an environmental resources inventory be conducted on the island. The developer asserts that they will do so.
- Archeological study - There is a lot of interest from Monmouth University to conduct archeological field study on the island. According to Dr. Veit of Monmouth University, there are likely the remains of a 17th-Century Dutch Trading Post on the Island.
- Master Plan - The City of Burlington is finalizing its Master Plan re-visions. Delaware Riverkeeper Network submitted detailed comment emphasizing the need to maintain the Island in its natural wooded condition accessible for passive recreation, such as birding, walking and environmental education. The City of Burlington's riverfront has great redevelopment opportunities and the unspoiled island would complement the mainland redevelopment.
- Dredge spoils - NJDEP will likely begin re-utilizing the dredge spoils sites on the southern end of the island for maintenance dredge materials. These spoils will be deposited and then removed as opportunities for alternative reuse of those spoils materializes.

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network
300 Pond Street, Second Floor
Bristol, PA 19007
tel: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
drkn@delawariverkeeper.org
www.delawariverkeeper.org