PROPOSED ROUTINE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION CHANGES TO PENNSYLVANIA'S COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Introduction

The following are proposed Routine Program Implementation (RPI) changes to the <u>Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)</u>. These changes concern Geographic Areas of Particular Concern (GAPC) contained in Chapter 3. The changes are: an expansion of the existing Market Square Memorial Park and St. Martin's Church GAPC, the additions of the Morton-Mortonson House, Bartram's Garden, and Williamson Manor Park Boat Access Facility GAPCs; and removal of the Folcroft Landfill GAPC from the approved CZM Program.

Under the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can make certain changes to its approved Coastal Zone Management Program without going through the formal and lengthy amendment process. First, however, the state is required to demonstrate to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that these changes are RPIs rather than amendments. An RPI is defined as, "Further detailing of a state's program that is the result of implementing provisions approved as part of the state's approved management program that does not result in (an amendment)."

An amendment is defined as "Substantial changes in, or substantial changes in enforceable policies or authorities related to:

- 1. Boundaries;
- Uses subject to the management program;
- 3. Criteria or procedures for designating or managing areas of particular concern or areas for preservation or restoration; and
- 4. Consideration of the national interest involved in the planning for and the siting of, facilities which are necessary to meet requirements which are other than local in nature."

Proposed Changes

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is submitting the following GAPC changes to NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management as RPI's and not amendments. For a clearer comparison, the original statement is presented first, followed by a revised statement. All changes contained in the revised statement appear in **bold face print**. The RPI contains justification for the changes and analysis of the impact the changes would have on Pennsylvania's CZM Program and justification as to why the changes constitute an RPI and not a Program Amendment as defined by the Federal Regulations.

The following changes apply to the Pennsylvania CZM Program's <u>FEIS</u> (August 1980); GAPC, Part II, Chapter 3, Special Management Concerns.

Pages II-3-8 to II-3-12; Revisions to the Inventory of GAPC.

Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone, Delaware County GAPC, Page 11-3-9.

Recreational, Cultural, Historic Value Areas originally read:

Identification Number	Recreational, Cultural, Historic Value Areas	Approximate Size (acres)
R-1	Market Square Memorial Park and St. Martin's Church	5.7
R-2	Commodore Barry Bridge Area	10
R-3	Chester Creek Mouth	5
R-4	Essington Waterfront	84
R-5	Folcroft Landfill	41

With these changes, this section will read:

Identification Number	Recreational, Cultural, Historic Value Areas	Approximate Size (acres)
R-1	Market Square Memorial Park and St. Martin's Church	32.0
R-2	Commodore Barry Bridge Area	10
R-3	Chester Creek Mouth	5
R-4	Essington Waterfront	84
R-5	Morton-Mortonson House	5.0

As of our last RPI dated October 29, 1986, Market Square Memorial Park, formerly known as McClure Park, was expanded to include St. Martin's Church. This new expansion will include the areas presently separating these two sites known as "the Market Square Neighborhood" and will increase the size of the GAPC from 5.7 acres to 32 acres. The Market Square Neighborhood encompasses that section of Marcus Hook Borough (Delaware County) from Fourth Street to the Delaware River and from Green Street on the west to Church Street on the east, inclusive of St. Martin's Church and Cemetery (see attached location maps A, B, and C). The characteristics of this neighborhood compliment and support the Historic Preservation and Recreational Access Policies of the Pennsylvania CZM Program.

The Market Square neighborhood adopted a Redevelopment Plan in 1985, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Urban Redevelopment Law of 1945, as amended. Under this plan the Borough is assembling land parcels, demolishing dilapidated and non-conforming structures, and providing for neighborhood recreation opportunities and improved area amenities. A major objective of the plan is that the project area be returned, to the greatest extent possible, to residential use. Reflective of its historic past, the area is to be reinforced by an infusion of public improvements supportive of this objective. Extensive opportunities exist for historic preservation and historic rediscovery and interpretation. Public access opportunities to the river, beyond the existing park, are still an important element of the overall scheme. Therefore, this action is in conformance with the Historic Preservation and Recreational Access policies of Pennsylvania's CZM Program.

The Morton-Mortonson House located in Norwood Borough, Delaware County is being nominated as a new recreational, cultural, historic GAPC. The Morton-Mortonson House is an historic structure located on a 5-acre tract of land at the junction of the Muckinipates and Darby Creeks. The structure was built prior to 1680 and was occupied as late as 1950. Following a short period of non-use, the structure was reconstructed in 1972 through financial aid from many groups, including HUD. The house is presently occupied by a groundskeeper who provides maintenance and security. The site is bordered on the south by Darby Creek and Tinicum National Environmental Center, on the east by the Muckinipates Creek, on the west by privately owned land, and on the north by Winona Avenue and the adjoining densely developed community of Norwood (see attached location maps D, E, and F.). The site is under constant and sometimes severe recreational use pressures. By designating this area as a recreational, cultural, historic GAPC; CZM funds could be used to help preserve and protect the historic structure and surrounding area and at the same time provide an upgraded recreational use area. The creation of the Morton-Mortonson House as a recreational, cultural, historic GAPC is in conformance with the Historic Preservation and Recreational Access policies of Pennsylvania's CZM Program.

The Folcroft Landfill located in Delaware County, is now part of the Tinicum National Environmental Center and is no longer included in the coastal zone (see attached location map G). After being purchased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this area became "excluded Federal lands." As stipulated in the Federal CZM Act Section 304(1) and in the Pennsylvania CZM Program's <u>FEIS</u>, Part II, Chapter 1, Defining the Coastal Zone Boundary/Excluded Federal Lands, "...All lands owned, leased, held in trust, or whose use is otherwise by law subject solely to the discretion of the Federal government, its officers or agents, are excluded from the coastal zone."

Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone, Philadelphia County GAPC, Page 11-3-9.

Recreational, Cultural, Historic Value Areas originally read:

ldentification Number	Recreational, Cultural, Historic Value Areas	Approximate Size (acres)
R-6	Fort Mifflin	25
R-7	Schuylkill River Park	50
R-8	Penn Treaty Park	2
*R-9	Frankford Arsenal Boat Area	21.63
*R-10	Tacony Boat Launch Area	3.73
R-11	Mouth of Pennypack Creek	180
R-12	Pleasant Hill Park	27

NOTE: GAPCs appearing with aesterisk (*) denote state ownership.

With these changes, this section will read:

Identification Number	Recreational, Cultural, Historic Value Areas	Approximate Size (acres)
R-6	Fort Mifflin	25
R-7	Bartram's Garden	44
R-8	Schuylkill River Park	50
R-9	Penn Treaty Park	2
*R-10	Frankford Arsenal Boat Area	21.63
*R-11	Tacony Boat Launch Area	3.73
R-12	Mouth of Pennypack Creek	180
R-13	Pleasant Hill Park	27

Bartram's Garden is being nominated as a new recreational, cultural and historical GAPC. Bartram's Garden, located within the City/County of Philadelphia, is the oldest surviving botanic garden in America. It is a National Historic Landmark, the highest federal designation of historic resources, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The garden is also included within the National Recreation Trails System.

Bartram's Garden is located along the lower east bank of the Schuylkill River. It is bounded by the old Baltimore and Ohio Line on the north and northwest, the Schuylkill River on the southeast, and 56th Street on the southwest. (see attached location maps H and I). Its 44 acres of parkland, botanical gardens, and historic structures exist amid intense industrial and transportation uses where there is a notable absence of recreational and cultural areas.

Recreational opportunities at the Garden include walking, sightseeing, wildlife observation, picnicking, play fields and access to the Schuylkill River. The John Bartram Association also administers a number of educational programs for children and adults focusing on the site's natural and historic resources. Further development and protection of Bartram's Garden will satisfy pressures to provide additional recreation opportunities along the Schuylkill River as water quality in the estuary improves.

The outstanding complex of historic structures at Bartram's Garden includes an 18th century farmhouse, carriage house, stable, barn, and seedhouse. Only one of these buildings, the farmhouse, has been restored and is currently open for public visitation. The dependencies which face an open courtyard are in urgent need of stablization and restoration. The John Bartram-Association recognizes that there is a high potential for the recovery and adaptive reuse of these historic structures which have undergone detrimental modifications over the years. Their restoration will both preserve and increase public access to a unique coastal zone resource.

The Association's goal is the adaptive reuse and restoration of historic structures including barn, stable, carriage house and seedhouse to increase and improve public access for cultural and recreational activities.

By designating this area as a recreational, cultural, historic GAPC, CZM funds could be used to help preserve and protect the historic structures and surrounding areas and at the same time provide an upgraded recreational use area.

Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone, Bucks County GAPC, Page 11-3-10.

Recreational, Cultural, Historic Value Areas originally read:

Identification Number	Recreational, Cultural, Historic Value Areas	Approximate Size (acres)
R-11	Biddle Estate	88
R-12	Bucks County Delaware River Access Area	8
R-13	Columbus County Club	19
R-14	Philadelphia Gun Club	18
*R-15	Neshaminy State Park	356
R-16	Creekroad-South	26
R-17	Riverside Avenue Redevelopment Area	# 1. *
R-18	Radcliff Street	78
*R-19	Pennsylvania Canal	80
R-20	Bordentown Road Causeway	62
*R-21	Pennsbury Manor State Park	40
R-22	Falls Township River Access Area	16

With these changes, this section will read:

Identification Number	Recreational, Cultural, Historic Value Areas	Approximate Size (acres)
R-11	Biddle Estate	88
R-12	Bucks County Delaware River Access Area	8
R-13	Columbus County Club	19
R-14	Philadelphia Gun Club	18
*R-15	Neshaminy State Park	356
R-16	Creekroad-South	26
R-17	Riverside Avenue Redevelopment Area	
R-18	Radcliff Street	78
*R-19	Pennsylvania Canal	80
R-20	Bordentown Road Causeway	62
*R-21	Pennsbury Manor State Park	40
R-22	Falls Township River Access Area	16
R-23	Williamson Manor Park Boat Access Facility	1

Williamson Manor Park Boat Access Facility, is being nominated as a new recreational, cultural, historic GAPC. The access site is located at the east end of East Philadelphia Avenue, in Morrisville Borough, Bucks County. It is bordered by the Delaware River on the east, South Delmorr Avenue on the west and private property to the north and south (see attached location maps J, K, and L). The project site was the subject of a previously funded Coastal Zone Management Program Plan. That Plan, published in 1981 and entitled Williamson Park Expansion Project, recommended a series of park improvements within the Borough of Morrisville. One primary element of the Williamson Manor Park Plan was the recommendation to provide public access to the Delaware River on lands owned by the Borough.

This public access area was brought one step closer to reality, when in 1988 the Pennsylvania CZM Program funded another study entitled Williamson Manor Park Boat Access Facility - Morrisville Borough. In order for the CZM Program to assist in the <u>construction</u> of this access facility, the area must first be designated as recreational, historical, cultural GAPC.

In addition, this would be the only GAPC in the Borough, as well as the only public access ramp to the Delaware River. Furthermore, the construction of this access will improve response time for the Borough's fireboat which presently must be transported to and launched from the New Jersey side of the Delaware River.

The proposed boat access facility will include a 25' x 100' concrete launching ramp, landscaping, benches, bulletin board, picnic tables and parking lot. The creation of the Williamson Manor Park Boat Access Facility as a recreational, cultural, historic GAPC is in conformance with the Recreation Access policies of the Pennsylvania CZM Program.

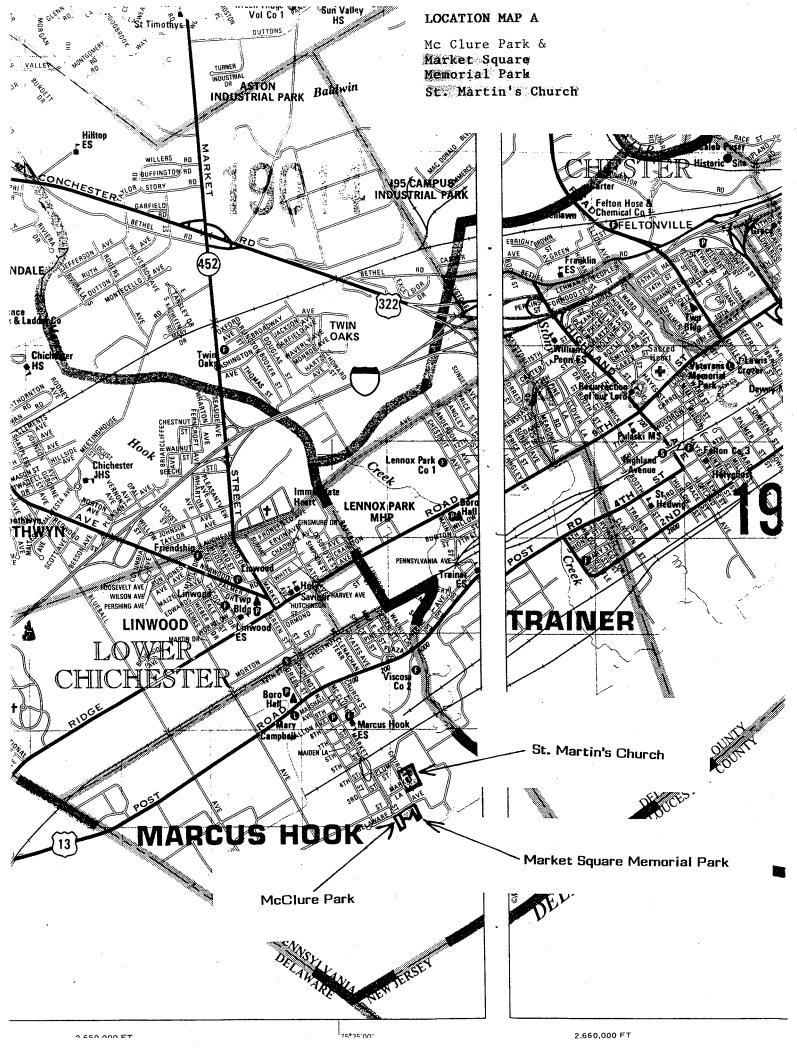
The expansion of the existing Market Square Memorial Park and St. Martin's Church GAPC, additions of the Morton-Mortonson House, Bartram's Garden and Williamson Manor Park Boat Access Facility GAPCs, and removal of the Folcroft Landfill GAPC are consistent with the policies of Pennsylvania CZM Program and do not represent substantial changes to the approved Program since the approved Program includes procedures for GAPC nomination and removal. Therefore, these changes constitute RPIs and not Program amendments.

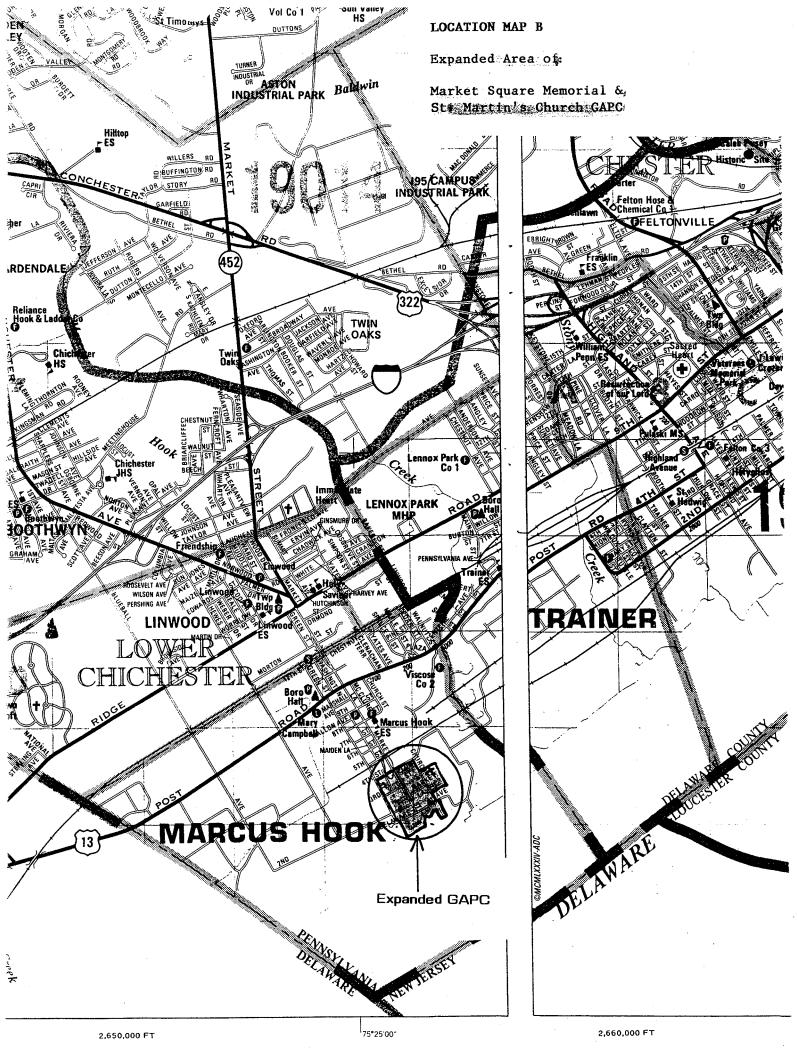
Attachment(s)

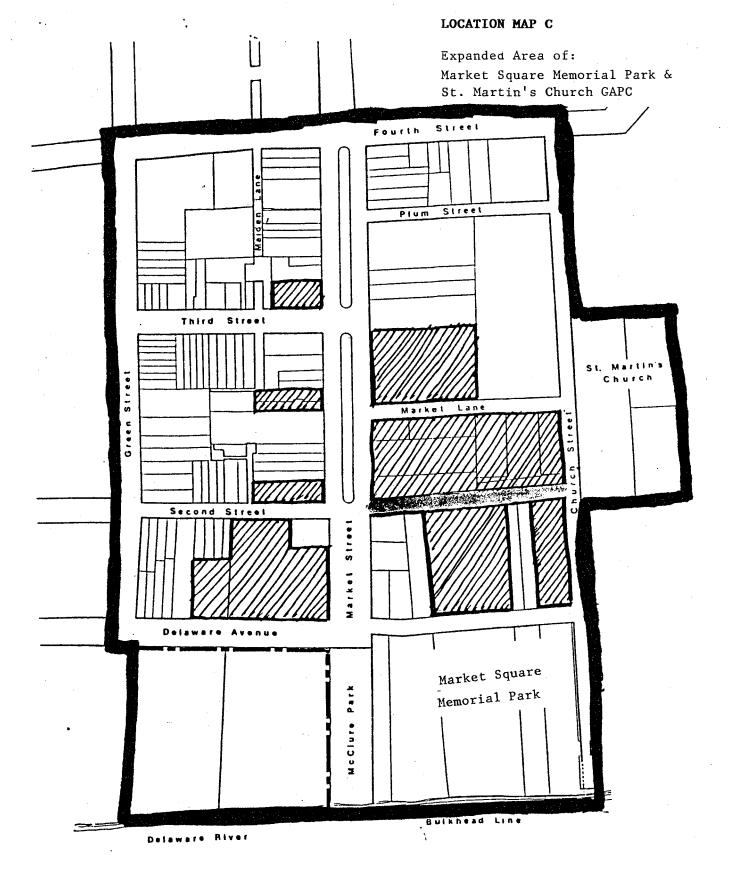
cc: Toth

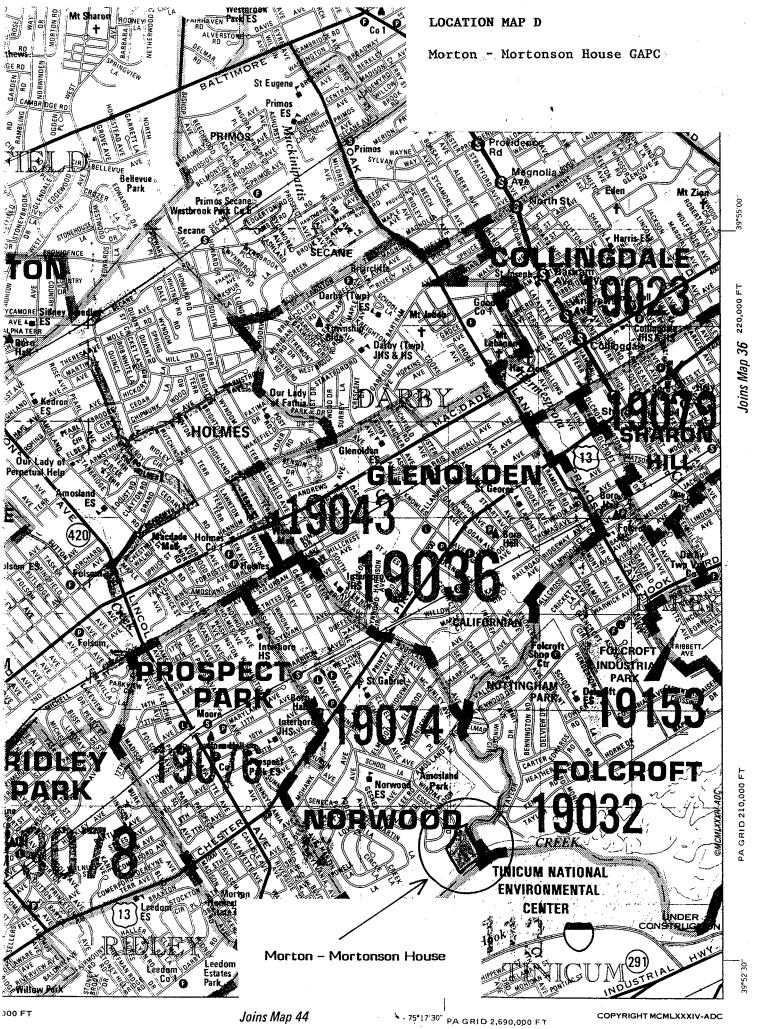
Cash (2) McSparran

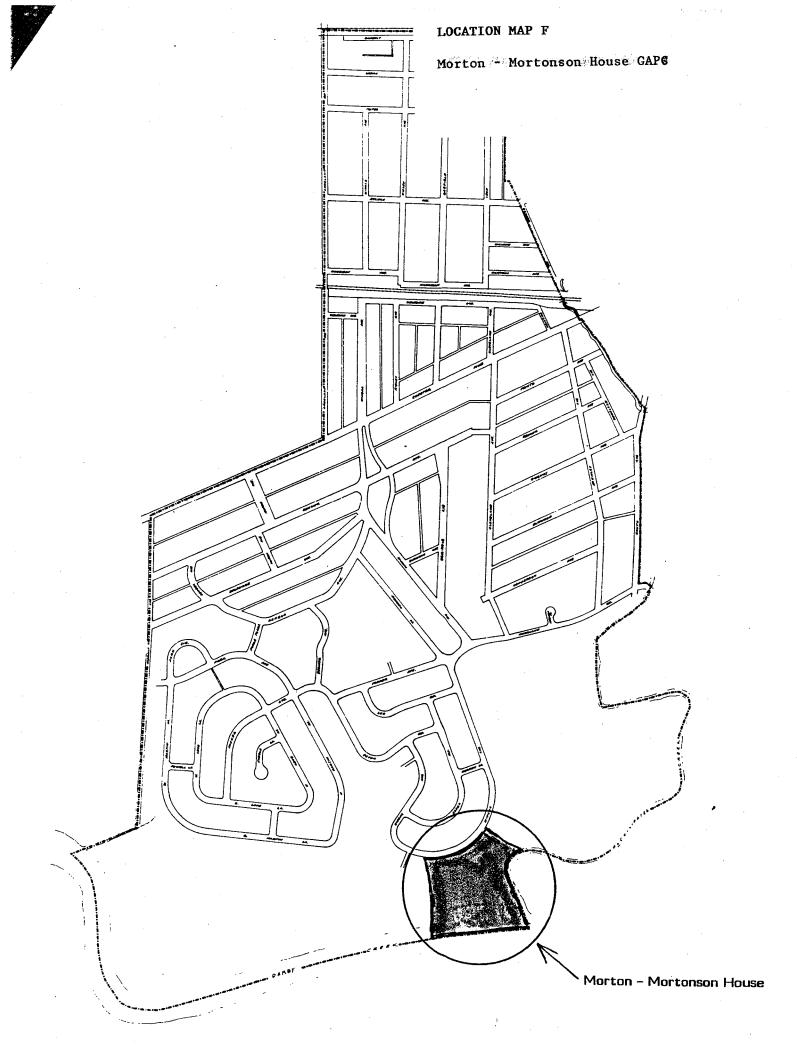
LT:rmj

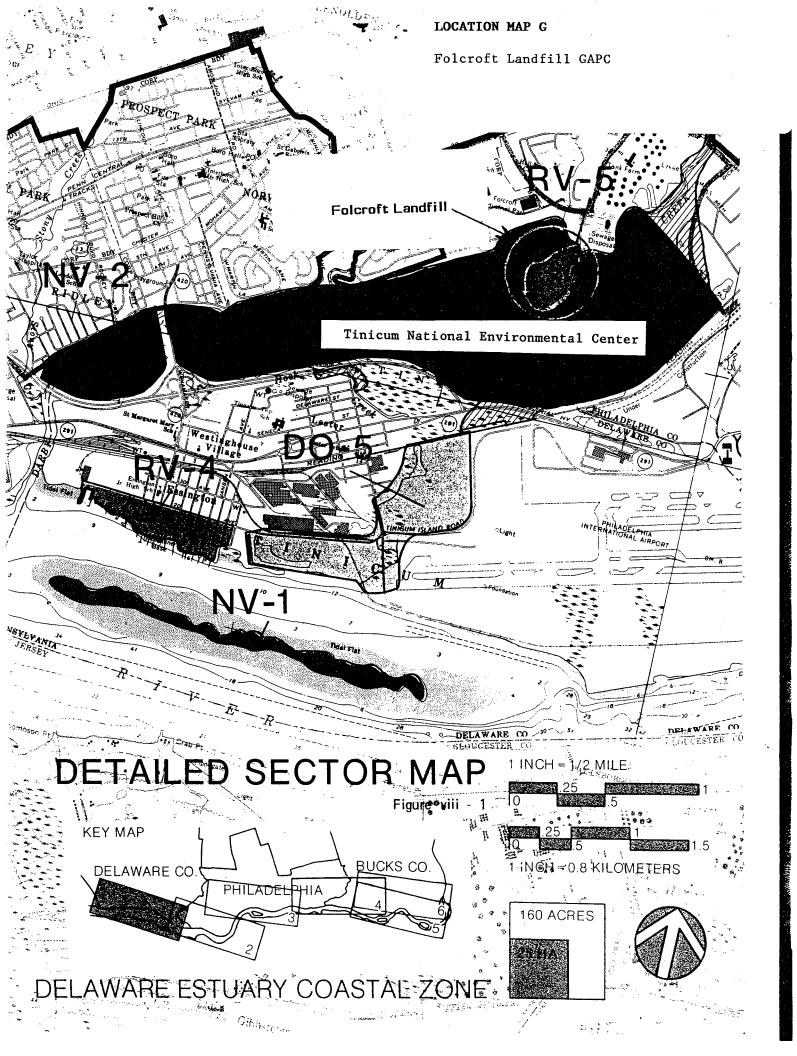




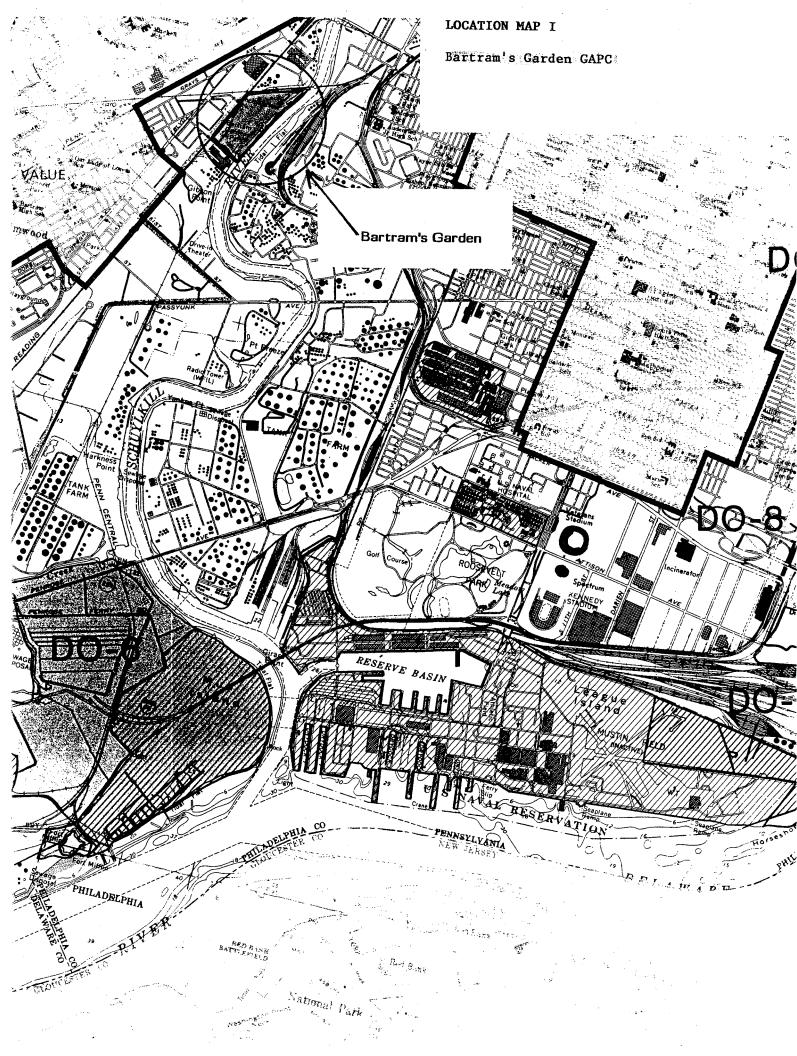


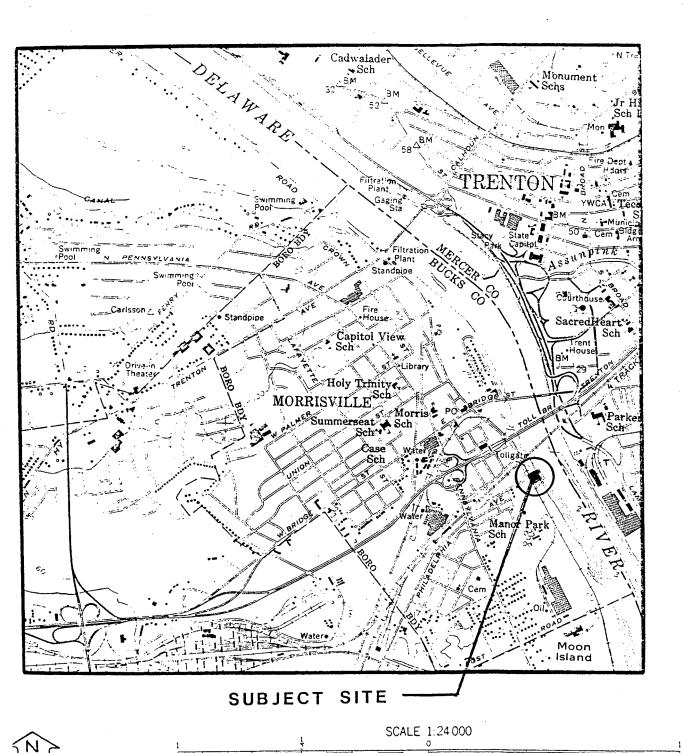






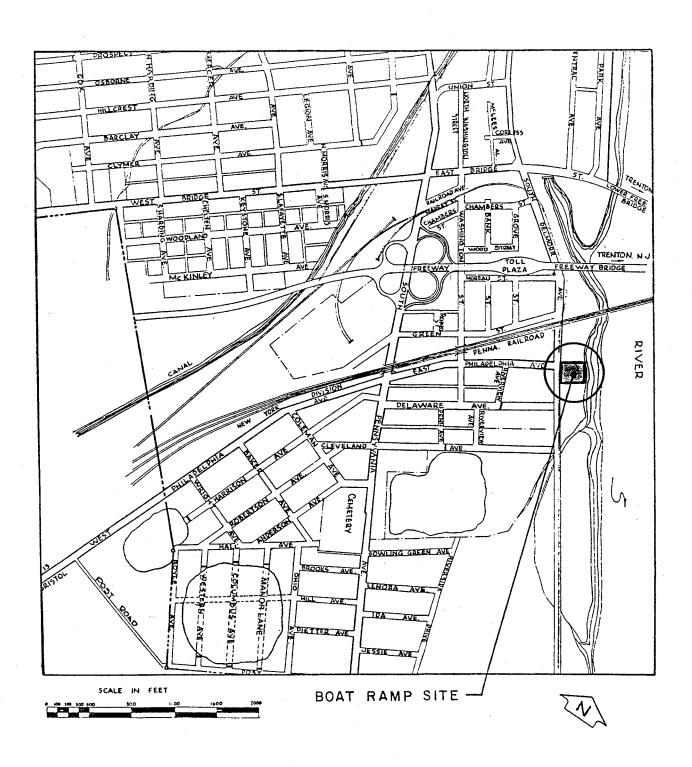






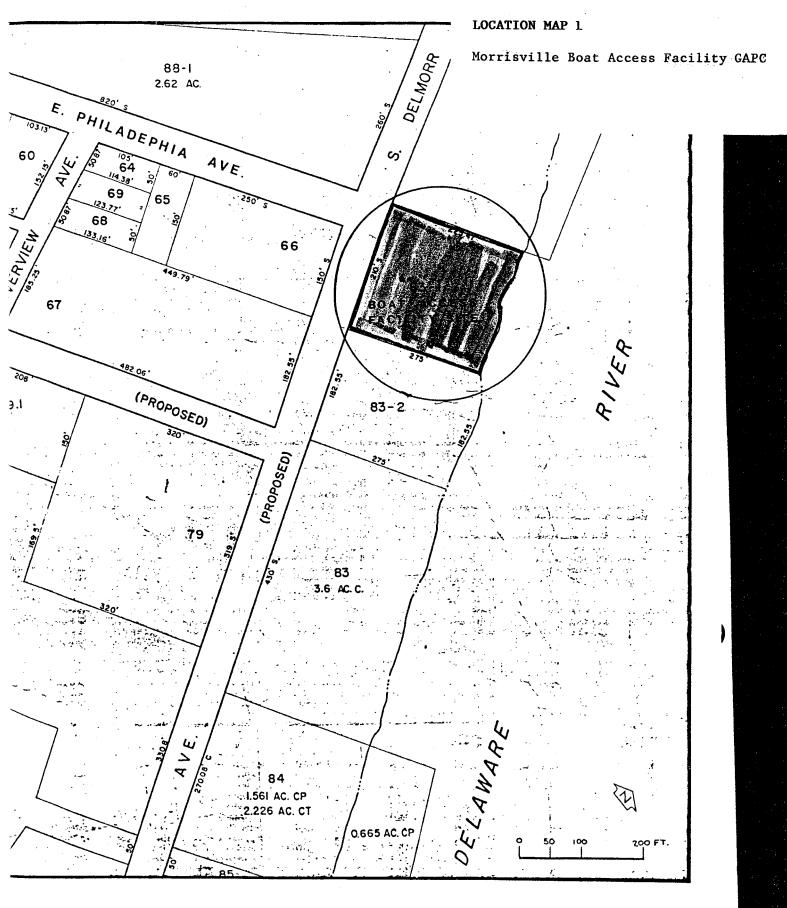
USGS MAP

BOAT ACCESS FACILITY MORRISVILLE BOROUGH



LOCALITY MAP

BOAT ACCESS FACILITY MORRISVILLE BOROUGH



PARCEL TAX MAP

BOAT ACCESS FACILITY MORRISVILLE BOROUGH

CZIO'KTI W



UNITED STATES DEPA...MENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1 1 4 1999

Washington, D.C. 20235

E. James Tabor, Chief Division of Coastal Zone Management Bureau of Water Resources Management Department of Environmental Resources P.O. Box 1467 Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Tabor:

The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) has reviewed your June 14, 1989 request to designate three new Geographic Areas of Concern (GAPC), expand the boundary of one GAPC, and delete one GAPC as routine program implementation of the Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program (PCZMP).

We concur with your finding that the changes constitute routine program implementation and should be incorporated into the PCZMP pursuant to 15 CFR §923.84. Federal consistency will apply when public notice of our approval is published.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Critchfield

Aeting Director

