

(December 19, 2006) Lipinski Discusss Plans For Historic Site in Lyons

REP. LIPINSKI DISCUSSES PLANS FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Recently, Congressman Dan Lipinski met with Cook County Forest Preserve District General Superintendent Steve Bylina to talk about plans for the Chicago Portage National Historic Site located in Lyons.

Located north of the Stevenson Expressway just west of Harlem Avenue, the Chicago Portage is one of just two National Historic Sites in Illinois. The site was shown to explorers Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet in 1673 by Native Americans as a link from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River and served as a vital link between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Dubbed Chicago's "Plymouth Rock," nearly everyone involved in Chicago's discovery, exploration, and creation passed through the Chicago Portage.

Countless cars drive past this Historic Site every day, but few stop to explore the area and see the monument dedicated to Chicago's early settlers. Possible plans for the site include enhancing conservation efforts in the area and creating a learning center for visitors.

"I certainly hope that this valuable piece of Chicago history can be renovated and interest in this site renewed. I would like to see future generations of Chicagoland's families, students, and teachers come here to walk on the same ground as America's pioneers and Chicago's founders," Lipinski said.