

News

\$500K boost could help Bromley redevelopment

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HAMILTON — Congressman Chris Smith of Hamilton helped push a bill through the U.S. House last week that contains provisions that would improve the Assunpink Creek and earmark \$500,000 toward Isles Inc.'s "Mill One" redevelopment project in the township's Bromley section.

Isles, a Trenton-based nonprofit, is in the process of redeveloping the dilapidated building at the corner of North Johnston Avenue and Nottingham Way into a "sustainable urban village" comprising artist studios, mixed-income housing and retail space.

"This project contains important high performance conservation initiatives that will have a positive impact on the environment and economy of the area," Smith said in a statement.

Isles officials said obtaining federal funding is one aspect of a "complex" financing plan to raise \$15 million for the first phase of the project.

The House-passed bill, expected to sail through the Senate and get signed into law by President Obama before year's end, also has measures to improve the 25-mile long Assunpink Creek in Trenton and Hamilton. The bill empowers the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to spend money to have debris removed from where the creek flows by Sweet Briar Road in Hamilton, which will help to reduce flooding there, according to Jeff Sagnip, a spokesman for Congressman Smith.

The bill also allows the corps to make alterations to the creek where it goes underground along the Broad Street culvert in downtown Trenton. These alterations would "restore normal daylight" to the creek at that location by removing the culvert's roof structure, Sagnip said.

Fish rarely swim through that area where the Assunpink Creek is buried within the pitch-black culvert, but that will change once the day-lighting project is complete, Sagnip said. He also said the return of migratory fish would attract locals to go fishing there.

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