

# **1.0 INTRODUCTION**



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This report represents the results of A.D. Marble & Company's Cultural Resource Evaluation for Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) Contract No. 21-200-08, the Mispillion River Greenway Pedestrian and Bicycle Path System, City of Milford, Sussex County, Delaware. Amy K. Fanz served as the principal author of the report with Scott A. Emory as co-author.

The recommended Area of Potential Effect (APE) for evaluation purposes encompasses an area south and east of the Mispillion River, between the Front Street State Service Center parking lot and Southwest Front Street in Milford, Delaware (Figure 1). The recommended project APE, located on the landscaped, tree-lined east bank of the Mispillion River, comprises an area covering approximately 452.7 square meters (4,873.0 sq ft) (Matt Spohn, personal communication 2001). Geomorphological tests performed in the recommended project APE by Hynes and Associates on June 27, 2001, indicate that 2.7 to 4.0 meters (9.0 to 13.0 ft) of late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century fill overlie an alluvial subsoil horizon (Matt Spohn, personal communication 2002). The proposed project is Phase XII in an extension of the existing Mispillion Greenway Pedestrian and Bicycle Path System, which is designed to provide pedestrians and bicyclists with an opportunity to travel from Rehoboth Boulevard on the east side of Milford to Haven Lake on the west side of Milford following the Mispillion River and its tributaries. The proposed work will consist of site preparation, minor drainage, construction of 236.9 square meters (2,550.0 sq ft) of 2.4-meter (8.0-ft) wide raised boardwalk on 4.5-meter (15.0-ft) pilings with 1.2-meter (4.0-ft) high wood safety railing, Victorian period lighting, site furnishings, and landscaping (Matt Spohn, personal communication 2001). The proposed Phase XII segment of the pathway is similar in design and accoutrements as that found in previous pathway construction along the north bank of the Mispillion River. Bank grading and stone riprap will be used along the riverfront portion of the recommended project APE (Appendix A).

The purpose of this Cultural Resources Evaluation is to investigate the recommended Mispillion River Greenway Path project APE and determine if any known archaeological or architectural resources will be affected by the proposed improvements.

To accomplish this task, secondary and primary source materials regarding the prehistory and history of the project area were collected and analyzed, including Delaware Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) Inventory files and *National Register* files, historic maps and photographs, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil survey data, and previously completed surveys of the project area. A pedestrian survey of architectural features was conducted in the project area, and an archaeological survey was limited to surface inspection. This investigation was conducted in September 2001.