

# Bancroft Pedestrian Bridge over the Brandywine Creek



Date: March 28, 2023

# Introduction to Speakers



**Barry Benton, PE**  
Project Director  
GPI



**Christie Bonniwell, PWS**  
Environmental Scientist  
GPI

# Introduction to Speakers

- Project Role: Project Director
- Education: BS/Civil Engineering/University of Delaware
- Professional Registrations: PE (DE, MD, NY)
- Experience: 30 years in the industry
  - Retired from DelDOT after 25 years
  - Served as the State Bridge Engineer for 5 years
  - Served on AASHTO Committee of Bridges and Structures for 13 years, including 3 years on the Executive Committee
  - Panel Chair for 2 NCHRP projects (culvert joints and ancillary structures)
  - Bridges, pedestrian bridges (steel, concrete, timber), roadways, culverts, H&H



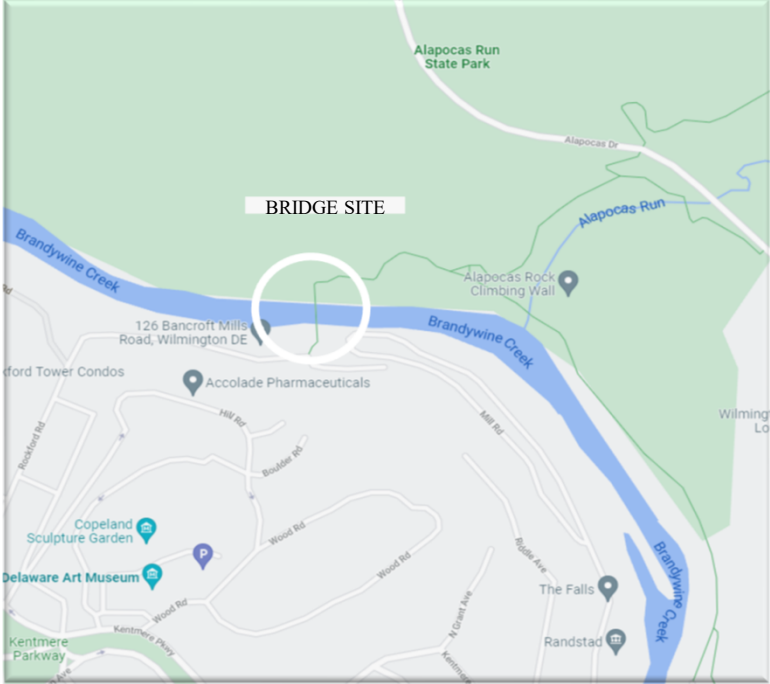
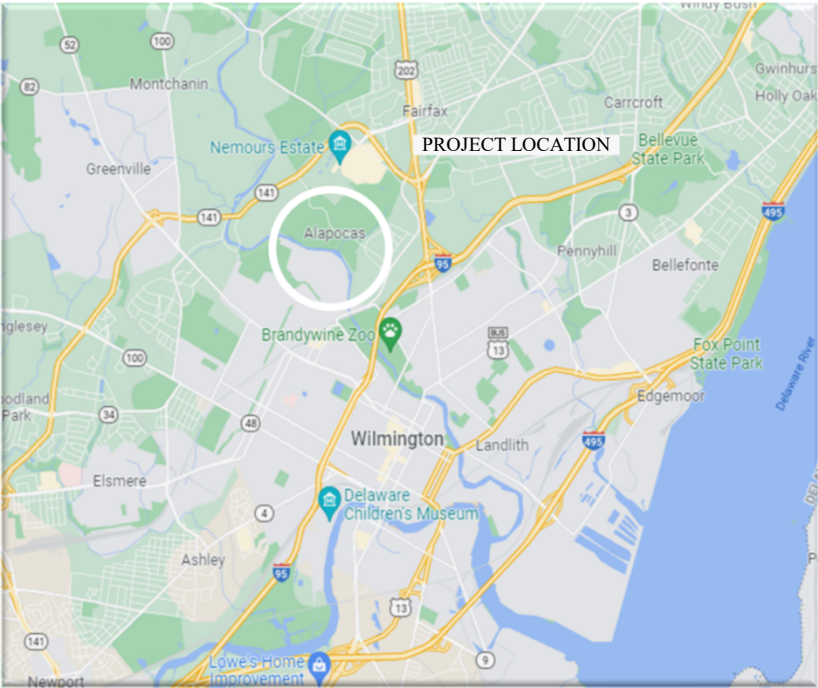
# Introduction to Speakers

- Project Role: Environmental Scientist
- Education: BS/Natural Resources/Delaware State Univ.
- Professional Registrations: PWS
- Experience: 14 years in the industry
  - Public and private sector natural resource and transportation experience
  - Wetlands, rare, threatened & endangered species, natural resource permitting, wetland mitigation, stream restorations
  - NEPA expert





# Bancroft Pedestrian Bridge over the Brandywine Creek



# Timeline of Events

8/26/21  
- 9/4/21

Heavy rains and flooding from Hurricane Ida

9/7/21

Preliminary damage inspection performed by DNREC.  
Bridge closed.

9/13/21

Storm damage assessment by Century Engineering.  
Recommended bridge remain closed.

10/21

GPI commissioned to evaluate alternatives to get the bridge reopened.

# Timeline of Events

11/21

Section 106 coordination with Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) began and ongoing

1/22

Bridge Alternatives Report submitted to DNREC with recommended alternative

2/22

Public Meeting to discuss GPI's findings, recommended alternative and path forward

06/22

GPI received Notice to Proceed to begin work on Survey, Soil borings and Environmental disciplines

# Timeline of Events

07/22

Soil borings taken at South side near Condos, and North side in the Alapocas Park; Soil testing to determine design parameters

07/22

Environmental assessment begins, wetland and waterway delineations, tree survey in the Alapocas Park

08/22  
and  
09/22

Survey work begins in Alapocas Park, and at South end near the condos

08/22  
and  
09/22

Assessment of Constructability, Access methods, Crane sizing, impacts to Environment



# Timeline of Events

09/22

Section 106 Historic Architectural Evaluation begins

09/22

Environmental Permitting Work begins

# Section 106 Evaluation

- Part of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Requires all federal undertakings to include the effect of the project on cultural resources



# Section 106 Evaluation



**Bancroft Mills Pedestrian Bridge (CRS # N03646.046)  
National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Assessment**



CHAD Report published in January 2023

Bancroft bridge eligible for National Register of Historic Places

# Section 106 Evaluation

- DNREC's intended scope of work sent to FEMA in February 2023
- Intend to replace the bridge, which will be considered Adverse Effect (negative impact to historic properties)
- Consultation between FEMA and Delaware SHPO to evaluate mitigation measures for Adverse Effect



**FEMA**

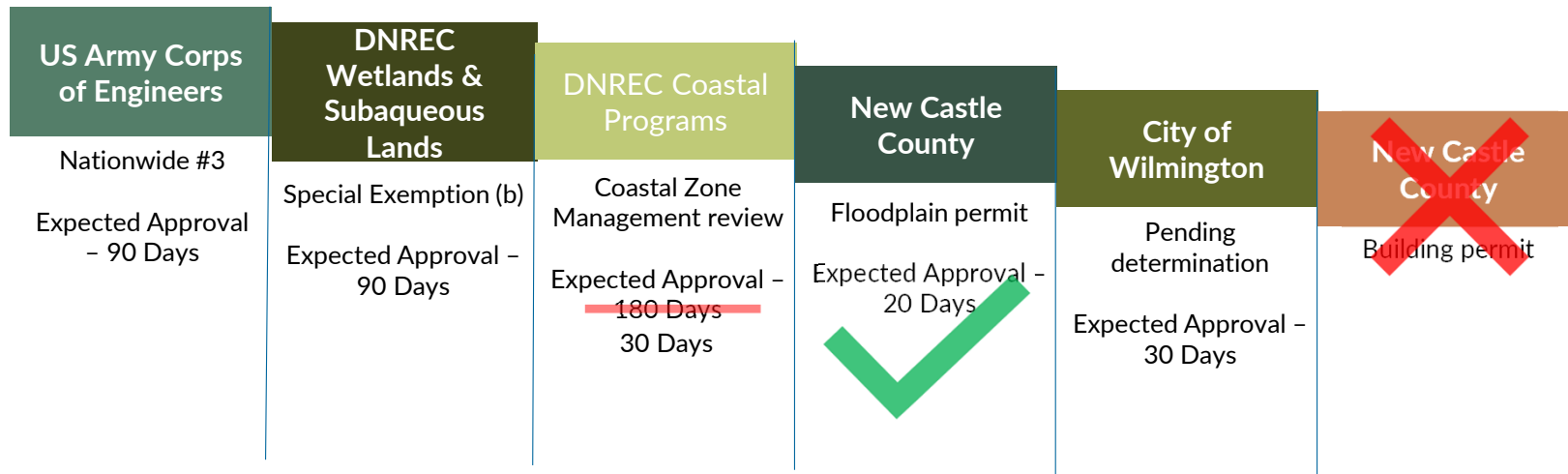
Delaware State Historic  
Preservation Office



Project funding agency and Lead agency to  
acquire and submit the project SHPO for review  
and concurrence



# Permitting – Concurrent Activities



~~**United States Coast Guard**~~

Coast Guard permit

Verbal response from Coast Guard that no permitting will be required. Waiting for official response

# Anticipated Time of Year Restrictions During Construction



Northern Long Eared Bat



Migratory Birds



Anadromous fish species



Northern Copperhead

# Anticipated Time of Year Restrictions During Construction

RTE Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anadromous Fish				█								
Migratory Birds				█								
Northern Long Eared Bat						█						
Northern Copperhead				█								
Nesting Birds				█								



Anticipated Construction Window



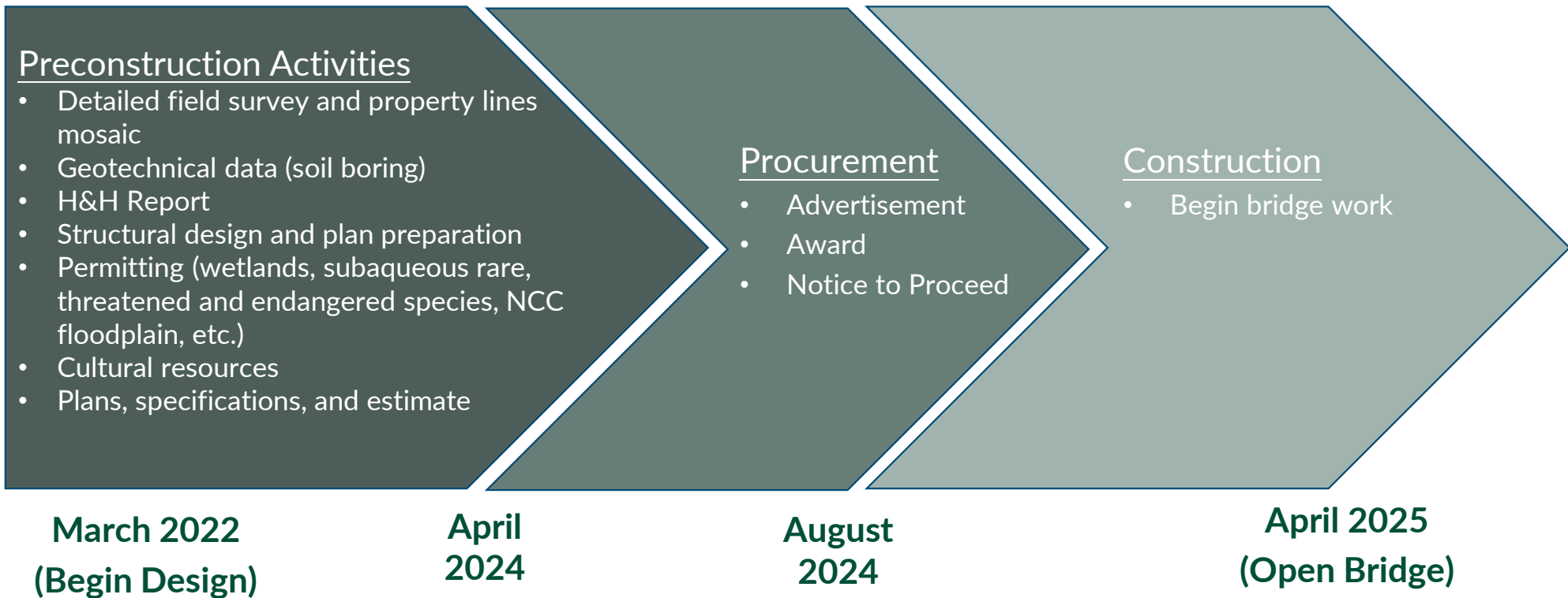
Anticipated Construction Window

## Path Forward.....

- Consultation between FEMA and SHPO to determine mitigation measures for Adverse Effect
- FEMA to host a Public Meeting as part of Section 106 process to discuss mitigation measures
- Complete design of Option 3 Bridge Replacement
- NEPA evaluation by FEMA
- Procure all permits
- Bid Advertising phase and Project Award
- Begin Construction



# Revised Project Schedule



Thank you for your time and attention

QUESTIONS ?

**Contact Information**

Brooks Cahall

DNREC, Capital Program Administrator,  
Division of Parks and Recreation

E-mail: [Brooks.Cahall@Delaware.gov](mailto:Brooks.Cahall@Delaware.gov)

Phone: 302-739-9210

