United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
National Historical Park

Code of Federal Regulations
Title 36, Chapter 1.7 (b)
2013 Superintendent's Compendium

Compendium of designations, closures, request requirements, and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the Superintendent.

In accordance with regulations and the designated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Part 1 through 7, authorized by Title 16, United States Code, Section 3, the following regulatory provisions are established for the proper management, protection, government and public use of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

These discretionary regulations are in addition to other regulations published in Title 36, CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 2 through 7. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply, in addition to the requirements contained in Title 36, CFR, Chapter I.

Recommended:

Bradley J. Clawson
Chief Park Ranger

6/28/2013
Date

Approved:

Kevin D. Brandt
Superintendent

6/28/13
Date

ENABLING LEGISLATION

Public Law 91-664

Sec.3. (a)

In order to preserve and interpret the historic and scenic features of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and to develop the potential of the canal for public recreation, including such restoration as may be needed, there is herby established the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park . . .

SECTION 1.5 - CLOSURES & PUBLIC USE LIMITS

The following areas are closed or restricted as indicated below. Additional locations may be closed or restricted (between annual revisions of the document) by the posting of appropriate signs.

(1) Areas closed to visitation:

A. Maryland gold mine enclosures, the interior of the Ford and the Round Top mines.

B. Other park structures (e.g., barns, mills, maintenance yards, and houses) unless otherwise/elsewhere designated.

C. The access road to and the area within ¼ mile of the Fours Locks firing range (Costlow property).

D. Waters within the C&O Canal NHP are closed to all unauthorized motorized vessels, except electric motors may be used at Big Pool, Little Pool, Widewater, and in canal waters from Lock 68 to Town Creek Aqueduct.

E. Indigo, Stickpile, and Kessler tunnels.

F. Those park areas during emergency and construction events as declared by the superintendent and marked by closure signs.

(2) **Areas with public use limits:**

A. All park offices, maintenance facilities, and office complexes; Georgetown, Great Falls, Brunswick, Williamsport, Hancock, and Cumberland visitor centers; and the Abner Cloud House are closed to the public during non-business hours or when un-staffed.

B. All of Falls and Olmsted are closed to public use except for designated walkways, footbridges, overlooks, and a 25-foot wide area along the river shoreline on barren rock or sand necessary for boaters to portage, scout, or rest.

C. Falls and Olmsted Islands are closed for boat, canoe, or kayak put-in or take-out for the Potomac River

D. Falls and Olmsted Islands are closed to rock climbing, rappelling, and rock scrambling.

E. Falls and Olmsted Islands are closed to picnicking, food, and beverages.

F. From Georgetown to Seneca, all parklands are closed at dark. Overnight parking of vehicles by permit issued by the superintendent is allowed for multi-day users of the towpath, canal quarters occupants, and the registered campers at the Marsdan Tract Campground. Darkness is defined as one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

G. From Seneca to Cumberland, parking lots, picnic areas, and developed recreational sites are closed at dark. Exception to this is that visitors may leave vehicles in parking areas after dark while utilizing the hiker/biker campsites, towpath, riverbank, or other areas that are not closed, for recreational purposes including fishing, camping, boating, hiking, biking, etc. Darkness is defined as one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

H. Foot trails, horse trails, and towpath are closed to all unauthorized motorized vehicles, and hoofed animal-drawn vehicles (except by special use permit). The towpath is closed to horseback riding after dark. Canine-drawn sleds/gigs are permitted on the towpath between November 1 and March 15 between Whites Ferry (Mile 35.5) and Town Creek (Mile 162.2).

I. Sections of the Billy Goat Trails may be closed with little or no notice when hazardous conditions occur. The trails may be closed for forecasted flooding, snow and ice accumulations, and other natural events.

J. Entering Seneca Creek from National Park Service property for the purpose of swimming, wading, or bathing is prohibited.

K. Pets are prohibited on Falls and Olmsted Islands, boardwalks, bridges, overlooks, section "A" of the Billy Goat Trail, and all of Bear Island except for the towpath.

L. Bikes must be dismounted and walked in the pedestrian areas signed as such, in front of the Great Falls Tavern and all other designated areas.

M. Lock 34 parking area is closed to parking on weekends and holidays from May 15 to September 15.

N. Ice skating is permitted at your own risk park-wide, except at the Widewater area (Mile Post 12.6 – 13.4) and where prohibited by signage.

O. Golf Equipment – The Park is closed to the use of golf equipment including golf balls.

P. Model Aircraft, Rockets, Vessels, and Vehicles – All parklands, waterways, and airspace are closed to the use of model aircraft, rockets, vessels, vehicles, and similar motorized devices.

Q. Hash House Harrier Games – The establishment of hash house harrier games is prohibited. The dropping of flour or other marking materials for the use of marking a path or trail is prohibited.

R. Geocaching games – The establishment of geocaches is prohibited except for virtual geocaches, which may be established only under permit by the park superintendent.

S. Pitching of Horseshoe – Is allowed at the designated area in the Carderock Picnic site. The remainder of the park is closed to this activity.

T. Firewood - The entire park is closed to the visitor transport or introduction of firewood that did not originate within the boundaries of the park.

U. Swimming - The Canal prism and basins are closed to swimming.

V. Roller skates and skateboards - The Capital Crescent Trail and the Western Maryland Rail Trail are designated for this recreational activity.

SECTION 1.6 - PERMITS

In accordance with 36 CFR 1.7, the following is a compilation of activities requiring special use permits:

1. Display of commercial notices or advertisements.
2. Collection of research specimens and conducting scientific research.
3. Commercial filming or photography.
4. Sale or distribution of printed matter.
5. Special events.
6. Public assemblies, including first amendment right activities.

7. Scattering human ashes in C&O Canal National Historical Park.

8. Entering closed areas.

9. Possession of alcoholic beverages.

10. Camping at hiker/biker sites by trail rider groups with more than four horses.

11. Operating a public address system or other sound amplified audio devices.

12. Conducting commercial business operations.

13. Guiding.

14. Explosives.

15. Non-commercial soliciting.

16. Weddings.

17. Group and individual site camping or lodging through the Canal Quarters program. The Superintendent may suspend services or remove disorderly persons or groups or permit violators from the park.

SECTION 2.1 - PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL, & ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

(a)(4) Dead wood on the ground may be collected for use as fuel for campfires within the immediate vicinity of designated picnic and camping areas, as permitted by 36 CFR 2.13 and this compendium, and may not be removed from the Park.

(5) Tying objects to trees, aqueducts, bridges or historic structures; jumping from or swinging by rope or other means from aqueducts, bridges, historic structures, or trees is prohibited. The traversing of locks or other cultural resources with watercraft is prohibited.

(c)(1) Edible fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption. Commercial use is prohibited. Removal of fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms cannot disturb the remainder of the plant. Possession of plant fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms are limited to the following quantities:

Fruit/Nut/Berry	Daily per Person Limit
Walnuts	1 Bushel
Hickory Nuts (sp.)	1 Bushel
Acorns (Oak sp.)	1 Bushel
Apples	1 Bushel
Cherries	1/2 Gallon
Blackberries	1/2 Gallon
Raspberries	1/2 Gallon
Dewberries	1/2 Gallon
Strawberries	1/2 Gallon
Huckleberry species	1/2 Gallon
Elderberries	1/2 Gallon
Wine berries	1/2 Gallon
Paw Paws	1/2 Gallon
Mushroom species	1/2 Gallon

SECTION 2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

(d)

Hunters can transport legally taken waterfowl from the Potomac River and North Branch of the Potomac River across C&O Canal NHP from Watts Branch in Montgomery County to Evitts Creek in Allegany County.

Hunters can transport legally taken, properly tagged and identified wildlife in addition to waterfowl ACROSS C&O Canal NHP property at the following authorized locations:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Swains Lock - Mile 16.64: Access directly from parking lot to Potomac River by crossing bridge over lock and proceeding directly to river.

Pennyfield Lock - Mile 20.01: Access to Potomac River via Muddy Branch at ramp only.

Violettes Lock - Mile 22.12: Access directly from parking lot to Potomac River by crossing bridges over locks and proceeding directly to river.

Seneca Creek - Mile 22.82: Access to Potomac River via Seneca Creek from county boat ramp off Riley's Lock Road.

Sycamore Island Landing - Mile 27.21: Access directly from parking lot and across towpath to Potomac River.

Edwards Ferry - Mile 30.84: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

Whites Ferry - Mile 35.50: Access via privately owned boat ramp.

FREDERICK COUNTY

Monocacy River - Mile 42.19: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River via Monocacy River.

Nolands Ferry - Mile 44.58: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

Point of Rocks - Mile 48.20: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

Lander (Lock 29) - Mile.50.89: Access via direct route on roadway from Lock 29 to boat ramp and Potomac River.

Brunswick - Mile 55.00: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Weverton - Mile 58.18: Access carry-in via direct route from cul-de-sac at end of Keep Tryst Road.

Lock 34 (Goodhearts Lock) - Mile 61.57: Access directly from parking area and across towpath to Potomac River.

Dargan Bend - Mile 64.89: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

Antietam Creek - Mile 69.36: Access by boat via Antietam Creek from Harpers Ferry Road, upstream of aqueduct.

Snyders Landing - Mile 76.65: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

Taylors Landing - Mile 80.90: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

Dam 4 Road - Mile 84.2: Access via direct route to river around gate, just past 90-degree bend in road.

Big Slackwater - Mile 85.40: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

Potomac Fish and Game - Mile 93.88: Access via private ramp.

Funkstown Rod and Gun Club - Mile 96.7: Access via park bridge.

Williamsport - Mile 99.79: Access via ramp at River Bottom Park (City of Williamsport)

Four Locks - Mile 108.74: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

McCoys Ferry - Mile 110.42: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

Licking Creek - Mile 116.04: Access by boat via Licking Creek.

Hancock (Little Tonoloway) - Mile 124.33: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

Cohill Station - Mile 129.99: Access from park footbridge across canal on Deneen Road directly to river.

ALLEGANY COUNTY

Fifteenmile Creek - Mile 140.90: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

Higgins Tract - Mile 146.80 to Mile 148.80: Access by foot across towpath to Green Ridge State Forest/Wildlife Management Area.

Bonds Landing - Mile 148.80: Access by foot or vehicle directly across canal lands at Kasecamp Road to and from the State campground/boat ramp.

Paw Paw Tunnel Road Corridor - Mile 154.20 to Mile 154.70: Access by foot across top of Paw Paw Tunnel via Tunnel Hill Road only to Green Ridge State Forest/WMA.

Kifer Tract - Mile 157.27: Access to private property.

Town Creek - Access to Town Creek permitted via direct route at end of cul-de-sac past pole gate. Access to river via creek in vessels carried/portaged.

Stegmaier Farm - Mile 164.80: Retained hunting rights (private).

Buckley Island - Mile 170.90: Access by foot on road to Buckley Island in Potomac River.

Spring Gap - Mile 173.37: Access via boat ramp to Potomac River.

All mile references are made utilizing the Towpath Guide to the C&O Canal by Thomas F. Hahn. Hunters are advised that lateral travel on the towpath is prohibited.

(e) C&O Canal NHP is closed to viewing of wildlife with the use of artificial light.

SECTION 2.4 - WEAPONS, TRAPS AND NETS

(d)(4) Hunters, during designated state hunting seasons, with traditional bows unstrung, compound bows with arrows un-nocked, and dogs leashed, may cross C&O Canal National Historical Park lands by the most direct route only at the locations IDENTIFIED IN 36 CFR 2.2.

All mile references are made utilizing the Towpath Guide to the C&O Canal, by Thomas F. Hahn.

SECTION 2.10 - CAMPING AND FOOD STORAGE

(a) 1. Camping or overnight use at the Marsden Tract, is allowed by organized groups with permits.

2. Camping or overnight use at all drive-in, walk-in, hiker/biker, and group area campsites is permitted only on a first-come, first-served basis.

HIKER/BIKER CAMPSITE	LOCATION (Mile)
Swains Lock	16.6
Horsepen Branch	26.1
Chisel Branch	30.5
Turtle Run	34.4
Marble Quarry	38.2
Indian Flats	42.5
Calico Rocks	47.6
Bald Eagle Island	50.3
Huckleberry Hill	62.9
Killiansburg Cave	75.2
Horseshoe Bend	79.2
Big Woods	82.7
Opequon Junction	90.9
Cumberland Valley	95.2
Jordan Junction	101.2
North Mountain	110.0
Licking Creek	116.0
Little Pool	120.6
White Rock	126.4
Leopards Mill	129.9
Cacapon Junction	133.6
Indigo Neck	139.2
Devils Alley	144.5
Stickpile Hill	149.4
Sorrel Ridge	154.1
Purslane Run	157.4
Town Creek	162.1
Potomac Forks	164.8
Pigmans Ferry	169.1
Irons Mountain	175.3
Evitts Creek	180.1

DRIVE-IN CAMPGROUNDS	LOCATION (Mile)
McCoys Ferry	110.4
Fifteenmile Creek	140.9
Spring Gap	173.3

WALK-IN CAMPGROUNDS	LOCATION (Mile)
Antietam Creek	69.7
Paw Paw	156.2

GROUP CAMP SITE LOCATIONS	LOCATION (Mile)
Marsden Tract	11.0
McCoys Ferry	110.4
Fifteenmile Creek	141.0
Spring Gap	173.3
Paw Paw	156.2

3. Camping or overnight use with vehicles and trailers is permitted only at the following locations on a first-come, first-served basis:

a. McCoys Ferry Drive-in Campground

b. Fifteenmile Creek Drive-in Campground

c. Spring Gap Drive-in Campground

4. Camping is limited to eight persons and two vehicles per walk-in or drive-in campsite.

a. Claimed campsites may not be left unattended for longer than 24 hours.

b. Portable engines, generators, power mowers, and chainsaws are not permitted to be operated in any campgrounds.

c. All wheeled vehicles except bicycles and wheelchairs must be kept off the grass.

d. Pitching of horseshoes is prohibited except in designated areas.

e. The maximum trailer length in drive-in campgrounds is 20 feet.

f. If camping gear and/or any personal gear is left at a campsite, that campsite is considered occupied and camping fees apply.

5. Camping at drive-in and walk-in campsites, including group campsites, is limited to 14 days between May 1 and October 1 and may not exceed 30 days in a calendar year.

6. Camping at hiker/biker sites is limited to one night.

7. Overnight use of the buildings designated in the Canal Quarters program is allowed by permit.

SECTION 2.11 - PICNICKING

1. The use of portable engines, chainsaws, generators, and power mowers is prohibited in picnic areas.

2. The pitching of horseshoes is limited to designated areas.

SECTION 2.13 - FIRES

(a)(1) Fires are permitted ONLY in the following areas.
Designated picnic areas within the park provided grill or fire ring.
Designated camping areas within the park provided fire ring.
Canal Quarters areas within the park provided fire ring.
Personal, self-contained portable grills/stoves may be used off the ground and away from overhanging vegetation.

SECTION 2.14 - SANITATION

(a)(9) Toilets must be used where they are provided.

SECTION 2.15 – PETS

(a)(5) Visitors with pets in the park are required to pick up and dispose of their pet's excrement by carrying it out of the park. Pets are prohibited on Falls, Bear, and Olmsted Islands, section "A" of the Billy Goat Trail, boardwalks, bridges, and overlooks. *(See section 1.5,2,J)*

(e) Pets are prohibited in government buildings including the buildings utilized by the public in the Canal Quarters program. Service animals are excepted.

SECTION 2.16 - HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS

(b) Horseback riding is permitted on the towpath from Swains Lock (Mile 16.6) to the Offutt Street crossing at Candoc (Mile 181.8) in Cumberland and on the Paw Paw Tunnel Hill trail. Access to the river for watering is authorized at public river access points (boat ramps).

(g) Conditions established by the superintendent

1. Horses are not allowed in the Paw Paw Tunnel, park drive-in and walk-in campgrounds, or picnic areas.

2. Feed for horses must be carried by the group. No grazing is permitted in the park. We encourage the use of pellets or certified clear feed for your animals, since oats and hay can bring non-native grass species into the park.

3. Trail riders and groups are responsible for keeping the park areas clean. All manure should be removed from the park, parking areas, and campsites.

4. Horses may be loaded or unloaded in parking areas. Loading/unloading must be kept in those portions of parking areas furthermost from campgrounds or picnic areas. Groups must carry a loading ramp.

5. Riders must dismount and walk their horses across the aqueducts. Horses are restricted from crossing narrow wooden footbridges as they are not designed to carry the concentrated weight of the horses.

6. Trail rider camping is allowed only in hiker/biker campsites and is limited to six persons, four horses, and one night per visit per site. Horses must be tethered at the furthermost portion of the campsite away from the tent and picnic table locations. Groups are responsible for removing manure, and left over feed, etc. from the park.

7. Horse trailers are not allowed in drive-in camping areas.

8. Horses/riders are not to exceed the speed of a slow trot.

9. Watering, cleaning, or tethering horses at park wells is prohibited. By use of a bucket or other container, water may be taken from park hand pump wells located at hiker/biker campsites and used for watering horses.

10. Horses may be loaded/unloaded and enter/exit the towpath at public access points only. Access from private property is prohibited.

11. Horseback riding is prohibited after dark.

SECTION 2.20 – SKATING, SKATEBOARDS, AND SIMILAR DEVICES

Roller skates, roller blades, and similar devices are allowed only on the Capital Crescent Trail and the Western Maryland Rail Trail.

SECTION 2.21 - SMOKING

(a) The use of any lighted tobacco products within the boundaries of C&O Canal NHP shall be in accordance with the Directors Order 50D dated 06/29/2009, entitled "Smoking Policy."

SECTION 2.22 - PROPERTY

a)(2) Visitors on towpath hiker/biker trips are permitted to leave vehicles unattended for the period of their camping trips. (See additional restrictions for overnight parking in Section 1.5 (2) F.)

SECTION 2.23 - RECREATION FEES

(a) Areas where recreation fees are established:

1. Carderock Pavilion (Reservation Fee)
2. Great Falls, Maryland (Entrance Fee)
3. Marsden Tract Group Campsite (Res.Camping Fee)
4. Antietam Creek Campground (Camping Fee)
5. McCoys Ferry Campground (Camping Fee)
6. Fifteenmile Creek Campground (Camping Fee)
7. Fifteenmile Creek Group Campground (Camping Fee)
8. Paw Paw Tunnel Campground (Camping Fee)
9. Spring Gap Campground (Camping Fee)
10. Canal Quarters Program (Interpretive Fee)
11. Life and Death Program (Interpretive Fee)
12. Georgetown Canal Boat trips (Interpretive Fee)
13. Great Falls Canal Boat trips (Interpretive Fee)

SECTION 2.35 - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(a)(3)(i) The possession of open and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages including beer, wine, or spirituous liquors within the C&O Canal NHP is prohibited except under a permit issued by the Park Superintendent. This does not apply to Canal Quarters (within the structure), leased structures and those being used as residences. Consumption of alcoholic beverage is prohibited within the park and all park facilities.

SECTION 2.50 – SPECIAL EVENTS

A permit issued by the Superintendent is required for sports events, pageants, regattas, public spectator attractions, entertainments, ceremonies, and similar events.

SECTION 2.51 - PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES, MEETINGS

(e) A permit issued by the Superintendent is required for public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views. Suggested locations to conduct these activities include Great Falls Tavern area, Monocacy Aqueduct, Brunswick, Williamsport (Cushwa), Little Tonoloway (Hancock), Fifteenmile Creek, Paw Paw Tunnel, North Branch, and Oldtown.

(f) Other areas of the park are potentially available for these activities. The Superintendent will consider requests for permits on a case-by-case basis in light of the criteria listed in 36 CFR 2.51(c). Applications may be submitted no earlier than one year before the request date of the permit.

*Permit conditions for park areas in Montgomery County, Maryland and the District of Columbia are found in 36 CFR 7.96g

SECTION 2.52 - SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER

(e) A permit issued by the Superintendent is required for the sale or distribution of printed matter. Printed matter is defined as textual printed material such as books, pamphlets, magazines and leaflets whose primary purpose is the advocacy, definition, or explanation of a group's or individual's political, religious, scientific, or moral beliefs. Suggested locations for the distribution or sale of printed matter include Great Falls Tavern area, Monocacy Aqueduct, Brunswick, Williamsport (Cushwa), Little Tonoloway (Hancock), Fifteenmile Creek, Paw Paw Tunnel, North Branch, and Oldtown. All other areas of the park are potentially available for the sale or distribution of printed matter. The Superintendent will consider requests for permits on a case-by-case basis in light of the criteria listed in 36 CFR 2.52 (c) Applications may be submitted no earlier than one year before the request date of the permit.

Permits for special events, public assemblies, and for distribution of printed matter will be issued pursuant to standards established in Director's Order 53 (Special Park Use Guidelines).

Permit Conditions:

- In addition to public assemblies/special events and meetings, gatherings, parades, demonstrations, or other public expressions of views are subject to the conditions of this regulation.

- A public assembly/special event may be canceled at the discretion of the Superintendent when emergency or potentially hazardous conditions exist.

- All costs incurred by the park, as a result of a special event, will be recovered from the permit holder.

- Public assemblies/special events shall not interfere with normal public use or pedestrian flow.

- Public assemblies/special events shall not take place during hours of darkness, except by permit.

- Noise levels must not exceed the limits established in 36 CFR 2.12, Audio disturbances.

- The commercial sale of items, other than the printed matter approved for sale with a permit, is prohibited.

- The permit holder is responsible for cleaning the public assembly/special event area upon the completion of the event.

3.8 Launch or Recovery of Vessel

(a)(2) Designated sites to launch or recover vessels by trailer.

1. Edwards Ferry
2. Monocacy
3. Nolands Ferry
4. Point of Rocks
5. Brunswick
6. Lander
7. Dargan
8. Snyders Landing
9. Taylor Landing
10. Big Slackwater
11. Four Locks
12. McCoys
13. Little Tonoloway
14. Fifteen Mile Creek
15. Spring Gap

3.16 Swimming or Wading in Park Waters

(a)(1) Areas closed to swimming and wading (except fishing)

1. Areas designated in 36 CFR section 7.96 (e)
2. Waters of the canal prism and basins

4.10 Designated roadways and parking areas.

Appendix A Designated Roadways (Being developed)

Appendix B Designated parking areas (Being developed)

4.21 (b) Speed Limits

1.0 Carderock Entrance Road
15 mph

2.0 Great Falls Entrance Road
25 mph from Falls Road to the VFW
15 mph from the VFW to the entrance station

3.0 Pennyfield
15 mph

4.0 River Road
25 mph

5.0 Monocacy Road
15 mph from Railroad crossing to parking lot
6.0 Nolands Ferry
15 mph
7.0 Lander Road
15 mph
8.0 Brunswick Campground Road
15 mph
9.0 Canal Road
9.1 30 mph Rt. 34 to Millers Saw Mill Road
9.2 25 mph from Millers Saw Mill Road to Harpers Ferry Road
10.0 Snyders Road
25 mph
11.0 Taylors Landing Road
25 mph
12.0 Dam #4 Road
25 mph
13.0 Four Locks Road
25 mph
14.0 Ankeney Road
25 mph
15.0 McCoys
15.1 25 mph Entrance Road
15.2 15 mph Campground
16.0 Burm Road
25 mph
17.0 Town Creek Aqueduct Road
15 mph
18.0 Deneen Road
25 mph

SECTION 4.30 - BICYCLES

(a) Bicycle riding is permitted only on the towpath, Burma Road, Capital Crescent Trail, and the Western Maryland Rail Trail from Polly Pond to Pearre. Bicycles must be dismounted and walked across aqueducts and all foot bridges providing access to the towpath.

Justifications for implementing closures, public use limits, and permit requirements as established by the superintendent in accordance with 36 CFR, parts 1 through 5.

36 CFR, SECTION 1.5 - CLOSURES AND PUBLIC USE LIMITS

(1) Areas closed to visitation:

A. Maryland gold mine enclosures, the interior of the Ford and the Round Top mines.

B. Other park structures (e.g., barns, mills, maintenance yards, and houses) unless otherwise/elsewhere designated.

C. The access road to and the area within ¼ mile of the Four Locks firing range (Costlow property).

D. Waters within the C&O Canal NHP are closed to motorized vessels, except electric motors may be used at Big Pool, Little Pool, and in canal waters from Lock 68 to Town Creek Aqueduct.

E. Indigo, Stickpile, and Kessler Tunnels.

F. Those park areas during emergency and construction events as declared by the superintendent and marked by closure signs.

Justification - These areas are closed to visitation for security, visitor safety, and protection of park resources. Motorized vessels are prohibited to reduce the impacts the noise would have on the aesthetic experience most visitors come to the area to enjoy. Additionally the use of motors on many areas would be hazardous due to the shallow water conditions and submerged obstacles.

(2) Areas with public use limits:

A. All park offices, maintenance facilities, and office complexes; Georgetown, Great Falls, Brunswick, Williamsport, Hancock, and Cumberland visitor centers; and the Abner Cloud House are closed to the public during non-business hours or when un-staffed.

Justification - The security and accountability of government property can best be protected by limiting access to these areas to government employees and/or business hours.

B. All of Falls and Olmsted are closed to public use except for designated walkways, footbridges, overlooks, and a 25-foot wide area along the river shoreline on barren rock or sand necessary for boaters to portage, scout, or rest.

C. Falls and Olmsted are closed for boat, canoe, or kayak put-in or take-out for the Potomac River.

D. Falls and Olmsted are closed to rock-climbing, rappelling, and rock scrambling.

E. Falls and Olmsted are closed to picnicking, food, and beverages.

Justification - Public safety would be compromised by allowing visitors to enter these areas. This closure is to protect plant and animal species and the natural environment of the islands Trash and debris often left on the islands is aesthetically unpleasant. Picnic tables are provided near the parking area.

F. From Georgetown to Seneca, all parklands are closed at dark. Overnight parking of vehicles by permit is allowed for multi-day users of the towpath, canal quarters occupants, and the registered campers at the Marsdan Tract Campground.

Justification – For public safety and resource protection concerns, the park area between Georgetown and Seneca is closed at dark. Exception to this is allowed for the permitted vehicle parking for those recreational users on multi-day trips on the towpath, Canal Quarters occupants, and the registered campers at the Marsdan Tract.

G. From Seneca to Cumberland, parking lots, picnic areas, and developed day-use recreational sites are closed at dark. Exception to this is allowed that visitors may leave vehicles in parking areas after dark while utilizing the hiker/biker campsites, towpath, riverbank, or other areas that are not closed, for recreational purposes including fishing, camping, boating, hiking, biking, etc. Darkness is defined as one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

Justification – For public safety and resource protection concerns, the developed park areas from Seneca to Cumberland are closed at dark. Allowance has been made to accommodate the vehicles of those park users participating in authorized recreational activities.

H. Foot trails, horse trails, and towpath are closed to all unauthorized motorized vehicles, and hoofed, animal-drawn vehicles (except by special use permit). The towpath is closed to horseback riding after dark. Canine-drawn sleds/gigs are permitted on the towpath between November 1 and March 15 between Whites Ferry (Mile 35.5) and Town Creek (Mile 162.2).

Justification - The use of horses and pack animals is detrimental to natural resources such as plant and animal communities. 36 CFR 2.16 (c) prohibits the use of horses and pack animals on park roads (paved public highways) outside of designated areas, except where such travel is necessary to cross to or from designated trails or areas. The riding of horses after dark is prohibited for public safety.

I. Section "A" of the Billy Goat Trail may be closed with little or no notice when flooding occurs.

Justification - To protect the public during high water events.

J. Entering Seneca Creek from National Park Service property for the purpose of swimming, wading, or bathing is prohibited.

Justification - It is hazardous to swim, wade, or bathe in this portion of the river.

K. Pets are prohibited on Falls and Olmsted Islands, boardwalks, bridges, overlooks, section "A" of the Billy Goat Trail, and all of Bear Island.

L. Bikes must be dismounted and walked in the pedestrian areas signed as such, in front of the Great Falls Tavern and all other designated areas.

Justification - Due to the popular use, often crowded conditions and terrain in these areas, pets are prohibited and bikes must be walked for public safety.

M. Lock 34 parking area is closed to parking on weekends and holidays from May 15 to September 15.

Justification - During the summer months, use of this area exceeds its physical capabilities. The overuse creates hazardous conditions in traffic and pedestrian movements. This limitation reduces vehicular traffic in the area by allowing business permitees an area to unload customers going to the river. These customers would otherwise arrive in individual vehicles.

N. Ice skating is permitted park-wide except at the Widewater area and where closed by signage.

Justification - Areas may be closed to protect park visitors and resources.

O. Golf Equipment – Although the park is a national recreation area, not all recreational uses are compatible. The use of golf equipment, specifically using open areas in the park for driving golf balls produces several problems. Lost golf balls produce litter in the natural environment. Driven balls fly a great distance, so one person may, by virtue of the potential injury from being struck, exclude other visitors from the use of an entire open field area. The divots created in the grass from swinging clubs would, in sufficient quantity, cause bare areas and erosion problems.

P. Model Aircraft, Rockets, Vessels, and Vehicles – Model aircraft are usually propelled by small, gasoline-driven engines. They are usually remote controlled by the operator does not have complete control over the craft due to winds or operator error. There is potential for injury to bystanders, visitors, wildlife, and vegetation from being struck by a fast moving aircraft. The use of aircraft may exclude other visitors from the use of an entire open field area. The small engines are noisy and produce exhaust into the air, which affects the quality visit of park visitors. The wildlife is often disturbed due to the noise associated with these devices.

Model rockets are usually propelled by small, chemical-driven engines. They are usually not controlled by the operator. There is potential for injury to bystanders, visitors, wildlife, and vegetation from being struck by a fast moving rocket. The use of rockets may exclude other visitors from the use of an entire open field area.

The small engines are noisy and produce exhaust into the air, which affects the quality visit of other park visitors. The wildlife is often disturbed due to the noise associated with these devices.

Model vessels are usually propelled by small, gasoline- and oil-driven engines. They are usually remote-controlled, but the operator does not have complete control over the craft due to currents or operator error. The small engines are noisy and leave gasoline and oil residue in the water, which affects the quality visit of other park visitors. The wildlife is often disturbed due to the noise associated with these devices.

Model vehicles tend to need a lot of open space, such as a parking lot, to operate. Usage in a parking lot presents a safety hazard to bystanders and traffic alike. There are no acceptable locations in the park for a visitor to use a remote-controlled vehicle in an enjoyable and safe manner. The wildlife can be disturbed due to the noise and movement associated with these devices.

Q. Hash House Harrier Games – This game involves running along a pre-marked route that is marked with flour or other marking material. These markers are usually called "Hashes." Runners chase the person marking the route who is usually called the "Hare." The "Hare" drops flour or other material to mark the trail. The marking material is not readily identifiable and causes concern to both visitors and park staff. This game encourages players to move off trail that leads to vegetative damage and erosion problems. Organizers of this type of activity are known to hold events in the park without prior approval or any attempt to obtain a Special Use Permit.

R. Geocaching games – Geocaches typically are hidden in natural areas or archeological sites. The object of this game is to locate well-hidden caches that may be buried. This game encourages participants to move off trail that leads to vegetative damage and erosion problems. Digging disturbs park resources and damages archeological sites. This activity can be alarming to bystanders who misidentify the individuals when they observe participants hiding or acting in a suspicious manner to avoid detection. Organizers of this type of activity are known to hold events in the park without prior approval or any attempt to obtain a Special Use Permit.

S. Pitching of horseshoes – This activity causes damage to the vegetative and soil resources of the park. This activity is confined to those areas developed areas designated for this activity.

T. Firewood prohibition - There is an environmental threat of several exotic pests including the Emerald Ash Borer (Agrilus planipennis) and Long-horned Beetle (Anoplophora glabripennis) that can be introduced through the visitor import of firewood into the park area. Both beetles can be easily spread in firewood that looks normal, but still infested. The ash borer primarily infects species of ash trees. The long-horned beetle attacks maple, elm, horsechestnut, and other hardwoods. To minimize this environmental threat, there will be a restriction on the transport and introduction of firewood into the park area.

U. The Canal Prism and Basins closed to swimming. It is hazardous to swim, wade, or bath in these waters.

36 CFR, SECTION 2.35 – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

a)(3)(i) The possession of an open alcoholic beverage or consumption of alcoholic beverages including beer, wine, or spirituous liquors within the C&O Canal NHP are prohibited, except under a permit issued by the park superintendent. This does not apply to leased structures and those being used as residences. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited within the park and all park facilities.

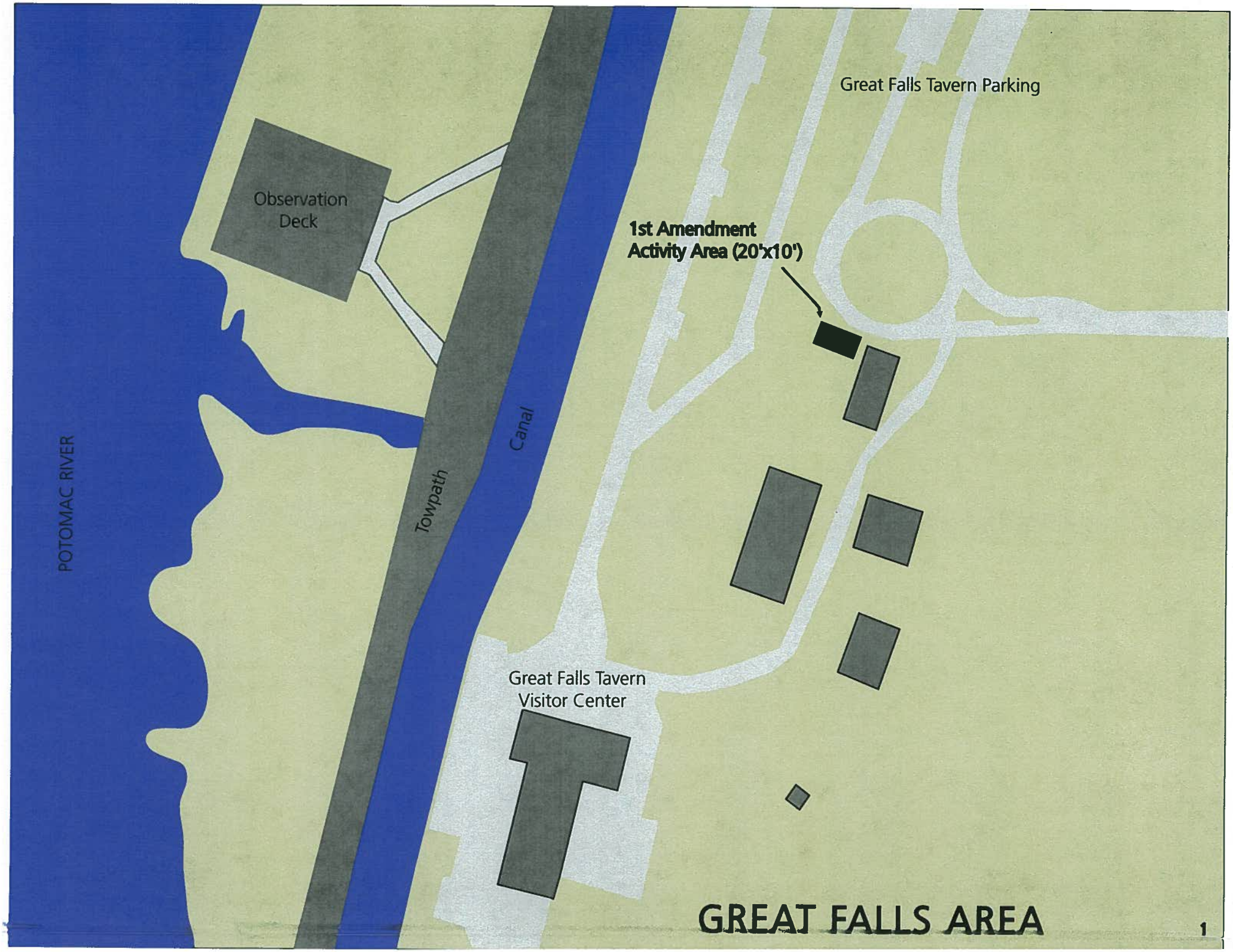
Justification - Pursuant to 36 CFR 2.35 (3)(I)(B), the park superintendent may close all or a portion of a public use area or facility to the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been open, or whose seal is broken or the contents of which have been partially removed. Provided that such a closure may only be implemented following a determination made by the superintendent that incidents of aberrant behavior related to the consumption of alcoholic beverages are of such magnitude that diligent application of the authorities in this section and 1.5 and 2.34 of 36 CFR, over a reasonable time period, does not alleviate the problem. Since the mid 1980s, the park has restricted the use of alcoholic beverages in picnic areas, parking areas, boat ramps, campgrounds, Monocacy Aqueduct to Mile 42.5, Mile 106.8 to 107.4, Mile 87.6 to 88.6 and the shoreline and waters of Town Creek to deter alcohol related incidents. Furthermore to coincide with local restrictions and regulations consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited in Washington D.C. and Montgomery County, and the towns of Brunswick, Williamsport, Hancock, and Cumberland. These restrictions have reduced the number of alcohol related incidents in some areas, but problems continue to exist. Restrictions posed in some areas have forced additional problems on unrestricted areas. The regulations and restrictions are not clear to the visiting public or those faced with enforcing them. A permit is now required from the park superintendent to possess and/or consume alcohol in the park to maintain consistency within the park and local adjoining jurisdictions, to further reduce the number of alcohol-related incidents, and to control the consumption of alcohol in the park.

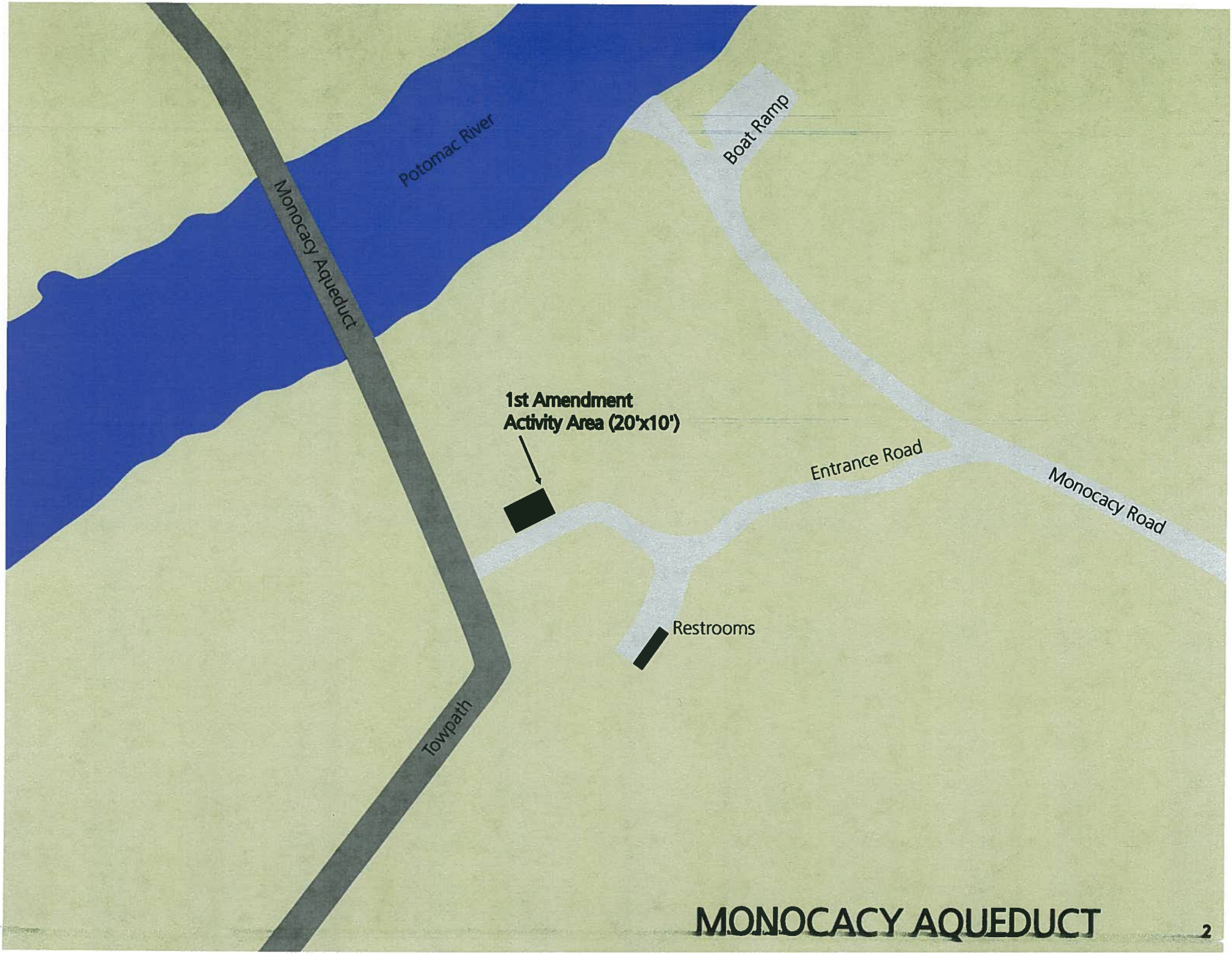
C&O CANAL
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

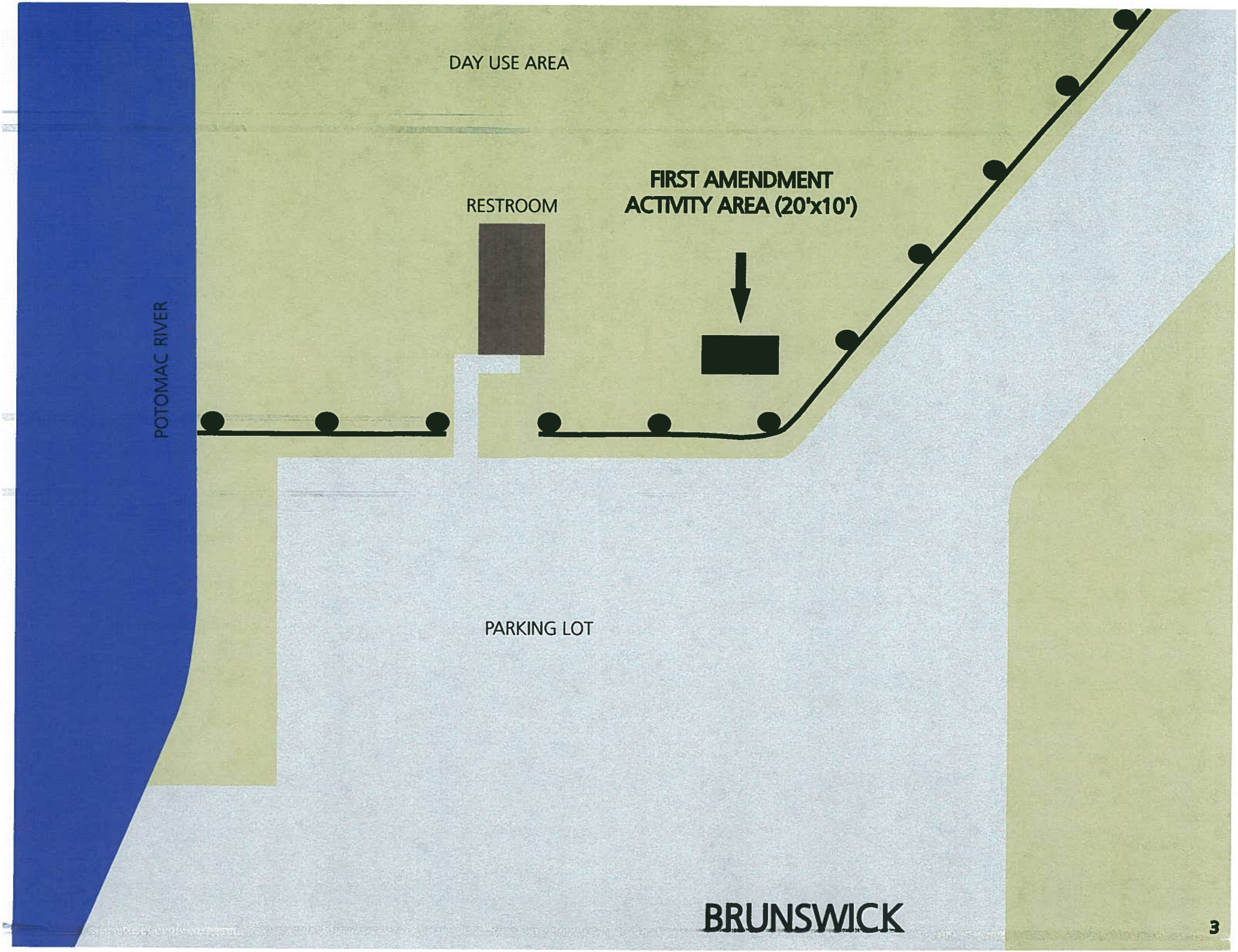
MAPS

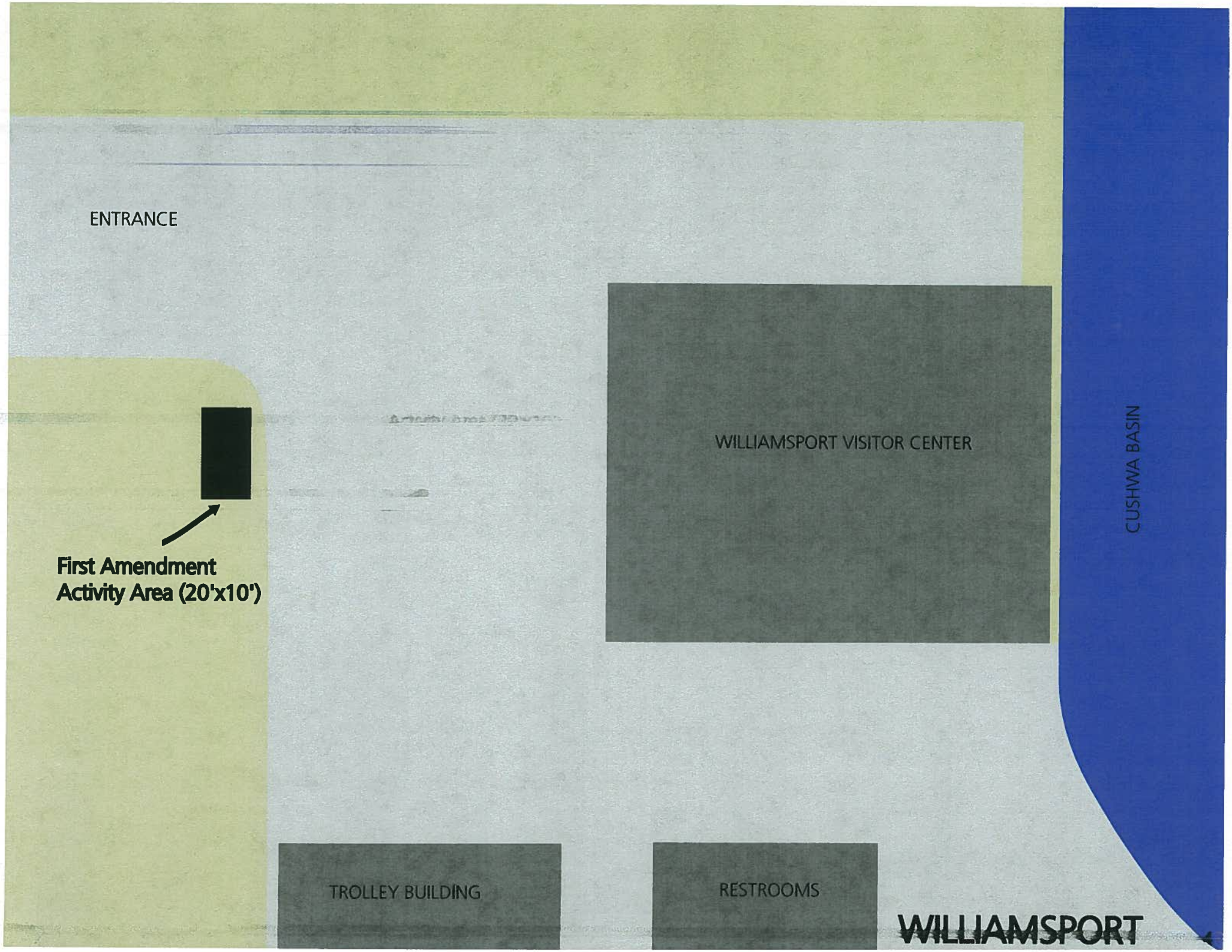
for

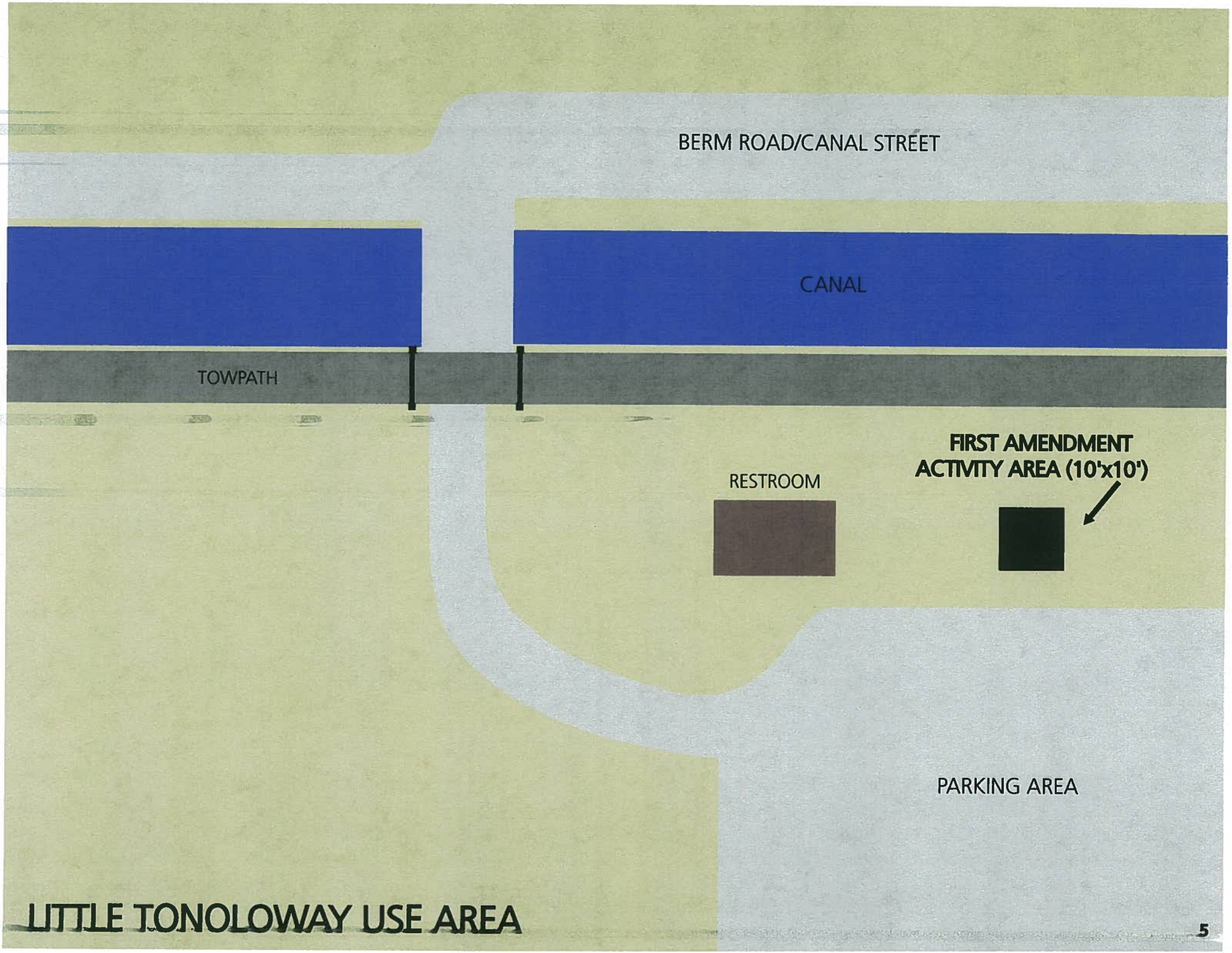
FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT ACTIVITIES


Great Falls Tavern Parking
Observation Deck
1st Amendment Activity Area (20'x10')
POTOMAC RIVER
Towpath
Canal
Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center
GREAT FALLS AREA

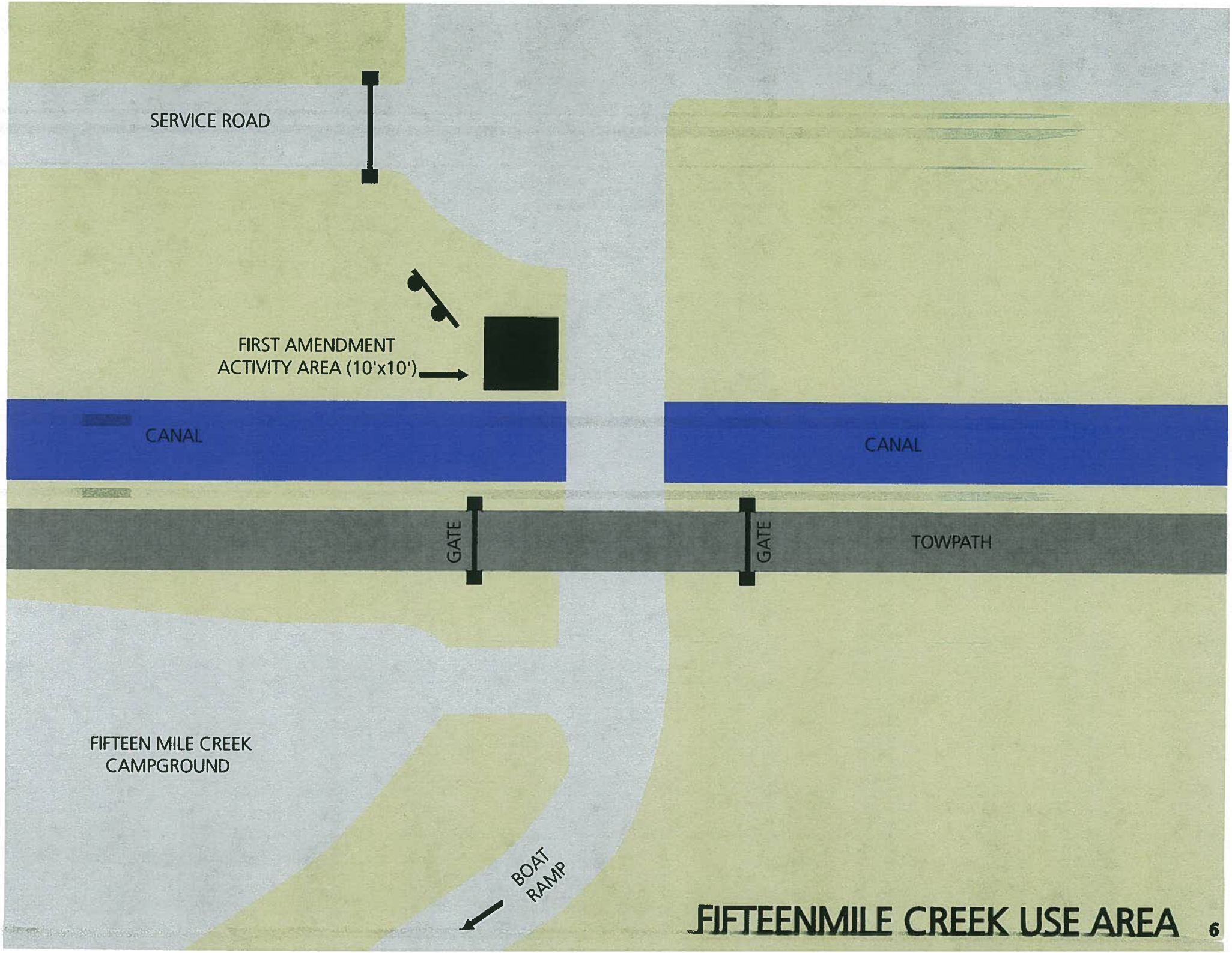

Potomac River
Monocacy Aqueduct
Boat Ramp
1st Amendment
Activity Area (20'x10')
Entrance Road
Monocacy Road
Restrooms
Towpath
MONOCACY AQUEDUCT


DAY USE AREA
RESTROOM
FIRST AMENDMENT
ACTIVITY AREA (20'x10')
POTOMAC RIVER
PARKING LOT
BRUNSWICK

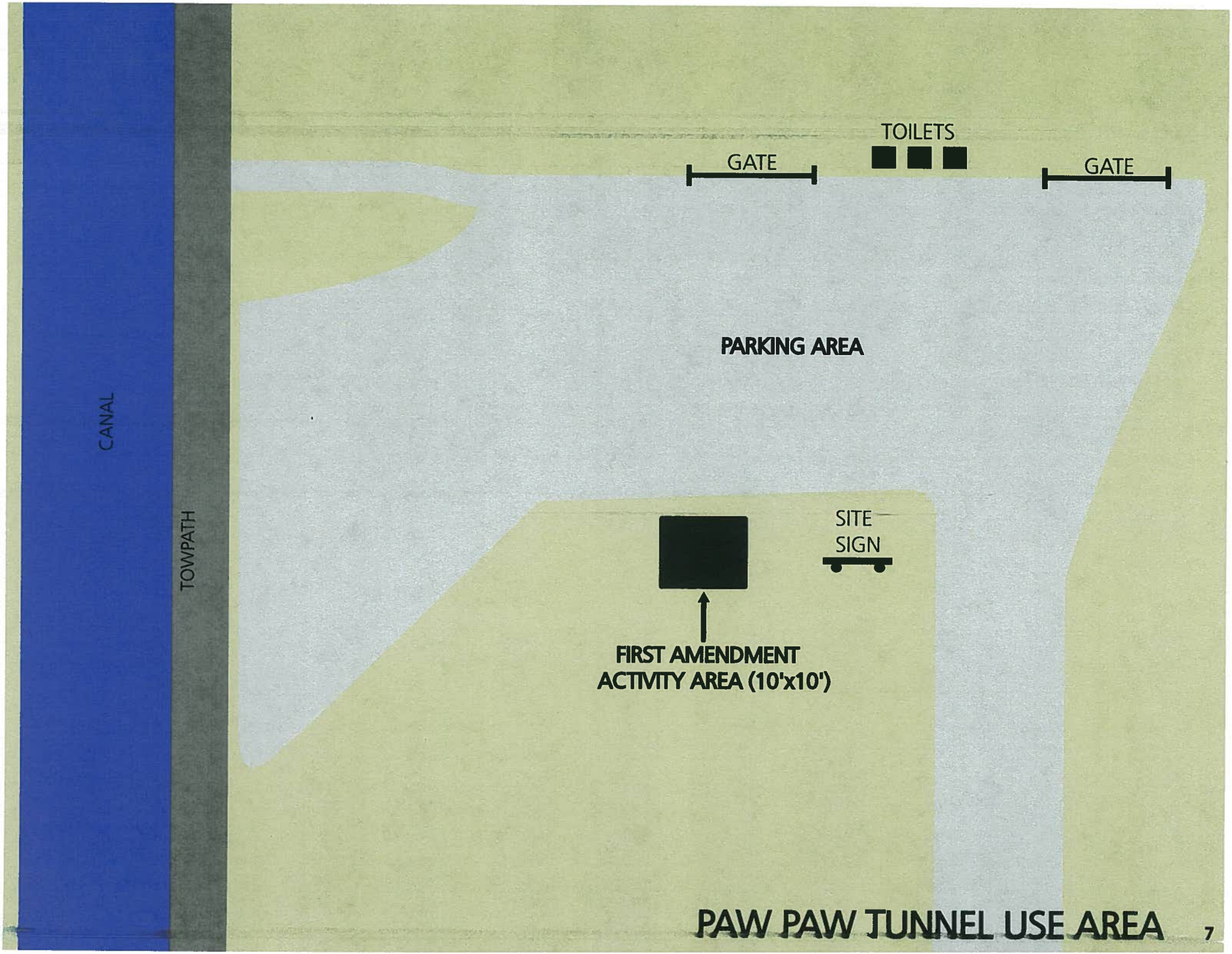

ENTRANCE
First Amendment
Activity Area (20'x10')
WILLIAMSPORT VISITOR CENTER
CUSHWA BASIN
TROLLEY BUILDING
RESTROOMS
WILLIAMSPORT



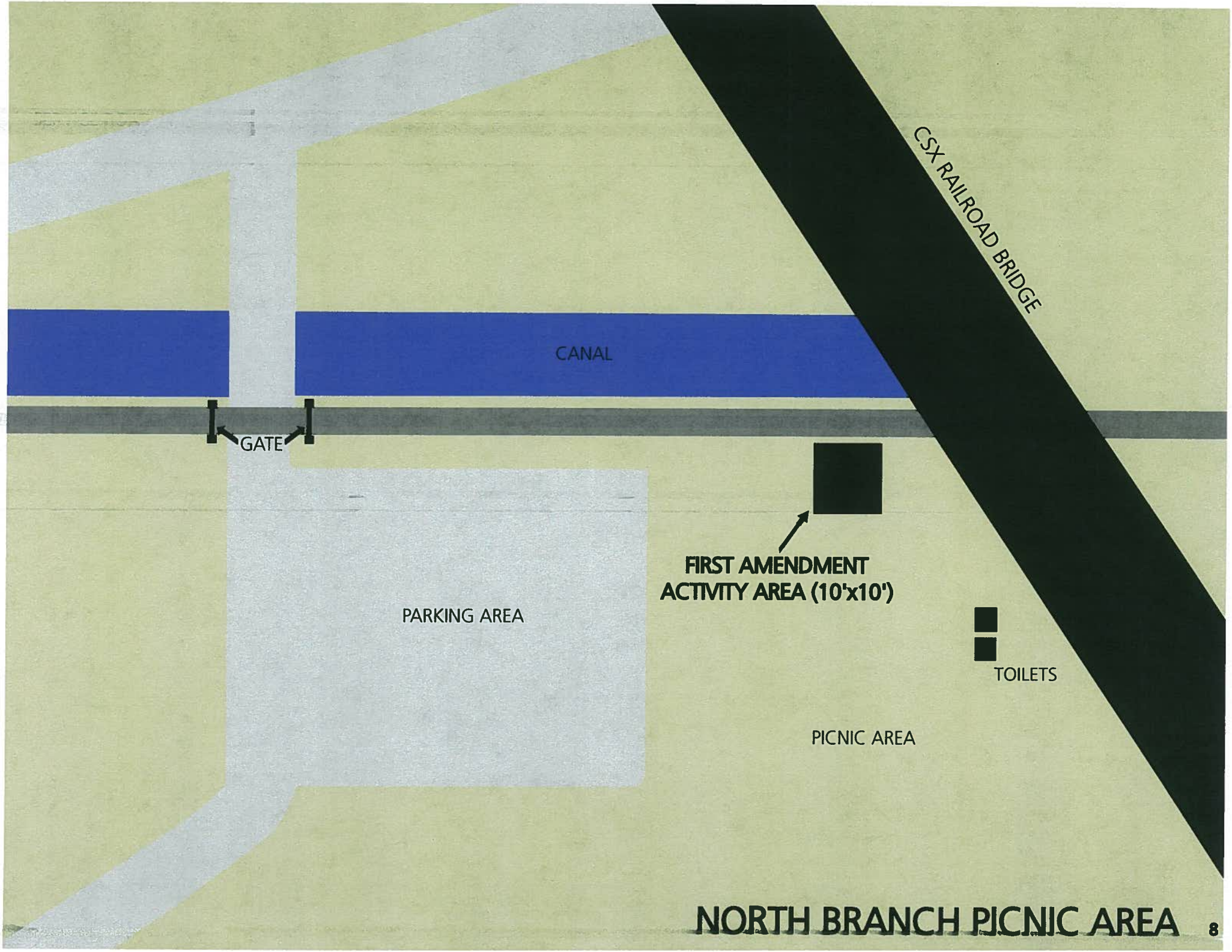
LITTLE TONOLOWAY USE AREA



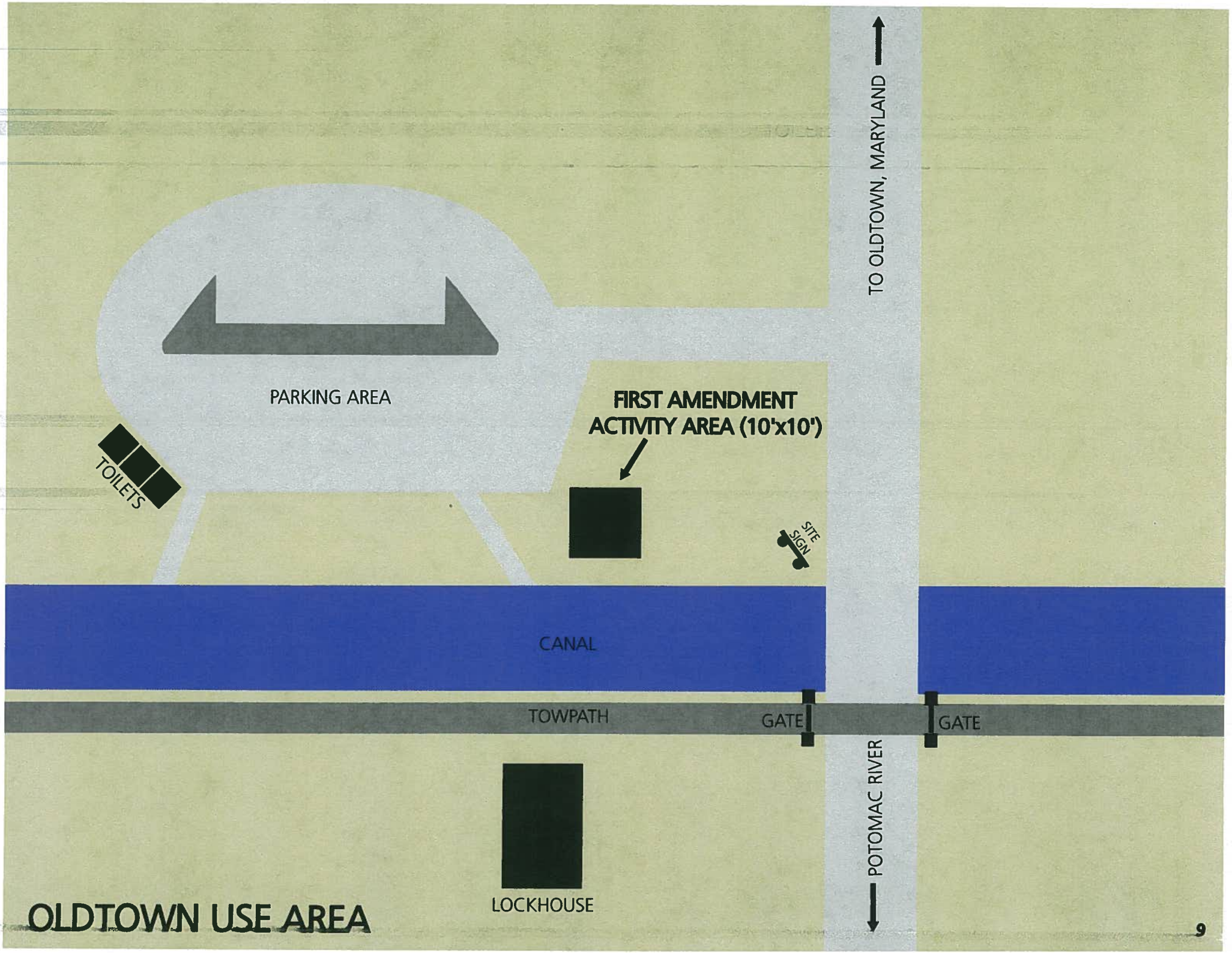
FIFTEENMILE CREEK USE AREA



PAW PAW TUNNEL USE AREA



NORTH BRANCH PICNIC AREA



OLDTOWN USE AREA