

Recreational Guide by Milepost

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
Park Planner

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Visitor Center

Tent Camping

Canal Quarters

Fee Area

Parking

Hiking opportunities available park-wide

Food

Camping-Fee Area

Lodging

Restrooms

Groceries

Picnic Tables

Bike Repairs/Rentals

Boat Rentals

Boat Ramp

Canoe/Kayak Ramp

Commercial services are subject to change at any time

0.1	Thompson Boat House	34.4	Turtle Run	79.2	Horseshoe Bend	126.4	White Rock
0.4	Georgetown	35.5	Whites Ferry	80.9	Taylors Landing	129.9	Leopards Mill
3.1	Fletchers Cove	38.2	Marble Quarry	82.7	Big Woods	130.7	Cohill Station
5.4	Lock 6	42.2	Monocacy Aqueduct	84.4	Dam 4	133.6	Cacapon Junction
6.5	Sycamore Island	42.5	Indian Flats	85.5	Big Slackwater	139.2	Indigo Neck
7	Lock 7 (Glen Echo)	44.6	Nolands Ferry	88.1	McMahons Mill	140.9	Fifteenmile Creek
8.3	Lock 8 (Seven Locks)	47.6	Calico Rocks	90.9	Opequon Junction	144.5	Devils Alley
8.8	Lock 10 (Seven Locks)	48.2	Point of Rocks	95.2	Cumberland Valley	149.4	Stickpile Hill
10.5	Carderock	50.3	Bald Eagle Island	99.2	Lock 44	154.1	Sorrel Ridge
11	Marsden Tract (Permit Required)	50.8	Lock 29 (Lander)	99.8	Williamsport	156.1	Paw Paw
12.2	Anglers Access	54	Brunswick	101.2	Jordan Junction	157.4	Purslane Run
14.3	Great Falls	55	Brunswick	106.8	Dam 5	162.1	Town Creek
16.6	Lock 21 (Swains Lock)	60.8	Harpers Ferry	109	Four Locks	164.8	Potomac Forks
19.6	Lock 22 (Pennyfield Lock)	62.9	Huckleberry Hill	110	North Mountain	166.7	Oldtown
22.1	Lock 23 (Violettes Lock)	64.9	Dargan Bend	110.4	McCoys Ferry	169.1	Pigmans Ferry
22.8	Seneca	69.6	Antietam Creek	112.4	Fort Frederick State Park	173.3	Spring Gap
26.1	Horsepen Branch	72.7	Lock 38 (Shepherdstown)	113.8	Big Pool	175.3	Irons Mountain
27.2	Sycamore Landing	72.8	Ferry Hill	116	Licking Creek	175.5	Lock 75 Area
30.5	Chisel Branch	75.2	Killiansburg Cave	120.6	Little Pool	180.1	Evitts Creek
30.8	Edwards Ferry	76.6	Snyders Landing	124.5	Little Tonoloway (Hancock)	184.5	Cumberland



Explore the Park

Biking

The Canal Towpath provides 184.5 miles of gravel path for biking.

- Ride single file
- Bells and helmets are recommended
- Stay to the right except when passing
- Yield right of way to all pedestrians and horses
- Children must wear bike helmets
- Walk bike across aqueducts

Boating and Fishing

Non-motorized boats are allowed in watered sections of the canal, motorized vessels are prohibited.

- Boat ramp access to the Potomac River can be found on the park map
- Personal Flotation Devices are required by the State of Maryland

Fishing in the canal and river is regulated by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Visit www.dnr.state.md.us for more info.

Dog Walking

Dogs are permitted in the park. They must be on leash no longer than 6 feet and under the owner’s physical control. Dogs are not permitted on Olmsted Island and Billy Goat Trail A.

Hiking

The C&O Canal has a variety of hiking opportunities for all skill levels. In addition to the 184.5 miles of towpath, there are 14 miles of trails in the Great Falls area as well as the 2 mile Paw Paw Tunnel Trail.

Hiking (cont’d)

- Trail maps are available at visitor centers
- Bring water
- Wear sturdy footwear
- Be prepared for changing weather conditions

Horseback Riding

Horses are permitted on the towpath from Swains Lock (mile 16.6) upstream to Candoc/ Offutt Street (mile 181.8). Horses are NOT allowed at the following locations:

- Georgetown (mile 0) to Swains Lock (mile 16.6)
- Candoc/Offutt Street (mile 181.8) to Cumberland Terminus (mile 184.5)
- Paw Paw Tunnel
- Drive-in/walk-in campgrounds
- Picnic areas
- All other hiking areas

Group Picnicking

Group picnicking is available at the Carderock Pavilion. Accommodations for up to 200 people are available. An advanced permit is required and a fee is charged. Reservations can be obtained by visiting www.recreation.gov.

Swimming

Swimming is not permitted in the canal, or in the Potomac River bordering the District of Columbia and Montgomery County, MD. Swimming is not recommended in other areas of the river.

Firearm Regulations

Federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws to carry firearms in this park. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in the park. Those places are marked with signs at all public entrances and include visitor centers and lockhouses.

Firewood Restriction

Due to an infestation by the emerald ash borer beetle, a park-wide ban is in effect on bringing in your own firewood. Campers may collect dead and down wood in the park.

Leave No Trace Principles

C&O Canal is a trash free park. Please take trash and dog and horse waste with you. Trash bags are provided at dispensers located throughout the park.

For a complete listing of park rules and regulations please visit the Superintendent’s Compendium: www.nps.gov/choh/parkmgmt



Reservable Campgrounds

Antietam Creek, McCoys Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, Paw Paw Tunnel, and Spring Gap. Sites are reservation only. Permits can be obtained at www.recreation.gov.

Hiker-Biker Campsites

Located along the towpath every 5-7 miles. No fee. Overnight stays are limited to one night. All sites include a chemical toilet, picnic table, grill, and non-potable well water. (water available mid-April through mid-November).

Group Campgrounds

Marsden Tract, McCoys Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, Paw Paw, and Spring Gap. Sites are reservation only. Permits can be obtained at www.recreation.gov.

Canal Quarters Experience

Lockhouses 6, 10, 21, 22, 25, 28, and 49 are open for overnight interpretive experiences. Lockhouses sleep up to eight people. For more information, fees and registration visit the Canal Trust website: www.CanalQuarters.org

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
National Historical Park

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