



# Canal Visitor Guide

The official newspaper  
C&O Canal National Historical Park



## Great Falls Tavern Gets a Face Lift

The Great Falls area has always been a gateway to experience the natural beauty of the Potomac Gorge. It is also a place where we can experience a taste of life on the canal and journey back through its storied past. Because of its attraction as a destination, the Great Falls Tavern became a place of hospitality that has provided for visitors to the canal for over 150 years. Whether it was commerce, industry, or tourism, the Great Falls Tavern has always been there. To better serve the changing needs of today's visitors, the Great Falls Tavern will be closed for the next year for rehabilitation. Looking back on where it got its beginnings, helps us understand the landmark it has become today.

The Great Falls Tavern began as a modest house for the locktender of lock 20 on the canal. But the C&O Canal Company knew that with the nearby Great Falls of the Potomac, lock 20 would soon become a destination. By 1830, additions to the lockhouse were well underway. An enterprising construction contractor named W.W. Fenlon made the canal company an offer to operate the building the Canal Company named the Cromellin House, after Dutch investors in the Canal. He would run a packet boat, and his wife would operate the tavern. He wrote, "I will keep your house in Stile. Mrs. Fenlon is better calculated for Land Ladie than I am for Land Lord." Fenlon's "hous at the Grait falls" soon became a popular escape from Washington D.C. It is not hard to imagine travelers hungry after traveling through twenty locks and fourteen miles from Georgetown. As they entered Fenlon's main room, candles and lanterns threw circles of warm yellow light from the tables and the mantles. Fires crackled in the hearths. The passengers sat themselves at tables filled with food, including fish from the nearby Potomac River. After a hearty meal and some good company, the household retired for a well-earned rest in bedrooms above. After viewing the falls the next day, they would head back to Washington DC leaving the hospitality of the canal.

In 1849, upset by the effects of liquor on the canal, the Canal Company forbade the sale of liquor on its properties and decided that the house at the great falls would only serve as a lockhouse. But the life of the busy canal dictated that this building would be put to better use. In 1851, the canal company allowed the use of the "ball room" as a grocery—a need that specifically catered both to the canaller traffic and the growing community at the Great Falls. By 1858, the canal company revisited the idea of a hotel or "ordinary" and gave Henry Busey the authority to establish



The tavern as it appears during the early 20th century.

one in their building.

In the meantime, a respectable little community was beginning to develop around the Great Falls Tavern. Some were canal employees—carpenters and locktenders, others were laborers on the Washington Aqueduct—which to this day supplies Washington D.C. with fresh water. A feed store, which also doubled as a post office and grocery sprung up to serve the informal community known as "Great Falls."

As the canal declined in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, so did the Great Falls Tavern. The hotel closed in 1910, with a grocery being the only tenant. In 1913, a new use was found for the Great Falls Tavern, when it became the home of a private club. By 1924, spurred by the easy access that the automobile provided and maybe a little bit of nostalgia, the "Old Lock Tavern" opened under the management of William Case—son of a locktending family. He operated the tavern until 1938, when the U.S. government acquired it.

In the midst of the Great Depression and then World War II, the Great Falls Tavern fell into disrepair. In 1948, a fire caused extensive damage. There were doubts that the building was structurally sound, or even worth saving. With the creation of a park, there was a realization that there had to be a place, a starting point for visitors who came to the falls. Great Falls has been that place for over 35 years and will continue to be that place and to serve visitors for years to come.

### Welcome From the Superintendent

As we head into the summer season, I can honestly say there is no better time than now to visit the C&O Canal. It's a time to enjoy the greening of the canal, the blooming of wildflowers and take advantage of the many exciting things we have going on in the park from Georgetown to Cumberland.

With the change of seasons also comes changes for the canal and our park. Our historic Great Falls Tavern will be closed for restoration until next winter when we will re-open the tavern with improved infrastructure and new exhibits.

At the same time, this spring debuts an exciting change at the eastern end of the park as well. It is the first spring in five years that we will have two replica canal boats operating in both Georgetown and Great Falls. This is a chance for visitors both young and old to experience life on the canal by taking a ride through history, locking through lift locks, while riding a canal boat drawn by mules. Information is available on Page 2.

We have a variety of different programs available for visitors to participate in from plantation tours to tunnel tours, and everything in between. Some of you may want to explore on your own via bicycle or on foot or even by boat -- some hidden places you may not have considered are highlighted for you on Page 5.

Whenever and however you visit the park, we hope you have a safe and memorable visit.

Enjoy your stay at our park!

Kevin Brandt

### What's Inside:

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

C&O Canal National Historical Park  
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

# Park Programs and Events

## Park Fees:

The Great Falls area charges an entrance fee of \$5/car, \$3/cyclist/walker. Fees for commercial vehicles vary according to size of vehicles and number of passengers. Fees are good for three days. All other access points to the park are free.

Canal boat rides last one hour and cost \$7/adult, \$5/senior (62 & over), and \$5/child (ages 6-15), children 5 & under free. The cost for school groups is \$4/student. Regularly scheduled programs are free. Additional programs and events may be offered seasonally -- please check local visitor centers for more information.

Georgetown	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Visitor Center, 202-653-5190</b> <b>9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</b> <b>May 23 - October 28</b> Boat ride tickets, orientation and information.			●	●	●	●	●
<b>Mule-Drawn Canal Boat Rides - \$ (fee charged, see above)</b> <b>11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m.</b> <b>April 11 - May 25</b>			●			●	●
<b>11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m.</b> <b>May 26 - October 28</b> Experience living history while traveling up the canal, locking through lift locks during this 1-hour boat ride.			●	●	●	●	●
<b>Rangers Choice</b> <b>12:15 p.m.</b> <b>May 26- September 2</b> Join a park ranger for a demo, talk or walk to learn more about the stories of the Georgetown area. Meet the ranger at the visitor center.						●	●
Great Falls							
<b>Visitor Center, 301-767-3714</b> <b>9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.</b> Boat ride tickets, orientation and information.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Mule-Drawn Canal Boat Rides - \$ (fee charged, see above)</b> <b>11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m.</b> <b>April 19 - May 31</b>				●	●	●	●
<b>11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m.</b> <b>June 1 - October 28</b> Experience living history while traveling up the canal, locking through lift locks during this 1-hour boat ride.			●	●	●	●	●
<b>Sights and Sounds of the Season</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> <b>March 31 - October 27</b> Join a park volunteer on a 2-hour nature walk and discover the beauty of the season at Great Falls on the C&O Canal. Meet at the visitor center.						●	
<b>Rangers Choice</b> <b>1:30 p.m.</b> <b>May 26- September 2</b> Join a park ranger for a demo, talk or walk to learn more about the stories of the Great Falls area. Meet the ranger at the visitor center.						●	●
<b>Civil War Encampment</b> <b>April 28-29</b> Experience demonstrations and living history of the civil war era by the 20th Maine regiment of the Union Army.						●	●
<b>Civil War Encampment</b> <b>August 11-12</b> Experience demonstrations and living history of the civil war era by the 7th Pennsylvania regiment of the Union Army.						●	●
<b>Life and Death on the C&amp;O Canal - \$</b> <b>6:30 - 9 p.m.</b> <b>October 20</b> Experience the struggles that workers and families faced on the C&O Canal through a series of reenactments and skits during a 1-mile lantern-lit tour along the canal. Visitors will experience a variety of events based on events, legends and lore that have been passed down through the generations. Tickets are \$6/adults and \$4/seniors and children. Reservations and information can be obtained by contacting the visitor center.						●	
Brunswick							
<b>Visitor Center, 301-834-7100</b> <b>Open Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.</b> An inter-agency visitor center with the Brunswick Railroad Museum. Park information, orientation and exhibits on the canal.					●	●	●
<b>Brunswick Railroad Days</b> <b>10 a.m. - 5 p.m.</b> <b>October 6-7</b> Celebrate Brunswick's railroad heritage with this annual festival that includes model railroad displays, live entertainment, canal programs and crafts displays.						●	●

# Five Ways to Enjoy the Canal

## Take A Hike!

The canal towpath is an ideal place to enjoy a moment of solitude and enjoy nature and wildlife along the Potomac River. You can take a short hike or walk the entire 184.5 miles from Georgetown to Cumberland. Challenge yourself by scrambling over the rocks on the Billy Goat Trail while taking in some magnificent views of the Potomac Gorge. Great Falls visitor center has maps of the Great Falls hiking trails. Park maps of the towpath are available at all visitor centers. Please be advised to bring water, wear sturdy footwear and be prepared for changing weather conditions.



## Pedal the Path!

Biking the towpath is one of the most popular methods of enjoying the C&O Canal. In general, the towpath is an even, hard-packed dirt trail ideal for biking. A towpath detour is in effect at Big Slackwater (mile 84.5 to mile 88.1). To obtain more information and a map, please contact your local visitor center.

Bicyclists must follow park and state regulations while riding in the park. These include yielding the right-of-way to all pedestrians, horses and mules; wearing helmets for children under 16; groups riding in single file; and observing a 15 mph speed limit.

## Row, Row, Row Your Boat (or ride one!)

To really experience living history on the canal, we encourage visitors to ride one of our replica canal boats (see Page 2).

However, other boating opportunities are available as well. The first 22 miles of the canal from Georgetown to Great Falls are usually watered and provide an excellent place to canoe or kayak in gentle waters. There are also watered sections at Williamsport, Big Pool, Hancock, Little Pool and Oldtown. Gasoline and propane motorized vehicles are prohibited within the park. In addition, there are several parking areas located along the canal that provide boat ramp access to the Potomac River. Please be advised that Personal Flotation Devices are required by the state of Maryland.



## Sleep Under the Stars!

There are a multitude of opportunities for camping along the C&O Canal. Drive-in car camping sites are located at Antietam Creek, McCoy's Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, Paw Paw Tunnel and Spring Gap. Sites are first-come, first-serve at a fee of \$10 per night per site. Sites are limited to 8 people per site. Group sites are also available at McCoy's Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, Paw Paw and Spring Gap for \$20 per night with a maximum of 35 people per site.

In addition, the park offers free hiker-biker campsites along the towpath every 5-7 miles. These sites are limited to one night. Groups may share sites as space allows.

All sites include a chemical toilet, picnic table and grill as well as drinking water (available mid-April through mid-November).

## Happy Trails!

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. Horses are prohibited through the Paw Paw Tunnel (use Tunnel Hill trail). Riders may not exceed a slow trot. Please walk horses across aqueducts. Feed for horses must be carried, and manure must be removed. Grazing is prohibited in the park. Visitors can use boat ramps for watering horses. Hiker/biker campsites can be used by trail riders. Horses are prohibited at drive-in campsites. For more information, contact a local visitor center or park website.



# Recreational Guide by Milepost

Bike Repairs/Rental	Food	Car Camping -- Fee Charged
Boat Ramp	Groceries	Visitor Center
Canoe/Kayak Ramp	Parking	Restrooms
Boat Rental	Picnic Table	Lodging
Fee Charged	Tent Camping only	

**Note: Commercial services are subject to change at any time.**

0.1 Thompson Boat House 	26.1 Horsepen Branch 	64.9 Dargan Bend 	109.0 Four Locks 	
0.4 Georgetown 	27.2 Sycamore Landing 	69.6 Antietam Creek 	110.0 North Mountain 	156.1 Paw Paw 
3.1 Fletchers Cove 	30.5 Chisel Branch 	72.7 Lock 38 / Shepherdstown, WV 	110.4 McCoys Ferry 	157.4 Purslane Run 
5.4 Lock 6 	30.8 Edward's Ferry 	75.2 Killiansburg Cave 	112.4 Fort Frederick State Park 	162.1 Town Creek 
6.5 Sycamore Island 	34.4 Turtle Run 	76.6 Snyders Landing 	113.8 Big Pool 	164.8 Potomac Forks 
7.0 Lock 7/Glen Echo 	35.5 Whites Ferry 	79.2 Horseshoe Bend 	116.0 Licking Creek Aqueduct 	166.7 Oldtown/Battie-Mixon 
8.3 Lock 8/Seven Locks 	38.2 Marble Quarry 	80.9 Taylors Landing 	120.6 Little Pool 	169.1 Pigmans Ferry 
8.8 Lock 10/Seven Locks 	42.2 Monocacy Aqueduct 	82.7 Big Woods 	124.5 Little Tonoloway/Hancock 	173.3 Spring Gap 
10.5 Carderock 	42.5 Indian Flats 	84.4 Dam 4 	126.4 White Rock 	175.3 Irons Mountain 
11.0 Marsden Tract – group campground permit required. Parking 0.5 mile downstream at Carderock. 	44.6 Nolands Ferry 	85.5 Big Slackwater 	129.9 Leopards Mill 	180.1 Evitts Creek 
12.2 Anglers Inn 	47.6 Calico Rocks 	88.1 McMahons Mill 	130.7 Cohill Station 	184.5 Cumberland / Canal Terminus 
14.3 Great Falls 	48.2 Point of Rocks 	90.9 Opequon Junction 	133.6 Cacapon Junction 	
16.6 Lock 51/Swains Lock 	50.3 Bald Eagle Island 	95.2 Cumberland Valley 	139.2 Indigo Neck 	
19.6 Lock 22/Pennyfield Lock 	50.8 Lock 29/Lander 	99.2 Lock 44 	140.9 Fifteenmile Creek 	
22.1 Lock 23/Violette's Lock 	55.0 Brunswick 	99.8 Williamsport 	144.5 Devils Alley 	
22.8 Seneca 	60.8 Harpers Ferry 	101.2 Jordan Junction 	149.4 Stickpile Hill 	
	62.9 Huckleberry Hill 	106.8 Dam 5 		

## Know Before You Go

154.1 Sorrel Ridge

**A**void the worst. Put Safety First! We want all our visitors to have a safe and memorable visit to the C&O Canal National Historical Park. By keeping in mind the following regulations, you will help preserve our park and keep yourself safe at the same time. If you do encounter an emergency at any time, please call 1-866-677-6677 or 911.

- Please take your trash with you. We are a trash-free park. Trash bags are provided at dispensers located throughout the park.
- Take only pictures, leave only footprints. Please do not remove artifacts or natural items from the park.
- Children under 16 must wear bike helmets while riding; we encourage adults to do so as well. Bicyclists must observe a speed limit of 15 mph while riding the towpath. Bells are recommended.
- Dogs are welcome on the towpath, but must be on a leash at all times. Dogs are not permitted on the Billy Goat Trail, Section A or on the overlook trail to Great Falls.
- Camp in designated areas only.
- Do not operate motorized vehicles on the towpath.
- Do not consume alcoholic beverages in the park.

# Park Map and Highlights



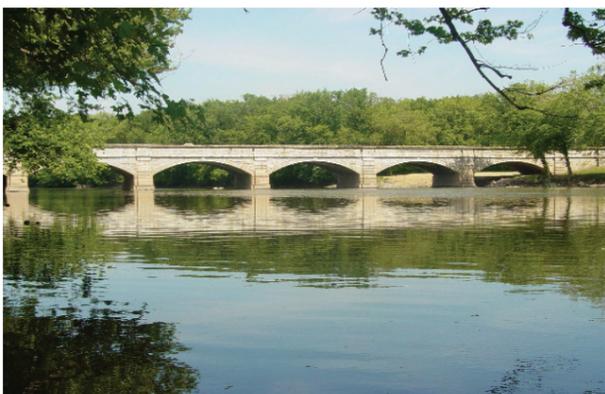
The 3,118 foot Paw Paw Tunnel took 14 years to build and nearly bankrupted the canal company.



At its height, the Round Top Cement Mill employed over 100 workers and produced over 600,000 pounds of cement per week.



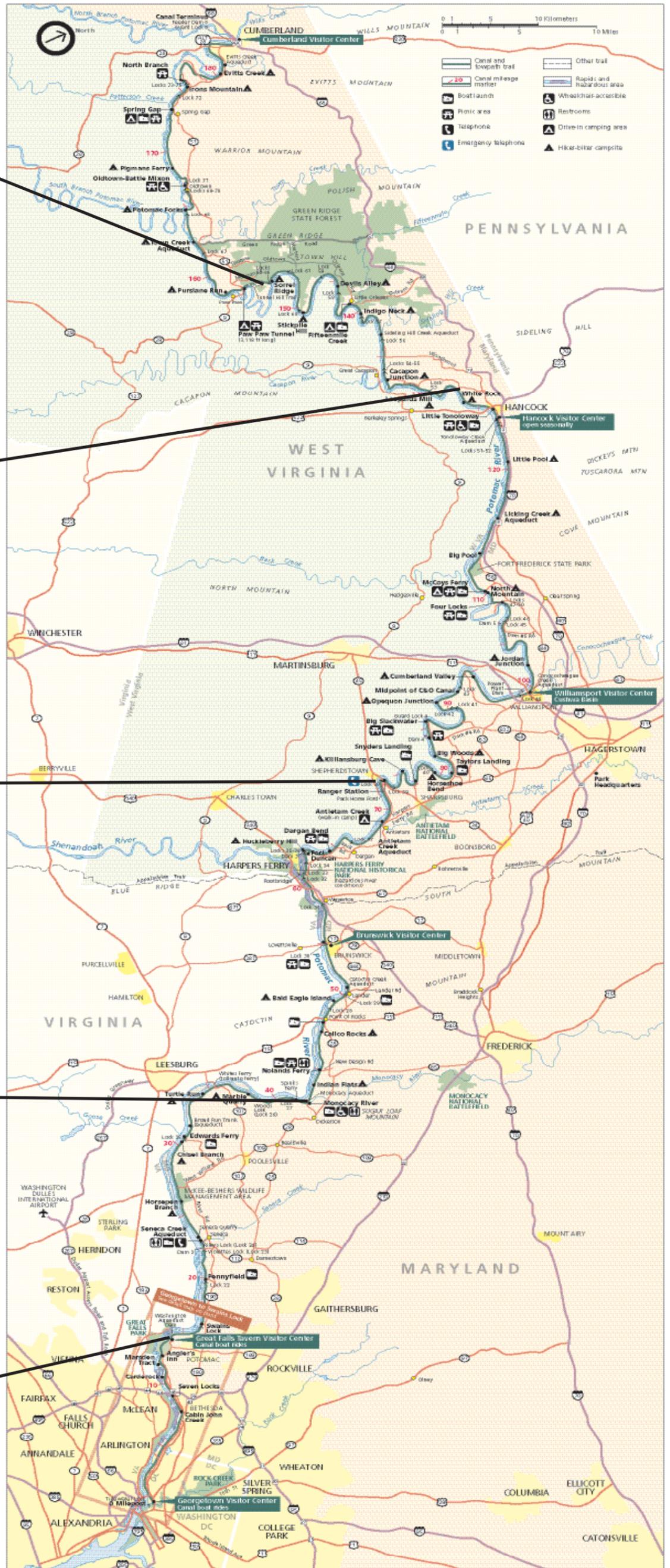
Built by John Blackford, who started the ferry that led across the Potomac to Shepherdstown, Ferry Hill Plantation played a significant role during the civil war.



At 560 feet, the Monocacy Aqueduct is the longest of the park's eleven aqueducts and was recently restored.



The Great Falls of the Potomac is one of the most spectacular sights along the Potomac Gorge.



# Friends of the Park

## C&O Canal Association

The C&O Canal Association is a citizens' association concerned with the conservation of the natural and historical environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin. The Association supports the National Park Service in its efforts to preserve and promote the 184.5 mile towpath and the open spaces within the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Membership is open to all.

Association activities include hikes, bike and canoe trips, a level walkers program, and special projects to support park activities. The Association provides opportunities for fellowship and education as well. Members receive a quarterly newsletter.

For more information about the C&O Canal Association, activities, and special projects, visit the [www.candocanal.org](http://www.candocanal.org) or call 301-983-0825.

### C&O Canal Association Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Rates (circle rate):

Individual \$15    Family \$20    Patron \$25

My C&O Canal Association badge should bear this name: \_\_\_\_\_

Second badge name (Patron or Family Membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

C&O Canal Association

P.O. Box 366

Glen Echo, Md. 20812-0366



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

### Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park

Preserving America's colorful canal era and transportation history, the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park is 184.5 miles of adventure. Originally, the C&O Canal was a lifeline for communities and businesses along the Potomac River as coal, lumber, grain and other agricultural products floated down the canal to market. Today millions of visitors hike or bike the C&O Canal each year to enjoy the natural, cultural and recreational opportunities available.

#### Superintendent

Kevin Brandt

#### Chief of Interpretation

Bill Justice

#### Editor

Leslie Brodhead

#### Contributors

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#### Mailing Address

1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

#### Website

[www.nps.gov/choh](http://www.nps.gov/choh)

#### E-mail

[CHOH\\_Information@nps.gov](mailto:CHOH_Information@nps.gov)

#### Fax Number

301-745-5805

#### Park Headquarters

301-739-4200

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

### BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Applications can be turned in at any park visitor center or mailed to:

Eastern National,  
470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1  
Ft. Washington, PA 19034.



## Serving the Visitors to America's National Parks and Other Public Trusts

Since 1947, Eastern National has been a proud partner to the national parks which currently partners with over 150 national parks and public trusts and has donated over \$70 million to the National Park Service through the years. Eastern National is dedicated to helping visitors find the information, materials, and experiences they need to fully understand and appreciate the legacy of the places they will visit.

We encourage you to become a member of Eastern National and help support their programs. Membership costs \$25 per year and the net proceeds from Eastern National bookstores are donated directly to the National Park Service. Members receive a 15% discount on purchases made at any of our bookstore locations. Many other NPS cooperating associations throughout the United States honor a similar discount to Eastern members.

## Volunteers-in-the-Parks

The success of C&O Canal's Volunteers-In-Parks program is a result of the hard work and dedication of the volunteers that choose to serve at the park. This park relies on the skills, talents, and abilities of our volunteers to assist park staff in providing a quality visitor experience while preserving and protecting the natural and cultural resources of the park.

The park has many ways in which volunteers can donate service to the park. Currently, the park is seeking to recruit volunteers to work as costumed interpreters on the park's two mule-drawn canal boats, The Georgetown and the Charles F. Mercer. Volunteers are needed for the Georgetown and Great Falls Tavern boat operations. All training and costumes are provided by the park.

The warm weather means we are actively seeking new bike patrol members. Bike Patrol members ride the towpath and answer questions about the park, distribute park literature, assist with minor bike repairs and basic first aid while working with National Park Service park rangers to assist the park's three million annual visitors.

Friendly, knowledgeable people who enjoy engaging visitors are needed to assist in staffing our visitor center information desks, lockhouses, and booths at special events. Volunteer schedules are flexible -- we have opportunities available seven days a week.

Volunteers are rewarded by getting to know the park's resources in a deep and meaningful way, meeting people from all different walks of life, and assisting National Park Service employees in making every visitor's experience a positive and memorable one. To become a part of our team, please contact the park Volunteer Coordinator at 301-714-2233. If you are interested in these positions or want to know about other volunteer opportunities the park has to offer, please visit our website, <http://www.nps.gov/choh/supportyourpark>.



# Williamsport

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Visitor Center, 301-582-0813</b> <b>9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</b> <b>May 23 - September 3</b> Museum, orientation, exhibits, and information.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>September 4 - October 31</b>			●	●	●	●	●
<b>Lock Demonstrations</b> <b>2 p.m.</b> <b>May 26 - September 2</b> Join a ranger to observe the workings of historic Lock 44 and find out about the challenges for canal families and lock-keepers. Meet at Lock 44 parking area.						●	●
<b>Travel Back on the Towpath</b> <b>12 p.m.</b> <b>June 1 - August 31</b> Join a ranger in historic Harpers Ferry at the program meeting area directly across from the bookstore in lower town for a 1-hour walk along the canal.				●			
<b>Ferry Hill Plantation Open House</b> <b>12:30 - 4:30 p.m.</b> <b>May 26-September 1</b> Tour historic Ferry Hill plantation, and learn about the struggles of the families who lived there and how the civil war played into those struggles.						●	
<b>Fishing Fun Contest</b> <b>9 a.m. - 12 p.m.</b> <b>June 2</b> Fishing derby for kids 15 and under -- fishing, food, fun, and prizes.						●	
<b>Williamsport Canal Days</b> <b>10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</b> <b>August 25-26</b> Celebrate Williamsport's heritage at Cushwa Basin and Byron Memorial Park for activities, canal programs and exhibits, arts, crafts and food.						●	●

# Hancock

<b>Visitor Center, 301-678-5463</b> <b>9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</b> <b>Open May 25 - October 28</b> Museum, orientation, exhibits, and information.	●	●			●	●	●
<b>Hancock Barge Bash</b> <b>July 14</b> Join in the fun of watching theme-based "barges" race down the canal. Race begins at 3 p.m. on the canal with activities and fireworks in the evening at Widmeyer Park.						●	
<b>Hancock Apple Days</b> <b>September 15-16</b> Celebrate Hancock's heritage at Widmeyer Park with a parade, crafts, food and canal exhibits.						●	●

# Cumberland

<b>Visitor Center, 301-722-8226</b> <b>9 a.m. - 5 p.m.</b> <b>Open year-round</b> Museum, exhibits, and information on the canal and Allegany County.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Lockhouse 75 Open House</b> <b>10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</b> <b>May 26 - September 2</b> Learn more about the day-to-day life of the men and women who "tended" the locks along the C&O Canal. Meet at the lockhouse, milepost 175.6.						●	●
<b>Paw Paw Tunnel Tour</b> <b>2 p.m.</b> <b>May 26 - September 1</b> Join a ranger for a guided walk through this 3,118 foot tunnel. Bring a flashlight and sturdy walking shoes for this one-hour tour of about two miles in length. Meet at the upstream side of the tunnel, a ten minute walk from the parking area.						●	
<b>Cumberland Basin Walk/Talks</b> <b>3:15 p.m.</b> <b>May 27 - September 2</b> Join a ranger for a guided walking tour of the historic end of the C&O Canal, and learn about boat building and cargo transfer. Meet at the mule sculpture on the plaza.							●
<b>Oldtown Fishing Rodeo, Lock 70</b> <b>10 a.m. - 1 p.m.</b> <b>June 2</b> Fun for kids 15 and under -- fishing, fun, food and prizes awarded.						●	
<b>Oldtown Summer Fest</b> <b>June 23-24</b> Celebration of the history of earliest community in the county. Visit Lockhouse 70 and learn more about the C&O Canal and Oldtown.						●	●
<b>CanalFest/RailFest</b> <b>July 6-7</b> Join the festivities at the Cumberland Terminus area, visit the mule, and attend ranger programs while learning more about this unique area.				●	●		

# Kids Corner



## Canal Word Search

Find these words in the puzzle below:  
Tunnel, Towpath, Boat, Aqueduct, Mule, Lock, Potomac, Snubbing Post, Horn, Line, Coal, Key, Turtle, Eagle, Heron



## Children on the C&O Canal

Families ran most of the boats that went up and down the C&O canal which meant that children traveled on the boats. Since the boats took trips through the spring, summer, and fall, most canal children only went to school for about four months each year. During the rest of the year, the children were with their parents on the boats. If they were old enough, children helped operate the boat. Younger children might help with chores like cooking and cleaning. When they wanted to have fun they could jump off the boat and take a swim in the canal. Older children had the responsibility of leading the team of mules up and down the towpath. Imagine leading a team of mules up and down the canal, walking the entire way, day after day -- suddenly spending more time in school would look pretty good!

## Canal Coloring Page

## More to Explore

It's easy to get to know more about the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and other National Parks.



Become a Junior Ranger at the C&O Canal! Get a Junior Ranger book at any of Park Visitor Center or ask your parents to go to the World Wide Web at [www.nps.gov/choh/forkids/beajuniorranger.htm](http://www.nps.gov/choh/forkids/beajuniorranger.htm). When you finish the book, visit a ranger to earn your badge.

Become a WebRanger and explore National Parks all across the United States without leaving your home. Visit [www.nps.gov/webrangers/](http://www.nps.gov/webrangers/) for WebRanger activities.

