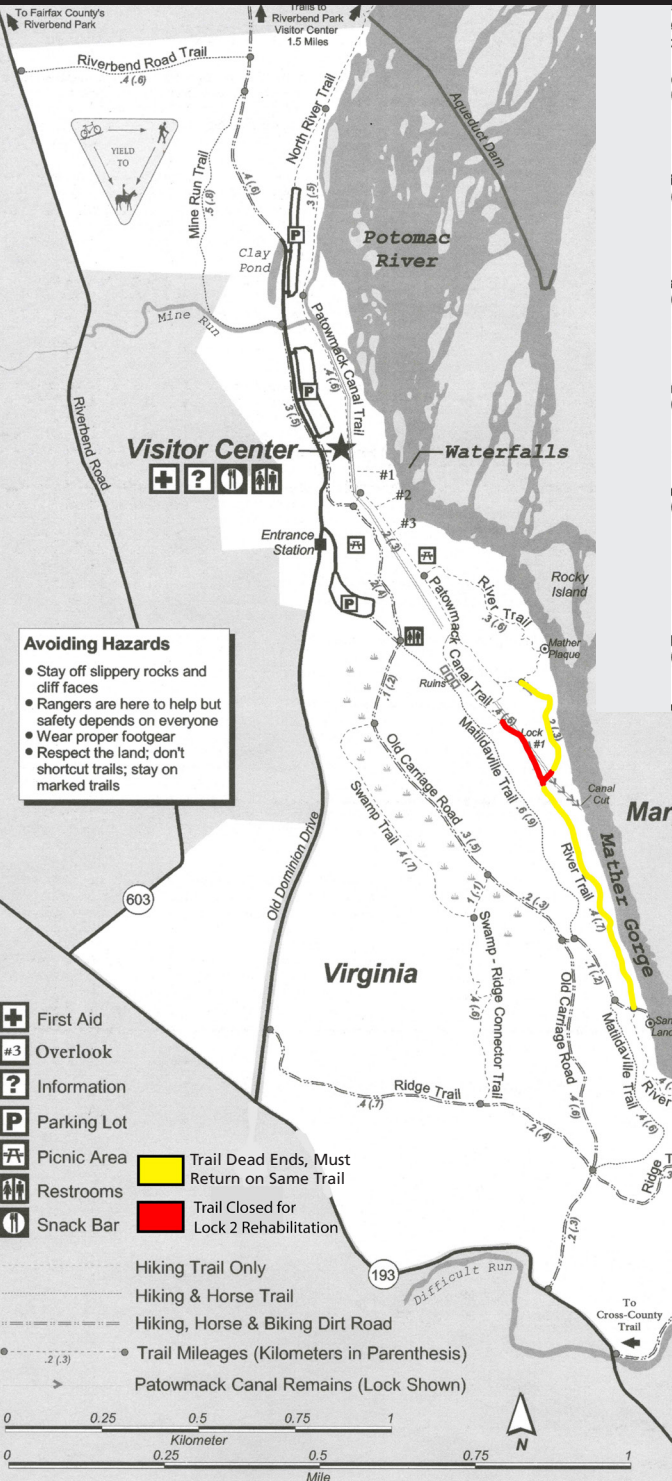


Great Falls Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



George Washington Memorial Parkway



In case of emergency, dial 911 AND call Park Rangers at 703-285-2965

What is the Patowmack Canal?

The Patowmack Canal was built in the late 18th and early 19th century to connect the Ohio River Valley with the eastern seaboard and allow boats to get around the falls on the Potomac River. George Washington was one of the canal's earliest and strongest proponents. However, by 1828, after financial difficulties, the canal operations ceased. Portions of five locks in the Great Falls section of the canal still exist. Today, the National Park Service works to preserve and interpret these important pieces of American history.

What Work is Occurring at Lock 2?

The National Park Service received funding to stabilize and preserve Lock 2 of the Patowmack Canal. The Park Service will repair the storm damaged walls and locks.

How will this Affect my Visit?

The area around Locks 1 and 2 will be closed to visitors. Some trails, such as the lower section of the River Trail, will dead end, and require visitors to return on the same route from which they came.

Please use caution on the trails near the Patowmack Canal as work vehicles and equipment will be traveling along some of these trails.