C&O Canal Towpath Bike Y0699

Table of Contents

Table of Contents…… …… …….1

Overview of Event …… ….……...2

Driving, Parking and Trail Directions ……..… .7

Internet Resources…….……..39

Trail Map……..…..……. 40

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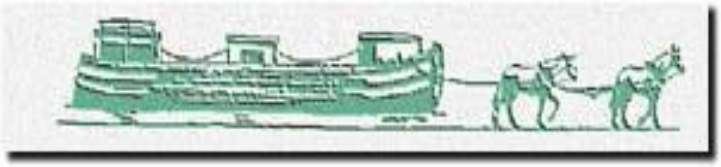
MVA C&O CANAL YRE Overview
Covering the Y747 Walk and Y699 Bike Events



The Maryland Volkssport Association is deeply grateful to Merritt "Skip" Magee. Skip established this program, created the original directions, served as P.O.C. with mail-in registration for over a decade, and knows every meter of the towpath. Thank you so much Skip.

General Information: The C&O Canal National Historical Park winds its way 184.5 miles from Georgetown in Washington, DC to Cumberland in beautiful western Maryland. The trail, a mostly well-kept towpath nestled between the Potomac River and the canal, is a trip through history, with 74 lift locks, restored lock houses, aqueducts, and the amazing mile-long Paw Paw tunnel. Walkers and cyclists will enjoy spectacular scenery, beautiful river vistas, and wildlife along the trail. There is something here for everyone's pleasure.

Many Trail Options: There are many ways to enjoy the C&O Canal Towpath experience. **Walks** can vary from 5 km to 300km, and **bikes** can vary from 10 km to 300 km. Either type can be one-way or out-and-back (round trip). The event documents herewith for the **walk** event have trail directions for specific start and finish points, and turnaround points (for the out-and-back segments). The start, finish and turnaround points for **bike** events are entirely up to you to decide (although you are welcome to use trail directions for the walks).

The advantage of out-and-back trails, of course, is that you return to your parked car. For 1-Way trails, you might arrange a two-car "shuttle", with one car parked at the finish and another driven to the start. To do this for biking, both cars will need to accommodate all of the cyclists and their bicycles.

The location anywhere on the C&O Canal Towpath is usually specified by proximity to the Milepost number (MP), which is the distance in miles from the Eastern-most terminus at the "original" Watergate in Georgetown in Washington, DC. MP 0 is in Georgetown. MP 184 is one-half mile away from the Western-most terminus in Cumberland, Maryland.

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Curated Trail Suggestions

Using parts of the towpath from MP 0 to 45

1-Way Segment 1 Georgetown to Carderock - 17KM
1-Way Segment 2 Carderock to Seneca Aqueduct - 19KM
1-Way Segment 3 Seneca to Whites Ferry - 21 KM
1-Way Segment 4 Whites Ferry to Nolands Ferry – 14KM
Out and Back 11KM – Round trip from Carderock
Out and Back 10KM – Round trip from Fletcher's Boat House

Using parts of the towpath from MP 45 to 86

1-Way Segment 5 Nolands Ferry to Brunswick - 17KM
1-Way Segment 6 Brunswick to Dargan Bend - 16KM
1-Way Segment 7 Dargan Bend to Lock 38 - 13 KM
1-Way Segment 8 Lock 38 to Dam 4 – 20KM
Out and Back 10KM – Round trip from Lock 38

Using parts of the towpath from MP 86 to 141

1-Way Segment 9 Dam 4 to Williamsport – 25KM
1-Way Segment 10 Williamsport to Ft Frederick – 20KM
1-Way Segment 11 Ft Frederick to Hancock – 19KM
1-Way Segment 12 Hancock to Little Orleans – 27KM
Out and Back 10KM – Round trip from Ft Frederick

Using parts of the towpath from MP 141 to MP 184+

1-Way Segment 13 Little Orleans to Paw Paw – 24KM
1-Way Segment 14 Paw Paw to Oldtown – 17 KM
1-Way Segment 15 Oldtown to North Branch – 14KM
1-Way Segment 16 North Branch to Cumberland – 15KM
Out and Back 10KM – Round trip from Paw Paw (includes Paw Paw Tunnel)
Out and Back 10KM – Round trip from Little Orleans

Bike Event – Y699 (using MP 0 to 184+)
Bike any portion of the trail from at least 10 km to the entire 300 km (184.5 miles).

MP 0 to 45: Segment 1, 17K, from Georgetown to Carderock features the Georgetown Visitor's center and 14 locks. Segment 2, 19K, from Carderock to Seneca Aqueduct features Great Falls Tavern, 10 locks and Seneca Creek Aqueduct. Segment 3, 21K, from Seneca to Whites Ferry features the last active ferry on the Potomac and the Seneca Aqueduct. Segment 4, 14K, from Whites Ferry to Nolands Ferry features the spectacular seven arch, 560 foot Monocacy Aqueduct. 11K Out and Back from Carderock to Great Falls features beautiful river vistas, Olmsted Island, 6 locks, the famous Great Falls Tavern and a National Park Service (NPS) visitor's center. 10K out and back from Fletcher's Boat House to Georgetown features 2 locks, Potomac River aqueduct ruins, and the Georgetown NPS Visitors Center.

MP 45 to 86: Segment 5, 17K, from Noland's Ferry to Brunswick features a view of Furnace Mountain and, with a brief detour across the pivot bridge, the Victorian train station in Point of Rocks. Segment 6, 16K, from Brunswick to Dargan Bend features a gap through South Mountain ridge (the divide between Maryland's Frederick and Washington counties), 6 locks, and the opportunity for a short detour into historic Harpers Ferry. Segment 7, 13K, from Dargan Bend to Lock 38 features the Antietam Creek Aqueduct. Segment 8, 20K, from Lock 38 to Big Slackwater features cliffs with caves, and Dam 4. 10K Out and Back from Lock 38 to the Antietam Creek Aqueduct features beautiful river vistas, lock 38, view of the Shepherdstown bluffs and Packhorse Ford.

MP 86 to 141: Segment 9, 25K, from Dam 4 to Williamsport features cliffs and caves along Big Slackwater, McMahon's Mill and the Visitor's Center in Williamsport. Segment 10, 20K, from

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Williamsport to Fort Frederick features the National Park Service Visitor's Center in Williamsport, Conococheague Aqueduct, Dam 5, and the handsome Fort Frederick. Segment 11, 19K, from Fort Frederick to Hancock features Fort Frederick, Big Pool, and Licking Creek Aqueduct. Segment 12, 27K, from Hancock to Little Orleans features interesting rock faces and beautiful views as the canal enters "The Endless Mountains". 10K Out and Back from Fort Frederick (State Park) features the elegantly restored stone walls of Fort Frederick and the Big Pool canal area.

MP 141 to 184+: Segment 13, 24K, from Little Orleans to Paw Paw features interesting scenery as the tow path runs beside Green Ridge State Forest and passes through the Paw Paw tunnel. Segment 14, 17K, from Paw Paw to Oldtown features Town Creek Aqueduct, and a nicely restored lock and lock house at Oldtown. Possible short side trips include the Potomac Forks at Mile 164.8 and the low water toll bridge in Oldtown. Segment 15, 14K, from Oldtown to North Branch features 5 locks and some interesting vistas. Segment 16, 15K, from North Branch to Cumberland features the Evitts Creek Aqueduct and the canal terminus at Cumberland with its full size canal boat, the historic Western Maryland Railroad Station, and the excellent Park Service Visitor's Center. 10K out and back from Paw Paw features the remarkable Paw Paw canal tunnel. Almost a mile long, this engineering marvel is well worth seeing. Bring a flashlight. 10K out and back from Little Orleans features the 15 Mile Creek Aqueduct.

Event Y0699: The entire C&O Canal Towpath is sanctioned for the bike event. You pick your distance 10km to 300km.

Events Y2988 and Y2989: The western terminus of the C&O Canal Towpath connects to a 150-mile rail trail known as the Great Alleghany Passage (GAP). The Mon Valley Trailblazers sponsors a walk event and a bike event, each covering the GAP trail. To learn about these events, go to https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?sn=119912 (walk) or https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?sn=119834 (bike).

Trail Rating: All segments are rated 1B and are on mostly gravel but sometimes natural surfaces (and sometimes mud and puddles) along the towpath. Individual sections of the towpath may have a rough surface due to erosion caused by wear and wet weather. Strollers and Wheelchair users may have difficulty in places.

Start/Finish Times/Conditions: The towpath is accessible every day of the year. Only during periods of flooding, heavy snowfall, or maintenance would access be restricted. If in doubt, call the National Park Service (NPS) for park opening information. You may walk on the towpath only from dawn to dusk. Camping is available in designated areas; get info from the NPS. Leave yourself enough time to complete your walk before dusk. Pets must be leashed. Please clean up after them. The towpath is a trash-free park where you must carry out your refuse.

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Transportation: Everyone is responsible for arranging their own transportation. It is best to walk the more remote segments with another individual or a group as you may be far from help if you need assistance. Cellphone service is spotty in some sections.

Refreshments: You must carry sufficient food and water to last throughout your walk. There are scattered locations where food and drink are available but their opening is seasonal so you should not rely on them. Water pumps are not available in hiker-biker camps between October and April. Do not rely on them for water.

Eligibility: Everyone is eligible to participate. An adult must accompany children under 12 at all times on the trails.

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to make these events safe and enjoyable. AVA, MVA and the National Park Service shall not be held responsible for lost or stolen items, accidents, or injuries at any time. If you are walking one of the remote segments, please remember to leave an itinerary with a close friend or relative in case of emergency.

AVA Special Programs: Walking the USA A-Z: The letters B, C, D, F, H, L, N, O, P, S, T, and W are available. Walking the United States/51 Capitals: The Washington, DC portion is available. Border Crossings: Cross the border of Washington, DC and Maryland between MP 4 and 5. Rockin' Round The Clock: a building adorned with a clock tower can be seen north of MP 1. Appalachian Trail runs concurrently with the C&O Canal Towpath from MP 58 to just before MP 61. Rails-to-Trails: The C&O Canal Towpath was never a railroad bed, and thus does not qualify for the Rails-to-Trails Special Program. HOWEVER, all walker and cyclists are authorized to use two short rail trails that run parallel to the towpath. The Capital Crescent Rail Trail runs next to the towpath from the Key Bridge in Georgetown (approx. MP 1) to Fletcher's Boat House (approx. MP 3). The Western Maryland Rail Trail runs near the towpath near MP 114 and ends near MP 138. Check a map on the internet or in one of the guidebooks for exact locations where you can connect between the rail trails and the towpath.

Maryland counties note: Segments 1 thru 4 are in Montgomery County, Segments 4 thru 6 are in Frederick County, Segments 6 thru 12 are in Washington County and Segments 12 thru 16 are in Allegany County.

Guidebooks: A number of good guides to the C&O Canal's history, structures and amenities are available including Towpath Guide to the C&O Canal, and The C&O Canal Companion. Books are available for purchase in all of the C&O Canal NPS Visitor Centers. The TrailGuide publication, published annually by the Great Allegheny Press, is also highly recommended. The TrailGuide describes up-to-date resources for both the C&O Canal Towpath and the Great Allegheny Passage for both walking and cycling.

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<u>There's an App for that</u>: The C&O Canal Explorer app is available both at Google Play (for Android smartphones) and the App Store (for iPhones and other Apple devices). This app can be used to follow your progress anywhere on the towpath. It displays all significant landmarks, facilities, access points, Mile Posts, etc. A real deal at 99 cents!

The C&O Canal "is a place of retreat, a long stretch of quiet and peace …" - Justice William O. Douglas, 1954

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C&O Canal Driving and Parking Directions MP 0 to 45

Segment 1	-	17 Km	-	Thompson Boat Center to Carderock (one-way)
Segment 2	-	20 Km	-	Carderock to Seneca Creek Aqueduct (one-way)
Segment 3	-	21 Km	-	Seneca Creek Aqueduct to Whites Ferry (one-way)
Segment 4	-	14 Km	-	Whites Ferry to Nolands Ferry (one-way)
	-	11/12 Km	-	"Out & Back" from Carderock
	-	10 Km	-	"Out & Back" from Boat House at Fletcher's Cove

Driving Directions to Each Trailhead:

To Thompson Boat Center (Google Maps: Thompson Boat Center, 38.901129, -77.057810): From I-495 (Capital Beltway) *in Virginia*, take exit 14, the George Washington Memorial Parkway for 8.3 miles to the Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge. Turn RIGHT for .4 miles at the yield sign to cross over the bridge (the entrance to the bridge is closed 7-9 A.M. Mon-Fri). Turn RIGHT onto the Whitehurst Freeway (DO NOT go to the stop light!) for .65 mile. Take the "K Street/DC 29" exit to the stop light. Turn RIGHT for one block toward "Virginia Avenue/Rock Creek Parkway." At the next light, turn RIGHT onto Virginia Avenue to the stop light at Rock Creek Parkway (you CANNOT turn right at this light between 6:45-9:30 A.M. Mon-Fri). Thompson Boat Center is straight ahead. The lot is open from 5 A.M. to Midnight, maximum of three hours parking.

To Carderock (Google Maps: Billy Goat Trail C – North Parking Lot, 38.976322, -77.205353): Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to Exit 41, Clara Barton Parkway, Carderock/Glen Echo. Follow Clara Barton Parkway - West for .7 mile to the Carderock exit. At the top of the ramp, turn LEFT across the bridge and at the "T," turn RIGHT and continue 0.4 mile to the last parking lot. Access to the towpath is on the right side of the parking lot.

From Carderock to Seneca Creek Aqueduct: Leave Carderock parking lot and go up to the overpass, turn LEFT toward "Potomac," go over bridge and turn LEFT down the ramp on the Clara Barton Parkway West. Follow the parkway 7 miles to a stop sign at MacArthur, continuing straight at the stop sign. Turn LEFT onto MacArthur and follow until it ends at Falls Road (and the entrance to "Great Falls"). Turn RIGHT onto Falls Road (MD189 North) for 1.9 miles to the second traffic light at River Road (MD 190). Turn LEFT onto River Road for 7.8 miles to the intersection of MD190/MD112. Turn LEFT onto MD 112, go .7 mile to the bottom of the hill and Riley's Lock Road. Turn LEFT on Riley's Lock Road for 3/4 mile to the parking lot at Seneca Creek Aqueduct.

To Seneca Creek Aqueduct (Google Maps: Seneca Creek Aqueduct, 39.069013, -77.340464): Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to Exit 39, River Road, Washington/ Potomac. After exiting, take the lane marked Potomac-West to River Road (MD 190) for about 11.5 miles to a "T" junction. Turn LEFT onto Seneca Road (MD 112) for about 3/4 of a mile to Riley's Lock Road. Turn LEFT onto Riley's Lock Road and proceed to the closest parking lot to the towpath..

From Seneca Creek Aqueduct to Whites Ferry: Return to Seneca Road (MD 112) at the stop sign. Turn LEFT onto River Road for .7 miles to Partnership Road. Turn RIGHT on Partnership Road for 3.8 miles to another stop sign at Whites Ferry Road. Turn LEFT onto Route 107 West for 2.4 miles to a stop sign in Poolesville. Continue straight ahead for another 6 miles until you reach an intersection where the asphalt road bears right to Whites Ferry.

To Whites Ferry (Google Maps: Whites Ferry, 39.154935, -77.517852): Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to Exit 39, "River Road/Washington/Potomac." After exiting, take the lane marked "Potomac-West" to River Road (MD 190) for about 11.5 miles to a "T" junction. Turn LEFT onto Seneca Road (MD 112) for 1.4 miles to Partnership Road. Turn RIGHT on Partnership Road for 3.8 miles to another stop sign at Whites Ferry Road. Turn LEFT onto Route 107 West for 2.4 miles to a stop sign in Poolesville. Continue straight ahead for another 6 miles until you reach an intersection where the asphalt road bears right to Whites Ferry.

From Whites Ferry to Nolands Ferry: Leave Whites Ferry and turn LEFT for 6 miles back to Poolesville. Turn LEFT at the stop sign to Route 109. Take Route 109 North to Route 28 in Beallsville. Turn LEFT onto Route 28 West for 8 miles to New Design Road (Tuscarora Substation is on your left). Turn LEFT onto New Design Road for .7 miles to Nolands Ferry.

To Nolands Ferry (Google Maps: Nolands Ferry C&O Canal, 39.250149, -77.482112): From I-270 in Frederick, take exit 31B, Route 85 South. From I-70 in Frederick, take exit 54 and turn RIGHT at the stop light onto Route 355 for .7 miles to Route 85. Follow Route 85 South for ten miles to a RIGHT turn on Route 28 for .8 miles to New Design Road. Turn LEFT on New Design Road for .7 miles to Nolands Ferry.

To Boathouse at Fletcher's Cove (Google Maps: Fletchers Cove Parking, 38.919484,

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-77.101226): Fletcher's Boathouse is easily reached from the Capital Beltway (I-495). If you are coming from points north (I-270 or Silver Spring), then you will be using I-495's *Outer Loop*. If you are coming from the Tysons Corner area in Virginia, then you will be using the *Inner Loop*.

1. **Starting from I-495 (Outer Loop)**: Use Exit 40 Cabin John Parkway. After passing under Cabin John Bridge (big arch), the road becomes Clara Barton Parkway.
   Starting from I-495 (Inner Loop): Use Exit 41, taking the off ramp's **RIGHT FORK**.

2. Ahead, the left lane must exit at Glen Echo. Stay in the **Right Lane** to head straight.!! (Becomes 2-Way traffic.)

3. At first light, pass Chain Bridge. After a railroad trestle, make a **LEFT at second light** onto Arizona Ave.

4. At top of hill, make a RIGHT onto MacArthur Blvd

5. After about ½ mile, make a SHARP RIGHT onto Reservoir Rd.

6. At bottom of hill, cross Canal Rd to enter Fletchers Boathouse.

7. High profile vehicles park in the first lot on the left. Smaller cars can continue straight through an interesting old tunnel to the large parking area on the river side of the canal.

IMPORTANT:

During the time frame 6:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Monday through Friday, Fletcher's can ONLY be accessed ONE way:

Follow steps 1 and 2 above. At the first traffic light go straight onto Canal Road (a three-lane road). Stay in right lane and go under train trestle through next light. (Now a two-lane road). Travel four-tenths of a mile, put on right turn blinker, at slight bend in road pull into space on side of road at white stone house, then back down driveway.

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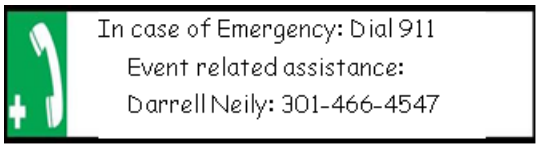
C&O Canal Trail Directions MP 0 to 45

Combined, the directions for the C&O Canal towpath cover 184.5 miles and hundreds of points of interest. Most of the information doesn't need updating, but some changes will occur due to Mother Nature, trail maintenance, and other factors. It is hard for the Event POC to keep apprised of such changes in order to keep the trail directions current. Please e-mail the POC with any changes you find on the trail. Fortunately it is somewhat hard to get lost on the trail since it for the most part parallels the Canal and the Potomac River, and there are very few turns. However, it is good to be aware of how far it is to water, food, shelter, toilets, emergency services and transportation.

Note on the numbering of trail directions: Step-by-step directions are introduced with a five-digit number indicating the distance in meters from the starting point **of the segment**. 00000 is the starting point for the segment. 01000 is 1,000 meters or 1 km up the trail from the starting point. 10000 is 10,000 meters or 10 km up the trail from the starting point. …etc. MP is milepost (distance in miles **from the start of the towpath in Georgetown**). LL is a sequential number for each Lift Lock beginning with LL 1 in Georgetown. At each lock on the canal, look for small brown numbered signs. Some Lift Locks no longer exist, so their number may be skipped in the directions.

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.



Segment 1 - Thompson Boat Center to Carderock (17 Km)

When you arrive, cross the bridge to Thompson Boat Center, turn LEFT in front of the boathouse to MILE POST 0 (Zero). Now you can begin.

00000 - Mile Post (MP) Zero

Return across the bridge to the traffic light and turn LEFT. The road is Rock Creek Parkway. Follow the asphalt path, bear right at the "Y," proceed under a stone overpass. Cross a bridge with vertical railings and at the end of the railings, turn LEFT onto a brick path at the entrance to the "C&O Canal National Historical Park / Georgetown" area. There is a brown sign to your left as you turn left. This is the towpath; the canal is on your left; lock 1 is on your left.

Cross 29th St. and continue on the towpath crossing 30th St. (with the C&O Canal Visitors Center on your right). Cross Thomas Jefferson St. (the Francis Scott Key bridge is in view ahead on your left).

00730 - Lift Lock (LL)
00815 - LL 3
00930 - LL 4
02500 - 1st wooden foot bridge at canal runoff
03270 - Mile Post (MP) 2
03710 - Incline Plane Marker on left
05100 - Culvert prior to Fletcher's Boathouse
05240 - At Fletcher's Boathouse, restrooms and water may be available. Upon returning to the towpath, turn RIGHT. The towpath will always be on the LEFT side of the canal as you continue toward Carderock.
05970 - Iron bridge
06360 - 2nd wooden footbridge at canal runoff
06480 - MP 4
06785 - Vehicle bridge over canal
08073 - MP 5
08150 - LL 5
08728 - LL 6

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09345 - Little Falls pumping station
09695 - MP 6
10350 - Montgomery Sycamore Island Club - Founded 1885
11243 - MP 7
11293 - LL 7
12195 - Foot bridge to Glen Echo
12802 - MP 8
13430 - LL 8
13979 - LL 9
14105 - LL 10
14405 - LL 11
14432 - MP 9
14900 - LL 12
15033 - LL 13 (I-495 beltway underpass)
15169 - LL 14
15890 - East end of Billy Goat Trail, Section C, 1.7 miles, 2.8 Kms
16056 - MP 10
17464 - Carderock (last parking area on left)

As you approach Carderock, continue to the last parking area. There should be a brick building containing restrooms visible from the towpath across the parking lot. The trail from the towpath to the parking lot is a short distance and ends half-way down the near side of the lot.

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Segment 2 - Carderock to Seneca Creek Aquaduct (20 Km)

00000 - At Carderock, return to the last parking lot and walk the short distance to the towpath. The route to the towpath is on your right as you enter the parking area. Turn LEFT when reaching the towpath.

00145 - West end of Billy Goat Trail, Section C
00217 - Mile Post (MP) 11
00737 - East end of Billy Goat Trail, Section B
00917 - "Marsden Tract Campground" sign
01036 - Wooden footbridge over canal
01063 - Marsden Tract "Day Use Area" sign
01802 - MP 12
02128 - West end of Billy Goat Trail, Section B
02282 - Cropley crossover to the right

Above the canal to your right is the Cropley-Anglers Inn, a popular access spot to the towpath. There are porta-pots off to your right in the woods.

02905 - Billy Goat Trail start (optional walk: steep & rocky but fund, adds 2 Miles/3 Kms)
03150 - MP 13
04095 - Lift Lock (LL) 15
04382 - LL 16
04538 - Footbridge over towpath
04570 - Billy Goat Trail (steel & rocky, 2 blue blaze paint markers on trees)
04610 - "The Floods" information board
04748 - "A Geologic Barrier" information board
04956 - LL 17

After "Lock 17," start looking for a large brown "Great Falls Overlook" sign on your left.

05028 - Great Falls Overlook - Turn LEFT here through the gate onto the paths and boardwalks leading out to the overlook. The view is well worth the effort!

Turn around and return to the towpath and turn LEFT.

05121 - LL 18
05240 - LL 19 (bridge over canal)
05415 - LL 20 - Great Falls Tavern, bridge over canal (restrooms/water)

The large white building on your right is the Great Falls Tavern. Visit the museum and avail yourselves to the restrooms. There is a food stand ahead which may/may not be open. Return across the lock and turn RIGHT. Remember, the canal is on your right; the river is on your left.

05428 - LL information board
05488 - Washington Aqueduct Intake Works
06584 - MP 15
08152 - Pumping station
08202 - MP 16
09230 - LL 21, Swains Lock, bridge over canal (refreshments available in summer)
09820 - MP 17
10625 - "Physiographic Region of the Potomac River" monument on left
11540 - MP 18

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13113 - MP 19
14044 - LL 22, bridge over canal
14752 - MP 20
15022 - Dierssen Wild Life Management Area, Pittman-Robertson Fund Project
16280 - MP 21
17880 - MP 22 (historic mileage marker - “miles to WC” is still visible)
17950 - MP 22
18065 - LL 23
19129 - LL 24
19144 - Seneca Creek Aqueduct

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Segment 3 - Seneca Creek Aqueduct to Whites Ferry (21 Km)

From the parking lot at Seneca Creek Aqueduct, walk up the wooden steps and turn RIGHT onto the towpath keeping the canal on your right and the Potomac River on your left.

00000 - Seneca Creek Aqueduct
00328 - Mile Post (MP) 23
01866 - MP 24
03425 - MP 25
05034 - MP 26
05116 - Horse Pen Branch Hiker-Biker
06272 - Fishing spot
06631 - MP 27
06967 - Sycamore Land Road
07927 - Turf farm on right/fishing spot on left
08228 - MP 28
09815 - MP 29
11508 - MP 30
12308 - Chisel Branch Hiker-Biker Camp
12534 - Goose Creek River Lock (wooden bridge)
12867 - Lift Lock (LL) 25
12878 - Edwards Ferry
13149 - MP 31
14613 - Broad Run Trunk (wooden flume)
14713 - MP 32
16884 - MP 33
18372 - MP 34
13912 - Turtle Run Hiker-Biker Camp
19857 - MP 35
20640 - Whites Ferry (just past the iron bridge)

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Segment 4 - Whites Ferry to Nolands Ferry (14 Km)

00000 - Begin at Whites Ferry and turn LEFT onto the towpath.
00345 - Mile Post (MP) 36
01923 - MP 37
03374 - MP 38
03747 - Marble Quarry Hiker-Biker
05389 - MP 39
05999 - Lift Lock (LL) 26
06403 - Dickerson Conservation Area - You should have water in the canal from here to Spink's Ferry, Lock 27 at 9 Km. It should be very peaceful and scenic. Enjoy!
07042 - MP 40
08039 - PEPCO Plant
08371 - MP 41
09192 - LL 27
09933 - MP 42
10195 - The Monocacy Aqueduct, whose restoration project is benefited from all of the "Walk the C&O Canal Series" of volksmarches.
10694 - Indian Flats Hiker-Biker
11666 - MP 43
13211 - MP 44
14182 - Nolands Ferry

"Out & Back" - Carderock to Great Falls Overlook and return (11 Km or 12 Km)

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1. At Carderock, take the short path in the upper right hand corner of the last parking lot to walk to the towpath.
2. Turn LEFT on the towpath.
3. After passing “Lock 17,” start looking for a large brown “Great Falls Overlook” sign on your left. Turn LEFT here onto the paths and boardwalks out to the overlook. It is a wonderful view.
4. Return from the overlook and turn RIGHT onto the towpath and make your way back to Carderock. OR…
5. Make it a 12K walk by turning Left and walking 0.5K past lock 18 and lock 19 to lock 20 and the Great Falls Tavern which is a National Park Service Visitor’s Center. There is another river overlook in this area and, from early April to the end of October you can take a canal boat ride through lock 20 and up the canal while Park Service Rangers in period costume tell about the folklore and history of this great waterway. Call 301-767-3714 or go to the NPS website for cost and times of the canal boat rides.
6. Return down river to Carderock.

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"Out & Back" –Boat House at Fletcher's Cove to Georgetown and return (10 Km)

1. From the river side parking area turn Right on the C&O Canal towpath. You will be walking with the canal on your left and the Potomac River on your right. [If you parked in the smaller first lot without using the tunnel, walk over the canal on a footbridge and turn Left.]

2. At mile 2.3 you will pass the rubble remains of the inclined plane, with an interpretive display.

3. At mile 1.5 you will pass steps that lead down the canal embankment to the Capital Crescent Trail

   The Capital Crescent Trail follows an old B&O Railroad spur along Little Falls Park to Bethesda, Maryland. The spur delivered coal to the government heating plant on Rock Creek

4. At mile 1.0, just before you pass under the Francis Scott Key Bridge, is a small park beside the last remaining arch of the Alexandria Aqueduct.

   The aqueduct connected the C&O Canal to a long since vanished canal along the Virginia banks of the Potomac, leading all the way to the port city of Alexandria. The aqueduct was used as a bridge during the Civil War and from 1888 to 1923, and was dismantled in 1933.

5. At mile 0.9 cross the canal on a steel footbridge (mules have right of way). Continue on the towpath with the canal now on your right.

6. Near mile 0.6 stone steps in the stone wall lead up to the Georgetown Park shopping complex. Restrooms and a nice food court in here.

7. The towpath goes under a stone bridge (Wisconsin Avenue) and crosses 31st street. You will see Lock 4 on your right.

   Lock 4 is functioning example of the 74 lift locks in the canal system which raised the canal boats 604 feet on their trip to western Maryland.

8. Cross Jefferson Street, continuing a half block to Lock 3 on your right and National Park Service Georgetown Visitor's Center on your left.

9. Explore this historic section of the canal, stop in the newly renovated Visitor's Center (restrooms) and enjoy the many restaurants, shops and other attractions just steps away in Georgetown.

   April through October e*xperience living history on a one-hour canal boat ride through historic Georgetown. Check the in the Visitor's Center or the National Park Service website for schedule and cost information.*

10. Turn around and retrace your steps to the Boathouse at Fletcher's Cove.

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C&O Canal Driving and Parking Directions MP 45 to 86

Segment 5	-	17 Km	-	Nolands Ferry to Brunswick (one-way)
Segment 6	-	16 Km	-	Brunswick to Dargan Bend (one-way)
Segment 7	-	13 Km	-	Dargan Bend to Lock 38 (one-way)
Segment 8	-	20 Km	-	Lock 38 to Big Slackwater (one-way)
	-	10 Km	-	"Out & Back" from Lock 38 near Sharpsburg

Directions:

To Nolands Ferry (Google Maps: Nolands Ferry C&O Canal, 39.250149, -77.482112): From I-270 near Frederick, take exit 31B, Route 85 South. From I-70 in Frederick, take exit 54 and turn RIGHT at the stop light onto Route 355 for .7 miles to Route 85. Follow Route 85 South for ten miles Route 28. Turn RIGHT on Route 28 for .8 miles to New Design Road. Turn LEFT on New Design Road for .7 miles to Nolands Ferry.

From Nolands Ferry to Brunswick: Leave Nolands Ferry via New Design Road to the stop sign. Turn LEFT onto Route 28 West for 3.8 miles passing through Point of Rocks to Route 15. Turn RIGHT onto Route 15 North for one mile to Route 464. Turn LEFT onto Route 464 West (Brunswick/Harpers Ferry) for 6.7 miles to a traffic light. Proceed STRAIGHT through the intersection to a red flashing light. Continue STRAIGHT onto 9th Ave. Turn RIGHT onto Park Ave. Turn LEFT to stay on Park Ave. Turn RIGHT onto E. Potomac St. At the next traffic light, turn LEFT on Maple Ave to the MARC train station. Park in the lot on your right. You'll need to walk across all of the tracks and turn right down the road toward the overpass to meet the towpath.

To Brunswick (Google Maps: CSX Brunswick, 39.311419, -77.627255): Take I-70 to Frederick and take exit 52, Route 340 West/Route 15 South toward Charlestown and Leesburg. After about four miles, Route 15 will split left but you will continue STRAIGHT on Route 340 for another eight miles. Take the Route 180 exit toward Petersville. Turn left at Route 79 to follow Petersville Road. At the traffic circle, take the 4th exit and stay on Petersville Road. Turn RIGHT onto N Maple Ave. Continue straight through the traffic light to the MARC train station. Park in the lot on your right. You'll need to walk across all of the railroad tracks and turn right down the road toward the overpass to meet the towpath.

From Brunswick to Dargan Bend: Leave the MARC Station parking lot and turn LEFT onto Maple Avenue passing the American Legion on your right. At the first traffic light, turn LEFT onto Route 478 West (East Potomac St) for 2.3 miles to Route 180. Turn LEFT on Route 180 West (this road becomes an on-ramp) to Route 340 where you'll merge from the left. Take Route 340 West for 1.7 miles to a LEFT exit for "Keep Tryst Road/Kennedy Farm." Turn LEFT at the stop sign (in front of the Hillside Motel) for .2 miles to Sandy Hook Road. Turn RIGHT onto Sandy Hook Road for 3.9 miles. *It is very narrow and windy so please drive slowly.* Just before passing Lock 34 and a right turn, you'll pass from Sandy Hook Road to Harpers Ferry Road. Stay on the main road as you pass Morgan Pines Road on your right and Pleasantville Road on your left as you continue uphill and then start back down. Turn LEFT onto Back Road for .8 miles to a LEFT turn into the Dargan Bend Recreation Area.

To Dargan Bend (Google Maps: Dargan Bend Boat Ramp, 39.363951, -77.740014): Take I-70 to Frederick and take exit 52, Route 340 West/Route 15 South toward Charlestown and Leesburg. After about four miles, Route 15 will split left but you will continue STRAIGHT on Route 340 West for 15.0 miles to a LEFT exit for "Keep Tryst Road/Kennedy Farm." Turn LEFT at the stop sign (in front of the Hillside Motel) for .2 miles to Sandy Hook Road. Turn RIGHT onto Sandy Hook Road for 3.9 miles. *It is very narrow and windy so please drive slowly.* Just before passing Lock 34 and a right turn, you'll pass from Sandy Hook Road to Harpers Ferry Road. Stay on the main road as you pass Morgan Pines Road on your right and Pleasantville Road on your left

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as you continue uphill and then start back down. Turn LEFT onto Back Road for .8 miles to a LEFT turn into the Dargan Bend Recreation Area.

From Dargan Bend to Lock 38: Leave Dargan Bend and turn LEFT onto Back Road (no sign) for 1.2 miles. Turn LEFT onto Dargan Road for .4 miles to Harpers Ferry Road. Turn LEFT onto Harpers Ferry Road for 3.6 miles to Canal Road. Turn LEFT on Canal Road for 3.4 miles passing "Antietam Creek" - *WATCH FOR THE 5 DIPS* - as Canal Road turns right up a hill, continue straight into the Lock 38 parking area.

To Lock 38 (Google Maps: Lock 38, 39.436629, -77.799772): From I-70 West, take exit 49 (alt 40/Braddock Heights/Middletown). Turn LEFT at the bottom of the ramp on Alt. 40 West for 11.2 miles to Boonsboro, passing through Braddock Heights and Middletown. At the first traffic light in Boonsboro, turn LEFT on Route 34 West for 9.4 miles until until you are across from the entrance to the C&O Canal National Historical Park Headquarters. *DO NOT CROSS THE BRIDGE INTO WV!* Turn LEFT on Canal Road to the bottom of the hill and Lock 38.

From Lock 38 to Big Slackwater: Return to the top of the hill on Canal Road and turn RIGHT on Route 34 East for 3.1 miles into Sharpsburg. Turn LEFT on Route 65 North for 3.2 miles passing the Antietam Battlefield. Turn LEFT on Taylors Landing Road for 3 miles to Woburn Road. Turn LEFT on Woburn Road for 1.2 miles to Dam No 4 Road. Turn LEFT on Dam No 4 Road for 1.6 miles to Dam No 4. Continue straight for an additional 1.2 miles to Big Slackwater.

Directions to Big Slackwater (Google Maps: Big Slackwater Boat Ramp, 39.500684, -77.844950): From I-70 West, take exit 49 (alt 40/Braddock Heights/Middletown. Turn LEFT at the bottom of the ramp on Alt. 40 West for 11.2 miles to Boonsboro, passing through Braddock Heights and Middletown. At the first traffic light in Boonsboro, turn LEFT on Route 34 West for 6.3 miles to Sharpsburg. In Sharpsburg, with an Amoco Station on the opposite corner, turn RIGHT on Route 65 North for 3.2 miles passing the Antietam Battlefield. Turn LEFT on Taylors Landing Road for 3 miles to Woburn Road. Turn LEFT on Woburn Road for 1.2 miles to Dam No 4 Road. Turn LEFT on Dam No 4 Road for 1.6 miles to Dam No 4. Continue straight for an additional 1.2 miles to Big Slackwater.

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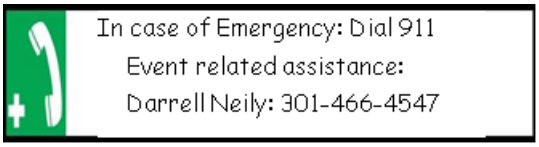
C&O Canal Trail Directions MP 45 to 86

Combined, the directions for the C&O Canal towpath cover 184.5 miles and hundreds of points of interest. Most of the information doesn't need updating, but some changes will occur due to Mother Nature, trail maintenance, and other factors. It is hard for the Event POC to keep apprised of such changes in order to keep the trail directions current. Please e-mail the POC with any changes you find on the trail. Fortunately it is somewhat hard to get lost on the trail since it for the most part parallels the Canal and the Potomac River, and there are very few turns. However, it is good to be aware of how far it is to water, food, shelter, toilets, emergency services and transportation.

Note on the numbering of trail directions: Step-by-step directions are introduced with a five-digit number indicating the distance in meters from the starting point **of the segment**. 00000 is the starting point for the segment. 01000 is 1,000 meters or 1 km up the trail from the starting point. 10000 is 10,000 meters or 10 km up the trail from the starting point. …etc. MP is milepost (distance in miles **from the start of the towpath in Georgetown**). LL is a sequential number for each Lift Lock beginning with LL 1 in Georgetown. At each lock on the canal, look for small brown numbered signs. Some Lift Locks no longer exist, so their number may be skipped in the directions.

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.



Segment 5 - Nolands Ferry to Brunswick (17 Km)

00000 - Nolands Ferry - From the parking lot, turn LEFT to keep the canal on your right and the Potomac River on your left. The railroad tracks will also be on your right.
00654 - Mile Post (MP) 45
02283 - MP 46
03862 - MP 47
04872 - Calico Rocks Hiker-Biker
05746 - Point of Rocks (MP 48.2)
07015 - Lift Lock (LL) 28
07139 - MP 49
08620 - MP 50
09155 - Bald Eagle Island Hiker-Biker Camp
10061 - LL 29 (sign missing)
10263 - MP 51
11096 - Catoctin Creek Aqueduct
11802 - MP 52
13407 - MP 53
14892 - MP 54
15200 - Brunswick Family Campground - be alert for vehicles on the road. They have access until you reach the lot where you parked. The bathroom facilities at the campground are available for your use.
15780 - Brunswick Wastewater Plant
16588 - MP 55
16675 - Brunswick - After you pass under the highway bridge, take the road to the right back to the parking lot.

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Segment 6 - Brunswick to Dargan Bend (16 Km)

Leave your vehicle in the parking lot, cross all of the railroad tracks to the dirt road and turn RIGHT to the towpath.

00000 - Turn RIGHT past the NPS barrier gate on your right.

After a bit you'll begin to see white trail markings along the towpath. This is where the Applachian Trail (AT) coincides with the towpath. When you reach Weverton, the AT will split from the towpath.

01423 - Mile Post (MP) 56
03072 - MP 57
04751 - MP 58
04797 - Lift Lock (LL) 31
04863 - Access from "Keep Tryst Road" on right
06372 - MP 59
07254 - Pass under Rt. 340
07899 - MP 60
08989 - Spiral staircase to the pedestrian bridge to Harpers Ferry, WV. It will take you onto the Main St of Harpers Ferry where you will find many National Park Service exhibits, a rest room and a gift/book shop, the latter two in the second block on Main St. There are several restaurants and on the street up the hill on the way to the train station is a wonderful ice cream shop.

If you should detour to Harpers Ferry, return to Maryland via the pedestrian bridge, go down the stairs and turn LEFT to continue along the towpath, with Harpers Ferry and the Potomac River on your left. The canal will be on your right.

09054 - LL 53
09576 - MP 61
09670 - Maryland Heights Trail
10457 - LL 34
10635 - Wooden bridge
11097 - MP 62
11610 - Feeder Dam #3
11898 - LL 36
12596 - Huckleberry Hill Hiker-Biker Camp
12814 - MP 63
14277 - MP 64
15695 - Dargan Bend

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Segment 7 - Dargan Bend to Lock 38 (13 Km)

00000 - Dargan Bend
00204 - Mile Post (MP) 65
00498 - Wooden shack near two old abandoned limestone kilns
00734 - Cave opening on canal side
01749 - MP 66
03456 - Lift Lock (LL) 37
03538 - MP 67
03806 - Mt. Lock Recreation Area
05150 - MP 68
06668 - MP 69
07264 - Antietam Creek Aqueduct
07436 - "Antietam Creek" sign
08341 - MP 70
09510 - Millers Sawmill
09993 - MP 71
10200 - Opposite Conocoheague Gun Club
11592 - MP 72
12249 - Pass under R.R. trestle
12469 - Shepherdstown River Lock
12698 - LL 38

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Segment 8 - Lock 38 to Big Slackwater (20 Km)

00000 - Lift Lock (LL) 38
00356 - Mile Post (MP) 73
01948 - LL 39
01969 - MP 74
03490 - MP 75
04126 - Killiansburg Cave Hiker-Biker Camp
04454 - Killiansburg Cave
05134 - MP 76
06426 - Snyders Landing - there is a small store across the road to your right and up a bit called Barron's Store. It is a very unique building inside and if it's open (only during the summer), take a couple of minutes to check it out. Great ice cream!
06500 - Opposite Barron's Store
06759 - MP 77
08263 - MP 78
09746 - MP 79
10424 - LL 40
10867 - Horseshoe Bend Hiker-Biker Camp
11391 - MP 80
12883 - MP 81
12917 - Taylors Landing
14399 - MP 82
15265 - Water pump
15483 - Big Woodshop Hiker-Biker Camp
15878 - MP 83
17436 - MP 84
18811 - MP 85
20186 - Big Slackwater

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“Out & Back - Lock 38 to Antietam Creek and return (10 Km)

After parking your car at Lock 38, cross the bridge to the towpath and turn LEFT.

12698 - LL 38
12469 - Shepherdstown River Lock
12249 - Pass under R.R. trestle
11592 - MP 72
10200 - Opposite Conocoheague Gun Club
09993 - MP 71
09510 - Millers Sawmill
08341 - MP 70
07436 - “Antietam Creek” sign. Turn around for return to Start
08341 - MP 70
09510 - Millers Sawmill
09993 - MP 71
10200 - Opposite Conocoheague Gun Club
11592 - MP 72
12249 - Pass under R.R. trestle
12469 - Shepherdstown River Lock
12698 - LL 38

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C&O Canal Driving and Parking Directions MP 86 to 141

Segment 9 - 23 Km - Big Slackwater to Williamsport (one-way)
Segment 10 - 20 Km - Williamsport to Fort Frederick (one-way)
Segment 11 - 19 Km - Fort Frederick to Hancock (Little Tonoloway) (one-way)
Segment 12 - 27 Km - Hancock (Little Tonoloway) to Little Orleans (one-way)
- 10 Km - "Out & Back" from Fort Frederick

Directions:

Directions to Big Slackwater (Google Maps: Big Slackwater Boat Ramp, 39.500684, -77.844950): From I-70 West, take exit 49 (alt 40/Braddock Heights/Middletown. Turn LEFT at the bottom of the ramp on Alt. 40 West for 11.2 miles to Boonsboro, passing through Braddock Heights and Middletown. At the first traffic light in Boonsboro, turn LEFT on Route 34 West for 6.3 miles to Sharpsburg. In Sharpsburg, with an Amoco Station on the opposite corner, turn RIGHT on Route 65 North for 3.2 miles passing the Antietam Battlefield. Turn LEFT on Taylors Landing Road for 3 miles to Woburn Road. Turn LEFT on Woburn Road for 1.2 miles to Dam No 4 Road. Turn LEFT on Dam No 4 Road for 1.6 miles to Dam No 4. Continue straight for an additional 1.2 miles to Big Slackwater.

From Big Slackwater to Williamsport: Head southeast toward Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park for 1.1 mi. Continue straight onto Dam Number 4 Rd for 2.6 mi. Turn left to stay on Dam Number 4 Rd for 1.8 mi. Turn LEFT on Route 63 North for 2.8 miles to a traffic light. Turn LEFT on Route 68 West/Route 63 North for 1.2 miles into Williamsport. At the 4th traffic light, turn LEFT on Route 11 South for .2 miles. Continue straight ahead into "Cushwa Basin" where there is a National Park Service Visitor Center and access to the towpath.

To Williamsport (Google Maps: Cushwa Basin: 39.601066, -77.827066): Take I-70 West to exit 26 (I-81/Roanoke/Harrisburg). Take I-81 South toward Roanoke for 1.1 miles to exit 2 (Williamport/Rt 11). Keep Right and follow Route 11 South for 1.2 miles. When Route 11 bears left, you should continue STRAIGHT AHEAD to "Cushwa Basin" and the National Park Service Visitor Center.

From Williamsport to Fort Frederick: Leave "Cushwa Basin" continuing straight ahead to Route 11 North to the 2nd traffic light (across from Sheetz). Turn LEFT on Route 63 North for two miles until you can access I-70 West toward Hancock. Once on I-70 West, take exit 12 (Route 56/Big Pool/Indian Springs). Turn LEFT at the end of the ramp onto Route 56 East for 1.2 miles to Fort Frederick State Park. Turn RIGHT into the park and bear RIGHT at the "Y"
and follow the road to the Visitor's Center.

To Fort Frederick (Google Maps: Fort Frederick State Park: 39.612025, -78.006891): Take I-70 West to exit 12 (Route 56/Big Pool/Indian Springs). Turn LEFT at the end of the ramp onto Route 56 East for 1.2 miles to Fort Frederick State Park. Turn RIGHT into the park and bear RIGHT at the "Y" and follow the road to the Visitor's Center.

From Fort Frederick to Hancock (Little Tonoloway): Leave the Fort Frederick Visitor's Center and return to the entrance to the fort. Turn LEFT on Route 56 West for 1.2 miles to I-70 West. Take I-70 West to exit 3 (Route 144 - a LEFT exit) and at the bottom of the ramp bear right onto Route 144 for 1.5 miles to the second traffic light at Pennsylvania Avenue (passing the NPS Visitors Center on your right). Turn LEFT on Pennsylvania Avenue for one block to a stop sign. Turn RIGHT for a very short distance, then turn LEFT to

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cross over a wooden bridge and into Little Tonoloway. You will have driven over the towpath after crossing the bridge.

To Hancock (Little Tonoloway) (Google Maps: Hancock Boat Ramp: 39.697730, -78.182002): Take I-70 West to exit 3 (Route 144 - a LEFT exit) and at the bottom of the ramp bear right onto Route 144 for 1.5 miles to the second traffic light at Pennsylvania Avenue (passing the NPS Visitors Center on your right). Turn LEFT on Pennsylvania Avenue for one block to a stop sign. Turn RIGHT for a very short distance, then turn LEFT to cross over a wooden bridge and into Little Tonoloway. You will have driven over the towpath after crossing the bridge.

From Hancock (Little Tonoloway) to Little Orleans: Leave the parking lot over the wooden bridge and turn RIGHT to a stop sign. Turn LEFT on Pennsylvania Avenue for one block to a traffic light. Turn LEFT for one block to Virginia Avenue. Turn RIGHT (just past Sheetz) for one block to a "T." Turn LEFT on High Street and follow the signs to I-68. At exit 1A, bear LEFT onto I-68 West toward Cumberland for 11.7 miles to exit 68, "Orleans Road." *On your way you'll pass the Sideling Hill Exhibit Center. It is certainly worth a visit, especially if you have children.* At the top of the ramp, turn LEFT on Orleans Road South for 5.7 miles. Turn LEFT onto High Germany Road. Go under the railroad trestle and turn RIGHT "Fifteen Mile Creek." Follow the road down to the parking area near the water. Do not park in the camping area.

To Little Orleans (Google Maps: Fifteen Mile Creek Boat Ramp: 39.625676, -78.385532): Take I-70 West to Hancock and at exit 1A, bear LEFT onto I-68 West toward Cumberland for 11.7 miles to exit 68, "Orleans Road." *On your way you'll pass the Sideling Hill Exhibit Center. It is certainly worth a visit, especially if you have children.* At the top of the ramp, turn LEFT on Orleans Road South for 5.7 miles. Turn LEFT onto High Germany Road. Go under the railroad trestle and turn RIGHT "Fifteen Mile Creek." Follow the road down to the parking area near the water. Do not park in the camping area.

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C&O Canal Trail Directions MP 86 to 141

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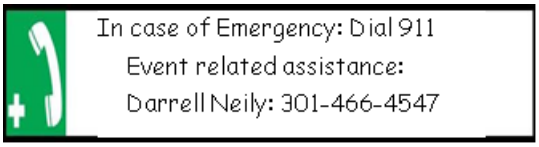

Segment 9 – Big Slackwater to Williamsport (23 Km)

00000 - Big Slackwater
00966 - Mile Post (MP) 86
02576 - MP 87
04187 - MP 88
04345 - McMahons Mill
05727 - Lift Lock (LL) 41
05957 - LL 42
06078 - MP 89
07673 - MP 90
08873 - Opequon Junction Hiker-Biker Camp
09225 - MP 91
10498 - MP 92
12004 - LL 43
12075 - MP 93
13505 - Potomac Fish & Game Club (on both sides of towpath)
13746 - MP 94
14428 - "Falling Waters"
15334 - MP 95
15670 - Cumberland Valley Hiker-Biker Camp
17137 - MP 96
18042 - Wooden bridge on right
19410 - New PA R.R. trestle
20431 - MP 98
21119 - I-81 double bridge
23021 - Cushwa Basin, Williamsport.

Segment 10 - Williamsport to Fort Frederick (20 Km)

00000 - Williamsport - if you haven't already visited the NPS Visitors Center, do so before leaving Cushwa Basin.
00642 - Mile Post (MP) 100

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01242 - Private camping area on left
02095 - Wooden steps on right to water works
02192 - MP 101
02580 - Jordan Junction Hiker-Biker Camp
03805 - MP 102
05451 - MP 103
06994 - MP 104
08328 - Old R.R. supports
08548 - MP 105
10088 - MP 106
11099 - Dam #5
11858 - MP 107
11974 - Lift Lock (LL) 45 (sign missing)
12211 - LL 46 (sign missing)
13028 - MP 108
13387 - Location of Charles Mill
14254 - LL 47 (Beginning of "Four Locks")
14356 - LL 48
14469 - Lockhouse 49
14503 - LL 49
14608 - LL 50
15035 - MP 109
16045 - North Mountain Hiker-Biker Camp
16703 - MP 110
16972 - McCoys Ferry
18304 - MP 111
19807 - MP 112
20119 - Fort Frederick - upon reaching Fort Frederick, turn RIGHT and walk up the road crossing the railroad tracks until you pass the circle in front of the Concession Souvenir Shop. Bear LEFT on the path until you come to a parking lot. Turn RIGHT to the Visitor's Center.

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Segment 11 - Fort Frederick to Hancock (Little Tonoloway) (19 Km)

00000 - Fort Frederick - Leave the Visitor's Center and turn LEFT following the sidewalk along the parking lot (on your right) to its end. Turn LEFT onto a path and follow the path until it meets a road near the Concession Souvenir Shop. Turn RIGHT on the road, cross the railroad tracks and turn RIGHT onto the towpath.
00362 - Trash can - trail left to campground
01260 - Mile Post (MP) 113
02819 - End of "Big Pool"
02992 - MP 114
04590 - MP 115
06186 - MP 116
06219 - Licking Creek Hiker-Biker Camp
07301 - MP 117
08840 - MP 118
10463 - MP 119
11753 - Opening in trees on right
11998 - MP 120
12272 - Wooden footbridge to right - towpath now on island - beginning of "Little Pool"
13087 - Little Pool Hiker-Biker Camp
13715 - MP 121
15331 - MP 122
16603 - Lift Lock (LL) 51 - look for the date "1842" in the remains of the lock keeper's house.
17031 - LL 52
17114 - Tonoloway Creek Aqueduct
17183 - MP 123
18762 - MP 124
19003 - Access to/from "Rails-to-Trails" parking area
19399 - Little Tonoloway – Hancock

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Segment 12 - Hancock (Little Tonoloway) to Little Orleans (27 Km)

00000 - Little Tonoloway - Hancock - Leave the parking area and walk up the road to the towpath - turn LEFT onto the towpath.
00375 - Pass under Rt 522
00923 - Mile Post (MP) 125
02214 - Brem Road bears right away from towpath
02539 - MP 126
03343 - White Rock Hiker-Biker
04082 - MP 127
04796 - Round Top Cement Mill
05876 - MP 128 - Remains of pumping station
07686 - MP 129
09232 - Remains of aqueduct
09288 - Leopard's Mill Hiker-Biker Camp
09382 - MP 130
09400 - Lift Lock (LL) 53 - ruins on left
10533 - Cohill Station - MP 131.3 - Access from Willow/Deneen Roads
10952 - MP 131
12545 - MP 132
13900 - Rock wall on right
14014 - MP 133
14995 - Cacapon Junction Hiker-Biker Camp
15619 - MP 134 / LL 54
15862 - Feeder Dam 6
16130 - Wooden bridge
17244 - MP 135
18841 - MP 136
19296 - LL 56
19826 - Sideling Hill Creek Aqueduct
20192 - MP 137
21784 - MP 138
23343 - MP 139
24059 - LL 57
24121 - Indigo Neck Hiker-Biker Camp
24879 - MP 140
26571 - Little Orleans

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"Out & Back" from Fort Frederick (10 Km)

00000 - Fort Frederick - Leave the Visitor's Center and turn LEFT following the sidewalk along the parking lot (on your right) to its end. Turn LEFT onto a path and follow the path until it meets a road near the Concession Souvenir Shop. Turn RIGHT on the road, cross the railroad tracks and turn RIGHT onto the towpath.

00362 - Trash can - trail left to campground
01260 - Mile Post (MP) 113
02819 - End of "Big Pool"
02992 - MP 114
04590 - Turn around at MP 115
02992 - MP 114
02819 - End of "Big Pool"
01260 - MP 113
00362 - Trash can - trail right to campground
00000 - Return to Visitor's Center

C&O Canal Driving and Parking Directions MP 141 to 184+

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Segment 13 - 24 Km - Little Orleans to Paw Paw Tunnel (one-way)
Segment 14 - 17 Km - Paw Paw Tunnel to Oldtown (one-way)
Segment 15 - 14 Km - Oldtown to North Branch (one-way)
Segment 16 - 14 Km - North Branch to Cumberland (one-way)
- 10 Km - "Out & Back" from Paw Paw Tunnel

Directions:

To Little Orleans (Google Maps: Fifteen Mile Creek Boat Ramp: 39.625676, -78.385532): Take I-70 West to Hancock and at exit 1A, bear LEFT onto I-68 West toward Cumberland for 11.7 miles to exit 68, "Orleans Road." On your way you'll pass the Sideling Hill Exhibit Center. It is certainly worth a visit, especially if you have children. At the top of the ramp, turn LEFT on Orleans Road South for 5.7 miles. Turn LEFT onto High Germany Road. Go under the railroad trestle and turn RIGHT "Fifteen Mile Creek." Follow the road down to the parking area near the water. Do not park in the camping area.

From Little Orleans to Paw Paw Tunnel: Leave Little Orleans under the trestle to the "T" and a stop sign. Turn RIGHT on Orleans Road for 5.7 miles to LEFT turn onto I-68 West. Follow I-68 West to exit 43C "Downtown" in Cumberland. On your way you'll pass the Sideling Hill Exhibit Center. It is certainly worth a visit, especially if you have children. Turn LEFT at the bottom of the ramp onto Harrison Street to the traffic light. Cumberland's Railroad Station, which houses the NPS Visitors Center and Tourist Office plus other displays, is straight ahead and well worth a visit at any time. Turn LEFT at the traffic light onto S.Mechanic Street, staying in the right lane, to another traffic light. Continue straight ahead on Route 51 South for approximately 28 miles to a LEFT turn into the Paw Paw Tunnel parking area. DO NOT drive over the bridge into West Virginia.

To Paw Paw Tunnel (Google Maps: Paw Paw Tunnel Campground: 39.544372, -78.460933): Take I-70 West to Hancock and at exit 1A, bear LEFT onto I-68 West tto exit 43C "Downtown" in Cumberland. On your way you'll pass the Sideling Hill Exhibit Center. It is certainly worth a visit, especially if you have children.Turn LEFT at the bottom of the ramp onto Harrison Street to the traffic light. Cumberland's Railroad Station, which houses the NPS Visitors Center and Tourist Office plus other displays, is straight ahead and well worth a visit. Turn LEFT at the traffic light onto S.Mechanic Street, staying in the right lane, to another traffic light. Continue straight ahead on Route 51 South for 28 miles to a LEFT turn into the Paw Paw Tunnel parking area (Porta Potties are usually here). DO NOT drive over the bridge into West Virginia.

From Paw Paw Tunnel to Oldtown: Turn RIGHT from the parking lot onto Route 51 North for 10.2 miles to Oldtown Road (there'll be a brown C&O sign on Rt 51). Turn LEFT for a very short distance on Main Street to a "T." Turn RIGHT on Odessa Street for .2 miles to Green Spring Road, passing the Oldtown School on your left. Turn LEFT on Green Spring Road for .1 miles and look for the brown C&O Canal sign "Oldtown" on your right.

To Oldtown (Google Maps: Oldtown: 39.540452, -78.612383): Take I-70 West to Hancock and at exit 1A, bear LEFT onto I-68 West to exit 43C "Downtown" in Cumberland. On your way you'll pass the Sideling Hill Exhibit Center. It is certainly worth a visit, especially if you have children. Turn LEFT at the bottom of the ramp onto Harrison Street to the traffic light. Cumberland's Railroad Station, which houses the NPS Visitors Center and Tourist Office plus other displays, is straight ahead and well worth a visit. Turn LEFT at the traffic light onto S.Mechanic Street, staying in the right lane, to another traffic light. Continue straight ahead on Route 51 South for 14.4 miles. Turn RIGHT on Main Street to a "T." Turn RIGHT on Odessa Street for .2 miles to Green Spring Road, passing the Oldtown School on your left. Turn LEFT on Green Spring Road for .1 miles and look for the brown C&O Canal sign "Oldtown" on your right.

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From Oldtown to North Branch: Leave "Oldtown" and turn LEFT onto Green Spring Road for .1 miles. Turn RIGHT on Odessa Road passing the Oldtown School for .2 miles to turn LEFT and follow the road with double yellow lines to Route 51 at a stop sign. Turn LEFT on Route 51 North for 9.0 miles, passing "NPS Spring Gap" at 6.9 miles. Look for the C&O Canal "Lockhouse 75" sign on Route 51 and turn LEFT on P.P.G. Road (the old PPG factory used to be here) for .5 miles. Take the second left at the large brown C&O Canal sign to "North Branch" and head for the canal boat replica.

To North Branch (Google Maps: C&O Canal Lock 75: 39.587464, -78.742064): Take I-70 West to Hancock and at exit 1A, bear LEFT onto I-68 West to exit 43C "Downtown" in Cumberland. On your way you'll pass the Sideling Hill Exhibit Center. It is certainly worth a visit, especially if you have children. Turn LEFT at the bottom of the ramp onto Harrison Street to the traffic light. Cumberland's Railroad Station, which houses the NPS Visitors Center and Tourist Office plus other displays, is straight ahead and well worth a visit. Turn LEFT at the traffic light onto S. Mechanic Street, staying in the right lane, to another traffic light. Continue straight ahead on Route 51 South for 5.5 miles until you see a sign for the C&O Canal "Lockhouse 75." Turn RIGHT on P.P.G. Road (the old PPG factory used to be here) for .5 miles. Take the second left at the large brown C&O Canal sign to "North Branch" and head for the canal boat replica.

From North Branch to Cumberland: Turn RIGHT out of North Branch for .5 miles to Route 51. Turn LEFT on Route 51 North for 5.5 miles to Cumberland. After crossing the bridge, get into the left land and follow the "Route 220 North/I-68 East" signs thru one traffic signal to a second traffic signal. Turn LEFT into the parking lot in front of Cumberland's Railroad Station.

To Cumberland **(Google Maps: Cumberland Visitor Center - C&O Canal National Historical Park: 39.649433, -78.762729)**: Take I-70 West to Hancock and at exit 1A, bear LEFT onto I-68 West toward Cumberland for approximately 37 miles to exit 43C "Downtown" in Cumberland. On your way you'll pass the Sideling Hill Exhibit Center. It is certainly worth a visit, especially if you have children.Turn LEFT at the bottom of the ramp onto Harrison Street to the traffic light. Cumberland's Railroad Station, which houses the NPS Visitors Center and Tourist Offices, is straight ahead and worth a visit. Continue straight ahead to the parking lot.

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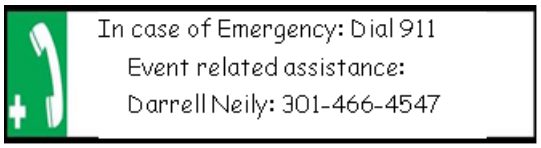
C&O Canal Trail Directions MP 141 to 184+

Combined, the directions for the C&O Canal towpath cover 184.5 miles and hundreds of points of interest. Most of the information doesn't need updating, but some changes will occur due to Mother Nature, trail maintenance, and other factors. It is hard for the Event POC to keep apprised of such changes in order to keep the trail directions current. Please e-mail the POC with any changes you find on the trail. Fortunately it is somewhat hard to get lost on the trail since it for the most part parallels the Canal and the Potomac River, and there are very few turns. However, it is good to be aware of how far it is to water, food, shelter, toilets, emergency services and transportation.

Note on the numbering of trail directions: Step-by-step directions are introduced with a five-digit number indicating the distance in meters from the starting point **of the segment**. 00000 is the starting point for the segment. 01000 is 1,000 meters or 1 km up the trail from the starting point. 10000 is 10,000 meters or 10 km up the trail from the starting point. …etc. MP is milepost (distance in miles **from the start of the towpath in Georgetown**). LL is a sequential number for each Lift Lock beginning with LL 1 in Georgetown. At each lock on the canal, look for small brown numbered signs. Some Lift Locks no longer exist, so their number may be skipped in the directions.

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.



Segment 13 - Little Orleans to Paw Paw Tunnel (24 Km)

EACH PERSON SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN FLASHLIGHT TO WALK THE TUNNEL!

Leave the Little Orleans parking area near the water and walk up the road passing the campground on your left. Ignore the towpath on your right, cross a bridge and turn LEFT on the towpath to begin this segment.

00000- Little Orleans
00356- Mile Post (MP) 141
01744- MP 142
03347- MP 143
04085- Pass under Western Maryland R.R. trestle
04962- MP 144
04999- Lift Lock (LL) 58
05728- Devil's Alley Hiker-Biker Camp
06590- MP 145
08023- Concrete waste weir (a dam in a stream to raise the water level or divert its flow)
08099- MP 146
08881- LL 59
09724- MP 147
09870- Pass under Western Maryland R.R. trestle
10763- "Higgins House"on right across canal
11228- MP 148
12928- MP 149
13369- Stickpile Hill Hiker-Biker Camp
13892- LL 60
14427- MP 150
15948- MP 151
16349- Pass under Western Maryland R.R. trestle
17550- MP 152
19157- MP 153
19175- Concrete waste weir
19337- LL 61
20768- MP 154
20941- Sorrel Ridge Hiker-Biker Camp

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(porta potties usually here)
21009- LL 62
21193- Concrete waste weir
21541- LL 63 1/3
21707- LL 64 2/3
21870- LL 66
22310- MP 155
22637- Beginning of Paw Paw Tunnel
23589- End of tunnel
24001- MP 156
24346- Arch with tunnel sign nearby - turn LEFT to parking lot
(porta potties usually here)

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Segment 14 - Paw Paw Tunnel to Oldtown (17 Kms)

00000- Paw Paw Tunnel - Leave the parking lot at Paw Paw (porta potties usually here) and take the dirt path nearest the stone wall up to the arch. Turn LEFT through the arch and begin your walk.
00347- Pass under single R.R. trestle
00595- Stone culvert
01116- Purslane Run Hiker-Biker Camp
01222- Mile Post (MP) 157
02500- Huge tree in middle of canal on its side
02808- MP 158
04388- MP 159
05973- MP 160
06318- Concrete waste weir
06846- Double masonry spillway/weir combination
07548- MP 161
08668- Lift Lock (LL) 67 - little remains of the lockkeeper's house
09137- MP 162
09231- Town Creek Hiker-Biker Camp
09701- Town Creek Aqueduct
10729- MP 163
12319- MP 164
13546- Access from left and right
13643- Possible road bridge
13663- LL 68
13907- MP 165
15498- MP 166
15646- Wooden bridge
15876- Concrete weir
16221- LL 69
16579- Middle of road
16604- Oldtown (cross wooden bridge just before Lockhouse 70)

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Segment 15 - Oldtown to North Branch (14 Kms)

00000- Oldtown - Cross over the canal via the wooden bridge and turn RIGHT on the towpath passing in front of Lockhouse 70.
00518- Lift Lock (LL) 71
00525- Mile Post (MP) 167
02087- MP 168
03700- MP 169
03903- Pigmans Ferry Hiker-Biker Camp
05285- MP 170
06877- MP 171
07532- Masonry spillway
08457- MP 172
10044- MP 173
10515- Spring Gap Drive-In Campground
10956- Stone abutments on both sides of towpath
11629- MP 174
11835- Concrete flume steam pump
12030- Concrete weir
12253- LL 72
13237- MP 175
13852- Irons Mountain Hiker-Biker Camp
13887- LL 73
13972- Pass under double R.R. trestle
14067- North Branch

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Segment 16 - North Branch to Cumberland (14 Kms)

00000- LL 74
00167- Concrete weir
00247- Lockhouse 75/Lift Lock (LL) 75 - If you're walking during the summer months and it's the weekend, the Lockhouse might be open and staffed by volunteers. Take a few minutes to look around; it's the best preserved lockhouse on the canal and well worth a visit. There is also a replica boat nearby.
00743- Mile Post (MP) 176
02630- MP 177
03973- MP 178
05573- MP 179
07154- Evitts Creek Hiker-Biker Camp
07160- MP 180
08241- Evitts Creek Aquaduct
08760- MP 181
10042- "Evitts Creek Aquaduct" sign
10388- MP 182
10693- Pass under R.R. trestle
11379- Pass under Rt. 28
11913- Pass under R.R. trestle
11943- MP 183
12593- Old Stop Gate
12885- Concrete structure
13556- MP 184
14319- Cross one set of R.R. tracks
14423- MP 184.5 (opposite Canal Place)
14435- "Terminus" sign - you've reached the Western end of the C&O Canal NHP. If you haven't been inside before, take some time to explore the railroad building straight ahead of you. There are bathrooms and a NPS Visitor Center inside.

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“Out & Back” from Paw Paw Tunnel (10 Km)

EACH PERSON SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN FLASHLIGHT TO WALK THE TUNNEL!

Take the dirt path from the parking lot (porta potties usually here) toward the stone arch and turn RIGHT on the towpath. Stay on the path through the tunnel and past Sorrel Ridge Hiker-Biker Camp to Lift Lock 61.

24346- Arch with tunnel sign nearby
24001- MP 156
23589- Beginning of Paw Paw Tunnel
22637- End of Paw Paw Tunnel
22310- MP 155
21870- LL 66
21707- LL 64 2/3
21541- LL 63 1/3
21193- Concrete waste weir
21009- LL 62
20941- Sorrel Ridge Hiker-Biker Camp (porta potties usually here)
20768- MP 154
19337- LL 61 Turn around and return back thru the tunnel.

20768- MP 154
20941- Sorrel Ridge Hiker-Biker Camp (porta potties usually here)
21009- LL 62
21193- Concrete waste weir
21541- LL 63 1/3
21707- LL 64 2/3
21870- LL 66
22310- MP 155
22637- Beginning of Paw Paw Tunnel
23589- End of tunnel
24001- MP 156
24346- Arch with tunnel sign nearby - turn LEFT to parking lot
(porta potties are usually here)

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C&O Canal Towpath

Internet Resources

Check for trail construction and detours at: https://www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/conditions.

Event Completion and Credit: Be sure to log back into the OSB system (http://my.ava.org) to finish/complete your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the event walked (biked), the distance walked (biked), and the selection of applicable special programs that person is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of $2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note, however, the $2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.). Note that you are eligible to earn an event credit for each day that you walk or bike the trail.

Photo Album: https://goo.gl/photos/L1NSvJNvkQHN4XXA6
Enjoy a slideshow of sights on the trail. We encourage you to upload your own photos and comments to this Google Photos web page, or e-mail them to dneily333@gmail.com

C&O Canal National Historic Park website: https://www.nps.gov/choh/index.htm

The C&O Canal Association has posted a comprehensive list of C&O canal access points with maps, GPS coordinates, and parking information at https://www.candocanal.org/access/. This site also offers a great deal of information on canal history, news and activities.

C&O Canal Bicycling Guide: http://bikewashington.org/canal/canal_a.php

Restaurants and Lodging in Georgetown (Washington, DC):
https://www.yelp.com/search?find_loc=Georgetown,+Washington,+DC

Restaurants and Lodging in Hancock, Maryland:
https://www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=&find_loc=Hancock%2C+MD&ns=1

Restaurants and Lodging in Cumberland, Maryland:
https://www.yelp.com/search?find_loc=Cumberland,+MD

Maryland Volkssport Association: Portal for all Maryland volkssport events and clubs: http://www.mdvolks.org

To order the TrailGuide publication: www.GAPtrail.org .

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To view this map online, go to

www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/maps.htm

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