

C&O Canal Towpath Walks Y749 (MP 86 to 141)

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MVA C&O CANAL YRE OVERVIEW Covering the Y747,748,749,753 Walks, 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, winding its way along 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 abundant wildlife along the trail. There is something here for everyone's pleasure, and the trails count towards many AVA Special Programs.

Walk Event 1 – Y747 (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

Walk Event 2 – Y748 (using 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

Walk Event 3 – Y749 (using 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

Walk Event 4 – Y753 (using 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 13 km to the entire 300 km (184.5 miles).

Many Trail Options: We offer many ways to enjoy the C&O Canal Towpath experience. As the table above indicates, **walks** can vary from 10 km to 300km, and **bikes** can vary from 13 km to 300 km. Either type can be one-way or out-and-back (round trip). The event documents herewith for the **walk** events 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 team, 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.

Event 747: (using MP 0 to 45) 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. 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. All segments feature abundant wildlife and wonderful scenery.

Event 748: (using MP 45 to 86) 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. 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. All segments feature abundant wildlife and wonderful scenery.

Event 749: (using MP 86 to 141) 10K Out and Back from Fort Frederick (State Park) features the elegantly restored stone walls of Fort Frederick and the Big Pool canal area. 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 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”. All segments feature abundant wildlife and wonderful scenery.

Event 753: (using MP 141 to 184+) 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. 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. All segments feature abundant wildlife and wonderful scenery.

Event Y 699: The entire C&O Canal Towpath is sanctioned for the bike event. You pick your distance 13km to 300km.

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.

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 walks 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.

A to Z note: The letters B, C, D, F, H, L, N, O, P, S, T, and W are available. Contact the POC for specific information.

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.

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 C&O Canal “is a place of retreat, a long stretch of quiet and peace ...” Justice William O. Douglas, 1954

C&O Canal Driving and Parking Directions Y749 (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 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.

C&O Canal Trail Directions Y749 (MP 86 to 141)

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.



In case of Emergency: Dial 911
Event related assistance:
Darrell Neily: 301-466-4547

Y749/ Segment 9 – Big Slackwater to Williamsport (23 Km)

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

Y749/ 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. | 14254 | - LL 47 (Beginning of "Four Locks") |
| 00642 | - Mile Post (MP) 100 | 14356 | - LL 48 |
| 01242 | - Private camping area on left | 14469 | - Lockhouse 49 |
| 02095 | - Wooden steps on right to water works | 14503 | - LL 49 |
| 02192 | - MP 101 | 14608 | - LL 50 |
| 02580 | - Jordan Junction Hiker-Biker Camp | 15035 | - MP 109 |
| 03805 | - MP 102 | 16045 | - North Mountain Hiker-Biker Camp |
| 05451 | - MP 103 | 16703 | - MP 110 |
| 06994 | - MP 104 | 16972 | - McCoys Ferry |
| 08328 | - Old R.R. supports | 18304 | - MP 111 |
| 08548 | - MP 105 | 19807 | - MP 112 |
| 10088 | - MP 106 | 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. |
| 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 | | |

Y749/ 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

Y749/ 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. | 10533 | - Cohill Station - MP 131.3 - Access from Willow/Deneen Roads |
| 00375 | - Pass under Rt 522 | 10952 | - MP 131 |
| 00923 | - Mile Post (MP) 125 | 12545 | - MP 132 |
| 02214 | - Brem Road bears right away from towpath | 13900 | - Rock wall on right |
| 02539 | - MP 126 | 14014 | - MP 133 |
| 03343 | - White Rock Hiker-Biker | 14995 | - Cacapon Junction Hiker-Biker Camp |
| 04082 | - MP 127 | 15619 | - MP 134 / LL 54 |
| 04796 | - Round Top Cement Mill | 15862 | - Feeder Dam 6 |
| 05876 | - MP 128 - Remains of pumping station | 16130 | - Wooden bridge |
| 07686 | - MP 129 | 17244 | - MP 135 |
| 09232 | - Remains of aqueduct | 18841 | - MP 136 |
| 09288 | - Leopard's Mill Hiker-Biker Camp | 19296 | - LL 56 |
| 09382 | - MP 130 | 19826 | - Sideling Hill Creek Aqueduct |
| 09400 | - Lift Lock (LL) 53 - ruins on left | 20192 | - MP 137 |
| | | 21784 | - MP 138 |
| | | 23343 | - MP 139 |
| | | 24059 | - LL 57 |
| | | 24121 | - Indigo Neck Hiker-Biker Camp |
| | | 24879 | - MP 140 |
| | | 26571 | - Little Orleans |

Y749/ "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 |

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal

National Historical Park





Visitor Center	Fee Area	Food	Lodging	Groceries	Bike Repairs/Rentals	Boat Ramp
Tent Camping	Parking	Camping-Fee Area	Restrooms	Picnic Tables	Boat Rentals	Canoe/Kayak Ramp
Canal Quarters	Hiking opportunities available park wide		<i>Commercial services are subject to change at any time</i>			

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

For Emergencies Dial 1-866-677-6677 or 911

Drive-in Car Camping

Antietam Creek, McCoy's Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, Paw Paw Tunnel, and Spring Gap. Sites are first come, first serve. \$20 per night/per site, \$10 mid Nov-mid April 8 people maximum per site.

Hiker-Biker Campsites

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

Group Campsites

McCoy's Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, Paw Paw, and Spring Gap. Sites are first come, first serve. Marsden Tract - permit required, obtain at www.recreation.gov \$40 per night, 35 maximum people per site. \$20 mid Nov.- mid April

Canal Quarters Experience

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

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park

Park Headquarters
1850 Dual Highway
Suite 100
Hagerstown, MD 21740

301-739-4200
www.nps.gov/choh



Explore the Park

Biking

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

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

Boating and Fishing

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

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

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

Dog Walking

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

Hiking

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

Hiking (cont'd)

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

Horseback Riding

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

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

Picnicking

Group picnicking is available at the Carderock Pavilion. Accommodations for up to 200 people are available. An advanced permit is required and a fee is charged. Reservations can be obtained by visiting www.recreation.gov. Call 301-767-3703 for more information.

Swimming

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

Firearm Regulations

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

Firewood Restriction

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

Leave No Trace Principles

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

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



Visitor Center Hours and Locations

Hours subject to change, please call visitor center for more information

Georgetown

1057 Thomas Jefferson St., NW, Washington, DC 20007,
Currently closed

Great Falls Tavern

11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac, MD 20854, (301) 767-3714
Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 9:00-4:30

Brunswick

40 West Potomac Street Brunswick, MD 21716, (301) 834-7100
Hours: Thursday and Friday, 10:00-2:00, Saturday 10:00-4:00, and Sunday 1:00-4:00

Ferry Hill

16500 Shepherdstown Pike, Sharpsburg, MD, (301) 582-0813
Memorial Day weekend - Labor Day, Hours: Friday-Sunday 11:00 - 4:00

Williamsport

205 W. Potomac Williamsport, MD 21795, (301) 582-0813
Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 9:00-4:30, March-November

Hancock

439 East Main Street, Hancock, MD 21750, (301) 582-0813
Memorial Day weekend-Labor Day, Hours: Friday-Sunday 10:00-3:00

Cumberland

Western Maryland Railway Station, 13 Canal St., Room 100, Cumberland, MD 21502, (301) 722-8226
Hours: Daily, 9:00-5:00



Explore a Lockhouse

Rileys Lockhouse
Late April - early June & early September - early December:
Saturday and Sunday 1:00 - 4:00

Lander Lockhouse (Lockhouse 29)
April - September: Saturday 11:00-2:00

Lockhouse 70
Late May - September: Saturday and Sunday 10:00-4:00

Lockhouse 8
May-October 15: Saturday and Sunday 10:00 - 2:00

Lockhouse 44
For hours of operation please call (301)582-0813

Lockhouse 75
Late May - September: Saturday and Sunday 10:00-4:00

Summer Ranger Programs

For other programs, please check with the visitor centers

	Frequency	Times	Duration	Location
Canal Boat Programs				
Great Falls: Experience living history travelling the canal on the mule-drawn replica passenger boat while also locking through a lift lock. \$8/adults, \$6/seniors, \$5/children	Weekends April-Oct Fri-Summer only	11am, 1:30pm, 3pm	1 hour	Great Falls Tavern 301-767-3714
Williamsport: Enjoy life on the canal with a replica canal launch boat program. This program includes a short walk, boat ride, tour of Lock House 44, and a lock demonstration. FREE	Thursday through Sunday Memorial Day-Labor Day weekends	11am, 1:30pm, 3pm	1 hour	Williamsport 301-582-0813
Trails & Rails Program on the Capitol Limited				
As you ride the Amtrak train, explore the scenery and history with a guided program. Cumberland-Washington, DC-Cumberland. Amtrak Ticket Required. Visit Amtrak.com	Cumberland 301-722-8226	Vary	3 hours each way	Saturday April-September

Other Ways to Enjoy the Park

Bike Loaner Program: This FREE program is offered on weekends at the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center, weather permitting and daily when the Williamsport Visitor Center is open.

Family Backpack Activity - Stop by the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center and “check out” one of our family backpacks full of activities and gear to help children and adults enjoy the park. Offered Memorial to Labor Day 2016.

Junior Ranger Program: Ask for an activity booklet at any of our Visitor Centers

Education Programs: Field Trips are currently offered at our Cumberland, Williamsport, and Great Falls locations. Please call 301-714-2213 or email cocanaleducation@nps.gov for more information.

Featured Hiking Trails

For a complete list of hiking trails in your area visit the nearest visitor center

Olmsted Island Bridges to Great Falls Overlook

Paved trail over a series of bridges and boardwalks across the river ending at the Great Falls overlook. Spectacular view of the Falls and the head of Mather Gorge. Handicap Accessible. Dogs are not permitted.

Difficulty	Distance One-way	Location
Easy	0.2 miles	Great Falls

Billy Goat Trail Section C

Scenic river views and a small waterfall are encountered on this trail. Excellent wildflower and birding area.

Moderate	1.6 miles	Carderock
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Ford Mine Trail

Woodland trail leads over streams and across hills to remains of historic gold mining operations, dating 1880's through 1921.

Moderate	2.1 miles	Great Falls
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Overlook Trail

Begin at the Lock 19 trailhead, located near the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center. Take the Lock 19 Trail and bear right at the first intersection onto the Overlook Trail. This trail connects to the Gold Mine Spur.

Moderate	0.4 miles	Great Falls
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Billy Goat Trail Section A

Be prepared for this trail. See cautions. It is a very physically demanding trail. Scrambling over angled rocks, boulders and climbing are required. Views of Mather Gorge and river. Trail follows cliff along river and rejoins towpath 0.7 mile north of Anglers Inn. Trail makes a 3.7 mile loop via Towpath. There are no shortcuts over rocks. Dogs are not permitted.

Strenuous	1.7 miles	Great Falls
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Paw Paw Tunnel Hill Trail

Hike over the top of the Paw Paw Tunnel. Interpretive signage points out resources along the way. Views of the Paw Paw Bends. Contact the Cumberland Visitor Center for upcoming guided tours.

Strenuous	2 miles	Paw Paw Tunnel
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Connect with the C&O by visiting the following:



www.nps.gov/choh



www.chohvip.org

Canal Mobile Tour

choh.tourisphere.com



YouTube

facebook

2016 #FINDYOURPARK Events!

Visit <http://www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/calendar.htm> for more events and details!

- February 21: President's Day Grand Ball at Great Falls Tavern
- March 19: Irish and the Canal Commemoration at Great Falls Tavern
- May 7-8: 20th Maine Encampment at Great Falls Tavern
- May 20-21: Biodiversity Celebration at Great Falls and Williamsport
- June 4: Fishing Rodeos at Williamsport and Oldtown
- June 11-12: Cumberland Heritage Days
- August 5 - A Night at the Paw Paw Tunnel
- August 25, 2016: 100th Birthday of the National Park Service
- August 26-28: Williamsport Canal Days
- October 1-2: Brunswick Railroad Fest

C&O Canal Towpath

Internet Resources



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

Be sure to log back into the OLSB system to complete your online registration after doing the walk:
<http://my.ava.org>

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 <http://www.candocanal.org/access.html>. 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>

Roads Scholar: offers “fully supported” cycling trips along parts or full length of the C&O Canal. You can earn IVV credit for the Y0699 volksbike event using this service, but must first register and pay the fee for IVV credit and trail directions on the OLSB: <https://www.roadscholar.org/find-an-adventure/13306/biking-the-c-o-canal-towpath>