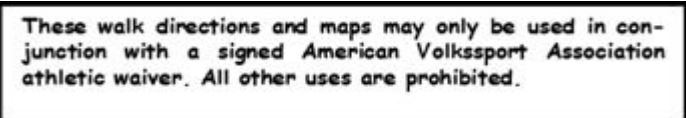
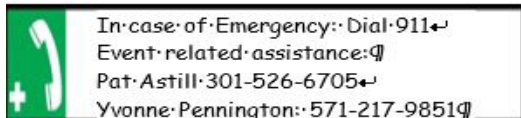


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

YRE Description	2
How to read instructions	2
Registering for the walk	2
After you have completed the walk.....	3
Starting Point Location:.....	3
Driving Directions:.....	3
From I-95/I-495	3
From I-270.....	3
From Inter-County Connector MD-200 W, toll road.....	4
Muddy Branch Boat Launch & Look 22 Parking.....	4
Walk Instructions	5
Overlooks 5km Trail	5
Lock 22 Loop 5km	8
Internet Resources.....	11
Blockhouse Point Conservation Park	11
https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/blockhouse-point-conservation-park-trails/blockhouse-point-civil-war-experience/	11
Blockhouse Pont Conservation Park Trails Map	11
C&O Canal Access Points on River Road	11
History of the Camp at Blockhouse Point 18MO542	11
Photo Album	12



YRE Description

The Blockhouse Point Conservation Park is named for the civil war blockhouse built to survey the Potomac River and C&O Canal between Pennyfield Lock, mile 19.5 and Rileys Lock, mile 22.8. During the civil war all trees on the berne side of the canal were cut down for greater visibility. This park, maintained by Montgomery County, is known for its mature upland forest, wetlands, and scenic views of the Potomac River and C&O Canal.

This event has two 5km loops that can easily be combined for a 10km walk.

The Overlook Loop is more strenuous and wanders through the mature forests to two rock outcrops with great views of the Potomac River and C&O Canal.

The Lock 22 Loop meanders through the upland forest down to Muddy Branch then on the berne side of the canal through parking areas crossing lock 22 to lock house 22. The route returns through the grounds of Pennyfield House back to cross Muddy Branch and return either directly on Muddy Branch Trail or by walking along Muddy Branch to River Rd then following a poorly maintained trail to the Muddy Branch Trail and back to the Blockhouse Point Park parking lot. This loop can also be started from the parking area for Muddy Branch boat launch parking area or parking for Lock 22.

The event is rated 2C. It is on natural wood paths and there are some moderate hills. The event is mostly through woods and shaded.

Restroom Information: There are no restrooms at the start. There are port-a-johns at Pennyfield Lock which is on Lock 22 Loop. There are also port-a-johns at the C&O access points which are a short drive from River Road

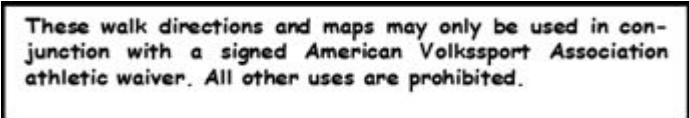
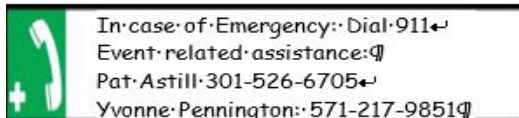
Water Availability: There is no water available on the trail. Please carry your own water.

How to read instructions

- Numbered instructions give directions
- Small alphabet instructions give information such as what you are passing or crossing before the next number instruction.

Registering for the walk

The Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers charges all participants over 12 a \$4 fee. When you register for your walk event, please DO NOT check the “No Credit” checkbox for any participant over 12 years of age. When you register for the walk you can download the PDF file with walk information. The PDF includes directions to the walk start and walk instructions. The fee for the download is \$2. You will be credited for this fee if you complete the walk and pay the walk participant fee within 60 days.



After you have completed the walk

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the “My Start Box” tab, then the “Finish Table” tab, then click on “Go to Finish Table” button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped “virtual” insert cards that you may choose to print out.

Starting Point Location:

Blockhouse Point Park:

14750 River Rd, Potomac, MD 20854

Driving Directions:

From I-95/I-495

Take Exit 39 MD-190 towards Potomac

Turn on MD-190/River Rd for 9.4miles.

Turn left into parking area for Blockhouse Point Park

From I-270

Take exit 9 for I-370/MD-200

Follow signs for Sam Eig Hwy W

Follow instructions below for Inter-County Connector MD-200 W

Bear right onto MD-119/Great Seneca Hwy from 2nd lane from right

Keep straight to get into left lane of MD-119/Great Seneca Hwy

Turn left onto Muddy Branch Rd.

Cross Darnestown Rd at traffic lights

Name changes to Dufief Mill Rd

Bear right onto Travilah Rd

At roundabout, take the 3rd exit, Travilah Rd

Turn right onto MD-190/River Rd

Turn left into parking area for Blockhouse Point Park.



In case of Emergency: Dial 911
Event related assistance:
Pat Astill: 301-526-6705
Yvonne Pennington: 571-217-9851

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GREAT GREENBELT VOLKSMARCH CLUB
Blockhouse Point Y3514

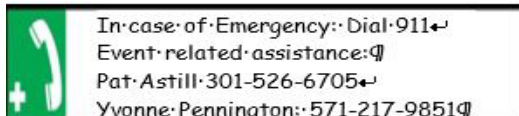
From Inter-County Connector MD-200 W, toll road
Continue straight onto I-370 W at end of I-200W
Bear right onto MD-119/Great Seneca Hwy from 2nd lane from right
Keep straight to get onto left lane of MD-119/Great Seneca Hwy
Turn left onto Muddy Branch Rd.
Cross Darnestown Rd at traffic lights
Name changes to Dufief Mill Rd
Bear right onto Travilah Rd
At roundabout, take the 3rd exit, Travilah Rd
Turn right onto MD-190/River Rd
Turn left into the parking area for Blockhouse Point Park.

Muddy Branch Boat Launch & Look 22 Parking
Follow above instructions to River Rd

Turn left on Pennyfield Lock Rd. 8.5miles from I-495 and 1 block from Travilah Rd.

Muddy Branch Boat Launch parking turn right after 1 lane bridge.

Pennyfield Lock (Lock 22) turn left to find parking on the road or before fence.



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Blockhouse Point Park: Overlooks 5km Trail

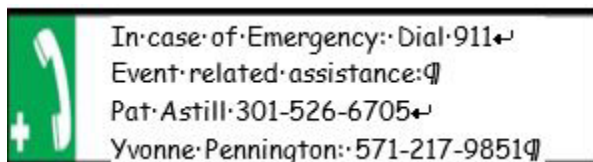
To START walk: With your back to road walk to path (R) before back fence, 2 storyboards®.

The kilometer length after numbered instruction is the approximate distance covered by that instruction, if less than 0.1km no distance is shown.

Lettered bullets under instruction indicate what is seen between instructions.

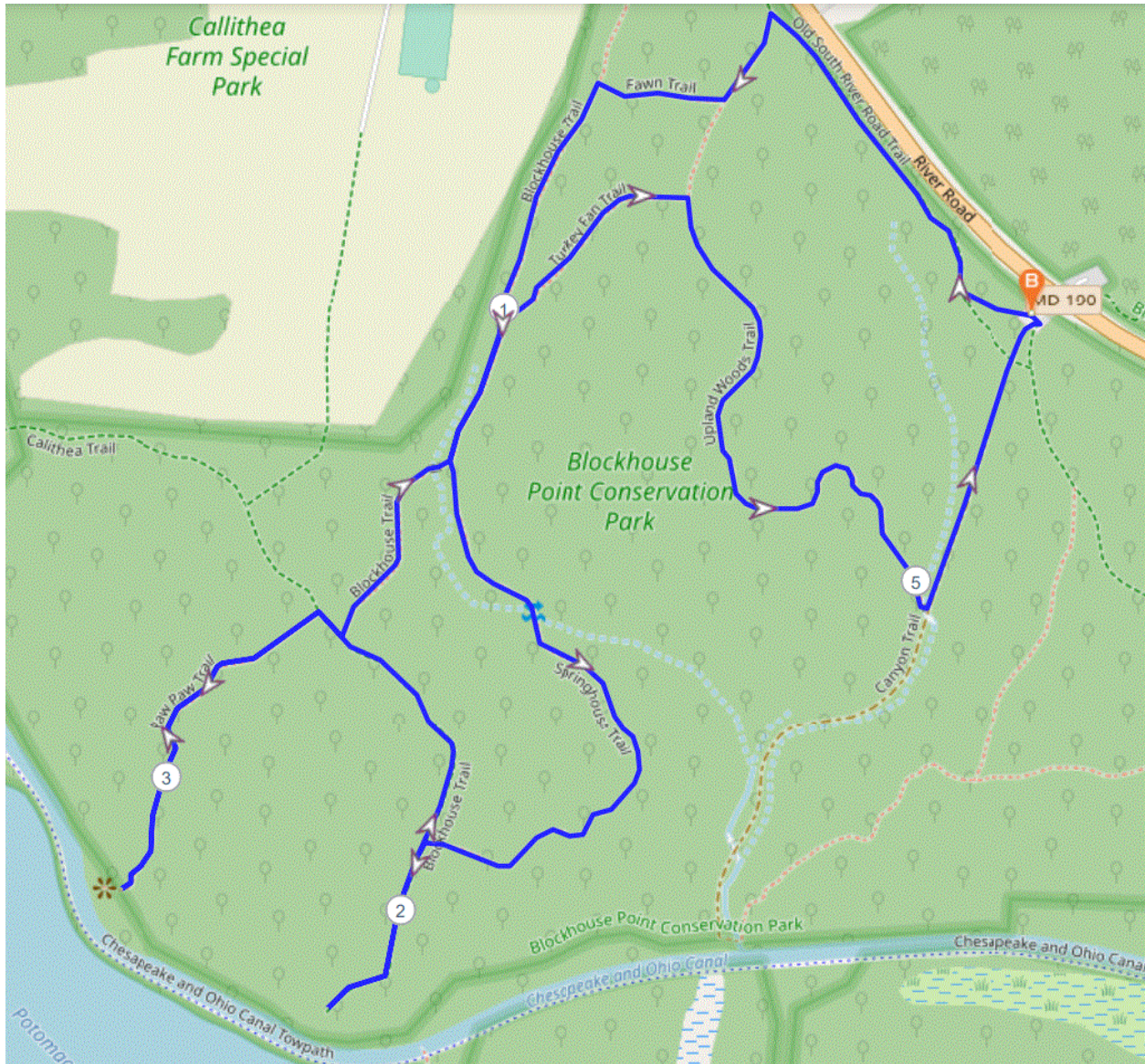
1. Turn **RIGHT** on path to **T**-junction before tree with Park Notice.
 2. Turn **RIGHT** on Old South River Road Trail (no sign), to Uplands Wood Trail signpost and trail (L), (0.4km)
 - a. River Rd (R).
 3. Turn **LEFT** on Uplands Wood Trail to Fawn Trail signpost (L) and trail (R). (0.3km)
 - a. **PASS** No Horses symbol on tree (R).
 4. Turn **RIGHT** on Fawn Trail to **T**-junction, Blockhouse Trail/Fawn Trail signpost opposite. (0.3km)
 - a. Be careful numerous rocks embedded in trail.
 5. Turn **LEFT** on Blockhouse Trail to **Y**-junction at Spring House Trail signpost (R). (0.2km).
 - a. More rocks embedded in trail.
 - b. Callithea Horse Farm (R).
 - c. **PASS** Turkey Fan Trail/Blockhouse Trail signpost (R) trail (L).
 - d. Creek (R).
 6. Bear **LEFT** on Spring House Trail to creek stepping-stones. (0.2km)
 - a. Tree roots across trail.
 - b. Meandering creek (R).
 - c. **Down** steeper slope past 2 trees (R).
 - d. Short distance closer to creek (R).
 - e. **Down** steeper slope past 1 tree.
 7. **CROSS** creek using stepping-stones, **STRAIGHT** on Spring House Trail to **T**-junction at Blockhouse Trail ↔ signpost opposite. (0.5km)
 - a. Long gradual meandering climb.
 - b. Views of Potomac and Virginia (L) as height is gained.
 - c. **PASS** under partially fallen tree as you descend then start an undulating section, Potomac River (L).
 8. Turn **LEFT** on Blockhouse Trail to 1st overlook. (0.2km)
 - a. Views of the Potomac as you descend.
 - b. **PASS** post (R) “Hiking Only Beyond This Point”.
- Enjoy views up and down the Potomac River and C & O Canal from this plateau.*
- If you feel comfortable: Bear **RIGHT** to hike down to 2nd overlook and a chance to take a selfie, with greater views of the canal and towpath.*
9. Turn **AROUND** follow Blockhouse Trail to **Y**-junction at Blockhouse Trail→ signpost (L).(0.5km)
 - a. **PASS** Springhouse Trail →signpost (L), trail (R).
 10. Turn **LEFT** on Calithea Trail→ for 30m to Paw Paw Trail ←signpost (R), trail (L).
 11. Turn **LEFT** on Paw Paw Trail to upper lookout. (0.4km)
 - a. Go down, up, and down to main overlook.
 - b. Enjoy the views.
- Optionally descend to lower rock lookout using path (R).*

12. Turn **AROUND** from either overlook to **FOLLOW** the Paw Paw Trail back to **T-junction** at Calithea Trail ↔ signpost opposite. (0.4km)
13. Turn **RIGHT** on Calithea Trail to Blockhouse Trail, signpost (R).
14. Turn **LEFT** on Blockhouse Trail to **T-junction**, Spring House Trail → signpost (L). (0.2km)
 - a. **CROSS** bridge S02-01 over creek.
15. Turn **LEFT** to stay on Blockhouse Trail to signpost (L) Blockhouse Trail/Turkey Fan Trail, name on far side of post, trail (R). (0.2km)
 - a. Creek & Calithea Farm (L).
16. Turn **RIGHT** up slope on Turkey Fan Trail to **T-junction** signpost opposite. (0.3km)
 - a. **PASS** through embedded white stone area.
 - b. Climb over downed tree.
17. Turn **RIGHT** on Upper Woods Trail to **T-junction** after small bridge, Canyon Trail ↔ signpost opposite. (0.7km)
 - a. Meander in the upland area.
 - b. Short gentle down & up.
 - c. **PASS** under downed tree.
 - d. Long descent to valley.
 - e. **CROSS** bridge.
18. Turn **LEFT** on Canyon Trail up slope to parking lot. (0.4km)
 - a. **PASS** Linear Anode junction box (L).
 - b. **PASS** “Warning Petroleum Pipeline” signs (L).
 - c. **PASS** “Warning Petroleum Pipeline” signs (L).
 - d. **CROSS** Old South Rive Road Trail.
19. **RETURN** to car or turn **RIGHT** to signpost to **START** Muddy Branch 5km Loop.

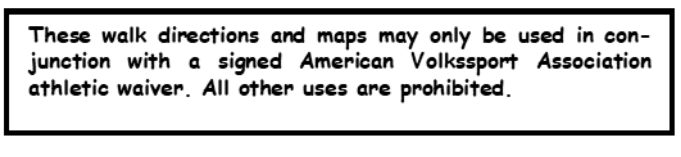
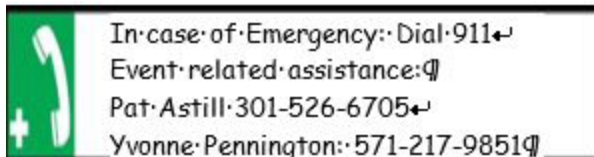


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Block House Point Park: Overlooks Loop 5km Trail Map



Trail plotted using plotaroute.com



Blockhouse Point Park: Lock22 Loop

To START walk: With back to the road walk to the signpost LEFT of the back fence.

The kilometer length after numbered instruction is the approximate distance covered by that instruction, if less than 0.1km no distance is shown.

Lettered bullets under instruction indicate what is seen between instructions.

1. **FOLLOW** Muddy Branch Trail to T-junction before Muddy Branch. (1.4km)
 - a. **PASS** trail (R) before tree with Park Notice sign.
 - b. **PASS** under small tree leaning over trail.
 - c. **PASS** ill-defined dark blue trail (R) within 10m after leaning tree.
 - d. **PASS** raised bank (L) on curve to the **RIGHT**.
 - e. **PASS** fence posts (L).
 - f. **IGNORE** 2 dark blue blazes (L).
 - g. **ZIG ZAG** down towards T-junction.
 - h. **PASS** trail (R).
2. Turn **RIGHT** to edge of woods after Potomac Interceptor Sewer area (L). (0.1km)
 - a. **PASS** trail (L) to bridge.
 - b. **PASS** Potomac Interceptor Sewer area (L).
3. **STRAIGHT** to follow trail through woods to canal bank.
4. Turn **LEFT** along canal (R) to picnic table in Muddy Branch Boat Launch parking area. (0.1km)
 - a. **CROSS** Muddy Branch that goes through a culvert under the canal.
 - b. **PASS** boat launch in paved area (R).
 - c. **PASS** picnic table (R).
5. Turn **LEFT** down slope turn **RIGHT** along edge of parking area to road.
6. **STRAIGHT** on road to parking area before white fence. (0.3km)
 - a. **PASS** Pennyfield Lock Conservation Area sign (R).
 - b. **PASS** several parking areas (R).
7. Bear **RIGHT** through gate to walk along canal to bridge (R). (0.2k)
8. Turn **RIGHT CROSS** canal bypass flume, turn **LEFT, RIGHT** over lock 22 to storyboard for Pennyfield Lock House.

This is one of the most primitive lock houses you can rent on the C&O Canal. It has no water, electricity, heat, or indoor cooking facilities.
9. **TURN AROUND, RE-CROSS** Lock 22 **STRAIGHT** through gate to grass area.
 - a. **PASS** Port-a-John (R).

To the RIGHT there was a post-Civil War white frame house where President Grover Cleveland would stay during his bass fishing expeditions.
10. Turn **LEFT** on driveway then **STRAIGHT** on road to boat ramp parking area. (0.5km)
 - a. **PASS** gate(R).
 - b. **PASS** Port-a-Johns (R).
11. **PASS** One Lane Bridge sign (R) Turn **RIGHT** to stay on road to path (L) before map of Mountain Bike Trails. (0.1km)
 - a. **CROSS** one way bridge over creek.
12. Turn **LEFT** to follow Muddy Branch Greenway Trail across bridge to T-junction. (.2km)
 - a. **CROSS** metal bridge over Muddy Branch.
13. Turn **RIGHT** to stay on the Muddy Branch Greenway Trail to sign (R).

To take an easier maintained trail back to car turn **LEFT** to retrace your steps along the Muddy Branch Trail back to signpost at end of trail at parking area.

OTHERWISE

14. **STRAIGHT** on Muddy Branch Greenway Trail (dirt road) to gate. (0.5km).
 - a. **Walk** along Muddy Branch (R).
15. **PASS** gate (R), **CROSS** dirt road into parking space.
 - a. **PASS** River Rd (no sign) (R).
 - b. **PASS** Park Notice on tree (L).

16. Turn **LEFT** to follow dark blue blazed trail to end at Muddy Branch Trail. (0.4km)
 - a. **PASS** dark blue blaze on 3rd tree (R).
 - b. **STEP** over log.
 - c. **PASS** below split fence.
 - d. After reaching top of slope turn **LEFT** after root of tree.
 - e. Immediately **STEP** over small log.
 - f. **STEP** over more logs.
17. Turn **RIGHT** on Muddy Branch, blue blazed, to signpost at end before parking lot.
 - a. **PASS** Park Notice on tree (L) and trail (L).
18. To **START Overlooks Loop** walk along fence to path on far side of parking area or **RETURN** to car.



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Blockhouse Point Park: Lock 22 Loop 5km Trail Map



Trail plotted using plotaroute.com

In case of Emergency: Dial 911
Event related assistance: 
Yvonne Pennington: 571-217-9851 

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Internet Resources

Blockhouse Point Conservation Park

<https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/blockhouse-point-conservation-park-trails/blockhouse-point-civil-war-experience/>

Blockhouse Point Conservation Park Trails Map

[https://montgomeryparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Blockhouse Point Trail Map-letter-2024-PRESS.pdf](https://montgomeryparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Blockhouse_Point_Trail_Map-letter-2024-PRESS.pdf)

C&O Canal Access Points on River Road

Pennyfield Lock 39.054972, -77.290334

[Google map](#)

Violettes Lock 39.067226, -77.328483

[Google map](#)

Rileys Lock 39.069167, -77.340877

[Google map](#)

<https://candocanal.org/access/>

History of the Camp at Blockhouse Point 18MO542

https://mcatlas.org/filetransfer/HistoricPreservation/Cemeteries/031_Hunt-Ridge-Ln_Potomac/Research/Blockhouse%20Point%20Booklet%202019.pdf



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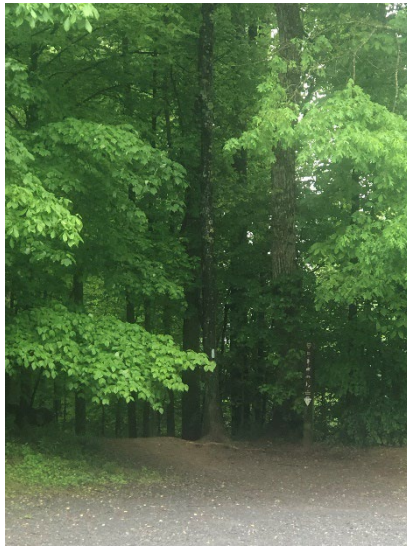
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GREAT GREENBELT VOLKSMARCH CLUB
Blockhouse Point Y3514

Photo Album



Sign for Parking off River Road



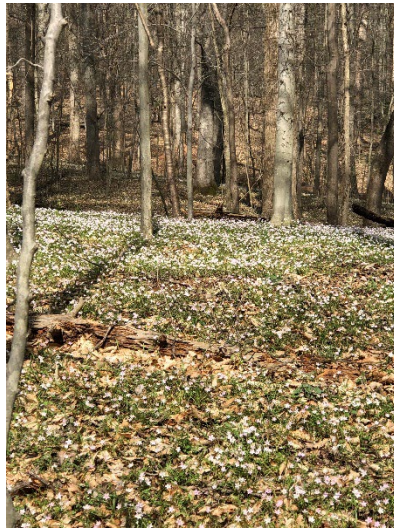
Trail Head rear left of parking lot



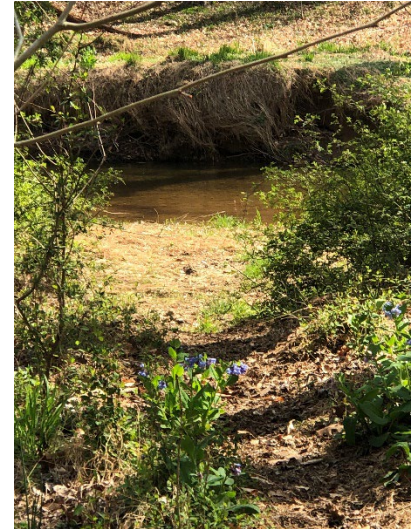
View from one of the overlooks




Trail on Lock 22 Loop



Trail in spring



C&O Canal

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Event-related assistance: ☎
Pat Astill: 301-526-6705
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