

C&O Canal Towpath Walks Y747 (MP 0 to 45)

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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 Y747 (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 Terminus:

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 .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, -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.

C&O Canal Trail Directions Y747 (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.



In case of Emergency: Dial 911

Event related assistance:

Darrell Neily: 301-466-4547

Y747/ 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) | Island Club - Founded 1885 |
| 00815 - LL 3 | 11243 - MP 7 |
| 00930 - LL 4 | 11293 - LL 7 |
| 02500 - 1 st wooden foot bridge at canal runoff | 12195 - Foot bridge to Glen Echo |
| 03270 - Mile Post (MP) 2 | 12802 - MP 8 |
| 03710 - Incline Plane Marker on left | 13430 - LL 8 |
| 05100 - Culvert prior to Fletcher's Boathouse | 13979 - LL 9 |
| 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. | 14105 - LL 10 |
| 05970 - Iron bridge | 14405 - LL 11 |
| 06360 - 2 nd wooden footbridge at canal runoff | 14432 - MP 9 |
| 06480 - MP 4 | 14900 - LL 12 |
| 06785 - Vehicle bridge over canal | 15033 - LL 13 (I-495 beltway underpass) |
| 08073 - MP 5 | 15169 - LL 14 |
| 08150 - LL 5 | 15890 - East end of Billy Goat Trail, Section C, 1.7 miles, 2.8 Kms |
| 08728 - LL 6 | 16056 - MP 10 |
| 09345 - Little Falls pumping station | 17464 - Carderock (last parking area on left) |
| 09695 - MP 6 | |
| 10350 - Montgomery Sycamore | |

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.

Y747/ 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.
- 04610 - rocky, 2 blue blaze paint markers on trees)
- 04610 - “The Floods” information board
- 04748 - “A Geologic Barrier” information board
- 04956 - LL 17

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 &

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 | 14752 | - | MP 20 |
| 08152 | - | Pumping station | 15022 | - | Dierssen Wild Life
Management Area,
Pittman-Robertson Fund
Project |
| 08202 | - | MP 16 | | | |
| 09230 | - | LL 21, Swains Lock,
bridge over canal
(refreshments available in
summer) | 16280 | - | MP 21 |
| 09820 | - | MP 17 | 17880 | - | MP 22 (historic mileage
marker - "miles to WC" is
still visible) |
| 10625 | - | "Physiographic Region of
the Potomac River"
monument on left | 17950 | - | MP 22 |
| 11540 | - | MP 18 | 18065 | - | LL 23 |
| 13113 | - | MP 19 | 19129 | - | LL 24 |
| 14044 | - | LL 22, bridge over canal | 19144 | - | Seneca Creek Aqueduct |

Y747/ 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)

Y747/ Segment 4 - Whites Ferry to Nolands Ferry (14 Km)

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

Y747/ “Out & Back” - Carderock to Great Falls Overlook and return (11 Km or 12 Km)

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.

Y747/ “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.]

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.

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

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 the 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
experience 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.



- 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
- Commercial services are subject to change at any time*

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

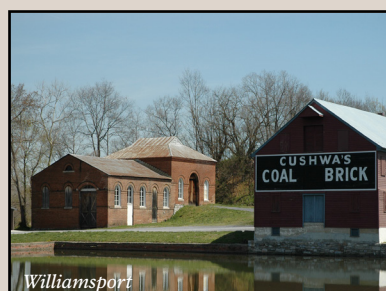
205 W. Potomac Williamsport, MD 21795, (301) 582-0813
Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 9:00-4:30, March-November

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>