

# Chesapeake and Ohio Canal 2018 Park Planner

## Explore the Park

### For Emergencies

Dial 911 or 1-866-677-6677

### 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 under age 16 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](http://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.

- 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-in/walk-in campgrounds
- Picnic areas
- All other hiking areas

### Group 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](http://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 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](http://www.nps.gov/choh/parkmgmt)

## **Visitor Center Locations and Hours**

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 21782

Hours: Saturday-Sunday 11:30 - 3:30, Memorial Day weekend - Labor Day

### **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

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

There are restored lockhouses open to visitation along the Canal. Locations and hours are as follows:

### Rileys Lockhouse

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

### Lockhouse 8

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

### Lander Lockhouse (Lockhouse 29)

April - September:  
Saturday 11:00-2:00

### Lockhouse 44

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

### Lockhouse 70

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

### Lockhouse 75

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

## Summer Ranger Programs

For other programs, please check with the visitor centers

### 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 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$5 for children

#### Frequency

- Weekends: April-Oct
- Fridays: Summer only

#### Times

- 11am
- 1:30pm
- 3pm

#### Duration

- 1 hour

#### Location and Contact

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

#### Frequency

- Thursday through Sunday
- Memorial Day-Labor Day weekends

#### Times

- 11am
- 1:30pm

- 3pm

Duration

- 1 hour

Location and Contact

Williamsport: 301-582-0813

## **Trails & Rails Program on the Capitol Limited**

### ***Cumberland***

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

Frequency

- Saturday: April-September
- Thursday: June-August

Times

- Vary

Duration

- 3 hours each way

Location and Contact

Cumberland: 301-722-8226

## **Other Ways to Enjoy the Park**

Throughout the year, the Canal hosts a variety of special events! Visit <http://www.nps.gov/choh/playourvisit/calendar.htm> for dates and details!

### **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.

### **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](mailto:cocanaleducation@nps.gov) for more information.

## Featured Hiking Trails

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

Hike Name	Description	Difficulty	Distance One-Way	Location
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.	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
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
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
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
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

## Staying on the Canal

### Car Accessible Camping

Antietam Creek, McCoy's Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, Paw Paw Tunnel, and Spring Gap. Sites are reservation only. Permits can be obtained at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). \$20 per night/per site peak season, \$10 non-peak. 8 people maximum per site.

### Hiker-Biker Campsites

Not accessible by car. 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

Marsden Tract, McCoy's Ferry, Fifteenmile Creek, Paw Paw, and Spring Gap. Sites are reservation only. Permits can be obtained at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). \$40 per night peak season, \$20 non-peak season. 35 people maximum per site.

### 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](http://www.CanalQuarters.org). The following is a list of recreational services by mile. Hiking opportunities are available park-wide. Commercial services are subject to change at any time.

# Recreational Guide by Milepost

The following is a list of recreational services by mile. Hiking opportunities are available park-wide. Commercial services are subject to change at any time.

## **0.1: Thompson Boat House**

Restrooms  
Food  
Bike Repairs/Rentals  
Parking

## **0.4: Georgetown**

Visitor Center  
Restrooms  
Food  
Groceries  
Lodging  
Bike Repairs/Rentals  
Parking

## **3.1: Fletchers Cove**

Restrooms  
Food  
Picnic Tables  
Bike Repairs/Rentals  
Boat Rentals  
Parking

## **5.4: Lock 6**

Picnic Tables  
Canal Quarters  
Parking

## **6.5: Sycamore Island**

Picnic Tables  
Parking

## **7: Lock 7 (Glen Echo)**

Picnic Tables  
Parking

## **8.3: Lock 8 (Seven Locks)**

Restrooms  
Picnic Tables  
Parking

## **8.8: Lock 10 (Seven Locks)**

Picnic Tables  
Canal Quarters  
Parking

## **10.5: Carderock**

Restrooms  
Picnic Tables  
Parking

## **11: Marsden Tract (Permit Required)**

Fee Area  
Car Accessible Camping

## **12.2: Anglers Access**

Restrooms  
Canoe/Kayak Ramp  
Parking

## **14.3: Great Falls**

Visitor Center  
Fee Area  
Restrooms  
Food  
Picnic Tables  
Parking

## **16.6: Lock 21 (Swains Lock)**

Restrooms  
Picnic Tables  
Hiker/Biker Camping  
Parking

## **19.6: Lock 22 (Pennyfield Lock)**

Restrooms  
Canal Quarters  
Parking

## **22.1: Lock 23 (Violettes Lock)**

Restrooms  
Picnic Tables  
Canoe/Kayak Ramp  
Parking

## **22.8: Seneca**

Restrooms  
Picnic Tables  
Canoe/Kayak Ramp  
Parking

## **26.1: Horsepen Branch**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

## **27.2: Sycamore Landing**

Boat Ramp  
Parking

## **30.5: Chisel Branch**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**30.8: Edwards Ferry**

Canal Quarters  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**34.4: Turtle Run**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**35.5: Whites Ferry**

Restrooms  
Food  
Groceries  
Picnic Tables  
Boat Rentals  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**38.2: Marble Quarry**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**42.2: Monocacy Aqueduct**

Restrooms  
Picnic Tables  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**42.5: Indian Flats**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**44.6: Nolands Ferry**

Restrooms  
Picnic Tables  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**47.6: Calico Rocks**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**48.2: Point of Rocks**

Restrooms  
Groceries  
Canal Quarters  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**50.3: Bald Eagle Island**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**50.8: Lock 29 (Lander)**

Restrooms  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**54: Brunswick**

Restrooms  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**55: Brunswick**

Visitor Center  
Restrooms  
Food  
Groceries  
Picnic Tables  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**60.8: Harpers Ferry**

Restrooms  
Food  
Groceries  
Lodging  
Parking

**62.9: Huckleberry Hill**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**64.9: Dargan Bend**

Restrooms  
Picnic Tables  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**69.6: Antietam Creek**

Restrooms  
Car Accessible Camping  
Parking

**72.7: Lock 38 (Shepherdstown)**

Restrooms  
Food  
Groceries  
Lodging  
Parking

**72.8: Ferry Hill**

Visitor Center  
Restrooms  
Parking

**75.2: Killiansburg Cave**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**76.6: Snyders Landing**

Restrooms  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**79.2: Horseshoe Bend**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**80.9: Taylors Landing**

Restrooms  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**82.7: Big Woods**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**84.4: Dam 4**

Parking

**85.5: Big Slackwater**

Restrooms  
Picnic Tables  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**88.1: McMahons Mill**

Restrooms  
Parking

**90.9: Opequon Junction**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**95.2: Cumberland Valley**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**99.2: Lock 44**

Restrooms  
Parking

**99.8: Williamsport**

Visitor Center  
Restrooms  
Food  
Groceries  
Picnic Tables  
Lodging  
Bike Repairs/Rentals  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**101.2: Jordan Junction**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**106.8: Dam 5**

Restrooms  
Parking

**109: Four Locks**

Restrooms  
Picnic Tables  
Canal Quarters  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**110: North Mountain**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**110.4: McCoys Ferry**

Restrooms  
Picnic Tables  
Car Accessible Camping  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**112.4: Fort Frederick State Park**

Food  
Picnic Tables  
Car Accessible Camping  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**113.8: Big Pool**

Boat Ramp  
Parking

**116: Licking Creek**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**120.6: Little Pool**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**124.5: Little Tonoloway (Hancock)**

Visitor Center  
Restrooms  
Food  
Groceries  
Picnic Tables  
Lodging  
Bike Repairs/Rentals  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**126.4: White Rock**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**129.9: Leopards Mill**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**130.7: Cohill Station**

Canoe/Kayak Ramp  
Parking

**133.6: Cacapon Junction**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**139.2: Indigo Neck**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**140.9: Fifteenmile Creek**

Restrooms  
Food  
Groceries  
Picnic Tables  
Car Accessible Camping  
Lodging  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**144.5: Devils Alley**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**149.4: Stickpile Hill**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**154.1: Sorrel Ridge**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**156.1: Paw Paw**

Restrooms  
Food  
Groceries  
Picnic Tables  
Car Accessible Camping  
Lodging  
Canoe/Kayak Ramp  
Parking

**157.4: Purslane Run**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**162.1: Town Creek**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**164.8: Potomac Forks**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**166.7: Oldtown**

Restrooms  
Food  
Picnic Tables  
Parking

**169.1: Pigmans Ferry**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**173.3: Spring Gap**

Restrooms  
Groceries  
Picnic Tables  
Car Accessible Camping  
Boat Ramp  
Parking

**175.3 Irons Mountain**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**175.5: Lock 75 Area**

Restrooms  
Picnic Tables  
Parking

**180.1: Evitts Creek**

Restrooms  
Hiker/Biker Camping

**184.5: Cumberland**

Visitor Center  
Restrooms  
Food  
Groceries  
Lodging  
Bike Repairs/Rentals  
Parking

## **Connect with the C&O by visiting the following:**

[Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Website](#)

[Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Volunteer Website](#)

[Canal Mobile Tour](#)

[Twitter](#): @COcanalNPS

[Instagram](#): @chesapeakeandohiocanal

[Flickr](#): C&O Canal NHP

[YouTube](#): Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP

[Facebook](#): @chesapeakeandohiocanal

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park

Park Headquarters

1850 Dual Highway

Suite 100

Hagerstown, MD 21740

301-739-4200

[www.nps.gov/choh](http://www.nps.gov/choh)