



# DONOR IMPACT REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2019

### THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

From 1787, when George Washington first conceived of a canal system to make the Potomac River navigable, to the construction and operation of the C&O Canal between 1828 and 1924, and the game-changing walk by Justice William O. Douglas in 1954 which set the stage for its transition to a national park in 1971, the C&O Canal has always been a place to stir the imagination. The stories that are told embrace the full spectrum of the American experience – the vision of a Founding Father, the building of a nation by immigrant labor, economic expansion, division and war, and the quotidian lives of working class people, escaped slaves, heroes, and rascals.

Today, we are living a new chapter in the story of the C&O Canal as people come together during a time of change and challenge to preserve, protect, and restore this beloved place. By supporting the work of the C&O Canal Trust, our donors and volunteers are contributing to a new narrative that not only tells the story of how we preserved the C&O Canal and its history, but also how, together, we conserved a precious natural resource in an era of climate change, habitat loss, and ecological degradation. By partnering with the Trust in this important work, you are part of a nationwide movement of citizens who are leading a fundamental sea change away from national parks owned, funded, and operated on our behalf by Uncle Sam, toward a future when care for these shared national treasures rests more directly on the shoulders of "we, the people."

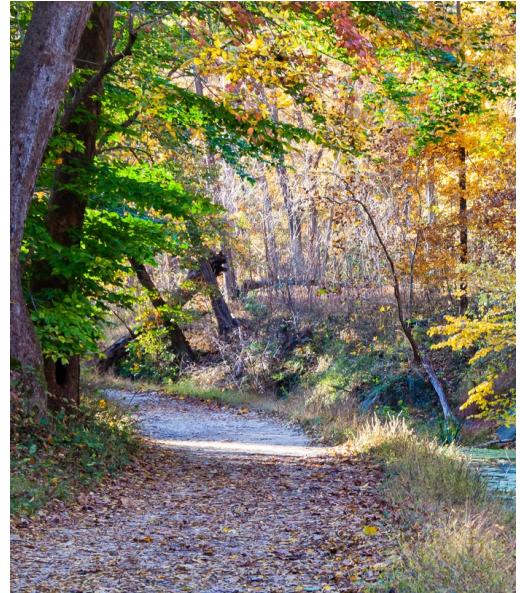


PHOTO: FRANCIS GRANT-SUTTIE

Thank you for taking your place in the story of the C&O Canal. In appreciation for your support, I am pleased to share this report on the impact of your generosity over the past year.

With gratitude,

Robin Zanotti, ACFRE  
President

*The mission of the C&O Canal Trust, as the official nonprofit partner to the Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park, works in partnership with the National Park Service and local communities to raise funds to preserve the Park for future generations and to broaden support through programs that highlight the Park's historical, natural, and cultural heritage and recreational opportunities.*



## PRESERVING HISTORY TO ENRICH THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

In July, following three years of fundraising, planning, construction, furnishing, and interpretation, the C&O Canal Trust opened **Swains Lockhouse** to overnight guests as the seventh lockhouse in our **Canal Quarters** program. Trust donors gave over \$110,000 to the project which involved rehabilitating and furnishing the lockhouse to reflect the year 1916 when the C&O Canal was transitioning from a commercial venture to a recreational resource.

Bert Swain, a member of the Trust's board, was one of the last generation of Swains to grow up in the lockhouse where his great grandfather had been the last locktender. The memories and photographs he and other Swain family members shared were an invaluable resource for the development of our interpretive materials. Swains is the first Canal Quarters lockhouse to be accessible to people with disabilities, with ramps, a Murphy bed, and accessible bathroom on the first floor.



PHOTO: C&O CANAL TRUST



PHOTO: C&O CANAL TRUST

Overall, in FY19, the Trust hosted 2,140 guests at our seven Canal Quarters lockhouses, generating \$98,108 in support for the continued preservation of these historic structures. Since the first lockhouses were opened in 2009, over 21,500 overnight guests have contributed \$790,230 to the preservation of these iconic pieces of American history.

## CREATING OPPORTUNITY

Over the summer of 2019, the C&O Canal Trust partnered with Maryland State Parks and the Montgomery County Department of Recreation to bring a dozen high schoolers to the Park as members of a Conservation Jobs Corps (CJC) crew. The goal of the CJC initiative was to give these young people a meaningful employment experience in the Park, build practical and job skills, and, hopefully, encourage them to aspire to a career in the National Park Service or the nonprofit sector. They were also an invaluable help to the Park's maintenance staff who called upon the CJC crew to take care of a



PHOTO: BEN BENDER



PHOTO: BEN BENDER

range of tasks, including cleaning up after a flash flood in July that deposited massive quantities of mud and debris in the Park at Great Falls.

Funded by a grant from the Montgomery County Council, the Trust's CJC initiative represented the next phase of the Trust's **Canal For All** program, begun in 2017 to engage African American and Latinx communities which historically have been underrepresented in the Park.



## SUPPORTING A SAFE AND SMOOTH TOWPATH

2019 marked the first year of the Park's 80-mile, multi-year **towpath rehabilitation** project, with 23 miles completed from Edwards Ferry to Whites Ferry, and from Brunswick to the Shepherdstown Bridge. The towpath was graded to facilitate water runoff and resurfaced with crushed stone dust that hardens with use, making it more durable.

C&O Canal Trust donors contributed \$73,600 in 2019 to support the project. Those donations are currently funding expert engineering support for the project to ensure that the new surface meets the highest standards. Funds raised by the Trust will also be used to pay for materials and ancillary services, as needed.



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PHOTO: KEITH CARTER



PHOTO: SIMON BARBER

In addition, for the third consecutive year, the Trust led a successful community **advocacy** campaign to support the Park's application for funding from the State of Maryland's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The application resulted in a grant of \$1.02 million to cover Phase 3 of the project. To date, the Trust has helped the Park secure \$3.27 million in TAP funding for the towpath resurfacing. This has been matched with \$2.7 million from the National Park Service.

## RALLYING BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Trust volunteers once again demonstrated their appreciation for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, by donating their time, expertise, and muscle power to a variety of projects and programs. In 2019, a total of 851 volunteers of all ages completed over 7,000 hours of service in the Park, valued at \$204,131.

Our **Canal Pride** volunteers turned out in force last spring to help the Park recover both from the flooding of 2018 and the 35-day government shutdown last December and January. They also took care of the many mundane but necessary tasks needed to keep high visitor use areas safe and welcoming: painting amenities, removing graffiti, picking up trash, cleaning facilities, planting native gardens, and removing invasive species. Our thanks to our Canal Pride sponsors: REI, Guest Services, David and Page Dekker, M&T Bank, Friends of the Historic Great Falls Tavern, FedEx, Minkoff Development, and Younger Toyota.

Canal Quarters continued to depend on a stalwart band of 32 volunteer **Quartermasters** who provided faithful year-round service to ensure that each lockhouse was ready for guests and to provide guest assistance in emergencies.

The Trust also depended on 58 volunteers who turned out over three days to provide vital support for **Park After Dark**, our annual fundraising gala. It would not be possible for the Trust's small staff to hold this event without many, many willing hands.



PHOTO: ELLEN KINZER

## EDUCATING A NEW GENERATION

Over the 2018/2019 school year, Trust donors contributed \$36,500 to help learning come alive for more than 7,000 K through 12th grade students from three states and the District of Columbia who came to three locations in the Park – Great Falls, Williamsport, and Cumberland -- to participate in the Park's **Canal Classrooms** program. Developed with local school systems, the curriculum-based program uses the Park's unique assets for STEAM education (Science, Technology, Education, Arts, Math).



PHOTO: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

In 2018/2019, Canal Classrooms integrated the Chesapeake Bay's Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience program into its curriculum to support a new Maryland state mandate to strengthen the environmental literacy of public school students. Over the seven years since its inception, more than 67,000 students have participated in Canal Classrooms.

## SERVING VISITOR NEEDS



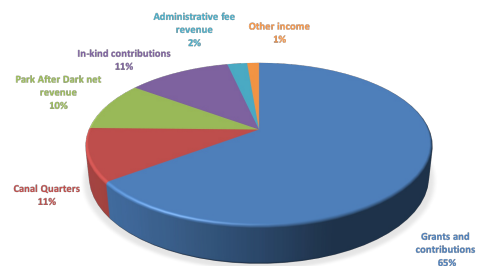
PHOTO: C&O CANAL ASSOCIATION

Fifteen new benches were installed along the C&O Canal this year, thanks to the generosity of six bench sponsors who donated a total of \$67,000 to provide this much-requested Park amenity. These donations not only paid for the purchase of the benches, but also funded Park beautification and preservation projects. Daofeng and Angela He, who sponsored 15 benches last year, as part of our ongoing Bench Collaboration sponsored an additional 10 benches in 2019. Thanks, too, to Jim Heins and his C&O Canal Association bench installation crew.

## AUDITED FINANCIALS FISCAL YEAR 2018

### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Grants and contributions	\$581,552
Canal Quarters	\$94,357
Park After Dark net revenue	\$87,162
In-kind contributions	\$102,699
Administrative fee revenue	\$19,703
Other income	\$11,828
<b>Total Revenue FY18</b>	<b>\$897,301</b>



### EXPENSES

Program Services	\$663,632
General and Administrative	\$87,924
Fundraising	\$10,288
<b>Total Expenses FY17</b>	<b>\$761,844</b>

