

50-PLUS YEARS OF C&O CANAL PARK HISTORY

A brief look at C&O Canal National Historical Park milestones to celebrate its 50th year.

1938

Federal Government buys the C&O Canal from receivership.

1938-1942

African American Civilian Conservation Corps members rehabilitate the canal and towpath from Georgetown to Seneca.



1950

Congress passes legislation to convert C&O Canal into a parkway. Grassroots citizen opposition to parkway plan begins.

PARK IS CREATED

January 8, 1971

President Richard Nixon signs the enabling legislation to create the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

1961

President Dwight D. Eisenhower designates the C&O Canal as a National Monument under the Antiquities Act.

1954

Justice William O. Douglas hikes entire towpath and turns tide from parkway idea.



June 1972

Hurricane Agnes severely damages 66 miles of the canal.

1996

Catastrophic flooding washes out 2.7 miles of the towpath at Big Slackwater.

2005

Monocacy Aqueduct rehabilitated.



2008

Trust's Canal Pride volunteer program begins.

2008

Tropical Storm Hannah opens 125-foot towpath breach at Anglers.



2007

C&O Canal Trust created as Park's official nonprofit partner.

2009

Trust opens its first rehabilitated Canal Quarters lockhouses.



2011

Catocin Aqueduct rehabilitated.

2012

Breach at Anglers repaired with help of \$100,000 in funds raised from the community by the Trust.

2018

Work begins on multi-year resurfacing of 80 miles of the towpath, with support from the Trust.

2012

Big Slackwater breach repaired restoring continuity of towpath for first time in 16 years.



2012

Park launches Canal Classrooms program, with financial support from the C&O Canal Trust.

2019

Swains Lockhouse rehabilitation completed and opened to public as part of Trust's Canal Quarters program.



2019

Conococheague Aqueduct in Williamsport rehabilitated to create the only watered aqueduct in the Park.

January 8, 2021

C&O Canal National Historical Park celebrates its 50th anniversary.

50 years