

Bench Sponsorship Program

The C&O Canal Trust's Bench Sponsorship Program supports a range of park beautification projects that will help to preserve the park and engender a love of this treasured, historical resource into the future.

Availability

Both new and existing benches may be sponsored in the [C&O Canal National Historical Park \(NHP\)](#), based on availability and National Park Service priorities.

Existing benches are supported and maintained through continued sponsorships and are an important part of the ongoing efforts to preserve the park and support beautification efforts. They are also more readily available to sponsor and have a shorter wait time than new benches.

Sponsorship Terms

- Initial Sponsorship
 - \$3,000 for 3-year sponsorship
 - \$4,500 for 6-year sponsorship
- Sponsorship Renewal
 - \$1,500 for 3-year renewal



Bench Plaques

Sponsored benches in the park display a plaque with the sponsor's name. Upon completion of the sponsorship term, the plaque is removed from the bench and presented as a keepsake.

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Location

Sponsors often have a personal connection to the location of the bench they sponsor. Whether a new installation or an existing bench, all installations must meet specific criteria set forth by the National Park Service.

Location Approval Process for New Benches

In addition to reviewing site options for new benches that have been identified by the Trust and approved by the National Park Service (NPS), a prospective sponsor may propose a desired location within the park for a new bench installation. The Trust will complete a preliminary review of the location to determine if it meets the National Park Service requirements to move forward. If the location meets these requirements, the Trust will submit an application to the NPS for official review. The official review process may take up to one year.

Park considerations for bench placement include the proximity to environmental, historical, cultural, archaeological, and/or visual resources.

Installation of New Benches

Following final NPS approval, the Trust schedules the physical installation of the bench in coordination with the C&O Canal Association. Bench installations typically occur between May 1 and October 31. The installation process can take up to one year, depending upon the number of benches awaiting installation and other factors.

Become a Bench Sponsor



Interested in becoming a bench sponsor? Scan the QR code to fill out our [Inquiry Form](#).



For questions about the bench sponsorship program please contact the C&O Canal Trust Development Team at development@canaltrust.org.

Interested in learning about other ways to support the C&O Canal NHP as a volunteer, sponsor or donor? [Click here](#).



Photo by: Nicholas Clements



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