

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2022



In appreciation of your support for the C&O Canal Trust, we offer this report on the impact of your generosity.



This year marks the C&O Canal Trust's 15th anniversary. Since 2007, with your support, the Trust has grown into a thriving organization, recruiting hundreds of volunteers each year to provide needed support at high visitor use areas in the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP). In 2022, nearly 900 volunteers joined us, including our Canal Community Days volunteers who removed over 13,000 pounds of trash and invasive plants, plus cleaning and beautification of other Park features.

Another program we are particularly proud of is Canal For All. Now in its sixth year, we continue to expand programming, welcoming hundreds of underrepresented children, teens, and young adults to the Park with opportunities to play, learn, serve, and work.

The C&O Canal is one of the nation's most popular parks, and we are dedicated to preserving it, not just for your enjoyment today, but for the benefit of future generations as well. In an era of inadequate funding, the Trust, with your support, truly makes the difference and helps to ensure that this treasured resource is preserved.

As visitation grows, we can only continue to expand our programs and support of the Park through the generosity of our canal community. Your support helps us make an impact every day. Thank you.

The C&O Canal Trust, as the official nonprofit partner of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal 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.



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CANAL FOR ALL ENGAGES NEARLY 400 IN 2022

Through Canal For All, the C&O Canal Trust works in partnership with the National Park Service and community partner organizations to provide opportunities for education, stewardship, and volunteerism that are safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all. This year, programs grew to engage nearly 400 participants from underrepresented communities in fun and educational activities in the Park, inspiring the next generation of stewards.

During the summer, we welcomed back returning partners from Community Bridges, the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County, and Girls, Inc. of Washington County. We were also pleased to welcome the Boys & Girls Club of

Berkeley County, WV, a neighboring community of the C&O Canal, as a new Canal For All partner. Groups joined us in the Park for games, crafts, historical hikes and tours, birdwatching, songs, outdoor skill development, and volunteer projects.

We are grateful to the following grantors for their support of this important program: Montgomery County, Cornelia Cogswell Rossi Foundation, the Healthier Greener Kinder Foundation, the National Park Trust/ NPS Challenge Cost Share Program, and the Washington County Community Foundation.



PHOTO BY FRANCIS GRANT-SUTTIE

68 MILES OF TOWPATH RESURFACED

2017 marked the first year of the C&O Canal NHP's multi-year project to comprehensively resurface the more than 80 miles identified as most in need of rehabilitation. Thanks to the funding support of private donors to the C&O Canal Trust, along with funds from the National Park Service and the State of Maryland, resurfacing crews continue their work. The Western Maryland Rail Trail Towpath Connector has been completed. The next phase of resurfacing in Allegany County will be completed in 2023.

TRUST SUPPORTS PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF RARE PLANTS

The C&O Canal NHP is one of the most biologically diverse national parks in the nation. Since its creation in 1971, over 1,500 plant species have been identified in the Park, including 200 rare, threatened, or endangered (RTE) plants, some of which are globally rare and unique. But that number appears to be dwindling. Between 2008 and 2021, just over 100 previously identified RTE species were found along the C&O Canal. The remaining plants are likely now locally extinct. Invasive non-native plants, regional urbanization, and surging visitation have all taken their toll on the fragile habitats that make such diversity possible. With the addition of unfolding climate change, the National Park Service is facing complex challenges to conserve this national biodiversity treasure.

The Park is focused on facilitating the long-term conservation of RTE species through a partnership with the Mt. Cuba Center with a strategy that includes comprehensive identification, monitoring, habitat protection, seed collection, plant propagation, and establishing new populations of RTE species.

We are committed to preserving and protecting our Park's incredible natural resources. In FY22, Trust donors contributed \$99,000 in support of this critical work. Together, we can make a difference and ensure these plants do not go extinct.



Common Hoptree Flowers
PHOTO COURTESY OF NPS

CANAL COMMUNITY DAYS



PHOTOS BY FRANCIS GRANT-SUTTIE

Canal Community Days is the Trust’s annual public volunteer program. Each year, we recruit and manage hundreds of volunteers to undertake a range of preservation, beautification, maintenance, and conservation projects along the 184.5 mile length of the C&O Canal NHP, working closely with the National Park Service to identify priorities that can be completed by volunteers of all ages. Visitation to the Park continues to surge, and our dedicated volunteers provide vital support at high visitor use areas.

The volunteer season officially launched on April 23 at Great Falls, where volunteers, elected officials, Trust Board Members, and partnering organizations gathered to participate in a myriad of projects. Nearly 100 volunteers successfully removed over 1,000 pounds of trash and invasive plants, spread 15 yards of mulch in the picnic area, painted several Park features, sanded the Mercer, and cleaned the Tavern’s first-floor windows.

In May, nearly 50 volunteers gathered in Williamsport to complete projects at Cushwa Basin and Lockhouse 44, removing 255 pounds of trash and 560 pounds of vegetation, including invasive plants. In the picnic area adjacent to the Trolley Barn, volunteers spread three yards of stone dust and planted and mulched native wildflowers in two planter boxes. Volunteers thoroughly cleaned the first floor of Lockhouse 44, which is refurbished and used for special programming. Additional events were held throughout the season and into the fall in Montgomery, Frederick, Washington, and Allegany Counties.

Thank you to our volunteers and our Canal Community Days Sponsors for helping us *Make This Park Shine!*



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF

CANAL STEWARDS CARE FOR OUR PARK

Originally a National Park Service program, the C&O Canal Trust assumed management of Canal Stewards in late 2020. Under the Trust, the program has grown to 58 Canal Stewards at 45 different sites along the canal.

Canal Stewards are long-term volunteers who regularly care for sections of the Park. Becoming a Canal Steward is a great way to enjoy the Park while at the same time helping to keep it safe, clean, and welcoming for all. Thank you to our committed Stewards!



PHOTO BY GOODLUCKSTEF LLC



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF

CANAL QUARTERS WELCOMES OVER 3,000 VISITORS

The Park’s history spans over a century, and the Trust helps promote and preserve it through our award-winning Canal Quarters program. The program welcomed 3,085 guests throughout FY22 for unique overnight interpretive experiences.

Each of the seven Canal Quarters lockhouses has been rehabilitated and furnished to interpret a different time period, and each tells a unique story about the development of the C&O Canal.

15 NEW BENCH SPONSORSHIPS ALONG CANAL

15 new bench sponsorships began in 2022, thanks to the generosity of our donors. These donations not only support the purchase of the benches, but also fund Park beautification and preservation projects. In total, the C&O Canal Trust’s Bench Program has contributed 87 donor-sponsored benches to the C&O Canal NHP.

Special thanks to Jim Heins and his C&O Canal Association volunteer crew for their installation work.

AUDITED FINANCIALS FISCAL YEAR 2021

Support and Revenue

Grants and contributions	\$709,285
Canal Quarters	\$223,835
Event, net revenue	\$150,447
In-kind contributions	\$123,015
Administrative fee revenue	\$25,599
Other income	\$11,222
Total Revenue	\$1,243,403

Expenses

Program services	\$918,428
General and Administrative	\$111,718
Fundraising expenses	\$7,305
Total Expenses	\$1,037,451

