

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023



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



PHOTO BY PAUL GRAUNKE

As a valued supporter of the C&O Canal Trust, your generosity plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the legacy of the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP). The Trust remains committed to preserving and enhancing our local national park, an iconic testament to our nation’s rich history and incredible biodiversity.

In 2023, the Trust celebrated another year of successful programming and growth. Volunteer engagement provided critical stewardship of the Park with over 6,000 hours of service and nearly \$200,000 of in-kind support. Canal For All and community outreach initiatives welcomed nearly 600 diverse youth and adults to locations throughout the C&O Canal for experiential learning, fostering a shared responsibility for protecting, preserving, and restoring this national treasure.

Since 2007, the Trust has deepened its partnership with the National Park Service, raising funds for crucial preservation projects and facilitating programs that keep our Park beautiful, safe, and welcoming.

It is clear the support provided by the C&O Canal Trust has never been so important. Your generosity has always been the foundation of our success. 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.



Platinum
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TRUST VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS MAKE PARK SHINE

Each spring, the Trust recruits and engages hundreds of volunteers to complete a range of preservation, beautification, maintenance, and conservation projects along the C&O Canal NHP. The Trust works closely with Park staff to identify priorities and create projects for volunteers of all ages and abilities. These projects are completed during large-scale public and private volunteer events in the four Maryland counties bordering the Park.

The 2023 Canal Community Days season kicked off at Great Falls on Earth Day, during National Park Week, and continued in Williamsport in May, Frederick County in June, and Allegany County in August.

Visitation to the Park continues to surge, and our dedicated volunteers provide vital support at high visitor use areas.

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



PHOTO BY FRANCIS GRANT-SUTTIE

 520 volunteers removed	 10,930 pounds of trash and invasive vegetation	 and painted 130 Park structures	 during 29 volunteer events
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CANAL CLASSROOMS OFFERS 30 PROGRAMS

Since 2013, the C&O Canal NHP has offered Canal Classrooms to K-12 students in Great Falls, Williamsport, and Cumberland. Led by a committed group of retired educators known as the Canal Classrooms Corps (CCC), the program is built on STEAM-based curricula (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math). The C&O Canal Trust provides support for this important program. In 2023, through the generosity of individual donors and foundations, The Trust raised nearly \$30,000.

Canal Classrooms runs through the spring and fall semesters, from March to May and September to November. During the year, participating K-12 students can expect to be fully immersed in the natural and historical resources of the C&O Canal NHP. During the 2022-2023 school year, 2,000 students visited the Park through the Canal Classrooms program, learning about topics such as Weathering & Erosion, Dendrology, Transportation History, Immigrant History, Environmental Education, and Plant Identification.

In addition to funding in-Park learning programs, the Trust's support also includes the purchase of interpretive supplies and resources that are included in Canal Explorer backpacks. A total of 75 backpacks were distributed to elementary schools in Montgomery County in 2023. We look forward to continuing support for Canal Classrooms.



PHOTO BY NPS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH WELCOMES NEARLY 600 TO PARK



PHOTO BY FRANCIS GRANT-SUTTIE

Through programs like Canal For All, the C&O Canal Trust works in partnership with the National Park Service to provide opportunities for education, stewardship, and volunteerism that are safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all. We partner with community organizations to diminish barriers to participation and to create exciting and relevant opportunities to Play, Learn, Serve, and Work in the C&O Canal NHP.

Since 2016, Canal For All has grown to serve hundreds of participants each year as we continue to build successful interactions with community groups in our local national park. Groups come to a variety of locations to explore the natural and historical resources the Park has to offer. The program nurtures a love of the outdoors, educates youth about the importance of the canal in our nation's history, develops a spirit of service and an environmental ethic, and inspires young people to consider careers in conservation, national parks, and other public lands.

In 2023, Canal For All welcomed 346 youth and adults for fun, educational, and impactful programs in the Park. The program's impact and diversity have expanded in notable ways. Several new community organizations have joined as partners, expanding the program's demographic reach to include adults with Down syndrome, LGBTQ+, military families, and at-risk young people.

New partner organizations include the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington and PALS Programs, an organization that creates inclusive camp experiences for people with and without Down syndrome. TEENS Inc., a vocational agriculture organization that provides training for at-risk youth and individuals with disabilities, and Girls Who Hike Virginia are our first Virginia-based partners.

In addition to successful Canal For All programs, the Trust hosted a number of community outreach programs throughout the year with public tours of Lockhouses 25 and 49, along with guided hikes and history walks with groups like Smithsonian Associates and Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA). In total, the Trust engaged 595 program participants through community outreach initiatives.



PHOTO BY CAMERON TAYLOR

CANAL QUARTERS HOSTS 3,000

The Canal Quarters interpretive program is a unique opportunity for visitors to the C&O Canal NHP to experience life like a lockkeeper while spending the night in a historic structure in the Park. Seven lockhouses have been rehabilitated to date, welcoming an average of 3,000 visitors each year from across the country and international travelers.

Each lockhouse 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.



PHOTO BY BRIAN RIMM



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF

TOWPATH RESURFACING CONTINUES IN ALLEGANY COUNTY

Folks walking and biking along the 71+ miles of towpath between Violettes Lock and Big Slackwater, as well as the Western Maryland Rail Trail Towpath Connector, are enjoying a safer, more accessible experience. 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 next phase of resurfacing in Allegany County will be completed in 2024. To date, the Trust has helped the Park secure over \$7 million in TAP funding for towpath resurfacing.

RARE, THREATEND, AND ENDANGERED PLANTS PRESERVED

The C&O Canal Trust launched the C&O Canal Biodiversity Campaign in 2022, with the goal of raising \$75,000 in 2022 and 2023 in support of the protection and preservation of RTE plants in the Park. Due to overwhelming support for the project from our canal community, the Trust has raised nearly \$150,000 to date.

With support from the Trust in 2023, Park staff planted 1,840 individual propagules from 13 species across spring and fall planting seasons, with a survival rate of 90-95%.

AUDITED FINANCIALS FISCAL YEAR 2022

Support and Revenue

Grants and contributions	\$815,533
Canal Quarters	\$186,146
Event, net revenue	\$195,528
In-kind contributions	\$71,483
Administrative fee revenue	\$18,772
Other income	\$16,781
Total Revenue	\$1,304,243

Expenses

Program services	\$848,026
General and Administrative	\$131,421
Fundraising expenses	\$4,973
Total Expenses	\$984,420

