

C&O Towpath Pages

A Complete C&O Towpath Guidebook

Rick "Attroll" Towle



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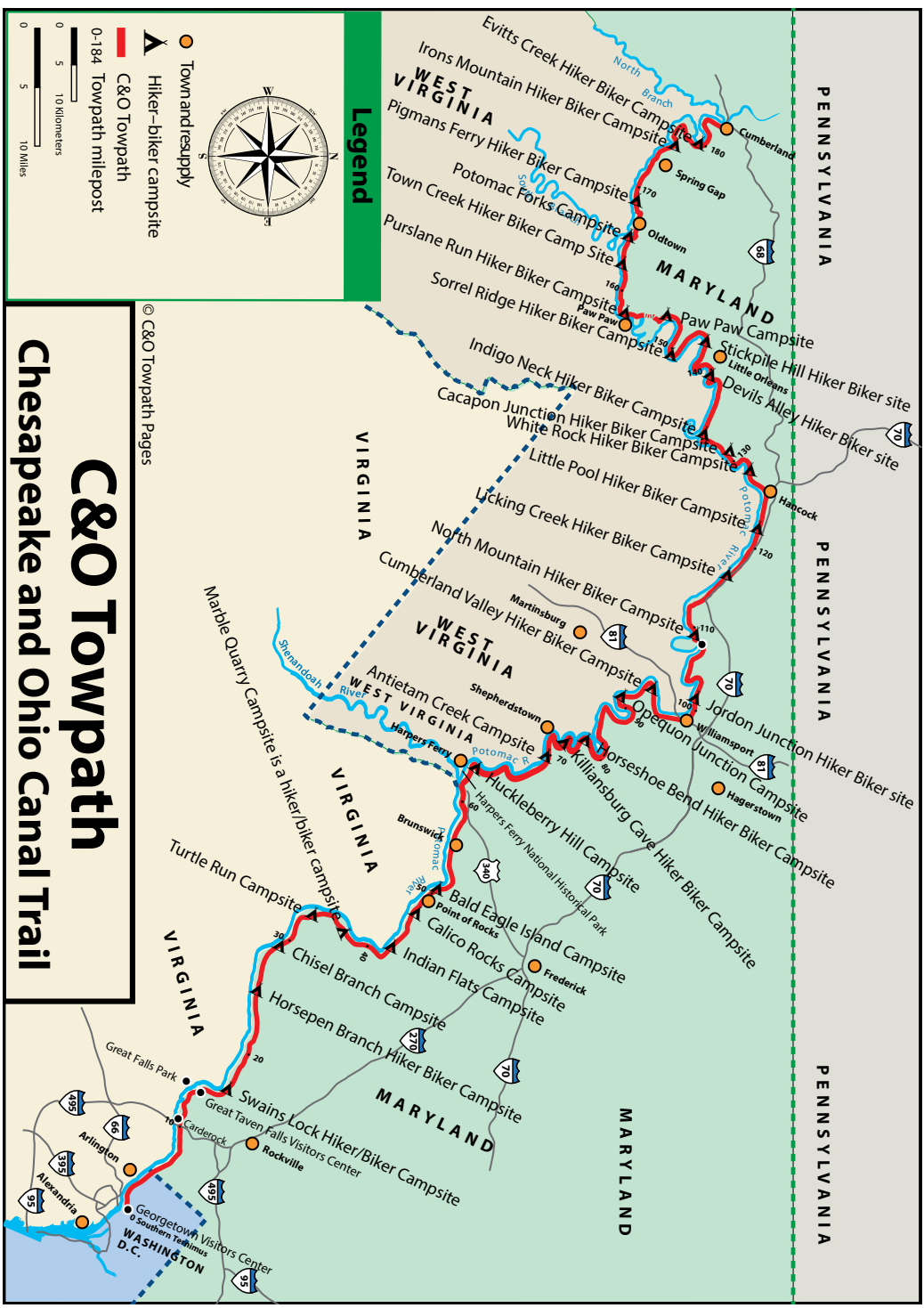
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









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Other Books by Rick “Attroll” Towle

- WhiteBlaze Pages, A Complete Appalachian Trail Guidebook
- Long Trail Pages, A Complete Long Trail Guidebook
- Cohos Trail Pages, A Complete Cohos Trail Guidebook
- C&O Towpath Pages, A Complete C&O Towpath Guidebook

Icons Descriptions

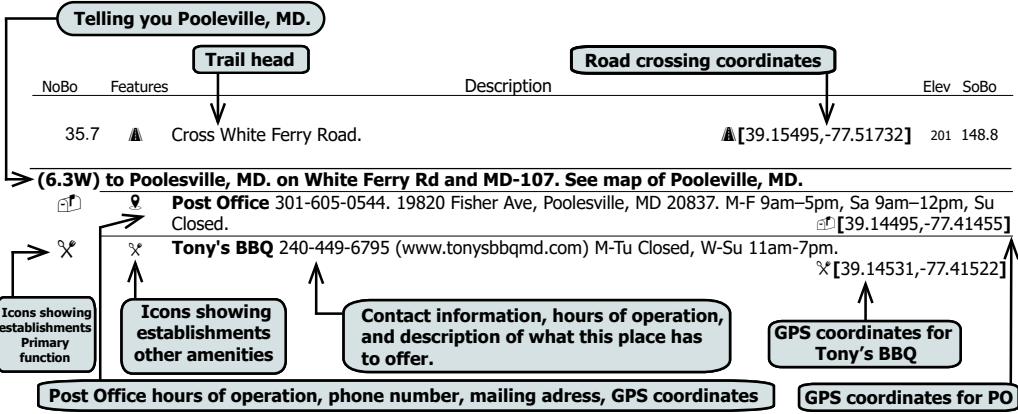
★★★★★ See notes and establishments listed below this entry.

	Source of drinking water. Water is always listed first		Pay phone or public phone
	Seasonal water source, not always reliable (unreliable)		Outfitter
	Intersection, junction, side trail, connecting trail or adjoining trail.		Charging station for phone and accessories
	{x} LT Shelter, Lean-to, or Lodge and (capacity)		Ice cream
	{x} Tent sites, may sometimes be listed with (capacity) or tent platforms		Hardware store
	Possibilities for hammocks available. In some cases you may have to expand up to 100 feet beyond the area to find trees but you can hang. Availability of hanging also depends on the growth of the underbrush. When using a hammock, please use LNT procedures.		Public Restroom
	Privy, port-a-potty		Pharmacy
	Bicycle shop, repair shop, or rentals		Barber
	Power line, pipe line or electrical wires		Information Area
	Direction and miles to next shelter South or North. This does not include the mileage distance the shelter is off the trail.		Purchase or serves alcohol
	Views, overlooks or photo opportunities		First Aid, doctor, hospital or urgent care
	Lookout, fire tower or observation tower		Not categorized
	Footbridge, or any other bridge		
	Road		
	Gravel or dirt roads, logging roads, wood roads, USFS roads, forest roads, fire roads, or any other non-paved roads		
	Waterfalls		
	Attractions, important or historical features, other photo opportunities		
	{x} Parking. Vehicle capacity, and fee inside parenthesis. If there is a fee there will be a "\$". Coordinates should get you within eyesight of parking area. Always check ahead for parking safety.		
	Places that require fees		
	Warnings or things that you need to be aware of		
	[] GPS coordinates are listed inside of descriptions		
	Railroad crossing, tracks		
	Swimming possibilities		
	Picnic Table or picnic area		
	Trash can usually available		
	Boating or boats available for use		
	Hostel		
	Lodging. Prices may not include tax.		
	Post Office		
	Mail drop location		
	Email address		
	Vet or Kennel		
	Pet Friendly		
	No Pets/Not Pet Friendly		
	Laundry		
	Computer available for use		
	WiFi available		
	Shower available		
	Shuttle, bus, or taxi		
	Bank/ATM		
	Long term resupply (enough food to get to next resupply point)		
	Short term resupply (snack, odds & ends)		
	Anywhere that serves food for a fee		
	I need your help finding these coordinates.		
			Airport or airfield
			Bus or bus station
			Train or train station

Please use the following link to help:

(www.whiteblazepages.com/inputs)

Description of town data



Shuttle Services

C&O Bicycle 301-678-6665 (www.candobicycle.com) ✉ candobicycle@gmail.com call or email for more details.

Open 8am to 6pm daily. Provide shuttle service for up to six riders (including bikes and gear) by appointment. They can take you anywhere along the C&O (Chesapeake & Ohio) Canal, Great Allegheny Passage (GAP), and Western Maryland Rail Trail (WMRT) that is accessible by vehicle. Please call or email at least 48 hours in advance. When reserving your shuttle, we need to know the date, time, and location of pickup and/or drop-off points, and how many riders there are in your group.

Cumberland Trail Connection

Shuttles to and from DC. 301-777-8724 (www.ctcbikes.com). M-Tu Closed, W-Su 1-am-5pm.

Getting to the southern terminus

From downtown DC, take 16th Street NW for 5 miles and then merge onto Military Road NW. Then turn right onto Glover Road NW. Stay left when the road splits at Picnic Grove #13 and continue up the hill and turn left at Rock Creek Nature Center and Rock Creek Horse Center farm. Follow signage to the left to access the parking lots. These parking lots are not long term parking.

From Silver Spring, MD, take US-29 S/Georgia Avenue into the District, then turn right on Alaska Avenue NW. At just under a mile, turn left onto 16th Street NW, then stay right onto the ramp for Military Road W/Connective Avenue. Merge onto Military Road, which turns into Glover Road, and follow directions above.

Some bikers have started off by using the Capital Crescent Trail. Follow the Capital Crescent either from Georgetown or Bethesda until you reach Fletcher's Boathouse. At Fletcher's Boathouse you can easily hop over to the Towpath.

Access to the C&O using the Capital Crescent Trail

Getting to the Capital Crescent Trail at the Georgetown trailhead

The heart of Georgetown at Wisconsin Avenue and M Street can be reached from the Maryland Beltway via. Route 355 (Wisconsin Avenue) or via. the Clara Barton Parkway and Canal Road. From Virginia use I-66 to Lee Highway into Rosslyn, left onto Lynn Street and across Key Bridge, then right toward Wisconsin Avenue.

From the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and M Street, go down Wisconsin Avenue to its end under the Whitehurst Freeway at the bottom of the hill, and turn right onto Water Street. The CCT begins at the end of Water Street. Street parking is usually available along Water Street on weekends. On weekdays you may have to use one of the several pay lots along Water Street/K street.

Getting to the Capital Crescent Trail at the Bethesda trailhead

From the Capital Beltway (I-495) take the Route 355 (Wisconsin Avenue) exit south toward Bethesda. In downtown Bethesda, turn right onto Bethesda Avenue. The CCT crosses Bethesda Avenue at Woodmont Avenue, 2 blocks west of Wisconsin Avenue.



Parking options for the southern terminus

The best option is to use one of the many underground parking garages. The closest is at the corner of M and Water St was charging \$28 per day.

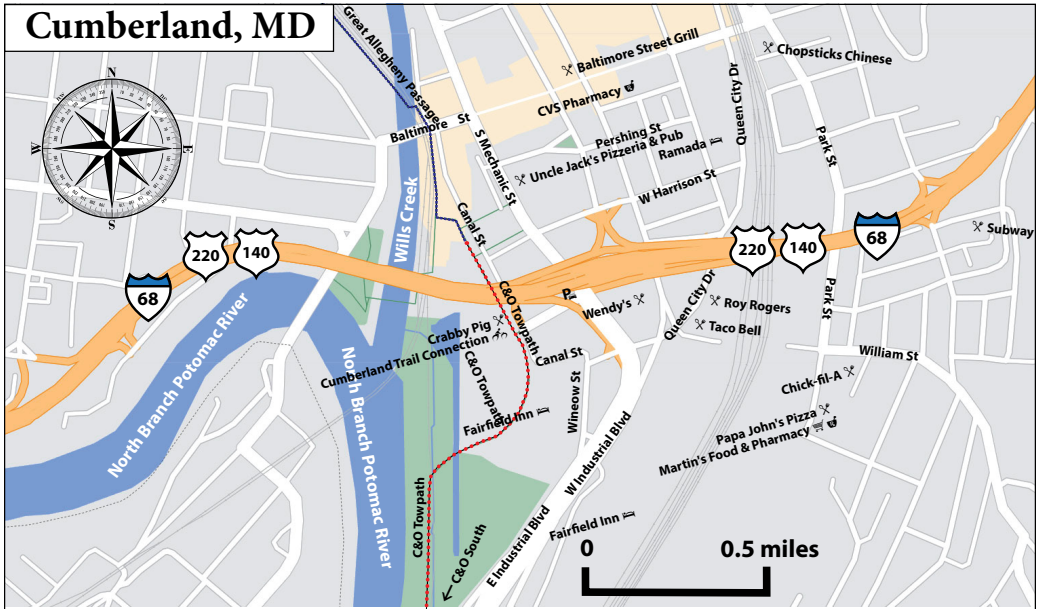
(www.ecolonial.com/park-with-us/parking-locator/?detail=1&loc=en&id=1068) 1000 Potomac St NW, Washington 20007.

Another option is long-term parking lot at Reagan National Airport. This lot charges about \$25 per day. It can be reached easily from the George Washington Memorial Parkway and I-395. It is five miles from the Georgetown trailhead.

(www.flyreagan.com/parking-transportation/parking-information/terminal-parkinggarage-bc)

Getting to the northern terminus

Take exit 43C off I-68. Follow signs to the Harrison to the Visitor Center, it is (0.2) form once getting at the end of the exits of 43C.



Parking options for the northern terminus

Gap Trail Overnight Parking

The lot next to the Footer Building on Howard Street, it is free all day with free overnight parking available for trail users.

The parking garages in Cumberland are now all by permit parking only. You can call or email and see if they may make an exception. [301-759-6473](tel:301-759-6473)

✉ kevin.ogle@cumberlandmd.gov

(www.ci.cumberland.md.us/278/Office-of-Parking-Enforcement)

NoBo	Features	Description	GPS	Elev	SoBo
0.0	○	C&O Towpath Southern Terminus Located on the Potomac shoreline, next to Thompson Boat Center. Accessible only through the boat center. ○ [38.89991,-77.05757]	7	184.5	
	🚤	Thompson's Boat Center, 202-333-9543 (www.boatingindc.com/boathouses/thompson-boat-center). (0.3) away from the start of the trailhead.			
0.3	▲	Start of C&O Towpath. Cross 29th St NW. ▲ [38.90407,-77.05809]	43	184.2	
0.4	▲	Cross Thomas Jefferson St NW. National Park Visitor Center 202-653-5190 . Canal boat rides available. ▲ [38.90424,-77.06014] NPVC [38.90432,-77.05997]	52	184.1	
0.5	▲	Cross Wisconsin Ave NW. Georgetown Visitor Center. ▲ [38.90432,-77.06279]		184.0	
0.7	—	Cross under 33rd St NW pedestrian bridge. — [38.90431,-77.06600]	44	183.8	
0.8	—	Cross over canal on pedestrian bridge. — [38.90445,-77.06781]	65	183.7	
1.0	—	Cross under US-29, Francis Scott Key Bridge. Francis Scott Key Memorial on south side of bridge. — [38.90442,-77.06891]	50	183.5	
1.1	—	Cross under Whitehurst Ferry NW. — [38.90460,-77.07013]	39	183.4	
1.6	✙	Intersection with Glover-Archbold Trail. ✙ [38.90565,-77.07832]		182.9	
3.1	✙ P	Fletcher's Cove. C&O National Historical Park, west. ✙ [38.91934,-77.10168]	35	181.4	
	🚤 ✙ P	Fletcher's Boathouse and snack bar 202-244-0461 (www.boatingindc.com/boathouses/fletchers-boathouse). 🚤 Boat rentals. P Picnic table. P Parking available. ✙ [38.91919,-77.10190]			
3.6	✙ —	Cross under Captial Cresent Trail, former railroad trestle now a paved trail. — [38.92434,-77.10723]	50	180.9	
4.0	—	Under Chain Bridge . — [39.10370,-77.47229]	42	180.5	
4.5	State Line	Maryland State Line! ○ [38.93634,-77.11721]		180.0	
4.6	▲ P	Cross Little Falls Branch. Side trail leads (0.2W) to P Potomac River Belvedere Viewpoint. ▲ [38.93700,-77.11796]	51	179.9	
4.9	✙ ✙ ☕	Lock 5. Cross over bridge. Footbridge leads east over canal and to Clara Barton Parkway near the corner 61st Street. ▲ Water on east side of canal. ☕ Port-a-potty. ✙ [38.93973,-77.12176] ▲ [38.93961,-77.12138]	43	179.6	
5.3	P	Lock 6. Parking east along Clara Barton Parkway. ✙ [38.94495,-77.12399] P [38.94425,-77.12336]	65	179.2	
5.7		Little Falls Pumping Station, east. ♀ [38.94972,-77.12698]	52	178.8	
7.3	✙ P	Side trail leads east over canal and to small parking lot. ✙ [38.95788,-77.13223] P [38.95835,-77.13092]	60	177.2	
7.0	P	Lock 7. Parking east on Clara Barton Parkway. ♀ [38.96446,-77.13907] P [38.96435,-77.13819]	69	177.5	
7.6	✙	Cabin John Trail least west. Access to MacArthur Blvd, but difficult with bicycle. ✙ [38.96999,-77.14801]	91	176.9	
8.3	P P ☕	Lock 8 to west. Picnic area, parking, toilets, to the west. ♀ [38.97087,-77.16109]	72	176.2	
	🛒 ✙ ☕	(5.9E) Cabin John Shopping Center, Gaint Food, CVS, and restaurants. 🛒 ✙ ☕ [39.04105,-77.15686]			
8.6		Lock 9 to west. ♀ [38.97221,-77.16697]	97	175.9	
8.7	▲ P	Lock 10 to west. P Picnic area, water, and parking to west over canal. ♀ [38.97221,-77.16852] ▲ [38.97233,-77.16857] P [38.97258,-77.16915]	93	175.8	
8.9		Lock 11 to west. ♀ [38.97228,-77.17205]	112	175.6	
9.2		Lock 12 to west. ♀ [38.97236,-77.17771]	114	175.3	
9.3	▲	Lock 13 and cross under US-495 . ♀ [38.97217,-77.17920]	114	175.2	
9.4		Lock 14 to west. ♀ [38.97201,-77.18082]	122	175.1	
9.5	▲	Cross over Rock Run. ▲ [38.97183,-77.18235]	117	175.0	
9.6	✙	Billy Goat Trail Section C leads west. ✙ [38.97156,-77.18460]	140	174.9	
9.8		Side trail leads west. ✙ [38.97096,-77.18910]	134	174.7	
10.2	▲ P P	Cross Cardrock Road. (0.1W) to Carderock Recreational Area, P picnic tables, P parking, ▲ [38.97285,-77.19848] P [38.97264,-77.20028]	123	174.3	
10.3	✙ P	Side trail leads (0.1W) to Carderock Recreational Area and P parking. ✙ [38.97382,-77.20007]	142	174.2	
10.4	✙ P	Side trail leads west to Carderock Recreational Area, P parking. ✙ [38.97459,-77.20137]	140	174.1	
10.7	✙ P	Side trail , leads west to Carderock Recreational Area, P toilets, P parking.. Kiosk. ✙ [38.97676,-77.20511]	155	173.8	
10.8	✙ ☕	Billy Goat Trail Section C west end, ☕ kiosk. ✙ [38.97738,-77.20661]	150	173.7	
11.2	✙	Bill Goat Trail Section B. ✙ [38.97748,-77.21292]	123	173.3	
11.3	✙ P	Side trail west leads to toilets. ✙ [38.97732,-77.21505]	132	173.2	

C&O Towpath

NoBo	Features	Description	GPS	Elev	SoBo
11.4	♣♣♣♣	Side trail leads west ▲ Marsden Tract Group Campground 301-299-3613 (www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/251544). ▲ Permit Required - reserved for civic/scout organizations only. \$20/night. Call for permit. ♣ Water is on opposite side of canal. (150FT E) over canal bridge to ♣ water. (0.1W) over canal bridge to Macarthur Blvd. No parking permitted here. ▲ [38.97756,-77.21641] ♣ [38.97787,-77.21619]	138	173.1	
12.2	♣♣♣♣	Side trail leads west. (300FT W) over Anglers bridge to ♣ water, ♣♣ restroom, and P parking. Free parking area across from Old Angler's Inn on Macarthur Blvd. Very Crowded area. ♣ [38.98132,-77.22826] ♣ [38.98173,-77.22624] P [38.98183,-77.22749]	139	172.3	
	✂	(260FT E) Old Angler's Inn 301-365-2425. (www.places.singleplatform.com/old-anglers-inn) M-Tu Closed, W-Su 12pm-10pm. ✂ [38.98248,-77.22648]			
12.6	♣♣	Bill Goat Hiking Trail A leads (0.8W) to overlooks, ▲ No Bikes. ♣ [38.98325,-77.23463]	104	171.9	
12.9	(Cross bridge. ([38.98357,-77.23755]	117	171.6	
13.1	♣	Spitzbergen Cliffs Trail leads (0.2W) to Spitzbergen Cliffs. ♣ [38.98515,-77.24060]	125	171.4	
13.3	♣	Side trail leads (0.2W) to Spitzbergen Cliffs. ♣ [38.98758,-77.24378]	122	171.2	
13.5		Locks 15 to east. ♀ [38.98938,-77.24417]	125	171.0	
13.6		Locks 16 to east. ♀ [38.99192,-77.24449]	152	170.9	
13.7		Bridge to east leads to Berma Road. (140FT N) of here Bill Goat Hiking Trail A leads west. ♀ [38.99324,-77.24516]	159	170.8	
13.9	♣	Mary's Wall, view. ♣ [38.99459,-77.24627]	126	170.6	
14.0		Lock 17 to east. ♀ [38.99621,-77.24798]	149	170.5	
14.1	♣	Great Falls Overlook Trail leads (0.3W) to Great Falls Overlook, ▲ No bikes. ♣ [38.99675,-77.24843]	141	170.4	
14.2		Locks 19 to the east. ♣ [38.99871,-77.24859]	157	170.3	
14.3	♣	Lock 20, operational. (225FT N) Observation Deck for Washington Aqueduct. ♀ [39.00029,-77.24850] ♣ [39.00084,-77.24830]	155	170.2	
	♣♣♣	(180FT E) Great Falls Tavern Vistors Center 301-767-3714. M-Tu Closed, W-Su 9am-4:30pm. P Paid parking available. ♣ [39.00027,-77.24814]			
14.4	(Bridge over canal to the east. ♀ [39.00187,-77.24785]	168	170.1	
	♣♣♣✂	(196FT E) Great Falls Snack Bar center and snack bar with hot dogs and burgers. (temporarily closed in 2022). ✂ [39.00199,-77.24728]			
16.5	♣♣♣♣ {5} ♣ ♣♣	Lock 21. Across lock to ♣ water and P parking. (82FT W) of lock Swains Lock Hiker/Biker Campsite 301-739-4200. (www.canaltrust.org/pyv/swains-campground). Potable water may not be available at each campsite. This is the only campsite that has city water. Water is turned off from November 15 to April 15 each year. This can be crowded on weekend. ♣ [39.03123,-77.24361] ♣ [39.03134,-77.24382]	187	168.0	
17.4	♣	Side trail leads west to Montgomery County Pumping Station, closed gate. ♣ [39.03850,-77.25607]	178	167.1	
19.7	♣♣	Lock 22 to east. (0.1E) to ♣ port-a-potty and P parking. ♣ [39.05366,-77.28880] P [39.05661,-77.29330]	178	164.8	
20.9	♣	Kayak Portage leads east. ♣ [39.05855,-77.31261]	196	163.6	
22.1	♣♣♣	Lock 23. ♣ Picnic area to west. P Parking, ♣ Port-a-potty to east. The end of the watered canal basin. Basin is mostly abandoned upstream. ♀ [39.06699,-77.32858] P [39.06731,-77.32838]	185	162.4	
22.8	♣♣♣♣	Cross Seneca Creek on bridge. Riley's Lock. One of eleven aqueducts along the towpath. (100FT E) on south side of bridge leads east to P parking, ♣ picnic area, ♣ Port-a-potty. ([39.06868,-77.34109] P [39.06912,-77.34023]	189	161.7	
23.7	♣	Side trail leads (115FT W) to the Upper Potomac River. ♣ [39.06790,-77.36112]	196	160.8	
25.9	♣♣♣	Horsepen Branch Hiker Biker Campsite (www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/camping.htm) ♣ Hand pump, ♣♣ restroom. ♣♣ [39.06989,-77.39965]	212	158.6	
27.1		Sycamore Landing Boat Ramp. ♀ [39.07446,-77.42029]	203	157.4	
30.5	♣♣♣♣	Chisel Branch Campsite 301-739-4200 (www.canaltrust.org/pyv/chisel-branch-campsite). The Chisel Branch Campsite is a hiker-biker campsite named after for a stream that crosses beneath the canal approximately half a mile from the site. Amenities include ♣ Port-a-potty, ♣ water, ♣ picnic table, and grill. Potable water may not be available at each campsite. ♣ Water is treated with iodine. Please plan to have water purification tablets with you. Water is turned off from November 15 to April 15 each year. ♣♣ [39.09867,-77.47104]	225	154.0	
30.8		Lock 25. Edwards Ferry Boat Ramp. ♀ [39.10378,-77.47243]	208	153.7	
31.9	♣	Cross Broad Run Aqueduct on bridge. Ruins. ♀ [39.11627,-77.48449]	199	152.6	
34.5	♣♣♣♣	Turtle Run Campsite 301-739-4200 (www.canaltrust.org/pyv/turtle-run-campsite). ♣ Hand pump, ♣ Port-a-potty. Potable water may not be available at each campsite. ♣ Water is treated with iodine. Please plan to have water purification tablets with you. Water is turned off from November 15 to April 15 each year ♣ [39.13954,-77.51553]	233	150.0	
35.7	♣	Cross White Ferry Road. ♣ [39.15495,-77.51732]	201	148.8	

C&O Towpath

NoBo Features	Description	GPS	Elev	SoBo
☒	(0.3E) Potomac Street Grill 301-969-0548 (www.potomacstreetgrill.com) M-Th 11am-7:30pm, F-Sa 11am-8:30pm, Su 11am-7:30pm.	☒	[39.31267,-77.62594]	
☒	Boxcar Burgers 301-834-2612 (www.boxcarburgers.com) M-Tu Closed, W-Th 5pm-8pm, F-Su 12pm-8pm.	☒	[39.31254,-77.62679]	
☒	King's Pizza 301-834-9999 (www.ilovekings.com). M-Th 11am-9pm, F-Sa 11am-10pm, Su 12pm-9pm.	☒	[39.31363,-77.63006]	
☒	Smoketown Brewing Station 301-834-4828 (www.smoketownbrewing.com). Former fire station. Bring your own food. M-Tu Closed, W 4pm-9pm, Th 12pm-9pm, F-Sa 12pm-10pm, Su 12pm-8pm.	☒	[39.31381,-77.63030]	
📖	Brunswick Branch Library 301-600-7250 (www.fcpl.org/branches-hours/brunswick-branch-library) M-Th 10am-8pm, F-Sa 10am-5pm, Su 1pm-5pm.	📖	[39.31869,-77.62687]	
🚲	(0.3E) Three Points Cycle 301-834-7199 (www.threepointscycles.com). Full Service bicycle shop. M 10am-4pm, Tu 12pm-6pm, W Closed, Th 12pm-6pm, F-Sa 10am-4pm, Su Closed.			📍 [39.31303,-77.62718]

