

# DONOR IMPACT REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2021



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



PHOTO BY CHARLES KIM

2021 was a monumental year for the C&O Canal Trust and the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP). Our canal community joined together in the Park, from afar, in person, and virtually to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this incredible resource. Despite the resurgence of the pandemic, our programmatic offerings were enhanced and flourished during a very challenging time, thanks to your support.

One of the programs that grew over the summer is Canal For All, our community outreach program serving underrepresented youth and communities. Participants joined us in programs designed to instill an appreciation of our Park and all public lands. The number of volunteers participating in Canal Community Days has also grown since the early days of the pandemic as we have continued our focus on multiple small groups of volunteers operating within public health guidelines.

We are proud of all we have accomplished throughout the past year, and we are touched by the support our donors and volunteers provided to ensure the Park we love remains beautiful, safe, and welcoming into the future.

Thank you for showing your commitment to the preservation and protection of our Park!

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.



## CANAL FOR ALL ENGAGES NEARLY 300 IN 2021

The C&O Canal Trust's Canal For All community outreach program was launched in 2017 with the goal of engaging young people from underrepresented communities in programs in the C&O Canal NHP. This year, Canal For All restarted after eighteen months away, reconnecting nearly 300 underrepresented and disadvantaged youth and adults with Trust-led opportunities in the Park. In addition to welcoming long-time Montgomery County partners, Canal For All expanded to include community organizations in Washington County as well. Program partners include the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County, Community

Bridges, Girls Inc., PeaceJam, and TeenWorks.

In the summer, over 200 youth and adults from the Boys and Girls Club of Washington County and Girls Inc. of Washington County visited Four Locks where they explored Lockhouse 49 and nearby natural areas, went on hikes, made crafts and played early American games.

Canal For All programming continued to grow in the fall, with trash cleanups in Georgetown and at Swains Lockhouse. A multi-generational event at Carderock brought together Canal For All partners and Canal Stewards to undertake needed maintenance in the day use area. The group worked together to paint picnic tables and enjoyed a hike on Billy Goat Trail, Section C.

The Trust received generous support to help expand this important work, totaling over \$94,000 from Montgomery County, Cornelia Cogswell Rossi Foundation, Pepco, the Healthier Greener Kinder Foundation, and the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program through the National Park Trust.

As we celebrate this year's success, the Trust continues to develop the program with hopes of including additional underrepresented groups.



## CANAL CLASSROOMS SERVES YOUTH AND FAMILIES VIRTUALLY

The 2020-2021 school year marked the ninth year that the C&O Canal NHP offered its nationally-recognized Canal Classrooms program to K-12th grade students from our region.

While barriers to students' participation in in-person programs continued throughout the school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Canal Classrooms served school audiences through virtual learning opportunities for different ages, grade levels, and interests, engaging them in educational and fun activities. These opportunities allowed participants from a wide variety of backgrounds to learn the unique history of the C&O Canal, encourage exploration, experience hands-on STEAM learning, and deepen their knowledge of the natural world in one of the most biologically diverse national parks in the United States. More than 1,000 students participated in virtual programming led by Park rangers celebrating 50 years of the C&O Canal NHP's historical, natural, and cultural heritage. Along with virtual resources for youth and families, the Park's Canal Classrooms program provided useful resources for local educators to further engage with their students.

In FY21, Trust donors contributed over \$20,000 in support of Canal Classrooms.



*Canal Workers*, watercolor and ink on paper by Miles K., 8th grade, Robert Frost Middle School, Rockville, MD

# CANAL COMMUNITY DAYS



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF

Canal Community Days is one of the C&O Canal Trust's most visible programs. Throughout the year, we recruit and manage hundreds of volunteers in public and private events 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 surged throughout the past year, and our dedicated volunteers helped provide vital support at high visitor use areas.

Canal Community Days launched in the spring with a public event at Great Falls. Utilizing a small group model, volunteers took on a number of preservation and beautification projects. Additional events were held later in the spring and in the fall in Frederick, Montgomery, and Washington Counties. In total, 250 volunteers collected over 2,000 pounds of trash and 790 pounds of invasive plants at 17 Park locations.

## 65 MILES OF TOWPATH RESURFACED BY END OF 2021

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. An additional 12 miles from Lock 38 to the Big Slackwater boat ramp will be completed by the end of 2021.

In September, Governor Larry Hogan announced a \$1.8 million grant to the National Park Service to rehabilitate 18 miles of the C&O Canal towpath in Allegany County through the FY22 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The Allegany County project will take place from the Paw Paw Tunnel and Oldtown through Spring Gap Camping area. With advocacy efforts supported by the Trust, the C&O Canal towpath resurfacing efforts have received over \$6 million in TAP funding. In 2021, the Trust received 1,088 signatures in support of resurfacing in response to advocacy efforts.

Thank you to our 2021  
Canal Community Days  
Sponsors

CANAL PATRON



CANAL EXPLORER



An Exelon Company

**Deloitte.**

**FirstEnergy  
Foundation**

CANAL TRAVELER



Friends of the  
Historic Great Falls Tavern

**M&T Bank**

CANAL PRESERVER



**Minkoff**  
ESTD. 1972

LOCKKEEPER

Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail  
Toll Brothers  
Younger Toyota



PHOTO BY MIKE MITCHELL

## CANAL QUARTERS SEES INCREASED OCCUPANCY

Canal Quarters continued to provide guests with opportunities for socially-distant getaways throughout FY21. In total, Canal Quarters welcomed over 3,500 guests. Demand was particularly high over the summer, with Lockhouses 10 and 21 both reaching 100 percent occupancy in a month-long period.

Canal Quarters currently offers unique overnight interpretive experiences in seven historic lockhouses along the canal.



PHOTO BY TRUST STAFF

## 16 BENCHES INSTALLED ALONG CANAL

16 new benches were installed along the C&O Canal this year, thanks to the generosity of 45 donors. These donations not only supported the purchase of the benches, but also funded Park beautification and preservation projects. In total, the C&O Canal Trust's Bench Program has contributed 73 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 2020

### Support and Revenue

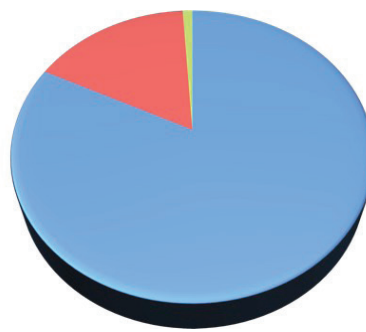
Grants and contributions	\$534,184
Canal Quarters	\$110,112
Event, net revenue	\$164,624
In-kind contributions	\$135,636
Administrative fee revenue	\$20,960
Other income	\$7,969
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$973,485</b>

### Expenses

Program services	\$688,191
General and Administrative	\$139,147
Fundraising expenses	\$8,512
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$835,850</b>



- Grants and contributions
- Canal Quarters
- Event, net revenue
- In-kind contributions
- Administrative fee revenue
- Other income



- Program services
- General and administrative
- Fundraising