



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
C&O Canal National Historical Park  
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

IN REPLY REFER TO

10D (CHOH-VRP)  
Closure Order #20-002  
July 2, 2020

Closures, restrictions and public use limits:

Closure Order – Portion of a Park Area: Under the authority provided to the Superintendent in 36 CFR 1.5, the follow park areas and facilities are closed, effective immediately, until further notice:

- Visitor Centers – Great Falls, Williamsport, Cumberland (MD) [Justification: Limited space for distancing of visitors and staff.]
- Reservation Only Facilities – Carderock Pavilion (MD) [Justification: Occupancy exceeds 50, limited space for distancing of users.]
- ~~Parking Areas/Motor Vehicle Access – Anglers – Lower Lot (MD) [Justification: Fire and EMS services, vehicle staging and maneuvering.]~~

Authority: 36 CFR 1.5(a)(1)

Restrictions and Public Use Limits: Under the authority provided to the Superintendent in 36 CFR 1.5, the following activities are restricted in Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, effective immediately, until further notice:

- Gatherings of more than 50 persons in the District of Columbia and Montgomery County, Maryland. [Justification: Local Orders; Mitigation: Permitting staff will work with applicants to stagger participants in run/walk type events.]

Authority: 36 CFR 1.5(a)(1) & (2)

Notice: This administrative order applies to all individuals subject to the regulatory authority of the National Park Service (NPS) within the boundaries of Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, including park visitors, government employees, concession employees, park residents and stakeholders, except as follows:

- National Park Service employees conducting mission essential or critical work functions in support of public safety, resource protection or park operations.
- Contractors authorized to continue essential operations for the National Park Service (e.g. construction, mowing).
- Cooperating agencies carrying out mission critical functions (e.g. Washington Aqueduct; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; state & local fire, EMS and law enforcement; utility companies).

Finding: The NPS issues this administrative order for the purposes of maintaining public health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. This order is consistent with the following local, state, and federal public health directives:

- Order of the County Executive, Montgomery County, Maryland #082-20:  
<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/exec/Resources/Files/orders/082-20.pdf>
- Order of the Mayor of the District of Columbia #3030-075:  
<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo>

These directives require the NPS to take the actions identified above because:

- They are consistent with public health guidelines to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to protect visitors, employees and cooperators.

This order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice. The effectiveness of this order will be assessed on an ongoing basis, and the order will be modified or rescinded when conditions warrant.

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date