



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
National Historical Park

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C&O Canal National Historical Park News Release

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Proposal to repair, raise and resurface towpath

Public invited to comment on a plan to improve flood-prone area

HAGERSTOWN, Md. – The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to stabilize a historic stone wall and raise parts of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (C&O Canal) towpath, move it farther from the Potomac River and resurface it. The affected area is between McMahon’s Mill (milepost 88.1) and Lock 42 (milepost 89.0) in Washington County.

High water makes sections of the towpath in this area impassable more than 12 times per year, leaving bikers and hikers to navigate a 3-mile detour on narrow, winding county roads. Without appropriate repairs, people will not be able to enjoy the towpath. In its current state, the path is impassable to vehicles, which prevents NPS and emergency vehicles from reaching injured visitors or employees.

Through January 4, 2019, the public is invited to share their thoughts on the project. You may download a copy of the environmental assessment, which describes the project, and submit electronic comments through the park’s Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=65252>.

Comments may also be submitted by mail to:

Kevin D. Brandt, Superintendent
C&O Canal NHP
c/o McMahon’s Mill Towpath Improvement Project EA
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100
Hagerstown, MD 21740-6620

For further information please contact Catherine Bragaw at Catherine_Bragaw@nps.gov or 301-714-2238.

NOTE: Before including an address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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