



National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
National Historical Park

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C&O Canal National Historical Park News Release

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C&O Canal to present concept designs for new Williamsport headquarters

Public invited to comment April 9-26

HAGERSTOWN, Md. – The National Park Service (NPS) is working with local communities to facilitate the relocation of Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park’s (C&O Canal) headquarters from Hagerstown to Williamsport, Md.

The NPS invites interested members of the public to view conceptual plans for the new headquarters and visitor center on April 9, 2019, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Williamsport Community Building located in Byron Memorial Park.

As part of its commitment to collaborate with the community, the NPS is soliciting feedback on the conceptual plans for the relocation of the park’s headquarters to the former Miller Lumber Company site. That site is located in the Williamsport Historic District, and is adjacent to the canal. Both the C&O Canal and the Williamsport Historic District are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Hearing from members of the community is a critical piece of the planning process. The NPS will accept public comments on the proposed plans from Tuesday, April 9 to Friday, April 26. The NPS will continue to hold public meetings to discuss next steps as the project progresses. There are three ways to comment during this period:

- In person at the public meeting on April 9, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Williamsport Community Building in Byron Memorial Park at 2 Park Road, Williamsport, Md. 21795
- Online through the park Planning, Environment & Public Comment webpage at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/CanalHeadquarters>

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

- By mail for letters postmarked by April 26, 2019:
 - Attn: HQ Relocation Project
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100
Hagerstown, Md 21740

The NPS is also looking for historical information on the Williamsport section of the C&O Canal and the Miller Lumber site from the community including photographs, historical data or stories. This information will be used by the NPS and Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) to contribute to the documentation of the site and to plan for the headquarters.

www.nps.gov

***About the C&O Canal NHP:** Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park preserves and interprets the historical, natural and recreational resources of the C&O Canal. Over 5,000,000 visitors a year enjoy the opportunities for recreation and understanding that the park has to offer. For more information, visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/choh.*