

### History of the Canal at Great Falls

Time	mins	Topic	Notes
11:00	5-7	<u>Washington Aqueduct</u>	<p><i>Gather between Old Gatehouse and tavern</i></p> <p>The Washington Aqueduct was built between 1853 and 1864 by Capt. Montgomery C. Meigs. (He also built House and Senate wings of the Capitol building, later became the Quartermaster General during and after the civil war, and established Arlington cemetery.)</p> <p>Originally the aqueduct supplied water to Washington to put out fires, but around 1900 it was improved to supply potable water to the city.</p> <p>From the intake here water is sent to the Dalecarlia Reservoir and treatment plant.</p> <p>The platform next to the river is the current gatehouse, and provides an excellent viewing spot to look at the river and bald eagles.</p>
11:07	2-3	<u>Tavern/Crommelin House</u>	<p><i>Walk past the tavern</i></p> <p>The center part of building was built in 1829 as the lockhouse for the lockkeeper at lock 20. By 1831 it had been expanded to a tavern for tourists visiting from DC to see Great Falls. It was named for a Dutch investor in the Canal Company.</p>
11:10	5-10	<u>Canal</u>	<p><i>Walk to lock 20</i></p> <p>The canal was built between 1828 and 1850, and it was named "Chesapeake and Ohio" because it was supposed to go all the way to the Ohio River in Pittsburgh, PA.</p> <p>Coal was the primary cargo, traveling 184.5 miles from Cumberland, MD to Georgetown through 74 locks that raised the canal 605 ft.</p>
11:20	3-5	<u>Locks</u>	<p>These locks use a design invented in Milan, Italy by Leonardo Da Vinci.</p> <p>Point out gates, gate arms, lock keys, paddles, snubbing posts.</p> <p>Discuss the process of the lock (upstream to downstream): close downstream gates, open upstream paddles, fill with water, open upstream gate, pull boat into lock and snub, open downstream paddles, let water out, open downstream gates, let boat out downstream.</p>
11:25	5-10	<u>History of Park</u>	<p><i>Walk down tow path towards Olmsted Island</i></p> <p>Canal stopped running in 1924 because it was seriously damaged in a flood.</p> <p>In 1936 the B&amp;O R.R. company sold the canal to the Department of the Interior to pay off a debt. CCC workers repaired the first 22 miles of the canal (Georgetown to Violettes Lock) from 1938-1941 and started excursion boat rides at various locations along that stretch.</p> <p>There was talk of turning the canal into a parkway, but many people including Justice William O. Douglas thought it would serve better as a park. He challenged newspaper editors to walk the canal with him in 1954 to increase public awareness and support for the canal.</p> <p>In 1961 the canal became a National Monument.</p> <p>In 1971 it finally became a National Park.</p>
11:35	5-10	<u>Geology</u>	<p><i>Arrive at Olmsted Island and look at rocks</i></p> <p>What rock is this? This Metagraywake formed as sand and clay were deposited into the Iapetus ocean. They underwent heat and pressure which metamorphosed them into <b>metagraywake</b>. You can see another metamorphic rock on Olmsted Island called <b>schist</b> (it is shiny with mica).</p> <p><i>Walk to Great Falls Overlook</i></p> <p>Why are the falls here? During the last ice age the sea level lowered, which caused rivers along the east coast to erode deeper through the land. While the river easily cut through the softer rock of the Coastal Plain to the (east of here) the harder rock of the Piedmont Plateau (to the west) doesn't erode as easily, causing the falls.</p> <p>Potholes – formed when the river level was higher. Sediment swirls around small depressions, slowly eroding larger and large potholes, which have been exposed as the river has cut a deeper channel.</p>
11:45		<u>Closing</u>	<p>Thank you for coming today, enjoy the falls or join me on the walk back to the Visitor Center</p> <p><i>Walk back to Visitor Center</i></p>