

DC Area Plants



C&O Canal National
Historical Park



Georgetown
Heritage

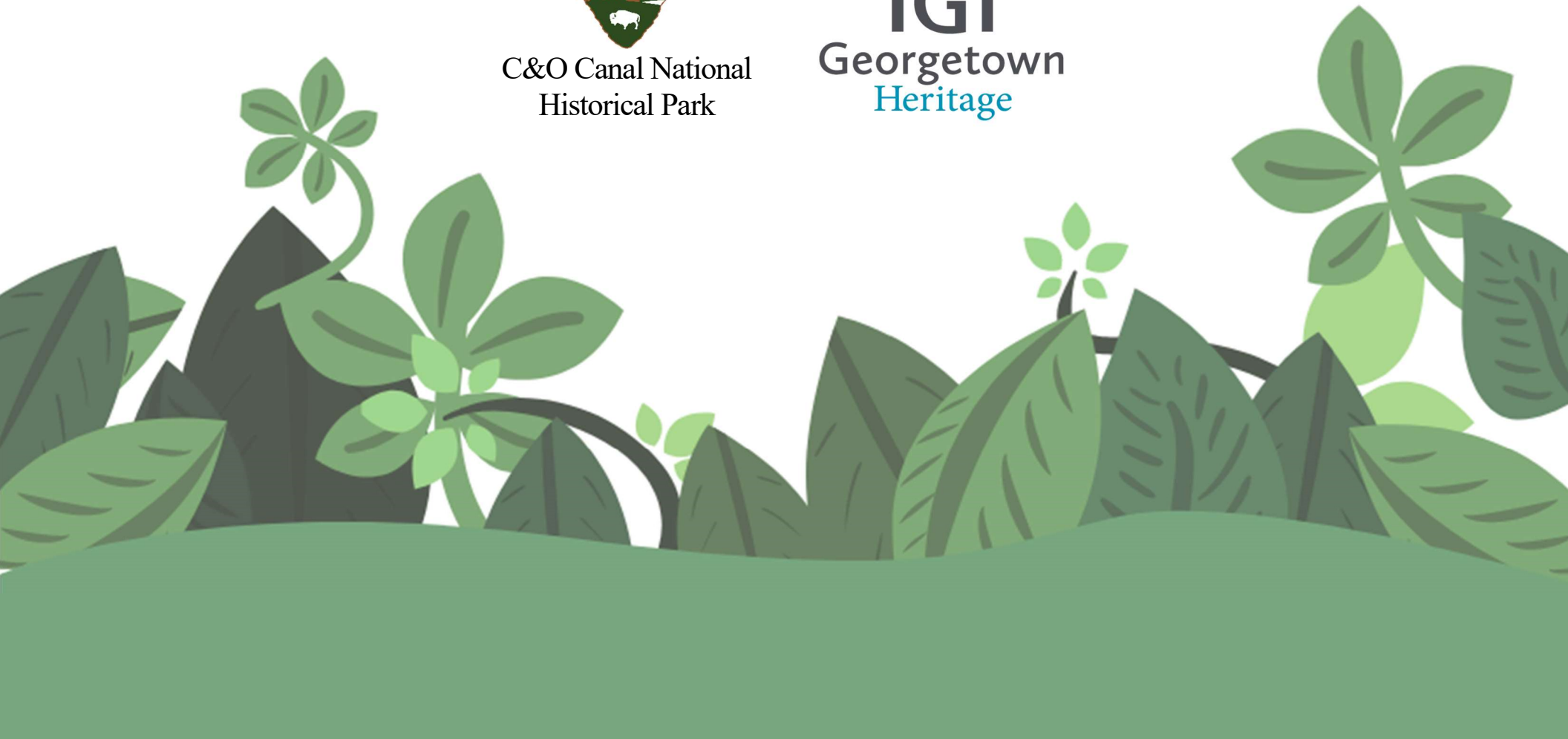


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Welcome to Your National Historical Park

Explore a diverse range of flowers, shrubs, and trees that call the 184.5 miles of the C&O Canal National Historical Park home! As you bike, hike, and enjoy the towpath, make sure to take the time to “smell the roses” and reflect on your beautiful natural surroundings.

Plan your visit – Keep this guide handy during your next outdoor adventure. Check out the C&O Canal [Plan Your Visit website](#) for important information prior to visiting the park. See the References and Resources section for more information and details about the nature you see.

Contents – This guide includes a sample of the various species of flowers, trees, and shrubs throughout DC. Although this is not a comprehensive field guide, it provides information on a variety of plants you may see in the park or in your neighborhood. The sections are organized by various locations along the C&O Canal with reference sections.

Acknowledgements and Special Thanks – This guide was created in collaboration with [Georgetown Heritage](#), the non-profit organization helping restore, revitalize, and interpret the mile-long section of the C&O Canal in Georgetown, Washington, DC. Pictures are public domain images and retrieved from Wikimedia Commons under the Creative Commons license.

Engage your senses – Look up, down, and all around you. Focus on a flower, tree, or plant you have never seen. What colors do you see? Observe the different parts of the plant. What are the size and shape differences among the various flowers and trees? What makes these plants unique?

Leave No Trace – Pack in, pack out! The C&O Canal is a trash free park. Trash should be packed up and taken out of the park. Learn more about [Leave No Trace](#) and how to [recreate responsibly](#) in your National Park.

Protect Your Park – Take a picture, not a plant! Please do not take pick any flowers, plants, leaves, or take home any part of nature from the Park. With your help, we can preserve your C&O Canal for generations to come.



Flowers Along the Towpath

When you walk the towpath of the C&O Canal, you can find a diverse range of plants and flowers. Some plants grow closer to the ground, others rise high, or hang around the trees. Try to spot some of these plants and flowers as you visit a new area of the towpath. Take a picture to remember your adventure! Take time to think about what you see around you. Use the questions below to reflect on your surroundings.

Look up, down, and all-around you! What colors, shapes, and textures do you see?



What insects or animals do you see around these plants?



How many different types of flowers and trees can you spot? Which plants are most in abundance?



What are the plants/flowers close to? Buildings? Water bodies? The towpath?



Spiderwort

Tradescantia virginiana
Near milepost 14



Bluets

Houstonia caerulea
Near milepost 11



Princess Tree

Paulownia tomentosa
Near Tidelock



Bulbous Buttercup

Ranunculus bulbosus
Near milepost 6



Virginia Waterleaf

Hydrophyllum virginianum
Near milepost 3



Native Pollinator Plants

Native plants are plants that naturally occur in a specific region, state, or habitat. Native plants are important to their local habitats and an important source of food for insects and animals.

Native pollinator plants attract a wide variety of pollinators including bees, butterflies, birds, moths, bats, beetles, flies, and more.

How do native pollinator plants help our environment?

The native plants you will see below all play an important role in nature. These special plants help attract pollinators needed for growing vegetable gardens and fruit trees, require little water to thrive, and reduce stormwater runoff. Native pollinator plants also help better air quality and boosts the variety of plant and animal species in our environment.

Use this guide to help identify native pollinator plants in your neighborhood, around your school, or at your local park. Research your local garden centers and see if they have some of these plants you can grow in your own garden!



Native Pollinators: Flowers

Swamp Milkweed

Asclepias incarnata



Common Milkweed

Asclepias syriaca



Yellow Wild

Baptisia tinctoria



Partridge Pea

Chamaecrista fasciculata



Showy Tick

Desmodium canadense



Three-nerved Joe-Pye Weed

Eupatorium dubium



Common Boneset
Eupatorium perfoliatum



Purple-node Joe-Pye Weed
Eupatorium purpureum



Giant Sunflower
Helianthus giganteus



Ox-eye Sunflower
Heliopsis helianthoides



Round-head Bush-Clover
Lespedeza capitata



Dense Blazing-star
Liatris spicata



Shaggy Blazing-star

Liatris graminifolia



Great Blue

Lobelia siphilitica



Wild Blue

Lupinus perennis



Wild Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa



Spotted Horsemint

Monarda punctata



Beardtongue

Penstemon digitalis



Bigleaf Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum muticum



Common Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum virginianum



Black-Eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta



Coneflower
Echinacea angustifolia



Canada Goldenrod
Solidago canadensis



Early Goldenrod
Solidago juncea



New England Aster

Symphyotrichum novae-angliae



Hairy Heath Aster

Symphyotrichum pilosum



Virginia Wild rye

Elymus virginicus



Blue Vervain

Verbena hastata



New York Ironweed

Vernonia noveboracensis



Golden Alexanders

Zizia aurea



Big Bluestem

Andropogon gerardii



Switch Grass

Panicum virgatum



Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium



Indian Grass

Sorghastrum nutans



Eastern Gamagrass

Tripsacum dactyloides



Canada Wild rye

Elymus canadensis



Native Pollinators: Trees and Shrubs

Red Maple
Acer rubrum



Black Cherry
Prunus serotina



Allegheny Serviceberry
Amelanchier laevis



Buttonbush
Cephalanthus occidentalis



Winterberry Holly
Ilex verticillate



Pawpaw
Asimina triloba



Virginia Sweetspire

Itea virginica



Flowering dogwood

Cornus florida



Silky dogwood

Cornus amomum



Redbud

Cercis Canadensis



Mountain Laurel

Kalima latifolia



Witch hazel

Hamamelis virginiana



Spicebush

Lindera benzoin



Arrowwood viburnum

Viburnum dentatum



Blackhaw viburnum

Viburnum prunifolium



Highbush Blueberry

Vaccinium corymbosum



2015 Superintendent's Compendium

[Click here](#) for a full copy of the C&O Canal National Historical Park 2015 Superintendent's Compendium, also found in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36, Chapter 1.7 (b).

In **Section 2.1(c)(1)** of the 2015 Superintendent's Compendium, it reads:

Edible fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption. Commercial use is prohibited. Removal of fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms cannot disturb the remainder of the plant. Possession of plant fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms are limited to the following quantities:

Fruit/Nut/Berry	Daily per Person Limit
Walnuts	1 Bushel
Hickory Nuts (sp.)	1 Bushel
Acorns (Oak sp.)	1 Bushel
Apples	1 Bushel
Cherries	½ Gallon
Blackberries	½ Gallon
Raspberries	½ Gallon
Dewberries	½ Gallon
Strawberries	½ Gallon
Huckleberry species	½ Gallon
Elderberries	½ Gallon
Wine berries	½ Gallon
Paw Paws	½ Gallon
Mushroom species	½ Gallon

Visit the C&O Canal National Historical Park website to [Plan Your Visit](#).



References and Resources

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park | [Wildflower Information Page](#)

To view more pictures and learn more information about wildflowers at the C&O Canal, make sure to visit the Wildflower Information Page on the Park website.

The C&O Canal Association | [Wildflower Guide](#)

This guide uses information from the C&O Canal's partner organization, the C&O Canal Association, resource document on wildflowers found along the Canal.

NPSpecies | [Species List](#)

Interested in learning *even more* about the plants found at the C&O Canal National Historical Park?! Click here to view the full species list provided by the National Park Service's Integrated Resource Management Applications ([IRMA](#)) Portal

DC.Gov | [Community Gardens](#)

Learn how to find a community garden near you! Find volunteer opportunities, planting resources, and links to local urban farms. Website includes community gardens organized by ward and contact information for getting involved.

Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) | [Native Plants](#)

What's a pollinator plant? Have you ever visited a community garden? Answer these questions and learn more about the native plants to the DC area from the DOEE website.

Wikimedia Commons | [Main page](#)

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