

# Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Project Scoping

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

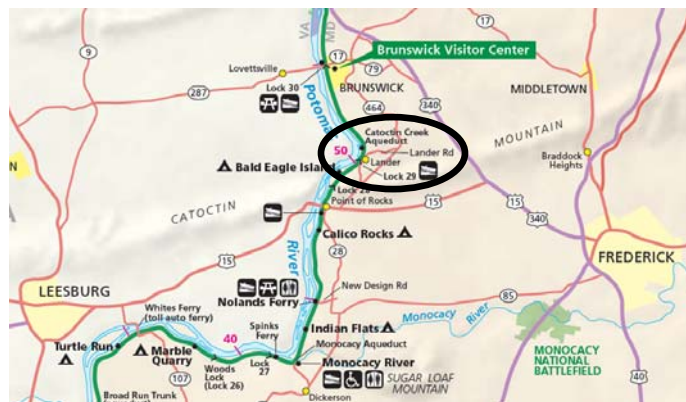


Draft October 23, 2006

## Environmental Assessment for Catoctin Aqueduct Restoration

The National Park Service, in partnership with Catoctin Aqueduct Restoration, Inc. and the Community Foundation of Frederick County, Inc., is proposing to restore the Catoctin Aqueduct. The partnership groups are conducting fundraising for this endeavor.

The historic Catoctin Aqueduct, which once carried waters of the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal over Catoctin Creek, is located at Milepost 51.5 of the C&O Canal National Historical Park in Frederick County, Maryland. The project proposes to restore the aqueduct to its original design and appearance, while providing a stable and sustainable structure. The National Park Service has initiated work on an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed project to the natural, cultural, and human environment.



Project location

## Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to preserve the historic Catoctin Aqueduct and to enhance the continuity of the C&O Canal towpath, the interpretive value of the Catoctin Aqueduct, and the understanding of the canal's history by park visitors. The action is needed because the Catoctin Aqueduct partially collapsed in 1973. Although the aqueduct ruins were stabilized in 1974 and 1975, they remain susceptible to further damage from flooding. A temporary metal bridge erected across Catoctin Creek currently allows towpath users, park maintenance vehicles, and emergency vehicles to cross the creek. However, this bridge detracts from the historic landscape and visitors crossing the bridge are not likely to fully notice and appreciate the historic aqueduct beneath. Consequently, opportunities to understand and appreciate the canal's history are being missed.



Catoctin Aqueduct (Jack E. Boucher, Photographer, April 1959)



Catoctin Aqueduct's remaining east arch and metal bridge above (2006)

## Resources and Impact Topics

Initial internal project scoping identified the following resources and impact topics for consideration in the EA:

- Geology
- Soil
- Surface Water
- Floodplains
- Vegetation
- Wetlands
- Wildlife and Aquatic Life
- Endangered and Threatened Species
- Archaeological Resources
- Cultural Landscape
- Architectural Resources
- Museum Collections
- Visitor Use and Experience
- Park Operations
- Public Safety
- Socioeconomic Environment

# Chesapeake and Ohio Canal

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### Alternatives

Initial internal project scoping and a feasibility study identified the following alternatives for consideration in the EA:

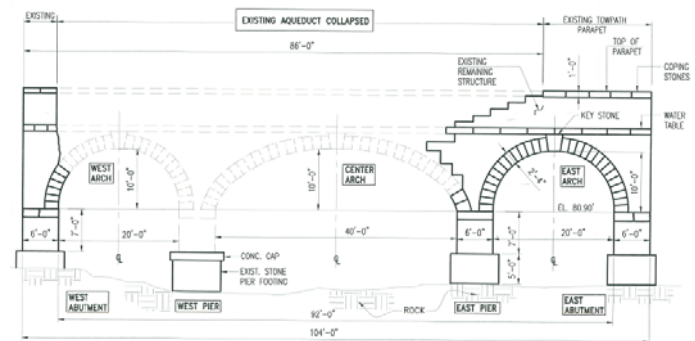
- A. No Action – Current maintenance would continue.
- B. Stone Masonry Arches – The aqueduct would be restored by reconstructing the center and west arches using stone masonry similar to the original construction. An internal, structural concrete saddle would be installed above both arches, which would increase the height of the aqueduct prism by one foot compared to the original structure.
- C. Reinforced Concrete Arches – The aqueduct would be restored by reconstructing the center and west arches using reinforced concrete in the original shape. The concrete arches would be faced on the sides with stones matching the extant span, while the undersides of the arches would be textured with a form-liner and stained to give the appearance of the original stone arches.

Stones that were salvaged following collapse of the Catoctin Aqueduct would be used to the extent feasible under both Alternatives B and C.

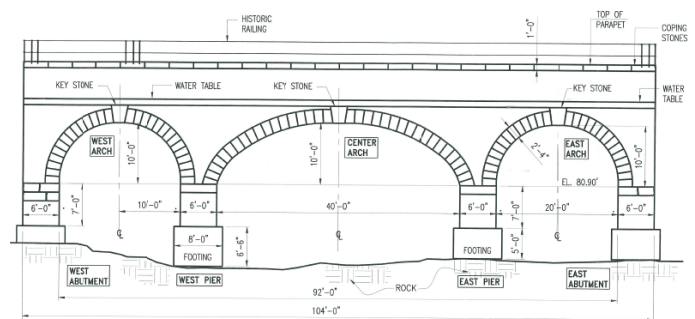
### Overview of the Process

Project milestones include:

- Feasibility study (completed May 4, 2006).
- Public scoping (closes November 30, 2006).
- Preparation of EA.
- Public review of EA.
- Analysis of public comment.
- Preparation of decision document.
- Announcement of decision on proposal.



Existing conditions (McMullan and Associates, Inc.)



Proposed conditions (McMullan and Associates, Inc.)

### Public Scoping Period

At this time, the Superintendent is announcing a 30-day public scoping period to solicit public comments on this proposal. During this scoping period, the public is invited to identify any issues or concerns they might have with the proposed project so that the National Park Service can appropriately consider them in the EA. You may submit comments electronically at the National Park Service's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov>) or submit written comments to:

Superintendent  
C&O Canal National Historical Park  
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Please submit your scoping comments by November 30, 2006. Once the EA is developed, it will be made available for public review for a 30-day period. If you wish to be added to the park's mailing list for this or other announcements, please be sure to indicate that in your response.