

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
P.O. Box 4
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782
301-739-4200

CANOEING ALONG THE CANAL

Canoeing in the Potomac River should be carried out only under the direct supervision of experience adult canoeists. Special attention should be given to the following hazardous areas of the Potomac River:

PPG Dam at North Branch, low water dam, extremely dangerous. Canoeists should put in at Spring Gap and avoid this portion of the river.

Dam 5 above Williamsport, MARKED, high dam, must portage either side. Mile 107

Power Company Dam at Williamsport, MARKED, portage site on West Virginia side. Mile 99

Dam 4, above Shepherdstown, MARKED, high dam, must portage on Maryland side, Mile 84.5

Dam 3, above Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, UNMARKED, low dam but easily identified. Mile 62.5

Canoeing is not recommended between Dam 3 and the US 340 bridge downstream of Sandy Hook. It is an extremely hazardous section of the river.

Dam 2 at Violet's Lock, low dam. Mile 22

Canoeing is not recommended or advisable between Great Falls and Chain Bridge which is an extremely hazardous area.

Canoeing along the slackwater behind each of the dams is slow and can be quite tiring.

Maps which would be helpful to the canoeist may be obtained from the US Geological Survey, 1200 South Eads St. Arlington, Virginia, 22202. The US Weather Bureau, 202-899-3210 provides a telephone tape message for those interested in river conditions in the lower Potomac Valley.

Natural areas possess hazards not normally encountered in your home surroundings. You are responsible for your family's safety.