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C&O Canal Restoration Project Begins in 2023; Boat Tours Estimated to Resume in 2025

Georgetown Heritage is partnering with the National Park Service to offer interpretive programming while the boat is in dry dock.

Washington, DC (October 3, 2022) – Don't miss the boat! There's only one month left to experience [Georgetown Heritage's](#) inaugural C&O Canal boat season before a Canal restoration project is underway in 2023. The project - made possible through funding and planning from the National Park Service (NPS) - will pave the way for Georgetown Heritage boat tours to resume, estimated in 2025.

The Georgetown section of the C&O Canal will be drained for an estimated 30 months to allow for a major restoration of Locks 1, 2, and 5, as well as critical valve and wall repairs. This will enable the Canal to continue to hold water and host the boat program for generations to come. NPS will host a virtual public meeting this Fall to share additional details about this work. [Visit their website](#) for meeting announcements, coming soon.

Georgetown Heritage welcomed a new Canal boat to Georgetown for the first time in nearly a decade in April 2022 - part of its multi-year restoration and revitalization efforts in partnership with NPS, the District of Columbia Government and the Georgetown Business Improvement District. Georgetown's 2022 C&O Canal boat season runs through October 30, with boat tours available several times throughout the day, Wednesday – Sunday. Tickets are available at georgetownheritage.org/boat.

“We've had an incredibly successful inaugural season for our new C&O Canal boat,” said S. Rex Carnegie, Director of Education and Partnerships for Georgetown Heritage. “Ridership was twice as high as projected, and the feedback has been wonderful.”

In addition to visitor accolades, the Canal boat has been featured in media outlets across the world over the past six months – most recently on *CBS Saturday Morning*, which reached more than 1.5 million viewers.

The inaugural boat season was designed with the restoration project in mind, as Georgetown Heritage took the first year to learn more about the vessel, test interpretive programs, develop operating procedures, and give visitors a first look at the new boat program.

Boat tours are estimated to return in 2025, and future Canal boat seasons will run annually from April – October. During the upcoming seasons, Georgetown Heritage will partner with NPS to host an

interpretive program while the boat is in dry dock near Lock 4 of the Canal – offering visitors a unique way to experience the boat.

Visit [georgetownheritage.org/boat](https://www.georgetownheritage.org/boat) to buy your 2022 boat tour tickets, and learn more about future dry dock programming and restoration work.

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About Georgetown Heritage

Georgetown Heritage is the nonprofit partner of the C&O Canal NHP in Georgetown, and was created by community leaders to partner with the National Park Service to restore, revitalize and reimagine the first mile of the C&O Canal NHP and other National Park assets in Georgetown. Learn more at www.georgetownheritage.org.