

MARYLAND



C&O Canal National Historical Park | Photo by Suzanne Matyas

The Great American Rail-Trail route across Maryland consists of two key trails: the towpath of the C&O Canal National Historical Park and the Great Allegheny Passage. The two trails meet in Cumberland, Maryland, creating a well-used connection between Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

TABLE 4: GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL MILEAGE IN MARYLAND

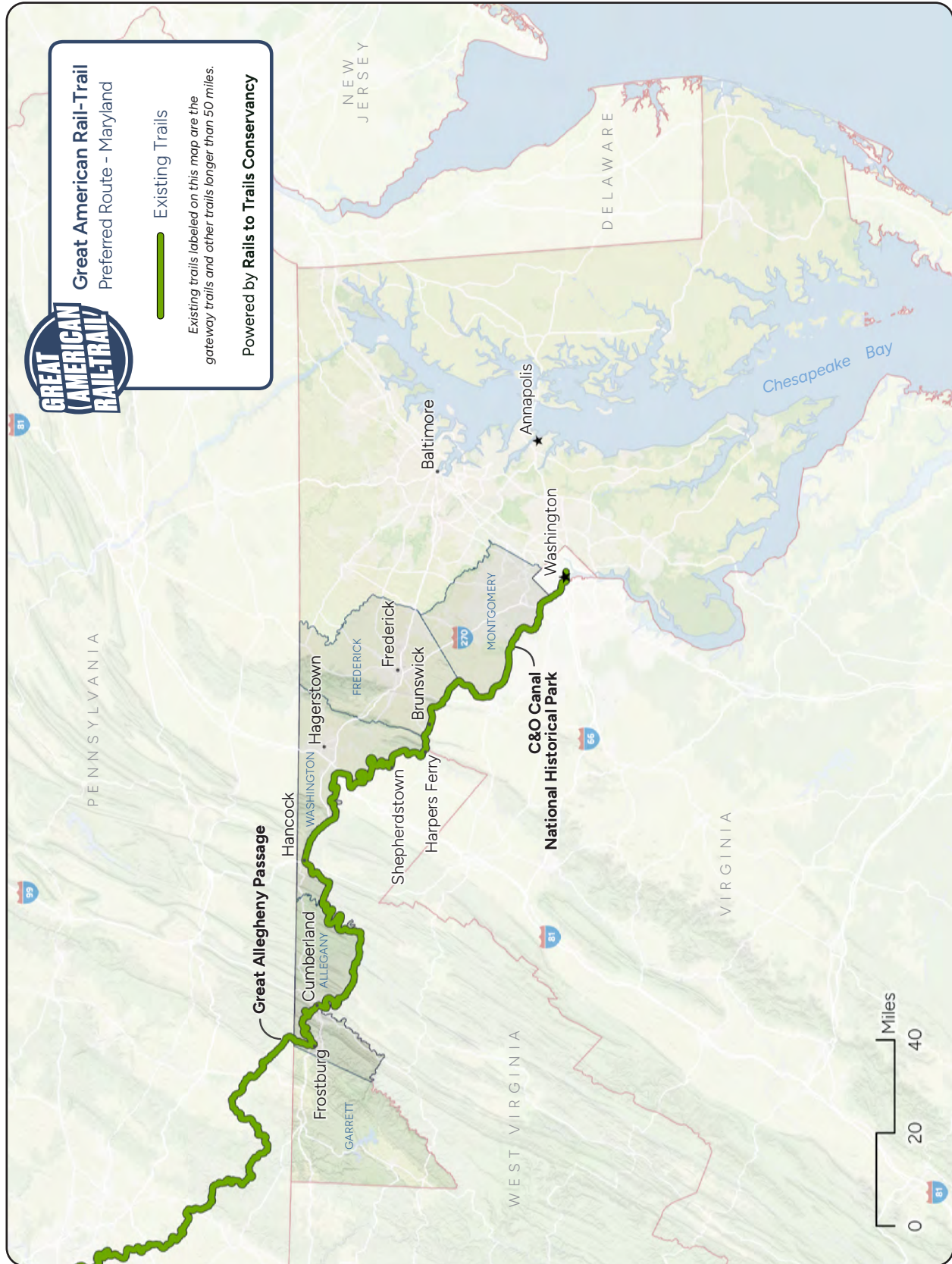
Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Md. (in Miles)	200.8 (100%)
Total Great American Rail-Trail Gap Miles in Md. (% of Total State Mileage)	0 (0%)
Total Trail Gaps in Md.	0
Total Great American Rail-Trail Miles in Md.	200.8

TABLE 5: GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE THROUGH MARYLAND

Existing Trail Name	Length in Md. Along Great American Rail-Trail (in Miles)
C&O Canal National Historical Park	180.3
Great Allegheny Passage	20.5
Total Miles	200.8
Existing Trail Miles	200.8
Trail Gap Miles	0.0

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT 2026

MAP 2: MARYLAND





Great Allegheny Passage | Photo by Paul Ericson

C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Md. (in Miles)	184.5 / 180.3
Surface Type	Crushed stone, dirt, gravel
Trail Manager	National Park Service
Website	• canaltrust.org • nps.gov/choh/index.htm
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/chesapeake--ohio-canal-national-historical-park

The C&O Canal National Historical Park, also known as the C&O Canal Towpath, follows the route of the Potomac River for 184.5 miles between Washington, D.C., and Cumberland, Maryland. The canal, which operated for more than 100 years, transported ships carrying various goods down the waterway to market. Today, visitors can still see the rich history of the canal through many of its original features, including locks, lockhouses and aqueducts. The towpath itself was historically used to assist ships as they floated down the canal. Now, the towpath is a well-used trail that sees more than 5 million visitors annually (compared to 1 million in 1996).

GREAT ALLEGHENY PASSAGE

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Md. (in Miles)	145.2 / 20.5
Surface Type	Asphalt, crushed stone
Trail Managers	Allegheny County, Great Allegheny Passage Conservancy, Mountain Maryland Trails
Website	gaptrail.org
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/great-allegheny-passage

The Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) is an iconic trail that runs nearly 150 miles from Cumberland, Maryland, to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The trail was built by a mix of private and public partners, nonprofit entities, and local trail groups and volunteers working in concert as the Great Allegheny Passage Conservancy. RTC selected the GAP for the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame in 2007.

Cumberland and Frostburg are the major towns along the Maryland portion of the GAP. For much of the 16 miles of trail between Cumberland and Frostburg, the trail parallels the active Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, making this the first rail-with-trail section of the Great American Rail-Trail. This section of the GAP itself was constructed on the former Western Maryland Railway, which began operations between Cumberland, Maryland, and Connellsville, Pennsylvania, in 1912.