The Valley Guide
Winter / Spring 2021 | January 1 - May 31

JOURNEY
Journey along the Cuyahoga River between Akron and Cleveland. Explore a canal that helped build a young nation. Walk along a variety of wooded trails.

CONNECT
Enjoy a place established to bring parks to the people. Find your link to nature and history. Connect with family and friends.

DISCOVER
Discover the stories of over 500 generations of people. Explore how nature thrives near cities. Find plants and animals that survive here.

RENEW
Become inspired by the efforts to restore and protect the land and waterways that make this national park what it is today. Seek personal healing and renewal.
A MESSAGE FROM ACTING SUPERINTENDENT LISA PETIT

As acting park superintendent I welcome you to Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP)! The park includes 33,000 acres nestled in the Cuyahoga River valley between Cleveland and Akron. CVNP offers open spaces, the beauty of nature, a place to play with family or friends, and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Visitors enjoy viewing wildlife, waterfalls, striking rock formations, farms, and historic sites.

For many, national parks are places to come for healing. During the past year, we have all experienced stress in our lives, particularly as we are still living through a global health crisis with COVID-19.

Throughout the pandemic, parks have remained an essential service to provide spaces where people could recreate safely and find mental respite from their everyday worries. Park visitation increased dramatically in CVNP and across the country as people recognized the importance of outdoor recreation for their physical and mental well-being. In the park, you can take a mental break and get your heart pumping while you’re having fun. The American Heart Association reminds us that the simple act of walking for as little as 30 minutes a day can reduce heart disease, lower the risk of obesity, enhance mental well-being, and much more.

National parks are also places to learn about and confront American history. We can reflect on choices made in the past and continue meaningful conversations about how to make a better future by sharing all of the stories that brought us here.

Congress created CVNP in 1974 as part of the federal Parks to People program, bringing national parks into population centers. Rather than being a place for a once-in-a-lifetime trip, CVNP is part of a diverse metropolitan community. We have been excited to see so many first-time visitors over the past year, and we continue to welcome people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and abilities. In fact, doing so is fundamental to the purpose of the park.

Once you come to CVNP for the first time, we hope you immediately start planning your next visit. This guide gives you suggestions of things to do and how to be safe while here. We ask you to be prepared, flexible, and kind to others and the environment as you make your way through CVNP.

I’ll see you in the park!

-Lisa Petit, January 2021

Park Alerts

Stay up to date on trail and road closures. Call the Closure Hotline for updates at 440-546-5960. Visit nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/conditions.htm as well as our Facebook and Twitter page for more information.

STATION ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE

The Station Road Bridge will be closed until March 26, 2021. Contractors will remove and replace the bridge deck and paint the iron structure.

There will be no access to the Towpath Trail from Station Road Bridge Trailhead for the duration of the project. The parking lot will remain open and the restrooms will remain available. Through traffic on the Towpath and river use may be intermittently affected.

Updates and photos are available at https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/preserving-the-station-road-bridge.htm

BRECKSVILLE DAM PROJECT

A screw pump will be designed and installed to manage the water level in a nearby section of the Ohio & Erie Canal. Updates and photos are available at https://www.nps.gov/cuva/learn/dam-removal.htm.

RIVER RENEWAL PROJECTS

CVNP is embarking on a number of large-scale restoration projects to improve the health of the watershed.

Keep an eye out for Olie the Otter! Any time you see him, it is a reminder that our River Renewal is underway.

For more information, visit nps.gov/cuva/river-renewal-underway.htm.
Planning Your Visit

EMERGENCIES
Call the Communication Center at 440-546-5945 or dial 911.

CLOSURES
For closure information please call 440-546-5960 or visit nps.gov/cuva. Notices will also be posted at trailheads and visitor centers.

PARKING LOT SAFETY
Keep all valuables at home or place them in your trunk before you arrive at the trailhead. Be aware of your surroundings and park in designated spaces only.

PETS
Leashed pets are allowed on all park trails, except the mountain bike trails. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and restrained at all times. Clean up after your pet.

BIKING
Biking is permitted on all roads. Many roads have narrow shoulders and fast-moving traffic. The Towpath Trail is a flat, crushed-limestone, multi-use trail. It is often congested. Ride cautiously, especially in congested areas and on bridges and boardwalks. There is a speed limit of 15 mph on the Towpath Trail. Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are allowed where traditional bikes are allowed, except for the mountain bike trails. E-bikes can only be used in pedal mode, no use of throttle is permitted. Wearing a helmet is recommended. The trail is most crowded from 10 am - 3 pm.

The Bike & Hike Trail is paved for its entire length and is managed by Summit Metro Parks.

The East Rim Trail System requires skill in mountain biking and appropriate safety equipment. The trail is closed in wet conditions. Check Twitter @CVNPmtb for trail information.

Mountain biking is also permitted on select trails within Bedford Reservation and Hampton Hills Metro Park.

CANOEING AND KAYAKING
Know the risks before paddling the Cuyahoga River. Details are at cuyahogariverwatertrail.org. The waterfall above the Lock 29 access is for experienced paddlers only. No tubing. Check conditions at ny.water.usgs.gov/maps/newcast. Gas-powered boats are not permitted on ponds and lakes. Alcohol is prohibited on the river and in the park. All boats must be registered, and life jackets must be worn.

BRANDYWINE FALLS
Do not climb Brandywine Falls, the rocks, or the railings. Accidents in this area have led to serious injury and death. For your safety, view the falls stay on the boardwalk and designated trails. Access to the top and bottom of the waterfall is prohibited. Stairs, sections of the boardwalk, and the lower viewing platform may close in hazardous or icy conditions.

ACCESSIBILITY
Boston Mill Visitor Center is fully accessible. Additional information about accessibility in the park is available online at https://www.nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm. If you need help planning your trip, email accessibility coordinator, Arraye Rosser, at cuva_access@nps.gov.

BOSTON MILL VISITOR CENTER
Start your visit at Boston Mill Visitor Center. Rangers are available every day from 10 am - 4 pm to answer your questions and help you plan your visit. "Hours and availability are subject to change due to COVID-19." Books about the park and souvenirs are available for sale. Some exhibits may be closed due to COVID-19. You may also call 440-717-3890 to speak with a ranger.

MORE INFORMATION
For more safety information visit www.nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/safety.htm and our social media.

WHAT TO WEAR
Winter in Cuyahoga Valley can fluctuate, with sunny and 40°F one day to 10°F and snowing the next. Dress in layers, with a wind-proof layer on the outside. Snowfall can occur with up to 19 inches in one month. Remember to bring hats, boots, and gloves or mittens. Hiking boots and sturdy, warm shoes are a must on trails. Waterproof boots are recommended for snowy conditions.

Spring brings many changes to Cuyahoga Valley. Temperatures can range from below freezing to 60°F or 70°F in April. May often brings summer-like temperatures. Rain and occasionally snow occur, and trails are muddy. If you're headed outdoors, bring a rain jacket and warm outer layer. In wet or humid conditions, a non-cotton layer against your skin will help keep moisture away. Hiking boots or sturdy shoes are a must, and waterproof footwear is also recommended.

WHAT TO BRING
Bring plenty of water when exploring the park. Some locations do not have drinking water available. Do not drink water from streams, rivers, or ponds. Although food is available in Boston and Peninsula areas, bring snacks if you are venturing away from those locations.

PROTECT YOURSELF
Winter can be a beautiful time of year to explore, but it has its risks. Always tell someone your destination and when to expect you back. Trails are often icy. Ticks and mosquitoes are common in the park after the ice melts. To protect yourself, carry and wear bug spray. In tick-prone areas, long grasses, fields), wear long pants tucked into socks to prevent the ticks from getting onto your skin. For more information visit nps.gov/cuva/tick-safety.htm.
Trails and Hiking

Over 125 miles of trails are available, passing through diverse scenery. Use the table below to find ones that match your abilities and interests. The Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is the most popular and may be congested during nice weather. The 90-mile trail extends to the north and south. A portion of Ohio's Buckeye Trail also passes through the park.

For a full list of trails visit [nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/hiking.htm](http://nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/hiking.htm)
For winter sports visit [www.nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/winter-sports.htm](http://www.nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/winter-sports.htm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL NAME</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>ELEVATION CHANGE &amp; SURFACE</th>
<th>INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Towpath (to Beaver Marsh)</td>
<td>0.25 miles</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>crushed limestone, wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Point Trail</td>
<td>0.5 miles</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>flat, unpaved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnace Run Loop</td>
<td>1.0 mile</td>
<td>180 feet</td>
<td>hilly, unpaved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Trail</td>
<td>1.0 mile</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>steps, unpaved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandywine Gorge Loop</td>
<td>1.4 miles</td>
<td>190 feet</td>
<td>steep hills, unpaved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Hill Trail</td>
<td>1.5 miles</td>
<td>50 feet</td>
<td>flat, unpaved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ledges Trail</td>
<td>2.2 miles</td>
<td>80 feet</td>
<td>steps, rocky, unpaved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Grove Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Country Trail</td>
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<td>Tree Farm Trail</td>
<td>2.75 miles</td>
<td>80 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanford Trail</td>
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<td>190 feet</td>
<td>steep hills, unpaved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Run Trail</td>
<td>3.25 miles</td>
<td>160 feet</td>
<td>steep hills, unpaved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston Run Trail</td>
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<td>80 feet</td>
<td>hilly, unpaved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plateau Trail</td>
<td>4.5 miles</td>
<td>200 feet</td>
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<td>Wetmore Trail</td>
<td>4.5 miles</td>
<td>250 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Towpath Trail</td>
<td>19.5 miles</td>
<td>135 feet</td>
<td>flat, crushed limestone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**INFORMATION KEY**

- Information Boards
- Waterfalls
- Restrooms
- Muddy Conditions Possible
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Popular, May Be Crowded

**LOCATION**

- 3801 Riverview Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 499 Truxell Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 2247 Everett Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 1000 Truxell Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 8176 Brandywine Road
  Sagamore Hills, OH 44067
- 3901 Oak Hill Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 405 Truxell Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 499 Truxell Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 1000 Truxell Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 2167 Major Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 6093 Stanford Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 5465 Quick Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 500 W Streetsboro Street
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 3901 Oak Hill Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264
- 4653 Wetmore Road
  Peninsula, OH 44264

**Scenery and Wildlife Watching**

**LEDGES**

This 2.2-mile hike takes you along striking sandstone cliffs. Visit the Ledges Overlook for a rare view across the valley. Accidents can be serious, so use caution. Climbing and jumping on rocks is prohibited. Please protect sensitive plants growing in this area. Ice Box Cave is permanently closed to protect roosting bats.

**TOWPATH TRAIL**

In the 1800s, mule teams walked this path towing boats along the Ohio & Erie Canal. Now it is popular with bicyclists, walkers, runners, and wheelchair-users. Bring a camera or binoculars for wildlife watching. Nine trailheads provide access to the 19.5 miles within the national park.

**BRANDYWINE FALLS**

This 60-foot waterfall is one of the park's main attractions. A short walk from the parking lot, the upper boardwalk is accessible for wheelchairs and strollers. You can hike the scenic gorge from this trailhead or from Stanford House. Parking is limited. Avoid midday crowds on warm weekends. Drinking water is not available here.

**BEAVER MARSH**

Throughout the year, the Beaver Marsh teems with life. Depending on the month, you may be serenaded by choirs of countless frogs, watch turtles swim among lily pads, glimpse a beaver nibbling on a willow branch, or hear northern cardinals call from snowy trees. The Beaver Marsh is among the most diverse natural communities in the park.
CVNP is part of the Ohio & Erie Canalway, a National Heritage Area. Congress designated the Canalway to help preserve and celebrate the rails, trails, landscapes, towns, and sites that grew up along the first 110 miles of the canal that helped Ohio and our nation grow. For more information and a listing of partner events, visit www.ohioanderiecanalway.com.

**PARK ADDRESSES**

Indoor locations may be closed due to COVID-19. For train updates, visit Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad at www.cvsr.org

- **Akron Northside Station**
  27 Ridge Street, Akron 44304

- **Big Bend Area / Station**
  1337 Merriman Road, Akron 44313

- **Boston Mill Visitor Center / Boston Mill Station**
  6947 Riverview Road, Peninsula, OH 44264

- **Botzum Trailhead / Station**
  2928 Riverview Road, Akron 44313

- **Brandywine Falls Trailhead**
  8176 Brandywine Road, Sagamore Hills 44067

- **Brecksville Station**
  Riverview Road at Chippewa Creek Drive, Brecksville 44141

- **Canal Exploration Center / Station**
  7104 Canal Road, Valley View 44125

- **Everett Covered Bridge**
  2700 Everett Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Happy Days Lodge**
  500 West Streetsboro Road (SR 303), Peninsula 44264

- **Hines Hill Conference Center / Barn**
  1403 West Hines Hill Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Horseshoe Pond**
  2167 Major Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Howe Meadow**
  4040 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Hunt House**
  2054 Bolane Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Indigo Lake Trailhead / Station**
  4300 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Ira Trailhead**
  3801 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Kendall Lake Shelter / Trailhead**
  1000 Truxell Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Ledges Shelter / Trailhead**
  405 Truxell Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Lock 29 Trailhead**
  1648 Mill Street, Peninsula 44264

- **NPS Park Headquarters**
  15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville 44141

- **Oak Hill Trailhead**
  3901 Oak Hill Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Octagon Shelter**
  499 Truxell Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Peninsula Depot**
  1630 Mill Street, Peninsula 44264

- **Pine Hollow Trailhead**
  5465 Quick Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Pine Lane Trailhead**
  1281 Pine Lane, Peninsula 44264

- **Red Lock Trailhead**
  1175 Highland Road, Sagamore Hills 44067

- **Rockside Station**
  7900 Old Rockside Road, Independence 44131

- **Station Road Bridge Trailhead**
  Riverview Road at Chippewa Creek Drive, Brecksville 44141

- **Stanford House / Trailhead**
  6093 Stanford Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Trail Mix Boston**
  1567 Boston Mills Road, Peninsula 44264

- **Trail Mix Peninsula**
  1660 West Mill Street, Peninsula 44264

- **Wetmore Trailhead**
  4653 Wetmore Road, Peninsula 44264
JUNIOR RANGER

Anyone who completes the Junior Ranger Handbook or the Junior Ranger, Jr. Activity Cards will earn a Junior Ranger badge. Both are available at Boston Mill Visitor Center.

For more activities and a virtual Junior Ranger badge, visit https://www.nps.gov/cuva/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm.

PLAYFIELDS, FISHING & WINTER SPORT LOCATIONS

PLAYFIELDS
CVNP does not have traditional playgrounds or sports fields, but there are open areas available. Playfields or open areas for play are located near visitor centers and shelters with restroom facilities. Buildings may be closed but restrooms will be open. Bring drinking water from home.

Open areas for play include:
• Boston, next to the Towpath
• Canal Exploration Center
• Hunt House
• Octagon Shelter
• Ledges Shelter
• Howe Meadow

FISHING
Look for this symbol on our park trail maps. Catch-and-release fishing is encouraged to help us maintain fish populations. There are over 65 species of fish in CVNP. Those age 16 and over must have an Ohio fishing license. Collecting live bait is not allowed. Please dispose of fishing lines, hooks, and leftover bait in a trashcan before leaving. Please read and follow the regulations posted on bulletin boards.

Places to fish include:
Goosefeather Pond
Horseshoe Pond
Indigo Lake
Kendall Lake
Sylvan and Meadowedge Ponds

For information visit: www.nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/fishing.htm.

SLEDDING
Sledding is available at Pine Hollow on Quick Road. Separate areas are designated for sleds and toboggans. Some areas are closed to sledding to prevent conflicts with cross-country ski trails.

SKIING
Cross country skiing is allowed on any trail. Downhill skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing are available at Boston Mills / Brandywine Ski Resorts. For more information visit www.bmbw.com.

CUYAHOGA VALLEY SCAVENGER HUNT

See if you can complete six of the following scavenger hunt challenges during your visit to the park. When finished, visit Boston Mill Visitor Center during operating hours and a ranger will reward you with a sticker!

For information visit: www.nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/fishing.htm.

You can find other fun activities on our website at www.nps.gov/cuva/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm

Take a photo with a National Park Service arrowhead
Where did you find this symbol?

Find a puddle
How can you make the water ripple?

Search for a tree with needles
What does the tree smell like?

Find a canal mile marker along the Towpath Trail
What number is on it?

Have a picnic or snack in the park
Who else was there?

Sit on a bench or rock and listen quietly
List all of the sounds you hear.

Go for a hike
Did you find any animal tracks along the trail? If so, from which animal(s)?

Find a wildflower or some moss
Draw a picture of it.
(Be sure to leave it to grow where you found it.)

Look for signs of animals eating
Describe what you found.

Look for birds
How many did you find? What color(s) were they?

Climb up a hill
What can you see from the top?

Find a cloud that looks like an animal
What animal does it resemble?
Our Partners

CONSERVANCY FOR CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park is the official friends group and philanthropic partner for CVNP. With a mission to enrich lives and our communities by inspiring use, appreciation and support of CVNP, the Conservancy raises funds for the park, co-manages the park’s volunteer program, provides venues for weddings and private events, operates park retail spaces and hosts public events. For more information and COVID-19 updates, please visit their website, listed on the right.

Countryside has worked to connect people, food, and land since 1999 as a nonprofit partner of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. They collaborate with CVNP and 10 Countryside Initiative farms within park boundaries to help preserve the rural landscape. They also facilitate farmers’ markets and educate the next generation of farmers. Many of the Countryside Initiative farms offer tours, farm-to-table dinners, and annual farm events. Countryside Farmers’ Markets accept SNAP benefits and offer Produce Perks, a $1-for-$1 match on all fruits and vegetables. For more information and COVID-19 updates, please visit their website, listed on the right.

Due to COVID-19, visit cvsr.org for train updates and information.
The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad runs through the heart of Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Special events include Day Out With Thomas™, The Polar Express™, Bike Aboard!, and Ales on Rails™. Whether you are looking for a family trip or a company outing, the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad has something for everyone. For more information, visit their website.

Invite a Ranger into the Classroom

DISTANCE LEARNING
Learn with us from wherever you are! Teachers can now invite a ranger virtually into their classroom to talk with students during a free distance learning program. We are here to support your classroom instruction and engage with your students in learning on a variety of topics.

DISTANCE LEARNING
Explore our offerings by visiting: www.nps.gov/cuva/learn/education/distance-learning.htm
**Places to Go**

*Be aware that parking lots will fill and indoor locations may be closed*

### Addresses for Drivers

1. **Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (Rockside Station)**
   - 7900 Old Rockside Road, Independence 44131
   - Parking lot can fill

2. **Canal Exploration Center**
   - 7104 Canal Road, Valley View 44125
   - Indoor location may be closed

3. **Bridal Veil Falls**
   - Gorge Parkway, Walton Hills 44146
   - Indoor location may be closed

4. **Brecksville Nature Center**
   - 9000 Chippewa Creek Drive, Brecksville 44141
   - Parking lot can fill
   - No water fountain

5. **Station Road Bridge**
   - Riverview Road and Chippewa Creek Drive, Brecksville 44141
   - Oversized vehicles park in overflow lot

6. **Brandywine Falls**
   - 8176 Brandywine Road, Sagamore Hills 44067
   - Parking lot can fill
   - No water fountain

7. **Boston Mill Visitor Center**
   - 6947 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264
   - Oversized vehicles park in overflow lot

8. **Blue Hen Falls**
   - 2001 Boston Mills Road, Brecksville 44141
   - Parking lots will fill
   - No water fountain

9. **Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (Peninsula Depot)**
   - 1630 Mill Street, Peninsula 44264
   - Oversized vehicles park in overflow lot

10. **Ledges**
    - 405 Truxell Road, Peninsula 44264

11. **Hunt House**
    - 2054 Bolanz Road, Peninsula 44264

12. **Everett Covered Bridge**
    - 2370 Everett Road, Peninsula 44264

13. **Beaver Marsh (Ira Trailhead)**
    - 3801 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264

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**Map Notes:**

- Suggested driving route
- Information
- Restrooms
- Wheelchair accessible
- Restaurants
- Waterfall
- Wildlife viewing
- Train station
- Oversized vehicle parking (day only)