

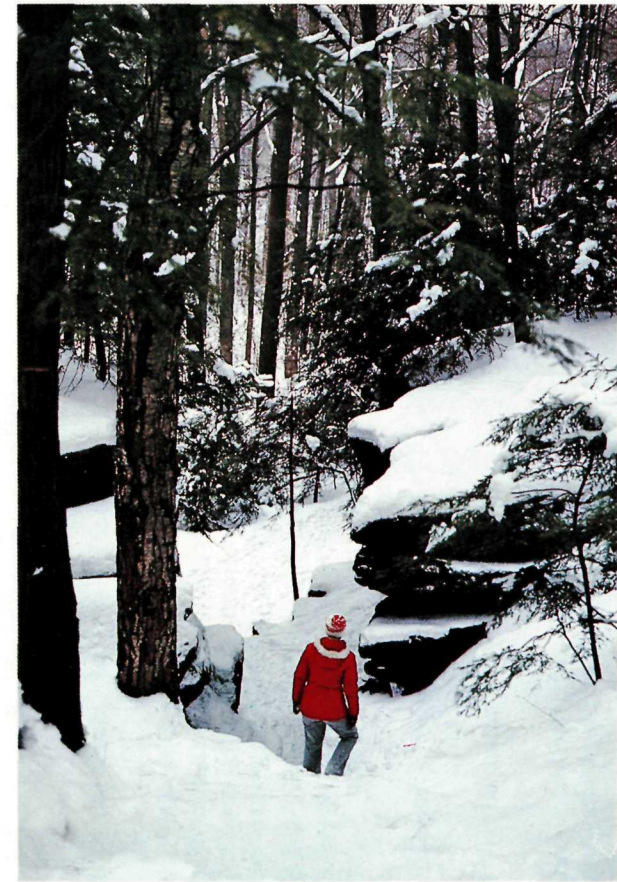
Explore the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area ~ in Ohio



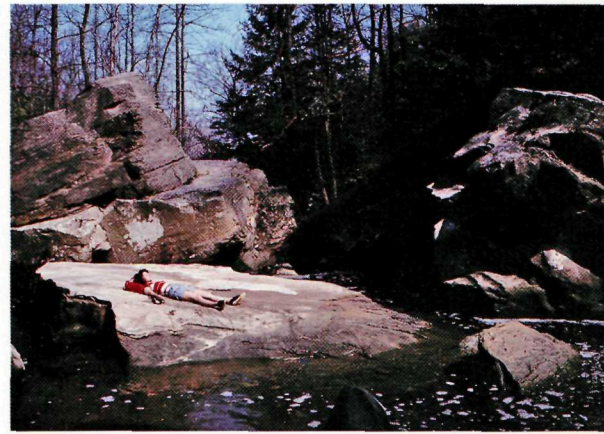
SEVEN PARKS ARE OPEN

The first operational unit of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area is Virginia Kendall Park. The transfer from administration by the Akron Metropolitan Parks to National Park Service is effective Jan. 1, 1978.

Of course, the distinctive attractions of this great tract will remain the same: The rock ledges carved by the glacier, the winding trails through the forests and over the rocks, the shelter houses and tables for picnicking, the wide-open playfields, the lake where youngsters may fish in the summer and toboggans slide down in the chill of winter.



Winter at the Ledges.



Spring sunshine in the gorge on Chippewa Creek, one of the numerous Cuyahoga River tributaries.

At the Happy Days shelter house on Route 303, the National Park Service is establishing its first information center for visitors.

When Captain Hayward H. Kendall died in 1929, his will gave the National Park Service first option to receive the 450 acres he owned in Boston township. The Park Service declined to accept this small block of land at that time and so it went to the state of Ohio which soon turned over operation to the Akron Metropolitan Parks. The state provided \$75,000 for an additional 800 acres in 1940 and Metropolitan Parks has added more from time to time to bring the total to the present 2,143 acres. Now it becomes a major unit of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

* * *

It is almost unbelievable that within a half hour's drive from busy downtown Cleveland are the great forests and deep ravines of Bedford and Brecksville Metroparks, encompassing 1,334 and 3,057 acres respectively.

Remaining under the management of Cleveland Metroparks for the indefinite future, they now have the additional protection of being within the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

Flowing through Metropark Bedford is Tinker's Creek, longest of the tributaries of the Cuyahoga. Its deep, rocky gorge was designated several years ago by the National Park Service as a National Natural Landmark. Besides hiking, biking and bridle trails and numerous picnic spots, Bedford also includes the attractive Shawnee Hills golf course, open to the public for a fee.

Across the river to the southwest lies beautiful Metropark Brecksville. Here, too, are hiking and bridle trails and plenty of picnic spots as well as the inviting Sleepy Hollow golf course. Brecksville has the Squire Rich House, a historical museum, and the Harriet L. Keeler trail for disabled persons, leading to the Trailside Interpretive Center. Chippewa Creek flows through a deep ravine in the park before it reaches the Cuyahoga.



Nineteenth Century farming methods, still in use at Hale Farm and Western Reserve Village, add to the character of the Cuyahoga Valley.

Nowhere are history and nature more closely intertwined in a relatively small space than in Deep Lock Quarry Park of Akron Metropolitan Parks, just south of Peninsula. From the parking lot off Riverview Rd., a pleasant trail leads through the woods to an old stone quarry and to the deepest of the locks on the Ohio and Erie Canal.

Huge building blocks of Berea sandstone were cut from the hillside here in the 19th century and hauled down to the canal on horse-drawn railway cars. Later, millstones were fashioned here. A few that may not have measured up to specifications are still seen scattered about.

The lock, well preserved but without its gates, has been marked by the Civil Engineers of Ohio with a plaque to commemorate the great engineering feat that was the construction of the canal.

Illustrating another era of transportation history, alongside this park runs the railroad which took away most of the canal's traffic in the late 19th century. During summer weekends a steam train runs through the valley on this track, carrying visitors back to an earlier day.

Three other units of Akron Metropolitan Parks, lying within the National Recreation area, are Furnace Run park, just south of the Ohio Turnpike in Richfield; Hampton Hills in Northampton township and O'Neil Woods in Bath township. Each has a hiking trail and picnic spots.

* * *

In addition to the public parks, there are two privately operated ski centers and a golf course, open to the public for fees. They are the Boston Mills Ski Center on Riverview Rd. and Brandywine Ski Center, off Highland Rd. and the Brandywine Golf Course on Akron-Peninsula Rd., just south of Peninsula.

TAKE A TRAIL TO SOMEWHERE

Near the entrance of each of the Metroparks within the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area is a signboard telling of the trails within the park. It shows the symbols that distinguish each trail and tells the approximate length.

Most of the trails are loops, bringing you back to the spot where you started. Each has been laid out by park naturalists and rangers to accentuate the special wonders of the park and to provide a variety of not-too-difficult walking.

Try Ice Box Trail in Virginia Kendall Park. Within a mile of the Ledges parking lot you'll be in a cool (frigid in Winter) overhang in the great rocks. West, across the valley, on Brush Rd. of Furnace Run Park is the Daffodil Trail. In the Spring, 20,000 planted flowers nod at you along the rim of a plateau edged with beech and dogwood trees. In Hampton Hills, a small stream is crossed two dozen times, by rustic bridge or stepping stones or just a child-sized hop.

Longest of the trails is that portion of the Buckeye Trail traversing the full length of the park. Extending from Lake Erie to the Ohio River, the Buckeye comes from the north through Bedford Reservation, down Sagamore Creek to the Cuyahoga River, thence mostly along the old towpath of the Ohio Canal to Bath Rd. on the south. It is marked with blue blazes on trees and utility poles and by its own insignia in portions within the Metro parks.

A good day's jaunt is the 13-mile Cuyahoga Trail, with its A markers, laid out by the Boy Scouts' Order of the Arrow. It loops from Camp Manatoc, through Camp Butler, down Route 303 through Peninsula, south on the canal towpath (also Buckeye Trail) to Johnnycake Lock, across the river on Bolanz Rd., north on Akron-Peninsula Rd. to Salt Run, through Virginia Kendall Park and back to Manatoc. One can start and finish at any convenient place on the circuit.

The eastern edge of the park has a hike-and-bike trail, also good for cross-country skiing. The flat riverside roads are often used by cyclists and joggers and antique cars. The hillside roads have so

little traffic that they are great for walking or horseback.

Wherever you explore, remember that private residences remain in the National Recreation Area. Respect them. Do not trespass on private property.



Trails, like these at Virginia Kendall, are found in all seven existing park areas within the national recreation area boundaries.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

The Indians agreed that the Cuyahoga valley should be "sacred ground" — a place where there should be no battles — because all needed access to the river and the trails.

Parkview Drive in Brecksville Metropark was once called Whiskey Lane because there were several distilleries nearby. In the early 1800's many farms had their own distilleries and whiskey was legal tender.

The towpath along the canal, trod by horses and mules pulling the boats, was always on the side between the canal and the river, so that hillside erosion would not block the path. Speed limit on the canal was four miles an hour.

Jim Brown, the valley's most famous counterfeiter, was also a justice of the peace. He is buried in Boston cemetery, near the canal, under a tiny headstone that bears only his name.

Locks on the canal, besides being numbered, had names such as Mudcatcher, Lonesome, Red, Pancake and Johnnycake. At Everett in 1828, a freshet in Furnace Run blocked the canal with silt. During a delay of several days, cornmeal was the only available food, so hungry passengers ate johnnycake, morning, noon and night, and thus dubbed the lock.

Another freshet, in May 1975, washed out Summit County's last remaining covered bridge. Earlier, it had been designated a National Landmark. Plans are underway to have it rebuilt for pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles by the summer of 1978.

A dam under the Route 82 bridge diverts water from the Cuyahoga River into the canal which carries it for nine miles to the steel mills in Cleveland. Three locks in the canal as it parallels Canal Rd. still have portions of their old wooden gates.

One of the highest points in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area is the lookout at the Ledges in Virginia Kendall Park. Here, from a point 1,000 feet above sea level and 300 feet above the river, is a view that extends for miles up and down the valley.



Headquarters for the National Park Service in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area is located at 501 W. Streetsboro Rd. (Ohio Route 303) two miles east of Peninsula and one mile west of Ohio Route 8. Mailing address: Box 158, Peninsula, Ohio 44264. Phone: (216) 653-9036.

Superintendent, William C. Birdsell

WELCOME to the CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Here in a gentle valley guarded by steep, wooded hillsides a new unit of the National Park System has been established by the Congress of the United States.

Over 30,000 acres along 22 miles of the Cuyahoga River between the major cities of Cleveland and Akron have been spared from the intrusions of urban sprawl.

Down through the center meanders the Cuyahoga River, named centuries ago by the Indians whose word for it was "ka-ih-ogh-ha," meaning "crooked." Paralleling the river are remnants of the historic Ohio and Erie Canal. Water for the steel mills of Cleveland still flows through several miles of the canal, passing over original 19th century spillways, through locks and an aqueduct.

Men and women of vision for many years have seen the Cuyahoga Valley as a green haven from the crowded nearby cities. With the help of generous benefactors, Metropolitan Park systems of both Cleveland and Akron have established seven parks in the area, ranging in size from 150 to more than 3,000 acres. Boy and Girl Scouts have established large camps in the woodlands. Hale Farm and Village has become a living museum. The Cleveland Orchestra came to the valley's rim to create the beautiful Blossom Music Center.

But commercial development and rapid population growth threatened additional thousands of unspoiled acres until, in December 1974, Congress acted to preserve the area for all time. In keeping with the policy of bringing parks closer to the people, the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area was authorized as the third urban national park. This came shortly after establishment of the Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City and New Jersey and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in and near San Francisco.

By late 1977, the National Park Service had made substantial progress toward planning for the management of the new park. Land acquisition was moving forward. But it will be several years before the Recreation Area is in full operation to serve visitors. Until the full scope of National Park Service operations are available, the public must use caution to avoid trespass on private lands.

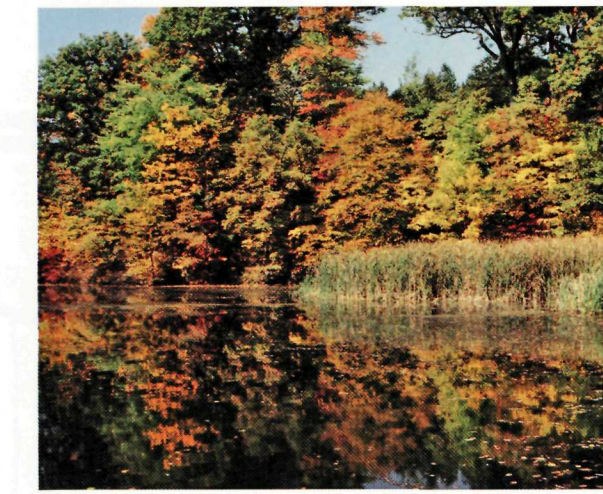
However, roads are open and Metroparks are open . . . the valley is here to be explored and enjoyed on each of the 365 days of the year! You can drive along the river or up on the highlands where the view stretches out for miles. You can hike or bike, ski or sled. You can play or picnic or bird-watch, enjoy classical or rock music at Blossom Center or turn back the pages of history along the canal or at Hale Farm.

Early in 1978, the National Park Service plans to establish an information center at Happy Days Camp of Virginia Kendall Park. This is on the south side of Route 303, a mile west of Route 8 and two miles east of Peninsula. Visitors may stop here for information as to available facilities.



Sixteen miles of Bike and Hike Trail follow an abandoned railroad bed along the eastern park boundary.

Cover Photo: An explorer's delight Near Ice Box Cave in the Ledges at Virginia Kendall



A LOOK AT THE PAST

The earliest maps drawn by French explorers who found the Great Lakes showed the Cuyahoga River. The Indians used it as a waterway from the cold of the north to the warmer waters of the south, with but a short portage or carrying place to the Tuscarawas which flowed on to the Muskingum and the Ohio.

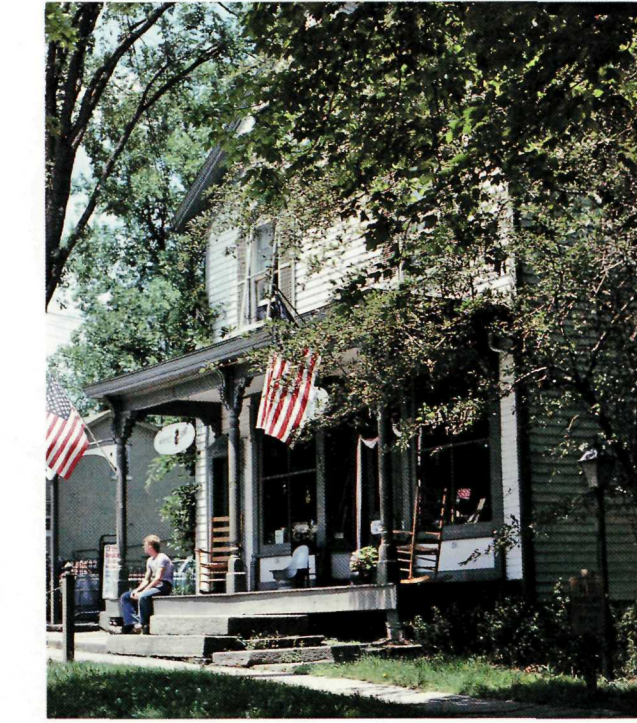
Many centuries earlier, other human beings lived in the Cuyahoga valley. Archeologists have found evidence here of the Adena and Hopewell cultures, commonly known as the Mound Builders. They inhabited this area from 300 B.C. to 600 A.D. and possibly later.

Long before there was human life in Ohio, great glaciers covered the land, scraping out the valley of the Cuyahoga and leaving their marks as they receded to the north.

In 1785 the newly formed United States government signed a treaty with the Indians establishing a western boundary for the new nation. This was along the Cuyahoga River from Lake Erie to what is now northwest Akron, thence over the portage and down the Tuscarawas River. The Indians were entitled, said the treaty, to retain a homeland west of the river.

So it was that when Moses Cleaveland came in 1796 to lay out township lines in the Western Reserve of Connecticut, he stayed on the east side of the river. In 1805, a new treaty pushed the Indians farther westward.

Settlers came in increasing numbers but found no market for their crops until 1827 when the Ohio and Erie Canal was opened through the valley from Cleveland to Akron. Villages sprang up at the locks where mills used the surging water and travelers were fed and entertained. Here, also, boats waited their turns to go through the narrow stairsteps or loaded and unloaded cargoes of grain, cheese, whisky, lumber and coal from interior Ohio and manufactured goods from the Eastern states and from Europe.



The Village of Peninsula's many canal era buildings provide an opportunity to travel back in time.



The Moccasin-flower (Pink Lady's-slipper), one of the many varieties of Spring wildflowers.

Whether one's interest in history is casual or profound, the Cuyahoga valley has many treasures.

Here may be found the mounds built by pre-historic peoples, the lookout points where the native Mingoes and Ottawas had their camps, the masonry of the old canal locks and the hard-packed trails of the old canal towpaths. Brick, stone and wooden homes of the earliest settlers are well preserved.

Countless legends of life in the valley are told. David Hudson, Jonathan Hale and others who gave their names to today's localities wrote of their weeks of arduous travel from Connecticut to "a land as fine as I have ever seen." Counterfeiter Jim Brown and the Mallett brothers of Moneyshop were chronicled by a sheriff who pursued them in canal days. Tales of apple-butter and maple syrup making are told by grandchildren. And sweet corn still grows on the floodplains where the Indians once cultivated it.

The National Park Service has been charged with the responsibility of protecting and preserving the natural and cultural resources of this historic setting. Here, we and generations to come will be able to better understand the events and customs that shaped our heritage.

The 30,000 acres are now to be preserved as an open book in which we can live history and enjoy nature as we walk and look and play.

FROM VISION TO REALITY

The concept that the whole Cuyahoga valley between Cleveland and Akron should be preserved as parkland was first voiced in 1925 when the Olmsted brothers, renowned landscape architects, made a survey for the newly established Metropolitan Park Board of Summit County. They said:

"The dominance of this topographic feature, and its great and impressive beauty, are certainly beyond question; and to save that scenery for all time for the benefit and enjoyment of the people — not only of Summit County but of communities much farther afield would be an accomplishment justifying unusual effort and worthy of great praise."

Both the Akron and Cleveland Metropolitan Park Districts moved to acquire land and establish parks. But financial resources were limited. Gifts provided more acreage than tax monies.

As part of its famed "Emerald Necklace," Cleveland Metroparks developed the large Bedford and Brecksville parks. The Akron system has operated Furnace Run, Deep Lock Quarry, Hampton Hills, O'Neil Woods and Virginia Kendall Park. The latter, mostly state-owned, is the first to be transferred to operation by the National Park Service, effective Jan. 1, 1978.

In all, some 10,000 acres of the 30,000 within the authorized boundaries of the National Recreation Area are already open and available as public parklands.

In 1968, a study for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources extolled the natural and historic values of the Cuyahoga valley and urged state participation in an extension of public parks.

But it was all too evident that commercial and residential developers might win the race against county and state park planners.

Thus it was that those desiring to preserve the Cuyahoga valley turned to the federal government for assistance. Introduced in Congress in 1971 by Rep. John F. Seiberling, the first bill calling for establishment of a Cuyahoga valley park languished and died. But in the 93rd Congress, a revised bill was given hearings in both Washington

and in the valley and was passed unanimously in both houses late in the session. President Ford signed the measure into Public Law 93-555 on December 27, 1974.

Given a mandate to develop this urban park, the National Park Service moved immediately to start the planning process. Congress authorized an expenditure of \$34.5 million over a five-year period. In October 1976, Congress added 908 acres to include the valley slopes adjoining the flood plain south of Rockside Rd., which is the park's northern boundary. Also added was an additional \$6 million authorization for land acquisition.



The National Park Service schedules special events such as "The People of 1776" and "Johnny Cake Village". Future programs will offer further glimpses of history.

PLANS FOR THE PARK

When the National Park Service undertook to make specific plans for the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area three major considerations were involved:

1 — The terms of Public Law 93-555, authorizing the park. The preface said that "in the management of the recreation area, the Secretary of the Interior shall utilize the resources in a manner which will preserve its scenic, natural and historic setting while providing for the recreational and educational needs of the visiting public." In 3,000 words, the act goes on to make provisions for land acquisition, development, administration and the establishment of a citizens' advisory commission.

2 — The laws, regulations and experience accumulated in more than 100 years of operation of national parks, monuments, historic sites and recreation areas.

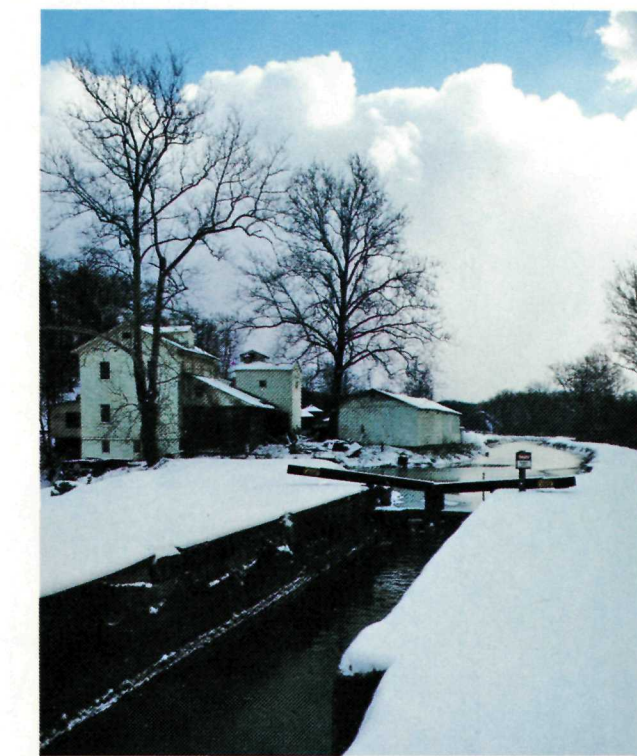
3 — The desires (sometimes conflicting) of residents of the area as well as many others interested in the park. To learn these views, a series of public meetings were held at four different stages of the planning process. Suggestions and opinions from thousands of persons were received, orally and in writing, and were carefully weighed.

The net result of all this was a general management plan which makes these statements:

"In recognition of the Cuyahoga valley's values within the regional milieu, planning for the park is based on the idea of open-space preservation rather than facility construction, of recreational settings rather than formalized developments . . .

"In a gradually deteriorating environment where fewer and fewer places allow us time and space to rediscover the beauty of nature, the peace of the countryside or the substance of the past, the need to protect landscapes that refresh the spirit and restore our perceptions has become one of the most basic requirements of recreational planning.

"The overall concept for management and development of Cuyahoga is that of resource preservation for compatible recreational use."



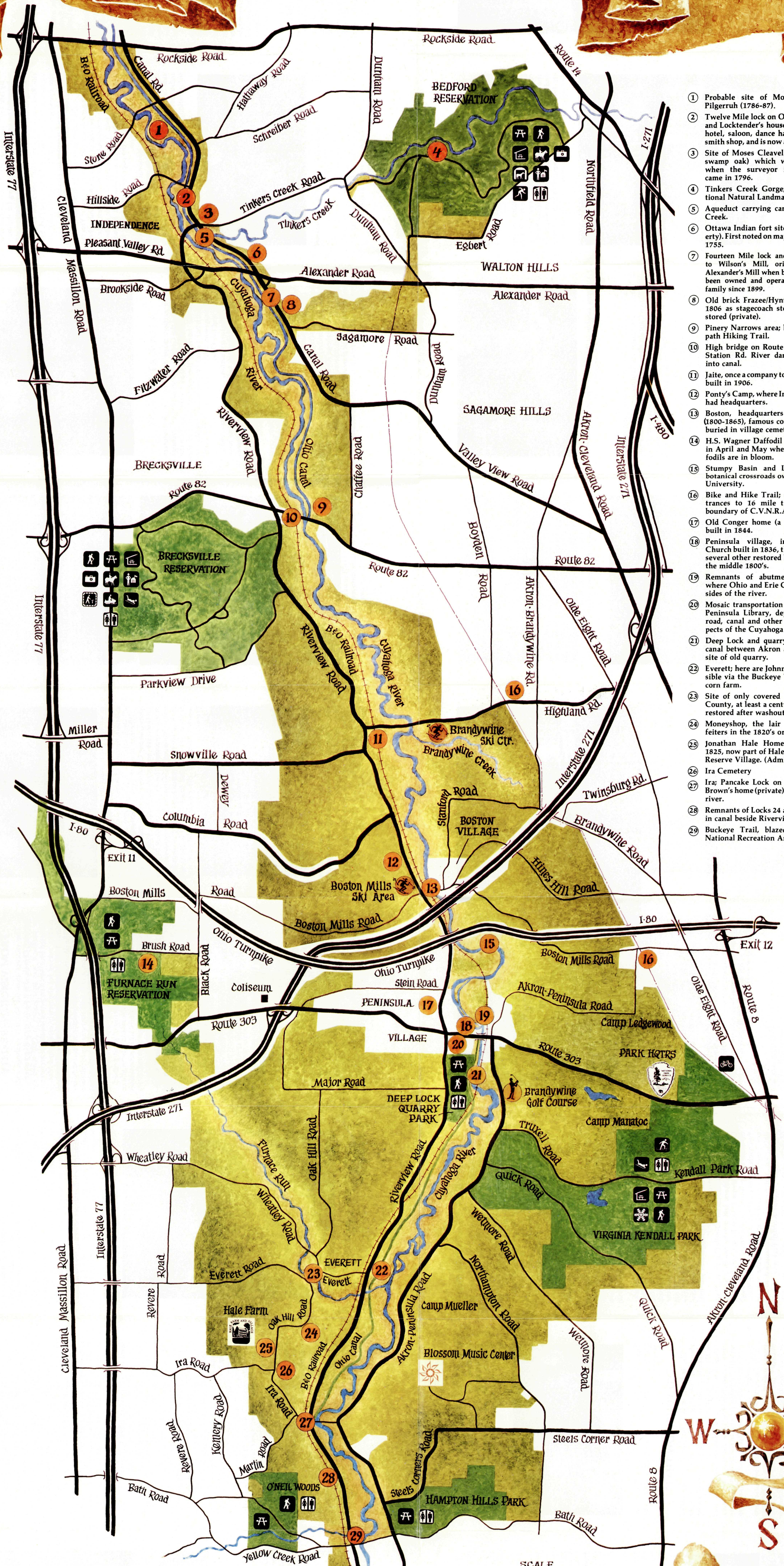
Grist Mills, using the ready source of water, sprang up along the Ohio and Erie Canal. The Wilson Mill, once called Alexander Mill, is located at Fourteen Mile Lock.

In summary, this is not a place for an amusement park or for organized sports. It is an open area where you can hike or bike, ski or skate, paddle a canoe on the river and, as water quality is restored, even fish or swim. You can study nature or simply relax and enjoy what you see. Many will drive through the quiet country roads as a contrast to the rush on the main highways. Always, there will be the aura of years-gone-by — an opportunity to have a link with the past. Truly, a place of recreation.

All this takes planning, to strike a proper balance between conservation and use. This is the aim of the National Park Service.

CUYAHOGA VALLEY

National Recreation Area



- ① Probable site of Moravian village of Pilgruh (1786-87).
- ② Twelve Mile lock on Ohio and Erie Canal and Locktender's house which has been a hotel, saloon, dance hall, grocery, blacksmith shop, and is now a private residence.
- ③ Site of Moses Cleaveland Tree (a white swamp oak) which was growing here when the surveyor from Connecticut came in 1796.
- ④ Tinkers Creek Gorge; a registered National Natural Landmark.
- ⑤ Aqueduct carrying canal across Tinkers Creek.
- ⑥ Ottawa Indian fort site (on private property). First noted on map by Lewis Evans in 1755.
- ⑦ Fourteen Mile lock and spillway adjacent to Wilson's Mill, originally known as Alexander's Mill when built about 1853, has been owned and operated by the Wilson family since 1899.
- ⑧ Old brick Frazee/Hynton house built in 1806 as stagecoach stop. Soon to be restored (private).
- ⑨ Pinery Narrows area; beginning of Towpath Hiking Trail.
- ⑩ High bridge on Route 82; low bridge on Station Rd. River dam diverting water into canal.
- ⑪ Jaite, once a company town for a paper mill built in 1906.
- ⑫ Ponty's Camp, where Indian Chief Pontiac had headquarters.
- ⑬ Boston, headquarters for Jim Brown (1800-1865), famous counterfeiter, who is buried in village cemetery.
- ⑭ H.S. Wagner Daffodil Trail; special treat in April and May when hundreds of daffodils are in bloom.
- ⑮ Stumpy Basin and Lonesome Lock, a botanical crossroads owned by Kent State University.
- ⑯ Bike and Hike Trail; one of several entrances to 16 mile trail along eastern boundary of C.V.N.R.A.
- ⑰ Old Conger home (a private residence); built in 1844.
- ⑱ Peninsula village, including Bronson Church built in 1836, the G.A.R. Hall, and several other restored buildings dating to the middle 1800's.
- ⑲ Remnants of abutments at Peninsula, where Ohio and Erie Canal once changed sides of the river.
- ⑳ Mosaic transportation mural on front of Peninsula Library, depicting river, railroad, canal and other transportation aspects of the Cuyahoga Valley.
- ㉑ Deep Lock and quarry; deepest lock on canal between Akron and Cleveland and site of old quarry.
- ㉒ Everett; here are Johnnycake Lock (accessible via the Buckeye Trail) and Szalay's corn farm.
- ㉓ Site of only covered bridge in Summit County, at least a century old. Soon to be restored after washout in May, 1975.
- ㉔ Moneyshop, the lair of early counterfeiter in the 1820's or 1830's.
- ㉕ Jonathan Hale Homestead built about 1825, now part of Hale Farm and Western Reserve Village. (Admission fee).
- ㉖ Ira Cemetery
- ㉗ Ira; Pancake Lock on the canal and Jim Brown's home (private) on knoll across the river.
- ㉘ Remnants of Locks 24 and 25 along filled-in canal beside Riverview Rd.
- ㉙ Buckeye Trail, blazed in blue, enters National Recreation Area.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RECREATION SYMBOLS

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| BIKE TRAIL | PICNIC | SKI TOURING |
| BRIDLE PATH | PICNIC SHELTER | SLEDDING |
| HIKING | RANGER STATION | SNOWMOBILE |
| ICE SKATING | RESTROOMS | STABLE |
| INTERP. TRAIL | SCENIC OVERLOOK | WINTER SPORTS |

SCALE
1 3/4 1/2 1/4 0 1 Mile

Text by James and Margot Jackson
Photos by Sheridan S. Steele
Map by Don Getz

