



Trail Management Plan

Public Scoping Brings 500 Ideas



NPS

The National Park Service kicked off its Trail Management Plan with Public Scoping Open Houses and opportunities for public input of ideas earlier this year. The public scoping involved outreach to 80 stakeholder groups, three public open houses, meetings with Cuyahoga Valley National Park staff and park partners, comments received from the NPS online comment website portal PEPC, and mail-in/email comments. The initial scoping generated nearly 500 ideas for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trails and its Trail Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Ideas focused on three primary issues; visitor experience, trail conditions, and management and support to sustain the trails for the future. Thanks to all who participated in the public scoping for the Trail Management Plan and all of the ideas brought forth to evaluate in the planning process. The NPS has developed draft goals (see page 2) and has begun work on developing initial concept alternatives for the Trail Management Plan, based upon the input provided in the public scoping process. The NPS will invite the public to provide input to these initial concepts in Summer, 2010, (see page 4). Stay tuned for an invitation and information pertaining to these opportunities.

The Purpose and Need of the Trail Management Plan

This Plan is needed as a strategic tool to guide the future course of trail management and development in Ohio's only National Park. The park's original 1985 plan is outdated and largely implemented. Regional trail networks have blossomed across Northeastern Ohio, increasing demands for additional trail connections, new trail uses and expanded recreational opportunities. The broad purpose of the TMP is to identify management objectives and strategies to guide the development, protection, management, operations and use of the trail system within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park over the next 15 years to meet new challenges and opportunities.

Public Scoping Issues Identified

Visitor Experience

- New uses and users
- User conflicts/safety
- Trail facilities
- Trail signage
- Experiences for variety of user skills and abilities.
- Connections
- Program integration/
Emerging technologies

Trail Conditions

- Address erosion/drainage impacts
- Water quality
- Protect the resources.

Trail Management & Support

- Trail management/funding
- Regional trail plans
- Maintenance
- Established network of trail volunteers
- Sustainable design

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Mission

To preserve and protect for public use and enjoyment the historic, scenic, natural, and recreational values of the Cuyahoga River Valley and to maintain the open space necessary to the urban environment.

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

Thanks to all who provided input during the public scoping period of the Trail Management Plan. The ideas generated during this period reflected the wide variety of users as well as an appreciation of the trail system as a significant recreational resource for Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the region.

The public scoping was the first public participation phase of the process and successfully captured various ideas and concerns from you the user. We look forward to your continued involvement this coming summer when we ask for your thoughts on initial concept alternatives for the trails in the park. In the meantime we hope that you visit the park and explore the many trail experiences Cuyahoga Valley has to offer.

Paul Stoehr
Acting Superintendent

Trail Management Plan Partners

The Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service is a partner in the public engagement process and development of the Trail Management Plan.

Cleveland Metroparks & Metroparks, Serving Summit County
Cuyahoga Valley National Park has established an agreement with the Cleveland Metroparks and Metroparks, Serving Summit County to serve as administrative partners for the Trail Management Planning Process for their park units within Cuyahoga Valley National Park boundaries.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association
The Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association mission is to engage public support for the park and enhance public use and enjoyment of the park.



Trail Management Plan Draft Goals

Goals for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Management Plan have been established. These goals, in draft, will be the basis to guide the planning process and evaluate alternatives of the trail plan and environmental impact statement. The NPS will continue to work with its Interdisciplinary Team to develop objectives under each goal.

Goal 1:

Provide a trail network that creates a high quality visitor experience for a variety of trail users.

Goal 2:

Provide trail experiences that share the historic, scenic, natural and recreational significance of the park while maintaining their preservation.

Goal 3:

Provide a trail network within the Park that minimizes impact to the park's historic, scenic, natural and recreational resources.

Goal 4:

Provide a trail network that can be sustained.

Goal 5:

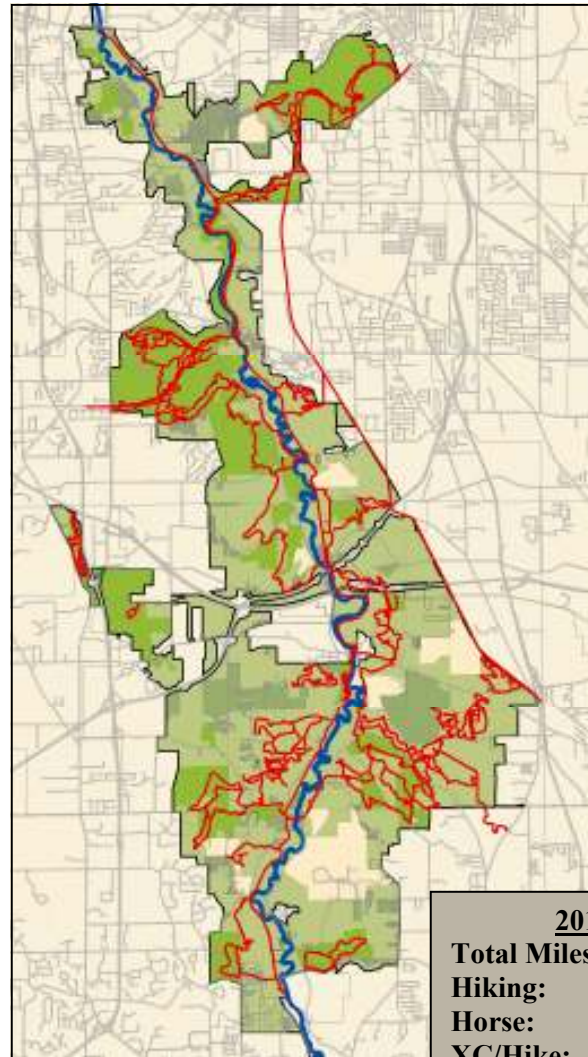
Encourage cooperative partnerships with volunteer organizations, adjacent landowners, local communities, and other government agencies.



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Growth of Cuyahoga Valley Trails Since 1985

Prior to the 1985 Trail Management Plan, there were an estimated 105 miles of trails, which were mostly within both Metroparks areas that lie within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park boundary. Today, an estimated 184 miles of trails exist within the park boundary as a result of the implementation of many of the recommendations of the 1985 Trail Plan. To view the 1985 plan, go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/> and click Cuyahoga Valley National Park, then Trail Management Plan and go to Document List.



<u>1985</u>	
Total Miles:	105
Hiking:	51
Horse:	38
XC/Hike:	7
Multi-Use:	9

<u>2010</u>	
Total Miles:	184
Hiking:	72
Horse:	48
XC/Hike:	18
Multi-Use:	46

Trail Volunteers = 10,000

Trail Volunteers are a cornerstone of the maintenance, improvements and safety of the trails in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Among the numerous stewards and volunteers that help keep Cuyahoga Valley's trails great, five primary volunteer groups lead the charge; Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council, Adopt-A-Trail, Trail Blazers, Ohio Horseman's Council and the Buckeye Trail Council. In 2009, according to Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association's Volunteer Center, these groups collectively provided 10,000 volunteer hours towards the trails. Maintaining and strengthening these volunteer efforts will be critical to the implementation of the Trail Management Plan. We look forward to continue to work with these groups on keeping Cuyahoga Valley Trails great for everyone.

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Trail News & Updates

Trail Management Plan Future Workshops

Public participation in the planning process is an integral piece of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. The National Park Service will be coordinating a future workshop to share conceptual alternatives. It is anticipated the workshop will be held in the Summer, 2010. Stay tuned for future information in the coming months for these workshops. We look forward to your participation.

Trail Plan Volunteers Wanted

As the National Park Service begins to explore trails to assemble alternatives for the Trail Management Plan, the Trail Planner will be field verifying many of these areas. If you are interested in joining the Trail Planner on these field visits, please contact Lynn Garrity, (see contact information on this page). They will likely occur on Thursdays or Fridays during the daytime hours, weather permitting. Having trail users, in this instance literally, as a part of every step of the process, continues the great tradition of Cuyahoga Valley National Park citizen involvement which this park was established upon.