



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

For Immediate Release – Tuesday, September 14, 2010

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Public Invited to Comment on Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Management Plan Workbook and Attend Trail Management Plan Draft Alternatives Meetings

Brecksville, Ohio - The National Park Service invites the public to participate and provide comments on the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Management Plan Draft Alternatives. Six draft alternatives have been developed for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park's Trail Management Plan. These alternatives may be considered for evaluation. These initial alternatives are organized to reflect the input from public scoping. Each alternative reflects a trail experience theme for the park visitor. A brief description of each alternative is provided.

Draft Alternative 1: No Action. The Park would continue trail management, authorized uses, and facilities under current park policies, protocols, and monitoring.

Draft Alternative 2. Groundworks. Focus is aimed towards restoration through realignment, relocation, removal, and improvements to the existing trail system utilizing the Sustainable Trail Standards as the tool for guidance.

Draft Alternative 3. Exploring the Towpath Corridor. The Park's current visitor centers serve as the central core to new trail opportunities with focus on new, short, accessible loops and limited connections between the Towpath Trail and the Hike and Bike Trail.

Draft Alternative 4. Discovering Valley Places. While the Towpath is the signature feature of Cuyahoga Valley, this alternative introduces the visitor to areas off the main spine while remaining easily accessible. The focus is on new, medium distance trails in new places, and introduction of mountain bike trails on shared use trails and water trail access areas.

Draft Alternative 5. Cuyahoga Trail Adventures. This alternative provides a culmination of experiences to the visitor no matter their ability. The focus is on linking the internal Cuyahoga Valley trail network and introducing new uses including single use mountain bike trails, paddle and canoe access sites, and trailside campsites.

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Draft Alternative 6. Connecting Cuyahoga. The Park's trail system serves as a foundation to establish and expand the regional human-powered transportation system for Northeast Ohio and its communities. Community partnerships are the cornerstone of this alternative to improve roadways for designated bike lanes, establish new trails to adjacent neighborhoods, and identify broader connection to Park communities and beyond.

The National Park Service has prepared a Trail Management Plan Workbook to provide a progress report of the planning process to date and introduction of the Draft Alternatives.

The public is invited to review and download the Trail Management Plan Workbook online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cuyahogatrailplan> or attend one of the informational public meetings. We encourage the public to review the workbook thoroughly and provide their comments online.

Informational public meetings will be held at Happy Days Lodge on Wednesday, September 22, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Thursday, September 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; and Sunday, September 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The meetings are an opportunity to hear a brief presentation of the Draft Alternatives and a progress report of the Trail Management Plan at each hour, view maps of the Draft Alternatives, and ask questions. Comment forms will be available at all public meetings.

All comments are due by **Saturday, October 30, 2010.**

Happy Days Lodge is located at 500 West Streetsboro Road (Route 303), in Peninsula, Ohio 44264.

National Park Service's Trail Management Plan Park Partners include: Cleveland Metroparks; Metro Parks, Serving Summit County; Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service; and Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association.

For additional information, please contact Lynn Garrity, Trail Planner at (440) 343-4803.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information visit www.nps.gov/cuva/ or www.dayinthevalley.com or call (330) 657-2752 or (800) 445-9667.

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