

## **Chapter 5. Consultation and Coordination**

A Notice of Intent was published in September, 2009 in the Federal Register to announce the preparation of the Trail Management Plan and EIS. Since this initial notice of the Plan public involvement and coordination has occurred throughout the planning process

### **5.1 Public Involvement**

Public involvement has been an ongoing piece of the planning process. Activities have included public meetings, public comment periods, and distribution of newsletters to keep all stakeholders informed. In addition, the Park Planning website (PEPC), all materials for review were made available on the Trail Plan website for viewing. Appendix A outlines a full history of public scoping activities that occurred.

#### **5.1.1 Stakeholder Groups**

Over 60 stakeholder groups were identified with specific interest and/or expertise in trails in the Park. These stakeholders were invited to participate in a survey in Fall 2009 to identify initial strengths, challenges, and opportunities related to the trails in the park. The Stakeholder Groups continued to be invited and involved throughout the plan process through public meetings.

Primary Stakeholder Groups included:

- Local municipalities, and county governments
- Trail user groups
- Local outdoor recreation businesses
- Adjacent compatible institutional land owners.
- Conservation non-profit organizations.

A full list of stakeholder groups is provided in Appendix A.

#### **5.1.2 Public Scoping**

An extensive public scoping period occurred to involve the public in developing the components of the Plan. Three public workshops were held in February, 2010 to invite the public to share their ideas of what they would like to see for the trails in the Park and how to improve them. The Park received approximately 500 comments and had approximately 127 persons attend the workshops. A second set of public meetings were held in September, 2010 to invite the public to provide comment to conceptual alternative ideas. The Park received approximately 200 comments and had approximately 148 attend the three meetings.

#### **5.1.3 Draft EIS**

This section will provide a summary of the results of the public review and comment period of the Draft EIS. This will be written upon results of Draft Plan Distribution.

## 5.2 Public Agencies Consulted During the Planning Process

In addition to the stakeholder groups and general public involvement, public agencies were consulted. A list of agencies is provided in Appendix A. Cultural resource compliance for this project as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, has been initiated and will be part of the Draft Plan review process. Additionally, an initial consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was received in 2011 and will continue as required in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. Documentation of compliance will be included in a section, Responses to Comments, in the Final EIS.

## 5.3 Responses to Comments Received

This section will be prepared as part of the Final EIS Document.

## 5.4 Preparers and Contributors

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The Cleveland Metroparks assembled members of its management team for review and interim meetings regarding the Trail Plan.

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Summit Metro Parks, Serving Summit County assembled members of its management team for review and an interim meeting regarding the Trail Plan.

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### **5.5.2 Commonly Used Acronyms**

AOC – Area of Concern

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

CMP – Cleveland Metroparks

CVNP – Cuyahoga Valley National Park

DOI – Department of Interior

EA – Environmental Assessment

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement

ESA – Endangered Species Act

EO – Executive Order

GIS – Geographic Information Systems

GMP – General Management Plan

IJC – International Joint Commission

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

MPSSC – Metroparks, Serving Summit County

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

NPS – National Park Service

NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service

NRI- Nationwide Rivers Inventory

ODNR – Ohio Department of Natural Resources

OEPA – Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

SUP – Special Use Permit

USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USFS – United States Forest Service



### 5.5.3 Glossary

*Action alternative:* Any alternative that is not the “no action” alternative.

*Affected environment:* Existing conditions that are subject to direct and indirect changes as a result of actions described in the alternatives under consideration.

*Alternative transportation:* Transportation by bus, rail or any other publicly or privately owned conveyance that provides to the public a general or special service on a regular basis, including non-motorized transportation systems. [http://publiclands.volpe.dot.gov/usfs-alternative-transportation/docs/TRIP\\_Overview.pdf](http://publiclands.volpe.dot.gov/usfs-alternative-transportation/docs/TRIP_Overview.pdf)

*Bike lane:* A portion of a roadway which has been designated by striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

*Canoe livery:* a private or public operation of providing transportation service for canoe and kayak users to launching sites along a river system.

*Carrying Capacity:* The type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource and visitor experience conditions in the park.

*Compliance :* in accordance with established policies, laws and regulations.

*Cultural Landscape :* A geographic (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein) associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

*Easement:* A right, as a right of way, afforded to a person or other entity to make limited use of another’s real property.

*Environmental Assessment:* A planning tool administered by the Council of Environmental Quality to assist in planning and decisionmaking. It also can provide analysis for determining whether prepare an EIS or FONSI (Findings of no significant impacts), aid an agency’s compliance with NEPA when no EIS is necessary, and facilitate preparation of an EIS, if one is necessary,

*Fee Simple/title:* Absolute ownership of real property with unrestricted rights of disposition.

*Human Environment:* The natural and physical environment, and the relationship of people with the environment.

*Interpretive hiking trail:* short distance trails that are designed for visitors of all abilities with the focus on interpreting park resources and features.

*Life Estate:* The owners of improved property acquired in fee by the park are entitled to retain the use and occupancy of the improvement along with a designated portion of land necessary to enjoy the improvement of life. Upon death of all owners, the improved property will be turned over to the park.

**List of Classified Structures (LCS):** An inventory of all historic and prehistoric structures having historical, architectural, or engineering significance in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. Structures may include buildings, monuments, dams, canals, bridges, fences, roads, mounds, structural ruins, or outdoor sculptures. Typical LCS structures are over 50 years in age and are listed or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Loop trail:** A trail that provides a continuous loop that returns back to the entry point of the trail.

**Memorandum of Understanding:** A type of short-term agreement documenting mutual assistance relationships where no funds are obligated.

**Mitigation:** An activity designed to avoid, minimize, rectify, eliminate or compensate for impacts of a proposed project. A mitigation measure should be a solution to an identified environmental problem.

**Mountain bike trail:** A natural surface trail designed and designated for cross-country non-motorized mountain bike use.

**Multi-use trails:** Pathways that serve several types of users including bicyclists and hikers.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** The law which requires detailed and documented environmental analysis of proposed federal actions that may affect the quality of the human environment.

**National Heritage Corridor:** A national designation intended to help local entities protect and use historic, cultural, and recreational resources for community benefits while raising regional and national awareness of their unique importance.

**National Register of Historic Places :** The comprehensive list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of national, regional, state, and local significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture kept by the NPS under the authority of the National

**Open Space :** An area that affords unobstructed passage or views. These areas are typically open fields, meadows, mowed lawns, or agricultural lands.

**Other Power Driven Personal mobility devices:** Any mobility device powered by batteries, fuel, or other engines, whether or not designed primarily for use by individuals with mobility disabilities, that is used by individuals with mobility disabilities for the purpose of locomotion, including golf cars, electronic personal assistance mobility devices (EPAMD's), such as Segway PT, or any mobility device designed to operate in areas without defined pedestrian routes, but that is not a wheelchair defined as a manually operated or power-driven device.

**Paddle launch sites :** designated access areas along a river system where kayak and canoe users can access the river for recreational use.

**Point to Point trail :** A trail that starts in one location and ends in a different location. Users would utilize the same trail for their return to their original starting point of trail access.

*Primitive* : For the purpose of this plan, areas in the park that have limited access to trail facilities and contains less developed forested areas of the park.

*Restoration (natural)*: Work conducted to remove impacts to natural resources and restore natural processes, and to return a site to natural conditions.

*Revegetation* : Replacement or augmentation of native plants in an area that had been previously disturbed or currently does not hold vegetation.

*Retention* : The owners of improved property acquired in fee by the park are entitled by the park are entitled to retain the use and occupancy of the improvement along with a designated portion of land necessary to enjoy the improvement. The period of a retained interest is typically for a fixed term up to 25 years. Upon expiration of this term, the improved property is turned over to the park.

*Riverside campsite* : a campsite that is accessible from the river for canoe and kayak users.

*Scenic Byway*: A national and/or state designation of a road or highway that offers an enjoyable and relaxing experience for travelers and possesses scenic, historic, cultural, natural, archeological, and recreational resources.

*Scoping*: An information collection process by which all relevant issues and concerns, as well as alternatives to a proposed federal action are collected. This process includes the review of all relevant planning and management documents, consultation and discussion with interested agencies and organizations, and public input.

*Social trails*: An informal, non-designated trail.

*Special Use Permit*: A type of short-term agreement. CVNP uses these permits for trail or facility events in the Park.

*Stewardship*: The responsibility of caring for the park.

*Trail acre* : an area of land where a trail corridor would exist. Trail acre is the linear feet of trail multiplied by its width and divided by 43560 (square feet of one acre)

*Trailside campsite* : A campsite that is accessible only by trail users including hikers, runners , equestrians, and bike users.

*Trail network*: a variety of trails that connect to each other within the park boundary.

*Water trail*: recreational routes with a network of public access points connecting people, places, and communities to the waterways that provide high quality outdoor recreational opportunities.

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## Appendix A: Summary of Scoping and Public Participation

### A. Formal Public Scoping Activities.

The following scoping activities related to the Trail Management Plan and EIS have occurred.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| September, 2009 | <b>Environmental Impact Statement process begins.</b> NPS initiates Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) through Notice of Intent in Federal Register.   |
| September, 2009 | <b>Stakeholder Letters.</b> Scoping letters with requesting input on issues and ideas for the EIS are mailed to approximately 60 agencies, governmental entities and organizations.  |
| January, 2010   | <b>Newsletter 1</b> is distributed to stakeholders, media and interested individuals. Provides information on public scoping process and scheduled workshops.  |
| February, 2010  | <b>Public Scoping Meetings.</b> Three meetings in an Open House format were held at the Happy Days Lodge, Peninsula, Ohio. The Open House format provided a brief presentation on the planning process and invited to the public to provide ideas at Topic Stations in the meeting facility. Press coverage included an article in the Akron Beacon Journal and Cleveland Plain Dealer. Approximately 150 people attended the meetings. Ideas were also accepted through Plan's PEPC website and in letter format. |
| April, 2010     | <b>Newsletter 2</b> is distributed to stakeholders, media and interested individuals. An email list is assembled from public scoping participants and interested parties for distribution. The newsletter provides a summary of the issues and ideas generated during the public scoping meetings.   |
| September, 2010 | <b>Trail Management Plan Workbook.</b> An interim Workbook introducing initial conceptual Alternatives based upon public scoping input. Workbook is provided to general public through the PEPC project website and printed copies. Press release and distribution of notice of availability for public comment occurred.  |
| September, 2010 | <b>Conceptual Alternatives Public Meetings.</b> Three public meetings were conducted at Happy Days Lodge to invite the public to learn about the Conceptual Alternatives developed. Approximately 122 people attended the meetings. Comments were received by written correspondence or through the PEPC project website.  |
| January, 2011   | <b>Public Scoping Period Closed.</b> Public input was accepted until January, 2011.  |
| May, 2011       | <b>Newsletter 3</b> is distributed to stakeholders, media and interested individuals by mail, direct email distribution and available on the project's PEPC website. Information is provided on input received during public scoping and review of Conceptual Alternatives.  |
| October, 2011   | <b>Newsletter 4</b> is distributed to stakeholders, media and interested individuals by mail, direct email distribution and available on the project's PEPC website. Provided an update on the status of the Planning process and updated schedule for Draft Plan.   |

## **B. Groups Contacted During Public Scoping Activities**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Akron Metroparks Hiking Club                  | Friends of Crooked River                    |
| Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study  | Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio               |
| American Whitewater                           | (Camp LedgeWood)                            |
| Appalachian Outfitters                        | Green City Blue Lake Institute              |
| Army Corps of Engineers                       | Greenwood Village Community Association     |
| Bath Township                                 | Greater Akron Audubon Society               |
| Blossom Music Center                          | Inn at Brandywine Falls                     |
| Boston Mills/Brandywine Ski Resorts           | International Mountain Bike Association     |
| Boston Township                               | Keelhaulers Canoe Club                      |
| Botzum Farm                                   | Kent State University                       |
| Blimp City Bikes                              | Medina Horseman's Council                   |
| Buckeye Trail Association                     | Metro Parks, Serving Summit County          |
| Camp Manatoc, Boy Scouts of America           | Miami Tribe of Oklahoma                     |
| Carriage Trade Farm                           | National Parks Conservation Association     |
| Century Cycles                                | NPS- Water Resources Division               |
| City of Akron                                 | Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency |
| City of Bedford                               | Northeast Ohio Hiking Club                  |
| City of Brecksville                           | Northfield Center Township                  |
| City of Cleveland                             | Ohio and Erie Canal Corridor Coalition      |
| City of Cuyahoga Falls                        | Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition            |
| City of Fairlawn                              | Ohio Canal Corridor                         |
| City of Hudson                                | Ohio Department of Agriculture              |
| City of Independence                          | Ohio Department of Natural Resources        |
| City of Valley View                           | Ohio EPA                                    |
| Cleveland Area Mountain Bike Association      | Ohio Historical Society                     |
| Cleveland Audubon                             | Ohio Horseman's Council                     |
| Cleveland Hiking Club                         | Old Trail School                            |
| Cleveland Metroparks                          | Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma                    |
| Cleveland Museum of Natural History           | Phyllis Wheatley Association                |
| Cleveland Sight Center                        | Public Employees for Environmental          |
| Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park | Responsibility                              |
| Cornell University                            | Rails to Trails Conservancy                 |
| County of Cuyahoga                            | Richfield Township                          |
| County of Summit                              | Sagamore Hills Township                     |
| Crown Point Ecology Center                    | Second Sole                                 |
| Cuyahoga Ohio Horseman's Council              | Seneca Nation                               |
| Cuyahoga River RAP (CRCPO)                    | Seneca –Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma            |
| Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District   | Sierra Club – Portage Trail Group           |
| Cuyahoga Valley Communities Council           | Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma                   |
| Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy       | Spicy Lamb Farm                             |
| Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council                | Summit Athletic Running Club                |
| Cuyahoga Valley Adopt-A-Trail                 | Summit Soil & Water Conservation Group      |
| Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma            | The Nature Conservancy                      |
| Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma             | Tri-County Independent Living               |
| Echo Hills Neighborhood Association           | U.S. EPA                                    |

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
United Disability Services  
U.S. Senator Portman  
U.S. Senator Brown  
U.S. Representative Marcia Fudge  
U.S. Representative Dennis Kucinich  
U.S. Representative Steve LaTourette  
U.S. Representative Jim Renacci  
U.S. Representative Tim Ryan  
U.S. Representative Betty Sutton  
Vertical Runner  
Village of Boston Heights  
Village of Peninsula  
Village of Richfield  
Village of Walton Hills  
West Creek Preservation Committee  
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
Western Reserve Land Conservancy  
Western Reserve Historical Society  
Western Reserve Resource Conservation and  
Development



## **Appendix B. Resource Issues Identified During Public Scoping**

### **Resource Issues**

Erosion and drainage problems are a recurring issues on some trails.  
Current trails bisect seasonal or recurring sensitive habitat areas.  
Consider trail design standards that minimize resource impacts.  
Invasive plant proliferation on disturbed sites exist in the Park.  
Existing trails are located in floodplains and wetland areas.

### **Visitor Use Uses**

User conflicts between user types and level of experience are a recurring issue on particular trails.  
New uses, including designated mountain bike trails and water trails are suggested.  
Trail connections within and outside of park are limited both off road and on-road.  
Accessibility and degrees of trail user experience level do not meet wide variety of current trail users.  
Non-designated social trails are being use by visitors and unauthorized recreation users in the Park.  
Develop policies and trail designs for multi-use on existing or new trails.  
Trail user etiquette and multi-use education has diminished and needs to be enhanced.  
Disperse trail use to less congested trails.  
Existing trails loops are limited in distance.  
Existing trails are limited in standards of difficulty.  
Some trails in the 1985 Trail Plan have not been implemented.

### **Facilities Use Issues**

Parking in high use areas is inadequate.  
Larger horse trailer parking needs are unmet in high use areas.  
Trail support uses including camping, picnic areas and horse posts, are desired.  
Signage and visitor information could be enhanced to assist the trail user.  
Support facilities for water trail are desired such as portage paths, boat launches or canoe livery for river access and operation.  
Expanded trail head facilities for trail user needs.

### **Maintenance Issues**

Current NPS staffing and operating budget cannot fulfill existing trail maintenance.  
Trail and trail support facilities infrastructure continues to age.  
Bridge infrastructure on some park trails is deteriorating.

### **Administrative Issues**

Trail information to visitors is not adequate.  
Utilize and expand existing trail stewardship partners.  
Utilize new technology to inform trail users and provide interaction of trail conditions.  
Expand the opportunities for trail network to enhance economic vitality of the region and local communities.  
Current trail improvement projects are backlogged for funding.  
Annual and recurring maintenance is inhibited due to workload of park maintenance and park budget limitations.

## **Appendix C. Sustainable Trail Guidelines.**

(see separate attachment: Sustainable Trail Guidelines)