

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Ohio

July 2022

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



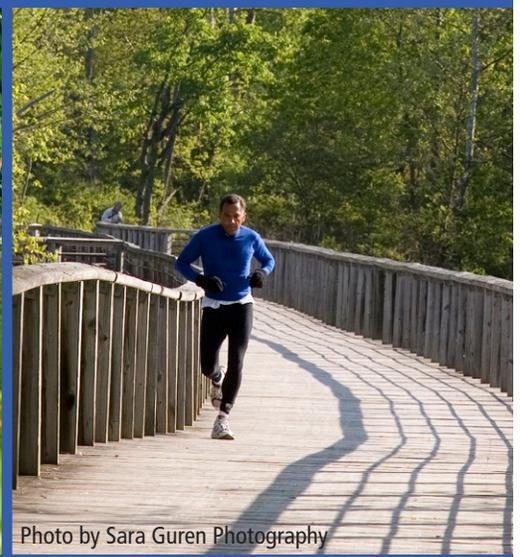
Community Access Plan | Summer 2022 Newsletter

Introduction

The National Park Service invites your thoughtful review of the draft Community Access Plan for Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). This newsletter provides background on the park, the plan, and draft strategies. The National Park Service wants your help in reviewing the draft strategies that may affect your experience of the park.

About Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Cuyahoga Valley National Park was established as a National Recreation Area in 1974, then designated as a National Park in 2000. The park protects 33,000 acres of river valley, upland forests, and rich cultural history between Cleveland and Akron, and within the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area. It serves more than 2.5 million diverse local, regional, national, and international visitors every year.



Why is the plan needed?

The plan is needed to identify actions to improve opportunities and address challenges related to visiting Cuyahoga Valley National Park. It includes strategies that protect and preserve key resources that contribute to the purpose and significance of this national park.

The plan examines options to:

- provide new and more relevant guidance to manage changing CVNP visitation
- provide a range of recreational opportunities in a variety of settings to reduce congestion and user conflicts
- improve wayfinding, circulation, and visitor information
- address impacts on natural and cultural resources
- intentionally plan for river access
- address changing demographics and audience needs

The Purpose of the Park

Cuyahoga Valley National Park preserves and protects for public use and enjoyment the historic, scenic, natural, and recreational values of the Cuyahoga River and its valley. It maintains necessary recreational open space in connection with the urban environment and provides for the recreational and educational needs of the visiting public.



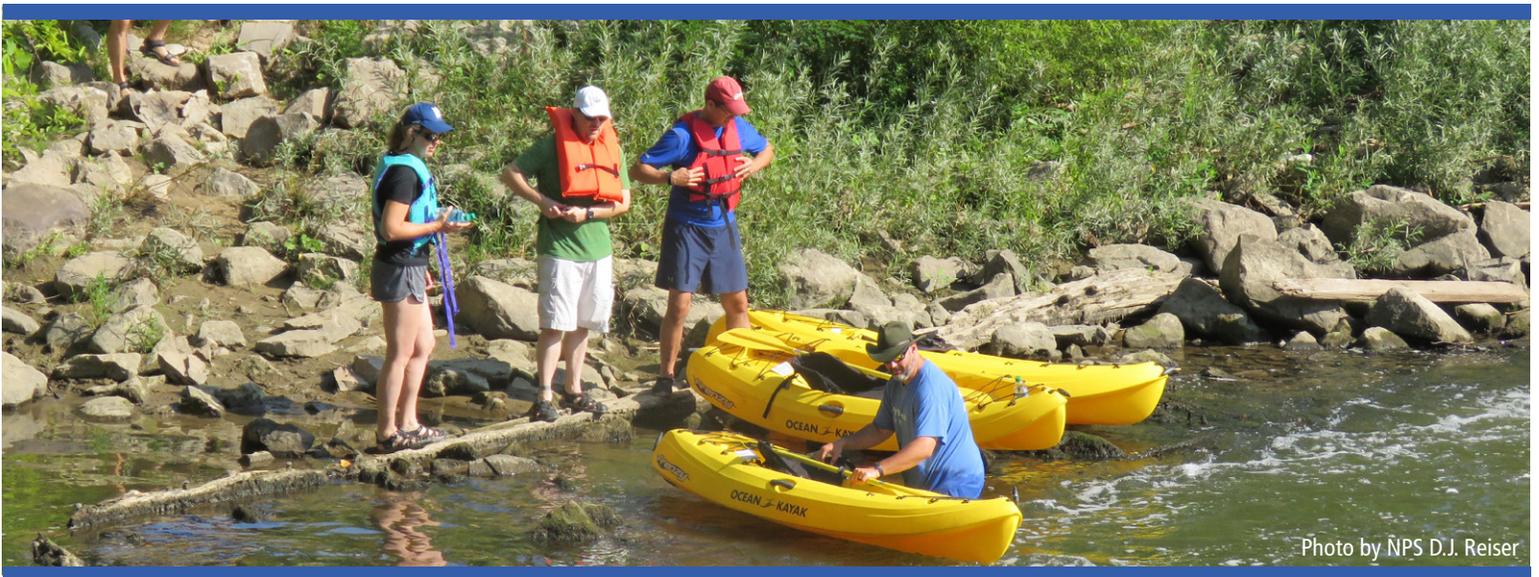


Photo by NPS D.J. Reiser

Management Actions Summary

This plan provides for high-quality visitor experiences, equitable and inclusive access, and protection of the park's natural and cultural resources. Following is a summary of the management actions in the draft plan. (Click here <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/cuvavisitorusemanagement> to review more of the plan):

- Improve river access and create additional river access locations
- Increase trail opportunities in the north end of the park
- Resize parking lots to match current and future use levels
- Develop an updated parkwide wayfinding and sign plan
- Partner with regional transit authorities to improve public transit access to the park
- Improve trail connectivity internally and to large regional trails
- Improve accessibility throughout the park and enhance equitable and inclusive access to the park
- Use chip-sealed asphalt as the surface treatment for the Towpath Trail
- Address visitor-created trails in key locations by trail formalization or restoration to natural conditions
- Provide primitive, river-based, and group camping opportunities
- Work with partners and the private sector to track emerging developed camping opportunities
- Expand commercial services to provide bicycle, boat, and other recreational equipment rentals
- Improve visitor experiences at Blue Hen Falls, including adding limited mobility parking closer to the falls
- Redesign the Howe Meadow Area to better accommodate special events and public use



How Can I Participate?

Between July 18 and September 16, 2022, you are invited to participate in the planning process in a number of ways. The feedback received during this planning process will inform the final plan.

- Learn more about the plan by visiting the storymap at <https://arcg.is/8ijLe>
- Submit official comments:
 - » On the project website at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/cuvavisitorusemanagement>
 - » Mail written comments to:
 - Superintendent
Cuyahoga Valley National Park
15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville, OH 44141
- Attend one of five public meetings:
 - » **Monday, July 18, 7-8 p.m. EDT**
Virtual Meeting, visit <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MeetingNotices.cfm?projectID=92300>
 - » **Tuesday, July 19, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. EDT**
Virtual Meeting, visit <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MeetingNotices.cfm?projectID=92300>
 - » **Tuesday, July 19, 4-6 p.m. EDT**
Lakefront Reservation
Upper Edgewater Shelter – East Half
Upper Edgewater Drive
Cleveland, OH 44102
<https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/visit/parks/lakefront-reservation/upper-edgewater-shelter-east-half>
 - » **Wednesday, July 20, 2-7 p.m. EDT**
Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Happy Days Lodge
500 West Streetsboro Road
Peninsula, OH 44264
<https://home.nps.gov/places/000/happy-days-lodge.htm>
 - » **Thursday, July 21, 4-6 p.m. EDT**
Akron-Summit Public Library,
Main Branch, Public meeting room
60 South High Street
Akron, OH 44326
<https://www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library>

Scan QR code for more information on public meeting opportunities or go to <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MeetingNotices.cfm?projectID=92300>

