



# **Trail Management Planning Workbook**

**Progress Report  
Trail Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement  
September 2010**

# Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Management Plan Workbook

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Front Cover  
Photo:  
Tom Jones





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## Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

I am excited to share this opportunity with you to view the Trail Management Plan Workbook. This plan will play a pivotal role in

the future management and visitor experiences in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Seven months ago, the National Park Service asked for your help to provide ideas on the future trail system within the park. The tradition of community citizenry that this park was established upon was reflected by the nearly 500 comments received during public scoping. Thanks to all who participated in the public scoping for the Trail Management Plan and all of the ideas brought forth for the NPS to evaluate in the planning process. Over the Spring and Summer, the park has continued to organize these ideas and develop a strategy at which to create draft alternatives for the Trail Management Plan.

This workbook provides a progress report of the Trail Planning process to date, introduces the initial draft alternatives for the Trail Management Plan and invites you to provide input to the process at this phase of the Plan. The draft alternatives are the first step in helping

organize ideas for the park's trails and how the trail system will be managed and be used while meeting the purpose and goals of the Trail Management Plan and uphold the mission of Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Your comments about these draft alternatives will provide information for refining these alternatives and for future detailed planning as the plan progresses. Once we have concluded that we have established a full range of reasonable alternatives, we will work toward a Draft Trail Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The Trail Management Plan is entering a significant stage of the planning process. Thank you for assisting us in creating a vision and strategy for a world class trail system that reflects the unique qualities of Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the many experiences it provides.

Sincerely,

Stan Austin

## Trail Management Plan Partners

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### **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 & Metro Parks, Serving Summit County**

Cuyahoga Valley National Park has established an agreement with the Cleveland Metroparks and Metro Parks, 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.



TRAILS FOREVER

# The Purpose of this Planning Workbook

Development of the Cuyahoga Valley Trail Management Plan is a complex process with many issues to evaluate, requiring a multi-year effort for its completion. The National Park Service is committed to reporting progress back to stakeholders and invite opportunities for input at key milestones of the planning process. The purpose of the Cuyahoga Valley Trail Management Plan Workbook is two-fold; 1) to provide a progress report on the planning process and 2) to provide a comprehensive interim document for the public to review and comment on the work to date. The Planning Workbook provides an update on the public scoping phase of the planning process, review of the plan process, established purpose, goals and objectives and introduction of draft alternatives for the Trail Management Plan. The Workbook is an initial step of applying pen to paper for the Park's trail system based upon the public scoping and information gathered over the past year.

Public involvement continues to be a critical component to every step of the Trail Management Plan process. This workbook serves to provide, in a single document to all stakeholders, information on the various layers of planning underway at this stage in the process. The Workbook provides information on how stakeholders can provide comments and ideas about the Plan. This includes a comment form provided at the end of the Workbook to mail back your comments. The National Park Service is excited about this phase of the Plan in setting a vision for the Park's trail system and aims to continue to move the planning process forward with wide stakeholder involvement.

## How to Comment

- Submit online via NPS Planning, Environment & Public Comment website (PEPC) <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cuyahogatrailplan> This is the preferred method of submitting comments about the Plan.
- Fill out comment form included at the back of this workbook and mail or fax to the information shown in the box to the right.
- Write a letter and submit by mail or fax to the information on this page.
- Attend Public Meeting Sessions scheduled for September 22, 23, and 26, 2010 to review alternatives.

**Please submit comments on Workbook Content by October 30, 2010**



NPS



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior

### Cuyahoga Valley National Park

#### Mailing Address

Stan Austin, Superintendent  
Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
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**Fax:** 330-657-2987

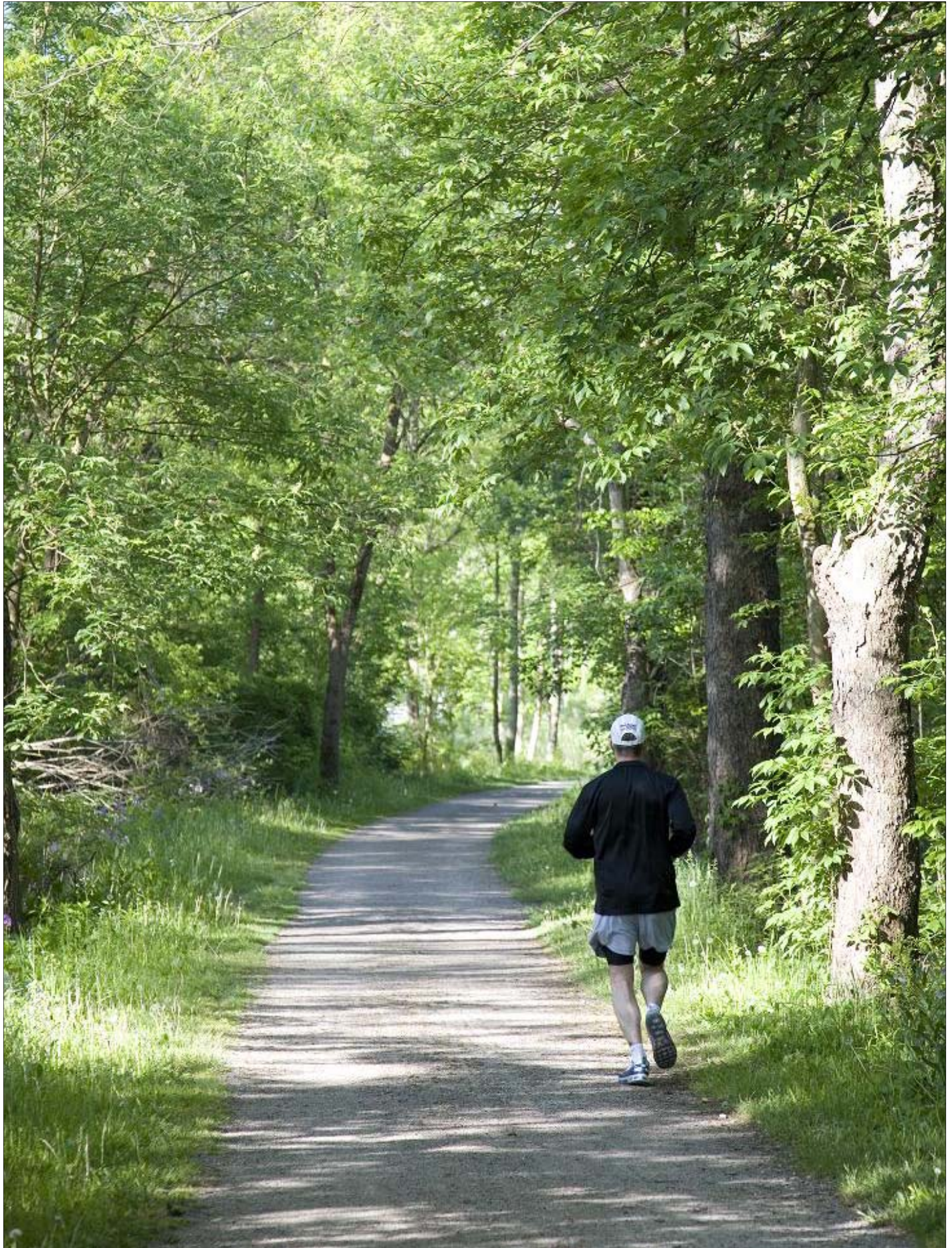
**Website:** [www.nps.gov/cuva](http://www.nps.gov/cuva)

#### Contact:

Lynn Garrity  
Trail Planner  
440-343-4803

The NPS Planning, Environment & Public Comment website provides the most updated information and materials on the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Management Plan and is the preferred method for submitting comments about the Plan.  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cuyahogatrailplan>





Sara Guren/NPS



# Overview of Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Planning

Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area was designated as a unit of the National Park Service in 1974 and subsequently established as a National Park in 2001. The park's initial General Management Plan identified one of the significant purposes of the park; "it preserves a landscape reminiscent of simpler times, a place where recreation can be a gradual process of perceiving and appreciating the roots of our contemporary existence." The General Management Plan established the overall concept for management and development of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park; resource preservation for compatible recreational use. In 1985, the Park's first Trail Management Plan was developed and served as the primary document to initiate the Towpath Trail and guide it to completion in 1993. Today, 184 miles of trail within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park boundary provide for biking, hiking, equestrian and cross-country skiing recreation opportunities. These trails provide a variety of experiences ranging from easy to challenging from the primitive Buckeye Trail to the ever popular Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

Twenty-five years after the first Trail Plan, the National Park Service, in cooperation with Cleveland Metroparks and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, is developing a new Comprehensive Trail Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The Trail Management Plan (TMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be developed utilizing the framework required under NPS Director's Order 12 and the National Environmental Policy Act.

## About the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The National Environmental Policy Act, (NEPA) governs the process of decision-making when a federal agency proposes any action that has the potential to affect the human environment. NEPA requires that the process include; 1) consideration of a range of alternatives, 2) an evaluation of potential environmental



Tom Jones

## 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 and the adjacent lands of the Cuyahoga Valley and for the purpose of providing for the maintenance of need recreational open space necessary to the urban environment.*

(Public Law 93-555)

consequences of an action before deciding to proceed and 3) provide opportunities for public involvement. NEPA requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) when a federal agency proposes an action that may have significant impacts whether beneficial or adverse on the human environment. An EIS is the highest level of compliance provided under NEPA. Because of the scope and parkwide nature of the Trail Management Plan, the Park is required to conduct an EIS for the Plan.

# Overview of Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Planning

continued

## Planning Process Update

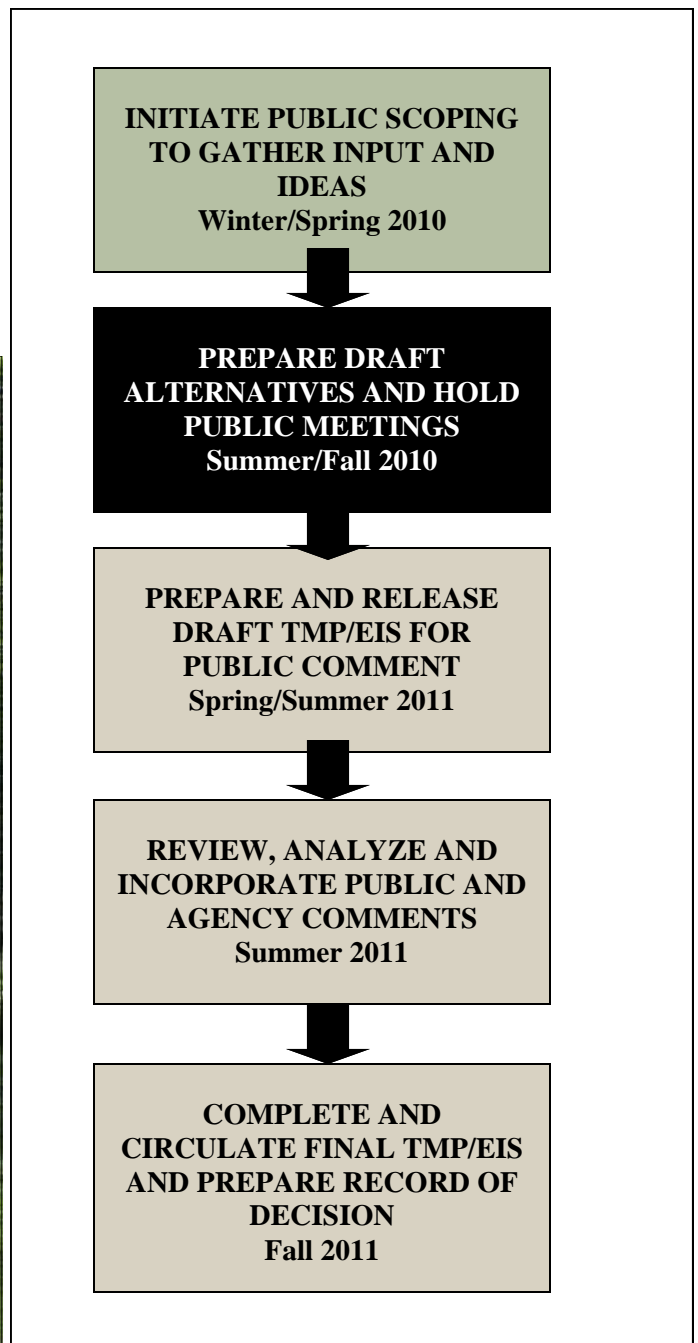
The National Park Service kicked off the trail planning process through the submittal of a Notice of Intent to the Federal Register in September, 2009. Since then, the park established an Interdisciplinary Team of park partners and park staff, developed a purpose and need statement, set goals and objectives and initiated the public scoping period through stakeholder outreach and meetings. Over the summer, the National Park Service organized the initial scoping input and developed a set of draft alternatives for the Trail Management Plan which are included in this workbook. The alternatives will be further refined following public input and evaluation resulting in final alternatives. The National Park Service will evaluate these final alternatives through the Environmental Impact analysis process. A draft of the Trail Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated for public review and comment in Spring of 2011 with a final plan to be submitted to the federal record of decision by early 2012.



Sara Guren

## Project Schedule

The Trail Management Plan process continues to progress through its required steps. A schedule is provided below with the current phase of the plan highlighted. Key public input opportunities include the current period for review of the draft alternatives and the next phase when the Draft Plan and EIS are prepared.





# Overview of Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Planning

continued

## Contents of the Trail Management Plan

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park is developing a number of items that will be part of the content of the final Plan. These include 1) the purpose, need, goals and objectives set forth for the Plan, 2) an overview of existing conditions and emerging trends of the current trail system, both within Cuyahoga Valley National Park and regionally or nationally, that are directly related to the park's trail system, 3) program elements for Trail Plan Alternatives based upon Public Scoping results, 4) development of Alternatives, 5) analysis conducted for the Environmental Impact Statement, and 6) all public involvement activities and input received for the Plan. The Trail Management Plan will also establish Sustainable Trail Standards and Mobility Use Guidance to guide the future of the Park's trails and their sustainability. The Trail Management Plan will set the stage for the development of an implementation strategy of a final selected Alternative. The implementation strategy will jumpstart the next critical phase of the Plan: making it happen.

The National Park Service is in the very early stages of assembling many of the content pieces for the Trail Management Plan. Public participation and input for each of these pieces of the plan will be integral to their final development and eventual utilization for the Park as the trail management framework.

### Summary of Contents of the Trail Management Plan

- Purpose, Need, Goals & Objectives
- Existing Conditions
- Program Elements
- Alternatives for EIS Evaluation
- Environmental Impact Statement Analysis
- Sustainable Trail Standards and Mobility Use Guidance
- Public Stakeholder Involvement Results
- Implementation Strategy for Trail Plan

*“In a gradually deteriorating environment where 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 basic requirements of recreational planning.”*

*(CVNP General Management Plan, 1977)*



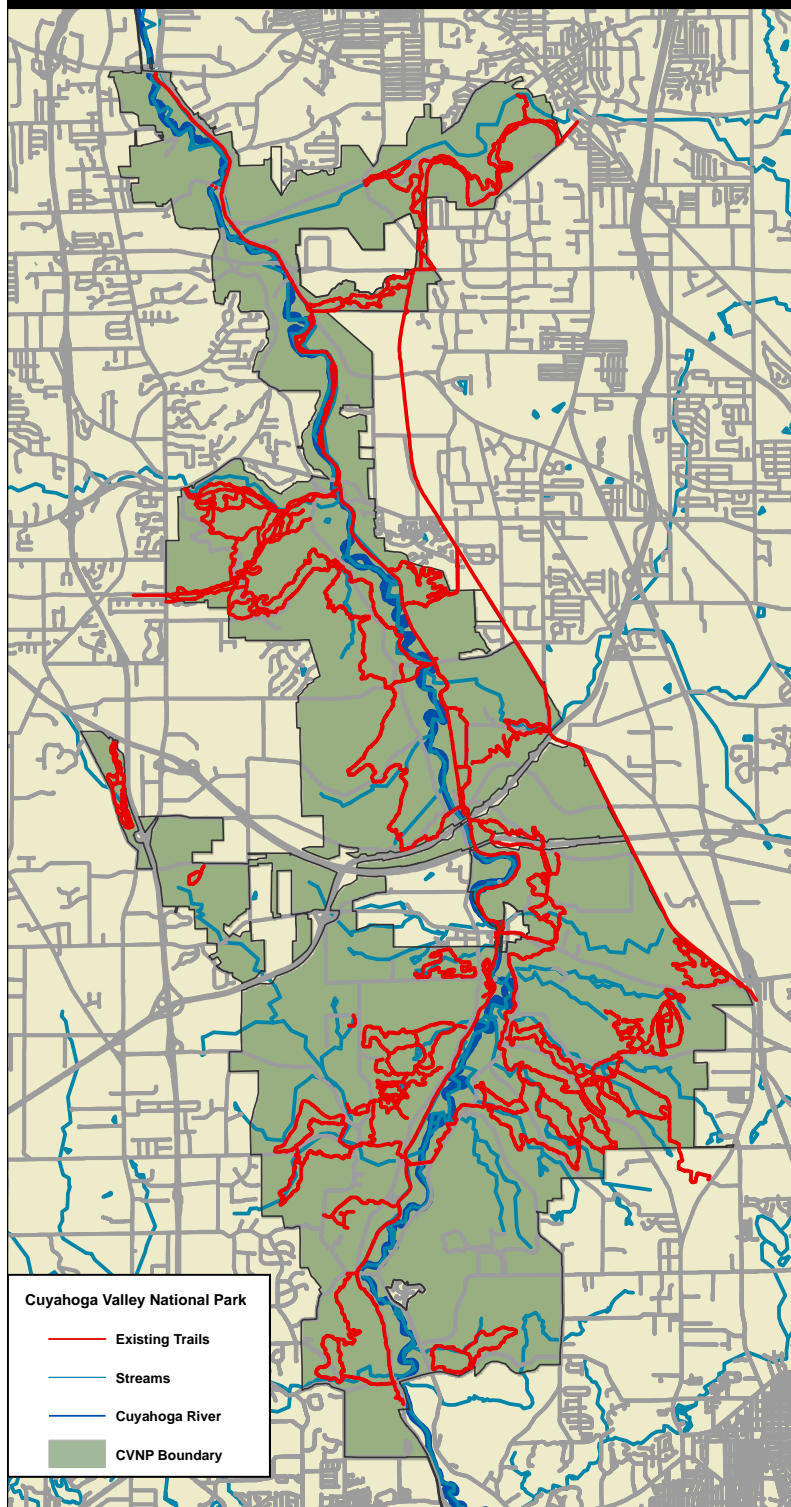
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# Overview of Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Planning

continued

## Current Trails in CVNP



## Summary of Existing Conditions

Cuyahoga Valley National Park visitation has increased by 1.5 million visitors since the 1985 Trail Plan was completed. Today, the park continues to rank as one of the top ten National Parks visited in the country. According to a 2005 Visitor Use study, a majority of visitors are from Ohio and the region with their primary reason for visiting the Park being the use of the trails. The National Park Service owns and manages 106 miles of trail with over 20 different trail systems in place. These trails provide varying degrees of distance, difficulty and use.

Current use of the trails was evaluated by the park’s first trail user count in Summer, 2010. Bike riders on the Towpath were the predominant users relative to hikers and runners. Other trails not connected to the Towpath were used significantly less.

One possible limitation of the current trail system, identified by stakeholders, is the lack of connections between the park and regional trail networks and communities that contain an estimated human population of nearly 350,000 (U.S. Census, 2000) within two miles of the park

As with any trail system, maintenance and management are critical to its success and sustainability. As the trails age and trail use increases, the staffing, support and operation will continue to be challenged to meet these needs.

One of the most important assets of Cuyahoga Valley National Park trails is the commitment of our network of trail volunteers. In 2009, volunteers provided 10,000 hours of their time to assist with stewardship of the trails.

A full assessment of existing conditions will be included in the Draft Trail Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

CVNP Trail Miles in 2010	Total Hiking Only Trails	Total Equestrian Trails	Total Cross-Country Ski/Hiking Trails	Total Multi-Use/ Bike	Total NPS-CVNP owned	Total within CVNP Boundary
	72	48	18	46	106	184



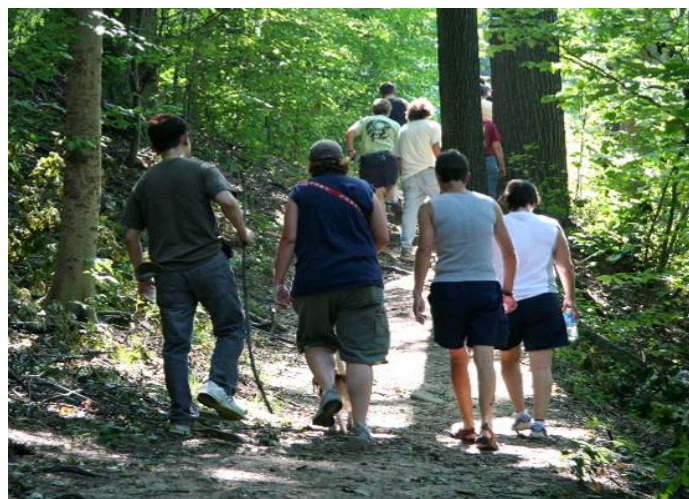
# Public Involvement Progress Report

The National Park Service recognizes the importance of public involvement in planning. Public scoping for the Trail Management Plan involved outreach to 80 stakeholder groups through mailings, convening of three public open houses, meetings with National Park staff and park partners, and opportunities to comment online at the NPS website portal PEPC as well as through mail-in/email comments.

The public scoping meetings held by the National Park Service in February, 2010 invited the public to provide their ideas on the Trail Management Plan and initial purpose and goals of the plan. Over 125 people attended these meetings with a wide variety of interests and trail users represented.

The Park Service received nearly 500 comments and ideas to consider for the development of the Trail Management Plan. Ideas focused on three primary issues; visitor experience, trail conditions, and management and support to sustain the trails for the future.

Public comment is invited on the Plan's progress to date, and draft alternatives identified in this workbook. **Meetings will be held on September 22, 23 and 26, 2010** to share these draft alternatives and seek input as the Park Service continues to refine them as final alternatives. With this Trail Plan Workbook, the Park Service invites all stakeholders to participate in this phase of the Trail Management Plan. We look forward to the continued participation and involvement by users of the Park as the Trail Management Plan progresses.



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## Issues Identified through Public Scoping

### 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

## Upcoming Trail Management Plan Draft Alternatives Public Meetings

Wednesday, September 22, 2:30-4:30pm, 6:30-8:30pm

Thursday, September 23, 6:30-8:30pm

Sunday, September 26, 6:30-8:30pm

All meetings will be held at the Happy Days Lodge, 500 West Streetsboro Road (Route 303), Peninsula, Ohio



# Purpose, Need, Goals and Objectives

The Park has established a Purpose and Need statement and Goals and Objectives for the Plan as a result of the public scoping input. These will serve as the basis to guide the planning process and evaluate alternatives.

## Purpose and Need

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 Trail Management Plan is to identify management objectives and strategies to guide the development, protection, management, and operations and use of the trail system within Cuyahoga Valley National Park over the next 15 years to meet new challenges and opportunities.

## Goals and Objectives

**Goal 1: Provide a trail network that creates a high quality visitor experience for a variety of trail users. Provide for use patterns and apply design criteria to serve the wide variety of trail users that will visit the park.**

- Create a variety of difficulties, distances and experiences for trail user types.
- Improve and maintain a safe trail network that minimizes multi-user conflict and fosters sustainable management.
- Facilitate accessibility for a variety of users.
- Create connections within the trail network that enhance visitor experience.
- Support current and future trail use with compatible park facilities.

**Goal 2: Provide trail experiences that share the historic, scenic, natural and recreational significance of the park while maintaining its preservation.**

- Integrate with interpretive features of the park where appropriate.
- Improve access to the trails, facilities, and trail-side interpretive information.



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- Provide opportunities to connect with interpretive and educational programming.
- Enhance trail user education and orientation of the trails.

**Goal 3: Provide a trail network within the Park that minimizes impact to the park's historic, scenic, natural and recreational resources.**

- Incorporate sustainable design practices.
- Establish and maintain appropriate carrying capacity levels for park trails. (Limits of Acceptable Change)
- Minimize and/or mitigate impacts to sensitive natural resources.
- Contribute to Park and NPS overall environmental sustainability goals.

**Goal 4: Provide a trail network that can be sustained.**

- Identify a park management structure that is effective and efficient to implement and sustain a high quality trail system.
- Identify opportunities to enhance and/or institute trail use monitoring program.
- Identify strategies to support annual maintenance program and long term reporting of trail conditions.

**Goal 5: Encourage cooperative partnerships with volunteer organizations, adjacent landowners, local communities and other government agencies.**

- Determine viable connections to neighborhoods and community destinations where appropriate.
- Identify connections to expand park's alternative transportation opportunities.
- Identify opportunities to enhance trail use experience through access to compatible local businesses.
- Utilize current and potentially new Trail Volunteer programs effectively.
- Utilize existing and new partnerships to implement the Trail Management Plan.



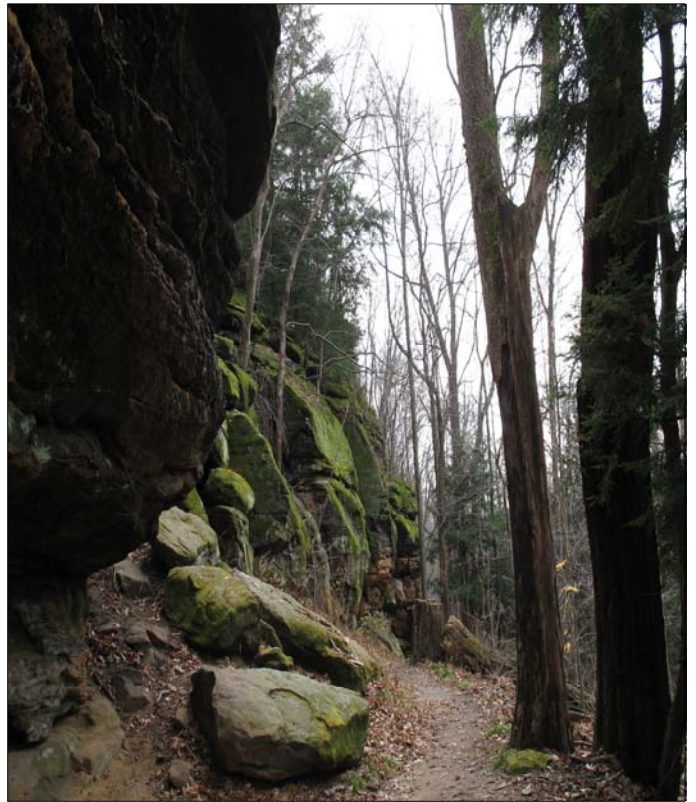
# Draft Alternatives

## About the Draft Alternatives

In the EIS process, alternatives will form the basis for the analysis of environmental impacts. The NPS must consider a range of alternatives that must be feasible and that are different from each other so that impacts can be clearly analyzed. In addition, NPS must consider a No Action Alternative, along with any Action Alternative. This section introduces the six draft alternatives developed for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park's Trail Management Plan. These initial alternatives are organized to reflect input received from public scoping. Individual alternatives were developed around separate themes that reflect different trail experiences. This section outlines: the factors considered when creating the alternatives, proposed general actions across alternatives, an overview of elements incorporated into alternatives, and the themes of alternatives. A map of each alternative is presented and a comparison table is also provided on pages 18-19 to provide an overview of the similarities and differences between them.

The Draft Alternatives were derived with consideration to the following factors:

- 1) Trail Plan Goals and Objectives.** The draft alternatives meet one or more of the goals and objectives of the plan.
- 2) Park Resources.** General evaluation of the alternatives related to their proximity to sensitive resources were part of the development of the draft alternatives. This included: the presence of water resources, terrain conditions, proximity of cultural resources, and plant and animal habitats. The alternatives will be evaluated on their resource impacts in more detail during the Environment Impact Analysis phase of the plan.
- 3) Program Elements Identified during Public Scoping.** Alternatives address five primary categories of trail design development that were identified during public scoping. They included: improvements to existing trails, new trails of varying distances and challenges, new trail uses, a variety of trail user experiences, and facility improvements that serve the trail network.
- 4) Park's Potential as Leader in Trail Innovation** The draft alternatives include consideration the role the Park could potentially aspire to lead, both nationally and regionally on trail issues related to; 1) technology of energy generation through human powered mobility, 2) recreation ecology research and development and 3) regional center for outdoor physical fitness.



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**5) General Planning Considerations.** Physical and social factors that were examined as part of the development of the draft alternatives include: conditions of existing trails, park demographics, current trail use and user types, 1985 Plan implementation, property ownership, accessibility and mobility, park operations, maintenance and budgets, and previous or current regional and parkwide plans.

## New Uses Considered but Dismissed

Many ideas were generated during public scoping on new uses for the trails within Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The following uses were considered but dismissed; rock climbing, all terrain motorized vehicles, and gravity-oriented bike areas. The dismissal is a result of NPS policies for National Parks, or the requirement of a separate assessment study due to its uniqueness of use from trails.



## Draft Alternatives continued

### Actions Common to Alternatives

The National Park Service develops actions and policies that provide general guidance for each alternative, based upon their characteristics and level of action. The Park has developed two categories of general actions; Actions Common to all Alternatives, which applies to Alternatives 1 through 6 and Actions Common to all Action Alternatives which apply only to Alternatives 2-6. These proposed actions and policies are outlined as follows.

#### Actions Common to All Alternatives

The following actions and policies will be applied or taken on all Alternatives as part of its evaluation and implementation.

##### 1) Policies, Protocols and Monitoring

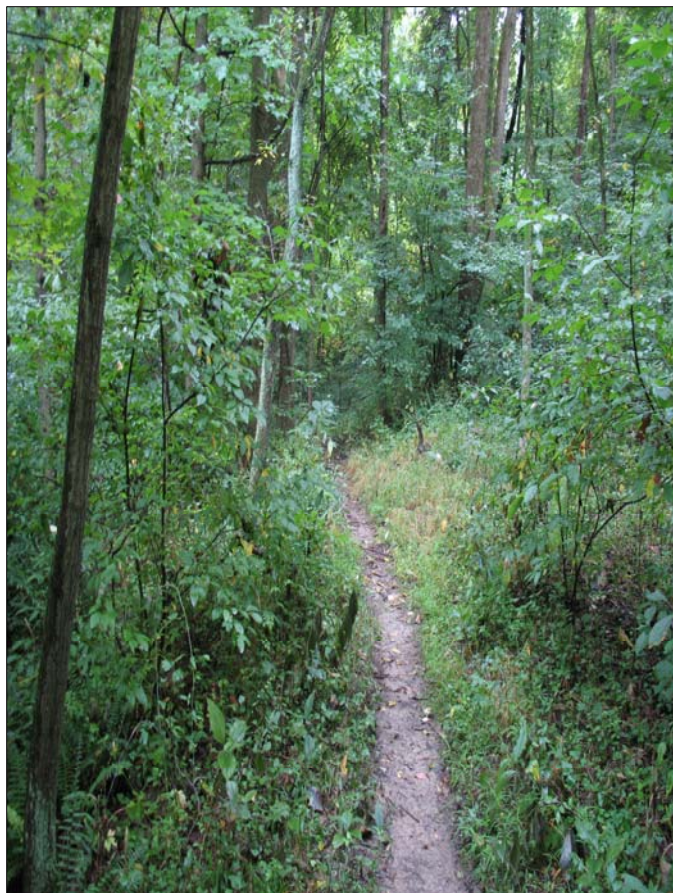
- a. Enabling Legislation for Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- b. Organic Act of 1916
- c. Director's Order 12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis and Decision-making
- d. NPS Management Policies 2006
- e. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as Amended
- f. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966
- g. The Omnibus Management Act (16, USC 5901 et seq.)
- h. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36
- i. Related Laws, Regulating Policies and Plans

##### 2.) Special Designations

- a. Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor
- b. American Heritage River
- c. National Rivers Inventory

##### 3.) Trail Projects Currently Planned or Underway

- a. Old Carriage Connector repair (underway)
- b. Old Carriage Trail Bridge repair/replace or trail realignment
- c. Rockside Station Parking Lot bridge to Towpath
- d. Complete Pedestrian Circulation Plan for Lock 29/ Peninsula Towpath Area
- e. Evaluate equestrian bridge crossing improvements at Highland and Bolanz Road
- f. Boston Visitor Center Circulation Plan
- g. Brandywine Parking/Hike & Bike Trail improvements (underway)
- h. Hemlock Trail Connector (NEPA planning underway) – multi-purpose trail



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## Draft Alternatives continued

### Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

The following actions and policies would be set forth as part of all Action Alternatives of the Trail Plan. This would include Alternatives 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. These Actions will serve as the basis for trail management and decision-making for optimal performance, conditions and management of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park trail system.

#### 1) Trail Management Zones

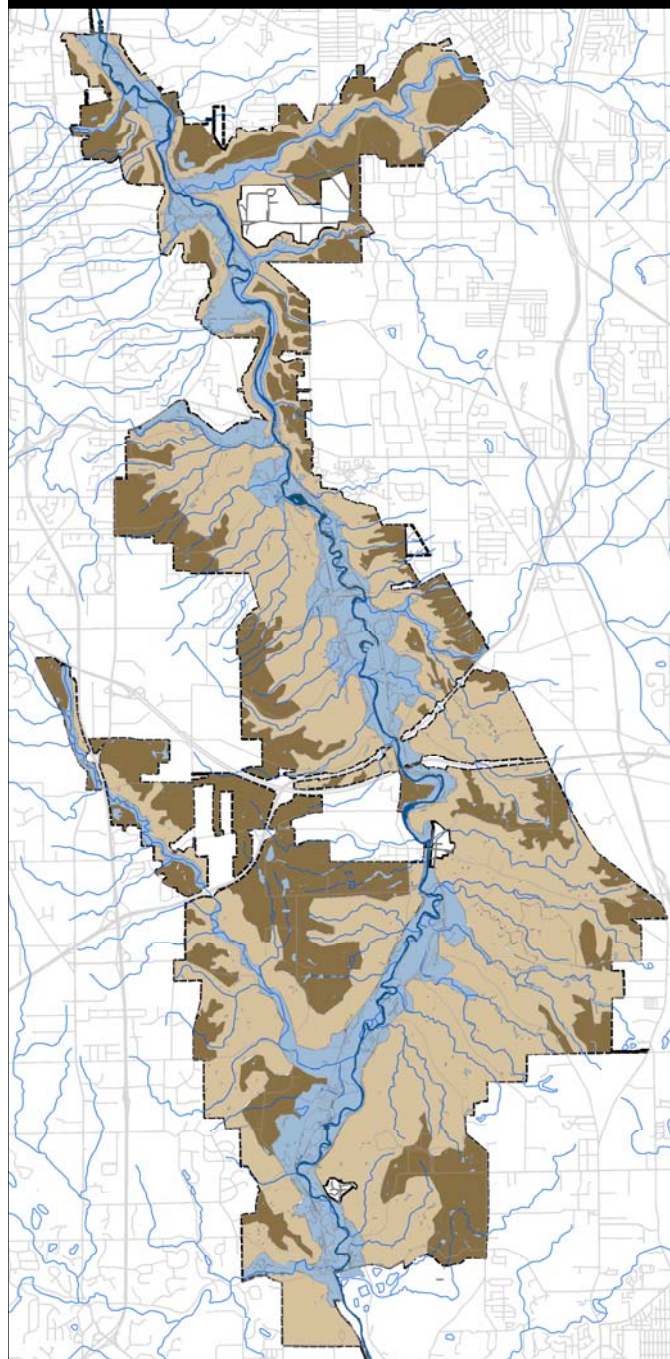
Trail Management Zones identify the principal physiographic foundation of Cuyahoga Valley National Park: water, topographic relief and plateau areas. They are unique landscape features that influence use and Management of park resources. These zones were identified based upon the park's General Management Plan management areas, park partner management zones and information available currently for each zone at a park-wide scale.




General guidance for trail planning and management will be developed based upon the features of each Trail Management Zone for seven park management areas; natural resources, cultural resources, visitor information and interpretation, access and circulation, health and safety, park operations and recreational opportunities.

#### 2) Sustainable Trail System Standards

Evaluating and prioritizing strategies to improve the existing trail system and to introduce new trails that can be managed with minimal resources is the basis for a sustainable trail system. These strategies will create the baseline for all Action Alternatives under consideration. The strategies will define and set standards for a sustainable trail system that are specific to Cuyahoga Valley National Park conditions. The Sustainable Trail Standards will serve two purposes: 1) assist in evaluating Alternatives during the Environmental Impact Analysis phase of the Trail Management Plan and 2) serve as the primary guidance for planning, siting, design, construction and maintenance to improve and remove and/or add new trails within Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The Sustainable Trails Standards are in the development phase and will be available for review as part of the Draft Trail Management Plan and EIS document.

### Trail Management Zones



-  The **Water Zone** consists of the water resources within the park, the Cuyahoga River corridor, floodplain, over 40 tributaries, and nearly 1,600 acres of wetlands.
-  The **Topography Zone** consists of the steep slopes and valley walls that encompass the park. The terrain is a distinguishing feature rising out of the valley floor.
-  The **Plateau Zone** consists of the flatter shelves that climb out of the valley slopes. The Plateau consists of meadows, forests and unique geologic areas mostly along the edge of the park boundaries.

# Draft Alternatives continued

## The Basics of the Draft Alternatives

The Draft Alternatives are organized based upon trail elements and themes. This section outlines the concepts established for the Alternatives.

## Draft Alternative Elements

The Alternatives are structured in a layered approach to reflect the levels of use possible by the varying alternative elements. The Alternatives are based upon nine primary design elements.

- Trail improvements
- Short distance trails
- Medium distance trails
- Long distance trails
- Connector trails
- Facility improvements
- Facility additions
- New uses
- Bike lane improvements

**New Uses.** Two new uses are introduced for evaluation and consideration in the Trail Management Plan: mountain biking and water trail for kayaking and canoeing. Some alternatives include expanded opportunities for trailside camping. Alternatives 4, 5 and 6 provide four options for consideration: no new uses, A) mountain biking, B) water trails and C) both new uses.

**Shared use and single use.** The Alternatives introduce the concept of shared use for different trail uses on designated trails. Shared use for the Alternatives is defined as permitted use of trails for particular user groups on alternating days, which would include two or three weekdays and one weekend day, per trail user group. Single use is where the use would be permitted all days.

**Park Partner Lands.** The Cleveland Metroparks and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County hold property and have parks with trails within the CVNP boundary. These areas are part of the Trail Plan evaluation and recommendations. These agencies maintain complete authority over when or if recommendations of this Trail Management Plan are implemented on their lands.

## Draft Alternative Themes

**Draft Alternative 1: No Action.** Under the No Action Alternative, the trails, authorized uses and facilities addressed in this plan would remain as they currently exist. The Park would continue evaluating the implementation of the 1985 Trail Plan. The Park would

continue trail management under current park policies, protocols and monitoring. A continuation of trail projects would occur on an individual basis and as opportunities arise, with separate planning and compliance.

**Draft Alternative 2. Groundworks.** Laying the groundwork for future trails and the management of existing trails will be essential to the visitor experience and resource impacts within the park over the next 20 years. Focus is aimed towards restoration through realignment, relocation, removal and improvements to the existing trail system utilizing the Sustainable Trail Standards that will be developed as the tool for guidance.

**Draft Alternative 3. Exploring the Towpath Corridor.** Alternative 3 expands the visitor experience along the Towpath corridor through new, short, accessible loops. The Park's current visitor centers serve as the central core to new trail opportunities. No new uses or changes to existing trail use are introduced. Limited connections between the Towpath and the Hike and Bike Trail are proposed to further enhance biking opportunities for the region.

**Draft Alternative 4. Discovering Valley Places.** Alternative 4 is all about discovering new experiences in the Valley through new, medium distance trails in new places, introduction of limited new uses and introduction of shared use. While the Towpath is the signature feature of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, this Alternative introduces the visitor to areas off the main spine while remaining easily accessible.

**Draft Alternative 5. Cuyahoga Trail Adventures.** This Alternative provides a variety of experiences to visitors of all abilities, by providing access to park features in many regions of the park at varying degrees of trail infrastructure to limit impacts to park features. Focus is on linking the internal Cuyahoga Valley trail network. New uses are expanded through single use areas, utilizing existing facilities and introducing new facilities.

**Draft Alternative 6. Connecting Cuyahoga.** Alternative 6 utilizes the Park's trail system 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 directly to adjacent neighborhoods and identify broader connections to Park communities and beyond.



## Draft Alternatives continued

### Considerations when Providing Comments to Draft Alternatives

As with any draft, these Alternatives are a work in progress. The initial approach to the Alternatives was to organize the numerous ideas provided during public scoping. The level of detail and prescriptions for trails and trail facilities will continue to progress during the planning process. The Alternatives may likely be restructured differently prior to the Environmental Impact Analysis. Additionally, the refined Alternatives and subsequently any Preferred Alternative may result in a hybrid of ideas from one or all of the Draft Alternatives presented. Your input on these initial Alternatives will be important to help shape and refine the Alternatives for analysis.

All comments are welcome. However, we ask you to consider the following questions when providing your comments. A comment form with these questions can be found on pages 33 and 34 to fill out and send to the park address or answer online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cuyahogatrailplan>

1. Are the goals and objectives clear and appropriate?
2. What do you like or dislike about each of the Alternatives?
3. Do the Themes, Actions and Alternatives address the purpose, need, and goals of the plan?
4. What actions or elements from the Alternatives could be combined, mixed or matched to create an optimum trail system?
5. Are there additional elements that should be addressed in the Plan/EIS?
6. Do you have other comments or issues related to the Plan/EIS?

Thank you for your input and comments for the Trail Management Plan.



Tom Jones

# Draft Alternatives Comparison Table

Alternative Features	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2 Groundworks	Alternative 3 Exploring the Towpath Corridor	Alternative 4 Discovering Valley Places	Alternative 5 Cuyahoga Trail Adventures	Alternative 6 Connecting the Cuyahoga
Restoration Actions	None	Utilize Sustainable Trail Standards	Same as Alternative 2	Same as Alternative 2	Same as Alternative 2	Same as Alternative 2
Short Loops (less than 1.5 miles)	None	None	CVC River Boardwalk (hike only)  Boston/River Loop (hike only) Howe/Indigo Loop Fawn Pond Boardwalk Loop Hunt Farm Childrens Loop Horseshoe Pond Loop  Ira/OxbowLake Boardwalk Loop Hines/Boston/StanfordLoop Jaite Mill Loop (hike, horse) Peninsula River Viewing Loop Hampton Connector Trail	Same as Alternative 3 plus:  Coliseum Bird Viewing Trail Armington Pond Loop Trail Maplewood Overlook Trail Buttermilk Falls	Same as Alternative 4 plus:  Short Horse Loops on Existing Trails on Valley Bridle and Perkins	Same as Alternative 5
Medium Loops (2-4 miles)	None	None	None	Terra Vista Limited Use Loop Sagamore PartnershipLoop Upper Sagamore Falls Loop High Meadow Trail Krecji Restoration Trail Tree Farm Extended Trail	Same as Alternative 4	Same as Alternative 4
Long loops (> 4 miles)	None	None	None	None	Tree Farm -Plateau-Deep Lock Connector West Rim Connector Upper Sagamore Connector Perkins-Howe Connector	Same as Alternative 5
New Use: Mountain Biking	None	None	None	Alternative 4A: Shared Use/Alternating Days - Five Falls, Upper Dugway, Wetmore, Bedford, Plateau.	Alternative 5A: Single Use: East Rim Trails, O'Neil-Buckeye	Alternative 6A: Combines Alts. 4A & 5A.
New Use: Water Trails	None	None	None	Alternative 4B: Lock 29, Red Lock, StationRoad	Alternative 5B: Same as Alternative 4B plus: Rockside Station	Same as Alternative 5B
Both New Uses	None	None	None	Alternative 4C: Combines Alts. 4A & 4B	Alternative 5C: Combines Alts. 5A & 5B	Same as Alternative 5C
New Trail Segments						
New Uses						



# Draft Alternatives Comparison Table continued

Alternative Features	Alternative 1 No Action	Alternative 2 Groundworks	Alternative 3 Exploring the Towpath Corridor	Alternative 4 Discovering Valley Places	Alternative 5 Cuyahoga Trail Adventures	Alternative 6 Connecting the Cuyahoga
New Connector Trails	None	None	Sagamore Road Connector Old Carriage Hike & Bike Trail Connector Truxell Road Connector Howe-Ira Bike Connector	Same as Alternative 3	Same as Alternative 3 plus Hike & Bike-Old A-P Road - Peninsula Bike Connector Hike & Bike-Truxell - Armington Mountain Bike Loop/Connector	Same as Alternative 3 plus: Neighborhood (off road) Connector Trails: Bedford  Fitzwater (hike)  Echo Hills Greenwood Village (Hike) Hampton Hills/Chart Road (hike) <b>Regional Connectors (Class II/III Bike Lanes):</b> Pleasant Valley Snowville/Highland Route 303 Truxell Road Akron-Peninsula Road Riverview Road
New Facilities	Trailheads	None	None	Upper Sagamore Five Falls Coliseum Krejci  Boston Run Trailhead  Frazee/Sagamore Parking Hunt Farm Expansion Relocate Horse Trail Parking from Boston to Highland Road with improvements.	Same as Alternative 4	Same as Alternative 4
	Restrooms	None	None	None	Same as Alternative 4	Same as Alternative 4
	Parking	None	None	None	Same as Alternative 4	Same as Alternative 4
	Trail Campsites	None	None	None	Howe Meadow	Same as Alternative 5
	Campsites	None	None	None	Buckeye (north of Boston) Stanford	



Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
Trail Management Plan  
DRAFT Alternative 1:  
NO ACTION

Overview

- Under the No Action Alternative, the trails, authorized uses and facilities addressed in this plan would remain as they currently exist.
- The Park would continue to evaluate conditions for implementation of 1985 Trail Plan.
  - The Park would continue trail management under current park policies, protocols and monitoring.
  - Continuation of trail projects on an individual basis and as opportunities arise.




Trail Facilities

- No new trail facilities or changes are considered.




Trail Experience

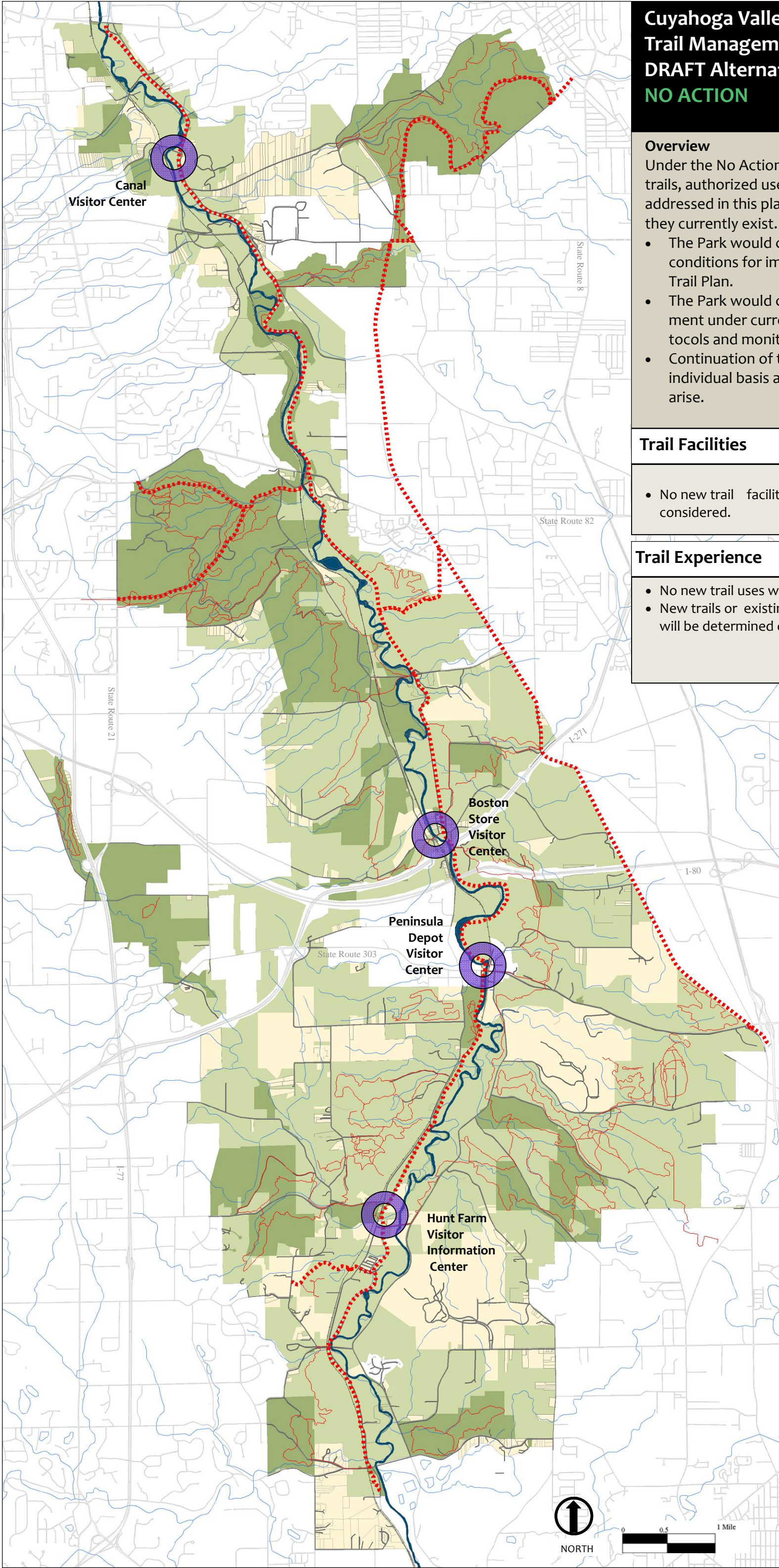
- No new trail uses would be considered.
- New trails or existing trail improvement will be determined on an individual basis.

Trail Features

-  Visitor Center
-  Existing Multi-Purpose Trails
-  Other Existing Trails

Property Ownership

-  NPS
-  Other Public Land
-  Private



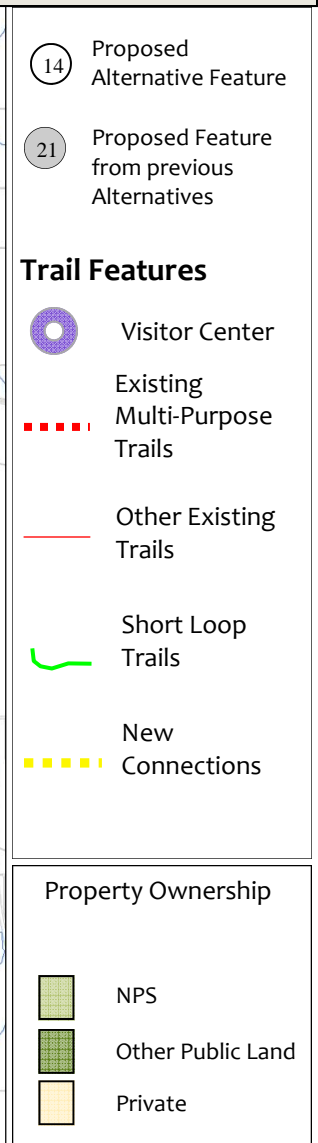


Evaluate all existing trails that currently reside in identified wetland areas. Primary areas include Valley Bridge and Buckeye trails north of Highland Road.



- No new trail facilities or changes are considered.

- Provide new, small, hike only loops from visitor centers.
- Disperse Towpath use and provide hikers with alternative trails during peak use.
- Provide visitor access to park features in close proximity to Towpath and existing park facilities.





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Terra Vista Limited Use Hike Loop
- 24

Sagamore Community Partnership Loop
- 25

Sagamore Falls Hike Loop and Trailhead
- 26

Five Falls Shared Use Hike/Mountain Bike Trail & Trailhead
- 27

High Meadow Farm Hike Trail/ Buttermilk Falls Trail
- 28

Coliseum Bird Viewing Trail & Improved Trail-head
- 29

Tree Farm Expanded Loop (hike/XC Ski)
- 30

Krejci Restoration HikeLoop
- 31

Upper Dugway Shared Use Horse/ Mountain Bike Trail
- 32

Bedford Shared Use Mountain Bike/Horse Trail
- 33

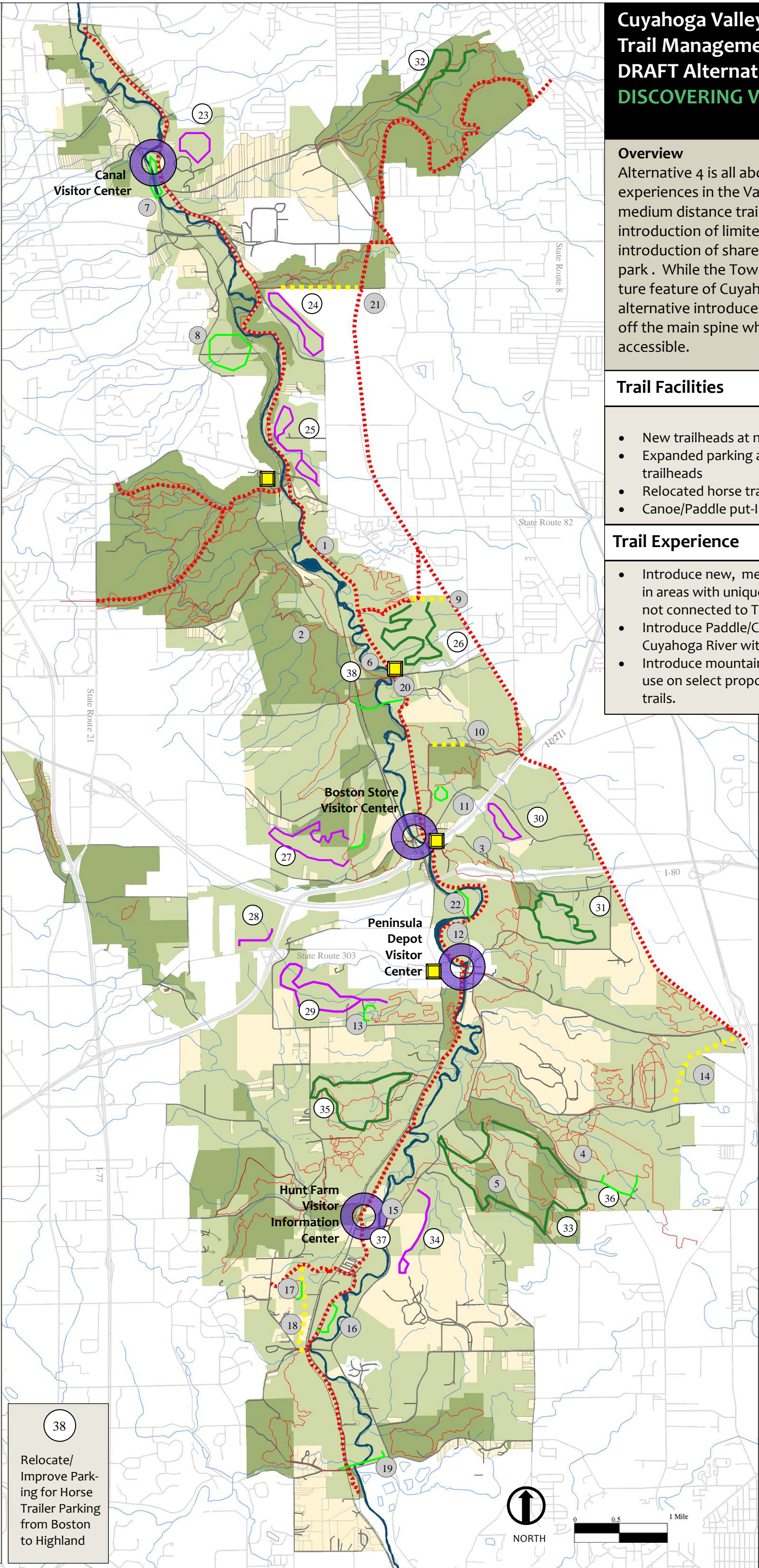
Wetmore - Shared Use Horse/ Mountain Bike/Hike
- 34

Maplewood Overlook Trail
- 35

OakHill/ Plateau Shared Use Mountain Bike/Hike Realign
- 36

Armington Pond Hike Loop
- 37

Expand Hunt Farm Parking



# Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Management Plan

## DRAFT Alternative 4: DISCOVERING VALLEY PLACES

### Overview

Alternative 4 is all about discovering new experiences in the Valley through new, medium distance trails in new places, introduction of limited new uses and introduction of shared use to explore the park . 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.

### Trail Facilities

- New trailheads at new trails.
- Expanded parking at select existing trailheads
- Relocated horse trailer parking
- Canoe/Paddle put-In/take out facilities

### Trail Experience

- Introduce new, medium distance loops in areas with unique landscape features not connected to Towpath.
- Introduce Paddle/Canoe access to the Cuyahoga River within park.
- Introduce mountain bike use as shared use on select proposed and existing trails.

14

Proposed Alternative Feature

21

Proposed Feature from previous Alternatives

### Trail Features

Visitor Center

Existing Multi-Purpose Trails

Other Existing Trails

Short Loop Trails

Medium Loop Trails

Shared Use Mountain Bike Trail

New Connections

Water Trail Launch /Take Out Site

### Property Ownership

NPS

Other Public Land

Private

00.51 Mile

NORTH

September, 2010 DRAFT



- 39

West Rim Hike Connector
- 40

Sagamore Falls Hike Connector
- 41

Daily Use Mountain Bike Trails Utilizing Hike & Bike as Connector
- 42

Short Horse Loop trails on existing trails system.
- 43

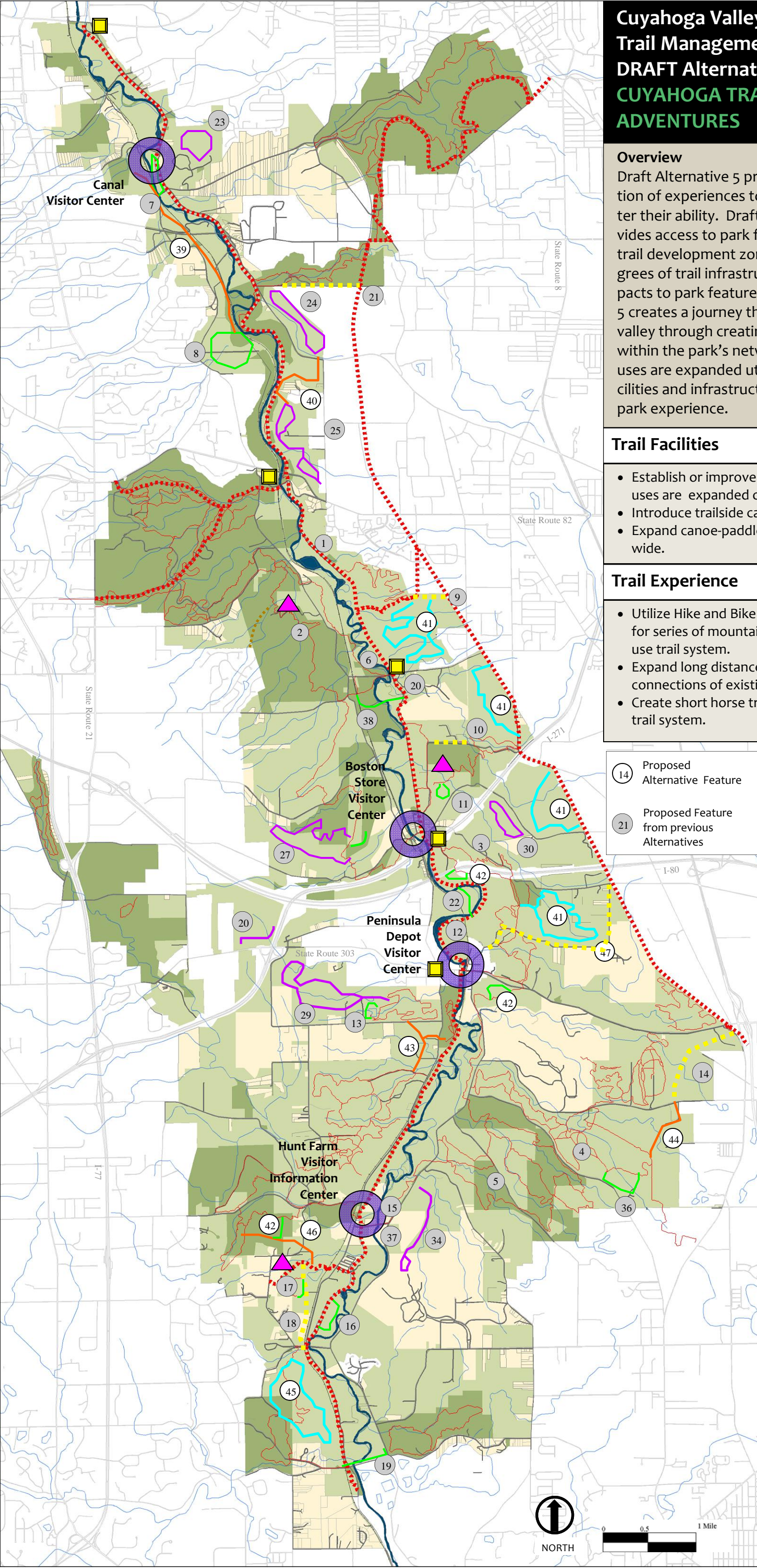
Tree Farm–Oak Hill –Deep Lock Hike Connector
- 44

Hike&Bike - Truxell–Armington Bike Loop
- 45

New O’Neil – Buckeye Mountain Bike Trail
- 46

Howe–Perkins Horse-Hike Connector Trail
- 47

Hike & Bike - Old AP – Peninsula Bike Connector



# Cuyahoga Valley National Park

## Trail Management Plan

### DRAFT Alternative 5:

### CUYAHOGA TRAIL ADVENTURES

**Overview**

Draft Alternative 5 provides a culmination of experiences to the visitor no matter their ability. Draft Alternative 5 provides access to park features in all three trail development zones at varying degrees of trail infrastructure to limit impacts to park features. Draft Alternative 5 creates a journey through the Park and valley through creating connections within the park’s network of trails. New uses are expanded utilizing existing facilities and infrastructure to connect the park experience.

- Trail Facilities**
- Establish or improve trailheads where uses are expanded or introduced.
  - Introduce trailside campsites.
  - Expand canoe-paddle launch sites park-wide.

- Trail Experience**
- Utilize Hike and Bike and Towpath spines for series of mountain bike loops as daily use trail system.
  - Expand long distance experience through connections of existing trail systems.
  - Create short horse trail loops on existing trail system.

- 14

Proposed Alternative Feature
- 21

Proposed Feature from previous Alternatives

- Trail Features**
- Visitor Center
- Existing Multi-Purpose Trails
- Other Existing Trails
- Short Loop Trails
- Medium Loop Trails
- Single Use Mountain Bike Trail
- Long Loops/ Intra-Connecting Trails
- New Connections
- Water Trail Launch /Take Out Site
- Trailside Campsites
- Property Ownership**
- NPS
- Other Public Land
- Private

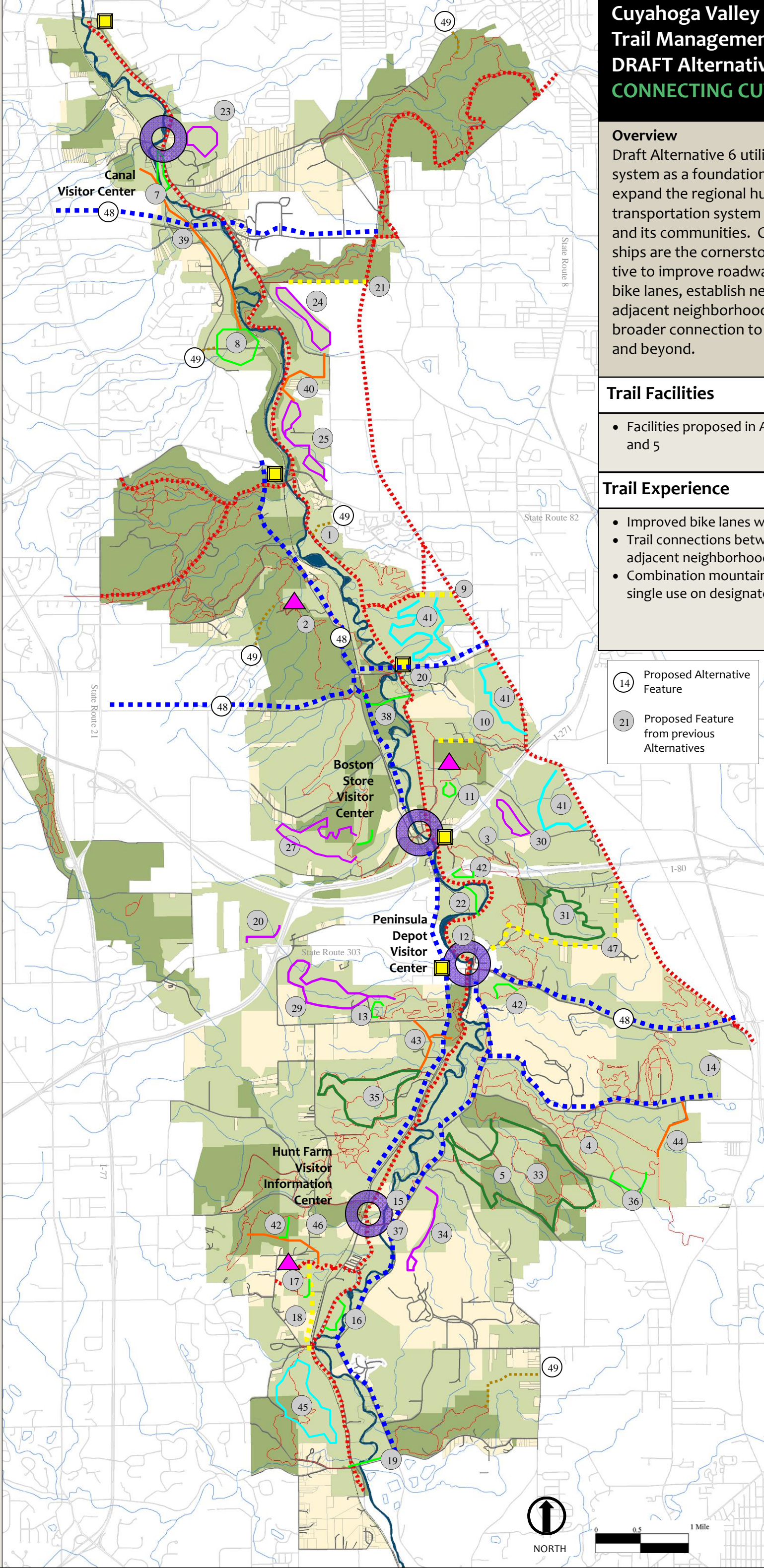


48

Establish Park-Community Partnerships to expand and establish bike-friendly roadways within the park and connecting to the park. Focus on main bike arteries, Pleasant Valley, Riverview, Akron Peninsula, Route 303, Truxell , Snowville, and Highland Roads

49

Provide direct connector trails to adjacent neighborhoods into park's trail system. Work with local neighborhoods and communities on their implementation and management. Neighborhoods include Greenwood Village, Echo Hills, Bedford, Fitzwater, and Columbia/ Hampton and Ira.



## Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Management Plan

### DRAFT Alternative 6: CONNECTING CUYAHOGA

#### Overview

Draft Alternative 6 utilizes the Park’s trail system 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 directly to adjacent neighborhoods and identify broader connection to Park communities and beyond.

#### Trail Facilities

- Facilities proposed in Alternatives 2, 3, 4 and 5

#### Trail Experience

- Improved bike lanes within park boundary.
- Trail connections between Park and adjacent neighborhoods.
- Combination mountain bike shared use and single use on designated trails.

14

Proposed Alternative Feature

21

Proposed Feature from previous Alternatives

#### Trail Features

Visitor Center

Existing Multi-Purpose Trails

Other Existing Trails

Short Loop Trails

Medium Loop Trails

Single Use Mountain Bike Trail

Shared Use Mountain Bike Trail

Long Loops/ Intra-Connecting Trails

New Connections

Neighborhood Connections

Regional Connections

Water Trail Launch /Take Out Site

Trailside Campsites

#### Property Ownership

NPS

Other Public Land

Private

September, 2010 DRAFT

31 Cuyahoga Valley Trail Plan Workbook



**Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
Trail Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement  
Draft Alternatives  
Comment Form  
September, 2010**

Please use this comment form to provide your comments and input on the Trail Management Plan Draft Alternatives and the information in this Workbook. Your input is important as the National Park Service continues to refine the Alternatives for its Draft Trail Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. The comment form can be mailed, faxed or emailed to the contact information found on page 2 of this Workbook.

Your response will assist the park in its planning process. Topic questions are only a guide and all comments are welcome. Please submit comments on the Draft Alternatives and Planning Workbook by October 30, 2010.

**1. Are the goals and objectives clear and appropriate?**

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**2. What do you like or dislike about each of the Alternatives?**

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**3. Do the Themes, Actions and Alternatives address the purpose, need, and goals of the plan?**

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Continued..



Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
Trail Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement  
Draft Alternatives  
Comment Form  
September, 2010  
continued

**4. What actions or elements from the Alternatives could be combined or mixed or matched to create an optimum trail system?**

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**5. Are there additional elements that should be addressed in the Plan/Environmental Impact Statement?**

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**6. Do you have other comments or issues related to the Plan/Environmental Impact Statement?**

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Thank you for your input and comments for the Trail Management Plan.



Sara Guren



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of Interior**

Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
15610 Vaughn Road  
Brecksville, OH 44141  
330 - 657 - 2752 (Visitor Information)  
440 - 343- 4803 (Trail Plan Information)

**[www.nps.gov/cuva](http://www.nps.gov/cuva)**  
**<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cuyahogatrailplan>**

September, 2010

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