**Cuyahoga Valley** 

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

# The Valley Guide

Winter / Spring 2021 | January 1 - May 31

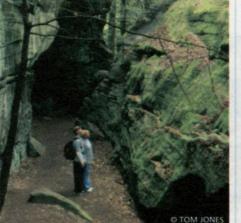
### JOURNEY

Journey along the Cuyahoga River between Akron and Cleveland. Explore a canal that helped build a young nation. Walk along a variety of wooded trails.



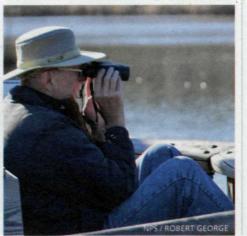


Enjoy a place established to bring parks to the people. Find your link to nature and history. Connect with family and friends.



### DISCOVER

Discover the stories of over 500 generations of people. Explore how nature thrives near cities. Find plants and animals that survive here.



### RENEW

Become inspired by the efforts to restore and protect the land and waterways that make this national park what it is today. Seek personal healing and renewal.



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D JEFFREY GIBSON

# Welcome





National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Cuyahoga Valley National Park

### PHONE

Information: 440-717-3890 Emergencies: 440-546-5945 Closure Hotline: 440-546-5960

EMAIL cuva\_info@nps.gov

MAILING ADDRESS

15610 Vaughn Road Brecksville, OH 44141

### FOLLOW US!

mps.gov/cuva

CuyahogaValleyNationalPark

CVNPNPS @CVNPNPS

@cuyahogavalleynps

### CONTENTS

Welcome	2
Know Before You Go	3
Things to Do	4
Finding Your Way	5
For Kids	6
Our Partners	
Places to Go	8

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICATM

### A MESSAGE FROM ACTING SUPERINTENDENT LISA PETIT



As acting park superintendent I welcome you to Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP)! The park includes 33,000 acres nestled in the Cuyahoga River valley between Cleveland and Akron. CVNP offers open spaces, the beauty of nature, a place to play with family or friends, and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Visitors enjoy viewing wildlife, waterfalls, striking rock formations, farms, and historic sites.

For many, national parks are places to come for healing. During the past year, we have all experienced stress in our lives, particularly as we are still living through a global health crisis with COVID-19.

Throughout the pandemic, parks have remained an essential service to provide spaces where people could recreate safely and find mental respite from their everyday worries. Park visitation increased dramatically in CVNP and across

the country as people recognized the importance of outdoor recreation for their physical and mental well-being. In the park, you can take a mental break and get your heart pumping while you're having fun. The American Heart Association reminds us that the simple act of walking for as little as 30 minutes a day can reduce heart disease, lower the risk of obesity, enhance mental well-being, and much more.

National parks are also places to learn about and confront American history. We can reflect on choices made in the past and continue meaningful conversations about how to make a better future by sharing all of the stories that brought us here.

Congress created CVNP in 1974 as part of the federal Parks to People program, bringing national parks into population centers. Rather than being a place for a once-in-a-lifetime trip, CVNP is part of a diverse metropolitan community. We have been excited to see so many first-time visitors over the past year, and we continue to welcome people of all back-grounds, ethnicities, and abilities. In fact, doing so is fundamental to the purpose of the park.

Once you come to CVNP for the first time, we hope you immediately start planning your next visit. This guide gives you suggestions of things to do and how to be safe while here. We ask you to be prepared, flexible, and kind to others and the environment as you make your way through CVNP.

I'll see you in the park!

### **Park Alerts**

Stay up to date on trail and road closures. Call the Closure Hotline for updates at 440-546-5960. Visit nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/conditions.htm as well as our Facebook and Twitter page for more information.

**STATION ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE** The Station Road Bridge will be closed until March 26, 2021. Contractors will remove and replace the bridge deck and paint the iron structure.

There will be no access to the Towpath Trail from Station Road Bridge Trailhead for the duration of the project. The parking lot will remain open and the restrooms will

BRIDGE

CLOSE

remain available. Through traffic on the Towpath and river use may be intermittently affected.

Updates and photos are available at https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/ preserving-the-station-road-bridge. htm

**BRECKSVILLE DAM PROJECT** A screw pump will be designed and installed to manage the water level in a nearby section of the Ohio & Erie Canal. Updates and photos are available at https://www.nps.gov/ cuva/learn/dam-removal.htm.

-Lisa Petit, January 2021

**RIVER RENEWAL PROJECTS** CVNP is embarking on a number of large-scale restoration projects to improve the health of the watershed.

Keep an eye out for Ollie the Otter! Any time you see him, it is a reminder that our River Renewal is underway.



For more information, visit nps.gov/ cuva/river-renewal-underway.htm.

2 The Valley Guide

# **Know Before You Go**



# **Planning Your Visit**

### 911 EMERGENCIES

Call the Communication Center at 440-546-5945 or dial 911.

### **社 CLOSURES**

For closure information please call 440-546-5960 or visit nps.gov/cuva. Notices will also be posted at trailheads and visitor centers.

### PARKING LOT SAFETY

Keep all valuables at home or place them in your trunk before you arrive at the trailhead. Be aware of your surroundings and park in designated spaces only.

### PETS

Leashed pets are allowed on all park trails, except the mountain bike trails. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and restrained at all times. Clean up after your pet.

### So BIKING

Biking is permitted on all roads. Many roads have narrow shoulders and fast-moving traffic.

The Towpath Trail is a flat, crushed-limestone, multi-use trail. It is often congested. Ride cautiously,

### **COVID-19 MESSAGE**

The National Park Service encourages you to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and follow Leave No Trace principles when you visit. For more information visit: www.nps.gov/cuva/national-parkservice-and-coronavirus.htm

### **BE PREPARED**

Check for closures on our website, social media, and closure hotline (440-546-5960) before visiting.

### **BE FLEXIBLE**

Popular destinations in the park fill quickly, so come back another time if you encounter a full parking lot.

### **BE KIND**

Stay home if you are sick, stay six feet away from other visitors, travel clockwise on loop trails, pick up after your pet, and stay` on established trails. especially in congested areas and on bridges and boardwalks. There is a speed limit of 15 mph on the Towpath Trail. Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are allowed where traditional bikes are allowed, except for the mountain bike trails. E-bikes can only be used in pedal mode, no use of throttle is permitted. Wearing a helmet is recommended. The trail is most crowded from 10 am - 3 pm.

The Bike & Hike Trail is paved for its entire length and is managed by Summit Metro Parks.

The East Rim Trail System requires skill in mountain biking and appropriate safety equipment. The trail is closed in wet conditions. Check Twitter @CVNPmtb for trail information. Mountain biking is also permitted on select trails within Bedford Reservation and Hampton Hills Metro Park.

### CANOEING AND KAYAKING

Know the risks before paddling the Cuyahoga River. Details are at cuyahogariverwatertrail.org. The waterfall above the Lock 29 access is for experienced paddlers only. No tubing. Check conditions at ny.water. usgs.gov/maps/nowcast. Gas-pow-



Winter in Cuyahoga Valley can fluctuate, with sunny and 40 °F one day to 10 °F and snowing the next. Dress in layers, with a windproof layer on the outside. Snowfall can occur with up to 19 inches in one month. Remember to bring hats, boots, and gloves or mittens. Hiking boots and sturdy, warm shoes are a must on trails. Waterproof boots are recommended for snowy conditions.

**Spring** brings many changes to Cuyahoga Valley. Temperatures can range from below freezing to 60 °F or 70 °F in April. May often brings summer-like temperatures. Rain and occasionally snow occur, and trails are muddy. If you're headed outdoors, bring a rain jacket and warm outer layer. In wet or humid conditions, a non-cotton layer against your skin will help keep moisture away. Hiking boots or sturdy shoes are a must, and waterproof footwear is also recommended. ered boats are not permitted on ponds and lakes. Alcohol is prohibited on the river and in the park. All boats must be registered, and life jackets must be worn.

### BRANDYWINE FALLS

Do not climb Brandywine Falls, the rocks, or the railings. Accidents in this area have led to serious injury and death. For your safety, to view the falls stay on the boardwalk and designated trails. Access to the top and bottom of the waterfall is prohibited. Stairs, sections of the boardwalk, and the lower viewing platform may close in hazardous or icy conditions.

### & ACCESSIBILITY

Boston Mill Visitor Center is fully accessible. Additional information about accessibility in the park is available online at https://www.nps.gov/ cuva/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm. If you need help planning your trip, email accessibility coordinator, Arrye Rosser, at cuva\_access@nps.gov.





### BOSTON MILL VISITOR CENTER

Start your visit at Boston Mill Visitor Center. Rangers are available every day from 10 am - 4 pm to answer your questions and help you plan your visit. \*Hours and availablity are subject to change due to COVID-19\* Books about the park and souvenirs are available for sale. Some exhibits may be closed due to COVID-19. You may also call 440-717-3890 to speak with a ranger.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

For more safety information visit www.nps.gov.cuva/planyourvisit/ safety.htm and our social media.



Bring plenty of water when exploring the park. Some locations do not have drinking water available. Do not drink water from streams, rivers, or ponds. Although food is available in Boston and Peninsula areas, bring snacks if you are venturing away from those locations.



Winter can be a beautiful time of year to explore, but has its risks. Always tell someone your destination and when to expect you back. Trails are often icy. Ticks and mosquitoes are common in the park after the ice melts. To protect yourself, carry and wear bug spray. In tick-prone areas (long grasses, fields), wear long pants tucked into socks to prevent the ticks from getting onto your skin. For more information visit nps.gov/cuva/ tick-safety.htm.

# Things to Do

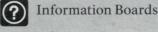
# **Trails and Hiking**

Over 125 miles of trails are available, passing through diverse scenery. Use the table below to find ones that match your abilities and interests. The Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is the most popular and may be congested during nice weather. The 90-mile trail extends to the north and south. A portion of Ohio's Buckeye Trail also passes through the park.

For a full list of trails visit nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/hiking.htm For winter sports visit www.nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/winter-sports.htm

### INFORMATION KEY

**Know Before You Go** 



Restrooms

Wheelchair Accessible

Muddy Conditions Possible

Waterfalls

M

Popular, May Be Crowded

TRAIL NAME	LENGTH	ELEVATION CHANGE & SURFACE	INFORMATION	LOCATION
Towpath (to Beaver Marsh)	0.25 miles	Minimal   crushed limestone, wood		3801 Riverview Road Peninsula, OH 44264
Forest Point Trail	0.5 miles	Minimal   flat, unpaved		499 Truxell Road Peninsula, OH 44264
Furnace Run Loop	1.0 mile	180 feet   hilly, unpaved		2247 Everett Road Peninsula, OH 44264
Lake Trail	1.0 mile	Minimal   steps, unpaved		1000 Truxell Road Peninsula, OH 44264
Brandywine Gorge Loop	1.4 miles	190 feet   steep hills, unpaved	Poardwalk accessible by wheelchair.	8176 Brandywine Road Sagamore Hills, OH 44067
Oak Hill Trail	1.5 miles	50 feet   flat, unpaved		3901 Oak Hill Road Peninsula, OH 44264
Ledges Trail	2.2 miles	80 feet   steps, rocky, unpaved		405 Truxell Road Peninsula, OH 44264.
Pine Grove Trail	2.2 miles	105 feet   hilly, unpaved		499 Truxell Road Peninsula, OH 44264
Cross Country Trail	2.5 miles	160 feet   hilly, grass, unpaved	<b>? *</b>   <b>†</b>	1000 Truxell Road Peninsula, OH 44264
Tree Farm Trail	2.75 miles	80 feet   flat, unpaved		2167 Major Road Peninsula, OH 44264
Stanford Trail	3.0 miles	190 feet   steep hills, unpaved		6093 Stanford Road, Peninsula, OH 44264
Salt Run Trail	3.25 miles	160 feet   steep hills, unpaved		5465 Quick Road, Peninsula, OH 44264
Boston Run Trail	3.4 miles	80 feet   hilly, unpaved	<b>? *</b>   <b>†</b>	500 W Streetsboro Street Peninsula, OH 44264
Plateau Trail	4.5 miles	200 feet   flat, unpaved		3901 Oak Hill Road Peninsula, OH 44264
Wetmore Trail	4.5 miles	250 feet   hilly, unpaved		4653 Wetmore Road Peninsula, OH 44264
Towpath Trail	19.5 miles	135 feet   flat, crushed limestone		Multiple Access Points

### Scenery and Wildlife Watching

### LEDGES

This 2.2-mile hike takes you along striking sandstone cliffs. Visit the Ledges Overlook for a rare view across the valley. Accidents can be serious, so use caution. Climbing and jumping on rocks is prohibited. Please protect sensitive plants growing in this area. Ice Box Cave is permanently closed to protect roosting bats.



### **TOWPATH TRAIL**

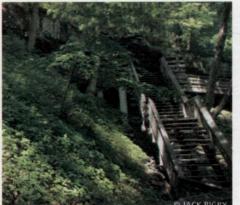
In the 1800s, mule teams walked this path towing boats along the Ohio & Erie Canal. Now it is popular with bicyclists, walkers, runners, and wheelchair-users. Bring a camera or binoculars for wildlife watching. Nine trailheads provide access to the 19.5 miles within the national park.



#### © J.J. PREKOP,

### **BRANDYWINE FALLS**

This 60-foot waterfall is one of the park's main attractions. A short walk from the parking lot, the upper boardwalk is accessible for wheelchairs and strollers. You can hike the scenic gorge from this trailhead or from Stanford House. Parking is limited. Avoid midday crowds on warm weekends. Drinking water is not available here. 🕭

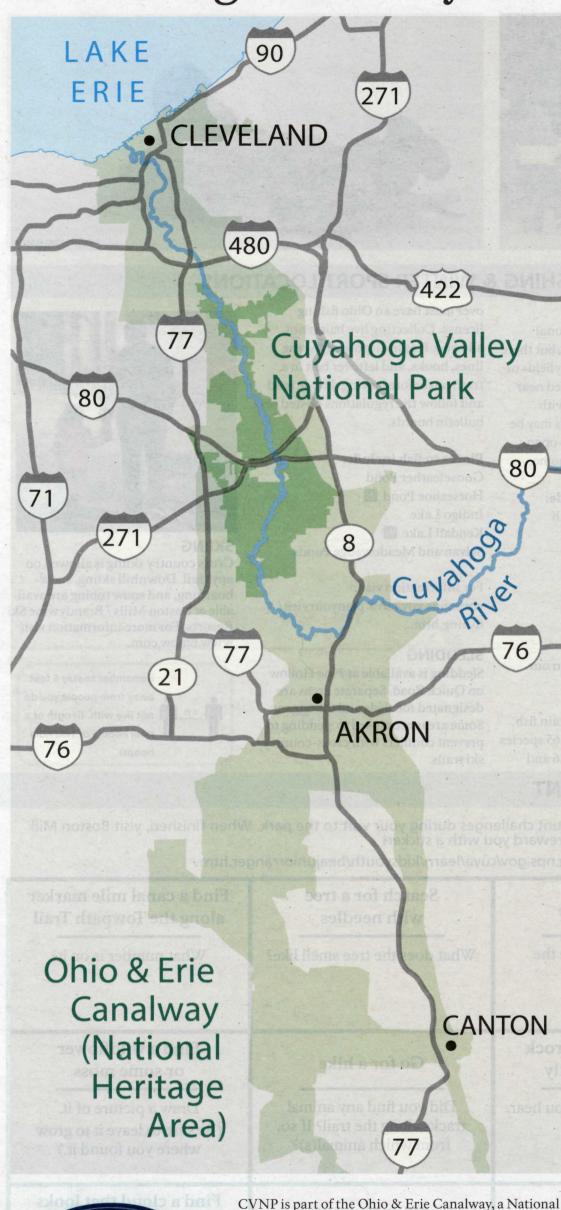


### **BEAVER MARSH**

Throughout the year, the Beaver Marsh teems with life. Depending on the month, you may be serenaded by choirs of countless frogs, watch turtles swim among lily pads, glimpse a beaver nibbling on a willow branch, or hear northern cardinals call from snowy trees. The Beaver Marsh is among the most diverse natural communities in the park.



# Finding Your Way



Heritage Area. Congress designated the Canalway to

help preserve and celebrate the rails, trails, landscapes,

towns, and sites that grew up along the first 110 miles of the canal that helped Ohio and our nation grow. For

more information and a listing of partner events, visit

www.ohioanderiecanalway.com.

### PARK ADDRESSES

Indoor locations may be closed due to COVID-19. For train updates, visit Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad at www.cvsr.org

For Kids

Akron Northside Station 27 Ridge Street, Akron 44304

**Big Bend Area / Station** 1337 Merriman Road, Akron 44313

Boston Mill Visitor Center / Boston Mill Station 6947 Riverview Road, Peninsula, OH 44264

Botzum Trailhead / Station 2928 Riverview Road, Akron 44313

Brandywine Falls Trailhead 8176 Brandywine Road, Sagamore Hills 44067

Brecksville Station Riverview Road at Chippewa Creek Drive, Brecksville 44141

**Canal Exploration Center / Station** 7104 Canal Road, Valley View 44125

**Everett Covered Bridge** 2370 Everett Road, Peninsula 44264

Happy Days Lodge 500 West Streetsboro Road (SR 303), Peninsula 44264

Hines Hill Conference Center / Barn 1403 West Hines Hill Road, Peninsula 44264

Horseshoe Pond 2167 Major Road, Peninsula 44264

Howe Meadow 4040 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264

Hunt House 2054 Bolanz Road, Peninsula 44264

Indigo Lake Trailhead / Station 4300 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264

Ira Trailhead 3801 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264

Kendall Lake Shelter / Trailhead 1000 Truxell Road, Peninsula 44264

Ledges Shelter / Trailhead 405 Truxell Road, Peninsula 44264

Lock 29 Trailhead 1648 Mill Street, Peninsula 44264

NPS Park Headquarters 15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville 44141

Oak Hill Trailhead 3901 Oak Hill Road, Peninsula 44264

Octagon Shelter 499 Truxell Road, Peninsula 44264

Peninsula Depot 1630 Mill Street, Peninsula 44264

Pine Hollow Trailhead 5465 Quick Road, Peninsula 44264

Pine Lane Trailhead 1281 Pine Lane, Peninsula 44264

Red Lock Trailhead 1175 Highland Road, Sagamore Hills 44067

Rockside Station 7900 Old Rockside Road, Independence 44131

Station Road Bridge Trailhead Riverview Road at Chippewa Creek Drive, Brecksville 44141

Stanford House / Trailhead 6093 Stanford Road, Peninsula 44264

Trail Mix Boston 1565 Boston Mills Road, Peninsula 44264

Trail Mix Peninsula 1600 West Mill Street, Peninsula 44264

Wetmore Trailhead 4653 Wetmore Road, Peninsula 44264

# ✤ For Kids

# Tinding Your Way



### JUNIOR RANGER



Anyone who completes the Junior Ranger Handbook or the Junior Ranger, Jr. Activity Cards will earn a Junior Ranger badge. Both are available at Boston Mill Visitor Center.

For more activities and a virtual Junior Ranger badge, visit https:// www.nps.gov/cuva/learn/kidsyouth/ beajuniorranger.htm.







### **PLAYFIELDS, FISHING & WINTER SPORT LOCATIONS**

### PLAYFIELDS

CVNP does not have traditional playgrounds or sports fields, but there are open areas available. Playfields or open areas for play are located near visitor centers and shelters with restroom facilities. Buildings may be closed but restrooms will be open. Bring drinking water from home.

**Open areas for play include:** • Boston, next to the Towpath • Canal Exploration Center • Hunt House

- · Octagon Shelter
- · Ledges Shelter
- · Howe Meadow

#### FISHING

Look for this symbol on our park trail maps. Catch-and-release fishing is

encouraged to help us maintain fish populations. There are over 65 species of fish in CVNP. Those age 16 and over must have an Ohio fishing license. Collecting live bait is not allowed. Please dispose of fishing lines, hooks, and leftover bait in a trashcan before leaving. Please read and follow the regulations posted on bulletin boards.

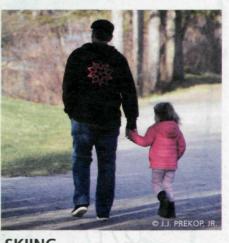
### Places to fish include:

Goosefeather Pond Horseshoe Pond & Indigo Lake Kendall Lake & Sylvan and Meadowedge Ponds

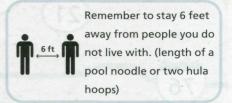
For information visit: www.nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/ fishing.htm.

#### SLEDDING

Sledding is available at Pine Hollow on Quick Road. Separate areas are designated for sleds and toboggans. Some areas are closed to sledding to prevent conflicts with cross-country ski trails.



**SKIING** Cross country skiing is allowed on any trail. Downhill skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing are available at Boston Mills / Brandywine Ski Resorts. For more information visit www.bmbw.com.



### CUYAHOGA VALLEY SCAVENGER HUNT

See if you can complete six of the following scavenger hunt challenges during your visit to the park. When finished, visit Boston Mill Visitor Center during operating hours and a ranger will reward you with a sticker!

You can find other fun activities on our website at www.nps.gov/cuva/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm

Take a photo with a National Park Service arrowhead	Find a puddle	Search for a tree with needles	Find a canal mile marker along the Towpath Trail	
Where did you find this symbol?	How can you make the water ripple?	What does the tree smell like?	What number is on it?	
brad Halfe of Flat	ADD		Canalway	
Have a picnic or snack in the park	Sit on a bench or rock and listen quietly	Go for a hike	Find a wildflower or some moss	
Who else was there?	List all of the sounds you hear.	Did you find any animal tracks along the trail? If so, from which animal(s)?	Draw a picture of it. (Be sure to leave it to grow where you found it.)	
Look for signs of animals eating	Look for birds	Climb up a hill	Find a cloud that looks like an animal	
Describe what you found.	How many did you find? What color(s) were they?	What can you see from the top?	What animal does it resemble?	
August and an and an	Weining Trailing	www.ioanderiecanajway.com.		

# Our Partners

### CONSERVANCY FOR CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park is the official friends group and philanthropic partner for CVNP. With a mission to enrich lives and our communities by inspiring use, appreciation and support of CVNP, the Conservancy raises funds for the park, co-manages the park's volunteer program, provides venues for weddings and private events, operates park retail spaces and hosts public events. For more information and COVID-19 updates, please visit their website, listed on the right.



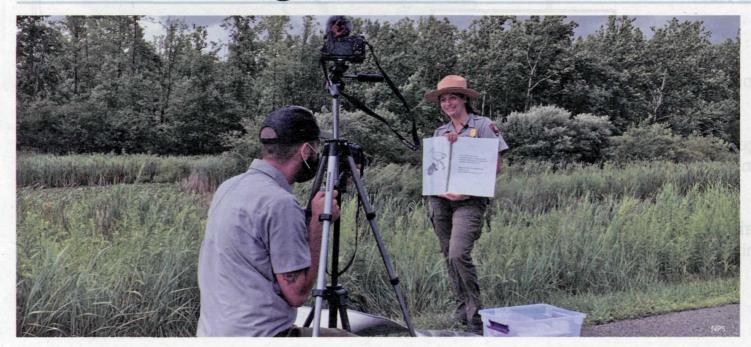
Countryside has worked to connect people, food, and land since 1999 as a nonprofit partner of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. They collaborate with CVNP and 10 Countryside Initiative farms within park boundaries to help preserve the rural landscape. They also facilitate farmers' markets and educate the next generation of farmers. Many of the Countryside Initiative farms offer tours, farm-to-table dinners, and annual farm events. Countryside Farmers' Markets accept SNAP benefits and offer Produce Perks, a \$1-for-\$1 match on all fruits and vegetables. For more information and COVID-19 updates, please visit their website, listed on the right.



### Due to COVID-19, visit cvsr.org for train updates and information.

The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad runs through the heart of Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Special events include Day Out With Thomas<sup>™</sup>, The Polar Express<sup>™</sup>, Bike Aboard!, and Ales on Rails<sup>™</sup>. Whether you are looking for a family trip or a company outing, the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad has something for everyone. For more information, visit their website.

## Invite a Ranger into the Classroom



### CONTACT

Phone 330-657-2909

Address 1403 West Hines Hill Road Peninsula, OH 44264

www.forcvnp.org

ConservancyCVNP

### CONTACT

Phone 234-334-4622

Address 4965 Quick Road Peninsula, OH 44264

www.cvcountryside.org

CVCountryside





CONTACT

**Phone** 1-800-468-4070

Address 1630 West Mill St. Peninsula, OH 44264

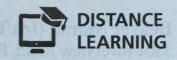
www.cvsr.org

CVSRailroad



### DISTANCE LEARNING

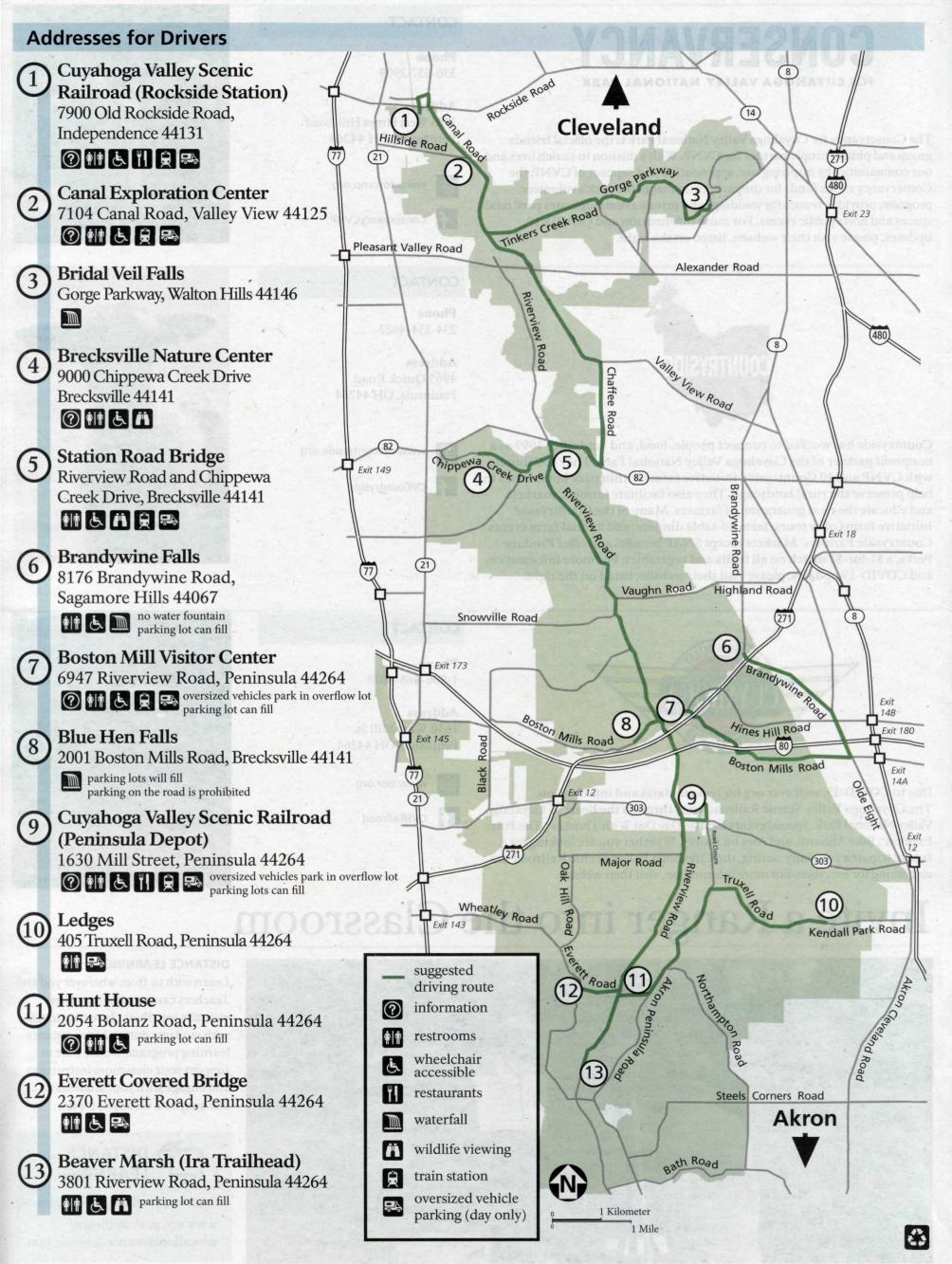
Learn with us from wherever you are! Teachers can now invite a ranger virtually into their classroom to talk with students during a free distance learning program. We are here to support your classroom instruction and engage with your students in learning on a variety of topics.



Explore our offerings by visiting: www.nps.gov/cuva/learn/ education/distance-learning.htm

# Delaces to Go

\*Be aware that parking lots will fill and indoor locations may be closed



8 The Valley Guide