



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

New Submission Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Recreation and Conservation Resources of Cuyahoga Valley 1870 - 1945

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Naturalistic Picturesque Landscapes 1870 - 1925

Conservation and the Progressive Reform Movement 1917 - 1945

Building the Metro Parks: The CCC/ WPA/ PWA Projects in the valley 1933 - 1942

C. Form Prepared by

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date October 3, 1994

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D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara Bowen Department Head
Signature and title of certifying official Planning, Inv. & Reg.

10-7-96
Date

Ohio Historic Preservation Office -- OH SHPO *see cover letter from NPS PRO*
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

1/2/97
Date of Action

Table of Contents for Written Narrative

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

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Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 120 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

E. STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Furthermore, it is in the valleys that one can realize most effectively a sense of isolation and freedom from the sights and sounds of all the multitude of circumstances which go to make the modern city - and when all is said and done that is the justifying purpose of a country park.

-The Olmsted Brothers, 1925-

Introduction

Over the past two hundred years, the Cuyahoga Valley has evolved from a densely wooded forest to an agricultural region to a recreational area serving the urban communities of northeastern Ohio. Throughout this two-hundred year period, and despite the presence of the Ohio Canal, and later, the Valley Railway, the Cuyahoga Valley remained, largely underdeveloped. As the nation industrialized in the nineteenth century, open space-- for the first time in American history-- began to be viewed as a commodity. The location of the Cuyahoga Valley, lying directly between Akron and Cleveland, afforded both cities the opportunity to set aside open space for park development. Recreation, always prevalent within the valley on a limited basis, was now pushed to the forefront, a response to the increasing industrialization and populations of the surrounding regions.

To understand the recreational development of the Cuyahoga Valley, a review of major historical trends in parks and recreation is needed. These broad processes began to evolve in the United States during the mid-nineteenth century. They were a response to increasing industrialization and urbanization and were originally expressed in the picturesque landscape/urban park movement of the 1850s. Almost simultaneously, the world's first system of National Parks had been established within the United States. Throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century the growth and evolution of the conservation and progressive movements within the United States changed the face of recreation. These movements had a great impact on the physical development of the Cuyahoga Valley from 1870 to 1945. The effect of each of these movements on the development of the Cuyahoga Valley will be examined, beginning with the picturesque landscapes of Frederick Law Olmsted and the development of urban parks, through the Progressive and Conservation movements of the early twentieth century resulting in the federal relief projects of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Administration.

Historical Development

Development in the Cuyahoga Valley has been dictated by its geography. The Cuyahoga Valley surrounds the Cuyahoga River as it flows north to Lake Erie through Summit and Cuyahoga counties in northeast Ohio. Following the recession of the Wisconsin glacier about 65,000 years ago, subsequent glacial activity left a lake in the basin of the Cuyahoga River Valley.¹ Initially, waters from this lake flowed over Ohio's north/south watershed to the south-flowing Tuscarawas River. When Lake Erie receded to its present shape, the waters of Lake Cuyahoga

¹William Donohue Ellis, The Cuyahoga (Dayton, Ohio: Landfall Press, Inc., 1966), 13.

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also receded and the Cuyahoga River reformed.²

The river, which flowed directly north to Lake Erie before glaciation, now flowed south and west until it uncovered the old river valley and resumed its northern course to Lake Erie.³ Both sides of the river through this region are bordered by the steep slopes which form the boundary of the Cuyahoga Valley. The valley walls are composed of very unstable soils, a major factor that limited development within the valley. Outcroppings of bedrock restrict development in the northern half of the valley; most of the usable land within the valley lies in a broad floodplain which dissects the valley on a north/south axis.⁴

Prior to European settlement, the Adena and Hopewell cultural groups used the lower Cuyahoga Valley as a transportation route and hunting ground. For twenty years, between 1785 and 1805, the Cuyahoga River and this portage formed part of the western boundary of the United States.⁵ Over this twenty-year period, title to the lands of the Cuyahoga Valley was secured from the Indians in three transactions. The Treaty of Fort McIntosh of 1785 and the Treaty of Greenville of 1795 secured valley land west of the Cuyahoga River. Land east of the river was secured by the signing of the Treaty of Fort Industry in 1805.⁶

Early white settlement within the valley was limited. Although fertile lake plains were located near Lake Erie, further south, fertile soils were interspersed

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Nick Scrattish, Historic Resource Study: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (Denver: U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1985), 183.

⁵Cultural Landscape Report: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1987), 5. Abbreviated in future citations as CLR.

⁶Karl H. Grismer, Akron and Summit County (Akron, Ohio: Summit County Historical Society, 1952), 29-30.

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with bogs, swamps and steep-sided river valleys.⁷ Due to a lack of both transportation and currency, the first two generations of whites in the Cuyahoga Valley practiced self sufficient agriculture.⁸ Land speculation stagnated until the completion of the Ohio and Erie Canal in 1830, which (finally) made market agriculture profitable.⁹

Impetus for the construction of the canal was fueled by the success of the Erie Canal through New York, which had successfully opened eastern markets to western producers. The Ohio and Erie Canal connected the Ohio River to Lake Erie and enabled Ohio's producers to ship their goods north to Lake Erie and on to New York City via the Erie Canal. This was a more economic alternative than the southern route down the Ohio River as it joined the Mississippi River and continued on to New Orleans. Soon after the canal opened to boat traffic in 1827, the valley prospered and farms thrived. The valley was quickly transformed from a predominantly wooded wilderness to an agricultural landscape.¹⁰

During the planning stages of the canal, Simon Perkins, who owned lands across the Portage Summit, platted a town named Akron (Greek for high place) along the proposed route. To ensure that this would be the route for the canal, he deeded to the state the canal right-of-way, two turning basins, and one-third of the town lots.¹¹ Akron's growth was enhanced by the location of seventeen canal locks within a one and a half mile stretch within its borders. These locks, with their inherent delays, afforded canal passengers the opportunity to relax or stock up on food and supplies, supplying Akron with a steady stream of business. By the end of the Civil War, Akron was established as a growing industrial city with a population of over five thousand. By 1870, the population had doubled. When B.F. Goodrich organized his rubber company in that year, and then reorganized in 1874 (after the Panic of 1873), the foundation for Akron's industrial growth was laid.

⁷George W. Knepper, Ohio and Its People (Kent, Ohio, and London, England, The Kent State University Press, 1989), 83.

⁸CLR, 6.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Knepper, 151.

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In the 1920s Akron became America's fastest growing city, due to the mass production of the automobile tire.¹²

Cleveland, since its founding in 1796, had grown little. In 1814, the city housed but 34 structures and had only three streets;¹³ only twelve voters had participated in the city's first election in 1815.¹⁴ But with the opening of the canal, Cleveland grew quickly. By 1850, the city's population was thirty times greater than it had been in 1820. Shipbuilding thrived. During the 1850's, Cleveland had become an important railroad hub, further strengthening the city's broad industrial base. During the Civil War, Cleveland's economy boomed. The city's metal industry attracted additional industrial and manufacturing plants, and by 1860, Cleveland's population had reached 43,317, over half of which were foreign born.¹⁵

While some industries were scattered throughout the valley, many canal towns, such as Boston and Peninsula, lacked the manufacturing base necessary to sustain their growth as canal traffic declined.¹⁶ The Valley Railway between Akron and Cleveland (completed in 1880) offered a ready means of transport for valley goods. The geography of the valley, especially the steep slopes and unstable soils, impeded extensive industrial development in the area.

Through the latter half of the nineteenth century, farmers within the valley adapted production to meet the demand generated by the area's booming population. By 1910, the combined population of Cuyahoga and Summit counties neared three-quarters of a million people. But gradually, farming within the Cuyahoga Valley became less lucrative. Many farmers came to the cities in search of higher wages

¹²George W. Knepper, Akron: City at the Summit (Tulsa, Oklahoma: Continental Heritage Press, Inc., 1981), 51-54.

¹³Harlan Hatcher and Frank Durham, Giant from the Wilderness (Cleveland, Ohio: The World Publishing Company, 1955), 39.

¹⁴Peter Jedick, Cleveland: Where the East Coast meets the Midwest (Cleveland, Cleveland Magazine Press, 1980), 5.

¹⁵Ibid., 6.

¹⁶Knepper, Ohio and Its People, p. 157.

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as western farms of the plains states produced higher yields. The flood of 1913 put an end to the utility of the already languishing Ohio Canal in terms of transportation; the canal's waters would still be used as coolant for many industries which lined its banks.

Rapid growth in American cities in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century triggered a nationwide movement toward recreation and open space protection. As Akron and Cleveland expanded to become two of the country's leading industrial producers, the relatively undisturbed Cuyahoga Valley was perfectly situated to fulfill the need for public parks and open space. By this time, preserving, protecting and using the valley's relatively undisturbed natural landscape for recreation was becoming a priority. This concern for undeveloped greenspace reflected an evolving nationwide parks and recreation movement.

Evolution of Parks and Societal Attitudes toward Recreation

Though the Cuyahoga Valley was not ostensibly used for recreational purposes until the first quarter of the twentieth century, the national movements of the mid to late nineteenth century are clearly reflected in park planning for the Cuyahoga Valley. The evolution of the park movement and related developments within the United States provides a framework for understanding the recreational developments in the Cuyahoga Valley.

It was not until the seventeenth century that changing social behavior led to the use of green space as part of the organic structure of the city. In France, the pleasure gardens of royalty (specifically the grounds of Marie de Medici's Luxembourg Palace) were largely open to the public. By 1605, Henry IV, bowing to public pressure, began work on the Place Royale in Paris, a public plaza which grew out of the older palace court designs.¹⁷ Such areas were specifically planned for public recreation, unlike the palace grounds.

Influenced by the Romantic Movement of the late eighteenth century, the English Landscape Gardening School initiated the concept of the manmade landscape outside the garden. As Newton states in Design on the Land, "For the first recorded time in history of outdoor design, the landscape gardeners actually built landscapes

¹⁷Ibid., 9.

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in presumed conformity with wild nature."¹⁸ Newton further notes that the open spaces produced by the purposefully picturesque arrangements of objects created, if accidentally, a new spatial form. This spatial type, "with curving boundaries of untrimmed vegetation seldom parallel to the sight-line, floored by the undulant surface of the land, and subject to purposeful manipulation and modeling"¹⁹ influenced Prince Puckler-Muskau of Germany and, later, Frederick Law Olmsted.

Silesian Prince Puckler-Muskau travelled in England in the early 19th century. While there he studied many country estates and regarded the English country life as the "unattainable model."²⁰ He later converted his ancestral lands in Silesia into an extensive parklike system by surrounding the city of Muskau with parks, thereby making the city almost part of the park.²¹ This idea was adopted by several early American landscape architects, who envisioned vast open space systems extending through and around the nation's growing urban regions as industrialism and expansion became prevalent in the mid-nineteenth century.²²

The landscaped gardens of England's private estates became manifest in the mid-nineteenth century public domain in the form of the "country park." The initial model for this type was Liverpool's Birkenhead Park, which had a profound influence on young Frederick Law Olmsted. Commissioners of the Birkenhead development felt a country-like open space was important to relieve the congestion and drudgery of the factory and the dock, especially for the workers who recently arrived from farms. In his 1852 book Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England, Olmsted writes of Birkenhead Park "I was ready to admit that in democratic America there was nothing to be thought of as comparable with this

¹⁸Norman T. Newton, Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture (Cambridge, Massachusetts, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971). 220.

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰Newton, 235.

²¹Roger B. Martin, "Metropolitan Open Spaces," American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places, ed. William H. Tishler (Washington D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1989), 165.

²²Ibid.

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People's Garden . . . And all this magnificent pleasure-ground is entirely, unreservedly, and for ever the people's own."²³

In America, by the middle of the nineteenth century, actions were being taken at the national level to preserve open space. In 1864, Abraham Lincoln signed legislation setting aside the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Groves in order that the State of California could hold the land for "public use, resort and recreation inalienable for all time."²⁴

Frederick Law Olmsted, was appointed a commissioner of these reservations and supervised the preparation of a report for their administration. He was a proponent of establishing national parks across the country and helped lay the foundation for the current national park system.²⁵ Eight years later, in 1872, the world's first national park was established when Congress designated more than two million acres in Wyoming as Yellowstone National Park.

In 1916 the National Park System was formally established and the American Society of Landscape Architects passed a resolution supporting the National Park service bill. The society also addressed park issues requiring "landscape architectural expertise, including the delineation of boundaries in consonance with topography and landscape units and the development of comprehensive plans for managing natural and developed areas."²⁶ Thus, the establishment of park systems across the United States was largely predicated by the work of landscape architects and planners.

Conditions also necessitated parks within and surrounding urban areas. New York

²³Frederick Law Olmsted, "Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England" in Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture, Norman T. Newton (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Belknap Press, 1971), 232.

²⁴Raymond L. Freeman "National Parks" in American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places, ed. William H. Tishler, 172. Abbreviated in future citations as ALA.

²⁵Raymond L. Freeman, "National Parks," ALA, 172.

²⁶Ibid.

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City's Central Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux as a response to the city's increasing congestion. Central Park was initially completed in 1863, though construction there continued between 1865 and 1878. The success of Central Park spurred the development of parks within cities across the United States. In 1872, H.W.S. Cleveland, America's first so-called western landscape architect, "advocated a bold metropolitan park system for Minneapolis and St. Paul Minnesota. This would include bluffs along the Mississippi River, as well as land surrounding picturesque lakes, streams, hills and valleys."²⁷

At this time, H.W.S. Cleveland, along with Frederick Law Olmsted and his partner Calvert Vaux, pioneered linear parks, or parkways, which connected significant areas of parkland within metropolitan regions by carriage paths. This idea was adopted by Charles Eliot in 1890 when he formulated plans for a metropolitan system of open spaces for Boston Massachusetts. While this plan was unique to Boston's geography, it established the framework for other metropolitan open space networks in America, including those in Akron and Cleveland using the automobile.²⁸

Galen Cranz, in his article "The Changing Role of Urban Parks from Pleasure Garden to Open Space," describes the social evolution of the park landscape in the United States. Cranz states that "four distinct constellations of program and form have emerged since the beginning of the American park movement in the middle of the nineteenth century- the pleasure garden, reform park, recreational facility, and open space system."²⁹ The first three movements had their origins in the socio-economic conditions of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They heavily influenced contemporary park design while reflecting America's shift from passive to active recreation.

The pleasure garden served as "an idealized agrarian scene,"³⁰ whose crafted

²⁷Roger B. Martin, "Metropolitan Open Spaces" ed. William H. Tishler, ALA, 165.

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹Galen Cranz, "The Changing Role of Urban Parks: From Pleasure Garden to Open Space," Landscape 22 no.3 (1978): 9.

³⁰Ibid.

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naturalistic landscapes, as evidenced in Central Park, were designed to provide relief from the city. Olmsted, one of the earliest proponents of the pastoral landscape, did not want the viewers of his carefully arranged landscapes to be diverted by an intellectual interest. Buildings were kept to a minimum, as were flowers, which Olmsted felt "revealed the hand of man."³¹ The second movement in contemporary park design, the reform park, or playground, was a response to the larger reform movements of the Progressive Era. These parks offered daily exercise for youths and initiated a wide scale acceptance of active recreation which had been building since the end of the Civil War. Buildings in these parks were strictly functional and a new building type emerged, the field house, which incorporated showers, community rooms, meeting rooms and a gymnasium.³² By the 1930s, a third movement in park design evolved when recreation was accepted as a municipal function instead of a zealous reform movement. Recreational facilities were geared toward active participation and included stadiums, band shells and swimming pools.³³

These three trends in urban park form and design affected the development of the Cleveland and Akron Metroparks in the early twentieth century and share their origins with the broader Progressive and Conservation movements of the same period. In the 1910s and 1920s the Cleveland and Akron Metropolitan Park Districts were formed, due in large part to the area's progressive leading industrialists, such as C. W. Seiberling and Harvey Firestone. In the 1930's many of these newly created parks' recreational structures were being constructed with either Civilian Conservation Corps or Works Progress Administration labor. By this time the conflicts which had previously arisen regarding active versus passive recreation were largely moot.

As previously mentioned, active recreation was no longer distinguished as a reform movement, it was accepted as a daily activity, especially with youngsters. Scouting and camping, prevalent in the Cuyahoga valley by the early twentieth century, implemented the progressive ideals of the playground movement in a wooded rather than urban environment. By the twentieth century, the conservation

³¹Ibid.

³²Ibid, 13.

³³Ibid, 15.

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movement had evolved into something approaching a moral crusade; scouting and camping offered a needed respite from the cluttered urban environment.

When the Olmsted Brothers firm provided recommendations for the development of the park systems of Akron and Cleveland in the 1920s, they stressed the importance of preserving the region's scenic views and pastoral landscapes. When CCC and WPA labor constructed recreational facilities within the Cuyahoga Valley through the 1930's and early 1940's, it was not seen as a conflict of interest. These CCC and WPA construction projects were built for functions consistent with the intended uses for both reform parks and recreational facilities, but they were more sympathetic to the natural setting.

The development of the Cuyahoga Valley as a recreational area differs markedly from an urban environment such as Central Park. There, the change from the pleasure garden to the reform park, and the corresponding shift in emphasis from passive to active recreation, can be seen as an evolving land use history. In the Cuyahoga Valley, the influence of the picturesque, progressive and conservation movements merged. Nevertheless, they did have distinct impacts on the environment.

Naturalistic Landscapes

The basis for the naturalistic landscape design and passive recreational function evolved in the early 19th century. The highly influential picturesque aesthetic was described by horticulturalist and landscape designer A.J. Downing (1815-52) in his Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, Adapted to North America as "distinguished by irregular lines, abrupt and broken surfaces, a more natural and wild plant growth . . ." ³⁴ According to Christopher Tunnard, in an article in the Magazine of Art:

. . . urban recreation for the people in the (eighteen) thirties and forties consisted of walking in cemeteries or in zoological gardens, and it was inevitable that in the expanding industrial centers the idea of forming green lungs to enable the city to breathe should take hold, as it did in the utilitarian town planning movement in England between 1825 and 1845, and in the new

³⁴Catherine M. Howett, "Andrew Jackson Downing" ed. William H. Tishler, ed. ALA, 30.

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 parks movement in the United States after 1850.³⁵

Urban recreation in the picturesque landscape had its genesis in Boston's rural cemetery, Mount Auburn. In 1831 an observer wrote "The avenues are winding in their course and exceedingly beautiful in their gentle circuits, adapted picturesquely to the inequalities of the surface of the ground, and producing charming landscape effects from this natural arrangement, such as could never be had from straightness or regularity."³⁶ A Boston newspaper described it by stating that "We can find no better spot for the ramble of curiosity, health, or pleasure".³⁷ In 1848, Andrew Jackson Downing's article in The Horticulturist entitled "A Talk About Public Parks and Gardens" made the radical prediction that public parks in cities could be as popular as cemeteries.

The realization of Downing's prediction was Olmsted and Vaux's Central Park in New York. They defended their romantic, naturalistic composition by pointing out that the grading, filling, and leveling that was needed to develop the rocky island into the monotonous grid of buildings had obliterated the true character of Manhattan. Only through preserving the natural forms in the design of the park could the varied surfaces and picturesque nature of the island be preserved.³⁸ Within 10 years, there was barely a major city that did not have, or was at least planning, a major park. Many of these were designed by Olmsted and/or Vaux.³⁹

The naturalistic, curvilinear nature of the cemetery and urban park design found an additional expression in the developing suburbs. Developments such as Downing

³⁵Christopher Tunnard, "The Leaf and the Stone," The Magazine of Art, (February 1951), cited by Charles E. Doell and Gerald B. Fitzgerald A Brief History of Parks and Recreation in the United States (Chicago, The Athletic Institute, 1954), 10.

³⁶John W. Reps, The Making of Urban America, (Princeton, New Jersey, Princeton University Press, 1965) p. 326.

³⁷Jules Zanger, "Mount Auburn Cemetery: The Silent Suburb" Landscape 24, no. 2 (1980), 24.

³⁸Reps, 336.

³⁹Ibid., 339.

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and Jackson's Llewellyn Park in Orange, New Jersey and Olmsted and Vaux's plan for Riverside, Illinois stressed the picturesque. The curvilinear street pattern, Olmsted argued, suggests "leisure, contemplativeness and happy tranquility."⁴⁰ By the late 19th century, most cities had these romantic plan suburbs for the well-to-do.⁴¹

For those not able to afford to live in the sub-urban park-like setting, increasing congestion in the city created health problems. Congestion in early 19th century cities was seen as a major factor in the outbreak and spread of cholera and other epidemics. As Cranz notes, "Transcendentalist reformers were agitating for large, open green spaces in order to get people into natural settings that offered relief from the rigors of work. The avoidance of epidemics was also a factor here. Though the germ theory was not yet accepted, people realized that in less congested areas epidemics were not so severe."⁴²

Industrialization had changed the nature of work. Leisure and contemplation were no longer a part of the typical work day, as had previously been the case. The more automated nature of work led to a more automated and repetitious work environment, in many instances typified by inadequate lighting and ventilation and cramped working conditions. Parks could offer relief from this atmosphere.

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903), the acknowledged father of American landscape architecture, was one of the earliest American proponents of the naturalistic designed landscape, or pleasure garden. When Frederick Law Olmsted and his partner Calvert Vaux designed Central Park in New York City in the 1850's, he stated that "the dominant and justifying purpose of Central Park was conceived to be that of permanently affording, in the densely populated central portion of an immense metropolis, a means to certain kinds of refreshment of the minds and nerves which most city dwellers greatly need and which they are known to derive

⁴⁰Ibid., 344.

⁴¹Ibid., 348.

⁴²Cranz, 9.

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in large measure from the enjoyment of suitable scenery."⁴³

Cranz feels that Olmsted's belief that "the greatest counterpoint to urban form was pure wilderness" was "tempered by his recognition of the impracticality of achieving the illusion of wilderness anywhere near a city. Consequently, he chose the pastoral landscape as the most pragmatic and appropriate way to provide relief from the city."⁴⁴ Recreation in these sculpted landscapes was strictly passive; ballplaying, for instance, was (at first) strictly prohibited. Devoid of "the fussy decoration" inherent in architecture and flower beds, these idyllic landscapes, complete with ponds, meadows, streams and hills, offered an area of total relaxation and undiverted contemplation.⁴⁵

In the Cuyahoga Valley, such was the natural condition of the landscape, though the restrictions Olmsted placed on form and function (ie. passive and active) were absent. In A Green Shrouded Miracle: The Administrative History of Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Ohio, Historian Ron Cockrell describes the late 19th century recreational use of the valley:

. . . by the dawning of the twentieth century recreation in the Cuyahoga Valley was an established tradition. Beginning in the 1870's, city dwellers were venturing out to the countryside picnicking, boating, hiking and for nature study. Carriage rides down the quaint country roads and boat rides along the canal were especially popular. Eager to escape the pressures of urban industrial life, many families journeyed to the Cuyahoga Valley on the Valley Railroad which promoted its excursions with a guidebook.

⁴³F. L. Olmsted Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England in Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1971), 30.

⁴⁴Cranz, 9.

⁴⁵Ibid.

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Farmers sold their produce directly to these tourists."⁴⁶

As noted, the two major transportation routes through the valley, the railroad and the canal, served to facilitate recreation as well as the delivery of goods. The Old Carriage Trail was available for those who still wanted to enjoy the scenery of the valley from their carriage. The 20 plus miles of graded carriage trails located on the Marshall estate in Sagamore Hills curved along the upland edges of ravines which dropped down to the Ohio & Erie Canal and the Cuyahoga River. These trails were repaired and realigned between 1910 to 1940. Today, due to a suburban development, only four miles of the trails remain.⁴⁷

By the twentieth century, the growth of both Akron and Cleveland prompted city officials to initiate plans for the creation of Metropolitan park districts. Both cities contacted the Olmsted Brothers Firm of Massachusetts, formed in 1898 by John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., for recommendations. The Olmsteds stressed the maintenance of the pastoral landscape within the Cuyahoga Valley, though by that time (the 1910s and 1920s) their ideas had evolved beyond the views of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.

John Charles Olmsted, the senior Olmsted's stepson and nephew, continued his stepfather's principles of design. But as population densities increased (and active recreation became widely accepted as a daily activity), Olmsted began to shift his emphasis from the passive to the active. The pastoral setting accommodated the architectural and recreational features, while still stressing the preservation of important vistas and particularly scenic areas. He expanded his stepfather's park and parkway designs in a number of cities and designed parks on his own for a number of others.⁴⁸

Arleyn A. Levee, in her essay on John Charles Olmsted in American Landscape

⁴⁶Ron Cockrell, A Green Shrouded Miracle: The Administrative History of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1992), 11.

⁴⁷Trail Plan and Environmental Assessment: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1985), 28.

⁴⁸Arleyn A. Levee, "James Charles Olmsted" ALA, 48.

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Architecture, sees him as the most important link between 19th century romanticism and twentieth century pragmatism in the field of landscape architecture. His brother, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., was at the forefront of the new city planning movement of the early twentieth century and the period's state and regional park movements. He was instrumental in updating the city plan of Washington, D.C., which extended the city's system of regional parks into the surrounding suburbs, a model which the city of Cleveland was to follow closely.

The Olmsted firm's involvement in the development of the Akron and Cleveland park systems utilizing the Cuyahoga Valley shows that, in the case of the Cuyahoga Valley, the pastoral ideal was still the basis for park development. The firm had been contacted by W. A. Stinchcomb of Cleveland in 1915, but in a capacity which was strictly advisory- to provide help in preparing a county wide park plan for Cuyahoga County. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. toured the valley and the surrounding area for three days and later approved of Stinchcomb's plan for the region, which called for a system of park reservations to be connected by parkways, recalling the vision of the elder Olmsted and H.W.S. Cleveland. The 1917-18 First Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District describes the plan as follows:

The general plan as prepared by Mr. Stinchcomb with the co-operation of Mr. Olmsted, was presented to the National Conference on City Planning, held in Cleveland in June 1916, and was pronounced by those in attendance to compare most favorably with the metropolitan park systems developed and contemplated adjacent to Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul and many other large cities.⁴⁹

The influence the Olmsted firm had on the development of Akron's park system was more direct. In 1925, in response to requests from the city of Akron, the Olmsted firm released their study on the development of park systems within Summit County. This report explicitly details the firm's proposals on the development and recreational use of the land encompassed by the survey and is the earliest document of its kind to advocate preservation of land tracts on a county wide

⁴⁹First Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District: for the period beginning July 30, 1917 and Ending December 31, 1918 (Cleveland, Ohio, 1919), 9.

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basis.⁵⁰

The Olmsted firm viewed the valley in a strictly naturalistic and pastoral sense. They stated that the region contained a "wealth of beautiful scenery," referencing "the wonderful and impressive landscape of the Cuyahoga valley north of Akron, the many and varied wooded ravines running up from this main valley to the plateau land on either side, the large stretches of gently rolling pastoral landscape, streams and lakes, occasional gorges and picturesque ravines where the streams have worn through the sandstone strata, and some hills of a more or less rugged character commanding broad views over the countryside."⁵¹ The report notes that "the park value of such a reservation would (or at least could) be limited almost entirely to the enjoyment of beautiful scenery, because it is not particularly well adapted to serve efficiently as a place for picnics, boating and bathing, walking, horseback riding, golf, or even camping, and furthermore these recreations can be provided more economically and in a greater degree of excellence elsewhere."⁵²

The report divided the landscapes within the region into four categories: (1) the Cuyahoga Valley north of Akron (2) ravine reservations (3) hill or outlook parks and (4) water reservations. Reservations to be secured were classified by the above designations and each individual area was specifically sited. The firm stressed that decisions regarding landscape preservation were not made arbitrarily, but that the final decisions were guided by experience. Areas selected as significant were judged to: (1) possess more latent park value than other considered sites and (2) contribute more to the good of the metropolitan community as public reservations than as private holdings.

The report states that the Cuyahoga valley was unquestionably the dominating topographic feature of the region. The firm determined that "it is the whole valley from brink to brink that comprises the scenery; and the unsightly

⁵⁰Scrattish, 228.

⁵¹Olmsted Brothers Firm, A General Study on the System of Public Parks for the City of Akron, Ohio including all of Summit County (Prepared and delivered to the City of Akron in October, 1925), 2. Future citations listed as Olmsted General Study.

⁵²Olmsted Brothers Firm, Olmsted General Study, 4.

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development of any noticeable part of that landscape, whether in the bottom land or on the enclosing banks, would very largely destroy the beauty - and so the park value - of the entire scene."⁵³

The firm realized that the purchase of all of the property within the valley (within Summit County) would be very expensive and difficult to justify to the public, stressing that this area was far larger than was required to fulfill the park needs of a community the size of Summit County "no matter how densely it may ultimately be populated."⁵⁴

To sidestep this, the report suggested that restrictions be brought against the use of the majority of the land within the valley as an alternative to outright purchase. They cited the benefits of this strategy by saying that "by these means the great beauty of the wooded hillsides, pastoral bottom lands and the river can be perpetuated for the public good without excessive direct cost and without undue limitation of economic and taxable uses."⁵⁵ Continued agriculture and the maintenance and construction of necessary farm buildings would not injure the landscape, but it was stressed that these restrictions must be worded to assure that they would not impose unnecessary limitations on the use of the land and would absolutely assure that the essential beauty of the scenery be kept intact.

Initially, the Olmsted firm felt that control of the valley from Akron to the mouth of Furnace Run would provide a "splendid, impressive reservation," but the firm recommended that control be extended to Peninsula and beyond. Ultimately, with the cooperation of the Cleveland Metroparks, the firm felt that control of valley property could be extended through the already secured Chippewa reservation in Chaffee and proceed toward Cleveland.⁵⁶

In dealing with the ravines, hills and water reservations, the report specifically listed those areas seen as the most valuable assets to the park. These sites show the geological uniqueness that Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., was to cite in 1928 as

⁵³Ibid., 3.

⁵⁴Ibid.

⁵⁵Ibid., 5.

⁵⁶Ibid., 5.

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the "fundamental determinant" for choosing a site. (ASLA and NTHP book p. 195)
This list included seven ravines, five ledges or hills and five water
reservations.

The ravine reservations included the Gorge through Cuyahoga Falls, Mud Brook
Valley on the east side of the Cuyahoga Valley, Yellow Creek Valley near Ghent,
Boston Run near Peninsula, Brandywine Creek, Furnace Run and Sand Run (including
Cramner Knoll). The merits of each site are explicitly detailed within the report.
Noting that the enjoyment of broad expansive views, especially over beautiful
forests or rural landscapes, was a potent element in the refreshment and
recreation of the dweller in modern cities, the report listed five hills from
which the views were considered exceptional. These included the Wintergreen
Ledges, the Ritchie Ledges, North Woods, Twinsburg Ledges, and a hill west of
Bath. Water elements of exceptional value included the Turkeyfoot Reservation,
the Cuyahoga River above the Gorge, Springfield Lake, the Tuscarawas Reservoir
Project as well as the canal and lake system between Akron, the Portage Lakes and
Barberton.

The relationship between this report and the ideals of the pastoral landscape as
applied to natural landscapes throughout Summit County and especially the Cuyahoga
valley are apparent. As the report notes,

Of the general types of landscape found in Summit County - rivers
and lakes, broad meadows, hilltops and valleys - the valleys,
whether broad and shallow or narrow, deep and gorge-like, have
certain peculiar qualifications as country parks and present
certain opportunities that will bear emphasis. Valley scenery is
more or less self-contained; its beauty can readily be seen and
comprehended as a unit, and it can most easily be protected from
the injurious encroachment of ugly or at least inharmonious
developments round about it. Furthermore, it is in the valleys that
one can realize most effectively a sense of isolation and freedom
from sights and sounds and all the multitudes of circumstances
which go to make the modern city - and when all is said and done
that is the justifying purpose of a park.⁵⁷

⁵⁷Ibid., 18.

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The report stresses to landowners within the park that their main interest is that "the scenery as a whole - not merely that portion of it which he happens to control, but the other parts as well over which his views extend - shall be permanently preserved."⁵⁸ The preservation of park lands, both in Cleveland and Akron and in the areas in between, have surpassed the most optimistic recommendations of the Olmsted Firm's report. As it currently stands, the residents of northeast Ohio enjoy more park space per person than any other similarly sized statistical area within the United States. Much of this parkland, aside from trails and shelters, is undeveloped and in its natural state, as it was when viewed by the Olmsted firm. To a large extent, the specific sites which the firm recognized as areas to be preserved have been maintained, or even upgraded, over the seventy year period since the firm made their report.

Conservation and the Progressive Reform Movement

By the dawning of the twentieth century America stood on the edge of change. As authors Robert S. Knapp and Charles E. Hartsoe state in their 1979 book Play for America: The National Recreation Association 1906-1965:

The reform conscious 1890s were a watershed of American history dividing a rural, self-contained, confident America from a predominantly urban, industrial nation with more than a trace of skepticism. Scholars seem to agree on the importance of the decade or two after 1890 in the molding of twentieth century America. It was the time of the populist revolt and the armageddon of the agrarians, but the future of the nation already lay with the industrial city. Technology, bigness, organization, expertise and a host of impersonal economic forces threatened the world of the once self-reliant individual. Community and collectivism became viable alternatives again. The downfall of Darwinian determinism meant that a man was no longer dependent on the philosophy of laissez faire. Concepts of environment and nurture challenged ideas of heredity and nature as determinants in an individual's life. Leaders in fields such as economics and sociology increasingly stressed the idea that man could be a significant power in the world. Impersonal forces of the universe could be

⁵⁸Ibid., 19.

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altered by the expert, the professional and the scientist. Society could be improved; democracy revitalized. From the agrarian Populists and municipal reformers of the 1890's to the leaders of the next decades so-called progressive movement, men felt that society could be improved if only people would act.⁵⁹

The idea that manipulation of the environment and the nurturing process could enhance the collective good of society is reflected in the twentieth century views of conservation and the role of recreation in society. The American conservation movement swept through the United States in the early 1900's. What began as a more efficient exploitation of natural resources became a moral crusade that espoused pursuit of the higher values inherent in nature. Concurrently, recreation was evolving from an organized effort to expend excess energy to an important part of the maturation process. Both movements had profound effects on the use of parks and wilderness areas.

The conservation movement began in the 1870s and 1880s as a response to westward expansion, necessitating the construction of reservoirs to conserve spring flood waters. Conservation did not yet apply to aesthetics and the natural ideal, as it soon would. When these sentiments began to be vocalized by the American Forestry Association, Gifford Pinchot, Chief of the Forestry Bureau, argued that forestry did not concern planting roadside trees, parks or gardens, but it involved scientific, sustained yield timber management.⁶⁰ In some instances, disregard for aesthetics was blatant. In 1908, when Lord Kelvin, the president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, was asked how proposed water power development at Niagara Falls would affect the site's natural beauty, he replied, "What has that got to do with it?"⁶¹

As Samuel P. Hays states in his book, Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency,

⁵⁹Richard F. Knapp and Charles E. Hartsoe, Play for America: The National Recreation Association 1906-1965 (Arlington, Virginia: National Recreation and Park Association, 1979), 10.

⁶⁰Samuel P. Hays, Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency: The Progressive Conservation Movement 1890-1920 (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1959), 127.

⁶¹Ibid.

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"The apostles of the gospel of efficiency subordinated the aesthetic to the utilitarian. Preservation of natural scenery and historic sites, in their scheme of things, remained subordinate to increasing industrial productivity."⁶² By 1910, the conservation movement had become an idealistic crusade. The Roosevelt administration had expanded the program from piecemeal irrigation, forest range and mineral measures to the most comprehensive water development program yet devised. After Taft's election in 1908, the remaining Roosevelt vanguard was faced with increasing opposition from the new Congress, President and Executive Department when they pushed for a comprehensive policy for the conservation of all natural resources. To combat this opposition they looked to the public for support and expanded the scope of the term in the public eye.⁶³ As Hays states, "For many the term implied the need for efficiency in social and moral affairs as well as in economic life. Like Theodore Roosevelt, they looked upon conservation as a major step in the progress of civilization; it would bring conscious foresight and intelligence into the direction of all human affairs."⁶⁴

In the eyes of conservationists, industrializing America could not forsake its natural roots. The natural environment began to be seen as an antidote to America's "materialistic lethargy," in some instances imbued with a spiritual quality.⁶⁵ The progressive movement during Teddy Roosevelt's administration had manifested itself as a struggle against corporations and offered, in part, a resistance to corporate efforts to exploit the natural resources of the country in their own behalf.⁶⁶ To many, industrialism was responsible for the "sprawling urban monstrosities," in which "sobriety, honesty, and hard work" were replaced by "disease, immorality and squalor."⁶⁷ As Hays states, "Conservation symbolized

⁶²Ibid.

⁶³Ibid., 122.

⁶⁴Ibid., 123.

⁶⁵Ibid., 122.

⁶⁶Ibid., 261.

⁶⁷Ibid., 144.

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the direct opposite of these ominous tendencies."⁶⁸ Alfred L. Baker, a prominent Chicago conservationist, termed the movement a "moral tonic."⁶⁹ Hays feels that the conservation movement was "oriented toward nature and the eternal values inherent in nature, rather than toward the more artificial, materialistic and socially unstable cities."⁷⁰

An additional aspect of the Progressive Reform movement's "desire to act" was the perceived role of organized recreation in society. Challenges to traditional views of recreation as a passive activity began to be vocalized. Herbert Spencer, the widely read purveyor of Darwinism to America, saw play not as a pointless waste of time, but as a device for using surplus energy not required for the essential maintenance of life.⁷¹ In 1890, William James, author of Principles of Psychology, classified play as an instinct.⁷² This 'instinct practice' theory culminated in the work of Carl Groos of Switzerland, who viewed play both as a natural instinct and as a form of training in preparation for adulthood.⁷³ The German educator Guts Muth emphasized that play was a valuable recreational outlet while G. Stanley Hall of Clark University saw play as an inherited instinct recapitulating "the earlier cultural epochs of man."⁷⁴ While most urban Americans were too caught up in the trials of their own daily existence to be aware of such studies, these ideals began to be upheld by America's progressive reformers.⁷⁵

By the twentieth century, views on active recreation had begun to change.

⁶⁸Ibid.

⁶⁹Ibid.

⁷⁰Ibid.

⁷¹Knapp, Ohio and Its People, p. 8.

⁷²Ibid.

⁷³Ibid.

⁷⁴Ibid.

⁷⁵Knapp, 8.

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Frustrated progressive reformers felt that a child's recreational needs should be met daily at nearby sites, as opposed to infrequent trips to the city's outskirts where most parks were located. These reformers had been advocating the construction of children's playgrounds since the 1880's. By 1900, the two ideas—the need for playgrounds and the need for local parks—came together and gave rise to the reform park, consisting of a square block or two set aside within a city or neighborhood whose expressed aim was to provide daily, active, outdoor recreation for surrounding youths.⁷⁶

The growing emphasis on the social merit of recreation was creating a rift over how to use America's parks and the country's open space. As L.H. Weir notes in his 1928 "Manual on Parks"

During the past twenty-five years the confusion in terminology (concerning parks) has become even more marked. The word 'park' came to be applied not only to plazas, squares, ovals, triangles, places, monument sites, promenades and public gardens, but to other kinds of properties which functionally were the direct opposite to the 'peaceful enjoyment of an idealized rural landscape.' (quoting Olmsted) Even the great masterpieces of idealized rural landscape created by Olmsted and others of the pioneers in park building were, in many instances, transformed from places where 'city dwellers could secure the genuine recreation coming from the peaceful enjoyment of an idealized rural landscape' to active recreation areas. Broad open meadows had been appropriated for golf or baseball diamonds; the swift moving automobile had usurped the pleasant carriage driveway, destroying the restful atmosphere of the area, and in some rare instances even the amusement devices of the commercial amusement park had been permitted entrance . . . Both Eliot (landscape architect Charles Eliot) and Olmsted recognized that the supreme functional use of parks was for the recreation of the people, but the type of recreation they advocated was of a passive and semi-active kind, the dominant ideal being peaceful enjoyment amid beautiful surroundings of a naturalistic

⁷⁶Cranz, 12.

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kind. There can be no doubt that this conception was fundamentally sound then, especially as applied to city dwelling people. It is of even greater importance today, as cities have grown larger and the stress and strain of living have become greater."⁷⁷

It is obvious that Weir, as late as 1928, is a committed advocate of passive recreation. As noted, Olmsted's meticulously crafted naturalistic landscapes were intended to release its viewer from the stresses of work and urban life through the settings' tranquility, offering a passive or, at most, semi-active, recreational outlet. To this end, organized sports and play in the parks was discouraged. In 1891, the park board of New York City had refused permission for the New York Athletic Club to play football in Central Park and through the early twentieth century, pick-up games of both baseball and football were broken up.⁷⁸

The early twentieth century concept of recreation as reform was not limited to the urban environment. Henry S. Curtis, former secretary and vice president of the Playground Association of America, expressed the need for developing rural recreational opportunities in his 1914 book entitled Play and Recreation for the Open Country. Curtis notes that the excitement of the frontier was quickly disappearing as the more capable members of the population were drifting toward the city, evidence of a general unrest and dissatisfaction among the younger generation which was the outward expression of a hunger for a larger life. Curtis, a farmboy himself, laments this fact in his summation of rural life in the early twentieth century. He feels rural life "has become overserious and sordid," and that people in general, and farmers in particular, must remember that "life and the love of happiness, not wealth, are the objects of living."⁷⁹ He felt that the spirit of play was lacking, and that "The social center, the Boy Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls must bring back the adventure and romance that the country

⁷⁷L.H. Weir, Parks: A Manual of Municipal and County Parks (New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, 1928) cited by Doell and Fitzgerald, 36.

⁷⁸Knapp, 10.

⁷⁹Henry S. Curtis, Play and Recreation for the Open Country (Boston: Ginn and Company, 1914), xv.

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has lost."⁸⁰

The merging of the inherent benefits of experiencing a natural environment, and the inherent benefits of outdoor recreation espoused by progressives is recognized in the formation of the Boy Scouts of America in 1910. To solve the problems facing the American youth in an age characterized by industrialization, corruption and booming population and immigration, various youth organizations were formed across the United States between 1900 and 1910. Two of these are noteworthy: The Woodcraft Indians, founded by William Thomas Seton in 1902, and the Sons of Daniel Boone, founded by Daniel Carter Beard in 1905.⁸¹ What did these offer? Curtis offers an explanation:

In the pioneer days, life offered to the boy in the country almost exactly what his spirit craved. There was a primitive open-air life, with some romance and a good deal of adventure. There was an opportunity for scouting and exploration; there was the Indian fighting and the hunting of bear or deer; there was the fishing and the life of the woods or the campfire. The Boy Scouts have sprung up like mushrooms all over the world in response to such an appeal . . . I believe that the boy who has not been hunting or fishing or swimming before he is twelve years old will be the poorer for it for all the rest of his life. No pressure of work or school should be allowed to crowd these experiences out, for, in a large way, they are more valuable than work and more educative than school.⁸²

By the 1920s, the Cuyahoga Valley was the home of several campsites aiming to serve the aforementioned purposes for city youths from the surrounding cities. It was during this period that the recreational potential which the valley offered began to be fulfilled. The Akron and Cleveland Metroparks were acquiring substantial landholding within the valley and prominent citizens within the community were playing active roles to further the region's recreational development.

⁸⁰Ibid., xvi.

⁸¹Robert W. Peterson, The Boy Scouts: An American Adventure (New York: American Heritage Publishing Co., 1984), 20.

⁸²Curtis, 25.

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Perhaps the earliest and most extensive realization of the valley's recreational potential is attributable to the Boy Scouts of America. Scouting in the region began between 1910 and 1920. The first summer camp for Akron scouts was near East Reservoir, south of Akron near the Portage Lakes. About 1920, the camp was moved to a site just east of Huron on Lake Erie named Camp Wa. Akron industrialist Mr. H. Karl Butler, one of the earliest active supporters of scouting within the valley and the Akron area, felt that the distance made this site too inconvenient for area residents and suggested that his farm be used as a camp.

At the time of his death in 1926, Butler's property consisted of 420 mostly wooded acres (including his farm) in the Cuyahoga Valley just east of Peninsula.⁸³ This land was bequeathed to the Akron Area Council with the provision that they raise at least 100,000 dollars over the next five years to purchase additional property and provide maintenance for a newly constructed Boy Scout Camp.

Butler's gift to the Boy Scouts gained a great deal of support with the local community. A camping committee was formed and over the next four years, and using their own time and money, they visited over 30 Scout camps in the Eastern United States to study new trends in camp design.

In 1929, Mr. P.W. Litchfield of Goodyear, along with the Firestone and Goodrich corporations, pledged \$100,000, if the citizens of Akron and the community would raise an additional \$125,000 to further the camp project. On May 11, 1931, during the height of the Depression, a great kickoff banquet was held and the Manatoc Fundraising Campaign generated \$142,000 in pledges. By 1931 this tract of land had been expanded to 650 acres, encompassing the old camp site on Butler's farm and the newly constructed Camp Manatoc (reportedly a Native American term for quiet valley).⁸⁴

Camp Manatoc was dedicated on June 8, 1931. A two-story bath house, three lodges, eleven one-room Adirondacks, a dining hall and a trading post were all newly constructed based on designs by Albert H. Good, one of the principals in rustic park architecture and editor of the NPS book Park and Recreation Structures, a

⁸³Jim Jackson, "Manatoc jubilee helps recall how valley park started," Akron Beacon Journal, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Historic Research Files, Camp Manatoc, Brecksville, Ohio.

⁸⁴Ibid.

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manual for the rustic architectural style (Good later designed many Civilian Conservation Corps structures within the valley). Eight sleeping cabins were relocated from the old camp site, and, in 1936, six new stove heated sleeping cabins were built. The new camp also included a large stone memorial in honor of Butler's contributions.

The recreational activities offered by Camp Manatoc placed a great deal of emphasis on the pioneer adventure that Curtis said was lacking in young people's lives. "The New Camp Manatoc" 1932 promotional bulletin contains the following statement:

We all know the values of rugged pioneer life and the modern Scout camp brings to the boy of today training in those valuable character traits such as self reliance, ingenuity, pride of accomplishment, mastery of physical skills, a strong and healthy body, indeed all those virtues symbolized in a Daniel Boone.⁸⁵

References to the mythical lore of the pioneer and the frontier abounded at the Camp. Examples include the names of summer troop season units.⁸⁶ "Indian Week" includes dressing up in breech clouts and feathers. Related activities were making bows and learning archery, and the night "Red Men" ceremonial dances. During Rodeo week riding instruction was given and a big Rodeo took place at the end of the week. Explorer's Week featured a mysterious gold rush, when everyone gets a chance to discover gold and stake his claim. Emphasis on experiences associated with our country's youthful period suggest a nostalgia for the pioneer life tied to a belief that these recreational experiences provide a moral lesson.

More than an expression of pioneer nostalgia, scouting was seen as foundation building for manhood, and camping was considered the most important part of the scouting experience. The camp promoted itself as providing the "opportunity for

⁸⁵"The New Camp Manatoc" (Akron, Ohio: Camp Manatoc, 1932). Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Historic Research Files, Camp Manatoc, Brecksville, Ohio.

⁸⁶Camp Manatoc Yearbook, 1934 - 1935 Season (Akron, Ohio: Akron Area Council - BSA: 1934), Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Historic Research Files, Camp Manatoc, Brecksville, Ohio.

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a health-building, man-making adventure"⁸⁷ A comparison of two pieces of promotional literature indicate how the camp's role in promoting the welfare of the boys changed to reflect parental and societal concerns of the time.

Depression-era literature stresses the importance of providing the proper experiences during the irreplaceable years of boyhood, despite economic hardship. The 1939 promotional brochure indicates that going to camp was considered an integral part of boyhood which would have an effect on future development. The following "letter" entitled "Parents, About Your Son," was printed on each brochure:

These are hard times for lots of scout families.
Hard times or not - your boy lives this year only once.
After this summer is gone, you can never bring it
back to him.
Don't deprive him of his camping experience this
summer. Don't deprive him of his chance for health -
for joy - for living.

It may mean a real sacrifice, but you'll never
regret sending him to Manatoc with his troop.
I believe there are few experiences he can have,
which will help him soon to be a real man.⁸⁸

With the advent of World War II, new construction at Camp Manatoc stopped, and the promotional literature stressed the immediate wartime reality. The emphasis seemed to be less on providing a quality boyhood experience and more on preparing boys to become soldiers. The 1943 brochure is entitled "The Value of Camp Manatoc to your boy" and states:

... with 20 years of experience as a background, Manatoc this year, more than even before, "Buckles Down" to the task of providing a program, yes, a program of war-time training and service to the

⁸⁷Ibid.

⁸⁸Ibid.

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Scouts of the Akron Area..⁸⁹

Although the program described in this brochure includes the same activities found in the 1935 brochure, words like "fun" and "adventure" are replaced by "resourcefulness" and "self-reliance."⁹⁰

C.W. Seiberling, a founder of Goodyear Tire and Rubber, was instrumental in securing land in the valley for the area Girl Scouts.⁹¹ Camp Chanote, established for the Girl Scouts in 1924 on a 35 acre lot in Yellow Creek, had quickly become too small for existing demand.⁹² In 1929, Seiberling headed the search for a suitable tract of land and financial backers who would cover the costs for land acquisition and subsequent construction.⁹³ An option was secured on 200 acres of land at Boston Ledges in 1930.⁹⁴ A down payment of 18,000 dollars was made on the property and construction began.⁹⁵ Camp structures from Girl Scout Camp Chanote were moved to the new site in 1932.⁹⁶ The old Recreation Hall became the new Thornapple Hall and the old Nurses Shelter became the new

⁸⁹"The Value of Camp Manatoc to your boy" (Akron, Ohio: Great Trails Council BSA, 1943), Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Historic Research Files, Camp Manatoc, Brecksville, Ohio.

⁹⁰Ibid.

⁹¹Charlene Bickel, "Seasons at Camp Ledgewood," Western Reserve Magazine, no date. Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Historic Research Files, Camp Ledgewood, Brecksville, Ohio.

⁹²Ibid., 70.

⁹³Ibid., 69.

⁹⁴"Ledgewood's history spans 50 years," Trefoil, (February, 1981): 6.

⁹⁵Ibid.

⁹⁶Bickel, 70.

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caretaker's residence.⁹⁷ The Salvation Army constructed roads to the camp and helped in the renovation of both the Recreation Hall and the Nurses Shelter.⁹⁸

Camps continued to locate in the valley, offering active, organized recreation for area youths and families. The first organized camp in the valley was located at the Hale farmstead. The Young Crusaders, from Akron's Church of Our Savior, camped at the Hale family farm during the summers of 1903 and 1904.⁹⁹ The First Methodist Church of Bedford started Camp Onlofte in 1949 just north of the turnpike bridge in Boston Township. When I-271 was cut through the area in 1966, the camp was destroyed.

Camp Mueller, occupying 185 acres, began operations in 1941 as a response to requests for more outdoor opportunities for inner city families and their children.¹⁰⁰ Ralph S. Mueller, Sr., founder of Cleveland's Mueller Electric Company, assisted with the purchase of 250 acres for the camp site. The camp is run by the Phyllis Wheatley Association as an interracial- intercultural youth camp designed to deepen understanding of other individuals and backgrounds in relation to their own and the larger community. Phyllis Wheatley was a slave girl educated by a Boston family and acknowledged as the first black poet in the United States. The Phyllis Wheatley Association is recognized as an African-American branch of the Y.W.C.A.¹⁰¹ The organization has been active in the Cleveland area since 1911.

Roughly concurrent with the development of youth camps, the Akron and Cleveland

⁹⁷Ibid.

⁹⁸Trefoil, 6.

⁹⁹Randy Bergdorf, "Historical Glances: Going to Camp in the Valley" Your Community News, 1995.

¹⁰⁰"Proposed Improvements for Camp Mueller," The Phyllis Wheatley Association, no date. Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Historic Research Files, Camp Manatoc, Brecksville, Ohio.

¹⁰¹"Camp Mueller" Valley Voice November/ December, 1988. Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Historic Research Files, Camp Manatoc, Brecksville, Ohio.

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Metroparks were acquiring land within the valley. Far-sighted legislation of 1917 gave the state of Ohio the authority for locally operated metropolitan park districts, setting aside large areas of land to protect its scenic and natural beauty.¹⁰² The Progressive Reform concept of municipal parks as a social good is well articulated in the 1917-18 annual report of the Cleveland park commissioners. Under the section titled "Proposed Park System" the plan is justified by citing the following section of an article written by Charles W. Eliot, President of Harvard University, in the July 1914 issue of the National Geographic Magazine:

In order to cure the destructive evil of present urban life and the factory system, it will not be enough to restrict the vices, to diminish the pressure of poverty, to prevent destructive disease, and prolong the average life. The human environment must be not only negatively, but positively improved; so that the whole people may have the opportunity to cultivate healthy tastes and interests, to acquire just ideals of pleasantness and beauty, and to learn the value toward tranquil happiness of that living with nature which city congestion has within a single generation made almost impossible for multitudes.¹⁰³

As previously noted, the Olmsted Brothers firm of Boston Massachusetts, perhaps the leading landscape architectural firm in the country, assisted in plans protecting valley land. In the cities, an ideological split had developed between parks and recreation.¹⁰⁴ To many, parks stood for large-scale capital improvement and landscape appreciation. Recreation, on the other hand, implied active participation and social welfare.¹⁰⁵ In the city, limited amounts of

¹⁰²CLR, 8.

¹⁰³First Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District: For the period beginning July 30, 1917 and Ending December 31, 1918. Cleveland, Ohio, 1919, 9.

¹⁰⁴Cranz, 13.

¹⁰⁵Ibid.

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available open space set advocates of either position in opposition. In the valley, the prevalence of available land left recreational outlets at the users' discretion. The pastoral landscape offered the "bucolic illusion" which the senior Olmsted envisioned, but park designers and city officials did not restrict more active forms of recreation.¹⁰⁶ As noted, Boy and Girl Scout Camps proliferated, as did golf courses, playing fields and, not to be forgotten, automobiles.

By the twentieth century, society's perceptions were adapting to the era's new technologies and increasing populations. Religious objections to sport had eased after the Civil War and by the 1880's tennis and bicycle riding were considered appropriate park activities.¹⁰⁷ It was the bicycle riding craze of the late nineteenth century which provided the push for improved roads which culminated in the Good Roads movement of the early twentieth century. By this time, the automobile was beginning to reshape American society and owners of cars were quick to take advantage of the newly improved road surfaces. Curtis, a first hand witness to the rise of the automobile in the early twentieth century, explains its effect:

The auto is rather rare in the country in general thus far, except in the middle west, where it has become common in some sections. It is a good deal of a nuisance on country roads to everyone except the autoists. It does not promote the contemplative appreciation of nature, but it seems to offer certain experiences which the country needs. The young man who dashes out upon the highway in a modern car on a pleasant spring or summer day is following in the steps of the knight errant of old. He is mounted on a far swifter and more powerful charger, and the world lies before him. He can go where he will, and everywhere there is the possibility of an adventure or a romance. To him, the country need not be tamed or isolated.¹⁰⁸

The master plan for the Cleveland Metropark's system was very similar to Olmsted's Plan for Boston's parks and parkways; Scrattish noted that the plan's concept

¹⁰⁶Ibid., 9.

¹⁰⁷Ibid., 11.

¹⁰⁸Curtis, 120.

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might well have been called "Driving for Pleasure."¹⁰⁹ A parkway offered, as U.S. Senator Harry F. Bird put it, "a wonder way over which the tourist will ride comfortably in his car while he is stirred by a view as exhilarating as the aviator may see from the plane."¹¹⁰

William Albert Stinchcomb, an engineer who served as Director of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District, felt that the future of the parks was "inextricably bound to the automobile," necessitating several radial parkways "to facilitate motoring from the inner city to the outer belt," where the parks would be located.¹¹¹ Parkways are differentiated from roads in the 1917-18 annual report with the following description:

It is not the plan of the board to merely build highways streets or avenues for eighty miles around the district, as this is the function of the county and municipalities. The general plan and policy of the board, however, are to acquire and develop parks and parkways. In the valleys this means that the board must own or control the entire valley in one continuous whole, a parkway of sufficient width to permit proper development.¹¹²

As envisioned, the Emerald Necklace would completely ring Cleveland with green areas. This exemplified the emphasis that the proponents of rural-styled parks seemed to place on parks and parkways located on "the rim of the metropolis," as opposed to smaller parks and playgrounds within "tightly packed" cities.¹¹³ As Scrattish notes, "All sections of the Cleveland park system were planned such that the completion of one section, without adjacent sections being acquired, would permit a smooth flow of traffic through the park. Thus, each section of the park

¹⁰⁹Scrattish, 217.

¹¹⁰Harley E. Jolley, "Parkways," ALA, 180.

¹¹¹Scrattish, 217.

¹¹²First Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District, 25.

¹¹³Knapp, 14.

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was a distinct unit."¹¹⁴

The park acts of both 1911 and 1915 had failed, so in 1917, Stinchcomb helped to draft an act "to provide for the conservation of all natural resources by the creation, development and improvement of park districts."¹¹⁵ Stinchcomb hoped this revision would correct the flaws of the previous two documents.¹¹⁶ After the act passed, the park board moved quickly to secure the lands necessary to fulfill the parkway concept of the plan. To do this, the park board intended to own or control glens from 'top of the bank to top of the bank,' securing the land through either purchase or donations.¹¹⁷

Because most of the land in the proposed plan was located in valleys or ravines, the Cleveland district board chose to rely principally upon donation for acquisition. Board members thought this acreage unsuitable for anything but park land and, moreover, they did not anticipate having the funds for purchase.¹¹⁸ The favorable response from landowners along Chippewa Creek in 1918 established this corridor as the southern connection for the system and led the way for the Brecksville and Bedford Reservations.¹¹⁹

In Akron, the formation of the city's Metropolitan Park district occurred along lines similar to those of Cleveland. In 1925, at the urging of later park Director-Secretary H.S. Wagner, the Akron Metropolitan Park Board contacted the Olmsted Brothers firm to conduct the initial park survey for Summit County.¹²⁰ The parks' bounds could include all the lands within Summit County excepting

¹¹⁴Scrattish, 220.

¹¹⁵Ibid.

¹¹⁶Ibid.

¹¹⁷Ibid., 219.

¹¹⁸Ibid., 219.

¹¹⁹Ibid., 220.

¹²⁰Ibid., 228.

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Twinsburg Township and the Village of Hudson.¹²¹ After surveying the area, Olmsted Brothers sent the Metropolitan Park Board of Summit County their conclusions on October 5, 1925.

Rather than attempting to follow the Olmsted plan through purchase of specific lands, the AMPD attempted to acquire through donation only those tracts that conformed to the firm's plan. Director-Secretary H.S. Wagner wrote in a 1932 report that

Following the successful effort to establish a system of rural parks in Cuyahoga County, the Akron Board took up the work in 1924 and today, over sixteen hundred acres of land have been acquired, approximately ninety per cent of which has been donated by Akron and Cleveland people. This proportional share, it seems fair to indicate, is quite exceptional, because all gifts have conformed to the original Olmsted plan. As a matter of fact, several tracts of land have been refused because of their nonconformity to this plan, resulting in inevitable excessive maintenance costs.¹²²

F. A. Seiberling's 1929 donation became the core of Sand Run Reservation. Dorothy H. Brush's 1928 donation of 275 acres in the northern park of Summit County became the Furnace Run Reservation. Another large tract in the southern half of the Cuyahoga valley came from Hayward Kendall's estate. The terms of the Kendall donation stipulated that following his wife's death, the family's farm property should be used perpetually for park purposes and be named the "Virginia Kendall Park" in honor of his mother.

The acquisition of the Kendall estate by the Akron Metropolitan Park Board (AMPD) was somewhat problematic, since Kendall did not name the Akron park board as a possible recipient. A stipulation of the will provided for the acquisition of the parcel by the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board, if the State of Ohio did not accept the donation. In 1930 the Kendall trustees ceded the 389.59 acre tract to

¹²¹Ibid., 226.

¹²²Harold. S. Wagner. 13 August 1932 Correspondence. Akron Park District Collection G.6.21.1, The Harold S. Wagner Sub-collection: 1917-1960. Summit County Historical Society Archives, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio.

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the State of Ohio. Akron Metropolitan Park Board Director-Secretary, Harold Wagner, and F. A. Seiberling lobbied the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board and widow Agnes Kendall to support acquisition of the tract by the AMPD. The Kendall estate was in Summit County and was a part of the AMPD 1925 development plan. Although the Kendall area experienced a great increase in visitation, the financial circumstances of the state, due to the Great Depression, prevented the construction of needed improvements to the area. In 1933 the state General Assembly granted AMPD management authority over the Virginia Kendall Park.¹²³

A significant aspect of the park and camp development in Cuyahoga valley during the progressive reform era was the role of the local benefactor or leader. As stated previously, a key component of the progressive philosophy was the power of an individual to effect change for the betterment of society. Many early reformers, like Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, felt that progress originated with a few effective, benevolent leaders.¹²⁴

A local leader in the study of nature was Cleveland educator Harriet Keeler. Born in 1846, Ms. Keeler taught in the Cleveland Public School system and eventually became Superintendent in 1912. She published 11 books in her lifetime, seven of them on nature. Her writings inspired many people to better understand the natural world. A 1921 resolution passed by the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board stated, ". . . the fields, so encouraged and promoted by the books of that gifted writer and educator, is so in keeping with the spirit and purpose of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Plan . . ."¹²⁵

A large memorial rock was dedicated to Harriet Keeler in the Brecksville Reservation in 1923. This was replaced with another granite boulder bearing a bronze plate with her profile and the inscription "She liveth as do the continuing

¹²³Ron Cockrell, A Green Shrouded Miracle: The Administrative History of Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Ohio (Omaha: Nebraska, National Park Service, United States Department of Interior, Midwest Regional Office, Office of Planning and Resource Preservation Cultural Resource Management, 1992), 17-18.

¹²⁴Knapp, 10-11.

¹²⁵Cleveland Metroparks, "Harriet Keeler: 1846-1921", (Cleveland: Cleveland Metroparks, June, 1990).

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Generations of the woods she loved."¹²⁶ In addition to the boulders, a large rustic style picnic shelter in the Brecksville Reservation bears her name. The 1921 resolution passed by the park board also called for the designation of The Harriet L. Keeler Memorial Woods, defined as a 300 acre tract of woodlands to be "planted with native trees, shrubs and flowers described in the writings . . ."¹²⁷ This area was re-dedicated and expanded in 1990 for the purpose of "promotion and restoration of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers described in Miss Keeler's literary works."¹²⁸

In some cases, the benevolent leadership of the era took the form of paternalistic programs that sought to improve the worker's way of life and the company's public image. As early as 1895 social welfare programs began emerging from industrialists such as John H. Patterson. When his National Cash Register Company was faced with labor problems, he responded by improving all areas of worker welfare. He firmly believed that improving the welfare of the worker improved the welfare of the company.¹²⁹ The welfare capitalism of Frank A. Seiberling took the form of low-cost housing, shorter work weeks, an athletic program, and various benefits.¹³⁰

Another aspect of Sieberling's paternalistic benevolence included the donation of tracts of land for park development. This practice was adopted by other industrial leaders in the communities surrounding the Cuyahoga valley. A side benefit of this was the use of their personal landscape architects to advise with park development. Nationally noted and influential landscape architects, such as Warren A. Manning and Harvey Firestone's Alling DeForrest, assisted with municipal park design in Akron. DeForrest also served as special advisor to the Planning

¹²⁶Ibid.

¹²⁷Ibid.

¹²⁸Ibid.

¹²⁹Knepper, Ohio and Its People, 303.

¹³⁰Gardner, James B. "Goodyear Heights Historic District" Draft National Register of Historic Places nomination. (Nashville, American Association for State and Local History, 1979), section 8, 2.

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Commission of Akron in 1920.¹³¹

This industrial benevolence also expressed itself in land donations for specific social and recreational intentions. In October of 1928, Dorothy H. Brush, the widow of Dr. Francis Brush, the millionaire inventor of the arc light, donated 275 acres from the Brush Farm for the creation of the Furnace Run Reservation. A stone at the Reservation serves as a memorial to his generosity and love for nature. It bears the following inscription: "BRUSHWOOD is given in memory of Charles Francis Brush Junior. To all those who love as he loved the sky and smiling land. 1927."

A primary example of a community leader's benevolence and leadership is illustrated by Camp Manatoc. Akron industrialist Mr. H. Karl Butler was responsible for the development of the Boy Scouts of America Camp Manatoc. Mr. Butler had a keen interest in scouting and served as President of the Akron Area Council. The "History of the Manatoc Reservation" describes Mr. Butler as

a small man physically weak and severely crippled. He was often in pain and spent most of his waking hours in a wheel chair. During a trip to California in the early 1920's he visited a very fine Boy Scout Camp and came home with a wonderful dream. He envisioned giving his farm and much of his worldly possessions to the building of a beautiful Boy Scout Camp for the boys of the Akron area.¹³²

Upon his death in 1926, he bequeathed his farm and the options on the land he acquired to the Akron Area Council, if they raise \$100,000 in five years to purchase additional property and build a first class Boy Scout camp.¹³³ His

¹³¹Czerkas, Jean., "Alling Stephen DeForest: landscape Architect, 1875-1957" Rochester History, ed. Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck, LI, no.2. (Spring, 1989).

¹³²"History of the Manatoc Reservation: Part I. Where we've been", Great Trails Council, BSA, 1966, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Historic Research Files, Camp Manatoc, Brecksville, Ohio.

¹³³Ibid.

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leadership resulted in other community leaders, namely P. W. Litchfield of the Goodyear Corporation, along with the Firestone and Goodrich Corporations, to pledge \$100,000 that was subsequently matched by the citizens of Akron during a 1931 fundraiser. The original design of the Camp Manatoc included a large stone memorial structure to honor Karl Butler.

Building the Metro Parks: The CCC/ WPA/ PWA Projects in the Valley

After the Cleveland and Akron Metropolitan Park systems took shape in the 1920's, the Great Depression served as impetus for programs which would directly influence the future recreational use of the Cuyahoga Valley for generations. The enlightened views of recreation and philosophy of direct intervention to improve society culminated in park improvements in the Cuyahoga valley done by the Depression-era federal relief projects.

Five days after his Inaugural Address, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt outlined his plans for a public works project that would involve a workforce of 250,000 people: the Civilian Conservation Corps.¹³⁴ Initially, this labor force would be made available to state park districts across the country who could demonstrate a need for it, but this was later extended to include both privately owned and municipally owned lands when it was in the public's interest. This provision was quickly taken advantage of by H.S. Wagner, Akron's Director-Secretary of Parks, and the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board.

Motivations for the federal work program were numerous. As John Salmond notes in his book The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942- A New Deal Case Study,

The federal government had . . . to cope with . . . the disfiguring marks which three generations of waste and ill usage had left on the American landscape. Forests had once covered 800,000,000 acres of the continental U.S., but by 1933 there were a mere 100,000,000 acres of virgin timber left. Much of the nation's timber resource had been brutally squandered. Moreover, wanton forest destruction had compounded the crucial problem of soil erosion. Every year water washed three billion tons of the best soil away from American fields and pastures, and wind accounted for a like amount. By 1934 more than 300,000,000 acres- a sixth of the continent- was gone, or

¹³⁴Ibid., 235.

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was going.¹³⁵

Roosevelt was keenly aware of these facts. At the Democratic National Convention of 1932 he stated that "there are over ten million acres east of the Mississippi alone, in abandoned farms, in cutover land, now growing up in worthless brush. It is clear that economic foresight and immediate employment march hand in hand in the call for reforestation of these vast areas. In doing so employment can be given to a million men."¹³⁶

Roosevelt's conservation bent was well established. Salmond says that "no feature of American life disturbed him more than the callousness with which the national heritage was being destroyed."¹³⁷ Arthur Schlesinger Jr. noted that Roosevelt "felt the scars and exhaustion of the earth almost as personal injuries."¹³⁸ Salmond continues, "Roosevelt had been a fighter for conservation most of his adult life . . . As chairman of the New York State Senate's Fish and Game Committee, he tried to develop a comprehensive reforestation scheme, and he even made conservation an issue in his unsuccessful campaign for the vice-presidency in 1920."¹³⁹

Upon his election to the presidency, it was not surprising that Roosevelt used this conservation ethic as the basis for the CCC. As Cranz notes, "During the national crisis of the Depression and the Second World War, parks served the nation by sustaining morale. Programs kept people busy and public works sponsored by the federal government during the Depression offered a tangible system of progress."¹⁴⁰

¹³⁵John A. Salmond, The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942
(Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1967), 4.

¹³⁶Lacy, 15.

¹³⁷Salmond, 4.

¹³⁸Ibid., 6.

¹³⁹Ibid.

¹⁴⁰Cranz, 15.

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The idea of putting young men to work in the woods was not new. Harvard philosopher William James, in a 1912 essay entitled "The Moral Equivalent of War" advocated conscription of the whole youthful population of the U.S. to form, as Salmond puts it, "an army enlisted against nature."¹⁴¹ Roosevelt has stated that he never saw this essay but, even so, by 1932, governments in Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Austria and Germany had established conservation camps for the unemployed.¹⁴²

In March of 1933, Congress passed Emergency Conservation Work Act and President Roosevelt announced the formation of the Emergency Conservation Work Act, which soon became popularly referred to as the Civilian Conservation Corps.¹⁴³ Robert Fechner, the vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, was selected as director.¹⁴⁴ Representatives from the War Department and the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Labor acted as an advisory council.¹⁴⁵ The Department of Labor was in charge of the selection process and the camp sites were selected by the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, with the cooperation of state park officials.¹⁴⁶ By mid-June of 1933, over thirteen hundred camps had been established.¹⁴⁷ Over 2,000 CCC camps were in operation nationwide by October 31, 1936. Work in state parks occupied 346 of these camps. In Ohio, there were nine

¹⁴¹Ibid., 4.

¹⁴²Ibid., 6.

¹⁴³Cockrell, 19.

¹⁴⁴Susan Garland, "The Civilian Conservation Corps in the Cuyahoga Valley" (unpublished report, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, 1979), 3.

¹⁴⁵Garland, 4.

¹⁴⁶Ibid. 4.

¹⁴⁷Ibid.

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camp[s] operating in the state parks in 1936-1937.¹⁴⁸

Although metropolitan parks are not state parks, (their area of authority being limited to county lines), their function is similar to that of a state park. Because of their similar function and the number of men enrolled from the eastern United States, metropolitan park districts were included in the state park program.¹⁴⁹

Two additional federal relief programs that contributed to the development of park facilities in the Cuyahoga Valley were the WPA and the PWA. In the spring of 1935, Congress appropriated \$1,400,000 to establish the Work Progress Administration (the name was later changed to Work Projects Administration), which replaced direct relief with work relief. The program paid \$15 to \$90 per month and was designed to "help men keep their chins up and their hands in." By 1938 twelve counties in Ohio had more than 25% of the families with at least one member employed through the WPA. By October of that year Ohio had the largest contingent in the nation, with over 287,000 citizens on the payroll.¹⁵⁰ The Public Works Administration was established in 1933 as part of the New Deal. This program provided work for union tradesmen, a role not filled by the WPA or the CCC.

In addition to CCC assistance, the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board received a significant amount of funds and labor from the Work Progress Administration (WPA) and, to a lesser extent, from the Public Works Administration (PWA); the blueprints for several park structures are stamped "PWA." "WPA."

The architecture of Civilian Conservation Corps and Work Progress Administration structures in the Cuyahoga Valley followed the rustic prototype adopted by the National Park Service. Between 1915 and 1920, National Park Service landscape architect Daniel P. Hull developed a distinctive, yet non-intrusive park building design. This style, sometimes referred to as parkitecture, is embodied in the Ranger Club House at Yosemite, designed by Charles P. Punchard, and Hull's own

¹⁴⁸Alfred C. Oliver. Jr. and Harold M. Dudley, This New America: The Spirit of the Civilian Conservation Corps (London, New York, Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., 1937), 176.

¹⁴⁹Garland, 5.

¹⁵⁰Knepper, Ohio and its People, 374.

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Administration Building, now a museum in Sequoia National Park in California.¹⁵¹ Parkitecture did not manifest itself as a national style, but had strong regional definition, due to its use of native materials and emphasis on blending in with the surrounding environment. For example, the park designs for California or arid southwestern states would often use stucco and Pacific Northwest park design employed massive stone or log.

Roosevelt's relief efforts, according to Conrad Wirth, contributed to the refinement of this style of architecture. Wirth collaborated with architect A.H. (Ab) Good, who designed many of the recreational structures within the Cuyahoga Valley in the 1930's, to produce a book which is an in-depth study of the design of recreation structures in the United States. According to Wirth, rustic architecture,

... is, or should be, something more than the worn and misused term applies . . . Successfully handled, it is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines and over-sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsman with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with the natural surroundings and with the past.¹⁵²

These structures, as Wirth notes,

. . . must bow deferentially before the broad park plan, which is the major objective, never to be lost sight of. The park plan determines the size, character, location and use of every structure. Collectively, these should be logically interrelated; at the same time they must be closely and logically related to the park plan to insure its workability and harmony.¹⁵³

Recommended design features for successful park structures included horizontal

¹⁵¹Raymond L. Freeman, "National Parks," ALA, 172.

¹⁵²Albert. H. Good and Conrad L. Wirth, Park and Recreation Structures (Boulder, Colorado: Graybooks, 1990), 3-4.

¹⁵³Ibid., 4.

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lines and low pitched roofs to create a less conspicuous, low silhouette. Native materials and colors that occur in the surrounding areas are emphasized. Warm browns are suggested to help retire a building in a wooded setting and brown or weathered gray roofs are suggested so as to blend with the colors of the earth and the tree trunks.

A warm brown, native material was in abundance in the valley, thanks to the chestnut blight. The American chestnut is known for resisting most forms of decay, such as rot and fungus, and for its workability. This once abundant hardwood was wiped out by fungus imported from the Orient in the early 20th century.¹⁵⁴ By the 1920s this blight was killing the chestnut trees in the Midwest. Wormy chestnut, which was used for many of the valley's CCC and Camp Manatoc structures, is unavailable now. The Main Dining Hall at Camp Manatoc and the CCC Happy Days Center are reputed to be the largest Wormy Chestnut buildings in the world.

Another native material found in many CCC/WPA structures is sandstone. Berea Sandstone was a source for much of the stone used for the WPA/CCC projects. At one time there were four quarries located in Peninsula. An additional quarry located in the sandstone Ritchie Ledges was started by CCC laborers constructing the winding stairs built into the ledges.

In addition to the buildings, the associated landscaping and overall development of the parks were designed to be in harmony with the character of the environment. In fact, many of the landscape designs associated with the CCC/WPA developments included concepts passed down from earlier designers, such as Olmsted and Downing. For example, many of the parks incorporate large pastoral meadow areas and winding drives. The landscaping of these sites was of primary importance since the natural resources of the site created the reason for the architectural style; without a rustic setting, rustic architecture does not make sense. This design philosophy was fostered by the National Park Service from its inception. Because of the large role the park service played in the design of Civilian Conservation Corps projects, CCC projects saw the widespread implementation of this approach in the design and development of many municipal and state parks as well.

¹⁵⁴Robert W. Bobel. Classic Wood Structures Bulletin "Happy Days Visitor Center, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area". (New York, NY: American Society of Civil Engineers, 1989).

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The landscape architecture profession had an influential role in the National Park Service from its inception. Many of the trails were designed to view the more picturesque or wilder areas of the parks. The 1916 federal park bureau bill was endorsed by the American Society of Landscape Architects, along with a resolution specifying park development objectives that required the expertise of their profession. Resolution objectives that translate into distinct design elements include the delineation of boundaries in consonance with topography and the development of comprehensive plans for managing natural and developed areas.¹⁵⁵

National Park Service Director Stephen Mather and Assistant Horace Albright outlined the design philosophy for future park development in their 1918 "State of Policy."

In their construction of roads, trails, buildings and other improvements, particular attention must be devoted always to the harmonizing of these improvements with the landscape. This is a most important item in our programs of development and requires the employment of trained architects who have a proper appreciation of the esthetic value of park lands. All improvements will be carried out in accordance with a preconceived plan developed in special reference to the preservation of the landscape, and comprehensive plans for future development of the national parks on an adequate scale will be prepared as funds are available for this purpose.¹⁵⁶

With the budget cuts under the Hoover administration, National Park Service landscape architects shifted from construction related activities to plan preparation. By the time Roosevelt came into office, the National Park Service had completed planning documents through 1939. During the Depression, many landscape architects were employed temporarily to carry out Civilian Conservation

¹⁵⁵Freeman, "National Parks", ALA, 172.

¹⁵⁶William C. Tweed. Laura E. Soulliere. and Henry G. Law, National Park Service Rustic Architecture:1916-1942 (San Francisco: National Park Service. Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977) 18, citing Richard A. Ballinger, Annual Report (Department of the Interior, 1910)

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Corps programs managed by landscape architect Conrad L. Wirth.¹⁵⁷ Their role was to develop thoughtfully designed areas and prevent projects that would adversely effect the natural environment.

It should be noted that the NPS/ CCC philosophy of park development that preserves and works with existing landscape features, is consistent with the professional influences apparent in AMPD Director-Secretary Wagner's background. After graduating from the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, Harold Wagner worked for Warren A. Manning. Manning worked under both Frederick Law and John Charles Olmsted. He is noted for designing planting plans for the Columbian Exposition and the Vanderbilt's Biltmore estate. He served as project foreman for the landscape installation at Seiberling's Stan Hywet Hall in Akron. Seiberling's 1913 worker housing development, Akron's Goodyear Heights, was laid out and landscaped by Manning. His street plan for the housing development followed the contours of the hilly terrain.¹⁵⁸ Manning is noted for having established an approach to planting design that emulates the natural landscape and integrates formal plantings and structural gardens.¹⁵⁹

Manning's stress on planting plans is somewhat reflected in Wagner's Summit County tree nursery. His progressive forestry policy resulted in a nursery being maintained at Everett. A year round caretaker oversaw the operation and in 1932 "Forest News" reported that Summit County led the state in forest plantings with a total of 255,610 trees being planted. Of this amount, 101,800 were planted by the park district.¹⁶⁰ Correspondence with the Cole Nursery Co. in Painsville, Ohio shows that the nurseries grew large numbers of European Beech trees.¹⁶¹ Additional correspondence, dating from 1950, indicates that the nursery was still

¹⁵⁷Freeman, "National Parks" ALA, 174.

¹⁵⁸Gardner, section 8, 2.

¹⁵⁹William Grundmann, "Warren H. Manning" ALA, 56-58.

¹⁶⁰Harold S. Wagner, The Akronite, April, 1935.

¹⁶¹D.B Cole to H.S. Wagner, 17 April 1936, H.S. Wagner Sub-collection: 1917-1963, Akron Park District Collection G 6.21.1, Summit County Historical Archives, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio.

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active and supplied "barks, vine honeysuckles, and red twigged dogwoods" to Cuyahoga Falls.¹⁶²

On August 7, 1933, H.S. Wagner, the Director-Secretary of the Akron Metropolitan Park District, filed for a CCC camp at Virginia Kendall Park. The application was made to the National Park Service branch of Planning and State Cooperation in Washington, D.C., headed by landscape architect Conrad L. Wirth, who later became Park Service director.¹⁶³ These applications were quickly approved and the ground clearing for the camp began in September.¹⁶⁴

One of Wagner's first priorities was the development of Virginia Kendall. As Scratish notes, "Hayward Kendall's will had stipulated that the land he donated (nearly 400 acres of land at Ritchie Ledges in Boston Township upon his death in November 1928) be perpetually used for park purposes. It was fortunate for the AMPD to have acquired administration of the land with its attendant trust fund. Yet, sooner or later -- preferably sooner -- something needed to be done with the pastoral tract. Wagner, then, saw the eligibility of metropolitan park districts to use CCC labor as a terrific opportunity to develop Virginia Kendall, in keeping with the Kendall will."¹⁶⁵

After Wagner's application for the CCC camp at Virginia Kendall had been approved, Wagner contacted A.H. Good, an Akron architect who had designed the Camp Manatoc complex a few years earlier and was later employed as a consultant by the National Parks.¹⁶⁶ Designs for the Ledges structure at Virginia Kendall were quickly completed and construction began between April and September of 1934.¹⁶⁷ The lack of experience of the typical CCC laborer was considered when the plans were drawn up, as Good was to note in a letter to Wagner dated March 14, 1934,

¹⁶²Ibid.

¹⁶³Scratish, 236.

¹⁶⁴Ibid.

¹⁶⁵Ibid.

¹⁶⁶Ibid.

¹⁶⁷Ibid., 240.

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"Reflecting on the lack of organization and skill with which you are confronted in doing the job with the 'unemployed employed' I tried to make the building as simple as possible, leaving off the superfluous and gadgetry."¹⁶⁸ Wagner, in his return letter, supported this decision, stating that he felt that these designs were better than previous alternatives.¹⁶⁹

The Kendall barracks were located on the south side of Route 303 about a mile south of Route 8, the present location of the Happy Days Visitor Center and the former location of the Butler farm.¹⁷⁰ The Army approved of the site and began construction of the camp in 1933. On December 10, 1933, CCC Company 576 arrived at the camp. Work on the park began the next day.¹⁷¹ The first task of the enrollees was to clear the land of debris and cut trees. Logs were brought out of the woods on sleds drawn by horse or mule teams, and stacked near the sawmill to be cut and used for building. Work then started on road grading, laying water and sewer lines, building fences. These tasks were performed using limited tools, such as picks, shovels and wheelbarrows, and helped familiarize the enrollees with the park, each other, and the different skill levels of the enrollees.¹⁷²

A 1938 survey of the work done at Kendall revealed the great progress the CCC made toward converting Hayward Kendall's bequest into a park. Picnic areas had been cleared, park signs and markers built, foot trails and bridges improved, and playfields were expanded, all for the purpose of increasing the pleasure of the park patrons. Acres of trees and shrubs were planted and even more acres of plants were moved for "landscape effect."¹⁷³

With construction at Kendall Park completed, CCC enrollees began clearing land for the proposed Furnace Run Reservation in Richfield Township. By 1939, the dam and

¹⁶⁸Ibid., 239.

¹⁶⁹Ibid.

¹⁷⁰Ibid.

¹⁷¹Garland, 2.

¹⁷²Garland., 7.

¹⁷³Ibid.

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lake were completed; the bathhouse was finished in March of 1941 and opened to the public that summer. Other CCC work at Furnace Run included:

- 12 Acres field planting, evergreen and hardwoods
- 150 Acres fire hazard reduction at Beachwoods
- 453 Acres plant and tree disease control, Rabies eradication
- 1600 Trees and shrubs moved for landscape effect
- 2,900 square yards parking area, 150 cars
- 10 Acres topographic survey.¹⁷⁴

After 1939, CCC enrollees at Kendall Park also worked on projects at Goodyear Heights, Sand Run and Firestone reservations (located in Summit County outside the boundaries of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area).

According to H.S. Wagner, with the aid of the CCC, the Akron metropolitan parks made twenty years of progress in only nine. Wagner's own dedication to planning park projects and supervising the work of the enrollees has also been cited as an important factor that contributed to the rapid progress and to the high quality of development, design, and construction in the parks.¹⁷⁵

The first Cleveland Metroparks CCC camp was established in Euclid Creek in November 1933.¹⁷⁶ A second camp was established in Brecksville in 1935, which was designated Ohio State Park Camp No. 19. The Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board approached the use of CCC labor for park development differently than did the Akron Board. The Cleveland Board "sensed at the very outset that this program was distinctly a labor program designed to keep young men at useful work." The enrollees at Brecksville initially were kept busy with planting and clearing trails, projects which did not require a great deal of money or machinery. The following tabulation of work, taken from the CMPD Annual Report for 1934-35, was completed by the Brecksville Camp enrollees in the Brecksville and Bedford Reservations:

¹⁷⁴Ibid.

¹⁷⁵Ibid., 21-2.

¹⁷⁶Ibid., 244.

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	Brecksville Res.		Bedford Res.	
	Quan.	Man D.	Quan.	Man D.
Bridges, Foot		400		
Bridges, Horse		400		
Tool House (Camp)	1	70		
Garages (Camp)	1	100		
Stone Walls			24	3154
Trails, Foot	4.9	7420		
Trails,	4.7	7717		
Channel Changes	3500	969		
Picnic	15	4179		
Vista Cutting	12	80		
Eradication Pois Weeds	10	100		
Tree Surgery	40	40		

By 1935, another CCC camp was being run out of Sand Run in Akron.¹⁷⁷ Many CCC camps were shut down in 1936 when Roosevelt consolidated the program; the camp at Sand Run was one of these. This camp remained vacant until its occupation in 1937 by the company from Virginia Kendall. In December 1937, the Brecksville camp was also abandoned.¹⁷⁸

When president Roosevelt announced the Works Progress Administration plan, Cleveland Metropolitan Park District director William A. Stinchcomb was armed with proposed work projects to take advantage of the opportunity. Among these were the "wholesale improvement of the untouched 1200 Bedford Reservation" and "completing development of the half-developed 1700-acre Brecksville Reservation."¹⁷⁹

An article and map published in the Cleveland Press of July 21, 1936, showed the federally-sponsored work projects then under way at each of the Cleveland metropolitan parks. At Bedford, WPA workers were building or had built three miles of new boulevard through the Tinkers Creek gorge, a shelter house, toilets, wading pool, and water supply system; CCC laborers were building trails and

¹⁷⁷Ibid., 242.

¹⁷⁸Ibid.

¹⁷⁹Cleveland Press, 7 January, 1935.

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landscaping. At Brecksville, WPA laborers were laying water mains, while the PWA was at work on the Oak Grove Shelter.

The Report of the Board of Park Commissioners for 1940-41 noted that, at Brecksville, WPA laborers that year had cleared roadways and picnic areas, built retaining walls and guard rails, laid water lines, and erected a picnic shelter of "stone and native rough sawn lumber."¹⁸⁰ The Cleveland Press of July 22, 1936, commented that the "rush of major improvements" being financed with federal dollars was "sweeping Cleveland's mighty Metropolitan Parks into a completed system a generation ahead of schedule." WPA/PWA structures that remain at the Brecksville Reservation include retaining walls, culverts, privies, shelters, and water bubblers.

With the approach of World War II, the number of available WPA workers dwindled. By 1941, the average number available to the Cleveland Park District was 250, whereas that year's work plan had called for as many as 2,000 workers.¹⁸¹ Finally, on August 7, 1942, all WPA work ceased.¹⁸²

Conclusions

The recreation and park developments in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area are a result of national trends in park design and changing attitudes toward the role of recreation in society. The concept of conserving and respecting wilderness, (rather than taming or subduing it), represents the culmination of societal concern over the effects of increasing urbanization and industrialization on the landscape and the human condition. Secondary growth and subsequent recreational and park development replaced the cleared farm fields of the 19th century Cuyahoga Valley.

The 19th century transcendentalist believed in the value of nature and advocated greenspace as a remedy for the ills of urban industrialized life. Urban nature

¹⁸⁰Report of the Board of Park Commissioners 1940-41, Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board, 93, 102-3.

¹⁸¹Ibid., 93.

¹⁸²Report of the Board of Park Commissioners 1942-43, Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board, 10.

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retreats first manifested themselves as curvilinear planned cemeteries. Repackaging the design elements of the Mount Auburn type cemetery resulted in parks for the living, rather than cities for the dead. The curvilinear naturalistic landscape was not only used for parks for the public, but also suburbs for the wealthy.

The parkways system made the rural areas more accessible, and provided corridors of green in the urban environment. Boston's Emerald Necklace (Cleveland's ideal) offered all citizens the opportunity to enjoy, as Olmsted stated "the best scenery of the region," as well as connecting the "heart of the city with new suburbs and outlying farmland and integrated parks and parkways with a streetcar line and storm drainage."¹⁸³

In the twentieth century, playgrounds and parks began to merge in the form of the reform park. By 1892, Olmsted had designed one of the first urban playgrounds in the U.S., Charlesbank in Boston, though his intention was to still keep the playground separate from the naturalistic landscape. When Robert Moses was appointed park commissioner in New York City in 1930, he felt it "absurd" that "the park movement had been fueled by grandiose claims of their particular public service and importance."¹⁸⁴ By this time "parks no longer had to justify their existence as accomplishing needed social change. Recreation was accepted as a municipal function, an established institution, rather than a zealous reform movement."

Organized scouting camps, however, took on the role of recreation as an instrument of social welfare. The loss of pioneer adventure that Henry S. Curtis, former secretary and vice president of the Playground Association of America, expressed in his 1914 book entitled Play and Recreation for the Open Country, were re-created in the scouting activities at Camp Manatoc. Promotional literature for the camp stresses the importance of the scouting experience in helping young boys turn into men.

In the valley, the federal relief projects exhibited the influence of the recreational facilities of the 1930's in a naturalistic picturesque environment, something which, twenty years earlier, the Olmsted Brothers had specifically

¹⁸³Anne Whiston Spirn, "Urban Parks" ALA, 206.

¹⁸⁴Cranz, Landscape, 13.

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deemed inappropriate. By this time, recreation, as Cranz points out, "came to stand for all age groups, not just children in the playgrounds."¹⁸⁵ Active recreation was no longer frowned upon.

Swimming pools, initially provided for public health reasons, had become the most popular of all recreational facilities. Within the Cuyahoga Valley, the public work projects of this period included man-made lakes for both swimming and ice skating at Akron's Virginia Kendall and Furnace Run. Tobogganning was also offered at Kendall Lake. A wading pool was constructed in Cleveland's Brecksville reservation. In addition to the swimming areas, bath houses were constructed with CCC labor at both Kendall Lake and Furnace Run. The CCC design philosophy stressed buildings and structures that were subservient to, or at least in harmony with, the natural surroundings. These buildings and structures encouraged active recreation as an appropriate form of enjoying the natural beauty of the valley.

The federal relief park development projects in the Cuyahoga Valley, like many similar projects throughout the country, helped realize the recreation potential of scenic areas in such a manner that stressed good conservation. The permanent park improvements made by the CCC, WPA, and PWA represent the logical progression of local land use trends and the evolution of society's concepts about outdoor recreation and the use of secondary growth woodland areas.

¹⁸⁵Ibid., 15.

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PROPERTY TYPES

F.1 THE PASTORAL LANDSCAPES AND PASSIVE RECREATION (1870-1925):

Property Type Description

Pastoral landscapes are those sites historically associated with passive enjoyment of the valley's scenery. These areas include carriage trails, transportation corridors established for other functions, (such as the canal or railway), transportation routes established for recreation, and areas specifically recommended for park designation by the Olmsted Brothers for their scenic values.

Transportation Corridors:

Utilitarian transportation arteries in the context area also served the function of providing recreational viewing opportunities of the valley's scenery. The Valley Railway, (NR 1984) and the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath, (NHL 1966, NR 1974, 1980), were not constructed for recreational purposes, but did serve that function in the late 19th century. The preface of the Valley Railway Guide Book states that "the object of this book is to familiarize the traveler and tourist with the country they are passing through, and to give an idea of what kind of place each station is."¹

Recreational Transportation Corridors:

A linear resource that was used for recreational purposes was the Carriage Trail at the Marshall estate. The Old Carriage Trail was available for those who wanted to enjoy the scenery of the valley from their carriage. Twenty plus miles of graded carriage trails were located on the Marshall estate in Sagamore Hills. They curved along the upland edges of ravines which dropped down to the Ohio & Erie Canal and the Cuyahoga River. These trails were repaired and realigned between 1910 to 1940. Today, due to a suburban development, only four miles of

¹ John S. Reese, Compiler and Publisher, Guide Book for the Tourist and Traveler over the Valley Railway!: The Short Line Between Cleveland, Akron, and Canton. 1880, Canton, Ohio., C.C. Thompson, Printer, 1880., preface.

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the trails remain.²

Olmsted Recommended Sites:

The 1925 Olmsted Brothers study of park opportunities for Summit County commented that the area contains "great perspective value and excellent quality in the beautiful scenery of its river valleys, its wooded and picturesque ravines, its lakes and its streams."³ Their specific site recommendations are grouped into six categories. Three of these categories are described using specific sites in the context area. Valley designations extend from "brink to brink" and include bottom lands and the wooded hills. Valley scenery, as described in the Olmsted report, is self-contained and provides a sense of solitude or relief from the outside world. Other noted features in the context area were varied topography, branching creeks, wooded gorges, ledges and waterfalls. Additional recommendations for park sites included rock outcrops and ledges that provide outlooks over adjacent valleys and landscapes.

Parkways:

The context narrative describes parkways as a way of viewing and enjoying scenery while riding comfortably in an automobile. The recreation provided is passive enjoyment. Stinchcomb, trained as a civil engineer, likely believed the future of urban parks was inextricably bound to the automobile. Thus, roads became the skeletal framework around which the Emerald Necklace would flesh out. As envisioned, the Emerald necklace was to completely ring the city with green areas.⁴ Two of Cleveland's planned Emerald Necklace parkways are in the context

² Trail Plan and Environmental Assessment: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1985. p. 28.

³ Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, Report on a Park System for Summit County, Ohio, October 5, 1925, Brookline, Massachusetts., page 2.

⁴ Nick Scrattish, Historic Resource Study: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Ohio, Denver, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1985, p. 217.

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area. Chippewa Creek Valley was planned as one of two proposed southern parkways for the districts. Tinkers Creek Valley was conceived to begin where Tinkers Creek flowed into the Cuyahoga River.⁵

Property Type Significance

Passive enjoyment of the landscape for its scenic values is a late 19th century land use and recreation trend. Influenced by the organic line of English Garden landscape design, the pastoral landscape provided a peaceful environment for contemplation and relaxation away from the noise and congestion of late 19th century industrialized urban centers. An early 20th century adaptation of this was the parkway. Comfort rather than contemplation was stressed as part of the motorized escape to relaxing scenery. Locally significant sites in the valley reflect these trends.

Transportation corridors in the valley used for passive enjoyment of the pastoral landscape, either as the intended use or an adopted use, are potentially eligible under Criterion A, with the area of significance being Entertainment/ Recreation. Landscapes recommended for park designation by the Olmsted Brothers firm for their scenic qualities and elements of parkways included in the context area are potentially eligible under Criterion A for Entertainment/ Recreation and Criterion C for Landscape Architecture.

Registration Requirements

Pastoral Landscape sites eligible under Criterion A for Recreation significance must retain the important features of their design and setting. For transportation corridors these features would not only be the physical route, but moreover, the surrounding natural open space and scenic qualities that provided the purpose for the recreational use of these routes. Man-made elements in the viewshed that date from outside the primary usage period as recreational routes will compromise the historic integrity.

Sites recommended by the Olmsted Brothers for park designation must retain the physical characteristics mentioned in their study report. Such characteristics are site specific but also include such dominant features as picturesque rock formations, wooded gorges, and steep ravines. Modern intrusions in these areas,

⁵ Ibid., p. 220.

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dating from after the 1925 report, will be assessed for their impact on historic integrity and consistency with original design intent on a case by case basis.

Parkways that were developed as part of Stinchcomb's Emerald Necklace linking the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Reservations must retain the integrity of setting. They must provide the scenic views as well as a smooth flow of traffic through the reservations.

F.2. PROGRESSIVE REFORM AND THE ACTIVE RECREATION MOVEMENT (1917-1945):

Properties associated with the progressive reform recreational developments in the context area reflect the trend toward active recreation. For the most part these are camp site improvements, but memorials to those individuals who donated land or were responsible for instigating the designation and improvements of recreation sites are also included. The following subareas of this property type are found in the context area:

Memorials:

Memorials in the context area are constructed of stone. Some of them, like the Keeler and Brush memorials are stones with inscriptions on them. The Butler Memorial is a large circular structure made of coursed sandstone. Settings vary from small cleared or landscaped areas off trails to sites overlooking broad open spaces.

Camp Facilities:

The earliest improvements associated with active recreation in the Cuyahoga Valley were camp facilities. Stressing organized play and nature experiences, these camps provided recreational opportunities perceived as important to the maturation process by the progressive reformers. A notable camp improvement in the valley was the construction of the Happy Days camp. This structure was built by the CCC as an overnight camp for children participating in the Akron Board of Education and Recreation Commission summer playground program. The camp program began in 1931 and moved to Happy Days when the structure was completed in 1938.

Camp facilities in the context area are sited in wooded areas and contain buildings constructed of wormy chestnut and local buff sandstone that reference the rustic or parkitecture style. They are typically less than two stories in height, have a low profile and have rectangular, L-shaped or irregular shaped

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massing. Gable roofs with wide overhanging eaves are supported by knee-brace brackets. Camp facility building types include dining hall, lodge, cabin, and Adirondack shelter.

Architecturally, the buildings at Camp Manatoc served as a local precedent for the federal relief project park architecture of the next decade. A prominent local architectural firm provided the design for the camp and some park buildings. Both facilities used the same materials and are in the same style.

Property Type Significance

The Progressive Reform era espoused conservation, recreation, and wilderness experiences as being moral tonics for sprawling industrialization, an important aspect of a child's development, and a means of recapturing the adventure and romance of the rural environment. The impact of this national movement was the development of the metropolitan park systems and the camp facilities. These facilities often resulted from the leadership or benefaction of specific individuals.

Memorials to benefactors are associated with the development of recreation in the context area as related to the progressive reform era. To be considered significant they must meet Criterion Consideration F: Commemorative Properties. Memorials qualifying under this criterion consideration must symbolize the values and principles or contributions valued by the generation that built the monument, or represent significant design, artistic, or architectural qualities of its period of construction. Commemorative properties that are eligible under Criterion Consideration F are potentially eligible under Criterion A for Social History and Criterion C for Art or Architecture.

Camp facilities associated with the Progressive Reform era are significant under Criterion A: Social History, as reflecting the history of efforts to promote the welfare of society. Camp structures representing the character defining elements of the rustic style are also eligible under Criterion C for architectural significance. Facilities that have been relocated can be eligible under Criterion Consideration B and Criterion C: Architecture, if they retain the character defining features of their design and setting.

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Registration Requirements

Memorials associated with the Progressive Reform recreation facility improvements in the context area must maintain integrity of location and setting to convey their symbolic values. The construction material and dominant design features must be intact for them to represent specific architectural style or method of construction.

Camp facilities should retain the integrity of their original setting. New construction should not impact the setting of the historic structures, especially for facilities specially designed in a group arrangement. Character defining features of the design, such as horizontal emphasis, low roof profile, board and batten siding, and overhanging eaves with knee brace brackets must not be compromised by alterations.

F.3 CCC/ WPA/ PWA PROJECTS (1933-1942):

Park improvements resulting from Depression-era federal relief projects transformed a waning agricultural area with several park owned parcels into a recreational landscape. Work in the area done by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Works Progress Association, and the Public Works Administration was directed by the Cleveland Metropolitan Parks and the Akron Metropolitan Parks. Consistent characteristics of the work are the use of local chestnut and Berea sandstone. In addition, there is an adherence to the rustic style of architecture and the philosophy of designing improvements to harmonize, rather than dominate, the natural surroundings.

As stated in the context statement, the NPS design philosophy outlined in the 1918 "State of Policy" endorsed preconceived plans for park development to ensure the preservation of the landscape. The NPS approved park Master Plans implemented in the context area identify several landscape features that comprise these designed sites. All these improvements were designed to be in harmony with the dominant natural features of the landscape.

The variety of these features are organized by the following subareas of this property type. The building and structures associated with this property type are identified first, followed by the Master Plan landscape elements.

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Shelters and Visitor Services Structures:

Shelters built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Works Progress Administration, and the Public Works Administration in the context area are typically sited in a landscaped clearing that serves as a picnic area or playstead and is surrounded by forest. These structures range in size from the small Pagoda Shelter, which has room for only one picnic table, to the much larger Ledges Shelter, which includes kitchen facilities and a two-story caretaker's cottage. Most of the shelters are one-story, with the Ledges Shelter being the only exception. Rectangular and T-shaped massing types are dominant, but irregular and octagon shapes are also present. Regardless of the footprint, the dominant characteristic of the massing is the emphasis on horizontality.

Low pitch gable roofs are most common, with variations including intersecting gables, hip-on-gable, asymmetrical gable and conical. Shelters, by nature of their design, are open structures and have minimal wall cladding. Vertical planes are defined by the rustic posts and brackets that support the roofs. Siding is found on the gable sections of elevations, walls that contain fireplaces, or appendages that have storage or support functions. Wood siding ranges from board and batten, horizontal shiplap, and rough sawn horizontal shiplap. Masonry walls are constructed of random ashlar sandstone. Shelter foundations are either sandstone or concrete. Sandstone chimneys have, for the most part, plain rectangular stacks. The grill chimneys at the Oak Grove Shelter in the Brecksville Reservation are more elaborate. These chimneys have caps consisting of corbeled ledges and intersecting gabled tops.

The only visitor structure that is not a shelter is the Trailside Museum (NR 1992). This small scale building, is rectangular in plan and primarily constructed of random ashlar sandstone. A recessed wall of clerestory windows is cut into the principal facade and the building is noteworthy for its animal and foliage carvings and rustic wrought iron lighting fixtures.

Bubblers:

Bubblers in the context area are often located next to a shelter facility. They typically have a random ashlar sandstone base supporting a solid block of sandstone with a chiseled-out bowl. Bases can be battered or contain a small step, presumably for children. These water fountains are located next to a shelter, are rectangular in form, and are all, with one exception, approximately two feet high. The trailside bubbler (Brecksville Reservation) is unique in size

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and shape; it is encased in a semicircular wall approximately three feet high and spans approximately eight feet.

Bridges and Culverts:

Bridges and culverts are mostly constructed out of sandstone throughout the context area. The exceptions would be the Brushwood footpath, which is made from wood ties, and the Bridge to the Kendall Lake parking area, which has masonry abutments and wood ties and decking. Larger size culverts that are located under roadways and span ravines are typically constructed of sandstone and feature barrel arch vaults. Notable features include engaged buttresses, keystones, voussoirs and flagstone coping.

Retaining Walls:

Retaining walls in the context area that were built as part of the federal relief park improvement projects line roadways, waterways, and parking area. Typically built as one continuous wall, or in contiguous sections, the three distinct sections of button walls in the Brecksville Reservation are the exception. Although all these structures are constructed of random ashlar sandstone, they vary in size and contain different features. Recessed stairs are a common feature of parking lot retaining walls, while drainage holes and vegas are found in roadway or waterway walls.

Privies:

Primarily located on the forested edges of landscaped clearings, these structures are commonly found in proximity to picnic shelters. Similarities among privies in the context area include a concrete foundation, chestnut siding, a gabled roof with vertical board siding and the presence of louvered vents. Primary differences exist between those built in the Cleveland Metropark system and those built within the Akron Metropolitan Park System.

Privies found in the Brecksville and Bedford Reservation of the Cleveland park system are simple structures with horizontal rough sawn siding. They typically have louvered vents located under the eaves and sometimes have hip roof canopies over the entrances. Many have L-shaped privacy walls that screen the entrance and most have been painted yellow.

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Privies constructed as part of the Akron Metro Parks improvements are larger and more complex. They are usually L-shaped, and have intersecting gable roofs, exposed rafter ends, board and batten vertical siding and two gabled ventilation monitors straddling the roof ridges. Interior space is typically divided into a changing area and toilet facilities.

Lakes and Pools:

Man-made lakes were dug at Virginia Kendall and Furnace Run. The Virginia Kendall Lake is 12 acres and the Brushwood Lake at Furnace Run is over three acres. Both are the primary landscape features of the site. They are located next to the shelters and have relatively shallow depth. Features of these lakes include sandstone walls, wooden docks, and concrete dams and spillways.

Another feature associated specifically with the Kendall Lake is the toboggan slide ruin. A clearing on the hill south of the lake indicates the former location of the chutes, along with a reinforced concrete underpass tunnel located halfway up the hill. The starting platform at the top of the hill is indicated by a concrete platform with exposed reinforcement bars and strap hinges. A smaller scale water improvement is the WPA built circular wading pool at the Bedford Reservation. The concrete pool has a 30' (approximate) diameter and features a small fountain in the center.

Tree Plantings:

Playsteads serving as open meadow areas are bordered by thickets or groves of trees. CCC work at the Virginia Kendall park area completed by 1938 included over 100 acres planted in evergreens and hardwoods and over 15,000 plants and trees moved for landscape efforts. Plantings include spring flowering trees (such as redbud and dogwood) and shrubs in the understory of forest areas, as was done near the Octagon Shelter.

Playsteads:

These open lawn areas have an organic shape and are bordered by wooded areas. They are on relatively flat land or on slightly rolling terrain. Shelters, privies, and parking areas, and picnic areas often border these open spaces but do not disrupt the continuing flow of the space within the defined area.

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Picnic Areas:

Labeled as Picnic Areas, Public Picnic Grounds, or Group Picnic Areas, these are distinct spaces typically surrounded by trees. Smaller in size than playsteads, these designated picnic areas can either be open spaces with adjacent parking, or designated areas within the wooded boundaries of adjacent playsteads. Some of these areas contain rustic log picnic tables.

Parking Areas:

Master plan parking areas are located near, but not immediately adjacent to the shelters, and are rectangular in shape. Parking spaces often have landscaped islands and accessed by roadways with gently winding alignments, some running over culverts. Regularly spaced sandstone blocks set on end border the lots, the islands, and the drives leading into the parking areas. Unlike other parking areas in the context area, parking at the Octagon Shelter is terraced.

Foot Trails and Service Trails:

Immediately inside the wooded areas that border the playsteads are foot trails. These dirt trails typically follow the natural topography providing a winding path around natural features, such as the Ritchie Ledges, or artificial features such as the lakes. Some paths connect different areas, such as the trail that leads from the Happy Days Visitor Center to the Kendall Lake.

An interesting trail feature is located along the Ledges Trail. Sandstone steps located along this trail cut through the Ritchie Ledges. Approximately 50 steps including six separate landings curve down through this rock outcropping. A short distance further along the Ledges Trail is a small quarry cut into the sandstone ledges. This quarry was created by the CCC for cutting stones for the Ledges steps.

Overlook Sites:

Clearly identified in the Virginia Kendall State Park Master Plan, the Overlook atop the Ritchie Ledges, located near the Kendall Shelter provides a panoramic vista. Originally, the vista overlooked a large grassy "West Playstead" area. The overlook site itself consists of a large rock outcropping and is devoid of man-made elements such as an observation deck or fencing.

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Property Type Significance

Federal relief project park buildings and structures in the context area are significant as products of the Depression era's massive federal employment and public improvement programs. The Civilian Conservation Corps, the Works Progress Administration and the Public Works Administration, all built recreational facilities in the Cleveland and Akron Metropolitan Park districts. The extent of these projects in the area was so great that these improvements still define the dominant physical character of park and recreational facilities in the Cuyahoga valley. Each of these three programs had a different aim, and the two park districts administered the programs differently. The federal relief projects in the Cuyahoga valley display the variety of impacts these programs could have on municipal park development.

The CCC\ WPA\ PWA buildings and structures in the context area are eligible under Criterion A for significance in the areas of Social History, Politics/ Government, and Entertainment/ Recreation. Buildings and structures are also eligible under Criterion C for embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Rustic style of architecture. Some shelters in the context area were designed by local prominent architects and may also be eligible under Criterion C for representing the work of a master.

The level of National Park Service involvement in the development of federal relief work park improvements in the valley is indicated by the use of comprehensive plans. Master Plans, developed for areas such as the Kendall Hills, reflect the emphasis on developing recreational sites with specific emphasis on preserving the natural landscape. These plans also incorporate the building and structure improvements into the immediate environment, making the entire development one design that is in concert with the dominant physical features of the environment. Many of these plans were designed by prominent local landscape architects who were greatly influenced by the earlier east coast masters of landscape design. In addition, the physical work that went into landscaping these sites was a large part of the work done by the Civilian Conservation Camp enrollees.

Landscape features of CCC project park Master Plans are eligible under Criterion A for Social History and Government Politics if the landscaping work done to develop these features was performed by CCC enrollees. Master plan sites are also eligible under Criterion C for Landscape Architecture for representing a significant and distinct style of designing or arranging the land for human use

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and enjoyment. Sites developed from Master Plans designed by significant landscape architects can be eligible under Criterion C for Architecture for representing the work of a master.

Registration Requirements

Federal relief project buildings and structures should retain their integrity of location and park setting. Native materials used in the original design and construction, Wormy Chestnut and Berea Sandstone, must be intact. Important design elements associated with the Rustic Architecture style must also be evident. Later alterations to the buildings, structures, or sites must not interfere with the building or structure's close relation to the natural physical features of the site or mask the original function of the resource.

Master Plan landscapes must retain the general character and feeling of the landscape as designed. Important features of the design, such as the relationship between the features and the relationship of the design to dominant natural features must be intact. Areas set aside for specific functions must retain those physical features that enable them to adapt to those functions. Vegetation does not have to be the same, but historic planting patterns must be evident in terms of location, scale, and feeling.

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G. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The geographical area covered by the multiple property group consists of the boundaries of Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, BSA, Great Trails Council Camp Manatoc, and the Brecksville Reservation and Bedford Reservations of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District and Furnace Run Reservation and Sand Run of the Metro Parks Serving Summit County

H. SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

The property types associated with the historic recreation and conservation related resources in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area were derived from historic documentation of park development, previous survey data, a draft thematic nomination document, and a 1993 survey conducted by park historian, Jeff Winstel, and historian intern, Theresa Larkin.

A literature search conducted before the 1993 survey included review of historic records of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board, the Akron Park District Collection and the Harold S. Wagner Sub-collection: 1917-1963. In addition, construction and planning documents and drawings associated with early metropolitan park planning and the federal relief park improvement projects were examined. National Archives records of the CCC camps in the context area were also consulted.

Review of previous survey documents included the 1975-76 List of Classified Structures, and later amendments, the 1986 Cultural Landscape Report, and the 1982 draft thematic nomination "Park Structures in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area Built with Federal Relief Project Assistance 1933-1942." From these sources a list of properties to be surveyed was generated. Field work revealed additional properties with potential significance. All surveyed properties were recorded on Ohio Historic Inventory forms and submitted to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office for processing.

The properties were grouped under historic contexts associated with major trends in recreation that influenced the development of the Cuyahoga Valley: (1) The Picturesque Naturalistic Landscape; (2) Progressive Reform and the Active Recreation Movement; (3) Federal Relief Project Park Improvements. The movements and trends associated with these sub-contexts often overlapped and influenced each another. Property types were organized by their association with dominant trends related to the context, rather than style or chronological order.

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Significance of the representative property types is based on the strength of their historic association with significant themes and their ability to convey these associations through remaining historic fabric. Strength of association was determined by original function and contribution to the development of recreation facilities in the context area. Ability to convey these associations depends on the presence of important features of the resource's design, function, and setting.

Integrity requirements for listing of the associated properties were derived from knowledge of the existing conditions. Original setting and function, important features, and integrity of intended design were considered. Landscape features, such as wooded areas, scenic ravines, are assessed in terms of intended visual effect and integrity of location. Assessments of integrity for Virginia Kendall landscape elements were based on comparing an existing conditions inventory (Cultural Landscape Inventory, 1994) against various historic plans. Because vegetation is not a stable, such features as boundaries, circulation patterns, spatial relationships, topography and design intent receive primary consideration for landscape related features.

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