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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Overnight Lodging Facility Opens in Cuyahoga Valley National Park

PENINSULA, Ohio (May 6, 2011) – Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the tenth most visited national park in America, will soon be known for Stanford House – a facility for individuals, groups and school classes to stay overnight within the national park.

Through a strategic partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, historic Stanford House – an 1830s farm house – is coming to life in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

"Visitors already enjoy Cuyahoga Valley National Park for its amazing trails, scenic views, historic areas, family events, educational programs, scenic railroad and so much more when they visit," said Stan Austin, park superintendent for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. "Now they'll be able to spend a full day exploring the national park, and have another opportunity to spend the night right in the heart of our national park at Stanford House!"

Stanford House is one of a handful of facilities within an eastern national park to have in-park lodging. The building includes nine rooms that can sleep 29 individuals, with exclusive whole house booking for large groups, or individual room booking starting at $50 per night with a continental breakfast included.

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"The possibilities for Stanford House are endless," continued Austin. "Our vision is to have this great resource inside our national park be a catalyst to enhance local visitor experiences and increase tourism in Northeast Ohio during the next five to 10 years. We have a treasure here in our region, and we need to give people every reason to experience it."

Beyond individual and exclusive group use of the entire building, Stanford House will also be used for education programs in conjunction with Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center.

"Stanford House will allow us to serve more people with educational programs," said Deb Yandala, CEO of the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. "It will help us better serve small school groups, and in the future we plan to offer other new and innovative programs for children of all ages, as well as families and adults."

Stanford House rehabilitation began in 2010 and was recently finished in March. Funding was attained from private and foundation donors and grants and was executed in cooperation with the NPS.

Renovation of the house included a focus on preserving its historic elements, while incorporating environmentally sound features. The furniture was custom made using recycled wood, and the counters were fabricated using pressed recycled paper.

To learn more about Stanford House, contact the reservation coordinator at the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park at 330-657-2909, extension 119, or visit www.conservancyforcvnp.org.

About the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a non-profit organization created to engage public support for the park and provide services to enhance public use and enjoyment of the park. For more information about the Conservancy and its programs, visit www.conservancyforcvnp.org or call (330) 657-2909.

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Editor's Note: *High-resolution photography is available upon request. Please contact Ralph Davila at rdavila@cvnpa.org or calling 330-657-2909 ext. 109 to setup interviews, a tour of the facility, or to request any information needed.*