

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Cuyahoga and Summit Counties, Ohio

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

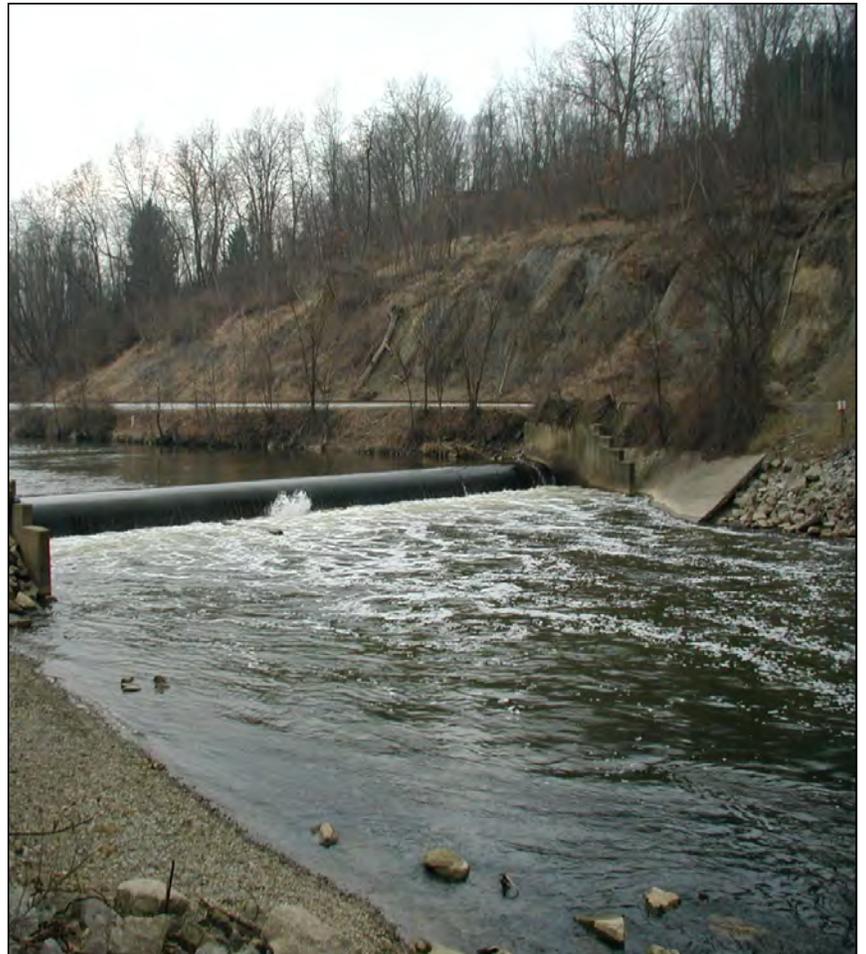
Canal Diversion Dam Modification Plan Update

The Canal Diversion Dam Project in Cuyahoga Valley National Park is moving forward with the development of an Environmental Impact Statement to comply with requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act. This newsletter provides a brief update on the status of the project.

The project involves the potential removal and/or modification of a lowhead dam on the Cuyahoga River just north of the Station Road Bridge Trailhead at Towpath mile marker 17. The dam currently limits water quality conditions in the River.

Public scoping meetings were held in 2010 to gain input from stakeholders, and a Plan is now being developed with alternatives for removal and/or modification of the dam. Potential impacts from proposed actions in the alternatives will be evaluated. Once impacts are evaluated, a preferred alternative will be identified in the Plan.

The Plan is being developed by the Ohio EPA in collaboration with the National Park Service, Cleveland Metroparks (CMP), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Purpose and Need

The Canal Diversion Dam Removal/Modification Plan will identify an ecological restoration strategy to improve water quality conditions of the Cuyahoga River while maintaining the cultural values of the Ohio & Erie Canal as a National Historic Landmark.

The dam negatively impacts the river water quality and interrupts aquatic communities resulting in a failure to achieve the goals set forth in the state of Ohio's Water Quality Standards.

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park
15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville OH 44141

For more information on this Project go to :
[http://parkplanning.nps.gov/
projectHome.cfm?projectID=18943](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=18943)

Cuyahoga Valley Canal Diversion Dam Modification Plan Update

As a result of public scoping and additional studies conducted, the project team has developed three draft alternatives to be evaluated under the Environmental Impact Statement .

Alternative 1: No Action

The Canal Diversion dam and the Pinery dam would remain as it currently exists. Water would be maintained in its current conditions within the Ohio & Erie Canal.

Alternative 2: Full Removal of Canal Diversion Dam

The Canal Diversion dam would be fully removed and the river would be restored to grade levels to provide a natural flow regime. Any remnants of the historic Pinery dam would remain, but would not be maintained. Due to elevation changes as a result of the removal of the dam, active watering of the Canal will require the design of a system to maintain a desired level of water in the Canal to retain its historical value and designation. This will be accomplished through the combination of a gravity feed design and/or installation of a pump system to divert water from the Cuyahoga River to the Canal.

Alternative 3: Modification/Partial Removal of Dam Structures

The Canal Diversion dam would be partially removed or modified in addition to possible modifications to the Pinery dam to allow for fish passage and recreational river use without a portage. Modifications would include but not be limited to the modification of existing structures and/or the addition of structures. Due to water level changes that may result from the modification to the structures, active watering of the Canal may require the design of a system to maintain a desired level of water in the Canal. This may be accomplished through a gravity feed design with installation of a supplemental pump system to divert water from the Cuyahoga River to the Canal.

