



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

For Immediate Release – Tuesday, July 19, 2011

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park Closes the Towpath Trail and Other Areas of the Park Due to Flooding

Brecksville, Ohio – The National Park Service has closed the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) due to excessive rainfall and flooding conditions. The trail closure includes associated parking lots from Lock 39 Trailhead in Independence to Botzum Trailhead in Akron.

Virginia Kendall Lake is also closed and National Park Service employees are assessing other trails in the park for damage.

Please respect all park closures for the safety of visitors, resources, and park staff. Please do not drive through moving water or designated closed areas. Flood waters from the Cuyahoga River can contain elevated levels of bacteria, pathogens, sewage, chemicals, pesticides, and other toxins. Risks may include exposure to salmonella, *E. coli*, and tetanus. Prime growing conditions for allergens and molds may also be present. Never enter closed areas, do not permit your dog to walk in the leftover mud, hose off your boots, and wash all exposed skin immediately with antibacterial soap and water.

Please visit www.nps.gov/cuva/flooding-in-the-park.htm in advance of traveling to the park due to multiple road closures and for up-to-date information.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information visit www.nps.gov/cuva or www.dayinthevalley.com or call 330-657-2752 or 800-257-9477.

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