

Cuyahoga Valley



Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail

Photo: Tom Casper

Crooked River, Beautiful

"Ka-ih-ogh-ha" American Indians called it — crooked. And crooked it is, as it twists and turns through its short 90 miles. The Cuyahoga River begins 30 miles east of its mouth in Cleveland, and flows in a great "U" along the base of the escarpment on which the city of Akron sits. Deep forests, rolling hills, and open farmlands frame the river valley. Hamlets with historic homes and barns dot the area, giving a sense of times past. Locks, spillways, an aqueduct, and other canal features provide clues to a brief but important period in America's transportation history.

The Valley Through Time

Sculpted long ago by water, glaciers, and the persistent forces of weather, the valley's diverse landscape includes river floodplain, steep and gentle valley walls, tributaries and their ravines, and upland plateaus.

The Cuyahoga River has long attracted people and wildlife. People have lived here for nearly 12,000 years, and they left a legacy of archeological sites throughout the valley. An important transportation route for American Indians, this area was deemed neutral territory by historic tribes, so all might travel on it safely from the cold waters of the Great Lakes to the short portage across the divide to the Tuscarawas River that drained into the Ohio River and the warm waters south.



Photo: Randy Shantz

Not long, nor wide, nor

