

Friends of the Crooked River—2017 Cuyahoga River Paddling Schedule

- April 9 East Branch: SR 87 to Russell Park via Sperry Pond 6.2 miles/4 hrs**
An enchanting trip on a small, flat-water stream, 15-20 feet wide. We will travel upstream from our put-in to visit Sperry Pond. The remainder of the trip will be on a channelized stretch through wetlands and swamp forest. Travel light for lift-overs of trees and beaver dams. Be prepared for mud. At higher water levels this becomes an easy trip, and there should still be some migratory ducks in the area.
- April 30 Russell Park to Camp Hi 9.6 miles, about 5 hrs**
Another beautiful paddle in the State Scenic River section of the Cuyahoga. We'll see extensive wetlands and swamp forest; spring wildflowers will be out on the shore, and there is always a lot of bird activity on this trip. There is one mild stretch of fast water before we get to Camp Hi. Suitable for novice paddlers and families.
- May 21 Camp Hi to SR 303 10.7 miles, about 6 hrs**
A beautiful paddle in the State Scenic River section. We will see wetlands and swamp forests with occasional agricultural, sand and gravel, and residential development. We'll get a glimpse of Marsh Wetlands State Nature Preserve after our lunch stop at the Mantua city park. A lively current and strainers in some sections. We'll use the new Red Fox take-out below State Route 303. For paddlers who can control a boat in moving water.
- June 11 Cuyahoga St. to Bolanz Rd. 10.1 miles, about 6.5 hrs**
This section of the Cuyahoga shows mixed use: wooded parkland with intrusions from agriculture, recreation, and commercial and residential development. Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the RAP (Remedial Action Plan) area start here. Discharges from Akron's Waste Water Treatment Plant are just upstream from a large, active heron rookery. A lively current with some Class I chutes add interest. In-stream downed trees (strainers) will demand caution. Tributaries include the Little Cuyahoga, Sand Run, and Yellow Creek. This is an immensely interesting, contrasting section of the river. For paddlers who can control a boat in moving water.
- July 9 Bolanz Rd. to Boston Rd. 6.8 miles, about 4.5 hrs**
In the first portion of this trip, the River has deep mud banks as it twists through numerous oxbows, which require negotiating tight turns with downed trees. After a portage in Peninsula, we will enjoy two miles of Class I whitewater through a beautiful hardwood forest. We will see Furnace Run and utilize the new CVNP take-out at Boston Mills. For paddlers who can control a boat in moving water.
- Aug. 20 Boston Rd. to Station Rd. 5.7 miles, about 4.5 hrs**
After a rocky start in Boston Mills, we will follow the meandering River into a maze of braided channels and tree jams on our way to the historic Station Road Bridge. Tributaries include Spring Creek, Columbia Run, Brandywine Creek, and Chippewa Creek. The put-in and the take-out use new CVNP river access points. For paddlers who can control a boat in moving water.
- Sept. 17 Station Rd. to Rockside Rd. 7.9 miles, about 5 hrs**
After putting in at the new CVNP access at Chippewa Creek, we will paddle only a short distance before portaging around the Brecksville Dam. Below the dam a lively current will carry us through the Pinery Narrows where we will see a heron rookery and an active eagle nest. We will also pass Sagamore Creek and Tinkers Creek (the largest Cuyahoga River tributary). A rocky rapid below Stone Road will add some excitement before our take-out at Rockside Road. For paddlers who can control a boat in moving water.