

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Cuyahoga and Summit Counties, Ohio

July, 2016

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 has moved forward with the development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to comply with requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This newsletter provides a brief update on the status of the project.

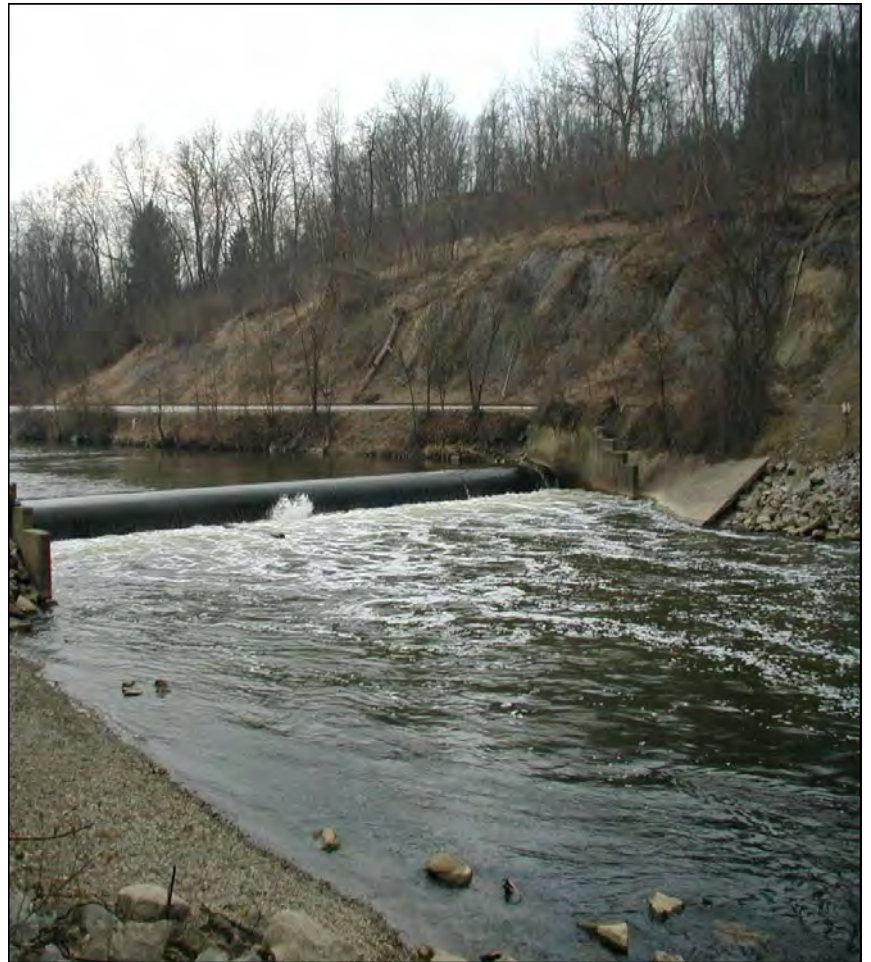
The project involves the potential removal and/or modification of a lowhead dam on the Cuyahoga River just north of the Station Road Bridge Trailhead at Towpath mile marker 17. The dam currently limits water quality conditions in the River.

Public scoping meetings were held in 2010 to gain input from stakeholders, and a Plan has been developed with alternatives for removal and/or modification of the dam. Potential impacts from proposed actions in the alternatives have been evaluated.

The Plan has been 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.

Document available for comment

August 29 - September 30, 2016 at
[http://parkplanning.nps.gov/
projectHome.cfm?projectID=18943](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=18943)



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.

OPEN HOUSE
Happy Days Lodge
500 W. Streetsboro Rd.
Peninsula, Ohio
September 7, 2016
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Cuyahoga Valley Canal Diversion Dam Modification Plan Update

As a result of public scoping and additional studies conducted, the project team has developed three alternatives that have been evaluated under the EA.

Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the modern Canal Diversion Dam, the feeder gate system and the remnants of the 1827 Pinery Dam, which is submerged beneath the dam pool, would remain in place. The current water quality of the river upstream of the Canal Diversion Dam is in non-attainment of Ohio's Water Quality Standards for warm water aquatic life and habitat designation.

Alternative 2: Modification of Canal Diversion Dam with Canal Dredge

In Alternative 2, the Canal Diversion Dam and remnants of the Pinery Dam would be removed, the feeder gates would remain in place, and a partial (less than full width of river) or a lower dam (full width of river) would be constructed on site. Elevation changes resulting from the modification of the Canal Diversion Dam would require the canal prism to be dredged for approximately one mile downstream (north) of the project area in order to generate a gravity flow of water from the river into the Canal.

Alternative 3: Full Removal of Canal Diversion Dam with Pump Installation (Proposed Action)

In Alternative 3, the Canal Diversion Dam would be completely removed, the feeder gates would remain in place, and the river would be restored to grade levels that provide a natural, free flowing regime. Due to elevation changes resulting from the complete removal of the Canal Diversion Dam as well as the remnant of the Pinery Dam, an active watering system for the Ohio & Erie Canal would be designed and built to divert a desired amount of water into the canal in order to retain a desired water level to preserve its cultural value.

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