

Friends of the Crooked River—2018 Cuyahoga River Paddling Schedule

- April 8** **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 29** **Russell Park to Camp Hi** **9.6 miles, about 5 hrs**
- Another beautiful paddle in the State Scenic River section of the Cuyahoga. We will see extensive wetlands and swamp forest. The 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 20** **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 a few strainers in some sections. We will use the new Red Fox take-out below State Route 303. For paddlers who can control a boat in moving water.
- June 10** **Tannery Park to Portage Trail**
- A varied paddle in a section of the river made more beautiful and interesting following the recent removal of dams in Kent and Munroe Falls. A quick current carries us out of Kent and through a surprisingly rustic landscape. Lazily flat sections are punctuated by occasional rapids, with the banks of the river at times towering on either side. The river twists through Waterworks Park before we take out in Cuyahoga Falls, before the actual Class IV+ waterfalls that give the city its name.
- July 8** **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.
- Aug. 19** **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.
- Sept. 16** **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 Creekk, 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.