

National Parks Service

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Background

- The National Parks Service was created in 1916 to protect the 35 national parks and monuments that existed in the United States. The agency is managed under the Department of the Interior and now contains over 400 sites.
- The First National Park established in 1872 (44 years before the creation of the National Parks Service) was Yellowstone National Park , located in Wyoming.
- The National Park Service’s mission is to “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.” 1
- This summer I worked as an Interpretive Park Ranger at Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Brecksville, OH. I heard about this position through USAJobs, and applied as part of a Pathways position.
- On any given day I worked with 8 – 15 other rangers to complete daily duties

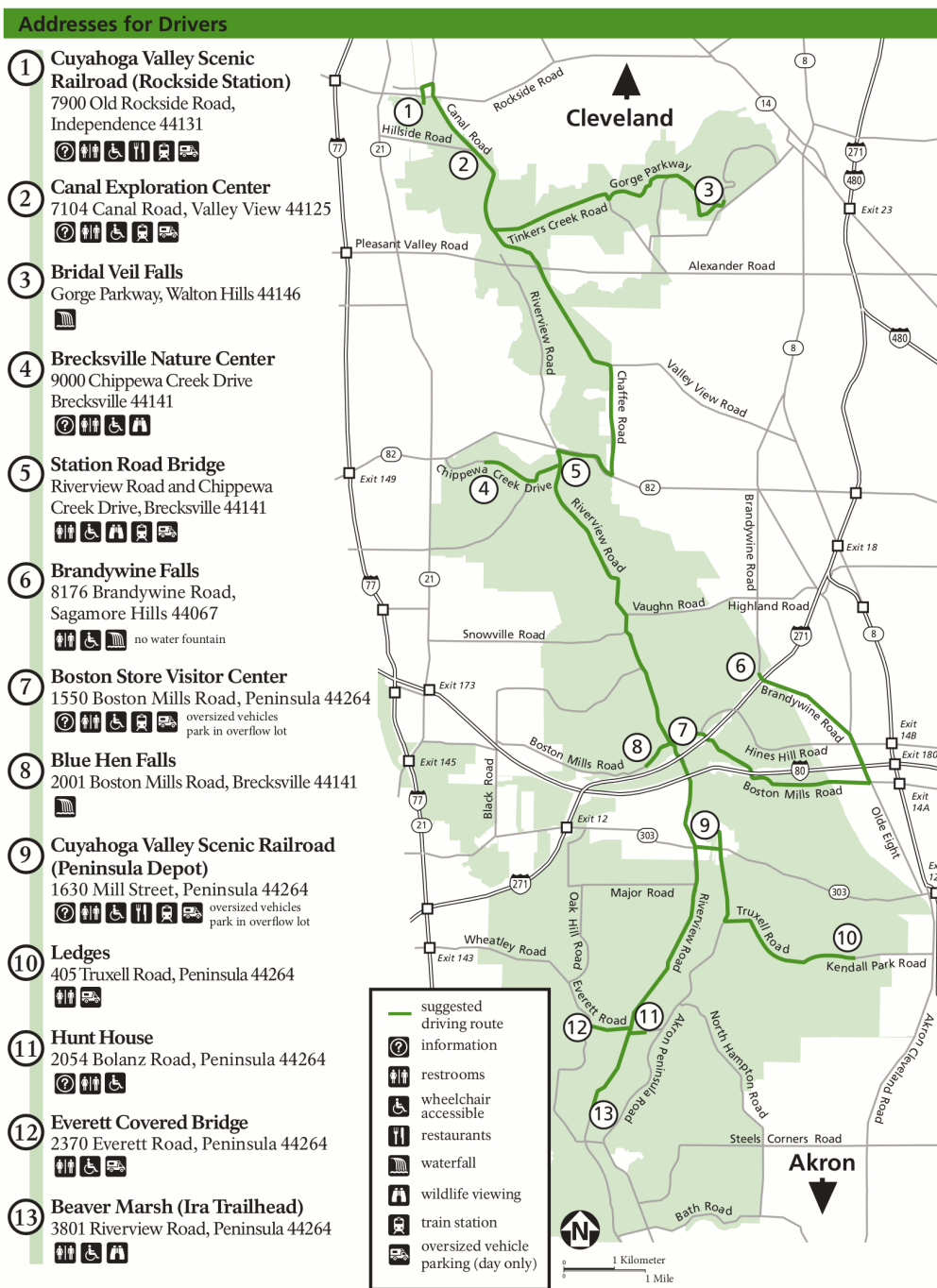
Saturday Crew 2021



Map of CVNP

Popular Park Attractions

If your time is limited, use this guide to make the most of your visit. The addresses below reflect what works best with mapping devices. Side two provides an overview of what to see and do, organized geographically. Stop at Boston Store Visitor Center for more advice and information.



Pathways

- A pathways ranger is someone who works for the National Parks Service AND attends an accredited program.
- This allows students to work throughout the year (as opposed to a 1039 ranger which has limited hours)
- At the conclusion of your time in college, as a pathways ranger you are allowed to enter yourself in a pool that NPS sites look at to offer positions to those entrants across the country.

On The Job

Duties included:

- Maintain visitor happiness by aiding in aspects such as directions and safety.
- Execute and Inform visitors through the use of pop-ups and programs
- Program development
- Completion of GAR assessment

Jr. Ranger Fishing Program

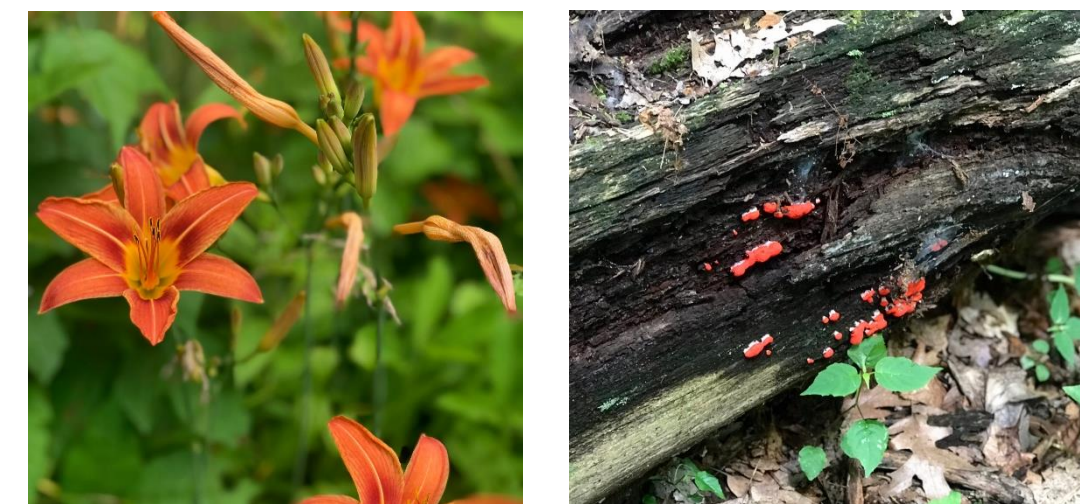
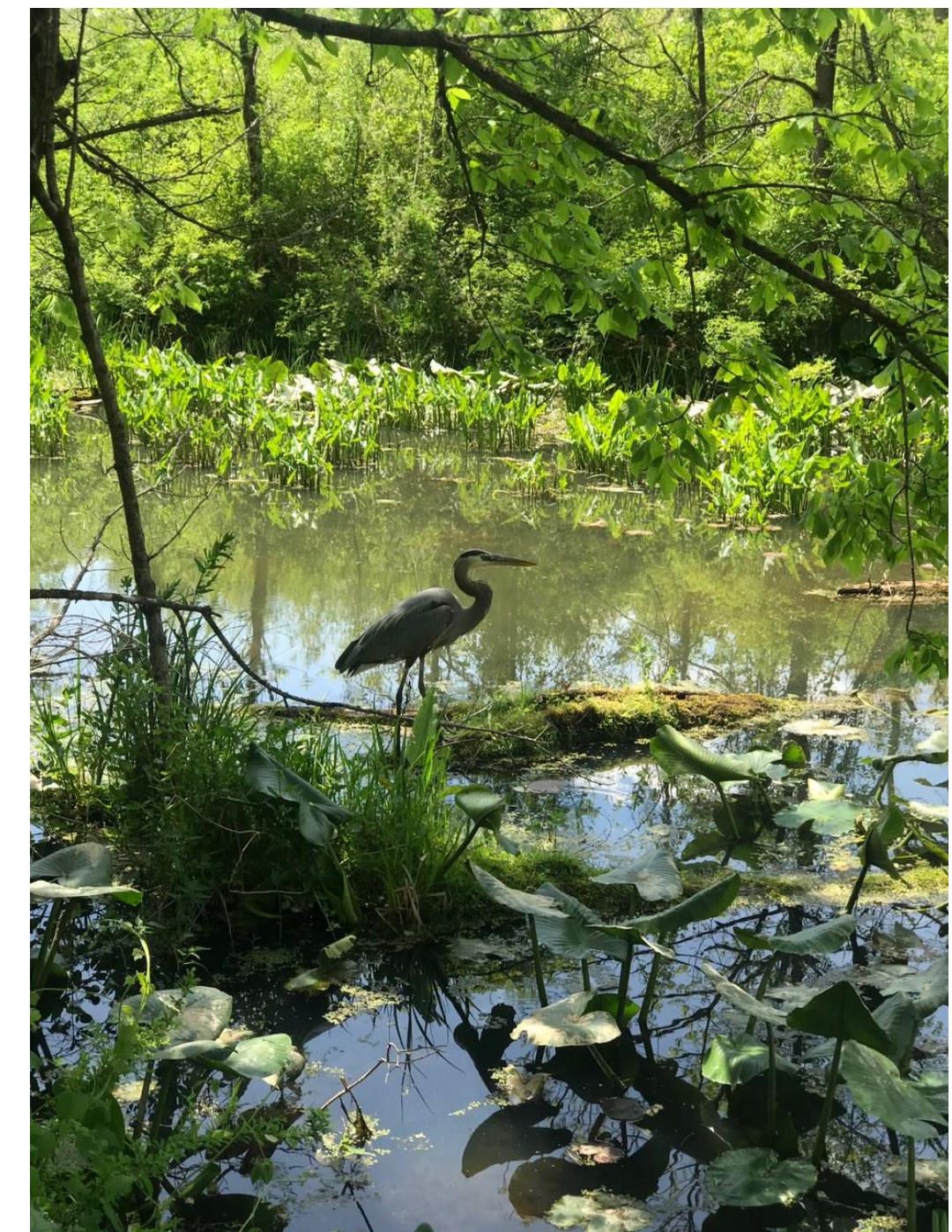


“Steam in the Valley” Train



- Alongside managing visitors, at times rangers are given the opportunity to “rove”, allowing us to take a hike. Along the way we are able to enjoy nature ourselves.
- CVNP is a very historically rich park. When given the opportunity to rove there were many aspects of the park to explore.

Blue Herron, Day Lilies , Moss



Reflection

- As I plan to continue my career in the National Parks Service, working at Cuyahoga Valley NP has been an amazing opportunity in terms of my future.
- Next summer I plan to move westward, ideally finding a position in the pacific Northwest.
- For any students that may be looking to complete a similar job/internship I suggest:
 - Learn about what it means to be a pathways ranger. This will create opportunities both during and after your work in the park.
 - If you can’t secure a position but still want to be involved in National Park work, there are many volunteer programs throughout Cuyahoga Valley NP that you can be a part of. This will still allow you to make connections and better prepare you to apply for the job at another time.

Sources
<https://www.google.com/search?q=cuyahoga+valley+national+park+map>
<https://www.google.com/search?q=national+parks+service+arrowhead>
<https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/index.htm>



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