



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley  
National Park

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## Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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### Reopening of Tabletop Trail in the Wetmore Trail System

**Brecksville, Ohio** –The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to reopen Tabletop Trail located in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). This 0.7-mile stretch of the Wetmore Trail system has been closed since 2003 due to heavy flood damage. In the park’s 2013 Trail Management Plan, the trail was identified for restoration within the existing trail corridor.

Thanks to NPS staff and volunteers for their efforts and the donations of other trail enthusiasts, this equestrian and hiking trail is now open once more.

Restoration efforts included clearing the trail of debris and fallen trees, adding new drainage and erosion control features, resetting a washed-out bridge, stabilizing the stream bank, and repairing, and hardening the trail tread.

“We try to reduce our footprint on the land by improving the existing trail using sustainable trail practices which lower maintenance efforts and protects the resource,” said Kim Norley, Landscape Architect, CVNP.

This project was made possible thanks to donations to the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park as part of the TRAILS FOREVER program. TRAILS FOREVER is a partnership initiative of the NPS and Conservancy to protect, preserve, and enhance the trails of CVNP. Together, we are working to build a world-class trail system in our national park.

In February of this year, the Medina Chapter of the Ohio Horseman’s Council (MOHC) kicked off the project by allocating a previous \$17,500 donation to Tabletop Trail restoration efforts, the largest gift to the project. Then, the Conservancy initiated a brief fundraising campaign in June and was able to contribute \$6,905 to this effort. Distributions from the TRAILS FOREVER Legacy Fund contributed \$22,155 and the NPS contributed \$13,440 needed for the trail renovation, leading to a total project cost of \$60,000.

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CVNP's Volunteers-In-Parks Program along with the MOHC and Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council (CVTC) recruited volunteers to help with the restoration work. The October 25, 2014 "Make A Difference Day" resulted in 398 hours of volunteer service for park restoration with 95 volunteers, which is a value of \$8,980.

"We are pleased to be able to reopen this beautiful trail that connects to the larger Wetmore Trail, providing greater hiking and equestrian trail experiences," said Craig Kenkel, Superintendent, CVNP. "We are grateful to the efforts of the park staff and volunteers and the Conservancy for CVNP for their work in fundraising for the project costs. This is truly an excellent example of public/private partnership working together to restore our trails in CVNP."

"I'm grateful for all who contributed to Tabletop Trail, either as volunteers or donors," said Deb Yandala, chief executive officer for the Conservancy. "I look forward to future trails projects that will continue to improve CVNP's fantastic trail system."

The restoration of Tabletop Trail is the first fundraising project to support the implementation of the 2013 Trail Management Plan, which is part of the TRAILS FOREVER initiative.

Tabletop is located in the Wetmore Trail system and accessible via the Wetmore Trailhead at 4653 Wetmore Road, two miles east of Akron Peninsula Road, Peninsula 44264.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information visit [www.nps.gov/cuva](http://www.nps.gov/cuva) or call 330-657-2752.

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a nonprofit organization created to engage public support for the park and provide services to enhance public use and enjoyment of the park. For more information about the Conservancy and TRAILS FOREVER, visit [www.conservancyforcvnp.org](http://www.conservancyforcvnp.org) or call 330-657-2909.

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