



Wintertime Fun

Winter provides special opportunities for enjoying Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP), with cross-country and downhill skiing, snowshoeing, snow tubing, and sledding. This bulletin provides the best places and ways to experience winter in Ohio's largest national park.

Winter Sports Center at Kendall Lake



NPS/TED TOTH

Start by visiting the Winter Sports Center at Kendall Lake Shelter. Cross-country ski trails, downhill ski resorts, sledding, and tubing areas are within easy reach.

The center, built from native chestnut and sandstone by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, provides a rustic

setting to warm up with a hot drink and relax after a day of outdoor fun. Center staff and volunteers provide visitors with updated weather forecasts, area maps, and a schedule of park events. Snowshoe and cross-country ski equipment rental for adults and children is available.

The center will be open when snow is four inches or deeper. It may be open additional days during heavy snowfall.

The typical schedule is Saturdays and Sundays in December, January, and February; daily, December 26 through 31; and the holidays of Martin Luther King Day and Presidents' Day. The hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The center is located on Truxell/Kendall Park Road, 2 miles west of Akron Cleveland Road, Peninsula 44264. For snow conditions, call Boston Store Visitor Center at 330-657-2752.

Hiking

Over 125 miles of trails are open for hiking year round. The Ledges Trail, on Truxell/Kendall Park Road in Peninsula 44264, is among the most scenic due to the dramatic icicles on the rocks. In winter it is especially important to consider safety while hiking. Always use caution where ice and packed snow make footing hazardous. Obtain trail maps before venturing into unfamiliar areas. Inform family or friends of your intended locations and estimated time of return. Do not climb on the rocks at the Ledges and

stay back from the bluff edges. As a courtesy and for the safety of everyone, always yield to skiers and avoid walking in ski tracks.



©SARA GUREN

Snowshoeing

Snowshoe rental is available at the Winter Sports Center (hours listed above) and Boston Store Visitor Center, 1550 Boston Mills Road, Peninsula 44264, **when snow is four inches or deeper.** The visitor center is open daily, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., except on December 25 and January 1.

There is a \$5 rental fee (cash or check only). A valid driver's license or credit card is required as a deposit. Snowshoes may be used on nearby trails. When sharing a trail with cross-country ski traffic, yield to skiers and take care not to walk in ski tracks.

Cross-Country Skiing

Cross-country ski rental, including a limited number of children's skis, is available at the Winter Sports Center for \$15 per day or \$7.50 for three hours (cash or check only) **when snow is six inches or deeper**. A valid driver's license or credit card is required as a deposit. Ski instruction is available by advanced registration at 330-657-2752.

There are many miles of cross-country trails in the park suitable for all levels. Suggested areas and trails include:

- **Bike & Hike Trail.** Follows the eastern border of the park for 10 miles and many miles beyond. Straight, flat, and maintained by Summit Metro Parks. A favorite section is north from State Route 303.
- **Boston Run Trail.** 3.5 miles. Access from Happy Days Lodge main parking lot, 501 Streetsboro Road, Peninsula 44264. Advanced intermediate route with steep terrain through mixed woodlands.
- **Cross Country Trail.** 2.5 miles and designed for cross-country skiing. Access the trail from Kendall Lake,

Truxell/Kendall Park Road or Little Meadow Parking Area, 5249 Quick Road, Peninsula 44264. This intermediate-to-difficult trail passes through mixed woods and old fields, and has several steep hills.

- **Ledges Field.** Adjacent to the Ledges Shelter, Truxell/Kendall Park Road, 1 mile west of Akron Cleveland Road, Peninsula 44264. Large, flat open field. Excellent for beginners.
- **Oak Hill Trail.** 1.5 miles. Trailhead is accessed at 3901 Oak Hill Road, Peninsula 44264. The easy-to-moderate trail loops through mixed woods and beside a pond.
- **Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.** 19.8 miles, with many access points. Easy multi-purpose trail. The Hunt House to Peninsula section is especially scenic.
- **Tree Farm Trail.** 2.75 miles. Loop trail accessed at Horseshoe Pond, 2075 Major Road, Peninsula 44264. Easy-to-moderate trail through open fields, across gently rolling hills, and into coniferous tree stands.

©SARA GUREN

Ice Fishing

Large-mouth bass, crappie, and bluegill are among the fish caught in CVNP lakes and ponds. Ice thickness is not monitored for ice fishing, so be careful when venturing onto the ice. Thin spots can occur causing it to become unstable. Ice fish at your own risk.

Catch-and-release fishing is encouraged to maintain the fish populations needed for continued sport fishing. Fishing guidelines follow federal and state regulations. For more information visit nps.gov/cuva/planyourvisit/fishing.htm.

Sledding



©SARA GUREN

Sledding is available at Kendall Hills on Quick Road in Peninsula, about one mile east of Akron Peninsula Road. Parking is

located at Pine Hollow, Crow Foot Gully, and Little Meadow parking lots. Separate areas are designated for sleds and toboggans. Some areas are closed to sledding to prevent conflicts with cross-country ski trails.

Downhill Skiing and Snow Tubing

Boston Mills Ski Resort, 7100 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44264, and Brandywine Ski Resort, 1146 West Highland Road, Sagamore Hills 44067, offer downhill

skiing. Polar Blast Snow Tubing Park is next to Brandywine. Equipment rental and instruction are available. For resort information call 330-467-2242.

nps.gov/cuva
facebook.com/CuyahogaValleyNationalPark