

# ABOUT THE VALLEY

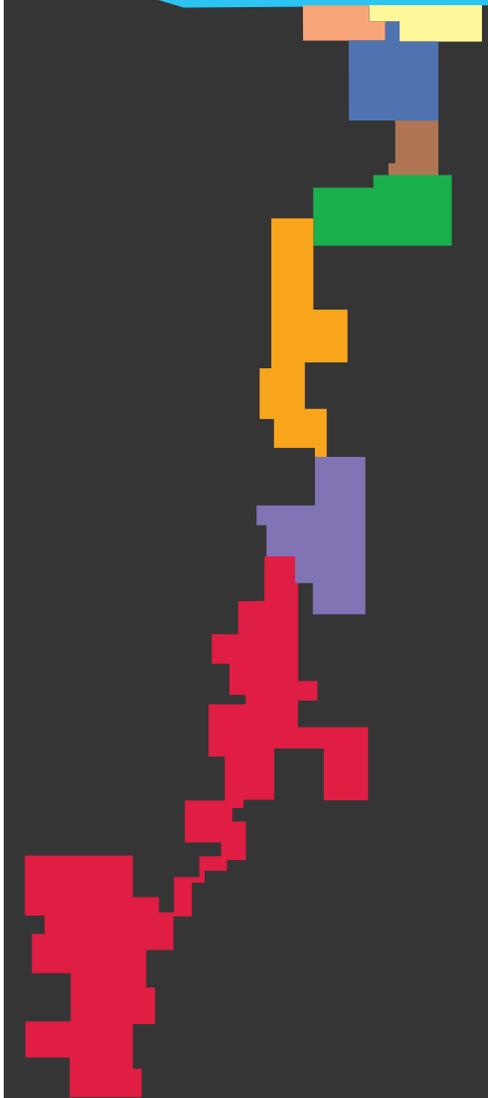
The Cuyahoga Valley is the setting for one of the most significant examples of industrialization, urbanization, degradation, and preservation in America. Benefiting from a geographic location midway between extensive deposits of natural resources, with access to land and water transportation networks, and fostering the development of interrelated industries, the lower Cuyahoga Valley helped Greater Cleveland become one of the most important industrial centers in the world. Today, Northeast Ohio and other post-industrial regions are faced with questions of how to foster economic growth and attract new investment while creating a high quality of life for our citizens.

By working together, we can enhance this Valley for ourselves and future generations, and enjoy the benefits of a working river, healthy valley, innovative business center, diverse community, and a destination for cultural and recreational experiences. Just as our economic and cultural foundations began here, so too can our region's renewal.

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## A BRIEF GUIDE TO CUYAHOGA VALLEY DISTRICTS





## LAKEFRONT

Lake Erie is our special asset. Its scale dwarfs any other natural or man-made feature in our region and creates an attraction that has been underappreciated in our region's development. Historically, the bluffs that line its southern shore have served as a barrier to access and still pose an obstacle for integrating the lakefront into the rest of the city. The confluence of the Cuyahoga River and the lake provides the most natural way for accessing the lakefront.

## INDUSTRIAL VALLEY

South of the I-490 bridge, the Valley widens to one and one-half miles. This grand scale corresponds to the large steel making operations located here; this district's gritty and raw character is synonymous with Cleveland's industrial past. In its transformation to an engine for Cleveland's economy, many of the Valley's natural features such as the hillsides, Morgan Run, Burk Branch, and the Cuyahoga River itself were altered, removed or covered to a great extent. Much of Cleveland's ethnic heritage and America's industrial revolution emanates from here.

## OLD CHANNEL

The Old Channel is a remnant of the original Cuyahoga River that existed before Moses Cleaveland's founding of our city that bears his name. Formerly detached from the main stem of the river and surrounded by marsh land, the Old Channel was reconnected to the river and became a harbor for shipbuilding and repair. Much of the Old Channel is used for receiving and storage by materials industries. The access point to the salt mine that extends for miles beneath Lake Erie is located here. The Old Channel's course provides an opportunity to create a stronger connection between Edgewater Park and near west side neighborhoods to the main stem of the Cuyahoga River.

## RESERVATION

South of Harvard Avenue, the Cuyahoga Valley narrows and still retains a largely natural land cover. Although industrial giants such as Alcoa, the former American Steel and Wire, and British Petroleum are still located here, industrial development within this segment is not as intense, and there are many properties which have not been developed and covered with buildings. Access is more difficult than in other parts of the Valley. The extensive natural areas of this district were capitalized upon and protected with the 330-acre Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation's establishment, a natural oasis in the middle of the nation's 25th most populous county.

## THE OXBOWS

When rivers like the Cuyahoga flow across flat land, they lose energy, and their course begins to meander, thus creating oxbow shapes. The resulting land pattern of peninsulas between those meanderings is a distinctive feature of this Valley's section. In this area, the river has been bulkheaded and dredged for commercial purposes, extending the navigation harbor inland, but also disrupting a number of ecological functions. Many of the industrial and commercial uses historically located here have closed or been replaced by less intense uses. Potential for this area lies in its close proximity to many activity generators like the Gateway Sports Complex, Tower City Center, the Flats, Ohio City, and Tremont.

## CLOVERLEAF

The Cloverleaf area is located very close to the geographic center of Cuyahoga County and is near the crossroads of two interstate highways, I-77 and I-480. Interchanges at Transportation Boulevard and Rockside Road serve as gateways to the Valley and also as economic development magnets that have a large impact on this portion of the Valley and the entire region. The area is characterized by a suburban style of development and a growing entertainment cluster resulting from its central location and proximity to the Towpath Trail.

## TRE-GATE

This section of the Valley straddles part of the Tremont neighborhood and the Maingate industrial area. It also is very close to educational institutions within the St. Vincent's Quadrangle and is bordered on all sides by interstate highways. Tre-Gate has a history of industrial and business innovation and at one time was home to numerous oil and chemical companies, including John D. Rockefeller's original Standard Oil operations and the Grasselli Chemical Company.

## NATIONAL PARK

South of Rockside Road, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park dominates the landscape deep into Summit County. Although much of the Valley's pattern of development is shaped by economic activities, the focus of this area is history and nature. The Cuyahoga River itself has been altered to a lesser extent than in other parts of the Valley. The Towpath Trail and Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railway provide alternative means of experiencing the Valley, and the Ohio & Erie Canal is the focal point of the area's rich pre-industrial heritage.