



Kent Environmental Council

May 2006

16th Annual Cuyahoga RiverDay a Time for 'Celebrating Our National Heritage'

Join the Kent Environmental Council and the many other RiverDay sponsors for a fun-filled and informative time celebrating our national heritage at the 16th Annual Cuyahoga RiverDay events on Saturday, May 20.

The day begins with a fitness walk at 9:30 a.m. from Fred Fuller Park on Middlebury Road (Pavilion No. 1) to Heritage Park for presentations at 10 a.m. about the first dam on the Cuyahoga

River in the Kent area (some 200 years ago) and plans for Kent park trails. (For a map of the river area, see page 3.)

At 10:30 a.m., a live fish demonstration illustrating the high quality of fish now found in the restored

Cuyahoga River is planned. Then enjoy the exhibits and join a historical river walk along the river's edge at 11 a.m. Guy Perneti of the Kent Historical Society will lead the walk, which leaves from the Silk Mill parking lot.

Tours of the Kent Bog State Nature Preserve on Meloy Road will be conducted all day, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thanks to all of the other RiverDay sponsors: Kent Parks and Recreation Department, Kent Historical Society, City of Kent Service Department, Friends of the Kent Bog, Portage Park District, Cuyahoga American Heritage River, Record Publishing Company, Sierra Club Portage Trail, League of Women Voters of Kent, and the Kent Bicentennial Committee.

For more information, call Edith Chase at 330/673-1193.

Earth Day Finds KEC Pulling Weeds

Earth Day 2006 was observed by nine KEC members who spent several hours Saturday morning, April 23, filling Bob Wilson's truck several times over with dandelions, purple deadnettle, ground-ivy, hawkweed, rough bedstraw, garlic mustard and other undesirable and invasive plants from the section along Haymaker Parkway between South Mantua and River streets that is under the care of KEC. One person who helped on Saturday had participated in KEC's first clean-up along the Cuyahoga River in 1970.

Two half-grown rabbits were persuaded to relocate farther from the highway, some weedy small trees and bushes were trimmed, and trash was picked up. Occasional honks and thumbs-ups signs were observed from passing motorists. It is hoped that KEC will be able to implement a weed-control program with newspapers and wood-chips that will minimize future growth of dandelions and other weeds.



Kent Environmental Council, City of Kent Environmental Commission to Hold Joint Meeting

A joint meeting of the Kent Environmental Council and the city of Kent Environmental Commission is scheduled to hear presentations from the Kent State University student recipients of the 2005-2006 Doug Shaw Memorial awards. The meeting is set for Monday, May 8, at 7 p.m. in city council chambers, 325 S. Depyster Street. Gene Wenninger, chair of the Kent Environmental Council, and Charles Frederick, chair of the Kent Environmental Commission, will give welcoming remarks at the start of the meeting.

KSU Honors College Dean Larry Andrews will introduce the three students and their research topics: Dana McDermott, "Seasonal and Spatial Comparisons of Lake Erie Bacterial Assemblages: Analysis Using FISH"; Hillary Patterson, "The Effects of Benzo(a)pyrene on Fecundity in the Fathead Minnow"; and Jamie Stamberger, "Indirect Effects of Tadpole Grazing on the Growth Rate of Elodea Canadensis."

At 7:30 p.m., Beth Buchanan of Davey Resource Group will present a feasibility study on "The Urban Forest as a Biogenic Utility."

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Joint Fine-Particle Pollution Program to Issue Health Advisories in NE Ohio

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, in partnership with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the city of Cleveland Division of Air Quality, the Akron Regional Air Quality Management District, the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, and the Lake County General Health District, has launched a fine-particle pollution program that will advise northeast Ohio residents when fine-particle pollutants could reach unhealthy levels.

The air-quality advisories are based on real-time hourly monitoring of the air in northeast Ohio, which does not meet fine-particle-pollution health standards as mandated in the federal Clean Air Act. Because particle pollution is more localized than ozone, health advisories will cover only the county in which the high monitor readings are occurring.

Lynn Malcolm, director of the Akron Regional Air Quality Management District, said that fine-particle pollution depends on the weather. If it's a hot summer, such pollution will be worse. Fine particles include a large amount of sulfate and nitrate aerosols, which are related to ozone pollution. A high air-condition-

ing load means more more electricity-generated by coal-fired power plants and more pollution. Fine-particle pollution (soot) also comes from car and truck exhaust, industrial emissions, dirt, dust, smoke, water vapor and many other sources.

On health-advisory days, active children and adults should cut back or reschedule strenuous activities. People who are unusually sensitive to air pollution—especially those with heart or lung disease (including asthma)—should avoid strenuous activities.

Small particles of 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter pose the greatest problems because they can bypass respiratory defenses and get embedded deep into lung tissues. Exposure to such particles can affect both lung and heart functions, such as irritation of the airways, and aggravate asthma and chronic bronchitis. Increased hospital admissions for heart or lung disease also are possible.

To check the day's air quality, go to www.noaca.org/

[fp3.html](http://www.noaca.org/fp3.html). You can sign up at www.noaca.org/fp3 to receive free e-mail advisories when fine-particle pollution levels reach unhealthy ranges.

What Can You Do to Help?

Consider these suggestions:

- Avoid idling your vehicle.
- Inform your neighbors and family when a fine-particle pollution advisory has been issued.
- Ride the bus, carpool or call Ride-share (800/825-RIDE).
- Walk or bike whenever possible.
- Combine errands to eliminate the waste of fuel and time.
- Compost leaves, twigs and other yard waste instead of burning them.
- Avoid using leaf blowers and other dust-producing equipment.

Got Big, Odd Unwanted Stuff?

Most everyone knows what to do with used items such as bottles, cans and paper: Put them at the curb for the Portage County Recycling Center's trucks to pick up and haul away.

But what about the bigger or less typical or even potentially hazardous stuff? Stuff like furniture, household items, motor oil, paint, eyeglasses, cell phones and yard waste?

According to Charley Ramer, director of Portage County Recycling Center, what to do with the big or odd stuff is more challenging than the typically recycled items. Ramer adds, however, that the center now offers help for people trying to decide what to do with things like that old sofa or half-empty can of paint. The goal, said Ramer, is to keep more stuff out of the dump and get it back into the hands of someone who could reuse it. Toward this end, ask yourself these questions:

- Can the item be repaired or reused by you or your family?
- Can the item be resold at a garage sale, through a classified ad or on eBay?
- Can the item be donated for recycling or reuse?

The recycling center offers a list of alternatives for the odd stuff, said Ramer. You can get the list by calling the center at 330/678-8808.

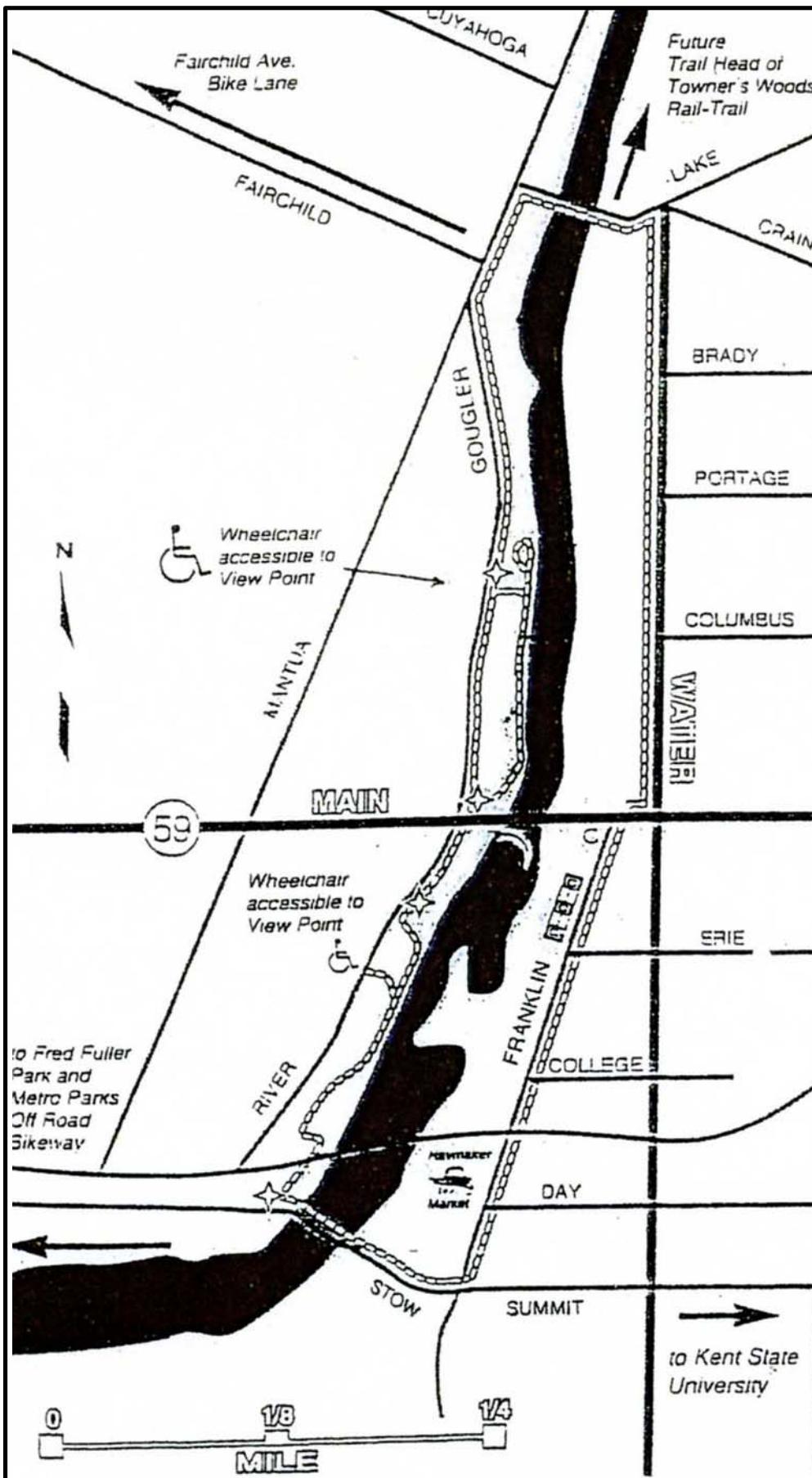
Portage County's Solid Waste Management District reduced the residential/commercial sector waste stream by 26 percent and the industrial sector waste stream by 26 percent. Access to residential recycling is 97.5 percent. The district funds recycling programs through a solid-waste generation fee of \$9.60 per ton for waste generated within Portage County, an amount unchanged since its inception in 1994.

The county's solid-waste management plan is in the middle of a five-year review. An updated plan is in draft form, and a 90-day ratification process is under way for review by the district's political subdivisions. The last step is to send the final plan to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for review.



While perched on a rock by the Cuyahoga River, this lone frog appears to be enjoying the sun while surveying his natural habitat—unaware, perhaps, that someone had just snapped his picture. (Photo by Caroline Arnold)

Your Map for Local Access to the Cuyahoga River



Did You Know . . .

- The Cuyahoga River begins its 100-mile course in Geauga County, then goes south to Cuyahoga Falls, turns sharply to the north and travels through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, makes its way to Cleveland and then empties into Lake Erie?
- The Cuyahoga River drains 813 square miles of land in parts of six counties?
- The Cuyahoga River is considered to be a recent geological formation, having been formed by the advance and retreat of the last ice sheet during the last ice age and that the final retreat of ice occurred around 12,000 years ago?
- Originally the Cuyahoga River drained into Lake Erie about 4,000 feet west west of its current mouth?
- The natural depth of the Cuyahoga River is three feet to six feet and that for the last five miles of its path it has been dredged to a depth of 27 feet to accommodate shipping traffic?
- The Cuyahoga River first caught on fire in 1936 and did so a number of times after that and attracted the nation's attention when it caught on fire again in June 1969?
- After the Cuyahoga River's water quality improved with clean-up efforts, the river was named one of 14 American Heritage Rivers in 1998?

(Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuyahoga_River)

Cuyahoga Dawn

by RC Wilson

Cuyahoga at dawn
With your shimmering ripples
And mist shrouded pools
The promise of life
Is an endless ballet
The whirligigs dance



On the mirror of Narcissus.
Cuyahoga at dawn
Where the cardinals "chip chip"
And the cardinal flowers bloom
From black to red
As the light comes on.



Cuyahoga at dawn
Where the blue heron
Stalks slowly
The kingfisher
Dives fast
And the snapping turtle sleeps
For centuries.



Cuyahoga at dawn
Give us your wine of wild grapes
Your supper of perch and morels
Heal our hearts with your flowing waters
Be there tomorrow and tomorrow
Oh little valley of hope.



KEC

Membership

Reminder . . .

Please take the time and energy to check your mailing label for the current status of your KEC membership.

If you see **REN** above your name and address, KEC is reminding you that it is time to **RENEW** your membership. A return-addressed envelope will be attached to the newsletter for your convenience. You can indicate your support of KEC at the following membership levels: **Sustaining, \$45; Family, \$35; Individual, \$25; Golden Buckeye, \$15; Student, \$10.**

If you see OK on your label, you are a **member in good standing**. Thank you for your trust and support!

The letters **CC** mean that KEC has sent you a **complimentary copy** this month. Please consider joining KEC at any membership level you find appropriate. Make your check payable to Kent Environmental Council, and mail it to: Kent Environmental Council, P.O. Box 395, Kent, OH 44240.

Kent Environmental Council

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Membership:

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Kent Environmental Council . . . on the Web at www.kentenvironment.org