

# The Cuyahoga.....Our American Heritage River

"Cujahaga will hereafter be a place of great importance."

Joseph Heckwelder, late 1700's

## Facts and Figures about Ohio's First American Heritage River

- ❖ The Cuyahoga River is about 100 miles long and drains a watershed of 813 square miles, starting near Burton and flowing south to Akron, then north through Cleveland into Lake Erie. Although the watershed is less than 3% of Ohio's land area, it supports over 15% (1.6 million) of the state's population.
- ❖ The Cuyahoga is one of only two rivers in the world that flows both south and north. Native Americans and early missionaries referred to this U-shaped river as the "Cujahaga", "Cuyagaga", "Diohaga", or "Cuyohaga" - most of these names meaning "crooked river".
- ❖ The Cuyahoga River was utilized as the primary means of transport between Lake Erie and the Ohio River. The Signal Tree, a native American marker of the portage path between the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas Rivers, can still be viewed in a Summit County Metropark.
- ❖ In 1795 the Cuyahoga River was designated as the western boundary of the United States by the Treaty of Greenville.
- ❖ In 1832 the Ohio & Erie Canal opened for business as the nation's first inland waterway. It became the most prosperous in the state, as well as one of the most extensive and successful in the nation. The Canal was abandoned after extensive damage from the Great Flood of 1913.
- ❖ The Cuyahoga River watershed is home to 252 species of animals that are considered to be endangered, threatened, or of special interest. 70 species of fish have now been collected in the river that was once considered "dead". A 25 mile segment in the upper watershed is designated as the Upper Cuyahoga Scenic River.
- ❖ The Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area conserves over 32,000 acres of relatively undeveloped and scenic open space along the river between Cleveland and Akron. The park is one of the most popular in the nation, attracting over 2 million visitors a year.
- ❖ Industries that began and flourished on the shores of the Cuyahoga include Standard Oil, Sherwin-Williams, Oglebay-Norton, Hanna Mining, Cleveland-Cliffs, Republic Steel, Jones & Laughlin Steel, George Hulett, Goodyear Tire & Rubber, B.F. Goodrich, Seiberling Rubber, Schumacher Milling, Firestone Tire, and Quaker Oats.