

## Clues Continued...

Among the many titles displayed in this spot,  
Find *Canal Currents*. Stop to read an issue (or not).

Now follow the wall to the right. Head around a bend.  
A framed picture hangs there. It's time to spend  
A moment looking closely at this forest-trail scene  
"In Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Jabrocki."

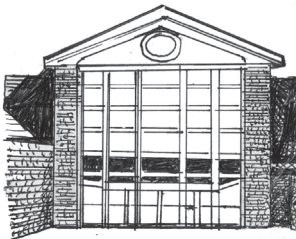
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Once this is noted, like FeLeap you should hop  
To the Reference section, your next-to-last stop.

The hunt is almost over—still one thing to be done.  
You must solve our puzzle to finish the fun.  
Match symbols from the clues to the blank spaces below.  
With the Dewey number complete, the treasure spot you'll know.

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Search the shelves for this number on a spine.  
Gently pull out the volume from others in line.  
Move quickly, 1-2-3, just like FeLeap the frog.  
Secretly open the cover. Remove and sign the log.  
Stamp your brochure. Re-pack the box in its nook.  
Return the disguise to its shelf—once more a book!



You've finished this quest. In a quiet voice, cheer!  
Exit Perry Sippo Branch Library the same way you got in here.  
To find where you parked, through the two doors, turn right.  
It won't be long now before your car is in sight.  
To get to the lower parking lot, follow the walkway.  
Thanks for spending time with us at Exploration Gateway.

*This quest was created by Mary Hultman and Todd Clark of Stark Parks,  
Arrye Rosser of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Volunteer Louise Nahas, and  
Volunteer Marybeth Cieplinski. Volunteer Hedy Jones drew the illustrations.  
Volunteer Amanda Rosen did the graphic design. The volunteers are also from  
Cuyahoga Valley National Park.*

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## How to Quest

Quest clues and maps—created by  
teachers, volunteers, and/or park  
staff—will help you discover the  
natural and cultural gems of the  
Ohio & Erie Canalway. At the end  
of each quest is a hidden treasure  
box. Sign your name in the logbook,  
stamp this page, and return the box  
to its hiding place.

STAMP HERE

**The questing season runs from  
April 15 through November 15.**

Notice a problem or have  
suggestions for improving this quest?  
Contact the Exploration Gateway at  
330-409-8096 or [information@starkparks.com](mailto:information@starkparks.com).

## About This Program

I'm Arrye Rosser, interpretive and education specialist at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. I'd like to thank everyone who helped fulfill my dream of bringing questing to Ohio. This project was made possible by the generous support of a 2010 Parks as Classrooms grant from the National Park Service and is a partnership between many organizations.

So far, more than 100 teachers, volunteers, and park staff have been involved in writing and field testing Canalway Quests. Our plan is to create many more in the years ahead. If you would like to volunteer, contact me at 440-546-5992 or [arrye\\_rosser@nps.gov](mailto:arrye_rosser@nps.gov).

Special thanks to Emily Bryant and Steven Glazer.

The Ohio & Erie Canalway celebrates the rails, trails, landscapes, towns, and sites that grew up along the first 110 miles of the canal that helped Ohio and our nation grow.

**For more information and to get copies of other quests, visit  
[ohioandieriecanalway.com](http://ohioandieriecanalway.com) and search under Activities for Questing.**



STARK COUNTY SECTION  
SIPPO LAKE PARK



STARK PARKS

## Canalway Quest

### Exploration Gateway Quest

Investigate how water flows and Sippo Lake Park grows on this easy stroll.



## Planning Ahead

This treasure hunt takes about 40 minutes to complete. The pathways are relatively level and paved in all but a few places. Unless the conditions are very wet, the route is accessible for questers traveling by wheelchair or stroller. You will need a pen or pencil to complete the puzzle and sign the logbook. Some people prefer using their own signature stamp and inkpad or marker.

This quest must be done when the Perry Sippo Branch Library is open. Current facility hours are available at [www.starklibrary.org/perry-sippo-branch](http://www.starklibrary.org/perry-sippo-branch) or by calling 330-477-8482. Note that the library is closed on Sundays during the summer. To extend your visit, allow extra time to see the exhibits in the Congressman Ralph Regula Canalway Center. Both are within the Exploration Gateway building. Learn more at [www.starkparks.com/education\\_centers.asp](http://www.starkparks.com/education_centers.asp).

## Getting There

The Stark Parks Exploration Gateway is at 5712 12th Street NW, Canton, Ohio 44708. Enter the first lot on your right, marked as trailhead parking. Walk toward the playground at the north end. The quest begins at the kiosk.

## Clues

Stark County Park District is a growing institution  
With many parks in wide distribution.  
There are acres of land and four sparkling lakes.  
To begin exploring, a first step is all that it takes.

In 1977 Sippo Lake Park was created  
With a purchase of 12 acres and lake high-rated.  
The size of the property on which you now stand  
Includes the water and 300 acres of land.

The kiosk you face displays park information,  
Trail map, calendar, and activities notification.

Leave the kiosk behind you and start out on the trail.  
Pass shelter and playground—forward prevail!

To learn more about us, you must take a walk  
Around buildings and trails, so please don't balk!  
At stops on the way, you must gather a letter or number.  
Use these to solve a puzzle, in case you did wonder.

Soon off to the right, if you explore with care,  
A footbridge appears. There's a stream down there.

This Sippo Creek flows to the Tuscarawas River,  
Then bends south to the Muskingum—no longer a sliver.  
At our state's southern border, it joins the winding Ohio,  
Then flows into the great Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico.



Continue on ahead after passing the bridge  
And follow the paved path as it climbs a slight ridge.

You'll come to a stairway with flights of three.

Stop and look back at the huge white oak tree.

This ancient tree is more than two centuries old.  
Oh, the sights it has seen! What stories could be told!

Now turn around again and face the stairway.  
Look up at the building, the Exploration Gateway.

There once was a smaller library that burnt nearby.  
"Build it bigger and better" was the public outcry!

The park wanted a visitor center; the library, to expand.  
County officers filled both needs through a vision grand.  
In 2007 the "EG" opened—a place where learning is primary,  
A partnership between park and Perry Sippo Branch Library.

Remember the old, old oak tree at your back?  
During Gateway construction, it came under attack.  
Happily, when changes were made to the nearby ground,  
The oak was spared. Plans were altered to keep it around.

Pass the Exploration Gateway (left). Toward water sail.  
Soon, you'll turn to the right onto a small asphalt trail.  
Past the gazebo, stop on an earthen dam. Use your eyes.  
Sippo Lake is just a remnant of its original size.  
Once two miles long, it filled a glacial basin  
And fed the Ohio & Erie Canal that linked the nation.

By 1848 the larger lake was shallow and stagnant.  
Mosquito-borne diseases were becoming quite rampant.  
Some unhappy locals blew up its dam—only four years old—  
With dynamite, according to legend. How flood waters rolled!  
Water rose 15 feet high through Massillon town.  
Oh, what a mess when the mighty dam came down!

In the early 1900s, this earthen dam was built.  
During the next 70 years, the lake filled up with silt.  
The lake had to be dredged and the spillway redone.  
Wetlands were created, on right, so storm water would run  
Slower and be filtered before reaching Sippo Creek.  
Did you see it flowing under the footbridge, if you peeked?

Turn now and go back to revisit that gazebo.  
The structure was refurbished not too long ago.



An Eagle Scout project is mentioned in the sign.  
Tyler Smith's Scout Troop \_\_\_\_\_ 6 in 200 \_\_\_\_\_.  
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Now head back to the main trail. Turn to your right.  
Past the building's far side, a "no-fishing" dock is in sight.  
With the dock on your right, patio on left side,  
Follow the shoreline to a boardwalk. Onward stride.



Walk above the wet ground. No need to ford.  
Take a look down. These are no ordinary boards.  
A boardwalk made of plastic! Not one ounce of wood?  
From an environmental standpoint, this is quite good.  
"Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" is a phrase you'll hear us say.  
"Wood" from recycled milk jugs means it's not just a cliché.

Midway along the boardwalk, your next stop is found.  
In wetlands, unique plants and animals abound.  
Relax. Breathe fresh air and tune in with each ear.  
Take time to sort out the many sounds that you hear.

Wetlands help keep pollutants out of lakes and streams,  
And make great habitats for plants and animals, it seems.  
Over half of Ohio's rare species need wetlands to survive.  
We protect these lands to help keep those species alive!

Now, backtrack a little. Toward the building return.  
Just beyond the white fence is something new to learn.  
Turn and face the lake. From this spot you can view  
Something between you and the lake's calm blue.

Coconut fiber and net baffles by the shore are a screen  
To filter downspout debris and keep the lake's water clean.  
Turn again. Head toward the building's center door.  
Go through, then up elevator or stairs, to the next floor.

There's much to see here, so take your time.  
That canal boat mural is really quite fine!  
Follow the muleskinner and his mules dark  
To find FeLeap, the mascot of this park.

If the Canalway Center says "open," please stop in.  
Check out all the treasures on display within.  
Exhibits here focus on canal influence and history,  
Stark County business innovators, and nature's beauty.

Now cross the hall and enter the library door.  
Step into the room and walk across the floor.  
At the fish-filled aquarium, turn to your right.  
By the fireplace, magazine shelves are in sight.

