

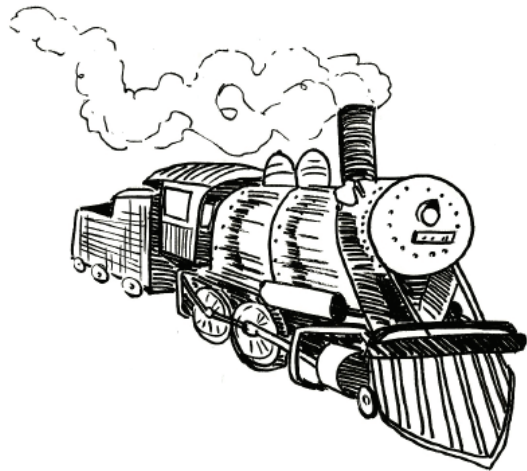
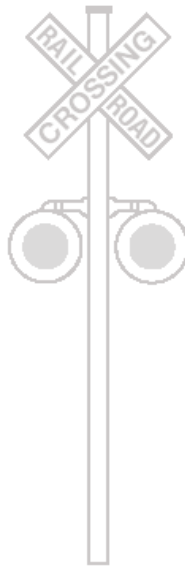
Clues Continued...

Retrace your steps across the bridge to the tracks.
Exhibits in the depot provide more railway facts.
Which came first: trains, lanes, or remains?
How did they interconnect? Can you explain?

Find the women's restroom and around the corner sneak.
Slow down and act casual. Is anyone watching? Give a peek.
Brecksville Station is often busy. Look out for prying eyes.
After two electric meters, stop at a wall-mounted disguise.

A hidden door underneath slides left, opening the box.
You've found the treasure, you sly old fox!
Take off the blue lid and the container will reveal.
The logbook, stamp, and ink pad under seal.

Once you have signed the log and stamped your clues,
Congratulate yourself. Questing success! What news!
You've advanced to the head of your class.
Now return to your car, curious lad or lass.



The quest was created by Volunteer Karen Patterson, a retired history teacher, with help from Volunteer Susan Hale. Michelle LaNasa, Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, drew the map and illustrations. Arrye Rosser updated quest.

revision date AUGUST 2021

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 cuva_questing@nps.gov.

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 cuva_questing@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 and search under Activities for Questing.



CUYAHOGA COUNTY SECTION
CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK
STATION ROAD BRIDGE TRAILHEAD



Brecksville Station. NPS/TED TOTH

Canalway Quest

Trains, Lanes, and Remains Quest

Follow rhyming clues on this easy stroll over tracks, bridges, and the Towpath Trail.



Planning Ahead

This treasure hunt takes about 35 minutes. Surfaces are firm and flat, accessible by wheelchair or stroller. Bring bug spray in summer. Bird enthusiasts may want to take binoculars. You will need a pen or pencil to sign the logbook. Some people prefer using their own signature stamp and inkpad or marker.

To extend your visit with a ride on Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, visit cvsr.com for more information.

Getting There

Start at the Station Road Bridge Trailhead, intersection of Riverview Road and Chippewa Creek Drive, 1/8 mile south of State Route 82, Brecksville, Ohio 44141. There are restrooms, drinking water, and plenty of parking.

Clues

The Station Road area is a crossroads for sure.
You'll find out why if you bite on our lure.
We promise you history, nature, and more.
Start at the tri-cornered kiosk. Come! Explore!

In the late 1820s, the Ohio & Erie Canal was built to stay.
Trading shifts, teams of mules pulled heavy boats all day.
The cargo was lumber, flour, cheese, and other supplies.
Connecting cities with the frontier made this canal a prize.

Now head to the depot across the train tracks.
It has sheltered benches where visitors can relax.
This is the railroad station's original location,
But the building itself is a modern day creation.

Valley Railway service began in 1880.
Whistles announced rolling engines "weighty."
Trains offered escape from city grit and heat.
A side trip to Brecksville made an outing complete.

Cross the tracks again, pausing before the metal bridge.
Gaze above it to admire the landscape's high ridge.
We're in Cuyahoga Valley, traveling old Station Road.
Here people with carts, wagons, and horses once rode.

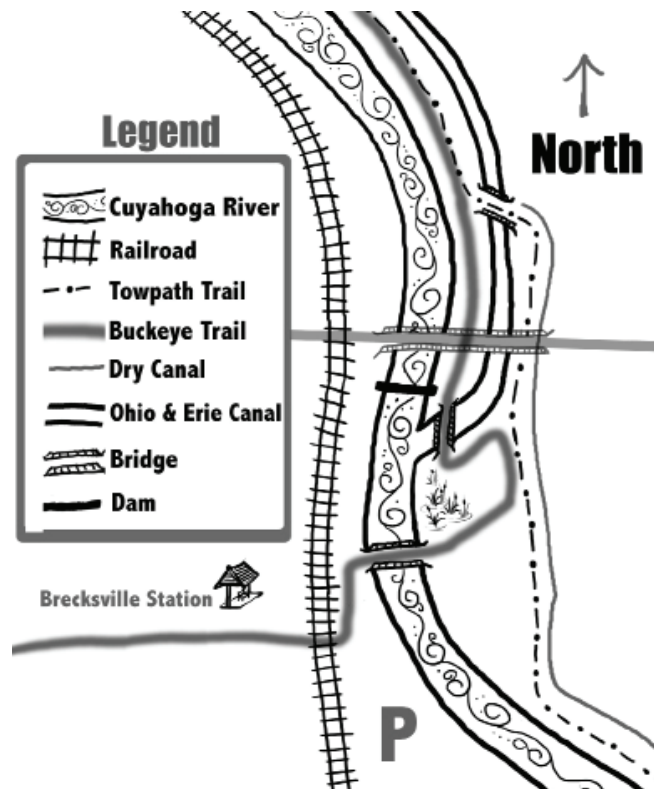


Walk to the bridge. Look up. Who built this span?
It's the oldest wrought-iron truss in the nearby land.
As you cross the bridge, glance down at the floor.
It was replaced in 2021, wood bricks no more.

Look north at the graceful arches galore.
The Route 82 bridge makes the eyes soar.
Cast your eyes down at the Cuyahoga River.
Dancing wind and light make the water quiver.

Joggers, photographers, and bicyclists by the score
Share this trail, so be alert for traffic as you explore.
As you continue east, imagine all who once used this lane
To cross the valley's narrowest part—time and again.

Pause at the intersection and gaze straight ahead.
Up the old Station Road, pack horses were lead.
Turn left on the Towpath Trail, but stay to the right.
Follow this quest to the grand arches in sight.



At the Y intersection veer left, my loyal mate.
On the right read about the Pinery Dam and Gate.
More water was needed for the Ohio & Erie Canal.
The Pinery Feeder still supplies it at this locale.

The longest watered section starts here, heading northward.
From 1827 to 2020, over a barrier the Cuyahoga poured.
Both Pinery and Brecksville dams spanned the shores nearby.
Walk over and scan for activity to interest the eye.

This is a place for herons, turtles, or tracks of raccoon.
Stop, listen, and watch. You'll be rewarded very soon.
Count ways that humans have used nature's supply—
Such as fishermen you may see with rod, reel, and fly.

The dams supplied water to our historic canal—it's true—
But it impacted water quality and fish movement, too.
After careful analysis, park and partners moved ahead
With dam removal, installing a pump instead.

Continue on the path and look up so high.
The bridge above you seems to go to the sky.
In 2011, peregrine falcons built their first nest
In the crook of an arch, parent and chicks to rest.

Ahead at the Lock 36 exhibit, please inspect
The 1907 photo in which waterways intersect.
Now look 'neath the small bridge by your feet
For remains of where feeder and canal meet.

Along the old canal, herons often stand by.
If you are lucky, you'll hear different birds cry.
Eagles have nested nearby, but they move around.
Check CVNP's website—is a nest up or fallen down?

Look up again at the arched Route 82 bridge yonder.
Now cross to the other end of the footbridge and ponder.
When the concrete span was built in 1931, valley to cross,
Lock 36 was filled here and this section of canal was lost.

Walk further on the path to the milepost, right side.
Lake Erie's 17 miles behind you on a two-wheel ride.
All around there are trains, lanes, and remains.
Humans in this valley have made significant gains.

