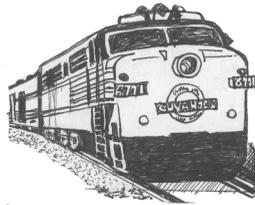


Clues Continued...

Beside the road, notice the railroad track that traverses the park. There are alternatives to car travel that leave less of a carbon mark. Perhaps you could go by bike—like the ones passing you by— Or by train, bus, subway, carpool, or foot. Give it a try!

Now hike back quite a ways to the Cuyahoga's bend. Stop to think of what might slow the warming trend. One solution is all around you—it's one you can't miss. Trees absorb lots of carbon dioxide via photosynthesis.



Leaves take in what we breathe out and give oxygen back. Without trees we'd have more carbon pollution and shade we'd lack. Young forests are best at capturing carbon, so grow and protect As many native trees as possible for maximum effect.

Pass under power lines. Stop on the trail opposite their next pole. What stands a few feet high, yellow and white? On right edge, patrol. Electricity above, oil below! This is a Sunoco petroleum pipe. Signs of energy transmission make some park visitors gripe.

Since energy is necessary, what little things can you and I do That would also save fuel and money if we'd just follow through? Each day, what ways can we unplug, reduce, recycle, and reuse? Could we combine errands? Stop idling when out for a cruise?

Walk to the Hale Farm Trail sign and prepare for your reward. Make a right onto the familiar path, seeking our hoard. Sometimes thieves ruin the fun and make ranger blood boil. It's time to be sly. Avoid being seen by others, vandals to foil!



On the left, search the closest end of a tall fallen tree. Reach into the nook for the blue-lidded box you see. Sign and date the logbook to show you've been to this park. Before you replace the box, on this brochure, stamp a mark.

At the Towpath Trail, turn right and stroll back to the parking lot. Along the way, reflect on the problems and solutions we sought. We are glad that you joined us on our climate change quest. It's an important topic to consider and you've passed the test!

The quest was created by Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists Kay Clark, Diane Kozak, Mary Starbuck, Christine Wheeler, and Joyce Baldwin with support from Arrye Rosser and Volunteer Marybeth Cieplinski. Volunteer Hedy Jones drew the illustrations. Volunteer Amanda Rosen did the graphic design.

revision date APR 2014

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 Arrye Rosser at 440-546-5992 or arrye_rosser@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 440-546-5992 or 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 and search under Activities for Questing.



SUMMIT COUNTY SECTION
CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK
HUNT HOUSE



©JERRY JELINEK

Canalway Quest

Considering Climate Change Quest

Take an easy, thoughtful walk by fields, forests, and wetlands to ponder a warmer future.



Planning Ahead

This treasure hunt takes about 70 minutes. It can be enjoyed by questers using sturdy strollers or wheelchairs. Surfaces are flat and include crushed limestone, packed soil, and wood planks. Bug spray and a brimmed hat are recommended during the warmer months. Wildlife enthusiasts may want to bring binoculars and a camera. You will need a pen or pencil to sign the logbook. Some people prefer using their own signature stamp and inkpad or marker.

Fully accessible restrooms and drinking water are available at Hunt House. Bring money if you wish to purchase snacks next door at Szalay's Farm (early June through October) or in nearby Peninsula.

Getting There

Start in the parking lot across from Hunt House, 2054 Bolanz Road, between Riverview and Akron Peninsula roads, Peninsula, Ohio 44264.

Clues

The world's climate is changing, most scientists agree. Today, we'll explore possible effects on Cuyahoga Valley. Begin by walking to the kiosk and opening your mind. First problems and then solutions we're trying to find.

It's easy to observe weather. It changes daily, season to season. Climate is less obvious—and harder to understand for this reason. Climate is how the atmosphere acts over a long period of time. It's the average of daily weather, so number crunching is prime.

Face Hunt House, painted white, and step onto grass mowed. Gaze right to the low bridge, but do not cross Bolanz Road. The bridge crosses the Cuyahoga River as it runs through the valley. Soil and rocks tell the story of how climate has changed naturally.

This area was once covered by a warm sea and later cold glacial ice. If the rate of climate change is speeding up, what will be the price?

Scientists from all over the globe are documenting an alarming trend. Toward warmer temperatures and more extreme storms, my friend. More winter snow and spring rain can lead to flooding severe. Drier, hotter summers and autumns may cause droughts, we fear. How will valley life adapt to what could be dramatic changes? Will native birds, trees, and frogs have time to alter their ranges?



Changes for Farmers

Turn around and step over to where dog walkers stop.

Under red roof, find the giant ear of a local cash crop. Climate warming will extend Ohio's growing season. Will farmers need to change what they grow for this reason? Will a longer growing season make farm profits grow too—Or will damage from extreme weather result in dollars few?

Turn left onto the grey path. Stay safe by keeping right. Toward Ira you go, watching out for speeding bikes. Stop on the footbridge. Through trees on right, see cornfields.

Farmers use pesticides and fertilizers to boost crop yields. If spring rains increase, expect more farm chemicals and dirt. To run off into local streams and rivers, water quality to hurt.

Changes for Forests

Continue on the Towpath Trail, under power lines overhead. Soon after, across the canal, is an A508 sign atop a pole, red. Clues! Power companies move energy from place to place. To satisfy the growing demands of the human race. Walk on. Stop under the next set of power lines to hear. The hum of sewage treatment for the trailer park near.

Ahead, right, see towering trees with camouflage-to-white bark. Sycamores, which prefer to grow by water, prosper in this park. Different types of trees require different growing conditions. Will climate change cause the mix of forest trees to transition? Will southern trees expand into Ohio? Will southern pests? What will be lost and what will be gained by forests Midwest?

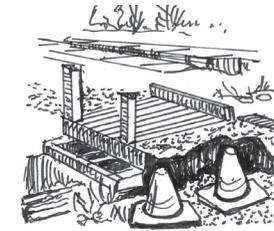
Changes for Migrating Birds

As you walk along, listen. If you hear tweets or caws, move slow. A path crosses the towpath. To the Hale Farm Trail sign you go. Turn left onto a narrow track through grass. Look up at the sky. Do you see any birds resting in the trees or flying swiftly by?

Each fall, shorter day lengths help migrating birds to know. When to fly south for more winter food and to avoid snow. As days lengthen in spring, the travelers return north to nest and eat. Will insects and other food emerge before chicks, encouraged by heat? If climate change causes birds and their food sources to be out of sync, Will they have energy for travel and babies? Will populations shrink?

Changes for Infrastructure

Now turn back and continue on the Towpath Trail. Don't wander. As you pause under power lines, there are more concerns to ponder. To produce electricity, we burn oil, coal, and natural gas by the ton, Releasing carbon dioxide and other gases that trap heat from the sun.



To reduce this greenhouse effect and meet the power needs ahead, Will wind, solar, nuclear, and biofuel energy use become widespread? How will people, wildlife, and places be affected by an energy revolution? Will there be more or fewer jobs? Taxes? Migration barriers? Pollution?

At the river's bend, find a bench to sit down for a short rest. Considering climate change can make you feel quite stressed! At this peaceful spot, watch the running water to Cleveland travel. During a flood, its force erodes the banks, stripping soil and gravel. Roads, trails, buildings, and railroad tracks get undermined. Will shoreline infrastructure need to be redesigned?

Back to the trail. Continue ahead, but keep to the right. Walk to where the canal is water-filled, beaver dams in sight. Heavy flooding causes this trail section serious damage. If this happens often, imagine the cost to repair and manage.

What Can We Do?

We've considered problems caused by climate warming. Time to discuss solutions that we could be performing.

Hike to the Beaver Marsh boardwalk, passing mile marker 28. There's much wildlife to observe, perhaps blue herons great. Take time to look closely at this scene, beautiful and grand. Fish, turtles, frogs, bats, and beavers thrive in this wetland.

To learn about this place, stop at the hand-cranked machine. Press the button for the story of when this area wasn't so clean. Hear how this expansive marsh has triumphed over past adversity. It's a glowing example of why we should nurture biodiversity.

During floods, wetlands slow the storm surge and keep water in store. For later when droughts leave people, plants, and wildlife wanting more. Wetlands act as natural filters removing chemicals, sediment, and debris. They cleanse water needed for all to flourish, including you and me.

By protecting wetlands such as Beaver Marsh and others close to home, We'll ensure that natural buffers are in place when floodwaters roam. We can help by reducing lawns and adding plants that are native. If you have a green thumb, build a rain garden—be creative!

From the audio station, turn around, your steps to retrace. Pause by the single bench, on left, before leaving this place. Straight across marsh and road, a gated driveway you'll see. On Saturdays a farmers' market is there with food grown locally. Does buying products made closer to where we live really save fuel? Perhaps, but experts disagree on how to do the math. No simple rule.

