



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

15610 Vaughn Road

Brecksville, Ohio 44141-3097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3823

December 11, 2009

Dear Greenwood Village Resident:

We regret to inform you that we will be closing the three bridges on the Old Carriage Trail in Cuyahoga Valley National Park beginning Monday, December 14, 2009, for an indefinite period of time. The Old Carriage Trail will remain open except for bridge access. Engineers with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have determined the three bridges to be unsafe for pedestrian traffic due to accelerated deterioration of structural portions of the bridges. A more detailed engineering analysis will occur in January to determine the course of action to either repair or replace the bridges.

We have contacted a representative of the Greenwood Village Community Association, Inc., to discuss possible detour options. We will keep you informed with up-to-date information through your *Greenwood Village News* and our website at [www.nps.gov/cuva/park\\_closures.htm](http://www.nps.gov/cuva/park_closures.htm).

Old Carriage Trail, located on the eastern side of the Cuyahoga Valley between State Route 82 and Highland Road, is known for the beautiful steel box truss bridges. The bridges--Rocky Run (150' long), Twin Oaks (150'), and Hemlock (166')--were built in 1989 by a contractor with National Park Service funding for the amount of \$319,400. During routine maintenance in 2003, the structural steel of bridges had more than an acceptable amount of rust. Cleaning occurred, and routine maintenance and inspections increased. In 2008, the park requested a review by FHWA, and they recommended closing the bridges to maintenance vehicles. This November, FHWA made a second inspection of the bridges. Inspectors observed accelerated deterioration of bridge members, resulting in their recommendation to close the bridges to pedestrian traffic.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation while we work through the process to resolve this unfortunate circumstance. Please contact Rob Bobel, Civil Engineer at (440) 546-5972 or [rob\\_bobel@nps.gov](mailto:rob_bobel@nps.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support of Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Stoehr  
Acting Superintendent