“…every natural spot in the county preserved as a park, its wooded places made beautiful and its waters conserved.” (William J. Laub, 1921)
Purpose of Presentation

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA):
• Requires federal agencies to take into account effects of an undertaking on historic properties
• Must allow time for comment, consultation
• Public involvement is part of the process!
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Purpose of Presentation

Historic properties are any prehistoric or historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects that are eligible for or already listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
Gorge Dam Removal

What kind of impacts?
1. Removal of the sediment
2. Storage of sediment
3. Removal of the dam
4. Exposure of the riverbank
5. Change in viewshed
If an undertaking will impact a historic property, then what?
• Avoid impacts
• Minimize impacts
• Mitigate impacts

Mitigation: documentation, public programming, preserving part of the site for interpretation—just to name a few options!
Purpose of Presentation

Public comments about cultural resources:

• During public involvement meeting (in person or on written forms)
• Online (SITE)
• Can send to contact information

Your comments and input are important!
History of the Gorge

- **1700’s**: Seasonal Native American residence, hunting and travel
- **1778**: Creation of Northwest Territory, continued westward European migration
- **1803**: Ohio Statehood
- **1836**: Both Cuyahoga Falls and Akron incorporated
- **1840-44**: Chuckery Race constructed
- **1854**: 5 dams provide water power to various industries along the river

*1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. (Library of Congress)*
History of the Gorge

1876  High Bridge constructed at Prospect St.

1879  High Bridge Glens and Park opens

ca. 1895  Front Street bridge constructed; streetcar lines run to Gorge

1912  Current dam constructed by NOL&T

ca. 1915  River View Amusement Park opens

1929  Akron Metro Parks assumes ownership of Gorge

1933  Roseland Dance Hall closes
Gorge Dam Removal Project Area
In Gorge Metro Park and Cascade Valley Metro Park

**Impacts:**
Physical removal of structure
Related Power Features and Structures

- NOT&L penstock saddles
- NOT&L hydro plant
- NOT&L power plant

Gorge Dam Removal Project Area
In Gorge Metro Park and Cascade Valley Metro Park
Related Power Features and Structures

- Features related to Dam:
  - Penstock: 8’ diameter pipe with concrete supports, 1915. Pipe removed.
Related Power Features and Structures

Impacts:

Hydro plant:
• no expected impacts

Penstock:
• no expected impacts

Power plant:
• exposure of retaining wall as water recedes
• No expected impacts
Natural Features

Gorge Dam Removal Project Area
In Gorge Metro Park and Cascade Valley Metro Park

Old Maid’s Kitchen/
Mary Campbell’s Cave

The Big Falls
Natural Features

- Big Falls: currently covered by dam
- Caves/shelters, rock formations
Natural Features

Impacts:

Big Falls

• Removal of dam may reveal Falls

Other natural features

• Change in viewshed (closer to original?)
Bridge Remnants

Gorge Dam Removal Project Area
In Gorge Metro Park and Cascade Valley Metro Park

Gorge footbridge

Akron, Bedford, and Cleveland Bridge

Cascade Valley Metro Park

Gorge Dam

Gorge Metro Park

City heights River

Main St.
• Footbridge remnants: constructed ca. 1890 for amusement park. Only south abutments remain.

• Akron, Bedford & Cleveland Bridge (streetcar). 1903. Demolished in 1980; piers/abutments remain submerged.
Bridge Remnants

Impacts:
Footbridge remnants
• No impacts

The Akron, Bedford, and Cleveland Bridge
• Existing piers exposed
The Chuckery Race

Gorge Dam Removal Project Area
In Gorge Metro Park and Cascade Valley Metro Park
The Chuckery Race

• Chuckery Race
  – Waterway built 1843-1844 intended to provide water power to industries
  – Parallels the Cuyahoga River for approximately 4 miles downstream from Prospect Street
  – Listed in National Register in 1973
  – Generally extant with varying levels of integrity along its length.

Photo from Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County by Samuel A. Lane, 1892
The Chuckery Race

Impacts:

• On National Register of Historic Places, so this is a known historic property
• Removal of dam, exposure of riverbed, change in viewshed should not adversely impact this feature
Picnic Shelter, Skating Area

- Gorge Picnic Shelter, 1933. Constructed by CCC. Historically significant.
- Ice Skating area, first used in 1947. Minor extant features.
Impacts:

Gorge Picnic Shelter
- Change in original viewshed

Skating area
- Change in original viewshed
Sediment Placement

Gorge Dam Removal Project Area
In Gorge Metro Park and Cascade Valley Metro Park
Disturbed by human dumping activity, earthmoving
No impacts to cultural resources
Underwater Resources?

Gorge Dam Removal Project Area
In Gorge Metro Park and Cascade Valley Metro Park
Are there cultural resources under the water? Caves? Trails? Stairs, benches? Artifacts?

• Monitor as water level goes down and river banks are exposed
  – Field checks
  – Drone?

• Coordinate to identify, document, conserve, protect, interpret!
Planning for Cultural Resources

- Assessment of resources
- Formalized agreement noting impacts and recommendations for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation
  - Likely a programmatic agreement
- Consulting parties such as American Indian tribes and local historical societies
Comments about Cultural Resources

• In writing during public involvement meeting
• In person at public involvement meeting
• On the Great Lakes Mud website at: https://www.greatlakesmud.org/gorge-dam---cuyahoga-river-aoc.html
• By email: mshaeffer@summitmetroparks.org
• By mail: Megan Shaeffer, Cultural Resources Supervisor, 975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron, OH 44313
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