

REGIONAL GEMS
**The Cuyahoga Valley: A Past, Present,
and Future Regional Attraction**

The Valley As An Industrial Magnet

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The lower Cuyahoga Valley has been the setting for one of the most significant examples of industrialization and urbanization in America. Predicted for greatness by George Washington and Benjamin Franklin due to its location and size, successive technological advances brought a canal, railroads, and shipping. With the benefits of a geographic location midway between extensive deposits of natural resources, access to land and water transportation networks, and development of inter-related industries, the lower Cuyahoga Valley emerged as one of the most important industrial centers in America. Surrounding the Valley a major metropolitan city arose, well known for its ethnic diversity. Despite the loss of some of the manufacturing base and population, the lower Cuyahoga Valley has retained its vitality as an industrial center. New uses such as waterfront entertainment areas and a surge in pleasure boating have brought additional variety. Most importantly, in the midst of all its present uses, the Valley continues to illustrate a heritage that can be interpreted, experienced, and preserved.