

CONSERVANCY

for CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

1403 W. Hines Hill Road, Peninsula, Ohio 44264

Press Contact:

Maggie Olson, Marketing Manager
Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park
330-657-2909 ext. 109
molson@forcvnp.org

Jenni Izzo
Darden Foundation Media Contact
(407) 657-4818
jenniizzo@costacg.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park Receives \$4,000 Grant from LongHorn Steakhouse to Implement Park Trail Project

Peninsula, Ohio – A \$4,000 grant from LongHorn Steakhouse restaurants in Solon, Strongsville, Mentor, and Rocky River will help the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park fund a new trail in the national park this summer.

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park—one of the park’s non-profit partners—was selected as part of the Restaurant Community Grants program from the [Darden Restaurants Foundation](#), the charitable arm of Darden Restaurants. The annual grants program empowers every LongHorn Steakhouse location to award a \$1,000 grant to support local community programs. The donation will enable the Conservancy to add a new section to the Furnace Run trail, giving hikers, runners, and other trail users more miles to explore in their national park.

“We’re honored to receive such a generous grant from the Darden Foundation once again this year,” said Conservancy CEO Deb Yandala. “We look forward to using the funds to further improve our national park trail system and introduce new trail users to the Cuyahoga Valley.”

“We’re proud to be able to support the Conservancy through our Restaurant Community Grants program,” said Stephanie Ghertner, Director of the Darden Foundation. “Our team members are incredibly passionate about getting involved in their local communities, and this program enables them to do just that.”

Under the supervision of Conservancy and National Park Service staff, park volunteers began constructing the new section of the Furnace Run trail during National Trails Day on June 6. When finished, the new trail will result in greater trail usage and contribute to the overall enjoyment, safety, and protection of Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



Volunteers working to construct the new section of Furnace Run on National Trails Day last Saturday. (Photos: Mike Kosmyna)

About the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a non-profit organization created to engage public support for the park and provide services to enhance public use and enjoyment of the park. For more information about the Conservancy and its programs, visit www.conservancyforcvnp.org or call 330-657-2909.

About The Darden Foundation

The Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation is the charitable arm of Darden Restaurants, Inc. The Darden Foundation's mission is to maintain a spirit of service and community engagement as defining characteristics of Darden's family of restaurants—Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Bahama Breeze, Seasons 52, The Capital Grille, Eddie V's and Yard House. Since 1995, the Darden Foundation has awarded more than \$71 million in grants to leading nonprofit organizations that align with its mission and community priorities. Through the Darden Harvest program, Darden Restaurants has also donated more than 77 million pounds of food to hunger relief agencies across the U.S. and Canada. In 2011, the Darden Foundation introduced the Restaurant Community Grants program that is dedicated to supporting local nonprofit organizations in the hundreds of communities where we live and serve. For more information, visit www.dardenfoundation.com.

#