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**CONSERVANCY FOR CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK ENHANCES VISITOR ACCESS
TO CVNP AND CUYAHOGA RIVER THROUGH LAND PURCHASE**

PENINSULA, OH (September 27, 2021) – The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park has purchased the former Brandywine Golf Course, on behalf of the Conservancy and Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). Since the early 1970s, the Conservancy has been committed to enhancing Northeast Ohio through inspiring use, preservation, and support of CVNP, the nation's #7 most visited National Park in 2020.

The land purchase, a first of its kind for the Conservancy, is made possible through the generosity of individual donors and recoverable grants from Northeast Ohio community and national foundations. This includes Akron Community Foundation, Connor Foundation, GAR Foundation and National Park Foundation. “The importance of conservation and preservation of CVNP is underscored by the community stepping up to help us raise and secure the funds needed to purchase this property and ultimately increase access to the park and the Cuyahoga River,” said Deb Yandala, President and CEO of the Conservancy.

“GAR Foundation is honored to stand alongside our fellow regional foundations in support of this important land acquisition for the Conservancy,” said Christine Mayer, president, GAR Foundation. “CVNP is an asset to this community. Over the years, the Conservancy has played a vital role in creating greater access to the park through thoughtful community engagement and diverse and inclusive programming. We are excited about the future of this property.”

Located on 207 acres that sit on both sides of Akron-Peninsula Road south of the Village of Peninsula, Brandywine Golf Course was opened in the 1960s and operated as a public course until 2018. It is adjacent to the Virginia Kendall area of the park to the south, Camp Manatoc and Camp Butler to the east, and the Cuyahoga River to the west. As well as the riverfront, the property has two significant streambeds and is home to rare species.



"The inclusion of this land in the heart of the national park is an important part of our long-term plan for improved public access and habitat restoration," said Lisa Petit, CVNP Superintendent. "By taking a leadership role in the community to acquire this property, the Conservancy has helped make achieving this goal possible. This is a legacy gift of land everyone will be able to use and enjoy for generations to come."

The National Park Service will purchase, from the Conservancy, 192 acres, once environmental restoration is complete. The remaining 15 acres will be retained by the Conservancy. The Conservancy has begun a master planning process that will help inform the funds needed to be raised for activation and programming of the Conservancy's acres. At this time, the property is not open to the public.

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About the Conservancy

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park is the official friends group and philanthropic partner for Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). With a mission to enrich people's lives and enhance our region by inspiring use, preservation and support of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the Conservancy offers cultural and educational programming, co-manages the park's volunteer program, provides venues for weddings, meetings and special events, and operates park retail spaces.



Photo left: Jim Roetzel, photo right: Jack McCormick