STATEMENT FROM GREG PECKHAM, PRESIDENT & CEO ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

For Immediate Release - October 1, 2025

Dear Park Visitors,

As you are likely aware, the National Park Service (NPS) – including our Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) – is operating under a contingency plan due to the lapse of Congressionally appropriated funds, commonly known as a "federal government shutdown." I wanted to take a moment to share with you the impacts we are already feeling in our park and answer some common questions posed to the Conservancy.

The shutdown, which took effect at midnight on Wednesday, October 1st, is already having a direct effect on the visitor services and the dedicated employees of the NPS. While CVNP remains open to the public, many essential services are currently unavailable. Visitor centers are closed, volunteer and public programs are canceled or postponed, trail maintenance is paused, and there is limited capacity for visitor assistance and resource protection. Although most restrooms and parking areas are accessible, during this period of limited services, we encourage the public to recreate lightly and employ 'leave no trace' principles.

We are especially mindful of our NPS colleagues, many of whom are furloughed and not being paid during this time. This situation presents real challenges for both park and personnel, particularly if the shutdown continues for an extended period. Furthermore, this lapse in appropriations compounds years of under-resourcing of our national parks due to inflation and funding cuts and jeopardizes the well-being of our public lands long term.

Although sustaining the Conservancy's operations during the shutdown requires additional effort and expense, our work as a partner to and advocate for CVNP is more critical now than ever. We are working closely with our Members of Congress to ensure they understand what is happening on the ground in our park; we encourage park lovers to reach out to their representatives in support of resuming appropriations and fully funding NPS. As available, the Conservancy will also continue to provide updates on closures and events to our community via our website, e-newsletter, and social media.

We are deeply disappointed that national park visitors, employees, stewards, and partner organizations are facing these disruptions. CVNP's economic and cultural value

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to Northeast Ohio extends far beyond taking a walk in the park; our national parks are vital spaces that support communities, businesses, and countless individuals who rely on their accessibility. For these reasons, and many more, we remain hopeful for a swift resolution that restores full operations and supports those who care for these treasured public lands.

Sincerely,

Greg Peckham
President & CEO
Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

ABOUT CONSERVANCY FOR CVNP
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The Conservancy is the official nonprofit partner and friends group of Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). As one of the largest and most effective national park partners in the country, the Conservancy is a recognized leader in advancing the mission of CVNP through innovation, collaboration, and community engagement.

With a mission to enrich people's lives and enhance our region by inspiring use, preservation and support of CVNP, the Conservancy offers a wide range of cultural and educational programs. It co-manages the park's volunteer program, operates retail spaces, and provides distinctive venues for weddings, meetings, and special events—all in service of connecting people to nature and Ohio's national park. Learn more at www.forcvnp.org.

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