

**Friends of Metro Parks  
Position Statement  
Gorge Dam Removal  
Approved by Directors 8-27-16  
Updated 5-3-17, approved 5/15/17**

Issue: In 2009 and 2011, USEPA conducted studies that showed the gorge dam pool contained 832,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment. In 2015, Ohio EPA commissioned a study on the alternatives and costs of removing the sediment and demolishing the dam. The next phase is to study the hydrology, the geology and the engineering.

Currently, the dam has no function, supports no jobs and is one of the largest unresolved water quality problems on the Cuyahoga River. Its future is absent of any real prospects. By contrast, removing the dam will:

- Restore water quality in the gorge area of the Cuyahoga River
- Improve the health of human and natural resources by removing toxic sediment from the dam pool
- Restore Gorge Metro Park to the historic natural grandeur of its location
- Exhume and restore the Great Falls of the Cuyahoga River
- Amplify land and water-based recreational opportunities related to the dramatic topography of the gorge
- Bolster Northeast Ohio as a tourism destination by linking with other major attractions, CVNP, area Metro Parks, Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and other institutional magnets
- Showcase the cultural and natural significance of the gorge and its intriguing history
- Create a 2.5-mile white water course for expert paddlers, unique in Ohio
- Support economic development generated from expanded tourism, recreation and education

*(all text taken directly from Summit Metro Parks letter to Friends of Metro Parks signed by Elaine Marsh, dated July 13, 2016)*

**New information (5-3-17): While the EPA will not be subject to large cuts under the Trump administration as originally thought, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is threatened. This will have a negative impact on funding for the removal of the dam.**

Our Position:

We support the effort to remove the Gorge Dam

**We support the renewal of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, an essential funding source for the removal of the dam. (new 5-3-17)**

**We are concerned about EPA funding and will continue to monitor this (new 5-3-17)**