

Brecksville Dam Timeline

- 1827 The Pinery Feeder dam, a wooden crib dam, was constructed to divert water from the Cuyahoga River into the Ohio & Erie Canal
- 1832 - 1855 The Ohio & Erie Canal system flourishes as a transportation system. The emergence of the railroad causes the commercial decline of all canals in Ohio.
- 1905 – 1909 Ohio Board of Public Works performed a substantial rehabilitation project on the Northern Division of the Ohio & Erie Canal.
- 1913 The great flood destroyed much of the renovated canal system.
- 1949 – 1990's American Steel and Wire, located ten miles downstream from the dam, leased canal water from ODNR for industrial operation. (River water at its factory site was too polluted to use.) In the early 1990's, American S& W found alternative sources of water from modifying and improving internal systems and by recycling stormwater. The lease for canal water was terminated.
- 1952 American Steel and Wire constructed the existing dam, a concrete and steel dam, just downstream of the original dam.
- 1974 Cuyahoga Valley National Park (originally named Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area) was established by an Act of Congress. As part of its recreation and historic interpretation, the park utilizes the watered portion of canal north of the diversion dam.
- 1988 ODNR transfers Ohio & Erie canal lands within the park's boundaries to the National Park Service but retains the Pinery Feeder Dam.
- 2005 Ohio EPA grants \$120,000 to produce reports needed to study the environmental feasibility of removing the dam. Friends of the Crooked River hold the money for study purposes. The first public information meeting on Brecksville dam removal was held.
- 2006 -2011 Various studies needed for various phases of the environmental process were completed.
- 2009 City of Akron reserved \$900,000 for Brecksville dam removal as a condition of the CSO Consent Decree.
- 2006 – Present Various phases of the environmental process and related studies are conducted.



Brecksville Dam, built 1952



Timeline compiled by Friends of the Crooked River

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Presentations available for your group.