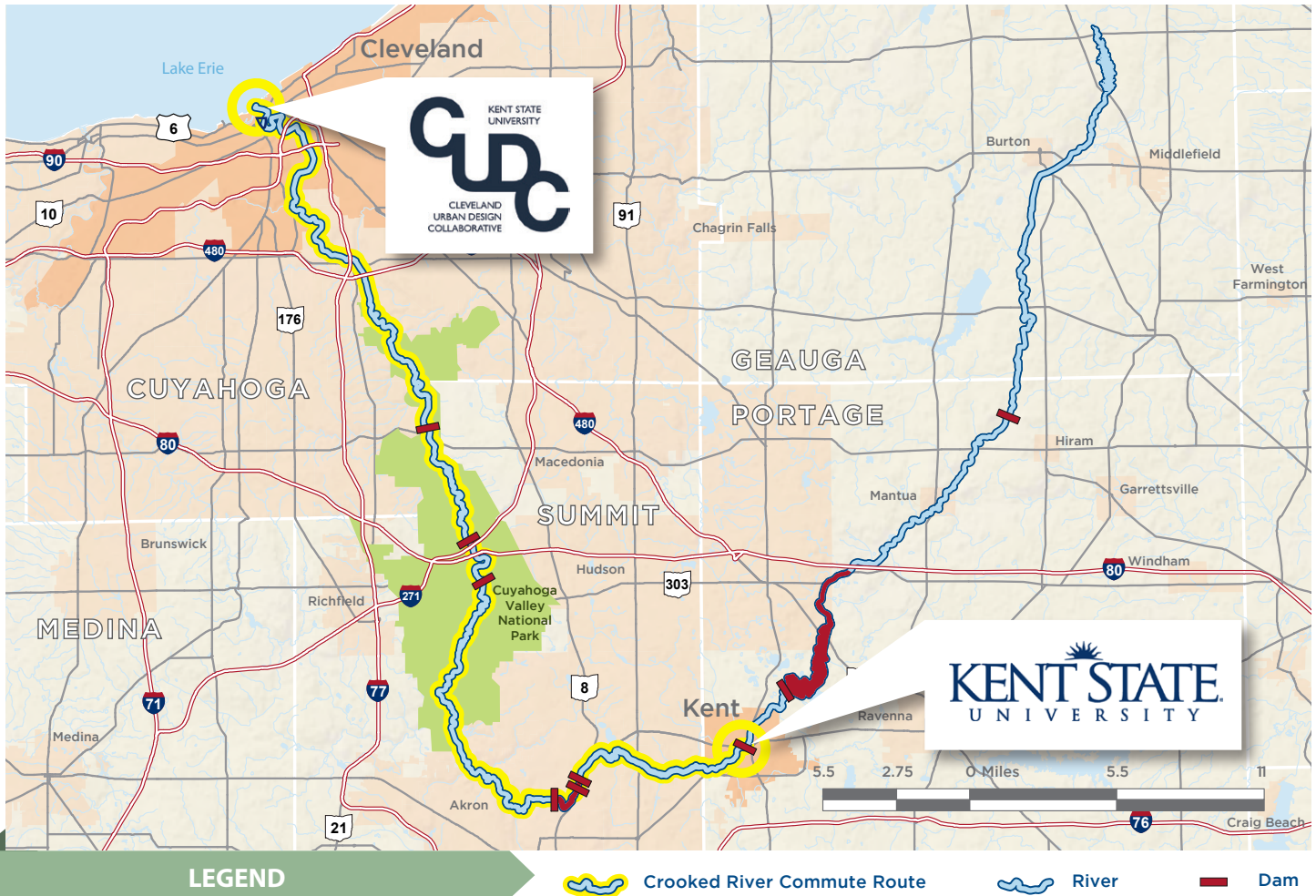


**50 MILES.
2 DAYS.
1 RIVER.**

THE CROOKED RIVER COMMUTE: PADDLING THE CUYAHOGA RIVER FROM KENT TO CLEVELAND

The Crooked River Commute is the first kayaking trek along the Cuyahoga River from Kent State University's main campus to Kent State's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative intended to promote the river as a shared regional asset for education, recreation, and sustainability.

**JULY
25 & 26
2014**



GOALS:

- Raise regional awareness of riverfront communities and our shared river identity
- Promote freshwater design issues relevant to Kent State's new Master of Landscape Architecture program
- Create GIS database of key river assets along the route for future research
- Promote current initiatives and future projects that support a thriving river environment
- Create a video documentary to share the events, places, and people encountered along the journey

PROJECT DETAILS:

- Approximately 10 individuals from Kent State University, including staff and faculty, will complete the trek
- Launch from Kent's Heritage Park and arrive at Wendy Park in Cleveland during the Burning River Festival
- Camp overnight at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park's public campground
- Portage the most dangerous stretches of the river, including dams and restricted areas
- Team will include videographers to capture footage and interviews for a documentary about the trek

BACKSTORY:

As the crow flies, it is 30 miles from Kent to Cleveland, and 40 miles if you drive. But there is another route between the cities—a historic route navigated before European settlement and formed from our glacial heritage. The Cuyahoga River (meaning “Crooked” River in Iroquois) is why both cities were settled, organized their initial urban patterns, and still has an important role to play in our future. Northeast Ohio is fortunate to be a continental divide between two important watersheds: the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. Our landscape will always have a critical relationship with water. Therefore we need to engage our watersheds in creative ways and foster a personal understanding of our region’s wonderful freshwater assets.

Kent State University has facilities in both Kent and Cleveland, with many programs focused on the ecological health and recreational opportunities of the river. The KSU Cleveland facility includes the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative (CUDC), the College of Architecture and Environmental Design’s (CAED) graduate architecture and urban design programs, and a new graduate landscape architecture program. The CAED is committed with educational programs, faculty, alumni, and outreach to the advancement of the Cuyahoga River as a critical asset and determinant of our region’s future.

The inaugural Crooked River Commute will navigate the Cuyahoga River from Kent to Cleveland with intentions to discover its natural/unnatural beauty, research regional issues of watershed impacts, and promote water access for recreation and education.



SUPPORT THE CROOKED RIVER COMMUTE:

Cheer us on.

Meet us at the start and finish of the trip. We’ll begin early morning on Friday, July 25th at Heritage Park in Kent and end with a celebration late evening on Saturday, July 26th at Wendy Park in Cleveland.

Follow us for updates.

We’ll keep everyone posted on trip details through the CUDC’s social media accounts. Follow us at:

CrookedRiverCommute.org



Share our story.

Tell your friends, family and social network about the Crooked River Commute.

We’ll live-tweet during the trip, using hashtag:

#RiverCommute

For more information, please contact:

David Jurca | Associate Director, Kent State Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative (CUDC)
e: djurca@kent.edu p: 216.357.3438

Charles Frederick | CAED Graduate Landscape Architecture Program
e: cfrederi@kent.edu p: 216.357.3419

Wiley Runnestrand | Associate Director of Advancement, Kent State College of Architecture & Environmental Design (CAED)
e: wrunnest@kent.edu p: 330.672.0922