## Little Cuyahoga River Restoration Project- Martha / Seiberling Reach

The main stem of the Cuyahoga River has a rich iconic history in Northeast Ohio. A river synonymous with both industry and cultural heritage, it is unfortunately most famous for the "Burning River" in 1969. However, with the diligent efforts of local environmental stewards and state agencies, the perception of the Cuyahoga River and Northeast Ohio has improved. Recently, the river has been designated as "clean" and recovered. As a result, commerce, industry and residents of the area have embraced the river to leverage its iconic status. The Little Cuyahoga River, which flows through the Akron Riverwalk Development site, is one of its largest contributors. Unfortunately, the Little Cuyahoga River is still considered impaired and a negative contributor to the river. The proposed river restoration and Bike-Hike Trail project with the Akron Riverwalk Development Project has a unique opportunity to "build" upon the positive aspects of the restoration of the Cuyahoga. The project will be a highly visible public amenity and excellent example of our efforts to reverse past alteration of the river. The existing condition confines the river to a narrow passage which acts more as a "pipe" which eliminates its natural function of treating and cleaning water. The project will restore a portion of the Little Cuyahoga River to provide an appropriately sized channel, meandering pattern and flood plain to provide an opportunity to improve water quality and control flood waters. The creation of a Bike-Hike Trail paralleling the restored river corridor will enhance it amenity value. The City of Akron, Goodyear Inc. and the surrounding community can demonstrate stewardship and its embracement of the Little Cuyahoga River which is harmonious with the regional perception and provide an amenity that will have public access throughout the reach.

