

<b>Code</b>	517033
<b>Subject</b>	Tim Atkinson
<b>Date</b>	6/23/2008
<b>Interviewer</b>	Andrew Glasier
<b>Special Notes</b>	

**minutes:**

0 Born February 25, 1950 in Dayton, Ohio. Moved to northeast Ohio in 1979 to work for Park Service.

1 Equipment operator work leader for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Focused on trail construction.

2 Park was growing early on, still acquiring property. Was in Sea Bees in the Navy for four years.

3 Two operators and foreman joined at same time.

4 First job was removing motorcycle tracks across from Happy Days visitor center.

5 Land purchased by the park. Trail maintenance was a new job for Tim. Learned on the job. Lay of the land.

6 Things you have to look at when creating a trail.

7 Creation of a trail plan for the Park. Worked in a committee. Forest Point Trail.

8 Pine Grove Trail.

9 "Worked with what you had." Master plan identified trail heads and trails.

10 The park staff wrote out master trail plan using maps and walked out in the park to form.

11 Volunteers were very beneficial to trail construction and maintenance. Cuyahoga Valley Trails Association.

12 Coordinate with volunteers for materials needed at site and laid out trail together.

13 Volunteers identified problems.

14 Trail construction based on use. Hiking trails are only 5 to 8 feet wide.

15 Ski trails, horse trails construction dictated by Park Service.

16 When he left expanded to over 100 miles of trail in the park. Towpath trail.

17 Towpath Trail, part was already ready, other sections were absolutely nothing. Big issue: getting sites to work out of.

18 Had many different things to deal with; people, trees, etc... People were going through no matter what.

19 People were using the Towpath as fast as it went in. Riverview road took up a lot of where the Towpath was originally.

20 Came across a lot of the old surveyor marks along the Towpath. Very pretty area.

21 Hard to maintain. People use it.

22 Maintenance is as big a challenge as the construction of Towpath Trail.

23 There is never a down time on the Towpath Trail maintenance. Towpath marathon.

24 Big flood created a lot of damage.

25 People still wanted to ride the Towpath, even when flooded. Success of Towpath

26 Trail based on area its in.

Turtles burying eggs in Towpath. People enjoy the area because lots of diversity.

27 Good idea to put through valley.

28 Construction took about four years of Towpath Trail.

29 Began construction with areas that were already there. Less to do.

30 Skip and jump into different places. Ira road south last place to be done on Towpath trail.

31 Each section had its own quirks to it that had to be dealt with; bridges needed.

32 Towpath had set crew.

Crew brought in strictly for Towpath construction. Three people that dealt with other  
27 trail construction.

28 Eight foot wide trail, the Towpath. Used a lot of different equipment to construct.

29 Towpath Trail. Wheelchair accessible trail. Flat type trail. Accessible for everybody.

30 Seasonality of trails.

31 What landscapes to look for when creating a trail.

32 Forest Point Trail. Octagon. What do you want the trail to do?

33 Evolution of Tim's Job. Engineer Equipment Operators 10s. Becoming a supervisor.

Becoming a supervisor meant his job changed a lot. No normal days on the job.

34 Facility Management Maintenance System (FMMS)

35 Explanation of FMMS.

36 Took a lot of time to input FMMS.

37 Bad weather would change the job. Never a dull day.

38 Seasonal staff. 30 people during the summer time.

39 Work leaders helped with supervision

40 FMMS tied you to the office and is time consuming.

41 Always busy trying to meet FMMS quotas to gain funding.

42 Problems with FMMS and communications because of outlying areas.

Coming back to the Park after retirement. Taking care of his grandson has been

43 enjoyable.

44 Was a hunter and fisher. Loves to be out in the woods.

45 Was totally amazed with the landscape of northeast Ohio. Animals he's seen.

46 Family was outdoor lovers.

47 Story of the noisy grouse and other animal stories.

48 Off 303, big Beaver development. Civilian Conservation Corps program.

Falcon nest under the Turnpike bridge. More animals in the Park today than when

49 first came.

50 Lots of Turkeys in the Park. Deer in the Park.

51 People talking about deer issues. Why the valley is so important.

If the Park wasn't here, the area would be filled with Condominiums and other

52 construction.

Many developments are backed up to the Park. Old Coliseum sight is great for

53 birding.

54 Park hurts some communities because of lack of income. Close to many people.

Impact of the Park is positive on people's lives. Different falls; Buttermilk, Blue Hen,

55 Brandywine.

56 Towpath Trail was a watershed moment in the Park. Joining of different trails.

57 Horse trails in the Park. Canal visitors center plays a big role.

58 Bringing Farmsteads back to Park. Towpath is the story of the Park.

59 Towpath trail is a nice mixture of history and nature.

60 Old carriage trail system. Trail head on station road.

61 Changes during his tenure are shocking. Started small.

62 Everything was together at the beginning.

63 Shocker looking back at things. Future of the Park.

Still trail heads not created that are on master trail plan. Lot of growing to do with

64 connections.

65 Peninsula has survived because of Park and Towpath trail.

66 Volunteers are vital to this Park in the future. Park draws a lot of people.

67 This Park will be here for a long time.

68 The leadership needs to be behind this Park. Hard to retire.

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