

Code	517066
Subject	Tom Fritsch
Date	6/24/2008
Interviewer	Nate Loman
Special Notes	

minutes:

1/1/1900 12:00

Tom Fritsch born and raised Akron, Ohio, attended University of Akron, now works for city of Akron, Metropolitan Area Transportation Study Division

Division works with federal funds designated for area transportation projects to allocate funds and determine which projects receive those funds

Fritsch does mapping for division, has Masters in Geography. Long and short range plans, decide what projects are needed, assure equitable distribution amongs area communities

3 short range four year plans. Money comes from federal highway and transportation funds

4 money is allocated by various criteria; population, gas tax returns, etc

involvement in Cuyahoga Valley National Park - land use planning and impact, bikeway

5 planning, including tow path

funding for projects - Fritsch only involved in federal funding, local communities also

6 provide funding for projects

how Tom found out about the creation of the park in 1970's, article in Akron Beacon

7 Journal, joined Sierra Club and Cuyahoga Valley Association, toured park area

tours in the valley to promote park idea in 1970's, led by James Jackson of Akron Beacon

Journal - state bought some land, in case National Park fell through, - spring of 1974 bus

trip to Washington with group of Akron area park supporters to attend Congressional

8 hearings, whole room full of people from area at the hearings

skipped class in college to attend hearings-attended Senate hearings at Blossom that

9 summer-

bus tours for students in the park being held, Fritsch helped to lead school bus tours for

10 school children to learn about park

role in Sierra Club and Beaver Pond clean up to remove junk discarded by auto shop in

11 area-Fritsch helped lead other cleanup groups in park lands

motivation for joining Sierra Club-interest in preserving the valley-helping to ward off over

12 development and bad development

cross country hikes in the valley held by metro-parks when Tom was young, solitary walks

13 and hikes on his own continue today

favorite spots and water falls in the valley - Five falls area, not yet developed by park,

14 hidden waterfalls north of RT. 82, hard to find but beautiful

Fritsch played a role in helping to develop early trails - recommendations for trails - early

15 1980's

16 creation of Cuyahoga Valley Trail Council once original trail plan in place

Council now helps with maintenance and construction of new trails not yet completed from

17 original plan

scope of original trail plan for CVNP-Plateau Trail in Oak Hill area last one built, finished

just a few years ago; took several years to built- West Rim trail been pushed for years- not

18 yet built

future of the park and trails- some new trails could be developed in areas currently without

19 them, but park is limited because of need to maintain any new trails along with old,

a trail in West Rim area would complement tow path, Five Falls Area would benefit from

20 trail and allow people to view falls

Fritsch has not been member of Sierra Club since birth of youngest daughter, so has no firsthand knowledge of current activities and relationship to the park, but is not aware of

21 any animosity

22 stewardship of the park -helping to keep clean it up,
how had the park has impacted Tom-provided many hiking opportunities, close to his home,

23 ability to appreciate nature in a vast setting

24 perfect day in the valley-early on fall day-beautiful photo opportunities

25 spend a whole day not worrying about time

26 connections with surrounding communities has opened up park for more use

27 increasing number of visitors does take away from sense of remoteness,

28 balance in the park between preserving the land and accommodating visitors
as long as visitors are respectful of park there is not much negative impact , Fritsch does
not see too much trash, although there are always some people who for various reasons

29 trash the area
impact on wildlife - return of coyote, bald eagle, deer since park began, acres of land for

30 wildlife use
vision for the park? -Trail Council has been pushing for bridge on Brandywine Creek,

31 currently only stepping stones, which wash away in rain -

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mountain bike trails would be good addition to the park, were actually in original

33 discussions of Trail Council

34 room for different types of enthusiasts in the park - hiking, biking, equestrian
equestrian trails actually existed before park, some have been incorporated into current

35 trails

36 end

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