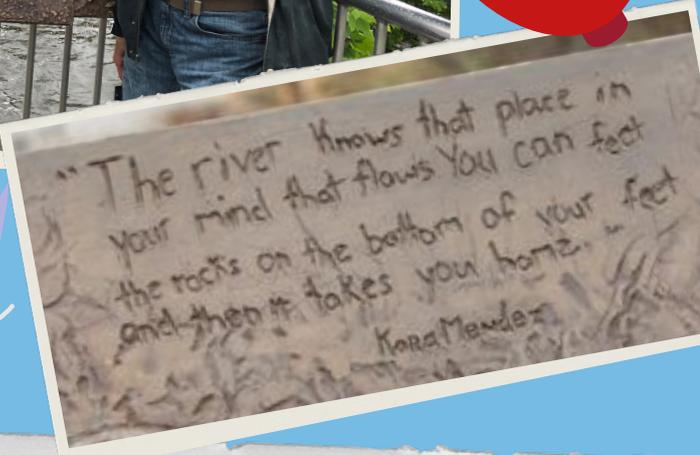


TALES FROM ALONG THE TRAIL...

Great Blue Herons in Winter



Learn About
Franklin Mills
Riveredge
Park



Fifty years of Cuyahoga River recovery was celebrated last year at Torch Fest. The festival included a dedication of a striking relief sculpture by Kent's George Danhires. The sculpture includes two scenes: the nineteen sixty-nine image of the burning river, and over it; a portrait of today's clean, healthy stream with a great blue heron wading the shallows. Kent fourth-grade student, Kora Mendez, created the lovely poem engraved into the surface. A great blue heron was discovered perching there last December by Rod Hower, giving the final seal of approval. Blue heron migration begins in September but this hardy adult (note white crown and black plumage) may be spending the winter in Kent, fishing the open waters of the Crooked River. Our largest heron can be seen cruising the river corridor with slow, graceful flight, a tucked-in neck and long legs trailing behind. Fishing is a quiet business with the heron standing statue-like before quickly spearing its prey and swallowing it whole. Take a closer look at the long toes clinging to the statue that are used for perching, grooming and like Koras poem, to "feel the rocks on the bottom of your feet."

Fishing the river is not just for herons, bald eagles, and otters; there are plenty of places for you to drop in a line. Favorite spots at Heritage Park include the pump house deck overlooking the waterfall and along the Franklin Mills Riveredge trail. Winter is a great time to explore the "tales from along the trail" in all of our parks. Visit George Danhires outdoor art installations at the Veterans Memorial and Bicentennial Sculpture. We hope you share some of your discoveries with us!