

Ohio & Erie Canalway Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canalway Partners Hosts 25th Annual RiverSweep

Ohio's Largest Done-in-a-Day Clean-up hits the quarter century mark - Saturday, May 10th, 9 a.m. - Noon

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Over the past 25 years, more than 16,400 volunteers - and counting! - have lent a hand on a Saturday in May for RiverSweep - Ohio's most successful environmental cleanup operation and Ohio's largest done-in-a-day cleanup. Close to 1,000 eco-conscious volunteers are expected to join this year's event, taking place Saturday, May 10th from 9 a.m. - Noon. Hosted by Canalway Partners, a Founding Organization of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area, the project recruits teams of volunteers to the clean-up, including students, community groups, non-profit organizations, government agencies and corporate partners. The goal – to clear spaces in Cleveland's Cuyahoga River Valley where future National Heritage Area parks and trails will appear.

Canalway Partners Executive Director Tim Donovan noted, "We're happy to report that over the past 25 years, those 16K volunteers have helped us extract and recycle 22,380 illegally discarded tires and picked up 419 tons of rubbish."

Donovan adds, "Former RiverSweep sites now host new parks and trails that have become some of our Canalway visitors favorite greenspaces. They include: Scranton Flats; Cleveland Metroparks Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation; Hart Crane Park; Mill Creek Falls; Cleveland Metroparks Washington Reservation; The Morgana Run Trail, the Treadway Greenway; and Cleveland Metroparks West Creek Reservation. This truly is a project done with purpose and future goals in mind."

Over the course of this year's event, RiverSweep teams will work together at nine sites to clear the river valley of debris, including Tremont, Flats, Train, and Canal Basin - the future home of Canal Basin Park. Details: canalwaypartners.com.

At the Event

- **The first 700 volunteers to sign up will receive a commemorative RiverSweep t-shirt designed by artist George Coghill.** Sign up info can be found at canalwaypartners.com.
- **The Port of Cleveland will have Flotsam and Jetsam out contributing to the water clean-up portion of the event.** The two custom-made vessels are designed to remove

floating debris along the river's 6.5 mile ship channel as well as about five miles of Lake Erie's shoreline.

- **There will be a celebratory luncheon following the cleanup from Noon – 2:00 p.m.**, at The Cleveland Rowing Foundation, 1003 British Road, Cleveland OH 44113. (It can be accessed taking Columbus to French to Fall.)

Working Together

RiverSweep gathers a wide-reaching group of sponsors committed to the work being done by the program, including:

- Cargill, Eaton, ArcelorMittal, Allegro Realty Advisors, FirstMerit Bank, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, First Energy, Environmental Design Group, the Port of Cleveland, The Stein Companies, Kurtz Bros., Cleveland Metroparks, City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District, Republic Services, Great Lakes Brewing Company, West Creek Preservation Committee, Behnke Landscape Architecture, Hanna Chartwell, Music Box Supper Club, Barr & Prevost, Distillata, Radio Station Z107.9, The Sierra Club and Forest City Enterprises.
- **CDCs also play a key role** - adopting clean-up sites and bringing volunteers to the event - including: Slavic Village Development Corporation, The Stockyard, Clark-Fulton, Friends of Big Creek, Tremont West Development Corporation, West Creek Conservancy, Old Brooklyn CDC, and the Flats Forward CDC.

About Canalway Partners – Canalway Partners, a Founding Organization of the Ohio & Erie Canalway, concentrates its work in Cuyahoga County - working to make connections for the Towpath, Canal Basin Park and beyond. www.canalwaypartners.com

About the Ohio & Erie Canalway – The Ohio & Erie Canalway is a National Heritage Area – designated by Congress – to help preserve and celebrate the rails, trails, landscapes, towns and sites that grew up along the first 110 miles of the canal that helped Ohio and our nation grow. www.ohioanderiecanalway.com

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