

Contact: George Ebey
Ohio & Erie Canalway Association
gebey@ohiocanal.org

Ohio & Erie Canalway Association Awards \$363,000 in Grant Funding

The Strategic Initiative program funds enhancements to the Towpath Trail and Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area

Akron, OH- The Ohio & Erie Canalway Association (OECA) will award \$363,000 in Strategic Initiative funds to 14 organizations for projects and programs within the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area.

The OECA Strategic Initiative Program is a competitive grant program that funds public and private organizations and political subdivisions for physical developments, plans, improvements and programs that enhance the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area, which extends 110-miles from Cleveland to New Philadelphia, OH.

Dan Rice, President & CEO of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition and Co-Executive Director of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association, said “Over the course of 20 years the Strategic Initiative Program has been one of our most valuable tools to work with partners to develop the Canalway as both a visitor attraction and something that people use every day.”

A diverse array of projects will receive funding in 2016 including: a new power car for the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad; plans for a new visitor center in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park; trail enhancements in Cleveland and the Village of Bolivar; and interpretive exhibits in the Cleveland History Center, Mustill Store and Zoar Village.

The full list of 2016 Strategic Initiative grant recipients is available here-
<http://www.ohioanderiecanalway.com/Main/Pages/76.aspx>.

Tim Donovan, Executive Director of Canalway Partners and Co-Executive Director of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association, stated “The Strategic Initiative Program provides seed funding for a variety of projects and programs that are deemed essential in the development of the Ohio & Erie Canalway as defined in our Management Plan. These federal funds act as “the yeast” that raises the “dough,” leveraging more than \$3 local dollars for every federal dollar awarded.”

The Ohio & Erie Canalway Association is the 501(c)(3) non-profit designated by the U.S. Congress as the management entity for the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area (www.ohioanderiecanalway.org). The Association operates as a regional extension of its two Founding Organizations, Canalway Partners (<http://canalwaypartners.com/>) and the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition (<http://www.ohioeriecanal.org>) which represent Cuyahoga County and Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas counties respectively.

**Ohio Erie Canalway Association,
Strategic Initiatives 2016**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>OECA Award</u>
Corridor Wide			
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad	Power Car	To acquire a baggage car that will be converted into a power car to serve as CVSR's primary power source. This car will generate the electricity to run all essential systems on passenger cars such as lighting, heating, air conditioning, refrigerators and freezers.	\$15,000
Cuyahoga County			
West Creek Greenway, Inc.	Parmadale Study	To create a master plan to integrate the Parmadale property into the West Creek Reservation and West Creek Greenway, which is a proposed 21-mile inter-community recreational trail system. This system will connect to the Towpath Trail and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.	\$15,000
Historic Gateway Neighborhood Corporation	Take a Hike 2017	Take a Hike will offer five, free, guided walking tours of historically significant neighborhoods in Downtown Cleveland every week from mid-May through mid-September, 2017. All tours will feature actors portraying important Clevelanders from the past.	\$10,000
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District	Slavic Village Union Ave. Green Infrastructure & Wayfinding Public Art	To install two large green infrastructure storm water basins projects directly adjacent to the Morgana Run Trail. These two sites will create 3.5 acres of new public green space and brownfield remediation, and repurpose distressed property in the Slavic Village neighborhood. The project includes a wayfinding public art piece along the Morgana Run Trail.	\$40,000
Western Reserve Historical Society	Cleveland Starts Here	The funds will be used to support the creation of the new Core Cleveland History Experience at Western Reserve Historical Society's Cleveland History Center. Funds will be applied to the fabrication and installation of Cleveland Starts Here, a 3,200 square foot permanent exhibit that will provide an introduction to the historical society's collections.	\$40,000
Cleveland Metroparks	Scranton Road Habitat Restoration	Cleveland Metroparks will pilot 2-3 different in-water planting methods and explore alternative boom types to improve the fish and wildlife habitats within the ship channel of the Cuyahoga River along the Scranton Flats section of Towpath Trail.	\$30,000

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Summit County			
Summit Metro Parks	Freedom Trail Phase 4 Design & Engineering	To engineer and design the structures needed for Freedom Trail Phase 4, a 1.1 mile multi-purpose trail that will connect the Mill Street Trailhead to the Towpath Trail. This will include a bridge over Broadway Avenue, pedestrian ramps and a trail from Broadway to Main Street.	\$20,000
Cascade Locks Park Association	Mustill Store Exhibit Upgrade	The funds will be used to update the current exhibits in the Mustill Store museum with updated graphics, a more efficient floor plan, movable displays, and storage.	\$3,000
Springfield Township	Spartan Trail Master Plan	Funds will be utilized to develop a Master Plan for the Spartan Trail. The plan will connect resources and attractions within the community including schools, parks, Springfield Lake, and commercial areas. The plan will show connections into the greater Summit County Trail network, including the Towpath Trail.	\$7,500
Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition	Floating Towpath Repair	Funds will go towards the repair of a floating section of the Towpath Trail at Summit Lake that was damaged by arson.	\$40,000
Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park	Central Visitor Planning and Design	Funds will go towards planning and design of a new Central Visitor Center in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The Visitor Center project will transform the historic property currently known as Zielenski Court into a central destination where people can plan their visit to the National Park and the Ohio & Erie Canalway.	\$40,000
Stark County			
Massillon Area Greenways Inc.	High Mill Bridge Bike Lane Installation	To create a more user-friendly bike lane on the steel grating of the High Mill Bridge which connects the Towpath Trail to the Muskingum Trail in Jackson Township.	\$15,000
Tuscarawas County			
Ohio History Connection	Enhanced Exhibits for Number One House in Zoar	To create new interpretive exhibits for Number One House Museum in Zoar Village. The new exhibits (objects, photographs, graphic panels and interactives) will highlight Zoar's origin and history. Exhibits will be developed and curated jointly by the Ohio History Connection and the Zoar Community Association.	\$25,000
Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition	Landscaping / trail amenities and Trail Connector Study	To install amenities such as fencing, benches, and landscaping along the newly constructed portion of Towpath Trail in the Village of Bolivar, and to conduct an engineering study to connect the Towpath from the McDonnell Trailhead to the newly constructed portion of trail near the Rt. 212 railroad bridge.	\$12,500
Founding Organizations			
Canalway Partners		Partner organization	\$25,000
Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition		Partner organization	\$25,000
Total			\$363,000