2018 Cargill and PNC Fishing Derby

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

— Margaret Mead (1901-1978)
“The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition shall stimulate public interest and support for the conservation, development, and interpretation of the natural, historical, and recreational resources along the route of the Ohio & Erie Canal.”

– Mission Statement of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

Letter from President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends,

Thanks to your generous support, we continued to make progress along the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area, Towpath Trail, and connector trails in 2018.

From finalizing a 10-year License Agreement with Tuscarawas County Commissioners and the Kimble family to extend the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail another 4 miles, to connecting neighbors throughout communities along the Towpath Trail in Akron, the Ohio & Erie Canalway achieved tremendous accomplishments during 2018 thanks to the continuing support of our volunteers, community partners, corporate sponsors, funders, and members.

Enclosed in this annual report, you will find numerous examples of successful community partnerships and collaborative projects. While we continue to make progress on the development of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area, much work remains.

Some of our projects and challenges in 2018 include:

- Connecting with communities in the downtown Akron, Park East and Summit Lake neighborhoods to create vibrant public spaces through Reimagining the Civic Commons.
- Coordinating the Summit County Trails program and the development of regional connector trails throughout Summit County, including planning for the 6-mile Rubber City Heritage Trail through Akron.
- Receiving a $385,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the development of the Bolivar Towpath Trail.
- Renovating the Limbach Buildings in the Village of Clinton and developing the Richard Howe House Exploration Gardens in Akron.
- Implementing the Adopt-A-Trail program along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath to promote stewardship and assistance with maintenance and landscaping.
- Coordinating the Summit Bicycle Share to provide residents and visitors with access to bicycles at 10 locations in Akron and Barberton.
- Coordinating Canal Cleanups with more than 350 volunteers and removing 6 tons of trash.
- Presenting the Cargill-PNC Bluegill fishing derby to more than 200 inner city school children.
- Implementation of the Tuscarawas County Trail and Green Space Plan, including release of updated map.
- Successful completion of the 2018 Resource Development Plan.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, professional team and volunteers, I want to thank you for your continued support of our organization and our efforts to develop the Ohio & Erie Canalway, Towpath Trail, and connector trails. Together, we are creating a legacy for future generations!

Daniel M. Rice
President & Chief Executive Officer
2018 Financial Information

INCOME

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**TOTAL INCOME** $923,000

EXPENSES

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**TOTAL EXPENSES** $871,000

NET INCOME

$52,000

Unaudited Financial Information
Interpretation/Education

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company Towpath Trek
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company once again proudly sponsored the Towpath Trek, a program aimed to celebrate the development of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail while engaging local community members and organizations. The Trek ran from September 1 to November 30, with individuals, friends and families hiking or bicycling four sections of the Towpath Trail to earn a Goodyear Towpath Trek pin.

Canal Cleanups
Hundreds of volunteers participated in this year’s canal cleanup program, which supports our local natural resources while promoting stewardship along the Ohio & Erie Canalway. Three public cleanups were held throughout the year, with other cleanups supported and led by amazing partners. Thank you to all of our volunteers who came out to remove tons of trash from the Ohio & Erie Canalway!

Canoe Adventure
More than 80 participants joined the Ohio & Erie Canalway on Saturday, July 7, for the annual canoe trip along the Ohio & Erie Canal. The trip included historical information about the Canalway and concluded with a picnic lunch at the Reach Opportunity Center at Summit Lake. Thank you to our participants, volunteer kayak guides, and sponsors for making this a great experience along the Canal!
Cargill and PNC Fishing Derby
This year’s Fishing Derby hosted more than 100 children from Akron Public Schools and their families to the Wilbeth Road Trailhead on October 3 for an afternoon of fishing, supporting the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition’s goal of cultivating environmental stewards. Volunteers helped children put bait on hooks, reel in fish, and release them back into the canal. Thank you to our sponsors, including Cargill, PNC Bank, Huntington Bank, and nearly 50 other corporate and individual donors for their support!

Healthy Steps
Two-hundred seventy-five walkers participated in the 2018 Healthy Steps, a walking program aimed at improving the wellness of residents and workers along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. The participants formed 26 teams, with each person working toward their goal of 10,000 steps per day.

Congressman Ralph Regula Memorial Ride
At the 2018 Congressman Ralph Regula Memorial Ride, nearly 90 riders participated in a leisurely bicycle journey along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail on August 11. This year’s Regula Ride hosted cyclists along the trail from Barberton and Massillon, then in Canal Fulton for lunch. Stark County Commissioner Richard Regula, son of Congressman Ralph Regula, joined the ride, while State Senator Frank LaRose joined for lunch.
Huntington Towpath Century Ride

As part of the ninth annual Towpath Century Ride, more than 120 riders raised a record of more than $160,000 for continued development of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, connector trails, and public spaces! The riders - and one dog - took to the trail from Cleveland to New Philadelphia over June 9-10, supported by volunteers, staff, and a dedicated bicycle support crew. Thank you to all of our riders for their commitment to the event and to our volunteers and sponsors for making it possible!

Captain’s Ball

More than 200 guests were in attendance for the 2018 Canal Boat Captain’s Ball on May 18, honoring Canal Boat Captain, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro. The event raised $51,000 for the continued development of the Towpath Trail and connector trails through Summit, Stark, and Tuscarawas Counties. Included in the event is a silent auction, live auction, raffle prizes and a Fund-A-Need portion of the event which raised a separate $20,000 for the 2018 Fishing Derby.

Towpath Classic

The Towpath Classic once again hosted a number of supporters at the Roses Run Country Club for a day of golf, prizes, and dinner on August 17, 2018. The event raised more than $18,000 for continued development of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail thanks to the nearly 90 golfers who participated and sponsors of the event.
Bike & Brew
Cyclists welcomed Autumn with our bicycle ride along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and Oktoberfest at The Canal Tavern of Zoar on October 6, 2018! Guests traveled between State Route 800 and Fort Laurens before heading to the restaurant for food, live music, beers, and raffle prizes.

Taste of Tusc
On Friday, March 16, 2018, the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition welcomed more than 300 people to the Performing Arts Center at Kent State Tuscarawas for its 9th annual Taste of Tusc event, which raised nearly $14,000 for continued development of the Towpath Trail and connector trails in Tuscarawas County. The event hosted 20 vendors who offered samples of food, dessert, beer and wine to guests, giving guests a chance to taste some local flavors and support the businesses that call the Ohio & Erie Canalway home.

2018 Taste of Tusc participants.

Lockheed Martin Towpath Freedom 5K
More than 100 runners braced freezing cold temperatures on November 10, 2018, for our annual 5K honoring veterans of the US military. The run takes place in downtown Akron along the Towpath and includes a ceremony to honor all veterans attending.

Cleveland Clinic Akron General Towpath 50
On September 15, more than 100 bicyclists took to the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail for the inaugural Cleveland Clinic Akron General Towpath 50. Riders set off from Lock 3 in downtown Akron, completing a 50 mile out-and-back ride between Akron and Massillon. Through the support of our event sponsors and dedicated group of riders, the event succeeded in raising more than $20,000 for the Ohio & Erie Canalway.
Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan

Summit County Government continued their support of the Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan with a grant of $30,000 for seed projects identified on the Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan. This seed grant leveraged a total of $59,410 of public and private investment in trails and greenways in Summit County. From 2002 to 2018, the Summit County Trail & Greenway Community Grant Program awarded 98 grants totaling $1,451,650 for trail and greenspace projects, matched with $23,675,758 in private, local, state and federal funding. For every $1 of Summit County investment, an additional $15 of public and private investment was leveraged for trail and greenspace projects. Over the past 17 years, the Summit County Trail and Greenway Program achieved the following results:

- Construction of 59 miles of trails.
- Planned and designed 120 miles of regional trail connectors
- Conserved 350 acres of greenspace
- Retained or created 650 trail and greenspace jobs, including design, engineering and construction, with an average salary of $20,956, for an economic impact of $12,675,392. (Based on the U.S. Department of Commerce calculations)
Reimagining our public spaces in Akron through community engagement, design, and innovation

The year 2018 brought about the third year of the $5 million Reimagining the Civic Commons grant awarded to Akron in 2016. Civic Commons intends to create great public places that are shared by everyone, a neutral ground where common purpose is nurtured. In 2018, we worked with our communities to forward our goals of community engagement, environmental sustainability, value creation, and socioeconomic integration.

Highlights from the project in 2018 include: the growth of the Park East Concert Series, installation of Park East improvements, installation of permanent Summit Lake outdoor shelter, development of Summit Lake master plan, increased programming on Cascade Plaza, a series of study trips to locations across the country and globe, and increased relationship building throughout Akron.

Top: Light the Night. Bottom: Park East Improvements
Ohio & Erie Canalway

During 2018, the Ohio & Erie Canalway continued to maintain progress and momentum on the development of the Ohio & Erie Canalway from Cleveland to New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Some of the major accomplishments included:

- Completion of 87 miles of the 101-mile Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.
- Receiving a $385,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the development of the Bolivar Towpath Trail.
- More than 350 participants in the Healthy Steps and Towpath Tuesdays walking program that promotes health and wellness along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.
- Planning and design of the City of Cleveland, City of Massillon, Village of Bolivar and Tuscarawas County Towpath Trail sections.
- Distribution of over $325,000 in grants to resource conservation, interpretation and recreational projects in Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas counties.
- Presenting the Huntington Towpath Trail Century Ride, Cleveland Clinic Akron General Towpath 50, Congressman Ralph Regula Memorial Ride, Bike and Brew family bicycling event, Canoe Adventure and Lockheed Martin Towpath Freedom 5K.
- Providing educational programs and events to over 250,000 individuals, children and families along the Ohio & Erie Canalway.
- Coordinating Canal Cleanups with more than 350 volunteers and removing 6 tons of trash.

Through the matching grant program, the Ohio & Erie Canalway leveraged $3 dollars of private, local and state investment for every $1 of federal investment.
Legislative Issues
Through the outstanding leadership and support of our entire Congressional delegation, the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area received a federal grant for the implementation of the Management Plan and development of the Towpath Trail and Ohio & Erie Canalway. Special thanks to Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator Rob Portman, Congresswoman Marcia Fudge, Congressman Bob Gibbs, Congressman David Joyce, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and Congressman Tim Ryan for their tremendous support of the Ohio & Erie Canalway and Towpath Trail.

Senator Sherrod Brown and Senator Rob Portman sponsored legislation in the Senate and Congressman Tim Ryan sponsored legislation in the House of Representatives to lift the funding cap for the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area to reflect is extended authorization to 2021. This legislative corrections bill would ensure that the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area is able to continue to receive federal funding to continue to develop the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area, including developing and enhancing the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and connector trails, preserving historic structures, conserving natural areas, and providing educational programs, events and publications. Special thanks to Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator Rob Portman and Congressman Tim Ryan for their incredible support and leadership for the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area extension legislation.

Alliance of National Heritage Areas
As Chairman of the Heritage Development Partnership (HDP) and a Member of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, President and Chief Executive Officer Dan Rice remains very involved and engaged with heritage development issues at the national level. As Chair of the HDP, Rice is working with the National Park Service on the development of Sustainability Planning materials for National Heritage Areas.

State Heritage Area Support
The State of Ohio continued to support the development of the Ohio & Erie Canalway and Towpath Trail through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Clean Ohio Fund, NatureWorks and Recreational Trail grant programs, and the Ohio Department of Transportation Improvement grant programs. Special thanks to State Senator Frank LaRose and State Representative Emilia Sykes and all the members of the Ohio legislature for their continued support for the Towpath Trail and the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area.

Volunteers at Canal Clean Up.