

Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

2020 Annual Report

Resiliency in the face of a pandemic



Throughout 2020, the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition was able to host physically-distanced and safe programming along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail thanks to partners, volunteers, and supporters like you.

“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)

AKRON

Mustill Store

Barberton

Clinton

Itom
na III

SSILLON

Navarre

Bolivar

Zoar

Zoar Gardens

Zoarville

Dover

NEW
PHILADELPHIA

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Congressman Bob Gibbs
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“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,

The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition faced a number of challenges in 2020, but thanks to your generous support of our volunteers, community partners, corporate sponsors, funders, and members, we continued our mission of engaging communities and continuing trail development throughout the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area. From moving forward with plans to develop the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail in Tuscarawas County to creative engagement in our volunteer programs, we couldn't have done it without you!

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 2020 that you'll read about in this report include:

- Bidding the development of a quarter-mile section of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail in Bolivar, which will be developed by spring 2021.
- Continuing work along the Towpath Trail in downtown Akron, Ohio & Erie Canal Park, and Summit Lake as part of Akron Civic Commons.
- Coordinating the Summit County Trails program and the development of regional connector trails throughout Summit County.
- Improving the Richard Howe House exploration gardens for outside visitors to enjoy.
- Coordinating the Summit Bicycle Share to provide more than 120 residents and visitors with safe access to bicycles at 10 locations in Akron and Barberton.
- Providing free canoe trips across Summit Lake to more than 150 people as part of the guided canoe tour program.
- Coordinating multiple small, friend-and-family style Canal Cleanups and Adopt-A-Trail volunteer days with more than 200 volunteers taking part throughout the year.
- Presenting the Ohio & Erie Canal Fishing derby in a safe and physically-distanced manner.
- Implementation of the Tuscarawas County Trail and Green Space Plan.

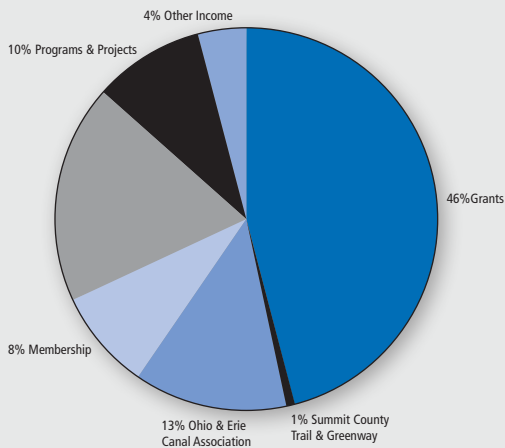
On behalf of our Board of Trustees, professional team and volunteers, I want to thank you for your continued support of our organization and our efforts to develop the Ohio & Erie Canalway, Towpath Trail, and connector trails. Together, we are creating a legacy for future generations!

Daniel M. Rice

President & Chief Executive Officer

2020 Financial Information

INCOME



INCOME

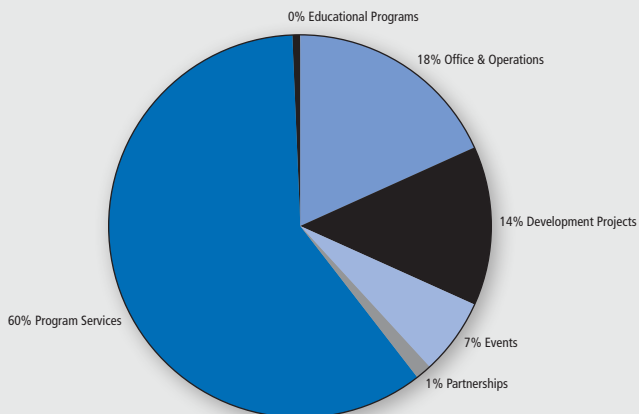
Grants	\$456,500
Summit County Trail & Greenway	5,000
Ohio & Erie Canalway Association	130,000
Membership	84,000
Events	182,000
Programs and Projects	94,000
Other Income	38,500

TOTAL INCOME \$990,000

EXPENSES

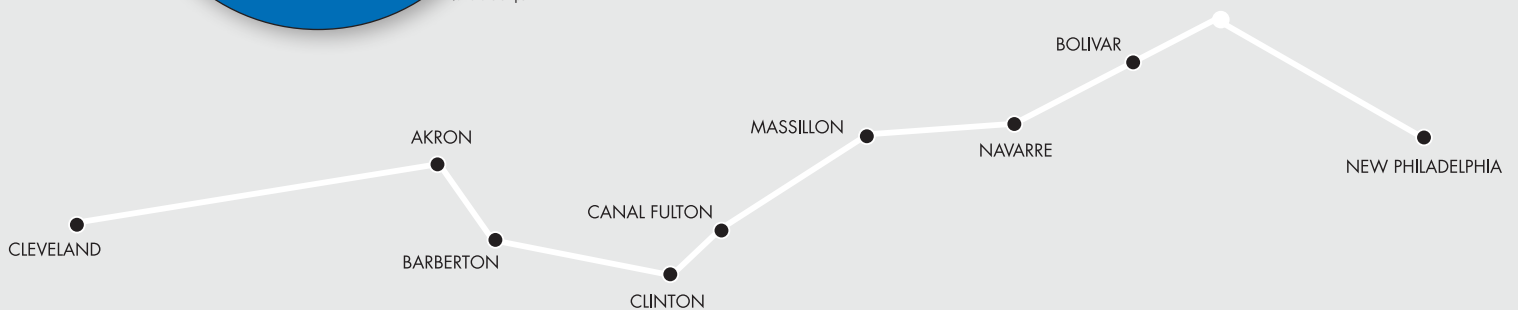
Office and Operations	\$169,000
Development Projects	125,000
Events	61,000
Partnerships	13,000
Program Services	556,500
Educational Programs	4,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$928,500</u>

EXPENSES



NET INCOME \$61,500

Unaudited Financial Information



Interpretation/Education

Canal Cleanups



Trash'N Treat Canal Clean Up volunteers.

More than 200 volunteers participated in our Canal Cleanup program this year! Procedures for these cleanups pivoted this year to smaller friends and family cleanups to account for added safety measures. That didn't stop these volunteers from coming out to make a difference in our neighborhoods and public spaces.

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.



Canoe Adventure

Canoers paddled their way between Summit Lake and Ohio & Erie Canal Park at this year's Canoe Adventure. The out and back trip was followed by some casual canoeing throughout Summit Lake and a boxed lunch to go.



Canoe Adventure participants.



Cargill and PNC Fishing Derby participants.

Ohio & Erie Canalway Fishing Derby

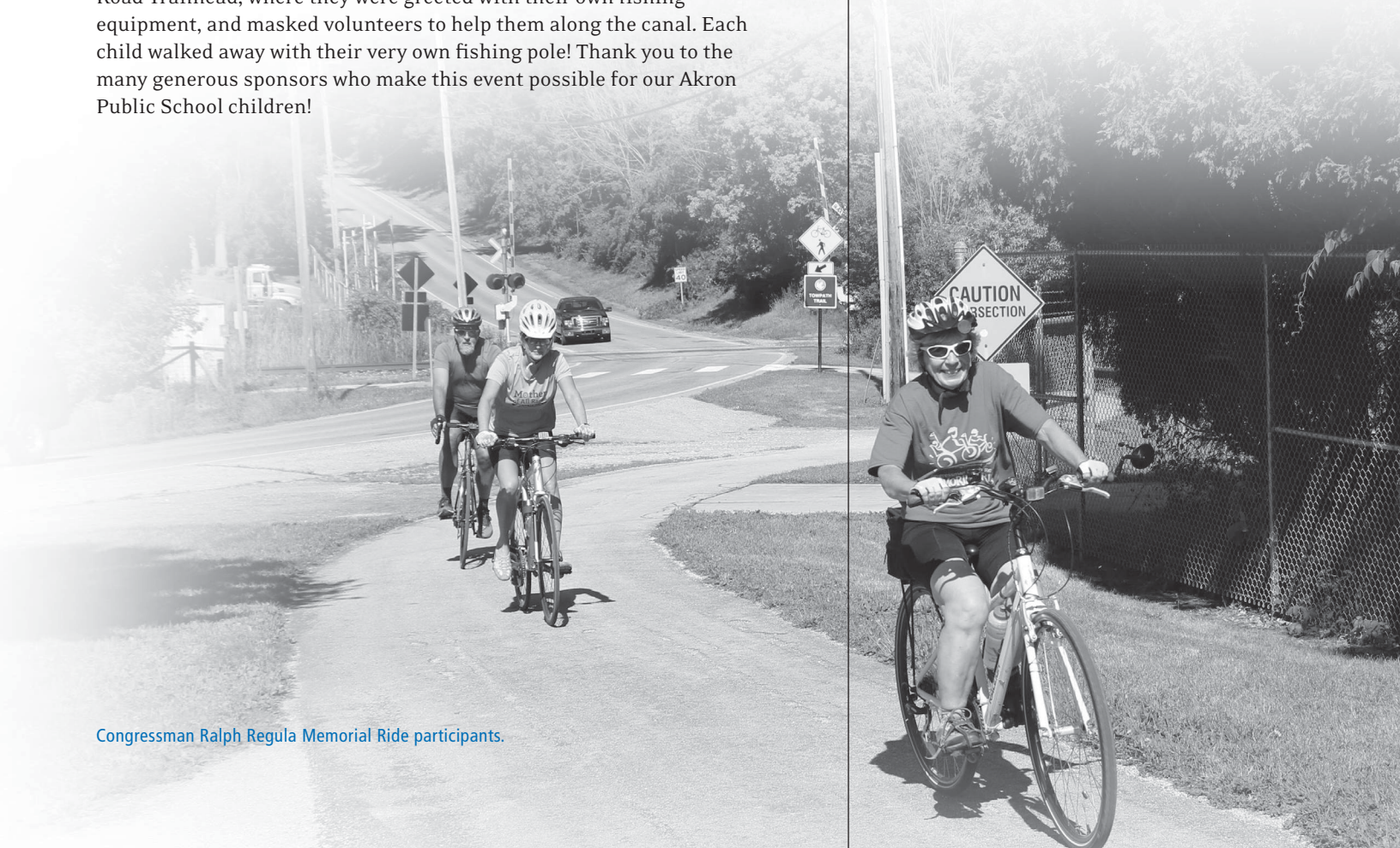
This year's Cargill and PNC Fishing Derby welcomed physically-distanced families for an afternoon of catch-and-release fishing and stewardship along the Ohio & Erie Canal! The families arrived in shifts at Wilbeth Road Trailhead, where they were greeted with their own fishing equipment, and masked volunteers to help them along the canal. Each child walked away with their very own fishing pole! Thank you to the many generous sponsors who make this event possible for our Akron Public School children!

Healthy Steps

Our first program of the year offered an opportunity for physical and mental health along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Healthy Steps encourages participants to get outside and track their steps, with the opportunity to win prizes. More than 100 walkers signed up, with the highest stepper overall, Beverly Wynkoop, walking the entire Towpath Trail during the run of the program.

Congressman Ralph Regula Memorial Ride

In our first in-person cycling event of the year, bicyclists started at Canal Fulton before traveling between Massillon and Barberton along the Ohio & Erie Canal Trail. They were treated to safe, physically-distanced water stops and a boxed lunch back in Canal Fulton.



Congressman Ralph Regula Memorial Ride participants.

Development

Huntington Towpath Century Ride



Huntington Towpath Century participants.

Our 2020 Huntington Towpath Century Riders showed up in every way possible, both adhering to strict safety guidelines for the event and raising more than \$140,000 for the continued development of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail! The ride moved from its usual June date to September, with many riders choosing to ride virtually on their own time. The route also changed, with riders following an out and back route, rather than riding the entire length of the Towpath Trail.

Towpath Classic

This year's Towpath Classic once again hosted a number of supporters at the Roses Run Country Club in Stow for a day of golf, prizes, and dinner. Thanks to the 72 golfers who participated and numerous sponsors, the event raised more than \$18,000 for continued development of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.



Towpath Classic golfers.

Captain's Ball

This year's Canal Boat Captain's Ball went virtual! The online auction hosted a wide array of auction items available for bidding throughout the course of a week, including exclusive experiences, packages to explore Canalway communities, and local art. Participants who registered as guests of the Captain's Ball heard from this year's Canal Boat captain, City of Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan. Overall, the event raised \$28,000 for the continued development of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail!



Honorary Canal Boat Captain, Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan.



Bike & Brew

More than 60 guests welcomed the Autumn season with a family-friendly bicycle ride and physically-distanced Oktoberfest at The Canal Tavern of Zoar. Guests traveled between State Route 800 and Fort Laurens before heading to the restaurant to grab a boxed lunch and festive drinks.



Bike & Brew participants.

Lockheed Martin Towpath Trail Freedom 5K

Runners braced cold, cold wind for our annual 5K honoring US military veterans. The run takes place in downtown Akron along the Towpath and included a ceremony to honor the 35 veterans who took part in our event. We thank you for your service!



Cleveland Clinic Akron General Towpath 50 riders.

Cleveland Clinic Akron General Towpath 50

The third annual Towpath 50 welcomed 100 cyclists to our new location at the Richard Howe House. From there, our riders headed south to Massillon before returning to Akron, where greeted with music and a boxed lunch to go. The riders raised \$19,000 for the continued development of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, connector trails, and public spaces!

Bike & Brew riders.

Resource Conservation



Fishing Derby education.

Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan

From 2002 to 2020, the Summit County Trail & Greenway Community Grant Program awarded 107 grants totaling \$1,526,650 for trail and greenspace projects, matched with \$25,054,990 in private, local, state, and federal funding.

For every \$1 of Summit County investment, an additional \$16 of public and private investment was leveraged for trail and greenspace projects. Over the past 19 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 \$20,056, for an economic impact of \$12,675,392. *(Based on the U.S. Department of Commerce calculations)*

Tuscarawas County Park Department

Trail work continued in Tuscarawas County this year as partners prepared for the development of a quarter-mile trail segment that will connect more than 90 contiguous miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Volunteers dedicated time in the spring to clearing trees for the future development of this trail, which is expected to take place in early 2021.

The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition continued work with Tuscarawas County Commissioners, Tuscarawas County Park Department and other partners to develop the remaining miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail in Tuscarawas County, as well as continue development of connections identified through the Tuscarawas County Trail & Greenspace Plan.





Reimagining our public spaces in Akron through community engagement, design, and innovation

This year, Akron Civic Commons 2.0 moved forward with ambitious plans for Summit Lake, Ohio & Erie Canal Park, and the Civic Gateway in downtown Akron. This work was made possible by additional grant funding from Reimagining the Civic Commons and Knight Foundation.

The Summit Lake community engaged in the concept of Summit Lake's north shore plan, sharing ideas for what is important for the community. In the Civic Gateway, partners worked together on a plan for Lock 3, downtown's largest park space. Though these plans are ambitious, many other projects moved forward, with Downtown Akron Partnership providing

a wide array of programming in outdoor spaces, Alpha Phi Alpha Homes providing physically-distanced and live-streamed concerts, and a summer camp at Summit Lake inviting small groups of children the chance to interact on the water. We look forward to continuing this work in 2021 and beyond!

Top: Lock 4 South
Bottom: Summit Lake



State & National Agenda

Ohio & Erie Canalway

During 2020, 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 90 miles of the 101-mile Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.
- Raising \$507,500 to develop the ¼ mile section of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail connecting Stark County with the Village of Bolivar.
- Receiving a \$512,810 Ohio Department of Transportation grant award to extend the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail another 4 miles in Tuscarawas County.
- Planning and design of the City of Cleveland, City of Massillon, Village of Bolivar and Tuscarawas County Towpath Trail sections.
- Distribution of over \$400,000 in grants to resource conservation, interpretation and recreational projects in Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas counties.
- Implementing the \$20 million dollar Akron Reimagining the Civic Commons projects at Summit Lake and Lock 3 along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.
- 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.
- 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.

Cargill Canal Cleanup participants.





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 Anthony Gonzalez, Congressman David Joyce, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and Congressman Tim Ryan for their tremendous support of the Ohio & Erie Canalway and Towpath Trail.

We are currently working with Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator Rob Portman and Congressman Tim Ryan, Congressman David Joyce and Congressman Anthony Gonzalez on the reauthorization legislation for the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area. Our current authorization runs through September 30, 2021 and in order to continue to receive federal funding, we need to update our legislation. 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, Congressman Tim Ryan, Congressman David Joyce and Congressman Anthony Gonzalez for their incredible support and leadership for the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area extension legislation.

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 Representative Emilia Sykes, State Senator Vernon Sykes and all the members of the Ohio legislature for their continued support for the Towpath Trail, the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area and the state capital grant of \$75,000 for Summit Lake.



Huntington Towpath Century Ride participants.



Supporters

The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition thanks all of the supporters who contributed to the Coalition during 2020. Together we are making the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway a reality!

FOUNDATION GRANTS

Akron Community Foundation
Akron-Summit County
Convention and Visitors Bureau
Barberton Community
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The Bland Family Foundation
The Bokom Foundation
Ann and David Brennan Family
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Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund
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Cargill, The Global Partnership
Fund
Cargill, Water Matters, The
Conservation Fund
Cleveland Clinic, Akron General
Health System
Dominion Foundation
DuPont Foundation
FirstEnergy Foundation
GAR Foundation
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber
Company
Bruce & Erica Greer Family
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Huntington Bank Foundation
The JPB Foundation
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SUMMA Foundation
Summit County Government
Summit County Trail and
Greenway Fund
Tuscarawas County Convention &
Visitors Bureau
Tuscora Health and Wellness
Foundation

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Messages of Hope sign at Richard Howe House.





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