

# News Release



**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Summit County Executive’s Office Awards Grant to Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition**

Earlier this month, the Summit County Executive’s office awarded a grant totaling \$35,000 to the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition (OECC). The grant was authorized as part of the County’s Capital Improvements Program for 2018-2023 and will be used towards Canal Corridor Development and Trail Planning within various communities.

“One of the aspects of Summit County that makes it very unique is the incredible trail system we have throughout the County,” said County Executive Shapiro. “The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition grant will not only support the preparation and further expansion of our trail system for our residents and visitors to enjoy, but it will also bolster local economic development.”

The OECC is a non-profit, private organization focused on preserving and developing the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail as well as the National Heritage Area throughout the counties of Summit, Stark, and Tuscarawas. The organization not only works to enhance resources along the Canal, but also provides educational programs dedicated to the Canalway.

“The Summit County Trails grant provides essential seed funding for the planning, development and activation of multi-use recreational trails throughout Summit County. Some examples of the projects funded included the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail Freedom Trail, Bath Preserve Trail, Spartan Trail and the Rubber City Heritage Trail,” said Dan Rice, President and CEO of the Ohio

& Erie Canalway Coalition. “Since 2002, the Summit County Trail grant program has leveraged \$23,616,348 in private, local, state and federal resources for the trails in Summit County. For every \$1 of Summit County investment, an additional \$15 of public and private investment is leveraged for Summit County Trails. Special thanks to Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and Summit County Council for their tremendous support for this important community and economic development project.”

For more information please visit: <http://www.ohioeriecanal.org/>

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