



CITY OF CLEVELAND

Mayor Justin M. Bibb

**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
CAPITAL PROJECTS**

JAMES D. DEROSA
DIRECTOR

Date: May 14, 2025

To: Mark D. Griffin, Chief Legal Counsel and Director
Department of Law

From: James DeRosa, Director
Mayor's Office of Capital Projects

Subject: Request for Authority to apply for, accept, and expend grant funding
from the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association for improvements at Clark
Field

Please prepare legislation authorizing the Director of the Mayor's Office of Capital Projects to apply for, accept, and expend 'Strategic Initiatives' grant funding from the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association for improvements at Clark Field, including the commitment of \$35,000 in 2024 General Obligation bond proceeds for the funding match requirement of the grant.

Thank you.

JR/jdd

Encl.

Cc: Bradford J. Davy, Chief of Staff
Ryan Puente, Deputy Chief of Staff & Chief Government Affairs Officer
Bonita G. Teeuwen, P.E., Chief Operating Officer
James D. DeRosa, Director, MOCAP
Mark Duluk, Administrative Manager, MOCAP
Veronica Thoms, Legislative Liaison, MOCAP
Nancy Lanzola, Law Department



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY
Mayor's Office of Capital Projects

**Request for Authority to Apply For, Accept, and Expend Grant Funding
from the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association for Improvements at Clark
Field**

Ordinance No: xxx-2025

Legislative Purpose: Authorizing the Director of the Mayor's Office of Capital Projects to apply for, accept, and expend 'Strategic Initiatives' grant funding from the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association (OECA) for improvements at Clark Field.

Project Summary: The OECA is the 501(c)(3) non-profit designated by the U.S. Congress in the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1996 as the management entity for the National Heritage Area.

In support for the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Area, the U.S. Congress provides funding to the OECA for various projects, plans, and programs. To leverage this Federal funding, the OECA established the 'Strategic Initiatives' grant program to disperse funds to local partners willing to provide a funding match to implement projects that align with the National Heritage Area Corridor Management Plan.

The City desires to apply for 'Strategic Initiatives' grant funding to implement four improvements at Clark Field to enhance the accessibility and user experience of the Towpath Trail that traverses the park. The improvements include wayfinding signage, interpretive signage, trail access enhancements, and public art enhancements.

The estimated cost of these improvements is \$50,000. To meet the funding match requirement of the grant, the City desires to use \$35,000 in 2024 General Obligation bond proceeds for park improvements pursuant to Ord. Nos. 643-2024 and 665-2024, resulting in a 'Strategic Initiatives' grant funding request of \$15,000.

Cost:	\$35,000 GO Bonds
PPNs:	008-09-095, 008-29-002, 008-29-004
Ward:	Ward 3 (Councilman Kerry McCormack)
Attachments:	Detailed descriptions of grant projects



Project Description
Towpath Trailhead Enhancements at Clark Field

Clark Field is a 54-acre City of Cleveland park located in the Tremont neighborhood – see park map below. The Towpath Trail runs through Clark Field for approximately 1/2 miles traveling north-south, which is the largest open green space between the trail's northern terminus in Canal Basin Park and its segment through the Cleveland Metropark Reservations to the south.

There is no existing wayfinding signage for the trail at the park's main entrance at 950 Clark Avenue or within the park itself, nor interpretive signage along the trail through the park. The existing switchback that connects the trail and a sidewalk at the corner of W. 11th Street and Clark Avenue is frequently shortcut by trail users causing vegetation loss. Lastly, existing public art near the southern parking lot (and future wayfinding sign) has inadequate foundation.

Moreover, the proposed project would (1) install wayfinding signs at the park's main entrance and southern parking lot for enhanced access to the trail, (2) install 4 interpretive signs along the trail, (3) install trail enhancements on the existing switchback to mitigate shortcuts and restore hillside vegetation, and (4) install foundation enhancements on the existing public art near the southern parking lot and future wayfinding sign.



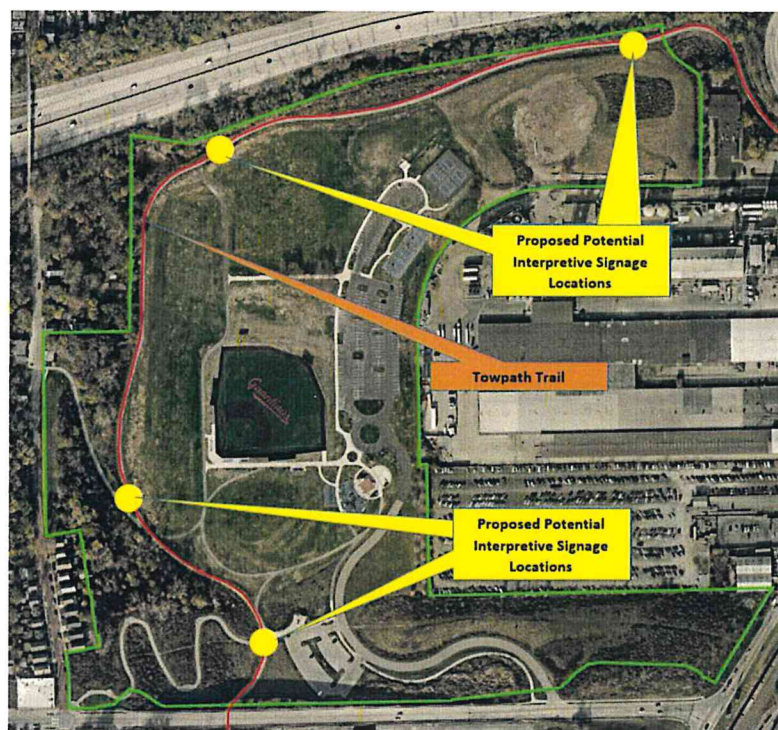
(1) Proposed Towpath Trail Wayfinding Signage

In order to enhance access to the trail, the project would install wayfinding signs at the park's main entrance at 950 Clark Avenue and its southern parking lot near the trail. The design and content of the wayfinding signage would be developed by the City of Cleveland in collaboration with Canalway Partners, Cleveland Metroparks, and other project partners.



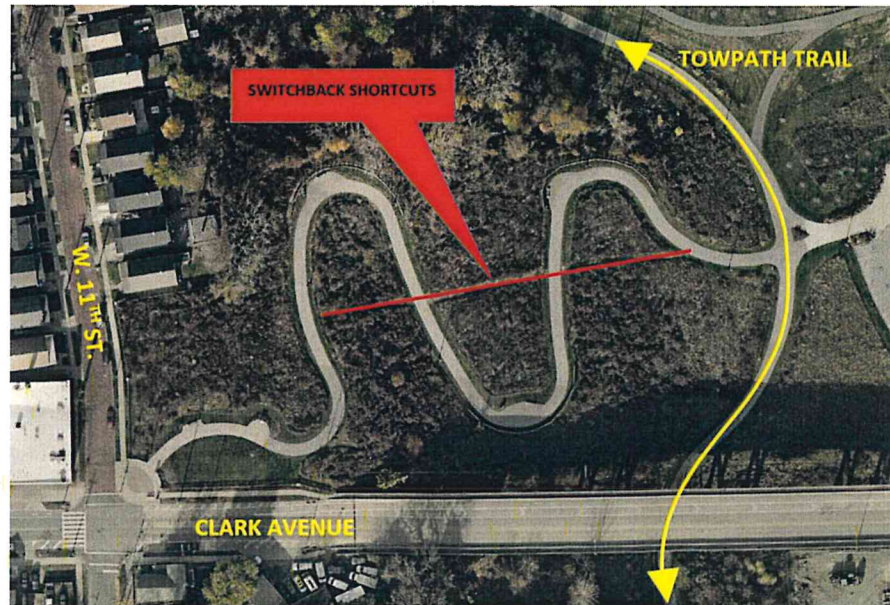
(2) Proposed Towpath Trail Interpretive Signage

In order to enhance the user experience of the Towpath Trail, the project would design, fabricate, and install 4 interpretive signage along the 1/2 mile trail segment through Clark Field. Through a Request for Qualifications process, the City of Cleveland would hire a full-service interpretive firm, team of artists, or other combination to design a series of interpretive signage that reflects the historic significance of the Ohio & Erie Canalway and its designation as a National Heritage Area, as well as the unique geographic and environmental aspects of Clark Field. Below is a map indicating potential locations of these 4 interpretive signs.



(3) Proposed Towpath Trail Access Enhancements on Switchback

The W. 11th Street and Clark Avenue entrance to the Towpath Trail and Clark Field is an important community link since it opened in 2019. It has been heavily used, which unfortunately has caused shortcuts to be developed between switchbacks – see below map. The project would install 4' board rail fence in strategic locations to restrict the shortcuts and allow native vegetation on the hillside to be restored where it has been degraded.



(4) Proposed Public Art Foundation Enhancements

The City of Cleveland moved stone sculptures by Carl Floyd (below) to Clark Field in part of the full park renovation of Clark Field that was completed in 2013. The sculptures are located near the southern parking and future wayfinding signage. The project would provide foundation enhancements to these sculptures to create a formidable setting for Towpath Trail users.

