

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS: CANAL EDITION

# Canals Drove Economic Progress in the 19th Century, Heritage Areas Bring Them New Life in the 21st Century



## Leading Community Transformation in Akron, Ohio Through a \$10 Million Investment



**AKRON**  
CIVIC COMMONS

The Ohio and Erie Canal National Heritage Area has attracted \$5 million in grant funding from national philanthropic foundations along with state and local match funding to guide an investment of \$10 million in Akron's revitalization over the next three years. Called "Reimagining the Civic Commons", Akron joins Chicago, Detroit, Memphis and Philadelphia in a unique experiment in bringing diverse socio-economic groups together by activating and enhancing public spaces along the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

The Heritage Area served as the initiator of the project, convening national, state, and local funders, and volunteered to manage the project on behalf of all of its partners. "Our goal is to have people of diverse backgrounds come together to learn, play, and share ideas", says Dan Rice, President and CEO of the Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition. "We can do that by creating a series of magnets and destinations for civic engagement from the Civic Gateway to Summit Lake."

The Reimagining the Civic Commons \$5,000,000 grant award is a great example of how the National Park Service funding leverages significant amounts of private, local and state investment along the Ohio and Erie Canal National Heritage Area.

**FOUNDATIONS  
COMMITTED  
TO AKRON'S  
FUTURE:**

The JPB  
Foundation

Knight  
Foundation

The Kresge  
Foundation

The Rockefeller  
Foundation



## Game-Changing Cyber Campus Takes Shape in Augusta Canal National Heritage Area

A revolution is taking place along Augusta's historic power canal: Its venerable but vacant textile mills are transforming into the Augusta Cyberworks. This 35-acre cyber-technology park will be anchored by two ten-megawatt Tier3 data centers powered and cooled by the waters of the 172-year-old canal.

Augusta Canal National Heritage Area officials worked for eight years to save the Sibley, a landmark former textile mill and Civil War gunpowder manufacturing site,

managing environmental cleanup and negotiating a 75-year lease to the master developer. Private investment exceeding \$150 million will flow into the Sibley site, with another \$271 million anticipated at the Augusta Canal Authority's adjacent 1886 King Mill site.

James Ainslie, President of the development firm Cape Augusta, stated, "The project would not have been possible without the stewardship and leadership of the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area."



Smithsonian Affiliations

## Smithsonian Honors Delaware and Lehigh (D&L) National Heritage Corridor with Affiliate Status

Following the recent merger of the National Canal Museum with the D&L National Heritage Corridor, Smithsonian Affiliations expanded its designation to the entire 165 mile corridor that includes the Delaware and Lehigh canals. The Heritage Corridor preserves and interprets the nationally significant story of the 19th century engineering marvel and integrated transportation system that brought anthracite coal and iron across five Pennsylvania counties from Wilkes-Barre to Philadelphia.

The Heritage Corridor also serves as an economic engine for the region, generating \$250 million in annual economic impact.



In partnership with the National Park Service

