

# SUMMIT LAKE | VISION PLAN



## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The Summit Lake Vision Plan is a key element of the Akron Civic Commons project along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail from Summit Lake, to the Park East neighborhood and downtown Akron. Through the generous support of national and local funders, including the Akron Community Foundation, GAR Foundation, JPB Foundation, Kresge Foundation, Knight Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation, Akron Civic Commons seeks to create great civic commons spaces along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail that are welcoming, accessible and equitable for all residents and visitors.

Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition serves as the convener for Akron Civic Commons, including administration of the grant funds, facilitating the partnerships and collaborations and coordinating the civic engagement and relationship building with neighborhood residents. With over 25 years of partnership and collaboration experience along the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area and Towpath Trail, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition provides valuable technical assistance experience and knowledge, including organizational development, relationship building, planning, fundraising, government relations, partnership cultivation, volunteer management and project coordination, to local partners working on the implementation of the Summit Lake Vision Plan. Through a collaborative partnership, there are numerous private, local, state and federal stakeholders who are actively engaged and invested in the redevelopment of Summit Lake, including Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, the City of Akron, Kenmore Neighborhood Association, Let's Grow Akron, Northeast Ohio Four County Planning Agency, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, South Street Ministries, Students With A Goal, Summit County Government, Summit Lake Community Association, Summit Lake Community Development Corporation and Summit Metro Parks. Successful implementation of the Summit Lake Vision Plan requires the continued engagement, investment, and long-term commitment of all of the community partners. Working in partnership and collaboration with our private, local, state and federal partners, we shall obtain the resources to create Summit Lake as an accessible, equitable and welcoming destination for all residents.

Working in partnership and collaboration with our community partners, we shall implement the Summit Lake Vision Plan. Enclosed are 8 early action components to build momentum and community support.

## VISION

*Reconnecting residents and visitors to Summit Lake by creating an attractive civic commons space that is accessible, equitable and welcoming to all.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Funded By:



DANIEL HERRIGAN, MAYOR



## EARLY ACTION COMPONENTS

### **VEGETATION REMOVAL / SHORELINE CLEAN-UP**

Currently the northern portion of Summit Lake has been neglected in terms of vegetative upkeep. Removing the dense underbrush, invasive species and selected trees will allow for directed views, improved visibility and an enhancement of safety.

### **LOOP TRAIL**

A loop trail will provide the opportunity for the public to access the entirety of the lake.

### **ODNR LAND-USE DISCUSSIONS**

Discussions between the City of Akron and Ohio Department of Natural Resources should work toward an alternative and cooperative use for the northern portion of land at Summit Lake to allow future proposed improvements.

### **FOUNTAIN**

A fountain can act as a gateway feature not only for Summit Lake but for Akron. Over 100,000 cars a day travel past this often-overlooked feature of Akron and an attractive fountain would provide a much-improved impression of Akron and the Summit Lake community.

### **BUILDING REMOVAL**

Removal of buildings along the northern shore of Summit Lake to improve public access and viewsheds.

### **RENAME SOUTH STREET TO SUMMIT LAKE PARKWAY**

Renaming South Street to Summit Lake Parkway will provide the opportunity to place an exit sign on Interstate 76 / 77, further highlighting Summit Lake.

### **INSTALL ART**

Integrating public art in the northern portion of Summit Lake and in particular the art associated with the Marble Overlook will provide a unique identity, stimulating public interest and contributing to a unique sense of place.

### **BOAT RAMP**

Installing a boat ramp will provide greater access to the lake, providing more recreational opportunities.

# PROJECT GOALS

## 1 Summit Lake as A Unifier

Water recreation should provide an opportunity to break down the perceived view of the lake as a barrier.

## 2 Understand the Past and Celebrate Local History

Acknowledge Summit Lake's history and include unique cultural based program elements.

## 3 Enhance the Environment

Improve the ecological condition surrounding the lake.

## 4 Stimulate Investment

Utilize Summit Lake's increased value to improve property values and stimulate investment in the surrounding area.

# SITE PLAN



# PLAN ELEMENTS



**A** WEST GATEWAY AREA

This western entrance provides several amenities such as parking, two shelters, play area, large informal lawn, food forest, lake access, and a direct connection to the park's loop trail.



**B** WEST COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AREA

Located northwest of the lake, an amphitheater with stage provides a flexible space for small, medium, and large events while framing a commanding view of the lake and fountain.



**C** NORTH SHORE OF SUMMIT LAKE

Located at the north end of the lake, a large parking lot and mown lawn surrounded by play area, volleyball courts, shelter, boat ramp, and kayak/canoe rental provide a long dramatic view of the entire lake.



**D** SUMMIT LAKE PARKWAY ROUNDABOUT



**E** MARBLE OVERLOOK AT NIGHT



**F** MARBLE OVERLOOK



**G** BOARDWALK AT NORTH SHORE OF SUMMIT LAKE



**H** BOARDWALK AT WEST GATEWAY AREA



**I** NORTHERN SUMMIT LAKE

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