

Welcome to the Congressman Ralph Regula Canalway Center!

The Exploration Gateway facility is home to both the Stark County Park District and the Perry Sippo Branch of the Stark County District Library, making it the first partnership between a park district and a library in the nation. The facility is also one of four proposed educational facilities along the Ohio & Erie Canalway. **Stark County is the first of the counties to incorporate our rich canal heritage into an interactive exhibit for all to enjoy - The Congressman Ralph Regula Canalway Center.**

Your tour will include a glimpse into the lives of the early settlers and how the Ohio & Erie Canalway became a catalyst for industry and growth.

Become an Explorer and Earn Rewards!

If you are interested in extending your tour into a family-friendly adventure make sure to stop at the Log-In Station. This step is optional and will enter you into the Explorer Program - a fun way to learn about the area and earn rewards while you do! You will earn points for each interactive station you log into. At the end of the tour you can print our your card from the log-out station. When you get home, log into www.StarkParks.com/ExplorerArea and create your own page and see a list of additional activities to help earn points. More points equal more rewards!

**For more information
about the program,
make sure to pick up the
Explorer Program brochure.**



Congressman Ralph Regula **CANALWAY** *Center*

5712-12th St NW ● Canton

Located inside the Exploration Gateway
at the north entrance of Sippo Lake Park

FREE ENTRY!

T-F 10am-4pm ● Sat 10am-4pm
Sun 1pm-4pm ● Closed Mondays



CONGRESSMAN RALPH REGULA CANALWAY CENTER



Animals of Ohio

The various mounts all have two things in common:



- they are all animals that were found native to Ohio; and
- at some point due to either loss of habitat or over hunting they were completely extirpated from Ohio.

Some animals, like the American beaver, white-tailed deer, and even the black bear have made a comeback in Ohio. Other species, such as the buffalo and elk, have disappeared and are not likely to return to Ohio due to a loss of habitat. The eastern timber wolf, once one of the top predators in Ohio, was replaced by the coyote, a species that was historically found only west of the Mississippi River until about 1919.

The Canal Era

More and more settlers found their way into what would become Stark County and the landscape began to change. Settlers staked out their claim and began small homesteads and farms. Limited transportation means, such as the Tuscarawas River along with a poor network of primitive cart paths and roads, made



life difficult for the earliest settlers. Farmers could grow crops in the rich soils found throughout the county, but with no means of moving those goods to market only a subsistence economy existed. The coming of the Ohio & Erie Canal, a 308 mile man-made waterway connecting Lake Erie to the Ohio River, enabled local farmers to move their products to much larger markets, reaching destinations as far away as New York City and New Orleans.

Transportation



By the 1850s, railroads began to expand throughout Stark County. The railroad offered competition for the canals, as trains could move more goods and people at greater speeds. Contrary to popular myth,

railroads did not put an end to the canals. The Ohio & Erie Canal operated alongside the railroads in Stark County until 1913, the year a great flood ended the canal era.

Industry & Innovation

Trains not only brought goods and people to Stark County, but they brought new ideas, inventions, and innovators as well. While some of the new companies



traced their earliest roots to Stark County before moving on to other areas, many companies found their beginnings in Stark County and have succeeded throughout the test of time. Companies such as Timken and Hoover have not only been some of the largest employers within Stark County, but are also companies whose names are known around the world. Even small companies, such as Lieberman's Bakery in Massillon and the Magnolia Flouring Mills in Magnolia, have made well known names for themselves in a local and regional niche.

The Canalway Today

Long after the Canal Era had been forgotten, people once again began to take an interest in the Canalway. From this renewed interest, and through the dedication and hard work of concerned individuals (people like Congressman Ralph Regula for whom the Canalway Center is named), the Ohio & Erie Canalway began to take shape. Stark Parks, which maintains 25-miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail within Stark County, serves as an integral part of the Canalway. Sippo Lake, viewed from the Canalway Center, was once constructed as a feeder reservoir for the Ohio & Erie Canal. While no longer serving that purpose, Sippo Lake and the beautiful, natural views it affords visitors is now home to one of many parks within the county-wide Stark Parks system.

