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THE

CANTON

CONNECTION

CantonOhio.gov

SPRING 2026

Safer Routes to School for Students & Families *Nick Loukas, Traffic Engineer*

The City of Canton is taking steps to make it safer and easier for students and families to walk or bike to school through participation in the State of Ohio’s Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. The program provides resources, technical assistance, and funding to support improvements that encourage students in grades K-12 to safely walk or ride their bikes to school.

Funded at \$5 million annually through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the program supports projects in five areas: Engineering, Encouragement, Education, Enforcement, and Evaluation. Funding can support both infrastructure improvements and non-infrastructure programs designed to improve safety and awareness. For infrastructure projects within two miles of schools, ODOT may reimburse up to 100% of eligible costs, including planning, design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction.

In northeast Canton, the city is currently advancing a \$500,000 Safe Routes to School project serving Crenshaw Middle School, Madge Youtz Elementary, and Gibbs Elementary. The project is currently in the design phase, with construction expected to begin this fall. Planned improvements include school flashers with radar speed signs, enhanced crosswalks that may include raised crossings, sidewalk improvements, and additional signage and pavement markings on school properties.

The city has also completed several supporting safety upgrades in the area. These include signal timing improvements at 25th Street and Mahoning Road, where

pedestrian crossing times were adjusted in 2025, along with additional signage and pavement marking improvements.

Canton is also seeking additional funding through a new Safe Routes to School grant to improve safety around Glenwood Intermediate School in Plain Local School District which falls in the city’s footprint. The city submitted a \$796,424 grant application in March, and expects to receive a decision in July. If awarded, construction could begin in summer 2028.

The proposed Glenwood project would include construction of sidewalks along the north side of 44th Street from the school to Frazer Avenue, a mid-block crossing with a center refuge island and flashing signals in front of the school, and a new walkway on school property connecting 44th Street to the main entrance.

Additional safety measures have already been completed in the area, including installation of school flashers on 44th Street, as well as planned signal improvements at 44th Street and Vernon Avenue, along with additional signage and pavement marking upgrades.

Through these targeted improvements, the City of Canton continues to prioritize pedestrian safety while creating safer routes for students and families traveling to school. These investments support healthier transportation options while strengthening safety in neighborhoods surrounding local schools.





APPLY OR SIGN UP FOR JOB NOTIFICATIONS AT
GOVERNMENTJOBS.COM/CAREERS/CANTONOHIO



CITY OF CANTON CAREERS

FIND **FULL-TIME, PART-TIME, & SEASONAL** GOVERNMENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES!



>>

Be sure to check out the Parks & Recreation Guide on pages 5-10

Stay in touch!



CantonOhio.gov

Canton City Council



Left to Right: Richard Sacco, Ward 8 (richard.sacco@cantonohio.gov); Robert L. Fisher, Ward 5 (robert.fisher@cantonohio.gov); J. Nate Cooks, Ward 6 (jonathan.cooks@cantonohio.gov); Darren Mayle, Ward 1 (darren.mayle@cantonohio.gov); Christine Smith, Ward 4 (christine.smith@cantonohio.gov); James Babcock, At-Large (james.babcock@cantonohio.gov); Louis Giavasis, Council President (louis.giavasis@cantonohio.gov); John Mariol, Ward 7 (john.mariol@cantonohio.gov); Brenda Kimbrough, Ward 2 (brenda.kimbrough@cantonohio.gov); Joe Cole, Council At-Large (joe.cole@cantonohio.gov); Jason Scaglione, Ward 3 (jason.scaglione@cantonohio.gov); Bill Smuckler, At-Large (bill.smuckler@cantonohio.gov)
Not pictured: Frank Morris, Ward 9 (frank.morris@cantonohio.gov)

A Connected Community is an Empowered Community



Christian Turner, Communications Director

Communication is one of the greatest tools we have in building a strong and connected community. The City of Canton is committed to keeping residents informed and making it easy to report issues in your neighborhood.

We want to hear from you, the good and the bad. If you have a neighborhood issue, tell us about it using SeeClickFix. SeeClickFix is our neighborhood issue reporting app that allows you to follow your submission every step of the way. We encourage you to report concerns such as potholes, damaged street signs, missed trash collection, and more. You can download the app in your smartphone's App Store or visit cantonohio.gov/seeclixfix.

Staying informed is just as important. Community members can sign up to receive mobile alerts from the City of Canton to stay up-to-date on important announcements, weather-related notices, road closures, and other community updates. Signing up only takes a moment at www.cantonohio.gov/alerts. Scan the QR code to visit.



An informed community is an empowered community, and staying connected helps us continue working together to move Canton forward.

MAYOR'S CORNER



William V. Sherer II

Canton's Greatest Asset is YOU!

One of the greatest joys of serving as mayor is connecting with the people who make Canton such a special place to call home. Our city's greatest asset isn't a building or a project, it's YOU.

I'm reminded of that every time I'm out in the community at events like First Friday, Juneteenth, neighborhood association meetings, and our many community festivals. These moments bring us together and showcase the pride residents have in our city. These times are a reminder that Canton's strength is in the relationships we've built and the sense of community we share.

Some of my favorite moments as mayor happen at ribbon cuttings for new businesses. Standing with entrepreneurs as they open their doors is inspiring. Behind every ribbon cutting is a story of hard work and resilience. These businesses not only create opportunity for the owners, but they bring energy and vibrance to our neighborhoods.

Another moment that never loses its meaning is attending Habitat for Humanity home dedications. Watching a family receive the keys to a home they worked so hard for is incredibly powerful. Homeownership provides stability and pride for our residents and it's an honor to celebrate with them.

I'm also so deeply grateful for the people who work behind the scenes every day to make sure our city operates smoothly. Our city employees work tirelessly to serve our residents, often in roles that don't receive the recognition they deserve. Their dedication keeps us safe, maintained, operating, and moving forward.

The same can be said for our nonprofit leaders across our city. These organizations do incredible work for our youth and families, often operating on a limited budget addressing our community's greatest needs. I'm grateful The City of Canton is able to support many of these organizations by providing funding through our Community Development Department. These partnerships are essential to strengthening our neighborhoods and ensuring that resources reach the people who truly need it.

Every day I am reminded that Canton's greatest asset is its people; the residents who care about our neighborhoods, the entrepreneurs who invest in our city, the nonprofit leaders who serve others, and the employees who keep our city running.

It is a privilege to serve this community and I look forward to connecting with more of you who are committed to moving this community forward.



Elaine Russell Reolfi, CEO CommQuest Services

When someone decides to enter addiction treatment, they are not just signing up for appointments or a program. They are taking a risk on hope. Many arrive carrying years of stigma, shame, and trauma – often on top of serious health, housing, or family challenges. Walking through the door can be one of the bravest steps a person ever takes.

That is why what happens next matters so much. The first faces they see, the first words they hear, and the first questions they are asked can either build trust or confirm their worst fears. Compassionate, trauma-responsive treatment recognizes that people are not their disease, and that their stories include far more than their substance use. It begins with dignity, respect, and the belief that everyone deserves a chance at recovery.

Addiction Is a Disease
Modern addiction treatment is grounded in a simple but powerful truth: substance use disorder is a chronic disease. Just as we would not blame someone for having asthma or diabetes, we should not blame someone for having an addiction or needing help.

Understanding addiction as a disease changes how care is delivered. Instead of asking, “What’s wrong with you?” providers ask, “What happened to you – and what support do you need right now?” This shift moves the focus from judgment to problem-solving. It also makes room for evidence-based tools such as medication-assisted treatment, counseling, peer support, and residential treatment as legitimate, medically sound responses to a serious health condition.

Seeing addiction as a disease also means recognizing that recovery is rarely a straight line. Relapse can be part of the process, not the end of the story. When treatment teams respond to setbacks with support rather than shame, people are more likely to stay engaged and try again.

Trauma-Responsive Care: Safety First
Many people who enter treatment have experienced trauma – childhood adversity, violence, unstable housing, grief, or the ongoing stress of poverty and discrimination. Trauma can change how the brain and body respond to stress, making substances feel like one of the few ways to cope.

Trauma-responsive care acknowledges this reality. It prioritizes safety, choice, and collaboration at every step. That can look like:

- Welcoming spaces that feel calm and non-threatening.
- Staff who introduce themselves, explain what will happen next, and ask permission before moving forward.
- Clear options, explained in plain language, so people can take an active role in their care.

Instead of asking people to “earn” respect, trauma-responsive programs offer it from the start. The message is: “You are safe here. Your experiences matter. We will work with you, not on you.”

Comprehensive Care: Treating the Whole Person
Substance use rarely exists in a vacuum. People entering treatment may also be living with depression or anxiety, chronic pain, infectious diseases, unsafe housing, unemployment, or strained family relationships. Effective treatment looks beyond a single diagnosis and considers the whole person. Most importantly, the American Society of Addiction Medicine is clear that every treatment plan is individualized in terms of level of care and length of time in each level.

Comprehensive care can include:

- Medical support: physical exams, medication-assisted treatment, and care for conditions like hepatitis C.
- Mental health services: counseling, psychiatric care, and support for anxiety, depression, or PTSD.
- Peer support: people with lived experience who offer encouragement, share resources, and model long-term recovery.
- Case management: help navigating housing, transportation, employment, benefits, and legal issues. That also can extend in to career counseling and supported employment.
- Family and social support: education and counseling for loved ones, support groups, and parenting resources.

When these services work together, treatment becomes more than “stopping use.” It becomes a path toward stability, health, and a renewed sense of purpose.

A Community That Meets People Where They Are
Harm reduction and treatment are sometimes seen as opposites, but in reality, they are parts of the same continuum of care. Harm reduction keeps people alive and connected until they are ready (or able) to take the next step. Treatment builds on that lifeline, offering structured support, healing, and long-term recovery.

Addiction does not just affect individuals; it affects families, workplaces, neighborhoods, and entire communities. The good news is that communities can also be part of the solution. When we support both harm reduction and treatment, we affirm that every life is worth saving and every person is worth investing in.

*Help is available today for the whole family.
Just walk into a CommQuest office in your community.
Visit www.commquest.org for more information.*

Amanda Archer, MPH • Health Commissioner, Canton City Public Health

If someone near you experienced an overdose, would you know how to respond? More importantly, would the tools to save a life be within reach?

Canton City Public Health is working to make sure the answer is YES!

We do that through a public health approach known as Harm Reduction, with the goal of equipping our community with the tools and knowledge to recognize risk, respond in an emergency, and ultimately save lives.

Harm reduction can sound unfamiliar, but the idea behind it is simple. It means recognizing that some people are already at risk and making sure they have the tools and support to stay alive and as healthy as possible – even if they are not ready or able to stop a behavior right now. It is grounded in dignity, compassion, and practical solutions. And all of this is done under one guiding principle: every life has value, and every person deserves the chance to be healthy and safe.

In many ways, we already use harm reduction every day without thinking about it. Seatbelts reduce injury if a crash occurs. Sunscreen protects skin when we spend time in the sun. Condoms reduce the spread of infections. In the same way, naloxone, syringe access, and overdose education reduce harm related to substance use. These tools don’t mean we want crashes, sunburns, or illness to happen; they simply acknowledge that risk exists and that reducing harm saves lives.

It’s also important to understand what harm reduction is not. It does not replace prevention efforts aimed at stopping substance use before it begins, especially among youth. It does not replace treatment programs that help people reduce or stop substance use through medical care and counseling. Instead, harm reduction works alongside these strategies. By keeping people alive and connected to services, it often becomes the bridge that leads someone to treatment and recovery. Research consistently shows that harm reduction does not increase drug use. What it does increase is survival, safety, and connection to care.

There is encouraging news. After years of heartbreaking increases, Stark County has begun to see a decrease in overdose deaths. Stark reported its highest number of unintentional overdose deaths in 2022 with 159, followed by 152 in 2023, and 105 in 2024. And preliminary data for 2025 show an even further decline. While substance use remains a serious challenge, these trends show that public health strategies, including expanded access to naloxone, education, and harm reduction services, are making a difference. Each number represents a person whose life was not lost, and a family that did not receive that devastating call.

Here in our own community, we see the impact of this work every day. CCPH’s KNOW Overdose Campaign helps residents understand how to recognize an overdose, reduce risk, and respond in an emergency. Clear, accurate information replaces fear and misinformation, empowering people to act quickly and confidently.

Through SWAP (Stark Wide Approach to Prevention), CCPH provides syringe access, safe disposal, naloxone, access to care and health education. Just as importantly, SWAP creates a connection point for individuals who may not trust or access traditional health care. From there, staff help connect participants to medical care, mental health support, substance use treatment, housing assistance, and other services. By reducing the spread of infectious diseases like HIV and hepatitis C and safely collecting used syringes, the program protects both individual health and community safety.

CCPH has also worked to make the medication that can reverse an opioid overdose (naloxone) easier than ever to access. Residents can request kits through Mail-Order Narcan, allowing them to receive lifesaving medication discreetly at home. Naloxone lobby boxes and emergency Naloxoboxes placed in community locations

provide another way for people to obtain kits quickly, anonymously and ensure they’re available in emergent situations. These tools mean that when seconds matter, someone nearby may be able to save a life before emergency services arrive.

We’ve also partnered with Canton Fire and Norton Trauma to provide free, life-saving training to community members every month that including Hands-Only CPR, Stop the Bleed training and Overdose Response. Book your spot now at Save a Life Saturday Booking Link. You’ll walk away with the skills and knowledge to be a community responder and save a life!

Harm reduction is not about giving up on people. It is about refusing to give up on them. It reduces death, prevents disease, and creates opportunities for recovery and stability. It supports families, reduces strain on emergency responders, and helps make neighborhoods safer.

Addressing substance use takes many approaches working together – prevention, treatment, recovery support, law enforcement, and harm reduction. In Canton, we all have a role to play. Public health works best when we work together. Whether you get trained to carry naloxone, support prevention with young people, encourage someone into treatment, or simply learn the facts about harm reduction, you are part of a community that values life, health, and compassion. When we use every tool available, we form a comprehensive response that meets people where they are while moving toward healthier outcomes for everyone.

For more information, please call CCPH Harm Reduction Manager: 330.489.3322. Local programs, overdose response, and community resources info can also be found by visiting CCPH’s resource page at Canton City Public Health Overdose Prevention and Mental Health Resources on Linktree or Stark Help Central. Together, we can continue to save lives and strengthen our community.

Centennial Plaza Substation: A Hub for Safety & Connection



Police Chief John Gabbard

Since the reimagining of the Kresge green space, Centennial Plaza has become Canton's most recognizable downtown attraction. Surrounded by downtown living, it serves as the venue for hundreds of events each year and has been part of a broader renaissance that includes the restoration of historic buildings like the Onesto, the establishment of a wide range of restaurants and bars, and investments by local businesses, foundations, and the City. Downtown events are vital to our community and our economy, and attendance continues to grow. I believe the heart of our city exists in our neighborhoods, but we also build community identity through the spaces we create to celebrate together. Centennial Plaza is a place to welcome our guests and our residents, to hold events and support our local businesses – and for these reasons and many more, it was the perfect location for our second police substation.

Presence is one of law enforcement's most foundational tools for preventing crime, maintaining order and increasing confidence that an area is safe. Numerous studies highlight the deterrent effect of visible police presence – particularly on disorder-related crime – and the positive impact it has on community perception. In 2025, Canton demonstrated its commitment to safety with the installation of Substation 2 on Court Avenue adjacent to Centennial Plaza. Today, the view from Market Avenue across the plaza's green turf is marked by the unmistakable announcement of police presence in bold blue capital letters.



Making the most of the substation location goes beyond presence. Proximity makes event security a natural fit and the building will serve as a command center for First Friday, Light Up Downtown, and other large events. Equally as important as the local is our staff assignments which will be made of Community Involvement Unit Officers.

As the county seat, Canton has multiple community resources downtown, and we intentionally assign personnel to take full advantage of those partnerships. This includes our Mental Health Officer and Homeless Liaison Officer, whose work focuses on connecting individuals to services rather than defaulting to the criminal justice system. The unit commander will also be based at Substation 2 and will oversee security for all downtown events. Most exciting is the return of bicycle patrols to Canton as a complement to our walking beat. While they will have the ability to ride throughout the neighborhoods, you will often see two Canton Bicycle Officers downtown checking on businesses and patrons and pedaling through events.

As staffing levels continue to grow, so will the presence at the downtown substation. It will function not only as an event command center but also as a regular meeting site for collaboration with professionals working in homeless outreach, transitional housing, mental health and addiction recovery. Officers specializing in community involvement, including liaisons, walking beat officers and bicycle patrol, will operate from this new hub.

As Chief of Police, I am extremely proud of our second community substation and the role it will play in strengthening both safety and connection in our city. I look forward to many meaningful conversations about the future of Canton and the incredible men and women who work every day to protect it.

WE BELIEVE IN CANTON

2026

FREE & OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY.

JUNE 3: CENTENNIAL PLAZA 3-5 PM
330 Court Ave NW, 44702

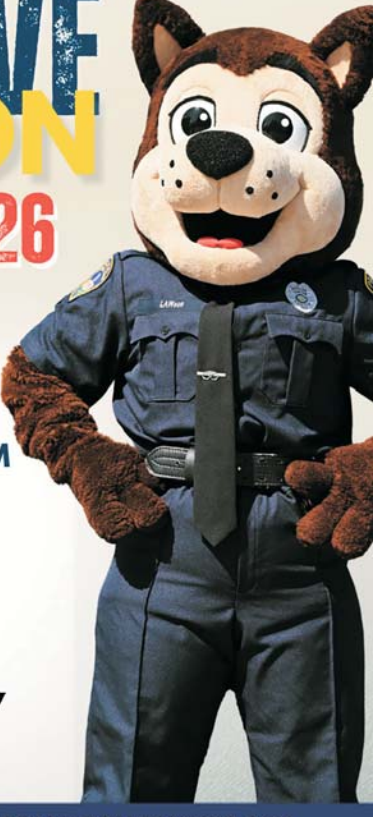
JUNE 17: HARMONT PARK 3-5 PM
2701 Harmont Ave NE, 44705

JULY 1: CRENSHAW PARK 3-5 PM
1500 Sherrick Rd SE, 44707

JULY 15: STADIUM PARK 3-5 PM
1200 Stadium Park Dr NW, 44707

JULY 29: GARAUX PARK 3-5 PM
3801 13th St SW, 44710

QUESTIONS? CONTACT LT. COATES AT [JOSHUA.COATES@CANTONOHIO.GOV](mailto:joshua.coates@cantonohio.gov).



Canton Fire Department's Save A Life Program

The Canton Fire Department is proud to offer a Save A Life program, a hands-on community training initiative designed to give residents the skills and confidence to act in an emergency, before first responders arrive.

In partnership with City Health Department and NORTN, we host a monthly Save a Life events at Fire Station 4 on the third Saturday of each month. These trainings are also available upon request for businesses, organizations, and community groups.



Fire Chief K. Akbar Bennett

Each Save a Life event provides practical, easy-to-learn instruction in: Hands-only CPR, Stop the Bleed bleeding control techniques, Overdose response training, including the use of naloxone

These skills can make a critical difference in cardiac emergencies, traumatic injuries, and overdose situations – helping save lives when seconds matter.

We recently completed a successful Save a Life event for Hall of Fame Village and we're looking forward to an upcoming training later this month for Hall of Fame staff. These partnerships reflect our ongoing commitment to expanding lifesaving knowledge throughout the Canton community.

The Canton Fire Department believes that informed, prepared citizens are a vital part of public safety. Whether at home, work, or in the community, knowing how to respond in an emergency can truly save a life.

For more information or to request a Save a Life training for your organization, please contact the City Health Department.

SAVE A LIFE

**3rd Saturday monthly
10am - 12pm**

FREE Training for Life Saving Skills

HANDS-ONLY
CPR

OVERDOSE
RESPONSE

STOP THE
BLEED

Partnered with:

REGISTER TODAY!

Reminder: Test your smoke alarms!

- Press and hold – you should hear a loud beep if it is good.
- Replace smoke alarms that are 10 years or older. Don't see a date on the back? Replace it.
- Put a smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside of bathrooms, near stairwells and on each floor of your home.



Message from Director Doug Foltz



Canton's parks are more than green spaces. They are places where families gather, children learn to play and compete, neighbors meet, and traditions continue from one generation to the next.

This past year marked an important moment for the future of our park system. Canton Parks and Recreation would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the residents of Canton for their support of the 4.5 mill replacement levy, which passed this past fall. This investment will provide increased funding beginning in 2027 and will allow us to continue maintaining and improving the parks, programs, and facilities that serve our community every day.

We also extend our thanks to Mayor Sherer, City Council, city staff, corporate partners, businesses, and volunteers who contributed their time and resources to help make the levy campaign successful. Their commitment reflects the shared belief that strong parks and recreation programs are essential to the quality of life in Canton.

As we look back on the past year, we also recognize the leadership of Canton Park Commission President JR Rinaldi and Vice President Fonda Williams, whose terms of service concluded in 2025. We thank them for their years of service and commitment to the Canton park system. We welcome our new members Tim Miller and Scott Russ, in joining Brandon Stokes as our Parks Commissioners.

Our community centers continue to serve as important hubs for neighborhood activity. The **Edward "Peel" Coleman Community Center** and the **J. Babe Stearn Community Center**, both supported through levy funding, provide a wide range of programs, events, and services that bring residents together and strengthen our neighborhoods.

INVESTING IN OUR PARKS

Over the past year, Canton Parks and Recreation completed a number of important improvements throughout the park system.

One of the most notable projects was the renovation

of the historic **Timken Gatehouse**, which helps preserve a piece of Canton's history while creating new opportunities for community use. Improvements also included the installation of a pedestrian bridge over the Waterworks Raceway, roadway repairs, and landscape improvements surrounding the site.

Infrastructure improvements continued across the system. Asphalt roadway work was completed leading to the Waterfall Gardens at the **Canton Garden Center**, while electrical service installations were completed at **Monument Park** and **Waterworks Park** to support future programming and seasonal displays.



Harmont Park

Several parks also received upgrades designed to improve accessibility and recreation opportunities for families. New pathways, play structures, and field improvements were completed at **Weis Park**, **Harmont Park**, and **Garaux Park**. We also added 118 shade and evergreen trees to **Weis Park**.

At **Nimisilla Park**, roadway and parking lot improvements were completed while crews uncovered a historic brick pathway, revealing another piece of the park's past. Additional facility repairs and improvements were made at the **Willig Field Complex** and **Stark Wayne Schrader Park**.

Efforts to enhance safety and highlight neighborhood history also continued through the Police in Parks program, which added history signage, pergolas, benches, and cameras at **Vassar Park**, **Maryland Park**, **Brian's Park**, and **King Park**.

PARKS IN ACTION

Over the past year, more than 40 public events were hosted across the park system, welcoming over 58,000 participants. These events included festivals, seasonal celebrations, community gatherings, and family activities that help make Canton's parks vibrant public spaces.

Community spaces also remained in high demand.

A total of 1,012 shelter and community room rentals served more than 50,600 residents and visitors throughout the year.

Athletics remain a strong part of the Canton parks experience. Baseball, softball, shuffleboard, basketball, bocce, disc golf, tennis, and pickleball hosted 76 tournaments, bringing 12,524 participants to Canton's parks and facilities.

League play also continued to grow. Canton Parks and Recreation hosted 27 youth and adult leagues, made up of 188 teams and 1,792 players, while 1,868 field and court reservations served more than 37,000 participants.

OUR GOALS FOR 2026

As we look ahead, Canton Parks and Recreation will continue investing in park improvements that expand recreational opportunities and enhance neighborhood spaces.

Major projects planned for the coming year include the installation of a Challenger obstacle course, new swings, a saucer swing, and stone waterfall improvements in **Stadium Park**.

Additional improvements will bring new lighting, pathway paving, and expanded holiday displays to **Monument Park**, along with new entrance signage and holiday lighting at Waterworks Park.

Other projects will focus on enhancing neighborhood parks throughout the city. Planned improvements include new structures and lighting at **Weis Park**, a variety of recreation and accessibility upgrades at **Crenshaw Park** through a partnership with the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority, and infrastructure improvements at Nimisilla Park.

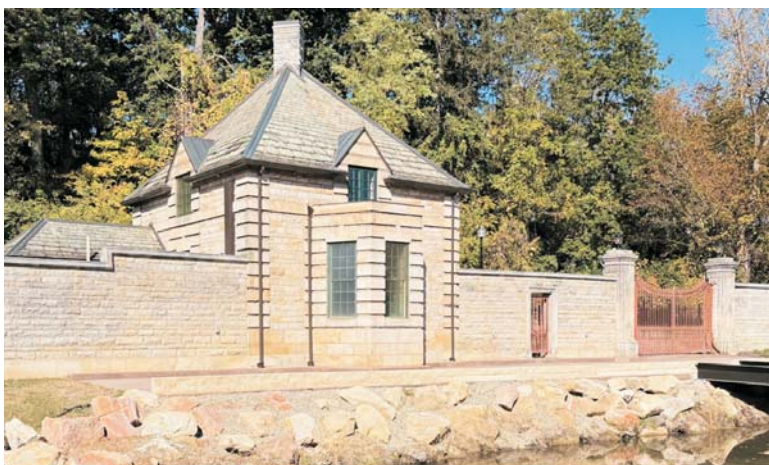
Additional upgrades are planned at **Mother Goose Park**, **Preston Young Mini Park**, and **Westbrook Park** to improve play areas and recreational amenities for families.

The **Canton Garden Center** remains open year-round for visitors to enjoy the beautiful gardens maintained by our dedicated garden clubs. The Canton Parks and Recreation administrative offices are located on the second floor of the Garden Center.

As the warm weather arrives, we look forward to welcoming you to the parks

*Thank you,
Doug Foltz*

Standing the Test of Time: The Timken Gatehouse Returns



Built in 1911, the Timken Mansion Gatehouse became home to several families who cared for the grounds while working for the Timken family and later as employees of Timken Mercy Hospital. The Gatehouse provided the eastern entrance to the Timken Mansion and eventually became part of the hospital campus, serving as administrative offices and a chapel.

Improvements to this Canton landmark enhance the beauty of Stadium Park while preserving the history of the Timken family and their generous donations of park land, swimming pools, and other gifts to the City of Canton.

Renovations include two restrooms, a furnished kitchen area, and a small meeting space. Concrete patio areas

on both sides of the historic stone walls will provide seating for up to 60 people, complemented by landscaped grounds. A pedestrian bridge over the Water Works raceway was completed this past fall to improve access.

The Gatehouse will be available for small weddings, receptions, family gatherings, wellness programs in partnership with Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital, and food truck and dining opportunities.

We are hosting a dedication of the Timken Gatehouse on April 30, along with a weekend community walk later this year. We invite the entire community out to bring their family and friends to enjoy our very special piece of history.





Parks and Recreation Guide

cantonparksandrec.com

The Canton Parks System consists of more than 59 individual parks situated on 800 acres of land. Our parks offer a variety of features including: passive nature areas, walking and biking trails, playgrounds, tennis courts, bocce ball, sand volleyball courts and a wide selection of athletic facilities to enjoy.

- Tennis Courts
- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Soccer Fields
- Volleyball Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Pickleball Courts
- Bocce Ball
- Skate Park
- Dog Park
- Spray Park
- Shuffleboard
- Pavilion
- Playground
- Chess
- Restrooms
- Disc Golf
- Walking Trail
- Fishing
- ADA Accessible

CANTON PARK AMENITIES

Arboretum Park 3220 38th St. NW, 44718								Mother Goose Land 501 Schroyer Ave SW, 44714								
Bernard Ave Playground 4102 Bernard Ave NW, 44709								Nimissilla Park 1075 O'Jay's Parkway NE 44705								
Bors Field 2665 Harrisburg Road, 44705								Oak Park 3600 St. Elmo Ave NE, 44714								
Brian's Park 1500 Rowland Ave NE, 44705								Reifsnnyder Park 1855 Spangler Rd NW, 44714								
Bup Rearick 3500 Ellis Ave, 44705								Reiter Park 1435 Cherry Ave SE, 44707								
Cook Park 1836 Mahoning Rd NE, 44705								Roshong Park 3400 Harvard Ave NW, 44709								
Crenshaw Park 1400 Sherrick Rd SE, 44707								Schreiber Park 2500 Maple Ave NE, 44714								
Dougherty Nature Preserve 4422 Lesh St NE, 44705								Spiker Park 3300 Westmoreland Blvd NW, 44718								
Garaux Park 3801 13th St SW, 44710								Stadium Park 1200-2500 Stadium Park Dr NW, 44718								
Harmont Park 2710 Harmont Ave NE, 44705								Stark-Wayne Schrader Playground 1801 Stark Ave SW, 44706								
Ink Park 2523-3753 Park Dr NW, 44718								Vassar Hill Park 1711 Vassar Ave NW, 44703								
King Park 600 High Ave NW, 44703								Waterworks Park Washington Blvd NW, 44708								
Lawrence Park 4300 Aurora St NW, 44708								Weis Park 2600 Harvard Ave NW, 44708								
Lee Park 1615 Fourth St SE, 44707								E.J. Welch Park 1041 25th St NW, 44709								
Mallonn Park 527 Raff Rd W, 44708								West Park 525-839 Schroyer Ave SW, 44707								
Martindale Park 4001 Martindale Rd NE, 44705								Westbrook Veterans Memorial 1235 Harrison Ave NW, 44708								
Maryland Park 1401 Maryland Ave SW, 44710								Willig Softball Complex 2300 30th St NE, 44705								
Meyer's Park 201 Park Ave SW, 44708																
Monument Park 700-1150 Monument Park Rd, 44708																

For a full list of parks, mini parks, and boulevards maintained by Canton Parks staff, visit www.cantonparksandrec.com/parks.

Shelter Information

Canton Parks and Recreation offers 25 outdoor shelters, perfect for gatherings, picnics, and special events. Shelters are available in our parks throughout the city, providing picnic tables, grills, and scenic surroundings for an enjoyable outdoor experience. Rentals are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and reservations are required to secure your preferred date and location. Fees vary depending on the shelter size and amenities, with both half-day and full-day rental options.

To reserve a shelter, visit our website or call the main office. Payment is required at the time of booking, and renters must follow all park rules and regulations. Shelters are available for use from spring through fall, with specific dates depending on weather conditions. Some locations may offer electricity, restrooms, playground, and spray park access, so check individual park details before booking.

OUTDOOR SHELTERS
\$50 for Canton City Residents
\$60 for Non-residents

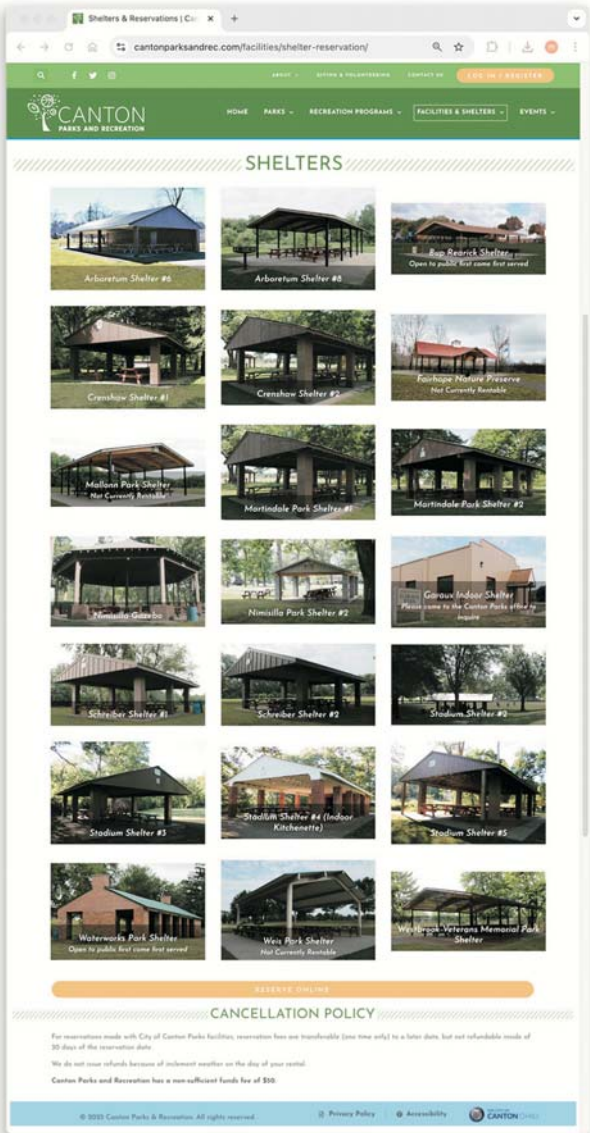
OUTDOOR SHELTERS WITH KITCHENETTES
\$75 for Canton City Residents
\$85 for Non-residents

INDOOR FACILITIES, GARAUX SHELTER
\$225 for Canton City Residents
\$275 for Non-residents.
Resident Holiday Rate: \$275
Non-resident Holiday Rate: \$325

CANTON GARDEN CENTER
1615 Stadium Park Dr, 44718
(6 Hour Rental)
\$225 for Monday-Thursday
\$400 Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Each additional hour: \$65/hour

CANTON GARDEN CENTER OUTDOOR ZONES
\$65/hour (Minimum 2 hours)

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Spray Parks

Canton Parks and Recreation offers four spray parks throughout the city providing free, family-friendly water fun during the summer months. These spray parks are open daily from noon to 8 p.m., typically from Memorial Day through Labor Day. (Weather depending)

Wayne Douglas Jamerson Spray Park
Edward “Peel” Coleman Community Center, 1400 Sherrick Rd. SE
Two play areas with water features shaped like sports equipment, including football uprights, a soccer ball, a baseball bat, and a glove. The park is fenced for safety.

Weis Splash Pad
Weis Park, 2600 Harvard Ave NW
A newly added splash pad complementing existing amenities like a playground, tennis courts, sand volleyball, shuffleboard, and bocce.

Garaux Splash Pad
Garaux Park, 3801 13th St. SW
A recently completed splash pad providing water play opportunities for children.

Harmont Spray Park
Harmont Park, 2700 Harmont Ave NE
A neighborhood spray park with various water features.

Park Clean-Ups: Individual and Group Volunteers

With more than 700 acres of parkland, Canton Parks and Recreation is continually working to keep our parks clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone. We would love your help in making an impact.

Many individuals, families, and community groups volunteer to organize park cleanups throughout the year. To support these efforts, we provide trash bags, disposable gloves, and litter pickers for volunteers on a mutually agreed-upon date that does not conflict with scheduled park events.

If you are interested in organizing a park cleanup, please contact our office at cantonparks@cantonparksandrec.com or call 330-456-4521 to get started. Together, we can help keep our parks beautiful for the entire community.

Adopt a Park

The beauty of our parks is not maintained by staff alone. Dedicated volunteer organizations throughout the community play a vital role in keeping these spaces clean, welcoming, and well cared for through regular cleanups and beautification efforts.

Their time and commitment help ensure that Canton’s parks remain places where families gather, children play, and neighbors connect.

If your organization is interested in adopting a park and becoming part of this effort, please contact the Canton Parks and Recreation office today.

Brick Program

Each year, new bricks are added to the walkway at Stark County Veterans Memorial Park in Westbrook Park, creating a lasting tribute to the men and women who have served our country.

Family members, friends, and community members have the opportunity to honor a veteran by placing a commemorative brick at the memorial. Each brick tells a story of service and sacrifice while helping preserve the legacy of those who served.

The deadline to place an order is September 1, and the bricks are installed each year in time for Veterans Day.

Bricks can be ordered by submitting payment with the brick order form, or you may reserve a brick in the office and pay with cash, check, or credit card. Brick order forms are available on our website.

PADDLE RUN SIP



Parks and Recreation Guide

cantonparksandrec.com

ADULT RECREATION PROGRAMS

Adult Sand Volleyball (Spring/Summer) Age: 18+
Whether you're a seasoned player or looking to have fun and stay active, this league offers competitive and recreational divisions to match your skill level.
Dates: Mid May-July
Leagues: Coed 6's Tue | Coed 2's | Women's 4's Wed | Coed 6's Thu | Coed 4's Thu
Times: 6:15, 7:15, 8:15 or 9:15
Location: Weis Park Sand Volleyball Courts
Cost: 6's: \$150 | 4's: \$120 | 2's: \$90
Registration opens in Rec Desk on March 1



Adult Sand Volleyball (Fall) Age: 18+
This coed league starts in August and runs roughly through the beginning of October.
Dates: late August - early October
League: Coed 6's Wednesdays
Times: Wednesdays 6:15, 7:15, 8:15 or 9:15
Location: Weis Park Sand Volleyball Courts
Cost: \$75 per team
Registration opens in Rec Desk on July 1



Adult Slow Pitch Softball | Age: 18+
Canton Parks and Recreation offers one of the largest varied leagues of competition for men and women in Stark County throughout the year.

Spring/Summer Season
Dates: This program begins May - July (7 weeks of double headers + playoffs)
Leagues: Mens | Womens | Coed
Times: 6:30/7:30 DH or 8:30/9:30 (specifics will depend on how many teams)
Location: Willig Park Complex
Cost: \$575 per team
Registration opens in Rec Desk on April 1

Fall Season
Season: This program runs from Late Aug - Mid October
(5 wks of doubleheaders + playoffs)
Leagues: 43+over | Coed | Mens
Time: 6:30/7:30/8:30/9:30
Location: Willig Park Complex
Cost: \$475 per team
Registration opens in Rec Desk on July 1

YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAMS

Youth Fall Baseball | Age: 8u | 10u | 12u | 14u
Sharpen your skills, build confidence, and learn the techniques of the game in our baseball program for ages 7-14 focusing on teamwork and fundamentals.
Season: Late August through Mid October.
Gender: Male + Female
Days + Time: Schedule will vary Monday through Saturday.
Location: Various Youth Fields
Cost: Returning Resident \$50, Returning Non-Resident \$60. New Player Resident \$75, New Player Non-Resident \$90. Deadline August 1. Fees cover uniforms and umpire fees.
Registration opens in Rec Desk on June 1



Youth NFL Flag | Age: 6u | 8u | 10u | 12u
NFL Flag football is a community based flag football program promoting fun and teamwork.
Season: August through mid-October
Gender: Male + Female
Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-8
Location: ForeverLawn Sports Complex
Cost: Residents \$65, Non-residents \$85 (CCSD students will receive a discount)
Deadline August 1
Registration opens in Rec Desk on May 1



GIRLS Youth NFL Flag | Age: 6u | 8u | 10u | 12u
Join the fast-growing sport of NFL Girls Flag Football! This league provides a fun, competitive, and empowering environment where girls can develop their skills, build teamwork, and experience the excitement of football.
Season: August through mid-October
Gender: Female
Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-8
Location: ForeverLawn Sports Complex
Cost: Residents \$65, Non-residents \$85 (CCSD students will receive a discount)
Deadline August 1
Registration opens in Rec Desk on May 1



Youth Tennis Lessons | Age: 5-18 (separated by age group)
This program is designed to be the perfect blend of fun-filled learning, skill improvement, and match play. Racquets and balls provided.
Dates: Session #1: June 1-June 25 | Session #2: June 29-July 30 (no lessons July 20-24). Each session offers Mon+Wed or Tue+Thur lesson options.
Gender: Male & Female
Time: Monday + Wednesday Sessions OR Tuesday + Thursday Sessions between 9a-12p
Location: Weis Park Tennis Courts
Cost: \$25 Resident | \$35 Non-Resident
Registration opens in Rec Desk on May 1

Youth Tennis Tournament | Age: 9- 18 (separated by age group)
This tournament offers Junior Open events for both boys and girls in singles and doubles 10U through 18U.
Date: July 21-25
Gender: Male & Female
Time: Monday-Friday 8a-3p
Location: Weis Park Tennis Court
Cost: \$15 Resident | \$20 Non-Resident
Registration opens in Rec Desk on May 1

Youth Softball | Age: 5- 14 (separated by age group)
Recreational girls softball league focusing on fundamental skills and teamwork.
Gender: Female
Time: Varies by team
Location: Varies by team
Cost: \$50 Early Bird Resident | \$65 Early Bird Non-Resident and \$60 Resident | \$75 Non-Resident
Registration opens in Rec Desk on December 1

- 6u & 8u Division: April 1-June 14
- 10u Division: April 1-June 21
- 12u Division: April 1-June 30
- 14u Division: May 1-July 31



View all of our programs online!



Parks and Recreation Guide

cantonparksandrec.com

EDWARD "PEEL" COLEMAN COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAMS



Spring Break Glow Party

Celebrate Spring Break with a fun-filled glow party featuring music, food, games, glow activities, and social time with friends in a safe and exciting environment. This event encourages positive social interaction and recreational engagement for youth.
Grades: K-6
Day(s): April 3rd
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Cost: \$5
Location: Edward Peel Coleman Community Center
Registration Date: Opens March 1st

Drop-In After School Enrichment

A supervised after-school support program that provides youth with a safe and welcoming environment to complete homework, participate in structured daily activities, and enjoy recreational time. Participants have access to the rec room, computer room, art room, and gymnasium. Activities are coordinated by the Youth Development Coordinator, Ms. Precious, and are designed to promote learning, social development, and positive engagement.
Grades: 1-12
Day(s): Monday - Thursday (During the school-year)
Time: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Cost: Free (Membership required)
Location: Edward Peel Coleman Community Center
Registration Date: Ongoing

Adult Basketball Open Runs

Open gym basketball runs for adults looking to stay active, improve skills, and enjoy friendly competition in a structured and supervised environment.
Registration Date: Not Required
Ages: 18 & Up
Day(s): Wednesday & Friday
Time: 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Cost: Free (Membership required)
Location: Court 1 at Edward Peel Coleman Community Center
Registration Date: Ongoing

Middle School Girls Basketball Open Runs

Open gym basketball opportunity for middle school girls to develop skills, build teamwork, and participate in recreational play in a positive environment.
Grades: 6-8
Day(s): Wednesday
Time: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Cost: Free (Membership required)
Location: Court 3 at Edward Peel Coleman Community Center
Registration Date: Ongoing

Middle School Boys Basketball Open Runs

Open gym basketball opportunity for middle school boys to practice skills, engage in competitive play, and build teamwork in a supervised setting.
Grades: 6-8
Day(s): Wednesday
Time: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Cost: Free (Membership required)
Location: Court 3 at Edward Peel Coleman Community Center
Registration Date: Ongoing

High School Girls Basketball Open Runs

Open gym basketball opportunity for high school girls to enhance skill development, conditioning, and team play in a recreational environment.
Grades: 9-12
Day(s): Monday
Time: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Cost: Free (Membership required)
Location: Court 3 at Edward Peel Coleman Community Center
Registration Date: Ongoing

High School Boys Basketball Open Runs

Open gym basketball opportunity for high school boys to develop basketball fundamentals, participate in competitive play, and stay physically active.
Grades: 9-12
Day(s): Monday
Time: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Cost: Free (Membership required)
Location: Court 3 at Edward Peel Coleman Community Center
Registration Date: Ongoing

Monthly Movie Night

A fun, family-friendly movie night open to the community with snacks and refreshments.
Day(s): Every 2nd Monday of each month (Spring Session: March 9th, April 13th, May 11th)
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Location: Edward Peel Coleman Community Center
Cost: Free
Registration Date: Ongoing

Monthly Art Project

A creative, hands-on art program where youth explore different artistic techniques and complete themed seasonal projects. Participants will build creativity, self-expression, and artistic skills while working in a supportive and engaging environment.
Grades: K-6
Day(s): 4th Wednesday of Each Month (Spring Session: March 25th, April 22nd, May 27th)
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Cost: Free (Membership required)
Location: Edward Peel Coleman Community Center
Registration Date: Ongoing

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1st

SPEND YOUR SUMMER AT CAMP



Join us for 8 weeks of summer camp starting June 8-July 31. Monday-Friday from 9-3.

Camp EP3C



- Located at the Edward "Peel" Coleman Center. Packed with games, arts programming, and loads of fun.
- Weekly swimming, field trips, and a reading program with the Stark County Library.
- FREE for Canton residents. Breakfast and lunch provided by CCSD.

Camp Weis



- Outdoor adventure camp at Weis Park
- Active games and activities across the park plus weekly swimming and field trips
- \$500 for residents, \$600 for non-residents. Breakfast and lunch provided by CCSD.



Register at cantonparksandrec.recdesk.com/Community/Program.





Parks and Recreation Guide

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Sweat Now, Wine Later Adventure Race

An unforgettable adventure that starts on Nimishillen Creek and ends at Gervasi Vineyard. Participants will start at Martindale Park and kayak 1.5 miles to the Middlebranch Trailhead at Spangler Ave, NE. Once ashore, the journey will continue with a 2.5 mile run or walk to Gervasi Vineyard. At the finish line, we will celebrate with a pour of wine or a strawberry sage lemonade. Don't miss this unique race experience combining nature, fitness, and fun!

Date: May 9

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Location: Martindale Park to Gervasi Vineyard

\$65.00 Registration through March 31st

\$75.00 Registration through April 26th



Summer Serenades

Enjoy the spontaneous sounds of nature with the orchestrated sounds of music! Summer Serenades is a family-friendly series of instrumental ensembles performing all over Stark County. Bring your chair or blanket and listen to the incredible music of the Canton Symphony Orchestra! In partnership with the Canton Symphony Orchestra and Stark Parks.

Date: Thursday, September 9

Time: 6:30-7:30 PM

Location: The Canton Garden Center, McKinley Room (Rain Location)

Cost: Free & Open to the Public

Garden Club Children's Programming

The Children's Garden, managed by the Canton Garden Center Children's Garden Committee, provides educational gardening programs for children ages four to eight. These hands-on experiences encourage a love for gardening and nature while fostering creativity and curiosity.

Each session includes a song, an educational story, a hands-on activity or craft, and a snack related to the day's theme. Programs take place rain or shine at the Canton Garden Center, offering children a unique and interactive way to explore nature.

Dates: June 10, June 17, July 8, and July 15

Times: 9:45-11:00 AM

Location: Canton Garden Center at 1615 Stadium Park Dr. NW

Cost: Free & Open to the Public

Registration opens in Rec Desk: March 1

Fishing Derby: Join us for a fun morning of fishing and prizes. Three divisions for fun for all ages; 4-8, 9-12, 13-15. Prizes for Winner & Runner-Up in each age group. This event is provided in collaboration with our partners at Stark County Federation of Conservation Clubs and Berkley Fishing of Ohio.

**Fishing poles provided.*

Date: Saturday, May 16 • Time: 8:00-11:00 AM

Location: Westbrook Park Shelter

Cost: Free & Open to the Public

Registration Opens in RecDesk on March 1. Deadline May 16.



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programs online!*

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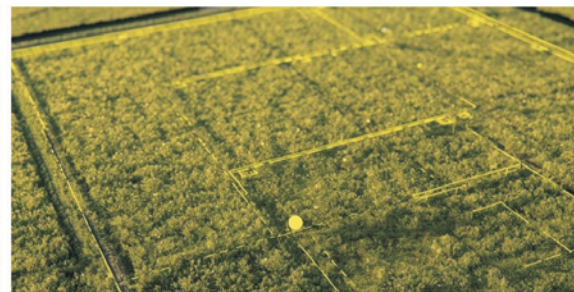
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Donn Angus,
Director of
Planning & Zoning

Celebrating Canton and America 250

America 250–Ohio is a multi-year, statewide celebration commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. This historic initiative places Ohioans from all 88 counties in the spotlight, recognizing the state’s unique and influential role in shaping our nation’s story. The program’s mission is to honor, recognize, celebrate, and elevate Ohio’s indispensable contributions to America’s past, present, and future—ensuring that local stories are woven into the broader national narrative.

In 2025, the Department of Planning proudly became a designated America 250–Ohio Community. This important designation allows Canton to access exclusive resources, grant opportunities, and statewide recognition while actively participating in the America 250–Ohio celebration. As a community with deep historical roots and national significance, Canton is well positioned to share stories that reflect both local pride and national impact.

That same year, the City of Canton was awarded two America 250–Ohio-related grants to support projects that highlight the city’s history and contributions to the nation. The first was a grant to produce a video showcasing lesser-known stories from Canton’s past. This project was completed in partnership with the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum and the Downtown Canton Partnership, and it brings fresh perspective to the people, places, and moments that have shaped Canton’s legacy.

The City also received a \$20,000 Stark Stories: America 250 Grant. Funding from this grant will support a portion of the Reimagining Court Avenue project, which will feature notable artists and entertainers who have contributed to Canton’s vibrant arts and culture scene. This initiative reinforces the city’s long-standing creative influence and celebrates the individuals who helped define Canton’s cultural identity.

In addition, the City of Canton has launched a Downtown Canton Banner Program. This program uses thoughtfully designed banners on city light poles to enhance the streetscape and create a welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. Designed by the Department of Planning, the banner schedule will include special designs highlighting the community during the America 250 celebration.

Together, these initiatives ensure that Canton’s story is proudly told as part of Ohio’s—and America’s—250th anniversary celebration.

Beautifying Canton’s Neighborhoods

The City of Canton’s “Beautify A Neighborhood” (BAN) litter program is the way we acknowledge alleviating trash and litter within our community is a shared responsibility. Acknowledging that the we cannot alleviate trash and litter problems on our own, we utilize the BAN program to partner with residents and neighborhood groups to solve the problem together.



The BAN program offers community groups the opportunity to partner with the city to clean up streets one neighborhood at a time. By doing this work as a partnership, all involved learn the benefit of working together to achieve the shared goal of beautifying our neighborhoods. BAN days aren’t for cleaning out private residential garages, attics, etc., but rather to clean up vacant, abandoned properties, spruce up neighborhoods, and make roadways and sidewalks more appealing.

Each year we set aside various Saturdays from April to October for BAN cleanups. Any individual or organization within the City of Canton can apply to participate. Applying does not guarantee approval, however, we do our best to accommodate all applicants. If your application is not approved for an official BAN date, the Health Department has resources to help community groups do neighborhood cleanups at any time.

For more information, visit
cantonohio.gov/BAN or
scan the QR code.



Investing in Canton’s Roadways

John Highman, Director of Public Service



The 2008 financial crisis was a difficult time for many Americans and communities, and unfortunately, it was especially hard on Canton’s roadway system. With the exception of a few grant-funded projects along major corridors, the City was not in a position to make the level of investment needed to maintain its approximately 1,100 lane miles of roadway.

That reality is reflected in 2009, when Canton’s total roadway investment fell to approximately \$1.3 million. Adjusted for inflation, that equals to about \$2 million in 2026 dollars. While that may sound like a significant amount to the average person, in roadway terms it is grossly inadequate. For perspective, it costs about \$150,000 to pave a typical two-lane road, not including base repair and other work that is often necessary.

Fortunately, the tide began to turn in the mid-2010s, and by the end of the decade Canton was able to oversee a roadway investment program approaching \$10 million. By then, however, the damage had already been done, and the City was facing a significant backlog of needed repairs.

Fast forward to 2026, and Canton has averaged more than \$15 million annually in resurfacing expenditures under the Sherer administration, with the support of Canton City Council, when all funding sources, including grants, are considered. While there is still more work to do, we are now in a position to say with confidence that we are making progress and addressing issues rooted in decisions and circumstances from nearly two decades ago.

One of the ways we make improvements is investing in our in-house capabilities of repairing roads. Our Public Works Department is able to take on smaller jobs outside of our yearly contracted work. This keeps costs down for taxpayers and allows us to pave longer into the fall season.

We have also changed the way we communicate surrounding each year’s paving schedule. We’ve created www.cantonohio.gov/paving where the community can view each year’s total investment as well as a GIS map for residents to view each season’s work. The 2026 information will be updated as it becomes available.

By sharing these numbers, we want residents to see that Canton is making real, measurable investments in our roads.

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Housing as Infrastructure: How Canton for All People's work Strengthens Neighborhoods and Expands Opportunity

Don Ackerman, Executive Director Canton for All People



When we talk about infrastructure, what comes to mind are: roads, bridges, water lines, and transit systems. But the most important infrastructure in any city is not concrete or steel. It is people. Without stable families, a reliable workforce, and neighborhoods where residents can put down roots, even the best-built physical infrastructure falls short. Last November the City of Columbus recently affirmed this by passing a historic \$1.9 billion bond package for public infrastructure investments that included \$500 million for affordable housing, placing housing on equal footing with roads, utilities, and transit. Columbus recognized a fundamental truth: cities cannot thrive without investing in the people who power them.

Across the country and especially in smaller cities like Canton, the lack of affordable, high-quality housing has become a quiet but powerful constraint on opportunity. When families are cost-burdened or forced into frequent moves, their ability to work, learn, and stay connected to their community diminishes. Over time, this instability erodes a city's most valuable asset—its residents. Young talent leaves, employers struggle to fill jobs, and neighborhoods experience disinvestment.

Canton for All People approaches housing as long-term infrastructure designed to reverse these trends. Since 2022, we have worked to bring 88 high quality affordable housing units both for rent and as homeownership opportunities. In 2026, we will construct 25 new homes within the City of Canton, each paired with \$60,000 in down payment assistance for the homebuyer as well as begin construction on another 38 units of workforce rental units. This level of investment is intentional. By reducing the upfront cost of homeownership and rent, families are able to purchase safe, high-quality homes while retaining financial stability.

These homes are not viewed as one-time transactions, but as anchors—supporting families, strengthening blocks, and encouraging long-term neighborhood commitment.

We believe these homes are investments not only in individual households, but in the neighborhoods and communities that surround them. Stable households contribute to safer streets, stronger schools, and increased civic engagement. Over time, these investments help stabilize property values, reduce vacancy, and attract additional public and private reinvestment. Much like roads or utilities, housing creates the conditions for sustained economic activity and community health.

This infrastructure mindset extends beyond housing alone. Canton for All People has intentionally recirculated earned revenues from housing and community operations and leveraged additional philanthropic, public, and private capital to help create a childcare and early learning center for neighborhood families. Reliable childcare is essential infrastructure for working parents. Without it, employment becomes unstable and children miss critical early developmental opportunities. By integrating housing and childcare, the organization reinforces the systems that keep families rooted and neighborhoods resilient.

Most importantly, stable housing and strong neighborhoods also help cities retain the talent they work so hard to create. In her book *Reclaiming Your Community*, Majora Carter emphasizes the point that: “*Nobody should have to move out of their neighborhood to live in a better one.*” She frames holistic development as akin to corporate talent-retention strategy, arguing that communities should foster the conditions that make people

want to stay – just as companies work to keep their best employees. She says communities must build infrastructure and opportunities so that residents see *their own neighborhoods* as places worth investing in and staying in, rather than places they must “get out of” to achieve success. High-quality, affordable homes—paired with family-supporting infrastructure like childcare—make it possible for teachers, healthcare workers, tradespeople, and young professionals to stay, build wealth, and contribute locally. Retaining talent is not only an economic strategy; it is essential to long-term community vitality.

Lastly, it is our conviction that in spite of the challenges that face Canton, often set in motion long before we felt the effects, we do not have to settle for strategies that simply manage the consequences of our community's decline. We can begin making investments now that current and future generations will benefit from long after our days are gone. Investments in any neighborhood's housing stock is one of the gifts we can give not just to families now but to the future residents of our community. For evidence of this, look no further than any of the dozens of 100+ year old homes we have rehabilitated and were grateful for the labor and craftsmanship that built them in the early 1900s.

Our approach reflects a growing recognition nationwide that housing belongs alongside traditional infrastructure investments. Housing, childcare, streets, sidewalks, utilities, and people are inseparable pieces of the same system. By treating them as essential infrastructure, Canton for All People is helping build neighborhoods where families can stay, grow, and thrive, creating long-term returns for individuals, communities, and the city as a whole.

A Stronger Canton Starts with Home

Beth Lechner, CEO Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio

Canton has been at the heart of Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio's work for nearly four decades. And in that time, the organization has helped hundreds of families build a future on the foundation of a home they can call their own, right here in our city.

Affordable homeownership is increasingly out of reach for working families across the country, and Stark County is no exception. Habitat for Humanity partners with these families, people who are the backbone of our local workforce in healthcare, manufacturing, education, and the trades. They keep this community running while working hard to make ends meet, and without more affordable housing options, too many will remain priced out of the dream of homeownership.



In Canton, Habitat has built 386 new homes and preserved 105 homes. With increased local focus in the past couple of years alone, Canton saw 40 new Habitat homes, 21 home preservation projects, 49 home repairs, and 16 demolitions, with nearly 4,600 volunteers from businesses, organizations, churches, schools, and neighborhoods across the city showing up to do the work. Habitat's local investment goes beyond housing: home repairs that help residents age in place safely, pocket parks that create gathering space, removal of blighted structures, and neighborhood cleanup and beautification efforts that instill a sense of community pride.

What makes Habitat's approach fundamentally different is the organization's belief that how they build is as important as what they build. We don't give homes away. Families who partner with Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio purchase their home with an affordable, 0% interest mortgage, making homeownership accessible in a way the traditional market simply cannot. As part of their partnership with Habitat, families invest hundreds of hours completing an extensive education series covering budgeting, saving, debt and credit, home maintenance and repair, insurance, estate planning, and long-term wealth-building. They work shoulder to shoulder with volunteers, future neighbors, and other families walking the same road toward stability and opportunity. Habitat for Humanity is not charity, but empowerment and partnership, built on the belief that every family deserves the dignity of investing in their own future.

The difference Habitat's model creates for families is remarkable. In 2024, the average monthly mortgage payment for a Habitat for Humanity homeowner in East Central Ohio was \$600, compared to monthly rental costs of \$1,500 or more on the open market. A 2025 survey of local Habitat homeowners, conducted in partnership with Walsh University's Blouin Scholars Program, tells more of the story: government aid usage among surveyed families dropped from 82% before homeownership to less than 20% after, more than a 62% reduction. Of those still receiving assistance, the majority are families whose children with special needs qualify for Medicaid. Meanwhile, families overwhelmingly reported greater financial stability, improved quality of life, and even said they would go through the Habitat partnership all over again.

Habitat's economic impact in Canton extends well beyond the families they



serve. The organization supports hundreds of local jobs through suppliers, subcontractors, and vendors while working directly with more than 200 local companies. Every home built puts dollars back into the local economy, while properties that once sat vacant or blighted, become occupied homes owned by families who are invested in their neighborhoods for the long term.

Affordable homeownership strengthens families. Stronger families strengthen neighborhoods. And stronger neighborhoods build a stronger Canton. And it's all possible through the power of partnership. Projects like the Southeast Community Playground in Southeast Canton, built through collaboration between Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio, the City of Canton, and Canton City School District, are a shining example of what can be accomplished when institutions and individuals are willing to do the work together. Mayor Sherer has made that kind of collaboration a priority across Canton, focusing especially on infrastructure in neighborhoods where affordable housing is taking shape, fostering collaboration across City departments, and creating the conditions for affordable homeownership to take root. Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio's continued investment in Canton's neighborhoods is a key part of that equation. Every new home built, every property preserved, and every new homeowner creates ripple effects that extend well beyond the families Habitat serves, strengthening property values, neighborhood stability, and the local housing market as a whole.

A stronger Canton starts with home. Adequately addressing the local affordable housing shortage will take all of us, but Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio has proven that when this community shows up together, Canton gets stronger.

To learn more about Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio or to get involved, visit habitateco.org.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

PRO FOOTBALL HOF RIBS BURN OFF
Stadium Park Parking Lot
May 22-24

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
Downtown to McKinley Monument
Monday May 25

VINTAGE CANTON
Canton Civic Center
Friday, May 29

STARK PRIDE
Saturday June 13
Centennial Plaza

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
Save the Dates! Centennial Plaza
June 20, June 26, June 27,
July 23, August 21, Sept 18

MONUMENTAL FIREWORKS
McKinley Monument
Thursday, July 2

AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL
Saturday July 11
Centennial Plaza

**PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME
COMMUNITY PARADE**
Saturday, August 1
Downtown Market Corridor
10:30 a.m.

**PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME
ENSHRINEMENT GRAND PARADE**
Presented by Certified Angus Beef
Saturday August 8
Cleveland Avenue Corridor
8:00 a.m.



**CANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
25TH ANNIVERSARY 9/11
MEMORIAL CLIMB**
McKinley Monument
Friday, September 11

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN
Traveling memorial honoring
military heroes and lives lost on 9/11
McKinley Monument
September 9-13

OKTOBERFEST
Centennial Plaza
Saturday, September 26

**CANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
OPEN HOUSE**
Saturday, September 26
Fire Station #4
25th & Cleveland Ave NW



First Fridays

April 3, 5-9pm: Fire Up Downtown
May 1, 5-9:30pm: The Music & Magic of Spring
June 5, 5-9:30pm: Chalk The Walk
July 3, 5-9:30pm: Take Me Home- A Family First Friday
August 7, 5-9:30pm: Hall of Fame First Friday
September 4, 5-9:30pm: Canvas on Concrete
October 2, 5-9:30pm: Super Fly Car Show
November 6, 5-9pm: Young At Art
December 4, 5-9pm: Yule Sleigh- A Holiday First Friday



Get to Know DCP

*Todd Herberghs, Executive Director,
Downtown Canton Partnership*

Downtown Canton Partnership (DCP) is the nonprofit organization that works every day to keep Downtown Canton active, welcoming, and moving in the right direction. We were formed by local property owners, businesses, and community partners who wanted a more coordinated effort to bring life back into the heart of the city. Our job is pretty simple at its core. We help make downtown cleaner, busier, more enjoyable, and easier to navigate for everyone who lives, works, or visits here.

One of the most visible parts of our work is events. Many people know us best through First Friday, which we took over several years ago. It is our monthly street festival that brings thousands of people downtown with music, vendors, activities, and themed programming. It has become one of Canton's longest running community traditions, and it continues to introduce new people to our restaurants, bars, galleries, shops, and cultural attractions.

We also help bring back popular events, like the Blues and BBQ Festival, which returned downtown this past year and drew big crowds back into the neighborhood to enjoy great food and live music. This fall, we are launching a new Oktoberfest celebration that will add another can't miss event to the calendar.

People may also recognize our role in Mural Fest, which brought new large scale public art throughout the district. The murals are still visible year-round and have become a point of pride and a popular photo spot for visitors. Our murals are fantastic and they serve as a year-round attraction for our downtown.

Another major part of our mission is supporting events hosted by others. Last year we awarded almost \$80,000 in Event Grants to help organizations

bring more activity downtown. These grants focus on free public events that have a wide appeal, and one of the most popular examples is the Palace Theatre's Outdoor Movie Series. Our support helps keep those showings accessible so families can enjoy them throughout the summer.

But events are only one piece of what people care about. Many residents simply want to know that downtown is cared for. Our Clean and Safe work includes landscaping, flower displays, litter pickup, and weed control throughout downtown. These details may seem small, but they make a big difference in how downtown feels on a daily basis.

For those who want to enjoy downtown socially, the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (D.O.R.A.) continues to be one of the most appreciated features. It allows people to explore the district with a beverage from participating bars, which supports our hospitality businesses and adds energy to the streets. Downtown has the largest DORA in the area, and is one of the most walkable DORA spaces in Northeast Ohio.

We also help ease the path for downtown businesses through rental assistance programs, business outreach, and everyday communication with property owners. While we are funded through a combination of private investment and community support, we work hard to make sure every dollar creates visible benefit for Canton residents and businesses.

If you want to learn more about what we do or explore opportunities to get involved, visit us at DowntownCanton.com.



Canton PALACE theatre Summer 2026

Centennial Plaza
MOVIE SERIES
Wednesdays at 7pm
Pre-Movie Entertainment at 6:30pm

June 3 - August 5
FREE Admission

CENTENNIAL PLAZA CANTON, OHIO



1pm
\$2 per person



6:30pm
\$2 per person

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FOR 2026**
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MONDAYS JUNE 22 - JULY 27

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visit cantonpalacetheatre.org for more information

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WDJQ

Calling All Watershed Residents

Sarah Clutter, Engineering Department Assistant



Did you know that no matter where you live, your home is in a watershed? That's right. Every part of the City of Canton, Stark County, State of Ohio, and United States is in a watershed.

But, what is a watershed? Is it a shed in the backyard for storing water? Is it a building floating on a lake? Is it a sprinkler system in a yard? Is it

Broken down further, Stark County is made up of several smaller watersheds. The City of Canton is south of Continental Divide, so we are part of the Nimishillen Creek watershed, which is part of the Tuscarawas River Watershed, which is part of the Muskingum River Watershed, which is part of the Ohio River Watershed, which is ultimately part of the Mississippi River Watershed... catch my drift? Everyone lives in a watershed.

So, given that you are part of a watershed, you (and everyone else) influences what happens in a watershed. How we treat our natural resources – the soil, water, air, plants, and animals – impacts not only the immediate watershed but also subsequently larger and larger watersheds. Nothing is in isolation. The U.S. EPA offers a learning resource called "How's My Waterway?". Go to mywaterway.epa.gov/ (scan the QR code) and enter your address to explore water quality in your community watershed!



the John Barker Springhouse on Monument Road where people fill containers with spring water? Hint: it's none of the above.

A watershed, or "drainage area", is an area of land that drains water to a central location. Think of it as a shallow bowl in the landscape where the rim of the bowl is a ridge or hill and water flows from the edge to the bottom. Watersheds come in a variety of shapes and sizes – a street catch basin, a pond, a wetland, a river, groundwater, or the ocean.

Ohio has two main watersheds: the Lake Erie Watershed and the Ohio River Basin Watershed. Interestingly, Stark County contains both watersheds. In Lake Township, there is a "Continental Divide". The Continental Divide (in Ohio) is the natural dividing in which water on the north side of the line drains to Lake Erie and water on the south side of the line drains to the Ohio River.

As melting snow and rainwater run downhill, it often carries soil, trash, lawn fertilizer, litter, and other pollutants from the land into our waterways in a cascade of succeeding watersheds. In addition, housing or commercial development without proper storm water management can send runoff downstream quicker, causing more intense flooding, increased soil erosion, and weakening or destroying culverts, bridges and dams.

That Styrofoam cup someone threw out of their car window, it doesn't magically disappear. It ends up washing into a storm sewer. That storm sewer then dumps into the Nimishillen Creek, which drains into the Ohio River, which empties into the mighty Mississippi River. Be a good watershed resident. We are counting on you.

Safety First: What to Know Before Buying a Swimming Pool

Gus Dria, REHS

Director of Environmental Health

Canton City Public Health

Diana Richardson, MPA

Zoning Inspector

Planning & Zoning Department



As the weather gets warmer, stores begin offering swimming pools for sale. While pools can provide great summer fun, they also present potential safety and liability risks for both homeowners and the community.

Any pool deeper than 1.5 feet requires a Zoning Permit prior to installation. Zoning Permit Applications can be obtained on the City of Canton website or by contacting the Canton Planning and Zoning Department at 330-438-4122. Pools are not permitted in front yards and must be enclosed by an approved fence of no less than 4 feet in height. Pools without proper fencing may create a serious safety hazard. To report a pool that is not properly enclosed, submit a complaint through seeclckfix.com or contact the Canton Planning and Zoning Department.

After your pool and fence have been approved by Zoning, it is important to maintain the pool according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Pools equipped with circulation pumps must run continuously (24/7) and be properly chlorinated. Smaller “kiddie” pools without circulation systems must be drained and cleaned weekly. Poorly maintained pools can collect stagnant water and become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. To report an unmaintained pool, contact Canton City Public Health at 330-489-3327 or submit a complaint through seeclckfix.com. You can also download the City’s complaint system app for free from the Android or iPhone app store.

City Resources for Spring Cleaning

Michael Parker, Sanitation Superintendent

As flowers begin to bloom, that means one thing for many Canton residents, Spring cleaning! It’s the perfect time to clear out basements, yards, and garages after a long winter. The City of Canton offers multiple services to help residents responsibly dispose of unwanted items and keep neighborhoods looking their best.

The City of Canton Sanitation Department provides weekly trash collection for all city residents. Pick-up occurs Monday through Friday between 6:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., with each household receiving one collection per week. In addition to regular household trash, residents may place yard waste, leaves, and branches at the curb for collection, provided all items are properly packaged.

Yard waste must follow guidelines to ensure it can be safely collected. Bags used for yard waste, including grass clippings, must be manageable and cannot exceed 32 gallons. Bags used for leaves must also be manageable and cannot exceed 32 gallons. Twigs and small branches must be bundled and tied together that are no more than four feet in length. These items will be collected along with your regular household trash.

For larger cleanout projects, the Sanitation Department offers 72-hour dumpster rentals for residents and businesses within the city. These dumpsters are ideal for household cleanouts, move-outs, remodeling projects, and other large disposal needs. Available sizes and rates include:

- 6 Cubic Yard - \$139.70
- 8 Cubic Yard - \$174.63
- 14/15 Cubic Yard - \$349.29
- 14/15 Cubic Yard (Construction & Demolition) - \$384.20
- 20 Cubic Yard - \$419.13
- 20 Cubic Yard (Construction & Demolition) - \$454.07



Residents can also take advantage of the Canton Recycling Center to responsibly dispose of recyclable materials. The facility is located at 742 Schroyer Ave SW. Please see the article below for a full list of accepted materials. To schedule required appointments online, please visit: www.cantonohio.gov/recycle.

Spring cleaning is a great opportunity to refresh your home while helping to keep Canton’s neighborhoods clean and welcoming. Let us help you get off to a great start.

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Canton Recycle Center

The Canton Recycle Center, located at 742 Schroyer Ave. SW (corner of Schroyer Ave. SW and Melchoir SW), is open Tuesday and Friday, 9am-12pm and 1pm - 3pm (except government holidays). The facility is open to residents of Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties to legally dispose of materials that are cluttering up their homes and properties free of charge.

ACCEPTED ITEMS

TIRES: Only passenger, light truck, lawn mower, ATV, bicycle and motorcycle

APPLIANCES / TELEVISIONS: Any size appliance and tube / flat screen TVs

ELECTRONICS: All electronics accepted

BATTERIES: Lithium-ion (LI-ion), Lithium Primary (Lithium of II), Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH), Nickel Cadmium (NiCd), rechargeable and Lead acid.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE: Aerosols, anti-freeze, bleach, fluorescent light bulbs, gasoline, diesel, kerosene, mixed gas, household cleaners, lead acid batteries, mercury containing devices, motor oil, oil-based paint and 1 lb. propane tanks.

RECYCLABLES: Aluminum/metal cans, cardboard/paper, glass bottles/jars, plastic bottles/jugs only, ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal.

NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Alkaline, Manganese or Carbon Zinc batteries • Building materials • Carpet, Furniture, Mattresses • Clothes • Cylinders (fire extinguishers, propane or other tanks over 1 lb.) • Explosives, fireworks or ammunition • Latex Paint • Plastic Bags • Smoke Detectors • Yard Waste



For specifics on all accepted and non-acceptable items, please visit www.cantonohio.gov/recycle or scan the QR code.

APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED!
Schedule online or call 330-874-2258



Sherice Freeman,
Director of
Community
Development

Community Development is Here for You

The City of Canton is proud to offer residents a wide variety of programs to help individuals and families find suitable housing at an affordable price. Our programs help residents from all walks of life. We believe that all Canton residents deserve clean, safe, and attractive neighborhoods in which they can live and raise a family.

We receive funding directly from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an entitlement community. We're responsible for the preparation of a local comprehensive plan for community development, as well as the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans that describe the

housing and community development activities to be carried out with the City's CDBG, ESG and HOME funding resources.

Here are the programs we provide:

CDBG: The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) provides federal funding for projects to improves the quality of life for people with low to moderate incomes, revitalize urban centers, and address the urgent health and safety needs of low-income communities.

HOME: The Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) provides formula grants to states and localities that communities use – often in partnership with local nonprofit groups – to fund a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or home ownership or providing direct rental assistance to low-income families.

ESG: The Emergency Solutions Grant Program is a federal program operated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to make grants to states, local governments, and territories for the purposes of funding activities that directly serve people experiencing homelessness, including people at risk of homelessness.

HOUSING AND HOME REPAIR: The City of Canton offers a wide variety of programs to help residents maintain clean, safe, stable homes in our city neighborhoods. All City of Canton housing programs are open to everyone



without regard to race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.

DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: In conjunction with Community Building Partnership, this program offers assistance to first-time home buyers purchasing within the Canton City Limits. The Down Payment Assistance Program provides up to \$7,500 to assist with down payment and closing costs to low-to-moderate income first-time home buyers as a 0% interest rate deferred loan forgiven at the end of 5 years. There is a required buyer contribution of \$500.

EMERGENCY HOME REPAIR PROGRAM: This program is designed to assist low-to-moderate income homeowners located within the Canton City Limits. An "emergency" is defined as the presence of harmful or threatening conditions where immediate public action is determined necessary.

Our mission is simple. We're here to; create partnerships, advance job training, infrastructure, fair, safe, affordable housing and supportive services for Canton residents by means of grant management and collaboration.

Visit us at cantonohio.gov/communitydevelopment or give us call at 330.489.3258 to find out more about how we can help you.

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2. Receive up to 2.00% off your current auto loan rate when refinancing a loan from another lender to CSE FCU. Rate will not be reduced below a floor of 3.99% APR. Offer valid only on auto loans refinanced from another financial institution; existing CSE auto loans are not eligible for this promotion. Commercial vehicles are not eligible.



City of Canton Phone Directory

Annexation	330-438-4309
Auditor	330-489-3226
Building Maintenance	330-489-3275
Building/Code	330-430-7800
Civic Center	330-489-3090
Civil Service	330-489-3360
Clerk of Courts	330-489-3203
Collection Systems	330-489-3031
Council	330-489-3223
Community Development	330-489-3344
Dispatch (Non-emergency)	330-649-5800
DMV	330-489-3012
Edward Peel Coleman Community Center	330-489-3350
Engineering	330-489-3381
Fair Housing	330-438-4133
Fire Station	330-489-3400
Health Department	330-489-3231
Human Resources	330-438-4136
Income Tax	330-430-7900
Information Technology	330-438-6101
Law Department	330-489-3251
License Bureau	330-438-3172
Mayor's Office	330-438-4307
Municipal Court	330-438-4200
Parks & Recreation	330-456-4521
Planning/Zoning	330-438-4122
Police Department	330-489-3100
Purchasing Department	330-489-3245
Sanitation Department	330-489-3020
Street Department	330-489-3030
Treasurer	330-489-3261
Water Department	330-489-3308
WRF	330-489-3080



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