

For Immediate Release

**Beachwood, Bath, Worthington and ODOT
to Receive First Scenic Ohio Awards Friday**

Scenic Ohio, the organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the visual quality and scenic character of Ohio's towns and countrysides, will present its first annual awards to four projects Friday, July 28, 2006, at noon at Canalway Center in Cleveland.

"There are many awards given to individuals for significant scenic work," said Scenic Ohio President Christine Freitag. "These awards are different because they recognize the contribution of the taxpayers to making our state more beautiful."

For outstanding contribution to the visual and livable quality of the State of Ohio, Scenic Ohio presents its 2006 Scenic Awards to:

- **The Ohio Department of Transportation District 12** for their coordinated efforts with the City of Cleveland, the Village of Newburgh Heights, Village of Cuyahoga Heights and Slavic Village Community Groups to replace two bridges over Interstate 77. Through aesthetic design workshops followed with surveys, District 12 integrated the communities into the transportation planning of the Fleet and Grant Avenue bridges. These handsome design projects truly reflect good context-sensitive highway design.
- **The City of Worthington**, in keeping with its history of preservation, recognized the need to upgrade The Green, the focal point for their Old Worthington Historic District. Edsall & Associates LLC, were hired and "through extensive community-wide participation" created a Development Master Plan for the

improvement of the Worthington Village Green. By working with the Architectural Review Board, community members, Historical Society and Shade Tree Commission design standards were created. The City of Worthington has protected its history and enhanced the quality of life for future generations.

- **The City of Beachwood's Beachwood City Park**, is a truly unique restoration and recreation area in, of all places, the Shaker Boulevard median. The city hired Schmidt Copeland Parker Stevans, to create the park. The designers, recognizing the unique environmental qualities of this space created 1.6 miles of both multipurpose and nature trails, protecting native plants and trees and removing invasive non-native species. Wetland areas, vernal pools, places to picnic, restrooms even a sledding hill, it truly is a park for all seasons. The last remaining green space in this community has been made into a beautiful park and recreation area for all the residents to enjoy.
- **Bath Township (Summit County)** could receive an award just for its forward thinking conservation zoning and the management plan they created for their scenic byway, *The Heritage Corridors of Bath*. They continue to focus on all scenic aspects of their community and its distinctive visual character with the restoration of the Bath Town Hall, roadside enhancements and signage, creation of the Bath Baseball Park, Bath Hill Park and the Bath Nature Preserve, collaborating with the University of Akron.

“As we drive around Ohio we see communities that have taken the initiative to protect the qualities that make them unique. They have managed to grow while protecting their natural environment,” Freitag explained. “We believe these agencies and communities special recognition.”

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(Directions to Canalway from I-77 North or South (West Ramp 480 is closed) Exit Grant Avenue Go west on Grant, Turn South (left) on E. 49th, Continue past Settlers Bluff (Picnic area) on the right. Park entrance is on the right (1/3 mile) Watch for large sign: Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation. Turn right into the park onto Whittlesay Way. Canalway Center is at the end of the road.)