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Sandusky County Park District Receives Interpretive Project Grant from the National Association for Interpretation - Region 4

The National Association for Interpretation Region 4 recently announced its Interpretive Project Grant Award Winners, and is pleased to report the Great Parks of Hamilton County is among the 2021 recipients.

The Interpretive Project Grants (IPG) program is designed to provide a source of funding for small projects by Association members within the Great Lakes region including Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Ontario. Projects may include exhibitry, signage, programs, or other ideas that enhance visitors' interpretive experience. Applications are submitted annually, and reviewed by the IPG Committee consisting of members of NAI Region 4 who guide the grant process and make recommendations to the Region 4 Board of Directors.

Sandusky County Park District's project – *From Farm to Market* – will provide an interactive display to enhance their event, Farm Days. According to grant applicant Debbie Haubert of Sandusky County Park District, “[t]o highlight the transitions of our agricultural lifestyles from the 1930s to present day, we created an event titled Farm Days. This annual fall event includes a historical farm house tour, farm animals, quilting, a woodworking shop, a rope-making station, and displays of historical and modern farming equipment...Despite being in a rural community we continue to see a disconnect between food on the table and where it originates. *From Farm to Market* will be a hands-on interactive display to connect our community with the origins of their food.”

IPG funds will add financial support for the project, including funding for artificial produce such as apples, cherries, strawberries, peppers, eggs, and more.

“It is always interesting and enlightening for the Committee to see all of the wonderful projects underway in Region 4 - we have very passionate and creative members in our region,” said Victoria Zablocki, Acting Chair of the Interpretive Project Grants Committee. “Congratulations to Sandusky County Park District for developing a hands-on experience that will allow the community to connect with the origins of their food.”

Applicants receiving funding this year along with Sandusky County Park include: Grass River Natural Area (MI) and Great Parks of Hamilton County (OH).

The National Association for Interpretation (NAI) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit professional organization dedicated to advancing the profession of heritage interpretation, currently serving about 5,000 members in the United States, Canada, and over thirty other nations. Individual members include those who work at parks, museums, nature centers, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums, historical and cultural sites, commercial tour companies, and theme parks. Commercial and institutional members include those who provide services to the heritage interpretation industry.

The Association is divided into ten geographical regions to help members network with others who work near them through periodical newsletters and activities. Region 4, the Great Lakes Region, includes Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario.

NAI's Mission is to inspire leadership and excellence to advance heritage interpretation as a profession.
