



**2016 S.L. Gimbel
Foundation Fund
Grant Application
National Parks Centennial**

Internal Use Only:

Grant: _____

Organization / Agency Information

Organization/Agency Name: Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park		
Physical Address: 1403 West Hines Hill Road		City/State/Zip Peninsula, Ohio 44264
Mailing Address: 1403 West Hines Hill Road		City/State/Zip Peninsula, OH 44264
CEO or Director: Deb Yandala		Title: Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Phone: 330-657-2909	Fax: 330-657-2328	Email: info@forcvnp.org
Contact Person: Emily Heninger, Grants & Communications Manager		Title:
Phone: 330-657-2909 ext. 136	Fax: 330-657-2328	Email: eheninger@forcvnp.org
Web Site Address: www.conservancyforcvnp.org		Tax ID: 34-1917257

Project Information

Type of Project: New Trail Construction Maintenance and/or Restoration of Existing Trails

Program/Project Name: Sustaining & Expanding Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trails		Amount of Grant Requested: \$100,000
Name of Trail(s) Affected: East Rim Trail; Cuyahoga Valley National Park trails		Location: Cuyahoga & Summit Counties, Ohio
Total Organization Budget: \$4,326,979 (current FY2017 budget, 9/1/2016 – 8/31/2017)	Per 990, Percentage of Program Service Expenses (Column B/Column A x 100): 73.9% (based on most recent 990, FY2015: 9/1/14 – 8/31/15)	Per 990, Percentage of Management & General Expenses Only (Column C/Column A x 100): 10.23%
Per 990, Percentage of Management & General Expenses and Fundraising (Column C+D / Column A x 100): 26%		
Purpose of Grant Request (one sentence): To introduce more visitors to Cuyahoga Valley National Park by restoring and expanding key recreational trails, specifically by funding 1) a youth work crew to assess and restore existing trails with Sustainable Trail Design methods/management practices; and 2) completion of the second phase of the East Rim Trail, the park's first mountain biking trail opened in Fall 2015.		
Project Start Date (Month and Year): January 2017		Project End Date (Month and Year): December 2017

Signatures

Board President / Chair: (Print name and Title) Tom Green, Chair	Signature: 	Date: 10/27/16
Executive Director/President: (Print name and Title) Janice Matteucci, Acting CEO for Deb Yandala	Signature: 	Date: 10/25/16

2016 S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund APPLICATION Narrative

Please provide the following information by answering **ALL** questions (I to IV) in **Eight (8) typed pages maximum, 12 Font, One Inch Margins**. Use the format below (I to IV). Type the questions. Answer the questions accordingly. Please be thorough, clear, specific, and concise.

I. Organization Background:

A) What are the history, mission, and/or purpose of your organization? How long has the organization been providing programs and services to the community?

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park's mission is to engage public support for the park and provide services to enhance public use and enjoyment of the park. The Conservancy has served in a supporting role to Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) since beginning as a friends group in 1974—over 40 years of partnership. A merger between the friends group and the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center in 2002 created the next evolution of the organization, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has consistently grown to better fulfill its mission in support of the national park. A separate entity, CVNP is a 33,000-acre national park stretching 20 miles along the Cuyahoga River valley between Akron and Cleveland. It is consistently in the top 15 most visited national parks (2.3 million visits in 2015) and is operated by the National Park Service with its headquarters in Brecksville, Ohio.

B) What are some of your past organizational accomplishments (last three years)?

Significant Conservancy accomplishments during the past three years include:

- East Rim Trail: With support from the Conservancy, Cuyahoga Valley National Park opened its first mountain biking trail in November 2015. The initial 2.3-mile trail section lets bikers, hikers, and runners explore a unique new area of the valley. Funding for this project was secured by the Conservancy.
- Restoration of Tabletop Trail: In the fall of 2014, TRAILS FOREVER donors and volunteers helped restore and reopen Tabletop Trail after 10 years of being closed due to flood damage. New features included better erosion control, drainage features, and reinforced creek banks.
- Historic rehabilitation of Trail Mix Boston: Conservancy donors helped restore a historic piece of the Village of Boston in 2014 with the rehabilitation of Trail Mix Boston, one of the Conservancy's retail shops. The project included restoring the original 19th-century façade and wooden porch, adding a new patio and accessible walkway, and rebuilding the wood-frame garage next to the building.
- TRAILS FOREVER Mobile Tool Shed: In 2013, TRAILS FOREVER Legacy Fund distributions helped fund an equipment trailer to hold trail maintenance supplies for trail crews and volunteers. This "mobile tool shed" holds all equipment necessary to tackle any volunteer project on the trails and makes it easier for crews to reach remote spots in the national park.

C) What are your key programs and activities? Describe the communities you serve. Include populations, geographic locations served, and relevant statistics.

The Conservancy's work includes: 1) operation of the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center; 2) raising funds to assist with projects not met by the park's shrinking federal budget, including trail funding through the TRAILS FOREVER Legacy Fund; 3) advocating environmentally responsible positions regarding park-related issues; 4) offering programs and services to enhance the park visitor experience; 5) marketing the park to increase public use and

awareness; and 6) co-management of the park's award-winning "Volunteers-in-Parks" program with 6,700 volunteers in FY2015.

In addition to the six main pillars of work listed above, Conservancy operations include:

- **Cultural Arts:** In collaboration with the NPS, the Conservancy continues to offer a diverse array of free and ticketed cultural arts programming including Music in the Meadow, the Cuyahoga Valley Heritage Series, Music by Nature, and art exhibits.
- **Extraordinary Spaces:** The Conservancy offers venues within the park for meetings, weddings, retreats, and other special events, including the Stanford House, Happy Days Lodge, Hines Hill Conference Center, Stone Cottage, and others.
- **Retail Operations:** The Conservancy operates Trail Mix Boston and Trail Mix Peninsula. These stores offer refreshments, park-related gifts, membership opportunities, and information for park visitors at two convenient locations in the park.

The Conservancy serves populations of all ages and backgrounds from across northeast Ohio, especially in the Cleveland and Akron metropolitan areas. According to a 2015 survey taken by the park, 80% of park visitors come from Ohio, with 20% (and counting) coming from out-of-state. Our wide variety of programs are accessible to youth and adults of all ages and backgrounds. The Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center in particular has a focus on attracting lower-income and underserved youth to its programs, reserving 25% of its enrollment for children from lower-income families.

II. Project Information:

A) Statement of Need: *Specify the need you want to address and are seeking funds for.*

In late 2013, the National Park Service completed the Trail Management Plan for Cuyahoga Valley National Park (parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=27315). The purpose of the plan is to develop a blueprint that will guide the expansion, restoration, management, operations, and use of the CVNP trail system and its associated amenities over the next 15 years. Key elements of the Trail Plan include the following:

- Adoption of updated Sustainable Trail Guidelines
- Restoration of existing trails with Sustainable Trail Design methods/management
- Creation of new trails that offer new trail experiences for a variety of trail users
- Opportunities for trail connections within the park, and with regional/local trail systems

A \$100,000 grant from the S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund will focus on two key Trail Plan needs selected for implementation: 1) Hiring a youth work crew to assess and restore existing trails with Sustainable Trail Design methods and management practices; and 2) completing Phase 2 of the East Rim Trail, the park's first mountain biking trail.

These trail projects are needed for the following reasons:

- CVNP's trail system is a significant recreational feature in the park and the predominant purpose of park visits. CVNP is consistently ranked in the top 15 most-visited national parks in the country, with 2.3 million visitors in 2015. The park is located between Akron and Cleveland in a large metropolitan area, with a population of over three million people within 25 miles.
- In the 2015 CVNP Visitor Study, use of the trails was the predominant activity for visiting the park: 58% of visitors said they participated in hiking/walking, 34% said they participated in bicycling, and 14% said they participated in jogging/running—all trail-

related activities. Sustainably restored trails and the expanded East Rim Trail network will increase opportunities for all these uses.

- Sustainable trails are designed, constructed, and maintained in a way that does not adversely impact natural/cultural resources. They are intended to withstand trail use impacts with only routine, cyclic maintenance, and “meet the needs of the intended user to a degree that they do not deviate from the established trail alignment” (Beers, 2009). By conducting an assessment of the existing park trails and implementing sustainable trail guidelines with support from a youth work crew, CVNP can ensure the longevity and sustainability of its trail system for diverse uses, including hiking, running, bicycling, and mountain biking.
- Mountain biking is a greatly expanding recreational use throughout northeast Ohio and beyond. The East Rim Trail first opened in fall 2015, with 2.3 miles of off-road, single-track trails, and has seen a heavy volume of traffic from new and returning park users. The completion of Phase 2 is necessary to expand the East Rim Trail to an optimum length for mountain bike use and establish the trail as a destination recreational activity.

B) Project Description: *Describe your project. How does your project meet the need? What are you trying to accomplish? Is it a stand-alone trail project or part of a larger, ongoing project? Has compliance been done on the project (shovel ready) or would the funds be used to complete or offset compliance?*

Assessing/Restoring Existing Trails with Sustainable Trail Guidelines

The guiding principles for sustainable trail restoration and design are as follows:

- *Ecological:* Develop trails in a manner to avoid diminishing the natural environment or the experience of being in a natural setting through the protection, restoration and management of natural ecosystems associated with trail development.
- *Physical:* The physical condition of the trails will aim to achieve the following goals.
 - Design trails to retain their physical form relative to their use and natural conditions in which they exist.
 - Safety for trail users is a primary part of the design process.
 - Connectivity to provide key access areas for multiple trail options and linking trails together for commuting and exercise.
- *Stewardship:* Design trails that will provide a positive visitor experience that encourages trail users to protect that experience through stewardship activities including using trails appropriately, avoiding impacts, and educating others about sustainable trail ethics.

This grant will fund a youth work crew to support the assessment and implementation of sustainable trail guidelines on existing trails in CVNP. This youth crew will assist the NPS trail crew consisting of 4-6 park employees, two seasonal interns, and volunteers as needed. The youth work crew will initially assist with a sustainability assessment of existing trails in the park (approximately 100 miles of hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails). The assessment will establish the general level of management needed for each trail, based on its current level of development, relation to park resources, trail type, and primary use. The park’s Trail Plan currently identifies 10 trail types within the park, which are used to inform trail design criteria and guidelines based on user type, intended experience, and conditions in specific trail locations. Following completion of the sustainable trail assessment, the crew will begin implementation on priority repairs on existing trails to meet sustainability guidelines.

East Rim Trail Phase 2 Completion

In the fall of 2015, Phase 1 (2.3 miles) of the East Rim Trail opened to the public—the first mountain bike trail in CVNP. Phase 2 will expand on the success of Phase 1, measuring at approximately 6.5 miles long and designed for a combination of non-motorized uses, including mountain biking, hiking, and walking. Phase 2 is located on the east side of the park, north of the Ohio Turnpike (just north of the Phase 1 section of the trail). Phase 2 will be connected to Phase 1 by the Metro Parks Bike and Hike Trail, which is also the access route for getting to the East Rim Trail. Initial cutting and base tread grading of the Phase 2 section of the trail—specifically the “outer loop” section of this phase—began in the summer and fall of 2016. Additional funding is necessary to complete the trail in 2017, including trail finishing with the addition of mountain bike trail features and naturalization.

The East Rim project will complement other types of trails with a relatively new recreational opportunity—mountain biking—and reduce user conflict by providing additional trail mileage. Demand for mountain bike trails is strong, and more trails are needed. In addition to the Phase 1 section of East Rim, trails similar to the proposed project that are currently available in Cuyahoga and Summit counties, including a two-mile loop at the Ohio & Erie Canal Metroparks Reservation in Cleveland, and an eight-mile loop at Royalview within Cleveland Metroparks Mill Stream Run Reservation in Strongsville.

Eventually, CVNP intends to upgrade existing trails to connect two major regional long-distance networks: the Summit Metro Parks Bike & Hike Trail and the Towpath Trail. Connecting to these multi-county trail systems will make East Rim Trail the central link between recently developed mountain bike trails in adjacent park districts, as well as those under development. This interconnected mountain bike trail opportunity positions northeast Ohio as a recreational destination for trail enthusiasts seeking a variety of long-distance, multi-day excursions.

C) Project Goal, Objectives, Activities, and Expected Outcomes

Goal: Introduce more visitors to Cuyahoga Valley National Park by restoring and expanding key trails and thus increasing diverse recreational opportunities for Cleveland and Akron residents, as well as out-of-state visitors.

Objective: Implement a two-pronged project to restore and expand trails in CVNP, specifically by 1) hiring a 2017 youth work crew to assess and restore existing trails with Sustainable Trail Design methods/management practices; and 2) completing the 6.5-mile Phase 2 of the East Rim mountain biking trail in 2017. Market and publicize these projects to the public through media channels that include the Conservancy’s website and social media pages.

Activities: Over the course of 2017, the Conservancy will partner with CVNP to:

- 1) Hire a youth work crew for eight weeks of trail work in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, including the following projects:
 - Complete a comprehensive sustainability assessment of existing CVNP trails, with support from NPS trail crews and volunteers as needed. The youth work crew will specifically assess the following sustainability criteria for existing trails: 1) drainage; 2) trail tread condition; 3) presence of hazardous trees; 4) condition of trail structures; and 5) vegetation.
 - Implement priority repairs on existing trails to meet sustainability guidelines. Priority will be assigned to trails based on the criteria described above.

- 2) Complete Phase 2 on the East Rim Trail with contracted design and construction support from Spectrum Design. The project will include completion of 6.5 miles of single-track, off-road bike trails north of the Ohio Turnpike, with access from the Metro Parks Bike and Hike Trail. So far, 4.5 miles have been cut and graded, and must be finalized with finishing trail design features and sustainability guidelines. The remaining central “spine” of Phase 2 (two miles) will be fully designed and constructed as a result of this project.
- 3) Going forward, engage volunteers (e.g., with partners at the Cleveland Area Mountain Biking Association, CAMBA) to regularly monitor trail conditions on the East Rim Trail following completion, as well as conduct regular trail maintenance as needed.
- 4) Promote new and restored trails through Conservancy marketing efforts, including the Conservancy website, print materials/newsletters, press releases, and social media.

Expected Outcomes: We expect the following to occur as a result of these activities:

- The new and improved trails will bolster recreational opportunities and increase quality of life for residents of Cleveland and Akron, as well as increase tourism to the national park for out-of-state visitors.
- Once complete, the new East Rim Trail is expected to attract approximately 5,000 additional visitors each year. Visitors will be able to complete long-distance trail journeys on bike trails throughout the area, including the East Rim Trail.
- Cleveland and Akron will be recognized as cities on the doorstep of a national park with excellent recreational trails.
- The number of CVNP volunteers will increase through increased awareness of CVNP volunteer opportunities, including trail monitoring and maintenance.

D) Timeline: *Provide a timeline for implementing the project. State the starting date and ending date of the project, include timeframes for specific activities, as appropriate.*

Assessing/Restoring Existing Trails with Sustainable Trail Guidelines

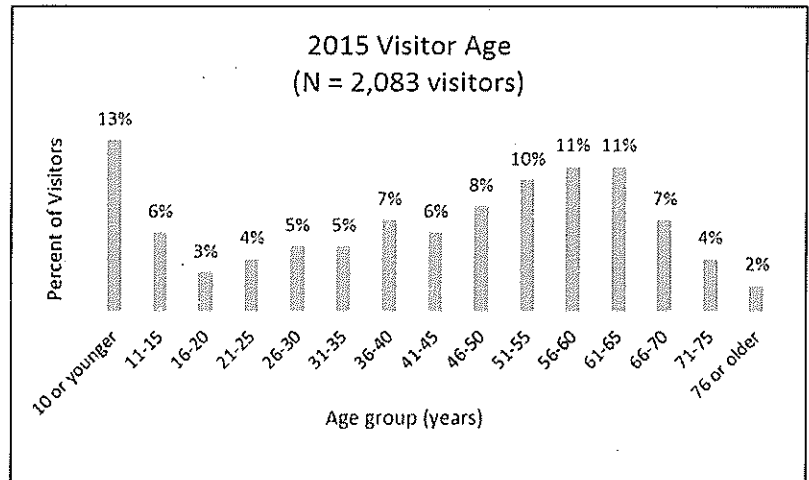
- Early 2017: Identify and hire youth work crew corps
- Summer 2017: Youth work crew arrives for eight weeks (two months) of work
- Fall 2017: Conduct additional assessment/restoration with NPS work crews, as needed
- Project is complete by December 31, 2017

East Rim Trail Phase 2 Completion

- Early 2017: Contract with Spectrum Design for Phase 2 completion; contractor begins designing central spine and finishing features for Phase 2 trail sections
- Spring 2017: Complete finishing features on existing 4.5 miles of Phase 2
- Summer-Fall 2017: Rough in central spine of Phase 2 trail
- Project is complete by December 31, 2017

E) Target Population: *Who will benefit from this grant? How will the project directly benefit the visitor experience? How many people will be impacted? Provide a breakdown: Number of children, youth, adults, seniors.*

Annually, CVNP welcomes over two million visitors from all over Ohio and throughout the country. According to a 2015 survey taken by the park, 80% of park visitors come from Ohio, with 20% coming from out-of-state (up from just 9% in 2005). We expect out-of-state visitation to continue to increase in the coming years. In the same survey, use of the trails was the predominant activity for visiting the park: 58% of visitors said they participated in hiking/walking, 34% said they participated in bicycling, and 14% said they participated in jogging/running.



Improved and expanded trails will encourage new and repeat visitors to explore the Cuyahoga Valley and its recreational resources on the trails. Visitor age distribution was recorded as shown at right in the 2015 CVNP Visitor Survey.

F) Youth/Young Adult Engagement, Volunteers, Community Partners: *Are you engaging and/or employing youth/young adults in this project (i.e. Youth Conservation Corps, Public Land Corps, etc.) If so, describe in detail their involvement in the project. How are you utilizing volunteers and/or community partners, if any?*

This grant will fund a youth work crew to implement of sustainable trail guidelines on existing trails in CVNP. The work crew is expected to include eight individuals (one crew leader and seven corps members). Each member will be between 18 and 25 years old, with the crew leader having at least two years of trail experience (both construction and maintenance). The crew comes with all tools, vehicles, and supplies, as needed, and will be housed within the park. The crew will conduct a sustainability evaluation of park trails and begin priority restoration, as described earlier.

This grant will also utilize community trail volunteers as support for construction, maintenance, and ongoing monitoring of new and existing trails. The Cleveland Area Mountain Biking Association (CAMBA), a local chapter of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), has already been heavily engaged in volunteer support of the East Rim Trail, including regular monitoring of trail conditions. With the construction of Phase 2, the East Rim project will continue to attract and engage volunteers in the national park who are interested in supporting mountain bike trails in a new area. The Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council has also provided significant volunteer support for trail projects in the past.

F) Evaluation: *How will progress towards the objectives be tracked and outcomes measured?*

The Conservancy will track park visitation and use (especially as it relates to trail usage) and volunteer activity as indicators of project success. A Park Visitor Survey conducted by the National Park Service in 2015 will provide information about visitation statistics, use of park amenities, and demographic information. The CVNP Park Visitor Survey is typically conducted every ten years. The 2015 survey will provide a baseline in regard to any effect the new trails will have on visitation.

In addition, the park's Volunteer Services program (co-managed by the Conservancy) closely tracks volunteer recruitment efforts and volunteer work on an annual basis, as part of ongoing

metrics for program evaluation. The number of volunteers and volunteer hours dedicated to trail projects will be tracked as part of this project. The number of new volunteers that result from recruitment efforts will also be counted.

G) Use of Grant Funds and Leveraging: *How will you use the grant funds? Does the park have the ability to leverage the grant through matching funds?*

Grant funds will be used primarily to fund contracted work on trail projects within the national park (see *Project Budget and Narrative*), with some funds used for project management and marketing. The Conservancy has previously received the following funding for the East Rim Trail project (Phase 1 and Phase 2), specifically: \$249,000 from John S. and James L. Knight Foundation for East Rim Phase 1; \$183,000 from NPS Centennial funding for East Rim Phase 1; and \$120,700 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program for design, engineering, and initial construction on East Rim Phase 2. Going forward for this project, the Conservancy will contribute matching funds through volunteer support, and the National Park Service will contribute personnel time from the NPS trail crews.

III. Project Future:

A) Sustainability: *Explain how you will support this project after the grant performance period. Include plans for fundraising or increasing financial support designated for the project.*

The park employs 100 staff in five management divisions, and all divisions of the park have a role in management and enjoyment of trails. CVNP trails field staff are the key stewardship managers of the trail system and include a landscape architect (PT), four trails maintenance staff (FT), and six seasonal trails staff (FT up to five months annually). The Park conducts annual general maintenance of all the trails in the Park. This includes mowing and trimming, bridge cleaning, hazardous tree removal and limb inspection, fall leaf removal and inspection of signs, bollards and gates. The park conducts assessments and trail improvements related to drainage and erosion on particular trail units every two to five years or more, as required.

CVNP relies on a robust trail volunteer program to sustain over 100 miles of trails in the park. Primary volunteer trail groups and the volunteer hours each group contributed in 2011 include: Trailblazers (7,920), Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council (1,152), Adopt-a-Trail (6,038), Ohio Horseman's Council, Medina chapter (934), and the Buckeye Trail Association (190). Partners including the Cleveland Area Mountain Biking Association (CAMBA) will assist in ongoing maintenance of this project, including regular monitoring and restoration.

In addition, a significant aspect of trail funding in CVNP is the TRAILS FOREVER program. This program is focused on five primary activities: trail experiences, volunteer stewardship, trail planning, trail system enhancement, and establishing an endowment as part of the TRAILS FOREVER Legacy Fund. The Conservancy's goal is to raise a \$10 million endowment, which will provide \$500,000 annually for trail operation and maintenance. The TRAILS FOREVER program is expected to become a primary component of CVNP trail funding in the future.

IV. Governance, Executive Leadership and Key Personnel/Staff Qualifications

A) Governance: *Describe your board of directors and the role it plays in the organization. What committees exist within your board of directors? How does the board make decisions?*

The Conservancy's Board of Directors consists of 30 community members who focus their work on visioning, setting policy, and raising philanthropic support for the Conservancy and the park. The board meets four times per year in the park. Terms are three years in length and can be

renewed once. The board makes decisions based on thoughtful discussion with staff and majority vote. The Conservancy also maintains the following committees, which include board members as well as other community members: Environmental Education Committee, Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Governance Committee, Human Resources Committee, Inclusion and Diversity Committee, Marketing Committee, and TRAILS FOREVER Committee.

B) Management: *Describe the qualifications of key personnel/staff responsible for the project.*

Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park:

Deb Yandala, Chief Executive Officer (330-657-2909, ext. 107; dyandala@forcvnp.org):

Deb Yandala is the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Conservancy, a position she has held since the organization's inception (as Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association) in 2002. She previously served as Executive Director of the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (now operated by the Conservancy). Deb currently serves as President of the National Park Service Friends Alliance, the network of nonprofit partners of over 100 national parks. She also is on the National Park Service Advisory Board's Education Committee and on the Board of Directors of Eastern National, the organization that operates retail and education programs in 140 national park units around the country.

Patty Stevens, Capital Projects Manager (330-657-2909, ext. 120; pstevens@forcvnp.org):

Patty Stevens is a Registered Landscape Architect and focuses on the regeneration of landscapes into vibrant open space systems that connect people with nature, build community, stimulate economic development and provide essential environmental services. She has worked in private practice, as a principle of a multi-disciplined firm, Schmidt Copeland Parker Stevens, and as Chief of Park Planning for Cleveland Metroparks. Her representative planning and landscape architecture experience includes: West Creek Reservation and Watershed Stewardship Center and Canal Reservation for Cleveland Metroparks; Towpath Trail Alignment and Greenway Study for the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission; county-wide Trail and Greenway Plans for Summit and Stark County; and a trail plan for Asbury Woods Nature Center in Erie, PA.

National Park Service:

Craig Kenkel, Superintendent (440-546-5903, craig_kenkel@nps.gov):

Craig Kenkel is responsible for strategic leadership and operational management of the 30,000-acre Cuyahoga Valley National Park. A 31-year career National Park Service employee, Kenkel, who is also an architect, specialized in historic preservation and cultural resources stewardship prior to transitioning into park management. Recent past NPS assignments include being superintendent of San Francisco Maritime National Park and first Chief of Cultural Resources and then deputy superintendent at Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Kim Norley, Landscape Architect (440-546-5974, kim_norley@nps.gov):

Kim Norley is a Registered Landscape Architect at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. A graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Kim designs trails and parking areas, restores major disturbed sites to their natural conditions, implements best stormwater practices, and develops all the signage within the National Park Service. She was initially hired to create the popular Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, an integral part of the 110-mile Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor stretching from Cleveland to New Philadelphia. Kim has been developing Sustainable Trail Standards in the national park and working to implement the standards with contractors and park trail crew. Currently, she is project manager for the park's mountain bike trail system.

2016 S.L. Gimbel Foundation APPLICATION

V. Project Budget and Narrative

Line Item Request	Line Item Explanation	Support From Your Agency	Support From Other Funders	Requested Amount From Gimbel/TCF	Line Item Total of Project
Contracted labor: Youth work crew for sustainable trails assessment/restoration	\$6,000 per week for eight-person crew x 8 weeks = \$48,000			\$48,000	\$48,000
Contracted labor: Initial cutting/grading for East Rim Trail Phase 2	Preparatory design work and cutting/grading for 4.5 miles = \$120,700		\$120,700		\$120,700
Contracted labor: Finishing design/construction for East Rim Trail Phase 2	Add features to 4.5 miles and central spine of Phase 2 on East Rim Trail = \$48,000			\$48,000	\$48,000
Personnel: Capital Projects & Marketing Project Manager	\$28.80/hour x 140 hours = \$4,032	\$32		\$4,000	\$4,032
In-kind volunteer support: Trail work/maintenance on new and existing trails	\$21.36/hour x 1,000 hours = \$21,360	\$21,360			\$21,360
TOTALS:		\$21,392	\$120,700	\$100,000	\$242,092

Budget Narrative:

- 1) Contracted labor: Youth work crew for sustainable trails assessment/restoration.
- 2) Contracted labor: Initial cutting/grading for East Rim Trail Phase 2. The Conservancy was awarded \$120,700 from Ohio Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program for initial design and construction on Phase 2.
- 3) Contracted labor: Finishing design/construction for East Rim Trail Phase 2. Spectrum Design will implement best-practice mountain bike trail design standards to 4.5 miles of Phase 2 on the East Rim Trail, then construct a central spine measuring approximately two miles (6.5 miles total). Contractor will provide all necessary design and construction tools.
- 4) Personnel: Capital Projects & Marketing Project Manager – In partnership with the National Park Service, coordinate and manage contracted design and construction of the East Rim Trail. Assist with coordination and implementation of sustainable trail guidelines. Coordinate marketing materials (e.g., maps, newsletters, social media) with Conservancy staff as needed. 22.50/hour salary + 28% in benefits (\$6.30) → \$28.80/hour x 140 hours = \$4,032
- 5) In-kind volunteer support: \$21.36/hour is the nationally accepted value of volunteer time. Volunteers will conduct ongoing trail maintenance and monitoring on park trails. \$21.36/hour x 1,000 hours = \$21,360

2016 S.L. Gimbel Foundation APPLICATION

VI. Sources of Funding: Please list your current sources of funding and amounts.

Secured/Awarded

Name of Funder: Foundation, Corporation, Government	Amount
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (East Rim Phase 1)	\$249,000
National Park Service Centennial funding (East Rim Phase 1)	\$183,000
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program (design, engineering, and initial construction on East Rim Phase 2)	\$120,700

Pending

Name of Funder: Foundation, Corporation, Government	Amount	Decision Date
<i>n/a</i>		

Diversity of Funding Sources: A financially healthy organization should have a diverse mix of funding sources. Complete those categories that apply to your organization using figures from your most recent fiscal year.

Fiscal Year 2015 (9/1/2014 – 8/31/2015)

Funding Source	Amount	% of Total Revenue	Funding Source	Amount	% of Total Revenue
Individual Contributions	\$1,340,535	30%	Earned Income	\$1,459,606	33%
Foundation Grants	\$1,009,206	23%	NPS Program Support	\$306,170	7%
Corporate Grants/Sponsors	\$252,217	6%	Investment	\$27,470	1%

Notes:

2016 S.L. Gimbel Foundation APPLICATION

VII. Financial Analysis

Agency Name: Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Most Current Fiscal Year (Dates): From 9/1/2014 To: 8/31/2015 (FY2015)

This section presents an overview of an applicant organization's financial health and will be reviewed along with the grant proposal. Provide all the information requested on your **entire organization**. Include any notes that may explain any extraordinary circumstances. Information should be taken from your most recent 990 and audit. **Double check your figures!**

Form 990, Part IX: Statement of Functional Expenses

1) Transfer the totals for each of the columns, Line 25- Total functional expenses (page 10)

(A) Total Expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management & general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
\$3,565,692	\$2,636,490	\$364,688	\$564,514

2) Calculate the percentages of Columns B, C, and D, over A (per totals above)

- Program services (B) – A general rule is that at least 75% of total expenses should be used to support programs
- Management & general administration (C) – A general rule is that no more than 15% of total expenses should be used for management & general expenses
- Fundraising (D) – A general rule is that no more than 10% of total expenses should be used for fundraising

(A) Total Expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management & general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
	Columns B / A x 100	Columns C / A x 100	Columns D / A x 100
Must equal 100%	73.94%	10.23%	15.83%

3) Calculate the difference between your CURRENT year budget for management & general expenses and your previous management & general expenses per your 990 (Column C)

Percentage of Organization's <u>Current</u> Total Budget used for Administration (FY2016)	Column C, Management & general expenses per 990 above (FY2015)	Differential
8.9%	10.23%	1.3%

If the differential is above (+) or below (-) 10%, provide an explanation:

Our differential is within the recommended 10%, but it is significant that it is trending downward, signifying a decrease in the percent of organizational expenses being directed toward management and general expenses.

2016 S.L. Gimbel Foundation APPLICATION

Quick Ratio: Measures the level of liquidity and measures only current assets that can be quickly turned to cash. A generally standard Quick Ratio equals 1 or more.

Cash	+ Accounts Receivables	/Current Liabilities	= Quick Ratio
\$405,499	\$55,142	329,544	1.40

Excess or Deficit for the Year:

Excess or (Deficit)	Excess or (Deficit)
Most recent fiscal year end: FY16	Prior fiscal year end: FY15
\$80,088*	\$37,073

Notes:

*Financials for our most recent Fiscal Year 2016 are still in the process of being audited.

VIII. Application submission check list:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Submit FOUR (4) Copies: 1 ORIGINAL (WITH ORIGINAL SIGNATURES) and 3 copies, collated and stapled together of the following:</u>	<u>Submit ONE (1) Copy:</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed Grant Application Form (cover sheet, narrative), budget page and budget narrative (see sample) and sources of funding, financial analysis page	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of your current 501(c)(3) letter from the IRS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A list of your Board members and their affiliations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of your most recent year-end financial statements (audited if available; double-sided)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your current operating budget and the previous year's actual expenses (see sample Budget Comparison)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of your most recent 990 (double-sided)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part IX only of the 990 form, Statement of Functional Expenses (one page). If you completed a 990-EZ, fill out the attached Part IX, Functional Expenses of the 990 form using figures from your 990-EZ	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project site map and photo(s)	

CONSERVANCY

for CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas E. Green, Chair

Shareholder and Vice President
Kastner, Westman & Wilkins, LLC

Ellen Perduyn, Vice-Chair

Executive Director
Corporate Foundation Relations
The University of Akron Foundation

Dione Alexander

Senior Vice President of Lending
Village Capital Corporation

Dionne Broadus

Senior Director, Foundation
Relations
Case Western Reserve University

Michael Byun

Executive Director
Asian Services in Action, Inc.

Pamela A. Carson

Community Volunteer

Deborah Cook

Judge
U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit

Tina Darcy

Partner
Howard & O'Brien Associates

Harold Gaar

Chief Business Development
Officer
Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP

Michael L. Hardy

Partner
Thompson Hine LLP

Matthew Heinle

Co-Managing Partner
Brennan, Manna & Diamond

Emily Holiday

Senior Vice President of Human
Resources, Forest City Realty Trust, Inc.
Forest City Enterprises

Sue Klein

Community Volunteer

Kathy Leavenworth

Community Volunteer

Phil Libassi

Principal
Westlake Reed Leskosky

Jeremy M. Long, CPA, MBA

Senior Manager
Skoda Minotti

Shawn Lyden

Executive Vice President
Akron Children's Hospital

Stephen Metzler

Retired, VP of Operations
FirstLine Transp. Security, Inc.

Michael Miller

CEO Peer Groups Leader
The Entrepreneurs EDGE

Sandra Morgan

External Affairs Director
Kent State University, College of
Arts & Sciences

James Nash

Managing Partner
Marcus Thomas LLC

Dr. Elizabeth Piatt

Assistant Professor and Chair
Dept. of Sociology, Hiram College

Brett Reynolds

Vice President, FE Products
FirstEnergy Corporation

Dr. Erik Steele, D.O., FAAFP

Chief Medical Officer and Senior
VP
Summa Health System

Teleangé Thomas

Program Director, Health
Sisters of Charity Foundation

October 12, 2016

Each Director serves a two-year once-renewable term.

CONSERVANCY

for CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Budget Comparison

	FY2015 Actuals	FY2016 Budget
Program Fees (CVEEC, Community Outreach)	\$1,424,375	\$1,596,453
Unrestricted Contributions, Grants, & Other:		
Memberships/Individual Giving/ParkShares	\$688,390	\$685,700
General Operating Grants (include estate gifts \$90K)	\$193,828	\$187,200
Special Events (Polar Express & Running Series)	\$21,260	\$17,000
Interest and Other Income	\$38,189	\$6,000
Total Restricted Support (CVEEC, Community Outreach, Development)	\$2,029,163	\$2,800,507
Total Funds Placed into Restriction (CVEEC, Community Outreach, Development)	(\$2,029,163)	(\$2,800,507)
Total Restricted Funds Released	\$1,756,218	\$2,941,516 (1.2M in capital project funds)
Total Revenue and Support	\$4,122,260	\$5,433,869 (includes capital project funds)
Salaries & Wages	\$1,817,460	\$1,900,097
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	\$370,749	\$498,204
Program Supplies & Services:		
Merchandise Cost of Sales	\$162,497	\$176,012
Program Supplies & Services	\$356,386	\$350,048
Food Services	\$126,116	\$111,333
Facility Supplies & Services	\$68,876	\$63,001
Contractor Fees & Services	\$223,084	\$283,860
Capital Project Expenses	\$266,462	\$1,379,000
Transportation Services	\$54,076	
Administrative & Marketing:		
Marketing	\$102,182	\$87,910
Office Supplies, Equipment & Support	\$112,353	\$107,026
Utilities, Communications & Postage	\$81,388	\$88,629
Staff-Related Expenses	\$57,918	\$46,713
Fees, Dues & Subscriptions	\$82,429	\$87,714
Liability Insurance	\$34,435	\$35,000
Lease Expense	\$41,232	\$43,284
Donations & Grants	\$50,004	\$49,700
Depreciation	\$70,840	\$70,212
Other Miscellaneous	\$6,700	\$2,900
Total Expenses	\$4,085,187	\$5,380,642 (includes capital project funds)
Net Gain (Revenue Less Expense)	\$37,073	\$53,227

CONSERVANCY FOR CUYAHOGA VALLEY

NATIONAL PARK

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

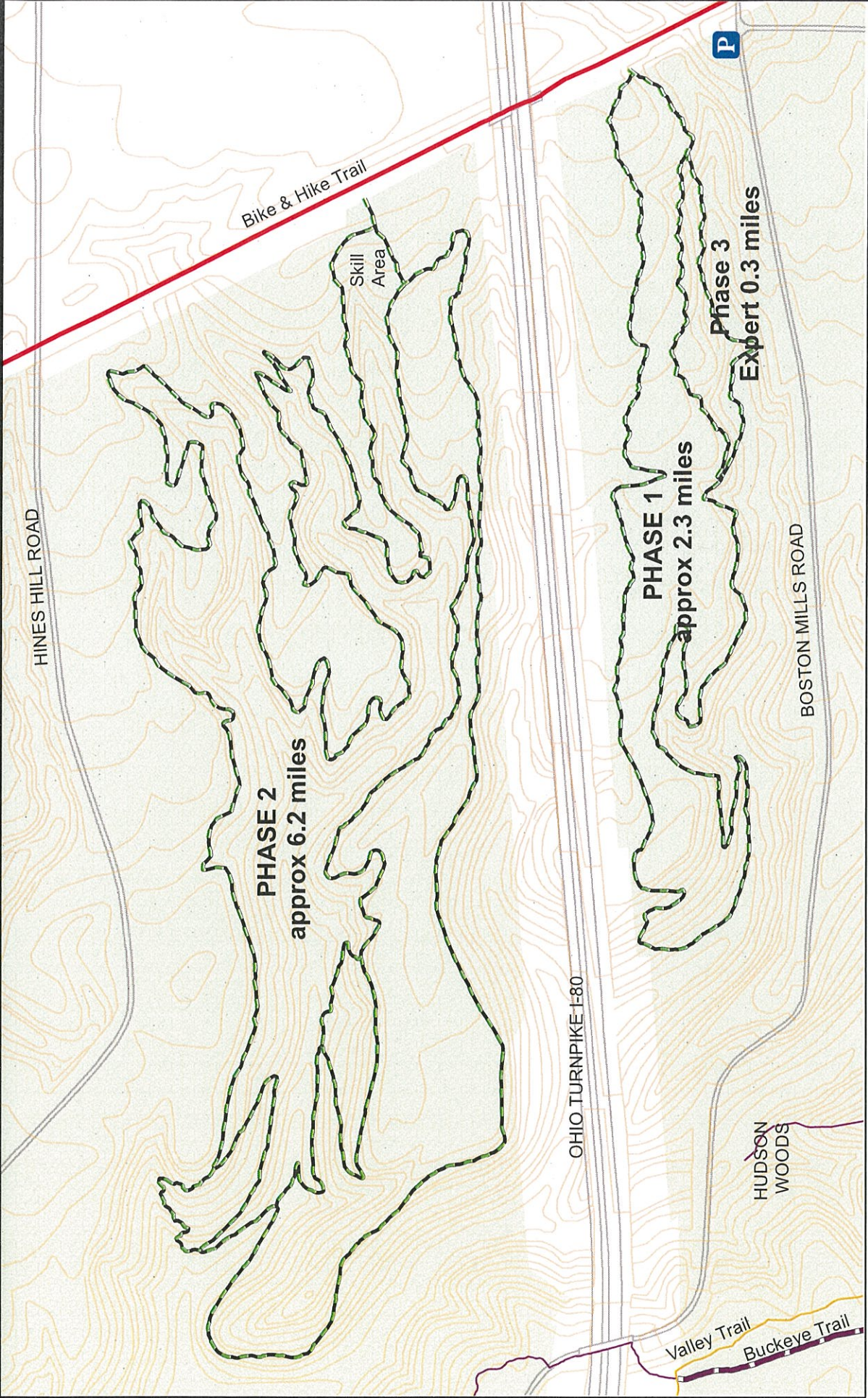
Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21	45,224.	45,224.		
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22	152,415.	152,415.		
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	326,616.	277,624.	24,496.	24,496.
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages	1,257,622.	839,395.	63,959.	354,268.
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	63,303.	46,562.	5,270.	11,471.
9 Other employee benefits	153,271.	112,737.	12,760.	27,774.
10 Payroll taxes	149,753.	110,150.	12,467.	27,136.
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management				
b Legal				
c Accounting	9,700.		9,700.	
d Lobbying				
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees				
g Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Sch O.)				
12 Advertising and promotion	101,191.	42,901.	9,343.	48,947.
13 Office expenses	112,353.	13,215.	97,706.	1,432.
14 Information technology				
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy	41,232.	41,232.		
17 Travel				
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings				
20 Interest				
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	70,840.	55,707.	15,133.	
23 Insurance	34,435.	25,138.	9,297.	
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a CONTRACTORS FEES AND SE	427,228.	422,228.	5,000.	
b PROGRAM SUPPLIES	152,391.	130,181.	879.	21,331.
c FOOD SERVICES	122,194.	111,550.	831.	9,813.
d UTILITIES, COMMUNICATIO	80,845.	45,275.	15,123.	20,447.
e All other expenses	265,079.	164,956.	82,724.	17,399.
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	3,565,692.	2,636,490.	364,688.	564,514.
26 Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation.				

Check here if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)

Cuyahoga Valley Ohio

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



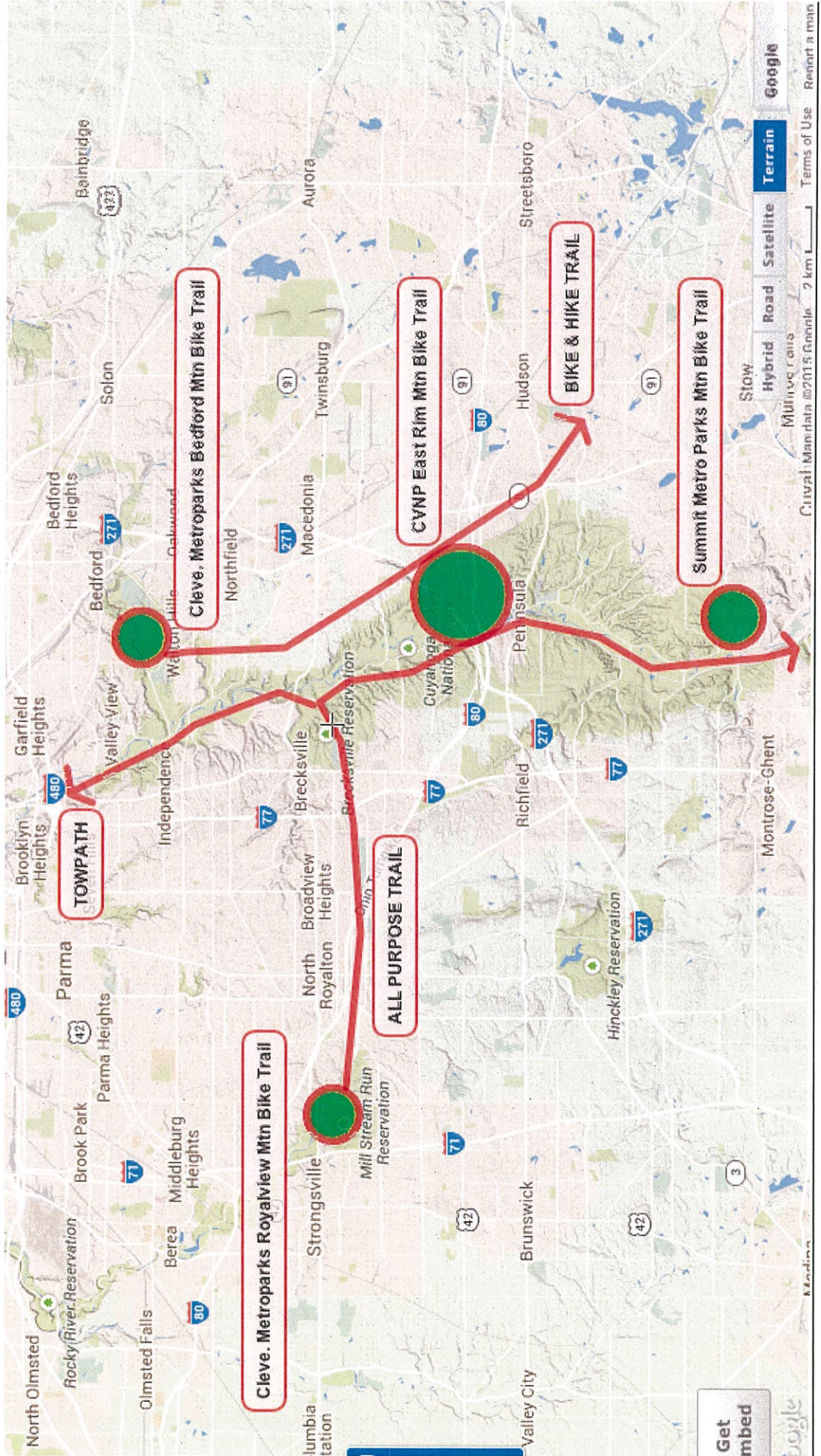
East Rim Trail System Proposed Off-Road Biking Trails

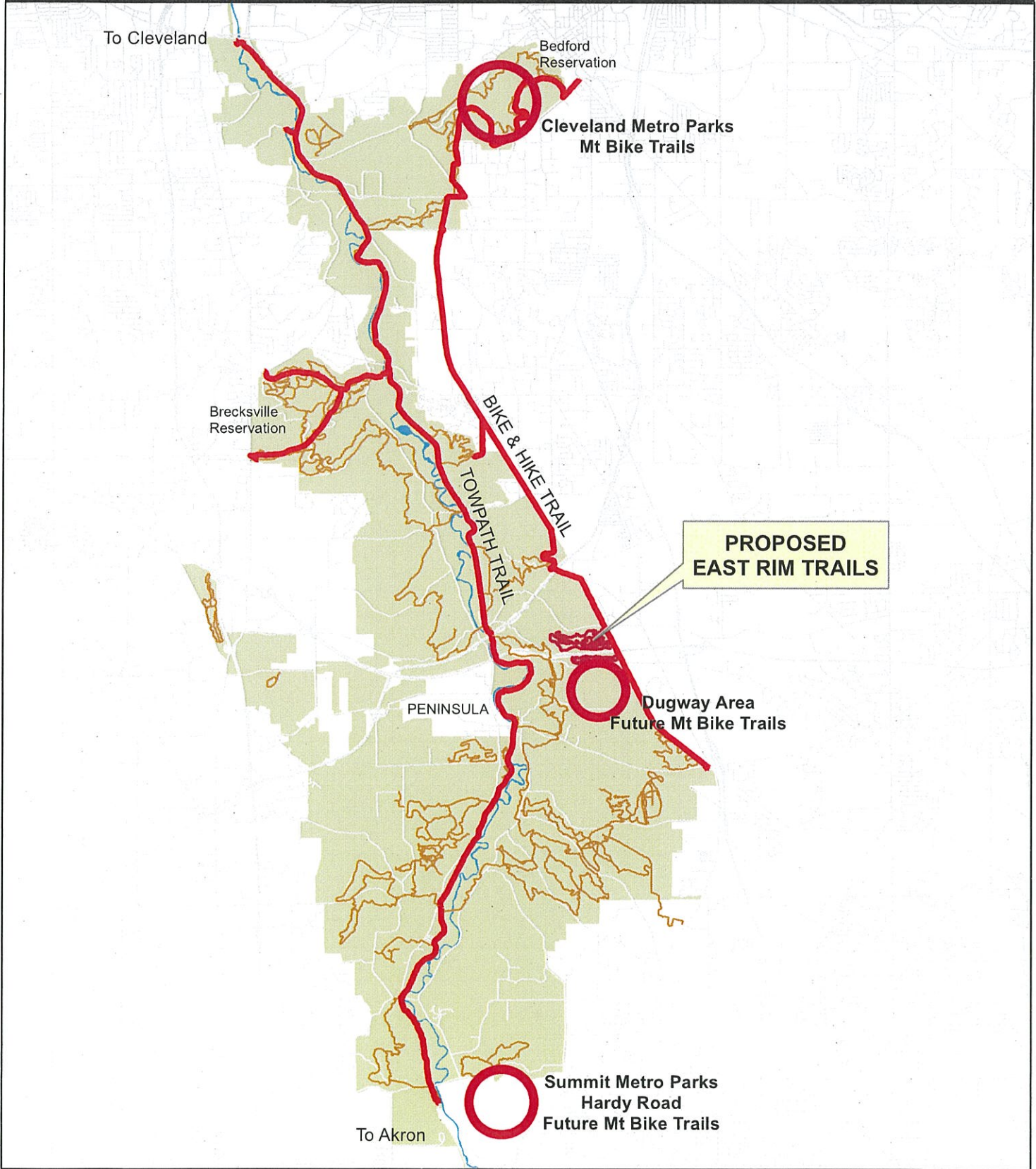
Jan 2015 KNorley

CONSERVANCY

for CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Regional Mountain Bike Trail Linkages





S. L. Gimbel Foundation Application Checklist

Date: 11.3.2016

Docket # (Grant Cycle): National Parks Centennial

Conducted by: A. VALDERICEDA

Organization Name: CONSERVANCY FOR CATAUGUS VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Amount Requested: \$100,000

	<u>Submit FOUR (4) Copies: 1 ORIGINAL (WITH ORIGINAL SIGNATURES) and 3 copies, collated and stapled together of the following:</u>	<u>Submit ONE (1) Copy:</u>
✓	Completed Grant Application Form (cover sheet, narrative budget page and budget narrative (see sample) and sources of funding, financial analysis page	✓ A copy of your current 501(c)(3) letter from the IRS
✓	A list of your Board members and their affiliations	✓ A copy of your most recent year-end financial statements (audited if available; double-sided)
✓	Current operating budget and the previous year's actual expenses (see sample Budget Comparison)	✓ A copy of your most recent 990 (double-sided)
✓	Part IX only of the 990 form, Statement of Functional Expenses (one page). If you completed a 990-EZ, fill out the attached Part IX, Functional Expenses of the 990 form using figures from your 990-EZ	
✓	Site map for trail project	

NOTES:

CONSERVANCY

for CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

October 28, 2016

Celia Cudiamat, Executive Vice President – Programs
The Community Foundation
3700 Sixth St., Suite 200
Riverside, CA 92501

RE: Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Grant proposal: Sustaining & Expanding Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trails

Dear Ms. Cudiamat,

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park is pleased to submit the enclosed proposal to the S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund of The Community Foundation, requesting \$100,000 in support as part of the Foundation's National Parks Centennial initiative. This grant will introduce more visitors to Cuyahoga Valley National Park by restoring and expanding key recreational trails, specifically by funding 1) a youth work crew to assess and restore existing trails with Sustainable Trail Design methods/management practices; and 2) completion of the second phase of the East Rim Trail, the park's first mountain biking trail opened in Fall 2015.

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park's mission is to engage public support for the park and provide services to enhance public use and enjoyment of the park. In close partnership with the National Park Service, we co-manage a number of initiatives in the Cuyahoga Valley—a world-class natural and recreational resource visited by over two million people each year. Last year, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) was the 11th most-visited national park in the country, just after Acadia and Glacier national parks. The recreational, cultural, and ecological benefits of CVNP are quality-of-life assets for the over four million people who live within a one-hour drive of the park in the Cleveland and Akron metropolitan areas.

We're most grateful for your consideration of this proposal. We've enclosed the specific materials and copies requested by your application. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch—we'd be pleased to provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Deb Yandala, Chief Executive Officer
dyandala@forcvnp.org | (330) 657-2909 ext.

Enc.



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati OH 45201

In reply refer to: 0248421964
July 19, 2011 LTR 4168C E0
34-1917257 000000 00

00012732
BODC: TE

CONSERVANCY FOR CUYAHOGA VALLEY
NATIONAL PARK
% DEBORAH YANDALA
1403 W HINES HILL RD
PENINSULA OH 44264-9646



031020

Employer Identification Number: 34-1917257
Person to Contact: MS. MITCHELL
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear TAXPAYER:

This is in response to your July 08, 2011, request for information regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that you were recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in MAY 2000.

Our records also indicate that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

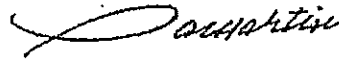
Please refer to our website www.irs.gov/eo for information regarding filing requirements. Specifically, section 6033(j) of the Code provides that failure to file an annual information return for three consecutive years results in revocation of tax-exempt status as of the filing due date of the third return for organizations required to file. We will publish a list of organizations whose tax-exempt status was revoked under section 6033(j) of the Code on our website beginning in early 2011.

0248421964
July 19, 2011 LTR 4168C E0
34-1917257 000000 00
00012733

CONSERVANCY FOR CUYAHOGA VALLEY
NATIONAL PARK
% DEBORAH YANDALA
1403 W HINES HILL RD
PENINSULA OH 44264-9646

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,



S. A. Martin, Operations Manager
Accounts Management Operations