



## Jim Stonkus President & CEO

## **NEWS RELEASE**

May 14, 2018 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## City of Barberton and the Barberton Community Foundation Continue Bike Friendly Initiatives with Opening of Barberton Bike Share

The City of Barberton and the Barberton Community Foundation (BCF) are pleased to announce the season opening of the Barberton Bike Share in coordination with National Bike Month. The City of Barberton continues to make great strides towards becoming a walkable and bikeable community.

The bike share was made possible by a collaboration of partners including the Ohio Erie Canalway Coalition, R&D Bike Shop, and Akron Children's Hospital. Additional funding was secured through the Creating Healthy Communities Grant from Summit County Public Health. In its inaugural year, the Barberton Bike Share was used 250 times with 70% of users checking out bikes for over 60 minutes.

The Barberton Bike Share has three stations located at Lake Anna YMCA, Barberton Public Library and Stark State Barberton Campus, each equipped with four bikes, helmets and locks. Bicycles can be borrowed at no cost and must be returned by end of business day. A photo ID and filing of a waiver will be required to participate. New this year, the Barberton Public Library will have a youth sized bike stationed at its location.

"Since assuming the office of Mayor, I have strived to create an environment throughout our community that encourages walking and biking related activities," stated Barberton Mayor William B. Judge. "Cities that support walkable/bikeable infrastructure not only see benefits in overall community health; they also realize economic development opportunities. Thank you to all the regional partners that contributed to this successful endeavor."

"Barberton Bike Share helps connect residents, commuters and visitors to more of Barberton's businesses, institutions and attractions while providing a clear benefit to the hosts of stations as well as the users expected each day. This will be another incentive to choose Barberton as a place to live, to work and play" said Jim Stonkus, President and CEO of the Barberton Community Foundation.

Please visit <u>www.summitshare.org/</u> if you would like to learn more about the bike friendly initiatives.

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