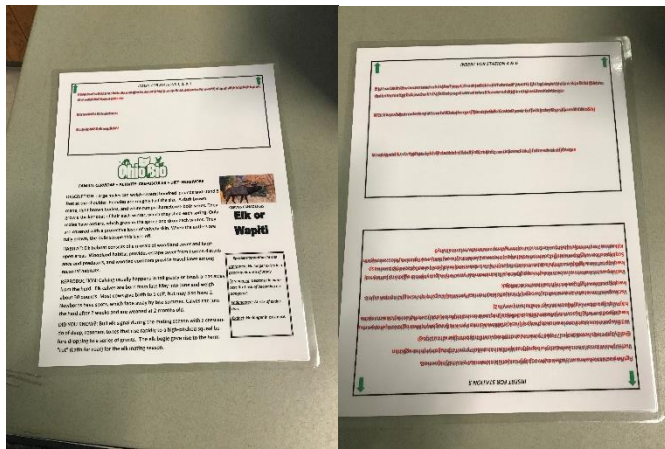


# Final Report for OPRA Grant for Stark Parks' "OhioBio" Exhibit

## Summary of Project Objectives and Participating Agency

This project was written and created by the Stark Parks education department staff. It is intended to be a fun, interactive exhibit that teaches the public about the history of some of Ohio's native animal species, the effects humans have had on native animal populations, and what individuals may do to help ensure environmental mistakes of the past are not repeated. The exhibit displays more than 40 signs presented along a "timeline" that winds through the Canalway Center exhibit hall inside the Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake Park.

Before entering the exhibit, visitors to the Canalway Center check in at the front desk and are given one of 14 different laminated 8 ½ x 11 species cards, each with a color photo and factual information about an animal species native to Ohio. Also on the cards are sections of text obscured by red letters overwritten on them. Within these obscured sections of text are facts and population information about the species on the card.



Front and back of a species card

Visitors walk through the exhibit reading the timeline of significant events in Ohio's past. Each sign displays dates and facts about native species, along with relevant photos, graphs and maps. Signs are posted in chronological order beginning in 1787 with the formation of Ohio, and ends with the present day.

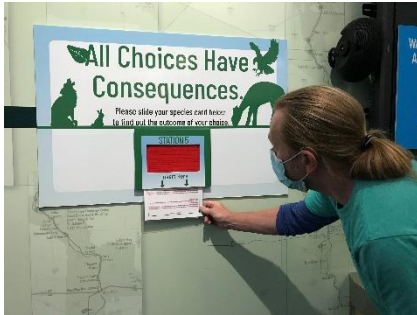


Example of dates on the timeline and accompanying graphics



*Bear paw prints on the floor help guide visitors through the exhibit*

Intermittently, signs have a special window on them with a red lens. They are prompted to slide their species card into the window to read about their species' population at that time period.



*Reading one of the cards through the window*

Toward the end of the exhibit, visitors are prompted to decide what they would do to help their species in the future and are then shown a likely outcome of their choice (see above photo).

Finally, to help end the experience on a lighter note, visitors can take a fun photo of themselves wearing animal ears, tails, etc. at the photo booth.



*Photo booth with props*

### **Summary of Project Activities and Final Timeline**

July 15, 2019:	Applied for the grant
August 28, 2019:	Awarded the grant
October 2, 2019:	Park board approved our use of grant money
November, 2019	Purchase order requested (Amazon)
December, 2019	Photo props purchased (Amazon)
December, 2019	Text content written and finalized for all signage
January, 2020	Text & graphics content created for all species cards
February, 2020	Species cards printed & laminated (in house)
August, 2020	Text & graphics for signage finalized by Marketing Department, sent to printer

August, 2020	Purchase remaining items to put exhibit together (Amazon)
September 24, 2020	Signs printed and delivered
October 16, 2020	Exhibit completely assembled and put in place inside the Canalway Center

### **Evaluation of Outcomes and Impact**

Unknown at this time with all Stark Parks buildings being closed to the public.

### **Description of Subsequent Plans**

Following the election on November 3<sup>rd</sup> (the Canalway Center is a voting location), we plan to open the exhibit to the public. Since the park's front desk is not currently being staffed, we will leave the species cards at the check-in table at the library (inside the building) where visitors can pick up a card, then enjoy the exhibit. Once open, the exhibit is to remain in place indefinitely in the Canalway Center until financing is found to renovate the existing, permanent exhibits located there. In the meantime, the exhibit helps fill the voids left by out of date and broken Canalway Center displays.

When it is available to the public, walk-in visitors will be able to use it along with any school groups doing field trips to the Exploration Gateway facility. When inside programming is determined safe, Stark Parks Education department will offer public guided programs through the exhibit as well.

In addition, Stark Parks is going to collaborate with Arts in Stark to have local artists exhibit their artwork depicting native Ohio animal species in the Canalway Center. These pieces will be integrated into the exhibit to add flavor and interest to the exhibit.

Finally, funding allowed for enough materials so that, when the exhibit is removed, it can be stored and put back up in the Canalway Center or even in another park location. Possible locations to display the exhibit include Fry Family Park, Quail Hollow Park and Tam O'Shanter Park.

### **Summary of Expenses Incurred**

- Signage (foam core) printing and delivery: \$747.50
- Miscellaneous materials to create windows, cards, timeline: \$326.46
- Photo booth and props: \$351.75
- Wayfinding carpet decals: \$610.54

Grand total spent on exhibit: \$2,036.25

*Stark Parks would like to thank the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Foundation for the generous grant that helped make this exhibit possible. Thank you!*