

NEWS RELEASE
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For immediate release

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Green Infrastructure project award for the Cleveland History Center in University Circle.

Cleveland, Ohio: First **BEHNKE Landscape Architecture** helped the Cleveland History Center obtain the grant from NEORS - The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, then we designed the award-winning outdoor space to reduce and clean storm runoff at the Cleveland History Center in University Circle.

Award: University Circle Inc. Building the Circle Award.

For the past few years, NEORS has provided grants for reducing and cleaning storm runoff. BEHNKE LA was approached by the Cleveland History Center to assist in the grant application.

The following is from the Cleveland History Center:

[Western Reserve Historical Society Completes \\$1 million Exterior Renovation at Cleveland History Center](#)

Posted on [September 11, 2015](#) by [lwelch](#)

Funds from The State of Ohio and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Support Upgrades to Guest Parking Lot and Main Entrance

The transformation continues for the Western Reserve Historical Society with a \$1 million exterior renovation at the Cleveland History Center in University Circle. With support from The State of Ohio and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and in partnership with **Behnke Associates, Inc.** and F. Buddie Contracting, Ltd. WRHS completed much needed renovations to its main visitor parking lot on Magnolia Drive and the Reinberger Gallery main entrance plaza. The improvement project featured a facelift with improved access, new parking controls, and the implementation of green infrastructure. This upgrade also improves guest access, safety and overall appearance of the 7-plus acres that comprise the Cleveland History Center.

The cornerstone of the project is an approach to sustainability. Through the installation of multiple bioretention cells, infiltration, stormwater harvesting, and other green infrastructure practices, the parking lot and patio is designed to eliminate from the combined sewer system up to 750,000 gallons of stormwater runoff annually and in turn, reduce the release of combined sewage into the environment. In addition, lighting upgrades incorporate highly efficient LED fixtures, with appropriate "cut offs" to minimize light pollution.

"The Western Reserve Historical Society genuinely appreciates support from The State of Ohio and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for making this work possible. Stewardship is one of the Historical Society's core values," explains Kelly Falcone-Hall, WRHS President & CEO. "This includes stewardship of the land and responsible stewardship of the collections that we hold in public trust. This major renovation project dramatically improves the guest experience and community access to the Cleveland History Center and to University Circle in general.

The new parking lot and guest entrance, located off Magnolia Drive, opens to the public on Friday, September 11, 2015. Visible improvements will include a pervious paver drive leading to a stamped concrete entry. Pay-in-lane parking equipment will allow 24-hour parking access for visitors to University Circle. Multi-modal transportation and community connectivity is encouraged by including bike racks and maintaining convenient drop-off points near the entrance. A new walkway from the parking lot to the entrance is enhanced by a renovated exterior wall, new gates, and increased green space.

BEHNKE Landscape Architecture is the Cleveland-based leader in planning and designing award-winning outdoor places. We work alongside international, National and local architects and provide the expertise to create exterior spaces that help present a building to the public. We specialize in Green and Urban Placemaking, including Active Transportation, Athletics, Education, Institutions, and Parks. Our fresh approach and 57 years of expertise drives our creation of places that are vital, sustainable, and beautiful.

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Picture attached –.

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