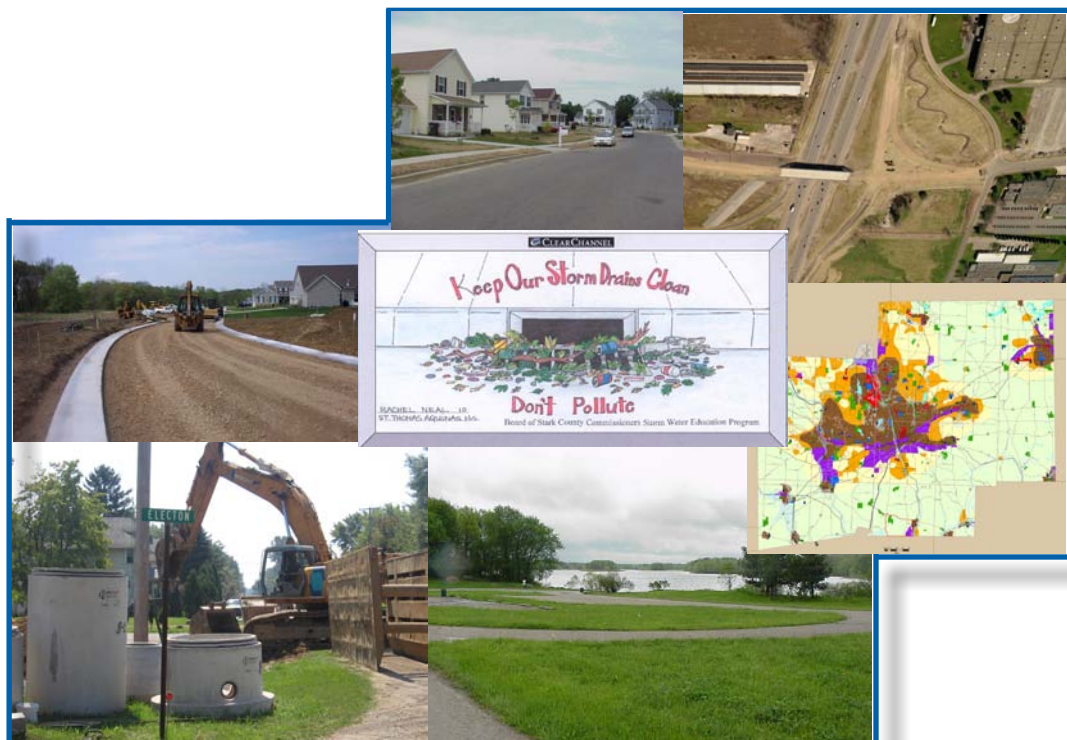


Stark County Regional Planning Commission



Annual Report
2009

Pamela Bossart
President



Robert Nau
Executive Director



Mission Statement

"To improve the quality of life in Stark County and its communities through an effective regional forum characterized by communication, collaboration, facilitation, and planning assistance."

Agency Message

We all know 2009 was a challenging year for state and local governments as they struggled to balance their budgets during an economic climate characterized by declining tax revenues. Some have described the current situation as the “Great Recession”, citing the downturn in the housing market and high unemployment. However, we all know challenges present opportunities, and we are confident our community leaders are working hard for Stark County as we transition through this economic cycle. More than ever, regional strategies and collaboration efforts are essential when confronting challenges that require us to do more with less. The RPC has a history of fostering regional cooperation aimed at improving the quality of life in Stark County by making it a better place to live and work.

Although subdivision development and zoning activity in the County have slowed down the last couple of years, the RPC has been very busy administering various new programs. One of the greatest strengths of the agency is its ability to adapt to meet the changing needs of Stark County. The year 2009 may very well be known as the year of the acronym with the advent of new federal and state stimulus programs. The list includes the following: Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP); American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA); Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP); Community Development Block Grant - Recovery (CDBG-R); Home Septic Treatment Systems (HSTS); Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG); and Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP). The implementation of these housing, infrastructure and transportation programs requires an expertise in state and federal regulations which the RPC has demonstrated for many years. Also in 2009, the Ohio EPA issued a mandate that required Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) Districts in the County to map storm water structures. To complete the project, a consortium of the MS4 Districts was formed, which is being managed by the RPC. This example of local cooperation pools local resources and takes advantage of economies of scale.

On a more personal level, this past year was one of loss for the Stark County community. Our County Engineer, Michael Rehfus, who worked extremely hard to improve the safety of our roads, passed away. Richard Stambaugh, long-time RPC member who served on the Commission for 34 years, and Al Coppock, CAC Chairman, also passed away this past year. Their service as citizen representatives on the RPC was vital to our mission of public participation in the planning process.

Change is a constant in life, and this past year was a year of change for the RPC. As the composition of our Commission and staff changes, new approaches to problem solving emerge within the context of a well established framework of institutional success. Thanks to the leadership of our Commission and our dedicated staff, the RPC continues to be a regional catalyst to improve the quality of life for our citizens.

SCATS

Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS)

SCATS is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for transportation planning in Stark County. Planning efforts include developing a long-range Transportation Plan and a 4-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The updated 2030 Transportation Plan was approved by the SCATS Policy Committee in May and included a number of changes to bring it into compliance with the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation, Equity Act: Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) highway funding bill. ODOT postponed the time frame for revising the State TIP, resulting in a number of amendments being made to the SCATS 2008-2011 TIP that was approved in 2007. Projects must be listed in these plans in order to qualify for funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009

ARRA was passed by Congress in February of 2009 and included \$26.6 billion in funding for highway projects throughout the United States. SCATS allocated \$6.6 million of this amount to fund “shovel ready” projects.

The majority of the projects chosen for ARRA funds came from the established project-selection process that SCATS uses. The following factors were considered:

- Readiness was of primary importance in order to meet the objectives of the Recovery Act
- Project deliverability was considered to avoid the return of unspent ARRA funds
- Both the spirit and the letter of the law concerning job creation was considered. A mixture of project types ensure that a variety of jobs and materials are used
- Stark County was designated as “Economically Distressed” by the Ohio Department of Development, therefore all projects met this requirement
- To meet time constraints, projects considered either did not require an air quality conformity analysis or did not require analysis under the federal environmental review process
- Geographic equity was considered when new projects were added to the TIP using STP funds displaced with ARRA funds
- New projects using displaced STP funds were funded at 80%, requiring a local sponsor commitment of matching funds

Four local projects received ARRA funding:

- Hills & Dales Road is being widened to four-lanes from SR 241 to Sir Thomas Blvd, total project cost- \$7.4 million, ARRA funds- \$4.8 million

- Wooster Street Bridge is being replaced over the Tuscarawas River in Navarre, total project cost- \$900,000, ARRA funds- \$850,000
- Main Street Widening in Louisville, total project cost- \$7 million, ARRA funds- \$330,000
- Deer Creek Reservoir Pedestrian Suspension Bridge (Lexington Township), total project cost- \$2.1 million, ARRA funds- \$611,495

In addition, the following projects were funded with \$5.8 million in STP funds that were redistributed because of the use of ARRA funds:

- Hills & Dales Road, total project cost- \$7.4 million, ARRA funds- \$4.8 million, STP Reallocated funds- \$1,000,000
- Kemary Ave. Bridge (Bethlehem Twp), total project cost- \$459,000, STP funds- \$367,200
- Deerfield Bridge (Tuscarawas Twp.), total project cost- \$330,000, STP funds- \$264,200
- Cleveland Ave. Reconstruction (City of Canton) from 12th Street to north corporation line, total project cost- \$1,825,000, STP funds- \$1,440,000
- Main Street Resurfacing (North Canton), total project cost- \$1,200,000, STP funds- \$960,000
- MLK Viaduct (Alliance), total project cost- \$919,000, STP funds- \$618,400
- Main Ave. Reconstruction (City of Massillon), total project cost- \$490,000, STP funds- \$392,000
- Deer Creek Reservoir Pedestrian Suspension Bridge (Lexington Twp.), total project cost- \$2.1 million, ARRA funds- \$611,495, STP Reallocated funds- \$110,804

Ohio Public Works Commission Programs

The District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee oversees the distribution of State Capital Improvements Program and Local Transportation Improvement Program funds to assist local communities in improving their basic infrastructure systems. Monies from this program are raised by the State selling bonds, generating slightly more than \$6 million a year for Stark County projects. A State Stimulus package almost doubled the funds available to the program this year. The Committee awarded more than \$13.6 million dollars for 25 projects as seen in the tables on the following page:

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State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP)

Applicant	Project	Total Cost	OPWC Funds
Canal Fulton	High St. Sanitary Sewer	\$223,871	\$223,871
Alliance	MLK Bridge Rehab	\$828,061	\$400,000
Canton	NE Water Treatment Plant	\$9,226,000	\$500,000
Canton	NW Water Treatment Plant	\$7,200,000	\$1,500,000
Stark County Eng	3rd St. NW Bridge	\$511,000	\$450,000
East Canton	Nassau/Cedar Waterline	\$96,000	\$90,000
Canton	25th St. NE Storm Sewer	\$1,342,000	\$993,000
Stark County Eng	Various Road Resurfacing	\$1,223,926	\$890,914
Hartville	Kent Ave. Improvement	\$504,500	\$247,205
Minerva	WWTP Clarifier Rehab	\$326,000	\$161,000
Wilmot	Main/Maple St. Waterline	\$319,000	\$223,300
Alliance	WWTP Clarifier Ph. 3	\$355,500	\$174,195
Minerva	WWTP Emergency Generator	\$229,000	\$112,210
Perry Twp.	Crescent Gardens Storm Sewer	\$1,345,952	\$996,004
Massillon	32nd St. NW Bridge Replace	\$312,155	\$231,218
North Canton	Willoway Storm Sewer	\$1,084,113	\$802,246
Stark County Sewer	Pump Stations - P-525	\$1,340,000	\$400,000
TOTALS		\$26,467,078	\$8,395,163

Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP)

Applicant	Project	Total Cost	OPWC Funds
Stark County Eng	Cleveland Ave/Mt. Pleasant	\$2,063,345	\$800,000
Stark County Eng	12th St. Improvement	\$1,609,848	\$788,825
Osnaburg/Paris	Parks Road Widening and Paving	\$191,413	\$141,646
Jackson Twp.	Lafayette/High Mill Intersection	\$1,359,940	\$665,940
Stark County Eng	Mt. Pleasant St. Bridge	\$328,000	\$242,000
North Canton	N. Main St. Reconstruction	\$3,084,377	\$1,511,345
Stark County Eng	Belden Village Signals	\$1,159,749	\$200,000
Canal Fulton	High St./Erie Ave. Culvert	\$1,174,340	\$869,012
TOTALS		\$5,224,546	\$5,218,768

Equal Employment

- Processed 23 equal employment discrimination telephone calls
- Investigated county-wide employee complaints relating to equal employment issues
- Provided employee mediation services
- Assisted in the development of Equal Employment Opportunity plans for two county departments

Subdivision Engineering



Parking lot underground storm water detention system for Walsh University

- Ohio EPA NPDES Permit: Prepared the County's 2008 Annual Report and revised the Storm Water Management Program for the County; began preparing the comprehensive storm water conveyance system mapping for all County owned and operated facilities and roadways within the urbanized areas as required by the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination minimum measure given in the permit
- Performed inspections of the County's Zimber Ditch Detention Basin B concrete dam as required by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for Class I Structures as well as maintained the inspection and maintenance logs
- Assisted townships and the Board of Stark County Commissioners with drainage related issues as requested; reviewed construction plans for proposed condominium developments as requested by the townships
- Began serving as Project Manager to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for Marlboro Township Storm and Sanitary Sewers Replacement
- Completed the preliminary site and building layout design and a construction cost estimate for the proposed Livestock Expo Center to be located at the Stark County Fairgrounds
- Completed preliminary design with recommendations for a water quality best management practice for the Lakeside-Broad Avenues existing storm sewer system discharge into Meyers Lake
- Served as Project Manager for the 220 and 216 East Tuscarawas Street Buildings Demolition and Parking Lot Expansion Project
- Performed a building inspection and general condition evaluation of the former Hastings U.S. Army Reserve Training Center located in Canton Township

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- Reviewed preliminary plans, construction drawings and final plats for new allotments, and commercial and industrial site improvement plans for compliance with the Subdivision Regulations
- Performed construction inspections for the installation of public improvements in new allotments to insure compliance with the Subdivision Regulations as for release of performance and maintenance bonds
- Reviewed performance and maintenance bonds, partial mortgage releases, offsite drainage easements, bond substitutions, construction variances, etc. related to new allotments
- Served on the NEFCO General Policy Board, District 19 Public Works Committee, Building Industry Association's Low Impact Development Task Force and Nimishillen Creek Watershed Committee

Historic Preservation

The RPC's Historic Preservation Administrator reviews the agency's housing rehab and other CDBG projects to comply with regulations attached to federal funding for consideration of the potential effect on historic properties. Under terms of a Programmatic Agreement with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO), this eliminates the need to otherwise submit all such projects to the OHPO, whose reviews usually take one to two months for completion. Similar reviews are performed under contracts with the cities of Massillon and Alliance, the Ohio Regional Development Corporation in Coshocton, Tuscarawas County, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) Abandoned Mine Lands program. Work for ODNR includes field reviews of abandoned coal mine reclamation projects in more than 20 counties, and preparation of review documentation for each project.

- ODNR: 36 mine reclamation project reviews (24 completed, 12 underway)
- Section 106 historic preservation reviews (not including programmatic exclusions signed by SCRPC rehab staff):
 - 102 in Stark County, including the cities of Alliance and Massillon
 - 113 in Crawford, Holmes, & Tuscarawas Counties, and the cities of Coshocton & Shelby

Economic Development

Enterprise Zone (EZ) and Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Programs

Under contract with the Stark County Commissioners, the RPC provides assistance to members of Tax Incentive Review Council(s) (TIRC) to ensure compliance with commitments made by companies receiving tax abatement. Both the Enterprise Zone and Community Reinvestment Area programs are governed by state law and rules developed by the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Tax Incentives.

Enterprise Zone (EZ) - designated area where business and industry wishing to locate and/or expand/improve property enter agreement with local government and receive abatement of a portion of both real estate and personal property taxes.

Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) - primarily a program to encourage revitalization of existing housing, but which also allows a business to receive real property tax relief by improving property, within such designated area.

Except for the Cities of Canton, Alliance and Massillon who monitor their own programs, the County's designated Enterprise Zone Manager is responsible for five other county enterprise zones: EZ326C (Minerva); EZ342C (Brewster); EZ360C (City of Canal Fulton); EZ234C which includes parts of the villages of East Canton and Navarre; Canton, Perry and Osnaburg Townships; and all of the City of Louisville and Nimishillen and Plain Townships; and EZ252C, which includes parts of Lake and Jackson Townships and the City of North Canton.

The Tax Incentive Review Council(s)- Stark County Auditor by law serves as Chairman, three county commissioner representatives, two representatives of local government and one representative of a local school district serve on TIRC.

2009 recommendations of Tax Incentive Review Council(s) (TIRC) and final action of the Stark County Commissioners:

- Reviewed 24 Enterprise Zone and one CRA agreements
- Seven agreements ended which involved only personal property taxes which are no longer in effect in Ohio
- Two agreements expired – a 1997 agreement in the City of Louisville and a 1996 agreement in Perry Township
- One agreement terminated in the City of Canal Fulton – company did not meet its commitments
- 14 enterprise zone and one community reinvestment area agreements were continued, some with conditions

2009 Tax Abatement Action

Two new Enterprise Zone Agreements and one amended agreement approved by Stark County Commissioners

Community Development

FY 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program

During FY '08 (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009) the SCRPC expended \$1,709,625.19 of CDBG funding. This program benefited communities, neighborhoods and low-to moderate-income (LMI) residents throughout Stark County (outside the cities of Canton, Massillon, Alliance and the Village of Hills and Dales).

- Total funds available for use in FY' 08 were \$2,970,562.10
- Total FY '08 entitlement grant was \$1,419,192.00
- Total CDBG funds expended in FY' 08 was \$1,709,625.19
- 80.3% of funds expended benefited low-to moderate- income (LMI) persons
- 100% of the projects undertaken benefited LMI persons

Public infrastructure projects are a priority for the CDBG program on a yearly basis. This trend will likely continue as County infrastructure needs persist and existing facilities continue to age. In FY '08, the Robertsville Storm Sewer project was the first CDBG project ever funded in Paris Township. Trustee Terry Gram was grateful CDBG funding was provided to meet a vital infrastructure need, "This was the largest project ever done in Paris Township [in terms of cost], and if it weren't for the County it never would have happened. The old drainage system was built in 1940; it was out of date and didn't have the proper capacity." Infrastructure projects funded in FY '08:

- Completed:
 - East Canton – Church Street Water Main
 - Paris Township – Robertsville Storm Sewer
- In progress:
 - Canton Township – Lincoln/Donora Sanitary Sewer
 - Canton Township – 14th/Waynesburg Sanitary Sewer
 - Hartville – Kent Avenue Improvement
 - Plain Township – 25th Street NE Area Storm Sewer

Public service programs serve many vital needs county-wide and are also an essential part of CDBG expenditures each year. Using CDBG funding, the Family Living Center (FLC) in Massillon was able to provide 9,296 nights of shelter, this included helping 189 persons, of which 102 were children. Housing Coordinator, Amy Dornack, explains "This is the highest number of nights provided on record. The FLC is very grateful for the funds that we have received from this CDBG program." Gracie, a FLC resident, stated "If this place didn't exist, I don't know where my kids and I would be. At the FLC, they show you the tools you need to further your education to become employed and how to get housing." Public service projects funded in FY '08, along with people assisted, are as follows:

- Canton Negro Old-timers – served 1,640 persons
- Salvation Army - Homeless Motel Voucher program – housed 577 persons
- Community Services Massillon Family Living Center – housed 189 persons
- Alliance Emergency Residence – housed 137 persons
- The Stock Pile – served 613 households
- Domestic Violence project – Therapeutic Services - counseled 545 persons
- Western Stark Medical Van – served 82 persons

The CDBG allocation in FY '08 included funding of two economic development activities. Both providers assisted and provided resources to low-to moderate-income businesses and prospective businesses. The two FY '08 CDBG economic development activities include:

- KSU Micro Business Development Program – served 138 business owners/potential owners
- Community Services'- Pyramid Career Services Incubator Program – served 39 business owners/potential owners

The CDBG program also undertook housing rehabilitation activities during FY '08. Funding was used to rehabilitate 60 single-family, owner-occupied, residential units for income qualifying households. These rehabilitations assisted many homeowners as well as improved the housing stock in communities and neighborhoods throughout the county.

- 60 Single-Family/Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitations:
 - 56 units were completed (6 rehab, 11 sewer connections, 39 emergency)
 - 4 additional units were under contract

FY 2008 HOME Program

During FY '08, SCRPC expended \$946,188.97 of HOME funding. This program created affordable housing opportunities for low-to moderate-income residents throughout Stark County (outside the City of Canton and the Village of Hills and Dales) The cities of Alliance and Massillon participate as Consortium members of the HOME program with the County. SCRPC funded affordable housing activities including: housing rehabilitation, rental housing, new construction of single family housing, elderly housing and permanent supportive housing.

- Total funds available for use in FY' 08 was \$2,228,827.37
- Total FY '08 entitlement grant was \$848,085.00, plus \$7,223.00 in American Dream and Downpayment Initiative (ADDI)
- Total HOME funds expended in FY' 08 was \$946,188.97
- 87.0% of funds expended benefited LMI persons
- 100% of the projects undertaken benefited LMI persons

The Wilson-Pointe elderly apartment complex was a project funded in FY '08. Will Dent, President and CEO of ABCD, Inc. appreciated Stark County HOME funding that helped the project to be completed, stating "Support from the County came in a very timely manner, which ensured successful completion of the project. Thank you on behalf of ABCD, Inc., NRP Group, LLC and the other partners; and most of all, from the elderly residents at Wilson-Pointe." A brief outline of the housing activities funded through FY '08 HOME funding is as follows:

- Completed:
 - ABCD, Inc. – Massillon Homes II: Rent-to-Own Single-Family Housing
 - Wilson-Pointe Development – Elderly apartment complex
- In progress:
 - SMHA Tenant Based Rental Assistance program
 - SMHA HOPE Tenant Based Rental Assistance program
 - City of Massillon Housing Rehab/Homebuyer program
 - City of Alliance Housing Rehab program
 - Stark County Housing Rehab program
 - ABCD, Inc. – Brewster Homes: Single-Family Housing
 - YWCA of Canton – YW-PHS Permanent Supportive Housing
 - NRP Alliance Elderly – Elderly apartment complex – City of Alliance
 - Alliance for Children & Families – A-F.I.R.S.T. – Permanent Supportive Housing-City of Alliance

Wilson-Pointe
elderly apartment complex



Home Rehabilitation and the American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI):

Other quality affordable housing opportunities were made available to residents through a HOME funded rehabilitation program, which has the requirement to bring a home up to Residential Rehabilitation Standards (RRS); and the American Dream Downpayment Initiative program, which provide down payment assistance to qualifying first time homebuyers.

- 12 Single-Family/Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitations under the county's program:
 - 12 units completed and brought up to Residential Rehabilitation Standards
 - 2 more units were under contract for rehab
- 13 LMI first time homebuyers received downpayment assistance:
 - \$38,290.00 of total down payment assistance leveraged \$954,713.00 in new mortgages
 - 6 ADDI projects were completed in the City of Massillon, and seven within Stark County

2009 Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)

In 2008, Congress passed the Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA) which established the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The purpose of NSP is to stabilize communities that have suffered from foreclosure and abandonment. SCRPC is administering this funding in Stark County on behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Activities are designed to target households/individuals up to 120% of area median income (AMI):

Total Stark County NSP Allocation	\$4,181,673
• 25% for population at ≤ 50% AMI:	\$1,045,420
Special Needs Housing (\$348,473)	
Public Housing Inventory (\$696,947)	
• 65% for population at ≤ 120% AMI:	\$2,718,086
Acquisition-Rehab-Resale (\$1,902,660)	
New Construction (\$407,713)	
Demolition (\$217,447)	
Down Payment Assistance (\$135,904)	
Housing Counseling (\$54,362)	
• 10% for program administration:	\$418,167

SCRPC has been working with Hartville Innovative Housing Solutions (HIHS) to meet the goal of developing two houses that will serve the special needs of eight clients. HIHS is researching prospective lots and has identified eight that warrant further research. It is expected that construction will be completed in 2010 with eight developmentally disabled clients moving into the new units.

SCRPC is collaborating with the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) to increase the amount of public housing units available to Stark County residents. The hopeful outcome is to provide rehabilitated single family housing that will house five to seven households. This activity is designed to help meet the high demand for public housing in Stark County.

The goal of the acquisition-rehab-resale activity is to improve neighborhoods and communities affected by vacancy due to foreclosure and to provide housing opportunities to qualifying individuals and families. SCRPC is working in partnership with ABCD, Inc., Colonial Homes, Smith Development and The Stock Pile to acquire, rehabilitate and sell single-family houses that are within qualifying target areas. At the time of writing, SCRPC partners have acquired four properties and are continuing to search for viable properties. The hopeful outcome of this activity is to acquire, rehab and resell 10 to 15 units within the County. Bernie Hunt, a member of The Stock Pile board, is enthusiastic about the prospects of this activity, both to help County residents, and to continue the mission of The Stock Pile, saying "This is a great program, and the key thing about it is that it offers a homeownership opportunity to people that may not have had the opportunity otherwise. This is the first step [for The Stock Pile] towards providing quality affordable housing; this is something The Stock Pile board is very excited about."

Demolition of residential properties is designed to abate nuisance properties that have come about due to vacancy and foreclosure. SCRPC is working with political jurisdictions to remove these nuisance properties that present many dangers in neighborhoods and communities. SCRPC is researching and completing due diligence on 13 property inquiries from townships and incorporated areas throughout the County, and hopes to be able to demolish 20 to 30 residential structures under this activity.

The down payment assistance and the housing counseling activities of the NSP program are designed to work in conjunction with the acquisition-rehab-resale and new construction activities. Down payment assistance will be provided to qualified purchasers of rehabilitated and newly constructed NSP housing. These purchasers will also be required to complete housing counseling courses; this requirement assures that purchasers will be well prepared and successful homeowners.

First NSP home purchased
for rehabilitation and resale-
located in Minerva



2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding

A portion of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding allocated to the Board of Stark County Commissioners was administered by the Community Development Department in 2009. This funding is serving important needs county-wide. An outline of funding and details about the projects are as follows:

Public Infrastructure Project (CDBG-Recovery):

\$375,000.00 of stimulus funds were allocated to a water and sewer main replacement project on North Main Street in the City of North Canton. The project is currently underway with SCPRC funds covering 70% of total project costs. The project is expected to be completed in early 2010.

Home Septic Treatment Systems Project (HSTS):

As a pass through from the Ohio EPA, Stark County received a total of \$89,671.53 of federal stimulus funding to pay for home septic replacements for qualifying residents. SCRPC used this funding to help 13 qualified households replace malfunctioning septic systems. Seventy-five percent of the cost of each project was covered by stimulus money in the form of a direct grant, and the remaining 25% was covered by a deferred loan from the Community Development Block Grant Fund.

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP):

This stimulus-funded homeless initiative provides two approaches for fighting homelessness in Stark County. The first is prevention, which provides direct funding of rent or utility payments for qualifying individuals and families who are in danger of losing housing and becoming homeless without the assistance. The second provides shelter, or re-housing, to qualifying individuals or families, who have recently become homeless.

Fair Housing

The Stark County Fair Housing Department's (SCFHD) mission is to eliminate housing discrimination, racial and sexual harassment and to ensure housing opportunities for all people regardless of a person's race, color, sex, religion, military status, national origin, handicap or familial status. Landlord and tenant counseling, fair housing counseling, compliance monitoring, testing, investigating alleged claims of housing discrimination, and sponsoring educational programs are provided to the citizens of Stark County and the city of Alliance.

During this period, the staff conducted the following:

Educational Workshops, Trainings, and Outreach

- Made presentations to: Hoover High School, Stark County Regional Planning Commission, Stark County Association of Realtors, and the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Trained eight respondents and property managers on the fair housing law
- Staffed a resource booth at the Stark County Real Estate Investor's Association Vendor Show where educational materials and promotional items were available to more than 200 participants
- Conducted three separate tester training sessions to train 14 volunteers to test and investigate claims of housing discrimination

Landlord-Tenant

- Sponsored a Landlord-Tenant Workshop where approximately 60 persons were in attendance
- Gave a presentation at the Tenancy 101 Workshop that was sponsored by the Stark County Association of Realtors where 30 persons were in attendance
- Assisted the following through mediation and/or conciliation:
 - Assisted 30 families with the reconnection of water
 - Assisted 18 families with homelessness prevention due to evictions or foreclosures
 - Assisted 7 families with the reconnection of utilities
 - Assisted 13 families in getting repairs remedied
 - Assisted 6 families with lease terminations

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- Counseled and mediated 914 landlords, tenants, and/or representatives from agencies on the rights, obligations and responsibilities under the landlord-tenant laws. A breakdown on the number of households counseled by category is as follows:

Evictions	116	Referrals	384
Escrow	97	Rent Increase	36
Illegal Entry	31	Repairs	97
Lease Termination	47	Security Deposits	80
Miscellaneous	95	Utilities	48



Staff sponsored a landlord/tenant workshop where presenters spoke on the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants, how to identify and prevent methamphetamine labs on rental properties, mold, and renting foreclosed properties.

Monitoring

- Monitored 21 property investment owners and/or managers due to some questionable and/or discriminatory rental practices in the past

Discrimination Cases

Of the many categories of complaint data for housing discrimination, rental cases continue to represent the largest number of complaints, primarily because it is easier to recognize this type of discrimination.

- Investigated, processed, and/or settled 13 claims of rental housing discrimination
 - Nine cases are currently pending
 - Three cases were resolved by settlement and/or conciliation
 - One case had too little substance and was irrelevant to fair housing laws

Advertisement and Public Awareness

- Distributed nearly 700 educational brochures to property owners, managers, tenants, landlords, students, lawyers, Alliance Municipal Court, City of Canton, Stark County Association of Realtors, Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority, The Stock Pile, Village of Minerva, YWCA, and other social service agencies
- Advertised in the Repository and Alliance Review newspapers
- Began work on the Analysis of Impediments with the cities of Alliance, Canton, and Massillon

Planning



Long Range Planning Activities:

- Completed the development of the Stark County Consolidated Plan, submitted to the Department of Housing & Urban Development in May 2009; the Plan addresses housing, community development, and infrastructure needs for Stark County
- Completed the draft of the City of Canal Fulton's Community Plan; this Plan serves as an education and planning tool designed to provide decision-making guidance on issues pertaining to Economic Development, Transportation, Community Livability, and Housing
- Completed the grant application and received \$2.7 million dollar energy efficiency grant on behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners as part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; this grant will help communities reduce fossil fuel emissions and total energy use, and improve energy efficiency in the building and transportation sectors while creating and/or retaining jobs and stimulating the economy
- Carried out storm water education for the Board of Stark County Commissioners through educational workshops, the RPC website, educational posters, brochures, articles, and a student billboard contest
- Served on Northeast Four County Planning Organization's Cooperative Economic Development Strategy Committee, the Board of Trustees of Jackson Township Recycling Station, the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners, and the United Way's COMPASS Environmental Committee
- Coordinated SCRPC's public relations work including public meetings, press releases, advertising, the Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC), and newsletters
- Began assisting the City of Alliance with the update of their Consolidated Plan

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Subdivision Review Subcommittee and staff reviewed:

- Five preliminary plans (2 revised)
- Six final plats (1 new subdivision & 5 replats)

Resulting in: 17 residential lots
0.2 miles new residential streets

- 34 site plans (commercial, industrial & multi-family uses)
- 15 administrative waivers of formal site improvement plans
- 7 variance requests
- 174 divisions of property without plat (lot splits)

Street Vacations:

- Made recommendations to the County Commissioners on 12 proposed street vacations

Zoning:

- Reviewed and made recommendations on 20 township amendments
- Assisted Bethlehem and Nimishillen townships with revisions to their zoning resolutions
- Organized Zoning Inspector’s “Mutual Assistance” meetings

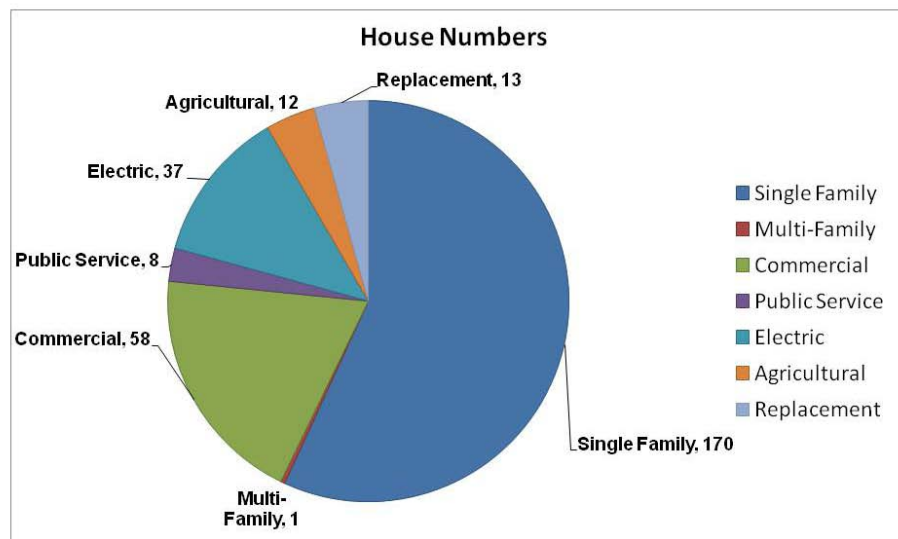
House Numbering

Issued 299 total House Numbers:

- 170 Single Family
- 1 Multi-Family
- 58 Commercial/Industrial
- 12 Agricultural Buildings
- 8 Public Service
- 37 Electric for Gas Wells, Oil Wells, etc.
- 13 Replacement Numbers

- Provided one recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding street name changes

A House Numbering Manual was also created to assist staff in the procedures for issuing numbers and for naming streets.



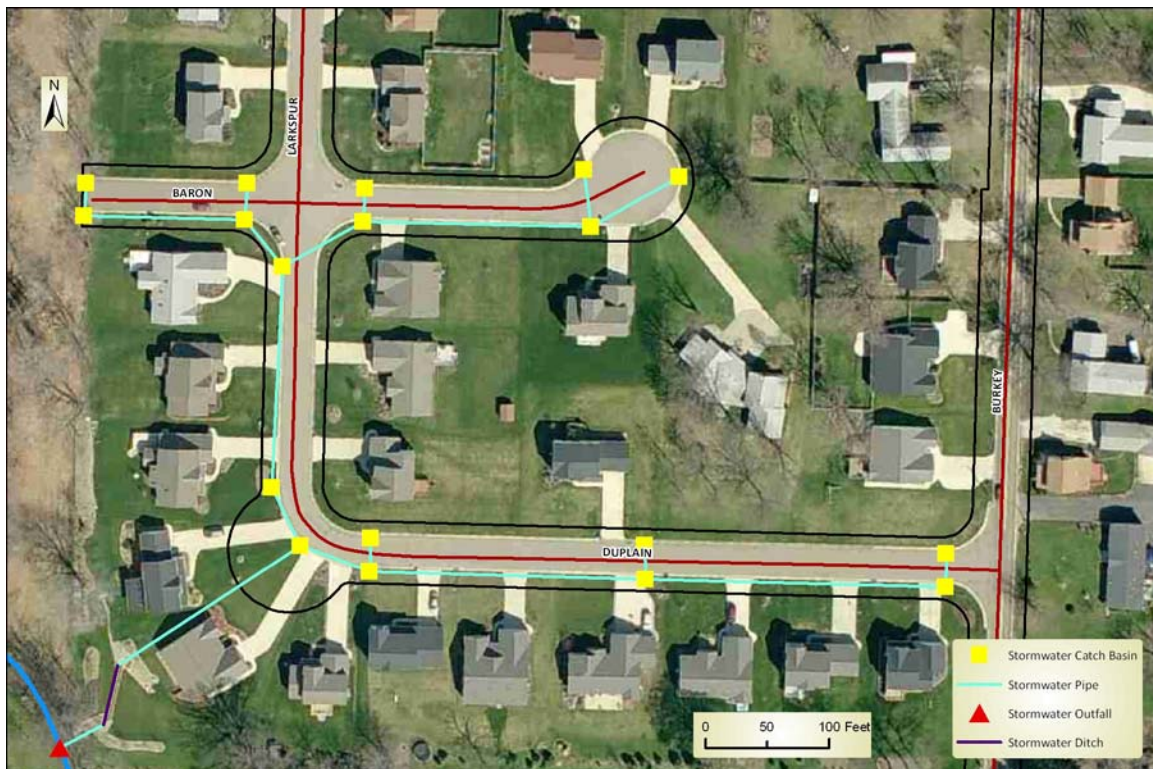
The Stock Pile



- The Planning Department carried out administration, personnel management, and grant-writing for The Stock Pile, the RPC's non-profit building material reuse warehouse.
- Purchased one home and selected a second for rehabilitation and resale to low- to middle-income families, as part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- Staffed by one full-time and eight part-time employees
- Served as work site for Senior Employment Services and Municipal Court Referrals
- Took in \$83,111 in handling fees, representing approximately \$250,000 in materials and diverted more than 118 tons of reusable materials from landfills (total since opening: 886 tons)
- Assisted more than 1,000 low- to middle-income persons from 16 counties by providing materials for home repairs
- Made reuse information, membership applications, and a "day pass" available
- Reinvested more than \$680,000 in handling fees in the program (since opening), which represents well over \$2.0 million worth of materials returned to useful life
- Received and sold 115 appliances, most from Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) as part of a joint project
- Provided an outlet for more than 70 companies to remove overstock and scratch and dent items from their warehouses and reduced their disposal costs
- Partnered with more than 209 non-profit agencies by supplying items for their projects

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- GIS has continued to grow in 2009 as it has extended its outreach again throughout the county. Some new projects began and are now in progress.
- In February of 2009, the EPA passed an additional unfunded mandate that was a continuation of storm water outfall mapping completed by the Stark County Health Department a couple of years ago. This new mandate requires all MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) districts in the County to map out all storm water drainage structures. This includes catch basins, pipes, man hole covers, ditches and water quality basins. The deadline is February of 2014 to complete this mapping mandate. To complete this project, we formed a GIS consortium with the following entities; Lake, Jackson, Plain, Canton, Nimishillen and Tuscarawas Townships as well as the City of Louisville. Through this effort, a consortium was formed to have this project managed by the RPC. This will save several hundred thousand dollars that would have been spent if the MS4 districts have taken on this task alone. SCRPC acquired all necessary personnel, equipment and software to complete this mandate.



Example of a neighborhood Storm Water Conveyance System Inventory



Example of types of features collected in the Storm Water Conveyance System Inventory

- The GIS Department continues to employ interns from the University of Akron to work on various projects throughout the County. The city of North Canton Utility structure mapping continued in 2009. These structures included catch basins, storm water and sewer man-hole covers, open ditches, retention basins and out-falls. Also in 2009, SCRPC formed an agreement with the City of Alliance to map their storm and sewer utility structures. Both of these projects will continue in 2010.
- Zoning layers continue to be an ongoing project. The following entities have been completed: Bethlehem, Jackson, Lexington, Marlboro, Nimishillen, Osnaburg, Perry, Pike and Plain Townships. The Village of East Canton has also been finished. In 2009, Canton and Lake Townships received new draft maps as well as the City of North Canton. The City of Louisville also will be receiving draft zoning maps in early 2010.
- SC House Numbering had acquired new software in late 2008. The SCRPC has been working hard with the Stark County Auditor GIS Department to make the transition of data. The transition from using the paper maps to all PC based house numbering is almost complete.

Fiscal

	2009 Actual Income	2010 Projected Income
Taxes	3,668.31	4,000
Charges for Services	18,129.26	14,000
Licenses and Permits	11,207.80	13,000
Intergovernmental Includes Federal, State, Local Reimbursements & Contract Services	1,824,574.45	1,976,930.00
Other Revenue Includes Hospitalization Co-pay and Other Reimbursements	4,994.43	-
TOTAL	1,862,574.25	2,007,930.00

	2009 Actual Expenses	2010 Projected Expenses
Salaries and Benefits	1,601,007.54	1,723,872.00
Supplies	30,039.65	54,563.00
Purchased Services	122,172.01	193,365.00
Capital Outlay	21,176.28	17,778.00
Other	6,687.66	18,352.00
TOTAL	1,781,083.14	2,007,930.00

The Regional Planning Commission's financial records were audited in 2009 by State Auditor Mary Taylor's office. The audit was completed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. The audit found no findings or questioned costs for the year 2008.

2009 SCRPC Members

President: Pamela Bossart Vice-President: Robert Sanderson Secretary: Vince Marion

Executive Committee

*Pamela Bossart	President
#Tom Harmon	President, County Commissioners
Mike Hanke	County Administrator
John Ferrero, Jr.	County Prosecutor
Toni Middleton	City of Alliance
*Vince Marion, alt.	Secretary
William J. Healy II	City of Canton
Francis Cicchinelli, Jr.	City of Massillon
*Robert Sanderson, alt.	Vice-President
*James Benekos	City of North Canton
*Maurice "Mort" DeHoff	Washington Township
*Robert Leach	Village of Magnolia
*Fred Abraham	County-at-Large
Larry Krebs	County-at-Large
*David McAlister	County-at-Large
*Carl Rose	County-at-Large
*Ronald Revlock	County-at-Large

City Members

Alliance
Mayor Toni Middleton
Vince Marion, alt.

Canal Fulton
Johnson Belford
Mark Cozy, alt.

Canton
Mayor William J. Healy II
Amy Dreussi
Dan Moeglin
Peter Yacobucci

Louisville
Mayor Cynthia Kerchner
Deborah Sanborn

Massillon
Mayor Francis Cicchinelli, Jr.
Robert Sanderson, alt.
Jason Haines

County Office Members (all ex officio)

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Engineer</u>
Todd Bosley	**Michael Rehfus
Dr. Peter Ferguson	Gary Connor, alt.
#Tom Harmon	

<u>Aministrator</u>	<u>Prosecutor</u>
Mike Hanke	John Ferrero, Jr.
	Deborah Dawson, alt.
	Ross Rhodes, alt.

<u>Sanitary Engineer</u>	<u>Health Commissioner</u>
##Michael Armogida	William Franks
Conrad Moeller, alt.	Todd Paulus, alt.
**Michael Rehfus	

North Canton
Mayor David Held
James Benekos
Earle Wise, Jr., alt.

County Appointments

Fred Abraham	David McAlister
**Al Coppock	Anthony Peldunas
Trina Cutter	Ronald Revlock
John Hahn	Carl Rose
Larry Krebs	

* Personnel Committee # Resigned ## Retired ** Deceased con't.

Members Continued

Township Members

Canton

Christopher Nichols
James Wilcox
William Smith, alt.
Hallie Umpleby, alt.

Jackson

William Burger
John Pizzino
James Walters
Ralph Boger, alt.
Marilyn Lyon, alt.
Joni Poindexter, alt.

Lake

Ellis Erb
Galen Stoll
John Arnold, alt.

Lexington

Linda Chain
James Mathews

Marlboro

Wayne Schillig
David Wolf, alt.

Nimishillen

Allen Gress
Lisa Shafer
Keith Lasure, alt.

Osnaburg

Richard Pero
Donna Middaugh, alt.

Pike

Lee Strad

Plain

Pamela Bossart
Louis Giavasis
Albert Leno
Steve Peroz, alt.
Lisa Campbell, alt.

Sandy

Bruce Weisburn

Washington

Maurice "Mort" DeHoff

Village Members

Beach City

Mayor Connie White

Brewster

Mayor Kenneth Ensley
Steve Hartman, alt.

East Canton

Mayor Reggie McGee

East Sparta

Mayor Jackie Truax
Ken Byrd, alt.

Hartville

Mayor Edsel Tucker
Dennis Flechtner, alt.

Hills and Dales

Mayor Edward Schirack

Limaville

Mayor Tami Angel

Magnolia

Mayor Robert Leach

Meyers Lake

Mayor Diana Stadelman

Minerva

Mayor James Waller
David Harp, alt.

Navarre

Mayor Robert Benson
Wayne Hicks, alt.

Waynesburg

Frederick Pisani
Richard Dierick, alt.

Wilmot

Mayor Mark Bolitho

2009 Committees

SCATS Policy Committee

Chair: Tom Ault

Vice-Chair: Donna Middaugh

Members

Tom Ault
Ralph Boger
Pamela Bossart
Todd Bosley
Francis Ciccinielli, Jr.
**Al Coppock
Eric Czetli
Charles DeGraff
Dr. Peter Ferguson
John Grogan
#Tom Harmon
William J. Healy II
David Held
Donna Middaugh
Toni Middleton
Dan Moeglin
Warren Price
Thomas Ream
**Michael Rehfus
Edward Schirack

Alternates

Chris Barnes
James Benekos
Rick Bodenschats
Curtis Bungard
Kirt Conrad
Mark Cozy
Keith Dylewski
Mike Hanke
Deborah Hill
Joann Iudiciani
Carole Kuczynski
Nick Loukas
Vince Marion
Greg McCue
Jack Noble
Deborah Sanborn
V.W. (Bud) Schafer
Chris Surma
Dave Torrence

CDBG/HOME Housing Rehab Loan Committee

Jeff Mills, Chairman

Monica Graves

Diana Stadelman, Mayor of Meyers Lake
William Smith, Canton Township Trustee
Jeff Dotson, RPC Staff
Valerie Watson, RPC Staff, alt.
Denise Hicks, FirstMerit, alt.

Audit Committee

Pamela Bossart, President
Robert Sanderson, Vice-President
Vince Marion, Secretary
Fred Abraham
David McAlister

Technical Advisory Committee

Chair: Dan Moeglin

James Adams	Rick McQueen
James Benekos	Robert Nau
Curtis Bungard	Jack Noble
Kirt Conrad	**Michael Rehfus
Eric Czetli	Deborah Sanborn
Keith Dylewski	V.W.(Bud) Schafer
Carole Kuczynski	Dave Torrence
Nick Loukas	Robert Torres
Vince Marion	

Subdivision Review Subcommittee

Carl Rose, Chair, County-at-Large

Curtis Bungard, City of Alliance

Richard Zengler, City of Canton

Holly Brown, alt.

Jason Haines, City of Massillon

Bruce Bernhard, City of North Canton

Todd Paulus, SC Health Department

**Michael Rehfus, SC Engineer

Gary Connor, alt.

##Michael Armogida, SC Sanitary Eng.

Conrad Moeller, alt.

Ronald Revlock, County-at-Large

John Hahn, County-at-Large

Julie Berbari, Stark Soil & Water

Conservation District

Tyson Lamielle, alt.

Bill Sliwinski, Jackson Twp. Resident

(plus any interested RPC member)

Citizens' Advisory Council

President/Vice-President: **Al Coppock

Members are all citizens working/
residing in Stark County

2009 Planning Staff

Robert Nau, Executive Director

SCATS

Jeff Dutton, P.E., P.S.
Technical Director/Engineer
Dan Slicker
Engineer
Jeff Dotson
Principal Planner
Karl Lucas
Senior Planner
Rick Keyes
Transportation Planner

Community Development

Beth Pearson
Chief of Community Development/
Fiscal Planning
Lynn Carlone
Community Development Administrator
Mary Crombie
Housing Program Coordinator
Billie Schiavone
Housing Counselor
Dan Morganti
Community Development Planner
Steve Williams
Senior Rehab Specialist
Jeff Bartolone
Rehab Inspector

Fair Housing

Valerie Watson
Fair Housing Coordinator

Fiscal

Linda Hartman
Fiscal Officer

Historic Preservation

Jeff Brown
Historic Preservation Administrator

Planning

Brenda Sarsany
Chief of Planning
Cliff Meidlein
Planning Administrator
Rachel Lewis
Regional Planner
Malia Watkins
Community Relations Planner

Subdivision Engineering

Joe Underwood, P.E., P.S.
Subdivision Engineer

GIS

Sean Phillips, GISP
GIS Coordinator
Raj Chavada
GIS Technician

Special Projects

Mary Lee Sponseller

Office Management

Pat Charlton
Office Manager - retired 7/09
Jill Gerber
Office Manager/Secretary
Jill Ross
Secretary

Staff Attorney

David Thorley

Interns

Priya Thawani
James Jacobson

