

Report

Annual

2011



**Robert Sanderson
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

As we emerge from the “Great Recession”, there are hopeful signs our economy is improving. Companies are investing in their facilities, retaining and creating jobs. Green technology, such as wind energy and fuel cell development has presented partnership opportunities for local business and academic institutions. Technological advances in the shale gas industry promise significant job creation and investment opportunity for the region. A balanced approach to economic development and environmental stewardship are essential to maintaining a sustainable community. As always, good planning helps maintain that balance.

In 2011, the RPC administered various programs aimed at enhancing the County’s housing stock, infrastructure system, economy and environmental quality. The Stark County Commissioners’ Community Development, Neighborhood Stabilization and HOME programs funded the construction, acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition of almost 100 homes, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and improve housing for our residents. We are also investing in our aging transportation network by rebuilding deficient roads and bridges and improving roadway capacities to accommodate development patterns of the last 50 years. SARTA’s new transfer center in Belden Village and planned improvements in downtown Canton reflect the need to plan for the future and invest in our existing communities. In both western and eastern Stark County, the State’s Jobs Ready Site program funded the construction of two large industrial parks which will provide jobs for our citizens. RPC staff worked diligently on the feasibility study and grant to transfer of the Frank T. Bow Federal Court House to the Stark County court system, thereby preserving a historic asset in our community.

The RPC is committed to improving environmental quality in our community. Efforts to improve our water quality continue as we plan, fund and construct many septic, sanitary and storm sewer system improvements around the County. After years of work, environmental upgrades in the Walborn Lake drainage basin are planned that will help improve the lakes’ water quality. Staff also administered the County’s \$2.7 million energy efficiency grant which included County Building Retrofits and the creation of a sustainable planning handbook.

The Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium, a 12-county collaboration consisting of metropolitan planning organizations, city and county governments, housing authorities, nonprofits and foundations, continues the unprecedented planning effort started in 2010. RPC staff has been actively involved in this effort that will change the way we do business in northeast Ohio. In these challenging times, regional partnerships involving cooperation and collaboration are more important than ever. With the leadership of our Commission and the hard work of staff, the RPC will continue to foster regional solutions to the challenges we face.

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). Projects must be included in these plans in order to be eligible for federal funds.

Projects scheduled for the 2012 fiscal year (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012) are shown in the table below. The amounts shown represent funds allocated from Stark County's share of Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program, and Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) but do not show the local share or additional Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) monies used for projects.

Applicant	Project	STP	CMAQ	TEP	TOTAL
City of Canton	12th Street Corridor Project	\$536,000	\$53,600		\$589,600
City of Canton	Navarre Road SW Signal Replacement		\$1,401,333		\$1,401,333
City of N. Canton	N. Main Streetscape Phase VI	\$870,000	\$1,180,000	\$700,000	\$2,750,000
SARTA	4 Paratransit Buses (biodiesel)		\$360,000		\$360,000
SC Engineer	Trump/Georgetown Intersection	\$450,000	\$150,000		\$600,000
SC Engineer	Hills & Dales Widening	\$926,000			\$926,000
SC Engineer	Everhard Road Paving	\$320,000			\$320,000
SC Engineer	Riverland Road Bridge Replacement	\$300,000			\$300,000
SC Engineer	Cleveland Avenue SIB Loan Payment	\$1,327,741			\$1,327,741
Transportation Improvement District	Shuffel SIB Loan Payment	\$3,982,824			\$3,982,824
	TOTALS	\$8,712,565	\$3,144,933	\$700,000	\$12,557,498



Cleveland Ave./Mt. Pleasant St.
Safety Improvements



Market/Lake Center
Safety Improvements



Applegrove St. Widening



N. Canton Main St.
Streetscape



Paris Ave./US62
Safety Improvements



Cleveland Ave. Repaving



Martin Luther King Jr.
Viaduct



SARTA Belden Village
Transit Center



Louisville Main St.



Kemaury Ave.
Bridge



West Branch
Trail



Broadway Ave. Bridge

con't.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Projects

The District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee oversees the distribution of State Capital Improvement Program and Local Transportation Improvement Program funds to assist local communities in improving their basic infrastructure. This program is funded through the sale of bonds and the state gas tax. Stark County's share is close to \$7 million a year.

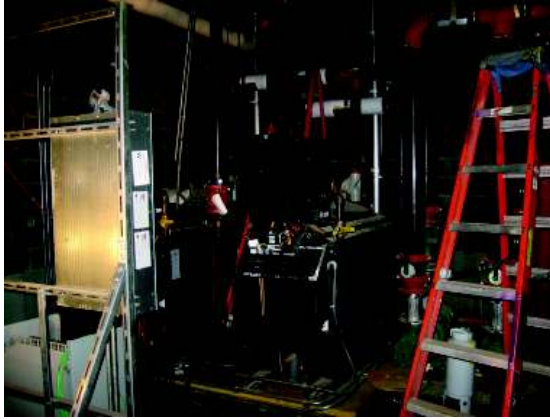
Applicant	Project	OPWC Grant	OPWC Loan	OEPA	FHWA	Local	Total
Alliance	SR 183 Grade Lowering	\$534,693			\$5,442,500	\$178,203	\$6,155,396
Alliance	UV Lights - WTP		\$1,182,050			\$1,182,050	\$2,364,100
Canal Fulton	Wooster St. Storm Sewer		\$145,000				\$145,000
Canton Twp./ Meyers Lake	North Park Ave.	\$45,021				\$46,858	\$91,879
East Sparta	Water Plant Relocation	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,065,161		\$1,000,000	\$4,065,161
Hartville	West Maple Signal Coordination	\$76,600			\$306,400	\$20,000	\$403,000
Jackson Twp/ SC Engineer	Lake O'Springs/ Brunnerdale Paving	\$150,000				\$546,692	\$696,692
North Canton	Main St. Signal Coordination	\$201,450			\$605,800		\$807,250
North Canton	Sanitary Sewer Lining		\$496,918				\$496,918
North Canton	Water Tower Painting		\$398,000				\$398,000
Stark County	Baum St. Bridge		\$600,000			\$130,000	\$730,000
Stark County/ Jackson Twp.	Dressler Rd. Paving	\$150,000				\$407,672	\$557,672
SC Engineer	Frank Ave. Widening- Phase 2	\$1,500,000				\$1,642,940	\$3,142,940
Stark County Sewer	P-567 Plain Interceptor	\$510,000	\$510,000			\$1,030,000	\$2,050,000
Stark County/ Canton	55th St. NE Bridge	\$886,637			\$1,847,000		\$2,733,637
Total		\$4,554,401	\$3,831,968	\$2,065,161	\$8,201,700	\$6,184,415	\$24,837,645

Subdivision Engineering

SCRPC administers the Subdivision Engineering Program on behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners. The Subdivision Engineer worked in a number of areas including:

- Reviewed new allotments' preliminary plans, construction drawings and final plats for compliance with the Subdivision Regulations
- Performed construction inspections of the public improvements installed in new allotments to insure compliance with the Subdivision Regulations and release of the performance and maintenance bonds
- Reviewed performance and maintenance bonds, partial mortgage releases, offsite drainage easements, bond substitutions, construction variances, etc. related to new allotments
- Reviewed commercial and industrial site improvement plans for compliance with the Subdivision Regulations
- Ohio EPA NPDES Permit: Prepared the County's 2010 Annual Report and completed 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
- Continued performing periodic 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 maintaining the inspection and maintenance logs. Obtained bids and administered the contract for the yearly maintenance work required for Detention Basins A and B
- Assisted various Townships and the Board of Stark County Commissioners with drainage related issues and/or problems on an "as requested" basis. Also reviewed construction plans for proposed condominium developments as requested by various Townships
- Served as Project Manager to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for the Energy Efficiency Retrofits Program, which includes the following projects:

- County Jail Boilers Replacement Project
- County Jail Chiller Replacement Project
- County Office Building Boilers Replacement and HVAC System Upgrades Project
- County Office Building Lighting Improvements Project
- Courthouse Garage Heating and Ventilation System Replacement
- County Jail Lighting Improvements Project
- County Data Center Windows and Doors Replacement Project
- County Engineers Office Windows and Doors Replacement Project



County Office Building Boilers Replacement Project

- Served as Project Manager to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for the additional following projects:

Marlboro Village Storm Sewer Replacement
 Frank T. Bow Building Renovations
 Dog Shelter HVAC System Upgrades

- Served as Project Manager to the Court of Common Pleas for the following projects:

Courthouse Clock Tower Support Floor and Access Stairs Replacement
 Courthouse Water Leakage Repairs

- Served on the NEFCO General Policy Board and District 19 Public Works Committee

Glengarry Allotment in Lake Township



Lake O'Springs Allotment in Jackson Township



Greenwich Place Allotment in Jackson Township

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) to assure compliance with commitments made by companies receiving tax abatement. The locally administered programs in effect in the County are the Enterprise Zone (EZ) and Community Reinvestment Area (CRA). The programs are governed by state laws, originally adopted by the legislature in the 1970's. Local governments must follow rules developed by the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), Office of Tax Incentives.

Enterprise Zone (EZ) - designated area where business and industry may locate and/or expand/improve their property and by committing to retain and/or hire employees may realize reduced real estate and personal property taxes

Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) - primarily a program to encourage revitalization of existing housing; however, retail and other businesses may also receive real property tax relief by improving property in such previously designated area and committing to retain/hire employees

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, Nimishillen, Osnaburg, Perry and Plain Townships; all of the City of Louisville; and EZ252C, which includes parts of Lake and Jackson Township and the City of North Canton.

Members of a Tax Incentive Review Council(s)

- Stark County Auditor or representative serves as Chairman
- Three members represent County Commissioners
- Two members appointed by local township/municipality
- One school district representative

Tax Incentive Review Council(s) (TIRC) action at 2011 meetings:

There were 15 enterprise zone agreements and one CRA in effect at the end of 2010 which were reviewed by the various TIRC meetings held in March 2011. Their recommendations were then forwarded to the Stark County Commissioners for final action. Two of those agreements have now expired, one in Perry Township and one in Lake Township. All other EZ agreements were continued, some with conditions. Of the three Community Reinvestment Area's established since 2004, only one agreement is in effect. That agreement was for a business located in Plain Township which was also continued. Businesses receiving real estate tax abatements in CRA's established prior to 2004 are not required to meet the same reporting and commitment standards.

Community Development

FY '10 Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG)

(FY '10 covers the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011)

Budget Information:

Total funds available for use - \$2,678,370.51

(FY '10 entitlement grant was \$1,562,467.00)

Total CDBG funds expended - \$1,142,573.74

100% of the projects undertaken benefited LMI persons.

3 Infrastructure/Rehabilitation projects were completed:

Plain Township – SMHA Zircon Street Waterline

Canal Fulton – High/Erie Street Culvert

Minerva – Murray Avenue Storm Sewer

3 Infrastructure projects were in progress:

Marlboro Township – Design Phase of Marlboro Storm/Sanitary Sewer

Hartville – North Prospect Street Improvements

North Canton – Hower/Witwer Sanitary Sewer

7 Public Service projects were provided CDBG funding during FY '10:

Canton Negro Oldtimers – served 1,089 persons

Salvation Army - Homeless Motel Voucher program – helped 800 persons

Community Services Massillon Homeless Shelter Program – assisted 125 persons

Alliance Emergency Residence – served 170 persons

The Stock Pile – served 1,031 persons

Western Stark Medical Van – served 40 persons

Prescription Assistance Network – served 134 persons

1 Economic Development project was provided CDBG funding during FY '10:

KSU Micro Business Development Program – served 85 business owners/potential owners

CDBG funded Single Family/Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab:

39 units were completed (9 regular rehab, 6 sewer/sanitary connections,
24 emergency rehab)

3 more units under contract

The rehab program, under CDBG, benefits the low-to-moderate income (LMI) population of Stark County by providing rehab assistance to homeowners. This assistance allows LMI homeowners to occupy quality housing that is affordable, safe and sanitary. The emergency rehab program is beneficial to property owners who encounter an emergency situation that is an immediate threat to their health and safety. One homeowner in the City of North Canton had no heat due to a broken furnace and no other options. They were very grateful for the opportunity of getting a furnace replacement during the cold winter months and were happy with the workmanship of the contractor, stating, "They were prompt, worked steady, acted professionally, cleaned up and explained how the furnace worked. Thank you."

FY '10 HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)

(FY '10 covers the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011)

Budget Information:

Total funds available for use - \$2,057,803.95

(FY '10 entitlement grant was \$938,928.00)

Total HOME funds expended - \$1,097,807.18

100% of all projects undertaken utilizing HOME funding benefit LMI persons with their housing needs.

HOME funded Single Family/Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation:

17 units completed and brought up to Residential Rehab Standards

1 more unit under contract

Under the Down Payment Assistance program, 12 LMI homebuyers received down payment assistance, which accounted for \$48,931.60 in Stark County funding. Both the Stark County and Massillon programs leveraged \$916,074 in new mortgages. Four of the down payment assistance projects were completed within the City of Massillon; eight within Stark County.

11 projects underway:

SMHA Tenant Based Rental Assistance program

SMHA HOPE Tenant Based Rental Assistance program

City of Massillon's Rehab/Homebuyer program

City of Alliance's Rehab program

Stark County's Rehab program

Stark County's Homebuyer Assistance program

YWCA of Canton – YW – PSH – Permanent Supportive Housing

Alliance for Children & Families – A-F.I.R.S.T. – Permanent Supportive Housing –
City of Alliance

Alliance for Children & Families – A-F.I.R.S.T. Phase II – Permanent Supportive
Housing – City of Alliance

Bradley Place – LMI Senior Housing – City of Massillon

Hunter House – Permanent Supportive Housing

The HOME funded Down Payment Assistance program provides down payment and/or closing cost assistance to qualified buyers allowing them the opportunity to purchase a home that wouldn't be obtainable without the assistance. This assistance provides housing stability to the buyer and their family. One buyer was able to secure a mortgage with the assistance from the program enabling her to move out of her apartment and purchase a home in the Village of Hartville. She stated, "I really appreciate everything (the program) did to help my dream of owning a home come true." This assistance is available for qualified buyers throughout the county, purchasing a home outside the City of Canton and the Village of Hills and Dales.

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)

(The HPRP report covers the period of October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011)

The Board of Stark County Commissioners received both State and Federal funds to address homelessness for individuals and families who need short to medium term homeless prevention or rapid re-housing assistance. These funds are administered by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission. This assistance is available to those that would become homeless “but for” the availability of funds through HPRP. The SCRPC has partnered with Community Services of Stark County (CSSC) to carry out the prevention piece of the program and the YWCA of Canton to carry-out the rapid re-housing portion of the program. Below is an outline of expenditures and a positive outcome provided by CSSC:

Federal Allocation			
Housing Assistance	\$186,397.80	Federal Allocation- Clients Assisted	
Housing Relocation & Stabilization	\$117,479.71	Homeless Prevention	309
Administration	\$38,395.41	Rapid Re-Housing	126
Total	\$342,272.92	Total	435
State Allocation			
Housing Assistance	\$132,466.57	State Allocation- Clients Assisted	
Housing Relocation & Stabilization	\$59,157.65	Homeless Prevention	174
Administration	\$21,079.53	Rapid Re-Housing	71
Total	\$212,703.75	Total	245
Total Expenditures	\$554,976.67	Total Clients Assisted	680

After receiving a 3-day eviction notice and exhausting all resources for help with paying rent, a client was referred to the County's HPRP program for assistance. While assessing the client's situation, CSSC learned that she had lived at her current residence for 10 years and always paid rent on time; unfortunately, after 14 years on her job, she was laid off. The client was approved for assistance. CSSC contacted the landlord, who had never heard of the HPRP program, to let him know that HPRP funding would be assisting his tenant in maintaining her current housing. He was glad to hear she was able to get help. CSSC invited the landlord to their quarterly landlord meeting to learn about the program. In the meantime, CSSC was able to stop the eviction and keep this client in her rental home. She was so grateful and even offered to volunteer some time at CSSC. In addition, after hearing about the program, the landlord provided CSSC a list of houses he owned, apartments, duplexes and studios for future clients. During CSSC's follow-up, the client told them how appreciative she was of the assistance she received. This client is doing well and has since been called back to working her normal 40 hrs/week in addition to being promoted. She remains current on her rent and the landlord is offering her a land contract to purchase a house which he says will be kept affordable for the client.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)

(The NSP report covers the period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011)

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) has continued to implement the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) in Stark County (outside the cities of Canton, Massillon and Alliance and the Village of Hills and Dales) under contract to the Board of Stark County Commissioners. The NSP program is designed to address neighborhoods and housing markets that have been adversely affected by foreclosure and vacancy. During 2011, the following properties were active through the NSP:

Acquisition-Rehabilitation-Resale of Foreclosed/Vacant Properties

- 1128 Holland Avenue NE, East Canton
- 9354 Chestnut Avenue SE, East Sparta
- 1327 Bravado Road SW, Canton
- 760 Smyth Avenue NE, Alliance
- 325 Carnwise Street SW, Canton
- 3223 Charlene Avenue SW, Canton
- 212 Cedar Street S, East Canton (Sale Pending)
- 308 32nd Street SE, Canton (Sold)
- 5930 Stark Blvd. NE, Louisville (Sold)
- 614 37th Street SE, Canton (Sold)
- 4613 Dueber Avenue SW, Canton (Sold)
- 401 37th Street SW, Canton (Sold)
- 2534 Saga Circle NE, East Canton (Sold)
- 7060 Georgetown Street NE, East Canton (Sold)
- 4601 Wiseland Avenue SE, Canton (Sold)
- 617 Ironwood Avenue SW, Canton (Sold)

New Construction of Owner Occupied Housing

- 5972 Dee Dee Circle SW, Navarre
- 4114 Chester Avenue NE, Louisville (Sold)

Demolition of Residential Properties

- 310 Charlotte Avenue SE, Canton
- 317 Parker Avenue NE, Canton
- 4260 14th Street NE, Canton
- 4266 14th Street NE, Canton
- 841 Downing Street SW, East Sparta
- 4310 14th Street SE, Canton

Public Housing Inventory

- 11687, 11725, 11743 & 11761 Jennings Road NE, Alliance
- 11783, 11839 & 11857 Mahoning Avenue NE, Alliance
- 9616 McKinley Avenue SE, East Sparta

A client was living with a family of five, after the birth of twins, in a duplex apartment that did not offer a favorable environment for the family or enough space. Through NSP, the client was able to qualify for down payment and closing cost assistance to purchase a 3-bedroom home that was fully renovated by a SCRPC NSP partner agency. This home provided more space and also an environment more conducive to raising a family.

Fair Housing

The Stark County Fair Housing Department's 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. The SCFHD is dedicated to the elimination of housing discrimination. Landlord and tenant counseling, fair housing counseling, compliance monitoring, testing, investigating alleged claims of housing discrimination, and educational programs are provided to the citizens of Stark County and the City of Alliance.

During this period, the staff conducted the following activities:

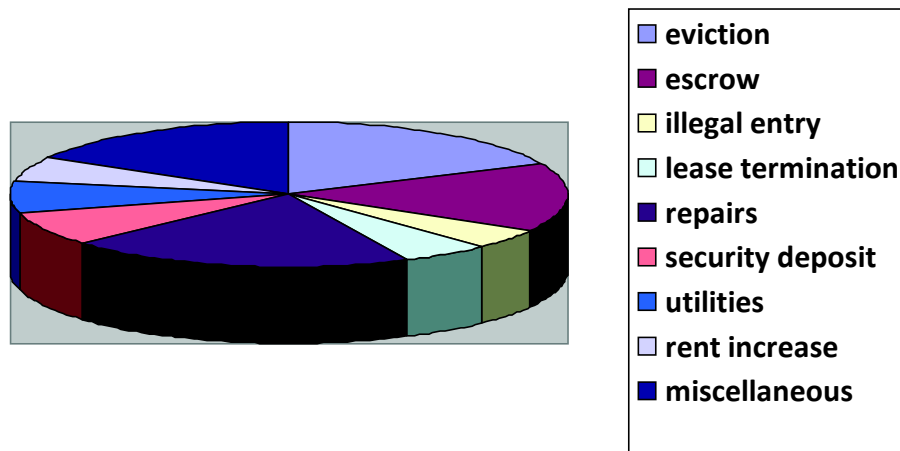
Educational Workshops, Trainings, and Outreach

- Made presentations to: Stark County Real Estate Investors' Association, Hoover High School, Stark County Regional Planning Commission, and the Stark County Zoning Inspectors Mutual Assistance Committee
- Trained respondents on the fair housing law and how to provide equal housing opportunity to the residents of Stark County
- Staffed resource booths at the Stark County Real Estate Investors' Association Vendor Show and the Project Homeless Connect where educational materials and promotional items were available to participants
- Held three separate Tester Training Sessions to train volunteers to test and investigate claims of housing discrimination
- Sponsored a Fair Housing Workshop where attendees were educated on the Landlord-Tenant and Fair Housing Laws
- Distributed over 500 educational brochures to property owners, managers, tenants, landlords, students, lawyers, Alliance Municipal Court, Alliance Area Chamber of Commerce, Stark County Association of Realtors, Stark County Real Estate Investors' Association, Project Homeless Connect, and Hoover High School
- Advertised in the Repository and Alliance Review newspapers

Landlord-Tenant

Counseled and mediated nearly 900 landlords, tenants, and representatives from agencies on the rights, obligations and responsibilities under the landlord-tenant laws. Some individuals were referred to other agencies within their jurisdictions. A breakdown on the number of households and agencies counseled by category is as follows:

Evictions	117	Utilities	46
Escrow	98	Rent Increase	33
Illegal Entry	29	Repairs	130
Lease Termination	33	Security Deposits	50
Miscellaneous	108		



Monitoring

Monitored 18 property investment owners and/or managers due to some questionable 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 14 new claims of rental housing discrimination as depicted in the chart below:

	Race/Color	Disability	Race/ Familial Status
Settled		2	
Pending Investigation	6	2	1
Probable Cause		1	
No Probable Cause		1	
Closed/Complainant Did Not Pursue		1	
Totals	6	7	1

Discrimination is Illegal

A Washington D.C.-based law firm filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of the Stark County Fair Housing Department and six individuals who were fired because they did not follow the owner's discriminatory instructions, evicted because of their skin color, treated differently because of black guests, steered to a basement unit because of children in the family, and/or denied the opportunity to rent because of race and the presence of children. The outcome of this lawsuit is pending federal court. The basis of it is as follows:

A married couple with two minor children was given an ultimatum to either move to a basement unit or move out of the complex entirely.

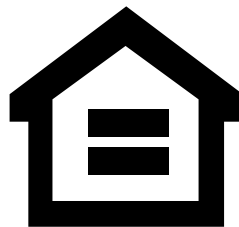
A manager was fired after he rented to an African-American couple and refused to follow the owner's discriminatory instructions.

A Caucasian tenant was ordered to have her guest complete forms so the owner could conduct a criminal background on her African-American friends.

An African-American mother was initially approved to rent an apartment by managers who did not judge her by the color of her skin. Subsequently, those managers were fired and the African-American mother was forced to complete another application in which she was ultimately denied.

An elderly African-American male alleged that he was harassed by complaints of false noise violations and then forced to vacate because of the fictitious complaints.

"After getting a notice to vacate from my complex, I knew I was wrongly accused. I went to the Stark County Fair Housing Office because I wanted to seek justice by finding the appropriate resources and personnel to address this situation. The Fair Housing Office is an exemplary resource because they advocated for my legal rights; provided thorough solutions and guidance; and empowered me to exercise my voice to speak against inequality."



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

Planning



The Planning Department administers the subdivision review process, makes recommendations on zoning, oversees The Stock Pile, operates House Numbering, and carries out long range planning activities. In 2011, the department:

- Continued administering the County's three-year \$2.7 million energy efficiency grant on behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Projects include: Programmable Thermostat Rebate Program, County Building Retrofits, and the creation of a sustainable zoning and planning handbook
- Began work on an update to the Plain Township Mini-Master Comprehensive Plan
- Carried out a feasibility study and grant writing for the County to obtain the Frank T. Bow Building at no cost through the National Park Service and General Services Administration historic surplus property program
- Carried out storm water education for the Board of Stark County Commissioners through educational workshops, the RPC website, brochures, articles, presentations, a clean-up with the Nimishillen Watershed Partnership (beginning at the McKinley Museum), and hosting Public Involvement/Public Education (PIPE) Committee meetings
- Served on Northeast Four County Planning Organization's Cooperative Economic Development Strategy Committee, and the Board of Trustees of Jackson Township Recycling Station
- Coordinated SCRPC's public relations work including public meetings, press releases, advertising, the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), website, facebook page, and newsletters

con't.

Subdivision Review Subcommittee and staff reviewed:

- 3 preliminary plans (1 revised)
- 9 final plats (3 new subdivisions and 7 replats)

Resulting in: 52 residential lots (11 more replatted)
0.45 miles of new residential streets

- 41 site plans (commercial, industrial & multifamily uses)
- 32 administrative waivers of formal site improvement plans
- 2 variance/appeals requests
- 130 divisions of property without plat (lot splits)

Street Vacations:

- Recommended to the County Commissioners on 11 proposed street vacations

Zoning:

- Reviewed and made recommendations on 17 township zoning amendments
- Organized Zoning Inspector's "Mutual Assistance" meetings, which covered topics such as: fair housing through zoning, political signs, internet cafes, urban agriculture and other current zoning issues
- Developed and presented a Sustainable Planning and Zoning Handbook to local communities (funded by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant awarded from the U.S. Department of Energy)

House Numbering:

- Issued 225 house numbers:
 - 136 residential
 - 32 commercial/industrial
 - 5 agricultural buildings
 - 40 electric for gas wells, oil wells, etc.
 - 5 replacement numbers
 - 7 other
- Provided one recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding street name changes

The Stock Pile

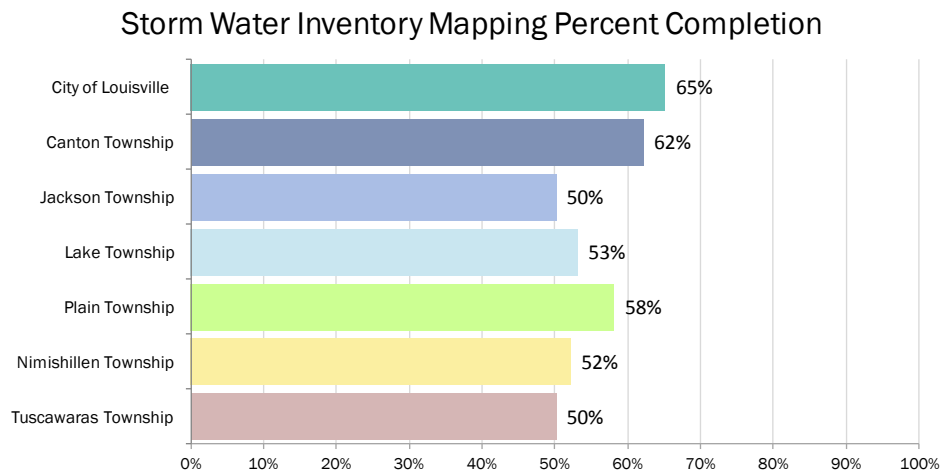


- The Planning Department carried out administration, personnel management, and grant-writing for The Stock Pile, the RPC's non-profit building material reuse warehouse
- Partnered with more than 60 non-profit agencies by supplying them items for their projects
- Served as work site for Senior Employment Services and Municipal Court Referrals, as well as Ohio Department of Job and Family Services with roughly 3,500 volunteer hours worked
- Took in approximately \$76,000 in handling fees, representing approximately \$250,000 in materials and diverted more than 100 tons of reusable materials from landfills (total since opening- 1,090 tons)
- Reinvested more than \$861,000 in handling fees in the program (since opening), which represents well over \$2.6 million worth of materials returned to useful life
- Assisted approximately 950 low- to middle-income families, by providing materials for home repairs
- Provided an outlet for dozens of companies to remove overstock and scratch and dent items from their warehouses and reduced their disposal costs
- Continued to have reuse information, membership applications, and a "day pass" available.
- Purchased three homes, 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)
- Sold three other homes that were bought and rehabbed in 2010



Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The GIS Department has continued to manage the data collection and mapping of storm water conveyance systems within the MS4 districts that form the Stark County NPDES MS4 Consortium.



By December 2011, the storm water mapping was scheduled to be at 50% completion, and all seven MS4 districts are approximately at or above 50%.



This year the GIS Department has continued to work with The University of Akron by employing three interns; graduate students that are gaining practical experience related to GIS, data collection and management of current projects.

The Efficient Gov Network, an organization based around regional government collaboration in Northeast Ohio, asked the GIS Department to give a presentation at a conference hosted on October 13th, 2011 in Akron which focused on advancing local government collaboration and efficiency efforts in Northeast Ohio.

The GIS Department completed the inventory and mapping of storm water and sanitary conveyance systems project for the City of Alliance; a two and a half year project. There were a total of 7,684 features and over 250 miles of storm and sanitary pipe network collected. Flow direction and pipe size (where information was available) was also collected.

In July 2011, the department began a new project contracted with the City of Alliance to inventory the water utility network which involves the city's water valves and the connecting pipe network.



The GIS Coordinator was appointed the Ohio GIS Map Gallery Chairman for the 2011 Ohio GIS Conference.

At the September 2011 Ohio GIS Conference, the Stark County NPDES MS4 Consortium was the recipient of the 2011 Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP) Best Practices Award. This annual award is designed to recognize organizations in Ohio that have or are implementing GIS in a manner consistent with the OGRIP's goals and objectives. The OGRIP is an organization that encourages the creation of digital geographic data to many users, fosters the ability to determine what geographic data exists and enables easy access and use of data.

The GIS Department has been asked to participate and began work on the compilation of a 12-county land use map for the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC). SCRPC/SCATS is a member of the NEOSCC which is a collaborative process to create a regional sustainability plan across a 12-county region in Northeast Ohio.

Historic Preservation

The RPC's Historic Preservation Administrator reviews the agency's housing rehab and other CDBG projects to comply with federal regulations requiring consideration of their 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 take a minimum of one or more months for completion. Reviews are also performed under contracts with the cities of Alliance, Canton, and Massillon for their projects; and until June 30 for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) Abandoned Mine Lands program. Work for ODNR included field reviews of abandoned coal mine reclamation projects in southeastern Ohio and preparation of review documentation for each project. The contract with ODNR expired on June 30, and was not renewed due to retirement and programmatic changes by the OHPO.

Stark County and the cities of Alliance, Canton, Massillon: 141 Section 106 historic preservation reviews (plus 76 programmatic exclusions signed by SCRPC rehab staff)

ODNR: 26 coal mine reclamation project reviews



Equal Employment

- Processed 12 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 three county departments

Fiscal

	2011 Actual Income	2012 Projected Income
Taxes	\$3,729.97	\$4,000.00
Charges for Services	\$10,017.35	\$9,000.00
Licenses and Permits	\$13,510.25	\$13,000.00
Intergovernmental- <i>Includes Federal, State, Local Reimbursements & Contract Services</i>	\$1,817,971.18	\$1,858,660.00
Other Revenue	\$828.80	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$1,846,057.55	\$1,884,660.00

	2011 Actual Expenses	2012 Projected Expenses
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,615,700.50	\$1,613,681.00
Supplies	\$29,054.29	\$35,407.00
Purchased Services	\$115,516.36	\$206,144.00
Capital Outlay	\$11,097.77	\$9,528.00
Other	\$23,176.49	\$17,900.00
TOTAL	\$1,794,545.41	\$1,882,660.00

The Regional Planning Commission's financial records were audited in 2011 by State Auditor David Yost's office. The audit was completed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. The audit had no findings or questioned costs for the year 2010.

2011 SCRPC Members

President: Robert Sanderson

Vice-President: Vince Marion

Secretary: Anthony Peldunas

Executive Committee

Dr. Peter Ferguson, President-Commissioners

Mike Hanke, County Administrator

John Ferrero, Jr., County Prosecutor

*Vince Marion, City of Alliance

William J. Healy II, City of Canton

*Robert Sanderson, City of Massillon

*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

*Anthony Peldunas, County-at-Large

* Personnel Committee

County Office Members (all ex officio)

Commissioners

Janet Weir Creighton

Dr. Peter Ferguson

Tom Bernabei

Administrator

Mike Hanke

Sanitary Engineer

Jim Jones

Conrad Moeller, alt.

Engineer

Keith Bennett

Gary Connor, alt.

Health Commissioner

William Franks

Todd Paulus, alt.

Prosecutor

John Ferrero, Jr.

Michael Bickis, alt.

Deborah Dawson, alt.

Ross Rhodes, alt.

City Members

Alliance

Mayor Toni Middleton

Vince Marion, alt.

Canal Fulton

Johnson Belford

Mark Cozy, alt.

Canton

Mayor William Healy II

Amy Dreussi

Dan Moeglin

Susan Neddy-Scopelite

Louisville

Mayor Patricia Fallot

Massillon

Mayor Francis Cicchinelli, Jr.

Robert Sanderson, alt.

Keith Dylewski

Jason Haines, alt.

North Canton

Mayor David Held

James Benekos

County Appointments

Fred Abraham

John Hahn

Larry Krebs

David McAlister

Anthony Peldunas

Ronald Revlock

Carl Rose

Members Continued

Township Members

Canton

Christopher Nichols
James Wilcox
Wesley Jones, 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

Nimishillen

Allen Gress
Dale Rigenbach
Lisa Shafer, alt.

Osnaburg

Richard Pero
Donna Middaugh, alt.

Pike

Douglas Baum

Plain

Louis Giavasis
Scott Haws
Albert Leno
Lisa Campbell, alt.

Sandy

Bruce Weisburn

Washington

Maurice "Mort" DeHoff

Village Members

Beach City

Mayor Connie White

Brewster

Mayor Dale Fox
Steve Hartman, alt.

East Canton

Mayor Reggie McGee

East Sparta

Mayor Jackie Truax

Hartville

Mayor Edsel Tucker
Rob Graham, alt.
Ron Beltz, alt.

Hill & Dales

Mayor Edward Schirack

Limaville

Mayor Tami Angel
Troy Hansen, alt.

Magnolia

Mayor Robert Leach

Meyers Lake

Mayor Diana Stadelman

Minerva

Mayor James Waller
David Harp, alt.

Navarre

Mayor Robert Benson
Wayne Hicks, alt.

Waynesburg

Mayor Kenneth Flesher
Randall Welker, alt.

Wilmot

Mayor Mark Bolitho

2011 Committees

SCATS Policy Committee

Chair: Donna Middaugh

Vice-Chair: Keith Bennett

Members

Tom Ault
Keith Bennett
Tom Bernabei
Ralph Boger
Jonathan Chastek
Francis Cicchinelli, Jr.
Janet Weir Creighton
Charles DeGraff
Dr. Peter Ferguson
John Grogan
William J. Healy II
David Held
Donna Middaugh
Toni Middleton
Dan Moeglin
Warren Price
Thomas Ream
Edward Schirack
Anthony Urankar

Alternates

Chris Barnes
James Benekos
Rick Bodenschatz
Curtis Bungard
Kirt Conrad
Mark Cozy
Keith Dylewski
Mike Hanke
Deborah Hill
James Kinnick
Carole Kuczynski
Nick Loukas
Vince Marion
Greg McCue
David Sicker
Dave Torrence

Audit Committee

President: Robert Sanderson
Vice-President: Vince Marion
Secretary: Anthony Peldunas
Fred Abraham
David McAlister

Citizens' Advisory Council

President: Robert Fonte
Vice-President: Jonathan Chastek
Members: all citizens working/residing in
Stark County

Technical Advisory Committee

Chair: Dan Moeglin

James Adams	Nick Loukas, alt.
Tom Ault	Vince Marion, alt.
James Benekos	Dan Moeglin
Keith Bennett	Rick McQueen
Curtis Bungard	Robert Nau
Kirt Conrad	David Sicker, alt.
Mark Cozy	Dave Torrence
Keith Dylewski	Robert Torres
James Kinnick, alt.	Anthony Urankar
Carole Kuczynski, alt.	

Subdivision Review Subcommittee

Chair: Carl Rose, 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
Keith Bennett, SC Engineer
Gary Connor, alt.
Jim Jones, SC Sanitary Engineer
Conrad Moeller, alt.
Ronald Revlock, County-at-Large
John Hahn, County-at-Large
Julie Berbari, Stark Soil & Water
Conservation District
Carolyn Gabric, alt.
Bill Sliwinski, Jackson Township Resident
(plus any interested RPC member)

2011 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
Jill Ross
Housing Counselor
Dan Morganti
Community Development Planner
Steve Williams
Senior Rehab Specialist
Jeff Bartolone
Rehab Specialist

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- resigned 8-11
GIS Technician
Sarah Peters- hired 9-11
GIS Technician

Special Projects

Mary Lee Sponseller

Office Management

Jill Gerber
Office Manager
Katie Kuhn
Secretary

Staff Attorney

Dave Thorley

Interns

Rachel Hostetler
Nick Johnson
Gregory Gordos