



2019

ANNUAL REPORT



STARK COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION



Robert Nau
Executive Director

Wayne Schillig
President

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 reflect on the many accomplishments of the RPC in 2019, we are reminded that 2020 is a census year. Starting in 1790, the U.S. Constitution mandated that everyone be counted every 10 years. The decennial census is a bedrock of our democratic system of government. The results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets. Census data results also determine the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds. The state of Ohio receives roughly \$33.5 billion, with over \$1 billion of that going to Stark County. So remember, the census is easy, safe and important, so *Count Me In 2020*.

The *Strengthening Stark* report, commissioned by the Stark Community Foundation in 2017, provided a clear assessment of the economic health of Stark County. It found that without a new approach to economic development, Stark County will continue to get smaller, older and poorer. Our legacy cities are trying to reposition themselves economically while reconstructing their aging and deteriorating infrastructure. Canton's Centennial Plaza, which will serve as a football-themed gathering and entertainment centerpiece for downtown, and Massillon's Lincoln Way corridor streetscape are examples of their commitment to strong downtowns as economic drivers for their communities. Investment is also occurring in our first ring suburbs and developing urban townships. Stark County installed new sanitary sewers in Canton Township, replacing septic systems to address a public health issue; replaced aging water lines in Minerva; and spent \$8 million to improve safety and congestion at the Whipple and Everhard intersection in Jackson Township. Community Planning grants were awarded to Alliance for their State Street corridor study, to Brewster for a school travel study, and to Canal Fulton for a transportation and connectivity plan. The Hall of Fame Village Land Use and Transportation Study, which was released last year, will help us plan for the impacts of this important economic development project for the region.

In 2019, the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) continued its mission "to strategically acquire properties, return them to productive use, reduce blight, increase property values and improve the quality of life for county residents." This past year marked the final year for the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP) with funding from the U.S. Treasury to acquire, demolish and green blighted residential properties in designated areas. All told, in the last five years, over \$12.7 million in *Hardest Hit Funds* were spent in Canton, Massillon and Alliance where almost 800 blighted residential structures were demolished. The Land Bank's 50/50 Demolition program funded demolitions in the cities of Canton, Alliance and Louisville, and Lexington and Canton Townships to further help eliminate blight in their communities. The RPC's planning department assisted the Land Bank with the clean-up of the former Starfire gas station on Whipple Avenue in Canton Township and secured funding for the clean-up of the Starfire on Columbus Road in Plain Township. The planning department completed an update to the Stark Parks Five-Year Plan and worked on an update to the Plain Township Master Plan. Also in cooperation with the Stark County Auditor's GIS Department, the planning department continues work on the creation of an online development portal and HUB for projects submitted for subdivision review.

The RPC's role of providing a framework for regional cooperation and problem solving assists our local communities in meeting the diverse needs of their citizens. Through the vision and support of our Commission members, our staff is committed to our mission of improving the quality of life in Stark County.



Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS)

SCATS is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for transportation planning in Stark County. Projects must be listed in the long range plan and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in order to qualify for funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Major planning efforts completed in the past year include:

- amended the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and initiated the development of the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program
- completed the Hall of Fame Village Land Use and Transportation Study
- Community Planning Grant studies were completed for the village of Brewster, city of Canal Fulton, and city of Alliance
- completed the 2018 Crash Report and Safety Work Plan
- administered the District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee and the District 19 Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC).

The FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was adopted by the SCATS Policy Committee in 2017. SCATS began the development process for the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program in 2018 until ODOT postponed the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). This year SCATS began developing the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program and is in the process of adopting the final slate of projects. This includes projects funded by the Surface Transportation Block Grant program, the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside program, and the Statewide Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. The development of the TIP/STIP follows a timetable provided by ODOT so that public notice requirements and public participation can be accomplished statewide in order to incorporate MPO projects throughout Ohio. Please watch for public meeting announcements in early 2020.

The Hall of Fame Village Land Use and Transportation Study final draft was presented to the public in January with the completed document released in March. The plan identified five primary recommendations: (1) improve the Fulton Road Corridor, making the primary connection from the Hall of Fame Village to downtown Canton more usable and attractive; (2) create a Pedestrian Promenade where Harrison Ave. NW connects to Stadium Park Drive under I-77, improving pedestrian access and sight lines; (3) provide a sample zoning overlay district so that the townships could better benefit and protect their residents as development and redevelopment occurs; (4) implement a regional parking strategy to ensure timely accessibility to locations within the Hall of Fame Village and surrounding areas; and (5) create an integrated visitor app that would list events, make reservations, identify optimal routes to destinations and parking, and assist in trip planning. The city of Canton is currently working on improvements to the Fulton Road Corridor and Centennial Plaza, which will serve as a football-themed gathering and entertainment centerpiece for downtown.



“The Gambrinus Avenue Bridge is the longest bridge on our county system with a total length of 454’ over 8 spans. This project started in February of 2019, and has been a challenge due to some unforeseen issues with the existing bridge foundations. Structural steel was set in December, and the bridge should be open to traffic by the end of Spring 2020.”

**Scott Basinger
Stark County
Bridge Engineer**

Gambrinus Avenue Bridge

Downtown Massillon

“This was really needed, and the work is beautiful. This will benefit our downtown businesses and encourage further development. I’m proud our city will be more of a destination.”

**Kathy Catazaro-Perry
Mayor, city of Massillon**



Whipple and Everhard Intersection



“This was a two season project that began in the spring of 2018 and wrapped up just prior to Thanksgiving, 2019. The nearly \$8 million project included the replacement of two bridges as well as widening and safety improvements to one of the busiest intersections in Stark County in terms of average daily traffic. The accident rate at this location is also fairly high. The Engineer’s Office is expecting this project to provide a much smoother and safer traffic flow through this part of Belden Village.”

**Dave Torrence
Stark County Chief Deputy Engineer**

Community Planning Grants were awarded to the village of Brewster, city of Canal Fulton, and city of Alliance. The village of Brewster's study, **The Brewster Downtown to Fairless Schools School Travel Plan and Connectivity Study**, completed a school travel plan identifying safety improvements to connect the local schools with downtown Brewster in order to encourage walking and cycling to the schools. The portion on US 62 received \$150,000 in funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation and will create a shared use path from the existing High School/Middle School crosswalk to the Elementary School to the south. It also includes the installation of bike racks at the Middle and Elementary Schools. **The city of Canal Fulton Active Transportation and Connectivity Plan** identified preferred routes throughout Canal Fulton in order to encourage walking and cycling to points of interest. The study identified fiscal needs for developing portions of the network, allowing it to be built in stages as funding becomes available.

The **City of Alliance W. State Street Corridor Traffic Study** identified improvements for traffic signal timing, placement and length of turn lanes, and other suggestions to improve traffic flow from the main Walmart retail entrance, east to the Sawburg/Beechwood Ave. intersection. Work on the Beechwood/Sawburg/State intersection has been added to the TIP for FY 2026 as a result of the study.

The **2018 Crash Report and Safety Work Plan** analyzed crash data supplied by the Ohio Department of Public Safety. This data is used to create a hazard rating for intersections and road segments using a formula that takes into consideration the severity and number of crashes over the past three years. The study shows a continuing trend in a reduced number and severity of accidents throughout the county. The top rated hazardous intersections identified in the 2018 report are shown on the following table:

Intersection		Hazard Rating	Location	Jursidiction
Great Lakes/SR 21	Lake Ave./SR 236	67.96	Massillon	Massillon
Everhard Rd.	Whipple Ave.	66.41	Jackson Township	County
US 62	Harmont Ave./Lesh St.	60.60	Canton	Canton
SR 172	Perry Dr.	58.18	Perry Township	ODOT
Lincoln Way/SR 172	Wales Ave./SR 241	55.91	Massillon	Massillon
Dressler Rd.	Everhard Rd.	54.69	Jackson Township	County
SR 153	Union Ave./SR 183	50.76	Washington Township	ODOT
I-77	Belden Village & Whipple	50.12	Jackson Township	ODOT
Frank Ave.	Portage St.	45.06	Jackson Township	County
US 30/Trump Ave.	Lincoln St./SR 172	43.71	Canton Township	ODOT

* The higher the rating, the more hazardous the intersection
(based on the number of accidents, injuries, fatalities, etc.)

SCATS staff assists in the management of the District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee, which oversees the distribution of State Capital Improvement Program and Local Transportation Improvement Program funds by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). These funds assist local communities in improving their basic infrastructure. The program is funded by the state gas tax and bonds sold by the state, with Stark County's share being approximately \$8 million per year. The committee awarded almost \$11 million for 17 projects as seen in the tables on the following page:

2019 OPWC Projects

State Capital Improvement Program

Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	Request/Funded
Stark County	Kenyon Ave. Bridge	\$1,002,000	\$740,000
Brewster	Jefferson Ave. Sanitary Sewer	\$1,065,889	\$522,285
Canal Fulton	Cherry St. Water Line	\$407,583	\$407,583
Canton	Spangler St. Water Line	\$3,039,000	\$1,500,000
Louisville	Waste Water Treatment Ph. II	\$6,947,700	\$1,500,000
North Canton	WTP Lime Dewatering Filter	\$2,917,000	\$1,429,330
Massillon	Wales Rd. Improvement	\$9,990,603	\$663,203
Canton	36th St. NW Storm Sewer	\$2,143,576	\$1,050,352
		Total Funded	\$7,812,753

Local Transportation Improvement Program

Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	Request/Funded
Stark County/Jackson Twp.	Portage St. Corridor Project	\$3,852,000	\$729,550
Pike/Sandy Twp.	Howenstine Drive Paving	\$107,240	\$79,358
Stark County/Lake Twp.	Cleveland Ave./Wright Rd. Signal	\$189,023	\$94,000
Stark County/Plain Twp.	Cleveland Ave./Bretton St. Signal	\$176,850	\$88,000
Stark County/Canton Twp.	Faircrest St. Bridge and Paving	\$1,261,647	\$933,618
Alliance	South Arch Ave. Paving	\$414,568	\$200,000
Canton	Harmont Resurfacing	\$583,246	\$200,000
		Total Funded	\$10,137,279

SCATS Staff also assists in the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, which assists in funding the preservation of open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors. The 2019 round of funding was just over \$1.2 million, which assisted in two projects.

The District 19 Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC) recommended fully funding the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's request to protect the Dorn Forest Preserve and to fund slightly over half of Stark Parks' request for the Hoover Family Farm project, purchasing 158 acres in Lake Township:

- **Dorn Forest Preserve** – Lawrence Township: the purchase of a conservation easement will protect the approximately 150-acre Dorn Forest Preserve, which is a high quality habitat for native and rare species, including at least two federally-endangered species (the Indiana bat and blue spotted salamander), one State Species of Concern, 8 plant species identified on the natural heritage data base, and 5 rare plant species. The conservation easement will be held by Western Reserve Land Conservancy.
- **Hoover Family Farm** – Lake Township: this project will assist in the purchase of an almost 158 acre farm in Lake Township allowing parts of the property to be restored to wetland, forest, and prairie lands. It is adjacent to a 100 acre parcel already protected by a conservation easement owned by The Wilderness Center.

District 19 Natural Resource Assistance Council

Applicant/Project	Total Project Cost	Requested	Funded
WRLC: Dorn Forest Preserve	\$865,400	\$639,400	\$639,400
Stark Parks: Hoover Family Farm	\$2,180,000	\$1,285,003	\$642,608
	Total		\$1,282,088



Subdivision Engineering

SCRPC administers the Subdivision Engineering Program on behalf of the Stark County Board of Commissioners. Some of the work performed by the Subdivision Engineer included:

- Subdivision Engineering
 - reviewed new allotments' preliminary plans, construction drawings, and final plats for compliance with the Subdivision Regulations as well as processed any requested construction variances
 - performed construction inspections of the public improvements installed in new allotments to ensure compliance with the Subdivision Regulations and for release of performance and maintenance bonds. Handled any questions arising or drawing revisions occurring during construction
 - established dollar amounts of performance and maintenance bonds for new allotments as well as reviewed performance and maintenance bonds, bond substitution requests, bond collateral reduction requests, etc. Maintained all current, approved bond forms on the SCRPC web site for public use
 - reviewed private utility company installation drawings for new allotments
 - archived and subsequently maintained allotments' project documents including as-built construction drawings, storm water management reports, bond related files, construction inspection reports, variances, off-site easements, etc.
 - reviewed private commercial and industrial site improvement plans for compliance with the Subdivision Regulations as well as made recommendations to SCRPC for any variances requested





- Ohio EPA NPDES Permit related work included:
 - prepared the county's 2019 Annual Report
 - maintained the county's Storm Water Management Program
 - maintained/updated the county's comprehensive storm water conveyance system map for all county owned and operated facilities and roadways within the urbanized areas
 - monitored over 400 individual county outfalls
 - prepared the city of Alliance's 2019 Annual Report
 - monitored over 100 individual outfalls for the city of Alliance
- performed monthly inspections of the county's Zimmer Ditch Detention Basin B concrete dam as required by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for Class I Structures. Obtained bids and administered the contract for the yearly maintenance work required for the Zimmer Ditch Detention Basins A and B
- assisted various townships with drainage related issues and/or problems on an as-requested basis. Reviewed construction plans for new condominium developments also on as-requested basis
- served on the NEFCO General Policy Board and District 19 Public Works Committee





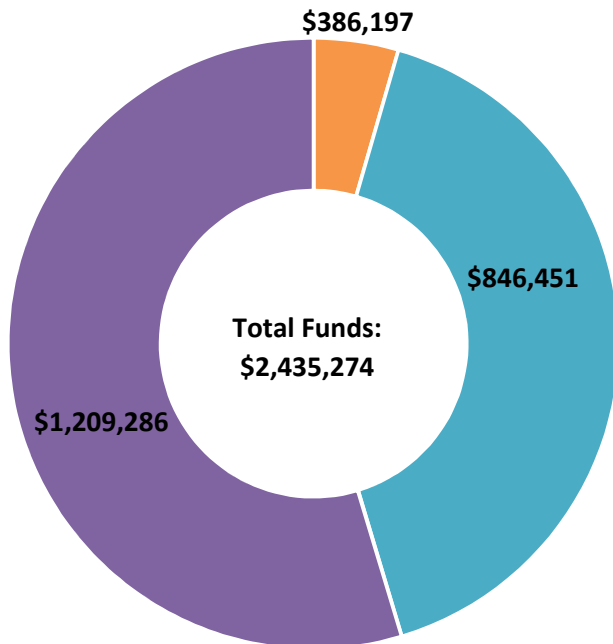
Community Development

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a program that provides low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons and communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs, which includes providing decent housing and suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities. Annual grants are provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on a formula basis to entitlement cities and counties. Stark County is designated as an Urban County Entitlement Community, with funds being granted to the Board of Stark County Commissioners. The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is under contract to the Board of Stark County Commissioners and is responsible for the distribution of the Stark County CDBG grant allocation.

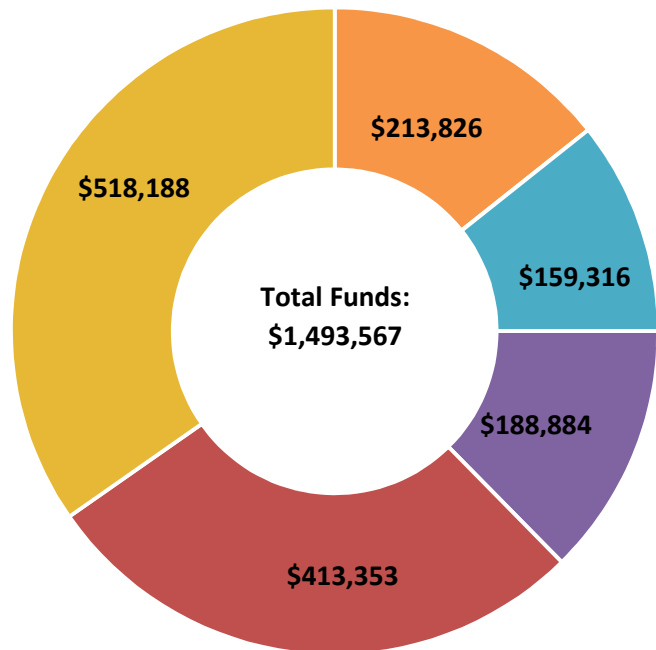
The FY '18 CDBG program reflects funding and activities that took place from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Total FY' 18 CDBG Funds Available



- Program Income
- Unexpended CDBG funds from 2017
- FY '18 CDBG Grant

Total FY' 18 CDBG Expenditures by Activity



- Planning and Administration
- Public Service Activities
- Housing Rehabilitation (Soft) Costs
- Housing Rehabilitation Project Costs
- Infrastructure

2018 Stark County CDBG Activities

Housing Activities	Public Services
▪ Emergency Rehab (28 projects) ▪ Full Housing Rehab (8 projects) ▪ Housing Rehab Septic/Sewer (1 project) ▪ Housing Accessibility (5 projects)	▪ Fair Housing ▪ StarkMHAR – Centralized Intake & Coordinated Assessment ▪ CommQuest Family Living Center Homeless Shelter ▪ Alliance for Children & Families' Emergency Residence ▪ Beacon Charitable Pharmacy's Prescription Assistance
Public Infrastructure	Administration
▪ Canton Twp. – Moreland Allotment Sanitary Sewer Installation ▪ Village of Minerva – Pennsylvania Water Main Replacement	▪ Comprehensive Planning ▪ CDBG Administration

Project Spotlight : Public Infrastructure

A total of \$550,000 of CDBG funding was allocated to the **Moreland Allotment Sanitary Sewer Installation** project in Canton Township. The project is slated for completion in March 2020. The project includes the installation of 10,500 feet of 8 inch gravity sewer, 2,100 feet of 10 inch sewer, 41 manholes, a sanitary lift station, and an estimated force main length of 3,500 feet. A total of 169 residential sanitary sewer systems are currently failing. As a result of the failing sanitary sewer systems, thousands of gallons of partially treated sewage has been entering the Sherrick Run, a tributary to Middle Branch of the Nimishillen Creek. This project will correct these issues.

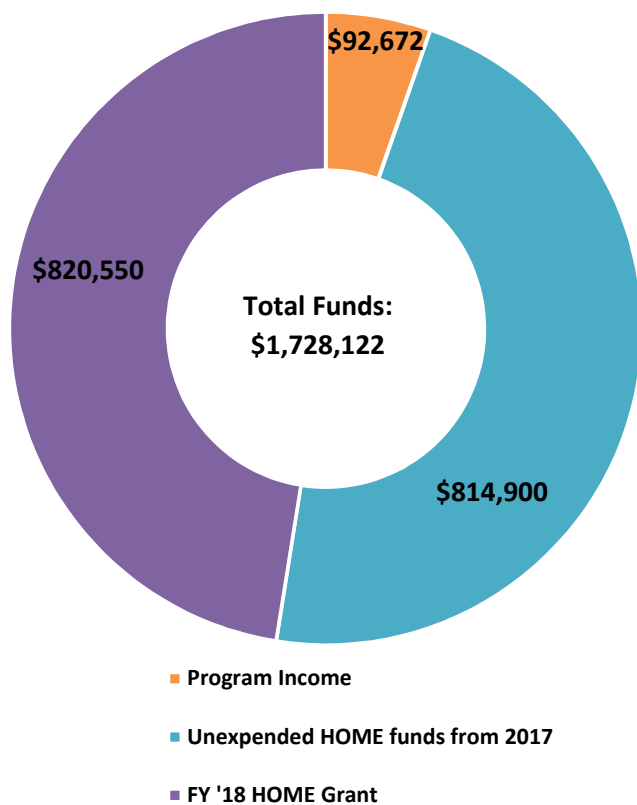


HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

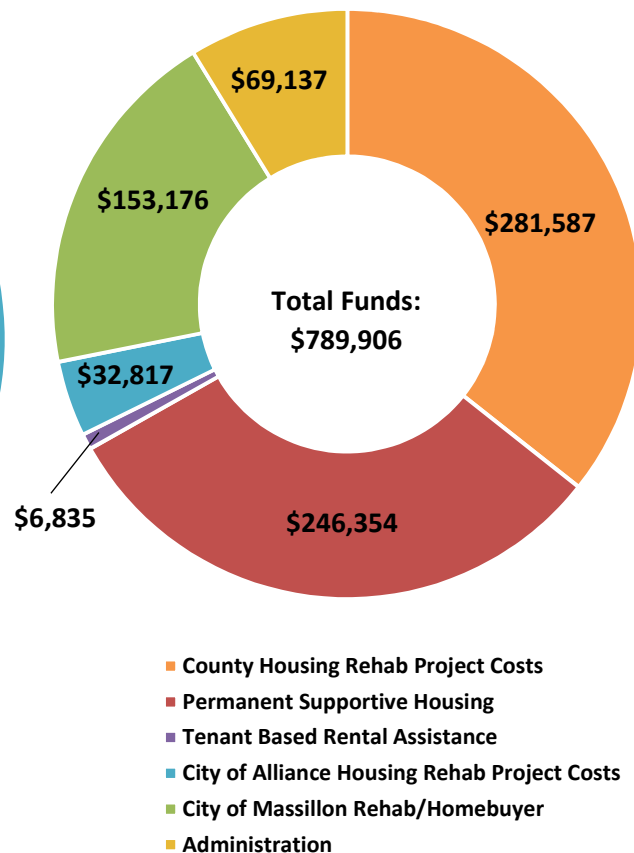
The HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) is a program of HUD that provides grants to states and units of local government to fund a wide range of housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons and families. It is the largest federal block grant designed exclusively to create affordable housing for LMI individuals/families. Types of housing activities funded utilizing HOME funds include buying, building, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or ownership, and aiding with direct rental assistance.

The Board of Stark County Commissioners has been receiving HOME funds since 1992, with the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) administering the program. The FY '18 HOME program reflects funding and activities from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Total FY' 18 HOME Funds Available



Total FY' 18 HOME Expenditures by Activity



Similar to the CDBG process, an annual HOME Application Workshop was held in mid-November of 2017. During this fiscal year, Stark County rehabbed a total of 15 houses and the City of Alliance Rehab Program was responsible for rehabbing three houses. The Massillon Down Payment Assistance and Rehab Program, utilizing HOME funds, was able to support six homebuyers with down payment assistance (leveraging a total of \$467,460 in private mortgages) and three single-family homeowners with rehabs. As a requirement of this program, all houses rehabbed with HOME funds are brought up to Residential Rehab Standards (RRS).

Project Spotlight : Housing Rehabilitation

Pictured below is an example of a HOME owner-occupied housing rehabilitation project. The work completed brought this house up to Residential Rehab Standards (RRS) with the use of HOME funds. Work included a new roof, gutters, deck and stairs, siding, electrical upgrade, installation of new hand-rails, and interior painting.

Before



After



This Plain Township homeowner utilized the Full Housing Rehab Program.

Project Spotlight : Permanent Supportive Housing

Below is the Arbor Ridge Permanent Supportive Housing project. This newly constructed facility consists of 14 units serving formerly homeless adults living with mental illness. Stark County HOME funds were utilized in the hard construction costs of the project.

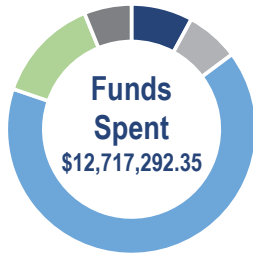


Recently completed, Arbor Ridge Permanent Supportive Housing has 14 one-bedroom rental apartments, providing housing for former homeless adults living with mental illness.

Land Bank Program

In 2019, the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) continued offering programs/activities focused on the reclamation and repurposing of vacant and abandoned properties in Stark County. The SCRPC has been under contract to administer the Land Bank's programs since 2014.

Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP)

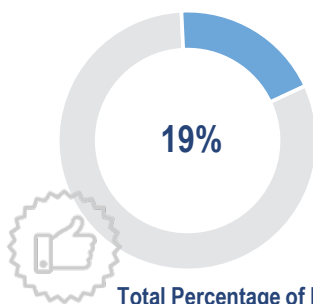


- Acquisition
- Demolition
- Administration
- Pre-Demolition
- Greening

December 18, 2019 marked the final deadline for NIP, a 5-year long program administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA), with funding coming from the US Department of Treasury, utilizing Hardest Hit Funds (HHF) in order to acquire, demolish, and green blighted residential properties within designated target areas. The Land Bank received its initial funding award in 2014 and throughout the course of the program and various additional funding rounds received \$12,717,292.35 overall.

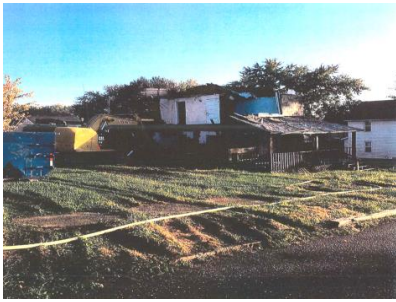
The chart to the left represents the distribution of funds spent on acquisition, pre-demolition, demolition, greening and administration.

From 2014 – 2019, with the use of NIP funds, the Land Bank was able to demolish 797 vacant, blighted residential structures within targeted areas in Canton, Massillon and Alliance. The cluster map to the right represents the overall number of NIP demolitions completed within each city.



Total Percentage of NIP Lots transferred through 2019 to new ownership





Ongoing Programs and Activities

The Land Bank continues to offer various programs aimed at returning abandoned, vacant properties back into productive use. These programs are available to qualified property owners, non-profits, and County cities/villages/townships.

- Side Lot Program – Available to qualified contiguous property owners who wish to extend the size of their yard
- Vacant Lot Program – Available to qualified not-contiguous applicants who wish to acquire tax delinquent property in the County for an approved use
- Targeted Acquisition Assistance Program (TAAP) – Available to Stark County cities, villages and townships or qualified non-profit applicants to assist with the strategic acquisition of blighted, vacant or abandoned properties to facilitate community and redevelopment projects
- 50/50 Demolition Assistance Program (DAP) – Available to Stark County cities, villages and townships in order to facilitate the demolition of property that is beyond repair or rehabilitation, by providing matched funding reimbursement up to 50% of hard-demolition costs of the project



In 2019, the Land Bank budgeted \$165,000 for demolition funding assistance.

Through the 50/50 DAP, the Land Bank was able to assist 5 communities in the demolition of 10 residential structures and 1 industrial structure. Overall, \$100,415.43 in matched reimbursement was provided to these communities.

\$100,415.43

matched reimbursement provided



As the 5-year NIP program ends and as the need arises within the County for new programs, in 2020 the SCRPC will explore and make recommendations to and assist the Land Bank in creating and adopting new/various programs to further its mission.

"To strategically acquire properties, return them to productive use, reduce blight, increase property values, support community goals and improve the quality of life for county residents."





Fair Housing

The 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, ancestry, handicap or familial status. The Fair Housing Department 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 sponsoring educational programs are provided to the citizens of Stark County and the city of Alliance.

In 2019, the staff conducted the following activities:

Educational Workshops, Trainings, and Outreach

- made presentations to Hoover High School, Real Estate Investor's Association, Hayes Property Management, Alliance for Families and Children, Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority and the SCRPC Commission
- attended Canton City Council meeting for a presentation on the findings of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study
- gave a presentation to the SCRPC staff and Commission on the 51st Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act
- attended a meeting with the county Commissioners for a presentation on the findings of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study
- attended Alliance City Council meeting for a presentation on the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Study
- conducted a training to the staff at Alliance for Families and Children. The training consisted of a fair housing overview, disability rights and familial status discrimination
- conducted a training on discrimination to Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority staff

Highlights at a Glance

- renewed agreement with the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) for the Fair Housing Manager to conduct hearings and write appeal decisions for applicants, tenants and Section 8 participants of SMHA
- 20 Informal and Formal Grievance hearings conducted for SMHA
- 628 persons counseled on their rights, obligations and responsibilities under the landlord-tenant law.
- 75 persons trained and educated on the fair housing law
- 5 presentations, trainings, seminars and/or workshops were conducted
- 12 landlords were monitored due to discriminatory rental practices in the past
- 4 housing discrimination cases were investigated and settled
- 543 educational brochures were distributed to residential property owners, managers, tenants, students, elected officials, Alliance Municipal Court, City of Alliance, Real Estate Investor's Association, SCRPC, SMHA, Alliance for Families and Children and Hayes Property Management
- promoted the awareness of fair housing through local newspapers



Equal Employment

- processed five equal employment discrimination telephone calls
- investigated one county employee complaint relating to equal employment issues
- assisted in the development of Equal Employment Opportunity plans for two county departments



Planning

The Planning Department administers the subdivision review process, makes recommendations on zoning, oversees The Stock Pile, operates house numbering, handles public relations for the agency, coordinates stormwater education, and carries out long-range planning activities. In 2019, the department:

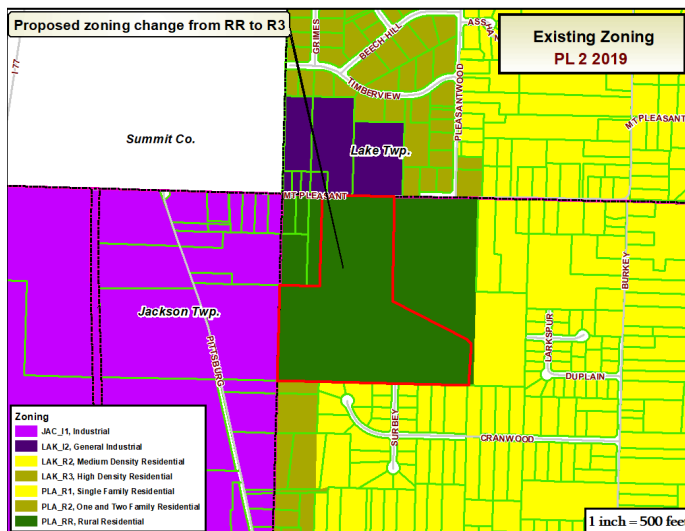
- assisted the Stark County Land Bank in procuring and administering grants from the Ohio Development Services Agency to clean up abandoned former gas station sites
- completed an update to Stark Parks' Five-Year Plan
- entered into a contract with Plain Township to update their Master Plan
- hosted a zoning and subdivision training workshop for local zoning inspectors
- worked with the Stark County Auditor's GIS Department to research the creation of an online development portal for projects submitted for subdivision review
- conducted prevailing wage rate monitoring for the Board of Stark County Commissioners on various public projects
- carried out storm water education for the Board of Stark County Commissioners through educational workshops, speaking engagements, the SCRPC website, brochures, articles, advertisements, contests, and hosted Public Involvement/Public Education (PIPE) committee meetings
- assisted the city of Alliance with the management of their stormwater education program
- coordinated SCRPC's public relations work, including public meetings, press releases, advertising, the Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC), the annual dinner, annual report, SCRPC's quarterly newsletter, the agency's website and Facebook page
- pursued additional social media platforms for the agency and created an agency marketing plan
- worked with the U.S. Census Bureau to create a Complete Count Committee for Stark County aimed at creating awareness about the decennial census

Street Vacations/Annexation Recommendations:

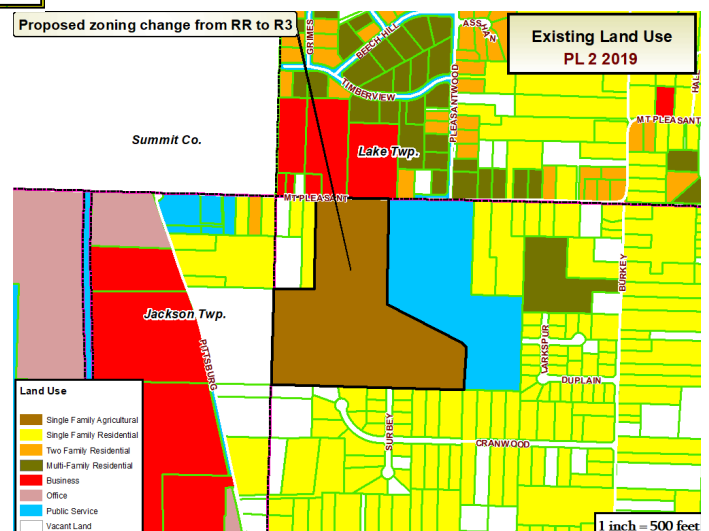
- Recommended to the County Commissioners on three proposed street and alley vacations, which include 17 streets/alleys
- Recommended to the County Commissioners on six annexation requests

Zoning:

- Reviewed and made recommendations on 12 township zoning amendments
- Organized 7 Zoning Inspector's "Mutual Assistance" meetings. Topics included:
 - Overview of the County Land Bank Program
 - Legal updates from the Stark County Prosecutors Office
 - History of Ohio Department of Natural Resources and services offered through the Stark County Wildlife Officer
 - A review of zoning and subdivision policies and procedures, offered as a workshop given by SCRPC



Sample zoning and land use maps created for purposes of zoning amendment review



House Numbering:

653 Total House Numbers Issued

556	Single Family
4	Multi-Family
40	Commercial/Industrial
52	Utilities
1	Other



Approximately 30 acres in Plain Township were approved to be rezoned from Rural Residential to Low Density Multifamily Residential for the development of the Redwood Apartment Neighborhoods. The project will be constructed in two phases. The complex will consist of 32 buildings with 177 single-story apartment homes with an attached two-car garage. Each unit will have 1,300 square feet of living space. The overall layout will include approximately seven acres of open space. Redwood has over 91 neighborhoods, 52 of which are located in Ohio.

Patricia Rakoci
Director of Acquisitions



216.360.9441 | byRedwood.com

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Subdivision Review Subcommittee and staff reviewed:

- 11 preliminary plans (5 revised)
- 41 final plats (19 new subdivisions, 22 replats, 5 resubmittals)

Resulting in: 319 new lots
2.94 miles new residential streets

- 49 site plans (commercial, industrial & multifamily uses)
- 33 administrative waivers of formal site improvement plan reviews
- 7 variance/appeals requests
- 205 divisions of property without plat (lot splits)

JRC, formerly JR Coleman, was one of the projects reviewed this year by SCRPC. Tom Thompson, JRC Executive Director, stated, “JR Coleman has provided early education to children and engaging activities to seniors for over 45 years. The new Myrna A. Pastore JRC Campus will house an additional Learning Center, expanded Adult Day Center and Administrative Offices to increase operating efficiencies.

When complete, the re-purposed former Meyers Lake Ballroom will be transformed into a place where children, ages 6 weeks- preschool, will receive the all-important early education they need. This early education gives them a chance to be all they can be and creates endless possibilities for a bright future and the possibility to break the cycle of generational poverty.



This \$6.5M renovation and expansion of the Myrna A. Pastore JRC Campus will enable JRC to provide early development and early education to 90 young children per day while providing adult engagement to over 60 senior citizens every day. Approximately 30 additional full time jobs will be added, and dozens of parents and caregivers can go to work knowing their loved ones are in a quality and safe environment. The opportunity for children and seniors to participate together in inter-generational activities makes this facility a model for the future.

*Tom Thompson
JRC Executive Director*

JRC recognizes that some seniors need help with various daily activities, but with daily engagement in physical and mental activity, field trips, socialization and healthy food, seniors can remain independent longer, which ultimately saves the community money because long-term nursing home care is 5 times more expensive than Adult Day Care.

A very exciting aspect of the new JRC Campus is the Intergenerational Connections program, which will become a “shared site” whereby seniors and children get together to interact with each other on a daily basis. The seniors and children have learned so much from being together.

Our community is stronger when our children are ready for kindergarten and our seniors feel honored and cared for. JRC’s new facility will double the number of seniors and children we currently serve. “





The Stock Pile

The Stock Pile (TSP) is the SCRPC's non-profit building material reuse warehouse, which the Planning Department assists with administration, personnel and grant management. Located at 1387 Clarendon Ave SW, Canton, TSP draws customers and donors from all over northeast Ohio. In 2019, The Stock Pile:

- Served at least 2,300 low-to-moderate income families, by providing affordable materials for home repairs
- Partnered with 111 non-profit agencies by supplying items for their projects
- Served as a work site for Mature Services and Municipal Court Referrals, McKinley High School, as well as Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, with over 2,300 volunteer hours worked
- Took in over \$155,000 in handling fees, representing approximately \$465,000 in materials, and diverted more than 232 tons of reusable materials from landfills (total since opening 2,942 tons)
- Reinvested almost \$1.9 million in handling fees in the program (since opening), which represents well over \$5.6 million worth of materials returned to useful life
- Experienced one of its best-selling months ever during the 2019 calendar year
- Provided an outlet for over 55 companies to remove overstock and scratch and dent items from their warehouses, which helped reduce their disposal costs
- Evaluated 14 homes for deconstruction for the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation and carried out minor deconstruction on 12 of those; carried out deconstruction on three private homes, yielding excellent materials for customers
- Sold 159 gallons of recycled paint through our Second Coat recycled paint program
- Provided \$4,122 of free furniture to 31 individuals/families transitioning out of homelessness, domestic violence, or foster care through our Welcome Home Free Furniture Program, thanks in part to grants from the Stark Community Foundation and the Timken Company Charitable and Educational Fund



*Thank You To Our 2019 Business Donors
We Couldn't Do It For 20 Years Without You*

"Great prices and great products."

- Connie W.

"Always unique finds."

- Marlene H.

"This place has been a godsend. We bought the bulk of the materials we needed for our recent kitchen renovation from The Stock Pile. We couldn't afford to do it otherwise."

- Darlene J.

"I've done a lot to my home in the 10 years I've owned it, and a good majority of the material came from The Stock Pile- it's a great place."

- Dan B.





Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The GIS department focused on its long-term projects throughout the year, including:

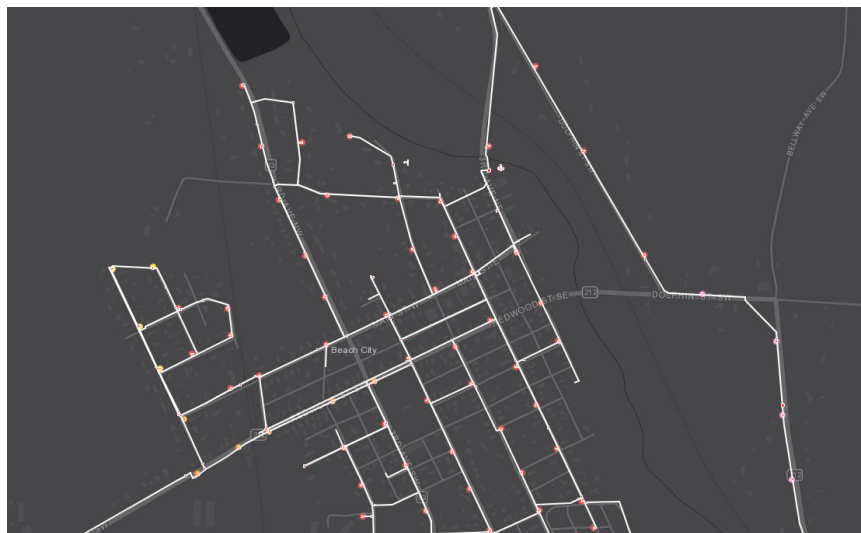
- worked on easement mapping for Jackson and Plain Townships (construction drawings, plat archives, tax maps and deeds provided by the Stark County Subdivision Engineer, Stark County Recorder's Office and Plain Township were used to locate and draw easements)



Lexington Farms allotments, showcasing the Drainage, Storm Sewer, Stormwater Management and Gas easement types that were created

- finalized an agreement with Beach City to perform an inventory of water infrastructure including water valves and mains. Other infrastructure will be under consideration once phase one is finished. This inventory effort will start in January 2020

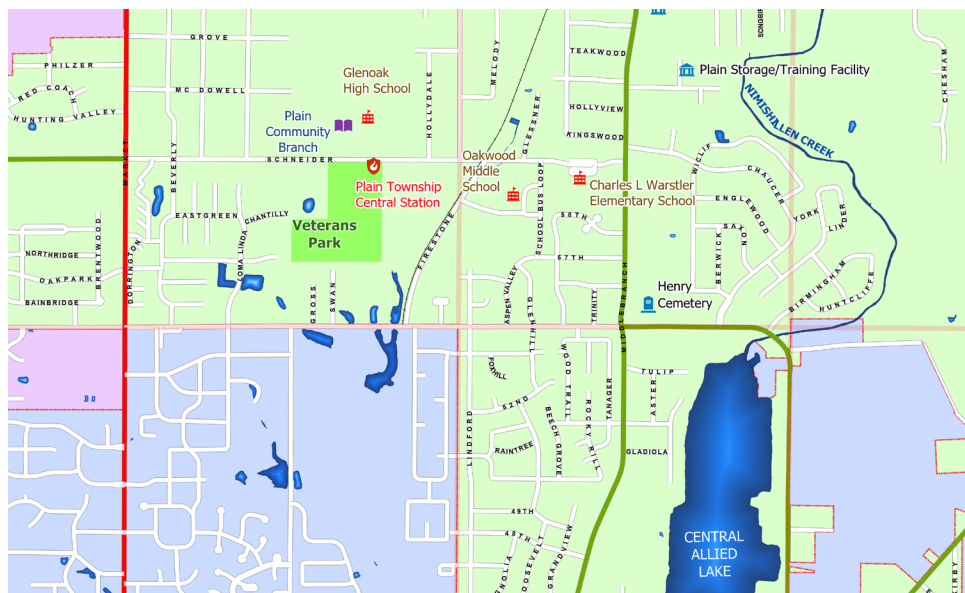
Beach City with waterline infrastructure that we will be expanding on in the coming months by collecting water valve data



- attended the Ohio GIS Conference in 2019. The Stark County Regional Planning Commission GIS Department has been the organizer/chair of the Ohio GIS Conference Map Gallery committee for over 10 years. Between 40-50 paper and digital maps are submitted each year. Maps are judged by a panel of peers and prizes are awarded on their merit



- updated maintenance of storm water infrastructure for Lake, Plain and Perry Townships
- contributed to many different small mapping projects throughout the course of the year. This department creates many different mapping applications and produces paper maps in support of all the departments at the SCRPC. Various maps and applications are also prepared throughout the year for different political subdivisions. Content includes anything from zoning and land use to census information, street maps, aerials and more
- created a new Community Map for Plain Township. It is a street map with index as well as a location map for points of interest in the township, including police, fire, schools, parks, libraries, etc.





Economic Development

The SCRPC provides assistance to members of the county Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) and provides required monitoring of companies with tax incentive agreements under the Enterprise Zone (EZ) and Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) programs. Such programs must comply with state law and rules adopted by the Ohio Development Services Agency.

- 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 previously designated areas 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 to report for five Enterprise zones: EZ 326C (Minerva); EZ 342C (Brewster); EZ 360C (Canal Fulton); EZ 234C, which includes the villages of East Canton and Navarre, the city of Louisville; parts of Canton, Perry and Osnaburg Townships and all of Nimishillen and Plain Townships; and EZ 252C, which includes parts of Lake and Jackson Townships and the city of North Canton.

- Members of the Tax Incentive Review Council:
 - 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 – 2019 REPORTING YEAR

- The TIRC reviewed ten EZ agreements and three CRA agreements with recommendations sent to the Board of Stark County Commissioners
- The Board of Stark County Commissioners agreed to the recommendations of the TIRC. Eleven of the 13 agreements were to be continued another year, and two companies submitted their last year of reporting as their agreements have expired.



Fiscal

	2019 Actual Income	2020 Projected Income
Taxes	\$ 3,932.99	\$ 4,000.00
Charges for Services	\$ 5,659.85	\$ 6,650.00
Licenses and Permits	\$ 21,281.80	\$ 22,000.00
Fines & Forfeitures	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Intergovernmental - includes Federal, State, Local Reimbursements & Contract Services	\$ 2,244,581.23	\$ 2,168,901.00
Other Revenue	\$ 28,085.94	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,303,541.81	\$ 2,201,551.00

	2019 Actual Expenses	2020 Projected Expenses
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 1,812,876.08	\$ 1,914,981.00
Supplies	\$ 23,939.13	\$ 30,760.00
Purchased Services	\$ 250,708.51	\$ 171,080.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 18,163.57	\$ 52,400.00
Other	\$ 28,986.51	\$ 32,330.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,134,673.80	\$ 2,201,551.00

The Regional Planning Commission's financial records were audited in 2019 by State Auditor Dave Yost's office. The audit was completed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and there were no findings or questioned costs for the year 2018.



2019 SCRPC Members

President: Wayne Schillig
Vice-President: Kris Vincent
Secretary: Galen Stoll

Executive Committee

Richard Regula, Commissioners - President
John Ferrero, Jr., County Prosecutor
Alan Andreani, City of Alliance/Joe Mazzola, alt.
Thomas Bernabei, City of Canton
Maureen Austin, alt., Donn Angus, alt.
Kathy Catazaro-Perry, City of Massillon
David Maley, alt., Samantha Walters, alt.
*Robert Leach, Village of Magnolia
*Vince Marion, City of Louisville
*Wayne Schillig, Marlboro Township
*David McAlister, County-at-Large
*Carl Rose, County-at-Large
*Anthony Peldunas, County-at-Large
*Galen Stoll, County-at-Large
*Robert Sanderson, County-at-Large
*Kris Vincent, Osnaburg Township

County Office Members (all ex-officio)

Commissioners
Janet Weir Creighton
Richard Regula
William Smith

Administrator
Brant Luther

Sanitary Engineer
James Troike
Tom Davis, alt.

Engineer
Keith Bennett
Vincent Mueser, alt.

Health Commissioner
Kirkland Norris
Todd Paulus, alt.

Stark County Park District
*Robert Fonte

CAC President
Josh Staley

* **Personnel Committee**

Prosecutor

John Ferrero, Jr.
Stephan Babik, alt.
Michael Bickis, alt.
Deborah Dawson, alt.

City Members

Alliance

Mayor Alan Andreani
Joe Mazzola, alt.

Canal Fulton

Mayor Joe Schultz
Mark Cozy, alt.

Canton

Mayor Thomas Bernabei
Donn Angus
Maureen Austin
Dan Moeglin

Louisville

Mayor Patricia Fallot
Vince Marion, alt.

Massillon

Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry
David Maley
Jason Popiel
Jason Haines, alt.
Lori Kotagides-Boron, alt.
Samantha Walters, alt.

North Canton

Mayor David Held
Robert Graham

County Appointments

David McAlister
Joe Lorenz
Anthony Peldunas
Carl Rose
Robert Sanderson
Joseph Skubiak
Galen Stoll



Members Continued

Township Members

Bethlehem

William McGovern

Canton

Christopher Nichols

Mark Shaffer

John Ring, alt.

Hallie Umpleby, alt.

Jackson

Todd Hawke

John Pizzino

James Walters

Ralph Boger, alt.

Joni Poindexter, alt.

Mike Vaccaro, alt.

Lake

John Arnold

Steven Miller

Jeremy Yoder, alt.

Lexington

James Mathews

Marlboro

Wayne Schillig

Nimishillen

Jeff Shipman

George Kiko

Jennifer Leone, alt.

Osnaburg

Kris Vincent

Brenda Griffith, alt.

Pike

Douglas Baum

Plain

Scott Haws

Al Leno

John Sabo

Lisa Campbell, alt.

Sandy

Scott Welker

Washington

Merrit Boyce

Village Members

Beach City

Mayor John Thomas

Brewster

Mayor Mike Schwab

East Canton

Mayor Kathleen Almasy

East Sparta

Mayor Donald Stropki

Hartville

Mayor Cynthia Billings

Hills & Dales

Mayor Mark Samolczyk

Magnolia

Mayor Robert Leach

Meyers Lake

Mayor Beth Williams

Minerva

Mayor James Waller

David Harp, alt.

Navarre

Mayor Robert Benson

Waynesburg

Mayor Douglas Welch

Larry Hawkins, alt.

Wilmot

Mayor Robert Pulley



2019 Committees

SCATS Policy Committee

Chair: Dan Moeglin
Vice-Chair: Mark Cozy

Members

Alan Andreani
Keith Bennett
Thomas Bernabei
Ralph Boger
Janet Weir Creighton
Charles DeGraff
Andy Hayden
David Held
John Highman
Gerald Hollinger
Dan Millsap
Dan Moeglin
Gery Noirot
Kathy Catazaro-Perry
Richard Regula
Joe Schultz
William Smith
Dave Torrence

Alternates

Chris Barnes
Rick Bodenschatz
Sarah Buell
Curtis Bungard
Kirt Conrad
Mark Cozy
Rick Flory
Robert Fonte
Robert Graham
Brant Luther
Nick Loukas
Vince Marion
Joe Mazzola
Greg McCue
Christopher Nichols
Jason Popiel
Steve Rebillot
Chad Root
Debbie Swickard

Audit Committee

President: Wayne Schillig
Vice-President: Kris Vincent
Secretary: Galen Stoll
David McAlister

Citizens' Advisory Council

Chair: Josh Staley
Members: all citizens working/residing in Stark County

Tehnical Advisory Committee

Chair: Dave Torrence

James Adams
Keith Bennett
Curtis Bungard
Renato Camacho
Kirt Conrad
Mark Cozy
Robert Graham
Nick Loukas, alt.

Vince Marion, alt.
Dan Moeglin
Robert Nau
Gery Noirot
Jason Popiel
Steve Rebillot, alt.
Chad Root, alt.
Dave Torrence

Subdivision Review Subcommittee

Chair: Todd Paulus, Stark County Health Department

Curtis Bungard, City of Alliance
Fonda Williams, City of Canton
Matt Bailey, alt.
Jason Haines, City of Massillon
Bruce Bernhard, City of North Canton
Keith Bennett, Stark County Engineer
Vincent Mueser, alt.
James Troike, Stark County Sanitary Engineer
Tom Davis, alt.
Richard Rohn, Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District
Stephan Babik, Stark County Prosecutor's Office
Mark Cozy, City of Canal Fulton
Joe Lorenz, County Appointee
Vince Marion, City of Louisville

(plus any interested RPC member)



2019 Planning Staff

Robert Nau, Executive Director

SCATS

Jeff Dutton, P.E., P.S. - resigned 9-19
Technical Director/Engineer
Dan Slicker, P.E.
Senior Transportation Engineer
Jeff Dotson
Principal Planner- Technical Director 10-19
Karl Lucas
Senior Planner
Jeff Brown
Transportation Planner

Community Development

Lynn Carlone
Chief of Community of Development
Sarah Peters
Land Bank Administrator
Jill Ross
Housing Counselor
Katie Phillips - resigned 10-19
Senior Community Development Planner
Katie Puleo
Community Development Planner
Steve Williams
Senior Housing Rehab Specialist
Foster Pool
Housing Rehab Inspector

Fair Housing

Valerie Watson
Fair Housing Manager

Subdivision Engineering

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

Planning

Rachel Forchione
Chief of Planning
Jonelle Melnichenko
Regional Planner
Chris Wilken - resigned 2-19
Regional Planner
Alexandra Cramer
Regional Planner - 6-19
Malia Watkins
Community Relations Planner

Fiscal

Heather Cunningham
Fiscal Officer
Elonda Eford
Fiscal Clerk
Sara Deibel - 2-19
Fiscal Assistant

GIS

Sean Phillips, GISP
GIS Manager
Heath Hayes
GIS Analyst

Office Management

Jill Gerber
Office Manager
Jennifer Young - resigned 4-19
Secretary
Gwen Arthur - 5-19
Secretary

Staff Attorney

Dave Thorley



**201- 3rd St. N.E.
Canton, Ohio 44702**

t: 330-451-7389

f: 330-451-7990

www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov