



Annual Report 2022

Stark County
Regional Planning
Commission





Robert Nau
Executive Director



Galen Stoll
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

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission's mission "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" reflects the need for regional strategies and cooperation to meet the challenges facing our communities. The RPC is a member-based service organization providing planning services to Stark County communities targeted towards the diverse needs of our membership.

Good planning involves protecting the history of our built environment and facilitating new development opportunities that reflect current community needs. Our Community Development department focuses on providing low-income residents with safe and sanitary housing through various housing rehabilitation programs. We also invest in our legacy communities by repairing and replacing old infrastructure to improve our citizens' quality of life in their neighborhoods. As planners, we need to strike the right balance between housing preservation and demolition to eliminate slum and blight.

Where housing rehabilitation is not feasible, the Stark County Land Bank helps communities fund the razing of hazardous vacant structures. This past year the Stark County Land Bank marked it's 10-year anniversary. In that time, the Land Bank transferred over 1,000 formally vacant lots to new owners and completed over 1,200 residential demolitions throughout Stark County. It has continued its work to repurpose abandoned and environmentally challenged sites. In 2022, the Land Bank was awarded over \$1 million in state funds for demolition of blighted structures in Alliance, Massillon, North Canton and Lake Township. Canton also received Land Bank funding to raze the former Canton Inn and state funding to demolish the former Weber Dental building.

We have also been busy planning for the future. The Planning Department completed the Canton Township Comprehensive Plan and started a Comprehensive Plan for Perry Township. Planning helps our communities develop a vision for the future and assess existing needs of the community. A 2016 East Canton and Osnauburg Township plan identified a need for senior housing for their residents, allowing them to age in place. Community leaders banded together and created a nonprofit partnership, which is currently building a new mixed income housing development to meet a community need identified in their plan. As a result of planning, Plain Township has been successfully redeveloping Oakwood Square as its new vibrant community center, and will be constructing a new amphitheater behind their Township Hall in 2023.

Technology is dramatically changing our society and within the planning field it is no different. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the ability to spatially represent digital data on maps is a very powerful planning tool. We are fortunate in Stark County to have a robust GIS infrastructure in place to provide access to data to the public. The RPC will continue to look for technology opportunities to improve our services to our members and the public. In a rapidly changing world, new approaches to problem solving emerge within the context of well-established framework of institutional history. Thanks to the leadership of our Commission and dedicated staff, the RPC is well positioned to serve as regional impetus to improve the quality of life for our citizens.



SCATS

Stark County Area Transportation Study

SCATS is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for transportation planning in Stark County. This includes developing and maintaining a *Long-Range Plan* with a minimum 20-year horizon and a four-year *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) with projects occurring within the next four years. Projects must be listed in the Long-Range Plan and TIP in order to qualify for funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Authority (FTA). Major planning efforts completed in the past year include:

- completed implementation of the **FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program** (TIP) and initiated project selection for the 2024-2027 TIP that will be completed next calendar year and incorporation of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Funds and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds
- completed the **Stark County Farm Development Traffic Impact Study** as part of the Community Transportation Planning Studies program and school travel plans were initiated for Louisville Elementary and Middle Schools
- completed the **2021 Stark County Crash Report and Safety Work Plan**
- completed the FY 2022 District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee and the Natural Resources Assistance Council annual programs of funding

The management of the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) adopted by the SCATS Policy Committee in 2020 included several major projects completed or begun in 2022. These include:

- US 62 safety improvements from the Market Avenue on-ramps extending east to the Nimishillen Creek/railroad bridge. This project is utilizing \$11,000,000 in SCATS Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds and includes changes to intersections and the roadway such as road realignment, dead-ending local roads, restricting turns, adding offset turn lanes, etc. Aerial drone photos can be seen in the GIS Department section.
- Wales Road (SR 241) improvements from Lincoln Way to Hills and Dales Road includes full and partial depth repairs and pavement replacement, the upgrading of signals with fiber interconnect at four intersections, and replacing sidewalks, drive aprons, catch basins, sanitary sewer, and curbs.



Gregory A. McCue, Civil Engineer IV, Engineering Manager for the city of Massillon, stated, *“The significance of the Wales Road (SR 241) improvement project is roadway traffic safety in a residential and commercial area. This project is to widen the roadway, increase sidewalk width, improve intersection signalization, improve ADA accessibility, and adding a bi-directional dedicated left turn lane, reducing crashes, congestion, and to improve overall safety and traffic operations. This project is 1.8 miles from Lincoln Way East (SR 172) north to Hills and Dales Road.”*

- The Jackson Tunnel project is using \$789,869 in SCATS Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funds as well as funds from Jackson Township, Jackson Local Schools and Stark Parks. This project safely connects Jackson Township's North Park and the Jackson Amphitheater to Jackson High School and South Park. The participation of all of the entities listed previously underscores the importance of this project to the local community.



- The Pittsburg/Shuffel/Orion Intersection Improvements utilizes \$1,660,000 in SCATS Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds for construction this year and next year. The Pittsburg/Orion Roundabout is scheduled for completion in June of 2023.

Stark County Chief Deputy Engineer, Dave Torrence, P.E. P.S., stated, *"This project will relieve congestion at two intersections, roughly 500 feet apart. Due to the presence of the North Canton Cemetery, both intersections had to remain in their existing locations. With daily traffic volumes of approximately 9,000 vehicles on Orion Street, 18,000 vehicles on Pittsburg Avenue and 18,000 vehicles on Shuffel Street, providing hybrid roundabouts at these locations enables the Stark County Engineer's Office to move traffic smoothly through this congested corridor without the previous backups and delays caused by two traffic signals so close together. The entire project is scheduled for completion in June of 2023."*



- The **Community Transportation Planning Studies Program** study of the former Stark County Farm area was completed in October.

The **Stark County Farm Development Traffic Impact Study** identified immediate and future needs to meet increased commercial truck traffic from developments in and around the former Stark County Farm in the village of Navarre, city of Massillon, and Perry and Bethlehem Townships. Proposed projects include, in the short-term, adding deceleration lanes on Navarre Road at Millennium Boulevard and adding a traffic signal or roundabout at Navarre Road and Sterilite Street. In the long-term, a traffic light or roundabout at Navarre Road and Millennium Boulevard is recommended, as well as additional turning lanes at Navarre Road and Erie Avenue/SR 21. Further study is recommended for the Navarre Road/Stump Road/Bosford Drive intersections.

SCATS' staff initiated planning with the city of Louisville and the Louisville City School District to conduct a **Safe Routes to School Study** for Louisville Elementary and Middle Schools. The school travel plan is nearing completion.

The **2021 Stark County Crash Report and Safety Work Plan** reviews accident statistics provided by the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The data from the past three years is used to determine hazard ratings for intersections and road segments throughout the county. Factors used in the calculation include the number of crashes, their severity, and the traffic volume of the location where the accidents occurred.

Some intersections continue to have high accident rates despite safety improvements. Areas with high traffic, numerous access drives, and/or confusing alignments demonstrate that awareness is also a key to safety and not just physical improvements.

2021 Top-Ranked Hazardous Intersections County-Wide

1ST STREET	2ND STREET	2019 Total	2020 Total	2021 Total	3-Year Total	Serious Injury	Total Injury	Fatal	2021 ADT	Severity Index	Crash/ MV	Crash/ Year	Hazard Rating	City, Village, or Township
13th/12th St NW	I-77 Ramps TM Hospital	24	14	19	57	3	16	0	19,600	2.00	2.65	19.00	67.24	Canton
12th St N	Market Ave N	11	25	22	58	1	12	1	20,475	1.81	2.59	19.33	60.32	Canton
US 30 Trump Ave	Lincoln St SR 172	22	18	26	66	2	18	0	27,850	1.89	2.16	22.00	60.08	Canton Twp
I-77	Belden Village & Whipple	34	23	32	89	2	28	0	39,750	1.92	2.04	29.67	58.89	Jackson Twp
SR172	Perry Dr	25	19	32	76	0	24	0	31,400	1.75	2.21	25.33	57.98	Perry Twp
US 62	Harmont Ave/Lesh St	15	31	29	75	3	25	0	39,690	2.11	1.72	25.00	54.49	Canton
Everhard Rd	Whipple Ave	32	28	38	98	0	29	0	43,450	1.71	2.06	32.67	52.93	Jackson Twp
SR687	Everhard Rd	31	22	26	79	1	25	1	41,925	2.00	1.72	26.33	51.59	Jackson Twp
Portage St	Strip Ave	19	16	23	58	0	15	0	23,200	1.64	2.28	19.33	48.17	Jackson Twp
15th St NE	Walnut Ave NE	4	8	5	17	1	8	0	3,230	2.59	4.80	5.67	46.97	Canton

The **District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee** and the **Natural Resource Assistance Council** approved projects for the FY 2022 program of funding. The Ohio Public Works Commission assists in financing local public infrastructure improvements under the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) and the Local Transportation Improvements Program (LTIP). These programs, as well as the Clean Ohio Program funded by bonds provide funds to local communities for the improvement of their basic infrastructure systems and the preservation of open space.

District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee approved a number of projects utilizing SCIP and LTIP funds. These include a variety of infrastructure projects repairing and upgrading water systems, bridges, stormwater drainage, and roadways.

Ohio State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP)

Applicant	Project	Project Type	Grant Request	Loan Request	Total Request	Total Project Cost
City of Canal Fulton	West High Pressure Elevated Water Storage Tank -Phase II	Water Supply	\$1,050,000	\$450,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Stark County Engineer	Bridge No.'s PE-3-10 (12th St.) & PE-3-67 (Summerdale Ave.)	Bridge/Culvert	\$0	\$740,000	\$740,000	\$1,000,000
City of Canton	34th Street Area Watermain Replacement	Water Supply	\$600,000	\$900,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,790,208
Village of Brewster	Brewster Water Transmission Main Replacement Project	Water Supply	\$1,200,000	\$300,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,653,917
City of Canton	18th St. SW Storm Sewer CIPP Project, GP1386	Stormwater	\$525,053	\$0	\$525,053	\$1,071,538
City of Canton	Fairmount Area Water Main Replacement - Phase 2	Water Supply	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,786,778
			\$4,125,053	\$3,140,000	\$7,265,053	\$10,802,441

Ohio Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP)

Applicant	Project	Project Type	Grant Request	Loan Request	Total Request	Total Project Cost
Stark County Engineer	Applegrove St. and Strip Ave. Intersection	Road	\$1,400,000	\$0	\$1,400,000	\$2,035,000
Stark County Engineer	Perry Drive PID 111043	Road	\$558,000	\$0	\$558,000	\$5,950,000
			\$1,958,000	\$0	\$1,958,000	\$7,985,000

The District 19 Natural Resource Assistance Council of Stark County approved two projects:

- Plain Township requested \$417,730 to assist in purchasing 19.79 acres that will be known as the Monarch Meadows Preserve off of Schneider Street adjoining the east side of Plain Township Veteran's Park. The property includes a high-quality wetland area and meadow containing common and swamp milkweed- hence the name Monarch Meadow, as milkweed is used as a host plant for Monarch butterflies. A section of the Middle Branch Trail passes through the property as well as a portion of the Nimishillen Creek.



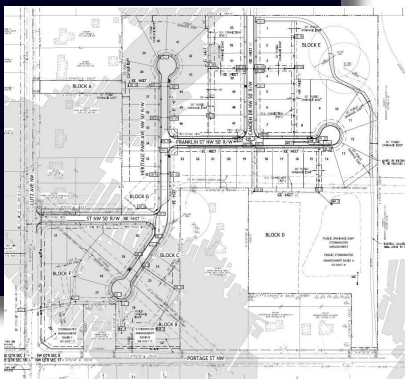
The Western Reserve Land Conservancy was awarded \$492,911 for the purchase of the 153-acre area known as the Dorn Forest Preserve. In Lawrence Township, just south of Canal Fulton, the wooded area is part of the Appalachian mixed mesophytic forest region. The purchase will preserve high quality wetland habitat including streams, ponds, emergent marsh areas, as well as woodlands, and will protect a number of endangered species of flora and fauna. Lafayette Avenue crosses diagonally through property, providing an opportunity to enjoy the large wooded area which will provide for passive recreation at some time in the future due to this purchase.



Subdivision Engineering

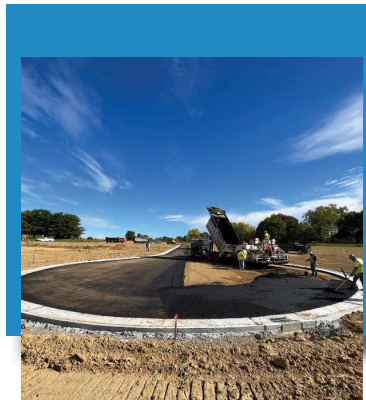
SCRPC administers the Subdivision Engineering Program on behalf of the Stark County Board of Commissioners. Some of the work performed by the Subdivision Engineer included:

- reviewed new residential, commercial and industrial 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 accepted construction standards; and handled any questions arising or drawing revisions occurring during construction
- performed inspections, in conjunction with the townships, for project completion for the release of performance and maintenance bonds
- established dollar amounts of performance and maintenance bonds for new allotments, reviewed performance and maintenance bonds, bond substitution requests, bond collateral reduction requests, and maintained all current, approved bond forms on the SCRPC website for public use
- reviewed private utility company installation drawings for new allotments
- archived and subsequently maintained allotments' project documents including as-built construction drawings, stormwater 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, and made recommendations to SCRPC for any variances requested



Heritage Park
Schematic Plan
Jackson Township

Heritage Park
Jackson Township



Heritage Park
Drone Aerial View
Jackson Township

Lexington Farms No. 6
Plain Township



Kimber Ditch B Dam
Lake Township



- performed monthly inspections of the county's Kimber Ditch Detention Basin B concrete dam as required by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for Class I Structures, also obtained bids and administered the contract for the yearly maintenance work required for the Kimber Ditch Detention Basins A and B
- assisted various townships with drainage related issues and/or problems on an as-requested basis, also reviewed construction plans for new condominium developments on an as-requested basis
- Ohio EPA NPDES Permit related work included:
 - prepared the county's 2022 Annual Report
 - prepared the county's Stormwater Management Program manual and permit update for the 2021-2026 period
 - 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



Scotsbury Glen No. 5
Jackson Township



Huckleberry St. NW
Jackson Township



Costco
Jackson Township

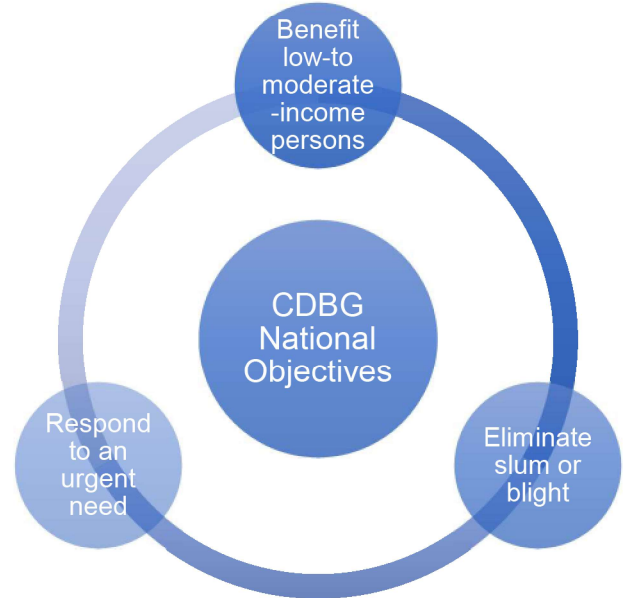


Community Development

Community Development Block Grant

The **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** aims to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments, along with expanding economic opportunities for low-to moderate-income persons.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocates grants annually to states, cities and counties. Stark County is an entitlement community with CDBG funds being granted to the Board of Stark County Commissioners. The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is under contract with the Board of Stark County Commissioners to administer the county's CDBG allocation. The performance accomplishments occurred between July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.



TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$2,140,528

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$1,421,499



Housing
Rehabilitation



Public Service



Economic
Development



Infrastructure

24
HOUSEHOLDS
ASSISTED

Emergency repairs
Accessibility
renovations
Sanitary sewer or
septic repair

5 PROGRAMS
FUNDED

1,508 persons
served

1 PROGRAM
FUNDED

8 microenterprises
assisted

2 PROJECTS
FUNDED

North Canton
waterline
replacement
Canton Township
sanitary sewer
installation

The Board of Stark County Commissioners received an allocation of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding through the **CDBG-CV** program in 2020. Through this special allocation, an additional \$1.7 million was made available to fund eligible activities that exclusively prevent, prepare for or respond to coronavirus. Applications were accepted, reviewed and scored and ultimately, two projects were funded.

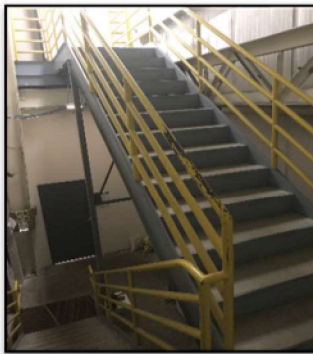
Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio

- Public facility improvements to allow for social distancing and ADA accessibility

Stark County Health Department

- Funds provided for vaccination clinics, PPE, COVID outreach and business safety initiative

Habitat ECO



BEFORE

An elevator was installed to add vital ADA accessibility to the second floor of the facility

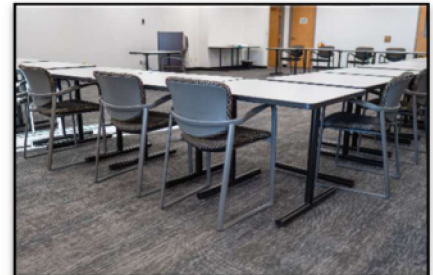


AFTER



BEFORE

Old, rippled carpeting was removed and new carpeting was installed to reduce tripping hazards. Renovation of this large meeting space ensures proper social distancing



AFTER

Health Department

More than 100 applications have been approved to receive safety items



Mobile clinics were stationed in various spots throughout Stark County to administer vaccines



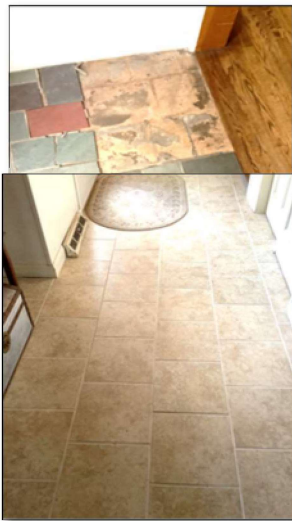
Community Development

HOME Investment Partnership Program

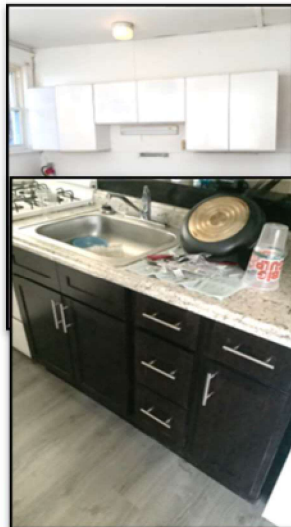
The **HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)** was created from the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990. HOME is the largest block grant exclusively designed to create affordable housing for low-to moderate-income persons. Funding is distributed to states and units of local government from HUD. The Board of Stark County Commissioners is the recipient of HOME funds for the county with Stark County Regional Planning Commission administering the HOME program. The county is the lead entity in a Consortium with the cities of Massillon and Alliance. The accomplishments occurred between July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$1,862,649

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$735,194



HOMEOWNER REHAB
AFTER



RENTAL REHAB
AFTER



Single-family homes –
new construction



The City of Massillon's Down Payment Assistance (DPA) and Rehab program secured homeownership for 5 families within the city limits of Massillon. This program leveraged more than \$375,000 in private mortgages.



As a result of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, a special allocation of funding was created. Existing jurisdictions that received annual HOME funds were recipients of new **HOME-ARP** dollars. HOME-ARP was specifically created to benefit distinct populations such as those homeless, at-risk of homelessness, fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking, veterans and other populations as specified in guidance from HUD. Additionally, these dollars can only be used for eligible activities. Those include administration and planning costs, rental housing, tenant based rental assistance, supportive services, acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter and nonprofit operating and capacity building assistance.

The Board of Stark County Commissioners has been awarded more than \$3.2 million of HOME-ARP. A requirement of the funds as established by HUD is to gather public input regarding the needs of the community in order to assess which activity (or activities) the county will pursue with the dollars. Stakeholder input along with data analysis must be submitted to HUD in the form of an allocation plan by March 31, 2023. As the administering party of HOME-ARP funds, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission is on track to submit an allocation plan before the deadline. The planning steps outlined below occurred between October 2021 and November 2022.



Examples of organizations that participated in stakeholder discussions include homeless service providers, domestic violence service providers, veterans' organizations, local government, affordable housing providers, the Continuum of Care, school representatives, fair housing, the public housing authority and philanthropic representation.





Stark County Land Bank

Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation

2022 marked the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation's (SCLRC) 10th year since establishment. The SCLRC was created by commissioners resolution based on ORC 5722.02 on March 21, 2012. Informally the SCLRC is known as the "Stark County Land Bank".

Throughout the past 10 years, the Land Bank has transferred over 1,000 formerly unmaintained side lots to new ownership, created multiple programs to facilitate the re-use and repurposing of vacant and tax delinquent property, completed over 1,200 residential demolitions through the receipt of multiple grant awards to reduce blight, and has formed multiple partnerships with political jurisdictions, non-profit organizations and for-profit organizations across the county to facilitate community and economic development projects in furtherance of its mission.

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) has been under contract to administer the Land Bank's programs since 2014.

Key Accomplishments throughout 2022:

Lots Transferred



The "Side Lot" and "Vacant Lot" programs are available to assist qualified applicants with the opportunity to acquire tax delinquent vacant land. In 2022, the Land Bank transferred a total of 109 lots to new ownership.

Targeted Acquisitions



Throughout 2022, the Land Bank reviewed and approved 102 applications under its Targeted Acquisition Assistance Program (TAAP). Of the applications received for the TAAP, 74.5% were for the acquisition of tax delinquent vacant/abandoned property within the Shorb Neighborhood within the city of Canton.

Demolitions



Four residential and five commercial Demolition Assistance Program (DAP) applications were awarded funding assistance in 2022. A total of \$301,246.33 in demolition funding was provided by the Land Bank for the nine projects completed in 2022. Additionally, one residential project was still under contract at the end of the year with a reimbursement expected in early 2023.

DAP Policy Change



As of June 27, 2022, the DAP policies adopted in 2017 were modified. Applicants eligible to apply for DAP funding now include *Stark County, its political subdivisions, and qualified non-profit organizations*. Non-profit organizations were previously not included as an eligible applicant under the originally adopted policy.

Gas Station Clean Up Work Continued



Due to additional monitoring and sampling needed for the site, the Land Bank was granted a time extension deadline until June 16, 2023, to allow for remaining work to be completed at the former Starfire Station on Columbus Road in Plain Township.

New Grant Funding Awarded



After application submission in early 2022, the Land Bank was awarded funding from the state for the demolition of blighted commercial and residential properties.

\$1.01 million

Guidelines for a new grant program, the Building Demolition & Site Revitalization Program (BDSR), administered by the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) were released late 2021. The funding became available from Substitute House Bill 110, the state budget bill for State Fiscal Years 2022-2023. ODOD allocated \$150 million with \$500,000 set-aside per county for the demolition of commercial and residential buildings and the revitalization of surrounding properties. Applications for funding were due by end of February 2022.



Department of
Development

The Land Bank submitted a grant application for the demolition of five commercial demolition projects in February and was initially awarded the \$500,000 county set-aside in early August. Later in October, the Land Bank was awarded an additional \$501,321; for a total grant award of \$1,001,321. Match funding (25%) is required for projects in excess of the county set-aside. All work under the BDSR program must be completed by May 1, 2023 and final reimbursement submissions must be requested by July 15, 2023.

After changes to the Demolition Assistance Program (DAP) policies were adopted in June 2022, the Land Bank awarded and funded its first DAP project with a non-profit organization. ABCD, Inc. applied for funding towards the demolition of two commercial structures located on Harrisburg Road NE in Canton in July.



The request was approved, and a funding agreement was executed with ABCD, Inc. in August. Demolition was completed by November. ABCD, Inc. expended \$86,250 to complete the project and was reimbursed \$40,225 by the Land Bank. ABCD, Inc. plans to redevelop this site for vehicle storage, training center and mixed-use commercial space and a 24-unit senior housing complex.

The former Starfire Gas Station located at 2433 Columbus Road NE saw continued progress in 2022:

- Tier II Report was submitted to BUSTR and approved
- Additional drilling/sampling of the soil and groundwater was conducted
- Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was submitted in December

This work is funded by a grant awarded in 2019, with a work completion deadline of June 16, 2023.

Upon completion of the current grant, and based on BUSTR's review of the RAP, the Land Bank plans to apply for a remediation grant to remove the contaminated soil and to clean up the effected groundwater.

GAS STATION CLEAN UP

DEMOLITION FUNDING



Fair Housing

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

Through research, investigation, mediation and advocacy, the staff conducted the following activities in 2022:

- developed the first Fair Housing Newsletter for the county and one for the city of Alliance
 - conducted a presentation on Fair Housing and Disability Rights Regarding Emotional Support Animals to the Stark County Real Estate Investor's Association with 75 people in attendance
 - conducted a presentation on Fair Housing and Zoning to Stark County Zoning Inspectors with five people in attendance
 - assisted 569 households on the landlord-tenant and fair housing laws
 - assisted 98 disabled individuals on the landlord-tenant and/or fair housing laws
 - assisted 21 representatives from various agencies including social service agencies, municipal employees, non-profit organizations and real estate agents on the rights, obligations and responsibilities under the landlord-tenant and fair housing laws
 - investigated, conciliated and/or settled 12 discrimination cases
 - resolved, settled and/or conciliated three disability cases
 - resolved and settled one familial status case
 - one case closed because complainants chose not to pursue
 - two cases on disability were determined to be No Probable Cause findings
 - five cases pending
 - referred 50 cases to cooperating attorneys
 - monitored 10 landlords due to possible discriminatory rental practices in the past
 - distributed 350 educational brochures to residential housing providers, tenants, elected officials, Alliance Municipal Court, city of Alliance, SMHA, Alliance for Family and Children and Hayes Property Management
 - advertised in The Repository and Alliance Review
 - completed the HUD Performance Outcome Measurement System form for activities completed by the department
 - completed the Fair Housing Action Plan
- 16 • completed the Fair Housing Report for Alliance and county's inclusion in the CAPER

Investigated, conciliated and/or settled the following housing discrimination cases in 2022:

Protected Class	Location	Reason for Complaint	Finding
Disability	Beach City	Denial Reasonable Modification	Resolved/Settled
Disability	Plain Township	Termination Due to Disability	Resolved/Settled
Disability	Homeworth	Termination Due to Disability	No Probable Cause
Disability	Alliance	Reasonable Accommodation	No Probable Cause
Disability	Jackson Township	Reasonable Accommodation	Resolved/Settled
Disability	Navarre	Harassment Due to Disability	Pending w/ OCRC
Disability	Alliance	Termination Due to Disability	Pending w/ SCFHD
Race	Plain Township	Use of Criminal History	Closed/Didn't Pursue
Race	Jackson Township	Discouraging to Rent	Pending w/ SCFHD
Race & Disability	North Canton	Falsely Denying Housing Available	Pending w/SCFHD
Race & Sexual Orientation	Hartville	Termination	Pending w/ HUD
Familial Status	Navarre	Termination Due to Child	Resolve/Settled

NOTABLE DISCRIMINATION CASE

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) approved a Conciliation Agreement between roommates and their landlords resolving allegations that the landlords discriminated on the basis of familial status in violation of the Fair Housing Act.

The SCFHD assisted the couple in filing a discrimination complaint with the OCRC alleging the owners served one of the roommates a notice to leave the premises after learning he obtained custody of his three-year old son.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits landlords from evicting or denying apartments to families just because they have children. Although the owners denied the allegations and didn't admit to any wrongdoing, they agreed to settle the case. The owners and complainants agreed to settle for \$12,000. The Conciliation Agreement also requires the owners to pay the SCFHD \$2,500, attend fair housing training, provide reports on their rental activity for one year and create a written non-discrimination rental policy.

Equal Employment

- assisted in the development of Equal Employment Opportunity plans for one county department

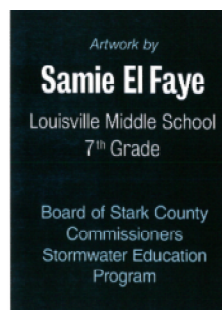


Planning

The Planning Department administers the subdivision review process, makes recommendations on zoning, operates house numbering, handles public relations for the agency, coordinates prevailing wage monitoring and storm water education, and carries out long-range planning activities.

In 2022, the department:

- assisted the Stark County Land Bank in administering a grant from the Ohio Development Services Agency to clean up an abandoned gas station site
- co-hosted with the Stark County Prosecutor's Office a Governmental Law Seminar for elected officials and zoning inspectors
- worked with Canton Township to adopt a comprehensive plan for the township
- conducted prevailing wage rate monitoring for the Board of Stark Commissioners, city of North Canton and SCRPC Community Development Department on various public projects
- carried out stormwater education for the Board of Stark County Commissioners through educational workshops, the SCRPC website, brochures, articles, advertisements, contests, booths, cleanups, and Public Involvement/Public Education (PIPE) Committee meetings
- coordinated SCRPC's public relations work, including public meetings, press releases, advertising, the annual dinner, annual report, SCRPC's quarterly newsletter, SCRPC's Fair Housing quarterly newsletter, the agency's website, and Facebook and Instagram pages
- entered into a contract with Perry Township to complete a Comprehensive Plan
- staff was a guest speaker for a Subdivision Design course of the University of Akron
- attended various conferences and workshops pertaining to planning and zoning

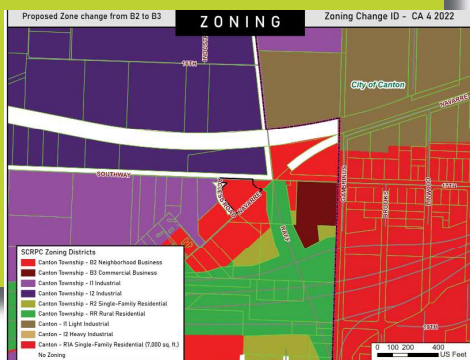


Street Vacations / Annexation Recommendations:

- recommended to the Board of Stark County Commissioners on seven proposed street vacations involving seven roadways
- recommended to the Board of Stark County Commissioners on eight annexation requests

Zoning:

- reviewed and made recommendations on 16 township zoning amendments
- organized five Zoning Inspector “Mutual Assistance” Meetings on various topics including:
 - Ohio Manufactured Home Program
 - Ohio Casino Control Commission
 - Fair Housing



House Numbering:

Total House Numbers Issued	410
Single Family	310
Multi Family	5
Commercial/Industrial/Ag	65
Electric/Utility	30

Subdivision Review Subcommittee and staff reviewed:

9 preliminary plans (8 revised)

46 final plats (9 new subdivisions, 37 replats, 3 resubmittals)

Resulting in:

- 258 new lots
- 2.07 miles new residential streets
- 0.22 miles new commercial streets

62 site plans (commercial, industrial & multi-family uses)

33 administrative waivers of formal site improvement plan reviews

10 variance / appeals requests

230 divisions of property without plat (lot splits)



Schuring Park, a 49-acre facility, will be located at Belden Greens and Fulton/SR 687 in Jackson Township. Fiscal and Economic Development Director, Randy Gonzalez, stated, "Schuring Park is a tournament ready soccer/lacrosse facility with different sized fields for different levels of play, when completed will have restrooms, shelters, playgrounds, paved parking and walking tracks that will connect with Stark Parks' at Tam O'Shanter and the commercial shopping area. The park will host tournaments in partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame Village and Visit Canton."

Plain Twp Trustees - Amphitheater

2600 Easton St NE
Canton, OH, 44721

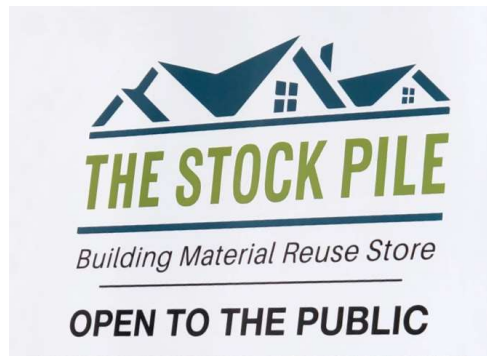


Plain Township is adding a 5,900 sq. ft. amphitheater to Oakwood Square Plaza. Township Trustee, Scott Haws, stated, "The plaza is an anchor and we've done many upgrades to it giving folks an area to come to. This area was distressed by COVID so we are able to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to build this, making it a good long-term investment for the community. This will be a catalyst to help and enrich the area through various arts, concerts and local acts providing a family friendly environment. Simultaneously, this will give additional value to the restaurants located there. Hopefully, by late spring/early summer next year, we will be ready to go, offering a great asset to the community."





The Stock Pile



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

In 2022, The Stock Pile:

- served 2,901 low and moderate income families by providing affordable materials for home repairs
- partnered with 115 non-profit agencies by supplying items for their projects
- served as a work site for Municipal Court Referrals, McKinley High School, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, CommQuest, and Creative Rehab with over 900 volunteer hours worked
- took in over \$145,000 in handling fees, representing approximately \$435,000 in materials, and diverted more than 371 tons of reusable materials from landfills (total since opening - 3,851 tons)
- reinvested \$2.2 million in handling fees in the program (since opening), which represents well over \$6.6 million worth of materials returned to useful life
- provided an outlet for over 100 companies to remove overstock and scratch and dent items from their warehouses, which helped reduce their disposal costs
- sold 16 gallons of recycled paint through our Second Coat recycled paint program (total since 2017 - 705 gallons)
- provided furniture for several individuals/families transitioning out of homelessness, domestic violence, or foster care through our Welcome Home Free Furniture Program



Second Coat is a latex reprocessing program. Partial cans of paint are filtered and mixed with like colors in 55-gallon drums; the paint is then repackaged into new, full gallon cans of paint and sold for \$10 per gallon.

"Thank you for doing this! It is so very difficult to properly get rid of extra paint these days."

- Paula V.



"This is awesome!"

- Hope R.



Metal Outdoor
Bar
with
2 stools
\$500.00



"Everyone is always so helpful & friendly. You have terrific employees!"

- Deb C.



Property Brothers
Bathroom Vanity
\$400.00



"The management and staff here are the best ever!"

- M.L.A.

Welcome Home is a program of The Stock Pile that aims to provide Stark County residents with furniture and home essentials at no cost. Approved applicants are granted a \$150 voucher for use at The Stock Pile. This program focuses on those who are:

- aging out of foster care
- veteran or active military
- transitioning out of homelessness
- transitioning out of a domestic violence situation





Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Water Infrastructure Inventory – Village of Minerva

Water main and lateral map layers are now added with existing valves and structures, bringing mapping to near completion.

Feature Type	Total Mapped
Curb Valves	1,184
Main Valves	416
Hydrants (watch valves)	258
Laterals	5.28 miles
Water Main	25.4 miles
Structures (tanks, pumps, vaults)	32



Storm Water Inventory – Village of Minerva

As water distribution mapping came close to an end, storm water mapping began and is now estimated to be 70% complete.

Feature Type	Total Mapped
Catch Basins	679
Culverts	67
Manholes	103
Outfalls	43
Ditch	6.47 miles
Gravity Main	12.35 miles



Pedestrian Connectivity Assessment

SCRPC GIS and SCATS continue collaboration to inventory sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps county-wide.

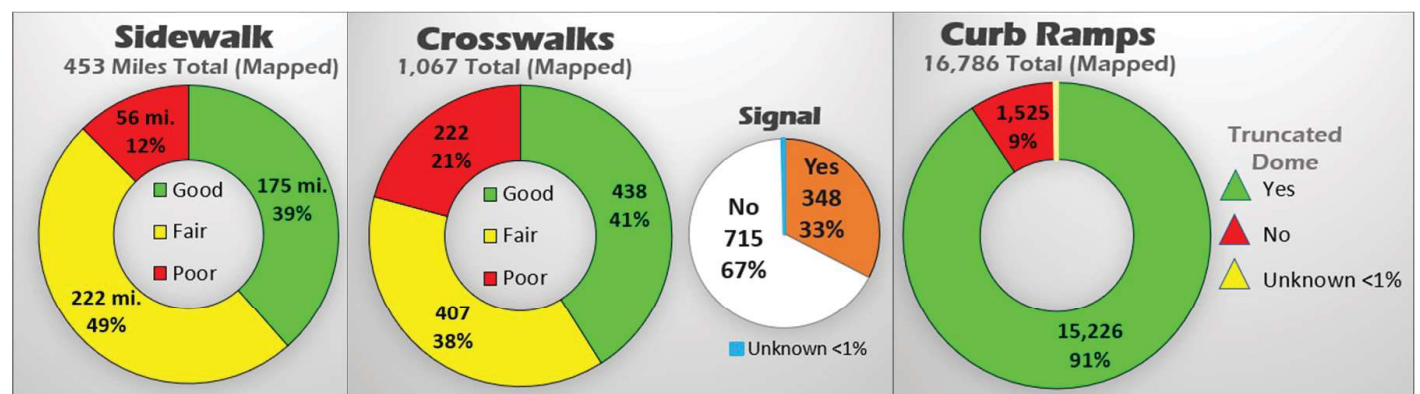
Condition	Description
Good	Like brand new
Fair	Anything between good and poor
Poor	Cracks, slanted, excessive vegetation



Sidewalks: Collect current inventory as well as identify gaps, width, buffer from traffic, conditions, obstructions, etc.

Curb Ramps: Collect current inventory and identify presence of truncated domes, which main purpose is to provide a warning for visually impaired and blind travelers. The color provides a high contrast for people with low vision, and the texture can be sensed by those without sight.

Crosswalks: Collect inventory, identify type, condition and whether a signal device is present.



Drones - UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems)

On October 12, 2022, the Ohio Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center (Ohio UAS Center) visited SCRPC and flew multiple demonstrations across Stark County, including the following construction projects: Route 30/I-77 interchange, Route 62 corridor from Market Ave. to Maple Ave., and Heritage Park subdivision.

The Ohio UAS Center serves as the state's one-stop shop for unmanned aircraft and advanced aviation technologies. The Ohio UAS Center operates as part of the Ohio Department of Transportation's DriveOhio initiative.



Route 30/I-77 Interchange Overview



Capable of carrying multiple interchangeable payloads, the DJI Matrice 210 (black drone) gave an impressive aerial view over the Route 30/I-77 interchange refurbishment (above).

Route 30/I-77 Interchange Bridge Inspection



The Skydio 2 (blue drone) is known for its optical avoidance feature to navigate tight spaces, and it demonstrated a bridge inspection beneath Route 30 (above).

County Outfall Inspections

EPA requires each outfall to be inspected every five years. On a rotational basis, SCRPC is continually in the process of inspecting township outfalls lying outside municipalities. Inspections are now completed using Survey123 integrated with Field Maps. These two Esri products work well together to provide site identification, navigation, and organized questionnaires. EPA Reports are seamlessly generated based on each complete survey.

Stark County Outfall Reconnaissance Report			
Background Data			
Outfall Picture 	ID: Martindale2	MS4: Plain Township	
	Street Address:		
	Subwatershed (HUC12): Middle Branch Nimishillen Creek-Nimishillen Creek		
	Drainage Class: Low-Density Residential		Priority: Medium
	Type: Pipe	Pipe Size: 60"	Material: Corrugated Metal
	Elevation: 1,054'	Location on Stream: Midstream	Year Installed: Unknown
	Outfall Notes:		
	Inspection Data		
Last Rainfall: >72 Hrs.		Temperature: 64°F	Inspection Time: 11/9/2022 1:44 PM
Inspecting Agency: RPC		Inspector: Curtis Bungard	
Submerged in Water: Partially		Submerged in Sediment: No	Flow: No
Physical Indicators for Both Flowing and Non-Flowing Outfalls: Yes			
Inspection Summary			
Pipe Condition: Good		Illicit Discharge Potential: Unlikely	
Illicit Discharge Possible Source:			
Inspection Notes:			

**STARK COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**
201 3rd St NE, Suite #201
Canton, OH 44702
(330) 451-7389
<https://rpc.starkcountyohio.gov>



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 North Canton, Canton, Alliance, Massillon, and Louisville 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 village of East Canton and Navarre; parts of Canton, Perry and Osnauburg Townships and all of Nimishillen and Plain Townships; and EZ 252C, which includes parts of Lake and Jackson Townships.

- Members of the Tax Incentive Review Council
 - Stark County Auditor or representative serves as Chairperson
 - Three members represent the Board of Stark County Commissioners
 - Two members appointed by local township/municipality
 - One school district representative

TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL - 2022 REPORTING YEAR

- The TIRC reviewed 10 Enterprise Zone agreements and four 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, with all 14 agreements continued another year

Fiscal

	2022 Actual Income	2023 Projected Income
Taxes	\$ 4,002.17	\$ 4,100.00
Charges for Services	\$ 8,244.53	\$ 7,700.00
Licenses and Permits	\$ 21,709.92	\$ 25,000.00
Intergovernmental - includes Federal, State, Local Reimbursements & Contract Services	\$ 1,906,346.70	\$ 2,696,751.00
Other Revenue	\$ 3,551.68	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,943,855.00	\$ 2,733,551.00
	2022 Actual Expenses	2023 Projected Expenses
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 1,910,456.09	\$ 2,428,036.00
Supplies	\$ 23,605.58	\$ 35,875.00
Purchased Services	\$ 146,799.89	\$ 201,530.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 23,360.87	\$ 29,200.00
Other	\$ 23,609.45	\$ 38,910.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,127,831.88	\$ 2,733,551.00

SCRPC's financial records were audited in 2022 by State Auditor Keith Farber's office. The audit was completed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and there were no findings or questioned costs for the year 2021.



2022 SCRPC Members

President: Galen Stoll
Vice-President: Joseph Skubiak
Secretary: David Thorley

Executive Committee

William Smith, Commissioners
Kyle Stone, 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.
Wayne Schillig, Marlboro Township
*Robert Leach, County-at-Large
*David McAlister, County-at-Large
*Anthony Peldunas, County-at-Large
*Galen Stoll, County-at-Large
*Robert Sanderson, County-at-Large
*Joseph Skubiak, County-at-Large
*David Thorley, County-at-Large
*Kris Vincent, County-at-Large
*Personnel Committee

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

Health Commissioner

Kirkland Norris
Todd Paulus, alt.

Stark County Park District

Dan Moeglin
Derek Gordon, alt.

Prosecutor

Kyle Stone

City Members

Alliance

Mayor Alan Andreani
Joe Mazzola, alt.

Canal Fulton

Mayor Joe Schultz

Canton

Mayor Thomas Bernabei
James Benekos
Donn Angus
Maureen Austin

Louisville

Mayor Patricia Fallot
Tom Pukys, alt.

Massillon

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

North Canton

Mayor Stephan Wilder
Robert Graham, alt.

County Appointments

John Head
Robert Leach
David McAlister
Anthony Peldunas
Robert Sanderson
Joseph Skubiak
Galen Stoll
David Thorley
Kris Vincent

Members Continued

Township Members

Bethlehem

Ed Cochran

Canton

Christopher Nichols

Mark Shaffer

Jackson

Todd Hawke

John Pizzino

Jim Thomas

Joni Poindexter, alt.

Mike Vaccaro, alt.

Lake

John Arnold

Steven Miller

Jeremy Yoder, alt.

Lexington

James Mathews

Marlboro

Wayne Schillig

Nimishillen

Jeff Shipman

Don Keefe

Jennifer Leone, alt.

Osnaburg

Cliff Varian

Randall Pero, alt.

Pike

Douglas Baum

Plain

Brook Harless

Scott Haws

John Sabo

Lisa Campbell, alt.

Sandy

Robert Fallot

Washington

Merrit Boyce

Village Members

Beach City

Mayor John Hartman

Brewster

Mayor Charles Hawk

East Canton

Mayor David Spencer

East Sparta

Mayor Donald Stropki

Hartville

Mayor Cynthia Billings

Hills & Dales

Mayor Mark Samolczyk

Magnolia

Mayor Travis Boyd

Meyers Lake

Mayor Mike Labriola

Minerva

Mayor Timothy Tarbet

Navarre

Mayor Robert Benson

Waynesburg

Mayor Douglas Welch

Wimot

Mayor Christina Hysong



2022 Committees

SCATS Policy Committee

Chair: Robert Graham
Vice-Chair: Keith Bennett

Members

Alan Andreani
James Benekos
Keith Bennett
Thomas Bernabei
Janet Weir Creighton
Denise Freeland
John Highman
Gerald Hollinger
Ronald Macala
Dan Millsap
Gery Noirot
Kathy Catazaro-Perry
Richard Regula
Joe Schultz
William Smith
Dave Torrence
Stephan Wilder

Alternates

Chris Barnes
Rick Bodenschatz
Dan Bucher, Jr.
Kirt Conrad
Mark Cozy
Rick Flory
Derek Gordon
Robert Graham
Emily Kimble
Brant Luther
Nick Loukas
Dave Maley
Greg McCue
Dan Moeglin
Vincent Mueser
Christopher Nichols
Lauren Phillis
Chad Root
Chris Tyson

Audit Committee

President: Galen Stoll
Vice-President: Joseph Skubiak
Secretary: David Thorley
David McAlister

Citizens' Advisory Council

Members: all citizens working/residing
in Stark County.

Technical Advisory Committee

Chair: Dave Torrence

James Adams	Dave Maley, alt.
James Benekos	Greg McCue
Keith Bennett	Dan Millsap
Dan Bucher, Jr., alt.	Vincent Mueser
Renato Camacho	Robert Nau
Kirt Conrad	Gery Noirot
Mark Cozy	Lauren Phillis, alt.
Robert Graham	Chad Root, alt.
Nick Loukas, alt.	Dave Torrence

Subdivision Review Subcommittee

Chair: Todd Paulus,
Stark County Health Department

Vincent Mueser, City of Alliance
Matt Bailey, City of Canton
Jason Haines, City of Massillon
Robert Graham, City of North Canton
Keith Bennett, Stark County Engineer
Michael Chapin, alt.
James Troike, Stark County Sanitary
Engineer
Tom Davis, alt.
Sarah Matheny, Stark County Soil &
Water Conservation District
Mark Cozy, City of Canal Fulton

(plus any interested RPC member)

2022 Planning Staff

Robert Nau, Executive Director

SCATS

Jeff Dotson, Technical Director
Dan Slicker, P.E., Senior Transportation Engineer
Karl Lucas, Senior Planner
Jeff Brown, Senior Transportation Planner

Community Development

Diane Sheridan, Chief of Community Development
Jill Ross, Housing Rehab Manager
Lisa Snyder, Senior Community Development Planner
Steve Williams, Senior Housing Rehab Specialist
Wyatt Hayes, Housing Rehab Inspector
Gwen Arthur, Housing Rehab/Land Reuse Counselor- effective 12-22

Fair Housing

Valerie Watson, Fair Housing Manager

Land Bank

Sarah Peters, Land Bank Manager
Gwen Arthur, Housing Rehab/Land Reuse Counselor- effective 12-22

Subdivision Engineer

Curtis Bungard, P.E., Subdivision Engineer

Planning

Jonelle Melnichenko, Chief of Planning
Malia Burgasser, Senior Community Relations Planner
Fulton Benya II, Regional Planner

GIS

Sean Phillips, GISP, GIS Manager
Heath Hayes, GIS Analyst (resigned 4-22)
Tim Vlacovsky, GIS Analyst/Field Specialist

Fiscal

Heather Cunningham, Chief of Finance
Barb Buonaspina, Fiscal Clerk
Kasie Atkins, Fiscal Clerk

Office Management

Jill Gerber, Office Manager
Gwen Arthur, Administrative Assistant

Attorney

John Anthony, Staff Attorney



**STARK COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**

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