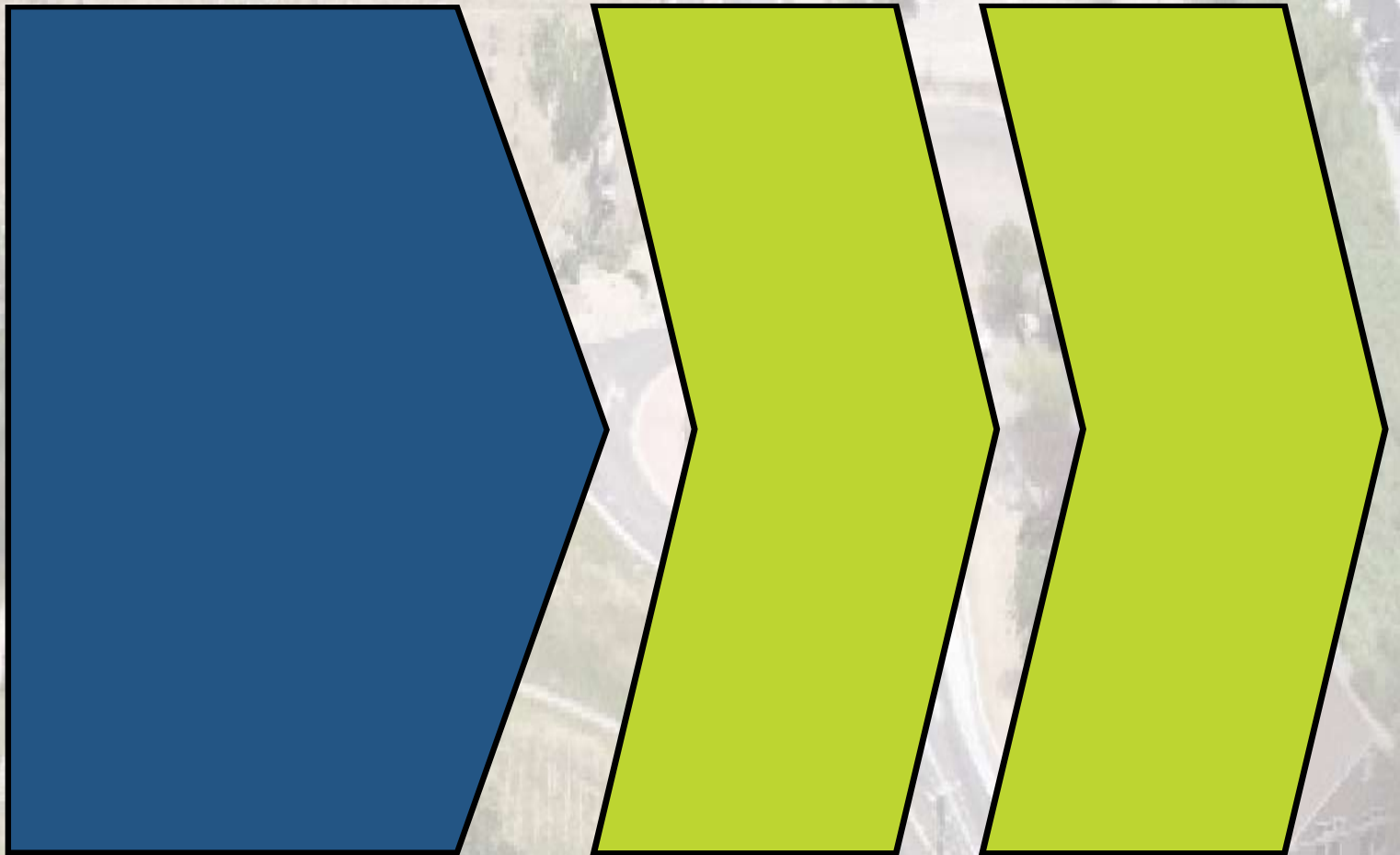




Stark County Regional Planning Commission



2023
Annual Report



Robert Nau
Executive Director



Galen Stoll
President
1-22 - 5-23



Kris Vincent
President
7-23 - 12-23

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 (SCRPC) is a regional partnership that has a history of fostering regional solutions to the challenges facing our membership. At its core, the SCRPC is an urban planning organization charged with providing planning services to our membership. Much of this involves the SCRPC serving as a liaison between various state and federal government organizations and our local communities. In the last few years, unprecedented resources have been made available to our local communities as part of the economic recovery efforts associated with COVID-19. This annual report will highlight not only our existing programs but also many of the new funding opportunities that we were able to assist our local governments and non-profits with accessing.

As a result of the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Stark County was able to fund almost \$2.5 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) type projects responding to coronavirus-related needs for the Stark County Health Department, Habitat for Humanity of East Central Ohio and several non-profit agencies. Stark County also received over \$3 million in HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for homeless supportive services and construction/rehabilitation of affordable rental housing for qualifying populations. State ARP funding through the Department of Aging was made available to help residents 60+ years old stay in their homes and promote a healthy, independent and active lifestyle. Stark County continued to allocate federal CDBG and HOME funds to promote public service activities, fair housing services, owner-occupied housing rehabilitation, infrastructure and public improvements, and construction of affordable housing for lower income populations. On the transportation front, Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS) funded four community transportation studies this past year. These studies are often the first steps toward a broader construction project(s) that can take years to develop. An example is the long-planned US 62 realignment project west of Maple Avenue which Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) completed in 2023. The origin of the project goes back almost 30 years to a SCATS-funded safety study on US 62.

In 2023, the SCRPC completed a comprehensive plan for Canton Township which is an important tool for a community to create a vision for their future. Good plans need to be actionable and Canton Township wasted no time. Targeted economic development through the creation of Community Reinvestment Areas (CRA) was a goal in their plan. CRAs allow for tax abatements for qualified projects which is a tool for attracting business to your community. The SCRPC completed housing studies for CRAs covering most of Canton Township. The Stark County Land Reutilization Program (Land Bank) has become a significant resource for economic development in Stark County. The Land Bank was able to help fund demolitions tied to economic development projects in Alliance, Canton, Massillon, North Canton, and Lake Township totaling well over \$1 million in Land Bank funding. It was able to return two formerly tax-delinquent commercial properties (former Mogadore Ave. Greenhouse and former Stark Ceramics property) to the tax roles for redevelopment. The Land Bank also partnered with the city of Canton to acquire 160 tax-delinquent parcels for the Middlebranch Creek Greenspace floodplain restoration project.

2023 was a year of loss for SCRPC leadership. President Galen Stoll passed away in the spring of 2023 after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Galen was dedicated to public service and will be deeply missed. We also lost long-time SCRPC staffer Jeff Dotson, our SCATS Technical Director. Jeff passed away just weeks before his planned retirement after over 35 years of service with the SCRPC. It is through the leadership of members like Galen and staff like Jeff that we will continue to work to make Stark County a better place to live and work.





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 development of the **FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program** (TIP), which was approved by the SCATS Policy Committee at its April meeting
- initiated additional Community Transportation Planning Studies for a **Belden Village Pedestrian Study**, a **Harmont/Lesh/US 62 Intersection Safety Study**, a **Pro Football Hall of Fame Village Parking and Transit Needs Study** and a **Canton City Schools NE Area School Travel Plan**
- completed the **2022 Stark County Crash Report and Safety Work Plan**
- completed the **FY 2023 District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee** and the **Natural Resources Assistance Council** annual programs of funding

Some highlights of projects listed in the FY 2024-2027 TIP include:

- improvements to Perry Drive between Tuscarawas and Southway Streets including widening pavement to construct a two-way left turn lane, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and decorative lighting and an upgraded storm sewer system planned for 2024
- improvements to the State Street/Beechwood Avenue/Sawburg Road intersection in the city of Alliance will include widening Beechwood/Sawburg to allow for northbound dual left-turn lanes, northbound and southbound right-turn lanes and an improved turning radius slated for 2025
- continued improvements to the Dressler Road corridor in Belden Village that will include widening and adding dual left-turn lanes at Dresser/Everhard Roads and constructing and lengthening turn lanes at the Belden Village Street intersection scheduled for 2025
- improvements to lessen congestion, circulation and safety issues on Tuscarawas Street near Aultman Hospital by incorporating roundabouts and access management standards on Tuscarawas Street at Broad and Arlington Avenues planned for 2025/2026
- construction of a single lane roundabout at Main and Tremont Avenues in the city of Massillon is slated for 2026
- improvements to Cleveland Avenue and State Street to lessen congestion and the number of high accidents from left turns by adding a roundabout planned for 2026/2027
- improvements in the city of Massillon for the Lake Avenue corridor between SR 21 and SR 241 by adding turning lanes, updating signalization, and possibly a roundabout at Lake Avenue and 1st Street scheduled for 2027



In 2023, the **Community Transportation Planning Studies Program** resulted in four studies being initiated, with several in progress. Contracts for studies awarded in 2023 include:

- **Belden Village Pedestrian Study** that will identify and prioritize pedestrian improvements throughout the Belden Village area
- **Harmont/Lesh/US 62 Intersection Safety Study** will identify projects that will continue to reduce congestion and the high number of accidents through this area
- **Pro Football Hall of Fame Village Parking and Transit Needs Study** will review parking capacity and provide recommendations for improving transportation services needed for events
- **Canton City Schools NE Area School Travel Plan** will identify improvements needed for students to safely walk and bicycle to school (sidewalks, crosswalks with properly timed signals, etc.)

The **2022 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.

2022 Top Fifteen Hazardous Locations

1ST STREET	2ND STREET	2022 Total	2021 Total	2020 Total	3-Year Total	Possible Injury	Non- Incapacit ating Injury	Incapaci tating Injury	Total Injury	Total Fatal	2022 ADT	Severity Index	Crash Rate	Crashes Per Year	Hazard Rating	Community	Road Jurisdiction
12th St N	Market Ave N	9	22	25	56	7	2	1	10	1	18,060	1.70	2.83	18.67	59.74	Canton	Canton
US 62	Harmont Ave/Lesh St	26	29	31	86	8	15	2	25	0	37,915	1.90	2.07	28.67	58.85	Canton	Canton
US 30 Trump Ave	Lincoln St SR 172	26	26	18	70	7	8	1	16	0	27,800	1.66	2.30	23.33	57.12	Canton Twp	ODOT
SR172	Perry Dr	20	32	19	71	13	9	0	22	0	30,760	1.75	2.11	23.67	55.18	Perry Twp	ODOT
I-77	Belden Village & Whipple	30	32	23	85	9	13	1	23	0	39,750	1.76	1.95	28.33	51.66	Jackson Twp	ODOT
Everhard Rd	Whipple Ave	20	38	28	86	16	11	0	27	0	41,975	1.76	1.87	28.67	49.25	Jackson Twp	County
15th St NE	Walnut Ave NE	5	5	8	18	3	3	1	7	0	3,250	2.28	5.05	6.00	46.05	Canton	Canton
Dressler Rd	Everhard Rd	38	23	22	83	9	12	0	21	0	41,800	1.65	1.81	27.67	44.87	Jackson Twp	County
13th/12th St NW	I-77 Ramps CC Hospital	20	19	14	53	7	3	0	10	0	19,600	1.43	2.47	17.67	41.68	Canton	Canton
I-77	Everhard & Mall Drive & SB Ramp	24	21	15	60	7	9	0	16	0	30,200	1.68	1.81	20.00	40.70	Jackson Twp	ODOT
Frank Ave	Portage St	28	17	15	60	5	12	1	18	0	34,485	1.90	1.59	20.00	40.23	Jackson Twp	County
SR172	Whipple Ave	19	30	16	65	8	6	0	14	0	32,845	1.52	1.81	21.67	39.73	Perry Twp	ODOT
11th St SW	Harrison Ave	7	10	12	29	5	8	0	13	0	9,350	2.17	2.83	9.67	39.63	Canton	Canton
Portage St	Strip Ave	26	23	16	65	5	7	0	12	0	32,750	1.48	1.81	21.67	38.64	Jackson Twp	County
SR173	Paris Ave	11	6	1	18	3	8	2	13	0	6,090	3.56	2.70	6.00	38.36	Marlboro Twp	ODOT

The **District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee** and the **Natural Resource Assistance Council** approved projects for the FY 2023 program of funding. The Ohio Public Works Commission assists in financing local public infrastructure improvements under the Stark Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) and the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP). These programs, as well as the Clean Ohio Program, are funded by bonds providing funds to local communities for basic infrastructure and the preservation of open space.

The District 19 Committee approved a number of projects that include: a variety of infrastructure projects repairing and upgrading water systems, bridges, stormwater drainage, and roadways utilizing SCIP and LTIP funds.

Round 38 District 19 State Capital Improvement Program

Applicant	Project	Project Type	Total Project Cost	Grant Request	Loan Request	Total Request
Canton	Perry Heights Water Main Replacement - Phase 2	Water Supply	\$2,458,725	\$600,000	\$900,000	\$1,500,000
Louisville	Steeplechase Storm replacement and Sanitary repairs	Stormwater	\$1,758,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$1,500,000
Canton	Harter Heights Waterline Replacement	Water Supply	\$3,319,694	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$1,500,000
SC Engineer	Bridge LA 36-8, Beaumont Ave.	Bridge/Culvert	\$1,290,000	\$0	\$204,000	\$204,000
Plain Township	Orion St. NW Improvements - Phase I	Stormwater	\$1,884,886	\$976,360	\$418,440	\$1,394,800
North Canton	Arrowhead Water Supply Well Installation Project	Water Supply	\$2,243,400	\$1,200,000	\$300,000	\$1,500,000
SC Engineer	Dressler Rd. PID 112040*	Road	\$8,571,000	\$1,252,820	\$0	\$1,252,820
North Canton	Woodrow/Lois Waterline Replacement Project*	Water Supply	\$1,492,000	\$358,080	\$0	\$358,080
	*funding conditional on availability of carry over	Column Totals	\$23,017,705	\$5,887,260	\$3,322,440	\$9,209,700

Round 38 District 19 Local Transportation Improvement Program

Applicant	Project	Project Type	Total Project Cost	Grant Request	Loan Request	Total Request
SCE	Dressler Rd. PID 112040	Road	\$8,571,000	\$1,252,820	\$0	\$1,252,820
North Canton	East Maple Street Repaving Project	Road	\$554,253	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
Massillon	Lincoln Way Infrastructure Improvements - Phase 3	Road	\$774,251	\$379,383	\$0	\$379,383
		Column Totals	\$9,899,504	\$1,882,203	\$0	\$1,882,203

The District 19 Natural Resource Assistance Council of Stark County did not receive any submissions during its open application period but approved an addendum to the previously approved Tam O'Shanter project by Stark Parks. The request was for an additional \$1.1 million in funding.

Major road projects that were completed or started in 2023 include:

- The US 62 safety improvements from the Market Avenue/SR 43 on-ramps to the Nimishillen Creek/Railroad Bridge - \$11,000,000 in SCATS Congestion Mitigation/ Air Quality (CMAQ) funds assisted the project, which included road realignment, dead-ending local roads, restricting turns, adding offset turn lanes, etc. Chad D. Root, P.E., ODOT District 4 Capital Programs Administrator stated, "ODOT is excited to have completed the realignment of US 62 in Plain Township. This project is the result of a partnership between ODOT, SCATS, and surrounding local stakeholders in 2008 to study the US 62 corridor from SR 43 to SR 44. This section of US 62 was averaging more than 100 crashes per year with over 30% resulting in injuries. This project will improve safety and congestion deficiencies in the corridor."



- The dual-roundabouts on Pittsburg Avenue at Shuffel and Orion Streets - Dave Torrence, P.E., P.S., Chief Deputy Engineer, Stark County Engineer's Office states, *"This project began in 2022, and was completed in 2023. It has received significant positive public reaction, and the two intersections are now functioning better than we had previously expected in their new configuration."*



- Strip Avenue widening from Dressler Road to Mega Street - *"This project widened Strip Avenue in a heavily congested area by adding a turn lane and through lane. The goal is to reduce the type of crashes we were experiencing in this corridor, namely angle and rear end crashes."*, states Dave Torrence, P.E., P.S., Chief Deputy Engineer, Stark County Engineer's Office.

- State Street repaving facing east from Kent/SR 43 - Dave Torrence, P.E., P.S., Chief Deputy Engineer, Stark County Engineer's Office states, *"Pavement preservation is a huge part of all local government infrastructure programs. Grants for resurfacing allow us to utilize our limited local funding on additional roadways and intersections."*



- Farber Street Bridge replacement - *"The new Farber Street Bridge project will allow us to also improve the horizontal alignment of Farber Street and soften two back to back curves. Additionally, we will be able to span the Nimishillen Creek with no piers in the water, which helps us minimize future maintenance."*, states Dave Torrence, P.E., P.S., Chief Deputy Engineer, Stark County Engineer's Office.



Subdivision Engineering

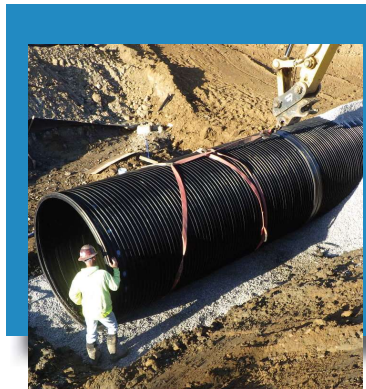
Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) administers the Subdivision Engineering Program on behalf of the Stark County Board of Commissioners. Some of the work performed by the Subdivision Engineer included:

- 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



Creekside Crossing No. 1
Signals & Pavement
Markings
Jackson Township

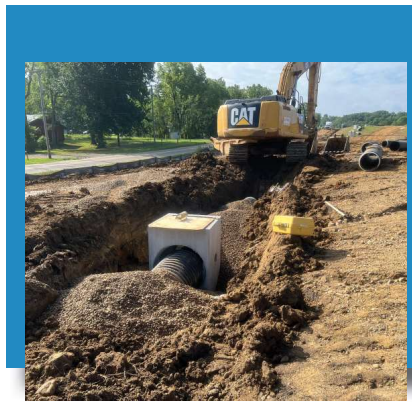
Creekside Crossing No. 2
Installing 84" Pipe
Jackson Township



Julian Farm No. 1
Placing & Compacting
Hot Mix Asphalt
Jackson Township



Oldstone Crossing No. 3
Placing New Wet
Concrete Curbs
Lake Township



Weston Place No. 1
Installing Pipe &
Catch Basins
Perry Township

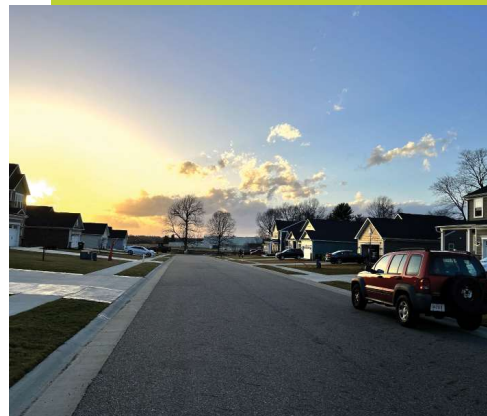


Zimber Ditch B Dam- Front
Lake Township

The Glens of Jackson Township
Setting Box Culvert with Crane
Jackson Township



- performed monthly inspections of the county's Zimber Ditch Detention Basin B concrete dam as required by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for Class I Structures and obtained bids and administered the contract for the yearly maintenance work required for the Zimber 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 Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit related work included:
 - prepared the county's 2023 Annual Report
 - maintained/updated the county's comprehensive storm-water conveyance system map for all county owned and operated facilities and roadways within the urbanized areas
 - inspected 271 of the 414 individual county outfalls



Lexington Farms North No. 7
Gatehouse St.
Plain Township



Community Development

Community Development Block Grant

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was created through the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 with the goal of developing viable communities through flexible activities.

Annually, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocates grants to states, cities and counties to undertake community development activities. 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.

During 2022-2023, Stark County allocated funds for public service activities, economic development, infrastructure improvements, and single-family, owner-occupied housing rehabilitation.

Funds Available

\$2,452,193.10

Funds Spent

\$2,076,916.98

Public Service



Alliance for Children & Families

CommQuest Services Inc.

Beacon Charitable Pharmacy

Fair Housing

Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery

Vantage Aging

These activities target individuals at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Funded activities serve vulnerable populations such as the homeless, at-risk of homelessness, and seniors.

Waterline replacements occurred in both communities. The existing lines were beyond useful life. The new lines resulted in increased water pressure and fire protection to two residential neighborhoods.

Infrastructure



City of North Canton

Village of Minerva

Economic Development



Kent State University

CDBG funds were allocated to support the operation of Kent State University's Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The SBDC provides free, technical assistance to new and prospective business owners.

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 that distributes funds exclusively for affordable housing activities to benefit low- to moderate-income persons. Funding is disbursed 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 SCRPC administering the HOME program. The county is the lead entity in a Consortium with the cities of Massillon and Alliance. Between July 2022 through June 2023, the county allocated HOME dollars for the activities below.



SINGLE-FAMILY NEW CONSTRUCTION

Funds were granted to both Habitat for Humanity affiliates: Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio and Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity. The dollars assisted in the construction of new single-family homes for low-income families.

HOME
funds
invested
\$50,000.00



Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio

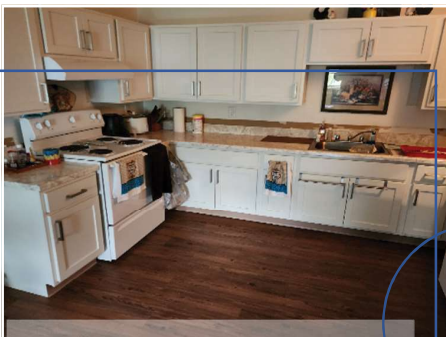
HOME
funds
invested
\$40,000.00



Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity

COMMUNITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Funds were granted to ICAN Housing, a designated Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) for interior and exterior renovations to a 16-unit property in the city of Alliance.



HOME
funds
invested
\$562,100.00



Through the use of CDBG dollars, the county set aside funds to undertake rehabilitation activities for single-family, owner-occupied units. Rehab projects can consist of emergency activities such as a roof repair or furnace replacement, or could be improvements to enhance accessibility, such as a wheelchair ramp. Households are screened to verify the household meets the required income threshold as required by HUD. In most circumstances, projects are a 100% grant to the household. From the start of program year in July 2022 until the end of June 2023, the county performed 35 projects.

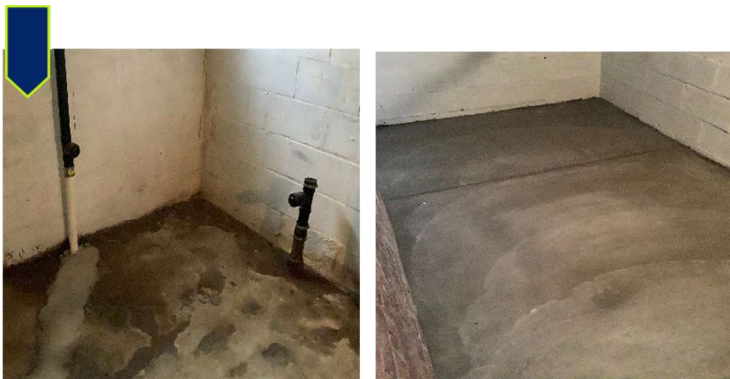
The county, along with the cities of Alliance and Massillon also carve out a portion of the annual HOME allocation for single-family, owner-occupied rehabs in these respective communities. HOME-funded projects are comprehensive and are capped at \$25,000 per project. Funds must be utilized to first address code issues, and the property must meet residential rehabilitation standards upon completion of work. Seven rehab projects were completed during program year.



Ramp for ADA accessibility



Roof replacement



Addressing basement waterproofing



Addressing entry

During 2023, SCRPC continued to work with one-time grants received by HUD and the Ohio Department of Health.

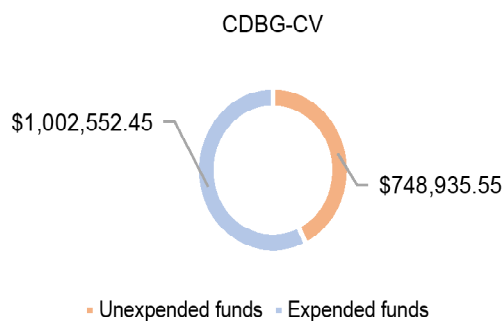
➤ CDBG-CV

As a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) of 2020, Stark County received \$1,751,488 in CDBG-CV funds. These dollars share the same framework as traditional CDBG funds with the exception that they are to be used specifically to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Two subrecipients were awarded funds: Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio and the Stark County Health Department. The Stark County Health Department is still expending dollars through an array of services outlined below. The expenditure time frame for these funds is six years.

COVID vaccination
access

Business Safety
Initiative

Addressing failing residential septic systems



➤ HOME-ARP

In March 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law providing \$1.9 trillion to address the impact of COVID-19. Congress appropriated \$5 billion in ARP for homelessness assistance and supportive services. Operating on the backbone of traditional HOME funds, HOME-American Rescue Plan, or HOME-ARP was created.

Stark County received a HOME-ARP allocation of \$3,228,483. Program implementation is slated to begin in early 2024. Through a robust public participation process, the county has determined funds will be used for the activities listed below.

Administration
& Planning

• \$484,272.45

Non-Profit
Operating
Assistance

• \$54,000.00

Non-Profit
Capacity
Building

• \$54,000.00

Supportive
Services

• \$300,000.00

Affordable
Rental Housing

• \$2,336,210.55

➤ HEALTHY AGING

The Ohio Department of Aging established the Ohio Healthy Aging Grant program. The intent of this program is to address the social determinants of health and foster improved quality of life for residents 60 years of age or older. Funding must be directed toward activities that support: keeping residents in their homes, connecting them to their communities, preserving their personal assets, and promoting a healthy, independent, and active lifestyle. SCRPC will be administering these grant funds on behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Program implementation began in late 2023 and will continue into 2024.

Stark County Allocation

\$1,041,703



Stark County Land Bank

Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation

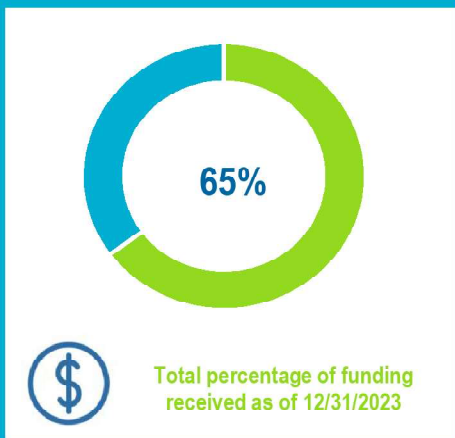
In 2023, the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation (commonly referred to as the “Stark County Land Bank”) continued offering various programs focused on the reclamation and repurposing of vacant and abandoned properties in Stark County. The SCRPC has been under contract to administer the Land Bank’s programs and day-to-day operations since 2014.



GRANT FUNDING - DEMOLITION



Department of
Development



Throughout 2023, demolition activities continued under a grant program, Building Demolition & Site Revitalization Program (BDSR), administered by the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD). In 2022, the Land Bank received a grant award of \$1,001,321 for the demolition of five commercial demolition projects. The work completion deadline was extended to June 30, 2024 with final reimbursement submissions due 30 days later. By August 2023, the demolitions were complete for all five projects. The table below shows the total project costs and reimbursement amounts received for each project as of December 31, 2023.

In order to utilize any remaining funds from an approved project that came in under budget, grantees are able to request to complete additional projects. These additional projects are subject to ODOD’s review and approval. The five projects will not fully expend the Land Bank’s grant, thus additional project(s) will be identified by the Land Bank and submitted to ODOD in order to fully draw down the current grant by the June 2024 deadline.

A new application and funding round for the BDSR program for 2024-2025 opened on October 31, 2023. The Land Bank intends to also apply for funding under the new round and is identifying projects to include in the application. Similar to the previous round, a \$500,000 set-aside is available per county with additional funding awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Project Name / Address	Community	Status	Total Demolition/ Project Costs	Reimbursement Received from Grant to Date
12777 Mogadore Ave. – Former Greenhouse	Lake Township	Project Completed & Reimbursed	\$92,277.78	\$92,277.78
129 and 125 Lincoln Way W.- Former Tiger Rags	Massillon	Project Completed & Reimbursed	\$184,898.28	\$184,898.28
1447 N. Main St. – Former Kmart Store	North Canton	Project Completed & Reimbursed	\$287,375.00	\$271,237.24
530 N. Lincoln Ave. – Former Elementary School	Alliance	Project Completed & Reimbursed	\$105,167.25	\$78,875.44
612 S. Liberty Ave. – Former Percy’s Diner & 717 E. Cambridge St. Duplex	Alliance	Project Completed & Partial Reimbursement Received as of 12/31/23	\$39,151.18	\$22,263.39

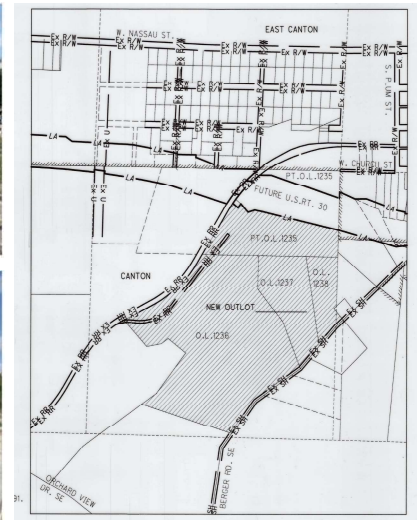


“to strategically acquire properties, return them to productive use, reduce blight, increase property values, support community goals and improve the quality of life for county residents.”



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In June 2023, the former Stark Ceramics property was transferred to new owners for clean up and future development. The property sat on the forfeited lands list until acquired by the Land Bank in December 2022. In addition to the intended redevelopment of the land, a portion of the property was transferred to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the US 30 extension.



TARGETED ACQUISITION



LOT TRANSFERS



The "Side Lot" and "Vacant Lot" programs are available to assist qualified applicants with the opportunity to acquire abandoned, tax delinquent vacant land.

In 2023, the Land Bank transferred 170 lots.

The Land Bank's Targeted Acquisition Assistance Program (TAAP) is utilized to assist with the strategic acquisition of blighted, vacant, or abandoned properties to facilitate community and redevelopment projects for cities, villages and townships within Stark County and qualified non-profit organizations. Applicants have sought the Land Bank's assistance through this program for various purposes; a more recent one being for land assembly.

The city of Canton applied for 134 parcels located in an area of the city targeted for flood plain restoration and water quality improvement. Overall in 2023, the Land Bank reviewed and approved TAAP applications for over 160 parcels.



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. SCFHD envisions a county free of housing discrimination where every individual, group, and community enjoy equal housing opportunity. 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 2023:

- Fair Housing Manager was the Keynote Speaker at Massillon's Fair Housing Luncheon. The theme for the day: "Fair Housing, Embracing Challenges and Changes in 2023." Spoke on the 55th Anniversary, Rental Increases, Changes in the Fair Housing Act, and Landlords not Accepting Vouchers



Valerie Watson, Fair Housing Manager, (left), celebrates Fair Housing Month at the luncheon with Beverly Lewis, city of Massillon Director & Fair Housing Coordinator

Approximately 75 people in attendance



- developed and designed the Fair Housing Newsletter that was sent to the city of Alliance personnel, Stark County personnel, zoning inspectors, politicians, etc.
- conducted a presentation on Fair Housing and Zoning to the SCRPC staff and commission
- counseled 468 individuals and representatives from various agencies including home-seekers, social service agencies, municipal employees, landlords, property managers, tenants, non-profit organizations, and real estate sales professionals on their rights, obligations and responsibilities under the landlord-tenant and fair housing laws
- conducted a Tester Training session to train individuals to conduct tests to help ensure people are not denied housing due to unlawful discrimination
- assisted disabled individuals on the landlord-tenant and/or fair housing laws
- trained and educated 1,184 persons on the fair housing law
- conducted five presentations, trainings, seminars, and/or workshops

- conducted a presentation on the 55th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, Tenant Screening, and People with a Criminal History to the Stark County Real Estate Investor's Association
- met with Andrew Grove, 51st Mayor in the city of Alliance, to discuss the state of Fair Housing
- met with Terrie Lewis, Strategic Advisor at SMHA to discuss the Hearing Services Contract and the Equity Plan
- investigated, conciliated ,and/or settled seven discrimination cases in Alliance, Hartville, Jackson Township, Lake Township, North Canton, Navarre, and Plain Township (see chart below)
- monitored 12 landlords due to possible discriminatory rental practices in the past
- distributed 300 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 Canton Repository, Alliance Review, Facebook, and Instagram
- completed the HUD Performance Outcome Measurement System form for activities completed by the department
- completed the Fair Housing Action Plan
- 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 2023:

Protected Class	Location	Reason for Complaint	Finding
Disability	Navarre	Harassment Due to Disability	No Probable Cause
Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation	Lake Township	Discouraging to Rent	Pending w/ SCFHD
Race	Plain Township	Difference of Treatment	Pending w/ SCFHD
Race	Alliance	Falsely Denying Housing Available	Pending w/ SCFHD
Race	Jackson Township	Discouraging to Rent	No Probable Cause
Race & Disability	North Canton	Falsely Denying Housing Available	Statute of Limitation Expired
Race & Sexual Orientation	Hartville	Termination	Pending w/ HUD

Equal Employment

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

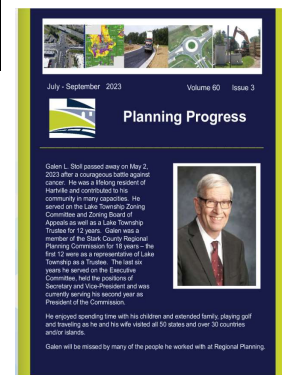
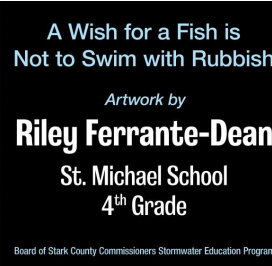
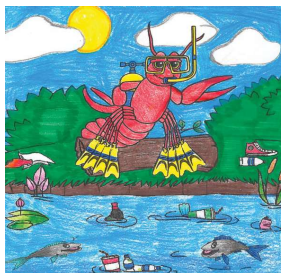
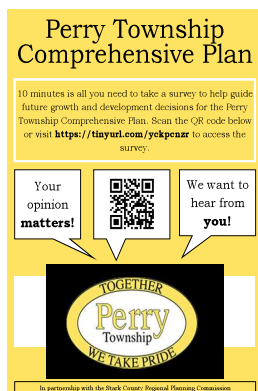


Planning

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 2023, the department:

- assisted the Land Bank in administering a grant for the Ohio Development Services Agency to clean up an abandoned gas station site
- worked with Perry Township to complete a comprehensive plan
- completed a comprehensive plan for Canton Township, which was then adopted
- conducted prevailing wage rate monitoring for the Board of Stark County Commissioners 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, clean ups, 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
- co-hosted with the Prosecutor's Office a Board of Zoning Appeals & Zoning Commission Workshop for elected officials and zoning inspectors
- attended various conferences and workshops pertaining to planning and zoning

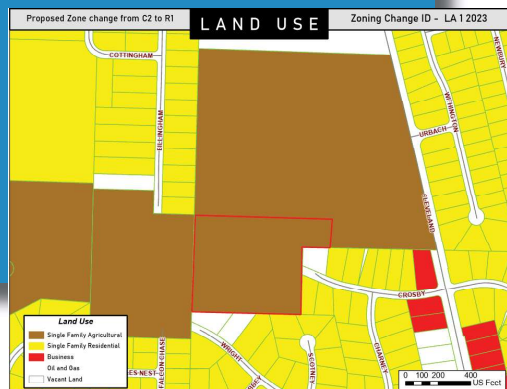
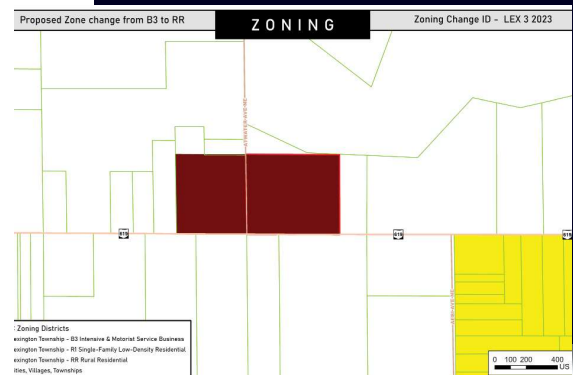
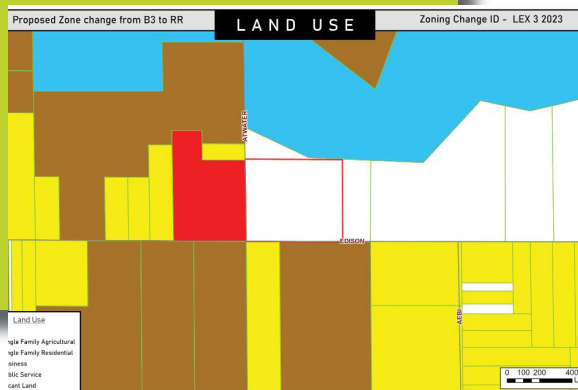


Street Vacations / Annexation Recommendations:

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

Zoning:

- reviewed and made recommendations on 29 township zoning amendments
- organized four Zoning Inspector “Mutual Assistance” Meetings on various topics including:
 - Stark County Farm Bureau
 - Land Bank Update
 - Trends in Zoning





House Numbering:

Total House Numbers Issued	359
Single Family	242
Multi Family	1
Commercial/Industrial/Ag	85
Electric/Utility	31

Subdivision Review Subcommittee and staff reviewed:

5 preliminary plans (2 revised)

31 final plats (3 new subdivisions, 28 replats, 2 resubmittals)

Resulting in: 43 new lots
0.15 miles new residential streets

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

33 administrative waivers of formal site improvement plan reviews

5 variance / appeals requests

234 divisions of property without plat (lot splits)



Young Trucks has plans to develop a new top-of-the-line trucking facility in Canton Township. This new trucking facility will be located off of Whipple Avenue south of US 30. Those utilizing the facility will have easy access to the highway. In order to move forward with the project, the property went through the zone change and street vacation processes.





Approved in August of 2023, the new headquarters building for Gregory Industries will boast an approximate 24,000 square foot building on Applegrove Street in Jackson Township. Also, proposed with the new building, will be two patios, a dumpster pad, walkways, paving, and parking. Gregory Industries has continued to build their legacy as leaders in the galvanizing and roll form steel manufacturing industry.



“Gregory Industries needed a new, well-appointed headquarters office building to meet the needs of our expanding business, as well as the needs of our employees and future workforce. We were fortunate to identify a location right on I-77 near the Akron-Canton Airport offering high-visibility and convenience for our employees and visitors. We hope this will raise our local profile and help us to attract and retain top talent to achieve our strategic goals.”

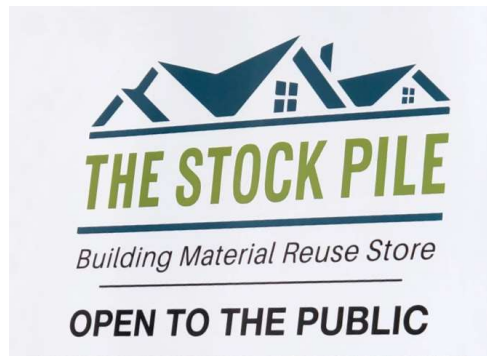
- Matt Gregory, CEO

Sheetz defines themselves as “providing kicked-up convenience while being more than just a convenience store. Sheetz is a mecca for people on the go. If you need to refuel your car or refresh your body, we have what you need to keep you moving on to whatever comes next.” The new proposed location at Erie/SR 21/ US 62/Ortt in Perry Township broke ground in 2023 with construction well on its way. The Sheetz project includes a 6,897 square foot building, fuel canopy, patio, dumpster enclosure, walkways, paving, parking, and two access drives. This area has seen significant growth and development for the community in recent years.





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 2023, The Stock Pile:

- served over 3,000 low- to moderate-income families (since opening) 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 Vantage Aging with over 1,394 volunteer hours worked
- took in over \$172,000 in handling fees, representing approximately \$516,000 in materials, and diverted more than 537 tons of reusable materials from landfills (total since opening - 4,400 tons)
- reinvested \$2.6 million in handling fees in the program (since opening), which represents well over \$7.8 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 nine gallons of recycled paint through our Second Coat recycled paint program (total since 2017 - 714 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.

"This is a great idea!
I need to tell my boss."

- Mark E.



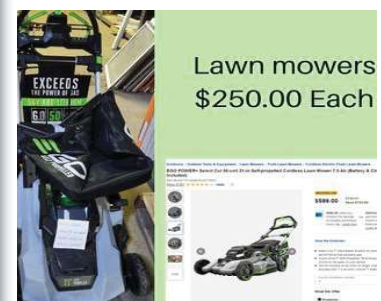
"Best staff and store in all of Stark County!"

- M.L.A.



"I never knew how much I needed a store like this in my life until I walked through the doors of The Stock Pile. The selection is unbeatable and the staff is incredibly helpful and knowledgeable. I highly recommend this store to anyone in need of home improvement inspiration or the tools to make it happen. 5/5 stars and two thumbs up!"

Dustin S.



Welcome Home is a program of TSP 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 TSP. 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

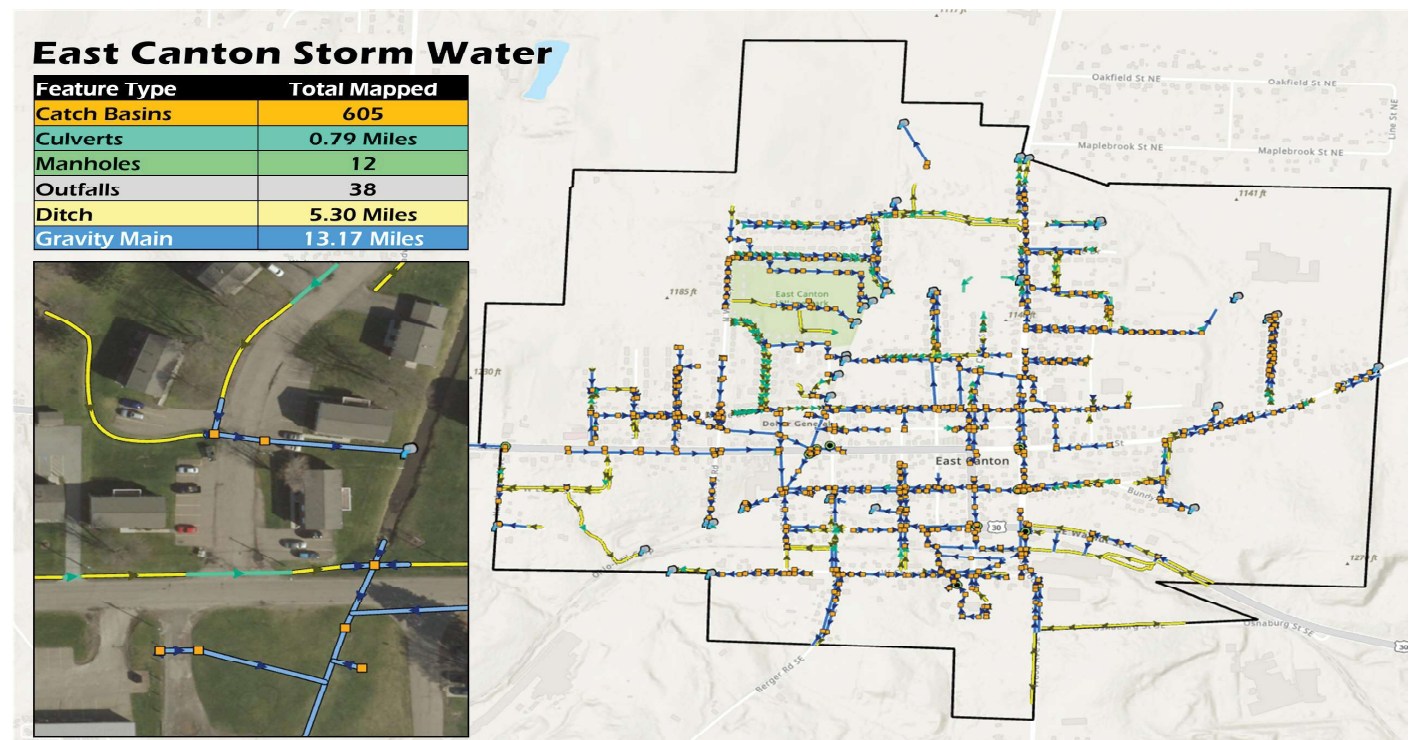
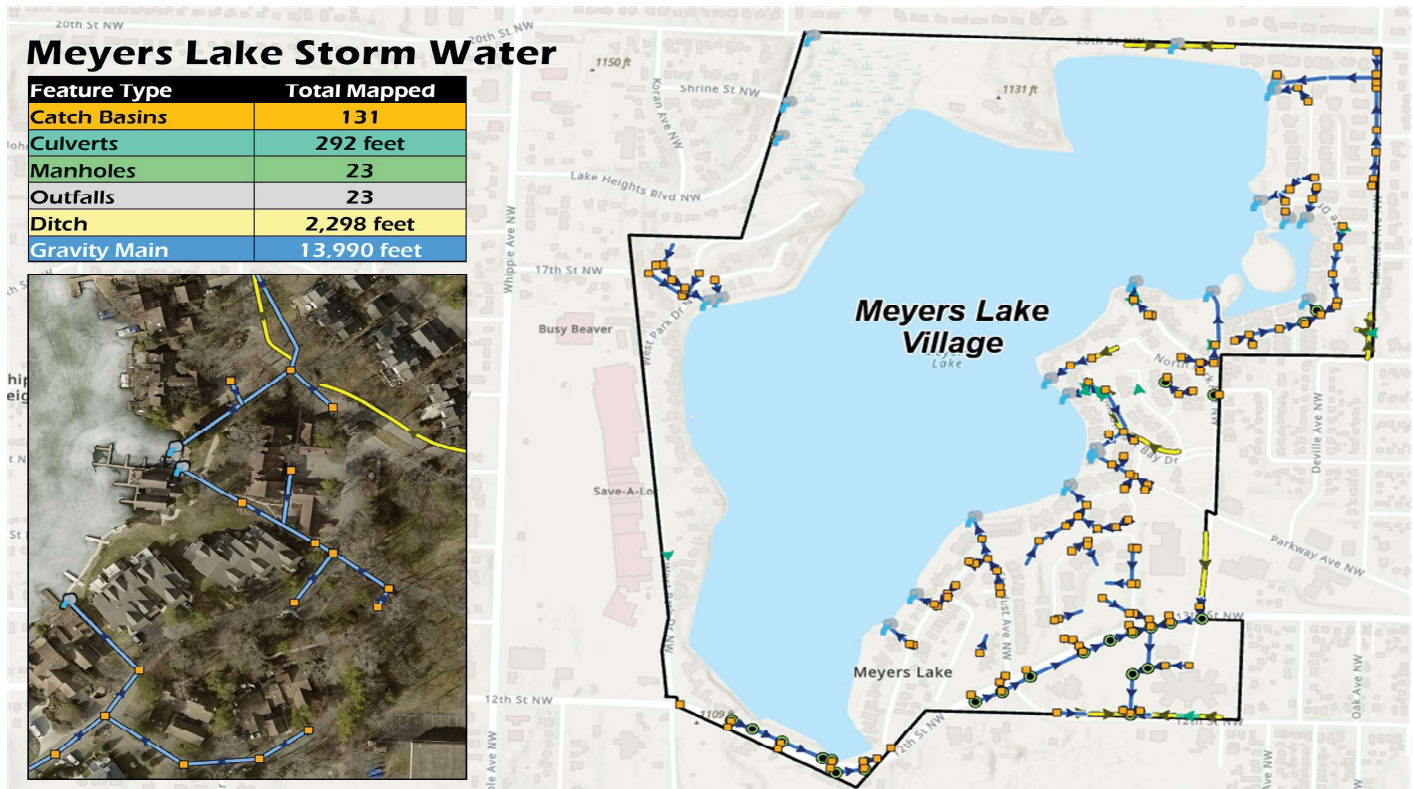




Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Infrastructure Inventory Continues:

Stormwater inventory was completed for the villages of Meyers Lake and East Canton throughout the summer months.

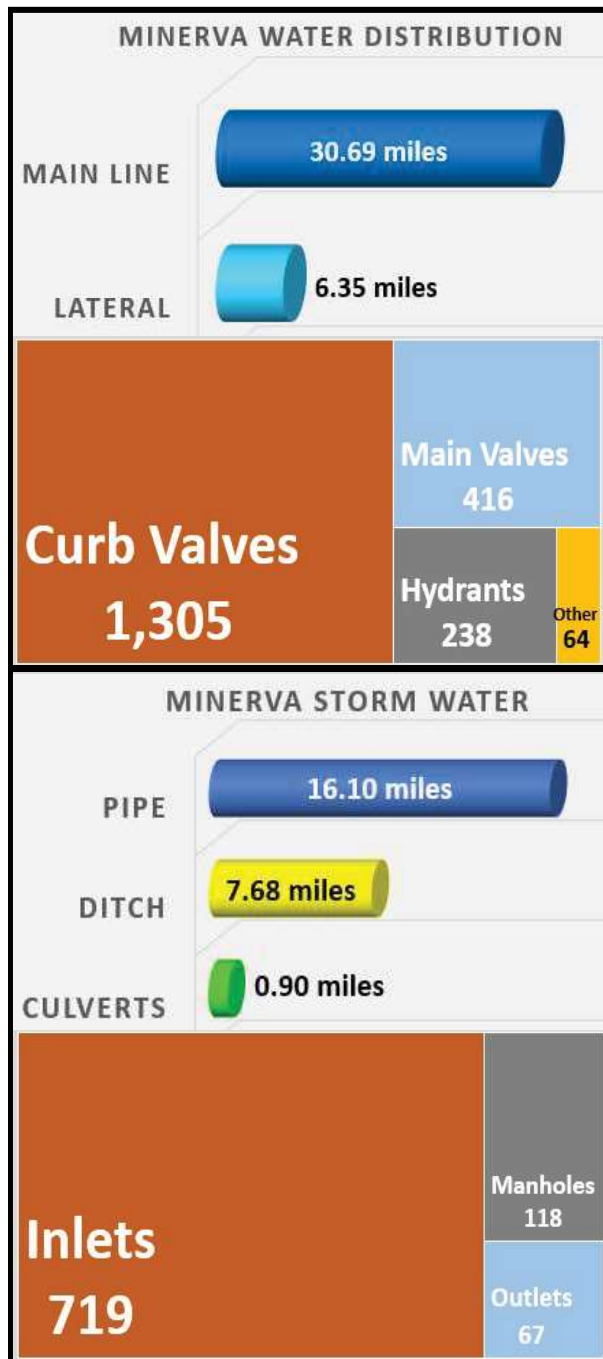


UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems)...Drones!

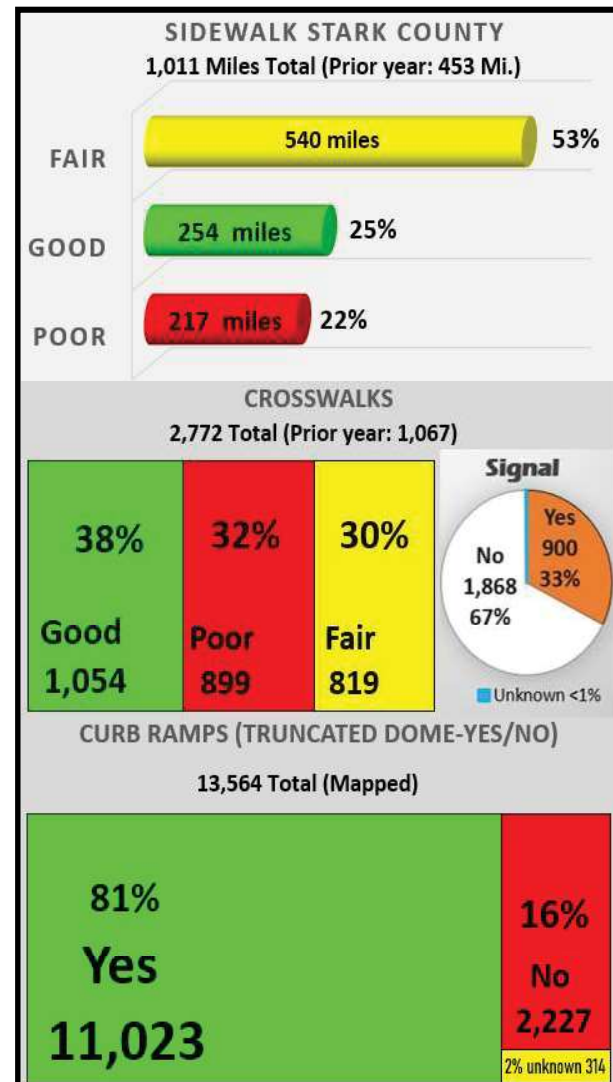
ODOT and the FHWA State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Incentive Program provides resources to help foster a culture for innovation and make innovations standard practice in their states. The SCRPC has applied and been approved for STIC incentive funding to purchase two drones and software that will launch the creation of a local UAS hub for Stark County. ODOT came in December to interview staff and create a promotional project video. The two drones are pictured to the right. (Freefly Astro/black, Skydio 2+/blue.)



Village of Minerva: Water distribution and storm water mapping for the village of Minerva officially ended early in the year.



Pedestrian Connectivity Assessment: SCRPC GIS and SCATS recently completed their collaboration to inventory sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps county wide. The layers of GIS data are now shared with the public and available through the GIS HUB Open Data portal.





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, Massillon, North Canton, Louisville, and Canal Fulton, who monitor their own programs, the county's designated Enterprise Zone Manager is responsible to report for EZ and CRA agreements in the following villages and townships: Minerva (EZ 326C); Brewster (EZ 342C); East Canton and Navarre, parts of Perry and Osnaburg Townships, and all of Canton, Nimishillen, and Plain Townships (EZ 234C); and parts of Lake and Jackson Townships (EZ 252C).

- 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 (TIRC)

On March 14, 2023, the TIRC met to review reports from companies receiving tax abatements under the program as of December 31, 2022. The TIRC reviewed 10 Enterprise Zone agreements and four CRA agreements. After the TIRC's review, their recommendations were submitted to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for final action. The Commissioners agreed to the recommendations of the TIRC to continue 12 of the 14 agreements another year, with two EZ agreements being expired.

Housing Studies for Creations of Community Reinvestment Areas (CRA)

Through 2023, SCRPC staff provided housing studies for Canton Township in an effort to create CRAs to entice business expansion within the township. SCRPC staff completed a total of five housing studies. Three of the areas were approved and designated as CRAs in 2023. The remaining two anticipate approval in 2024.

Fiscal

	2023 Actual Income	2024 Projected Income
Taxes	\$ 3,978.20	\$ 4,000.00
Charges for Services	\$ 5,099.81	\$ 6,051.63
Licenses and Permits	\$ 21,894.09	\$ 30,000.00
Intergovernmental - includes Federal, State, Local Reimbursements & Contract Services	\$ 2,200,863.89	\$ 2,945,488.41
Other Revenue	\$ 33,240.04	\$ 620.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,265,076.03	\$ 2,986,160.04
	2023 Actual Expenses	2024 Projected Expenses
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 2,102,186.66	\$ 2,417,108.14
Supplies	\$ 26,464.09	\$ 37,445.00
Purchased Services	\$ 118,509.12	\$ 420,406.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 51,862.00	\$ 75,830.90
Other	\$ 50,038.84	\$ 35,370.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,349,060.71	\$ 2,986,160.04

SCRPC's financial records were audited in 2023 by State Auditor Keith Faber's office. The audit was completed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and there were no findings or questioned costs for the year 2022.



2023 SCRPC Members

President: Galen Stoll, Kris Vincent
Vice-President: Joseph Skubiak
Secretary: David Thorley

Executive Committee

Janet Weir Creighton, Commissioners
Kyle Stone, County Prosecutor
Alan Andreani, City of Alliance
Andrew Grove, Joe Mazzola, alt.
Thomas Bernabei, City of Canton
Chris Hardesty, 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
Mayor Andrew Grove
Joe Mazzola, alt.

Canal Fulton

Mayor Joe Schultz

Canton

Mayor Thomas Bernabei
Donn Angus
James Benekos
Chris Hardesty

Louisville

Mayor Patricia Fallot

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

Justin Hardesty
Todd Hawke
John Pizzino
Joni Poindexter, alt.
Mike Vaccaro, alt.

Lake

John Arnold
Steven Miller
Jeremy Yoder, alt.

Lawrence

Keith Blowers
Sean Roseman
Doug Swartz, alt.

Lexington

James Mathews

Marlboro

Wayne Schillig

Nimishillen

Don Keefe
Jeff Shipman
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 Doulgas Welch

Wimot

Mayor Christina Hysong



2023 Committees

SCATS Policy Committee

Chair: Richard Regula
Vice-Chair: Keith Bennett

Members

Alan Andreani
Andrew Grove
James Benekos
Keith Bennett
Thomas Bernabei
Bill Bryan
Janet Weir Creighton
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
Michael Brand
Dan Bucher, Jr.
Sarah Buell
Kirt Conrad
Mark Cozy
Rick Flory
Robert Graham
Emily Kimble
Brant Luther
Nick Loukas
Greg McCue
Dan Moeglin
Vincent Mueser
Christopher Nichols
Lauren Phillis
Alex Pitts
Chad Root
Chris Tyson

Audit Committee

President: Galen Stoll, Kris Vincent
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	Greg McCue
James Benekos	Dan Millsap
Keith Bennett	Vincent Mueser
Dan Bucher, Jr., alt.	Robert Nau
Renato Camacho	Gery Noirot
Kirt Conrad	Lauren Phillis, alt.
Mark Cozy	Alex Pitts, 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
John Weedon, alt.
Mark Cozy, City of Canal Fulton

(plus any interested RPC member)

2023 Planning Staff

Robert Nau, Executive Director

SCATS

Jeff Dotson, Technical Director (deceased - 3-23)
Dan Slicker, P. E., Senior Transportation Engineer/Technical Director
Karl Lucas, Senior Planner
Jeff Brown, Senior Transportation Planner
Spencer Gibbs, Transportation Planner

Community Development

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

Fair Housing

Valerie Watson, Fair Housing Manager

Land Bank

Sarah Peters, Land Bank Manager
Gwen Arthur, Housing Rehab/Land Reuse Counselor

Subdivision Engineer

Curtis Bungard, P.E., Subdivision Engineer

Planning

Jonelle Melnichenko, Chief of Planning
Malia Burgasser, Senior Community Relations Planner
Patrick Shaw, Regional Planner
Corine Valentine, Planning Technician

GIS

Sean Phillips, GISP, GIS/IT Director
Tim Vlacovsky, GIS Analyst/Field Specialist

Fiscal

Heather Cunningham, Chief of Finance
Barbara Buonaspina, Fiscal Administrator
Kasie Atkins, Fiscal Officer

Office Management

Jill Gerber, Office Manager - (retired 12-23)
Jennifer Bayer, Executive Assistant
Carla Stokes, Administrative Assistant

Attorney

John Anthony, Staff Attorney



**STARK COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**

201 3RD ST. NE, STE. 201, CANTON, OH 44702-1211

www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

t 330 451 7389 f 330 451 7990