



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Stark County
Regional Planning
Commission





Robert Nau
Executive Director



Kris Vincent
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 (SCRPC) was established in 1957 under the leadership of its first President, Ralph Regula, who would later serve as an 18-term U.S. Congressman representing Stark County. He is said to have put many miles on his car traveling around Stark County drumming up support for a new county-wide planning organization. The SCRPC has a long history of providing a regional forum, which looks for solutions to the challenges facing our communities. Complex issues such as transportation, aging infrastructure, community development and land use require an integrated multi-disciplinary approach to problem solving to meet our communities' needs.

As the pandemic continued in 2021, the SCRPC remained open for business providing services to our members and the public. On the transportation front, we completed the Moving Stark Forward 2050 Transportation Plan, which proposed \$3.72 billion in projects and preservation activities over its approximately 30-year time frame. The plan proposes a number of intersection improvements around the county, including additional roundabouts to reduce congestion and improve safety, lane widening projects to reduce congestion, and several new and extension of roads to improve safety and reduce travel times. We also completed the 2020 Stark County Crash Report and Safety Work Plan, which identified the top ranked hazardous locations across the county. A transportation study was initiated to look at the former county farm area to study additional traffic associated with new commercial development underway in Navarre and southeast Massillon.

The SCRPC works to improve the quality of life of our citizens and provide for economic opportunity. As planners, we plan for future land use based on the best information available, but often the private market dictates development patterns. The unexpected, but welcome, new Amazon fulfillment center under construction on the former Skyland Pines golf course in the city of Canton is an example of market forces at work. The new Hendrickson and Tractor Supply buildings on the former county farm represent over one million square feet in new construction, which was the result of planning for construction of extensive infrastructure improvements facilitated by a public/private partnership. Meijer is investing in Stark County as evidenced by their new facility in Jackson Township on the former Tam O'Shanter golf course, and they are also planning on building new facilities on repurposed vacant retail properties in the cities of Alliance and North Canton.

In 2021, the Stark County Land Bank continued its mission "to strategically acquire properties, return them to productive use, reduce blight, increase property values, support community goals and improve quality of life for county residents". The popular Side Lot/Vacant Lot and Targeted Acquisition Assistance Programs continue to acquire vacant tax delinquent properties and repurpose them. The Demolition Assistance Program provided demolition funding to the Hall of Fame Village and various local governments to help eliminate slum and blight. The Land Bank acquired the long abandoned Delbert Smith Greenhouse property in Lake Township and is partnering with the U.S. EPA and Lake Township to remediate the property's environmental issues. The Land Bank continues to work on cleaning up a number of abandoned gas stations in Stark County.

Reflecting back on the pandemic related challenges of the last few years, the RPC's mission to improve the quality of life in Stark County through communication, facilitation and planning assistance is needed more than ever. Thanks to the hard work of our Staff and leadership of our Commission, we will continue to work to improve Stark County for all of its citizens.

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 few 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 Administration (FTA). Major planning efforts completed in the past year include:

- completed the Moving Stark Forward 2050 Transportation Plan, Stark County's first long-range plan to reach the 2050 horizon year
- continued implementation of the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- staff began a new round for the Community Transportation Planning Studies program which included revised informational materials
- completed the 2020 Stark County Crash Report and Safety Work Plan
- completed the FY 2021 District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee and the Natural Resources Coordinating Committee annual programs of funding

The **Moving Stark Forward 2050 Transportation Plan** was adopted by the SCATS Policy committee at its May 24, 2021 meeting and proposed \$3.72 billion in projects and preservation activities over its 29-year time period.

The plan proposes a number of intersection improvements throughout the county, including additional roundabouts to reduce congestion and improve safety; lane widening projects to reduce congestion; several new and extension of roads and highways; and numerous other projects intended to increase safety, reduce congestion, and reduce travel times. Some of the larger projects in the plan include:

Name/Location of Project	Type of Work	Length (miles)	Cost (adjusted)	Complete By
11th St and Cherry St	Road/Inter Improvement	1.17	\$10,161,000	2023
Fulton Rd Phase 1	Streetscape	1.45	\$6,000,000	2024
US 30 Trump to SR 44	Freeway Extension	3.82	\$120,000,000	2025
Lincoln Way	Streetscape, widening	0.79	\$7,400,000	2025
Tusc. Safety Project Phase 1	Safety Improvements	0.52	\$13,550,000	2025
Tusc. Safety Project Phase 2	Safety Improvements	0.60	\$15,000,000	2030
Applegrove-Frank to Whipple	Widen to 5 lanes	0.89	\$13,000,000	2030
Wales-Hills&Dales to Portage	Widen to 4 lanes	3.38	\$8,935,000	2030
Park Dr Reconstruction 2	Road/Intersect. Imprvmnt	0.63	\$10,000,000	2030
I-77 at US 30	Interchange Safety	1.00	\$49,600,000	2030
Tusc. Safety Project Phase 3	Safety Improvements	0.50	\$15,000,000	2025
US 30 SR 44 to SR 183	Freeway Extension	9.54	\$800,000,000	2040
Whipple-Southway to 13th	New Road	0.52	\$8,000,000	2040
Jackson-Richville to Lincoln	New Road	1.58	\$8,000,000	2040
US 62 and Harmont Ave.	New Interchange	0.46	\$5,000,000	2045
US 62/Pigeon Run/Justus	Interchange Improvement	0.67	\$8,000,000	2050

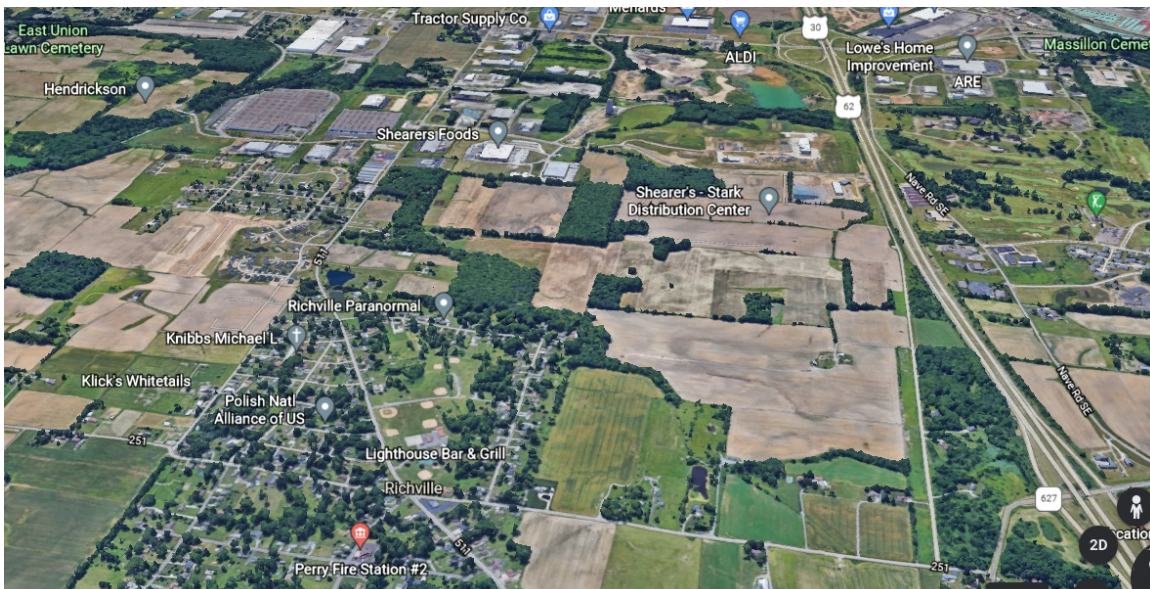
The management of the **FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**, which was adopted by the SCATS Policy Committee in 2020, included several major projects completed and/or initiated in 2021. A number of these projects show no visible signs of activity since they involve right-of-way purchases or are preparing for construction. The largest project funded in FY 2021, the Wales Road rehabilitation in the city of Massillon, is in the preparation stage with utility relocations occurring. The largest project with visible signs of work is the Portage Street project near The Strip (pictures below). This project included repaving, storm sewer upgrades and work to improve safety and reduce congestion.



Stark County Chief Deputy Engineer, David Torrence, stated, *“Portage Street was identified a few years ago as a high accident corridor, due mostly to congestion and ingress/egress issues from commercial drives. This project seeks to minimize accidents by providing driveway revisions, more controlled access, and by adding and lengthening several turn lanes in order to reduce congestion. The traffic signals in the corridor will be replaced/upgraded, making it possible to optimize the signal timing and move traffic through the corridor more efficiently, hopefully further reducing accidents.”*

The **Community Transportation Planning Studies Program** was resumed with submissions for studies from the city of Canton and SARTA, the city of Louisville and Louisville City Schools, the city of Massillon, and the Stark County Engineer.

A study of the former Stark County Farm and surrounding area, the Prospect Industrial Park Area-Wide Traffic Study, was selected due to increasing commercial development in the area and congestion from truck traffic. The study should identify projects that can improve access before additional development contributes to more congestion.



SCATS also initiated planning with the city of Louisville and the Louisville City School District to conduct a **Safe Routes to School Study** within the city. The study is proposed to be centered on Louisville Elementary School off of N. Nickel Plate Street and Louisville Middle School on S. Chapel Street. SCATS staff are planning to complete the study in the next calendar year.

The **2020 Stark County Crash Report and Safety Work Plan** review accident statistics provided by the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The data from the past three years, 2018-2020, 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 accident occurred. Tables for each political jurisdiction within Stark County are created as well as the following list identifying the ten most hazardous intersections:

2020 Top Ranked Hazardous Locations

1ST STREET	2ND STREET	2018 Total	2019 Total	2020 Total	Total Injury	Serious Injury	Total Fatal	2020 ADT	Severity Index	Crashes per Million Vehicles	Crashes per Year	Hazard Rating	Location
SR172	Perry Dr	40	25	19	20	1	0	31,400	1.65	2.44	28.00	60.60	Perry Twp
I-77	Belden Village & Whipple	37	34	23	33	1	0	41,700	1.93	2.06	31.33	59.42	Jackson Twp
Everhard Rd	Whipple Ave	53	32	28	32	0	0	45,350	1.68	2.27	37.67	57.35	Jackson Twp
US 62	Harmont Ave/ Lesh St	28	15	31	27	3	0	39,690	2.18	1.70	24.67	55.53	Canton City
US 30 Trump Ave	Lincoln St SR 172	21	22	18	20	1	0	27,800	1.93	2.00	20.33	52.51	Canton Twp
Dressler Rd	Everhard Rd	38	23	22	26	0	0	41,800	1.77	1.81	27.67	48.14	Jackson Twp
Dressler Rd	Strip Ave	21	25	14	21	0	0	29,300	1.88	1.87	20.00	46.93	Jackson Twp
SR687	Everhard Rd	19	31	22	21	1	1	41,925	1.94	1.57	24.00	45.71	Jackson Twp
12th St N	Market Ave N	12	11	25	14	0	1	20,475	1.92	2.14	16.00	43.74	Canton City
13th/12th St NW	I-77 Ramps/ Mercy Hospital	7	24	14	12	3	0	19,600	2.04	2.10	15.00	42.84	Canton City

The **District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee** and the **Natural Resource Assistance Council** approved a number of projects for the FY 2021 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 Improvements Program (LTIP). These programs, as well as the Clean Ohio Program funded by bonds sold as a result of State Issue 1 in 2000, provide funds to local communities for the improvement of their basic infrastructure systems and the preservation of farmland and open space. Projects funded this fiscal year include:

Natural Resource Assistance Council

Applicant	Project	Total	Request	Funded
City of Canton	Middle Branch Greenspace Area	\$247,200	\$185,400	\$185,400
Stark Parks	Tavares Property	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Stark Parks	Petros Enhancements & Prairie Restoration	\$295,767	\$221,825	\$221,825
Totals		\$582,967	\$437,225	\$437,225

The city of Canton project, located near the O'Jay's Parkway and the Middle Branch of the Nimishillen Creek area, will be the first municipal rewilding project in Stark County. Stark Parks began Stark County's first rewilding project with the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Jackson Township, but the city of Canton will be the first large-scale conversion of formerly developed areas into a natural conservation area by purchasing 206 parcels, vacating streets and converting them into a conservation area. The aerial photo on the next page (with North to the right and the Nimishillen Creek going from left to right-shown on the map in dark red) shows vacant tax delinquent lots to be purchased in red and city-owned areas in green. Much of this area is within the 100-year flood plain of the creek, so the project will lessen flood hazards. The project includes removing nonnative species and restoration of the natural riparian corridor.



Middle Branch
Greenspace Area

State Capital Improvement Program

Applicant	Project	Total	Request	Funded
City of Louisville	STA. TID East Main & Nickle Plate	\$1,725,470	\$862,735	\$862,735
Stark County Engineers	Bridge No. SA-6-9, Willowdale Ave.	\$510,000	\$377,000	\$377,000
City of Canton	Market Ave. N Waterline Replacement	\$1,997,700	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
City of Canton	4th St. SE Sanitary Sewer, GP 1338	\$2,972,247	\$1,471,000	\$1,471,000
Village of Hartville	Main Trunk Sanitary Sewer Replacement	\$946,070	\$463,574	\$463,574
Perry Township	Plymouth Knolls Storm Sewer Improvements Phase 2	\$900,000	\$665,000	\$665,000
City of Canton	Harvard Ave Waterline Replacement	\$1,856,600	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
City of North Canton	Charlotte St (CR 228) Improvement Project	\$3,198,568	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Totals		\$14,106,655	\$8,339,309	\$8,339,309

The city of Louisville proposal will widen the intersection, add turn lanes, upgrade infrastructure (storm sewer and water lines), and replace turn signals, sidewalks and crosswalks with ADA compliant features. It is expected that the improvements will lessen accidents at the intersection and lessen congestion.

Local Transportation Improvement Program

Applicant	Project	Total	Request	Funded
Stark County Engineers	Strip Avenue	\$4,110,000	\$725,600	\$725,600
Stark County Engineers	Pittsburg Ave. & Mt. Pleasant St.	\$5,285,000	\$800,000	\$800,000
Pike Township	Bowmont Street Paving.	\$330,524	\$244,588	\$244,588
Totals		\$9,725,524	\$1,770,188	\$1,770,188

The Strip Avenue project has been previously referred to in the safety study. This project will widen Strip Avenue from Dressler Road to Mega Avenue and should alleviate some of the problems contributing to the high crash rate being experienced at the Hall of Fame Bridge / Stark State College & Kent State Stark Campus entrance and the intersection of Dressler Road and Strip Avenue.

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 allotments' preliminary plans, construction drawings, and final plats for compliance with the Subdivision Regulations, as well as processed any requested construction variances
- performed construction inspections of the public improvements installed in new allotments to ensure compliance with the Subdivision Regulations and for release of performance and maintenance bonds; and handled any questions arising or drawing revisions occurring during construction
- established dollar amounts of performance and maintenance bonds for new allotments, as well as reviewed performance and maintenance bonds, bond substitution requests, bond collateral reduction requests, etc.; maintained all current, approved bond forms on the SCRPC 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, storm water management reports, bond related files, construction inspection reports, variances, off-site easements, etc.



The Fountains at Edgewood
Plain Township

The Greens at Belden
Jackson Township



Alloway Meadows
Lake Township



Strip Avenue Extension
Jackson Township



The Greens at Belden
Jackson Township

- performed monthly inspections of the county's Zimmer Ditch Detention Basin B concrete dam as required by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for Class I Structures, also obtained bids and administered the contract for the yearly maintenance work required for the Zimmer Ditch Detention Basins A and B
- assisted various townships with drainage related issues and/or problems on an as-requested basis, also reviewed construction plans for new condominium developments on an as-requested basis
- served on the NEFCO General Policy Board and District 19 Public Works Committee
- Ohio EPA NPDES Permit related work included:
 - prepared the county's 2021 Annual Report
 - maintained the county's Storm Water Management Program
 - maintained/updated the county's comprehensive storm water conveyance system map for all county owned and operated facilities and roadways within the urbanized areas
 - monitored over 400 individual county outfalls

Melvin Troyer Estates No. 1
Marlboro Township



Saratoga Hills No. 3
Plain Township

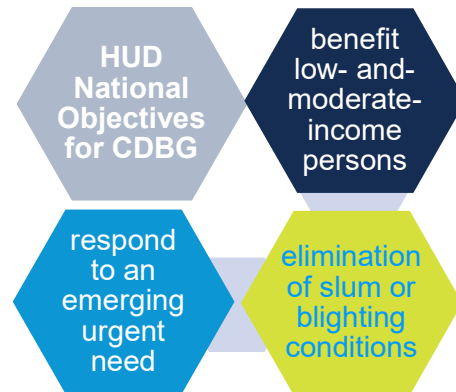


Community Development

Community Development Block Grant

Community Development

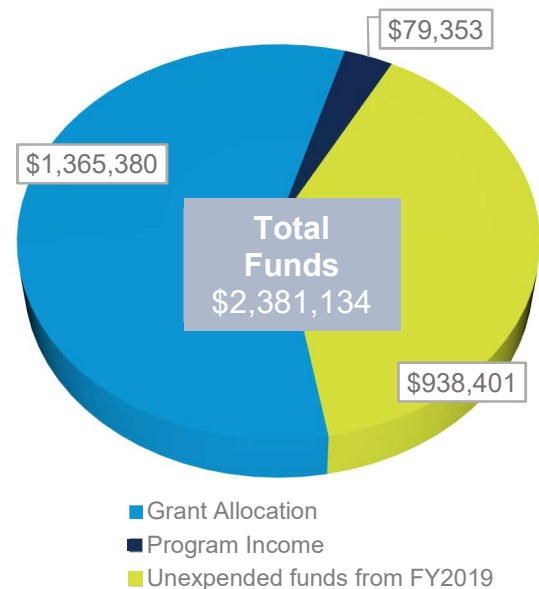
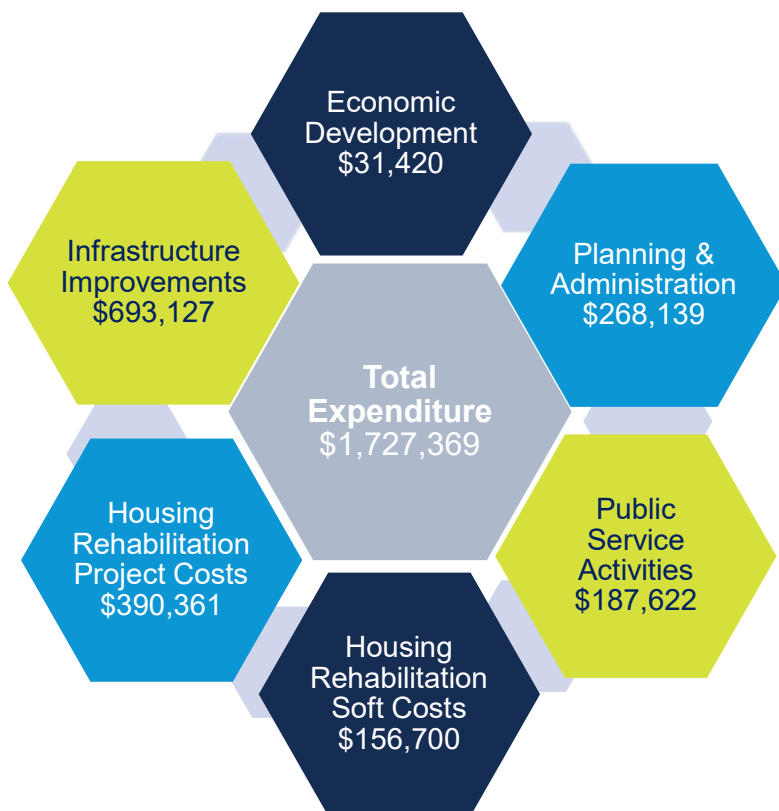
The **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** aims to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments, along with expanding economic opportunities for persons of low and moderate incomes (LMI). CDBG activities must meet one of the following HUD National Objectives.



Annual grants are provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on a formula basis to entitlement cities and counties. Stark County is designated as an Urban County Entitlement Community, with funds being granted to the Board of Stark County Commissioners. The SCRPC is under contract to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for the administration and distribution of the Stark County CDBG grant allocation.

The FY 2020 CDBG program reflects funding and activities that took place from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

FY 2020 CDBG Funds Available



CDBG Expenditure by Category

Housing Rehabilitation

15 Emergency
7 Full
2 Accessibility

Planning & Administration

Comprehensive Planning
CDBG Administration

Economic Development

Kent State University (KSU)
at Stark's Micro Enterprise
Development Program

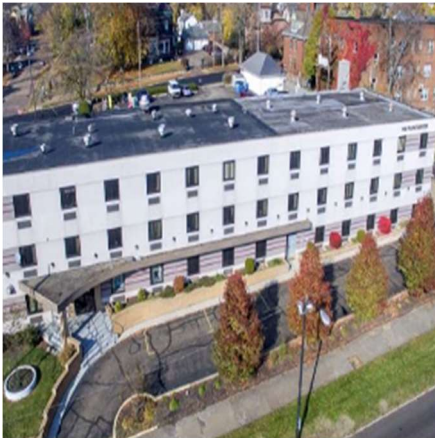
CDBG Accessibility Program Bathroom



Public Services

Alliance for Children & Families Emergency
Residence
Beacon Charitable Pharmacy
CommQuest Family Living Center
Fair Housing
Habitat for Humanity's ReStore Vouchers
Stark MHAR Coordinated Entry System

CommQuest
Family Living Center



**Alliance for Children
& Families**
Emergency Residence



KSU at Stark
Micro Enterprise Program



Infrastructure Improvements

City of North Canton Pittsburg/Milton/Carosel
Waterline Replacement
Village of Brewster Jefferson Avenue Sanitary
Sewer Replacement

Village of Brewster
Jefferson Avenue Sanitary Sewer



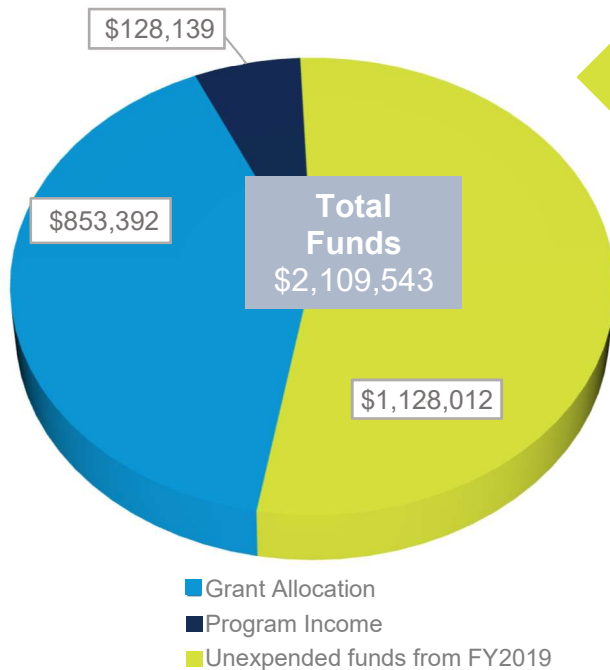
City of North Canton
Pittsburg/Milton/Carosel Waterline



Community Development

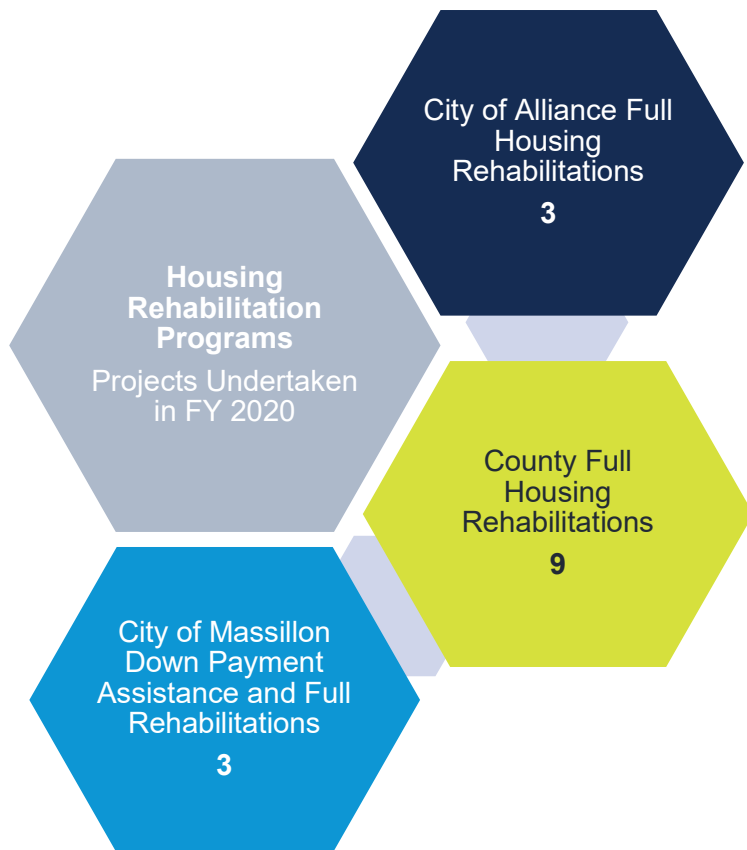
HOME Investment Partnership Program

The **HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)** is a HUD funded program that provides grants to states and units of local government for a wide range of housing opportunities for low and moderate income (LMI) persons and families. It is the largest federal block grant designed exclusively to create affordable housing for LMI individuals/families. HOME funded housing activities include buying, building and/or rehabilitation of affordable housing for rent or ownership, and aiding with direct rental assistance. The Board of Stark County Commissioners have been receiving HOME funds since 1992 with the Stark County Regional Planning Commission administering the program. Stark County participates as the lead entity in a Designated Consortium with the cities of Massillon and Alliance.



HOME Expenditure by Category





HOME Full Rehab Program
Before



HOME Full Rehab Program
After



The HOME Housing Rehabilitation Program offers a 50% deferred loan/50% grant up to \$25,000 total to bring properties up to Uniform Physical Conditions Standards (UPCS), current SCRPC adopted Residential Rehab Standards and Uniform Property Standards. Work must be done in conformance with the SCRPC technical specifications book which details the materials to be used and the methods for construction work.

Fifteen full rehabs were completed during FY '20 under the HOME program. The Massillon Down Payment Assistance (DPA) and Rehab Program leveraged \$182,630.90 in private mortgages.

HOME Full Rehab Program
Before



HOME Full Rehab Program
After



Stark County Land Bank

Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation

SCRPC has been under contract to administer the Land Bank's programs since 2014. The SCRPC provides administrative services of the Land Bank's programs and finances and oversees day-to-day operations.



Program	Description	Year Est.
Side Lot Program	Available to qualified contiguous property owners who wish to extend the size of their yard.	2013
Vacant Lot Program	Available to qualified <u>non-contiguous</u> applicants who wish to acquire tax delinquent property in the county for an approved use.	2015
Targeted Acquisition Assistance Program (TAAP)	Available to Stark County cities, villages and townships or qualified non-profit applicants to assist with the strategic acquisition of blighted, vacant, or abandoned properties to facilitate community & redevelopment projects.	2017

The chart above lists the three (3) programs offered by the Land Bank aimed towards acquiring tax delinquent, vacant and abandoned property, cleaning the title, and transferring the property into new ownership for a productive use. These properties are available every year to qualified applicants. In 2021, the Land Bank was able to transfer 118 properties to new ownership through these programs. These now tax-productive properties are being maintained as either a side lot or are being redeveloped/repurposed by their new owners.

The vacant/blighted property (pictured to the right) is an example of how the Land Bank has been able to assist a community in accomplishing their goals with the use of multiple programs.

This site was targeted for demolition by the city of Canton. In 2020 Canton applied for acquisition assistance through TAAP to acquire title to the property. Upon completion of a tax foreclosure, the Land Bank transferred title to Canton in April 2021. Canton then applied for the Demolition Assistance Program (DAP) funding assistance and was awarded an allocation where the Land Bank committed to fund up to 50% of the total hard-costs of the project in June. The demolition was completed in July and the Land Bank reimbursed Canton \$5,348.50.



HOF VILLAGE DEMOLITION FUNDING ASSISTANCE



In September 2021, the Land Bank executed an addendum to their agreement with the Hall of Fame Village (HOF) to provide demolition funding for the Dennis R. Smith school building. Demolition work was completed by October and the Land Bank reimbursed the HOF \$135,734.16. The removal of this structure will allow the HOF to complete construction of the sports complex additional fields. Overall, the Land Bank was able to provide \$400,332.50 in funding assistance to the HOF for a total of 84 structures within their campus footprint.



2021 DAP PROJECTS

Property Address	Community	Type	Status	Funding Reimbursement
920 Troy Pl. NW	Canton	Residential	Reimbursed	\$4,617.50
1315 Piper Ct. NW	Canton	Residential	Reimbursed	\$4,240.00
1217 Louisiana Ave. NW	Canton	Residential	Reimbursed	\$4,216.50
2113 12 th St. SW	Canton	Residential	Reimbursed	\$5,348.50
1318 Penrose Ct. NE	Canton	Residential	Reimbursed	\$6,686.00
312 3 rd Ave. SE	Beach City	Residential	Reimbursed	\$6,812.50
9055 Columbus Road	Nimishillen	Commercial	Reimbursed	\$10,150.00
172 & 176 E. Main St.	Alliance	Commercial	Under Contract	\$62,437.80
530 & 536 E. Main St.	Alliance	Commercial	Under Contract	\$55,187.80

The Land Bank's 50/50 Demolition Assistance Program (DAP) assists Stark County cities, villages and townships with strategic demolition work by providing matched funding reimbursement up to 50% of hard-demolition costs of the project. In 2021, the Land Bank was able to provide \$42,071 in demolition funding for the completed projects listed in the chart above. Demolition and wall repair work was completed by December 2021 on the two commercial projects located in the city of Alliance, and a reimbursement to the city is expected in early 2022.



"The city of Alliance wants to acknowledge and thank the Land Bank for its diligence in working through our most recent DAP partnering. The removal this year of four blighted structures in the Historic Downtown Main Street Area has had a tremendous impact on this area. This is another project which came to fruition specifically because of the Land Bank's embrace of applying innovative concepts to systemic problems. It is fitting that this project comes to an end in the same month when a brand new Circle K opened on N. Union Ave. at the site of an earlier DAP project, the former Crest Rubber Superfund site. We anticipate the same type of ultimate success stories in the Historic Downtown Main Street Area."

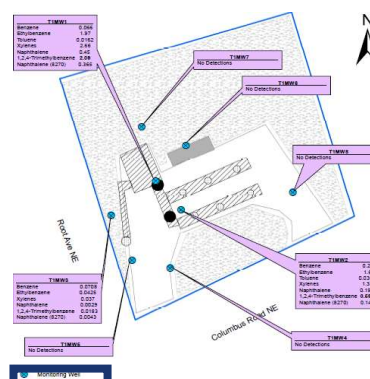
- Mike Dreger, City of Alliance Safety Service Director

GAS STATION
CLEAN UP



In 2021, remediation work continued at the former Starfire Gas Station located at 2433 Columbus Rd. NE in Plain Township utilizing an awarded grant of \$250,000 from the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA).

- Monitoring wells were drilled on and off-site to identify the limits of the contamination
- Additional remediation is expected as part of the remedial action plan
- The Tier II Report is expected to be submitted to BUSTR in January 2022
- This grant award is anticipated to be fully utilized by Summer 2022



Fair Housing

The 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 2021:

- developed an online discrimination intake PDF fillable form
- trained six participants from Stark County Children Services via zoom on the fair housing and landlord-tenant laws
- assisted 669 households on the landlord-tenant and fair housing laws
- assisted 112 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
- opened 10 discrimination cases for investigation
- resolved, settled and/or conciliated four disability cases so individuals could have equal opportunity to use and enjoy their dwelling
- filed four complaints with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) on disability and familial status discrimination
- closed one race case because complainant chose not to pursue
- closed one disability case initiated in 2020
- referred 50 cases to cooperating attorneys
- conducted 10 Informal and Formal Grievance hearings for SMHA
- monitored 12 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
- submitted quarterly Fair Housing Reports to the city of Alliance
- completed the HUD Performance Outcome Measurement System form for activities completed by the department
- completed the Fair Housing Report for Alliance and County's inclusion in the Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Investigated, conciliated and/or settled 10 housing discrimination cases in 2021:

Protected Class	Location	Reason for Complaint	Finding
Race	Plain Twp.	Use of Criminal History	Pending w/ SCFHD
Disability	Navarre	Reasonable Accommodation	Resolved
Disability	Beach City	Reasonable Modification	Pending w/ OCRC
Disability	Jackson Twp.	Reasonable Accommodation	Resolved
Familial Status	Navarre	Termination Due to Child	Pending w/ OCRC
Disability	Alliance	Reasonable Accommodation	Resolved
Race	Plain Twp.	Racial Harassment	Closed/Didn't Pursue
Disability	Jackson Twp.	Reasonable Accommodation	Resolved
Disability	Alliance	Termination Due to ESA*	Pending w/ OCRC
Disability	Navarre	Harassment Due to Disability	Pending w/ OCRC

*Emotional Support Animal

NOTABLE DISCRIMINATION CASE

The department assisted a woman with a disability who could not enjoy her dwelling. Every time the tenant entered her apartment building, she would become dizzy, nauseous and vomit. Due to the illness, she only stayed at her new apartment for one night. She went to the hospital twice before going to her primary physician. Her doctor determined that a certain vibration in her apartment building was not agreeing with her body. Several months earlier, the tenant had undergone a surgical procedure to treat excess cerebrospinal fluid in the cavities of her brain. A tube (catheter) was passed from the cavities of the head to her abdomen to drain the excess fluid. Due to her medical condition, the tenant needed to terminate her lease agreement. The housing provider would allow for a termination, but required the tenant to locate another potential resident. In addition, she was required to pay a processing fee. The tenant's husband found a potential tenant who was approved. However, she was still charged the processing fee. The fair housing department made a reasonable accommodation request. Due to the support and assistance of the staff advocating for the tenant, the housing provider agreed to refund the processing fee. According to the Fair Housing Law, it is illegal to refuse to make reasonable accommodation in rules, policies, practices, or services, when such accommodations may be necessary to afford a person with a disability equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling.

Equal Employment

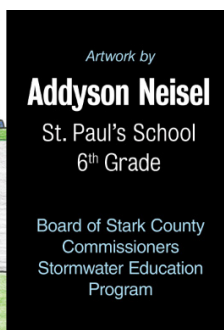
- processing the filing of the biennial data collection report with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) detailing demographic workforce data of the county by race, ethnicity, sex, job category, and salary levels
- assisted in the development of Equal Employment Opportunity plans for two county departments

Planning

The Planning Department administers the subdivision review process, makes recommendations on zoning, 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 2021, 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
- began compiling data for Canton Township's first Comprehensive Plan
- worked with the Stark County Auditor's GIS Department to continue building on online development portal for projects submitted for subdivision review
- conducted prevailing wage rate monitoring for various federal and state-funded projects
- carried out storm water education for the Board of Stark County Commissioners through educational workshops, the SCRPC website, brochures, articles, advertisements, contests, and Public Involvement/Public Education (PIPE) Committee meetings
- coordinated SCRPC's public relations work, including public meetings, press releases, advertising, annual report, SCRPC's quarterly newsletter, the agency's website, and Facebook & Instagram pages

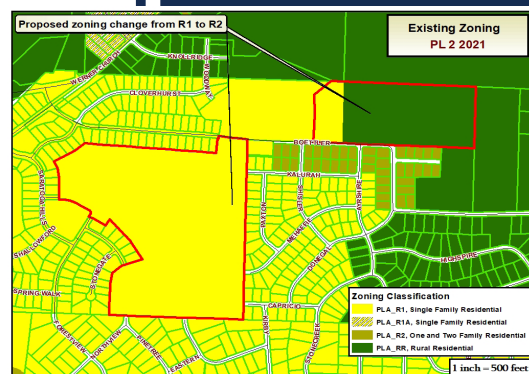
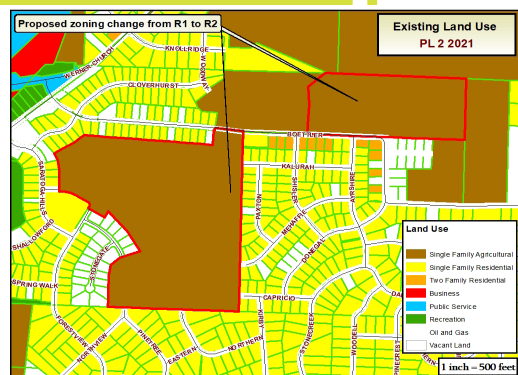


Street Vacations / Annexation Recommendations:

- recommended to the Board of Stark County Commissioners on four proposed street vacations involving eight roadways
- recommended to the Board of Stark County Commissioners on 11 annexation requests

Zoning:

- reviewed and made recommendations on 23 township zoning amendments
- met with newly hired zoning inspectors individually to go over the role of SCRPC and the townships
- organized two Zoning Inspector “Mutual Assistance” Meetings
- discussed/reviewed Short Term Rental regulations for several townships to add to their zoning resolutions



House Numbering:

Total House Numbers Issued	502
Single Family	377
Multi-Family	6
Commercial/Industrial/Ag	68
Electric/Utility	51

Subdivision Review Subcommittee and staff reviewed:

8 preliminary plans (4 revised)
 41 final plats (4 new subdivisions, 37 replats, 5 resubmittals)
 Resulting in: 185 new lots
 0.75 miles new residential streets
 78 site plans (commercial, industrial & multi-family uses)
 30 administrative waivers of formal site improvement plan reviews
 10 variance / appeals requests
 255 divisions of property without plat (lot splits)



Formerly a Starfire Gas Station, the site at 1652 Whipple Avenue in Canton Township is proposing to construct a coffee shop. The property was developed as a gas station and operated as such until 2008. After ceasing operation, the property sat vacant. In 2016, SCRPC utilized funding from a Brownfield Assessment Grant received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess the site for any contamination. SCRPC was able to use additional funding from the grant to address some of the issues identified from the assessment, but due to eligibility restrictions for the grant, were not able to address all of the concerns. In 2018, the Land Bank took ownership of the site and partnered with SCRPC to apply for a clean-up grant through the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA), which was awarded to the Land Bank. The funding received was utilized to clean-up all contamination on the property. In 2019, the Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) issued a No Further Action (NFA) letter for the site, indicating that the site could be returned to productive use for redevelopment. In 2021, the Land Bank sold the site to a developer who has submitted plans to construct a Tremont Coffee Shop on the site.

SCRPC Lending a Helping Hand

Over the past several decades, SCRPC staff has donated their time, money, and skills to help many people in the community. Listed below are contributions made in 2021:

Each December, we fulfill a family's Christmas wish list through "A Community Christmas of Stark County." SCRPC staff has donated money and various requested items to Stark County families.



In October of this year, some SCRPC staff volunteered their time and skills to help *Habitat for Humanity* build a house for a young mom and her sons.



Also at the holidays, SCRPC has made several monetary donations to the *Wounded Warrior Project*.



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 2021, The Stock Pile:

- served 2,786 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 Vantage Aging and Municipal Court Referrals, McKinley High School, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, CommQuest, and Creative Rehab with over 2,430 volunteer hours worked
- took in over \$150,000 in handling fees, representing approximately \$450,000 in materials, and diverted more than 247 tons of reusable materials from landfills (total since opening- 3,217 tons)
- reinvested \$2.1 million in handling fees in the program (since opening), which represents well over \$6.3 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 70 gallons of recycled paint through our Second Coat recycled paint program
- 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.

"I have found great deals on appliances and my kitchen sink. I worked on a kitchen remodel with supplies from TSP, and painted multiple rooms in my house with paint from TSP."

- Kenneth I.

"The paint section rules! Great people and occasional cool finds for the house."

- John T.

"Top and bottom toolbox with tools for only \$25! I repurposed a compost tumbler I got from Facebook Marketplace for free with tools, tin, power tools, sandpaper, pop rivets, and paint that I got at TSP."

- Michelle A.



Disinfecting
wipes
\$2.00



Decorative tile
\$5.00
each

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 \$100 voucher for use at The Stock Pile. This program focuses on those who are:

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



Sliding Barn Door
36"x80"
\$80



\$100



Surface Deconstruction is when The Stock Pile works with homeowners and businesses to remove items that are suitable for reuse. Such items include:

Doors
Windows
Kitchen Cabinets
Bathroom Vanities
Plumbing Fixtures

Electrical Fixtures
Reusable Siding
Light Fixtures
Reusable Carpet



72x80
Patio
Door
\$500.00



29x53
New Windows
\$75.00



Geographic Information Systems

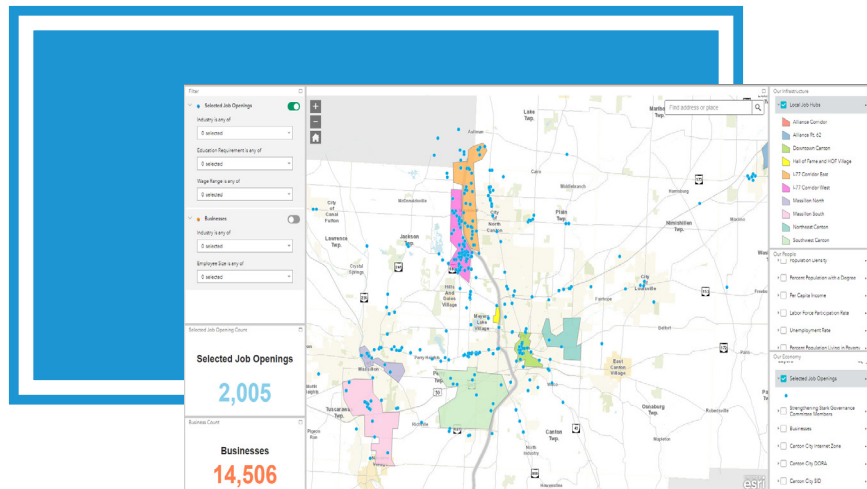
GIS

Strengthening Stark

“Strengthening Stark is a community-wide movement of residents, businesses, government, nonprofits and philanthropy who share a vision for a vibrant, growing county for all. Our goal is to make Stark a great place to start and grow a business, develop one’s talent and pursue a career, and live and raise a family.” (credit: Strengthening Stark mission statement)

SCRPC participated in an initiative to gather data and identify potential job hubs in an effort to apply for grant funding that would enhance Stark County workforce development. The initiative was backed by the Strengthening Stark Web Platform created by the Stark County GIS/IT Department and supported by SCRPC GIS, SCATS and Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO).

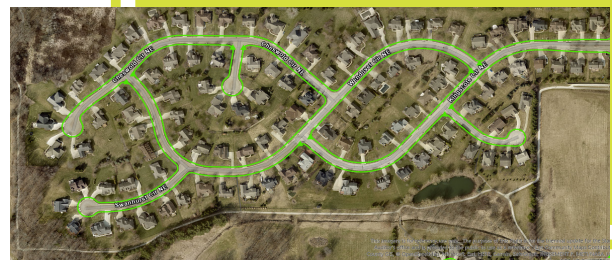
GIS analytics were used to possibly identify potential growth areas in an effort to foster program design and program implementation.



Pedestrian Connectivity Assessment

SCRPC GIS and SCATS have collaborated on a Pedestrian Connectivity Assessment that will inventory the extent and condition of existing infrastructure and connectivity to destination points. This project is being coordinated with such endeavors as the Safe Routes to School initiative. Some of the inventory being collected:

- Sidewalks: collect current inventory as well as identify gaps, width, buffer from traffic, conditions, obstructions, etc.
- Crosswalks: collect inventory, identify type, condition and whether a signaling device is present.



ArcGIS HUB

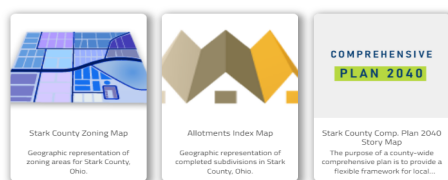
ArcGIS Hub is an easy-to-configure community engagement platform that organizes people, data, and tools through information-driven initiatives. With ArcGIS Hub, organizations can leverage their existing data and technology and work together with internal and external stakeholders to track progress, improve outcomes, and create vibrant communities.

SCRPC created an GIS HUB page to showcase web map applications, story maps, allotments, transportation plans and many different types of data. Categories include Planning, Transportation, Infrastructure, Community Development, Economic Development and Tools. This HUB page allows the agency to properly showcase the many applications created by SCRPC and its county partners.



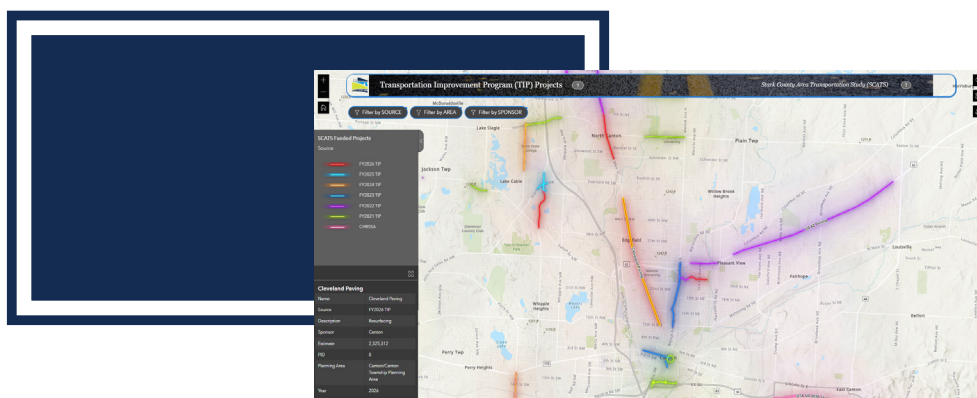
Web Map Applications

Planning



Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP) Application

SCRPC GIS and SCATS undertook creating a new application to replace an older version to showcase SCATS TIP projects. This application is able to show the name, funding source, description, sponsor, estimate, planning area, and year of construction. You can also filter by several of these factors for a more precise look at the map. You can find this application on the new SCRPC GIS HUB page.



Other GIS Department News:

- water infrastructure inventory in the village of Minerva continued in 2021.
- ArcGIS Online and web mapping applications continue to be created for SCRPC departments and other county-wide agencies.
- cartographic maps are still being requested and created for many different jurisdictions in the county.

Economic Development

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

- Enterprise Zone (EZ) – designated area where business and industry may locate and/or expand/improve their property, and by committing to retain and/or hire employees, may realize reduced real estate and personal property taxes
- Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) – primarily a program to encourage revitalization of existing housing; however, retail and other businesses may also receive real property tax relief by improving property in previously designated areas and committing to retain/hire employees

Except for the cities of Canton, Alliance and Massillon, who monitor their own programs, the county's designated Enterprise Zone Manager is responsible to report for five Enterprise zones: EZ 326C (Minerva); EZ 342C (Brewster); EZ 360C (Canal Fulton); EZ 234C, which includes the villages of East Canton and Navarre, the city of Louisville; parts of Canton, Perry and Osnaburg Townships and all of Nimishillen and Plain Townships; and EZ 252C, which includes parts of Lake and Jackson Townships and the city of North Canton.

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

TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL – 2021 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. Thirteen of the 14 agreements were to be continued another year, and one company's EZ agreement was expired.

Fiscal

	2021 Actual Income	2022 Projected Income
Taxes	\$ 4,128.64	\$ 4,000.00
Charges for Services	\$ 5,539.98	\$ 6,267.00
Licenses and Permits	\$ 26,856.46	\$ 27,500.00
Fines & Forfeitures	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Intergovernmental - includes Federal, State, Local Reimbursements & Contract Services	\$2,002,249.42	\$ 2,457,512.00
Other Revenue	\$ 45,058.08	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$2,083,832.58	\$ 2,495,279.00

	2021 Actual Expenses	2022 Projected Expenses
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 1,889,762.77	\$ 2,184,807.00
Supplies	\$ 24,013.31	\$ 25,250.00
Purchased Services	\$ 85,715.89	\$ 201,423.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 3,198.63	\$ 41,800.00
Other	\$ 9,469.68	\$ 41,999.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,012,160.28	\$ 2,495,279.00

SCRPC's financial records were audited in 2021 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 2020.

2021 SCRPC Members

President: Kris Vincent
Vice-President: Galen Stoll
Secretary: Joseph Skubiak

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
* Vince Marion, City of Louisville
* 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
* Kris Vincent, County-at-Large

County Office Members (all ex-officio)

Commissioners

Janet Weir Creighton
Richard Regula
William Smith

Administrator

Brant Luther

Sanitary Engineer

James Troike
Tom Davis, alt.

Engineer

Keith Bennett
Vincent Mueser, alt.

Health Commissioner

Kirkland Norris
Todd Paulus, alt.

Stark County Park District

* Robert Fonte
Sarah Buell, alt.

Prosecutor

Kyle Stone

City Members

Alliance

Mayor Alan Andreani
Joe Mazzola, alt.

Canal Fulton

Mayor Joe Schultz
Mark Cozy, alt.

Canton

Mayor Thomas Bernabei
Donn Angus
Maureen Austin
Dan Moeglin

Louisville

Mayor Patricia Fallot
Vince Marion, alt.

Massillon

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

North Canton

Mayor Stephan Wilder
Robert Graham

County Appointments

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

Township Members

Bethlehem

William McGovern

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

Scott Welker

Washington

Merrit Boyce

Village Members

Beach City

Mayor John Hartman

Brewster

Mayor Charles Hawk

East Canton

Mayor Kathleen Almasy

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
Larry Hawkins, alt.

Wilmot

Mayor Robert Pulley

2021 Committees

SCATS Policy Committee

Chair: Robert Graham
Vice-Chair: Keith Bennett

Members

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

Alternates

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

Audit Committee

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

Citizens' Advisory Council

Members: all citizens working/residing
in Stark County

Technical Advisory Committee

Chair: Dave Torrence

James Adams	Vince Marion, alt.
Keith Bennett	Dan Moeglin
Curtis Bungard	Robert Nau
Renato Camacho	Gery Noirot
Kirt Conrad	Lauren Phillis, alt.
Mark Cozy	Jason Popiel
Robert Graham	Chad Root, alt.
Nick Loukas, alt.	Dave Torrence

Subdivision Review Subcommittee

Chair: Todd Paulus,
Stark County Health Department

Curtis Bungard, City of Alliance
Fonda Williams, City of Canton
Matt Bailey, alt.
Jason Haines, City of Massillon
Bruce Bernhard, City of North Canton
Keith Bennett, Stark County Engineer
Vincent Mueser, alt.
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
Vince Marion, City of Louisville

(plus any interested RPC member)

2021 Planning Staff

Robert Nau, Executive Director

SCATS

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

Community Development

Lynn Carlone, Chief of Community Development (retired 6-21)
Katie Puleo, Chief of Community Development
Sarah Peters, Land Bank Administrator
Jill Ross, Housing Manager
Lisa Snyder, Community Development Planner
Steve Williams, Senior Housing Rehab Specialist

Fair Housing

Valerie Watson, Fair Housing Manager

Subdivision Engineer

Joe Underwood, P.E. P.S., Subdivision Engineer (retired 12-21)
Curtis Bungard, P.E., Subdivision Engineer

Planning

Jonelle Melnichenko, Chief of Planning
Alexandra Cramer, Regional Planner
Malia Burgasser, Community Relations Planner
Terri Sponaugle-Schrock, Regional Planner
Fulton Benya, Regional Planner

GIS

Sean Phillips, GISP, GIS Manager
Heath Hayes, GIS Analyst

Fiscal

Heather Cunningham, Fiscal Manager
Elonda Eford, Fiscal Officer
Barb Buonaspina, Fiscal Clerk
Kasie Atkins, Fiscal Clerk

Office Management

Jill Gerber, Office Manager
Gwen Arthur, Secretary

Attorneys

John Anthony, Staff Attorney
Dave Thorley, SCLRC Attorney (retired 9-21)



**STARK COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**

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

www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

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