

Annual Report 2018



STARK COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION



Robert Nau
Executive Director

Wayne Schillig
President

Mission Statement

“To improve the quality of life in Stark County and its communities through an effective regional forum characterized by communication, collaboration, facilitation, and planning assistance.”

Agency Message

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission is a member-based service organization charged with providing planning services to political subdivisions in Stark County. Our mission “to improve the quality of life in Stark County and its communities through an effective regional forum characterized by communication, collaboration, facilitation and planning assistance” reflects our commitment to regional partnerships to help provide solutions to the challenges that face our communities.

This past year the agency was busy with a number of planning activities including the Hall of Fame Village Land Use and Transportation Study (HOF Study) and the SCATS Community Planning grants. Staff assisted consultants in the preparation of the HOF Study, which was funded by the Federal Highway Administration and the Ohio Department of Transportation. The plan’s purpose was to study the land use and transportation impacts of the proposed \$1 billion HOF Village project on the surrounding communities and transportation infrastructure. The plan also identified opportunities to connect the HOF Village to the greater Canton area and Stark County so that all of Stark County can benefit from this expanded economic generator. Community Planning grants were awarded to the village of Brewster, city of Canal Fulton and the city of Alliance. These small area transportation planning grants are part of the agency’s efforts to provide resources to our members for transportation needs such as safe routes to schools, multi-modal connectivity and smart traffic technology.

In 2018, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, which was signed by President Johnson shortly after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This landmark legislation provided for equal housing opportunities and prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental and financing of housing based on race, religion and national origin. It has since been amended to include gender and protection of people with disabilities and families with children. The RPC along with our partners, the Canton Fair Housing Department and Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority, sponsored a luncheon, which featured Dr. Bernice A. King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King spoke to an audience of 350 attendees and articulated the continued need for fair housing programs to combat housing discrimination.

As we plan for the future, change is inevitable, but it can be challenging for people to accept. This past year the iconic Tam O’ Shanter golf course, which was built in 1928, closed its doors much to the chagrin of local golfers. While part of the property will be developed, most of it will be preserved by Stark Parks as permanent open space through a \$6 million grant from the Clean Ohio Fund administered by the RPC. The RPC’s experience and expertise with these types of programs enable us to help create value in our communities by bringing back state and federal resources to improve our quality of life. Thanks to the hard work of our staff and leadership of our Commission, we will continue to strive to improve Stark County for all of our citizens.

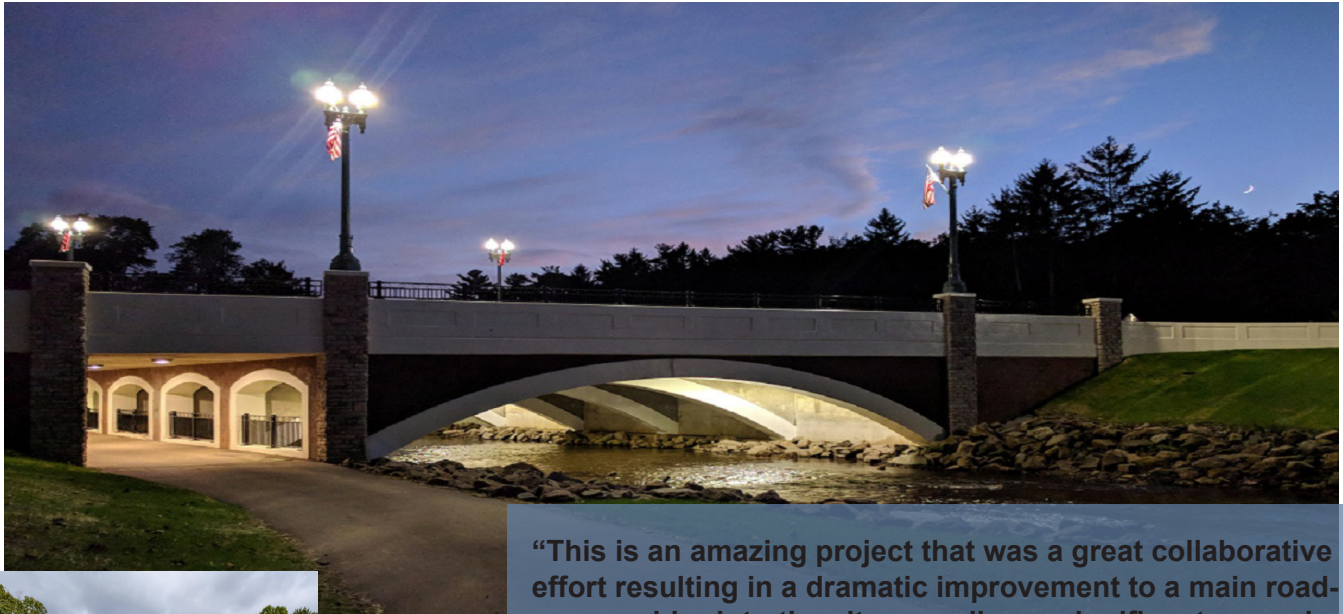
Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS)

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

- amended the 2040 Transportation Plan, 2017 Update for Stark County, to incorporate performance measures for safety, travel time reliability, air quality, pavement condition, bridge condition, and transit asset management
- amended the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and prepared for the development of the next TIP
- assisted consultants with the development and review of the Hall of Fame Village Land Use and Transportation Study
- awarded Community Planning Grants to the village of Brewster, and the cities of Canal Fulton and Alliance
- completed the 2017 Crash Report and Safety Work Plan
- administered the District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee and the District 19 Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC)

The 2040 Transportation Plan, 2017 Update for Stark County, Ohio was adopted by the SCATS in 2017. The Federal Highway Bill signed into law in 2012 (MAP-21) included requirements to begin performance based planning. During the past year, the SCATS Policy Committee has adopted resolutions incorporating ODOT's state-wide performance goals for safety, travel time reliability, air quality, pavement condition, bridge condition, and transit asset management.

The FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was adopted by the SCATS Policy Committee in 2017 as well. SCATS began the process of developing the FY2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program during the past year and would normally adopt a new TIP in early/mid 2019. As part of this process, SCATS staff solicited project proposals for Surface Transportation Block Grant projects as well as Transportation Alternatives projects. The development of the TIP follows a timetable provided by ODOT so that public notice requirements and public participation can be accomplished state-wide in order to incorporate MPO projects from throughout Ohio into the State Transportation Improvement Program. ODOT suspended the timetable during the summer of 2018 pending fiscal updates as well as an anticipated new administration. SCATS has continued with the project selection process in preparation of amending the TIP to incorporate additional projects as needed.



“This is an amazing project that was a great collaborative effort resulting in a dramatic improvement to a main roadway corridor into the city as well as a significant upgrade to Canton’s bike trail/route system. It is a great tribute to Michael J. Rehfus, Sr., our former Stark County Engineer. It compliments Canton’s jewels, Stadium and Monument Parks. It truly is a project that our entire community can be proud of.”

-Dan Moeglin, Canton City Engineer

“Critical to the success of this study has been the high level of collaboration that has occurred between all of the stakeholders and implementing partners. We have had steady participation by over 20 different agencies and organizations offering data, ideas, and feedback to improve community connections. This leads to stronger recommendations and partnerships for implementation.”

- Bryan Newell, AICP, Project Manager, Gannett Fleming



The Hall of Fame Village Land Use and Transportation Study, being developed by Gannett Fleming Engineers and Architects, was nearing completion at the end of 2018, with a final draft being reviewed in preparation for the final public forum to be held in January of 2019. The plan identified five primary recommendations: (1) improve the Fulton Road Corridor, making the primary connection from the Hall of Fame Village to downtown Canton more usable and attractive; (2) create a Pedestrian Promenade where Harrison Avenue NW connects to Stadium Park Drive under I-77, improving pedestrian access and sight lines; (3) provide sample zoning overlay district language, that, if adopted by the adjoining townships would provide tools enabling them to better benefit and protect their residents as development and redevelopment occurs; (4) implement a regional parking strategy to ensure timely accessibility to locations within the Hall of Fame Village and surrounding areas, and (5) an integrated visitor app that would “inform a visitor of where events were occurring, make reservations for restaurants, identify the quickest route to your destination, locate available parking stalls, provide availability of public transportation and could assist in scheduling your trip.”

The plan includes a decision matrix that will assist in identifying and prioritizing projects in order to optimize the use of available funding. The development of the plan included three public forums: numerous stakeholder meetings and interviews; surveys (both on-line and hardcopy) that were distributed to the public; exhibits at public events; and other outreach efforts.

Community Planning Grants were awarded to the village of Brewster, city of Canal Fulton, and city of Alliance. The village of Brewster’s Downtown to Fairless Schools Travel Plan and Connectivity Study identified potential routes to connect the local schools with downtown Brewster in order to encourage active modes of traveling to the schools. The city of Canal Fulton Active Transportation and Connectivity Plan, now in progress, seeks to identify routes throughout Canal Fulton and the surrounding area in order to encourage walking and cycling to points of interest. The city of Alliance’s West State Street Corridor Traffic Study, also just beginning at the end of the year, will review traffic signal operations, the functionality of turn lanes, and other factors on West State Street in Alliance from the main Walmart retail entrance, east to the Sawburg/Beechwood Avenue intersection, approximately 1.3 miles.

The 2017 Crash Report and Safety Work Plan analyzes crash data supplied by the Ohio Department of Public Safety. This data is used to create a hazard rating for intersections and road segments using a formula that takes into consideration the severity and number of crashes over the past three years. The study shows a continuing trend in a reduced number and severity of accidents throughout the county. The top rated hazardous intersections in Stark County are shown on the following table:

Intersection		Hazard Rating	Location	Jurisdiction
SR 153	Union Ave./SR 153	55.64	Washington Twp	ODOT
Everhard Rd.	Whipple Ave.	50.11	Jackson Twp	County
Great Lakes/SR 21	Lake Ave/SR 236	49.99	Massillon	Massillon
US 62	Harmont Ave./Lesh St.	49.86	Canton	Canton
SR 172	Perry Dr.	47.90	Perry Twp	ODOT
Great Lakes/SR 21	Walnut Ave.	47.54	Massillon	Massillon
13th/12th St. NW	I-77 Ramps Mercy Hospital	46.20	Canton	Canton
I-77	Belden Village & Whipple	42.92	Jackson Twp	ODOT
SR 687	Everhard Rd.	40.55	Jackson Twp	ODOT
Dressler Rd.	Everhard Rd.	39.30	Jackson Twp	County

SCATS staff assists in the management of the District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee which oversees the distribution of the State Capital Improvement Program and Local Transportation Improvement Program funds by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). These funds assist local communities in improving their basic infrastructure. The program is funded by the state gas tax and bonds sold by the state, with Stark County's share being approximately \$8 million per year. The committee awarded just over \$9 million for 14 projects as seen in the following table:

2018 OPWC Projects

State Capital Improvement Program

Applicant	Project	Total	Request
Canton	44th St. Waterline	\$2,651,502	\$1,500,000
Louisville	Water Treatment Improvements	\$2,769,625	\$1,384,812
Canton	49th St. NW Storm Sewer	\$1,076,184	\$1,076,184
Canton	33rd St. Area Waterlines	\$2,015,700	\$1,500,000
Canal Fulton*	West Elevated Water Storage	\$1,780,000	\$857,500
		SCIP Funded	\$6,318,496

Local Transportation Improvement Program

Applicant	Project	Total	Request
Stark County/Jackson	Perry Dr./Jackson Ave. Intersection	\$1,810,619	\$445,018
Massillon/Perry	27th St./Jackson Ave. Resurfacing	\$292,759	\$146,379
North Canton/Stark Co.	Applegrove St. Resurfacing	\$575,800	\$200,000
Canton/Stark Co.	Georgetown/8th St. Paving	\$512,960	\$200,000
Stark County	Weimer Dr. Bridge	\$844,000	\$144,000
Stark County	Spangler Dr. Bridge	\$1,226,000	\$294,000
Stark County	Hills & Dales Resurfacing	\$1,193,800	\$200,000
Alliance	SR 183/Union Ave. Corridor	\$1,442,844	\$295,000
North Canton*	Easthill St. SE Reconstruction	\$1,135,500	\$840,270
		LTIP Funded	\$2,764,667
		TOTAL Funded	\$9,083,163

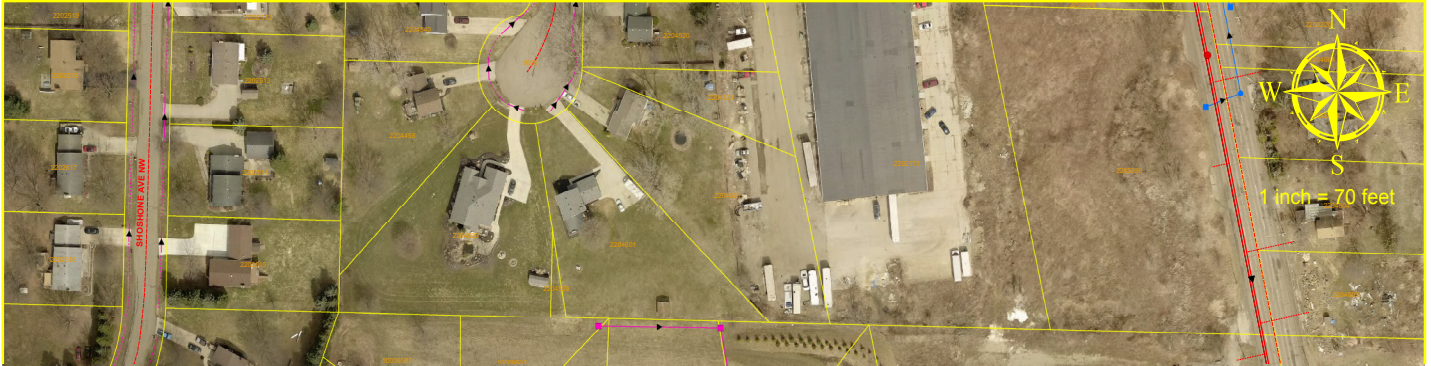
* Contingency projects

SCATS staff also assists in the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, which helps to fund preservation of open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors. This year's round of funding allocation was a little over \$2.2 million in total disbursement for the District 19 Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC).

For 2018, three eligible projects were awarded funding:

Project	Total Project Cost	Requested	Recommended
Beech Creek Botanical Garden	\$160,250	\$120,188	\$120,188
Nimisila Creek Preserve	\$282,000	\$122,000	\$122,000
Jackson Twp. Open Space Preservation	\$2,933,333	\$2,200,000	\$1,965,713

Subdivision Engineering



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

- Subdivision Engineering
 - reviewed new allotments' preliminary plans, construction drawings, and final plats for compliance with the Subdivision Regulations as well as processed any requested construction variances
 - performed construction inspections of the public improvements installed in new allotments to ensure compliance with the Subdivision Regulations and for release of performance and maintenance bonds. Handled any questions arising or drawing revisions occurring during construction
 - established dollar amounts of performance and maintenance bonds for new allotments as well as reviewed performance and maintenance bonds, bond substitution requests, and bond collateral reduction requests. 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, and off-site easements
 - reviewed private commercial and industrial site improvement plans for compliance with the Subdivision Regulations as well as made recommendations to SCRPC for any variances requested





- Ohio EPA National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
 - prepared the county's 2018 NPDES Annual Report
 - maintained the county's Stormwater Management Program
 - maintained/updated the county's comprehensive storm water conveyance system map for all county owned and operated facilities and roadways within the urbanized areas
 - monitored over 400 individual county outfalls
 - prepared the city of Alliance's 2018 NPDES Annual Report
 - monitored over 100 individual outfalls for the city of Alliance
- performed the monthly inspections of the county's Zimmer Ditch Detention Basin B concrete dam as required by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for Class I Structures. Obtained bids and administered the contract for the yearly maintenance work required for the Zimmer Ditch Detention Basins A and B
- served as Project Manager to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for the Market Avenue Drop Off Lane Project
- assisted various townships with drainage related issues and/or problems on an as-requested basis. Reviewed construction plans for new condominium developments, also on an as-requested basis
- served on the NEFCO General Policy Board and District 19 Public Works Committee



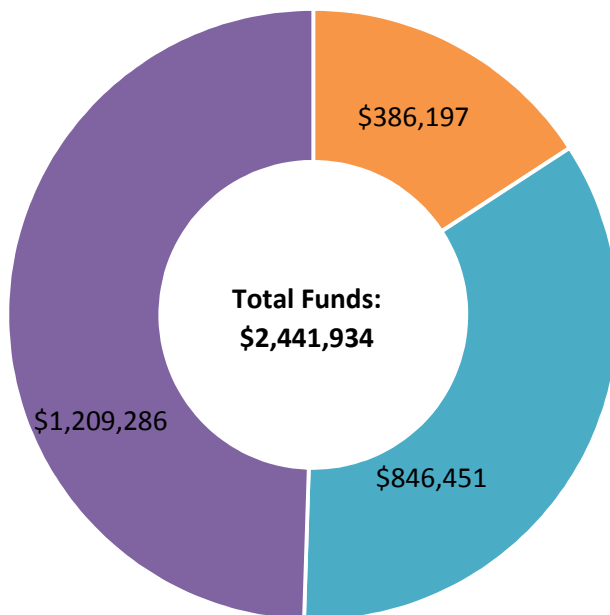
Community Development

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

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

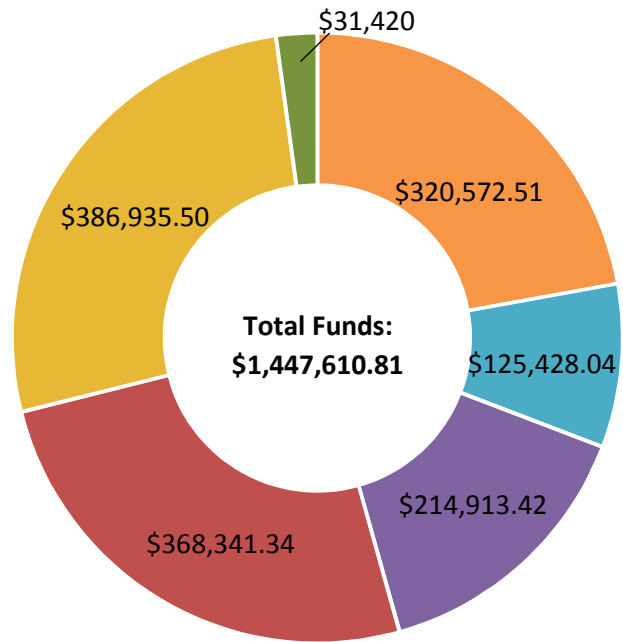
The FY '17 CDBG program reflects funding and activities that took place from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Total FY' 17 CDBG Funds Available



- Program Income
- Unexpended CDBG funds from 2016
- FY '17 CDBG Grant

Total FY' 17 CDBG Expenditures by Activity



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

The annual CDBG Application Workshop was held at the end of August of 2016 and applications were received and presented to the Review Committee for FY '17. The table below titled "2017 Stark County CDBG Activities" lists all the activities funded as a result of the application process.

FY '17 Stark County CDBG Activities	
Public Infrastructure	Public Services
▪ Village of Minerva – Chestnut Street & Hart Avenue Water Main Replacement ▪ Perry Township – Perry Park Improvements ▪ Perry Township – 13th Street ADA Sidewalk Improvements (pictured below) ▪ Perry Township – Oak Hill Park Improvements (pictured below)	▪ Fair Housing ▪ StarkMHAR – Centralized Intake & Coordinated Assessment ▪ CommQuest Family Living Center Homeless Shelter ▪ Alliance for Children & Families' Emergency Residence ▪ Beacon Charitable Pharmacy's Prescription Assistance
Economic Development	Housing Activities
▪ KSU Micro Enterprise Development Program	▪ Emergency Rehab (17 projects) ▪ Full Housing Rehab (11 projects) ▪ Housing Rehab Septic/Sewer (1 project)
Administration	
▪ Comprehensive Planning ▪ CDBG Administration	



Perry Township 13th Street ADA project, where a sidewalk for safety and handicap accessibility purposes for 3 nearby schools and other pedestrian traffic was installed.



Oak Hill Park improvements in Perry Township included installing an ADA parking lot and resurfacing a basketball court for ADA access.



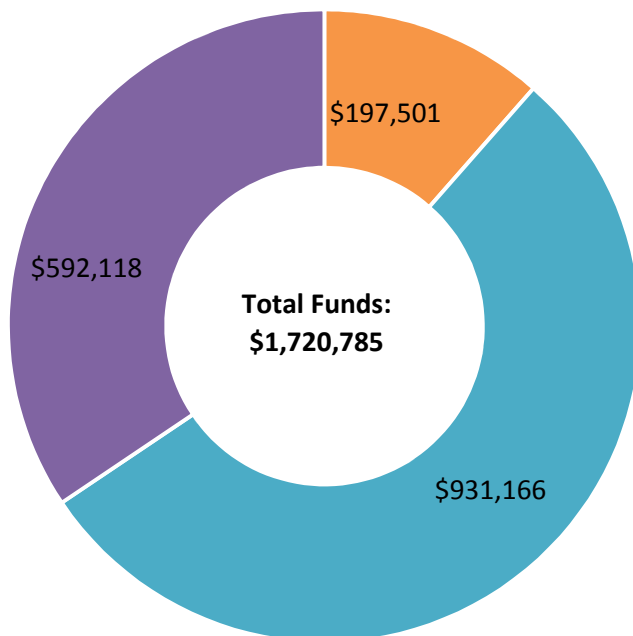
A single family home in Canton Township received a new boiler under the Stark County Emergency Rehab Program, which utilizes CDBG funds.

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

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

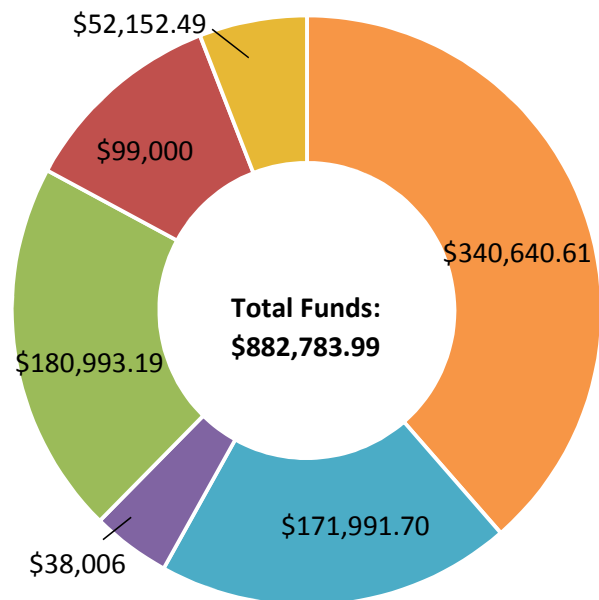
The Board of Stark County Commissioners has been receiving HOME funds since 1992, with the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) administering the program. The FY '17 HOME program reflects funding and activities from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Total FY' 17 HOME Funds Available



- Program Income
- Unexpended HOME funds from 2016
- FY '17 HOME Grant

Total FY' 17 HOME Expenditures by Activity



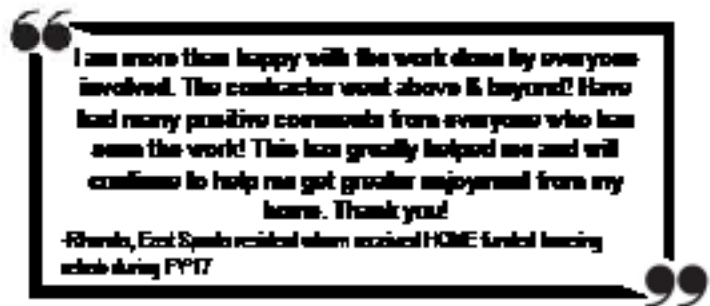
- Housing Rehab Project Costs (County)
- Housing Rehab Project Costs (City of Alliance)
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance
- City of Massillon Rehab/Homebuyer
- ACF B-FIRST Permanent Supportive Housing Apartments
- Administration

Similar to the CDBG process, an annual HOME Application Workshop was held in mid-November of 2016. In FY '17, two applications were submitted and one project received funding. During this fiscal year, Stark County rehabbed a total of 16 houses and the city of Alliance Rehab Program was responsible for rehabbing eight houses in Alliance. The Massillon Down Payment Assistance and Rehab Program, utilizing HOME funds, was able to support six homebuyers with down payment assistance (leveraging a total of \$468,281 in private mortgages) and two single-family homeowners with rehabs. As a requirement of this program, all houses rehabbed with HOME funds are brought up to Residential Rehab Standards (RRS).

Below is the Alliance for Children and Families' (ACF) B-FIRST Permanent Supportive Housing project. The facility consists of ten units (30 beds), serving homeless families. Stark County HOME funds were utilized in the hard construction costs of the project.



Recently completed and fully occupied, the Alliance for Children and Families' (ACF) B-FIRST Permanent Supportive Housing has 30 beds, providing housing for local, disabled homeless families.



This single family home in East Canton received new siding, doors, gutters, well pit, hot water tank, electrical work, dryer vent, pressure tank, steps, bathroom tub, toilet and vanity and flooring as part of the HOME Program.

Land Bank Program

In 2018, the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) continued offering programs/activities focused on the reclamation and repurposing of vacant and abandoned properties in Stark County. The SCPRC has been under contract to administer the Land Bank's programs since 2014.

Neighborhood Initiative Program

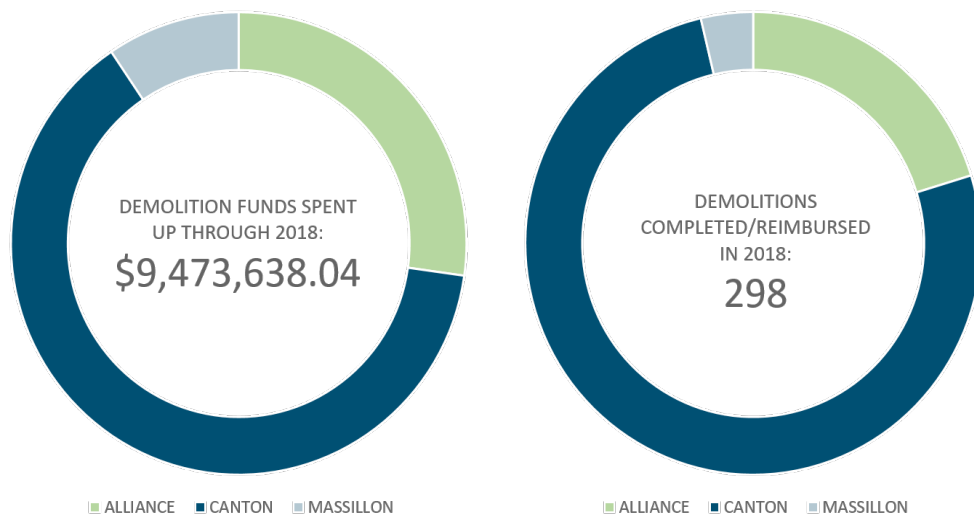
In 2018, the Land Bank continued its mission to strategically acquire properties and reduce blight through its demolition of vacant/abandoned, blighted residential properties in targeted areas throughout the cities of Canton, Massillon and Alliance with funding from the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP). NIP, a federal program that targets blight removal, is administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA). Since the program's initial award in 2014, the Land Bank has received a total of \$12,032,44.95 to demolish residential properties that are beyond repair/rehabilitation.



Throughout the program, the Land Bank has continued to meet program progress requirements established by OHFA. By December 18, 2018 the Land Bank was required to spend down 75% of its overall award. In order to meet this deadline, the Land Bank needed to expend a minimum of \$9,024,334.46, which it exceeded.

To date, the Land Bank has demolished a total of 595 residential structures, which expended \$9,473,638.04 of the OHFA grant, which is approximately 78.73% of the total award. Of those structures demolished overall, 298 structures were demolished and submitted for reimbursement of \$4,630.318.06 in 2018.

The chart below (left) displays the distribution of where NIP demolition funds were spent across the targeted areas in the cities of Canton, Massillon and Alliance. The chart below (right) displays the number of demolitions completed across the distribution of funds.



With the NIP final deadline approaching next year (December 18, 2019), the Land Bank plans to fully exhaust the NIP funding by acquiring and demolishing an additional 150+ properties.

After NIP demolition, the now empty lots are available through the Land Bank's "NIP Side Lot Program". This program is operated based on OHFA's regulations and these transfers help to increase the size of these residents' yards and add value to their homes and returns the properties to a tax-producing, productive use. So far, 86 post-demolition NIP lots have transferred to new owners.

Ongoing Programs Available

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

- Side Lot Program
- Vacant Lot Program
- Targeted Acquisition Assistance Program
- 50/50 Demolition Assistance Program



Fair Housing

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

In 2018, the staff conducted the following activities:

Educational Workshops, Trainings, and Outreach

- made presentations to: Hoover High School, Real Estate Investor's Association, Hoarding Coalition for Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Board, Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority and the SCRPC
- conducted a training on *Discrimination Complaint Intake and Investigative Testing Projects* to the Columbus Urban League staff
- Fair Housing Manager was the Keynote Speaker at Massillon's Fair Housing Luncheon. The topic was the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing and Disability Rights
- sponsored a Fair Housing Seminar in the city of Alliance. Darlene Sweeney-Newbern, Director of Regional Operations - Ohio Civil Rights Commission, was the Keynote Speaker



Joe Mazzola, Director of Planning & Development, presented Valerie Watson, Fair Housing Manager, with a Proclamation for the Fair Housing Department.

- conducted a training on *Costly Discriminatory Fines* to SMHA staff
- participated in a Government Roundtable Presentation that was sponsored by the Stark County Real Estate Investors Association

- conducted a training on *What Would You Do (Discriminatory Scenarios)* to Section 8 Landlords
- interviewed by WHBC and WNPQ (Q92) radio stations and The Repository on housing discrimination and the Fair Housing Luncheon and keynote speaker, Dr. Bernice A. King
- sponsored a Fair Housing Luncheon in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, along with City of Canton Fair Housing Commission and Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority. Featured speaker was Dr. Bernice A. King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Dr. Bernice A. King captivated the audience by stating the need for fair housing remains prevalent. She said, "If we're going to overcome our racial history and heritage...we're going to have to understand the fundamental premise...and that is, we are interrelated and interconnected...We must accept this as part of the human race that...we have to find a way to coexist to create a more just, humane and peaceful world."



Fair Housing Luncheon Committee enjoy Dr. King after her speech. From left to right (seated): Dr. King and Corey Minor Smith, Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority. Standing: Valerie Watson, Stark County Fair Housing; Malia Watkins, Stark County Regional Planning Commission; and Jenna Bucklew, city of Canton Fair Housing.



350 attendees celebrated the
50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act at the luncheon.

Highlights at a Glance

- renewed agreement with the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) for the Fair Housing Manager to conduct hearings and write appeal decisions for applicants, tenants and Section 8 participants of SMHA
- 52 Informal and Formal Grievance hearings conducted for SMHA
- 500 persons counseled on their rights, obligations and responsibilities under the landlord-tenant law
- 696 persons trained and educated on the fair housing law
- 11 presentations, trainings, seminars and/or workshops were conducted
- 3 radio stations interviewed staff on housing discrimination
- 10 landlords were monitored due to discriminatory rental practices in the past
- 2 housing discrimination cases were investigated and settled
- 789 educational brochures were distributed to residential property owners, managers, tenants, students, elected officials, Alliance Municipal Court, city of Alliance, Real Estate Investor's Association, SCRPC, SMHA, Stark County Health Department, Hoarding Coalition, and Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Board
- promoted the awareness of fair housing through local newspapers
- consultants completed a draft of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

Economic Development

The SCRPC provides assistance to members of all county Tax Incentive Review Councils (TIRC's) 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 such 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 for five enterprise zones – EZ360C (Minerva); EZ342C (Brewster); EZ360C (Canal Fulton); EZ234C, which includes parts of East Canton, Navarre, Canton, Perry and Osnaburg Townships and all of the city of Louisville and Nimishillen and Plain Townships; and EZ252C, which includes parts of Lake and Jackson Townships, and the city of North Canton.

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

TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL 2018

- Reviewed nine EZ agreements and two CRA agreements with recommendations sent to the Board of Stark County Commissioners

BOARD OF STARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2018

- The Board of Stark County Commissioners agreed to the recommendations of the TIRC to continue all agreements

Equal Employment

- Processed seven equal employment discrimination telephone calls
- Investigated two county employee complaints relating to equal employment issues
- Assisted in the development of Equal Employment Opportunity plans for two county departments

Planning

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

In 2018, the department:

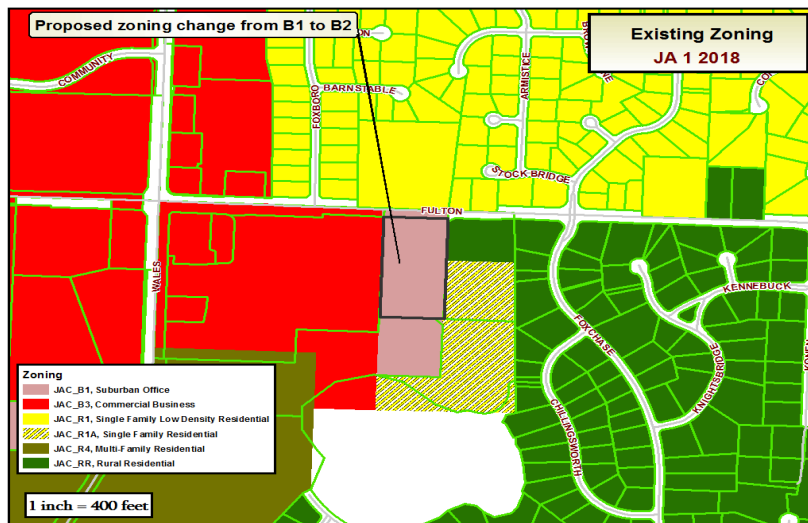
- assisted the Stark County Land Bank in obtaining a grant from the Ohio Development Services Agency to clean up an abandoned former gas station
- coordinated SCRPC's public relations work, including public meetings, press releases, advertising, the Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC), the annual dinner, annual report, RPC's quarterly newsletter, the agency's updated website, and Facebook page
- entered into a contract with Stark Parks to update their Five-Year Plan
- co-hosted with the Prosecutor's Office a Governmental Law Seminar for elected officials and zoning inspectors
- continued to facilitate updates to the Stark County Consolidated Plan, a requirement of HUD for the distribution of certain community development funding
- oversaw the adoption of revisions to the Stark County Subdivision Regulations
- carried out storm water education for the Board of Stark County Commissioners through educational workshops, speaking engagements, the RPC website, brochures, articles, advertisements, contests, and hosted Public Involvement/ Public Education (PIPE) committee meetings
- conducted wage monitoring for the city of North Canton and Stark Parks
- assisted the city of Alliance with the management of their stormwater education program

Annexation Recommendations:

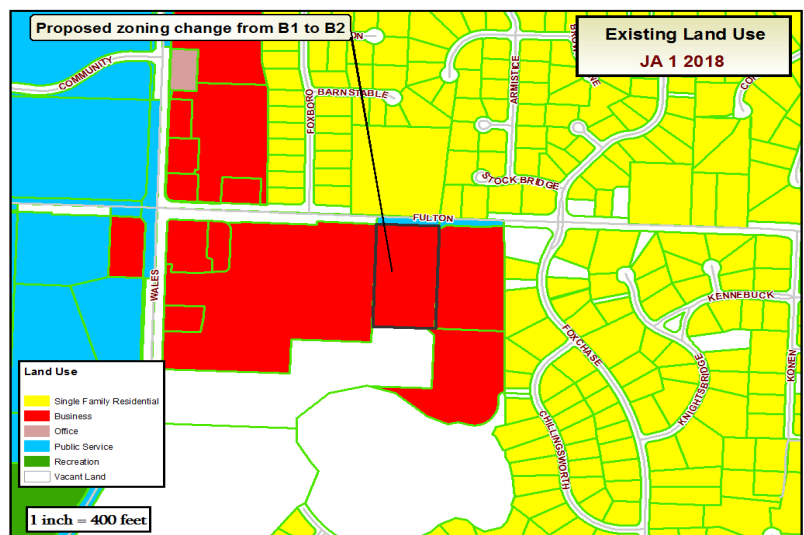
- Recommended to the County Commissioners on seven annexation requests

Zoning:

- Reviewed and made recommendations on 14 township zoning amendments
- Organized eight Zoning Inspector's "Mutual Assistance" meetings. Topics included:
 - Overview of the county GIS & Auditor's Tax Maps Departments
 - A tour of the Jackson Township Recycling Center
 - Services offered through the Stark Emergency Preparedness Agency and Ohio Farm Bureau
 - A review of the history and future growth of Stark Parks



Sample zoning amendment maps prepared by this department



House Numbering:

380 Total House Numbers Issued

291	Single-Family
2	Multi-Family
47	Commercial/Industrial
34	Electric/Utility
3	Replacement
1	Agriculture
2	Other



Duluth Trading Company now has a brick and mortar store located in Jackson Township in Stark County. The building is located in the Belden Village area at the former site of 77 Colonial Lanes bowling alley and night club. Along with Duluth, two additional buildings (8,400 sq. ft. and 4,800 sq. ft.) were also approved for the site.

Subdivision Review Subcommittee and staff reviewed:

- 13 preliminary plans (3 revised)
 - 23 final plats (11 new subdivisions, 9 replats, 3 resubmittals)
- Resulting in: 210 new lots
2.92 miles of new residential streets
- 57 site plans (commercial, industrial & multi-family uses)
 - 35 administrative waivers of formal site improvement plan reviews
 - 5 variance/appeals requests
 - 238 divisions of property without plat (lot splits)

Village of Brewster Solar Facility



The village of Brewster completed a journey that lasted nearly five years. Construction is winding down and the solar field is projected to be producing power in January 2019. It was done with minimal village investment, with the land being purchased and donated to the village, then the land being leased back with the village then committing to buy the power produced by the solar facility at an agreed upon “fixed” price over 25 years. The facility, constructed on 13.7 acres will produce 1.75 MW AC of power.

Solar educational facilities will be provided to Fairless Schools, allowing the school district to monitor the solar field to have access to real time data showing production and allowing that information to be utilized in their curriculum.

The solar facility is also a part of Brewster’s being progressive in renewable energy, having been recognized by Smart Electric Power Alliance in the top ten nationally in annual watts per customer produced/added by solar in 2018.

- Village of Brewster

The Stock Pile

The Stock Pile (TSP) is the RPC's non-profit building material reuse warehouse, which the Planning Department assists with administration, personnel, and grant management. Located at 1387 Clarendon Ave. SW, Canton, TSP draws customers and donors from all over northeast Ohio. In 2018, The Stock Pile:

- assisted over 2,900 low-to-moderate income families by providing affordable materials for home repairs
- partnered with 111 non-profit agencies by supplying items for their projects
- served as a work site for Mature Services and Municipal Court Referrals, McKinley High School, as well as Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, with almost 3,300 volunteer hours worked
- took in over \$170,000 in handling fees, representing approximately \$510,000 in materials and diverted more than 230 tons of reusable materials from landfills (total since opening 2,710 tons)
- reinvested more than \$1.8 million in handling fees in the program (since opening), which represents well over \$5.4 million worth of materials returned to useful life
- experienced six of its best-selling months ever during the 2018 calendar year
- provided an outlet for over 60 companies to remove overstock and scratch and dent items from their warehouses and reduce their disposal costs
- evaluated 185 homes for deconstruction for the Stark County Land Re-utilization Corporation and carried out minor deconstruction on 68 of those; carried out deconstruction on five private homes, yielding excellent materials for customers
- sold 210 gallons of recycled paint through their Second Coat recycled paint program
- provided \$2,800 of free furniture to 31 individuals/families transitioning out of homelessness, domestic violence, or foster care through our Welcome Home Free Furniture Program, thanks in part to grants from the Stark Community Foundation and the Timken Company Charitable and Educational Fund



"A lot of different things and very helpful employees. The prices are good too.!"

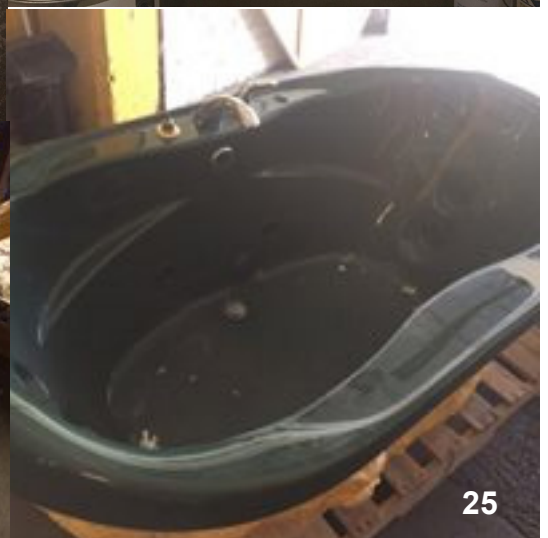
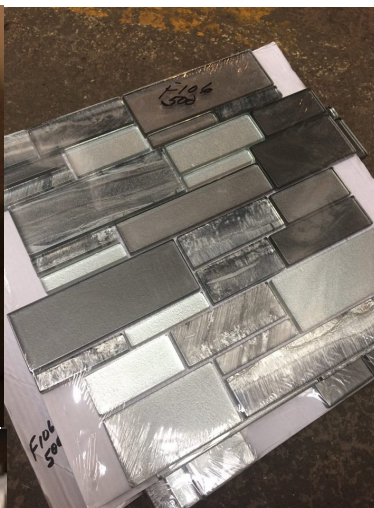
- Maria S.

"Great people, huge inventory, amazing prices, incredible community asset! I have a new ethic of "donate, don't dump," and that is largely the result of watching the good example of the people at The Stock Pile. Thank you Stock Pile, and I am so grateful for all the good that you do!"

- Amy Scott-Douglass

"So happy to find a way to donate supplies that someone else can use!"

- Kathleen S. H.

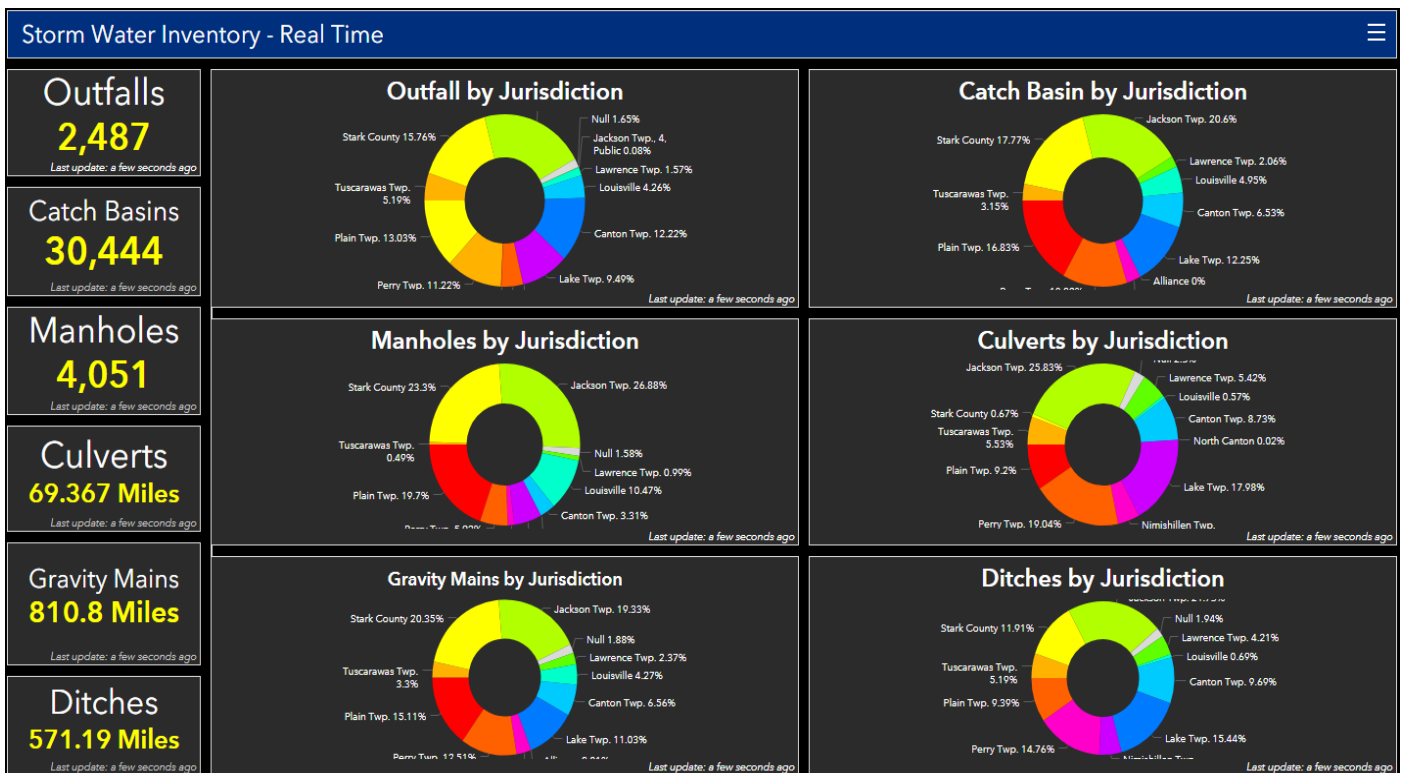


Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

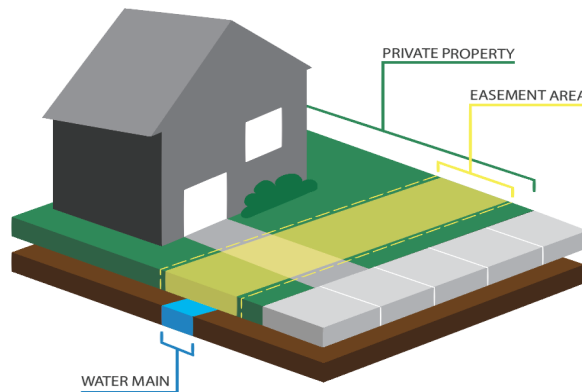
The GIS Department's largest project continues to be asset inventory collection, with storm water being the main focus. The following projects were worked on throughout the year:

- Perry Township Storm Water Mapping: Collection of storm water data in Perry Township continued from last year and finished over the summer
- Lake Township Storm Water Mapping: Storm water data collection from last year continued into this year and was finished in the fall
- Tuscarawas Township Storm Water Mapping: Storm water data collection on township roads continued from last year and was completed of the summer
- City of Alliance Outfall Inspection: The department took on outfall inspections for the city of Alliance this summer and will be continuing into the next year

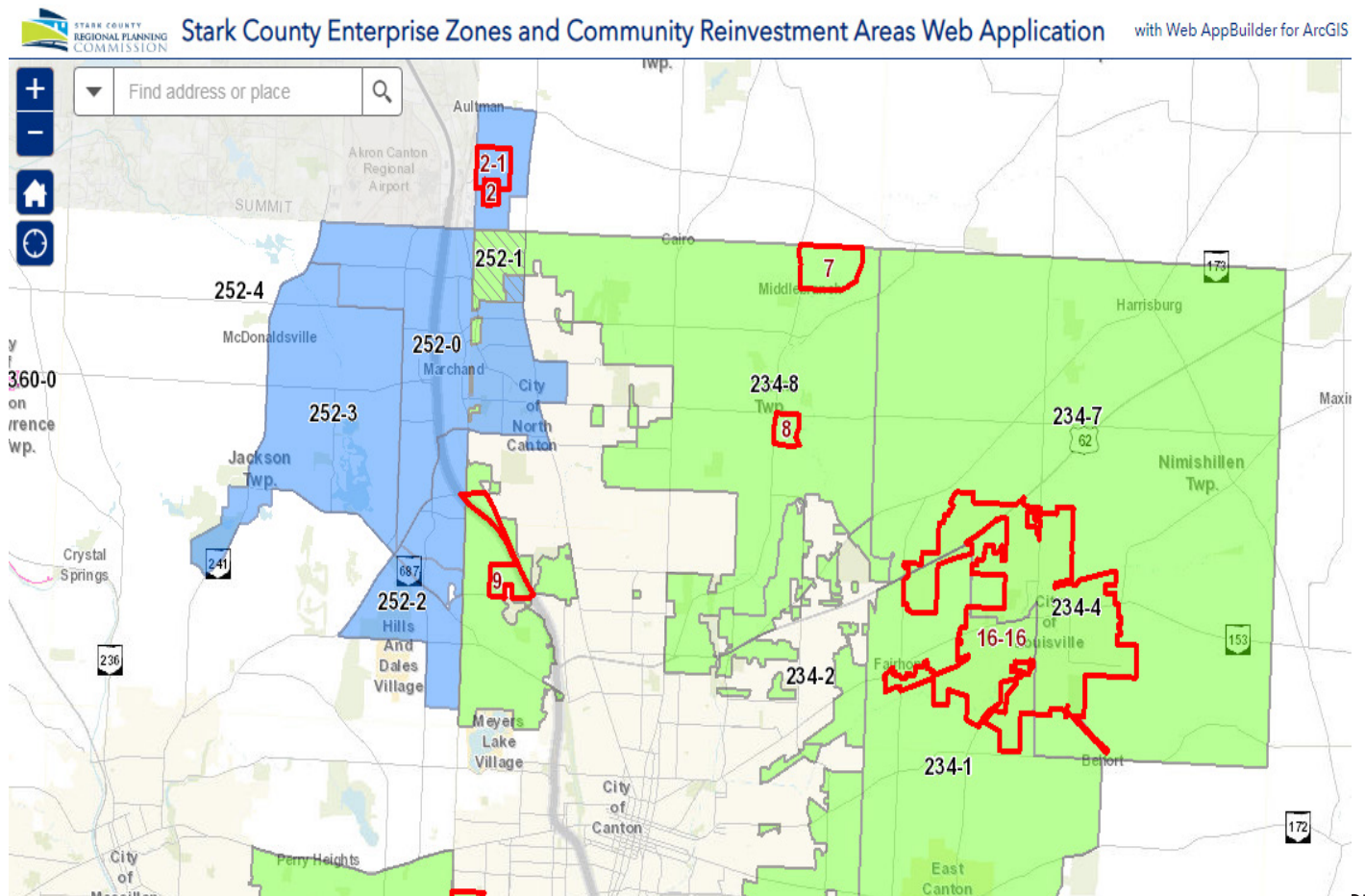
This year, the GIS Department also created an Operations Dashboard to showcase and visualize the data collected. The dashboard is a web application that is configurable with location information and can be updated in real-time as data is collected in the field.



The department also got underway with easement mapping for Jackson and Plain Townships. This project mainly is focused on storm water easements, but may include other utility easements, such as sanitary, water, electric or gas. The easements are found using several different methods, including construction drawings, plat archives, tax maps and deeds, with help from the Stark County Subdivision Engineer and the Stark County Recorder's Office.



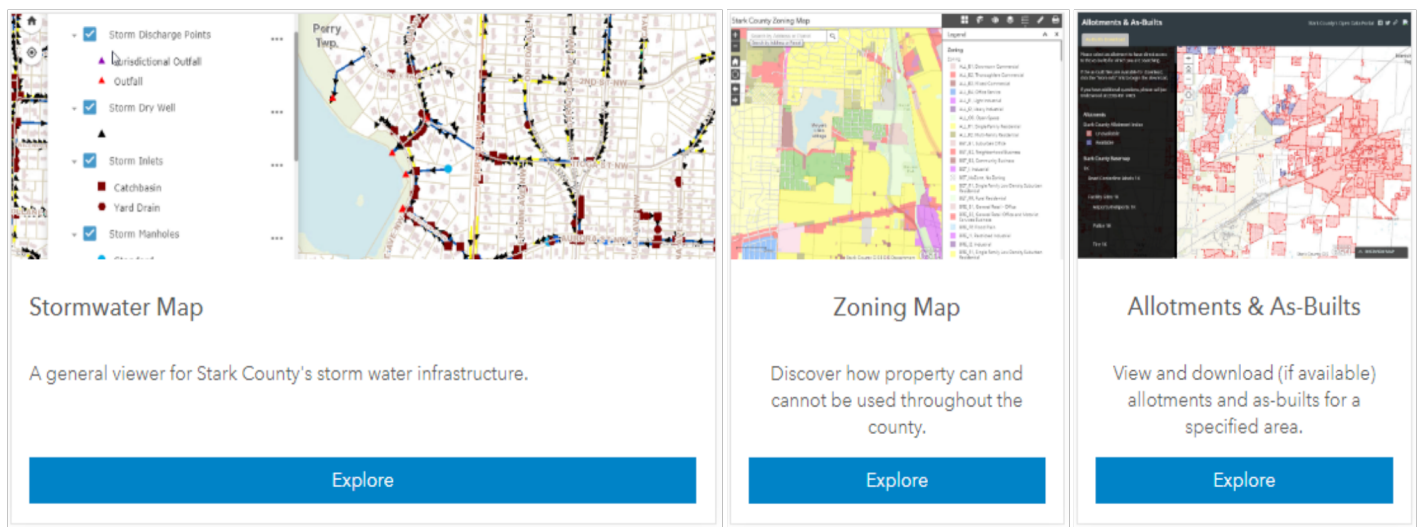
The GIS Department took the lead in creating the Stark County Enterprise Zones (EZ) and Community Reinvestment Areas (CRA) web application through a joint effort with the Stark County Commissioners Office and the Stark County Auditor. EZs are designated areas that promote local economic development through tax or regulatory exemptions granted by a government authority. CRAs are designated land areas that owners can receive tax incentives for making improvements to the property. This web application will help potential investors see and interact with these areas so that they may make the most informed decision to benefit themselves and the county as a whole.



The GIS Department is currently working with the Stark County Auditor's office to create web applications for housing, outfall and construction inspections. Survey 123(ESRI) and other software are being utilized to create smart forms that can be accessed and uploaded from mobile devices in the field. It makes data collection faster and more organized by eliminating paper so that analysis can be improved and more easily accessed.

GIS Around the County

The GIS Hub, created by the Stark County Auditor GIS Department, is an online resource that showcases most of the mapping applications created by several different county departments/agencies. This hub covers many different topics, such as elections, environmental, land management, public health and safety, public utility, real estate and transportation. The SCRPC also contributes to the GIS Hub with several different applications, including storm water and zoning.



The Stark County GIS Steering Committee continued to meet up in 2018 in an effort to collaborate on projects around the county. SCRPC is an integral member of this committee, which helps support and expand the county GIS capabilities. Some of the policies and standards discussed and implemented:

- GPS standards for software and equipment
- asset management
- change request standards for Municipalities (Zoning, addressing, assets)
- standards implementation for Geodatabase, ArcGIS Online and Server
- free GIS class for the public to learn new GIS Web Applications available throughout the county
- data duplication

New aeriels were flown in the spring of 2018 by the Stark County Auditor and the Stark County Emergency Management Agency and are available for public use. They are available on several different mediums.

Fiscal

	2018 Actual Income	2019 Projected Income
Taxes	\$3,910.93	\$4,000.00
Charges for Services	\$6,028.19	\$6,663.00
Licenses and Permits	\$20,190.80	\$20,000.00
Fines & Forfeitures	\$0.00	\$0.00
Intergovernmental - includes Federal, State, Local Reimbursements & Contract Services	\$2,137,489.68	\$2,118,119.00
Other Revenue	\$26,118.41	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$2,193,738.01	\$2,148,782.00

	2018 Actual Expenses	2019 Projected Expenses
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,781,043.86	\$1,892,594.00
Supplies	\$27,008.96	\$22,340.00
Purchased Services	\$317,761.75	\$178,493.00
Capital Outlay	\$7,455.00	\$16,800.00
Other	\$49,644.63	\$38,555.00
TOTAL	\$2,182,914.20	\$2,148,782.00

The Regional Planning Commission's financial records were audited in 2018 by State Auditor Dave Yost's office. The audit was completed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and there were no findings or questioned costs for the year 2017.

2018 SCRPC Members

President: Wayne Schillig

Vice-President: Kris Vincent

Secretary: Galen Stoll

Executive Committee

Janet Weir Creighton, Commissioners - President

John Ferrero, Jr., County Prosecutor

Alan Andreani, City of Alliance/Joe Mazzola, alt.

Thomas Bernabei, City of Canton

Kathy Catazaro-Perry, City of Massillon/David Maley, alt.

*Robert Leach, Village of Magnolia

*Vince Marion, City of Louisville

*Wayne Schillig, Marlboro Township

*David McAlister, County-at-Large

*Carl Rose, County-at-Large

*Ronald Revlock, County-at-Large

*Anthony Peldunas, County-at-Large

*Galen Stoll, County-at-Large

*Robert Sanderson, County-at-Large

*Kris Vincent, Osnaburg Township

*** 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

Vincent Mueser, alt.

Health Commissioner

Kirkland Norris

Todd Paulus, alt.

Stark County Park District

Robert Fonte

CAC President

Josh Staley

Prosecutor

John Ferrero, Jr.

Stephan Babik, alt.

Michael Bickis, alt.

Deborah Dawson, alt.

Ross Rhodes, alt.

City Members

Alliance

Mayor Alan Andreani

Joe Mazzola, alt.

Canal Fulton

Mayor Joe Schultz

Mark Cozy, alt.

Canton

Mayor Thomas Bernabei

Donn Angus

Maureen Austin

Dan Moeglin

Rhoderick Simpson

Louisville

Mayor Patricia Fallot

Vince Marion, alt.

Massillon

Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry

David Maley

Jason Popiel

Jason Haines, alt.

Lori Kotagides-Boron, alt.

Samantha Walters, alt.

North Canton

Mayor David Held

Robert Graham

County Appointments

David McAlister

Joe Lorenz

Anthony Peldunas

Margy Poorman

Ronald Revlock

Carl Rose

Robert Sanderson

Joseph Skubiak

Galen Stoll

Members Continued

Township Members

Bethlehem

William McGovern

Canton

Christopher Nichols

Mark Shaffer

John Ring, alt.

Hallie Umpleby, alt.

Jackson

Todd Hawke

John Pizzino

James Walters

Ralph Boger, alt.

Joni Poindexter, alt.

Mike Vaccaro, alt.

Lake

John Arnold

Steven Miller

Jeremy Yoder, alt.

Lexington

James Mathews

Marlboro

Wayne Schillig

Nimishillen

Jeff Shipman

George Kiko

Jennifer Leone, alt.

Osnaburg

Kris Vincent

Brenda Griffith, alt.

Pike

Douglas Baum

Plain

Scott Haws

Al Leno

John Sabo

Lisa Campbell, alt.

Sandy

Bruce Weisburn- deceased

Scott Welker

Washington

Meritt Boyce

Village Members

Beach City

Mayor John Thomas

Brewster

Mayor Mike Schwab

East Canton

Mayor Kathleen Almasy

East Sparta

Mayor Donald Stropki

Hartville

Mayor Cynthia Billings

Hills & Dales

Mayor Mark Samolczyk

Limaville

Mayor Mark Johnston

Magnolia

Mayor Robert Leach

Meyers Lake

Mayor Beth Williams

Minerva

Mayor James Waller

David Harp, alt.

Navarre

Mayor Robert Benson

Waynesburg

Mayor Douglas Welch

Larry Hawkins, alt.

Wilmot

Mayor Robert Pulley

2018 Committees

SCATS Policy Committee

Chair: Curtis Bungard

Vice-Chair: Dan Moeglin

Members

Alan Andreani
Tom Ault
Keith Bennett
Thomas Bernabei
Ralph Boger
Janet Weir Creighton
Charles DeGraff
John Hagan
David Held
John Highman
Gerald Hollinger
Dan Millsap
Dan Moeglin
Kathy Catazaro-Perry
John Picuri
H. Steven Poulos
Jason Pugh
Richard Regula
Joe Schutlz
William Smtih
Dave Torrence

Audit Committee

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

Citizens' Advisory Council

Chair: Josh Staley
Vice-Chair: Jason Pugh
Members: all citizens working/residing in
Stark County

Alternates

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

Technical Advisory Committee

Chair: Dave Torrence

James Adams	Dan Moeglin
Tom Ault	Rick McQueen
Keith Bennett	Robert Nau
Curtis Bungard	John Picuri
Kirt Conrad	Jason Popiel
Mark Cozy	Steve Rebillot, alt.
Robert Graham	Chad Root, alt.
Nick Loukas, alt.	Dave Torrence
Vince Marion, alt.	

Subdivision Review Subcommittee

Chair: Ron Revlock, County-at-Large

Chair: Todd Paulus (effective 9/18)

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

(plus any interested RPC member)

2018 Planning Staff

Robert Nau, Executive Director

SCATS

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

Community Development

Lynn Carlone
Chief of Community Development
Sarah Peters
Senior Community Development Planner
Jill Ross
Housing Counselor
Katie Phillips
Planner
Amanda Davey - resigned 8-18
Planner
Katie Puleo
Community Development Planner
Steve Williams
Senior Housing Rehab Specialist
Jeff Bartolone - retired 3-18
Housing Rehab Inspector
Foster Pool
Housing Rehab Inspector

Fair Housing

Valerie Watson
Fair Housing Manager

Planning

Rachel Forchione
Chief of Planning
Emma Posillico - resigned 8-18
Regional Planner
Jonelle Melnichenko
Regional Planner
Chris Wilken
Regional Planner
Malia Watkins
Community Relations Planner

Subdivision Engineering

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

Fiscal

Heather Cunningham
Fiscal Officer
Elonda Eford
Fiscal Clerk

GIS

Sean Phillips, GISP
GIS Manager
Heath Hayes
GIS Analyst

Office Management

Jill Gerber
Office Manager
Jennifer Young
Secretary

Staff Attorney

Dave Thorley



**STARK COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**

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