

Planning Progress

April - June 2012

Volume 50 Issue 2

Fair Housing Month

**UNLESS YOU REPORT
HOUSING DISCRIMINATION,
IT WON'T STOP!**



Discrimination isn't always obvious. Unsuspecting renters may be politely turned away from the housing of their choice.

Learn Some Possible Signs Of Discrimination!

"We don't allow kids on the 2nd floor. It's not safe."

"Sorry, we just rented the last apartment."

"We have to charge you a fee for your therapeutic animal."

"I can't assign you a handicap parking space."

This April marks the 44th Anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act. While much has been accomplished since the passage of the law, more work remains in our struggle to achieve equality and racial justice. Federal law makes it unlawful to discriminate in housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or family status.

If you suspect housing discrimination, report it!



STARK COUNTY FAIR HOUSING
330-451-7775

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Annual Dinner

Approximately 130 guests gathered at Skyland Pines for this year's SCRPC Annual Dinner. Bob Fonte, Executive Director of Stark County Park District, was the guest speaker. The focus of his speech was "Your Stark Parks: Completing YOUR Neighborhood, how Stark Parks Strengthens Your Community's Economic and Physical Health."

Fonte shared the history and many interesting facts about the Park District. He stated, "Stark Parks bring jobs. Businesses along the trails are thriving." The presentation stated that the parks and trails bring and enhance tourism, thus, strengthening the economy. Fonte held up a map showing that 85% of the people in Stark County have direct access (3 miles or less) to a Stark Parks Trail or facility. He finished with great parks and trails strengthen the economy, improve health, and improve the quality of life.



"Stark Parks improves quality of life in a way that can attract businesses and bring jobs.."

Bob Fonte

The Park District has grown tremendously with Fonte at the helm. Currently, the district offers:

- 7,000 acres of land, including 2,800 acres open to hunting and 1,200 acres of lakes, ponds, reservoirs
- 80+ miles of walking/bicycling trails
- 38 miles of equestrian trails
- 13 parks, including 25 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canalway
- 746 educational programs and events for 36,301 participants
- 46 Distance Learning programs for 2,725 students across the U.S.

The Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake Park is a center of nature, culture and life-long learning. Established in 2007 in collaboration with the Stark County District Library, the partnership was the first of its kind in the nation, allowing the two public partners to expand their programming, work together, save taxpayer dollars and provide a community asset.

Gratitude and appreciation were expressed to Bob Sanderson as Vince Marion, current RPC President, presented him with a plaque for his leadership as president of RPC during 2010-2011.



Governmental Law Seminar

This year's Governmental Law Seminar, co-sponsored by RPC and the Stark County Prosecutor's Office, was held February 18, at Walsh University. The main speakers for this event were attorneys, R. Todd Hunt and Jonathan Greenberg. Both are with Walter and Haverfield, LLP. They addressed the various issues with Internet Cafes/Skilled Games. Other speakers included: Amy Sabino - Court of Appeals; Michael Bickis, Deborah Dawson, Ross Rhodes, Kathy Tatarsky, and Gerard Yost from the Prosecutor's Office; Rachel Lewis, Cliff Meidlein, and David Thorley from RPC; Todd Paulus - S.C. Health Department; Nick Campanelli - Plain Township Zoning; Amanda Bennett - Ohio Department of Agriculture; and Jeff Anderle - Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium. Sessions at the seminar covered topics such as zoning basics, nuisance abatement, sustainable planning, public records/records retention, agricultural preservation/zoning, and other legal issues.

Township & Village
Officials listen to a
presentation by
Jeff Anderle - NEOSCC



Rachel Lewis - RPC
Amanda Bennett - Ohio Dept.
of Agriculture

Michael Bickis - Prosecutor's Office



Pond/ Lake Maintenance

Fighting algae and mosquitos in stormwater ponds is made easier with moving water.

For retaining or detaining water from a stormwater system, or within a site, they serve their purpose well; in addition, ponds can greatly enhance a site's aesthetic appeal. On the flip side, however, standing water can become an eyesore at best, and a health hazard at worst. Keeping algae and breeding mosquitos at bay can be a simpler matter if one takes a tip from nature by keeping the water moving. Towering falls or raging rapids aren't required; simple fountains, aerators, or bubblers can often do the trick.

SolarBee Inc. manufactures solar-powered circulators. Products are dispatched nationwide and final assembly occurs at the customer's site. SolarBee takes into consideration customers' water-quality objectives which may result in configuration or deployment differences. "Before Solarbee, blue-green algae was a big issue," says Carl Scott, stormwater supervisor, for Greenfield Municipal Utilities in Wilmington, NC. Nutrient pollution from stormwater drainage was another serious problem. In a city-owned manmade lake, pesticides were sprayed yearly. With the SolarBees, they have reduced what they put in for algae by two-thirds. The solar-powered circulators

don't do everything, he notes. "We still get lake-edge vegetation which we must remove mechanically. In the spring, we add Sonar herbicide to regain control of lake vegetation. Where other herbicides can drop to the bottom of the lake, rot plants, and rob oxygen from the lake, Sonar works slower, and we don't see such problems. Also, SolarBee actually added oxygen to the lake, about 20%, in the main body of the lake and kept it up."

David Mayes, stormwater services manager for Greenfield, stated that a cleaner lake was another added bonus. "For years, a local advocacy group, Cape Fear River Watch, has operated the concession stand where canoes and paddle boats are rented for use on the lake. Prior to us doing all this work, few people wanted to rent boats, and those who did demanded their money back because the lake was so thick with stuff. After the SolarBees went in, receipts from boat rentals went way up-people wanted to be on the lake."



SolarBee circulator operating in pond

Ron Joseph, owner of Berea, Ohio's Aquatic Weed Control, maintains and manages water sites for a variety of clients. "What a landscaper does on land, I do on water. We put in chemicals, stock fish, maintain and install water features for residential and commercial sites. It all depends on what the basins are being used for. Algae growth and mosquitos are common problems. We can use algaecides, but movement of water defeats algae, while it also stops mosquitoes from laying eggs."

Many of the lakes Joseph maintains are rain-fed; however, summer 2010 brought a drought to Ohio. "A handful of lakes were having trouble keeping filled, not only because there was little rainfall, but also due to the high temperatures. Many times we had to compensate by using chemicals to eliminate algae. Then, when the lakebed is exposed, you can get weed growth. Any grass that shows up is chemically treated, not mowed."



Just a small bit of movement is enough to keep the lake flowing and algae free.

For lakes and ponds that retain their water, Joseph depends on aerators and fountains from Air-O-Later in Kansas City, MO. The company sells aerators and fountains that increase oxygen levels in water, which reduces surface algae formation and maintains a balanced ecosystem throughout the pond. In some applications, the equipment promotes evaporation, which helps lower the water level before the next rain while also decreasing the water temperature.

"I chose Air-O-Later because of the amount of water they move-about 1,000

gallons per minute. How many fountains you use depends upon the surface acres and shape of the pond. For a pond of a half to a full acre, you could probably use just one fountain. A surface aerator can shoot up to five feet high in diameter." The plumes of water, not only create agitation (helping to keep the water from stagnating), but also provide a tranquil, splashing white noise. Once the aerators are installed, developers need to tell the homeowners how to help keep their water features healthy. They should not fertilize their lawns near the pond.

Joseph adds, "golf courses, homeowners associations, commercial sites-they're paying for the water's aesthetics." No matter what the water level, the site has to be maintained.

Janis Keating, *Stormwater*, July/August 2011

Traffic Count Data Available Online

Traffic count data for most of the major roadways in Stark County is now available online. Interested persons can access this data by visiting the Stark County Regional Planning Commission's website at www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us and clicking on the Transportation Tab on the top of the page. Once on the Transportation page, simply follow the directions under the heading – "I Need a Traffic Count."

The traffic count database is hosted by Midwestern Software Solutions located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their site is user friendly and the Transportation page also has a link for "HELP Using Our Database". The HELP link is a brief tutorial on how to use the site. If additional help using the site is needed, citizens can contact SCATS at 330-451-7389 and ask for Dan Slicker or Rick Keyes.



Sunshine Law Training Session

Ohio Law requires that all elected officials or their appropriate designees attend training approved by the Ohio Attorney General. SCRPC is hosting a three hour certification Sunshine Law Training Session. The training is provided by the Ohio Attorney General's Office and will include discussion of the Ohio Public Records Act (including definitions, obligations, liabilities, and exemptions) and the Ohio Open Meetings Act.

When: Thursday, April 26, 2012

Where: Exploration Gateway

Time: 9:00 - 12:00

Cost: FREE!

You must register on the Attorney General Office's website- www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov

For more information, contact Regional Planning at 330-451-7405.

Facebook



SCRPC recently launched a page on Facebook. All of our latest meetings, projects, events, photos, and information will be posted. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Housing Stability Program/CoC

On behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission submitted an application to the Ohio Department of Development for funding under the Housing Stability Program. This program will provide funding to help prevent families/individuals from becoming homeless or those already homeless by providing short term rental and utility assistance along with case management. The program will provide the assistance as a supplement to the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) which is currently winding down. Stark County received notification that \$72,600 has been awarded to the County for this program. The County will utilize the same subrecipients- Community Services of Stark County (Prevention) and the YWCA of Canton (Re-Housing) along with the Stark Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (data collection and evaluation) as were used for HPRP. All funding must be expended between April 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012.

Continuum of Care

In October of 2011, the SCRPC's Community Development Department assisted the Stark County Interagency Council on Homelessness (now known as the Stark County Homeless Council) by writing the grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the FY 2011 Continuum of Care (CoC) programs. In late December 2011, the Council was notified that \$1,777,196 was awarded to renewal applications and in February 2012 the Council received word that two new projects were awarded a total of \$419,007. This brings the total awarded under the 2011 CoC program to \$2,196,203. Funding under the CoC program is used for activities that provide transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and supportive services for homeless families and individuals within Stark County. The grant program also provides funding for the local Homeless Management Information System that collects and reports data on the persons being served by the various homeless programs. The table below lists the projects that were awarded funding.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Outreach and Referral Services- renewal	Stark Mental Health & Recovery Services Board	\$47,957
Shelter Plus Care SRA – renewal	Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority	\$171,696
Shelter Plus Care TRA – renewal	Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority	\$423,660
Stark HMIS System Coordination- renewal	Stark Mental Health & Recovery Services Board	\$105,437
New Beginnings House Supportive Housing- renewal	YWCA of Canton	\$32,888
Supportive Services for the Homeless- renewal	Community Services of Stark County	\$133,333
Basic Accommodations Operating- renewal	ICAN, Inc.	\$86,692
Supported Apartments- renewal	ICAN, Inc.	\$190,357
Housing Support Specialist- renewal	YWCA of Canton	\$47,957
Housing First Apartments- renewal	ICAN, Inc.	\$48,134
Genesis Program- renewal	PAL Mission	\$66,666
CoC Supportive Housing Program- renewal	Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center, Inc.	\$62,132
Basic Accommodations Lease Technician- renewal	ICAN, Inc.	\$46,856
ACF Transitional Housing- renewal	Alliance for Children and Families	\$126,786
West Park Apartments- renewal	ICAN, Inc.	\$77,350
Exodus Program- renewal	PAL Mission	\$109,301
Shelter Plus Care PRA Hunter House – new	Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority	\$210,780
STARR (Stark Area Rapid Re-Housing) – new	YWCA of Canton	\$208,227
	TOTAL	\$2,196,209

GIS and Stormwater Management

“Sustain a Greener Ohio” is a collaborative project between the SCRPC and various local community partners. A number of unfunded mandates have been set from the state and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These mandates required municipalities and other entities which oversee stormwater systems to obtain permits and control the release of pollutants into waterways. One of the mandates required the county to map its storm sewer network. Knowing this process would be expensive in terms of manpower and equipment, RPC initiated a collaboration of its Geographical Information System (GIS) Department and local communities. Executive Director, Robert Nau, stated, “We discussed the long term benefits of a countywide GIS map, not only in terms of meeting the EPA mandate, but also in terms of improving our emergency response capacity.”

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RPC Director, Robert Nau

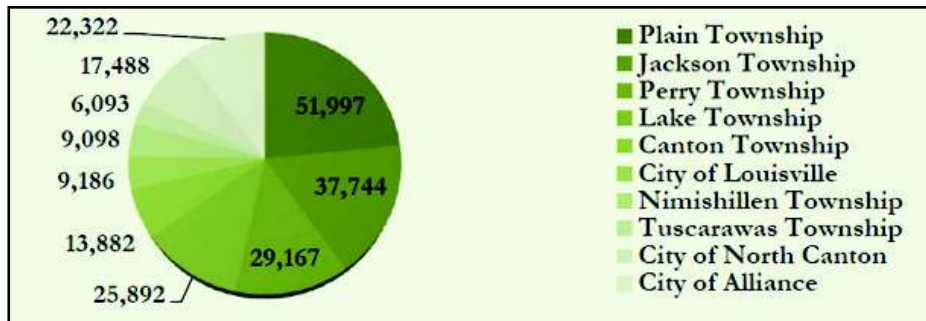
The issue of stormwater management is an important one. Effective stormwater management protects the environment and the public from toxic runoff from roadways and yards. Without appropriate stormwater systems, polluted water may enter waterways or traditional sewer systems that are not designed to process and treat pollutants washed from vehicles, yard pesticides, or other sources of urban runoff resulting in public health and ecological problems.

The EPA requires many urban areas to implement six minimum control measures for stormwater systems:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation and Involvement
- 3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

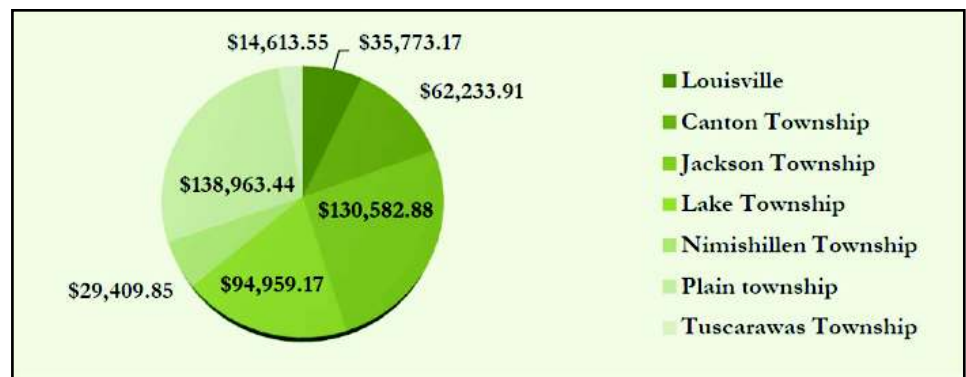
Control measure “3” (above) requires communities to develop comprehensive maps of their stormwater systems to enable tracking of leaks and other weaknesses in the system. These types of leaks are called illicit discharges, and are described as “any discharge into a separate storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of storm water.” Illicit discharges typically enter a stormwater system through direct connection or indirectly from cracked sanitary sewer systems, spills collected by storm drains, or from contaminants dumped into a storm drain. A detailed and comprehensive map of storm sewer systems is critical to tracking and controlling illicit discharges.

SCRPC recognized the importance of meeting these mandates, and also realized that the cost of completing the maps would be very difficult for some of the smaller communities to absorb. The cost of mapping all of the communities which needed to meet the mandate was estimated at \$1.2 million. Using the partnerships formed between entities which participated in the Health Department outfall mapping project, SCRPC proposed collaborative purchasing of mapping equipment, personnel sharing, and joint mapping. This immediately presented an opportunity for cost savings for the partnership as SCRPC already has a Geographic Information System (GIS) Department capable of completing the mapping.



Population of Partners

Final Partner Contributions



Since the inception of “Sustain a Greener Ohio” in 2009, 62% of the mapping is complete with each community experiencing an equal level of completion. The community partners have saved approximately \$700,000 in total. They are satisfied with the progress and results as stated by Tom Ault, the City Manager of Louisville. “In retrospect, would I do it again? Absolutely. We’ve clearly saved money and there is no sign as yet that we will be having any future problems with service.”

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Tom Ault, City Manager
City of Louisville

This project will allow tracking and resolving contamination problems, preserving the safety of the water resources, and the security of the environment, while also protecting public and community health. It will enable the various partners to respond to emergencies real-time, a feat which would not be possible without the help of the County Auditor’s Office - Pictometry online software. The mapping should be complete by December 2013. For more information, contact Sean Phillips at 330-451-7389.



Stark County Regional Planning Commission
201- 3rd St. N.E.
Canton, Ohio 44702

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 357

Upcoming Events

April

2	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
3	SCRPC	7:30 PM
23	SCATS	1:30 PM

May

7	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
8	SCRPC	7:30 PM
29	SCATS	1:30 PM

June

4	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
5	SCRPC	7:30 PM
25	SCATS	1:30 PM

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