



Planning Progress

January - March 2014

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Governmental Law Seminar- a seminar for local officials

Every two years, SCRPC and the Stark County Prosecutor's Office host a governmental law seminar to offer guidance for local township trustees, zoning officials & boards, mayors & council persons to assist them in carrying out their assigned duties with excellence. Sign up now to take advantage of this affordable training. Details are as follows:

Date: Saturday, February 8, 2014

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm (registration begins at 8:30 am)

Place: Stark Parks Exploration Gateway
5710-5712 12th St. NW, Canton, OH 44708

All attendees will get to attend the Keynote Session and select 3 break-out sessions in addition to lunch at noon. Speakers include several attorneys from the prosecutor's office, SCRPC staff, and others from various organizations.

Keynote Speakers: Attorneys David Bridenstine and Ross Rhodes
Topic: Sunshine Law/Running Public Meetings/Hearings

Breakout Sessions:

Nuisance Abatement
Land Bank Update
Public Records & Records Retention
NEOSCC Final Vision for the Region
Rural Community Assistance Program

Employment Law
BZA's/Zoning Enforcement
Economic Development
Fundamentals of Zoning

Cost: \$25.00 per person
(Includes morning coffee/donuts, luncheon and informational materials)

For reservations or questions, call 330-451-7405 or email:
mrwatkins@starkcountyohio.gov

Top Ten Reuse Tips

Reduce waste, conserve resources and save money by choosing to reuse!

1) Buy Used, Surplus, Refurbished & Remanufactured Goods - Whether you need a kitchen cabinet, dress, or toner cartridge; you can green your purchases by visiting local reuse organizations first. Plus you can save 75% off retail.

2) Choose Durables over Disposables - Disposable products add convenience, but consider just one aspect of this market - bottled water: Americans buy 29 billion single serve bottles of water each year, and 75% are thrown out right after use. Use durables such as reusable shopping bags, cloth napkins, and refillable containers.

3) Rent or Borrow Instead of Buying - Consider renting or borrowing items that you will use only infrequently. This may include trailers, camping and gardening equipment, and power tools.

4) Buy in Bulk, rather than Single-Serve - While single-serving foods might be appealing, they are a waste of resources and money. Buy large quantities, and put the contents into small, reusable containers.

5) Zero Waste Meals - When you are packing a lunch, be sure to plan ahead. By packing a waste-free lunch using reusable containers you'll reduce your impact on the earth.

6) Consider Reselling - Got clutter? Need to earn a little extra money? Consider holding a yard sale, listing items on Craigslist, or bringing them to your local consignment shop.

7) Donate it, don't dump it - Give your old stuff new life by contributing it to worthy organizations. Clothing, electronics, home furnishings, and building materials are just a few items that can be donated to reuse organizations, which locally include The Stock Pile, Goodwill, The Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, and others.

8) Compost Your Food Scraps - Make your own compost. By composting your food scraps and yard trimmings you can dramatically reduce the amount of waste you generate and improve your garden at the same time.

9) Reuse Your Rain Water - If you want to save on your water bills, use a rain water barrel to collect water for your garden. This also helps reduce storm water runoff on your property.

10) Leave it on the Lawn - Want a healthier lawn? Using a mulching mower and leave your clippings there- it's better for your lawn and our environment.

NPDES Permit Update

The Ohio EPA will be issuing the third 5-year term National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit in the very near future. Meeting the requirements of this permit through an approved Storm Water Management Program authorizes an operator of a small municipal storm water conveyancy system (MS4) to discharge water from their system under the NPDES. Although this permit has not been formally issued by the Ohio EPA, rumor has it that there will be little to no requirement changes in this permit from the previous one.

For the past several years, various staff members of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission have been assisting many of the MS4's in Stark County with implementation of their Storm Water Management Program. These services can include assistance with best management practices given in any of the minimum measure categories. If you are having difficulties in implementing your program, contact Joe Underwood at Regional Planning at 330-451-7403 if you would like to find out more.

New Logo



With this issue of Planning Progress, SCRPC is introducing its brand new logo. The previous logo was used for many years and it was time for an update. The new logo reflects housing, transportation, and green space as a way to visually represent the heart of the agency's work. A new website will be rolled out soon. The old web address will still work, but in the next month or so, plan to check out SCRPC's new look at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

Annual Dinner

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission will be holding its Annual Dinner on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at Skyland Pines Rustic Lodge and all local officials and interested residents are encouraged to attend. A cash bar will open at 6:00 p.m. with dinner following at 7:00. This year's guest speaker will be Director of Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA), Kirt Conrad. Conrad has a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He was a planner for Summit County's METRO Regional Transit Authority, giving him years of experience and understanding of the federal transit grant system and new transit technology. Conrad's speech will focus on SARTA's new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Facility and buses.

Registration deadline is March 12th. The cost per person is \$27. For additional information or to register, please call 330-451-7405 or email mrwatkins@starkcountyohio.gov.

Money for Home Repairs Available!

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission, under contract to the Board of Stark County Commissioners, offers a government, HUD-funded, Housing Rehabilitation Program to help low-to moderate-income residents rehab their homes. It provides a one-time only combination grant/deferred loan for qualified homeowners. The homes must be single-family, owner-occupied and located outside of the city limits of Canton, Massillon, and the Village of Hills & Dales. Work can include electric, plumbing, roofs, windows, furnaces, siding, flooring, etc. Work that makes a house decent, safe, and sanitary usually qualifies. (Some emergency grant repairs are also available). This is a great opportunity for qualifying homeowners to carry out needed repairs. Please share this information with anyone you think might benefit. For more information, contact Jill Ross at 330-451-7399.



Before



After

Need Home Repairs?

Money Is Available!!

Work may include:

Electric, plumbing, heating, roofs, gutters, windows, doors, siding, insulation and more.

Homeowners living in Stark County* may qualify for a grant/deferred loan combination.

It's simple to see if you qualify!



Contact Jill Ross at **330-451-7399** for information.

Available through the Stark County Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Program.

*(Program does not include residents living inside the city limits of Canton, Massillon, Alliance, or the Village of Hills & Dales.)

Stark Park Plan Updated

In February 2013, the Stark County Park District contracted with SCRPC to update their five-year park plan, which was originally created in 1987 and last updated in 2006. The 2014-2018 Stark County Park Plan will provide an update on the progress of projects identified in the previous plan, incorporate suggestions from park staff and the general public, and provide recommendations for the next five years.

Material covered in the Park Plan consists of a discussion of baseline data about the Park District and Stark County, and a comparison analysis between Stark Parks and other park districts. Other sections of the Park Plan review revenue sources and development opportunities, and provide recommendations for park improvements over the next five years.



Cover of 2014-2018 Park Plan



Cross-Country Skier on a Stark Parks Trail

Several public meetings were held throughout Stark County to gather public input and present findings, which have been incorporated into the new plan, along with survey responses and feedback from park staff and volunteers. The 2014-2018 Stark County Park Plan, which is in its final revisions period, is expected to be completed by end of year.

Some of the projects proposed for the next five years include additional trail development for hiking and biking, as well as trails for equestrian use. A new wildlife rehabilitation center, additional boat ramps/docks, picnic shelters, signage and continued development of the Fry Family Park are also included on the project list for the next five years.



Kayakers at Walborn Reservoir

ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (5310)

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) legislation was signed into law in 2012 and reauthorized surface transportation programs while making a number of changes to grant programs.

One of the changes combined the previous New Freedom grant program (which primarily funded operating projects to transport seniors and those with disabilities) with the Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities program (which primarily funded capital projects) into a new 5310 (refers to section of federal law) program which funds both types of projects.

Under the new program, Stark County will receive almost \$300,000 per year to provide grants for projects. At least 55% of program funds must be used on capital projects that are public transportation projects planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities when public transportation is insufficient, inappropriate, or unavailable.

The remaining 45% may be used for public transportation projects that exceed the requirements of the ADA such as projects that improve access to fixed-route service and decrease reliance by individuals with disabilities on complementary paratransit service and/or alternatives to public transportation that assist seniors and individuals with disabilities.

SARTA, SCATS, and the Stark County Mobility Coordination Committee will work cooperatively to manage the program.

Ohio & Erie Canal Trail Aqueduct Bridge Opens



(Left to Right, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition CEO Dan Rice, Stark Parks Director Bob Fonte, Tuscarawas County Commissioner Belle Everett, Stark County Commissioner Richard Regula, former Congressman Ralph Regula, Tuscarawas County Commissioner Chris Abbuhl, Tuscarawas County Commissioner Kerry Metzger, Stark Parks Commissioner Steve Poulos)

With the opening of the Aqueduct Bridge in December of 2013, the towpath trail literally connects Stark and Tuscarawas Counties. The bridge, with its north abutment in Stark County and south abutment in Tuscarawas County, crosses the Tuscarawas River off of SR 212 near the Village of Bolivar. This was the last “missing link” needed to connect Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas Counties together with the trail.

While major work on the trail remains in Tuscarawas and Cuyahoga Counties and the Tremont bridge connection in Massillon, trail users can now travel between the four counties unimpeded.

The \$1.2 million bridge project was funded from a grant arranged by former US Representative Ralph Regula with matching funds provided by Stark Parks, the Tuscarawas County Commissioners and a donation from the Chesapeake Energy Corporation.

SARTA “Pinpoint” Makes Riding the Bus Easier



The new Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) Pinpoint information system makes finding bus information as easy as taking a picture (with a smartphone or tablet).

With pinpoint, real time bus information is available using your phone, smartphone, tablet, or desktop. At a bus stop and wondering how soon the bus will arrive? Take a picture of the Quick Response code (bar code) with your smart phone and Pinpoint will show you the information.

Don't have a smart phone? Call the phone number and input the stop id number and a recording will tell you when the next bus will arrive.

With Pinpoint, you can simplify trip planning, receive email alerts for bus stop arrivals, track the buses on their routes and see locations of bus stops.

Go to <http://www.sartaonline.com/sarta-pinpoint> for more information.



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

Upcoming Events

January

6	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
7	SCRPC	7:30 PM
27	SCATS	1:30 PM

February

3	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
4	SCRPC	7:30 PM
24	SCATS	1:30 PM

March

3	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
4	SCRPC	7:30 PM
24	SCATS	1:30 PM

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