

Planning Progress

January - March 2011

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Energy Efficiency Update

Good news! The Local Government Rebate Program has changed by offering more to the local subdivisions. Rebates are still available for qualified energy efficiency retrofits to local cities, townships, and villages within Stark County (outside the City of Canton). However, the rebate amount has changed. The program will now permit a rebate of up to **90%** of the cost of the retrofits to a maximum of \$1000 per political subdivision. For more information, call 330-451-7904.

Work on the energy efficiency upgrades to various County owned buildings through the county's federal energy efficiency grant is progressing well. Status of the various projects is as follows:

- The Jail boilers replacement project is 70% complete with the new boilers currently in operation.
- The County Office Building boilers heating/cooling coils, pumps and VAV boxes replacement project is expected to start construction in January.
- Construction bids for the County Office Building lighting improvements project are due on February 4 with actual construction expected to start shortly thereafter.
- Jail chiller replacement project - construction expected to start in March.
- Courthouse garage ventilation system replacement should begin construction this Spring.
- The Jail lighting improvements project should be underway in early March.

Canal Clean-Up



SCRPC, Stark Parks, the City of Canal Fulton, and Prago's Pizza sponsored a clean-up event in September 2010. Volunteers gathered in Canal Fulton to pick up litter along the canal.

Canton Central High School students:
Marisa Carlone and Holly Stuffer

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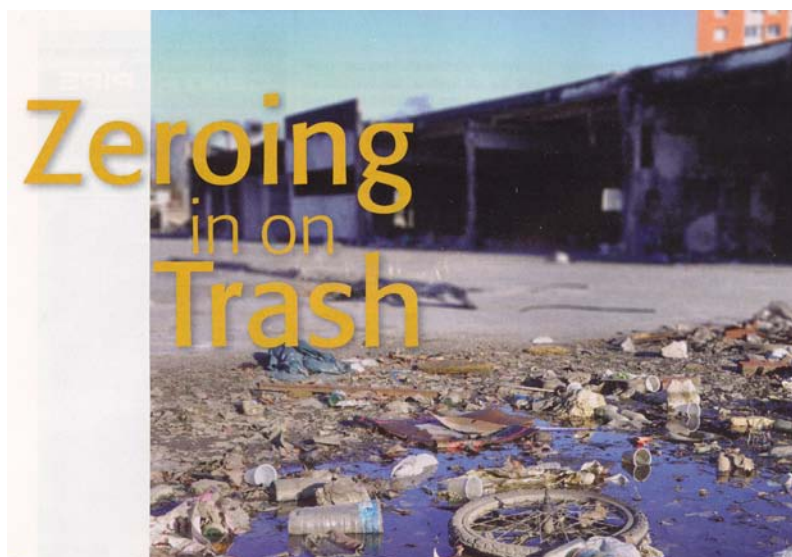
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Dirty Water



The scene in Los Angeles after a typical rainstorm is described as “a mass of trash.” No, we don’t live in L.A. but our circumstances are not much different.

Most people know trash when they see it. And when they see it floating down a stream, piling up, or blowing around, most people feel its impact lowers the quality of life. It is often interpreted as a sign of an underlying dysfunction in a community, providing a catalyst for a spiral of negative attitudes and behaviors, and it discourages the enjoyment of the outdoors.

Decomposing litter robs water of oxygen, making life difficult for aquatic species. Animals sometimes ingest it, and it affects their breeding, affects their growth, and some, it just kills off right away. Wing Tam, director of the Los Angeles Watershed Protection Division, says trash also impacts efforts to manage other water-quality issues. For instance, trash in the water “can harbor bacteria or promote growth of bacteria, so if you deal with the trash you can also reduce bacteria levels.” This is not a revelation, it is common sense, so why do people still litter?

Reducing any pollutant to zero is by definition difficult, if not practically impossible. We should try to eliminate litter at its source, before it makes its way into the storm drain system. Trash makes its way into streams, rivers, lakes, etc. in a number of ways. It can be blown by the wind, tossed in directly, or washed in from the streets along with stormwater. Trash is captured in the storm drains with paper products and styrofoam topping the list. Other items include plastic bags, bottles, and glass. Tam says that overall, “a lot of it comes from fast food and people not picking up after themselves.”

In order to meet standards set by the EPA, Los Angeles had to do something (as does everyone nationwide). In trying to find the most appropriate solution, “we came to the conclusion the best approach for us was to implement catch basin inserts and opening screen covers right before you get to the storm drain. That seemed to be the most cost effective, and easier to do in terms of maintenance,” says Tam.

The inlet deflector’s stainless steel 5-mm mesh prevents trash from entering into the catch basin during dry weather, keeping the rubbish on the pavement to be picked up by street sweepers. To prevent flooding during storms, the trash-deflecting grates at street level are designed to flip open hydraulically when the catch basin fills with stormwater to a predefined limit, removing any impediment to the flow. Although that would allow any trash that had accumulated during the interval since the last street sweeping to fall into the catch basin, a catch basin insert screen installed outside the basin prevents trash from entering the storm drain.

There is no easy solution because each area has its own unique issues, but something needs to be done to better protect our water.

Stormwater- Nov./Dec. 2010- David C. Richardson

Agricultural/Economic Development Workshop

SCRPC will be co-sponsoring a workshop with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Council, Holmes County Regional Planning, Tuscarawas County Farm Bureau, and the Tuscarawas County Regional Planning Commission. The seminar will promote agriculture and farmland protection as significant ways to maintain and sustain economic development.

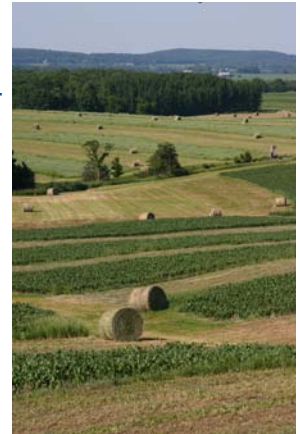
The focus of the session is to underscore the vitality and viability of agriculture as economic development and to explore the diverse ways agriculture can be utilized to build and sustain markets, jobs, and business opportunities. With an emphasis on preservation of current farmlands, information will be presented to illustrate how land management, product processing, community planning, and reassessment of open spaces can become productive and financially sustainable business operations.

Attendees will learn what tools and programs are available for businesses including government resources, private land trusts, and new strategies for more creative applications of agriculture as business.

All local officials are encouraged to attend to learn more about policy development and the possible revenue streams agricultural assets can produce.

Anyone interested in agricultural land management, traditional farm production, food processing and supply chain services, or ready to consider any ag-related business possibility will benefit from the workshop.

The Wilderness Center will host this free event January 26, 2011 from 1:00-3:30. For more information, contact SCRPC at 330-451-7446 or Crossroads RC&D at 330-339-9317.



Ohio
Agriculture



Stark County's FY 2011 HOME Funding



Alliance for Children & Families- A-FIRST

A 10-unit permanent supportive housing project in the City of Alliance assisted with HOME funds

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission is under contract to the Board of Stark County Commissioners to administer the Stark County HOME program. Stark County receives this federal funding as a direct entitlement grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Last year, the County received approximately \$939,000 in HOME funding. It is expected that for FY 2011, the County will receive approximately this same HOME allocation amount and will be available for use between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

Stark County participates in the HOME program as a consortium with both of the cities of Massillon and Alliance, thus a portion of Stark County's HOME funding will be provided to each. The cities will receive 18.35% and 20.25%, respectively, of the HOME allocation for use in their jurisdictions.

HOME eligible activities are housing-related projects that benefit low-and moderate-income persons/households. Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) are encouraged to apply. The County plans to allocate up to \$140,800 of HOME funding to such activities.

A HOME "Request for Proposal" workshop was held on November 17th, with applications for this upcoming HOME program being due by Friday, January 14th at Noon. After the applications are received, they will be reviewed by staff. A decision in regard to the 2011 program is expected to be presented to the public by mid-March, with a public hearing to take place in early April presenting the proposed program to the Board of Stark County Commissioners. For questions about the HOME program, please contact Lynn Carlone, Community Development Administrator at 330-451-7774.

NSP Homes

Acquisition-Rehab-Resale

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is continuing to implement the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) in Stark County by working with local partners to purchase, rehabilitate and resell vacant and foreclosed homes. SCRPC partners have acquired and began rehabilitation, or completed rehab, on 14 properties, four of which have been sold. Qualified buyers can also get down payment assistance of up to 7% of the purchase price toward an NSP home. This assistance is in the form a 5-year, 0% interest, forgivable loan. A regularly updated listing of available NSP homes can be found at: www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us (click on NSP homes)

The homes shown below are currently for sale through the NSP program.



5930 Stark Blvd. NE, Louisville



614- 37th St. SE, Canton

Demolition

Also under the NSP, SCRPC is presently working with local jurisdictions to eliminate blighted and nuisance properties in Stark County through a residential demolition program. SCRPC and partnering local jurisdictions have demolished seven blighted residential structures and are under contract to demolish an additional four structures. The nuisance properties below have been demolished through the NSP program.



841 Downing St. SW
East Sparta



111 Wood St. South
East Canton

For more information on these activities, or the NSP program in general, please call Dan Morganti, Community Development Planner, at 330-451-7031.

OPWC Funds

The District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee (OPWC) met November 18, 2010 to review the program year projects for the Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS). SCATS Principal Planner, Jeff Dotson, stated “This was a very competitive round of funding and we believe we have selected a worthy slate of projects to be funded next year.” The following projects were approved by the committee:

SCIP

The following projects will be funded under the State Capital Improvement Program and funds will be available in July 1011.

Applicant: City of North Canton
Project: Lynbrook Sanitary Sewer

Project Cost: \$356,497
OPWC Funds: \$356,497

The City of North Canton will receive a loan to fund a replacement of a 47 year old sanitary sewer line on Lynbrook and Pineview Avenue south of Schneider Street. There will be approximately 1,000 feet of pipe cured in place and 520 feet of new PVC pipe.

Applicant: City of North Canton
Project: North Main St. Reconstruction, Ph.VI

Project Cost: \$4,287,420
OPWC Funds: \$1,537,420

The City will receive a grant for Phase 6 of the North Main Street reconstruction project. The project will widen North Main Street from 4 lanes to 5 lanes from just south of Applegrove to the northern city limits at Orion Street.

Applicant: City of North Canton
Project: East Maple Reconstruction

Project Cost: \$2,503,978
OPWC Funds: \$1,226,950

The City of North Canton will receive a grant for the reconstruction of East Maple Street. The project will provide a third lane for left turns, remove McKinley Avenue from Maple to the YMCA and consolidate several drives into two signalized intersections.

Applicant: City of Canton
Project: Harrisburg NE Waterline

Project Cost: \$645,000
OPWC Funds: \$645,000

The City of Canton will receive a combination of grant and loan funds for the replacement of the main distribution line from the Northeast Water Treatment plant on Harrisburg Road NE. The project will replace 2,000 feet of waterline of 12 inch waterline that was originally constructed in 1913. This line has experienced several breaks in recent months.

Applicant: Stark County
Project: Sanitary Sewer Project 566, Plain Interceptor

Project Cost: \$1,650,000
OPWC Funds: \$808,500

This combination loan and grant will allow the Sanitary Sewer District to proceed with Project #566. The project consists of the construction of a trunk sewer in southeastern Plain Township. A 43 year old damaged section of sanitary sewer will be abandoned following construction of this project.

Applicant: City of Canton
Project: 55th St. NE Storm Sewer

Project Cost: \$985,000
OPWC Funds: \$808,500

The City will receive a grant and loan for the replacement of undersized storm sewers along 55th St NE, east of Market Avenue. Several areas along 55th street flood on a regular basis, including the intersection of Beverly and Buena Vista. The project will also construct curb and sidewalks in certain locations.

Applicant: Stark County
Project: Battlesburg St. Bridge

Project Cost: \$600,000
OPWC Funds: \$550,000

The County Engineer will receive a loan for the replacement of the bridge on Battlesburg Street over the Nimishillen Creek in Pike Township. The project will replace the existing bridge superstructure. The new concrete box beams will be composite with a new concrete deck and approach slabs. The existing bridge was built in 1976.

LTIP

The following projects will be funded under the Local Transportation Improvement Program and funds for these projects will be available July 1, 2011.

Applicant: Stark County/Jackson Twp.
Project: Hills & Dales/Dressler - Woodlawn Intersection

Project Cost: \$4,038,500
OPWC Funds: \$1,381,500

The Stark County Engineer will receive a grant for the widening of Hills and Dales between Whipple and Dressler in Jackson Township. Hills and Dales will be widened from 2 to 5 lanes. Additionally the intersection of Dressler Road and Woodlawn Avenue will be upgraded to provide turn lanes in all directions.

Applicant: Stark County/Canton
Project: Mill Street Bridge

Project Cost: \$2,400,000
OPWC Funds: \$448,000

This grant will allow the Stark County Engineer to replace the existing bridge on Mill Street near Munson Stadium in the City of Canton. It will allow the construction of a new single span steel plate girder bridge on new concrete abutments. The bridge will be on a relocated roadway due to the proximity of Allen and Allenford Drive. The existing bridge was constructed in 1956.

Upcoming Events

January

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

February

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

March

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

Credits

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