

Planning Progress

July - September 2012

Volume 50

Issue 3

Inside

NEOSCC.....page 2

EECBG-
Update.....page 3

NPDES
Illicit Discharge.... page 4

Community
Gardens.....page 6



Over the past month, the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC) has attracted attention from The Cleveland Plain Dealer, The Vindicator, Akron Beacon Journal, The Canton Repository, The Chronicle Telegram and TV stations in Youngstown, as well as being featured on Ideastream's Sound of Ideas. This coverage has begun to amplify our work and focus across the region as well as brought a great deal of interest and support. Our "This is What Vibrant Looks Like" young leader events in Akron, Youngstown, Lorain and Stark Counties have launched our engagement efforts with some very dynamic conversations.

As we head into the summer, we are preparing our Conditions and Trends Platform. This dialogue platform will begin our conversation externally on the findings and data of the existing conditions and trends in key areas within the Northeast Ohio region. More than just a report, the Platform will be an interactive dynamic web tool that will continue to be built upon throughout our work together, and a framework to inspire action by evaluating information, gathering additional insight and building our common base of knowledge.

Most importantly, the C & T Platform will be the baseline for launching our dialogue throughout the region with residents, businesses, government officials and YOU! We look forward to sharing the Platform at our June 26th Board Meeting in Youngstown.

[Vibrant NEO](#) is a new You Tube channel dedicated to NEOSCC and Vibrant Northeast Ohio.

--Jeff Anderle, NEOSCC Manager of Communications & Engagement

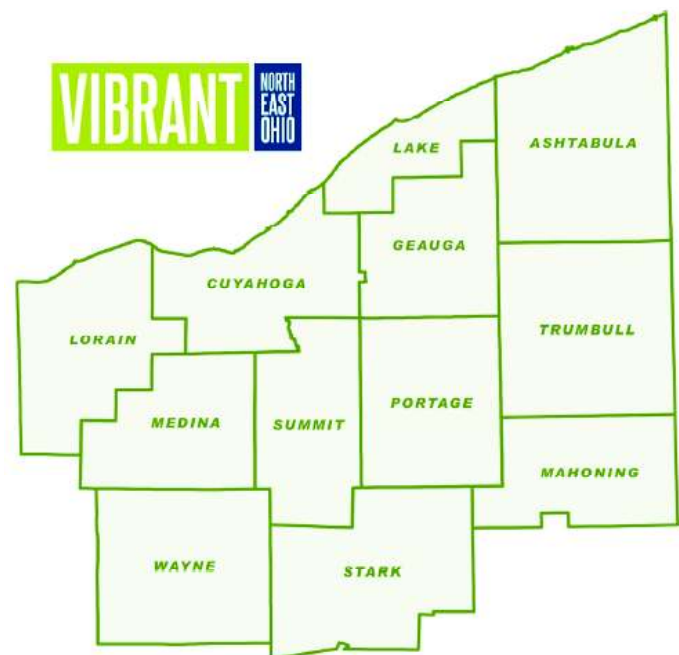
con't.



On May 9th, members of RPC staff joined other local young professionals to discuss what a vibrant Northeast Ohio means to them. This event was sponsored by the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC) as part of a quarterly, dialog-driven networking series designed to engage young professionals in the area. The Consortium, which is made up of numerous government offices and community organizations in the twelve-county area, is a 3-year program created as part of the federal Sustainable Communities Initiative designed to develop regional plans focusing on creating a vibrant, sustainable Northeast Ohio. Topics covered at the meeting included discussions on some of the positive features associated with the area, such as the parks and trails system, the Football Hall of Fame and First Friday events. The event also gathered

opinions on area attributes that attendees felt needed improvement, such as the lack of walkable areas and use of the public transportation system, and the decline of inner cities. The Consortium plans to use these dialogs as a way to foster public participation, especially at the young professional level, as they work towards developing a quality regional action plan for a more vibrant Northeast Ohio. Over the next 2 years, the Consortium will be hosting a number of public meetings to continue facilitating input from various community stakeholders in addition to the young professionals, such as community leaders, civic and religious groups, schools, social services and businesses. RPC's role in the Consortium will be to assist in the collaborative planning efforts associated with developing the region-wide plans.

To view the latest news, board meetings, work sessions, presentations, and events, visit www.neoscc.org



The 12-county area

EECBG

Stark County received \$2.7 million as part of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program in 2009/ The purpose of this program is to help communities reduce fossil fuel emissions and total energy use, and improve energy efficiency in the building and transportation sectors while creating and/or retaining jobs and stimulating the economy.

A portion of the funds went to two programs. One was the Programmable Thermostat Rebate Program where a \$25 rebate was available to Stark County residents and small business owners (5 or fewer employees) who showed proof of purchasing a programmable thermostat. The program ended April 30, 2012 and 516 rebates were issued. The Local Government Rebate Program made a rebate available for the purchase and installation of qualified energy efficiency retrofits to local cities, townships, and villages within Stark County. The program permitted a rebate of up to 90% of the cost of the retrofits to a maximum of \$1,000 per political subdivision. This ended on February 29, 2012 and six rebates were issued.

A "Green Office" (and home) newsletter and monthly tips were sent to all county employees.

A Sustainable Planning and Zoning Handbook was created to provide local communities with guiding principles to assist them in becoming more sustainable. The handbook can be found on the RPC website-
www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us.

The majority of the funds were allocated for energy efficient retrofits for county buildings. Completed projects include:

The Stark County Courthouse-
--upgrades to the garage ventilation system and calibration of the control

The Stark County Office Building-
--two hot water boilers replaced
--2078 lighting fixtures and exit signs replaced

Projects still in progress include:

The Stark County Engineers Office-
--most windows and doors replaced



Data Center

The Stark County Jail-
--four steam boilers replaced
--two chillers replaced
--approximately 63 ceiling light fixtures replaced

The Stark County Data Center-
--windows and most doors replaced
--chiller to be replaced

Stormwater Program

Illicit Discharge

Polluted stormwater runoff is a leading cause of impairment to the nearly 40% of surveyed U.S. water bodies which do not meet water quality standards. Over land or via storm sewer systems, polluted runoff is discharged, often untreated, directly into local water bodies. When left uncontrolled, this water pollution can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife, and aquatic life habitats; a loss in aesthetic value; and threats to public health due to contaminated food, drinking water supplies, and recreational waterways.

Mandated by Congress under the Clean Water Act, the NPDES Stormwater Program is a comprehensive two-phased national program for addressing the non-agricultural sources of stormwater discharges which adversely affect the quality of our nation's waters. The program uses the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting mechanism to require the implementation of controls designed to prevent harmful pollutants from being washed by stormwater runoff into local water bodies.

Sources of Illicit Discharges

Sanitary wastewater
Effluent from septic tanks
Car wash wastewaters
Improper oil disposal
Radiator flushing disposal
Laundry wastewaters
Spills from roadway accidents
Improper disposal of auto and household toxics

The Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination minimum control measure is one of six measures the operator of a Phase II regulated small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is required to include in its stormwater management program to meet the conditions of its NPDES permit.

What is an "Illicit Discharge"?

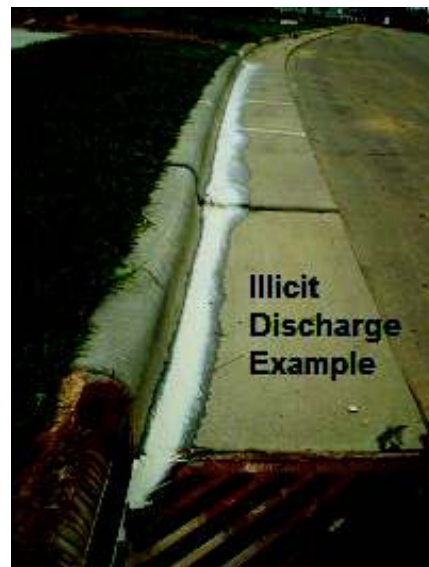
Federal regulations define an illicit discharge as "any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater..." with some exceptions. These exceptions include discharges from NPDES-permitted industrial sources and discharges from fire-fighting activities. Illicit discharges are considered "illicit" because MS4s are not designed to accept, process, or discharge such non-stormwater wastes.



Why are Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Efforts Necessary?

Discharges from MS4s often include wastes and wastewater from non-stormwater sources. A study conducted in 1987 in Sacramento, California, found that almost one-half of the water discharges from a local MS4 was not directly attributable to precipitation runoff. A significant portion of these dry weather flows were from illicit and/or inappropriate discharges and connections to the MS4.

Illicit discharges enter the system through either direct connections (e.g., wastewater piping either mistakenly or deliberately connected to the storm drains) or indirect connections (e.g., infiltration into the MS4 from cracked sanitary systems, spills collected by drain outlets, or paint or used oil dumped directly into a drain). The result is untreated discharges that contribute high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving waterbodies. Pollutant levels from these illicit discharges have been shown in EPA studies to be high enough to significantly degrade receiving water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
January 2000 (revised December 2005)
www.usepa.gov

Community Gardens

Community gardens, also known as urban food gardens, are tracts of land that are actively gardened by a collective group of people. This year, a few staff members at RPC will be participating in one of Canton's own downtown community gardens, where they will be planting and harvesting fresh produce. These types of gardens are usually broken up into individual plots, where participants can choose to lease a single plot of land or a group of plots if they desire to cultivate a larger area. Community gardens are becoming very popular with local restaurants because they can now grow their own produce. In addition to the benefits of providing fresh, local foods, these gardens also promote a sense of community involvement and environmental stewardship, and help reduce the perception of neglect and danger in neighborhoods. Historically, community gardens have been very popular in times of economic depression or war, and with food security and dependence on foreign oil becoming increasingly uncertain, these gardens are one way to ensure that communities are getting the foods they need.



Photos: Downtown Canton's community garden, which is facilitated by the non-profit agency Project REBUILD.

CDBG and OPWC Workshop

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) and OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) APPLICATION WORKSHOP FOR INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

An infrastructure and public facility improvement application workshop will be held on Wednesday, July 18th from 9:00 - 11:00 AM at the Exploration Gateway located at 5712-12th St., NW, Canton. Information will be presented on Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funding, as well as, other possible funding sources, i.e., USDA, Ohio EPA, etc. Please note that this workshop is geared toward potential CDBG projects within the Stark County CDBG program areas (projects located within the cities of Canton, Massillon, Alliance and the Village of Hills & Dales are not eligible); however OPWC projects may be from anywhere in Stark County.

Now is the time to start thinking about future Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)/ Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) infrastructure and public facility improvement projects in your community. Staff is currently available to meet with your municipality or township to discuss potential projects in your area. Potential applicants are not required to attend the workshop, but are highly encouraged to be there. Additional ranking points will be awarded on all CDBG applications in which the applicant attends.

The workshop is being offered to political subdivisions interested in receiving CDBG funding between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015; and OPWC funding between July 1, 2013 and July 1, 2014. After this submission period is completed, CDBG applications will not be accepted again until the fall of 2014; OPWC applications will be accepted again next year. Applications for this 2-year CDBG funding round will be due in early November; OPWC applications will be due this September.

Stark County CDBG eligible municipalities and townships wanting a CDBG application packet, but unable to attend the workshop, may contact Lynn Carlone, Community Development Administrator, at 330-451-7774 to receive the needed application information; this information will be sent after the workshop is held. Jeff Dotson, SCATS Principal Planner, may be contacted at 330-451-7402 for OPWC application packets.

Adopted FY 2012 Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs

In late April, the Board of Stark County Commissioners adopted the FY 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs. This adoption took place after the thirty-day comment period for both programs expired on April 10th. Both the FY 2012 CDBG and HOME programs were previously adopted by the CDBG Citizens' Advisory Council in late February and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission in early March, prior to the March 21st public hearing. Below is the breakdown of the FY 2012 CDBG and HOME programs.

FY 2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners will undertake the following housing and community development activities during FY 2012.

<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>
CDBG Administration	137,781
Comprehensive Planning	73,000
Housing Rehabilitation Program Costs	180,000
Emergency Rehabilitation Program	40,000
Fair Housing	60,000
Stock Pile, Inc. - LMI Reuse Warehouse	45,000
Prescription Asst. Network of Stark Co. - Prescription Medication Access	12,800
Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence	13,312
Community Services of Stark Co. - Family Living Center	18,000
Kent State Stark - KSU Micro Enterprise Development Program	30,251
Village of Minerva - Jackson St. Storm Sewer/Road Reconstruction	135,000
Village of East Canton - South Market Street Storm Sewer Replacement	48,835
Village of Beach City - Beach City Elevated Water Tank Rehabilitation	99,250
Marlboro Township - Marlboro Sanitary Sewer & Storm Sewer Project	160,000
Contingencies	679
TOTAL	\$ 1,053,908

FY begins the first year of a three-year funding program. The Board of Stark County Commissioners, in light of drastic cuts to the County's FY 2012 CDBG funding allocation, is proposing to fund the first 10 activities listed above during both FY 2013 and FY 2014 at the FY 2012 level. The Board will accept infrastructure and public facility improvement applications later this year to complete the FY 2013 and FY 2014 funding plans.

It is anticipated that the County will receive an additional \$100,000 in program income from the current housing rehab revolving loan fund program. This program income will revolve back into this program.

FY 2012 HOME PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners, as the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, has approved the following expenditure of funds for the HOME program, which follows the same program year as the CDBG program.

<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Stark Metro Housing Authority - Tenant Based Rental Assistance - HOME XI	79,404
Stark Metro Housing Authority - Tenant Based Rental Assistance - HOPE III	102,852
Stark County Homebuyers Program - Downpayment Asst. & Closing Costs	50,000
Stark County Housing Rehabilitation	134,325
City of Massillon - Homebuyer and Housing Rehab Activities	119,828
City of Alliance - Housing Rehabilitation	132,236
Administration	<u>68,738</u>
TOTAL	\$687,383

After adoption by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County CDBG program submitted the fully-approved "Stark County FY 2012 CDBG and HOME Programs-One-Year Update of the Consolidated Plan" to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on May 10th for their acceptance and a July 1st start date.

Sunshine Law Training

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission hosted a Sunshine Law Training recently at Stark Parks' Education Gateway. Ohio Law requires that all elected officials or their appropriate designees attend training approved by the Ohio Attorney General.

The training session, provided by the Ohio Attorney General's Office, was a three hour certification training provided to all elected officials, and/or their appropriate designees, as well as members of the general public. It was designed to enhance the knowledge of public offices regarding the duty to provide access to public records as required by Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code. There was discussion on the Ohio Public Records Act (including definitions, obligations, liabilities, and exemptions) and the Ohio Open Meetings Act.

Attendees received a certificate as proof that they attended the training. It was well attended with nearly 100 people present; several of which were from outside of Stark County.



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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Canton, Ohio
Permit No. 357

Upcoming Events

July

9	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
10	SCRPC	7:30 PM
23	SCATS	1:30 PM

August

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

September

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

Credits

Editor/Graphics
Malia Watkins

President
Vince Marion

Executive Director
Robert Nau

Phone
330-451-7389

Fax
330-451-7990

Website
www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us