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Planning Progress

Annual Nimishillen Creek CleanUp

The annual Nimishillen Creek LEAP CleanUp (Litter, Elimination, Awareness and Prevention) was held on September 16, 2023. It began at the McKinley Museum and ran along I-77 around Fulton to Mother Goose Land. The annual CleanUp is organized by the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners, a volunteer group of representatives from local governments, agencies, businesses, agriculture, and citizens who help facilitate the restoration and protection of Nimishillen Creek and its resources.

More than 40 volunteers participated this year and collected several bags of trash. A free lunch was provided for all of the volunteers.

The organizers and supporters for this year's CleanUp were the city of Canton, Marathon Petroleum, Stark County Regional Planning Commission, Stark County Parks, Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District, and William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum.



We want
to hear
from you!

FY 2024-2028 HUD Consolidated Plan

Planning work has begun for Stark County's next five-year HUD Consolidated Plan. As a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) dollars, Stark County is required to reassess the needs of the county and submit to HUD in the form of a Consolidated Plan how the county will:

- create, retain and expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons
- create and maintain safe and suitable living environments for low- and moderate-income persons
- create and expand decent affordable housing for low-and moderate-income persons and the homeless

The Consolidated Plan is utilized to prioritize needs and determine how annual CDBG and HOME allocations will be used.

We value your feedback and encourage you to take our two-question survey. Use the QR Code or click the link to access the survey.

[Stark County Consolidated Plan Survey](#)



Public meetings and hearings will occur now through early 2024 to discuss the Plan and gather public input. If you would like to be placed on the e-mail list to receive future communication about this planning process, please contact Lisa Snyder at Lcsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov .

Perry Township's 2024 Comprehensive Plan

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is progressively moving forward with Perry Township's Board of Trustees, comprising the Township's 2024 Comprehensive Plan. On September 9th, SCRPC participated in the community's much-anticipated annual Oktoberfest event at Hartwick Park. Taking advantage of the incredible turnout to the event, SCRPC rolled out the results from the previous survey Perry Township residents took part in from March-June 2023. This feedback is essential while developing the Plan, as it is built upon the views and opinions of those who reside in the township ensuring the needs of the community are addressed from the perspective of who the Plan is designed to benefit. To further gather information for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan, we introduced the new Lincoln Way/Tuscarawas/SR 172 Corridor surveys (QR codes shown below) to Perry residents that narrows in on the 3-mile historical roadway spanning through the township. SCRPC staff was on hand to answer questions regarding areas of opportunities/challenges and where residents felt focus was most needed along this stretch of the state route. The surveys include an interactive map where residents can pinpoint exact areas of concern and an additional rating/text survey consisting of compiled questions directly focused on transportation along the corridor. The surveys will be active through the remainder of 2023.



RPC Approves Community Planning Study Contracts

SCATS is in the process of initiating the latest round of studies approved by the Policy Committee earlier this year. These include several safety studies, congestion studies, and multimodal studies.

Two contracts approved at the September 5th SCRPC meeting include studies to complete a school travel plan and a safety study, both for the city of Canton:

- The School Travel Plan (STP) is for the NE quadrant of the city of Canton and includes four Canton City Schools: Gibbs Elementary, Belle Stone Elementary, Madge Youtz Intermediate School, and Crenshaw Middle School. An ODOT approved School Travel Plan is needed before a community can apply to ODOT for funds to make improvements to encourage students to walk or bicycle to school. These projects can include improved sidewalks, crosswalks, and safety programs, among others.
- The Safety Study is in the area of the US/62 and Harmont Avenue NE intersection in the city of Canton. The study area encompasses the intersection as well as Harmont Avenue NE and intersecting avenues of Lesh (north and south of US/62) and Commercial Avenue. This intersection was studied as part of a US/62 corridor review in 2012 which resulted in the installation of offset turn lanes on US/62. Failure to yield accidents remain high in this area and this study should identify additional counter-measures to make the still dangerous intersection safer.

Two additional studies are in the process of consultant selection/contract negotiation. These include a parking and transit study for the Pro Football Hall of Fame (HOF) Village and a pedestrian needs review for the Belden Village area:

- With the completion of several projects, and in-progress work on others, enough work has been completed at the HOF Village for a detailed parking and transit needs study to be completed. The study will identify parking availability within the HOF Village as well as the need for park and ride lots utilizing public transit shuttles for various events. The use of off premises locations for overflow parking will be critical for orderly attendance at large-volume events. Identifying the need for parking at areas previously utilized such as Stadium Park, the Stark County Fairgrounds, downtown Canton, Akron-Canton Regional Airport and others where park and ride shuttles have traditionally been used will allow orderly planning and coordination with SARTA to meet everyone's needs.
- A Belden Village Pedestrian Study will examine the need and feasibility for pedestrian facilities (sidewalks) in the Belden Village area. The goal of the study is to identify locations and facility types and prioritize those locations for implementation based on the cost of construction, right-of-way acquisition cost, and expected use. The study is intended to act as a supplement to the existing sidewalks and curb ramps in the area. The study area is bounded by Whipple Avenue on the east; Fulton Drive on the south; Everhard Road on the west and north; and includes Metro Circle extending north from Everhard Road as well as Dressler Road to the Hall of Fame Bridge. Examining the possibility of bicycle facilities and sidepaths is included for areas where feasible. For example, Stark Parks has plans for a multipurpose trail on the Stark State College Campus that will connect to Hoover Trail West at the Dressler Road HOF Bridge. Additional connections into the multipurpose trail exist in areas connecting to The Strip retail area just north of the HOF Bridge.

Several additional studies are pending for early next year once the above studies are under way. These include a trail and park usage study for Stark Parks, several congestion and safety studies for the city of Massillon and the possibility of a corridor study for the city of Canal Fulton (dependent upon remaining funds).

These studies often lead to project recommendations that are then funded by SCATS, improving how we travel around Stark County.

\$536,027 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 Grants Awarded

The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) are pleased to announce that more than half a million dollars in FTA grant funds were awarded to three local non-profit groups, as well as SARTA, for various programs providing transportation to seniors and those with disabilities. The SCATS Policy Committee approved adding the following projects to the Transportation Improvement Program at their August 28th meeting:

- The ABCD, Inc. was awarded \$80,000 toward the replacement of a paratransit vehicle used in the services they provide, as well as \$96,531 to assist in operating costs transporting clients to medical appointments, including dialysis trips and out-of-county medical treatment.
- First Christian Church was awarded \$96,685 to assist in transportation operating costs for clients participating in their adult day care services.
- TWI, Inc. (formerly known as The Workshops, Inc.) received \$100,000 to purchase two ADA accessible vans and \$41,540 to assist in transporting their clients. TWI, Inc. provides transportation to adult ADA persons to day services and employment locations.
- SARTA received \$22,000 for travel training, which provides instruction in using their fixed route and paratransit services, as well as \$100,000 towards the purchase of a replacement paratransit vehicle.

The next opportunity for grants will be early 2024 with approximately \$430,000 available. For questions, or to be placed on an email contact list, please call or email Michael Brand, SARTA Grants Manager, at 330-477-2782 ext. 539 or mbrand@sartaonline.com or Karl Lucas, Senior Planner, SCRPC, at 330-451-7386 or kblucas@starkcountyohio.gov.

Funding Available through Stark County Land Bank's 50/50 Demolition Assistance Program

Has your community been attempting to come up with a solution to a vacant/blighted property? Has the property been deemed unsafe and beyond repair and needs to be demolished?

The Stark County Land Bank, through past demolition grant program opportunities and through its "Demolition Assistance Program" has facilitated cities, villages & townships with the strategic demolition of blighted properties that are beyond repair or rehabilitation.

The Demolition Assistance Program (DAP) is offered by the Land Bank each year and accepts funding applications for residential and commercial demolition projects. Approved projects under the DAP program are eligible to receive a funding reimbursement up to 50% of the hard-demolition costs incurred on the demolition. Program policy information and the application are available on the Land Bank's website at: starkcountylandbank.org

If your community is interested in applying for demolition funding assistance for a project, or would like to talk to the Land Bank more about a specific property/demolition project, please contact Sarah Peters, Land Bank Manager at 330-451-7387 for more information.

Pictured below are a few recent demolition projects funded through DAPd



October

2	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
3	SCRPC	7:00 PM
23	SCATS	1:30 PM

November

6	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
7	SCRPC	7:00 PM
27	SCATS	1:30 PM

December

4	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
5	SCRPC	7:00 PM

Visit our website:
www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

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