



Planning Progress

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Is Your Office Green ?

As part of the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is kicking off a new program aimed at county employees. We would like to encourage employees to undertake more green office practices. Through this grant, the RPC will conduct outreach activities, seeking to educate and encourage participation in taking the necessary steps to reduce energy use at home and work. Over the next year or so, additional ideas and suggestions will be emailed to employees. Below are just a few "green" hints.

Give It a Rest

Use the ENERGY STAR power management settings on your computer and monitor so they go into power save mode when not in use. Also use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when you are using equipment to completely disconnect the power supply.

Unplug It

Unplug electronics such as cell phones and laptops once they are charged. Adapters plugged into outlets use energy even if they are not charging.

Light Up Your Work Life

Replace the light bulb in your desk lamp with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb. It will last up to 10 times longer and use about 75 percent less energy. Turn off the lights when you leave, especially at the end of the day.

Let It Flow

Keep air vents clear of paper, files, and office supplies. It takes as much as 25 percent more energy to pump air into the workspace if the vents are blocked.

Team Up

Create a Green Team with your co-workers, help build support for energy efficiency in your workplace, and reduce office waste.

New Federal Grant

The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant is a new federal initiative involving the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The grant program will fund up to \$5,000,000 for the development of a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development that involves housing, transportation, and environmental components.

The Plan will include the following:

- an action plan for projects that are truly regional in nature
- shared development priorities to guide local action, where appropriate
- shared guidelines that may be adopted at the local level
- a formal network of the decision makers and basic stakeholders for each content area and geographic concern
- a set of tools including a regional integrated information system that builds the analytic and decision making capacity of the Region and frameworks to guide local action

The anticipated outcomes from the Plan are mandated federally and include:

- creation of regional transportation, housing, water and air quality plans that are deeply aligned and tied to local comprehensive land use and capital investment plans
- aligned federal planning and investment resources that mirror the local and regional strategies for achieving sustainable communities

“This is a unique opportunity to pursue a truly regional approach to planning and sustainable development which balances urban, suburban, and rural needs while planning for an 11 county region representing almost 4 million people,” said Nau, Executive Director, SCRPC/SCATS.

- increased participation and decision-making in developing and implementing a long range vision for the region by populations traditionally marginalized in public planning processes
- reduced social and economic disparities for the low-income, minority communities and other disadvantaged populations within the target region
- decrease in per capita vehicle miles traveled and transportation-related emissions for the region
- decrease in overall combined housing and transportation costs per household
- increase in the share of residential and commercial construction on underutilized infill development sites that encourage revitalization, while minimizing displacement in neighborhoods with significant disadvantaged populations
- increased proportion of low and very low-income households within a 30-minute transit commute of major employment centers

SCRPC/SCATS joined forces with the Northeast Ohio Consortium to apply for the grant. It consists of four Metropolitan Planning Organizations including the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) Cleveland area, Akron Metropolitan Transportation Study (AMATS) Akron area, Eastgate from the Youngstown area, SCATS here in Stark County as well as numerous county, city, and foundation partners in NE Ohio.

NSP Homes

The Stark County Neighborhood Stabilization Program activities continue to move forward. The two most recently purchased homes are shown below and are currently being rehabilitated by Stark County Regional Planning Commission partners. For more information and pictures of these and all of the program homes, visit: www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us.



308- 32nd St.
Canton Township

614- 37th St.
Canton Township



7060 Georgetown Rd.
Osnaburg Township

CAPER

STARK COUNTY CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT – FY '09 (CAPER)

FY '09 CAPER covers the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

- Budget Information:
 - Total funds available for use - \$2,955,653.26
(FY '09 entitlement grant was \$1,436,292.00)
 - Total CDBG funds expended - \$1,897,652.02
- 83.1% of the CDBG funds expended benefited low-to-moderate (LMI) persons;
100% of the projects undertaken benefited LMI persons.
- 6 Infrastructure/Rehabilitation projects were completed:
 - Canton Township – Lincoln/Donora Sanitary Sewer
 - Canton Township – 14th/Waynesburg Sanitary Sewer
 - Minerva – Murray Avenue Street Improvements
 - Village of Waynesburg – Minerva Road (SR 183) Waterline
 - Plain Township – Orchardale Storm Sewer
 - Village of Hartville- Kent Avenue Improvements
- 2 Infrastructure projects were in progress:
 - Plain Twp. – 25th Street NE Area Storm Sewer
 - Plain Twp. - Zircon Street Waterline
- 7 Public Service projects were provided CDBG funding during FY '09:
 - Canton Negro Oldtimers – served 554 persons
 - Salvation Army - Homeless Motel Voucher program – helped 624 persons
 - Community Services Massillon Homeless Shelter Program – assisted 203 persons
 - Alliance Emergency Residence – served 180 persons
 - The Stock Pile – served 1085 persons
 - Western Stark Medical Van – served 85 persons
 - Prescription Assistance Network – served 61 persons
- 1 Economic Development project was provided CDBG funding during FY '09:
 - KSU Micro Business Development Program – served 136 business owners/potential owners

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- 1 Capital Improvement project was provided CDBG funding during FY '09:
YWCA Elevator Cab – 662 persons benefited from this project
- CDBG funded Single Family/Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab:
51 units were completed (10 regular rehab, 16 sewer/sanitary connections,
25 emergency rehab)
3 more units under contract

HOME Program

- Budget Information:
Total funds available for use - \$2,338,722.71
(FY '09 entitlement grant was \$943,953.00)
Total HOME funds expended - \$1,305,401.74
- HOME funded Single Family/Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation:
10 units completed and brought up to Housing Quality Standards
6 more units under contract
- Under the ADDI program, 26 first-time homebuyers received Down Payment Assistance totaling \$98,224.00 in funding and leveraging another \$1,976,431.00 in new mortgages. Eleven of the ADDI projects were completed within the City of Massillon; fifteen within Stark County.
- 2 projects were completed:
ABCD, Inc. – Brewster Homes – Development of Single-Family Houses
NRP Alliance Elderly – Development of an Elderly Apartment Complex – City of Alliance
- 8 projects underway:
SMHA Tenant Based Rental Assistance program
SMHA HOPE Tenant Based Rental Assistance program
City of Massillon's Rehab/Homebuyer program
City of Alliance's Rehab program
Stark County's Rehab program
Stark County's Homebuyer Assistance program
YWCA of Canton – YW – PHS – Permanent Supportive Housing
Alliance for Children & Families – A-F.I.R.S.T. – Permanent Supportive Housing – City of Alliance
- 92.0% of the funding expended benefited low-to-moderate income (LMI) persons;
100% of all projects undertaken utilizing HOME funding benefit LMI persons with their housing needs.

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CDBG-R Program

Stark County received \$385,259.00 in CDBG-R funding during FY '09. \$375,000 was allocated to the North Main Street Water/Sewer Replacement Project in the City of North Canton which was completed during this program year. This project utilized local funds totaling \$146,954.97, in conjunction with the CDBG-R funding allocated. The project was originally slated to be funded through the CDBG program during this program year (FY '10) but was a good fit for CDBG-R funding due to the fact it was shovel ready and served a vital infrastructure need in the City of North Canton. This project was the first phase of a larger streetscape project planned by the City. All CDBG-R funding was expended by June 30, 2009. The balance of \$10,259.00 was utilized for administration and oversight of the CDBG-R funded activity.

HPRP Program

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC), on behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners, received both State (\$340,100.00) and Federal (\$589,412.00) funds to address homelessness for individuals and families who need short to medium term homeless prevention or rapid re-housing assistance. During FY '09 the Stark County Regional Planning Commission partnered with Community Services of Stark County to carry out the prevention piece of the program and the YWCA of Canton to carry-out the rapid re-housing portion of the program. A total of \$61,203.041 was expended from the State allocation for prevention, rapid re-housing and administrative activities. A total of \$91,707.98 was expended from the Federal allocation for prevention, rapid re-housing and administrative activities. Below is an outline of FY '09 expenditures for both the State and Federal Allocations:

Total Federal Allocation:	\$589,412.00	Total State Allocation:	\$340,100
Administration:	\$14,580.86	Administration:	\$1,804.57
HMIS:	\$12,618.06	HMIS:	\$7,210.32
Prevention Admin:	\$1,289.00	Prevention Admin:	\$722.85
Prevention Fin. Assist.:	\$36,238.53	Prevention Fin. Assist.:	\$21,593.23
Prevention Stabilization:	\$6,649.12	Prevention Stabilization:	\$3,171.15
Re-Housing Admin:	\$16,588.26	Re-Housing Admin:	\$18.11
Re-Housing Fin. Assist.:	\$115.58	Re-Housing Fin. Assist.:	\$20,913.52
Re-Housing Stabilization:	\$3,627.67	Re-Housing Stabilization:	\$5,769.29
Total Expended:	\$91,707.98	Total Expended:	\$61,203.04

* HMIS- Homeless Management Information System

Ground Breaking

Bradley Place

A ground breaking ceremony was held for the construction of Bradley Place, an elderly apartment complex in the heart of downtown Massillon on August 26, 2010. Bradley Place, named after former Massillon football star and community activist Ben Bradley, is a 52-unit complex that will include elevator service, community rooms and an outdoor garden area. Residents will have close access to transportation, shopping and entertainment. The complex is slated to be completed in July 2011. Bradley Place is being developed by the NRP Group, Inc. and ABCD, Inc. On behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission allocated \$100,000.00 of City of Massillon HOME funds to ABCD, Inc. to assist with construction costs. Once the project is complete, two of the units will be Stark County HOME units and will carry an affordability period of 20 years.

Gateway House II

A commemorative event was held at the YWCA of Canton on September 1, 2010 to recognize a \$1,000,000.00 grant from the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing for the Gateway House II Project which is currently under construction. Gateway House II is a 40-unit permanent supportive housing complex that will help the need to house and provide services for homeless and hard-to-house families and individuals in Stark County. Construction is currently underway and is expected to be complete by spring of 2011. On behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission allocated \$250,000.00 of Stark County HOME funds for the Gateway House II Project. Once complete, six of the units will be Stark County HOME units and carry an affordability period of 20 years. Senator Sherrod Brown and Congressman John Boccieri spoke at the event to show their support for the project.



Stark County Property Owner Accused of Housing Discrimination

In August, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) found probable cause that the owner, on-site manager, and secretary of a large multi-family development in Stark County engaged in a pattern of adverse treatment of African Americans and families with children, in violation of the civil rights laws. The fair housing law prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, familial status, and disability.

Last year, the Stark County Fair Housing Department (SCFHD), along with six other complainants, filed a complaint of housing discrimination with OCRC. Investigations by the SCFHD and the Ohio Civil Rights Commission revealed numerous and substantial violations of the Ohio Revised Code at each of the four subject properties. During the investigation by OCRC, it gathered relevant information and interviewed relevant witnesses. Although the defendants categorically deny the allegations and have presented documentation regarding the diverse demographics of the tenant population at their properties, witness testimony from former managers confirms that they were instructed to force families with children and black tenants out after their leases expired.

Specifically, the complainants allege that the defendants showed a difference in treatment towards families with children and African American home seekers by subjecting them to discriminatory terms, conditions, privileges, or services. In some cases, the owner and manager refused to rent to individuals because of their race or because of the presence of children. “No one should be denied a place to live or treated differently because of their skin color or because they have children,” said Valerie Watson, Fair Housing Coordinator.

Based upon the investigation by OCRC, the owner had a policy to keep the number of black tenants in the complex to 1/3 of the entire tenant populace. Once that quota was met, subsequent applicants were told that there were no vacancies or they were still taking other applications. Managers were told to disregard phone messages from individuals who sound black. If a black tenant was permitted to move in, the defendants would not renew their leases, make bogus noise complaints, and/or refuse to make repairs in an attempt to force the black tenants out.

According to witness testimony and the investigation, the owner also had a policy of steering families with children to certain buildings or to basement apartments. The managers confirm that the owner preferred to keep the elderly or single tenants on the upper units. The owner did not want kids running around disturbing tenants below them.

The OCRC found probable cause that the owner interfered, intimidated, and coerced managers who were assisting tenants who were exercising their rights. Ultimately, the three former managers, who are party to this complaint, were fired because they did not follow the owner’s discriminatory rules and policies.

The fair housing laws make it illegal to discriminate based on race or familial status, including making statements indicating a preference or limitation. In addition, it is illegal to engage in conduct that threatens or intimidates individuals in the exercise of their rights protected under the laws.

The defendants have requested a reconsideration of the Commission’s determination.

Stark Parks Creating Connections

A distance of less than a football field doesn't seem far, but the spillway at the Deer Creek Reservoir has been an impassable barrier to the Mahoning Valley Trail, until now. On August 28, Stark Parks celebrated bridging that gap, literally, with the opening of the 260' free-span bridge that crosses the spillway. Several hundred people participated in the events of the day using the almost 4 ½ mile long Mahoning Valley Trail that now connects Deer Creek Park in Lexington Township with Early Hill Park in the City of Alliance.



Deer Creek Bridge

In Massillon, the Park District is working on connecting a gap vital to completing the Congressman Ralph Regula Towpath Trail. The recently opened Tremont Bridge in the City of Massillon makes possible the detour needed around the Norfolk and Southern Railroad. Cyclists, joggers, and walkers will soon be able to cross over the railroad and Tuscarawas River via the Tremont Bridge and rejoin the Towpath Trail where it meets Walnut Road. The Park District acquired access to property needed to construct a bridge that will be built near the foundations of the historic canal aqueduct.

PM2.5, Breathing and Roads

Particulate matter 2.5 microns, and smaller- around 1/30 the width of a human hair, are particles in the air that can cause breathing and circulatory problems. While larger pollution particles will settle out of the air in a short time period, smaller particles will circulate in the air until rain causes them to settle. Dust that is 10 microns and larger can be trapped in bronchi and lungs, while smaller 2.5 micron particles can travel more deeply into the lungs where oxygen is absorbed. These small particles can aggravate asthma and other breathing conditions. Automobile and truck exhaust, power plants and burning wood, among others are major sources of these particles. The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has set limits on the amount of these particles that can be in the air. Areas that fail to meet these standards must take measures to decrease them.

Stark County was found to be in “nonattainment” of PM2.5 pollution standards by the USEPA in 2006. This required SCATS to show that transportation projects in its long range transportation plan would not exceed limits set by the USEPA. SCATS has recently completed this analysis, called the PM2.5 Conformity Determination. The analysis included factors such as population estimates, planned road projects, estimates on where people will work and live, calculated traffic volumes, weather, school enrollment, etc. The study analysis shows that Stark County will meet the standards for the next 20 years without needing to make any changes to the long-range plan. The report can be found online- www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us. Please submit questions or comments to SCATS by phone at 330-451-7389 or by mail at 201 3rd St. NE, Canton Ohio 44702.

Surface Water Contaminants



The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorized the EPA to set national standards to protect the public against both naturally occurring and manmade contaminants that may be present in our drinking water. It has long been known that some of the potential contaminants include animal wastes, chemicals improperly disposed of, pesticides, various wastes injected deep underground, and naturally occurring substances that may pose a threat to human health.

The EPA states, “To ensure that drinking water is safe, SDWA sets up multiple barriers against pollution. These barriers include source water protection, treatment, distribution system integrity, and public information. Public water systems are responsible for ensuring that contaminants in tap water do not exceed the standards.”

In recent years, much concern has been raised about the ominous appearance of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) in the public water supply. The American Water Works Association explains the “PPCPs are a group of compounds consisting of human and veterinary drugs (prescription or over the counter) and consumer products, such as fragrance, lotions, sunscreens, house cleaning products, and others. These components have been detected in trace amounts in surface water, drinking water, and wastewater effluent sampling conducted in both Europe and the US” (2009).

The EPA explains, “PPCPs are found where people or animals are treated with drugs and people use personal care products. PPCPs are found in any water body influenced by raw or treated sewage, including rivers, streams, ground water, coastal marine environments, and many drinking water sources. PPCPs have been identified in most places sampled.”

The Associated Press (AP) found that “A vast array of pharmaceuticals-including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones- have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans.” The AP tested drinking water in 24 major metropolitan areas, but researched water suppliers in all 50 states. Its report noted that the federal government does not require any testing for pharmaceuticals, and many water suppliers generally screened for only one or two pharmaceuticals.

The AP report also noted, “In the United States, the problem isn’t confined to surface waters. Pharmaceuticals also permeate aquifers deep underground, the source of 40% of the nation’s water supply. Federal scientists who drew water in 24 states from aquifers near contaminant sources such as landfills and animal feed lots found miniscule levels of hormones, antibiotics, and other drugs.”

The EPA Office of Water stated, "The EPA is committed to investigating the topic of pharmaceuticals in the environment and developing strategies to protect public and environmental health. Our four-pronged approach for addressing the problem is aimed at strengthening scientific knowledge; improving public understanding; building partnerships for stewardship; and taking regulatory action where appropriate." Several authorities have suggested that pharmacies take back expired or unused medications and dispose of them through licensed and regulated facilities. The public needs to be educated on the proper way to dispose of medications. They should not put them down the drain or flush them, but rather throw them in the trash mixing them with something unappealing.

Contaminants Found in Public Water Supplies:

- Prescription medications, from both human and veterinary use, including antibiotics, psychiatric medications, natural and synthetic hormones, anti-epileptic drugs, and steroids
- Non-prescription pharmaceuticals such as nutraceuticals and pain-killers
- Personal care products such as fragrances, lotions, and cosmetics
- Household cleaning products
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Heavy metals, including potentially carcinogenic compounds
- Flame retardants and automotive chemicals



Stormwater- May 2010

Canal Clean-Up



Stark County's Storm Water Public Involvement/ Public Education (PIPE) Committee, the City of Canal Fulton, Stark Parks, and Prato's Pizza are sponsoring a canal clean-up. Volunteers are being asked to meet at St. Helena Park in Canal Fulton on September 25th and will be picking up litter along and in the canal for a mile stretch beginning at Lock 4 moving west. Lunch will be donated by Prato's Pizza. An update and pictures will be provided in the next issue of the Planning Progress.

Upcoming Events

October

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

November

8	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
9	SCRPC	7:30 PM
22	SCATS	1:30 PM

December

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

Credits

Editor/Graphics
Malia Watkins

President
Robert Sanderson

Executive Director
Robert Nau

Phone
330-451-7389

Fax
330-451-7990

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

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

