



Inside

Adopted CDBG/
HOME Programs...page 2

Applying for
CDBG Funding.....page 3

Billboard
Winners.....page 4

Akron Zoo Addresses
Stormwater.....page 5

Planning Progress

July - September 2016

Volume 54 Issue 3

Brownfields Assessment Grant and Gas Station Program

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is halfway through administering a three-year \$600,000 Brownfield Assessment Grant awarded by the US EPA. This grant is for environmental assessments of commercial/industrial sites with real or perceived environmental contamination.

The grant can also fund **free** Phase I & II Environmental Assessments including soil testing of gas stations. An environmental assessment is required prior to applying for the State of Ohio's new Abandoned Gas Station Clean-Up Grant.

The State's Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) will have the final say whether a site gets assessed. If there is an owner with finances available, the site may not be approved by BUSTR.

SCRPC encourages political subdivisions to fill out a nomination form for any abandoned gas stations in their communities that are vacant and in need of clean-up. Several may be submitted, but an owner's permission is required to access the property. If an owner cannot be located, indicate that on the nomination form and SCRPC staff will attempt to locate them.

Sites that are assessed may get designated as Class C Sites (one where a release has taken place) by BUSTR and only then may qualify for the Abandoned Gas Station Clean-Up Grant.

The Gas Station Nomination form is located and can be printed from the SCRPC website at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

For more information on gas station assessments or any aspect of the Brownfields Assessment Grant, contact Emma Posillico or Brenda Sarsany at 330-451-7389.

Adopted FY 2016 Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs

On May 11th, the Board of Stark County Commissioners adopted the FY 2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs, July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. This adoption took place after the 30-day comment period for both programs expired on April 13th. Both the FY 2016 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 16th public hearing. Below is the breakdown of the FY 2016 CDBG and HOME programs.

FY 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners will undertake the following housing and community development activities during FY 2016.

<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>
CDBG Administration	168,998
Comprehensive Planning	65,000
Housing Rehab- Full/Emergency Rehab	243,000
Housing Rehab- Direct/Program Operation	180,000
Fair Housing	65,000
Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence	16,640
Prescription Asst. Network of Stark Co. - Prescription Medication Access	16,000
The Stock Pile- LMI Reuse Warehouse	30,000
Community Services of Stark Co. - Family Living Center	18,000
Kent State Stark - KSU Micro Enterprise Development Program	31,420
City of North Canton - 7th Street NW Reconstruction	192,500
Canton Twp. - ADA Compliance - Former Amos Elementary	88,000
Osnaburg Twp. - CDBG Septic Program	49,900
Contingencies	5,533
TOTAL	<u>\$ 1,169,991</u>

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 '16 is the first year of a three-year funding plan as two future infrastructure projects are planned to be undertaken during the 2nd year. Both the "Murray Avenue Storm Sewer/Road Reconstruction - Phase II" and the "Hart Avenue/Chestnut Street Water Main" projects, located in the Village of Minerva, are expected to receive \$150,000 and \$95,000, respectively in CDBG funding during FY '17. As the balance of FY '17 and FY '18 funding remains to be allocated outside of these two infrastructure projects, the Board will accept applications later this year to complete the FY '17 funding plan; with additional applications accepted in the fall of 2017 to complete the FY '18 funding plan.

FY 2016 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>FY 2016</u>
Stark Metro Housing Authority - Tenant Based Rental Assistance - HOME XV	45,000
Alliance for Children & Families – B-FIRST Permanent Supportive Housing	110,000
Stark County Housing Rehabilitation	122,603
City of Massillon - Homebuyer and Housing Rehab Activities	97,161
City of Alliance - Housing Rehabilitation	87,907
Future CHDO Set-aside Project	92,535
Administration	61,689
TOTAL	\$ 616,895

After adoption by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County CDBG program submitted the fully-approved "Stark County FY 2016 CDBG and HOME Programs - One-Year Action Plan" to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on May 11th for their acceptance and a July 1st start date.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application Process to Begin

Now is the time to start thinking about future Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects in your community. CDBG staff is currently available to meet with your municipality, township, or non-profit to discuss potential projects in your area. An application workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 31st for the next three fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019, but now is the time to begin the ground work on your application.

The workshop will be offered to municipalities, townships, and non-profit agencies & organizations interested in receiving CDBG funding for public facility improvement or infrastructure projects between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2020. Applications for economic development and public service projects will only be accepted for the FY '17 funding cycle.

Applications for this three-year funding round will be due in early November. Invitations will be mailed this summer to all Stark County CDBG eligible municipalities, township, and previously funded non-profit organizations. Persons wanting an application packet, but unable to attend the workshop may contact Lynn Carlone, Assistant Chief of Community Development, at 330-451-7774 to receive the needed application information. The packets will be sent out after the workshop has been held. Additional ranking points will be awarded to all applications in which the applicant attended the workshop.

Billboard Winners

As part of the Stormwater Education Program, middle and high school students had the opportunity to enter a Billboard Contest. The winning entries had their original artwork displayed on actual billboards throughout Stark County. This year's theme is "Use the Force to Battle Stormwater Pollution." "Clawd," the county's stormwater mascot, is dressed as a Jedi so he can "use the force" and teach kids about battling stormwater pollution and the importance of keeping our water clean.



Adriana Mher
North Canton
Middle School

Demmi Snyder
Louisville
Middle School



Hailey Eiseman
Lake
Middle School

Lierra Hoover
Minerva
Middle School



Stormwater Management at the Akron Zoo



The Akron Zoo is a wonderful family experience. They are not just conservators of wildlife, but of water and energy as well. There are several Green roofs that reduce stormwater runoff as well as water efficient landscaping like rain gardens and rain barrels throughout the zoo. There are seven rain barrels that hold 52 gallons of water each and used to hydrate the plantings.

The park also has a water filter recirculation system that saves approximately 8-10,000 gallons of water per month instead of draining and refilling. Fans and sprinklers are used for pest control instead of pesticides. Several of the buildings reduce water waste by using motion sensors to control the water, waterless urinals, and holding gray water onsite in a retention pond. Gray water, which is the water that comes out of drains of showers, baths, sinks, and washing machines, can be used for watering plants, gardens, and landscaping. It helps to reduce stresses on water supplies, lower water usage and costs, and support the landscaping and "Green" roofs.

The zoo has on site water management with a bio-retention filter which is on the hill overlooking the bio-retention basin. The filter helps manage stormwater and reduce pollutants from the water.

In one section of the park, there is 2,900 square feet of pervious concrete. Water drains through pervious concrete preventing run off and erosion. It also helps take pollutants out of the stormwater before it soaks into the ground water.

The Komodo Kingdom Café became the first zoo in the United States to be a Green Certified Restaurant. Water efficiency is one of the seven environmental categories that make up the certification standards.



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

Upcoming Events

July

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

August

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

September

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

Credits

Editor/Graphics
Malia Morrison

President
Robert Fonte

Executive Director
Robert Nau

Phone
330-451-7389

Fax
330-451-7990

Website
www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov