



Planning Progress

July - September 2015

Volume 53 Issue 3

Stark County Bike Map Available Soon!

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The SCRPC is pleased to announce the development of a new bicycling map of Stark County. Over twenty years ago SCATS published a map identifying the suitability of roads for cyclists throughout Stark County. That map has long been out of print.

Using various Geographic Information System data, we have created a more accurate map that uses an analysis of truck and car traffic volume, speed limits, and road lane widths. The map will allow you to better plan trips in the county by taking these factors into account. It will also be available online for both downloading and reviewing. The online map will include additional information, such as bus routes, that is not available on the printed map.

The map is currently being printed and will be distributed throughout the county this summer. Please watch the SCRPC website for news of its release and locations where it will be available-
www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

Billboard Contest 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 "Proper Planting with Clawd," the county's stormwater mascot. Clawd is teaching kids whether you have a small garden in your back yard or are a farmer of an industrial farm, proper planting is vital to our water. All winners were from East Canton Middle School this year.



Saylor Bachman

Brooklyn Donaldson



Olivia Mayle

Daniel Kennedy



Stark County Fair Housing Luncheon

The Stark County Fair Housing Department and the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) sponsored a luncheon to celebrate the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Over 135 attended the luncheon held at Alex Krassas Event Center on April 29th.



Timothy J. Moran, Deputy Chief in the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice was the keynote speaker. He spoke on his 20 plus years litigating cases enforcing the Fair Housing Act. President Lyndon Johnson moved for passage of the Fair Housing Act, making it illegal to discriminate in housing transactions based on race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability, or familial status.

Stark County Commissioner, Richard Regula, presented a proclamation in support of the 47th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act. The Stark County Board Of Commissioners recognize and support Fair Housing throughout Stark County, Ohio, and the nation, and proclaimed April 2015 as "Fair Housing Month."

Valerie Watson, Stark County Fair Housing Coordinator, presented two awards for *Outstanding Achievement in Fair Housing*. The first award winner was Brenda Turner. Brenda has been in the mortgage industry for 14 years and has helped many people, most of who are minorities, women, and/or low-to-moderate- income individuals. Currently, Ms. Turner holds the title of Home Lending and Counseling Specialist with Community Building Partnership of Stark County. The other award winner was Domestic Violence Project, Inc. (DVPI). Their emergency shelter and transitional housing programs have demonstrated leadership in the housing community through its dedication to serving all survivors of domestic violence, regardless of gender, and their ongoing commitment to empowering survivors about their housing rights through education, service options, and advocacy.

Herman Hill- SMHA
Corey Minor Smith- SMHA
Valerie Watson- SCRPC
Robert Nau- SCRPC



Denise Hollenbach-
Domestic Violence Project, Inc.

Brenda Turner

Adopted FY 2015 Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs

On May 6th, the Board of Stark County Commissioners adopted the FY 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs. This adoption took place after the 30-day comment period for both programs expired on April 8th. Both the FY 2015 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 18th public hearing. Below is the breakdown of the FY 2015 CDBG and HOME programs.

FY 2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners will undertake the following housing and community development activities during FY 2015.

PROJECTS FY 2015

CDBG Administration	166,651
Comprehensive Planning	65,000
Housing Rehabilitation Program Costs	180,000
Housing Rehab Project/Activity Costs	320,000
Emergency Rehabilitation Program	80,000
Fair Housing	65,000
Stock Pile, Inc. – LMI Reuse Warehouse	45,000
Prescription Asst. Network for Stark Co. – Prescription Medication Access	16,000
Alliance for Children & Families – Alliance Emergency Residence	16,640
Community Services of Stark Co. – Family Living Center	18,000
Kent State Stark – KSU Micro Enterprise Development Program	30,251
Plain Township – Brookhaven Storm Sewer – Phase II	137,025
Contingencies	18,689
TOTAL	\$ 1,158,256

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 '15 marks the first year of a three-year funding plan for two future infrastructure projects. In FY '16, the "7th Street NW Reconstruction" project in the City of North Canton is expected to receive \$192,500 of CDBG funding and in FY '17 the "Murray Avenue Storm Sewer/Road Reconstruction - Phase II" project in the Village of Minerva is expected to receive \$150,000 of CDBG funding. As the balance of FY '16 and FY '17 funding remains to be allocated outside of these two infrastructure projects, it is expected that the Board will accept applications later this year to complete the FY '16 funding plan; with additional applications accepted in the fall of 2016 to complete the FY '17 funding plan.

FY 2015 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.

PROJECTS FUNDING

Stark Metro Housing Authority - Tenant Based Rental Assistance - HOME XIV	87,192
Stark Metro Housing Authority - Tenant Based Rental Assistance - HOPE VI	103,390
Stark County Housing Rehabilitation	152,035
City of Massillon – Homebuyer and Housing Rehab Activities	110,828
ICAN – East Oxford Avenue Rental Project	23,615
ACF – Affordable Housing Alliance for Formerly Homeless Families	63,010
City of Alliance – Housing Rehabilitation	12,537
Administration	61,400
TOTAL	\$614,007

After adoption by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County CDBG program submitted the fully-approved "Stark County FY '15 CDBG and HOME Programs- One-Year Update of the Consolidated Plan" to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on April 28th for their acceptance and a July 1st start date.



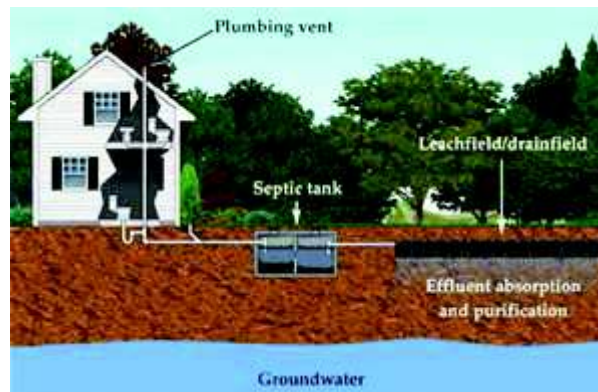
Alliance Emergency Residence

Community Services



Stark County Failing Home Sewage Treatment Systems Priority Analysis

The Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO) is working with the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District and the Stark County Health Department on determining a priority for extending sewers to areas that the Health Department has determined to have above average failure rates for Home Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTSs). The age of the system, number of bedrooms, pollution potential (e.g., proximity to drinking water supply), and the E. coli sample results are some of the weighted criteria.



An in-field inventory of storm drains, ditches, and streams has been completed for each of the 11 “Priority” areas: North Lawrence (Lawrence Twp.), East Greenville (Tuscarawas Twp.), Justus (Sugarcreek Twp.), Harmon (Sugarcreek Twp.), Moreland Allotment (Canton Twp.), East Tuscarawas (Canton Twp.), States (Lexington Twp.), Limaville (Lexington Twp.), Nellabrook (Lexington Twp.), Lynn Park (Marlboro Twp.), and Uniontown (Lake Twp.). These areas are located in four watersheds: the Mahoning (4), Nimishillen (2), Sugarcreek (1), and Tuscarawas (4). Local Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) studies were used to determine the status and sources of impairment as determined by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly, the Soil Conservation Service) methodology will be used for time of concentration, assuming that the flow is shallow concentrated distances greater than 300 feet between septic leach field to water sources.

NEFCO and the Health Department will start sampling for E. coli as soon as there are three consecutive dry days of weather to meet sampling protocol. Two rounds of sampling for each hotspot need to be completed within 30-days of one another. The Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District will be performing all the lab work on the samples. The Sanitary Engineering Department is also providing NEFCO staff with data on the feasibility of connecting these priority areas to sewers which, along with the community’s interest/willingness to provide funds, will also play a factor in the final ranking. Once all these data, both mapping and sampling, have been collected, NEFCO, in concert with the Sewer District and Health Department, will begin to prioritize the areas. Please contact Laura DeYoung at 330-643-8514 or LDeYoung@nefcoplanning.org for more details.

SCRPC Brownfield Assessment Grant Update

In 2014, the United States Environmental Protection Agency awarded SCRPC a \$600,000 Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant in partnership with Alliance and Canton. A brownfield is defined as a former industrial or commercial site where future use is affected by real or perceived environmental contamination. Stark County political subdivisions have received a number of assessment and cleanup grants over recent years, including Republic Steel in Massillon, Stewart Brothers Paint Company in Alliance, as well as a recent clean up grant to Stark Parks for Molly Stark Hospital.

This grant allows SCRPC and its partners to create a comprehensive inventory of brownfield sites throughout Stark County, and provides funds to carry out Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments on some of the sites. A Phase I Assessment researches previous uses of the site and whether a hazardous waste condition is likely to exist. A Phase II Assessment includes a detailed investigation involving chemical analysis for hazardous substances and/or petroleum hydrocarbons. Of the total grant, \$400,000 was awarded for hazardous substance assessments, while \$200,000 was awarded for petroleum substance assessments.

Since the grant period began in October 2014, the Stark County Brownfields Coalition has been making progress towards assessing properties. At the outset, the Brownfields Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC) was formed to guide the decisions required for grant implementation. The BTAC is made up of representatives from SCRPC, Stark County Health Department, Stark County Emergency Management Agency, Stark Development Board, as well as the cities of Alliance, Canton, and Louisville.

Between October and December 2014, the BTAC created policies and procedures for the program, contacted the political subdivisions of the county to begin creating a distressed property inventory, and created a request for qualifications to obtain environmental consultants for Phase I and Phase II property assessments. Since January 2015, the BTAC has scored and interviewed environmental consultants, and selected Brownfields Restoration Group, Pandey Environmental, and Partners Environmental to contract with. The BTAC has also created site nomination and application forms, and received several nominations and subsequent applications for Phase I and/or Phase II property assessments.

Thus far, the Brownfields Technical Advisory Committee, with assistance from the political subdivisions, has identified 20 distressed properties throughout the county. The BTAC is still looking to expand the distressed property inventory and process nominations of properties for environmental assessments. Addressing brownfields can result in job creation and improved economic conditions, and it is hoped that this program will be a big step forward towards doing that in Stark County. If you are aware of a property in your community that has real or perceived environmental contamination, please contact Emma Posillico at 330-451-7904 or emposillico@starkcountyohio.gov. More information, including the site nomination form, is also available at the following site: <http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/planning/topics-of-interest/brownfields4>.



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

Upcoming Events

July

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

August

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

September

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

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