



Planning Progress

October - December 2015

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Issue 4

Long Range Plan Underway

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Stark 2040 Comprehensive Plan



Help us plan the Future of Stark County!

This survey is being conducted by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission to gather public input for the countywide long-range plan. This survey should take approximately 15 minutes or less.
Your answers will be anonymous and kept strictly confidential.
Thank you for your time and help in making Stark County even greater:

Next

In October 2015, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission will be kicking off the creation of Stark County's long-range, comprehensive plan. The county's last long-range plan was prepared back in 2005. The purpose of the long-range plan is to serve as a guide in identifying and meeting the future land use and transportation needs of Stark County through the year 2040. In the next few weeks, we will be sending out a survey to all political subdivisions, the Citizens' Advisory Council, non-profit agencies, educators, county employees and various other groups throughout the community to help us in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the entire county. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey, as your results are vital in helping to make Stark County the community of choice for residents and businesses alike- <http://tinyurl.com/Stark2040Plan>. A link to the survey will also be available on our website and Facebook page. We encourage everyone to share this survey with anybody who either lives and/or works within Stark County. Further updates regarding the comprehensive plan will be posted as they become available. Please help us to make Stark County even greater!

Environmental Savings

In 2014, RPC recycled 2,329 pounds of recyclable paper. After receiving approval for the destruction of several records, we sent them to be shredded and recycled. As a result, the equivalent of the following resources have been conserved:

20 Trees
443 Gallons of Oil
8,152 Gallons of Water
5,590 Kilowatt Hours of Energy
3.5 Cubic Yards of Landfill Space



Annual CleanUp



The 14th annual Nimishillen Creek LEAP (Litter, Elimination, Awareness, and Prevention) Clean Up was held September 19, 2015 and went up-stream from Schreiber Park to Martin-dale Park. More than 30 volunteers participated this year and collected several bags of trash and tires. A free lunch was provided for all of the volunteers.



This year's Creek LEAP organizers and supporters were the City of Canton, Stark Parks, William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, Kent State University at Stark, Stark State College, Stark County Regional Planning Commission, Marathon Petroleum, and the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO).

Stark County Accepting CDBG Applications

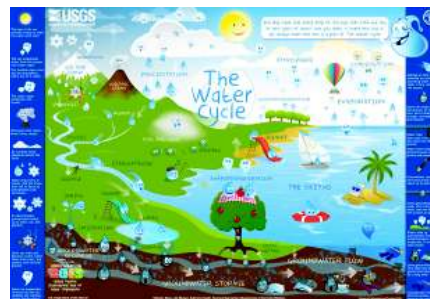
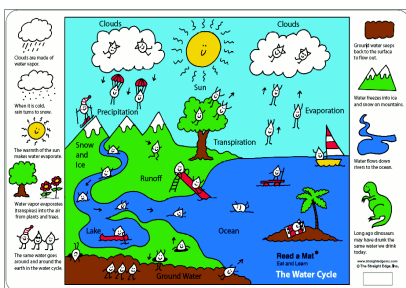
The Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) department is currently accepting applications for the next three year CDBG funding cycle, FY 2016-2018. Funding would be available from July 1, 2016 until June 30, 2019. Applications for public service and economic development projects will be accepted for FY '16 only, while applications for infrastructure and public facility improvement projects will be accepted for FY '16, '17, and/or '18.

On September 16th, the Stark County CDBG staff held a workshop for potential applicants. Numerous municipalities and non-profit agencies & organizations attended. The agenda for the workshop included an explanation of the FY 2016-2018 application form, its accompanying instructions and guidelines, discussion of eligibility requirements, selection of a five-to-six member application review committee, and sample projects. Though attendance at the workshop was not required, additional ranking points will be awarded to all applications in which the applicant attended. Persons who did not attend the workshop are still encouraged to submit an application(s).

If your community, organization, agency, etc. is interested in receiving Stark County CDBG funding, now is the time to plan for and submit an application for funding! Persons interested in obtaining an application packet should obtain it from the Stark County RPC website at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov or contact Lynn Carlone, Community Development Administrator at 330-451-7774. Stark County CDBG applications are due by Friday, November 6th at Noon at the RPC offices.

Poster Distribution

The Stark County Stormwater Education Program is in the process of distributing posters to all of the elementary and middle schools in the county for their science classrooms. The posters show and explain the water cycle. They were designed by the United States Geological Survey.



Stark County Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report - FY '14 (CAPER)

The 2014 Stark County CAPER outlines how the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds were expended during the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 (FY 2014). The Board of Stark County Commissioners participates in the CDBG program as an Urban Entitlement County, receiving a direct allocation of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The county is the lead entity of the Participating Jurisdiction for HOME funding as part of a Designated Consortium with the cities of Alliance and Massillon. In this capacity, a direct allocation of funds is also received from HUD. The Stark County Regional Planning Commission administers both the CDBG and HOME programs on behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

Program	Allocation	*Carryover	Program Income	Total Available
CDBG	\$1,128,805.00	\$1,026,051.18	\$208,322.39	\$2,363,178.57
HOME	\$691,177.00	\$963,570.38	\$135,323.54	\$1,790,070.92

CDBG

During FY 2014, various housing, public service, economic development and public infrastructure projects were undertaken. All of these programs/activities were developed and implemented to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment or to expand economic opportunities for low- to moderate-income persons/households in Stark County. Each activity/program undertaken is designed and required to meet one of the three CDBG national objectives which are: benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons (0 – 80% of the area median income); prevent or eliminate slum or blight; or meet an urgent need that poses a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of a community when no other funding options are available. Locally, 100% of the project/activities undertaken during FY 2014 benefited LMI persons or families. Below is an overview of projects/activities undertaken with CDBG funds during FY 2014:

Activity	Amount Expended	Beneficiaries
Administration	\$115,639.82	NA- salaries & direct expenses
Comprehensive Planning	\$66,756.73	NA- salaries & direct expenses
East Sparta Main & Walnut Roundabout	\$156,514.10	3,402 persons benefited
N. Canton Hillcrest & Royer Waterline	\$150,00.00	1,231 persons benefited
Hartville Water Extension	\$1,528.80	370 persons benefited
Fair Housing	\$65,926.15	282 persons with additional 474 persons referred to other entities

* Carryover includes funds committed for future projects and uncommitted funds.

Alliance for Children/Families Emergency Residence	\$13,312.00	234 persons benefited
Community Services - Family Living Center	\$18,000.00	205 persons benefited
Prescription Assistance Network	\$12,800.00	111 persons benefited
The Stock Pile- Building Material Reuse Warehouse	\$45,000.00	1,719 individuals and 39 non-profits
KSU Micro Enterprise Program	\$32,982.00	60 businesses
Housing Rehab Septic Program	\$44,745.00	6 households
Housing Rehab Program Costs	\$210,312.23	NA- salaries & direct expenses
Housing Rehab Project Costs	\$29,171.86	2 households
Emergency Rehab	\$101,976.27	27 households
CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Rehab	\$246,832.26	17 households
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,311,497.22	

HOME

The HOME program is designed exclusively to create affordable housing opportunities for low-income (up to 80% of area median income) households. As mentioned previously, Stark County participates in the HOME program as part of a consortium with the cities of Alliance and Massillon. As such, funding is shared with the cities on a proportionate basis related to the amount of funding each entity brings to the overall formula allocation. During FY 2014, the City of Massillon was allocated approximately 17.4%, the City of Alliance 19.2% and the county the remaining 63.4%. The funding was utilized to undertake housing rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance (down payment assistance) and tenant based rental assistance. Carryover funding from previous years was also utilized to create elderly housing in the City of Louisville (Stone Ridge Village). While this project was completed at the end of FY 2014, the final payment was not made until the beginning of FY 2015. The following is a listing of the activities that were funded during FY 2014:

Activity	Amount Expended	Beneficiaries
Administration	\$44,682.30	NA- salaries & direct expenses
HOPE Tenant Based Rental Assistance	\$110,952.00	19 clients received rental assistance
HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance	\$85,739.00	12 clients received rental assistance
Stark County Rehab	\$283,541.89	11 households received rehab
ICAN- Stone Ridge Village	\$180,000.00	3 units rented to eligible elderly
Alliance Rehab	\$129,163.91	4 households received rehab
Massillon Rehab/Homebuyer	\$109,162.50	5 homebuyers & 4 households were served
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$943,241.60	

Elderly Apartments in Louisville

During 2014-2015, Stark County participated in the funding of the Stone Ridge Village Elderly Apartments utilizing HOME funds. Of the total \$7,926,506 project costs, the Board of Stark County Commissioners allocated \$200,000 of HOME funding for the creation of three HOME assisted units to ICAN, Inc. Testa Builders was the general contractor/partner on the project. There are a total of 40 units in the project, with three of those units being completely handicapped accessible. The Grand Opening of the project was on July 16th with many of the units already leased at that point. It was anticipated that all of the units would be leased by the end of summer.



Bike Map Available



Identifies suitability of roads based on traffic volume, speed limits, and road lane width.

Highlights which roads are better suited for beginner, intermediate, and advanced cyclists.

Copies of the map are at county parks, libraries, and bicycle shops.

Online/mobile version available at:

<http://tinyurl.com/RideStark>



Stark County Brownfields Assessment Grant

In 2014, the Stark County Brownfields Coalition was awarded a \$600,000 Assessment Grant by the US EPA.

This grant is for environmental assessments of commercial/industrial sites with real or perceived environmental contamination. If your community has vacant/abandoned properties, the grant could be utilized for assessing the sites.

It can also fund assessments that can be vital to meeting All Appropriate Inquiry requirements, which are essential for transferring property.

- An environmental assessment can remove the uncertainty of liability for prospective buyers that did not pollute the property, to allow them to move forward with clean-up and redevelopment.

This grant can help bring vacant/abandoned properties back to productive use; adding to your community's tax base, potentially creating jobs, as well as improving public health and environmental quality.

If you would like additional information on the Stark County Brownfields Assessment Grant, please contact Emma Posillico at 330-451-7904 or emposillico@starkcountyohio.gov.

Save the Date

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission and the Stark County Prosecutor's Office are sponsoring a Governmental Law Seminar February 6, 2016 from 9 am- 2 pm. Sessions include: Sunshine Law/Running Public Meetings/Hearings, Nuisance Abatement, Public Records & Records Retention, Employment Law, BZA/Zoning Enforcement, Fundamentals of Zoning, and Ethics/Conflicts of Interest. It will be held at Stark Parks Exploration Gateway (at 12th St. near Sippo Lake). The cost of \$25.00 includes a luncheon. While designed for local officials, anyone is welcome to attend. For more information or to register, please contact Malia Morrison at 330-451-7405 by January 25, 2016.





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

Upcoming Events

October

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

November

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

December

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

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