



October - December 2025

Volume 62 Issue 4



Planning Progress

Save The Dates!

2026 Governmental Law Seminar

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) and the Stark County Prosecutor's Office host a Governmental Law Seminar biennially. Stark County Prosecutor, Kyle Stone, will be the keynote speaker discussing Ethics and Conflicts of Interests, followed by several breakout sessions. A light breakfast and luncheon will also be included. (Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits anticipated to be available)

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: RG Drage Career Technical Center
2800 Richville Dr. SE
Massillon, OH 44646

RPC Annual Dinner

The SCRPC will be holding its Annual Dinner on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at Tozzi's on 12th and all local officials and residents are encouraged to attend. A cash bar will open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner following at 6:30 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Georgia Paxos, Executive Director, of the Palace Theatre.

More information for both events to follow soon!

Community Development

ATTENTION STARK COUNTY HOMEOWNERS

Stark County Regional Planning Commission operates various housing rehabilitation programs for qualified homeowners in the county. Projects cannot exceed \$25,000.000 and are limited to owner-occupied residences outside of the cities of Canton, Massillon, Alliance and the villages of Hills & Dales and Wilmot.

Households must be income qualified and live in their home for at least one year prior to be eligible. Eligible assistance may consist of:

Emergency and Accessibility

- Urgent housing deficiencies are addressed
- Projects are provided as a grant to the homeowner

Full Rehabilitation

- Must bring a property up to applicable property standards and address health and safety deficiencies first
- Projects are half grant and half 0% interest deferred loan

Septic/Sewer

- Connection to county sanitary sewer or repair or replacement of a septic systems where sanitary sewer does not exist
- Projects are a 0% interest deferred loan

General home remodeling is not permitted. For additional program information or eligibility, please contact Jill Ross at jeross@starkcountyohio.gov or 330-451-7399.

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission is searching for contractors who are committed to undertaking quality housing rehabilitation work under federally funded programs.

If you're interested in bidding on upcoming home improvement projects, SCRPC has grant funds available!

Work May Include:

Plumbing	Electric
Heating	Roofs
Siding	Gutters
Insulation	Windows
Doors	...and MORE

Minority, Women-Owned and Section 3 Businesses are encouraged to apply.

To learn more about contracting with the SCRPC on our upcoming home rehabilitation projects, visit, call or email us today!



201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201
Canton, OH 44702

Call Us at 330-451-7302

Email Us at spwilliams@starkcountyohio.gov

Visit Us Online at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

\$406,784 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 Grants Awarded

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



ReliaRide was awarded \$53,776 to assist in the purchase of one modified minivan, expanding their capacity to provide accessible transportation. They also received \$10,000 in operating assistance to cover costs such as wages, fuel, insurance and management.



The ABCD, Inc. received \$58,502 in capital funding to replace modified minivans used in their mobility services. An additional \$10,000 was awarded to support operating expenses related to transporting clients to essential medical appointments, including dialysis treatment and trips to and from Direction Home Akron-Canton.

First Christian Church was awarded with \$98,375 to purchase one light transit vehicle which will support their Adult Care and Adult Day Service programs.

TWI, Inc. received \$87,395, for a light transit vehicle to expand their fleet and \$10,000 in operating assistance to support their transportation services for adults with disabilities traveling to day services and employment locations.



SARTA received \$7,739 for travel training, which provides instruction in using their fixed route and paratransit services, as well as \$125,000 towards the purchase of a replacement accessible van.

The next opportunity for grants will be early 2026 with approximately \$420,000 available. For questions, or to be placed on an email contact list, please call or email Chris Tyson, SARTA Grants Manager, at 330-477-2782 ext. 527 or ctyson@sartaonline.com or Spencer Gibbs, Transportation Planner, SCRPC, at 330-451-7015 or scgibbs@starkcountyohio.gov.



Land Bank Preparing for Upcoming State Grant Funding Rounds

The Stark County Land Bank has been actively working on demolition and brownfield remediation projects as part of state grants received from the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) in 2022 and 2024. To date, the Land Bank has been awarded just over \$1.5 million in funding through the Building Demolition & Site Revitalization Program and over \$3.6 million in funding through the Brownfield Remediation Program.



Pictured above – previously completed ODOD grant-funded projects

While these efforts are yielding positive results and projects are still ongoing, the issue of blight persists, not only at the residential level but also concerning vacant, abandoned, and distressed commercial and industrial properties.

As the state budget takes effect for FY2026 and FY2027, there are expected changes and updated guidelines to these programs to be released from ODOD in the coming months. In order to be fully prepared to apply for these application rounds to become available, the Land Bank is seeking Stark County community input to identify and prioritize potential sites/projects either in need of demolition, or environmental assessment and/or remediation.

Please reach out to Sarah Peters, Land Bank Manager at (330) 451-7387 or by email at smpeters@starkcountyohio.gov to discuss a potential project or property.

Stark Parks Comprehensive Plan Update Process Continues

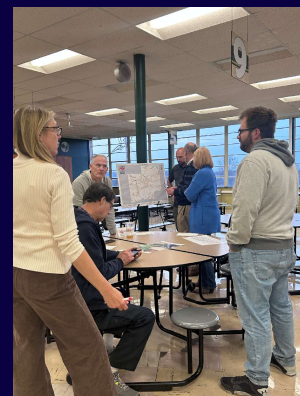


SCRPC and the Stark County Park District (Stark Parks) are currently in the process of updating Stark Parks' Comprehensive Plan. The last plan update was completed in 2018.

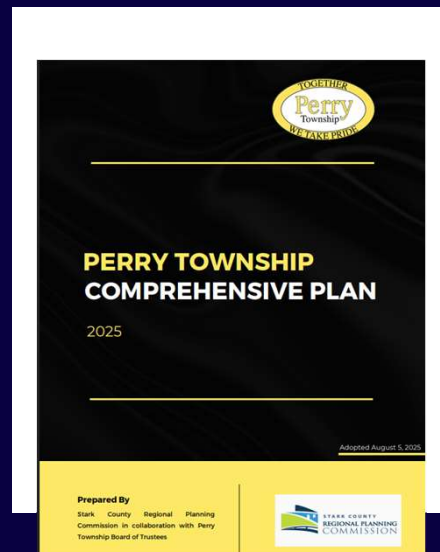
Public input has been a central pillar of the planning process. A community survey was conducted from March 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, inviting residents across Stark County to share their perspectives on current facilities and activities, future priorities, and opportunities for improvement.

In addition to the survey, nine public meetings were held throughout the county during this period. These sessions offered residents the opportunity to engage directly with SCRPC and Stark Parks staff, ask questions, and participate in interactive discussions about the Park District's future. Feedback gathered from these meetings is helping shape the plan's goals, strategies, and implementation priorities.

The next phase of the project will focus on developing and refining a draft of the Comprehensive Plan. Once completed, the draft will be presented to the public in early 2026 through another round of public meetings. These upcoming sessions will offer additional opportunities for residents to review the document, provide feedback, and ensure that the final plan reflects a broad spectrum of community voices. Dates for the upcoming meetings will be released in the coming months.



Perry Township Comprehensive Plan Adopted by Township



In an effort to guide future growth and improve the quality of life for the community, the Perry Township Board of Trustees formally adopted a comprehensive plan prepared by SCRPC on August 5, 2025.

The Perry Township Comprehensive Plan serves as a guiding framework for local decision-making over the next 10 to 20 years. Built on extensive public input, data analysis, and collaboration with regional stakeholders, the plan discusses balanced growth, protection of natural resources, and enhancement of public services. One of the key features of the plan is the Tuscarawas/Lincoln/SR 172 corridor, which many community members identified as a priority for the Township—categorizing it as both a challenge and an opportunity.

A comprehensive plan is a vital tool for local government. It provides a vision-based yet practical framework for decision-making on land use, infrastructure, public investment, and community services. The plan is a living document, intended to evolve with the community's needs. Regular reviews and public engagement will ensure that the plan remains relevant and impactful over time. The plan can be found on the SCRPC website under 'Local Plans' within the Comprehensive Planning Department's page.

October

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

November

3	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
4	SCRPC	7:00 PM
24	SCATS	1:30 PM

December

8	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
9	SCRPC	7:00 PM

Visit our website:
www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

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330-451-7389



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