



Planning Progress

April - June 2020

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2020 Governmental Law Seminar

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The 2020 Governmental Law Seminar, sponsored by the Stark County Prosecutor's Office and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission, was held on Saturday, February 29th. Over 110 people attended the seminar that was designed for local officials. The general session, which was presented by James Mathews and Tonya Rogers of the Baker, Dublikar Law Firm, covered the legal aspects of small cell (5G) wireless implementation as it relates to local governments in the State of Ohio.

Nine sessions were offered throughout the morning and early afternoon with speakers from the Prosecutor's Office, Regional Planning, Stark County GIS, Stark County Combined General Health District, and Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District.



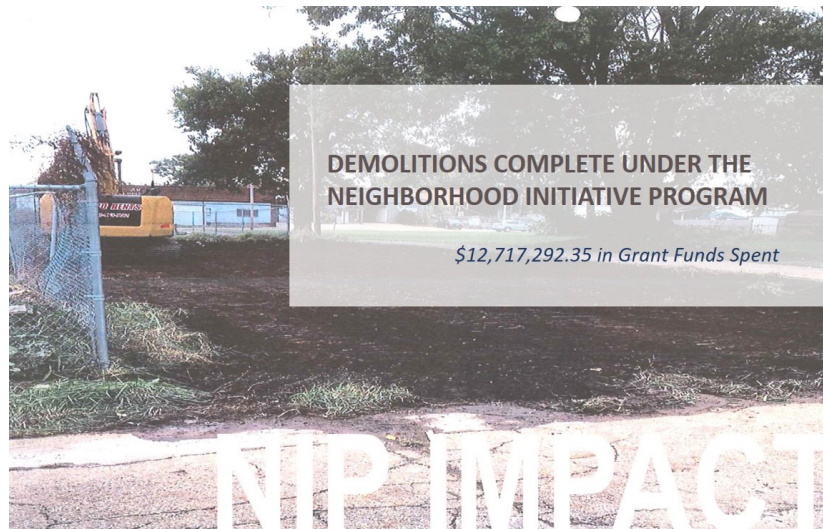
Workshops included:

- Basics of Zoning
- Public Records & Records Retention
- SCRPC Grants
- Drainage Complaints
- Nuisance Abatement
- Sunshine Law
- Workers' Compensation
- Emerging Issues in Employment Law
- GIS Usage for Communities

To view the presentations, visit our website at:

www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP) Update



December 18, 2019 marked the final deadline for demolitions completed by the Stark County Land Bank under the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP), a program administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA). Funding was utilized in order to help stabilize property values and prevent future foreclosures for existing homeowners by removing abandoned, blighted properties. The Stark County Land Bank began this work after its initial NIP funding award (\$4,235,000) in 2014; which at the time was projected to fund 175+ demolitions in targeted areas of Canton, Alliance, and Massillon. After additional funding rounds in 2015 & 2016 and performance deadlines throughout the course of the program, the Land Bank ultimately received over \$12.7 million, which funded the demolition of 797 blighted homes (902 units).

Partnerships between the Land Bank and the cities of Canton, Alliance and Massillon were integral in the success of the program. The cities not only assisted the Land Bank in identifying these 797 blighted structures, but also contracted for the demolition work. Additional demolition costs (\$207,643.71) not funded by the NIP grant was covered by the Land Bank and its NIP partners.

797
ABANDONED/ BLIGHTED HOMES
DEMOLISHED

Canton – 576 (648 units) – \$9,768,500.99
Alliance – 161 (188 units) – \$2,333,421.38
Massillon – 60 (66 units) – \$823,013.69

Many of the lots are still available to eligible neighboring property owners through the Land Bank's Side Lot Program, qualified non-profits, or the respective partner city for immediate redevelopment or reuse.



2020 Census

“The 2020 Census is on mission, on schedule, and on budget to promote an accurate count,” said Census Bureau Director, Dr. Steven Dillingham. “Response is important because statistics from the census are used in distributing hundreds of billions in funding for school lunches, hospitals, roads and much more. The invitations will remind respondents to include everyone living in the household, whether they are related or not. This includes young children. Your response will impact communities for the next decade.”

The results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets. A state’s electoral votes are based on their seats in Congress. Ohio currently has 16 seats, and we want to make sure we keep all of them so that we are accurately represented at the Congressional level.

The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities is based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs. **The state of Ohio receives approximately \$33.5 billion, with over \$1 billion of that going right here to Stark County. This means that with every uncouncted person, Stark County loses \$2,900 in funding.**

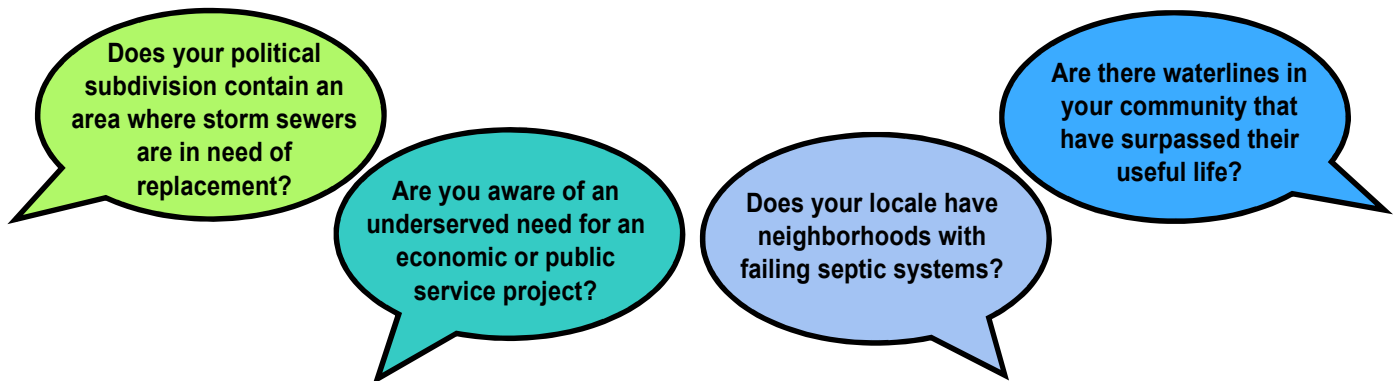
By April 1, most households will have received an invitation delivered either by mail or by a census taker. In areas of the country that are less likely to respond online, a paper questionnaire will be included in the initial mailing to households. Reminder mailings will be sent to households that do not respond, and in the fourth mailing every household that has not yet responded will receive a paper questionnaire. It’s easy to respond and can be done online, over the phone, or by paper. Census answers are **confidential!**

Important 2020 Census Dates

- April 8-16: Reminder letters and paper questionnaires will be delivered to remaining households that have not responded.
- April 20-27: Final reminder postcards will be delivered to households that have not yet responded before census takers follow up in person.
- May 13-July 31: If a household does not respond to any of the invitations, a census taker will follow up in person.



Is Your Population in Need of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding?



If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, NOW is the time to start exploring the possibility of obtaining future Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to help!

CDBG funding is granted to qualified infrastructure or public facility improvement projects that are located in designated low- to –moderate-income (LMI) census tract/block group areas. Funding is also granted for qualified economic development or public service projects that directly benefit eligible LMI persons/families in your community.

If you believe you have a project that could qualify for CDBG funding, please contact the Stark County CDBG Department. Staff is available to answer questions or to meet with your municipality/ township/non-profit agency to discuss potential project ideas.

Start the dialogue for your community.

Call us: Lynn Carlone, Chief of Community Development, 330-451-7774

Katie Puleo, Community Development Planner, 330-451-7031

Or visit us online: <https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/community-development>

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
Heating
Siding
Insulation
Doors**

**Electric
Roofs
Gutters
Windows
...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

Stark County Development Hub on the Horizon

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission staff has been working with the Stark County Auditor's GIS/IT Department to build a development hub for applicants submitting subdivision and site improvement projects that are reviewed by RPC. The purpose of the website is to create a centralized location as a "one stop shop" to provide detailed information to those applicants submitting projects to RPC, and also to be more transparent with the general public. The website has a variety of features proposed, including tools to correctly identify the project location and utilities available; a dataset extraction tool to help with mapping; a directory of forms and applications utilized by RPC; a directory of the county and township departments and agencies involved in the subdivision review process; regulations of the various county agencies involved in the process; and eventually a status look-up for active projects submitted to RPC. Look for this new hub site to be unveiled in the coming months.

STARK COUNTY DEVELOPMENT HUB COMING SOON





We would normally present our Annual Report at the Annual Dinner, which was scheduled for March 18th. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation, the event was cancelled. The report shows the accomplishments of the RPC in 2019. To view it, please visit the link below.
starkcountyohio.gov/StarkCounty/media/RPC-Main/2019-annual-report.pdf

SCATS Certification Review

On February 24, representatives of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) made their site visit to SCATS for their quadrennial review of SCATS' planning processes.

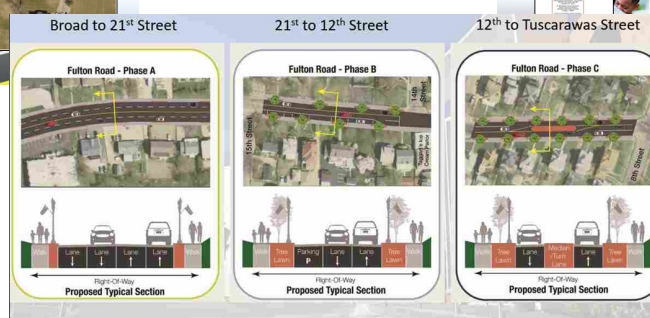
Every four years, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) must certify that each metropolitan planning organization serving a transportation management area (TMA) is carrying out the metropolitan planning process in adherence with federal statutes and regulations. SCATS is the MPO for Stark County, the designated TMA of the Canton urbanized area.

FTA and FHWA conduct the review and jointly issue the certification on behalf of the DOT Secretary, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 5303(k). Frank Burkett, Senior Planning Specialist with the Columbus DOT office, was the FHWA representative. Mark Kane, Community Planner with the Chicago DOT Office, was the FTA representative.

SCATS staff made a presentation covering a number of topics. These included:

- Progress in addressing recommendations from the previous review:
 - ADA Transition Planning;
 - Limited English Proficiency Plan using four-factor analysis;
- The organizational structure and membership of SCATS;
- How performance-based planning and the inclusion of performance measures is occurring in the Plan, TIP and Work Program;
- The status of current planning work and plan elements including: safety and security, freight, bike and pedestrian planning, and transit planning;
- Staff also highlighted completed major projects as well as planning efforts such as the Hall of Fame Village Land Use and Transportation Study and local efforts that were supported by SCATS in Brewster, Canal Fulton, and Alliance.

The reviewers were particularly interested in seeing the cooperation between SARTA and SCATS in planning and how well performance measures are being incorporated into plans due to the requirements created by the previous two highway funding acts, Map-21 and the FAST Act.

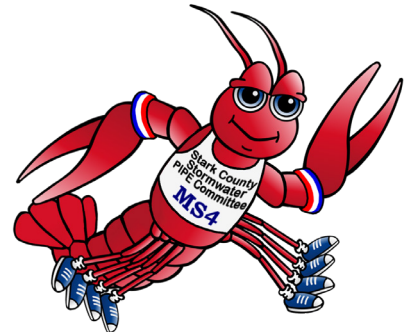


Hall of Fame Village Study

Stormwater Education Program Update



**“Don’t
Let
Stormwater
Runoff”**



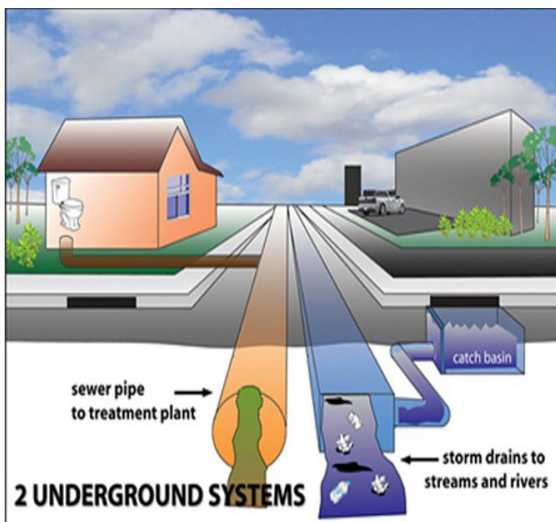
What is an **Illicit Discharge**? Any discharge to a storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water. Storm sewers are not designed to accept, process, or discharge non-storm water wastes such as fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, yard debris, oil or grease from a car, etc.

Storm sewers collect water from outside our homes and businesses and carry it, untreated, directly to streams and rivers. **Sanitary sewers** collect water from inside homes and businesses and carry it to treatment plants, where it is cleaned before it reaches streams and rivers.

Illicit discharges enter the storm sewer system through either direct or indirect connections (e.g. infiltration into the system from cracked sanitary systems, improperly maintained septic systems, spills collected by drain outlets, or paint or used oil dumped directly into a drain).

The result is untreated discharges that contribute high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving water-bodies. Pollutant levels from these illicit discharges have been shown in many studies to be high enough to significantly degrade water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.

Remember - Only Rain Down the Drain!



Credit: stormwatersmart.org

Septic System Maintenance

- Have your system inspected annually by a service provider and pump tank every three years.
- Avoid using any type of chemical or biological septic tank additive.
- Avoid dumping paints, household cleaners, oils, or fats down your drains.
- Avoid driving/parking vehicles on your septic system.
- Direct rainwater and surface water away from the leachfield.
- Avoid flooding your system by using too much water at one time.



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

Upcoming Events

April

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

May

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

June

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

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