

Planning Progress

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Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant- Updates

Inside

Permeable Pavers.....page 2

Rain Garden.....page 3

CDBG and HOME Programs..... page 4

SARTA Now Carries Bicycles.....page 7

As part of the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant, Stark County is now offering a Local Government Rebate Program. Rebates are available for the purchase and installation of qualified energy efficiency retrofits to local cities, townships, and villages within Stark County (outside the City of Canton).

The program will permit a rebate of up to 1/2 of the cost of qualified energy efficiency retrofits to a maximum of \$1000 per political subdivision. There is no minimum cost required, but only one rebate will be issued per political subdivision.

Qualified improvements include the purchase and installation of:

- Programmable thermostats
- Insulation
- Energy efficient heating, ventilation, & air conditioning units (HVAC) (to replace existing, less energy efficient systems)
- Energy-saving windows
- Other- caulking/weather stripping around doors/windows, replacing lighting with compact fluorescent lighting (CFL)

Application and processing information can be found on our website- www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us or by calling Cliff Meidlein at 330-451-7904 or Malia Watkins at 330-451-7405.

Through this grant, RPC has already issued 115 programmable thermostat rebates. The grant will cover over 1200 more. A \$25 rebate is available to Stark County residents (outside the City of Canton) and small business owners (5 or fewer employees) who show proof of purchasing a programmable thermostat.

For more information, please visit www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us or call Malia Watkins at 330-451-7405.



Permeable Pavers

Permeable pavement is becoming a best management practice of choice for many seeking to address water-quality concerns. Not only is permeable pavement doing its job with regard to water quality and quantity, but it also is adding aesthetic value to property. Many places throughout the country are using various means to address storm water concerns.



Site of Heroes Gym in Dallas

One solution when storm sewer connections are not accessible or cost-prohibitive is Gravelpave2. It is manufactured of porous geotextile fabric that is molded to a 1-inch-high integrated ring and grid system. It is placed on top of a porous base course, anchored with galvanized anchors, and filled with decorative gravel. Gravelpave2 saved a Dallas firm from having to put in a storm sewer system and saved quite a bit of money as well.

A system used in Minnesota and Oregon is the Environmental Passive Integrated Chamber (EPIC) system. “The EPIC system is a non-clogging drainage and subsurface irrigation technology that utilizes passive, natural processes of water movement to manage and direct water resources. It reduces water pollution, decreases irrigation water use by 50% to 80%, and manages massive stormwater volumes using living systems of green space to treat and reuse water,” says Mark Apfelbacher of Rehbein Environmental Solutions, Inc. The EPIC system, constructed of recycled polypropylene, is composed of a liner pan, the injection-molded chamber, and sand fill that covers and surrounds these. Storm water surge or runoff is retained in the system for reuse or slowly released in a controlled manner.



Parking lot in Oregon



Bioswale in parking lot

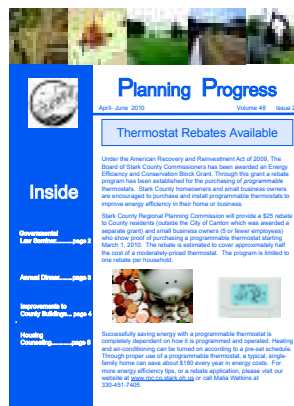
Another good choice is a bioswale. To accommodate runoff from larger storms, a bioswale in the center of this parking lot (left) acts as a backup system to the pavers, drawing excess water and allowing filtration. Mark Hadley of an Oregon architecture and engineering firm says, “the parking lot is permeable on a one-to-one ratio. Every square foot of permeable pavement reduces pollutants by the same square footage. By reducing the quantity of runoff as well as by infiltrating that water, we’ve also minimized the water-quality detriment going into the stream.”

Rain Garden



Jackson Township and the Storm Water Public Involvement/Public Education (PIPE) of Stark County sponsored a rain garden workshop on May 8th. Over 20 people participated representing county townships, villages, cities, and the public. The rain garden is located at Jackson North Park behind the township hall on Wales Rd. Attendees learned the value of planting rain gardens and actually took part in planting native plants in that area. The public is welcome to attend any of the meetings held by the PIPE Committee which are listed on our website at www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us

Newsletter



The RPC is taking on “green office practices.” In an attempt to save money and paper, we are emailing the Planning Progress Newsletter to those that we have email addresses. If you are receiving this newsletter by regular mail, please notify us with your email address.

PROPOSED FY 2010 STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND HOME PROGRAMS

In early May, the Board of Stark County Commissioners adopted the FY 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs. This adoption took place after the thirty-day comment period for both programs expired on April 13th. Both the FY 2010 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 24th public hearing. Below is the breakdown of the FY 2010 CDBG and HOME programs.

FY 2010 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners plan to undertake the following housing and community development activities during FY 2010.

<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>FUNDING AMOUNT</u>
CDBG Administration	161,900
Comprehensive Planning	87,487
Fair Housing	63,106
Housing Rehabilitation Program Costs - Delivery Cost	240,000
Housing Rehab Project Cost	155,000
Housing Rehab Septic Program	75,000
Emergency Rehabilitation Program	125,000
Stock Pile, Inc. - LMI Reuse Warehouse	50,000
Community Services of Stark Co. - Family Living Center	21,543
Western Stark Free Clinic-Healthcare for the Uninsured & Underserved	30,000
Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence	14,989
Prescription Asst. Network of Stark Co.-Prescription Medication Access	16,000
Salvation Army of Canton - Homeless Motel Vouchers	35,000
Canton Negro Oldtimers, Inc. - Three Annual Giving Events	5,000
Kent State Stark - KSU Micro Enterprise Development Program	27,967
Canal Fulton - High Street/Erie Avenue Plum Creek Culvert Replacement	91,715
Hartville - North Prospect Street Improvement Project	155,000
North Canton - Hower & Witwer Sanitary Replacement**	189,000
Contingencies	18,760
TOTAL	\$1,562,467

It is anticipated that the County will receive an additional \$95,000 in program income from the current housing rehab revolving loan fund program. This program income will revolve back into this program.

FY 2010 HOME PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners, as the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, plan the following expenditure of funds for the HOME program, which follows the same program year as the CDBG program.

PROJECTS	FUNDING AMOUNT
City of Massillon - Housing Rehabilitation	163,679
Alliance for Children & Families - A-F.I.R.S.T - Phase II	65,000
City of Alliance - Housing Rehabilitation	115,626
SMHA - Tenant-based Rental Assistance	159,120
SMHA - HOPE Tenant-based Rental Assistance	193,872
ABCD, Inc. - Brewster Homes - Phase II (CHDO)	143,156
Stark County - Homebuyer, Rehab, & Rental Activities Administration	4,582
	93,893
TOTAL	\$938,928

After adoption by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County CDBG program submitted the fully-approved "Stark County FY 2010 CDBG and HOME Programs One-Year Update of the Consolidated Plan" to the US Department of Housing and Urban - Development (HUD) on May 10th for their acceptance and a July 1st start date.

The Stock Pile Needs Your Stuff!

If you are doing any remodeling or updating of your home, keep The Stock Pile in mind! Items such as doors, windows, cupboards, light fixtures, flooring, bricks, and the like are always wanted. Used building materials in good to excellent condition or extra new ones are needed. Donations are tax deductible. The Stock Pile can arrange to pick up larger items. Call 330-455-4585 to arrange to make your donation today!



SARTA Wants Your Comments on Proposed Changes

The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) is in the midst of preparing its latest Transit Development Plan (TDP). The TDP is a five-year operating and capital investment plan used to guide SARTA in meeting the public transit needs of Stark County residents.

The TDP is being developed with the assistance of by Parsons Brinckerhoff, a worldwide firm that provides consulting, planning, engineering, and program and construction management services to public and private agencies.



The planning effort includes public outreach, an internal review of SARTA, a fiscal analysis, demographic and land use analysis, an evaluation of current services, and recommendations for route restructuring and future capital projects. These efforts include meeting with local governments and offices, ridership surveys, on/off destination counts, internal surveys of SARTA employees, and an on-line survey.

Preliminary recommendations are for shortening lesser used bus routes in order to increase the frequency of the most heavily used routes. Adjustments to routes also include reducing the number of loop routes and replacing them with ones that follow the same path both outbound and inbound. While this lessens the area served, it reduces the length of time riders must spend on en-route before they can transfer to other buses at the various transit centers.

SARTA passengers review proposed route changes, ask consultants and SARTA staff questions, and offer their recommendations.

Other proposed route changes include eliminating some low ridership routes and replacing them with an on-demand "Dial-a-Ride" similar to the paratransit service. One of the most requested passenger desires is to have the frequency of the Route 102 (W. Tusc./Massillon) increased. It has been proposed to increase the 102 runs from 1-hour to every half-hour.



For more information or a look at the plan, visit:
<http://www.sartaonline.com> or
<http://sartatransitplan2010.com>

SARTA Rolls Out Bus-Mounted Bike Carriers

The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) held a “Bike Rack on Buses Event” on April 2 to celebrate the inauguration of a new form of multi-modal transportation in Stark County- the ability to take your bicycle with you on public transit!

The newly installed bicycle racks are mounted on the front of all SARTA fixed-route and paratransit vehicles, each of which can carry two bicycles. The racks fold up and down by pulling a release lever and have a spring loaded grip arm that securely holds the bicycle in the rack.



With the assistance of community groups, local businesses, and local celebrities, SARTA's celebration featured a free lunch provided by Fishers, health screenings by Aultman Hospital, a live-remote WHBC broadcast by Ron Ponder, and prizes from SARTA, Ernie's Bicycle Shop and iShopStark.com.

Other participants included Stark Parks, the US Census, and the Stark County Bicycle Club. Our very own (i.e. former RPC Director) Gerald Bixler demonstrated how to use the bicycle racks.

The ability to take your bicycle with you on public transit greatly increases the commuting and recreational riding possibilities for SARTA passengers and provides another option on accessing the multi-purpose trails throughout the County.

Upcoming Events

July

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

August

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

September

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

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