

2010  
ANNUAL REPORT

Rocky River Upper West Branch  
Watershed Planning Partnership



**BALANCED GROWTH PLAN**  
STATE ENDORSED JUNE, 2009



## Partnership

**Medina County Commissioners**  
**Medina County Department of Planning Services**  
**Medina County Economic Development Corporation**  
**Medina County Emergency Management Services**  
**Medina County Farm Bureau**  
**Medina County Highway Engineer**  
**Medina County Home Builders Association**  
**Medina County Park District**  
**Medina County Sanitary Engineer**  
**Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency**  
**Rocky River Watershed Council**  
**Western Reserve Land Conservancy**

## Participants

**City of Brunswick**  
**City of Medina**  
**Hinckley Township**  
**Lafayette Township**  
**Medina Township**  
**Montville Township**  
**Sharon Township**  
**Medina County Board of Commissioners**

## Meetings Held

1. Most of the West Branch of the Rocky River Watershed Planning Partnership members are participating in the expanded Upper Chippewa Creek Watershed Planning Partnership process.
2. Several members met with the OSU Center for Farmland Policy Innovation staff to discuss cross jurisdictional possibilities.
3. Several members sponsored training on “Agricultural Zoning” for township elected officials, zoning officials and landowners.
4. Several members hosted stormwater and sediment control BMP training.

## Implementation plans underway or completed

1. Hinckley Township adopted Riparian setback zoning
2. Montville Township adopted Riparian setback zoning
3. Lafayette Township is completing their Comprehensive Plan
4. Medina County Dept. of Planning Services “concept plan” submittals reviewed with Balanced Growth identification notices.
5. Medina City has utilized the opportunity afforded them the most of the entities.  
See list on next page.

## Special incentives or support applied for, granted or not

1. Montville Township Rustic Hills community request via the county commissioners for OEPA funds for sewers. (Denied)
2. Hinckley Township request for OEPA SWIF grant funding for pervious concrete (Denied)
3. Brunswick City possible siting for Scrap Tire Company relocation (located somewhere else)
4. Medina Township application to ODOT for “Scenic Highway” designation on St .Rte 3. (Denied)

## **5. City of Medina Activities Related to the Balanced Growth Initiative**

**Clean Ohio Trail Program and Recreation Trails Grant** - we applied for the grants in Jan 2010. The City received \$479, 938 from the Clean Ohio Trail Grant program and \$109,260 from the Recreational Trails program, both of which are administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The trail will extend the current Roscoe Ewing 1.2 mile asphalt path from Guilford Blvd to Broadway St creating a continuous trail of over two miles. The trail will serve recreational users within the community and be a vital transportation route as several thousand residents will have pedestrian/bicycle access to downtown Medina.

**Ohio EPA – Targeted Brownfield Assessment Grant** – Received state funding to complete Phase I assessments for the Methodist Church, Farmers Exchange, and James Bennett Lumber Sites. These studies were fully funded from the grant and were completed in May, 2010.

**USEPA – Brownfield Assessment Grant** – City will be applying on October 15, 2010 for a \$1,000,000 grant as a coalition with Medina, Montville, York, and Lafayette Townships and the Village of Chippewa Lake. The grant will allow the region to complete Brownfield inventories and to complete Phase I and Phase II assessments on vacant and abandoned commercial/industrial sites.

**NOACA** – City applied to the Transportation Enhancement Program for Streetscape and bicycle amenities in the Development District and along South Court Street. Funding announcements are to occur by November 2010.

### **Additional Notes:**

The City of Medina received a site visit from Ohio Dept of Development Urban Development office and OEPA in Spring of 2010 to seek assistance on redevelopment within the Champion Creek District. The representatives spent a couple of hours in town and walk the district to see the redevelopment opportunities.

They provided good insight on ODOD programs and on the USEPA Assessment program we are now applying for. We did learn of two gaps or restrictions in other funding programs which have limited our options and delayed our schedules:

The City of Medina also met in Columbus with representatives of the State Assistance Working Group or (SAWG) to review their revitalization plans for Champion Creek.

1. Clean Ohio Assistance Fund – This program provides grant funding to complete Phase II assessments. With the completed Phase I's we were hoping to pursue this program for the Phase II, however, we are not within an eligible priority funding area to apply. Had we been, we could have completed the Phase II work which is required to apply for the Revitalization funds the purchase of redevelopment properties.

2: Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund – this program provides \$2-3million in grant funding for the purchase, demolition, and clean up of Brownfield sites. We would like to target this for the Methodist Church site as some off site suspect contamination has been identified and the building contains asbestos. We received word; however, that the program does not typically fund churches. If the site is not eligible for the revitalization fund, no other accessible program appears available.

## CONCLUSIONS

The Balanced Growth Program has offered some excellent interactions by some who would not normally be sitting across the table from each other.

Allowing Balanced Growth communities to be eligible as priority areas in the Clean Ohio Assistance Fund and to expand the funding allowances under the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund would open up additional funding sources for the balanced growth areas.

The Watershed Planning Partnership suggests that an awarded incentive to a local jurisdiction by the state be acknowledged as awarded due to participation in the Balanced Growth Plan. The result would locally promote credibility, increase local buy in and support for the balanced growth program.

A protracted long term existence of the Watershed Planning Partnership functioning at the local level is unlikely without direct incentive results. Otherwise, they will move forward and toward their own individual organizational opportunities and priorities.