



Village of East Canton and Osnaburg Township's Joint Community Plan

June 2015

*Prepared by: The Joint Community Plan Committee and
The Stark County Regional Planning Commission*



“The vision of East Canton and Osnaburg Township is to ensure and protect the quality of life of our community, where residents treat each other with respect, provide diverse business opportunities, celebrate our unique historic and agricultural heritage, strengthen our schools, and embrace our future with optimism.”



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Acknowledgements

This comprehensive plan was prepared under the direction of the Joint Community Plan Committee, which consisted of volunteers from both the Village of East Canton and Osnaburg Township. Members of the committee dedicated hours of volunteer time to the research and discussion of the existing conditions and potential future of the combined community area. The following citizens served on the committee and deserve much praise for the development of a Joint Community Plan that will guide the community well into the next 20 years.

Joint Community Plan Committee

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Village of East Canton Mayor, Village Council, and Fiscal Officer

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Many individuals who are not mentioned above also contributed to the development of the Joint Community Plan. The Committee would like to acknowledge the participation of the many commission members and zoning staff who have been involved in this effort. Acknowledgment and appreciation are also extended to the many Village and Township residents who provided input and attended public meetings over the course of the Plan's development.

The Process

In July of 2014, government officials from both the Township and Village came together at a public meeting to present the need for a joint community plan. At the meeting, a request was issued for volunteers to serve on a plan committee. Applications were due in August, and the public officials selected 15 individuals to serve on the committee. Both communities contracted with the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) to assist with the development of the Joint Community Plan. Committee meetings were held once a month starting in September to review and analyze a wide range of information for the plan. At the first meeting, the committee participated in a SWOT Analysis, which is the examination of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) of a community. At this meeting, the committee was asked to evaluate where the community currently stood using this methodology. This step laid the groundwork for determining what kind of future the committee, as representatives of the community, desired for East Canton and Osnaburg Township. The results of the SWOT Analysis are included in the Appendix, as well as minutes from all of the committee meetings.

A public visioning meeting was held in October, where members of the public were given a survey and questionnaire requesting their input on various topics pertaining to transportation, economic development, livability and housing. Attendees were also asked to review associated maps and pictures, and offer any comments or suggestions on them. In November, students from the high school were selected to give their suggestions on what they felt were strengths of the community, and areas that needed improvement.



Public Visioning Meeting
Source: SCRPC

After months of data analysis and research by SCRPC staff, as well as information review at the monthly committee meetings, a draft joint community plan was presented to the committee for evaluation and modification in April 2015. The draft plan was then presented to the public for review at the May 2015 meeting. Comments and suggestions received from the public were evaluated in detail at the June committee meeting, and a final plan was ultimately completed in June 2015.

Background

History

The town of Osnaburg was first surveyed in 1801, and settlers began arriving in the Fall of 1804. The first settler claimed the land that is now known as the Stark Ceramics property, which at that time went for \$2 an acre. It is believed that the name “Osnaburg” is likely a derivative of a town in Germany, which is where most of the early settlers emigrated from. As of 1805, the town had a few businesses and several families already living in it. The town of Osnaburg quickly became a popular stagecoach stop, as it was situated on one of the most traveled routes in the area (now known as Route 172). Osnaburg was originally in the running to become the county seat, but eventually lost out to Canton, allegedly due to an outspoken and unruly tavern keeper. The Village retained the name of Osnaburg until World War I, when the anti-German sentiment became so strong that the Village decided to change its name to East Canton.¹

The National Register of Historic Places, the federal government’s list of the nation’s most preservation-worthy sites, has two local sites on the list. The first site is the historic Werner Inn, which was added to the Register in 1987, and the second is the Clearview Golf Club, which was added to the Register in 2001. Certain criteria must be met for a site to be included on the Register, these being age, integrity and significance. Generally speaking, a property must be at least fifty years old and maintain an appearance similar to its original form. The Werner Inn is a perfect example of this type of historic structure. The Clearview Golf Club, which was originally constructed in 1946, can be classified under the third category, significance, as it was the first golf course in the nation to be designed, constructed, owned and operated by an African-American. This accomplishment is a great testament to what can be achieved through faith and perseverance.

Physical Geography

The total land area for the combined community is 34.58 square miles, of which 1.18 square miles is within the Village limits. In terms of topography, Osnaburg Township and East Canton are both part of the Nimishillen Creek Watershed. This watershed is broken up into two subdivisions: areas that were covered by the most recent glacier (12,000 years ago) and



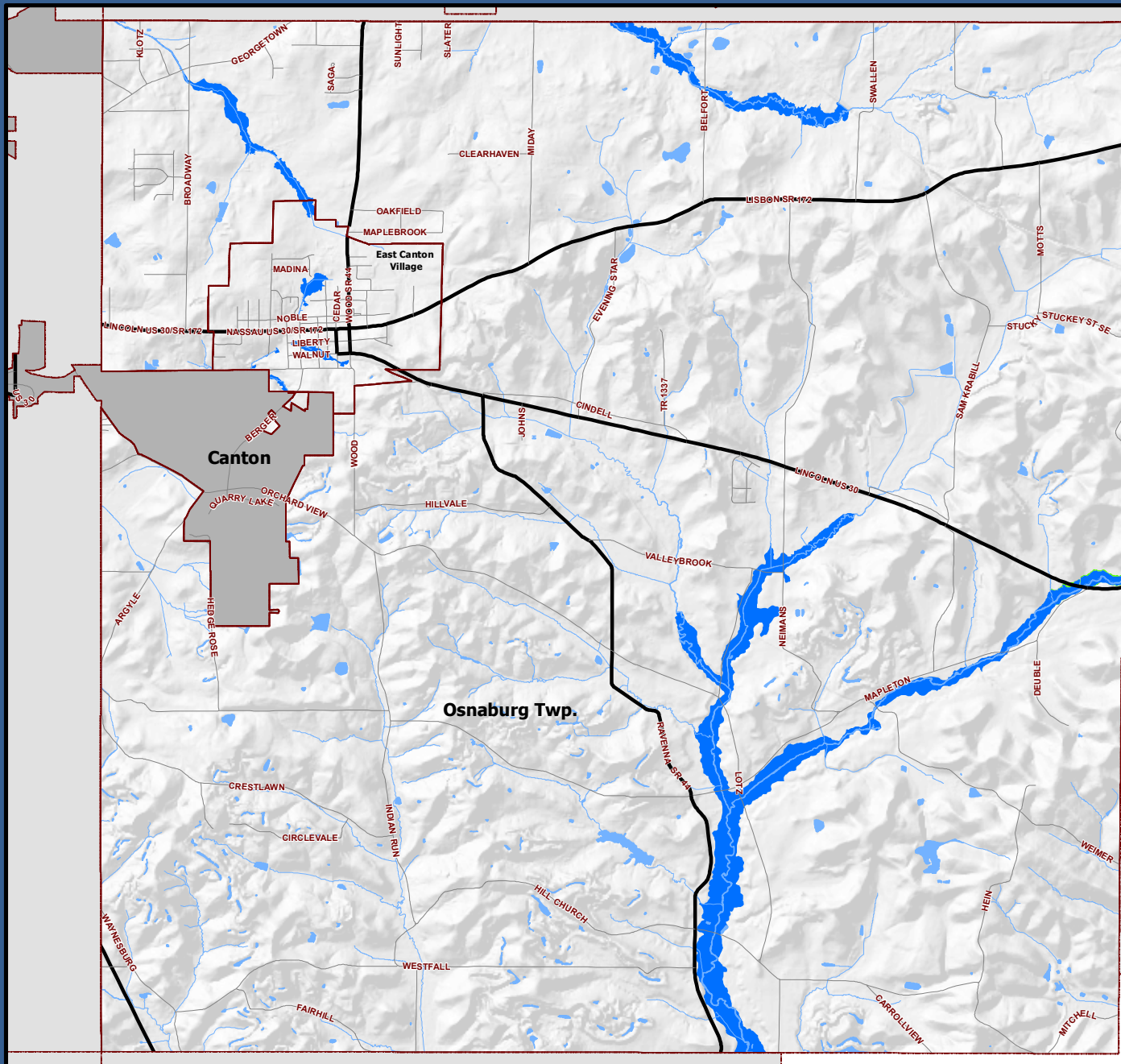
Outdoor Setting
Source: SCRPC

¹Osnaburg Township Bicentennial Committee. *A History of Osnaburg Township: 1804-1976*. December 1992.

areas that were unglaciated. Areas that were not glaciated generally have steep slopes and a more hilly topography, whereas areas that were glaciated tend to be more leveled out and gently sloping (as the ice essentially scraped the areas down). The dividing land for the last glacier runs east and west through the middle of the Township, which explains why there is the change to a more hilly topography heading south and east out of the Village.

There are 144 miles of waterways in the Township and Village, as well as 213 acres of surface area water (lakes, ponds, etc.) which together amount to 0.93% of the total land in the Township and Village combined. Waterways include rivers, creeks and tributaries, such as the Black Run and Little Sandy creeks.

Flood Plain - Water Features



One Hundred Year Flood

Five Hundred Year Flood



The 100-year flood has become the accepted national standard for regulatory purposes. It is defined as the flood event that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year or, on the average, occurs once in a 100-year period.

Natural Resources

The community has had a long history of oil and gas activity dating back to at least 1908. Producing formations range from the Berea sandstone (approximately to a depth of 800') to the Clinton sandstone (approximately to a depth of 5,000'), and to the recent exploration of the Utica/Point Pleasant shale (approximately to a depth of 6,600').

Overall, there have been approximately 622 wells drilled within the Township (excluding undocumented historic wells). Of these, 359 have a producing status, 244 have been plugged, 14 are domestic wells and 5 are injection wells. Almost all of these wells have been drilled to the Clinton sandstone. To date, a total of 19 wells have been drilled within the last 10 years (see following table for breakdown of drilling activity by year).²

Recent Drilling Activity (Within Entire Township)										
Year:	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
# of Wells Drilled:	2	3	2	3	1	1	6	0	0	1

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Stark County is on the edge of the Utica/Point Pleasant shale development. There have been 13 Utica well permits issued in the county, of which 7 have been drilled and 2 are in production. In Osnaburg Township, there have been 2 Utica wells permitted to Chesapeake Exploration. One was drilled horizontally in December 2011 to a length of 12,478'. As of the first quarter of 2014, this well has produced over 16,000 barrels of oil and over 147,000 mcf (1,000 cubic feet) of gas. The other permit has not been drilled yet.

While Utica shale drilling is experiencing an exponential growth in neighboring counties, it is still too early to determine the future of Utica well production locally. Taking this into consideration, one of the goals of this document is to provide suggestions on how to plan and prepare for the impacts of this industry, but at a careful and cautious rate.

Subsurface Conditions

There are a number of subsurface conditions to consider when planning for the future in Osnaburg Township and East Canton. While the prevalence of drilling for oil and gas is increasing throughout the region, there are also a number of abandoned mines in the area, as indicated by the following chart.

²McCormac, Michael. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil & Gas Resources. September 2014.

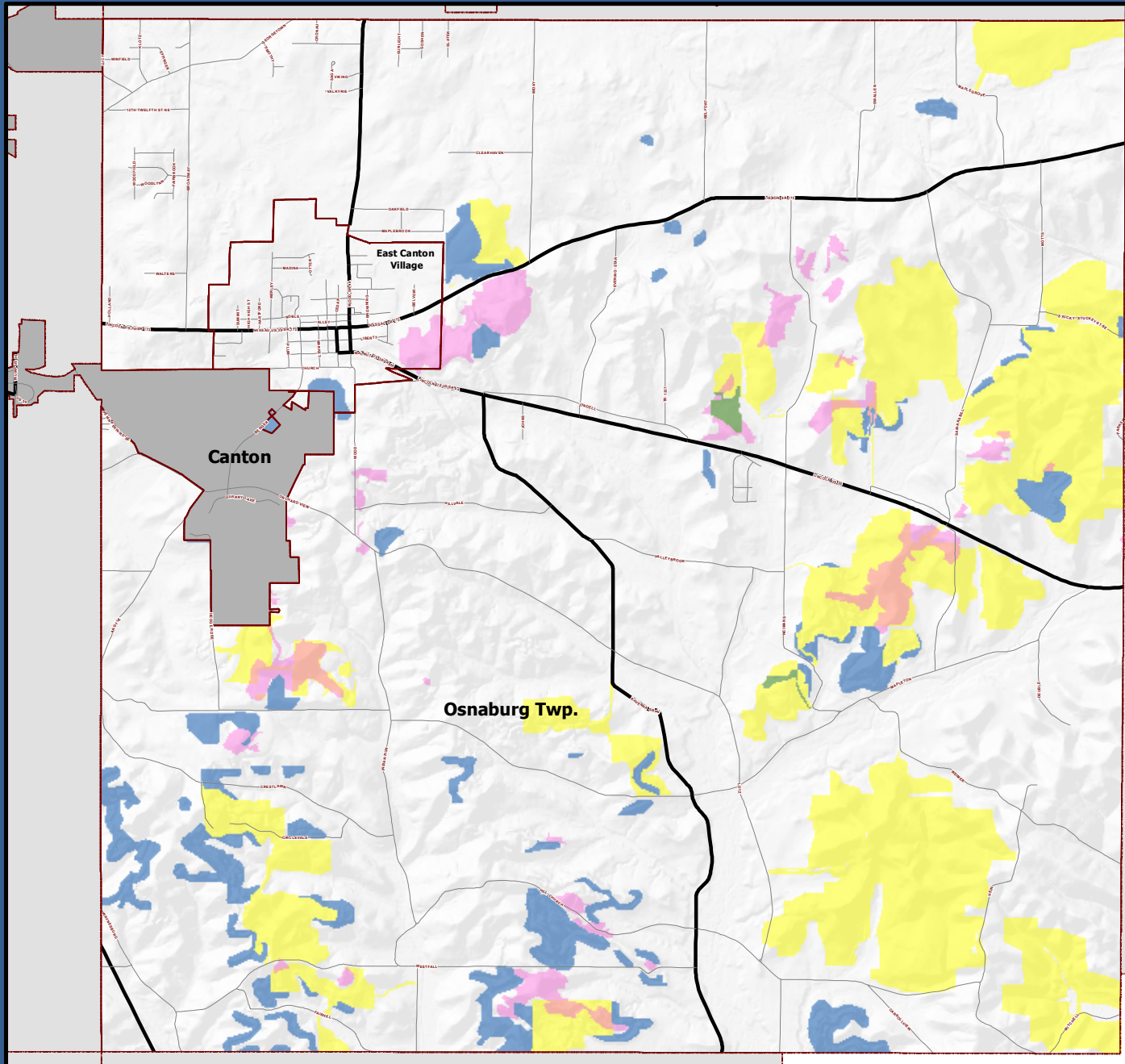
Osnaburg Township Abandoned Mines*	Acres	Percentage of Total
Clay	132	23.75%
Coal	393	70.70%
Clay & Coal	31	5.55%
Total	556	100.00%

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

**One abandoned clay mine crosses the Township/Village border (60 acres in size). It is the only abandoned mine in East Canton.*

While utilization of mine-scarred and other “distressed” areas may be difficult, there are certain opportunities that may be available, and therefore these areas should not be discredited for reuse potential. As these sites can oftentimes be quite large, utilizing these tracts for renewable energy purposes, such as a solar farm, would not only put them back into productive use, but the community may be able to partner with the site owners for utility credits in return. Large-scale renewable energy projects have the potential to generate high amounts of energy, which can oftentimes help offset current utility expenses. Many communities are also returning these sites to a more passive recreation amenity for residents. Please refer to the Parks and Recreation subsection under the Community & Livability chapter for greater explanation on this option.

Current and Abandoned Mines



- Industrial Mineral Mine Operations
- Pre-Law Surface Mines
- Abandoned Underground Mines
- Surface Coal Mine Operations



This data is intended to illustrate Mineral Industry locations within Stark County, by status or type. The data is derived from multiple sources and locational quality may be varied. Location boundaries may require additional research and/or professional surveying to achieve desired accuracy.

Agriculture

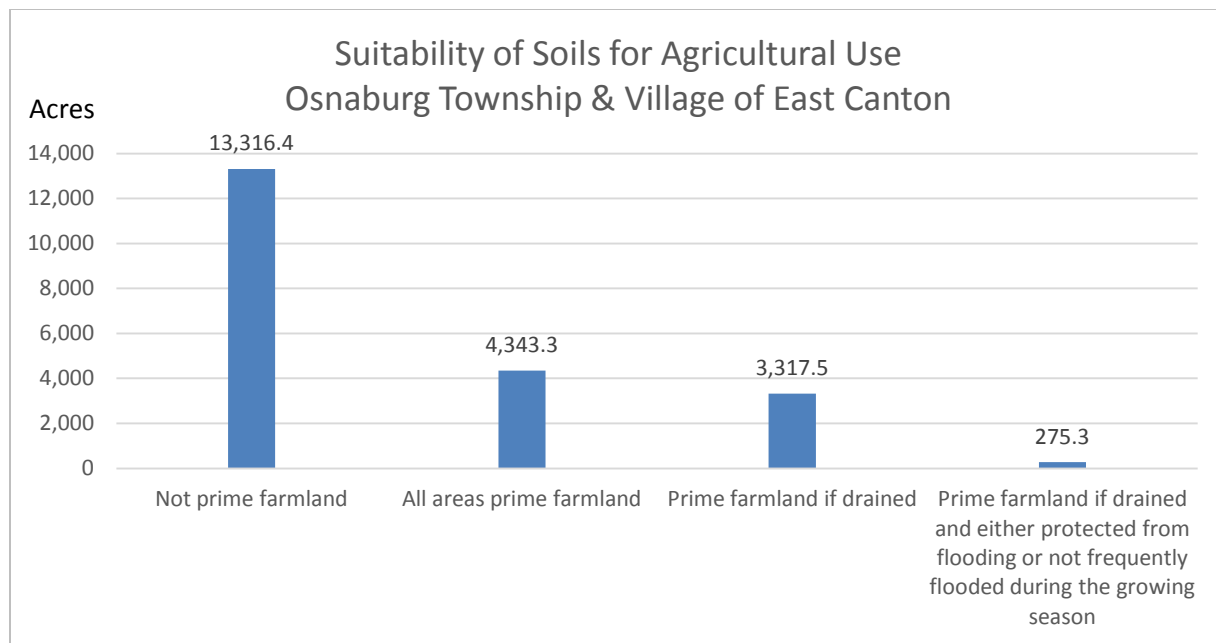
Agriculture plays an important role in land use, zoning, and the economy in Osnaburg Township and East Canton. While the Village of East Canton has 145 acres of land currently in agricultural use, the chart below details the various types of wide-ranging agricultural land use in Osnaburg Township.

Osnaburg Township Agricultural Land Use	Acres	Percentage of Total
Agricultural - Vacant Land (No dwelling)	871	40.05%
Cash - Grain Farm	638	29.31%
Forestry/Timber	333	15.31%
Livestock	232	10.66%
Dairy Farm	23	1.04%
Fruit & Nut	1	0.06%
Other Agricultural	77	3.53%
Total	2,175	100.00%

Source: Stark County Auditor, 2014

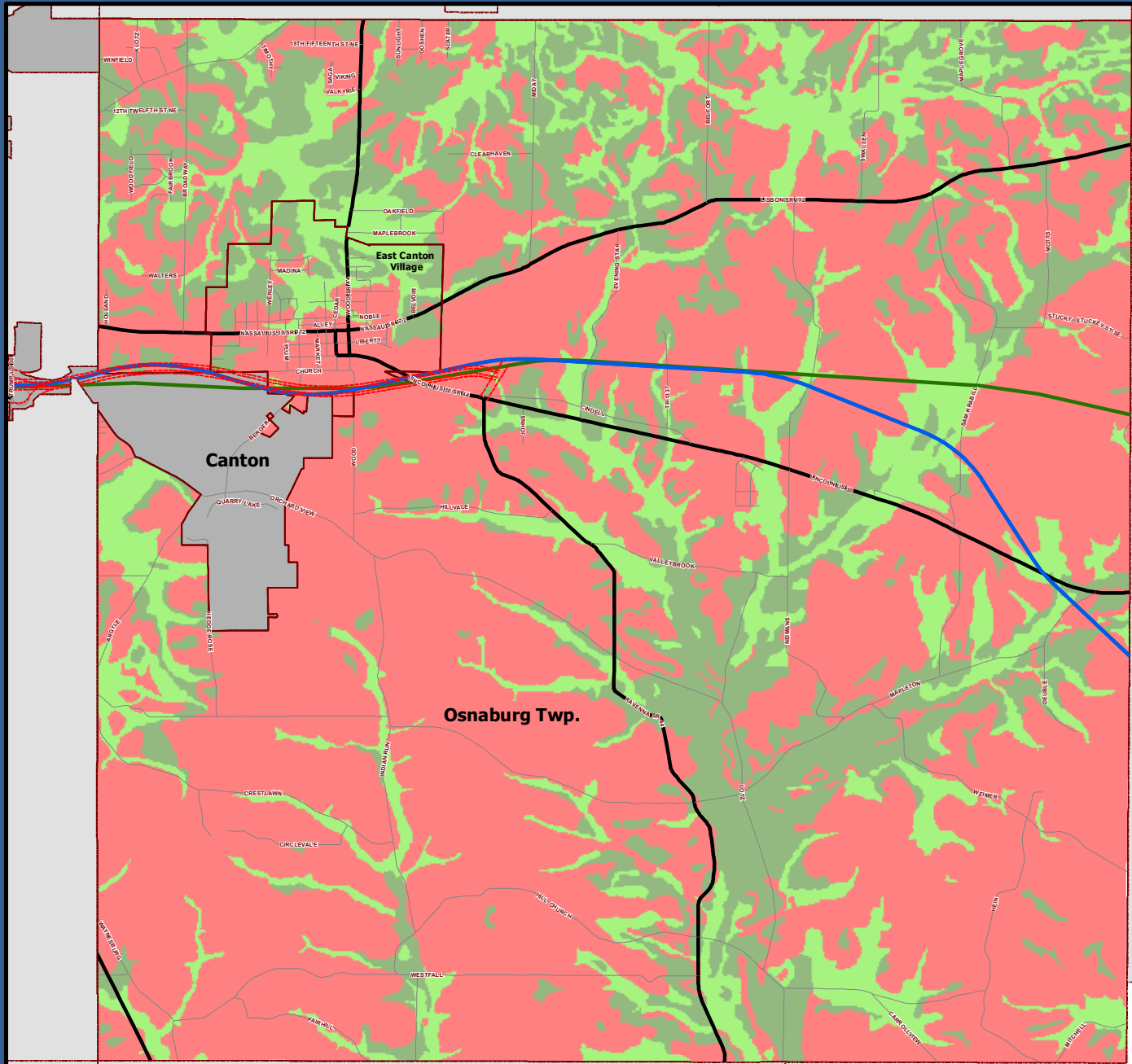
Forty percent of the agricultural land within the Township has no residential dwelling on it, and is therefore classified by the Stark County Auditor's Office as generalized vacant agricultural land, with no specification made to what type of agriculture is conducted on it. For those agricultural tracts that have dwellings on them, nearly thirty percent of those are utilized for grain farming, while 15.31% are used for forestry/timber farming, and 10.66% are utilized for livestock. The smallest portion of agricultural land is utilized for fruit and nut farming. The 2,175 acres of agricultural land in Osnaburg Township and the 145 acres of agricultural land in East Canton constitute 1.7% of the total agricultural lands within Stark County.

The following chart indicates the suitability of various soil types for agricultural use. As shown, the majority of the soil is not suitable for prime farmland. However, 4,343 acres of soil in Osnaburg Township and East Canton are areas of prime farmland. Nearly another 4,000 acres of soil would be prime farmland if drained, protected from flooding, or not frequently flooded during the growing season. Prime farmland is land that has the best physical and chemical characteristics for producing food and crops.



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Farmland Suitability



- All Areas Prime Farmland
- Prime Farmland if Drained
- Not Prime Farmland



Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

Population

According to the US Census, for East Canton, total population rose slightly from 1960 to 1990, but has been experiencing a slight decrease over the last 20 years. Population decreased from 1,629 in 2000 to 1,591 in 2010, a loss of approximately 2.3%.

For Osnaburg Township, the pattern has seen more of a fluctuation. From 1960 to 1990, overall percentage change in population increased slightly by about 3.5%; however, population has decreased by approximately 5.4% since 2000, coming in at roughly the same level as 1990.

Total Population	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
East Canton	1,521	1,631	1,721	1,742	1,629	1,591
Osnaburg Twp	3,888	4,436	4,146	4,039	4,257	4,025
Total	5,409	6,067	5,867	5,781	5,886	5,616

Source: U.S. Census, 1960-2010

Based on current patterns and economic conditions, it can be reasonably expected that population will continue to decrease slightly over the next 10 to 20 years, largely due to decreasing average household sizes and the increasing desire of younger generations to live closer to urban core centers. With the realignment of the Route 30 corridor; however, increased economic involvement could bring additional households into the area, especially if economic growth measures and appropriate zoning schemes conducive to new development are in place.

Demographics

As of 2010, over 95% of the entire population for both communities was Caucasian. This is just slightly lower than the 2000 total of 96%, and higher than Stark County's 2010 total of nearly 89%. While these figures are not uncommon for rural parts of Ohio such as this, a larger mix of different races provides for a greater diversity in opportunities and experiences. A well-balanced community generally has a wide range of people with different racial and/or ethnic backgrounds.

The median age for the entire Township in 2010 was a little over 44 years of age. This average has increased by 4 years since 2000, when the median age was slightly under 40 years old. This change is a very common pattern for much of the country as families are having fewer children and the large baby boomer generation is aging. As of the 2010 U.S.



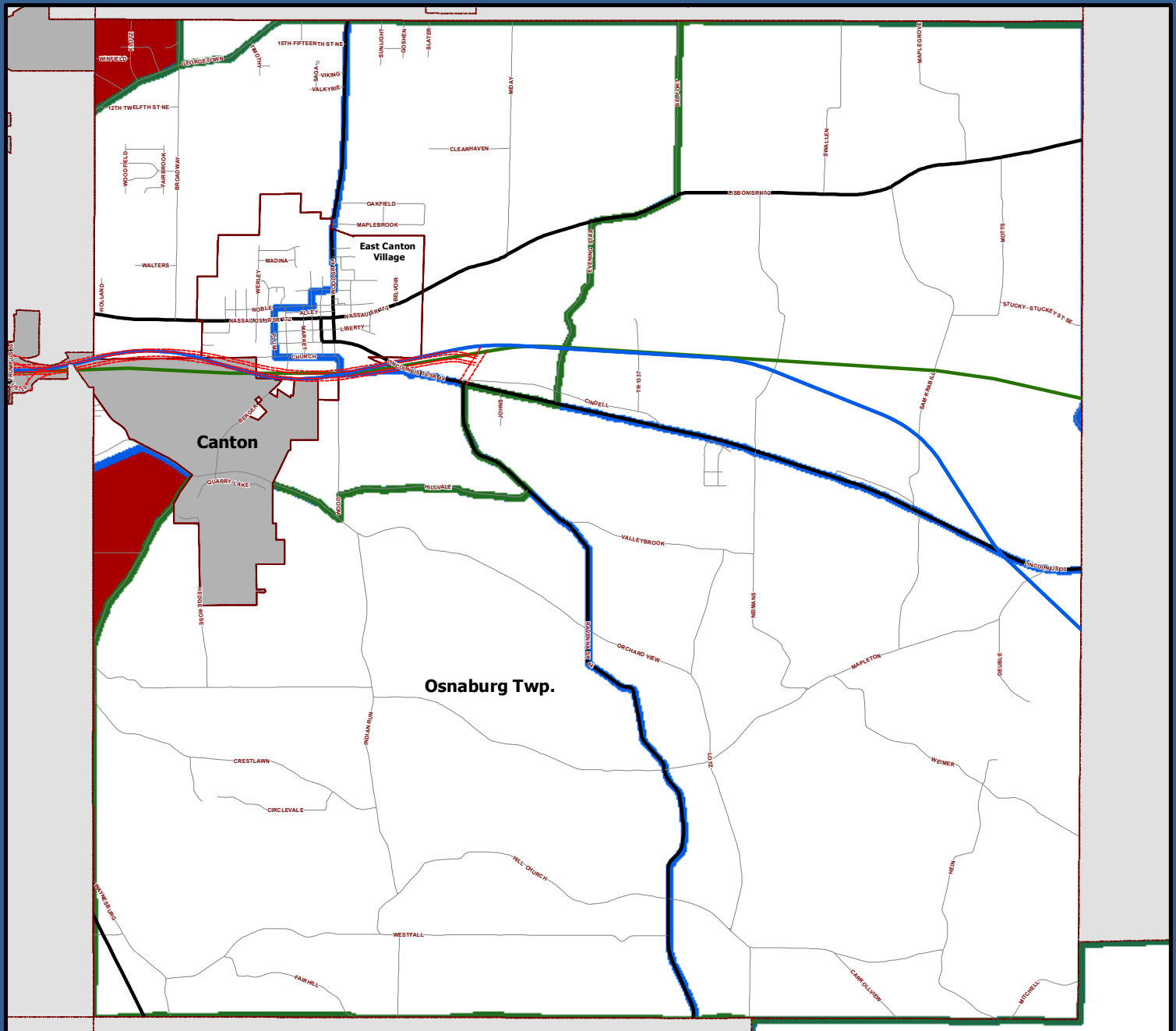
Active Seniors
Source: Unknown

Census, over 17% of the entire Township's population was 65 years or older. This figure is slightly higher than the County's total of 16.2%, and higher than the State of Ohio's total at 14.1%. There are no signs of the aging pattern reversing in the immediate future, which is why it is especially important to ensure that measures are in place to retain the younger generations in the communities, and that appropriate steps are taken to allow seniors to *age in place*. This is a concept that will be discussed in greater detail in later sections.

According to the Stark County Regional Planning Commission's Community Development Department, based on U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) findings, there are portions of two block groups within the Township that fall within identified low-to-moderate income target areas, which are eligible to apply for certain community development block grants (CDBG). The two target areas are in the upper northwest corner of the Township (Georgetown/Broadway Avenue area) and near the Argyle/Baker Street intersection west of the Quarry Golf Course. There are no areas within the Village that currently fall within the CDBG low-to-moderate income areas. The 2000 Census was the last year that block groups were broken down by political jurisdictions. Now, in an effort to produce census data more often (at the larger level), block groups are no longer broken down. The ACS is conducted every three years, and its results are likely to somewhat change the low-to-moderate income target area maps, although it is unclear if it would have any effect on this community.

The 2008-2012 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates reported that median household income was approximately \$44,034 for East Canton and \$52,700 for Osnaburg Township, the combined average of both (\$48,367) being slightly higher than the median household income for the entire county at \$45,689. The Survey also found that the average poverty rate for the entire Township was 9.4%, which was down from the previous five-year estimate of 11.2%. While this figure was well below the ACS county-wide poverty rate estimate of 14.5%, it shouldn't be ignored that almost 10% of the Township's population is struggling to make ends meet. As pointed out earlier, the community consists of a higher-than-average senior citizen population, many of which are on a fixed income. Approximately half of those people falling below the poverty rate in the Township are 65 years or older. Even though the national economy overall is seeing an improvement in poverty trends, there are those on a fixed income who are 65 years or older, a growing age group whose poverty rate can be expected to continue rising until measures are in place to better assist them.

Low - Moderate Income Areas



- | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|----------------------------|
|  | Block Group |  | Low - Moderate Income Area |
|  | Census Tract |  | Ineligible Municipal Area |



The block group and census tract data represented in this map is derived from the U.S. Census.2012. The Low - Moderate income data depicted in this map was determined by the SCRPC Community Development department as potential target areas.

Economic Development

Zoning and Land Use in the Village of East Canton

The following tables illustrate the current land use and zoning breakdown for the Village of East Canton. The Village adopted its first zoning ordinance in 1954, which has been revised periodically, the last time being in 2014.

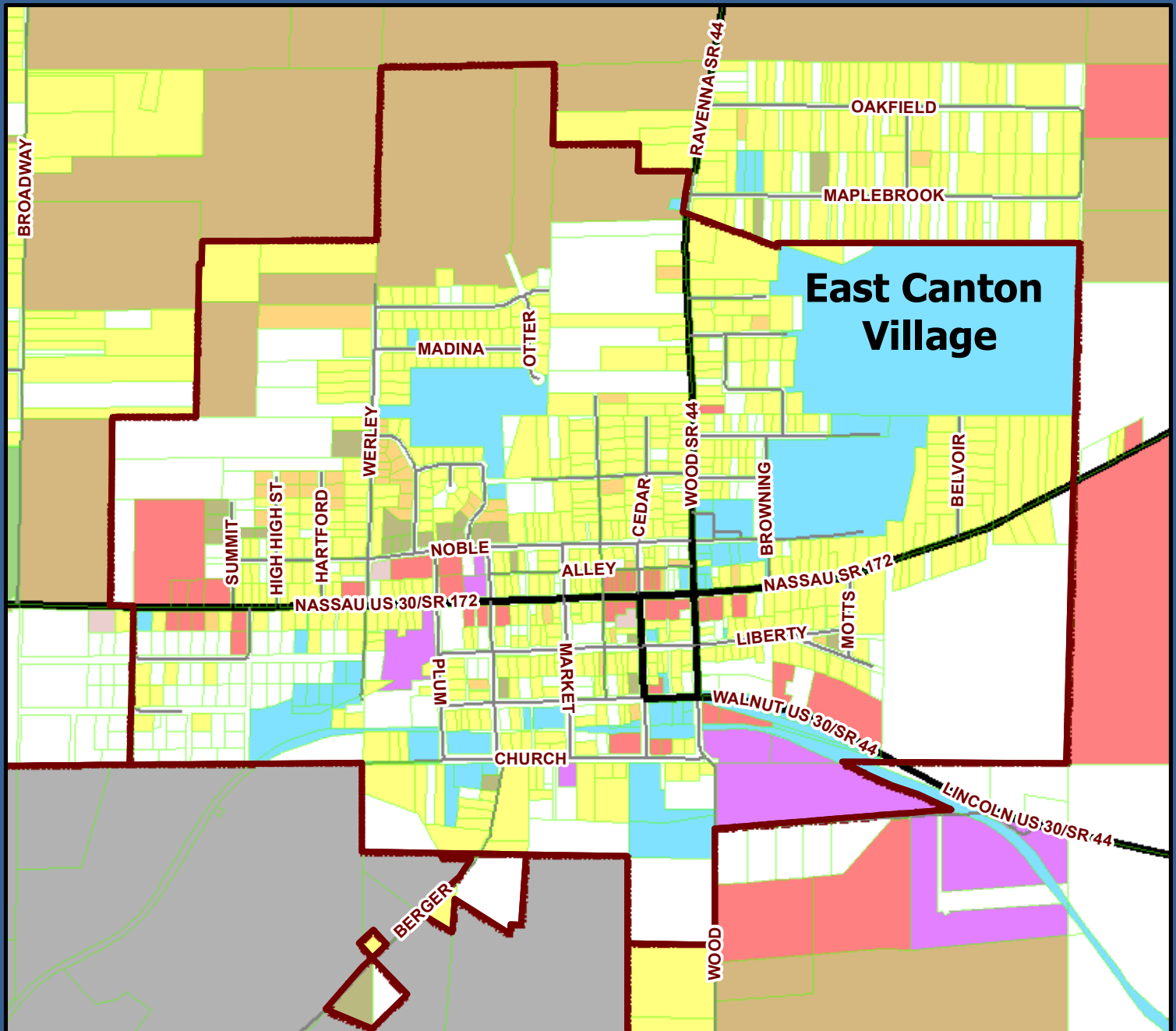
East Canton Land Use	Acres	Percentage of Total
Single-family/ Residential	212	30.46%
Single-family/ Agricultural	74	10.70%
Two-family Residential	15	2.17%
Multi-family Residential	9	1.23%
Public Service	138	19.84%
Business	30	4.32%
Office	1	0.13%
Industrial	25	3.65%
Recreational	0	0.00%
Open Land	191	27.50%
Total	696	100.00%

Source: Stark County Auditor, 2015

Land use categories in Stark County are primarily based on the Stark County Auditor's determination of them for taxation purposes. According to the Stark County Auditor's Office, tracts that are considered Open Land are either areas that are mines, quarries or vacant land (with no structures). Most agricultural land typically contains a residential structure on the property, and is therefore considered under the land use category of Single-family/Agricultural. Recreational land uses are defined as golf courses, marinas, and other private recreational facilities. Public parks fall under the Public Service category, as do churches, schools, and government buildings.

In East Canton, the primary land use is Single-family/Residential, comprising 212 acres (30.46% of the 696 total acres). The next largest use of land in East Canton is Open Land, comprising 191 acres (27.50% of the total). Public Service is the third largest land use category, comprising 138 acres (19.84%) of the total land in East Canton. Based on the Stark County Auditor's Office classification system, there is no land in the Village currently utilized for recreational use, and only 1 acre is utilized for office use. Office land uses typically consist of medical clinics, banks, and professional office buildings.

Existing Land Use - East Canton Village



The Land use data presented in this map is meant to be an approximation. If you desire exact Land Use designations for a certain area, please contact the respective authority.

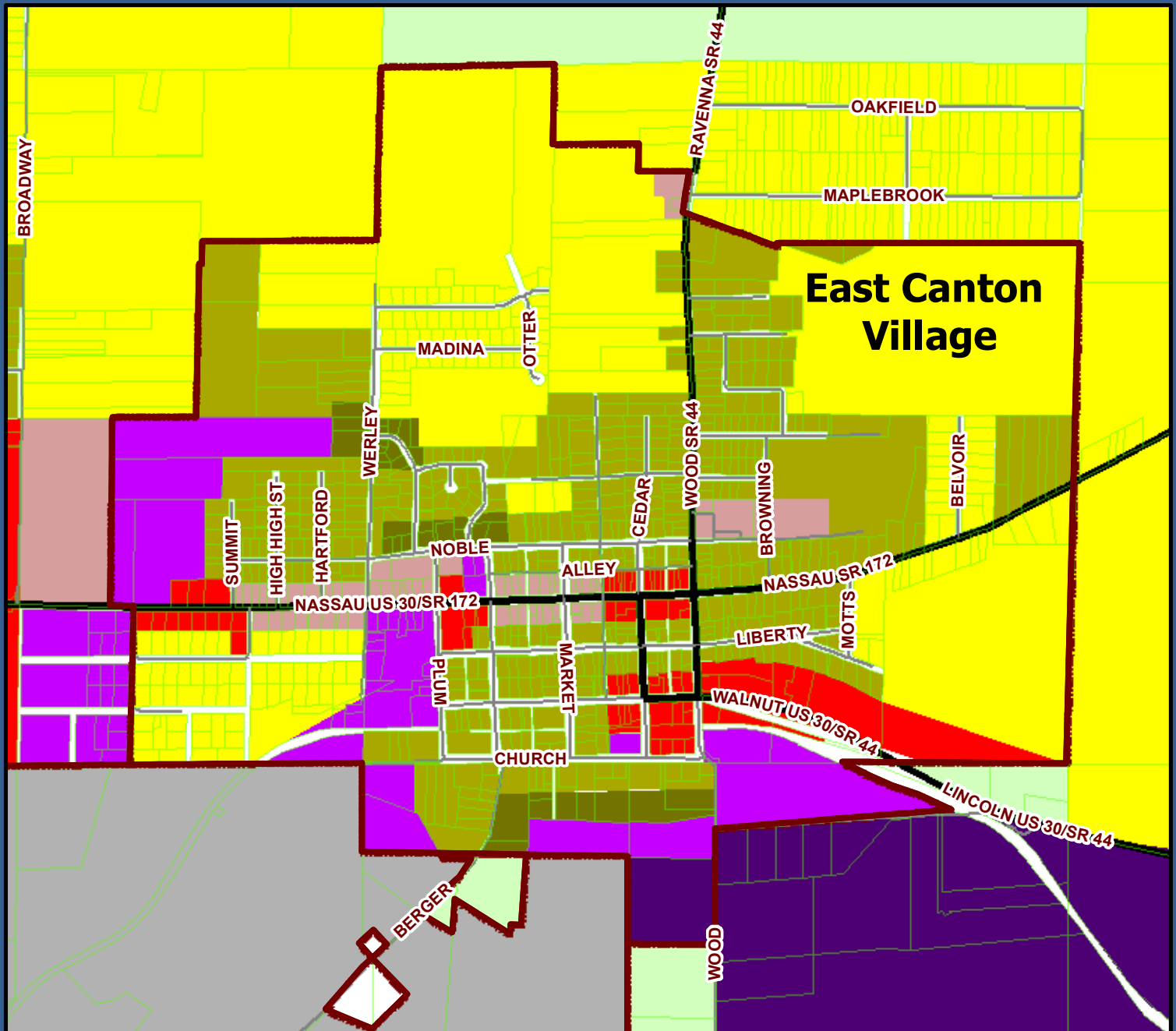
East Canton Zoning Districts	Acres	Percentage of Total
R-1 Single Family Residential	293	43.48%
R-2 One and Two Family Residential	220	32.67%
R-3 Multi-Family Residential	20	2.91%
R-4 Manufactured Home Park Residential	0	0.00%
B-1 Limited Business and Office District	24	3.50%
B-2 Commercial Business District	35	5.22%
I-1 Industrial District	82	12.22%
Total	674*	100.00%

Source: Stark County Regional Planning Commission

*(*Total is different from Land Use table due to different mapping methods. Land Use is parcel-based and Zoning is polygon-based. Both follow slightly different lines and may or may not include roadways in calculations.)*

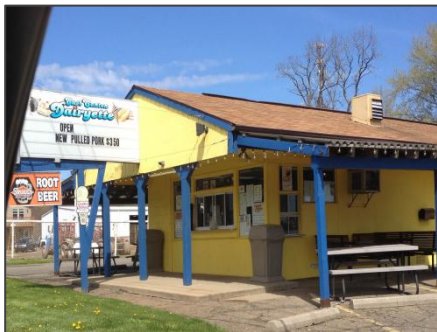
In East Canton, the zoning district with the largest land area is R-1 Single-family/Residential, comprising 293 acres (43.48% of the 674 total acres). The zoning district with the next largest area of land is R-2 One and Two Family Residential, comprising 220 acres (32.67% of the total). I-1 Industrial District zoning comprises 12.22% of the total land in East Canton. There is no land in the Village of East Canton currently zoned R-4 Manufactured Home Park Residential and less than 9% of land is zoned for business use.

Existing Zoning - East Canton Village



The zoning data presented in this map is meant to be an approximation. If you desire exact zoning designations for a certain area, please contact the respective zoning authority.

The typical land use breakdown that most communities strive for is between 50-70% residential uses and 30-50% for all other uses. This breakdown contributes to a more balanced fiscal picture in that the property tax revenue generated from commercial and industrial uses offsets the costs for serving residential development. Usually, the tax revenue generated from a residential property does not equal the cost of serving that property with infrastructure and services. According to the American Farmland Trust, for every \$1 earned in revenue, it costs an average of \$1.16 to provide public services to residential properties, whereas it only costs \$0.29 for every \$1 earned in revenue to provide public services to commercial and industrial properties. In other words, for every \$1,000 earned in revenue from a residential property, it costs a community an average of \$1,160 to provide services to it (for agricultural properties, it only costs \$0.35 for every \$1 earned in revenue).³



Local Business
Source: SCRPC

This situation is not at all unique to the region. Generally, residential development can't pay for itself if it is taxed at a rate acceptable to residents. This is why it is important for communities to maintain a proper commercial/residential land use ratio. Commercial development requires fewer community services than residential uses which puts less of a strain on a community's service capacity. At the same time, commercial development generates far more tax revenue than residential development. This revenue offsets the costs of providing services to residential development.

While East Canton is at approximately 45% residential, Open Land, which is usually taxed at a very low rate, constitutes more than 27% of existing land use. Businesses and industry make up a very small percentage of the land use (less than 10%), all of which directly correlates to reduced income for the community. The current land use patterns and zoning districts in East Canton indicate a pattern of predominantly single-family housing. There is also a relatively large amount of the Village zoned for industrial use, with only twenty-five acres currently being utilized as such. These figures suggest that the Village should consider pursuing more office- and commercial-based businesses for areas that are conducive to it, and perhaps more industrial uses for areas zoned as such. This can be done through various strategies, including zoning areas for desired land uses, marketing opportunities, and incentive options. Due to the limited boundaries and size of the Village, it should be noted that industrial uses may be difficult to pursue. The Village may also want to analyze current zoning regulations to ensure that they are not inhibiting certain uses from being established in these districts.



Local Business
Source: SCRPC

³"Cost of Community Services Fact Sheet." American Farmland Trust. August 2010.

Zoning and Land Use in Osnaburg Township

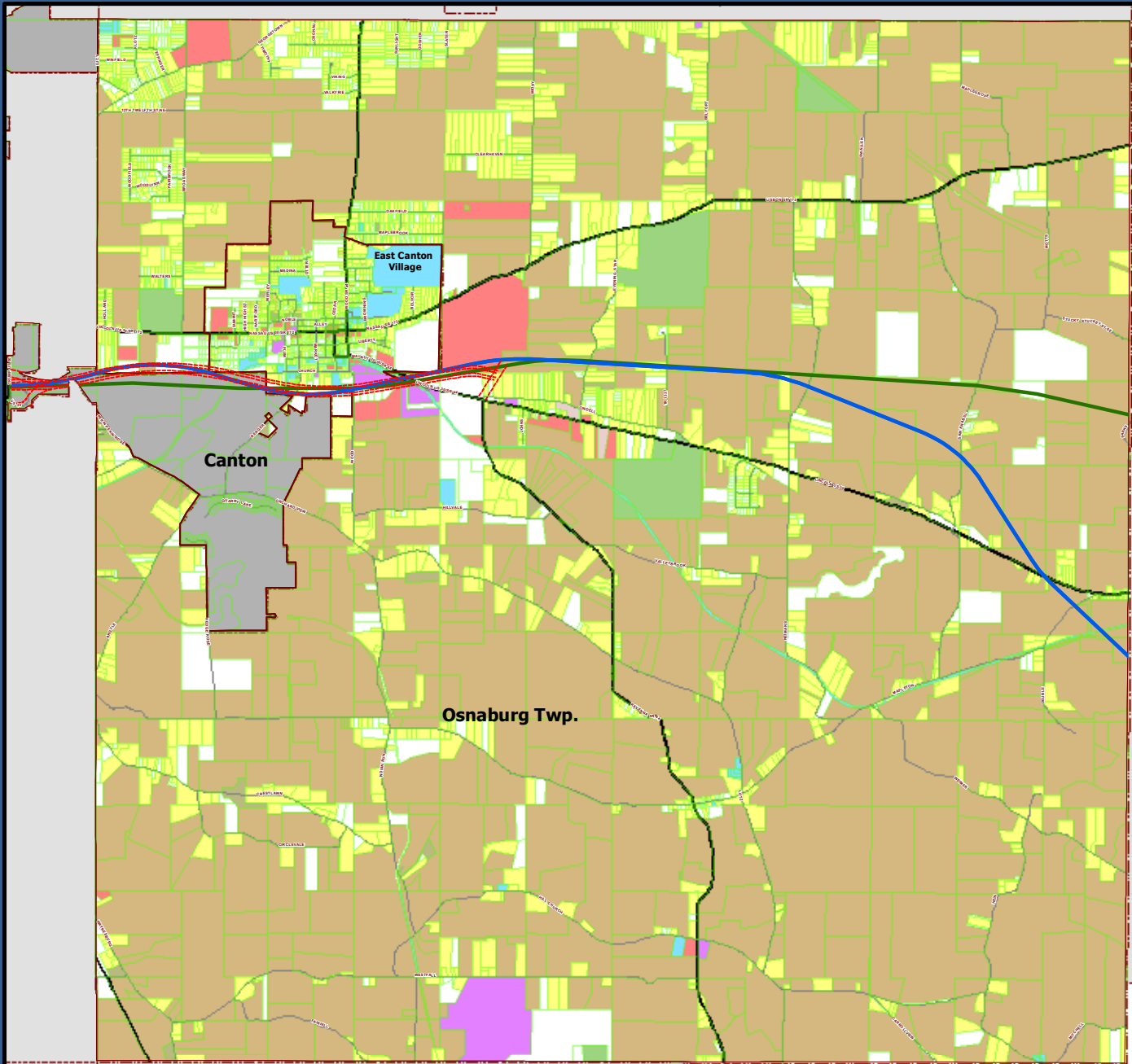
The following tables illustrate the current land use and zoning breakdown for Osnaburg Township. The Township adopted its first zoning ordinance in 1961, which has been revised periodically, the last time being in 2008.

Osnaburg Township Land Use	Acres	Percentage of Total
Single-family/Residential	2,871	13.00%
Single-family/Agricultural	16,704	75.65%
Two-family Residential	4	0.02%
Multi-family Residential	72	0.33%
Public Service	75	0.34%
Business	309	1.40%
Office	13	0.06%
Industrial	206	0.93%
Recreational	361	1.63%
Open Land	1,465	6.64%
Total	22,080	100.00%

Source: Stark County Auditor, 2015

In Osnaburg Township, the primary land use is Single-family/Agricultural, comprising 16,704 acres (75.65% of the 22,080 total acres). The next largest use of land in Osnaburg Township is Single-family/Residential, comprising 2,871 acres (13% of the total). The third largest use of land in Osnaburg Township is Open Land, comprising 1,465 acres (6.64% of the total). As mentioned previously, Open Land consists of mines, quarries, or vacant land (with no structures on them). There are only 4 acres (.02%) of total land in the Township being utilized for Two-family Residential.

Existing Land Use - Entire Township



The Land use data presented in this map is meant to be an approximation. If you desire exact Land Use designations for a certain area, please contact the respective authority.

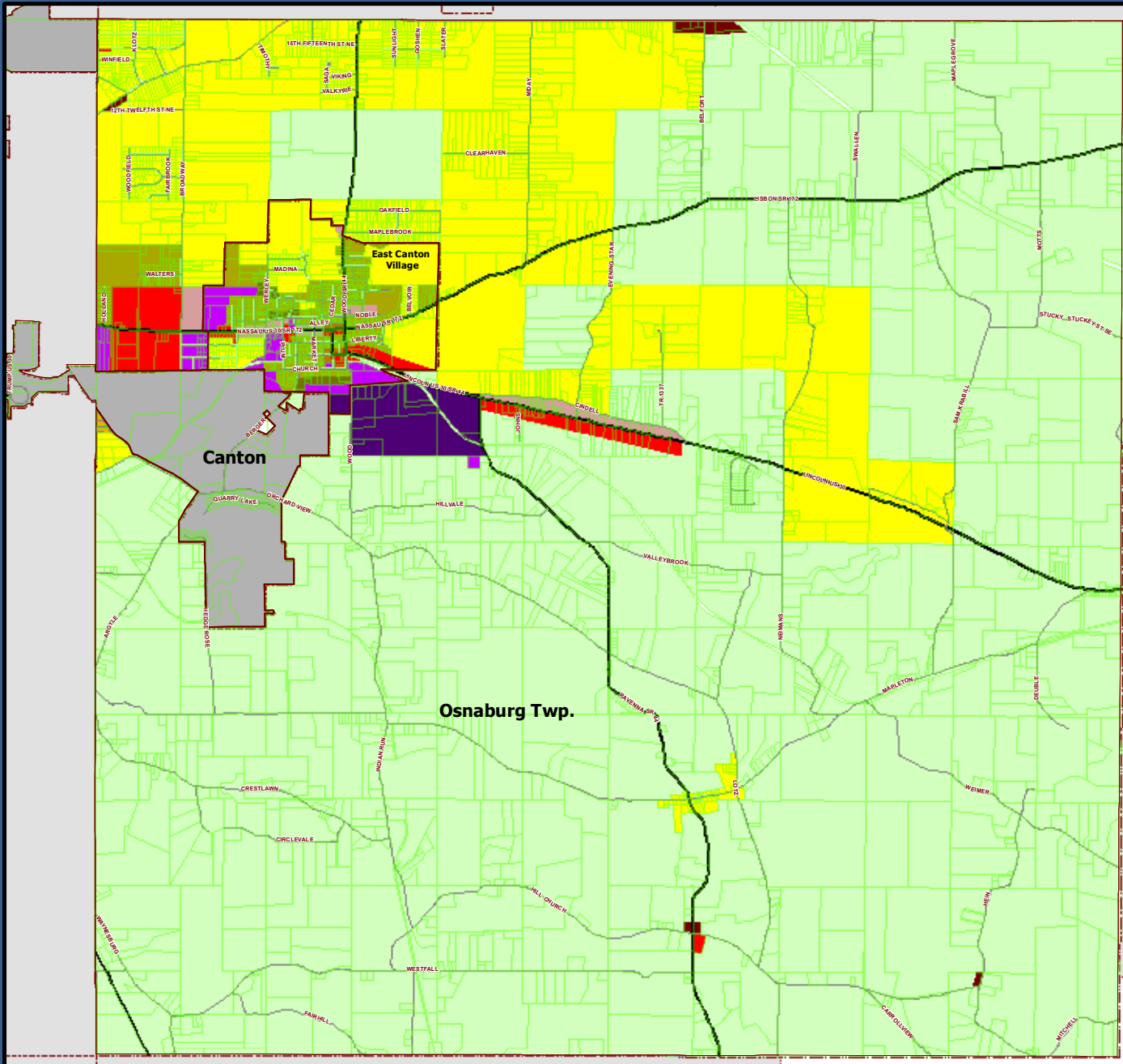
Osnaburg Township Zoning Districts	Acres	Percentage of Total
R-R Rural Residential	17,577	80.09%
R-1 Single Family Residential	3,733	17.01%
R-2 One and Two Family Residential	93	0.42%
R-3 Low Density Multi-Family Residential	0	0.00%
R-4 High Density Multi-Family Residential	0	0.00%
R-5 Manufactured Home & Manufactured Home Park	5	0.02%
B-1 Suburban Office	36	0.16%
B-2 Neighborhood Business District	69	0.32%
B-3 General Business District	195	0.89%
I-1 Light Industrial District	37	0.17%
I-2 General Industrial	202	0.92%
Total	21,946*	100.00%

Source: Stark County Regional Planning Commission

(*Total is different from Land Use table due to different mapping methods. Land Use is parcel-based and Zoning is polygon-based. Both follow slightly different lines and may or may not include roadways in calculations.)

In Osnaburg Township, the zoning district with the largest land area is R-R Rural Residential, comprising 17,577 acres (80.09% of the total acreage). The zoning district with the next largest area of land in Osnaburg Township is R-1 Single Family Residential, comprising 3,733 acres (17.01% of the total). The I-2 General Industrial District also comprises 0.92% of the total land in Osnaburg Township. There is no land in Osnaburg Township currently zoned R-3 Low Density Multi-Family Residential or R-4 High Density Multi-Family Residential. The lack of multi-family zoning districts could appear that the Township is perhaps excluding certain types of residents from this area. In order to be an equitable and sustainable community, the Township should analyze and identify suitable areas conducive to multi-family development, as it is very likely that the rental population can be expected to increase with the regional development of the oil and gas industry. The potential realignment of Route 30 would also likely create an increase in rental population in association with any economic development that takes place with it. Additionally, as the average age of the community continues to increase, many of the aging population members may need or desire rental options within the community.

Existing Zoning - Entire Township



The zoning data presented in this map is meant to be an approximation. If you desire exact zoning designations for a certain area, please contact the respective zoning authority.

As mentioned previously, a generally accepted healthy breakdown of land use categories to ensure sound fiscal support is 50-70% residential and 30-50% other uses. The Township now stands at approximately 90% residential, with much of this being rural residential. While this is not that unusual for an agricultural community, additional commercial/industrial revenue would help balance the Township's costs for service provisions to residential areas. Communities can attempt to reach this type of land use balance through the rezoning of targeted areas for commercial use. Some of these target areas include land along the existing Route 30 corridor, both to the west and east of the Village. As plans for the Route 30 realignment unfold, zoning along that corridor may also be appropriate for business or industrial use. Much of the land is currently zoned low-density, R-R Rural Residential. The amount of area that this district encompasses may need to be reduced to ensure that land for both commercial and higher-density residential development is available in the Township.

The Township also appears to have several legal, nonconforming businesses within the community. The Township should consider either identifying whether these uses are part of a larger area that would be appropriate for commercial zoning, or if not, a revision of the zoning resolution may be necessary. The revision should consider whether these land uses are compatible land uses that could be included in additional zoning districts, or if regulations should be modified to be less restrictive for certain types of uses. On another note, it is not uncommon for communities to have numerous legal, nonconforming properties within their jurisdiction, and so assisting these properties to make the best of the situation is sometimes the only equitable solution, and one that should be strongly considered prior to making any permanent zoning changes with regards to it.

Sustainable Development Options

Agriculture is one of the defining features of this community, and while there is ample space for growth and change, the rural heritage of this area should be carefully protected. Sometimes this can be difficult in the face of increasing real estate development, which is why special attention should be paid to encouraging quality development and the preservation of open space. With the implementation of the different economic development strategies listed in this plan, standards will need to be put in place to safeguard the rural areas. This can be done through the implementation of agricultural preservation strategies, including zoning and agricultural easements (discussed in further detail in the Community & Livability section), and also through the identification of target development areas and the promotion of capital investment into locations where development is best suited.

When identifying target development areas, one major factor to consider is where development and infrastructure are already in place. These areas oftentimes have empty space interspersed throughout and so the extension of infrastructure to reach them would be minimal. Filling in these empty spaces, commonly referred to as infill development, is typically the least-expensive and most practical course to start with. One area within the community that appears highly suitable for infill development is Nassau Street



Nassau Street Businesses
Source: SCRPC

between Plum and Wood Streets. Several businesses already exist along this heavily traveled roadway, and water and sewer services are already in place. The proximity of other businesses nearby also creates the ability to share and rely on each other for services. For example, a hardware store sells industrial cleaning supplies to the diner, which in turn sells lunch to the hardware store workers. The ability of these stores to quickly and easily serve each other not only reduces overhead costs of having to go elsewhere to obtain these services, but it can also create a bond between the businesses, and their customers, which is a critical component in business retention. Other appropriate areas for infill development include Wood Street between Church Street and 3rd Street, and Nassau between Hazelwood and Plum Streets.

When considering infill development, the community should look at development opportunities that promote a more pedestrian-friendly atmosphere and help create a unique neighborhood character. Certain livability elements can help transform an area into an attractive and enticing community for both visitors and residents. Mixed-use development is a zoning tool that the Village should consider adopting for its “downtown” area to help achieve this goal. A mixed-use zoning district could combine one or two of the higher-density residential zoning districts with the B-1 Limited Business and Office District to create a mixed-

Mixed-Use Development Benefits:

- Blends compatible land uses
- Increases land use efficiency
- Reduces transportation costs
- Increases housing variety
- Strengthens neighborhood character
- Encourages walking and bicycling
- Reduces energy consumption
- Preserves traditional village centers
- Enhances vitality
- Fosters sense of community

use district that would be applied in areas conducive to a mixture of compatible land uses. Common land uses permitted in this type of district include small-scale retail, office and residential. Mixed-use development affords people the opportunity to live, work and play in a single area, which can reduce the need for an automobile. This type of environment is especially appealing to seniors and disabled residents who need easy accessibility to local amenities. In addition to promoting walkability, mixed-use development also provides expanded housing options for residents, an attractive commodity for young professionals and small families who may not want or need a large homesite.

Infrastructure expansion costs are also minimized with mixed-use development as the roadways and utilities are already in place, unlike new developments in outlying areas where utilities must be extended to these locations. This reduction in infrastructure spending can be a very beneficial feature for cash-strapped communities.

Elements of a mixed-use zoning district include restricting parking to the rear and/or side yard, and setting shorter maximum setback distances from the roadway for buildings. Both of these features create a more attractive view for pedestrians as they pass by, which in turn encourages more pedestrian traffic. While there are certain pedestrian-friendly challenges facing the Route 30 corridor as it currently exists, the implementation of these elements in addition to the undertaking of certain “streetscaping” elements (discussed in greater detail in the Transportation & Infrastructure section), should help to greatly improve this corridor. If in the future Route 30 is identified for realignment, these strategies will become even more critical.



Mixed-Use Development Example
Source: Economic Development.org

Economic Patterns

When considering the unemployment rate for the community, the Township’s rate is at 5.2% and the Village’s is at 13.7%, based on the 2008-2012 American Community Survey. While the Village’s rate is quite a bit higher than the Township’s rate and the county-wide overall rate of 10.2%, it should be noted that the total population for the Village is also much lower than both, meaning that the number of actual people unemployed in the Village is about the same number as that of the Township, and much lower than that of the County as a whole. That being said though, this is a high enough rate that if left unresolved and unimproved, will continue to place a heavy financial burden on the Village and its constituents.

The U.S. Department of Labor runs monthly statistics on communities at a county- and metropolitan-area level.⁴ Their results show a much improved unemployment rate for the Canton-Massillon statistical area over the last few years. The unemployment rate for 2009 was 11.3%, which was almost double of what it had been every year since 2004. Since 2009, however, the rate has gradually decreased. As of February 2015, the rate was down to 5.8%. It can be reasonably assumed that a similar improvement in employment levels can be seen at the East Canton/Osnaburg level. The reduction in the local unemployment rate can be

⁴U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2015.

attributed to a number of factors, including a trickle-down from the improvement in the overall economy at a national level and the oil and gas industry expansion.

In terms of industry/occupation patterns for the combined community area, according to the American Community Survey, the manufacturing category comprised almost 25% of the entire employed population 16 years and older. Education and health care services made up the next largest category at nearly 20%. Construction and retail trade held the next two highest percentages of workers, at over 10% for each. Surprisingly, agriculture, forestry and mining only constituted 0.7% of the employed workforce. Considering the large amount of land devoted to farming in the community, this shows us that farming is likely not the sole or primary job for most local farmers.

According to the U.S. Census County Business Patterns, the total number of business establishments in the primary 44730 zip code coverage area was 82 establishments as of 2012. While this number is slightly higher than it was in 2010 at 78 establishments, it is still somewhat less than the year 2000 count of 95 establishments. Based on the upturn in establishments between 2010 and 2012, it can be reasonably assumed that the downturn in 2010 was largely a part of the 2008 national economic recession taking place across the country. It is anticipated that with the national economic conditions continuing to improve, this community will continue to see an increase in business establishments and a corresponding increase in population and skilled workforce as a direct result.

Economic Growth

There are several things the community can do to build upon the recent economic upturn. One of these is to pursue initiatives that support job creation and retention. Infrastructure improvements and zoning map modifications that create strong economic development corridors are attractive features for new businesses. The utilization of a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) with either the City of Canton or the City of Louisville would open up more options for long-term water provision services, a critical element for business growth. While JEDDs are similar to Cooperative Economic Development Agreements (CEDAs), one of which is in place with the Quarry Golf Course, JEDDs appear to have better resistance to annexation pressures due to their ability to set long-term annexation restriction timeframes. Business finance incentive tools such as Tax Increment Financing (TIF) may also be worth pursuing in certain designated areas, such as the potential Route 30 interchange.

Access to high-speed internet is another infrastructure improvement that is typically crucial in attracting and retaining younger entrepreneurs. As areas are developed or redeveloped, the communities should work with internet providers to install service to these locations. Young entrepreneurs and new businesses are also typically starting out with little capital and high overhead expenses. In an effort to retain these workers, local government officials should reach out to these companies to help connect them to other services that they may benefit from, such as a local computer store or places where they can advertise.

The community may want to consider reaching out to the Stark Development Board (SDB), which is a local, nonprofit economic development corporation designed to assist with business creation and retention. Some of the major sectors they focus on include manufacturing, technology, alternative energy and service industries. The Stark Development Board provides assistance with site selection for new or expanding businesses, and they also offer a variety of information on financial assistance and incentive tools, such as the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) tool mentioned above. In addition to attracting new businesses, the Stark Development Board also works with existing businesses to improve their current workforce through advanced job training, education assistance, and job recruitment services.



Local Business
Source: SCRPC

Capitalizing on the existing strengths of the community (i.e. farmland, access to major highways and the railroad, and a quality education system) is one of the best methods for furthering the economy. One way this can be done is through stronger marketing efforts of existing businesses. Examples include adding website links to local businesses on government websites, establishing an official Chamber of Commerce, or creating/enhancing the online bulletin board on government websites to potentially allow registered users such as local farmers to showcase upcoming farmers' markets or businesses to announce the arrival of new products. Collaboration with other agencies in developing niche markets for the community (ex: developing local "agri-tourism" opportunities, or partnering with schools and universities on agriculture-related programs) is another option that the community should pursue to further capitalize on existing strengths. This type of agriculture-based collaboration is discussed in further detail in the Community & Livability section.

The development of the oil and gas industry may also have a further impact on the potential increase in business establishments as the industry appears to be focusing in on this part of the region. Should the industry continue to advance in this general area, the community can expect to see a greater increase in the local workforce population. As mentioned earlier, in order to retain this workforce within the community, the provision of adequate housing options may need to be reviewed and addressed at some point in the very near future should this trend continue. Recommendations for this scenario will be discussed in greater detail in the Housing section of this document.

Economic Development Goals, Objectives & Strategies

Goal: Advance the Economic Growth of the Community
Objective 1: Pursue initiatives to support job creation and retention
<u>Strategies:</u>
Analyze potential economic development corridors along existing and proposed Route 30, and modify the zoning map to promote sustainable economic development in viable corridor areas along either route
Establish joint Chamber of Commerce for combined community for economic development purposes
Pursue JEDD (Joint Economic Development District) options with City of Canton and/or City of Louisville for long-term water provision services
Work with local economic development coordinators (i.e. Stark Development Board or prospective chamber of commerce) to identify potential business incentive tools, such as Community Reinvestment Areas (CRAs) or incentive financing options (ex: Tax Increment Financing (TIF))
Pursue collaboration between Township and Village on identifying and offering business incentive options to both retain existing businesses and attract new ones
Contact local hospitals about the need for a medical facility in the area, and work with them on securing financing and land to carry the plan through
Promote the establishment of a business incubator, where small businesses can utilize shared space, equipment and administrative staff to help grow their business by being able to reduce overhead costs and offer input to each other
Work towards securing new businesses that cater to younger generations (ex: coffee shop, book store, small diner, or other places that encourage socializing and networking)
Explore ways to provide better access to high-speed internet, a tool that is crucial in attracting and retaining young entrepreneurs
Objective 2: Pursue economic development initiatives that incorporate quality of life principles
<u>Strategies:</u>
Amend Village zoning code to include a mixed-use district, which permits co-existence of compatible commercial and residential uses in one location, either vertically (top v. bottom floor) or horizontally (side by side structures)
Update zoning codes of Village and Township to better reflect desired community development practices and patterns
Modify zoning maps to reflect sustainable development patterns as presented in Future Land Use Map - Phase One, which promotes planned growth with respect to housing, livability and quality of life, and business support
Upon build-out of Future Land Use Map – Phase One, incorporate zoning modifications outlined in Future Land Use Map – Phase Two. Upon build-out of that phase, incorporate Phase Three
Work with mine-scarred land owners and state/federal environmental agencies to reutilize lands for economic purposes; sample projects include renewable energy, passive recreation (potentially partner with Stark Parks), reforestation, outdoor classrooms (potentially partner with schools and/or the park district), or traditional redevelopment projects. The US Department of the Interior is one of the primary agencies that provide funding opportunities for these types of projects
Objective 3: Capitalize on existing strengths of the Community
<u>Strategies:</u>
Work with local farmers to pursue “agri-tourism” opportunities to help bring visitors into the area (examples: holiday tree farms, pick-your-own-fruit farms, corn mazes or farm stands)
(cont’d)

Market existing strengths of community (ex: farmland, access to major highways and railroad, new school, labor force quality, strong sense of community) to attract businesses and residents, via marketing resources such as the Chamber of Commerce, visitors' pamphlets, or on a website

Collaborate with local colleges such as Stark State or Kent State Stark to attract a branch campus to the area; use existing resources as the niche market for the campus (ex: agricultural-based curriculum)

Pursue collaboration opportunities with the Ohio State University Extension Office on food-related businesses (ex: meat processing) and public education programs, such as extended growing season techniques

Encourage local businesses to get websites; possibly partner with school technology class to help assist with this

Improve government office websites to be more informative and up-to-date on community activities, and provide current website links to local businesses on them

Housing

Housing Occupancy

As of the 2010 Census, the majority of residents in the community own their homes. In East Canton, 62% of total housing units are owner-occupied and only 31% are renter-occupied. Only 6% of total housing units were vacant at the time of the Census, which is well below the County average of 8.5% at that time.

In Osnaburg Township, the percentage of owner-occupied housing units is even greater, at nearly 84%. Considering the high number of large land tracts and primarily rural nature of the Township, it is not surprising that only 11% of the existing housing stock is renter-occupied. The percentage of total vacant housing units for the Township was also very low, at only 5%.

Housing Stock

With the recent trend in energy exploration and drilling, the community should be prepared for the possibility of a relatively large number of workers to begin moving into the area, at least temporarily. The influx of renters can put a burden on the rental housing market as this workforce can rapidly absorb most of the available vacant units. This new demand on the rental market oftentimes leads to increased rental rates and the refusal of property owners to renew lease agreements with existing tenants in the hopes of attracting higher-paid energy workers.⁵ Some communities in the region are already experiencing this housing burden,



Local Rental Housing

Source: SCRPC

⁵ "Impact of Oil & Gas Exploration on Affordable Housing." U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. March 2014.

and with the majority of oil and gas exploration taking place to the south and east of the area, it is likely that East Canton and Osnaburg will observe this trend too.

As demonstrated in the Township's Zoning Districts table, zero land is zoned for multi-family residential, and a very small percentage is zoned for two-family. While much of the Township is rural and not as conducive to higher-density development, there are certain areas that may be suitable for this type of housing, including land to the north and west where sewer and water are more easily accessible.

As mentioned in the Demographics section, there are portions of two block groups within the Township that fall within identified low-to-moderate income target areas. These areas are eligible to apply for certain community development grants, which could be used to help residents, property owners or developers obtain or develop new housing for low-to-moderate income households. Funds may also be available to qualified low-to-moderate income households for certain home repairs.

For the Village, while an adequate percentage of land appears to be zoned for One- and Two-Family Residential, additional land should be considered for multi-family residential. Further, re-purposing some of the existing zoning districts to promote a blend of housing options may be another valuable option for the



Senior Housing Duplex

Source: Canterbury Village, Hartford, CT

Village. Instead of developing traditional pods of multi-family dwellings in defined neighborhoods, the Village could promote a more balanced development pattern where a mixture of single-, two- and multi-family housing units are permitted within a single neighborhood. This blend of housing would create a neighborhood that is not only socially balanced, but that would also allow residents to more easily transition between homes as their stages in life change. As the average age of the community continues to increase, housing options for elderly adults need to be incorporated into any future planning efforts (to be discussed in greater detail below).

Senior Housing

As detailed in the Population and Demographics section, in 2010 over 17% of the entire Township's population was 65 years or older. The senior population in the community is on track to increase dramatically, particularly as the baby boomer generation ages. According to AARP, in 2010 older adults comprised 13% of the population; by 2030, older adults will account for 20% of the population, increasing

from 35 million to 72 million people.⁶ As a generation ages, its income is expected to decline after retirement. As mentioned in the Population and Demographics section, approximately half of those falling below the poverty rate in the Township are 65 years or older. In addition, it is predicted that an aging population will reduce individual income taxes and sales taxes in nearly every state in the nation on a per capita basis in the coming year; in other words, seniors will bring less money into the community over time.

Many senior citizens also prefer to age in place, remaining in their home or community for as long as possible. In considering the balance between community planning, senior housing needs and affordability, each of the options for aging in place in the East Canton/Osnaburg community deserves specific attention.

Some senior citizens are seeking housing options that are more accessible, both physically (within the home) and to the surrounding community. Increased demand for this type of housing has led some developers to focus on residential allotments that are close to commercial centers and/or transit, designed to target older adults. Some features of more accessible homes include entry level bedrooms and bathrooms, extra wide doors or hallways, and floors with no steps between rooms. While there are tax credits for homeowners or builders adding accessibility features, many communities have encouraged more accessible senior housing options by modifying their zoning code.⁷ East Canton/Osnaburg may consider allowing smaller lot sizes for smaller structures, as well as permitting senior housing in zoning districts that surround the Village, locations that would encourage community connectivity.

As the baby boomer population ages, there is also a decline in potential caregivers anticipated. It is projected that by 2030, there will be just four potential in-home caregivers for each individual age 80 or older, compared with more than seven potential caregivers per patient in 2010. This figure is expected to drop below the three-to-one level in 2050, when baby boomers will be between ages 86 and 104.⁸ This reduction in caregiver availability further expresses the need for alternative options to assist seniors with living more independently for a longer period of time.

⁶ Livable Communities at AARP Public Policy Institute. March 4, 2015 <www.housingpolicy.org>.

⁷ Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. Accessed March 4, 2015
<http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/jchs.harvard.edu/files/jchs-housing_americas_older_adults_2014.pdf>.

⁸ The Advisory Board Company Daily Briefing. Accessed March 9, 2015 <<http://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2013/08/27/the-2030-problem-who-will-care-for-americas-seniors>>.

For senior citizens that are no longer able to live independently, but wish to continue aging within their community, living facilities with varying degrees of assistance may be an option. According to Direction Home, Akron-Canton's Area Agency on Aging, the average cost for assisted living is \$2,000-\$4,000 per month. Assisted living facilities are typically viewed as "in-between" housing for those needing some assistance, but not the full-service care that skilled nursing facilities provide. These types of facilities are typically



Assisted Living Facility
Source: Fairport, NY

for-profit and may be eligible for senior housing tax credits. Housing that targets low-income seniors specifically may be eligible to also apply for certain types of community development funds.

However, there are currently no assisted living or skilled nursing facilities in the East Canton/Osnaburg community. The closest facilities appear to be the Girard Gardens Apartments in Canton and the Indian Run Manor Apartments in Waynesburg.⁹ There also are the Great Trail Care Center and the Minerva Eldercare Center, both in Minerva. In order to allow community residents to continue aging in place, the community may consider ensuring that skilled nursing facilities are permitted uses in zoning districts throughout the community. The community may also consider meeting with other local political subdivisions and developers that are familiar with available tax credits for building and operating assisted living facilities. To achieve social equity, communities need to have a blend of housing options that accounts for people of all ages, incomes and disabilities.

⁹ Ohio Department of Aging – Senior Centers in Region 10B. Accessed March 4, 2015 <www.aging.ohio.gov>.

Housing Goals, Objectives & Strategies

Goal: Ensure quality housing options for all
Objective 1: Provide and maintain adequate housing for senior citizens to “age in place”
<u>Strategies:</u>
Promote resources to help local seniors stay in their homes longer, such as route information for local transit services and access to healthcare
Invite assisted living facility developers to meet with local government officials to discuss their projects, including how they obtained funding for them and what they look for in site selection
Look into Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds to help residents, property owners or developers obtain or develop new housing for low-to-moderate income households, including seniors
Engage local officials and professionals in planning to overcome challenges facing the local senior community, so that they may “age in place”; topics include available housing for all stages of life, home upgrades, and rental assistance programs
Objective 2: Maximize the attractiveness of the Community’s housing supply
<u>Strategies:</u>
Promote housing rehabilitation programs to lower-income homeowners struggling with home repairs
Identify vacant housing locations and put owners in contact with local community development agencies to identify ways to reuse, rehabilitate, or if necessary, demolish the structure
Utilize community development funding opportunities to improve low-to-moderate income target areas; promote housing and infrastructure improvement projects in this area and possibly guide new development here as well
Promote The Stock Pile and Habitat for Humanity’s reuse stores as sources of affordable materials to assist with facade improvements and housing repairs
Objective 3: Ensure the provision of a sufficient cross-section of housing opportunities
<u>Strategies:</u>
Consider use of Tax Increment Financing to support projects that include senior or multi-family housing
Identify areas conducive to higher density for senior housing and starter-home opportunities; modify zoning to match and then promote as such
Work with owners of existing vacant homes to provide rental housing for the recent influx of oil and gas workers and their families
Identify areas within the Community (via zoning) to equitably promote two- and multi-family housing options for seniors, young professionals, oil and gas industry workers, and other residents who are looking for this type of housing
For any new development or redevelopment proposal, take efforts to discourage where possible, and mitigate if not, the removal of existing multi-family housing

Transportation & Infrastructure

Roadways

As the table below shows, there are just over 100 miles of roadways that navigate the entire community. The majority of roads are Township-owned roads, which are maintained by their own road department.

Road Type	Miles
Township Roads	56.10
Municipal Roads	8.41
County Roads	17.06
US/State Roads	18.50
Total	100.07

Source: Stark County Auditor's Office, 2014

Stark County's transportation planning organization is the Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS). One of the primary objectives of SCATS is to improve the safety of the existing transportation system. Annually, they issue a crash report that identifies and ranks intersections with high crash rates. The hazard rating is based on the number, rate and severity of accidents. The hazard rating for intersections ranges from zero (no reported accidents) to 100 (highest crash rate and severity index). According to the 2013 Stark County Crash Report and Safety Work Plan (last updated September 2014), the ten top-ranked intersections for the entire county had hazard ratings ranging from 14.6 to 30.6. While not to be discredited, the ten top-ranked intersections for the entire Township were fortunately much lower, ranging from 0.08 to 2.16. The local intersections with the highest hazard ratings were Indian Run/Hill Church, Orchardview/Wood and SR 44/Hill Church. These three intersections had hazard ratings ranging from 1.18 to 2.16. The remaining top seven intersections within the Township had ratings of less than 0.76 at the time of this report.

According to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), since 2008 there have been 8 fatal crashes within the Township limits, 4 of which were located along SR 44. According to SCATS, that number of incidents is fairly comparable to other townships of similar size and density within the County, such as Paris and Marlboro Townships. The urban townships had considerably higher figures.

The 2040 Stark County Transportation Plan is the long-range transportation planning document for SCATS. In addition to the extension of Route 30 (discussed in greater detail below), this plan identifies two planning projects for Osnaburg Township. One project is an intersection upgrade at Mapleton and SR 44, at a cost of approximately \$550,000, with an anticipated construction date of 2020. The other project is also an intersection improvement, at SR 44 and Orchardview. The estimated cost of this project is \$3.6 million and has an approximate construction date of 2040. Both of these projects are still in need of sponsors (generally



Route 30/Lincoln Byway Sign
Source: SCRPC

either ODOT or the County) and local match funding. Without these commitments, the projects will continue to carry forward on the list until such time as funding allows.

No local projects for East Canton or Osnaburg Township are currently identified on SCATS' Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is the County's short-range transportation plan. This plan covers highway, transit and other transportation projects. Projects listed in this plan have secured sponsorships and project funding, and are ready to go forward within the next four years. To be eligible for federal funding, projects must be included in this plan.

The Stark County Engineer's Office is responsible for all bridges located within township limits. Every year they must submit a Capital Improvement Plan to the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) to receive funding to repair or replace bridges. According to the August 2014 report, there are three local bridge repair projects listed in this five-year plan, including one at Indian Run Avenue (slated for work in 2015), another at Maplegrove Avenue (slated for 2018), and the third one at Weimer Drive (planned for 2019). Funds for all three of these projects are anticipated to come from the state's Motor Vehicle Fund.

The City of Canton and the Township have been in discussion about a potential safety improvement project near the intersections of Orchardview, Berger, Hedgerose and Arygle. This project would involve elevation and grading improvements to help eliminate the poor site distance at these intersections. While this project is on the City of Canton's Five-Year Plan, the status of it is uncertain at this time. It is anticipated, however, that this project will not likely go forward within the next five years.

In addition to physical roadway improvement projects, there are also other transportation-related projects that the community should consider pursuing. One of these opportunities is the Safe Routes to School program, which is an Ohio Department of Transportation-sponsored program designed to encourage and enable children to walk or bike to school. Projects utilizing these funds can be engineering-based (sidewalks, crosswalks) or non-engineering (encouragement and education). Local governments and schools are encouraged to partner together with the local transportation authority (SCATS) to pursue these funds. Another opportunity that the community should look into is the Community Transportation Planning Grant, which is a new SCATS program that will be rolling out in July 2015. This planning grant will allow communities to identify and plan for areas needing improvement, which helps lay the groundwork for obtaining funding for the physical improvements. These planning funds can be used on projects such as streetscaping plans, road maintenance studies, or pedestrian safety and mobility plans. These will be small grants for which the

community would be responsible for 10% of the total project cost, with 80% being a grant from SCATS, and the remaining 10% funded by the state.

U.S. Route 30 Realignment

The realignment/extension of US Route 30 for an “Ohio Energy Corridor” is currently being studied by the Ohio Department of Transportation. It is believed that an improvement in this roadway corridor is critical in being able to provide a safe and economically efficient means of travel for the growing oil and gas industries, in order to be a major supplier of energy in the area. There are two separate and distinct projects that make up this study. The first project would include the area from Trump Avenue to SR 44, and the second one would continue east from SR 44 to SR 11. The SR 11 project is still in its infancy stage and ODOT will first be studying the existing corridor from SR 44 to SR 11 to determine where needed improvements are and if there is actually a need for a relocated roadway.

The Trump to SR 44 project is further along in the development process. Currently this project has undergone some preliminary analysis and design work, and is looking for funds to finish final design work and right-of-way acquisition. Costs for the final design



Route 30 Intersection

Source: SCRPC

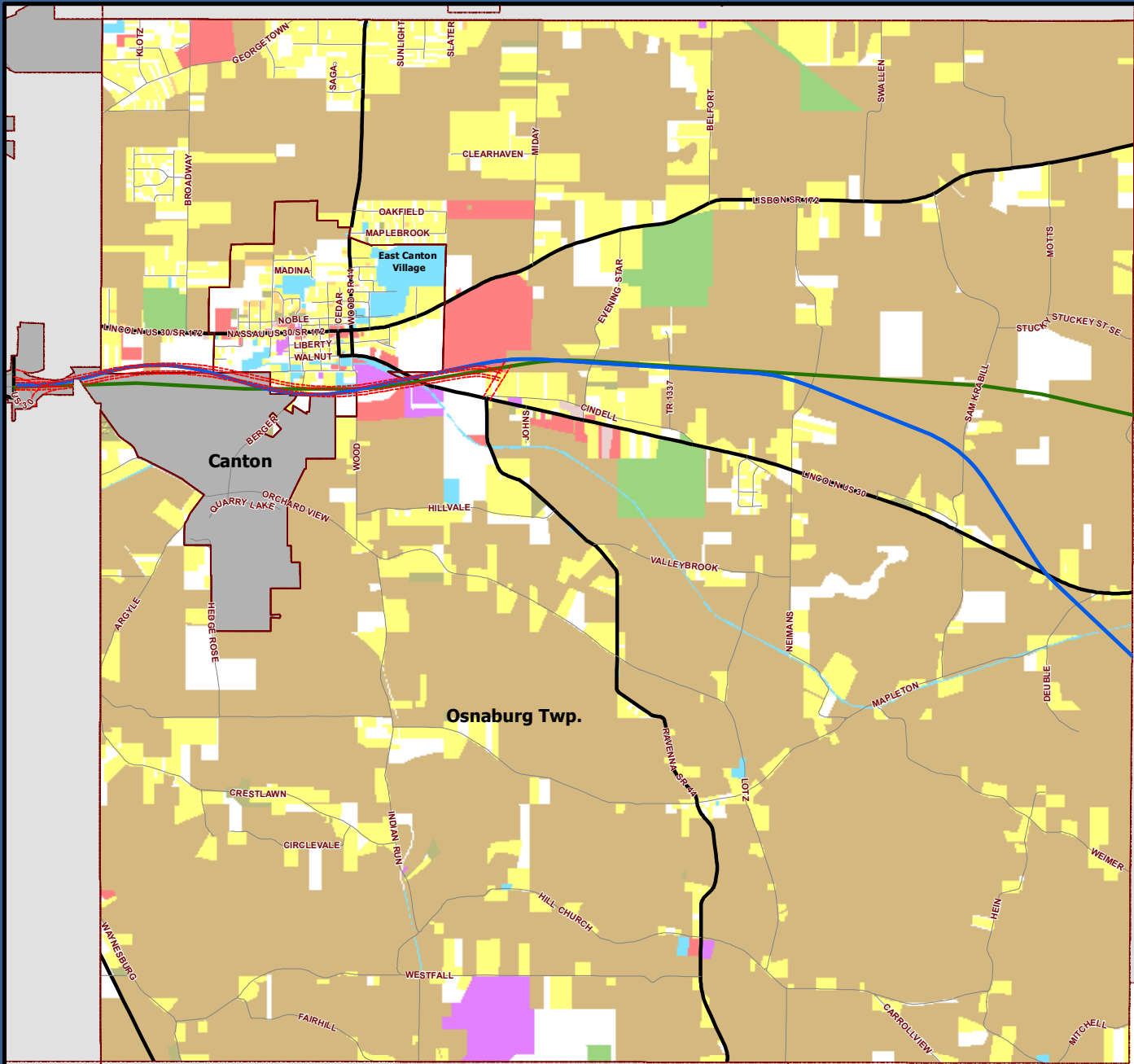
work and right-of-way acquisition phase are currently estimated at \$8-\$10 million (the final phase for the Route 30 project would be the actual roadway construction, which is anticipated to cost approximately \$80 million). An application is being developed to submit to ODOT’s Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC), a board that reviews and selects major transportation projects to be funded. These funds would be used towards final design work and right-of-way acquisition. Applications for this program are due in June, and currently local funds are being sought to supplement the costs, which would help improve the project’s TRAC score significantly. Award funding is expected to be announced in December 2015.

One major problem that the Route 30 project is currently facing is that it does not appear to score well on the TRAC application. The reason for this is due to two major factors, one being that total traffic volume on this roadway is lower than other highly congested areas that they are competing with across the state. The other major factor in the lower TRAC score is the lack of matching local funds to help finance the projects. Local dollars would be extremely helpful in securing a higher seat in the TRAC ranking, which typically includes approximately 70-80 applications per year. If local funding is being committed, ODOT would have to know by spring of 2015 in order to adjust the application accordingly for the summer submission deadline.

There have been several studies over the years on the impacts of bypasses on communities, and the general consensus has been that bypasses do not appear to have a significant adverse impact on the overall economic activity of a community. Some of the findings presented in these studies concluded that: the relocation of local businesses to the bypass area was minimal; aggregate retail sales were slightly reduced, but not retail employment or total population; most residents and business owners felt that the bypass improved traffic flow and promoted growth. The studies also showed that having the bypass located closer to the central business area was more likely to encourage employment growth for the community. While benefits were experienced by most of the communities, there were still changes that had to be proactively addressed, particularly with relationship to planning. Due to the large coverage area of most bypasses, communities had to come together on a multi-jurisdictional planning effort, and locally, measures pertaining to zoning and signage also had to be addressed. Having these procedures in place helped ensure a more positive and beneficial outcome of a new bypass.¹⁰

¹⁰“The Economic Impacts of Bypasses on Communities.” Wisconsin Department of Transportation. January 1998; “The Impact of a New Bypass Route on the Local Economy and Quality of Life.” Kentucky Transportation Center. June 2001; “Case Studies on the Economic Impact of Bypasses in Kansas.” Kansas Department of Transportation and Kansas State University. January 2004.

Proposed Rt. 30 Extension Phase One and Two



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Single Family Residential | Multi Family Residential | Industrial |
| Single Family Residential / Agricultural | Public Service | Recreation |
| Two Family Residential | Business | Vacant Land |
| Office | | |

- Proposed Phase 1 Route 30
- Proposed Route 30 Northern Alignment
- Proposed Route 30 Southern Alignment



The data represented in this map is from several different sources, including Stark County Regional Planning, Stark County Auditor and some private consultants.

Railway Utilization

The Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad runs in a primarily east/west direction across the entire Township. It also crosses through the southern part of the Village between Walnut and Church Streets, before heading east across the Township, just south of US Route 30. While some local businesses do utilize the railroad, the Community should work towards increased usage of it as rail transport can be a time- and cost-saving measure for businesses that haul goods. Increased marketing of the railroad by public officials or a chamber of commerce would help to attract businesses looking for this type of infrastructure option. The Stark Development Board may also be a valuable resource in this type of marketing effort. Rezoning designated areas along the railroad to a more conducive zoning district should also be considered as this would help prove to industries that the Community desires their business and is willing to work with them on doing business here.



Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad
Source: SCRPC

Public Transit

The Stark County Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) is Stark County's local public transit authority. SARTA currently operates one route (Route 107) from Canton to East Canton, Monday through Saturday. Points of interest along this route include the Life Care Family Health and Dental Center, Downtown Canton and the East Canton Library. In addition to this fixed route, SARTA also offers a number of additional personalized services to passengers needing extra assistance. Some of these services include ProLine and Medline, which offer door-to-door transportation for physically or mentally disabled persons. Services are also available for qualified persons on Medicaid, for veterans, and for students.¹¹ SARTA also offers a free travel training program, which teaches people how to read schedules, transfer to other buses, purchase tickets, and use the wheelchair lift. Both one-on-one sessions and group sessions are available at different dates and locations throughout the county. The community should consider pursuing this type of programming at a local venue such as the Foltz Center. Actively promoting this program and other SARTA services to residents within the community is a way to help ensure that all persons have equal access to transportation options.

¹¹Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA). Accessed March 1, 2015 <www.sartaonline.com>.

Water Supply

The City of Canton supplies almost all of East Canton's water. According to the City of Canton's Water Department, the average daily consumption for the Village is approximately 100,000 gallons per day. The Canton Water Department estimates that they have the ability to supply the Village nearly 1.5 million gallons per day through the existing 12" line. Their department also stated that line extensions outside the Village are handled on a case-by-case basis. There have been concerns over available water pressure from Canton's water lines recently, including disruptions in the fire department's ability to put out fires. These disruptions appear to be due to the age of some of the lines and the steep reduction in water line sizes once they reach the Village (from 12" down to 4-8" lines), which as a result also makes these lines more susceptible to buildup and corrosion. Should the Village continue to utilize Canton's water service, a more direct involvement may be necessary from Village officials in order to ensure that adequate water is being supplied to East Canton as agreed upon.

While almost all of East Canton Village is serviced by Canton City water, the majority of Osnaburg Township is serviced by private water systems, including wells, cisterns, and hauled-water storage tanks. According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), there are over 1,400 drilled water wells within the combined community area.¹² While property owners cannot be forced to hook up to city water service, there have been concerns about the annexation potential due to the community not having its own water service.

In terms of drinking water, the combined community is currently considered a satellite of Canton, according to the Ohio EPA's Drinking and Groundwater Division. In order to become its own public water system, the community would have to install a drinking water treatment plant and system, which would cost millions of dollars.¹³ If the community is looking to expand and develop, the EPA noted that there are a number of ways that water could be provided to new locations, including a hauled water system, the establishment of its own public water system (as discussed above), the installation of individual wells, connection to a private water supplier, the creation of a water district (discussed in further detail below), or the expansion of the existing Canton City-supplied water system.

Water districts are one method of providing water services to residents. Regional water districts are independent political subdivisions established under Chapter 6119 of the Ohio Revised Code to provide water services to users within the district. In order to form a district, the requesting community must submit a petition to the county Court of Common Pleas, and must demonstrate a compelling reason why such a district is desired. If approved, these districts are administered by an appointed local governmental board. According to the Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program (regional non-profit agency that provides technical assistance to rural communities on water and wastewater treatment needs), the estimated cost

¹²McCormac, Michael. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil & Gas Resources. September 2014.

¹³ Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Drinking and Groundwater Division. December 2014.

for the creation of a water district is \$10,000 per connection, adding up to an estimated total ranging in the millions of dollars. This figure considers costs for a treatment plant, service lines, storage, etc.¹⁴ The average cost to install a private water well for a single-family home is approximately \$7,000-\$8,000 per well, and the cost for installing a commercial-purpose well can be as high as \$50,000.¹⁵



Local Water Tower
Source: SCRPC

The hauled water system is a water supply option for a smaller community such as this; however, this method can become quite costly. According to Mark Johnson with the Ohio EPA Drinking and Groundwater Division, from October to December, a nursing home in Louisville participated in a hauled water system until they could have new wells dug, and this system cost them over \$32,000 during that short time frame. Connection to a private water system, such as Aqua Ohio, while an option in some areas, does not seem to be applicable to this area as there is not currently a private water supplier available nearby.

According to the Ohio EPA, one of the biggest problems that East Canton and Osnaburg Township face is the quality and quantity of available water from the local aquifer system. The drinking water in Southeast Stark County has been found to have high levels of bacterial and fecal contaminants in it, and many of the wells are not the best producing in terms of gallons per minute.¹⁶ The EPA stated that these issues are likely due to the geology in the area (shale/sandstone are more pliable than hard bedrock and therefore are more susceptible to surface water infiltration issues). Local aquifers are typically shallower in this area, which also may be a reason for groundwater contamination issues, and the EPA noted that hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) could be changing the geology makeup in this area as well.

The EPA suggested that if the community is anticipating growth and increased development in the area, contracting with the City of Canton is the least expensive and best option currently available. It is recommended that the community pursue this option, which would include both working with the City to improve their existing facilities, and installing new facilities in areas that both communities agree upon. The utilization of a JEDD (Joint Economic Development District) or CEDA (Cooperative Economic Development Agreement) is strongly encouraged between the involved political subdivisions. Both options are similar in terms of taxing and revenue sharing; however, JEDDs do appear to be better equipped to deter annexation, as terms are often defined within these agreements that restrict annexation of the area for at least so many years.

¹⁴ Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP). October 2014.

¹⁵ Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Drinking and Groundwater Division. December 2014.

¹⁶ Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Drinking and Groundwater Division. December 2014.

Upgrades to East Canton's existing water lines will likely also be necessary in the very near future to adequately serve new and existing businesses and residents. The community should look into potential financing sources such as the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), which provides financing for local public infrastructure projects through both grant and loan programs, and the Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), a regional nonprofit that provides consulting services to rural communities on water and wastewater needs.

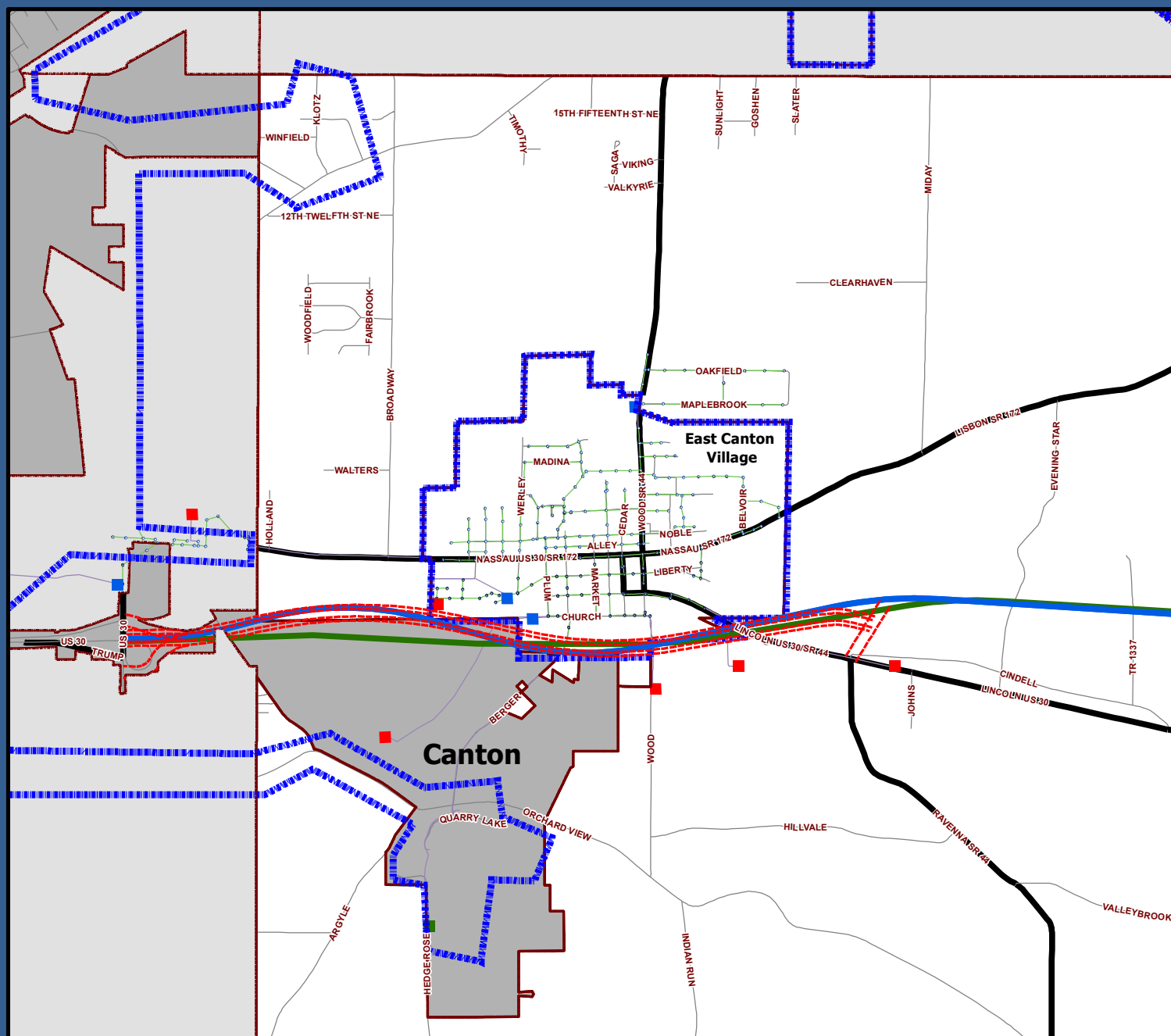
Wastewater Treatment

The Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District provides sanitary sewer service to the entire Village of East Canton and also to limited parts of the Township. According to the Stark County Sanitary Engineer's Office, most of the existing sewer lines date to pre-1960. The County took over the sewer lines from the Village in the late 1980s and has since worked to locate all of the old lines. Currently, sewage from these lines is pumped west via gravity lines and force mains to the City of Canton's treatment plant on Central Avenue SE.

While it is feasible to extend the sewer lines beyond what currently exist, many areas may require a pump station to serve those locations that are at lower elevations, particularly to the east of the Village. Currently there are two private pump stations that are east of the Village on Route 30, the furthest one being near Cindell Street. If an additional lift station was added further east where the elevation levels off (nearer to Evening Star Avenue), then it is possible that a much larger area could be serviced with sewer. While the Sanitary Engineer's Office would be willing to take over and maintain the lift station once installed, the initial costs of this type of project would have to be covered by a developer. In the event that the coverage area is expanded, capacity issues may also arise with the existing sanitary sewer lines that run west from the Village. A developer again would most likely be primarily responsible for improving these lines if needed.

When analyzing areas north and south of the Village, while Wood Street to the south is very hilly and could be more difficult to economically provide sewer service, the area north of the Village is on a gentle downhill slope heading towards the Village, and would likely be a much more economically viable option for sewer provision. The committee requested a sewer capacity study from the Stark County Sanitary Engineer's Office in March 2015 to analyze existing sewer capacity and offer recommendations for future development potential of the area. This study, which was completed in April 2015, found that additional capacity is available at the Werley lift station (the main lift station into the East Canton system); however, the amount of additional capacity would be dependent upon a number of factors, including the type and location of sewer connections made into it. Excerpts from the study are included in the Appendix, but the full study is available through the Stark County Sanitary Engineer's Office. The results of this study should be incorporated into any future planning and zoning efforts of the area.

Proposed Rt. 30 / Sanitary / Water Utility Network



- Private Lift Station
- County Lift Station
- Canton Lift Station
- ⊕ Manholes
- Force Mains
- Gravity Mains



Water Service Area

- Proposed Phase 1 Route 30
- Proposed Route 30 Northern Alignment
- Proposed Route 30 Southern Alignment



The data represented in this map is part of the 208 Clean Water Plan that was updated in 2011.

Transportation & Infrastructure Goals, Objectives & Strategies

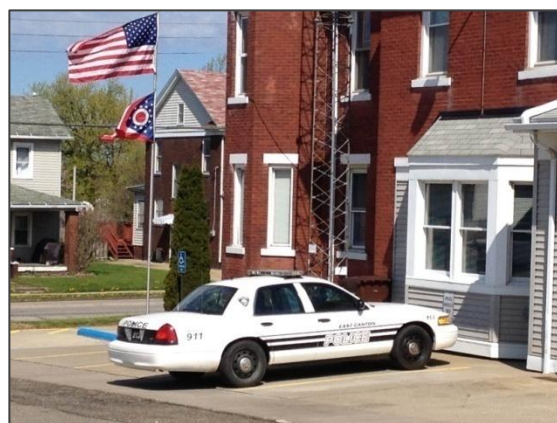
Goal: Develop an enhanced transportation and infrastructure system
Objective 1: Improve existing infrastructure network
<u>Strategies:</u>
Identify areas where existing water and sewer lines need to be updated, and work towards securing public infrastructure funds (ex: Ohio Public Works Commission funding) to improve these areas over a timeframe
Create local truck route for East Canton that guides commercial trucks along certain routes, and keeps them off of residential side streets; zoning map changes may need to be undertaken to better accomplish this
Continue to work with the Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS) on securing funding for traffic safety and roadway improvements
Village staff to work with City of Canton's Water Department to identify and improve water pressure issues from City's water lines; a joint venture for replacement of narrow/corroded lines may need to be evaluated
Objective 2: Pursue projects that will maximize marketing opportunities for the Community
<u>Strategies:</u>
Utilize sewer capacity study from Stark County Sanitary Engineer's Office to help analyze sewer options within community
Pursue funding options, such as roadway enhancement funds, for Village to aesthetically improve right-of-way areas ("streetscape") in downtown area; improvements include decorative light fixtures, attractive trash bins, street trees, benches, etc.
Utilize informational signage along major routes regarding upcoming events and prominent places (such as the golf courses, gun clubs, etc.) to catch visitors' attention and encourage them to stay
Continue to collaborate with ODOT on proposal for realigned Route 30 project; however, until roadway construction dollars are secured, use caution when proceeding with any permanent changes that would affect the surrounding area (ex: zone changes or infrastructure alterations)
Consider utilization of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District in conjunction with Route 30 realignment construction (after roadway acquisition is complete)
Objective 3: Promote utilization of alternative transportation options for residents and businesses
<u>Strategies:</u>
Promote better utilization of existing railroad via greater marketing of it and through local zoning
Work with Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) to better market their services to the community, especially those services that accommodate seniors and disabled citizens
Partner with Stark Parks to expand the hiking and biking trail system within the Community

Community & Livability

Police Services

The Village has two sworn, full-time officers and nine sworn part-time officers, together which patrol areas within the Village limits. The annual budget as of 2014 was \$270,000, which is primarily funded through the Village's general fund. Currently, there is one officer on duty per each shift (3 shifts per 24 hours). Due to budget restraints, overtime is limited to work required on Municipal Court cases.

The Township is served by the Stark County Sheriff's Office. According to the Sheriff's Office, there are five deputies and two sergeants assigned per shift (days, afternoons, and midnights), for a total of 21 deputies to service the entire county. During the day shift, the primary responsibility of the deputies is to transport prisoners to and from the courthouse and state penitentiary. They will respond to service calls when those duties are complete. The afternoon and midnight shift deputies respond to calls as dictated by the demand for service.



East Canton Village Police

Source: SCRPC

Discussion between the Village and Township took place several years ago on a possible partnership between the two to share police protection. The agreement would have been for the Township to fund one full-time and two part-time officers. The partnership was voted down by both the Trustees and Village Council before it went to the ballot. The cost for this levy would have been approximately \$12 for a home valued at \$100,000.

Lexington Township is one of two townships in Stark County (the other being Plain Township) that currently contract with the Sheriff's Office for additional policing services. Through a five-year police fund levy, the Sheriff's Office provides 24-hour service protection to Lexington Township exclusively via one deputy per shift. The contract is for \$280,000 per year, which covers personnel costs and associated vehicles and equipment. According to Lexington Township employees, this contract has worked very well for them.

Pike Township also used to contract with the Sheriff's Office for one deputy to provide 40 hours of service per week. The cost for this coverage was approximately \$80,000 per year, and was paid for out of the Township's general fund. At that time, the general fund was receiving a high amount of tipping fees from the landfill, and was in a good position to fund the contract. However, since that time tipping fees have decreased significantly and the contract became too expensive for the Township to continue on their own.

There was a levy attempt to do a shared police services agreement for the same amount of coverage with the Village of East Sparta, but that attempt was voted down. Since then, there has been some early discussion about Pike Township and the Village of East Sparta possibly contracting with the Village of Magnolia for shared police services.

Marlboro Township operates its own police department, which is funded through a 4.5 mill police levy. Revenue generated from this levy is approximately \$387,000, and donations and grants are used to cover the remaining associated costs.

Due to the limited availability of the Sheriff's Office to respond to calls, either an expanded policing contract should be pursued between the Township and the Sheriff's Office, or a shared services agreement between the Township and Village should be reintroduced to the community. The Township's best choice for affordability and quality of service would most likely be to contract with the Village for shared policing services; however, further analysis is needed.

Fire Services

The Osnaburg Fire Department provides fire and emergency management services (EMS) for both the Township and the Village of East Canton. These positions are currently only part-time. Personnel presently get paid from 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight, but staff the station from midnight to 7:00 am without pay, except when out on service calls. Over the last several years, staffing has dropped significantly to its current level of 18 employees. This reduction in safety forces has left the department below the ideal staffing level, which can lead to a decrease in safety services. Currently, only two employees are on-duty at a time, but for fire-



Osnaburg Township Fire Station
Source: SCRPC

related calls they must wait for a 3rd firefighter to arrive before they can begin fire suppression operations, due to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety regulations.

As of May 2015, it will have been 9 years since the last fire levy was passed. In the department there is a clear dedication to the community, obvious in the fact that most of the current fire/EMS staff is either originally from or living within the community now. However, there has been

an on-going reduction in personnel over the years, primarily due to staff obtaining full-time employment elsewhere. Currently, there is a separate plan being undertaken between the Township officials and the EMS/fire department to identify strategic measures for improving this situation, and it is strongly

encouraged that the community be involved with developing this plan so it is something that they can embrace and help support. Measures to consider with this plan include having a 3rd person on standby for fire-related calls, increasing paid time to help with employee retention, and promoting training opportunities for personnel.

Education

Over the last several years, overall enrollment for the Osnaburg Local School District has experienced an ongoing decline. Since 2008, total enrollment has declined from 938 students to 881 students in 2013.¹⁷ This trend in enrollment decline can be attributed to a number of factors, including a decreasing household size, a reduction in younger households, and people moving out of the area. Enrollment decline means a loss in per-pupil revenue received from the state, which can place a huge financial burden on the school district. This burden eventually leads to cuts in programs, staff and resources. The school district has not received new operating money since 1998. Since then, the school district has attempted five times to pass a new tax for operations. The last attempt was in November 2014, when the district sought to pass a 2.9-mill continuous levy. If approved, the levy would have generated approximately \$251,000 a year for the district; however, the levy was defeated by approximately 58% of the voters. The school district now forecasts a budget deficit for the 2014-2015 school year that is anticipated to increase further in the future unless additional operating money is received.

In 2015, according to U.S. News' list of Best High Schools in America, East Canton High School was ranked #153 in the State of Ohio (out of 881 schools). The U.S. News also awarded the high school the silver medal, which is based on a school's performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college. The 2013-2014 Report Card issued by the Ohio Department of Education gave the school district a 'B' (82.8%) in Performance Index, which measures the state test results of every student. Over the last five years, the school district has continuously experienced a slight decline in this performance index; however, the 2014 index was only fractionally below the previous index (83% in 2013 and 82.8% in 2014).



East Canton High School
Source: SCRPC

The school district recently added the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Academy, a course plan for students designed to further their skills in these content areas. The training starts at the elementary school level, which prepares them for the actual courses in high school. In July 2014, the school district was one of 37 entities in the State of Ohio to receive a state grant from the Ohio Department of Education's

¹⁷ Ohio Department of Education. December 2014.

Straight A Fund competition. This \$240,000 grant will be used primarily to enhance the school's technology capabilities. The district is also pursuing the creation of a strategic plan, which will seek input from residents on what they want, or which programs should potentially be reduced, over the next several years. It is anticipated that the output of this plan will be to produce a more stable financial future for the district that the community supports. As quality education systems are a vital "quality of life" factor for existing and potential future residents, it is strongly encouraged that the community work with the school district on creating this plan together.

Civic and Religious Institutions

The pride and adoration for the community runs high among its residents, which can be seen in the quality school system and multiple civic organizations that exist, including the American Legion, Scout troops and the Greater East Canton Community Development Association. The Foltz Center is one of the community's best assets in terms of supporting this type of civic engagement, and it is recommended that additional events and offerings be encouraged and promoted at this facility. While the senior community does utilize



Foltz Center
Source: SCRPC

the facility for several functions, additional groups and program offerings should also be sought. Having a common place where members of the community can socialize and network is an important livability feature for residents. Religious institutions are also great places for supporting community betterment, and the fact that there are so many of these in the area is a great testament to the support and devotion of the community.

Senior Services

Many older adults want to age in place in their homes, often due to established connections within their community and a certain level of comfort that it provides. While this option may lead to physical and emotional isolation, there are several services offered to reduce these impacts. Home and community based services may also lower long-term care costs, and delay or prevent nursing-home placement. Local services include Direction Home, Akron-Canton's Area Agency on Aging, which is able to provide information on meal delivery and home care service options. Family & Community Services of Stark County also offers the Senior Companion Program, where senior companions serve one-on-one with homebound persons by assisting with daily tasks, or simply making a friendly visit.¹⁸ There are also several local businesses that provide transportation for seniors specifically, including the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA).

¹⁸ Family & Community Services Inc. Accessed March 4, 2015 <<http://www.fcsohio.org/programs-services/national-service/senior-companion-program/>>.

With transportation, an older adult may be able to visit one of the local community/senior centers for a senior meal, activity, or socialization. While the only local community/senior center is the Foltz Center, nearby locations that offer a meal include the Girard Gardens Apartments (Canton), the Indian Run Manor Apartments (Waynesburg), the Julliard Senior Center (Louisville), the Louisville City Building (Louisville), and the Minerva Senior Center (Minerva).¹⁹

According to the Ohio Department of Aging, 73 out of 88 Ohio counties have enacted countywide senior services levies, via either a property tax or dedicated sales tax, to enhance and expand services to older adults. Unfortunately, Stark County is not one of those counties. The Village of Minerva is the only local government in Stark County that has a local levy dedicated to senior services. Their levy is a 0.3 mill, five-year levy that provides funding to support the Minerva Area Senior Center.²⁰ Community residents may consider proposing a senior service levy, or reach out to local senior service agencies to create a pamphlet of available senior services that could be published and distributed through local offices or facilities that seniors or their caregivers may visit.

Agriculture

Agriculture has played an important role throughout the history of East Canton and Osnaburg Township, and continues to have an impact on the area's zoning, land use, and economic development. As mentioned previously, maintaining agricultural lands can be difficult in the face of increasing real estate development. According to the 2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture, since 2007 the number of farms in Stark County has decreased from 1,300 to 1,168 and the land in farms has decreased from 138,061 acres to 135,749 acres. Given current agricultural statistics, East Canton and Osnaburg can work together to preserve and enhance the agricultural heritage of the area, while planning for a livable, successful community.



Green Farms

Source: SCRPC

There are many strategies for supporting the existing farms in the community, several of which focus on connecting the producer (the farmer) directly with the consumer. One approach to promote the local foods produced in the community is to market the goods in local newspapers and bulletins. For instance, individual farmers could place ads showing their products and location. A more extensive option for connecting the farmer with the buyer is to establish a community farmer's market. As of 2014, there were 8,268 farmers' markets in the United States, having grown by 180 percent since 2006.²¹ Farmers, or groups of farmers, may also consider establishing a Community Supported

¹⁹ Ohio Department of Aging – Senior Centers in Region 10B. Accessed March 4, 2015 <www.aging.ohio.gov>.

²⁰ Ohio Department of Aging. Accessed February 9, 2015 <www.aging.ohio.gov>.

²¹ "USDA Trends in Local and Regional Food Systems." U.S. Department of Agriculture. January 2015.

Agriculture (CSA) program, where buyers sign up for shares of locally-produced goods, with the benefit of knowing the food is fresh. They will often pick up their goods at a pre-determined time and location during the growing season. Community Supported Agriculture programs can be an excellent way for consumers to try different local foods, form a network of consumers investing in their local economy, and to directly interface with the farmer who feeds them.

Another strategy for increasing the community support for local farmers is to create farm-to-school or farm-to-work programs. These programs partner a school or workplace with a local farmer, or group of farmers, to provide products that are utilized in their food production. Farm to school/work programs can also include components such as classroom lectures on food and nutrition, visits to farms and farmers' markets, creation of school gardens, and the support of school or work-based CSA programs. According to the USDA Farm to School Census, 4,322 school districts have farm-to-school programs, a 430-percent increase since 2006.

Another community/farmer partnership program would be to encourage civic or religious organizations to promote the purchasing and growing of local foods. Citizens could form volunteer groups to build community garden spaces, or partner with farmers to provide food used in creating meals for community events. Farm to school/work/organization programs increase the consumption of Ohio-grown foods in order to strengthen local agriculture, improve health, and promote regional food system awareness. The Farm Bill does authorize funding for direct to consumer agricultural marketing programs through the Farmers' Market Promotion Program and the Local Food Promotion Program. Information on obtaining this funding is available through the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Another growing movement that farmers have found success in is "agri-tourism" programs, where farms market themselves as enjoyable stops for visitors to make. To expand, many farmers focus seasonally, such as pick-your-own fruit farms in the summer; corn mazes, pumpkin patches or apple orchards in the fall; or holiday tree farms in the early winter. Some areas have also had success with "tour de farm" routes, where a group of farmers would publish a route for bicycles or cars to travel between farms, sampling their products as they progress.

While marketing the agricultural products of the community directly to consumers is encouraging, there is also progress that can be made to prepare local farmers for success into the future. The Ohio State University Extension is an educational entity that partners with individuals, families, communities, business and industry, and organizations to strengthen the lives of Ohioans, with a strong focus on agriculture. East Canton and Osnaburg Township should contact the OSU Extension Stark County office in Massillon to discuss collaborating on food-related businesses and public education programs, such as extended growing season techniques. The Stark County Farm Bureau and the Stark Soil and Water Conservation District are also valuable sources of information as they each provide a variety of services and resources to educate and

assist farmers. Bringing current trends and techniques directly to farmers may educate them on any changes that they could implement in striving for a successful farm.

In addition to increasing educational extension opportunities to local farmers, the community should also consider the demographics of the current farming population. The average age of a farmer in Ohio is 56 years old.²² While this figure is often related to the average workforce age, as well as the time required to



Local Livestock
Source: SCRPC

obtain the equipment required for large-scale agriculture, there are measures that the community can take to engage younger generations in farming. The public schools could contact local farmers to establish a school partnership program that offers vocational work, internships, or apprenticeships with farmers. The community could also offer workshops or publish information regarding financial assistance available to small farm businesses. For instance, the Rural Business Development Grants program (authorized under the 2014 U.S. Farm Bill), is authorized up to \$65 million in annual funding for

2014-18. Local food projects have historically taken advantage of these programs. Additionally, there is the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP), which provides grants and direct loans to organizations that provide microloans, up to \$50,000 each, to rural microenterprises. There is also the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Microloan program, designed to serve farmers, particularly those who are smaller and less established, with loans up to \$35,000.²³ Providing information and assistance regarding agricultural education and financing may encourage younger generations to pursue farming.

Given the agricultural heritage of East Canton and Osnaburg Township, as well as the desire for increased real estate development, there are standards that can be established to safeguard agricultural areas for perpetuity. Farmland protection can be accomplished through local agricultural zoning, which typically consists of establishing large minimum lot size requirements (minimum of 20 acres), and limiting development options on them. This type of zoning district can be extremely beneficial in preserving areas of prime farmland at the local level. There are also state/federal protection programs involving conservation easements or designated restriction areas. A conservation easement allows property owners to permanently preserve their land; thus the land remains protected, even if it is later sold. For instance, if there is a large family farm that the owner does not want to lose to development pressures, they could create a conservation easement for the land that would protect it for generations to come. In northeast Ohio, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy works to permanently protect natural areas and farmland, ensuring that

²² Begin Farming Ohio. Accessed March 16, 2015 <www.beginfarmingohio.org>.

²³ "USDA Trends in Local and Regional Food Systems." U.S. Department of Agriculture. January 2015.

land under a conservation easement remains protected. At the state level, the Ohio Department of Agriculture offers the Agricultural Easement Donation Program, where agricultural easements are created to forever keep land in agricultural production. At the national level, the American Farmland Trust works to preserve farmlands that provide healthy, fresh local foods, and serve as stewards of the land by keeping spaces green and productive, employing citizens, and supporting local economies.

Parks and Recreation

In terms of parks and recreation, within the Village limits there is currently one 15-acre public park, and within the Township limits there are two gun clubs and one public golf course. The Stark County Park District also owns land within the northeastern part of the Township that they currently utilize as part of their Nickel Plate hiking trail.

While the favorite recreation pastime for much of the community appears to be hunting and fishing, none of the local hunting land is public land, meaning that without proper agreements in place, not everyone has access to this land within the community. That being the case, the community should consider partnering with Stark Parks or another land conservation entity to identify areas for public recreation opportunities, such as additional park space, or hiking and biking trail opportunities. For example, the Village could work with the Park District on developing neighborhood trail routes for local foot or bicycle traffic. Better utilization of the Village Park may be another prospect for enhanced recreation opportunities, through the marketing and enhancement of scheduled activities and programs, such as music nights with bands, outdoor art expositions, or movie nights on a pop-up screen. The Township could partner with the Park District on securing potential areas for trail routes, or large tracts of land to preserve for passive recreation opportunities. Examples of similar parks in Stark County include Sippo Lake Park in Perry Township and Whitacre Greer Park in Magnolia.

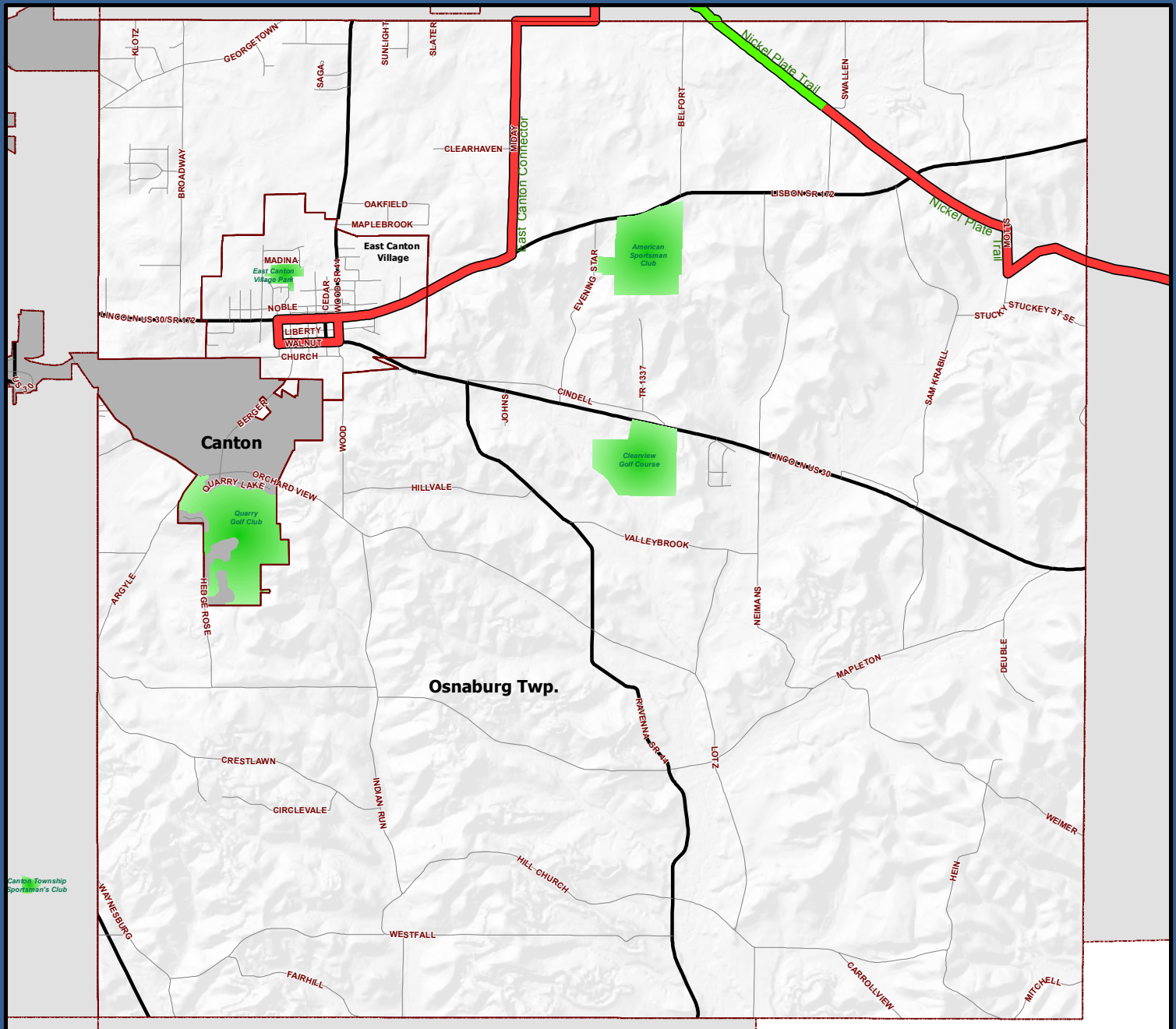


Stark County Park Trail

Source: Stark County Park District

Within the community, two local Nickel Plate Trail connections are tentatively proposed by the Park District; one would continue southeast from Nimishillen Township through Osnaaburg Township and eventually down to Minerva, and the other would head southwest to East Canton and loop around part of the Village's downtown area. These trails, while still very preliminary, are likely to be a mixture of off-road and on-road, identified via the usage of pavement markings and/or trail signage. Both communities should work with the Park District to coordinate these trail locations, as park and recreation opportunities are a critical quality-of-life factor for attracting new residents and retaining existing ones.

Parks and Trails



- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Parks



The data represented in this map has been derived from multiple sources, including SCRPC, SC Auditor, Stark Parks and Village and Township Park Departments.

As mentioned previously, the utilization of reclaimed mined areas may be another potential location for passive recreation opportunities (see U.S. EPA’s Mine-Scarred Lands Initiative Toolkit in Resources section for sample success stories). According to Stark Parks Five-Year Plan, walking trails, picnicking, and wildlife observation opportunities are among the most popular recreation activities for residents.²⁴ These types of activities would be very conducive to development-restricted areas such as reclaimed mine land. People need places to relax or exercise, and without these important amenities immediately available to them, potential residents are likely to consider looking elsewhere for a place to call home.

Aesthetic Improvements

When traveling into the community, there is an immediate sense of quaintness and charm that cannot be overlooked. Within the Village, there are several historic buildings that line the roadways, which in conjunction with the Village Hall, Foltz Center and Village Park, pave the way for a memorable visit to the area. While the existence of Route 30 does pose limitations on what types of aesthetic improvements can be made, it does not eliminate all options.



Attractive Streetscaping

Source: Unknown

Beautification efforts, also known as “streetscaping,” consist of elements such as

sidewalks, decorative street lighting, street trees, and planters that are relatively inexpensive ways to quickly improve the identity and aesthetics of a community. Several of these features are often undertaken as part of a community volunteer effort, such as a trash bin painting contest, or a “Paint the Town Historic” Day, which utilizes donated paint and willing volunteers to improve the facades of buildings. Funding to help with

some of these improvements may be available through the Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS), via transportation enhancement funds, or through local foundations.

Streetscaping Elements:

- Street trees
- Bicycle racks
- Painted trash cans
- Benches
- Attractive street lighting
- Planters
- Sidewalks

Establishing building design standards or enforcing a property maintenance code are other ways to also further the streetscaping effort. When passing through an area, most travelers only have a few seconds to scan and assess its appearance. Aesthetic improvements, while at first thought might not be of much significance to a community, can in fact be one of the most important decisions it will make.

²⁴ Stark County Regional Planning Commission. *Stark County Park District’s 2014-2018 Five-Year Plan*. February 2014.

Community & Livability Goals, Objectives & Strategies

Goal: Enrich the quality of life for all community members
Objective 1: Utilize the agricultural heritage to enhance the Community
<u>Strategies:</u>
Encourage local schools and major employers within the community to partner with local farmers on establishing a “Farm-to-School/Work” program, which enables local farmers to provide fresh and nutritious foods to those local organizations
Work with local farmers to establish “farm protection areas” where appropriate to help protect prime farmland; can be done through local agricultural zoning or through state/federal protection programs involving easements or designated restriction areas
Encourage schools to incorporate local food education programs that can provide opportunities for vocation work, internships and/or apprenticeships
Encourage civic/religious organizations to promote the purchasing and growing of local foods (for nutrition reasons and to keep local money recirculating within the community)
Assist local farmers by promoting and marketing their goods in local newsletters and bulletins
Encourage establishment of a community farmers’ market; potentially partner with Green Farms business to assist with
Objective 2: Improve services and amenities available to residents
<u>Strategies:</u>
Promote utilization of Foltz Center for senior programs, as well as other community-based programs; work with the facility to market and expand programming to all age groups
Educate local professionals such as clergy and business leaders (via brochures and/or meeting with them) on the challenges and opportunities concerning the local senior community, and encourage them to help disseminate this information to their supporters
Reintroduce the concept of a shared police services contract between the Village and Township
Study feasibility and incentive options for having a 3 rd firefighter on “standby” for fire-related calls
Using the Lake Township model of a combined YMCA, public library and high school, study the potential of utilizing the high school to provide recreational opportunities for residents of the community (ex: open gym nights for basketball, volleyball or other adult sporting leagues)
Support public parks and trails as these are essential “quality of life” components of a community; local officials to work with Stark Parks on identifying opportunities for these features
Pursue funding options for obtaining illuminated street signs to help with emergency response times
Promote utilization of transit services available through the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA), especially the additional services available to disabled persons, veterans, and seniors
Encourage schools to utilize local seniors for volunteer opportunities such as mentoring or tutoring, which could assist with cost-savings for the school and enrich the lives of both students and the volunteers
Objective 3: Improve visibility of the Community to market it to potential new residents
<u>Strategies:</u>
Initiate community volunteer programs to help improve the visual appearance of the community (ex: facilitate a “Paint the Town” weekend, which obtains and utilizes donated materials to repair/repaint building exteriors along prominent thoroughfares)
(cont’d)

Village to adopt a “brand” for themselves, which would include a logo and slogan that would serve as a unique identifier for them (will also help to better set them apart from the City of Canton); marketing materials to use with this brand include street light banners, website updates, business window signs, brochures, etc.

Adopt a Mixed-Use zoning district within the Village that would allow for residential and compatible office and business uses to occupy a shared building and/or site; this type of development promotes a more walkable community as people can live, work and play within a single area

Collaborate with school board on developing and implementing school district’s strategic plan

Pursue funding opportunities for building façade improvements along identified corridors

Collaborate with local businesses on creating themed “visitors’ days” weekend activities to attract visitors to the area (ex: German Fest, Antiques & Treasures tours, Music in the Park, etc.)

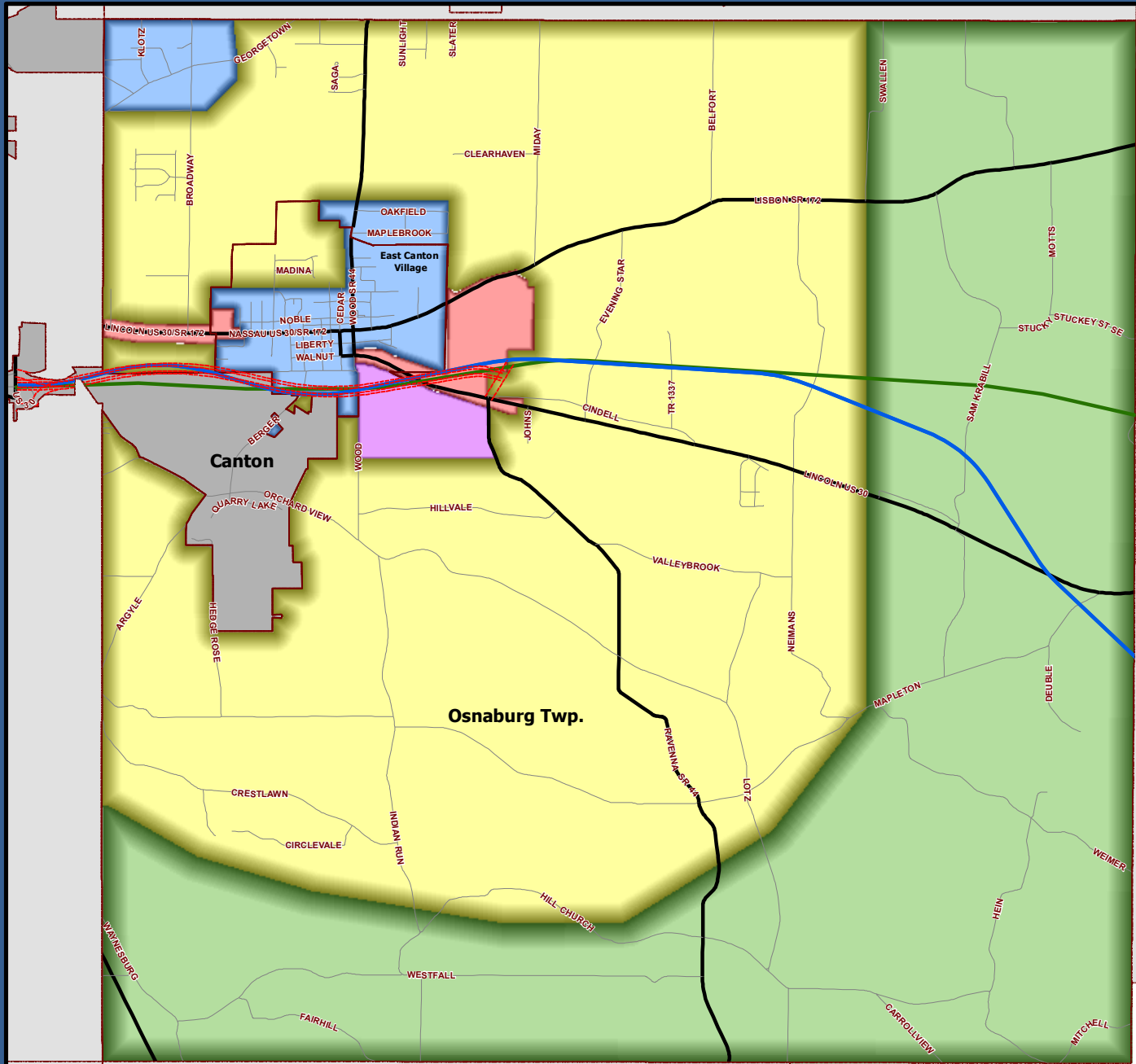
Implementation & Evaluation

Future Land Use Maps

Three future land use maps have been provided with this plan, which may serve as a generalized zoning scheme to guide the communities as they consider future zoning map changes. While each phase is generally proposed upon completion of the prior phase, it should be noted that certain areas may develop faster than others, and so as those situations unfold, individual sections of each phase may need to be incorporated sooner than others.

- Future Land Use Map-Phase One is suggested for a more immediate implementation, while Future Land Use Map-Phase Two is proposed upon build-out of Phase One.
- The proposed realignment of Route 30 from Trump Road to SR 44 is taken into consideration in the Phase Two Map.
- Future Land Use Map-Phase Three is a longer-term suggested land use map that is proposed upon build-out of Phase Two.
- The realignment of Route 30 from SR 44 to the Township line is factored into the Phase Three Map.

Future Land Use - Phase One



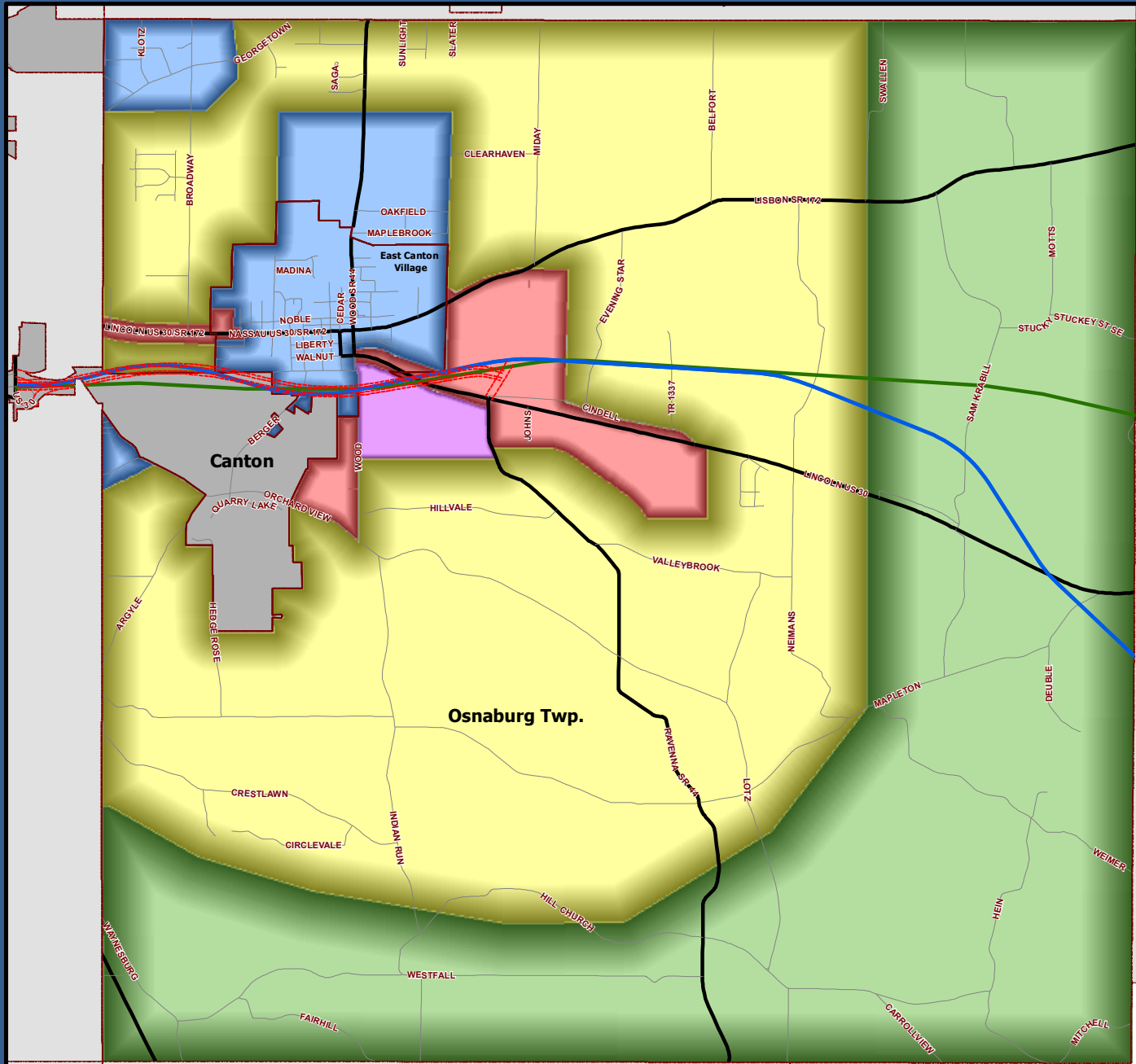
- Rural / Agricultural
- Lower Density Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Transitional: Includes, High Density Residential, Institutional, Limited Retail, Office and Personal Services and Similar Uses.

- - - Proposed Phase 1 Route 30
- Proposed Route 30 Northern Alignment
- Proposed Route 30 Southern Alignment



The information presented in this map is meant to be a generalization of suggested land use goals for the community. It is not parcel-specific, and is subject to modification as events change.

Future Land Use - Phase Two



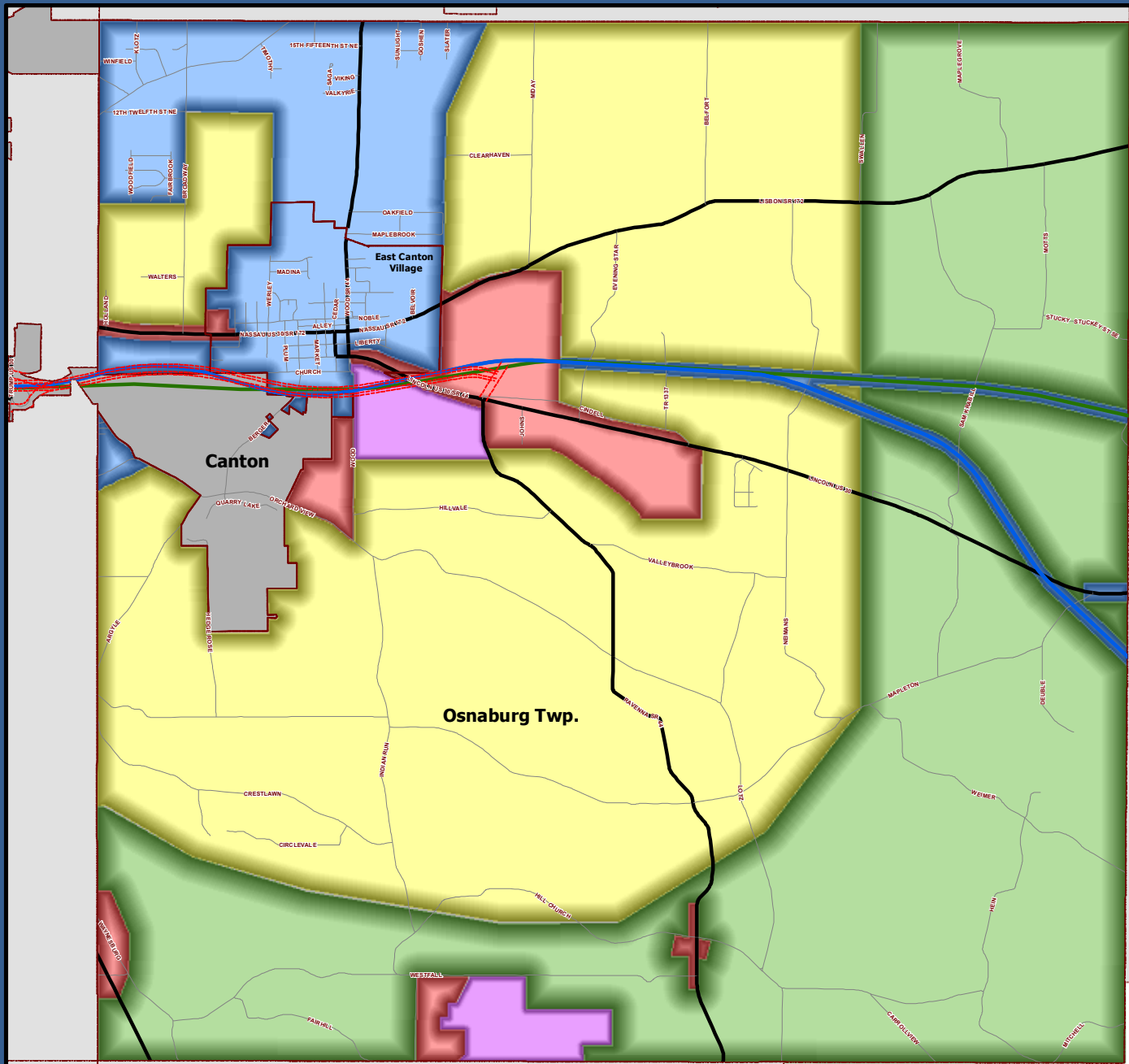
- Rural / Agricultural
- Lower Density Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Transitional: Includes, High Density Residential, Institutional, Limited Retail, Office and Personal Services and Similar Uses.

- - - Proposed Phase 1 Route 30
- Proposed Route 30 Northern Alignment
- Proposed Route 30 Southern Alignment



The information presented in this map is meant to be a generalization of suggested land use goals for the community upon build-out of Future Land Use - Phase One. This phase incorporates the potential realignment of Route 30 from Trump Road to SR 44.

Future Land Use - Phase Three



The information presented in this map is meant to be a generalization of suggested land use goals for the community upon build-out of Future Land Use - Phase One. This phase incorporates the potential realignment from SR. 44 to the eastern Township limits.

Prioritized Strategies

The purpose of the following section is to identify an appropriate timeframe for implementing the Goals, Objectives and Strategies as identified in each section. The timeframes range from zero to two years, two to five years, and five years or more. These are suggested periods for when the strategies should commence, not necessarily for when they should be completed. Some of the longer-term strategies may take many years to complete. Strategies have been organized based on greatest need, funding availability and highest priorities as identified through the visioning process.

Strategies to be Implemented Within Next Two Years			
Strategy	Section	Objective	Timeframe
Form Joint Community Implementation Committee to execute this plan			0-2
Analyze potential economic development corridors along existing Route 30 & modify zoning maps to promote sustainable development in viable corridors (Land Use Map Phase 1)	Economic Development	1	0-2
Township & Village to collaborate on incentive options to retain and attract businesses	Economic Development	1	0-2
Establish joint Chamber of Commerce for combined community for economic development purposes	Economic Development	1	0-2
Amend Village zoning code to include mixed-use district	Economic Development	2	0-2
Improve govt. websites to be more informative; provide weblinks to local businesses on them	Economic Development	3	0-2
Encourage local businesses to get websites; partner with library/school to assist with	Economic Development	3	0-2
Promote resources to help seniors age in place, inc. bus route info and healthcare access	Housing	1	0-2
Look into CDBG & HOME funds to help residents or developers obtain or develop housing for lower-income households, inc. seniors	Housing	1	0-2
Promote housing rehab programs to lower-income homeowners struggling w/ home repairs	Housing	2	0-2
Promote The Stock Pile & Habitat for Humanity as sources of affordable bldg. repair materials	Housing	2	0-2
Identify areas conducive to higher density housing for seniors and starter homes; modify zoning districts/maps to promote as such	Housing	3	
Assist with promotion of rental housing options for young professionals, oil & gas workers, seniors	Housing	3	0-2
Village staff to work with City of Canton to identify and improve water pressure issues	Transportation	1	0-2
Utilize sewer capacity study from Sanitary Engineer's Office to analyze sewer options	Transportation	2	0-2
Promote utilization of railroad via greater marketing of it through local zoning	Transportation	3	0-2
Work with SARTA to better market service to community, esp. those for seniors & disabled	Transportation	3	0-2
Encourage schools to pursue local food education programs that can provide opportunities for vocational work, internships, or apprenticeships	Community	1	0-2
Encourage civic/religious groups to promote purchasing/growing of local foods	Community	1	0-2
Assist local farmers by promoting & marketing their goods in local newsletters/bulletins	Community	1	0-2
Promote utilization of Foltz Center for additional programs; expand towards other age groups	Community	2	0-2
Educate local leaders on challenges/opportunities of local senior community; encourage dissemination of information to supporters	Community	2	0-2
Collaborate with school board on developing and implementing school district's strategic plan	Community	3	0-2

Strategies to be Implemented Within Two to Five Years			
Strategy	Section	Objective	Timeframe
Analyze potential economic development corridors along proposed Route 30, and modify zoning map to promote sustainable development in viable corridors (Land Use Map - Phase 2/3)	Economic Development	1	2-5
Pursue JEDD options with Canton or Louisville for long-term water provision services	Economic Development	1	2-5
Work w/ local economic development coordinators (ex: Stark Development Board) to identify business incentive/financing tools	Economic Development	1	2-5
Actively target new businesses that cater to younger generations	Economic Development	1	2-5
Update Village/Township zoning codes to reflect desired community development pattern	Economic Development	2	2-5
Incorporate zoning modifications as identified in future land use maps (as build-out of prior phases occurs)	Economic Development	2	2-5
Work w/ local farmers to pursue "agri-tourism" opportunities to bring visitors to area	Economic Development	3	2-5
Market existing strengths of community via resources such as chamber of commerce, visitors' pamphlets, website	Economic Development	3	2-5
Pursue collaboration w/ OSU Extension Office on food-related businesses and public education programs	Economic Development	3	2-5
Invite assisted living facility developers to meet w/ local officials to discuss their projects	Housing	1	2-5
Actively engage local officials in planning to overcome challenges of senior population; topics include: housing for all stages of life, home upgrades, rental assistance programs	Housing	1	2-5
Identify vacant housing locations & put owners in contact with community development agencies to put property into productive use	Housing	2	2-5
Consider Tax Increment Financing to support projects that include senior or multi-family housing	Housing	3	2-5
Work w/ owners of existing vacant homes to provide rental housing for oil & gas workers	Housing	3	2-5
Identify areas where existing water & sewer needs updated; work toward securing public funds to improve over time	Transportation	1	2-5
Continue to work w/ SCATS on securing funds for traffic safety and roadway improvements	Transportation	1	2-5
Collaborate w/ ODOT on proposed Route 30, but use caution when proceeding w/ permanent changes that would affect surrounding area (zone changes/infrastructure alterations)	Transportation	2	2-5
Partner w/ Stark Parks to expand hiking/biking trail system in community	Transportation	3	2-5
Encourage establishment of community farmers' market	Community	1	2-5
Reintroduce concept of shared police services contract between Village and Township	Community	2	2-5
Study feasibility of having 3rd firefighter on "standby" for fire-related calls	Community	2	2-5
Work w/ Stark Parks on identifying additional parkland opportunities within Township	Community	2	2-5
Pursue funding options for obtaining illuminated street signs to help w/ emergency response	Community	2	2-5
Initiate community volunteer days to improve aesthetics of community (ex: painting projects)	Community	3	2-5
Village to adopt "brand", which would include slogan & logo to help serve as unique identifier	Community	3	2-5

Strategies to be Implemented in Five Years Plus			
Strategy	Section	Objective	Timeframe
Contact local hospitals about need for medical facility in area; assist w/ planning efforts	Economic Development	1	5+
Promote establishment of business incubator to allow small businesses to assist each other	Economic Development	1	5+
Explore ways to provide access to high-speed internet	Economic Development	1	5+
Work w/ mine-scarred land owners and environmental agencies to reutilize lands for econ. dev.	Economic Development	2	5+
Collaborate w/ local colleges to attract branch campus; promote existing strengths as niche market	Economic Development	3	5+
Promote housing/infrastructure projects in identified low-to-mod income target areas	Housing	2	5+
Discourage the removal of existing multi-family housing, or mitigate if necessary	Housing	3	5+
Create local truck route for Village that guides commercial trucks along certain routes	Transportation	1	5+
Pursue roadway enhancement funds for aesthetic "streetscape" improvements, esp. in Village	Transportation	2	5+
Utilize informational signage along major routes to attract visitors to local events	Transportation	2	5+
Encourage schools/major employers to establish "Farm-to-School/Work" programs w/ farmers	Community	1	5+
Work w/ local farmers to establish "farm protection areas" to protect prime farmland	Community	1	5+
Study potential of utilizing high school to provide community-wide recreation opportunities	Community	2	5+
Pursue funding for façade improvements along identified corridors	Community	3	5+
Collaborate w/ local businesses on themed "visitors' days" weekend activities	Community	3	5+

Going Forward

This plan is meant to serve as a long-range vision for the community. It is the hope that with this plan, both the Village and Township will each adopt it as a tool to help guide them through decision-making steps in the future. Implementation of the Joint Community Plan will be determined by community leaders. It is critical to make a decision on how each aspect of the plan will be implemented and the timetable for doing so, in order to maintain momentum. One recommendation would be for the creation of a joint community implementation committee that meets at least a few times a year to re-evaluate the plan's progress and ensure its follow-through.

No comprehensive plan is meant to be a static document. Priorities and strategies may change over time due to the results of future studies, development pressures, funding availability, identified community needs or environmental concerns. If other strategies or options become available that were previously unknown, then the objectives of the plan may need to be adjusted accordingly. While the plan's general timeframe is a 10 to 20-year period, this plan should be periodically re-evaluated over time, as it can be expected that some of the priorities or the implementation of various strategies will change.

Resources & Other Useful Links

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), “Aging in Place: A Toolkit for Local Governments”, (<http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/plan/planning/aging-in-place-a-toolkit-for-local-governments-aarp.pdf>), Accessed 2014.

American Community Survey, 2008-2012.

Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission, “Fairfield Growing: An Agricultural Economic Development Plan”, May 2011.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, *Ohio Labor Market Information*, 2014-2015.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, *Water Well Log Report*, (<https://apps.ohiodnr.gov/water/maptechs/wellogs/appNEW/>), 2014-2015.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance, (<http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/>), 2015.

Rural Community Assistance Program, (<http://ohrcap.org/>), 2014.

Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS), “Stark County Crash Report and Safety Work Plan”, 2014.

U.S. Census Bureau, *Population, Demographics and Economy*, 1960-2010.

U.S. Census Bureau, *County Business Patterns*, 2000, 2010, and 2012.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, *Rural Community Financial and Technical Assistance*, (<http://www.rd.usda.gov/>), 2015.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, “Oil and Gas Impacts on Rental Housing”, (http://www.huduser.org/portal/publications/emad_2014_2.pdf), March 2014.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “Mine-Scarred Lands Initiative Toolkit”, (<http://www.epa.gov/aml/revital/toolkit.pdf>), 2006.

Appendix

SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats)

(As Identified at Village of East Canton & Osnaburg Twp. Plan Committee Meeting on 9/11/14)

Categories

- Zoning & Land Use
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Jobs & Economy
- Housing & Demographics
- Cultural & Natural Resources

Zoning & Land Use

- Ex: Lots of prime farmland S
- Zoning is out of date; has been for a long time W
- Need to be able to protect farmland T
- Need to zone to encourage business O
- Crops: beef cattle, hay, corn, dairy, almost anything can grow here S
- Haven't seen a real decrease in farmland S
- Current zoning has prevented business growth W
- Families are protecting their farms for next generation S
- Have 2 C & D landfills and twp borders Sandy Twp with American Landfill; one C&D is closed and one just got an expansion (takes construction material only); maybe C & D's are a good thing for the twp; C & D's could be either a threat or an opportunity depending on how handled T/O
- Village currently has no place to grow-landlocked W
- Annexation threats are a concern from Canton T
- Around Dalton, they have zoned a corridor for commercial development on route 30; also protects rural areas O
- Some would like to have commercial corridors on all state routes; property owners only get taxed as commercial if using it as commercial O/T
- Not enough commercial zoning to do much, especially in township W
- Create a corridor so you have designated where you want to put commercial; expansion is limited for some businesses W/O
- Abandoned strip mine area is unused; could it be reused for development W/O
- Zoning and land use need clarified/updated so that companies will be attracted O
- People wouldn't fight development as much if eyesore land was used, rather than taking farmland for development O
- Commercial district needs to be 300' deep off existing roads to handle existing business, but not all businesses need 300'; smaller community businesses don't need that much depth O
- Will the zoning commissions jump on this plan? Zoning has to be on board; may need to work to get people on zoning commissions- need some new perspective; need to communicate with the zoning commissions to get them involved and get their input O/T
- Use revised zoning scheme to make proposed Route 30 ramp marketable O

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Sewer capacity is limited; need to re-do the system to handle new restaurants etc; would be developer's responsibility; Stark Co. San. Sewer Dept. would assist W/O
- 6 months would be needed for sewer planning, which isn't too bad; infrastructure is there, just needs improved O

- Street services provided within township are good (snow plow; maintenance) S
- Canton not caring for streets as well as twp was (Berger St) W
- Railroad- needs utilized better; need to attract plastics or manufacturing firm of some kind that needs RR S/O
- Wheeling & Lake Erie RR is a big plus for the area; stuff coming from Minerva just passing through here S/O
- ODOT for TRAC grant, RR can be a plus for the application S
- Marathon trucking; into crude oil; hauling from well sites; increase in trucking; rail usage would cut down on road usage S/W/O
- Water provision for the village comes from Canton; S/T
- A water district is being discussed O
- Sitting on extremely large aquifer S
- Concern about whether old wells were capped; some were collapsed; need more info W
- Expensive to deal with EPA on water wells, but still interested in pursuing or looking at water district W/T
- Need to have a simple on/off ramp on Wood Avenue; economically this might be the best for the village O
- Commercial growth will be on east side as 30 develops; west side needs to reinvent itself O/T
- 25,000 vehicles travel through village/day now; had 5 commercial truck-related deaths W
- Extension of route 30 could be our savior or last nail in our coffin O/T
- No places to stop in the village for trucks; a truck stop would be an opportunity for the area; they will want to be as close to the ramp as possible W/O
- Opportunity for the extension of route 30 to help the village if handled well O
- Canton is on the other side of Wood St waiting to see what happens with 30; threat of annexation; need to offer services for twp residents so they aren't tempted by Canton's offers T
- There are political moves the twp could make which could block annexation O
- Canton went down route 77 annexing properties; similar concern T
- EPA is opening up to cluster sewage plants to serve a few businesses; some possibilities rather than sewer the whole area, but some places sewer is really needed W/O
- Sewer goes out by RB's Truck & Trailer and east of that, then stops W
- Roberto's Cheese had system that wasn't quite adequate W
- Traffic needs to stay off of side roads

Jobs & Economy

- The area is still coming out of the recession; have lost businesses; housing values are just coming back W
- Nextpac was a plastic injection mold company that closed W
- Key is having right environment to attract businesses; incentives O
- Village can't sustain without some kind of growth; need to pick up business O/T
- Need business with multiple employees, not just 1 or 2 employees O
- Opportunity for twp & village to work on business growth together O
- The Quarry is a CEDA with Canton and Osnaburg Twp S/T
- 50% of something is better than 100% of nothing (JEDD or CEDA) O
- It would be good to plan an agreement between village & twp to work on sharing benefits from businesses developing O
- Hartville had a similar issue as 619 developed, according to a Lake Twp Trustee, it increased locals traveling in the village and helped business O
- Would like to see more of the services that used to be here; truck stop at 44 & 30; add a strip plaza, grocery, restaurant, hardware, etc.; if done right, it could back up into the village and could do as a CEDA agreement O
- Need to think out of the box; look at better utilizing existing resources (ex: water district) O
- School system is biggest provider of taxes S/T
- Utilize old strip-mined land on 30 for commercial purposes O
- Would like to see a medical stat care facility since there is not; closest hospital Aultman; stat care in Louisville; one Dr office and one vet here W/O

Housing & Demographics

- Need for senior housing; no opportunity to stay in the community; can't age here in a small place W/O
- Foltz Community Center caters to seniors; isn't utilized enough S/O
- Census tract designations don't show any of East Canton as low income for CDBG programs while they know there are low income here (check on census info from CD dept; Orchardview census info needs clarified too) S/W
- Most people want to preserve farms and greenspace where possible and utilize previously-developed areas instead S
- Had 2 houses demo'd through Moving Ohio Forward Program S
- A lot of vacant homes in both village and twp W
- School enrollment is down due to population loss W
- Need business and occupied single family homes to help fund school district; used to have a \$4 million carryover; now in deficit spending W
- Not a lot of increase in seniors; maybe they are just relocating W/O
- Rents- seeing some increase in occupancy by oil & gas; not much rental housing exists; more rentals could be an opportunity S/W/O
- Are seeing oil & gas workers bussed in and "camping" T/O
- Could be beneficial to have a hotel; Carrollton has 3 new hotels in last 5 years O
- How far behind is the area compared to other cities that are building hotels; how do you market the area; need an economic development committee; how do you bring an out of state company in W/O
- Networking is needed to sell the community; can work with Chamber etc. O
- Where will oil industry be in a year? Will there be a need for hotels a few years out? O/T
- Some oil & gas folks will stay & have already bought homes & enrolled kids in schools; some follow the boom; the community needs more housing for them S/O
- Some of oil & gas workers' children will set down their roots here and want to stay; if there are businesses and job opportunities O
- Need to look at plan for 5, 10 and 20 years O

Cultural & Natural Resources

- Some people really want only the farming and the rural atmosphere S/O
- Have to be able to exploit our resources, not just protect them from Canton T/O
- Water district is an opportunity O
- Sit on large oil field S
- Shallow oil wells may be maxed out; some are having further development on shallow wells; Osnaburg has 1st Chesapeake well; twp is producing a lot of oil & gas S/O
- Horizontal wells will come O/T
- Lines will impact development; need to get detailed info on current status/location O/T
- Wind energy; some have put up residential windmills; can be expensive S/W/O
- Natural gas seems most likely type of energy for growth; a lot of research & development is being done, however, types of energy that are subsidized, aren't profitable S/O
- Biofuels not cost-effective; price of corn went higher as ethanol was marketed S/W/T
- School system rated A plus; it scores very well; it will be scored in new areas which may be a challenge S/O
- New school, which houses all grades, is energy efficient S
- School has lots of classroom opportunities for kids; State of the art infrastructure at the school for technology S/O
- The school has Stem; earned a Straight A grant (\$231,000) for career readiness program S/O
- Have many colleges located nearby, including new oil & gas lab in Canton S/O
- Stark State has a branch campus in Alliance & Carrollton; may be a possibility here O
- The Village has a few nice historic buildings (ex: Werner Inn) S
- Osnaburg Historical Society is active S
- No place for young people to meet or any concert place or art museum W

- The community has 6 churches; they are well attended and have active congregations, including youth programs S/O
- The library has regular children's programs S
- The Foltz Community Center would like to fill some of that void for services O
- Need more cultural facilities W
- Safety services are extremely understaffed; have gone from 30 to 12 employees over last 6 or so yrs; staff leaving for better opportunities W
- Fire & EMS combined; all are part-time S/W
- The township provides fire & EMS services for both itself and the village; the village has its own police; the township is served by sheriff's office S/W
- Tried to put a shared police services plan together; it lost 3 to 1 on ballot W/T
- Only 2 people on at a time for fire/EMS coverage; for EMS they can treat with just 2; for fire, they must wait for 3rd person due to law; causes negative perception with citizens W
- More accidents in the township; 5 fatalities since January 2014 W/T
- Safety services want to expand service; but need resources to cover it; provide various inspections & blood pressure checks etc to serve residents & elderly S/W

East Canton High School Students' Plan

(presented at Plan Committee Meeting on 11/13/14)

Goal: To develop a plan to promote positive growth in East Canton/Osnaburg Township

Strengths

- School Academics – Silver medal school
- Band
- Football field awards
- Buildings/appearances/aesthetics
- Sense of family
- Subway
- Expressos
- Child friendly
- Safe

Areas to Improve

- “Stuff to do”
- Sick of Belden
- No jobs for kids – drive to Belden
- Clean up
- Park → Walking track and water fountains
- Landscaping
- Reface buildings

What do we want to see in the future?

Inside the Village:

- Bakery/coffeehouse/bookstore
- Fast food
- Recreation center
- Bowling alley
- Dentist
- Candy store/arcade
- Diners
- Ice cream parlor
- Sports store
- Daycare
- Eye doctor
- Family doctor

Outside the Village:

- Department store
- Family video
- 5 below
- Retirement home
- Grocery store
- Animal shelter
- Butcher shop
- Pet store
- Pottery/craft store
- Drive in movie theater

East Canton Sanitary Sewer Capacity Study (excluding graphs)

(prepared by the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District, presented at the Community Plan Public Meeting on 5/14/15; for full study please contact the Sewer District)

East Canton Sanitary Sewer Capacity Study

Phase 1

Stark County, Ohio

May 14, 2015

**STARK COUNTY
METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT**

**JAMES F. TROIKE, P.E.
SANITARY ENGINEER**

P.O. BOX 9972 - 1701 MAHONING RD. N.E. CANTON, OHIO 44711-9972

330-451-2303 - FAX 330-453-9044

I. Introduction

- A. Background – About mid- March of 2015 the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District was asked to assemble a wastewater capacity study for the Village of East Canton. This request stemmed from the meetings that the East Canton and Osnaburg Township Joint Community Planning Committee are holding concerning the availability of sanitary sewage collection and transport in light of the realignment of Interstate Route 30 to the east of the Village. This also initiated a three-phase plan for future land use in the village/township assembled with the assistance of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission.

This Phase 1 study consists of an initial review of the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District's sanitary lift station capacity within the Village and outlines the potential sewer service route for the areas designated under Phase 1, 2 and 3 in the Future Land Use publication produced by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission. This is an important review as all the Village's wastewater discharge through two of four lift stations located in and around the Village. In addition, the entire wastewater discharge from the Village is discharged via sanitary lift stations to the City of Canton for treatment. This flow is metered and the Sewer District is billed for the flow entering the City's system. This report also shows where potential developers may enter the main collection system through the aerial map figures that reflect the three phase development plans assembled by the Planning Committee and will be the basis upon how the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District determines available service capacity.

- B. History – Prior to 1987, the Village of East Canton operated their own collection system along with a small wastewater plant (WWTP) located at the termination of Werley road to the south of West Nassau (SR 30). Early in 1987 the Ohio EPA required a General Plan for improvements through Findings and Orders. Through mutual interests, the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District added the East Canton wastewater infrastructure to its system. Many of the Ohio EPA's Findings and Orders were alleviated when the County abandoned the existing wastewater treatment plant in favor of pumping the sewage to the city of Canton for treatment through two sanitary lift stations; one of which is located at the old East Canton WWTP site and the other at Trump Road just before the westbound entrance ramp for US30. The wastewater is discharged to Canton's gravity collection system on 4th Street east of the Carrolldale Ave. and 4th Street intersection

Soon after the pump station was placed into service, it was noted that the lift station located at the old WWTP site was being overwhelmed with rainfall derived inflow and infiltration (RDII). This situation occurs when rainwater enters the sanitary sewer through yard drains, downspouts, sump pumps (inflow) or when it seeps in through the joints in the old clay pipes and brick manholes (infiltration). As the additional flow only occurred during heavy rain storms or snow melt, it was determined that much of the

existing collection system was in need of repair. As the repair costs at the time were excessive, a detention basin was found to be the most cost effective method to handle the additional flow.

In 1999 a detention basin was constructed at the old WWTP/current sanitary lift station site to relieve the excess sanitary flows from rain events. Due to the heavy RDII during storm events, the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District has been examining flow into the system by wet weather observation and closed circuit television projects. The Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District is planning an improvement project within the next two years to repair the sewer line structures and reduce RDII in East Canton's collection system.

Early in 2000, the Golden Gardens sanitary lift station and gravity collection system was constructed to serve the residents living on and around Oakfield, Elmbrook and Maplebrook streets. This system pumps approximately 20,000 gallons per day. As new as this system is with PVC pipe and tight joints, there is still some RDII primarily due to illegal connections of sump pumps, downspouts and yard drains to the sanitary sewer.

In 2006 the Tamarack Golf Course also known as the Quarry was constructed south of East Canton off of Orchard View Drive and east of Trump Road. This area was eventually annexed into the City of Canton but the sanitary lift station that pumps the development's wastewater discharges into East Canton's collection system at Berger Rd. south of W. Church St. At the current time, this system discharges wastewater from about 27 SFE's or about 9,450 gallons per day into the Village's collection system.

An SFE or Single Family Equivalent is an estimate by the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District of what a single family would discharge during an average day and is the basis for both flow estimation as well as connection charges for new accounts. A single SFE is 350 gallons per day and is used as the basis of not only the residential use but all commercial and industrial accounts as well. This form of measurement facilitates the calculation of potential flow from new residential developments and correlates with the Ohio EPA's requirements for flow calculations.

- C. Typical Study Parameters—A true capacity study is usually initiated with a sanitary sewer evaluation study (SSES) to determine the existing carrying capacity of the sanitary collection system in question. This involves flow measurements through different service areas, closed circuit TV evaluations, some survey to determine true "as built" conditions and RDII estimations.

The next stage involves meeting with the municipality and planners to determine future plans through zoning and potential expansion of the system. This stage may involve some preliminary design of the sanitary collection system in areas without sewer to locate where the wastewater will enter the main collection system and if any sanitary lift stations will be required to assist in transporting the flow.

Also, an educated guess will be necessary to determine potential wastewater generation from new or expanded service areas. Residential areas are fairly straightforward but may offer a challenge when determining how many homes will be located on a vacant parcel of land. Commercial and industrial flows are the most challenging unless it is already known as to what type of industry will be moving into an area.

Finally, this information is distilled into a capacity report, which will give the municipality a good general idea as to what to expect in the future. This will include verification of existing pipe sizes and slopes to carry additional flows and may result in recommendations as to upsizing pipe diameters, pump horse powers and force mainsizes. This will also communicate to the ultimate wastewater treatment owner (in this case the city of Canton) the ability to plan for the additional flow or if the planned flow is greater than the WWTP owner can treat, give the municipality a warning that other options will be required for the treatment of the additional flow.

The capacity study will give the owner a good financial picture of infrastructure planning so that adequate funding can be procured to improve wastewater collection and treatment at the proper time. It will help determine what the municipality can contribute and what the developer must invest in to successfully build his project. Finally, it helps put perspective on planning in that the timeline can be adjusted if the financial liabilities are more than can be handled in a shorter period of time.

A good capacity study will generate or help generate three important documents for the owner: an SSES study including RDII estimates, a robust facility plan that can be referred to whenever a new developer inquires about a parcel, and it will complete the sanitary portion of the municipality's Comprehensive Plan.

As the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District has a limited amount of time and resources to submit a full capacity study to the Village for planning purposes, we have examined the amount of capacity available in the sanitary lift stations within the Village. This is one of the first areas that must be considered as all of the Village's wastewater must be pumped through two lift stations to reach the City of Canton's gravity collection system. Knowing the excess capacities of each station will assist with the timeline and funding as to when the lift stations must be upgraded and to what extent.

Also, as a part of this study, the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District reviewed the topology of the planned areas of growth within the Village under the mapped phases and generally determined where that wastewater would enter the existing collection system. The Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District is aware that this is just a small portion of what is required for a full capacity study. As always, the District will take responsibility to determine if the system has the capacity to take wastewater flows from individual developers as inquiries and plans are generated.

II. Analysis

- A. Lift Station Service – The typical anatomy of one of the District’s sanitary lift stations consist of a wet well to provide storage for the incoming wastewater and to house the submersible pumps. The discharge piping from two or more submersible pumps travels through another underground vault, which holds the shutoff and check valves. The check valves keep the wastewater from flowing back from the force main into the wet well. This is also the area where the two (or more) pump discharge lines come together to form one force main that travels to the final discharge point. The controls are above ground and may consist of a panel mounted outside or the panel may be located within a building. A red alarm light is located such that the public can easily see it from the road. Usually this light constantly glows red at all times to ensure that the lamp is functioning but will flash brightly when under an alarm state.

Incoming wastewater from the gravity system fills the wet well to a certain level. At this level, a float trips or an electronic transducer tells the control panel to turn pump 1 on. When the water meets a second lower level point, a float trips or the transducer point is actuated and pump 1 turns off. There is an alternation routine built into the control panel by which when the upper level is reached again, Pump 2 is actuated. If the flow is so intense such as during a rain event, that the pump cannot keep up, another float is actuated and both pump 1 and 2 are placed into service. If the water level continues to rise, the alarm float is activated and the red light starts to flash. An automated signal is sent to the District’s office where the radio operator alerts the supervisor in charge who will investigate and resolve the issue.

In the case of the Werley lift station located at the site of the old East Canton WWTP, Intense RDII is fairly common so that when neither pump can keep up with the incoming flow, the excess is diverted to another wet well where high volume pumps pump the water into the detention pond. The pond slowly empties by automated valve when the main flow subsides. The remaining stations conform to the typical pump station anatomy described above.

The sanitary lift stations serving the Village have the following capacities:

1. Trump Road Station is located at 304 Trump Rd SE and consists of two 25 Hp submersible pumps with a capacity of 850 gpm each. The force main is 10 in. in diameter, is 3,200 feet long and empties into a manhole located on 4th Street SE. This station pumps all the Village’s flow as well as some County flows peripheral to the Village.
2. The Werley lift station was built on the site of the old Village WWTP at 228 South Werley Rd. SW and operates using two 40 Hp submersible pumps. The station has a total capacity of 650 gpm per pump. The force main is 10 in in diameter, is 5,725 feet long and empties into a manhole located at 4529 Lincoln St. E. This station pumps all the flow from the Village.

The detention basin lift station located at the Werley site uses two 30 Hp submersible pumps to pump the excess flow from the Werley lift station to a 1.5 million gallon detention tank located on site. This station has a total capacity of 2,500 gpm with one pump in operation. Drain back is accomplished by gravity and an automated valve.

3. The Golden Gardens station located at 615 Wood St. NW operates using two 5 Hp submersible pumps. This station serves Maplebrook, Oakfield, Elmbrook and a small portion of Ravenna Ave. With one pump in operation, the total pumping capacity is 275 gpm. The force main is 6 in. in diameter, is 470 feet long and empties into a manhole located at 611 North Wood St.
4. The final pump station located in the Village is located on 428 West Church St. and serves several homes on West Church. The station utilizes two submersible pumps of 0.5Hp each. The force main is 1.5 inches in diameter and is about 314 feet long. The force main is aligned along Church Street, emptying into a County manhole located at the intersection of West Church and Plum Streets. This station is used to lift sewage from a small local area, has the ultimate capacity needed for the area, and will not be considered in this study as a critical component.

The Quarry lift station's force main, owned and operated by the City of Canton, is routed east along Orchard View and then north on Berger to terminate into the County's manhole 35-76. The current flow from the system is approximately 27 SFE's or 9,450 gallons per day. This shares the Village's capacity along Berger, Church and Plum Street then through the Werley and Trump Rd lift stations. The Quarry lift station is equipped with 2 – 25 Hp submersible pumps, which will deliver 180 gpm each.

- B. Analysis Methodology- All lift stations save for the Church Street station were analyzed by finding the historical daily flows from February 2014 to March of 2015. This interval gives a good idea of peak flows from snow melt, precipitation and dry day flows from the summer when lower precipitation conditions prevail. The dry day flows are used to establish base flows, which represent the "wastewater only" flow from the Village with no RDII.

The flow history is graphed for each lift station on Figures 1 through 3. Precipitation is also plotted on the graphs to indicate the effect of storms and precipitation frequencies on the flows and how RDII reduces pipe capacity. All flows are converted into maximum pumping capacities so that all pump stations could be evaluated equally.

The maximum pump capacity is based on the pumping rate of the station. Due to friction losses and pump configuration, when both pumps are in operation the total amount pumped is never two times the pumping rate of one pump. The losses usually will keep the total flow to 1.5 times the pumping rate of one pump. For this study, 100% of the maximum capacity is understood to mean the 1.5 times the pumping rate of one pump as this represents two pumps operating simultaneously. Although the

following graphs will demonstrate that the two pumps can, on occasion, exceed 100%, this is the standard by which the stations will be evaluated.

To determine the amount of additional capacity available to each lift station, the number of times the station operated beyond 100% was the critical factor. It was felt that two additional excursions beyond the current maximum pump capacity could be assimilated into the operational pattern of each lift station without endangering the station or the collection system up or downstream. To determine excess capacity for each station, additional flow was iteratively added to the studied time interval for each station to determine the number of excursions above 100% beyond those already experienced. The least amount of flow that achieved two additional excursions indicated the additional capacity available to each lift station.

III. Results

The Golden Gardens lift station capacity from February, 2014 to March 2015 in Figure 1 indicates a fairly tight wastewater collection and transport system. Baseline flows are approximately 4 – 5% and peak flows are approximately 25% of maximum flow. This is a sign of a newer collection system, which is built with watertight joints. Note the excursions from the base flow numbers during precipitation events. This indicates RDII even in a newer collection system. These excursions could be the result of illicit installations of yard drains or the incorporation of sump pumps or downspouts into the sanitary system.

Figure 2 shows the Werley lift station, which pumps all of the Village's wastewater, including Golden Gardens, to the Trump Rd. station. As can be observed, the station achieves or comes very close to the 100% maximum pump capacity several times throughout the year. It is interesting to note that the variability of the flows are dependent upon precipitation events and that the flows remain high throughout the months of February, March, April and May of 2014. This is most likely caused by antecedent soil moisture conditions where the soil is saturated to the point that when even a small precipitation event occurs, the soil cannot absorb the water making it free to infiltrate the sanitary sewer pipe.

The Trump Rd. flows are shown on Figure 3. Here, the station exceeds the 100% maximum capacity several times a year. This is not surprising as the station must take all of the Werley station's flow as well as some additional flow from outside the Village. Again, the flows are variable and dependent upon the precipitation events.

Figures 4, 5 and 6 show the same data as the preceding figures with a new graphed line representing the amount of additional flow that could be assimilated limiting additional excursions past 100% to two. This iteration was completed for all three sanitary lift stations. The Golden Gardens station (Figure 4) was determined to have the largest amount of additional capacity available at 200 gpm. Even at this additional potential

flow, no excursion above 100% occurs, but since the capacity at this station depends upon the Werley station, its capacity should be a portion of the remainder of the total Village capacity in terms of what is available at Werley.

The Werley sanitary lift station (Figure 5) is the determining station when it comes to the additional available capacity for the Village as all flow from the Village must be transported to and pumped from this station. To prevent more than two excursions past the 100% of maximum capacity available, the station can handle 15 gpm in additional flow. This computes to 21,600 additional gallons per day or about 62 more SFE's. This capacity can be changed with an upgrade or improvement to the sanitary lift station. Note the green graphed line, which indicates the flow through the Werley station if the detention basin were **NOT** available particularly on April 3, 2014. There are other times that the detention basin assisted with the operation of the lift station that do not show up well on the graph due to it being calibrated in "% of Maximum Capacity". Some additional detention basin use can be observed on January 3, 2015.

To limit the Trump Rd. station (Figure 6) to two additional excursions beyond the 100% of maximum capacity, the calculation demonstrated the station could take an additional 20 gallon per minute or 28,800 gallons per day (82 SFE's). This indicates that the Werley station, again, will be the limiting station as Trump can take Werley's 15 gpm with an additional 5 gpm for County expansion outside the Village.

IV. Gravity Sewer Availability in the Village's Land Planning Phases

The Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District transferred the Joint Community Planning Committee's future land use maps to its Geographical Information System mapping, which correlates existing gravity sanitary sewer and the general topographical nature of the land. The transfer of planning phases to the GIS maps enabled a very general review of potential sewer sheds and discharge areas for each phase. These maps are included in this report as Figures 7, 8 and 9.

Phase 1 (North) Fig 7

This area incorporates Elmbrook, Maplebrook and Oakfield all of which are currently sewered and incorporated in the Golden Garden sanitary lift station capacity.

Phase 1 (East Canton) Fig. 8

West on Lincoln Street – A small portion of this area can be sewered by gravity and can be connected to MH# 35-179. The remainder will be required to be sewered by small temporary lift stations until future phases are constructed.

East unsewered areas within the Village limits (east of Motts Ave.) – this area, for the most part, appears to have the potential to flow by gravity to the existing collection system on Motts, Bundy, E. Nassau and Walnut.

North of E. Nassau – This small area appears as if it could be served with gravity sewer along E. Nassau to connect with MH# 35-330.

East of the Village limits (old clay mines) – This area is split with a portion flowing to the north and west. It appears as if it could be tied into MH# 35-330. The second portion flows to the south and southeast and would be served with temporary sanitary lift stations until future phases were developed.

Southeast, south of Onsnaburg St. and east of Wood Ave. – A small portion of this area flows north to connect with MH# 35-89. The remainder generally flows east and would be incorporated using temporary sanitary lift stations until future phases are acquired and developed.

Phase 1 (Southeast) Fig. 9 – No Phase 1 areas

Phase 2 (North) Fig. 7

This encompasses all of Osnaburg Township Section 5 south of Valkyrie St. The southeastern portion of this area can be served to the south using the Golden Garden sanitary lift station. The northeast portion will be accommodated using a sanitary lift station located north of the northern most properties on Clearhaven St.

Phase 2 (East Canton) Fig. 8

East of the Canton City limits, west of Wood Ave and north of Orchard View. – Much of the southern portion of this area appears to have the ability for service along Orchard View, possibly connecting with an upgraded Quarry sanitary lift station.

Southwest of the intersection of Miday Ave and SR 172 – This small section would be required to install a sanitary lift station until future phases were developed.

All areas in Phase 2 without a connection with the Village limits or another Phase line will be served using sanitary lift stations.

Phase 2 (Southeast) Fig 9.

North of SR 30 and southeast of the clay mines – This area will flow to the south and eventually meet with the area south and east of SR 30 to be collected and pumped back to the Village via a sanitary lift station. A great deal of this area

will most likely be incorporated with the new SR30 exchange and will have limited opportunity for sanitary sewer.

South of SR 30 and Cindell St. north of the Wheeling and Lake Erie tracks East of SR 44 and west of the eastern most border of the Clearview golf course – This area generally flows to the east southeast and will require a sanitary lift station close to the southeast boarder of the golf course near the tributary to the Little Sandy Creek.

Phase 3 (North) Fig. 7.

West of the tributary of the East Branch of Nimishillen Creek, north of Valkyrie St. , south of Georgetown Rd. and east of Broadway – It appears that the northeast portion of this area and the extreme eastern edge can be served by the sanitary lift station discussed in the Phase 2(North) description. The remainder indicates that it will follow the flow direction of the western tributary basin of the East Branch of Nimishillen Creek. It appears that this area can be served by a sanitary lift station described in the next paragraph.

West of Broadway Ave., south, east and north of Section 6 of Osnaburg Township – The northern most portion of this area will be served using a sanitary lift station located at the northwest corner of Section 6 close to the tributary of the East Branch. The extreme southern portion of this area will be served with a sanitary lift station located at the southwest corner of Section 6. The southeast section of the area may eventually be routed to the lift station proposed at the northwest corner of Section 6 but will utilize its own temporary lift station until that time.

Phase 3 (East Canton) Fig. 8

South of SR 30 west of the Village corporation line and north and east of Section 7 of Osnaburg Township. This area will require two separate sanitary lift stations; one at the southeast and another at the southwest corner. Temporary lift stations located as a result of development in Phase 1 in this area can be abandoned and transferred to the new stations described herein.

Phase 3 (Southeast) Fig. 9 - No Phase 1 areas

All areas in Phase 3 without a connection with the Village limits or another Phase line will be served using sanitary lift stations.

Depending upon the location of the proposed lift stations, the discharge from the force mains may terminate into a gravity sewer or another lift station. Precautions must be taken to control hydrogen sulfide to prevent odors and corrosion. As the land use is currently planned, further study will be required approximately midway into Phase 1 to

ascertain that the existing collection system pipe sizes are adequate for the additional flow. Pipe upsizing may be required.

V. Conclusions

It has been determined that the existing additional capacity for the critical lift station serving the Village is about 15 gpm or about 62 SFE's. Any plan for additional flow requirements will necessitate a lift station improvement project. The main reason for the lower additional capacity is not due to the Village reaching its wastewater flow limit for the lift station but because RDII is so prevalent throughout the entire Village. This is due to the wastewater collection system being comprised of older clay pipes with faulty joints, some damage to the sewers and residents with sump pumps, yard drain and downspout connections, allowing additional storm water into the system.

The Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District is currently assessing the Villages' collection system. Once the assessment is completed, the County will address the deficiencies with a major improvement project or a number of smaller projects in an attempt to reduce the inflow and infiltration into the system. This will occur within the next two years. The Village can assist by communicating with their residents to remove sump pumps from the sanitary system, provide proper drainage away from their homes, repair damaged sanitary laterals and remove all yard drains and downspouts from the sanitary collection system.

From the attached aerials, we find that sanitary sewer is available in all of the proposed Phases. As the areas build out, additional analysis will be required to ensure adequate pipe sizes and downstream capacities. This will be especially important in the RDII-prone areas to insure that additional wastewater flow does not impact customers along the flow line.

It appears that there could be long force mains transporting wastewater. This could result in hydrogen sulfide production especially during the initial building phases in the lift station's service area. In cases like this, the station will not activate for long periods of time waiting for the wet well to fill to a pumping level. In the meantime, wastewater turns anaerobic and produces hydrogen sulfide gas, which causes odor issues and, with the addition of high humidity, can turn to corrosive sulfuric acid.

Finally, as part of the Village's planning or Comprehensive Plan, some areas may be considered for home septic treatment systems if the soils are deemed acceptable. This is especially important if areas develop relatively distant from adjoining developments or existing sanitary sewer. The life of a typical septic system is 15 – 20 years and it may take that long to get sanitary sewer to the development. Therefore, development should not be discouraged or disallowed because sanitary sewer is not available, particularly if the soils are acceptable for absorption. Long reaches of gravity sewer to connect a distant development tend to be very expensive with little to no payback and the branches that are planned for the new main line sewer are never quite what was envisioned making for costly revisions in later construction projects.

VI. Recommendations

Several recommendations are listed below. This Phase I study is a preliminary step in what could be done in analysis and planning. Once additional steps are taken in the planning cycle, more questions and decisions will be made to narrow down the potential development plans and infrastructure needs.

- A. Carry on with the sewer capacity study concentrating in areas of interest to shorten study time and cost. As the plans for development are narrowed down, a better estimate can be made on the type and size of sanitary service required. On the other hand, plans cannot be too specific as this leads to a waste of dollars on infrastructure that will never be used or that is inadequate.
- B. Analyze total system for incompetence and prioritize for repair or replacement. Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District is currently doing this in order to reduce RDII and to increase the integrity, structure and capacity of the system. A collection system improvement project will be initiated within the next two years.
- C. Measure flows after system repairs to ensure some difference was made. It will be imperative to know the difference that the project makes in the reduction of RDII. This means additional capacity for the Village. The project planned by the County is designed to reduce RDII but also to correct structural issues so no estimate of RDII elimination has yet been made. Also, this measurement will indicate how successful the Village is in getting its residents to remove clean water sources from the wastewater collection system.
- D. Revise new capacity numbers. The new capacities will be derived not only from re-measuring the collection system flows during storm events but also from revisions in the planning effort on paper as the plans for the Village and Township evolve.
- E. Ultimately upgrade lift stations and force mains but only after the system becomes tighter. Unless the Village receives a commitment from a developer or industry to place its facilities within one of the phase zones, lift station upgrades should not occur until the improvement project is complete and the re-assessment takes place. This includes input from the Village as to what is ultimately planned and the estimated flows expected.
- F. Communicate to the District any inquiries as to location of development/business and flow needs for evaluation. Open communication is essential between the Village/Twp. and the District. Once a potential developer is known and the type of residential, commercial or industrial enterprise is determined along with potential flows, Stark Metropolitan Sewer District can analyze the existing system and inform the Village of any necessary upgrades and requirements.

Meeting Minutes

Notes from East Canton/Osnaburg Community Plan Meeting 11/13/14

- Students from the High School presented their suggestions and ideas regarding strengths, areas to improve, and what they would like to see in the future both inside the village and outside it (attached list)
- Committee asked a few questions; discussed the overall focus of the students' ideas and summarized them as needing "stuff to do", school being core to community and the need for jobs; and the committee thanked them for their good ideas and their participation.
- Lewis of SCRPC asked committee for their input regarding the outcome of the surveys that were completed by the general public, a senior group and local teachers.
- Some felt that the school is the center of the community; enrollment and funding is down and the levy failed last week. Concerns that some don't appreciate how important good schools are to both current residents, but also folks looking at areas to move to.
- Some felt that the area isn't being marketed and it is a vicious cycle. When you get more businesses, you get more funds to improve schools; folks might be more in favor of funding the schools if they see other good things happening in the community; some folks feel they just don't have the extra funds to handle increased taxes.
- There is a need to increase the tax base. There are only roughly 8,000 ppl to pay for everything: police, fire, roads, etc.
- Taxes on farms could be tripling this year due to changes in the CAUV. Waiting to see how the county handles this. This is extremely concerning for local farmers.
- Need to get zoning lined up in order to attract investors/developers. Karen Clapper is working with the township zoning commission to update their whole book and make changes to allow for development and they are not in favor of it. Lewis cautioned that this might be premature. Sarsany explained that a generalized zoning map will be created as part of the plan and that will be a tool to use with the zoning commissions. Each political subdivision will then need to create the detailed version of it and adopt it.
- Griffith urged for the plan to be completed sooner in order to change the zoning. Sarsany explained that they couldn't complete it sooner than outlined in the contract and still have a good plan with adequate public input and SCRPC has other projects too. Lewis stated she will be sending the background section in December to the committee members for their review. This will be the backbone of the plan.
- Sarsany encouraged committee members to be having discussions with their zoning commissions now about the new plan and the need to not only protect farmland but also to make areas ready for business development.
- There are some vacant homes and there is room for residential development, so there is room for more people to move to the community.
- Becky noted that the trends she noted on the questionnaire were the need for business growth, the need for more amenities that will help folks already in the community and attract others to the community (ex: restaurants). Lewis mentioned that quality of life issues are important to draw people to move to a community and discussed the Stark Parks trail system.
- Other critical issues identified included the concern about annexation and the need for sewer and water to attract businesses.
- It was discussed that there is a need for the arts, but that maybe that should come later after some of the more pressing items were addressed.
- There aren't many places for people to spend money in town. Many do all or most of their spending in other areas of the county. Mayor Almasy said she purposely does all her spending in the village.
- McDonald's was interested in coming into the village, but it ended up going on Trump. The owner wouldn't sell the property to McDonald's.
- Some of the owners of vacant land in the community do not live in the community and some are just not interested in selling at this time.
- Mayor Almasy and Brenda Griffith stated that Commissioner Regula had stated there will be another meeting on Route 30 this month, but no date was known by this committee.
- Route 30 at 44 was suggested as a logical retail/commercial area.
- Many people have a morning stop where they typically go for coffee; needs to be a draw for people passing through. Some folks live in Malvern and Lake Mohawk and travel north to work and vice versa. Could draw dollars from Sandy Twp and Waynesburg.
- Waynesburg is getting a large Scheetz gas station/store.
- Nicole's restaurant is still for sale.
- Discussed vacant lot on Nassau by Laundromat that has drainage/floodplain uses. Probably couldn't be built on, unless for a coffee hut that was very small.
- Water pressure is not what it should be from the city of Canton where it enters the village per Mayor Almasy and Herb and other fire personnel in attendance. Some believe Canton bullies companies to be annexed to get water. Some of water pressure issues are from old lines. East Canton is on a month to month arrangement with Canton, not an annual lease. The fire department could only run a hydrant for 30 minutes before it ran out of water.

- The village recently had to take down an old water tower due to lead paint issues; they still own the land and have another water tower that helps with pressure in a portion of the village. Consider a new joint water tower to help make area more attractive to businesses.
- Sewer capacity was discussed with Steve Bellamy, who works at the sanitary engineer's office, explaining various capacity issues. There isn't enough capacity at the Trump Road lift station, and there is low capacity at the line behind the Moon Mist Motel. His office and a developer would typically share the costs to address this and extend sewer lines for commercial/industrial development. Bellamy stated that the Quarry pumps their sewage to Berger with a forced line. Sarsany stated she and Lewis would confer further with Bellamy before the January meeting.
- It was decided that it would be helpful to have SCRPC staff meet with the zoning commissions once a proposed general zoning map is roughed up.
- Lewis discussed the need for a vision statement and after much discussion, with many suggestions, it was decided to use the statement proposed by Jay Moody, with some adjustments to it.
- All those present agreed that the vision statement would be:

"The vision of East Canton/Osnaburg Township is to ensure and protect the quality of life of our community where residents treat each other with respect, provide diverse business opportunities, celebrate our unique historic and agricultural heritage, strengthen our schools and embrace our future with optimism."

Notes from East Canton/Osnaburg Community Plan Meeting 1/8/2015

- The meeting attendees introduced themselves. Lewis of SCRPC explained that another Regional Planner from RPC, Emma Posillico, would be attending some meetings.
- Herb Fogle will no longer be on the committee due to a work shift change. The committee agreed that there is still representation for both the police and fire service aspects of public safety (*REVISED 1/16/15: Captain Fogle has agreed to stay on the committee and will correspond via email until such time allows for his physical attendance at meetings*).
- Lewis requested that the date of the February committee meeting be changed due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict. Committee members expressed concern about changing the date of the meeting, as it had already been advertised.
- The February committee meeting will be held Thursday, February 19th at 6:30 PM in the High School Media Center. Donna Robinson will report the date change in the "Talk of the Town"; Lewis will create a flyer to send to Mayor Almsy to post at various locations throughout the community.
- The purpose of the January meeting is to review the draft background section of the plan, receiving feedback from committee members as various sections are discussed.
- The "Population and Demographics" section was reviewed, with a focus on the population decline in the community. Lewis offered the example of Youngstown, Ohio, where the community plan has focused on stabilization first, emphasizing existing assets that can build a powerful community.
- As a large percentage of the community population is Caucasian, focusing on increasing the diversity of the area could help to build a strong, vibrant community.
- The fact that the median age is increasing in both the Township and the Village brought up conversation related to the elderly population aging in place. Donna Robinson stated that she contacted St. Luke's Assisted Living in Minerva regarding a tour. She said that the facility was financed through grants and church funding, and is not for low-income residents, but may be a good example of a facility that the community could consider.
- The committee discussed how to entice younger generations to live in the area. Some believe this is due to a lack of commerce in the Township and Village, and that more of an effort to market diversity would target certain markets to live here. Others mentioned that internet access is a necessity to marketing the community.
- Becky Carter said that she spoke to a community member that mentioned that building in the community was difficult due to zoning. Other committee members expressed that they find re-zonings to be long, drawn-out processes. Lewis responded that the detailed review of the Township and Village zoning codes was not part of this community planning process, but that generalized corridor planning, as related to zoning, would begin during upcoming meetings.
- The "Housing" section was reviewed; the statistics indicate a good mix of owner and renter-occupied housing the Village. The Township has a greater percentage of owner-occupied housing. Both the Village and Township have low vacancy rates.
- The "Economy and Business" section was reviewed, showing that the low to moderate income areas are located in the northwest corner of the community, as well as the area west of The Quarry Golf Course. The low to moderate income areas have changed since the last Census because the Census's mapping methods have changed over the past 5 years. Lewis offered that the community can request an income survey, but it can be a lengthy process that requires a target project and associated target area.

- Business patterns have remained relatively the same. Hopefully with the Community Plan in place, as well as a modified zoning scheme, the number of business establishments will begin to continually increase.
- The “Zoning and Land Use” section was reviewed, beginning with Lewis explaining that different mapping techniques are used for zoning and land use, which is why the land totals within the communities are different in the plan.
- Lewis explained that land use is based upon the Auditor’s classification codes, and may not match the residents’ interpretation of a land use.
- The Village is primarily single-family/residential and business use. According to the Auditor’s classification scheme, there is no office or recreational land use (public parks are generally classified as a public service). The school-owned gymnasium holds youth programs, and the nearest YMCA is in Louisville with a similar facility in Minerva, but there appears to be a lack of adult and/or open recreation facilities within the community limits. Office and recreational areas are land uses that the community may want to consider expanding in the future.
- The current zoning districts in the Village were reviewed. Since there is no land zoned R-4 for Manufactured Homes, the community may want to review if this is still an appropriate zoning district or not.
- There is very little two-family residential and no office land use in Osnaburg Township. There is also no land zoned for multi-family residential in the Township. Lewis explained that multi-family housing can be a tool to both bring more residents, and to house the elderly within the community. Multi-family housing can be zoned for and built in a manner conducive to positive change in an area. One goal of comprehensive planning is to ensure that both the housing stock and zoning support aging in place.
- Less than 1% of Osnaburg Township is zoned for businesses and offices. Lewis questioned if the community would consider rezoning more areas with a smaller minimum lot size than the R-R Rural Residential zoning district that currently covers approximately 80% of the Township. Committee members emphasized considering septic systems when discussing lot sizing, but it has been confirmed that the Stark County Health Department no longer has minimum acreage requirements for septic systems.
- The “Agriculture” section was reviewed, explaining that the majority of the land in the community is not prime farmland, and that these areas are usually more appropriate for development rather than the prime farmland areas.
- The “Land Features”, “Subsurface Conditions”, and “Natural Resources” sections were reviewed. There have been 2 Utica shale wells permitted in Osnaburg Township; only 1 has been drilled. ODNR encourages cautious review of shale production when considering future development patterns.
- The “Transportation” section was reviewed, which stated that there are currently 2 planning projects for Osnaburg Township identified in the 2040 Stark County Transportation Plan. Both of these projects are in need of sponsors and project funding.
- The US Route 30 project is currently not scoring well with ODOT’s Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC), due to a lack of traffic volume (as compared to other areas around the state) and a lack of local matching funds. Major project funding has not been secured yet.
- The “Water” section was reviewed, reflecting on the community’s concerns related to water supply. Lewis reviewed the various options for supplying water throughout the community, with an emphasis on how difficult establishing a water district would be, especially considering the concern of quality and quantity of water available from the local aquifer. In terms of current water pressure issues, the Village may need to more directly work with the City of Canton to resolve the water pressure issues.
- The “Wastewater” section was reviewed, and Lewis encouraged the committee to consider where sanitary lines are already installed, or where they can easily be extended, in terms of future development. Lewis noted that public officials can request a sewer capacity study from the Stark County Sanitary Engineer’s Office to look at future development potential within the community.
- The “Police Services” section was reviewed, with particular attention to policing contract options for the Township. Currently, existing coverage from the Sheriff’s Office is severely limited. Additional coverage service from the Sheriff’s Office is an option, but this can be a very expensive process (based on examples from other townships). The committee was encouraged to consider a shared services agreement between Village and Township police for cost effectiveness and service responsiveness.
- Lewis questioned what happened to the previously proposed shared service agreement. The committee explained that a police levy tax was required for this agreement (approximately \$12 per \$100,000 of home value), and that the community did not support the levy. Griffith stated that community residents appeared to support police services at a recent committee meeting. Perhaps now is a better time to revisit this issue.
- The “Fire Services” section was reviewed. Brenda Griffith explained that there are now currently 16 part-time employees on the fire department. Fire service calls decreased in 2014. There are 10-15 fires per year on average.
- Griffith clarified that as of 1/2/2015, the fire department has developed a long range plan that includes 5 officers (one in a supervisory position), and an increase in hourly wage. The intention of the plan is to increase paid time over the next 5 years.
- Eli Bosler suggested that the Township look into FEMA training that provides grants to local fire departments.
- Griffith stated that there is an improvement plan to be written in the future for fire/EMS. She also clarified that fire fighters are paid for 17 hours, of their 24 hour shift. They are not paid while they are sleeping on shift. They are paid if they are out on a call during their 7 hour sleeping time.
- The committee asked if soft billing to insurance companies for fire calls was a possibility. Griffith stated that insurance companies are blocking this, and that the revenue of other townships doing soft billing has not outweighed the benefits, particularly as it would only apply to locations outside of the community. Griffith stated that soft billing for ambulances in 2014 had decreased.

- Griffith explained that the emergency vehicles have been supplied with iPads, to make it easier for first responders to view access routes/structures on site. Griffith stated that it makes securing the scene much faster. Bosler added that dispatch does have aerial photos and provides directions to the first responders.
- The committee discussed that there are two fire fighters on shift, but in the case of a fire there needs to be a third fire fighter on scene before OSHA allows them to begin fighting the fire. The committee questioned if hiring a third fire fighter to be on shift was a part of the fire department plan. Griffith stated that it was not a priority. Griffith stated that fire calls go out to all people within the department (all staff are always on call), and to other departments as well. As a trustee, she agreed to look into keeping a third fire fighter on “standby”, in case of a fire as well.
- The committee suggested getting illuminated street address signs, so that first responders can locate an address faster. The Rotary paid for this in Minerva. Miller and Griffith to research this.
- The “Education” section was reviewed, including discussing a recent newspaper article that high-lighted the school district’s intention to write a strategic plan for the future, following continued enrollment decline and failed levies.

Boggs confirmed that there is no firm date of when a new school levy will hit the ballot, but the intention is to build a long-range plan as a district, with a vision as a community for the schools. Lewis explained that while the school’s long-range plan would most likely not be complete before this comprehensive plan is finalized, the committee would like to be kept up to date as the strategic plan evolves.

Notes from East Canton/Osnaburg Community Plan Meeting 2/19/2015

- The meeting began by Lewis of SCRPC asking if any of the committee members were able to review the online mapping program link that was emailed to them. A number of committee members confirmed that they were able to access the maps.
- Lewis explained that SCRPC’s GIS department created this public map to help facilitate the community planning process. The map is currently a work in progress; once it is complete, committee members are encouraged to post a link to the map on their own websites.
- Lewis began demonstrating the various layers of the map, highlighting areas of patterns within the community.
- Lewis showed the Route 30 Phase 1 route going through the Village of East Canton. She then showed the Route 30 Phase 2 route; a potential extension of Route 30 that is projected further into ODOT’s future project timeline.
- Lewis showed the Canton City water service area, the majority of which is in the Village of East Canton. There are extensions to the Quarry, as well as the Georgetown/Klotz area.
- Lewis displayed the farmland suitability map, which shows areas of prime farmland, areas of prime farmland if drained, as well as areas that are not prime farmland. She also showed how the 100 year floodplain frequently overlays on top of the areas of prime farmland. These areas may be areas to preserve for agricultural use and to avoid development of, while areas that are not prime farmland may be better suited for future development.
- Becky Carter asked if the Klotz/Georgetown area was in an area of prime farmland. Lewis confirmed that there is some prime farmland in that vicinity.
- Lewis displayed the map showing the abandoned mines in the community. She stated that the location of abandoned mines is something to be aware of when speaking with developers about potential locations for community development. Brenda Griffith agreed that the location of underground mines could be a factor that limits the location of some development.
- Lewis showed a map of the proposed Stark Parks Trail Connector. She explained that having trails and outdoor public recreation areas are aspects that contribute to community livability. Brenda Griffith asked that information about the parks and trails be added to the draft plan.
- Lewis suggested that the committee consider working with Stark Parks to connect the proposed trail in the Village with the existing Village park. Nick Collins indicated that the trail is not a physical trail in many areas. Lewis explained that trails can also be on-road trails (either via sidewalks or on roads with lower traffic counts), and suggested that the committee investigate partnering with Stark Parks to potentially enhance the trail system in the community.
- Lewis described how recreation areas have the capability to positively transform an area of a community. She referenced the example of the Middle Branch Trail at Martindale Park (of Stark Parks) in Plain Township/Canton.
- Brenda Griffith asked if the Mapleton Gun Club is shown as a recreation area on the map; Lewis confirmed that it is, but may need to be better labeled.
- Lewis showed the map of low to moderate income areas in the community. She explained that the method the American Community Survey uses to map these areas changed in the 2010 Census (no longer break down block groups by political jurisdictions), and so an area that may have been considered low to moderate income in the past, may not be currently.
- Lewis explained that if the community has a specific project that will benefit an area that they believe to be low to moderate income; they may be able to request that an income survey be done of that area to verify (for funding possibilities).
- Jake Leshner asked what the numbers shown on the map indicate. Lewis confirmed that the numbers are block groups, and that information is available on block groups through the American Fact Finder (a data tool available through census.gov).

- Lewis showed the existing sewer line map, which indicates lift stations by black boxes. The lift stations extend out from the City of Canton to the east (Cindell), the south (the Quarry), and the north (Oakfield). The sewer and/or gravity main areas should be considered first for potential areas to develop. Steve Bellamy explained that gravity mains often follow the creek; collecting in areas that the creek is low, then extending out.
- Brenda Griffith asked Steve Bellamy if it would be easy to extend a sewer line east along State Route 30. Bellamy did not believe that route would be easy, but instead agreed with Griffith's suggestion that it may be easier to extend sewer north towards the City of Louisville.
- Griffith asked if connecting sewer lines between the City and Canton and the Village of East Canton would be possible. Bellamy stated that they may be able to run a gravity main from the area of the Red Star Veterinary Clinic eastward.
- Griffith asked how much capacity the pump station at the Lagoons had available for future line expansion. Bellamy answered that it would require a sewer capacity study from the Stark County Sanitary Engineering office to determine that for sure.
- Griffith asked if there was capacity for additional lines at the new lift station on Wood. Bellamy answered that many of the lift stations shown on the map are actually private lift stations, and that interested parties would need to speak with the station owners about shared maintenance/use agreements. Griffith asked if SCRPC could indicate on the map which lift stations were public versus private. Lewis confirmed that she would discuss the change with the GIS department.
- Lewis showed the map of the Section 208 Plan. This map shows areas that are currently sewer, areas that have the potential to be sewer in the future, as well as areas that will be on private septic systems for the foreseeable future. This is a multi-county plan that targets/encourages development in specific areas.
- Lewis showed the current zoning map of the community. The majority of the Township is zoned R-R Rural Residential. There is some industrial zoning on the south side of Route 30, as well as some business zoning along Lisbon. Less intensive zoning occurs moving outward from the Village, where there is a great deal of R-R zoned land in the Township. Lewis offered that perhaps the community does not need quite as much R-R zoning in the future.
- The Village currently follows a preferred model of zoning, with compatible, higher density uses in the center of the Village, and with density decreasing moving outward. Lewis suggested that the Village committee members consider altering the R-3, B-1, and B-2 zoning districts in the Village. She explained that a mixed-use district could be beneficial for the Village. While the B-1 district in the Village does mirror some mixed-use tenets by allowing residential zoning in the district, a specific mixed-use district would allow residential and low-intensity businesses to reside in the same building, or on the same lot. Mixed-use districts can occur vertically or horizontally, and increase walkability, density, and the ability for residents to get between local destinations without the need for a vehicle. A popular example of a local mixed-use area is Crocker Park.
- Lewis explained that there are several areas in the Township that are already zoned I-1 and I-2, many of which are abandoned mines. She mentioned that SCRPC is writing a section of the draft plan to address potential methods to reutilize abandoned mine areas. Some examples include renewable energy farms and passive recreation.
- Lewis showed the land use map, and explained the next steps in the comprehensive planning process. In examining the land use map, the committee should review how the land is currently being used, then consider what future land use pattern they feel would be most beneficial for the community. Once a generalized future land use map has been determined, the zoning can then be adjusted to reflect the future intentions of the community.
- Meeting attendees reviewed the paper maps provided at the meeting. Lewis then showed the online existing land use and zoning maps, and asked the committee to discuss desired future land use in the community. Emma Posillico of SCRPC noted on the paper maps where the community wanted to create corridors to focus on for potential future land use changes.
- Brenda Griffith asked why there is no transitional zoning (i.e. business zoning) between the waste facility along the Sandy Township border and the surrounding residential land use around the Hill Church/Ravenna area (just over a half mile span). Lewis offered that this area, among others in the community, may be an area to review what the allowable uses are in the existing zoning district (and potentially modify accordingly), as opposed to changing the zoning directly. Another option pointed out by Lewis is to otherwise identify nodes of areas where the committee feels would be better served by a different zoning classification, but Lewis cautioned that just because an area may have an existing business or two already, that does not necessarily make it a well-suited area for further development. Features such as proximity to other businesses, populated areas and higher traffic counts are some important considerations to factor into that decision.
- Griffith questioned if corridor zone changes should be completed on a parcel-based system, or through identified setback distances from the roadway. Lewis explained that zoning can be done either way, but she mentioned that setback zoning can create split-zoned parcels, which recently have been associated with some financing problems during the sale process.
- Lewis furthered that the SCRPC's recommendation for the community is to consider making zoning changes in phases. The first phase would pertain to (among other areas) the existing Route 30 path; the second phase would consider the potential future Route 30 path. Lewis encouraged the committee to consider the likelihood of a long timeframe for the Route 30 project in their comprehensive planning process.
- Donna Robinson asked if there is a specific area with sewer available for senior citizen housing. Steve Bellamy explained that due to the variability in housing use patterns, the community would need to undertake a sewer capacity study (discussed previously) to answer this question.

- The committee reviewed a number of different areas to focus land use corridor planning on. For the next meeting, SCRPC will create draft future land use maps that reflect the committee's general ideas. These will be emailed to the committee to review in advance of the next meeting. Once a future land use scheme has been agreed upon, the committee will then discuss potential strategies to help achieve the desired future land use. Zoning changes will be addressed at a later date.
- Committee members were given paper copies of the revised draft background section of the plan, which was emailed to them before the meeting.
- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at the school. SCRPC will advise committee members as to the exact meeting location.

Notes from East Canton/Osnaburg Community Plan Meeting 3/12/2015

- The meeting began by Posillico of SCRPC reviewing the 3 proposed phases of the Generalized Future Land Use Maps. She explained that phase 2 is proposed upon build-out of phase 1 (and finalization of the Route 30 realignment from Trump to SR 44), and phase 3 is proposed upon build-out of phase 2 (and finalization of the Route 30 realignment from SR 44 to SR 11).
- It was pointed out that for commercial corridors along roadways, the corridors need to be widened to at least 300' (as opposed to originally suggested 200') to accommodate commercial parking areas.
- The question was asked if a Transitional area should be added around Indian Run commercial node to help serve as a buffer. Lewis noted that while buffers are usually encouraged, Transitional uses (as listed in the Legend) would likely not be conducive to this area as these types of uses usually require other amenities and conveniences of a more dense/developed area. Landscape buffering via the zoning code may be a more appropriate buffering option for this node.
- Griffith mentioned that the Trustees are interested in potentially pursuing CDBG-funded development of the northwestern corner of the Township that is situated within an identified low-to-moderate income area. Lewis agreed to send information to her on the CDBG program.
- Discussion took place regarding continuing the commercial corridor on the south side of the Village to head further south along Wood to Orchardview, and west over to the Quarry. It was noted that there is already some commercial development in this area, and there are few houses. Bellamy mentioned that this area is mostly flat, and may be an option for sewer extension. Bucher noted that the zoning of this area is residential, and that there is an orchard near Orchardview and Wood.
- Bucher mentioned that Stark Ceramics is a polluted property in this area, but is now getting cleaned up per court order. She also pointed out that Resco property and 2 other sites east of Resco are not buildable due to EPA orders. It was requested that Lewis add a layer to the maps identifying these sites as well as any other "distressed" areas.
- Bucher was asked about the status of the Marathon substation project. She explained that they added an accessory building, but have not added any more land.
- The committee suggested continuing the commercial corridor along Route 30 east of the Village to the south to meet up with the railroad. Bellamy stated that a lot of this area was already used as commercial anyway. It was also noted that this was a swampy area that has drainage issues, especially for the golf course.
- The question was asked whether you can develop a wetland, and Nau noted that if it's an EPA-designated wetland, then you would have to work with the Army Corp of Engineers; he noted however, that not all swampy areas are designated wetlands.
- The group asked about the feasibility of getting a railroad spur. Nau stated that you would have to get the railroad company on board with that (and pay for it), but that they just did a similar project in Louisville.
- The committee requested to extend the commercial area east of the high school southward to include the proposed Route 30 interchange area. Having this area identified as commercial may help to further the Route 30 project and its outcome. This would be extended about halfway out to Evening Star, and would be part of Future Land Use- Phase 2.
- South of the school there are mined areas. It was suggested to keep this area as Transitional, and to possibly promote recreation opportunities (ex: Zombie Run, which is being undertaken there now).
- The question was asked about rezoning corridors using a delineated distance or by parcel. Lewis noted that while banks typically prefer parcels to not be split-zoned, several communities have created delineated corridors using a set distance. Perhaps a combination of both methods may be a good option (i.e. for parcels that are extremely large, the delineated distance could be used).
- The committee discussed how they feel they need senior housing close to the amenities of the Village. Lewis mentioned that the area proposed for transitional use, particularly close to the school, would be a good location for senior housing. Boggs agreed that choosing a location that would allow greater senior involvement with the school could be beneficial for the school and senior residents.
- Lewis reviewed the Goals, Objectives, and Strategies document that was emailed to the committee. Old meeting notes were reviewed to try to include as many of the committee's suggestions for the community as possible.
- Lewis explained that many of the categories of objectives overlap, so while many strategies are applicable to multiple objectives, they are only included with one objective, as to avoid duplication.
- The current order of the goals will not necessarily be the order of the plan.

- The committee discussed the strategy related to creating a brand for the community. Griffith mentioned that there used to be a large festival and parade, and suggested bringing those events back. There is an upcoming Easter egg hunt at the Village Park, sponsored by Sanctuary Church.
- Mayor Almasy confirmed that the Village Park is used every day for walking groups, softball and baseball, among other activities. There is no charge to utilize the park, and the Village maintains the grounds.
- Hershberger stated that he thought the area could use another park.
- The committee discussed the Stark Parks property on Swallen near Georgetown. Griffith suggested adding ball fields there; Nau stated that Stark Parks prefers not to build sports fields, but instead focus on paths or trails. Lewis confirmed that at around 30 acres, this park has the potential to be a great asset to the community.
- Griffith described the state program that the Township and Village is participating in to bring reflective signage up to current standards. The community is the recipient of a \$50,000 grant, which will be distributed either this year or next year. The Township has to supply the labor to install the new signs.
- Lewis noted that these signs, as well as informational signage showcasing events or places, would help to increase the safety of the community, as well as the grab the attention of people passing through.
- Griffith stated that Osnaburg Township does not currently allow signage but this is being looked at.
- Griffith stated that the plan should include an explanation of the comprehensive planning process, and the final plan's implications within the Village and the Township. While the community has been working jointly to create the plan, the Village and Township will need to implement the plan separately. She mentioned that some people think that the plan itself implements change. The zoning commissions will also need to review the plan.
- Lewis clarified that the draft plan does include a section that explains the comprehensive planning process, and that the final plan is intended as a guide that includes suggestions for positive change within the community.
- The committee discussed how some land owners of large parcels may feel that the plan adversely affects them, due to proposed land use changes. Griffith noted that zoning just gives a land owner the opportunity to do something different with their land; it does not require a change of use.
- The committee discussed the adoption of the comprehensive plan by the Village and the Township. Nau explained that at the public meeting for the plan review in May, it would be beneficial to have as many community members attend as possible, especially zoning commission members. Griffith noted that adopting the plan separately as the Village and the Township is a way of having their support for the plan on record. Lewis mentioned that it is important for the committee to be as cohesive and supportive of the plan as possible at the public meeting, to emphasize how important it is to adopt the plan.
- Lewis suggested that the committee start advertising for the May 14, 2015 public meeting at the Foltz Center as soon as possible. The joint Village/Township advertisement design used previously will be used again.
- Lewis confirmed that SCRPC will present revised Phase 1, 2, and 3 Land Use maps at the April meeting.
- Robinson asked the committee if anyone knew what work was being done at the Stark Ceramics site. Almasy stated that the work is court ordered, as the site is going up for auction.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9th, 2015 at the school. SCRPC will advise committee members as to the exact meeting location.

Notes from East Canton/Osnaburg Community Plan Meeting 4/9/2015

- The meeting was held at East Canton High School. It was called to order by Becky Carter who read an inspirational text and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Lewis began by reviewing the "Landfills and Distressed Properties Map" and the updated Generalized Future Land Use Maps, Phases I - III. Lewis explained that SCRPC was recently told by their USEPA Brownfield Grant Rep that sometimes it is best to use a generic term like "distressed" as some property owners fear the term "brownfield" being applied to their property.
- It was noted that the Exit C & D property wasn't on the map. It is adjacent to American Landfill on the west side. According to committee members, it goes from Fairhill to Westfall. Lewis will have it added to this map (it was determined post-meeting that the site was shown but labeled incorrectly on the map; this has now been updated to reflect the correct name).
- Lewis mentioned that while distressed properties are limited as to what can be done on them, it is important to remember that certain activities can take place on these sites.
- She explained that the future land use maps were changed according to comments given by committee members at the previous meeting. Commercial corridors were widened to 300' to accommodate commercial parking areas. The Phase II map extended commercial further east out past the high school, and further southeast down to the railroad and out to the golf course.

- Lewis mentioned that the proposed Stark Parks trail system was added to the maps. She suggested working with Stark Parks directly on their proposed layout of routes. She reminded the committee how important parks can be to potential new residents as they are seen as a very important quality of life element for many people.
- Lewis asked if all the changes were done according to what the committee had requested. As no other changes were requested, Lewis stated that these updated versions of the maps will be used at the public meeting in May.
- Steve Bellamy discussed the Sanitary Engineer's office sewer capacity study which is almost complete. He distributed a handout that showed the Werley Pump Station Percent of Ideal Pumping Capacity. Of note was that the capacity used increased during heavy rain events. This can mean infiltration due to age or condition of sewers, and downspouts and sump pumps being tied in to sanitary sewers, instead of storm sewers.
- Bellamy explained that sanitary sewers were not designed to handle stormwater. It is good news that there is capacity available, but the spikes have to be dealt with or that can become problematic for the system. Kevin Miller and Bellamy stated that the county health department is requiring inspections (and corrections) when properties are transferred to address some of these issues.
- Bellamy stated that the Sanitary Engineer's office is planning some work in the area, which includes televising the lines and smoke testing which shows if a downspout is tied into the sewer. It was asked if an additional detention pond would be helpful and he stated that the existing one isn't filling entirely, so an additional one isn't needed.
- Lewis then went through various sections of the Plan that had been added or updated since the last meeting. These items included:
 - p. 3- geographical area correction
 - p. 13- Sustainable Development- infill development is a key for developed areas; good to promote development in areas where infrastructure is already in place; most economical
 - p. 14- elements of mixed use; can include parking in back of buildings; good for pedestrian friendly; folks would rather see store fronts than a sea of parked cars
 - p. 15- JEDD's/CEDA's; of the two, JEDD's seem to prevent annexation somewhat better; also may want to consider Tax Increment Financing (TIF) at proposed new route 30 interchange
 - p. 16- Stark Development Board can be helpful to community; non-profit economic development agency helps with site selection; business attraction and retention; they can help with marketing, which led to discussion regarding websites; Osnaburg's is currently non-functional per Brenda Griffith. They are spending some funds for a new one. Discussed value of having zoning resolution on website too; East Canton has theirs on their website; Lewis explained that the County Auditor's Office now has an online mapping system available to communities, and either they or SCRPC's GIS staff can assist with linking these very useful programs to the websites; in terms of agriculture- Lewis noted that Heather Neikirk of OSU Extension office is a very helpful contact for agriculture-based programs/activities.
 - p. 19- Senior Housing- consider smaller assisted living place; CDBG funds available for low-income housing; many seniors are low income; need to research how other communities got their senior facilities.
 - p. 26- Water Supply- lines decreasing in size from 12" down to 4-8" is one cause of low water pressure for Village; age & corrosion are also creating issues; may need to work to upgrade East Canton water lines. The wastewater section will be updated once the sewer capacity study is completed.
 - p. 34- Senior Services- in addition to SARTA's regular bus line, there is also door-to-door transit service available to seniors and others who need it; applications are needed for this. Griffith recommended having SARTA come in to do one of their bus riding training sessions. Also discussed real time information now being available through smart phones.
 - p. 37- Parks- some are private; need to analyze what community is offering to potential residents; could use existing park for even more activities; some mine scarred lands can be used for certain recreational uses.
 - p. 38- Aesthetic Improvements- streetscaping is a term for improving aesthetics of roadway; Canton had contest to paint/decorate public trash bins; Barberton had a volunteer "Paint the Town Historic" event; can use roadway enhancement funds through SCATS for streetscaping.
- Lewis discussed the suggested timetable for various strategies and requested input on the strategies and the timetable. She also discussed the need for an implementation committee to keep the plan's momentum going.
- Almasy and Griffith stated that a Chamber of Commerce wouldn't reasonably be expected to develop through the Foltz Center's community development board, but they feel a joint chamber is needed. Leshar agreed that the folks on the Foltz Center board would be helpful additions to a chamber effort, but that the Foltz Board structure isn't appropriate for that effort. Griffith feels an economic development committee to implement the plan is needed too.
- Zoning resolutions were discussed and their importance to the future implementation of the Plan. Lewis explained that there is a Zoning Inspectors' Mutual Assistance Committee that SCRPC facilitates.
- Becky Carter asked for clarification regarding the strategy that discussed helping with the school's strategic plan. Lewis stated that the wording was at the suggestion of superintendent Todd Boggs, and Jay Moody explained it further. The school board has just initiated a strategic planning effort and will focus on a levy later. Lewis will update the table to more accurately reflect this wording.
- Griffith asked for the strategy "create a joint chamber of commerce for the combined community" to be included, as well as wording that some strategies may be adjusted due to results of future studies or if other opportunities become available. Leshar suggested the wording "search for other options".

- A question was raised as to whether a community can buy water from two sources simultaneously. No one present was certain.
- Plans for the May 14 Public Meeting at the Foltz Center (6:30 pm) were discussed. Griffith will handle introductions as Carter will be out of town. There will be stations at various tables, for each topic, and for the many maps. Each committee member selected a station to assist at, though some last minute re-arranging may need to occur.
- 6-8 long tables and 4-5 round ones will be needed.
- The maps and the information from the sewer study will also be at one of the tables.
- After the public meeting, SCRPC staff will make a list of suggested changes/additions/deletions and email it to committee members for their comments.

Once the comments are received, staff will prepare a final draft to discuss at the June meeting, with the hope of not needing an additional meeting in either late June or July.

Open House Meeting Flyers



Osnaburg Township & the Village of East Canton Community Open House

- Community development activities build stronger communities.
- Please join us to discuss the future of our community. There will be land use and zoning maps to review and comment on.
- Your participation and input are key to creating a community plan that we can ALL support.
- Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Thursday, October 9, 2014

6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Foltz Community Center

224 Wood Street, East Canton, Oh 44730

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OSNABURG TOWNSHIP AND EAST CANTON!



Osnaburg Township & the Village of East Canton's
Joint Community Plan Meeting
May 14, 2015

Foltz Community Center 6:30 pm.

ATTENTION RESIDENTS!!!

Your attendance and participation is requested as we discuss economic improvements for our community. This meeting is an opportunity to review and provide your input on the future of our community.

Township and Village Committee Members:

Kathleen Almasy
Steve Bellamy
Todd Boggs
Eli Bosler
Ron Braucher

Rebecca Carter
Karen Clapper
Nick Collins
Herb Fogle
Brenda Griffith

Mitch Hershberger
Jake Leshner
Kevin Miller
Jay Moody
Donna Robinson

Stark County Regional Planning Commission:

Robert Nau
Brenda Sarsany
Rachel Lewis
Emma Posillico