



Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc.

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SERVING MEMBERS IN THE WATERSHED

Auburn Township
Aurora
Bainbridge Township
Bentleyville
Chagrin Falls Township
Chagrin Falls Village
Chardon
Chester Township
Claridon Township
Cleveland Metroparks
Eastlake
Gates Mills
Geauga County
Geauga Park District
Hunting Valley
Kirtland
Kirtland Hills
Lake County
Lake Metroparks
Mantua Township
Mayfield Heights
Mayfield Village
Mentor
Moreland Hills
Munson Township
Newbury Township
Orange Village
Pepper Pike
Russell Township
Solon
South Russell
Waite Hill
Wickliffe
Willoughby
Willoughby Hills
Woodmere

IN THE COUNTIES OF

Cuyahoga
Geauga
Lake
Portage

STAFF

Amy Brennan
Executive Director

Rachel Webb
Low Impact Development
Coordinator

Linda Moran
Administrative Assistant

Memorandum

To: Ohio Lake Erie Commission
From: Amy Brennan, Executive Director
Re: Chagrin River Watershed Balanced Growth Plan
2010 Annual Report
Date: October 12, 2010

The Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. (CRWP) has continued to act as the coordinator of the Watershed Planning Partnership and has provided updates to the Partnership through CRWP quarterly Board of Trustees meetings. This memorandum details the meetings, activities and projects that have been completed to implement the *Chagrin River Balanced Growth Plan* since its endorsement in September 2009.

At CRWP quarterly *Board of Trustees meetings*, the watershed planning partnership discusses current projects, possible funding, and CRWP Member Services and watershed initiatives. CRWP Board of Trustee presentations can be found on our website at http://crowp.org/upcoming_events/upcoming_events.htm.

Implementation projects that are described in the Balanced Growth Plan or that implement portions of the Plan are detailed below, split into major categories of restoration, protection, mitigation banking, best local land use practice adoption and implementation,

- *Restoration in PCAs*

- Chagrin Falls Village: Ivex Lower Dam Modification and Stream Restoration – Funded with 319
- Willoughby Hills: Lake Metroparks Pleasant Valley Park Floodplain Restoration Project – Funded through 319
- Hunting Valley: Green Stabilization along Chagrin River – funded with SWIF
- Aurora: Harmon Homestead – applied for 319 grant funding
- Aurora: Wetland restoration upstream of Sunny Lake – not awarded
- Bentleyville Park – Prairie restoration and riparian corridor reforestation
- Kirtland: Geauga Park District Caves Creek Headwaters Restoration & Protection Project –319 Application
- Cleveland Metroparks: Sulphur Springs Restoration: Applied for US FWS funding to monitor and restore portions of Sulphur Springs for possible brook trout reintroduction.

- *Protection of PCAs*
 - Eastlake: Anchor Island – protected island at the mouth of Chagrin River
 - Munson: WRRSP for Fowlers Mill – Applied but not awarded
 - Aurora: Spring Hill Farm – On going
 - Aurora Country Club Property – Ongoing Effort
 - Aurora: Gilley Property – early discussions

- *Mitigation Banking:* CRWP acquired funding through the Ohio Lake Erie Commission from the Ohio Water Development Authority to establish a mitigation bank in the Chagrin River watershed to promote restoration and preservation in PCAs and facilitate development in PDAs.
 - PCA designation was a selection criteria for potential sites
 - CRWP plans to submit umbrella banking agreement with two mitigation sites to the Interagency Review Team with prospectus by end of 2010.
 - Mayfield Village and Willoughby Hills: Cleveland Metroparks North Chagrin Reservation
 - Aurora: Chesney Property

- *Best Local Land Use Practice Adoption:* CRWP assisted numerous communities in tailoring and adoption best local land use practices, including.
 - Riparian Setbacks
 - Bentleyville – extended riparian setback widths to meet CRWP recommended widths and align with PCA designations
 - Hunting Valley: Added 25 foot setback on small streams in alignment with PCA designations.
 - Flood Damage Reduction Code updates, with higher standards
 - Aurora
 - Chagrin Falls Village
 - City of Chardon
 - Eastlake
 - Gates Mills
 - Mayfield Heights
 - Mayfield Village
 - Pepper Pike
 - Solon
 - Wickliffe
 - Willoughby Hills
 - Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations
 - Aurora – updated
 - Kirtland – updated
 - Gates Mills
 - Lake County Stormwater Department - updated
 - South Russell Village
 - Off Street Parking
 - Mayfield Village – still under review
 - Conservation Development
 - Bentleyville – under review

- *Implementation of Best Local Land Use Practices:* CRWP continues to support Member communities to implement best local land use practices after adoption. Implementation

assistance may involve site visits with individual property owners, developers, and site plan review.

- Auburn: Riparian Setbacks
- Chagrin Falls: Riparian Setback and Floodplain
- Eastlake: Stormwater Management
- Kirtland: Riparian Setbacks
- Moreland Hills: Riparian Setbacks and Hillside Codes
- Munson: Orange Village: Riparian Setback and Stormwater Management
- Newbury: Erosion and Sediment Control
- Orange Village: Stormwater Management and Riparian Setbacks
- Pepper Pike: Riparian Setback
- Waite Hill: Floodplain
- Willoughby Hills: Stormwater Management

Special incentives applied for by participating communities (granted or not)

- Willoughby: Osborne and Sunset Park: Plan for better access to lakefront and link between parks (PCAs) and commercial area along Lakefront Blvd. (PDA)– Awarded Coastal Management Grant
- Willoughby: Transportation Enhancement Grant Application– Bike paths linking PCAs and PDA
- Mayfield Village: Transportation Enhancement Grant Application – All Purpose trail linking PCAs and PDAs
- Munson: WRRSP for Fowlers Mill – Applied but not awarded

Problems Encountered

CRWP has continued to work with communities who have not yet endorsed the balanced growth plan, but progress has been slow. Discussions have been most detailed in Bainbridge Township and Solon. CRWP was disappointed with lack of success with funding with GLRI and USEPA Brownfield grants and lack of funding to resubmit the USEPA grant with consultant assistance.

Other activities relevant to state activities in the watershed

- Worked with 14 Members on Surface Water Improvement Fund proposals, largely to complete stormwater retrofit demonstration projects. These projects will highlight innovative stormwater best management practices and promote their use in residential and commercial applications.
- Continued work with Ohio Stormwater Training Council, Ohio Planning Association, Ohio Coastal Training Program and Kirby Date to promote the balanced growth program and adoption and implementation of best local land use practices.
- City of Chardon has been exploring the “Main Street” Program to promote economic development and beautification projects on Square, designated as a PDA.
- Alternative Energy: CRWP developed a model code at the request of Willoughby Hills and have continued coordination with Kirby Date, Cleveland State University and Cuyahoga County Planning Commission.
- Off Street Parking Code: Updated CRWP model regulation to promote landscaping with stormwater infrastructure, shared parking, parking maximums, and land banking.
- Subwatershed Planning: CRWP completed more detailed planning on small subwatersheds, focusing on non attaining streams using the balanced growth plan, watershed data, community concerns, and stormwater infrastructure
 - Ward/Newell Creek
 - Dewdale Creek

- Griswold Creek
- Tracking database: Using ODNR SWIMS database to track site visits, outreach events, training, and grant applications. This tracking will allow us to more easily report on activities and projects in the watershed.
- Orange Village: Developed a voluntary Green Building Certificate Program to promote green building in the Village. CRWP is working with the Village to ensure local codes promote this code as well. Moreland Hills is also investigating a Sustainability Program.

Future Activities in Discussion

- Continue to work with Bainbridge, Chester, Chardon Township, Mantua Township, and Solon about participation in *Chagrin River Watershed Balanced Growth Plan* and link plan to:
 - Kenston Lake Dam Modification and Stream Restoration: Funded 319 project
 - Sulphur Springs Restoration: Applied for US FWS funding to monitor and restore portions of Sulphur Springs for possible brook trout reintroduction.
- Mentor
 - Adoption of Comprehensive Land Use Plan
 - Considering Conservation District to protect ecologically sensitive areas including numerous PCAs
 - Great Lakes Mall - Redevelopment and Green Infrastructure
- Off Street Parking: Continue discussions with Aurora and Geauga County
- Geauga Lake Redevelopment Planning and Zoning: Discussing with Aurora and Bainbridge
- Centralized Storm water Management at Auburn Corners, auburn Township – discussed possibilities of Township Storm water utility to facilitate.
- Chagrin Falls Township: Present to residents regarding failing HSTS with Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Replacement of HSTS will assist to maintain low density zoning.

CRWP and our planning partnership hopes to continue our work with the statewide balanced growth initiative, Ohio Lake Erie Commission, Ohio Water Resources Council as we pursue additional opportunities and funding to further implement the *Chagrin River Watershed Balanced Growth Plan*.