

BROWN

ESTABLISHED 1830

TOWNSHIP

Summer 2007

Trustees Welcome New Executive Assistant

We are very pleased to announce that we have hired Elizabeth A. Clark, AICP, as our new Executive Assistant. Beth retired from the city of Columbus as the Assistant Planning Administrator in 2006. She brings with her experience in managing planning and zoning staff, developing land use plans, overseeing commissions, developing growth policies, market analysis, long range planning and leading activities in community involvement programs. She was also responsible for the successful conduct of the Columbus Comprehensive Plan in 1993.

Beth's primary duties will be centered on the continued implementation phase of the Big Darby Accord and the master planning process of the Town Center. She has also graciously agreed to work with Franklin County's Soil and Water Conservation District on implementation of the Non Point Discharge and Elimination Systems Phase II requirements. She was hired on June 25th and was busy at her first

Working Group meeting on the 27th. We look forward to this great opportunity to work with Beth.

Welcome to Brown Township!

*Contributed by:
Ron Williams, Chair
Pam Sayre
Gary Dever*

Tim Richardson Retires

It is with deep regret that we announce the retirement of Tim Richardson. Tim requested to leave his position as Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees effective June 13, 2007.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Tim for the countless hours he devoted to the Brown Township Comprehensive Plan 2005 update, the Hellbranch Watershed Forum, the External Advisory Group, the Big Darby Accord Master Plan, the Franklin County Subdivision

Regulations update, and the implementation phase of the Accord process.

His expertise in working with governmental officials, the environment, and regional planning, and his dedication to this township will not be forgotten. We wish him well in his retirement.

*Contributed by:
Ron Williams, Chair
Pam Sayre
Gary Dever*



**Read it
Online!**

<http://www.brown.twp.franklin.oh.us>

Rain Gardens—A Natural Solution to Water Runoff

In a natural setting, rain typically falls on trees, grass, and other vegetated areas where it can slowly soak into the ground. However, in most of our urban environments, rain falls on roofs, roads, and parking lots where it can't soak in. When water moves quickly off a parking lot or other paved area, it can carry leaves, grass, soil, fertilizer, oil, and other pollutants into storm drains, which end up in our rivers and streams. The overall volume and velocity of this runoff is also considerably higher than would normally occur in a natural setting. In turn this can lead to stream bank erosion as well as degradation of aquatic habitat.

What are rain gardens and what are their benefits?

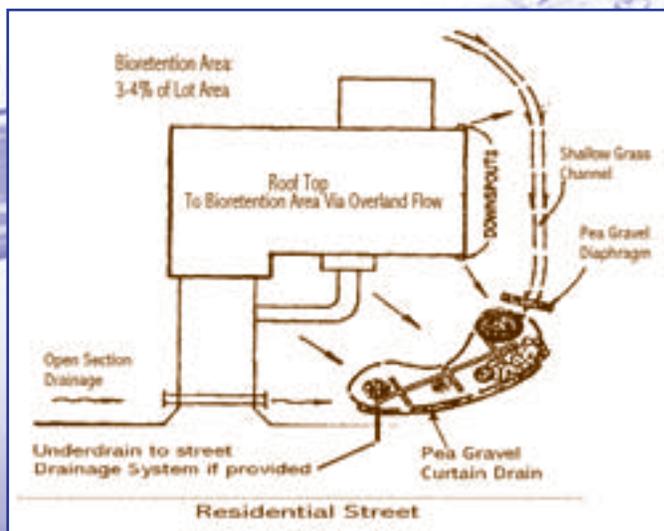
Rain gardens are slightly depressed areas, 4-6" deep, with a flat bottom that are planted with native grasses, annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. They are normally 1/3 the size of the areas draining to them (usually rooftops, yards and drive-

ways). Surface water is directed by means of a channel or swale to the rain garden where it is detained for 24 hours. This allows the water to seep naturally into the ground. As the water percolates the plants capture nutrients and filter out pollutants. Benefits of rain gardens are multiple; they recharge groundwater supply, prevent water quality problems, provide habitat for birds and butterflies, and are attractive landscape features.

If you are interested in participating in a Rain Garden Workshop hosted by FSWCD at Brown Township Hall (date to be determined), please call 876-2133 and leave the reason for your call along with your contact information. If we have enough interest, a workshop will be organized.

Contributed by:

Nora Hiland of the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District



The Franklin County Engineers have recently erected signs with a horse and rider on Amity Road, just north and south of Patterson Road. These signs are to let Amity Road drivers know that they are coming up on an area where horseback riders may be crossing the road to enter the horse trails in Prairie Oaks Metro Park. The trail entrance is directly opposite Patterson Road where it dead-ends into Amity Road. Please use caution as you approach this intersection.

Construction of Bradley High School in Compliance

By Martha Gilson of FSWCD

Construction of the new Hilliard High School on Walker Road is in full swing. Earth moving equipment is everywhere; digging trenches and basins, piling soil, and laying road and building foundations. But is all this construction in compliance with the new Ohio EPA Darby Creek storm water permit and the Darby Accord? Yes, it is. In fact, the new high school is a model of innovative practices that deal with storm water runoff and maintaining high water quality standards.

All the soil that is being moved remains on site; stockpiled top soil will be spread when final grading and landscaping takes place. All erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) are being implemented. Wooded areas are being protected and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement buffers will be planted. And groundwater infiltration will be better than before construction began.

The school is designed with 22 small, shallow basins that convey water from parking lots along meandering waterways into 4 deeper basins that in turn deliver water to a large wetland, wet meadow and open water pond area. All basins will be planted with native sedges, wildflowers and grasses. Infiltration and evaporation are maximized in this system of parking lot infiltration areas and small and large basins that allow even the largest rainfall events to be captured and treated before leaving the site. The result of this conservation planning will be an outdoor environmental education experience for students and the community.

The Ohio EPA reviewed and ap-

proved the site plan and performs periodic inspections of the site. Additionally, the site manager is responsible for examining his sediment and erosion control practices once a week and within 24 hours of any rainfall over one-half inch to make sure they are functioning well. An Urban Conservationist from Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District visits the site every two weeks to ensure that all Best Management Practices (BMPs) are being implemented and maintained according to the approved plan.

All erosion and sediment controls such as silt fence, stone entrances, diversion swales, inlet protection, seeding and basin construction are reviewed to make sure that are installed and working properly. The new high school is being carefully monitored during the construction process and once it is complete it will be a model for protecting the unique water quality and biological integrity of the Big Darby Creek watershed.

Stream Setback Requirements

Plants and animals in western Franklin County will breathe a little easier. New setback buffer areas from streams in the Big Darby Watershed will protect the plant and animal life of the Big Darby Creek, helping maintain the rural character and high quality of life in Brown Township. These setbacks, required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, ensure that sensitive land near waterways is not paved or built upon. That way, plants and grasses can filter storm water runoff before it reaches a stream. The setback areas are the greater of 100 feet from the middle of the streamway or the boundaries of the 100-year floodplain, generally speaking. A map showing the setback areas is available by contacting the township office.

Setback areas may be used for hiking, fishing and general recreation. New buildings and paved areas are

not allowed. Any existing house, garage, pole barn or lawn is "grandfathered" and therefore exempt from the setback requirements. Both current and future residents benefit from the setbacks. Keeping paved areas away from streams reduces flooding and helps recharge groundwater so wells don't run dry. The setbacks help protect the habitats critical to many species of plants, birds and fish. By keeping environmentally sensitive areas undisturbed, township residents can continue to enjoy the beauty of the plant and animal life throughout the watershed.

*Contributed by Ben Weiner
Planner
Franklin County Development
Department*



Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

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Please use any of the following:

- Fill out the **name, address, additions and corrections form** on the Brown Township website under “Newsletters”
- **Call** the Township Fiscal Officer (614-876-2133)
- Via **fax** to the Township Office (614-876-2421)
- Or by **mail** to the return address above.



Clockwise from left: Gary Dever, Ronald Williams, Pamela Sayre and Barbara Bloxam

Brown Township Administration Office

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026..... 876-2133

Website

www.brown.twp.franklin.oh.us

Fiscal Officer

Barbara Bloxam 876-2133

Trustees

Mr. Gary Dever 876-4768

Mr. Ronald Williams 876-6118

Mrs. Pamela Sayre 878-0199

Norwich Fire Department

David Long, Chief..... 876-5367

Brown Township Board of Trustees Meeting

When: 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Where: 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio

For Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies, Dial 911