

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Spring 2010

Town Center Master Plan Update

The Big Darby Accord Town Center Master Plan consultants visited central Ohio in late January for a series of public meetings, stakeholder interviews, and a multi-day design workshop. The design workshop represented the halfway point in the Town Center master planning process and was intended to not only generate ideas but to generate reactions. The consultant team's intent is to fully understand the response to the ideas in order to develop a coherent and plausible way forward.

The results of the design workshop, unveiled at a public meeting on January 28, included a mixed-use village centered around Broad Street with a minimum of about 3500 units of housing, 300,000 square feet of retail, 360,000 square feet of office, and a 100-room hotel. The program reflects the current and forecasted market trend for the area, assuming a high quality design concept.

Please go to www.browntwp.franklin.oh.us to view in detail the master plan sketch developed out of the design workshop.

The next step is the release of a draft Town Center Master Plan in early April. Check the Brown Township website often for updates on public meetings and other review opportunities.



This is an update on an ongoing Big Darby Accord implementation initiative. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Accord Open Space 2009 Summary

The Big Darby Accord Open Space Advisory Council (OSAC), formed in 2008, provides guidance to the Big Darby Accord partner jurisdictions on open space acquisition, funding and other conservation and restoration efforts as outlined in the Conservation Strategy of the Big Darby Accord. OSAC also monitors and reports on other conservation efforts and provides education forums on the conservation strategy and process.

Member organizations are Franklin County, Brown and Prairie townships, Columbus and Hilliard, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, Building Industry Association of Central Ohio, Metro Parks, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, The Nature Conservancy, Darby Creek Association, and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). MORPC provides administrative and technical support to the group.

2010 OSAC officers are Chair Erin Sherer, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and Vice-Chair Malcolm Porter, Building Industry Association of Central Ohio.

The Conservation Strategy of the Big

Darby Accord recommends protection of lands categorized as Tier 1, 2, and 3. Tier 1 lands are defined as floodplain, riparian corridors, in-stream habitat areas, wetlands, critical groundwater recharge areas, and pollution potential zones. Tier 2 lands are defined as areas with highly erodible soils and wooded areas greater than three acres. Tier 3 lands are characterized as trails, habitat buffer areas, and connectivity corridors.

At the end of 2009, 31% or 3,318 acres of the original 14,048 acres of Tier 1, 2, and 3 designated land has been protected* since the Accord was adopted in June 2006. (Numbers may change as MORPC relies on OSAC members to supply data.)

Significant projects undertaken in 2009 include:

City of Columbus

Stream restoration of 5800 feet of Clover Groff Ditch

Franklin County Engineer's Office

Stream restoration of 3300 feet of Hamilton Run

Metro Parks

Restoration projects at Darby Dan Farm (land acquisition and restoration), Hellbranch (land acquisition and restoration), and Pleasant Valley

Quarry (habitat and stream restoration) as well as land acquisition totaling 276.614 acres and 23.57 acres of trail easement

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Land acquisition of 196 acres in Prairie Township and creation of a rain garden in Pleasant Township

Look for a more detailed article on stream restoration projects in a future newsletter.

Please go to www.browntwp.franklin.oh.us to view the Big Darby Accord Open Space map.

** The term "protected" collectively refers to all land subject to ordinance, land purchased for conservation purposes, and land within a conservation easement. In future years, land subject to ordinance will be reported separately. Other refinements are also likely.*

This is an update on an ongoing Big Darby Accord implementation initiative. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Submitted by Elizabeth A. Clark, AICP, Executive Assistant to the Brown Township Board of Trustees, based on information compiled and prepared by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission



Vernal Pool to be Constructed at Bradley

Brown Township residents may have noticed by now the many innovative storm water features at Hilliard Bradley High School. The rain gardens in the parking lot, the winding swales and retention basins, and the native grasses and plants all help rain water and snow melt soak into the ground and eventually replenish ground water instead of running off to the nearby Hamilton Run and eventually to Big Darby Creek. Not as visible is the site where a vernal pool will be constructed this spring in the wooded area at the north end of the school grounds.

Vernal pools are small wetlands that fill up annually but usually dry out during part of the year. The two characteristics that mark all vernal pools are their impermanence and the absence of fish. The lack of fish is important because of the many animals living in vernal pools that are normally fish food. It is these animals that eat the mosquito larvae that may otherwise breed there. The lack of fish also makes vernal pools safe nurseries for frogs and salamanders.

Frogs and toads you might find include bullfrog, green frog, northern leopard frog, western chorus frog, spring peeper, gray tree frog, and Blanchard's cricket frog. Salamanders may include eastern red-spotted newt, spotted salamander, tiger salamander, smallmouth salamander, marbled salamander, Jefferson salamander, and four-toed salamander.

In addition to providing habitat for reptiles, amphibians, macroinvertebrates, and even migrating birds, vernal pools hold flood water and improve surface water quality. At Hilliard Bradley High School, the vernal pool and surrounding woodlot will also become the habitat of science students thanks to teacher Doug Griebel. He is working with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District employees David Reutter and Doc

Jordan, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) district conservationist Mary Ann Core to integrate the vernal pools into the science curriculum and to use the wooded area as a land lab.

Possible future projects for Griebel's students include a biological inventory of the 7-acre woodlot, removal of invasive species, and monitoring of the vernal pool. Science educators use real-world projects to teach not only subject matter but also how science is done. Imagine learning statistics through counting tree species or learning physics through the changing pitch and frequency of recorded frog mating calls.

The vernal pool construction is possible through the federal wildlife habitat incentive program (WHIP) that is administered by NRCS. Among the national priorities addressed by the Hilliard Bradley WHIP contract are the restoration of important native wildlife habitats, the protection of at-risk species (the endangered Indiana bat), and the reduction of invasive species. Of the state issues addressed, one of the most important according to Core is that the project area will be available for educational use. The school site has signs highlighting the practices that help protect the Big Darby and Core hopes that it will raise awareness of alternative storm water management practices. She also is excited that Griebel is partnering with Franklin Soil and Water to make the most of the conserved wooded area to benefit his students.

This information is from Ohio Environmental Council fact sheet: Vernal Pools: Microcosmic wetlands. www.theoec.org

*Contributed by Mary Ann Brouillette
Communications Specialist
Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District*

Trustees Meeting

Two noteworthy items from the March 8 Board of Trustees meeting:

- The residents of Langton Road want to thank the snow plow drivers. They did an excellent job this year. Kudos to Don Williams and Glenn Elfrink.
- Deputy Crowley offered the friendly reminder that it is the time of year to watch carefully for deer crossing the roads.

Fire/EMS Runs Comparison

Brown Township's service needs for Fire and Emergency Medical Service in 2009 were fairly consistent with totals from previous years.

Emergency Medical Services runs in 2009 totaled 144 and Fire runs totaled 65 for a grand total of 209. Grand totals for previous years are shown below:

2006	2007	2008
205	178	235

*Based on information provided by
Norwich Township Fire Department*

Snow Removal Numbers

The winter of 2009-2010 (through March 1) saw an increase in the number of road-miles for the Brown Township plow truck from an average of about 1,640 miles per winter season to about 3,300 miles this season, an increase of 50%. The township purchased 224.6 tons of salt this winter, at a cost of about \$1310.



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- Via **fax** to the Township Office (614-876-2421)
- Or by **mail** to the return address above.
- To have your newsletter addressed in your name instead of “Brown Township Neighbor,” please visit <http://www.Brown.Twp.Franklin.oh.us/newsletters.htm>.



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: 3rd Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Where: 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio

For Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies, Dial 911