

BROWN

ESTABLISHED 1830

TOWNSHIP

Spring 2008

Big Darby Accord Implementation Progress

Since Brown Township and five other jurisdictions (Columbus, Franklin County, and Prairie, Pleasant, and Washington townships) adopted the Big Darby Accord in 2006, significant progress has been made in implementing the master plan's provisions. Coordinating the implementation effort is the Big Darby Accord Working Group. Representatives from the partnering jurisdictions meet monthly to hear updates on progress and report back to the elected officials of whom they represent.

The Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel has been established with members representing the adopting jurisdictions. The responsibility of the Panel, chaired by Brown Township's Joe Martin, is to review and make recommendations on development proposals in the jurisdictions. After consideration by the Panel, the proposals are subject to the normal development review process in the individual jurisdiction. Read more about the Panel in the article "New Advisory Panel Reviews Development Plans."

Recently established is the Open Space Advisory Council (OSAC), recommended by the master plan. OSAC is made up of representatives of the adopting jurisdictions along with representatives of federal, state, and county agencies, and representatives of the private and non-profit sectors, including the development community and conservation organizations. The Council's purpose is to provide guidance to the Accord partners on open space acquisition, funding, and other conservation efforts outlined in the conservation strategy of the Big Darby Accord. OSAC is staffed by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commis-

sion and is chaired by Anthony Sasson of The Nature Conservancy, with Malcolm Porter of the BIA being Vice Chairman.

On Earth Day, 2008, the Franklin County Commissioners adopted stream setback regulations set forth in the Accord. With the leadership of the Franklin County Development Department, the regulations were developed through a collaborative process involving a wide range of stakeholders.

These regulations are now a part of the Franklin County Zoning Resolution and apply to property under its authority within the Big Darby Watershed, including property in Brown Township.

The City of Columbus will soon publish new requirements for post-construction monitoring of stormwater treatment practices, expected to be a model for other partner jurisdictions.

Progress is being made on other fronts as well

The Town Center development, to be located generally between U.S. 40 and I-70 straddling Brown and Prairie townships, will require the preparation of a Town Center Master Plan. The purpose is to fully flesh out the details of the types and densities of development desired; issues of utilities, transportation, and other public facilities and services; market viability; and design and architecture issues, among others. Brown and Prairie Townships, Columbus, and Franklin County will hire the Town Center master plan consultant team

selected through a nationwide search and a series of presentations and interviews.

New initiatives continue to be undertaken

Under the leadership of the Franklin County Development Department, work to develop conservation development regulations has just begun. It is envisioned that this regulation will apply countywide for property under the authority of the Franklin County Zoning Resolution. Similar to the process used to develop the stream setback regulations, conservation development regulations will be developed collaboratively with a broad range of stakeholders participating. Conservation development regulations will be important to areas of Brown Township outside the Town Center area. Conservation development is a design strategy for residential development intended to lead to increased protection of existing natural resources on and off-site. Conservation developments incorporate open space as part of the design and integrate stormwater best management practices throughout the site.

Necessary to successful implementation of conservation development, is an alternative wastewater system that does not discharge effluent into waterways. Progress in this area needs to be made concurrently with preparation of conservation development regulations.

Contributed by Elizabeth A. Clark, AICP, Executive Assistant to the Brown Township Board of Trustees

New Advisory Panel Reviews Development Plans

The Big Darby Accord is a cooperative planning effort among Brown Township, Columbus, Franklin County, Grove City, Harrisburg, Hilliard, Norwich Township, Pleasant Township, Prairie Township, and Washington Township. These communities have been working together to develop and implement a plan for the Franklin County portion of the Big Darby Watershed.

All of Brown Township lies within the Big Darby Accord planning area and it's important that Brown Township has a proactive and leading role the implementation and further development of the Accord plan. For example, the 2005 Brown Township Comprehensive Plan was very instrumental in the foundation of the Big Darby Accord plan document. Beth Clark, the Executive Assistant to the Brown Township Board of Trustees, currently attends all of the Big Darby Accord Working Group meetings.

A fundamental goal of the Big Darby Accord is to ensure that the zoning and site development review processes are fair, consistent and apply evenly to all areas of the planning area. To that end, the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel was formed as a voluntary advisory body to serve the public interest by advising Member Jurisdictions regarding the Panel's interpretation of the principles and standards set forth in the Plan.

Specifically, the purpose of the Panel is to review Applications from the Member Jurisdictions for property located within the Big Darby Tributary Area, and to provide advice to those Member Jurisdictions. The Panel shares responsibility with the local governing jurisdiction to review and render advisory, non-binding opinions on zoning applications and site development plans in terms of conformance with the Accord Plan.

With the formation of this Panel, an additional review has been added to the zoning application or site development plan approval process.

However, this additional step has been incorporated in such a manner as not to delay an applicant's total end-to-end approval time.

The Panel conducts the following business

following Robert's Rules of Order for each case:

1. Staff presents the request and submits reasons for approval, approval with conditions or denial.
2. Applicant and representatives present their application.
3. Proponent and opponent provide public comment (may be limited to three for and three against).
4. Panel enters into a questions and answers session with Staff, Applicant and public commenters.
5. Panel finalizes discussion with a motion to recommend approve or approve with conditions.
6. Vote takes place and the Panel's recommendation and any conditions are passed on to the appropriate jurisdiction.

The Panel meets on the second Tuesday of each month when cases are to be heard at 1:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Franklin County Courthouse, Meeting Room A, First floor, 373 S. High Street in Columbus. Agendas, applications, Staff reports and meeting minutes are publically posted on the Big Darby Accord website, which is hosted by Franklin County at:

<http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/Big-DarbyAccord/index.cfm>. Case documents are typically posted four to six business days before a hearing date. All meetings are open to the public.

Although the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel may influence the approval or denial of a zoning request or a development plan, the Panel is only a review and recommending body with no real legal authority. Each jurisdiction has their own staff and process for reviewing zoning and development plans. In the end, it is still the elected officials of each jurisdiction who are responsible for final plan approval or denial for proposals in their own area.

*Contributed by Joe Martin,
Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel Chairman*

Each participating jurisdiction is represented on the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel

City of Columbus

*Steve Gladman, Executive Director
for the Columbus & Franklin*

County Housing Trust

*John Tetzloff, President,
The Darby Creek Association*

*Don Armour, Senior Principal,
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.*

City of Hilliard

*Jay Muether,
Vice President URS Corporation*

City of Grove City

*Waiting to adopted the plan
and appoint a representative*

Franklin County

*Anthony Sasson, Freshwater Coordinator,
The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Chapter*

Vacant seat

Brown Township

*Joe Martin, Brown Township
Comprehensive Plan Committee Chair
(1998 and 2005)*

Prairie Township

*Ashley Hoye Sr.,
Farm Manager, Darby Dan Farms*

Pleasant Township

*Keith Goldhardt,
Pleasant Township Trustee*

At-large member jointly selected by all Panel members:

*Dr. Steve Gordon,
Senior Director of Education and Client
Support, Ohio Super Computer Center*

Panel Secretary

*Franklin County Development
Department Staff*

The History of Brown Township Schools

The first school in Brown Township is thought to have opened in 1820 in a log cabin on the property of Adam Blount. Mr. Blount migrated to the area from Virginia in 1815 and was the father of Jonathan Alder's wife Mary. Marantha Adams was the first teacher.

In 1825 Welsh settlers came into Brown Township and soon had extensive holdings. One of the best one-room schoolhouses built in 1840 was named the Wales School. A man named Lynn was the first teacher. The Wales School was located on the site where the present Brown Elementary School is now located. In addition to this school and that of the Union Seminary, there were several other schools in the township at one time or another.

It would come to be that three schools would be located on Scioto & Darby Creek Road. One was on the north side, just east of Walker Road. A second was located just west of this school on the same side of the road at the corner of Creek Road was the Bear Den School. The third was on the south side of the road just west of Elliott Road.

A wood frame school was located on the north side of Hayden Run Road at the bend between Langton and Elliott Roads. Another wood frame schoolhouse once sat on the west side of Hubbard Road just south of the first farm south of Roberts Road. This is now part of the Girl Scout camp.

As time progressed, more schools were built in Brown Township. The McCoy School on Amity Road was at the northwest corner of its intersection with Feder Road. Two other schools were located near each other on the west side of Amity Road about equal distance north and south from Patterson Road.

The Huggett School was on the west side of Amity Road at the bend between Morris and Patterson Roads. Matie Bradley saved this building from destruction when she purchased it in 1931. It is now a private residence.

The other was a pioneer school of the Darby Creek Settlement located a little south of the Henry Francis homestead on settler James O'Harra's land. Turning it into a private residence also saved this school building.

There were two schools on Walker Road. One was located at the northwest corner of Alton & Darby Creek Road. The other was on the west side of the road between Davis and Carter Roads.

In 1931 the Huggett School (1st and 2nd grades), the Wales School (3rd, 4th and 5th grades) and the McCoy School (6th, 7th and 8th grades) were all closed. These three schools were consolidated into one building when the first Brown Elementary School was built on the site of the Wales School. The high school was in Hilliard.



Wales School had been erected in 1906 using bricks made of concrete.

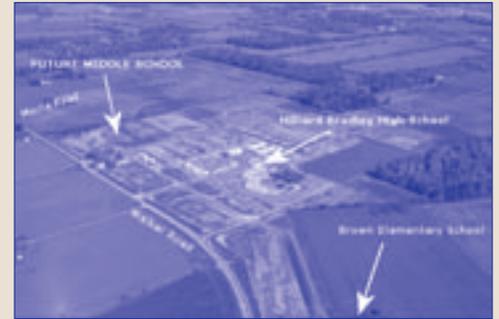
This gave it a grayish, white color. I have a couple of those bricks that I would gladly lend to an appropriate display. I also have a 1911 school picture (following this article) of all 21 students. This might be a good time to solicit our readers for school and community pictures of those early days. We could copy any that you might wish returned. Any artifacts or memorabilia of historical significance could be displayed for all to enjoy. Youngsters seem to thrive on knowing more about the early history of our township.

The late Mr. Ray Bradley, a Brown Township resident and historian, recalls how the Wales School was razed in the spring of 1931 to make way for a new four-room consolidated elementary school complete with indoor plumbing and a central heating system, plus an auditorium with a stage.

"I remember vividly how on the first day of school, Principal Lawrence Hayes took all the boys down to the boys toilet and made sure they all knew how to use a flush toilet and the urinal, and how to wash their hands. Only one or two students in the entire school had a bathroom in their own home. In fact, the farm family with who

Mr. Hayes boarded didn't have one."

Today, the Brown Elementary School is part of the Hilliard City School District,



once call the Scioto Darby School District. The Hilliard City School Board of Education is now building Hilliard Bradley High School, named after township historian Ray Bradley. The new high school is on property just to the north of the Brown Elementary School on the east side of Walker Road and includes space to build a future middle school.

Contributors to this township history were the late Ray Bradley and Sandy Andromeda

Announcement

The Madison Soil and Water Conservation District, partnering with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and Columbus Metro Parks, are holding a three part Rain Garden Design and Installation Workshop.

Please visit www.franklinswcd.org and select New & Events for more information. Or simply contact:

Susan Stanford

Natural Resource Specialist, Madison Soil and Water Conservation District

740-852-4004

susan.stanford@oh.nacdnet.net

Jennifer Fish

Director Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

614-486-9613

jennifer-fish@franklinswcd.org

Want to be Added to Our Mailing List or Have a Change of Address?

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

Where: 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio

For Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies, Dial 911