

What's rollin'?

US 422 Corridor Enhancement Project Submitted For Brownfield Action Plan Pilot Program Consideration

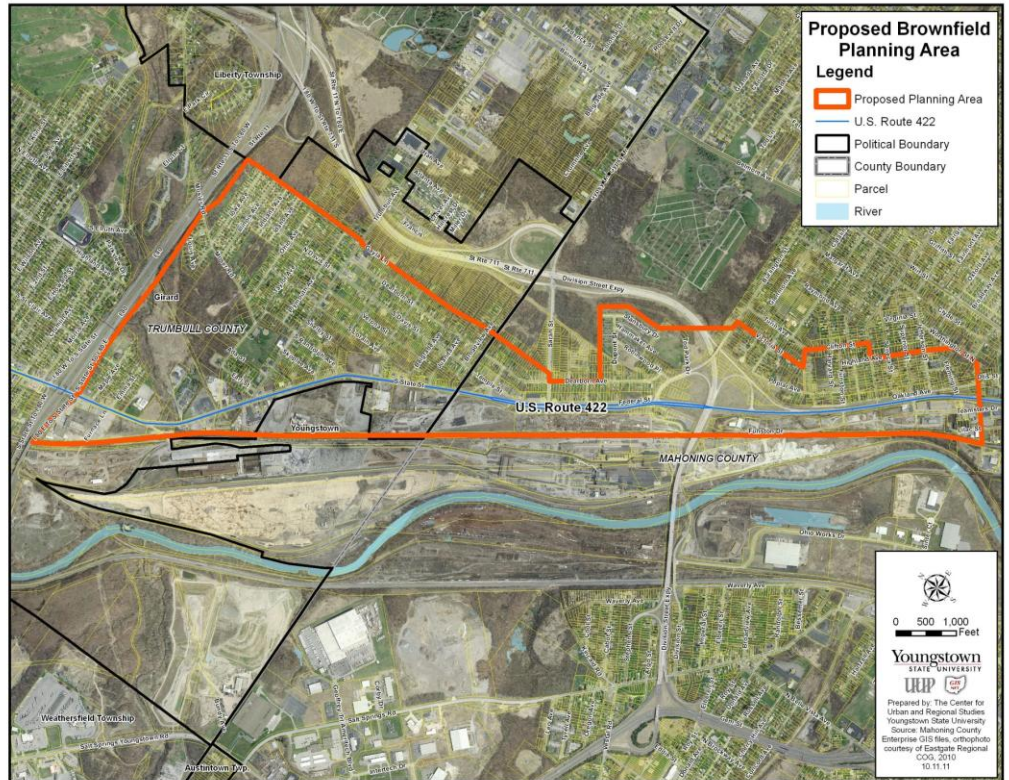
Proposed area includes the Girard Parkwood and Youngstown Brier Hill Neighborhoods

With support from the cities of Youngstown and Girard and assistance from the MRCI, the Western Reserve Port Authority has submitted the MRCI 422 corridor enhancement project for Brownfield Action Plan Pilot Program consideration. The focus of the proposed project is the 422 corridor from the vicinity of I680 in Youngstown to I80 in Girard and adjacent neighborhood.

If selected, the WRPA and its collaborating partners will receive technical assistance from the Ohio Department of Development Urban Redevelopment Division to prepare a Brownfield Action Plan for the area that addresses brownfields adversely affecting the planning area and will include improvements to the transportation corridor and neighborhoods.

The proposed project builds and expands upon recent progress by the City of Youngstown, Lien Forward Ohio and V&M Star to address issues in the Brier Hill area and related efforts by the City of Girard in the Parkwood area.

Once completed, the project will be eligible for \$50,000 in funding to implement an aspect of the plan and be positioned for additional funding from other programs. Four awards will be made no later than November 30, 2011.



YNDC Awarded Nationally Competitive People's Garden Grant
Grant to focus on river corridor communities



With support from the MRCI and Mahoning River Corridor Mayors' Association,

the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation has been awarded a \$70,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), People's Garden Grant Program to provide microgrants for the establishment of new community gardens. These new gardens will serve as community educational resources to residents of municipalities in the Mahoning River Corridor



Mahoning River Corridor Mayors' Association
Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 2:00 PM
@ Eastgate Regional COG

In addition to a review of projects, agenda items include: nominations for 2012-13 officers, a presentation by YNDC on the People's Garden project; discussion of a proposal for the state to collect municipal income taxes; and discussion of a proposal to strengthen MRCI/WRPA relationship.

including: Lowellville, Struthers, Campbell, Youngstown, Girard, McDonald, Niles, Warren and Newton Falls. The funding will support the Mahoning River Corridor Garden Grant program that will provide 20 to 24 microgrants of up to \$5,000 over 2 years for community groups to establish new gardens, including vegetable gardens, recreational gardens, and wildlife gardens. Grants will be awarded through a competitive process, in which

grantees will design their garden project and demonstrate community support and resources for the projects. Projects will be chosen based on innovative design, community impact, project sustainability, and the project's potential for community environmental education. Grantee organizations will receive both technical assistance in implementing successful projects and the use of heavy equipment during community garden build days. The project competition will be focused on neighborhood associations and resident groups, building their capacity to respond to challenges in their own neighborhoods through the creation of urban gardens on existing vacant land and the establishment, maintenance, and use of community forests as neighborhood assets. The YNDC will partner with the Mahoning River Corridor Initiative and other organizations to implement this exciting regional project.

Source: YNDC



Eastgate Regional COG EPAC Meeting To Address Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium Effort.

Rachel McCartney, co-chair of the NEOSSC Natural Resources and Built Environment work stream, announced the **EPAC meeting Thursday October 27, 2011, 2:00 PM at Eastgate** will serve as the starting point for the regional conversation that needs to begin for the North East Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSSC) and the work stream.

The NEOSSC is the product of a \$4.25 million grant awarded to the 12 county NE Ohio region to complete a sustainability plan encompassing housing, transportation, environment, and economic development. While each of these categories feeds directly into and influences one another, each category has its own work stream with two co-chairs and one Project Manager. More information on the grant can be found on the website: www.neoscc.org

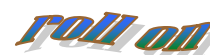
Joe MacDonald, Project Manager for the Natural Resources and Built Environment work stream, will provide the group with an overview of the grant itself. Most of the time will address questions; on building an understanding of what environmental issues are important to the people of the Mahoning Valley; and what we hope to see included in the plan. Among the areas most likely to be focused on will be brownfields and greyfields, air and water quality, energy, and land conservation (encompassing greenspace, parks and farmland preservation). Any resources (plans, useful websites, best practices, local or national examples, etc.) that can be of use are welcome.

It is important to understand that participation in this three-year process will have a real influence on the final product. There will be several public meetings for this work stream over the next couple of years. This will be the first chance for the community to feed ideas and resources to the program manager and the co-chair who will bring those ideas to the work stream committee members.

See attached for overview of NEOSSC.



Mahoning River Corridor Initiative
YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies
 One University Plaza, Youngstown, Ohio 44555
 Phone 330-941-1850 Fax 330-941-1527
 Contact: Dan Mamula, MRCI Manager
dcmamula@ysu.edu



On Thursday, October 13, 2011, over 200 representatives of local government from northeast Ohio joined together in Akron to learn about practices in regional collaboration.

Practitioners who had put together successful collaborations in the areas of public health, storm water management, 911 dispatch services, information technology, economic development, fire services and mergers met with participants in "how to" sessions to explain how they were able to implement their collaboration.

The MRCI Manager participated in economic development session and presented on lessons learned in forming the MRCI. Other presenters addressed how to form a Joint Economic Development District (Kent) and the Summit County intergovernmental agreements for job creation and tax sharing.

Randy Cole, State Controlling Board President addressed the plenary session on the Local Government Collaboration and Innovation Program that will provide funding to local governments for merging services. The criteria for the program are expected to be released by the end of the year with funding to be available in July 2012.

For more on the various collaborations and contacts go to www.efficientgovnetwork.org