

YEAR ONE: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are very proud of the administration, staff, employees, and appointed board members for taking our community's comprehensive plan and running with it. As we compiled this update on the implementation of each of its goals and objectives, it became clear that we already do so much of what we set out to do! That remains the goal. By outlining our vision like this, we signal to others that we are a strong, forward-thinking community. This strengthens our reputation as the best-run township in Trumbull County. That professional undercurrent runs through the plan.

The plan was never a to-do list. It is a statement of our community's philosophy that guides how decisions are made. In this first year, most of the decisions that will shape our future have come from the Zoning Commission, which is currently reviewing and drafting revisions to bring the zoning resolution in line with the plan. We appreciate their time and dedication to this very important process and look forward to discussing their ideas very soon.

Of course, the goal is to improve everyone's quality of life. Some projects are big. We have recently seen the demolition of 30 nuisance homes in Bolindale and Morgandale, stormwater improvement projects in Venice Heights and the Ravenwood/South Bolindale area, the upcoming installation of sanitary sewers in Morgandale, and the Safe Routes to School plans. Others are small: TAG, the farmers' market, the community garden, hosting the Park District's information on the Township's website, making the fire inspection process a little easier for our smaller business, strongly advocating for a land bank to address foreclosures and abandoned homes in our residential neighborhoods. But they all add up to make a world class community.

We have to work within our limits because we are not a city; that means working with others. Our reputation for doing that is well-earned and leads to even more opportunities. We actively participate in collaborative groups that tackle issues larger than us that affect our residents. For example, the Lower Mosquito Creek Balanced Growth Plan will address the balance between development and environmental stewardship by promoting the former in areas already served by existing infrastructure. The Trumbull County Brownfields Collaborative has already selected an outside agency to prepare a federal grant application to secure funds to redevelop the industrial areas in our Township and those just across our borders. We could not have done this on our own.

We promised that the plan would not sit idle on the shelf. We hope that we have shown you that its binding is broken and the pages are well-worn. Step-by-step, we are moving forward every chance that we get.

Your township trustees,

Rick G. Clark
October 26, 2011

Matthew G. Vansuch

Sally B. Wehmer

DEMOGRAPHICS & HOUSING

DEMOGRAPHICS

Goal: Provide bases for public policies through up-to-date population, demographic, and socio-economic data.

Objectives:

1. Acquire federal, state, regional, and local source data for use in the development of public policies, particularly U.S. Census data;
2. Regularly update the Comprehensive Community Plan data; and
3. Make population, demographic, and socio-economic information available to the general public.

Year One Update:

- With the data from the 2010 Census now available, updated population and housing information has been posted on Township website by the Planning and Zoning staff.

HOUSING

“Howland Township is a community with well-established, attractive and diverse neighborhoods. Because the Township’s land base is predominately occupied by single family residential homes and an aging population, the Township is focused on maintaining a high quality residential living environment...” Comprehensive Community Plan, July 2010

Goal #1: Preserve and enhance the quality of life in existing neighborhoods.

Objectives:

1. Strengthen and promote neighborhood stability;
2. Create neighborhood empowerment and engagement programs;
3. Evaluate the type and number of residential zoning classifications and “right-size” certain districts; and
4. Reduce the incidence of property maintenance and nuisance regulations.

Goal #2: Provide adequate, high quality, and diverse housing and living opportunities within Howland Township.

Objectives:

1. Provide a range of housing options to serve the long-term needs of the Township;
2. Encourage the provision of additional public and private amenities, the preservation of open space and environmentally responsible development practices;
3. Evaluate the need for, and proper location of, senior housing;
4. Encourage mixed-use residential;
5. Develop neighborhood overlays to define and delineate locally significant districts;
6. Promote the re-development of older residential areas; and
7. Evaluate potential markets for residential growth.

Year One Update:

- Collaborating with the Trumbull County Planning Commission enabled Howland Township to demolish nearly 30 blighted structures to strengthen and promote neighborhood stability in the Bolindale and Morgandale with funds from the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program.
- PZ staff continues to educate the community about basic property maintenance issues to help reduce the number of violations. They drafted a “How to be a Good Neighbor” article for the Township newsletter and published it on the Township website.
- Trustees appointed the Township police chief as the property maintenance code enforcement officer to coordinate those activities with the PZ staff. This promotes a more effective resolution of these violations, thereby preserving and enhancing the quality of life in our neighborhoods.
- Township Administration applied for and received a Clean Ohio Grant to acquire property in the southeast quadrant to expand public amenities and preserve open space in a residential area that is not adequately served as such. The land contains headwater that streams into a tributary of Mosquito Creek. The Township installed two bicycle racks on these public lands to encourage bike use.
- As senior housing has expanded in the last few years, Planning and Zoning staff continue to speak with senior housing advocates about the appropriate location of additional senior housing opportunities in the Township.
- By investing over \$200,000 in a cooperative project with, among other entities, the Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer, Howland Township helped extend sanitary sewer service in west Bolindale by reducing the monthly capital charge assessed to each property owner. Almost 70 households will now have access to reliable sewage infrastructure, promoting the re-development of older residential areas. And a public health threat that once existed has been eliminated.
- Township Trustees and Administration were at the forefront in promoting the need for a county land bank that could help address the increasing number of foreclosures and abandoned houses. As a result, the Township is represented on the Board of Directors for the Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation, the third of its kind in the state.

LAND USE

Goal #1: Preserve and enhance the character and quality of life in residential areas.

Objectives:

1. Promote residential development that protects existing, low-density neighborhoods while allowing greater flexibility at the periphery and core of the Township;
2. Protect and enhance the quality of life in existing residential neighborhoods;
3. Develop incentives to encourage the provision of additional public amenities;
4. Ensure that all development is compatible with the surrounding use, scale, and character;
5. Encourage preservation of open space and environmentally responsible development.

Goal #2: Ensure that Howland is well-served by attractive, cohesive commercial districts in appropriate locations that meet the daily needs of its residents and visitors.

Objectives:

1. Provide a broad range of office and commercial venues;
2. Enhance the appearance of existing and future office and commercial development;
3. Promote small- to medium-scale office and commercial developments;
4. Promote re-development and infill of existing, underutilized commercial areas; and
5. Allow for greater flexibility to accommodate progressive development strategies, and greater control by the Township to ensure a high quality development environment.

Goal #3: Maximize the benefits derived from public investment in community facilities and infrastructure.

Objectives:

1. Create and enhance land use policies that promote efficient use of public infrastructure; and
2. Promote the location of community facilities in areas compatible for their use and which area accessible to the public served.

Goal #4: Achieve a sustainable balance between development activities, preservation of natural resources, and open space.

Objectives:

1. Ensure that Township Resolutions reflect a high priority for the environment;
2. Establish a unified open space and greenways network;
3. Encourage preservation of trees and forests;
4. Protect and enhance surface and ground water quality;
5. Develop and promote innovative grading and soil conservation practices;
6. Promote local food production; and
7. Enhance scenic qualities along major roadways and gateways to the Township.

Goal #5: Eliminate annexation in order to maintain our current boundaries.

Objectives:

1. Establish cooperative relationships with neighboring municipalities and townships to manage sustainable growth and development;

2. Develop strategies to guard against annexation;
3. Encourage infill development through incentives; and
4. Identify objectives, policies, and programs for joint planning and decision-making.

Year One Update:

- The Township continues to enhance its many waterways. These projects protect property values, preserve the residents' quality of life, and, hopefully, reduce flooding problems. Two of the four planned phases of the Venice Heights watershed improvement project have been finished, and the third is being put out for bid. This project has repaired aging stormwater infrastructure while enhancing the streams' functionality. It reduced the occurrence and severity of localized flooding in this neighborhood. The Ravenwood/South Bolindale stormwater improvement project will upgrade the stormwater management system and reduce the occurrence and localized flooding in this neighborhood.
- Township Administration applied for and received a Clean Ohio Grant to acquire property in the southeast quadrant to expand public amenities and preserve open space in a residential area that is not adequately served as such. The land contains headwater that streams into a tributary of Mosquito Creek. The Township installed two bicycle racks on these public lands to encourage bike use.
- At the recommendation of the PZ staff and the ZC, Township Trustees adopted a riparian and wetland setback resolution that balances the protection of our natural waterways with development. This new regulation promotes environmentally-responsible development.
- Township Trustees contracted with outside planning professionals to coordinate the modernization of the Zoning Resolution with the PZ staff and the ZC. This work began in 2011, starting with the Corridor Review Districts (CRD), parking standards, and signage. The modernized regulations aim to: (1) ensure that the Township remains attractive and that its commercial corridors are cohesive in character; (2) ensure that all development is compatible with surrounding use, scale, and character; (3) allow for greater flexibility in stormwater management; (4) protect the Township's natural resources; and (5) promote infill development.
- PZ staff and the Zoning Commission are investigating how overlay districts may focus the planning efforts in the Howland Corners area to make it the town center and to allow greater flexibility on this area's periphery while protecting the residential character of the surrounding neighborhoods.
- To reduce the threat of annexation, Township Administration continues to collaborate with the City of Warren and other neighboring communities, as well as Trumbull County, in the following initiatives:
 - The *Lower Mosquito Creek Balanced Growth Plan* is led by the Trumbull County Planning Commission. The plan identifies areas for "priority development" and "priority conservation," which is consistent with the Township's environmental protection goals and current zoning classifications. It will be used by the State of Ohio and other agencies to incentivize development in areas that are already served by existing infrastructure.
 - *Trumbull County Brownfields Collaborative* is a group that works to inventory under-utilized post-industrial sites in the county, assess their possible environmental contamination, apply for funding to remediate and improve them, and re-develop.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal #1: Ensure that Howland Township is an attractive environment for economic development.

Objectives:

1. Retain existing industries and businesses;
2. Promote Township resources to prospective businesses and industries;
3. Revitalize industrial areas and brownfields to provide for adaptive re-use or other types of development;
4. Provide regulations and incentives that encourage sustainable development and enhance community character; and
5. Formulate and adopt an Economic Development Plan for Howland Township.

Goal #2: Ensure diversity in the Township's employment base.

Objectives:

1. Provide a variety of jobs at varied skill levels within the Township;
2. Broaden the Township's partnership with local Universities and trade schools;
3. Recognize, enhance, and promote employment, cultural, academic, and recreational opportunities within Howland Township;
4. Promote a balance between industrial, office, commercial/retail, and residential property tax revenues; and
5. Work with local, regional, and statewide organizations to promote Howland Township as a desirable place to start a business.

Goal #3: Reinforce existing corridors as Township commerce centers.

Objectives:

1. Promote the sustainability of the Golden Triangle;
2. Promote mixed-use development in the Howland Corners and Elm Road areas to encourage a vibrant and sustainable commercial environment;
3. Promote Howland Corners as the office, commercial, and cultural center of the Township and encourage activities that attract a diverse and multi-generational population; and
4. Enhance highly-traveled gateways into Howland Township with unique and distinctive landscaping, signage, and other design features.

Goal #4: Become a leader in the development of manufacturing, office, and research facilities associated with the health care industry "tech-belt" promoted by Congressman Tim Ryan

Objectives:

1. Identify compatible areas for a range of uses within the Township.

Goal #5: Welcome green and ecologically sound businesses, developments, and solutions.

Objectives:

1. Understand barriers and opportunities for new and existing business development;
2. Develop incentives to assist in small business development that will help grow the green economy;

3. Promote energy technology that is conservation-based and draws from renewable sources to help existing and future industry and business; and
4. Support the principles of sustainability (transportation, energy efficiency, green building, and waste minimization).

Year One Update:

- Township Administration continually works to retain existing and create opportunities for new industries and businesses.
- The Township participated in developing the executive director position at the Western Reserve Port Authority and is the only township contributing money to finance this multi-year endeavor. Roseann de Leon was instrumental in putting together the purchase agreement and incentives for the purchase of the unused Delphi buildings on North River Road in Howland and Bazetta. She also leads the coalition of local entities that are applying for a federal brownfields assessment grant for the Golden Triangle area. The Township is reaping significant benefits from its contribution to this important economic development tool.
- Township Administration and the Howland Fire Department developed a Self-Inspection Program with printed materials to allow businesses to prepare for and, in some cases, avoid official inspections of their premises. The materials are available on the HFD's website.
- Township Administration worked with corporate officials and local leaders to ensure that the unused portion of the Delphi Complex remained a productive part of the local economy and an attractive part of the community.
- Township Administration actively seeks to connect existing businesses or promising start-ups with tax or other incentives offered by the State of Ohio or Trumbull County.
- Township Trustees have appropriately used tax abatement tools to help new and existing businesses expand. One business, Flex Strut, used three prior abatements to add employees and expand their operations in the Golden Triangle. Two have expired (one at the end of 2011), the third expires in 2014, and the most recent one ends in 2021.
- The Township continues to strengthen its association with Kent State University, Trumbull Business College, Trumbull Career and Technical Center, and the Ashtabula Vocational School by offering volunteer and employment opportunities to its students.
- To reinforce existing centers of commerce, the Township is working on a needs assessment of the Golden Triangle industrial area, *e.g.*, road and stormwater improvements, pedestrian accessibility, signage, and dilapidated structures. In the past, Trustees have contributed funds to construct sanitary sewer mains and laterals to service property in this area in exchange for the landowners agreeing to not annex to Warren for 50 years.
- The Township realizes that distinctive gateways into a community are critical because they offer a positive first impression to potential investors. The ODOT State Routes 46/82 gateway improvement project will add unique signage and landscaping to this interchange area. Because of the Township's record of collaborating with other entities and this project's uniqueness as the gateway to many surrounding communities, federal and state funding was amended to cover most of the project costs and to alleviate the need for a local match.
- To better understand barriers and opportunities for new and existing business, Township Administration regularly hosts and participates in the Regional Chamber of Commerce-

sponsored roundtable work group aimed at bridging the communication gap between public and private sectors.

- Township Trustees adopted regulations for the demolition of any property – residential, commercial, and industrial – in the Township so that the remaining area is returned to a safe, attractive, and green state. In particular, the foundation walls must be filled in with a non-settling material, the top layer of the site must be filled with at least a foot of clean soil, and the area must be graded for water runoff, as well as seeded. This leaves the property in a better condition to be redeveloped. It also avoids the blight of abandoned buildings that convey a negative image.
- Township Administration identified our points of contact with current and potential businesses and are working to make every interaction a positive one while efficiently and effectively carrying out our responsibilities. For example, all interested parties from the Township review site plans together to provide applicants a better and more productive experience. The self-inspection program that the HFD started allows our inspection staff to do more with less, and it lets businesses know right up front what they need to do to stay in compliance with the applicable safety codes, avoiding surprises.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal #1: Retain the beauty and function of the natural environment that characterize Howland Township.

Objectives:

1. Ensure that conservation of natural resources and the environment is a high priority;
2. Restore and improve natural environs previously impacted; and
3. Establish a unified open space and greenway network.

Goal #2: Protect, maintain, and enhance the Township's forest and tree resources.

Objectives:

1. Realize the amenity value of the Township's wooded areas;
2. Preserve existing trees and forests; and
3. Preserve and improve the quality of the tree-growing environment.

Goal #3: Maintain and protect the quality and quantity of surface and ground water resources.

Objectives:

1. Preserve and enhance existing watershed resources;
2. Protect a safe and reliable water supply for all sectors of the community; and
3. Support water conservation measures in all sectors of the community.

Goal #4: Promote energy conservation and pollution prevention practices to reach a sustainable use of natural resources.

Objectives:

1. Link land use and transportation planning to reduce vehicular miles traveled;
2. Embrace alternative, renewal energies and investments in alternative energy sources; and
3. Coordinate with governmental and non-governmental agencies to promote waste and emission reduction, the purchasing of power saving items, preserving green space, and implementing lasting energy saving policy.

Goal #5: Preserve scenic features that characterize Howland Township.

Objectives:

1. Preserve and enhance visible topographic and other notable features;
2. Preserve and enhance scenic qualities along roadways and gateways; and
3. Ensure that the design of new development embraces, complements, and enhances the Township character.

Year One Update:

- PZ staff continues to collaborate with the Trumbull Soil & Water Conservation District to ensure that environmentally responsible development practices are implemented on every development site.
- The ZC has been incorporating these practices into their modernization revisions of the Zoning Resolution.

Howland Township Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives

- PZ staff published a six-part series on organic lawn care on the Township website.
- Township Administration applied for and received a Clean Ohio Grant to acquire property in the southeast quadrant to expand public amenities and preserve open space in a residential area that is not adequately served as such. The land contains headwater that streams into a tributary of Mosquito Creek. The Township installed two bicycle racks on these public lands to encourage bike use. This brings the total number of acres being preserved by the Township to over 500.
- Township Trustees adopted regulations for the demolition of any property – residential, commercial, and industrial – in the Township so that the remaining area is returned to a safe, attractive, and green state. In particular, the foundation walls must be filled in with a non-settling material, the top layer of the site must be filled with at least a foot of clean soil, and the area must be graded for water runoff, as well as seeded. This protects residents from a demolished property becoming an eyesore or leaving the township on the hook for cleanup costs.
- The Township sponsors many week-long summer recreation programs for its youth at a low cost to their parents. The Howland Local School District's cooperation allows for some of these programs to take place at the schools. The Howland Park District hosts most of the other programs. The most popular week is outdoor adventure, which takes place along the nature trail that starts at the northwest corner of the township park.
- During the month of April, the Township sponsors "TAG: Think Green. Act Green. Go Green." Paper shredding, electronics recycling, and a rainbarrel auction raise awareness of environmentally sustainable practices. The Township also sponsors a community-wide garage sale; the permit fee is waived and the addresses of participating homeowners are included in a newspaper advertisement encouraging everyone to "Shop Howland!"

PUBLIC HEALTH

Goal #1: Support healthy lifestyles in Howland Township.

Objectives:

1. Consider public health impacts in all land use, transportation, and community design decisions.

Goal #2: Improve air quality and subsequent respiratory health.

Objectives:

1. Decrease dependence on motor vehicles through affordable, safe, and sustainable transportation options;
2. Promote alternative and renewal energies;
3. Maximize investments made in infrastructure; and
4. Maximize coordination with governmental and non-governmental agencies on exposure reduction.

Goal #3: Improve the built environment to encourage active lifestyles.

Objectives:

1. Ensure street, sidewalk, and bike path safety and accessibility for all users;
2. Increase and enhance park, open space, and recreational facilities; and
3. Ensure accessibility, safety, beauty, and cleanliness of public spaces.

Goal #4: Establish a stronger local/regional food system.

Objectives:

1. Promote community gardens and farmers markets;
2. Encourage small scale agriculture in the Township; and
3. Encourage county/regional farmland preservation to advocate a local agriculture economy.

Goal #5: Improve access to medical, mental health, and social services for all residents.

Objectives:

1. Maximize use of available resources and programs through other governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Goal #6: Improve water quality through greater consideration in land use decisions.

Objectives:

1. Preserve and enhance existing watershed resources; and
2. Protect a safe and reliable water supply that can be used by all sectors of the community.

Year One Update:

- PZ staff takes advantage of increasing opportunities to enhance their professional knowledge of planning concepts focused on the built environment's impact on public health.
- Township entered into negotiations with land owner to purchase and protect nearly 20 acres of land in the SE quadrant of Howland Township thereby providing residents in this area of the

Township with an opportunity to engage in physical activity. The land contains headwater that streams into a tributary of Mosquito Creek. The Township installed two bicycle racks on these public lands to encourage bike use.

- The Township continues to support alternative transportation options at the county and regional level and promotes the regional RideShare program on the website.
- The main page on the Township website prominently displays information from and a link to the regional air quality alert system.
- Township Trustees passed resolution prohibiting motorized vehicles on public lands, thereby reducing air pollution on or near public spaces.
- Township Trustees maintain staffing levels to ensure public spaces are attractive, accessible, and safe.
- Township Administration organizes the community garden on North River Road and the very popular Howland Farmers Market.
 - The Farmers Market continues to grow, offering fresh local produce and handmade products to the community while enhancing social bonds. This past year, the Market began earlier in the season and, because of its popularity, will continue into the winter at the Senior Center once a month.
 - In its third year, the community garden continues to expand. There is a waiting list for one of seventy 10'x20' or 20'x20' plots. Residents are able to plant – and hopefully harvest – fresh organic garden vegetables while having an opportunity to exercise and enhance social bonds. The Township provides the land and a constant supply of gardening water while tilling the plots. This past year, Girl Scout Troop 598 began delivering extra vegetables from the garden to those in need. This encourages sustainable development and locally grown produce, improves the community health, and supports healthy lifestyles.
- At the recommendation of the PZ staff and the ZC, Township Trustees adopted a riparian and wetland setback resolution that balances the protection of our natural waterways with development. This new regulation promotes environmentally-responsible development.
- Township Administration and staff participate in a county-wide healthy community coalition led by the Trumbull County Health Department.
- Howland Township continues to protect the Mosquito Creek floodplain corridor by acquiring lands along it in an effort to provide a greenway network that will connect its constituent communities.
- The *Lower Mosquito Creek Balanced Growth Plan* is led by the Trumbull County Planning Commission. The plan identifies areas for “priority development” and “priority conservation,” which is consistent with the Township’s environmental protection goals and current zoning classifications. It will be used by the State of Ohio and other agencies to incentivize development in areas that are already served by existing infrastructure.
- Township Administration used the media and direct mail to let local physicians know about the Township’s commitment to improving the public health. The door is always open for those interested in working with the Township to do so. A public forum was held for interested residents to explain the public health component
- Township Administration and PZ staff worked with school and community stakeholders to complete the groundwork for a Safe Routes to School plan that will identify the barriers to our

children getting to school safely. Once submitted and approved, the SRTS plan will enable the Township to apply for grants and to seek other revenue sources to implement its goals.

- The Township sponsors many week-long summer recreation programs for its youth at a low cost to their parents. The Howland Local School District's cooperation allows for some of these programs to take place at the schools. The Howland Park District hosts most of the other programs. Most encourage physical activity.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & FACILITIES

Goal #1: Continue to support recycling of as much of the solid waste generated by residents and businesses as possible.

Objectives:

1. Encourage waste reduction and cost-effective re-use and recycling through appropriate policies and programs;
2. Ensure convenient access to recycling facilities for Township residents; and
3. Enhance existing curb-side collection programs when possible.

Goal #2: Prepare for catastrophic events to minimize damage and effectively implement recovery operations.

Objectives:

1. Maintain and periodically update an effective emergency response program;
2. Reduce the potential for loss of life and property damage in areas subject to flooding; and
3. Reduce the potential for loss of life and property damage due to fallen power lines.

Goal #3: Continue to provide adequate police and fire protection and emergency medical services to Township residents.

Objectives:

1. Minimize the response time for all emergencies; and
2. Ensure safety in existing and future neighborhoods.

Goal #4: Ensure adequate provision of utilities and services provided by non-Township agencies and service providers.

Objectives:

1. Inventory current sewer and water infrastructure and identify future needs;
2. Identify areas with failing septic systems;
3. Support conversion to underground utilities; and
4. Work with existing utility providers to maintain or improve services to the Township.

Goal #5: Increase access to information technologies and its utility for all residents of the Township.

Objectives:

1. Improve computer and information technology access in the Township; and
2. Use technology to improve internal processes and service to residents and businesses.

Goal #6: Promote quality active and passive recreational and cultural opportunities for Township residents and businesses.

Objectives:

1. Inventory existing facilities available to the public;

2. Increase the number of active and passive parkland acres to meet or exceed National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards through coordination with the Howland Township Park District;
3. Identify future recreational facility needs; and
4. Engage in long-term capital planning for Township facilities, parks, and infrastructure.

Year One Update:

- The Township continues to promote recycling by providing drop-off recycling locations and curbside service. Our residents' enthusiastic participation in the latter and our long-time relationship with the provider led to this service being offered to the Township for no cost in 2011.
- During the month of April, the Township sponsors "TAG: Think Green. Act Green. Go Green." Paper shredding, electronics recycling, and a rainbarrel auction raise awareness of environmentally sustainable practices. The Township also sponsors a community-wide garage sale; the permit fee is waived and the addresses of participating homeowners are included in a newspaper advertisement encouraging everyone to "Shop Howland!"
- The Township continues to offer tire, limb, branch, and leaf pick up services, reducing the volume of garbage going to landfills. This is a very popular service with the residents.
- Township Administration negotiates affordable natural gas prices for residents.
- The Township continues to enhance its many waterways. These projects protect property values, preserve the residents' quality of life, and, hopefully, reduce flooding problems. Two of the four planned phases of the Venice Heights watershed improvement project have been finished, and the third is being put out for bid. This project has repaired aging stormwater infrastructure while enhancing the streams' functionality. It reduced the occurrence and severity of localized flooding in this neighborhood. The Ravenwood/South Bolindale stormwater improvement project will upgrade the stormwater management system and reduce the occurrence and localized flooding in this neighborhood.
- PZ staff developed sewer and water inventory maps during the comprehensive plan process.
- Township Administration and PZ staff work with the Trumbull County Health Department to identify failing septic systems that need remedied.
- By investing over \$200,000 in a cooperative project with, among other entities, the Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer, Howland Township helped extend sanitary sewer service in west Bolindale by reducing the monthly capital charge assessed to each property owner. Almost 70 households will now have access to reliable sewage infrastructure, promoting the re-development of older residential areas. And a public health threat that once existed has been eliminated.
- The Township website continues to develop into a resource for current and future residents, with frequent updates about upcoming events and pertinent information about what the Township does and offers.
- Upgraded information technology allows Township employees to more efficiently communicate with an internal website.
- Township Administration continually updates its emergency plans.

- The police and fire departments work together to provide information on safety topics to the public through educational opportunities and newsletters.
- Township Administration organizes the community garden on North River Road and the very popular Howland Farmers Market.
 - The Farmers Market continues to grow, offering fresh local produce and handmade products to the community while enhancing social bonds. This past year, the Market began earlier in the season and, because of its popularity, will continue into the winter at the Senior Center once a month.
 - In its third year, the community garden continues to expand. There is a waiting list for one of seventy 10'x20' or 20'x20' plots. Residents are able to plant – and hopefully harvest – fresh organic garden vegetables while having an opportunity to exercise and enhance social bonds. The Township provides the land and a constant supply of gardening water while tilling the plots. This past year, Girl Scout Troop 598 began delivering extra vegetables from the garden to those in need. This encourages sustainable development and locally grown produce, improves the community health, and supports healthy lifestyles.
- Township Trustees and the Howland Township Park District Board of Commissioners entered into a website hosting agreement so that current and potential residents can easily access detailed information about the various parks within the Township that they could not get before. (<http://www.HowlandTownship.org/parks>)
- The Township sponsors many week-long summer recreation programs for its youth at a low cost to their parents. The Howland Local School District's cooperation allows for some of these programs to take place at the schools. The Howland Park District hosts most of the other programs. Most encourage physical activity.
- Township Administration applied for and received a Clean Ohio Grant to acquire property in the southeast quadrant to expand public amenities and preserve open space in a residential area that is not adequately served as such. The land contains headwater that streams into a tributary of Mosquito Creek. The Township installed two bicycle racks on these public lands to encourage bike use. This brings the total number of acres being preserved by the Township to over 500.

TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY, & ACCESSIBILITY

Goal #1: Provide greater choice, accessibility, and flexibility for all people to move about the Township.

Objectives:

1. Require multiple modes of transportation as part of new developments;
2. Incorporate multiple modes of transportation into road construction projects, and work on cooperative maintenance agreements;
3. Encourage pedestrian networks in local business districts to allow a friendly built environment for living, shopping, visiting, or passive enjoyment;
4. Encourage the connectivity of open spaces, greenways, and recreational areas with public multi-purpose trails;
5. Encourage public transportation into and through the Township on main thoroughfares;
6. Implement safety improvements at substandard intersections;
7. Retro-fit existing neighborhoods with sidewalks and bike trails, where applicable;
8. Develop a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan for Howland Township.

Goal #2: Promote safe and efficient flow of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic.

Objectives:

1. Participate in area transportation planning efforts;
2. Increase traffic calming measures;
3. Improve traffic flow by reducing congestion on the major corridors serving the Township;
4. Improve and expand alternative transportation systems;
5. Develop a Town Center circulation plan for the Howland Corners area; and
6. Continue multi-year capital planning for roadway improvements.

Goal #3: Provide connectivity to adjacent communities, throughout the region, and beyond.

Objectives:

1. Plan for Howland access to regional, statewide, and nationwide alternative transportation and multi-modal planning efforts;
2. Encourage safe and efficient use of existing rail lines; and
3. Maintain and enhance the Township's access to railroads and air service.

Goal #4: Protect and enhance the natural environment along transportation corridors.

Objectives:

1. Limit road expansion and widening by offering progressive solutions to traffic issues; and
2. Promote beautification efforts along corridors and entrances to the Township.

Year One Update:

- Township Administration and PZ staff worked with school and community stakeholders to complete the groundwork for Safe Routes to School plans for Howland Middle, H.C. Mines, Glen, and Springs that will identify the barriers to our children getting to school safely. Once

submitted and approved, the SRTS plan will enable the Township to apply for grants and to seek other revenue sources to implement its goals.

- To support principles of sustainability in transportation, the Township continues to support regional and county-sponsored public transit systems.
- The ZC is considering changes to the design standards that would, where feasible, require a bike rack and sidewalk, internal to the site and within the right of way.
- The Township continually collaborates with the County to purchase lands along the Mosquito Creek Corridor to incorporate into a countywide trail system.
- Township Administration and PZ staff work with ODOT and neighboring communities to explore safety upgrades to the surface transportation system, even when the Township does not coordinate or is not responsible for the particular system.
- The Township realizes that distinctive gateways into a community are critical because they offer a positive first impression of the community. The ODOT State Routes 46/82 gateway improvement project will add unique signage and landscaping to this interchange area. Because of the Township's record of collaborating with other entities and this project's uniqueness as the gateway to many surrounding communities, federal and state funding was amended to cover most of the project costs and to alleviate the need for a local match.