



EcoCity CLEVELAND

IDEAS AND TOOLS FOR A SUSTAINABLE BIOREGION

\$2

Volume 6, Number 8 September 1999
Editor: David Beach

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a new convention center



Good words

As we humans seek to create
an environmentally sound future,
no challenge will be more crucial,
or more difficult, than bridging
the ancient gap between rich and poor.

Can we learn to share?

The hardest sharing will not be of money —
the rich have plenty of that —
but of environmental space, because that will
require Americans and other well-off folk
to cut back their own consumption
to make way for that of the ascendant poor.

—Mark Hertsgaard,

from *Earth Odyssey: Around the World in
Search of Our Environmental Future*

For humans to cause species to become extinct
and to destroy the biological diversity
of God's creation;

for humans to degrade the integrity of the earth
by causing changes in its climate,
by stripping the earth of its natural forests,
or destroying its wetlands;

for humans to contaminate the earth's waters,
its land, its air, and its life
with poisonous substances —
these are sins.

—Bartholomew I, Patriarch
of the Orthodox Christian Church

REDESIGNING CLEVELAND

**The first industrial revolution was based on brute force,
cheap energy, wanton exploitation of resources,
endless consumption, and careless waste.**

That age is over.

**The great challenge in the next century
will be to harmonize human activity
with the earth's fragile biosphere.**

**Companies, cities and metropolitan regions
must redesign themselves.**

**We will all have to create new lives
based on ecological principles.**

The discussion is starting in Greater Cleveland.

See pages 4-7.

See us on the Web at www.ecocleveland.org

New faces

We would like to announce some changes to the EcoCity Cleveland Advisory Board, the board that helps make sure that a diversity of community views are represented in the work of the organization and otherwise acts as a resource to improve our projects and publications.

Eight persons have transferred off the Advisory Board after having served for a number of years. These include Diane Cameron, Sandie Crawford, Lee DeAngelis, Lois Epstein, Christine Hann, Kim Hill, Dave Knapp, and Craig Limpach. We would like to thank them all for their valuable insights and support of EcoCity Cleveland.

Next, we would like to welcome the following additions to the board: Patricia Carey of Regional Solutions, Herbert Crowther of Computer Aided Planning, Ruth Durack of Kent State University's Urban Design Center, Richard Enty of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Steve Madewell of Lake Metroparks, Amanda Morris of the Garden Club of Cleveland, David Orr of the Oberlin College Environmental Studies Program, Jeffrey Rechenbach of the Communications Workers Union, Erin Russell of the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club, and Bill Whitney of the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization. These new members will inform our work and help us keep in touch with key constituencies. We look forward to working with them to make EcoCity Cleveland a more effective organization.

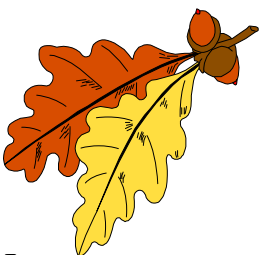


New addresses

Our staff has new e-mail addresses. Messages for our director, David Beach, should go to dbeach@ecocleveland.org. Messages for our project manager, Bradley Flamm, should go to bflamm@ecocleveland.org. And general messages to the organization should be addressed to staff@ecocleveland.org.

Thanks in advance for keeping in touch! The information — news, gossip, photos, suggestions — we get from readers forms an important part of this journal, our other publications, and our Web site. With your help, we can do an even better job providing the timely information people need to create a more sustainable bioregion.

— David Beach
Editor



Mission

EcoCity Cleveland is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, educational organization. Through the publication of the *EcoCity Cleveland Journal* and other programs, it will stimulate ecological thinking about the Northeast Ohio region (Cuyahoga Bioregion), nurture an EcoCity Network among local groups working on urban and environmental issues, and promote sustainable ways to meet basic human needs for food, shelter, productive work and stable communities.

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Organizations listed for identification only.

Articles in *EcoCity Cleveland* do not necessarily reflect the views of board members, although there's a good chance they do.

EcoCity Cleveland Journal

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Cuyahoga Bioregion

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The Chagrin River Watershed

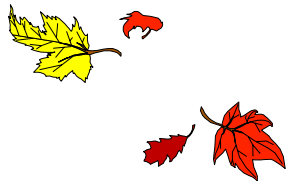
By Ray McNiece

Slate upon slate upon slate rippling
layers of riverbed the opaque snake of current contours,
uncoiling the valley.

Baked shale crumbles from grey cliff walls,
a chunk scatters down, startles across the surface,
healing over, gliding on.

Invoking opening, Autumn sun intones
as hornet drones

through golden apple skin
as red-tail hawk circles azure sky
above leaf flourish brightness
that aches veins of eyes.



Perched on a red oak, root dangling overhang,
I plumb the Chagrin flow below—
the name thereof. Not from conterned shorthand
ascribed to English surveyor Cleaveland,
stymied by shallows and logjams,
but the anglicized pronunciation of "Saguin,"
French trapper who took to living the native way.
The first of his countrymen called it "Biche,"
"Elk," for Algonquin "Chin-noi-in-doh."
Herds laid off trails alongside, following the easiest grade
inland from the south shore of Great Lake migrations.
Longer than deer runs, their paths connected rivers,
were portages used by tribes and trappers.
Now they are the Ridge and River roads I drive
to arrive at this view,
cutting through forests once so thick
a squirrel could leap from Erie's shores to Ohio River,
never touching ground
unless flint-pointed down.

I grew up amid remnants of old growth
on the north ridge of an ancient inland sea.
As a boy I jumped off stranded dunes in a field
beside the house on the hill off Euclid Avenue
and found shells where once waves lapped—paved over now.
I learned time from the rings of cut pine
old man Robinson showed me in the backyard
of his World of Books house at the foot of Shankland Boulevard,
warming himself twice by cutting his own
as Thoreau advised.

South eastward from the Willoughby watertower,
I peered towards the foothills of Appalachia
from whence a line of my people came,
migrating until they hit the rusty lake and steel jobs.
Celts from glens, highlands and downs across the big pond,
they tried to stay one step ahead of industrial revolutions—
ending up again in mines when the land
fought or bought or stolen from the Shawnee
was sold out from under them by banks back east.
Their wood-lore passed across generations—
how to skin and cook a squirrel—was gradually dropped
for the convenience store on the corner.
Paradise keeps getting lost.

From this vantage I fly out
over New England style barns and a single clapboard spire
pointing above the maple-beech-oak-hemlock treeline,

out as far as the quarry-scarred side of Little Mountain,
glancing the alluvial outline of glaciers receding,
icicles dripping into foggy pools and wisps
swirling over mulchy bogs the first visitants found.
Moundbuilders, they hunted up from the Mississippi Valley,
sunflower seeds among their staples.
One can still see their faces.

Bobcat pelted Erie people camped on their remains,
carved owl-headed pipes for kinnickinick—
sumac leaves, inner bark of dogwood and nicotina rustica—
to induce dreams . . . of 60 acre shopping malls
and a multi-screen cineplex
encasing the last wetland whereabouts.

I strap sandals tighter, for a final wade before winter
hardens the Chagrin. The bones of my feet ache
as I pick my way through rapids
with a beaver-gnawed poplar staff,
past a head size stone in the flow
where five year old Jake reminded me I lost my face—
worn away by soft teeth of eternity's flow;
past also the brown-grey-beige bank of slate shards
where I layed down in the kiln of the sun
fossilized as a trilobite.

I come to the bouldery landfall
where rapids converge chutes and channels
into undertones and overflows, a fugue of currents
I hum as pulse percussing rivulets cleanse hearing.

Hiking back across elktrail-roadside field,
bumblebees nuzzling sluggish in wilting goldenrod cups,
I make my way up bridlepath hillside silence
to hemlocked gullybrook. A woodthrush calls cluck-cluck-cluck
through hardwooded interior.

The last mosquitoes hang hungry
in cold shafts of sunset.

Webs glisten binding bare twig to curled, still green leaf.
A flicker works a beech trunk thunk-thunk.
Fox squirrels drop white oak husks.

A quorum of crows wheel the canopy, caw-cawing
a winter's advent scold.

Leaf-fall filled well-spring trickles black shale shelves,
watershed draining creek, river, lake, seaway, ocean to this reverie.
The sky dilates, circles round this single blue-green-brown berry
suspended from a starry branch,
swallowed by the bird of night.



Local poet Ray McNiece performed this poem at EcoCity Cleveland's
Citizens' Bioregional Congress in May 1999. The poem was originally
commissioned by a Case Western Reserve University American Studies
Symposium, and it is published in McNiece's book of poems, *The Road
That Carried Me Here* (Bottom Dog Press, 1998).



Redesigning the Forest City



The first industrial revolution was based on brute force, cheap energy, wanton exploitation of resources, endless consumption, and careless waste. That age is over.

The great challenge in the next century will be to harmonize human activity with the earth's fragile biosphere. Companies, cities and metropolitan regions must redesign themselves. We will all have to create new lives based on ecological principles.

It's hard to imagine what all this might mean. But consider the following "design assignment" posed by William

McDonough, dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia. He asks us to imagine designing a system which:

- Puts billions of pounds of highly toxic material into the air, water and soil every year.

- Measures prosperity by the depletion of natural capital, resource materials and energy.

- Measures progress in the number of smokestacks.

- Measures productivity by how few people are working.

- Requires thousands of complex regulations to keep people and natural systems from being

Cont. on the next page

Convention center for a new millennium?

In the next few years, it's possible that the City of Cleveland will build a new downtown convention center. Mayor-appointed task forces are already considering locations (most likely on the site of the current convention center along the Mall) and financing options (likely to be controversial since the public is still paying for downtown attractions such as Gateway and the new Browns stadium).

Regardless of specific site and financing options, it's not too early to discuss the design standards that should be required for a major public building like a convention center. Indeed, a new convention center offers a high-profile opportunity to stretch the imagination about what a building is and how it can perform.

Specifically, the new convention center should:

Respect place: The center should respect the ecology, climate, human culture and history of its site. It should integrate the needs of human society within the balance of nature.

Minimize energy use: The goal should be a center that produces as much energy as it consumes by including the best designs and technologies for energy conservation, daylighting, natural cooling, solar water heating and photovoltaic energy production. This will reduce operating costs and will prevent the center from adding to global warming.

Optimize material use: The center should be designed to make the most efficient use of building materials. The materials used should be as durable as possible and should have the lowest possible life-cycle costs. Renewable, locally available materials should be given priority.

Be a closed-loop system: In all respects, the center should emulate nature's rule that "waste equals food." Building materials (steel, stone, cement, wood, etc.) should come from recycled sources to the extent possible, and the center should be designed so that it can be easily adapted for re-use or dismantled and recycled after it has come to the end of its life. The design and operation of the center should make it easy for occupants to recycle waste.

Eliminate toxic substances: For the health of the building's occupants and the health of the environment, the convention center should not use

building materials, coatings, or furnishings that contain persistent toxic substances.

Restore landscapes: Landscaping around the center should emphasize the restoration of native ecosystems.

Enhance the public realm of the city: Instead of turning enormous blank walls to the street as so many convention centers do, the Cleveland facility should contribute to the streetlife of the city. It should be a meeting place for Cleveland residents as well as visitors from out of town. It should promote inclusiveness and celebrate diversity.

Be well connected: People should not have to drive the convention center. It should be accessible by foot, transit and train. It should not be surrounded by bleak parking garages.

Create pedagogical opportunities: The ecological features of the center should be transparent so the center can be a place of teaching. The center should demonstrate the relationships between the built environment and the natural environment.

In sum, the new convention center should be a delightful place for residents and visitors, and it should not place an unfair burden on the rest of the biosphere. To paraphrase David Orr, professor of Environmental Studies at Oberlin College, we must design a building so carefully that it does not cast a long ecological shadow on future generations. □

What are your ideas for a new convention center? Send them to our office or by e-mail to dbeach@ecocleveland.org.



On the Mall: Probable site of a new convention center.



Redesigning Cleveland speaker series

At the brink of a new millennium, a design revolution is transforming the habitability of our cities, the quality of our neighborhoods, and the health of our environment. Come hear how Greater Cleveland can take part in this revolution, as Oberlin College and the George Gund Foundation present a speaker series featuring world-renowned visionaries of sustainable development and green building design.

The series includes:

▪ **William McDonough on October 12:** Dean of the University of Virginia School of Architecture and one of the world's most articulate speakers on the subject of ecological design, 5:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Public Library Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium.

▪ **Nancy and John Todd on November 4:** Co-founders of the Living Technologies and developers of ecological wastewater treatment systems called Living Machines, 5:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Public Library Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium.

▪ **David Crockett on December 1:** Chattanooga councilman and president of The Chattanooga Institute who is recognized internationally for pioneering work in creating sustainable and competitive communities and companies, 5:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Public Library Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium.

▪ **John Clark of the John A. Clark Development Company and Bill Browning of the Rocky Mountain Institute on January 19, 2000:** Two green development experts will discuss Haymount, a 1,650-acre new town development, which

includes 4,000 residential units, office and retail space, and a 50-acre college campus, 5:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Public Library Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium.

▪ **Robert Fox (Fox and Fowle) and Pamela Lippe (Earthday New York) on February 16, 2000:** Discussion of the world's first "green" skyscraper located at Four Times Square in New York City, a 48-story office building that includes renewable energy production and high indoor air quality, 5:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Public Library Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium.

▪ **Amory Lovins in March 2000:** Co-founder of Rocky Mountain Institute and one of the world's foremost experts on energy efficiency. Date and location to be announced.

▪ **Paul Hawken in April 2000:** Author of *The Ecology of Commerce* and international expert on sustainable business. Date and location to be announced.

Additional presenters of the series include the Cleveland chapters of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), the International Facilities Managers Association (IFMA), and the Cleveland Green Building Coalition (GBC). The GBC is a newly formed group of local architects, interior designers, landscape architects, engineers, developers, environmentalists, city planners, city government officials, educators, as well as members of the building industry, related businesses, builders and suppliers, who all share the goal of increasing the use of green design in Cleveland.

For more information, call Sadhu Johnston at 216-732-3385.



poisoned too quickly.

- Produces materials so dangerous they will require thousands of future generations to maintain constant vigilance.

McDonough says that these are the retroactive design assignments of the First Industrial Revolution. It's a frightening design problem, he adds, because these assignments and values appear unethical.

But now imagine being asked to design a system which:

- Releases no highly toxic material into the air, water or soil.

- Measures prosperity by how little capital is depleted and how much current income is accrued.

- Measures progress by the number of workplaces emitting no harmful substances.

- Measures productivity by how many people are working.

- Requires no regulation or intergenerational vigilance because there is nothing there to destroy anyone or any living system.

These are the design assignments and values of the Second Industrial Revolution, McDonough says. They represent opportunities for creative people and institutions to create a better world.

People in Greater Cleveland are already tackling this new design assignment. It's a fascinating, interdisciplinary discussion that goes far beyond the usual environmental activists to include architects, engineers, builders, businesses, planners, and university researchers. They are creating new organizations and projects to push us to think in new terms. □

A sampling of local activities is on pgs. 4-7.



Green Building Coalition formed

For years, individuals and organizations throughout Greater Cleveland have been working independently on green building ideas. Now these environmental activists, architects, engineers, builders, landscape designers, and other practitioners have a Green Building Coalition to link them together and promote their ideas.

The coalition will be developing a directory of local expertise, educating the public about the value of ecological design, and helping to coordinate green building efforts. For information about how to get involved, call 216-732-3385.

Green building project

Preliminary planning is underway for a green building in Cleveland that would provide economical and environmentally-friendly office space to nonprofit organizations. With a grant from the George Gund Foundation, the Earth Day Coalition has hired a consultant, Geri Unger, to investigate the space needs of local organizations and the feasibility of renovating a building.

Green building involves the use of nontoxic and recycled building materials, energy efficient heating and lighting, waste minimization devices such as low-flow toilets, and other features that reduce energy use and pollution while creating a healthier work environment for the occupants of the building.

A model green building would serve several purposes. As the first, large-scale, non-residential green building in Cleveland, it would be a model for other buildings and perhaps promote a more extensive green building program. It would be a teaching building, open to the public, for environmentally sound design. And it would be the headquarters for local environmental organizations or other groups and businesses seeking space that is in synch with their environmental values.

As part of an earlier phase of this

project, Unger compiled a *Green Building Compendium*, which describes green building examples from around the country. For more information, call 216-991-3085.

Sustainable infrastructure

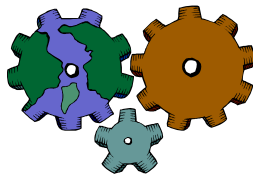
Why don't we build roads that last for 50 years like they do in Europe?

That and similar questions has led Build Up Greater Cleveland, the infrastructure watchdog program of the Growth Association, to form a Sustainable Infrastructure Task Force. The goal is to recommend ways that local infrastructure agencies — transportation, water, sewer, and other public works — can be smarter, more cost-effective, and more sensitive to the environment in the long run.

The task force has spent a good deal of time discussing what it might mean to "sustainable" with respect to infrastructure. And it has come up with an interesting draft list of sustainable infrastructure principles. It also is developing a pilot project to demonstrate how sustainable infrastructure strategies can promote the revitalization of urban neighborhoods.

For more information, call Dave Goss or Vince Adamus at 216-621-7220.

Sustainable business



A new Northeast Ohio Sustainable Business Council is exploring the links between economic health and long-term environmental

sustainability. Partners in the group include the Ohio Environmental Council, Case Western Reserve University, and corporations such as BP-Amoco and Rockwell Automation.

In cooperation with CWRU's Center for Regional Economic Issues, the partnership is developing an institute for business executives that will explore how emerging ideas and practices of sustainability can give companies and the regional economy a competitive advantage. For more information, call Lisa Hong at 216-932-8056.

Life-cycle responsibility

In a sustainable economy, companies will become more responsible for the long-term life of their products. European nations are already adopting "extended producer responsibility" policies that require vehicle and electronics manufacturers to take back products after consumers are done with

them. (Can you imagine returning your old car to Ford to be disassembled and recycled?) By closing the material loop in this way, the manufacturer is more likely to redesign products and eliminate materials that cause environmental harm and financial problems in recycling and disposal.

Now, a conversation about extended producer responsibility (EPR) is starting in North America. The recent Great Lakes Water Quality Forum sponsored by the International Joint Commission had a workshop on EPR that included speakers from European companies and U.S. firms, such as the Interface carpeting company, that have redesigned their products and business practices.

For more information about how the Great Lakes region would benefit from EPR, call Great Lakes United at 716-886-0142.

Dow Jones green index

Wall Street is starting to pay attention to companies with a future-oriented focus on sustainability. For example, Dow Jones has created a new Sustainability Group Index to track companies that integrate economic, environmental, and social growth opportunities into their business strategies. According to a Dow spokesperson, "These sustainability companies pursue these opportunities in a proactive, cost effective and responsible manner today, so they will outpace their competitors and be tomorrow's winners."

Canada leads all other nations with four top-ranked, sustainability-driven companies. For more information, see www.sustainability-index.com.

Clean Cities designation



At a ceremony at the Great Lakes Science Center on September 14, U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson designated Northeast Ohio as a member of the national Clean Cities

network. The program promotes the use of clean running, alternative fuel vehicles (such as buses running on compressed natural gas) in order to decrease our dependence on foreign oil, stimulate the domestic economy, and reduce vehicle emissions. The Earth Day Coalition led the local organizing effort to secure the designation.

Building as teacher

The Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC) recently opened the November Lodge, a new activity center that not only provides needed space but also teaches environmental responsibility with ecological design.

Designed by the local firm of Schmidt Copeland Parker Stevens, the lodge contains a large multi-purpose room, an art room with sky lights to allow for natural day lighting, breakout areas, a computer lab, lending library, and a staff meeting area. It also includes the following environmentally sustainable features:

- **Site selection:** A previously disturbed site that would result in a minimum of new disturbance, as well as allow utilization of existing utility and vehicular connections, was selected for the site of the new building. The siting also enabled an obsolete tennis court to be restored into a natural area as part of the project.
- **Building orientation:** The building is oriented to achieve optimum passive solar gain, daylight benefits to interior spaces of the building, and cooling from cross ventilation.
- **Landscaping:** Energy demands are reduced by strategically placed plantings to affect micro-climate around the building. Evergreen trees on the northwest side of the building provide a wind break and buffer from cold weather. Deciduous trees on the south side provide summer shading. Native and indigenous plantings support biodiversity and utilize less water and fertilizers.
- **Building design:** Windows and public gathering spaces on the south side of the building and a minimal use of windows on the north side reduces the energy demand on the building.
- **Recycled materials:** Structural framing in the multi-purpose room utilizes timbers that have been recycled from demolished structures.
- **Renewable resources:** The heating and cooling of the building utilizes geothermal energy. Daylighting within interior spaces is achieved with the orientation of the building, window placement, utilization of clerestory windows and sun tube sky lights. Interior

fans and natural ventilation reduce the need for mechanical heating and cooling. Wood veneer doors are from timber production that is considered a renewable resource.

- **Local materials:** Utilization of local building supplies and natural materials reduce transportation (energy consumption) and contribute to the local economy. Masonry and wood trim for the building are locally produced utilizing locally obtained materials.
- **Structural materials as finished materials:** Exterior masonry walls have been painted on the inside face, allowing a structural element to double as a finished surface. This treatment reduces building components and consequently conserves resources.
- **Life-cycle considerations:** Forty-year roofing shingles are used to maximize the life span of the shingles. Durable materials save energy costs for maintenance as well as for the production and installation of replacement products.
- **Energy conservation:** Low-flow toilets and faucets promote resource conservation. The heating and cooling system is zoned to tailor requirements to the specific areas of the facility. Exhaust and ceiling fans reduce summer cooling demands. Energy-efficient fluorescent lighting is used throughout the building. Insulated glass in windows was selected to reduce energy demands.
- **Eliminate pollutants:** Insulation material selections do not contain chlorofluorocarbons or hydrochlorofluorocarbons that deteriorate the ozone layer. Paints, stains, and varnishes were selected to avoid materials that off-gas volatile organic compounds and contribute to indoor air pollution.

The CVEEC is a 128-bed educational retreat facility located on a 500-acre site in the heart of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. It was created out of a partnership between the recreation area and the Cuyahoga Valley Association.

For more information about November Lodge, call the environmental center at 330-657-2796 or Schmidt Copeland Parker Stevens at 216-696-6767. □

Rail in our future?

We'd like to believe that convenient, efficient, environmentally-friendly passenger rail is an option for Northeast Ohio. If done right, rail could provide transportation options, reduce traffic congestion, and promote the redevelopment of town centers throughout the region.

Currently, eight feasibility studies of passenger rail service are underway in Northeast Ohio (see map at right for the routes being considered). They include options ranging from extensions of RTA's existing Rapid lines to intercity service to Chicago and beyond. Here's a summary of recent progress:

- **Red Line:** The RTA-sponsored Berea/I-X Center Red Line extension study is drawing to a close. Technical analysis and public involvement have been completed, and the study will now go before the boards of RTA and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency. Each board will separately choose a "preferred alternative" of the six that have been studied in detail. Five of the alternatives are for various extensions of the Red Line Rapid transit rail to the I-X center near Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and beyond (to Berea, Olmsted Falls, and/or Columbia Station), and the sixth is a transit improvements alternative that would improve the frequency and routing of bus service in the southwest suburbs. For more information, call Ed Taylor at RTA (216-566-5020).
- **Blue Line:** Just as the Red Line extension study ends, a Blue Line extension study should be in its initial phases. At the RTA board meeting on September 28, the board will award a contract to a consulting team to conduct a study of the alternatives for extending the Blue Line to the vicinity of Harvard Rd. and I-271. The extension could be an important part of shaping the Chagrin Highlands Development in ways that are more transit-friendly than the typical suburban office park. Call RTA's Rich Enty at 566-5260 for more information.
- **Waterfront Line:** RTA's Waterfront Line is also being studied for ways to loop it back towards Tower City using some north-south alignment between E. 13th and E. 21st Streets in downtown Cleveland. Public meetings were held in July, and a final recommended plan will be submitted for review to RTA, the City of Cleveland and NOACA in the fall. For more information, call 216-523-2939 or visit the Internet Web site at www.mkcentennial.com/waterfront.
- **Commuter rail:** \$620,350 in funding to conduct phase 2 of a commuter rail feasibility study for Northeast Ohio was released to NOACA by the Federal Transit Agency on September 20. Phase 1 ended over six months ago with the recommendation to continue studying seven possible routes radiating from downtown Cleveland. Two of those routes connect Cleveland with Akron, and two link Cleveland with Lorain County destinations (Lorain and Elyria/Amherst), so it's likely that two or more of the seven routes may not make the final cut. The major product of phase 2 of the study will be an implementation plan. It's expected to be completed sometime in early 2001. For more information, contact Steve Jones of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency at 216-241-2414, ext. 352.
- **Cleveland-Akron-Canton corridor:** What are options for



easing traffic congestion in the I-77 and SR 8 highway corridors? Coordinators of the Cleveland-Akron-Canton Major Investment Study (MIS) organized public meetings the week of September 20 to gain input about the transportation needs in the corridor and potential solutions. Passenger rail serving the three cities and suburbs in between is one of the options under consideration. The study is supposed to announce a "preferred alternative" in mid-2000, with several more opportunities for public input between now and then. For more information, call Urban Conservation & Design at 216-371-3323.

- **2C passenger rail:** Backers of the proposed Cleveland to Columbus passenger rail service were disappointed on September 20 when the committee studying the feasibility of such service postponed making a decision until they next meet on October 18. Delays in obtaining accurate cost estimates for station construction and other capital costs were the cause of the delay. The study steering committee is coordinated by the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) and has been meeting for over a year following ODOT's decision to support studying rail as a possible way to ease traffic congestion during the reconstruction of I-71. Committee members are concerned that earlier capital cost estimates of \$32 million are likely to be exceeded because of the necessity to construct new tracks at the northern end of the route and other construction expenses. But some committee members and other rail advocates argue that the state legislature should be lobbied for additional financial support — enough to assure good service for this important corridor. Currently, the study committee is considering just two round trips a day. For more information, call the Ohio Rail Development Commission at 614-644-0313.
- **Midwest rail network:** Planning is moving ahead unevenly for the establishment of a Midwest high speed rail network with links from Chicago to Cleveland, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Minneapolis and other Midwest cities. A preliminary study, coordinated by nine Midwest states (including Ohio), Amtrak and U.S. Department of Transportation was released in the summer of 1998, and a second phase study will come out this fall. Other states have already made substantial capital and research investments in the proposal, but Ohio is lagging behind. Despite strong interest from the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC), ODOT (which controls the funds that would need to be committed to the initiative) has not provided leadership. Call the ORDC at 614-644-0313.

Though some of these studies are being supervised by agencies and staff members who work closely with each other, they are not being studied as parts of an interconnected Northeast Ohio passenger rail system. Keeping informed about the progress of each study has been difficult for the public, and three organizations — the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club, the Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers, and EcoCity Cleveland — will be asking NOACA, RTA and ODOT to improve the public participation and organizational coordination of these initiatives.

—Bradley Flamm

Existing and proposed passenger rail service in Northeast Ohio

Room for driving alone

As part of the deal to widen I-90 and I-71, local transportation planners agreed to study whether the new lanes should be reserved for high-occupancy vehicles (i.e., vehicles with more than one passenger). In congested highway corridors, exclusive HOV lanes create an incentive for car-pooling and transit. Thus, they can move more people and allow the highway to operate more efficiently.

But the study found that HOV lanes are not justified on I-90 and I-71 at this time, except perhaps in a couple of short segments where there are traffic bottlenecks. Ironically, it seems that we have already built so much highway capacity to reduce congestion in Northeast Ohio that few people would be motivated to change behavior and use HOV lanes.

Mentor interchange ok'd



In late July, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) gave its stamp of approval to begin work on the controversial I-90 / SR 615 interchange in Mentor. Many city residents, especially those living on Center Street (SR 615), which will be widened from two to four lanes as part of the project,

have long argued that wetlands, historic structures and their quality of life will be adversely affected by the new interchange, the road widening, and the increased traffic. But the FHWA concluded there would be no significant impact, pleasing city officials who claim the project is necessary to alleviate congestion at SR 306 and I-90. Call ODOT District 12 (216-581-2333) or the Center Street Area Preservation Society (440-255-3332) for more information.

Ohio highway dollars at work

The Ohio Sierra Club reports that citizens are opposing highway expansion plans in southeast and northwest Ohio:

- Organized as CASH (Coalition Against Superfluous Highways) activists in the Athens area are forcing ODOT to reconsider possible environmental impacts of a new US 33 highway. Stream surveys have not been conducted for mussels, and the area could be habitat for federally endangered Indiana bats. The estimated project cost has risen from \$56 million to \$80-100 million, partly because of 24 stream crossings. CASH also maintains the project can't be justified on traffic volume or safety issues. The present stretch of highway is only slightly above the statewide average for accidents, and approximately half of the accidents are animal related. Building a new highway through long-standing wildlife habitat could increase such animal accidents.

- Opponents of the proposed 85-mile US 24 project between I-469 in Fort Wayne and Port Huron fear a widened road will encroach on existing homeowners and villages, while a new bypass would impact rural landowners. ODOT has divided the project into three segments to avoid preparing an Environmental Impact Statement that would rigorously evaluate alternatives.

Winners

- **Mercury recycling:** The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District has begun a free mercury disposal program for households needing to dispose of thermometers, switches and other items containing this toxic element. Call 216-443-3749 for information.

- **Hidden valley discovered:** In the first couple of weeks since opening, the new Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks has been overwhelmed with visitors. It seems that with urban parks, if you build them, thousands will come.

- **Best bog:** The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has added 80 acres at Singer Lake in Summit County to its collection of nature preserves. Singer Lake is one of Ohio's most pristine wetlands and perhaps the largest remaining bog system.

- **Towpath addition:** Another two miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail will soon be completed, thanks to an agreement between the Metroparks Serving Summit County and the Village of Clinton. Work will soon begin on the design and construction of the trail segment, five wayside exhibits, and a bridge over the Tuscarawas River.

- **Historic Olmsted Falls:** Olmsted Falls has hired a preservation consultant to prepare a nomination to list its central business district and surrounding residential areas on the National Register of Historic Places. The city has one of the largest intact concentrations of Greek Revival and other pre-Civil War buildings in northern Ohio.

- **Historic Mentor:** A new group, the Old Mentor Conservancy, has formed to preserve historic places in Mentor. "We are a presidential city [with the homestead of James A. Garfield], but you'd never know it," says one of organizers. For more information, call 440-974-8485.

- **Bath planning:** Residents of rapidly developing Bath Twp. are debating measures to conserve land, including a proposal for 130-foot buffers to restrict development along major stream corridors. The township hired consultants to survey environmentally sensitive lands so conservation priorities can be established.

- **Lakefront park:** In recent months, the Trust for Public Land has helped Madison Twp. save a 33-acre church camp from development. The land, which has 1,200 feet of Lake Erie shoreline, will become the Bill Stanton Community Park in honor of the former Congressman.

- **Darby refuge:** Conservation organizations are pushing to make the Little Darby Creek area west of Columbus into a national wildlife refuge. About 46,000 acres would be protected through voluntary purchases from landowners or by purchasing development rights from farmers. The creek is remarkably pristine and has been identified by the Nature Conservancy as a globally significant reservoir of biological diversity. To see a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study on the proposed refuge concept, see www.fws.gov/r3pao/planning/darbnews.htm.

- **New land trust:** The area between Akron and Canton has a new organization to preserve open space and natural areas—the Quail Hollow Land Conservancy in Hartville. For information, call Judy Semroc at 330-699-6213.

- **Ohio eagles:** Ohio's population of bald eagles continues to increase, with 57 breeding pairs producing 73 eaglets in 1999. Lorain County had a successful nest near the Mill Hollow Metro Park, the first nesting pair in the county in over 50 years. Ohio is also seeing more peregrine falcons; this season there were 12 nesting pairs, including five pairs in Cleveland.



Chagrin Highlands generic sprawl

With its prime location along I-271 and a new taxpayer-funded interchange soon to open at Harvard Road, Chagrin Highlands is seen as the best, big development site left in Cuyahoga County. Too bad it's likely to turn out as another dumb, generic office park.

According to *Plain Dealer* architecture critic Steven Litt, "...there's nothing particularly special about the overall planning of Chagrin Highlands. With its meandering road layout and office sites located off cul de sacs, the development is oriented to automobiles, not mass transit. If the Regional Transit Authority's Blue Line is extended east from Shaker Heights, it could improve Chagrin Highlands by encouraging a more compact, pedestrian-friendly development pattern and reducing reliance on automobiles."

Another likely missed opportunity involves watershed planning. Chagrin Highlands is literally a highland area, the headwaters of Mill Creek (a tributary to the Cuyahoga River) and tributaries to Tinkers Creek and the Chagrin River. It should be a state-of-the-art stormwater management district — not a conventional development paved over with parking lots that send stormwater and pollution surging into local streams.

Chagrin River watershed plan

The Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) is sponsoring public forums to obtain citizen input for a watershed plan addressing flooding and erosion problems. Rapid development in the watershed — which often involves alteration of stream channels, filling of wetlands, removal of vegetation, and the creation of impervious surfaces — is causing increasing amounts of stormwater to run into local streams.

Upcoming forums will be September 29 at the Mayfield Village Community Room and October 6 at Bainbridge Township Hall. Both meetings start at 7 p.m. For more information, call 440-975-3870.

CRWP is a nonprofit educational and technical organization working with member communities to develop solutions to flooding, erosion, and other natural resource issues in the Chagrin River watershed.

Cuyahoga RAP reorganization

The Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP), the committee that has been

working for 10 years to study pollution and habitat problems and recommend corrective actions, recently reorganized as part of a new strategic plan. The RAP has formed working groups on fish and aquatic life, recreational uses, human health, wildlife, and socio-economic issues.

For more information on how to get involved in efforts to restore the river, call 216-241-2414, ext. 253.

Costs of shipping

Maintaining the lower 5.6 miles of the Cuyahoga River through the Flats as a deep navigation channel is a costly proposition. Not only does it cost millions of dollars to dredge the channel each year, but there is growing concern about deterioration of the steel sheet bulkheading along the channel. A recent study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found that restoring the bulkheading could cost upwards of \$200 million. Current law dictates that the bulkheads are the responsibility of shoreline property owners. For more information, call Flats Oxbow at 216-566-1046.

Smarter schools?

Ohio Gov. Bob Taft is proposing to spend billions on new and rehabilitated school buildings. It should be an opportunity to make the buildings as energy-efficient as possible.

According to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, improved school design and construction can provide enormous opportunities to reduce energy costs — thereby freeing up funds for educational purposes as well as improving the overall teaching and learning environment. Nationally, it's estimated that 6,000 new schools will be built by 2007.

The "energy smart school" approach involves the design of the whole building, taking advantage of advanced energy efficiency technologies, daylighting and renewable energy. This approach offers many sound benefits to school districts. The U.S. Department of Energy projects that schools can reduce annual energy use by one-fourth, which would save \$1.5 billion per year — enough to hire 30,000 new teachers or buy 40 million books annually. Furthermore, the construction costs for

Back to the future

It's an old idea whose time has come again. Great places for people (and for the environment) are created by mixing land uses — residences, stores, work places — in compact, walkable, urban settings that are not overrun by the automobile. Such mixed-use town centers are an emerging market for real estate developers, and influential trade organizations like the Urban Land Institute (ULI) are offering conferences on how to reinvigorate main streets, make transit villages, and energize town centers with housing, retail, entertainment, and cultural attractions.

The picture above comes from a brochure advertising a recent ULI conference on "Place Making in the Suburbs: Developing Town Centers, Transit Villages, and Main Streets."

energy smart schools are lower than traditional schools when the cost of energy is taken into consideration.

By providing improved lighting and temperature control as well as better indoor air quality and reduced noise, renewable and efficient energy technologies incorporated into the whole building design can improve student performance. Such schools also can become important learning laboratories for students, faculty and their communities. Cutting energy use also benefits the environment as less fossil fuel is burned, resulting in less particulate matter and pollution emissions into the air and water.

ODOT enfranchised

The governing board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) decided on September 11 to offer the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) official status as a voting member of the regional transportation and environmental planning agency. The decision followed months of sometimes sharp debate and the reluctance of several NOACA board members representing Cuyahoga County constituencies. Before being finalized, each of the five county commissions in the NOACA region must also approve the proposal.

The approved motion specified only a single seat and vote for ODOT. Several

board members, including NOACA board president Jerry Hruby (mayor of Brecksville), wanted two seats and two votes, one for each ODOT District in NOACA's region.

Cuyahoga County and Cleveland officials have been concerned that the addition of any new seat on the board would upset a 10-year-old compromise that left Cuyahoga County with a slim 19 to 18 majority, even though its population is more than two-thirds of the region's total.

Though the motion passed and is likely to be approved by the county commissions, the issue is not behind NOACA. The Lake County transit agency Laketran has given notice that it will be seeking a board seat (Greater Cleveland RTA already has a vote), and population shifts measured by the 2000 Census also will cause NOACA to modify board membership. Call NOACA's John Hosek for more information at 216-241-2414.

Large lots?

Residents of Concord Twp. in Lake County are debating whether to increase minimum residential lot sizes in the eastern part of the township. Lots would increase from the current half acre to three-quarters of an acre or more.

While it's easy to sympathize with the people of the township, who desperately look to their zoning commission to help preserve the rural character of their community, large-lot zoning may not be the answer they want. In fact, large lots will only speed up the loss of what Concord Township residents cherish most — peace and quiet, rural vistas, and a clean and healthy environment.

Lot sizes of an acre or more eat up rural landscapes at a fast clip and require expensive investments in infrastructure: roads, water and sewer lines, and electrical and telephone wires. Moreover, large lots prevent the development of the traditional American towns that many people say they want. Our ancestors didn't build picturesque towns like Chagrin Falls, Burton Village, Medina, Oberlin, and Vermilion with large lots.

If we truly want to save the rural character of Concord Township and other rural areas in our region, we have to stop carving up the landscape with cookie-cutter subdivisions of large lots. Instead, we should zone for more compact villages and small towns that mix attractively designed homes, small businesses, and workplaces. Around our towns we should protect the

rural landscape with conservation easements, agricultural zoning, or the purchase or transfer of development rights.

Clean environment.... regardless of cost?

Polls continue to show that Americans have deeply ingrained environmental values. A recent survey by a Republican polling firm revealed that 60 percent of U.S. adults say environmental protection "so important that requirements and standards cannot be too high, and continuing environmental improvements must be made, regardless of cost." The 60-percent figure was up from 52 percent in 1992. The poll of 800 registered voters was conducted by Public Opinion Strategies.

More endangered species

The trumpeter swan, osprey and massasauga rattlesnake were added to Ohio's list of endangered wildlife species last year. Ohio now lists 120 wildlife species as endangered and 23 as threatened, according to the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

In addition, there are 28 wildlife species listed as extirpated, meaning they were once found in Ohio but are no longer present in the state. Another 10 species are listed as extinct.

Transitions

Greater Cleveland RTA general manager **Ron Tober** is leaving to head up the transit agency in Charlotte, NC. Tober helped end politics and patronage at the agency and initiated many new transit projects. He will be missed.

Tom Stanley of the Cleveland Metroparks is serving as interim director of the Geauga Park District.

Bill Hudson is the new director of land conservancy at Chagrin River Land Conservancy. He will help accelerate the group's efforts to negotiate preservation deals with land owners.

Tammy Mazure is the new development coordinator for the Earth Day Coalition.

Kevin Schmidt has transferred from his position as Ohio field representative for the American Farmland Trust to a new position in AFT's national office in Washington, DC. He has been replaced by **Jill Bukovac**, who has expertise in applying GIS (computer mapping) technology to the study of land use change and farmland protection.

Recycling



■ **Where to donate usable stuff:** The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District has published *Pass It On: A Resource-Full Guide to Donating Usable Stuff*.

The guide lists 150 local organizations that accept donations of second-hand items for distribution to youth, seniors, the homeless and others in need. By linking people who have unwanted items with organizations that can use them, the district hopes to keep usable items out of the solid waste stream. To get a free copy, call 443-3749, or look up the district's web page at www.en.com/users/ccswd.

■ **Stopping food waste:** Americans waste over one-fourth of the nation's food supply each year, yet thousands of families go hungry in places like Cuyahoga County. To reduce this waste and increase the recovery of safe food to benefit the needy, the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District a new guide, *Don't Throw Away Your Chance to Help*. It outlines how to donate food to the Cleveland Foodbank and Northcoast Food Rescue. For a copy, call 216-443-3749.

■ **Leaf humus:** The Greater Cleveland Ecology Association composts leaves and other yardwaste from municipalities in Cuyahoga County and then sells the leaf humus as an economical and environmentally beneficial soil conditioner and mulch. Call 216-687-1266 for ordering information.

■ **Batteries:** Nickel-cadmium rechargeable batteries should be recycled to prevent toxic metal cadmium from being released into the environment. New Ni-Cd batteries have recycling information on the label. In Cuyahoga County, call 216-334-3749 for recycling locations.

Pressure points

■ **Fast-growing county:** A friend in Medina County wrote to thank us for presenting our *Citizens' Bioregional Plan* at a recent forum in the county. He added, "Our problem in Medina County is the county government that has shown solid support for almost all measures that promote growth. This support extends from the County Commissioners down through the Health Department, the Sanitary Engineer Department, and the County Planning Commission. We're working on it, but it's a tough battle. I was happy to see the very large attendance [at the forum] and hear comments from the floor, so there is an increasing concern with the bad effects on the quality of life in the county."

■ **Parma wetlands:** Wetland activists are raising funds for a legal challenge to Ohio EPA's decision to permit Geis construction company to fill 23 acres of wetlands in Parma. The wetlands are some of the last high quality wetlands in the urbanized Big Creek watershed and thus are especially significant. To help, call Friends of the Crooked River at 330-666-4026 or Parma Advocates for Wetlands at 440-886-5598.

■ **Wetland permits:** The Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA are modifying "nationwide" permits for filling wetlands. These are general, easy-to-obtain permits that often allow wetland destruction as part of small-scale construction activities. A great deal of cumulative wetland losses are the result of thousands of small nationwide permits. For information on how to comment on the proposed changes, see Web site of the Clean Water Network at www.cwn.org or the Ohio EPA at chagrin.epa.state.oh.us.

■ **Twinsburg freeze:** Last spring, Twinsburg imposed a 180-day moratorium on permits for new residential subdivisions. City officials hoped the delay would give them time to update zoning codes.

■ **Development or blight?:** Elected officials in Streetsboro are enthused about all the new development occurring along SR 14 near the intersection of the Turnpike and I-480. What they're not saying is that the road — with all its cheap chain stores, fast food joints and motels — is one of the ugliest roads in the region. Development in Streetsboro is also destroying many acres of wetlands.

■ **Kuster's Woods:** The Ohio Department of Mental Health is planning to sell 80 acres of pristine woods in Sagamore Hills for a housing development. The land is now home to the Wilderness Challenge program, which provides outdoor learning experiences for mentally and emotionally challenged children. The issue—like the case in Bath Twp. when Ohio State University sold the Firestone estate—raises many questions about how public institutions dispose of land. Is the public good best served by selling out for the highest price in the short term or by preserving the land in the long term?

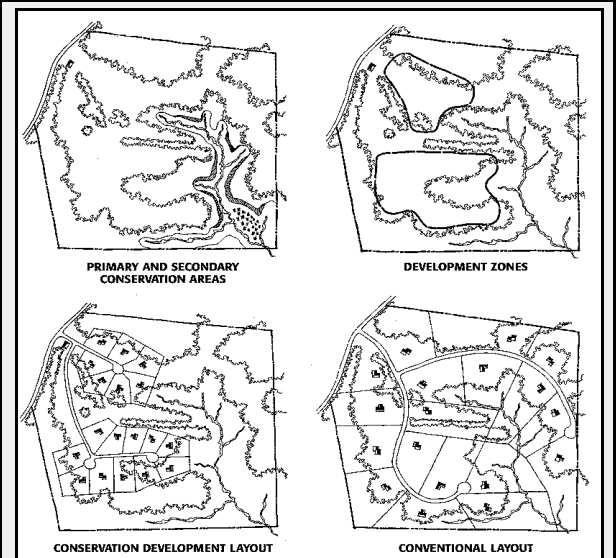


■ **Traffic shortcuts:** As we build communities in which people are more dependent on cars, many formerly quiet streets are suffering from traffic problems. For example, residents in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood are angry that commuters are using W. 14th Street to avoid rush-hour congestion on I-71. One solution: Traffic calming methods to force motorists to slow down and respect the pedestrian character of neighborhood streets. After all, streets are public spaces, not just corridors to move vehicles faster and faster.

■ **Columbus congestion:** Amount that traffic congestion is projected to grow in central Ohio in the next 20 years: 375 percent.

■ **Y6B:** Population activists are calling 1999 the year of Y6B because the earth's population will hit 6 billion people. Population is expected to hit 7 billion by 2013, placing even more pressure on the earth's fragile biosphere.

■ **Birder's creed:** "We must encourage habitat preservation and be ready to actively oppose habitat destruction. If not, our birding experiences may reduce to house sparrows and starlings." (Jack Smith of Elyria, quoted in a recent Black River Audubon newsletter in which he was recognized as "Birder of the Month.")



Subdivision alternatives from the Countryside Program's conservation development manual.

Recommended resources

Here are some of the interesting books, reports and other information sources we've seen in recent weeks:

■ **Manual for open space:** The Countryside Program of Northeast Ohio has published a *Conservation Development Resource Manual* that provides comprehensive information on how to soften the impact of development on the landscape. It includes planning guidelines and model regulations for open space subdivisions and other development issues. Copies are available for \$15 at local soil and water conservation districts. Or you can order by mail (add \$5 shipping per book) from the Countryside Program, PO Box 24825, Lyndhurst, OH 44124. For more information, call 216-295-0511.

■ **Medina growth:** The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy has published a working paper, "Public Policy and 'Rural Sprawl': Lessons from Northeast Ohio," by Patricia Burgess and Tom Bier of Cleveland State University's College of Urban Affairs. The paper analyzes the unplanned growth in Medina County and the need for strong action by state and local governments. To order, call 800-LAND-944.

■ **Air pollution in real time:** The Web site of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (www.noaca.org) now reports near real time data on ozone levels from 18 air monitors in Northeast Ohio. The capability was funded by a U.S. EPA program that makes timely and understandable environmental information available to the public.

■ **Transportation reform:** The Ohio Sierra Club has produced the *Ohio Transportation Action and Resource Guide*, a 96-page handbook for citizens. To order a copy, call 614-461-0734, or see the contents on the Web at www.sierraclub.org/chapters/oh/sprawl/handbook.html.

■ **Sierra Club:** The Northeast Ohio Group of the Sierra Club is on the Web at www.sierraclub.org/chapters/oh/northeast.

■ **Public land:** The Native Forest Council has an Ohio-based organizer that can provide free, educational programs about protecting wildlife and wildlands on publicly-owned federal lands. To schedule presentations, call 614-538-9344.

October 2
Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves workshop at Holden Arboretum on the threats of **non-native plants** in Ohio. Call 614-265-6468 for details.

October 2
Hike along Mill Creek to Cleveland's hidden waterfall, **Mill Creek Falls**, 10 a.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks Garfield Park Nature Center.

October 2
Trolley tour of **sacred landmarks** sponsored by the Cleveland Restoration Society, 9 a.m. departure from Notre Dame Academy, Ansel Road at Superior Avenue. For reservations, call 216-431-3880.

October 3
Amish backroads bicycle tour starting at 3 p.m. at the Geauga Park District's Swine Creek Lodge. To register, call 440-834-1856, ext. 5420.

October 5
Brown bag lunch presentation by the Native Forest Council about protecting **wilderness** on public lands, noon at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Ave.

October 6
Public forum on flooding and erosion problems in the **Chagrin River** watershed, 7 p.m. at Bainbridge Township Hall. Call the Chagrin River Watershed Partners at 440-975-3870.

October 9
Hike to observe **migrating ducks**, 8 a.m. at

the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area's Ira Trailhead off Riverview Road.

October 9
Annual meeting and dinner of the **Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District**, 6 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks Canal Reservation, 4524 E. 49th St. For reservations, call 216-524-6580.

October 12
"Redesigning Cleveland" speaker series with architect **William McDonough**, world-renowned speaker on ecological design, 5:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Public Library Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium. For more information, call 216-732-3385.

October 13
NOACA **Bicycle Advisory** Task Force meeting, 6:15 p.m. at 1299 Superior Ave. in Cleveland. Call 216-241-2414.

October 15
Living in Cleveland Center's 7th Annual Celebrating Cleveland awards reception (including an award for EcoCity Cleveland), 4 p.m. at the Nautica Queen. Call 216-781-5422 for more information.

October 15-17
EcoConference 2000 at the University of Pennsylvania to help build the student environmental movement. For registration information, call 877-ECO-STUDENT or see www.econference2000.org.

October 16
Horticultural walking tour of historic Lakeview Cemetery, 10 a.m. Call 216-421-

2665 for reservations.

October 17
Towpath Marathon along the Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor. For details, call Ohio Canal Corridor at 216-348-1825.

October 17-19
National conference on **regional strategies** in Memphis, TN. For registration information, call Partners for Livable Communities at 202-887-5990 or see www.livable.com.

October 18
Meeting of the steering committee considering Cleveland-to-Columbus **passenger rail service**, 1 p.m. in Columbus. Call 614-644-0313 for meeting location.

October 20
Instrumental evening for the Earth, a benefit for the Earth Day Coalition with members of the Cleveland Orchestra, 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 18001 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood. For ticket information, call 216-281-6468.

October 24
Hike to explore the role of **stone quarries** in the history of the Cuyahoga Valley, 2 p.m. at Lock 29 Trailhead of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Mill Street in Peninsula.

October 24
West Woods hike through the Geauga Park District's new park, 2 p.m. For more information, call 440-834-1856, ext. 5420.

The owner's manual for the bioregion!

For nearly 20 years, EcoCity Cleveland's David Beach has been writing about urban and environmental issues in Northeast Ohio. Now, with the help of other local experts, he brings his years of experience together in one comprehensive resource.

The Greater Cleveland Environment Book...

- An introduction for the environmental novice.
- A reference for serious activists.
- A personal invitation to discover the bioregion.
- An inspirational guide for everyone who cares about the future of Northeast Ohio.

Available at bookstores or directly from EcoCity Cleveland.

\$14.95 cover price (\$19 with sales tax and shipping)
340 pages, trade paperback, illustrated
ISBN 0-9663999-0-0

October 26-28
Ohio **geographic information** systems conference in Columbus. For registration information, call the Ohio County Engineers Assoc. at 614-221-0707.

October 27
Monthly public meeting of the Northeast Ohio **Sierra Club**, 7:30 p.m. at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Blvd. in Shaker Heights. The program will focus on world population issues with a new video, "Jampacked," which looks at the population crisis from a young adult point of view. For more information, call 440-871-8314.

November 2
Brown bag lunch presentation by Paul Christensen of Neighborhood Progress Inc. about redeveloping urban **brownfields**, noon at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Ave.

November 4
Community Reinvestment Act conference on "**Sustaining Neighborhoods**: An Antidote to Urban Sprawl," 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cleveland State University's College of Law. For more information, call 216-371-4285.

November 4
Northern Ohio **Energy Conference** about savings through technology and utility deregulation. For registration information, call the Cleveland Engineering Society at 216-361-3100.

November 4
"Redesigning Cleveland" speaker series with **Nancy and John Todd**, developers of living machines for ecological wastewater treatment systems, 5:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Public Library Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium. For more information, call 216-732-3385.

November 4
Annual meeting and banquet of the **Portage Soil & Water**

Conservation District, 7 p.m. at the Rusty Nail Banquet Hall, 7291 SR 43. For tickets, call 330-297-7633.

November 5
Hike to learn about **coyotes** in Northeast Ohio, 7:30 p.m. at the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area's Special Events site on Riverview Road. (Repeated on November 6 and 13.)

November 7
All-day hike to explore the diverse landscapes of the **Cuyahoga Valley** National Recreation Area, starting at 7 a.m. at the Hunt Farm Visitor Center on Bolanz Road.

November 8
Meeting of the **Black River Remedial Action Plan** Coordinating Committee at the Lorain County Agricultural Center. For details, call 440-322-6367.

November 9
Annual conference of the **Ohio Alliance for the Environment** in Columbus. For registration information, call 614-487-9957.

November 18
Presentation by Ohio nature photographer **Ian Adams**, 7 p.m. at the the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area's Happy Days Visitor Center on SR 303.

December 1
"Redesigning Cleveland" speaker series with **David Crockett**, Chattanooga city councilman and leader in creating sustainable and competitive communities, 5:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Public Library Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium. For more information, call 216-732-3385.

December 4
Festival of Peace and Diversity and **holiday bazaar** sponsored by Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 2592 W. 14th St. in Cleveland.



Smart growth events

■ **Statewide symposium on growth management:** As an introduction to its annual state convention, the Ohio Planning Conference is hosting a statewide symposium on "Growth Management Options for Ohio." The event on

October 6 at the English Oak Room of Tower City Center will feature panels of experts with local government perspectives, statewide perspectives and national perspectives. For registration information, call Sally Hanley at 216-241-2414.

■ **Ohio Planning Conference:** This is the annual conference for the Ohio chapter of the American Planning Association. It starts on October 6 with the symposium listed above and runs through October 9 with presentations and workshops on many planning topics, most held at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel in Cleveland. For registration information, call 216-241-2414 or 216-696-0400.

■ **Maryland model:** The Urban Land Institute is sponsoring a forum on the applicability of the Maryland smart growth program to Ohio, 7:30-9:30 a.m. on October 7 at the Brecksville Community Center. Ron Young of the Maryland Office of Planning will speak. To register, call the Urban Land Institute at 800-321-5011 or 440-877-1085.

■ **In praise of neighborhoods:** Ray Suarez, host of National Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation" and author of the new book, *The Old Neighborhood: What We Lost in the Great Suburban Migration*, will speak at a luncheon of the Ohio Planning Conference, 11:45 a.m., October 8, at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel in Cleveland. Tickets are \$25. For more information, call Sally Hanley at 216-241-2414. The event is part of OPC's annual conference.

■ **Planning history:** The Cleveland State University College of Urban Affairs is sponsoring "A Century of Planning in Cleveland," a community forum on the role of planning in Cleveland's development, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., October 9, in the Cleveland Public Library Stokes Auditorium, 325 Superior Ave. Moderated by *Plain Dealer* architecture critic Steven Litt. To register, call 216-687-3509.

■ **Church in the City celebration:** To conclude a recent series of *Church in the City* regional forums, the Catholic Diocese is hosting a celebration at 7 p.m. October 11 at the Sagrada Familia Church, 7719 Detroit Ave. in Cleveland. Featuring an address by Bishop Anthony Pilla, the event will summarize the forum series and include a multi-cultural reception. To reserve a seat, call 216-696-6525.

■ **Neighborhoods vs. sprawl:** More and more people are realizing that the best way to take development pressure off the countryside is to reinvest in existing urban areas so that neighborhoods are great places in which to live. Following that theme, local fair and affordable activists are sponsoring a Community Reinvestment Act conference on "Sustaining Neighborhoods: An Antidote to Sprawl." The conference will be November 4 at the Cleveland State University College of Law. For details, call the Metropolitan Strategy Group at 216-371-4285.

■ **National conference:** Partners for Smart Growth conference in San Diego, November 17-19. Sponsored by the Smart Growth Network, U.S. EPA, and the Urban Land Institute. For more information, call 800-321-5011 or see www.uli.org.

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The map at right is a new update of Ohio's physiographic regions. It was created by C. Scott Brockman for the Ohio Division of Geological Survey. To order copies, call 614-265-6576.

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