



EcoCity Cleveland

IDEAS AND TOOLS FOR A SUSTAINABLE BIOREGION

\$4

Double Issue

Volume 6, Numbers 9/10

Oct/Nov 1999

Editor: David Beach

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a leader
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Good words

The test of civilization
is the power of drawing
the most benefit out of cities.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The American love affair
with the car
is more like a shotgun wedding.

It's time for a divorce.

— Robert Liberty,
1000 Friends of Oregon

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

When *EcoCity Cleveland*
started publishing in 1993,
we asked the question,
"Where are we going?"

We looked around
Northeast Ohio
and saw disturbing trends
related to regional
development patterns, the
decline of older communities,
and the loss of open space
and sensitive natural areas.

As the century draws to close,
it seems appropriate to ask,
"Where are we now?"

How has the civic dialogue
matured on these critical
issues? What progress have we
made in Northeast Ohio?

***See us on the Web at
www.ecocleveland.org***

Managing our growth

Here at EcoCity Cleveland we talk a lot about growth management — how to create balanced and sustainable patterns of development at the regional level. Internally, we've also been talking about growth management as an organization.

When EcoCity Cleveland was founded in 1992, we were focused on one thing — starting this journal and making it the best possible tool for building a network of people interested in ecological cities. In the past several years, however, we have branched out from the journal and have taken on a number of significant planning projects, including the *Ohio Smart Growth Agenda*, the *Citizens' Bioregional Plan*, and the Cleveland EcoVillage.

These exciting projects have raised our public profile and have multiplied our responsibilities.

To assure that this growth can be sustained, our Board of Trustees and staff have developed a strategic plan for board development, staffing, and funding.

As part of this plan, we are pleased to announce the addition of two new trustees, Nancy Keithley and Nelson (Bud) Talbott. Nancy brings to the board strong interests in urban design and historic preservation. Bud brings extensive experience with conservation organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy and the Chagrin River Land Conservancy. They both bring valuable business experience.

We are also pleased to announce that we will be hiring another full-time staff person, which will bring our core staff up to three persons. The job announcement is on page 23.

National recognition

We continue to attract national attention for our work and publications. In recent months we have been featured in a study by the National Trust for Historic Preservation; a column by syndicated writer Neal Peirce; the journal of Urban Ecology, the respected group in the San Francisco Bay area; the magazine of the American Planning Association; and the journal of the Michigan Land Use Institute.

Thanks

Thanks to The Cleveland Foundation for a recent grant to support our core communications and networking programs. And our appreciation to the Cyrus Eaton Foundation for a grant to support production of a Bioregional Map poster for Northeast Ohio, a project which will follow up our Citizens' Bioregional Plan.

Also thanks to the Living in Cleveland Center for giving EcoCity Cleveland one of its 1999 Celebrating Cleveland awards in recognition of the benefits we bring to Cleveland neighborhoods by focusing on the detrimental effects of urban sprawl. Other award recipients included Bishop Anthony Pilla, Cleveland State University housing researcher Tom Bier, and Esperanza.



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

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Published monthly, except for occasional double issues. Unless otherwise noted, all articles and photographs are by David Beach. Submissions from others are welcome, but please call first. We cannot be responsible for unsolicited materials.

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Supported by foundation grants, subscriptions and individual donations.

Printed at Orange Blossom Press in Cleveland on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper using soy-based inks.

ISSN 1084-0885

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National goals for sustainable development

The following goals were established in 1996 by the President's Council for Sustainable Development. They are interdependent goals — all flowing from an understanding that it is essential to seek economic prosperity, environmental protection, and social equity together. The achievement of any one goal is not enough to ensure that future generations will have at least the same opportunities to live and prosper that this generation enjoys: all are needed.

- **Health and the environment:** Ensure that every person enjoys the benefits of clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment at home, at work, and at play.

- **Economic prosperity:** Sustain a healthy U.S. economy that grows sufficiently to create meaningful jobs, reduce poverty, and provide the opportunity for a high quality of life for all in an increasingly competitive world.

- **Equity:** Ensure that all Americans are afforded justice and have the opportunity to achieve economic, environmental, and social well-being.

- **Conservation of nature:** Use, conserve, protect, and restore natural resources — land, air, water, and biodiversity — in ways that help ensure long-term social, economic, and environmental benefits for ourselves and future generations.

- **Stewardship:** Create a widely held ethic of stewardship that strongly encourages individuals, institutions, and corporations to take full responsibility for the economic, environmental, and social consequences of their actions.

- **Sustainable communities:** Encourage people to work together to create healthy communities where natural and historic resources are preserved, jobs are available, sprawl is contained, neighborhoods are secure, education is lifelong, transportation and health care are accessible, and all citizens have opportunities to improve the quality of their lives.

- **Civic engagement:** Create full opportunity for citizens, businesses, and communities to participate in and influence the natural resource, environmental, and economic decisions that affect them.

- **Population:** Move toward stabilization of the U.S. population.

- **International responsibility:** Take a leadership role in the development and implementation of global sustainable development policies, standards of conduct, and trade and foreign policies that further the achievement of sustainability.

- **Education:** Ensure that all Americans have equal access to education and lifelong learning opportunities that will prepare them for meaningful work, a high quality of life, and an understanding of the concepts involved in sustainable development.



Making Northeast Ohio a sustainability leader

The conservationist Aldo Leopold once observed that the oldest task in human history is to learn how "to live on a piece of land without spoiling it."

In recent years a variety of groups have been thinking about how to do that in Northeast Ohio — how to take care of established communities and plan for growth, create a resilient economy that will provide a high quality of life for everyone over the long term, and protect the environment so our children will be healthy and will be able to enjoy the richness of nature.

Now an unprecedented coalition of these groups has come together to bring all this work together. They are developing strategies to make Northeast Ohio a national leader in the thought and practice of sustainability.

The planning committee for this effort includes the local chapters of the American Institute of Architects and the American Society of Civil Engineers, Build Up Greater Cleveland (the infrastructure program of the Growth Association), Case Western Reserve University's Center for Regional Economic Issues, the Cleveland Engineering Society, Cleveland State University's Levin College of Urban Affairs, EcoCity Cleveland, the office of Cong. Dennis Kucinich, Oberlin College's Environmental Studies Program, TerrAqua Environmental Consultants, and the U.S. EPA and Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The planning committee has obtained funding from U.S. EPA to help facilitate five working groups covering political and legal issues, architecture and urban design, infrastructure, business and economics, and health and education. A broad membership of experts and stakeholders has been recruited to participate in each group.

The working groups will meet over the next few months to develop strategic

plans that will:

- Imagine and describe what Northeast Ohio would be like if considerations of sustainability and ecological design were the basis for doing things.

- Identify which metropolitan regions are the current leaders in this field. How did they achieve this? What can Northeast Ohio learn from their experience?

- Identify what needs to change in our region.

- Identify the barriers to change in Northeast Ohio — legal, cultural, institutional, financial.

- Create a five-year strategy for overcoming the barriers and achieving the necessary changes.

The strategies will be finalized at a major symposium on sustainable communities to be held May 11-13, 2000 in Cleveland. Possible strategies might describe how to do more to maintain established cities and towns in the region, reduce income disparities, or reduce the region's emission of greenhouse gasses to help meet international targets.

Around the world, cities and regions are redesigning themselves to take long-term sustainability into account. Now it's Northeast Ohio's turn.

For more information about the Sustainable Communities Symposium 2000 (SCS 2000) planning process, contact the project staff person, Rosemary Szubski at the Cleveland State University College of Urban Affairs, 216-523-7495. □

Save the dates!

The Sustainable Communities 2000 Symposium will be May 11-13, 2000, at the Cleveland State University Convocation Center. This promises to be a major event with nationally-recognized speakers and working sessions to finalize a sustainability strategy for the region.

Where are we now?

When *EcoCity Cleveland* started publishing in 1993, we asked the question, "Where are we going?"

We looked around Northeast Ohio and saw a number of disturbing trends: Older communities in decline. New subdivisions sprawling over farmland. Highways growing more congested. Transit agencies unable to serve an increasingly dispersed population. Cars burning more fossil fuels and spewing more greenhouse gases. Costly sewer and water lines extended to new developments at the edge of the metropolitan area. Existing infrastructure crumbling. Urban residents fighting to revitalize neighborhoods. Rural residents fighting to preserve wetlands and open space. A scarcity of affordable housing. Wildlife habitats destroyed.

We saw that all these trends were related — if you could appreciate the regional context in which they occurred. In the intervening years, we have attempted to understand the dynamics of our region. And we have proposed changes that would preserve the best of Northeast Ohio and sustain our quality of life in the future.

As the century draws to close, it seems appropriate to ask, "Where are we now?"

What have we learned in recent years? How has the civic dialogue matured on these critical issues? What progress have we made in Northeast Ohio?

The answer involves three points. First, there's been a surge of interest and concern about these issues, and this has been very encouraging. Second, there is an emerging consensus about the challenges facing our region. Third, although many people and new organizations are working on these issues, we still lack the political ability and the political will to turn things around. Each of these points is discussed below.

Tide of concern

Even the most casual observer of the news must know that land use and regional development have become hot issues. The local and

national media are full of stories about "sprawl" and "smart growth" and "livable communities." Almost every local community has a controversy over some development project. And no metro area wants to become the next Atlanta, where traffic congestion and air pollution are starting to strangle economic growth.

Why the increasing concerns? In Northeast Ohio, a number of factors have converged to attract attention:

- **Rapid pace of land consumption:** The strong economy has permitted larger and more expansive development that consumes more land. As a result, every time you drive out to the country, another big chunk of it is gone. People care about the loss of open space and productive farmland.

- **Fiscal constraints:** The region now has so much infrastructure flung over so great a distance that it's hard to maintain the old while building new roads, bridges and sewer systems to serve new growth. The politics of the region is increasingly about fights over scarce resources. And there is increasing awareness of how public subsidies for growth in one part of the region undermine the prospects of other parts of the region.

- **Environmental constraints:** There's growing awareness that our sprawling development patterns are creating intractable environmental problems. Our water pollution comes from paving over the landscape, our air pollution comes from how much we drive, and our dwindling biological diversity comes from how we encroach upon our remaining natural areas.

- **Cuyahoga County build out:** In a few short years, Cuyahoga County will be the first county in Ohio to use up all its virgin land and be fully developed. It will then be faced with the novel question: What next? How does a county reorient itself from growth to maintenance and redevelopment? How can it improve (obtain better housing, better jobs, a better educated population) without growing? How can the county compete with new development in surrounding counties? This will require a new

A surge of concern, an emerging consensus about regional goals, but a lack of political ability to turn things around.

mindset focused on long-term sustainability. It is an historic turning point.

■ **Suburbs and central county at risk:** If Cuyahoga County does not make a successful transition to redevelopment, more communities will face decline. Already, the county's oldest suburbs, from Lakewood to Parma to Garfield Heights to Euclid, are facing decline because of aged and obsolete real estate, deteriorating infrastructure, and increasing poverty rates. One-third of Cuyahoga County's home sellers are now moving out to adjacent counties where real estate is new and taxes are lower. For every dollar of household income that moves into Cuyahoga, \$1.80 moves out. The general decline of Cuyahoga would have devastating impacts on the entire region.

■ **Big box retailing:** In the '90s, Northeast Ohio has been invaded by big-box retailers like Wal-mart, Target, Kohl's, and Home Depot. New "power strip centers" have had sudden and dramatic impacts on communities. As a result, many more people are asking questions about how to maintain community character and quality of life.

■ **Traffic gridlock:** Even though the region as a whole has minimal traffic congestion, some rapidly growing communities are being overwhelmed. Places like Mentor or Strongsville are struggling to deal with congestion that comes from building auto-oriented communities where everyone has little choice but to drive all the time.

■ **Changing needs:** Our aging population needs walkable neighborhoods with stores and services close by. Growing numbers of childless households are seeking the excitement and diversity of a more urban experience. Most new suburbs don't meet those needs.

■ **Social justice implications:** More people are becoming aware that unbalanced development patterns in the region are leaving behind older communities, the poor, and minorities. As the region spreads out, it is stratifying along

lines of race and class.

■ **Global competition:** Metropolitan regions are the geographies that compete in the global economy. Areas with social tensions, a deteriorated urban core, traffic congestion, and environmental problems will have a harder time prospering.

■ **Yearning for community and authentic places:** Many people are tiring of homes on lonely cul-de-sacs and suburban strip malls. They want real town squares, historic character, and scenic vistas. They see that current development patterns are destroying the places they care about.

In response to these factors, a rather amazing diversity of organizations and programs has emerged to advocate smarter forms of growth. These involve environmental groups, civic and business organizations, churches, universities and others. The activity is at the local, state and national levels (see sidebar on page 6 for a list of some of the local groups involved).

A good example of the amount of local activities came in one month this fall. Between October 6 and November 4, the Ohio chapter of the American Planning Association had a statewide symposium on growth management, the local chapter of the Urban Land Institute (the major organization of developers) had a forum on the applicability of the Maryland smart growth program to Ohio, the Catholic Diocese hosted a celebration to conclude a series of *Church in the City* forums on regional issues, and neighborhood groups and fair housing advocates organized a conference called "Sustaining Neighborhoods: An Antidote to Sprawl." Shortly thereafter, the Northeast Ohio Home Builders jumped on the smart growth bandwagon by announcing the formation of their own Smart Growth Education Foundation (see page 10 for details).

In sum, the discussion has come a long way in the past few years. Many constituencies are focused on smart growth. It has



Building a shared commitment to a region

Our region [the San Francisco Bay area], like many others in North America, is faced with a growing set of problems:

- A strong economy, but an increasing economic divide among our residents;
- A serious shortage of affordable housing near job centers;
- Rising traffic congestion and diminishing transit service;
- Class, race, and equity tensions within communities;
- A crisis in public education; and
- A natural environment that is our greatest and most threatened asset.

We're waking up to the fact that the policies of the past 50 years — ones that promote the autonomy of individuals and cities over the needs of the region as a whole — are major contributors to the state that we're in today. In fact, without some near-term course corrections, our future quality of life is in jeopardy.

What will it take to make that mid-course correction? We're not alone in asking this daunting question. It's coming up in Portland, Seattle, Denver, Chicago, Cleveland, Baltimore, South Florida, Atlanta, and even Los Angeles. Each of these regions is currently engaged in one form of dialogue or another on the future sustainability of their region. Though many of these efforts are addressing specific regulatory issues or provision of regional services, perhaps the most critical question is: How do we build a sense of responsibility and sharing — a common sense of the region — among our residents?

— Shelley Poticha,
executive director of the Congress for the New Urbanism
(excerpted from the *Urban Ecologist*, 1997, Number 3)

City/suburb strategies

In *The State of the Cities 1999*, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development issued three findings about the state of metropolitan America:

1) Thanks to a booming national economy, most cities are experiencing a strong fiscal and economic recovery. However, too many central cities are still left behind and continue to face the challenges of population decline, loss of middle-class families, slow job growth, income inequality, and poverty.

2) Some older suburbs are experiencing problems once associated only with urban areas — job loss, population decline, crime, and disinvestment. Simultaneously, many suburbs, including newer ones, are straining under sprawling growth that creates traffic congestion, overcrowded schools, loss of open spaces, and other sprawl-related problems as well as a lack of affordable housing.

3) There is a strong consensus on the need for joint city/suburb strategies to address sprawl and the structural decline of cities and older suburbs. We now have a historic opportunity for cooperation between cities and counties — urban as well as suburban — to address the challenges facing our metropolitan areas.



Local activism for smart growth

Here are a few of the many groups working on smart growth issues in Northeast Ohio.

- American Institute of Architects Cleveland Chapter — Educational programs about New Urbanism style of urban design.

- Build Up Greater Cleveland — Sustainable Infrastructure Task Force and work to rebuild the urban core.

- CWRU Weatherhead School — Study by the Center for Regional Economic Issues on costs of sprawl.

- Catholic Diocese of Cleveland — *Church in the City* initiative to build bridges between city, suburbs and rural areas of Northeast Ohio.

- Citizens League Research Institute — Surveys of regional attitudes.

- Cleveland Restoration Society — Preservation Resource Center for Northeast Ohio to help preserve historic communities and landscapes.

- CSU College of Urban Affairs — Studies on housing trends, Enterprise Zones, and edge cities.

- Countryside Program — Public education and training about conservation development techniques.

- Cuyahoga County Planning Commission — Planning for brownfields and greenspace.

- EcoCity Cleveland — Communications, networking and citizen planning for the region (*Citizens' Bioregional Plan*) and the state (*Ohio Smart Growth Agenda*).

- Farmland Preservation Office of Northeast Ohio — New effort to develop programs to preserve farmland.

- Federation for Community Planning — Research on the impacts of outmigration on health and human services.

- First Suburbs Consortium of Northeast Ohio — Organization of inner-ring suburbs working for balanced development in the region.

- Foundations — Funding for smart growth projects by The George Gund Foundation and other local funders.

- Home Builders Association of Northeast Ohio — Programs to build on smaller lots and to reduce barriers for building in the city.

- Land trusts — Northeast Ohio Land Trust Coalition to enhance preservation capability of local land trusts.

- League of Women Voters — Study of links between transportation investments and urban sprawl.

- Media — Newspapers have regular coverage of development and transportation controversies; public radio (WCPN) and television (WVIZ) have had special series on sprawl.

- Metroparks — Eight park districts in the region are working together to identify regional open space opportunities.

- Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency — Transportation policies to promote redevelopment of the urban core.

- Northeast Ohio Regional Alliance — Forums on regional cooperation.

- Ohio Planning Conference — Educational events about smart growth policies and the role of planning.

- Seventh Generation — Projects on conservation development and watershed protection in Lorain County.

- Sierra Club Northeast Ohio Group — Active Urban Sprawl Committee.

- United WE-CAN — Grassroots organizing in church congregations on issues related to outmigration.

- U.S. EPA Cleveland office — Community-based assistance for livable communities.

- Urban Land Institute Cleveland Chapter — Forums on smart growth for developers and public officials.

become a common denominator in discussions about:

- Urban redevelopment
- Environmental sustainability
- Farmland preservation
- Historic preservation
- Affordable housing
- Welfare to work
- Reduction in concentrated poverty
- Fiscal soundness
- Economic competitiveness
- Quality of life

Increasingly, all these issues are seen as part of a larger regional picture of land use and development. People are making the connections.

Emerging consensus

People are making these connections all over Northeast Ohio. You can see the heads nodding in agreement — whether it's at a meeting of a neighborhood development group in Cleveland, a church group in Lake County, a farmland preservation group in Medina County, or a Realtors' group in Geauga County.

Specifically, they seem to accept the following points:

- Land use patterns (the ways we spread our communities across the landscape) matter. Indeed, they matter a lot.

- The metropolitan region is the key unit of analysis, not individual cities and towns.

- Central cities and suburbs are interdependent and share a single, regional destiny.

- Given the political fragmentation of Northeast Ohio, we lack a coherent vision of our region and ability to act as a region.

- The region would be more successful with better coordination and less intra-regional competition.

- The region would be healthier with reduced fiscal and racial disparities between city and suburbs.

- We want to see more

redevelopment of older, urban core communities. This is especially important in a region like ours where the growth in population and employment is slow.

- We want to preserve vital ecosystems and open space.

- Public policies and investments — infrastructure investments, tax policies, economic development

- incentives — shape land use patterns by setting the stage for private development.

- The state has — or should have — an important role to play in the redevelopment of older communities and the preservation of open space.

- We want efficient and sustainable use of resources and tax dollars.

- It makes sense to build only the infrastructure that future generations will be able to afford to maintain.

- Planning for land use and transportation should be integrated, since one affects the other.

- People should have transportation choices and not be completely dependent on the automobile.

- Citizens acting together in civil society can — and should — play a role in development decisions and in creating a regional vision for the future.

The challenge ahead

Underlying the above points is a preservation ethic, a belief in stewardship. People want to take care of existing communities and the natural world around them. But they are realizing that the system — a hard-to-comprehend mixture of fragmented political institutions, laws, policies, and markets — is not set up to do that very well.

That's a big reason why so many people and organizations are exploring new ways to act on

People want to take care of existing communities and the natural world around them. But they see the system is not set up to do that very well.

their beliefs. They are seeking innovative strategies that can change the system or work directly with citizens to make end runs around it.

So you see the rise of the First Suburbs, a new vision of common interests among political leaders. Or you see the Catholic Diocese' *Church in the City* initiative and United WE-CAN's church-based organizing, which work with religious congregations from a moral and social justice perspective. Or you see nonprofit organizations, such as EcoCity Cleveland, helping citizens develop regional land use plans that transcend political boundaries. They are all parts of a new civic infrastructure.

To succeed in a difficult state like Ohio, these efforts will have to broaden and deepen in the coming years. In addition, the following will be needed:

- **State support:** As we outlined last year in our *Ohio Smart Growth Agenda*, the state has been a major obstacle to progress on these issues. It needs to reorient programs to take care of existing communities and preserve open space, such as the way Maryland has done. The necessary changes will require leadership from the governor and state legislators. Citizens will have to communicate to their elected officials that smart growth policies are bipartisan and will benefit a majority of people in the state. And to mobilize support throughout the separate metro areas of the state, we will have create a stronger identity for Ohio as a unique place.

- **More ways to act as a region:** Projects like our *Citizens' Bioregional Plan* are helping citizens craft a new vision of the region. But more should be done to allow citizens and elected officials to think, plan, and act at the regional scale.

We need more opportunities for cooperative governance across political boundaries. And we need more ways for citizens to hold their elected officials accountable for decisions that have regional impacts.

- **A unifying regional project:** To get us in the habit of working as a region, we need inspirational projects. The Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor is a good example of project that begins to tie the center of the region together. Now it's time to think of a larger regional greenbelt for open space preservation and recreational amenities.

- **Business leadership:** While local

business groups, such as Cleveland Tomorrow, have supported the redevelopment of Cleveland's downtown and neighborhoods, the overall thrust of the business community has been to support economic development everywhere and anywhere throughout Northeast Ohio (in this case, a large region that includes much of the northeast quadrant of the state). We need more business leaders who will say that it matters where development occurs within the region.

- **A focus on sustainability:** At every level, our decision-making must be infused with criteria of sustainability. Instead of a short-term focus on rapid growth, we need a long-term focus on enduring quality. As David Crockett, the leader of sustainability efforts in Chattanooga, TN, said in a recent speech in Cleveland, "Every time a bulldozer cranks up it doesn't mean we're making money."

Opportunity before crisis

We will not alter the development patterns of a major American metropolis overnight. This is the work of a generation. It's work that involves broad, cultural shifts in values and perceptions about what kinds of places are desirable. It involves a creeping awareness that things are out of balance, that quality of life is eroding, that costs are rising, that communities are unstable.

But the change is starting. And the exciting thing is that here in Greater Cleveland we have the chance to come out ahead of other regions. As troubling as our situation is, it is not as dire as the situation of many regions. Our growth has been slower, more digestible. We haven't sprawled as much. We still have a manageable urban area.

We offer a high quality of life at a low cost of living. In short, we're not in a crisis like Atlanta or parts of California.

It's said that people never mobilize to change things until there is a crisis. But that may not be true. Another thing David Crockett said in his recent speech here is that the great transformations of history — from the Industrial Revolution to the Information Age — come from opportunity, not from crisis. Opportunity drives change.

In the case of Northeast Ohio, we have the opportunity to think about our growth, plan well, and do it right.

We have our opportunity. Let's seize it.

This is the work of a generation. It's work that involves broad, cultural shifts in values and perceptions about what kinds of places are desirable.

What is sprawl?

Anthony Downs of the Brookings Institution lists ten characteristics that define sprawl development patterns:

- Predominance of low-density residential and commercial settlements, especially in new growth areas.
- Unlimited outward extension of new developments.
- Leapfrog projects jumping beyond established settlements.
- Single-use development that separates shopping, working and residential activities.
- Low-density, single-use work places and strip retail development typically located at the periphery of metropolitan areas.
- Reliance on auto transportation for virtually all trips.
- Fiscal disparities among localities.
- Lack of adequate housing choices located close to work opportunities, thus forcing long commutes.
- Reliance mainly on trickle-down to provide housing to low-income households.
- Fragmented land use decisions by local governments.

What is smart growth?

The Smart Growth Network, a national organization of diverse partners coordinated by U.S. EPA, has defined the following principles to help define "smart growth:"

- Mix land uses (housing, shopping, workplaces, civic uses).
- Take advantage of compact building design.
- Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
- Create walkable neighborhoods.
- Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
- Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.
- Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities.
- Provide a variety of transportation choices.
- Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost-effective.
- Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.

For more information about the Smart Growth Network, see www.smartgrowth.org.



First Suburbs Consortium produces results

The First Suburbs Consortium, the organization of fully developed communities around Cleveland, is proving that working together produces results.

With the cooperation of Cuyahoga County Treasurer Jim Rokakis, the group has created an innovative linked-deposit program in which the county will deposit up to \$40 million in local banks to leverage low-interest loans for home improvements in First Suburb communities. The group also has raised \$250,000 to hire consultants with expertise in making older commercial districts more competitive in today's retail markets. Each participating suburb will propose several commercial areas for study and strategic guidance.

Another focus is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. First Suburbs' officials are working together to pressure HUD to improve management of Section 8 other federal housing programs that often create eyesores in older communities.

In the coming months, the group plans to incorporate as a council of governments. Around the state, its members are helping to organize First Suburbs groups in the Columbus and Cincinnati areas. And they are working with a lobbyist to articulate the needs of older communities at the Statehouse. One legislative goal is a \$20 million state revolving loan fund for redevelopment initiatives in older suburbs.

In Greater Cleveland, First Suburbs now has ten dues-paying members — Bedford, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Garfield Heights, Lakewood, Maple Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, University Heights, and Warrensville Heights. Representatives from other cities in Cuyahoga and Lake counties also attend meetings.

For more information, see www.firstsuburbs.org or call Keith Benjamin at the City of Cleveland Heights, 216-291-2854.

First Suburbs winners

Congratulations to the active First Suburbs participants who were winners in the November 1999 elections. First Suburbs chairman Kenneth Montlack was reelected to the Cleveland Heights City Council without opposition. Judy Rawson was elected mayor of Shaker Heights. Mayor Paul Oyaski was reelected in Euclid. Mayor John Kocevar was reelected in South

Euclid. And Susan Infeld was reelected to the University Heights City Council.

Business for urban transportation

Under the leadership of the Greater Cleveland Growth Association, chambers of commerce in Ohio have formed the Ohio Urban Transportation Coalition to promote urban redevelopment. The group hopes to influence candidates for the Ohio General Assembly next year, as well as the 2001 state budget process.

The goal is to increase the amount of state money going to local governments to maintain the transportation system.

CDCs focus on state policy

Realizing that state policies greatly influence the redevelopment of urban neighborhoods, community development corporations in Ohio are organizing a statewide advocacy coalition. The group's first initiative will be the enactment of a Neighborhood Assistance Program to facilitate community revitalization through partnerships with businesses and nonprofits. For more information, call Robyn Roche at the Cleveland Neighborhood Development Corporation, 216-928-8100.

Preserving more than historic buildings

The Cleveland Restoration Society has completed the restoration of the historic Sarah Benedict House at 3751 Prospect Ave. in Cleveland. The house is now the home of the Preservation Resource Center of Northeast Ohio, which will allow the Restoration Society to expand its services beyond the City of Cleveland.

According to the society's executive director Kathleen Crowther, "With the establishment of the Preservation Resource Center, we have made a significant step in acknowledging that preservation has changed. Today, historic preservation is not just about rallying to save downtown landmarks. It is about neighborhood revitalization and sacred landmark preservation. It is about maintaining the architectural integrity of "first-ring" suburbs such as Lakewood, Cleveland Heights, and Shaker Heights. And it is about growth management plans for fast-growing communities such as Chagrin Falls, Hudson, and Avon Lake that desire to protect their small-town atmosphere."

For more information, call 216-426-1000.

Cuyahoga greenspace

As part a program to update the land use plan for Cuyahoga County, the County Planning Commission has begun a Greenspace Project to study the potential for open space protection, parks, greenways, trails, gardens, and other "green infrastructure." The idea is that even in a highly urbanized county, good planning and community input can uncover exciting new opportunities to connect people with nature.

For more information, contact the planning commission's Virginia Aveni or Kathy Rocco at 216-443-3700.

Land trusts think regionally

In recent years, Northeast Ohio has developed a number of active land trusts — nonprofit organizations that preserve land in their communities through purchase, the acquisition of conservation easements that prevent development, or other means. The organizations include groups such as the Chagrin River Land Conservancy and Headwaters Land Trust, as well as other nonprofits that preserve land, such the Holden Arboretum and the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland.

Now, under the umbrella of the Northeast Ohio Land Trust Coalition, these organizations are thinking about how to work more effectively at the regional scale. At workshops during the past year, representatives have discussed how to share information, legal expertise about land deals, and public education campaigns. Several of the local land trusts are considering mergers in order to become large enough to afford paid staff.

For more information, contact Roger Gettig at Holden Arboretum (440-946-4400) or Rich Cochran at the Chagrin River Land Conservancy (440-247-0880).

NORA funded to promote regional forums

The Northeast Ohio Regional Alliance has received grants from the George Gund Foundation, the GAR Foundation, and U.S. EPA to convene community discussions about policy issues that affect the region, particularly issues relating to land use.

In the coming year, NORA will hold a series of public forums, as well as small meetings with county commissioners of the seven-county region to identify issues of common interest.

The Citizens League Research Institute is acting as the group's fiscal agent. For more information, contact NORA's coordinator, Carol Gibson, at 216-932-8733.

State's urban revitalization task force is a private affair

In a follow-up to former Gov. George Voinovich's Farmland Preservation Task Force, Gov. Bob Taft has appointed an Urban Revitalization Task Force to explore ways to rebuild Ohio's urban cores. The task force is chaired by Lee Johnson, director of the Ohio Department of Development. Members from Northeast Ohio include State Sen. C.J. Prentiss, Cleveland Mayor Michael White, Akron Mayor Donald Plusquellic, and Lorain Mayor Joseph Koziura.

While the farmland task force held a series of well-attended public meetings throughout the state, the urban revitalization task force has been a closed-door affair. In recent months, the big-city mayors on the task force each held private focus groups to gain input. Staff and consultants of the Department of Development then spent October and November drafting a report.

On December 9, the task force steering committee will review the draft report. The final recommendations will be sent to Gov. Taft in January. Taft will then use the recommendations to formulate an urban revitalization policy agenda. Areas of focus are brownfield redevelopment, housing, transportation, taxes, tax incentives, workforce development and education, health, community building and safety.

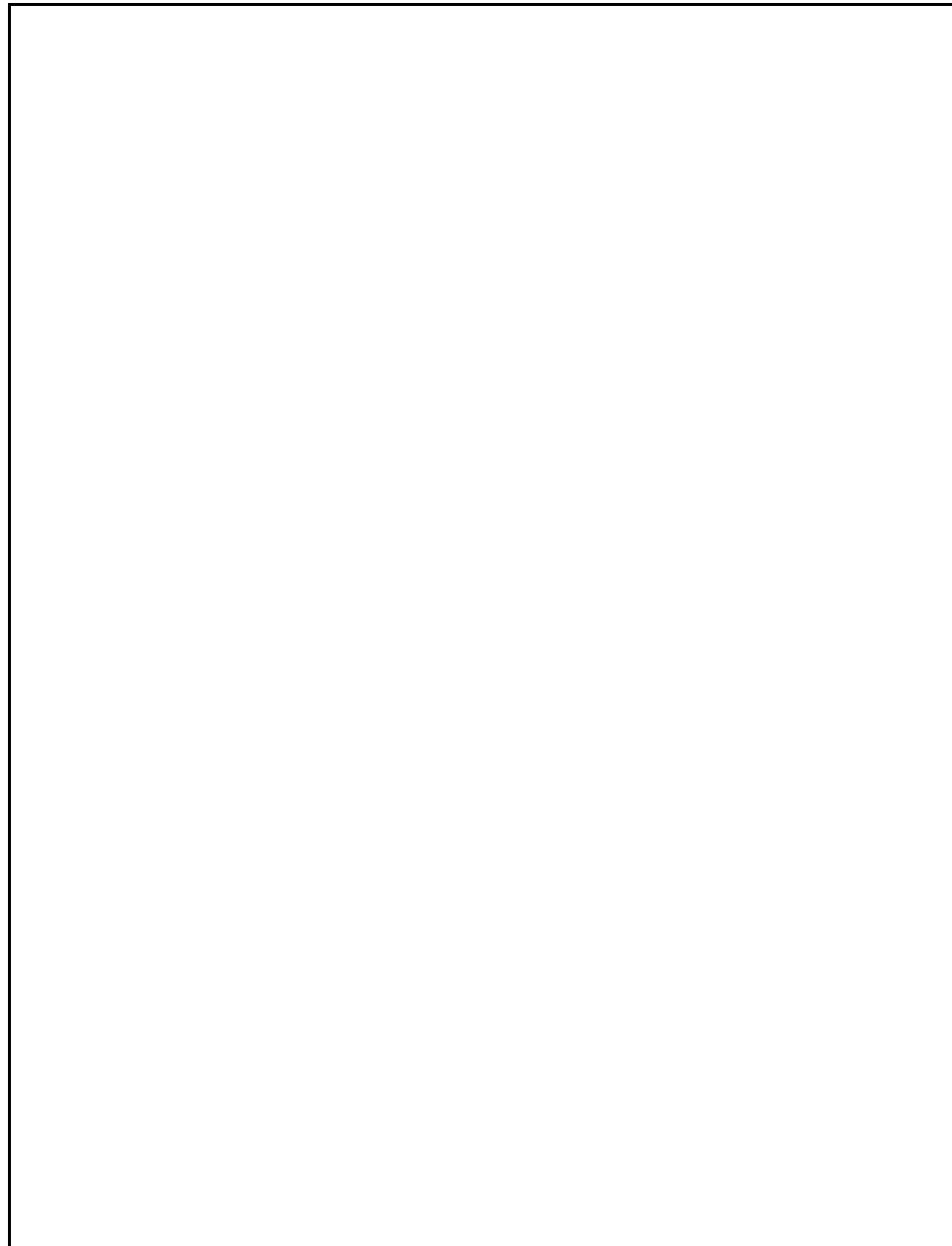
According to one source, Sen. Prentiss admits it will be challenging to garner widespread support for urban redevelopment initiatives in state where rural, urban and suburban areas are always in competition for state funding.

But Prentiss adds, "The city is the mother community. If it does not thrive, everything else suffers... I think it is incumbent on the governor's staff to figure out ways to acculturate legislators who don't think that, so people don't see themselves in competition. We've got to work together."

For more information about the task force, call Vince Lombardi at the Ohio Department of Development, 614-466-3379.

Taft on smart growth

Gov. Bob Taft's speech at the Cleveland City Club on October 29 dealt mostly with education and job training. But in response to a question about supporting smart growth policies to redevelop existing cities and



Headlines: Smart growth news and photos from Ohio (supplied by EcoCity Cleveland) made the cover of the *Urban Ecologist* (1999, Number 2), the fine journal from the San Francisco Bay area.

towns and preserve open space, he said he supported programs to redevelop urban core communities and help counties do better planning for growth.

"It would be hard for the state to impose growth controls," he added. "But it can help increase the local capacity to plan."

New state coalition formed

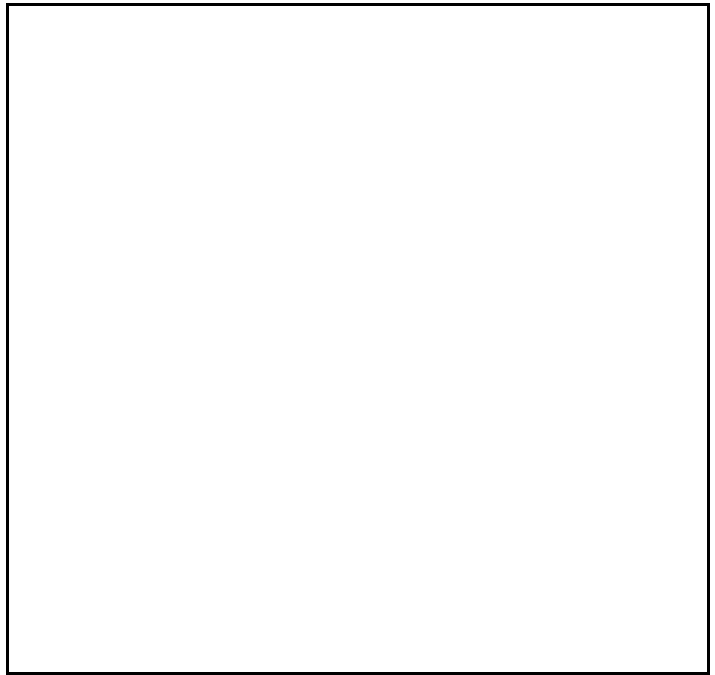
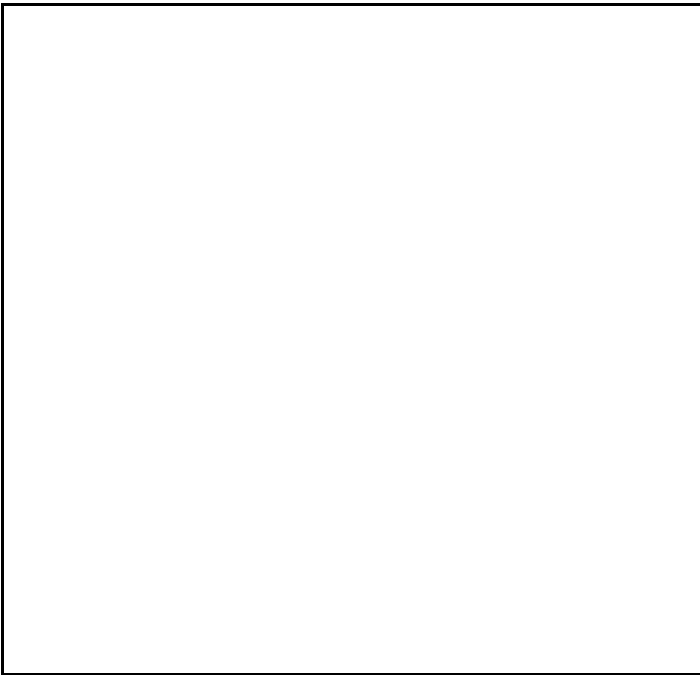
The idea that "Ohio is going to grow and we can do a better job if we all work together," is the starting point for a new group called the Coalition for a Better Ohio. It aims to recognize innovative land use and

development practices.

The founders are Prof. Larry Libby of the Ohio State University Dept. of Agriculture, Environmental and Developmental Economics and John McGory of The McGory Group consulting firm in Westerville.

Open space desires

A recent *Time Magazine* poll said 57 percent of Americans favor "the establishment of a zone or greenbelt around your community where new homes, businesses or stores could not be built on land that is currently undeveloped."



Sprawling suburbs or walkable neighborhoods? Public opinion and changing demographics are pushing home builders to place more emphasis on the latter.

Home builders for smart growth?

One can be excused for being a little cynical when the home building industry comes out for smart growth. After all, the home builders have been the most vocal opponents of efforts by states and communities to manage growth — regardless of whether the efforts involve open space preservation, zoning changes, or measures to protect environmentally or historically significant resources.

But the growing public dissatisfaction with suburban sprawl is motivating groups of home builders to take a more thoughtful approach. For example, the home builders from 11 counties in Northeast Ohio recently created a "Smart Growth Education Foundation" to present a unified voice on growth-related issues. Among the leaders of the effort is the Greater Cleveland Home Builders' new executive vice president, Dick Anter, the former mayor of Fairview Park and former director of downtown development for the Greater Cleveland Growth Association.

According to its brochure, the foundation will work with community groups and all levels of government to:

- Improve local zoning codes and development regulations to allow a variety of housing and pricing, preserve open space and protect natural resources.
- Revitalize older cities and suburbs as

an alternative to new development at the outer edges of the metro area.

- Expand the supply of residential building sites on smaller lots throughout the region.
- Promote more concentrated new residential development, meaning that non-environmentally sensitive areas improved with sewer and water must, on average, be developed at significantly higher densities than are currently permitted by most local zoning codes.

The initiative is an outgrowth of builders' frustrations over large-lot zoning. A great deal of new residential land in Northeast Ohio is zoned for lots of an acre or more. This forces home builders to consume land in big chunks and build only expensive homes that do not meet the needs of a substantial portion of the market. Meanwhile, red tape and high land assembly costs make redevelopment difficult in older urban areas.

Pro-development vision

The danger in all this is that builders will seek to build high-density new housing all over the region, instead of in appropriate places and with designs that complement existing communities. But if they are sincere about a more balanced approach to development in the region, there could be a

common agenda with smart growth advocates.

For instance, we can all agree to:

- Support sensible regional planning and public investment that will steer development where environmental impacts infrastructure costs are minimized.
- Promote conservation development to cluster housing and preserve open space and farmland.
- Redevelop established communities at higher densities to create walkable neighborhoods.
- Work to break down exclusionary zoning and build affordable housing in every community.

This is the pro-development vision that EcoCity Cleveland advocated in our *Citizens' Bioregional Plan*. We believe that most of the new housing units needed in Northeast Ohio could be built in existing communities if aggressive strategies were in place to promote redevelopment and conserve land. There's no need to keep tearing up the countryside the way we are today.

If we work together as a region for smarter forms of development, we can improve our communities *and* keep home builders well employed.

For more information about the home builders' project, call 216-524-0756. □

Builders told to use 'smart' techniques

If Northeast Ohio's builders don't figure out new ways to accommodate growth without harming the environment, communities and quality of life, the government will force them to with horrid new rules, top real-estate experts told builders and bankers last night.

"Smart growth' is here, and as much as we fight it, it is not going to go away," Bob Dyer, vice president of Forest City Land Group, told the Home Builders Association of Greater Cleveland.

At the group's annual meeting at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center, the association's leadership rolled out a new smart-growth platform and asked developers — many of them wary — to support it.

— *The Plain Dealer*, November 5, 1999

Building a mix of housing

The Smart Growth Education Foundation has begun working with local governments to help them accommodate growth and meet the community's increasing housing demands while preserving natural resources and utilizing existing infrastructure as efficiently as possible. Through a combination of higher-density new development, rehabilitation of existing homes and redevelopment of urban centers, the future housing needs of our population can be met with a diverse and affordable supply of homes, condominiums and apartment buildings. For example, cluster development — grouping homes on the more buildable portions of a site — allows developers to leave more open space, to preserve natural features and to reduce the costs of extending sewers and roads. Also, including affordable housing in large planned communities gives options for all segments of the home buying market.

— Home Builders of Northeast Ohio

Highway contractors on the defensive?

The highway lobby recently formed the Ohio Environment-Growth Alliance "to educate the public and officials regarding the truth about 'urban sprawl' and land use issues." It will promote free-market policies that will "allow Ohioans to continue to choose where they want to live and how they want to get there."

The group will try to convince an increasingly skeptical public that unfettered growth and suburban sprawl really doesn't raise housing costs, increase traffic congestion and increase social polarization. And it will push the contradictory message that continued highway building is the best way to give Ohioans transportation choices.

For more information about the alliance, call 800-860-5511 or see the Web site of the Ohio Construction Information Association at www.ocianews.com.

National chains are expanding rapidly in a battle for market share. How many stores will survive, and how many will become abandoned eyesores?

Retail glut?

Does Northeast Ohio have enough consumer dollars to support all the new drugstores and other national chains that have been flooding into the region?

Local planners are trying to answer the question and have almost completed the region's first comprehensive inventory of retail establishments. The inventory is part of a seven-county retail business study being conducted by the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency in association with the planning commissions of Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Portage, Medina and Lorain counties and the City of Cleveland. As part of the inventory, each retail establishment is being categorized by location, square footage and retail type.

To date, information from the inventory phase has revealed some interesting trends, such as a significant amount of "overstoring" in Northeast Ohio. For example, although suburban Cuyahoga County experienced a 7.4% decrease in population since 1968, it saw a 62.4% increase in the amount of retail development during the same period. Similarly, the 1998 national average of 18.6 square feet of retail square feet per capita was exceeded by three and a half times in Lake, Geauga and suburban Cuyahoga counties and by five times in northern Summit County. Yet in spite of these high numbers, significantly more retail development is being proposed in many of these areas.

Another trend is the continuing expansion of national retailers into the area, which has resulted in smaller local merchants being bought out or going out of business. In addition, the trend toward more larger, "big box" stores has resulted in more one-stop shopping, which in turn has impacted the viability of many retail strips throughout the area.

In spite of this apparent overstoring, vacancy rates in many suburban retail areas remain fairly low at this time. This generally can be attributed to the strength of the economy in recent years. However, vacancy rates in the retail sector could be negatively affected by a downturn in the economy, increased competition from big box retailers, and the explosive growth of electronic commerce. Concerns over how vacant storefronts impact community vitality, character and image could become more numerous should there be a rise in vacancy rates throughout the region.

Once the inventory portion of the study is completed, the study will proceed with a trade area analysis, which will indicate shopping patterns throughout Northeast Ohio, and a determination of how retail development impacts community tax base, services, land use and the environment. The final phase of the study, expected to be completed in the summer of 2000, will assess new retail development trends in the region and develop land use strategies for future commercial growth and redevelopment.

For more information about the Northeast Ohio retail study, contact James Kastelic at the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, 216-443-3700.

Urban creek: Doan Brook cuts through sandstones and shales at the edge of the Portage Escarpment.

Healing Doan Brook

Out of all the urban creeks in Greater Cleveland, Doan Brook has more potential than most to be restored to ecological health and to become a great recreational amenity. Nearly all of the brook — which flows through Shaker Heights, Cleveland Heights, and Cleveland's University Circle and Glenville neighborhoods — is still above ground rather than being buried in a culvert. And much of the surrounding stream corridor is park land.

But, like most urban streams, Doan Brook is seriously impacted by sewer overflows and polluted stormwater runoff from streets, rooftops and parking lots. To address some of these problems, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is undertaking a multi-million dollar study of the stream and the sewers that drain to it. As part of this study, the sewer district is funding a number of community projects that go beyond the district's jurisdiction for water pollution control.

EcoCity Cleveland was fortunate to receive some of these funds to explore innovative ways to manage urban stormwater in the Doan Brook watershed.

During the next six months we will be working with the three cities in the watershed, along with citizens and homeowners, on methods for reducing the volume of stormwater flooding into the brook and for reducing the amount of pollutants carried by the stormwater. To help us with this project, we have hired the Center for Watershed Protection, a nonprofit organization based in Maryland. The center has a national reputation for cutting-edge thinking about the restoration of urban streams.

A summary of the project follows.

Doan Brook history

In 1798, Nathaniel Doan, a member of Moses Cleaveland's exploration party of 1796, moved with his family four miles east of Cleveland's Public Square to the corner of an old wagon track (now Euclid Avenue) and a stream, which later came to be known as Doan Brook. Ever since, the brook has been an integral part of the surrounding community.

The oldest man-made lake in Ohio,

Lower Shaker Lake, was formed from Doan Brook in 1826. Horseshoe Lake was formed in 1852 when the Shakers dammed the upper reaches of the brook to power their mills. Hundreds of acres of land along the length of the brook were donated to the City of Cleveland in the late nineteenth century by area philanthropists, and by 1896, the whole lower reach of the Doan Brook became one continuous park. It has been reported that on a single Sunday in 1896 more than 43,000 people used High Level Drive (now East Boulevard) in carriages, on bicycles, and on foot. Between 1915 and 1939, ethnic groups built "Cultural Gardens" throughout the public park lands along the brook as World War I commemorations. In the 1960s, the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes was formed during a fight by local citizens to prevent a freeway from passing along the park lands and over the Shaker Lakes. Today, the park lands are popular with joggers, bikers, and bird-watchers. The nature center plays a role in the education of many school children in the area.

As early as the turn of the century, the

brook began to suffer the impacts of urbanization. There is evidence of dredging activity in the lakes dating back as far as 1893. Between 1902 and 1926, the lower portion downstream of University Circle was channelized with stone revetments to try to control flooding. By 1932 development in the watershed required the raising of the existing walls and the construction of new ones. By 1955, however, even these walls could not handle the flood flows

In the 1960s, severely degraded water quality, flooding, lack of aquatic life, and several other factors began to raise citizen concerns. A series of water quality and flooding studies were completed, and, in 1974, the Joint Committee on the Doan Brook Watershed, a committee of citizens and public officials, was formed to continue monitoring the brook.

Problems in the watershed

Today, Doan Brook and the Shaker Lakes face many problems common to urban streams and lakes, including poor water quality, degraded aquatic life, and flooding.

Many of these problems are caused by watershed-wide phenomena. For instance, the increasing amount of impervious cover (surfaces such as roads and rooftops that are impervious to rain) has reduced stormwater infiltration into the ground and increased the velocity and volume of stormwater flows to the brook. This, combined with an efficient stormwater conveyance and drainage system, causes stormwater to flow rapidly into the brook in flows that are greater in volume and peak more rapidly than occurred before urbanization. This stormwater runoff, in turn, is the main transport mechanism of pollution from sources throughout the watershed.

In an urbanized setting such as the Doan Brook watershed, the many intertwining relationships between land use, human activity, rainfall, development, and the stream system quality mean that watershed management and stormwater management are equally intertwined. To solve water quality problems one must overcome a number of difficulties:

- The difficulty in coordinating watershed and stormwater management efforts between the cities of Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, and Shaker Heights, as well as the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSDD)
- The lack of technical assistance and financing available to homeowners to implement backyard techniques that can help curb pollution.
- The fact that much of the watershed is

already developed and that it is typically easier to protect a watershed while it's being developed than to restore one that is already urbanized.

- The wide diversity of land uses and pollutant sources within the watershed.
- The variation in stormwater and watershed management priorities throughout the watershed.

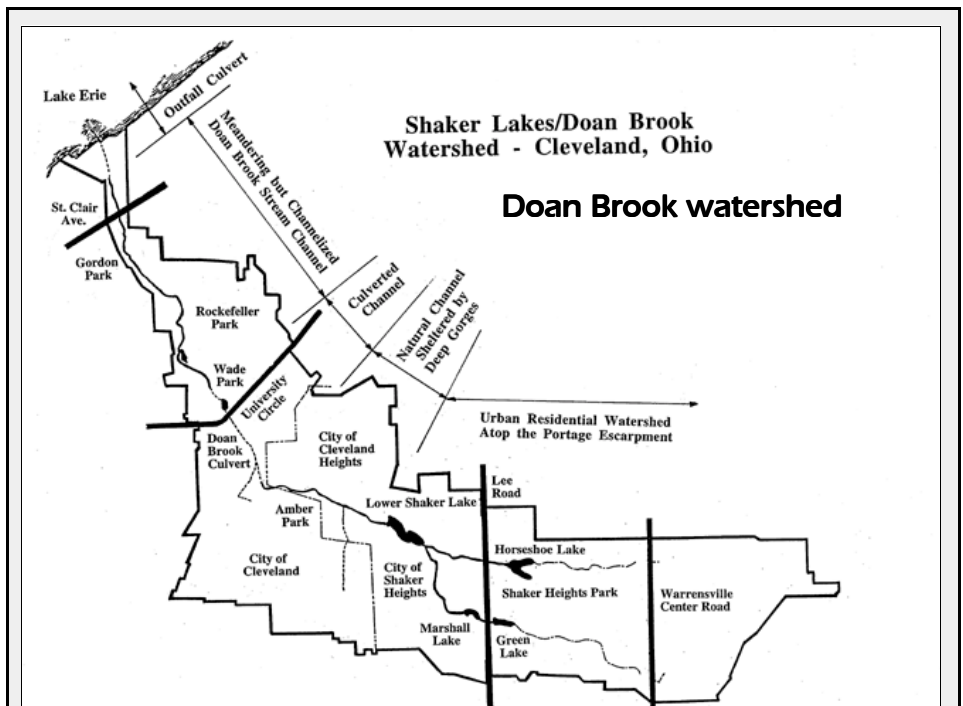
With these concerns in mind, EcoCity Cleveland and the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) teamed up to develop a community-based, watershed-wide approach to stormwater runoff management in the Doan Brook watershed. The two-part project will complement the ongoing work of the regional sewer district by examining the feasibility of stormwater management techniques that exceed the jurisdiction of the district and that mobilize community participation.

Part 1

Technical support and training on stormwater management and retrofitting
Target audience — municipal officials, planning commissions, local watershed professionals, and local watershed advocates

The purpose of this part of the project is to convey information on state-of-the-art watershed and stormwater management techniques, tools, and practices that can be effective in the Doan Brook watershed. CWP has identified eight tools of watershed and stormwater management for urbanized watersheds (see sidebar on page 15). A watershed manager will generally need to apply some form of each of these eight tools to ensure resource protection.

Review of current programs: To begin, we will review the stormwater and watershed programs of Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, and Shaker Heights to



Source: CWRU Dept. of Civil Engineering

Doan Brook facts

Doan Brook carries stormwater runoff to Lake Erie from Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, and small portions of Beachwood and University Heights. The brook's total length is about 9.4 miles, and its watershed encompasses an area of approximately 8,000 acres. It discharges to Lake Erie at Gordon Park near the Cleveland-Bratenahl border. Wastewater from the Doan Brook area is conveyed to the Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In the past two years the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District has undertaken a comprehensive study of the watershed to figure out the best ways to:

- Meet federal standards for combined sewer overflows (overflows of sewage and polluted stormwater from old sewers that have sanitary and storm drains in the same pipe).
- Address flooding and other stormwater related problems.
- Improve water quality and aquatic habitat of Doan Brook.

determine existing programmatic strengths and possible areas for improvement. The review of ordinances, reports, development review processes, and other documents often provides only a surface knowledge of what is actually happening in a jurisdiction. Therefore, we will meet personally with appropriate representatives from the cities. This will include a field trip throughout each jurisdiction's portion of the watershed to identify areas of concern, existing stormwater management practices, dominant land uses, etc.

Retrofit inventory:

Stormwater retrofits are a series of structural best management practices (BMPs) for urban watersheds. Examples include constructing on-site stormwater control measures at the edge of large parking areas; retrofitting older stormwater detention ponds; constructing new BMPs at the upstream end of road culverts; constructing new BMPs at storm drainage pipe outfalls; and constructing small in-stream devices. Stormwater

retrofits are typically placed throughout the watershed to

help mitigate the impacts of urbanization at the *source*, as opposed to traditional *end-of-pipe* solutions. In this part of the project, CWP will conduct a retrofit inventory on up to five square miles of the watershed. The objective will be to identify potential locations for stormwater management practices produce up to eight conceptual design sketches for implementation

Training in the field: The retrofit inventory will involve both in-the-office preparation and field reconnaissance of potential sites. We will request local officials, engineers, and stakeholders to assist us in our survey. This will include a morning training session, followed by one to two days in the field conducting the survey. This will give participants an understanding of how to conduct a stormwater retrofit survey so they will be able to study other areas of the watershed in the future

Management notebook: Based on our knowledge of the tools and programs that have been successfully implemented in other urban watersheds and the characteristics of the Doan Brook watershed, we will prepare a watershed and stormwater management tools notebook. This reference, geared towards local

officials and watershed professionals, will contain information on the implementation, design, cost, and effectiveness of tools and programs (especially in the areas of pollutant source identification, land reclamation, riparian management, erosion and sediment control, better site design for redevelopment, stormwater BMPs, pollution prevention, and watershed education and outreach). This notebook, customized for each city, will also include the summary report of the stormwater

etc.). These priorities may vary with watershed location. We recognize the diversity in both residential lot size and income throughout the watershed, and will try to propose a diversity of backyard retrofit techniques, in terms of priority control, space consumption, and cost for implementation (always focusing on low-cost implementation). It is important to note that backyard retrofits are not restricted to structural practices. They may include human behaviors that may impact water quality, such as pet waste management.

Backyard retrofit

designs: We will prepare illustrated examples of five to ten backyard retrofits detailing design, implementation, effectiveness, and cost data for residents. These designs will be distributed throughout the communities by flyers and will be published in the *EcoCity Cleveland Journal*.

Public presentation:

Finally, we will invite local homeowners, residents, and watershed activists to a free public

Lower Shaker Lake: Doan Brook flows through it.

program review, and up to eight conceptual sketches of structural stormwater retrofits based on the results of the field reconnaissance.

Workshop: Finally, we will conduct a free, one-day stormwater management workshop with an agenda tailored to meet the needs of the local municipalities in the Doan Brook watershed as well as other fully developed communities. The morning session will focus on effective, watershed-wide stormwater management tools applicable to the Doan Brook watershed. In the afternoon, we will present the results of the stormwater program reviews and the retrofit survey.

**Part 2
Backyard retrofit survey
and community education**

Target audience — homeowners and other citizens

This part of the project will examine what homeowners can do in their own backyards to control nonpoint source pollution and stormwater runoff. We will identify the priority "backyard" controls (such as disconnection of downspouts, reducing volume of runoff through infiltration, bacteria and nutrient control,

presentation on the impacts of urbanization on streams, and the backyard retrofit opportunities available to homeowners. This presentation will be customized for the Doan Brook watershed and will be based on the results of the backyard retrofit survey. □

For more information

For more information about this Doan Brook watershed project, contact:

■ David Beach at EcoCity Cleveland, 216-932-3007 or dbeach@ecocleveland.org.

■ Jennifer Zielinski at the Center for Watershed Protection, 410-461-8323 or jaz@cwpp.org. CWP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding new, cooperative ways of protecting and restoring watersheds. Its principal functions are conducting independent research and providing technical support to local governments and watershed management professionals around the country. The center has provided technical assistance to local governments in 30 states and the District of Columbia. It is located in Ellicott City, Maryland.

■ Betsy Yingling at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, 216-875-8802.

Eight tools of stormwater management for urban watersheds

The following tools are part of a comprehensive strategy for reducing the flash floods of polluted stormwater that degrade urban streams:

- **Source identification:**

Efforts to identify sanitary sewer overflows, combined sewer overflows, illicit sewer connections, and other pollution hotspots in the watershed.

- **Land restoration:** The restoration of forests, wetlands and soils in the watershed to reduce water runoff.

- **Riparian management:** The protection, restoration, creation or reforestation of vegetated buffer areas along streams, wetlands and lakes.

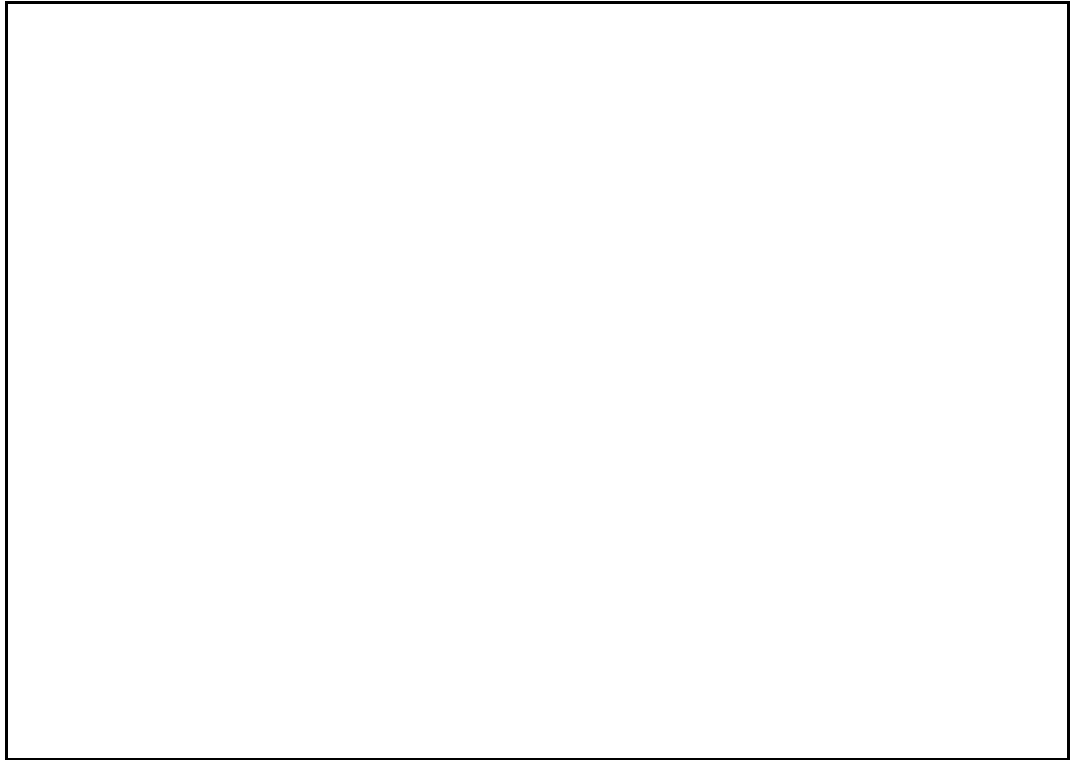
- **Better site design for redevelopment:** Techniques, such as vegetated drainage areas next to parking lots, that disconnect impervious surfaces from storm drains.

- **Erosion and sediment control:** Techniques to keep soil from washing away, especially during construction.

- **Stormwater best management practices:** Structural practices, such as detention basins and constructed wetlands, that can be integrated into the landscape to mitigate runoff from urban areas.

- **Pollution prevention:** Operation and maintenance practices, such as street sweeping, that prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain system.

- **Watershed education and outreach:** Programs to educate citizens and businesses about how their behavior impacts urban streams.



Ekoraft maintaining the ecological balance of a lake in Hudson.

Clean water with living machines

"The challenge of the 21st century will be to reverse the excesses of the 20th century, and that will require a design revolution," said John Todd in a recent speech in Cleveland as part of the "Redesigning Cleveland" speakers series.

Todd, a pioneer in the development of "living machines" to ecologically treat industrial and municipal wastewater, added that design for the new century should be instructed by the processes that nature has evolved and tested over millions of years. These natural systems have a few basic principles, including the ability to self-organize, self-design, self-repair, and use radiant energy from the sun. They are ecologically complex but engineeringly simple. Applied to human needs, they can be the workhorses of a new society that exist in harmony with nature.

The above photo shows such a living machine at work to maintain the ecological balance of a lake in Hudson. Called an Ekoraft, it is a floating system that uses three processes to keep water clear and reduce pond sediments — surface and subsurface aeration to add oxygen, biofiltration compartments with plants and beneficial bacteria to metabolize nutrients (thus making those nutrients unavailable for algae blooms), and continuous delivery of a natural algacide. The raft is constructed of local recycled plastic lumber and floats a photovoltaic panel and air pump.

Ekorafts are designed by CW Waterworks in Cleveland Heights. For more information, call 216-932-8259.

Citizens recommend reforms at Cleveland Bureau of Air Pollution Control

Following an in-depth study of Cleveland's Bureau of Air Pollution Control, a coalition of environmental and neighborhood groups recently unveiled a reform agenda aimed at restoring public confidence in the troubled agency. Among the recommendations:

- Appoint the Industrial Air Pollution Advisory Committee.
- Provide an ombudsperson at the Bureau of Air Pollution Control.
- Create a City of Cleveland Bureau of Air Pollution Control web page.
- Develop educational materials and programs for the public.
- Utilize computer mapping to identify and target pollution "hot spots."
- Reduce the rate to copy public records or allow for other methods of attainment.
- Pursue an increase in Ohio EPA budget for needed resources, such as additional qualified personnel.

In recent months, the coalition of groups, organized as the Cuyahoga Clean Air Council (CCAC), has been working with the City to begin implementing these recommendations. City officials have already agreed on a timetable for some of the reforms.

In addition, the CCAC is monitoring the city's efforts to meet the technical requirements of the state and federal air quality authorities who have delegated responsibility for air quality permitting and enforcement to the Cleveland Bureau of Air Pollution Control. The CCAC believes that the City of Cleveland should retain permitting authority for Cuyahoga County, considering that the majority of air pollution sources are within the city limits. However, if the Cleveland Department of Public Health and BAPC are unable or unwilling to make needed improvements, it is the CCAC's position that the permitting authority should be granted to another agency or department. The city has been under state and federal investigation for management problems in the air quality program.

The CCAC is composed of concerned Cuyahoga County and City of Cleveland residents, community groups, and environmental and health organizations dedicated to improving the quality of air in local neighborhoods. The study process was staffed by the Clean Air Conservancy, a nonprofit organization that specializes in air quality issues. Funding for the project came from The Cleveland Foundation. EcoCity Cleveland provided technical assistance.

The next step in the project is a public education effort to help citizens defend their interests in the air permitting process. For more information, contact the Clean Air Conservancy at 216-932-8999 or see www.cleanairconservancy.org. Additional information about air quality issues can be found at www.cleanair.net.

City to name air pollution committee

Prompted by citizens and environmental groups, the City of Cleveland will appoint an Air Pollution Advisory Committee to provide public oversight of city's air pollution enforcement programs. The ordinance establishing the committee was passed 20 years ago, but the committee was never convened.

Persons interested in serving on the committee should send resumes or letters of interest to Milan Polacek, Mayor's Office, City Hall Room 227, 601 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114. Mayor Michael White recently agreed to make the appointments by May 1, 2000.

Ohio EPA: Reluctant air quality enforcer?

Cleveland's Bureau of Air Pollution Control has been under the gun for mismanagement of the air quality monitoring and permitting program in Cuyahoga County. But some air quality activists say the real source of problems is the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, which delegates local air pollution authority to the city.

The following comes from Glenn Landers, a Cleveland-area staff member of the Sierra Club Great Lakes Program. In recent years, Landers has monitored air pollution permits in Ohio.

■
The Ohio EPA has consistently opposed efforts to strengthen environmental protection for the air we breathe, despite the fact that hundreds of citizens of Ohio die each year from respiratory illnesses aggravated by air pollution. When the U.S. EPA proposed tougher health-based air standards for smog and soot a few years ago, the Ohio EPA relentlessly opposed then, using the same lame arguments made by the polluters themselves. When U.S. EPA ordered Ohio EPA to require modern pollution controls for nitrogen oxides emissions from dirty, old coal-burning power plants, Ohio EPA declared it would ignore the limits required by the federal government and set up its own less stringent standards.

Ohio EPA's advocacy on behalf of polluters does not stop at just the broad policy issues. It can be seen every day in the management of its own permitting program. Ohio EPA routinely issues air pollution permits that fail to meet the minimal standards set by the Clean Air Act. Worse yet, Ohio EPA is preparing to weaken federal enforcement authority for air pollution in Ohio by removing from the federally enforceable section of permits the state requirement that a polluter use the best available technology to control new sources of emissions.

None of this means that the Cleveland Bureau of Air Pollution Control should be let off the hook. The local air authority has done an abysmal job, and it must be reformed. But we should keep in mind the old adage that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. The Cleveland bureau derives its authority from Ohio EPA, and with the message that agency has been sending, it's no wonder there is a problem in Cleveland.

Is it enough to buy organic?

By Ted Bartlett

One of the predictable signs of “success” in a new industry is when one encounters the competition using gimmicks designed to recapture some lost market share. This happened to us here at Silver Creek Farm when we tried to sell a product to one of our regular wholesale customers. The produce buyer told us that if he bought from us then his Midwest distributor would raise the price on other items he could not get locally.

More and more local, organic producers are being subjected to this kind of tactic in an effort to squeeze them out of the market. Most do not even know it is happening. They know only that they called, gave their pitch, and were turned down.

Since we are in the business of selling organic produce, we give this kind of event a lot of thought. It occurred to me, however, that other people did not. In these days of NAFTA, GATT, and a world economy, should anyone care about buying local produce?

Let me set the stage by “inventing” some local history. Once upon a time there were some farmers and consumers in Ohio who worried about the production practices promoted by the land grant colleges of agriculture. They worried that the ever increasing use of toxic amendments that were being recommended were, in the long run, going to seriously damage both the environment and public health.

So these farmers began to experiment with growing food the old fashioned way (i.e., organically) without the use of these questionable amendments. What developed until the late 1970s was a rebellious, underground agriculture. If a consumer wanted to buy food grown without pesticides then he or she needed to find a local farmer whom they could trust to do so. Food co-ops sprang up for those who wanted this kind of food but who were unable to grow it themselves or find a producer.

Because of the disinterest of large, conventional agriculture, organic production grew up as a purely local phenomenon. The only way in which a consumer could be sure of getting the kind of food he wanted was to look into the eyes of Farmer Jones and decide that he was telling the truth. Although it was a very informal and imperfect system it held the promise of a wide variety of very real benefits. For example, healthier, cleaner food was much better for the consumer who ate it, MUCH better for the

farmer who grew it, and MUCH MUCH better for the environment in which all this transpired. Because the market share was too small for corporate agriculture to pay it any attention there was every indication of its being a positive step in cleaning up the local agriculture environment as well as well as providing for the productive use of rural land.

But that was then and this is now. Corporate agriculture has caught wind of a good thing. It is now no big surprise to walk into a supermarket and be able to buy a pound of certified, organic carrots. As a consumer you win because of the added availability of organic food.

But there is a loser. The cost of this added convenience is a break in the connection between organic products and local farms.

If you buy organic food produced outside of our “foodshed,” the loser is the local rural environment and economy. Mr. Jones who farms in Portage County on 100 acres is the one who lost that sale of carrots to a 5,000-acre farm in California or Mexico. After enough of these losses he is going to have to look realistically at that offer the developer keeps making him.

What was 100 acres of woods, pasture, crops and animals both domestic and wild, is at risk of becoming cul-de-sacs of Ryan homes. What was productive agricultural land that contributed about \$1.30 in taxes for every \$1.00 it cost in services will now be a subdivision that will cost about \$1.75 for every \$1.00 paid in. It is ironic but true

that the sustained, indiscriminate purchase of seasonal, organic products will speed up the degradation of the remaining rural areas in Northeast Ohio.

As a consumer you need to recognize that your food dollar is a potent implement for social change. You have the right to use it in any way that suits you. But you and your children will live with the consequences of those choices.

Potatoes, carrots and beef are not merely components of a stew that can nourish your body. They are each products of a system that may disturb or soothe your soul.

Choose wisely. □

Ted Bartlett and his wife Molly run Silver Creek Farm, an organic farm near Hiram. Until his recent retirement, he also was a professor of philosophy at Cleveland State University.

If you buy organic food produced outside of our foodshed, the loser is the local rural environment and economy.

Township tax revolt could kill older cities

The fiscal health of central cities like Cleveland depends a great deal on the income taxes collected from suburbanites who work in the city. It makes sense for these workers to support the city, since their jobs and safety depend on city services.

But townships in southwest Ohio are rebelling against this earnings tax. They have launched a Constitutional amendment campaign to amend the Ohio Revised Code so that no Ohio resident will be required to pay any local government tax on his or her earnings or income, except in the city, village, or township in which he or she resides.

Attorney General Betty Montgomery has certified the ballot language, and the initiative has now moved to Secretary of State's office. Proponents will need to collect about 400,000 signatures to place the measure on the ballot next year. This follows an attempt by State Rep. Diane Grendell to introduce a similar measure in the General Assembly.

Should this initiative pass, it would devastate many Ohio cities.

Hulett on the block

A coalition of preservation groups has until January 15 to raise \$200,000 to save one of the Cleveland lakefront's Hulett iron ore unloaders. Of the four remaining Hulett's, two are being demolished by the Port Authority as part of a port expansion, one is being dismantled so it can be reinstalled at a future Canal Basin Park along the Cuyahoga River, and the last one will also be saved for the park if the money can be raised in time.

The gigantic unloaders are symbols of Cleveland's industrial might. They are the last publicly-accessible Hulett's in the world and have been included in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places."

To donate to the Hulett Preservation Fund, send checks to PO Box 606285, Cleveland, OH 44106. For more information, call the Cleveland Waterfront Coalition at 216-371-3323 or Ohio Canal Corridor at 216-348-1825.

Wildlife in demand

Even though wildlife watching is one of the most popular outdoor activities and has a big economic impact, it receives little support from the state of Ohio. According to a report by the Izaak Walton League,

Ohio provides little General Fund revenue for state agencies that manage fish and wildlife resources and habitat. Instead, these agencies must rely on license fees and federal aid for 93 percent of their budget. Much of that revenue is focused more on promoting game species, even though most animal species are nongame and there are as many people involved in wildlife watching as there are hunters and anglers combined.

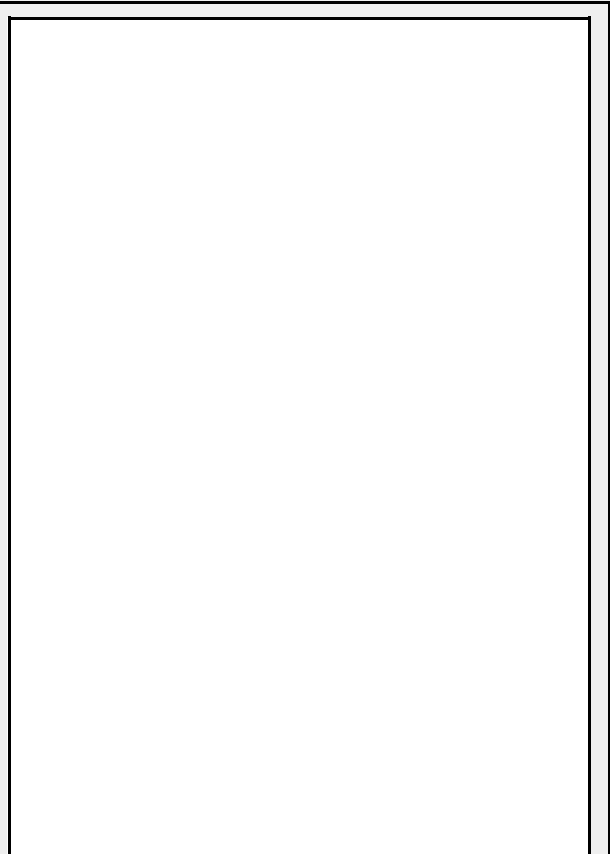
Cities and nations obsolete?

It's been said that the important problems of our time exist at the scale of the neighborhood, region and planet, but our governmental institutions for dealing with these problems exist at the scale of the city, state and nation. According to Alan Ehrenhalt, executive editor of *Governing* magazine, citizens around the world are actively dealing with this mismatch by realigning their political institutions. In a recent op-ed piece in *The New York Times*, he wrote:

"Citizens are essentially looking for two forms of public authority: intimate ones in their community that can deal with their needs in a humane way, and regional ones big enough to impose some order and stability on economic life. The governments they have are mostly too remote and bureaucratic for the first job and too small and weak for the second one. The construction of substitutes will be the big story of the next two decades."

Downtown rebound

Urban affairs columnist Neal Peirce reports that America's downtowns and central cities are on the rebound after years of neglect since World War II. Why now? He writes that the "first, clear reason: a booming national economy and low interest rates. That translates into plenty of investment capital for new urban restaurants, museums, parks, entertainment centers. With prosperity, cities are hiring more police, providing cleaner streets, better services. Crime is down sharply in practically every city, reducing peoples' fears.



Outrage of the month

Locked-up lakefront: Ohioans have a tough time getting to their greatest natural resource, Lake Erie. Only about 15 percent of the Ohio shoreline is publicly owned — about 40 out of 262 miles. And out of that 40 miles, less than 7 miles are publicly accessible beaches. We need a free and open lakefront.

"Second: Suburbia is losing some of its allure. A prime reason: increasingly severe traffic congestion, with longer and longer commutes and disrupted lives. And as people sit stuck in traffic, they have more time to behold the sheer ugliness of sprawling, sterile strip malls, big-box stores and roadways lined by forests of franchise signs.

"Then there's demographics. Every 7.5 seconds in America now, some baby boomer turns 50. The most affluent and populous generation in U.S. history, the folks who made suburbia succeed, are reaching empty nester stage. And all that downtowns and close-in neighborhoods need in today's market is a reasonable minority — not a majority, just a reasonable share of these folks to be sick of the crabgrass, to find cul-de-sac life boring, and to opt for a life close to culture, art, good eating, places to walk."

Job openings

■ **EcoCity Cleveland:** EcoCity Cleveland is seeking an assistant project manager. See the job announcement on page 23.

■ **Cleveland EcoVillage:** The Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization is seeking a Cleveland EcoVillage project manager to oversee a national demonstration project linking the latest in green building with the principles of the new urbanism movement. Candidate must have an understanding of environmental building and planning and demonstrated experience with community organizing, real estate development and managing projects involving a broad range of components. Send letters of interest and resumes to Thomas R. Eastman, c/o DSCDO, 6516 Detroit Ave., Suite 1, Cleveland, OH 44102, or e-mail teastman@dscdo.org.

■ **Earth Day:** The Earth Day Coalition is seeking a full-time EarthFest 2000 project coordinator to help organize their big annual event. Send cover letter and resume to The Earth Day Coalition at 3606 Bridge Ave., Cleveland, OH 44113.

■ **Organic gardening:** The Crown Point Ecology Center is seeking an organic farm teacher to lead farm-based environmental education programs for youth and assist in the maintenance of an organic farm and children's garden. Send resume and references to David Irvine, Crown Point Ecology Center, PO Box 484, Bath, OH 44210, or e-mail cptfarm@aol.com.

■ **Forest preservation:** The Buckeye Forest Council is seeking a program coordinator for financial, campaign and administrative activities. Write to PO Box 99, Athens, OH 45701, or call 740-594-6400.

■ **Birding:** The National Audubon Society/Ohio is seeking a full-time staff person to design, conduct, and evaluate a multiyear Birding Trails and Festivals Project across Ohio. The project will produce a network of organizations, agencies, and businesses interested in birding events and the conduct of at least five festivals and/or trails in local communities. Send a cover letter, resume and three references to Stephen Sedam, Executive Director, National Audubon Society/Ohio, 692 N. High St., Suite 208, Columbus, Ohio 43215, or e-mail at ssedam@audubon.



Parma wetlands battle

Environmentalists continue to battle a proposal by Geis Construction to fill 22.8 acres of wetlands in Parma to build an industrial park. After Ohio EPA granted the permit to allow the wetland destruction in the Big Creek watershed, Friends of the Crooked River and Parma Advocates for Wetlands filed an appeal on August 20 with the Ohio Environmental Review Appeals Commission.

The groups argue that the permit should have been denied because there was no way to mitigate the wetlands loss in the Big Creek watershed or the Cuyahoga River watershed. Big Creek is a major tributary of the lower Cuyahoga River.

Allowing some of the last high-quality wetlands to be lost to the lower basin is contrary to Northeast Ohio's huge investment in water quality, according to Elaine Marsh, president of the Friends of the Crooked River. Since 1972, local industries, municipalities and sewer districts have spent over a billion dollars on cleaning up the Cuyahoga River, and the lower portion of the river has been the center of much public interest. The river runs through 22 miles of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. It is the heart of the new Canal Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks and other parks. It has been the focus of 11 years of work by the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan. And the river was designated an American Heritage River in 1998.

Even after these extensive efforts, the lower Cuyahoga River does not meet Ohio EPA's "fishable and swimmable" standards. Loss of habitat and nonpoint source pollution (urban runoff) are two major reasons for the water quality problems. High quality wetlands provide habitat and help prevent nonpoint source pollution.

"What is at stake here is the future of our urban watersheds," Marsh says. "Ohio EPA cannot invest public time and money in restoring the past effects of degradation on one hand and allow the loss of critical habitat on the other. It cannot give lip service to the importance of watershed planning on one hand and permit actions which are opposed to watershed restoration on the other. There is no way that this plan protects the public interest in the water quality of Ohio's American Heritage River."

For more information on supporting the appeal of the wetlands permit, call Friends of the Crooked River at 330-666-4026.



Transitions

■ The Geauga Park District has new leadership. **Tom Curtin**, formerly of Lake Metroparks, is the district's new director. And **Keith McClintock** has moved from the Geauga Soil and Water District to become the new deputy director.

■ Cleveland Councilman **Edward Rybka** has become chair of the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan. He succeeds **Ted Esborne**.

■ **Joe Daubenmire**, who has promoted farmland preservation efforts from the Medina County Extension Office, is moving to Columbus to be the assistant to the director of the Ohio Office of Farmland Preservation.

■ **Bruce Freeman** has resigned as director of the Medina County Planning Commission, a difficult job that is caught in the middle of pro-growth and farmland preservation forces in the county.

■ **Steve Davis** of the U.S. Forest Service has been named as the "river navigator" for the Cuyahoga River as part of the American Heritage Rivers program. He will help coordinate federal programs to improve the river.

■ Former director of the Lake Farmpark, **Darwin Kelsey**, is now heading up the Cuyahoga Countryside Conservancy, a partnership with the National Park Service to re-establish farming in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

■ **Susan Murray** has moved from Cleveland State University to become director of development at the Holden Arboretum.

■ **Cynthia Sibrel**, the Ohio Sierra Club's transportation organizer, has moved on to other opportunities.

■ **Cathy Allen** is the new executive director of the Ohio League of Conservation Voters. She can be reached in Columbus at 614-481-0512.

Winners

- **The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency** (NOACA) has won the 1999 Award for Overall Achievement from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. It's national recognition for innovative planning programs.
- The **Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area** is celebrating its 25th anniversary and has honored **John Seiberling** with a new exhibit (next to the Everett Road Covered Bridge) detailing his efforts to create the park. As a Congressman from the Akron area in the early '70s, Seiberling rallied political support to establish the park as the first and only national recreation area in Ohio.
- **Environmental Achievement Awards:** Paul Buescher of Twinsburg recently won the Ohio Environmental Council's 1999 Environmental Watchdog Award for his work to form Twinsburg's Environmental Commission, stop a sandstone quarry from operating without a permit, and advocate for the preservation of trees in the rapidly developing suburb. Jon Jensen of The George Gund Foundation won the OEC's Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The **Cuyahoga Plan of Ohio** recently celebrated its 25th anniversary of providing fair housing programs.
- On December 8 the **Cleveland Design Collaborative** will celebrate its grand opening in the Pointe Building, 820 Prospect Ave. in downtown Cleveland. The collaborative will provide design assistance to urban neighborhoods. It's a program of the Kent State University School of Architecture and Environmental Design and the Urban Design Center of Northeast Ohio.
- **Dugway Brook** (which flows through Cleveland Heights, University Heights, East Cleveland, Cleveland and Bratenahl) is a largely culverted and forgotten stream. But people are starting to pay more attention to the brook's east branch where it flows above ground through Forest Hill Park. And upstream of Cain Park, the **Cummings Road Neighborhood Association** has started sponsoring events to raise awareness about the brook.
- The **Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)** recently worked with community groups to sponsor a "Week In the Creek," a series of events to heighten awareness of **Big Creek**, a major tributary to the Cuyahoga River. Events included a litter clean up, motor oil collection, watershed tour, streambank restoration project on the Chevy Branch, and a Big Creek Water Festival at the Tri-C West Campus.
- Word about **EcoCity Cleveland** is circulating even farther than we imagined. We recently received an invitation to attend the Second International Conference on Humane Habitat scheduled for January 28-31, 2000 at Rizvi College of Architecture, Mumbai, India.
- Another sign of the exciting work occurring along the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor is the Nation Award of Merit given by the American Society of Landscape Architects to the **Stark Countywide Trail and Greenway Plan**.
- WCPN Cleveland Public Radio reporter **Karen Schaefer** won an Achievement in Radio award recently for her feature story about Edison Woods in Erie County. The woods are being sold by First Energy, and conservationists are trying to preserve the large tract of land.

Bicyclists for smart growth

Thanks to *CrankMail*, the monthly newsletter of the Northeast Ohio's bike community, for reprinting portions of our *Ohio Smart Growth Agenda*. One might ask, what does smart growth have to do with cycling? Everything, says *CrankMail* editor James Guilford:

"Road cyclists' cherished 'quiet country roads' are harder and harder to find. Woodlands and fields are succumbing to development, and shopping malls, strip centers, and subdivisions do not scenic cycling make. Areas for off-roaders depend upon the absence of commercial and residential development. Our quality of life is directly affected by what we do with the land. Smarter land use would benefit the region, the state, and, not coincidentally, cyclists."



Will Columbus face up to sprawl?

The Columbus metro area is projected to add 500,000 new residents in the next 20 years, and even the development community is growing concerned about the impending costs of sprawl.

A recent newsletter from the McGory Group, a consulting firm on growth issues to companies and communities, said that the already-congested I-270 beltway and connecting roads will grow far more congested in the future, as the surrounding suburban communities double in size.

The newsletter added that "local governments, developers, and residents need to do a better job at maximizing land use. If they do not, then the cost of providing services to a sprawling population will outstrip the residents' ability or desire to pay for the good services." In addition, the present, low-density development patterns will consume the central Ohio landscape at an amazing pace.

To deal with the sprawl, the McGory Group recommends thinking regionally, revitalizing inner-city neighborhoods, straightening out the state's school

funding crisis, developing traffic and transportation alternatives, developing better housing standards that reduce land consumption, changing personal attitudes about how one lives.

"The questions of land use, government services and traffic will dominate local and state politics in the coming years," the newsletter said. "Without some new found leadership in the development community, these issues could get very divisive."

Highway-sprawl connection in Atlanta

A study of tax, transportation and development policies, conducted by American Farmland Trust and the Georgia Conservancy, pin-points several factors which favor suburban over urban development in the Atlanta area. Of the nine different policies and other factors studied, land cost — affected by highway construction — was by far the leading factor in driving development out of the city and into suburban areas. The costs of parking spaces, permit delays, tax rates and demolition costs were also significant contributors to exurban development, while only rental rates and enterprise zone tax abatements favor development in the urban center.

"The hypothesis of this study is that public policy decisions have a significant impact on patterns of land use by sending economic signals to private landowners," says, AFT's Edward Thompson Jr. "We found that policies in the metropolitan Atlanta region have created an uneven playing field for development, tilted heavily in favor of the suburbs. The end result is sprawl that gobbles up farmland while draining capital and opportunity from the city.

"The policy decision to build highways has brought thousands of acres of previously remote rural land into competition with the city. Highway construction has also created a tremendous private windfall on the outskirts — more than \$10,000 per acre."

For more information, call 202-331-7300.

Recommended resources

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

- **Ohio EPA failings:** Ohio environmental groups have issued a scathing report, *Hidden from the Public*, on Ohio EPA's failure to enforce environmental laws. The report details agency efforts to weaken enforcement of landfill siting, air pollution, and pesticides in drinking water. And it criticizes secrecy provisions that make it more difficult for the public to obtain information about polluters. For more information, see www.sierraclub.org/chapter/oh/.

- **Livable communities:** Following up on Vice President Al Gore's recent announcements of Administration initiatives to promote the revitalization of cities and the preservation of open space, the federal government has a new Livable Communities Web site at www.livablecommunities.gov.

- **Eroding right to sue:** The Environmental Policy Project at Georgetown University Law Center recently published a report entitled "Barely Standing: the Erosion of Citizen Standing to Sue to Enforce Federal Environmental Law," which describes how court decisions over the last decade have gradually eroded citizens' ability to file citizen enforcement suits to bring polluters into compliance with federal environmental laws. The report traces this adverse trend to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, author of all of the Court's major environmental standing decisions in the last decade. For a free copy of the report, contact John Echeverria or Jon Zeidler at the Environmental Policy Project, (202) 662-9851, or at envpoly@law.georgetown.edu.

- **Pollution prevention guides:** The Environmental Defense Fund has released community guides providing information on pollution prevention solutions common to automakers and iron and steel producers. The guides allow citizens to compare the pollution performance of plants across the country. For more information, see www.edf.org or call 202-387-3500.

- **Rising economy sinks most boats:** "The State of Working Ohio" by Mark Cassell and Amy Hanauer, published by the Northeast Ohio

Research Consortium's World Class Region Initiative (at Cleveland State University), presents disturbing evidence that most workers have been steadily losing economic ground since 1979. Cassell and Hanauer, using U.S. Census Bureau data, found that 80 percent of Ohio's workers were earning less in 1997 than their counterparts earned in 1979. Only the highest-earning 20 percent of workers were able to tread water economically over the 18-year period. The report is available from Cleveland State at 216-687-2134.

- **New urbanism sells:** The Urban Land Institute, the national organization of developers, has just published a study, *Valuing the New Urbanism*, which documents that home buyers are willing to pay a premium to live in communities that are compact, walkable, and have a mix of land uses. To order, call 800-321-5011.

- **U.S. EPA:** The Cleveland area office of U.S.EPA has a new Web site at www.epa.gov/reg5ohio/.

- **Ohio EPA:** The Ohio EPA site at www.epa.state.oh.us has a lot of information and databases about environmental conditions, regulations, permits and programs. Closer to home, the agency's Northeast District office is at www.epa.state.oh.us/dist/nedo/nedo.html.

- **Fossils of Ohio:** Do you know your trilobites from your cephalopods? You will if you get the new book, *Fossils of Ohio*, recently issued by the Ohio Division of Geological Survey. Called the most comprehensive modern work on fossils from an individual state, the book is available from the Survey at 4383 Fountain Square Dr., Columbus, OH 43224 (614-265-6576). Cost is \$18 plus \$4.04 shipping and sales tax for Ohio orders.

- **Environmental info for businesses:** State agencies and economic development organizations have started the Ohio Statewide Environmental Network (OSEN) to help small businesses prevent pollution, comply with regulations and enhance manufacturing efficiency. Small businesses can contact OSEN at 800-927-0436 or at www.epa.ohio.gov/opp/sen01/sen-01.html. All questions are handled confidentially



Pressure points

- **Hudson/Stow:** Wetland advocates are concerned about Hudson's plans to extend Seasons Road, which runs along the southern border of the city. The project is the first step in a huge development that might include a new interchange on SR 8 and about 1,000 acres of new industrial development in Hudson and Stow. The area also is rich in wetlands.

- **Kent:** Residents are concerned about a proposal by Developers Diversified Realty Corp. to build a 450,000-square-foot shopping complex on 55 acres at the southwest corner of state routes 261 and 43. The land is across from the Kent Bog nature preserve. In previous years, the DeBartolo Group of Youngstown had attempted to build a shopping mall on the site.

- **Highland Heights:** Residents of Highland Heights voted overwhelmingly on November 2 to increase minimum lot sizes from approximately half an acre to three-quarters of an acre for new single-family homes. The result will be fewer, but larger, homes.

- **Burton:** On November 2, residents of the picturesque Geauga County town of Burton voted down an annexation proposal that would extended water treatment services and enabled nearly 200 new homes to be added to the village. Residents feared the development would have overwhelmed their small town.

- **Kuster's Woods:** Public pressure has caused Forest City Development to back away from plans to develop housing on Kuster's Woods in Sagamore Hills, site of an outdoor education and recreation area for children and teens with special needs. The state still has the property up for sale, however.

- **Twinsburg:** Traffic congestion from new commercial development is forcing Twinsburg to widen roads near the center of town. The formerly sleepy crossroads of SR 91 and SR 82 is now the center of retail hub next to I-480. On the other hand, Twinsburg is also taking steps to preserve some of its remaining open space. A recently-approved tax levy will provide funds to buy about 900 acres of open space, ledges and wetlands.

- **Bratenahl:** Residents of Bratenahl, the lakefront enclave surrounded by Cleveland, are struggling to preserve green spaces. Developers are getting final approvals for a 24-acre condo development on one of the last parcels of open land in the village.

- **Greener pastures?** Whenever we think sprawl is bad in Ohio, we should be thankful we don't live in parts of the country that are *really* growing. 1000 Friends of New Mexico recently sent us the following description of the Black Ranch development near Albuquerque: "This development covers 6,700 acres and will accommodate 45,000 people. It is several miles from the nearest major road, significantly removed from existing economic centers, and sited over an area where most of the groundwater is deep, slow-flowing, and low-quality."

December 14

Transit-Oriented Design brown-bag lunch meeting organized by RTA, noon at the office of the Catholic Commission on Community Action, 1031 Superior Ave. Call 216-566-5157.

December 15

Monthly public program of the **Northeast Ohio Sierra Club**, 7:30 p.m. at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Blvd. in Shaker Heights.

December 17

Winter solstice concert and fire, 7 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks Look About Lodge. For reservations, call 440-247-7075.



December 19

Christmas **bird count** of the Greater Akron Audubon Society. For more information, call 330-867-9850.

December 19

Hike on **Little Mountain**, the high point of Northeast Ohio's snowbelt, 1 p.m. For reservations, call the Holden Arboretum at 440-946-4400.

December 21

Winter solstice celebration, 6 p.m. at the Crown Point Ecology Center, 3220 Ira Rd. in Bath. For reservations, call 330-666-9200.

December 21

Winter solstice candlelight walk, 7:30 p.m.

at the Geauga Metroparks Swine Creek Reservation. Call 440-285-2222, ext. 5420.

December 21

Population/environment committee meeting of the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club, 7:30 p.m. For location, call 216-229-2413.

December 26

Hike through the rugged hemlock ravine of **Stebbins Gulch** in the Holden Arboretum, 1 p.m. (also on January 23 and February 26). For reservations, call 440-946-4400.

December 31

New Year's Eve lighting ceremony and hike, 6-8 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks North Chagrin Nature Center.

January 4

Brown bag lunch discussion of **ecological economics**, noon at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Blvd. in Shaker Heights. Call 216-321-5935.

January 4

Monthly meeting of the **Black River Audubon Society**, 7 p.m. at the Lorain County Metro Parks Carlisle Visitor Center in LaGrange.

January 7

Meeting of the **First Suburbs Consortium** of Northeast Ohio, 9 a.m. at Maple Heights Public Library. For more information, call 216-291-2854.

January 8

Winter birdwatching in the Cuyahoga

Valley National Recreation Area, meeting at Red Lock Trailhead off Highland Road at 8:30 a.m.

January 13

Cuyahoga County **Green Space Working Group** meeting, 8:30 a.m. at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, 4747 E. 49th St. For more information, call 216-443-3700.

January 19

"Redesigning Cleveland" speaker series with **Bill Browning and John Clark**, experts in green building design, 5:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Public Library Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium. For more information, call 216-732-3385.

January 22

Forum on the **Yellow Creek** stream stewardship program and the Cuyahoga River, 7 p.m. at the Happy Days Visitor Center of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

January 23

Discussion of animal species now **extinct** in Ohio, as well as efforts to reintroduce species, 2 p.m. at the Happy Days Visitor Center of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

January 25

Monthly meeting of the **Urban Sprawl Committee** of the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club, 7 p.m. at the Church of the Covenant, 11205 Euclid Ave. Call 216-521-2434.

The owner's manual for the bioregion! And a great holiday gift!

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

January 27

Cuyahoga County **Green Space Working Group** meeting, 8:30 a.m. at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, 4747 E. 49th St. For more information, call 216-443-3700.

January 27

Meeting of the **Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan** Coordinating Committee. Call 216-241-2414 for time and location.

January 29

Family Winterfest in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation area, 10 a.m. to noon at the Happy Days Visitor Center on SR 303.

February 1



Monthly meeting of the **Black River Audubon Society**, 7 p.m.

at the Lorain County Metro Parks Carlisle Visitor Center in LaGrange.

February 5

Hike to explore the changes caused by **glaciers** in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, 9 a.m. at the Ledges Shelter off Truxell Road.

February 7-10

"Tools for **Urban Water Resource Management** and Protection," a national conference in Chicago sponsored by the Chicago Botanic Garden, U.S. EPA and others. For registration information, call 847-835-8365.

February 10

Ohio Urban University Policy Forum in Columbus with presentations on the state of Ohio's regions and urban revitalization initiatives. For registration information, call 216-687-3509.

E-mail correction

In the last issue we gave a wrong e-mail address for our general staff box. It should be ecomail@ecocleveland.org. Other addresses were correct, including David Beach at dbeach@ecocleveland.org and Bradley Flamm at bflamm@ecocleveland.org.

February 10

Cuyahoga County **Green Space Working Group** meeting, 8:30 a.m. at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, 4747 E. 49th St. For more information, call 216-443-3700.

February 10

Talk by **Ohio Canal Corridor** director Tim Donovan about planning for the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor, 7 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks Canal Reservation.

February 12

Hike to the **White Pine Bog**, a Nature Conservancy preserve near Burton and the rarest forest in Ohio, 2 p.m. For reservations, call Holden Arboretum at 440-946-4400.

February 13

Bird banding demonstration as part of studies of winter bird populations, 1-4 p.m. at the Geauga Metroparks Swine Creek Reservation. Call 440-285-2222, ext. 5420.

February 16

"**Redesigning Cleveland**" speaker series with Robert Fox and Pamela Lippe discussing the world's first green skyscraper, 5:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Public Library Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium. For more information, call 216-732-3385.

We're hiring!

EcoCity Cleveland seeks Assistant project manager

EcoCity Cleveland is the leading citizens' organization in Northeast Ohio promoting smart growth and sustainable development. We are seeking a full-time assistant project manager to complement our current staff of two.

The new staff person will assist in the production of EcoCity Cleveland's award-winning journal, assist advocacy campaigns, coordinate membership development and publication sales, and provide project management support for one or more of our exciting projects (such as the Cleveland EcoVillage, Citizens' Bioregional Plan, and Ohio Smart Growth Agenda).

The ideal candidate would have the following experience and skills — excellent written and oral communication skills, excellent computer skills, knowledge of our issues (such as smart growth and regional land use planning, transportation planning, ecological design and urban redevelopment, watershed management), familiarity with the management of nonprofit organizations, ability to juggle many tasks in a fast-paced work environment, experience managing consultants, good political instincts, and the entrepreneurial passion for getting things done and building successful organizations. A strong educational background in planning, natural resources, or nonprofit management is preferred.

Send cover letter and resume to David Beach, Director, EcoCity Cleveland, 2841 Scarborough Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. Or send e-mail to dbeach@ecocleveland.org.

EcoCity Cleveland is an equal opportunity employer.

Board meetings of regional agencies

Here are the regular, monthly meeting times of agencies that are shaping our region. Call to confirm.

- **Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority**, 101 Erieside Ave. Cleveland, 241-8004. Friday of first full week at 10 a.m.
- **Cleveland Metroparks**, 4101 Fulton Parkway, Cleveland, 351-6300. Second and fourth Thursdays at 9 a.m.
- **Cuyahoga County Planning Commission**, 323 Lakeside Ave. West, Cleveland, 443-3700. Second Tuesday at 2 p.m.
- **Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA)**, State Office Building, 615 Superior Ave. NW, Cleveland, 566-5100. First and third Tuesdays at 9 a.m.
- **Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA)**, 668 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, 241-2414. Board meeting second Friday at 9:30 a.m. Transportation Advisory Committee third Thursday at 10 a.m.
- **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District**, 3826 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, 881-6600. First and third Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

Ohio central business districts and edge cities

Researchers with the Ohio Urban University Program have identified 16 "edge cities" around the state's major metropolitan areas. Following the definition popularized by Joel Garreau's book, *Edge City*, these are newly developed areas outside of central business districts that have large amounts of office and retail space and that are perceived to be definable places.

The researchers also found that the edge cities were not independent of their older, central cities. Rather the economic specialization of central business districts makes them indispensable to edge cities.

For more information, contact Richard Bingham at Cleveland State University, 216-687-2360.

Map prepared by the Northern Ohio Data & Information Service, Urban Center, Cleveland State University, 1997

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Send me _____ copies of the *Citizens' Bioregional Plan* (\$5 each postpaid).



Please make checks payable to EcoCity Cleveland and mail to 2841 Scarborough Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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