

BROWN

ESTABLISHED 1830

TOWNSHIP

Fall 2012

Township Comprehensive Plan Underway

The Brown Township Trustees and the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department have entered into a Planning Services Agreement (PSA) for the preparation of a new Brown Township Comprehensive Plan over the next 12 months.

Staffed by Franklin County, the plan will build on policies adopted in the Big Darby Accord Watershed Master Plan (2006) and the Town Center Master Plan (2011) and on previous Brown Township comprehensive plans.

A Working Committee has been created to work with planners throughout the process. Stakeholder interviews are underway. Public meetings will be scheduled throughout the process to inform the public and to gain input on various stages of the plan as it is developed.

The PSA calls for the plan to address land use, transportation, general design recommendations, and other planning issues facing the community with a principal focus on development-related issues and policies. Outside the scope of the plan are public safety, code enforcement and other non-land use issues.

The staff strives for a consensus-based process with the final plan document to be adopted by the Brown Township Board of Trustees and the Franklin

County Board of Commissioners, after review by the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel, Franklin County Planning Commission and the Franklin County Rural Zoning Commission.

The first public meeting will be held in mid-December. Please watch for signs, flyers, and emails announcing

the details. Project information is available on-line at www.tinyurl.com/browntownship.

For more information, contact Project Manager Matt Brown at 614-525-5647 or mybrown@franklincountyohio.gov or Lead Planner Scott Ulrich at 614-525-7303 or stulrich@franklincountyohio.gov.

Hilliard Commission Approves Case

After two postponements, the Hilliard Planning and Zoning Commission on November 8 unanimously recommended approval of a proposed development known as Heritage Preserve.

The proposal by Planned Development Co. of Ohio and Danken, LLC to rezone 418.75 acres in the City of Hilliard includes 405 single-family units, 260 multi-family units, and 234 acres of open space. The site is located on the west side of Alton-Darby Creek Road and on the north and south sides of Davis Road.

The Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel unanimously recommended disapproval of the proposal at its August 14 meeting citing issues of excessive density, flood plain filling, and lack of wetland buffers.

The Commission heard presentations and testimony for about two hours before taking the unanimous vote. The major issue presented by those testifying involved the high density of the proposal.

Recently annexed to the City of Hilliard, this property remains within Brown Township's tax base, but upon annexation falls within the zoning authority of the City of Hilliard. A final decision on the rezoning will be made by Hilliard City Council. Questions on the proposal or on the Hilliard process and scheduled hearing dates should be directed to Planner John Talentino at 614-334-1176 or jtalentino@hilliardohio.gov or Public Service Director Butch Seidle at 614-334-2443 or cseidle@hilliardohio.gov.

Hilliard Sewer/Water Service Area

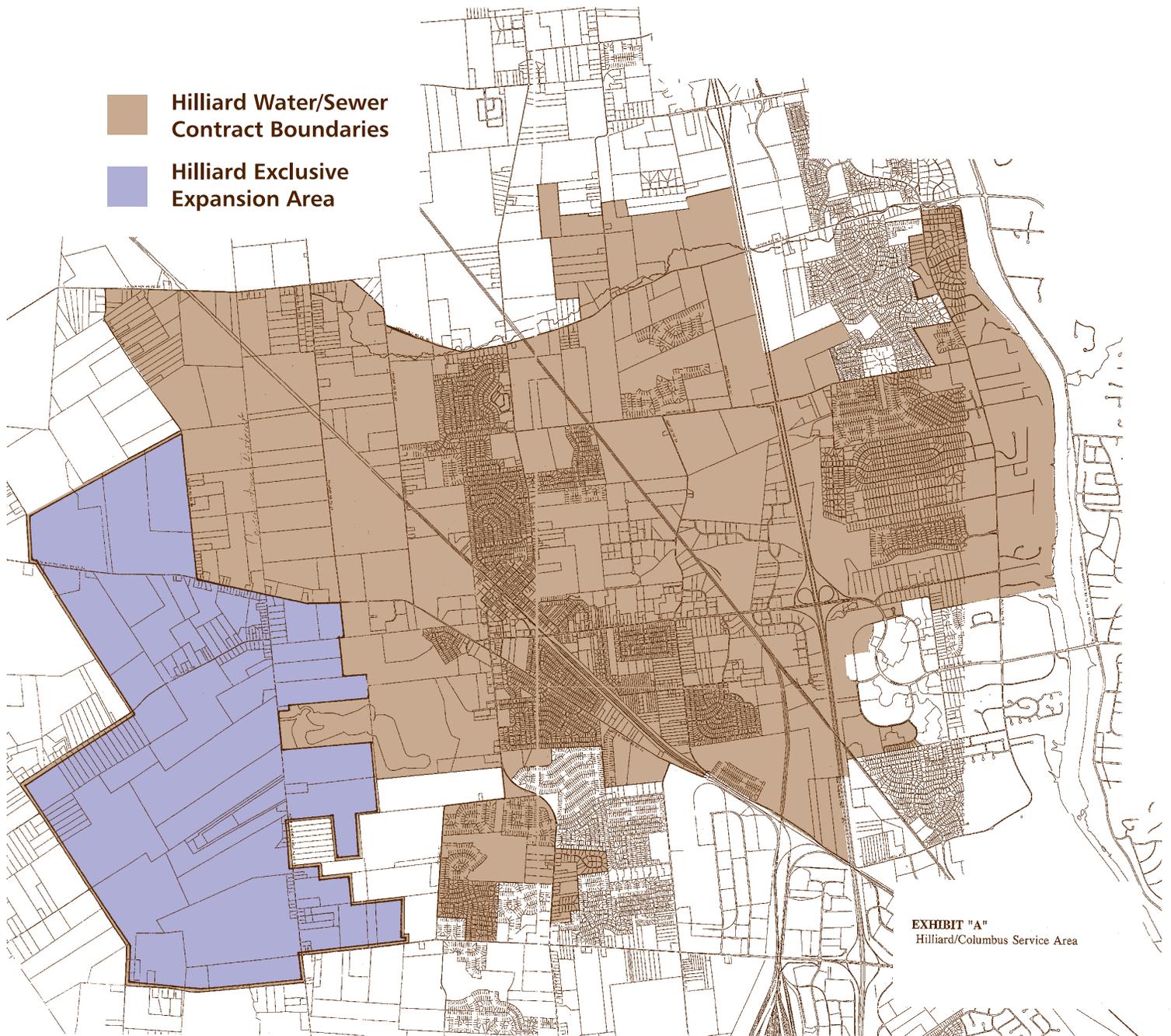
Shown below is a map of the territory covered by contracts between the City of Columbus and the City of Hilliard under which Columbus agrees to make available centralized sewer and water services to territory annexed to the City of Hilliard.

The term of the sewer contract runs from October 1993 to October 2043. Initiated in 1990, the water contract automatically renews for three-year periods unless written notice is provided by either Columbus or Hilliard.

Even though Brown Township territory falls within the

service area, neither the Brown Township Trustees nor any Brown Township resident or property owner has the ability to prevent or affect the agreement. As a condition of the contract, property owners wishing to receive sewer or water service under this agreement must annex to the City of Hilliard.

Questions about the contract should be directed to the City of Hilliard Public Service Director Butch Seidle at 614-334-2443 or cseidle@hilliardohio.gov or City of Columbus Public Utilities Director Greg Davies at 614-645-6141 or gjdavies@columbus.gov.



ANNEXATION LAW REVIEW

The Ohio Revised Code currently allows three methods of annexation involving townships: expedited, regular (majority), and municipal-initiated. The methods are procedurally different.

Expedited annexation is used when all property owners in an area seek to annex their property into a municipality. There are three options under this method.

Regular (majority) annexation is used when less than 100% (but at least a majority) of property owners in an area seek annexation.

Municipal-initiated annexation is used when a municipality wishes to annex contiguous property owned by a municipality, a county, or the state.

Since the passage of the current annexation law in 2001, the vast majority of annexations in central Ohio have been through the expedited process; specifically, through what has become known as the "Expedited 2" annexation.

Expedited 2 provides that the terri-

tory proposed for annexation remains within the township's tax base after annexation. As a result, those residing in the annexed area will vote on both township and municipal issues. This type of annexation is exempt from public hearing. If the petition meets the conditions outlined in the Ohio Revised Code, the Board of County Commissioners must approve the petition. The territory proposed to be annexed may not exceed 500 acres, have no "islands" of unincorporated territory surrounded by territory proposed to be annexed, and at least 5% of the perimeter of the territory to be annexed must share a contiguous and continuous boundary with the municipality. The municipality also must have agreed to provide services and to assume road maintenance.

No appeal is possible under this option. The benefit to the township of this option is preservation of its tax base. The benefit to the municipality and the annexing property owners is a quick (45-day) predictable process.

The Ohio Supreme Court further weakened the townships' position in this type of annexation recently in a decision that held that townships have no standing to challenge Expedited 2 petitions. Recent annexations of property in Brown Township into the City of Hilliard have been of this Expedited 2 type. While the Brown Township Board of Trustees may file a resolution with the County Commissioners objecting to the annexation, the Trustees have no real authority to challenge a decision approving the annexation.

Regular (majority) annexation petitions were the norm before passage of the current law. This process is rarely used now because, while annexing municipalities can still remove annexed property from the township under this process, the current law requires that the municipality must pay reparations to the township over a 12-year period. Townships do have the ability to appeal under this procedure, providing a broader ability to litigate.

Brown Township Recycling Information

To assist residents in recycling household materials at the Brown Township drop-off site, the following information is offered from the website of the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO).

Acceptable Materials

Items that can be crushed or flattened save space in your container and in the recycling dumpsters. Please flatten boxes. Place recycling material inside the drop-off bin. Items left beside a recycling bin can become litter and may be considered illegal dumping. Items listed below are currently accepted through the recycling program.

- **Plastic** – All plastic bottles #1 through #7 are accepted. Labels and caps do not need to be removed. Please rinse containers.
- **Glass** – Clear, brown, green, and blue glass bottles and jars in which food products are packaged are accepted. Labels do not need to be removed. Please rinse containers.

- **Paper** – Newspaper with ad slicks, magazines, phone books, brown grocery bags, frozen food boxes, junk mail, chip board, corrugated cardboard, and office paper are accepted.
- **Carton containers** – Gable-top containers and paperboard containers containing items such as milk, juice, fabric softener, egg substitute, soup, stock, or broth are accepted. Please rinse containers.
- **Metal** – Aluminum and bi-metal beverage cans, steel/tin food cans, aluminum foil, empty aerosol cans. Labels do not need to be removed. Please rinse containers.

Non-acceptable Materials

Listed below are items not currently accepted through the recycling program.

- Plastic containers that do not have a bottle neck are not accepted. An example is yogurt cups.

- Plastic toys, plastic bags, plastic films, and bubble wrap are not accepted.
- Glass – ceramics, window glass, drinking glasses, light bulbs or any other glass not in the shape of a container are not accepted.
- Egg cartons – Styrofoam and paper egg cartons are not accepted.
- Drink pouches are not accepted because they are typically made of or lined with foil and plastic.
- Metals – Paint cans, coat hangers, steel scraps or any metal not in the shape of a container are not accepted.

For information on how to recycle or dispose of items like batteries, appliances, furniture, tires, or motor oil, visit the SWACO website at www.swaco.org

Information courtesy of the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio

Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS OH
PERMIT# 2609

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

Please use any of the following:

- Fill out the **name, address, additions and corrections form** on the Brown Township website under “Newsletters”
- **Call** the Township Fiscal Officer (614-876-2133)
- Via **fax** to the Township Office (614-876-2421)
- Or by **mail** to the return address above.
- To have your newsletter addressed in your name instead of “Brown Township Neighbor,” please visit <http://www.Brown.Twp.Franklin.oh.us/newsletters.htm>.



L-R: Ron Williams, Gary Dever,
Pam Sayre, Greg Ruwe

Brown Township Administration Office

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 876-2133

Website

www.brown.twp.franklin.oh.us

Fiscal Officer

Greg Ruwe 876-2133

Trustees

Mr. Gary Dever 876-4768

Mr. Ronald Williams..... 876-6118

Mrs. Pamela Sayre..... 878-0199

Norwich Fire Department

Robert Kaufman, Chief876-7694

Brown Township Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Where: 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio

For Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies, Dial 911