

# BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Fall 2022

## Recreational Trail Planning

Last winter, the Township published the results of a survey of residents regarding the potential of recreational trails in our community. These results reflected a clear interest among residents in hiking and biking trails that would link Brown Township to Hilliard parks and the Prairie Oaks Metro Park. Given the results of the survey, the Township Board of Trustees has decided to pursue development of recreational trails.

The Township's first step in pursuing development of recreational trails will be preparation of an analysis of existing local and regional trail planning and to use this analysis as a basis for a community-wide conversation about trail planning and implementation in Brown Township. One resource that would be reviewed would be the Central Ohio Greenways Vision plan, which serves as a general guide for communities trying to provide trail access within their boundaries, as well as to neighboring communities. Township plans and studies from neighboring communities would also be reviewed. Information gained from this analysis will then become the basis of a community discussion regarding where recreational trails would be located, what form they would take, how they would be cared for, how they would be paid for and other

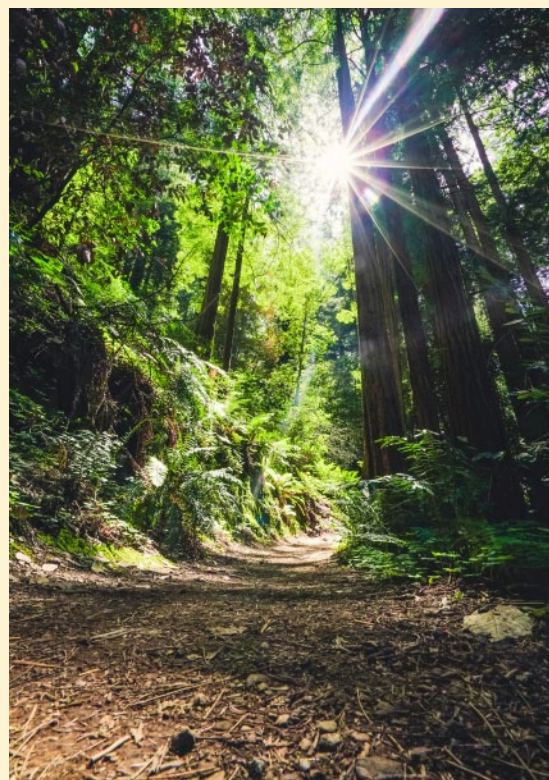
relevant questions. This discussion would be designed to emphasize input from residents.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), which coordinates the Central Ohio Greenways Vision plan, offers a technical assistance grant to help communities interested in refining the Greenways Vision plan to include specific planned trails in their area. MORPC staff has a lot of experience with both the regional Greenways Vision and with working with individual communities on how they will tie into this regional vision. These projects are intended to lead to a more specific feasibility study or an application for funding. Assistance from MORPC would no doubt result in a quality product that could be produced in a reasonably short amount of time. This year, MORPC is assisting the City of Dublin in the preparation of such a plan. Applications for next year's round of assistance will be out in late October or early November and will be due back to MORPC by the end of the year.

If the Township isn't successful in winning a grant for assistance from MORPC, there is always the possibility of doing a more homegrown effort without outside technical assistance. Such an effort would involve a consultant providing services like what MORPC would provide. The Township

is currently working with a consultant who provides services as a development and planning specialist on an as-needed basis. This route would take more time since there would be more of a learning curve and fewer staff resources. It remains to be seen if we will need to consider this option.

The Brown Township Trustees are excited about following up on residents' desire for recreational trails and look forward to working with township residents to make these community amenities a reality.



# Outdoor Fires



No permit is required for fires which are three feet in diameter and two feet in height (or smaller). All other fires will require a permit and advance notification to the Norwich Township Fire Department, the Ohio EPA, or both.

## No Permit Required

Outdoor fires (i.e., recreational fires, campfires, outdoor fireplaces) must be fueled by clean seasoned firewood, natural gas, or its equivalent. Total fuel areas shall be no larger than three feet in diameter and two feet in height. The location for these types of open burning shall not be less than 25 feet from any structure and provisions must be made to keep the fire from spreading. These fires in an approved container (i.e., chimenea, fire bowls, and metal fire pits) shall not be less than 15 feet from any combustible structure or placed on any combustible structure.

## Bonfires

A permit for open burning in Brown Township is required from the Norwich Township Fire Department for bonfires (see resources at bottom of this page). The fire dispatch center must be notified at the time the burning begins (instructions on permit). The fuel area of these fires shall be no greater than 5 feet in diameter and 5 feet in height. These fires shall not be conducted within 50 feet of any structure and provisions shall be made to keep the fire from spreading.

## Larger Fires

Fires larger than a bonfire are still subject to the requirements above. In addition, notification, permitting, or both may be required by the Ohio EPA. Please review the Ohio EPA Frequently Asked Questions for more information on larger fires (see resources at bottom of this page).

## Why is open burning a problem?

When burning refuse in burn barrels or open piles, the potential cost to your health, your home, your neighbors, and your environment far exceeds the price of adequate collection services. Open burning can release many kinds of toxic fumes. Leaves and plant materials send aloft millions of spores when they catch fire, causing many people with allergies to have difficulty breathing.

The pollutants released by open burning also make it more difficult to meet health-based air quality standards, especially in or near large cities. The gases released by open burning can also corrode metal siding and damage paint on buildings.

Under Ohio law, these materials may NOT be burned at any time:

### Garbage

Any wastes created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking, or consuming food

### Petroleum containing products

Rubber, grease, asphalt, tires, auto parts, plastics, or plastic-coated wire

### Dead animals

Unless approved for control of disease by a governing agency.

### Other Restrictions

- Open burning is not allowed when air pollution warnings, alerts or emergencies are in effect.
- Fires cannot obscure visibility for roadways, railroad tracks or airfields.
- No wastes generated off the premises may be burned. For example, a tree trimming contractor may not haul branches and limbs to another site to burn.

## Does Ohio EPA ever allow exceptions to the rules?

Under certain circumstances, yes. However, to burn a prohibited material or set a fire in a restricted area, you must burning. This may take two weeks.

## Can a community regulate open burning?

Yes. However, local ordinances cannot be less strict than the state law.

## What happens if I'm caught illegally open burning?

Ohio EPA has the authority to enforce the state's open burning laws. Violations can result in substantial penalties. If you have any questions or would like to report a suspected open burning incident, contact your Ohio EPA district office or your local air pollution control agency. See the map in this brochure for the agency to contact in your area.

## Health Concerns

Burning household waste produces many toxic chemicals and is one of the largest known sources of dioxin in the nation. Other air pollutants from open burning include particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, lead and mercury. These pollutants have been linked to several health problems, including asthma, respiratory illnesses, nervous system damage, kidney, and liver damage, and reproductive or developmental disorders.

## What You Can Do Instead of Open Burning

- Reduce the amount of waste you generate.
- Reuse items in another way.
- Recycle - Contact your waste disposal provider about curb-side pickup or drop-off locations for bulky or hazardous items.
- Compost yard trimmings and food scraps, while creating a natural, free fertilizer.



# EARLY HISTORY OF BROWN TOWNSHIP

*This is Part 3 of the Early History of Brown Township.*

**By Sandy Andromeda**

In 1825, Welsh settlers came into Brown Township and soon had extensive holdings. One of the first one-room schoolhouses built in 1840 was named The Wales School. A man named Lynn was the first teacher. The Wales School was located on the site where the present Brown Elementary School is now located. In addition to this school and that of Union Seminary, there were several other schools in the township at one time or another.

The first Brown Township school opened in 1820. This log cabin schoolhouse was on the property of Adam Blount who had migrated to the area from Virginia in 1815 and was the father of Jonathan Alder's wife, Mary. Marantha Adams was the first teacher here.

Three schools were located on Scioto & Darby Creek Road. One was on the north side just east of Walker Road. West of this school on the same side of the road at the corner of Creek Road was the Bear Den School. The third was on the south side of the road just west of Elliott Road.

A wood frame school was located on the north side of Hayden Run Road at the bend between Langton and Elliott Roads. Another wood frame schoolhouse once sat on the west side of Hubbard Road just south of the first farm south of Roberts Road. This is now part of the Girl Scout Camp.

The McCoy School on Amity Road was at the northwest corner of its intersection with Feder Road. Two other schools were located near each other on the west side of Amity Road about equal distance north and south from Patterson Road. One, the Huggett School, was at the bend in the road between Morris and Patterson Roads. Matie Bradley saved this building from destruction when she purchased it in

1931. It is now a private residence. The other was a pioneer school of the Darby Creek Settlement located a little south of the Henry Francis homestead on settler James O'Harra's land. Turning it into a private residence also saved this school building.

There were two schools on Walker Road. One was located at the northwest corner of Alton & Darby Creek Road. The other was on the west side of the road between Davis and Carter Roads.

In 1931, the Huggett School for 1st and 2nd grades; the Wales School for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades; and the McCoy School for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades were all closed. These three schools were consolidated into one building when the first Brown Elementary School was built on the site of the Wales School. The high school was in Hilliards (as it was known then).

The African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church of Columbus, Ohio, purchased 172 acres of land on Roberts Road through their agent, the Reverend M. J. Wilkerson. They paid \$1,720 for the land and created a settlement for free Africans-Americans who had migrated to Ohio from Virginia.

Shortly thereafter in 1847, with the encouragement of abolitionists, the A.M.E. Church established the Union Seminary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in this community for their children. This church, which was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1787, was the first African-American church. Their school then became the first school, in the United States, to be founded by African-Americans. There were at least four buildings constructed for the Union Seminary of the A.M.E. Church in the area between Amity and Hubbard Roads. Reverend Davis served as the Principal of the seminary.

The Settlement was dissolved in 1863 during the Civil War. The school, however, did not close. It was relocated to Greene County, Ohio with the new

name of Wilberforce University, named for a prominent English abolitionist, and is still in operation today. Wilberforce University then became the first university owned and operated by African-Americans in the world.

Not far from this Brown Township settlement was the town of West Jefferson—a station on the Underground Railroad. Because of this, it is highly likely that the Union Seminary of the A.M.E. Church community was also involved in Underground Railroad activities.

A prominent freeborn, black abolitionist, writer, orator, and lecturer, Frances Ellen Watkins, also known as The Bronze Muse, was one of the teachers at the Union Seminary of the A.M.E. Church. Frances became their first woman teacher in 1850 when she travelled from Baltimore, Maryland to take this position. While teaching in Brown Township she published the first of her many books. This 1851 book of prose she called *Forest Leaves*. In 1852, while teaching a class of 53 active children, she wrote a letter to her friend, William Still, who quoted her many times in his book, *The Underground Railroad*. Her letter including the following:

“There are no people that need all the benefits resulting from a well-directed education more than we do. The condition of our people, the wants of our children, and the welfare of our race demand the aid of every helping hand. It is a work of time, a labor of patience, to become an effective school teacher; and it should be a work of love in which they who engage should not abate heart or hope until it is done.”

The Union Seminary of the A.M.E. Church settlement was located on the north side of Roberts Road. Today, Amity Road, Interstate 70 and Hubbard Road all cut through the area where it stood. Their property extended west all the way to Big Darby Creek where a Girl Scout Camp is now located.



Brown Township  
2491 Walker Road  
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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COLUMBUS OH  
PERMIT# 5964

**Brown Township Administration Office**  
2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026  
(614) 876-2133

**Website**  
www.BrownTwp.org

**Fiscal Officer**  
Becky Kent • (614) 446-2359

**Trustees**  
Mr. Gary Dever • (614) 876-4768  
Mrs. Pamela Sayre • (614) 582-0191  
Mr. Joseph Martin • (614) 309-8879

**Norwich Fire Department**  
Dave Baird, Chief • (614) 876-7694

**Franklin County Sheriff's Department**  
Emergency • 911  
Non-Emergency • (614) 525-3333

Meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio.



L-R: Trustees Pam Sayre, Gary Dever and Joe Martin  
Seated: Fiscal Officer Becky Kent

# PUBLIC SAFETY SUMMARY

Each issue of the Brown Township newsletter contains a quarterly wrap-up of public safety reports and calls in Brown Township.

## Norwich Township Fire Department

Calls to addresses in both incorporated and unincorporated portions of Brown Township:

	Fire Calls		EMS Calls	
	Incorp.	Unincorp.	Incorp.	Unincorp.
June 2022	1	9	3	30
July 2022	2	6	5	17
Aug. 2022	6	12	2	23

## Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Calls to addresses in unincorporated Brown Township:

### June 2022

**June 11** – Known property found at an address on Amity Road.

**June 11**- Property damage at an address on Scioto Darby Creek Road.

**June 25** – Attempted abduction at an address on Walker Road.

### July 2022

**July 4** – Theft from a vehicle at an address on Amity Road.

**July 12** – Criminal damaging and theft at an address on Hubbard Road.

## August 2022

Reported on August 1, occurred between July 27 and August 1 – Theft of a catalytic converter at an address on Jones Road.

## Hilliard Division of Police

Non-routine calls to Brown Township addresses within the City of Hilliard:

### June 2022

June 24 – Theft from a motor vehicle at an address on Hayden Run Road.

### July 2022

No non-routine reported calls

### August 2022

No non-routine reported calls