

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Summer 2026

Recycle Your Electronics in Brown Township

Provided by Columbus Micro Systems

Saturday, July 18, 2026
10:00am - Noon
2491 Walker Rd.
(Behind the Firehouse)

Columbus Micro Systems is proud to provide mobile electronics collection services to Brown Township!

Our trained staff will be onsite to personally collect materials, assist residents with unloading items, and answer questions about electronics recycling, data security, and acceptable items.

The only items requiring a recycling fee are televisions and CRT displays:

- Flat Screen TVs: \$15 each
- CRT TVs (0–20"): \$25 each
- CRT TVs (21"+): \$35 each
- CRT Monitors: \$15 each

Payment: Cash or card at drop-off

We look forward to helping residents recycle responsibly, protect their data, and keep our community clean and sustainable.

What's going on along the east side of Amity Road near Scioto & Darby Creek Road?

This has been the topic of many emails and calls to Trustees recently.

Ranger Bethanie at Prairie Oaks Metro Parks explains that the projects on the Metro Parks properties on Amity Road are being funded by grants from the H2OHIO Wetland Grant Program through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

Work has been done to create a small gravel parking lot on the north property. Visitors will be able to access the newly created trails

The Dever Building Hall

Located at 2495 Walker Road

Is Available for Use by
Brown Township Residents

The Cost is \$50 per event

- No cost for Civic groups
- Resident must be present
- No alcohol

Contact Heidi Feathers

Heidi_Feathers@BrownTwp.org



As an R2v3 Certified Electronics Recycler, Columbus Micro Systems follows strict industry standards for responsible recycling, secure data destruction, and environmental stewardship.

Through certified processes, including NIST 800-88 compliant data erasure, we help ensure personal and business data is properly sanitized while keeping electronics out of landfills through responsible reuse and recycling practices.

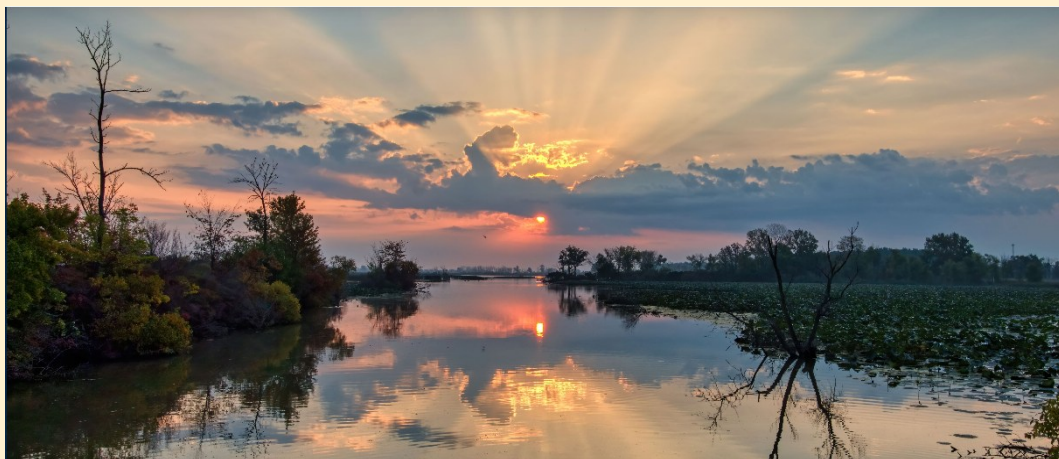
We accept most electronics and related items FREE of charge, with the exception of kitchen appliances.

through the wetland area by using permeable gravel parking lot.

The wetlands will filter the water to Big Darby Creek. Trail development will commence in 2027.

Another wetland project funded by H2OHIO money will begin on Prairie Oaks Metro Parks property located on the west side of Amity Road at Roberts Road near Sycamore Trails. However, there will be no additional trails on this project, just wetland restoration.

For more information, please contact Ranger Bethanie at 614-208-4321.



Community Update

Community Food Drive Exceeds Expectations!

What a week! We set out with a goal to support our neighbors, and this community showed up in a massive way.

We are thrilled to announce the final results of our inaugural 2026 Brown Township Annual Food Drive, and the numbers are honestly staggering.

The Final Tally:

Thanks to your generosity, we are delivering an incredible amount of support to those who need it most:

Total Goods Collected: 5,239 lbs

Monetary Donations: \$2,795



A Heartfelt Thank You

This success wasn't a solo effort. It took a village (and then some) to coordinate, collect, and contribute. We want to extend a special thank you to:

Our Retail Partners:

Meijer and Kroger for providing the brown bags that made donating so easy for everyone.

Local Leadership:

The Brown Township Trustees for granting us name permissions and supporting our vision from day one.

Our Schools:

The students, staff, and parents at Brown Elementary School, Memorial Middle School, Bradley High School and Cypress Pre-School. Your competitive spirit and kindness were the heartbeat of this drive.

Our Faith Communities:

Agape Church and Movement Church for mobilizing your congregations and families.

The Neighbors:

To every individual who dropped a can in a bag or a dollar in the fund—you are the reason this worked.



Looking Ahead to 2027

While this was our first official year, it certainly won't be our last. We've set a high bar, but we're already brainstorming ways to make our 2nd Annual Food Drive in 2027 even bigger and better.

"Generosity is the habit of giving freely without expecting anything in return."

When our community comes together, we can truly move mountains—one grocery bag at a time. We'll see you in 2027!

This update was provided by Nichole and Matthew Mulvane, Food Drive Organizers.

BLOCK WATCH Keep Your Home Safe While You're Away This Summer

Summer vacations are a welcome break, but an empty home can attract unwanted attention, especially in rural areas. A few simple precautions can help protect your property and give you peace of mind while you're away. Focus on these key safety steps before you leave:

Make your home look lived in.

Use timer lights, keep blinds at normal levels, and arrange for mail and deliveries to be picked up or held. A trusted neighbor can also help by parking in your driveway or moving trash cans.

Secure all entry points.

Lock doors and windows, install deadbolts if needed, and use motion-sensor lighting around entrances.

Maintain your yard.

Trim bushes and trees that could hide someone approaching your home, and store tools or ladders out of sight.

Limit online sharing. Avoid posting travel plans in real time; share photos after you return.

Unplug and prepare indoors.

Disconnect nonessential electronics and leave an emergency contact with a neighbor.

Consider requesting a vacation check from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Deputies can periodically check your property while you're away. To request this service, call (614) 525-3333 before your trip.

Finally, stay connected with your community. The Brown Township Block watch program helps neighbors look out for one another and report suspicious activity.

Taking a few proactive steps can go a long way in keeping your home safe while you enjoy your summer travels.

You can learn more and sign up through the Brown Township website.
<https://www.browntwp.org/>

ISKCON Columbus presents Jagannath Rath Yatra Festival of Chariots

This event will occur on:

Saturday, July 18th

Beginning at 10:30am

3508 Walker Road in Brown Township

Highlights include cultural activities, music, food, games and children's activities. The ISKCON community invites everyone to join them for a joyful celebration of devotion, culture and community.



A parade starting at Hilliard Bradley High School and moving north along Walker

Road will occur between 2:00pm and 5:00pm with road closure during that time.

Walker Road will be closed from the curve south of Roberts Road to Scioto & Darby Creek Road. Law enforcement officers will be stationed along the parade route.

Please be advised. For more information, please refer to the website:
<http://www.iskconcolumbus.com>

Annexations Explained

Background

In Ohio, the township form of government came before the state form of government. Townships were determined by Congress and the surveyed townships became the local government in Ohio.

Today, Ohio township officials are represented through the Ohio Township Association (OTA), an organization that advocates on behalf of townships to the Ohio General Assembly.

In addition to townships, there are other types of jurisdictions: city and village. These enjoy a corporate status and the powers of self-government, outranked only by state and federal powers. These jurisdictions grow by annexing properties from townships and bringing that land into their own jurisdiction.

The 124th General Assembly was called to order in 2001. Both the Ohio Senate and Ohio House of Representatives were controlled by the Republican Party and Bob Taft (R) was Governor. During this assembly, the annexation laws were greatly revised under Senate Bill 5 (SB5) and defined five types of annexations:

Regular Annexations

Petitions by at least 51% of property owners in the area are considered for annexation.

A hearing with advanced notice is held by the County Board of Commissioners who may then grant or deny the annexation.

Certain parties may appeal the decision to the County Court of Common Pleas.

Expedited Type 1 Annexations

Petitions by 100% of property owners with consent of the municipality and township as well as an annexation agreement or cooperative economic development agreement between at least the city and township.

No hearing or notice is required. The County Board of Commissioners must approve the annexation, and there is no right to appeal.

Expedited Type 2 Annexation

Petition by 100% of property owners for the undertaking of a significant economic

development project while keeping the territory being annexed in its existing township for real-estate taxation.

While notice must be given, and several technical requirements must be met, consent of the township is not required. The township may object on the grounds that the petition does not meet all of the necessary requirements, but ultimately, the County Board of Commissioners must approve the annexation, without a right to appeal.

Technical requirements include that the territory is less than 500 acres, the territory shares at least 5% common continuous boundary with the municipality and the annexation will not create an island of township.

Expedited Type 3 Annexation

Petition by 100% of property owners for the undertaking of a significant economic development project while keeping the territory being annexed in its existing township for real estate taxation.

If the township and municipality agree to the annexation, notice must be given, and the County Board of Commissioners must approve the annexation, without a right of appeal.

If the township or municipality objects to the annexation, a hearing with advanced notice is held by the County Board of Commissioners, who may then grant or deny the annexation.

If the annexation is granted, there is no right to appeal. If the annexation is denied, only a property owner who signed the annexation petition may appeal.

In addition, the Director of the Ohio Department of Development must certify that the petitioners have shown that significant economic development will result.

Annexation by Petition of a Municipality for Municipal, County or State-Owned Land

Initiated by the municipality to annex territory belonging to a public entity. If the property is owned by a municipality, the commissioners must grant the annexation petition.

If the subject territory is county-owned land, the Board of County Commissioners

have discretion to grant or deny the petition.

If the land is owned by the state, the commissioners have a mandatory duty to grant the petition as long as the Director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services has filed written consent for the annexation with the board.

The territory being annexed remains in its existing township for real-estate taxation, and there is no right to appeal.

Recent Annexations

Many of the recent annexations to the City of Hilliard and the City of Columbus have been done by development companies that own or represent 100% of the subject land, using the Expedited Type 2 Annexation process.

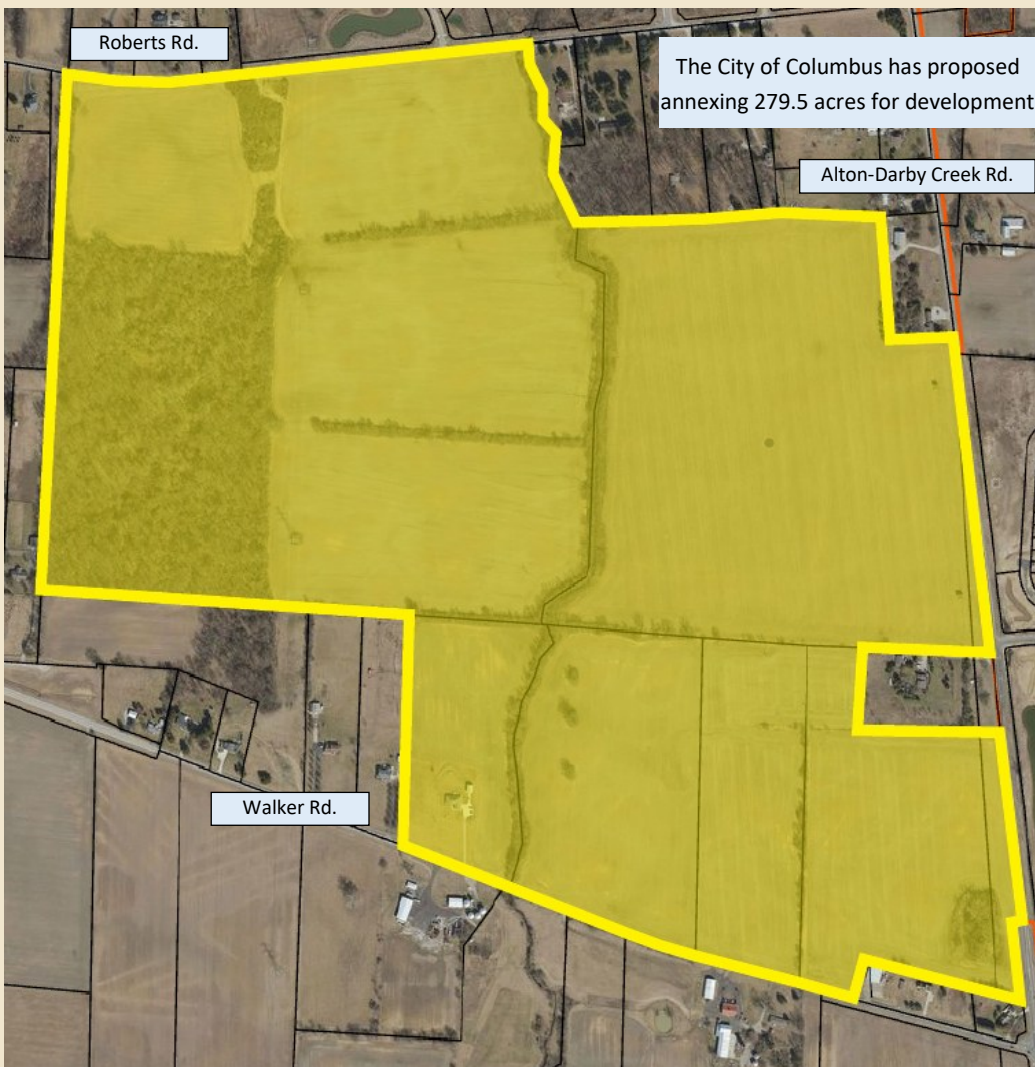
This is initiated by the property owner and is completed without a hearing or appeal. The property, once annexed, is subject to City of Hilliard or the City of Columbus zoning and land use approval.

When the land being annexed is in Brown Township, Brown Township continues to collect the Township portion of the real-estate taxes, which includes fire levy funds, as the land is developed and improved.

This article originally appeared in the 2021 Summer Newsletter. Sources for this article were the Ohio Township Association and the County Commissioners Association of Ohio.



Proposed High Density Development in the Big Darby Watershed



Overview

The land currently being considered for annexation is used primarily for residential and agricultural purposes. The anticipated future use, however, would shift toward a mix of residential and commercial development after annexation.

This site is located within the boundaries of the 2006 Big Darby Accord Watershed Master Plan. Under that plan, the area is recommended for Environmental Conservation Protected, Tier 1 Preservation, Tier 3 Preservation, and Residential Conservation Development. Those designations generally support a much lower density pattern, approximately 1 to 1.3 dwelling units per acre.

A proposed Big Darby Accord Amendment by the City of Columbus would change the area to Neighborhood 2, which allows up to 12 units per acre.

For nearby rural residents, this is a significant change. Once land is annexed

into Columbus, development decisions move away from county and township review and proceed under Columbus municipal zoning, utility, and development standards.

Although the annexation does not align with the current Big Darby Accord land use recommendations, Columbus planning staff have indicated preliminary support. Their position is that concentrating future growth along existing urban edges may help protect the broader rural watershed from scattered development.



For affected residents, the central question is whether this proposed density truly protects the Big Darby area, or whether it could lead to development patterns that significantly changes the rural character.

Brown Township Trustees remain engaged in negotiations with the City of Columbus to curtail future annexations.

Brown Township Zoning Resolution Moves Forward

As witnessed by over 100 Brown Township residents (picture below), the Brown Township Zoning Commission adopted the proposed Brown Township Zoning Resolution at a June 25, 2026 public meeting, and recommended that it be forwarded to the Brown Township Board of Trustees for consideration and adoption.

This is an important step in the township's effort to establish local zoning authority. Brown Township has historically relied on Franklin County zoning regulations to guide land use and development in the unincorporated area. The proposed resolution would allow the township to replace that county administered structure with zoning standards written specifically for Brown Township.

The proposed resolution includes rural zoning districts, environmental protections, conservation development tools, and administrative procedures for future zoning decisions. The intent is not to change lawful existing homes, farms, or businesses, but to give the township better control over future development.

The resolution is currently under review by the Board of Trustees. If adopted by the Trustees, the proposal will still require approval by voters in the unincorporated area of Brown Township in November 2026 before zoning authority would transfer from the Franklin County Commissioners to the Brown Township Trustees.

Township Trustees Pass Resolutions of Opposition

Mando Ditch Petition

The Brown Township Board of Trustees has formally stated its opposition to the proposed Mando Ditch Petition Project and is urging the Franklin County Commissioners to vote against approval of the project.

The petition was originally filed on February 13, 2021, by Frank Mando and twelve other property owners.

While the purpose of the project is to improve drainage, the Board does not believe the proposed project provides sufficient value to justify the financial burden it would place on property owners and the township.

The financial impact on Brown Township is significant, as the proposed work includes improvements within the Morris Road and Jerman Lane rights of way.

Brown Township recognizes the importance of adequate drainage, but the Trustees cannot support this project as proposed because of its projected cost.

Based on feedback from affected landowners, dissatisfaction among some original petitioners, and the projected assessment to the township and landowners, the Brown Township Board of Trustees adopted Resolution 5-2026 opposing the Mando Ditch Petition project and respectfully urges the Franklin County Commissioners to do the same.

Sports Center on Walker Rd.

The Brown Township Board of Trustees formally opposed Case No. ZON 26 06, a request by Harisumiran of OH, Inc. to rezone approximately 23.894 acres at 3740 Walker Road from Rural District to Exceptional Use District.

The proposed development is described as a youth sports and development center with outdoor recreational facilities. The application also references mentoring, festivals, religious gatherings, indoor activities, private utilities, parking, open space, and stormwater facilities.

To hear resident concerns, the Board held a special public meeting on June 25, 2026, at 7 p.m. Residents objected to changing the zoning and allowing an institutional use in a rural residential

area. They also raised concerns about the scale of the proposed use, noise, lighting, existing drainage problems, traffic, access, and effects on quality of life.

Under Rural zoning, a church or temple is a permitted use. A sports complex requires a change from Rural to Exceptional Use. If approved, that zoning change stays with the property.

After reviewing the proposal, hearing public concerns, and considering township planning goals, the Board adopted Resolution 8-2026 opposing the rezoning. The Resolution urges the Franklin County Rural Zoning Commission to recommend denial or, at minimum, to table the case until important unresolved issues are addressed.

Brown Township does not oppose the applicant's religious use of the property. The concern is that the requested Exceptional Use zoning is much broader than a place of worship. The proposal would introduce a youth development campus, community center, event space, and outdoor sports facilities into an area planned and zoned primarily for rural residential and agricultural uses.

Land use is the central concern. The surrounding area remains rural, with nearby residential and agricultural properties. The 2025 Brown Township Comprehensive Plan recommends this area for Very Low Density Rural Residential use. Allowable uses include single family residential and agricultural use. The Comprehensive Plan does not call for institutional use on this site.

Drainage questions also remain. The Board's Resolution notes that the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel and the Franklin County Drainage Engineer raised concerns about the feasibility of stormwater management and the proposed outlet to the local ditch system. If the stormwater outlet requires additional review, redesign, easements, or other changes, those matters should be understood before the land use decision is made.

The Board also remains concerned about unresolved traffic and access issues, the required traffic study, conservation easement protection, buffering and screening, parking verification, signage, loading, operating limits, and long term maintenance

responsibilities.

The applicant may have positive intentions. However, the question before Franklin County is whether this rezoning, on this property, in this rural area, is appropriate and in the best interest of Brown Township residents.

Brown Township concluded that the public benefit of the proposed rezoning does not justify the significant change in land use character that would result. The Board believes the proposal conflicts with the Brown Township Comprehensive Plan and raises unresolved questions that should not be deferred until after rezoning.

The Franklin County Rural Zoning Commission heard this case on Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 1:30pm in the Commissioners Hearing Room, first floor of the Michael J. Dorrian Building, 369 South High Street, Columbus. A final decision will be made by the Franklin County Commissioners on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the same meeting room.

Resolution 5-2026 Board of Township Trustees Brown Township Franklin County, Ohio June 25, 2026 The Board of Township Trustees of Brown Township, Franklin County, Ohio, met in regular session on the 17th day of June 2026, at the Brown Township Administration Building, 200 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026, with the following members present: Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee	Board of Township Trustees Brown Township Franklin County, Ohio June 25, 2026 The Board of Township Trustees of Brown Township, Franklin County, Ohio, met in special session on the 17th day of June 2026, at the Brown Township Administration Building, 200 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026, with the following members present: Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee Joe Haris, Trustee
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Public Notice

The Brown Township Board of Trustees will hold a **public hearing** regarding the proposed **Brown Township Zoning Resolution**.

Date: **Monday, August 3, 2026**
Time: **7:00pm**

Location:
2491 Walker Rd. , Hilliard, OH 43026
(firehouse—upstairs Meeting Room)

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and provide comment.

More information and a copy of the draft Township Zoning Resolution can be found at : www.BrownTwp.org



L-R: Trustee Pete Marsh, Fiscal Officer Becky Kent, Trustee Pam Sayre, Trustee Joe Martin.



Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, OH 43026

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE

Brown Township Administrative Offices

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026
Main Number • (614) 876-2133

Officers

Pam Sayre, Trustee • (614) 582-0191
Joe Martin, Trustee • (614) 309-8879
Pete Marsh, Trustee • (419) 575-1137
Becky Kent, Fiscal Officer • (614) 446-2359

Website

www.BrownTwp.org

Norwich Fire Department

Dave Baird, Chief • (614) 876-7694

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Emergency • 911
Non-Emergency • (614) 525-3333

Regular public meetings

Third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Upstairs Meeting Room of Firehouse
2491 Walker Rd., Hilliard, Ohio

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

MAR 2026	1	9	4	14
APR 2026	3	3	5	29
MAY 2026	4	1	4	23

Franklin County Sheriff

Calls to addresses in Brown Township:

March 2026

3/17- Property damage occurred on Amity Rd.

3/29- Miscellaneous ammo found on ground on Walker Rd.

April 2026

4/18- Larceny occurred on Amity Rd.

May 2026

No Criminal/Theft Incidents occurred in Brown Township

Hilliard Division of Police

Non-routine calls to addresses in Brown Township:

March 2026

No calls reported.

April 2026

No calls reported.

May 2026

No calls reported.

Medication Disposal

Dispose of unused medication in the red disposal station inside main entrance of the Joint Safety Services Building located at 5181 Northwest Parkway, which is next to the Franklin County Fairgrounds.