

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Summer 2023

Brown Township Central Ohio Greenways Visioning Study

MORPC Technical Assistance Study

Brown Township successfully applied for MORPC Technical Assistance to engage in a Central Ohio Greenways Vision Refinement Study. The goal of the study is to determine the alignment of an east-west trail connecting Prairie Oaks Metro Parks to the City of Hilliard's municipal park system. This connection would also interconnect two regionally significant trails: the Darby Creek and Hellbranch Trails. A 2021 township survey of nearly 100 households revealed that over 80% supported this east-west trail connection, citing the benefits it would have to the community's collective value, health, and capacity for outdoor recreation. In response, the township has been critically assessing all opportunities, with the eventual goal of creating an Implementation Plan to transform the trail concept to reality.

This study has included an analysis of existing conditions in the township and an exploratory workshop with key regional stakeholders, including Franklin County Engineer's Office, the City of Hilliard, Metro Parks, and the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel. Next, different potential alternatives will be analyzed to compare the relative benefits of all the opportuni-



Public Meeting

July 20th

6:30pm

Brown Twp Hall

Shown on the left are key access points, indicated by the circles on both sides of the township. The study is looking a feasibility for a trail to run from north-east to southwest through the township.

ties available to the township. A key next step of this study will be hearing from and engaging with the Brown Township community. To that end, a public open house is planned for **Thursday, July 20th at 6:30pm in the Brown Township Hall**. This open house will be an opportunity for members of the public to hear an update on the

study and planning process thus far, lend critical input and feedback on options identified to this point, and voice community concerns and desires regarding trails, access to trails, and connections to local parks. Please reach out to **Joe Martin** (Joe_Martin@BrownTwp.org) or **Jordan Petrov** (JPetrov@morpc.org) with any comments or questions.

Zoning in Brown Township

Brown Township is under Franklin County Zoning

From time to time, we get inquiries about business or commercial operations on residential lots.

The Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department administers zoning for unincorporated Brown Township. The Franklin County Zoning Resolution divides land into zoning districts. There are specified uses allowed for each district and the regulations are uniform throughout the zoning district. Unincorporated Brown Township falls under section 302; Rural District (R) zoning.

The rural district allows most professional home occupations (work from home, home office, music teacher, etc.), provided there are no on-site announcements of the occupation (signs, flags, etc.), or other alterations that change the residential character of the home. The occupation must be contained within the home itself and have no related outside storage. A conditional use permit may be granted to deviate from these conditions. See section 511 of the Franklin County Zoning Resolution for more information on home occupations.

Outside of that, unless a business is agriculturally based, no retail, wholesale, commercial or industrial operation is permitted within Brown Township. Accessory buildings (detached garages, barns, sheds) may only be used for agriculture or non-commercial personal use unless a conditional use permit or zoning variance is granted.

The Rural District

This is the first part of an ongoing series concerning zoning in Brown Township.

The Fall issue will cover permitted and conditional uses in the Rural District.

In the Rural zoning district, agriculture is defined as:

- Farming, ranching, aquaculture, apiculture, horticulture, or viticulture operation.
- Animal husbandry, including, but not limited to the care and raising of livestock, equine, and fur-bearing animals.
- Poultry husbandry and the production of poultry, poultry products, and dairy production.
- The production of field crops, tobacco, fruits, vegetables, nursery stock, ornamental shrubs, ornamental trees, flowers, sod, or mushrooms; timber; pasturage; any combination of the foregoing.
- The processing, drying, storage, and marketing of agricultural products when those activities are conducted in conjunction with, but are secondary to, the above husbandry or production.

A certificate of zoning compliance is required prior to changing the use of buildings or land, the extension or erection or alteration of existing or new structure, or a disturbance of one or more acres of land.



Brown Township zoning

Economic Development and Planning Department
150 South Front Street,
FSL Suite 10
Columbus, Ohio 43215 7104
Tel. 614 525 3094
Fax 614 525 7155

development.franklincountyohio.gov/planning-zoning/zoning

To report a zoning complaint, contact David Smith, the Zoning Officer assigned to Brown Township (David.Smith@FranklinCountyOhio.gov or 614-525-5627).

Station 82 Renovation Project

Brown Township Firehouse

As you may have noticed, a significant renovation project is being undertaken at the fire station located at 2491 Walker Road. This was not a planned project, but instead, necessary because mold was discovered in the building. We immediately began investigating the source of the mold and solutions to remedy the situation. American Leak Detection surveyed the building and discovered several issues that allowed moisture to become trapped and caused the mold to grow, including: landscaping that had built up over the years; mortar break-down; leaking windows, and no weeping ropes installed on the stone veneer. We also conducted air quality tests that concluded the air contained both allergens and mold.

The decision was made to vacate Station 82 and move the fire department personnel into the Township Hall. Because of the Township Hall's limited size, Medic 82 and two members from each shift were temporarily reassigned to the Joint Safety Services Building (Station 81).

The areas of the fire station, which were affected by the mold, were isolated, and the crew was able to move into the second floor of the fire station while construction continued in the rest of the building. The mold remediation contractor immediately went to work removing the mold. This included removing a significant amount of drywall, insulation, exterior landscaping, and the stone veneer on the outside



Above: New windows, siding, and trim combine to create an updated color scheme. The new steel siding and aluminum trim are expected to provide better protection and longevity than the original vinyl products that had reached their end of life.

of the building. The 24-year-old windows were replaced as well.

Once the mold was removed and testing confirmed it, it was time to put the building back together. Once the mold was gone, this was no longer considered an emergency. State Term pricing then was used for the remainder of the renovation. This means all contractors were paid prevailing wage (because of the overall cost and scope of the project). To fund the project, the Trustees used the remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, as well as fire levy and general fund money.

Today, the work on the inside is complete, and the staffing level at

Station 82 has returned to normal. However, outside work, such as the finishes on the building and the landscaping, still need completed. The Fire/EMS crew assigned to Station 82 dealt with uncommon situations for an extended time, including living in a meeting room, cooking and eating meals in the apparatus bay, and sometimes running across the parking lot to get to the trucks when responding to a call for service. Through it all, they retained their professionalism. And, we thank them!

We are excited to welcome the public back into Station 82 as soon as all construction is completed.

NTFD Chief David Baird contributed to the contents of this article.



Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, OH 43026

If you would like to add, remove or change
your name and/or address, please email:
Newsletter@BrownTwp.org

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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 Rd., 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

Call to address in both incorporated and
unincorporated portions of Brown Township.

Fire Calls

EMS Calls

Incorp Unincorp Incorp Unincorp

MAR 2023	1	12	6	21
APR 2023	1	8	1	12
MAY 2023	5	7	6	9

Franklin County Sheriff

Call to address in both incorporated and
unincorporated portions of Brown Town-
ship:

March 2023

March 5 – Assault and possible theft at an
address on Spicewood Court.

March 12 – Theft at an address on Morris
Road.

April 2023

No Reports

May 2023

May 1—Criminal damaging or endangering
at an address on Patterson Road.

May 11—Assault at an address on Patterson
Road.

Hilliard Division of Police

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

March 2023

No non-routine calls.

April 2023

April 26 – Theft at an address on Hayden
Run Road.

May 2023

No non-routine calls

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.