

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Spring 2024

Update effort begins on 2005 Brown Township Comprehensive Plan

**Effort lead by Mr. Tracy Hatmaker,
Planning & Development Specialist**

Brown Township is embarking on a project to update its 2005 comprehension plan. The purpose of such a process is to formulate policies and strategies that: ensure that the township and other public agencies account for the residents' interests as the area changes and develops; establish a basis for cooperation between the township and its neighbors regarding key concerns; and address environmental and sustainability concerns. Such processes and policy documents require regular updates to ensure their relevancy.

The comprehensive plan update project will focus on providing a consistent, wholistic approach to key questions facing the community. The process will be built upon cooperative engagement focusing on the township's interactions with residents and neighboring (and sometimes overlapping) jurisdictions. In addition, the process and resulting strategies and policies will address environmental preservation strategies and policies to encourage resource conservation and sustainable stormwater management. The update will also include discussions of a framework for provision of fire and EMS services intended to enhance cooperation with our neighboring partners thus ensuring a high level of service. Finally, the 2023 Brown Township trail study will be reviewed and discussed to determine the best strategy and policies for providing the appropriate trails and trail access.

"Other examples of the need for an update include recent zoning enforcement and rezoning decisions made at the Franklin County level."

The Brown Township Board of Trustees believes the time has come to update the 2005 comprehensive plan because recent events have shown a need for freshly presented, updated policies addressing the areas on which the plan will focus. For instance, last year, discussions with Norwich Township regarding our contract for provision of fire and EMS services included a number of miscues and misunderstandings. These discussions illustrated the need to revisit fire and EMS services provision in a new way that would bring Hilliard, Norwich Township and Brown Township together for a fresh look at this topic. Other examples of the need for an update include recent zoning enforcement and rezoning decisions made at the Franklin County level. Some of these have made it clear that the township needs to articulate new objectives for development that represent the interests of its residents in a way that can be incorporated into the zoning process. One example of this need is a rezoning approved by the county commissioners in early March allowing an increase in density using a zoning district that requires central water and sewer in an unsewered rural area.

The township trustees are in the process of identifying a consultant, or consultant team, to undertake the comprehensive planning process under the guidance of citizens' steering committee and the board of trustees. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is assisting in this process through its Community Services Program. Consultants' proposals are due by April 8th. MORPC will conduct an initial review and prepare a list of finalists by April 19th so interviews including the Township, MORPC and the finalists can be conducted by May 3rd. From there, a selection will be made and a contract for completion of the project will be signed on or around May 31st.

The Brown Township Board of Trustees looks forward to this process as an opportunity for the community to come together and discuss important issues that it faces.

SAVE THE DATE!

Community Event

25th Anniversary of
Brown Township Firehouse

Sunday, October 6, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Station 82
2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio
43026

Planning is underway!
Norwich Township Fire Department
demonstrations; Ice cream; Community
information stations

Ohio's New Cannabis Law

A few prohibitions of the new Adult Use Cannabis law in Ohio

- Operating a vehicle is prohibited while under the influence of Adult Use Cannabis.
- Smoking, vaping, or using any other combustible Adult Use Cannabis within a vehicle is prohibited.
- Non-licensed dispensary operators may not sell, or profit from Adult Use Cannabis
- Liquor permit holders who knowingly or willfully allow the use of marijuana in, upon or about their licensed permit premises are subject to administrative citation.

Adult Use dispensary sales are not expected to begin until further regulations are set.



Consumers of Adult Use Cannabis

- Must be 21 years old or older to consume, possess and transport Adult Use Cannabis. (It is against federal law to transport marijuana across state lines)
- May **possess, transfer** (without compensation or advertisement) to another adult use consumer, or **transport** Adult Use cannabis in the following amounts:
 - ◇ Up to 2.5 ounces, in any form except adult use extract
 - ◇ Up to 15 grams in the form of adult use extract

- May cultivate, grow, and possess up to 6 cannabis plants in the person's "primary residence". With a maximum of 12 plants in a single residence where two or more individuals over 21 years of age reside at one time.
- The cultivation/growing area must prevent access to individuals under the age of 21 and must not be visible to the public.

Other key takeaways

- Employers can continue with workplace policies prohibiting marijuana consumption of its employees.
- Landlords are allowed to prohibit consumption of marijuana on their properties.
- Local governments can adopt ordinances/resolutions prohibiting adult use marijuana businesses.

Block Watch

Notes from Deputy Haren

I wanted to remind residents that we usually see an increase in identity thefts during tax season. I advise residents to keep a close eye on their bank accounts and credit reports. An identity theft protection service may also be a good way to help prevent these incidents.

With temperatures starting to warm up, people are visiting local parks more often, and I want to remind people to lock their vehicles and hide electronic devices and expensive items left in their vehicles while they are enjoying the parks.

Also, I want to advise residents of the DEA Spring Prescription Drug Take Back on April 27th at the Kroger on Cemetery Road.

Three Ways to Sign Up For Brown Township Blockwatch Communications

Visit BrownTwp.org and use the link just left of "Popular Links".



Type *this* URL into your browser
<https://NextDoor.com/g/fspquga>



Spring Rains Are around the corner!

Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart:

The Do's and Don'ts of Your Septic System

Learn these simple steps to protect your home, health, environment and property value:

Protect It and Inspect It:

Do:

- Have your system inspected (in general) every three years by a licensed contractor and have the tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years.

Think at the Sink:

Don't:

- Pour cooking grease or oil down the sink or toilet.
- Rinse coffee grounds into the sink.
- Pour household chemicals down the sink or flush them.

Do:

- Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal.
- Properly dispose of coffee grounds & food.
- Put grease in a container to harden before discarding in the trash.

Don't Overload the Commode:

Don't:

- Flush non-degradable products or chemicals, such as feminine hygiene products, condoms, dental floss, diapers, cigarette butts, cat litter, paper towels, pharmaceuticals.

Do:

- Dispose of these items in the trash can!

Shield Your Field:

Don't:

- Park or drive on your drainfield. The weight can damage the drain lines.
- Plant trees or shrubs too close to your drainfield, roots can grow into your system and clog it.

Do:

- Consult a septic service professional to advise you of the proper distance for planting trees and shrubs, depending on your septic tank location.

Don't Strain Your Drain:

Don't:

- Concentrate your water use by using your dishwasher, shower, washing machine, and toilet at the same time. All that extra water can really strain your septic system.

Do:

- Stagger the use of water-generating appliances. This can be helpful especially if your system has not been pumped in a long time.
- Become more [water efficient](#) by fixing plumbing leaks and consider installing bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators and water-efficient products.



For more SepticSmart tips, visit: www.epa.gov/septicSMART

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Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, OH 43026

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

Public 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

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.

PRSRT STD

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PERMIT# 5964

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

DEC 2023	1	4	5	19
JAN 2024	5	6	8	21
FEB 2024	2	5	2	12

Franklin County Sheriff

Calls to addresses in both incorporated and
unincorporated portions of Brown Town-
ship:

December 2023

Dec 27 – Theft of a companion animal at an
address on Feder Rd.

January 2024

Jan 27 – Personal information theft at an
address on Patterson Rd.

February 2024

Feb 9 - Suspicious car at an address on
Roberts Rd.

Feb 23 - Scammed online (theft) at an ad-
dress on Dellinger Rd.

Hilliard Division of Police

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

December 2023

No non-routine calls

January 2024

No non-routine calls

February 2024

No non-routine calls