

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Winter 2026

Amendments Coming to the Big Darby Accord

Draft Under Review

The Big Darby Accord, to which Brown Township is a party, is a multi-jurisdictional effort to protect Big Darby Creek, which is both a national and state scenic waterway.

Currently, the Accord policies call for such things as the generation of funds from revenue streams generated by development projects to buy conservation lands and complete other projects, which protect water quality in the Darby watershed. Such policies are combined with a future land use plan that limits development.



Artist's rendering of Darby Town Center concept from original plan document.

The Accord's land use plan includes a "town center" that would be the centerpiece of the land use plan and include about 5,000 dwelling units.

The Accord jurisdictions decided that it was time to update the plan given the events of the last 19 plus years and new science and technics related to development and water quality protection.

Development shown on the current Accord future land use map has been slow to happen. The town center did

not materialize because no developer was interested in taking on such a project.

In the meantime, some jurisdictions are under political and economic pressure to find places to put more units to address housing needs.

The 2025 / 2026 Big Darby Accord amendment process began early in 2025. Work has been centered around four core topics:

- Water quality
- Revenue
- Open space
- Land use

Public workshops for each of these topics were held monthly from late April to late July, 2025. In addition, planners have held meetings with a wide range of stakeholders in the region.

Also worth noting, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is completing the first phase of a Darby watershed study and looking to do a second phase, both of which many stakeholders and elected officials feel is important to consider in completing these amendments.

A committee consisting of representatives from five of the Accord member jurisdictions, including Brown Township, has been reviewing this input, as well as proposed changes to the Accord. A rough draft of the proposed amendments was provided to elected officials from each of the partner jurisdictions on December 5th.

Members of the Brown Township Board of Trustees are currently studying the rough draft and will be discussing any changes that they hope to see in the

document before it is released for public review.

Anticipated issues include a shuffling of development areas on the future land use map, including some higher density development along the suburban edge areas.

In the meantime, as elected officials and stakeholders work to improve and fine tune the current, we ask that you please keep an eye out for the release of the finished draft amendments early next year.

Learn about a new Darby Creek conservation study

The ODNR Scenic Rivers Program will be joined by the Midwest Biodiversity Institute to present results on Phase 1 of the Integrated Prioritization System (IPS) study.

Monday, January 12th, 7:00pm
Norwich Township Fire Department
5181 Northwest Pkwy

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

(614) 876-2133

Township Updates

Crime Stoppers

Join the Brown Township Blockwatch on Nextdoor

Building strong connections with neighbors remains one of the best ways to ensure a thriving and safe Brown Township. In a world where so much of our communication happens online, simply knowing who lives next door can make a big difference. When residents look out for one another, share updates, and build trust, our community becomes both safer and more welcoming. These small, local ties create a sense of belonging that strengthens the very fabric of Brown Township.

There are several groups and events around Brown Township where residents are intentionally connecting to get to know one another. Neighborhood groups and events like these draw families and friends together for food, games, and conversation, reminding everyone that safety and friendship often begin with a simple hello. Neighbors often exchange contact information and build better connections that often prove invaluable during emergencies or township alerts.

One Brown Township resident says that, 'Intentionally getting together at our annual event with other residents on our road helps build camaraderie and social connections that are otherwise hard to build when neighbors are further apart. We also learn from our older neighbors and are able to lend a hand when needed or keep an eye out on each other's kids when they are getting off the bus.'

We encourage residents to share in the spirit of community by getting to know your neighbors with a hello or a helping hand. Personal connections strengthen our shared commitment to keeping



Brown Township a safe place to call home. Remember that safety isn't just a police matter—it's everyone's responsibility. By knowing your neighbors, staying alert to unusual activity, and reporting concerns to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Brown Township Blockwatch through email or the Nextdoor app, you're helping protect not only your immediate neighbors, but the entire Brown Township community.

As a reminder, please remember to join the Brown Township Blockwatch group on Nextdoor. You can sign up for Brown Township Blockwatch at <https://www.browntwp.org/>. The Franklin County Sheriff's Office number is: (614) 525-3333; for emergencies call 911.

Contributed by Stan Rozdeba, Block Watch Coordinator for Brown Twp.

Plant Invasion

Removing Invasives at the Brown Township Nature Preserve

The Spring 2025 edition of this newsletter included an article on the recently established Brown Township Nature Preserve behind the Brown Township Hall and Station 82.

Part of that space is planned to become a small prairie area, and some alien invasives species will need to be removed. These include callery pear, honeysuckle and autumn olive. These plants can take over an area within a few years and crowd out our native plants, including the planted prairie species and native trees.

In 2026, Anthony Sasson, resident of Brown Township, and other volunteers experienced with invasive plant removal will work on removing these invasive plants. The intent is to help make a high quality preserve for residents and visitors. Work should take place in the first quarter of 2026.

If you would like to assist in this effort as a volunteer and don't mind some physical work outdoors, contact Anthony at 614 519-9291 (text) or asasson@aol.com.

Flashing Signs Installed

The Franklin County Engineer's Office has been working with Brown Township to address a recent increase in crashes at the intersection of Roberts Road and Amity Road. Most of these crashes involved drivers on Roberts Road failing to yield to traffic on Amity Road.

To improve safety, the Engineer's Office first focused on visibility and low-cost countermeasures. In November 2023, vegetation was trimmed to improve sight distance, and additional signage was installed. This included a supplemental "Stop Ahead" sign on westbound Roberts Road and advanced intersection warning signs on Amity Road to alert drivers to the upcoming intersection.

Despite these improvements, crashes continued. As part of the next phase of safety upgrades, medium-cost countermeasures were added in October 2025.

Flashing stop signs were installed on eastbound and westbound Roberts Road and flashing advanced intersection warning signs were added on Amity Road. These enhancements are intended to draw more attention to the intersection and reinforce the requirement for Roberts Road drivers to yield.

The Engineer's Office will continue to monitor safety at this location. Looking ahead, we plan to apply for safety funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation to construct a future roundabout at this intersection. Roundabouts are highly effective at reducing the number and severity of crashes by slowing speeds and minimizing conflict points. Because roundabouts are considered high-cost improvements, demonstrating that lower-cost measures have already been implemented is an important part of the funding process.

We are optimistic that the work completed so far, along with the detailed crash history, will support a strong funding application in 2026.

Contributed by Mike Andrako, P.E., Mobility Engineer with the Franklin

Radon in Western Franklin County

An Invisible Threat in Your Home

You can't see it, smell it, or taste it, yet it might be silently accumulating in your home right now. Radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas, poses a significant health risk to residents throughout western Franklin County, Ohio. Understanding this invisible threat and taking action to protect your family isn't just recommended—it's essential.

Radon is a radioactive gas that forms naturally when uranium in soil, rock, and water breaks down. This gas seeps up through the ground and enters buildings through cracks in foundations, gaps around pipes, and other openings. Once inside, radon becomes trapped and can accumulate to dangerous levels.

The health implications are serious. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, right behind cigarette smoking. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), radon exposure causes approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths annually.

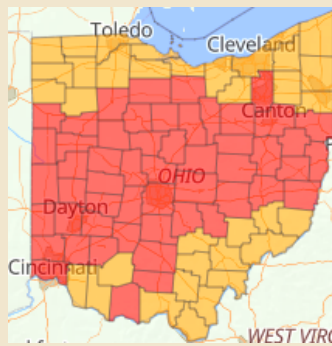
When you breathe in radon, radioactive particles become trapped in your lungs, where they release energy that damages lung tissue and can lead to cancer over time.



Franklin County's Radon Risk

Ohio consistently ranks as a high-risk state for radon exposure, and Franklin County is no exception. The geology of western Franklin County makes it particularly susceptible to elevated radon levels. The region sits atop glacial till deposits and shale bedrock formations that contain uranium-bearing materials, which release radon gas as they naturally decay.

The Ohio Department of Health has identified most of Franklin County, including the western portions, as Zone 1 territory—the highest risk category for radon. This means homes in this area are predicted to have average indoor radon levels exceeding 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), the EPA's action level. However,



- Zone 3 (0 counties)
- Zone 2 (39 counties)
- Zone 1 (53 counties)

Highest Potential: counties have a predicted average indoor radon screening level greater than 4 pCi/L (pico curies per liter) (red zones)

Moderate Potential: counties have a predicted average indoor radon screening level between 2 and 4 pCi/L (orange zones)

Low Potential: counties have a predicted average indoor radon screening level less than 2 pCi/L (yellow zones)

radon levels vary dramatically from house to house, even among neighbors. Your home's radon level depends on soil composition, construction materials, foundation type, and ventilation patterns.

Western Franklin County encompasses communities including Hilliard, North-western parts of Grove City, Galloway, and parts of Columbus's west side. Whether you live in new construction or an older home, your risk remains significant. The only way to know your home's radon level is through testing.

Testing is Simple and Affordable

Testing your home for radon is straightforward, inexpensive, and absolutely necessary. Short-term tests last two to seven days, while long-term tests measure radon levels for more than 90 days. Long-term tests provide more accurate averages across seasons, but short-term tests offer quick initial assessments.

Radon test kits are available at the big-box hardware stores and online, typically costing between \$15 and \$30. You can also hire a certified radon professional. The Ohio Department of Health provides free test kits and maintains a list of certified testers on their website.

Testing is simple. Just place the kit in the lowest lived-in level of your home, usually the basement or first floor, away from drafts and exterior walls. After the testing period, seal the kit and mail it to a laboratory. Results arrive within a few weeks.

Taking Action on High Radon Levels

The EPA recommends taking action if your home's radon level measures 4 pCi/L or higher, though no level is truly safe. If your test reveals elevated radon levels, effective solutions exist.

The most common mitigation method is a soil suction system, also called sub-slab

depressurization. This system uses a pipe and fan to draw radon from beneath your foundation and vent it safely outside. Professional installation typically costs between \$800 and \$2,500, depending on your home's construction.

A properly installed system can reduce radon levels by up to 99%. These systems require minimal maintenance and operate continuously, providing ongoing protection. After mitigation, retest your home to confirm effectiveness and continue testing every two years.

Protect Your Family Today

Every day you delay testing is another day your family potentially breathes harmful radon gas. With lung cancer rates tied directly to prolonged radon exposure, the stakes are too high to ignore. Western Franklin County's geology places every resident at elevated risk, regardless of neighborhood or home value.

Don't wait for symptoms. By the time lung cancer develops, prevention is impossible. Testing takes minimal effort and costs less than a family dinner out. If you discover elevated levels, mitigation is a one-time investment in your family's long-term health.

Take action now. Get a radon test kit this week, or contact a certified radon professional to schedule testing.

RESOURCES

EPA Radon

Information for this article
www.epa.gov/radon

Ohio Department of Health

Free radon test kits plus licensed radon mitigation contractors



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

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



Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, OH 43026

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE

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

SEP 2025	1	7	6	17
OCT 2025	1	9	9	19
NOV 2025	5	10	6	17

Franklin County Sheriff

Calls to addresses in Brown Township:

September 2025

9/10 - Stolen/Damaged property at cell tower on Cole Rd.

9/27- Trespassing occurred on Scioto Darby Creek Rd.

9/28 - Unknown powder substance in bag found on Alton Darby Creek Rd.

October 2025

10/1- Theft occurred on Amity Rd.

10/10- Firearm found in ditch on Alton Darby

November 2025

No Criminal/Theft Incidents occurred in Brown Township

Hilliard Division of Police

Non-routine calls to addresses in Brown Township:

September 2025

No calls reported.

October 2025

No calls reported.

November 2025

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.