Open Space Re-Use in Ohio,

Jacob Hoover, CFM, AICP
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Mitigation Branch
The GOOD
• The City of North Royalton
• The City of Painesville
• The City of Fairfield
• The Village of Kimbolton
• The City of Cuyahoga Falls
• The City of Shelby

The BAD
• The City of Findlay
• The Village of New Richmond
• The Village of Neville
• Guernsey County
• Monroe County

The UGLY
• Ross County - Massieville
The Good

- The City of North Royalton
- The City of Painesville
- The City of Fairfield
- The Village of Kimbolton
- The City of Cuyahoga Falls
- The City of Shelby
The City of North Royalton - Riparian Restoration & Riffle Pool

2 Structures acquired and demolished under HMGP 1580.
The City of North Royalton - Riparian Restoration & Riffle Pool

Conceptual Tree Planting and Riffle-Pool Restoration

Orange circles represent floodplain trees = 20
Green circles represent upland trees = 30

Pool
Riffle
Culvert scour pool

Existing wetland
The City of North Royalton - Riparian Restoration & Riffle Pool
The City of North Royalton - Riparian Restoration & Riffle Pool

Plantings done by the West Creek Conservancy and Cuyahoga Soil and Water.
The City of North Royalton – Riparian Restoration & Riffle Pool

Plantings done by the West Creek Conservancy and Cuyahoga Soil and Water.
The City of North Royalton – Riparian Restoration & Riffle Pool

Plantings done by the West Creek Conservancy and Cuyahoga Soil and Water.
The City of Painesville - Gristmill & Millstone Condos
The City of Painesville - Gristmill & Millstone Condos

The condos were acquired and demolished under HMGP 1656 and FMA 2007.

Record Flooding from the Grand River in 2006
The City of Painesville - Gristmill & Millstone Condos
The City of Painesville - Gristmill & Millstone Condos
“We took something that was pretty much a natural disaster — (the housing) probably never should have been built and we created a place where people can enjoy nature and learn about floodplain management.” - Painesville Recreation and Public Lands Director Lee J. Homyock.
The park offers close to a mile of trails, between a hardened path and wood-chip walkways meandering among wetlands.
The City of Fairfield - Creekside Park

21 structures were acquired and demolished under PDM 2003 to create Creekside Park.
The City of Fairfield - Creekside Park

Honor Grove & Boys Scout’s Overlook
Honor Grove & Boys Scout’s Overlook
The Village of Kimbolton – Tractor Pull

6 structures acquired and demolished under HMGP 1580.
The Village of Kimbolton – Tractor Pull

Still Pending – Possible EHP Concerns
The City of Cuyahoga Falls - Rain Garden

3 structures acquired and demolished under HMGP 1519.
The City of Cuyahoga Falls - Rain Garden

A Cuyahoga Falls Community Conservation Rainscape

The Problem

Impervious Surfaces

Impervious surfaces such as streets, sidewalks, and parking lots do not allow water to infiltrate into the ground. The figure below shows that as the land surface becomes more urban, the amount of "runoff" or "water flowing over land" increases.

Rainfall flows quickly across impervious surfaces, picking up pollutants such as fertilizer and grass clippings, pesticides, fertilizers, gas, oil, and other types of residues. In most urban settings, this runoff flows into storm drains and eventually reaches wetlands, rivers, or lakes. Riparian runoff also increases the potential for flooding and erosion.

The Benefits

Rain Gardens, pervious concrete, and native vegetation techniques improve water quality.

Rain Gardens, pervious concrete, and native vegetation techniques reduce erosion and streamline runoff.

Rain Gardens prevent flood water storage.

Native plants provide habitat for wildlife.

Solar Powered Lighting

With the high cost of fossil fuels and our dependence on foreign oil, alternatives energy sources are always being sought. Not only are solar powered and wind powered lights more efficient, but they also save you the hassle of digging ditches, laying wires, and connecting lines to an electric grid. Solar lights use photovoltaic cells that harness the power of the sun to create energy, which is then stored in rechargeable batteries until it is called upon to power the LED lights at night.

Plant Selection

Native or adaptive plant materials have the potential to improve water quality and reduce erosion.

Rain Gardens, pervious concrete, and native vegetation techniques reduce runoff and streamline pollution.

Rain Gardens promote flood water storage.

Native plants provide habitat for wildlife.

Materials

Using pervious concrete and rain gardens can help reduce runoff and improve water quality. In pervious concrete, carefully controlled amounts of water and concrete materials are used to create a material that forms a solid coating around aggregate particles. The concrete mixture contains little or no cement, creating a substantial void content.

To find out more on Rain Gardens, or learn how to create your own, please contact the Office of the Service Director at (330) 971-8240.
The City of Cuyahoga Falls - Rain Garden
The City of Shelby - Black Fork Commons

7 structures were acquired and demolished under HMGP 1850.
The City of Shelby - Black Fork Commons
We wanted to turn the Black Fork River area from an area that was a source of devastation into a positive resource for our community," said Mayor Marilyn John.
The City of Shelby - Black Fork Commons
The City of Shelby - Black Fork Commons
The Bad

• The City of Findlay
• Village of New Richmond
• Village of Neville
• Guernsey County
• Monroe County
The City of Findlay
The City of Findlay
Villages of New Richmond and Neville
Village of Neville

Hit by floods and budget cuts, village to vote on disappearing

NEVILLE – Dennis Cooper spread the history book across the hood of his pickup and stubbed his finger at a photo. It's a picture of a stately house on a corner lot in the front, a porch.

"See that porch right there? A lot of tales were told on that porch," said Cooper, who was born a few blocks away in the tiny Clermont County riverfront village of Neville.

He looked up, across the street, toward a once thriving intersection in the village and points out the corner house's location. This spot connects the highway that runs through the Neville and a street that once dropped to a bustling public landing on the Ohio River. Now, the spot is an empty lot covered in grass, one of many that litter the tiny village like blank tombstones.

In less than a month, Neville itself could be dead.

Neville to remain a village

March 17th, 2016  Author: Administrator  Filed Under: News

By Megan Alley

On March 15, voters in the village of Neville rejected a proposed measure to dissolve the village and become part of Washington Township. The measure was prompted by chronic financial woes.

Of Neville's 69 registered voters, 19 voted against the measure and 11 voted for it, according to unofficial results from the Clermont County Board of Elections.

If the measure had passed, Neville's municipal property and structures, including two parks, would have been turned over to the township.

Junior Riggs, vice mayor, voted against the measure.

"I've lived here all my life," he said. "I don't want to see it go; nobody in this town wants to see it go."

He added, "It's a small community, and we want to keep it that way."

Paula Bobadilla, of Neville, voted against the measure.

"I think that we need to try keep it going as long as we can and hope that they open the funds and release the funds to us," she said. "They have plenty of funds available for the state of Ohio, they're just trying to close down all the little towns."

Donna Calver and Courtney Riggs also voted against the measure.

"I want it to stay the village," Culver said. "We're losing so many little villages in this state; I want it to stay the same."

Neville, which is one of the oldest village's in the state, needs about $16,000 to maintain operations.
Village of Neville

But we were wrong, this is the new Village administration building.
Old problems made new for open space monitoring
Monroe County
And The Ugly

- Ross County – Massieville
• Illegal camper home placed on property in 2008 removed in 2012
• Original parcel was split
• Deed restriction was not placed on new parcel
• All unpermitted buildings were removed
Ross County – Massieville
Ross County - Massieville
Ross County - Massieville

- Illegal structure was built in 2002.
- Open space violation was in court from 2002 until 2013
- Property owner refused to remove or demolish structures
- Ended with Declaration of Violation under Section 1316
Lessons Learned

• Open space monitoring is a glacial process, be vigilant, utilize your local contacts and technology is your friend.

• Be open to innovative ideas - open space doesn’t just have to be open green space or under utilized ground, it can become an asset to the community.

• Become friends with your lawyer because good projects can be complicated to implement and resolving violations can take years in some cases.