



CHAGRIN RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERS, INC. 2006 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WHO IS CRWP?: CRWP is a collaboration of 34 cities, villages, townships, counties, and park districts representing 94% of the watershed. CRWP works on innovative solutions to flooding, erosion, water quality problems, and to minimize new concerns. CRWP's founding principles are that:

- **Natural systems provide flood control, erosion control, and water quality protection services** that must be maintained as land is developed.
- It is more **cost effective for local governments to take steps necessary during planning and development to maintain these services** than to pay for costly, and generally less effective, remediation.

In 2006, CRWP members continued to balance growth with the impacts of development on the streams, wetlands, and open spaces that make the Chagrin watershed unique. Through CRWP's model regulations, technical assistance, review of development proposals, and other programs, the organization provided the expertise and additional local technical capacity necessary to achieve this balance.

CRWP achievements in 2006 are highlighted below.

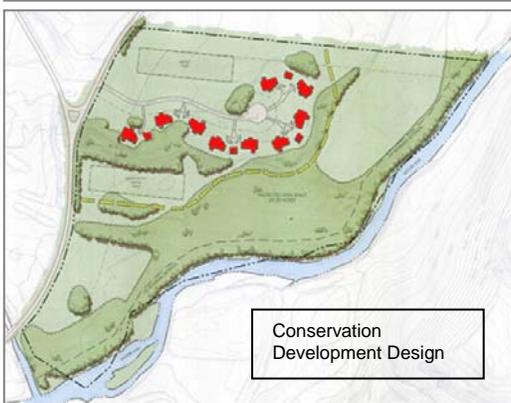
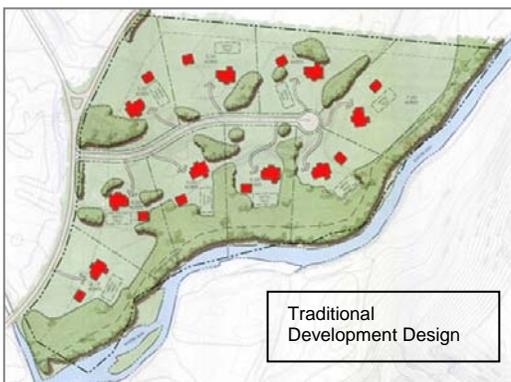
These were made possible through partnerships with members, and the Cuyahoga, Lake, and Geauga Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Planning Commissions, and Health Departments. We also appreciate our collaboration with the Lake and Geauga County Engineers, the Lake County Stormwater Management Department, and the Geauga Department of Water Resources.

CRWP Regular Members: Auburn, Aurora, Bainbridge, Bentleyville, Chagrin Falls, Chagrin Falls Township, Chester, Claridon, Cleveland Metroparks, Eastlake, Gates Mills, Geauga County, Geauga Park District, Hunting Valley, Kirtland, Kirtland Hills, Lake County, Lake Metroparks, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Mentor, Moreland Hills, Munson, Newbury, Orange, Pepper Pike, Russell, Solon, South Russell, Waite Hill, Wickliffe, Willoughby, Willoughby Hills & Woodmere.

Sponsoring Members: BioHabitats, CDM, CT Consultants, Inc., EMH&T, Inc., EnviroScience, Inc., FMSM Engineers, Inc., Holden Arboretum, Hull & Associates, Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders, Ohio Stream Preservation, Inc., Orin Group, LLC., Partners Environmental Consulting, Inc., TranSystems Corporation, URS Corporation, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and Western Reserve Federation of Conservationists.

Hunting Valley adopts conservation development with 5 key provisions:

1. Number of homes based on approved yield plan.
2. Greater than 40% open space.
3. Conservation easement.
4. No structural storm water management in preserved area.
5. Impervious cover limit.



◆**SUPPORTING LOW DENSITY ZONING:** CRWP members have relied on low-density zoning to maintain community character. The basis for this zoning has been the lack of central sewer and water services. Low-density development is regularly challenged, particularly when these services are available. In late 2005, CRWP members supported an *amicus brief* in the Ohio Supreme Court case of **Jaylin Investment Inc. v. Village of Moreland Hills**. This brief articulated the storm water management rationale for low-density development. The Supreme Court sided with the Village in January 2006, upholding the Village's two-acre lot size in an area with available sewer and water service. CRWP's brief supports local decisions to rely on low-density zoning as a tool to limit costly storm water infrastructure.

◆**IMPROVING RULES FOR DEVELOPMENT:** Members adopted and implemented model codes for Comprehensive Storm Water Management that address water quality and quantity, Erosion and Sediment Control, Conservation Development, Riparian and Wetland Setbacks, and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination. **Moreland Hills** and **Orange adopted riparian setbacks**. Bentleyville, Gates Mills, Russell, and Willoughby Hills are considering this provision. **Aurora updated their riparian and wetland setbacks**. Geauga County is considering riparian setbacks as a subdivision design standard. **Orange and Aurora adopted comprehensive storm water management** and **Orange and Wickliffe adopted erosion and sediment control**. Lake County is updating their storm water rules. **Mentor** was the first to **adopt illicit discharge detection and elimination**. Orange and Kirtland are considering this regulation as well. We supported these members during adoption by reviewing and preparing drafts and addressing questions from Planning Commissions, Trustees, and Councils. We supported members in implementation by reviewing plans, conducting site visits, and working with landowners.

◆**IMPLEMENTING RIPARIAN SETBACKS & STUDYING RELATION TO HOUSE PRICE:** CRWP provided **training for over 70 member council people, trustees, engineers, and other community**

staff and professional advisors on the implementation of setbacks. This training included case studies highlighting the benefits of setbacks and fieldwork on setback identification. Response was positive and a second training is planned for Spring 2007. CRWP also worked with Cleveland State University's Center for Housing Research and Policy to examine the market value of homes and condominiums from 1999 to 2005 in communities with riparian setbacks. **This analysis looked at over 4,000 units and found no evidence that setback zoning reduces house price.**

◆SOLVING MEMBER CONCERNS: CRWP worked with members to review development projects with potential downstream storm water impacts, difficult topography, or significant streams and wetlands. CRWP assistance included evaluations of stream and wetlands, site plan review to suggest alternative layouts to minimize resource impacts and storm water problems, meetings with developer consultants, and assistance with variance requests. CRWP also worked on grant applications and resident concerns. Examples include:

- **Bainbridge:** State Hazard Mitigation Grant application to address local chronic flooding concerns and assistance in dam management at Kenston Lake.
- **Bainbridge and Claridon:** Assistance with township development and updates to 208 sewer service plans.
- **Auburn, Aurora, Bainbridge, Chagrin Falls Township, Chagrin Falls Village, Chester, Eastlake, Kirtland, Munson, Newbury, Russell, Solon, and Willoughby Hills:** Single family home development and landowner flooding and erosion concerns.
- **Chagrin Falls Village:** Technical support and coordination with Ohio EPA on planning for the IVEX (Alcoa) dam.
- **Pepper Pike:** Assisted West Hill Colony to address significant sedimentation in 7-acre lake.

Funding & Technical Assistance Available for Storm Water Management: A Request for Demonstration Projects was sent to members in 2006. This request provides funding and technical assistance for innovative storm water management on existing and new developments. \$200,000 is available, with additional funds for technical assistance.

CRWP Awarded \$91,000 from Ohio Department of Natural Resources to assess riparian corridors, map storm sewer drainage areas, and develop case studies comparing costs for traditional, conservation, and structural low impact development. This will assist interested members with Phase II storm water mapping.

Please contact CRWP for information on these projects.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- **Phase II Renewal:** Ohio EPA will renew the Phase II permit in 2008. CRWP will keep members informed as the second 5 years of Phase II takes shape. Please let us know any concerns with the first permit term.
- **Low Impact Development Demonstration Projects:** Members already have great projects for 2007 construction.
- **Priority Development and Conservation Areas:** CRWP will be looking for member comments and adjustments to these drafts throughout 2007.

◆ASSISTING MEMBERS PHASE II COMPLIANCE:

In addition to helping members adopt and implement regulations as part of their Phase II programs, CRWP worked with members to meet their other storm water management commitments by:

- Partnering with the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District to **provide a series of four evening programs for residents** on rain gardens and riparian and wetland setbacks.
- Presenting **Tool Box Talks** to **Solon** and other member service and road departments on pollution prevention and good housekeeping for community operations.
- Providing **pond and lake management forum** for interested **South Russell** residents including the impacts of in-line ponds, requirements for dam management, and the role of upstream land use.

◆CONDUCTING WATERSHED PROJECTS: CRWP gathered information to support member land use decisions, implementation of model regulations, and improved grant applications. In 2006 CRWP:

- Submitted **The Chagrin River Watershed Action Plan** for full endorsement.
- Developed model code to improve parking lot design and minimize impervious cover.
- Developed of preliminary Priority Development Areas and Priority Conservation Areas under the State's Balanced Growth Project.

For More Information Contact

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Director
440-975-3870 kdw@crwp.org

2006 Grant Funders: The George Gund Foundation, Lake County Stormwater Management Department, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Management and Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, & Ohio Lake Erie Commission's Balanced Growth Pilot Project and Lake Erie Protection Fund.