

2007-2008 FAIRFIELD COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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First Vice-President: Doug Ingram
Second Vice-President: Kent Huston
Secretary: Mary Adcock

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Bette Bowers

HOCKING TOWNSHIP

Gail Ellinger
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Tim Linkhorn
*Tom Spring

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Rich Lamp

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Fritz Highley

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RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP

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William Yaple
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WALNUT TOWNSHIP

Larry Neeley

*denotes designated alternate

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Tony Vogel, Sanitary Engineer
Chad Lucht, Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District
Dave Libben, NRCS District Conservationist
Diana Uther, County Sanitarian

STAFF

R. Brooks Davis, AICP, Director
Holly Mattei, AICP, Assistant Director
James Mako, Senior Planner
Bill Fritz, Planning Technician
Gail Beck, Adm. Asst.

April 15, 2008

Dear Commission Members, Elected Officials and Fairfield County Residents and Businesses:

As the incoming President of the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission (RPC), I am pleased to present the 2007 Annual Report. During 2007, the Regional Planning Commission continued its planning, community development, and community assistance activities. Highlights included continuation of the well-attended Zoning Training series, provision of assistance to local governments in establishing revised zoning regulations, preparation of a Downtown Revitalization Plan for Carroll, and receiving funding for an update to the County Development Strategy and Land Use Plan.

We encourage you to review this Annual Report and to view the RPC website at www.co.fairfield.oh.us/rpc where a 24-hour link is provided to the resources of the Fairfield County RPC. We welcome your interest and participation in county and local development issues as we work to make Fairfield County an even better place to live and do business.

Sincerely,

Douglas N. Ingram,
President

INTRODUCTION

In 2007, the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission continued to work on implementation of the Fairfield County Development Strategy and Land Use Plan. The RPC staff continued to cooperate with the Fairfield Land Preservation Association, which in 2007 received its non-profit status and is now able to accept agricultural easements. The training assistance from the Ohio State University's Center for Farmland Policy Innovation obtained through a grant application prepared by the RPC Staff in 2006 continued in 2007 with sessions on organizational development and board development.

Another highlight of 2007 was the approval of funds from the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners to prepare an update to the county plan.

In 2007, the RPC staff continued its Zoning Training series with sessions on the proper conduct of public meetings and on planned unit development and conditional uses. The RPC staff also completed work on the Village of Pleasantville zoning code and subdivision regulations and the Rushcreek township zoning regulations.

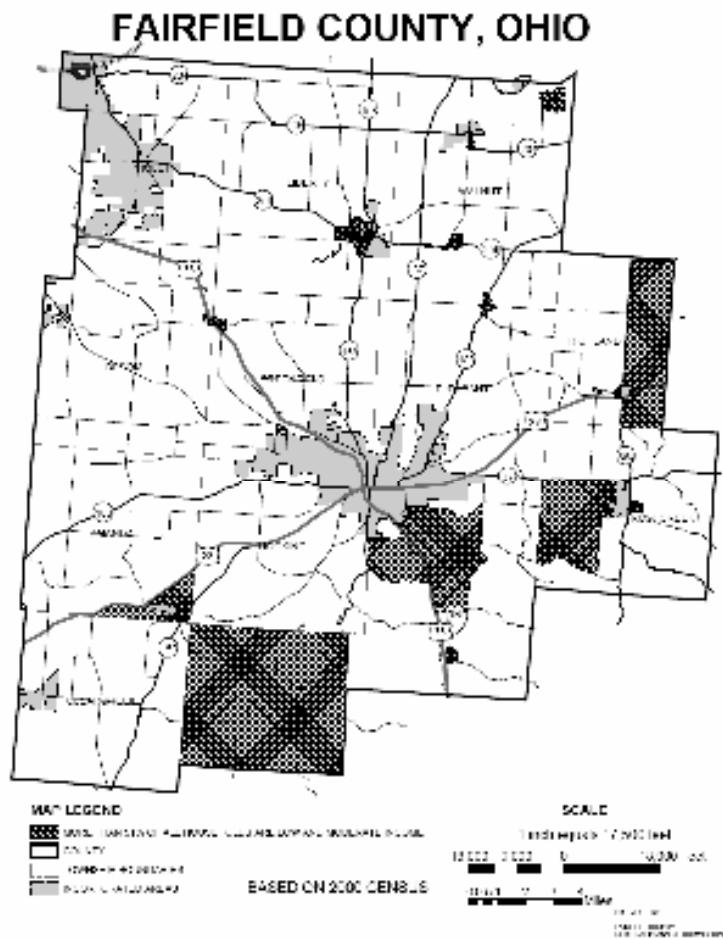
The RPC continues to administer the Fairfield County Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The program allocates approximately \$200,000 to Fairfield County communities and neighborhoods for projects that primarily benefit low/moderate income residents. Also in 2007, the RPC staff completed the Village of Carroll Downtown Revitalization Plan with CDBG program assistance.

REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

Demographic Data

A wide variety of demographic and economic data is filtered through and utilized by our office for various planning efforts. Data obtained from the U.S. Census is incorporated into downtown revitalization planning, comprehensive planning, and other planning documents. Data maintained by our office originates from numerous federal and state sources, as well as from efforts undertaken by RPC on behalf of county and local jurisdictions. The U.S. Census Bureau is an essential source of demographic, housing, social, and economic data that is utilized in many of our planning efforts. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses economic and demographic figures to identify low- and moderate-income households in Fairfield County. Regional Planning uses these figures to help administer the application process of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Our office has combined HUD's low- and moderate-income data with the County's Geographic Information System to produce an updated LMI map, depicting areas of need in Fairfield County. The ability to display this type of data on a spatial level makes it easier to identify, analyze, and understand geographic patterns of demographic, social, or economic characteristics at a local and regional level.



There is an endless amount of demographic information made available through FactFinder on the U.S. Census website (www.census.gov). Information topics range from total population figures to the number of occupied housing units in rural and urban areas to ethnicity of households broken down by age. In addition, the Office of Strategic Research, a division of the Ohio Department of Development, also has a wide array of statistics and information. For example, the chart to the right shows projected populations for Fairfield County through the year 2030. To obtain similar information from the Office of Strategic Research, please visit their website at <http://www.odod.state.oh.us/research/default.html>.

Population Projections for Fairfield County	
2010	143,860
2015	155,330
2020	169,540
2025	183,590
2030	201,010

As noted on the next page, Fairfield County’s population from 2000-2006 was estimated to have increased from 122,759 to 140,591. This estimated increase of 12.68% is 3rd among Ohio’s 88 counties. This represents an average annual percentage change of 2.2%

Below is an example of the more generalized type of census information that can be found on RPC’s website (www.co.fairfield.oh.us/rpc). Anyone wishing to find more detailed information at the county, township, place, group, or block group level should contact our office for assistance.

Fairfield County Population from 1800 to 2000

<u>1800</u>	<u>1810</u>	<u>1820</u>	<u>1830</u>	<u>1840</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1890</u>	<u>1900</u>
No Data	11,361	16,633	24,786	31,924	30,264	30,538	31,138	34,284	33,939	34,259
<u>1900</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
34,259	39,201	40,484	44,010	48,490	52,130	63,912	73,301	93,678	103,461	122,759

2006 Population Estimates For Ohio Counties, Cities, Villages and Townships					
Name	Population				Average Annual Rate of Change (a)
	Census 4/1/00	Estimates Base 4/1/00	Estimate 7/1/05	Estimate 7/1/06	
Fairfield County	122,759	122,881	138,403	140,591	2.2%
Amanda village	707	707	722	719	0.3%
Baltimore village	2,681	2,696	2,938	2,937	0.2%
Bremen village	1,265	1,272	1,257	1,254	-0.2%
Buckeye Lake village (pt.)	3	3	3	3	0.0%
Canal Winchester village (pt.)	284	397	611	649	8.2%
Carroll village	488	486	472	470	-0.5%
Columbus city (pt.)	7,447	7,447	8,044	8,128	1.4%
Lancaster city	35,335	35,332	36,067	36,507	0.5%
Lithopolis village (pt.)	600	652	749	863	4.6%
Millersport village	963	958	962	961	0.1%
Pickerington city (pt.)	9,737	9,623	15,546	16,320	8.5%
Pleasantville village	677	677	658	653	-0.4%
Reynoldsburg city (pt.)	0	56	300	311	22.6%
Rushville village	268	268	273	272	0.2%
Stoutsville village	581	568	580	578	0.3%
Sugar Grove village	446	455	440	439	-0.6%
Tarleton village (pt.)	—	0	0	0	n.a.
Thurston village	555	555	611	609	1.5%
West Rushville village	132	136	139	138	0.2%
Balance of Fairfield County	60,186	59,681	67,835	68,580	2.2%
Amanda township	2,429	2,429	2,980	3,008	3.5%
Amanda village	707	707	722	719	0.3%
Balance of Amanda township	1,722	1,722	2,258	2,287	4.6%
Berne township	4,969	4,969	5,331	5,330	1.2%
Sugar Grove village	446	455	440	439	-0.6%
Balance of Berne township	4,521	4,514	4,891	4,900	1.3%
Bloom township	6,374	6,374	7,363	7,627	2.9%
Canal Winchester village (pt.)	0	0	109	111	n.a.
Carroll village (pt.)	9	7	7	7	0.0%
Lithopolis village (pt.)	600	652	749	863	4.6%
Balance of Bloom township	5,765	5,715	6,498	6,646	2.4%
Clearcreek township	3,411	3,411	3,889	3,877	2.1%
Stoutsville village	581	568	580	578	0.3%
Tarleton village (pt.)	—	0	0	0	n.a.
Balance of Clearcreek township	2,830	2,843	3,309	3,299	2.4%
Columbus city (pt.)	7,447	7,447	8,044	8,128	1.4%
Greenfield township	4,944	4,831	5,448	5,551	1.9%
Carroll village (pt.)	479	479	485	483	-0.5%
Balance of Greenfield township	4,465	4,452	4,963	5,068	2.2%
Hocking township	4,612	4,612	4,973	4,998	0.6%
Lancaster city	35,335	35,332	36,067	36,507	0.5%
Liberty township	7,285	7,285	7,970	7,963	1.5%
Baltimore village (pt.)	2,678	2,695	2,933	2,934	0.2%
Balance of Liberty township	4,607	4,590	4,937	5,029	2.3%
Madison township	1,385	1,385	2,798	2,782	11.9%
Pleasant township	5,549	5,556	5,775	5,807	0.7%
Pleasantville village (pt.)	610	601	489	487	-0.5%
Balance of Pleasant township	5,039	5,055	5,285	5,320	0.8%

2006 Population Estimates For Ohio Counties, Cities, Villages and Townships					
Name	Population				Average Annual Rate of Change (a)
	Census 4/1/00	Estimates Base 4/1/00	Estimate 7/1/05	Estimate 7/1/06	
Fairfield County	122,759	122,881	138,403	140,59	12.2%
Richland township	1,940	1,940	2,163	2,199	2.0%
Rushville village	268	268	273	272	0.2%
West Rushville village	132	136	139	138	0.2%
Balance of Richland township	1,540	1,536	1,751	1,789	2.5%
Rush Creek township	3,549	3,549	3,708	3,733	0.8%
Bremen village	1,265	1,272	1,257	1,254	-0.2%
Balance of Rush Creek township	2,284	2,277	2,451	2,479	1.4%
Violet township	26,914	27,036	35,250	36,268	4.8%
Canal Winchester village (pt.)	284	397	502	538	5.0%
Pickerington city (pt.)	9,737	9,923	15,546	16,320	8.3%
Reynoldsburg city (pt.)	0	86	300	311	22.8%
Balance of Violet township	16,893	16,630	18,902	19,099	2.2%
Walnut township	6,436	6,445	6,746	6,796	0.9%
Baltimore village (pt.)	3	3	3	3	0.0%
Buckeye Lake village (pt.)	3	3	3	3	0.0%
Millersport village	963	958	962	961	0.1%
Pleasantville village (pt.)	367	376	367	366	-0.4%
Thurston village	555	555	611	609	1.5%
Balance of Walnut township	4,545	4,550	4,800	4,854	1.0%

"n.a.": Could not calculate. Division by zero.

"---": Denotes that entity did not exist as currently structured as of April 1, 2000, Census Day.

"a" : The average annually population change from April 1, 2000, Census Day to July 1, 2006.

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Release Date: June 26, 2007 (hub2006OH.xls)

File: P103000004, Subcounty Population I Estimates for Ohio: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006

Prepared by: Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development

Fairfield County Development Strategy and Land Use Plan

The Fairfield County Development Strategy and Land Use Plan, adopted in 2002, continued to be used as a basis of reviewing zoning and subdivision proposals, federal and state grant applications, and public and private development proposals. Having an adopted land use plan also gives local applications bonus points for the Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, allowing these applications to be competitive in the program. Fairfield County, as a result, is ranked fourth among Ohio counties in acres of farmland preserved by the state program. So far over 1300 acres of farmland have been preserved by the program.

RPC staff in cooperation with the Soil and Water Conservation District continues to advise the Fairfield Land Preservation Association (FLPA) in its efforts to preserve natural areas and farmland. In 2007, the FLPA received its non-profit status and can accept conservation and agricultural easements.

As part of the county budget process in late 2007, the RPC received funds to prepare an update to the county plan. The update will focus on bikeway, pedestrian transportation, and open space planning.

Transportation

Access Management

The RPC staff served on both the Fairfield County and Violet Township advisory committees charged with reviewing access management. The traffic safety and traffic congestion prevention benefits of access management are well documented nationally and implementing access management policies is a major recommendation of the Fairfield County Development Strategy and Land Use Plan.

In 2007, Violet Township adopted access management policies modeled after the recommendations developed by the county's advisory committee. The Board of Commissioners has held hearings considering access management but has not yet adopted the regulations implementing access management in the remainder of the county's unincorporated areas.

State Routes 37/78 Feasibility Study

James Mako of the RPC staff participated on the Advisory Council of the State Routes 37/78 Corridor Planning Report. The Advisory Council included representatives from Fairfield, Perry, Morgan, Noble, and Monroe counties. The study identified improvements designed to enhance safety, improve mobility, and increase economic development opportunities. It is expected that the report will be a planning guide for state and local officials when it is completed later in 2008.

Downtown Revitalization Planning

In 2007, the RPC staff continued to support efforts to revitalize and preserve the downtown areas of villages in Fairfield County. RPC staff assisted the Village of Carroll in producing a downtown revitalization plan. The planning process was begun in February of 2007 and ended in December of 2007 when the village council officially adopted the plan. The \$10,000 plan was funded with money from Fairfield County's FY2006 Community Development Block Grant.

Watershed Planning

In 2007, the RPC continued to participate in the Walnut Action Group. This group was established several years ago to help facilitate discussions on the management of the Walnut Creek watershed. The Walnut Creek watershed includes portions of Fairfield, Franklin and Pickaway Counties. There are also portions of various townships, villages and cities that are within the Walnut Creek watershed. The Walnut Action Group creates a forum where common watershed goals and implementation strategies can be discussed and coordinated among these local authorities. The group also consists of local stakeholders that help provide a landowner's perspective on watershed management.

The Walnut Action Group continues to hold its quarterly meetings. In 2007, the group discussed and helped to support the naming of several streams within the Walnut Creek Watershed. The group also continued to discuss watershed activities within the various communities. A focus on education also seemed to continue into 2007. The group organized presentations by the Ohio Environmental Protection agency regarding the status of the watershed and the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District regarding Best Management Practices.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Community Development Block Grant Program

Fairfield County continues to participate in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Small Cities Formula program, administered by the Ohio Department of Development. The RPC, by contract with the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, prepares the annual application to the program and conducts the county's Fair Housing program (described below). In 2007, the county received \$240,000 from the Office of Housing and Community Partnerships to undertake projects that will benefit primarily low- and moderate-income individuals. Funds were directed towards automatic door improvements for Fairfield County buildings, ADA curb cuts for Violet Township, a street rehabilitation project for the Village of Amanda and a waterline replacement project in the Village of Sugar Grove.

Fair Housing

FAIRFIELD COUNTY AFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AND SUPPORTS THE ELIMINATION OF HOUSING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, HANDICAP, FAMILIAL STATUS, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

Resolution 89-08.10a Fairfield County Board of Commissioners.

Fairfield County has had an affirmative Fair Housing program since 1981. The Regional Planning Commission provides services to the Board of County Commissioners in the implementation of the program. The services stressed by the County are educational and included attending meetings throughout the County to present the fair housing laws, publishing news articles concerning fair housing, and distributing fair housing brochures. In addition, the RPC responds directly to inquiries from individuals about possible fair housing violations.

During 2007, the RPC received 28 complaints and/or inquiries, 27 of which were deemed to be landlord/tenant complaints. The RPC staff explains that while there is an Ohio law governing the duties and responsibilities of both tenants and landlords, county governments have no authority to intervene. Persons are advised to contact their personal attorney or the legal aid society. A brochure explaining landlord-tenant rights and responsibilities under Ohio law has been prepared and is provided to tenants and landlords wishing to understand their rights and responsibilities. If a complaint is about a fair housing violation, the person is referred to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission for its action.

Staff also gave presentations on Fair Housing and Landlord/Tenant laws before a number of township trustee and council meetings and other meetings during the year and distributed brochures at public buildings and agency offices.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Regional Planning Commission administers the Fairfield County Subdivision Regulations and the Fairfield County Flood Damage Prevention Regulations. RPC staff also provides technical assistance to township, village and municipal zoning officials. These regulations and services help to protect public health and safety and play a central role in ensuring development reflects the goals identified by the communities within Fairfield County.

Subdivision Regulations

The Fairfield County Subdivision Regulations establish the standards and procedures for subdividing real property in the unincorporated areas of the county. These regulations include standards for both major and minor subdivisions, as well as procedures for exempt lot splits. Divisions of land not involving the opening, widening, or extension of any new streets or easements of access are considered to be either minor subdivisions or exempt lot splits, depending upon the size of the lot(s). If a lot is less than 5.01 acres, it is regulated by the minor subdivision standards. Minor subdivisions are limited to four lots plus the remainder from a tract of land. If a lot is 5.01 acres or greater or a sale or exchange of parcels of land without the creation of a new building site (“tie”) is proposed, it is processed as an exempt lot split. All other land divisions are considered to be major subdivisions.

In 2007, RPC staff, in conjunction with the Subdivision Regulations Committee, continued to draft proposed revisions to the Subdivision Regulations pertaining to rural land divisions (a.k.a. no plat – large lot subdivisions). RPC staff will continue to work towards the adoption of these proposed regulations in 2008.

Major Subdivisions

Major subdivisions require a preliminary plan and final plat to be approved by the Regional Planning Commission. RPC staff continues to work closely with the Subdivision Regulations Committee to coordinate the major subdivision review process. RPC staff distributes preliminary plans and final plats to various review agencies, such as the County Engineer, the County Utilities Department, the Fairfield Health Department, the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District, township zoning inspectors, school districts, township trustees, conservancy groups, and utility companies. These review agencies provide comments to RPC staff. RPC staff presents these comments to the Subdivision Regulations Committee who makes a recommendation to the Regional Planning Commission as to approval or disapproval. The Regional Planning Commission then takes final action on the preliminary plan or final plat.

In 2007, two preliminary plans and four final plats were conditionally approved by the Regional Planning Commission. Once a final plat has received conditional approval by the Regional Planning Commission, RPC staff ensures the conditions are addressed prior to the final plat being certified for recording.

Within the entire county (including municipalities and villages), there were six platted subdivisions recorded in 2007 totaling 32 lots on approximately 75.646 acres (these plats include both commercial and residential lots). Two of these plats (11 residential lots on approximately 17.516 acres) were within the unincorporated areas of the county. In 2007, Lithopolis experienced the most growth with 16 residential lots on 34.887 acres.

Name of Subdivision	Political Unit	# of Lots	Acres
Stonecreek Station	Pickerington	4	17.652
North Point	Walnut	6	1.005
Baltimore Estates	Baltimore	1	5.062
First Half Totals		11	23.719
The Grottos at Lithopolis	Lithopolis	16	34.887
Ety Fair Shops (right-of-way dedication)	Lancaster	NA	.49
Windy Hills Estates Replat of lots 9-13	Hocking	5	16.55
Second Half Totals		21	51.927
2007 Totals		32	75.646

**MINOR SUBDIVISION ACTIVITIES SUMMARY
JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2007
FAIRFIELD COUNTY RPC**

Township	Approved Lots (Under 5.01 Acres)		Exempted Lots (Over 5.01 Acres)		Exempted Lots (Tied)	
	Number of Splits	Acres	Number of Splits	Acres	Number of Splits	Acres
AMANDA	1	3.09	3	109.65	0	0
BERNE	0	0	13	131	4	7.22
BLOOM	7	19.71	31	243.12	3	0.93
CLEARCREEK	6	15.29	5	30.43	0	0
GREENFIELD	20	38.7	5	30.77	2	70.33
HOCKING	7	18.4	1	22	3	6.07
LIBERTY	2	5.39	8	265.93	1	4.67
MADISON	1	1.6	7	46.26	2	8.98
PLEASANT	1	4.51	0	0	0	0
RICHLAND	2	139.01	12	111.86	0	0
RUSHCREEK	2	2.8	1	10.71	2	78
VIOLET	3	3.03	11	6.46	1	0.28
WALNUT	0	0	5	26.9	3	7.26
First Half Totals	52	251.5	102	1035.1	21	183.7
AMANDA	3	9.19	13	128.35	3	0.45
BERNE	2	4.5	2	26.99	5	26.51
BLOOM	0	0	1	6.01	3	0.056
CLEARCREEK	1	2.09	3	24.91	1	0.46
GREENFIELD	3	8.12	0	0	2	1.36
HOCKING	1	2.62	5	98.19	6	52.97
LIBERTY	6	15.27	0	0	2	4.1
MADISON	0	0	1	11.62	3	5.25
PLEASANT	14	30.91	0	0	3	6.84
RICHLAND	3	5.55	0	0	1	0.35
RUSHCREEK	1	1.5	3	39.86	1	0.12
VIOLET	3	4.36	2	36.19	0	0
WALNUT	5	9.97	2	118.86	0	0
Second Half Totals	42	84.11	32	490.9	30	98.5
2007 Totals	94	335.6	134	1526	51	282.2

	Number	Acres
GRAND TOTAL	279	2,143.8

Zoning Administration and Assistance

Zoning is a legislative tool for regulating land use by dividing areas into districts that permit specific types of uses, which include agriculture, residential, commercial and industrial. Zoning regulations identify minimum width and area requirements, as well as setback requirements, height limitations and density standards for each land use district.

In Fairfield County, zoning is adopted and administered on a township basis. Eleven of the county's thirteen townships are zoned. The RPC staff coordinates with the township zoning officials to insure that all new subdivision proposals presented to the RPC for review and approval meet township zoning requirements.

Township	Amendments	
	Text	Map
Berne	-	1
Bloom	-	2
Greenfield	1	2
Liberty	-	1
Rushcreek	1	-
Richland	1	-
Violet	1	3
Walnut	-	2
Totals	4	11

As required by the Ohio Revised Code, the RPC advises townships on all proposed zoning map or text amendments. RPC staff prepares a report that assesses the conformance of proposed revisions with other adopted plans and policies, and also details other issues that are relevant in the rezoning consideration. The RPC then makes a recommendation for consideration by the township zoning commission prior to making its recommendation on the zoning change to the board of township trustees. In 2007, the RPC made recommendations on fifteen proposed zoning amendments – four text and eleven map amendments, representing a 13.3% decrease from 2006.

RPC staff assists township zoning inspectors, zoning commissions, boards of appeals, and trustees on a wide variety of zoning related issues, often meeting with township zoning officials to discuss issues of zoning amendments and zoning administration. Also, the RPC offers an informational service, responding to zoning questions and maintaining copies of the township regulations for public use. Most of the townships have authorized the RPC to reproduce their zoning regulations and make them available to the public.

In 2007, the RPC staff organized a Spring and Fall zoning training session for local officials. One session was on conducting public meetings and the requirements of Ohio Sunshine laws. The other session discussed planned unit developments and conditional uses.

Floodplain Management

As part of Fairfield County's participation in the regular phase of the Federal National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the county adopted Special Purpose Flood Damage Prevention Regulations in 1989, which were then revised and adopted in 1995. The Regulations require that the RPC review all proposed development activities located

on property within areas identified by FEMA as flood hazard areas (within the 100-year flood boundary).

During 2007, RPC staff issued twenty-eight Special Purpose Development Permits, five more than what was issued in 2006. This represents an 11% increase in flood hazard development.

Township	New Residential	Non Residential	Township Totals
Berne	1	6	7
Violet	3	5	8
Rushcreek	1	-	1
Walnut	6	4	10
Greenfield	-	2	2

In addition to reviewing flood hazard development permits, RPC staff maintains Fairfield County Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) issued by FEMA for unincorporated areas of the county as well as for most of the incorporated cities and villages. These maps are available to the public in the RPC office during normal business hours or they can be downloaded from the RPC web site www.co.fairfield.ohio.us/rpc. The RPC maintains a Flood Plain Reference Book for unincorporated areas of Fairfield County for individuals and organizations (such as township and village officials, title companies, and financial institutions) that use this information on a daily basis.

RPC staff also provides written flood hazard certifications for a nominal fee. The number of flood hazard certifications issued by the department has decreased from twenty-three in 2006 to eighteen in 2007, representing a 21% decrease.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

Intergovernmental Review

The purpose of the IGR system (formerly A-95) is to coordinate federally funded activities and to provide a procedure for local review and comment on applications for federal assistance. The RPC may forward one of several recommendations to the funding agency, ranging from project clearance to a recommendation that funding be delayed due to specific concerns. The review agency may also request that specific questions or concerns be addressed prior to a funding approval. While the IGR process does not give the RPC the authority to approve or deny a funding request, it does offer valuable opportunity for local agencies, political units, and citizens to comment upon federally assisted projects.

The RPC is requested as part of the Ohio Public Works Commission's grant and loan programs to make reviews of impacts of proposed projects on farmland in an area. These reviews are based upon the adopted farmland preservation policies of the Fairfield County Development Strategy and Land Use Plan.

Also, the RPC is requested by local governments and agencies to provide letters of support for grant applications such as housing, economic development, and parks and recreation grants. The projects are reviewed for conformance with the county plan and county plan policies are cited in the letters of support.

During 2007, the RPC reviewed 10 projects and programs receiving federal and state funds.

Electronic Government

The Regional Planning Commission continues its presence on the World Wide Web. The site provides information on meeting dates, fees, and contact information for local zoning inspectors. The web site also allows residents to download useful information such as FIRM Flood Maps, Flood Damage Prevention Regulations, Subdivision Regulations, Fairfield County Land Use Strategy and Development Plan, and the Route 33 Bypass Plan and Design Manual. The web site provides a 24-hour link to the resources of the Regional Planning Commission. The web address for the Regional Planning Commission is www.co.fairfield.oh.us/rpc.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Operating revenues for the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission are derived from a variety of sources. Local funding includes those fees paid to the RPC by each participating unit of local governments. Additional “user fees” are paid in the form of subdivision filing and review fees, and for the processing of flood hazard building permits and certificates. Federal and state funding also represents a portion of the RPC’s revenue, and includes the reimbursement of eligible staff costs and other expenses associated with administration and implementation of various grant programs.

2007 BUDGET

51020	Salaries	\$234,540.00
53010	Supplies	\$ 2,700.00
55010	Equipment	\$ 5,400.00
54020	Contracts-Repair	\$ 3,000.00
54010	Contract Services	\$ 67,500.00
54000	Contract Services - Other	\$ 5,000.00
54030	Travel & Expenses	\$ 6,750.00
52010	PERS	\$ 32,490.00
52040	Worker’s Compensation	\$ 9,390.00
52020	Unemployment Compensation	\$ 10.00
59010	Other Expenses	\$ 900.00
52060	Medicare	\$ 3,410.00
52030	Medical/Hospitalization Insurance	\$ 37,800.00
52070	Life Insurance	<u>\$ 300.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$409,190.00
	Actual 2007 Expenditures	\$343,372.26