

6. Goals, Objectives & Strategies for Implementation

VISION: *To protect and enhance watershed health in Portage County.*

MISSION: *To create a watersheds plan that promotes protection and enhancement of natural resources, sustainable development, and public participation in watershed health.*

OBJECTIVES	IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS ¹	TIME FRAME for COMPLETION
GOAL 1. Protect and enhance the natural resources of Portage County			
Objective 1.1 Wetland (includes vernal pools) Protect, restore and enhance wetlands for their value for flood protection, sediment and pollution control, ground water recharge, wildlife habitat and open space	1.1.1 Establishment of minimum setbacks from wetlands in County wide legislation, subdivision regulations, zoning regulations or separate legislation. For example minimum setbacks and regulations see Appendix 7.	County Commissioners P.C. Regional Planning Commission (PCRPC) Local Governments ²	2007 for County 2008 for Others
	1.1.2 Wetland setback areas should be maintained in a natural and pervious state unless otherwise approved by appropriate local authority. No vegetative removal <i>except removal of invasive plant species</i> ; no grading or structures in setback areas.	Developers Landowners Local Governments Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)	Ongoing
	1.1.3 Training should be provided on an annual basis to departments and agencies involved in the development process to acquaint them with roles of various agencies, applicable wetland regulations, best practices and new technology	Soil and Water Conservation District Ohio EPA PCRPC	Ongoing
	1.1.4 Training should be provided to development professionals such as engineers, surveyors, consultants to acquaint them with roles of agencies, applicable wetland regulations, processes, best management practices and design expectations.	Soil and Water Conservation District Ohio EPA PCRPC County Engineer	Ongoing

¹ Key Participants include but are not limited to those agencies, entities, organizations listed that will play a key role in implementing or facilitating the implementation of the strategy.

122 ² In general, Local Governments includes Municipal Planning Commissions, Councils, Township Zoning Commissions and Township Trustees

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 1. Protect and enhance the natural resources of Portage County			
Objective 1.1 Wetlands (continued)	1.1.5 Wetland mitigation dollars and projects should be kept within county watersheds by establishing a mitigation clearinghouse and inventory coordinated with Portage Park District, Ohio EPA, the County, Watershed Groups within the sub-watersheds of Portage County; have a series of stream and wetlands mitigation projects ready to implement.	Portage Park District SWCD Ohio EPA Watershed Groups Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)	2008
	1.1.6 Funds for mitigation impacts to Category 1 & 2 wetlands within Portage County should be used in the same main watershed where the impacts occur and should benefit Portage County Watersheds.	Landowners/Developers EPA Army Corp Cuyahoga River RAP	2006 and Ongoing
	1.1.7 Developers should be required to provide a detailed baseline site inventory: wetlands delineation, <i>Ohio Rapid Assessment Method</i> (ORAM) results prepared by a certified professional, vegetation community maps, brief evaluation of forest resources, streams, ponds, etc., and/or other habitat evaluation data as appropriate to document resource quality. This information should be provided in early planning stages for the preliminary plan of subdivisions or at site plan review stage for developments not subject to subdivision regulations.	Developers and their Consultants Local Governments SWCD	2006 and Ongoing
	1.1.8 The development review processes should include evaluation of the sites' vegetative inventory and Priority Conservation Areas of this Watersheds Plan.	PCRPC SWCD Local Governments	2006 and ongoing
	1.1.9 All wetland delineations should be performed by trained and certified wetland professionals, such training and certification to include completion of wetlands delineation and ORAM classification courses.	Developers and their Consultants	Ongoing
	1.1.10 Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) should include a summary of the data in 1.1.7 on the front of the SWPPP as well as show all applicable setbacks (as adopted by the County, local governments, and as stipulated by Army Corp. of Engineers or Ohio EPA.)	Land owners/developers and their consultants	2006-07 and Ongoing

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 1. Protect and enhance the natural resources of Portage County			
Objective 1.1 Wetlands (continued)	1.1.11 Density bonuses, generally not exceeding 10%, could be granted through local zoning regulations for projects that demonstrate avoidance and minimization of wetlands impacts. The maximum percentage density bonus could be granted with 100% avoidance, and minimal impacts. ³	Local Governments Local Boards of Zoning Appeals (if conditionally permitted)	2006-07 and Ongoing
	1.1.12 Prohibit impacts to Category 3 wetlands and High Priority Conservation Areas regardless of project purpose or need.	Army Corps of Engineers Ohio EPA Local Governments	2006-07 and Ongoing
	1.1.13 Watershed Groups ⁴ should develop preservation and acquisition plans to take advantage of opportunities to preserve high quality wetlands through acquisition or donation through easements or fee simple purchase, <i>especially for High Priority Areas identified in this plan.</i>	Watershed Groups Portage Park District Land Conservation Organizations	2008-2010 (some underway)
	1.1.14 Focus on wetlands for all Earth Day and River Day Activities.	Watershed Groups SWCD	2006 and Ongoing
	1.1.15 Increase print coverage through: ongoing articles in each SWCD newsletter, press releases, “wetland of the month,” creation of new print material for distribution to the public by agencies and departments.	SWCD Portage Park District PCRPC	2006 and Ongoing
	1.1.16 Develop wetland educational display for fairs and festivals	Watershed Groups Portage Park District SWCD	2006 and Ongoing
	1.1.17 Develop of wetland-related programs and provide tours to public.	Portage Park District SWCD Watershed Groups	Ongoing
	1.1.18 Institutionalize wetlands education in school science curriculum.	SWCD Portage Park District	2006 and Ongoing

³ Avoidance means all wetlands and their necessary setbacks are included in open space/common areas. Avoidance of wetlands and streams by buffers and open space will save developer money on storm water controls and permit fees.

⁴ Watershed Groups generally includes Sub Watershed groups, Citizens Groups, Land Conservation Organizations, and may include County and Local governments and others

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 1. Protect and enhance the natural resources of Portage County			
<p><i>Objective 1.2 Forests</i> Protect, maintain and enhance sustainable forest ecosystems, for their value in absorbing and filtering runoff, processing air pollutants, cooling land and water bodies, providing habitat for a variety of wildlife, providing recreational opportunities and enhancing scenic beauty.</p>	<p>1.2.1 The County and local governments should adopt riparian setbacks, which will include forested riparian areas. The minimum width on each side of the stream should be 2.5 times the stream width as measured from the top of the stream banks or 50 feet, whichever is greater. Setbacks should include floodplains and adjoining wetlands⁵ (also see appendix)</p>	<p>County Commissioners PCRPC Townships Municipalities</p>	<p>2006-2010</p>
	<p>1.2.2 Forest management/harvesting plans should be required on sites with forests over 10 acres in size and such plans reviewed and approved by ONDR- State Forester or SWCD prior to site clearing or harvesting activities to insure forest ecosystems and water quality within the watershed will not be negatively impacted. (For development sites, see 1.2.5 and 1.2.6) Such plans should be reviewed and harvests implemented based on forest needs and issues at the watershed or regional level. Need for diversity should be evaluated at the watershed or regional level and management alternatives determined by these needs. A range of silvicultural alternatives would be allotted to thin, improve, or regenerate the forest based on the stand type, conditions and regional needs. Different cutting intensities could be applied at different areas with a forest based on local conditions. Clearcutting would not be an option unless it was a sound practice and/or needed on a regional basis for overall forest health and sustainability.</p>	<p>State Legislature Local Governments PCRPC SWCD ODNR State Forester Land owners Logging Industry</p>	<p>2010</p>
	<p>1.2.3 As farm fields are converted to non-farm uses such as subdivisions, encourage returning land to forests (some or all) through planting native tree species.</p>	<p>Land Owners SWCD State Forester Local Governments</p>	<p>2006 and ongoing</p>

⁵ From: *Rainwater and Land Development, Ohio's Standards for Stormwater Management, Land Development and Urban Stream Protection*, 2nd ed., 1996., by Dan Mecklenberg, ODNR Division of Soil and Water.

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 1. Protect and enhance the natural resources of Portage County			
Objective 1.2 Forests (continued)	1.2.4 Measure baseline canopy cover in the County as one measure of forest health and develop long range canopy cover protection plan.	ODNR SWCD PCRPC	2010
	1.2.5 Forest/Woodland protection requirements in local regulations should address protection of forests/woodlands at the following stages of the development process: <i>a. Preliminary Design-Analysis</i> – identification, mapping and prioritization of woodland areas on a site which are of high value for preservation to aid in initial project design layout. <i>b. Specific Design-Development of Tree Protection Plan</i> – within areas to be disturbed, specific tree locations and drip-lines are mapped. Plan is developed to provide information on what will be removed, what will be retained, and to outline a program of preservation during and after construction. <i>c. Construction Protection</i> – during the construction phase, implementation and monitoring of tree preservation methods. <i>d. Post Construction Protection</i> – monitoring and ongoing evaluation of tree health after construction and implementation of recommendations for remedial care if necessary.	Local governments SWCD PCRPC Consultation with Certified Professionals ⁶ Land owners	2007-2010
	1.2.6 Development regulations should include a forest setback of at least 50 feet in which development activities should not occur to prevent destruction of root systems.	Local Governments Landowners Developers	2007-2010

126 ⁶ Certified Professionals include Certified Arborists, Foresters, Urban Foresters

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 1. Protect and enhance the natural resources of Portage County			
Objective 1.2 Forests (Continued)	<p>1.2.7 Developers should be required to submit a field based tree/woodland evaluation as discussed above in 1.2.5 a., prepared by a certified arborist or certified forester at the preliminary plan stage for subdivisions or site plan review stage for condominium developments.⁷ This evaluation is needed to identify areas of woodlands on the site that are suitable for preservation and/or conservation. The evaluation should include:</p> <p>a. A map delineating distinct areas of woodlands, which are classified on the map as high, medium and low suitability for preservation with major trees⁸ labeled and located with an approximate outline. Distinct woodland areas are distinguished from each other by significant differences in species mix, age, health and soil type.</p> <p>b. A brief report describing each of the areas and outlining the reasons for the classification assigned. A general description of underlying soil types, size and type of trees, age, and health, life expectancy, rarity of species, species diversity, species viability, to be included.</p> <p>c. Report should include an assessment of existing working forest easements or review and summary of existing management plans and an assessment of the impact of proposed development on the working forest status and management.</p>	<p>Developers/Consultants SWCD PCRPC Local Governments Certified Professionals</p>	<p>2007 and ongoing</p>
	<p>1.2.8 The development review processes should include an assessment of the site's woodland evaluation (1.2.7) and comparison to Priority Conservation Areas developed in this Watersheds Plan.</p>	<p>PCRPC SWCD, State Forester Local Governments</p>	<p>2006 and Ongoing</p>
	<p>1.2.9 Landscaping standards should require use of native tree and grass species for landscaping, street trees and reforestation to the maximum extent possible. Lists of native trees and grasses should be provided to local governments when writing such standards.</p>	<p>Local Governments PCRPC SWCD State Forester</p>	<p>2006 and Ongoing</p>

⁷ Usually part of the wetland delineation or done at the same time. Also for unincorporated areas, condominiums are exempt from the definition of a subdivision per Ohio Revised Code and are not subject to subdivision regulations of Portage County. Municipalities may require woodland evaluation of all developments. Site plan review occurs through zoning review process.

127 ⁸ Major tree means- a tree measuring 12" or more in diameter at 4.5 feet above ground level.

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 1. Protect and enhance the natural resources of Portage County			
Objective 1.2 Forests (Continued)	1.2.10 Encourage re-forestation in areas that would provide connectivity to other forest systems to complete corridors, including in new subdivisions and open spaces in subdivisions.	Watershed Groups Portage Park District SWCD State Forester	2006 and ongoing
	1.2.11 Encourage landowners and municipalities to prepare forest management plans ⁹ and Urban Forest Management Plans prepared by certified professionals (Foresters for Forest Management Plans or Arborists/Urban Foresters for Urban Forest Management Plan), immediately to address threats of Emerald Ash Borer and other threats.	Landowners ODNR State Forester Watershed Groups Municipalities-Urban Foresters SWCD	Ongoing
	1.2.12 In forested riparian areas encourage use of best management practices in forest management and harvesting such as: a. Trees providing shade over streams and moderating water temperature should not be removed unless they are at risk of falling in water or if root systems are more than 50% undercut by the stream. b. Maintain at least 50' forest corridor on slopes of 4% or less; the greater the slope, the wider forest corridor; 120' or more next to State Scenic Rivers and other high quality water resources c. Use single tree selection harvesting. Maintain a 25' no cut or light cut zone measured from the top of the stream bank to prevent bank erosion. d. Avoid creating roads for equipment in waterside forest area and avoid running equipment in a stream bed when harvesting. e. If a stream must be crossed in a harvest operation, use a bridge. f. Do not spray forest management chemicals on the water. g. File an Operation and Management Plan with SWCD h. Use a written contract when selling timber or using vendors for forestry services which requires vendor to use BMP's; specifies which trees are to be removed and responsibilities of each party.	Landowners Local Governments SWCD State Forester	Ongoing

128 ⁹In general, forest management plans for land owners should be completed for forested areas of 10 acres or more.

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 1. Protect and enhance the natural resources of Portage County			
<p><i>Objective 1.3 Riparian Areas & Surface Waters</i> Protect and enhance riparian areas for their value in providing flood protection, sediment and pollution control, water quality protection, unique wildlife habitat, intact ecosystems, recreational opportunities and open space.</p>	<p>1.3.1 The County and local governments should establish and enforce riparian vegetative buffers to protect water quality. See Appendix 7 for example setbacks and legislation.</p>	<p>County Commissioners PCRPC SWCD Local Governments</p>	<p>2006-2010</p>
	<p>1.3.2 Communities should utilize resource protection zoning, overlay zoning, Transfer of Development Rights or other appropriate tools to help protect riparian areas from development impacts.</p>	<p>Local governments PCRPC</p>	<p>Ongoing TDR-2007-2008</p>
	<p>1.3.3 Conservation easements, purchase programs, or other mechanisms should be utilized to protect riparian areas and priority streams. (Purchase or donation)</p>	<p>Portage Park District SWCD Land Conservation Organizations Local Governments Landowners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>1.3.4 Promote measures to enhance or restore wetlands and forests in riparian areas and encourage restoration using native plant species.</p>	<p>Watershed Groups SWCD</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>1.3.5 Protect, maintain and improve all streams with high quality use designations from Ohio EPA: Outstanding State Waters, Superior High Quality Waters, State Resource Waters, Cold Water Habitat</p>	<p>Watershed Groups SWCD Local Governments Landowners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>1.3.6 Obtain an accurate, GIS-based map of all streams in Portage County; assess headwaters streams.</p>	<p>NRCS, SWCD Watershed Groups Portage Park District</p>	<p>2010</p>
	<p>1.3.7 Develop strategies to protect and improve headwaters streams</p>	<p>Watershed Groups Local Governments</p>	<p>2010</p>

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GOAL 1. Protect and enhance the natural resources of Portage County			
<i>Objective 1.3 Riparian Areas & Surface Waters (Cont.)</i>	1.3.8 Maintain an Emergency Contingency Plan for drinking water facilities in the County. Plans should be reviewed on a regular basis to insure that sufficient measures are in place should potential contamination of surface drinking waters occur. An effective contingency plan should include coordination with local emergency planners and other emergency personnel. Drinking water source protection should be included in response planning and response personnel training	County Local Drinking Water Authorities Homeland Security-EMA	Ongoing
	1.3.9 Emergency Planning must include methods to protect water quality, including accidental spills and releases from aboveground transmission pipelines near and crossing over and under streams and wetland areas.	County Homeland Security/EMA LEPC Local Governments	2007 and ongoing
	1.3.10 Highway and railroad crossings over major streams should have protective barriers and containment measures in place.	ODOT County Engineer LEPC Railroad Companies	Ongoing
	1.3.11 Provide information to owners of oil and gas wells within source water protection areas on proper operation and maintenance. These owners should also be included in an early release notification system.	Local Drinking Water Authorities	Ongoing
	1.3.12 Develop and implement proper waste control and spill response procedures for vehicles and equipment maintenance areas that are located within source water protection areas. Procedures should include training of employees on proper waste disposal procedures.	County Local Governments Drinking Water Authorities	Ongoing
	1.3.13 Identify and eliminate illicit and/or unauthorized discharges from home and small business sewage treatment systems. Implement home sewage treatment system operation and maintenance inspection program.	County Health Dept. County Local Legislative Auth.	2008 and Ongoing

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 1. Protect and enhance the natural resources of Portage County			
<i>Objective 1.3 Riparian Areas & Surface Waters</i>	1.3.14 Maintain a drinking water source protection plan detailing the activities and actions being undertaken to protect these resources.	Local drinking water authorities	Ongoing
	1.3.15 Coordinate source water protection activities with the County, Natural Resources Conservation Service, SWCD, Farm Bureau, Portage Park District and Local Watershed Planning organizations such as Chagrin River Watershed Partners and Grand River Watershed Partners, Homeland Security-EMA	Local Drinking Water Authorities	Ongoing
	1.3.16 Provide information to people who live, work or own property within the drinking water source protection areas about the importance of drinking water protection.	Drinking Water Authorities Watershed Groups SWCD	Ongoing
	1.3.17 Adopt water protection zoning regulations that place some restrictions or standards on activities conducted within a specified zone such as the drinking water source protection area or the emergency and/or corridor management zones as described in the Source Water Assessment Reports prepared for the surface and ground water drinking water supplies within the County.	Local Governments	2010
	1.3.18 Encourage communities regulated under Phase II Storm Water Permits to comply with their permit requirements by the end of the permit term. (See Appendix 8 for Copy of General Permit)	County & Phase II Communities	March 2008
	1.3.19 Develop and implement policies and programs to limit amounts of impervious surfaces in future development and redevelopments in order to prevent changes in stream hydrology that would result in increased flooding potential. (Such as Low impact development practices, maximum lot coverage)	County Commissioners PCRPC Local Governments	2007 and Ongoing

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 1. Protect and enhance the natural resources of Portage County			
<i>Objective 1.3 Riparian Areas & Surface Waters</i>	1.3.20 Identify riparian areas that could be remediated or enhanced to restore their functionality in erosion/flood control, stream protection and wildlife habitat.	SWCD Watershed Groups Portage Park District	2008 and Ongoing
	1.3.21 Riparian mitigation dollars and projects should be kept within county watersheds by establishing a clearinghouse and inventory coordinated with Portage Park District, Ohio EPA, the County, watershed groups within the sub-watersheds of Portage County and have a series of stream and wetlands mitigation projects ready to implement.	Portage Park District SWCD Ohio EPA Watershed Groups NEFCO Cuyahoga River RAP	2008
	1.3.22 Funds for mitigation impacts to riparian areas within Portage County should be used in the same main watershed where the impacts occur and should benefit Portage County Watersheds.	Landowners/Developers EPA Army Corps of Engineers Cuyahoga River RAP Ohio EPA	2006 and Ongoing
	1.3.23 Improve accuracy, quality, and quantity of information on flood hazard areas for better decision making and for public use: a. Document and map verified, reported flooding areas to help identify priority areas for floodplain map updates and areas that may not currently fall within FEMA Flood Zone (May also indicate manmade impacts on hydrology of area.) b. As resources become available, update the floodplain maps with detailed flood elevation levels either by priority area or for portions of County lacking such detail. c. Submit updates for FEMA approved Map Amendments from the best available data.	County FEMA County EMA County Engineer Municipalities	2007-2010

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 2. Encourage public awareness of & involvement in watershed health & protection			
Objective 2.1 Education Educate the public and public officials about watershed planning and protection.	2.1.1 Educate the public and public officials about sustainable growth principles and best management practices	PCRPC SWCD Ohio EPA Countryside Program NEFCO	Ongoing
	2.1.2 Educate the public about wetlands and forests and their role in protecting water quality	Portage Park District SWCD	Ongoing
	2.1.3 Conduct workshops on the functions and values of natural resources as well as the state and federal regulations to protect them.	SWCD Portage Park District PCRPC County NEFCO	Ongoing
	2.1.4 Sponsor a training program on Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM), Qualitative Habitat Index Evaluation (QHEI) and/or Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index (HHEI) for local officials and interested stakeholders to increase their knowledge of natural systems and provide them with the basic skills to identify potential critical natural areas.	SWCD Ohio EPA	Ongoing
	2.1.5 Conduct a soils workshop for realtors and other stakeholders to share information on the soil survey, hydric soils, land evaluations and Natural Resource Inventory Data.	SWCD	2007
	2.1.6 Use Watersheds Plan maps to plan for recreational and interpretive opportunities adjacent to water bodies and in riparian corridors.	Portage Park District Municipal Park Depts.	2007
	2.1.7 Publish articles on water quality and topics in agency newsletters or local newspapers	SWCD Portage Park District PCRPC NEFCO	Ongoing
	2.1.8 Post Watersheds Plan on website. Establish links with other pertinent websites. Distribute Priority Conservation Areas map and supporting information to public officials and development review agencies.	SWCD Portage Park District PCRPC NEFCO	2006

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 2. Encourage public awareness of & involvement in watershed health & protection			
<i>Objective 2.1 Education (Continued)</i>	2.1.9 Share Watersheds Plan slide presentation with watershed groups, local government officials and boards, civic organizations. Tailor Watersheds Plan presentation to highlight issues, strengths and threats for specific watersheds and present to local watershed groups and civic organizations.	PCRPC Portage Park District SWCD	2006 and Ongoing
	2.1.10 Conduct teacher workshops to share watershed and water quality activities and curriculum that is correlated to the state science standards.	SWCD	Ongoing
	2.1.11 Periodically hold land conservation options workshop for interested landowners.	PCRPC Land Conservation Organizations Countryside Program	2006 and ongoing
	2.1.12 Develop and distribute conservation options brochure via print and website access.	PCRPC Portage Park District Countryside Land Conservation Organizations	2006 and ongoing
<i>Objective 2.2 Public Involvement</i> Increase public involvement in watershed protection activities.	2.2.1 Encourage annual watershed festival featuring displays and activities that address watershed issues.	Watershed Groups Portage Park District SWCD	2006 and Ongoing
	2.2.2 Encourage public surveys of water quality values and watershed knowledge to inform the process.	Watershed Groups Portage Park District NEFCO SWCD	Ongoing
	2.2.3 Encourage school program participation in Watershed Watch and in programs such as macro-invertebrate monitoring.	Portage Park District SWCD OEPA Watershed Groups ODNR	Ongoing
	2.2.4. Support development of county-wide citizen volunteer monitoring programs such as: macro-invertebrates, vernal pools, water quality, and wetlands.	SWCD Hiram College NEFCO KSU Watershed Groups	Ongoing

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 2. Encourage public awareness of & involvement in watershed health & protection			
<i>Objective 2.2 Public Involvement</i> (Continued)	2.2.5 Publish watershed activity information on pertinent websites.	SWCD Portage Park District PCRPC NEFCO	2006 and Ongoing
<i>Objective 2.3 Promotion</i> Promote local watershed planning, protection and management initiatives	2.3.1 Develop and/or support programs and materials that encourage local officials and stakeholders to participate in the development and implementation of natural resource protection policies and initiatives.	SWCD Watershed Groups Local Governments	2007-2008
	2.3.2. Create a user-friendly watershed users manual that documents the land use planning process and resources to assist local officials such as township trustees, zoning commission, municipal planning Commissions and councils in adopting natural resource policies and sustainable development strategies	PCRPC Portage Park District SWCD NEFCO	2008
	2.3.3 Encourage the formation of watershed groups in Portage County’s major watersheds. Establish more formal coordination mechanism. Promote data sharing and regional cooperation among watershed groups.	NEFCO Watershed Groups Cuyahoga River RAP	Ongoing
	2.3.4 Complete GIS mapping of County for use by planners, consultants, staff, developers, realtors, conservation groups and citizens.	County Elected Officials, Departments PCRPC	2008-2009
	2.3.5 Make communities aware of source water protection areas and protection plans.	Drinking Water Authorities	2006 and ongoing

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 3. Encourage sustainable development of Portage County			
Objective 3.1 Coordination Strengthen coordination of growth, development, conservation, and preservation between units of government	3.1.1 Develop and adopt a County Comprehensive Plan containing elements that address multi-jurisdictional issues, (including regional development and conservation issues) priority development areas, and that incorporates this Watersheds Plan as one of its elements. Recognize, incorporate and coordinate individual community development and conservation plans. Establish stakeholder consensus .	PCRPC Local Governments Citizens NEFCO	2007-2009
	3.1.2 Develop partnerships with a broad base of stakeholders that have an interest in a sustainable future such as: environmental organizations, builder/developers, realtors, watershed groups, public officials, citizens, businesses, industry, non-Profits, transportation officials/planners, etc.	PCRPC SWCD County Chambers of Commerce NEFCO	Ongoing
	3.1.3 The County, in cooperation with its communities, should explore legality and feasibility of adopting an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (AFPO), which permits new construction only when water, sewer, schools, and transportation are in place and available to provide adequate service. This avoids premature extension of infrastructure and services that promote sprawl, and helps to encourage compact development in or near existing settlements. APFO helps ensure the pace of development in a community will be manageable for taxpayers and the environment.	County Local Governments	2010
	3.1.4 Utilize a countywide GIS to aid land use decisions at all levels of government.	County and Depts/Agencies	2008-2009 and Ongoing
	3.1.5 Encourage coordination on regional water supplies and development of a Sustainable Water Use Plan	Drinking Water Authorities NEFCO	2008-2010
	3.1.6 Develop Parks, Trails and Greenways Plan and incorporate as element in County Comprehensive Plan	Portage Park District PCRPC	2007-2009
Objective 3.2 Sustainable Development Practices Encourage sustainable development patterns and practices to protect natural resources, priority conservation areas and watershed health	3.2.1 Encourage development to occur in locations most capable of supporting it and where infrastructure capacity exists. Encourage and utilize more sustainable development practices. Identify local growth centers consistent with Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and 208 Clean Water Plans.	County Local Governments PCRPC NEFCO OEPA	2006 and Ongoing

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 3. Encourage sustainable development of Portage County			
<i>Objective 3.2 Sustainable Development Practices (Continued)</i>	3.2.2 Higher density and intensity of development should be encouraged in Priority Development Areas. Encourage transit supportive development and infrastructure improvements in PDAs. Utilize creative incentive-based zoning and create special districts to encourage higher density and mixed uses in PDAs.	Local Governments County PCRPC	2007-2010
	3.2.3 Develop Transfer of Development Rights programs which can be utilized to protect critical natural resource areas, agricultural lands, and open spaces. ¹⁰ Apply TDR's in community defined Priority Development Areas.	Local Governments PCRPC Land owners Developers	2007 and ongoing
	3.2.4 Encourage communities to identify and protect priority conservation areas valued for their local importance.	Watershed Groups Local Governments	2006 and ongoing
	3.2.5 When development occurs outside of Priority Development Areas, encourage such development to be consistent with local land use and comprehensive plans and to be located on non-prime agricultural soils.	PCRPC SWCD Landowners Developers Farmland Preservation Advisory Board Local Governments	Ongoing
	3.2.6 Include fees in lieu of land dedication options in subdivision regulations to enhance connectivity of green space, conserve intact ecosystems, and to allow acquisition of meaningful recreation and open space areas or priority conservation areas near benefiting subdivisions, and to assure long term maintenance and stewardship of these areas.	PCRPC County	2007
	3.2.7 Minimize impervious surfaces, include maximum lot coverage requirements in zoning, and develop incentives for alternative pervious surfaces for parking and pedestrian areas where appropriate.	Local Governments PCRPC County	2007-2010

¹⁰ Transfer of development rights programs can be used to protect a variety of community resources such as farmland, natural resources, historic/cultural.

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OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 3. Encourage sustainable development of Portage County			
<i>Objective 3.2 Sustainable Development Practices (Continued)</i>	3.2.8 Protect, restore and enhance connections to priority conservation areas to reduce forest and habitat fragmentation, protect water quality, and enhance green infrastructure.	Portage Park District County Local Governments Developers Land owners Watershed Groups Land Conservation Organizations PCRPC	2006 and ongoing
	3.2.9 Conservation easements, purchase programs or other similar mechanisms should be utilized to protect priority conservation areas (riparian areas, priority streams, forests and wetlands and other important resources) through available funding or through landowner donation.	Landowners Portage Park District Conservation Organizations Local Governments	Ongoing
	3.2.10 Promote federal, state and local tax incentives for property owners with conservation easements. Make it easier for landowners with conservation easements to obtain the real property tax benefits as well.	County Auditor Land Conservation Organizations Legislators	2007
	3.2.11 Protect Priority Conservation Areas using tools such as Resource Protection Zoning, Specific Environmental Standards, Open Space Zoning, or Overlay Districts with specific standards for each type of natural resource and incorporating best management practices, more flexibility in site design to preserve natural areas and their setbacks and include incentives for protection.	Local Governments PCRPC	2006-2007 and ongoing
	3.2.12 Utilize density/intensity bonus (increase in floor area) incentive for resource and priority conservation area avoidance and minimizing impacts such bonus is generally about 10%, with maximum bonus for 100% avoidance. ¹¹	Local Governments Boards of Zoning Appeals if use is conditionally permitted	2006-2007 and ongoing

138 ¹¹ Avoidance includes resources and their necessary setback areas and that they be included in open space areas.

6. Goals, Objectives & Strategies

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 3. Encourage sustainable development of Portage County			
<i>Objective 3.2 Sustainable Development Practices (Continued)</i>	3.2.13 Utilize compact development patterns to preserve more forests, wetlands, and other natural resources and to encourage more cost effective infrastructure. Revise zoning and subdivision regulations to encourage more compact development. Tools to accomplish this include conservation development in rural areas, incentives and flexibility for infill development, better use of deep lots with mid-block lanes, reduced parking requirements, less land for streets, and traditional town development standards.	Local Governments PCRPC County County Health Dept. Ohio EPA	2006 and Ongoing County Sub Regs 2007
	3.2.14 Adopt Phase II storm water management requirements and BMPs throughout Portage County. Go to NPDES General Permit for details: http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/GP_OHQ00001_s.pdf	Local Governments SWCD	2008
	3.2.15 Incorporate low impact development (LID) ¹² practices into zoning, subdivision and building regulations to help minimize impacts to wetlands, and manage storm water on development sites. Developer and homeowner education about such practices will be necessary. Examples of LID include: permeable pavements, bio-retention, street storage, rain gardens, and green roofs. (Examples Appendix 9)	Local Governments PCRPC County SWCD	Education – ongoing County sub regs 2007 Other regs – 2007- 2010
	3.2.16 Research and inventory funding opportunities to fund sustainable development practices such as storm water utility, transfer fees, assessments, etc.	Land Conservation Organizations County Local Governments Home Owners Association PCRPC	2007 and Ongoing

¹² Low Impact Development (LID) is an innovative storm water management approach with a basic principle that is modeled after nature, managing rainfall at the source using uniformly distributed decentralized micro-scale controls. LID's goal is to mimic a site's predevelopment hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate and detain runoff close to its source. Techniques are based on the premise that storm water management should not be regarded as storm water disposal. Instead of conveying and managing/treating storm water in large, costly end-of-pipe facilities located at the bottom of drainage areas, LID addresses storm water through small, cost effective landscape features located at the lot level. These landscape features, known as Integrated Management Practices (IMPs), are the building blocks of LID. Almost all components of the urban environment have the potential to serve as an IMP. This includes not only open space, but also rooftops, streetscapes, parking lots, sidewalks, and medians. LID is a versatile approach that can be applied equally well to new development, urban retrofits, and redevelopment/revitalization projects.

6. Goals, Objectives & Strategies

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/ACTIONS	KEY PARTICIPANTS	TIME FRAME
GOAL 3. Encourage sustainable development of Portage County			
	3.2.17 Economic value of protection of natural resources should be included in strategies for local and regional economic development programs and considered while developing short and long-term budgets and policies.	County Local Governments NEFCO NEOTEC	2006 and Ongoing
Objective 3.3 Sustainable Use of Resources Encourage development of plans for sustainable use of natural resources including timber, aggregate, and agricultural land.	3.3.1 a. Industries should conduct studies to evaluate economic benefits and environmental impacts of their proposed activities b. Coordinate sustainable use plans with County Comprehensive Plan, Local Community Comprehensive/ Land Use Plans, Source Water Protection Plans, Watersheds Plan, Farmland Preservation Plan c. ODNR should coordinate their permit review with local resource management and planning agencies d. Provide information on Priority Conservation Areas to these industries.	SWCD NRCS Aggregate Industry Oil and Gas Industry Logging Industry State Forester ODNR PCRPC Portage Park District NEFCO	2006 and Ongoing
Objective 3.4 Encourage alternatives to traditional lawns in developed areas.	3.4.1 Encourage communities to allow for alternatives to traditional lawns by: a. Adoption of meadow protection provisions in their regulations. (Those with mowing ordinances) b. Encouraging conservation development projects to include quality natural meadows in their designs instead of lawn. c. Encouraging use of rain gardens (Low Impact Development practice) d. Encourage use of native plants in landscaping	Local Governments SWCD Landowners Countryside Program Home Owners Associations	2006 and Ongoing
	3.4.2 Educate homeowners, developers, landscape designers and landscape contractors working in the area about the design, specification, installation, and management of quality natural meadows.	SWCD Countryside Program Professionals such as Ohio Prairie Nursery	2006 and Ongoing