

Landscape Design & Preservation Issues

Throughout the process of preparing the Bath Township Comprehensive Plan, The Bath Township Design Guidelines and this Management Plan, a recurring theme has been made clear by the residents of Bath; that they place high priority on the protection of trees and the rural landscape. Indeed, this is a challenge facing all municipalities that are threatened by increased property development pressures, increased traffic demands and urbanization.

In order to make recommendations of appropriate improvements to the landscape image of the Heritage Corridors, an analysis needs to be made of typical landscape characteristics of each of the Corridor roads. The physical description section of this report provides a brief description of these characteristics as they exist on each road, and this section examines more closely, and in graphic format, how specific elements of this character can be protected and enhanced. Section H of the Bath Township Design Guidelines provides some general principles, which apply to landscape design goals, that are helpful to understanding the role landscaping plays in the image of the township. However, these goals do not provide specifics in terms of landscaping recommendations and focus more on development considerations rather than preservation of the natural landscape that already exists.

The protection of existing landscape features along the Heritage Corridors is the single most important factor in protecting the rural character of the Byways for future generations. In “Aesthetics, Community Character, and the Law,” by Christopher J. Duerksen and R. Matthew Goebel, they state that “Indeed, protecting trees,

woodlands, and vegetation through municipal ordinances is one of the fastest growing areas of land-use law, and local governments are enacting increasingly strict and sophisticated regulations.” It goes on to say that “While courts in tree preservation cases and most other areas of land-use law have been very favorable to local governments in upholding rather broad review standards, fairness and regulatory efficiency dictate that local ordinances contain clear standards that result in predictable decisions by staff and review commissions and that limit administrative discretion.” Toward this end, the existing landscape ordinances of the township could go further in both the requirements to document existing plant materials on site plans and to require the protection of existing plantings during construction. In Section 301-5 of the Bath Township Zoning Resolution, site plans are required only to show the location and type of existing trees on a site with a diameter of six inches (6”) or more measured at four and a half feet (4-1/2’) above grade. This requirement would exclude many sapling trees in woodlots that could have an important impact on the landscape image of the site, and further excludes masses of vegetation, such as indigenous shrubs, that are typical throughout the township and critical to its landscape image. Furthermore, site plan review is not required for single or two-family dwellings.

Elsewhere in the Zoning Resolution, in Section 701-1, application for landscaping requirements focuses more on new landscape requirements giving very little attention to the preservation of existing plantings. Such vagueness in the requirements for the documentation and protection of existing landscaping on a site can only lead to a presumption by developers and private citizens alike, that it is unimportant and expendable. The Natural Resource Protection Study, completed in 1999 by the Davey Resource Group, calls for *A Tree Protection Resolution*, which would “provide the basis for tree



management and preservation strategy.” It further states that “The components of a tree preservation resolution should include provisions for protecting the remaining forest by requiring tree evaluation and protection during site design review; and for mitigation of lost canopy cover on development sites. The resolution could also make provisions for the protection of the remaining mature forest stands by requiring their evaluation and preservation during site design review.”

It would seem to be in the best interests of Bath, in efforts to preserve the rural character as a stated goal, to adopt such legislation quickly.

The Natural Resource Protection Study is a valuable document which reinforces the goals of the Heritage Corridor Management Plan by providing an excellent documentation and evaluation of the natural features of the township landscape. The Riparian Corridor Overlay District and the encouragement of Open Space Residential Subdivisions, which were drafted from recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan, provide an excellent incentive for the protection of the natural environment of Bath. In addition, The Natural Resource Protection Study provides excellent data concerning the value of the natural landscape as well as recommendations as to how it should be protected. Among other interesting facts, it concludes that 40% of Bath is wooded and the report provides significant rationale, both environmental and economic, for the protection of woodlands. Environmental reasons include the preservation of habitat for wildlife and protection of the land from erosion while economic and aesthetic reasons include providing scale and texture to developed landscapes and contributions to real estate values. Perhaps less measurable, but very clear in terms of comments from residents with regard to what is valuable in Bath, is the ways that trees contribute to pride in the community and a desirable community image. This document

should be routinely referenced by the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Appearance Review Commission in assessing the appropriateness of any development.

Design Goals

There are a number of design principles which should be considered when advancing the goal of preserving and enhancing the landscape character of the corridors. These address not only the use of appropriate plant materials, but also methods of plant material preservation and use in design. Also of importance is the design of signage, fencing, walls, lighting and street furniture.

1. Preservation of open spaces and distant views within the township is critical to the visual quality of the community. As land values increase in the township, developers and private property owners are becoming more creative in accessing and building on properties which might previously have been ignored.



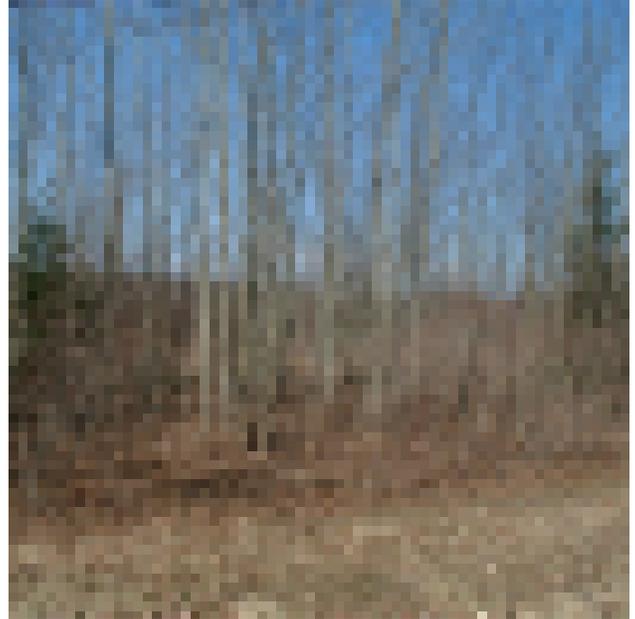
Homes are being built into steep hillsides as more easily accessed land is being used up.

These trends will likely continue and will have an impact on the fragmentation of open space and destruction of views. This in turn will impact wildlife habitat and biodiversity in the township which, once altered, is extremely difficult to correct.

2. Every development site, whether for a single family residence or commercial property, should be carefully assessed in terms of environmental features and the impact a development will have on those features. Included should be slopes, vegetative cover (particularly mature trees and wooded areas), wetlands, streams, ponds, vernal pools, views and uniqueness of habitat. Developments should be required to make every effort to protect unique features and to enhance a development site in the context of its surroundings.

3. Avoid dramatic alterations to the natural topography of a site. One of the most unique qualities of the Heritage Corridors is the topographic diversity that occurs on almost every road. When the natural appearance of the topography of a site is ignored, it affects the visual appearance of surrounding lands as well. Proportion and scale are important considerations in site grading. Mounds that are too large or steep will result in an unnatural image. Native plantings used in combination with subtle mounds can be very effective in adding interest and privacy to sites.

4. Preserve woodlots and existing groves of trees which are valuable for wildlife and soften the impact of development. In some cases it may be appropriate to clear underbrush and partially thin trees in a woodlot while in others it may be better to leave some of the scrubby vegetation that typically occurs at the edge of a woodlot. This vegetation at the edge is important as wildlife cover and helps to protect the interior of a woodlot.



The trees and vegetation in woodlots are valuable resources for wildlife and can soften the impact of development.

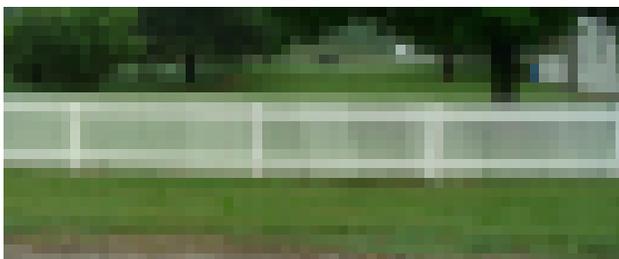
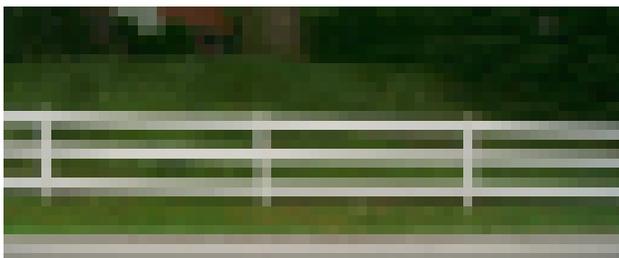
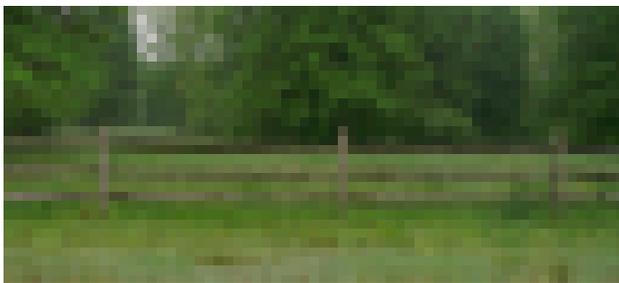
5. Avoid formal landscape solutions for both streetscapes and individual properties, even in commercial development areas. Trees should be planted randomly with trees in the public right-of-way complementing those planted on private property. Traditional streetscape solutions such as uniform alignment and variety of trees, use of tree grates and guards and/or concrete planters, bollards, etc. should be avoided.

6. Utilize large, long-lived shade trees as the backbone of the landscape. Restoring the tree canopy that has been lost, particularly along Cleveland-Massillon Road, is critical to enhancing the rural character of the corridors. This process will take time and will probably be done in phases. Providing incentives to private property owners to plant trees would be helpful.

7. Develop streetscape plans for each of the original hamlets of Ghent, Hammond's Corners and Bath Center. Each plan should include recommended improvements that can be made to private properties in the area that will complement improvements in the public right-of-way.

8. Provide naturalistic plantings of trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials at entrances and along street frontage of township parks.

9. Promote the use of traditional fence and wall designs throughout the township.



Traditional fences and walls found along the Heritage Corridors.

For fences, use split rail, stacked rail paddock fence, Connecticut or Kentucky style post and rail, or other traditional pasture fencing for open fields and pastures. In front of buildings use low picket fences or low, dry-stack stone walls. Avoid synthetic stone, precast concrete modular walls or railroad tie walls and planters.

10. The township should form a working partnership with the utility companies, ODOT and county road crews in establishing landscape maintenance guidelines which compliment the goals of the Management Plan. Proper pruning of trees and minimizing mowing practices on roadsides are two areas which have a significant impact on the rural character of the Corridors. These groups also will need to be consulted in terms of efforts to plant native shrubs and wildflowers along the roadsides.



Native shrubs and wildflowers along the road's edge enhance the rural character of the Heritage Corridors.

11. Areas along the roads where there are views into ravines and gullies should be enhanced by the planting of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers for seasonal interest and also to restore some of the biodiversity of these areas



that have been lost over time. Selective thinning of vegetation to enhance views into the riparian corridors and the removal of invasive plant species, such as grapevine and Japanese Knotweed, would also be helpful.

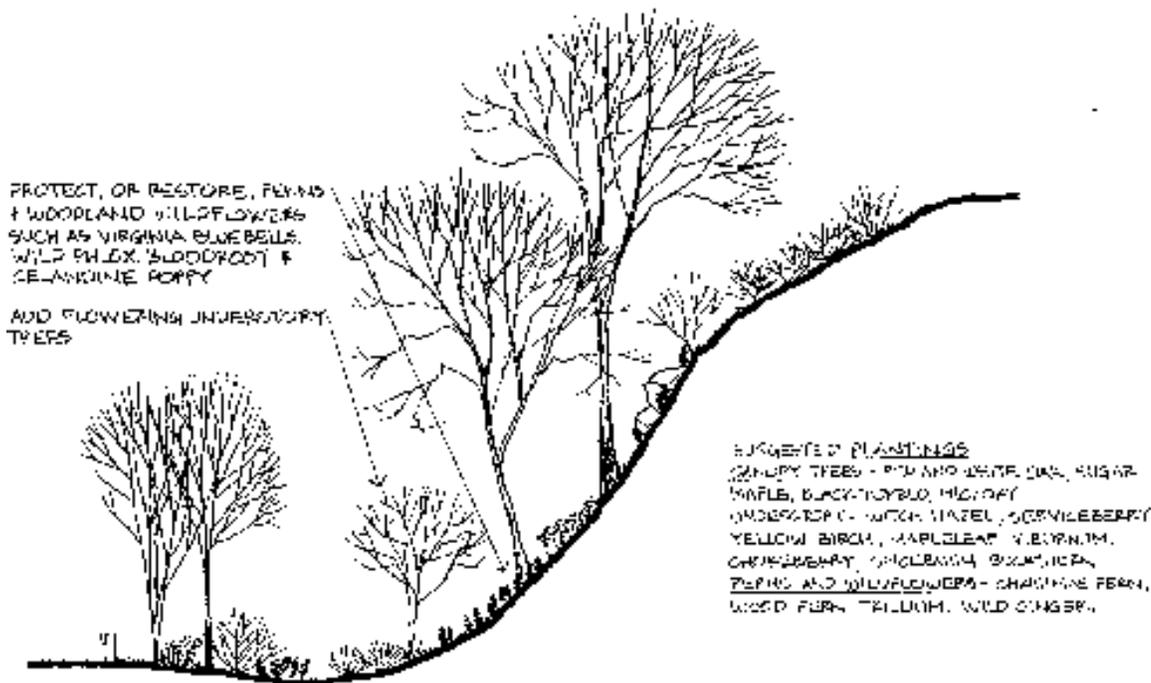
12. Retention ponds required for storm drainage control should be designed as naturalized amenities. They should hold water at all times and have native vegetation planted at the edges that provides wildlife cover and food. Maintenance procedures should avoid mowing of the edges of ponds. After the pond edge plantings are established, it would be best to allow the vegetation to develop through natural succession.

13. Continue and expand the tradition of planting daylilies on private properties along the roadside throughout the township. Expand the program by encouraging the planting of other native plants such as Ironweed, Phlox, Joe-Pye Weed, Coneflower, and others (see plant list).

14. The township should be an active participant in the process of planning and designing roadway improvements. One way to have comprehensive input into the final design would be to bring together multi-disciplinary design teams including engineers, landscape architects, urban planners and historic preservationists to meet with the county engineering team in the initial stages of developing plans. This will facilitate making changes and also help in the process of reaching a community consensus. The township should also be involved in the plans for grading, landscape disruption and landscape restoration that goes with the roadway improvements to ensure that they are compatible with the existing landscape character of the area.

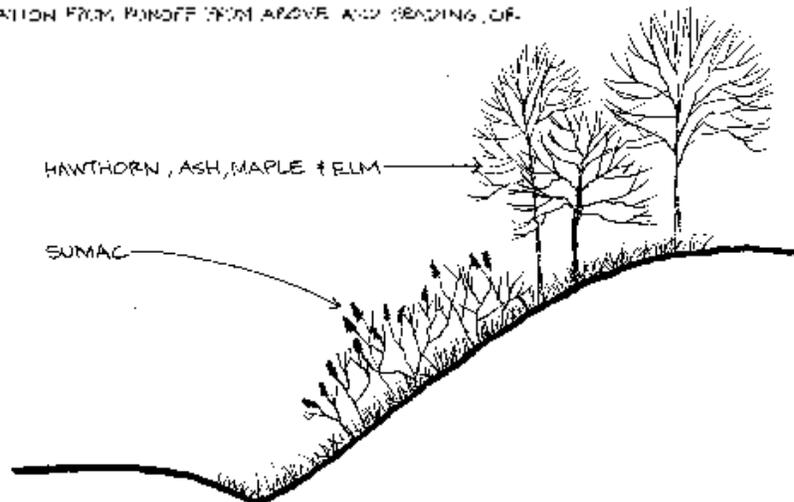
ILLUSTRATIONS OF TYPICAL ROADWAY CONDITIONS

The following illustrations are intended to depict various typical landscape conditions found along the Heritage Corridors and suggested solutions that may be incorporated in furthering the goals of the Management Plan. Such conditions as steeply rising banks, gentle banks, heavily wooded slopes, low wet areas, etc. are illustrated. While these illustrations are not comprehensive in that they only cover typical conditions, they are intended to provide a clear framework for consideration of homeowners, developers and township review personnel.



ROADSIDE CONDITION "A" - STEEP, WOODED HILLSIDE

HEAVILY WOODED WITH MATURE HARDWOODS - OAK, BIRCH & MAPLE DOMINANT, SOME UNDERSTORY OF WITCH HAZEL, CHOKEBERRY, VIBURNUM AND SPICEBUSH OFF SHOOT FERNS ON NORTH FACING SLOPES. SLOPES ARE VULNERABLE TO DESTABILIZATION FROM RUNOFF FROM ABOVE AND GRADING OF COURSE GRADES FROM BELOW.



ROADSIDE CONDITION "B" - SUNNY EMBANKMENT, MODERATE SLOPE

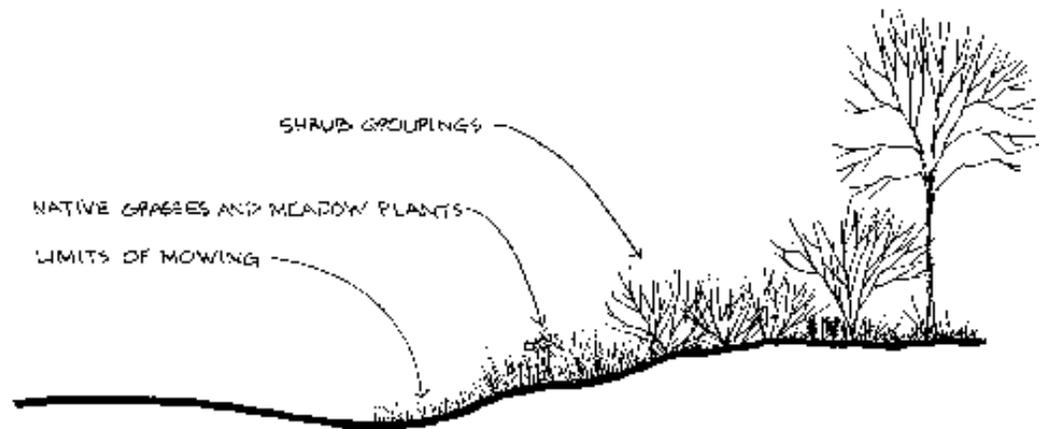
OCCURS MAINLY ON SOUTH FACING ROAD BANKS WHERE NATIVE GRASSES, GRAY DOGWOOD, SUMAC AND HONEYSUCKLE ARE TYPICAL. FURTHER BACK ARE HAWTHORN AND CRAB-APPLE WITH GROVES OF ELM, ASH OR RED MAPLE.

SUGGESTED PLANTINGS

GROUPINGS OF FRAGRANT SUMAC, GRAY OR RED-TWIG DOGWOOD, CHOKEBERRY, VIBURNUM ARE EFFECTIVE NATIVE SHRUBS. ORNAMENTALS SUCH AS BRONZELEAF HONEYSUCKLE, LILAC AND HYDRANGEA CAN BE EFFECTIVE

SMALL TREES - HAWTHORN, REDBUD, AMUR MAPLE

GRASSES, WILDFLOWERS - BIG AND LITTLE BLUESTEM, INDIAN GRASS, SWITCH GRASS, IRONWEED, DAYLILIES, PHLOX.



ROADSIDE CONDITION "C"-GENTLE SLOPES, SCRUBBY VEGETATION

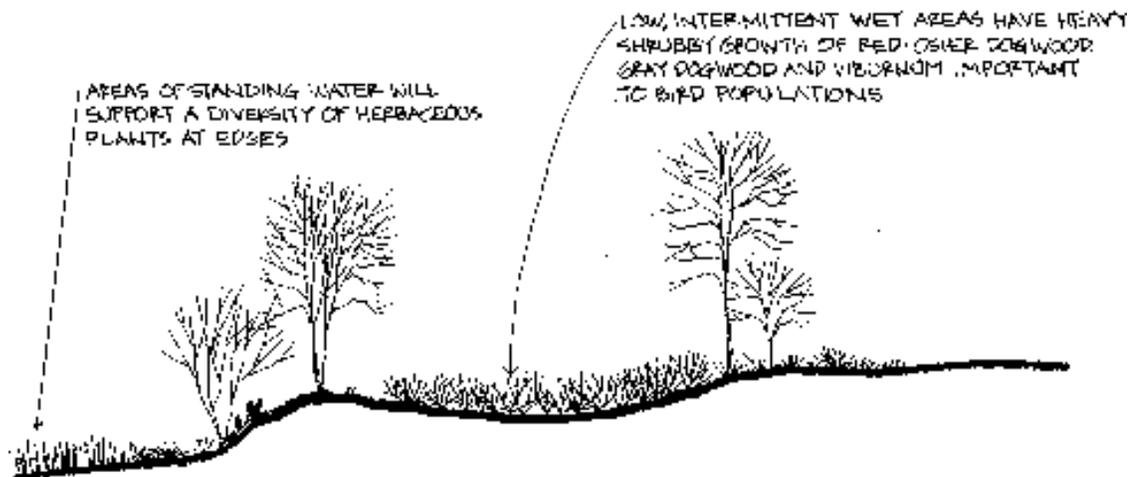
ROAD EDGE OF MIXED GRASSES, CANADIAN THISTLE, QUEEN ANNE'S LACE AND GOLDENROD

MIDDLE AREA HAS COVER OF GRASSES & MEADOW PERENNIALS WITH GRAY DOGWOOD, SUMAC, RED OSIER DOGWOOD, DEARBAPPLE AND HAWTHORN TYPICAL. BACKGROUND STANDS OF ASH, RED MAPLE AND DYING ELM'S TYPICAL

SUGGESTED PLANTINGS

GROUPINGS OF NATIVE GRASSES (SWITCH GRASS, LITTLE BLUESTEM & INDIAN GRASS) (IRONWEED, JOE PYE WEED, GRAY HEADED CONEFLOWER, JAY LILIES AND BLACK-EYED SUSAN EFFECTIVE

SHRUBS & SMALL TREES - VIBURNUM, CHOKEBERRY, RED-TUNG DOGWOOD, LILAC, SUMAC, SERVICEBERRY, OR HAWTHORN OR CORNELIAN CHERRY

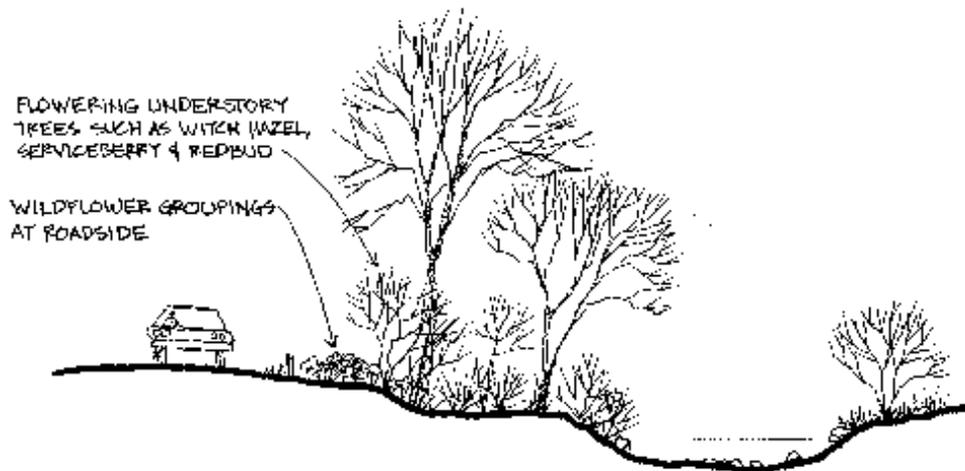


ROADSIDE CONDITION "D"-LOW, WET AREA

OCCURS THROUGHOUT THE HERITAGE CORRIDORS IN LOWLAND AREAS WHERE POORLY DRAINED DEPRESSIONS ARE VEGETATED WITH RED OSIER AND GRAY DOGWOOD, SHRUB WILLOWS, BUTTONBUSH, ARROWWOOD, VIBURNUM, AMERICAN CRANBERRYBUSH AND SPICEBUSH. TYPICAL TREES ARE BLACK GUM, RED MAPLE SWAMP WHITE OAK, PIN OAK AND WILLOW PROVIDES HABITAT & FOOD FOR WILDLIFE

SUGGESTED PLANTINGS

GROUPINGS OF CHOKEBERRY, WINTERBERRY, WITHERROD, LINDEN & BLACKHAW, VIBURNUM, BUTTONBUSH, SPICEBUSH, SUMMERSWEET AND CORNELIAN CHERRY, MARSH MARIGOLD, BLUE FLAG, IRIS, CARDINAL FLOWER. TREES- BLACK GUM, SERVICEBERRY, REDBUD, SWEETBAY, MAGNOLIA

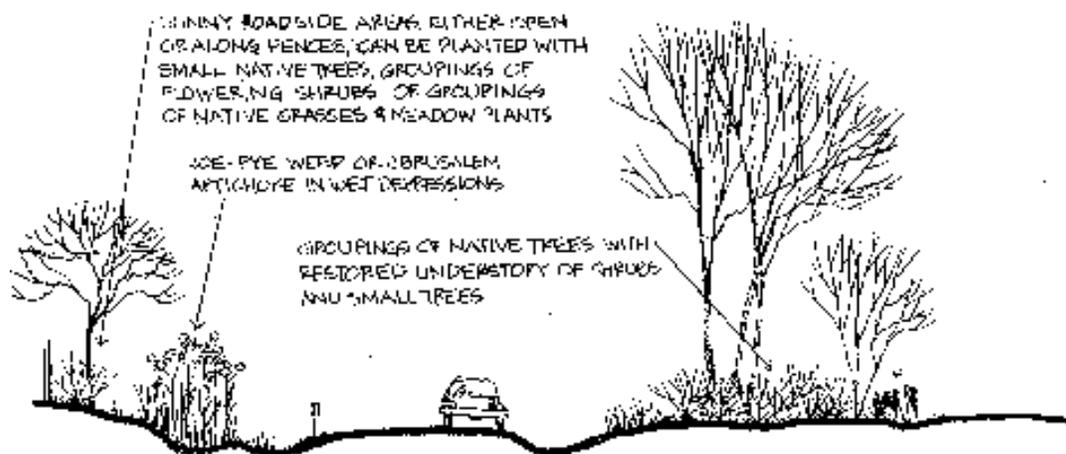


ROADSIDE CONDITION "E"-ROADWAY ADJACENT TO STREAM

SEVERAL AREAS OF CORRIDORS WHERE ROADWAY PARALLELS RIPARIAN CORRIDORS. TYPICAL GROWTH IN OPEN AREAS OF SYCAMORE, WILLOW AND RED OSIER DOGWOOD. VEGETATION IN WOODED AREAS COTTONWOOD, BLACK GUM AND RED MAPLE WITH VIBURNUM & SKUNK CABBAGE

SUGGESTED PLANTINGS

SYCAMORE, RED MAPLE AND BLACK GUM WILL PROVIDE HABITAT AND PROTECTION FOR WILDLIFE. SERVICEBERRY, WITCH HAZEL, VIBURNUM, CHOKEBERRY & WINTERBERRY.



NATURALIZED ROADSIDE PLANTINGS

PLANTING GROUPINGS OF NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS, GRASSES AND PERENNIALS ALONG ROADSIDES IN FRONT OF FENCES, OR MORE MANICURED LANDSCAPES, IS IMPORTANT TO ENHANCING RURAL CHARACTER OF THE HERITAGE CORRIDORS. THESE AREAS NEED PROTECTION FROM ROAD MAINTENANCE CREWS.

SUGGESTED PLANTINGS

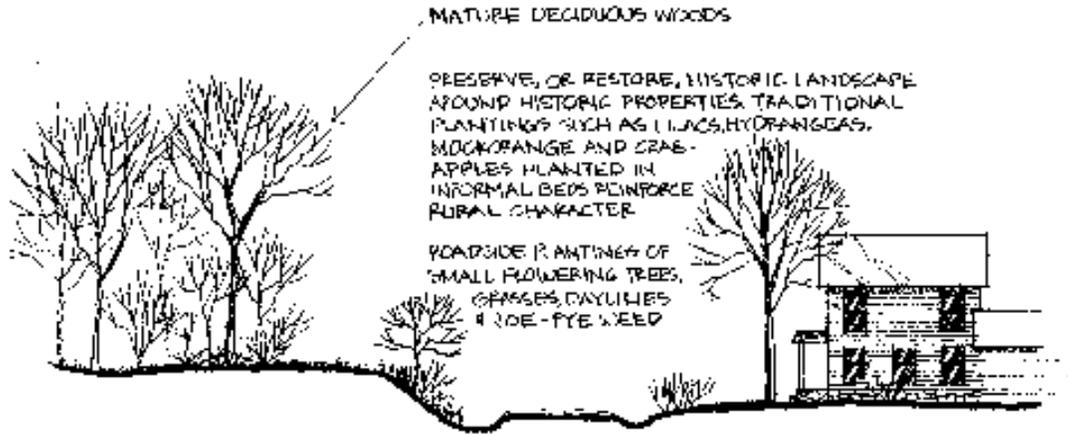
TREES - REDBUD, SERVICEBERRY, CORNELLIAN CHERRY, HAWTHORN, WITCH HAZEL, HEMLOCK, SWEETGUM, GABBAPRAS, BLACK GUM, ELDERBERRY, OAK, MAPLE

SHRUBS - VIBURNUM, CHOKEBERRY, SPIGEBUSH, HONEYSUCKLE, SUMMER SWEET, SUMAC, LILAC

GRASSES, PERENNIALS - SWITCHGRASS, INDIAN GRASS, LITTLE BLUESTEM, PRAIRIE COREGRASS,

GOLDENRODS, IRONWEED, JOE-PYE WEED, PRAIRIE DOCK, COMPASS PLANT, JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE, PRAIRIE CONEFLOWER, CARDINAL FLOWER.





ROADWAY IN WOODED RESIDENTIAL AREA

PRESERVATION OF MATURE DECIDUOUS WOODS ALONG THE ROADSIDES AND BETWEEN PROPERTIES IS CRITICAL TO MAINTENANCE OF RURAL CHARACTER & HABITAT. RESTORATION OF NATIVE UNDERSTORY PLANTS SUCH AS FLOWERING TREES AND SHRUBS, FERNS AND WOODLAND WILDFLOWERS IS IMPORTANT STEP TO RESTORING BIODIVERSITY IN NATURAL AREAS. REMOVAL OF INVASIVE SPECIES SUCH AS IVY, HONEYSUCKLE AND JAPANESE KNOTWEED IS ALSO IMPORTANT STEP.



Native Redbud (Cercis canadensis) along edge of Ira Road.

The Natural Resource Protection Study referenced earlier identifies and maps various types of vegetation cover in the township. At their most basic level these are categorized as forest, wetlands, successional fields (agricultural land which has reverted to woody vegetation), old fields, and agricultural lands which includes horse farms. To these categories should be added fencerows, which includes vegetation growing along a fence or edge of a field or yard. Fencerows are common to the township and important to its rural character. The report also outlines subcategories of these vegetation associations which outlines various successional stages of development for the particular category. To simplify the interpretation for the Management Plan, the initial categories will suffice.

It is also important to recognize the value in preserving the existing natural landscape and allowing it to improve through natural succession.

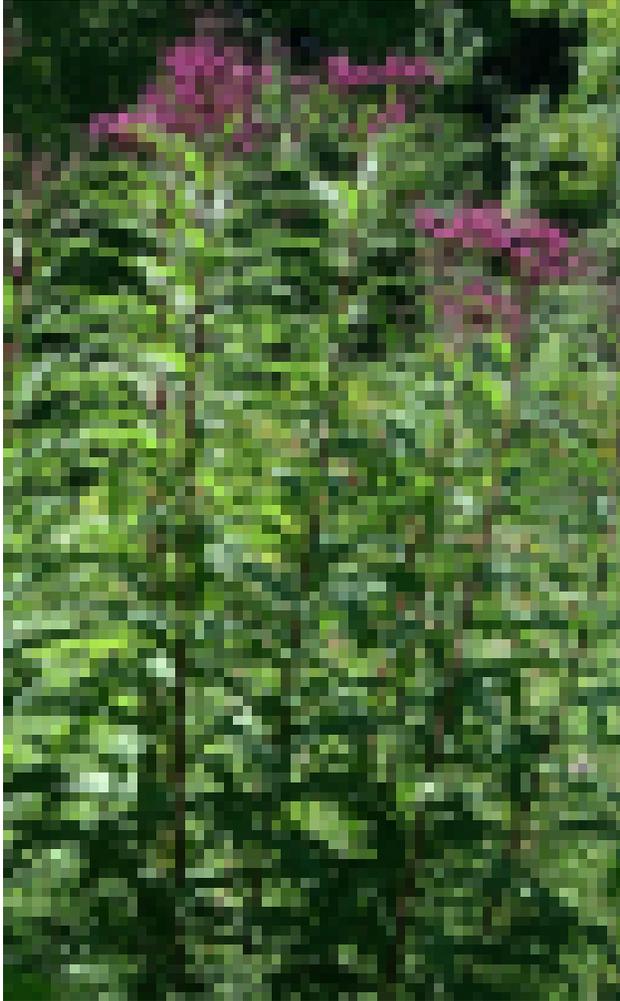


The early stages of a fencerow.



Mature fence rows provide buffers and separation in developments.

The reason for analyzing the various types of vegetation associations is to clarify their importance to the overall visual and environmental character of the township and to recognize that they can be duplicated or enhanced, particularly when they are damaged by development. Recognizing this fact is critical to preserving the continuity of the landscape image in the township.



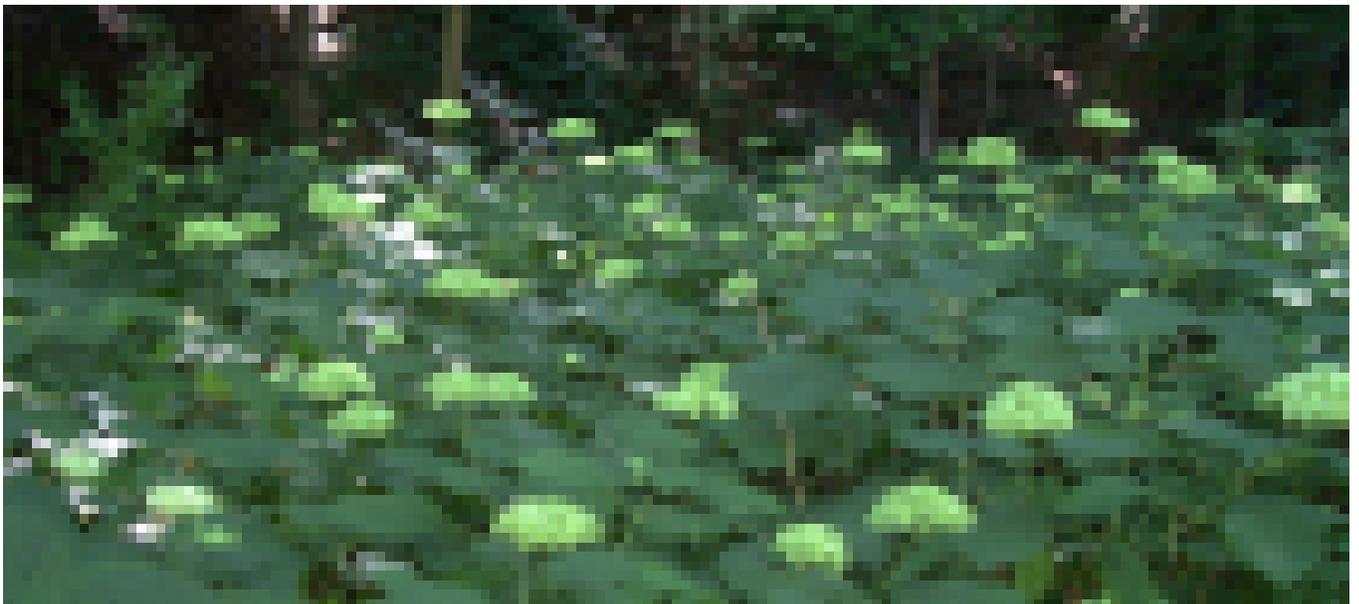
Iron Weed (Veronia noveboracensis) grows along Ira Road accross from Old Trail School.

Recommended Indigenous Plant Material

The following is a partial list of recommended plant materials (trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses and wildflowers) and a brief description of their habit and design characteristics. The list stresses the use of native plants that fit the existing rural landscape.



Joe Pye Weed (Eupatorium fistulosum) grows in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



Smooth Hydrangea (Hydrangea arborescens) grows along Cleveland-Massillon Road south of Bath Center.

AN OHIO SCENIC BYWAY

Plant Type	Scientific Name	Common Name	Physical Description
grasses	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem	3'-7' native grass, good wildlife cover.
grasses	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoats Grama	2' native grass, roadsides and fields.
grasses	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem	1 1/2'-5' native grass, old fields, roadsides, wildlife food and cover.
grasses	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian Grass	9' native grass, fields, roadsides, good wildlife food and cover.
grasses	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Swith Grass	6' native grass, fields, banks, wildlife food.
perennial	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	2-6', fields and roadsides, bright purple late summer flower.
perennial	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	1-2', swamps & wet woods, early bright yellow flower, browsing for wildlife.
perennial	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	2'-3', pale pink to purple daisy like flowers appearing in July through Sept. on sturdy stalks, large dark green leaves, best planted in large masses.
perennial	<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	Joe-Pye Weed	5', floodplains, moist thickets and roadsides, pinkish flowers in late summer.
perennial	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium	2', rich woods and roadsides, rose pink flower, spreads in woodlands.
perennial	<i>Hemerocallis</i>	Daylilies	12"-36", grow best in full sun, long linear leaves with large clumps of erect flower stems.*NOTE: Daylily is on the list of O.D.N.R. list of Invasives
perennial	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	2-7', wet meadows, ponds & stream banks, bright red flower.
perennial	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia Bluebells	18"-20" nodding clusters of blue flowers in April, grows best in shady cool, moist soil.
perennial	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	5' plant found in open fields & roadsides, lavender flowers.
perennial	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Gray-Headed Coneflower	5' plant for dry fields, yellow flower that provides food and cover for birds.
perennial	<i>Rudbeckia serotina</i>	Black-eyed Susan	1-3' plant found in fields, woods & meadows, yellow flower, will grow in poor soil.
perennial	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot	1', rich woodlands, white flower, will form colonies.
perennial	<i>Solidago sp.</i>	Goldenrod	3-8' plants of several varieties with yellow flower common to fields and roadsides.



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perennial	<i>Veronia sp.</i>	Ironweed	3-7', wet fields or meadows, purple late summer flower, effective in masses.
shrub	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry	7' , white flower, red fruit, and bright red fall color,good in massing .
shrub	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet	6' shade and moisture tolerant, white fragrant flower, best in masses in rich,
shrub	<i>Cornus alba</i> <i>'Sibirica'</i>	Red Twig Dogwood	6'-9' tall, Bright red bark in winter, best used in mass plantings, tolerates moist to wet soils, sun or partial
shrub	<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian Cherry	20' tall, large multi-stemmed shrub or small tree, rounded shape, clusters of small yellow flowers in March, cherry-
shrub	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	10'-12' tall,erect, suckering shrub with short spreading branches, white berries in fall attracts birds, good for naturalizing or screening.
shrub	<i>Cornus sericia</i>	Red Osier Dogwood	7', small white flowers, white fruits and red fall color,and red bark, good for massing in wet areas.
shrub	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Smooth Hydrangea	3'-5' tall and wide, native shrub with large white flowers, prefers partial shade, fast growth rate.
shrub	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry	6'-8' deciduous holly, bright red fruit in winter attracts birds, tolerates wet soils, male and female required for
shrub	<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire	3'-5' tall, fragrant, white flower in late June, red-purple fall color, good naturalizing plant, tolerates wet soil.
shrub	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	6'-12' tall, native woodland shrub, yellow flowers in spring followed by glossy red fruit, yellow fall color,
shrub	<i>Myrica pennsylvanica</i>	Northern Bayberry	5-12' semi-evergreen plant, dark green foliage, gray berries through winter, good massing plant.
shrub	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant Sumac	3'-4' tall aromatic foliage, good bank cover because of its rapid underground growth, bright red fall
shrub	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	American Elderberry	6-12' plant, white flower, black fruit. Good naturalizing plant for attracting birds.
shrub	<i>Syringa</i>	Lilac	8'-15' high, fragrant flowering shrub, typical of rural farm landscapes.



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shrub	<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	Witherrod Viburnum	4'-6' tall, native woodland shrub, white flower followed by black fruit,
shrub	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood viburnum	6'-10', White, flat-topped flower clusters, vigerous grower spreading by stolons, arching branching habit.
shrub	<i>Viburnum dilatatum</i>	Linden Viburnum	8'-10' tall, white flowers in late spring, shiny red fruit in fall, green leaves turn a deep maroon in fall.
shrub	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	American Cranberrybush	8'-12' tall, dense round-topped shrub with white flowers in May. Deep red foliage in fall with scarlet berries.
shrub/tree	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Serviceberry	20'-30' tall, clusters of pure white flowers in spring followed by edible blueberry like fruit, bright orange to
tree	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	50'ht, 40'wide, broad, oval habit, bright green leaves in summer followed by brilliant red color in fall, strong symmetrical branching habit.
tree	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple or Rock Maple	60'-75' deeply furrowed mature bark, fall color ranges from yellow to red, upright, oval form.
tree	<i>Crataegus crusgalli inermis or viridis</i>	Crusader Hawthorn or Winter King Hawthorn	15'-20' tall, rounded small tree, attractive silver gray bark, attractive white flowers followed by red fruit that persists into the winter. Specify thornless varieties.
tree	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash	45'-60' tall, upright, oval form, deep wine-red fall color. Look for seedless varieties.
tree	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash	Similar to White ash, fall color ranges from yellow to deep red.
tree	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweet Gum	40'-60' tall, conical form with corky bark, thick, dark green, star shaped leaves turn brilliant red in fall.
tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree	70'-90' tall, aristocrat of the mature forest, quick growth rate, requires large area, yellow fall color.
tree	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay Magnolia	10'-20' tall, woodland understory plant, fragrant white flower followed by clump of orange fruit in fall.
tree	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum or Sour Gum	30'-50' tall, pyramidal shade tree with glossy dark green foliage the turns shades of orange and red in fall, slow to moderat growth, sun to partial shade.
tree	<i>Ostrya virginina</i>	American Hophornbeam	20'-40' tall, small native tree, full sun or partial shade, yellow fall color.
tree	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore	50' tall, pyramidal tree with exfoliating bark, creamy white bark on mature upper branches, large green maple.



tree	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak	60'-80' majestic tree, dark green leaves turning brown to reddish-purple in fall.
tree	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak	50'-60' tall, broad rounded head, distinctive light brown flaky bark, will grow in poor drained, wet soils as well as upland sites.
tree	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	75' tall, 40' wide, quick growing, broad headed large tree, rich green turn to deep red in fall.
tree	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Common Sassafras	30'-60' tall, roots used to make tea, stout, contorted branches, new plants sprout from roots creating groves.
tree	<i>Tilia americana</i>	American Linden or Basswood	60'-80' tall, good native tree to reintroduce into the woodland areas, durable.
tree	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Littleleaf Linden	50'-60' tall, shade and street tree, strong central leader forms a symmetrical pyramid. small, dark green leaves.

INVASIVE PLANTS TO AVOID OR REMOVE FROM THE LANDSCAPE

Japanese Honeysuckle
 Bush Honeysuckles
 Japanese Knotweed
 Autumn Olive
 Buckthorn
 Purple Loosestrife
 Garlic Mustard
 Multiflora Rose
 Common Reed Grass
 Narrow-leaved and Hybrid Cattail
 Canada Thistle
 Common Teasel
 European Cranberrybush

Implementation Timeline

Establishing a time frame is one of the most important steps in achieving a goal. The implementation of the recommendations of this Management Plan is critical to the perpetual success of the Heritage Corridors of Bath. By dividing all of the recommendations into various time frames makes the quantity of tasks seem smaller and prioritizes their order of implementation. The time frames are as follows: 6 months, 1 year, 3 years, 5 years, longer than 5 years, update every year, update every 5 years

Goals to be implemented within 6 months

1. Locally promote the Byway to encourage existing public support of Township residents.
2. Establish a dialogue with the County Engineer to be up to date with current county projects within the Byway and provide input so that the projects are designed in harmony with the Byway Management Plan especially the proposed bridge in Ghent.
3. Publish a promotional calendar or note cards of the Byway.
4. Join the Ohio Links Group and other Byway organizations such as Scenic Ohio.
5. Print a promotional brochure with map and brief historical and scenic descriptions of the Byway.
6. Install Byway identification signage through ODOT and County Engineer.
7. Contact local papers to print promotional stories.

Goals to be implemented within 1 year

1. Coordinate a business association in Ghent

and Hammond's Corners to generate enthusiasm and ideas for informal streetscape in these areas.

2. Start to apply for grants for implementation of specific projects.
3. Establish a tree, shrub, daylily planting program along Cleveland-Massillon Road and other Byway roads.
4. Install decorative street signs along entire Byway indicating which are Heritage Corridor roads.
5. Remove select vegetation at certain stream crossings to promote clear views of stream.
6. Install information kiosk at O'Neil Woods Metro Park.
7. Install landscaping at Bath Township Center parking lot as example plantings.
8. Screen maintenance facility at R.B. Stout on Cleveland-Massillon Road.
9. Fix erosion problem at corner of Bath Elementary School with decorative landscaping.
10. Establish mowing and maintenance guidelines along road sides.
11. Protect existing trees and vegetation around new construction by enacting a tree protection resolution.
12. Establish tree trimming guidelines for utility companies around overhead wires.
13. Update Zoning Resolution to include Byway preservation efforts.
14. Provide pull off areas for vehicles in cemeteries and parks.
15. Start an Adopt a Highway program to encourage litter pickup along specific road sides.

Goals to be implemented within 3 years

1. Create maps at cemeteries locating significant grave sites.
2. Build gateway entrance signs for Ghent, Bath Center and Hammond's Corners.
3. Buffer the front of all new housing develop-



ments with native or naturalistic plantings.

4. Build information kiosk of history of mills in Ghent.
5. Upgrade landscape image at Garth Andrew's, Post Office, FirstMerit Bank and Holland Oil stations.
6. Collaborate with neighboring byway systems such as Ohio & Erie Canal Scenic Byway.
7. Have the Township name the Byway Task Force as a permanent, ongoing entity, or establish a position within the Township as Heritage Corridor administrator (possibly under the Parks system). The Task Force could create its own identity as a not for profit organization or an arrangement similar to the Bath Historical Society.
8. Evaluate signs (street, advertising, identification) along Byway and remove if unnecessary or not in compliance with zoning.

Goals to be implemented within 5 years.

1. Build pull off area with information kiosk in Ghent describing the history of the mills in the area. Also at other specific bridge crossings and significant historical or scenic areas.
2. Plant native flowering shrubs and wildflowers along hill sides, stream banks and woods within view shed of Byway.
3. Extend limits of Byway north of Ira Road along Cleveland-Massillon Road and Everett Road east of Hametown Road.
4. Build pathways or sidewalks in Ghent, Bath Center and Hammond's Corners.
5. Build informal streetscape elements in Ghent, Bath Center and Hammond's Corners.

Goals to be implemented after 5 years.

1. Relocate overhead utility lines under ground.
2. Reduce truck traffic along Cleveland-Massillon Road.
3. Connect equestrian riding trails of Bath Nature Preserve to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
4. Connect walking trails throughout township.
5. Establish 35 M.P.H. speed limits along all Byway roads; especially Cleveland-Massillon Road.
6. Replace guardrails over bridges with more attractive open style railings.

Goals to be updated every year.

1. Award program for preservation or enhancement of historic structures.
2. Yearly review process with County Engineer of all county, state or federal road work along the Heritage Corridors.
3. Write grants for funding.
4. Write letter to ODOT updating them on progress of the Byway to continue Scenic Byway status.

Goals to be updated every 5 years.

1. Update Byway Management Plan.



CONCLUSION

An examination of the findings disclosed by this study and the development patterns now at work in the Township leads to several basic and irrefutable conclusions:

1. Bath Township serves the surrounding area as a distinctive residential area.
2. Due to the history of the area, its location in the greater community, the characteristics of its physical resources (which includes topography, open space, wooded areas, riparian corridors) and the desire of its residents as expressed in interviews, meetings and conversations conducted by the task force, the future of the Township must be planned to protect and enhance these features.
3. The Township must encourage the growth of commercial areas in a manner that protects the historic boundaries and character of the original three hamlets along the Cleveland-Massillon corridor. Factors of architectural scale and style, avoidance of strip mall developments and other current retail trends, protection and enhancement of historic residences, barns and structures, and preservation of the rural landscape image are all critical to maintaining the special nature of the Township.
4. Future planning in the Township must recognize the community responsibility to minimize, or eliminate, incompatible land uses while at the same time providing its fair share of space to satisfy the usual community needs. These include, but are not limited to, schools, churches, recreation areas, wildlife cover and open space, cemeteries, and sites for commercial activities inherent in and essential to community development.
5. The Township must take a more proactive stance in anticipating commercial and residential growth and accommodating it in a way that is compatible with the goal of preserving the rural Township character. The Township must resist pressures for unplanned development but it must also prepare to accept compromise solutions to inevitable development proposals that are dictated by the pressures of urban growth.



THE CHALLENGE

The character of the Heritage Corridors will be affected by prospective land uses which are driven in part by the desire for people to live and work in Bath. Through the means at its disposal, including The Comprehensive Plan, The Bath Township Zoning Resolution, The Bath Township Design Guidelines, The Appearance Review Commission, Riparian Corridors Protection Plan, Natural Resources Protection Plan and Heritage Corridors Management Plan, the Township officials can impose a character on the community which is consistent and compatible with its evolving needs and acceptable to the residents of the Township. The responsibility for the successful implemen-

tation of image and environmental preservation and improvement initiatives will fall on many groups and individuals. In addition to the groups listed above, business organizations, The Bath Historical Society, Bath in Bloom and Bath Garden Clubs, must all play a role in achieving the goals of the Management Plan. Finally, the many citizens of Bath, particularly the property owners along the corridors, can have perhaps the most significant impact on the preservation and enhancement of the scenic quality of the roads. Both individually and collectively, they can set an example by the care of their own properties, and also become informed and involved about community issues which have an impact on the Township. To quote the Bath Township Design Guidelines, “All of Bath Township’s citizens have a stake in every development decision made in the Township.”



BATH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BE IT HEREBY KNOWN BY ALL THOSE PRESENT THAT ON THE 10TH DAY OF MAY, 1999, THE BATH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MET IN REGULAR SESSION, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE BATH TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, 3864 WEST BATH ROAD, BATH TOWNSHIP, SUMMIT COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO.

Mrs. Goodrich presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 99-26

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CREATION OF BATH TOWNSHIP SCENIC BY-WAY TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Bath Township Comprehensive Plan states "It is recommended that a local system of scenic roadways should be planned for Bath. Bath Township, with the location of Hale Farm within its borders, as well as other historic sites and areas; contains roads with historic and scenic resources that are worthy of recognition and protection. One of the purposes of this scenic roadway system shall be the protection of scenic viewsheds.", and;

WHEREAS, the Cleveland-Massillon Road Corridor Focus Groups reviewing Design Guidelines reiterated this need for protection of scenic roadways, and;

WHEREAS, the following Community Members have indicated an interest in serving on a Scenic By-Way Task Force: Laura Arnold, Ken Baldwin, Libby Bauman, Marty Ferch, Carol Franklin, Sean Gaffney, Patti Graham, Nancy Knauer, Nancy Rae, Dave Schreiber and Trustees Elaina Goodrich and James Nelson.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a Scenic By-Way Task Force be created with the following charge,

- I. Analyze Bath Scenic By-Way feasibility. Would it:
 - A. Impose State, Federal regulations or "strings"
 - B. Stress the community due to tourism
 - C. Retain scenic views, rural streetscapes and historic community character
 - D. Keep county roads "country"
 - E. Increase assets, liabilities, costs or revenues
- II. Determine what roads would be included in the following designations:
 - A. Natural
 - B. Scenic
 - C. Recreational
 - D. Historic
 - E. Cultural
 - F. Archaeological
- III. Select a name for the By-Way
- IV. Create an application
- V. Create a management plan if application is accepted, and;

FURTHER, that the Task Force make a recommendation to the Bath Township Trustees regarding their review, and;

FURTHER, that the Clerk-Treasurer notify these members that the first meeting will be May 27, 1999 at 5:00 p.m. at the Bath Township Administration offices.

Motion seconded by Mr. Jenkins. Discussed and Roll Called:

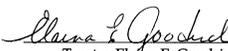
Mrs. Goodrich	AYE	Resolution Adopted
Mr. Jenkins	AYE	
Mr. Nelson	AYE	

William E. Snow,
Clerk-Treasurer
Township of Bath


Trustee Donald M. Jenkins, President
Bath Township Board of Trustees


Trustee James N. Nelson, Vice-President
Bath Township Board of Trustees

May 10, 1999
Date


Trustee Elaina E. Goodrich
Bath Township Board of Trustees

This Resolution is a true and correct excerpt from the Minutes of the Board of Township Trustees and is recorded in the Bath Township Board of Trustees' *Record of Proceedings* dated May 10, 1999.



Bibliography

Bath Township. 2000. Bath Township Zoning Resolution.

Bath Township. 1997. Bath Township Comprehensive Plan.

Bath Township Historic Society. The Mills and Industries of the Yellow Creek Valley.

Benjamin D. Rickey & Co. 1999. Bath Township Design Guidelines.

Davey Resource Group, 1999. Natural Resource Protection Study.

Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO). 1999. Yellow Creek Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Phase 1.

Students in Senior Social Studies Seminar Class, Revere Senior High School. 1968. History of Bath Township.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. Flexibility in Highway Design.



Check list of Heritage Corridors Issues for the Appearance Review Commission

The following is a check list of issues for consideration by the Appearance Review Commission. These issues are presented in no particular order of priority.

1. Is the project within the viewshed (1000 feet) of the Heritage Corridors?
2. Does the project site include historic structures or landscape features? If yes, what measures are being taken to preserve and enhance the historic integrity of the structure and what additional measures can be addressed?
3. What is the quality of the existing landscape on a site and does the proposed project take adequate measures to preserve and protect portions of the existing trees, shrubs and native vegetation?
4. Does the proposed landscaping for the project fit the existing landscape character of the project site and its surroundings and does it follow recommendations in the Management Plan for landscape character? (see pages 54-68 of Heritage Corridors of Bath Management Plan) There should also be a follow up check for compliance with approved plans.
5. Are there special landscape features (rock outcroppings, wetlands, riparian corridors, wooded hillsides, landmark trees, etc.) on the project site and will these features be protected as part of the proposed plan?
6. Are grading changes proposed as part of the project? If yes, does the grading fit the surrounding landscape character?
7. Is storm water detention/retention part of the project? If yes will proposed landscaping enhance the detention/retention area as a natural feature?
8. Is fencing proposed as part of the project? If yes is the fence design appropriate for the setting? If no, what are appropriate alternative designs? (see page 57 of the Management Plan)
9. Does the proposed project conform to the recommendations of the Bath Township Design Guidelines?
10. Is lighting proposed as part of the project? If yes, what will be the impact of the light on adjacent properties and is the proposed intensity of the light appropriate for the Heritage Corridors?
11. Are proposed parking, service and storage areas appropriately screened?
12. Is the signage proposed as part of the project? If yes, is the signage design appropriate in scale, location and design.

