



Project updates

2021: Edition I

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Featured Projects

Performance Improvement Projects

COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy: The Performance Improvement division has been working with Public Health staff over the last month to create a COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy. The document follows state guidance and is intended to provide residents and employers with more information about local vaccine sub-prioritization goals and when they can expect to receive a vaccine based on local supply. For this project, staff have researched a variety of reputable sources to determine the number of vaccine doses needed for each group of people in Ottawa County, reviewed the State vaccine dashboard to determine doses administered to-date, and created an estimated Ottawa County-specific vaccination timeline. Staff have also created a number of visuals for the strategy document and researched statistics to help inform Public Health's sub-prioritization goals. This document will continue to change as new data on vaccine supply and resident uptake of the vaccine become available.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Evaluation: The Performance Improvement division assisted Public Health staff with evaluating the use of the CHIP that was completed in 2018. Department staff created a survey to better understand how the CHIP, now called "Healthy Ottawa," is being used and to measure the positive outcomes of the CHIP. Staff analyzed the survey data and compiled it into a PowerPoint presentation that will be given in March during the 2020 Community Health Needs Assessment unveiling.

Senior Project Fresh: The Performance Improvement Division recently completed the [Senior Project Fresh 2020 Evaluation](#) for Ottawa Food. The purpose of this project was to evaluate the effectiveness of Senior Project Fresh using pre-program and post-program survey responses from seniors in Ottawa County who participated in Senior Project Fresh in 2020.

Equity Profile for Ottawa County: The Performance Improvement division met with DEI office staff in early January to understand their needs related to compiling an Equity Profile for Ottawa County. Department staff reviewed an equity profile that was completed for Battle Creek to determine if it can be replicated by staff for Ottawa County. The goal of the project is to create a central repository of equity data for Ottawa County that can be utilized by a variety of agencies and businesses throughout the county. The proposal developed by staff was sent to the DEI office for their consideration.

Parks/Public Health Diversity Initiative: The Performance Improvement division continues to work with Parks and Public Health staff to adjust survey data for this initiative. A couple bridge card holders have already completed the survey to receive a free Ottawa County parks pass as part of this initiative. The team is now working with MDHHS staff to help roll out this program and is working on a public facing program to be rolled out in the next few months. The goal of this initiative is to increase diversity at Ottawa County parks and get underserved populations physically active.

Land Use Planning Projects

Groundwater Board: The Land Use Division is working with County Administration to form a new advisory board to provide expert and technical analysis of the County's ongoing issues with groundwater quantity and quality. The Board will be known as the Ottawa County Groundwater Board and will be supported by a separate Technical Committee. Both the Groundwater Board and Technical Committee will be administered/managed by PPID.



Featured Projects continued

Groundwater Monitoring Program: The Land Use Division has installed a groundwater monitoring sensor in the Allendale area, and are collecting data on groundwater levels. Staff are working to identify additional locations to install sensors – if you have a well that you would be willing to let the County use for unintrusive monitoring, please contact Matt at: mchappuies@miottawa.org.

Farmland Preservation Program protects 37 more acres: With a \$157,500 grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, lifelong farmer Carson DeHaan has made a commitment to permanently preserve 37 acres of his Blendon Township family farm.

Almost all of the DeHaan parcel is considered prime soil type. They also grow corn, hay, and raise beef cattle on the property.

The DeHaans are the fifth farming family to protect their land through Ottawa County's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. The DeHaan easement brings the total number of acres protected by the PDR program to 443. This is in addition to 654 acres preserved by the State of Michigan.

Housing Commission: Understanding the influence of parking policy on housing construction is crucial in addressing countywide efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing. Staff are continuing to develop position papers regarding parking and land use impacts on housing affordability as well as developing housing metrics for use on the commission's webpage. Staff are supporting ongoing eviction diversion efforts and are studying the feasibility of sustained programs similar to those existing in other counties. Staff are also pursuing a partnership with Ready For School on housing's impact in early childhood development.

West Michigan Pike: The Department recently received the West Michigan Pike marker back from the Tri-Cities Historical Museum for its special exhibition. Staff are continuing to seek partnerships with Muskegon County in developing commemorative signs to place along the historic route as well as use grant funds for information boards at prominent locations.



Economic Development Projects

Agriculture Initiatives: Work under the [Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant](#) continues to progress. The [website](#) is now live, serving currently as a simple landing page for the project. In the future, this website will host a robust land link and farm resource hub. Due to the pandemic, many of the activities planned for the grant were going to require significant modification. To avoid that, we requested and were granted a 12 month time extension, so our planned activities should be able to take place as originally proposed.

Staff has also responded to recent inquiries for site selection for food and ag businesses, coordinated the County's participation in MDARD's Food and Ag Housing Task Force, serves on the committee to coordinate the Ag Sector of MiCareerQuest, and participates in the Ag Labor Work Group through West Michigan Works.

Comprehensive Digital Inclusion Strategy: The Department, in conjunction with an esteemed group of experts from various industry-sectors, is on the cusp of selecting a vendor to spearhead a comprehensive data collection effort to determine the status of broadband service and future needs throughout Ottawa County. This vital first step in the four-phase Digital Inclusion Strategy announced in December will determine need, ultimately aiding in the design and planning for the potential expanded network in conjunction with broadband service providers. Learn more, and stay up-to-date, at www.miottawa.org/broadband.

Brownfield Redevelopment: The Ottawa County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (OCBRA) continues to review and select projects to support with its Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Assessment grant. To date, six projects have been approved for funding. Additionally, the OCBRA also recently approved supporting the assessment work on a Holland Township site through the Brownfield Incentive Program.



DeHaan property has been in family since 1883



Events

Farms are the Tapas 2021: Save the date! Thursday, September 30, 2021

Planning & Zoning Fundamentals Trainings: Held each year in February, nearly 200 participants from across the state attended this year's online training sessions. From Leelanau County to Sanilac County to here in Ottawa County, participants listened to Ron Bultje of Dickinson-Wright as he outlined the role of planning commissions, zoning boards of appeals, and the laws governing these bodies. Held free of charge, these trainings provide valuable information to officials involved in the land use processes in Michigan.



Understanding Your Role as A Planning Commissioner

Thursday February 16, 2021

News & Stats

Dashboard Updates: The Performance Improvement Division is currently working on updating the County Dashboard webpage. The webpage includes an interactive dashboard as well as a one-page progress report document that the County submits to the State of Michigan as part of the County Incentive Program (CIP). The Department is looking into methods of updating the style and content of both portions of the dashboard for increased readability and public availability.

Planning by the Numbers

Did you know?

171,883

Acres of Ottawa County are devoted to farmland