If Cleveland builds, the people will move in.

Playing SimCity for fun and urban realism.

Quarry Creek: The forgotten tributary.

Good words

I am only a child and I don't have all the solutions, but I want you to realize: neither do you! You don't know how to fix the holes in our ozone layer. You don't know how to bring salmon back up a dead stream. You don't know how to bring back an animal now extinct. And you can't bring back the forests that once grew where there is now desert. If you don't know how to fix it, please stop breaking it!

At school, even in kindergarten, you teach us to behave in the world. You teach us not to fight with others, to work things out, to respect others, to clean up our mess, not to hurt other creatures, to share—not to be greedy.

Then why do you go out and do the things you tell us not to do?

Parents should be able to comfort their children by saying, "everything's going to be all right, we're doing the best we can" and "it's not the end of the world." But I don't think you can say that to us anymore. Are we not even on your list of priorities?

-- Severn Suzuki, age 12, speaking at the plenary session of the United Nations Earth Summit in 1992

Special issue on environmental education

Why and how to do it

Resources for the bioregion

See pages 4-9
Balancing acts

My kids have a number of politically-correct children's music tapes with nice songs about whales and bugs and bedtime snacks. One song distresses me, however. It is a plea for saving the rainforests, and the chorus is

"Without them, we're likely to die."

How's that for a frightening message? Sorry, kids. We've probably doomed them.

The song illustrates one of the challenges of environmental education.

How do we teach children about the global environmental crisis without scaring them to death? How do we get them involved, excite them, yet inspire hope and not despair? How do we nurture their sense of wonder, not weigh them down with paranoia?

The best teachers challenge us with difficult problems, while giving us confidence enough to persevere. We don't want our young people to be cynical, withdrawn, frightened of the future. We want thinkers, leaders, young people with the skill and determination to right the many wrongs of their elders.

Among these lines, the Environment Committee of the Shaker Heights Parents Teacher Organization suggests the following goals for environmental education:

- To raise students' level of awareness and appreciation of environmental issues by fostering an environmentally-sensitive culture
- To help students develop critical thinking skills and a knowledge-based approach to environmental issues
- To teach positive ways to preserve and enhance the environment through consideration of personal and societal strategies.
- To promote the utilization of scientific approaches and practical technologies with regard to environmental issues.
- To enhance environmental awareness by families and by the community (as secondary and tertiary targets of education).

The last goal refers to "pester power," the power of enlightened kids to pest their adults for not practicing what they preach. If we can harness this power in a positive way, there may be hope.

Thanks

Northern Ohio Line magazine just honored us with an honorable mention in the media category of its 1994-95 Awards of Achievement. (The PO earned top place for its expose of Cuyahoga County's SAGE investment fund debacle.) I've said that EcoCity Cleveland "concerns itself with the bioregionalism of Northern Ohio in a refreshingly non-traditional way...[and] often thought-provoking new ideas on integrating environmental and developmental concerns on a regional level."

—David Beach

EcoCity Cleveland Editor September 1995

Mision

EcoCity Cleveland is a nonprofit, tax-exempt educational organization. Through the publication of the EcoCity Cleveland Journal and other programs, it will stimulate ecological thinking about the Northeast Ohio region (Cuyahoga Bioregion), nurture an EcoCity Network, among local groups working on urban and environmental issues, and promote sustainable ways to meet basic human needs for food, shelter, productive work and stable communities.

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EcoCity Cleveland (Cuyahoga Bioregion) 1995

If Cleveland builds, the people will come

Not everyone wants to move further out to the suburbs. In fact, a surprising number of Clevelanders want to move into the city of Cleveland, according to a recent survey by the Housing Policy Research Program at the Cleveland State University College of Urban Affairs. The following conclusions from the survey:

"Market Demand for New Housing in Cleveland," explain how the city could meet the pent-up demand and attract new residents.

- There is demand for new housing in the city of Cleveland that greatly exceeds the current level of production. This survey found a minimum of 35,313 households interested in new housing. (The actual figure, these interested individuals but who did not bother to fill out the survey plus those who will become interested as more development occurs, could double that to 40,000 households.)
- Some of the demand is strongly conditional, mainly because of concerns for safety. But with 45 percent (9,000) wanting to move within three years, the near-term demand could be at least 1,000 units per year—three times the present level of production.
- The city's longer-term (beyond five years) planning and development programs should be oriented toward producing 2,000 units per year for at least 20 years.
- The survey found strong interest in West Side locations (as well as East Side and Downtown). Howevver, most new housing development activity has been East Side or Downtown. Activity should be expanded to encompass the entire city.
- Development strategies are needed where demand is greatest: Kansas West Park, University Circle, Warehouse District, W.65th lakshoreблuffs and E.14th lakeshore bluffs, which, combined, received 57 percent of the strongest interest. But of those locations, only the Warehouse District has a vigorous development program underway. Except for one project at W.65th, the bluff locations, which received 20 percent of the interest, are devoid of development.
- A construction scale of 2,000 units per year dictates the need for major site preparation activity in the city. An average of 20 units per acre would require 100 acres of land per year. Land assembly (combining small parcels to form large suitable sites), preparation and design should be given the highest priority by city and county governments, nonprofit development organizations and private-sector leadership.
- The findings are 85 percent of those interested in new housing in Downtown Cleveland would prefer to own, and that only 25 percent of those planning to rent are prepared to pay $700 or more a month, call into question the emphasis now being given to developing rental units Downtown. The market for rentals appears to be thin (possibly at most 1,000 units for the time being) while the market for ownership is much larger and untapped.

There is substantial interest on the part of people now living in suburbs with upper incomes (over $70,000 a year and more, or possibly 10,000 households). Focus should be given to the location and product preferences of this market segment.

With 69 percent of the interest in new housing in Cleveland coming from people living in suburbs, attention should be given to the situation of how new developments and movement into the city can be accomplished so that social cohesion between existing and new residents will result.

The city of Cleveland's policies favoring subsidies for new construction should be reviewed. Any homeowner will accept a subsidy if it is offered, but no respondent to this survey went so far as to say that a subsidy was required. The fact that subsidies are employed, the more that a normal housing market can operate, and the more active the city's construction program can be.

The existing IRS provisions giving capital gain realized through home ownership is an obstacle to some people who would move into the city from the suburbs. City officials should require their congressional representatives to introduce legislation that would enable homeowners to move in price without incurring a tax liability (a change that would benefit all cities).

Outmigration may be the dominate pattern across Cuyahoga County, but not all movers want to move further out. By responding to the market demand documented through this survey the city of Cleveland will steadily shape a new and much more positive future.

EcoCity Cleveland O September 1995.
What we need to teach

By Larry D. Richardson

The Lake Erie Nature and Science Center in the Huntington Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks is serving over 100 area schools. Each year, students participate in about 35 class offerings provided by the center each school year. Most of the students are from the second grade, some are preschool, and some are secondary. In the last 7 years, as the executive director of the center, I have come to know more about education than I ever imagined possible.

I have a degree in Natural Resources, specializing in wildlife management, and I spent much of my career as a state park manager. I have developed some strong opinions over the years about the environment and about education. I know only too well just how important what we do, or do not, to our natural world is having a profound impact. Education is the answer but only if we have the highest premium on ecological balance.

Environmental education is not something that, if it is a process, I believe that it begins with awareness, that it is enhanced with knowledge, and that it results in resolve. We want to have an impact on the environment, to help create a future where we will be better equipped to solve global environmental problems.

Traditionally, environmental education is taught from the perspective of science. However, I believe that we are doing more to solve our environmental woes, the problems are often social, political, and economic. If we are to be effective at solving these problems, we need an interdisciplinary approach to environmental issues.

Welcome!

By starting this issue, we are sending school-year subscriptions to EcoCity Cleveland to every high school library in the seven-county region. This project is made possible by a grant from The Cleveland Foundation.

To serve our new readers, we plan to increase our coverage of environmental education in the coming months. Please call us with news of innovative programs and activities in the area, and let us know what you are doing out in the field. We also welcome submissions of student work.

It's sometimes difficult to squeeze environmental issues into the crowded curriculum. We hope that EcoCity Cleveland will help students and teachers explore our fascinating bioregion.

EcoCity Cleveland | September 1995
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

What we teach
From p. community and to an ever-improving society. If graduates can make informed, environmentally sensitive decisions—in the political system, in lifestyles, in the market, in their community and in their employment—then all the knowledge we give them will be well served.

Another important aspect of environmental education is critical thinking. We should pose problem-solving skills—teach students how to access information and what to do with it when they get it. In fact, our success in education will be proved by our students' ability to make more of the knowledge we give them than we are able to do with it ourselves. If the students are only as smart as the teacher, then we will ultimately lose ground.

We also need to diversify our environmental education strategy by exposing students to the everyday aspects of environmental issues as well as the big picture. One of our dilemmas is that we must act locally yet we must also be concerned with the larger issues. Today's students will be the global citizens of tomorrow. While they will have to work diligently on local environmental problems, they also must be empowered to impact the macro-environmental issues they will inherit.

The Lake Erie Nature and Science Center and other science providers in the region can help teachers and families empower our future generations. An environmental ethic may evolve from holding a python. An appreciation of wild things may begin in the eyes of a barn owl. Lifestyle choices may be made in a hike through the woods. The magic of life, science, and humanity may inspire a child to greatness.

An "environmental" education will take the best of all of us if we hope to strike a balance between our natural world and humankind.

What's your perspective on environmental education? We'd like to hear from other educators in the region. We'll publish your thoughtful comments in a future issue.

Training for equity

The environmental cleanup of our old industrial cities will require a lot of work. But who will get the jobs? Will city residents, who have endured the pollution and waste sites, get to participate in the cleanup of their neighborhoods?
The Center for Environmental Education and Training at Cayuga College started to help make sure this happens. The center was initially funded with a grant from U.S. EPA to promote equity in the environmental workforce. The objective is to enhance opportunities for people of color in scientific and environmental careers by developing credit and non-credit programs, such as certification programs in lead removal or two-year Associate Degree programs in environmental science technology.
The center also has an Environmental Equity Institute, which works to increase community awareness about environmental issues, so communities can empower themselves to deal with such issues on an informed basis. According to the center's director, Sandie Crawford, "We need a legion of educated, trained, and skilled workers of color who are able to sit at the table and make informed recommendations."

For more information about environmental training programs at Tri-C, call 987-4265.

How to stop students from snoring in class

The following article is by Emily Pagani, a teacher at Washington High School in the San Francisco Bay Area. It was reprinted with permission from the September/October 1995 Green City Calendar, published by the Planet4PI Foundation, P.O. Box 367, San Francisco, CA 94131, Shores Books, (415)285-6556.

Public high schools are searching for ways to make education more meaningful for students and teachers. The way in which I approach this problem is to position my class as an integral part of the community. I find it important, hands-on projects in the school neighborhood which allow me to take an interdisciplinary approach to teaching local natural history, ecology, and social issues. These projects instill in students feelings of self-worth, a sense of giving to the community, and in some ways an awareness of being a part of an extended family.

Over the past three years my students have built two native plant gardens and created a beautiful environmental mural, initiated a cooperative field study and restoration project with the Presidio (the former military base in San Francisco) and National Park Service, and maintained a school-wide recycling program that has run successfully for the past 12 years.

One of the first major challenges in beginning such projects is convincing the students and faculty to think of the school as part of a larger community. To ensure successful programs, long-term relationships and support networks with community organizations need to be developed. Commitments to our programs were made by the National Park Service, the San Francisco Recycling Program, and especially the San Francisco Unified School District, who hired Helen McLain (an accomplished teacher, former administrator, and environmental educator) to solidify the relationship between the Presidio and the public high schools. This type of support and collaborative energy is a critical ingredient for program success.

Another major challenge in dealing with the school system itself is: How does one work in a system that is designed to function much like an industrial factory? Both teachers and students are afraid to break away from time-honored roles and personal and office boundaries. For example, sometimes our class leaves a project incomplete due to new priorities for next year's class to finish. This is a unique concept since most students and teachers are conditioned to view variable accomplishments in terms of how many chapters in a book they read or how many required tests they complete. In order to change our system to a more community-oriented and biocentric one, it is necessary to be willing to take some risks to create an opportunity for unusual discovery.

For when one does create something with others, many magical things happen. Students are proud of what they do and want to continue their creations. Students find it natural to work on projects that are not their own, are actually used by others. Students also see the social, ecological, and academic relevance of their projects by working with gardeners, rangers, local scientists, and artists. They see that their work and is indeed valuable as they realize that they can combine academics with meaningful projects.

Bringing a learning atmosphere into the "real world" creates a context for comprehending concepts from a variety of perspectives. At Washington High School, we use our native plant gardens to study many aspects of biology and ecology. We also examine Native American uses of these plants and create oral natural history presentations. Many of the themes in our recently completed mural relate to our native plant gardens as well as to the city's other environmental issues.

Our own off-campus relationship with the Presidio gives even more relevance and credibility to our school-based projects. In the past year, we have been invited onto our study site above Baker Beach and focused on the themes of restoration, native plant identification, native plant removal, ecology of the coastal sand, vegetative mapping using biological maps and compasses, and developing a strong personal relationship with gardeners and other park volunteers. Students can now view the native plants we grow back at our school site in a more natural setting. All of this experience gives them greater understanding about the fields of restoration, ecology, and natural history.

Perhaps the most inspiring benefit from working outside school walls is that students get to meet adults in a variety of career paths who are extremely committed to what they do. When students see that people are committed to what they do and that they truly care, they become strongly motivated. They are inspired by leaders who don't just absorb information. Instead they suggest solutions and new ways to view things. This also provides the teacher with the refreshing role of being a student, learning from his or her students.

My advice to educators is:

1. Get involved with a project in an area you are truly interested.
2. Risk exposing yourself and being vulnerable—this pain is great, but so are the rewards.
3. Break away from your standard routine.
4. Find members of the community to support your project.
5. Be a teacher, but be a student as well.
6. Develop personal relationships with your students by working at their side.
7. Be flexible in your calendar/some large projects may take more than a year to complete.
8. Yes, if you think all your projects may end, but maybe someone you've inspired will pick up where you've left off.
9. Have fun.

The problem of education

Education is not widely regarded as a problem, although the lack of it is. The conventional wisdom holds that all education is good, and the more of it one has, the better.
The truth is that without significant precautions, education can equip people merely to be more effective vandals of the earth. If one listens carefully, it may even be possible to hear the Creation groan every year in late May when another batch of smart, degree-holding, but ecologically illiterate, Homo sapiens who are eager to succeed are launched into the biosphere.

—David Orr
Earth in Mind: On Education, Environment, and the Human Prospect
Playing (computer) games with cities

By Robert Jaquay

All switches on. Get to the Windows menu. With the mouse, move the pointer to the SimCity icon. Click. Suddenly, the computer screen bursts with color. In the foreground is a bright green road sign marked, "SIMCITY." It's a bit further on, a cute little cow beckons me to travel down the rural road toward the city skyline in the distance. With another point and click, I choose the option, "Start A New City," rather than load in a scenario involving an existing metropolis like Boston or Tokyo. A fresh image takes over the screen. At the lower right corner, a map of the terrain appears. Upon this geography, I am to build and manage my city. The rest of the screen is filled with a series of graphic icons depicting the various tools at my disposal and measures by which to gauge the success of the game.

Using the mouse in successive point and click moves, I must zone the available land for residential, commercial and industrial uses. A power plant also must be installed. For development to occur, power lines and roads need be extended to the various parts of town.

All this construction costs money, of course. Also, development results in higher demand for public services. Are tax revenues sufficient to keep the city budget in balance? In this game, I make a series of strategic blunders. My response to a slight budget deficit is to invest in the industrial zones, with the hope that high-tax-revenue-generating and low-public-service-consuming development occurs there.

However, the rail lines and water port I install don't produce much development. Taxes rise to pay for my disappointing investments. Consequently, my popularity ratings as mayor plummet. Population decreases slightly, as some residents vote with their feet.

Since it is only a game, I begin again. This time, under the same initial conditions, I build no road, no port. A prime waterfront peninsula is preserved and a few parks are constructed.

Computer networking

Cleveland Metropolitan barboard (216)341-7922 by modem). Metropolitan information and answers to questions about nature.

EcoNet (913)454-0700 by modem or http://www.epo.org. This network offers full of its long-range transportation plan.


RTK Net sponsored by OMB Watch (Union Institute, 1742 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036, (202)234-8494 voice or 202)234-8570 by modem). Community right-to-know information about toxic chemical releases and other environmental databases.

The good city

What is the good city? We are unlikely to arrive at an unequivocal answer; the diversity of human needs and tastes frustrates all attempts to provide recipes or instruction manuals for the building of cities. However, we can identify the crucial dimensions of city performance, and specify the many ways in which cities can achieve success along these dimensions.

A most useful guide to this enterprise is Kevin Lynch's A Theory of Good City Form (MIT Press, 1960). Lynch's five basic dimensions of city performance include: vitality, sense of fit, access, and control.

One can achieve vitality by restructuring the city's image. Lynch advises businesses to emphasize the city's sense of realism should not be confused with reality itself. However, the simulation program rests upon a complicated set of assumptions and projections, and there is great risk in blind acceptance of such models as predictive of the future.

Greater Cleveland, for example, has paid a price for action precipitated upon acceptance of projections and computer modeling that in time proved quite wrong. Failure to anticipate the Baby Boom which followed the Baby Boom period, as well as overestimation trends, resulted in overbuilding of schools, recreation facilities and other public amenities in many jurisdictions. Similarly, long-range transportation planning conducted here in the 1960s incorrectly projected dramatic growth of city and suburbanization from northeast Ohio to continue through the 1990s. The network of highways "justified" by the falsely projected urban sprawl.

Significant effort to understand the underlying assumptions of trip forecasts and system models was made by public officials during the region's most recent update of its long-range transportation plan. One major consequence of this increased scrutiny of modeling assumptions has been a policy shift from construction of new highway capacity toward maintenance of existing facilities.

These cautions aside, SimCity's value is high. The game amply demonstrates that city is a system, or, more accurately, a series of interwoven systems. The economic system, the political system which affects infrastructure systems which, in turn, affect the natural environment and so on.

Certainly, professional planners and sustainable development advocates have electronic tools with even more power and sophistication. Computerized mapping is now performed in a wide array of local planning efforts. In addition at Ecocity Cleveland, Case Western Reserve University's Center for the Study of Urban Poverty recently set up an electronic bulletin board enabling anyone with a personal computer and modem to access and download massive amounts of demographic and economic data about this area.

Nonetheless, SimCity uniquely attracts teachers and educators to the catalyst of thinking of a wide variety of people interested in our societies. This computer program deserves a place in our schools, at city halls and local libraries. It helps drive our household personal computers.

Robert Jaquay is currently serving as executive director of the Citizens Commission for County Government Reform in Cleveland.

EcoCity Cleveland • September 1995
Forgotten tributary

By Laura McShane

Quarry Creek is one of the forgotten tributaries of the Cuyahoga River. It runs through Parma and Brooklyn Heights before it meets the Cuyahoga River near Schaeff Road and Brookpark Road. Even some local residents confuse this little known creek with Big Creek, another tributary in Parma. Most maps do not recognize it, and on others it has been renamed the downstream tributary of West Creek—an injustice, considering Quarry Creek's historical significance and charms.

Early settlers quarried this creek extensively. In the early 1860s, Parma was known as Greenbriar Township for the dumps, pricky vines that grew throughout its wooded valley. In places where the creek's bed was quarried for its smooth, gray flagstone, the water runs fast in clear sheets.

In other places, blocks of sandstone stand like giants—testaments to the force needed to quarry hard Berea sandstone for use in the Ohio Canal locks and bypasses, in the Lake Erie breakwall and in the stone foundations of local buildings. Quarry Creek crosses the same productive band of sandstone that formed the basis for large-scale quarry operations along Brookpark Road.

Downstream from Ridgewood Drive in Parma, one encounters high shale walls along Quarry Creek, not unlike the cliffs found along the Rocky River in the Cleveland Metroparks Reservation. Between Grantwood and Snow Road, the creek forms a steep ravine. Attempts to channelize the creek in this section have failed. Here the creek cascades along suburban South Park Blvd., carving through the sandstone and shale to form rock cliffs and rock shelves draped with vines and moss. This is a children's world of make-believe forts and narrow, outlaw trails along the slopes.

Many of our once beautiful streams and creeks lie buried in storm sewer pipes, filled in with garbage or built over with railroad tracks and streets.

Native stone: The Henninger House at Rockside and Broadview roads. This historic reminder of quarries along forgotten Quarry Creek could soon be replaced by a fast food joint or similar commercial development.

Quarry Creek makes a sweeping right turn near Brookview Road. From the hillside beyond Rockside Road an old stone house built in 1849 overlooks the city of Cleveland in the distance. This house, still owned by the Henninger family which quarried the creek, once stood by itself, surrounded by beautiful countryside. Now it is trapped by commercial development, cars and parking lots.

In 1994, the Parma Historical Society tried to raise funds to save the Henninger House with a local levy. Unfortunately, the levy failed and the fate of this historic structure still hangs in the balance.

The creek flows on, past more suburban developments built along steep shale walls. One hot summer day while hiking, I found a swimming hole along the creek where kids were basking on the rocks and jumping into the water. Had I known then, I would have warmed them that despite respectable appearances, Quarry Creek is not clean enough for swimming. Septic tanks and combined sewers can contaminate the creek with bacteria, especially during heavy rains. Leachate from landfills and polluted stormwater add to the contamination.

Further downstream, the city of Brooklyn Heights preserves the creek in a small city park at the end of Tuxedo Avenue. This park looks and feels like a beautiful stream and it kindles a sense of the region's history. Unfortunately, the force of the creek has pushed its way out of the small city park.

It is ironic that Quarry Creek, which has the same characteristic of the other streams preserved within the Cleveland Metroparks, remains largely unknown.

Between 1918 and 1920, the Board of the Cleveland Metroparks did consider it for inclusion in the Emerald Necklace. Its annual report from 1920 refers to the area in the Cleveland Metroparks.

This territory is located in the southern part of the district between State and Broadview roads and extends in a northeasterly direction from Pleasant Valley Road, gradually turning to the east and swinging into the Cuyahoga Valley. Nature seems to have endowed this section with all the advantages of a natural park. Rocks and hills and templed hills are seen in abundance covering some two hundred acres.

Quarry Creek did not make it into the parks system, however. Landowners wanted more money for their land than the Metroparks was willing to pay, and we all lost an opportunity to enjoy this priceless gem.

Quarry Creek is not the only forgotten tributary in the Cuyahoga River watershed. Many of our once beautiful streams and creeks lie buried in storm sewer pipes, filled in with garbage or built over with railroad tracks and streets. These bodies of water—so vital to human and animal communities—preserve our protection, yet we continue to degrade them and take them for granted.

At journey's end, Quarry Creek is forced through a large sewer pipe underneath the 1-480-77 cloverleaf. Thousands of motorists pass over it everyday, oblivious to the creek flowing beneath them.

Quarry Creek resurfaces along one of the largest landfills in the county, before it merges, anonymously, with the Cuyahoga River and flows onward to Lake Erie.

McShane is an environmental planner with the Cuyahoga River Remediation Action Plan (RARP). She and other river activists in the region realize that we can never restore our major rivers unless we protect the health of smaller tributary streams. Many tributaries are threatened by eroding development. A new threat to Quarry Creek is a proposal in Parma to develop a large parcel of land in the creek's headwaters, perhaps into a golf course.

The importance of place

...Of all the memberships we identify ourselves by (racial, ethnic, sexual, national, class, age, religious, occupational), the one that is most forgotten and that has the greatest potential for healing, is place. We must learn to know, love, and join our place ever more than we love our own ideas. People who can agree that they share a commitment to the landscape/cityscape—even if they are otherwise locked in struggle with each other—have at least one deep thing to share. Community values (which include the value of the nonhuman neighbors in the "hood") come from deliberately, knowledgeably, and affectionately "living in place." Community values are a wise middle ground between ideological "family values" and all other large-scale divisive memberships. Creeks, apples, raccoons, neighbors, suburbs, factories are the building blocks of life. They all take place in the same watershed.

—Gay Snyder Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and a proponent of bioregional thinking
ECO CITY DIGEST

Issue 2 showers marriage

On November 7, Ohio voters will have the opportunity to countermine State Issue 2, the popular program that provides state bond funds to local governments for public infrastructure improvements. The renewal will permit the state to issue up to $21 billion of bonds for another 10 years. In the past 10 years, the money has been distributed equally throughout the state and has been generally well invested by local governments, hence the popularity of the program.

Unfortunately, this time Issue 2 is like a monkey on its back. In addition to the fund for local governments, it includes a portion for water, for a separate $1.2 billion for highway capital improvements by the Ohio Department of Transportation. (ODOT's current debt ceiling is $8.5 billion.) Ohioans are not saying no to go deeper into debt to build more (including, perhaps, the proposed I-75). According to some estimates, by the year 2003 the interest owed on this highway debt could exceed the dollar amount actually being constructed.

This shotgun marriage of local infrastructure and state highways could doom the Whole Issue 2 program.

How ODOT picks 'em

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is developing a "Major Project Selection Process" to help it decide which transportation projects to build. And local officials have major problems with it.

In a recent letter to ODOT, Timothy Hagan, president of the Northeast Ohio Airside Coordinating Agency (NOACA), and NOACA's director Howard Maier complained that the program's proposed selection process could hurt urban areas in several ways. First, it did not allow opportunities for multi-modal projects involving rail and transit.

"The scheme's second gnat's greenfield" development that often shifts jobs from older urban areas to rural areas of the state (much like the state's outrageous Enterprise Zone program). Hagan also criticized the fact that the selection process focuses on attracting new jobs to the project area. However, "new" jobs can simply be transferred from an urban area to a rural area within the state. Also, consideration is not being given to retaining vital business and industry. We believe this factor must be given weight. This is especially important for older urban areas. Giving weight to this factor will help the state save infrastructure costs and preserve environmentally sensitive agricultural lands.

The CWRU sells out to sprawl

We received the following note from a reader (the senators were schooled by a number of other callers):

"We received the recent article in the paper regarding Case Western Reserve University's recent sale of 85 acres in Parkman Township [eastern Geauga County] to a local input dealer as a developer? Does it strike you as ironic that the same university which sponsored an intensive environmental priorities project which recently identified urban sprawl as the number one regional problem then turned around and consciously exacerbated the problem? I understand that the CWRU trustees have a fiduciary responsibility to derive a fair return from land donated to their endowment. But did they ever consider sales to a community or selling the land following creation of an enlightened subdivision plan which might have clustered the 120 new lots or assessed the natural assets of the property?"

Rolling back Congress

The recent decision of the assault on the nation's environment protections by the Gingrich Congress becomes clearer every day. But citizens are standing up to the onslaught.

On September 21, local environmental groups gathered in front of the Cleveland City Council to protest the city's recent sale of 130 acres of public land. The groups are concerned about the case in which the city sold a parcel of natural land to a private developer.

"We hope build one of the first facilities in the nation and then become a national dumping ground as other states back out of commitments to build their own."

"Who will pay to operate and maintain the dump in the coming centuries if one of the large generators of waste goes bankrupt?"

"It is necessary that all low-level radioactive waste come from nuclear power plants and utilities such as Cleveland Electric Light on shaky financial ground?"

City officials could get stuck with the bill.

"Why isn't the state requiring reductions of the radioactive waste stream or promoting alternative energy sources?"

The energy pushers

Not only has Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. cut programs which would have helped customers conserve energy, but the company is using rebates to entice customers to use more expensive electricity.

One recent flyer stuffed in CEI bills offered customers rebates for replacing an existing gas, oil or propane water heater with electric (a $5 per gallon tank capacity rebate plus up to $50 toward the cost of the water heater).

The flyer bragged that electric hot water heaters are "more efficient" and "environmentally friendly." It then explained that the typical lifetime cost of purchasing and operating an electric water heater is more than twice the cost of a natural gas water heater. And it did not mention that electric models are efficient only if you disregard the enormous cost of electricity lost at the power plant during the transmission of the electricity.

Outrage of the month

Memories of the clearest for the Route 422 highway through rural Guernsey County. This photo was taken in 1990 near Route 44 by Mark Zettler.

"Got a photo of an environmental icon? Send it in to us for consideration as the "Outrage of the Month."

Pressure points

Menter Lagoons: The long struggle over the Menter Lagoons could soon be entering a new phase. Legal disputes over the location of the scenic lagoons at the site have been resolved, and purchase of the 500-acre property by the Osborne family for $1.7 million could close by early October. Then it is likely that Menter will decide whether to take the property by eminent domain or allow the Osbornes to develop it to the property, which is mix of wetlands, forested uplands and Lake Erie beach, is one of the best undeveloped pieces of land along the Ohio's lakefront. Many conservationists believe it would be a tragedy if it were developed for residential or commercial use.

Assuming urban lands: The city of Cleveland needs at least 2.5 million and as much as 10 million square feet of space for industrial organizations, according to the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. The city by the Cleveland Neighborhood Development Corporation. This could be a great opportunity for the city, if it can act quickly enough to assemble land suitable for industrial expansion. If not, many companies may expand in suburban greenfields.

Gas taxes for sprawl: The Volvohuck administration has been placing its support behind a gas tax to support sprawl in a special economic development fund. One recent $750,000 grant from the fund is helping build a service road for a new industrial park in formerly rural Streetsboro. Companies moving into the development include a fertilizer company, a paper mill, a Chrysler and a Ford parts distribution center from Solon. Thus does the state subsidize urban sprawl.

Columbus sprawls: Like most Ohio cities, Columbus is sprawling like crazy. It's still a healthier city than most because it has kept annexing land to prevent population and tax base from leaving the city. But increasing traffic on streets and a sprawl of industrial land is beginning to alarm many residents. A conference on "Managing Rural Change" Central Ohio attracted a large audience on Thursday.

Biking in Cleveland: The city has recently passed a law to protect its ecologically sensitive areas-areas such as flood plains, wetlands and areas near water bodies where development may cause significant ecological harm to the property or neighboring property. The Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District helped create a map to indicate environmentally sensitive areas.

"Doing it right: Portland, Oregon, has developed a Metro 2004 plan for regional land use with the input of thousands of citizens and regional planners.

Killing gas taxes for sprawl: The Ohio Senate Bill 27, which would wipe out gas taxes for public transportation, has been reintroduced so that it will be eligible for state gas tax funding, seems to have died in committee.

Sierra Club activist Laurie Hopwood deserves credit for spearheading the passage by Congress of a federal grant to fund improvements to the East Block Line in the 1970s.
GLEANINGS

Great Lakes radio

Thirty public radio stations around the Great Lakes, including Cleveland’s WCNN, have formed a consortium to improve their coverage of environmental issues. They will be producing a weekly “food of the month” to be shared by members. For more information, contact David Hammond at 313-913-6901.

BIOREGIONAL CALENDAR

Ecologically sensitive zoning
Randall Arndt, the nationally-known advocate of creative zoning techniques which promote the preservation of farmland, will talk about zoning development, will speak at 3 p.m., October 6, at the Lake Erie College Fine Arts Building in Painesville. For more information, call the author of the talk, Design and has spoken several times in Northeast Ohio about open-space zoning.

Fire trails

The talk is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, 216-550-2780.

Water pollution
Mangill Chemical, Bedford, pretreatment system for meat processing. Ohio Edison, Lorain, discharge to Lake Erie, Goodnews Tire & Rubber, Akron, discharge to Little Cuyahoga River. ASI Industries, Burton, discharge to Mud Flats. Energy Technology, Richfield, discharge to Furnace Road. American Steel and Wire, Cuyahoga Heights, tributary water treatment system.

Air pollution

Industrial Metal Finishing, Glenville, vapor spray degreaser.

Japari In Processes, Cleveland, alloy melting furnace.

Premier Machine Products, Kent, vapor degreaser.

Garlock, Akron, storage tanks, Yylinder, Elyria, modification of coilsonic hardware.

Hazardous waste
Lubrizol, Fairlawn, exempted from having to obtain permit modification for changes in hazardous waste storage.

Safety-Kleen, Brunswick, closure plan.

Water/Sewer line extensions
Shenowths Highlands Road No. 6, North Royalton.

Villas at Medina Farm Group H-1, Brookview Centennial Village at Arbor Meadow Subdivision Phase 1, Solon.

Chapin Subdivision, North Royalton.

Dezum Estates, Russell Twp.

Laurel Springs at Broadrock Phase 2B, Bayliss.

Unitas Subdivision Phase 1, Lakemore.

Bell Street sewer extension, South Russell.

McDonald, Cuyahoga Heights.

Cleveland Heights Village Subdivision Phase 1 & 2, Medina.

Reserves of Aurora Phase 1, Aurora.

Woodcrest, Hudson.

Beaver Road Subdivision, Berwick.

Kershaw Estates Subdivision No. 1, Wakulich.

Stevens & Daub Subdivision, Pepper Pike.

Lakes of Aurora Phase B-7, Aurora.

Bennett Manor Subdivision, Ravenna.

Busteed Estates Subdivision 2, Solon.

Kempwood Estates Subdivision No. 1, Antwerp.

Westwood #41 Subdivision, North Royalton.

Lake County Yacht Club, Chagrin River.

Save November 18

Ohio Naturalists, November 18 for a three-day calendar for a major conference in Cleveland on regional land uses and information transportation. The conference will be held at Shaker Lakes Nature Center.

Save November 19

Ohio Naturalists, November 19 for a three-day calendar for a major conference in Cleveland on regional land uses and information transportation. The conference will be held at Shaker Lakes Nature Center.
MAP OF THE MONTH

Comparison of Great Lakes depth and water volume

ELEV 183m ELEV 178m ELEV 174m
LAKE SUPERIOR ERS MICH Lake Huron LAKE ERIE ELEV 75m
LAKE MICHIGAN & HURON
SEA LEVEL

GREAT LAKES PROFILE

TRILLIONS OF CUBIC METERS

0 2.5 5.0 7.5 10.0
SUPERIOR MICHIGAN HURON ERIE ONTARIO

GREAT LAKES STORAGE (WATER)

From the Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair Handbook edited by Stanley J. Bolsenga and Charles E. Herdendorf, 1993

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