



PLANNING & ZONING WORKSHOP



2026 Session Agenda

Session 1

A. Going round and round

Session Summary: An option for safer, more environmentally friendly road way are roundabouts. The most common justification for a roundabout is safety. This is because roundabouts only have 8 potential conflict points vs. 32 at a traditional intersection. Roundabouts can move traffic more efficiently which reduces delays and fuel consumption. This is because traffic generally doesn't need to come to a full stop at the intersection. Staff members from ODOT District 4 will present the benefits of roundabouts and give local examples.

Speakers: Dawn Roxberry, P.E., Robert Shenal, P.E., Elizabeth Stober, P.E., ODOT District Four

B. Township Planning in the Real World: Lessons from the Concord Township Comprehensive Plan

Session Summary: Concord Township's recently completed comprehensive plan titled, *Our Concord: Today & Tomorrow*, provides a practical case study in how growing townships can guide development while navigating the structural and financial constraints unique to Ohio's township system. Prepared by ms consultants in collaboration with township leadership and the community, the plan establishes a clear, community-driven framework for managing growth, preserving character, and advancing strategic investments, despite limited fiscal capacity. This session will cover the following key themes: aging population and housing challenges, controlling development while preserving character, township fiscal constraints, creative funding and partnerships, and connectivity within infrastructure gaps.

Speaker: Katie Phillips, AICP, MS Consulting, Heather Freeman, AICP, Concord Township

C. Short Term Rentals

Session Summary: This session will cover what are short term rentals, the benefits of short-term rentals, and the issues of short-term rentals. The Village of Geneva on the Lake will give example of how to administer short-term rentals.

Speaker: Alex Iarocci, Geneva on the Lake Village Administrator

Session 2

A. Mapping the Narrative: Using Story Maps to Engage Your Community

Session Summary: Discover how Northeast Ohio communities are moving beyond static paper maps to drive meaningful public participation. This session explores how townships, cities, and counties can leverage interactive web maps and ArcGIS StoryMaps to translate complex planning data into engaging, easy-to-understand visual narratives. Participants will learn how these digital tools can simplify zoning updates, clarify master plans, and foster trust with residents. Whether you want to streamline public feedback or elevate your community's outreach strategy, this presentation offers practical insights and real-world examples to help you transform your public engagement process.

Speaker: Scott Hardy, OSU Extension

B. Zoning Code for the 21st Century

Session Summary: This session will explore the importance of having updated zoning regulations, discussion on key aspects of an effective zoning code, and how to make your zoning regulations understandable, enforceable, and up-to-date.

Speaker: Jacob Barnes, Zoning Solutions

C. Code Enforcement and Nuisance Properties

Session Summary: Enforcement of zoning regulations and nuisance abatement very important. The stability of a neighborhood and the community depends on an effective, fair and consistent enforcement program. Time consuming, at times frustrating, and always challenging; the enforcement arm of the zoning office is a continuous loop of vigilant local government activity.

Speakers: Brian Franz, AICP and Amy Nauer, Richfield Village

Session 3

A. Green Infrastructure Tools Supporting Resilient Communities

Session Summary: Green infrastructure is an innovative, cost-effective technique used to protect water resources, reduce flooding, and build healthier, more resilient communities. This session will highlight model codes, practical tools, and real-world strategies communities can use to safeguard their natural systems. It will also explore how engineered stormwater solutions, both conventional and green, are designed, long-term performance, and what it takes to maintain them effectively.

Speaker: Dr. Ian Simpson, Chagrin River Watershed Partners

B. Using a Sustainability Framework to Develop a Comprehensive Plan

Session Summary: Comprehensive plans are traditionally developed to focus on the infrastructure and land use needs of a community. Over the last several years Ohio State University Extension has developed a program to better incorporate sustainability into the planning process. Sustainability focuses on involving community members to better plan and develop goals that balance the needs of growth and growth management by incorporating long term thinking. For our process we spend time working with communities to be inclusive and collect information from the community about their vision for the community in 50 years. Specifically, what do they want their community to look like for their children and grandchildren in 50 years. It is an inclusive method that involves training local residents to use community meetings to collect the information.

Speaker: Jerold Thomas, Ph.D., Ohio State Extension

C. Changing Borders - Annexations

Session Summary: Annexation is the process of adding land from the township to incorporated areas. This session will discuss the differences between type 1, type 2 and type 3 annexations. What each of them mean for village or city and for townships.

Speakers: Brian Franz, AICP

Session 4

A. Hot Topics

Session Summary: This session will discuss APA Ohio's goal on the development of land use plans as core component of the comprehensive planning process. It will also discuss changes in the ORC's township and county zoning process being change by HB 361.

Speaker: David Radachy

B. The importance of addressing and Next Gen 911

Session Summary: Accurate and consistent addressing is no longer optional, it's mission-critical. This course empowers addressing authorities, public safety leaders, and GIS professionals with practical, real-world guidance on how to assign and manage addresses that support faster, more reliable emergency response. Learn proven dos and don'ts for NG9-1-1 addressing, explore best practices for managing address point data, and collaborate with peers.

C. Data Centers

Session Summary: This session will focus on the zoning, technology and growth trends shaping Ohio's digital infrastructure. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the economic and community impacts of these facilities.

Speakers: Christopher Galloway, Lake County Auditor, John Griffin, Griffin Technology