LOTS 2010 IMPACT STATEMENT
Partner Organizations
City of Youngstown
Goodness Grows
Grow Youngstown
Idora Neighborhood Association
Lien Forward Ohio
Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District
The Ohio State University
Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley
Treez Please
Youngstown State University, CURS

Lots of Green Funding Support
Core Funder
City of Youngstown, Community Development Block Grant

Program Investors
The Raymond John Wean Foundation
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
The Youngstown Foundation
Anonymous Donor
Healthy Eating Active Living Convergence Partnership

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Background

The Idora neighborhood is undergoing a transformation begun in 2007 with the development of the Idora Neighborhood: Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan. Over 150 residents participated in the nine month planning process and the plan is grounded in their ideas and concerns. This process catalyzed the growth of the Idora Neighborhood Association which quickly grew from eight members to over 225 members. Over the past twelve months the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC), City of Youngstown, Idora Neighborhood Association, and a number of other partner organizations have begun to work together to develop Idora into a model for neighborhood transformation in the Mahoning Valley.

This collective work has resulted in the focused demolition/deconstruction of over 50 blighted structures, the rehabilitation of over 25 homes and many other community based projects. In response to the large-scale elimination of blight and residents’ concerns to reuse vacant land, the Lots of Green program was developed.

The Program

The Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation’s Lots of Green program is an innovative vacant land reuse program focused on reactivating ALL vacant land in the focus neighborhoods where YNDC operates. Lots of Green was created to address the negative conditions caused by demolition and the resulting unmaintained vacant lots. The program provides a new way of viewing vacant land as an opportunity to create productive and maintained spaces and economic opportunities for residents. The program’s first year of operation (2010) was focused in the Idora neighborhood on Youngstown’s southwest side. Over the course of 2010, Lots of Green returned 115 parcels of vacant land (approx. 14.5 acres) to productive use. The parcels were transformed utilizing a number of green strategies including: the development of 5 community gardens, many sideyards, a stormwater mitigation demonstration site, an expansion of the adjacent Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District, several pocket parks, a block long demonstration site which includes the development of a soil research project led by The Ohio State University. This work has dramatically changed the Idora neighborhood over the course of the past twelve months and is working toward the continued creation of a more resilient and sustainable neighborhood.
In its first twelve months (2010) of operation, Lots of Green has reactivated over 115 lots, totaling over 14.5 acres of land, to new and productive use.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>MetroPark Expansion</th>
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<td>19</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>115</strong></td>
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YNDC is also collaborating with partners to reactivate the two largest vacant land parcels in the neighborhood. The former Cleveland school site is approximately 5 acres of vacant land being marketed by the City of Youngstown Office of Economic Development for reuse for neighborhood retail services. The second vacant site is the former Idora Park amusement park and is one of the largest parcels of vacant land in any neighborhood in the city. The site is approximately 30 acres. The YNDC has begun communication with the owner regarding a new and productive use for the site.
Reactivated 115 parcels of vacant land to a new and productive use, totaling over 14.5 acres

• Planted over 300 trees

• 30 tons of cardboard recycled to create urban gardens

• Used over 1,000 bales of straw to create raised urban garden beds

• Many thousands of yards of topsoil and compost used to amend vacant lots
• Installed over 4,000 linear feet of fence

• Planted hundreds of perennial and annual plants

• Produced over 3,200 pounds of fruits and vegetables

• More than 1,000 yards of wood chips used to create urban gardens
PEOPLE

- Trained 4 neighborhood youth
- Utilized over 200 volunteers
- Registered 84 community gardeners
- Trained over 100 residents through garden training workshops
- Employed 8 minority workers
- Employed 10 city residents
- Created 22 construction jobs
LOTS OF GREEN
BEFORE AND AFTER

before

Abandoned Parkview Avenue six plex

after

Parkview Avenue Community Garden on six plex site [PV1]

before

Brentwood Avenue abandoned and feral home

after

Passive greenspace on site of abandoned Brentwood home [BW6]
Corner of Mineral Springs and Glenwood Avenue after demolition. This corner serves as one of the most visible entrances to the Idora neighborhood.

Multiple abandoned homes on Mineral Springs lots.

Mineral Springs community garden, “Another Revitalization by the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation” sign sits on Glenwood Corridor.

Rain garden on Mineral Springs site [MS1].
Graded side lot transferred to neighbors for use and up-keep [LC9]

Abandoned home stripped, open and dangerous

Vacant house deconstructed to preserve materials for future use

Worked with Mill Creek Metroparks, planted species of trees, shrubs, and grasses indigenous to Northeast Ohio [PV13]
LOTS OF GREEN
BEFORE AND AFTER

before
Abandoned home deconstructed by the City of Youngstown

after
Trees and newly planted grass improve look of the street [BW14]

before
Vacant home on the corner of Parkview Avenue and Volney Road

after
Anchor corner lot converted to passive greenspace [PV10]
Before:
- Vacant and abandoned house on LaClede Avenue
- House had been broken into and was being used for criminal activity
- Vacant lot where house once stood

After:
- Native planting site [LC1]
Land transferred to Mill Creek MetroParks to increase park space in the neighborhood [PV11]

Abandoned six-plex and known site of various criminal activities, adjacent to Mill Creek MetroParks property

Abandoned house on Brentwood Avenue

New trees and grass turn this lot into beautiful green space [BW12]
Lots of Green
Before and After

**Before**

- Vacant lot sitting idle after demolition
- Vacant, dangerous house and a haven for criminal activity

**After**

- Sherwood Avenue Community Garden and Children’s Garden Club site [SW1]
- Two vacant lots, including former site of vacant home, converted to greenspace [LC8]
LOTS OF GREEN
BEFORE AND AFTER

BRENTWOOD AVENUE
TRANSFORMATION

before

after
“It was refreshing to see something so positive (Lots of Green) in an area where there has been so much negative. The gardens have replaced vacant homes where we have done numerous drug raids. The open spaces are a great improvement over the vacant buildings that criminals used to hide in.”
- Officer Mike Lambert, Youngstown Police Department

“I have been a resident of the Idora Neighborhood for over 60 years, and the neighborhood is starting to feel like it did in its glory days once again. I haven’t felt this safe or this proud of my neighborhood in some time.”
- Mrs. Esposito, long time Idora resident

“Lots of Green is a fantastic program that has done a lot for the neighborhood. The community gardens give people something positive to do and they keep people in the neighborhood busy. The side lot program allowed me to take over the lots next to my home and me and my grandchildren work on it together. Someday the lots will belong to them, which is the whole idea of why I wanted it.”
- Willie Thomas, side lot program participant

“The community garden program is very beneficial to the neighborhood. It provided vegetables for the summer and a useful and safer environment. I feel much more secure in the neighborhood now, and the garden really beautified the area. My new sidelot is very nice because YNDC planted new trees and now people can tell that it’s my property, so I don’t have to worry about vandals. I really appreciate both programs and what they’ve done for our neighborhood.”
- Beverly Cole, Parkview Community Garden and side lot program participant

In 2011, Lots of Green will continue with the development of a market garden training and incubator center, the greening of an additional 38 lots in the Idora neighborhood, expansion to Lincoln Park on the city’s east side and other areas, and will announce additional innovative projects.
For Additional Information on *Lots of Green* contact:

Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation
201 E. Commerce Street, Suite 140
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
Phone: 330.480.0423
Fax: 330.743.1322
Email: info@yndc.org
Web: www.yndc.org
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Building a Community Garden
Residents should not build community gardens without planning and a basic understanding of gardening safety. Most vacant lots in the City of Youngstown had houses or other structures standing on them at one point in time. These former conditions mean many lots have lead, arsenic, asbestos or other toxins in the soil. In order to mitigate these factors and safely grow healthy produce, it is important to take a series of actions to ensure safe growing conditions. How can residents reuse lots for community gardens in a safe manner?

The YNDC method is as follows:

- Test the soil for lead and other toxins. Contact the Ohio State University (OSU) Extension, Youngstown State University, or Penn State University for more information on soil testing.

- Once soil testing has been completed and the usable space has been identified, a layer of cardboard should be installed across the entire lot. The cardboard should be laid 3” to 6” in depth in order to provide a barrier between human contact with contaminated soil and to prevent the growth of unwanted weeds. Cardboard can be received by soliciting donations from local stores.

- After the cardboard is laid out, the lot should be covered with a layer of wood chips 6” to 12” in depth. Free woodchips can be obtained from Mill Creek MetroParks, the City of Youngstown Street Department, and many tree removal services throughout the region.

- The next step is to construct raised garden beds using bales of straw. The raised beds are then filled with a mixture of compost and top soil. Straw bales can be purchased wholesale from local farmers for $2.00 to $3.00 per bale. Aged manure, ideally two years old, serves as a good source of compost. Aged manure can be obtained from the Canfield Fairgrounds and local farmers throughout the region.

- Once the beds are constructed they are ready to be planted with produce of your choice. There is no need to add chemicals or fertilizer as the aged manure serves as a significant source of nutrients for your plants. The straw bales also assist in maintaining some level of moisture in the beds, so intense watering is not required on hot summer days.
• Over time, the cardboard, wood chips, straw, and organic matter break down to create a new layer of topsoil on the existing site. You can continue to build the soil by regularly adding compost to your garden beds. Compost bins can be easily constructed using wooden pallets. Pallets can be obtained from stores, building supplies, or Iron City Pallets for free.

For more information contact the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation.

Happy Gardening!
Background
Vacant lots can serve as negative voids, dumping grounds, sites for illegal activity and blighting forces on neighborhoods. Vacant lots can also serve as an opportunity to IMPROVE quality of life. Residents can obtain vacant lots adjacent to their homes to expand their yards and maintain them in a productive manner. Residents can use the additional space for picnics, gardens, play space for children, or simply maintained green space.

How can residents expand their yard and own a sidelot?
• Contact Lien Forward Ohio (LFO) at 330.259.1040. LFO is a regional council of governments and its purpose is to return tax delinquent vacant land to productive use. The organization works with city residents to acquire vacant lots that have been abandoned by their legal owners. Many lots have tax liens on the properties from unpaid property taxes. Lien Forward assists interested owners in obtaining vacant lots through tax foreclosure. They also offer financial assistance based on need.

• Many vacant lots have compacted soil unsuitable for planting grass and other vegetation. If these conditions exist, topsoil should be added to the site.

Topsoil is approximately $10 per cubic yard, with an additional charge for trucking. It can be purchased from landscape contractors or wholesale operations such as CBS Topsoil.

• Typical vacant lot conditions also warrant grade to remove debris and level the site. There are two primary types of grading: rough grading and fine grading. Rough grading removes less rocks and debris from the soil, and grass planted in rough graded conditions typically grows slowly and is difficult to maintain. Fine grading removes more debris from the soil and is more conducive to reuse, planting and long term property maintenance. Landscape contractors, demolition contractors and excavating companies all provide grading services. The cost varies on the size of the lot and existing conditions.

• Low maintenance lawn mix is recommended as the preferred seed mix to replant vacant lots. The low maintenance lawn mix is not maintenance free, as there is no such thing as a maintenance free lawn. It is, however, a drought tolerant mix that requires much less mowing than typical turf grass mixes. Low maintenance lawn, native plant, rain garden and other seed mixes can be purchased from the Ohio Prairie Nursery (http://ohioprairienursery.com/).
• Two 2” caliper trees are also planted on each lot. Trees provided many benefits to the land owner and the neighborhood. There are many options for tree selection and an analysis of the site should be undertaken to determine the best option. Treez Please, a community reforestation project, is available to recommend tree types. Trees can be purchased from nurseries or from landscape contractors. Tree planting in urban conditions requires ongoing maintenance to ensure the tree thrives in its new environment. Detailed planting instructions are provided on the tree sketches included in this document. Tree Gators should also be used to provide water for the trees. They can be purchased at landscape centers, nurseries, or on the internet at http://www.treegator.com/.

• The final step is to install a split rail fence across the front of the lot. The fence conveys a sense of ownership to individuals and prevents illegal dumping or other unwanted activity on the site. The cost of a post and rail fence installation is approximately $12/linear foot. Split rail fencing can be installed by landscape contractors or fence companies. You can also purchase the materials yourself and install the fence.

For more information on sidelots, please contact the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation.

Enjoy your new yard!
Corner Lot

Site ID: ____________________
GENERAL INFORMATION
1. Verify the exact location and elevation of all underground utilities and other structures before starting work.
2. Use extreme care to protect all existing elements from damage or displacement. Remove any debris or trash unearthed during excavation and dispose of legally.
3. Layout and staking of post and rail fence is to be done in the field by the contractor and approved before the start of construction. Height of post and rail wood fence is 36” unless specified otherwise on drawing. If fence less more than 3 inches of height over 20 feet distance then contractor shall slope fence with grade.
4. Drill or hand-excavate hole for wood post to a depth, diameter, and spacing indicated on the drawings or plan. Excavate hole in firm undisturbed or compacted soil to local frost depth.
5. Position pressure-treated wood post in six (6) inch aggregate base to provide firm footing. Post should rest in four (4) inches of tamped aggregate and have two (2) inches placed at the bottom of post for drainage.
6. Fill the hole with concrete, setting wood post true and plumb. Concrete should not engulf the bottom of the post but should be surrounding post. Take care to slope top of concrete away from wood post for drainage purposes. (See Drawing) Make sure concrete is 2 inches below final grade so lawn can be established.
7. Repeat steps 4–6 for each fence post. Verify that posts are set plumb, aligned, and at correct height and spacing as specified on drawing. Hold in position during placement and finishing operations until concrete is sufficiently cured. Finished concrete should be two (2) inches below existing grade. (See Drawing)
8. Attach 2"x6" pressure treated wood to posts with two (2) 3/8" galvanized carriage bolts and locknut, ensuring that wood is centered on post. (See Drawing) Bolts should be bashed or treated in a way as to avoid theft.
9. POST TOP: Cut the top of the pressure-treated wood at a 30 degree angle. Angled cut to face inside of site not towards the street.
Basic Tree Planting

1. Plant trees according to spec. drawings and locate trees in field as designated on map. If map does not exist, locations will be marked in the field.

2. All trees should be identified and inspected on site by contractor for damage from transport or storage. If problems exist contractor shall immediately inform client.

3. Contractor is responsible for ensuring that tree pits drain properly. It is recommended that contractors perform the following water percolation test prior to planting trees. Place an open ended coffee can in the holes where you want to plant the trees. Fill the cans with water and see how long it takes for the water to drain. If the water hasn’t drained at least one inch in one hour, plant trees as specified on Spec. Detail “Tree Planting for Poorly Drained Sites”.

4. Provide all care necessary to keep trees healthy before final inspection, including but not limited to: watering, mulching, and pruning.
TREE PLANTING FOR POORLY DRAINED SITES

1. Plant trees according to spec. drawing and locate trees in field as designated on map. If map does not exist, locations will be marked in the field.

2. All trees should be identified and inspected on site by contractor for damage from transport or storage. If problems exist, contractor shall immediately inform client.

3. Provide all care necessary to keep trees healthy before final inspection, including but not limited to: watering, mulching, and pruning.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Remove any broken, decayed, or damaged branches with supervision.
- Prune damaged branches with a clean cut in accordance with AAA and/or American Society of Arborists standards.
- Do not cut tree leaders.

- Each hole three or times the width of the rootball and as deep as the rootball used to plant a tree, to reduce water loss and prevent cracking. Set balled and burlapped trees in center of hole, placing the rootball flush with the ground.
- Mulch trees with double-shredded hardwood to a depth of four inches at the base of the trunk.
- Remove or cut off top 2 inches of wire basket and kraft paper around tree trunk. Remove tree wrap or cardboard tubing from all tree trunks.

- Backfill hole with existing soil, removing any large debris or trimmings. Dispose of illegally. Place backfill around the base and sides of the rootball, working each layer to eliminate air pockets. Add organic material only if amending beyond the tree pit. Water thoroughly once the hole is backfilled, ensuring that the water is penetrating the entire root system and compacting the soil to eliminate air pockets. Add remainder of existing soil, ensuring that the soil height is level to existing grade. Water after placing the final layer of soil. Water thoroughly to a depth of twelve (12) inches.

- Trim tree flare—Ensure that tree is plump and the base of the trunk is level with existing grade.

- Amend soil with organic material to prepare a firm, loose rootball. Use a shovel to bury sides of tree pit to prevent water from running past the rootball and into the soil.

- Undisturbed earth
GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Plant trees according to spec. drawing and locate trees in field as designated on map. If map does not exist, locations will be marked in the field.

2. All trees should be identified and inspected on site by contractor for damage from transport or storage. If problems exist contractor shall immediately inform client.

3. Provide all care necessary to keep trees healthy before final inspection, including but not limited to: watering, mulching, and pruning.
Parkview Ave. Planting Plan

LEGEND
A = Seed Mix "A"
B = Seed Mix "B"
C = Shrub
D = Ornamental Tree
E = Deciduous Shade Tree

NOTE: Individual herbaceous perennial species (potted) can be added to the "Seed Mix A" area if desired.
# Plant List for Parkview Parcels

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Genus</th>
<th>Species</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Maple</td>
<td>Acer</td>
<td>saccharinum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Buckeye</td>
<td>Aesculus</td>
<td>globra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shagbark Hickory</td>
<td>Carya</td>
<td>ovata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Beech</td>
<td>Fagus</td>
<td>grandifolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hophornbeam</td>
<td>Ostrya</td>
<td>virginiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Cherry</td>
<td>Prunus</td>
<td>serotina</td>
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<td>White Oak</td>
<td>Quercus</td>
<td>alba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Oak</td>
<td>Quercus</td>
<td>rubra</td>
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### Ornamentals

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<td>Flowering Dogwood</td>
<td>Cornus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alleghany Serviceberry</td>
<td>Amelanchier</td>
<td>laevigera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington Hawthorn</td>
<td>Crataegus</td>
<td>phaenopyrum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serviceberry</td>
<td>Amelanchier</td>
<td>canadensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redbud</td>
<td>Cercis</td>
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### Shrubs

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<th>Common Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Smooth Sumac</td>
<td>Rhus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flowering Quince</td>
<td>Chamaemeles</td>
<td>speciosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrowwood Viburnum</td>
<td>Viburnum</td>
<td>dentatum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fragrant Sumac</td>
<td>Rhus</td>
<td>aromatic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Chokeberry</td>
<td>Aronia</td>
<td>melanocarpa</td>
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### Herbs

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<th>Genus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Red Columbine</td>
<td>Aquilegia</td>
<td>canadensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butterfly Weed</td>
<td>Asclepias</td>
<td>ruberosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>New England Aster</td>
<td>Aster</td>
<td>nume-anglica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purple Coneflower</td>
<td>Echinacea</td>
<td>purpurea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxe Eye Sunflower</td>
<td>Helianthus</td>
<td>helianthoides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dense Blazingstar</td>
<td>Liatris</td>
<td>spicata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-eyed Susan</td>
<td>Rudbeckia</td>
<td>hirta</td>
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### Seed Mixes

- **Seed Mix A** - "True Colors - Dry by 18 Short" from Ohio Prairie Nursery (or similar)
- **Seed Mix B** - "Septic Field Mix" from Ohio Prairie Nursery (or similar)

See attached for information about Ohio Prairie Nursery and the seed mixes listed above.
Notes

1. To provide diverse habitat and visual appeal, use a minimum of 2 tree species, 2 ornamental species, and 3 shrub species per parcel. Use a minimum of 75% of the species within each category (tree, ornamental, and shrub) throughout entire project.

2. The planting plan provided is to be used as a guide and general reference for species types and locations. Note that, as shown on the plan, the parcel at the corner of Parkview Avenue and Volney Road is to be planted with fewer trees and shrubs due to its frontage along Volney Road.

3. Ornamental trees are to be in clump form (no single trunks).

4. Listed herbaceous perennials are appropriate species that can be installed in the Seed Mix A area as potted specimens, if desired.

5. Coverage area for Seed Mix A is approx. 2500 square feet per lot (with the exception of the corner lot).

6. Total coverage area for Seed Mix B is approx. 5000 square feet per lot (with the exception of the corner lot).

7. To stabilize soils and provide faster growth of vegetative cover, seed mixes should be augmented with annual rye at an application rate of approximately 4 lbs per acre.

8. Prior to seeding, areas where Seed Mix A will be applied should be amended with a 1-inch thick layer of topsoil, organic humus, and sand mix, such as the "supersoil" mix supplied by CBS Topsoil.

9. Lot(s) where soil has not been exposed and lawn areas exist are to be disturbed or scarified within the front 50 feet to allow Seed Mix A to contact soil. Trees and shrubs can be planted directly in the existing vegetation at the rear of these lots with no seeding required.

10. With the exception of the large maple trees located at the corner of Parkview Avenue and Volney Road, existing landscape trees and shrubs are to be removed.

11. See attached for specific seed mix information from Ohio Prairie Nursery. Similar mixes from other suppliers would also be acceptable.
Ohio Prairie Nursery Seed Mix Information

Ohio Prairie Nursery is located in Hiram, Ohio
Phone (866) 569-3380
Fax (330) 569-7190
www.ohioprairienursery.com

Seed Mix A

True Colors – Dry By 18 Short
Contains the following species:
Grasses
Schizachyrium scoparium - Little Bluestem
Bouteloua curtipendula - Side-oats Grama
Elymus canadensis - Needleling Wild Rye
Sporobolus heterolepis - Prairie Dropseed

Wildflowers
Echinacea purpurea - Purple Coneflower
Rutabida pinnata - Grey-Headed Coneflower
Coreopsis lanceolata - Lanceleaf Coreopsis
Asclepias tuberosa - Butterfly Milkweed
Helianthus heteronotus - Oz Eye Sunflower
Liatris spicata - Dense Blazingstar
Solidago rigida - Stiff Goldenrod
Rudbeckia hirta - Black-eyed Susan
Coreopsis tripteris - Tall Coreopsis
Lepidium capitanus - Roundheaded Bushclover
Monarda fistulosa - Wild Bergamot
Rudbeckia triloba - Brown-eyed Susan
Sépium integrifolium - Rosinweed
Asclepias syriaca - Common Milkweed
Baptisia leucantha - White Wild Indigo
Penstemon digitatus - Foxglove Beardtongue
Sépium trifoliatum - Whorled Rosinweed
Sépium teres subsecundum - Prairie Dock

Seed Mix B

Septic Field Mix
Contains the following species:
Grasses and grass-like
Bouteloua curtipendula - Side-oats Grama
Achillea millefolium - Buffalo Grass
Schizachyrium scoparium - Little Bluestem

Forbs (Wildflowers)
Asclepias tuberosa - Butterfly Weed
Aster krevi - Smooth Aster
Coreopsis lanceolata - Lanceleaf Coreopsis
Centauraea cyanus - Cornflower
Echinacea purpurea - Purple Coneflower
Helenium multiceps - Hairy Sunflower
Liatris pycnostachya - Dense Blazingstar
Monarda citriodora - Lemon Mint
Penstemon digitatus - Foxglove Beardtongue
Rutabida pinnata - Grey-Headed Coneflower
Rudbeckia hirta - Black-eyed Susan
Solidago speciosa - Showy Goldenrod

PLS Lbs Per Acre Broadcast = 7.5
PLS Lbs Per Acre Drilled = 5

PLS Lbs Per Acre Broadcast = 15
PLS Lbs Per Acre Drilled = 10
The Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) is a citywide multifaceted neighborhood development organization formally launched in February 2009 in partnership with the City of Youngstown and The Raymond John Wean Foundation to catalyze strategic reinvestment in neighborhoods throughout the City of Youngstown. The mission of the organization is to improve the quality of life in Youngstown by building and encouraging investment in neighborhoods of choice for all.