

Summary of Accomplishments for Economic Development Department

Caroline Statkus, Economic Development Director
2010 through January 2022

Grants Awarded

2022 – awaiting grant application results for Cappel purchase and Duke LED streetlights - \$367,000

2021 - Ohio EPA Grant for 2 Blink Charging stations at the Harrison Ave. parking lot - \$16,397

2021 - Cheviot Housing Action Plan - no amount specified

Cheviot selected as one of 6 communities in Hamilton County for development of housing action plan – report done with recommendations – implemented by Hamilton County Planning + Development, LISC, Community Building Institute

2020 - State Capital Improvement grant for improvements for the Lodge at HHP - \$100,000

2020 - Several CARES Act funding grants through Hamilton County - \$124,000

WiFi connection in Cheviot parks and business district through Cincinnati Bell. Support for restaurants and bars: street furniture, DORA components, awnings for restaurants/bars, etc.

2020 - Strategic Steps to Grow Cheviot's Business District Project - \$27,500

Hamilton County Planning + Development

2019 - Urban Land Institute Technical Study - \$20,000

Funded by Hamilton County Planning + Development. Final Report: ULI (Urban Land Institute) Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) Report.

2018 – Reviewed 2 grants for the Bicentennial - Ohio History grant and Remarkable Ohio

2018 – WeThrive! Grant – bicycle racks and support for LEWFM - \$7,500

2017 - Ohio NatureWorks grant for splash park at Harvest Home Park - \$137,000
+ additional funding by Tri-Health

2016 - HCDC Small Business Improvement Program – \$20,000

business assistance to Cheviot businesses funded by Duke Energy

2015 - Ohio NatureWorks grant - \$45,828 HHP Playground + \$10,000 local support

2015 – CDBG funding: Harvest Home Park public pool repairs & park enhancements – \$60,000

2014 - Interact for Health – \$15,800

Completion of 12-station fitness trail at Harvest Home Park and 2 walking trails in neighborhoods

2013 – CDBG funding - Façade Improvement Grant program and revamped tennis courts – \$50,000

2013 - Port Authority – condemned commercial building demolition – \$30,000

2013 - Cheviot Savings Bank – Pioneer Park improvements - \$15,000

2012 – Cincinnati Reds Community Fund and P&G Community Day – estimated at \$500,000
Field House major renovation: new playground equipment and picnic facilities, stadium repair and painting, playing field improvements, grading along field, interior painting of Field House, etc.

2012 – CDBG funding for Field House renovations - \$150,000

2012 – Huntington Bank funded modern trash receptacles along Harrison Avenue - \$10,000

2012 – WeThrive! Improvements for healthy lifestyles - \$24,000
Fitness trail, community garden, striping games at playgrounds, bike racks, swim classes, etc.

2011 - Ambulance grant through USDA - \$30,000

2011 - KaBoom Playground Maintenance Grant – \$750

2010 – HUD Dollar Home Program – 4 properties acquired for \$1 each, rehabbed, and profits accrued to the City

Overall Promotion of Cheviot

- Provide guidance to individuals and companies to establish, relocate, or expand their businesses.
- Write press releases for newsworthy items.
- Worked with local designer to create graphic standards for Cheviot branding – logo and colors.
- Worked with WestSide Market to locate in Cheviot.
- Participated in initial stages of the Cheviot Traffic Study now going through ODOT funding approvals.
- Initiated Cheviot's participation as a WeThrive! community and received several grants.
- Participated in and promoted Family Day.
- Worked with local farmers' market – LEWFM.
- Successful nomination of Cheviot as a 2015 Playful City USA - 1 of 241 communities in US and 1 of 4 in Ohio
- Participated in development of updated and modernized Cheviot website.
- Published quarterly newsletters to businesses and interested residents from 2015 to 2018 – discontinued due to lack of interest of news providers and recipients.
- Re-designed Pioneer Park and received award from Horticultural Society in 2017.
- Selected as an AllStar Neighborhood in 2011 - 1 of 10 selected communities in Hamilton Co.

Businesses

- Provide assistance upon request from local businesses interested in exploring new or expanding business ventures.
- Promote availability of CRA (Community Reinvestment Area) in the business districts for up to 50% property tax abatements for new construction or major rehabilitation.
- Offer availability of Job Creation Tax Credit to incentivize new businesses in Cheviot that generate high payroll – amount TBD.
- Initiated a MicroLoan program in 2012 (still in operation) with First Financial Bank for small businesses – revolving loan fund of \$100,000 with approximately \$70,000 available.
- The First Financial MicroLoan program recently updated to give loan applicants the opportunity for assistance from HCDC for business start-ups or expansions.

- Created a Business B-OZ (overlay zone) zoning district in 2019 with additional regulations to continue the neighborhood business district attributes in the central business district – maintain small town character.
- Explored business opportunities with Hillibrand Nursing Home, previous Frank's owners, ProjeTech, Drama Workshop Theatre, Cheviot Savings, MainSource Bank, First Financial Bank, Huntington Bank, etc.
- Prepared amendments to Cheviot Code of Ordinances in 2014 to permit microbreweries and food trucks.

Residential

- Created Residential CRA in 2016 in compliance with the Ohio Dept. of Development (ODOD) to allow substantial residential improvements to receive a 50% property tax abatement for 10 to 12 years
- Held Realtors' Brunches 2012, 2015, and 2017 to inform local realtors of Cheviot's assets and programs for home improvements
- Held Homebuyers' workshop 2011 and 2014.
- Exploring creation of a CIC (Community Improvement Corporation) to purchase residential properties to rehab.