

An evaluation of the proposed Enon Sand & Gravel mining operation relative to B-W Greenway Community Land Trust goals

Goal #1: Land conservation

The proposed Enon Sand & Gravel mining operation will destroy prime farmland and natural areas that will be lost for many generations. Although the proposed operation is not in the B-W Greenway, it is very close. If it were in the Greenway, it would conflict with this B-W Greenway goal.

Goal #2: Encourage sustainable agriculture

The proposed Enon Sand & Gravel mining operation will remove prime farmland from food production. Therefore the proposed Enon Sand & Gravel mining operation conflicts with this B-W Greenway goal.

Goal #3: Preserve and enhance native plant, wildlife, and aquatic habitats.

The proposed Enon Sand & Gravel mining operation will impact the ecology of Mud Run by its dewatering, mounding and heavy equipment traffic. Besides the siltation caused by construction runoff, increased water flow by mounding and proposed dewatering will cause increased erosion and flooding. This will impact the ecological balance of aquatic and reptilian population along the stream. Dust from the traffic and blasting also will impact the breathing of fragile plants and wildlife. The proposed Enon Sand & Gravel mining operation conflicts with this B-W Greenway goal.

Goal #4: Reduce our ecological footprint. This goal encourages minimal consumption and use of renewable resources. It takes 100 years to grow an inch of topsoil – many eons to grow quarry rock. Fairborn Cement Company has just recently been approved by the City of Fairborn for a new quarry site off Hyde and West Enon Rd - enough to guarantee the presence of Fairborn Cement Company operation for at least 40 more years. We see no compelling public need for the product of Enon Sand & Gravel's operation and therefore we conclude that the proposed Enon Sand & Gravel mining operation conflicts with this B-W Greenway goal.

Goal #5: Protect ground and surface water. Southwestern Clark County is blessed with healthy streams and rivers and sits over the Miami Valley Sole Source Buried Aquifer – the largest aquifer east of the Mississippi. The excavation, blasting, traffic, loss of floodplain are all major concerns. The B-W Greenway Community Land Trust subscribes to the "Precautionary Principle" which states that *if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public, or to the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus (that the action or policy is not harmful), the burden of proof that it is not harmful falls on those taking that action.* Until Enon Sand & Gravel can prove to Clark County agencies and technical consultants representing adjacent landowners, the proposed Enon Sand & Gravel mining operation conflicts with this B-W Greenway goal.

Goal #6: Encourage sustainable land use principles through education and technical assistance

One of the flaws in Clark County Zoning Regulations is that it allows 17 Conditional Uses in A-1, Agricultural District, with only two of those uses having anything to do with agriculture.

One of those non-agricultural Conditional Uses is Mineral Extraction. A separate zoning district, e.g. M-1 Mineral Extraction District, would allow a legislative land use decision process rather than the current judicial process. This would provide three layers of review as well as the option for a citizen referendum. Such a M-1 Mineral Extraction District could also correct some of the deficiencies of the current Conditional Use requirements such as requiring sequential reclamation and stockpiling of prime soils for future agriculture restoration.

Because there is not a separate Mineral Extraction District in Clark County Zoning Regulation, the proposed Enon Sand & Gravel mining operation conflicts with this B-W Greenway goal.

Goal #7: Cultivate a sense of place based on respect for the natural, cultural and historic environment. Mad River Township trustees and its citizen spent valuable time and resources in generating a township plan with a major goal of maintaining the rural character of the township. There are historical societies, a nearby scenic byway and river, beautiful view sheds and many farms and natural areas that are preserved in perpetuity. Ohio taxpayers via the Clean Ohio Fund paid for these preservations. The township and county roads to be used for this operation are not designed for the heavy truck traffic anticipated. The proposed Enon Sand & Gravel mining operation conflicts with this B-W Greenway goal.