

Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities

Regional Equity Initiative Subcommittee (December 2026)

MIAMI VALLEY
Regional Planning Commission

Great Lakes Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program

- In partnership with the Midwest Environmental Justice Network, NDN Collective, and RE-AMP Network, the Minneapolis Foundation awarded environmental justice grants to organizations working in and for underserved communities throughout the Great Lakes region.

- Tier 1 (Assessment & Engagement): one-year grants of up to $150,000 for assessment and engagement efforts that increase understanding of the breadth, depth, or impact of local environmental or public health issues. Eligible activity included power mapping, public engagement, and public education to improve collective understanding of community challenges, needs, and opportunities.

- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission & Westwood Right Project CDC

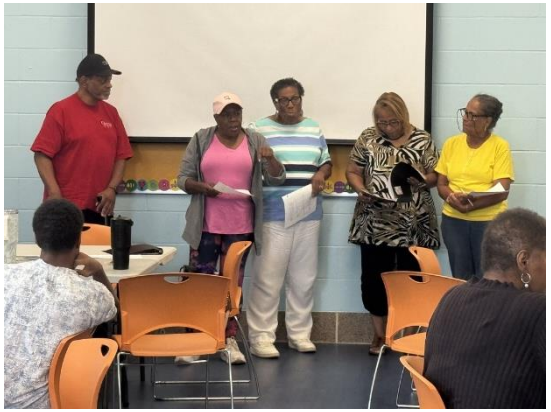
Academy for Thriving Communities

- EPA EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Model:
  - Element 1: Issue Identification, Community Vision, and Strategic Goal Setting
  - Element 2: Community Capacity-Building and Leadership Development
  - Element 3: Consensus Building and Dispute Resolution
  - Element 4: Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Leveraging of Resources
  - Element 5: Constructive Engagement by Relevant Stakeholders
  - Element 6: Sound Management and Implementation
  - Element 7: Evaluation, Lessons Learned, and Replication of Best Practices
- Community clean-ups, grant-writing workshops, visits from elected officials and other stakeholders
- 45 participants and 40 graduates
- Thriving Communities Intern



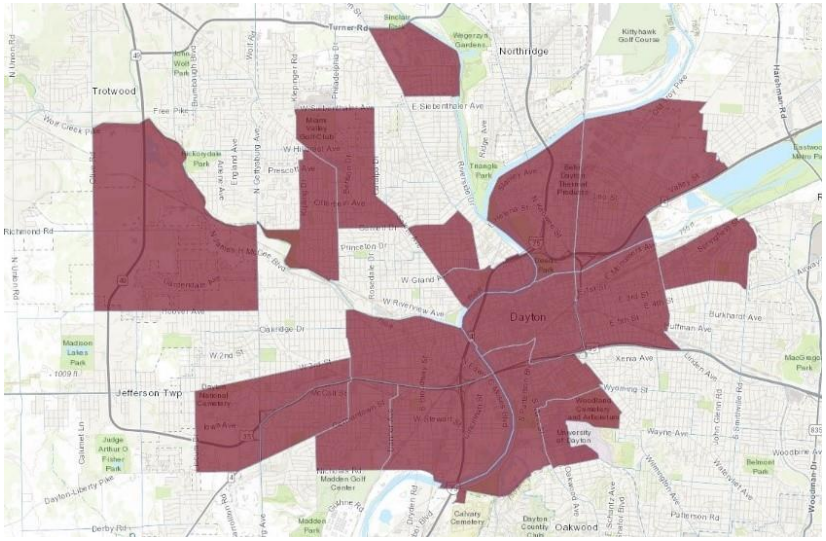


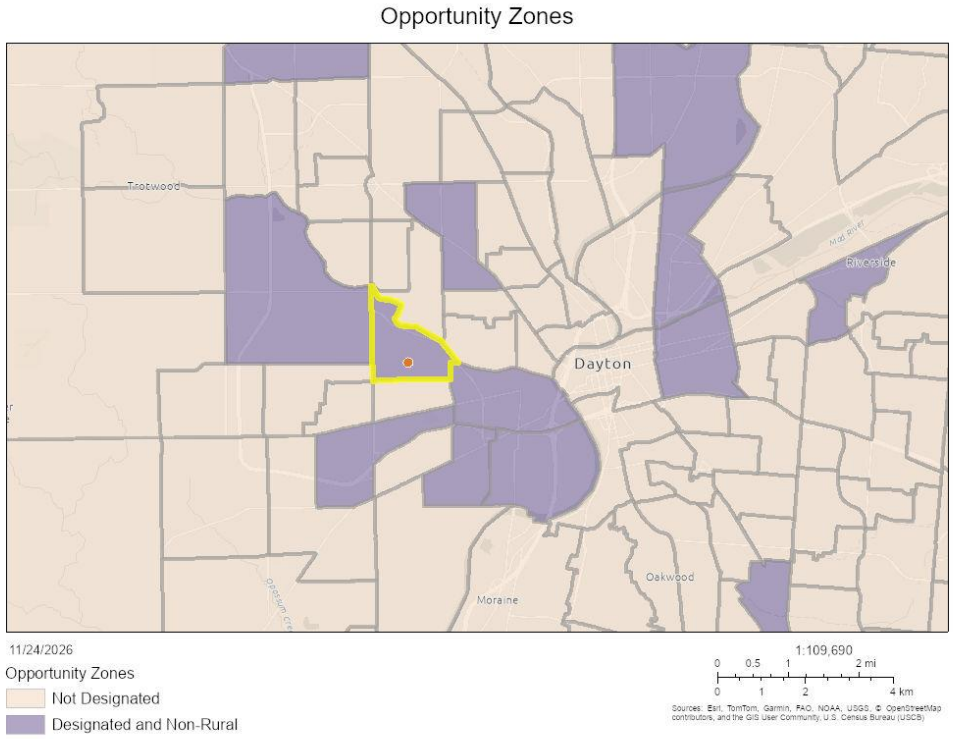




Zooming Out

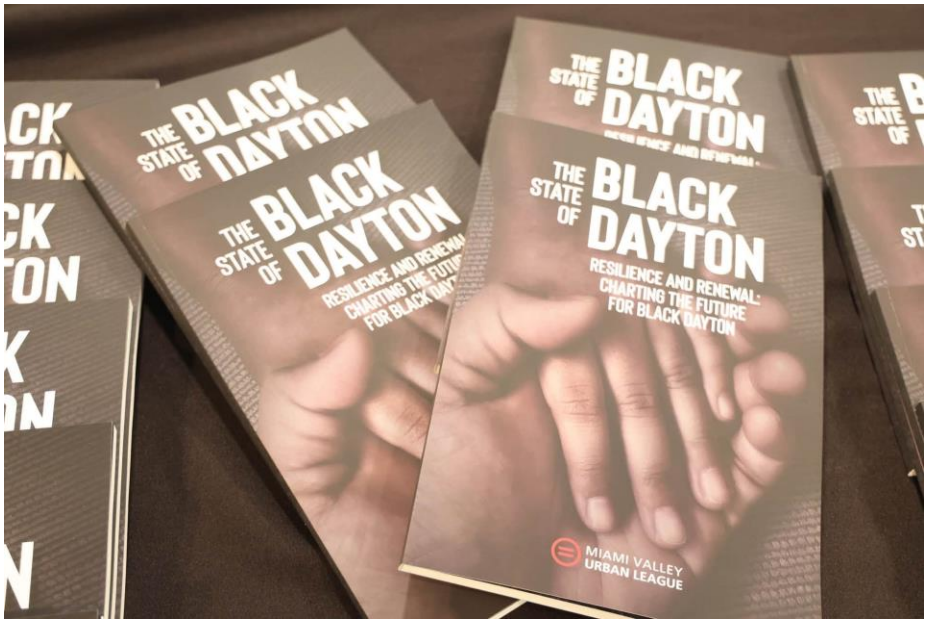
- Founder Dee Wooding participated in the Environmental Justice Academy co-hosted by MVRPC and US EPA (2022)
- Westwood Neighborhood Strategic Plan (2023)
- Various grant pursuits (2024)
- Great Lakes TCGM Tier 1 award (2025)
- AmericaFWD Community of Practice (2026)
- Opportunity Zones 2.0 designation (2027)





Technology & Connectivity Domain

- Digital Access Workgroup (State of Black Dayton)
  - The Digital Economy: Identifying solutions to bridge the digital divide and expand tech-related opportunities.
- Technology & Connectivity co-leadership
  - Dayton Metro Library
  - NPower
- Current collective priorities include hotspot and rental equipment access, and future of WiFi provision; as well as regional advocacy



DAYTON METRO LIBRARY

npower ohio

Transportation Domain

- Greater Region Mobility Initiative Planning
  - Ohio Loves Transit Week 2027 (Legislative Day) by Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA)
  - Greater Region Transportation Coordination Plan (2024-2028)

- Revive35 Racial Equity Subcommittee (City of Dayton)

MIAMI VALLEY
Regional Planning Commission

GREATER REGION MOBILITY INITIATIVE

Transportation Coordination Plan Update

2024-2028



Dayton's Revive35 study focuses on reconnection

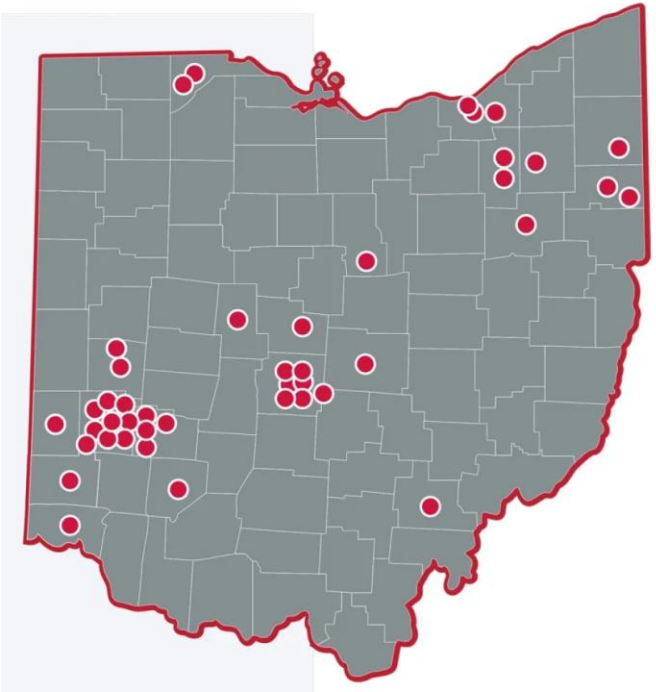
Dayton is seeking community input for the future of U.S. 35 as a part of a $2 million study. The study will examine ways to improve traffic flow and accessibility along the corridor. The map below shows the study area with neighborhood names.



Age-Friendly Initiative

- Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network newsletter launched

- Age-Friendly Grants (w/ The Dayton Foundation & Del Mar Healthcare Fund):
  - Beavercreek Township to draft its Age-Friendly Action Plan
  - City of Beavercreek to draft its Age-Friendly Action Plan
  - City of Dayton to build three entry ramps for low-income residents with limited mobility
  - City of Vandalia to fund engineering and architectural planning for a new senior center annex at the recreation center
  - City of Huber Heights to repair and repave a half-mile walking path used and maintained by members of the Huber Heights Senior Center, an independent nonprofit



- Upcoming Opportunities
  - **February 24, 2027:** Ohio University Project ECHO session, Aging in Place in a Changing Environment: Housing, Livability, Resilience
  - **March 24, 2027:** Ohio University Project ECHO session, Powering Healthy Aging: Energy, Sustainability and Resilience
  - **March 31, 2027:** Age-Friendly Grant application deadline
  - **September 30, 2027:** Age-Friendly Grant application deadline
  - **October 4–10, 2027:** National Active Aging Week

Subcommittee Membership

- Domain Experts/Stakeholders
  - Education
  - Entrepreneurship, Employment & Volunteering
  - Engagement
  - **Health & Environment**
  - Housing
  - Neighborhood
  - Safety & Justice
  - **Technology & Connectivity**
  - **Transportation**

- County Ambassadors
  - Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, and northern Warren

- Affinity Groups

