

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

From Brian O. Martin, AICP
mvrpc.org



MIAMI VALLEY

Regional Planning Commission

Shaping Our Region's Future Together

June 1, 2020

The Miami Valley Tornadoes: 1 year later (from the May 30, 2020 DDN)



In the Miami Valley, we are blessed with a spirit of collaboration. We rely on each other, we work together for the good of the Region and we understand that we are all connected. The way that our community came together in response to the May 27, 2019 tornadoes proved that we are indeed a “Resilient Region”.

In the year since the disaster, we have all learned a great deal from each other and there are so many who deserve recognition and our gratitude. In the wake of a disaster, all communities go through three primary phases on their way to recovery – emergency relief, disaster response, and finally long-term recovery.

Our Region came together in unprecedented ways to provide emergency relief in the days and weeks immediately following the tornadoes. Thank you to all of the first responders who addressed the emergent needs to protect health and safety of our communities. This includes the police and fire crews, the Emergency Operations teams in each impacted County, and the hundreds of public works and parks employees from across the Region who traveled to impacted areas to help clear debris in order to restore access to our neighborhoods. Thank you to the churches and community organizations who quickly set up shelters and food distribution sites, and all of the volunteers and generous community members who made operating those sites possible.

Our Region grew stronger in our Disaster Response. Thank you to the faith-based, social-service and non-profit agencies who pulled together quickly to create a structure that ensured tornado survivors had access to the resources they need to find a new normal and rebuild their lives. Thank you to the thousands of volunteers who participated in neighborhood cleanups to remove trees, brush and building debris. Thank you to the disaster response teams who cleaned, boarded up and tarped properties to protect them from further exposure and damage while they awaited further repair. Thank you to the elected officials from each of the impacted communities who advocated fiercely for their residents and business owners, and shifted staffing, project plans and budgets to make sure recovery was the top priority.



Our Region is now in the long-term recovery phase. The opportunities for survivors and their communities to craft a new vision for what is possible are exciting. In the coming months, we will begin an ambitious recovery planning effort focused on the hardest hit areas of our Region. We will assist local leaders and engage community members to assess and guide redevelopment plans for both residential

and commercial areas. The dedicated case management teams that formed during the disaster response phase will continue to work with individuals to define their personal recovery plans. Teams of volunteers from national organizations, as well as local teams, will coordinate an impressive effort to repair and rebuild damaged homes throughout the Region.

This long-term recovery phase takes time. Using the formula provided by national disaster recovery experts, we can expect that it will take three years for the repair and rebuild activities to be complete. Therefore, I ask everyone in the Region to please continue to focus on helping our survivors and our communities fully recover. It is normal to get impatient with progress, but please be assured that while areas may appear dormant, careful planning and securing of resources is happening behind the scenes. On behalf of all of the local leaders working tirelessly to “Build Back Better”, thank you in advance for your continued generosity, understanding and patience.

Finally, thank you to the survivors of the tornadoes who have shown us all what it means to have hope, determination and strength. Thank you for believing that the entire Region is here to support you, for reaching out when you needed an extra hand and for standing strong in your resolve to rebuild your properties and your lives here in the Miami Valley. We would not be the same without you and we will all continue standing by your side.

Disaster Recovery Leadership Board Named to Oversee Regional Efforts

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC), Montgomery County, The Dayton Foundation and leaders from the Disaster Recovery Network announced the formation of the Disaster Recovery Leadership Board earlier this spring. The board will provide strategic leadership, oversight and transparency regarding the disaster recovery efforts in our Region. The board also will assist with fundraising, communications, and potential policy and protocol creation to aid in rebuilding and recovering our Region post-disaster.

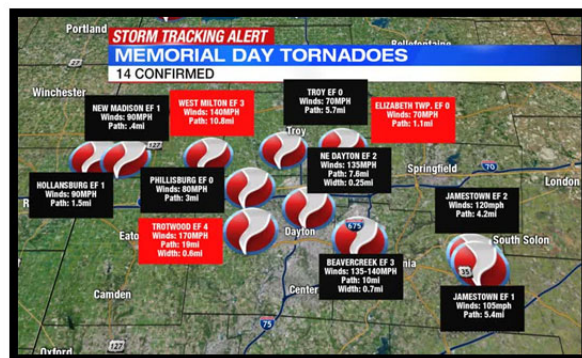
Chairing the board is Woodrow Stroud, from the MVRPC Board of Directors and the Greene County Transit Board.

"The 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes that struck the Miami Valley were unlike anything we've experienced before," Stroud said. "Disaster recovery is extremely complicated and will take years to complete, but through the work of both the individual and community Long-Term Disaster Recovery Networks, with oversight by this experienced and diverse Leadership Board, we will offer further transparency for the community as we all work to meet both individual and community needs of our Region."

The board consists of 17 voting members, 12 of whom are from local, core institutions and five are community members representing various part of the region.

Members of the board include:

Bob Glaser, Greene County Commissioner
Tom Gunlock, Community Member at Large
Sarah Hackenbracht, Greater Dayton Area Hospital Assoc.
Rap Hankins, Community Member at Large
Brian Heitkamp, CityWide Development Corporation
Ellen Ireland, The Dayton Foundation
Helen Jones-Kelley, Sinclair Community College
Todd Kinskey, City of Dayton
Julie Liss-Katz, Dayton Business Committee
Debbie Lieberman, Montgomery County Commissioner
Tony Ortiz, Community Member at Large
Phil Parker, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Joel Smith, Miami County Emergency Management
Father Ben Speare-Hardy, Community Member at Large
Julie Sullivan, Dayton Development Coalition
Roland Winburn, Community Member at Large



The true essence of leadership is to serve as a guide through the most challenging circumstances. We are grateful to these community leaders for their willingness to serve the Region as we all collaborate on disaster recovery.

Many Resources Available for Tornado Survivors

Individuals whose homes were damaged by the Memorial Day tornadoes are encouraged to contact United Way's Helpline at 211 to get set up with a disaster recovery case manager. If 211 is currently not available in your area, please call (937) 225-3000 or toll free (855) 405-7629.

Miami Valley Geo-Spark Updates

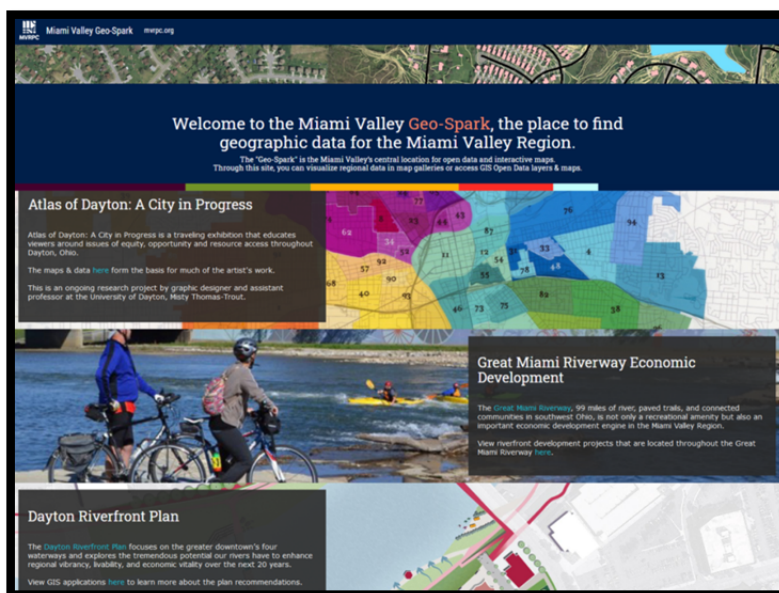
MVRPC's GIS program plays a leadership role in promoting the use of GIS in the Miami Valley Region, in partnership with GIS professionals in the Region.

MVRPC is pleased to announce the updates to the **Miami Valley Geo-Spark**, our Open GIS Data Hub site.

Since its launch in September 2019, MVRPC has been providing direct access to our Geographic Information System (GIS) datasets and maps. With recent updates, we are now highlighting several GIS projects.

First, MVRPC published the dedicated page to feature the data, maps, and dashboards related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Visit <https://geospark-mvrpc.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/miami-valley-covid-19-resources> to view information.

Second, three GIS projects that we have completed in partnership with our members are now highlighted: Atlas of Dayton: A City in Progress; Great Miami Riverway Economic Development; and Dayton Riverfront Plan. Visit <https://geospark-mvrpc.opendata.arcgis.com> to learn more about the agency's recent projects involving geospatial data.



MVRPC Releases Brand New Miami Valley Trails Map & Guide

This month, the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission released the Sixth Edition of the Miami Valley Trails Map & Guide presented by Mike's Indoor Bike Park. This incredibly popular map highlights the Miami Valley Trails – the nation's largest paved trail network – with over 350 miles of connected, safe, and public trails crossing ten counties in Southwestern Ohio.

The Map has a companion web site, **www.miamivalleytrails.org** that invites you to learn about and explore our Region's treasures – the Miami Valley Trails. The site complements the printed map with more detail about sights, camping, and breweries along the trails, plus links to our park districts, convention bureau and visitors bureau partners' web sites for complete lists of restaurants and lodging. Together the Map and the Miami Valley Trails web site highlights our region's truly world-class bike trails.

Grants & Funding Resources

On a monthly basis, MVRPC highlights several funding opportunities on our website that could benefit our member communities. We include a description, contact information and program links. We have also listed other valuable resources for finding funding opportunities.

See more at mvrpc.org/grant-and-funding-opportunities

This month we are featuring information on:

- Ohio Water Development Authority Research and Development Grant–Deadline: July 31, 2020.
- Our Town – Deadline: August 6, 2020.

Attached is the latest grant funding opportunities specifically regarding COVID-19:

- Montgomery County CARES Act Grant Program – Deadline: none listed
- USDA Offers New Loan Program for Rural Businesses– Deadline: June 22,2020

If you need assistance with your grant pursuit or further research, please contact Kathryn Youra Polk, Senior Planner, at 937.223.6323 or kyoura.polk@mvrpc.org.

Upcoming MVRPC Meetings

Most meetings are being cancelled or shifted to teleconference. Please check the agency calendar on mvrpc.org or contact Teresa to find out the status of your meeting. All upcoming TAC and Board meetings will be on Zoom.

July 16 th	9:30 a.m.	Technical Advisory Committee	VIA Teleconference
August 6 th	8:30 a.m.	Executive Committee	VIA Teleconference
August 6 th	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	VIA Teleconference