



**City of Dayton supports development of two pocket parks**  
-Non-profit Conscious Connect plans parks in Westwood and Five Oaks-

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The City of Dayton announces the newest investment of Dayton Recovery Plan funds, following approval of an agreement by the City Commission. An investment of \$250,000 with the Conscious Connect Community Development Corporation was approved April 12.

Conscious Connect will use the granted funds to revitalize two vacant or underused properties by developing pocket parks (one in Westwood, another in Five Oaks).

Funding for the projects will be provided through the Dayton Recovery Plan's \$7.6 million Supporting Black and Brown Businesses initiative. The Dayton Recovery Plan is a \$138 million framework for community COVID relief and investment for the future, made possible by the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

The pocket parks will provide access to green spaces with a goal of promoting health, well-being, safety, and equity through beautifying and adding amenities in the neighborhoods.

Springfield-based Conscious Connect was founded in 2015, with a mission to reimagine and redevelop underutilized spaces for the purpose of education, culture, health, and peace—so that zip codes do not define the success of children, youth, and families.

At four adjacent lots on Lorenz Avenue in Westwood, Conscious Connect will address sidewalk repair and various hazardous or dead trees around the property. New trees will

be planted, and a swinging bench and waste cans will be installed. A new landscaped front entrance, walking path, seating, and shelter will also be added, and sidewalks along the perimeter will be repaired.

At 300 Delaware Ave. in Five Oaks, overgrowth and brush along property lines and retaining walls will be removed. Benches and tables will be replaced or added, and the existing shelter house and walkways will be repaired or replaced. The entrance will be enhanced with landscaping, and waste cans and signage will be installed.

Conscious Connect has acquired the properties and will secure resources and partnerships to provide ongoing maintenance of the pocket parks.

#### *About the Dayton Recovery Plan*

The Dayton Recovery Plan is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address the infrastructure, economic and equity issues that exist in the city by using a data-driven approach to analyze socio-economic, health, and demographic data to make informed funding decisions. These investments directly impact minority communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and long-standing economic and social inequities in Dayton. The Dayton Recovery Plan is our city's innovative plan to utilize Dayton's share of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The \$138 million award is the largest grant in Dayton's history. For a plan overview and updates, go to [daytonohio.gov/drp](http://daytonohio.gov/drp).

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