



City of Dayton completes archaeology project

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The City of Dayton announces the completion of a large-scale archaeological investigation of the Lichliter Village site, which is on the National Historic Register. The study was approved by the City Commission in November 2022, began work in 2023, and concluded last week with the delivery of nine boxes of cultural artifacts to the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery for archival purposes.

The Lichliter Village was first identified in the late 1960s. The recent assessment documented a range of small cultural materials and features in the surrounding area, including fragments of charcoal and animal bone, but no evidence of any Native American ancestral remains. The study also revealed the presence of a largely forgotten 19th-century dairy farm.

The assessment determined the 126-acre property is generally suitable for future development, apart from the specific area containing the precontact village site. The State Historic Preservation Office approved the results of the study.

The study included in-depth collaboration with the Dayton Society of Natural History (which operates the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery), Ohio History Connection, Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc., and the Dayton-Montgomery County Port Authority. The project followed appropriate federal guidelines under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which included consultation with federally recognized Native American tribal representatives and local Native American leaders.

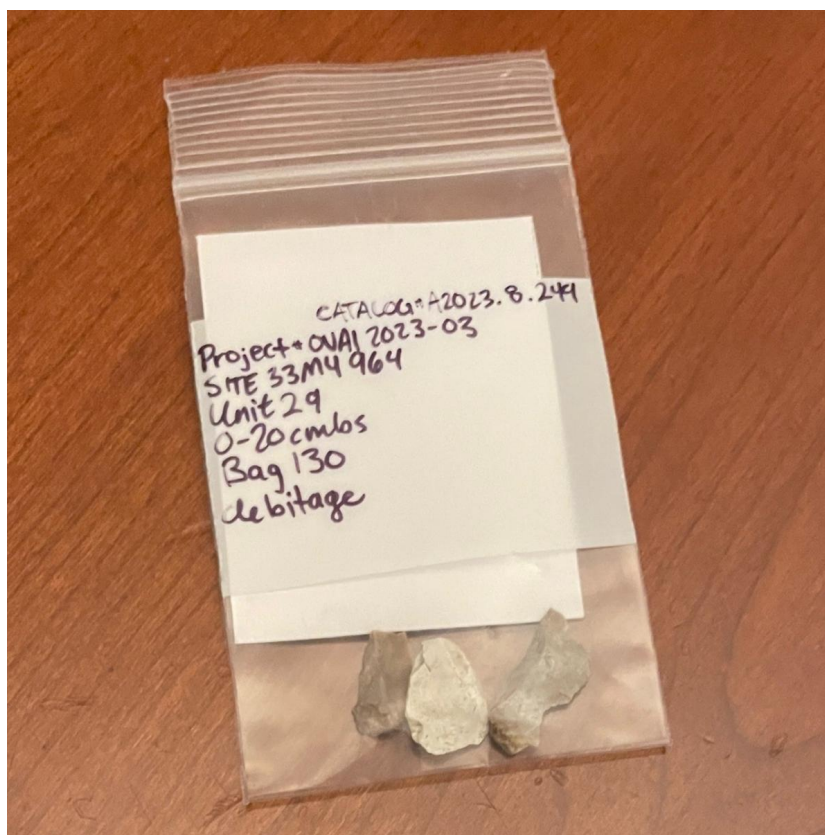
City Manager Shelley Dickstein stated, "This study is an important milestone in honoring our region's history and the people that came before us, as well as creating a pathway for future development benefitting the community."

The City's long-term goal is to ensure that the Lichliter Village is protected for future generations, while facilitating development opportunities for the community. The City of Dayton will be engaging with the City of Trotwood to identify potential future uses for the site, which is located near the border of the two communities. The City also asks that the public respect the privacy of the property owners, who graciously permitted the study to take place.

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April 9, 2025: Nine boxes of Lichliter Village artifacts were delivered to the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery in Dayton. Left to right: Benjamin DeGroat, Dr. Michelle DeGroat, Keith Klein (project manager), Jill Krieg Stover (Boonshoft Museum of Discovery), Stacy Dunn, PhD (Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc.), Guy Jones.



An archived packet ofdebitage, small pieces of stone discarded during the making of tools or weapons.



Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc., conducted an assessment of the Lichliter Village site in the summer of 2023.

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