

Democracy in Action: The Dayton Citizens' Assembly



This year, the City of Dayton will launch its first citizens' assembly, offering residents a new and meaningful way to help shape the future of the community.

A citizens' assembly is a public decision-making process that brings together a diverse group of everyday residents—selected through a civic lottery—to study an issue in depth and offer shared recommendations to the community and its leaders.

Unlike traditional public meetings, which often attract only a small segment of voices, a citizens' assembly is designed to reflect the full range of people who live in our city, including different ages, neighborhoods, backgrounds, and life experiences.

Participants in a citizens' assembly spend several weeks learning from experts, hearing community

perspectives, and participating in structured, small-group discussions. With skilled facilitation, members have the time and support needed to understand complex topics, weigh trade-offs, and consider how different choices would affect the community as a whole. The goal is not to debate, but to deliberate—working toward common ground and producing thoughtful, consensus-based recommendations.

Cities around the world and increasingly cities in the United States use citizens' assemblies to address issues that benefit from broad public input, such as housing, public safety, sustainability, or budgeting priorities. Because an assembly's members are selected through a randomized process, the results are grounded in the perspectives of residents who might not otherwise participate in civic decision-making, helping leaders make more legitimate,

community-informed choices.

The Dayton Citizens Assembly is coordinated by the Division of Community Engagement of the City of Dayton Department of Planning, Neighborhoods and Community Development. A topic will be selected by residents using results of the City's annual Dayton Survey and focus groups, with the assembly consisting of four or more sessions starting in the early summer.

Watch for additional announcements about topic selection, timelines, and opportunities to get involved—whether as a participant, an observer, or a supporter of this exciting civic initiative. To see a brief video about citizens assemblies and how they work, go to daytonohio.gov/CAVideo.

For more information, contact Mike Squire at 937-333-3203 or mike.squire@daytonohio.gov.



Youth Mental Health Awareness Week, Feb. 9-15. "This Is Our Place"—Join us at our Rec Centers for a week of fun, relaxation, and self-care in honor of Kids Mental Health Week! Enjoy kids' yoga, meet therapy pups, explore emotional-regulation resources, and unwind with creative self-care activities designed to help kids feel their best—inside and out.

Winter Swim Lessons - Now on a monthly basis; various days, times, and levels are available. Registration is open for lessons starting the week of Feb. 2; registration begins Feb. 9 for lessons beginning the week of March 2. Fee: \$25.

March Madness - Register through March 7 for 3-on-3 March 10 and NBA 2K26 March 11, with All-Star Challenge March 12.

MLS GO Soccer - Register through March 21; practices begin the week of March 30 and games begin the week of April 13.

SWAT Karate - Register through Feb. 28. Sessions are Mondays and Wednesdays, March 2-May 20.

Youth Golf Clinic - Register through the clinic date. March 12 at Greater Dayton Recreation Center and March 19 at Lohrey Recreation Center.

Family Night at Lohrey, Feb. 5, 6-8 p.m. FREE. Gather your loved ones for a Family Night at our recreation center! Escape the hustle and bustle of daily routines and spend some time enjoying each with games, fun competition, and exciting activities for all ages.

Seniors 55+ Valentine's Social, Feb. 13, 11 a.m. FREE. Celebrate love, laughter, and friendship at our annual Senior Valentine's Day Social! Enjoy an afternoon of light refreshments, dancing, and 'Love Edition' Trivia. Whether you come with a partner or friends, you'll have a great time moving to the music, sharing memories, and celebrating the season of love. Lohrey Recreation Center.



Family Valentine's Dance - Feb. 13, 6-8 p.m. FREE. Grab your dancing shoes and join us for a fun-filled evening of crafts, light refreshments and quality time with your loved ones. Perfect for kids aged 10 and under accompanied by a guardian. Come celebrate friendship, family, and fun in a heartwarming Valentine's Day atmosphere! Lohrey Recreation Center.

REC After Hours - Feb. 14, 6-10 p.m., Greater Dayton Recreation Center. FREE, ages 13-17. Your

night, your space! Chill, shoot hoops, play games, and grab a bite to eat with friends. Hang out in a safe, fun, and relaxed environment designed just for teens, with basketball, board games, video games, and more. There's something for everyone.

REC Connect - Greater Dayton Recreation Center, Feb. 10, 6-8 p.m. and Northwest Recreation Center, Feb. 18, 6-8 p.m. FREE, ages 8-12. Each session offers a variety of engaging activities such as movie screenings, creative crafts, and team-building games. This program encourages kids to build friendships, develop social skills, and stay connected with their local recreation center.

Urban Adventures: President's Day Camp - Feb. 16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (before care 7:30-9 a.m.; after care 4-5:30 p.m.). Ages 3-12, \$25. School's out, but the fun doesn't stop! Join us for a one-day camp packed with games, crafts, and activities inspired by teamwork, leadership, and all things red, white and blue. Campers enjoy a day of play, creativity, and exploration; limited spots available.

Senior 55+ Gala "A Legacy of Excellence" - Feb. 20, 6-8 p.m., FREE. Celebrate a lifetime of achievements and enjoy an elegant evening of live music, dancing, and light refreshments as we honor the wisdom, accomplishments, and contributions of our community's seniors. Northwest Recreation Center.

Gem City Egg Hunt - March 28, 11 a.m., Triangle Park, 2680 Ridge Ave. Celebrate Easter and springtime. Watch for details on daytonohio.gov and social media.



City Commission

937-333-3636

Mayor Shenise Turner-Sloss

Commissioners

Matt Joseph

Chris Shaw

Darryl Fairchild

Darius Beckham

City Manager

Shelley Dickstein

937-333-3600

cityhall@daytonohio.gov

Customer Services

Service Requests

937-333-4800

Download/use the Dayton Delivers app

Water/Utility Billing

937-333-3550

PayDaytonWater.com

Building Permits/ Inspection

937-333-3883

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Traffic Safety: Drive Safe, Drive Smart!



The **Dayton Police Traffic Services Unit** is dedicated to ensuring safe roads for everyone in our community. We urge all Dayton residents and visitors to make simple, responsible choices every time you get behind the wheel. Your actions save lives!

Buckle Up—Every seat, every time:

Wearing your seatbelt is the single most effective step you can take to prevent injury and death in a crash. It takes just a second, but the impact is immense. According to the Ohio Traffic Safety Office, in 2022, 63% of people killed in Ohio motor vehicle crashes who had a seatbelt available were not wearing it. That's over one unbuckled fatality every day. Ohio law requires all front-seat occupants and all passengers under 15 to be buckled up, regardless of where they are seated.

Put the phone down: Hands-free is the law. Distracted driving is a leading cause of crashes. In Ohio, it is illegal to hold or use a cell phone or electronic

device while driving, even when stopped at a red light. Ohio's distracted driving law, in effect since April of 2023, makes holding a phone a primary offense. This means an officer can stop you just for holding your device. A first offense can result in a fine of up to \$150 and two points on your license, with subsequent offenses carrying higher fines and possible license suspension, and fines are doubled in work zones! The exception: You can use a hands-free device, like Bluetooth, but anything more than a single touch or swipe is prohibited.

Follow the speed limit: Speed limits are posted for a reason—they are the maximum safe speed for that road under ideal conditions. Speeding reduces your ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway and increases the severity of a crash. Be patient while driving, give yourself extra time for your commute. Be especially mindful in school zones, where the speed limit is strictly enforced and often

monitored by photo enforcement to protect children.

Zero tolerance: Operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both constitutes an OVI, a serious crime. This includes all drugs, prescription and illegal, as well as marijuana.

Marijuana OVI: Despite the legalization of recreational marijuana, it remains illegal to drive while impaired by it. Ohio has per se OVI limits for marijuana and its metabolites. Consequences: An OVI conviction carries stiff penalties, including mandatory jail time, license suspension, heavy fines, and a criminal record, as detailed in the Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.19.

The Traffic Services Unit is committed to enforcement, but we prefer to see voluntary compliance. Let's work together to make Dayton's roads the safest in Ohio. To report a traffic-related complaint, you can contact the Dayton Traffic Services Unit at **937-333-1149**.

Waste Collection Guidelines

Thank you for helping City of Dayton Division of Waste Collection crews pick up your garbage and recycling safely and on schedule.

- Containers should be at your regular collection point by 6:30 a.m. on your collection day. Lids must be closed and handles should face your home.
- Containers should be at least 3 feet apart and at least 5 feet from trees, parked cars, fences, mailboxes, etc. Improperly placed containers may not be emptied.
- Please do not leave containers at the curb or alley after collection day.
- No loose trash (must be bagged); no trash or bags piled on top or around container.
- No construction materials (lumber, concrete, drywall, debris).
- No hazardous materials (batteries, automotive fluids, paint, lacquer, stain, thinner, varnish, wood preservatives) or chemicals of any kind (pool chemicals, pesticides, weed killer, etc.).
- No fluorescent light tubes and no electronic waste (televisions, computers, monitors, printers, VCRs, cellphones, telephones, radios, microwaves, etc.).
- No compressed cylinders, oxygen or propane tanks.
- No biological/medical items (no needles or sharps). Animal and human waste must be double bagged (a bag within a bag).

Residents can dispose of green debris (leaves, branches, grass clippings, tree limbs, etc.) by taking it to 2670 Wagner Ford Road, Dayton. The green landfill is a free service for Dayton residents. More information at daytonohio.gov/greendebriis.



Recycling is Easy!

- Glass jars and bottles (all colors).
- Metal cans (aluminum, steel cans/lids, empty aerosol cans with lids/tips removed).
- Plastic bottles (emptied/crushed; typically bottles/jugs with small mouth and wider base such as milk jugs, soda/water bottles, laundry detergent bottles, shampoo/body wash bottles).
- Paper (newspaper, magazines, clean cardboard, office paper and envelopes, paperboard/cereal boxes, pizza boxes not soiled by food/grease, phone books, catalogs).
- Cartons (food/beverage cartons such as milk, juice, soup, wine, broth, etc.).

Recycling Tips

- Mix items together, no need to separate by type.
- Empty all bottles, jugs and cans; no need to remove labels.
- For cartons, remove plastic caps and straws.
- Never place medical waste, sharps or needles in recycling or garbage.
- No plastic bags!

Let's Recycle Right!

The City of Dayton wants to help you "Recycle Right." Non-recyclable items placed in recycling containers can cause delays, increase operating costs or redirect a container's contents to the landfill rather than the recycling center. The Division of Waste Collection may place reminder notices at your residence; repeated contamination of recyclable materials may result in discontinuation of collection.



Download the Dayton Collects app (or go to daytonohiol.gov/daytoncollects) for reminders on your waste/recycling collection schedule.



For collection schedules, customer service questions, to schedule a bulk pickup or to begin recycling, visit daytonohio.gov/wastecollection, call 937-333-4800 or use the Dayton Delivers app. For information on disposal of hazardous waste and electronics, go to mcswd.org or call 937-225-4999.

Protecting your water – An award-winning regional approach

Beneath our feet lies a hidden resource - the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer. This groundwater system is the sole source of drinking water for our region, serving more than 400,000 residents and 10,000 businesses in Montgomery County and supporting the needs of 1.6 million people across southwestern Ohio. Protecting this vital resource is a responsibility the City of Dayton takes seriously - and one we are proud to uphold.

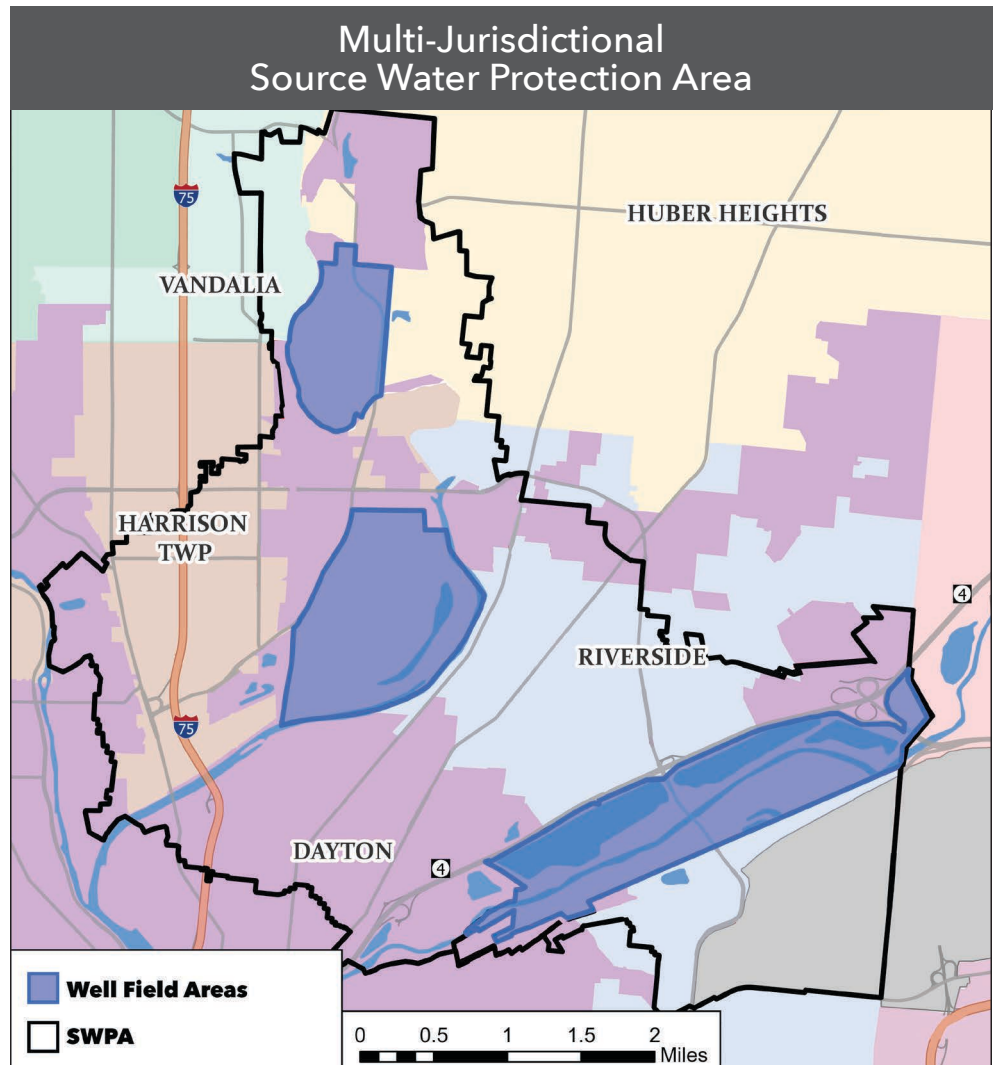
That commitment led to the creation of the Multi-Jurisdictional Source Water Protection Program (SWPP) nearly four decades ago, following the devastating Sherwin-Williams factory fire. Since then, Dayton has led the way in safeguarding the aquifer through a nationally recognized, award-winning program that serves as a model for communities across the country.

Because water knows no political boundaries, protecting the aquifer requires strong collaboration across multiple jurisdictions. The SWPP brings together Dayton, Riverside, Vandalia, Huber Heights, and Harrison Township, along with Public Health-Dayton & Montgomery County. These partners surround Dayton's wellfields and work toward a shared goal of keeping our drinking water safe.

To achieve this, the SWPP uses a multi-faceted approach focused on prevention, mitigation, and risk reduction to keep contaminants out of our water. This includes:

- Business inspections and chemical inventory reporting
- Groundwater monitoring and hydrogeological modeling
- Emergency response planning
- Community education and outreach.

And what about the years to come? Educating the next generation is a fundamental piece of what the SWPP



stands for. Since 1997, the Children's Water Festival has introduced nearly 50,000 fourth graders to hands-on science activities about water protection, creating lifelong water stewards.

This dedication to source water protection was recognized in December, when the SWPP earned the 2025 Groundwater Protection Project Award from the National Groundwater Association. The honor highlights how local leadership and regional collaboration can set a national standard for protecting drinking water.

Without the Source Water Protection

Program, our drinking water would face a serious risk of contamination. This program is our first line of defense - and it's working. Want to learn how to get involved? Visit daytonohio.gov/SWPP and join in protecting one of our region's most valuable resources.





Recovery Plan continues investment

Dozens of new housing units are under construction, small businesses are opening or expanding, and community service organizations are launching new and improved facilities essential for community services as the Dayton Recovery Plan continues to invest for the future.

The plan is the City of Dayton's framework for transformative investment of \$138 million in funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, part of the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Dayton identified the plan's funding priorities with citizen participation and City Commission approval. The areas of focus are strengthening neighborhoods and small businesses, supporting community service organizations, boosting Black- and Brown-owned businesses, catalyzing economic growth through special initiatives, and supporting vital City of Dayton functions including police and fire services.

Distribution of Dayton Recovery Plan funding is now nearly complete and is expected to wrap up by the end of 2026.

For the latest update of Dayton Recovery Plan activities, including a short, housing-focused video produced in late 2025, go to daytonohio.gov/drp.

Winter fire safety tips

Dayton Fire Department



Home Heating Safety

- Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away from heaters & fireplaces
- Turn off space heaters when unattended or sleeping
- Inspect & clean chimneys and heating systems annually (use a certified professional)
- Use only approved fuel for kerosene heaters—refuel outdoors

Electrical Safety

- One heat-producing appliance per outlet
- Check cords for damage—replace if frayed
- Never run cords under rugs or furniture

Fireplace & Wood Stove Safety

- Use a sturdy screen to stop sparks
- Let ashes cool completely before disposal
- Never use flammable liquids to start fires

Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Test alarms monthly
- Install alarms on every level and near sleeping areas
- FREE smoke detectors available for city of Dayton residents!

Call **937-333-4520** or go to daytonohio.gov/smokedetectors



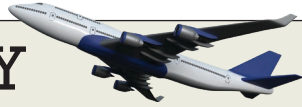
Police crisis team strengthens community



The Dayton Police Department's Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) continues to expand its impact by connecting at-risk community members with critical services. Through daily outreach and strong partnerships with Dayton Fire, ADAMHS, Public Health-Dayton & Montgomery County, and local service providers, the team supports individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, and substance use disorders.

A major focus has been engaging with the city's unhoused population, helping individuals access medical care, housing support, transportation, and other essential resources. The GROW Team, a collaborative unit within MCRT, provides follow-up support for individuals affected by substance use. Staffed by a DPD officer, a Dayton Fire EMT, and now a Certified Peer Recovery Supporter, the team made more than 1,000 contacts in 2025 to connect residents and families with treatment and recovery options.

Catching up with DAY



The future of your Dayton International Airport (DAY) is brighter than ever! Here's the latest.

NEW Nonstop: Myrtle Beach. Start planning your spring or summer beach getaway! Allegiant will add a new nonstop route from DAY to Myrtle Beach International Airport, starting May 2026. This flight departs DAY Mondays and Fridays. Tickets are available now at AllegiantAir.com.



Issue 6 funds housing repair

A new resource for home repairs is launching in early 2026, following the Dec. 3 City Commission approval of dedicating \$2.6 million of Issue 6-generated funding to the Dayton Home Repair Revolving Loan Program. Approximately 80 owner-occupied homes and small multi-family rental properties will benefit during the program's three years.

In 2026, the forgivable loans will be available only in Welcome Home Ohio neighborhoods (Madden Hills, Fairview, Dayton View Triangle and Wolf Creek); in the remaining years the program will operate citywide. Priority will be given to households earning 80% to 120% of the Area Median Income, with higher household incomes also considered. Funded repairs will be limited to structural and exterior needs only; structures must have received a "poor" rating by the Dayton Housing Survey.

CountyCorp will administer the loans and associated work; the Dayton Home Repair Network is a cooperating partner. Watch for communications from the City of Dayton and CountyCorp regarding loan applications and other essential information. Issue 6 is a 0.25% earned income tax approved by Dayton voters in 2024.



NEW Restaurants: With a new concessions partner, Tailwind DAY LLC, at the helm starting in late 2025, big changes are in store for travelers in 2026. Work is underway to bring exciting new restaurants and refreshed spaces to DAY, with an expected completion by the end of June. Warped Wing Brewing Company and Buckeye Pie will be new additions, with The 1903 and Gem City Provisions refreshing existing spaces in the concourses. Dunkin' will expand to serve their full menu. Food and drink will be available during this transition period.

Modernization Projects

Passenger Bridges: Six passenger boarding bridges in Concourses A and B will be replaced to enhance passenger experience and airport operations efficiency. The manufacturing of the bridges is currently underway, with the first installation anticipated in mid-March.

Ramp Infrastructure: A \$2 million grant agreement with Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) was used to improve the completed northwest ramp area, which advances SNC's ability to operate safely at its hangars.

Thank you, Dayton! DAY thanks passengers for choosing to Fly Dayton. In 2025, enplanements increased 3.5%! "Enplanements" are the number of people who boarded an airplane. It's an industry measure that is very important to airports and airlines—especially for making a case to bring additional air service to the region. Plan your next adventure at FlyDayton.com!

DAYTON
EXTRA



City news your way

Get news updates emailed directly from the City of Dayton, with the topics and frequency you prefer. Go to daytonohio.gov/DaytonExtra to subscribe to the Dayton Extra newsletter. You can change your preferences or cancel at any time.

Senior Safe helps at home

A new service by the Dayton Fire Department is helping senior residents with safety and wellness concerns at home. Senior Safe offers outreach and reminders by Fire Department personnel directly to seniors who may live alone or have limited mobility. For more information or to register, go to daytonohio.gov/SeniorSafe or call 937-333-5555.

Dayton Collects: Reminders made easy

The Dayton Collects app sends brief weekly notifications

about waste collection days (no more wondering "Is this recycling week?"), plus special notices about schedule changes resulting from holidays. Just go to the App Store or Google Play to download the free app.



Pay water/waste collection bills

Online: PayDaytonWater.com.

Phone: Call 937-333-3550 anytime to pay by IVR.

Mail: Send your remittance stub and payment as indicated in your quarterly bill (do not send cash, please).

Retail locations: Most Family Dollar, Dollar General and CVS stores can process cash payments; bring the barcode found on your bill.

In-person: Visit the customer service center at 101 W. Third St. (first floor), 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Or, drop your remittance stub and payment in the secure dropboxes outside City Hall (101 W. Third St., east and west sides of the building).

