

## Sunrise MetroPark and Sunset Park

### Existing Conditions

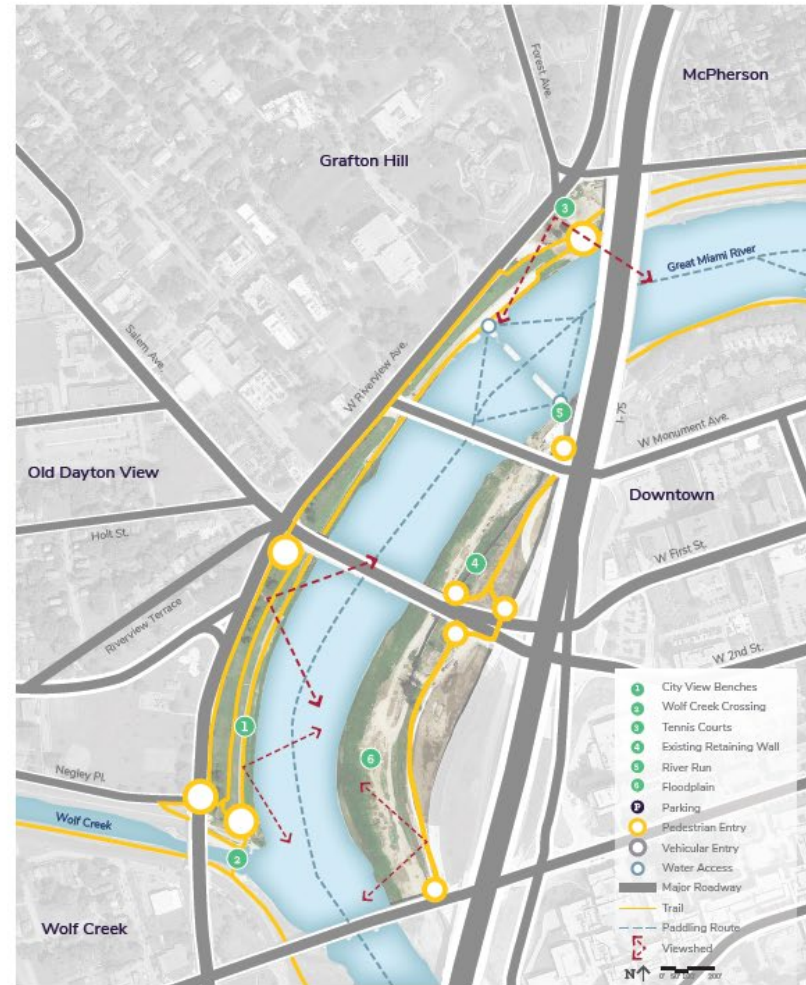
Sunrise MetroPark is a narrow, grassy strip of land along the west bank of the Great Miami River. It is an excellent place to watch wildlife—night herons, gulls, bald eagles, and ospreys—as well as enjoy the sunrise over downtown Dayton. The Great Miami River Bikeway, located at the bottom of the levee, runs by—rather than through—the park, and there is no easy place to access the trail except for a set of stairs near the Wolf Creek confluence.

The park is also somewhat difficult for pedestrians to safely access from McIntosh Park and the nearby neighborhoods because of traffic along Edwin C. Moses Boulevard. Once pedestrians get to the park, the available activities are limited—relaxing on benches, walking, playing on the open lawn, and experiencing the cultural artifacts of the Wright Dunbar Gateway, the Veterans Memorial Bridge, and the brightly colored commemorative benches. Tennis courts at the north end of the park offer the only active recreation opportunity. While the Dayton Art Institute is just across the street, it neither powerfully connects to the park and river nor does it celebrate this cultural asset.

Sunset MetroPark is a relatively new park created with the I-75 realignment. Currently, the park consists of grassy, rolling topography with a path running through it. The park is divided into smaller parcels by Monument Avenue, First Street, and Robert Drive, causing it to feel disjointed. Access to the park from downtown is limited by the unwelcoming underpasses below I-75. The Great Miami River Bikeway runs through the park below the stone levee wall dividing upper and lower portions of the park. The only way to get to the trail is at the river run access at the north end of the park. Although the park does not currently have a distinctive identity, its views of the river, access to downtown, and wide usable space below the levee wall have incredible potential to create a vibrant park experience and synergy with Sunrise Park across the river.



From Top River Run, Wolf Creek crossing, Existing retaining wall



## Sunrise MetroPark and Sunset Park

### Big Moves:

- 1 Create a **Park over the River** linking the east and west sides of the river and creating an experiential vantage point for the park system
- 2 **North Sunset Park becomes a highly programmed hub** of intergenerational play spaces and recreation opportunities to interact with earth, water, and flora
- 3 **Expand the art terrace along the riverfront** in front of DAI, beginning the art walk and relocate existing tennis courts
- 4 **Expand McIntosh Park** to the riverfront by closing Negley Place to Middle Street, beginning the new Wolf Creek Greenway
- 5 **Underpass experiences** encourage movement underneath I-75 including rotating art pieces, lighting installations, interactive features, and music
- 6 **Allow public vehicular access** down to the river run with a turn around and open a kayak rental kiosk/lock up

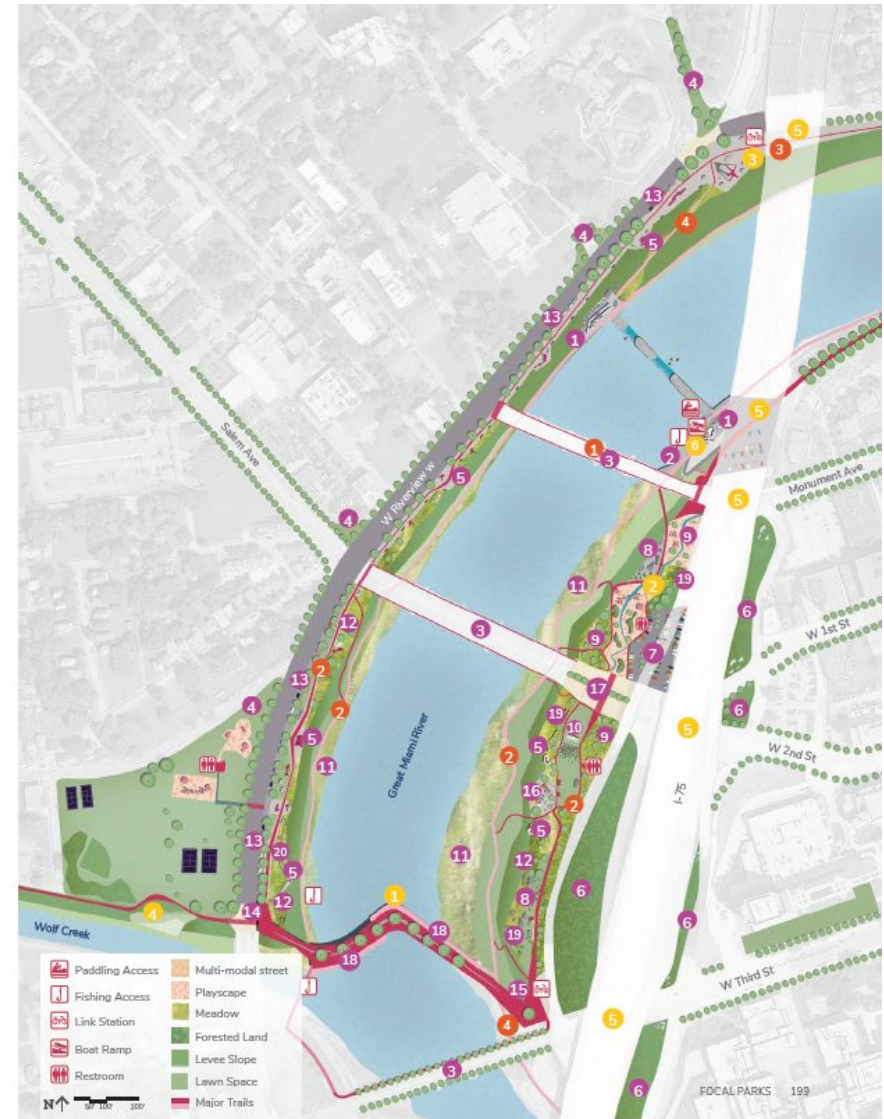
### Quick Wins

- 1 **Parallel parking lane** on Monument Ave Bridge
- 2 **Connected bike and pedestrian loops** along the top and bottom of levee
- 3 **Extend the River Walk** from McPherson, under I-75, to Belmont Park North intersection as a foundation for the art walk
- 4 **Connect the top and bottom of levee** for pedestrian and cyclist access at the DAI and at First street descending to the river level at Third Street.

### Park Features

- 1 **Create terraced seating** at both ends of the river run, converting the current I-75 concrete underpass to a sculpted form

- 2 **Introduce benches and river platforms** encouraging fishing and hanging out near the river run
- 3 **As bridges are renovated**, improve the pedestrian experience, integrate bike lanes, and widen walkways along Monument, 1st, 3rd, and 5th St bridges
- 4 **Straighten road intersections** at Edwin C. Moses Blvd, Salem Ave, and Belmont Park. Turn Forest ave into a park strip connecting Dayton Art Institute and McKinley Park
- 5 **Sculpture terraces** along the art walk
- 6 **Enhance existing highway berms** to tie into the park aesthetic
- 7 **Close Robert Dr** and convert space below I-75 off-ramp into parking lot
- 8 **Boulder terrace** provides opportunity for bouldering, learning, relaxing, and adventure
- 9 **Continuous destination multi-generation play spaces and forest terrace** creates a much needed amenity for downtown
- 10 **Great lawn** opens up for unprogrammed recreation and large events
- 11 **Plant and manage native vegetation** along the river-side of the lower bikeway to create habitat
- 12 **Modify the levee** to create a varied edge along the parks
- 13 **Integrate parking** along Riverview Avenue
- 14 **Link to McIntosh Park** at the Park over the River entrance
- 15 **Park over the River entry plaza** greets pedestrians with food trucks, sculptures, and gardens
- 16 **Event Plaza** for large scale great lawn events
- 17 **Reconfigure 1st St bridge intersection** to link the two halves of Sunset Park with a pedestrian-friendly streetscape
- 18 **Bridge park extensions** to lower trail level
- 19 **Create a downtown meadow** above the levee on both sides of the river





**Vision:**

Embracing the Great Miami River near downtown, Sunrise and Sunset MetroParks connect neighborhoods on both sides of the river to each other and to Dayton's rich cultural history and vibrant arts community. The two parks come together, referencing each other in materiality, form, and artwork to activate the riverfront with a diverse offering of unique recreational programs, activities, and experiences.

Perhaps the most transformative feature is a new bridge park that spans the river. The new bridge park is wide enough to include gardens, overlooks, gathering spaces, and interpretive artwork. The bridge, as a symbol of the strong connection between the east and west sides of the river, is a beautifully designed and highly visible iconic structure that expresses Dayton's civic and innovative spirit. The city also has an active arts community and a significant partner—the Dayton Art Institute (DAI)—celebrated in the parks with a new arts walk. The walk, starting at an art terrace near the DAI and running south along the edge of Sunrise MetroPark, across the bridge and into Sunset Park consists of beautifully detailed walkways that connect a series of art plazas displaying public art while providing stunning views of the river and downtown. The walk includes interpretive insets and panels that describe the histories and contributions of the adjacent neighborhoods.

In Sunset MetroPark, a number of destination play and activity areas attract local and regional visitors. Activities include a boulder terrace where people can practice their climbing skills and challenging play environments that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. The great lawn is a multi-purpose space for a variety of informal activities (e.g., sunbathing, playing games) and formal events like festivals and movie nights. The upper meadow consists of native plants that provide habitat value for several bird and pollinator species, and visitors experience firsthand the ecological richness of the meadow habitat in an urban setting. This meadow extends across the river and winds through Sunrise MetroPark, interspersed with artwork clearings.

With their names in mind, both parks include sky watching plazas and interpretive elements to increase awareness and understanding of important sunrises and sunsets throughout the year. In addition to all the new amenities, connectivity has been dramatically improved.

Historically, the river was a barrier between the west side neighborhoods and downtown Dayton. With streetscape improvements, such as widened sidewalks and plantings, to the Monument, First, Third, and Fifth Street bridges, pedestrians and bicyclists can now comfortably and safely walk across the river and access the two parks. The downtown loop trail, which flows through both of the parks, enables people to easily access the other downtown riverfront parks and enjoy the multitude of activities and experiences they have to offer. Improving connections between downtown and the parks, the I-75 underpasses are enhanced with lighting and artwork that makes the passages inviting places to be in and pass through.



Quality of Life Committee  
Priority Development and Advocacy Committee  
c/o Mr. Chris Kershner, Chair  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce  
22 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Dayton, OH 45402

Re: Sunrise MetroPark Ph. I

Dear Quality of Life Committee,

CityWide Development Corporation is expressing its support of Sunset MetroPark Phase I in the Priority Development and Advocacy Committee process (PDAC). Sunrise MetroPark is the first major project recommended by the Dayton Riverfront Plan (DRP), the plan for greater downtown's riverfront, encompassing 4,000 acres. This project is critical for the impact it will have catalyzing the extension of downtown's resurgence to Dayton's west, underserved neighborhoods.

In the comprehensive public input process for the DRP, renovation of Sunrise MetroPark, along with its sister-park, Sunset Park on the opposite bank of the Great Miami River, and the park-over-the-river that will connect them, emerged as the project that generated the most excitement and support. The idea of transforming the river from its role as an historic divider in our community to the place where the community comes together, energized all dimensions of project stakeholders. Phase I of the project proposes to provide a pedestrian/bicycle promenade with amenities the length of the park, from Great Miami Boulevard to Third Street. The walkways, art, site furnishings, landscaping and other amenities will create the sense of place foundational to the future evolution of the park.

This concept, combined with ambitions for public art, ecological habitat to support the river's robust aquatic bird populations, and access to the urban waterfront, presents a powerful evolution to engage, empower, and enrich Dayton's historic west neighborhoods as a public open space anchor. Sunrise MetroPark Phase I will take the first exiting step forward toward this vision. CityWide supports funding for this project as a high priority in our community.

Sincerely,



Brian Heitkamp  
President





October 23, 2019

Dayton Development Coalition  
PDAC Quality of Life Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Downtown Dayton Partnership (DDP), I would like to request the Priority Development and Advocacy Committee consider Sunrise MetroPark Phase I to be a regional priority for Dayton's quality of life.

As a stakeholder in the Dayton Riverfront Plan (DRP), the DDP supports Sunrise MetroPark Phase I as a priority project that not only is key to further development in downtown, but would contribute to development in the 26 adjacent neighborhoods and 4,000 acres affected by the DRP's 25-year timeline.

The DDP is one of several public agencies that partnered with Five Rivers MetroParks as they engaged the public and core constituencies to provide input to the DRP, and the vision for Sunrise MetroPark and Sunset Park emerged as the nexus of the plan that created the most energy and excitement in the community.

The plan proposes these two parks that straddle the river come together to unify banks of downtown and West Dayton. Rather than the historical rift the river created between the two communities, the DRP – specifically Sunrise (and Sunset) MetroPark – the river now can be a place where people come together. This initial phase focusing on Sunrise MetroPark reflects the DRP's values of inclusion and social equity in connecting to and investing in the underserved west side of Dayton. Phase I proposes to provide a pedestrian/bicycle promenade with amenities the length of the park, from Great Miami Boulevard to Third Street. The walkways, art, site furnishings, landscaping and other amenities will create the sense of place foundational to the future evolution of the park. This concept — combined with ambitions for public art, ecological habitat to support the river's robust aquatic bird populations, and access to the urban waterfront — presents a powerful evolution to engage, empower, and enrich Dayton's historic west neighborhoods as a public open space anchor.

The Greater Downtown Dayton Plan dovetails with the DRP in its vision to strengthen the urban core, and a subsequent ripple effect positively impacting communities around the core, throughout the city of Dayton, and the rest of the region. Creating vibrant public spaces like Sunrise MetroPark contribute to this mission.

We believe this project is a strong candidate for funding, thanks to the DRP's comprehensive planning, commitment to social equity, and buy-in from dozens of public and private partners. Please consider Sunrise MetroPark as a priority project, and help us continue our efforts to radiate opportunity and inclusion from our center city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra K. Gudorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Sandra K. Gudorf  
President, Downtown Dayton Partnership



Quality of Life Committee  
Priority Development and Advocacy Committee  
c/o Mr. Chris Kershner, Chair  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce  
22 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Dayton, OH 45402

Re: Sunrise MetroPark Ph. I

Dear Quality of Life Committee,

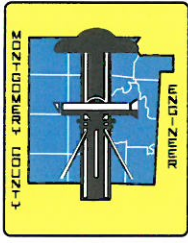
The Montgomery County Land Bank is expressing its support of Sunset MetroPark Phase I in the Priority Development and Advocacy Committee process (PDAC). Sunrise MetroPark is the first major project recommended by the Dayton Riverfront Plan (DRP), the plan for greater downtown's riverfront, encompassing 4,000 acres. This project is critical for the impact it will have catalyzing the extension of downtown's resurgence to Dayton's west, underserved neighborhoods.

In the comprehensive public input process for the DRP, renovation of Sunrise MetroPark, along with its sister-park, Sunset Park on the opposite bank of the Great Miami River, and the park-over-the-river that will connect them, emerged as the project that generated the most excitement and support. The idea of transforming the river from its role as an historic divider in our community—dividing east and west, black and white—to the place where the community comes together energized all dimensions of project stakeholders. Phase I of the project proposes to provide a pedestrian/bicycle promenade with amenities the length of the park, from Great Miami Boulevard to Third Street. The walkways, art, site furnishings, landscaping and other amenities will create the sense of place foundational to the future evolution of the park.

This concept, combined with ambitions for public art, ecological habitat to support the river's robust aquatic bird populations, and access to the urban waterfront, presents a powerful evolution to engage, empower, and enrich Dayton's historic west neighborhoods as a public open space anchor. Sunrise MetroPark Phase I will take the first exiting step forward toward this vision. The Montgomery County Land Bank supports funding for this project as a highest priority in our community.

Sincerely,

Michael Grauwelman  
Executive Director  
The Montgomery County Land Bank



# PAUL W. GRUNER, P.E., P.S.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
451 W. THIRD STREET  
P.O. BOX 972  
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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY ENGINEER**

937/225-4904

FAX 937/496-7441

October 28, 2019

Quality of Life Committee  
Priority Development and Advocacy Committee  
c/o Mr. Chris Kershner, Chair  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce  
22 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Dayton, OH 45402

Re: Sunrise MetroPark Ph. I

Dear Quality of Life Committee,

The Montgomery County Engineer's Office is expressing its support of Sunset MetroPark Phase I in the Priority Development and Advocacy Committee process (PDAC). Sunrise MetroPark is the first major project recommended by the Dayton Riverfront Plan (DRP), the plan for greater downtown's riverfront, encompassing 4,000 acres. This project is critical for the impact it will have catalyzing the extension of downtown's resurgence to Dayton's west, underserved neighborhoods.

In the comprehensive public input process for the DRP, renovation of Sunrise MetroPark, along with its sister-park, Sunset Park on the opposite bank of the Great Miami River, generated the most excitement and support. The idea of transforming the river from its role as an historic divider in our community—dividing east and west, black and white—to the place where the community comes together energized all dimensions of project stakeholders. Phase I of the project proposes to provide a pedestrian/bicycle promenade with amenities the length of the park, from Great Miami Boulevard to Third Street. The walkways, art, site furnishings, landscaping and other amenities will create the sense of place foundational to the future evolution of the park. The Montgomery County Engineer's Third Street Bridge project is starting construction and will be finished by the fall of 2021, providing an exciting connection from the west side of the river to the east side.

This concept, combined with ambitions for public art, ecological habitat to support the river's robust aquatic bird populations, and access to the urban waterfront, presents a powerful evolution to engage, empower, and enrich Dayton's historic west neighborhoods as a public open space anchor. Sunrise MetroPark Phase I will take the first exciting step forward toward this vision. The Montgomery County Engineer's Office supports funding for this project as a highest priority in our community.

Sincerely,

  
Paul W. Gruner, P.E., P.S.  
Montgomery County Engineer



38 E. Monument Ave.  
Dayton, OH 45402  
(937) 223-1271

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
William E. Lukens  
Mark G. Rentschler  
Beth G. Whelley

**GENERAL MANAGER**  
Janet M. Bly

October 28, 2019

Quality of Life Committee  
Priority Development and Advocacy Committee  
c/o Mr. Chris Kershner, Chair  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce  
22 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Dayton, OH 45402

Re: Sunrise MetroPark Phase I

Dear Quality of Life Committee,

The Miami Conservancy District is expressing its support of Sunset MetroPark Phase I in the Priority Development and Advocacy Committee process (PDAC). Sunrise MetroPark is the first major project recommended by the Dayton Riverfront Plan (DRP), the plan for greater downtown's riverfront, encompassing 4,000 acres. This project is critical for the impact it will have on the Great Miami Riverway – the region's 99-mile destination of linked community waterfronts.

Renovation of Sunrise MetroPark, along with its sister-park, Sunset Park on the opposite bank of the Great Miami River, is enthusiastically supported by the community. More and more, the river is becoming a popular gathering place for area residents and visitors. Phase I of the project proposes to provide a pedestrian/bicycle promenade with amenities the length of the Sunrise MetroPark, from Great Miami Boulevard to Third Street. The walkways, art, site furnishings, landscaping and other amenities will create a vibrant sense of place as a foundation to future phases.

This concept will retain our high level of flood protection, support improved ecological habitat, and provide enhanced public access to the urban waterfront, engaging and enriching Dayton's historic west neighborhoods with a public open space anchor. Sunrise MetroPark Phase I will take the first exciting step forward toward this vision. The Miami Conservancy District is the landowner for a portion of this project area, is actively engaged in the planning process, and fully supports funding for this project as a highest priority in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet M. Bly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet M. Bly  
General Manager