



## RIVER CORRIDOR AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

### Overall Goal

Centered around enhanced waterways bound by Wegerzyn MetroPark, Eastwood MetroPark, Wesleyan MetroPark and the University of Dayton Arena, the downtown core is beautiful and vibrant with activity, as well as teeming with pedestrians, cyclists and boaters of all demographics using inviting corridors along streets and waterways that connect people where they live, work and play.

### Key Recommendations

- **Develop a comprehensive cycling program that recognizes bicycles as an integral part of the multi-modal transportation system, as well as an excellent recreation and exercise choice.** Action steps include: (1) promote cycling as one of the most cost-effective ways for Dayton to begin the transition to a vibrant core; (2) follow a detailed, step-by-step plan to reach the Platinum Level as a Bicycle Friendly Community by a target year; (3) establish a bicycle friendly zone bound by the river to the north and west, by U.S. 35 to the south, and Keowee Street to the east that includes bike lanes, sharrows, bike sharing, bike parking, intersection treatments, bike co-ops and bike hubs; (4) create an environment where the bicycle is valued as a viable form of transportation; (5) create a mechanism for cycling to be used for the “last mile” in many public transportation options; and (6) as part of the Regional Comprehensive Bikeway Plan, complete the regional trail network and connections from downtown to the inner-ring suburbs.
- **Make the rivers from Wegerzyn and Eastwood MetroParks to UD Arena navigable, accessible and enjoyable for novice to experienced paddlers.** Action steps include: (1) implement new kayak event programming; (2) complete Rock-in-the-River enhancements near the mouth of the Mad River; (3) construct Dayton Low Dam modifications, including a recreational boating channel; (4) construct the Eastwood MetroPark whitewater park; (5) develop a plan for levee modifications (terracing, ramps, stairways, etc.) on river-left from Rivers Edge Park downtown to Carillon Park and on river-right from the Main Street Bridge to Washington Street bridge; (6) construct a bypass, including recreational features, for the Island Park low dam utilizing the lagoon on the east side of Island MetroPark; (7) construct new boat ramp (park and paddle) with vehicle access on river-left (east bank) near Sinclair Community College; (8) complete UD Campus West and sports complex-related river improvements; and (9) modify the Tait Station Low Dam Development to improve safety and add recreation elements.
- **Create outdoor urban recreation destinations that will draw participants and spectators from nearby neighborhoods, as well as the region, providing another dimension to downtown’s active lifestyle and regional cache and attracting and retaining the creative class workforce.** Action steps include: (1) provide an urban outdoor recreation destination that is fully independent, i.e., the site would not be staffed; (2) create, market and

program a 7-mile pedestrian and bicycle corridor along the Great Miami and Stillwater rivers from Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark through downtown to Carillon Park with attractions every half-mile to mile that include some of the great destinations in the downtown area; and (3) ensure this beautiful, dynamic, comfortable and safe corridor is appealing to all demographics, to families and adults, and college students.

- **Create a people-oriented environment through urban nodes, pedestrian streets and pocket parks that welcome people to enjoy Dayton's comfortable, beautiful street environment.** Action steps include: (1) make a strategic shift away from viewing streets as a utilitarian tool to move vehicles through the city as efficiently as possible; (2) adopt a new strategy that considers Greater Downtown a neighborhood and embraces the streets as a quality of life element in that neighborhood; (3) design streets as human spaces that first accommodate people walking, gathering, window shopping, eating at sidewalk cafes and cycling for transportation; (4) create street vibrancy with such features as tree lawns, lighting and site furniture; (5) develop green, mid-block corridors to link key areas of downtown with pedestrian ways; (6) create pocket parks in key downtown locations; (7) reclaim unused spaces under freeways; and (8) develop larger green space opportunities.

- **Establish attractive, people-centered corridors, linkages and gateways that invite people into downtown from all surrounding neighborhoods.** Those include: (1) UD and south suburbs to downtown and RiverScape MetroPark; (2) UD to the Oregon Arts District; (3) UD to the river; (4) Sinclair Community College to UD along the river; (5) Wesleyan MetroPark and West Dayton to downtown; (6) Main Street at I-75 to downtown; and (7) East Dayton and Wright Patterson Air Force Base to downtown.