

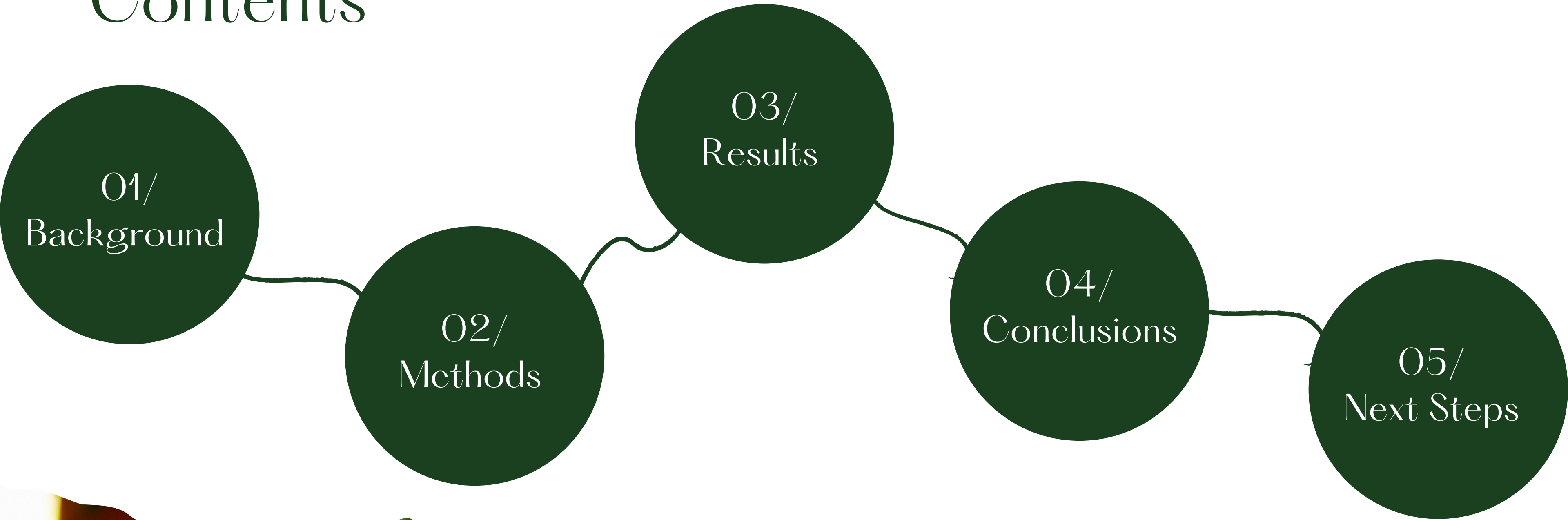
A research project on

Stakeholder Perceptions of Community Garden Features

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Contents





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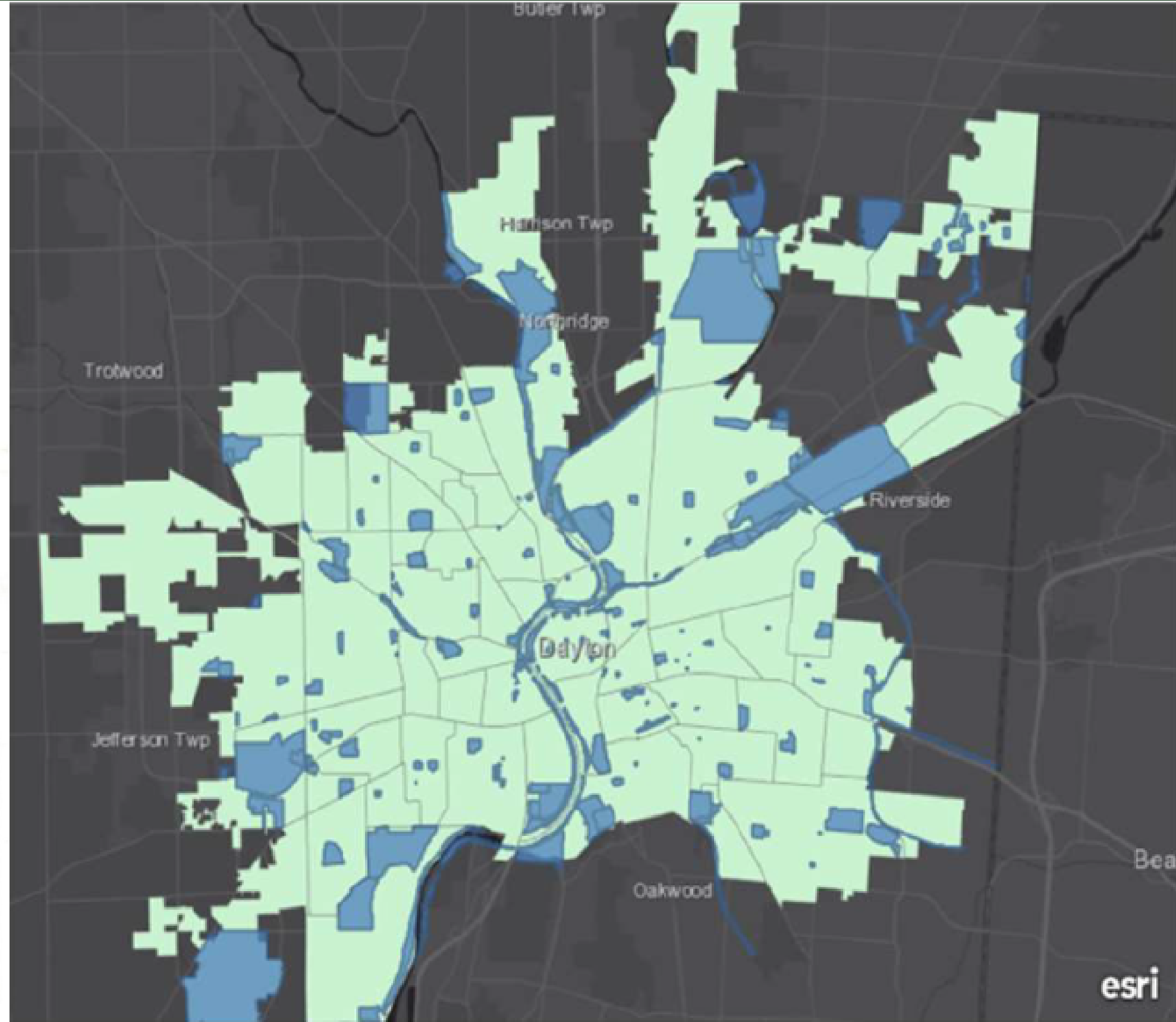
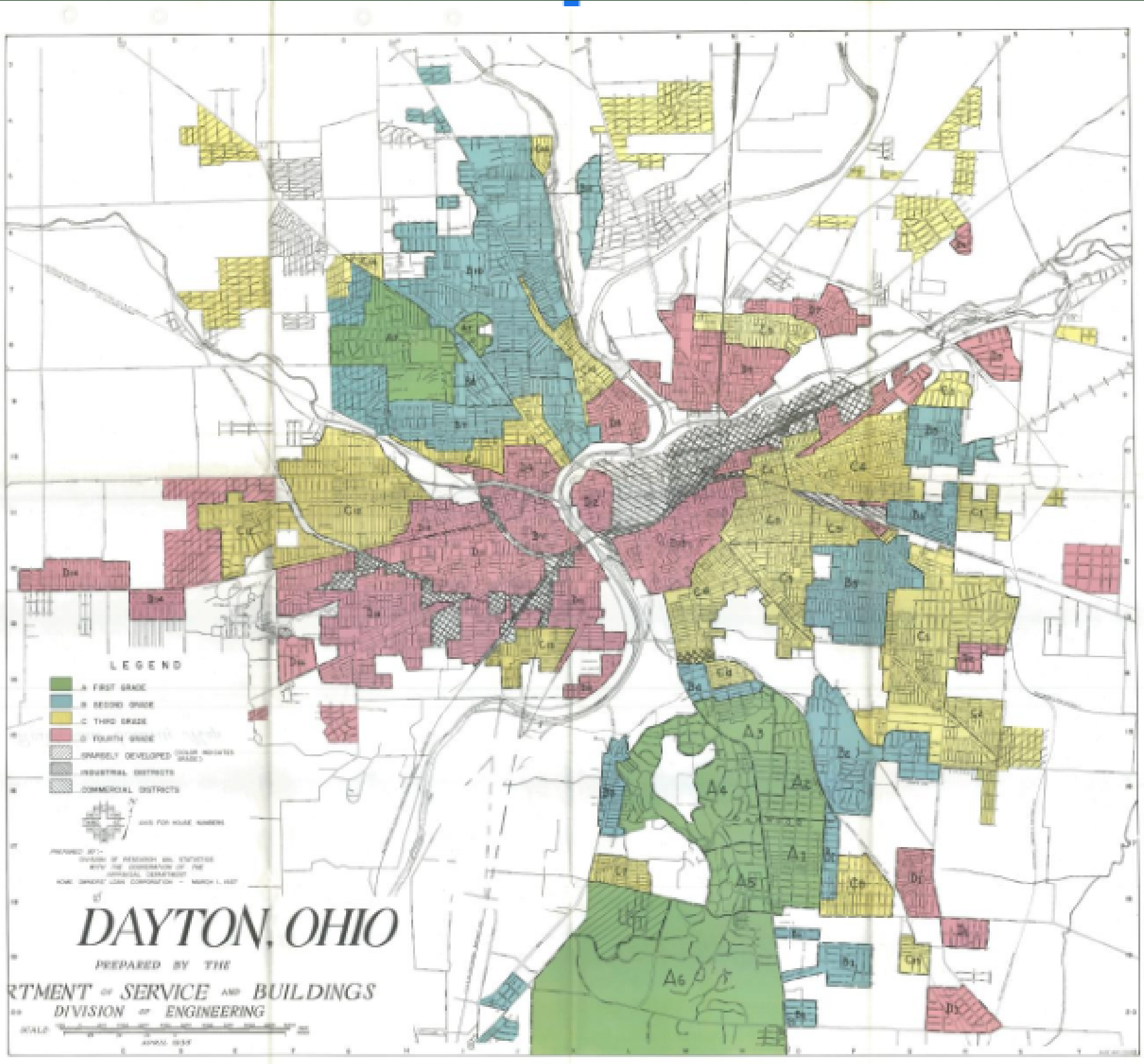


Dr. Felix Fernando
Professor of Sustainability and
Coordinator of Graduate
Certificate in Sustainability

Background

- Studying stakeholder perceptions and attitudes toward green spaces
- Qualitative research method
 - Photovoice
 - Focus Groups
 - Interviews
- Omega CDC property
 - Part of the Hope Center
- Dayton View Triangle Neighborhood
 - 67% African American
 - Median household income of 35k
- Stakeholders
 - Residents
 - Local Stakeholders
 - Backbone partners
 - Educators
 - Gardeners
- Fill in gaps of literature surrounding perceptions of green spaces





Aim of research

Understand the desired features and necessary mechanisms that need to be established to build a sense of community, social cohesion, and attachment around a community garden.

Methods: Modified Photovoice



Flowers For Beauty



Green Infrastructure
To Capture Water



Pollinator Friendly Flowers



Language Inclusive Signage



Inclusive Signage



Little Public Library



Benches

Omega Community Garden Planned to be built on Omega Property

Please place dots on the top 8 features you would like to see in the garden
We appreciate your input!



Walking Pathways



Fruit Trees in The Garden



Intergenerational Knowledge
Transfer



Art/Cultural Display



Garden Fencing



Wheelchair Accessible
Raised Beds



Community Gathering Space

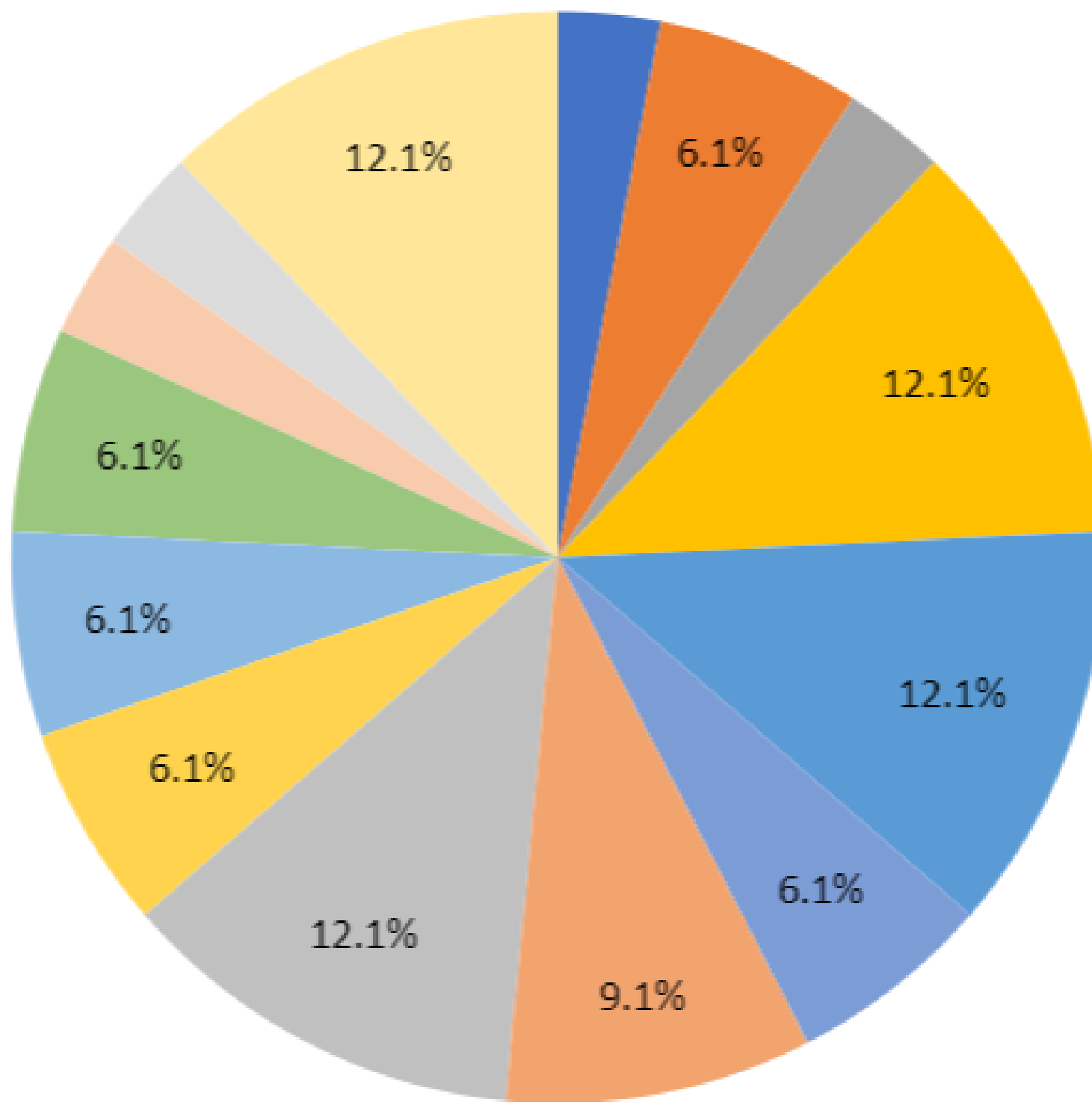


Dog Friendly Water Fountain



Raised Beds for Community Use

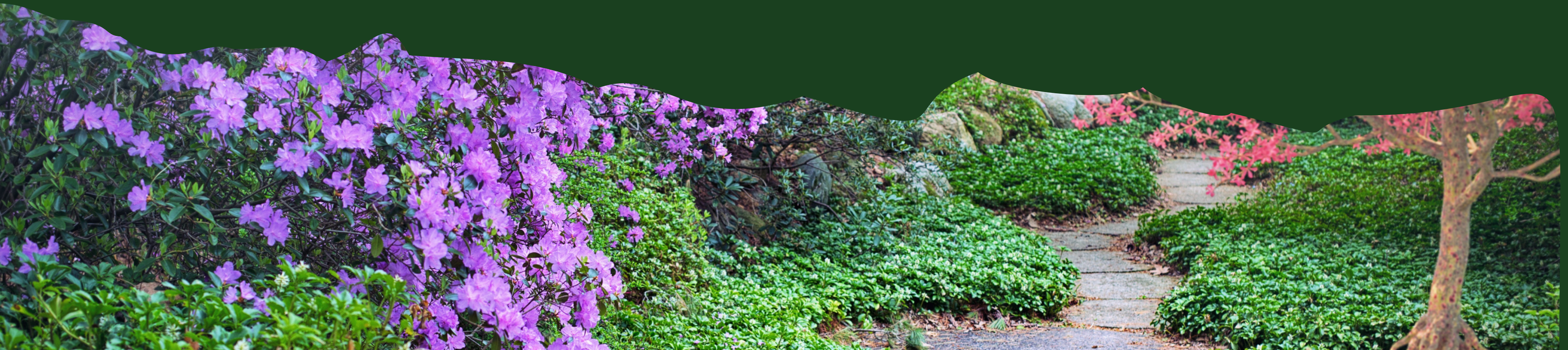




- Accessible raised beds
 ● Raised beds for community use
 ● Flowers for pollinators
 ● Flowers for beauty
 ● Pathways for walking
- Community gathering space
 ● Fruit trees
 ● Benches for seating
 ● Dog friendly water fountains
 ● Art/Cultural displays
- Intergenerational knowledge transfer
 ● Inclusive signage
 ● Fence for safety
 ● Little library

Methods: Interviews

- Semi-structured
- Series of questions
- One researcher; one participant
- Eight interviews
- Residents, educators, gardeners



Methods: Focus Groups

- Semi-structured
- Series of questions
- One researcher; several participants
- Four focus groups
- Backbone partners, residents, local stakeholders, educators, gardeners





Have you ever gardened before?

What do you think the benefits of a community garden would be?

Do you think DVT is lacking a community garden?

Do you have concerns about the community garden?

How do you think is the best way to organize the garden?

Interview/Focus Group Categories

1. Experiences
2. Benefits
3. Challenges
4. Organization
5. Features
6. Suggestions

Experiences

- Gardening with family
- Experience growing up
- Experience gardening
- Experience Community Gardening



“My mom had a garden, my grandmother had a garden, my grandfather had a garden. So, having grown up with gardens and growing our own things, and fruits and vegetables was always something that I've grown up with”

Other noteworthy themes:

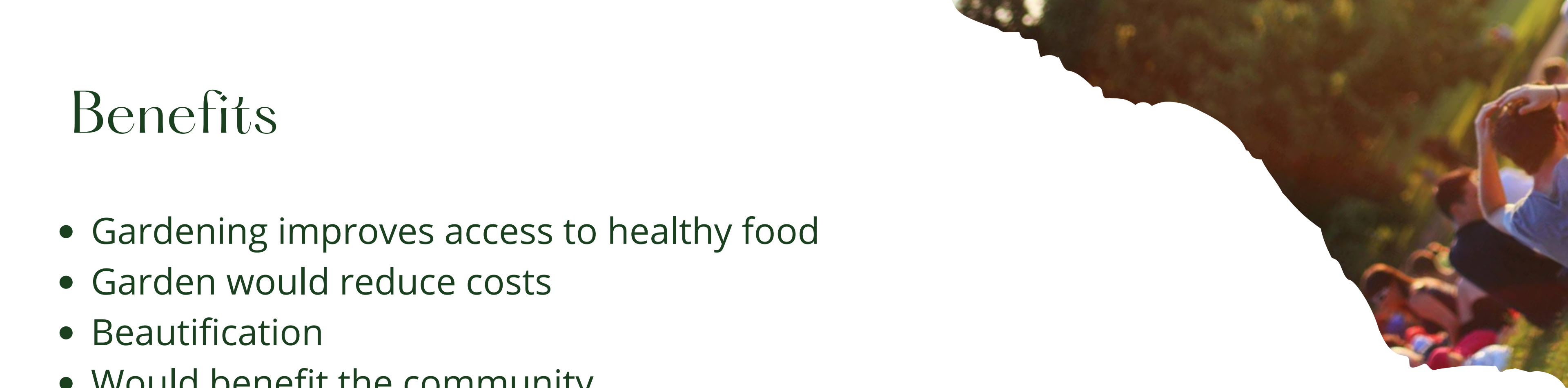
- Spent quality time with others
- Space that passed on wisdom
- Rewarding feeling

Benefits

- Gardening improves access to healthy food
- Garden would reduce costs
- Beautification
- Would benefit the community
- Space for interactive education
- Intergenerational knowledge transfer
- Inspires connection
- Promotes fellowship

Other noteworthy themes:

- Self-sustaining community
- Gardening taught as an essential life skill
- Can heal mentally and physically



“...we know clearly there is a divide in equitable access. And so having a garden in the Northwest Dayton community is going to be very critical because I can walk maybe to the market stand or a garden but I can't walk to a Kroger progress that's 10 miles from my house.”

Challenges

- Ensure water supply
- Maintenance
- Ensure fair give and take relationship between community, those maintaining it, and the fruits of labor
- Community willingness to participate
- Garden that sustains

Other noteworthy themes:

- Unwanted wildlife and pests
- Children mishandling plants
- Dogs and irresponsible owners

“...make sure it stays looking nice. If it starts to not look nice, then people may abuse it more.”



Organization

- Community volunteers to fill in gaps
- Garden club
- Volunteer schedule
- Staff dedicated to garden
- Passionate residents maintain garden

“...there's something about buy-in that makes people more, I don't know, there's a sense of pride and ownership and they'll be more, I think it'll be taken care of more if the community actually bought into it.”

Other noteworthy themes:

- Utilize community partners for resources
- Need for communication mechanism between community and garden
- Need one gardening professional to lead and keep people accountable



Features

- Need for benches
- Need for rainwater catching
- Need for fencing
- Need for walking path
- Need for community gathering space
- Need for little public library
- Need for raised beds
- Inclusivity to all ages and disability status
- Need for wheelchair accessible raised beds
- **No need for fruit trees**
- **Need for fruit trees**
- Need for flowers of beauty
- Need for intergenerational play
- **Need for dog friendly water fountain**
- **No need for dog friendly water fountain**
- Need for art/cultural display

“...it's because they don't feel like we deserve flowers. They don't feel like we deserve beautiful places. lots of people talk about violence and stuff in this area, and it's like, that's what you're gonna get if you're surrounded by concrete. You need flowers to help break up some of this hardness.”

Other noteworthy themes:

- Need for beautification
- Need for inclusive/language inclusive signage
- Need for community inclusive projects

Suggestions

- Educational programs for the garden

Other noteworthy themes:

- Grow culturally appropriate food
- Invest in local professionals (artists, farmers, etc.)

“For me, you're not coming in trying to do this performative I want to look good for the city of Dayton thing, like, no, you guys are investing in the artists that are already here because there's so many amazing artists here.. that just reinforces to the people we see you. We see you for who you are. We appreciate you for who you are.”



Conclusion

- Pictureboards as a precursor to engagement and awareness
- DVT will gain a greenspace that has stakeholder needs, aspirations, and values





Next Steps

- Design
- Break ground
- Manuscript
 - fill in gaps of research surrounding perceptions of garden features



**Thank you
for your
time!**