



## Older Adults & Seniors

2018 Needs Assessment

We are still ✓ right here:

**Dayton's Older Adult & Senior Residents**

**2018 Needs Assessment**

**13 December 2018**



## Project Timeline

- Early 2018: City of Dayton consults with UMN's *Resilient Communities Project (RCP)*
- May 2018: UMN student hired to coordinate project
- June 2018: Steering committee formed; 1<sup>st</sup> focus group
- July-Aug: Data collection (surveys, interviews, focus groups), data analysis, initial findings explored
- September 2018: Preliminary report & recommendations
- December 2018: Final report & public dissemination



## Data Collection Process

1. Review literature & relevant existing data.
2. Explore town; broad coverage, observe.
3. Relationship-Building
  - ✓ Meet with & involve key people
  - ✓ Continuous involvement & communication
4. Surveys developed & distributed
  - ✓ Online & hard-copy versions
  - ✓ Community-involved; community-tested
  - ✓ "Snowball" sampling & focus group recruitment
  - ✓ Events, neighborhood groups, online promos, mail-outs, at sites.

### BY THE NUMBERS

- 135 surveys
  - ✓ 17 paper
  - ✓ 118 online
- 4 focus groups
  - ✓ 32 seniors
- 200 hours
- 391 miles  
(in Dayton)



# Data Themes & Questions

- **Residency:** How long? Where? With whom? Home type?
- **Safety:** How safe do you feel (in Dayton? At home?)
- **Topics:** Are these issues or needs? To what degree?

• Healthcare (access & needs)	• Housing affordability	• Meals/Nutrition
• Home (tasks & maintenance)	• Financial/Legal needs	• Recreation/Fitness
• Housing (senior or assisted living)	• Information & Referrals	• Transportation issues

- **Senior Center:** How often used? Ideas & improvements?



“OLDER ADULTS” ARE 55+.  
“SENIORS” ARE 65ish AND OLDER.

## Who was surveyed?

**For the most part...**

- White
- Non-Hispanic
- English Speakers

**How long here?**

- < 5 years (12%)
- 20+ years (71%)

**Home Ownership**

96% own their house or condo.

**Gender?**

- Female (62%)
- Male (37%)

**Time Spent**

- Work 26-40+ hours/week (46%)
- Not employed (“retired”) (45%)
- Volunteer (72%)
- ¼ of these volunteer 20+ hours/month.

**Where?**

- NE Dayton (54%)
- NW Dayton (27%)
- SW Dayton (9%)

**Ages?**

- 55-64 (53%)
- 65-79 (33%)

**With whom?**

- Spouse/partner (70%)
- Alone (17%)



## Major Themes

### **Staying Power**

- Half of Dayton seniors think they will reside in Dayton throughout their retirement. 30% think they won't.

### **Safe at Night**

- Almost all (96%) generally feel safe where they live.

### **You should live here, too!**

- More than half (55%) would recommend living in Dayton to older adults. Nearly ¼ would not.



## Major Themes

### **Will we need to move?**

- Nearly all respondents (96%) own their home. Yet, more than half think "affordable housing" is a significant issue.

### **I could use a hand.**

- 6 out of 10 seniors need help with their home repairs.  
4 out of 10 need help with home tasks and errands.

### **Senior Living**

- Living independently in senior community housing is a need for 40% of seniors in Dayton.



## From the Focus Groups

### What is it about Dayton?

- Most love the rural setting, open space and “quiet.” For some, having an urban scene nearby is an ideal balance.

### “We can feel the change.”

- With a sort of resignation, most accept Dayton’s growth and expansion. Many agree that surrounding areas have already experienced such change and that Dayton residents, perhaps more freshly impacted, were “in a state of shock” with magnitude and rapidity of development.



#### PARTICIPANTS

- Equal men & women

#### MOST:

- Reside here (20-40 years)
- Sought out focus group
- 65 and older

## From the Focus Groups

### Senior Housing

- Many like the idea of living independently in an intentionally designed community place for seniors. Among the benefits:
  - ✓ Convenience (e.g., some shopping, cafes, businesses, post office nearby)
  - ✓ Pro-social environment (e.g., community room, fitness, recreation, fun activities)
  - ✓ Safety (monitored environment, easier to check on others and be checked in on)
- Most acknowledge that affordability might be an issue.
- Though multiple facilities are nearby (Elk River, Champlin, Maple Grove, etc.), many cited the “two-year waiting list to get in” as reason to explore developing such a senior setting here in Dayton.
- Some may have to leave Dayton to meet changing housing needs.



## From the Focus Groups

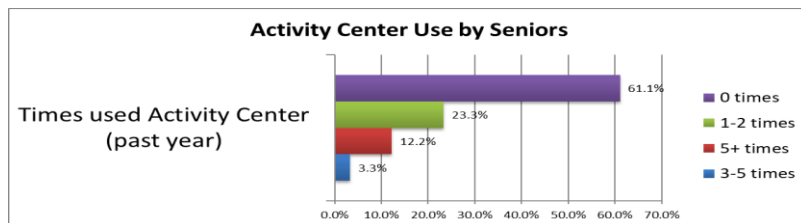
### Transportation, OMG!

- The MOST discussed topic.
  - ✓ Many foresee driving many more years, thinking others should probably not.
  - ✓ Dial-a-ride, MetroTransit resources must be researched and promoted.
  - ✓ Public transportation solutions need to be researched (e.g., key pickup points, circular routes, scheduled shopping and recreational field trips).
- Traffic Headaches
  - ✓ Housing development and surrounding construction increases traffic on local roads within Dayton.
  - ✓ Traffic speed major issue; hard to solve on principal roads.
  - ✓ Some trust that this is just a difficult phase and normality will resume in Dayton.



## The Senior Dayton Activity Center

### Varied Use:



### Notes on Use:

- ✓ Nearly half (47%) not interested in such a place; most of these under 65.
- ✓ Didn't know about; didn't know where (11%)
  - ✓ Several other reasons (36%)



## Dayton Activity Center

### Public Relations Issues

#### General Comments (All data)

“

- *I don't know what they do there.*
- *At work during daytime.*
- *I don't play cards.*
- *Too far to get to.*
- *It's rundown and doesn't offer anything of interest.*
- *I don't need help with meals.*

”



## Recommendations (for City of Dayton)

### Dayton Activity Center

- **Communicate clearly and proactively about Center status.**
  - ✓ Use key opinion leaders to decrease conflicting messages.
  - ✓ Clearly explain regulatory need for kitchen improvement.
  - ✓ Clarify rental/use policies and procedures.
- **More than half would like to see:**
  - ✓ Flea markets & holiday craft fairs
  - ✓ Classes, workshops, & topical meetings
  - ✓ Social & health/fitness activities



## Recommendations

### **Realistic Plans. Real inclusion.**

#### ➤ City Planning

- ✓ Be intentional about addressing needs of aging residents.
  - ❖ Affordable elder-friendly housing. Integration of resources & services.
- ✓ Build upon current capacity to conduct long-term planning.
  - ❖ Communicate clearly; use zoning policy; partnerships with developers.

#### ➤ Civic Engagement

- ✓ Strategize involvement of seniors to be champions of change.



## Recommendations

### **Transportation Issues: Complexity & Balance**

#### Getting around. Getting groceries.

- ✓ **Explore options for simplified transport system.**
  - ❖ Clarify existing mobility services.
  - ❖ In-town, key stops (city hall, activity center, restaurant)
  - ❖ Intra-town (leverage Elk River, Maple Grove, Champlin)
  - ❖ Develop or support volunteer driver network.
  - ❖ community design options for “senior village.”





## Recommendations

### Staying in Touch.

#### ➤ Periodic Assessments

- ✓ Modify survey to update progress and identify new issues.
- ✓ Integrate findings into community planning processes.
- ✓ Continue communication with and incorporation of seniors.

#### ➤ Longer-term Reliable Measures

- ✓ Identify key proxies for “community satisfaction.”
- ✓ Create partnerships to leverage regional resources.



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