



## Neighborhoods and Businesses Pitch In to Maintain Lots

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Residents and businesses throughout Dayton are going the extra mile to mow vacant lots this summer to assist the City of Dayton in maintaining the appearance of neighborhoods during a time of budget challenges.

In the Old North Dayton area, an organized lot mowing effort was initiated by Jim Trochelman of Blair's CNC Turning and organized by Barry Hall of Champion Auto Service. Hall, also President of the Greater Old North Dayton Business Association (GONDBA), developed a mowing plan in cooperation with neighborhood partners after touring the area with City officials.

"This area is coming back," said Hall, noting the recently opened Salvation Army Kroc Center campus and the presence of new residents. "We have a strong business community here, and we are happy to help out during a challenging time."

Several businesses and organizations are participating in the maintenance efforts. Groundskeeper, a professional landscaping and maintenance firm, has mowed at least a dozen lots in cooperation with GONDBA, at a deeply discounted rate. Furst Florist, a longtime Old North Dayton business, and DATV (Dayton Access Television) have also mowed lots near their own properties.

Residents are also pitching in to help maintain neighborhood lots. Teresa Horvath, President of the Old North Dayton Neighborhood Association, noted the contributions of several area neighbors in keeping vacant lots clean and mowed.

"The City of Dayton is very appreciative of the work and resources that residents and businesses are contributing to neighborhoods," Mayor Gary Leitzell said. "Leadership takes many forms, and pitching in to keep neighborhoods looking good and livable is an act of leadership."

The City of Dayton's policy is to mow vacant lots at least once yearly. More frequent mowing is currently limited by the expanded need and budget constraints.

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