

# Stories of the City

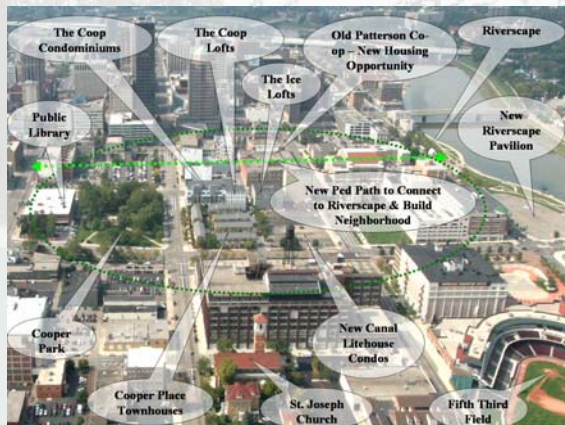
## THE COOPER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

Daniel Cooper, the entrepreneur who founded the Town of Dayton, dedicated a town block bounded by Second, Third, St. Clair and Patterson Boulevard as a commons for the enjoyment of all of the citizens of Dayton – Cooper Park.



Following a northwardly spiral around historic Cooper Park, the emerging Cooper Park Neighborhood has been a downtown neighborhood work-in-progress for more than 20 years. As the commercial vitality of downtown began to wane in the 1960's, the area around Cooper Park looked the worse for wear. Speculative demolition, unimaginative layering of asphalt with cracks in sidewalks seemed to be the order of the day.

*In the early 1980's, the City of Dayton helped facilitate the residential development of a small piece of land that it owned just north of Cooper Park and the journey of the Cooper Park Neighborhood began.*



Since the early days, the world of the neighborhood has shifted dramatically – a new ballpark, fun on the river, loft housing, new taverns, flowers, a renewed business college, a beautiful Patterson Boulevard (quite possibly a rival to the long-buried Robert Boulevard) and a thriving public library are all moving in the same direction to function as the change agent for the next ring of growth for the neighborhood.



Coming soon will be the new Lighthouse Townhomes and multi-story flats with more porches and balconies, more residents voting with their footsteps and dollars in Downtown and Oregon – all working together to generate an 18 hour mixed-use urban neighborhood .....