



Centering Priority Communities

through Climate Safe Neighborhoods

2021
—
2022

Climate Safe Neighborhoods

Climate Safe Neighborhoods (CSN) is a national effort through Groundwork USA to identify neighborhoods that are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change because of racial and social injustices, spread awareness and educate residents in those neighborhoods, and ignite action towards climate resilience. The Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership explores the relationship between historically race-based housing segregation and the current and predicted impacts of climate change. Effective community engagement is important for creating better policies and programs, addressing inequality, and building resilient communities. Since 2021, Groundwork Ohio River Valley (GORV) and Green Umbrella in partnership with the City of Cincinnati's Office of Environment and Sustainability developed neighborhood Climate Advisory Groups to identify solutions to address extreme heat and flooding. Through intentional engagement with residents in priority communities, the effort honors community members as the subject matter experts in identifying local issues and co-creating community-based solutions. Residents that commit to the 8 week learning and planning effort are compensated for their time and expertise. The goal of each cohort is to develop neighborhood resilience maps as a platform for activating the residents' vision and advocating for resources. As of early 2023, 8 neighborhoods and 38 resident leaders have created Climate Resilience Plans. Many components of these plans are reflected in the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP).



Tanner Yess, Executive Director of Groundwork Ohio River Valley, oversees a group of 180 volunteers, including many neighborhood residents, to plant 90 trees during Lower Price Hill Resilience Plan Tree Planting in November 2022. Photo courtesy of Groundwork Ohio River Valley.



GORV staff members, Jaeydah Edwards and Alan Edwards, share local air pollution and citizen science efforts alongside the Lower Price Hill Resilience Plan. Photo courtesy of Lisa Ventre/University of Cincinnati.

Climate Advisory Groups

Since Spring 2021, Groundwork Ohio River Valley and Green Umbrella have led 3 Climate Advisory Groups (CAG) in Lower Price Hill, Bond Hill and Roselawn, and the Beekman Corridor (English Woods, Millvale, North Fairmount, South Cumminsville, and South Fairmount) in partnership with the City of Cincinnati's Office of Environment and Sustainability. The CAGs brought together dozens of community leaders of all ages to raise awareness of climate impacts in our most vulnerable communities, create climate resilience plans, and engage community members in government climate planning and action. These efforts were led through Groundwork Ohio River Valley and Green Umbrella's Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership,¹ which is dedicated to centering underserved communities, equity, and justice in regional climate planning and implementation efforts in Greater Cincinnati. Evidence of recent implementation from the mapping process was a large, collaborative tree planting effort led by Groundwork Ohio River Valley in Lower Price Hill during fall 2022.² Additional CAGs are planned for 2023 and beyond as many communities see the value and potential these opportunities provide.



Savannah Sullivan, Climate Action Director at Green Umbrella, and Kelsey Hawkins-Johnson, Community and Climate Resilience Program Director at Groundwork, facilitate the Beekman Corridor Climate Advisory Group hosted at Working in Neighborhoods. Photo courtesy of Rigel Behrens/Working In Neighborhoods.



Lower Price Hill CAG members met almost entirely virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic—showing great courage and determination. Photo courtesy of Groundwork Ohio River Valley.

¹ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/8c2fa0feff13424ca8738fe051b579db>

² First Tree Plantings via the Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership". November 28, 2022. <https://greenumbrella.org/climate-policy-blog/13005255>. Authors: Tanner Yess (Groundwork Ohio River Valley) and Savannah Sullivan (Green Umbrella).

Thank you

Thank you to community partners that made hosting these sessions in the residents' home communities possible including Working In Neighborhoods. Special thanks to the following CAG members for sharing their time and expertise:

SPRING 2021

Lower Price Hill Climate Advisory Group

Karlana Bacca-Canales
Julia Bean
Marisha Davis
Vaneesa Garrett
Ellen Howard
Jethro Jones
Ebony Taylor
Brittany Taylor
Kimberley Washburn
Mohogany Wooten

SUMMER 2022

Beekman Corridor Climate Advisory Group

Pamela J. Adams
Esther Afolabi
Samuel Afolabi
Moses Afolabi
George Boyd
Darlene Capell
Odessa Carr
Saundra Davis
Derrick Feagin
Darryl Franklin
Shalynn Gray
Phillip Marshall
Donna Rose
Anthony Smith
Christopher Walton
Wilma Wilson

WINTER 2021

Bond Hill & Roselawn Climate Advisory Group







Kailei Brown
Sommer Davis
Stephanie Green
Daniel Hill
Bernetta Johnson
Althea Palmer
Melisha Reece
Margaux Roberts
Jamessa Smoot
Nancy Sunnenberg
Phil Waller
Darreion Williams



“
My focus was never on climate, but it was always about climate.”
MARISHA DAVIS
Lower Price Hill resident, Climate Advisory Group participant, and now a Groundwork Neighborhood Liaison



Bond Hill Climate Resilience Plan

-  Community Greenspace
-  Proposed Street Trees
-  Community Garden or Farm
-  Green Parking Lot
-  Green Roof
-  Cooling Bus Stop



Lower Price Hill Climate Resilience Plan

-  Community Cooling Center
-  Community Greenspace
-  Community Garden or Farm
-  Green Parking Lot
-  Green Roof
-  Asphalt Sealant Crosswalk
-  Cooling Bus Stop
-  Proposed Street Trees



Millvale

Climate Resilience Plan

- Community Greenspace
- Community Garden or Farm
- Green Parking Lot
- Proposed Rain Garden
- Proposed Green Roof
- Asphalt Sealant
- Cooling Bus Stop
- Proposed Street Trees



North Fairmount

Climate Resilience Plan

- Community Greenspace
- Community Garden or Farm
- Green Parking Lot
- Asphalt Sealant
- Cooling Bus Stop
- Proposed Street Trees
- Proposed Rain Garden
- Proposed Green Roof



Roselawn

Climate Resilience Plan

-  Community Greenspace
-  Community Garden or Farm
-  Green Roof
-  Green Parking Lot
-  Proposed Street Trees
-  Asphalt Sealant
-  Cooling Bus Stop



South Cumminsville

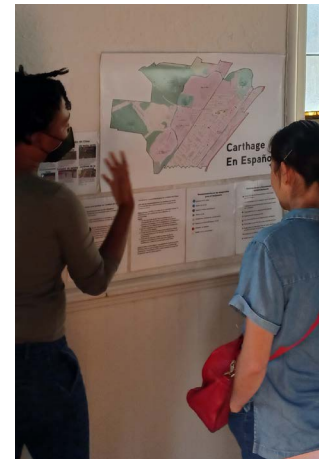
Climate Resilience Plan



Climate Safe Community Series Sessions

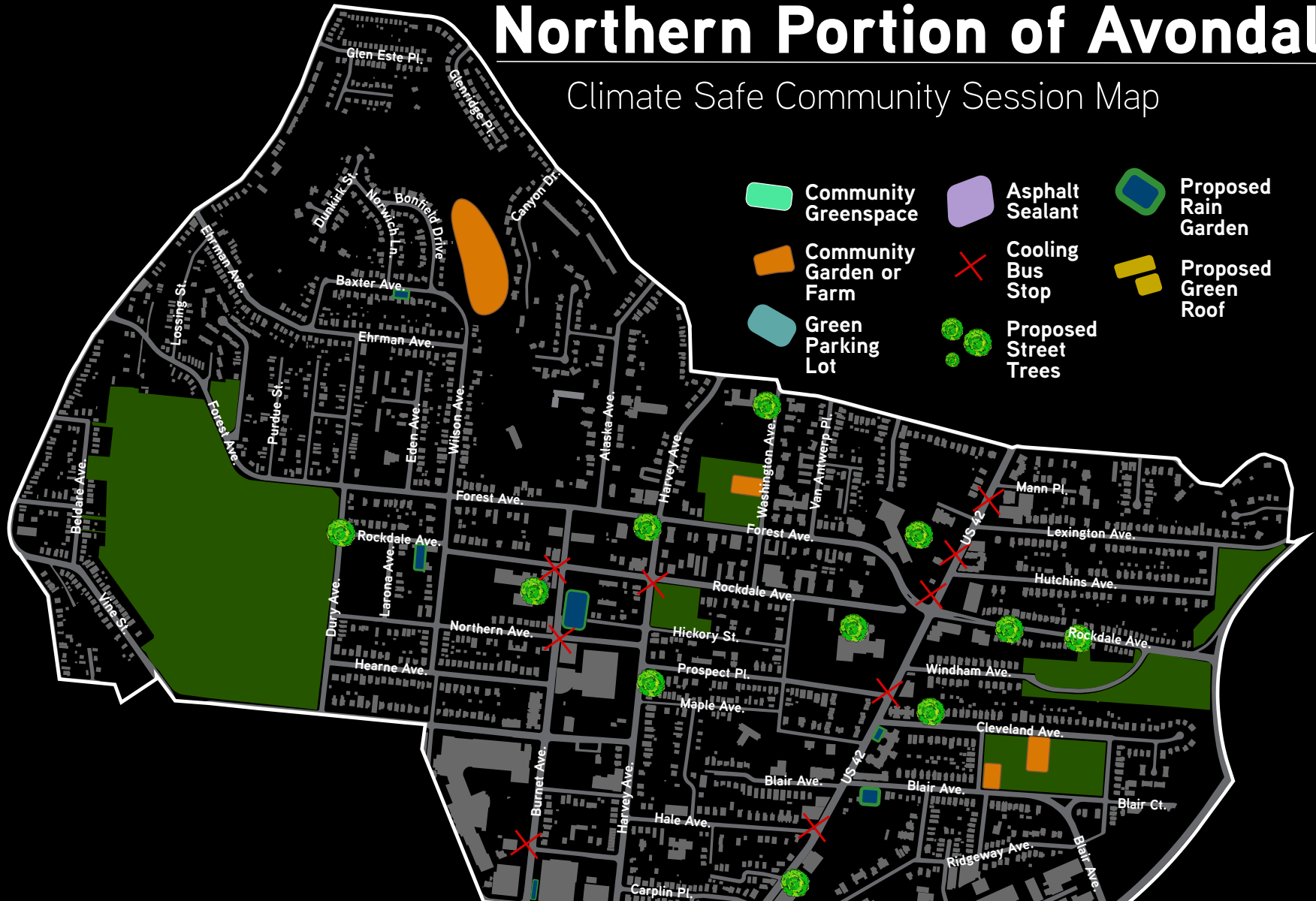
The Climate Safe Neighborhood Partnership also supported the community engagement efforts of the Green Cincinnati Plan by hosting four Climate Safe Community Series meetings during summer 2022. Climate Safe Community Series were single night events that brought together neighborhood residents to map their priorities for climate adaptation in their communities. The following are the resilience plans developed from these efforts, which in addition to supporting the Green Cincinnati Plan, have informed implementation efforts in the respective neighborhoods and are on the path to being adopted by some neighborhood community councils. Additional neighborhoods engaged were Avondale, the neighborhoods in the Beekman Corridor, Camp Washington, Carthage, Over-the-Rhine, and West End. The Carthage session was facilitated in Spanish.

Special thanks to the more than 225 residents who attended these sessions and contributed their ideas and expertise. Thank you, as well, to the community partners that made it possible to meet residents in their own communities including: Carthage Christian Church, Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses, Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio, and Working In Neighborhoods.



Northern Portion of Avondale

Climate Safe Community Session Map



Southern Avondale









Climate Safe Community Session Map



Camp Washington

Climate Safe Community Session Map



-  Community Greenspace
-  Community Garden or Farm
-  Green Parking Lot
-  Asphalt Sealant
-  Cooling Bus Stop
-  Proposed Street Trees
-  Proposed Rain Garden
-  Proposed Green Roof

Carthage Climate Safe Community Session Map



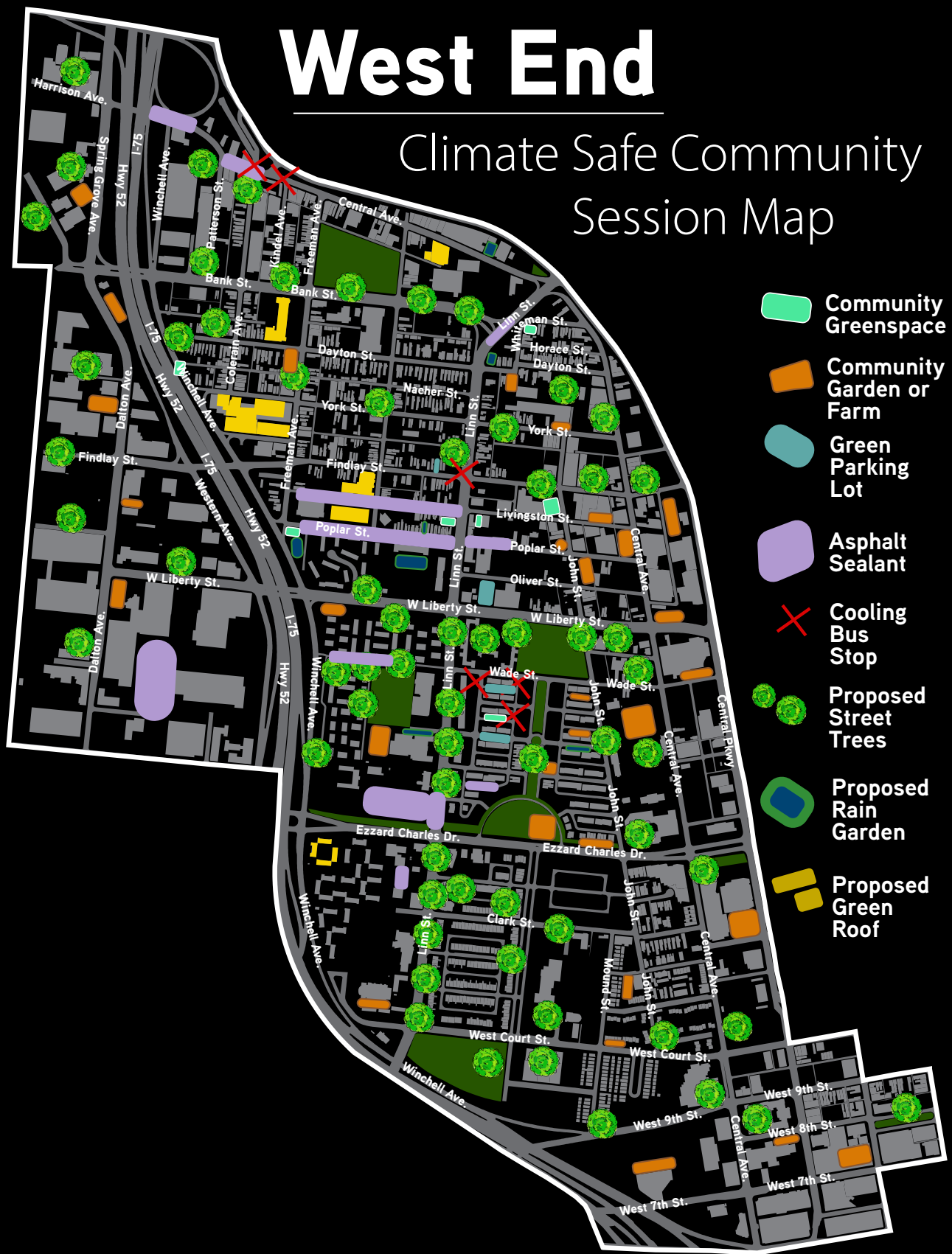
Over the Rhine

Climate Safe Community Session Map



West End

Climate Safe Community Session Map



PROGRAM LEADERSHIP



PROGRAM SUPPORT



HOST ORGANIZATIONS

