DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DAYTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

GRAVESITE EXPANSION

DAYTON, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
425 I STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

April 29, 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code 4321 et seq.), VA's NEPA regulations (38 CFR 26), and the VA NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects (VA 2010).

Proposed Action

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has prepared this Draft EA to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action: a gravesite expansion and cemetery improvement of approximately 44.9 acres at the existing Dayton National Cemetery (DNC); which includes approximately 11 acres of undeveloped land within the existing cemetery. Dayton National Cemetery is located at 4400 West Third Street, Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio. VA National Cemetery Administration (NCA) operates the existing DNC.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to complete a gravesite expansion which includes approximately 11 acres of undeveloped land within the existing Dayton National Cemetery to continue to provide burial services for eligible veterans in and around the western Ohio region. The Proposed Action would allow VA to continue to provide interment options for eligible Veterans in the region.

The need for the Proposed Action is to improve and expand the existing DNC in order to provide the additional interment capacity needed at DNC in order to preserve continuous, uninterrupted interment options for the veterans in and around the western Ohio area. The Proposed Action would provide VA the interment options necessary for future additional capacity to meet its burial objectives for eligible Veterans in the region.

Alternatives

This EA examines two alternatives, the Proposed Action Alternative, and the No Action Alternative, defined as follows:

Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action would complete a gravesite expansion and cemetery improvements of approximately 44.9 acres which includes approximately 11-acres of land within the existing DNC in order to provide additional interment capacity to serve the projected burial needs of Veterans in the region. The Proposed Action would allow VA to continue to provide interment options for eligible Veterans in the region.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented. Veterans and their families in the region would continue to use the DNC until internment options are no longer available. In the future, VA would likely seek other land to expand the DNC but may not be able to acquire the land contiguous with or near the existing DNC. The No Action Alternative would not enable VA to provide adequate cemetery facilities in the region when DNC reaches interment capacity. However, the No Action Alternative is assessed in this EA to provide comparative baseline analysis.

Table 1 summarizes the resource areas analyzed in this EA and the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative. A detailed analysis of the potential effects to these resource areas is provided in Section 3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.

Table 1. Summary of Resource Area Impacts

Resource Area	Proposed Action Alternative	No Action Alternative
Aesthetics	• Temporary, less than significant, adverse impacts during construction of cemetery expansion.	• No Impacts.
Air Quality	• Temporary, less than significant, adverse impacts during cemetery expansion construction.	• No Impacts.
Cultural Resources	• No Impacts.	• No Impacts.
Geology, Topography, and Soils	• Temporary, less than significant, adverse impacts during cemetery expansion construction.	• No Impacts.
Hydrology and Water Quality	• Temporary, less than significant, adverse impacts during cemetery expansion construction.	• No Impacts.
Wildlife and Habitat	• No impacts.	• No Impacts.
Noise	• Temporary, less than significant adverse impacts during construction of cemetery expansion. • Marginal adverse impacts from traffic, site maintenance, and burial gun salutes that are similar to existing conditions at existing DNC.	• No Impacts.
Land Use	• No Impacts.	• No Impacts.
Floodplains, Wetlands, Coastal Zone Management	• No impacts.	• No Impacts.
Socioeconomics	• Positive beneficial impact to regional economy via design, construction, and maintenance jobs.	• No Impacts.
Community Services	• No Impacts.	• No Impacts.
Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials	• Temporary, less than significant, adverse impacts during construction of cemetery expansion.	• No Impacts.
Transportation and Parking	• Temporary, less than significant, adverse impacts during cemetery expansion construction as vehicles and equipment go to and from the site.	• No Impacts.
Utilities	• No Impacts.	• No Impacts.
Reasonably Foreseeable Effects and Future Actions	• No Impacts.	• No Impacts.

Agency and Public Involvement

VA consulted the federal, state, local, tribal, and elected officials listed in **Section 5.0 Public Involvement** as part of an initial scoping process. A scoping notice was posted to the VA website, published in the *Dayton Daily News,* and hard copies were made available at the Dayton Public Library and Dayton National Cemetery. Additional details can be found in **Section 5.0 Public Involvement**.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY **2**

TABLE OF CONTENTS **4**

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS **5**

1.0 INTRODUCTION **7**

2.0 ALTERNATIVES **9**

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE **10**

2.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE **11**

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES **12**

AESTHETICS 13
AIR QUALITY 13
CULTURAL RESOURCES 16
GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS 17
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY 19
WILDLIFE AND HABITAT 20
NOISE 23
LAND USE 24
FLOODPLAINS, WETLANDS, AND COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT 24
SOCIOECONOMICS 25
COMMUNITY SERVICES 26
SOLID WASTE AND HAZARDOUS WASTE 26
TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING 28
UTILITIES 29
REASONABLY FORESEEABLE EFFECTS AND FUTURE ACTIONS 29
POTENTIAL FOR GENERATING SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC CONTROVERSY 30

4.0 MITIGATION MEASURES AND MONITORING **31**

5.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, COORDINATION, AND CONSULTATION **33**

6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS **35**

8.0 REFERENCES CITED **36**

9.0 GLOSSARY **37**

Tables

Table 1. Summary of Resource Impacts
Table 2. Subsurface Profile Summary
Table 3. Peak Noise Levels Expected from Typical Construction Equipment
Table 4. Worst Case Combined Peak Noise Level (Bulldozer, Jackhammer, Scraper)
Table 5. Demographic Data for Montgomery County and Ohio
Table 6. Regional Income for Montgomery County and Ohio
Table 7. Best Management Practices and Minimization Measures for the Proposed Action

Figures

Figure A. Site Vicinity
Figure B. Site Location Map
Figure C. Geotechnical Boring Locations

Appendices

Appendix A. Permits
Appendix B. Agency Coordination and Consultation

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym or Abbreviation	Description
AAI	All Appropriate Inquiries
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historical Preservation
ACM	Asbestos Contaminated Materials
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
AE	Design Engineer of Record
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
APE	Area of Potential Effect
AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
AQI	Air Quality Index
ARPA	Archeological Resource Protection Act
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers
AST	Above Ground Storage Tank
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
BCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BER	Business Environmental Risk
BMP	Best Management Practices
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CLA	Clean Air Act
CLAA	Clean Air Act Amendments
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CREC	Controlled Recognized Environmental Conditions
CSR	Code of State Regulation
CWA	Clean Water Act
dBA	a-Weighted Decibel
Dbh	Diameter at Breast Height
DNC	Dayton National Cemetery
DoAQ	Department of Air Quality
DOT	Department of Transportation
DOW	Division of Wildlife
DPM	Diesel Particulate Matters
EA	Environmental Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impacts
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
GSA	General Services Administration
GSV	Ground Surface Visibility
HAP	Hazardous Air Pollutant
HREC	Historic Recognized Environmental Condition
HUC	Hydrological Unit Code
HUD	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
IBC	International Business Code
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
LBP	Lead Based Paint
LDTL	Lowest Default Target Levels
MC	Moisture Content
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards

NAGPRA	Native American Grave Protection and Reparation Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOx	Nitrogen Oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCA	Natural Resource Conservation Act
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Registry of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
O & M	Natural Resource Conservation Service
O3	Ozone
ODOT	Ohio Department of Transportation
OEPA	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OVAI	Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc.
PA	Programmatic Agreement
Pb	Lead
PM	Particulate matter
RBTL	Risk Based Target Levels
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
REC	Recognized Environmental Conditions
ROI	Region of Influence
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SMARS	Site Management Reporting System
SO2	Sulfur Dioxide
SPCC	Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures
SPT	Standard Penetration Testing
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan
TDAT	Tribal Directory Assessment Tool
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TRI	Toxic Release Inventory
USACE	United States Army Corp of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UST	Underground Storage Tank
URA	Uniform Relocation Act
VA	Veterans Affairs
VISN	Veterans Integrated Service Network
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
WOTUS	Waters of the United States
XRF	SciAps X-Ray Fluorescence Portable Field Analyzer

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) honors Veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to the nation. VA operates 156 national cemeteries and 35 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 42 states and Puerto Rico. More than four million Americans are buried in VA's national cemeteries. VA's Office of Construction and Facility Management's mission is to advance VA's mission in support of the nation's Veterans by planning, designing, constructing, acquiring major facilities, and setting design and construction standards.

1.1 Background

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has prepared this Draft EA to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action: a gravesite expansion and cemetery improvements of approximately 44.9 acres at the existing Dayton National Cemetery (DNC); which includes approximately 11 acres of undeveloped land within the existing cemetery. Dayton National Cemetery is located at 4400 West Third Street, Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio. VA National Cemetery Administration (NCA) operates the existing DNC.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to complete a gravesite expansion and cemetery improvements of 44.9 acres, which includes approximately 11 acres of undeveloped land within the existing Dayton National Cemetery, to continue to provide burial services for eligible veterans in and around the western Ohio region. The Proposed Action would allow VA to continue to provide interment options for eligible Veterans in the region.

The need for the Proposed Action is to improve and expand the existing DNC in order to provide the additional interment capacity needed at DNC in order to preserve continuous, uninterrupted interment options for the veterans in and around the western Ohio area. The Proposed Action would provide VA the interment options necessary for future additional capacity to meet its burial objectives for eligible Veterans in the region.

1.3 Decision Making

As a federal agency, the VA is required to incorporate environmental considerations into their decision-making process for the actions they propose to undertake. This is done in accordance with the previously identified law, regulation, and guidance in Section 1.0.

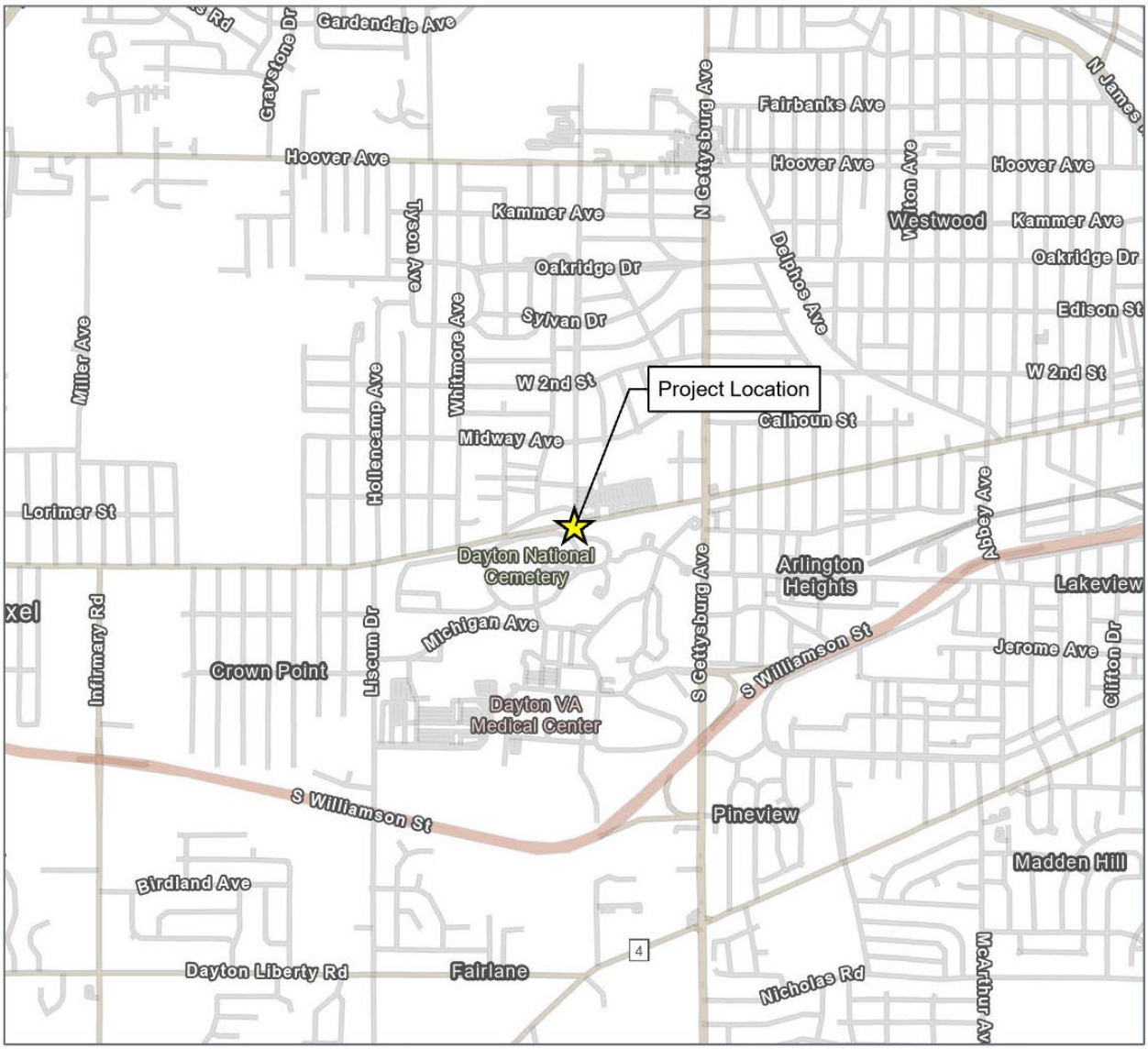
This EA has been developed to:

- Inform decision-makers and the public of the possible environmental effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives, as well as methods to reduce these effects.
- Document the NEPA process.
- Allow for public input into the decision-making process.
- Allow for informed decision-making by the Federal government.
- Evaluate the potential effects.

This NEPA process includes identifying the actions that the government would commit to undertake to minimize environmental effects, as required under NEPA, VA's NCA Facilities Design Guide, Title 38 CFR– §39.60 General Requirements for Site Selection and Construction of Veterans Cemeteries and VA's NEPA regulations. The intent of the document is to provide VA with appropriate information to make an informed decision on whether to implement the alternatives proposed in Section 2.0 Alternatives.

Dayton National Cemetery
Dayton, Ohio

Figure A. Site Vicinity



Legend
- Project Location
- Montgomery Co. Parcels

Address: 4400 W Third St
Dayton, OH 45428
Lat/Long: 39.74833,-84.25917
PID: Multiple
Project No: 18127
Date: 4.11.2025

1 inch = 2,000 feet
0 1,000 2,000 4,000
Feet

ANDERSON
13605 1st Ave N #100, Plymouth, MN 55441
P 763.412.4000 F 763.412.4090 ae-mn.com

Project Location

City of Dayton
Montgomery County, OH

SOURCE: XX DNR, USDA, ESRI, TIGER, Bing, XXXXXX Co., Anderson Engineering

2.0 ALTERNATIVES

This section describes the Proposed Action and its alternatives, including those that VA initially considered, but eliminated, and the reasons for eliminating them. The screening criteria and process developed and applied by VA to hone the number of reasonable alternatives is described, providing VA's rationale in retaining for analysis one action alternative, the Proposed Action, which best meets VA's purpose of and need for the Proposed Action.

In accordance with the NEPA and 38 CFR Part 26; reasonable alternatives need to be evaluated. Alternatives that are eliminated from detailed study must be identified along with a brief discussion of the reasons for eliminating them. An alternative was considered reasonable only if it would accomplish the primary mission of providing an expanded cemetery and interment options that meet the purpose and need for the Proposed Action. Eliminated alternatives would not enable VA to meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action.

Dayton National Cemetery, located in Montgomery County, Ohio, was established as the permanent burial site for residents of the Central Branch of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in 1867. It is one of 11 federal cemeteries affiliated with the system of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Management of these facilities was transferred from the U.S. Army/National Home system to the newly created Veterans Administration in 1930. Today, it continues to provide interment services for Veterans and their families.

DNC lies on the southwest end of Dayton, Ohio. The DNC is located at 4400 West Third Street, Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio. The DNC currently encompasses 116.8 acres. The cemetery is bound to the south by the Dayton VA Medical Center, to the east by S Gettysburg Avenue, to the west by Liscum Drive, and West Third Street to the north. Approximately 6.2% of the State of Ohio population (11,799,448) are veterans.

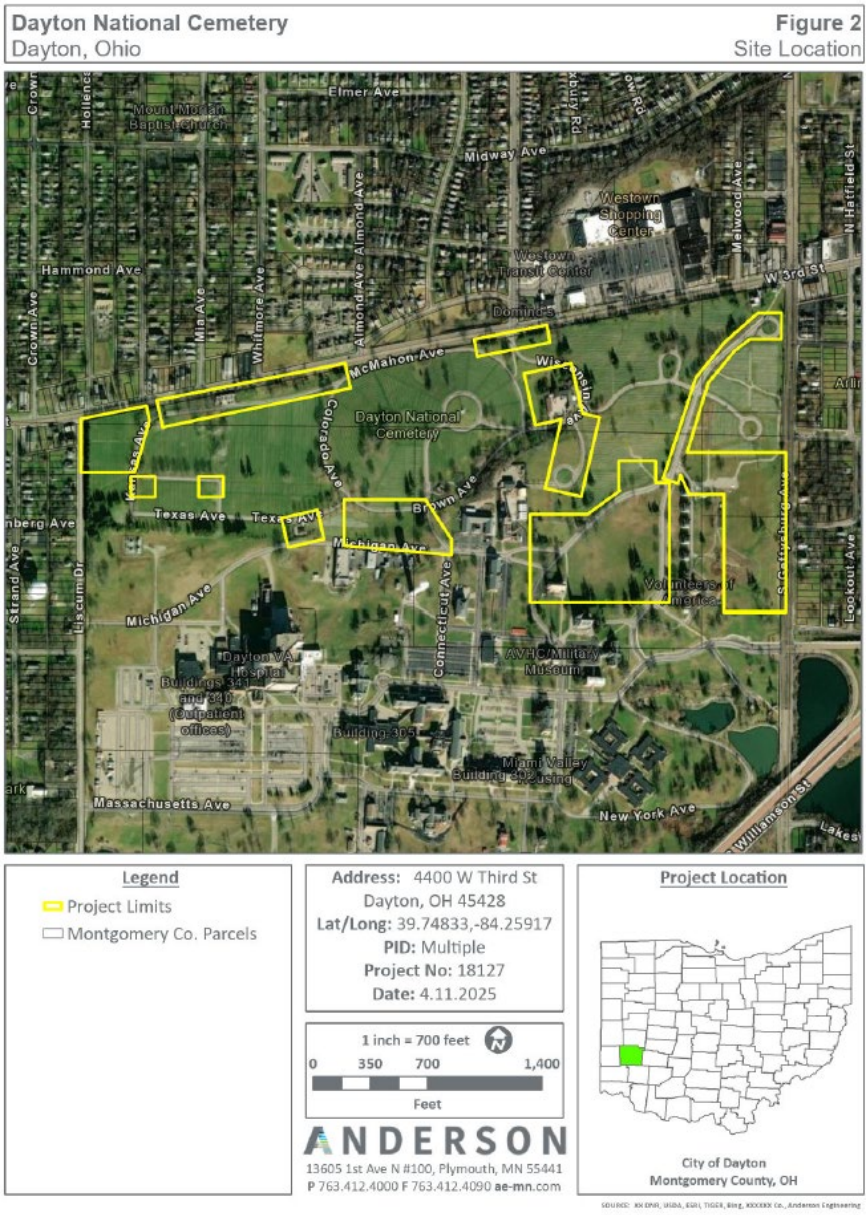
The NCA Final Land Acquisition Fact Sheet, dated April 2012, states adjacent/contiguous property is considered to be the first and best option for cemetery expansion. National Cemetery expansion onto adjacent land is the most cost effective and operationally efficient manner to expand an existing National Cemetery. Doing so promotes efficiencies and allows the new gravesite areas to be operated by the same staff that operate the existing grounds, with no need for remote staff, remote buildings, and remote equipment. It also eliminates visitors' directional and wayfinding confusion that may occur with a remotely located property.

2.1 Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative would include gravesite expansion and cemetery improvements on approximately 44.9 acres, including approximately 11 acres of undeveloped land, all currently within the existing DNC (See Figure 2. Site Location Map). The Proposed Action would develop a 2,400-niche columbarium, 150 marker memorial wall, a gravesite section to accommodate 7,100 burials for pre-placed crypts, a 2,250-gravesite section for in-ground cremains, a gravesite section for 75 traditional casketed sites, and a main entry wall sign with gate. The Proposed Action would also include cemetery improvements including to the irrigation system, electrical and mechanical improvements, and Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) improvements.

VA would follow the NCA Facilities Design Guide while preparing for the Proposed Action. Prior to future construction, VA would obtain all applicable Federal, State, and local permits for the Proposed cemetery development from appropriate government authorities. VA would avoid any significant onsite environmental resources through sensitive site design, including avoidance of significant natural resources.

Figure B. Site Location Map



2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action Alternative would not be implemented. Veterans and their families in the region would continue to use the DNC until internment options are no longer available. In the future, VA would likely seek other land to expand the DNC but may not be able to acquire the land contiguous with or near the existing DNC. With the No Action Alternative, the VA would not be able to continue offering interment options to the veterans and families within the service area after current burial options are full.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section describes the existing physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic conditions at the Cemetery and its general vicinity, with emphasis on those resources potentially affected by the Proposed Action. In this EA, effects are identified as either significant, minor (that is, common effects that would not be of the context or intensity to be considered significant under NEPA), less-than-significant, or no effect. Where appropriate and clearly discernible, each effect is identified as either adverse or beneficial.

The potential of the Proposed Action to significantly affect the human environment is based on considerations of both *context* and *intensity*, as specified below:

Context. The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant.

Intensity. This refers to the severity of impact and the following should be considered in evaluating intensity:

- If the impact is beneficial, adverse, or both (adverse effects may occur in the short term, but mitigation or replacement will benefit in the long term).
- The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.
- Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.
- The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.
- The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.
- The degree to which the action may adversely affect listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss to destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
- The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act.
- Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

Aesthetics

3.1.1 Background

The Proposed Action Alternative area consists of the existing DNC. Much of the existing DNC has been developed as cemetery ground, consisting primarily of gravesites, a network of roads, and various structures and buildings. The surrounding area is entirely urbanized, with the Dayton VA Medical Center to the south and residential and commercial properties to the east, west, and north. These properties are separated from the DNC by South Gettysburg Avenue (to the east), West Third Street (to the north), and Liscum Drive (to the west). The undeveloped areas are all previously manipulated and graded, currently occupied by turf grass and landscaping elements. The topography of the site consists of moderate to gradual slopes that vary from 950 feet of elevation to 910 feet of elevation. The site generally slopes to the northeast. Elevations and slopes on site are similar to the surrounding area.

3.1.2 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Construction activities within the Proposed Action Alternative area would temporarily affect aesthetics. These activities may include parked construction equipment, excavation/grading, mud after rain events, heavy equipment and contractor vehicles using the adjoining roads, and perimeter control/silt fences surrounding the project area.

Following construction into the operation phase, the appearance of the Proposed Action Alternative area would be similar to its current aesthetic. The area would take on the peaceful and park-like characteristics of a National Shrine. Construction equipment would be removed, construction contractor traffic would subside, and temporary effects would be minimized. Exposed soil would be graded to the design standard, and the area planted with native trees, shrubs, and grasses to prevent erosion and reduce water usage. Turf grass would be planted in the sections designated for casket plots, as well as the assembly areas. Silt fences would be removed after the final stabilization of vegetation. Manicured shrubs and hedgerows would be placed around certain features to instill a sense of privacy and seclusion. The Proposed Action Alternative area would look similar to the existing surrounding DNC and would not be anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to aesthetics and viewscape of the area.

3.1.3 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts would result from VA's actions.

Air Quality

3.2.1 Background

National Ambient Air Quality Standards are mandated by the Clean Air Act (CAA) and administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with monitoring and enforcement delegated to state authorities and state-level Air Quality Control Regions (AQCRs). Established standards identify health-based concentrations for ambient air. Regulated criteria pollutants include carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter measuring less than 2.5 and 10 micrometers in diameter, and lead. Ozone is a colorless gas formed through photochemical reactions involving sunlight, heat, and precursor compounds such as reactive organic compounds and nitrogen oxides. Sources of local precursor emissions are likely derived from vehicle emissions and industrial processes within the AQCR. Local AQCRs that exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards are deemed in non-attainment of the standard. Areas that have been classified as non-attainment but are now in compliance can be re-designated maintenance status if the state completes an air quality planning process for the area.

An emitter is classified as a major source if actual or potential emission of a hazardous air pollutant (HAP) is greater than 10 tons per year or 25 tons per year of any combination of HAPs. Lower thresholds apply in non-attainment areas, but only for those HAP(s) in non-attainment. A Title V permit is required for major sources of HAP. Nonmajor

sources, excluding certain industrial, manufacturing and mining sources, are not typically required to obtain permits. The DNC is under the jurisdiction of the Ohio EPA and the US EPA.

According to the USEPA Green Book website (February 28, 2026), Montgomery County, Ohio is not currently listed for national air quality standards for the NAAQS pollutants.

3.2.2 Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive receptors for air quality impacts are the areas where persons that are the most sensitive to pollution effects, such as the very young, elderly, or people with respiratory and other related illnesses live, work or play. In accordance with EO 13045 on children's health, EPA recommends operators and workers using diesel- powered equipment pay particular attention to worksite proximity to where children may learn, play, or live and to impose diesel emission reduction measures near these locations.

Sensitive receptors near the Proposed Action Alternative area (1 mile search radius) include:

- Children First Learning Center (0.04 miles N)
- Aunnie'e Early Learning Center (0.54 miles N)
- Internation School at Residence Park (0.78 miles N)
- Playtime Nursery School (0.83 miles NW)
- Thurgood Marshall High School (1 mile N)
- Westwood Elementary School (0.78 miles NE)
- St. Benedict the Moor Catholic School (1 mile NE
- Jackson Preschool Academy (0.58 miles E)
- Jackson Center – Dayton public School (0.58 miles E)
- Wogaman Middle School (0.82 miles SE)
- First Baptist Church of Ridgewood Heights (0.26 miles W)
- St. Paul AME Zion Church (0.53 miles N)
- Residence Park Church of Christ (0.84 miles N)
- Revival Center Ministries (0.68 miles NE)
- Wayman AME Church (0.98 miles NE)
- The Gathering, Church Without Walls (1.00 miles NE)
- The Marketplace Movement (0.54 miles E)
- Believers Christian Fellowship Church (0.60 miles E)
- Trinity Presbyterian Church (0.49 miles SE)
- St. Benedict The Moor Catholic Church (0.46 miles SW)
- Abundant Life Missionary Baptist Church (0.03 miles N)
- Zion Pentecostal Temple Church (0.08 miles NW)
- Bethlehem Missionary Baptist (0.14 miles N)
- Shabach Ministries Church Inc. (0.04 miles N)
- True Vine Missionary Baptist Church (0.08 miles N)
- Progressive Baptist Church (0.02 miles N)
- Blessed Rock (0.04 miles N)
- Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church (0.31 miles N)
- St James AME Church (0.03 miles W)
- Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church (0.05 miles NE)
- Dayton VA Medical Center (0.01 miles S)
- Richardson Park (0.03 miles W)
- Millhaven Park (0.77 miles NW)
- Residence Park (0.60 miles N)

- Gettysburg Park (0.44 miles NE)
- Westwood Park (0.78 miles NE)
- McCabe Park (0.57 miles E)
- Mallory Park (0.71 miles SE)
- Dayton Grotto Gardens (0.01 miles SE)
- Single Family Residences to the north, east and west of the DNC

3.2.3 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Construction and operation of the Proposed Action Alternative would have less than significant adverse impacts on air quality. Short term less than significant adverse impacts to air quality are anticipated as part of construction activities. Temporary releases of fugitive dust (PM_{10}), gaseous emissions of CO, volatile organic compounds (VOC), NO_2, SO_2, and $PM_{2.5}$ from the combustion of fuel used by equipment and vehicles are anticipated during construction.

These construction activities would be performed in accordance with Federal and State air quality requirements. Construction-related emissions are generally short term, but may still have adverse impacts on air quality, primarily due to the production of dust and vehicle/equipment emissions. Dust from demolition and construction can lead to adverse health effects and nuisance concerns. Utilizing BMPs for dust control measures can help reduce adverse impacts to the surrounding area. VA will utilize the Construction Emission Control Checklist provided by the EPA, in addition to EPA BMPs to mitigate air impacts and minimize exposure to workers and sensitive receptors. Construction-related emissions also include exhaust from the operation of construction equipment, including diesel particulate matter (DPM). The use of newer construction equipment with emissions controls and minimizing the time that the equipment is idling reduce construction equipment exhaust emissions. When hauling materials, to the best extent possible, routes that avoid the sensitive receptors listed above should be utilized to avoid air quality impacts as well as reduce the possibility of vehicle-pedestrian accidents. When possible, the utilization of carbon-intensive Portland cement products should be replaced with recycled materials to limit the amount of CO2 emissions, as cement production emits 2.6 times more than the next largest subsector. Implementation of BMPs, discussed in **Section 4.0 Mitigation**, would minimize these anticipated less-than-significant adverse, short-term, construction-related, air quality impacts. In addition, construction activities would adhere to the air resource protection requirements included in the NCA Master Construction Specifications (VA, 2023).

During operation of the cemetery, similar conditions as the existing DNC would be anticipated. All vehicles in the Cemetery's fleet were/would be purchased through General Services Administration (GSA) and vehicles must comply with air emissions standards, to include properly functioning exhaust systems. In addition, in accordance with VA Directive 0637, no unnecessary vehicle idling is permitted. As additional areas are utilized for interment, it is anticipated the number of visitors would increase over time. However, the increased number of vehicle trips (See **Section 3.13 Transportation and Parking**) is minor and not expected to result in significant adverse impacts on air quality. The operation of the expanded cemetery is not anticipated to generate air pollutants beyond temporary construction emissions identified above and slight increase in traffic overtime as the cemetery is built out and utilized. Emissions from the temporary use of construction equipment would be negligible and cease after the cemetery expansion is completed. The indirect emissions from traffic to and from the cemetery would also be negligible, with the potential emissions from construction and operation of the expanded cemetery being well below the threshold of 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually as defined by the EPA.

During the NEPA scoping period, EPA Region 5 responded, stating EPA had no comments on the Proposed Action Alternative.

3.2.4 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no additional air quality impacts are anticipated.

Cultural Resources

3.3.1 Background

As part of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 Section 106 process, and to supply additional information for the NEPA cultural resources assessment, Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc. (OVAI) completed a Cultural Resource Records Review on March 13, 2025, and a Phase I Cultural Resource Survey on October 9, 2025. Summaries of these reports are detailed below, in addition to a summary of State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Tribal, and other consulting parties' coordination.

Cultural Resource Records Review

OVAI completed cultural resource management services for 10 areas, totaling approximately 44.9 acres, within the DNC in Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio. The purpose of this review was to evaluate the potential for cultural resources within the proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE). The report includes a review of current SHPO records for a 1.0-mile radius, a review of historical maps and aerial photographs, a summary of a field visit with photographs, and recommendations for further work.

The DNC is an approximately 116.8-acre U.S. National Cemetery with over 55,000 interments, located on the western side of in the city of Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed project consists of 10 discontiguous areas within the DNC, totaling approximately 44.9 acres. These areas are primarily open grassy fields and developed sections with roads, utilities, cemetery facilities, and burials.

Based on an assessment of the previously recorded cultural resources, CRM reports, historic atlases, aerial images, GIS data on utilities, and the results of the field visit, OVAI had the following recommendations for the APE.

In summary, of the 44.9-acre APE, a Phase I archaeological survey is recommended for 28.9 acres. No further work is recommended for the remaining 16 acres of the APE.

Phase I Archeological Survey

The Phase I archaeological survey was conducted on recommendation from the above OVAI report. The survey consisted of a pedestrian survey supplemented with systematic shovel testing and soil probes with methods commensurate with SHPO guidelines. A total of 235 shovel tests/probes were excavated within the APE. Typical intact soils in the APE consisted of a 25-30 cm thick brown (Munsell 10YR4/3) silty clay loam topsoil over a dark yellowish-brown (Munsell 10YR4/6) silty clay subsoil. Much of the area tested encountered subsurface disturbance likely due to previous infrastructure construction (i.e., roads, buried utilities, etc.). Disturbed soils in the APE consisted of a 10-20 cm layer of mottled topsoil and subsoil, occasionally mixed with 3-10% commercial gravel, above the sterile subsoil.

Eleven shovel tests were positive, and an archaeological site was designated. The historic-era assemblage is a mix of eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century common household artifacts. No discrete, intact cultural layers were identified, and no building remnants were present. The low artifact density and lack of building remnants/foundations suggest that these materials have been redeposited at this location from other areas of the DNC or elsewhere through cemetery maintenance activities, likely for ground leveling. This assemblage does not contribute significantly to our understanding of the activity at the site, and it is unlikely that additional work at this location would yield information significant to our knowledge of eighteenth through twentieth century life in Ohio. The nature of the proposed project, as it is in keeping with the current status as a National Cemetery as discussed above, is unlikely to negatively impact surrounding architectural resources.

In summary, no further archaeological work is recommended for the APE. No further work is recommended for the newly recorded site, and it is not recommended as eligible for the NRHP.

SHPO, Tribal, and Other Consulting Parties Coordination

On September 24, 2025, during the initial NEPA scoping process, a comment was received from the Ohio Archaeological Council requesting to be a consulting party for the referenced proposed project and stating an archaeological geophysical survey should be conducted in place of standard shovel testing. After discussion with OVAI and the VA, the location and conditions at DNC did not warrant the use of an archaeological geophysical survey. The traditional method of shovel testing was deemed sufficient to demonstrate the presence/absence of archaeology at this location.

Consultation documentation was sent to the Ohio History Connection (SHPO) and other identified tribes and consulting parties on December 18, 2025. This consultation documentation included the two OVAI reports and findings. On January 21, 2026, the SHPO responded to the consultation with a concurrence of the finding of "No Adverse Effects to Historic Properties".

3.3.2 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Based on the studies completed and recommendation from OVAI; the VA has made a determination of "No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties" from the undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5 (b). These reports and determination were sent to the SHPO, Tribes and other consulting parties as part of the consultation process for the NHPA Section 106. The SHPO responded on January 21, 2026, and concurred with the determination of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. In the case of inadvertent discovery of human remains and/or archaeological materials, future construction will be halted, and the consulting parties will be contacted to participate in consultation regarding treatment and recovery protocols, prior to removal, with appropriate state and federal agencies.

3.3.3 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to cultural resources would occur.

Geology, Topography and Soils

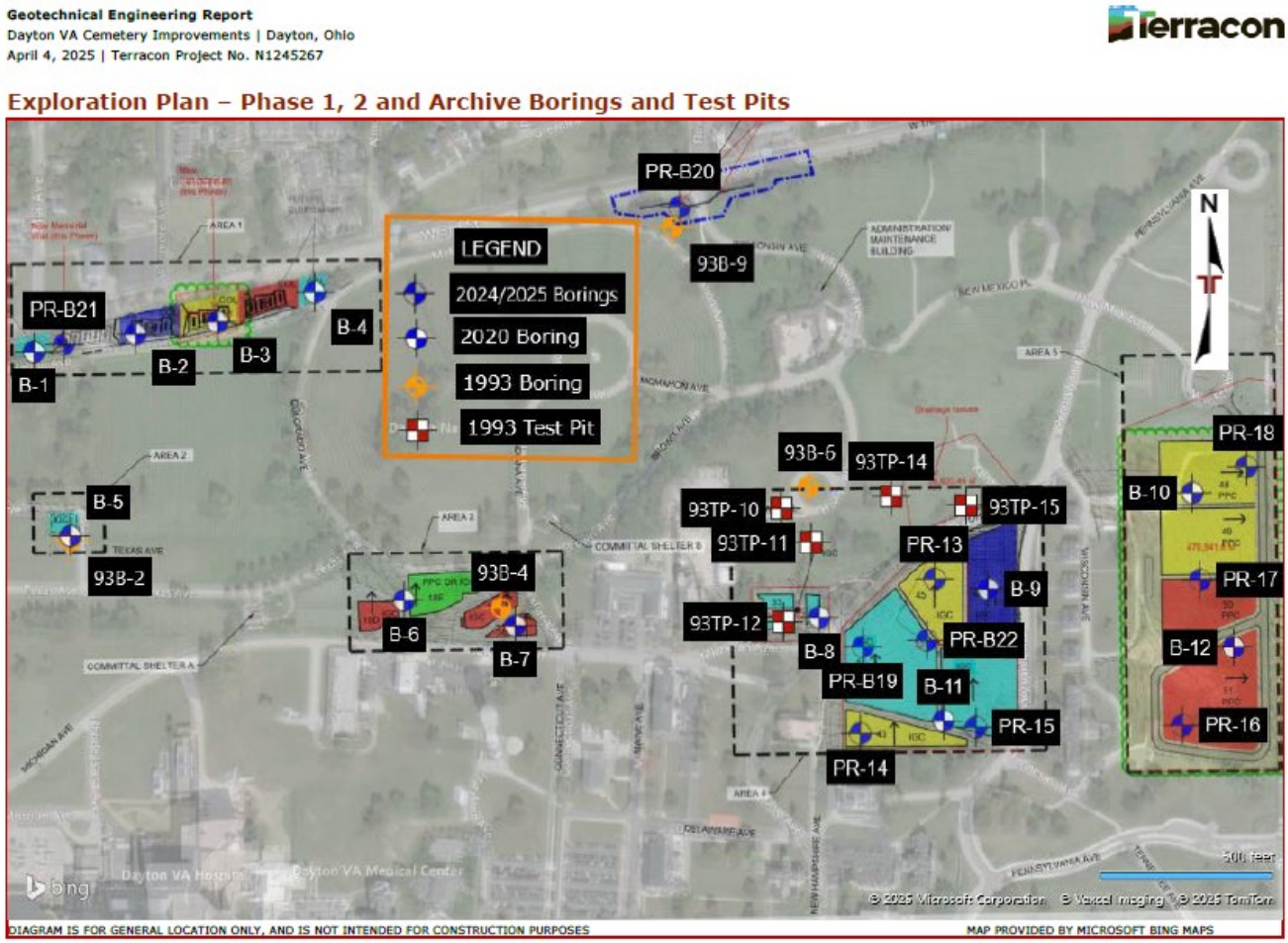
3.4.1 Background

A Geotechnical Engineering Report was conducted by Terracon on April 4, 2025. The site surface elevations range from approximately 910 to 957 feet of elevation and consists of a gradual slope that generally slopes towards the northeast. 10 borings were conducted onsite in 2024 and 2025, and the report is supplemented from previous borings conducted in 2020 and 1993.

Table 2. Subsurface Profile Summary

Model Layer	Layer Name	General Description
1	Existing Fill	Lean clay/ silty clay, with gravel and sand, occasional limestone fragments/floaters, dark brown to brownish gray trace gray
2	Brown Glacial Till	Lean clay to sandy lean clay/silty clay, with gravel and sand, brown/brown trace gray, stiff to hard with some medium stiff zones
3	Gray Glacial Till	Lean clay/silty clay, with gravel and sand, gray to olive/gray trace brown, very stiff to hard
4	Shale and Limestone Bedrock	Gray shale very weak rock, limestone strong to very strong rock
5	Lean Clay	Lean clay, trace/with sand, trace/with gravel, gray/olive gray to brown/grayish brown, stiff to hard
6	Granular Soil	Poorly graded gravel, silty gravel or silty sand, clayey gravel with sand, silt, dark brown to brown/ olive and gray, trace/with shale and limestone fragments, medium dense to dense

Figure C. Geotechnical Boring Locations



The seismic design requirements for buildings and other structures are based on Seismic Design Category. Site Classification is required to determine the Seismic Design Category for a structure. The Site Classification is based on the upper 100 feet of the site profile defined by a weighted average value of either shear wave velocity, standard penetration resistance, or undrained shear strength in accordance with Section 20.4 of ASCE 7 and the International Building Code (IBC). Based on the soil/bedrock properties observed at the site and as described on the exploration logs and results, Terracon's professional opinion is that a Seismic Site Classification of C be considered for the project. Subsurface explorations at this site were extended to a maximum depth of 15 feet. The site properties below the boring depth to 100 feet were estimated based on experience and knowledge of geologic conditions of the general area.

The borings were advanced in the dry using a hollow-stem auger drilling technique that allows short-term groundwater observations to be made while drilling. Groundwater seepage was encountered while drilling at a depth of 8.5 feet in Boring PR-18, and at depth of 13.5 feet in Boring PR-B22 at the time of our field exploration. Boring PR-18 caved above the encountered groundwater seepage depth and no at-completion groundwater was encountered in Boring PR-18, however the groundwater seepage depth at Boring PR-B22 was 15.5 feet at completion of drilling. Boring PR-B19 encountered water seepage within the bedrock during drilling and sampling and at completion of the boring. The remaining 2024 Phase 1, 2025 Phase 2 and 2020 test borings did not encounter groundwater seepage during or upon completion of drilling.

It is common in glacial till soils to have seams, layers or pockets of silt, sand or gravel sandwiched between the lower permeability silty clay or lean clay soils, which generally represented the conditions encountered in Borings PR-14, PR-18, PR-B20 and PR-B22. Boring PR-18 encountered saturated silty sand soils at a depth of 8.5 feet, Boring PR-B22 encountered saturated sandy silt at a depth of a depth of 8.5 feet whereas the granular layers at Boring PR-14 at 8.5 feet below and at Boring PR-18 at 6 feet below existing grade were not saturated. Sometimes the silt, sand or gravel seams, layers or pockets are saturated and can sometimes be under pressure. The aerial extent of the water-bearing seams, layers and pockets can vary, and the higher permeability seams, layers and pockets can be connected or disconnected hydraulically. The groundwater conditions in these perched groundwater zones can fluctuate due to seasonal changes and after precipitation events. It is also common to encounter groundwater seepage within existing fill soils, at the soil bedrock interface and within layers and fractures within the bedrock.

3.4.2 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

During future construction of the cemetery expansion, paved areas would be designed to drain to a suitable, on-site, properly engineered and designed, stormwater management system. Construction activities would disturb some soil surfaces and compact the soil. The soil would then be susceptible to erosion by wind and surface runoff. Utilization of BMPs identified in **Section 4.0 Mitigation** and adherence to the terms of approved National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and land disturbance permits, including the implementation of the site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would help to limit/avoid adverse impacts to soils and water resources onsite and downstream during construction of the expansion.

Once construction activities are completed, the cemetery would not need short term construction erosion or sediment controls other than any necessary engineered stormwater features and infrastructure designed for the expansion. Recommendations detailed in the Geotechnical Engineering Report would be incorporated into the cemetery design to ensure the stability of the development and appropriate stabilization of grave site areas.

3.4.3 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to geology, topography, or soils would occur by VA actions.

Hydrology and Water Quality

3.5.1 Background

This section contains the affected environment, regulatory considerations, and potential impacts for the Proposed Action Alternatives for hydrology and water quality. See **Section 3.9 Floodplains, Wetlands, and Coastal Zone Management** for discussion on these topics.

The Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), governs the control of water pollution in the U.S. The CWA authorizes the US EPA to regulate point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States (WOTUS). The Ohio EPA implements the NPDES construction stormwater program. The 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) requires states, territories, and authorized tribes to develop lists of impaired waters and developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for these waterbodies. A TMDL establishes the maximum amount of a constituent of concern (pollutant).

The Site is located within the Ohio River Basin and the Lower Great Miami, Indiana, and Ohio HUC8 watershed, with the closest waterbodies being the Miami River (closest point is approximately 2 miles southeast from the DNC) and Wolf Creek (closest point is approximately 1.42 miles to the northeast). The Ohio River Basin is a 204,000 square mile watershed that stretches across 15 states. The EPA lists the Greater Miami River Mainstem (Mad River to Four Mile Creek) as impaired for fish and shellfish consumption, as well as swimming and boating. Identified issues include bacteria and other microbes, nitrogen and/or phosphorus, PCBs, and temperature.

3.5.2 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

During the construction of the proposed expansion, BMPs listed in **Section 4.0 Mitigation** would be implemented to limit construction related soil erosion and sedimentation. The expanded cemetery development would provide any necessary stormwater management to prevent sediment and pollutant runoff. All federal, state, and local regulations that apply to the Proposed Action would be followed, as well as the BMPs mentioned to limit adverse impacts to hydrology and water quality. Permits that may be applicable to the Proposed Action are listed in Appendix A. The use of permeable or porous pavers, limiting carbon-intensive Portland cement, and using green stormwater management practices will be evaluated and implemented to the best extent practicable to avoid adverse impacts to downstream water resources.

3.5.3 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts on hydrology or water quality would occur.

Wildlife and Habitat

3.6.1 Background

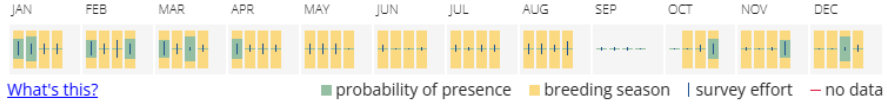
A review of the United States Fish and Wildlife Services online planning tool, Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) was conducted on March 12, 2026 (Project Code: 2026-0062214) to provide a list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in the Proposed Action Alternative area or may be affected by the project. IPaC does not identify any critical habitats, National Wildlife Refuge lands or fish hatcheries within the Proposed Action area. The IPaC review resulted in a species list that contains a total of three endangered, threatened or candidate species listed below.

• **Indiana Bat** ○ *Myotis sodalis*	Endangered
• **Whooping Crane** ○ *Grus americana*	Experimental Population, Non-Essential
• **Monarch Butterfly** ○ *Danaus plexippus*	Proposed Threatened

In addition, as certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Act of 1940, the IPaC review identified 17 bird species that are of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in the project location.

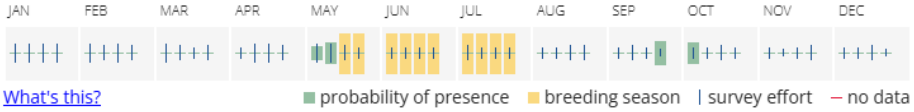
- **American Gold Plover**
  - *Pluvialis dominica*

- **Bald Eagle**
  - *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

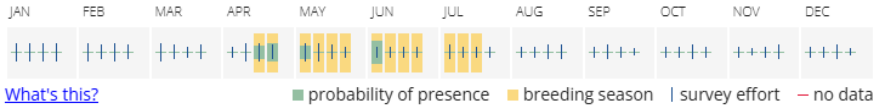


- **Black-billed Cuckoo**
  - *Coccyzus erythropthalmus*

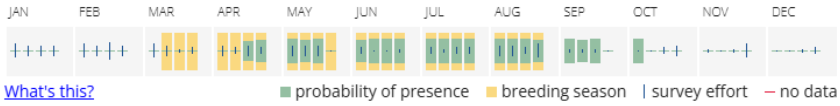
- **Bobolink**
  - *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*



- **Cerulean Warbler**
  - *Setophaga cerulea*

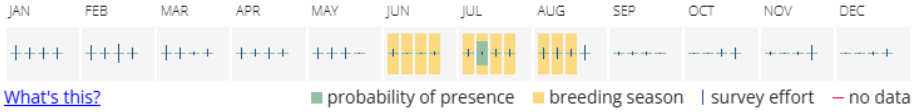


- **Chimney Swift**
  - *Chaetura pelagica*

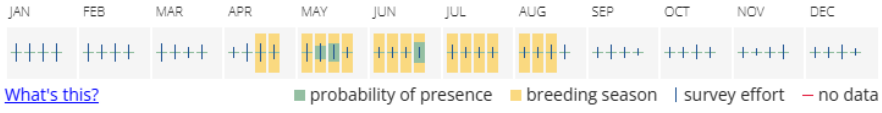


- **Eastern Whip-poor-will**
  - *Antrostomus vociferus*

- **Grasshopper Sparrow**
  - *Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus*



- **Kentucky Warbler**
  - *Geothlypis formosa*



- **Lesser Yellowlegs**
  - *Tringa flavipes*

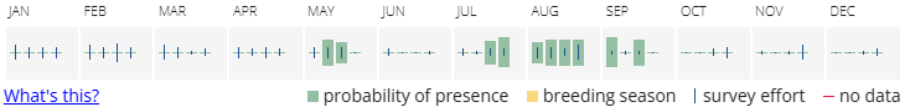
- **Pectoral Sandpiper**
  - *Calidris melanotos*

- **Prothonotary Warbler**
  - *Protonotaria citrea*

- **Red-headed Woodpecker**
  - *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

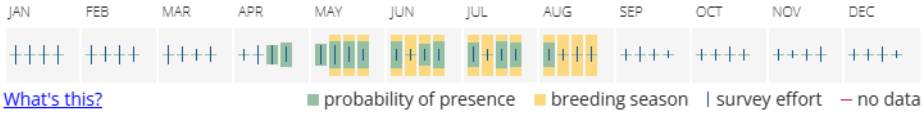
- **Rusty Blackbird**
  - *Euphagus carolinus*

- **Semipalmated Sandpiper**
  - *Calidris pusilla*



- **Short-billed Dowitcher**
  - *Limnodromus griseus*

- **Wood Thrush**
  - *Hylocichla mustelina*



A technical assistance letter was prepared for the Indiana Bat at the site and had the following conservation measures:

- Only trees ≥5 inches Diameter at Breast Height (dbh) are subject to the seasonal timing restriction. Trees <5 inches dbh may be cleared at any time of year.
- Tree cutting/trimming is not anticipated to fragment a connective corridor between 2 or more forest patches of at least 5 acres.
- Tree cutting/trimming will not exceed 5 acres of forest.
- Tree clearing activities that are subject to seasonal timing constraints will occur only between October 1 and March 31.

3.6.2 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative is not likely to adversely affect the listed species. The portions of the cemetery that are undeveloped are maintained primarily as turf grass and bare ground. Any areas not utilized for gravesite expansion would maintain similar landscaping and manicured turf grass. Minimal tree removal of individual landscaping trees onsite may occur but would be minimal and to the best extent possible follow the above conservation measures. The best management practices and recommendations listed in Section 4.0 Mitigation Measures and Monitoring are to limit adverse impacts to listed species during any future expansion activities that may occur as part of the Proposed Action Alternative.

3.6.3 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to wildlife or habitat are anticipated.

Noise

3.7.1 Background

The Proposed Action Alternative is located within the existing DNC. The site is primarily turf grass and landscaping elements. To the west, north, and east of the DNC are primarily utilized as residential and commercial businesses. To the south is the Dayton VA Medical Center. Minor noise is associated with traffic on the roadways to the west, north, and east of the DNC. Traffic is primarily associated with local traffic to and from residential and commercial areas and uses of the cemetery. Ceremonial gun salutes associated with interments at the existing DNC are audible to the surrounding area. The short bursts of noise from the salutes are intermittent and only occur during weekday business hours. No other notable noise-generating sources are present in the immediate vicinity of the DNC.

3.7.2 Sensitive Noise Receptors

Sensitive noise receptors near the DNC (0.25-mile search radius) include:

- Children First Learning Center (0.04 miles N)
- Abundant Life Missionary Baptist Church (0.03 miles N)
- Zion Pentecostal Temple Church (0.08 miles NW)
- Bethlehem Missionary Baptist (0.14 miles N)
- Shabach Ministries Church Inc. (0.04 miles N)
- True Vine Missionary Baptist Church (0.08 miles N)
- Progressive Baptist Church (0.02 miles N)
- Blessed Rock (0.04 miles N)
- St James AME Church (0.03 miles W)
- Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church (0.05 miles NE)
- Dayton VA Medical Center (0.01 miles S)
- Richardson Park (0.03 miles W)
- Dayton Grotto Gardens (0.01 miles SE)
- Single Family Residences to the north, east and west of the DNC

3.7.3 Effects to Proposed Action Alternative

Gravesite expansion would have short-term noise impacts associated with construction activities. All noise generating sources would be associated with standard construction practices, equipment uses, and construction transportation to and from the site. The most prevalent noise source at typical construction sites comes from internal combustion engines. General construction equipment using engines includes but is not limited to heavy, medium, and light equipment such as excavators; roller compactors; front-end loaders; bulldozers; graders; backhoes; dump trucks; water trucks; concrete trucks; pump trucks; utility trucks; cranes; sheet pile drivers; man lifts; forklifts; and lube, oil, and fuel trucks.

Peak noise levels vary at a given location based on line of sight, topography, vegetation, and atmospheric conditions. In addition, peak noise levels would be variable and intermittent because each piece of equipment would only be operated when needed. However, peak construction noise levels would be considerably higher than existing noise levels. Relatively high peak noise levels in the range of 93 to 108 dBA (decibels, A-weighted scale) would occur on the active construction site, decreasing with distance from the construction areas. At 0.25 miles, construction noise levels would generally be low enough to be considered insignificant, although transient noise levels may be noticeable at times. Table 5 presents peak noise levels that could be expected from a range of construction equipment during proposed construction activities.

Table 3. Peak Noise Levels Expected by Equipment and Distance (dBA, attenuated)

Equipment Type	0 Feet	50 Feet	100 Feet	200 Feet	400 Feet	1,000 Feet	1,700 Feet	2,500 Feet
Heavy Truck	95	84-89	78-93	72-77	66-71	58-63	54-59	50-55
Dump Truck	108	88	82	76	70	62	58	54
Concrete Mixer	108	85	79	73	67	59	55	51
Jackhammer	108	88	82	76	70	62	58	54
Scraper	93	80-89	74-82	68-77	60-71	54-63	50-59	46-55
Bulldozer	107	87-102	81-96	75-90	69-84	61-76	57-72	53-68
Generator	96	76	70	64	58	50	46	42
Crane	104	75-88	69-82	63-76	55-70	49-62	45-48	41-54
Loader	104	73-86	67-80	61-74	55-68	47-60	43-56	39-52
Grader	108	88-91	82-85	76-79	70-73	62-65	58-61	54-57
Pile driver	105	95	89	83	77	69	65	61
Forklift	100	95	89	83	77	69	65	61

Table 4. Worst Case Combined Peak Noise Level (Bulldozer, Jackhammer, Scraper)

50 Feet	100 Feet	200 Feet	¼ Mile	½ Mile
103	97	91	74	68

Source: Tipler 1976

Proposed noise impacts post construction and during future operation of the expanded DNC would include traffic to and from the site, equipment used for interment site preparation, maintenance, and upkeep, and periodic ceremonial rifle discharges. These activities would be similar to the existing cemetery operation. Thus, no significant adverse impact associated with noise levels during operation are anticipated as part of future expansion.

3.7.4 Effects to No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no noise impact changes would occur.

Land Use

3.8.1 Background

The Proposed Action Alternative occurs within the existing DNC. The existing DNC is an existing national cemetery with various interment options, roadways and parking lots, landscaping elements, and several buildings and structures.

3.8.2 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Future cemetery expansion would convert undeveloped areas within the DNC to gravesites and DNC supporting infrastructure as necessary. The Site would match the current land use and viewscape of the existing DNC and not result in adverse impacts to land use.

3.8.3 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no land use impacts would occur.

Floodplains, Wetlands, and Coastal Zone Management

3.9.1 Background

A review of the FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette does not identify any floodplains or flood hazard areas on site. The USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) mapper does not show any wetlands or waterways on site or near the site.

3.9.2 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

BMPs relating to erosion control and sediment runoff as described in **Section 3.5 Hydrology and Water Quality** will be utilized during any future construction and operation to avoid impacts to resources downstream.

3.9.3 Effects of the No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no impact on floodplain, wetlands, or coastal zone management.

Socioeconomics

3.10.1 Background

The following tables identify the socioeconomic environment of Montgomery County where the DNC occurs and compares them to the entire state of Ohio. All data was collected from U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics. Montgomery County has a population of 537,443 individuals with approximately 21.9% under the age of 18 and 19.2% over the age of 65. These percentages are similar to Ohio as a whole, where of the total population of 11,799,448 individuals, 21.6% are under the age of 18 and 19.1% are over the age of 65. Montgomery County has a slightly higher percentage of high school graduates (93.4% compared to the state of Ohio, 92.2%). Approximately 6.2% of the population of Ohio are veterans, whereas 7.7% of the population of Montgomery County are veterans. The median household income for the state of Ohio is $72,212 with the median household income in Montgomery County being lower: $65,985. The population below the poverty level (annual income of $26,500 or less for a family of 4 according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2021) is higher in Montgomery County, 14.3% compared to the states 12.7%. Unemployment rates are similar in Montgomery County to the overall state (4.3% compared to 4.5%).

Table 5. Demographic Data for Montgomery County and Ohio

Area	Population Estimates	Population Under 18 Age Years	Population Over 65 Age Years	High School Graduates	Veterans
State of Ohio	11,799,448	21.6%	19.1%	92.2%	6.2%
Montgomery County, Ohio	537,443	21.9%	19.2%	93.4%	7.7%

Source: United States Census Bureau, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics, Decennial Census 2024: American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Table 6. Regional Income for Montgomery County and Ohio

Area	Number of Households	Median Household Income	Population Below Poverty Level	Unemployment Rate
State of Ohio	4,929,322	$72,212	12.7%	4.5%
Montgomery County, Ohio	232,348	$65,985	14.3%	4.3%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Bureau of Labor Statistics (December 2024)

In order to prevent children from suffering disproportionately from environmental health risks and safety risks, EO 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, was introduced in 1997 to prioritize the identification and assessment of environmental health risks and safety risks that may affect children and to ensure that Federal agencies' policies, programs, activities, and standards address environmental risks and safety risks to children. Parks, schools, and residential areas where children may reside, play, and learn are identified as sensitive receptors throughout the EA and detailed in **Section 3.11 Community Services**.

3.10.2 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Construction of the cemetery expansion would provide temporary construction and planning jobs benefiting local and nationwide employment and income, in addition to the purchasing of construction materials from regional suppliers and transporters. Once completed the cemetery expansion would provide interment options for Veterans and their families in the region and potentially provide additional job opportunities related to cemetery maintenance and operation.

3.10.3 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the VA would not complete the gravesite expansion within the existing DNC. The undeveloped portions of the DNC would remain undeveloped. The VA would need to find additional land, potentially not contiguous to the existing DNC, delaying future site design and planning and potentially limiting any future development if land cannot be found. VA may not be able to meet its long-term cemetery needs for the region, resulting in a significant long-term impact on US Veterans and their families.

Community Services

3.11.1 Background

The DNC is served by the Dayton Police Department and Fire Department. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and City of Dayton provide local road and bridge maintenance to the surrounding area. The nearest medical facility to the DNC is the Dayton VA Medical Center (0.01 miles south and adjacent).

The nearest parks to the DNC are:

- Richardson Park (0.03 miles W)
- Millhaven Park (0.77 miles NW)
- Residence Park (0.60 miles N)
- Gettysburg Park (0.44 miles NE)
- Westwood Park (0.78 miles NE)
- McCabe Park (0.57 miles E)
- Mallory Park (0.71 miles SE)
- Dayton Grotto Gardens (0.01 miles SE)

The Dayton Regional Transport Authority (RTA) serves the greater Dayton area with routes 1, 8, 9, 22, and W passing the DNC. Multiple bus stops are located around the DNC. The nearest airport is the Dayton International Airport located 10 miles north of the DNC.

3.11.2 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative construction and operation is not anticipated to provide any major additional load to the community services in the area. As the existing DNC is already present, no significant changes to community services uses are anticipated. Less than significant impacts to traffic and roadways is anticipated but would happen incrementally in the future when expansion was to occur. These impacts are further discussed in **Section 3.13 Transportation and Parking.**

3.11.3 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no community service impacts from VA action would occur.

Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste

3.12.1 Background

Hazardous materials include, but are not limited to, hazardous and toxic substances and waste, and any materials that pose a potential hazard to human health and the environment due to their quantity, concentration, or

physical and chemical properties. Hazardous materials and waste, if not controlled, may cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality, serious irreversible illness, or incapacitating reversible illness; or pose a substantial threat to human health or the environment.

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)

Landmark performed this Phase I ESA in February and March 2025 in general conformance with the EPA AAI Final Rule, the Practice, and User-specific requirements for the Proposed Action Alternative.

Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) indicate the presence or likely presence of any hazardous substances or petroleum products on the Subject Property under conditions that indicate an existing release, a past release, or a material threat of a release of any hazardous substance or petroleum products into structures on the Subject Property or into ground, groundwater, or surface water of the Subject Property. Controlled Recs (CRECs) are defined as past releases that have been addressed but allow contamination to remain in place subject to the implementation of required controls. Historical RECs (HRECs) are defined as past releases that have been addressed to a degree allowing for unrestricted use of the Subject Property. A de minimis condition is related to a release that generally does not present a threat to human health or the environment and that generally would not be the subject of an enforcement action from appropriate governmental agencies. A Business Environmental Risk (BER) is a risk which can have a material environmental or environmentally driven impact on the business associated with the current or planned use of the Subject Property. A significant data gap is a data gap or data failure that affects the ability to identify a REC at the Subject Property.

Finding: Current Subject Property use as a vehicle maintenance shop and petroleum storage.

There were no indications of chemical, or petroleum releases observed in maintenance areas or in the vicinity of the Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs) during reconnaissance and there have been no documented releases reported for the Subject Property. Floor drains in maintenance areas currently route to the municipal sanitary sewer and likely have been since the construction of the Complex building in the 1980s. The ASTs are incased in concrete with no indications of leaks. The current Subject Property Owner intends to continue to use the Complex building for vehicle maintenance and ASTs storage. Therefore, the above-referenced finding is not considered a REC, CREC, or HREC.

Finding: Subject Property and intermediate area have the potential for hazardous substances in soil and/or groundwater that are used in the preparation for burials in cemeteries.

The Dayton National Cemetery adheres to modern burial practices including use of concrete crypts or vaults; concrete crypts/vaults inhibit or block migration into the subgrade. Additionally, most of the gravesite expansion areas are located near gravesites that have been developed since the 1980s and later. According to Cemetery staff, they have utilized concrete liners since at least the 1940s and 1950s. Lastly, the Cemetery currently owns the land to be developed or improved. For these reasons, this finding is not considered a REC, CREC, or HREC.

Finding: Visible evidence of filling on the southeast portion of the Subject Property.

No indications of substandard fill material were observed on the Subject Property during reconnaissance. According to the Subject Property representative, fill located on the southeast portion of the Subject Property are spoils from other parts of the Cemetery that were removed for a burial. As such, the presence of fill material is not considered to constitute a likely release to the Subject Property. Therefore, this finding is not considered a REC, CREC, or HREC.

Finding: Potential impacts from nearby properties, including gas stations, an auto repair shop, a mortuary, and

dry cleaners.
Although groundwater impacts were documented on nearby sites, based on groundwater flow direction and distance from the Subject Property, releases on nearby sites are considered unlikely to impact environmental conditions at the Subject Property. Therefore, this finding is not considered a REC, CREC, or HREC.

The Phase I ESA revealed no evidence of RECs, CRECs, or significant data gaps in connection with the Proposed Project Alternative.

3.12.2 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Temporary, less than-significant adverse impacts may occur due to the increased presence and use of petroleum and hazardous substances during construction. A temporary increase in construction vehicle traffic would increase the likelihood of the release of vehicle operating fluids (e.g., oil, diesel, gasoline, antifreeze, etc.) and maintenance materials. Implementation of standard construction BMPs identified in **Section 4.0 Mitigation** would serve to ensure these impacts are further minimized.

Waste generated as part of construction activities during gravesite expansion would be properly managed and disposed of according to all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Waste would be collected and properly disposed of by a waste disposal company at an approved disposal facility.

No significant adverse long-term impacts during operation of the expanded cemetery are anticipated. Long-term operational solid and hazardous materials would be managed in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws and VA standards.

3.12.3 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no solid or hazardous material use or effects from VA's activities would occur.

Transportation and Parking

3.13.1 Background

The Proposed Action Alternative is bordered by Liscum Drive to the west, West Third Street to the north, and South Gettysburg Avenue to the east. The main DNC entrance is located on the north end of the site, where Wisconsin Avenue meets West Third Street. Several other entrances related to the Dayton VA Medical Center to the east and west are also possible as the medical center and DNC roadways are connected. The DNC has numerous pull off parking spots at various points to allow gravesite visitation.

3.13.2 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Gravesite expansion would produce temporary, less than significant adverse impacts to the surrounding area traffic during construction periods as equipment and materials are hauled on and off site and workers travel to and from the construction site. The increased traffic associated with construction would be during daytime work hours and follow standard construction BMPs listed in **Section 4.0 Mitigation** to avoid additional adverse impacts to noise, air quality, etc.

The operation of the future expanded DNC would create less than significant adverse impacts to local traffic, as additional site visitors and staff travel into and out of the Site. Parking and roadways would be planned and designed prior to construction to provide all necessary infrastructure needed within the DNC, preventing any adverse parking-related impacts. As various entrances on all the surrounding roadways serve the DNC currently, an adverse amount of strain on a singular access and exit point are not anticipated. Instead, the slight increases in traffic associated with the Proposed Action would be spread out over several roadways and access points.

3.13.3 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing parking and traffic conditions would remain the same and result in no negligible traffic or parking impacts.

Utilities

3.14.1 Background

The existing DNC is currently serviced by various utilities for electrical, communications, water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer. These utilities are currently mapped and anticipated to handle the existing DNC and future expansions.

3.14.2 Effects of the Proposed Action Alternative

Future construction and operation of the expanded DNC utility impacts are anticipated to be less than significant. The DNC is currently serviced for all utilities, and the Proposed Action is not anticipated to put an adverse yield on any of the current utilities to the site.

3.14.3 Effects of the No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no VA caused impacts to utilities.

Reasonably Foreseeable Effects and Future Actions

3.15.1 Background

Reasonably, foreseeable effects are defined as sufficiently likely to occur such that a person of ordinary prudence would take it into account in reaching a decision. Reasonably foreseeable future actions are federal and non-federal activities not yet undertaken, but sufficiently likely to occur that a responsible official of ordinary prudence would take such activities into account during NEPA analysis. NEPA requires analysis of reasonably foreseeable effects and future actions on resources such as traffic congestion, air quality, noise, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic conditions, utility system capacities, and others.

The DNC is located in a high-density residential and commercial area in the western portion of the City of Dayton, Ohio. The surrounding area has remained relatively unchanged since the 1980-90s, as much of the area has been developed for some time. As the surrounding area has already been developed for a minimum of 40 years of longer with minimal changes, no significant projects are anticipated for the area around the DNC. No development plans for off-site properties in the immediate vicinity were identified during preparation of the reports and NEPA documents.

The Proposed Action Alternative could result in some less than significant adverse impacts identified in **Section 3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives**. The studied areas include aesthetics, air quality, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, wildlife and habitat, noise, land use, floodplains, wetlands, coastal zone management, community services, solid and hazardous materials, transportation and parking, and utilities. All identified impacts are less-than-significant and would be further reduced through careful implementation of the general BMPs, management and minimization measures, and compliance with regulatory requirements as identified in **Section 4.0 Mitigation**. Given the nature of the Proposed Action and the limited expected future development in the immediate surrounding area, no significant reasonably foreseeable effects or future actions are anticipated to occur that would raise the analyzed resources impacts to the level of significant.

3.15.2 Effects on Proposed Action Alternative

No reasonably foreseeable effects or future actions are anticipated because of implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative. Coordination between VA, Federal, State, and local agencies, and community representatives would serve to manage and control future effects within the region. Implementing effective resource management plans and programs, and continued coordination will help to minimize and eliminate potential impacts to the environment as DNC continues to expand.

3.15.3 Effects on No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts would likely occur.

Potential for Generating Substantial Public Controversy

As identified in **Section 5.0 Public Involvement**, VA has solicited input from various Federal, State, and local government agencies regarding the Proposed Action. No responses from public scoping have been received, and all comments received from the listed stakeholders do not pose concern or issue with the Proposed Action Alternative. No substantial public controversy has been encountered or is anticipated as part of the Proposed Action.

4.0 MITIGATION MEASURES AND MONITORING

This section will summarize and compile the identified BMPs and minimization measures for each affected environment in **Section 3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives.**

VA and its contractors would implement BMPs and satisfy all applicable regulatory requirements in association with the design, construction, and operation of the cemetery expansion and columbarium construction. These mitigation measures are described in this EA and are included as components of the Proposed Action Alternative. In general, implementation of such mitigation measures would maintain impacts at acceptable levels for all resource areas analyzed.

Table 7. Best Management Practices and Minimization Measures for the Proposed Action

Affected Environment Area	BMPs/Minimization Measures
Aesthetics	•use vegetative buffers and landscaping elements to enhance viewscape. • Utilize VA Design Guidelines and match to the best extent possible existing exterior facades onsite during future construction activities.
Air Quality	•Use appropriate dust suppression methods (such as the use of water, dust, palliative, covers, suspension of earth moving in high wind conditions) during onsite construction activities. •Stabilize the disturbed area through re-vegetation or mulching if the area would be inactive for several weeks or longer. •Implement measures to reduce DPM emissions from construction equipment, such as reducing idling time and using newer equipment with emissions controls. •Comply with any applicable US EPA / Ohio EPA regulations. Utilize the EPA Construction Emission Control Checklist. •Comply with NCA Construction Air Quality Requirements.
Cultural Resources	•If buried archaeological resources are discovered during construction, cease operation, and contact SHPO/Consulting Parties.
Geology and Soils	•Control soil erosion and sedimentation impacts during construction by implementing erosion prevention measures and complying with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process. •Implement effective controls per a site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). •The NPDES permit would require stormwater runoff and erosion management using BMPs, such as earth berms, vegetative buffers and filter strips, and spill prevention and management techniques. •The construction contractor would implement the sedimentation and erosion control measures specified in the NPDES permit and the SWPPP to protect surface water quality.
Hydrology and Water Quality	•Control soil erosion and sedimentation impacts during construction by complying with the NPDES permit and the SWPPP. •Improvements would be designed in accordance with the requirements of EO 13514/EISA Section 438 with respect to stormwater runoff quantity and characteristics. •Ensure the design of the cemetery includes sufficient on-site stormwater management so as not to adversely affect the water quantity/quality in receiving waters and/or offsite areas. Obtain appropriate permits for off-site stormwater discharges.
Wildlife and Habitat	•Native species should be used to the extent practicable when revegetating land disturbed by construction to avoid the potential introduction of non-

	native or invasive species. •Proper cleaning of construction equipment should be done to the extent practicable, to prevent the spread of non-native/invasive species. •Avoid impacts to water resources to the best extent possible. Utilize BMPs to minimize erosion and sedimentation. •Only trees ≥5 inches dbh are subject to the seasonal timing restriction. Trees <5 inches dbh may be cleared at any time of year. •Tree clearing activities that are subject to seasonal timing constraints should occur only between October 1 and March 31.
Noise	•Post signage at the entry points of the Site providing current construction information, including schedule and activity. Limit, to the extent possible, construction and associated heavy truck traffic to occur between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday, or during normal, weekday, work hours. •Locate stationary operating equipment as far away from sensitive receptors as possible. •Select material transportation routes as far away from sensitive receptors as possible. •Shut down noise-generating heavy equipment when it is not needed and maintain equipment per manufacturer's recommendations to minimize noise generation. •Encourage construction personnel to operate equipment in the quietest manner practicable (e.g., speed restrictions, retarder brake restrictions, engine speed restrictions, etc.).
Land Use	•None Required.
Floodplains, Wetlands, and Coastal Zone Management	•Utilize proper erosion and sediment controls around water resources to avoid impacts to onsite resources and downstream resources.
Socioeconomics	•None Required.
Community Services	•None Required.
Solid and Hazardous Waste	•Comply with VA Standard Operating Procedures and applicable Federal and State laws governing the use, generation, storage, transportation, and disposal of solid and hazardous materials. •All hazardous waste removal should be handled by a licensed contractor and disposed of following all federal, state, and local regulations
Transportation and Parking	•Ensure demolition and construction activities do not adversely affect traffic flow on local roadways; construction would be timed to avoid peak travel hours. •Ensure debris and/or soil is not deposited on local roadways during the demolition and construction activities.
Utilities	•Contact applicable utility providers as needed if utility work or larger uses are proposed.

5.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, COORDINATION, AND CONSULTATION

VA invites public participation in decision-making on new proposals through the NEPA process. Public participation with respect to decision making on the Proposed Action is guided by 38 CFR 26, VA's policy and regulations for implementing NEPA. Additional guidance is provided in the VA's NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects (VA 2010). Consideration of the views and information of all interested persons promotes open communication and enables better decision making. Agencies, organizations, and members of the public with a potential interest in the Proposed Action, such as area residents, interested organizations, and disadvantaged persons are urged to participate.

5.1 Public Involvement

VA published a project scoping notice in the *Dayton Daily News* on September 26 and 28, 2025. VA emailed and/or hard copy mailed scoping notices to the federal, state, tribal and local stakeholders identified in **Section 5.3 Agencies and Persons Consulted**.

VA will publish and distribute this Draft EA for a 30-day public comment period, as announced by a Notice of Availability (NOA) published in the *Dayton Daily News*. A copy of the Draft EA will be made available for public review on the VA website and in hard copy at the DNC and Dayton Metro Library – West Branch located at 300 Abbey Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45417. VA will send notification of the availability of the draft EA for review and comment via email or paper mailing to each of the stakeholders that were contacted during the NEPA scoping and Section 106 consultation. VA will respond to all agency and public comments within the Final EA.

5.2 Stakeholder Coordination

Interagency coordination of environmental planning regarding major federal proposed actions is a federally mandated requirement for informing and coordinating with other governmental agencies and stakeholders. As part of the NEPA process, public agencies shall be consulted to provide preliminary input on potential environmental effects on resources under their jurisdiction within the Proposed Action area. Below is a list of agencies contacted as part of this EA. In addition, a sample of the scoping letter and the scoping comments are contained in Appendix B.

5.3 Agencies and Persons Consulted

Federal Agencies

- United States Fish and Wildlife Service – Ohio Ecological Services Field Office
- United States Environmental Protection Agency – Region 5
- United States Army Corps of Engineers – Huntington Regulatory District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Brookville Service Center
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Eastern Region
- Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region 5

State Agencies

- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
    - Division of Forestry
    - Division of Geological Survey
    - Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
    - Division of Water Resources
    - Division of Wildlife
    - Office of Real Estate and Land Management
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
    - Southwest District Office
    - Division of Surface Water

- Ohio Department of Transportation
- Ohio History Connection - SHPO

Tribes
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Seneca Cayuga Nation

Local Agencies
- Regional Air Pollution Control Agency
- Dayton Planning, Neighborhoods & Development
- Ohio Archaeological Council
- Dayton Fire Department
- Dayton Daily News
- Dayton Metro Library
- Dayton Regional Transit Authority

Elected Officials
- US House of Representatives – Ohio 10th Congressional District
  - Representative Michael R. Turner
- US Senate – Senior Senator for Ohio
  - Senator Bernie Moreno
- US Senate – Junior Senator of Ohio
  - Senator Jon Husted
- Ohio Senate – District 6
  - Senator Willis E Blackshear, Jr.
- Ohio House of Representatives – District 38
  - Representative Desiree Tims

5.4 Responses to Comments

Copies of correspondence received during the initial scoping period are included in Appendix B of this Draft EA. Comments were received from the Ohio Archaeological Council, US EPA, Ohio History Connection, and USACE. Stakeholder information and comments have been incorporated into Draft EA, where and as appropriate. Copies of relevant correspondence can be found in Appendix B. Agency Correspondence and Consultation. Comments received during the Draft EA comment period will be included in the Final EA.

6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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- U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2023.
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- U.S. Census Bureau. 2024, Quick facts.
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- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). 2008.
- USEPA's Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Report (USEPA 2006, Total Maximum Daily Loads, Section 303[d] List).
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9.0 GLOSSARY

100-Year Flood – A flood event of such magnitude that it occurs, on average, every 100 years; this equates to a one percent chance of its occurring in a given year.

Aesthetics – Pertaining to the quality of human perception of natural beauty.

Ambient - The environment as it exists around people, plants, and structures.

Ambient Air Quality Standards - Those standards established according to the CAA to protect health and welfare (AR 200-1).

Aquifer - An underground geological formation containing usable amounts of groundwater which can supply wells and springs.

Asbestos - Incombustible, chemical-resistant, fibrous mineral forms of impure magnesium silicate used for fireproofing, electrical insulation, building materials, brake linings, and chemical filters. Asbestos is a carcinogenic substance.

Attainment Area - Region that meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for a criteria pollutant under the CAA.

Bedrock - The solid rock that underlies all soil, sand, clay, gravel, and loose material on the earth's surface.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) - Methods, measures, or practices to prevent or reduce the contributions of pollutants to U.S. waters. Best management practices may be imposed in addition to, or in the absence of, effluent limitations, standards, or prohibitions (AR 200-1).

Commercial land use – Land use that includes private and public businesses (retail, wholesale, etc.), institutions (schools, churches, etc.), health services (hospitals, clinics, etc.), and military buildings and installations.

Compaction - The packing of soil together into a firmer, denser mass, generally caused by the pressure of great weight.

Contaminants - Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substances that have an adverse effect on air, water, or soil.

Criteria Pollutants - The CAA of 1970 required the USEPA to set air quality standards for common and widespread pollutants in order to protect human health and welfare. There are six "criteria pollutants": ozone (O3), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO2), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and particulate matter.

Cultural Resources - The physical evidence of our Nation's heritage. Included are archaeological sites; historic buildings, structures, and districts; and localities with social significance to the human community.

Decibel (dB) - A unit of measurement of sound pressure level.

Direct Impact - A direct impact is caused by a Proposed Action and occurs at the same time and place.

Emission - A release of a pollutant.

Endangered Species - Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Environmental Assessment (EA) - An EA is a publication that provides sufficient evidence and analyses to show whether a proposed system will adversely affect the environment or be environmentally controversial.

Erosion - The wearing away of the land surface by detachment and movement of soil and rock fragments through the action of moving water and other geological agents.

Fauna - Animal life, especially the animal characteristics of a region, period, or special environment.

Flora - Vegetation; plant life characteristic of a region, period, or special environment.

Floodplain - The relatively flat area or lowlands adjoining a river, stream, ocean, lake, or other body of water that is susceptible to being inundated by floodwaters.

FONSI - Finding of No Significant Impact, a NEPA document.

Fugitive Dust - Particles light enough to be suspended in air but not captured by a filtering system. For this document, this refers to particles put in the air by moving vehicles and air movement over disturbed soils at construction sites.

Geology - Science which deals with the physical history of the earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and physical changes in the earth.

Groundwater - Water found below the ground surface. Groundwater may be geologic in origin and as pristine as it was when it was entrapped by the surrounding rock, or it may be subject to daily or seasonal effects depending on the local hydrological cycle. Groundwater may be pumped from wells and used for drinking water, irrigation, and other purposes. It is recharged by precipitation or irrigation water soaking into the ground. Thus, any contaminant in precipitation or irrigation water may be carried into groundwater.

Hazardous Substance - Hazardous materials are defined within several laws and regulations to have certain meanings. For this document, a hazardous material is any one of the following:

Any substance designated pursuant to section 311 (b)(2)(A) of the Clean Water Act.

Any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance designated pursuant to Section 102 of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Any hazardous substance as defined under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Any toxic pollutant listed under TSCA.

Any hazardous air pollutant listed under Section 112 of CAA. Any imminently hazardous chemical substance or mixture with respect to which the EPA Administrator has taken action pursuant to Subsection 7 of TSCA.

The term does not include: 1) Petroleum, including crude oil or any thereof, which is not otherwise specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance in the above. 2) Natural gas, natural gas liquids, liquefied natural gas, or synthetic gas usable for fuel (or mixtures of natural gas and such synthetic gas). A list of hazardous substances is found in 40 CFR Part 302.4.

Hazardous Waste - A solid waste which, when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, poses a substantial hazard to human health or the environment. Hazardous wastes are identified in 40 CFR Part 261.3 or applicable foreign law, rule, or regulation.

Hazardous Waste Storage - As defined in 40 CFR Part 260.10, "the holding of hazardous waste for a temporary period, at the end of which the hazardous waste is treated, disposed of, or stored elsewhere".

Indirect Impact - An indirect impact is caused by a Proposed Action that occurs later in time or farther removed in distance

but is still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect impacts may include induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air, water, and other natural and social systems. For example, referring to the possible direct impacts described above, the clearing of trees for new development may have an indirect impact on area wildlife by decreasing available habitat.

Jurisdictional Wetland – Areas that meet the wetland hydrology, vegetation, and hydric soil characteristics, and have a direct connection to the Waters of the US. These wetlands are regulated by the USACE.

Listed Species - Any plant or animal designated as a State or Federal threatened, endangered, special concern, or candidate species.

Mitigation - Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts on the environment.

Mobile Sources - Vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, construction equipment, and other equipment that use internal combustion engines for energy sources.

Monitoring - A process of inspecting and recording the progress of mitigation measures implemented.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) - Nationwide standards set up by the USEPA for widespread air pollutants, as required by Section 109 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Currently, six pollutants are regulated by primary and secondary NAAQS: carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), ozone (O3), particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide (SO2).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - U.S. statute that requires all Federal agencies to consider the potential effects of Proposed Actions on the human and natural environment.

Non-attainment Area - An area that has been designated by the EPA or the appropriate State air quality agency as exceeding one or more National or State ambient air quality standards.

Parcel - A plot of land, usually a division of a larger area.

Particulates or Particulate Matter - Fine liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes, or smog found in air.

Pollutant - A substance introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource.

Potable Water - Water which is suitable for drinking.

Prime Farmland - A special category of highly productive cropland that is recognized and described by the US Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service and receives special protection under the Surface Mining Law.

Remediation - A long-term action that reduces or eliminates a threat to the environment.

Riparian Areas - Areas adjacent to rivers and streams that have a high density, diversity, and productivity of plant and animal species relative to nearby uplands.

River Basin - The land area drained by a river and its tributaries.

Sensitive Receptors - Include, but are not limited to, asthmatics, children, and the elderly, as well as specific facilities, such as long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, retirement homes, residences, schools, playgrounds, and childcare centers.

Significant Impact - According to 40 CFR Part 1508.27, "significance" as used in NEPA requires consideration of both context and intensity.

Context. The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the Proposed Action. For instance, in the case of a site-specific action, significance would usually depend upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant. Intensity. This refers to the severity of impact. Responsible officials must bear in mind that more than one agency may make decisions about partial aspects of a major action.

Soil - The mixture of altered mineral and organic material at the earth's surface that supports plant life.

Solid Waste - Any discarded material that is not excluded by section 261.4(a) or that is not excluded by variance granted under sections 260.30 and 260.31.

Threatened species - Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Topography - The relief features or surface configuration of an area.

Toxic Substance - A harmful substance which includes elements, compounds, mixtures, and materials of complex composition.

Waters of the United States - Include the following: (1) All waters which are currently being used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide. (2) All interstate waters include interstate wetlands. (3) All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds; the use, degradation, or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce.

Watershed - The region draining into a particular stream, river, or entire river system.

Wetlands - Areas that are regularly saturated by surface or groundwater and, thus, are characterized by a prevalence of vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Examples include swamps, bogs, fens, marshes, and estuaries.

Wildlife Habitat - Set of living communities in which a wildlife population lives.