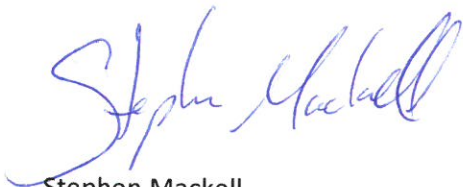


Many urban areas across the United States lack access to fresh, healthful foods and lush, open green space. In an extraordinary statistic, the Dayton Metropolitan area ranks worst in Ohio and 9th in the country in food hardship. Nearly every urban area in the Miami Valley is a food desert—the Dayton core is no exception.

To assist in combating this problem, the University of Dayton's Hanley Sustainability Institute has partnered with East End Community Services and Mission of Mary Cooperative to initiate change within the urban regions of Dayton through the development of Lincoln Hill Gardens, a community greenspace and urban agriculture center. Lincoln Hill Gardens will transform five acres of previously vacant land within the Twin Towers neighborhood into a sustainable, multipurpose site. Agricultural, educational, and recreational elements will increase neighborhood access to fresh, healthful foods while offering open green space for community gatherings and nature play.

University of Dayton students, faculty, and staff collaborate with representatives from East End Community Services and Mission of Mary Cooperative to enhance community-based research in topics that include site soil conditions and ecosystem services, residential food access, community-based assets, and neighborhood-based economic development strategies. University of Dayton students enrolled in the University of Dayton's Sustainability Research courses conducted surveys with community members and East End Community Services staff to uncover their aspirations and concerns for site development at Lincoln Hill Gardens. Residents and local businesses have also attended student-led discussions, presentations, and planning meetings to shape the site design into an asset that can be used by all community members.



Stephen Mackell

Urban Farm Manager, Mission of Mary Cooperative