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# Communities of Interest

## ● Oakwood and surrounding region

Oakwood is a community of (to generalize) largely white, prosperous, and highly-educated residents\*. Compared to its neighboring communities Oakwood skews toward young families, with school-age children outnumbering retirees 2-to-1. Oakwood has a mix of well-cared-for and unique WWII-vintage homes and ample tree coverage. The relatively high density, rectilinear street layout, sidewalks, and a dedicated commercial district (anchored by a grocery store) results in a high degree of walkability and bikeability. Some of the neighboring regions to the south and west of Oakwood-proper share a similar 'feel,' and there is frequent mutual cross-community use of parks and recreation resources, as well as some public services.

Oakwood residents place a very high value on quality education, and the school district has an excellent reputation. The schools are supported by very high property taxes, and in general the city government operates on a high-tax / high-service model. Three major positive features of Oakwood are the school district, walkability, and safety. The Oakwood register is the local weekly newspaper which enjoys high readership.

Oakwood residents identified a number of challenges in the community. Over the last several decades the demographics of the city have been trending away from its roots as a dominant White Christian community, and recent events have highlighted racial bias in police enforcement and scrutiny of citizens. This has activated both a negative opinion of Oakwood in parts of the surrounding communities, as well as a growing awareness of and concern about social disparities among the residents, many of whom are seeking changes in some of the traditional characteristics of the city. High taxes, high home values, few multi-family units, and resistance to new housing developments shut out lower-income families, and limit the socioeconomic and racial diversity of the city. Finally, despite being an inner-ring suburb and having many residents that commute to several common locations (U Dayton, WPAFB), Oakwood's public transit is relatively sparse and infrequent.

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## ● South East Oakwood

The south-east section of Oakwood is somewhat distinct from the surrounding parts of the city, in that the houses tend to be more modest with smaller lots and all blocks are composed of straight streets with sidewalks and , resulting in greater walkability. This is also the approximate boundary between the two elementary schools' territories, which was named as a defining feature of social life in Oakwood, especially for young families. Otherwise, the description provided for the broader Oakwood community also applies here.

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## Important Places

### Wright Memorial Public Library

A beautiful Tudor building with stained glass windows, and original wood work, the building is a registered historic landmark. Serves the community with traditional and digital library and information services.

## **Oakwood High School**

The city's only high school, serving approximately 650 students. Consistently ranked among the best high schools in the state of Ohio.

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## **Shoppes of Oakwood**

This business corridor serves as the city's downtown, with multiple clothing shops, toy stores, florists, cafes, restaurants, and other service businesses. One of Oakwood's two bus lines runs along route 48 directly through this area.

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## **Dorothy Lane Market**

The only grocery store in Oakwood proper, DLM sells staple grocery necessities, prepared foods, and higher-end food products. DLM is an important amenity in Oakwood, and contributes to the walkability of the community.

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## **Orchardly Park**

Popular park for child and adult use, with a playground, spray park, basketball and tennis courts, a giant sand box, and grassy areas. Families from throughout Oakwood as well as many families from the surrounding community make ample use of this park.

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## **Smith Garden**

Fully enclosed formal flower garden; occupies less than one acre that was donated to the city. The garden is a popular spot for photography, weddings, and general passing of time.

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## **Oakwood Community Center**

The OCC hosts many community events and classes of all kinds, has community meeting rooms, hosts blood drives, CPR training, and so on. The OCC is attached to the city's public swimming pool.

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## **University of Dayton**

The UD is an important place of employment for staff and faculty, and of enrollment for students, many of whom in both groups live in Oakwood.

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## **Pine Club**

A formal steak house that many locals associate with Oakwood, even if it is not in the city proper. It is a popular restaurant with a good reputation.

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## **Graeters Ice Cream**

Local branch of the Cincinnati-based chain, and very popular spot for a treat throughout the year.

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## **Chabad Center of Greater Dayton**

Local site for disseminating traditional Judaism by the Chabad movement; attracts a stringently-observant Jewish community.

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## **Shafor Park**

A whole-block suburban park with open grassy areas, a playground, basketball court, and more. Multiple whole-community gatherings are held here throughout the year, such as "that day in May", the ice cream social, etc.

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## **Houk Stream**

A small wood with hiking trails and a stream running through; connects to an area adjacent to Hills and Dales in Kettering.

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## **Elizabeth Gardens**

Small wooded park with a trail, incorporated in between the back yards of the surrounding large private properties.

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## **Kettering connector bike path**

A recreational trail that connects Kettering, Oakwood, and UD to points north including UD, downtown Dayton, WPAFB, and many other destinations throughout the state.

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## **Oakwood dog park**

Highly-used, contributes to the dog-friendliness of the community.

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### **Oakwood Government center**

The center of city government administrative offices and services.

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### **Fraze Pavilion**

Situated in Lincoln Park in neighboring Kettering, 'the Frazee' has a stage and terraced seating to host large outdoor live concerts throughout the good weather seasons.

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### **Town and Country Shopping Center**

One of several shopping centers in the general area. Many restaurants, grocery stores, business offices, and other amenities and services are found here. This is an important location to Oakwood community even if it is not in Oakwood.

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### **Hills and Dales Metro Park**

In neighboring Kettering, but adjoining Oakwood, Hills and Dales has 63 acres of urban woodlands with multiple hiking trails, sledding hills, a stream, a pond, pavilions, and other attractive features that are a year-round draw for Oakwood residents. The park is attached to the Dayton Community Golf Club.

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### **Hummon Stadium**

Site of the high school athletic fields, and open to the public when no games and practices are occurring.

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### **St Paul's Episcopal Church**

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### **Oakwood United Methodist Church**

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### **Concordia Lutheran Church**

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### **Loy Park**

Small wooded park with a trail, incorporated in between the back yards of the surrounding large private properties.

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### **Lange School**

Actually in Kettering, the Lange School is Oakwood's only kindergarten.

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### **Smith Elementary School**

One of Oakwood's two elementary schools; part of the city's excellent public school district.

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### **Harman Elementary School**

One of Oakwood's two elementary schools; part of the city's excellent public school district.

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### **Wright Patterson Air Force Base**

The largest single-site of employment in the state of Ohio. Many Oakwood residents are employed here, or by a business or organization whose prosperity is closely tied to the activities at the base.

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