

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Fair Shake[®]
Environmental Legal Services

HISTORY



Youngstown, Ohio was founded in 1797 as the county seat of Mahoning County (Ohio History Connection, n.d.).

Youngstown is currently the 11th largest city in Ohio (United States Census Bureau, n.d.).

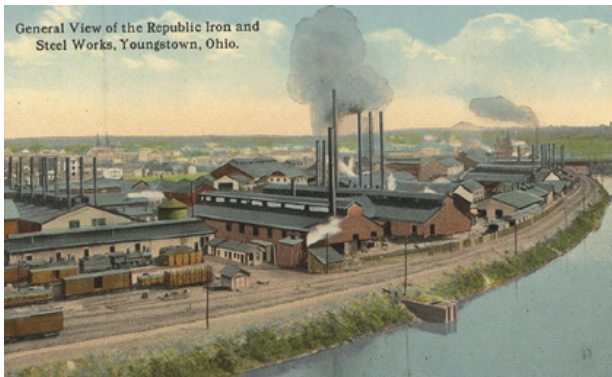
Find the Youngstown Citywide Plan and Neighborhood Plans Here:
<https://youngstownohio.gov/cped-planning>

Mahoning Valley was home to Delaware and Iroquois tribes (Stran, 2019; Gostlin, 2022).

Native American artifacts are on display in the Tyler History Center in Youngstown.



ECONOMIC HISTORY



Iron and steel manufacturing dominated Youngstown's economy from around 1800 until the largest steel mills in Youngstown shut down in 1977 and 1984 (Boney, 2017).

Youngstown released a plan called the Youngstown 2010 Citywide Plan to address the population and economic decline following the steel industry closure. The goals in the 2010 plan to revitalize the economy went largely unfulfilled (Ryan & Gao, 2019).

A 5-year forecast published by the city in 2018 estimated that from 2019 - 2023, the city-wide budget would continue to rely on income tax as its primary source of revenue.

You can review the 5-year forecast here:

https://youngstownohio.gov/sites/default/files/forms/COY_5YearForecast.pdf

GOVERNMENT

Youngstown operates under the Mayor-Council form of government, where the mayor holds veto-power over the city council.

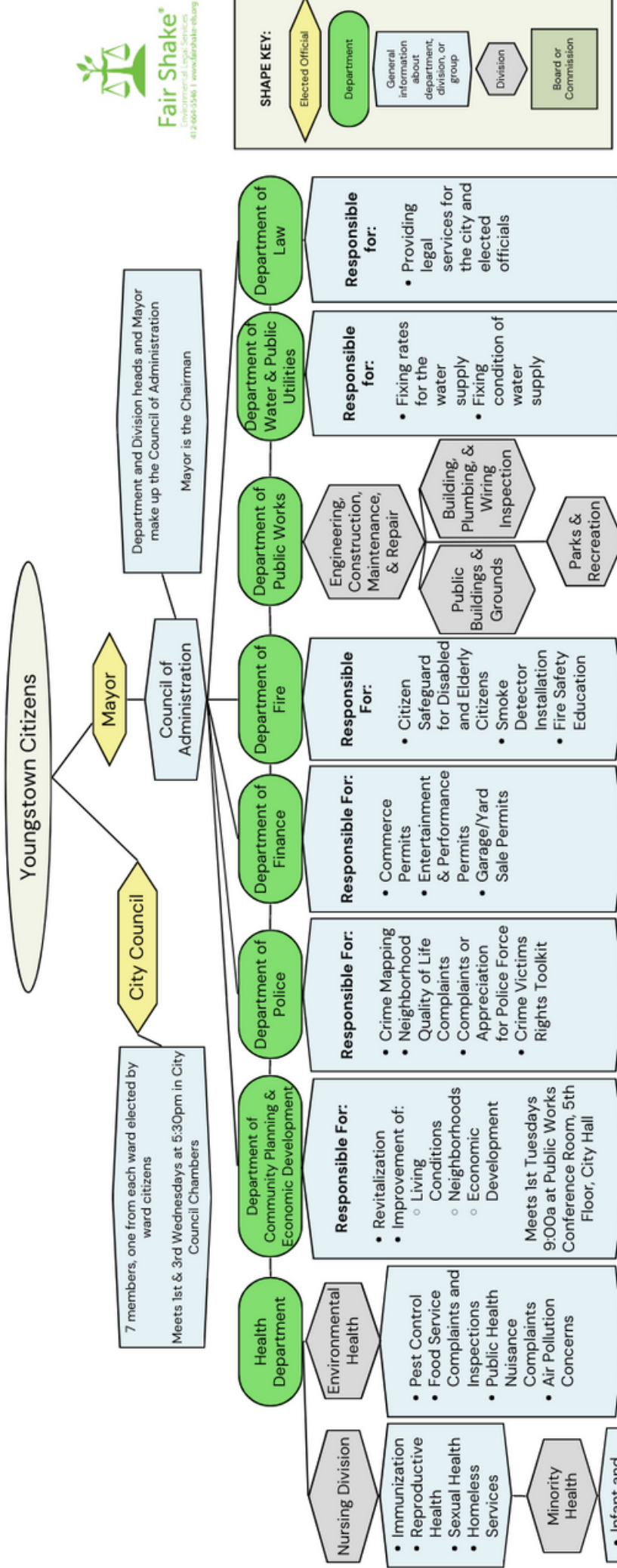
The mayor and city council members are elected by the citizens of Youngstown.

The city council makes legislative decisions, like reviewing and passing ordinances and rules.

The mayor oversees the administration and enforcement of city ordinances and rules.



YOUNGSTOWN GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

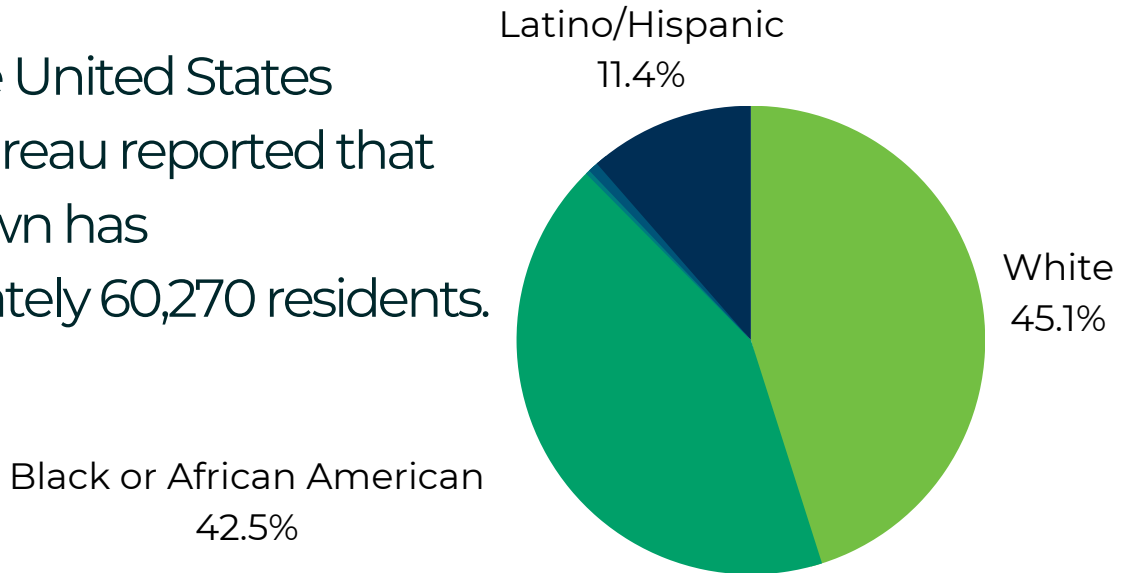


Boards and Commissions

Human Relations Commission Investigates discrimination complaints related to housing and employment 5-10 citizen members appointed by the Mayor	Property Code Enforcement & Demolition Responsible for enforcing Youngstown property maintenance code Meets every other Thursday at 5:30p at Public Works Conference Room, 5th floor, City Hall	Office of Events and Special Projects Coordinates city and downtown events Administers permits for organization events Run by Special Events Coordinator	Community Initiative to Reduce Violence Partnership between law enforcement, social services, and community members to reduce gun violence Community events & opportunities found at civrytown.org/events	Shade Tree Commission Seven members - one citizen from each ward Members appointed by City Council Develop and administer a plan for the maintenance of trees and shrubs in public areas	Zoning Department Enforces zoning ordinances and issues zoning permits Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 1:30p at Public Works Conference Room, 5th floor, City Hall	Street Department Street cleaning Snow removal Graffiti removal Street repair
Green Youngstown Residential curbside recycling Electronics recycling	Traffic Engineering: Block Party Registration Parking Tickets Oversize Load Permits	Board of Control: Approves all contracts & purchases over \$2,500 Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 9:30a at City Council Caucus Room, 6th floor, City Hall Mayor, Director of Law, and Director of Finance are members				

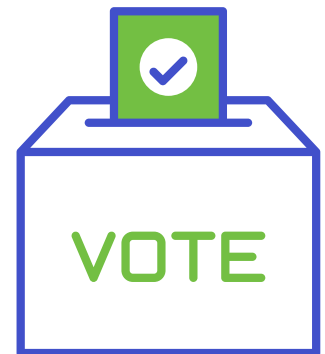
CITIZENS

In 2021, the United States Census Bureau reported that Youngstown has approximately 60,270 residents.



The median household income in Youngstown is ~\$31,020 and around 55% of residents own their own home (United States Census Bureau, 2021)

In the most recent local election, approximately 39,448 Youngstown residents were registered to vote. About 33.62% of those registered voters cast a ballot on at least one election or issue in November of 2022 (Ohio Secretary of State, 2022).



Find out how to register to vote here:
<https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>

CITY ATTRACTIONS

Youngstown has a variety of local attractions, including:

- A thriving city park network
 - <https://youngstownohio.gov/parks>
- Wick Park Disc Golf Course
 - <https://www.pdga.com/course-directory/course/wick-park-dgc>
- Ward Beecher Planetarium
 - <http://www.wbplanetarium.org/>
- Youngstown State University Sports Events
 - <https://www.ysusports.com/>



Find more information here:

<https://youngstownohio.gov/sports>
<https://youngstownohio.gov/science>
<https://youngstownohio.gov/outdoor>

LOCAL INFLUENCES

Youngstown has several hospitals and medical centers:

- Mercy Health- St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital
- Select Specialty Hospital- Youngstown



Youngstown is home to Youngstown State University, a public 4-year university

Youngstown is served by an organization called the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley

Contact:
info@cfmv.org



ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

The United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that the city of Youngstown has these environmental issues:

- **Waste Water:** Youngstown has higher levels of wastewater discharge than most of other Ohio cities
- **Superfund:** There are more Superfund sites in and around Youngstown than a majority of other Ohio cities. Superfund sites are abandoned hazardous waste facilities that the government has marked for clean-up.
- **Air Pollution:** Youngstown also has higher levels of air pollutants that are known to cause health problems than a majority other Ohio cities.

What is Environmental Justice?

"Environmental justice is based on the reality that certain groups in society bear unequal environmental and economic burdens like poor air and water quality, as well as unhealthy living conditions resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations and/or federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies [...] Environmental justice is made possible when all communities have access to information and decision-makers that enable them to take action and create positive change for themselves" (Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, n.d.).

Watch this [video](#) to learn more.

What environmental issues does my community have?

The state environmental data shown above gives a good picture of the environmental issues of the larger area, but communities within the same area can have very different living conditions.

The information and map on the next page show areas of concern within the community and the specific environmental justice burdens those areas face.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS

Area One: Northwest

- Lead Paint
- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Access to Transportation
- Energy and Housing Costs
- Lack of Indoor Plumbing
- Historic Underinvestment

Area Two: Northeast

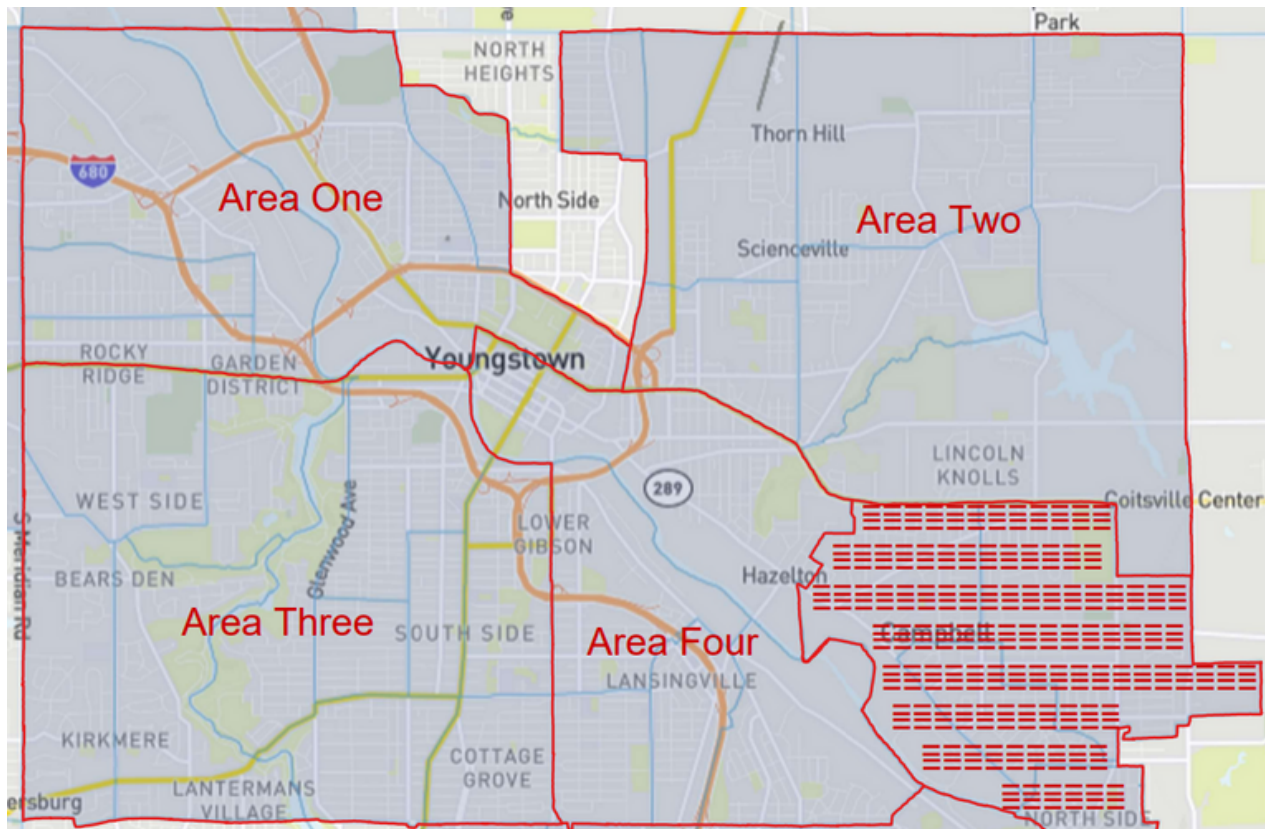
- Lead Paint
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- Access to Transportation
- Energy Costs
- Lack of Indoor Plumbing
- Historic Underinvestment

Area Three: Southwest

- Lead Paint
- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Access to Transportation

Area Four: Southeast

- Lead Paint
- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Access to Transportation
- Energy Costs
- Proximity to Risk Management Plan Facilities
- Historic Underinvestment



Learn how to find more information about your community [here](#):

COMMUNITY VISION

Community members in Youngstown have shared with Fair Shake ELS that they are most interested improving the quality of their air and water. Youngstown citizens want to be able to enjoy the Mahoning River without worrying about the safety of the water.

Citizens are also interested in creating programs for young adults to encourage them to stay in the Youngstown area.

COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

Do you want to learn about how to get involved in your community and make positive change?

Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services is developing a Community Ambassador program to train citizens to become local leaders and engage their community.

Reach out to:
sreed@fairshake-els.org
234-255-0691
to learn more



PHOTO CREDITS

Old Youngstown Photo:

https://youngstownohio.gov/sites/default/files/Ytown2010_chapter1.pdf

Republic Iron and Steel Works Photo:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Youngstown,_Ohio

Youngstown Sign Photo: <https://youngstownohio.gov/>

Parks and Recreation Photo:

<https://youngstownohio.gov/outdoor>

Wick Park Photo: <https://youngstownohio.gov/outdoor>

Ward Beecher Planetarium:

<https://youngstownohio.gov/science>

YSU Penguins Photo: <https://youngstownohio.gov/sports>

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