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RIVERSCAPE ADDS KAYAKS, CONCERTS TO SUMMER FUN MIX

DAYTON – Summer will sizzle at RiverScape MetroPark, featuring new entertainment and recreational opportunities sure to deliver fun for the whole family all season long.

To further efforts in connecting Dayton-area residents with the rivers, Five Rivers MetroParks and Whitewater Warehouse will introduce kayak rentals on Saturdays, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. starting June 11 and running through July 30. Recreation enthusiasts of all skill levels and most ages (some age restrictions apply) are invited to enjoy this latest amenity. “Whitewater Warehouse will provide the equipment and basic instruction,” explains Five Rivers MetroParks Executive Director Becky Benna. “In addition to the kayak rentals, visitors can also enjoy occasional floats down the Mad River. These casual, downstream floats are a great way for beginners to become acquainted with paddle sports and learn more about this type of recreational experience.” For information about summer kayak rentals and floats hosted by Whitewater Warehouse, visit www.kayakdayton.com or call (937) 222-7020. “This new opportunity is just a taste of what downtown Dayton life will be like with the addition of RiverScape Phase IV, which will remove the low dam and install ‘play’ areas—a paddler’s paradise!” Benna says.

Those interested in pursuing kayaking further are invited to take progressive instructional courses. Learn more at metroparks.org/paddle or call (937) 277-4374 weekdays. Five Rivers MetroParks also will host a series of Try It! programs at RiverScape MetroPark, including Try Kayaking! and Try Fly Fishing! During these programs, MetroParks provides the gear and instruction at no cost to anyone interested in trying the activity and learning more about it.

In addition to the area’s well-known cultural celebrations—Cityfolk Festival, Dayton Celtic Festival, Dayton African American Cultural Festival, Hispanic Heritage Festival and Taste of Miami Valley—several musical events have been added to this summer’s lineup at RiverScape MetroPark:

- **First Friday @ 5:** Five Rivers MetroParks is pleased to partner with the Downtown Dayton Partnership to enhance guests’ First Friday program. Concerts featuring local musicians will kick off at 5 p.m. and feature bike parking from 5-7:30 p.m. and concessions. Concerts are slated for June 3, August 5 and September 2 (Cityfolk Festival will take place during the first Friday in July).
- **Free Summer Concert Series:** Formerly known as RiverTunes, this series has been revitalized with a fresh lineup of local and regional acts. As the name implies, these concerts are free, taking place under the covered pavilion. Some seating will be available, but guests are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket, although with the performers scheduled, visitors are more likely to dance than sit!

Family favorites remain on tap for this summer, including Big Band Nights on Thursday evenings, Tuesday Tales programming for children on Tuesday afternoons, and Ride the River Rentals will offer bicycles, tandems, child bike seats and pull-behind child trailers, plus roller blades for rent.

For information about these and other activities taking place this summer at all Five Rivers MetroPark facilities, check out the latest issue of *ParkWays*, available





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at your favorite MetroPark starting May 9, or download the latest issue from metroparks.org/parkways (May 9 through August 15). Learn more about RiverScape MetroPark and its amenities at metroparks.org/RiverScape.

Further information about Five Rivers MetroParks, including upcoming program and event listings, can be found at www.metroparks.org or by calling (937) 275-PARK (7275). Get the inside scoop: Become a MetroParks fan on Facebook: facebook.com/FiveRiversMetroParks or follow the MetroParks on Twitter: twitter.com/MetroParksTweet.

ABOUT FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

Established in 1963 through the efforts of forward-thinking citizens concerned about preserving green space and natural areas, Five Rivers MetroParks has grown to a nationally renowned park system composed of natural area parks, gardens, high-quality river corridors, urban parks and a network of recreation trails. Five Rivers MetroParks focuses on three areas – conservation, recreation and education – as a steward of greater Dayton’s public lands. Educational programs and recreational opportunities are offered year-round for all ages, and diverse natural habitats are being protected and cared for today to ensure their future existence. To learn more about Five Rivers MetroParks, log onto www.metroparks.org or call (937) 275-PARK.

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