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RIVERSCAPE METROPARK PHASE III CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE COVERED PAVILION, BIKE HUB AND SKATING RINK LISTED AMONG OTHER NEW AND IMPROVED AMENITIES TO THIS FAMILY-FRIENDLY FACILITY

DAYTON – Five Rivers MetroParks is excited to announce the completion of Phase III of RiverScape MetroPark, a project that will offer more amenities for visitor comfort and accommodate the needs of RiverScape’s and downtown Dayton’s continuing success. All areas of the park are slated to be open to the public after the ribbon cutting, scheduled for 11:30 AM Monday, June 28.

Executive Director Charlie Shoemaker sees Phase III as a fundamental element in the increasing vitality of downtown and an opportunity to build upon the existing foundation of community partnerships. "Since opening in 2001, RiverScape MetroPark has time and again demonstrated its value as a dynamic urban space in Dayton where all segments of our community come together to celebrate our local pride in a unique and beautiful setting," he said. "The ability of MetroParks and our partners to gain the support for this next phase stands as a testament to RiverScape’s success as a defining piece of our urban environment."

Patrons will now be able to take advantage of some new and some improved features of RiverScape MetroPark, including:

- A covered pavilion with a stage and seating perfect for enjoying festivals, community events, free entertainment or just a relaxing lunch with friends. In the winter, the pavilion will house the ice rink, which will be nearly 50 percent larger than the former rink with additional skating hours, more rental equipment and an extended skating season, starting Thanksgiving weekend, November 26.
- A new bike hub with secure bike storage, showers and lockers. It will provide a central location for downtown commuters going to work or play, as well as a welcome rest stop for recreational cyclists and active families enjoying our region’s extensive recreation trail system.
- Food concessions operated during concerts and events by a local Skyline franchisee, featuring salads, wraps, cold treats, sandwiches and patrons’ favorite Skyline fare.

"The realization of Phase III is because of its community partnerships," Shoemaker said. "Joining the original RiverScape community partners of Five Rivers MetroParks, the City of Dayton, Montgomery County, Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority, Miami Conservancy District and the Downtown Dayton Partnership, the new phase brought us support from Congressman Mike Turner, whose assistance was invaluable in securing federal transportation grants to fund the majority of this project. Support also came from the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and the





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Ohio Department of Natural Resources. But foremost, none of this would be possible without the support of Montgomery County citizens. We're grateful every day that the citizens of this region understand the value of the outdoors and its contribution to the overall welfare and health of the Miami Valley through creating personal connections with nature and instilling long-lasting, positive change for those living in the region."

In addition to increasing the vibrancy of downtown Dayton, it is the goal of Five Rivers MetroParks to encourage families to become healthy by providing safe, affordable and accessible facilities where they can engage in active lifestyles.

Known for breathtaking landscapes, interactive fountains and free entertainment along the banks of the Great Miami River, RiverScape MetroPark has become a favorite outdoor gathering place in downtown Dayton. For almost nine years, this downtown hotspot has offered a cool getaway right in the middle of the city with free concerts, educational programming and the community's favorite cultural festivals amid the scene of floral landscapes, hanging baskets and relaxing swings.

Five Rivers MetroParks thanks its community partners and the priceless support from Montgomery County citizens paramount to helping RiverScape MetroPark become an integral part of downtown and a symbol of the city's pride and continued development of its cultural identity.

To learn more about RiverScape MetroPark and the recent renovations, visit www.metro parks.org/RiverScape or call (937) 275-PARK.

ABOUT FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

Five Rivers MetroParks focuses on three areas - conservation, recreation and education - as part of its role as steward of greater Dayton's public lands. 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, sensitive river corridors, urban parks and a network of recreation trails. Educational programs and recreational opportunities are offered year-round for all ages. And, diverse natural habitats are being protected and cared for today to assure their future existence. To learn more about Five Rivers MetroParks, log onto www.metro parks.org or call (937) 275-PARK.

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