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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT METROPARKS SUSTAINABLE TRAIL INITIATIVE

- **What is the trail initiative?** As a public agency, it is the responsibility of Five Rivers MetroParks to connect the greatest number of people to nature via the best possible outdoor experiences. Trails are the best vehicle for this goal. The purpose of this trail project is to raise the bar for our trail systems by building the trails in a sustainable manner. Not only will this make the trails more enjoyable, it will have a positive conservational impact, decreasing erosion and harmful rainwater runoff that can compromise the quality of our waterways and creating large blocks of undisturbed habitat. The sustainable trail revamp is a project that will (eventually) affect all trails in the MetroParks.
- **Why improve the trails?** Simply put, building trails in a sustainable manner makes them less prone to damage from normal use. Sustainable trail building involves careful planning and working with the land rather than against it. Sustainable trails addresses needs of users, protects the environment, reduces sharing issues between different users groups, and requires less maintenance. This is why sustainable trails are favorable over older models of trail building.
- **What's wrong with the trails now?** The trails are not as good as they could be. Building trails sustainably is better for the environment because it reduces harmful erosion and runoff into the nearby rivers and streams. It also accommodates a greater number and diversity of trail users, and allows those users an improved hiking experience with predictable paths.
- **What can we expect once the trails are revamped?** Each park's trail revamping will affect the trails differently. Overall, the trails will provide a better experience for current users, as well as invite new users to enjoy trails they may have otherwise felt hesitant to traverse. Increased accessibility will allow more people to hike the trails, which we hope will lead people to engaging in active, healthy lifestyles, making Dayton a better place to live.
 - **In Taylorsville MetroPark:** In this park, patrons may have noticed some trails, particularly in the east park area, are different. This area received its sustainable trail upgrade last fall. The longer orange trail was converted into two new blocks of undisturbed habitat, creating additional opportunities for patrons to enjoy a personal connection with nature while out on a hike. Now the trail is longer,





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bringing with is a sustained grade that offers a better cardio workout than the short, quick bursts of the old trail, which is great for conditioning. Those who remember the old trails may recall that they became slick and muddy during periods of rainfall, and with the new decreased grade, these problem areas have been addressed and hikers won't have to struggle of steep, slippery hills.

- **When will this project be finished?** Five Rivers MetroParks has established a multi-year plan to assess the needs and address challenges presented in each of the agency's 25 facilities. We'll have updates posted online to keep you abreast of how your trail experience is improving in your MetroParks. Sugarcreek MetroPark is next on the list to receive sustainable trails. Visit metro parks.org/alerts for news on trail construction and other park closures or important information.
- **How can I help?** Stay tuned to the trail upgrade page for information on volunteer opportunities. Those interested in learning more about volunteer trail work days, call (937) 277-4374 for dates and times of trail work days.

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.metro parks.org or call (937) 275-PARK.

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