



Cox Arboretum MetroPark for Young Visitors



Things to Do

1 Build a Fort

Use fallen branches and sticks to make a place to hide or a home for an animal friend. Please put back branches and sticks where you found them when finished.

2 Look for Fossils

This ravine was uncovered by a melting glacier during the last ice age. Look closely at the limestone rocks on the ravine floor for signs of an ancient sea and the animals that lived here. This sea formed during the time period geologists call Ordovician, around 10,000 years ago. Help us preserve this area by not taking any fossils from the ravine.

3 Explore the Maze

Small groups can try holding hands and taking all right hand turns or everyone can try to solve the maze on their own. Paths can be slippery wet or dry.

4 Read a Story

Bring a blanket and your favorite book to the Conifer Collection. Spend time reading by yourself in the shade or share a story with a group of friends.

5 Have a Race

Challenge a friend to a race or imagine crossing your own finish line as you speed down the Allee.

6 Look for Frogs

From March-September, count the number of frogs you see. Some may float perfectly still near the surface or hide under the boardwalk. Commonly spotted species are the American bullfrog and green frog.

7 Visit the Butterflies

Butterfly House is open the last Saturday in June through Labor Day. Try to find all the stages of the butterfly lifecycle: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and a butterfly.

For groups of 10 or more, please call 937-434-9005 to arrange for a tour.

8 Take a Hike

Follow any of the three color-coded trails (yellow, blue and red) to visit the natural areas. All trails begin at the trailhead and are loop trails. Use the letter posts at intersections to guide you. Refer to the map legend for trail distances. All trails except paved garden paths include steps.

9 Look for Turtles

Common turtles you may see include red-eared sliders (above) and painted turtles. Turtles are shy, so approach them slowly and quietly to avoid startling them into the water.

10 Can you find a Carp?

Look closely to spot one of the large grass carp that live in the front ponds. These fish help control the rapid growth of pond plants by eating them. Grass carp can reach weights of 30-50 lbs!

11 Can you find the following in the Maimon Memorial Garden?



grasshopper



sundial



tomato plant



water fountain



hanging basket



lavender

Can you find these shapes and colors in nature as you explore the Arboretum?



Red **Blue** **Yellow** **Green** **Orange** **Violet**

Hello Friends!

My name is **Zipp** and I want to welcome you to my home, Cox Arboretum MetroPark! I hope you enjoy your visit today and look for me doing my job of herding geese at the ponds while you are here.

I am a Border Collie and have had special training that makes me a working dog. You can give me a quick hello or a pat on the head, but please don't distract me when I am doing my job. While you are exploring, keep an eye out for the plant below. I may be a dog, but I know itchy and scratchy when I see it!

Have Fun,
Zipp

Poison Ivy



Leaves of three, let it be 🎵

This important food source for migratory birds is native to the Dayton area. About 8 out of 10 people are allergic to the oil, *urushiol*, found in poison ivy. You can get a rash any time of the year, even in the winter when the plant has no leaves.

Look for these characteristics of poison ivy:

- o three divided leaves called leaflets, 2 to 4 inches long
- o center leaflet on a longer stalk
- o white, waxy berries along the stem in fall
- o leaves alternate on the stem
- o woody vine looks fuzzy because of aerial roots
- o grows up a tree or along the ground