

Possum Creek MetroPark



Possum Creek MetroPark consists largely of former farmland that is going through the process of natural succession. Significant natural features include bottomland hardwood forests along Possum Creek, two mature beech woodlots, and numerous created ponds and wetlands. More than 100 acres of degraded farmland and dumps have been cleared and planted into native Ohio prairie. The prairie took years to establish, but now thrives on the poor ground. It is currently one of the largest and most diverse planted prairies in Ohio.

Fishing ponds, open vistas painted with colorful flowers, woodlands and wildlife provide the setting for a variety of activities. This 556-acre park is the perfect place for a family outing. Fish, picnic, hike, walk or horseback ride your way through scenic woods and prairies.

Youngsters will enjoy developing their math skills as they puzzle their way through Polly Possum's Math Farm.

Things to Do

VISIT THE FARM - You'll find barnyard animals, a self-guided trail, a farm-theme play area and even signs that test your math skills. Animals can be seen in the barn or petted in the Kids Corral on weekends from 1-4PM. For group tours, call (937) 276-7062. This 100-acre farm is located at the south end of the park. Use the entrance at 4790 Frytown Road and follow the signs to the farm.

FISHING - Fish free of charge and without a license in ponds and Argonne Lake. The ponds are stocked monthly with trout or catfish. Every summer, Night Fishing programs are offered; call (937) 275-PARK or see www.metroparks.org for details. Non-motorized boats are permitted on Argonne Lake.

PICNICKING - Four picnic shelters (three near Argonne Lake, one at the farm) are available on a first-come basis. Two additional shelters (see map inside) are available by reservation for groups. A \$50 refundable deposit is required; call (937) 275-PARK. There are also picnic table sites, some with charcoal grills.

WALKING & HIKING - Enjoy 5.5 miles of scenic, mostly level trails. Trails are color-coded and trail intersections are marked with a number corresponding to the numbers on the inside map.

HORSE TRAIL - Enjoy a 4.5-mile trail. Horses can be unloaded at the horse trailer parking lot off Frytown Road. Rentals are not available.

GARDENING - Approximately 130 free garden plots are available near the farm. Plot reservations must be made in person at the farm starting the first Monday in April.

WINTER RECREATION (CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING & HIKING) - Visitors are invited to cross-country ski when snowfall is sufficient. Trails are open year-round for hiking.

CAMPING - Overnight camping at Sycamore and Argonne campsites. Camping reservations can be made by calling Outdoor Recreation Department at (937) 277-4374 M-F 9AM-4PM, walking in 224 N. St. Clair St. across from RiverScape MetroPark, or e-mailing outdoors@metroparks.org.

Information & Regulations

Protect Possum Creek MetroPark as a natural area; do not pick, collect or disturb plant or animal materials of any kind. Hunting, frog gigging and swimming are not permitted. Motor vehicles must remain on roads; parking is permitted in designated parking areas only. **Thank you for your cooperation.**



FIRES - Fires are allowed in designated areas only; bring your own charcoal. Do NOT bring firewood.

PETS - Dogs allowed on leash only. Leashes may be no longer than 8 feet. **Pets are not permitted on the farm.**

ALCOHOL - Prohibited except by permit in reservable shelters.

BICYCLES - Not permitted on hiking trails.

HOURS

Park Grounds:

April 1 - October 31: 8AM-10PM

November 1 - March 31: 8AM-10PM

Closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

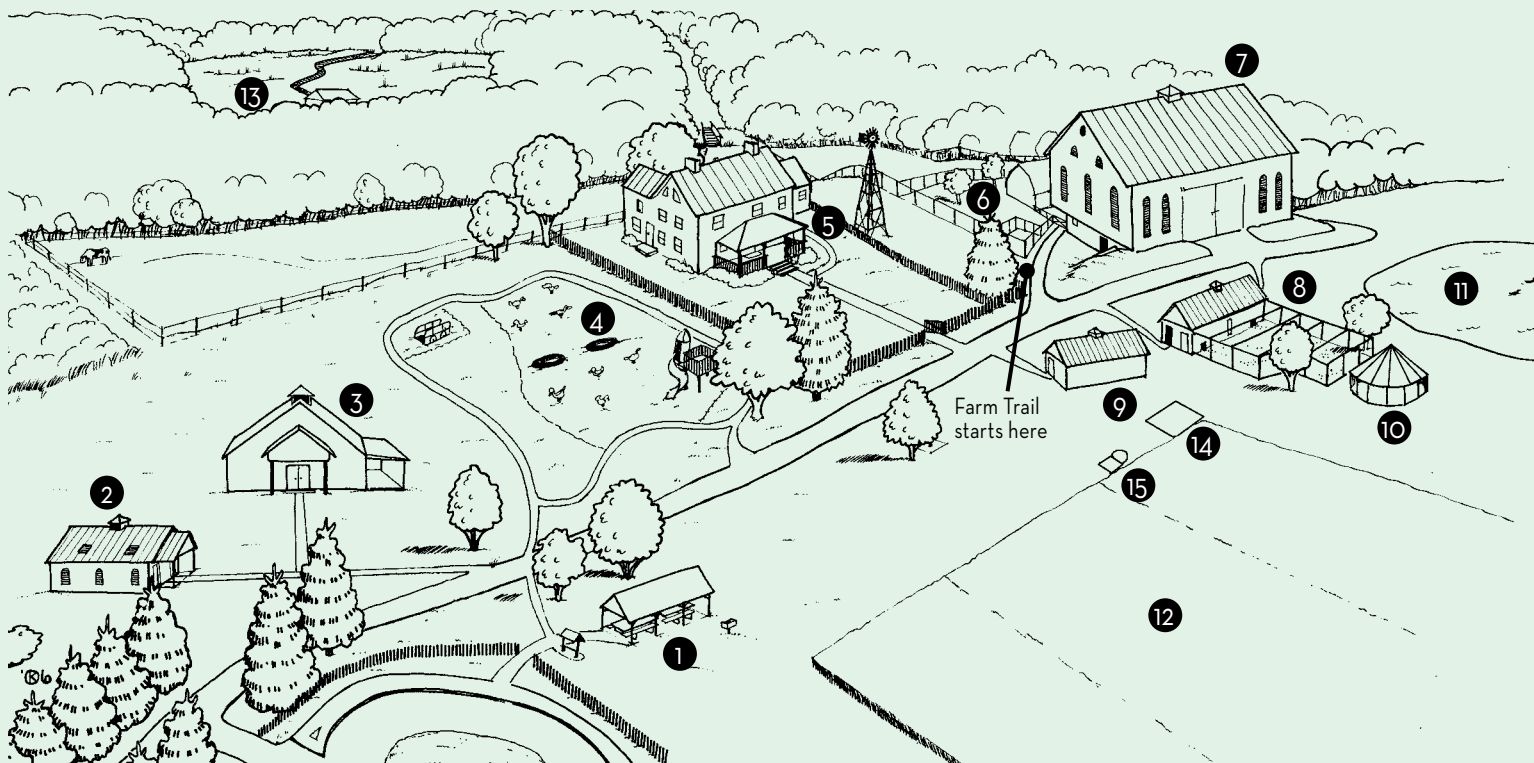
Farm Buildings:

9AM-4PM, daily

It's our nature.

CONSERVATION
RECREATION
EDUCATION

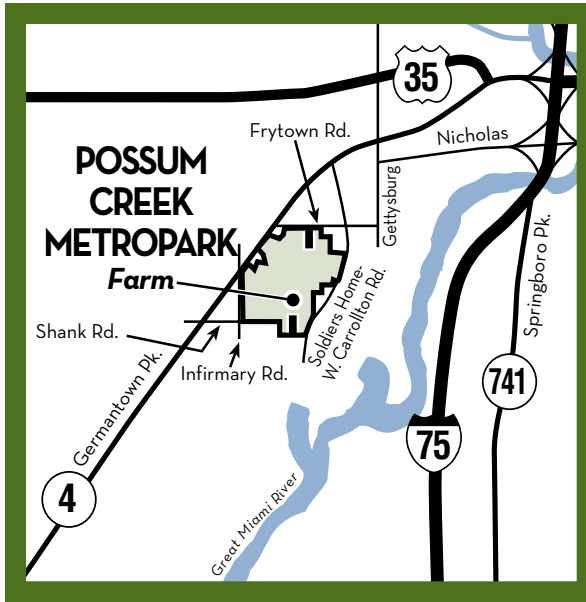
FARM



1. Picnic Shelter
2. Restroom
3. Education Building
4. Polly Possum's Play Area
5. Farmhouse
6. Kids Corral
7. Barn
8. Chicken House
9. Rabbit House
10. Ducks
11. Pond
12. Demonstration Fields
13. Bird Blind
14. Pig Pen
15. Compost Piles

Volunteer Opportunities

If you enjoy the outdoors, farm animals and gardening, Possum Creek MetroPark is the place for you. Special programs, events and learning experiences are made possible through volunteer participation. In addition, volunteers plant and maintain the farm's flower beds and assist with the community gardens. Training sessions are offered throughout the year to increase your skills and knowledge. Call (937) 276-7062 for more information.



It's our nature.

This park is one of 25 outstanding public facilities operated by your Five Rivers MetroParks system. Founded in 1963 to serve the greater Dayton area, MetroParks protects over 15,000 acres of open space and provides year-round recreation, education and conservation opportunities. Facilities are available to the public free of charge – made possible by Montgomery County citizen support of a property tax levy.

For More Information

- Administrative Offices..... (937) 275-PARK (7275)
- Website www.metroparks.org
- South Naturalist's Office.....(937) 277-4178
- Possum Creek MetroPark
- Farm..... (937) 276-7062

Ranger Assistance

Contact the Sheriff's Office dispatcher at:
(937) 535-2580

Possum Creek MetroPark
4790 Frytown Road
Dayton, Ohio 45418



It's our nature.
Printed in Montgomery County on 50% recycled (30% post-consumer waste) paper with soy inks at a Forest Stewardship Council-certified facility.

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POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

USER'S GUIDE & MAP



PARK FEATURES

TALL GRASS PRAIRIES

These open areas consist of grasses that reach heights of 6 to 10 feet by late summer and are filled with a variety of wildflowers (forbs) that add color to the sea of grass. Prairie wildflowers reach their blooming peak in mid summer and early fall. Possum Creek's prairie areas were planted starting in 1980 to serve as a haven for the now rare plants and animals that once inhabited natural prairie openings in southwestern Ohio's woodlands.



THE JEAN V. WOODHULL PRAIRIE

This planted prairie is named in honor of Jean V. Woodhull for her outstanding contributions to Five Rivers MetroParks. In 1962, she was instrumental in creating the Save Open Space Committee that led to the creation of MetroParks. In addition, Mrs. Woodhull served on the MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners from January 1989 to November 1998.



ARGONNE FOREST

Walk through the Argonne Forest following the purple loop trail and discover a beautiful woodlands dominated by old beech trees. In the 1930s and early 1940s, these woods were part of an amusement park known as the Argonne Forest Park. It was created by Null Hodapp and named in honor of the 32nd Field Artillery Unit that fought in the Argonne Forest in France during World War I. The park included a swimming pool, shooting range, ball diamond, dance hall, auto race track, cabins and street cars. Stop at the marked sites along the way to discover remnants of the amusement park.

POLLY POSSUM'S MATH FARM

Discover how math can be used in a farm setting with lots of fun, hands-on activities to bring math alive. Polly Possum, mascot of the Math Farm, invites everyone to explore the farm and stop at any or all of the 16 math stations. Each station highlights a farm-related subject and then poses three math questions with increasing degree of difficulty. This innovative math program is a fun way for families to spend time together and explore a farm. Remember to bring your pencil and paper! An answer guide to the math problems is available at the farm.

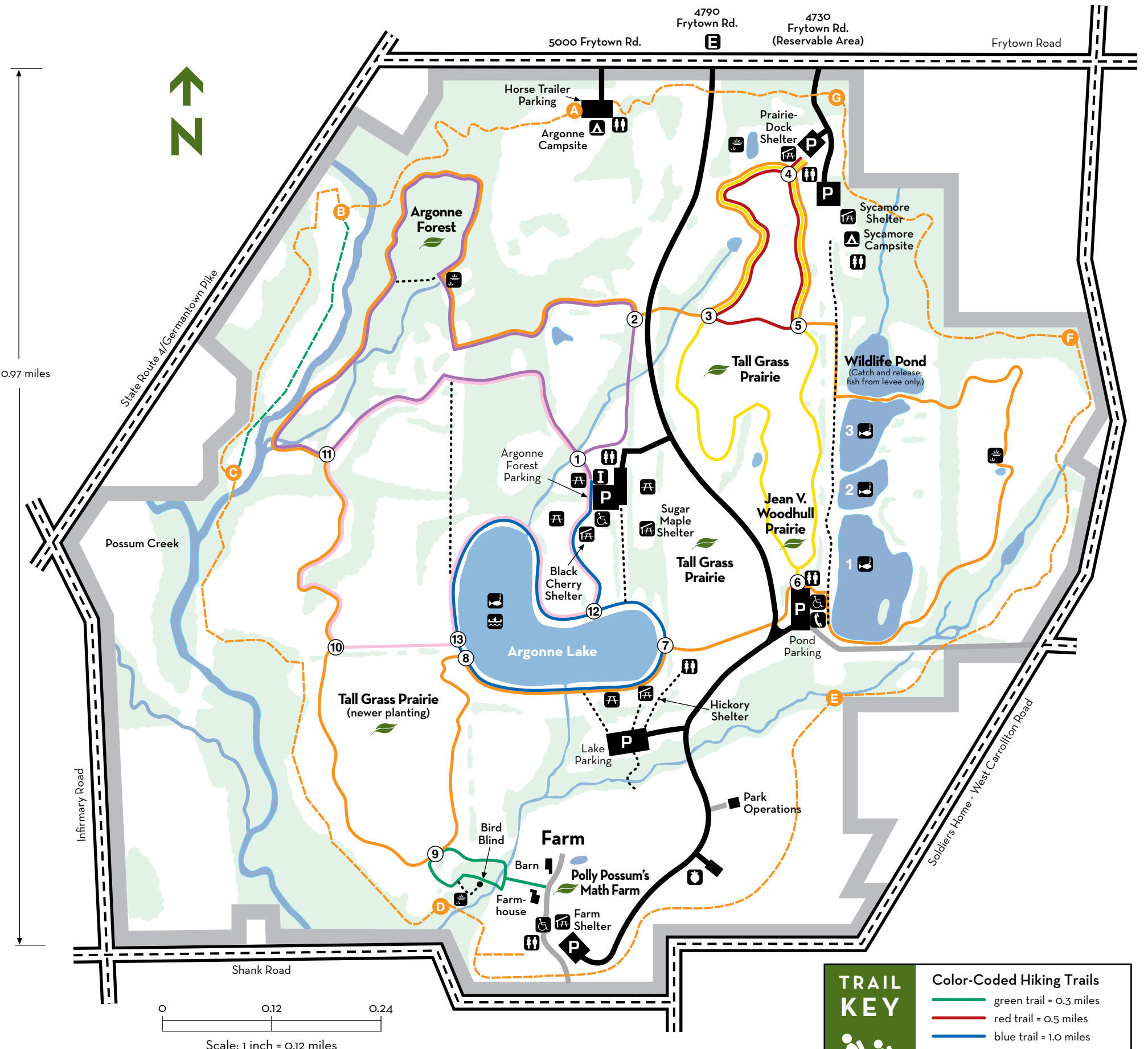


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LEGEND:

E entrance	PA picnic area	CG community gardens	W woods	SR service road
P parking	PS picnic shelter	C camping	P path	PF park feature
I park information	WA wheelchair accessible	SI stream/intermittent stream	GB park boundary	
R restrooms	F fishing	L lake or pond	PR park road	
T telephone	NMB non-motorized boats	M marsh	PR public road	



TRAIL KEY	Color-Coded Hiking Trails
	green trail = 0.3 miles
	red trail = 0.5 miles
	blue trail = 1.0 miles
	pink trail = 1.2 miles
	yellow trail = 1.3 miles
purple trail = 1.4 miles	
orange trail = 3.5 miles	
① trail intersection	
Color-Coded Horse Trails	
orange trail	
green trail	
A location marker	

Five Rivers MetroParks supports the Americans with Disabilities Act by making reasonable accommodations in serving individuals with disabilities. Programs and facilities are offered on a non-discriminatory basis. If accommodations are needed, please call (937) 275-PARK at least one week in advance.

Five Rivers MetroParks is an Equal Opportunity Employer.