



FIVE RIVERS  
METROPARKS



# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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CREATING GREAT PARKS





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## MISSION

To protect the region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature.

## VISION

To be the conservation leader of a vital, active, nature-based community.

## PURPOSE

To protect natural areas, parks and river corridors and promote the conservation and use of these lands and waterways for the ongoing benefit of the people in the region.

## VALUES

- Excellence
- Community
- Innovation
- Fun
- Integrity
- Commitment
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Professional Growth
- Diversity
- Sustainability



## CREATING GREAT PARKS BY THE COMMUNITY AND FOR THE COMMUNITY

In 2017, the public was the capital “P” in MetroParks.

It was a year of implementing initiatives the public requested, such as adding Sunday hours at the 2nd Street Market and partnering with the city of Moraine to secure a grant that will extend The Great Miami River Bikeway to Possum Creek MetroPark. It was a year of continuing to reach out to the public to ask for input on the future of several MetroParks during the creation of park master plans and the Dayton Riverfront Plan. And it was a year of working with community partners to ensure Five Rivers MetroParks is providing what the public wants.

Community input was invaluable to the development of Five Rivers MetroParks’ 10-year comprehensive master plan – and it continues to guide our work and planning efforts. Five Rivers MetroParks is committed to providing 18 clean, safe parks where everyone in our community can experience the outdoors and connect with nature. Public input is Five Rivers MetroParks’ guide as our staff, volunteers and partners work to offer the world-class natural areas, parks, facilities and programs our community deserves.

Five Rivers MetroParks continued its work to protect the Montgomery County region’s natural heritage – which the public identified in the 10-year comprehensive master plan as the most important function for Five Rivers MetroParks. Throughout the year, our staff worked to preserve and maintain local greenspace and waterways in the more than 16,000 acres Five Rivers MetroParks manages.

Also, Five Rivers MetroParks helped our community enjoy healthy, active lifestyles – again with public input in mind. Our community identified trails as one of Five Rivers MetroParks’ most valued amenities. Five Rivers MetroParks manages 160 miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, cycling and cross-country skiing, as well as the 42 miles of river corridor perfect for paddling. And these are just some of the amenities where people can get active outdoors.

In addition to aligning all our work with the 10-year comprehensive master plan, Five Rivers MetroParks continues to follow the best-practices standards developed by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). Five Rivers MetroParks is one of only 166 agencies nationwide to have been awarded CAPRA accreditation. It’s an industry gold standard that ensures MetroParks is demonstrating its commitment to the public it serves.

In 2018 and beyond, Five Rivers MetroParks will continue that service to our community. For more than 50 years, Five Rivers MetroParks has provided the Dayton region with high-quality outdoor experiences, parks, programs and facilities, thanks to support from the citizens of Montgomery County. Five Rivers MetroParks is proud to continue this tradition and strengthen its role in making Montgomery County and the region culturally vibrant and economically strong – with diverse opportunities to connect with nature and enjoy active, healthy outdoor lifestyles.

Rebecca A. Benná  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## THE MAJORITY OF FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS' FUNDING COMES FROM A PROPERTY TAX LEVY SUPPORTED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY CITIZENS.

Five Rivers MetroParks takes its responsibility as a steward of the public's funds very seriously and is committed to providing quality and value for the community.

In recent years, MetroParks has diversified its revenue streams to help fill the gap created by the permanent elimination of state funding and by declines in property tax revenues. Support from individuals and families, businesses, organizations, foundations, and other community entities helps MetroParks provide special projects and programs that it otherwise would not be able to offer the public.

MetroParks also is focused on supplementing taxpayer funding so the agency can continue to protect the region's natural heritage and provide the high-quality parks and programs the community expects and deserves. MetroParks continues to develop new partnerships that maximize levy dollars and create more balanced and sustainable finances, reducing costs wherever possible, and implementing fees for services and programs that benefit small groups or individuals while still providing free access to all 18 clean, safe MetroParks.

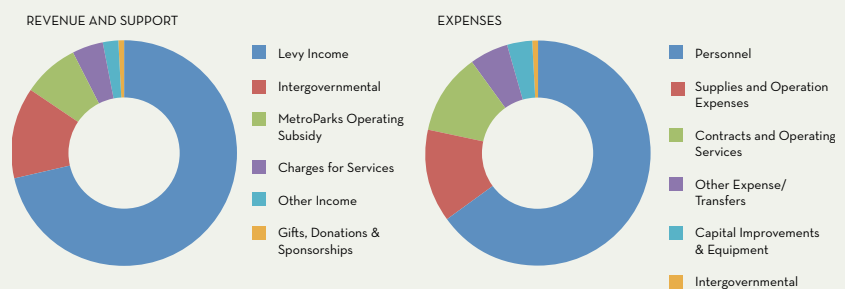
At the same time, Five Rivers MetroParks is diligent about regularly checking in with Montgomery County residents to ensure the agency's goals match those of the community. MetroParks has a 10-year comprehensive master plan to ensure its funding is focused on community priorities.

### 2017 REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Levy Income:	\$14,227,628
Intergovernmental:	\$2,592,089
Charges for Services:	\$887,559
Investment Income:	\$111,976
Gifts, Donations & Sponsorships:	\$122,467
Other Income:	\$449,941
MetroParks Operating Subsidy: *	\$1,590,886
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT:</b>	<b>\$ 19,982,546</b>

### 2017 EXPENSES

Personnel:	\$13,000,186
Supplies and Operating Expenses:	\$2,687,734
Contracts and Operating Services:	\$2,349,696
Intergovernmental:	\$159,945
Capital Improvements & Equipment:	\$696,932
Other Expenses/Transfers:	\$1,088,053
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$19,982,546</b>



\*As part of its levy funding cycle, Five Rivers MetroParks budgeted to supplement revenues with reserves.

For more on the agency's funding, visit [metroparks.org/funding](http://metroparks.org/funding).

# FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS OVERVIEW



# 3.6

## MILLION VISITORS

*The Dayton Business Journal* again named Five Rivers MetroParks the Dayton area's No. 1 most visited attraction in 2017.



347,914 participants in Five Rivers MetroParks programs and events.



24,359 participants at 260 speaking engagements and appearances,



14,313 participants with 845 public programs



15,637 participants at 477 nature programs



13,416 children served through 349 tours



44,250 participants at 984 programs targeted specifically at youth and their families



352,911 participants at 160 special events

# 1,935

## SHELTER AND CAMPING PERMITS





# 16,112 ACRES OF PROTECTED LAND

**90%** of the land is maintained in its natural state, meaning the land is managed so habitat for plants and wildlife is a priority. Doing so preserves clean water and air, supports plant and wildlife biodiversity, and provides beautiful places where people can connect with nature.

**2,934** acres are in conservation easements. This land is protected by a legal agreement between a landowner and government agency that permanently limits uses of the land to protect its conservation values.

**11** conservation areas, which are significant tracts of land primarily in a natural state with minimal infrastructure, are part of MetroParks' protected land.

## 30



**LOCATIONS**, including 18 parks, the 2nd Street Market and 11 conservation areas. MetroParks also manages portions of six paved recreation trails.

## 160

**MILES OF MANAGED NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS**  
(for hiking, biking, mountain biking and horseback riding)



## 270



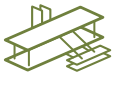
**MILES OF RIVER CORRIDOR**, 42 of which are cared for by Five Rivers MetroParks

## 9<sup>+</sup> EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:



Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture



Inventors Riverwalk



Butterfly House



Tree Tower



Historical Farm



Twin Valley Welcome Center



Possum Creek Edible Farm



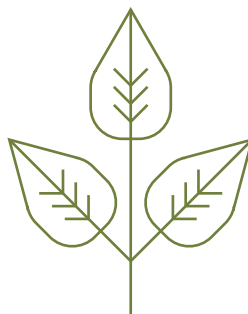
Children's Discovery Garden



Zorniger Education Campus

## 40<sup>+</sup> NATURAL FEATURES

including Osage Orange Tunnel, Three Sisters, Bob Siebenthaler Natural Area and others



## 8<sup>+</sup> OUTDOOR RECREATION FEATURES

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:



MoMBA MetroParks Mountain Biking Area



Carriage Hill Riding Center



Twin Valley Backpacking Trail



Blue Heron Disc Golf Course



Mad River River Run



RiverScape River Run



RiverScape Ice Rink



RiverScape Bike Hub

# ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESSES

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## DAYTON RIVERFRONT PLAN DEVELOPED

Five Rivers MetroParks partnered with the city of Dayton, and Miami Conservancy District and four other government agencies to develop a comprehensive 20-year master plan for 12 miles of river corridor along four waterways in greater downtown Dayton. This long-term vision for greater downtown's four river corridors will strengthen economic development, protect the region's natural heritage and support outdoor recreation opportunities.

"The goal is to take advantage of downtown's greatest natural resource — our rivers — to create dynamic places that strengthen urban vibrancy and create a regional destination," said Carrie Scarff, chief of planning and projects for Five Rivers MetroParks. "The plan will propose transforming the rivers into the spaces where our community comes together by providing connections to all the parks, museums and other attractions along our rivers, as well as exciting outdoor recreational opportunities that support a healthy, active lifestyle."

The project area includes approximately three miles along all four waterways in greater downtown Dayton, reaching into every segment of the community.

- the Great Miami River south to Carillon Historical Park
- the Stillwater River north to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark
- the Wolf Creek west to Wesleyan MetroPark
- the Mad River east to Eastwood MetroPark

The Dayton Riverfront Plan also includes site plans for key parks and open spaces in the project area. The project consultant, Sasaki, has worked on numerous urban riverfront projects around the world, including in Cincinnati and Indianapolis.

The plan is being completed and plans for implementation are being formed. Other project partners include Montgomery County, the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and Downtown Dayton Partnership.

More info: [daytonriverfrontplan.org](http://daytonriverfrontplan.org)



## PARK MASTER PLANS DEVELOPED

Five Rivers MetroParks took the next step in implementing its 10-year comprehensive master plan by developing park master plans for individual parks and natural areas:

- Possum Creek MetroPark
- Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks and the Upper Twin Conservation Area
- Carriage Hill MetroPark

The park master plans are based on community input, much like the comprehensive master plan. Early in 2017, MetroParks engaged citizens in the planning process by hosting open houses and inviting the public to provide feedback online or by calling MetroParks. In fall 2017, the public was invited to view and comment on the concept plans for the parks above. In addition, MetroParks asked the community to vote on proposed names for two conservation areas included in the planning process. Plans have been completed for the Medlar Conservation Area in Miamisburg, proposed to be renamed Medlar MetroPark, and the Great Miami Mitigation Bank and former Larch Tree golf course in Trotwood, proposed to be renamed Spring Run MetroPark.

Park master plans also have been drafted for Eastwood, Englewood, Aullwood Garden and Wegerzyn Gardens MetroParks. These plans consider and identify protected open space, habitats, amenities, and potential uses and improvements for each location, as well as estimated capital and operating budgets.

More info: [metroparks.org/plan](http://metroparks.org/plan)



## WORK BEGINS ON TWIN VALLEY WELCOME CENTER

Located at the site of the former Germantown MetroPark Nature Center, the Twin Valley Welcome Center is being established as a gateway to the region's most biologically rich natural area. Using support from Clean Ohio Funds, the facility is being transformed into a space that provides a more engaging atmosphere for visitors to orient themselves and learn more about the importance of the Twin Creek watershed. The Twin Valley Welcome Center also will be an asset for those who want to experience the 21-mile Twin Valley Backpacking Trail.

In 2017, updates to the Welcome Center included new restrooms and the addition of water fountains. In upcoming phases, plans call for the addition of a training classroom where MetroParks' education and recreation staff can host programs. Previously, restrooms were only available during park hours, but the Welcome Center's updates will allow visitors to use this trailhead amenity during off-hours.

More info: [metroparks.org/twin-valley-welcome-center](http://metroparks.org/twin-valley-welcome-center)



## METROPARKS RECOGNIZED FOR CONNECTING KIDS TO NATURE

Englewood MetroPark was one of the first parks in the Dayton region to be certified as a Best in Ohio Connect to Nature Site by Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside (MVLNCI) and Dayton Regional Green (DRG). This certification is awarded to locations that provide children with opportunities to access green spaces and participate in nature-based activities.

To become certified, organizations must implement the Ohio Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, an outline of nature-based opportunities all children should experience on a regular basis.

"A commitment to facilitating kid-friendly natural experiences also is a commitment to cultivating happier, healthier kids," said Doug Horvath, Five Rivers MetroParks education coordinator and MVLNCI executive committee member. "Organizations that receive this certification have made that commitment and taken actual steps to provide nature-based opportunities for children in their communities."

More info: [www.ohiolnci.org/ohio-regions/miami-valleydayton/certification](http://www.ohiolnci.org/ohio-regions/miami-valleydayton/certification)



## 2ND STREET MARKET ADDED SUNDAY HOURS

In summer 2017, the 2nd Street Market in downtown Dayton opened on Sundays in response to public input asking for the change. The Market was open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays from June 4 through Aug. 27. Sunday offerings from more than 30 vendors included locally grown produce, prepared food, hand-crafted goods, artisan fare and more.

"The 2nd Street Market helps Five Rivers MetroParks serve as the region's conservation leader by providing our community convenient access to local food, which is less taxing on the environment and often healthier," said Jimmy Harless, 2nd Street Market manager.

Also in 2017, customers could earn Produce Perks when shopping at several 2nd Street Market vendors. More than 30 Market vendors also continued to accept SNAP/food assistance Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) tokens thanks to a partnership with Homefull, a nonprofit organization working to end homelessness. Participating vendors offer fresh food items, such as produce, dairy products, meat, specialty foods and bread.

More info: [metroparks.org/localfood](http://metroparks.org/localfood)

# ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESSES



## GRAND OPENING HELD FOR RIVERSCAPE RIVER RUN

In early May 2017, a large crowd celebrated the completion of RiverScape River Run, a highly anticipated in-river feature and new outdoor recreation amenity for the region.

RiverScape River Run has made the downtown Dayton riverfront more accessible for the entire community. Its benefits include:

- A more vibrant city that will attract and retain the talented workforce we need to continue to grow Dayton's economy
- A regional recreation destination
- A dynamic downtown scene for residents, businesses and visitors
- An opportunity for the community to connect with the river in the urban core
- Continued flood protection
- Improved water quality and aquatic habitats
- A safer river

RiverScape River Run also opened the downtown river to a beautiful seven-mile paddle from Eastwood MetroPark on the Mad River, through downtown to Carillon Historical Park and University of Dayton area.

A dangerous low dam in the Great Miami River located near the Dayton Art Institute was removed and two structures that span the river were built, each with two chutes: one smooth-water passageway for novice paddlers and one whitewater play feature for more experienced paddlers. The project also allows people to fish, sunbathe and enjoy the river downtown in new ways.

The RiverScape River Run partners are Five Rivers MetroParks, the Downtown Dayton Partnership, Miami Conservancy District, City of Dayton, Montgomery County and Greater Dayton RTA. Numerous local donors also contributed to RiverScape River Run.

More information: [metroparks.org/river-run](http://metroparks.org/river-run)



## FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS' CONSERVATION EFFORTS PROTECTED GREENSPACE AND WATERWAYS

In 2017, parks and conservation staff members continued their work to protect the more than 16,000 acres of land MetroParks protects – 90 percent of it in its natural state. Five Rivers MetroParks receives Clean Ohio grants to support this work to protect Montgomery County's natural heritage.

The Clean Ohio Fund restores, protects and connects Ohio's important natural and urban places by preserving green space and farmland, improving outdoor recreation, and cleaning up brownfields to encourage redevelopment and revitalize communities. Five Rivers MetroParks has used Clean Ohio grant funding to expand its resources by purchasing land and conservation easements, which protect natural areas from development, protect watersheds and create corridors for wildlife. Funding also allows MetroParks to clean up trash sites, remove dilapidated buildings and invasive species, and plant trees and pollinator-friendly plants. These efforts create better communities for humans and wildlife.

In 2017, Clean Ohio funds were used to support a number of conservation projects, including:

- MetroParks began creating a pollinator prairie at Germantown MetroPark, also supported by a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service grant. Native shrubs, wetland plants and prairie plants that support pollinators were added to the property and invasive species, such as honeysuckle, were removed. Work continues on this project.
- The Twin Creek MetroPark Woods and Wetland Preservation project included the cleanup of a 13-acre area. Approximately 350 tires, trash, fencing, dilapidated buildings and invasive species were removed from the land, which includes four headwater streams that flow to the Twin Creek.
- The Shiloh Woods Headwater Stream Protection project, located in a MetroParks conservation area along the Stillwater River between Wegerzyn Gardens and Englewood MetroParks, is a 22-acre parcel that protects critical headwaters. Grant funds were used to remove invasive species and plant 500 native trees and shrubs.

More info: [metroparks.org/conservation](http://metroparks.org/conservation)



## BIKE TO WORK DAY RECEIVED 2017 OPRA AWARD

Five Rivers MetroParks' National Bike to Work Day Pancake Breakfast received a first-place special programs award from the Ohio Park and Recreation Association.

Held every year in May, National Bike to Work Day encourages people to use cycling as a healthy, active and more sustainable method of transportation. MetroParks' event at RiverScape MetroPark is the largest Bike to Work Day celebration in the Dayton region. It includes a free pancake breakfast, fun prizes and activities, exhibitors, live music, competitions, and more.

More info: [metroparks.org/biketowork](http://metroparks.org/biketowork)



## DAYTON HOSTED AMERICAN TRAILS' 2017 INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SYMPOSIUM

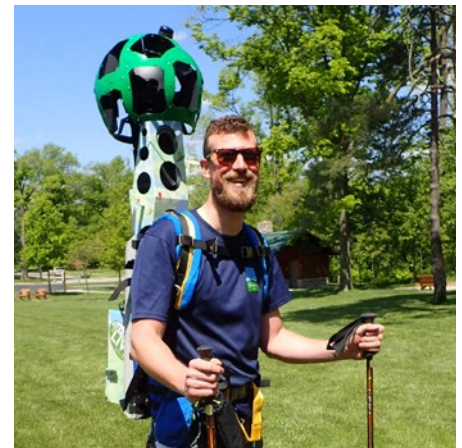
Five Rivers MetroParks was a leader in the partnership that supported the 2017 International Trails Symposium, held in Dayton in May. The event was presented by American Trails, a national nonprofit organization with a mission to create and protect America's network of interconnected trails.

Hundreds of attendees from throughout the world visited the Dayton region for the biennial symposium, which showcased the Dayton region as a destination for outdoor recreation and as a place where it's fun and easy to have an active, healthy outdoor lifestyle. Dayton was selected as part of a competitive bidding process for its convenient location and rich array of trail-based and outdoor recreation assets. Those amenities include cycling, mountain biking, river, hiking, backpacking, equestrian, motorized and ADA-accessible trails, all of which were featured during the International Trails Symposium.

Partner organizations were:

- Five Rivers MetroParks
- Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Miami Conservancy District
- City of Dayton
- Greene County Parks & Trails
- Miami County Parks District
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources

More information: [americantrails.org](http://americantrails.org)



## GOOGLE LAUNCHED IMAGES OF DAYTON'S TRAILS

Google incorporated 360-degree virtual imagery of hundreds of miles of Dayton-area trails and park destinations into its Google Maps. Five Rivers MetroParks partnered with Outdoor Adventure Connection and Dayton Hikers, and collaborated with dozens of regional partners, to capture more than 600 miles of hiking, equestrian, mountain bike, water and paved trails.

This includes panoramic street view imagery of regional hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, water and paved trails, providing outdoor recreation enthusiasts with interactive visual resources to plan and inspire adventures.

"The information Google Maps provides is valuable to local trail enthusiasts and tourists," said Amy Dingle, director of outdoor connections for Five Rivers MetroParks. "People can use these images as a tool to plan experiences on our amazing trails and public lands."

More information: [www.google.com/maps](http://www.google.com/maps)

# WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Community support helps Five Rivers MetroParks fulfill its mission to protect the region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature. In addition to levy funding, MetroParks appreciates the many individuals, organizations, foundations and businesses throughout Montgomery County that provide generous support through donations and sponsorships.

## FOUNDATIONS, FRIENDS AND SPONSORS

Five Rivers MetroParks' mission and vision are supported by the hard work of the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation; The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation; the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation and the Friends of Carriage Hill. Led by volunteer boards, all these 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations are passionate about funding mission-driven projects, programs and services. All are exemplary stewards of donors' funds, which support projects and programs that MetroParks otherwise would not be able to offer to the community.

To learn how to donate to these groups that support Five Rivers MetroParks, visit [metroparks.org/foundations](http://metroparks.org/foundations).

### FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS FOUNDATION

The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation secures philanthropic funding for special projects, programming and an endowment. The Foundation provides a way for donors to support Five Rivers MetroParks with charitable contributions that can be designated to all parks or a specific park. Donations also can be directed to support

education and recreational services, as well as conservation initiatives.

Projects Supported in 2017:

- Trail cameras for the bowhunting conservation program
- Adventure Central camp shirts
- Aullwood Garden MetroPark pergola repair
- Passport to Kindergarten support
- Heron habitat restoration

IN 2017, THE FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS FOUNDATION LAUNCHED TWO NEW PROGRAMS:

- Access to Nature Scholarship
  - Scholarships provide financial assistance for qualified children and adults who want to participate in MetroParks' fee-based programs and camps.
- Champions of Five Rivers MetroParks
  - This new program is the easiest way to support the Foundation. Donors make a gift that continues automatically from month-to-month or year-to-year.

### THE JAMES M. COX, JR. ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

supports educational, scientific, civic and cultural programs and activities relating to the advancement of arboriculture, horticulture and related fields.

Projects supported in 2017:

- Entrance lighting repairs
- Conservation Kids orange-level programming

- Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture interpretive signage
- Planting of lilacs, magnolias and more than 1,000 bulbs
- Butterfly House plants and educational material
- Putting Learning and Nature Together Tours and educational material
- Funding for public Wi-Fi in the Zorniger Education Campus

### WEGERZYN GARDENS FOUNDATION

supports the continued development of this park through such efforts as fundraising activities and a membership program.

Projects supported in 2017:

- Spooky Afternoon & Evening in the Garden event sponsorship
- Culture Kitchen event sponsorship
- Replacement of biofilter system and water features in the Children's Discovery Garden

### FRIENDS OF CARRIAGE HILL

is a volunteer nonprofit group dedicated to bringing life to the park's historical farm.

Projects supported in 2017:

- Farrier services at Carriage Hill MetroPark Riding Center
- Steam engine inspection
- Program support
- Woodwork and blacksmith supply

## LEAD CORPORATE & PRIVATE SUPPORTERS

Please join us in thanking the following 2017 lead corporate donors, sponsors and foundations:

Allegra Allergy  
Backpacker Magazine  
Barrett Paving Materials Inc.  
Best Breed Inc.  
Bonbright Distributors  
Boston Stoker  
Bridge Credit Union  
Code for Dayton  
Cox Media Group Ohio  
Crowne Plaza  
Dayton Cycling Club  
Dayton Power & Light Company  
Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation  
Four Seasons Garden Club  
Friends of Carriage Hill  
Fronana  
Fusian Inc.  
Great Lakes Brewing Company  
Great Miami Outfitters  
Greater Dayton RTA  
Iddings Foundation  
The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation  
Kind LLC  
Mad River Mountain Ski Resort  
Mechanical Systems of Dayton  
Miami Valley Fly Fishers  
Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission  
Mike's Bike Park  
Mikesell's Snack Foods  
Mix 107.7 FM  
National Environmental Education Foundation  
Osprey Packs Inc.  
PNC Foundation  
Popticals  
Princeton Tec  
REI-Recreational Equipment Inc.  
Subaru of America Inc.  
Universal 1 Credit Union Inc.  
Vectren Foundation  
Wagner Subaru  
WDTN-TV2  
Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation

## SUPPORT YOUR METROPARKS

There are so many ways you can Get Out & Support your MetroParks!

Learn more about giving to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation; The James M. Cox Arboretum, Jr. Arboretum Foundation; Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation; and Friends of Carriage Hill. Planned giving options also are available. Visit [metroparks.org/foundation](http://metroparks.org/foundation).

## SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Learn more about the many sponsorship opportunities available at Five Rivers MetroParks. Visit [metroparks.org/sponsor](http://metroparks.org/sponsor).

## TRIBUTE PROGRAM

Honor a loved one or celebrate a holiday, birthday or other special occasion with a unique, lasting gift located at your favorite MetroPark. We offer a range of options that include benches, trees and, in some locations, swings.

## GENERAL HONOR AND TRIBUTE GIFTS

Honor someone special and commemorate a special event by making a general donation to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation.

## MEMORIAL FUNDS

Establish a memorial fund in honor of a loved one to which others can contribute. MetroParks will provide contribution envelopes for distribution at a memorial service or other commemorative event.

## DONATE

Support MetroParks' mission and your favorite MetroPark by making a donation to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation. Your tax deductible gift will be used to support programs and special projects.

Donations (made payable to Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation) can be mailed to:

Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation  
409 E. Monument Ave.,  
third floor  
Dayton, OH 45402

Donate to your Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation online at [metroparks.org/donate](http://metroparks.org/donate).

# VOLUNTEERS

THOUSANDS  
OF DEDICATED  
VOLUNTEERS HELPED  
METROPARKS  
ACCOMPLISH ITS  
MISSION AND VISION.

Working side-by-side with  
staff, volunteers extend tax  
dollars and other resources.

## **VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2017 INCLUDED:**

- more than 3,000 volunteers  
contributed 56,064 hours
- Value of volunteer service:  
\$1,028,775

## **BECOME A VOLUNTEER**

Whether it's a year, a month,  
a week or even a few hours  
— there's a place for you as  
a Five Rivers MetroParks  
volunteer. Individuals, families,  
companies, organizations  
and other groups also  
can volunteer together.  
MetroParks volunteers often  
develop lifelong friendships!

Call (937) 275-PARK (7275)  
for more information or  
download and print the  
volunteer application at  
[metroparks.org/volunteer](http://metroparks.org/volunteer).



# LEADERSHIP

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## BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS



### 2017 PRESIDENT

Alan Pippenger is a local businessman, supporter of open-space preservation and community leader.



### 2017 VICE PRESIDENT

Karen Davis is a health care professional, community volunteer and family advocate.



### 2017 COMMISSIONER AT LARGE

Irvin Bieser Jr. is an attorney, supporter of the arts and conservationist.

By Ohio law, Five Rivers MetroParks is governed by a three-member volunteer Board of Park Commissioners who are appointed by the probate judge of Montgomery County. The board establishes all policies and rules, approves developments and land acquisitions, and controls all funds. Each commissioner serves without pay for a three-year term, with one member's term expiring each year. Commissioners can be reappointed for successive terms. Board meetings are held monthly and are open to the public.

## THANK YOU, IRV BIESER JR.

After almost 20 years of dedicated service, Irvin G. Bieser Jr. retired from Five Rivers MetroParks' Board of Park Commissioners at the end of 2017.

Bieser began his tenure at MetroParks in 1998 and was an integral part of myriad projects. Of those MetroParks completed during Bieser's tenure, he's particularly enthusiastic about prairie restoration and projects that connect people with the rivers, such as the creation of RiverScape MetroPark and RiverScape River Run. Both projects also contribute to the revitalization of downtown Dayton, providing entertainment and recreation value to the region.

"A strong park system makes the whole community stronger, and its strength and reputation helps the whole region," said Bieser, retired partner with the law firm Bieser Greer Attorneys at Law.

Join us in thanking Bieser for his dedication to conservation in the Dayton region and his sterling service.

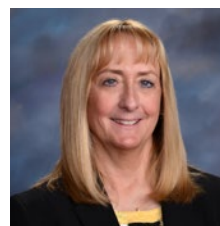
## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Becky Benná,  
Executive Director



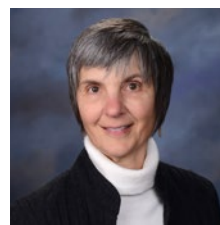
Mark Hess,  
Chief of Public Safety



Karen Hesser,  
Chief of Operations



Beth Redden,  
Chief of Philanthropy



Carrie Scarff,  
Chief of Planning  
& Projects



Bill Tschirhart,  
Chief of  
Administration

**FIVE RIVERS  
METROPARKS**



409 E. Monument Avenue, third floor,  
Dayton, Ohio 45402  
937-275-PARK

[metroparks.org](http://metroparks.org)