

WINTER / SPRING 2019

FREE

PARKWAYS

YOUR GUIDE TO FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS
NEWS AND PROGRAMS

GROWING COMMUNITY IN THE GARDEN

SEE PAGES 6-10

EXPLORE THE REGION'S
NEWEST PAVED
RECREATION TRAIL
SEE PAGE 5

LEARN HOW METROPARKS
STAFF GET YOUR PARKS
READY FOR SPRING
SEE PAGES 10-11

PLAN A SPRING
WILDFLOWER WALK
SEE PAGE 13

FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS



TM

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

In Your MetroParks This Season

Visit “Things to Do” on our website for suggestions about the best places and ways to enjoy 24 different activities, hand-picked by the experts! metroparks.org/things-to-do



1

SNOW DAY

Catch some speed and zoom down the sledding hills in three MetroParks: Taylorsville, Germantown and Englewood. Give cross-country skiing or snowshoeing a try or just take a winter hike to enjoy the quiet serenity this season offers. METROPARKS.ORG/WINTER



2

LOCAL COMFORT FOOD

Visit the 2nd Street Market for a warm, hearty meal at one of the many prepared food vendors. Stock up on kitchen staples and other locally produced food. Grab gifts for birthdays, Valentine's Day – and yourself. METROPARKS.ORG/LOCALFOOD



3

KEEP UP THE PACE

Keep your New Year's resolutions by planning a fitness adventure on the trails in your Five Rivers MetroParks. Offering hiking, cycling, mountain biking and equestrian trails, it's easy for people of all ages and skill levels to enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle in your MetroParks. The Dayton region is also home to the nation's largest paved trail network, with more than 340 miles to explore. METROPARKS.ORG/ACTIVE-OUTDOORS



4

WINTER WATCH

During this time of year when most trees are bare, nature enthusiasts have ample opportunities to spot birds and other wildlife. Venture onto the trails and stand still, pause and listen to see if you can view some wildlife. Visit a bird blind to spot feathered friends. Look for animal tracks and under rocks to find insects. Consider a hike in the evening, when local wildlife are most active. METROPARKS.ORG/NATURE-APPRECIATION



5

PLAN A SPRING PADDLE

See beautiful budding trees and plants along the river during a spring paddle. Grab your life jacket and travel the seven miles from Eastwood MetroPark on the Mad River, joining the Great Miami River in downtown Dayton near RiverScape MetroPark. Paddle through the RiverScape River Run whitewater features and on to Carillon Historical Park. METROPARKS.ORG/PADDLE

OUR MISSION

Five Rivers MetroParks is dedicated to protecting the region's natural heritage and providing outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature.



ALERTS AND CLOSURES

Weather conditions and construction can affect hiking trails, bikeways and access to certain park entrances. All construction information, including detours, and any weather-related notices, are posted online at metroparks.org/alerts.



LOST ITEMS

If you lost something valuable in a MetroPark, contact the Rangers to identify and retrieve your belongings. Contact Alan Starnes at (937) 567-4265 for details.



HOW TO CONTACT A RANGER

Inform the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office dispatcher you are in a MetroParks facility. A MetroParks law enforcement Ranger will be notified and respond to the situation as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: 9-1-1

NON-EMERGENCY: (937) 535-2580



Becky Benná
Executive Director

DEAR METROPARKS FRIENDS,

As we begin a new year, Five Rivers MetroParks does so with gratitude, looking forward to the next decade.

That's because on Jan. 1, the next 10-year Five Rivers MetroParks levy began. I am so thankful to live in a community that values our MetroParks, as evidenced by the support of Montgomery County voters, who overwhelmingly approved a replacement levy that appeared on the Nov. 6, 2018, ballot.

On behalf of myself, our board of park commissioners and the Five Rivers MetroParks staff and volunteers, we sincerely thank you for providing the critical levy funds – approximately 80 percent

of our budget – that will enable MetroParks to continue our work.

While speaking with residents about the levy, we heard again and again about the incredible value so many of you find in what Five Rivers MetroParks offers, such as access to our extensive trail system, outdoor education and recreation experiences, healthy living, and festivals and events. We heard that most Montgomery County residents use your 18 clean, safe MetroParks; 11 conservation areas; or the 2nd Street Market. We're so pleased to hear that residents understand Five Rivers MetroParks is a community asset that improves quality of life.

We heard the same while developing MetroParks' 10-year comprehensive master plan, finalized in 2016. A great deal of community input was the force behind the master plan, which guides the future of your parks, facilities and services. It also ensures MetroParks' resources are aligned with current and future trends, community values and Montgomery County's changing demographics. The plan is a living document that continues to evolve to be sure your Five Rivers MetroParks best serves this community.

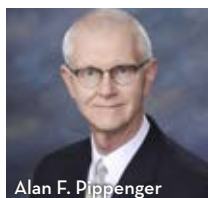
Indeed, your MetroParks is not resting on its laurels: We're continuing to work diligently every day to provide the world-class natural areas, parks, facilities, programs and services our community deserves. We're implementing the community's priorities, outlined in the 10-year comprehensive master plan and in individual park plans. We're serving as the region's conservation leader, by preserving and protecting natural areas, waterways and wildlife habitat, and ensuring Five Rivers MetroParks remains a major source of pride and an economic catalyst for the region.

Thank you, voters. Your Five Rivers MetroParks is excited to serve you for the decades to come by protecting the region's natural heritage and providing outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection to nature!

Best Regards,

Becky Benná

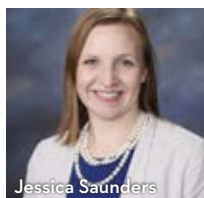
METROPARKS COMMISSIONERS



Alan F. Pippenger



Karen L. Davis



Jessica Saunders



Five Rivers MetroParks
is a CAPRA-accredited
park agency.

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ON THE COVER

Ana Nakinyana (center), Odia Nabiganza (right) and their friend are among a group of new Daytonians who are making connections and growing organic food at a community garden in Trotwood.

Read more on page 6.



COMMUNITY INPUT HELPED SHAPE THE FUTURE OF METROPARKS LOCATIONS

Eight park master plans that include 12 Five Rivers MetroParks locations are now complete, as is the Dayton Riverfront Plan. These plans – developed with input from the community during public meetings and surveys – will guide the management and development of the parks for years to come.

Park master plans have been completed for the following locations:

- Carriage Hill MetroPark
- Eastwood MetroPark
- Englewood and Aullwood MetroParks and Pigeon Conservation Area
- Future Medlar MetroPark (now Medlar Conservation Area)
- Possum Creek MetroPark
- Future Spring Run MetroPark (now the Wetland Mitigation Bank Conservation Area)
- Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks and Twin Valley Conservation Area
- Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark

“One of the recommendations in Five Rivers MetroParks’ 10-year comprehensive master plan, completed in 2016, included updating or completing park master plans for each MetroParks location,” said Becky Benná, MetroParks executive director. “Staff worked to collect valuable feedback from the community regarding its needs and priorities. Based on that input, the park master plans will guide us in the planning for the future care and maintenance of our parks and natural areas. This includes prioritizing improvements and services, as well as budgeting to meet the future needs of the community.”

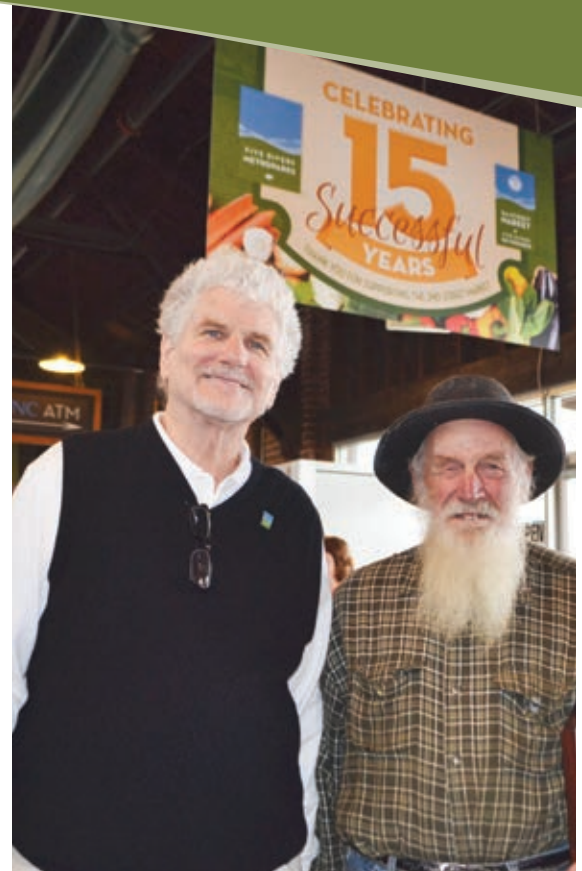
View the park master plans at [METROPARKS.ORG/PLAN](https://www.metro-parks.org/plan).

The 20-year Dayton Riverfront Plan was based on community input and stakeholder feedback as well. It harnesses Dayton’s river corridors to:

- create dynamic places that strengthen urban vibrancy
- provide better access to amenities that encourage healthy, active lifestyles
- create regional destinations

The plan includes approximately three miles along all four waterways in greater downtown Dayton, reaching into every segment of the community. Those waterways are the Great Miami, Mad and Stillwater rivers and Wolf Creek.

Learn more about the final Dayton Riverfront Plan at [DAYTONRIVERFRONTPLAN.ORG](https://www.daytonriverfrontplan.org).

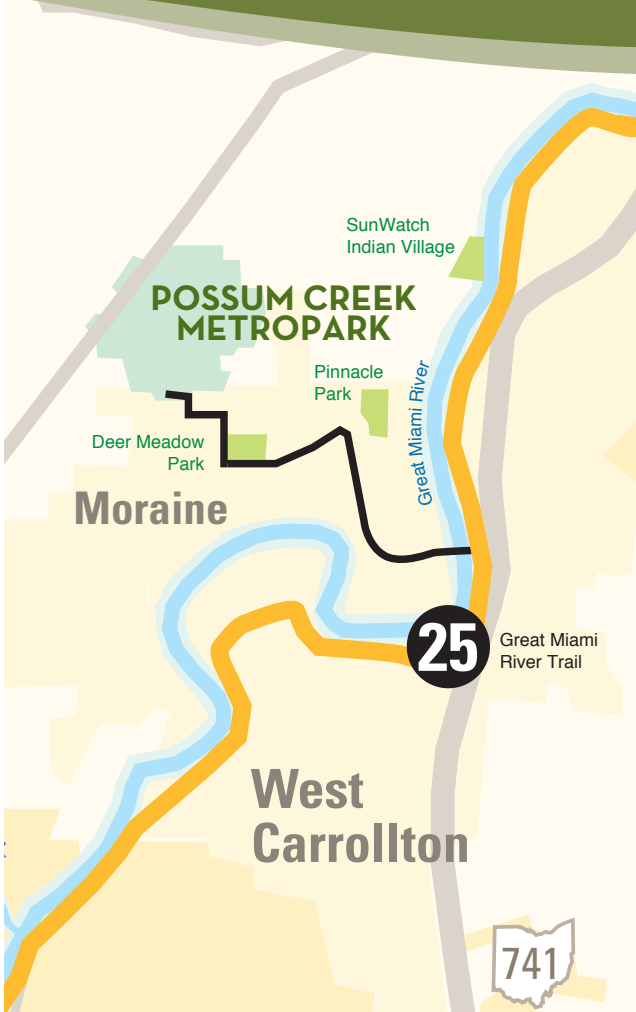


2ND STREET MARKET MANAGER RETIRES

Jimmy Harless (left, above), longtime 2nd Street Market manager, retired this past December after 16 years of connecting the community to fresh, local food at the Market. When Harless began, 15 vendors called the Market home. Now, that has grown to more than 50 vendors.

Harless, affectionately nicknamed “mayor of the Market,” was integral in creating a welcoming, diverse atmosphere. This made the Market a must-visit downtown destination, an anchor for the revitalization of Dayton’s center city and an incubator for local small businesses.

Lynda Suda, who previously served as Market coordinator, has stepped into the Market manager role. She has nearly 14 years of experience in the food and retail industries, along with a passion for the many ways the 2nd Street Market helps Five Rivers MetroParks protect the region’s natural heritage by providing our community access to fresh, local food.



NEW TRAIL CREATES A CYCLING CONNECTION

Five Rivers MetroParks and the city of Moraine teamed to create a connector trail that gives people access to two parks and the Great Miami River Trail. The connector trail, which opened in October, is more than three quarters of a mile long and connects Possum Creek MetroPark and the city of Moraine's Deer Meadow Park.

"The Deer Meadow-Possum Creek Connector provides better access to these two wonderful parks, in addition to the more than 340 miles of paved recreation trails in the region," said Eric Sauer, MetroParks planning manager. "Thanks to Clean Ohio Grant funding and hard work from the city of Moraine and MetroParks, the public has even more opportunity to lead healthy, active lifestyles."



MEET METROPARKS' NEWEST ANIMAL AMBASSADOR

Five Rivers MetroParks welcomes Nakamu, a female American kestrel, to its family of animal ambassadors. She'll help staff educate the public about local wildlife, the high-quality habitat MetroParks protects and how homeowners can help protect wildlife, too.

Nakamu is from Nature's Nursery Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation Education in Toledo. A wing injury keeps her from hunting so she cannot be released back to the wild. Springboro High School art teacher Erin Keister of Germantown suggested the name, sharing that it's the Shawnee word for "sing," via Five Rivers MetroParks' Facebook page.

"Fred Shaw, a respected storyteller for the Shawnee remnant tribe in the Miami Valley, said the name is pronounced 'Nah-kah-moo,'" Doug Horvath, education coordinator, said. "We've decided calling her Nakamu will help tie MetroParks' current efforts to be good stewards of our lands and wildlife with history. The history of this land goes back far longer than the founding of the United States, and our hope is that animals who've been here all along will continue to be with us far into the future."

A woman with dark hair, wearing a colorful patterned shawl over a blue top, is smiling and looking down at a plant in a lush green garden. The background shows more greenery and trees under a bright sky.

Growing Community *in the* Garden

Raising food on community plots can transform people — and connect them with the land they once called home.

Odia Nabiganza tends to vegetables being grown organically at a community garden in Trotwood.

After spending 15 years separated from his family while they lived in different refugee camps, **Rumenge Mbonigaba** is now working side-by-side with his parents at a community garden.

Located on six acres of land in Trotwood owned by the Sisters of the Precious Blood, it's one of nearly 100 community gardens located throughout Montgomery County that your Five Rivers MetroParks supports. In this case, MetroParks staff tilled the land and provided compost.

"The gardens we support get people outside and active," said MetroParks education coordinator Kaitlyn Lowry. "They also provide several small oases of habitat and biodiversity in the region — all while growing food."

Mbonigaba and his parents were born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They're among many Congolese people who fled war and violence in their home country, spending between 10 and 20 years in refugee camps before being resettled in Dayton. They're also among many new Daytonians who are finding peace while working a piece of land, who are connecting with people while growing veggies.

Some, such as African eggplant, aren't readily found in grocery stores. It's smaller and rounder than the type usually grown and often



Rumenge Mbonigaba (right) and Sister Mumbi Kigutha (left) of the Sisters of the Precious Blood lead a group of new Daytonians who are growing organic vegetables, including some from their homeland of the Congo.

mixed with tomatoes and onions when preparing African dishes.

"It will keep you strong and thin," said Dieudone Makombe, who worked with farmers when he lived in Africa. During the growing season, Makombe works in the Trotwood garden for a couple of hours before heading to his day job.

While working with newly resettled families, Sister Mumbi Kigutha recognized a need for access to fresh vegetables. She worked with the sisters, who agreed to let the group farm the land. Rumenge Mbonigaba then found the gardeners, who are using only organic methods.

"It was a big challenge to adapt to the diet here," said Sister Mumbi, who's from Kenya. "It's highly processed, and the African diet is primarily green, leafy vegetables. I had my own struggles with weight gain, and organic food is expensive."

Dieudone Makombe envisions the land housing a greenhouse and supporting full-time jobs for the new Daytonians.

"This brings the community together to do something," he said. "Once we get more supplies, materials and time, we can do even more. We can eventually feed our Congolese community and feed the Americans, too. We can all benefit from the organic food."

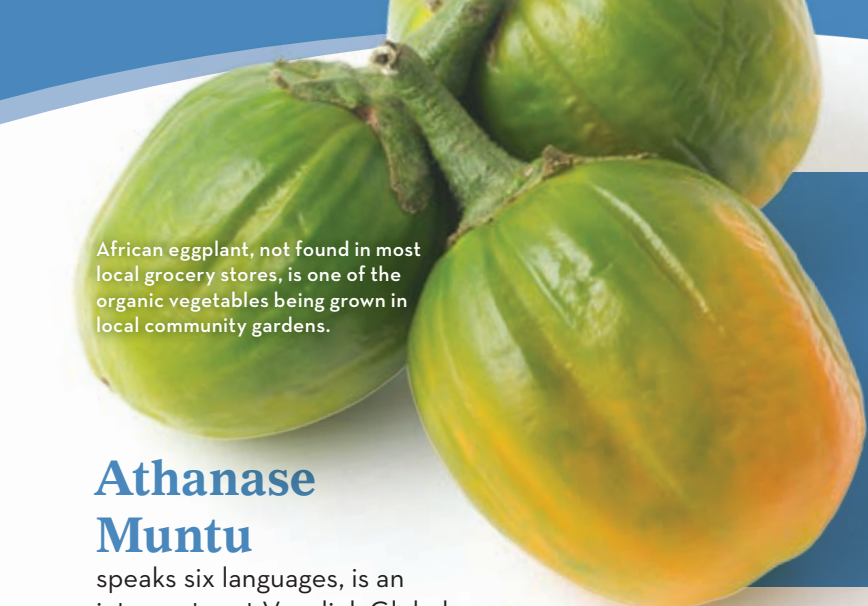
Yet the community garden in Trotwood is about more than food.

"The gardeners work side-by-side in the garden and have a communal place where they foster the spirit of taking care of one another that's so culturally important," Sister Mumbi said. "They have agency in the garden that's unique to their experience in Africa. They're in charge in the garden, and they have a sense of freedom and purpose they often don't feel in a predominately white society."

Indeed, Mbonigaba sees the garden as a place where people from different tribes, often separated or even at war in their home country, can learn to live and work in peace.

"There's a lot of political division in Congo, but when we're here in the garden, we focus on doing something together," he said. "This builds social connections that go beyond the boundaries that separated us back in Congo."

"We will not be held back by our past," added Mbonigaba, who thinks about one day returning to his homeland and applying American farming practices to fight against hunger — and anger. "We all saw tragedy, but we are safe now and can think beyond where we came from."



African eggplant, not found in most local grocery stores, is one of the organic vegetables being grown in local community gardens.

Athanase Muntu

speaks six languages, is an interpreter at Vocalink Global Language Services and earned a master of public administration degree from Wright State University since being resettled in the Dayton area in 2012 from Zimbabwe. But like the gardeners in Trotwood, he missed African eggplant.

That's just one of the veggies he and his family of seven have grown in a garden in Dayton.

"Like other immigrants of African descent, my family finds relief and the sense of positive change in gardening," Muntu said. "Also, it allows us to produce fresh vegetables for our kitchen, something that enhances our self-esteem as we strive to provide for ourselves. Basically, our kids are growing in a totally new environment that may require parents to impact them with some African cultural values linked to labor-intensive activities and the sense of producing and accomplishment."

Muntu first farmed in the garden in summer 2017 as part of his work with local nonprofit Cross Over Community Development, which used it as a demonstration project to test the feasibility and profitability of urban garden farming. The Gospel Mission leases the land at no cost as part of a ministry to support new Daytonians' social and economic transformation. The city of Dayton provides water, and Five Rivers MetroParks tills the land and provides seeds and fertilizer as available. Together, these services have helped Muntu and his family grow a lot of their food.

"Apart from the production of preferred foodstuffs, we embarked on gardening as an opportunity to change the lifestyle," Muntu said. "The health benefits of gardening are among other objectives that pushed my family to garden farming. The routine of work and school schedules often has negative effects on our health. To alleviate health-risk factors like obesity, high blood pressure and physical inactivity, gardening allows changes for better health."

Help These Gardens Grow

Want to contribute to Five Rivers MetroParks' community gardening efforts? Are you interested in connecting with an existing garden or starting a community garden of your own?

Contact education coordinator Kaitlyn Lowry at 937-275-PARK (7275) or by email at kaitlyn.lowry@metroparks.org.

Kaukab Husain,

who founded the Muslim Sisterhood of Dayton and works closely with its youth group, also has experienced firsthand the powerful effects of community gardening.

For the past three years, student members of Muslim Youth Outreach have helped new Daytonians from Africa to garden a plot of land in Dayton. MetroParks also has tilled this plot and provided compost. The students help with planting, and the new Daytonians maintain the garden.

"It's a good experience for the students, too, because they're learning how people survive in the world, Husain said. "There's a lot of empathy in them now."

When the group first started helping in the garden, they needed a translator. That's not true anymore.

"We are like a family to them," Husain said of the gardeners, who were born in such countries as Tanzania. "They are so resilient and so proud. They have a lot of dignity. They didn't want anything from us – we have given it to them."

Kaitlyn Lowry agreed the benefits of gardening often go beyond the end result of fresh, local food.

"One of the ways people connect to nature and the outside world is through community gardening," she said. "Community gardening helps drive home the benefits of living a healthy, active lifestyle. When people are out in the garden, they start to notice native plants and creatures, and they start to gain a greater appreciation for them. That exposure to the natural world, however small, leads people to care more about environmental protection. It's a win-win for nature and for people."

Joanna Ching

has worked the land year round in the community garden plots at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark for 10 years and calls herself a “very adventurous gardener” who uses organic methods.

But when she started, Ching had never gardened before.

“I came in with no idea what I was doing, but I spent \$4 on seeds and read a lot,” she said. “I’m from Singapore, where we make the best use of all available space, so I grow long and tall.”

Ching started with one year-round plot and now has four as her hobby has grown. “People in my office call my garden my ‘Eden,’” she said.

Park technician Brandon Wilson said the best part of his job working with MetroParks’ community garden plots is getting to know gardeners such as Ching. He also helps with such tasks as tilling, flagging plots, providing gardeners wood chips to control weeds and manure to use as fertilizer, and maintaining the green spaces alongside plots. Wilson said he receives lots of questions from gardeners that education and horticulture staff help answer.

“I also tell people to ask their neighbors,” he said. “It’s a community garden, so it should include working together.”

People come from as far as Troy and Centerville to use the plots at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, where they grow everything from tomatoes to Jerusalem artichokes.

“This is a place you can come and reboot – and you get food out of it,” Wilson said of the community gardens at Wegerzyn, which are surrounded by a prairie and tree-covered ridges, quiet even in an urban center. “No one realizes this is back here.”

Joanna Ching agrees gardening is therapeutic.

“You get instant gratification from seeing things grow, and there’s very little risk,” she said. “During the growing season, you can get seeds from MetroParks, and people are always willing to help. People should just give gardening a try. Digging around in the dirt can be quite fun.”

Rent a Five Rivers MetroPark Community Garden Plot

Garden plots are available on an annual basis at Wegerzyn Gardens and Possum Creek MetroParks.

Find out more on page 23.



Growing the World Garden

Betty Hoevel, MetroParks education coordinator, will be adding an international flair to the Children’s Discovery Garden this spring when she plants a World Garden. During a free May 16 program, families can help start the garden and are invited to bring seeds from plants grown in other nations.

“We want to focus on the common things often grown, such as onions, peppers, tomatoes and potatoes,” Hoevel said. “The idea of being a community means not only people but also plants. All plants need pollinators. They all need good soil. Different cultures use the same plants in different ways. This will help people learn to appreciate gardening and the garden as a way to relate to other people.”

GROWING THE WORLD GARDEN

Thursday, May 16 • 6 to 7 PM

Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, Skeeter’s Shelter, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Share seeds or plants to help MetroParks create a true community garden during this free program.

A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT WHAT YOUR METROPARKS TEAM IS UP TO THIS SEASON

Prepping Your Parks

The American kestrel is the smallest and most common falcon in North America – but these birds aren't the only wildlife staff find during the wintertime cleaning of kestrel nesting boxes.

"Sometimes, you'll open the box and a pair of screech owls will have found shelter inside," Conservation Supervisor Debby McKee said. "The owls just stare at you so you close the box and go on your way."

Grey squirrels are not so mellow. They will leap out of the boxes, and have even run down staff members' backs. "It's hard to tell whether staff or the squirrel are more scared," McKee said.

Approximately 30 kestrel boxes are located throughout your MetroParks to help the birds compensate for habitat loss. Boxes need to be cleaned and repaired to prep for the springtime nesting season.

Tidying kestrel boxes is just one of many tasks parks and conservation staff are tackling to get your 18 clean, safe MetroParks ready for the spring and summer busy seasons. Staff work together to mow and burn prairies, check tree seedling tubes, maintain equipment, analyze data, and plan for the year ahead.



"Mother nature has her own input on when things will happen," McKee said. "If it's too wet to burn a prairie, we can put native plants in a wetland or do a bird survey instead. We have to remain very flexible."

That work helps Five Rivers MetroParks protect local greenspace and waterways so you can explore nature and enjoy its benefits.

"Studies have shown that being in nature is great for relieving stress and having a place to get active," McKee said. "It's especially important for children."

McKee and Chris Landis, park manager for Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks, offer the insiders' look at what it takes to keep up your MetroParks.



Spring Cleaning

During the snowy season, staff maintain the sled hills at Englewood, Germantown and Taylorsville MetroParks. As temps warm, staff prep for the influx of spring campers by chopping firewood and cleaning up the sites at Englewood, Possum Creek, Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks.

Spring also is prime time for working on the trail corridors Five Rivers MetroParks maintains. This includes paved recreation trails and 160 miles of natural surface trails for hiking, biking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Staff members work to control the growth of invasive species, such as lesser celandine, an early-spring-blooming buttercup that grows in carpets that choke out native woodland flowers. They also turn on the water in drinking fountains, make sure equipment is in good working order, add new gravel to parking lots and remove debris after spring flooding. Other tasks include those familiar to many people: mulching garden beds, painting and deep-cleaning outdoor facilities.



Burn, Baby, Burn

Through April 15, depending on the weather, staff members conduct prescribed prairie burns. These tightly controlled blazes keep the native prairies in your MetroParks healthy. The burns remove some of the woody vegetation that competes with native grassland plants, stimulate the growth of those native plants and release nutrients to the soil.

But before the fires can be set, the land has to be prepped to ensure the burns are contained. For example, fire breaks are established through mowing.

Prairie burns are part of MetroParks' habitat management efforts, which are guided by an understanding of European pre-settlement conditions in Montgomery County. While primarily forested, prairies and wetlands also were an important part of the area's historical landscape. Burns help preserve this diversity of habitats and protect native plant and animal communities in the more than 16,000 acres of natural area MetroParks manages.



Number Crunching

Winter gives staff time to analyze data from a variety of projects: wildlife surveys that help monitor the population of deer and coyotes, trail inventories that also map the location of wildflowers and rare plants, and examinations of soil structure used to make sure new plants will naturally thrive in particular areas. The season also gives staff time to monitor ongoing projects to ensure everything is working as intended.

All this work allows staff to make data-driven decisions when planning for the year ahead. The info is used for habitat management, selecting sites to plant native trees and shrubs, plotting prairie burns, and much more.



BUILDING THE FUTURE FARM-TO-TABLE GENERATION

METROPARKS IS LOOKING FORWARD TO A LOT OF GROWING AT POSSUM CREEK METROPARK THIS SUMMER, FROM CROPS TO FUTURE COMMUNITY LEADERS.

Volunteers are needed to help Grounded and Growing thrive! See page 29 for more information and registration details or contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org.

THE CITY BEETS PROGRAM IS EVOLVING TO GO BEYOND SUSTAINABLE FARMING AND SELLING FOOD. ITS REPLACEMENT, **GROUNDED AND GROWING**, EMPOWERS YOUTH TO TAKE THEIR HEALTH INTO THEIR OWN HANDS WHILE HELPING ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF HUNGER IN THE REGION.

Grounded and Growing, a youth empowerment experience rooted in food and community, teaches teens ages 12 through 16 how to take control of their wellness through growing and preparing fresh food. It also encourages them to engage in community-based gardening projects that help address the challenge of hunger in the community.

“Young people bear the burden of so many challenges in society, from childhood obesity and climate change to food insecurity,” said Sarah Gold, MetroParks education specialist. “While many youth want to make a positive impact on the community and in their lives, it can be really hard to know where to start. This program takes a fun outdoor hobby and turns it into a means to build skills and make a meaningful impact.”

Grounded and Growing participants will spend time outside building garden beds and creating trellises, planting and caring for seedlings, and harvesting what they grow. Additionally, they will learn about the role fresh produce plays in healthy lifestyles and fun ways to prepare meals that include produce.

“There’s a sense of pride in knowing you grew and prepared something that will provide nourishment and enjoyment to others,” Gold said. “This is especially true when there are so many people who struggle with hunger in Dayton.”

Grounded and Growing also encourages service-driven community engagement by helping participants understand regional challenges. They also learn how sustainable gardening practices, small business skills and healthy living can address some of those challenges.

“Kids can be intimidated while they’re learning who they are as people and assessing their place is in the world and how they can help,” Gold said. “Grounded and Growing gets kids outside and in better control of their health, in addition to providing valuable skills so they feel better prepared to tackle life’s challenges.”

LEARN MORE ABOUT METROPARKS’ GROUNDED AND GROWING PROGRAM BY VISITING
METROPARKS.COM/GROWING



SPRING USHERS IN A BEAUTIFUL ABUNDANCE OF FLOWERS,

and many wildflower blooms are just as pretty and beneficial to local wildlife. While there will be vibrant spring color throughout your MetroParks, the garden parks are fan favorites for spotting plentiful and beautiful wildflowers. Plan a hike to see what’s sprouting in the following parks.

AULLWOOD GARDENS METROPARK

Discover an intimate garden park by following the trail through the estate gardens and around the property and into the woods.

- Hellebore/lenten rose (mid-February to late April)
- Winter aconite (early March)
- Siberian squill (March to early April)
- Great white trillium (mid-April)
- Virginia bluebells (mid to late April)

See page 21 for more info.

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Take the red trail to visit the Woodland Wildflower Area to view a variety of popular wildflowers.

- Trout lily (late March through mid-April)
- Dutchman’s breeches (April)
- Celandine poppy (April)
- A variety of violets (April)
- Yellow lady’s slipper (May)
- Blue false indigo (May)

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK

Travel the Marie Aull Trail and paths through the formal gardens.

- Spring witch hazel (January through early March)
- Winter aconite (early March)
- Anemone (early April)
- Daffodils and tulips (April)
- Magnolia (mid-April)
- Camassia (May)

JOIN METROPARKS FOR A RIVER VAN TOUR THIS SPRING

PADDLE ON, D

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO EXPERIENCE THE REGION'S WATERWAYS,

from exciting whitewater features to leisurely paddles with picturesque views. Five Rivers MetroParks manages 42 miles of water trails, and it hosts programming that allows people to get comfortable on the water and plan their own paddling adventures.

Featuring 270 miles of water trails, the region boasts the only national water trail in Ohio: the Great Miami River Watershed Water Trail. Designated a national water trail by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2016, the water trail includes the Great Miami, Stillwater and Mad rivers and is one of only 22 water trails in the nation.

The region's waterways have potential to bring communities together; create healthy, active lifestyles; and attract tourists, paddlers and anglers from across the country. There has been a lot of investment in the future of Dayton's rivers. From the 20-year Dayton Riverfront Plan that will harness four river corridors to bring communities together to the Great Miami Riverway that promotes 99 miles of river and paved trails, the community recognizes what a wonderful resource our region's rivers are.

Experience the rivers for yourself by planning a paddle this season. Because a challenging aspect of planning a paddling adventure is the logistics,

STILLWATER RIVER

Aullwood Garden MetroPark to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark
SEASON: Spring to early summer LENGTH: 5.5 mi. HOURS: 3-4
An in-river navigable feature can be portaged on the right. An elevation drop causes a small rapid.

GREAT MIAMI RIVER

Taylorville MetroPark to Island MetroPark
SEASON: Most of the year LENGTH: 9 mi. HOURS: 6
There is a low dam downstream of Needmore Road at the city of Dayton wellfield; portage this on the left.

TWIN CREEK

Germantown MetroPark to Chamberlain Road
SEASON: Spring to early summer
LENGTH: 7 mi. HOURS: 4
For the take-out, park on the north side of Chamberlain Road near the bridge over Twin Creek. There is a long path down to the creek.



DAYTON

MetroParks paddling coordinator, Erik Dahlstrom, suggests joining MetroParks' River Access Van Tours.

Held in spring, these tours are a chance to travel with MetroParks' experts to learn how to best plan your paddle, navigate hazards and more.

"These tours are beneficial to anyone who has an interest in exploring our rivers," Dahlstrom said. "It's important to consider many things before getting on the water."

Visit metroparks.org/paddle for a more information. Below are some recommended paddling adventures.

MAD RIVER AND GREAT MIAMI RIVERS

Eastwood MetroPark to RiverScape MetroPark
SEASON: Most the year
LENGTH: 4.5 mi.
HOURS: 2

This stretch of river includes three whitewater (class II-III) features, including the Mad River Run and RiverScape River Run.

Find more info on the River Access Van Tours on pages 26-27. Registration is required.



**NATIONAL
BIKE TO
WORK DAY
PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**
FRIDAY, MAY 17
See page 27
for more info.

CREATING A CYCLING COMMUNITY

Cycling is a huge part of what makes Dayton the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest. Boasting more than 340 miles of paved recreation trails – the nation's largest paved trail network – the region welcomes more than 772,000 visitors each year, according to the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission.

It takes a village to help connect people to these amazing amenities, which is why Five Rivers MetroParks teams with Bike Miami Valley to advocate, promote and provide cycling opportunities for people of all ages.

MetroParks also manages portions of six paved recreation trails and works to fill gaps in the paved trail network at high-priority areas, such as along the Wolf Creek Trail.

To make the trails more accessible, MetroParks provides the public with the tools they need to feel confident when cycling. From gear rentals, to programs and events, MetroParks offers many ways to have a cycling adventure.

For example, MetroParks offers seasonal bike rentals at RiverScape MetroPark and the MetroParks Mountain Biking Area (MoMBA) in Huffman MetroPark. Starting Memorial Day weekend, people of all ages can grab the gear they need and hit the trails for some cycling fun. Those who have their own bikes and want to commute to work downtown can use the Bike Hub at RiverScape MetroPark to store their gear during the day.

Whether you are a seasonal cyclist looking to plan an adventure or a newbie mountain biker, there are plenty of programs to get you excited about cycling this spring; see pages 24-26 for info.





Back Row: Barbara Jasper, Erin Bell, Betty Joseph, Timothy Miles, Marlon Foster
Front Row: Patrice Miles, Leslie Adkins, India Jones-Foster

PARENTS PITCH IN AT ADVENTURE CENTRAL

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY COME FIRST AT ADVENTURE CENTRAL

ADVENTURE CENTRAL is an after-school program that empowers the youth in West Dayton to become happier, healthier and more successful through outdoor experiences and educational opportunities.

Located in Wesleyan MetroPark, Adventure Central is the result of a partnership between Five Rivers MetroParks, The Ohio State University Extension and the 4-H Youth Development program. Individuals invested in these and other organizations volunteer at Adventure Central, but some of the most familiar faces are parents.

"It allows us to be involved with our children outside of the home in an outdoor setting," said Patrice Miles. Patrice and her husband, Timothy, have two 10-year-olds enrolled in Adventure Central.

All of the parents at Adventure Central volunteer at least 10 hours per year and some much more. Parent volunteers enjoy meeting other children and families, as well as experiencing the outdoors.

"It's as exciting for the kids as it is for the parents," said Lois Woods, Adventure Central administrative assistant. "Not only do the kids get to spend time with their parents, the program benefits from all the support the parents provide."

Though Timothy and Patrice Miles have busy work schedules, they make the time to volunteer because they know how beneficial Adventure Central is to their children and the community.

"I volunteer because Adventure Central has become part of my village,"

parent Barbara Jasper said. "In order for a village to thrive, everyone must do their part."

Even with its many parent volunteers, additional volunteer support is needed to make the program thrive.

"From after-school homework help to gardening, we are always looking for committed volunteers who want to make a difference in these kids' lives," Woods said.

LEARN MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FOR ADVENTURE CENTRAL by calling Jenny Hymans at 937-275-PARK or by emailing her at jenny.hymans@metroparks.org.

GET INVOLVED WITH FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

ATTEND A VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

A great way to give back to nature is by volunteering throughout the year! Attend an orientation session to learn more about Five Rivers MetroParks' volunteer opportunities, and check pages 20-32 for more volunteer programs. Attending an orientation doesn't commit you to anything, but it does give an overview of location-specific opportunities and an introduction to opportunities this season.

Volunteer orientations are for people 18 and older and are held at Five Rivers MetroParks headquarters, 409 E. Monument Ave., third floor. Call (937) 275-PARK or visit metroparks.org/volunteer to register.

Tue., Feb. 5: 1-3 PM (program A5)
Thur., March 7: 9-11 AM (A7)
Wed., April 10: 9-11 AM (A20)
Tue., April 23: 6:30-8:30 PM (A21)
Tue., May 7: 1-3 PM (A22)
Tue., May 21: 6:30-8:30 PM (A23)

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY: VOLUNTEER FOR ADOPT-A-PARK

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 • 9 TO 11:30 AM

REGISTRATION: MARCH 1 - APRIL 5 AT [METROPARKS.ORG/ADOPT](https://metroparks.org/adopt)

Go green by helping keep natural areas clean during Five Rivers MetroParks' annual Adopt-A-Park event! Nature and park lovers will spend about three hours at one of dozens of sites, removing thousands of pounds of litter, planting trees, painting, prepping garden beds, removing invasive species, maintaining trails and sprucing up facilities.

Project supplies will be provided to volunteers, who also receive a free T-shirt. Groups are encouraged to register early to ensure space at available sites.



PHILANTHROPY

SUPPORT

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

Learn more about giving to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation; The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation; Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation; and Friends of Carriage Hill: Visit metroparks.org/donate.

CONNECTING LOCAL CLASSROOMS TO NATURE AT COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

NATURE IS MULTIDISCIPLINARY, AND THE PERFECT VENUE FOR ACTIVE, ENGAGING LEARNING.

JUST ASK THE MORE THAN 5,000 AREA STUDENTS who visited Cox Arboretum MetroPark in 2018 thanks to the Putting Learning and Nature Together (PLANT) school tours program. Funded by the Virginia W. Kettering Foundation, PLANT tours bring school curriculum to life by allowing students to explore local habitats while encouraging greater engagement with the environment back in the classroom.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 166-plus PLANT guided or self-guided field trips were hosted at Cox Arboretum MetroPark during the 2017-2018 school year.
- 510 students from nine schools participated in the No Waste Lunch program, with a total of 93 pounds of compost and recycled materials

diverted from the landfill.

- 40 volunteers donated more than 500 hours of time, sharing their enthusiasm for nature with teachers and students. These volunteers dedicated another 600 hours furthering their skills at volunteer trainings.
- 19 volunteers have been trained in coaching techniques to enhance the mentor program, which fosters a culture of mutual learning and respect while increasing the quality of PLANT tours.

The PLANT school tours also are offered to recipients of Five Rivers MetroParks' OUTstanding Teacher Award, which honors three exceptional educators in the Miami Valley who use nature as a classroom.

"Children today spend most of their time indoors, dominated by technology, and so teachers are looking for ways to make learning come alive," said MetroParks Education Specialist Lauren Asquith. "PLANT tours bring students and teachers out into nature and allow them to explore, ask questions, get muddy and learn through experiences that cultivate curiosity about the natural world."

To learn more about PLANT school tours and how to apply, visit metroparks.org/teachers.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2018!

Thank you to the many Five Rivers MetroParks major donors from 2018. For a complete list of donors and to learn how you can support MetroParks' mission, please visit metroparks.org/donate.

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS PARK SYSTEM MAP

METROPARKS.ORG/MAP

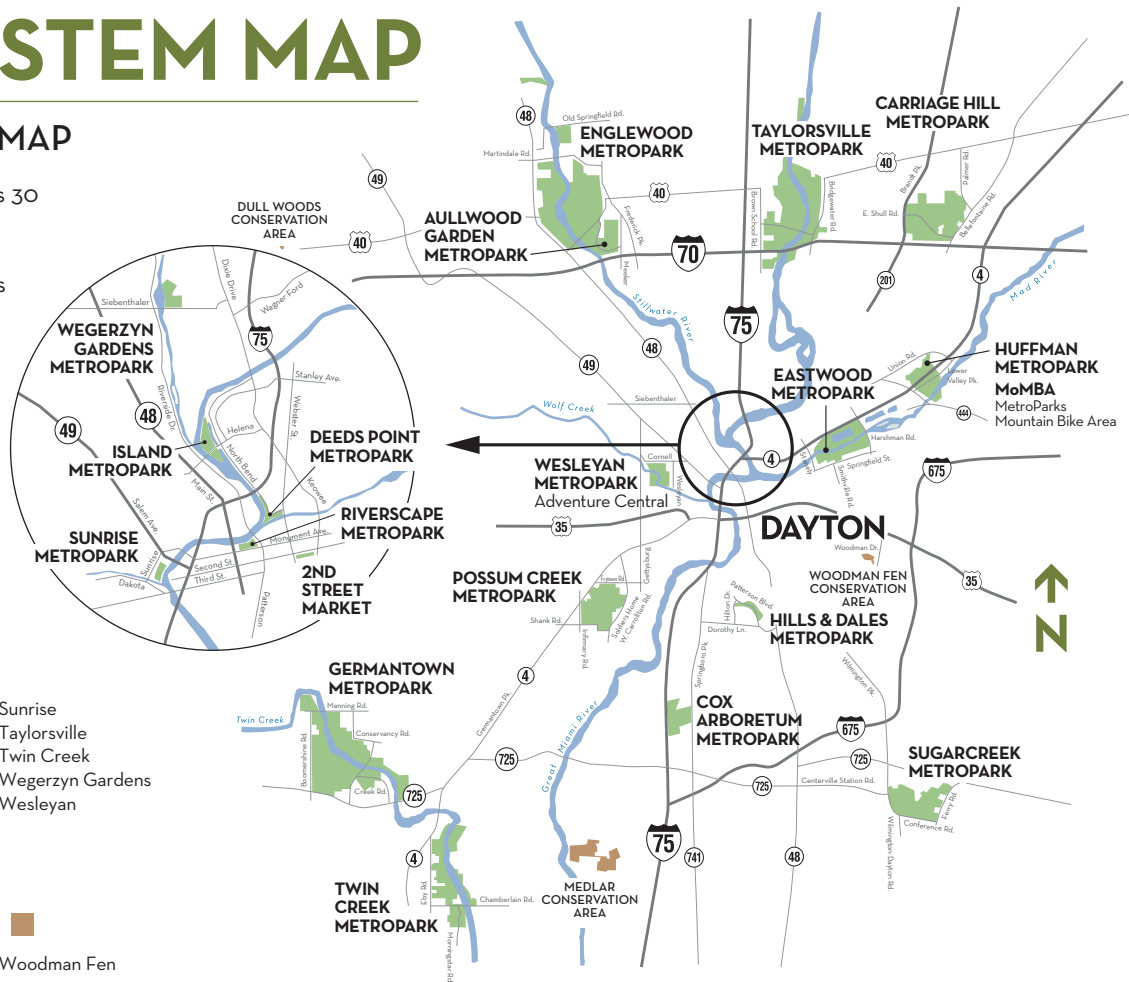
Five Rivers MetroParks operates 30 outstanding public locations. Founded in 1963 to serve the greater Dayton area, MetroParks protects more than 16,000 acres of open space and provides year-round recreation, education and conservation opportunities. Admission to MetroParks' locations is available free of charge – made possible by Montgomery County citizen support of a property tax levy.

METROPARKS

2nd Street Market	Germantown	Sunrise
Aullwood Garden	Hills & Dales	Taylorville
Carriage Hill	Huffman	Twin Creek
Cox Arboretum	Island	Wegerzyn Gardens
Deeds Point	Possum Creek	Wesleyan
Eastwood	RiverScape	
Englewood	Sugarcreek	

CONSERVATION AREAS

Dull Woods	Medlar	Woodman Fen
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PROGRAM GUIDE

PROGRAM DETAILS



ONLINE REGISTRATION
Online registration is available for programs marked with this icon.



WEATHER DEPENDENT
Some outdoor events and programs are weather permitting.

PROGRAM SERIES

Programs contained within a light blue box are part of a series of programs.

FEES

Fees are required at the time of registration. Visit metroparks.org/policies for information on refunds.

CANCELLATIONS

Some programs require a minimum number of participants and are subject to cancellation. Those who are registered will be contacted if this occurs. The website contains up-to-date information on cancellations.

CATEGORIES

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE
Enjoy time with friends and family at these community celebrations.

ACTIVE OUTDOORS
Discover how easy it is to have an active, healthy outdoor lifestyle.

EARTH FRIENDLY LIVING
Learn how to live more sustainably and make better choices for the environment.

ADULT NATURE EXPLORATION
Enjoy and learn about the splendor of the natural world.

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
Spend quality time outdoors with family.

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND TRAINING
Share an active, nature-based lifestyle with your community and future generations.

HOW TO REGISTER

ONLINE



metroparks.org/programs

Search online by date or program number to register.

BY PHONE



937 275-PARK (7275)

Register for all programs by calling 275-PARK unless otherwise noted in the listing.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Enjoy time with friends and family at these community celebrations.

EVENTS ARRANGED BY DATE



FEBRUARY

SCHOOL PRIDE NIGHT

FRI. FEB 1, 7:00-10:00 PM A1

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Represent your school at the MetroParks Ice Rink. Wear your school colors to skate as a DJ plays Top 40 hits. Bring your student ID to get half-priced admission. No registration required. All ages. Fee: Admission & skate rental: \$7 ⚙️



CARRIAGE HILL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SAT. FEB 16, 10:00-11:30 AM A45

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center Meeting Room, 7800 E. Shull Rd.

Support the programs at Carriage Hill and the Friends of Carriage Hill by joining us for a pancake breakfast. Pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, juice and coffee will be included. Tickets are available at the door. A Friends of Carriage Hill fundraising event. No registration required. All ages. Fee: \$5

PRESIDENTS DAY SKATE

MON. FEB 18, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM A6

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Spend the holiday at the MetroParks Ice Rink! No registration required. All ages. Fee: Admission & Rental: \$7 ⚙️

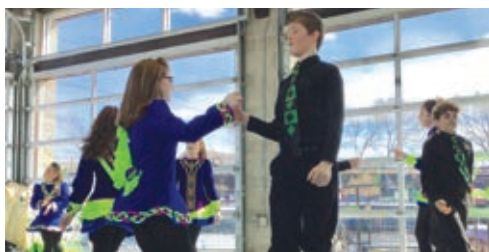
(FREE) BLACK HISTORY DAY AT THE MARKET

SAT. FEB 23, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM A135

2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St. All are invited to the 2nd Street Market's Annual Black History Day. Join us in celebrating the rich history of African American art and culture in

Dayton with some of Dayton's most creative African American musicians, dancers and artists. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 or marketinfo@metroparks.org for details. All ages.

MARCH



(FREE) ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT THE MARKET

SAT. MAR 9, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM A139

2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St. Everyone gets to be Irish for a day at the 2nd Street Market! Enjoy live Celtic music, followed by youth dancers from the Celtic Academy of Irish Dance. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 or marketinfo@metroparks.org for details. All ages.

APRIL



(FREE) ADOPT-A-PARK

SAT. APR 13, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM A19

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

Volunteers are needed to work at 15 river locations and every Five Rivers MetroParks facility. See page 17 for details. Registration is required and open March 1-April 5 at metroparks.org/adopt. All ages.

(FREE) THE CAROLYN KIMES TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY

FRI. APR 19, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM A143

SAT. APR 20, 8:00 AM-3:00 PM A144

2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St. Commemorate Earth Day with free tree seedlings while supplies last! This project is brought to you with the support of the Montgomery and Miami County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Rush Creek Gardens. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. All ages.

MAY



PICKIN' IN THE PARK

RiverScape MetroPark brings music to the riverside!

(FREE) PICKIN' IN THE PARK

FRI. MAY 3, 6:00-10:00 PM A36

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Come celebrate the beginning of our Summer Music Series with Pickin' in the Park! Enjoy progressive bluegrass music, craft beer, and a food truck rally. Bring your dancing shoes and a lawn chair for seating! No registration required. All ages. ⚙️

(FREE) ANNUAL MAYFAIR PLANT SALE

SAT. MAY 4, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM A32

SUN. MAY 5, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM A33

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Get a jump on spring and purchase unusual perennials, annuals, vegetables and herbs for companion planting or to enhance your landscape. Pass-along plants are locally grown. Enjoy hanging

baskets, just in time for Mother's Day. A Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation event and fundraiser. No registration required. Contact (937) 474-3760 or contact@wegerzyngardensfoundation.org for details. www.wegerzyngardensfoundation.org. All ages.



(FREE) NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FRI. MAY 17, 7:00-9:00 AM A176

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 237 E. Monument Ave. Leave your car in the garage and support National Bike to Work Day presented by the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. Ride in on your own or with a group to RiverScape MetroPark for a free pancake breakfast before you head to work. Live music, cycling-related exhibitors and a team challenge are all part of the fun. No registration required. metroparks.org/biketowork. All ages.



(FREE) TAB-A-PULL-OOZA

SAT. MAY 18, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM A146

2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St. Bring your aluminum can pull-tabs to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Miami Valley. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. All ages.

DISCOVER THE BLUEBELLS

AT AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK

When they bloom in April, the thousands of bluebells originally planted by local conservation pioneer Marie Aull are an amazing sight to behold. To receive notification when the bluebells are budding and maturing in the park, as well as information for a self-guided tour, contact education coordinator Betty Hoevel at dorothy.hoevel@metroparks.org or 937-275-PARK.



GET OUT & SKATE

AT THE METROPARKS ICE RINK

Open daily through Feb. 28, the MetroParks Ice Rink is the perfect spot to enjoy a couples skate, a day of family fun and to maintain your healthy, active outdoor lifestyle.



SWEETHEART SKATE VALENTINE'S DAY WEEKEND SPECIAL

Take your sweetie to the Rink and enjoy two admissions, two pairs of skates, two cups of hot chocolate, and a box of delicious Bellbrook Chocolates for only \$20. The Sweetheart Skate deal is available Feb. 14-17 during regular rink hours.



CELEBRATE PRESIDENTS DAY

at the MetroParks Ice Rink on Mon., Feb. 18, 11 AM to 5 PM.

937-278-2607

METROPARKS.ORG/ICERINK

SUMMER STARTS IN MAY

AT RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

Enjoy RiverScape Rentals, the fountains, free fitness programs and more



FRIDAY, MAY 3

Summer unofficially starts with Pickin' in the Park! RiverScape MetroParks' first outdoor concert of 2019 kicks off at 5:30 PM.

MONDAY, MAY 6

Enjoy lunch and live acoustic music by the Great Miami River during Music @ Lunch. Monday through Friday, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM



SATURDAY, MAY 18

Get in gear with free Zumba or yoga classes during Fitness in the Park at RiverScape MetroPark. Classes are most Saturdays from 10 AM to 11 AM.

Rent bikes and watch the fountains starting Memorial Day weekend!

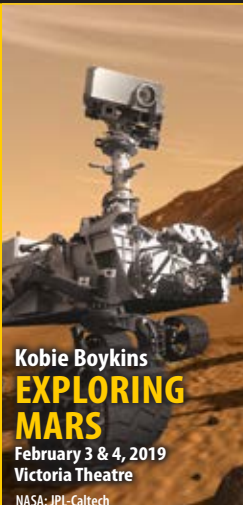
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE!

GET YOUR SEASON TICKETS NOW!

ALL THREE EVENTS STARTING AT \$75!

2018-2019 SPEAKER SERIES

See their experiences. Feel their stories. Be there on the front lines of our universe's most amazing environments.



Kobie Boykins EXPLORING MARS

February 3 & 4, 2019
Victoria Theatre

NASA: JPL-Caltech



Mark Synnott LIFE ON THE VERTICAL

March 10 & 11, 2019
Victoria Theatre

Photo: Mark Synnott



Florian Schulz INTO THE ARCTIC KINGDOM

April 14 & 15, 2019
Victoria Theatre

Photo: Florian Schulz

RETURNING THIS YEAR – SUNDAY MATINEES!


SUBARU
Confidence in Motion
SPONSORED BY
Subaru of America & Wagner Subaru


VTA
VICTORIA THEATRE ASSOCIATION


FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS


Ohio Arts COUNCIL


MONTGOMERY COUNTY

TICKETCenterStage.com

937-228-3630

GROUPS SAVE! Call 937-461-8295

FOR EVERYONE

Connect with and learn about nature with friends and family.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ARRANGED BY TOPIC

CONSERVATION & CITIZEN SCIENCE

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BLUEBIRD MONITORING KICK-OFF

SAT. FEB 2, 9:00-11:00 AM A182
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

This orientation and training is for all those interested in monitoring blue bird boxes in 2019. Blue-bird boxes are in several MetroParks locations, and dedicated volunteers are needed for the season starting in March. This is a family friendly opportunity. Registration required. Contact allison.zimmerman@metroparks.org for details. All ages. 🐦

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: INTRODUCTION TO CONSERVATION

THU. FEB 21, 1:00-3:00 PM A183
THU. APR 25, 6:30-8:30 PM A187
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

Five Rivers MetroParks protects over 16,000 acres, and we could use your help. Whether you are interested in fish or flowers, like to walk or prefer to help in an office or the greenhouse, there is an opportunity perfect for you. Discover what we are doing in conservation and how to get involved. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact allison.zimmerman@metroparks.org for details. All ages. 🐦

HERITAGE & HISTORY

19TH CENTURY FARMING DEMONSTRATIONS

Join us for ongoing drop-in demonstrations of 19th century farm life. Typical farm chores will be recreated to demonstrate daily life in the 1880s.

(FREE) TRADITIONAL BUTCHERING

SAT. FEB 2, 12:00-4:00 PM A41
SUN. FEB 3, 12:00-4:00 PM A42
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

Watch the age-old activity of processing meat, a staple of the 19th century farmer's diet. On Saturday the hog is scraped, cleaned and cooled. On Sunday the meat is prepared into the various cuts such as ribs, roasts, and hams. Also, watch as meat is then salted, cured, and made into sausage. No registration required. All ages. 🍖

(FREE) MAPLE SUGARING ON THE FARM

SAT., SUN FEB. 16-17, 12:00-4:00 PM A43

SAT., SUN FEB. 23-24, 12:00-4:00 PM A44

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
The end of winter has traditionally marked the beginning of maple sugaring season. Join us as we demonstrate maple sugaring. Come learn about the various tools and processes used to collect the sap. Watch as the sap is boiled down into the sweet syrup. No registration required. All ages. 🍷

(FREE) FROM SHEEP TO SHAWLS

SAT. APR 6, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM A54

SUN. APR 7, 12:00-5:00 PM A55
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
The role sheep played on the farm will be discussed during this comprehensive program. Watch as the sheep are sheared for the spring at 2 pm. Help card wool and watch as fabric is dyed using traditional methods. Come hear about the spinning process and factory production of wool. Watch spinners process the wool into yarn and weavers make a shawl. No registration required. All ages.

(FREE) CORN ON THE FARM

SUN. MAY 5, 12:00-5:00 PM A57
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Watch as the farmer rides the corn planter and plants the corn in check rows. See a corn field laid out before your very eyes. Try your hand at grinding corn into meal, learn about heirloom corn and the various resources for it today. Afterwards, stop by the farmhouse to

try some items made from corn. No registration required. All ages. 🌽

(FREE) BISCUIT DAY

SUN. MAY 19, 12:00-5:00 PM A60
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
One of the most common staples of any farm family's meal was the biscuit. Celebrate National Biscuit Day with us, as we dedicate a whole program to the biscuit. Watch as various types of biscuits are made around the farm, and then baked in our outdoor bake oven. Also, purchase biscuit-making supplies and preserves in our Country Store. No registration required. All ages.

(FREE) GUIDED MAPLE SUGARING TOUR

SAT. FEB 16, 12:30-1:00 PM A47
SAT. FEB 16, 2:30-3:00 PM A214
SAT. FEB 23, 12:30-1:00 PM A48
SAT. FEB 23, 2:30-3:00 PM A215
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Join the park historian on a guided tour of our maple sugaring operation. Learn about the role that maple sugar played on the farm in the 1880s and how maple sugaring is done today. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages. 🐦

NATURE APPRECIATION

(FREE) OPEN HOUSE WITH WILD ANIMAL AMBASSADORS

SUN. MAY 5, 2:00-4:00 PM X279
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.
Visit with our red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, screech owl, reptiles and salamanders as you enjoy activities and tours at the Twin Valley Welcome Center. Enjoy a hike on your own at this beautiful time of year in the woods before or after the open house. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages. 🐦

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY BY VOLUNTEERING FOR

ADOPT-A-PARK

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 • 9 AM TO NOON

Give your MetroParks and natural areas some TLC during Five Rivers MetroParks annual Adopt-A-Park.

A diverse crew of volunteers of all ages, accessibility levels and backgrounds join forces during this event to make your parks and river corridors healthier and more attractive. Volunteers will:

- Plant trees
- Prepare garden beds
- Maintain trails
- Spruce up facilities
- Remove trash and invasive species

Project supplies are provided, and volunteers receive a free T-shirt.

Registration is required and open from March 1 to April 5. Groups are encouraged to register early. Register online at metroparks.org/adopt.

GET OUT & EXPLORE YOUR METROPARKS

Visit metroparks.org/explore to learn about the many exciting things to experience in your 18 clean, safe MetroParks. Use this website as a resource to connect you with:

- 160 miles of natural surface trails for hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding and more.
- More than 340 miles of paved recreation trails – the nation's largest paved trail network
- 270 miles of river corridor
- 9+ educational features, including the Historical Farm and Tree Tower
- 8+ outdoor recreation features, including MoMBA and the Twin Valley Backpacking Trail
- Hundreds of programs for all ages and interests
- Dozens of ways to support MetroParks, from volunteerism to supporting the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation

RENT A FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT

LARGE GARDEN PLOTS ARE AVAILABLE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AT:

- POSSUM CREEK
(available from late April through Nov. 1)
- WEGERZYN GARDENS
(available seasonally and year-round; organic plots also are available)

Standard seasonal plots are 800 square feet and cost \$20 per plot annually. Year-round plots are \$40 per plot per year.

Gardeners are responsible for watering, weeding, pest control and harvesting. Five Rivers MetroParks provides initial tilling of the soil, water and access to seeds.

ACTIVE OUTDOORS

Discover how easy it is to have an active, healthy outdoor lifestyle.

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY TOPIC



Photo by Shay Nartker

BACKPACKING

APPALACHIAN TRAIL TRIP PLANNING

WED. MAR 6, 6:00-8:30 PM A91
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
We'll walk through planning your long-distance A.T. hike. You'll receive a planning booklet (optional) and talk with past thru-hikers and local experts. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: Program Fee WITH Booklet: \$12, Program Fee WITHOUT Booklet: \$5 🗝️

BACKPACKING 1: WOMEN

TUE. MAR 19, 6:00-8:30 PM A93
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Join other women interested in backpacking to learn about gear, food, trip planning, personal hygiene and other tips and tricks. This classroom session sets you up to have a safe and enjoyable backpacking adventure. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$5 🗝️

BACKPACKING 1

THU. MAR 28, 6:00-8:30 PM A94
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Learn about gear, food, trip planning and other tips and tricks during this classroom session, setting you up to have a safe and enjoyable backpacking adventure. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$5 🗝️

BACKPACKING 2

SAT. APR 27, 12:00 PM - SUN. APR 28, 12:00 PM A97
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.
Spend a night on the Twin Valley Trail learning how to pack your backpack, use a water filter, cook in the backcountry, select a campsite and more. Equipment is available at no additional charge with reservation. Prerequisites: Backpacking 1 or Intro to Backpacking. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$45 🗝️ ⚙️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BACKPACKING TRAIL WORK DAYS

SAT. MAY 11, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM A191
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Park Office, 6675 Conservancy Rd.
Learn about sustainable trail building while helping maintain the Twin Valley Backpacking Trail. No experience is necessary; tools are provided. Please bring water and work gloves. Youth 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. Contact allison.zimmerman@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 🗝️ ⚙️

BOATING

(FREE) DISCOVER ROWING

SAT. MAY 11, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM A102
ISLAND METROPARK, South Parking Lot, 124 E Helena St.
The Greater Dayton Rowing Association invites you to discover how rowing can boost your fun & fitness. Get introduced to the boats, oars, basic body mechanics, how to get in a boat safely, & get on the water in a sweep or sculling boat. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Receive a \$25 discount for our Learn-to-Row program later in May. See contact info to register. Contact LTR@daytonrowing.org for details. <https://daytonrowing.org/>. Age: 18Y and up

CYCLING

BICYCLE TOURING IN THE MIAMI VALLEY

TUE. FEB 19, 6:00-8:00 PM A70
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Have you ever thought about going on a bicycle touring trip, but aren't sure where to start? Learn about opportunities right here in the Miami Valley to take a trip on your bicycle. We'll cover local routes, resources and where to stay. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$5 🗝️

BICYCLE TOURING 1

TUE. MAR 5, 6:00-8:30 PM A71
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Learn the basics of travelling by bicycle, whether you call it bikepacking, bicycle camping or bicycle touring. Topics covered will include: gear, food, trip planning and other tips and tricks. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$5 🗝️

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE 1

THU. APR 18, 6:00-8:30 PM A72
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
This hands-on classroom session will help you diagnose and perform common bike repairs. Topics will include inspections, fixing a flat tire and chains. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$12 🗝️

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE 2: BRAKES

THU. APR 25, 6:00-8:00 PM A73
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
This hands-on class will offer instruction and guided practice in brake maintenance. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🗝️

(FREE) BIKE TO THE DRAGONS

SUN. APR 28, 2:00-5:00 PM A181
OFFSITE, Fifth Third Field, 220 N Patterson Blvd
Hop on your bike with the family and head downtown to watch America's favorite pastime. The first 50 cyclists to pre-register at drivelesslivemore.org and bike to the game will receive complimentary lawn tickets and a prize pack courtesy of Five Rivers MetroParks, Dayton Dragons, and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 223-6323 or DLLM@mvrpc.org for details. drivelesslivemore.org. All ages.

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE 2: SHIFTERS & DERAILLEURS

THU. MAY 2, 6:00-8:00 PM A189
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

This hands-on class will offer instruction and guided practice with drive-train maintenance including shifter and derailleur adjustments. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🗓️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BIKE TO WORK DAY ORIENTATION

THU. MAY 9, 6:30-7:30 PM A184
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Join the team and help us celebrate at this year's National Bike to Work Day Pancake Breakfast right here in Dayton! Nearly 600 cycling enthusiasts and 50 volunteers will come together for the region's largest celebration of biking and pancakes! In this orientation, you'll learn more about how you can help with this incredible event. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact jenny.hymans@metroparks.org for details. Age: 14Y and up 🗓️

BIKE FOR HEALTH GUIDED RIDE

Join us for a guided ride led by staff and volunteers. These guided rides are part of the Bike for Health Challenge, a series of self-guided, ride-at-your-own-pace rides held each week through September. The first 100 people to log 125 miles will receive a 125 Mile Achievement T-shirt. Use the guided rides to help log miles to work toward the 125 Mile Achievement. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Bicycles must be in good working order with properly inflated tires. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST WEAR A HELMET. For more information and to download the ride log, visit metroparks.org/bikehealth.

(FREE) RIDE TO MEDLAR CONSERVATION AREA

SAT. MAY 11, 9:00-11:00 AM A75
GREAT MIAMI RIVER TRAIL, Ohio Bike Route 25
Meet at Riverfront Park, 3 North Miami Ave., Miamisburg, OH 45342. (10 miles) Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages. 🗓️ ⚙️

(FREE) RIDE TO DEEDS POINT METROPARK

WED. MAY 15, 6:30-7:30 PM A76
STILLWATER RIVER TRAIL, Ohio Bike Route 7
Meet in the main parking lot near at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. (6 miles) Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages. 🗓️ ⚙️

FISHING

NYMPHS, EMERGERS, DRIES

THU. FEB 7, 6:00-7:30 PM A179
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
What is the difference between an emerger, a

streamer and a dry fly? Learn all about various flies and when to use them during this program designed for those with some knowledge about fly fishing. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$10 🗓️

FILLETING FISH

WED. FEB 20, 6:00-8:00 PM A169
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

You have your catch and want to bring it home to the dinner table, but are not sure what to do with it once it's off the hook. This class will show you how to efficiently fillet and store your fish until ready to cook. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🗓️

(FREE) TRY FLY FISHING

TUE. MAR 26, 4:30-7:30 PM A170
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Jay Lake and Parking Lot, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

TUE. MAY 7, 4:30-7:30 PM A174
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Outdoor Venues, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Always wanted to try fly fishing? Here is your opportunity. Instructors available for questions and will teach basic fly fishing techniques in a controlled and safe environment. Equipment is provided. No fishing license required at these locations. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 14Y and up 🗓️

FLY FISHING 1

TUE. APR 23, 6:00-8:30 PM A171
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
An introduction to fly fishing, this classroom program covers gear (both essentials and accessories), flies, and a larger focus on casting. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$10 🗓️

FLY FISHING 2: LAKE

SAT. APR 27, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM A172
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Shelter: Farm Shelter/Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Road
Fly Fishing 1 taught you skills. Now, let's move it to your hands! Learn to cast, tie on a fly, set the hook and strip in the line, all essential skills for catching that fish so you can post to all your friends. Equipment available upon request. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Prerequisites: Fly Fishing 1 Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$30

FLY FISHING 2: RIVER

SAT. MAY 11, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM A173
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Bluegrass, 1385 Harshman Rd.
Fly Fishing 1 got you started and now you're ready for the next step. Learn about habitat, how to read the water and casting techniques needed for fishing in the current. Equipment available upon

request. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a water bottle. Ohio fishing license required. Park in Springfield Street entrance lot. Prerequisites: Fly Fishing 1 Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$55 🗓️

FITNESS

FITNESS IN THE PARK

Come out for fun and effective workouts under the pavilion! Center yourself on yoga days with Tori Reynolds and enjoy fast paced Zumba with The Studio Fitness instructors. Wear comfortable clothes and bring water. Come enjoy a fun, free, outdoor workout! Classes vary, so check metroparks.org/riverscape for the specific class schedule. Please bring your own water. No registration required. All ages..

(FREE) ZUMBA IN THE PARK

SAT. MAY 11, 10:00-11:00 AM A37
SAT. MAY 25, 10:00-11:00 AM A39
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave. ⚙️

(FREE) YOGA IN THE PARK

SAT. MAY 18, 10:00-11:00 AM A38
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.
Please bring your own mat and water. ⚙️

(FREE) GO W/ THE FLOW YOGA: BIKE WEEK EDITION

MON. MAY 13, 6:00-7:00 PM A180
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 237 E. Monument Ave.
Join the largest gathering of outdoor yogis in Dayton, led by Tori Reynolds and Ben Rivet. Power Vinyasa yoga is geared for all experience levels and builds whole-body strength, flexibility and mental focus. Ride your bike to the event and earn cool prizes. No registration required. All ages. ⚙️

(FREE) WALK! DOWNTOWN DAYTON

WED. MAY 22, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM A79
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.
Help kick off the summer season by joining Public Health and Dayton & Montgomery County in WALK! Downtown Dayton. This is a free, non-competitive event open to everyone who wants to participate in a 30-minute walk along the Great Miami River. Vendors will also be available to promote their services. No registration required. Contact (937) 225-5700 or info@phdmc.org for details. www.phdmc.org. All ages. ⚙️

MOUNTAIN BIKING

(FREE) TRY MOUNTAIN BIKING

TUE. MAY 7, 4:00-7:00 PM A74

HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA, 4485 Union Rd.

Want to try mountain biking but don't have a bike? If so, come out to MoMBA and borrow one of our bikes. Bikes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Riders younger than 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Helmets are required and are provided with the bike.

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All

ages. 🚲 ⚙️

OUTDOOR SKILLS AND SAFETY

BACKCOUNTRY KNOTS

THU. FEB 28, 6:00-8:00 PM A140

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Learn some of the best knots for use in the outdoors as we take a hands-on approach to knot tying use and know-how in a classroom setting.

Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$10 🚲

WILDERNESS MEDICINE OPEN RECERTIFICATION

FRI., SAT., SUN MAR. 1-3, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM A85

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

This course is open to graduates of all wilderness medical training courses of 64 hours or longer with a current WFR certification. WMA WEMT graduates with a current EMT-B or Paramedic certificate may also recertify the wilderness portion of their WEMT with this course. See contact info to register. Contact (719) 395-5358 or coloradooutside@gmail.com for details. www.wildmed.com. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$350

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

SAT., SUN MAR. 9-10, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM A86

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

This two-day introduction to general medical concepts and basic life support skills is targeted to outdoor enthusiasts on day trips or short adventures. See contact info to register. Contact (719) 395-5358 or coloradooutside@gmail.com for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$220

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER

MON., TUE., WED., THU., FRI., SAT., SUN MAR. 11-17, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM A89

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Through lectures, discussions and scenarios, you'll

learn the essential principles and skills required to assess and manage medical problems in isolated and extreme environments for days and weeks if necessary. See contact info to register. Contact (719) 395-5358 or coloradooutside@gmail.com for details. www.wildmed.com. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$750

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: SUSTAINABLE TRAIL BUILDING

SAT. APR 6, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM A186

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Park Office, 6675 Conservancy Rd.

WED. APR 24, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM A192

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Trails can foster a greater understanding of the natural world by creating access; by leading people through diverse terrain, habitats, and historical areas; and by enhancing an individual's appreciation for our natural heritage. Theory and hands-on activities will give you insight on building a sustainable trail, and how to get involved. Registration required. Contact allison.zimmerman@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 🚲 ⚙️

PADDLING

RIVER ACCESS VAN TOUR: MAD RIVER AND RIVER RUNS

WED. MAR 27, 6:00-8:30 PM A162

MON. APR 22, 6:00-8:30 PM A163

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Mad River Access parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Join us for a driving tour, visiting river access points along the Mad River from Eastwood MetroPark to downtown to help plan your next paddling adventure. We'll check out the new River Run features along the way. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🚲

RIVER ACCESS VAN TOUR: TWIN CREEK

WED. APR 3, 6:00-8:30 PM A153

WED. APR 10, 6:00-8:30 PM A155

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Welcome Center Parking Lot, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Join us for a driving tour, stopping at different river access points along the Twin Creek to help plan your next paddling adventure. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🚲

RIVER ACCESS VAN TOUR: GREAT MIAMI RIVER

MON. APR 8, 6:00-8:30 PM A160

WED. APR 24, 6:00-8:30 PM A161

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Parking Lot, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Join us for a driving tour, stopping at different river access points along the Great Miami River to

help plan your next paddling adventure. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🚲

ACA KAYAK INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

TUE., WED., THU. MAY 21-23, 8:30 AM-6:00 PM A164

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

American Canoe Association Level 1 Kayak certification gives you a good foundation in the skill and the knowledge needed to instruct kayaking on flatwater. Certification requires ACA membership, CPR and First Aid certification. This course will be a combination of classroom and on the water skills including participants teaching topics and skills. Prerequisites: ACA membership & SEIC dues paid; current CPR and First Aid certifications. Registration required. Contact erik.dahlstrom@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$130 🚲

ACA CANOE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

FRI., SAT., SUN, MON. MAY 31-JUN. 3, 8:30 AM-6:00 PM A167

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

American Canoe Association Level 1-2 Canoe certification gives you a good foundation in the skill and knowledge needed to instruct canoeing on Class I rivers. This 4-day course will be a combination of classroom and on the lake and river learning skills, including participants teaching topics. Prerequisites: ACA membership and SEIC membership paid to the ACA current First Aid and CPR certification. Registration required. Contact (937) 274-3147 or erik.dahlstrom@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: Level 1 & 2: \$150, Level 1 only: \$75, Level 2 upgrade only: \$75 🚲

SKATING

LEARN TO ICE SKATE! ADULT COURSE

SUN FEB. 3, 10 & 17, 12:00-12:30 PM A4

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Skills include skating forward and backward edges on a circle, three-turns, backward stops, bunny hop, lunges, and crossovers. Register for this program and receive two free skating admissions! Fee includes use of skates and lessons on February 3, 10, and 17. Make-up date in the event of closure will be 2/24. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 or riverscape@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$50 🚲 ⚙️

A FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS, FAMILY-FUN, FREE EVENT.

BIKE TO WORK DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

PRESENTED BY



MIAMI VALLEY
Regional Planning Commission

**FRIDAY, MAY 17 • 7 TO 9 AM
AT RIVERSCAPE METROPARK**

Celebrate National Bike Month during the region's largest Bike to Work Day event. Join hundreds of cyclists for a free pancake breakfast and check out cycling-related exhibitors and live music. Participate in the team challenge for a chance to win sweet prizes!

METROPARKS.ORG/BIKETOWORKDAY



Listen In for Adventure Inspiration

The free talks that are part of the Adventure Speaker Series will inspire every level of outdoor enthusiast. The series includes local adventurers and nationally known outdoor personalities.

All talks are held from 7 to 8:30 PM.

VISIT **THEADVENTURESUMMIT.COM** FOR MORE INFO.

SUP THE SUSQUEHANNA WITH PETE AND AINSLEY SAVARD

TUESDAY, FEB. 12

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

In summer 2018, a team led by Pete and his 15-year-old daughter set out to stand-up paddle board the Susquehanna River from source to sea in 30 days. Learn how their #SUP4WATER adventure impacted both the team and people across the globe.

BIKE ACROSS AMERICA WITH EARL MCDANIEL

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27

**WEGERZYN GARDENS
METROPARK**

Earl cycled 3,642 miles in 38 days, traveling through 18 states to cross the nation on bicycle. Experience his journey from the California Science Museum to Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island.

HIKING THE EL CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

THURSDAY, MAR. 14

**WEGERZYN GARDENS
METROPARK**

In 2017, Michelle and Brian Coleman hiked an average of 14 miles a day for seven weeks, completing all 550 miles of the El Camino de Santiago, a 1,200-year-old pilgrimage across Europe culminating at the final resting place of the Apostle St. James.

BACKPACKING ALONG THE GIANTS OF THE ALPS WITH GUDRUN AND PETER SEIFERT

FRIDAY, MAR. 29

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

The Seiferts have trekked the Alps for 20 years. Now in their 80s, they hiked from Vienna to Nice in summer 2018. Join them as they relive their journey.

The Adventure Speaker Series is a partnership between Five Rivers MetroParks and Wright State University.

EARTH FRIENDLY LIVING

Learn how to live more sustainably and make better choices for the environment.

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY TOPIC

FOOD: EARTH TO TABLE

(FREE) MEET YOUR CSA FARMER, SHARE YOUR SEEDS

FRI. FEB 22, 5:30-7:30 PM A138

2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St. Chat with local farmers to learn about their growing methods, pricing, produce, pick-up methods, and buying directly from the farmer through community supported agriculture (CSA). Taste home-grown recipes the farmers have prepared. For gardeners, this is also a chance to share open-pollinated seeds with one another! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact kaitlyn.lowry@metroparks.org for details. All ages. 📍

SAUSAGE MAKING: TRADITIONAL PORK PUDDINGS

SAT. FEB 23, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM A49

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd. Butchering season meant an abundance of pork. One of the best uses for pork scraps was making sausage. Learn about the various types of sausage and its history. Next, make a variety of different sausages using 19th century recipes and techniques. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$30 📍

GETTING STARTED RAISING SMALL LIVESTOCK AT HOME

WED. FEB 27, 6:00-8:00 PM A134

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Interested in raising your own animals for food, fiber or hobby, but don't know where to start or even if it's right for you? Then join us as we talk about a variety of small livestock and what you will need to know before spending time and money on animals, food and other needs. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 📍

19TH CENTURY COOKERY CLASS FOR COUPLES

SAT. MAR 9, 5:00-7:30 PM A50

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd. Couples are invited to join us for an evening of historical cooking lessons and parlor entertainments. Participants will learn how to prepare fresh, local vegetables and do some simple baking. Afterward, participants will join us in the candlelit parlor for some historical games and entertainment. Fee will cover one couple. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$50 📍

HERITAGE BAKING SERIES

Using 19th century recipes and methods, students will learn to bake using a wood-fired oven.

SOURDOUGH 101

SAT. MAR 23, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM A204

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel Arnold House, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

Join us in the farmhouse for a hands-on lesson about leaven (sourdough). Students will prepare a batch of dough and, using some pre-risen dough, bake a boule, a pan loaf and a pizza crust in a wood-fired stove. Recipes, a sourdough starter, a dough bowl, and students' freshly baked breads will be included. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$100 📍

MILLING YOUR OWN FLOUR FOR BREAD: SPELT

SAT. APR 20, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM A205

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel Arnold House, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

Join us in the farmhouse for a hands-on lesson about home milling and leaven. Students will prepare a batch of dough and, using some pre-risen dough, bake a boule, a pan loaf and a pizza crust in a wood-fired stove. Recipes, a sourdough starter, a dough bowl, and students' freshly baked breads will be included. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$100 📍

MILLING YOUR OWN FLOUR FOR BREAD: WHEAT

SAT. MAY 18, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM A206

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel Arnold House, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

Join us in the farmhouse for a hands-on lesson about home milling and leaven. Students will prepare a batch of dough and, using some pre-risen dough, bake a boule, a pan loaf and a pizza crust in a wood-fired stove. Recipes, a sourdough starter, a dough bowl, and students' freshly baked breads will be included. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$100 📍

BACKYARD CHICKENS 101

THU. MAR 28, 6:00-8:00 PM A141

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Do you want to raise chickens at home? Learn the basics before you buy anything! We will review coop design, how much space is needed per chicken, feed, equipment and more. Bring your questions and we'll send you away ready to get started. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 📍

HOW TO MAKE GOETTA

SAT. MAR 30, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM A51

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center Meeting Room, 7800 E. Shull Rd.

Goetta is a historic regional dish that used pork and beef sausage as well as pin oats and seasoning. Join us as we trace its origins and discuss its history. Instructions on how to make goetta at home will be provided during this hands-on class. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$30 📍

BACKYARD GOATS: TASTE AND LEARN

THU. APR 11, 6:00-8:00 PM A148

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Goats have a lot to offer any household or farm. Goats can be kept on small acreage, and provide meat, milk, fiber - and even brush-clearing. Learn about breeds, care, and fencing. Taste goat meat, goat cheese, and take home a bar of goat milk soap. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 📍

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: YOUTH GARDENING PROGRAM, GROUNDED AND GROWING
THU. APR 25, 9:00-11:00 AM A145

TUE. APR 30, 6:00-8:00 PM A217
 POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Volunteers needed for Grounded and Growing, a new youth gardening program, that will be held weekdays June through August. Help youth connect with their community through growing food and learning basic life and leadership skills. Volunteer opportunities include assisting in the garden and engaging youth with food-to-table principles. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up. See page 13 to read more about Grounded and Growing. 📄

BUS TRIP: FOUNTAIN ACRE FOODS, LEVI COFFIN HOUSE & MODEL T MUSEUM

THU. MAY 23, 8:15 AM-6:30 PM A178
 WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Parking Lot, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Our first stop in Fountain City, Ind., will be the Levi Coffin House, the Grand Central Station of the Underground Railroad. Our next stop will be Fountain Acre Foods, an Amish-run store with a little bit of everything. After lunch, we'll visit the Model T Ford Club of America. A Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation fundraiser. Contact (937) 233-3481 or contact@wegerzyngardensfoundation.org for details and to register. <http://wegerzyngardensfoundation.org/bus-trips.html>. Age: 18Y and up Fee: Foundation non-members: \$87, Wegerzyn Foundation Members: \$82

BACKYARD SHEEP: TASTE AND LEARN

THU. MAY 23, 6:00-8:00 PM A151
 POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Are you interested in raising sheep for food, wool and milk? Let us walk you through what you need to know about fencing, space requirements, feeding, and equipment. Taste a lamb dish and sheep dairy products, and look at what can be done with wool. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 📄

GARDEN SPOTLIGHT: TOMATOES
SAT. MAY 25, 10:00-11:00 AM A100

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Garden, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Nothing says summer like a fresh warm tomato from the garden. They come in every size, shape and color imaginable and make the summer garden a beautiful sight. Learn how to select specific varieties for your use, how to plant and care for them, and how to prevent other creatures from eating your harvest before you can! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 📄

GARDENING

HOUSEPLANTS AND HEALTH: YOURS AND THEIRS

SAT. FEB 2, 10:00-11:30 AM A61
 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Houseplants provide great health benefits, as well as keep your winter home colorful. Learn the scoop on popular varieties and how to place and maintain them for optimum pleasure and health. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 📄

NON-STOP LANDSCAPE: GARDENS INSIDE AND OUT

SAT. FEB 9, 10:00-11:30 AM A62
 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Landscape design begins inside your house with a view to the outdoors. Learn how to create a seamless plan that connects your outdoor and indoor areas. A fun class anytime, but especially during the winter when you can't dig outside. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 📄

VOLUNTEER: GARDENER'S LEARN AND TRY-IT SERIES

Each session will feature a learning topic to enhance your knowledge and skills, followed by a volunteer project to practice what you've learned.

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: INVASIVE SPECIES ID AND HABITAT RESTORATION

FRI. FEB 22, 9:00-11:00 AM A210
 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Lesser Celandine threatens eco-systems. Learn how to identify this invasive species, best practices for treatment, and get suggestions for native plant replacement. Assist staff in a workday applying what you've learned. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: CUT IT OUT - PRUNING HYDRANGEAS

TUE. FEB 26, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM A131
 WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Learn how to identify and prune these two shrub varieties: Hydrangea quercifolia and Hydrangea paniculata. We will discuss timing and techniques then head to the garden to get some practice. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: CONTAINER GARDENING

THU. MAR 7, 9:00-11:00 AM A211
 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

From greenhouse to containers, learn how to display forced, spring-flowering bulbs. Hands-on opportunity to beautify the grounds at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: PRUNING TREES

THU. MAR 14, 9:00-11:00 AM A209
 ISLAND METROPARK, 101 E. Helena St.

Join the horticulture staff to learn the proper way to prune young trees for health and longevity. Volunteers will apply what they've learned that day! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: PROPAGATION 101

WED. MAR 20, 9:00-11:00 AM A212
 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Discover the basics of edible seed propagation. Join horticulture staff to sow seeds for the coming season to be used in the Edible Landscape Garden at Cox Arboretum. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: PRUNING SUMMER-BLOOMING SHRUBS

TUE. APR 9, 9:00-11:00 AM A208
 RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Learn proper pruning techniques to maintain the health and beauty of your deciduous summer-blooming shrubs. Work alongside horticulture staff pruning roses and other popular shrubs to prepare landscaping beds for the coming season. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: MAGICAL MOSSES

MON. APR 29, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM A132
 AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, 955 Aullwood Rd.

Mosses are easy to grow, require very little water, and offer year-round color. We will discuss the benefits, care and uses, then demonstrate methods for propagation. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BULBS VERSUS CRITTERS

TUE. MAY 7, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM A130
 WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Two methods were used last fall to deter crit-

ters from eating our bulbs. Learn our planting techniques and discover which strategy was most effective. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 🌱

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: PRUNING SPRING-FLOWERING SHRUBS

WED. MAY 15, 9:00-11:00 AM A213
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn proper techniques to maintain the health and beauty of early spring-blooming shrubs. Work alongside horticulture staff to prune Lilac, Witch Hazel, Forsythia and Quince within the shrub garden at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 🌱

BUILD A 3-DISH TABLETOP GARDEN

SAT. FEB 23, 10:00-11:30 AM A63
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

With three recycled dishes you can have a great green display! Bring three containers, each four inches deep and no more than 10 inches wide. You can also bring a large glass jar which can become a terrarium. We'll supply key plants and soil to get you started and the inspiration to keep you going. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🌱

SUSTAINABLE GARDEN SOLUTIONS WITH JENNIFER DAVIT

SAT. MAR 2, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM A64
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Inspired by the time she spent as Director of the Lurie Garden in Chicago, Jennifer will show you how to increase the beauty, seasonality and sustainability of your garden. She'll cover perennial plant selection, maintenance techniques, and appropriate pest management. You'll learn how to expand the seasonal interest in your garden, benefitting both the people and pollinators who appreciate your outdoor space. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🌱

GARDENING BY THE MOON

WED. MAR 6, 6:00-8:00 PM A35
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Come out for an evening of lunar learning as we delve into the ancient practice of using the moon's cycles as way to produce higher yields in the vegetable garden. We will also discuss our gardens and set intentions for a successful season. Participants can enjoy a cup of new moon tea, make an herbal moon bath soak, and plant a moon flower. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🌱

THE GREAT PLANT DEBATE

SAT. MAR 9, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM A81
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

You've found a new plant for your landscape, but you're not certain how it will work out. This is a great question even for professionals. Retired Cox horticulturist Rich Pearson and plantsman Tomasz Przepiorkowski will debate the virtues of some popular plants, sharing insights and experience, agreeing on some but not all. A fun and spirited session for any gardener, so bring your friends for a great morning. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🌱

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: HILLS & DALES SPRING KICK OFF

FRI. MAR 8, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM A188
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, 2471 Deep Hollow Rd. Originally designed by renowned landscape architects the Olmsted Brothers, Hills & Dales MetroPark is a beautifully restored urban woodland park. Volunteers will participate in skill-building sessions, and discover how to become part of the volunteer team. Registration required. Contact allison.zimmerman@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 🌱

BUS TRIP: GREENFIELD PLANT FARM, FINDLAY MARKET, VALLEY VINEYARDS, & AMERICAN SIGN MUSEUM

TUE. APR 9, 7:45 AM-6:30 PM A31
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Parking Lot, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Join us for a bus tour to visit the fascinating Sign Museum in Cincinnati. Lunch will be on your own at Findlay Market. Afterward, we'll stop at Greenfield Plant Farm, where you'll receive a 10 percent discount on plants. The last stop will be wine-tasting and snacks at Valley Vineyards. This is a Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation fundraiser. Contact (937) 233-3481 or contact@wegerzyn-gardensfoundation.org for details and to register. <http://wegerzyngardensfoundation.org/bus-trips.html>. Age: 18Y and up Fee: Foundation non-members: \$86, Wegerzyn Foundation Members: \$81

GARDENING 101

We will discuss creating and maintaining large and small in-ground and container gardens, adding specialty gardens to an existing landscape, city and suburban gardens, attracting pollinators and making your own garden style.

MAKING A SUCCESSFUL PLAN

THU. APR 11, 6:00-7:00 PM A84
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Let us show you how to make a plan for vegetable, flower, or container gardens and then how to select the best plants for each ac-

cording to your own personal needs and light and soil conditions. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🌱

PREPARATION ESSENTIALS

THU. APR 18, 6:00-7:00 PM A87
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Learn about specific area or container preparation and the timing of planting, including step by step planting instructions for anything from seeds to trees. We'll also discuss adding specialty gardens to an existing landscape. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🌱

MAINTENANCE AND LONG-TERM PLANNING

THU. APR 25, 6:00-7:00 PM A88
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

You will leave this session organized with your own plan, ready to plant and, most importantly, maintain your garden. Get ready for a successful season and years of enjoyment and positive impact on the environment and on you the gardener. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🌱

WILD ABOUT WILDFLOWERS WALKS

Join volunteers from the Cox Wildflower Group for informative walks through the different areas of wildflowers at the park. During each session see new and different blooms you're sure to love. Each participant receives a plant. Meet in the parking lot.

EARLY SPRING BLOOMS

SUN. APR 14, 2:00-3:00 PM A90
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Join us for a look at the first wildflowers of the season. Volunteer guides identify the plants in bloom and if they may be suitable for your own garden needs. We'll look for Trillium sessile, Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells), Phlox divaricate and Viola sororia x confederate. Don't forget your camera! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🌱

THE NEXT WAVE OF FLOWERS

SUN. APR 28, 2:00-3:00 PM A92
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Early blooming wildflowers are now joined by later, more colorful ones. Join us as we tour the wildflower area and see the great beauty a two-week difference makes! Our volunteers will guide you and identify the wonderful plant array in the wildflower area. We hope to

see the lady slipper orchid in bloom, a beautiful sight you won't want to miss! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷 ⚙️

LATE SPRING WONDERS

SUN. MAY 12, 2:00-3:00 PM A119
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Be amazed by a carpet of blue in the wildflower area. Enjoy the beauty of these blossoms and discover ways to use them in your home landscape. We hope to see *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack in the Pulpit), *Geranium maculatum*, *Zizia aurea* and *Iris cristata*. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷 ⚙️

SPRING'S FINAL FLING

SUN. MAY 26, 2:00-3:00 PM A121
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Our last trip to the wildflower area will show not only blossoms, but also seeds and foliage of earlier plants. This session marks the transition from spring to summer and the decline of some plants but the emergence of others. It will be a beautiful walk you won't want to miss! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷 ⚙️

THE ART OF FLOWER PRESSING

WED. MAY 1, 6:00-8:00 PM A77
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Flower pressing is a great way for the home gardener to utilize and preserve those cheery blooms. We will spend this early, spring evening learning this old flower craft, while creating beautiful artwork to take home. A comforting floral tea and cookies will be available for refreshment. Please feel free to bring spring blossoms from your yard. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🍷

ANNUAL MAYFAIR MEMBERS ONLY PRE-SALE

FRI. MAY 3, 5:00-7:00 PM A34
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Wegerzyn Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation members get a jump on their spring plant shopping on this special members-only night. In addition to early sale entry, members receive 10% off their total purchase. Anyone can become a member at the door. Memberships start at \$40. No registration required. Contact (937) 474-3760 or contact@wegerzyncgardensfoundation.org for details. www.wegerzyncgardensfoundation.org. All ages.

GARDEN SPOTLIGHT: FERNS

SAT. MAY 11, 10:00-11:00 AM A98
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Outdoor Venues, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

A great plant for gardens and containers, ferns are versatile, colorful, and add great interest to any garden. Learn specific varieties and how to select, plant, grow and propagate them for year after year of beauty. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🍷

(FREE) GROWING THE WORLD GARDEN

THU. MAY 16, 6:00-7:00 PM A116
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Shelter, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
This year, Skeeter's Garden will include The World Garden. We'll have some special plants from specific areas and highlight those that are universal, such as onions, peppers, tomatoes, potatoes and spices. Share stories and seeds or starts of traditional plants from various countries and help us create a true community garden! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 🍷

GARDEN SPOTLIGHT: PEONIES

SAT. MAY 18, 10:00-11:00 AM A99
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Shelter, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
One of the most popular of spring perennials, peonies have been a staple for gardeners in our area for many years. Learn about the newest varieties, division and replant techniques, as well as new and improved maintenance methods. Join this great class about a beautiful plant! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🍷

HERITAGE & HISTORY

DRAFT HORSE DRIVING CLASS

SAT. APR. 13 & 20, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM A56
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center Meeting Room, 7800 E. Shull Rd.
In the 1880s, draft horses were used for a wide variety of chores on the farm. In this modern era, draft horses can still be used as a sustainable way of doing farm work. Join us for this two-part class on basic draft horse driving. Students will learn about draft horse safety, the basics of harnesses and do basic ground driving. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$50 🍷

HERITAGE CRAFTS

Our heritage craft series helps keep historical crafts alive through hands-on opportunities.

BLACKSMITHING

THU. MAY 9, 6:00-8:00 PM A58
SAT. MAY 11, 9:00-11:00 AM A207
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Have you ever wanted to try your hand at blacksmithing? Join us each month as we focus on a different heritage skill. Basic principles and skills will be taught and participants

will work on a simple project. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

SUSTAINABLE HOME

(FREE) COMPOST KITCHEN

WED. FEB 6, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM A30

WED. FEB 13, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WED. FEB 20, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

THU. APR 11, 6:00-8:00 PM A40

THU. APR 18, 6:00-8:00 PM

THU. APR 25, 6:00-8:00 PM
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

This three-part program covers everything you need to know to compost effectively and is offered free of charge thanks to a partnership with Montgomery County Environmental Services. Talks and activities explore soil ecology, chemical-free gardening and household waste management. Participants completing all three programs receive a free composter. Registration required. Age: 16Y and up 🍷

MASTER RECYCLING CLASS

WED. MAR. 6-APR. 3, 6:00-8:00 PM A177
OFFSITE, Montgomery County Solid Waste District, 2550 Sandridge Dr.

Presented in partnership with Montgomery County Environmental Services, learn how to reduce, reuse and recycle and become advocates in waste reduction. Attend 5 classes and commit to 20 volunteer hours. Join us Feb. 20 from 6-7:30 PM at MetroParks' headquarters (409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd floor) for an informational meeting to learn more. Contact cholloway@metroparks.org for details and required registration. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$25

SIGN UP FOR THE NEW METROPARKS' MONTHLY DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Check your inbox to learn how you can Get Out & Explore your MetroParks. MetroParks' monthly email is filled with highlights. Emails for gardening, outdoor recreation, volunteerism and other special interests also are popular. All are designed to help you make the most of your Five Rivers MetroParks!

METROPARKS.ORG/NEWSLETTERS



ADULT NATURE EXPLORATION

Enjoy and learn about the splendor of the natural world.

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY TOPIC

CONSERVATION & CITIZEN SCIENCE

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Enjoy watching feederbirds and make new friends while taking part in this citizen-science initiative through Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. At this volunteer-led event, you'll learn your birds and keep track of the number of avian species that visit the feeders, while enjoying the fellowship of like-minded nature lovers.

(FREE) PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

FRI. FEB 8, 12:30-2:30 PM A9

SAT. FEB 9, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM A13

FRI. FEB 22, 12:30-2:30 PM A10

SAT. FEB 23, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM A14

FRI. MAR 8, 12:30-2:30 PM A11

SAT. MAR 9, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM A16

FRI. MAR 22, 12:30-2:30 PM A12

SAT. MAR 23, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM A15

FRI. APR 5, 12:30-2:30 PM A17

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome.

Age: 14Y and up 🍷

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

TUE. FEB 5, 1:00-3:00 PM A5

THU. MAR 7, 9:00-11:00 AM A7

WED. APR 10, 9:00-11:00 AM A20

TUE. APR 23, 6:30-8:30 PM A21

TUE. MAY 7, 1:00-3:00 PM A22

TUE. MAY 21, 6:30-8:30 PM A23

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E.

Monument Ave., 3rd Floor Five Rivers MetroParks

has volunteer opportunities year-round and at

nearly every park. Orientation provides history,

an overview of location-specific opportunities

and an introduction to opportunities this season.

Attendance does not commit you to anything.

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Con-

tact info@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y

and up 🍷

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: CONSERVATION SEASON OPENER

SAT. FEB 9, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM A18

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E.

Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

What are the elements of conservation? How

do Five Rivers MetroParks' stewardship plans

protect our native habitats? How can individuals

help? Find out answers to these questions, learn

about 2018 accomplishments and what is planned

for 2019, meet staff and volunteers, and discover

how you can get involved. New and returning

volunteers welcome! Registration required. Con-

tact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details.

metroparks.org/conservation. All ages. 🍷

FLORA & FAUNA

MAMMAL TRACKING

SUN. FEB 10, 1:00-3:00 PM A168

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning

Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Discover the art and science of animal tracking as

we learn how to identify mammal tracks and scat.

We will explore collections, make track plaster

casts, and explore animal signs in the field. Dress

warmly. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up

Fee: \$5 🍷

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BUTTERFLY MONITORS

TUE. MAR 12, 6:30-8:30 PM A185

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E.

Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

Butterfly surveys start in April at Germantown

MetroPark. Beginners or experienced partici-

pants are welcome to this training on identifica-

tion, plants associated with various butterflies,

and useful resources. Orientation to the survey

and routes will be discussed. Registration re-

quired. Contact allison.zimmerman@metroparks.org

for details. All ages. 🍷

BEGINNING BIRDING

SAT. APR 20, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM Z197

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco

Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Get started with the basics of birding, including

identification, field guide and binocular use, bird song, biology, and behavior. The 2-hour indoor session will be followed by a 2-hour field study. Participants receive a birding handbook, ODNR field guides and bird song CDs. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

TREE ID WORKSHOP

SAT. APR 20, 1:00-4:00 PM A165

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn how to identify more than 20 native trees

by their twig, bark, and other winter character-

istics. Discover pioneer, wildlife and commercial

uses for each tree while sharing stories of folk-

lore. Each participant will receive a tree identi-

fication notebook with everything needed to get

started identifying trees. Registration required.

Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷

NATURE APPRECIATION

ADULT NATURE WALKS

Enjoy a leisurely hike through natural areas as we explore Montgomery County's ecology and gain a deeper perspective for how nature works. We also will discuss humans' role in nature and how we can minimize our impacts and get involved with conservation efforts. It's our nature!

(FREE) ADULT NATURE WALK

TUE. FEB 5, 9:00-11:00 AM A198

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40

TUE. MAR 12, 9:00-11:00 AM A199

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

TUE. APR 16, 9:00-11:00 AM A200

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Shelter: Cedar Lake/Parking Lot, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

TUE. MAY 28, 9:00-11:00 AM A201

EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome.

Age: 18Y and up 🍷

(FREE) DISCOVERY STROLL**WED. APR 3, 10:00-11:30 AM** A202**WED. MAY 1, 10:00-11:30 AM** A203

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Program Parking, 2471 Deep Hollow Rd.

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome.

Age: 18Y and up 📅 🍷

PHOTOGRAPHY & ART**GET CRAFTY WITH YOUR CAMERA****SAT. FEB 2, 10:00-11:30 AM** A82

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third

Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Spend a cold winter morning having fun with indoor photography projects! Participants will create unique and colorful pictures while practicing techniques such as manual focus, exposure compensation, and slow and fast shutter speed. Bring your creativity and your camera, along with a tripod and flash if you have them. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 📅

NATURE PHOTO CRITIQUE SESSION**SAT. MAR 9, 10:00-11:30 AM** A80

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third

Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Photographer Adam Alonzo will critique your nature photos and use them as the basis for brief lessons about camera technique and composition. Send digital photos by e-mail in advance to critique@adamalonzo.com. Only outdoor photos will be considered, and not all photos submitted will be discussed in the session. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 📅

PICTURING PETALS AND PLANTS**SAT. APR 27, 10:00-11:30 AM** A96

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Discover methods for photographing flowers and other kinds of plants outdoors. Learn to use focus to direct the viewer's eye, and to portray flowers within the larger context of a garden. Following a presentation indoors, the class will then go outside (weather permitting) to take photos in the park. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 📅

PICTURING PUDDLES AND PONDS**SAT. MAY 18, 10:00-11:30 AM** A101

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Discover methods for photographing water outdoors, such as controlling reflections, and how to capture (or avoid) a sense of motion in flowing water. Following a presentation indoors, the class will then go outside (weather permitting) to take photos in the park. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 📅

GET OUT & GIVE

When you support the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation, you support MetroParks' special projects and programs that connect families to nature, protect local habitats and wildlife, and preserve greenspace and waterways.

With so many ways to make a donation, supporting the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation has never been easier:

- **CHAMPIONS PROGRAM:** The easiest way to contribute a monthly recurring gift.
- **TRIBUTE PROGRAM:** Honor a special person with a named bench, tree and more in their favorite MetroPark.
- **PLANNED GIVING:** Leave a lasting legacy with a planned gift that will provide Five Rivers MetroParks with long-term stability and ensure future generations enjoy great parks.
- **INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS:** One-time donations can be made securely online in any denomination.

The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and your donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

METROPARKS.ORG/DONATE

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS FOUNDATION

ACCESS TO NATURE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Providing qualifying families with financial assistance for fee-based MetroParks programs, the Access to Nature Scholarship is available for those of all ages. From summer camps to family programs, these funds enable more families to Get Out & Explore!

To learn more and apply for an Access to Nature Scholarship, visit metroparks.org/scholarships.

FAMILY

Spend quality time outdoors with everyone in your family.

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY DATE

CONSERVATION KIDS

We've recently made it easier for families to participate in Conservation Kids programs by removing age-level restrictions. You will find all your Conservation Kids programs in one place. These age-appropriate programs give your kids clear steps to take and opportunities to see the impact they make through planting for pollinators, collecting seeds to plant a forest, creating their own wildlife habitat in their backyard, being a naturalist for their classmates at school and building connections!

By completing programs in each of the three levels of this series, your child will also receive a special reward. Visit metroparks.org/kids for more information. Look for color triangles (▲, ▲, ▲) in the program listings for Conservation Kids to see what level each program is designated for within the series. Participants should begin by taking Discovery Level (green) programs and build onto their knowledge with blue and orange programs after completing the green level.

PROTECTORS OF NATURE



Congratulations to our most recent Conservation Kids!

Cymry Lombard Kestra York
Allyson Courville

CONSERVATION KIDS

This series nurtures kids' desire to explore nature and empowers them to speak out for the planet they will soon inherit. Watch as your child grows closer to nature, develops leadership skills and works with peers to protect Montgomery County's ecology. By completing programs in each of the three levels of this series, your child also will receive a special MetroParks Conservation Kids hat and become eligible to volunteer and help lead future programs. Visit metroparks.org/kids.

(FREE) FOREST BIRD SEARCH

SAT. FEB 9, 10:00-11:30 AM A129
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Test your bird finding abilities as we track down some of the forest's most beautiful birds. Discover why forests and birds depend on each other for survival, and how you can help! Bring binoculars if you have them. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

BIRDS AND COMMUNITY

SAT. FEB 9, 1:00-3:00 PM A128
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn your local birds, how to attract them to your yard, and how to get other kids excited about nature. You'll get everything you need to conduct your own Great Backyard Bird Count! Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y
Fee: \$5 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

SAT. FEB 16, 10:00-11:30 AM A127
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.
People all across the country will be counting the birds they see this weekend and reporting their sightings online, and you can be a part of the story! Bring binoculars if you have them, a limited supply will be available. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) ANIMAL TRACKING EXCURSION

SAT. FEB 16, 1:00-2:30 PM A126
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/Parking Lot, 2471 Deep Hollow Rd.
Have you ever wanted to become an animal tracker? Discover the art and science of tracking during this hands-on excursion. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) WINTER ASTRONOMY

SAT. FEB 23, 7:00-8:30 PM A125
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, Shelter: High View/Parking Lot, 9688 Eby Rd.
Did you know that the constellations that we can see change throughout the year? Come to one of the highest spots around Dayton to see our winter night sky. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) EAGLES AND DUCKS

SAT. MAR 9, 10:00-11:30 AM A124
EASTWOOD METROPARK, East End Lake Access/Parking Lot, 1401 Harshman Rd.
Discover winter bird diversity along the Mad River! We will look for the Eastwood Eagles and also watch for the winter waterfowl at Eastwood Lake. Please bring binoculars if you can. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) WOODLAND ADVENTURE

SAT. MAR 9, 1:00-2:30 PM A123
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.
Get out in the crisp, fresh air for an adventurous nature hike through a successional woodland, exploring the trees, plants, and wildlife. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) ANIMAL KEEPERS

SAT. MAR 23, 1:00-2:30 PM A122
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.
Be a wild animal keeper for a day, learn what animals need to survive, and how MetroParks

care for our captive animals. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) WOODCOCK WATCH

SAT. MAR 23, 7:30-9:00 PM A120
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Be a witness to the woodcock's extravagant mating display of circles, spirals, and dives while enjoying the crisp night. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) SIGNS OF SPRING

SAT. MAR 30, 10:00-11:30 AM A118
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

Satisfy your itch to get outside after a long winter, and help us look for signs of spring! We'll discuss seasonal changes, and explore nature's awakening. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

GARDENING FUN

SAT. MAR 30, 1:00-3:00 PM A117
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn what it takes to be a gardener and what all plants need in order to survive. Get tools to have a gardening party with your friends. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$5 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) SPRING WILDFLOWER EXPLORATION

SAT. APR 13, 2:00-3:30 PM A115
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Aullwood Garden Parking Lot, 955 Aullwood Rd.

Did you know that some of the most beautiful flowers are only around for a couple of weeks in the spring? Join the naturalists on a hike at Aullwood Garden MetroPark to learn some of the cool stories about these flowers. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) NOCTURNAL AMPHIBIAN SEARCH

SAT. APR 13, 7:00-8:30 PM A114
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Search for Spring Peepers, Spotted Salamanders, and other amphibians in Sugarcreek's vernal pool, only 1/4 mile away from the parking lot. Bring a flashlight and wear clothes that can get muddy. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ▲

AMPHIBIAN NATURALIST TRAINING

FRI. APR 19, 6:30-8:30 PM A113
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead West-

vaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Come learn your local amphibians and practice techniques in searching for them and sharing them with others. We'll venture out into the wetlands for our own adventure, then help you develop your own get-together! Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$5 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) SPRING BIRD HIKE

SAT. APR 27, 10:00-11:30 AM A112
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Summer is approaching, which means all of the birds that went south for the winter are headed home. Come see the beautiful birds that stop in Dayton on their journey home. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) BULLFROG ROUND UP

SAT. APR 27, 7:30-9:00 PM A111
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Shelter: Whitetail/Sunfish Pond/Parking Lot, 7101 Conservancy Rd.

Our very own Conservation Kids frog surveys have discovered bullfrogs at a vernal pool critical for MetroParks' anuran biodiversity. These bullfrogs need to be removed, and we need kids to help! Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

NOCTURNAL INSECT PARTY

FRI. MAY 3, 8:00-10:00 PM A109
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Come explore the incredible diversity of moths, and how to build your own Moth Sleepover for your friends. Participants will get a nocturnal moth starter kit. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$5 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

SAT. MAY 11, 10:00-11:30 AM A108
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Pollinators have an important job to do, so let's help them by planting flowers they need! Learn about pollinator-friendly plants, and get ideas to make your family habitat more pollinator friendly. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) 6-LEGGED BEASTS

SAT. MAY 11, 1:00-2:30 PM A106
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Shelter: Prairie Dock/Parking Lot, 4730 Frytown Rd. Come explore the prairie and wetland to catch insects that probably live in your own backyard. We'll use nets for close up inspection and we'll release after identifying what we've captured. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) OWL PROWL

FRI. MAY 17, 8:00-9:30 PM A105
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

Escape on a night walk in search of the Screech and Barred owls, while learning about their interactions with our forests. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) TREE EXPLORATION

SAT. MAY 25, 10:00-11:30 AM A104
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Come discover some of the most common trees that make up our forests. Take a tour through our greenhouse to learn how we give back to our forests. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) CREEK FUN

SAT. MAY 25, 1:00-2:30 PM A103
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Search for macroinvertebrates, rainbow darters and crawdads while exploring the river! Learn about water quality and how kids can keep water clean. Wear shoes that you can wear in the water (no sandals). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦋 ⚙️ ▲

RE-PURPOSING HACKS FOR THE FAMILY: PAPER BOWLS

SAT. FEB 9, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM A133
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn how to turn old newspaper and paper grocery sacks into functional decorative bowls to use at home and as unique gifts for friends and family. Paper will be provided, but please feel free to bring some from home too. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages. Fee: \$5 per family: \$5 🦋

WORM COMPOSTING FOR THE FAMILY

SAT. FEB 23, 10:00-11:30 AM X276
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Worm bins are the perfect space-saving indoor composting technique. Each family will make a worm bin to take home, complete with worms. As well as making compost, worm composting is a great family project! Registration required. All ages. Fee: per family: \$15 🦋

FAMILY FARMHANDS

SAT. MAR 30, 9:00-11:30 AM A136
SAT. APR 13, 9:00-11:00 AM A142

SAT. MAY 18, 9:00-11:00 AM A150

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Become a farmhand for the morning and help feed and care for the rabbits, chickens, sheep, goats and donkey. Registration required. Age: 5Y-8Y Fee: Fee per child: \$5

(FREE) SPRING FAMILY GET GROWING DAY**SAT. MAR 30, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM A83**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Spring is popping outdoors and indoors, so come for a fun day of exploration and learning. There'll be kid games and crafts, seed planting, herb tasting, native plant propagation, garden tips, and a presentation by farmer and dad Doug Christen on ways to get your kids involved in and enjoying gardening and improving your own gardening techniques. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages. 🍷

POTATO POTS FOR THE FAMILY**SAT. APR 20, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM A149**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Love spuds but not sure how to grow them? Have limited space to garden? This program is for you. Learn how to make a great potato pot. You'll receive the materials plus some cool spud varieties to plant in your potato pot. Registration required. All ages. Fee: \$10 🍷

EARTH DAY FAMILY TREE**SAT. APR 20, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM A66**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Shelter, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Families walk in our woods and explore the life cycle of a tree. We'll look at seeds, bark, and leaves and even what happens to trees after they die. Each family receives a tree to plant for Earth Day and participates in hands-on activities. Registration required. All ages. Fee: Fee per family: \$5 🍷

RE-PURPOSING HACKS FOR THE FAMILY: MILK JUGS**SAT. APR 27, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM A147**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Bring a milk jug from home and learn how to repurpose it into beautiful feeders for our feathered friends. Materials will be provided to decorate your bird feeder. Registration required. All ages. Fee: Fee per family: \$5 🍷

WOOLY FUN FOR THE FAMILY**SAT. MAY 4, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM A152**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Come visit our sheep and learn about their wool

and all the products they have to offer. You will learn about weaving on a small weaving board you will take home. You will also wet felt wool onto a bar of soap you will also take home. Registration required. All ages. Fee: fee per family: \$10 🍷

MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT: SEED BOMBS**FRI. MAY 10, 5:30-6:30 PM A68**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Shelter, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Mother's Day is coming and you'll be able to surprise someone with flowers all summer long! These seed nuggets are easy to plant and make summer a more beautiful time for everyone. We'll show you how to create this easy, fun craft for all to enjoy. Each family will make at least three seed bombs to take home. Registration required. Age: 5Y-10Y Fee: Per Family: \$5 🍷

FAIRY GARDEN WORKSHOP**SAT. MAY 11, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM A25**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Shelter, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Come have a magical afternoon creating a little fairy garden with your children. We will have an array of vessels or you may bring your own 12x12 container. Each family will receive soil, pebbles and plants, then create one fairy garden to take home. Registration required. All ages. Fee: Per Family: \$25 🍷

(FREE) PLANTING SKEETER'S GARDEN**WED. MAY 15, 5:30-6:30 PM A69**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Shelter, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

It's time to get growing! Bring the family and help prepare and plant Skeeter's Garden for the season! We'll supply plants and tools. You'll take home knowledge and great memories! Don't forget the camera! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages. 🍷

MOTHER AND SON FISHING DAY**SAT. MAY 18, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM A175**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Shelter: Farm Shelter/ Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Road

We have planned a special morning just for mothers and sons as they enjoy a great American pastime. This is a Passport to Fishing program sponsored in part by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Instruction, equipment and bait provided. Please bring a water bottle with you. Registration required. All ages. Fee: \$5

RE-PURPOSING HACKS FOR THE FAMILY: PAPER CLAY**SAT. MAY 25, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM A154**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

In this hack, we will convert cardboard egg cartons into paper clay that can be molded into cool projects like masks, figures of animals, fairy houses and whatever you can imagine. Materials will be provided. Please feel free to bring cardboard egg cartons with you. Registration required. All ages. Fee: \$10 🍷



GET OUT & RIDE CARRIAGE HILL RIDING CENTER

Offering lessons, summer camps, weekend trail rides and pony rides for little ones, the Carriage Hill Riding Center is your destination to connect with nature on horseback.

SUMMER HORSE CAMPS

Learn to lead, groom, saddle, take care of a horse, and ride English and Western styles. These half-day, week-long camps are for ages 8-17 and include multiple skill levels. Camps run June 3-Aug. 9. Registration opens March 1. Fee: \$250

See page 33 to learn about MetroParks' Access to Nature Scholarship that can cover a portion of camp costs for qualified applicants!

TRAIL RIDE RESERVATIONS

New this year, the Carriage Hill Riding Center will start taking reservations on May 1 for the summer riding season that begins June 1.

**METROPARKS.ORG/
RIDINGCENTER**

PRESCHOOL, YOUTH AND TEENS

*Help young children discover the wonders of nature.
Explore the outdoors while learning and growing.*

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY DATE

PRESCHOOL

LEARN TO ICE SKATE! CHILDREN'S COURSE

SUN FEB. 3, 10 & 17, 11:00-11:30 AM A2
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111
E. Monument Ave.

Learn the basics of skating so that you can get out there and skate on your own. This three-week session will cover how to get on and off the ice, how to fall safely and get up on your own. Fee includes use of skates and lessons on February 3, 10, and 17. Make up date in event of closure is Feb. 24. Register for this class and receive two free skate admissions! Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: \$50 🗓 ⚙

(FREE) WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE FARM

THU. FEB 7, 10:00-11:00 AM A156

THU. MAR 7, 10:00-11:00 AM A157

THU. APR 4, 10:00-11:00 AM A158

THU. MAY 2, 10:00-11:00 AM A159

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek
Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Things are always changing at the farm; whether it's the seasons, what's growing in the garden or prairie or how the different animals are changing to adapt to the weather. Life on the farm is always in motion. Each month there will be different fun subjects to learn about from stories to activities. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 2Y-5Y 🗓

TIKE HIKE

Explore nature with your preschooler, hand-in-hand, as we venture through diverse habitats, pretend, tell stories, and play during these theme-based gatherings.

(FREE) LITTLE SPROUTS

THU. MAR 28, 10:00-11:00 AM A196
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/
Parking Lot, 2471 Deep Hollow Rd.

Come learn what a plant needs to grow, and then we will search for baby plants in the park! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y 🗓 ⚙

(FREE) SALAMANDER SEARCH

FRI. APR 12, 10:00-11:00 AM A195
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking
Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Treat your preschooler to dirty hands and fresh air as we explore the park for salamanders. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y 🗓 ⚙

(FREE) SILENT FLIERS

FRI. MAY 17, 10:00-11:00 AM A194
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Wel-
come Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

Learn about Ohio's owls by listening to their sounds; exploring study skins; meeting our Screech Owl, River; and taking a hike to explore owls' homes. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y 🗓

(FREE) STORY TIME: BUGS

WED. MAY 8, 10:30-11:30 AM A67

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's
Shelter, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

After we've read the story, we'll go on a garden adventure to see bugs, learn where they live and why they are important. There'll be time for a craft and a song as well! This program is designed for toddlers and their caregivers. Registration required. Age: 2Y-5Y 🗓 ⚙

YOUTH AND TEEN

LEARN TO ICE SKATE! YOUTH/ TEEN COURSE

SUN FEB. 3, 10 & 17, 11:30 AM-12:00 PM A3
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111
E. Monument Ave.

Each student will learn how to fall and get up as well as get safely across the ice, and skate forward and backward. Register for this program and receive two free admissions to skate! Fee includes use of skates and lessons on Feb. 3, 10, and 11. Make-up date in the event of closure will be Feb. 24. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Registration required. Age: 6Y-17Y Fee: \$50 🗓 ⚙

MORNING CHORES

SAT. FEB 16, 8:30-10:00 AM A46

SAT. MAR 16, 8:30-10:00 AM A52

SAT. APR 20, 8:30-10:00 AM A53

SAT. MAY 18, 8:30-10:00 AM A59

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill
Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

Join a farm staff member to experience a typical work day for a farm hand. Participants will help with a variety of historic chores. Meet at the front gate of the farm. Registration required. Age: 8Y-12Y Fee: \$5 🗓

TRY A NEW OUTDOOR ADVENTURE THIS SUMMER!

Youth and Teen Summer Camps
• Kayaking • Mountain Biking

Opportunities for ages 9-17
Registration opens Feb. 1

[METROPARKS.ORG/SUMMERCAMPS](https://www.metroparks.org/summercamps)

See page 33 to learn about MetroParks' Access to Nature Scholarship that can cover a portion of camp costs for qualified applicants!

COMMUNITY GROUPS & TRAINING

Share the benefits of an active, nature-based lifestyle with your community and future generations.

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY TOPIC

GARDENING

(FREE) COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATORS DINNER

THU. MAR 7, 6:00-8:30 PM A137
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium,
1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Do you work with a community garden in Montgomery County? Join MetroParks' community gardening program staff and representatives from the region's 90+ community gardens for dinner. No need to bring anything. Discover essential resources and information and meet your gardening colleagues. Registration required. Contact kaitlyn.lowry@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up

NATURE APPRECIATION

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Professional development hours are more fun when you're in a park! Join us as we explore new curriculum guides to bring nature to your classroom and your classroom outside!

PROJECT WILD WORKSHOP

SAT. MAR 9, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM A107
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.

This workshop will certify classroom teachers in the nationally recognized Project Wild curricula, engage educators in outdoor inquiry, and demonstrate how to utilize Five Rivers MetroParks' resources to make science come alive for students. Graduate and Ohio approved credit is available. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$25

GROWING UP WILD WORKSHOP

SAT. MAY 4, 1:00-4:00 PM A110
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/East Park, 4361 National Rd.

Take the nationally recognized Growing Up

WILD curricula combined with our Natural Adventures Box and you'll have a fun, exciting summer with students! Give children an early foundation in nature while encouraging them to explore the outdoors. Ohio approved credit from ODJFS is available. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5



NATURAL PLAYSCAPES WORKSHOP AND KEYNOTE

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF NATURAL PLAYSCAPES, which have more health benefits for children and can be installed at a lower cost than traditional playground equipment. This event will include a design workshop for professionals during a tour of local sites and a keynote presentation by internationally known designer and builder Adam Bienenstock, with information about how to bring natural playscapes to your community.

WWW.NATURALPLAYGROUNDS.CA

Required registration opens Feb. 1 and is available at bit.ly/MVLNCI. Contact Doug Horvath at doug.horvath@metroparks.org for more info.

— 8TH ANNUAL —

Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Summit

Saturday, March 30
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Brukner Nature Center
5995 Horseshoe Bend Rd., Troy

The 8th annual Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Summit will help parents, health practitioners and educators learn how they can help children discover the benefits of unstructured outdoor play. This free event will feature morning workshops, afternoon award presentations and nature exploration.

Registration is required and available at bit.ly/MVLNCI through March 28.



Leave No Child Inside
Miami Valley

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HOURS

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Saturday – 8 AM to 3 PM

METROPARKS.ORG/LOCALFOOD



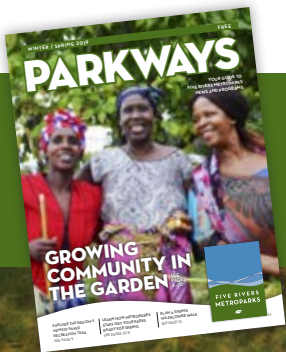


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HOLD ON TO YOUR PARKWAYS!

This issue covers programs from February through May 2019.

View this *ParkWays* publication online at metroparks.org/parkways.



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