



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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MISSION

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

VISION

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

PURPOSE

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

VALUES

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





PROVIDING OUR COMMUNITY HEALING RESPITE IN NATURE

There's no question that 2019 was a challenging year for Montgomery County residents.

More than a dozen tornados tore through our region on Memorial Day, destroying property, uprooting trees and devastating natural areas, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark included. In August, a mass shooting in downtown Dayton's Oregon District left our community reeling with shock and grief.

Our community met these challenges with incredible comradery and resiliency, showing the world we are #DaytonStrong. The same was true of MetroParks' staff. The parks and conservation team and other staff members worked tirelessly to clear the mounds of debris at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark so the park could reopen to the public as soon as possible. Five Rivers MetroParks rangers were among the first responders to the Oregon District shooting – an effort that led to the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association naming them its 2019 professionals of the year. Numerous staff worked extra hours at RiverScape MetroPark so community events could be hosted there to support those impacted by the tornados and mass shooting. And these are just a few examples.

Yet perhaps Five Rivers MetroParks' most significant role to help our community heal was providing access to nature, places where people could find respite and solace during stressful times.

We heard from many people how much they appreciated being near a Five Rivers MetroPark, how spending time outdoors helped them cope with the tragedies our community faced in 2019.

Five Rivers MetroParks has a specific long-term role in efforts to recover from the 2019 Memorial Day tornados such as, restoring lost habitat. An untold number of trees, shrubs and vital plants critical to our region's wildlife and natural heritage were lost during the storms. It's necessary we replant trees in the areas where so many were lost to tornado damage, and MetroParks staff spent 2019 planning the agency's response.

The initiative, Healing Nature, launched at the beginning of 2020. Healing Nature has two focuses: First, to assist property owners and communities in Montgomery County that were impacted by the tornados with tree replacement and habitat restoration. Second, to encourage everyone in the region to take advantage of the access to nature that Five Rivers MetroParks provides as a means of healing respite – mind, body and soul.

Your MetroParks works diligently every day to meet its mission to protect the region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature. Now, it's more important than ever for MetroParks to serve as the region's conservation leader, ensuring everyone in our community has access to nature and the many benefits it provides people, wildlife, our local economy, quality of life and so much more.

Rebecca A. Benná
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FINANCIALS

APPROXIMATELY 80 PERCENT OF FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS' FUNDING COMES FROM A PROPERTY TAX LEVY SUPPORTED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY TAXPAYERS.

In November 2018, voters overwhelmingly passed a 10-year replacement levy that allows Five Rivers MetroParks to continue to protect the region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection to nature.

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

For the past several years, MetroParks has diversified its revenue streams to help fill the gap created by the permanent elimination of state funding, as well as identify efficiencies and cost savings and other reduced revenue sources. Support from individuals and families, businesses, organizations, foundations and other community entities helps MetroParks provide special projects and programs that it otherwise would not be able to offer the public.

MetroParks also is focused on supplementing taxpayer funding so the agency can continue to protect the region's natural heritage and provide the high-quality parks and programs the community expects and deserves. MetroParks also continues to develop new partnerships that maximize levy dollars and create more balanced and sustainable finances.

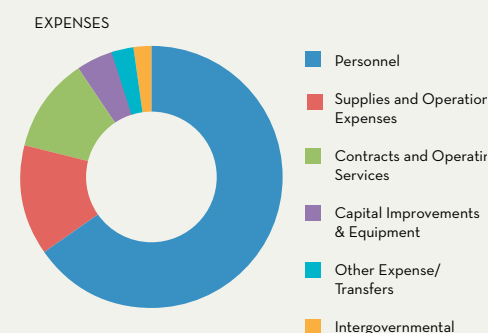
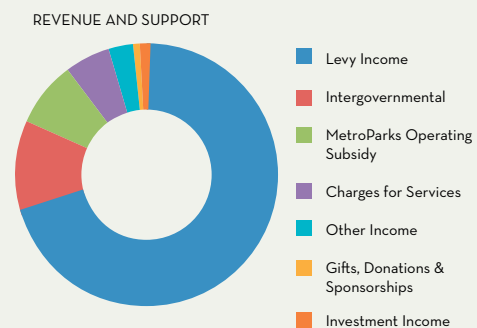
At the same time, Five Rivers MetroParks is diligent about regularly checking in with Montgomery County residents to ensure the agency's goals match those of the community. MetroParks has a 10-year comprehensive master plan to ensure its funding is focused on community priorities.

2019 REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Levy Income:	\$18,481,775
Intergovernmental:	\$1,186,086
Charges for Services:	\$1,208,431
Investment Income:	\$221,592
Gifts, Donations & Sponsorships:	\$124,938
Other Income:	\$375,390
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT:	\$ 21,598,212

2019 EXPENSES

Personnel:	\$14,064,355
Supplies and Operating Expenses:	\$2,784,215
Contracts and Operating Services:	\$2,310,634
Intergovernmental:	\$414,528
Capital Improvements & Equipment:	\$814,263
Other Expenses/Transfers:	\$650,089
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$21,038,084



For more on the agency's funding, visit metroparks.org/funding.

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS OVERVIEW



3.4 MILLION VISITORS

The Dayton Business Journal again named Five Rivers MetroParks the region's No. 1 most visited attraction in 2019.



337,024
PARTICIPANTS
in Five Rivers MetroParks
programs and events

11,809
PARTICIPANTS
at 154 speaking engagements
and appearances

12,514
PARTICIPANTS
in 639 public programs

12,316
PARTICIPANTS
at 331 nature programs

324,510
PARTICIPANTS
at 174 special events

27,084
PARTICIPANTS
at 524 programs targeted
at youth and families

25,593
children served through 291 tours

2,032

SHELTER AND CAMPING USED PERMITS





16,333

ACRES OF PROTECTED LAND

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

3,018 acres are in conservation easements. This land is protected by a legal agreement between a landowner and government agency that permanently limits uses of the land to protect its conservation values.

Conservation areas are significant tracts of land primarily in a natural state with minimal infrastructure and lands protected by MetroParks.

30



LOCATIONS, including 18 parks, the 2nd Street Market and 11 conservation areas.

160



MILES OF MANAGED TRAILS for hiking, biking, mountain biking and horseback riding

270

MILES OF RIVER CORRIDOR, 42 of which Five Rivers MetroParks maintains



9⁺

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES INCLUDING:



the Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture



Inventors Walk



Butterfly House



Tree Tower



Historical Farm



Twin Valley Welcome Center



Possum Creek Farm



Children's Discovery Garden



Zorniger Education Campus

40⁺

NATURAL FEATURES

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



8⁺

OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES INCLUDING:



MetroParks Mountain Biking Area (MoMBA),



Carriage Hill Riding Center



Twin Valley Trail



Blue Heron Disc Golf Course



Mad River River Run

RiverScape River Run



RiverScape Ice Rink



RiverScape Bike Hub

ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESSES



NEW COMMUNITY EVENTS LAUNCHED

In 2019, Five Rivers MetroParks developed and hosted some new events, which joined the popular lineup of summertime festivals. The new events, which are being planned to again occur in 2020, included:

- Passport to MetroParks, a festival at RiverScape MetroPark that highlighted Five Rivers MetroParks' summertime program offerings and the region's cultural festivals held throughout the summer at RiverScape and Island MetroParks.
- Small Farm and Food Fest, an event at Carriage Hill MetroPark to promote healthy eating and sustainable living that included hands-on activities, a pop-up farmers market, demonstrations and speakers.
- Mud Day, a family-friendly event held at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark that encouraged children and their guardians to explore nature through hands-on activities.

In addition, Five Rivers MetroParks was one of the sponsors of a Dayton Strong concert held at RiverScape MetroPark to benefit those impacted by the Memorial Day tornados.

During the development of MetroParks' 10-year comprehensive master plan, the community listed special events as a valued amenity. These events also allow MetroParks to educate people about its available programs, activities, parks and more.



RECORD ATTENDANCE AT WAGNER SUBARU OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

A popular existing event had record attendance in 2019. A new partnership with Dayton Hikers, which provided volunteers to manage used gear sales, raised more than \$1,000 for the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation.

University of Dayton graduate students conducted in-depth surveys at the 2019 Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience. Survey results will help guide planning for future events.

Students collected 480 responses representing 104 ZIP codes.

Responses included:

- The event enhances livability in the Dayton area
 - 92.9% agree + strongly agree
- This event increased my interest in outdoor recreation
 - 85.7% agree + strongly agree
- This event has made me more interested in spending time outdoors
 - 81.2% agree + strongly agree
- This event encouraged me to investigate Five Rivers MetroParks programs
 - 80.5% agree + strongly agree

Learn more at outdoorx.org.



ADVENTURE CENTRAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN SUCCESSFUL

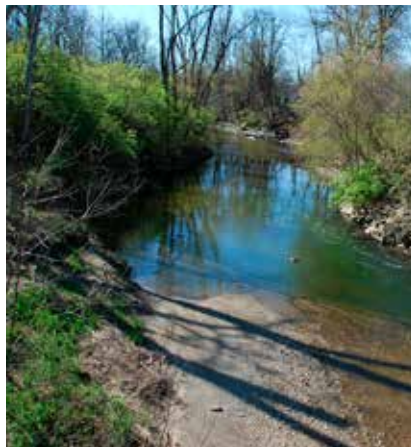
The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation launched its first community fundraising campaign in 2019 — and reached its goal. Fundraising supported much-needed kitchen renovations at Adventure Central (AC), a nature-based youth development program at Wesleyan MetroPark.

The renovated kitchen will provide students in the program better access to fresh food and serve as an educational space where students learn about healthy eating. It also will allow for more fresh foods, including produce grown in AC's garden beds, to be used in meals; create new opportunities for positive youth/adult relationships; allow for the use of reusable items to reduce waste and teach sustainability practices; and provide space for new job training and educational activities.

More than 200 youth, ages 5 to 18, participate in AC's programs. A partnership between Five Rivers MetroParks, The Ohio State University Extension and 4-H, approximately 600 meals a week and snacks are served at AC.

Construction will begin this summer and be completed in time for the 2020-2021 school year. An official ribbon cutting celebration is anticipated to be held in the fall 2020, the year that also marks AC's 20th anniversary.

Learn more at metroparks.org/adventure-central.



NEWLY ACQUIRED LAND ALLOWS FOR PARK EXPANSION

Wesleyan MetroPark will be growing thanks to donations from Calvary Mission Church and funding from a Clean Ohio conservation fund grant, which allowed MetroParks to purchase 45.8 acres of land adjacent to Wesleyan. More recently, Michigan-based Charter School Administration Services donated matching funds for another Clean Ohio grant that allowed MetroParks to purchase 8.1 acres adjacent to the Calvary property, which will allow people to enjoy the whole park without crossing busy Gettysburg Avenue.

The newly acquired land contains ponds and portions of the Wolf Creek, which will offer new fishing and recreation opportunities, and acquisition allows MetroParks' conservation team to improve the land's ecosystems. Five Rivers MetroParks is developing a park master plan that will include ideas for connecting the existing Wesleyan MetroPark with the new land and outline where amenities, such as parking and restrooms, should be located. The Wesleyan MetroPark master plan will be completed in 2020.

Learn more about Wesleyan MetroPark at metroparks.org/wesleyan.



PLANNING EFFORTS BASED ON COMMUNITY INPUT

Throughout 2019, park master plans were in the works for Huffman, Hills & Dales, Wesleyan, and Cox Arboretum MetroParks. Based on feedback collected during public open houses and surveys, the park master plans will be completed in 2020 and guide the management and development of the parks for the next 10 to 20 years.

Park master plans have been completed for the following locations:

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

View the park master plans and learn about planning efforts now underway at metroparks.org/plan.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESSES



PLAN WILL STRENGTHEN DAYTON'S RIVERFRONT

In 2019, MetroParks continued its work with community partners to implement the 20-year Dayton Riverfront Plan, which is based on community input and stakeholder feedback. This plan harnesses the 12 miles of greater downtown Dayton river corridor as a catalyst for placemaking, economic development and more.

Six goals define the Dayton Riverfront Plan:

- **Economic Engine:** Leverage the rivers to catalyze development in greater downtown and ensure long-term vitality of the region.
- **Something for Everyone:** Provide more diverse programs and experiences, as well as ensure their equitable distribution across the riverfront.
- **Heart of Dayton:** Enhance Dayton's identity through placemaking that celebrates the historic legacy, cultural heritage and vibrant future of its rivers.
- **Healthy City:** Build in places and programs that support health, safety and wellness for all who live, learn, work and play along the riverfront.
- **Many Rivers, One City:** Improve access through physical connections to and across the riverfront and to the surrounding community.
- **Living Protection:** Promote the ecological health of the riverfront while continuing to protect from flooding.

As part of the plan's implementation, Five Rivers MetroParks and community partners unveiled ideas for the design of Sunrise MetroPark and a proposed new Sunset Park during an open house in November 2019, following a public meeting to collect the community's input.

The existing Sunrise MetroPark is in downtown Dayton, along the west bank of the Great Miami River north of its confluence with Wolf Creek. The proposed future Sunset Park would be located across the Great Miami River closer to the downtown core. The Dayton Riverfront Plan's vision for these parks calls for them to be connected by a new park-over-the-river – a green space that also serves as a pedestrian bridge – spanning the river.

"Of all the projects proposed for the Dayton Riverfront Plan, Sunrise-Sunset is the one that the community found to be the most exciting," said Carrie Scarff, MetroParks chief of planning and projects. "The main idea is to create two parks on both sides of the Great Miami River in downtown Dayton and have them speak to each other across the river. This will transform downtown's west riverfront from a place that used to divide our city in terms of east and west, black and white, into a place where the city unites."

To view the Sunrise-Sunset design presentation and learn more about the Dayton Riverfront Plan, visit daytonriverfrontplan.org.



HELPING PEOPLE GET OUT & PADDLE

Other efforts to activate downtown Dayton's riverfront took place in 2019.

Five Rivers MetroParks launched a pilot program in summer 2019 offering paddlesport rentals at RiverScape MetroPark. The kayak and stand up paddleboard rentals were targeted at beginner and first-time paddlers, designed for those new to paddling to have a fun, successful and safe experience – increasing the community's access to the region's robust river corridors. The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation provided seed money that made the pilot paddlesport rentals possible, and Whitewater Warehouse was a partner. Rentals will again be offered in summer 2020.

Five Rivers MetroParks received a \$26,430 Boating Safety Education Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The grant will be used to improve opportunities to introduce and teach the public paddling skills. It also will provide new equipment that allows MetroParks' outdoor recreation team to provide new and additional paddling programs.



METROPARKS RANGERS COMMENDED

The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association recognized seven Five Rivers MetroParks rangers as Professionals of the Year for their response to the Oregon District mass shooting in August 2019. MetroParks' Ranger Division provides 24-hour law enforcement to visitors and staff at 30 locations covering more than 16,000 acres of land.

Because MetroParks rangers are professionally trained officers, they're often first responders and provide support to law enforcement departments across Montgomery County. The magnitude of the mass shooting scene made it difficult for medics to arrive immediately.

Therefore, MetroParks rangers assisted Dayton Police and other first responders with rendering first aid, securing the area and crime scene management. Additionally, after clearing the scene, MetroParks rangers assisted Dayton Police with calls for service.

For this response, Sgt. Eric Lane and rangers Scott Janicki, Elyzabeth McDonald, Cory Reis, Kyl Caldwell, Amanda Chiles and Rebecca Dieker were recognized as OPRA's Professionals of the Year.

Throughout the year, rangers also participate in efforts to give back to the community. For example, ranger Adam Gaby distributed 131 car seats free of charge to 79 families in 2019. In total, rangers have distributed 320 car seats to 226 families since joining the program.



METROPARKS EARNS STATEWIDE AWARDS

In addition to the rangers' recognition, Five Rivers MetroParks earned three, first-place Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Awards of Excellence. More than 100 programs and projects were nominated for 2019 OPRA awards, and MetroParks earned the most awards of any parks and recreation agency in Ohio.

The 2nd Street Market and local nonprofit Homefull were recognized for programs that provide broader access and equity to wholesome foods and fresh, local produce. With a mission to end homelessness, Homefull runs a booth at the Market that features an EBT/SNAP benefits exchange. Homefull clients sell produce grown at their urban farms, allowing them to build work-based skills while also educating the public about the importance of healthy eating. Homefull also provides Market customers access to Produce Perks, a matching program used to purchase produce. Both programs grew in 2019.

MetroParks also was recognized for two conservation projects: A fishing line recycling program and a recycled tree sinking project at Eastwood Lake.

To mitigate an upticks in calls to MetroParks rangers about wildlife getting caught up in fishing line, MetroParks fabricated 35 fishing line recycling receptacles next to popular fishing destinations in 11 MetroParks and conservation areas. Volunteers empty these receptacles and monitor the parks for discarded and potentially harmful waste. Since this program began in 2018, 15.2 miles of discarded line has been sent to the Berkley Conservation Institute to be recycled.

In January 2019, MetroParks asked the community to donate its used holiday trees, with hopes of collecting 500 trees to bundle and sink into Eastwood Lake. The community donated 700 trees, which provided a new food source for the under-nourished bass population in Eastwood Lake, a popular fishing and recreational boating destination at Eastwood MetroPark. Once a quarry, Eastwood Lake lacks natural foliage, which falls in the lake to create life at the lowest levels of aquatic habitat. Bundling and sinking the recycled trees bolstered the food chain, resulting in healthier fish populations.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Five Rivers MetroParks partners with a variety of community organizations to advocate for and achieve shared goals. Those include protecting the region's natural heritage; helping people enjoy healthy, active lifestyles; improving regional economic development and quality of life; and promoting youth development. Working together, our resources go further toward the larger goal of making the Dayton region a better place to live, work and play for everyone in our community.

FOUNDATIONS, FRIENDS AND SPONSORS

Five Rivers MetroParks' mission and vision also are supported by the hard work of the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation; The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation; the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation; and the Friends of Carriage Hill. Led by volunteer boards, all are passionate about funding mission-driven projects, programs and services, and all are exemplary stewards of donors' funds.

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS FOUNDATION

A 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation secures philanthropic funding for special projects, programming and an endowment. The foundation provides a way for donors to support Five Rivers MetroParks with charitable contributions that can be designated to all parks or a specific park. Donations also can be directed to support education and recreation programs, as well as conservation initiatives.

FUNDING IN 2019 INCLUDED:

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS FOUNDATION

- Access to Nature scholarships
- Adventure Central camp shirts
- Adventure Central kitchen renovation
- Sprayer for parks and conservation staff
- Land donation
- Make a Difference Day supply support
- Fees for international nature play expert to host workshop and public event
- Park benches and swings
- Passport to Kindergarten program support
- Start-up funding to pilot paddlesport rentals at RiverScape MetroPark
- Twin Valley Trail Challenge event refreshments

THE JAMES M. COX, JR. ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

- Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture interpretive signage
- Bird control netting for the Visitor Center
- Plant material for the Butterfly House
- Support for Conservation Kids programs
- Cushman Electric Cart
- Edger for horticulture staff
- Park benches
- Public WiFi on the Zorniger Education Campus
- Putting Learning And Nature Together (PLANT) Tours
- Reflection Pond maintenance, including rebuilding retaining wall
- New flooring in the Resource Center and grow house
- Remodeling of Visitor Center restrooms
- Plant material for the wildflower retaining wall plant
- Irrigation system

WEGERZYN GARDENS FOUNDATION

- Beech arbor and Taxus hedge trimming
- Children's Discovery Garden staff training
- Culture Kitchen program
- Electric utility cart
- Painting and resurfacing of front entrance walkway
- Garden materials
- Restoration of 45 teak benches
- Spooky Evening in the Garden event
- Tree replacements after the tornados

FRIENDS OF CARRIAGE HILL FARM

- Farrier services
- Hay
- Program support
- Small Farm Food Fest
- Steam engine inspection

LEAD CORPORATE AND PRIVATE SUPPORTERS

- Appliance Gallery
- Mike and Frieda Brigner
- Bonbright Distributors
- Steven Brown
- Butt Construction Company
- Denyse Carone
- John and India Clarke
- Richard and Beverly Cleverly
- Dayton Hikers Group
- Dayton Power & Light Foundation
- Dave and Pat Diven
- Fifth Third Bank
- First Watch Restaurants
- Heidelberg Distributing Company
- Denise Ingersoll
- Julian G. Lange Family Foundation
- The Kettering Fund
- Matthew Knecht
- James Lockwood
- Jim Gross
- Made Men Motorcycle Club
- Montgomery County
- Ohio River Road Runners Club
- Donald Markey
- Vince McKelvey
- Bear Monita and Barbra Stonerock
- Christine Myers
- Brianne Owens
- PNC Foundation
- Premier Health Partners
- Rural King
- Sawdey Solution Services
- Carl Schooler
- John Thorp
- University of Dayton

LEAD SPONSORS

- Barrett Paving Materials
- Batch Bicycles
- Best Breed
- Bonbright Distributors
- Boston Stoker
- Butler Heating & Air

- Crowne Plaza
- Dayton Cycling Club
- Dayton Pedal Wagon
- Great Lakes Brewing Company
- Heritage Event & Catering
- Horan & Associates
- Huffy Corporation
- K&G Bike Center
- Keep Montgomery County Beautiful
- Kettering Health Network
- LexisNexis
- Mad River Mountain Ski Resort
- Mechanical Systems of Dayton (MSD)
- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Montgomery County Environmental Services
- Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Foundation
- Osprey Packs
- Pratt Industries
- ServeOhio
- Sinclair Broadcasting WKEF/WRGT
- Subaru of America
- Subway - Source Communications
- Vectren Foundation
- Wagner Subaru
- Whole Foods Market

Visit metroparks.org/donate or contact Beth Redden, Five Rivers MetroParks chief of philanthropy, at 937-277-4369 or beth.redden@metroparks.org for more information.



SUPPORT YOUR METROPARKS

FOUNDATIONS

- Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation
- Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation
- The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation
- Friends of Carriage Hill Farm

BECOME A CHAMPION

The Champions Program is the easiest way to support the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation. Your gift continues automatically from month-to-month with an online recurring donation.

PARTNER WITH US

Along with individual donors who support MetroParks, many area organizations and businesses partner with us to provide financial support, sponsorships and in-kind services.

TRIBUTE PROGRAM WITH COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

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

GENERAL HONOR AND TRIBUTE GIFTS

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

MEMORIAL FUNDS

Establish a memorial fund in honor of a loved one to which others can contribute. We are happy to provide contribution envelopes that you can distribute at a memorial service or other commemorative event.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Planned gifts ensure Five Rivers MetroParks remains a treasure in the community for generations to come. By including Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation in your will or estate plan, your commitment to MetroParks will continue in perpetuity.

DONATE

Support our mission and your favorite MetroPark by making a donation to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation. Your tax deductible gift will be used to support programs and special projects. Donations (made payable to Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation) can be mailed to: Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation 409 E. Monument Ave., third floor Dayton, OH 45402

Visit metroparks.org/donate to make a donation to your Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation online and to learn how you can support the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation; The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation; and Friends of Carriage Hill Farm.

To learn more about how your company or organization can get involved, contact the Five Rivers MetroParks philanthropy department at 937-275-PARK (7275).

VOLUNTEERS



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

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

Volunteers for the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation; James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation; the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation; and the Friends of Carriage Hill Farm also support MetroParks' mission and vision.

IN 2019:

- 957 long-term volunteers provided 26,729 hours of time.
- They were joined by more than 1,900 short-term volunteers helping at such MetroParks events as Adopt-a-Park and the Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience. These volunteers contributed more than 20,412 hours.
- Together, volunteers contributed 47,141 hours – valued at approximately \$1.13 million.

Whether it's a year, a month, a week or even a few hours – there's a place for you as a MetroParks volunteer! Call 937-275-PARK (7275) for more information or download and print the volunteer application at metroparks.org/volunteer.

LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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



2019 PRESIDENT

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



2019 VICE PRESIDENT

Jessica Saunders is director of the office of community health and engagement programs at Dayton Children's Hospital.



2018 COMMISSIONER AT LARGE

Bear Monita joined the Five Rivers MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners on March 28, 2019. He replaced Alan Pippenger, who retired from the Board after 14 years of outstanding service and leadership to Five Rivers MetroParks.

Monita is a partner of LWC, the Dayton area's oldest architectural, interior design and planning firm. He's been with the firm for 21 years and is responsible for leading marketing, business development and client

relations initiatives. He assisted Dayton Public Schools, the city of Kettering, Huber Heights City Schools, Dayton Metro Library and Wayne Local Schools in the successful passage of bond issue measures to construct new facilities totaling \$1 billion.

Prior to joining LWC, Monita was the district director for U.S. Congressman Tony Hall and the government affairs manager of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the boards of the Kettering Medical Center Foundation; Sinclair Foundation, including serving as board chair from 2017-2019; and the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges.

Monita is a Kettering resident and graduated from Ohio University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Becky Benná,
Executive Director



Karen Hesser,
Chief of Operations



Carrie Scarff,
Chief of Planning
& Projects



Mark Hess,
Chief of Public Safety



Beth Redden,
Chief of Philanthropy



Bill Tschirhart,
Chief of
Administration



THANK YOU, ALAN PIPPENGER

Alan Pippenger is a local businessman, supporter of open-space preservation and community leader who served 14 years on Five Rivers MetroParks' Board of Park Commissioners. During his tenure, he was very active in attending and participating in Five Rivers MetroParks activities, as well as representing the organization at many community events throughout Montgomery County. Pippenger served as president of the board during his last two years of service and helped guide the organization to pass its most recent levy in November 2018.

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS



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

metroparks.org