

PARKWAYS

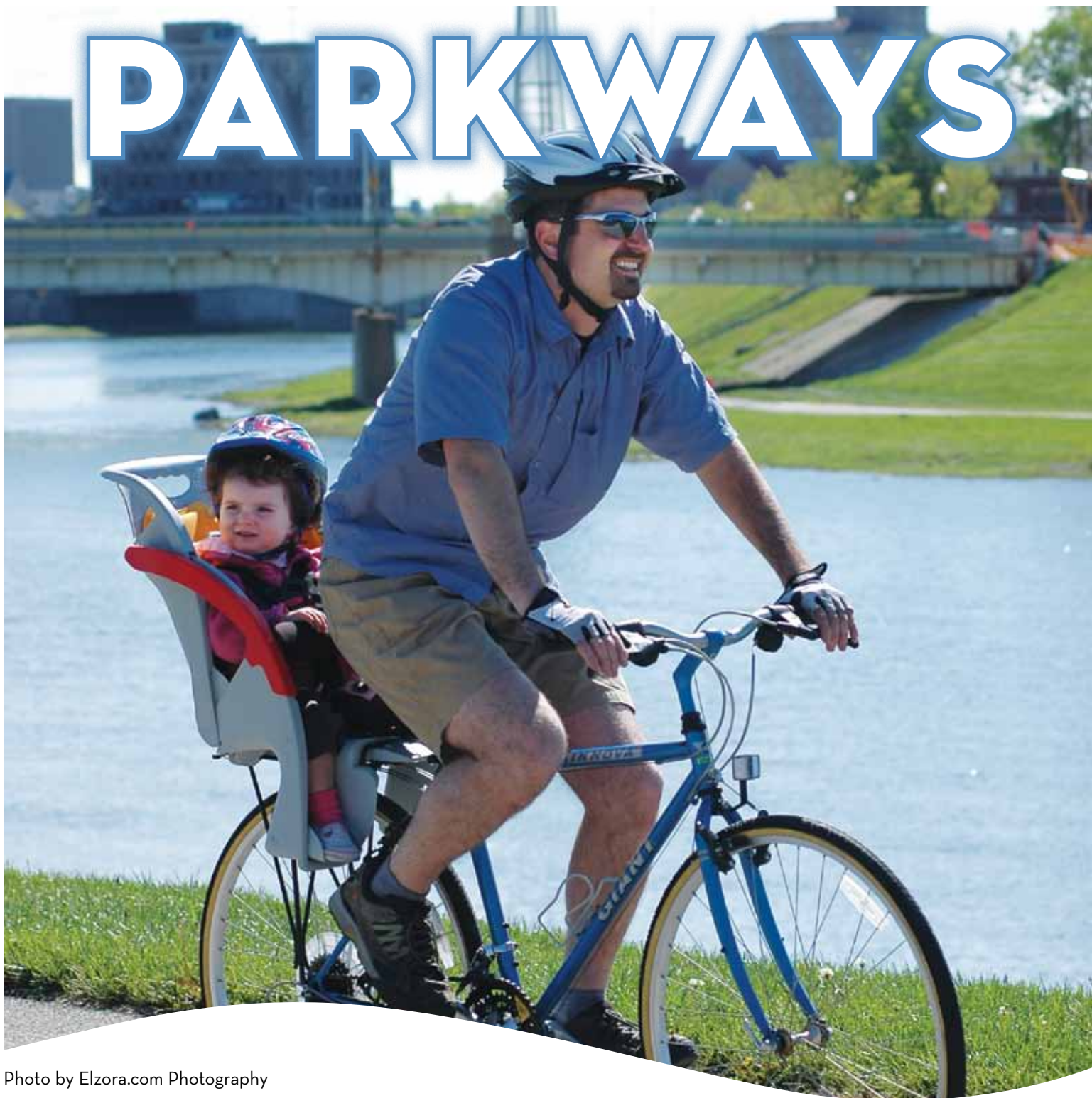


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GET OUT AND BIKE!

Spring is here; get in gear! Check out our cycling guide.
See full story on pages 20-23.

CYCLING IS GOOD FOR YOU AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SEE PAGES 10-11

CYCLE SAFELY: WE SHOW YOU HOW
SEE PAGES 12-15





REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE

Be sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming Five Rivers MetroParks Events!



March 5

**MIAMI VALLEY
GARDENING CONFERENCE**
Sinclair Community College



March 12

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
AT THE MARKET**
PNC 2nd Street Market



April 15

**TREE SEEDLING
GIVEAWAY**
PNC 2nd Street Market



April 16

ADOPT-A-PARK
Check locations at
metroparks.org/Adopt



**April 30 -
May 1**

MAYFAIR PLANT SALE
Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark



April 30

**WILDFLOWER AND
NATIVE PLANT SALE**
Cox Arboretum MetroPark



May 7

KIDS' FISHING DERBY
Possum Creek MetroPark



May 13

URBAN NIGHTS
RiverScape MetroPark



May 20

**NATIONAL BIKE
TO WORK DAY
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
RiverScape MetroPark



June 4

PADDLE IN THE PARK
Eastwood MetroPark (Lake)

For more information about these upcoming events or any of the programs and events offered by MetroParks each month, check the back section of this issue of *ParkWays* or visit

WWW.METROPARKS.ORG

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facebook



Get the lowdown on activities going on in your MetroParks! Connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fiveriversmetroparks. You can also get updates by following us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/metroparkstweet.

ONLINE EXTRA

Visit metroparks.org/cycling to find an guide to buying a bike and a list of local cycling retailers. Turn to page 20 for more tips and a buyer's guide.

PARKWAYS IS YOUR GUIDE

to all the great activities and programs MetroParks offers every month. Check out the Activity Guide beginning on page 26 and get outside!

MetroParks Commissioners



Alan F. Pippenger



Karen L. Davis



Irvin G. Bieser, Jr.

Five Rivers MetroParks is dedicated to the protection and stewardship of Greater Dayton's natural heritage and to inspiring appreciation and understanding of these treasures through nature-based outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and experiences. This is all made possible through your levy support. Thank you!



#1 Try a group ride, like Bike for the Health of It. Check out metroparks.org/BikeHealth for a complete list of times and places.

#2 Visit the new Bike Hub at RiverScape MetroPark and learn about the exciting amenities especially for cycling commuters.



#3 Use the bike lanes to travel between your favorite downtown Dayton locations.

TOP TEN THINGS

TO ENJOY BY BIKE IN YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS THIS SPRING

Photo by Elzora.com Photography



#4 Use the Great Miami River Bikeway to visit kid-friendly destinations like Carillon Historical Park or the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery.

#8 Spend an afternoon biking on the Mad River Bikeway riding from Dayton to Eastwood MetroPark.



#5 Plan a group ride in your neighborhood. Find interactive maps at www.miamivalleytrails.org.



#6 Test drive a child seat or kid trailer from Ride the River Rentals, open weekdays and holidays Memorial Day through Labor Day at RiverScape MetroPark's rental booth.



Photo by Elzora.com Photography

#9 Take a lap around MetroParks Mountain Biking Area (MoMBA) at Huffman MetroPark.



Photo by Amanda Barbosa

#7 Swap a bike for your car to complete one short errand this week.



#10 Log on to metroparks.org/cycling to get the latest on local biking activities, clubs, cycling resources and upcoming events.



Alan F. Pippenger
MetroParks Board of
Commissioners President

Friends,

We have come to a very exciting juncture in the history of Five Rivers MetroParks. Choosing a new executive director is no easy task, but we are confident in our selection of the right person to stand at the helm of this agency as we tackle new challenges and work together to protect our region's natural heritage.

Charlie Shoemaker has provided Five Rivers MetroParks with solid leadership as executive director for nearly 10 years. In selecting his successor, the Board of Park Commissioners seeks to continue the progress Charlie has made during his tenure while leading this agency to new heights. Regardless of who sits behind the executive director's desk, there are certain values to which any leader of this organization must adhere, including a commitment to our mission and the founding principle of conservation.

We promise to protect our natural heritage. Five Rivers MetroParks was founded in 1963 to preserve our natural spaces. We will continue this tradition, managing wildlife and this region's natural habitats using the most practical and ecological methods available to ensure long-term health and survival. Five Rivers MetroParks will continue to protect land and waterways, nurture partnerships for local land conservation and habitat restoration, and support conservation-based educational programs and volunteer opportunities.

We promise to connect people to nature. Whether it's through updating park areas to improve visitor experiences, increasing

access to park programs and features, or developing nature play areas for children, Five Rivers MetroParks is committed to creating an independent outdoor lifestyle for our fellow residents and delivering a personal, long-lasting natural experience with every park visit.

We promise to enrich this region's vitality. Five Rivers MetroParks will continue to collaborate with community partners to promote the region and showcase outdoor opportunities that advance Greater Dayton's image and vibrancy. We will also continue to offer rewarding volunteer opportunities that foster learning and hands-on application in a variety of MetroParks settings and disciplines.

We promise to respect your trust and continue as a model of public fiscal responsibility and integrity, giving good return on your tax investment. Five Rivers MetroParks will, where appropriate, aggressively seek alternate funding sources to stretch local tax dollars and keep spending focused on our strategic priorities while maintaining flexibility to respond to the ever-changing community environment.

Thank you for your continued support of Five Rivers MetroParks. We are as excited about our new leadership as we are grateful for those who built this agency and earned the respect and trust of this community over the past 48 years. We look forward to introducing our new executive director to you soon and continuing our important work with the excellence you have come to expect.

MVP PROGRAM OFFERS FUN AND PURPOSE TO AREA CYCLIST



After years of spending thousands of dollars on automobile fuel and maintenance, Chris Brown realized all he got in return was a bigger waistline. That's when he returned to bicycling. He has enjoyed a healthy, happy experience ever since, making new friends, meeting new people, and new, exciting challenges. "I like being able to ride farther than I think I can, like from my house, south of downtown Dayton, to Taylorsville MetroPark or even Troy!" As a member of the MetroParks Volunteer Patrol (MVP) program and Bikeways Director for the Dayton Cycling Club, Chris gets to share his passion for cycling with others.

During a 2001 overnight cycling trip, sponsored by MetroParks, Chris met



Jim Kinney and Cliff Maxwell. "They told me that the MVP program was just getting started and suggested I sign up," Chris explains. "Training was pretty easy. Radio training might have been the most intimidating at first, but the instructor, Lt. Mark Arendt, made it was very clear and simple." The street cycling training Chris received was perhaps the most useful bit of instruction, he says. "The Road-I course truly made me more confident riding in traffic. Being 'eyes and ears' for the Rangers and developing friendships with them is one of the most rewarding parts of the program." The MVPs have since expanded to include hikers and equestrians.

As an MVP, Chris patrols the bikeways for a little over 50 hours per session, and he says the best part about being on duty is the ability to help others. "In 2003, we escorted the GOATS—Greater Ohio Area Tandem Society—and the Mad River Bikeway was flooded. We had to get some people over the flooded area, then re-route the rest of them on a detour," he recalls. "I also got to lead a group of Boy Scouts from Kentucky, who had come up to earn their cycling merit badges on our trails in 2005." Another memorable experience was running across the

Columbus recumbent riders at RiverScape MetroPark in 2010. "I escorted them on a slight detour and into Eastwood MetroPark. I really like helping people I meet."

Being an MVP is rewarding for Chris, who encourages anyone interested in combining an activity they enjoy with volunteer service to give it a try. "Talking on the radio is not as intimidating as you think, and first aid usually involves handing out Band-Aids more than it does any real emergencies," he says. "It's a great way to help others while you get out and ride."

Chris can sympathize with those who lost interest in cycling. After getting his driver's license he didn't ride a bike for over 18 years. But he says it's never too late to return. "Start slow and ride with a friend or group of friends—preferably someone who have just started riding again, himself," Chris suggests. "Contact the Dayton Cycling Club, MetroParks, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission or the Miami Conservancy District for information and maps. Try MetroParks' "Bike for the Health of It" series, but be aware that riding in a group requires practice. And stop to eat a lot! That makes it fun! You'll burn off the calories on the way home." 🍃



ADOPT-A-PARK

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Attention volunteers, local businesses and service clubs: Join us for a day of regional cleanup of Five Rivers MetroParks and waterways throughout the county. Volunteers of all ages, from young children to seniors, are invited to help us make our parks and river corridors healthier and friendlier places to visit. Each volunteer will receive a free lunch. MetroParks will also provide gloves, trash bags and drinking water.

For more information or to sign up, contact the volunteer service manager at (937) 275-PARK or visit metroparks.org/adopt.



BECOME AN MVP

Those who are interested in learning more about the MVP (MetroParks Volunteer Patrol) program, would like to be included on the list to receive information about upcoming training sessions, or have other questions about the program should contact Rachel Brand at (937) 564-5431 or e-mail rachel.brand@metroparks.org.

ONLINE EXTRA

Five Rivers MetroParks cycling page
www.metroparks.org/cycling

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
www.mvrpc.org

Miami Conservancy District
www.miamiconservancy.org

Dayton Cycling Club
www.daytoncyclingclub.org

“CYCLE” OF NATURE

PLENTY OF WILDLIFE TO DISCOVER ON THE BIKEWAYS

Hooded warblers. Floodplain forests. Rainbow darters. Prairie forbs. These plants and animals can be found as you hike through your favorite MetroPark. But they also can be experienced from the seat of a bicycle. Here are a few suggestions for experiencing nature as you explore the region's extensive bikeways.

- Have you ever visited the Dull Woods Conservation Area? It's one of the “secret” MetroParks, and one of the best ways to access these wonderful 8-acre woods in Clay Township is via the Wolf Creek Bikeway. Take in wildflower and tree and shrub diversity in this tiny remnant of the vast swamp forests that once covered northwest Montgomery County. You'll even run into one of the biggest trees in the MetroParks—an oak tree that stands 122 feet high and 209 inches around!



- Explore the lagoon at Eastwood MetroPark. The Mad River Bikeway runs right next to this habitat that's perfect for bird watching. Look for migrant waterfowl, gulls, terns, and swallows. Don't forget to observe this park's grassland openings—former prairies that retain the rich prairie soil and lend themselves to prairie restoration.

- Ride the Stillwater River Bikeway to Englewood MetroPark and take advantage of additional fishing opportunities since the removal of the low dam. Not only has the health of the river increased, the abundance of common carp has diminished, allowing the emergence of other species, such as bluegill, golden redhorse, channel catfish, green sunfish, northern hognose sucker, and 17 additional species recently identified in these waters.

- Huffman MetroPark hosts a variety of natural wonders to visit when you ride the Wright Brothers-Huffman Prairie Bikeway. Check out picturesque Huffman Lake, where you can observe aviary mainstays such as double-crested cormorants, herons, Canada geese, and ducks. In the spring, be on the lookout for rare species, such as Western grebe, osprey, and white-winged scoter. Nearby MoMBA, MetroParks Mountain Biking Area, is home to beautiful hardwood forests.



- Find the best view in the house from the observation deck at Taylorsville MetroPark. The Great Miami River

ONLINE EXTRA

To plan your bicycling nature discovery, log on to www.mapmyride.com and chart your next ride.



Bikeway connects you to this fantastic viewing platform where you can look out over this mature upland forest, featuring colorful spring wildflowers, second-growth woodlands, natural succession areas, a few managed grasslands, and extensive floodplain forests. Be on the lookout for both riparian and upland forest birds at Taylorsville MetroPark. Frequent park guests include Kentucky and hooded warblers, and long-eared and northern saw-whet owls.

 Wolf Creek at Wesleyan MetroPark makes a great, refreshing stop on a warm day when you ride the Wolf Creek Bikeway. Keep your eyes peeled for rainbow and greenside darters, rosefin shiners and crawfish as you splash around to cool off. If you're bringing the kids along, grab some nets from home and don't waste a fantastic opportunity for them to experience nature while they explore the world around them from the seat of a bike! 



Observation deck at Taylorsville MetroPark.



NATURAL ADVENTURES BOX PROGRAM

TRAINING SESSIONS
NOW AVAILABLE

Child care facilitators looking for a way to incorporate more outdoor time for their students now have an easy way to get kids outside playing and learning—the Natural Adventures Box program! Any childcare facility interested in participating in the program must attend a free training session to gain access to the boxes. Only those present at the training will be authorized to reserve a Natural Adventures Box. Once training is complete, facilitators can access the boxes and their content for FREE.

Upcoming training dates include:

May 15, 1-4pm,
Sugarcreek MetroPark

May 21, 1-4pm,
Englewood MetroPark

May 22, 1-4pm,
Germantown MetroPark

For more information or to register, contact Joshua York at (937) 277-4178, or e-mail jjork@metroparks.org.

MetroParks applauds these child care centers for taking advantage of the Natural Adventures Box program in 2010:

Early Beginnings of Centerville
Inspire Center for Learning
Wilma Valentine Creative Learning Center
Evergreen Children's Center

PEDAL YOUR WAY TO CLEANER AIR

BICYCLING CONTRIBUTES TO A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

It's no secret that bicycling promotes physical health. Swapping one or two short trips a week using a bike rather than a car has been shown to make significant impacts on overall health of the rider, but it's not just our bodies that can benefit from each ride: The environmental gains accumulated per person, per trip can be staggering. The League of American Bicyclists (who recently designated Dayton with the bronze-level bike-friendly city status) has collected impressive statistics with regard to how cycling is better for the environment than driving:

Motor vehicle emissions represent 31 percent of total carbon dioxide, 81 percent of carbon monoxide, and 49 percent of nitrogen oxides released in the U.S. (*The Green Commuter*, a publication of the Clean Air Council). A short, four-mile round trip by bicycle keeps about 15 pounds of pollutants out of the air we breathe (WorldWatch Institute).



According to the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey, 25 percent of all trips are made within a mile of the home, 40 percent of all trips are within two miles of the home, and 50 percent of the working population commutes five miles or less to work. Yet more than 82 percent of trips five miles or less are made by personal motor vehicle.

A Rodale Press survey found that Americans want to have the opportunity to bike to work instead of driving, with 40 percent of those surveyed saying they would commute by bike if safe facilities were available.

According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) October 2000 Omnibus Household Survey, some 79.1 million (38 percent) of all Americans feel that the availability of bikeways, walking paths, and sidewalks for getting to work, shopping, and recreation is very important in choosing where to live.

Here are further arguments in favor of parking the car and hopping on a bike for that quick trip to the Post Office around the corner, or when you need to swing by the Andersons up the street to drop off the DVD copy of the Little League championships. Keep these stats (courtesy our friends at the Bikes Belong Coalition):

Bicyclists in Philadelphia ride 260,000 miles daily, saving 47,450 tons of CO₂ from being emitted by cars each year. — *Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia*, 2008

If 5% of New Yorkers commuting by private car or taxi switched to biking to work, they could save 150 million pounds of CO₂ emissions per year, equivalent to the amount reduced by planting a forest 1.3 times the size of Manhattan. — *Transportation Alternatives*, 2008

If the number of kids who walk and bike to school returned to 1969 levels, it would save 3.2

billion vehicle miles, 1.5 million tons of CO₂ and 89,000 tons of other pollutants annually. This is the equivalent of keeping more than 250,000 cars off the road for a year. — *Pedroso, M., "Safe Routes to School: Steps to a Greener Future," 2008*

➤ A 5% increase in the walkability of a neighborhood is associated with a per capita 32.1% increase in active travel, 6.5% fewer miles driven, 5.6% fewer grams of NO_x emitted, and 5.5% fewer grams of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted. — *Frank, L., et al., "Many Pathways from Land Use to Health: Associations between Neighborhood Walkability and Active Transportation, Body Mass Index and Air Quality," Journal of the American Planning Association, 2006*

➤ If all Americans between 10 and 64 were to bicycle instead of drive for 60 minutes a day, the resulting reduction in CO₂ emissions would be 11% of 1990 net US emissions. — *Higgins, P., and M. Higgins, Energy Policy, 2005*

➤ If 20% of Madison, Wisconsin, commuters biked to work, it would save 16,687 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, a value of \$366,577. If 20% of Milwaukee commuters biked to work, it would save 40,718 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, a value of \$821,282. If 20% of short car trips were replaced by bicycle trips in Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin, it would prevent 57,405 tons of carbon dioxide from being emitted, a value of \$1.2 million. — *Grabow, M., et al., 2010*

➤ Increasing the mode share of all trips made by bicycling

ONLINE EXTRA

Learn more about the League of American Bicyclists, read their mission, and catch up on the latest research at www.bikeleague.org.

Find out how the Bikes Belong Coalition is helping more people have the ability to choose biking over other forms of transportation at www.bikesbelong.org.



Photo by Elzora.com Photography

and walking from 12% to 15% could lead to fuel savings of 3.8 billion gallons a year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33 million tons per year. This is equivalent to replacing 19 million conventional cars with hybrids. — *Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 2008*

➤ A NASA analysis found that motor vehicles are the greatest contributor to atmospheric warming because they release pollutants and greenhouse gases that promote warming, while emitting few aerosols that counteract it. — *NASA, 2010* ➤



Photo by Elzora.com Photography

CYCLING SAFE



YOUR FAMILY'S GUIDE TO BIKING

Encourage your kids to start cycling from an early age and help instill habits that lead to an active and healthy life. The pediatric experts at The Children's Medical Center of Dayton have a few tips and suggestions to ensure your children's safety while they ride.

HELMETS

Make sure the helmet fits—a helmet should sit on top of the head in a level position and should not rock forward and backward or side to side. The helmet straps must always be buckled, but not too tightly. Practice with your kids so they know how to put their helmet on correctly.

Dayton Children's recommends the "Eyes, Ears and Mouth" test:

EYES: Position the helmet on your head. Look up and you should see the bottom

rim of the helmet. The rim should be one to two finger-widths above the eyebrows.



EARS: Make sure the straps of the helmet form a "V" under your ears when buckled. The strap should be snug but comfortable.

MOUTH: Open your mouth as wide as you can. Do you feel the helmet hug your head? If not, tighten those straps and make sure the buckle is flat against your skin.

Remember, bike helmets are for biking. Kids should not wear bike helmets on the playground (where the straps can get caught on equipment and cause injury) or for activities that require specialized helmets (such as skiing or football).

THE RIGHT BIKE

The bike needs to be the right size for the child. There should be about 1 inch of clearance between the bike frame and the child's groin when the child's feet are flat on the ground. Also, make sure the bike is in good repair—secure reflectors, properly working brakes, smooth gear shifts, and secure and properly inflated tires.

When in doubt, ask for help. The sales staff at any bicycle shop or outdoor recreation store should be able to provide expert advice on fitting and adjusting bikes and helmets.

SAFE CLOTHING

What kids wear when riding a bike is also very important for safety. Fluorescent or bright-colored clothes will help kids be visible on the road. (Avoid dark clothes, especially during early dusk and twilight hours.) Lightweight clothes will help them avoid becoming overheated. Pant legs shouldn't be too loose-fitting or flared. These can get caught up in the chain while riding. If your child wears a backpack while riding, make sure the straps are tied up and can't get tangled in the spokes of the wheels. Choose shoes that grip the bike's pedals. Cleats, shoes with heels, or flip-flops can all create problems while riding. Kids should never ride barefoot!

KNOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD

Model and teach proper bicyclist behavior. Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, not against it. Stay as far to the right as possible, or in marked bike lanes. Use appropriate hand signals and respect traffic signals, stopping at all stop signs and stop lights. Yield to pedestrians, and be especially careful at intersections. Don't ride too close to parked cars—doors can open suddenly. When riding in a group, always ride single file on the street. When passing other bikers or people on the street, always pass to their left and call out "On your left!" so they'll watch for you. Never share the seat with a friend or ride on the handlebars; only one person should be on a bike at a time. It's easy to lose balance or suddenly swerve into traffic when riding with a passenger. Leave the ear buds at home—it's essential to hear everyone else on the road at all times while biking. Finally, don't be a daredevil: Never stand up while riding a bike or hitch a ride on a moving vehicle.



Photo by Kathleen Conklin

HAND SIGNALS

Be predictable when you ride by using the correct hand signals. Use your left arm to display these signals:

- **Left turn:** After checking behind you, hold your left arm straight out to the left and ride forward slowly.
- **Stop:** After checking behind you, bend your elbow, pointing your arm downward in an upside down "L" shape and come to a stop.
- **Right turn:** After checking behind you, bend your elbow, holding your arm up in an "L" shape, and ride forward slowly. Or, hold your right arm straight out from your side. ➤



Photo by Ed Yourdon



Photo by Eyeliam

Photo by Elzora.com Photography



RANGERS AND MVPs: A CYCLIST'S BEST FRIENDS

There are hundreds of miles of bikeways sprawling across the region, and through the combined efforts of MetroParks Rangers cycling patrol and MetroParks Volunteer Patrol (MVP), the parks and bikeways remain safe.

Rangers receive special training to work on the cycling patrol. "All bike officers are trained through the International Police Mountain Biking Association," says Community Resources Officer Lynne Zimmerman. "This specialized training teaches officers how to ride different terrain, including down levees and stairs." Officers are also instructed in bike maintenance, how to ride on the roadway using hand signals, and night riding. "One of the most important aspects of this training gets the officer into shape so he or she is able to ride a bike for an entire shift, with duty gear on weighing over 30 pounds," Zimmerman says.


There are 11 Five Rivers MetroParks Rangers currently trained as bike officers. This includes three officers who are certified trainers. "These

trainers can instruct our own officers in house and other police officers," Zimmerman says. "There are also two bike maintenance officers who have been certified to work on the bikes of all the rangers in the mountain biking program."

MVPs also receive special training for their bike patrols. "MVPs communicate information about trail conditions and foster positive public interactions," says MVP Volunteer Coordinator Rachel Brand. "If a tree root buckles a bikeway, they'll let us know. If a park patron flags them down for help, they'll be there. Even if a guest is just curious about the type of bike our MVPs are riding, they're here to help and be extended stewards of our staff members." Those who are interested in becoming an MVP should contact Brand at (937) 277-4374 or e-mail rachel.brand@metroparks.org.

Relying solely on cruiser patrols can be limiting, which is why rangers use bikes as well as ATVs, boats and horses to patrol the parks. "The bikes give us access to many areas that

park visitors regularly walk, bike, and hike," Zimmerman says. "It also allows us to patrol bike paths and parks like Island MetroPark more efficiently without disrupting the public's use of the area." If a park patron is in an area that is not easily accessed by vehicle, a bike officer could be the best bet for responding to the call for assistance in case of an emergency. Bikes also help officers navigate around large-scale events (such as Cityfolk or Dayton Celtic festivals) more easily. "Another great reason to use bike patrols is to help save fuel in the patrol cars," Zimmerman says. "It contributes to the officer's health while reducing emissions and stretches our financial resources. Bike patrols are a win-win-win!"

There are at least two bike officers on every shift, and at least one working every day of the week. If you are in a MetroPark and are in need of emergency assistance, call 9-1-1. If you are in a non-emergency, call the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office at (937) 535-2580, and a Ranger will be dispatched to your location. 

PRE-RIDE CHECKLIST

Inflate tires to the pressure that's recommended on the sidewall of the tire.

Oil the chain regularly and remove dirt.

Adjust handlebars for height as your child grows and tighten all bolts.

Check brakes for frayed cables and replace worn-out brake pads.

Keep the seat level and adjust for height as needed.



BIKE RODEO FOR KIDS

SATURDAY, JUNE 18 from 9AM to 1PM

Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark

Join Five Rivers MetroParks Rangers along with the MetroParks Volunteer Patrol for a day of fun with bicycle safety. Bring your bicycle to participate in a special course in Wegerzyn's parking lot. Before riding, students are encouraged to come inside and receive a free bike helmet properly fitted to each child (while quantities last). The bicycle course is designed to give all students the ability to learn the rules of the road in a safe environment. For more information, call Officer Lynne Zimmerman weekdays at (937) 275-PARK ext. 1416.

TIPS TO ENCOURAGE KIDS' HELMET USE



Photo by Elzora.com Photography

Establish the helmet habit early when your child gets his or her first bike. If they learn to wear helmets whenever they ride, it will become a habit for a lifetime.

Let them pick the helmet out. If they make the decision, they are more likely to buy into the idea.

Wear one yourself. Provide a role model for your kids; they learn best by observing you.

Encourage their friends to wear helmets. Peer pressure can be used in a positive way if several families in the neighborhood start making helmet use a regular habit at the same time.

Talk to them about why you want them to protect their heads. Let them know:

- Their bikes are not toys, but their first vehicles.
- You love them and value them and their intelligence.
- They can hurt their heads permanently or even die from a head injury.

Give your child a short course in bike safety. Consider attending the upcoming Bike Rodeo program set for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 18 at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. This program offers a helmet fitting session and defensive driving techniques specially geared for children.

Take your child to a bicycle race where they will see really cool riders all using helmets.

Reward your kids for wearing helmets. Praise them; give them a special treat or privilege when they wear them without having to be told to.

Don't let them ride their bikes unless they wear their helmets. Be consistent. If you allow your children to ride occasionally without their helmets, they will not believe your messages about the importance of wearing them.

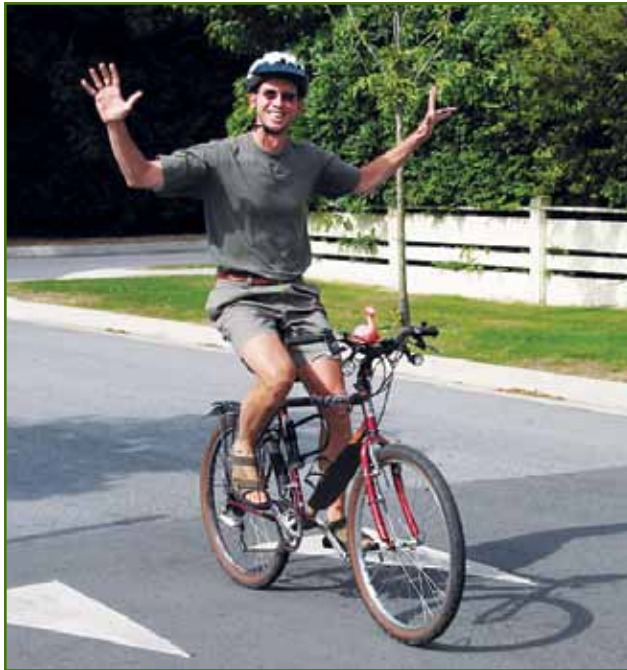
Plan bicycle outings together when all family members wear their helmets. Ride with a local bike club if you can, where all riders will probably be wearing helmets and many of them, like the racers, are accomplished riders.

HUB TREX:

METROPARKS BEST BETS FOR CYCLING DAY TRIPS



Photo by Elzora.com Photography



Do you own a bike but are a little intimidated by the seemingly overwhelming mileage of bikeways covering the region? Have you started riding the trails and are looking for your next challenge but aren't sure where to begin? Are you a veteran cyclist in search of a new high-mileage destination to conquer? Your MetroParks have the answer: Hub Trex.

Hub Trex connect you with various destinations throughout the region via bikeway or cycling-friendly streets. Each trip begins and ends at the new Bike Hub at RiverScape MetroPark. Here you will find ample on-street parking, easy access to bike lanes and paved paths, and visitor amenities such as lockers, restrooms, and concessions. The Bike Hub is located toward the intersection of Patterson and Monument streets near the covered pavilion where visitors enjoyed ice skating all winter long. You can pick up a Hub Trex trip sheet, complete with a map and activities you can enjoy at each destination, from the information kiosk outside or download it from metroparks.org/cycling—your source for biking information and resources.

NEW RIDERS

If you've never taken your bike outside your neighborhood or even to the end of your block, you can get started cycling on the 70-plus miles of paved trail managed by MetroParks staff. One great way to begin your bicycling hobby is by riding with a group. Bike for the Health of It meets every Saturday from April through October for a group ride lead by MetroParks Volunteer Patrol (MVP) riders. Flip to page 44 for this spring's lineup, or visit metroparks.org/BikeHealth for a complete schedule. Frequent riders are given prizes for incentives. Contact MetroParks Officer Lynn Zimmerman at (937) 275-7275 ext. 1416 for details about Bike for the Health of It awards and upcoming rides.

BEST BETS

Five Rivers MetroParks encourages everyone to engage in a healthy, active lifestyle—at your own pace. Whether you're starting out on a short ride, pushing your abilities on a longer ride, or challenging yourself to a long trip, here are some "best bets" we've made into easy-to-use Hub Trex.

SHORT RIDES

- 👉 Bike Hub to the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery (2.6 miles): Take the Great Miami River bikeway from the Hub and then take the Stillwater bikeway where it intersects at Triangle Park and follow it to the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery. This ride will be great for young children, and you can enjoy hands-on physics, chemistry and biology experiments and demonstrations at the Oscar Boonshoft Science Central and the Do Lab, or view dynamic images of Earth and space at Science On a Sphere, where stunning visuals meet a unique learning opportunity for explorers of all ages. Let your imagination run wild in Explorer's Crossing, where children can become a

veterinarian, an attorney or an auto mechanic.

- 👉 **Bike Hub to the Dayton Art Institute (3.2 miles):** Follow the Great Miami River bikeway from the Hub and follow it around the loop to the Dayton Art Institute. While you're visiting, view more than 1,000 works of art from around the world. Admission to the museum's permanent collection is free. The museum's interactive gallery for families, Experientcenter, features thematically based exhibitions that stimulate curiosity and creativity. Stop by the museum's Café Monet for lunch, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 2:30 PM Sunday.

INTERMEDIATE RIDES

- 👉 **Bike Hub to Carillon Park (3.6 miles):** Ride the Great Miami River bikeway south from the Hub to Carillon Historical Park. Visit the John W. Berry Sr. Wright Brothers Aviation Center featuring a replica of the famous Wright Cycle Company, dozens of original Wright artifacts, and the original 1905 Wright Flyer III. Stop at the Dayton Cyclery building and view over two dozen vintage bicycles. Take a trip back in time at Newcom Tavern, Dayton's oldest building. Built in 1796, the two-story log structure has served as a home, a tavern, a church, Dayton's first store, and Montgomery County's first courtroom.
- 👉 **Bike Hub to Eastwood MetroPark (3.6 miles):** Start from the Great Miami River bikeway at the Hub, then follow the Mad River bikeway to Eastwood MetroPark. Take advantage of over 3 miles of wooded and open meadow trails for walking and hiking. Enjoy scenic views of the Mad River, Eastwood Lake and native prairie



plantings. You could even bring a lunch and picnic at a shelter or in a grassy area. Consider riding to the annual Paddle in the Park event taking place Saturday, June 4, at Eastwood Lake.

LONG RIDES

- 👉 **Bike Hub to Taylorsville MetroPark (10.7 miles):** Take the Great Miami River bikeway north from the Hub to Taylorsville MetroPark. Explore the site of Tadmor, a small village that was Montgomery County's busiest crossroad in the 1800s. Today, remnants of this once-bustling community have been identified as a significant site along the original route of the National Road. Visit the site of a massive rock fall at Taylorsville MetroPark. Walk up the stone stairs and examine the small caverns that were created by water traveling through the stone over extended time. Check out the newly revamped sustainable hiking trails in the south end of the park before heading back to RiverScape MetroPark.
- 👉 **Bike Hub to Yellow Springs (26 miles):** Take the Great Miami River bikeway, then get on the Mad River Trail. Take the Creekside Trail located just outside of Eastwood MetroPark, then follow the Little Miami Scenic Trail north from the intersection at Xenia Station and finish in Yellow Springs. Hike the



2,000 acres of trails at Glen Helen Nature Preserve, John Bryan State Park and Clifton Gorge. Experience the arts and culture on display throughout downtown Yellow Springs. Visit the eclectic assortment of shops, cafés and restaurants that make Yellow Springs unique and lively.

These trails can connect you to many locations throughout the county and the region. There are more than 270 miles of connected trail throughout southwest Ohio, and that number continues to grow. Build yourself up to riding longer distances simply by riding short loops. Ride for a couple miles and then turn around and go back. Expand your mileage each time. The more you ride, the better it will be for your body, helping you feel great and live a long, healthy life. 🍃

ONLINE EXTRA

Visit metroparks.org/cycling for cycling resources and to download your own Hub Trex.

GET OUT & RIDE

METROPARKS OFFERS SPECIAL MOUNTAIN BIKING FACILITY

Looking to push your cycling experience to the next level? Consider the challenge of riding not on paved paths but along rugged trail through beautiful forested areas. Mountain biking is becoming an increasingly popular activity across all ages and skill levels—and you can take advantage of this for free at MoMBA, MetroParks Mountain Biking Area.

Mountain biking got its start in the mid 1970s, so it is still a fairly recent development, considering bikes have been around since the early 1800s! “Mountain biking grew from people putting wider tires on typical bikes and starting to ride in the woods, on dirt, and up and down mountains,” says Five Rivers MetroParks Outdoor Recreation Coordinator Dan Sahli. “Most children tend to start riding on mountain bikes, with wide, knobby tires, that sometimes have suspension. These types of bikes are versatile training tools for kids because they can ride them off-road, on the bikeways, and around the neighborhood.”



Mountain biking is generally done off-road, on trails specifically designed with the mountain biker in mind. “Mountain biking isn’t as crazy as some think it is; you can enjoy a day in the woods, just like you would enjoy a ride on the bikeways. The scenery is just different,” Sahli says. “Sure, you can get really good and go fast, jump off roots and rocks, and start racing, but most people are just out to have fun and get some exercise.”

If you’re looking to get into mountain biking, the MoMBA facility is a great place to get your start. MoMBA is located up the road from Huffman MetroPark. There are over 8 miles of sustainable single-track trails in a 111-acre area. “Some trails are short, beginner-friendly trails, and some are more difficult, longer trails,” Sahli says. “There really is something for everyone.” MoMBA was designed to provide the area’s mountain bikers

close-to-home opportunities to ride after school, and work and on weekends. Five Rivers MetroParks Outdoor Recreation office runs programming at MoMBA, providing opportunities for residents to try mountain biking for free, advance riding skills, and enjoy friendly competition in races. Turn to page 44 and check out spring’s offerings for mountain biking programming, or visit metroparks.org/MoMBA. “We have programs developed for children as well as adults,” Sahli says. “If you got your child a mountain

MoMBA HOURS

April 1 - Oct. 31: 8 AM - 10 PM

Nov. 1 - Feb. 1: 10 AM - 8 PM

Feb. 2 - March 31: 8 AM - 8 PM

For up-to-date trail conditions and closures at MoMBA, please call (937) 277-4374.



ONLINE EXTRA

Log on to metroparks.org/MoMBA to find an interactive map, learn more about mountain biking and get links to upcoming events taking place at MoMBA.

Going for a ride in Ohio? Check out Joinomba.org if you're planning a mountain biking excursion.



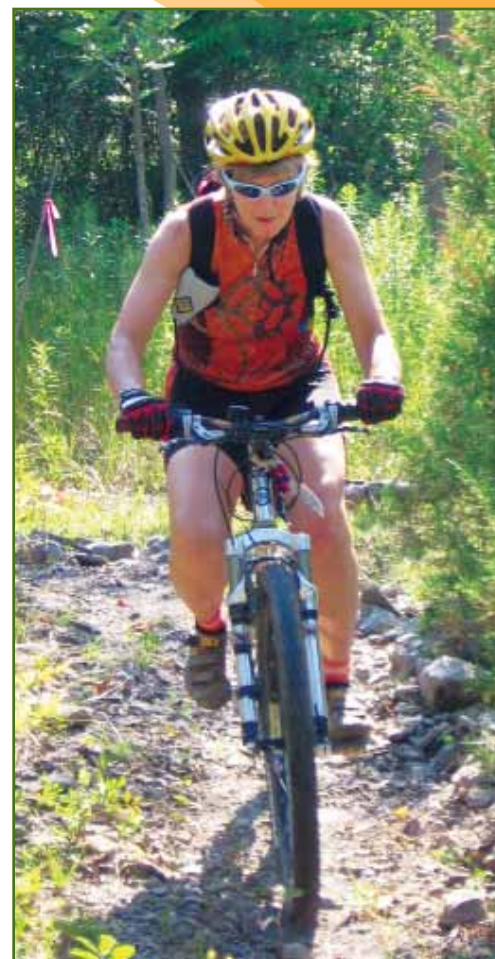
bike for Christmas and are looking for ways to get lots of use out of that purchase, consider attending a mountain biking program where your child will receive instruction from recreation specialists that will give them the confidence they need. There is a youth race series for children and teens ages 8 to 16. Kids can develop their skills and learn a fun outdoor activity they can enjoy with no additional costs for facility use."


MoMBA also serves as a focal point for trail advocates and encourages independent recreation. "Mountain biking is an activity suitable for the whole family," Sahli says. "It is not uncommon to find a family relaxing in the shade at the trailhead while the parents take turns heading out with their children." Educational opportunities also exist through volunteer days. Trail maintenance is performed by volunteers who are trained with sustainable trail-building techniques and get hands-on experience working on MoMBA's

trails. There are over 800 feet of elevated bridge trail, armored water crossings, and a large 45-foot-long bridge over a 35-foot-deep ravine.

MoMBA is the only MetroParks mountain biking facility; however, there are a few additional locations in this area for mountain bikers to test their skills. John Bryan State Park near Yellow Springs, Ohio, is a family-friendly ride, featuring mostly easier, flat, fun trails. You could also head south of Waynesville to Caesar Creek State Park for another local mountain biking facility. "Consider joining a local group if you're looking to get started," Sahli suggests.

"They've got great resources and are really plugged into the local mountain biking scene. They can help you plan trips, pick out gear, and offer other tips when you're getting started." Check out the Miami Valley Mountain Bike Association or Dayton



Cycling Club, or inquire about groups in your area at any local bike shop. "Mountain biking is not as extreme as soft drink commercials depict it, so give it a try and meet some new friends," Sahli says. "Grab your bike, head out to MoMBA, and get out and ride!" 



BIKE 2 IT



GET GREENER AND LEANER WHEN YOU GO BY BIKE

Bicycles and Dayton have a beautiful history together. From the Wright Brothers' bicycle shop to the city's recent achievement of becoming a nationally recognized Bike-Friendly Community, many of this region's milestones have rolled in on two wheels. Keeping with this tradition, Dayton has joined the ranks of major cities across the country where cycling has grown beyond the scope of pure recreational purposes to a viable and eco-friendly form of transportation. As concerns grow about non-renewable resource consumption and the obesity epidemic, more and more people are choosing alternative forms of transportation—specifically bicycling—as a way to reduce carbon emissions and lead a healthier, active lifestyle. If you haven't caught on to this rising trend, don't worry.

It's easy to get in the know and join other children, teens and adults who bike Miami Valley.

HOW WILL YOU RIDE?

If you haven't ridden a bike since you sat on a banana seat or stuck a playing card in the spokes, it's not too late to start riding again, for recreation or commuting purposes. Bicycles come in a variety of styles and sizes. Each type of bike has features that make it ideal for a certain kind of ride. Before heading to the shop, consider how you will use your bike. Are you mostly going to ride it on paved trails? Long distances or short trips? Off-road adventures or relaxed-pace jaunts? Will you need to carry cargo, and if so, how much? Once you determine how you will use your bike, you can sort through the assortments and find one that best suits your needs. Check out the chart below for an overview of the different types of bikes available:

	CHARACTERISTICS:	INTENDED USE:
MOUNTAIN	Agressive tires Suspension Durable	Off-road terrain
ROAD	Skinny tires Lightweight Fast	Paved roads / paths
HYBRID	Smooth ride Some front suspension Upright riding position	Bikeways and some off-road
CITY	Simple Utilitarian Versatile	Paved or gravel
BMX	Smaller tires Built for jumping Durable	Dirt, concrete, ramps
COMMUTER	Smooth ride Lots of gears Racks for cargo	Gravel and smooth surfaces

GET OUT & LIVE!

GETTING STARTED**\$ BUDGET \$****\$\$ COMFORT \$\$****\$\$\$ LUXURY \$\$\$**

Bike	\$120 - \$275	\$275 - \$850	\$850 and up
Helmet	\$20 - \$40	\$40 - \$100	\$100 - \$220

NEXT BUYS

Gloves	\$10 - \$15	\$15 - \$35	\$35 - \$50
Glasses	\$10 - \$20	\$20 - \$80	\$80 and up

JUST-IN-CASE SUPPLIES

Spare tube	\$3 - \$5	\$6 - \$9	\$9 and up
Bike pump	\$12 - \$20	\$20 - \$30	\$30 and up
Multi-tool, for small repairs	\$10 - \$15	\$15 - \$25	\$25 and up

IF YOU REALLY LIKE IT

Cycling shorts	\$35 - \$50	\$50 - \$90	\$90 - \$130
Bike jersey	\$35 - \$50	\$50 - \$75	\$75 - \$135

Another consideration is gear. A helmet is essential; today's market offers a variety of sizes, styles and amenities for comfort. A properly fitting helmet should sit straight across your forehead along your brow line. It should not tilt forward, impeding your vision, or backward, inadequately protecting your face. Once you have your bike and your helmet, you're all set to ride. Listed below are some other gear items to consider if you're looking to step up your riding habits. Refer to the chart for levels of financial investment.

SPECIALIZED CLOTHING

- Cycling jackets are lightweight and provide protection from a light chill or gentle rain. Choose one that is longer in back and has other special features like pockets for storage and reflective tape for safety.
- Straps for your pants will keep them out of chain and spokes. These can be easy do-it-yourself projects, but make sure you

include some reflective material for visibility.

- Gloves can be a great feature to protect your hands, especially if you start riding longer distances. If you have the budget, invest in gloves with gel pads to absorb road vibrations and protect your wrists.
- Sunglasses reduce glare and help keep dirt or other debris out of your eyes. Look for a pair with anti-fog features and no-slip nose pads.

ACCESSORIES

- Locks keep your investment safe. Choose a longer chain if you have quick-release wheels and need to secure both to a bike rack.
- Repair kits can fit easily under your seat and will help you get back on your way quickly if you get a flat tire.
- If you're going to transport cargo, you'll need a bag (such as a messenger bag or backpack) or

a rack to which you can secure items with a bungee cord.

- Battery-operated lights fixed to the front AND the back of your bike increase your visibility in low-light hours.
- Having a water bottle can help you avoid dehydration, especially on hot days or when biking long distances.





Photo by Agricole Day

WHERE TO RIDE

Because bicycling has such positive impacts on air quality and personal health, city planners and developers are incorporating “complete streets” into their designs, providing ample space for all vehicles, including bikes, as well as sidewalks for walking. That said, it is important to note that bicycles ARE considered vehicles; therefore, one should NOT ride on the sidewalk. Ride on the street, with

the flow of traffic. Ride as far to the right as possible, or in a bike lane. Look for markings for bike lanes or shared lanes in downtown Dayton. Bike riders must follow all traffic laws, including stop signs, traffic lights, and turn lanes. Use hand signals when turning. A hand signal can be as simple as pointing in the direction you wish to turn. You can also use standard signals: Extend your left arm straight out to indicate a left turn. Extend your left arm bent up at the elbow to indicate a right turn, and bend your arm down to signal you are stopping.

You can learn more about the rules of the road and take a course in bike safety by signing up for Intro to Smart Cycling (April 28), Smart Cycling Basics (April 30), or Intro to Bike Commuting (May 3). Turn to page 44 for the complete list of cycling activities.

Another great way to start (or re-start) a cycling habit is to participate in a group ride. Bike for the Health of It is a series of guided bicycle rides that take place Saturdays April through October, rain or

shine. Participants will have the opportunity to learn basic bicycle maintenance tips and experience riding on the regional bikeways in a safe, group setting. To give yourself incentive, you can earn a T-shirt by reaching a goal of 125 miles. Families are welcome; parents/guardians must remain with their children during the program. Flip to page 44 for the spring schedule, or visit metroparks.org/BikeHealth for upcoming dates. To learn more about the series, contact Officer Zimmerman at (937) 275-PARK ext. 1416. Courteous Mass also focuses on street cycling safety. These rides, which take place on the first Friday of every month, are group rides designed to demonstrate safe riding for cyclists and offer a teaching opportunity for other vehicle drivers. Check out their Facebook page for upcoming events at facebook.com/CourteousMassDayton.

COMMUTING BY BIKE

Using your bike for short trips or even riding to work reduces carbon emissions, relieves highway congestion, and contributes to better personal health—not to mention riding is an enjoyable experience! There are a few strategies you can use to encourage riding and keep up your habit.

Storing your bike in an easy-to-access place rather than up in your garage rafters or behind a wall of boxes and holiday decorations will encourage frequent use. Try a wall-mount rack or a ceiling pulley rack. Both offer convenient out-of-the-way storage and are simple to use. Keep your cargo carrying utilities handy in case you need to make a quick errand. Removing barriers to riding is an important aspect of promoting healthy cycling habits.

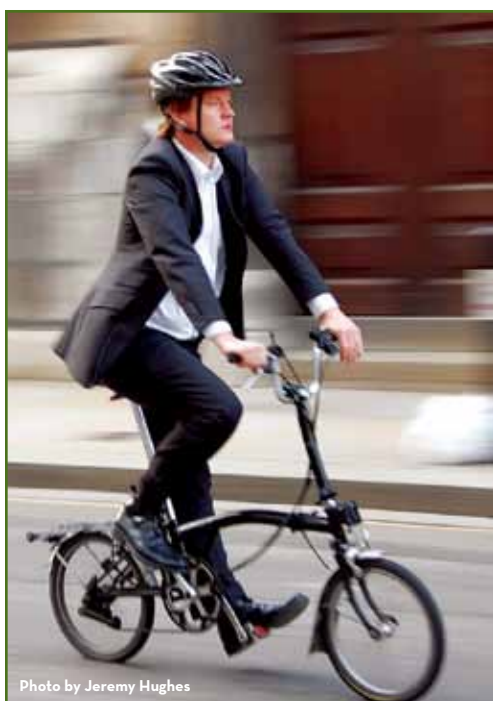


Photo by Jeremy Hughes

ONLINE EXTRA

Learn more about the region's extensive bikeway system as well we upcoming cycling activities when you visit **Metroparks.org/Cycling**.

Mapping tools:

www.miamivalleytrails.org

www.mapmyride.com

www.miamiconservancy.org/recreation/montgomery.asp

www.mvrpc.org/tr/bikePed.php



Planning a trip by bike can be easy with digital tools, such as Google's bike option for its maps, or using an interactive map tool like what you'll find on **www.miamivalleytrails.org** or **www.mapmyride.com**, which also offers apps for smart phones.


Downtown Dayton bike commuters have a new amenity to make cycling an easy and viable form of transportation—the new Bike Hub at RiverScape MetroPark. For a quarterly fee, members are given exclusive access to showers and storage for their bikes and gear, using an ID badge and other security features. Anyone interested in becoming a Bike Hub member should contact the Outdoor Recreation Department to schedule a tour or learn more about the program. Call (937) 277-4374 weekdays for further details. 



Photo by Rob Baxter



BIKE TO WORK PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FRIDAY, MAY 20

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

111 E. MONUMENT AVE.,
DAYTON

Leave your car in the garage and support National Bike to Work Day. Ride in on your own or with a group to RiverScape MetroPark for a free pancake breakfast, then head to work. Live music, cycling-related exhibitors and a team challenge are also part of the fun. Get the full details at **metroparks.org/biketowork** or call (937) 277-4374.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS

8 AM-5 PM, MON.-FRI.

1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton. Take I-75 to Wagner Ford Rd./Siebenthaler Ave. Turn left onto Siebenthaler Ave. off N. Dixie. The entrance is on the right past Ridge Ave. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

ADVENTURE CENTRAL AT WESLEYAN METROPARK

2222 James H. McGee Blvd., Dayton. Take St. Rt. 35 to the James H. McGee Blvd exit. Travel north over 2 miles. Adventure Central is a barn-red brick building with a small parking lot in front. Call to ask about overflow parking. (937) 278-2601

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK

955 Aullwood Rd., Englewood. From I-70 take St. Rt. 48 (Englewood) north to east on National Rd. (U.S. 40). Cross Englewood Dam; just after it, turn south onto Aullwood Rd. Drive past the Aullwood Audubon Center and continue to the sign which says "Garden Parking" entrance on the right. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK

7800 E. Shull Rd. From I-70 take St. Rt. 201 Exit (Brandt Pike). Turn north on 201 and drive one mile to East Shull Rd. Turn right at park entrance. (937) 278-2609

Carriage Hill Riding Center

The Riding Center is on Shull Rd. past the farm. (937) 274-3120

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

6733 Springboro Pike, Dayton. From I-75 take St. Rt. 725 (Miamisburg-Centerville Rd.) east to St. Rt. 741 (Springboro Pike). Turn north on St. Rt. 741. Cox Arboretum is on the left approx. 2 miles. (937) 434-9005

Butterfly House

Open late June through Labor Day, the Butterfly House is located on the west side of the park behind the Crab Apple Allée.

DEEDS POINT METROPARK

510 Webster St., Dayton. From I-75 take Stanley Ave. west until it dead ends at Helena St. and turn right. At North Bend Blvd. turn left; pass the Kettering Field diamonds until rd. forks to the right. Area to the right is Deeds Point. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

EASTWOOD METROPARK

1385 Harshman Rd., Dayton. Take Route 4 to the Harshman Rd. Exit and head south on Harshman. The first entrance to the right is to the lake; the second right is to the park. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK

4361 National Rd., Butler Twp. From I-70 take St. Rt. 48 (Englewood) north to east on National Rd. (U.S. 40). Cross Englewood Dam; the main entrance is just after it, east of the dam. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

Englewood MetroPark Disc Golf Course

Located at the south end of East Park next to the lake.

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

7101 Conservancy Rd., Germantown. Follow St. Rt. 725 west through Germantown. Turn right onto Creek Rd. Take right on Conservancy Rd.; entrance will be on left. To Nature Center (6910 Boomershine Rd.): Pass Creek & Conservancy roads; turn right onto Boomershine Rd., park entrance will be on right. (937) 855-7717

Nature Center

HOURS: Saturdays 1:00pm-4:00pm

Sundays 1:00pm-4:00pm.

The center will also be open for scheduled public programs and tours by appointment.

Twin Valley Backpacking Trail

Overnight parking available by permit (937) 277-4374 at Boomershine trail head, 6206 Boomershine Rd.

HILLS & DALES METROPARK

2655 Patterson Blvd., Kettering. From 741, turn left on Dorothy Lane. Go thru S. Dixie Hwy. intersection. A few streets east of there is Hilton Dr. Turn left. Go 5 blocks north through residential area. Turn right onto Stockton Ave. then right onto S. Patterson Blvd. Twin Oak Shelter: 1/4 mile past Stockton on Patterson Blvd.; north of Patterson Monument. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

HUFFMAN METROPARK

4439 Lower Valley Pike, Fairborn. From St. Rt. 4 Exit at Huffman Dam Rd. Continue onto Lower Valley Pike. Entrances are on the right. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

MoMBA-MetroPark Mountain Bike Area

4485 Union Road, Fairborn. On Lower Valley Pike pass the main Huffman parking lot. Come to very sharp left-hand turn, pass under St. Rt. 4. Come straight through Union and Baker Rd. intersection. First left is MoMBA parking lot. (Union Rd. becomes Union Schoolhouse Rd. in Montgomery County west of the MoMBA parking lot.)

ISLAND METROPARK

101 E. Helena St., Dayton. From I-75 take the Stanley Ave. west until it dead ends at Helena St. Turn right and continue to Island MetroPark, which is on right side of the street near Riverside Dr. Use overflow parking lot east of park. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET

600 E. 2nd St., Dayton. Take Keowee St. to Third St. and turn left. Turn right at Webster St., then right at 2nd St. (937) 228-2088

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

4790 Frytown Road, Dayton. From Gettysburg Ave.: Turn west onto Germantown St. Route 4. Go about 1.5 miles to Frytown Rd. and turn left. Head to main entrance or to reservable shelter area. (937) 276-7062

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

111 E. Monument Ave., Dayton. Take I-75 to First St. and head east. Turn left on Patterson Blvd. and left on Monument Ave. (937) 274-0126

SUGARCREEK METROPARK

4178 Conference Rd., Bellbrook. From I-675 take Wilmington Pike south. Street name changes to Wilmington-Dayton Rd. Continue until it makes sharp turn to the right. Go straight; road turns into Conference Rd. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

SUNRISE METROPARK

50 Edwin C. Moses Blvd., Dayton. Take Salem Ave. to Riverview Ave. and turn right. Continue onto Edwin C. Moses Blvd. Sunrise is on the east side of the road where the Great Miami River and Wolf Creek meet. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK

2000 St. Rt. 40, Vandalia. From I-75 take U.S. 40 Exit (National Rd.) and head east. Continue on 40 where it heads south onto Brown School Rd. Then go on Brown School Rd. past U.S. 40 to entrances, or follow U.S. 40 east to other entrances. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

TWIN CREEK METROPARK

9688 Eby Rd., Germantown. Follow St. Rt. 725 west through Miamisburg. Take St. Rt. 4 south through Germantown; turn left on Eby Rd. Park entrance is on the left. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

Twin Valley Backpacking Trail

Overnight parking available by permit (937) 277-4374 at the High View trail head, 9688 Eby Rd.

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK

1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton. Take I-75 to Wagner Ford Rd./Siebenthaler Ave. Turn left onto Siebenthaler Ave. off N. Dixie. Pass Risidge Ave. and the administrative offices. Turn right into drive at bottom of the hill before bridge. Wegerzyn Center is located in the center of the Cultural Arts Complex; gardens are to the right of the parking lot. (937) 277-6545

Children's Discovery Garden

Directly to the right of the parking lot behind the walled area.

WESLEYAN METROPARK

1441 Wesleyan Rd., Dayton. From St. Rt. 35 to Gettysburg Exit; turn right. Go 3 miles, turn right on Cornell Dr. Go 2 blocks to Wesleyan Rd., turn right. Park is on the right side of the street. (937) 278-2601



DETOURS & CLOSINGS

GET UP-TO-DATE ALERTS AT WWW.METROPARKS.ORG/DETOURS

TRAIL CONDITIONS

For up-to-date conditions and closures at the following trails, call the number listed:

MetroParks Mountain Biking Area (MoMBA) Trail Conditions: **(937) 277-4374**

Twin Valley Backpacking Trail (TVT) Conditions: **(937) 274-3163**

BIKEWAY CLOSURES

Montgomery County Engineer's Office will be working on a project on the Third Street Bridge this spring. The Great Miami River Bikeway goes below the bridge on both sides of the river, and officials will be making repairs to the bridge decking March through July. Workers will hang netting below the bridge to catch any debris from the project, and it is their goal to keep the bikeway open during construction.

SUBFACILITY HOURS

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY GARDEN SPRING HOURS

March: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

May: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

GERMANTOWN NATURE CENTER HOURS

The Germantown MetroPark Nature Center hosts open hours from 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, or for programs or by appointment. Call (937) 855-7717 for more information.

WATER SHUT-OFF

Attention: Some water features in the MetroParks may be shut off during the winter months to prevent pipe bursts. This includes all water playgrounds, some restrooms (pit toilets will still be available), and some drinking fountains. The water will be turned back on after the last frost of the season and the ground thaws substantially. Call the park at (937) 275-PARK weekdays if this will affect your trip, such as a shelter reservation or camping experience.

SUSTAINABLE TRAILS COMING TO SUGARCREEK METROPARK

Learn more about the sustainable trails project and how you can help at an open house meeting from 6:30-7:30 PM April 14, 2011, at the Sugarcreek MetroPark maintenance building, located at 7636 Wilmington-Dayton Road. After crossing the Sugar Creek, it will be the first building on the left. Call Sugarcreek Park Manager Ed Gerdeman at (937) 433-0004 for more information.



CYCLING MVPs KEEP OUR RECREATION TRAILS SAFE



Other detours may be in effect or the schedule of a project may have changed by the time ParkWays has been published. For more information, visit the Alerts, Closures and Construction page at www.metroparks.org.



FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS IS PLEASED TO PRESENT **YOUR GUIDE TO SPRING ACTIVITIES**

Finding your interests is quick and easy. You can find them in this *ParkWays* by ACTIVITY or by DATE. Follow the simple instructions below and start filling up your calendar with fun, educational and physical activities for all ages.

BY ACTIVITY

Interested in art, cooking, gardening or hiking? Looking to volunteer or maybe just want to find all the seasonal happening in the MetroParks? Check out the ACTIVITY section. Each program lists the date, name, time, place and description. For more details on programs, check **www.metroparks.org**. You can register online or by phone.

BY DATE

You can also search events and programs by date. This is a chronological listing of every activity at every park. Pick a date, find an activity that interests you and go to the page listed to find out more information. For more details on programs, check **www.metroparks.org**. You can register online or by phone.

ONLINE

You can also search for events online at **www.metroparks.org**. Activities by park, interest group or topic can be found under the Get Outside tab. To search by Course Code, click on Things to See and Do under the Get Outside tab, then click on the Course Code Search button on the right side of the page. **Metroparks.org** helps you get connected to park information, program guides, videos, nature play games and online registration. If you're a "go on your own" park user, the website is a great place to find maps, park features, trail information and more.

NOTE: Some programs require a minimum number of participants and are subject to cancellation. Those with reservations will be contacted if this occurs. Some outdoor events are weather permitting. The website contains up-to-date information on cancellations.

FEES: Fees are required at the time of registration and are non-refundable.

PTN PASSPORT TO NATURE!

Your child can become an official MetroParks Nature Traveler by participating in eight Passport to Nature programs. Nature Travelers will receive a special backpack. Look for the symbol showing designated passport programs.

HOW TO CONTACT A RANGER IN A METROPARK:

Emergency contact: **9-1-1**

Non-emergency contact: **(937) 535-2580**

Inform the Montgomery County Sheriff 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.

STAY
CONNECTED

facebook

FACEBOOK

Five Rivers MetroParks recently switched to a “fan” page. If you haven’t already done so, visit www.facebook.com/fiveriversmetroparks and click the “like” button to keep up to date with MetroParks programs and events, as well as connect with other MetroParks users.



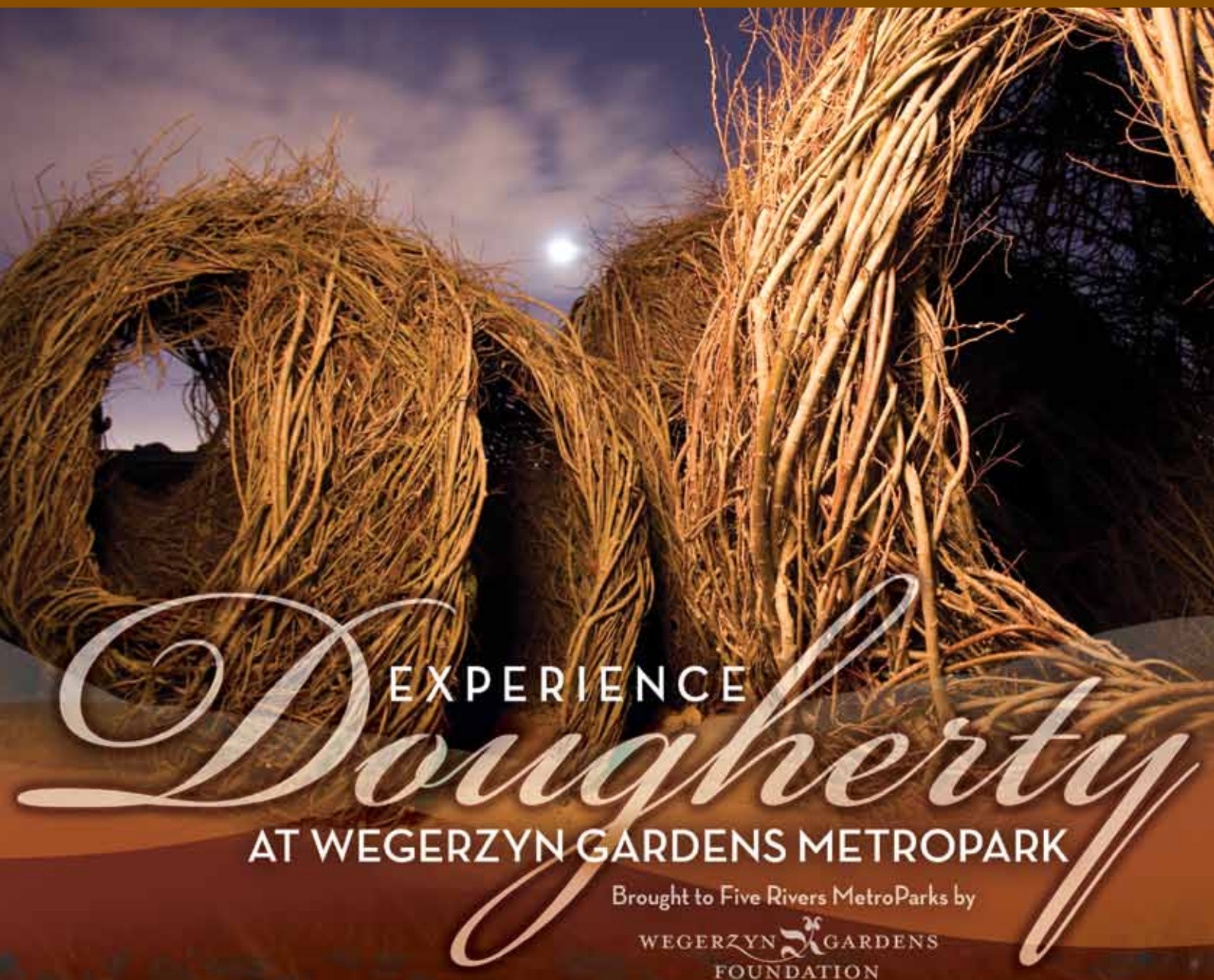
TWITTER

Follow Five Rivers MetroParks on Twitter! Check out www.twitter.com/metroparkstweet to receive updates about activities going on in your parks. Why not start your own Tweet-up for a hike in a park?

METROPARKS.ORG

The programs and stories you’re reading in this issue of ParkWays can be found online. Visit METROPARKS.ORG and click on the picture of the ParkWays cover to download the latest issue, or visit METROPARKS.ORG/parkways to download the PDF or subscribe to ParkWays if you’re not a Montgomery County resident. Search for programs by date or by activity – click on “Things to See and Do” from the “Get Outside” fly-out menu and start planning your next outdoor adventure!





Coming Spring 2011

Major support provided by



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FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS

For more information about Patrick Dougherty and this exhibit, visit www.metroparks.org/dougherty



EVENTS BY DATE, TIME

TUE, MAR 1, 2011

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 38)

WED, MAR 2, 2011

7:00 PM Environmental Film Series: Short Takes, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 36)

THU, MAR 3, 2011

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Nature's Textures, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 38)

FRI, MAR 4, 2011

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Animal Homes, Englewood MetroPark (see page 38)
7:00 PM DJ Skates: Awesome Eighties, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 48)

SAT, MAR 5, 2011

7:30 AM Miami Valley Gardening Conference: The Future of Gardening, Off Site - Sinclair Community College (page 33)
10:00 AM Draft Horse Driving School, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 49)
10:00 AM Biblical Herbs, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)
10:00 AM Who and What Makes Maple Syrup, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39)
2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 46)
2:30 PM Maple Sugaring in Your Own Backyard, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)
7:00 PM Star-late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 48)

SUN, MAR 6, 2011

12:00 PM Discovery Stroll, Germantown MetroPark (see page 38)
2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 48)
1:30 PM Germantown Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Germantown MetroPark (see page 46)

MON, MAR 7, 2011

3:00 PM Monday Horseback Riding Lessons (A), Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 46)

TUE, MAR 8, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Englewood MetroPark (see page 39)
10:00 AM Advanced Butterfly Class: Where do Butterflies Come From? Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 39)
1:00 PM Little Apple Goat, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)
4:00 PM Try Backpacking! Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 43)

WED, MAR 9, 2011

6:30 PM Compost Kitchen: Building Better Soil, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 33)

THU, MAR 10, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39)
11:30 AM Fresh Summer Wrap Demo, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 37)
6:00 PM Intro to Land Navigation, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 47)

FRI, MAR 11, 2011

12:30 PM Project Feeder Watch, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)
6:30 PM Woodcock Dance, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 40)
7:00 PM Star-late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 48)

SAT, MAR 12, 2011

8:00 AM Waterfowl Field Trip, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 40)
9:00 AM St. Patrick's Day at the Market, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)
10:00 AM What's Growing? Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)
10:00 AM Take Charge of Your Camera: I'm Beginning to See the Light, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 43)
10:30 AM Project Feeder Watch, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)
12:00 PM Volunteer: MoMBA Trail Work Days, Huffman MetroPark (see page 46)
2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Englewood MetroPark (see page 46)
2:30 PM Signs of Spring, Germantown MetroPark (see page 40)
6:30 PM Woodcock Dance, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 40)
7:00 PM Star-late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 48)

MON, MAR 14, 2011

9:30 AM Children's Tour Guide Workshop Series: Welcome Spring! Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 40)
10:00 AM Tike Hike: Hibernating Insects, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 38)

TUE, MAR 15, 2011

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)
10:00 AM Parent and Preschooler: Do You Live In a Tree? Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 40)
10:00 AM Tike Hike: Squirrel Search, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 38)

WED, MAR 16, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)
10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)
6:00 PM Intro to Backpacking for Women, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 43)
6:30 PM Compost Kitchen: Backyard Composting, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 33)

THU, MAR 17, 2011

11:30 AM Lunch and Learn: Pruning Basics, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

SAT, MAR 19, 2011

8:30 AM Family Farm Chores, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)
8:30 AM Morning Chores on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 33)
10:00 AM In the Garden Series: Cool Weather Crops & Trellises, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 34)
10:00 AM Take Charge of Your Camera Series: I Can See Clearly Now, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 43)
10:30 AM Early Springtime Walk, Englewood MetroPark (see page 40)
12:00 PM Become a Green Garden Volunteer, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 34)
1:00 PM Eureka Lab! Experiment with your Veggies, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 40)
1:00 PM From Tassel to Table, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)
1:00 PM Land Navigation Basics, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 47)
1:30 PM Waterfowl at Huffman, Huffman MetroPark (see page 40)
2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Germantown MetroPark (see page 46)
6:30 PM Beaver Search, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 40)

SUN, MAR 20, 2011

12:00 PM Corn Shelling & Grinding, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)
1:30 PM Sugarcreek Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 46)
1:30 PM Learning from the Landscape: Early Color and Interest, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

MON, MAR 21, 2011

9:30 AM Children's Tour Guide Workshop Series: Bodacious Botany, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 40)

TUE, MAR 22, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 39)
9:00 AM Stroller Strut: Warm Winds Blow, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 40)
6:00 PM Intro to Backpacking for Women, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 41)

WED, MAR 23, 2011

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)
10:00 AM Tike Hike: Moss, Nature's Carpet, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)
6:30 PM Compost Kitchen: All About Worms, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

THU, MAR 24, 2011

6:30 PM Intro to Backpacking, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 43)
7:00 PM Café Sci: Native Wildflowers in the Landscape, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41)

FRI, MAR 25, 2011

12:30 PM Project Feeder Watch, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)
7:30 PM Raccoon Search, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 41)

SAT, MAR 26, 2011

10:00 AM Birds of Prey, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 41)
10:00 AM Take Charge of Your Camera Series: My Corner of the Sky, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 43)
10:00 AM Good Gardening Series: Part 1 The Joy of Dirt, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 34)
10:00 AM Tree Trivia, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 41)
10:30 AM Project Feeder Watch, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)
12:00 PM Feed Milling Demonstration, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)
2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 46)
2:00 PM Family Nature Games, Wesleyan MetroPark (see page 41)

SUN, MAR 27, 2011

11:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 38)

MON, MAR 28, 2011

9:30 AM Children's Tour Guide Series: Wildflowers in the Wild, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 40)
6:00 PM Fly Fishing for Bass and Bluegill, Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 45)

TUE, MAR 29, 2011

11:30 AM Lunch and Learn: Emerald Ash Borer in Ohio, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

WED, MAR 30, 2011

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)

THU, MAR 31, 2011

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Woodland Adventure, Germantown MetroPark (see page 38)
11:00 AM Maple Syrup Maestro, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 37)

SAT, APR 2, 2011

9:00 AM Make a Difference...Save a Life 5K Race/Walk, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 48)
9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Wolf Creek

Bikeway (W), Recreational Trails (see page 44)

10:00 AM Herb Cheeses, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 37)

10:00 AM Take Charge of Your Camera:

Come See About Me, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 43)

10:00 AM Weekend Pony Rides, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 46)

12:00 PM Backpacking Basics, Germantown MetroPark (see page 43)

1:00 PM Family Nature Walk, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 41)

2:00 PM Welcome to Wildflowers, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 46)

6:00 PM Mammal Study, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 41)

SUN, APR 3, 2011

12:00 PM Apprentice Day, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)

1:30 PM Twin Creek Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

MON, APR 4, 2011

8:00 AM Volunteer: Stick Sculpture Volunteer with Patrick Dougherty, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 49)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Backyard Expedition, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)

TUE, APR 5, 2011

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 38)

6:00 PM Advanced Gardening with Janet Macunovich, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 35)

WED, APR 6, 2011

9:00 AM Advanced Gardening with Janet Macunovich, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 35)

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Backyard Expedition, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 38)

7:00 PM Environmental Film Series: Deep Down, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 36)

THU, APR 7, 2011

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Signs of Spring, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 38)

10:00 AM Parent and Preschooler: Sensing A Change, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 40)

4:00 PM Try Fly Fishing! Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 45)

FRI, APR 8, 2011

8:00 PM Nocturnal Amphibian Search, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 41)

SAT, APR 9, 2011

8:30 AM Family Farm Chores, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Wolf Creek Bikeway (W), Recreational Trails (see page 44)

9:00 AM Volunteer: Backpacking Trail Work Days, Germantown MetroPark (see page 44)

9:30 AM Project Wild Workshop, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 41)

10:00 AM Good Gardening Series: Part 2 Building a Rain Barrel, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

12:00 PM Volunteer: MoMBA Trail Work Days, Huffman MetroPark (see page 46)

1:00 PM Woodpecker Walk, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 41)

2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 46)

8:00 PM Tike Hike: Nocturnal Adventure, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 39)

SUN, APR 10, 2011

11:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Germantown MetroPark (see page 38)

MON, APR 11, 2011

11:00 AM Discovery Bike Ride, Island MetroPark (see page 38)

TUE, APR 12, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Englewood MetroPark (see page 39)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Backyard Expedition, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39)

1:00 PM Playful Piggies, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

4:00 PM Youth Garden Club for Beginners, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

WED, APR 13, 2011

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)

5:30 PM Where Does All the Rain Go? Off Site (see page 35)

THU, APR 14, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39)

11:30 AM Go Green! PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 36)

4:00 PM Advanced Youth Garden Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

FRI, APR 15, 2011

8:00 AM Twin Valley Trail Backpacking Trip, Germantown MetroPark (see page 44)

11:00 AM Tree Seedling Giveaway, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 49)

11:30 AM Lunch and Learn: Attracting Birds to the Gardens, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

8:00 PM Owl Prowl, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 42)

SAT, APR 16, 2011

8:00 AM Tree Seedling Giveaway, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 49)
8:30 AM Morning Chores on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 33)
9:00 AM Adopt-A-Park, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 49)
9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Creekside Bikeway, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 44)
9:00 AM Wegerzyn Gardens Walkfest, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 48)
10:00 AM From Sheep to Shawls, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)
10:00 AM Good Gardening Series: Part 3 Welcome Spring: Weeds and Water, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)
2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

SUN, APR 17, 2011

10:00 AM Wildflower Walk, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 42)
1:30 PM Learning from the Landscape: Woodland Wildflowers, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

TUE, APR 19, 2011

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)

WED, APR 20, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)
10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)
11:00 AM Tree Blossom Tea Party, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

THU, APR 21, 2011

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Backyard Expedition, Englewood MetroPark (see page 39)

FRI, APR 22, 2011

6:00 PM Discovery Bike Ride, Bikeways (see page 44)

SAT, APR 23, 2011

8:00 AM Beginning Birding Workshop, Germantown MetroPark (see page 42)
9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Mad River Bikeway, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 44)
10:00 AM Part 4 Planning the Garden, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)
1:00 PM Bird Song Study, Germantown MetroPark (see page 42)
2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Englewood MetroPark (see page 46)

TUE, APR 26, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 39)
9:00 AM Stroller Strut: Wonderfully Wild Flowers, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41)

11:30 AM Stroller Strut: Wonderfully Wild Flowers, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41)
11:30 AM Lunch and Learn: Native Wildflowers, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

WED, APR 27, 2011

10:00 AM Advanced Butterfly Class: Butterfly ID, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 39)
10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)

THU, APR 28, 2011

6:00 PM Intro to Smart Cycling, Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 44)
7:00 PM Cafe Sci, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41)

FRI, APR 29, 2011

8:00 AM Arbor Day, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42)
11:30 AM Kids' Crepe-Making Demo, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 37)
7:30 PM Amphibian Appreciation, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 42)
12:00 PM Red River Gorge Backpacking Trip for Women, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 44)
10:00 AM Tike Hike: Backyard Expedition, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

SAT, APR 30, 2011

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Great Miami River Bikeway, Recreational Trails (see page 44)
9:00 AM Dayton Peace Accords 5K Walk Run, Recreational Trails (see page 48)
9:00 AM Smart Cycling Basics, Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 45)
9:00 AM Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs: Introduction to Fishing, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 45)
10:00 AM Wildflower and Native Plant Sale, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 49)
10:00 AM MayFair 2011 Plant Sale, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 49)
10:00 AM Aullwood Photography Session, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 43)
10:00 AM Wildflower Walk, Englewood MetroPark (see page 42)
11:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 38)
1:00 PM Family Scavenger Hunt, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 42)
2:00 PM Drawing at Aullwood With David Leach, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 37)
2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 46)

SUN, MAY 1, 2011

12:00 PM MayFair 2011 Plant Sale, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 49)

2:00 PM Wildflower Walk, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 42)

MON, MAY 2, 2011

6:00 PM Horse Camp for Adults, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 46)

TUE, MAY 3, 2011

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 38)
10:00 AM Advanced Butterfly Class: Gardening for Butterflies, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 39)
6:00 PM Intro to Bike Commuting, Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 45)

WED, MAY 4, 2011

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)
10:00 AM Tike Hike: Buds and Bugs, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 39)

THU, MAY 5, 2011

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Carpet of Color, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 38)
10:00 AM Tike Hike: Beaver Fever, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 39)
11:30 AM Kentucky Derby Dish, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 37)
4:00 PM Try Fly Fishing! Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 45)

FRI, MAY 6, 2011

11:30 AM Lunch and Learn: Contain Yourself, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)
8:00 PM Animals at Night, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 42)
10:00 PM Night Fishing at Eastwood Lake, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 45)
10:00 PM Night Fishing at Possum Creek MetroPark, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 45)

SAT, MAY 7, 2011

8:00 AM Derby Day Dash, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 49)
9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Stillwater River Bikeway (N), Englewood MetroPark (see page 44)
9:00 AM Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs: Casting, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 45)
9:00 AM Birding Workshop: Warblers, Germantown MetroPark (see page 42)
10:00 AM Catnip Toys, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)
10:00 AM Kids' Fishing Derby, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 48)
10:00 AM Beginning Birders, Englewood MetroPark (see page 42)
11:00 AM Make Your Own Crepe, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 37)
1:00 PM Explore Insects, Huffman MetroPark (see page 42)

1:00 PM Family Nature Games, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 41)

1:00 PM Nature's Incredible Edibles, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 35)

2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 46)

SUN, MAY 8, 2011

11:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Germantown MetroPark (see page 38)

MON, MAY 9, 2011

6:00 PM Intro to Kayaking, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 47)

TUE, MAY 10, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Englewood MetroPark (see page 39)

10:00 AM Parent and Preschooler: Step into Science, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 40)

1:00 PM How Now Brown Cow? Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

6:00 PM Volunteer: Bike to Work Day Orientation, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 45)

WED, MAY 11, 2011

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)

THU, MAY 12, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Sugar Creek MetroPark (see page 39)

4:00 PM Try Kayaking! Eastwood MetroPark (see page 47)

FRI, MAY 13, 2011

5:00 PM Urban Nights, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 48)

7:00 PM Frog Chorus, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 42)

SAT, MAY 14, 2011

6:00 AM Spring Birding Field Trip to Magee Marsh, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 42)

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Wolf Creek Bikeway (W), Recreational Trails (see page 44)

9:00 AM Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs: Knot Tying, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 45)

9:00 AM Volunteer: Backpacking Trail Work Days, Germantown MetroPark (see page 44)

10:00 AM Springtime Nature Photography, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 43)

10:00 AM Good Gardening Series: Part 5 Planting the Garden, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

12:00 PM Volunteer: MoMBA Trail Work Days, Huffman MetroPark (see page 46)

2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Huffman MetroPark (see page 46)

2:00 PM Woodman Fen Exploration, Woodman Fen Conservation Area (see page 42)

SUN, MAY 15, 2011

12:00 PM Corn Planting on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)

1:30 PM Hills & Dales Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 46)

1:30 PM Learning from the Landscape: Renovate & Rejuvenate, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

MON, MAY 16, 2011

6:00 PM Learn To Row with GRDA, Island MetroPark (see page 48)

TUE, MAY 17, 2011

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Little Sprouts, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

6:00 PM Kayak Basics, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 47)

WED, MAY 18, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)

10:00 AM Golden Gardeners, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

11:30 AM Lunch and Learn: Water-Wise Gardens, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

THU, MAY 19, 2011

11:30 AM Naturally Gluten Free, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 37)

FRI, MAY 20, 2011

6:00 AM National Bike to Work Day Pancake Breakfast, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Solar Power, Englewood MetroPark (see page 39)

SAT, MAY 21, 2011

8:00 AM TAB-A-PULL-OOZA, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

8:30 AM Family Farm Chores, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

8:30 AM Morning Chores on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 33)

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Creekside Bikeway, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 44)

9:00 AM Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs; Fishing Skills, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 45)

10:00 AM Drawing Workshop with David Leach, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37)

10:00 AM Roses and Irises and Peonies, Oh, My! Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 36)

11:00 AM Lemonade on the Lawn: Aullwood Open House, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 36)

2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

MON, MAY 23, 2011

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Salamander Search, Sugar Creek MetroPark (see page 39)

5:30 PM Youth MTB Race Series, Huffman MetroPark (see page 47)

TUE, MAY 24, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 39)

9:00 AM Stroller Strut: Garden Explorer, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 40)

6:00 PM Mulching Your Garden, Off Site (see page 34)

6:00 PM Intro to Kayaking, Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 47)

WED, MAY 25, 2011

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 38)

6:00 PM Green Garden Q&A, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 36)

7:00 PM Volunteer: Paddle in the Park Orientation, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 47)

THU, MAY 26, 2011

7:00 PM Cafe Sci, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41)

6:00 PM Volunteer: MoMBA Trail Work Days, Huffman MetroPark (see page 46)

SAT, MAY 28, 2011

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Great Miami Bikeway (C), Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 44)

9:00 AM Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs: Graduation, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 45)

1:00 PM Family Nature Walk, Englewood MetroPark (see page 41)

1:00 PM Wildflowers and Woodpeckers, Sugar Creek MetroPark (see page 43)

2:00 PM Hike for the Health of It! Eastwood MetroPark (see page 46)

7:30 PM Free Summer Concert Series, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 48)

9:00 PM Screech Owl Search, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 43)

SUN, MAY 29, 2011

10:00 AM Twin Valley Trail Hike with the Dayton Metro Hikers, Germantown MetroPark (see page 46)

11:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 38)

1:00 PM Eco-friendly No-Till Corn Planting, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

SAT, JUN 4, 2011

10:00 AM Paddle in the Park, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 49)

EDUCATION

FARMING

(FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER: SUSTAINABLE FARM PROGRAMS

Parents and preschoolers are invited to Possum Creek MetroPark's sustainable farm to learn how food gets from the farm to dinner table. Reservations are required and limited. Age: 3Y - 6Y.

LITTLE APPLE GOAT

TUE, MAR 8, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Join us for the reading of Caroline Church's book "Little Apple Goat." Afterwards there will be a craft and products provided by goats. We will end the program with a trip to the barn and visit our goats. Reservations begin February 21; call (937) 276-7062. **6499**

PLAYFUL PIGGIES

TUE, APR 12, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn about Possum Creek's pigs. We will read a book and do a craft, all related to pigs. When we are finished, we will take a walk to the pig pen and visit with our pigs. Reservations begin March 9; call (937) 276-7062. **6500**

HOW NOW BROWN COW?

TUE, MAY 10, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Cows are very important to our daily nutrition. Learn about all the good things cattle do for us. We will read a book, do a craft and enjoy some treats from cows. Then we will visit the barn so you can meet our cow. Reservations begin April 13; call (937) 276-7062. **6501**

(FREE) WHAT'S GROWING?

SAT, MAR 12, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Junior Farmer Series 2 will concentrate on the different crops that grow on farms of all sizes. We will meet two Saturdays a month, March through September. Sign up for the entire series and complete 10 classes to receive a certificate and memento. A list of topics, dates, and times will be provided at the first session Saturday, March 12, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Reservations required and limited, beginning March 1. Call (937) 276-7062. Age: 7Y - 16Y. **6365**

(FREE) FROM TASSEL TO TABLE

SAT, MAR 19, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Corn is important to everyday life. Be a-mazed at the different products that are corn based. Make some corn plastic and eat a corn snack! Reservations required and limited, beginning March 1. Call (937) 276-7062. Age: 6Y - 15Y. **6362**

(FREE) FAMILY FARM CHORES

SAT, MAR 19, 8:30 AM-10:30 AM 6368

SAT, APR 9, 8:30 AM-10:30 AM 6369

SAT, MAY 21, 8:30 AM-10:30 AM 6370

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Join a farm staff member to feed and brush animals, gather eggs, and clean stalls. Get to know some of the farm animals up close and personal. Meet at farmhouse. Reservations required and limited, beginning March 1. Call (937) 276-7062 for more information or to register. Age: 6Y and up.


(FREE) MORNING CHORES ON THE FARM

SAT, MAR 19, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM 6491

SAT, APR 16, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM 6492

SAT, MAY 21, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM 6493

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

Families can help the farm hand with daily chores on the historical farm. Clean stalls, collect eggs or feed the animals. Dress for the weather and barnyard work. Meet at the big red barn. Reservations required and limited: Call (937) 278-2609 or register online. Age: 6Y - 18Y. 

(FREE) FEED MILLING DEMONSTRATION

SAT, MAR 26, 12:00 PM-4:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Stop by to watch as the farmers shell and grind last year's corn crop for feed for our animals. Watch how the tractor is used to grind corn cobs for animal bedding. Meet at barn. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome: Call (937) 276-7062 to register or for more information. Age: 5Y and up. **6367**

(FREE) ECO-FRIENDLY NO-TILL CORN PLANTING

SUN, MAY 29, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Meet at demonstration crop fields to watch

and learn as we plant this year's corn crop with a cutting-edge approach to no-till crops, which uses no conventional herbicides or fertilizers. Talk with the farmer and learn the methods and equipment used, and watch as corn crop is planted into a weed barrier mat of winter rye and vetch. Ongoing demonstrations. Weather and crop dependent. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 12Y and up. **6374**

GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

MIAMI VALLEY GARDENING CONFERENCE: THE FUTURE OF GARDENING

SAT, MAR 5, 7:30 AM-5:00 PM

OFF SITE, Sinclair Community College, 444 West Third St., Dayton

Discover the future of gardening! Keynote speakers include Peter Del Tredici and Jeff Lowenfels. Your day includes four break-out sessions led by area experts with sections for new, experienced, and vegetable gardeners. Enjoy hands-on demonstrations and optional cooking sessions by The Culinary Arts Department of Sinclair. Registration includes breakfast, snack, lunch, breaks and parking. Fee: \$50, \$25 for full-time students, **due February 18**. For more information or to register, visit www.metroparks.org/conference or call (937) 277-6545. Fees: \$50 **6008** 

(FREE) COMPOST KITCHEN SERIES:

Compost can be the winning ingredient for a successful garden. Classes can be taken individually or as a series. Those completing all three classes will receive a certificate for a free composter from Montgomery County Solid Waste District. Reservations are required and limited; call (937) 434-9005.

BUILDING BETTER SOIL

WED, MAR 9, 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,

MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Plants need soil for nutrients. Gardeners will learn how to determine their soil type and how to enhance the soil to ensure gardening success. Age: 18Y and up. **6334**

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

WED, MAR 16, 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,

MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

During this program, we will discuss the

process involved in creating compost, the characteristics of good compost, and problem-solve typical concerns of the home gardener. Age: 18Y and up. **6335**

ALL ABOUT WORMS

WED, MAR 23, 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Worms can make fast work of turning trash into green gold for your garden. Discover whether the wigglers are your preferred type of composting and how they can do dirty work for you. Age: 18Y and up. **6336**

(FREE) LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES:

Enjoy speakers who will give new meaning to the term “power gardening” during this popular brown bag lunch series. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 18Y and up.

PRUNING BASICS

THU, MAR 17, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Proper pruning is the key to maintaining plant health and the desired form. Learn the basic techniques for caring for your woody plants. A portion of the class will consist of outdoor demonstrations, so bring your pruners and dress for the weather. **6345**

EMERALD ASH BORER IN OHIO

TUE, MAR 29, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle discovered in Michigan in the summer of 2002. It continues to wreak havoc on us and the Ash tree communities. Join us to learn where we are today with this menace, who is quarantined as well as what that means, and what our options are. **6341**

ATTRACTING BIRDS TO THE GARDENS

FRI, APR 15, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Great gardens have more than beautiful plants. Mirror a healthy natural ecosystem and learn how to invite some of your favorite birds into your garden. **6343**

NATIVE WILDFLOWERS

TUE, APR 26, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Native wildflowers are often overlooked for the shade garden. Bring your lunch and

discover with Brian Jorg, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, some of the plants that will become part of your must-have list. Stay after the program for a guided tour through the wildflower garden. **6342**

CONTAIN YOURSELF

FRI, MAY 6, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Container Gardens are a great way to bring beautiful plants to your doorstep. Bring your lunch and learn how to create a dramatic container garden. Get a sneak peek at the accent plants that can be purchased through our Garden Store. **6344**

WATER-WISE GARDENS

WED, MAY 18, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Worried to leave your garden even for a day in the summer for fear of wilting upon your return? Bring your lunch and learn the details to make your garden more water wise. **6340**

(FREE) IN THE GARDEN SERIES

Get hands-on experience and gardening tips with seasoned MetroParks horticulture staff at one of the Grow With Your Neighbors Community Gardens.

COOL WEATHER: CROPS & TRELLISES

SAT, MAR 19, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Community Garden, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Get hands-on experience planting cool season spring crops and building simple trellises for peas. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. For details, call (937) 277-6545. **6228**

MULCHING YOUR GARDEN

TUE, MAY 24, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

OFF SITE, College Hill Community Garden Save time weeding and save money watering! Learn to mulch your garden properly. College Hill Community Garden located at the east dead-end of Parkhill (off Lanewood), 45406. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. For details, call (937) 277-6545. **6226**

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BECOME A GREEN GARDENER

SAT, MAR 19, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Join us for lunch and learn which Green

Garden volunteer opportunity at the Sustainable Garden Classroom is right for you. Green gardening is about growing your own food—fresh, flavorful and pesticide-free. Reservations required. For details, call (937) 277-6545. **6230**

(FREE) LEARNING FROM THE LANDSCAPE SERIES:

This “walk and talk” program takes place on the third Sunday through September. Seasonal topics will be discussed within the Arboretum’s landscape. Dress appropriately for the outdoors. Reservations requested, call (937) 434-9005 or register online.

EARLY COLOR AND INTEREST

SUN, MAR 20, 1:30 PM-3:30 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Huffman Gallery, 6733 Springboro Pk. Get a closer look at the early signs of new life springing up at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. Enjoy the colors and sounds that surround you while learning about ways to enhance your garden early in the season. Age: 18Y and up. **6337**

WOODLAND WILDFLOWERS

SUN, APR 17, 1:30 PM-3:30 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Huffman Gallery, 6733 Springboro Pk. The spotlight is on the beauty of Ohio’s wildflowers as you learn about identification characteristics, habitat and cultural requirements. Each walk will last about a half hour. Age: 18Y and up. **6338**

RENOVATE & REJUVENATE

SUN, MAY 15, 1:30 PM-3:30 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Huffman Gallery, 6733 Springboro Pk. Give your existing landscape a face-lift without removing it entirely. During this relaxing walk-and-talk program, participants will learn techniques to rejuvenate existing landscapes as well as care for many popular garden plants. Age: 18Y and up. **6339**

GOOD GARDENING SERIES:

Join us for a five-part series on sustainable gardening, which includes all the aspects of creating and growing a beautiful and healthy garden while being good to the earth as well. Attend one or all five courses. We will visit the community gardens when applicable for demonstrations. For more information or to reserve a spot, call (937) 277-6545.

(FREE) PART 1 THE JOY OF DIRT

SAT, MAR 26, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult

Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. MetroParks' Mark Davis, who also teaches at Clark State, will tell you all you need to know about soil and how to make and keep it healthy. Because good soil is the beginning of any good garden, this is a program you won't want to miss! Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. **6240**

PART 2 BUILDING A RAIN BARREL

SAT, APR 9, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. A rain barrel is a great way to get free water for your landscape! We will offer three options this year: 1) Pay for the barrel, completed; pick it up the day of class: \$70, 2) Come to class and build it with help: \$30, 3) Come to class, pick up materials and build it at home: \$20. Reservations required and limited. Please call (937) 277-6545 for information. Fees: \$20-\$70 **6241**

(FREE) PART 3 WELCOME SPRING: WEEDS AND WATER

SAT, APR 16, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Before you can get gardening in spring, you need to think about weeds and watering in summer. Today, we'll talk about methods for stopping weeds before they start and controlling them if they do, and discuss methods of watering the garden, ranging from drip irrigation hose to in-ground water delivery systems called ollas. A great class for anyone who gardens. Registrations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. **6242**

(FREE) PART 4 PLANNING THE GARDEN

SAT, APR 23, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Great gardens begin with a great plan. Learn about site analysis, garden size, getting the most from the least space, plant selection, structures, fences, and supports. We'll talk about the right size garden for you as well as the best plants. Come with your notebook and questions and go home with a design for a wonderful garden. Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. **6243**

(FREE) PART 5 PLANTING THE GARDEN

SAT, MAY 14, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM


WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Now that you've planned your garden, it's time to plant! This class will take you step-

by-step from planting seeds and seedlings to staking and installing support system, as well as watering systems. We'll talk creative plant combinations as well as ingenious vegetable pairings. Learn the best use of space, color, and texture for the most beautiful garden you've ever had! **6247**

ADVANCED GARDENING WITH JANET MACUNOVICH


TUE, APR 5, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM **6332**

WED, APR 6, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM **6348**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Garden designer and author Janet Macunovich is bringing a series of classes to help make a new garden or improve one you already have. Those who attend the series are given the special offer of a personal review by the instructor. This is not a beginner series. Fee is required at time of reservation. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Fees: \$10 per session 


(FREE) YOUTH GARDEN CLUB FOR BEGINNERS

TUE, APR 12 - TUE, SEP 6, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Garden, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Each Tuesday, parents and kids learn to garden together by participating in weekly work and activities from planning to harvest. Games, cooking, and hands-on learning make for a fun, productive growing season. Participants are expected to commit to the whole season. A random drawing will be used to fill club spaces. **Drawing registration is open until March 15.** Registrations received after this date will be added in the order they are received. Call (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 6Y - 8Y. **6318** 


(FREE) WHERE DOES ALL THE RAIN GO?

WED, APR 13, 5:30 PM-6:30 PM

OFF SITE, CountyCorp Model Home, 5870 Beth Road, Huber Heights Explore the rain garden— and rain barrels— at one of CountyCorp's green rebuilt model homes. Learn why rain gardens are important, how you can incorporate either this design and/or native plants in your landscaping at home. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-6545 for details or register online. **6290** 


(FREE) ADVANCED YOUTH GARDEN CLUB

THU, APR 14 - THU, SEP 8, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Community Garden, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Each Thursday, participants get an in-depth look at how the garden works and how to manage it. Activities coincide with garden needs and include skill building, hands-on work, games, cooking, and fun! Participants are expected to commit to the whole season. A random drawing will be used to fill club spaces. **Drawing registration is open until March 15.** Registrations received after this date will be added in the order they are received; call (937) 277-6545. Age: 9Y - 12Y. **6482** 

(FREE) TREE BLOSSOM TEA PARTY

WED, APR 20, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Garden Green, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Every year cultures around the world celebrate the appearance of cherry blossoms. Bring a tea cup, lunch and a blanket and come celebrate our many varieties of tree blossoms. We'll provide the tea and activities. Tea party attire is optional, but encouraged! Weather permitting. Reservations required, call (937) 277-6545 or register online. Age: 3Y - 6Y. **6227** 

(FREE) NATURE'S INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

SAT, MAY 7, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Discover and learn what may be growing in your yard, garden or a neighboring field that you can harvest for your eating enjoyment and not cost you a cent. Perhaps you can even designate a place in your home garden or landscape to propagate these plants for the beginnings of Permaculture. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 276-7062. Age: 18Y and up. **6372**

(FREE) GOLDEN GARDENERS

WED, MAY 18 - WED, AUG 17, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Wegerzyn Center, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Seniors with limited mobility are invited to garden in a wheel chair- and walker-accessible area with raised containers. Gloves, tools and refreshments are provided. Meet Wednesdays through August 3. Every week learn something new

about plant and root growth, mulching and weeding. Taste and take home vegetables and flowers, and enjoy cooking demonstrations and impromptu parties. You may join us at any time during the planting and growing season. Registration required and limited, call (937) 277-6545. **6254**

(FREE) ROSES AND IRISES AND PEONIES, OH, MY!

SAT, MAY 21, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. May is the perfect time for some of the most beautiful flowers we grow. Learn about varieties and care for each of these wonderful plants and take a tour of Wegerzyn's outstanding collections. This is a great class for long-time and beginning gardeners as well. Bring your friends, your camera, and a notebook. Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Call (937) 277-6545. **6252**

(FREE) GREEN GARDEN Q&A

WED, MAY 25, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Community Garden, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Green gardening is about growing your own food—fresh, flavorful, and pesticide-free. Green Gardener volunteers at the Sustainable Garden Classroom share their knowledge and experience with you and answer your gardening questions. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. For details, call (937) 277-6545. **6229**

GREEN LIVING

(FREE) ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES:

Join us for our fifth anniversary season of film and discussion during the 2011 Environmental Film Series. Films are shown on the first Wednesday of the month, January-March, July and August. Enjoy free popcorn and refreshments during the film and stay afterward to share your observations with others during open discussion. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 434-9005 or register online.

SHORT TAKES

WED, MAR 2, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. These films, while short, pack a punch with their messages on invasive species, consumerism, and the struggles that happen

when environmental and economic concerns align. Films include Nutkin's Last Stand, Butterfly, Aquafinito, The Secret Life of Paper, and We Are The Zaballeen. **6248**

DEEP DOWN

WED, APR 6, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Beverly and Terry grew up on opposite sides of a mountain ridge in eastern Kentucky. Now in their fifties, the two find themselves in a debate dividing their community and the world: Who controls, consumes and benefits from our planet's shrinking supply of natural resources? This film examines the myriad impacts of our actions. Film length: 57 minutes. **6249**

(FREE) GO GREEN!

THU, APR 14, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Sally Leatherman from A Greener You will give you the top ten ways to go green at home and create a safer, healthier environment. She'll also share recipes for green living. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 228-2088 to register, or register online. **6331**

HERITAGE & HISTORY

(FREE) CORN SHELLING & GRINDING

SUN, MAR 20, 12:00 PM-5:00 PM
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E. Shull Rd. Try your hand at one of the most common 19th century midwest farm chores. Visitors of all ages can stop by the barn to help shell the kernels from the cob for feed. Also, watch as the kernels are then ground for feed using our steam engine. Call (937) 278-2609 for more information. **6489**

(FREE) APPRENTICE DAY

SUN, APR 3, 12:00 PM-5:00 PM
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E. Shull Rd. Want to learn an 1880s occupation? Children ages 8 and up are invited to come to the farm to learn about period skills such as blacksmithing, woodworking, baking, cooking and domestic arts. Come learn about the time period by lending a hand. Call (937) 278-2609 for details. **6487**

(FREE) FROM SHEEP TO SHAWLS **SAT, APR 16 - SUN, APR 17, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E. Shull Rd. The role that sheep played on the farm will be discussed for this comprehensive program. Watch as the sheep are sheared for the spring at 2:00 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 and weavers process the wool into yarn. Call (937) 278-2609 for more information. **6488**

(FREE) CORN PLANTING ON THE FARM

SUN, MAY 15, 12:00 PM-5:00 PM
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 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. Afterward, stop by the farmhouse to learn a little more about heirloom corn. Call (937) 278-2609 for more information. **6490**

(FREE) LEMONADE ON THE LAWN: AULLWOOD OPEN HOUSE

SAT, MAY 21, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Gardens, 930 Aullwood Rd. Join us for an open house and tour of the gardens. Learn the history of Aullwood and the Aulls and how this wonderful place came to be. Bring your camera and friends and enjoy a beautiful day. Reservations are required. Please call (937) 277-6545. **6526**

HOME & HOBBIES

(FREE) CARRIAGE HILL HERB GROUP PROGRAMS

Join the Carriage Hill Herb Group on the first Saturday of each month, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm for a free program discussing the merits and uses of herbs. Refreshments provided. Call (937) 278-2609 for more information.

BIBLICAL HERBS

SAT, MAR 5, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center Meeting Room, 7800 E. Shull Rd. Many herbs are mentioned in scripture. Join us to learn which herbs are cited and when. **6494**

HERB CHEESES**SAT, APR 2, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

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

Learn how herbs lend themselves to flavor a variety of cheeses and cheese dishes. **6495****CATNIP TOYS****SAT, MAY 7, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

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

Make and take home a toy made with catnip for your pet. **6496****FRESH SUMMER WRAP DEMO****THU, MAR 10, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM**

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

Lamun Amato will demonstrate how to make the fresh summer wraps offered at Baan Thai Noi. After the demo, participants will have the opportunity to make their own wrap and enjoy it for lunch. Register by calling (937) 228-2088. Fees: \$3 **6329****(FREE) MAPLE SYRUP MAESTRO****THU, MAR 31, 11:00 AM-11:45 AM**

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

Learn from the maestro who orchestrates making maple syrup from over 700 trees in his woods. From tapping, to running the flow lines, to producing one of the freshest products at the Market, Dean Dohner will take you on the journey of making syrup that makes pancakes ever so good. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 228-2088 or register online. **6224** 📞**KIDS' CREPE-MAKING DEMO****FRI, APR 29, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM**

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

A cooking class for kids conducted by "the crepe lady," Sabine Grand, from Crepe Boheme. This is a crepe-making demonstration followed by an opportunity for participants to make their own crepe. Registration required and limited. Register by calling (937) 228-2088. Fees: \$3 **6327****(FREE) DRAWING AT AULLWOOD WITH DAVID LEACH****SAT, APR 30, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM**

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Gardens, 930 Aullwood Rd.

Join Dayton artist David Leach for a *plein air* session in Aullwood Gardens. Drop in for some or all of this two-hour program. Bring your friends and drawing materials. A wonderful spring drawing session, no matter what your skill level. **6525** 📞**(FREE) KENTUCKY DERBY DISH****THU, MAY 5, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM**

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

And they're off! Get ready for the big race with Carol Reynolds from Annie's as she demonstrates how to make a recipe that has been in her family for years—a Kentucky Derby dish. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 228-2088 to register, or register online. **6376** 📞**MAKE YOUR OWN CREPE****SAT, MAY 7, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM**

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

Stop by the crepe-making station and learn how to prepare your own crepe from the Market's in-house expert, Sabine Grand. This is a chance to learn what goes into making crepes and then enjoy your own cooking. Bon appetit! Registration not required; walk-ins welcome on a first-come, first-served basis. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. Fees: \$4 **6328****(FREE) NATURALLY GLUTEN FREE****THU, MAY 19, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM**

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

Chef Joe Fish will share some of his most popular gluten-free recipes and tips for selecting the best gluten-free products on the market. He will share his guide for eating local, organic and minimally processed, gluten-free foods. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 228-2088 to register, or register online. **6380** 📞**(FREE) DRAWING WORKSHOP WITH DAVID LEACH****SAT, MAY 21, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Garden Green, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Join David Leach, Dayton artist and professor emeritus of art and art history, for a *plein air* drawing session. This will coincide with building Patrick Dougherty's sculpture. This session will last for four hours; you can come for some or all of the time. Bring your friends, drawing materials and a bag lunch. A wonderful spring session for all, no matter what your skill level. We'll meet in the gardens. Call (937) 277-6545. **6253** 📞**PASSPORT TO NATURE**

This program gives incentives for families to complete eight visits to our designated passport programs. Here's how it works: Visit MetroParks facilities, participate in designated passport programs, and get your passport stamped. When eight of the boxes are stamped, fill in the information and mail your passport to Five Rivers MetroParks. Every child who completes a passport will become an official Nature Traveler and will receive a special traveler gift along with recognition in this publication.

Look for **PTN** in the program listing to see if it qualifies as a **PTN** program! For more information or directions to program sites, call **(937) 275-PARK** or visit us at **METROPARKS.ORG/PASSPORT**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE NATURE TRAVELERS!**FIRST PASSPORT**

Ivan Atkinson
Kelton Bussell
Devin Lutz
Trey Lutz
Kamryn Lutz
Danielle Lutz
Ella Smith
Lauren Smith
Jacob Shearer
Zachary Shearer

SECOND PASSPORT

Shayla Myer
Theodore Horvath

THIRD PASSPORT

Jack Horvath



NATURE

(FREE) DISCOVERY STROLL

Escape on this relaxed-paced adventure through the park while learning about nature and discovering this park's history. Reservations are not required. Weather permitting: Call (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 16Y and up.

TUE, MAR 1, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6442
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, CCC Shelter,
2101 U.S. 40

SUN, MAR 6, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM 6315
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

TUE, MAR 15, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6538
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing
Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.

WED, MAR 16, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6304
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond
and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

WED, MAR 23, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6305
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond
and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

SUN, MAR 27, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM 6316
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, High View Shelter,
9688 Eby Rd

WED, MAR 30, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6306
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond
and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

TUE, APR 5, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6536
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, CCC Shelter,
2101 U.S. 40

WED, APR 6, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6307
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond
and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

SUN, APR 10, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM 6438
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

WED, APR 13, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6308
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond
and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

TUE, APR 19, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6443
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing
Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.

WED, APR 20, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6309
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond
and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

WED, APR 27, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6310
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond
and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

SAT, APR 30, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM 6439
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, High View Shelter,
9688 Eby Rd

TUE, MAY 3, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6537
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, CCC Shelter,
2101 U.S. 40

WED, MAY 4, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6311
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond

and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

SUN, MAY 8, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM 6440
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

WED, MAY 11, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6312
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond
and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

TUE, MAY 17, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6539
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing
Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.

WED, MAY 18, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6313
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond
and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

WED, MAY 25, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6314
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond
and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

SUN, MAY 29, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM 6441
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, High View Shelter,
9688 Eby Rd

(FREE) BACKPACKING BABIES PROGRAMS:

Backpacking Babies programs are for parents and their babies to share stories, enjoy fresh air, and learn about nature. Babies are exposed to new sights, sounds, textures, and smells on each journey. A baby backpack or snuggli is required as trails are not stroller friendly. Weather permitting: Call (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 1M-2Y.

NATURE'S TEXTURES

THU, MAR 3, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178
Conference Rd.

Explore nature with your baby as we feel different textures in our natural environment. **6279**

SIGNS OF SPRING

THU, APR 7, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178
Conference Rd.

Get your baby outside and search for signs of spring! **6280**

CARPET OF COLOR

THU, MAY 5, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178
Conference Rd.

Treat your baby to some fresh air while you both enjoy nature's show of beautiful wildflowers while hiking along a babbling brook. We will stop for a break and snack time in a woodland glade. **6281**

(FREE) TIKE HIKE PROGRAMS:

Take a hike in the woods with your little ones as we get up close and personal with nature! Registration is not required. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN** Age: 2Y - 5Y.

ANIMAL HOMES

FRI, MAR 4, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter/East
Park, 4361 National Road

Search for where the animals are spending the winter and explore how some are keeping warm on this discovery hike. **6264**

HIBERNATING INSECTS

MON, MAR 14, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Blue Heron
Shelter, 2000 U.S. 40

Enjoy an expedition with your preschooler in search of hibernating insects. Once they're found, your child will warm them up with body heat and watch them wake up! **6276**

SQUIRREL SEARCH

TUE, MAR 15, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178
Conference Rd.

Join other preschoolers and their parents in search for this rodent of our treetops. We will explore how these furry creatures get through the winter while enjoying a winter morning in the park. **6277**

MOSS, NATURE'S CARPET

WED, MAR 23, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter,
100 Deep Hollow Rd.

This often-overlooked plant has many secrets to share. Come out and search for different textures of moss in the park! **6275**

WOODLAND ADVENTURE

THU, MAR 31, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center
Outside Amphitheater, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Come with us on an adventurous nature hike through a successional woodland, exploring the trees, plants, and wildlife. **6278**

BACKYARD EXPEDITION

Does your preschooler like exploring the backyard with bug boxes, net, or a magnifying glass? Grab your preschooler's nature study tools and we'll use these tools to connect your child with nature, and make sure your child knows how to be safe in your backyard.

MON, APR 4, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM 6271
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter,
100 Deep Hollow Rd.

WED, APR 6, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM 6265
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Blue Heron
Shelter, 2000 U.S. 40

TUE, APR 12, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM 6272
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178
Conference Rd.

THU, APR 21, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM 6273
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter/East
Park, 4361 National Road

FRI, APR 29, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM 6274
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center
Outside Amphitheater, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

NOCTURNAL ADVENTURE

SAT, APR 9, 8:00 PM-9:00 PM

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter,
100 Deep Hollow Rd.

Join us on a night hike just for preschoolers and their families. We will sit around a campfire and discuss the differences between night and day, talk about our fears of the night, then explore pelts of nocturnal animals. Afterwards, we will venture out in search of screech owls and attempt to lure one in close for the children to see. **6555**

BUDS AND BUGS

WED, MAY 4, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter,
100 Deep Hollow Rd.

Use face paint to transform your preschooler into a bee, bug, or butterfly. We will pretend to be nature's pollinators, exploring flowers, and discovering the relationships that flowers have with bugs. **6266**

BEAVER FEVER

THU, MAY 5, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Eastwood Lake, 1401
Harshman Rd.

Learn about the largest rodents in North America while searching for them and the clues they leave behind. **6267**

LITTLE SPROUTS

TUE, MAY 17, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center
Outside Amphitheater, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Learn what a plant needs to grow and search for baby plants in the park. **6270**

SOLAR POWER

FRI, MAY 20, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter/East
Park, 4361 National Road

Discover the power of the sun and learn how important it is to nature, as a clock, and for energy! **6268**

SALAMANDER SEARCH

MON, MAY 23, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178
Conference Rd.

Treat your preschooler to dirty hands and fresh air as we explore the park for salamanders. **6269**

(FREE) MAPLE SUGARING IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

SAT, MAR 5, 2:30 PM-4:00 PM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

Hike along the white trail to learn how the Native Americans began maple sugaring, how the pioneers adapted the process, and how it can be done today in your own backyard. Sample a taste of real maple syrup made here at the Nature Center kitchen. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 6259**

(FREE) WHO AND WHAT MAKES MAPLE SYRUP?

SAT, MAR 5, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178
Conference Rd.

Take a family-friendly hike along the trail to learn how the Native Americans began maple sugaring, how the pioneers adapted the process, and how it can be done today in your own backyard. Sample a taste of real maple syrup made in a local kitchen. We'll enjoy signs of spring along the way. Weather permitting; call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 6260**

(FREE) ADULT NATURE WALK

Explore nature while meeting new friends on this slow-paced journey. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. Call (937) 277-4178 for details.

TUE, MAR 8, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6395

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

THU, MAR 10, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6394

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178
Conference Rd.

WED, MAR 16, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6396

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

TUE, MAR 22, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6404

EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot,
1385 Harshman Rd.

TUE, APR 12, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6402

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

THU, APR 14, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6400

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178
Conference Rd.

WED, APR 20, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6399

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

TUE, APR 26, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6405

EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot,
1385 Harshman Rd.

TUE, MAY 10, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6403

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter

Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

THU, MAY 12, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6401

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178
Conference Rd.

WED, MAY 18, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6398

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

TUE, MAY 24, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 6406

EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot,
1385 Harshman Rd.

(FREE) ADVANCED BUTTERFLY PROGRAM SERIES:

We'll give you the skills to attract butterflies to your garden. Reservations required; call (937) 434-9005 or register online for any or all of the following programs. Age: 14Y and up.

WHERE DO BUTTERFLIES COME FROM?

TUE, MAR 8, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Have you ever wondered why a butterfly watches over a territory? Discover how color, markings and pheromones help a butterfly find a mate. Explore more about butterfly courtship and mating rituals. **6282** 🦋

BUTTERFLY ID

WED, APR 27, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third
Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Go beyond the swallowtail to learn more in-depth identification. Discover more about the family groups and how to classify various butterflies. **6379** 🦋

GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES

TUE, MAY 3, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM 6283

TUE, MAY 10, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM 6563

TUE, MAY 17, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM 6564

TUE, MAY 24, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM 6565

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Explore the importance of the host plant and butterfly connection in this four-session course. It takes more than a butterfly bush to attract butterflies. You'll learn practices as they apply to butterfly gardens. Knowledge of butterflies and plants recommended. 🦋

(FREE) PROJECT FEEDER WATCH

FRI, MAR 11, 12:30 PM-2:30 PM 6434

SAT, MAR 12, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM 6435

FRI, MAR 25, 12:30 PM-2:30 PM 6436

SAT, MAR 26, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM 6437

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

Enjoy our Window on Wildlife from the warmth of indoors. Help count the visitors

to our bird feeders for a citizen's science report to be sent to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Bird watchers of all skill levels are welcome. Meet at the Window on Wildlife in the Nature Center. Weather permitting; call (937) 277-4178 for details.

(FREE) WOODCOCK DANCE

FRI, MAR 11, 6:30 PM-7:30 PM 6412
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, High View Shelter,
9688 Eby Rd

SAT, MAR 12, 6:30 PM-7:30 PM 6413
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing
Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.
Be a witness to the woodcock's extravagant
mating display of circles, spirals, and dives
while enjoying the crisp night. Call (937) 277-
4178 for details. **PTN**

(FREE) SIGNS OF SPRING

SAT, MAR 12, 2:30 PM-3:30 PM
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

Join us as we walk the trails looking for signs
of spring. No reservations required; call
(937) 277-4178. **PTN 6420**

WATERFOWL FIELD TRIP

SAT, MAR 12, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education
Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Learn how to identify Ohio's waterfowl
while discussing their life histories as we
travel in vans to different birding hot spots
throughout the Dayton area, including
Spring Valley Wildlife Area. Bring binoculars
and a spotting scope if you have one.
Reservations required and limited; call (937)
277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up.
Fees: \$10 **6470** 🍷

(FREE) CHILDREN'S TOUR GUIDE WORKSHOP SERIES:

Discover the joy of sharing nature with
children, as a volunteer children's tour
guide at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. No
experience is necessary; however, potential
guides should be able to walk/hike the
Arboretum grounds comfortably. Find out
more by attending our training workshops or
call (937) 275-5059. Reservations requested;
walk-ins welcome. Register online or call
(937) 434-9005. Age: 16Y and up.

WELCOME SPRING!

MON, MAR 14, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Get ready to welcome students and spring

back to the Arboretum. Retired or returning
guides and anyone with enthusiasm for
working with students in nature is invited to
our first training. Find out what is involved
in tour guiding at the Arboretum and get an
overview of our spring tours. Refreshments
provided. **6234** 🍷

BODACIOUS BOTANY

MON, MAR 21, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
This workshop with Rich Pearson,
horticulturist with Cox Arboretum
MetroPark, will give you an eye-opening
view into the world of botany and easy
ways to relate plant concepts to students
during tours. Both returning and new guides
will be armed with the information to
answer questions about the world of plants.
Refreshments provided. **6235** 🍷

WILDFLOWERS IN THE WILD

MON, MAR 28, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
We'll explore the world of wildflowers and
the wonders of our own wildflower garden at
the Arboretum with volunteer Kathy Dulaney.
Kathy will share her wealth of knowledge and
expertise about these beautiful plants, along
with tidbits to add to your tours. A portion of
the program will be outdoors; please dress
appropriately. **6236** 🍷

(FREE) PARENT AND PRESCHOOLER PROGRAMS:

Parent and Preschool programs will engage
children ages 3-6 years old and their
caregiver in nature discoveries. Participants
will explore station-based activities with
topics related to plants, science, and the
world around them. For details about this
program, call (937) 434-9005. Age: 3Y - 6Y. 🍷

DO YOU LIVE IN A TREE?

TUE, MAR 15, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6180
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third
Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

SENSING A CHANGE

THU, APR 7, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6182
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third
Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

STEP INTO SCIENCE

TUE, MAY 10, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6181
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third
Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

(FREE) EARLY SPRINGTIME WALK

SAT, MAR 19, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter
Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

Spring is right around the corner! Join
us as we take a hike through Englewood
MetroPark and search for signs of spring. No
reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for
more information. **PTN 6458** 🍷

(FREE) EUREKA LAB! EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR VEGGIES

SAT, MAR 19, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering
Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Instead of eating, in today's lab, we'll be
experimenting with some of your favorite
vegetables. Participants will get hands-
on and make their own discoveries about
what powers are hidden in the edible parts
of plants. Drop-in between 1-2:30pm to
participate. Children must be accompanied
by an adult while in the lab. No reservations
required. Call (937) 434-9005 for more
information. Age: 6Y - 12Y. **6244** 🍷

(FREE) WATERFOWL AT HUFFMAN

SAT, MAR 19, 1:30 PM-3:30 PM
HUFFMAN METROPARK, Huffman North Park,
4095 Lower Valley Pk
Bring your family to Huffman MetroPark for
a chance to learn about migrating waterfowl!
Characteristics of ducks and wading birds
will be presented, and participants will have
access to a spotting scope to better observe
these colorful creatures. Bring binoculars
if you have them. Meet in first parking lot.
Reservations not required. Call (937) 277-
4178 for details. **PTN 6459** 🍷

(FREE) BEAVER SEARCH

SAT, MAR 19, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot,
1385 Harshman Rd.
Search for beavers while learning about
the life history of North America's largest
rodent. Reservations not required. Call (937)
277-4178 for details. **PTN 6460** 🍷

(FREE) STROLLER STRUT PROGRAMS:

Stroller Strut is a casual stroll on the
Arboretum ground for caregivers and
children ages 0-3 years old. Each strut has
a nature theme and encourages interaction
between the caregiver and child as they
discover new plants and their surroundings.
For details about this program, call (937) 434-
9005. Age: 1M - 3Y. 🍷

WARM WINDS BLOW

TUE, MAR 22, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM 6183
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

WONDERFULLY WILD FLOWERS

TUE, APR 26, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM 6545
TUE, APR 26, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM 6546
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

GARDEN EXPLORER

TUE, MAY 24, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM 6187
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.
All good explorers use tools to help them. Today we'll make some of our own fun tools to use on our adventure at the arboretum. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 434-9005 or register online.

(FREE) CAFÉ SCI:

Join us for this month's cafe and discover science in a relaxed atmosphere with friends and neighbors from the Miami Valley. Increase your science savvy and share your opinion in our open discussion following the topic introduction. Light refreshments provided. Call (937) 275-5059 for final topic details.

NATIVE WILDFLOWERS IN THE LANDSCAPE

THU, MAR 24, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Join local wildflower expert and volunteer Kathy Dulaney and discover more about the wonders of wildflowers and the importance of conserving them in our native landscapes. She will share her 20+ years of experience working with these beauties. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. **6231** 📞

CAFE SCI

THU, APR 28, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM 6232
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

THU, MAY 26, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM 6233
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

(FREE) RACCOON SEARCH

FRI, MAR 25, 7:30 PM-8:30 PM
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.
Raccoons are one of Ohio's most well-known animals. Learn more about these bandits of the woods, share raccoon stories, and search for them in the park. No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 6261** 📞

(FREE) BIRDS OF PREY

SAT, MAR 26, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.
A Bird's Paradise has invited Susan Williams from RAPTOR to bring her birds of prey to the Market. You can have an up-close look at these fascinating predators and get your questions answered about these amazing raptors. No registration required. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. **6330**

(FREE) FAMILY NATURE GAMES

Bring out your family and learn how to inject fun into your nature hikes by playing games that teach ecological principles! These are the same games professional naturalists use, and require little to no materials and set-up time. Bring a bandana if you have one. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN**

SAT, MAR 26, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM 6447
WESLEYAN METROPARK, Pavilion Shelter, 1441 Wesleyan Rd.

SAT, MAY 7, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM 6452
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

(FREE) TREE TRIVIA

SAT, MAR 26, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.
What tree gives off a toxin so that other plants can't grow below it? Which tree was used to control livestock before barbed wire was common? Explore how trees have shaped our history and how they are used today by humans and wildlife. No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 6453**

(FREE) WELCOME TO WILDFLOWERS

SAT, APR 2, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.
Learn ways to identify spring wildflowers using a simple wildflower key. Later, use your knowledge to identify wildflowers on a walk through a rich woodland habitat. A naturalist will locate other prime sites within the park to view these spring jewels. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **6421**

(FREE) MAMMAL STUDY

SAT, APR 2, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.
Explore the common mammals of Dayton by examining pelts, tracks, replicated scat, and skulls. We will learn how each

mammal interacts with its environment and explore their relationship with people. No reservation required. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 6424**

(FREE) FAMILY NATURE WALK

Venture into a magnificent beech forest to study spring's beginning. We will explore migrating birds, examine budding trees, search for salamanders, and discover spring's first wildflowers. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN**

SAT, APR 2, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM 6534
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

SAT, MAY 28, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM 6476
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter/East Park, 4361 National Road

(FREE) NOCTURNAL AMPHIBIAN SEARCH

FRI, APR 8, 8:00 PM-9:30 PM
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.
Search for spring peepers and spotted salamanders in Sugarcreek's vernal pool. If time allows, we may go for a night hike and try to call in barred owls! Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. **PTN 6448** 📞

(FREE) PROJECT WILD WORKSHOP

SAT, APR 9, 9:30 AM-4:00 PM
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Open to anyone that teaches children, Project Wild is a nationally recognized curriculum designed to bring nature into your classroom. Participants get to take home Project Wild and Project Aquatic activity guides, as well as other resources offered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Reservations required and limited: Call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. **6317** 📞

(FREE) WOODPECKER WALK

SAT, APR 9, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.
Hills & Dales MetroPark is home to five different woodpeckers: the red-bellied, flicker, downy, hairy, and pileated! Come search for woodpeckers rearing young on this slow-paced walk through the park. No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 6262** 📞

(FREE) OWL PROWL**FRI, APR 15, 8:00 PM-10:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Journey into the Argonne Forest and search for the barred owl, as a naturalist attempts to call them in. Later, travel through screech owl habitat and bask in the sounds of these little owls. No reservations required. Weather permitting; Call (937) 277-4178. **PTN 6450**

(FREE) WILDFLOWER WALK

Enjoy a leisurely walk in the park and bask in the beauty of wildflowers as naturalists ID them and share stories of folklore. Weather permitting; Call (937) 277-4178. **PTN**

SUN, APR 17, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM 6462

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

SAT, APR 30, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 6463

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, West Park Parking Lot, 100 East National Rd.

SUN, MAY 1, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM 6469

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

BEGINNING BIRDING WORKSHOP**SAT, APR 23, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

This workshop starts with the basics of birding, including bird identification, field guide and binocular use, bird song, biology, and behavior. The two-hour indoor session will be followed by a two-hour field study in the prairie and forest. Participants are encouraged to attend the afternoon Bird Song Study program. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$5 **6471** 📞

(FREE) BIRD SONG STUDY**SAT, APR 23, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Study 20 common Dayton birds and their vocalizations with this relaxed study session. After studying, we will play games and tell stories to help us remember these songs. Later we will hike through different habitats in search of birds and test our new skill. Each participant will be given an ODNR "Ohio Bird Song" CD. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. **6472** 📞

(FREE) ARBOR DAY**FRI, APR 29, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn about the trees at Cox Arboretum. Take a stroll along a paved pathway or on one of three trails. Blossom Buggy will also be available for those that want a guided tour. To learn more about our trees, stop in the Visitor's Center and pick up a copy of the "Guide to the Trees of Cox Arboretum," or drop in on one of the tree demonstrations. For more details, call (937) 434-9005. **6333**

(FREE) AMPHIBIAN APPRECIATION**FRI, APR 29, 7:30 PM-9:00 PM**

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Hilltop Shelter, 1200 Brown School Rd.

Frogs are singing their nocturnal songs! Join us as we search a frog pond for these enchanting vocalists and learn what it takes to be an amphibian. Bring a flashlight and wear shoes that can get wet. No reservations required. For more information, call (937) 277-4178. **PTN 6461**

(FREE) FAMILY SCAVENGER HUNT**SAT, APR 30, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM**

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Search the park for natural treasures! A list will be provided to participants upon arrival. Bring a pen or pencil to check off your findings. Reservations not required. Call (937) 277-4178 for more details. **PTN 6465** 📞

(FREE) ANIMALS AT NIGHT**FRI, MAY 6, 8:00 PM-9:30 PM**

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, CCC Shelter, 2101 U.S. 40

Which animals can you find in the parks at night? Join a naturalist as we explore this question. A discussion on what it means to be nocturnal will take place before the short hike. Bring flashlights if you have them. Reservations not required. For details, call (937) 277-4178. **PTN 6467**

(FREE) BEGINNING BIRDERS**SAT, MAY 7, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

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

Learn how to find birds with your youngsters on this beginning bird walk for all ages! Participants will learn some fun bird facts and play a game to help with identification. Bring binoculars if you have them. A limited supply will be available. No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for more. **PTN 6466** 📞

(FREE) BIRDING WORKSHOP:**WARBLERS****SAT, MAY 7, 9:00 AM-12:30 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Learn to identify these colorful beauties by sight and song while exploring the park, playing games, and meeting new friends! Each participant will receive an ODNR warbler song CD and field guide. Participants are encouraged to attend the spring birding field trip on May 14. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. **6473** 📞

(FREE) EXPLORE INSECTS**SAT, MAY 7, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM**

HUFFMAN METROPARK, Redtail Shelter/Parking Lot, 4439 Lower Valley Pk.

Insects are very interesting! Bring the whole family to find out just how much fun hunting for insects can be. A brief discussion on insects will take place before we start exploring. No reservations required. For details, call (937) 277-4178. **PTN 6468** 📞

(FREE) FROG CHORUS**FRI, MAY 13, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.

Take an evening walk around the lake while looking and listening for frogs. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 6423**

SPRING BIRDING FIELD TRIP TO MAGEE MARSH**SAT, MAY 14, 6:00 AM-8:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

See extremely colorful birds like warblers, tanagers, and orioles from just a few feet away at nationally recognized birding hot spots Crane Creek State Park and Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$30 **6474** 📞

(FREE) WOODMAN FEN EXPLORATION**SAT, MAY 14, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM**

WOODMAN FEN CONSERVATION AREA, Woodman Fen, 2409 Newcastle Drive

You've heard about it, now come see it! Once used for agriculture and dumping for many years, the area is coming back to its natural state. Explore this 37-acre conservation area and enjoy its biodiversity.



Meet at the intersection of Amesborough Road and the dead end of Newcastle Drive. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **6171** 📍

(FREE) SCREECH OWL SEARCH

SAT, MAY 28, 9:00 PM-10:00 PM

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.

Join a naturalist on a night walk in search of the screech owl, the smallest owl of the park. We will use their song to lure them in for a good, close look. No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 6263** 📍

(FREE) WILDFLOWERS AND WOODPECKERS

SAT, MAY 28, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

Start your weekend with the sight of graceful woodpeckers while exploring the opening of the wildflower season. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 6449** 📍

PHOTOGRAPHY

(FREE) TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR CAMERA SERIES:

Your camera can take good pictures all by itself, but for really great photos YOU need to take charge. This series is designed for digital cameras with some manual controls. Each session will begin with a presentation, followed by an outdoor photo session (weather permitting). Bring your camera and instruction booklet. Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Call (937) 277-6545 or register online.

I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT

SAT, MAR 12, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium Front (joint facility), 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Learn how your camera evaluates light and dark, and how you sometimes need to overrule the camera. **6504** 📍

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW

SAT, MAR 19, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium Front (joint facility), 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

The second session will teach participants how to use blurring as a plus and not a minus to photography. **6505** 📍

MY CORNER OF THE SKY

SAT, MAR 26, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium Front (joint facility), 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Composition is the key to great pictures. Learn what to keep in a photo and how to arrange it for maximum effect in this third session. **6506** 📍

COME SEE ABOUT ME

SAT, APR 2, 10:00 AM-11:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium Rear South, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave. In this fourth and final session, bring some of your favorite photos for discussion and insights about improving them. **6507** 📍

(FREE) AULLWOOD

PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION

SAT, APR 30, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Gardens, 930 Aullwood Rd.

Join instructor Adam Alonzo for an informative photography session in Mrs. Aull's wonderful garden. Participants can take pictures, ask questions, and try new techniques. Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome; call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **6524** 📍

(FREE) SPRINGTIME NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

SAT, MAY 14, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium Front (joint facility), 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Join instructor Adam Alonzo for an informal photography session in the garden. Participants can take pictures, ask questions and try new techniques. Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Meet in the Gardens. Call (937) 277-6545. **6503** 📍

RECREATION BACKPACKING

(FREE) TRY BACKPACKING!

TUE, MAR 8, 4:00 PM-7:00 PM

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.

Have you ever tried backpacking? Are you even slightly curious? Then come anytime between 4 and 7 PM to this evening, hands-on program, try on a backpack, talk with local experts, and experiment with some of the gear. Backpacks are available on a first-come, first-served, basis. Reservations

requested; walk-ins welcome. For more information and to register, please contact (937) 277-4374 or register online. **6320** 📍

INTRO TO BACKPACKING FOR WOMEN

WED, MAR 16, 6:00 PM-8:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium Front (joint facility), 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Join other women interested in backpacking to get an orientation to backpacking. This class, taught by female backpacking experts, will cover trip planning, trail techniques, nutrition, physical fitness, "Leave No Trace" concepts, and female-specific techniques. Introduction to Backpacking or other demonstrable experience is a prerequisite for Outdoor Recreation Department backpacking trips. Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$5 **6321** 📍

INTRO TO BACKPACKING

THU, MAR 24, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Get an introduction to backpacking and find your comfort zone in terms of trips and gear selection. This class will introduce you to trip planning, trail techniques and nutrition, physical fitness, and "Leave No Trace" concepts. Introduction to Backpacking or other demonstrable experience is a prerequisite for local Outdoor Recreation Department backpacking trips. Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$5 **6409** 📍

BACKPACKING BASICS

SAT, APR 2, 12:00 PM - SUN, APR 3, 12:00 PM

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

This overnight field-based program hits the trail for a trip into the wilds of Germantown MetroPark on the Twin Valley Trail. Spend a night out under the stars utilizing Leave No Trace principles and practice the techniques covered during Introduction to Backpacking.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Backpacking. Backpacking Basics is a prerequisite for trips. Gear is available at no additional charge with reservation. Registration is required and limited so please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$15 **6410**

(FREE) VOLUNTEER:**BACKPACKING TRAIL WORK DAYS****SAT, APR 9, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** 6197**SAT, MAY 14, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** 6198

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Germantown Maintenance Bays, 6675 Conservancy Rd.

Help maintain the Twin Valley Trail—a backpacking trail connecting Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks. No experience necessary. Bring water and work gloves; tools and instruction provided. Individuals and groups invited. Groups (7-15 people) should contact Rachel.Brand@metroparks.org or (937) 564-5431. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome. Youth 14 - 17 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information and to register, call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. 📄

TWIN VALLEY TRAIL**BACKPACKING TRIP****FRI, APR 15, 8:00 AM - SUN, APR 17, 12:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Main Park Office, 6675 Conservancy Rd.

Join the Outdoor Recreation Department as it hits the Twin Valley Trail for 3 days of backpacking. This is an ideal trip for the newcomer who has just taken Backpacking Basics and is looking to take the next step towards getting out on his or her own. Equipment is available upon request. **You MUST attend the pre-trip meeting on April 6.** Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$50 **6411**

RED RIVER GORGE**BACKPACKING TRIP FOR WOMEN****FRI, APR 29, 12:00 PM - SUN, MAY 1, 8:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Cox House Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

The Red River Gorge is a unique and scenic natural area within the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky. Known for its abundant natural stone arches, unusual rock formations, and spectacular sandstone cliffs, the Red is a beautiful place to get outside. Come join like-minded women for a weekend backpacking trip. **Intro to Backpacking and Backpacking Basics are prerequisites along with a pre-trip meeting.** For more information or to register, please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$75 **6366**

CYCLING**(FREE) BIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT**

This series of guided bicycle rides will be held Saturdays April through October, rain or shine. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn basic bicycle maintenance tips. Earn a T-shirt by reaching a goal of 125 miles. Look for the asterisk (*) for Pride Rides: Wear your BFTHOI T-shirt. Parents/guardians must remain with their children during the program. For award details or information about the rides, contact Officer Zimmerman at (937) 275-PARK ex. 1416.

WOLF CREEK BIKEWAY (W)**SAT, APR 2, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM** 6203**SAT, MAY 14, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM** 6209

RECREATIONAL TRAILS, Wolf Creek Bikeway, Ohio Bike Route 38

Join us for a bike ride on the Wolf Creek Bikeway. Meet in the parking lot behind Rob's Restaurant, 705 Arlington Rd. in Brookville. We will ride toward Verona (11 miles).

WOLF CREEK BIKEWAY (W)**SAT, APR 9, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

RECREATIONAL TRAILS, Wolf Creek Bikeway, Ohio Bike Route 38

Join us for a bike ride on the Wolf Creek Bikeway. Meet in the parking lot behind Rob's Restaurant, 705 Arlington Rd. in Brookville. We will ride toward Trotwood (14 miles). **6204**

CREEKSIDE BIKEWAY**SAT, APR 16, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM** 6205**SAT, MAY 21, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM** 6210

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Join us for a bike ride rain or shine on the Creekside Bikeway; Use the entrance at 1385 Harshman Rd. at the traffic light. Meet in the last parking lot. We will ride to the Greene County Line (12 miles).

MAD RIVER BIKEWAY**SAT, APR 23, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Join us for a bike ride, rain or shine, on the Mad River Bikeway. Use the entrance at 1385 Harshman Rd. at the traffic light. Meet in the last parking lot. We will ride to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (13 miles). **6206**

GREAT MIAMI RIVER BIKEWAY**SAT, APR 30, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM**

RECREATIONAL TRAILS, Great Miami River Bikeway, Ohio Bike Route 25

Join us for a bike ride, rain or shine, on the

Great Miami River Recreation Trail. Meet at Rip Rap Park, located at the intersections of Little York, Rip Rap, and Taylorsville roads. Meet in the parking lot near the soccer fields. We will ride through historic Tadmor (9 miles). **6207**

STILLWATER RIVER BIKEWAY (N)**SAT, MAY 7, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM**

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, West Park Parking Lot, 100 East National Rd.

Join us on a bike ride, rain or shine, on the Stillwater River Recreation Trail (North). Meet in the parking lot at 100 E. National Rd.(U.S. 40 and State Route 48 in Englewood, north of the dam). We will ride through Jake Grossnickle Park (9 miles).

6208**GREAT MIAMI RIVER BIKEWAY (C)****SAT, MAY 28, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

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

Join us for a bike ride rain or shine on the Great Miami River Bikeway. Meet at 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave. (Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark). We will be riding to the Radvansky Bridge (near Fishburg Rd) (16 miles). **6211**

(FREE) DISCOVERY BIKE RIDE

Join us for discovery ride with a naturalist guide. Binoculars will be provided for this non-typical bike ride with frequent stops showcasing some of the cultural and natural history along our bike trails. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. 📄

MON, APR 11, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM 6478

ISLAND METROPARK, Overflow Parking Lot, 101 E. Helena St.

FRI, APR 22, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM 6477

RECREATIONAL TRAILS, Wolf Creek Bikeway, Meet at bike trail parking on Shiloh Springs Road near the corner of Diamond Mill Road.

INTRO TO SMART CYCLING**THU, APR 28, 6:00 PM-8:30 PM**

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Outdoor Recreation Classroom, 224 N. St. Clair St.

Step One in the Smart Cycling Series is a classroom session, taught by League Certified Instructors, and designed to provide cyclists of all levels better knowledge and understanding of how to safely and effectively operate your bicycle in various situations. Topics will include ride preparation, traffic laws, equipment and clothing, and much more. Intro is a



prerequisite for Smart Cycling Basics. For more information and to register call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 12Y and up. Fees: \$10 **6390** 📞

SMART CYCLING BASICS

SAT, APR 30, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Outdoor Recreation Classroom, 224 N. St. Clair St. Smart Cycling Basics, part two of the cycling series, takes the knowledge gained in Intro and puts it to use on the bike. This hands-on class will teach riders maneuvering, signaling and riding skills to make them more competent and comfortable riding on the streets and trails of the Miami Valley. **Intro to Smart Cycling is a prerequisite.** Helmets and bicycles required. Call (937) 277-4374 to register. Age: 12Y and up. Fees: \$20 **6381**

INTRO TO BIKE COMMUTING

TUE, MAY 3, 6:00 PM-8:30 PM

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Recreation Classroom, 224 N. St. Clair St. Introduction to bicycle commuting goes over what is involved to get you biking to work, class, the store, or a favorite restaurant. This lecture-style class will include bike terminology, commuting equipment, and trip and bike preparation. We will also discuss traffic laws, hazards encountered on the road, safe-riding skills, and proper route planning. For more information or to register, please call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 12Y and up. Fees: \$5 **6397** 📞

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BIKE TO WORK DAY ORIENTATION

TUE, MAY 10, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium Front (joint facility), 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Refuel yourself at the 55th anniversary of National Bike to Work Day. Volunteer opportunities are available Thursday, May 19th and Friday, May 20th. To learn more, please attend the Bike to Work Day Volunteer Orientation. Refreshments will be served. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome. For details, please contact Rachel. Brand@metroparks.org or (937) 564-5431. Age: 14Y and up. **6199** 📞

(FREE) NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FRI, MAY 20, 6:00 AM-9:30 AM

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, Festival Plaza, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Leave your car in the garage and support National Bike to Work Day. Ride in on your own or with a group to RiverScape for a free pancake breakfast then head to work. Live music, cycling-related exhibitors and a team challenge are also part of the fun. Full details are available at www.metroparks.org/biketowork. Age: 1Y and up. **6325** 📞

FISHING

FLY FISHING FOR BASS AND BLUEGILL

MON, MAR 28, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Outdoor Recreation Classroom, 224 N. St. Clair St. The Miami Valley is loaded with great bass and bluegill fishing opportunities on our local streams, ponds and lakes. Learn about the techniques, gear and flies needed to catch these fun sport fish on a fly rod. Fly fishing experience is recommended but not required. This is a classroom session. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome, or register online. For more information and to register call (937) 277-4374. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$5 **6326** 📞

(FREE) TRY FLY FISHING!

Have you ever wanted to learn how to cast a fly rod? Join us to see if you can entice a fish to bite and catch a fish on fly. No fishing license required. Instructor is available for questions and will teach basic techniques in a controlled and safe environment. Equipment is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome or register online. For more information or to register, please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 14Y and up. 📞

THU, APR 7, 4:00 PM-7:00 PM 6502

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Cedar Lake, 7800 E. Shull Rd.

THU, MAY 5, 4:00 PM-7:00 PM 6324

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Outdoor Venues, 6733 Springboro Pk.

(FREE) HOOKED ON FISHING, NOT ON DRUGS SERIES:

A MetroParks Ranger will teach children and young adults the fundamentals of fishing and good decision-making skills. This is a five-week class, Saturdays April 30 through May 28. Receive free gear for attending all classes. Sponsored by Safe Kids of Dayton. No tobacco use during class. Students must stay with an adult during the program; five students per adult. Fishing poles and

bait are provided. For more information or reservations, call Officer Zimmerman at (937) 277-4823. Walk-ins welcome. Age: 5Y - 15Y.

INTRODUCTION TO FISHING

SAT, APR 30, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM 6212

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

CASTING

SAT, MAY 7, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM 6214

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

KNOT TYING

SAT, MAY 14, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM 6215

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

FISHING SKILLS

SAT, MAY 21, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM 6216

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

GRADUATION

SAT, MAY 28, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM 6217

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

(FREE) NIGHT FISHING ACTIVITIES FRI, MAY 6 - SAT, JUN 4, 10:00 PM-2:00 AM

Every Friday and Saturday through September 30, enjoy evening fishing. Please note: Occasional boat races at Eastwood MetroPark Lake may affect night fishing schedule. Bring flashlight or lantern. Use lake entrance. No reservations required. For questions, call the main park number, (937) 275-PARK (7275) weekdays.

EASTWOOD LAKE 6219

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Eastwood Lake, 1401 Harshman Rd.

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK 6220

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Fishing Ponds Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

FITNESS & HEALTH

(FREE) HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT!

Hike for a healthier lifestyle in the great outdoors! Hikes take place every Saturday at 2:00 PM. Each hike will be about 3 miles and move at a comfortable, brisk pace. Terrain will vary with the site, and some is rugged. Hikers who complete 10 hikes will receive a Five Rivers MetroParks Health Hike ball cap. For general Health Hike questions, call (937) 277-4374 weekdays, or for the complete schedule, visit www.metroparks.org/HikeHealth.

SAT, MAR 5, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6291
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest
Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

SAT, MAR 12, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6292
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter
Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

SAT, MAR 19, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6293
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

SAT, MAR 26, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6294
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK,
Wegerzyn Parking Lot, 1301 East Siebenthaler
Ave.

SAT, APR 2, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6295
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot,
4178 Conference Rd.

SAT, APR 9, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6296
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Blue Heron
Shelter, 2000 U.S. 40

SAT, APR 16, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6297
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, High View Shelter
Parking Lot, 9688 Eby Road

SAT, APR 23, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6298
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter
Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

SAT, APR 30, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6299
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Cedar Lake
Shelter/Parking Lot, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

SAT, MAY 7, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6300
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education
Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

SAT, MAY 14, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6301
HUFFMAN METROPARK, Lower Parking Lot,
4439 Lower Valley Pk.

SAT, MAY 21, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6302
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest
Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

SAT, MAY 28, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 6303
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot,
1385 Harshman Rd.

(FREE) GERMANTOWN HIKE WITH THE DAYTON METRO HIKERS

SUN, MAR 6, 1:30 PM-4:30 PM
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center
Parking Lot, 6910 Boomershire Rd.
Enjoy a 7-mile, three-hour hike with
the Dayton Metro Hikers. This hike is
considered rugged, for experienced hikers
only. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for
more information. **6516**

(FREE) SUGARCREEK HIKE WITH THE DAYTON METRO HIKERS

SUN, MAR 20, 1:30 PM-3:00 PM
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178
Conference Rd.
Enjoy a 5-mile, 2.5-hour hike with the Dayton
Metro Hikers. This hike is considered

difficult; very hilly in spots. Call Chris Sands
at (937) 687-0114 for more information. **6517**

(FREE) TWIN CREEK HIKE WITH THE DAYTON METRO HIKERS

SUN, APR 3, 1:30 PM-4:30 PM
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, High View Shelter
Parking Lot, 9688 Eby Road
Enjoy a 7-mile, three-hour hike with
the Dayton Metro Hikers. This hike is
considered rugged; for experienced hikers
only. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for
more information. **6518**

(FREE) HILLS & DALES HIKE WITH THE DAYTON METRO HIKERS

SUN, MAY 15, 1:30 PM-3:30 PM
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, White Oak
Shelter/Parking, 2606 Hilton Dr.
Enjoy a 5-mile, two-hour hike with the
Dayton Metro Hikers. This hike is considered
easy; no hills. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-
0114 for more information. **6519**

(FREE) TWIN VALLEY TRAIL HIKE WITH THE DAYTON METRO HIKERS

SUN, MAY 29, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Sledding Hill,
6206 Boomershire Rd.
Enjoy a 14 mile, 4 hour hike with the Dayton
Metro Hikers. This hike is considered
rugged, for experienced hikers only. Call
Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for more
information. **6520**

HORSEBACK RIDING

MONDAY HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS

**MON, MAR 7 - MON, APR 25, 3:00 PM-
4:00 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Riding Center,
8111 E. Shull Rd.

Attend this eight-week program to obtain a
foundation in equitation and horsemanship
in English and Western riding. Adults
and youth programs available. Must be a
minimum of 8 years of age. Appropriate
riding attire and closed toe boots required.
Helmets provided. Classes offered at
various times and days. Call (937) 274-3120
for times and dates and other information.
Age: 8Y and up. Fees: \$160 **6349**

WEEKEND PONY RIDES

**SAT, APR 2 - SUN, OCT 30, 10:00 AM-
4:00 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Riding Center,
8111 E. Shull Rd.

Do you have a little wrangler too young for
horse camp but can't wait to ride? Join the
MetroParks Riding Center Staff Saturdays
and Sundays April 2 through October 30 for
a hand-led pony ride for youngsters 7 and
under. Staff members will lead youth around
the MetroParks Riding Center Arena for a
memorable riding experience. Bring your
camera to capture this unforgettable moment.
No reservations required. For details, visit
www.metroparks.org/RidingCenter or call
(937) 274-3120. Age: 1Y - 7Y. Fees: \$3 **6357**

HORSE CAMP FOR ADULTS

**MON, MAY 2 - FRI, MAY 6, 6:00 PM-9:00
PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Riding Center,
8111 E. Shull Rd.

This camp is designed for adults who want
to learn basic horsemanship and equitation.
Class is Monday through Friday 6 p.m. to
9 p.m. Be ready to ride a variety of horses.
Class is limited to five, so register early.
Students should wear boots with 1-inch
heel, appropriate riding attire such as
jeans or breeches. Helmets are provided
and required. For specific camp dates,
availability, and reservations, call the Riding
Center at (937) 274-3120. Age: 18Y and up.
Fees: \$150 **6359**

MOUNTAIN BIKING


(FREE) VOLUNTEER: MOMBA TRAIL WORK DAYS

SAT, MAR 12, 12:00 PM-4:00 PM 6188

SAT, APR 9, 12:00 PM-4:00 PM 6189

SAT, MAY 14, 12:00 PM-4:00 PM 6190

THU, MAY 26, 6:00 PM-8:30 PM 6191
HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA, 4485 Union
Rd.

Help maintain MoMBA, MetroParks'
mountain bike trail. No experience necessary.
Volunteers will have the opportunity to
learn sustainable trail-building techniques,
including corridor clearing, contour bench
trail construction, creek armoring, and
more. Bring water and work gloves; tools
and instruction provided. Meet at the picnic
tables next to the parking lot. Reservations
requested; walk-ins welcome. Youth 14-17
must be accompanied by an adult. For details
and to register, call (937) 277-4374 or register
online. Age: 14Y and up. 



(FREE) YOUTH MTB RACE SERIES **MON, MAY 23 - MON, AUG 15, 5:30 PM-8:00 PM**

HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA, 4485 Union Rd.

Join us for a series of races for youth age 8 to 16. Race alongside fellow young riders as you gain skills while hitting up a loop trail at MoMBA, MetroParks mountain bike area at Huffman MetroPark. Races take place Mondays, May 23, June 20, July 18, and Aug 15. Racing will be low-key with an emphasis on fun. Snacks will be provided post race. Bikes and helmets are required. For more information and to register, call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 8Y - 16Y. **6392** 📞

ORIENTEERING **INTRO TO LAND NAVIGATION**

THU, MAR 10, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium Front (joint facility), 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Would you like to learn how to use a map and compass in the backcountry? Do you need to dust off some little-used skills? Then this is the program for you. This classroom session will teach the basic parts and ways to use maps and compasses. This program is a prerequisite for Land Navigation Basics. Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$5 **6407** 📞

LAND NAVIGATION BASICS

SAT, MAR 19, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

TWIN CREEK METROPARK, High View Shelter, 9688 Eby Rd

Are you ready for the next step in the Land Navigation progression? Get out and use map and compass together in this field-based program. **Intro to Land Navigation is a prerequisite for this program.** Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$15 **6408**

PADDLING **INTRO TO KAYAKING**

Intro to Kayaking is the first step in our paddle-sports progression. You will be introduced to various equipment selection, ranges for equipment, categories of paddle-sports, trip planning, navigation, and general locations of where to paddle locally and regionally. It is a good way to ease into learning in a systematic way. For more

information and to register, contact (937) 277-4374. Age: 12Y and up. Fees: \$5

MON, MAY 9, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM 6322
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium Front (joint facility), 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

TUE, MAY 24, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM 6364
FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Outdoor Recreation Classroom, 224 N. St. Clair St.

(FREE) TRY KAYAKING!

THU, MAY 12, 4:00 PM-7:00 PM

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Blue Hole, 1401 Harshman Road

Come try a kayak and see if it is something you would like to learn more about in the future. An introduction to the boat and proper safety gear will be offered, and you will have the opportunity to try different styles of kayaks. It's a great way to learn about the sport in a controlled environment. For more information, please call (937) 277-4374 or register online. **6323** 📞

KAYAK BASICS

TUE, MAY 17, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Blue Hole, 1401 Harshman Road

During this hands-on class, students will become acquainted with equipment and learn basic paddle strokes and concepts along with safety topics for beginners in recreational kayaking. Equipment is provided by Five Rivers MetroParks Outdoor Recreation Department. Please dress to get wet. Bring water and closed-toe shoes with you. For more information and to register, please contact (937) 277-4374. Age: 12Y and up. Fees: \$40 **6528**

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: PADDLE IN THE PARK ORIENTATION

WED, MAY 25, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium Front (joint facility), 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Make a splash this summer by volunteering at Paddle in the Park! Volunteer opportunities are available Friday, June 3, and Saturday, June 4. Without the help of dedicated volunteers, events such as this wouldn't be possible. To learn more, please attend the Paddle in the Park Volunteer Orientation. Refreshments will be served. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome. For more information and to register, please contact Rachel Brand at Rachel.Brand@metroparks.org or (937) 564-5431. Age: 14Y and up. **6200** 📞



THE RIDING CENTER **AT CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK**

Come visit our riding center offering seasonal trail rides, pony rides, lesson packages, clinics and much more! Gift certificates are also available.

To make a reservation and for more information, call

(937) 274-3120 or visit

www.metroparks.org/ridingcenter.



ROWING

LEARN-TO-ROW WITH GDRA

MON, MAY 16, - SUN, AUG 21, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

ISLAND METROPARK, Island Boat House, 130 E. Helena St.

Learn the fundamentals of rowing with the Greater Dayton Rowing Association! Four-week class for adults age 18 and up will cover everything needed to row confidently and independently. Classes take place at the Island MetroPark boat house and on the Great Miami River. Graduates are invited to become members of GDRA, offering year-round activities on the water and indoor conditioning during the winter. Visit www.daytonrowing.org and Dayton Rowing on Facebook for details. **6543**

SKATING

DJ SKATES: AWESOME EIGHTIES

FRI, MAR 4, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM

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

Skate back in time to the sounds of the 1980s at MetroParks Ice Rink. DJs will be spinning beats live with music from Madonna, Queen, Blondie, Duran Duran and more. Grab your leg warmers and your hammer pants to skate through the eighties! Admission fee includes use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5 **6386**

STAR-LATE SKATES

SAT, MAR 5, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM **6387**

FRI, MAR 11, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM **6388**

SAT, MAR 12, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM **6389**

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

What better way to spend a Friday or Saturday night than by skating near the river, under a beautifully lit canopy. Enjoy your evening drinking hot chocolate, warming up by our outdoor fireplaces, and taking in the sights and sounds of downtown! Bring family, friends, or just yourself to skate MetroParks Ice Rink. Admission is \$5 and includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5

FUNDAMENTALS OF SKATING

SUN, MAR 6, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink Lesson Area

Drop in for one lesson or attend each week. One-hour lessons are taught by a seasoned

professional. You or your child will learn the correct way to fall, skate forward, stop forward, skate backwards and glide on two feet. \$5 for lesson and includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for details. Weather permitting. Fees: \$5 **6385**

SPECIAL EVENTS ENTERTAINMENT

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

SAT, MAR 12, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the PNC 2nd Street Market! This year's event features live Irish music followed by exciting dance demonstrations from the Celtic Academy of Irish Dance. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. **6202**

(FREE) URBAN NIGHTS

FRI, MAY 13, 5:00 PM-10:00 PM

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Come see RiverScape MetroPark come alive at Urban Nights! Spring is here, and what better way to get outside and enjoy it than by celebrating Dayton's urban vibrancy. RiverScape MetroPark is sure to add excitement to an already electrifying event with eclectic music, food by Skyline, and more! Explore downtown and enjoy all the sights and sounds of this citywide party. For more information call (937) 274-0126. **6532**

(FREE) TAB-A-PULL-OOZA

SAT, MAY 21, 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

Bring your aluminum can pull-tabs to the PNC 2nd Street Market to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Miami Valley. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. **6201**

(FREE) SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

SAT, MAY 28, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Free series of concerts on Saturday nights throughout the summer. For bands, dates or more information, please visit the web site metroparks.org/RiverScape or call (937) 274-0126. Chairs fill quickly; bring a lawn chair for seating. Weather dependent.

FISHING

(FREE) KIDS' FISHING DERBY

SAT, MAY 7, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Fishing Ponds Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Free fishing program for the kids. Register on site the day of the program from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, fishing from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, prizes awarded from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes awarded for the largest catfish, bass, crappie, and bluegill. Two age categories: Minnows - 2 to 7 years and Lunkers - 8 to 15 years. Hotdogs and drinks available for the kids. Age: 2Y - 15Y. **6375**

FITNESS & HEALTH

MAKE A DIFFERENCE...SAVE A LIFE 5K RACE/WALK

SAT, APR 2, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

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

Participate in this 5K Run/Walk to benefit Suicide Prevention Center, Inc. Your participation in this race, along with your donation, will help Suicide Prevention Center serve the crisis needs of the people of the Miami Valley. Registration is \$10. Call Jim Marks at (937) 226-0818 for more information. Fees: \$10 **6531**

(FREE) WEGERZYN GARDENS WALKFEST

SAT, APR 16, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

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

This outdoor community opportunity is presented by Purple Penguins Volksmarch Walking Club for the beauty of nature and health of walking. Start anytime between 9 am and 1 pm and finish by 4 pm. For more information contact Helga Slade at (937) 429-3946. **6523**

DAYTON PEACE ACCORDS 5K WALK RUN

SAT, APR 30, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

RECREATIONAL TRAILS, Great Miami River Rec Trail, Ohio Bike Route 25

This outdoor recreation opportunity is sponsored by the Dayton International Peace Museum as a family fun event fundraiser to support their educational programs. For information call (937) 227-3223 or e-mail waynew@daytonpeacemuseum.org Fees: \$20 **6529**

DERBY DAY DASH**SAT, MAY 7, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM**

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape MetroPark, 111 E. Monument Ave.

This outdoor community opportunity is sponsored by Life Essentials, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides services to older adults and persons with mental illness. This 5K race is fun for all ages with a special Youth mile run and Tot Trot. \$25 registration. For details, call (937) 586-0545. Fees: \$25 **6530**

GARDENING & LANDSCAPING**(FREE) MAYFAIR 2011 PLANT SALE****SAT, APR 30, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM** 6255**SUN, MAY 1, 12:00 PM-3:00 PM** 6257

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Wegerzyn Center, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Lovely plant offerings include stunning perennials, annuals and herbs for companion planting, or simply to enhance your landscape, and vegetables for your kitchen. Also featured are beautiful hanging baskets just in time for Mother's Day. Hours are Saturday, April 30, 10 until 4, Sunday, May 1, noon until 3. For more information, visit metroparks.org/plantsales or call (937) 277-6545.

(FREE) WILDFLOWER AND NATIVE PLANT SALE**SAT, APR 30, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk. Browse the selection of unique wildflowers and native plants and get advice from the Wildflower Volunteer Group to find the plants most suitable for your garden. All of the plants offered in this sale are propagated or rescued from local areas slated for development. For more details, call (937) 434-9005. **6346**

GREEN LIVING**(FREE) TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY****FRI, APR 15, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM** 6221**SAT, APR 16, 8:00 AM-3:00 PM** 6222

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Celebrate Earth Day early by stopping by and getting your 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. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information.


PADDLING**(FREE) PADDLE IN THE PARK****SAT, JUN 4, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Eastwood Lake, 1401 Harshman Rd.

Grab your friends and visit Eastwood MetroPark for the 12th annual Paddle in the Park. Paddle in the Park is a partnership between Five Rivers MetroParks, Whitewater Warehouse and a variety of other paddling organizations. The event will allow the public to learn about paddle-sports, meet canoe and kayak manufacturers, try any style boat for free and more. All ages and skills levels are welcome! Get more info at metroparks.org/pip or call (937) 277-4374. **6552**

VOLUNTEERISM FARMING**(FREE) DRAFT HORSE DRIVING SCHOOL****SAT, MAR 5 - SUN, MAR 6, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

For this two-part class, participants will be taught the correct methods for harnessing and driving draft horses. For this class, familiarity with horses is required and participants must be over 18 years of age. Participants must put in over 30 hours of assisted driving time upon completion of the class. Text books will be available for purchase. Reservations are required and limited. Call (937) 277-4834 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. 6527 

GARDENING & LANDSCAPING**(FREE) VOLUNTEER: RIVERSCAPE GARDENERS****TUE, FEB 8 - MON, APR 4, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM**

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 111 E. Monument Ave.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with gardening tasks at RiverScape MetroParks' spectacular gardens on Mondays, Tuesdays Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Learn how to plant, prune and care for a wide variety of plants from experts and make friends, too! For more information, contact Bob Butts at (937) 276-

7055 or e-mail bbutts@metroparks.org. Age: 18Y and up. **6347**

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: STICK SCULPTURE VOLUNTEER WITH PATRICK DOUGHERTY**MON, APR 4 - FRI, APR 22, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, North Plaza, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

World-renowned stick work artist Patrick Dougherty will be creating an original sculpture at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. Volunteers are needed during March to harvest branches. Volunteers can work directly with Dougherty to construct this compelling sculpture from April 4-22. Weekday April Volunteer shifts will be 8 aM-12 noon and 1-5 pm; weekend volunteer shifts will be available during April 9-10. For more information, contact Bob Butts at (937) 276-7055 or at bbutts@metroparks.org. Age: 18Y and up. **6177**

GREEN LIVING**(FREE) ADOPT-A-PARK****SAT, APR 16, 9:00 AM-11:30 AM**

EASTWOOD METROPARK, 1385 Harshman Rd. Celebrate Earth Day by participating in Adopt-A-Park, Five Rivers MetroParks annual cleanup. Volunteers will be assigned to a crew that will work a section of the river corridors. Gloves, trash bags and lunch are provided. For more information or to register, visit www.metroparks.org/adopt or call (937) 275-PARK. Age: 14Y and up. **6551**



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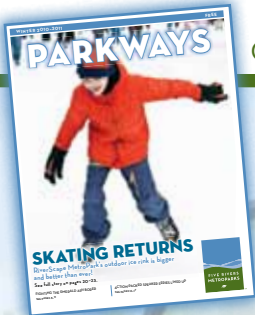


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