

PARKWAYS

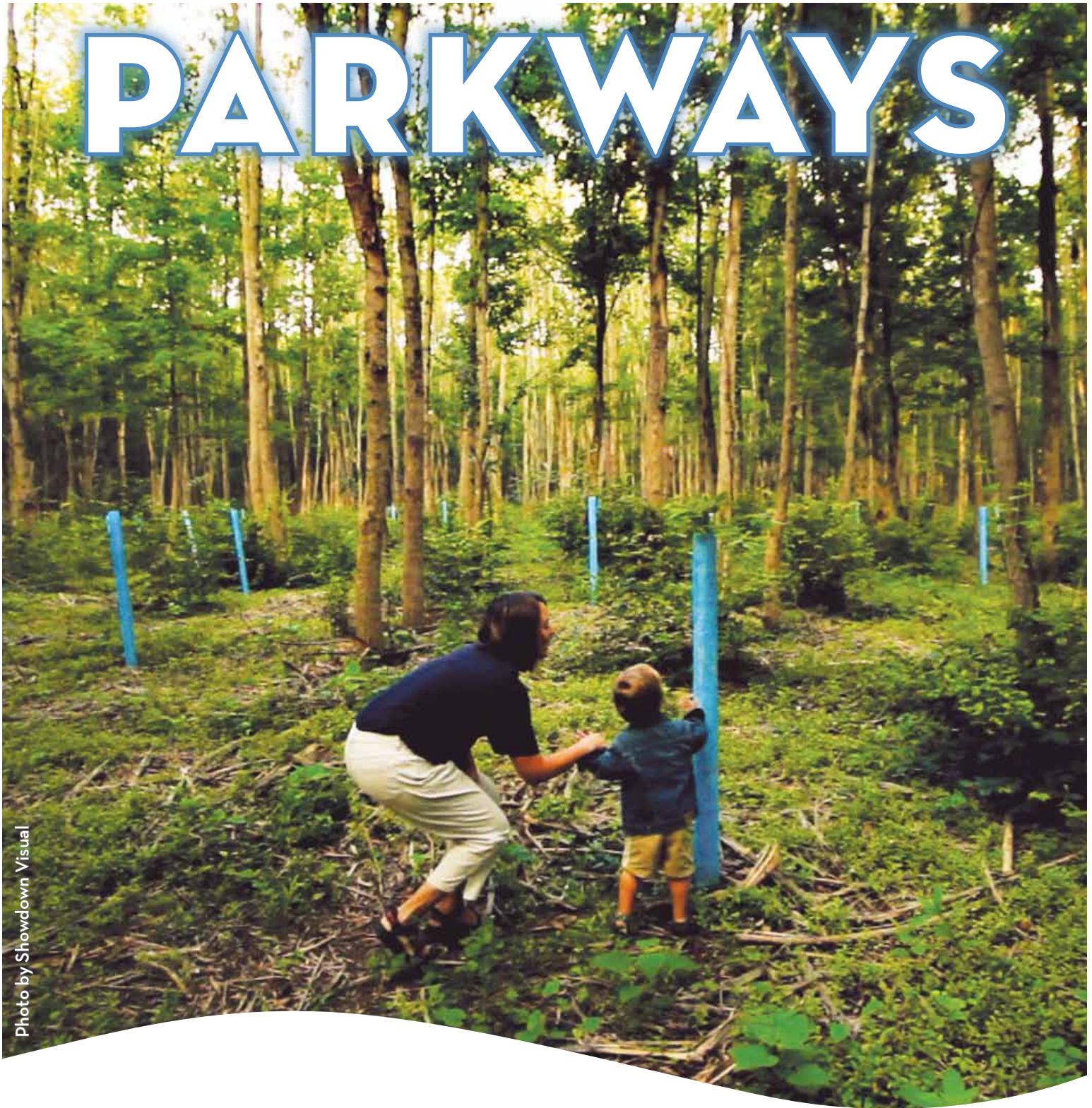


Photo by Showdown Visual

HEALTHY HABITAT

EFFORTS AIM TO IMPROVE WILDLIFE HOMES

See full story on pages 12-15

LEARN MORE ABOUT REFORESTATION EFFORTS
SEE PAGES 6-7

ARE YOUR ASH TREES PROTECTED FROM EAB?
SEE PAGES 8-9





REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE

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



Sept. 14-15

**TASTE OF
THE MIAMI VALLEY**

RiverScape MetroPark



Sept. 22

**HISPANIC HERITAGE
FESTIVAL**

RiverScape MetroPark



Sept. 22-23

COUNTRY FAIR

Carriage Hill MetroPark



Sept. 30

MoMBA XC CLASSIC

Huffman MetroPark



Oct. 5-6

**MIDWEST OUTDOOR
EXPERIENCE**

Eastwood MetroPark



Oct. 13

**VOYAGE ON
THE PARKWAY**

Wegerzyn Gardens
MetroPark



Oct. 13

**PUMPKIN
DECORATING**

PNC 2nd Street Market



Oct. 20

**POSSUM CREEK
HARVEST JAMBOREE**

Possum Creek MetroPark



Oct. 23

**GHOST N' GOBLIN
5K RUN/WALK**

RiverScape MetroPark



Nov. 23-25

**ICE RINK GRAND
OPENING WEEKEND**

RiverScape MetroPark

Photo by Leslie Stahl

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



Becky Benna
Executive Director

Dear MetroParks Friends,

The summer season has come and gone, but the opportunities to get outside and enjoy nature are year-round. Just recently I had the pleasure of hiking Twin Creek MetroPark, and I am always amazed by how quickly I can be enveloped by the forest and various habitats of this wonderful natural setting. I am continually surprised to see the wonders of nature at work, whether it is a wild turkey greeting me and then flying off to perch in a tree, or frogs and turtles basking in the sun's warming rays. The change in seasons gives us all the chance to reflect on the happenings of the year to date and anticipate what is to come with the turning of the leaves, hibernation preparation of various animals and humans, and the beautiful art that is created by nature's changing landscape.

As I have mentioned in previous *ParkWays* issues, it is so easy to get caught up in our day-to-day busy lives and take for granted the wonderful open spaces, forests, and waterways that are nearby and accessible to the Miami Valley region's residents.

Just like we humans, wildlife really needs four basic habitat components for living in a healthy environment: access to food, clean water, shelter, and space. You can experience many natural habitats close-up by visiting one of our natural park areas that are located throughout Miami Valley. Just find one of those areas, stop, and close your eyes. You will be amazed at how nature will come alive to your senses. I truly believe that every time I step into one of our parks, my blood pressure goes down, I breathe deeper, and any stress of the day just melts away. So, enjoy autumn and the beauty that it brings to our area.

Winter is on its way, but there are still plenty of things to do that allow us to continue to enjoy the outdoors and all that it has to offer. So, "Get Out & Live" year-round!

Becky Benna

ONLINE EXTRA

Learn more about habitats and how Five Rivers MetroParks protects these spaces at **metroparks.org** and click on the "Conservation" button on the right-hand side.

PARKWAYS IS YOUR GUIDE
to all the great activities and programs MetroParks offers every month. Check out the Activity Guide beginning on page 16 and get outside!

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**.

MetroParks Commissioners



Alan F. Pippenger



Karen L. Davis



Irvin G. Bieser, Jr.

Five Rivers MetroParks is dedicated to protecting Greater Dayton's natural heritage and to providing outdoor recreation and education experiences that inspire a lasting personal connection with nature.

Commissioner photos ©Easterling Studios



1

#1 TAKE A HIKE: Visit the sustainable trails at Taylorsville MetroPark and enjoy vistas of the river.

#2 FLOWER POWER: Find the late blossoms in Twin Creek MetroPark's meadow prairies. Hike the orange trail.



2



3

#3 WET 'N' WILD: The Stillwater River's health has greatly improved since the removal of the low dam at Englewood MetroPark.

TOP TEN WAYS

to appreciate habitats in your Five Rivers MetroParks THIS FALL



4

#4 MOVIN' ON UP: Hike the orange trail at Germantown MetroPark to see an upland forest with diverse tree, shrub, and wildflower species.

#8 KNOW WHAT I MEAN, VERN? Vernal pools form where there is a shallow depression in the land that does not drain. Find one at Sugarcreek MetroPark.



8

Photo by Alex Constan



5

#5 SWAMP ROMP: What kinds of animals can you find in the swamp forest at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark?



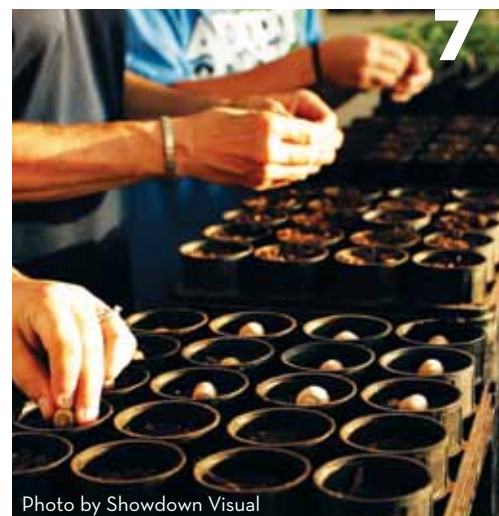
6

#6 TOTALLY TUBULAR: Visit the new forested areas at Carriage Hill MetroPark. The blue tubes protect the seedlings.



9

#9 LAND O' LAKES: The ponds and Argonne Lake at Possum Creek MetroPark are great bird-watching sites.



7

Photo by Showdown Visual

#7 GO NUTS: Help Five Rivers MetroParks replenish the forests! Volunteer to collect seeds and nuts that will grow into big trees. Visit metroparks.org/forests for details.



10

Photo by Tim Gaffney

#10 STEEP SEED: Seeps are wetlands formed by water from a spring that saturates a broad area. The Adirondack Boardwalk at Hills & Dales MetroPark takes you through one.

GROWING WITH FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS COUPLE LEARNS NEW SKILLS, GIVES BACK TO PARKS



With countless types of volunteer experiences to choose from, many Five Rivers MetroParks supporters opt to enroll in service learning programs. These intense training programs teach volunteers highly specialized skills which they then “practice” through volunteer hours. They also offer unique insight into the day-to-day workings of Five Rivers MetroParks staff. Middletown residents Mike and Margie Perkins have been volunteering with several nature-based opportunities and have developed a new admiration for the parks they love.

“I’ve been very impressed with the learning opportunities I’ve experienced,” Margie says. “I’ve had excellent, knowledgeable in-class instructors, followed by plenty of chances to get outside, get down and, literally, dirty—everything from invasive species surveys to transplanting the tiniest prairie wildflower seedlings to helping put thousands of young trees in the ground on Seedling Saturdays and other volunteer work days.

“I’ve always been somewhat of a ‘tree hugger,’ but my service learning courses and conservation volunteering have given me much more appreciation for the value of our forests and all-natural areas,” she says. “I’m amazed at the different adaptations trees—and all plants—have made to survive changing, sometimes hostile, conditions. I’m also

more cognizant of how important our forests are, not just to us, but to all the creatures that live in the wild.”

Mike, an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, says he also found a new fondness for forests through volunteering with the MetroParks Tree Corps. “(Mature trees) have a very tough job propagating themselves, and it doesn’t get easier with human intervention,” Mike explains. “Collected seeds don’t sprout, planted sprouted seeds don’t survive, young seedlings don’t survive the greenhouse, and finally the thousands of seedlings sprouted this spring had to endure drought and 90-plus degree temperatures.”

The couple says the training they receive in their service learning programs is useful beyond the park grounds. Mike’s experience as a Master Silviculturist and Margie’s knowledge she gained through the Native Plant Primer gives these volunteers the know-how to transform any landscape. “I took the (Native Plant Primer) course mainly because I’m a home gardener and I wanted to know how to make better use of natives in my own landscape, but also because I wanted the extra knowledge for the public programs we lead,” Margie says.

For both Margie and Mike, the real dividends of volunteering pay out with each public experience and the

altruistic satisfaction that comes with knowing you made a difference or you made a profound impact in someone’s life. “Would I recommend volunteering for MetroParks to a friend? Definitely!” Margie says. “There is something for everyone—check out **metroparks**

.org/volunteer and see for yourself.

Five Rivers MetroParks is a great organization providing educational and fun experiences for the community. I have learned and continue to learn more than I ever imagined, made good friends, worked hard, had fun doing all of it, and gained a real sense of pride in giving back to the community.”

Even when the payoff is a distant speck in the future, the Perkinses still persist in giving back. “I probably won’t live long enough to see the forests we plant,” Mike says. “But can you imagine your satisfaction as you walk with your children and grandchildren through the young forests of MetroParks that you helped make possible?”

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Love Nature and Children?
We Need Your Help.**

Positive outdoor experiences often lead to a desire to form deeper connections with the natural world. Cox Arboretum MetroPark’s Children’s Tour Guides provide quality hands-on experiences for students from pre-K to 7th grade that reinforce classroom learning in the natural sciences. Fall tours run from September through October. No previous experience is necessary. For additional information, contact Janet Metter at (937) 277-4133 or janet.metter@metroparks.org.

TAKING ROOT

REFORESTATION EFFORTS CONTINUE THROUGHOUT FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

Within the past 100 years, Ohio's vast forests have been reduced to small woodlots and narrow woodlands along streams. These fragmented forests are especially vulnerable to invasive bugs like Emerald Ash Borer and invasive shrubs like Amur honeysuckle. The good news is that MetroParks has protected many of the best remaining mature forests in Montgomery County, and most are in pretty good condition despite the challenges facing them.

On the not-so-good side, new forests are not being generated that have the diversity and complexity of older ones. For a variety of reasons including too many deer, invasive species, and poor seed distribution, many important trees such as oaks, hickories, and dogwoods are not reproducing well in our area. Forests are kind of like kids; the best time to influence them is when they are young. If a diverse stand of trees can be established in old fields, they have a chance of someday maturing into forests that can host a diversity of plant and animal life.

"We actually have the opportunity to start the forests of the future," explains Conservation Director Dave Nolin. "Since we are choosing which trees to plant, we can enhance our forests' biodiversity."

Biodiversity is a qualitative measure of any habitat, including forests. The greater a forest's diversity of native trees, the more varieties of wildlife it can support.

So far this year, more than 67,000 trees were planted in Five Rivers MetroParks! About 35,000 of these were planted at the new Great Miami River Wetland Mitigation Bank near Trotwood. As you may recall, this site was a former 550-acre farm that was scheduled to be a landfill. "Instead, Five Rivers MetroParks stepped in and now that area is being restored to wetland, forest,

and prairie," says Conservation Biologist Mike Enright. "The mitigation bank is now a sustainable project that offers developers a site to get wetland credits, which are a requirement if anyone wants to build on a site where a low-quality wetland will be displaced. The developer pays a one-time fee, and Five Rivers MetroParks will maintain this viable habitat, making it a win-win-win for conservation, local development, and the community, who will benefit from this being transformed into a future MetroPark."

The trees planted at the Great Miami River Wetland Mitigation Bank can easily be seen from Little Richmond Road looking north between Snyder and Lutheran Church roads.

Another 20,000 trees were planted at the Medlar Conservation Area by the contractor JF New. The former farm is in the process of being transformed into a forested area with the end goal of making a new MetroPark. "This project, called the Shepard's Run Reforestation Project, was paid for with the help of the Clean Ohio Fund," says Conservation Director Dave Nolin. "To see this planting area, park at the small parking lot for the Medlar Conservation Area, located at 5040 Medlar Road, near Austin Landing. Park on the west side of the road and walk down the gravel lane on the east side of Medlar Road to see this new forest under construction."

Volunteers provided an invaluable resource for Five Rivers MetroParks. Without

ONLINE EXTRA

Visit [metroparks.org/forests](https://www.metroparks.org/forests) to learn more about Five Rivers MetroParks reforestation efforts and sign up for upcoming volunteer opportunities.

CONSERVATION

Photo by Edd Prince

support from volunteers, large-scale projects like the reforestation initiative would prove far more challenging. To date, about 12,000 trees have been planted by MetroParks volunteers. "These trees were germinated at Cox Arboretum MetroPark by park technician Meredith Cobb with the help of selected MetroParks Tree Corps volunteers," says Conservation Volunteer Coordinator Yvonne Dunphe. The trees were then "adopted" by volunteers who took care of trays of the young seedlings at their homes for the summer as part of the Forest Foster Family Program. In 2011 and again this spring and summer, volunteers poured into Cox Arboretum MetroPark and took home a flat of about 20 seedlings they nurtured until the posted return date. "We would need more greenhouse space to care for all these little trees, so we're really appreciative of volunteers helping to maintain the seedlings until we're ready to stick them in the ground and begin their new life as part of a MetroParks forest," she says.

Seedlings grown during the 2011 Forest Foster Family program got their start in several MetroParks, when Seedling Saturdays swept across the Miami Valley. Volunteers planted trees at Carriage Hill, Germantown, and Sugarcreek MetroParks, as well as the Medlar and Shoup Mill conservation areas. "Where there was a field of honeysuckle, now you see an infusion of blue and white tubes," Dunphe says. The tubes, also called tree shelters, protect the seedlings, whose tender leaves are a favorite snack for deer and other herbivores. Their shape and light penetration also encourages more rapid growth. 🌿



Photo by Miller's Run



Photo by Showdown Visual

SPOT THE BLUE AND WHITE TUBES

Want to see where reforestation efforts have been? Look for the blue and white tubes! Here's a list of where you can find blue (and white) tree shelters protecting newly planted seedlings:

- 🌿 **Sugarcreek MetroPark**, west side of Conference Road parking lot
- 🌿 **Carriage Hill MetroPark**, former pasture field west of Bellefontaine Road
- 🌿 **Wetland Mitigation Bank**, Little Richmond Road looking north between Snyder and Lutheran Church roads
- 🌿 **Medlar Conservation Area**, 5040 Medlar Road, access area via gravel lane
- 🌿 **Germantown MetroPark**, orange trail north of intersection 5

Waiting in the wings are another 12,000 trees germinated at Cox Arboretum MetroPark and fostered out to volunteers. These little trees are slated to arrive back at the Arboretum in November and will be planted in the spring of 2013. "There are many ways to get involved," Dunphe says. "From being a Forest Foster Family participant to helping plant trees to helping Five Rivers MetroParks monitor the new trees, there are plenty of ways to lend a hand. You can fill out the volunteer form at metroparks.org/forests or call us at (937) 275-PARK."

ASH TREES AT HOME



CARING FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE IN THE WAKE OF EAB

By now, you probably have heard about the threat of invasive beetle emerald ash borer (EAB). This wood-boring insect, native to Asia, was transported to the U.S. and has been munching its way through North America's buffet of ash species, destroying trees from as young as a 1-inch sapling to huge centurions. Five Rivers MetroParks has launched a multi-pronged effort to preserve select ash trees and reforest areas decimated by the beetle, but are you prepared as a homeowner or landowner? We have some advice for you as Ohio continues to battle this bug.

IDENTIFY YOUR ASH TREE

Ohio is home to several species of ash trees, white (*Fraxinus americana*), green (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), black (*Fraxinus nigra*), blue (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*), and pumpkin (*Fraxinus profunda*). Ash trees are great pioneers. Their ability to produce seeds that travel long distances means ash comprise much of a second-growth forest's canopy. Sugarcreek MetroPark is one such instance of a second-growth forest. The effects of EAB are apparent as you visit the park and see swarms of blue tubes protecting newly planted seedlings where tall ash trees once stood. Being able to identify your ash trees is a good start to creating a plan for your home's landscaping.

Most trees can be identified by their leaves, bark and the formation of their branches. "Ash trees have compound leaves that can have from five to 11 leaflets," explains Education Supervisor Betty Hoevel. "You also should

notice a diamond pattern in the grooves of the bark." Ash trees' branches and twigs are strongly opposite. They can look a little like pitchforks at the ends of the branches.

"Once you identify a tree as an ash, look for signs of infection," Hoevel says. EAB beetles kill a tree from the top down, so look up high for symptoms if you want to have a chance at saving your tree. Signs of infestation include:

Dead branches

- Vertical splits in the bark
- Distinctive eighth-inch, D-shaped exit holes
- S-shaped, sawdust-packed galleries under the bark
- Fresh shoots of new leaves coming from the bottom part of the tree

BATTLING THE BEETLE

So you found signs of infestation, now what? "Ash tree wood tends to become brittle after it dies and can quickly become dangerous and a liability for the owner," Hoevel says. "Many authorities are suggesting that if the tree is not a critical landscape component, you should remove it and replace with a suitable replacement variety. This approach allows the tree owner more control in the budgeting of the removal."

Another option includes chemical treatments. The most popular variety includes a solution of insecticide and water that homeowners can pour around the base of the tree. "The beetles eat the living tissue under the bark," Hoevel explains. "This means you can just spray an insecticide on the bark or treat the tree externally because that's not where the bugs are. For these reasons, chemical treatments can be costly and not 100% guaranteed successful." If you choose to use insecticides, it is best to do so while the tree is still relatively healthy. If more than half of the tree is dead or deteriorating, you may be too late.

Determining how healthy your infected tree is and the best options (removal costs versus annual cost of applying and reapplying insecticide) can be daunting. The best option for property owners is to consult with a certified arborist. "This professional has specialized training in care and maintenance of trees," Hoevel says. "He or she can guide you through the process and compare costs and benefits of

ONLINE EXTRA

Visit **metroparks.org/ash** to find links to ash identification guides, how to find a certified arborist in your area, and get the scoop on what Five Rivers MetroParks is doing to fight the emerald ash borer.


treating or removing your tree.”

“I REMOVED MY TREE; NOW WHAT?”

If you lost an ash to EAB, you have several options for replacements. “The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, another state dealing with the loss of their native ash trees, has compiled a good list of replacement trees,” Hoevel says. “These are alternative tree selections for large trees over 40 feet at maturity with characteristics and tolerances similar to ash. Always remember not to plant under or near power lines!”

- Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
- Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*)
- Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*)
- Common hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
- American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)
- Honey locust (*Gleditsia tricanthos*)
- White oak (*Quercus alba*)
- Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*)

These native species are good options because they will have a better environmental impact. Other non-natives (which are not invasive) that might be good alternatives include:

- Red horse chestnut (*Aesculus x carnea*)
- Ginkgo (male only) (*Ginkgo biloba*)
- English oak (*Quercus robur*)
- Littleleaf linden (*Tilia cordata*)
- Silver linden (*Tilia tomentosa*)
- Japanese zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*) 

LOVE VOLUNTEERING? GO NUTS!

Keeping large, continuous tracts of forests is no easy task, but with the help of Five Rivers MetroParks volunteers and the Tree Corps, protecting 15,400 acres of our region’s natural heritage becomes less daunting. In addition to Forest Foster Families, tree planters, and tree monitors, MetroParks needs help collecting seeds to grow the next generation of forest denizens.

“We’re going to plant more trees by gathering seeds and planting them directly into the ground,” Conservation Director Dave Nolin says. “We have a tool specially made for the job, but we need more seeds if this is going to be successful.”

The most important trees from which seeds are needed are oaks and hickories. These nut-bearing trees are not reproducing well naturally, but they are vitally important components of local forests. They live a long time and produce huge quantities of “mast” (big fall crops of edible seeds) that are vital to wildlife.

HOW TO COLLECT OAK AND HICKORY SEEDS

COLLECT SEEDS

It’s best to collect acorns/hickory nuts while they’re on the tree or no more than a few days after they fall because they dry out quickly and lose viability. Trees should start producing ripe seeds by early September, and they fall as late as early November. Collect in paper grocery bags and take them home. If possible collect seeds from a MetroPark. Other good spots include local parks, wooded cemeteries, or wooded housing developments. If possible keep seeds from individual trees in separate sacks.

REMOVE HUSK OR CAP

Take each nut out of its husk—hickories have a four-part husk on the outside, acorns have a cap. Keep the nuts, discard the husks/caps.

FLOAT TEST

Place the husked seeds from each tree into a bucket or tub of water. Good nuts will sink; bad ones will float. Discard the ones that float.

BAG AND LABEL

Take the nuts that sink and place them into plastic, sealable bags. Put a few leaves from the collection tree (if you can tell which one it is) in the bag; it will help MetroParks staff identify the species. On a piece of paper write down where you collected the seed, the date collected, and your contact information. Put the slip of paper into the bag with the seeds, or write in permanent marker on the outside of the bag.

REFRIGERATE

Put the sealed bags into a refrigerator or cool, shady place until you’re ready to drop them off.

DELIVER SEEDS

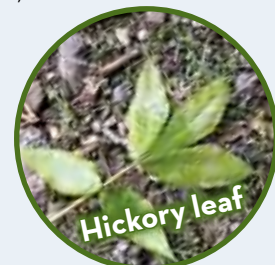
Bring the bagged, tested seeds to one of these locations:

Cox Arboretum MetroPark, 6733 Springboro Pike. Take your bag of seeds to the front desk during normal hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays).

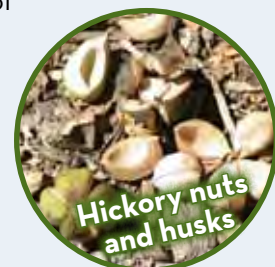
Taylorville MetroPark. Take seeds to the Park Office at 8500 Brown School Road, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The MetroParks booth at The Midwest Outdoor Experience

held at Eastwood MetroPark, 1385 Harshman Road, October 5-6, 2012.



Hickory leaf



Hickory nuts and husks



Oak leaf



Acorns

IT'S A MAD, MAD RIVER

BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT TO FEATURE RECREATION ELEMENT

Protecting our region's natural heritage is at the heart of Five Rivers MetroParks' mission. Maintaining natural habitat keeps our regional ecology healthy and provides nourishment and shelter for our region's native wildlife. Connecting people to these natural places is another important facet of MetroParks' mission, and outdoor recreation is no exception. What would the mountain biking trails at MoMBA be like without its canopy of towering hardwoods? Can you even imagine hiking a trail devoid of songbirds or chattering chipmunks? Preserving these spaces as natural areas enhances the visitor's experience, and Five Rivers MetroParks is proud to present an upgrade to an existing natural feature that will sustain wildlife and act as a fun public amenity! The Mad River restoration project will be bid in 2012 and feature bank stabilization aspects that also will act as a play area for kayakers.

The Mad River Restoration and In-Stream Recreation Enhancement Project is sited on a 6,600-foot reach of the Mad River at Eastwood MetroPark. Phase I of the project is a 2,100-foot section of the Mad River at Eastwood MetroPark. The goal of the proposed Mad River project is to restore this section of river to as much natural functionality as possible and to improve recreational opportunities, public access and aquatic habitat and safety characteristics of a 2,100-foot section of the Mad River in Eastwood MetroPark.

A LOOK BACK

Much of the Mad River was heavily modified for flood control in the early part of the 20th century. The river has been channelized, and in the case of the lower Phase I section, was actually rerouted around an oxbow to improve flood-control capacity. The river is mostly glide, with little of the meandering and pool riffle drop configuration that natural rivers exhibit. As a result, much of this section of river is

exhibiting bank erosion, heavy loads, and gravel deposition as well as a loss of bank and growth of invasive species in the river corridor.

"This is one of the most heavily paddled and fished sections of the Mad River, with several outfitters operating on this reach," explains Outdoor Recreation Coordinator Amy Dingle. "So when Five Rivers MetroParks designed the restoration, we had to make sure all modifications were safe for human and small craft recreation." The spring-fed Mad River runs year-round because of its groundwater sources and makes up 80-90 percent of the flow of the Great Miami River below its confluence during drought condition, giving it a reputation of being a reliable river to paddle and fish.

STATUS UPDATE

Phase 1 of the project included mussels, Indian bat, and Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index surveys. Subsequent surveys will help Five Rivers MetroParks understand the environmental impact and allow adjustments to be made to further develop healthy plant and animal habitat. The post-construction monitoring requirement could be conducted either through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency or as a partnership with the local higher-learning institutions.

Fundraising and grants have helped this project move from vision to construction phases. "We are very fortunate to have received a large donation from Dayton Rotary as part of its Legacy Launch, commemorating the club's 100-year anniversary," Dingle says. "It says much about the community when they see the inherent value of protecting our natural amenities and providing recreational opportunities to support healthy, active lifestyles in our region." Dayton Rotary was attracted to the project because a healthy, active Mad River would contribute so much to the vitality of the recreation corridor from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to downtown Dayton.

ONLINE EXTRA

Get the scoop on competitions, exhibitors, and all the activities you can try at the Midwest Outdoor Experience at outdoorx.org. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/midwestoutdoorx.

RIPARIAN HABITAT

Maintaining a high-quality habitat along the river corridors is critical to the success of native wildlife. “Trees play a big role in making riparian, or riverbank, habitat healthy,” Dingle explains.

“This is why Five Rivers MetroParks’ reforestation efforts are important to outdoor recreation, and trees will serve important functions as part of the Mad River project.”

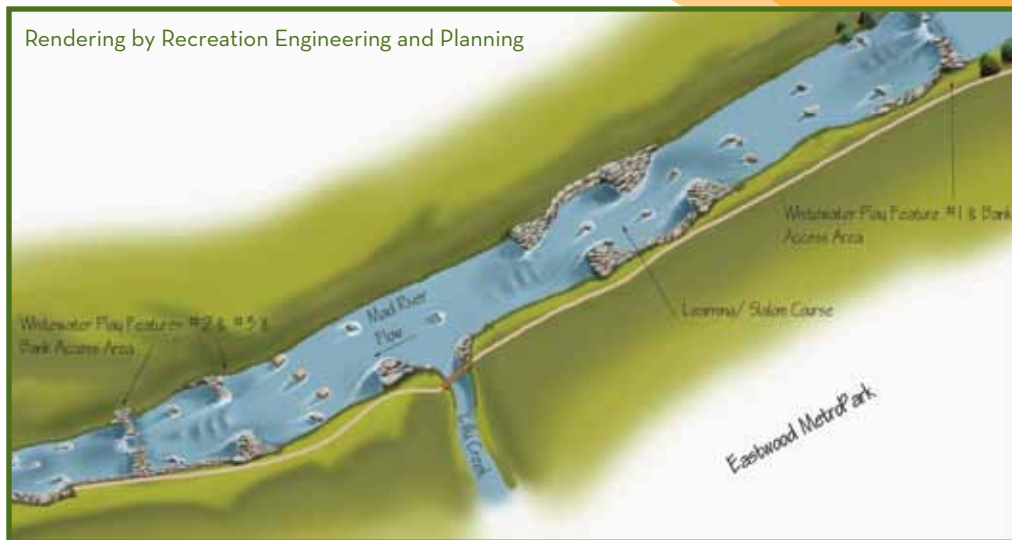
A riparian forest is simply the area of land next to the river that maintains the transition from land to the body of water. They exist not solely near rivers, but also creeks, streams, and other water sources. One of the most important ways the river filters out potential pollutants is through riparian forest buffers, guarding wildlife against any negative environmental impacts of agriculture and urban development. Because of the diverse area that the riparian forest encompasses, it is able to support a much larger and more diverse population than other habitats.

The riparian forest is home to migratory birds, herons, eagles, turtles, otters, ducks, and numerous others, including several types of migratory fish, which use the banks of rivers for hiding and feeding along their journey. The more diverse and stratified food chain a habitat can support, the more diverse its inhabitants will be.

Tall grasses and trees along the riverbank are useful in trapping runoff pollutants, and a strong root system in a shoreline forest is instrumental in preventing erosion. It is not infrequent for these habitats to be



Rendering by Recreation Engineering and Planning



destroyed by unknowing homeowners manicuring their lawns or simply runoff pollution. Through a process called “denitrification” the roots of trees can take up pollutants and prevent them from ever reaching the river, as well as processing the harmful nitrates into harmless nitrogen gas.

IMPACT ON RECREATION

When it is complete, the Mad River restoration project will feature fun areas for kayakers, supporting what has become a growing population of paddle-sport enthusiasts in the Miami Valley.

“This project is exciting for what it can bring to the region as we continue to establish Dayton, Ohio, as the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest,” Dingle explains. “As we transition the outdoor recreation festival formerly known as GearFest into the Midwest Outdoor Experience, having amenities like the Mad River and its play areas accessible to festival attendees will help create a year-round draw of tourists to our region as well as support active, healthy lifestyles for local residents.”

The Midwest Outdoor Experience, presented by Subaru, will take place October 5-6 at Eastwood MetroPark. Like its predecessor, GearFest, this weekend-long event will feature competitions, demonstrations and activities to try, all free of charge. “The name change came as we expanded our reach into new sponsorship arrangements,” explains Event Coordinator Tom Helbig. “If we want to keep this free festival sustainable, we have to be sure to secure funding

through sponsorships.”

This year’s event will include freestyle biking, whitewater kayaking, and other professional exhibitions, plus intense competitions, such as the MoMBA Cross-Country Classic, the Runner’s Plus Off-Road 5K, and the Charlie Doyle Memorial Regatta. The Midwest Outdoor Experience also will feature activities to try, such as mountain biking, snow tubing, disc golf, kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddleboards, geocaching, fly-fishing, backpacking, climbing, slacklining, yoga, skateboarding, and the Subway Fresh Fit Youth Adventure Zone just for kids.

Admission to the Midwest Outdoor Experience is free, but support from sponsors and event attendees will help keep this annual event sustainable. “For the amount of activities you can try, the array of demonstrations you can watch, and the live entertainment that’s available, you really get a lot of value packed into one weekend,” Helbig says. “We want to make sure this event continues and we can keep supporting healthy, active lifestyles. Look for donation stations at the Midwest Outdoor Experience and please contribute to the future of this family-friendly event with your donations.

“There’s something for everyone at the Midwest Outdoor Experience,” Helbig says. “Even if you need to take a break from all the outdoor adventure, you can enjoy live music, relax with free camping, get some gear at the exhibitor village, grab a meal from the food vendors, or chill at the Yakima Beer Garden.” 🍂

HABITAT HELPERS

NATIVE WILDLIFE THRIVES IN HEALTHY HABITATS

From the moment she “dropped in” Oz, Dorothy Gale wanted nothing more than to prance back to Kansas in her dazzling purloined pumps. Why? Turns out, “there’s no place like home.” The same sentiment goes for Ohio’s wild residents. “Protecting our natural heritage is extremely important for Five Rivers MetroParks, not only to maintain green space for people to enjoy, but to provide healthy, viable habitat for plants and animals,” says Executive Director Becky Benná.

Several projects have contributed to the succession of natural habitat and even helped certain native animal species rebound in population. “Success starts small,” explains Conservation Director Dave Nolin. “We need the little critters to come back because they comprise the base of the food chain. Without micro- and macroorganisms, we don’t have insects, fish, birds and so on.” Tiny creatures are extremely sensitive to their environment, which means even slight variations in pH levels, oxygen content, soil nutrients, or temperature can affect them. Thanks to ongoing efforts of Five Rivers MetroParks and the invaluable contributions of volunteers, protected lands have turned into healthy, viable habitat.

HAPPY TRAILS

The sustainable trails program has already revamped hiking trails at Taylorsville MetroPark, and construction on improving trails at Sugarcreek MetroPark will soon be under way. Cox Arboretum MetroPark is on deck. “As a conservation-minded organization, it’s our primary obligation to protect and maintain our natural spaces,” says Deputy Director Carrie Scarff. “Sustainable trails create the least environmental impact while allowing park visitors to have an enjoyable experience in the parks.”

Features of sustainable trails include minimal trail sloping, which decreases harmful runoff and erosion. “We want to slow down water when it runs off the trails,” Scarff says. “When water comes rushing downhill, plants don’t have an opportunity to hold onto the soil that

water picks up, so it ends up dumping into the waterways below.” These soil deposits can affect water quality, which in turn threatens those sensitive tiny critters, and their absence rocks the natural food chain. “It might sound kind of funny to think that hiking trails can harm deer or owls, but from a big picture, long-term perspective, that’s exactly what happens!” Scarff says.

Another benefit of sustainable trails is reduced user conflict. “We conduct surveys and do a lot of trail monitoring to find out how people are actually using these trails,” says Park Manager and Sustainable Trail Program Coordinator Ron Bicknell. “Are there narrow passages where people are trying to walk three or four abreast? Are there meandering paths that people typically go off-trail to cut corners? Are there spots that are difficult to navigate or determine exactly where the trail is going? By observing these kinds of behaviors and understanding why people hike the trails at a particular MetroPark, we can find the best solution that will allow park patrons to have the best experience while creating the least amount of impact on the surrounding environment.”

The process of creating a sustainable trail involves a lot of planning. First, staff members hike the trails of a particular park, checking for “trouble zones” or areas that have a negative environmental impact. During this review process, surveys are conducted. Information about trail perceptions and use are collected from both the public and staff members who regularly work there. “When we started surveying at Taylorsville MetroPark, people seemed confused about the purpose of sustainable trail design,” says Marketing Research Manager Amy Forsthoefer. “They were concerned that decreasing the grade would eliminate the challenging hill climbs they loved, but as it turned out, the long, sloping grades were just as challenging as short, steep grades. Furthermore, hikers were worried that because sustainable trails don’t cut down a hill straight to the river (which is terrible for erosion), they would lose their connection to the river. When we finished the trails, they were really pleased to see new

vistas that opened up from higher above that run parallel to the river, so park visitors still get the experience they want and Five Rivers MetroParks can protect the surrounding environment."

Next, the proposed trails are designed using mapping software, and the proposed route is flagged. The route then goes through a "peer review" process. "We want to make sure the new route is still easy to navigate," Bicknell says. "Sometimes we end up altering our proposed routes for better vistas or we find out that putting the trail out a few more feet in one direction makes it a little better for hikers. We learn a lot during this peer review." After a final peer review, the new trail is ready to be cut. "Right now at Sugarcreek MetroPark, we are at the flagging stage. We'll finish flagging in the fall when the vegetation isn't so thick. Then we'll have our initial peer review and host a community meeting in late winter or early spring to unveil our proposed route," Bicknell says. "After we receive public input we will finalize the layout and have a final peer review." Construction on the sustainable trails is slated to begin July 2013 to allow a year for native plant studies and accommodate the nesting bird season. "The native plant survey is done to assure we are not disrupting the habitat of uncommon species," Bicknell says.

BANK ON IT

Riverbank improvements are critical to maintaining healthy riparian habitat. "Erosion is harmful, so if we want to slow down that water so it's not washing topsoil into the rivers, constructing sustainable trails is one way, and improving riverbanks is another," Nolin says. "Trees have a massive root structure, making them very important for holding back that soil and preventing erosion."

One area receiving bank improvements is Wolf Creek. Construction on this bank stabilization project began in 2010. Native plants

were installed along once bare hills. Trail improvements will follow, which will create a nice amenity for Wesleyan MetroPark.

RUNNING WILD

As more and more land is converted into viable, healthy habitat, these special places can support native wildlife. "We've seen the return of several species," says Wildlife Biologist Mike Enright. "It's exciting to see these creatures, which once dominated the landscape, start to rebound."

Native bobcats have been sighted in the Twin Valley area (Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks area) as well as tracks discovered in the Carriage Hill MetroPark area. "Bobcats were gone by about 1850 due to hunting and loss of habitat," Enright says. Bobcats are forest dwellers who hunt rabbits and rodents. "Bobcats will also eat insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and birds," he says. Bobcats are considered crepuscular; they are most active in both the early evening and early morning hours.

Another face appearing in the MetroParks is the river otter. Native to all of Ohio around rivers and streams, otters were extirpated (or wiped out) by the early 1900s. Polluted streams and rivers killed its food supply (fish and other aquatic life) and overhunting banished them from the Buckeye State until 1986 when the Ohio Division of Wildlife reintroduced 123 river otters into Ohio streams over the next seven years. "They have been spreading throughout the state ever since and have been documented in the Mad and Stillwater rivers," Enright says. The Clean Water Act kicked off a recovery period for Ohio's rivers. These efforts combined with protection of river corridor areas by Five Rivers MetroParks and the Miami Conservancy District over the last 50 years provide hope that river otters will continue to increase in numbers.

Another river resident making a comeback are beavers. Once again,



Bobcat
Photo by Bob Gress

loss of habitat and over-hunting purged these buck-toothed mammals from Ohio's landscapes around 1830. As water quality and riparian forests improved, beavers returned. Find them in just about any MetroPark or waterway. They love munching on softwood trees like poplar, birch, cottonwood, and willows, and marsh plants like duckweed, cattail, sedge, or water lilies.

Around the turn of the 20th century, Ohio residents might have thought they saw the last of native wild turkeys. But the Ohio Division of Wildlife reintroduced this bird in the 1950s and thanks to access to healthy habitat, you can find them in the larger MetroParks, feeding on green plants, seeds, acorns, and insects.

Nothing fights on the fishing line like a smallmouth bass. They are a top predator of clean, gravelly streams. They eat crayfish, smaller fish, and other aquatic life. Their numbers in area rivers plummeted due to water pollution and destruction of streamside forests. Since 1980, they have made a strong comeback and are now once again common in many streams, particularly the Great Miami River, Stillwater River, and Twin Creek.

BEAR NECESSITIES

Black bears, which are smaller and shier than their western grizzly and brown bear cousins, are pretty elusive, but should you happen across a black bear while hiking or camping, keeping some of these handy tips in your outdoor adventurer knowledge bank will help keep you safe.

BEAR SAFETY WHILE HIKING:

- Make noise (sing, talk, clap, etc.) especially when you can only see 100 feet or less ahead to avoid surprising bears.

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP SCHOOL, IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BLACK BEAR, YOU SHOULD:

- **Unaware bear greater than 100 yards away:** Quietly leave the area or let the bear move off on its own. If you must move where the bear will see you, let it know you are coming – talk loudly and calmly, and move upwind of the bear so it can smell you.
- **Aware bear greater than 100 yards away:** Move out of sight slowly and then leave area quickly.
- **Aware bear less than 100 yards away:** Help the bear identify you. Speak in a low, firm voice and wave your arms. Don't move toward the bear or stare into its eyes as bears seem to perceive these actions as signs of aggression. Do not turn your back or kneel down in front of a bear. Turn sideways and walk away slowly. If you are in a group of four or more, group together. Stand your ground and speak to the bear in assured, audible tones. Usually a large group will intimidate a bear and it will leave first. If the bear walks toward you, back away. Drop a non-food item such as a bandana, camera, or water bottle to distract it.
- **Charging Bear:** Stand your ground. Running may excite the bear's chase response. If you are in a group of four or more, try to convince the bear that you are too big to attack. Stay grouped shoulder-to-shoulder, wave your arms and continue to talk firmly to the bear. If you are alone, or in a small group, attempt to reduce your presence. Stand facing the bear, be quiet, and try not to move. Avoid eye contact. Remember, most charges are bluffs.
- **Attacking Bear:** With black bear attacks, most experts recommend defending yourself aggressively rather than playing dead.

BEAR SAFETY WHILE IN CAMP:

- **If a bear were to attack at night while you are in camp you should:**
Do not play dead.
Try to scare the bear away by making loud noises (like banging pots together and yelling), or throwing things.
- **Human waste**
Use the outhouse located in the campsite or at the parking lot. When these are not available, bring a shovel with you, dig a cat hole 6-8 inches deep at least 100 feet away from any trails, bodies of water, or campsites.
Individuals should urinate on rocks because the nitrogen in waste attracts animals to pick at or eat plants/trees we may "do business" on.
Pack out toilet paper in a plastic baggie. Cover and disguise your cat hole.
- Use biodegradable soap in small amounts for washing yourself and possibly dishes.
- Wipe out leftover food in/on dishes into your trash bag before using water to rinse. Broadcast/Scatter all dirty water at least 100 yards away from campsite.
- Sleep at least 100 yards from where you eat, go to the bathroom, and store your food.



Photo from Wikipedia

Perhaps one of the most popular “boomerang” species is the bald eagle. This symbolic bird suffered the effects of food chain degradation via pesticides, and by 1979 their population in Ohio had decreased to 4 pair, all along Lake Erie. Today, water quality has improved significantly, offering a bounty of fish for the 100-plus pairs of eagles living in Ohio. “Eagles mate for life, so you really get interesting dynamics between these animals,” Enright says. “One pair of eagles, nicknamed ‘Jim’ and ‘Cindy,’ have a nest along the Mad River near Eastwood MetroPark. They successfully raised three chicks this past summer, and we’re hoping another young pair residing near the Stillwater makes it to parenthood soon.” Cooper’s hawk is another rebounding raptor, enjoying the effects of the DDT ban and increased woodland habitat.

One of Ohio’s “comeback kids” is greatly misunderstood, but its presence indicates significant habitat restoration. Black bears, common throughout Ohio prior to 1800, have been returning to their native lands as early as the 1980s as forests grew. “Statewide population for black bears is now around 100—including one that visits the Twin Valley!” Enright says. The acreage in that area and the high-quality habitat is likely responsible for attracting a bear, which Five Rivers MetroParks biologists conjecture is a wandering young male. “Black bears are omnivorous, feeding on fruits, nuts, insects, grasses and leaves, flowers, fish, carrion, and occasionally newborn mammals and birds,” Enright explains. “Their diet will change with the seasons based on the availability of various foods.”

Visitors to Germantown or Twin Creek MetroParks shouldn’t be scared of running into the bear, Enright says. “He’s been very elusive, and like most animals, they are just as afraid of you.” Respecting nature and understanding

how to safeguard yourself against unintentional run-ins will help park visitors enjoy their experience. Outdoor Recreation Coordinator Erik Dahlstrom has a few tips on bear-proofing your campsite while backpacking the Twin Valley Trail. “Camping and hiking in places where there are or may be black bears is little different than camping with raccoons or chipmunks,” he says.

LOOKING AHEAD

With all these habitat success stories, it might be easy to think that our work is done, but efforts to protect our natural resources are an ongoing battle. “Many species of migratory birds are declining due to habitat destruction in the tropics as well as in the United States and Canada,” Nolin says. A recent study of Sugarcreek MetroPark revealed significant declines of many migratory songbirds since the 1970s, a trend seen throughout Ohio. “In our area, ‘fragmentation,’ or the reduction of natural areas to smaller and smaller pieces, is a primary cause.”

You can help! “Being a good environmental steward isn’t difficult. It’s all about making good choices that support a more sustainable lifestyle and, in turn, reduce negative impacts on our environment,” Benná says.

Volunteering with Five Rivers MetroParks is another way to nurture habitats. From Forest Foster Families who help grow seedlings to fish seining to bird counts, there are a number of ways you and your family can pitch in to help our native habitats. Visit metroparks.org/volunteer to learn more about volunteer opportunities, or sign up online to receive the conservation e-newsletter. You’ll receive updates about activities going on in the conservation department and lists of upcoming volunteer opportunities. Visit metroparks.org/ParkWays for a shortcut to the publications page where you can sign up to receive e-mail newsletters.

Five Rivers MetroParks has been protecting the region’s natural heritage for nearly 50 years. With support from Miami Valley residents, we hope to preserve these spaces and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature for generations to come. 🌿

A SMALLER FOOTPRINT

Follow these simple tips to be a good environmental steward and support native habitats.

BUY LOCAL! Shopping locally is good for the local economy, and because you’re not shipping goods in from elsewhere, fewer fossil fuels will be used.

PLANT LOCAL! When designing your landscape, use native plants. Invasive plants can out-compete natives, which can have negative consequences for local wildlife.

DRINK LOCAL! Dayton is home to a huge aquifer that supplies Miami Valley residents with plenty of fresh water. Buying bottled water generates huge amounts of waste, from extracting the petroleum used to make the plastic bottles to the pollution generated from hauling the used bottles away—even recycling creates by-products. Reuse containers from home. Filter if you must, but Dayton tap water is just dandy on its own.

KEEP LITTER IN ITS PLACE!

Wrappers, cigarette butts, Styrofoam containers—it’s all garbage, and it doesn’t just disappear when thrown to the ground. Put trash in the proper receptacles (recycle if you can), and keep it out of animals’ homes!



FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS IS PLEASED TO PRESENT **YOUR GUIDE TO FALL PROGRAMS**

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

BY TOPIC

Interested in paddle sports, photography, gardening or hiking? Looking to volunteer or maybe just want to find all the seasonal happenings in the MetroParks? Check out the TOPIC section. Each program lists the date, name, time, place and description. You can register online at **www.metroparks.org** or by phone.

BY DATE

You can also search for programs by date. This is a chronological listing of every program 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, or to register, visit **www.metroparks.org**. You can register online or by phone.

ONLINE

You can make a comprehensive search for programs using tools online. Search for programs listed by date, topic or park when you visit **www.metroparks.org** and click on the “Find a Program” link found on the left-hand navigation bar. You can also find suggestions by clicking the “Get Outside” link at the top of the page. **Metroparks.org** helps you get connected to park information, program guides, videos, nature play, 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.

ALERTS AND CLOSURES

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

HOW TO CONTACT A RANGER IN A METROPARK:

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

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

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

GUIDE TO PROGRAMS LISTED BY DATE, TIME

SAT, SEP 1, 2012

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It!: Great Miami River Bikeway, Bikeway: Great Miami River (see page 30)
10:00 AM Canning Club: Fruits, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 23)
10:00 AM Draft Horse Days, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 23)
1:00 PM Scarecrow Building Workshop, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 20)

SUN, SEP 2, 2012

10:00 AM Draft Horse Days, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 23)

MON, SEP 3, 2012

9:00 AM Volunteer: RiverScape Gardeners, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 20)

TUE, SEP 4, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Discovery Stroll, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 24)
10:00 AM Tike Hike: A Seed's Journey, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 24)
11:30 AM Lunch and Learn: Making A Period Ginger Beer, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 22)

WED, SEP 5, 2012

10:00 AM Adult Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 24)
4:00 PM Try Kayaking, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 32)
5:30 PM Fundamentals of Moving Water, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 32)
6:00 PM Year-Round Leafy Greens, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 20)

THU, SEP 6, 2012

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Prairie Play, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 25)
6:30 PM Intro to Mountain Biking, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 31)

SAT, SEP 8, 2012

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It!: Creekside Bikeway, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 30)
9:00 AM Volunteer: Backpacking Trail Work Days, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 29)
10:00 AM Fall Flowers—Natives and Traditional, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 21)
10:00 AM Hummingbird Banding: Understanding a Pollinator, Germantown MetroPark (see page 26)
10:00 AM EarthJoy Tree Climbing, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 32)

11:00 AM Scales and Feathers, Huffman MetroPark (see page 26)
12:00 PM Volunteer: MoMBA Trail Work Days, Huffman MetroPark (see page 31)
2:00 PM Bluebird Investigation, Englewood MetroPark (see page 26)
4:00 PM Kayak Naturalist Float, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 32)

MON, SEP 10, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Animal Homes, Englewood MetroPark (see page 24)

TUE, SEP 11, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Englewood MetroPark (see page 26)
1:00 PM Parent and Preschooler: Fun with Scarecrows, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 20)

WED, SEP 12, 2012

10:00 AM Whose Garden Is It?, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 29)
6:30 PM Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation, Offsite (see page 26)

THU, SEP 13, 2012

10:00 AM Parent & Preschooler: Sunny Flowers, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 26)
10:30 AM Fresh Summer Wrap Demo, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 24)
6:00 PM Volunteer: MoMBA Trail Work Days, Huffman MetroPark (see page 31)

FRI, SEP 14, 2012

5:00 PM Taste of Miami Valley, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 32)

SAT, SEP 15, 2012

8:30 AM Family Farm Chores, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 20)
8:30 AM Family Farm Chores, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 20)
9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It!: Great Miami River Bikeway, Bikeway: Great Miami River (see page 30)
9:00 AM Mountain Biking Basics, Huffman MetroPark (see page 31)
9:00 AM Garden Station Mosaic Workshop, Offsite (see page 21)
10:00 AM Bulbs and Perennials Workshop, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 21)
10:30 AM Picturing Puddles and Ponds, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 29)
1:00 PM Dehydration, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 24)
1:00 PM Eureka Lab!: Food for Winter, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 26)
2:00 PM Taste of Miami Valley, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 32)

3:00 PM MoMBA Anniversary Ride, Huffman MetroPark (see page 31)
4:30 PM URS Rubber Duck Regatta, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 32)

SUN, SEP 16, 2012

9:00 AM Garden Station Mosaic Workshop, Offsite (see page 22)
2:00 PM The Historic Garden, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 21)

TUE, SEP 18, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Discovery Stroll, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 24)
10:00 AM Tikes Taking Action: Monarch Tagging, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 27)
6:00 PM Volunteer: Midwest Outdoor Experience Orientation, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 33)

THU, SEP 20, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Hiding In My Shell, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 24)

FRI, SEP 21, 2012

8:00 AM ACA Canoe Instructor Certification, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 32)
8:00 AM ACA Kayak Instruction Certification, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 32)
9:00 AM PARKing Day, Offsite (see page 21)
11:30 AM Cloth Diapering 101, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 24)

SAT, SEP 22, 2012

7:00 AM Germantown 50K Trail Run, Offsite (see page 33)
8:00 AM Sickle Cell Walk, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 33)
9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It!: Wolf Creek Bikeway, Bikeway: Wolf Creek (see page 30)
9:00 AM Try Hiking @..., Englewood MetroPark (see page 31)
10:00 AM Billy Goodnick: Crimes Against Horticulture—When Bad Taste Meets Power Tools, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 21)
10:00 AM Country Fair, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 33)
11:00 AM Do-It-Yourself Grain to Bread, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 20)
11:00 AM Hispanic Heritage Festival, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 33)
2:00 PM Billy Goodnick: Seeing the Garden Through a Designer's Eyes, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 21)
8:00 PM Owl Prowl, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 27)

SUN, SEP 23, 2012

10:00 AM Country Fair, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 33)

TUE, SEP 25, 2012

9:00, 11:00 AM Stroller Strut: Up, Down, All Around, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 27)
6:30 PM Gardener's Plant Exchange, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 21)

WED, SEP 26, 2012

6:00 PM Volunteer: Midwest Outdoor Experience Orientation, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 33)

THU, SEP 27, 2012

9:00 AM Volunteer: Cover Mapping, Germantown MetroPark (see page 27)
4:00 PM Try Mountain Biking, Huffman MetroPark (see page 31)
7:00 PM Café Sci, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 27)

FRI, SEP 28, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Spider Kid, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 25)

SAT, SEP 29, 2012

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It!: Great Miami River Bikeway, Bikeway: Great Miami River (see page 30)
9:00 AM Walk to Cure Diabetes, Island MetroPark (see page 33)
10:00 AM Fall Fruit Tree Workshop, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 21)

SUN, SEP 30, 2012

9:00 AM MoMBA XC Classic, Huffman MetroPark (see page 31)

TUE, OCT 2, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Discovery Stroll, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 24)
10:00 AM Tike Hike: Woodland Tunnel, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 25)
11:30 AM Lunch and Learn: Making Your Own Cider, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 22)

THU, OCT 4, 2012

9:00 AM Volunteer: Cover Mapping, Germantown MetroPark (see page 27)
10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Natures Textures, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 26)

FRI, OCT 5, 2012

10:00 AM Horse-Drawn Plowing in the Neighborhood, Offsite (see page 21)
11:00 AM Pork-pourri, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 33)
6:00 PM Midwest Outdoor Experience Presented by Subaru, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 34)

SAT, OCT 6, 2012

8:30 AM Family Farm Chores, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 20)

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It!: Stillwater River Bikeway, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 30)

9:00 AM Charlie Doyle Memorial Regatta, Island MetroPark (see page 34)
10:00 AM Canning Club: End-of-Season Harvest, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 23)
10:00 AM Roots: Form and Function, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 21)
11:00 AM Midwest Outdoor Experience Presented by Subaru, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 34)
6:30 PM Beaver Search, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 27)

SUN, OCT 7, 2012

12:00 PM Dayton CROP Hunger Walk, Island MetroPark (see page 33)
1:00 PM Tree Trivia, Englewood MetroPark (see page 28)
3:00 PM Family Spider Search, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 28)

TUE, OCT 9, 2012

1:00 PM Parent and Preschooler: The Tiny Pumpkin Seed, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 20)

THU, OCT 11, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 26)
10:00 AM Parent & Preschooler: Power of Pollination, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 26)

FRI, OCT 12, 2012

10:00 AM Tikes Taking Action: Accruing Acorns, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 27)

SAT, OCT 13, 2012

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It!: Creekside Bikeway, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 30)
9:00 AM Fall Bird Hike, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 28)
10:00 AM Ash Tree Replacement Options, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 22)
10:00 AM Carlisle Fort: A Hopewell Site Workshop, Germantown MetroPark (see page 28)
10:00 AM Pumpkin Decorating, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 33)
11:00 AM Voyage on the Parkway, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 34)
12:00 PM Autumn Photography, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 29)
3:00 PM Nature Center Host Training, Germantown MetroPark (see page 28)
7:00 PM Nocturnal Wetland Romp, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 28)

SUN, OCT 14, 2012

12:00 PM Corn Husking and Husking Bee, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 23)

2:00 PM Aullwood from a Conservationist's Perspective, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 23)

MON, OCT 15, 2012

5:30 PM Introduction to Fly Fishing, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 30)

TUE, OCT 16, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Discovery Stroll, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 24)

WED, OCT 17, 2012

2:00 PM Compost Kitchen: Building Better Soil, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 22)

THU, OCT 18, 2012

11:30 AM Animal Health and Behavior, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 24)
4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 28)
6:00 PM Starting a New Community Garden, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 22)
6:30 PM Learning from the Landscape: Replacements for Ash Trees, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 22)

FRI, OCT 19, 2012

7:00 PM Tike Hike: Nocturnal Adventure, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 25)

SAT, OCT 20, 2012

8:30 AM Family Farm Chores, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 20)
9:00 AM Try Hiking @..., Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 31)
9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It!: Wolf Creek Bikeway, Bikeway: Wolf Creek (see page 30)
9:00 AM Volunteer: Backpacking Trail Work Days, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 29)
9:00 AM Fly Fishing Basics, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 31)
9:00 AM Garden Station Mosaic Workshop, Offsite (see page 21)
12:00 PM Volunteer: MoMBA Trail Work Days, Huffman MetroPark (see page 31)
12:00 PM Possum Creek Harvest Jamboree, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

SUN, OCT 21, 2012

9:00 AM Garden Station Mosaic Workshop, Offsite (see page 22)
2:00 PM Fall Tree ID, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 28)
2:00 PM Stephanie Cohen: Native Plants with Bling, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 22)

TUE, OCT 23, 2012

9:00, 11:00 AM Stroller Strut: All About Autumn,



Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 27)

6:00 PM Ghost N' Goblin 5K Run & Walk, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 33)

WED, OCT 24, 2012

2:00 PM Compost Kitchen: Backyard Composting, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 22)

THU, OCT 25, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Beaver Fever, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 25)

4:00 PM Try Mountain Biking, Huffman MetroPark (see page 31)

7:00 PM Café Sci, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 27)

FRI, OCT 26, 2012

6:30 PM A Spooky Evening in the Garden, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 28)

SAT, OCT 27, 2012

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It!: Wolf Creek Bikeway, Bikeway: Wolf Creek (see page 30)

1:00 PM Fun with Pumpkins, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 20)

SUN, OCT 28, 2012

12:00 PM Grains on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 23)

MON, OCT 29, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Creepy Creatures, Germantown MetroPark (see page 25)

WED, OCT 31, 2012

2:00 PM Compost Kitchen: All About Worms, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 22)

THU, NOV 1, 2012

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Leaves of Color, Sugar Creek MetroPark (see page 26)

FRI, NOV 2, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: My First Leaf Collection, Englewood MetroPark (see page 25)

SAT, NOV 3, 2012

9:00 AM Fly Fishing Basics for Trout, Offsite (see page 31)

10:00 AM Nature in Motion, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 29)

10:00 AM All Those Leaves: Garden Gold, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 22)

10:00 AM Canning Club: Butters, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 23)

12:00 PM Volunteer: MoMBA Trail Work Days, Huffman MetroPark (see page 31)

1:00 PM Turkey Fun! Possum Creek MetroPark

(see page 20)

1:00 PM Fall Tree ID Workshop, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 28)

6:00 PM Hawk and Owl Workshop, Germantown MetroPark (see page 28)

TUE, NOV 6, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Discovery Stroll, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 24)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Native American Story Time, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 25)

WED, NOV 7, 2012

11:30 AM Lunch and Learn: Garden Benefits of All Those Leaves, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 22)

6:30 PM Fundamentals of Lightweight Backpacking, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 29)

THU, NOV 8, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: My First Leaf Collection, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 25)

12:30 PM Breakfast Pies, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 24)

6:00 PM Volunteer: Geocache Assistant Training, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 31)

FRI, NOV 9, 2012

12:00 PM Brown County Mountain Bike Trip, Offsite (see page 32)

SAT, NOV 10, 2012

10:00 AM Prairie Play, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 28)

10:00 AM Tree Trail in Fall: Watching Nature Prepare for Winter, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 23)

10:00 AM EarthJoy Tree Climbing, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 32)

1:00 PM Honoring Our First Farmers, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 20)

SUN, NOV 11, 2012

12:00 PM Vices of the 1880s: Tobacco, Alcohol and Others, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 23)

2:00 PM Autumn at Aullwood, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 23)

TUE, NOV 13, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 26)

1:00 PM Parent and Preschooler: What's Up Turkey! Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 20)

6:00 PM Outfitting Your Kayak, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 32)

THU, NOV 15, 2012

10:00 AM Parent & Preschooler: Grow a Pizza, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 26)

6:00 PM Backcountry Gourmet Cooking, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 29)

8:00 PM Red Cedars and Northern Saw-whet Owl, Germantown MetroPark (see page 29)

FRI, NOV 16, 2012

10:00 AM Tikes Taking Action: Planting Acorns, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 27)

SAT, NOV 17, 2012

8:30 AM Family Farm Chores, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 20)

8:30 AM Family Farm Chores, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 20)

9:00 AM Try Hiking @..., Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 31)

11:00 AM Family Scavenger Hunt, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 29)

11:00 AM Pumpkins More than Decorations, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 24)

1:00 PM Eureka Lab! Nocturnal November, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 27)

2:00 PM Who Hibernates?, Sugar Creek MetroPark (see page 29)

6:00 PM Screech Owl Search, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 29)

MON, NOV 19, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Wild Turkeys, Germantown MetroPark (see page 25)

TUE, NOV 20, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Discovery Stroll, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 24)

FRI, NOV 23, 2012

11:00 AM Ice Rink Opening Weekend, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 34)

SAT, NOV 24, 2012

11:00 AM Ice Rink Opening Weekend, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 34)

1:00 PM Homemade Pasta, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 24)

SUN, NOV 25, 2012

1:00 PM Ice Rink Opening Weekend, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 34)

TUE, NOV 27, 2012

10:00 AM Stroller Studies: Greeting Fall, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 29)

WED, DEC 5, 2012

6:30 PM Backcountry Fast & Light Cooking, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 30)

WED, DEC 12, 2012

6:30 PM Fundamentals of Backcountry Knots, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 30)

EDUCATION

FARMING

(FREE) SCARECROW BUILDING WORKSHOP

SAT SEP 1, 1:00-3:30 PM C29
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Meet at the big barn to construct scarecrows of your favorite fairy tale character(s). We provide the frame and stuffing; you provide the clothing. Can't be at the workshop? Construct your scarecrow elsewhere and then bring it to Possum Creek Farm. The scarecrows are displayed for the Scarecrow Convention and for Possum Creek Harvest Jamboree. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: All ages 📱

(FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER: FUN WITH SCARECROWS

TUE SEP 11, 1:00-2:30 PM C20
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Join us at Possum Creek Farm to learn about scarecrows. Make your own to take home to guard your garden. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y 📱 PTN

(FREE) FAMILY FARM CHORES

SAT SEP 15, 8:30-10:00 AM C108
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

SAT SEP 15, 8:30-10:30 AM C30
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

SAT OCT 6, 8:30-10:30 AM C31
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

SAT OCT 20, 8:30-10:00 AM C109
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

SAT NOV 17, 8:30-10:00 AM C110
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

SAT NOV 17, 8:30-10:30 AM C32
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

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

(FREE) DO-IT-YOURSELF GRAIN TO BREAD

SAT SEP 22, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM C3
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn about some easy-to-grow grains for your own backyard. Then learn how to process your product into warm loaves of bread for family and friends when it comes time to harvest. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

(FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER: THE TINY PUMPKIN SEED

TUE OCT 9, 1:00-2:30 PM C23
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Follow the little pumpkin seed on its journey to becoming a bright orange pumpkin. Enjoy a pumpkin treat and activity. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y 📱 PTN

(FREE) FUN WITH PUMPKINS

SAT OCT 27, 1:00-3:00 PM C24
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

The pumpkin is a wonderful squash, fun and good to eat. Come learn about the different kinds of pumpkins. Decorate a small pumpkin to take home. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 4Y-13Y 📱 PTN

(FREE) TURKEY FUN!

SAT NOV 3, 1:00-2:30 PM C27
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Join us for some turkey fun on the farm. Enjoy games and activities all centering around the turkey. It will be a gobble good time! Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: All ages 📱 PTN

(FREE) HONORING OUR FIRST FARMERS

SAT NOV 10, 1:00-3:00 PM C25
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Join us in welcoming Andy Sawyer of Sun Watch Indian Village. He will tell about the Native Peoples of long ago that lived in this vicinity. There will be Native American displays and related activities to participate in. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: All ages 📱

(FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER: WHAT'S UP TURKEY!

TUE NOV 13, 1:00-2:30 PM C26
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn about Possum Creek Farm's turkeys. We will talk about wild and domestic turkeys and how the turkey became a symbol of the Thanksgiving holiday. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y 📱 PTN

GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: RIVERSCAPE GARDENERS

MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SEP 3-NOV 2, 9:00-11:30 AM 7728

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

Volunteer and learn basic gardening tasks. Learn how to care for a wide variety of plants from experts. New/returning volunteers should inquire about upcoming volunteer orientations. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 Ext. 1604 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

(FREE) YEAR-ROUND LEAFY GREENS

WED SEP 5, 6:00-8:00 PM C65
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

New and experienced gardeners alike may benefit from learning how to grow, harvest and prepare leafy green vegetables throughout the year. We'll discuss the optimal timetables and methods for growing kale, mustards, turnips, collards, lettuce, spinach, chard and more! Demonstrations will also include sprouting, growing microgreens, and cooking. Registration required. Age: All ages 📱



📱 = Online Registration Available

⚙️ = Program is Weather-Dependent



(FREE) FALL FLOWERS—NATIVES AND TRADITIONAL**SAT SEP 8, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** C69

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Join us for a look at the great fall flowers of Wegerzyn, both in the formal gardens and the prairie, and how to get these great looks in your own garden. We'll meet at the Auditorium and go into the garden. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📱

GARDEN STATION MOSAIC WORKSHOP**SAT, SUN SEP. 15-16, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM** C2

OFFSITE, Community Gardens, Contact Us for Map

SAT, SUN OCT. 20-21, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM C1

Offsite, Community Gardens, Contact Us for Map

Garden Station Community Garden & Art Park manager teaches basic mosaic techniques using the Zagar method. Students plan and complete mosaic planter. Small take-home piece serves as "practice." Basic bottle wall making included as well. Limited to six students. Must pay online at www.daytongardenstation.org. Hosted by Garden Station, 509 E 4th St, Dayton. Registration required. Contact (937) 610-3845 for details. Age: 12Y and up Fee: \$75 📱

(FREE) BULBS AND PERENNIALS WORKSHOP**SAT SEP 15, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** C70

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Children's Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Not all bulbs come from Holland, so come and explore the wonderful native bulbs that are available for your garden. We'll also talk about great perennials that will make any garden spectacular! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📱

(FREE) THE HISTORIC GARDEN**SUN SEP 16, 2:00-4:00 PM** C167

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Aullwood Gardens, 930 Aullwood Rd.

Join us for a look at Mrs. Aull's garden in early fall, as flowers change and leaves begin their show. We'll talk about the garden as a reflection of Mrs. Aull's time as well as how to preserve an historic feeling with modern

plants and growing techniques. We'll meet in the parking lot. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📱

(FREE) PARKING DAY**FRI SEP 21, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM** C61

OFFSITE, Community Gardens, Contact Us for Map

PARK (ing) Day is an annual, worldwide event that transforms metered parking spots into temporary parks for the public good. MetroParks provides plants, Green Velvet Sod Farms provides sod, and Garden Station (Garden & Art Park) organizes volunteers to set up and staff the "parks" in the Oregon District, at City Hall, and other downtown locations. No registration required. Contact (937) 276-7053 or beachdell@metroparks.org for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) BILLY GOODNICK: CRIMES AGAINST HORTICULTURE—WHEN BAD TASTE MEETS POWER TOOLS**SAT. SEP 22, 10:00-11:45 AM** C116

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

A fun-filled presentation from garden speaker/writer Billy Goodnick is guaranteed to make your gardening day! He'll talk about great design, soil health, including natives, and why and how to make your garden a great place for you and your guests! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) BILLY GOODNICK: SEEING THE GARDEN THROUGH A DESIGNER'S EYES**SAT SEP 22, 2:00-4:00 PM** C117

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Outdoor Venues, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Join garden speaker/writer Billy Goodnick and Wegerzyn horticulturist Chris Jensen as they lead a tour of Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, with an eye toward design, plants, natural boundaries, and garden rooms. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

(FREE) GARDENER'S PLANT EXCHANGE**TUE SEP 25, 6:30-7:30 PM** C144

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

The Gardener's Plant Exchange is an economical way to add variety to your garden. Gardening enthusiasts are invited to join us for a fun evening of sharing and swapping. Gather your favorite seeds, divide your perennials, or dig out some of your plants that have outgrown their space. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 or lucille.beachdell@metroparks.org for details. Age: All ages 📱

(FREE) FALL FRUIT TREE WORKSHOP**SAT SEP 29, 10:00-11:30 AM** C84

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

Add a little edible diversity to your garden with fruit trees. Join plantsman Tomasz Przepiorkowski on a walk through the Edible Landscape Garden as he shares suggestions for interesting and easy-to-grow fruit trees suitable for the home landscape. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: All ages 📱

(FREE) HORSE-DRAWN PLOWING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**FRI OCT 5, 10:00-11:00 AM** C62

OFFSITE, Community Gardens, Contact Us for Map

Carriage Hill MetroPark's historical farmers bring their draft horses out to plow at Greenwich Village Community Garden, located at the west dead end of Prescott (off Gettysburg), Dayton. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact lucille.beachdell@metroparks.org or call (937) 276-7053 for details. Info online at metroparks.org/gwyn. Age: All ages 📱 ⚙️

(FREE) ROOTS: FORM AND FUNCTION**SAT OCT 6, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** C98

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Children's Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Learn how roots function and grow for plant health, help in erosion control and adapt to growth in different spaces. You'll never think of roots the same again! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📱

(FREE) ASH TREE REPLACEMENT OPTIONS**SAT OCT 13, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** C85

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

Do you have declining ash trees in your yard due to the recent emerald ash borer infestation? Plantsman Tomasz Przepiorkowski will discuss signs of decline and replacement trees, which include native Ohio tree options. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

COMPOST KITCHEN

Composting is a sound and effective way to improve garden soil and recycle waste materials. Classes may be taken separately or as a series. Participants attending all three sessions will receive a free composter from Montgomery County Solid Waste District.

(FREE) BUILDING BETTER SOIL**WED OCT 17, 2:00-4:00 PM** C68

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

Gardeners learn how to evaluate their soil, manage its composition, and add available nutrients without the use of synthetic fertilizer. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

(FREE) BACKYARD COMPOSTING**WED OCT 24, 2:00-4:00 PM** C66

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

This class will focus on various composting methods, describe the characteristics of good compost, and address many of the typical challenges associated with getting started. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

(FREE) ALL ABOUT WORMS**WED OCT 31, 2:00-4:00 PM** C67

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

Worms are very efficient composters, and with their help gardeners can produce quick, quality compost. Learn how to manage a worm bin yourself! John Woodman from Montgomery County Solid Waste will also discuss community composting efforts.

Registration required. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

(FREE) STARTING A NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN**THU OCT 18, 6:00-7:30 PM** C143

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

How can you start a community vegetable garden in your neighborhood, school, church? Learn the essential steps to a successful project. Fall is the best time for planning a garden! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 18Y & up 📱

LEARNING FROM THE LANDSCAPE SERIES

"Walk and talk" and learn from the park grounds.

(FREE) REPLACEMENTS FOR ASH TREES**THU OCT 18, 6:30-8:00 PM** C137

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

Do you have declining ash trees due to the recent emerald ash borer infestation? Learn the signs of decline and what the infestation means for the future of your landscape and local forests. We'll talk about the trees you can use to replace those you'll lose. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 📱

(FREE) STEPHANIE COHEN: NATIVE PLANTS WITH BLING**SUN OCT 21, 2:00-4:00 PM** C118

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Native plants are sustainable, good for wildlife and the environment, and some have even become superstars in the perennial plant industry. Join popular lecturer Stephanie Cohen for a discussion about incorporating these plants in your garden to add sparkle and bling. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

(FREE) ALL THOSE LEAVES: GARDEN GOLD**SAT NOV 3, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** C101

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

Every year, we remove tons of leaves from our lawns, when we could use them to our benefit. Learn how "free" leaves can make your flower and garden beds and even containers healthier in the coming year. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📱

LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

Enjoy speakers who will give new meaning to the term "power gardening" during this brown bag lunch series.

(FREE) MAKING A PERIOD GINGER BEER**TUE SEP 4, 11:30 AM-1:15 PM** C107

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

Brewing was a part of everyday life in the 1880s. Join us as we learn about period "short beers" and make a batch. Participants will learn the process and the resources needed to brew their own. Registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: 21Y and up 📱

(FREE) MAKING YOUR OWN CIDER**TUE OCT 2, 11:30 AM-1:15 PM** C111

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

Cider making dates to our early forefathers. Come learn about the various types of cider that were made and how they can be reproduced using common household items. Registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: 21Y and up 📱

(FREE) GARDEN BENEFITS OF ALL THOSE LEAVES**WED NOV 7, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM** C102

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

Make leaves work for you! Learn how the tons of leaves we normally throw away each year can make your vegetable, garden, and shrub beds and even containers better next spring. Registration required. Age: All ages 📱

**(FREE) TREE TRAIL IN FALL:
WATCHING NATURE PREPARE
FOR WINTER**

SAT NOV 10, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM C103
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult
Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Join us for a walk on the Wegerzyn Tree Trail and learn the ways nature prepares itself for winter. Tips will also be given on getting your own garden ready for the seasons ahead. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome.

Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) AUTUMN AT AULLWOOD

SUN NOV 11, 2:00-4:00 PM C170
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Aullwood
Gardens, 930 Aullwood Rd.

No Need to say more. Autumn at Aullwood is beyond compare in its beauty and variety. We'll take a walk through the property and look at how everything is getting ready for winter. Come with your camera or just soak in the wonder of the sight. We'll have hot cider on the porch to chase away any chill. We'll meet in the parking lot. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 📅 ⚙️

HERITAGE & HISTORY

(FREE) DRAFT HORSE DAYS
SAT, SUN SEP. 1-2, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

C105
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, 7800 E. Shull Rd.
Come join us for a weekend devoted to the draft horse. Watch as various demonstrations are given highlighting the skills required to drive draft horses. Also learn how horses were used to power equipment on the farm. On Saturday and Sunday, watch as the United States Plowing Contest is held. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages

**(FREE) CORN HUSKING AND
HUSKING BEE**

SUN OCT 14, 12:00-5:00 PM C112
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill
Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
During the 19th Century, corn was a common staple crop throughout the Midwest. Help husk corn that will be food for the livestock throughout the winter. Afterwards, enjoy music, dance, and merriment in our historic barn. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages

**(FREE) AULLWOOD FROM
A CONSERVATIONIST'S
PERSPECTIVE**

SUN OCT 14, 2:00-4:00 PM C169
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Aullwood
Gardens, 930 Aullwood Rd.
Many times we focus on the gardens at the Aulls' property. Today, MetroParks' Conservation Director Dave Nolin will lead us on a tour of the non-garden surrounding the site and discuss the importance of its location and its native plant and animal life. We'll meet in the Parking Lot. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) GRAINS ON THE FARM

SUN OCT 28, 12:00-5:00 PM C114
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill
Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Join us as we look at the various grains grown on the farm. Discover the difference between wheat, oats, spelt and rye. Try your hand at grinding some flour, and watch as bread is prepared in the outdoor bake oven. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages

**(FREE) VICES OF THE 1880s:
TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND
OTHERS**

SUN NOV 11, 12:00-5:00 PM C113
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill
Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Help the farmhands strip the cured tobacco from the stalk and get it ready for sale as they did 100 years ago. Watch as tobacco plugs are made. Information on several other period vices will be provided, including coffee, tea, beer, and gambling. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages

HOME & HOBBIES

CANNING CLUB

Learn how to preserve fruits and vegetables in an inexpensive and efficient way in our summer kitchen. Canning your own produce teaches self-sufficiency and helps keep our planet green. Participants will learn how to preserve six varieties of fruits and vegetables, using seasonal produce and 19th-Century methods.

(FREE) FRUITS

SAT SEP 1, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM C17
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel
Arnold House, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Learn to preserve fruits from one's garden in an inexpensive and efficient way. Participants will learn to can produce. Registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 or deborah.toy@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅

**(FREE) END-OF-SEASON
HARVEST**

SAT OCT 6, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM C18
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel
Arnold House, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Learn to preserve the end-of-season harvest from one's garden in an inexpensive and efficient way. Participants will learn to can six varieties of fruit and vegetables with an emphasis on the month's harvest. Registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 or deborah.toy@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅

(FREE) BUTTERS

SAT NOV 3, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM C19
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel



Arnold House, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Learn to preserve the harvest from one's garden in an inexpensive and efficient way. Participants will learn to make and preserve butter using historical methods. Registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 or deborah.toy@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅

FRESH SUMMER WRAP DEMO

THU SEP 13, 10:30-11:30 AM C159
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. 2nd St.
Lamun Amato will demonstrate how to make the fresh summer wrap offered at Baan Thai Noi. After the demo, participants will have a chance to make their own fresh wrap. A \$3.00 class fee will be collected the day of the program. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$3 📅

(FREE) DEHYDRATION

SAT. SEP 15, 1:00-2:30 PM C33
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Learn about the benefits of preserving food through dehydration or drying. This method of food preservation is one of the oldest. There will be discussion on techniques and equipment. Try samples, recipes and handouts available. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅

(FREE) CLOTH DIAPERING 101

FRI SEP 21, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM C168
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. 2nd St.
Jamie from Pure Beginning will show examples of different types of cloth diapers, demonstrate diapering techniques and give laundering instructions. The Diaper Momma will join her and show what products are available in our area. Be ready to practice what you learn. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) ANIMAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIOR

THU OCT 18, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM C171
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. 2nd St.
The Humane Society of Greater Dayton will offer information on how to keep your pet healthy and happy. Pet first aid, spay

and neuter options, and how to choose the right pet food will be some of the items for discussion. There will be plenty of time for your questions. People only, please. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) BREAKFAST PIES

THU NOV 8, 12:30-1:30 PM C165
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. 2nd St.
Bethany and Aaron from Cheeky Meat Pies will take you step-by-step through how to make their popular breakfast pies. They will share their recipe and even let you give it a try. Come prepared to make your own. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) PUMPKINS: MORE THAN DECORATIONS

SAT NOV 17, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM C28
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Learn how to pick the right pumpkin for cooking. We will make fresh pumpkin puree to use in a pie and create a pumpkin main dish. Recipe handouts will be available. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅

(FREE) HOMEMADE PASTA

SAT NOV 24, 1:00-3:30 PM C34
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Try your hand at making pasta by hand. There will be discussion of techniques, and the types of flours. Sample your handiwork with some no-cook sauces. Printed recipe handouts will be available. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅

NATURE

(FREE) ADULT DISCOVERY STROLL

TUE SEP 4, 9:00-11:00 AM C184
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/ East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40
WED SEP 5-OCT. 31, 10:00-11:30 AM C187
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook/ Parking Lot, 2740 S. Patterson Blvd.
TUE SEP 18, 9:00-11:00 AM C181
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Shelter:

Redwing/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.
TUE OCT 2, 9:00-11:00 AM C185
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/ East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40
TUE OCT 16, 9:00-11:00 AM C182
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Shelter: Redwing/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.
TUE NOV 6, 9:00-11:00 AM C186
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/ East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40
TUE NOV 20, 9:00-11:00 AM C183
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Shelter: Redwing/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.
Escape on this volunteer-led relaxed-paced adventure through the park while learning about nature and discovering this park's history. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 18Y and up ⚙️

TIKE HIKE SERIES

Take a hike in the woods with your little ones as we get up close and personal with nature!

(FREE) A SEED'S JOURNEY

TUE SEP 4, 10:00-11:00 AM C37
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.
Either by wind, water, explosions, or animal fur, seeds travel in style! Collect different kinds of seeds on this hike, then plant them in your yard to see what happens! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) ANIMAL HOMES

MON SEP 10, 10:00-11:00 AM C36
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/ East Park, 4361 National Rd.
Who built that nest? Who's in that hole? Find out different ways animals build their homes and discover the variety of nature's architecture. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) HIDING IN MY SHELL

THU SEP 20, 10:00-11:00 AM C39
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Eastwood Park, 1385 Harshman Rd.
Stick your neck out for turtles as we celebrate their lives! Observe a live turtle, and take a hike in the park and search for turtles while exploring their habitat. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

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 Passport to Nature program! There are also self-guided Park Trek explorations families can enjoy together that qualify to earn a stamp.

For more information or directions to program sites, call **(937) 275-PARK (7275)** or visit us at metroparks.org/passport.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE NATURE TRAVELERS!

FIRST PASSPORT

Jeremiah Clarke
Futa Reeves

**(FREE) SPIDER KID**

FRI SEP 28, 10:00-11:00 AM C38
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/Parking Lot, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.
Discover the world of spiders as we search for webs and learn about their occupants. We will also discuss why people are so afraid of these little friends of nature. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) WOODLAND TUNNEL

TUE OCT 2, 10:00-11:30 AM C40
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.
Join other preschoolers and parents for an adventurous nature hike to the Osage Orange Tunnel! Feel free to bring a snack for a picnic! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) NOCTURNAL ADVENTURE

FRI OCT 19, 7:00-8:00 PM C41
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/Parking Lot, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.
Join us on a night hike just for preschoolers and their families. We'll discuss the differences between night and day, talk about our fears of the night, and explore pelts of nocturnal animals. Afterwards, we will venture out in search of screech owls, and attempt to lure one in close for children to see.

(FREE) BEAVER FEVER

THU OCT 25, 10:00-11:00 AM C42
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.
Learn about the largest rodent in North America while searching for them and the clues they leave behind! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) CREEPY CREATURES

MON OCT 29, 10:00-11:30 AM C43
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.
Lots of people think spiders, snakes, bats, and other creatures are scary, but do we need to be scared of them? No! So come out and learn more about these commonly misunderstood animals before hiking to try and find them. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) MY FIRST LEAF COLLECTION

FRI NOV 2, 10:00-11:00 AM C49
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/ East Park, 4361 National Rd.
THU NOV 8, 10:00-11:00 AM C50
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: White Oak 1/Nature Play/Parking Lot, 2606 Hilton Dr.
Leaves are perfect study materials for preschoolers; they learn colors, shapes, and relative sizes, while developing a close relationship with the season. Bring your preschooler out for a hike to collect nature's retired food makers! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) NATIVE AMERICAN STORY TIME

TUE NOV 6, 10:00-11:00 AM C44
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40
Enjoy listening to Native American stories and music. Children will get to feel animal furs, and learn about how our area in Ohio has changed over time. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) WILD TURKEYS

MON NOV 19, 10:00-11:00 AM C46
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.
Come out and explore the world as a wild turkey, and hike around in search of this large native bird. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

BACKPACKING BABIES SERIES

Backpacking Babies programs are just for parents and their babies. Share stories, enjoy fresh air and learn about nature. Babies are exposed to new sights, sounds, textures, and smells on each journey.

(FREE) PRAIRIE PLAY

THU SEP 6, 10:00-11:00 AM C45
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.
Let's get out and play around in a prairie. A baby backpack or carrier is required for this program as trails are not stroller friendly. Registration requested, walk-

ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 0Y-2Y 📱 ⚙️

(FREE) NATURE'S TEXTURES

THU OCT 4, 10:00-11:00 AM C47

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Bring your baby to explore nature's variety of textures in our natural environment, including animal furs, leaves, rocks, and much more! A baby backpack or carrier is required for this program, as trails are not stroller friendly. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 0Y-2Y 📱 ⚙️

(FREE) LEAVES OF COLOR

THU NOV 1, 10:00-11:00 AM C48

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Treat your baby to some fresh, fall air while exposing your baby to the colors of fall! A baby backpack or carrier is required for this program, as trails are not stroller friendly. Weather Permitting. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 0Y-2Y 📱 ⚙️

(FREE) HUMMINGBIRD BANDING: UNDERSTANDING A POLLINATOR

SAT SEP 8, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM C135

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

See science in action as master bird bander, Tim Tolford, introduces the concept of banding birds and the specific challenges of banding our smallest local bird, the ruby-throated hummingbird. If possible, Tim will capture, band, and release these birds. Staff will also provide a native landscape demonstration on how you can help pollinators. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages 📱

(FREE) SCALES AND FEATHERS

SAT SEP 8, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM C54

HUFFMAN METROPARK, Huffman South Park/Redtail Shelter/Overlook, 4439 Lower Valley Pk. Come take a close look at some wild animals found in Ohio. What do they like to eat and where do they live? Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages 📱 **PTN**

(FREE) BLUEBIRD INVESTIGATION

SAT SEP 8, 2:00-3:30 PM C55

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, South Park Parking Lot, 9331 Meeker Rd.

Come out and learn about some neat little birds and why they need your help! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages 📱 **PTN**

ADULT NATURE WALKS

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

(FREE) ADULT NATURE WALK

TUE SEP 11, 9:00-11:00 AM C188

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/ East Park, 4361 National Rd.

THU OCT 11, 9:00-11:00 AM C189

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, 4178 Conference Rd.

TUE NOV 13, 9:00-11:00 AM C190

EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Explore nature while meeting new friends on this slow-paced journey. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 18Y and up

(FREE) VOLUNTEER:

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

WED SEP 12, 6:30-8:00 PM C193

OFFSITE,

Five Rivers MetroParks protects over 15,400 acres, and we could use your help. Discover all the ways you can participate and join our conservation team in reforestation efforts, habitat restoration, wildlife management, and land stewardship. Whether you are interested in fish or flowers, like to walk or prefer to help with the computer, sign up. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org or (937) 277-4147 for details or online at www.metroparks.org/AboutUs/Conservation.aspx. Age: All ages 📱

PARENT & PRESCHOOLER

These programs will engage children ages 3-6 years old and their caregivers in nature discoveries. Participants will explore station-based activities with topics related to plants, science and the world around them.

(FREE) SUNNY FLOWERS

THU SEP 13, 10:00-11:30 AM C73

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Registration required. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y 📱

(FREE) POWER OF POLLINATION

THU OCT 11, 10:00-11:30 AM C74

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Registration required. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y 📱

(FREE) GROW A PIZZA

THU NOV 15, 10:00-11:30 AM C77

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Yum, yum, yum what fun. Discover all the different plants to use when making a pizza. We'll also explore the places in the world these plants originate from, and of course there will be some pizza to make and taste. Registration required. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y 📱

EUREKA LAB!

School may be out on Saturdays, but children don't need to stop learning and parents are eager to help facilitate the process. However, during the weekend, the teaching environment needs to be fun. Cox Arboretum MetroPark is a perfect place for informal, hands-on learning that allows children to experiment and explore. Eureka Lab takes place one Saturday a month, year-round. Discover science and nature together during our award-winning Eureka Lab program. This program is designed for families with hands-on experiments and activities based on the Ohio Academic Content Standards for Life Science. Participants can drop in anytime between 1 and 2:30 PM and must be accompanied by an adult.

(FREE) FOOD FOR WINTER

SAT SEP 15, 1:00-3:00 PM C81

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering



Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk. Fall is the time when animals begin preparing for the long winter. But what about us? Today's lab will compare how animals cache food away and what people do with what is left in the garden. Drop-in between 1-2:30 pm to participate. Children must be accompanied by an adult while in the lab. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 6Y-12Y 📅

(FREE) NOCTURNAL NOVEMBER

SAT NOV 17, 1:00-3:00 PM C82
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk. Nature at night is amazing! Discover some of the nocturnal happenings that you may only see during a cold November night along with some cool creature facts. Drop-in between 1-2:30 pm to participate. Children must be accompanied by an adult while in the lab. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 6Y-12Y 📅

TIKES TAKING ACTION

Looking for a step beyond Tike Hikes? Then bring your experienced, young nature explorers out to help protect the parks they are growing to love!

(FREE) MONARCH TAGGING

TUE SEP 18, 10:00-11:30 AM C97
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Shelter: Redwing/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd. Monarchs are beginning their migration to Mexico, so come take part in a project monitoring this amazing migration! Come out to learn about these amazing creatures, and help us capture and tag monarchs, and record the data to help with butterfly conservation efforts. No registration required. Age: 3Y-6Y PTN

(FREE) ACCRUING ACORNS

FRI OCT 12, 10:00-11:30 AM C56
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40 Acorns are falling and squirrels are burying them as food for the winter. Come act as large squirrels as we collect some of the fallen acorns, test them, and prepare them for planting next month in an area plagued by the

emerald ash borer. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y PTN

(FREE) PLANTING ACORNS

FRI NOV 16, 10:00-11:30 AM C58
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: Raccoon Ridge, 8400 Brown School Rd. Last month we took the first step in preparing acorns, and this month we are acting as squirrels burying acorns. These acorns have an important job in our forest, and will take the place of fallen ash trees. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y PTN

(FREE) OWL PROWL

SAT SEP 22, 8:00-10:00 PM C90
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd. Escape on a night walk in search of the Screech and Barred Owls, while learning about their interactions with our forests. We will use their songs to try luring them in for a good, close look. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages PTN

STROLLER STRUTS

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.

(FREE) UP, DOWN, ALL AROUND

TUE SEP 25, 9:00-10:00 AM C71
TUE SEP 25, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM C72
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Huffman Gallery, 6733 Springboro Pk. Let's look at things from a different point of view. What if you were a bird or a tiny ant—how would things look to you? Join us today as we find out. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 0Y-3Y 📅

(FREE) ALL ABOUT AUTUMN

TUE OCT 23, 9:00-10:00 AM C75
TUE OCT 23, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM C76
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Huffman Gallery, 6733 Springboro Pk. Bright blue sky, cool breeze blowing and trees glowing in orange and red—it must be fall! We will enjoy time on

the grounds looking for signs of the season. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 0Y-3Y 📅

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: COVER MAPPING

THU SEP 27, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM C194
THU OCT 4, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM C195
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Park Office, 6675 Conservancy Rd. Cover mapping is gathering geographic information on the status of plant species and their habitats, providing us with information needed to better understand new and current land holdings, creating detailed conservation plans for each area, and helping evaluate conservation success. This is a two-day immersion into skill building and protocol needed. Prerequisites: Should have some knowledge of native plants. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4147 or yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. www.metroparks.org/AboutUs/Conservation.aspx. Age: 21Y and up 📅

(FREE) CAFÉ SCI

THU SEP 27, 7:00-9:00 PM C79
THU OCT 25, 7:00-9:00 PM C80
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Join us for this month's café 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. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 14Y and up 📅

(FREE) BEAVER SEARCH

SAT OCT 6, 6:30-7:30 PM C93
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Fishing Ponds Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd. Learn the life history of the largest rodent in North America while searching for one and the clues it leaves behind. Meet at the ponds parking lot. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages PTN

(FREE) TREE TRIVIA**SUN OCT 7, 1:00-2:00 PM** C51ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/
East Park, 4361 National 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? Join a naturalist for a hike, exploring how trees have shaped our history and how they are used today by humans and wildlife. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages 📅
PTN

(FREE) FAMILY SPIDER SEARCH**SUN OCT 7, 3:00-4:00 PM** C52TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/
East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40

Scared of spiders? Want to learn more about them? Join us on this family-based excursion in search of spiders in the park, while learning about how they live. See a real brown recluse and black widow so you'll know how to recognize them, but also learn how to appreciate these little beasts. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages 📅 **PTN**

(FREE) FALL BIRD HIKE**SAT OCT 13, 9:00-11:00 AM** C91HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond
and Overlook/ Parking Lot, 2740 S. Patterson
Blvd.

While many of our summer birds fly south for the winter, Canadian birds come to Ohio to spend the winter! Come out and search for the migrating birds in the park. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages 📅 **PTN**

**(FREE) CARLISLE FORT: A
HOPEWELL SITE WORKSHOP****SAT OCT 13, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM** C132GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

A workshop for those wanting to discuss Carlisle Fort, a Hopewell Culture ceremonial site, created around 2,000 years ago which is a feature along the backpack trail, TVT. Begin at the Nature Center then, weather permitting, we will adjourn to the trailhead at Twin Creek MetroPark and hike to the site. Trails are moderately difficult. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178

or dhovath@metroparks.org for details.
Age: 18Y and up 📅

**(FREE) NATURE CENTER HOST
TRAINING****SAT OCT 13, 3:00-4:30 PM** C172GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

Do you enjoy nature and want to encourage others to enjoy it too? We are training volunteers to host the Nature Center in support of our public hours which are Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 PM. Come to this orientation to duties such as opening and closing the nature center, interacting with the visitors and working with our ambassador animals. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅

**(FREE) NOCTURNAL WETLAND
ROMP****SAT OCT 13, 7:00-8:00 PM** C92CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Shelter:
Redwing/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.

As the sun sets, wetlands come alive with singing insects and amphibians! Try catching a frog, fish, or wild insect while learning about wetland ecology. Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet and muddy. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages 📅 **PTN**

(FREE) YOUTH NATURALISTS CLUB**THU OCT 18-NOV 22, 4:00-5:30 PM** C64WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Outdoor
Venues, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Each Thursday for six weeks, youth ages 8 to 12 meet to learn how to keep a nature journal, identify plants and wildlife, and study the natural history of the Miami Valley. Each session will include a lesson, discussion, and time to explore the outdoors. Participants will be expected to attend all six sessions of the program. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 8Y-12Y 📅

(FREE) FALL TREE ID**SUN OCT 21, 2:00-3:30 PM** C95SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking
Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Fall is the perfect time to start that leaf collection. If you have to build one for school, what better time to start collecting than with a naturalist to help you identify your leaves! Join us on this hike through

the park, collecting leaves of various trees. Participants are encouraged to bring a large, spiral-bound notebook to put leaves in. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages **PTN**

**(FREE) A SPOOKY EVENING IN
THE GARDEN****FRI OCT 26, 6:30-8:00 PM** C63WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK,
Children's Discovery Garden, 1301 East
Siebenthaler Ave.

Bring the whole family for this rare opportunity to see the gardens after dark. Learn about the spooky side of nature and the treats the garden gives us at this time of year. Volunteers with fun activities will be stationed throughout the gardens. As the sun goes down, enjoy a snack around the fire pit. Halloween apparel is encouraged. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📅

**(FREE) HAWK AND OWL
WORKSHOP****SAT NOV 3, 6:00-8:00 PM** C180GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,
6910 Boomershire Rd.

Explore Ohio's hawks and owls with a relaxing presentation of their identification characteristics, ecology, and their interactions with people. Afterwards, take a slow-paced night hike into the forest in search of owls. Each participant will get an ODNR field guide to Ohio owls and a CD of their sounds. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 14Y-18Y 📅

FALL TREE ID WORKSHOP**SAT. NOV 3, 1:00-3:00 PM** C89HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Twin
Oak/Parking Lot, 2655 S. Patterson Blvd.

Learn how to identify more than 30 native trees by their leaf, bark, and other characteristics. The workshop will begin indoors with a brief discussion on terminology, forest ecology, and identification methods. We will learn trees in a natural setting, quizzing ourselves along the way. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$5 Online Reg

(FREE) PRAIRIE PLAY**SAT NOV 10, 10:00-11:00 AM** C94CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Shelter:
Redwing/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.

The time is right for prairie exploration without ticks and chiggers! Spend an

afternoon playing some fun prairie games. Wear clothes and shoes suitable for outdoor play. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages 📅 **PTN**

(FREE) RED CEDARS AND NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL

THU NOV 15, 8:00-10:00 PM C136
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Education Room, 6910 Boomershire Rd. Join education/research director and master bander, Dr. Dave Russell, as we search for and band the elusive northern saw-whet owl. Discover why these amazing owls are perceived as “tame” while learning about their life history and identification and the importance of the red cedar habitat to their wintering grounds. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details or visit www.avianinstitute.com. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) FAMILY SCAVENGER HUNT

SAT NOV 17, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM C57
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. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages 📅 **PTN**

(FREE) WHO HIBERNATES?

SAT NOV 17, 2:00-3:00 PM C59
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd. Animals deal with winter in many different ways. Come learn all about hibernation and find out which animals hibernate and which do not. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for more information. Age: All ages 📅 **PTN**

(FREE) SCREECH OWL SEARCH

SAT NOV 17, 6:00-7:00 PM C88
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/Parking Lot, 100 Deep Hollow Rd. Enjoy a night walk in search of the screech owl, the smallest resident owl of MetroParks, while learning about their interactions with our forests. We will use their song to lure them in for a good, close look. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages **PTN**

STROLLER STUDIES

Stroller Studies is the indoor version of the popular Stroller Strut. Caregivers and children ages 0-3 years will enjoy nature-inspired play as well as a theme-based activity. Children and caregivers discover more about plants and nature.

(FREE) GREETING FALL

TUE NOV 27, 10:00-11:00 AM C78
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Make a special greeting card to send to friends. Play with nature friends and spend some time with a good book. Registration required. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 0Y-3Y 📅

OUTDOOR PLAY

(FREE) WHOSE GARDEN IS IT?

WED SEP 12, 10:00-11:00 AM C145
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Garden, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Whose garden is it anyway? Listen to stories about the garden and then see what's growing in the Children's Discovery Garden. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 2Y-6Y 📅 ⚙️

PHOTOGRAPHY

(FREE) PICTURING PUDDLES AND PONDS

SAT SEP 15, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM C86
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Discover methods for photographing bodies of water, such as controlling reflections, and how to capture (or avoid) a sense of motion in flowing water. Following the presentation, the class will go outside (weather permitting) to take photos in the park. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) AUTUMN PHOTOGRAPHY

SAT OCT 13, 12:00-1:30 PM C87
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Aullwood Gardens, 930 Aullwood Rd. Fall is the perfect time of year to capture colorful outdoor pictures. Join Adam Alonzo for an informal photography session in the garden. Participants can take pictures, ask questions and try new techniques. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅

(FREE) NATURE IN MOTION

SAT NOV 3, 10:00-11:30 AM C100
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Nearly every digital camera available now has the ability to record video, giving nature enthusiasts the power to capture motion and sound that a still photograph cannot convey. This session will introduce basic concepts such as video formats, frame rate, resolution, camera support systems and editing tools. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📅

RECREATION BACKPACKING

(FREE) VOLUNTEER:

BACKPACKING TRAIL WORK DAYS

SAT SEP 8, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM C129
SAT OCT 20, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM C130
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, Lake George Parking Lot, 8539 Morningstar Rd. Learn about sustainable trail building while helping maintain the Twin Valley Backpacking Trail! No experience is necessary; tools are provided. Please bring water and work gloves. Youth 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact Five Rivers MetroParks at (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 14Y and up 📅 ⚙️

FUNDAMENTALS OF LIGHTWEIGHT BACKPACKING

WED NOV 7, 6:30-8:30 PM C123
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Looking to lighten your load so you can backpack more easily, hike longer, or get more miles in? Then join us for this evening classroom-based program as we explore a variety of ways to reduce our backpacking load. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$5 📅

BACKCOUNTRY GOURMET COOKING

THU NOV 15, 6:00-9:00 PM C124
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. 2nd St. Learn to cook in the backcountry like you do in your kitchen. Discover a variety of cooking methods that include more elaborate gourmet meals using foods common at your

local grocery while cooking on backpacking stoves. Ingredients provided. Bring a spork or foon. Registration is required and limited. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 📅

BACKCOUNTRY FAST & LIGHT COOKING

WED DEC 5, 6:30-9:00 PM D2

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

Do you have the ultra-light backpacking bug and are looking for a way to cook nutritious and lightweight meals? This course will introduce you to techniques, like using a pot cozy, and will showcase some of the innovative lightweight cooking equipment on the market. Bring your spork or foon. Registration is required and limited. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 📅

FUNDAMENTALS OF BACKCOUNTRY KNOTS

WED DEC 12, 6:30-8:30 PM D3

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Do you struggle with knots and knot tying? Would you like to learn some of the best knots for use in the backcountry? Then join the Five Rivers MetroParks as we take a hands-on approach to knot tying, use and know-how in this informative evening program. Registration is required and limited. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 📅

CYCLING

BIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT! SERIES

Join us for a bike ride on Saturdays, April through October. Earn a T-shirt by reaching a goal of 125 miles. Participants completing 250 miles or more will receive an additional award. Parents/guardians must remain with children. Wearing a helmet is strongly recommended for all participants and required for children under 13. We ride rain or shine, but may cancel due to storms or trail flooding.

(FREE) GREAT MIAMI RIVER BIKEWAY

SAT SEP 1, 9:00-11:00 AM C7

Bikeway: Great Miami River, Ohio Bike RT 25
Join us for a bike ride, rain or shine, on

the Great Miami River Bikeway. 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). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. metroparks.org/bikehealth. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) CREEKSIDE BIKEWAY

SAT SEP 8, 9:00-11:00 AM C8

SAT OCT 13, 9:00-11:00 AM C13
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). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. metroparks.org/bikehealth. Age: All ages 📅 ⚙️

(FREE) GREAT MIAMI RIVER BIKEWAY

SAT SEP 15, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM C9

Bikeway: Great Miami River, Ohio Bike RT 25
Join us for a bike ride, rain or shine, on the Great Miami River Bikeway. Meet at West Carrollton Low Dam: Take North Alex Road to Hydraulic Road (use the entrance on the right). We will ride to Crains Run Nature Park (20 miles). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. metroparks.org/bikehealth Age: All ages 📅 ⚙️

(FREE) WOLF CREEK BIKEWAY

SAT SEP 22, 9:00-11:00 AM C10

SAT OCT 27, 9:00-11:00 AM C15
Bikeway: Wolf Creek, Ohio Bike RT 38
Join us for a bike ride, rain or shine, 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). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. metroparks.org/bikehealth. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) GREAT MIAMI RIVER BIKEWAY

SAT SEP 29, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM C11

Bikeway: Great Miami River, Ohio Bike RT 25
Join us for a bike ride, rain or shine, on the Great Miami River Bikeway. Meet at West Carrollton Low Dam: Take North Alex Road to Hydraulic Road; use the entrance on the right. We will ride to RiverScape MetroPark (18 miles). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. metroparks.org/bikehealth Age: All ages 📅 ⚙️

(FREE) STILLWATER RIVER BIKEWAY

SAT OCT 6, 9:00-11:00 AM C12

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Parking Lot, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Join us on a bike ride, rain or shine, on the Stillwater River Bikeway (Central). Meet in the parking lot at 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave. We will ride to Radvansky Lane Bridge, near Fishburg Road (16 miles). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. metroparks.org/bikehealth Age: All ages 📅 ⚙️

(FREE) WOLF CREEK BIKEWAY

SAT OCT 20, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM C14

Bikeway: Wolf Creek, Ohio Bike RT 38
Join us for a bike ride, rain or shine, 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). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. metroparks.org/bikehealth Age: All ages 📅 ⚙️

FISHING

INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING

MON OCT 15, 5:30-8:30 PM C17

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

Get an overview of fly fishing. The session will include a classroom overview of gear, local opportunities and techniques needed to get started. Casting techniques are covered through a variety of fun drills teaching basic fundamentals. Participants should dress for outdoor activity.

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 📅

FLY FISHING BASICS

SAT OCT 20, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM C178
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Canoe & Kayak Launch Parking Lot, 2000 U.S. 40

Are you ready to take the next step in fly fishing? Join us for a day of fly fishing on a local river. Students will learn tips on reading water, casting techniques, flies to use and gear needed to fish our local lakes, ponds and rivers. Lunch and gear provided. Location determined based on fishing conditions. Fishing license required. Prerequisites: Introduction to Fly Fishing. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$30

FLY FISHING BASICS FOR TROUT

SAT NOV 3, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM C179
Offsite,

Have you always wanted to fly fish for trout? Join us for a day of fly fishing on the Mad River for brown trout. Students will learn tips on reading water, casting techniques, flies to use and gear needed to catch these beautiful fish. Lunch and gear provided. Location determined based on fishing conditions. Fishing license required. Prerequisites: Introduction to Fly Fishing. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$30

FITNESS & HEALTH

(FREE) TRY HIKING @...

SAT SEP 22, 9:00-11:00 AM C160
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/ East Park, 4361 National Rd.

SAT OCT 20, 9:00-11:00 AM C161
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, Shelter: High View/ Parking Lot, 9688 Eby Rd.

SAT NOV 17, 9:00-11:00 AM C162
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lawn, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Curious about hiking in the MetroParks? This series of monthly programs will introduce hikers to a new trail experience at a different MetroPark. Volunteers and staff will be stationed at the trailhead providing park information, an orientation to the map and facility, and inviting you to explore a new trail on your own-at your own pace. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages 📅 ⚙️

GEOCACHING

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: GEOCACHE ASSISTANT TRAINING

THU NOV 8, 6:00-8:00 PM C131
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Geocache assistants will seek out caches to make sure they are placed according to MetroParks guidelines and have safe access for cachers. Attend this orientation to sign up to assist with this effort! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact Five Rivers MetroParks at (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅

MOUNTAIN BIKING

INTRO TO MOUNTAIN BIKING

THU SEP 6, 6:30-8:30 PM C154
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
If you have ever wanted to start mountain biking you have found the right place. This classroom-based program will introduce you to the equipment and skills you need for a fun, enjoyable ride. Topics will include bike selection, ride preparation, trail riding, trail etiquette, and riding as a family. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$5 📅

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: MOMBA TRAIL WORK DAYS

SAT SEP 8, 12:00-4:00 PM C125
THU SEP 13, 6:00-8:30 PM C126
SAT OCT 20, 12:00-4:00 PM C127
SAT NOV 3, 12:00-4:00 PM C128
HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA Trailhead Parking Lot, 4485 Union Rd.
Learn about sustainable trail building while helping maintain the mountain bike trails at MoMBA! No experience is necessary; tools are provided. Volunteers bring work gloves and water. Youth 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact Five Rivers MetroParks at (937) 277-4374 for more information. Age: 14Y and up 📅 ⚙️

MOUNTAIN BIKING BASICS

SAT SEP 15, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM C155
HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA Big Barn, 4485 Union Rd.
After you have completed taking Intro to Mountain Biking join us for practical training at MoMBA, MetroParks Mountain Bike Area. Teaching and practice will include bike

balance, braking and shifting, falling, and front/rear wheel lift. We will also discuss reading a map and route finding. After we practice the techniques we'll go on a trail ride. Prerequisites: Intro to Mountain Biking. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$15 📅

(FREE) MOMBA ANNIVERSARY RIDE

SAT SEP 15, 3:00-5:00 PM C174
HUFFMAN METROPARK, Scout Camping Area, 4485 Union Rd.
It has been five years since MoMBA first opened, so come on out and celebrate five years of MoMBA, MetroParks Mountain Bike Area at Huffman Metropark. We will celebrate by taking to the trails as a group and splitting off by skill level as we celebrate the trails at MoMBA. Families and individuals welcome. Snacks provided. Bring your own bike. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) TRY MOUNTAIN BIKING

THU SEP 27, 4:00-7:00 PM C156
THU OCT 25, 4:00-7:00 PM C157
HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA, 4485 Union Rd.
Is not owning a mountain bike keeping you from trying mountain biking? If so, then come out to MetroParks Mountain Bike Area and borrow one of our bikes to ride for a lap or two. Bikes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Youth under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Helmets are mandatory and provided with bike. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages 📅 ⚙️

MOMBA XC CLASSIC

SUN SEP 30, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM C175
HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA, 4485 Union Rd.
Join the Miami Valley Mountain Bike Association-International Mountain Bike Association and Five Rivers MetroParks for the Annual MoMBA XC Classic MTB Race. Race will be operated in a professionally timed, mass-start fashion with numerous classes racing from 1 to 3 laps around the nearly 9-mile course. Please visit metroparks.org/outdoorx for more information. Age: All ages Fee: \$15 📅

BROWN COUNTY MOUNTAIN BIKE TRIP

FRI, SAT, SUN NOV. 9-11, 12:00-9:00 PM C158

OFFSITE, Contact Us for Directions

If you always wanted to go mountain biking at Brown County, Indiana, but still haven't made the trip, then come ride with us. We will be driving, riding, cooking, and camping together. We will spend our days riding long climbs and rocky descents on a flowing, single track. Trip application and attendance at Nov. 1 pre-trip meeting are mandatory. Prerequisites: Intro to Mountain Biking and Mountain Biking Basics. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$90 🌦

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

EARTHJOY TREE CLIMBING

SAT SEP 8, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM C163

SAT NOV 10, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

EASTWOOD METROPARK, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Explore and climb some of the biggest trees in the Miami Valley. Learn to rappel, get in and out of hammocks and the art of balancing and walking on sturdy limbs. Challenge yourself to hang like Spiderman! Choose starting times 10 am, 12:15 pm, or 2:30 pm. To register contact Shelly@climbtreeswithearthjoy.com or call (859) 653-2907. Registration required. Contact (859) 653-2907 or Shelly@climbtreeswithearthjoy.com for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$37

PADDLING

(FREE) TRY KAYAKING

WED SEP 5, 4:00-7:00 PM C138

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Blue Lake, 1401 Harshman Rd.

Come try a kayak and see if it is something you would like to learn more about. An introduction to the boat and proper safety gear will be offered and you will have the opportunity to try different styles of kayaks in Page Manor's pool. This is a great way to learn about the sport in a controlled and safe environment. All equipment is provided. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages 🌦 📱

FUNDAMENTALS OF MOVING WATER

WED SEP 5, 5:30-8:30 PM C192

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

Learn moving water instruction that deals with controlling your kayak on the river. You will learn to perform a variety of maneuvers that will improve your paddling ability, promote confidence and help you avoid hazards frequently encountered on the river. Dress to get wet. Prerequisites: Intro to Kayak and Kayak Basics. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$50 🌦

KAYAK NATURALIST FLOAT

SAT SEP 8, 4:00-7:00 PM C139

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

Enjoy a fall evening float with a MetroParks naturalist and learn about the wildlife that exists along the waterways in the Dayton area. Prior kayaking experience is required and the paddling progression is strongly recommended. You must have completed Kayak Basics or have demonstrable experience to attend. Prerequisites: Intro to Kayaking or Kayak Basics. Registration required. Age: All ages Fee: \$15

ACA CANOE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

FRI, SAT, SUN SEP. 21-23, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM C141

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Blue Lake, 1401 Harshman Rd.

American Canoe Association level 1 canoe certification is meant to give you a good foundation in the skill and knowledge needed to instruct paddling a canoe on flat water. Certification requires ACA membership, CPR and First Aid. Course will be a combination of classroom and on-the-water skills including teaching topics. Please call for more info. Prerequisites: ACA membership and SEIC membership. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$125

ACA KAYAK INSTRUCTION CERTIFICATION

FRI, SAT, SUN SEP. 21-23, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM C140

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Blue Lake, 1401 Harshman Rd.

American Canoe Association level 1 kayak certification is meant to give you a good

foundation in the skill and knowledge needed to instruct paddling a kayak on flat water. Certification requires ACA membership, CPR and First Aid. Course will be a combination of classroom and on-the-water skills including teaching topics. Please call for more info. Experience is preferred. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$125

OUTFITTING YOUR KAYAK

TUE NOV 13, 6:00-8:00 PM C142

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

In order to have maximum control and proven technique in your kayak you must first fit into the boat properly. You will be given materials to help you design the best fit for your boat along with expert staff to help you shape and place into the proper areas of the boat to feel comfortable and secure. Whether you prefer to paddle a whitewater, touring or a recreation kayak, we will help you outfit your boat so you will want to paddle every day! Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$25

SPECIAL EVENTS ENTERTAINMENT

(FREE) TASTE OF MIAMI VALLEY

FRI SEP 14, 5:00-11:00 PM C6

SAT SEP 15, 2:00-11:00 PM

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 111 E. Monument Ave. Miami Valley restaurants are serving delicious food at this year's Taste of Miami Valley! Sample portions of signature dishes from over 25 restaurants and enjoy performances by local bands including Spungewurthy! The 3rd annual Home Show presented by Bath Fitter will feature over 20 home improvement companies. Food and drink tickets are \$3 each. No registration required. Contact (937) 461-6872 for details. www.dineoutdayton.org. Age: All ages

(FREE) URS RUBBER DUCK REGATTA

SAT SEP 15, 4:30-5:30 PM C5

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Outdoor Permit Area, 111 E. Monument Ave.

The 9th Annual Rubber Duck Regatta supports local children and adults with disabilities at United Rehabilitation Services. More than 15,000 rubber ducks are dropped

by crane for a race down the Great Miami River on September 15, in conjunction with the Taste of Miami Valley. No registration required. Contact (937) 233-1230 for details. www.ursdayton.org. Age: All ages 🌞

FARMING

(FREE) POSSUM CREEK HARVEST JAMBOREE

SAT OCT 20, 12:00-5:00 PM C35
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Bring the family to a harvest celebration to experience music, demonstrations, and displays. Check out the Scarecrow Convention and vote for your top three choices. This year's theme is fairy tale characters. Children will be thrilled with the pony rides, games, pumpkin decorating, and hay wagon ride, and much more. No registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: All ages

FITNESS & HEALTH

GERMANTOWN 50K TRAIL RUN

SAT SEP 22, 7:00 AM-5:00 PM C150
OFFSITE, Kercher Park shelter, 642 Astoria Rd. This outdoor recreation opportunity is sponsored by the Ohio River Road Runners Club. This 50K trail run is at Germantown MetroPark. No registration required. Contact (937) 459-5245 or wfenton@woh.rr.com for details. www.orrcc.org. Age: All ages Fee: \$25

SICKLE CELL WALK

SAT SEP 22, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM C16
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. This outdoor community recreation opportunity is sponsored by The Dayton Sickle Cell Affected Families Association. Join in their walk to support affected families and inform the community about sickle cell disease. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 854-2305 or daytonsicklecell@yahoo.com for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$15 🏠

(FREE) WALK TO CURE DIABETES

SAT SEP 29, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM C151
ISLAND METROPARK, 101 E. Helena St. This outdoor community recreation opportunity is sponsored by Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. 5K walk

and entertainment to raise money for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. No registration required. Contact (937) 439-2873 or vwilliams@jdrf.org for details. www.jdrf.org. Age: All ages

(FREE) DAYTON CROP HUNGER WALK

SUN OCT 7, 12:00-4:00 PM C152
ISLAND METROPARK, 101 E. Helena St. This outdoor community recreation opportunity is sponsored by Church World Service in support of the global hunger fighting work of Church World Service and the Dayton Foodbank. No registration required. Contact (614) 481-4416 or mstevens@churchworldservice.org for details. www.churchworldservice.org. Age: All ages

(FREE) GHOST N' GOBLIN 5K RUN & WALK

TUE OCT 23, 6:00-8:30 PM C153
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 111 E. Monument Ave. The Ghost N' Goblin 5k has been a Halloween tradition for 26 years! The 2012 GNG, presented by the Ohio River Road Runners Club, is expected to be the best and biggest GNG ever! Please join us for this special celebration of running, family, and community! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 223-6600 or iehonzak@gmail.com for details. orrcc.org. Age: All ages 🏠

HERITAGE & HISTORY

(FREE) COUNTRY FAIR

SAT, SUN, SEP. 22-23, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM C106

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd. As the fall harvest approaches, so would the tradition of the country fair. From agricultural demonstrations to a pie-baking competition, all the sights and sounds of an 1880's country fair will be re-created. See various living history talks and demonstrations given to present a picture of our past. Also, watch as sorghum is boiled into syrup. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) HISPANIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL

SAT SEP 22, 11:00 AM-11:00 PM C4
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 111 E. Monument Ave. The exciting Hispanic Heritage Festival is back with hot and spicy Latin music and delicious Latin food. The sounds of salsa, merengue, tejano, Latin jazz, cumbia, and bachata music will come alive in the biggest fiesta in downtown Dayton! Admission is free. No registration required. Contact (937) 274-0126 for details. Age: All ages

HOME & HOBBIES

(FREE) PORK-POURRI

FRI OCT 5, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM C166
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. 2nd St. Stop by and watch Ulrike Massey create several pork dishes, Market-to-table, featuring meats from KJB Farms. She will cook schnitzel, pork and red cabbage, a sausage dish and more. Samples will be available and recipes will be shared. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2208 for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) PUMPKIN DECORATING

SAT OCT 13, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM C146
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. 2nd St. Pumpkins from Garber Farms will be ready to decorate. Have fun and be imaginative in creating this favorite Halloween decoration. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: All ages

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: MIDWEST OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE ORIENTATION

TUE SEP 18, 6:00-7:30 PM C133
WED SEP 26, 6:00-7:30 PM C134
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd. Be a part of the biggest outdoor adventure festival in the Midwest! Volunteer roles are available for people of all skill levels and interests. Join the music, activities, and demonstrations and promote healthy lifestyles! Attend this orientation to learn more and sign up to help. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact Five Rivers MetroParks at (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 14Y and up 🏠

Find outdoor fun in your Five Rivers MetroParks

(FREE) MIDWEST OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE PRESENTED BY SUBARU

FRI OCT 5, 6:00-10:00 PM C176

SAT OCT 6, 11:00 AM-8:00 PM

EASTWOOD METROPARK, 1385 Harshman Rd. Midwest Outdoor Experience (formerly GearFest) has grown beyond just gear and exploded into one of the largest festivals celebrating the outdoor lifestyle in the Midwest. This multiday event features camping, competitions, live music, a youth adventure zone, high-flying demos, beer garden and much more! Learn more at www.outdoorx.org No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages

OUTDOOR PLAY

(FREE) VOYAGE ON THE PARKWAY

SAT OCT 13, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM C96

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Outdoor

Venues, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Parents and their young children will enjoy live music, giveaways and activities that help develop skills for a successful start to kindergarten. Ten community partners will host activities, including Dayton Metro Library, K12 Art Gallery, United Way, Boonshoft, and others. Kids will love riding the RTA Trolley between Wegerzyn and the Boonshoft! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 2Y-7Y

ROWING

(FREE) CHARLIE DOYLE

MEMORIAL REGATTA

SAT OCT 6, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM C164

ISLAND METROPARK, 101 E. Helena St.

The Greater Dayton Rowing Association invites the public to the 13th Annual Charlie Doyle Memorial Regatta. Nearly 300 competitive rowers from high school,

collegiate and master rowing teams from around the tristate area will compete in 2,000 meter races. Come join in the spectacle and cheer on all the teams! Free parking and admission. No registration required. Age: All ages 🌀

SKATING

ICE RINK OPENING WEEKEND

FRI NOV 23, 11:00 AM-10:00 PM C122

SAT NOV 24, 11:00 AM-10:00 PM

SUN NOV 25, 1:00-5:00 PM

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

Spend the holiday weekend creating lasting memories with friends and family at MetroParks Ice Rink! Warm up with hot chocolate from Café Vélo and enjoy our outdoor fireplaces. No registration required. Contact (937) 274-0126 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$7 🌀

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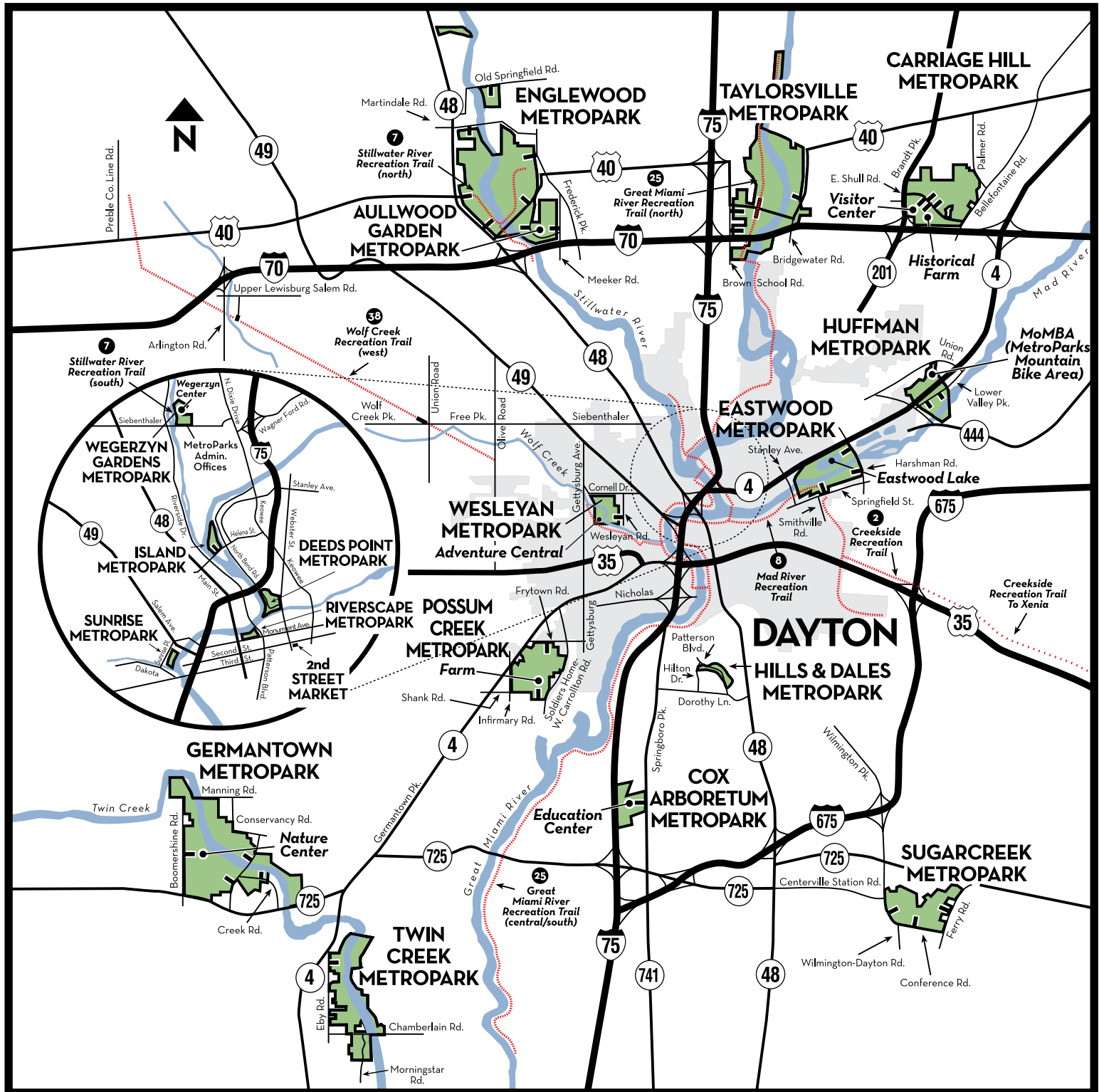
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