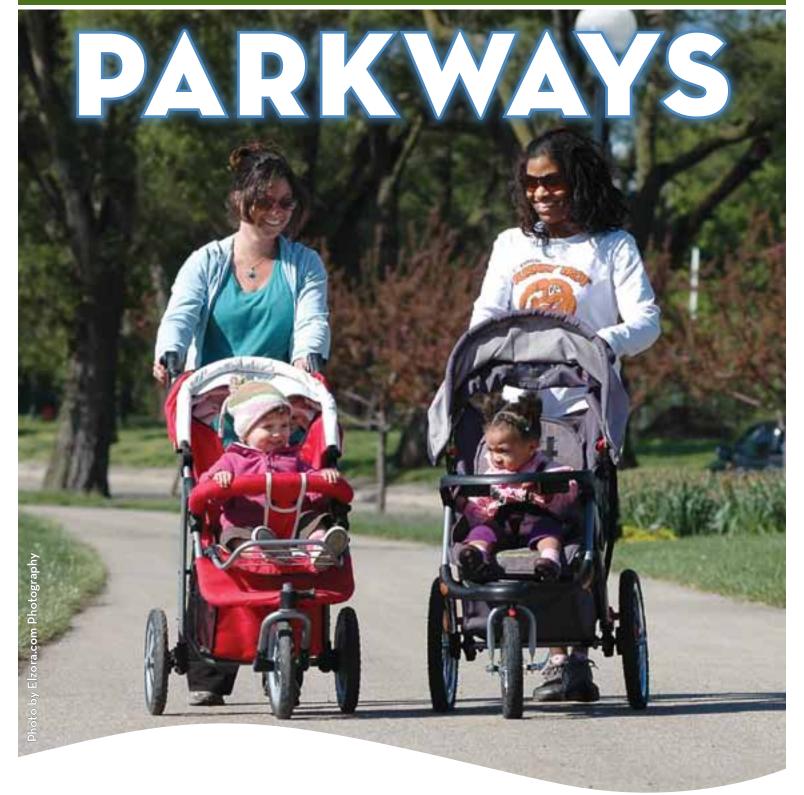
SPRING 2012 FREE



GET ACTIVE!

YOUR PARKS HAVE NEW WAYS TO 'GET OUT & LIVE!'

See full story on pages 20-23

DISCOVER YOUR METROPARKS WITH NEW ACTIVITIES SEE PAGES 14-15

GET OUT & RIDE THE REGION'S BIKEWAYS SEE PAGES 16-19





REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE

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



March 3
MIAMI VALLEY
GARDENING
CONFERENCE
Sinclair Community College



March 17
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
AT THE MARKET
PNC 2nd Street Market



April 21
ADOPT-A-PARK
Various MetroPark
Locations



April 27

ARBOR DAY

Cox Arboretum MetroPark



April 28
WILDFLOWER AND
NATIVE PLANT SALE
Cox Arboretum MetroPark



May 5-6

MAYFAIR 2011
PLANT SALE

Wegerzyn Gardens
MetroPark



May 5
FAMILY FISHING DAY
Possum Creek MetroPark



May 11
URBAN NIGHTS
RiverScape MetroPark

Photo by Leah Stahl



May 12

DAYTON BALLET
PERFORMANCES

Wegerzyn Gardens
MetroPark



May 18

NATIONAL
BIKE TO WORK DAY
PANCAKE BREAKAST
RiverScape MetroPark

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

IN THIS ISSUE Spring 2012

SPRING IS SPECTACULAR IN A METROPARK!

FEATURE PROFILE



SEASON OF CHANGES

Your MetroParks are undergoing some changes that will help you "Get Out & Live!"

See pages 20-23

SPECIAL FEATURES



VOLUNTEERISM

MetroParks volunteers get outside and get active! **See pages 6-7**

CONSERVATION



WILD OHIO ADVENTURES

Nature awaits those who get outside.

See pages 8-9



FOREST FOSTER FAMILY UPDATE

Find out how volunteers are helping to grow our forests. **See pages 10-11**

EDUCATION



NATURE TRIPS

There's so much to discover from the seat of your bike!

See pages 12-13



EXPLORING YOUR PARKS

Park Trek and Venture Quest are the newest additions to interactive programming.

See pages 14-15

RECREATION



GO BY BIKE

Swapping your bike for your car just once a week can make a big impact.

See pages 16-17



TOP 10 TRAILS

Check out these cycling day trip ideas and learn how to get there.

See pages 18-19

PARKWAYS IS YOUR GUIDE

to all the great activities and programs MetroParks offers every month. Check out the Activity Guide beginning on page 30 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

DON'T FORGET

In case you missed the news,

consolidate four of its offices

into one convenient downtown

location. The new office will be

intersection of Monument Ave.

picking up brochures and other literature, making picnic shelter and campsite reservations,

and Patterson Blvd.) and will

feature a one-stop shop for

signing up to volunteer and

more! Watch metroparks.org

for updates. We plan to serve

vou from our new downtown

location starting spring 2012.

located at 409 E. Monument

Ave. (across the street from

Fifth Third Field, near the

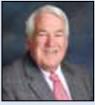
Five Rivers MetroParks will



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 FLOOD LINES: Walk through the historical Aullwood Garden MetroPark and look for the huge burr oak tree and its mark from the 1913 flood.

#2 DAY TRIPPIN: Grab a Hub Trex card or download a copy from metroparks.org/cycling for bicycle day trip suggestions that begin and end at RiverScape MetroPark.





#3 EAGLE EYE: Look for bald eagles as you hike the trails near the Mad River at Eastwood MetroPark.

TOP TEN THINGS

TO ENJOY IN YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

HE VILLAGE OF TADMOR

#4 HISTORICAL REMAINS: Hike or bike the Great Miami River Bikeway (also the Buckeye and North Country trails) in Taylorsville MetroPark to find remnants of the former village of Tadmor.

#8 GET OUT & PLAY: Visit the Nature Play areas at Englewood, Hills & Dales and Sugarcreek MetroParks for fun, unstructured playtime!



THIS SPRING

#5 SECRET POND: Have you found North Woods Pond at Carriage Hill MetroPark? Hike the yellow or orange trail to find this "secret" site!

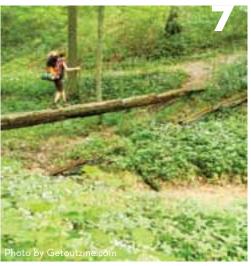




#6 BRIDGING THE GAP: Walk or bike under the railroad bridge at Wesleyan MetroPark.



#9 RIDE & SHINE: Take a bicycle ride on a Saturday morning to check out what's "cropping up" on area farms at the PNC 2nd Street Market. Refuel with brunch and bring a backpack to transport items home.



#7 TAKE A HIKE: The 1,665-acre Germantown MetroPark offers plenty of scenic, serene hiking opportunities, including the 22-mile Twin Valley Trail.



#10 PLANT A TREE: Five Rivers MetroParks is hosting "Seedling Saturdays" in March, planting trees throughout the parks. Visit metroparks.org/forests for more volunteer opportunities!



Becky BennáExecutive Director

Dear MetroParks Friends,

With spring just around the corner, staff has been working diligently to continue to address the challenging economy. Like many organizations and families in the Miami Valley, Five Rivers MetroParks has been challenged to maintain its high level of services and amenities with less funding resources. The bad news is we're not getting as much funding as we hoped from the latest property valuations and decreased funding from the state and other sources. But the good news is that it gave us incredible inspiration to find creative financial solutions.

To maximize operational efficiencies, the park district has consolidated four separate office locations into one facility downtown. The new headquarters is located at 409 Monument Ave. (near RiverScape MetroPark). Having staff in one location will reduce expenses such as mileage reimbursement, fuel and maintenance cost for pool vehicles, and reduces driving time, which increases productivity and is better for the environment. You can find out more information about our office consolidation at **metroparks.org**.

Also coming in the future is an additional customer service feature. Five Rivers MetroParks is in the process of developing a visitor services center, which will be based at the new headquarters on Monument. Currently, there are several phone numbers customers need to call to get information or register for a program. We want to create a "one stop shop" service for our customers to be able obtain information related to all Five Rivers MetroParks with one telephone number to call. Our visitor services center will have one number to call—(937) 275-PARK (7275). This will be the only telephone number people need to remember to get information about the parks, details on upcoming programs, registration and permits—anything. The visitor services center, along with the improved online registration process is part of an overall plan to increase public access to their MetroParks. Watch future issues of ParkWays and metroparks.org for updates.

Even though economic challenges continue to exist for everyone, we hope the Five Rivers MetroParks can provide opportunities for our residents and visitors experience a place to connect with nature and relax, get outside and improve their health and appreciate the natural world that is all around us in the Miami Valley.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of all our volunteers. We would not be able to make Five Rivers MetroParks these wonderful and cherished community gems we know today without your support. Turn to pages 10-11 for an update on one of our most successful volunteer programs—the Forest Foster Family program. This was one of my very first volunteer experiences as executive director last spring, and as car after car pulled up, taking flat after flat of seedlings home where volunteers would care for them and return them to the parks as part of our reforestation efforts, it really showed me how important your MetroParks are to you. We promise to continue to protect these precious natural spaces, connect you to nature in innovative ways, enrich your lives and the greater Dayton area through green space preservation, and respect your trust that we will be good stewards of the earth and your continued levy support.

Becky Benna

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES OFFER ALTERNATIVE ACTIVE LIVING OPTION



SEEDLING SATURDAYS

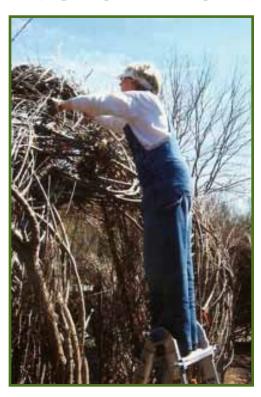
Join Five Rivers MetroParks reforestation efforts and help plant tree seedlings! MetroParks staff and volunteers grew these seedlings in 2011, and they are ready to find their place in our forest. Your help is needed! We will plant over 8,000 new tree seedlings this March in locations throughout MetroParks. Visit **metroparks.org**/forest to sign up, or call Yvonne Dunphe at (937) 275-PARK (7275).

For those who have battled the scale and saw each New Year's resolution to get healthy slip away mid-February, Five Rivers MetroParks offers another way to motivate park patrons to get active. "Many people might not think of volunteering as a track to get healthy, but if you're outside and you're moving, that's a great start!" says Assistant Volunteer Manager Bob Butts. "For some, volunteering is a motivational tool they use so being active outdoors doesn't seem so much like rigorous exercise and instead it's paired with the positive experience of giving back."

Volunteer opportunities exist for all skill levels and time commitments. Anyone interested in using volunteerism as a means of getting (or staying) active have numerous possibilities, such as participating in MetroParks Volunteer Patrol, which uses hikers, cyclists and mountain bikers to help patrol parks and trails. MVPs give other park guests information, help with wayfinding, report maintenance issues and other on-trail tasks. This service learning program holds annual training early in the year. To learn more about MVP opportunities for 2013, contact Carolyn Wamsley at cwamsley@metroparks.org or (937) 343-5748.

Trail building days are another way to give back while you get out. These activities may be more flexible for those who just have a couple days out of the year to volunteer. Flip to page 44 and 48 for information on upcoming trail work days.

There are other ways to incorporate volunteering into your plan for a healthy, active lifestyle.



Brookville resident Patty Erbaugh got her first taste of MetroParks volunteering—and a good workout—harvesting willow for the Patrick Dougherty art installation. "During the fall of my first year retired from teaching art at Montgomery County Educational Service Center, I signed up to help build a stick sculpture at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark," she recalls. "To me, time spent outdoors working is relaxing and allows me



to unwind from a hectic schedule, especially during my working days and when our two daughters were younger."

The St. Louis, Missouri, native wasn't new to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark; she says she took full advantage of her proximity to parks like Wegerzyn when she lived in the city, using the trails for walking, running and biking. "When I was a teacher, Wegerzyn hosted the awards ceremony for a recycle art project my students participated in annually," she says. "Each visit would end with a walk through the gardens. It was great to see the gardens evolve over time, especially with the addition of the Children's Discovery Garden."

Her experience working on "A Wiggle in Its Walk" stickwork sculpture encouraged her to continue her volunteer activities at the park. The sculpture is on display through 2013; no fee for admission, thanks to support from the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation and Freeze, Freund and Arnold law offices. "While working on the sculpture over a six-week period, I came to know many of the park employees, who then became my friends," she says. "It was a natural progression to continue to volunteer at Wegerzyn. I not only got to keep in touch with those friends, but came to enjoy working with other volunteers and introducing many people, including children, to the wonders of the Children's Discovery Garden."

"I hope to continue volunteering as a docent to the children's garden and would like to be involved in planting and tending the gardens at Wegerzyn," Patty says. "I'd like to learn much more about what is growing there and pass that information on to others. It surprised me that so many of the visitors who have lived in Dayton



ADOPT-A-PARK

April 21, 2012

Celebrate Earth Day with Adopt-A-Park, the annual county-wide cleanup. Sign up with your family, church group, office or just yourself and help beautify Montgomery County.

Trash bags and work gloves will be provided. Dress with clothes appropriate for the weather and that you wouldn't mind getting a little dirty. After the cleanup, congregate with the rest of the volunteers for a delicious, complimentary lunch and earth-friendly educational exhibits.

For more information and to register, visit **metroparks.org**/adopt or call (937) 275-PARK (7275) during normal business hours.

for years had not known about this treasure 'hidden' in the city. Guess the secret's out now!"

Volunteer docents, like Patty, also are utilized at Cox Arboretum MetroPark (turn to page 41) and Germantown MetroPark, at the Nature Center (call (937) 855-7717 for details). There are also gardening volunteer opportunities (turn to pages 34-36) for those who love to get their workout in the dirt!

Visit metroparks.org/volunteer to learn more about available volunteer opportunities, and start your path to wellness through volunteering today!

OURWILDOHIO

GET OUTSIDE AND ENJOY OUR NATURAL HERITAGE

Five Rivers MetroParks was founded in 1963 as part of local efforts to protect green space and Ohio's dwindling natural areas. "Development was booming, and there was real risk that between expanding cities and farmlands that we would lose our connection to wildlife," says Conservation Director Dave Nolin. "Fortunately, they were effective in their mission nearly 50 years ago, and it's a worthwhile goal we continue to pursue every day."

Today, Dayton-area residents, tourists and other visitors can take advantage of a wealth of different types of native wildlife and habitats. Five Rivers MetroParks offers 25 facilities spread throughout the Miami Valley in which park guests may hike, walk, paddle or bike. "We continue to work on creating habitat that encourages native plants and animals to thrive," Nolin says. "Be on the lookout for 'wild Ohio' on your next park visit!" Nolin shared a list of favorite "nature spots" where patrons can stumble upon the beauty of Ohio's wild side:

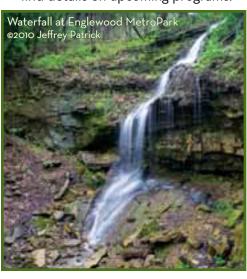
Listen for wild turkeys while hiking the Twin Valley Trail. Wild turkeys have made a strong comeback in the Twin Valley. The Twin Valley Trail is a 22-mile-long backpacking trail that stretches between Twin Creek and Germantown MetroParks. These big, wild birds had been gone from the Miami Valley for over 100 years until they started resettling here 10 years ago. Unlike their white-feathered, large-breasted domestic cousins, wild turkeys are masters of camouflage. Listen for their call, which may sound like the iconic "gobble" or high-pitched clucks from the hens.





- Watch for turtles while biking along the Great Miami River Bikeway. The Great Miami River is a healthy stream. Look for painted and softshell turtles basking on logs or other objects in the river. These cold-blooded creatures will likely stay under cover until the days are consistently warmer, so you might have to be patient until late spring or early summer before catching a glimpse of these native reptiles.
- Hike through a late summer/fall prairie. Take a hike through the big prairie at Carriage Hill MetroPark to experience tall grasses, colorful flowers, and open views like the first pioneers saw when they came to the Miami Valley. Start your hike at the Redwing Shelter and follow the Green Trail. The best times to see prairie flowers is in late summer, but spring might privy park patrons to a different scene. Spring is the time of year when Five Rivers MetroParks technicians burn selected patches of prairies as part of maintenance. "Fire is actually a natural occurrence on an Ohio prairie," Nolin explains. "Prairie plants are long and thin, and can withstand a fastburning fire. The flames consume everything in the designated areas-including weeds and invasive plants-allowing the prairie plants a quick recovery and better access to sunlight, water and soil nutrients."
- Catch a bass or sunfish at scenic Dogwood Pond at Twin Creek MetroPark. The quartermile hike is worth it to experience this beautiful "secret" pond. Park at the small lot at 10230 Eby Rd. No license is required to fish at this free, catch-and-release-only pond. Let the beauty of Ohio's native forests surround you while enjoying a relaxing afternoon.

- Take a break from riding the Wolf Creek Bikeway and explore this 8-acre forest, a remnant of the vast swamp forests that once covered northwest Montgomery County. Access this site from the Wolf Creek Bikeway 0.25 miles south of US Route 40 near Brookville. Dull Woods is home to some spectacular trees, including a champion Shumard oak (nicknamed "Ralph's Oak").
- Explore the historic Argonne Forest at Possum Creek MetroPark. Park at the Argonne Forest Parking area and hike the 1.4 mile purple trail to see fascinating artifacts of an old amusement park and a stand of large American beech trees.
- Learn about Miami Valley's natural habitats at the Children's Discovery Garden at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. Children will love this interactive garden where they can learn about the forests, prairies, wetlands and streams of the Dayton area. The exhibit is free and children can take advantage of experiential learning opportunities as well as explore the huge woven willow sculpture situated just outside the gardens. "A Wiggle in Its Walk" will be on display (also free of charge thanks to donations and sponsorships) through spring of 2013. Visit metroparks.org/ Childrens Garden to learn more and find details on upcoming programs.





- Find the three waterfalls at Englewood MetroPark. Martindale, Patty's and Oaks Falls can all be seen from hiking 4 miles of trails that are labeled on the park brochure map. These falls are spectacular any time of year. Spring is still cold enough to get a glimpse of the frozen falls. "In a way, you're watching natural history in action," Nolin says. "Freezing and thawing water, and even just the flow of the water itself, carves rivers, caves and other features into the solid rock. The falls you see today will look different in 1,000 years because of the movement of water." Pick up a map from the kiosks at the park or download one from metroparks.org.
- Enjoy new vistas from sustainable trails. After receiving trail upgrades in 2011, the new, sustainably designed trails in Taylorsville MetroPark's east park area now has easier-to-navigate

- trails that wrap around the landscape, creating large, undisturbed blocks of habitat. Sustainable trails reduce harmful erosion, and animals that prefer bigger portions of habitat can make their homes here. Pack a lunch in the morning before going to work, and take a scenic woodland lunch break to re-energize yourself.
- Discover river wildlife along the Mad River. Kayak or canoe along the Mad River and check out the variety of animals that make their home near moving water. This river is home to a large variety of fish, which makes it attractive to animals that love to eat them. You can spot beavers (look for their dome-shaped lodges), osprey and bald eagles as you paddle. "We had some sightings of river otters at Eastwood and Huffman MetroParks. along the Mad River," Nolin says. Will you be the lucky visitor who finally snaps a photo of these native creatures? =



'FOSTERING' LOVE OF TREES





SEEDLING SATURDAYS

Want to help in reforestation efforts? Looking for a great volunteer project? Check out Seedling Saturdays! You'll go on a tree-planting blitz, leading up to Five Rivers MetroParks, annual Adopt-A-Park event on April 21, 2012. Sign up at metroparks.org/forests for one or more of the following dates: Sat., March 10, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sat., March 24, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sat., March 31, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sat., March 31, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

FOREST FOSTER FAMILIES MAKE BIG IMPACT IN 2011, PROGRAM RETURNS FOR 2012

Seedlings weren't the only things sprouting in 2011; an appreciation sprouted in Miami Valley residents through a unique volunteer opportunity. In response to the devastation caused by the emerald ash borer, an invasive wood-boring beetle from Asia consuming nearly every ash tree in its wake since about 2003, Five Rivers MetroParks kicked off a unique volunteer program. "Our staff had been collecting seeds and germinating them at Cox Arboretum MetroPark, and we needed a way to grow these little seedlings into something we could plant later," says Volunteer Services Manager Kevin Kepler. "We didn't have enough resources for all those little seedlings, then we thought, wait a minute, what if we invite volunteers to care for the trees? They can watch over them for a specific amount of time then bring them back when we're ready to plant. And that's the Forest Foster Family program."

In its first year, the Forest Foster Family program, part of the MetroParks Tree Corps reforestation volunteers, cared for thousands of seedlings, propagated to aid in reforestation efforts. "We were able to treat about 600 different species of ash tree," says Conservation Director Dave Nolin. "The injected chemical prevented the ash borer from eating the living tissue, thus preserving the tree. Unfortunately, ash trees comprise a huge portion of MetroParks' forest canopy, particularly in second-growth forests

that we converted from old farm land, so many of those trees either had to be cut down if they were in a public area, or we just let nature take its course." The seedlings and other reforestation efforts generated by the MetroParks Tree Corps volunteers were used to combat the effects of emerald ash borer. With new threats on the horizon-such as the Asian longhorned beetle, which is far less picky about the trees it destroys-having ongoing reforestation efforts will go a long way toward conserving our natural heritage.

The 2011 Forest Foster Family program sent local volunteers home with their very own flat of seedlings that they cared for and monitored over a period of several months. "This project is so amazing because you can volunteer right from your own home," says Conservation Volunteer Coordinator Yvonne Dunphe. "You're helping create future habitat for wildlife and ensure your MetroParks will have a diverse collection of trees for generations to come—and you can do so from your deck or patio!"

This spring, volunteers are once again sought to care for a flat of seedlings. The seeds have been propagated in a specialized mix of soil and are covered by a protective wire mesh "cage" to keep out critters. Volunteers will receive special care instructions, and staff will send out periodic updates to let volunteers know what is normal and what to do if they think their trees might be in distress. "Our volunteers definitely exceeded our expectations in 2011," Dunphe says. "We wanted to make

ONLINE EXTRA

Learn more about forests, take the pledge to protect our forests, and sign up to join the MetroParks Tree Corps of volunteers at

metroparks.org/forests



Celebrate Earth Day with Adopt-A-Park, the annual, county-wide cleanup. Special projects this year include tree planting! Sign up your family, church group, office or just yourself and help make Montgomery County beautiful.

Trash bags and work gloves will be provided. Dress with clothes appropriate for the weather and that you wouldn't mind getting a little dirty. After the cleanup, congregate with the rest of the volunteers with a delicious complimentary lunch and earthfriendly educational exhibits. For more information and to register, visit metroparks.org/adopt or call (937) 275-PARK (7275).

caring for these seedlings as easy as possible, and realized not everyone has the greenest of thumbs. We were hoping to at least get back 50 percent of the trees, but we got 88 percent-23 species of native tree seedlings, all healthy and thriving! So it just goes to show you don't have to be a horticulturist to help save our forests."



Hundreds of local residents stepped up to the plate, offering to care for a flat. For many, this was their first volunteer experience. Teachers also got in on the act, bringing flats of seedlings into their classrooms to give students a first-hand look at the life cycle of plants. "I would love to see those kids coming back to the parks with their children, telling them all about how they helped the forest grow when they were youngsters themselves. How cool would that legacy be?" Dunphe says. A few volunteers did admit they became attached to their little seedlings. Bonnie and Jim Heikes, first-time MetroPark volunteers, even took their seedlings on vacation! "Some people get overly attached to their dogs and cats. We got attached to our trees," Bonnie says. "It is so comforting to know we can visit them in the MetroParks."

Throughout 2011. volunteers helped raise 5,838 seedlings through the Forest Foster Family program, and Five Rivers MetroParks hopes to at least match that number for 2012. "Anyone can sign up to be a Forest Foster Family volunteer," Kepler says. "It doesn't require special training, just a few minutes a day to water your seedlings or keep an eye on them and move them to a sunny or shady spot as needed." In addition to Forest Foster Families. Five Rivers MetroParks also needs other MetroPark Tree Corps volunteers. from tree planting to seed collection and propagation to tree monitoring. "We've got trees we already planted wrapped in biodegradable blue tubes," Nolin says. "We need folks to help us keep an eye on these little trees. The tubes should protect them from deer and other herbivores, but they could get knocked down by animals or wind. All we ask tree monitor volunteers is to check up on them, maybe add an extra stop on your usual hike." Anyone interested in signing up for upcoming MetroParks Tree Corps volunteer activities, including Forest Foster Families, should fill out the simple form online. Visit metroparks.org/forests and click on the "volunteer" tab. Information also may be submitted over the phone by calling Yvonne Dunphe or Kevin Kepler at (937) 275-PARK (7275). The first Forest Foster Family seedling pick-up date will be Friday, April 27, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. An additional

date of Saturday, June 18, is planned;

the time and location will be

announced later. =

BICYCLE DISCOVERIES

FIND OUT WHAT OUTDOOR ADVENTURES WAIT FOR YOU ON YOUR REGIONAL BIKEWAYS

Five Rivers MetroParks protects more than 15,400 acres of native habitat, which means park patrons have access to thousands of varieties of plant and animal species. Bikeways are a great way to find these unique examples of our wild Ohio. MetroParks Naturalist Doug Horvath shares his insight to special places where you can create your own personal connection with nature. "Grab a pair of binoculars with straps that look more like a harness so you can wear the binoculars close to your chest and they won't bounce around while you ride," Horvath suggests. "Stop riding periodically to scan around and look for wildlife. Mixing it up every once in a while adds something new to your park and bicycling experience. After a while, you will have trained yourself to watch for nature, and you'll notice it more even if you're biking at high speeds on the trails." Horvath also says in-line skates are a good way to use the paved trails and experience nature. "The Wolf Creek Bikeway in particular passes through several different kinds of habitat, making it a great trail for naturelovers." He has a few suggestions to get you started on your next bike adventure:

BIRDS

- When riding the Wolf Creek Bikeway (near Sycamore State Park), look for dead trees or "snags." These are prime spots for finding woodpeckers (northern flickers, red-belly woodpecker). "These birds like to hang out near these hollow trees and make snacks out of the insect inhabitants," Horvath says.
- Wolf Creek Bikeway riders also will find bluebird houses along the trail. "Yes, you will see bluebirds in these, but other birds use them, too," Horvath says. "Look for tree swallows, which are greenish-blue-backed birds with white bellies; bluebirds with their characteristic reddish-hued chests; and even chickadees will join the party."
- Look for sections of the bike path that runs on top of a levy. Elevations such as these can raise you up toward tree-top level where you

- can spot birds that stick close to the higher branches. Your vantage point will be well worth the climb up the hill.
- Areas east on the Wolf Creek Bikeway toward Trotwood have wetland areas with vernal pools. "These are nice spots to find wood ducks," he says. "But in the spring, you should also scan the trees. Wood ducks have toenails and they like to nest in trees. If you're lucky, you'll see a real 'spring fling': Baby ducks jump out of the holes in the trees in spring when they're big enough to leave nest." Will you be treated to the sight of a downy duckling descending from his nursery? You'll have to ride the Wolf Creek Bikeway and take the time to look around!
- The Mad River Bikeway runs adjacent to the swift-moving Mad River, which is full of different species of fish, attracting birds that love to feast on the plentiful offerings. Be on the lookout for merganser, ring-billed gulls, great blue heron, mallards, geese, killdeer, osprey, and even bald eagles. "There have been bald eagle sightings up and down the Mad River," Horvath says. "Their territories are quite large."



WILDFLOWERS

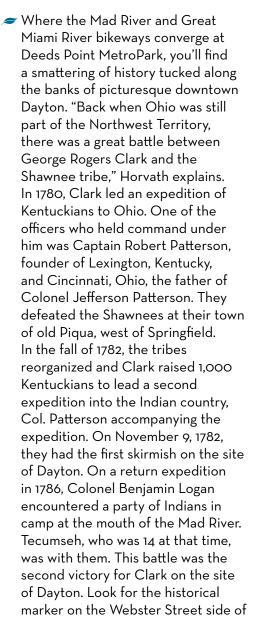
- Since Five Rivers MetroParks has started clearing out invasive plant species, it has made way for the re-emergence of native wildflowers and other plants in wooded areas. "Nodding trillium and ginger can be found along the Wolf Creek Bikeway, close to the edge of the trail," Horvath says.
- Where there are few trees and lots of sunlight, look for prairie plants. "The forbs are

- really in bloom during the summer months," Horvath explains. "Some prairie flowers can grow up to 8 feet tall!"
- Bikeways that pass near wetlands also offer a glimpse of special native wildflowers. Look for pockets of yellow this spring as marsh marigold, sedges or Joe Pye weed pop up across wetland areas.

HISTORICAL FEATURES

- The Wolf Creek Bikeway passes near Brookville where visitors can connect to our region's history. "Airhill Road at Shiloh Springs was the site of a busy train stop called Airhill Stop," Horvath says. "You can park along the bike path and check out the former train depot that runs congruent to the paved trail."
- Another popular locomotive-related feature on the Wolf Creek Bikeway is closer to Trotwood. Here, the bike path runs next to a former train station. "Local historical societies offer interpretive information about trains in our region," Horvath says.
- The Mad River Bikeway features several interesting historical features. "Ride to where the trail dead-ends near a Dayton city park," Horvath suggests. "You'll find a really neat-looking ironwork gate that symbolizes the Montgomery Conservancy District that protects Dayton from flooding."
- Along the Sillwater Bikeway, head to Triangle Park for a little homage to football. "Did you know that before we had the NFL, we had the American Professional Football

Conference, and the very first game took place in Dayton?" Horvath asks. "Check out the monument located here paying tribute to the Dayton Triangles professional football team."



✓ Deeds Point is the site of another famous historical marker. Look for the marker recognizing the historic Dayton Peace Accord, which symbolized the agreement for peace between Bosnia and Herzegovina struck in Dayton, Ohio, on November

Deeds Point MetroPark.

21, 1995. These accords put an end to a three-and-a-halfyear-long armed conflict in the former Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia.

Whether you're looking for an encounter with local wildlife, searching for beauty in nature, or are interested in learning more about our region's history,



your local bikeways connect all these features and offer access to a healthy, active lifestyle. "Take some time to pause during your ride," Horvath says. "You'd be surprised what you notice if you just take the time. Downtown Dayton is a particular gem because a number of bike trails all converge here, as do wildlife, native habitat and historical features." Use the bike hub at RiverScape MetroPark to begin any number of cycling journeys, or simply hop on at any particular juncture. Many bikeway access areas offer parking and restrooms for your convenience. Visit metroparks.org/cycling for links to maps and other bicycling resources, and "Get Out & Bike"! 🧢



ADYENTURE! IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND



NEW CONTESTS USE GPS DEVICES FOR NATURE-THEMED QUESTS

Have you ever wanted to live a pirate's life, going on adventures, while searching for treasure? Five Rivers MetroParks has some suggestions for outdoor adventure enthusiasts and treasure seekers of Dayton—without the peg legs or eye patches! Keep a weathered eye out in your MetroParks for two new ways to enhance your next outdoor adventure.

PARK TREK

By now, you may be familiar with the Passport to Nature program, in which children are encouraged (with their families) to visit various MetroParks and MetroPark programs, collecting stamps in their passports that the children may turn in for prizes. (For more about Passport to Nature, visit metroparks.org/passport to download your child's passport and flip to the activities guide in this magazine and look for the PTN symbol for qualifying programs.) Now, even if your busy schedule makes it difficult to attend free PTN-qualifying programs, you can use Park Trek destinations to earn a stamp, bringing your child one stamp closer to receiving his or her prize!

"Park Treks are self-guided adventures in the parks that are cluebased," explains Naturalist Joshua York. "It's meant to supplement the Passport to Nature program to give families more flexibility in how they



can participate in this program." Park Trek participants begin at a parking lot with the first clue. Using a map, pencil and paper, visitors figure out where the next destination is likely to be, and then hike to it. "You don't have to be a wayfinding expert like the star of the Science channel show Mantracker, but you will need a little knowledge of the park you're visiting," York says. "Clues are easy to find in the park and are in plain sight." Each clue leads to the next. until ending at a hidden place where there are passports and a stamp. Visitors are encouraged to sign the guestbook in the hidden place.

York says finding the clues can be tricky, but he has a hint: "One of the really fun things about Park Trek is that these hidden places take on various forms, so remember when you're looking for your clues that



things aren't always what they seem!"

To start your next Park Trek adventure, begin at the bulletin boards at the following locations:

- Possum Creek MetroPark: Argonne Lake Parking Lot
- Germantown MetroPark: Nature Center Parking Lot
- Englewood MetroPark: Patty's Shelter Parking Lot
- Sugarcreek MetroPark: Conference Road Parking Lot

VENTURE QUEST

This fall. Five Rivers MetroParks debuted a contest that was one part geocaching, one part treasure hunting and one part tree hugging. The Ash Tree Trek used GPS coordinates to help park patrons find MetroParks' ten biggest ash trees, which were protected from attack by the emerald ash borer thanks to a generous donation from the Garden Club of Dayton. Participants downloaded sheets with the GPS coordinates from metroparks.org/ash and used their hand-held GPS units to find these champion trees—some of which were hidden off trail (but never too far away). Participants collected rubbings from the green ID tags and returned their completed forms for a chance to win prizes. This spring,

Five Rivers MetroParks will introduce a new GPS game, intended to help families experience the outdoors in

a whole new way. Venture
Quest uses GPS coordinates
of various outdoor
attractions that participants
must locate. Each clue
sends the participants to
the next clue and finally the
last clue where participants
must make a rubbing of the

final destination's medallion. Once all six locations are recorded, send in the brochure for a chance to win a new Garmin 60 GPS device.

Download the
Venture Quest brochure
from **metroparks.org**/
VentureQuest and let your
outdoor adventure begin!

"It's a great way for families to discover their parks together and find something really cool that they might not have known was hiding right in front of them!" York says.

These additional features supplement Five Rivers MetroParks' current geocaching offerings. Geocaching uses a hand-held GPS device to locate hidden "prizes" registered online. Geocaching prizes range from little mementos to coins to toys and other trinkets. Participants are encouraged to replace a geocache prize they found with one of their own, leaving something for the next geocacher to find. To learn more about geocaching, and how to acquire a permit to stash your own 'cache in a MetroPark, visit metroparks.org/ geocache. 🗢





JUST ROLL WITH IT

RIDING BIKES BENEFITS HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND SAVES MONEY

There's a machine that can improve your health, save you money and is better for the environment. In fact, it's probably sitting in your garage right now, or tucked away into a forgotten corner of your basement. It doesn't need to be charged nor have batteries replaced because it's powered by you. It was invented in the early 19th century, but its design hasn't evolved much since. It's a bicycle, and given our local infrastructure of paved bikeways, designated lanes and networks of side streets, it's easier than ever to commute by bike. Whether you decide to ride to work every day or just swap one short errand a week, we've got a few tips to help you make your trip roll smoothly.

WHY COMMUTE?

Bicycle commuting has many benefits. Most notably are the direct impacts on the cyclist. "When you commute via bike, even if you just swap one short trip a week, you will immediately begin to enjoy benefits from improved health and savings on fuel," says MetroParks Cycling Coordinator Dan Sahli. "If it's been a while since you've ridden your bike, getting a ride in just that one time a week is a great way to get on track to a healthy lifestyle."

Don't think you've got a "body for bicycles"? Think again! Health care experts routinely tout the benefits of biking. Resources available through the Mayo Clinic emphasize the importance of exercise, even for those living with arthritis. According to their research, exercise, such as cycling, helps to strengthen muscles around joints, maintain joint strength, control weight (another factor in joint stress) and increase energy. "The more you ride, the easier it gets and the better you feel," Sahli says. "Don't think you have to hop on your bike and immediately take on Tour de France-type endeavors. Take baby steps."

Even small trips add up at the pump over time. For instance, if you live 2 miles away from the bank and use your bike instead of your car (which, in this example, gets 20 miles per gallon) just once a week, you'll save about \$36 (if gas prices remain steady at \$3.45 per gallon) in a year. The savings add up as fuel costs increase and you add parking fees and vehicle maintenance. But if you're just starting, a 4-mile round trip once a week is a very attainable goal. Nearly 70 percent

of Americans' car trips are less than 2 miles long. A 2-mile ride may take 12-15 minutes, so that 30-minute round-trip not only saves you money at the pump, it would count toward the recommended thrice weekly half hour of exercise!

GETTING STARTED

If you're ready to start commuting by bike, there are a few things you'll need to get started:

BICYCLE

Technically speaking, anything with two wheels and a chain will get you from point A to point B, but be aware that different styles of bicycles have different benefits. Check out the handy buyers guide on **metroparks.org**/cycling if you need help navigating the array of options. If you already have a bike but haven't ridden in a while, go to your local bike shop for a tune-up.

HELMET

If you don't already own one, get a helmet. Some communities require wearing one, and it protects your head in case of an accident. If you own a helmet, give it a visual inspection before heading out. Make sure there are no cracks. Even one crack compromises the protective value of a helmet. Your helmet might need to be replaced if it's been stored unused for a long period of time. The materials could have warped, leaving you with inadequate head protection.

STORAGE/CARGO

Whether you're using your bike to run an errand or riding to work, you'll probably need something to store and carry your extra items. If you're riding to work or school, a backpack or messenger bag easily fits your laptop, maybe some extra clothes, your lunch and





other items you might need throughout the day. Make certain the backpack or messenger bag can be secured to your back and doesn't slide around to your front while riding. You'll find a wide variety of both in area stores, and an even vaster array online. For larger items, like grocery staples that may be heavier, consider getting a rack that fits on the back of your bike. You can find panniers placed over the rack, or go "old school" with a milk crate secured by bungee cables. As long as the load is balanced, you'll be able to load your bike with simple cargo and get to and from home with ease. For larger loads (say, equipment for overnight camping or supplies for a weekend home improvement project), consider purchasing a tow-behind trailer. Trailers

BIKING PROGRAMS

Need to brush up on your skills? Would you like to learn more about becoming a self-sufficient cyclist? Join Five Rivers MetroParks for any of these biking programs. Details for these programs can be found starting on page 45.

Intro to Bike Maintenance, March 7
Bike Maintenance Basics, March 21
and 22

Bike for the Health of It, Saturdays April through October

Intro to Smart Cycling, April 19

Smart Cycling Basics, April 21

League Cycling Instructor Seminar, April 27-29

Bike Rodeo for Kids, May 20

have a greater hauling capacity and are hitched to your bicycle. There are many styles and varieties; shop your local bike retailer or look online for options.

CLOTHING

Moisture-wicking fabrics will keep you cool and dry on your trip. Avoid cotton materials as they absorb moisture and can cause unpleasant odor. You can find clothing options at any department or specialty store, or online.

EVERYONE WINS

Bicycle benefits don't stop with the person pushing the pedals; everyone in the community reaps the rewards of increased cycling activity. "You hear people say cycling adds 'regional vibrancy,' but what does that really mean?" Sahli asks. "When we say 'vibrancy,' we're talking about the atmosphere of something exciting happening. If you plopped someone down in the middle of an unfamiliar street, and that person observed no one around, what conclusion might that draw? Sure, it might be true that people are driving to their destinations instead of walking or biking, but that's not how we perceive it. Now plop that person on a street where pedestrians are strolling up and down the sidewalks and bicycles are rolling alongside other vehicular traffic and it paints a very different picture. That's what vibrancy is all about-creating an atmosphere of excitement and opening the streets and sidewalks to all forms of transportation."

Additionally, long-term benefits can help save cities billions of dollars. Recently, Environmental Health Perspectives



BIKE TO WORK PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 6:30-9:00AM RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

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

published a University of Wisconsin study on the economic and health benefits of switching from a car to a bike for trips shorter than 5 miles in 11 metropolitan areas around the upper Midwest. Combining data on air pollution, medical costs, mortality rates, car accidents, and physical fitness, the researchers found that if inhabitants of the sample region switched to bikes for half of their short trips, they'd create a net societal health benefit of \$3.5 billion per year from the increase in air quality and \$3.8 billion in savings from smaller health care costs associated with better fitness and fewer mortalities from a decreased rate of car accidents.

Make this the year you grease the gears and get riding! Take small steps to make a big impact on your health, your wallet and our environment. Five Rivers MetroParks will be here to help you every step of the way. Visit **metorparks.org**/cycling for resources and upcoming programs.

HITTING THE TRAILS



HUB TREX

Whether you're new to the regional cycling scene or a road warrior looking for your next challenge, Hub Trex are a great way to introduce yourself to local points of interest you can reach via bicycle. Hub Trex are cards that have cycling day trip suggestions that start and end at the RiverScape Bike Hub. Each Hub Trex card has a map and directions to the suggested destination, denotations for available parking and restroom facilities, plus activities to enjoy at each stop. There are two short trips (less than 5 miles), two medium trips (5-8 miles) and two long trips (more than 8 miles) so you can customize your cycling experience. Pick up a Hub Trex at RiverScape MetroPark at the kiosk between Memorial Day and Labor Day, or download a PDF from metroparks.org/cycling.

WITH HUNDREDS OF MILES OF PAVED TRAIL IN OUR REGION, IT'S NEVER BEEN EASIER TO 'GET OUT & BIKE'!

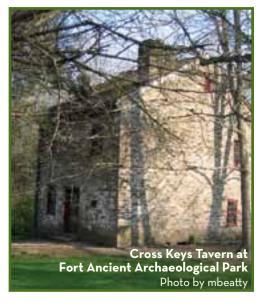
Got the kids a brand-new bike for Christmas? Want to start riding again yourself? Looking for ways to save money and be greener this year? Whatever motivates you to get out and ride, there are 260 miles of paved bikeways stretching from Piqua to Franklin and Verona to Jamestown, offering scenic views, access to historical areas, and low-traffic routes to local destinations. Here's a list of 10 places you can get to by bike—and how to get there!

JOHN BRYAN STATE PARK

Towering trees, beautiful gorges and a mountain biking facility are highlights of this park, nestled in charming Yellow Springs. Hop on the Little Miami Scenic Trail from any one of its many access points. Find parking and restrooms at Shawnee Park in Xenia or at Corwin Avenue in Corwin off the Little Miami Trail, or hop on the Creekside Bikeway and pick up the Little Miami where it intersects in Xenia.

CEDAR BOG

Looking for a unique habitat teeming with wildlife? Ride the Simon Kenton Trail to Cedar Bog in Champaign County. Cedar Bog is the largest and best calcareous bog or fen in Ohio. One of the most characteristic plants of this preserve is white cedar or arbor-vitae. Restrooms and parking can be found



near Villard and at Miami Street in Urbana.

DUKE PARK

Bike to this Miami County park located in Troy for an afternoon of fun. This site features sports facilities, a playground, picnic shelters and a mountain biking facility. The Great Miami River Bikeway will take you to this site. A newly constructed segment connecting Montgomery and Miami counties makes this possible.

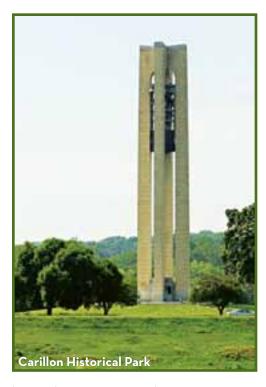
FORT ANCIENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Visit a Native American hilltop enclosure, constructed nearly 2,000 years ago! Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children 6-12, and children younger than 6 are free. Ride to Fort Ancient via the Little Miami Scenic Trail. Choose from several access points and customize your experience by selecting a longer or shorter distance to the facility.

ENGLEWOOD DISC GOLF COURSE

Ride the Stillwater River Bikeway through scenic Englewood MetroPark. Be sure to pack a set of disc golf throwing discs and throw 9 or all 18 holes on this course. Park at lots





located in Union or Garber via State Route 48 for a short ride to Englewood MetroPark.

SMITH PARK

This Middletown park features playground equipment, picnic tables, grills, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, picnic shelters, 7-acre fishing pond, skate park and a splash pad. The Great Miami River Bikeway is not yet connected, but you can ride the length of the trail that stretches from Oxford State Road to State Route 73 north of town.

CARILLON HISTORICAL PARK

Ride the Great Miami River Bikeway to get to this 65-acre featuring 25 historical buildings and costumed interpreters. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 3-17 and children 3 and younger are free. Make it a short trip by starting from the RiverScape Bike Hub or choose from access points farther away, like Rice Field (near Chautauqua) or Taylorsville MetroPark (both of which have parking and restrooms). You could also hop on the Stillwater Bikeway at Sinclair Park, which offers parking and restrooms, and connect to the Great Miami near Triangle Park.

ONLINE EXTRA

There are many tools online to help you plan a bicycling trip, find restrooms, parking and other amenities, or even calculate your total miles traveled. Here are some best bets for bike sites:

Metroparks.org/cycling: This site gives you a wide range of tools and resources to help you start bicycling.

Miamivalleytrails.org: This site is more along the lines of a blog in its layout and readability. It is a local creation and includes meticulous notes and photo documents about all the trails in our region. The best feature of this site is an interactive map that makes it easy to find food, parking, attractions, restrooms and more along the bikeways.

Mapmyride.com: If you're into riding for fitness, you'll love the features on mapmyride.com. You can plan a route or follow a route created by a fellow cyclist. There are tracking elements that will help you monitor your active, healthy lifestyle, and its mobile app is great for people on the go.

GOLDEN GATE PARK

Located in Brookville along the Wolf Creek Bikeway, this park has been used for more than 100 years for public outings. The park hosts a variety of organized sports activities, picnic areas, and shelters. Golden Gate Park also holds a modern community theater, with several productions scheduled each year, as well as a mountain biking area. Parking and restrooms are located near U.S. Route 40 (National Road), at Shiloh Springs (Sycamore State Park), and at East Main Street in Trotwood.

BUCK CREEK STATE PARK

This park's recreational facilities center around the 2,120-acre lake, offering endless water-related opportunities. Visitors can enjoy picnicking, disc golf, hiking trails and camping. Situated along Buck Creek Scenic Trail, you can access this location from the Simon Kenton or Little Miami Scenic trails, which intersect in Springfield. Restrooms and parking are available north at the Eagle City Road Soccer Complex or from the south at Springfield-Xenia Road.

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

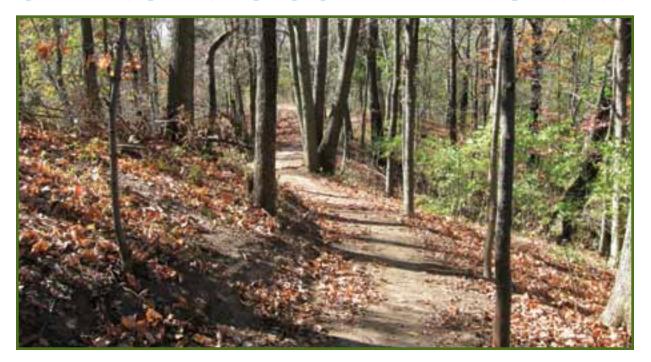
Situated at the confluence of several rivers and bikeways, RiverScape

NO BIKE?

If you don't have a bike, you can rent one from Ride the River Rentals at RiverScape MetroPark. Head to the rental office on weekends and holidays between Memorial Day and Labor Day to rent a bike or take the whole family with accessories such as child seats and pull-behind trailers. Visit metroparks.org/RiverScape and click on the "amenities" tab for the link to the Ride the River Rentals page for prices and more information.

MetroPark is your source for family-friendly fun year round. From festivals and outdoor concerts in the summer to ice skating in the winter, this park, located in downtown Dayton, features a large bike hub for commuters as well as Café Vélo concessions. Ride to RiverScape from any outlying destination of your choice!

SPRING INTO SOMETHING NEW



As flowers start their upward climb through the soil, thick-furred mammals amble from their dens into the sunlight and migrating birds set off for their long journey home, so are your Five Rivers MetroParks preparing for spring with exciting new changes. "We've been doing anything but hibernating this winter," says Executive Director Becky Benná. "We're excited to debut some new park features, new means of getting the most out of our resources, and new ways to make it easier for park visitors to enjoy MetroPark facilities and programs."

SUSTAINABLE TRAILS AT TAYLORSVILLE

The first MetroPark to receive renovated, sustainable trails is Taylorsville MetroPark, in the area known as "east park" (adjacent to Great Miami River and State Route 40). "We started this project in summer 2010," Taylorsville Assistant Manager Chris Pion explains. "We trained staff on how to use equipment and how to build sustainable trails. It was a really informative session, and now we can apply these skills to creating sustainable trails in more MetroParks."

Sustainable trails offer a number of benefits over other trail-building techniques, including reduced user conflict and reduced lifetime

maintenance, but the most important aspect of sustainable trail design is its environmental impact. "Steep trails produce a lot of runoff and erosion that's deposited into the waterways below," says Conservation Biologist Mike Enright. "This erosion doesn't wash away once it reaches the stream or river: it settles down to the bottom, which can alter water flow and water temperatures." Settling soil can make a body of water shallower, which may raise the water temperature. Healthy streams depend on a variety of microscopic plants and animals that are very sensitive to water temperature and other conditions. If these tiny creatures don't thrive, there is no food source for larger animals, and the ripple effect travels up the food chain.

"Reducing soil erosion keeps our local waterways healthy, and sustainable trails help us keep that runoff out of our rivers and streams," Enright says. "As a conservation organization, protecting habitat and wildlife is the number-one priority of Five Rivers MetroParks, so that's why we're changing our trail systems—to protect nature."

Sustainable trails work with the land rather than against it. Trails are cut as long, low-

ONLINE EXTRA

Visit **metroparks.org** and mouse over the "Get Outside" menu. Click the "Fitness & Health" link from the "Things to See and Do" fly-out menu to find information on the Health Hike series and other programs that will help you "Get Out & Live"!



grade paths that hug the natural contours of a slope, instead of the path running straight up a hill. Not only does this reduce erosion, it decreases what is known as "edge habitat." "Edge habitat refers to those boundaries you create between natural habitats and disturbed or developed areas," Enright explains. "Picture a forest. That's natural habitat. But when you bisect it with a trail used by hikers, dog walkers, horseback riders and other people, you now have two smaller chunks of habitat separated by a 'disturbed area.' There are lots of native animal species that require large, undisturbed swaths of habitat, and this is another instance where sustainable trails and careful trail design lend a hand to reducing edge effect in MetroParks."

New trails also offered an opportunity to update the

MetroParks' trail marker system. Visitors at Taylorsville MetroPark have already encountered the new trail markers, but if you haven't ventured out to this Vandalia-area MetroPark, here's an introduction to the new trail markers:

Color now indicates length. Each park will have color-coded trails. Shorter trails will be marked in cool colors, such as green and blue, and longer trails will have warmer

1

colors of yellow, orange and red. Each trail will still have its length listed in miles; the color coding is meant to help visitors decide quickly what distance they wish to hike. You can also customize your hiking experiencing by choosing various trail loops to add or subtract length on your hike.

Shapes on each sign indicate difficulty. Circles are considered "easy" trails with few hills or grade changes. Square shapes are moderately difficult, with a few hills and slopes, and diamond shapes are challenging trails with greater length and more strenuous terrain. This is another tool park visitors can use to help them plan what kind of outdoor adventure they are looking for.

Park features are listed on the signs as well, pointing direction to things like parking lots and restrooms. Bulletin boards located at the trailhead provide additional information about points of interest and other activities.

The next park slated to receive upgrades to create sustainable trails is Sugarcreek MetroPark. Watch **metroparks.org**/alerts for updates on trail construction and potential closures, and look for posted notices on bulletin boards at the trail heads.

PARK PROGRAMS

Over the past couple years, Five Rivers MetroParks has been conducting park visitor surveys, collecting data on the trails and gathering feedback from program participants in an effort to better understand the needs of park guests and recognize patterns and trends in order to deliver the highest quality

park experience for the greatest number of visitors. One of the changes that emerged from this data is the evolution of the Hike for the Health of It series.

"From our research, we learned that there are three main groups of Hike Health participants," says Outdoor Recreation Manager Andy Williamson. "One group loved the series because it encouraged them to visit a new park. Another group enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow hikers, and a third was motivated by the incentives and health benefits."

Since January of this year, park visitors now have hiking programs tailor-made for those three core groups. Try Hiking@ programs introduces participants to a new trail experience at a different MetroPark. Similar to Hike for the Health of It, volunteers are stationed at the trailhead to provide information about the park and a map to help guide visitors through the trail system. Meet-Up Health Hikes provide trail fellowship with a group hike led by members of the Dayton Hikers club. Finally, for the seasoned hiker looking for flexibility, the Health

ONLINE EXTRA

Visit the **Get Green** page for more information about Five Rivers MetroParks vehicle and fleet sponsorships, as well as tips on saving energy and natural resources at home!





Hike of the Week is a self-guided hike announced every Monday for a different park. Participants call (937) 277-4374 weekdays for the hike of the week and complete it at their own pace. Turn to page 46 for upcoming spring Health Hike program listings.

Five Rivers MetroParks also used research and comparative analysis to find a new, more efficient system for managing programs and facilities. "On our end, this new system will help us better maintain our resources," Benná says. "For those who want to have the convenience of registering for a program or making a shelter or campsite registration, it will be easier than ever to do so online." Starting February 8, 2012, the new online program registration system will go into effect. Online facility booking will be added later this year. Visit **metroparks.org**/registration for detailed information and an orientation to the new registration system. Patrons may still register for programs by phone or in person; be sure to read the detailed program listing for the specific phone number, if registration is required. There are many drop-in programs that do not require any registration. Additional features will continue to be added to the new system in the near future, so stay tuned for updates.

Starting this spring, Five Rivers
MetroParks will begin to offer
what are called "pop-up programs"
starting in late spring. In addition to
programs listed in the back of this
magazine, spontaneous programs will
take place in various facilities and
span a wide range of activities from
kayaking to regional trip planning.
"Pop-up programs will help us
maximize our resources and offer
additional recreational opportunities
for park guests," Williamson says.
"We will schedule these programs
about a week ahead of time, posting

details on our website and the Get Out & Live Facebook fan page." The advantage to hosting pop-up programs is that many activities are dependent on weather conditions or seasonal situations that can't be planned six to eight months ahead of time. "If the water levels and weather are looking perfect for a float, we will be better prepared to make it happen. If the fish are biting on the Twin Creek, look for a pop-up Try Fly Fishing program," Williamson says. "Be sure to check the website and Facebook regularly, or subscribe to RSS feeds as new and exciting opportunities will be 'popping up' all season."

DEALING WITH OUR CHALLENGING ECONOMY

With challenging times comes the chance for creativity and out-of-the-box thinking, such as developing innovative sponsorship opportunities. Five Rivers MetroParks received two new Subaru vehicles and one energyefficient riding mower through sponsorship arrangements. "MetroParks has developed a partnership with Subaru of America and two local dealers, Wagner Subaru and Subaru of Dayton, who have chosen to sponsor Five Rivers MetroParks with the donation of a Subaru Tribeca and Outback to use for promotional appearances, program support and daily driving," says Outdoor Recreation Special Events and Development Coordinator Tom Helbig. "If you went to last fall's GearFest (now known as the Midwest Outdoor Experience), you probably saw these two vehicles with bold graphics depicting various recreational activities and outdoor beauty that MetroParks represents. These were the donated vehicles. Feel free to check them out if you see one at a program." The partnership between Subaru and Five Rivers MetroParks developed

from early involvement between the auto maker and GearFest (now known as the Midwest Outdoor Experience). For the past two years, Subaru was the presenting sponsor of this outdoor recreation showcase, which helped keep the event free and open to the public.

Specialized equipment also has been procured through sponsorship arrangements. Visitors to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark may see the Hustler Zeon rechargeable, electric, zero-turning radius riding mower, which was donated by Wagoner Power Equipment Inc. and Hustler Turf Equipment. "This equipment is really special because not only does it save MetroParks on the initial purchase, its energy-saving properties will reduce our long-term expenses," says Superintendent of Park Services Mark Davis. The mower is a plug-in, rechargeable machine that does not use any petroleum fuel, which reduces the carbon foot print of the machine. "Because it's electric, it will be very quiet, which is perfect for the serene atmosphere of Wegerzyn Gardens," Davis says. "We're very excited about this partnership and the potential

for further green-oriented sponsorships."

Consolidating four separate office locations into one facility downtown is one way Five Rivers MetroParks increased its efficiency. As of press time, the new location at 409 Monument Ave. (adiacent to RiverScape MetroPark) would be operational and open to the public in spring. "Having most of administrative and programming staff in one location reduces expenses such as mileage reimbursement, fuel and maintenance cost for pool vehicles, and driving time, which increases productivity and is better for the environment," Benná says. Watch metroparks.org for more information on the move to Monument.





ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS 8 AM-5 PM. MON.-FRI.

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

ADVENTURE CENTRAL AT WESLEYAN METROPARK

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

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK

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

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK

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

Carriage Hill Riding Center

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

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

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

Butterfly House

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

DEEDS POINT METROPARK

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

EASTWOOD METROPARK

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

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK

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

Englewood MetroPark Disc Golf Course

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

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

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

Nature Center

HOURS: Saturdays 1:00pm-4:00pm Sundays 1:00pm-4:00pm. The center will also be open for scheduled public programs and tours by appointment.

Twin Valley Backpacking Trail

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

HILLS & DALES METROPARK

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

HUFFMAN METROPARK

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

MoMBA-MetroPark Mountain Bike Area

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

ISLAND METROPARK

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

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET

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

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

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

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

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

SUGARCREEK METROPARK

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

SUNRISE METROPARK

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

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK

2000 St. Rt. 40, Vandalia. From I-75 take U.S. 40 Exit (National Rd.) and head east.

Continue on 40 where it heads south onto Brown School Rd. Then go on Brown School Rd. past U.S. 40 to entrances, or follow U.S. 40 east to other entrances. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

TWIN CREEK METROPARK

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

Twin Valley Backpacking Trail

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

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK

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

Children's Discovery Garden

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

WESLEYAN METROPARK

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



DETOURS CLOSINGS

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

TRAIL CONDITIONS

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

MetroParks Mountain Biking Area (MoMBA) Trail Conditions:

(937) 277-4374

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

BIKEWAY CONSTRUCTION GREAT MIAMI RIVER BIKEWAY

Due to current I-75 construction, the Great Miami River Bikeway will be closed at four points near the interstate construction sites for the next two seasons. The closures are on both sides of the Great Miami River. For detour information and maps, visit **metroparks.org**/alerts.



MAD RIVER BIKEWAY

The Mad River Bikeway extension is planned to begin construction this season. This trail will connect the existing Mad River Bikeway in Eastwood MetroPark to the Wright Brothers-Huffman Prairie Trail in Huffman MetroPark. The project is expected to take one year to complete. Construction activities will cause restricted access to some areas of Eastwood MetroPark. Visit metroparks.org/alerts for updates.

TRAIL CLOSURES, PARK CONSTRUCTION

WESLEYAN METROPARK

Unmarked gravel trail along Wolf Creek is closed for bank restoration.

HILLS & DALES METROPARK

Part of the Adirondack Trail between Paw Paw Shelter and Old Barn Camp will be closed as construction on the tower retaining wall commences. This project will create a lookout at the stone tower, allowing public access to this unique park feature.

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Tree Tower construction is slated to begin fall 2011. This construction will restrict access to parts of Conifer Collection.

SUBFACILITY HOURS

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY GARDEN SPRING HOURS

March: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. May: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

GERMANTOWN NATURE CENTER

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

WATER SHUT-OFF

Attention: Some water features in the MetroParks were shut off during the winter months to prevent pipe bursts. This includes all water playgrounds, some restrooms (pit toilets will still be available), and some drinking fountains. The water will be turned back on after the last frost of the season and the ground thaws substantially. Call the park at (937) 275-PARK (7275) weekdays if this will affect your trip, such as a shelter reservation or camping experience.



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



FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS IS PLEASED TO PRESENT

YOUR GUIDE TO SPRING ACTIVITIES

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

BY ACTIVITY

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

BY DATE

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

ONLINE

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

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

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

PASSPORT TO NATURE!

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

HOW TO CONTACT A RANGER IN A METROPARK:

Emergency contact: 9-1-1

Non-emergency contact: (937) 535-2580

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



FACEBOOK

Five Rivers MetroParks recently switched to a "fan" page. If you haven't already done so, visit www.facebook.com/

fiveriversmetroparks and click the "like" button to keep up to date with MetroParks programs and events, as well as connect with other MetroParks users.

TWITTER **U**



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

METROPARKS.ORG The programs and stories you're

reading in this issue of ParkWays can be found online. Visit

metroparks.org/parkways to view the special web version of ParkWays, or download the PDF. Search for programs online has never been easier. Look for programs based on date, park location, or type of activity — click on "Things to See and Do" from the "Get Outside" fly-out menu and start planning your next outdoor adventure!



EVENTS BY DATE, TIME

TUE, FEB 7, 2012

12:00 PM Volunteer: Carriage Hill Country Store, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)

SAT, FEB 11, 2012

12:00 PM Volunteer: Carriage Hill Concession Stand, Carriage Hill MetroPark (page 38)

THU, MAR 1, 2012

9:00 AM Volunteer: Prairie Seed Saving, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34) 10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Nature's **Textures,** Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39)

FRI, MAR 2, 2012

7:00 PM Youth Try Kayaking, Off Site (see

SAT. MAR 3. 2012

7:30 AM Miami Valley Gardening Conference, Sinclair Community College (see page 34)

9:30 AM Project Wild Workshop, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 39)

10:00 AM Justin Morgan (Singer, Pianist), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

10:00 AM Volunteer: 19th Century Woodworking Course at Carriage Hill, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)

10:00 AM Cross Stitch for Beginners II,

Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38) 1:00 PM The Changing Forest, Englewood

MetroPark (see page 40)

2:00 PM Meet-Up Health Hike, Germantown MetroPark (see page 46)

SUN, MAR 4, 2012

12:00 PM Horseback Riding Lessons at Carriage Hill Riding Center, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 47)

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

TUE, MAR 6, 2012

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 40) 6:00 PM Your Best Vegetable Garden, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 34)

WED, MAR 7, 2012

9:00 AM Volunteer: Pollinater Gardeners, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34) 10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40) 10:00 AM Tike Hike: Coyotes, Sugarcreek

MetroPark (see page 40)

6:00 PM Introduction to Bicycle

Maintenance, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 45)

7:00 PM Environmental Film Series: A Chemical Reaction, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 37)

THU, MAR 8, 2012

9:00 AM Trees of the Forest, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 41) 11:30 AM Coffee Anyone? PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 38)

FRI. MAR 9, 2012

8:00 AM Wilderness First Aid, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 48)

SAT, MAR 10, 2012

8:00 AM Wilderness First Aid, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 48)

10:00 AM Brute Finesse (Classic Rock), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

12:00 PM Volunteer: MoMBA Trail Work Days, Huffman MetroPark (see page 48) 6:30 PM Woodcock Dance, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

SUN, MAR 11, 2012

8:00 AM Wilderness First Aid. Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 48)

MON. MAR 12. 2012

9:30 AM Children's Tour Guide Workshop Series: Spring Into Tours, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41) 6:00 PM Fly Fishing for Bass and Bluegill, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 46)

TUE, MAR 13, 2012

9:00 AM Trees of The Forest, Englewood MetroPark (see page 41) 1:00 PM Do Rabbits Lay Easter Eggs? Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33) 1:00 PM Paddle Sport Assistant Volunteer

Training, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 48)

WED, MAR 14, 2012

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40) 6:00 PM Volunteer: Adopt a Campsite, Germantown MetroPark (see page 44)

THU. MAR 15, 2012

10:00 AM Parent and Preschooler: Green is Spring! Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41)

10:10 AM Compost Kitchen: Building Better **Soil,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34) 11:30 AM Incredible Eggs, PNC 2nd Street

Market (see page 39)

6:30 PM Community Garden Coordinator's Dinner, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

FRI, MAR 16, 2012

11:30 AM Incredible Eggs, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 39)

SAT, MAR 17, 2012

8:30 AM Morning Chores on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 33) 9:00 AM Seedling Saturdays, Off Site (see page 49)

10:00 AM Gardeners and the Environment, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

10:00 AM Collins Connection (Celtic), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

10:00 AM St. Patrick's Day at the Market,

PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48) 10:00 AM Intermediate Cross Stitch I, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)

1:00 PM Eureka Lab! Green Is Good, Cox

Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41) 1:00 PM Oldies but Goodies, Possum Creek

MetroPark (see page 35) 2:00 PM Try Hiking @..., Huffman MetroPark

(see page 46) 3:00 PM Forest Frenzy, Huffman MetroPark

(see page 41) 6:30 PM Woodcock Watch, Carriage Hill

MetroPark (see page 41)

SUN, MAR 18, 2012

12:00 PM Wrinkly Sheep + Spotted Chickens, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 33) 1:30 PM Spring Twin Creek Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

MON, MAR 19, 2012

9:30 AM Children's Tour Guide Workshop Series: Aullwood Excursion, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41)

TUE, MAR 20, 2012

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 40)

9:00 AM Volunteer: Aullwood Gardens, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 35) 10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Nature's Textures, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 39)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Here Come the **Ducklings,** Eastwood MetroPark (see page 40)

WED. MAR 21, 2012

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 41)





6:00 PM Bicycle Maintenance Basics,

Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 45) 6:30 PM Intro to Backpacking, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 44)

THU, MAR 22, 2012

10:00 AM Compost Kitchen: Backyard Composting, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

11:00 AM Movies for Foodies: Forks Over **Knives.** PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 37) 6:00 PM Bicycle Maintenance Basics, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 45) 7:00 PM Cafe Sci, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42)

FRI. MAR 23, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Animal Evidence, Englewood MetroPark (see page 40)

SAT, MAR 24, 2012

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

9:00 AM Seedling Saturdays, Off Site (see

10:00 AM Try Planting Potatoes, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

10:00 AM Green Yard Maintenance,

Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

10:00 AM Digital Photography Step by Step, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 43)

10:00 AM Mike Sedmak (Instrumental

Guitar), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48) 10:00 AM Intermediate Cross Stitch II,

Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)

MON, MAR 26, 2012

9:30 AM Children's Tour Guide Series: Walk and Talk in the Woods, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41)

6:00 PM Intro to Backpacking for Women, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 44)

TUE, MAR 27, 2012

9:00 AM Trees of the Forest, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 41)

9:00 AM, 11:30 AM Stroller Strut: Rainbow Skies, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42)

WED, MAR 28, 2012

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40) 4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 41)

THU, MAR 29, 2012

10:00 AM Compost Kitchen: All About Worms, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34) 10:00 AM Tike Hike: Forest Homes, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40) 10:00 AM Unique Egg Decorating, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 39)

FRI, MAR 30, 2012

10:00 AM Kids Egg Decorating, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 39)

SAT. MAR 31. 2012

8:00 AM River Birds Field Trip, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 42)

9:00 AM Seedling Saturdays, Off Site (see

10:00 AM What You Can Safely Use on Your Yard, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page

10:00 AM Jr Farmer - Goats, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

SUN, APR 1, 2012

12:00 PM Apprentice Day, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)

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

MON, APR 2, 2012

6:00 PM Volunteer Geocache Assistant Training, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 47)

TUE, APR 3, 2012

METROPARKS.ORG

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 40) 10:00 AM Tike Hike: Forest Play, Englewood

GUIDE TO EVENT BY DATE

MetroPark (see page 40)

11:30 AM Lunch and Learn: Heirloom Seed Sources, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 34)

WED, APR 4, 2012

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 41)

7:00 PM Environmental Film Series: Queen of the Sun, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 37)

THU, APR 5, 2012

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Signs of Spring, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39)

SAT, APR 7, 2012

8:30 AM Make a Difference... Save a Life 5K Race/Walk, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 49)

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Wolf Creek Bikeway (W), Recreational Trails (see page 45)

10:00 AM Amanda Roberts (Hammered Dulcimer), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48) 11:00 AM Do-It-Yourself Grain to Bread,

Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

1:00 PM Forest Scavenger Hunt, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 42)

8:30 PM Tike Hike: Nocturnal Amphibian Search, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 40)

TUE, APR 10, 2012

9:00 AM Spring Wildflowers, Englewood MetroPark (see page 42)

10:30 AM Tuesday Tea, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

1:00 PM Spring Gardens, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 35)

WED, APR 11, 2012

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 41)

THU, APR 12, 2012

9:00 AM Spring Wildflowers, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 42)

10:00 AM Volunteer: Garden Gate, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

FRI, APR 13, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Woodland Nests, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 40)

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

6:00 PM Backpacking Basics, Germantown MetroPark (see page 44)

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

SAT, APR 14, 2012

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

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

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Wolf Creek Bikeway (W), Recreational Trails (see page 45)

10:00 AM Building Backyard Habitat

Gardens, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

10:00 AM Dan Rivers (Vocal/Guitar), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

10:00 AM From Sheep to Shawls, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)

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

12:00 PM Backpacking Basics, Germantown MetroPark (see page 44)

1:00 PM Gardening for Small Spaces, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 35)

2:00 PM Meet-Up Health Hike, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 46)

2:00 PM Wildflowers and Big Trees, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 42)

SUN, APR 15, 2012

12:00 PM From Sheep to Shawls, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)

1:30 PM Spring Germantown Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Germantown MetroPark (see page 47)

2:00 PM Forest Wildflowers, Germantown MetroPark (see page 42)

TUE, APR 17, 2012

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 40)

WED, APR 18, 2012

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

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

4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 41)

THU, APR 19, 2012

9:00 AM Intro to Smart Cycling, Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 45)

10:00 AM Parent and Preschooler:

Everything Grows, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41)

11:30 AM Compost with Worms, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 39)

7:00 PM Building Backyard Hiabitat Gardens, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

SAT, APR 21, 2012

8:00 AM Beginning Birding Workshop,

Germantown MetroPark (see page 42)

9:00 AM Adopt-A-Park, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 49)

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Creekside

Bikeway, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 45)

9:00 AM Eastwood Walkfest, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 49)

9:00 AM Smart Cycling Basics, Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 45)

10:00 AM Recycled Craft Creation, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 49)

10:00 AM Tim Jennens (Lite Jazz), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

10:00 AM Native Plants in the Garden Plan, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 36)

10:00 AM Nature Photography: Getting Started, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 44)

1:00 PM Bird Song Study, Germantown MetroPark (see page 42)

1:00 PM Rainwater Collection and Use in the Garden, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 36)

SUN, APR 22, 2012

2:00 PM Woodland Wildflowers, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 42)

MON. APR 23, 2012

6:30PM Advanced Butterfly Class: Caterpillar CSI, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 43)

TUE, APR 24, 2012

7:15 AM Bus Trip: Lexington in Spring, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 36) 9:00 AM Spring Wildflowers, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 42)

9:00 AM, 11:30 AM Stroller Strut: Tiny Drop, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42) 10:30 AM Tuesday Tea, Wegerzyn Gardens

MetroPark (see page 35)

WED, APR 25, 2012

4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 41) **10:00 AM Discovery Stroll,** Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

THU, APR 26, 2012

9:00 AM Volunteer: RiverScape Gardeners, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 36)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Emerging Pollinators,

Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

11:30 AM Movies for Foodies: Ingredients,

PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 37)

4:00 PM Try Fly Fishing! Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 46)

7:00 PM Cafe Sci, Cox Arboretum MetroPark

(see page 42)

FRI, APR 27, 2012

8:00 AM Arbor Day, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 43)

5:00 PM League Cycling Instructor Seminar, Off Site (see page 45)

SAT, APR 28, 2012

8:00 AM League Cycling Instructor Seminar, Off Site (see page 45)

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Mad River **Bikeway,** Eastwood MetroPark (see page 45) 9:00 AM Birding Workshop: Warblers, Germantown MetroPark (see page 43)

10:00 AM Jr Farmer - Poultry, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

10:00 AM Jim's Red Pants (Celtic/ Scandinavian Folk), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

10:00 AM Tilling the Soil, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)

10:00 AM Try Planting Potatoes, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 36)

10:00 AM Advanced Counted Cross Stitch I, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)

10:00 AM Wildflower and Native Plant Sale, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 49) 2:00 PM Try Hiking @..., Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

SUN, APR 29, 2012

8:00 AM League Cycling Instructor Seminar, Off Site (see page 45)

2:00 PM Aullwood Spring Walk, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 36)

TUE, MAY 1, 2012

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 40)

10:30 AM Tuesday Tea, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

11:30 AM Lunch and Learn: Period Trellises, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 34)

WED. MAY 2, 2012

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

THU, MAY 3, 2012

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Carpet of Color, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39) 2:00 PM Farm Babies, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

FRI, MAY 4, 2012

12:00 PM Zaleski State Forest Backpacking Trip for Women, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 44)

10:00 PM Night Fishing at Eastwood Lake,

Eastwood MetroPark (see page 46)

10:00 PM Night Fishing at Possum Creek MetroPark, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

SAT, MAY 5, 2012

6:00 AM Forest Birding Field Trip, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 43)

8:00 AM Derby Day Dash, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 49)

9:00 AM MayFair Plant Sale 2012, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 49)

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Great Miami River Bikeway, Recreational Trails (see

10:00 AM Old Skool (Oldies), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

10:00 AM Family Fishing Day, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 49)

10:00 AM Family Nature Excursion, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 43)

10:00 AM Try Planting Seeds & Seedlings, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 36) 10:00 AM Advanced Counted Cross Stitch II,

Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 38)

1:00 PM Natural Adventures Box Training, Englewood MetroPark (see page 43)

2:00 PM Meet-Up Health Hike, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 46)

10:00 PM Night Fishing at Eastwood Lake, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 46)

10:00 PM Night Fishing at Possum Creek MetroPark, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

SUN, MAY 6, 2012

11:00 AM MayFair Plant Sale 2012, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 49) 1:30 PM Spring Hills & Dales Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Hills & Dales MetroPark

MON, MAY 7, 2012

(see page 47)

6:00 PM Horse Camps for Adults, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 47)

TUE, MAY 8, 2012

9:00 AM Songbirds, Englewood MetroPark (see page 43)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Buds and Bugs, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 40)

1:00 PM Kid Around with Goats, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

4:00 PM Seedling Series: Welcome to the Garden, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 36)

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

WED, MAY 9, 2012

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales

MetroPark (see page 40)

THU, MAY 10, 2012

9:00 AM Songbirds, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 43)

10:00 AM Parent & Preschooler: Name That Tree, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41) 11:30 AM Flowers Everywhere, PNC 2nd

Street Market (see page 39)

2:00 PM Farm Babies, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

FRI, MAY 11, 2012

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

10:00 PM Night Fishing at Eastwood Lake, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 46)

10:00 PM Night Fishing at Possum Creek MetroPark, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

SAT, MAY 12, 2012

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

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Stillwater River Bikeway (N), Englewood MetroPark (see page 45)

9:00 AM Volunteer: Backpacking Trail Work Days, Germantown MetroPark (see page 44) 10:00 AM Getting a Good Start in the Garden, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see

page 36) 9:00 AM Wegerzyn Gardens Walkfest, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 49)

10:00 AM Dayton's Youth Garden Educators, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 36)

10:00 AM Shelly Sinclair (Vocals/Guitar), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

12:00 PM Performances by Dayton Ballet II and Dayton Ballet III, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 48)

12:00 PM Volunteer: MoMBA Trail Work Days, Huffman MetroPark (see page 48)

2:00 PM Be a Stillwater River Team Member, Englewood MetroPark (see page 43)

8:30 PM Tike Hike: Forests at Night, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

10:00 PM Night Fishing at Eastwood Lake, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 46)

10:00 PM Night Fishing at Possum Creek MetroPark, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

SUN, MAY 13, 2012

1:00 PM Paddle Sport Assistant Volunteer **Training,** Eastwood MetroPark (see page 48)

MON, MAY 14, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Little Sprouts, Germantown MetroPark (see page 40)

TUE, MAY 15, 2012

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 40)

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Carpet of Color, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 40) 10:30 AM Tuesday Tea, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

4:00 PM Youth Garden Club: Beginning the Gardening Season, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 36)

WED, MAY 16, 2012

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

5:30 PM Three Sisters Gardening Workshop, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 36) 6:30 PM Learning from the Landscape: Making a Place for Natives, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 37)

THU, MAY 17, 2012

Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 40) 11:30 AM Plant and Grow Your Garden, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 37) 2:00 PM Farm Babies, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Water Works,

4:00 PM Advanced Youth Garden Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37) 6:30 PM Advanced Butterfly Class: Butterfly **ID,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 43)

6:30 AM National Bike to Work Day Pancake

FRI, MAY 18, 2012

Breakfast, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45) 8:00 AM Twin Valley Trail Backpacking Trip, Germantown MetroPark (see page 44) 10:00 PM Night Fishing at Eastwood Lake, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 46) 10:00 PM Night Fishing at Possum Creek MetroPark, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

SAT, MAY 19, 2012

8:30 AM Morning Chores on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 33) 9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Wolf Creek Bikeway (W), Recreational Trails (see

9:00 AM Tab-A-Pull-Ooza, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 49)

10:00 AM There's No Place Like Home, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 38) 10:00 AM Drastic Measures, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

10:00 AM Nature Photo Critique with Adam Alonzo, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see

10:00 AM Pollinator Palooza, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 43)

11:00 AM Broommaking, Carriage Hill

MetroPark (see page 38)

1:00 PM Natural Adventures Box Training,

Wesleyan MetroPark (see page 43)

2:00 PM Try Hiking @..., Germantown MetroPark (see page 46)

10:00 PM Night Fishing at Eastwood Lake, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 46)

10:00 PM Night Fishing at Possum Creek MetroPark, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

SUN, MAY 20, 2012

10:00 AM Spring Twin Valley Trail Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Germantown MetroPark (see page 47)

12:00 PM Corn 101, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 33)

12:00 PM Wegerzyn Bike Rodeo - For Kids, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 46) 2:00 PM Aullwood: May Magic, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 37)

TUE, MAY 22, 2012

9:00 AM Songbirds, Eastwood MetroPark (see

9:00 AM, 11:30 AM Stroller Strut: Hello Sunshine, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42)

4:00 PM Youth Garden Club: Beginning the Gardening Season, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 36)

WED, MAY 23, 2012

10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40) 10:00 AM Golden Gardeners, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37)

THU, MAY 24, 2012

9:00 AM Giving Gardeners, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37) 2:00 PM Farm Babies, Possum Creek

MetroPark (see page 33)

4:00 PM Try Fly Fishing! Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

4:00 PM Advanced Youth Garden Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37)

6:00 PM Volunteer: MoMBA Trail Work Days,

Huffman MetroPark (see page 48)

7:00 PM Cafe Sci, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42)

FRI, MAY 25, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Emerging Pollinators, Englewood MetroPark (see page 40) 10:00 PM Night Fishing at Eastwood Lake, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 46) 10:00 PM Night Fishing at Possum Creek MetroPark, Possum Creek MetroPark (see

page 46)

SAT. MAY 26. 2012

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Creekside **Bikeway,** Eastwood MetroPark (see page 45) 10:00 AM Jr Farmer - Equine, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

10:00 AM Live with Joni and Steve (Acoustic/ Folk), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48) 1:00 PM Alternative Horse Power Demo, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 34)

SUN. MAY 27, 2012

10:00 PM Night Fishing at Eastwood Lake, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 46) 10:00 PM Night Fishing at Possum Creek MetroPark, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 46)

TUE, MAY 29, 2012

10:30 AM Tuesday Tea, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

11:30 AM Discover Small Space Gardening, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 37)

WED, MAY 30, 2012

10:00 AM Golden Gardeners, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37) 10:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

THU, MAY 31, 2012

9:00 AM Giving Gardeners, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37) 4:00 PM Advanced Youth Garden Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37)

MON, JUN 4, 2012

8:00 AM Horse Camps for Youths, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 47)

TUE, JUN 5, 2012

4:00 PM Youth Naturalist Club, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

THU. JUN 14, 2012

7:15 AM Bus Trip: Richmond, Indiana, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37)

SAT, JUN 30, 2012

10:00 AM Jr Farmer - Sheep, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

SAT. JUL 28, 2012

10:00 AM Jr Farmer - Pigs, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

SAT. AUG 25. 2012

10:00 AM Jr Farmer - Cows, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

EDUCATION FARMING

(FREE) DO RABBITS LAY EASTER EGGS?

TUE, MAR 13, 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM

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

Get a chance to meet the stars of Easter, the rabbit and the chicken. Learn where colorful eggs really come from as we read a story, make a fun craft and visit our chicken coop to look for eggs. Reservation required and limited, beginning February 15; call (937) 276-7062 or register online. Age: 3Y - 6Y. **7948**

(FREE) MORNING CHORES ON THE FARM

SAT, MAR 17, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM 8006 **SAT, APR 14, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM** 8007 **SAT, MAY 19, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM** 8008 CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

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

(FREE) WRINKLY SHEEP + SPOTTED CHICKENS SUN, MAR 18, 12:00 PM- 5:00 PM

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

Did you know that some breeds of farm animals are actually endangered species? Come join us for a look at some of our heritage breeds and their particular characteristics. Find out what you can do to help preserve these old breeds. Call (937) 278-2609 for more information. **8009**

(FREE) FAMILY FARM CHORES

SAT, MAR 24, 8:30 AM-10:30 AM 7975 **SAT, APR 14, 8:30 AM-10:30 AM** 7976 **SAT, MAY 12, 8:30 AM-10:30 AM** 7977 POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 479 Frytown Rd.

Join a farm staff person to feed and brush animals, gather eggs, and clean stalls. Get to know some of the farm animals up close and personally. Meet at farmhouse. Reservations required and limited, beginning March 1; call (937) 276-7062 to register or register online. Age: 6Y and up.

(FREE) JR FARMER SERIES:

Participants will learn facts about farm animals and enjoy hands-on activities. Each session will focus on a different animal. The series runs from March to August. Participants who complete four sessions are eligible for a certificate and a special memento. Participants must sign up for the whole series. Reservations required and limited, beginning March 1. Call (937) 276-7062 or register online. Age: 6Y - 10Y.

GOATS

SAT, MAR 31, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd. Become a goat expert! Learn about different goat breeds, goat anatomy and products made from goats. Spend some time with Possum Creek MetroPark's resident goats. **7989**

POULTRY

SAT, APR 28, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd. In this session, you will learn about the different types of poultry raised on farms. You will also learn basic care for these birds. You have the option to take home a chick to raise for one month and return the next session. Food and container provided. **7986**

EQUINE

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

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd. In this session, you learn about both horses and donkeys. You will learn some of the different equipment used in the care of these animals, and what a farrier is. **7982**

SHEEP

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

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd. Become a sheep expert! Learn about different sheep breeds, sheep anatomy and products made from sheep. Spend some time with Possum Creek MetroPark's resident sheep. **7983**

PIGS

SAT, JUL 28, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd. In this session you, will become familiar with the pig's history. You will also learn about the different breeds and products. **7985**

COWS

SAT, AUG 25, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

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

You will learn about the differences in beef and dairy cattle and the products we get from this group of animals. To celebrate the last session, we will have a picnic and recognize those who completed the series with their certificate and memento. 7987

(FREE) DO-IT-YOURSELF GRAIN TO BREAD

SAT, APR 7, 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Center, 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. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome; call (937) 276-7062 up, or register online. Age: 18Y and up. 7990

(FREE) FARM BABIES THU, MAY 3 - THU, MAY 31, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Join us every Thursday in May from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM to meet our newest additions to Possum Creek MetroPark. Each week you and your family will get a chance to learn about and meet a different farm baby. Meet at the big white barn for a close encounter and then explore the rest of the farm to see the other farm babies. Call (937) 276-7062 for more information. **8088**

(FREE) KID AROUND WITH GOATS TUE, MAY 8, 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Center, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Meet some kids... goat kids that is! Learn about their place on the farm. We will have a story, a goat craft and then meet our new baby goats. Reservations required and limited, beginning April 15; call (937) 276-7062 or register online. Age: 3Y - 6Y. **7966**

(FREE) CORN 101

SUN, MAY 20, 12:00 PM- 5:00 PM

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

See a corn field laid out before your very eyes as the farmer rides the corn planter and plants the corn in check rows. Try your hand at grinding corn into meal and stop by the farmhouse to try some items made from corn. Also, learn about heirloom corn and the various resources for it today. Call (937) 278-2609 for more information. **8010**

(FREE) ALTERNATIVE HORSE POWER DEMO

SAT, MAY 26, 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Rediscover real horsepower and learn why animal power may make more ecological and economical sense for small farms. Hands-on demonstrations of cultivating with a draft animal take place throughout the afternoon. Meet at the demonstration crop fields. Weather permitting. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome; call (937) 276-7062 or register online. Age: 5Y and up. **7993**

GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: PRAIRIE SEED SAVING

THU, MAR 1, 2012 - THU, FEB 21, 2013 9:00 AM-11:30 AM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Volunteer Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Volunteer for the Seed Savers and learn propagation and identification of native prairie plants. Help Five Rivers MetroParks improve native habitat at locations throughout the area. This group meets on Thursday mornings from 9 - 11:30 am at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. For details and to register, contact Janet Metter at (937) 434-9005, x1309. Age: 18Y and up. **7763**

MIAMI VALLEY GARDENING CONFERENCE: A NEW LOOK SAT, MAR 3, 7:30 AM- 5:00 PM

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

Gardeners of all skill levels are invited to this annual skill-honing conference! This year's keynote speakers are best-selling author Amy Stewart and writer Lee Reich, with a special session led by Laura Deeter. Enjoy four break-out sessions led by area experts with sections for new and experienced gardeners as well as handson demonstrations. Fee includes breakfast snack, full lunch, breaks and parking.

Call (937) 277-6545 or register online at metroparks.org/conference by February 23 for early registration discounts. Fees: \$50: full-time students \$25,7520

(FREE) LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES:

Enjoy speakers who will give new meaning to the term "power gardening" during this brown bag lunch series. Age: 18Y and up.

HEIRLOOM SEED SOURCES TUE. APR 3. 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM

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

Join us as we discuss the various local and national sources for heirloom vegetable and crop seeds. Participants are also welcome to bring some heirloom seeds to swap with others. Meet at the front gate. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 278-2609 or register online. **8071**

POLLINATOR CONSERVATION WED, APR 18, 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. We'll look at what Five Rivers MetroParks is doing with pollinator plants and why, as well as give participants opportunities to introduce great new plants into your own landscape. Learn the benefits of including these plants in your garden as well as how to collect and save their seed. Reservations are required and limited; call (937) 434-9005 or register online. **7861**

PERIOD TRELLISES TUE. MAY 1. 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM

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

Join us for a tour of the heirloom garden and learn about the various ways to trellis climbing plants. See some simple and easy methods that can be recreated at home in your garden. Meet at the front gate. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 278-2609 or register online. **8072**

YOUR BEST VEGETABLE GARDEN TUE, MAR 6-TUE, APR 3, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.
This six-session service learning class covers composting and soils, planning, planting, pests, and preserving your harvest for basic vegetable gardening. Each class covers an aspect of gardening including horticultural and commercial guest presenters and hands-on activities. The series culminates with a field trip and hands-on work days. Participants must complete 25 hours of volunteer service to Five Rivers MetroParks at a garden site. Contact Kevin Kepler at (937) 275-7275 by February 21 to register.

Age: 18Y and up. Fees: \$20 8024

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: POLLINATOR GARDENERS

WED, MAR 7 - WED, FEB 27, 9:00 AM-11:30 AM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Butterfly House, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn what our native pollinators need to complete their life cycles as you work with native plants in this garden setting, designed to sustain pollinators, including butterflies. Volunteer Wednesday mornings from 9 - 11:30 AM. No experience necessary; training provided. An interest in pollinators, gardening, and/or native plants is helpful. For more information, contact Janet Metter at janet.metter@metroparks.org or (937) 434-9005, ext. 1309. **7762**

(FREE) COMPOST KITCHEN SERIES:

Compost can be the winning ingredient for a successful garden. Classes can be taken individually or as a series. Those completing all three classes will receive a certificate for a free composter from Montgomery County Solid Waste District. Reservations are required and limited; call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 18Y and up.

BUILDING BETTER SOIL THU, MAR 15, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Gardeners learn how to evaluate their soil, manage its composition, and add available nutrients without the use of synthetic fertilizer. **7828**

BACKYARD COMPOSTING THU, MAR 22, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. 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. 7829

ALL ABOUT WORMS THU. MAR 29. 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
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 District
will also discuss community composting
efforts. 7830

(FREE) COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR'S DINNER

THU, MAR 15, 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, Lower Level, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave. Do you work with a community garden in Montgomery County? Join Five Rivers MetroParks' community gardening program staff and representatives from the region's 50 community gardens for dinner. Discover essential resources and information, and meet your gardening colleagues. **Registration** required by March 8, 2012. Call (937) 277-6545 for details and to register. 7851

(FREE) GARDENERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SAT. MAR 17. 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
When you garden, you have a direct effect on the land around you. Learn how you can make your area—whether a small balcony or a large vegetable garden—a positive space. We'll talk about plants, water, fertilizer, mulches, and weeds and how your choices can impact the environment. Join us for a great, eye-opening session! Meet in the Adult Classroom. Call (937) 277-6545 or register online. 7855

(FREE) OLDIES BUT GOODIES SAT, MAR 17, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Center, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Before starting those spring beds, consider what will go in them. Let's talk about those tried-and-true heirloom seeds. Be a part of the movement to restore our "oldies but goodies." Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome; call (937) 276-7062 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. 7974 **

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: AULLWOOD GARDENS

TUE, MAR 20 - TUE, APR 24, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Residence, 900 Aullwood Rd.
Enjoy working amidst the beauty of Marie Aull's garden, a living work of art. Volunteers will learn the basics of shade gardening using both natives and exotic plants. Staffled sessions will show you some of Marie's favorites and a chance to see how this garden unfolds each season. A special volunteer kickoff will be held at the Aull home on March 19.
To get involved, contact Bob Butts at (937) 277-6545 or email bbutts@metroparks.org. 7764

(FREE) CREATING A GREEN YARD SERIES:

Explore ways to lessen your environmental impact in your own backyard, no matter where you live and what plants live there. Attend one or both classes. Reservations are requested, walk-ins welcome; call (937) 277-6545 or register online.

GREEN YARD MAINTENANCE SAT. MAR 24. 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Join us as turf expert Glenn Pottenger explains how to care for your yard in ways that will not harm the environment and still give you the great-looking yard you want. We'll talk about mowing and watering techniques, grass seed, insects and diseases. Come with your questions and go home ready to have a great year in your yard! 7857

WHAT YOU CAN SAFELY USE ON YOUR YARD

SAT, MAR 31, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Marvin Duren, of Marvin's Organic Gardens, will talk about the best environmentally friendly products to use on your yard, including fertilizers, pre-emergents, compost and more. He'll explain the difference between commercially available products and what you need to know before buying and using. 7858

(FREE) TRY PLANTING POTATOES SAT, MAR 24, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK,
Community Garden, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Desperate to get out in the garden, but not sure what to do once you're there? Get your hands dirty and learn how to plant potatoes and other cool-weather crops—and what you can plant now! Weather permitting.
Registration requested; walk-ins welcome.
Call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **7848**

(FREE) TUESDAY TEA

TUE, APR 10, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM 7805
TUE, APR 24, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM 7810
TUE, MAY 1, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM 7807
TUE, MAY 15, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM 7808
TUE, MAY 29, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM 7809
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's
Garden, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Children are invited to explore the gardens through an activity or craft and refreshing tea. Bring your own tea cup or mug and a picnic lunch to enjoy at the end of the

program. Weather permitting. Registration required and limited. Call (937) 277-6545 or register online. Age: 3Y - 5Y.

(FREE) SPRING GARDENS TUE. APR 10. 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM

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

April is National Garden Month. To celebrate, each child will get to plant their very own garden starter kit to take home.

We will read a story and discover what's growing in Possum Creek MetroPark's gardens. Reservations required and limited, beginning March 15; call (937) 276-7062 or register online. Age: 3Y - 6Y. **7962**

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: GARDEN GATE

THU. APR 12. 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. With special training, these volunteers interact with visitors of all ages. Training is required and ongoing enrichment workshops will be offered to increase familiarity with the garden and discovery opportunities for visitors. Weekday and weekend hours are available, typically 9:30 AM to noon. For more information or to sign up, call (937) 277-6545. Age: 18Y and up. **8061**

(FREE) BUILDING BACKYARD HABITAT GARDENS SAT, APR 14, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM THU, APR 19, 7:00 PM- 8:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Join MetroParks' Naturalist Doug Horvath for a discussion on ways you can create your own backyard habitat. This habitat is a friendly stopping place for birds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators, as well as a beautiful spot to enjoy. This is a great information-filled session! Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 for information or register online. Class will be repeated at Cox Arboretum MetroPark on April 19 at 7:00 PM. 8087

(FREE) GARDENING FOR SMALL SPACES

SAT. APR 14. 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Center, 4790 Frytown Rd. Learn some unique garden methods for the kitchen gardener with little time, little space and no tools. See simple techniques for any age and experience. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome; call (937) 276-7062 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. **7991**

(FREE) NATIVE PLANTS IN THE GARDEN PLAN

SAT, APR 21, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Do native plants have a place in your garden? Natives can be hardier, more drought tolerant, easier to care for, and longer lasting than other landscape plants. Learn what common garden plants are actually natives, and what new native plants you can add to your existing landscape. This will be a fascinating, surprising class! Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **7863**

(FREE) RAINWATER COLLECTION AND USE IN THE GARDEN SAT. APR 21, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd. Water is essential to every garden, and rain is free, so why not collect and use it? Learn about structures you can build to catch rainwater and see a demonstration of how to build a rain barrel, start to finish. Instructions, supply and vendor lists will be provided. Save your garden and your summer pocket book with this great class! Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **7867**

BUS TRIP: LEXINGTON IN SPRING TUE. APR 24. 7:15 AM- 6:30 PM

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

Join us for a trip to the Arboretum and State Botanical Garden of Kentucky. We'll have a docent-led tour and then free time to stroll at the arboretum. Next we go to Ashland, the Henry Clay estate, for lunch and a tour of the mansion and gardens. Fee of \$89 includes lunch and is due by March

24. Make checks payable to Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation. Please call (937) 277-6545. Registration required and limited. Fees: \$90 **7880**

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: RIVERSCAPE GARDENERS

THU, APR 26 - TUE, JUN 19, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 111 E. Monument Ave. We are looking for volunteers to assist with gardening tasks at RiverScape MetroPark's spectacular gardens on Mondays, Tuesdays Thursdays and Fridays from 9-11 AM. Learn how to plant, prune and care for a wide variety of plants from experts. New volunteers are invited to attend a volunteer kick-off on Wednesday, April 25, at 10:00 AM at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. For more information, contact Bob Butts at (937) 276-7055 or email bbutts@metroparks.org. Age: 18Y and up. 7728

(FREE) AULLWOOD SPRING WALK SUN, APR 29, 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Garden Parking lot, 955 Aullwood Road
Join us for a Sunday stroll through the beautiful spring landscape of Aullwood Garden MetroPark. Enjoy the fresh green of new foliage, beautiful ephemerals, and the great show of perennials and bulbs in bloom. We'll meet at the parking lot, go through the gardens, and end with tea on the porch. Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. 7914

(FREE) TRY PLANTING SEEDS & SEEDLINGS

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

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

Desperate to get out in the garden, but not sure what to do once you're there? Get your hands dirty and learn the correct way to plant a seedling after you've stopped at

your hands dirty and learn the correct way to plant a seedling after you've stopped at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark's MayFair! Also, try fail-safe ways of planting tiny—or big—seeds! Weather permitting. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **7846**

(FREE) SEEDLING SERIES: WELCOME TO THE GARDEN TUE, MAY 8 - TUE, MAY 22, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Garden, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Youth ages 6 through 9 will meet each Tuesday for three weeks to learn about planning a garden, planting vegetables, and harvesting early crops. Activities will

include hands-on garden work, games, food preparation, and fun crafts! Participants may choose to return for other series occurring each month through the growing season. Reservations required and limited. Call (937) 279-6979 or register online. Age: 6Y - 9Y. **7850**

(FREE) GETTING A GOOD START IN THE GARDEN

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

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Learning to garden is a lifetime experience, so get a great start on this year's garden—vegetable or flower—with the latest in plants, fertilizers, growing and watering methods, and weed prevention. This is a great class for the beginner as well as for the seasoned gardener! Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **7869**

(FREE) DAYTON'S YOUTH GARDEN EDUCATORS

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

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. This panel discussion by local youth garden educating experts will feature tried-and-true methods of gardening with kids. Learn about food production and use, habitat gardening, and curriculum resources. Become part of the gardening revolution! Registrations requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-6545 for further information or register online. **7840**

(FREE) THREE SISTERS GARDENING WORKSHOP WED. MAY 16. 5:30 PM- 7:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Garden, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Corn, squash and beans are native North
American crops that grow remarkably well
together and yield a complete nutritional
system. Learn about the history of these
crops and help build and plant a "three
sisters" garden plot. Reservation required
and limited. Call (937) 277-6545 or register
online. Age: 16Y and up. **7834**

(FREE) LEARNING FROM THE LANDSCAPE: MAKING A PLACE FOR NATIVES

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

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
We'll take a look at native plants as sources
of food, shelter and beauty, and how you
can select the appropriate ones to enhance
your landscape and attract more pollinators.
This is a fun-filled class you won't want to
miss! Reservations are required and limited.
Call (937) 434-9005 or register online. 7873

(FREE) PLANT AND GROW YOUR GARDEN

THU, MAY 17, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Judy Steiger, master gardener and Wegerzyn Gift and Garden volunteer, will give steps on how to start a vegetable garden. She will discuss what grows best from seed and bedding plants, and talk about layout, maintenance and reaping the benefits of a home garden. Registration is requested, walk-ins are welcome. Call (937) 228-2088 to register or register online. **7856**

(FREE) ADVANCED YOUTH GARDEN CLUB THU, MAY 17 - THU, SEP 6, 4:00 PM5:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK,
Community Garden, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Each Thursday, youth ages 9 through 13 get
in-depth gardening experience and learn to
grow food sustainably. Activities coincide
with garden needs and include skill building,
hands-on work, games, cooking, and fun!
Participants are expected to commit to
the whole season. Reservations required
and limited. Call (937) 277-6545 or register
online. Age: 9Y - 13Y. **7843**

(FREE) AULLWOOD: MAY MAGIC SUN, MAY 20, 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Garden Parking lot, 955 Aullwood Road May is a great month to experience the color and beauty of Aullwood Garden MetroPark. Join us for a tour of the gardens and then punch and cookies on the porch. Be sure to bring your camera for this great family outing! We'll meet in the parking lot and then go into the gardens. Registration is requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. 7915

(FREE) GOLDEN GARDENERS WED, MAY 23 - WED, AUG 22, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK,
Wegerzyn Center, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Nursing home residents and adults with
physical limitations will enjoy fun, interactive
garden activities on Wednesdays. The
program is in a wheelchair-accessible
area and can be adapted to group needs.
Seasonal experiences allow participants
to learn about plants, share memories, and
watch the garden grow. Advance registration
for single or multiple sessions is required
and limited; call (937) 277-6545. **7911**

(FREE) GIVING GARDENERS THU, MAY 24 - THU, JUL 26, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Community Garden, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Wegerzyn Community Gardens contains the Sustainable Garden Classroom, a "learning lab" for gardeners. We invite organizations and churches to have a plot in this garden and donate the produce to The Foodbank. A member of the education staff will be available Thursdays to help guide you to a successful year! There are five 15-foot-by-10foot plots. Call (937) 277-6545 for more. **7879**

(FREE) DISCOVER SMALL SPACE GARDENING

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

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Edible Landscape Pavilion, 6733 Springboro Pk. Learn some unique garden methods for the kitchen gardener who has little time, little space and no tools. See simple techniques for any age and experience. See a display at the Edible Landscape Garden of some easy things to try in your own little space. Call (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 18Y and up. 8023

BUS TRIP: RICHMOND, INDIANA THU, JUN 14, 7:15 AM- 5:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Today's destination is Richmond, the Rose City. We'll tour the public rose garden at its peak, then drive through Glenn Miller Park and on to Hayes Arboretum for a guided tour of the grounds and museum. After lunch, we'll go to the Wayne County Historical Museum. Registration is required and limited. **The \$56**

fee, due April 13, includes all admissions and lunch. Make checks payable to Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation. Call (937) 277-6545 for details. Fees: \$70 **7925**

GREEN LIVING

(FREE) ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES:

Films are shown on the first Wednesday of the month, January-April, July and August. Enjoy free popcorn and refreshments during the film and stay afterward to share your insight and observations with others during open discussion. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 14Y and up.

A CHEMICAL REACTION WED, MAR 7, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Dr. June Irwin noticed a connection
between her patients' health and their
exposure to pesticides. Her persuasive
arguments and data led the town of Hudson,
Quebec, to enact a by-law that banned
all chemical pesticides and herbicides.
Pressure from chemical companies in North
America led the case to the Supreme Court.
Film length: 70 minutes. 7938

QUEEN OF THE SUN WED, APR 4, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
In 1923, Rudolf Steiner predicted that in 80
to 100 years, honeybees would collapse.
His prediction has come true with Colony
Collapse Disorder. In an alarming inquiry
into the insights behind Steiner's prediction,
Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling
Us? examines the dire global bee crisis
through the eyes of beekeepers, scientists,
farmers, and philosophers. Film length: 82
minutes. 7937

(FREE) MOVIES FOR FOODIES

Foodies, gather 'round for movies that all relate to where the food we eat comes from and how the type of diet we choose affects our health. All films will be shown during lunchtime with discussion to follow for those who can stay and chat. Registration is not necessary. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information.

FORKS OVER KNIVES (DIET AND DISEASE)

THU, MAR 22, 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM 7632 PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

INGREDIENTS (BENEFITS OF EATING LOCALLY)

THU, APR 26, 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM 7637 PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

HERITAGE & HISTORY

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: CARRIAGE HILL COUNTRY STORE SHIFTS AVAILABLE 12:00PM- 5:00PM THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the Country Store, located inside the Visitor Center at Carriage Hill MetroPark. Shifts are from 12:00 PM-5:00 PM Tuesday through Sunday throughout the year. Volunteers assist with penny candy and gift sales in the store. Basic training in sales and register use will be provided. All potential volunteers must pass a background check. For more information, contact Bambi Shafer at bambi.shafer@metroparks.org or (937) 275-5006. Age: 18Y and up. 7799

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: CARRIAGE HILL CONCESSION STAND SAT, FEB 11 - SUN, FEB 3, 12:00 PM- 5:00 PM

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

Volunteers are needed to assist visitors at the concession stand located in the Visitor Center. Friendly, outgoing volunteers will be trained to assist with setup of food equipment and work with a cash register. For more information, contact Bambi Shafer at bambi.shafer@metroparks.org or (937) 275-5006. Age: 18Y and up. **8099**

VOLUNTEER: 19TH CENTURY WOODWORKING COURSE AT CARRIAGE HILL

SAT, MAR 3 - SAT, MAR 24, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

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

Rob Millard, master woodworker, will teach 19th century woodworking including basic tool usage. Classes will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the first four Saturdays in March. Attendees are required to provide 50 volunteers hours to Carriage Hill MetroPark wood shop following completion of the course. Classes will be held in the Carriage Hill maintenance building, located at 8090 Shull Road in Huber Heights. For details, contact Bambi Shafer at (937) 275-5006 or bambi.shafer@metroparks.org. Age: 18Y and up. Fees: \$25 **7766**

(FREE) APPRENTICE DAY SUN. APR 1. 12:00 PM- 5:00 PM

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

Want to learn an 1880s occupation? Adults and children ages 8 and up are invited to come to the farm to learn about period skills such as blacksmithing, woodworking, baking, cooking and domestic arts. Come learn about the time period by lending a hand. Call (937) 278-2609 for further details. **7952**

(FREE) FROM SHEEP TO SHAWLS SAT, APR 14, 10:00 AM- 5:00 PM SUN, APR 15, 12:00 PM- 5:00 PM

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

The role that sheep played on the farm will be discussed for this comprehensive program. Watch as the sheep are sheared for the spring at 2PM. Help card wool and watch as fabric is dyed using traditional methods. Come hear about the spinning process and factory production of wool. Watch spinners and weavers process the wool into yarn. Call (937) 278-2609 for further details. **7953**

(FREE) TILLING THE SOIL SAT. APR 28. 10:00 AM- 5:00 PM

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

Spring means it is time to prepare the soil for planting. Watch as various draft horse-drawn equipment is used to turn the soil. Also, watch as plowmen compete in the state plowing contest. Call (937) 278-2609 for further details. **7961**

(FREE) THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

SAT, MAY 19, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Take a fascinating look at how man, birds, and animals of all sorts have made trees their homes through the centuries. Log cabins, lean-tos, beaver dams and human and animal palaces will be discussed. You won't want to miss this fun presentation! Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **7878**

HOME & HOBBIES

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN SERIES:

Learn about period skills that are common and useful today. Learn to be more sustainable like early Ohioans in the 1800s. Reservation required and limited. Call (937) 278-2609 or register online. Age: 18Y and up.

CROSS STITCH FOR BEGINNERS II SAT, MAR 3, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel Arnold House, 7860 E. Shull Rd.

Participants will learn the basics of cross stitch. In this two part class, participants will learn a variety of techniques and take home a finished product. Fees: \$15 **8060**

INTERMEDIATE CROSS STITCH SAT, MAR 17, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM SAT. MAR 24. 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel Arnold House, 7860 E. Shull Rd.

Participants will learn the basics of cross stitch. In this two-part class, participants will learn a variety of techniques and take home a finished product. Fees: \$15 **8062**

ADVANCED COUNTED CROSS STITCH

SAT, APR 28, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM SAT, MAY 5, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel Arnold House, 7860 E. Shull Rd.

Participants will learn the basics of cross stitch. In this two-part class, participants will learn a variety of techniques and take home a finished product. Fees: \$15 **8064**

BROOMMAKING SAT. MAY 19. 11:00 AM- 4:00 PM

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E.

Shull Rd.
Do you know how brooms are made?
Participants will learn about broomcorn and

the broom making industry. Afterwards, they will have the opportunity to learn how to make one to take home. Fees: \$25 **8066**

(FREE) COFFEE ANYONE? THU, MAR 8, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Bob from Caffeine will have a variety of coffees to sample and provide information on the origin of Caffeine's coffee. He will share interesting facts about the beverage that half of all Americans, ages 18 and over, drink daily. Learn how to store coffee, different ways to prepare coffee and specialty coffee drinks. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 228-2088 or register online. **7838**

(FREE) INCREDIBLE EGGS

THU, MAR 15, 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM 7862 FRI, MAR 16, 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM 7868 PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Drop-in for some egg recipes, learn how to make and taste samples of quiche and other egg dishes made by Ulrike, guess the number of eggs in the hen house and win incredible egg prizes, and have an eggstraordinary time discovering things you may not have known about incredible eggs. No registration required. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information.

(FREE) UNIQUE EGG DECORATING THU, MAR 29, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Azra will demonstrate egg decorating the European/Croatian way — Pisanica. Using organic herbs and spices and all-natural ingredients as well as eggs from KJB Farms, she will show how to turn a plain, everyday egg into a colorful, beautiful creation. Demo eggs will be shared. Registration is required and limited. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information or to register, or register online. Age: 18Y and up. **7844**

(FREE) KIDS EGG DECORATING FRI. MAR 30, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Azra will share her egg-decorating skills, the Croatian way, with kids. She will explain how and why this European custom got started. Kids will have an opportunity to be creative, too. Registration is required and limited. Call (937) 228-2088 to register, or register online. Age: 6Y - 12Y. **7849**

(FREE) COMPOST WITH WORMS THU. APR 19. 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Join Keuth Yantko from Keith's Worm Farm, a seasonal Market vendor, to learn how to compost your home food scraps indoors using worms. Once you see how easy it is to get started and realize all the benefits, you'll be vermicomposting in no time at all. Registration is requested, walk-ins are welcome. Call (937) 228-2088 to register, or register online. **7847**

FLOWERS EVERYWHERE THU, MAY 10, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. In addition to cut flower arranging, this class presented by The Flowerman will offer landscaping hints as to where to place annuals and perennials. Take the

arrangement you make home as well as seed packets to keep your house and garden in bloom. Registration is required and limited. Call (937) 228-2088 to register or register online. Age: 18Y and up. Fees: \$12 7951

NATURE

(FREE) BACKPACKING BABIES:

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. A baby backpack or snugli is required as trails are not stroller friendly. Programs are weather permitting: Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. Age: 1M - 2Y.

NATURE'S TEXTURES THU. MAR 1. 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Explore nature with your baby as we feel different textures in our natural environment. **8083**

SIGNS OF SPRING THU, APR 5, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Get your baby outside and search for signs of spring! **7865**

CARPET OF COLOR

THU, MAY 3, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Treat your baby with some fresh air while you both enjoy nature's show of beautiful wildflowers while hiking along a babbling brook. We will stop for a break and snack time in a woodland glade. **7866**

(FREE) PROJECT WILD WORKSHOP SAT. MAR 3. 9:30 AM- 4:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Open to anyone who teaches children, Project Wild is a nationally recognized curriculum designed to bring nature into your classroom. Participants get to take home Project Wild and Project Aquatic activity guides, as well as other resources offered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Reservations required and limited: Call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. 8067

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE NATURE TRAVELERS!

FIRST PASSPORT

Ethan Adams
Lauren Kinzeler
Mikayla Kinzeler
Samantha Lambert
Julie Nielsen
Athena Rosengraten
Wyatt Rosengarten

SECOND PASSPORT

Gabriella Fitch

THIRD PASSPORT

Jia Sundell-Turner

FOURTH PASSPORT Ted Horvath Warren Taylor



(FREE) THE CHANGING FOREST SAT, MAR 3, 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM

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

As the seasons change, come out on a hike to see what is new in the forest. No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. PTN 8055

(FREE) DISCOVERY STROLL

Escape on this relaxed-paced adventure through the park while learning about nature and discovering this park's history. No reservations required. Weather permitting: Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. Age: 16Y and up.

TUE, MAR 6, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7901 TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, CCC Shelter, 2101 U.S. 40

WED, MAR 7, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7884 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

WED. MAR 14. 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7885 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

TUE, MAR 20, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7905 CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.

WED, MAR 21, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7886 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

WED, MAR 28, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7887 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

TUE. APR 3. 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7933 TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, CCC Shelter, 2101 U.S. 40

WED, APR 4, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7888 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

WED, APR 11, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7889 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

TUE, APR 17, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7935 CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.

WED, APR 18, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7890 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

WED, APR 25, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7891 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

TUE. MAY 1. 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7934 TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, CCC Shelter, 2101 U.S. 40

WED, MAY 2, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7892 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

WED, MAY 9, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7893 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

TUE, MAY 15, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7936 CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.

WED, MAY 16, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7894 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

WED, MAY 23, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7931 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

WED, MAY 30, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM 7932 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Dogwood Pond and Overlook, 2800 S. Patterson Blvd.

(FREE) TIKE HIKE SERIES:

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

COYOTES

WED, MAR 7, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

These animals are greatly misunderstood, so come out while we talk about where they live, what they do, and why they are in our area. No reservations required. 8044

HERE COME THE DUCKLINGS TUE, MAR 20, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Let's look for ducks and other waterfowl in the lagoon. Some have been here all winter, while others are coming back from their winter homes. 8040

ANIMAL EVIDENCE FRI, MAR 23, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

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

Animals that are living in the forest and near our creeks and rivers leave behind evidence to show they are here. Come out with other children and their parents in search of what creatures are out. 8039

FOREST HOMES

THU, MAR 29, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter, 100 Deep Hollow 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. 8043

FOREST PLAY

TUE, APR 3, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

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

Treat your preschooler to dirty hands & fresh air as we build forts, turn over logs, and explore! 8046

NOCTURNAL AMPHIBIAN SEARCH

SAT. APR 7. 8:30 PM- 9:30 PM

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Join us on an evening search for Spring Peepers and Spotted Salamanders in Sugarcreek's vernal pool, only a quarter mile away from the parking lot. 8049

WOODLAND NESTS

FRI. APR 13. 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

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

Many birds are building nests right now to prepare for their babies. Let's look at the different materials birds use and the types of nest they build! 8047

EMERGING POLLINATORS

Come out and meet our pollinators, which are just emerging from hibernation!

THU, APR 26, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM 8053 HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.

FRI, MAY 25, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM 8051 ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter/East Park, 4361 National Road

BUDS AND BUGS

TUE, MAY 8, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Use face paint to transform your preschooler into a bee, bug, or butterfly. We will pretend to be nature's pollinators, exploring flowers, and discovering the relationships that flowers have with bugs. **8041**

FORESTS AT NIGHT SAT, MAY 12, 8:30 PM- 9:30 PM

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

Have you wondered what happens in the forest once the sun goes down? On a night hike just for preschoolers and their families, we will discuss the differences between night and day, explore pelts of nocturnal animals, and hike to see what nocturnal animals are out! 8054

LITTLE SPROUTS

MON, MAY 14, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center. 6910 Boomershine Rd.

Learn what a plant needs to grow and search for baby plants in the park. 8050

WATER WORKS

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

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Blue Heron Shelter, 2000 U.S. 40

Come learn about where our water comes from and where it goes, while hiking around a pond. **8052**

(FREE) ADULT NATURE WALK: TREES OF THE FOREST

Join us on this slow-paced walk as a Naturalist points out the trees of the forest and their life histories at each of our three parks this month. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for details.

THU, MAR 8, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7994 SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

TUE, MAR 13, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7995 ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

TUE, MAR 27, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7996 EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

(FREE) WOODCOCK DANCE SAT. MAR 10. 6:30 PM- 7:30 PM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Morning Glory Shelter, 50 parking spaces

Be a witness to the woodcock's extravagant mating display of circles, spirals, and dives while enjoying the crisp night. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 8069**

(FREE) CHILDREN'S TOUR GUIDE WORKSHOP SERIES:

Join us at Cox Arboretum MetroPark and discover the joy of sharing nature with children, as a volunteer children's tour guide. No experience is necessary; however, potential guides should be 16 years or older and able to walk/hike the Arboretum grounds. Children's tour guides make the Arboretum come alive for the students that visit each season. Find out more by attending our training workshops or call (937) 275-5059. Refreshments provided. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome.

SPRING INTO TOURS MON. MAR 12. 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Get ready to welcome students and spring back to the Arboretum. Anyone with enthusiasm for working with students in nature is invited. Get an overview of the spring tours at the Arboretum. **8011**

AULLWOOD EXCURSION MON, MAR 19, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Join us on an excursion to Aullwood
Audubon to discover more about the facility
and the amazing habitat surrounding it.
Participants must be returning tour guides
or tour guides in training. Van will depart
Cox Arboretum front parking lot at 9:00 am.
Reservations required. Register online or
call (937) 434-9005. 8012

WALK AND TALK IN THE WOODS MON, MAR 26, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Join Doug Horvath from our interpretive
staff and discover more about the wonderful
springtime woods at the Arboretum and
new ways to utilize its seasonal treasures in
your tours. Program will take place outdoors
after a brief introduction. Please dress
appropriately. 8013

(FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER SERIES:

These programs will engage children ages 3-6 years old and their caregiver in nature discoveries. Participants will explore station-based activities with topics related to plants, science and the world around them. Reservations required; register online or call (937) 434-9005 Age: 3Y - 6Y.

GREEN IS SPRING! THU. MAR 15. 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Explore the color green in nature. Why do so many plants have green leaves? What animals are green? Do some color mixing to make your own special green. **7732**

EVERYTHING GROWS

THU, APR 19, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third

Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
From seeds to insects everything has a life cycle. Discover the changes living things must go through as they grow. 7733

NAME THAT TREE THU. MAY 10. 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Trees have names just like people. Discover ways to tell the difference between tree species. Part of the activities will take place outdoors, so dress for the weather. **7734**

(FREE) EUREKA LAB! GREEN IS GOOD

SAT, MAR 17, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Today's lab explores the marvelous green in the world around us. Participants will get hands-on fun and make their own discoveries about all things green: colors, plants, animals and more. Drop-in between 1-2:30 PM to participate. Children must be accompanied by an adult while in the lab. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age:

(FREE) FOREST FRENZY SAT, MAR 17, 3:00 PM- 4:00 PM

6Y - 12Y. **8022** 4

HUFFMAN METROPARK, Huffman South Park, 4439 Lower Valley Pk.

Come out and enjoy a fabulous time frolicking in the forest. Try to find evidence of local wildlife and help discover what insects may be hanging about. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 7811**

(FREE) WOODCOCK WATCH SAT. MAR 17. 6:30 PM- 7:30 PM

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd. Watch this odd little bird as he performs his courtship dance at dusk. Bring binoculars if you have them. Registration requested; walkins welcome. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 7813**

(FREE) YOUTH NATURALISTS CLUB

Kids ages 8 to 12 meet once a week for six weeks to explore the outdoors. We'll practice animal and plant identification, explore native habitats, discuss the natural history of the Miami Valley, and more! Each session will introduce a new topic and involve physical activity. Spring session meets Wednesdays at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark; summer session meets Tuesdays at Germantown MetroPark. Registration required; call (937) 277-6545 (Wegerzyn), (937) 855-7717 (Germantown) or register online. Age: 8Y - 12Y.

WED, MAR 21 - WED, APR 25, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM 7835

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, South Picnic Area, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

TUE, JUN 5 - TUE, JUL 10, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM 8091

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

(FREE) CAFE SCI

THU, MAR 22, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM 8017
THU, APR 26, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM 8018
THU, MAY 24, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM 8019
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third
Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Join us for each month's cafe and discover
science in a relaxed atmosphere with
friends and neighbors from the Miami Valley.
Increase your science savvy and share your
opinion in our open discussion following
the topic introduction. Light refreshments
provided. Call (937) 275-5059 for final topic
details. Age: 14Y and up.

(FREE) STROLLER STRUT SERIES:

Stroller Strut is a casual stroll on the Arboretum grounds for caregivers and children ages O-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. Reservations requested: walk-ins welcome. Register online or call (937) 434-9005. Age: 1M - 3Y.

RAINBOW SKIES

TUE, MAR 27, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM 7735 TUE, MAR 27, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM 7738 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk. Color is all around us. We'll explore the

arboretum grounds to see all shades of spring time colors.

TINY DROP

TUE, APR 24, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM 7736 TUE, APR 24, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM 7737 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

What can be found in a drop of water? Let's explore today and find out. The leisurely walk will take us by several locations that we can discover where tiny things can be found.

HELLO SUNSHINE

TUE, MAY 22, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM 7739 TUE, MAY 22, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM 7740 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Take a walk in nice warm sun! As we explore the arboretum grounds we'll look for our shadows and take time to see what's in bloom.

RIVER BIRDS FIELD TRIP SAT, MAR 31, 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Lake Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd. Learn how to identify Ohio's waterfowl while discussing their life histories and ecological importance as we travel in vans to different waterways throughout the Dayton area, including Spring Valley Wildlife Area. Bring binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one. Reservations required and limited: Call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 10Y and up. Fees: \$15 7760

(FREE) FOREST SCAVENGER HUNT SAT, APR 7, 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM

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

Come out and see how many trees, flowers, insects, and animals you can find in the forest! No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 7827**

(FREE) ADULT NATURE WALK: SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Many of Ohio's woodland wildflowers bloom in spring before the trees get leaves. We will visit locations with each park known for their booms. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. No registration required. Call (937) 277-4178 for details.

TUE, APR 10, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7997 ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

THU, APR 12, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7998 SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

TUE, APR 24, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7999 EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

(FREE) OWL PROWL FRI. APR 13. 8:00 PM-10:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Search for Ohio's largest owl, the greathorned owl in the majestic Argonne Forest while learning about its life history.
Afterwards, we will search for the screech owl, Ohio's smallest resident owl. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. PTN 7815

(FREE) WILDFLOWERS AND BIG TREES

SAT. APR 14. 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM

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

Take a walk along the newly rebuilt trails to view some of our beautiful spring wildflowers and learn how to use field guides to help identify them. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 7978**

(FREE) FOREST WILDFLOWERS SUN. APR 15. 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Silver Trail Parking Lot, 7501 Conservancy Rd.

Explore nature's colorful carpet of wildflowers while learning about their role in our forest ecology. Reservations requested; walks-ins welcome. For details, call (937) 277-4178. PTN 8003

(FREE) BEGINNING BIRDING WORKSHOP

SAT, APR 21, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

Want to learn more about birds or becoming a birder? We will start with the basics, including identification, field guide and binocular use, bird song, biology, and behavior. The two-hour indoor session will be followed by a two-hour field study in the prairie and forest. Participants are encouraged to attend the afternoon Bird Song Study. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. 8004

(FREE) BIRD SONG STUDY SAT, APR 21, 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershine Rd.
Practice makes perfect! Study common birds and their vocalizations. We will then play games and tell stories to help us remember these songs. A hike will follow. Everyone will receive a free Ohio Department of Natural Resources bird song CD and learn how to use their ears to help with bird surveys. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. 8005

(FREE) WOODLAND WILDFLOWERS

SUN, APR 22, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Explore nature's colorful carpet of wildflowers while learning about their role in our forest ecology. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 7821**

(FREE) ADVANCED BUTTERFLY CLASS:

Participants will gain a better understanding of the life cycle and courtship of these insects. Basic skills for identification of adult moths and butterflies will be discussed. Reservations required; register online or call (937) 434-9005. Age: 14Y and up.

CATERPILLAR CSI MON, APR 23, 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
How do you know what killed your
caterpillar? Besides birds, spiders or larger
insects, caterpillars can fall victim to disease
as well. Butterfly expert Elisabeth Rothschild
will help solve the mystery. Discover ways to
tell if caterpillars are infected by a disease
or parasitoid. This is a great class for anyone
who is interested in butterfly gardening or
volunteering in the Butterfly House. 7741

BUTTERFLY ID THU. MAY 17. 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Always wanted to know how to tell a
monarch from fritillary? Join butterfly expert
Elisabeth Rothschild as she explains the
essential points in butterfly identification.
Discover how butterflies are classified and
learn tricks of the trade for individual ID. 7742

(FREE) ARBOR DAY FRI, APR 27, 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Celebrate Arbor Day by learning about the trees at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. Take a stroll along a paved pathway or on one of three woodland trails to view the collections of trees that fill the Arboretum. Blossom Buggy will also be available from 10AM-2PM for those who want a guided tour. For more information, call (937) 434-9005. **7965**

(FREE) BIRDING WORKSHOP: WARBLERS

SAT, APR 28, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershine Rd.
Learn how to identify these colorful beauties by sight and song while exploring the park, playing games, and meeting new friends! Each participant will receive a free Ohio Department of Natural Resources warbler song CD and field guide. Participants are encouraged to attend the birding field trip on May 5. Reservations

required and limited. Call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. **7758**

FOREST BIRDING FIELD TRIP SAT. MAY 5. 6:00 AM- 8:00 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

See extremely colorful birds like warblers, tanagers, and orioles from just a few feet away at nationally recognized birding hotspot, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. We will be learning how these world travelers play a part in our forest ecology, and how we can protect them. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. Reservations required and limited. Call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 10Y and up. Fees: \$30 7759

(FREE) FAMILY NATURE EXCURSION

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

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Explore nature on this exciting walk for the whole family! Enjoy a morning on the trail as we look for critters, plants, and play a game! Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 7823**

(FREE) NATURAL ADVENTURES BOX TRAINING

Want free natural experiences for your child care center? MetroParks offers four on site (Sugarcreek, Wesleyan, Germantown, and Englewood MetroParks) boxes filled with nets, containers, field guides and various other nature exploration equipment that child care centers can use for their adventures! Attending one of these trainings gets you the code to the box and certification in Growing Up Wild, a nationally recognized nature-based curricula for preschoolers. Reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 18Y and up.

SAT, MAY 5, 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM 7832 ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Morgan Shelter/ West Park, 100 E. National Road

SAT, MAY 19, 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM 7833 WESLEYAN METROPARK, Blue Jay Shelter, 1441 Wesleyan Rd.

(FREE) ADULT NATURE WALK: SONGBIRDS

May is when many of our summer birds are returning from the Southern Hemisphere. Join us as we listen to their beautiful songs while exploring nature. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for details.

TUE, MAY 8, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 8000 ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

THU, MAY 10, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 8001 SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

TUE, MAY 22, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 8002 EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

(FREE) BE A STILLWATER RIVER TEAM MEMBER

SAT, MAY 12, 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM

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

Go with the flow and come to the Stillwater River to see how you can check on its health and help it from home. Fun for families or adults. Wear clothes that can get wet and muddy! Weather permitting: Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 7981**

(FREE) POLLINATOR PALOOZA SAT, MAY 19, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

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

Get out and discover what little critters help fill our world with color. Enjoy a nice walk all while searching for our pleasant pollinators. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 7826**

PHOTOGRAPHY

(FREE) DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY STEP BY STEP

SAT. MAR 24. 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

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

Before you can shoot breathtaking outdoor photos, you need to understand the basics of digital photography. Photographer Adam Alonzo explains concepts such as megapixels, magnification, memory cards, quality settings and aspect ratio. Each topic will be clearly illustrated with photos. Bring your camera and your questions. Registration is requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **7967**

(FREE) NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY: **GETTING STARTED**

SAT. APR 21. 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. In this workshop, photographer Adam Alonzo will describe a series of important steps you should consider as you take nature photos. This procedure addresses factors that impact the quality of your pictures, such as distance from the subject. camera angle, and direction of the light. Registrations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. 7970 4

(FREE) NATURE PHOTO CRITIQUE WITH ADAM ALONZO SAT, MAY 19, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

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

Photographer Adam Alonzo will critique your nature photos and use them as the basis for brief lessons about camera technique and composition. Email digital photos to critique@adamalonzo.com. The critique will take place only during this group session. Only outdoor photos will be considered, preferably those taken at one of the MetroParks. Not all photos submitted will be discussed during the session. Registration is requested; walk-ins are welcome. Call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **7972** 4

RECREATION BACKPACKING

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: ADOPT A CAMPSITE

WED, MAR 14, 6:00 PM- 7:30 PM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershine Rd. If you enjoy hiking and would like to volunteer, consider adopting a backcountry campsite along the Twin Valley Trail (Pine Ridge, Cedar Ridge, Oak Ridge). Volunteers hike to these sites on select Wednesdays and Saturdays to track and report their conditions. Attend this orientation to learn more and to sign up. Reservations are required and limited. Contact Carolyn Wamsley at (937) 343-5748 or carolyn. wamsley@metroparks.org for information or to register. Age: 18Y & up. **7930**

INTRO TO BACKPACKING WED, MAR 21, 6:30 PM- 9:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Get an introduction to backpacking and find your comfort zone in terms of trips and gear selection. This class will introduce you to trip planning, trail techniques and nutrition, physical fitness, and "Leave No Trace" concepts. Introduction to Backpacking or other demonstrable experience is a prerequisite for Five Rivers MetroParks backpacking trips. Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$5 **7871** 4

INTRO TO BACKPACKING FOR WOMEN

MON, MAR 26, 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM

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

Join other women interested in backpacking to get an orientation to backpacking. This class, taught by female backpacking experts, will cover trip planning, trail techniques, nutrition, physical fitness, "Leave No Trace" concepts, and female-specific techniques. Introduction to Backpacking or other demonstrable experience is a prerequisite for Five Rivers MetroParks backpacking trips.

Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$5 **7874** 4

BACKPACKING BASICS FRI, APR 13, 6:00 PM- SAT, APR 14, 12:00 **PM** 7877

SAT, APR 14, 12:00 PM - SUN, APR 15, 12:00 PM 7876

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

This overnight, field-based program hits the trail for a trip into the wilds of Germantown MetroPark on the Twin Valley Trail. Spend a night out under the stars utilizing "Leave No Trace" principles and practice the techniques covered during Introduction to Backpacking. Prerequisite: Introduction to Backpacking. Backpacking Basics is a prerequisite for trips. Gear is available at no additional charge with reservation. Registration is required and limited so please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$15

ZALESKI STATE FOREST BACKPACKING TRIP FOR WOMEN FRI. MAY 4. 12:00 PM - SUN. MAY 6. 8:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Cox House Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk. Join like-minded women for a weekend backpacking trip in the second-largest state forest in Ohio. Enjoy rolling hills, spring wildflowers, and history as we hike the Zaleski Backpack Trail, Intro to Backpacking and Backpacking Basics are prerequisites along with the April 17 pre-trip meeting.

Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$135 **7926**

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BACKPACKING TRAIL WORK DAYS SAT. MAY 12. 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Germantown Maintenance Bays, 6675 Conservancy Rd. Learn about sustainable trail building while maintaining the Twin Valley Backpacking Trail connecting Twin Creek and Germantown MetroParks. No experience is necessary; staff will guide volunteers in trail-building techniques. Reservations are requested to help staff prepare for trail-building projects, but walk-ins are welcome. Tools are provided; volunteers bring water and work gloves. Youth 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Contact Carolyn Wamsley for information or to register at (937) 343-5748 or carolyn.wamsley@metroparks.org. Age: 18Y and up. Age: 18Y and up. **7929**

TWIN VALLEY TRAIL **BACKPACKING TRIP** FRI, MAY 18, 8:00 AM - SUN, MAY 20, 4:00 PM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Sledding Hill, 6206 Boomershine Rd.

Join Five Rivers MetroParks as it hits the Twin Valley Trail for three days of backpacking. This is an ideal trip for the newcomer who has just taken Backpacking Basics and is looking to take the next step towards getting out on his or her own. Equipment is available upon request. You

MUST attend the pre-trip meeting on April **30.** Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$50 **7912**

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CYCLING

INTRODUCTION TO BICYCLE MAINTENANCE

WED. MAR 7. 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM

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

This lecture style class with some hands-on instruction will help you diagnose and fix minor mechanical issues. Participants will be introduced to basic repairs and adjustments as well as the tools needed to do so. Topics will include bike inspection and terminology, fixing a flat tire, and basic brake and gear adjustment. Learn on our bikes so your ride doesn't get cut short. For more information and to register call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 12Y and up. Fees: \$5 7959

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE BASICS WED, MAR 21, 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM 7940 THU, MAR 22, 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM 7941

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

This next step in the bike maintenance progression will give riders a more comprehensive understanding of what makes the wheels go round. This handson class will cover bike fitting, tuneups, advanced brake and drive-train maintenance, as well as wheel truing.

Introduction to Bike Maintenance is a preprerequisite. For more information and to register, call (937) 277-4374. Fees: \$10

(FREE) BIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT SERIES:

Join us for a bike ride, rain or shine, Saturdays, April through October. Participants will learn basic bicycle maintenance tips. 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. Children under 13 must wear a helmet. No registration is necessary. For more information, call Officer Zimmerman at (937) 277-4823.

WOLF CREEK BIKEWAY (W) SAT, APR 7, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7767 SAT, MAY 19, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7773

RECREATIONAL TRAILS, Wolf Creek Bikeway, Ohio Bike Route 38

Meet in the parking lot behind Rob's Restaurant, 705 Arlington Rd. in Brookville. We will ride toward Verona (11 miles).

WOLF CREEK BIKEWAY (W) SAT, APR 14, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

RECREATIONAL TRAILS, Wolf Creek Bikeway, Ohio Bike Route 38

Meet in the parking lot behind Rob's Restaurant, 705 Arlington Rd. in Brookville. We will ride toward Trotwood (14 miles). **7768**

CREEKSIDE BIKEWAY

SAT, APR 21, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7769
SAT, MAY 26, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7774

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Use the entrance at 1385 Harshman Rd. at the traffic light. Meet in the last parking lot. We will ride to the Greene County Line (12 miles).

MAD RIVER BIKEWAY SAT, APR 28, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Use the entrance at 1385 Harshman Rd. at the traffic light. Meet in the last parking lot. We will ride to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (13 miles). **7770**

GREAT MIAMI RIVER BIKEWAY SAT, MAY 5, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

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

STILLWATER RIVER BIKEWAY (N) SAT. MAY 12. 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

historic Tadmor (9 miles). 7771

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

Meet in the parking lot at 100 E. National Rd. (U.S. 40 and State Route 48 in Englewood, north of the dam). We will ride through Jake Grossnickle Park (9 miles). 7772

INTRO TO SMART CYCLING THU. APR 19. 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Outdoor Recreation Classroom, 224 N St Clair St.
Step One in the Smart Cycling Series is a classroom session, taught by league-certified instructors and designed to provide cyclists of all levels better knowledge and understanding of how to safely and effectively operate your bicycle in various situations.
Topics will include ride preparation, traffic laws, equipment and clothing, and much more.
Intro is a pre-requisite for Smart Cycling
Basics. For more information and to register, call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 12Y

and up. Fees: \$10 **7968** ¹

SMART CYCLING BASICS SAT. APR 21. 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Outdoor Recreation Classroom, 224 N St Clair St.
Smart Cycling Basics, part two of the cycling series, takes the knowledge gained in Intro and puts it to use on the bike. This handson class will teach riders maneuvering, signaling and riding skills to make them more competent and comfortable riding on the streets and trails of the Miami Valley. Intro to Smart Cycling is a pre-requisite. Helmets and bicycles required. For more information and to register, call (937) 277-4374. Age: 12Y and up. Fees: \$20 7969

LEAGUE CYCLING INSTRUCTOR SEMINAR

FRI, APR 27, 5:00 PM-9:00 PM SAT, APR 28, 8:00 AM-9:00 PM SUN, APR 29, 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM

OFF SITE, Contact Us for Location, TBD Become a League Cycling Instructor (LCI) so you can teach children and adults about bike education while bringing the joy of cycling to your community. If you are an experienced cyclist and would like to teach others about safe cycling, take the next step and become an LCI. Intro to Smart Cycling and Smart Cycling Basics, or a League Traffic Skills 101 course are prerequisites. Call (937) 274-3144 for details. Age: 18Y and up. Fees: \$200 7971

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BIKE TO WORK DAY ORIENTATION TUE, MAY 8, 6:00 PM- 7:30 PM

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

Promote cycling and enjoy good company while volunteering for the Bike to Work Day Pancake Breakfast. To learn more, attend this orientation session where you can sign up for volunteer shifts that are available either Thursday, May 17, or Friday, May 18. Pizza will be served! Reservations are requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact Carolyn Wamsley at (937) 343-5748 or carolyn.wamsley@metroparks.org to sign up or for information. Age: 14Y and up. 7945

(FREE) NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FRI, MAY 18, 6:30 AM- 9:00 AM RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, Festival Plaza, 111 E.

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

Leave your car in the garage and support National Bike to Work Day. Ride in on your own or with a group to RiverScape MetroPark for a free pancake breakfast before work. Live music, cycling-related exhibitors and a team challenge are also part of the fun. Full details are available at metroparks.org/biketowork or call (937) 277-4374. **7944**

(FREE) WEGERZYN BIKE RODEO -**FOR KIDS**

SUN, MAY 20, 12:00 PM- 3:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Wegerzyn Center, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Join Rangers and MVPs for a day of bicycle safety. Bring your two-wheeled bicycle (with or without training wheels) for a bicycle course. Receive a properly fitted, free bike helmet (while quantities last: no beads in hair). The course teaches students rules of the road. Supported by Dayton Children's Hospital and Safe Kids Dayton. On-site registration only; for details, call Officer Zimmerman at (937) 277-4823. Age: 3Y - 15Y. 7801

FISHING

(FREE) FLY FISHING FOR BASS AND BLUEGILL

MON. MAR 12. 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. 2nd St. The Miami Valley is loaded with great bass and bluegill fishing opportunities on our local streams, ponds and lakes. Learn about the techniques, gear and flies needed to catch these fun sport fish on a fly rod. Fly fishing experience is recommended, but not required. This is a classroom session. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome, or register online. For more information and to register, call (937) 277-4374. Age: 14Y and up. **7943** 4

(FREE) TRY FLY FISHING!

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

THU, APR 26, 4:00 PM-7:00 PM 7939 CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Cedar Lake, 7800 E. Shull Rd.

THU, MAY 24, 4:00 PM-7:00 PM 7942 POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Lake Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

(FREE) NIGHT FISHING AT **EASTWOOD LAKE**

FRI. MAY 4 - SAT. JUN 2. 10:00 PM- 2:00

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Eastwood Lake, 1401 Harshman Rd.

Fish at night every Friday and Saturday through September 30. Please note: occasional boat races at Eastwood MetroPark Lake may affect night fishing schedule. Bring flashlight or lantern. Use lake entrance. No reservations required. Contact Officer Zimmerman at (937) 277-4823 with any questions. 7783

(FREE) NIGHT FISHING AT POSSUM CREEK METROPARK FRI, MAY 4 - SAT, JUN 2, 10:00 PM- 2:00 ΔM

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

Fish at night every Friday and Saturday through September 30. Bring flashlight or lantern. No reservations required. Contact Officer Zimmerman at (937) 277-4823 with any questions. 7784

FITNESS & HEALTH

(FREE) HEALTH HIKE SERIES

This hiking series provides choices that let you design your own experience – whether you're looking for a group hike, a new trail adventure, or the chance to get out and hike on your own, at your convenience. Online registration available; walk-ins welcome. For more information and to hear the Hike of the Week, call (937) 277-4374 weekdays. 4

MEET-UP HEALTH HIKE

Looking for company on the trail? Join the Dayton Hikers for a group-led health hike exploring your MetroParks each month. The group will leave promptly at 2:00 PM from the scheduled location. Dress for the weather, grab a map and bring water. Hikes vary in mileage and difficulty, ranging from 3-5 miles. For information about Dayton Hiker activities, visit www.DaytonHikers.org.

SAT, MAR 3, 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM 7917 GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

SAT. APR 14. 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM 7921 CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Cedar Lake Shelter/Parking Lot, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

SAT, MAY 5, 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM 7923 SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

TRY HIKING @...

This series of monthly programs will introduce hikers to a new trail experience at a different MetroPark. Staff and volunteers will be stationed at the trailhead providing park information, orientation to the map and facility. and invite you to explore a new trail on your own. Drop in anytime between 2-4 PM.

SAT, MAR 17, 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM 7920 HUFFMAN METROPARK, Lower Parking Lot, 4095 Lower Valley Pike

SAT. APR 28. 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM 7922 TWIN CREEK METROPARK, Chamberlain Road Parking Lot, 8502 Chamberlain Rd

SAT, MAY 19, 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM 7924 GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

(FREE) SPRING SUGARCREEK HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON

SUN. MAR 4. 1:30 PM- 4:00 PM

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Enjoy a 5-mile, 2 1/2-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered difficult, very hilly in spots. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for more information. 8074

(FREE) SPRING TWIN CREEK HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON **HIKERS**

TWIN CREEK METROPARK, High View Shelter

SUN, MAR 18, 1:30 PM- 4:30 PM

Parking Lot, 9688 Eby Road Enjoy a 7-mile, 3-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered rugged, for experienced hikers only. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for more information. 8075

(FREE) SPRING EASTWOOD HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

SUN. APR 1. 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Enjoy a 4-5-mile, 2-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered easy. no hills. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for more information. 8076

(FREE) SPRING GERMANTOWN HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON **HIKERS**

SUN, APR 15, 1:30 PM- 4:30 PM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Parking Lot, 6910 Boomershine Rd. Enjoy a 7-mile, 3-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered rugged, for experienced hikers only. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for more information. 8077

(FREE) SPRING HILLS AND DALES HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON **HIKERS**

SUN, MAY 6, 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM

HILLS & DALES METROPARK. White Oak Shelter/Parking, 2606 Hilton Dr. Enjoy a 5-mile, 2-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered easy. no hills. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for more information. 8078

(FREE) SPRING TWIN VALLEY TRAIL HIKE WITH THE METRO **DAYTON HIKERS**

SUN. MAY 20. 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Sledding Hill, 6206 Boomershine Rd.

Enjoy a 14-mile, 4-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered rugged, for experienced hikers only. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for more information. 8079

GEOCACHING

(FREE) VOLUNTEER GEOCACHE **ASSISTANT TRAINING**

MON. APR 2. 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK. Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Assist with the maintenance of geocaches in the MetroParks. Geocache assistant will seek out designated caches to make sure they are placed according to MetroParks guidelines and have safe access for cachers. Attend this orientation to learn more and to sign up to assist with this effort. Reservations are requested, but walk-ins are welcome. Contact Carolyn Wamsley for information or to register at (937) 343-5748 or carolyn.wamsley@metroparks.org. Age: 18Y and up. **7910**

HORSEBACK RIDING

HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS AT **CARRIAGE HILL RIDING CENTER** SUN, MAR 4 - SUN, APR 29, 12:00 PM-7:30 PM

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Riding Center, 8111 E. Shull Rd.

Attend this eight-week instruction on equitation, horsemanship, and horse safety. This course will build confidence and is available for a variety of experience levels. Registration required and limited. Please call (937) 274-3120 to reserve your spot. Age: 8Y and up. Fees: \$200 **7803**

HORSE CAMPS FOR ADULTS MON, MAY 7 - MON, MAY 21, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Riding Center, 8111 E. Shull Rd.

This camp is designed for 18 and over adults who want to learn basic horsemanship and equitation. Class is 6-9 PM Monday through Friday. Be ready to ride a variety of horses. Class is limited to five, so register early. Students should wear boots with a 1-inch heel; appropriate riding attire, such as jeans or breeches; and required helmets are provided. For specific camp dates, availability and reservations, call the Riding Center at (937) 274-3120. Age: 18Y and up. Fees: \$150 **7802**

HORSE CAMPS FOR YOUTHS MON, JUN 4 - MON, AUG 6, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Riding Center, 8111 E. Shull Rd.

These half-day camps run five days each, June through August. Students will learn horsemanship through stable management, equine nutrition, and of course, riding. Students will encourage exercise, establish partnerships with horses, build teamwork, and enjoy art projects and other activities that connect them to nature. Morning camp is 8 a.m. to noon and afternoon camp is 1-5 p.m. For specific dates, availability and reservations, call the Riding Center at (937) 274-3120. Age: 8Y - 17Y. Fees: \$175 7806



THE RIDING CENTER AT CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK

Come visit our riding center offering seasonal trail rides, pony rides, lesson packages, clinics and much more! Gift certificates are also available.

To make a reservation and for more information, call

(937) 274-3120 or visit metroparks.org/ridingcenter



METROPARKS.ORG

MOUNTAIN BIKING (FREE) VOLUNTEER: MOMBA

TRAIL WORK DAYS **SAT. MAR 10. 12:00 PM- 4:00 PM** 7955 **SAT, MAY 12, 12:00 PM- 4:00 PM** 7956 THU, MAY 24, 6:00 PM-8:30 PM 7958 HUFFMAN METROPARK. MetroParks Mountain Biking Area (MoMBA), 4485 Union Rd. Learn about sustainable trail building while helping to maintain the mountain bike trails at MoMBA. No experience is necessary; staff will guide volunteers in tasks such as creek armoring, corridor clearing, contour bench construction, or planting trees. Reservations are requested, but walk-ins are welcome. Tools are provided; volunteers bring water and work gloves. Youth 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Contact Carolyn Wamsley for information or to register at carolyn.wamsley@metroparks.org or (937) 343-5748. Age: 14Y and up.

OUTDOOR SKILLS & SAFETY

WILDERNESS FIRST AID FRI. MAR 9. 8:00 AM- 6:30 PM SAT, MAR 10, 8:00 AM- 6:30 PM SUN. MAR 11. 8:00 AM- 6:30 PM

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd. Wilderness First Aid prepares students for emergency situations that involve prolonged patient care in severe environments with improvised equipment. This course teaches what to do with a medical emergency when help is miles away and calling 911 isn't an option. Participants will earn a nationally recognized wilderness first aid certificate that is valid for three years. Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. Fees: \$230 **7907** ¹

PADDLING

(FREE) YOUTH TRY KAYAKING FRI. MAR 2. 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM

OFF SITE, Beavercreek YMCA, 560 Grange Hall Rd., Beavercreek

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. It's a great way to learn about the sport in a controlled and safe

environment. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. For more information or to register, call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 5Y - 17Y. **7621** 4

(FREE) PADDLE SPORT ASSISTANT **VOLUNTEER TRAINING** SUN, MAY 13, 1:00 PM- 5:00 PM

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Blue Lake, 1401 Harshman Road

This comprehensive training will get you out on the water and help you become comfortable assisting others who are learning about paddle sports. Throughout the summer and fall, there will be opportunities to use these skills as a volunteer with our summer and fall paddle sport activities and events. Some prior experience with paddling is preferred. Reservations are required; equipment is provided. Contact Carolyn Wamsley for information or to register at (937) 343-5748 or carolyn.wamsley@metroparks.org. Age: 18Y and up. **7913**

SPECIAL EVENTS ENTERTAINMENT

(FREE) LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE PNC 2ND STREET MARKET

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd Street Enjoy live entertainment on Saturdays at the PNC 2nd Street Market. Let local musicians, featuring a variety of genres, add to your shopping experience. For more information, call (937) 228-2088.

JUSTIN MORGAN (SINGER, PIANIST) SAT, MAR 3, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7750

BRUTE FINESSE (CLASSIC ROCK) SAT, MAR 10, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7751

COLLINS CONNECTION (CELTIC) SAT, MAR 17, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7752

MIKE SEDMAK (INSTRUMENTAL

SAT, MAR 24, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7753

AMANDA ROBERTS (HAMMERED **DULCIMER)**

SAT, APR 7, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7785

DAN RIVERS (VOCAL/GUITAR) **SAT, APR 14, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM** 7786

TIM JENNENS (LITE JAZZ) **SAT, APR 21, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM** 7787

JIM'S RED PANTS (CELTIC/ **SCANDINAVIAN FOLK) SAT, APR 28, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM** 7788

OLD SKOOL (OLDIES) SAT, MAY 5, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM 7789

SHELLY SINCLAIR (VOCALS/GUITAR) **SAT, MAY 12, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM** 7790

DRASTIC MEASURES SAT, MAY 19, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7791

LIVE WITH JONI AND STEVE (ACOUSTIC/FOLK) **SAT. MAY 26. 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM** 7792

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

SAT. MAR 17. 10:00 AM- 1:30 PM

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Come celebrate the wearing of the green at the PNC 2nd Street Market! This year's event features live Celtic music provided by the Collins Connection followed by dancers from the Celtic Academy of Irish Dance. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. **7804**

(FREE) URBAN NIGHTS FRI, MAY 11, 5:00 PM-10:00 PM

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 111 E. Monument Ave. Come see RiverScape MetroPark come alive at Urban Nights! Spring is here, and there's no better way to get outside and enjoy it than by celebrating Dayton's urban vibrancy. RiverScape MetroPark is sure to add excitement to an already thrilling event with diverse music, food by Café Vélo, and more! Explore downtown and enjoy all the sights and sounds of this citywide party! For more information call (927) 274-0126. 7954

(FREE) PERFORMANCES BY **DAYTON BALLET II AND DAYTON BALLET III** SAT. MAY 12. 12:00 PM- 3:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Garden Green, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Join us on the Garden Green for two wonderful, free dance performances. Please bring your own chair or blanket. Performances will be at 12 and 2 pm, weather permitting. In case of rain and cancellation on Saturday, the performances will take place on Sunday, May 13, also at 12 and 2 pm. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. 7870 🕆

(FREE) TAB-A-PULL-OOZA SAT. MAY 19. 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Bring your aluminum can pull-tabs to the PNC 2nd Street Market to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Miami Valley. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. 7796

FISHING

(FREE) FAMILY FISHING DAY SAT, MAY 5, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM

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

Youth and their families are exclusively invited to fish at Possum Creek MetroPark's stocked ponds; bait will be provided. Lunch will be provided for all youth under 15.

On-site registration only. Prior to the event (9-9:30 AM), Officer Lynne Zimmerman will give a presentation, sponsored by Safe Kids of Greater Dayton, about proper use of 9-1-1. For details, contact Officer Zimmerman at lynne.zimmerman@metroparks.org or (937) 277-4823. Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs starts Wednesdays in June. Age: 2Y - 15Y. 7946

FITNESS & HEALTH

MAKE A DIFFERENCE...SAVE A LIFE 5K RACE/WALK SAT, APR 7, 8:30 AM-12:00 PM

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

Participate in this 5K Run/Walk to benefit Suicide Prevention Center, Inc. Your participation in this race, along with your donation, will help Suicide Prevention Center serve the crisis needs of the people of the Miami Valley. Registration is \$10. Call Jim Marks at (937) 226-0818 for more information. Fees: \$10 7755

(FREE) EASTWOOD WALKFEST SAT, APR 21, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

This outdoor community opportunity is presented by Purple Penguins Volksmarch Walking Club for the beauty of nature and health of walking. Start anytime between 9 am and 1 pm and finish by 4 pm. For more information, contact Helga Slade at (937) 429-3946. **8056**

DERBY DAY DASH SAT. MAY 5. 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 111 E. Monument Ave. This outdoor community opportunity is sponsored by Life Essentials, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides services to older adults and persons with mental illness. This 5K race is fun for all ages with a special Youth mile run and Tot Trot. \$25 registration. For more information, call (937) 586-0545. Fees: \$25 7754

(FREE) WEGERZYN GARDENS WALKFEST

SAT, MAY 12, 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Wegerzyn Parking Lot, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave. This outdoor community opportunity is presented by Purple Penguins Volksmarch Walking Club for the beauty of nature and health of walking. Start anytime between 9 am and 1 pm and finish by 4 pm. For more information, contact Helga Slade at (937) 429-3946. **7756**

GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

(FREE) WILDFLOWER AND NATIVE PLANT SALE

SAT, APR 28, 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk. Browse the selection of unique wildflowers and native plants and get advice from the Wildflower Volunteer Group to find the plants most suitable for your garden. All of the plants offered in this sale are propagated or rescued from local areas slated for development. For more details, call (937) 434-9005. **7964**

(FREE) MAYFAIR PLANT SALE 2012 SAT, MAY 5, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM 7908 SUN, MAY 6, 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM 7853

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK,
Wegerzyn Center, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Lovely plant offerings include stunning
perennials, annuals and herb for companion
planting, or simply to enhance your
landscape, and vegetables for your kitchen.
Also featured are beautiful hanging
baskets just in time for Mother's Day. This
is a fundraiser for Wegerzyn Gardens
Foundation. Members have a 10% discount
during the sale. Hours are 9AM-3PM
Saturday, May 5, and 11AM-3PM Sunday, May
6. For more information, call (937) 277-6545.

GREEN LIVING

(FREE) SEEDLING SATURDAYS SAT, MAR 10, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM SAT, MAR 17, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM SAT, MAR 24, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM SAT, MAR 31, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

OFF SITE, Contact Us for Location, TBD Join our reforestation efforts and help us plant tree seedlings! Five Rivers MetroParks and our volunteers grew these seedlings in 2011, and they are ready to find their place in our forest. Your help is needed! We will be planting over 8,000 new tree seedlings this March in locations throughout MetroParks. Visit metroparks.org/forests or call (937) 275-PARK to find out more information and register to help. 8089

(FREE) TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY

FRI, APR 13, 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM 7794 SAT, APR 14, 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM 7795 PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Celebrate Earth Day early by stopping by and getting your tree seedlings while supplies last. This project is brought to you with the support of the Montgomery and Miami County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Rush Creek Gardens. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information.

(FREE) ADOPT-A-PARK SAT. APR 21. 9:00 AM-11:30 AM

EASTWOOD METROPARK, 1385 Harshman Rd. Celebrate Earth Day by participating in Adopt-A-Park, Five Rivers MetroParks annual cleanup. Volunteers will be assigned to a crew that will work a section of the river corridors. Gloves, trash bags and lunch are provided. For more information or to register, visit **metroparks.org**/adopt or call (937) 275-PARK. Age: 14Y and up. **8094**

HOME & HOBBIES

(FREE) RECYCLED CRAFT CREATION

SAT, APR 21, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Families can work together to create a craft project using recycled materials. Earth-friendly supplies will be provided. A variety of information about "greening" our environment will be available, and you can share what you do to save the planet on the mural that will be created. No registration required. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. **7950**

	WESLEYAN/ ADVENTURE CENTRAL	WEGERZYN GARDENS	TWIN CREEK	TAYLORSVILLE	SUGARCREEK	RIVERSCAPE	RIVER CORRIDORS	RECREATION TRAILS	MARKET POSSUM CREEK	PNC 2ND STREET	ISLAND	HUFFMAN	HILLS & DALES	GERMANTOWN	ENGLEWOOD	EASTWOOD	COX ARBORETUM	CARRIAGE HILL	AULLWOOD GARDEN	
ACRES	55	46	972	1,312	597	1.4	2,628	220	556		35	283	51	1,534	1,956	437	182	944		ACRES
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RECREATION TRAILS		•		•		•		-			•								ш.	RECREATION TRAILS
DEMOS & WORKSHOPS	-	•				-								-			-	•		DEMOS & WORKSHOPS
FARM VISITS																	_		<u> </u>	FARM VISITS
GROUP TOURS	•	•	•	•	•						•	•	•	-		•	-	•		GROUP TOURS
HORTICULTURAL DISPLAYS											•							•		HORTICULTURAL DISPLAYS
HISTORICAL FEATURES			•	•		•			•				•		•				•	HISTORICAL FEATURES
FLOOD CONTROL DAMS				•								•		•	•				4	FLOOD CONTROL DAMS
PLAYGROUND	-							-			•					•			-	PLAYGROUND
PETS WELCOME	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	-	PETS WELCOME
BACKPACKING			•											•						BACKPACKING
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- * Electrical motors under 42lbs. thrust permitted
- ▲ Hand-powered boats on Argonne Lake only. No vehicle access.
- Wheelchair accessible (certain trails).
- * Weddings only.
- ☐ Seasonal winter.

WILDFLOWER AND NATIVE PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 10 AM - 2 PM AT COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Find wildflowers and native plants propagated or rescued from local areas slated for development. Get advice from the Wildflower Volunteer Group to find the right plants for your garden. For more details, call (937) 434-9005.

MAYFAIR PLANT SALE 2012

SAT, MAY 5, 9 AM - 3 PM; SUN, MAY 6, 11 AM - 3PM AT WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK

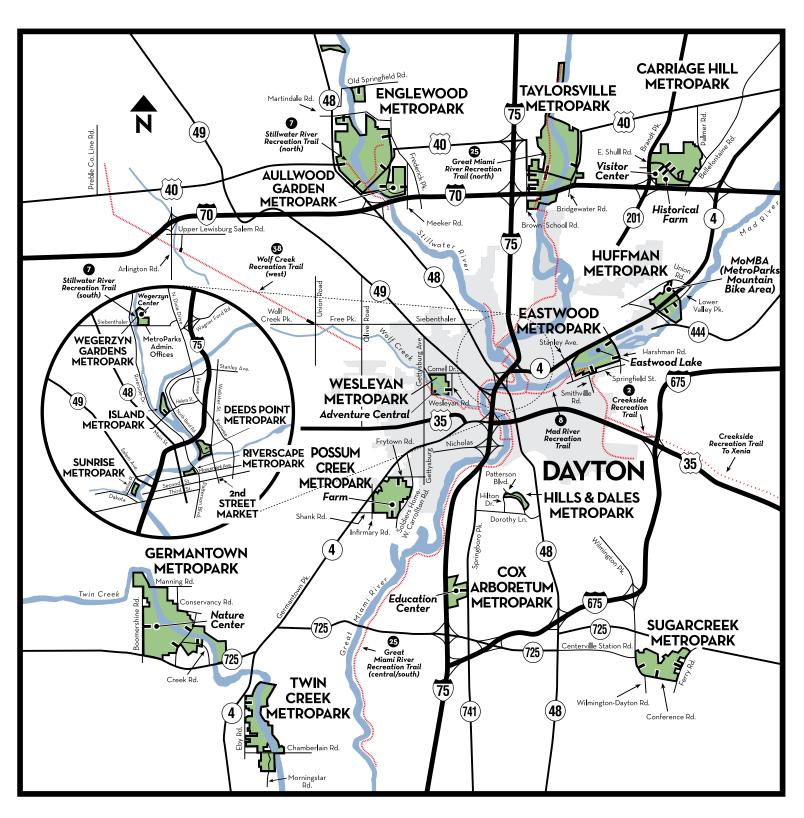
Choose from stunning perennials, annuals, herbs and vegetables. Also featured are beautiful hanging baskets just in time for Mother's Day. For more information, call (937) 277-6545.

metroparks.org/PlantSales



No matter where you are in Montgomery County, you're only 15 minutes away from a

Five Rivers MetroPark.



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TIME FOR YOUR CLOSE UP!

Can you figure out where this is? Maybe at Eastwood MetroPark, the Butterfly House at Cox Arboretum, or the Discovery Garden?

Take a guess and then visit the spot and see how big the world of MetroParks can be. (answer upside down below)

