

PARKWAYS



SNOW BUSINESS

WINTER OFFERS UNIQUE NATURAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

See full story on pages 20-27

MAKE 2012 YOUR GREENEST YEAR YET
SEE PAGES 8-11

ADVENTURE SUMMIT RETURNS TO WSU
SEE PAGES 18-19





REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE

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



Nov 23

**STOCK-UP
WEDNESDAY**

PNC 2nd Street Market



Nov 25-27

**ICE RINK GRAND
OPENING WEEKEND**

RiverScape MetroPark



Dec 4

**CHRISTMAS ON
THE FARM**

Carriage Hill MetroPark



Dec 24-25

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
SKATING**

RiverScape MetroPark



Dec 31-Jan 1

**NEW YEAR'S
HOLIDAY SKATING**

RiverScape MetroPark



Jan 16

**MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR., DAY SKATE**

RiverScape MetroPark



Feb 10-11

**THE ADVENTURE
SUMMIT**

Wright State University



Feb 11

**VALENTINE'S
CELEBRATION**

PNC 2nd Street Market



Feb 25

**BLACK HISTORY DAY
AT THE MARKET**

PNC 2nd Street Market



March 3

**MIAMI VALLEY
GARDENING
CONFERENCE**

Sinclair Community College



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

WWW.METROPARKS.ORG

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Winter 2011-2012

WINTER IS WONDERFUL IN A METROPARK!

FEATURE PROFILE



GET OUT & LIVE ALL YEAR LONG

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VOLUNTEERISM

Have a hobby? There's a volunteer opportunity for you!

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TOP TEN THINGS TO DO

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CONSERVATION



YOUR GREENEST YEAR EVER

We've got tips to help you keep your New Year's resolution to be more earth-friendly in 2012.

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EDUCATION



BARING IT ALL

Learn to identify trees without their leaves and find a new appreciation for your forests.

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GET GROWING

Garden preparation starts in winter. We'll show you how!

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RECREATION



WINTER RECREATION

From maintenance to staying safe outdoors, we've got tips for staying active when the mercury dips.

See pages 16-17



THE ADVENTURE SUMMIT

It's back! The biennial Adventure Summit returns to Wright State University!

See pages 18-19

DON'T FORGET

In case you missed the news, Five Rivers MetroParks will consolidate four of its offices into one convenient downtown location. The new office will be located at 409 E. Monument Ave. (across the street from Fifth Third Field, near the intersection of Monument Ave. and Patterson Blvd.) and will feature a one-stop shop for picking up brochures and other literature, making picnic shelter and campsite reservations, signing up to volunteer and more! Watch metroparks.org for updates. We plan to serve you from our new downtown location starting spring 2012.

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



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 WINTER HIKE: Take a hike on one of MetroParks' forested trails.

#2 SPECIAL INTERESTS: Sharpen your outdoor recreation skills by taking an elective course, like gourmet backpack cooking.



Photo by RA Makley

#3 FEATHERED FRIENDS: Which birds call Ohio their winter home? Visit the Germantown MetroPark Nature Center from 1-4pm on weekends.

TOP TEN THINGS TO ENJOY IN YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS THIS WINTER



#4 A TASTE OF DAYTON: Make your holidays fun, unique and local by getting your cooking supplies and gifts at the PNC 2nd Street Market.

#8 FREEZE FRAME: Love taking winter pictures? Check out the falls at the Englewood MetroPark for some photo ops.



Photo by RA Makley

#5 CROSS-COUNTRY EXPEDITION: The trails at Possum Creek MetroPark are great for cross-country skiing!



Photo by Holly Smith

#6 MAKING TRACKS: Look for animal tracks in the snow or mud on your next hike. What animals can you identify?

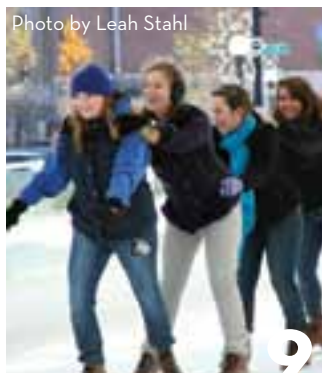


Photo by Leah Stahl

#9 TOE PICK: Groove to the music at the MetroParks Ice Rink at the RiverScape MetroPark.



#7 LOG ON: You can help reforestation efforts by visiting metroparks.org/forests and taking the online pledge.



#10 STAMP OUT BOREDOM: Smash cabin fever by participating in Passport to Nature. Visit metroparks.org/passport for details!



Becky Benna
Executive Director

Dear MetroParks Friends,

I cannot believe that I have been with Five Rivers MetroParks now for six months as the new executive director. As they say, time surely flies when you are having fun! I wanted to thank the staff, volunteers and community for making me feel so welcome since my arrival back to Ohio. I am so impressed with the support that our organization is provided by its volunteers and community businesses and organizations. Their involvement and assistance is and will continue to be so vital to us to provide the high level of parks, facilities, programs and services that are expected by our visitors and ourselves.

In 2011, we began our reforestation program in response to the emerald ash borer infestation of thousands of trees. Through the leadership of our outstanding staff, we have begun our quest to share with the community the importance of trees and their impact on the environment. In addition, hundreds of volunteers have stepped up to adopt tree seedlings that have been planted in our forests and others have assisted in planting trees throughout the Miami Valley. This effort will continue for years to come as we strive to protect our natural environment and we will continue to need your help. We have many opportunities for individuals, families, classrooms, church groups or businesses to help out. Whether you have one day a year, one day a week, or an hour every day, we need your help. Visit **metroparks.org/forests** and read more about volunteer opportunities, such as our Forest Foster Family program, the Master Silviculturist program, tree planting days, seed collection and propagation, and much more!

You can make a difference and help our forests with a click of a mouse. Log on to **metroparks.org/forests** and take the online pledge. For every pledge we gain from the website, we will plant a tree in one of our parks or conservation areas. How easy is that? Take the pledge and tell a friend (or share it on Facebook). Before you know it, we will have recovered the thousands of trees we lost to the ash borer, and we'll be prepared for whatever threat lies ahead.

Our park patrons have much to look forward to as we move into a new year. We will continue to focus on getting kids and families outside, active and connected to nature through our many educational and recreational opportunities that are available throughout the MetroParks system. Our goal is to provide high-quality opportunities that get youth and adults engaged in our environment, such as through biking, hiking, camping, kayaking, fishing, gardening, and much more. Get a taste of what you can find right in your own backyard during the Adventure Summit, February 10-11 at Wright State University. (Turn to page 18 and 19 for details.)

We hope you will continue to enjoy the many amenities Five Rivers MetroParks provides -made possible with the help of so many of you! Again, thank you, and I am so pleased to be part of this organization and community!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Becky Benna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'B' and 'B'.

HOBBY TURNS INTO LIFETIME OF LEARNING

If you're an avid gardener and you love spending time in your MetroParks, there are several volunteer opportunities that would be just perfect for you. Centerville resident Marcie Serrano can attest to the beautiful marriage between hobby and altruism as a graduate of the Organic Methods Gardening service learning program and is now studying to become a Master Silviculturist. "Ever since I have moved into my own house and have my own lawn to landscape I have been taking classes like the Compost Kitchen series," Marcie explains. "I have gardened since I was a child and had just pretty much used luck. So taking these classes was a great starting point to get a basic understanding of what I really needed to be doing. While taking the classes, I realized that even people who have been working in the field their whole lives are constantly learning new things, and the best way to keep learning those things is by volunteering and working with those who have been doing it much longer than I have. I started volunteering (summer of 2011) after I took the Organic Methods Gardener program and I learned how



to take care of my property in an environmentally friendly way."

Marcie says her acquired expertise comes in handy outside the MetroParks and her own lawn. "The more I volunteer, the more I want to share that information," she says. "It helps impress my daughter's Girl Scout troop when I can actually answer their questions about nature! We did a whole series on organic gardening and growing plants from seed last year, so my Organic Methods Gardening classes really came in handy. We even made insect repellant dog bandanas with herbs!"

This Miami Valley native bounced around the States before settling back in Dayton in 2006. Postmarks from Washington DC; Tucson, Arizona; and Las Vegas graced her envelopes until she decided she wanted to raise her daughter in "a community environment surrounded by friends and family." Connecting her daughter to nature also played an important role in her return to the 937. "My earliest memories are of field trips (to Germantown

MetroPark) from school," she says. "Being able to recreate those memories with my daughter—and hopefully her children—make volunteering in the conservation efforts invaluable."

In order to further her conservation knowledge, Marcie started taking the Master Silviculturist program, where she'll be trained in the art of forest creation and maintenance. As a service learning graduate, she'll lead smaller groups of episodic volunteers, expanding Five Rivers MetroParks' resources for reforestation efforts. "We really rely on these skilled volunteers to help us do more with our prairies, forests, wetlands, and the rest of our native habitats," says Conservation Volunteer Coordinator Yvonne Dunphe. "Five Rivers MetroParks manages 15,400 acres, and that number continues to grow. We need volunteers to help care for these habitats and promote wildlife, preserving our natural heritage for generations to come."

Marcie says she enjoys volunteering



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

because it reconnects her to her inner child and rekindles her affection for the outdoors. "It seems I can find less and less time to be outdoors as a grown-up, and I miss it. Being able to enjoy the fresh air and see nature at work is so relaxing," she says. "As children, we seem to naturally go outside and create places for various animals to live or see if we can get a seed to grow. The way I see it, volunteering in conservation at a MetroPark is no different than being told to go outside and play!"

For those considering a volunteer opportunity but are hesitant for whatever reason, Marcie would like to remind you that there's something to fit every ability, every time commitment, and nearly any hobby or interest, particularly for those who wish to develop their skills further. "Volunteering with Five Rivers MetroParks is one of the best hands-on learning experiences," she says. "What could be better than making a community park more beautiful while learning how to make your own yard more beautiful? You might be able to get instruction online, but you can't ask Jeeves everything!" 🌿



MASTER SILVICULTURIST

Classes will start up again in spring 2012. Visit metroparks.org/forests and complete the online volunteer form to receive information about Master Silviculturist and other MetroParks Tree Corps volunteer programs.

Greenhouse Volunteers, Cox Arboretum MetroPark

Do you dream of getting your hands in the dirt even as the snow flies? Then check out the **greenhouse volunteer opportunities** at Cox Arboretum MetroPark this winter. They include:

African Violet Group:
10 am - 2 pm Tuesdays

Seed Savers Group:
9 - 11:30 am Thursdays

Tree Corps Group:
1 - 3 pm Tuesdays

Volunteers propagate, grow, transplant, and maintain plants for habitat restoration and/or for sale in the Arboretum's Garden Store. Additional greenhouse activities may be available throughout the winter and spring. Contact Janet Metter at janet.metter@metroparks.org or (937) 277-4133 for more information.

Volunteer Courier

Do you like to drive? Are you good with directions and a safe driver? Five Rivers MetroParks needs you! We are currently looking for a few good people to drive a MetroParks van between our 26 facilities to deliver and pick up mail. Schedule needs to be consistent, but can be set by the volunteer any time between 9 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Must possess a valid Ohio driver's license and show proof of insurance. If you are interested or need additional information, please contact Kevin Kepler at (937) 275-PARK (7275) for an interview.

Native Plant Primer

Come learn about the native plants that grow throughout MetroPark facilities. Experts will be on hand for this informational session that kicks off January 31, 2012, and runs through

March 13, 2012. These sessions will include the many opportunities available to become involved as a conservation volunteer! For more information, contact Yvonne Dunphe at (937) 275-PARK (7275).

Nature Center Host and Animal Care Helper, Germantown MetroPark

Volunteers are currently being recruited to greet visitors and tell them all the great things to see and do at the Germantown Nature Center, as well as assist staff with animal care and displays. Volunteers are needed both weekday and weekend shifts. Five Rivers MetroPark staff will train all new volunteers to have expertise in animal care and way finding at Germantown. To get more information or to arrange an interview, please call Kevin Kepler at (937) 275-PARK (7275).

MetroParks Volunteer Naturalist

If you like learning about plants and animals and sharing with other people, consider becoming a MetroPark Volunteer Naturalist! Eight training sessions will take place on Wednesdays, beginning March 28, 2012. During trainings, volunteers will learn the basic ecology of the Miami Valley, how to work with animals, and how to lead hikes for school groups, scouts, and the public. Volunteers must be interviewed and successfully pass a criminal background check. For details or to schedule an interview, please call Kevin Kepler at (937) 275-PARK (7275).

RESOLVE TO BE A GREEN MACHINE I N 2 0 1 2

TOP TEN WAYS TO RECYCLE, REDUCE, AND REUSE

By now, you might remember to turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth. You may have changed your incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescents (and have been enjoying the reduced energy bills). You might even take the time to toss your can or bottle into the proper receptacle, but this year, consider making a New Year's resolution to lend a hand to Mama Terra and make 2012 your greenest year yet! Five Rivers MetroParks and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Recycling have some tips to help you out.

RECYCLE SMART

Make sure what you're tossing in that bin is really recyclable. Your waste disposal providers will be able to supply you with information about what can and cannot be recycled. Most places accept:

- ✦ Metal and glass, including aluminum, tin, clear and colored glass, and other containers. Be sure to empty aerosol containers; discard lids; and rinse cans, jars, and bottles before recycling them.
- ✦ Paper and cardboard, including newspapers, cereal boxes, magazines, phone books, or junk mail.
- ✦ Number 1 and 2 plastic items—check the bottom of the package for the number. Some recycling facilities accept more varieties; verify with your waste services.

Organic matter like food particles can compromise the quality of recycled items, so be sure to rinse or clean recyclable items before tossing them in the bin.



- ✦ Yard waste—does your community offer yard waste for mulch or compost?
- ✦ Electronics—machines like computers or even appliances can leach toxic chemicals. Many local waste services offer electronic recycling services on specific days. Check with your waste services provider or local municipality.

REDUCE WASTE

Recycling is great, but it still takes energy to produce items, even those made from recycled materials. Reducing the amount of waste you generate and reducing your reliance on disposable convenience products are great ways to be kind to the planet.

- ✦ Avoid prepared foods. Often these items are sold with several layers of packaging—and not all of it may be recyclable. Prepared/packaged foods often are higher in salt, fat, and calories, so switching to home-cooked meals not only helps you reduce waste, it can help reduce your waist!

PICK PRACTICAL PACKAGING

At least 10 percent of the average grocery bill pays for packaging, so shopping for less packaging can save money as well as environmental resources. Choosing the right kinds of packaging can help reduce waste. Look for:

- ✦ Products packed in a single recyclable material, rather than layers of various materials.

- Packaging made from recycled material, and preferably, is recyclable.
- Paperboard boxes or sleeves instead of plastic bags.
- Containers for liquids or deodorant that are not further contained in paperboard boxes.
- Concentrates that can be mixed with water at home.
- Pumps instead of aerosols (which are less expensive).

SAVVY SHOPPING STRATEGIES

Bring your own bag to the store. Look for ones that fold up or tuck tightly into smaller shapes. These can be conveniently stored in your purse or vehicle to encourage use over paper or plastic grocery bags. You can find reusable bags, as well as recycled household products and environmentally safe cleaning supplies, from A Greener You at the PNC 2nd Street Market (open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays).



CLOSE THE LOOP

Buy products made from recycled materials. Think about things you buy with the intention of disposing them—like paper towels or toilet tissue. Do we really need to cut down more trees to make these items? Other recycled products include:

- Glass bottles and jars—approximately 35 percent of glass in glass bottles in the United States is recycled material.
- Paperboard boxes—recovered paper and paperboard accounted

ONLINE EXTRA

Find eco-friendly tips, important links and more information when you visit **metroparks.org** and click on the “Get Green” tab!



Kitchen made from recycled wood.
Photo by Jeremy Levine Design

for nearly 38 percent of new paper production in the United States in 1998, but read the label for post-consumer content.

- Aluminum beverage cans—the average aluminum can is made of more than 51 percent recycled aluminum from old beverage cans. With more than five of every 10 aluminum cans being recycled in the United States, they are the most recycled beverage container.

NEW LIFE FOR OLD ITEMS

Reusing items or finding a new purpose for them keeps these items out of landfills and helps you avoid purchasing new products. Plastic dishes with fitted lids (such as what you find for butter, sour cream, etc.) can find a new life as a container to store extra buttons, or nuts and bolts in the garage. Glass jelly jars often have patterns or texture to the glass that can make beautiful little luminaries for your next outdoor party. Look around your home and try to come up with alternative uses for some of your household items.

JUST SAY ‘NO’ TO JUNK MAIL

Did you know that junk mail (flyers, pamphlets, catalogs, or any other mail



A Greener You at the PNC 2nd Street Market

you receive without request) creates 4 million tons of preventable waste each year? The enormous waste generated by junk mail has a big negative impact:

- Costs taxpayers \$320 million in disposal fees annually.
- Destroys 62 million trees a year.
- Creates 28 billion gallons of wastewater per year.
- Fills 3% of America’s landfills.
- 44% percent is unopened, unread and trashed.

You can cut down on junk mail by opting out of lists or adding yourself and your



REUSE

Good for your community;
good for your planet!

If you have an old couch or TV, don't throw it out—**REUSE** it by donating it to a non-profit organization or reselling it yourself to someone who will use it. Reusing materials helps conserve natural resources and keeps useable items out of our landfills. Many organizations that collect and sell used items do so to support their good work in your community.

RESTORE - New and used building materials. Donations and purchases support Habitat for Humanity building projects.

SALVATION ARMY AND GOODWILL - Clothing and furniture. Donations and purchases fund social and family services.

AMVETS - Stores support services to Veterans and active military.

GARAGE SALES - you can find everything from clothes to household items to appliances and save a bundle versus buying new. Keep your eyes peeled for garage, rummage or tag sales that act as a fundraiser to support local charities.

~Source: ODNR Division of Recycling

Junk mail creates 4 million tons of preventable waste each year.



FAST FACTS: Recycling in Ohio

The recycling industry supports 4.3% of the jobs in Ohio.

As of 2000, almost 100,000 jobs in Ohio were directly dependent on recycling.

3.7% of Ohio's gross state product is attributable to the recycling industry.

The average wage paid by Ohio's recycling industry is \$36K.

The recycling industry's average wage is \$8,000 more than the State of Ohio's average wage.

Ohio recycling resulted in \$22.5 billion in sales and an annual payroll of \$3.6 billion.

~Source: Montgomery County Solid Waste District

address to "do not mail" lists. Visit metroparks.org and click on the "Get Green" tab to find links to junk mail reduction services.

FRUGAL FOODIES

Americans throw away over one-third of the food they buy in grocery stores. You can help reduce waste by buying only what you need and using those items—that includes leftovers! You'll find no shortage of blogs and recipes for creative ways to reinvent last night's pot roast. You can also buy nonperishable products in bulk or large quantities. Large containers use less material than several small ones for the same amount of product and generally cost far less. Being green saves green!

BOAST YOUR COMPOST

Before you toss those eggshells, coffee grounds and fruit and veggie peels, think what a tasty treat you could be making for your begonias! Composting is a great way to reuse organic materials and save you money on store-bought plant food or other product that promises bigger blossoms—these are often loaded with chemicals that are unnecessary. Your garbage already contains the nutrients your nasturtiums need. Check out Five Rivers MetroParks' Compost Kitchen classes—take all three and you will earn your very own compost bin! Watch the spring issue of ParkWays for the next round of classes.



WORK IT

Why stop being green at your front door? Ask your office manager or other appropriate personnel about implementing green practices at work. Switch to compostable cups at the water cooler (or see if your company will provide employees with their own mugs or water bottles and really cut down on waste). Default to printing on two sides of paper instead of just one (or make the switch to digital—there are lots of types of software that will let you share information electronically). You could also start a carpool list at work, or recruit riding buddies who will bike to work together. Get great transportation hints at drivelesslivemore.org.

Not sure how to get started? The Montgomery County Solid Waste District offers a business waste assessment program. This program is designed to assist Montgomery County businesses and industrial, nonprofit, and commercial organizations in evaluating and reducing their solid waste. An MCSWD representative will visit your facility and conduct a waste assessment to evaluate how your waste is currently being managed and make recommendations for improvements. These changes can result in cost savings for your business or organization! Call (937) 225-4999 to learn more or to schedule your assessment. 🍃



ADOPT-A-PARK

April 21, 2012

Celebrate Earth Day with Adopt-a-Park, the annual county-wide cleanup. Sign up 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 with a delicious lunch (complementary) and earth-friendly educational exhibits.

For more information or to register, call (937) 275-PARK (7275) weekdays.



Photo by Timothy Takemoto

OUR FORESTS IN THE BUFF



WITHOUT LEAVES, CAN YOU TELL A RED OAK FROM A SUGAR MAPLE?

They cover the landscape, bare branches reaching like skinny fingers toward the sky. But what happens to the trees after the leaves fall? How do they survive and what do they do in winter? Five Rivers MetroParks naturalists are here to lend some insight.

TREES: FOREST FRIENDS

Trees play an important role in our region's ecosystem. Forests provide people and wildlife with food and shelter; they sequester carbon and release oxygen, helping us to breathe; and they offer us a peaceful habitat to escape and relax.

Trees have adapted for the environments they are found in. Each species has a set of requirements they need to be successful. These requirements, such as soil type, moisture content, or amount of sunlight, change from place to place. "Because each tree is 'grown' from a different mixture of ingredients and growth rates, they have different properties," explains Naturalist Joshua York. "Take sugar maple and silver maple—both are maples, but just how different are they? Sugar maples are great furniture trees, good firewood, and of course, make good syrup for pancakes. Silver maples aren't so universal. The wood warps easily, making it useless for quality furniture, the wood burns into ash quickly, and their syrup is distasteful. Different species may also have different management plans and different values for wildlife. Some trees may produce lots of

food for birds, while others, not so much."

Because every native tree plays a certain role in the Miami Valley's bionetwork, our forests must be protected, and a diverse mix of trees should be encouraged, especially in second-growth forests where woodlands were once cleared for development, such as farming, and now need a little helping hand returning to nature. "The MetroParks Tree Corps volunteers help us promote biodiversity and protect the forests by fostering tree seedlings, planting new trees, monitoring the progress of saplings, collecting seeds and other activities," York says.

The MetroParks Tree Corps is a group of volunteers dedicated to preserving our region's natural heritage through a variety of opportunities. Some collect and propagate seeds, some "foster" a flat of seedlings in their own homes for roughly six months, some enlist in planting days to plant new seedlings throughout parks and conservation areas, and still others train to become Master Silviculturists, acquiring specialized forestry skills and leading small groups of volunteers.

Whatever one's time commitment or availability, there's a way to help Dayton-area forests. "Many of our ash trees are being killed by the emerald ash borer," York explains. "They consume nearly every ash tree that isn't being treated with an injected insecticide." With ash trees comprising nearly 10 percent of the 15,400 acres Five Rivers MetroParks protects, the devastation

posed by this wood-boring invasive beetle seemed overwhelming. Fortunately, through a combination of grants, donations (such as the generous donation from the Garden Club of Dayton) and judicious use of MetroPark funds, about 600 ash trees were able to receive the chemical treatment, and these trees are thriving. "The Garden Club of Dayton covered the most expensive trees—our 10 largest ash trees," says York. "You can visit metroparks.org/ash and download the Ash Tree Trek to find these trees, take rubbings of their green tags, and turn in your sheet to win a prize!"

Also intended to teach the public about ash trees and the emerald ash borer are the Taking Trees displays. Find a Talking Tree trail in Cox Arboretum, Englewood, Hills & Dales, Sugarcreek, or Wegerzyn Gardens MetroParks. Use your cell phone (or copy the number down for later) and call the number on the sign. This will tell you a special message about the emerald ash borer and the role of ash trees in our area.

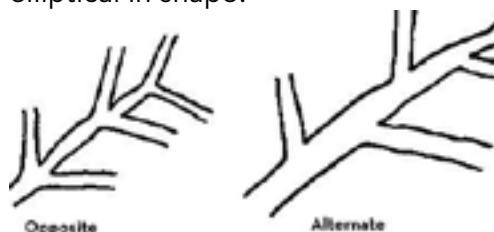
IDENTIFYING TREES IN WINTER

Learning to identify trees in winter presents a new challenge and different perspective on your MetroParks. Trees look very different in the winter than summer, and even without leaves, you'll be able to find an assortment of our native trees—sometimes with greater ease than with leaves! Follow these hints and develop an even greater appreciation for our oldest friends in the forest.

BRANCHING

What type of branching does the tree have? Are the branches frail? Are they pointing in a particular direction? Is the tree more round or

elliptical in shape?



Tree stems branch either opposite or alternate from each other. This characteristic can be used to weed out a lot of possibilities. Trees in our area with opposite branching are hydrangia, euonymous, honeysuckle, maple, ash, dogwood, buckeye, elderberry, and viburnum. If your tree has alternate branching, then it must not be one of these!

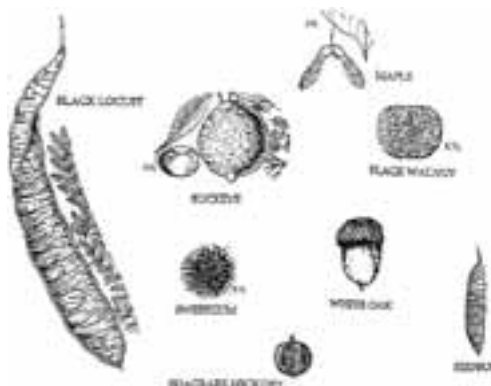
BARK



Does the bark have a particular color or texture? What about any conspicuous lines or spots? These patterns, colors, and textures are specific to certain types of trees.

NUTS

Some trees retain their seeds or nuts throughout the winter, while others release them during the fall. Which one is which? Use the nut size, shape, color, and texture to help identify the tree. 🍂



HELP REFOREST - TAKE THE PLEDGE NOW

1 pledge = 1 tree planted

Make a Difference; Take the Pledge!

You can help improve our region's forests—and it only takes the click of a mouse! Visit metroparks.org/forests and take the online pledge. You can choose from a variety of pledges, whether you want to visit a forest, tell a friend about the importance of trees, or sign up to volunteer. For every pledge collected, Five Rivers MetroParks will plant a tree! Take the pledge today and don't forget to share with your friends on Facebook!

WINTER TREE ID WORKSHOP

**Saturday, Jan. 28, and
Sunday, Jan. 29, 1-3 pm**
Hills & Dales MetroPark

Get on-site instruction for identifying our forest friends during the Winter Tree ID Workshop. Learn how to identify more than 30 native trees by their twig, bark, and other winter characteristics. Discover pioneer, wildlife, and commercial uses for each tree while sharing stories of folklore. Each participant will receive a winter tree identification notebook, with everything needed to get started identifying trees. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up.

THINK SPRING



MIAMI VALLEY GARDENING CONFERENCE

**Saturday, March 3
7:30 am - 5 pm**

Sinclair Community College

One of the best places to get a lot of information, inspiration, and enthusiasm for the coming season is the Miami Valley Gardening Conference. Now in its 17th year, the conference provides a full day of learning for gardeners of all skill levels. Keynote speakers will be Amy Stewart, bestselling author of "Wicked Bugs," and Lee Reich, noted garden expert and author. Break-out sessions cover topics on vegetables, nature gardening, trees and how gardeners can help their own community and the environment. Laura Deeter will return for a presentation on "Everything you always wanted to know about perennials but were afraid to ask." There will also be demonstrations on gardening techniques, opportunities to ask all the experts questions, and door prizes. Whether you've gardened your whole life or just want to start, this is definitely the place for you! The \$50 fee covers all materials, meals and snacks, and parking.

Visit metroparks.org/conference to register.

Garden Preparation Begins in Winter!

What can you do in winter to get ready for gardening in spring? Plenty! Five Rivers MetroParks' horticulture team has a handy list of tips to help you take advantage of the warmer months and make your garden the envy of the neighborhood!

SOIL

Whether our established garden areas are landscape or vegetable, now's the chance to make it better for spring. In most heavily gardened areas, plants take a lot of nutrients out of the soil during the growing season, leaving the soil less rich in the winter and going into the next gardening season. Don't know what nutrients your soil is missing? Take a soil test this spring! Until then, you can top-dress your garden areas with about a 1-2 inch layer of composted manure (or peat, or whatever you have available). Let the freezing and thawing and the snow and rain incorporate that rich layer into the existing soil. When spring comes and your shrubs green up or your bulbs and/or perennials come up, they will look great because their roots are going into nutrient-rich soil! No need to dig; just layer. If you have already mulched the beds, pull back the mulch, put in the compost, and pull the mulch back into place. This can be done even when there's snow on the ground.

TOOLS AND GARDENING EQUIPMENT

Winter is a great time to take a serious look at your gardening equipment and see what needs to be cleaned, sharpened, repaired, or replaced. (Hint—winter is the quintessential gift-giving month. Be sure to put any tools on your wish list and remember that you can get gardening supplies for yourself or the other gardeners in your life at the Wegerzyn Gift and Garden Store in



the PNC 2nd Street Market, or at the Cox Garden Store at Cox Arboretum MetroPark!) Also, take a look at your gloves, hats and boots, hoses, nozzles, and sprinklers. Check on any fertilizer you may have kept from the previous season, to be sure it hasn't gotten wet or been invaded by creatures. Also, you'll want to examine all planting containers for cracks or breaks and discard accordingly. Make sure to go over all extension cords as well as main cords for power equipment. If you take care of these issues now, everything will be ready for you to garden safely and efficiently come the first warm days of spring.

SEEDS

Gardening catalogs are everywhere this time of year. This is a great time to take a look at them and evaluate what you really want in your garden. Do you have a place to start seeds in your house? Get the inside scoop at the Winter Gardening Workshop, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Saturday, February 25, at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, and listen to farmer Doug Christen talk about starting seeds. The program also includes

FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS****Application deadline:
March 1, 2012**

City Beets is a gardening and leadership program for 12- to 15-year-olds. Participants grow food at Wegerzyn MetroPark Community Garden while learning leadership skills. In this program, youth will be able to:

*Grow their own vegetables**Learn leadership and job skills**Sell food Saturdays, at the PNC
2nd Street Market**Take local volunteer field trips**Learn about where food comes
from and food systems**Prepare and eat snacks from
harvested food**Make new friends*

For more information, call (937) 277-6545 or visit our website www.metroparks.org/citybeets. Applications are available starting February 1, 2012, and are due March 1, 2012.

activities for children ages 6 and up, so the whole family can participate and learn together. Winter is also a good time to look for seed swaps. Many gardeners save seeds from their flowers and vegetables and enjoy trying new varieties. Read your seed packets to find out how long it takes to germinate seeds in order to have them ready to plant around May 15.

COMPOST

If you have a compost pile, you should be checking on it and adding to it during the winter. (Hint—be sure to keep your compost in a protected area that doesn't get wet or freeze. It's much easier to deal with when it's not frozen!) If you have a worm compost bin or want to start one, this is a great time; it will provide wonderful compost for your houseplants and for those "temporary" house plants that you bring in to overwinter and then put outdoors again in spring. If you buy compost from a landscaper or another business, now is a good time to research prices and lock in delivery times.

WEEDS

Yes, they are with us even in winter—amazing, healthy, and growing to epic proportions if left unchecked! If you find perennial weeds such as dandelion or thistle in your beds, go ahead and smother them with layers of cardboard or newspaper. Come spring, they will no longer be a threat to your other plants. If you are dealing with annual weed seeds, please consider using an organic pre-emergent, such as corn gluten. Do not use pre-emergent herbicide at the same time you are going to plant with flower or vegetable seeds, as they will be affected.

PLANNING

Winter is an excellent time to plan your spring and summer garden. Without leaves on the trees and some of the shrubs, without the riot of annual blooms, it is easier to see the real structure of the garden. Where is a tree or shrub actually needed/not needed? Do you need to move the play area? What is the best view from your house or patio? What colors looked best or worst last season? What's new for the coming season? It's also a good time to plan ahead for something different. Want to try more native plants? Research what's available and might look good with your existing plantings. Incorporating native plants is a beautiful way to help improve the environment in your own yard. 🌿

**SEED SWAP****Saturday, February 11
10 am - NOON**Edgemont Solar Gardens, 919
Miami Chapel Rd, Dayton

Bring saved vegetable and flower seeds to trade or give away. Please sort and separate seed types, with a minimum of 10-20 seeds per type (i.e., Brandywine tomato, marigold). People do not need to have seeds to participate; please bring non-hybridized seeds to trade if you do have them. Call (937) 276-7053 for more information.

**OSU EXTENSION MASTER
GARDENER CLASS:****CALL FOR APPLICATIONS****Application deadline:
January 30, 2012**

Increase your gardening knowledge and serve your community as an Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener volunteer. This weekly series takes place 9:00 am - 4:00 pm on Tuesdays from March 6 to May 8, 2012, at various Montgomery County locations. These intensive classes are taught by industry experts on soils, plants, and pests. Program participants must volunteer for OSU Extension community service projects. The \$150 course fee covers the manual and other materials. Get the application and more information online at montgomery.osu.edu or call (937) 224-9654.

THIS WINTER,

TIPS FOR STAYING ACTIVE WHEN THE WEATHER'S COLD

The cooler temperatures shouldn't keep you inside, and by dressing properly and taking a little extra time to prepare, your outdoor adventures can be extended throughout all the seasons. Five Rivers MetroParks' outdoor recreation specialists compiled the following suggestions for outdoor adventures during the winter:

- Get outside and take a hike or go for a short ride on your bike when there isn't snow on the bikeways. Parks are open year-round.
- You can also enjoy MoMBA (MetroParks' Mountain Biking Area) for a mountain bike ride. Trails are open as long as the ground is frozen and the trails are in good shape. Call (937) 277-4374 for current trail conditions.
- If it's just too chilly, you can opt to take the kids to an indoor pool kayak session (see page 45). Learn paddling skills and safety now, because before you know it, warmer months will arrive and with them, plenty of opportunities to travel our region's diverse water trail network!
- If you have cross-country skis, make sure to take advantage of the trails at Possum Creek MetroPark. These amazing trails are surrounded by beautiful scenery, that's not as heavily trafficked, which means you'll be able to make an intimate, personal connection with nature.
- Participate in one of our two Ray's Mountain Bike day trips to Cleveland (see page 45). Practice your off-road skills inside in a controlled environment with varying terrain and different skill areas. Hang out by the fire in the lounge if you need a rest, and be prepared for a tired body on the way home!
- Enjoy one of our Try Hiking! programs this winter; just bring some extra clothes and take in the quiet, still, winter atmosphere around you. (See page 44.) Winter backpacking also is a great way to see the places you love without the big crowds.



Winter recreation does have some precautions to follow to ensure you have a fun—and safe—experience. Before you head outdoors, make sure you are prepared for your chosen activity. Dress in layers, bring plenty of water, and wear gloves and a hat. Sunscreen and sunglasses are still very important, especially because the sun reflects up from the snow. You also want to make sure everyone in your group is drinking plenty of water. You can become dehydrated easily in the winter, and it is important to stay hydrated—it keeps you warmer!

The key to enjoying the out-of-doors in the cooler months safely is to have the proper gear.

- Kayaking can be an entirely different experience in the winter; make sure you wear a dry top over your insulating layers, put on warm paddling gloves, and try to stay warm or find a place to warm up if you start to feel cold.
- Biking is just as fun in the winter as it is in the summer; be aware that there is less daylight, so plan your trip accordingly. Purchase shoe covers so your feet stay warm, wear long pants instead of shorts, and get some full-finger gloves to keep your digits toasty.
- If you are out hiking or backpacking, wear thick socks and make sure your boots aren't tight, wear a warm hat, and limit breaks to short periods—moving keeps you warm! If you are spending the night outside, invest in a good winter sleeping bag. Many local shops will have them. Also take steps to prevent your water from freezing. Nobody likes to discover their water has turned to ice when they are thirsty and try to take that big gulp. Keep your water in a bottle

RECREATION



close to your body and make sure the cap is on securely.

If you aren't into long excursions outside in the colder weather, or don't feel like going out every weekend, prepare for warm-weather outdoor activities instead. Sort through your gear indoors, give it a thorough washing, or take some time and organize it. The winter is also a good time to make repairs to clothing or bags, send in gear to the manufacturer that you can't repair, or take your equipment to a local shop to have it serviced. This could include your hiking boots, your bicycle, or some of those neoprene accessories you have for your boat. The winter is also a good time to check and see if you should replace anything.



Many manufacturers suggest or require that you replace key safety equipment every few years. Follow the manufacturer's suggestions. By taking the time to thoroughly inspect your gear, you are more likely to catch small repairs before they turn into major (and expensive) overhauls. Think of the winter as your annual physical—it might not be the most fun thing to do, but it is necessary, and a little “preventative maintenance” goes a long way!

BIKES

Most bike helmets need to be replaced every three to four years. Take your bike to a shop and have it completely serviced. A thorough washing, cleaning, and lubricating can make your bike last longer.

PADDLE SPORTS

Check the rigging and outfitting on your boat and make sure everything is secure and working properly. Clean your boat out with a bleach solution to keep mold and other nasty things from smelling up your garage and ruining your craft. Personal flotation devices or life vests should be inspected before



you put it on every time, but winter is also a good time to perform a thorough inspection and check if they're ready for retirement. Look for different color changes that indicate fading, frayed straps, broken buckles, or zippers that have seized up. If you aren't using your equipment all that much, you should make sure it is stored properly.

HIKING/BACKPACKING

Clean your leather boots and put a conditioner on them so they don't crack and get brittle. Look for holes or tears in your backpack, tent, and rain gear. Small tears can be easily fixed with a patch kit. 🍃

ONLINE EXTRA

Visit **metroparks.org/recreation** for information on outdoor recreation, upcoming programs, and links to resources such as retailers and clubs. Log on to “Get Out & Live” all year long!

THE OUTDOORS IN



THE ADVENTURE SUMMIT

Friday, February 10, 5-8:00 pm
Saturday, February 11, 9 am-5 pm

Wright State University

FREE!

Learn more at metroparks.org/adventuresummit

THE ADVENTURE SUMMIT GRANTS MID-WINTER RECREATIONAL REPRIEVE

When the first few flakes of winter sprinkle the Miami Valley, they are received with excitement. Those magical flakes signify the onset of the holiday season, family gatherings, and the start of a new year, ripe with potential. But through January's icy grip when the festive afterglow has faded, to February when people place their hopes of relief from the frigid weather in the unlikely paws of a rodent with a critical lack of meteorological training, winter's brief honeymoon is over, and cabin fever sets in.

Dayton-area residents can avoid the annual stir-crazy blues with a sneak preview of outdoor recreation at The Adventure Summit, Friday, February 10 and Saturday, February 11, at Wright State University. This biennial event features inspiring speakers, Try It! activities, competitions, and more. Local retailers and clubs will be onsite to hook you up with the resources you'll need to "Get Out & Live!" throughout the year.

And best of all, you can get all this outdoor adventure for free!

The 2012 featured speaker is Gary Fisher, credited with bringing mountain biking into the mainstream. According to information on his website, Fisher first rolled into mountain biking history by racing his modified cruiser down the roads of Marin California's Mount Tam. And in 1963, at the tender age of 12, he competed on the road and track in races sanctioned by the Amateur Bicycle League of America.

Since then, "Fisher has led the mountain bike world down the path of innovation as he worked to make his personal vision a reality. From the development of the oversized headset and the first production bicycle with front suspension, to the creation of the 'Gary Fisher Two-Niner' 29-inch wheeled mountain bikes, Gary continually toils to make mountain bikes better. He is a driven advocate for the sport, thriving to make better products to help the droves of mountain bikers around the world enjoy the wonders of two-wheeled life."

In 1968, Fisher, who at the time was suspended from bike racing because his hair was too long, took his sport to the hills. He and his Bay-area comrades tore through the landscape on beater bikes salvaged from the dump. But eventually, blasting down Mt. Tamalpais, hitchhiking back up, and flying down again was not enough. Fisher wanted to ride up as well.

He began to design bikes that were tougher than road bikes and with critical changes to the outfitting, allowing the rider to maintain more control as the bike careened over rocks and roots. In 1979, Fisher and some partners started a company. They called it Mountain Bikes. By 1980, the company was selling more high-end bikes than anyone else. "At 29, I had the mountain bike thing in my back pocket," says Fisher. "It was a big hot secret, like a new drug. You'd turn someone on to it and they were like, 'Wow I've gotta have some of that. I gotta have one of those.' It was intoxicating."

Fisher was living an intoxicating





lifestyle as well, competing and winning hard-core races and sponsoring riders, while his designs and his company revolutionized the sport.

He was indeed on top of the mountain. In 1983, Fisher founded the National Off-Road Bicycle Association, which now has almost 30,000 members and acts as the governing body of mountain bike racing. Four years later, Fisher was named by *Outside Magazine* as one of the “50 Who Left Their Mark.” Gary Fisher was no longer just a man’s name; it was one of the most recognized brands in mountain bikes. Though the man behind the legend was riding a sweet single track of success, there are always bumps in the trail.

A bike bum at heart, Fisher wanted his bikes, but more importantly his sport, accessible to everyone, and began taking steps to make his high-cost two-wheelers more affordable. With innovative designs, heavy marketing, and manufacturing in Japan, Fisher began to push down

the cost of his bikes. Despite such innovations as the first suspension system for bikes, Fisher’s company hit some ruts. He sold his company in 1991 to Taiwan’s Anlen, where it tumbled head-over-handlebars for the next two years. Out of the decision-making loop, Fisher felt at odds with the management. “It was totally frustrating watching something we built for all those years just get crushed in a lot of ways,” he says.

After two years with Anlen, Trek, the well-established American bicycle manufacturer located in Waterloo, Wisconsin, bought the struggling company. Trek now handles the day-to-day business concerns, and Fisher is back doing what he does best: innovate and inspire. “It’s been sort of freeing,” says Fisher, referring to his job as president of the Gary Fisher Division of Trek Bicycles. “I tell the joke: ‘Now I’m not responsible for anything, but I get to meddle in everything.’”

Still racing and designing innovative cycling products, Fisher’s priorities have begun to change. Fisher has come a long way since his days of hitchhiking up the mountain. “I understand better where to apply my energy,” he says. “But the goals are the same: to make a difference in the world, to really enjoy life.”

Catch Gary Fisher’s presentation, “My Life on Two Wheels,” at 8:00 PM on Friday, February 10, in the Wright State University Apollo Room.

The inspiration doesn’t stop there. Catch more featured speakers at 12:30 pm Saturday, February 11, in WSU’s Apollo Room. Deia Schlosberg, 28, and Gregg Treinish, 26, take you through their two-year, 7,800-mile trek of the Andes. Beginning in Papallacta, Ecuador, the two Montana-based wilderness

educators cobbled together a route of llama tracks, old Inca roads, and forgotten trade paths down the spine of the world’s longest mountain range. It was an Andes few outsiders had seen before. For good reason: “We were lost the entire time,” Treinish says. “Every time we wanted to quit, we were so far in the middle of nowhere that it wasn’t even an option.”

Other activities awaiting adventurers this February weekend include:

- 👉 A bouldering competition
- 👉 Indoor triathlon
- 👉 Inspiring presentations made by national and local adventurers
- 👉 Retail expo area to get you the resources you need to start your own adventures
- 👉 **Pool sessions** – try paddle sport activities such as kayaking, paddleboards, or scuba
- 👉 **Fitness programs** – get fit with a session in pilates, yoga, or spinning
- 👉 **Culture** – Take a break from the adventure with beer tastings, the Outdoor Adventure Art Gallery, and live music.

The Adventure Summit, co-produced by Five Rivers MetroParks and Wright State University, is jam-packed with your favorite outdoor activities—and even some you might not have tried yet! Take some time February 10-11 to introduce yourself, a friend, a relative, or a neighbor to a slice of everything you can enjoy living in the “Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest!” 🍃



WINTER IN THE PARKS

LOOKING BACK ON 2011; WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2012

It's winter in your MetroParks, and this is your reminder that you can get outside and enjoy your parks any time of the year. We've got great suggestions for outdoor activities, plus a wrap-up of what's been happening at your MetroParks this year and a special look ahead to what you can expect in 2012!

WINTER FUN-DERLAND

Take a deep breath of the fresh, crisp winter air. There are miles of wooded trails and paved bikeways waiting to be explored. Here are a few ideas to bust out of that cold-weather, shut-in rut.

HIKE

Take a brisk hike in your favorite MetroPark. The scenery offers something unique to other seasons. Look for animal tracks or check out ice formations that line waterfalls and ledges. Not all birds migrate during cold months; keep an ear open for cardinals, woodpeckers, or robins. Loops can be shortened or lengthened based on how you feel or your skill level. Dress in warm layers and try to avoid wearing cotton. It absorbs moisture and could make you feel colder. Most department stores have a variety of moisture-wicking shirts and pants that will keep you warm, dry, and comfortable on your hike. Hiking trails also are open for cross-country skiing.

SLED

Sledding hills are very popular after a good snowfall. Watch for "traffic" patterns—there are typically clear ascent and descent points. Once you sled to the bottom of the hill, move to the side to decrease the chance



of colliding with another person sledding. Wait at the top of the hill for the person going down to clear the path. Simply being aware of your surroundings and recognizing potential risks will keep everyone safe and ensure this fun winter pastime will continue to leave positive memories for you and your family. Sledding hills include:

- **Carriage Hill MetroPark:** pasture next to the visitor center at East Shull Road and State Route 201, Huber Heights.
- **Englewood MetroPark:** West Park; use the 100 E. National Rd. entrance (US 40 at St. Rte 48) and follow the park road to the right for parking.
- **Germantown MetroPark:** 6206 Boomershine Rd., just north of Manning Road.
- **Taylorville MetroPark:** east side of Brown School Rd., south of US 40.

FISH

You can still enjoy fishing when the temperatures drop. Look for the following ice fishing opportunities in a MetroPark near you:

- **Carriage Hill MetroPark:** Ice fishing is permitted, but ice conditions are not monitored. Fish without a license and free-of-charge from the banks of both Cedar Lake and North Woods Pond.
- **Englewood MetroPark:** Ice fishing is permitted off Old Springfield Road, but ice conditions are not monitored. An Ohio fishing license is required.
- **Possum Creek MetroPark:** Ice fishing is permitted, but ice conditions are not monitored. Fish, free-of-charge and without a license, in ponds and Argonne Lake. There is a 10-inch minimum size on bass and a six-fish limit per day. Trout are introduced to the ponds during cold months (typically December through February or March).
- **Rivers and streams:** You can also find good ice fishing spots in deeper sections of our local rivers and near warm-water discharges.

SKATE

The winter season wouldn't be complete without ice skating at RiverScape MetroPark! The rink will be open Friday, November 25, 2011, through Sunday, March 11, 2012. Check the schedule for open hours. The rink will be open every day during the season—including holidays! What better activity to enjoy when playing host to family

and friends over the holidays than a downtown skate outing. Give your out-of-town guests a unique introduction to Dayton, or treat someone special in your life to an unforgettable evening! Visit metroparks.org/skating for a list of upcoming programs. Young children will love Ice Princess or Pirates (see pages 46-47). Teens can skate to their favorite music on special theme

nights (see pages 46-47). Adults can get active with broomball leagues (new this year: competitive and recreational leagues). Even if you don't know how to skate, there's a class for you; drop in for Fundamentals of Skating on Sundays (see page 45).

ICE RINK HOURS OF OPERATION

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11 AM							
12 NOON							
1 PM							
2 PM							
2:30 PM							
3 PM							
4 PM							
5 PM		Broomball*		Broomball*			
6 PM		Broomball*		Broomball*			
7 PM		Broomball*		Broomball*			
8 PM							
9 PM							

REGULAR PUBLIC HOURS: Monday-Thursday, \$3 skate rental; Friday-Sunday, \$5 admission fee (includes skate rental)

Special hours December 19 through December 30, 2011

***Broomball League** - Rink closes to the public at 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays between January 2 and March 7

SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS: Admission \$5, includes ice skate rentals

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24): 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Christmas Day (Dec. 25): 1-8 p.m.

New Year's Eve (Dec. 31): 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

New Year's Day (Jan. 1): 1-8 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 16): 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Presidents' Day (Feb. 20): 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Lunch time skate noon to 2:30 PM weekdays: Bring your own skates and skate for free (rentals not available; no ice guards; not offered on holidays or as part of winter break skate)

MetroParks Ice Rink available for private event rentals from 6-8 p.m. Sundays and Thursdays (\$200 rental fee includes 50 cups of hot chocolate and 50 pairs of ice skates). Call (937) 274-0216 to rent the rink.

GIVE THE GIFT OF OUTDOOR FUN

Ice rink season passes make great gifts! Call (937) 274-0126 for details.



ICE SKATING
AT RIVERSCAPE METROPARK
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS



SHOP

The PNC 2nd Street Market is open year-round, which makes it the perfect place to do your holiday shopping. Create a fun, unique and local gift for a neighbor, friend, teacher, "Secret Santa," or any special person in your life. Choose from produce, meats, cheeses, dry goods, wine, fresh flowers, take-and-bake meals, green household items, jewelry, pottery, artisan merchandise, knitted items, pet products, garden supplies, and more!

- Cold-weather produce includes items such as potatoes, onions,

fall squash, Swiss chard, kale, and apples. These items' availabilities will begin to fade through December. You can find fresh herbs as early as February, though. Many farmers also offer preserved items, such as canned and pickled produce, apple butter, or apple cider.

- In addition to your regular Market favorites, look for additional Market vendors on-site during the holiday season. During this time, it's not uncommon to find packaged holiday specials, food samples, or ready-to-serve hors

d'oeuvres and desserts for customers to purchase for office parties, family gatherings, or any get-together.

- The Market will be open normal operating hours (Thursdays and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) with the exception of Thanksgiving week. The Market will be open the day before Thanksgiving for Stock-Up Wednesday, November 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. The Market is open regular hours (8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.), Saturday, December 24, and Saturday, December 31. Make the Market part of your family's holiday tradition!

WRAPPING UP 2011

As the year draws to a close, your Five Rivers MetroParks staff reflect on achievements and successes from 2011. Here's a brief recap of what's been happening this year:

SWAMP MARKET

Early in 2011, Five Rivers MetroParks began construction on the Great Miami Wetland Mitigation Bank. This wetland, located near Trotwood, will serve as a conservation area and revenue opportunity. "When a developer wants to build



Photo by Performance Bike



anything—shopping center, office park, etc.—they are responsible for offsetting any damage to wetlands,” explains Conservation Biologist Michael Enright. “The wetland mitigation bank offers developers the opportunity to purchase approved ‘credits’ from Five Rivers MetroParks. This is a win-win for habitat development and the local economy: Business developers have a simple way to get the wetland credits they need to proceed with their projects, and the wetlands are being developed and maintained by MetroPark professionals who have specific expertise in habitat management.” Construction on the wetland mitigation bank’s first phase began in fall.

ASH THE WORLD TURNS

When evidence of emerald ash borer, the invasive Asian wood-boring beetle, surfaced in Carriage Hill MetroPark in 2010, the outlook seemed pretty grim at first. “Ash trees make up about 10 to 15 percent of our mature forest canopy, and up to 80 percent of young forests,” explains Conservation Director

Dave Nolin. “We’re looking at a serious potential loss of trees.” To combat effects of emerald ash borer, increase biodiversity and plan for potential forest threats (such as the Asian longhorned beetle recently discovered in Ohio, who is far less picky when it comes to tree-killing consumption), Five Rivers MetroParks launched the MetroParks Tree Corps, a volunteer unit that takes a proactive stance on protecting our forests. Volunteer units include the Forest Foster Family program, in which volunteers “adopt” a flat of seedlings, care for them at their own homes, and return them to Five Rivers MetroParks after a few months to be planted in one of the facilities. “We fostered 8,500 seedlings in 2011,” Nolin says. “They are a mix of native hardwoods including oaks, hickories, butternut, American elm, and native understory trees/shrubs like flowering dogwood, pawpaw, and spicebush.” Another volunteer program developed as part of the MetroParks Tree Corps is the Master Silviculturist program. “Volunteers train for weeks on the creation and maintenance of



Five Rivers MetroParks earned the distinction of being one of just five businesses in the state of Ohio named as a *“bike-friendly business”* by the League of American Bicyclists, and carves a place in history as the first park district in the country to nab such a title.

forests, and then help lead groups of volunteers to plant seedlings, collect nuts and seeds, and other episodic work,” Nolin says. To sign up for upcoming volunteer opportunities, visit metroparks.org/forests and fill out the online application, or call (937) 275-PARK (7275).

BIKE FRIENDLY

In September, Five Rivers MetroParks became one of just five businesses in the state of Ohio to earn designation as a “bike-friendly business” by the League of American Bicyclists, and carves a place in history as the first park district in the country to nab such a title. “The League helps you through the application process,” explains



Outdoor Recreation Manager Andy Williamson. “It was helpful to see how far we’ve come to facilitate bike-friendliness, and to know areas where we can improve.” Representatives from the League create a report that can help any business—whether they employ five or 500—create a bicycle-friendly environment. “Best of all, there’s no charge for this process,” Williamson adds. “Dayton companies looking for suggestions to make their business

more bike-friendly should look into it. The more progress we have, the better Dayton’s chances of being the only Ohio city with silver bike-friendly community status!” Visit bikeleague.org/business to learn more.

GET LOW

The low dam removal project on the Stillwater River near Englewood MetroPark was completed in the fall of 2010 but was damaged earlier this year by the severe flooding that took place in the spring. “This damage has been repaired, and we hope that the old lake basin will function as a wetland and wildlife viewing area,” Enright says. “Removing the low dam has greatly increased the health of the river; the special controls that help us maintain water levels in the basin were the final pieces of that project. Now that they have been repaired, we should be able to maintain the wetland area.”

EXECUTIVE DECISION

Charlie Shoemaker retired from his post as executive director of Five Rivers MetroParks early in 2011. After an exhaustive search, the Board of Park Commissioners selected Rebecca “Becky” Benná to take over

the helm. The native Ohioan says she is glad to be back in her home state and is anxious to learn more about Five Rivers MetroParks and explore its role in the community. “As the former director of the Miamisburg Parks and Recreation Department, and frequent user of the Five Rivers MetroParks system, I am very familiar with the organization’s outstanding legacy,” Benná says. She says the strong focus on conservation, advocacy for active lifestyles, and supplementing the region’s economic vitality are all reasons she was attracted to the MetroParks leadership position. “Five Rivers MetroParks is a very well-respected organization,” she says. “I was attracted to the opportunity to work with a variety of community partners and leaders to provide excellent conservation, recreation, and educational experiences to our residents and visitors.”

LAND, HO!

Five Rivers MetroParks acquired 43 additional acres to protect, most of which are along the Stillwater River north of Englewood MetroPark. Conservation staff and volunteers removed invasives and planted native species, helping “heal” the

habitats here and across the county. “We planted prairie plants along Route 40, which was an old horse pasture,” explains Conservation Manager Mary Klunk. “We grew more than 5,000 plugs of prairie plants at Germantown and Cox Arboretum MetroParks, and we used them at the newly acquired properties and at the Germantown Nature Center.” Klunk and her team of MetroParks employees and volunteers also planted 2,000 plugs, wetland shrubs (shrubby cinquefoil, button bush, spirea), plants (swamp milkweed, JoePye weed, prairie dock, royal catchfly, sedges, fowl manna grass) and other species at the Woodman Fen wetland near the Belmont neighborhood.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

2011 was quite a year for recreation. Five Rivers MetroParks showed off Dayton, the “Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest,” to guests visiting the North Country Trail national conference in August. Important bikeways trail links also were developed—from the 2-mile connector that now unites Miami and Montgomery County bike paths that opened this past summer, to the right-of-way permissions that will expedite work on a trail segment connecting Eastwood MetroPark to Huffman MetroPark and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. It was announced that GearFest will be changing its name to the Midwest Outdoor Experience to more accurately reflect the style of the event (and attract new, national sponsors). Finally, RiverScape MetroPark visitors who love renting bikes and roller blades from Ride the River Rentals also had the option to rent kayaks. The summer partnership with local retailer Whitewater Warehouse allowed patrons to connect with the rivers via recreational paddlesports. This debut preceded an announcement from the Cox Foundation that



the Atlanta-based media moguls planned to invest in downtown Dayton via a \$1 million challenge grant for RiverScape Phase IV, a plan that includes removing a dangerous low dam, improving river access, and implementing river bank rehabilitation that will feature “play” areas for kayakers.

LOOKING AHEAD

As 2011 draws to a close, you can rest assured that there is much to look forward to in 2012 from your Five Rivers MetroParks. Here’s a sample of what’s coming up:

FUTURE FORESTS

Conditions of the 600 ash trees treated with a chemical injection



CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

With the introduction of Yvonne Dunphe as the new conservation volunteer coordinator for Five Rivers MetroParks, a host of exciting new volunteer opportunities await nature lovers! To learn more about any of these opportunities or to sign up, contact Dunphe at (937) 275-PARK (7275).

- Harvesting prairie seeds (Germantown MetroPark Seed Nursery, Huffman Prairie, and other MetroPark prairies)
- Seed cleaning
- Greenhouse wild flower growing
- Boundary checks
- Conservation area monitoring
- Litter pickup
- Breeding bird surveys
- Nest box monitoring (wood duck boxes and kestrel boxes)
- Cover mapping (primarily Medlar conservation area)

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER EXPO

Tuesday, February 21, 1:00 pm- 4:00 pm

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

What are the elements of conservation? How do Five Rivers MetroParks' land stewardship plans protect our native habitats? How can individuals help? Find out the answers to these questions meet some of the experts, and more at the Conservation Expo. We invite new and interested volunteers to discover how their contributions can "leaf" a legacy for the future. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome; call (937) 275-PARK (7275).



system will continue to be monitored throughout the year, checking to determine the pesticide's effectiveness in combating the emerald ash borer. But many trees will be needed to replace felled ash. "The Lions Club is donating 5,000 trees for planting at Germantown and Sugarcreek MetroParks, and 24,000 trees will be planted at the Medlar conservation area using Clean Ohio funds," Nolin says. MetroParks Tree Corps efforts also will continue. "We had a really great response in 2011. Our goal for 2012 is to propagate 10,000 trees and shrubs," Nolin says. That number might seem quite large, but in reality, not all those trees will make it. "Drought, disease, herbivores—there are a number of factors that can impact a tree's survival," Nolin explains. "Remember MetroParks has about 10,000 acres of forest,

so if we want to actively restore trees, we have to think big." You can help MetroParks' mission, all with the click of a mouse. Log on to **metroparks.org/forests** and take the online pledge. For every pledge collected, Five Rivers MetroParks will plant a tree in one of the parks or conservation areas. Share this information and make a difference for your forests!

METROPARKS HQ

In July, Five Rivers MetroParks announced it would consolidate four of its offices into one central location. After an extensive search process, the organization opted to lease the third floor of the former Woolpert building at 409 Monument Ave. "As a county-wide agency, we want to be at the center of the region," Benná said. "Consolidation will improve public access, eliminate the cost of three leased properties,

reduce staff travel time, increase productivity and equipment sharing, and save gasoline and energy." The new location will also offer increased and free public parking; a one-stop-shop for services, such as campsite and picnic shelter reservations; and provide easy access to maps, brochures, and other permit applications. Stay tuned to **metroparks.org** for information about the switch, currently slated to open spring 2012.

BLAZING NEW TRAILS

With the completion of sustainable trail upgrades to Taylorsville MetroPark, the next facility to receive updated hiking trails will be Sugarcreek MetroPark. "Sustainable trails reduce soil erosion, which is great for hikers and river quality," Williamson says. "Sustainable trails reduce environmental impact. As a conservation agency, protecting wildlife is our number-one priority. But Sugarcreek MetroPark fans will also be able to enjoy better quality trails for their hiking experience." Watch **metroparks.org/alerts** for updates on trail segment closures, detours and more information. 🍃



CITY BEETS

Accepting applications Feb. 1, 2012

City Beets is a gardening and leadership program for 12-15 year olds. Participants grow food at Wegerzyn MetroPark Community Garden while learning leadership skills. Produce is sold at the PNC 2nd Street Market and used in nutrition and cooking lessons.

In this program, students will:

- 🍃 Grow vegetables
- 🍃 Learn leadership and job skills
- 🍃 Prepare food for sale on Saturdays at the PNC 2nd Street Market
- 🍃 Take local volunteer field trips
- 🍃 Learn about where food comes from and food systems
- 🍃 Prepare and eat healthy snacks from harvested food
- 🍃 Make new friends

Teens receive a gift card stipend for satisfactory participation. Applications will be available February 1, 2012; they are due March 1, 2012. For more information, call (937) 277-6545 or visit the website **metroparks.org/citybeets**.

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**

RESERVABLE SHELTER CHANGES

Based on a review of current operational procedures and public use along with the high demand for reservable shelters, there will be a few updates to our reservable shelter process starting Jan. 1, 2012:

- You may reserve shelters up to a year in advance rather than restricting reservations to the current calendar year.
- Deposits for shelter reservations will be eliminated due to the administrative overhead and costs associated with processing. Five Rivers MetroParks will conduct additional operational analysis of its shelter reservation services, which may include implementing a fee structure for reservable shelter use.
- Shelter reservations will be limited to one reservation per month per organization and/or household.
- The time period for a shelter reservation will be 10:00 AM to park closing in all parks.

Reservable shelters will continue to be available daily (except Christmas and New Year's Day). Reservations must be made a minimum of one week in advance by calling (937) 275-PARK (7275) or stopping by the office during business hours at 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave. (until further notice when the new office open at 409 E. Monument Ave.). Non-reservable shelters, as well as picnic tables, will still be available to the

public at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the main office for questions regarding these policy changes.

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**

SUBFACILITY HOURS

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY GARDEN WINTER HOURS

November, December, March; closed January and February: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

GERMANTOWN NATURE CENTER

Open 1-4 PM Saturdays and Sundays

WATER SHUT-OFF

Attention: Some water features in the MetroParks may be shut off during the winter months to prevent pipe bursts. This includes all water playgrounds, some restrooms (pit

toilets will still be available), and some drinking fountains. Call the park at (937) 275-PARK weekdays if this will affect your visit.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Five Rivers MetroPark facilities will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The only exception is MetroParks Ice Rink at RiverScape MetroPark, which will be open for holiday skating from 1:00-8:00 p.m. on December 25, 2011, and January 1, 2012.

PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS

Programs will take place as scheduled unless conditions become unsafe or the hosting facility is closed due to weather. For information about program cancellations, call the number listed with your program, or check **metroparks.org/alerts** for updates.

HILLS & DALES DETOUR

Some trails and access points will be detoured at Hills & Dales MetroPark while work on the tower commences. For detailed information, visit **metroparks.org/alerts**.

*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 WINTER ACTIVITIES**

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

BY ACTIVITY

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

BY DATE

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

ONLINE

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

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

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

PTN PASSPORT TO NATURE!

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

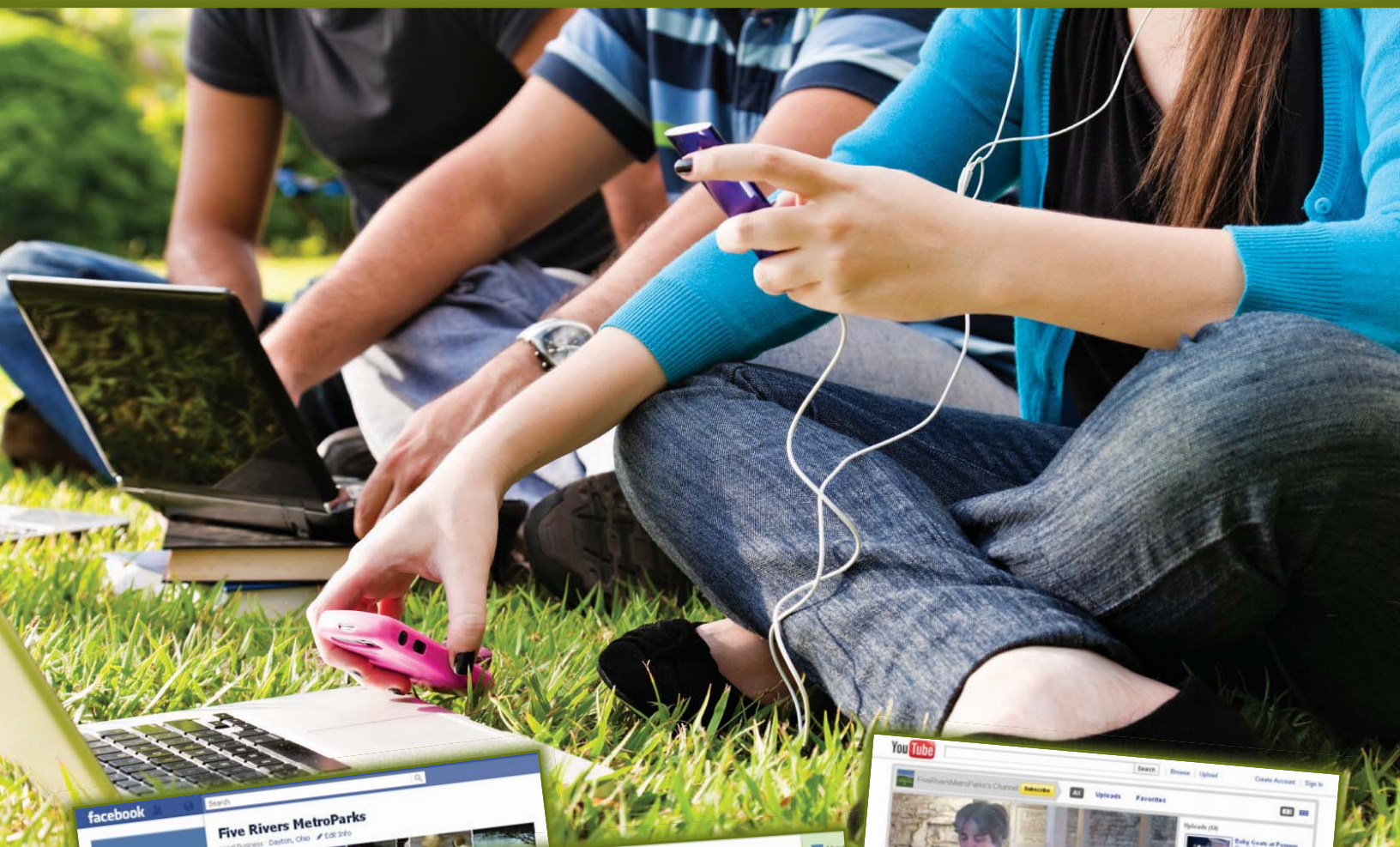
HOW TO CONTACT A RANGER IN A METROPARK:

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

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

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

JOIN YOUR PARK FRIENDS ONLINE!



Get the inside scoop about your favorite parks and share your stories and photos with others!

- facebook.com/FiveRiversMetroParks
- twitter.com/metroparkstweet
- flickr.com/groups/fiverivers/pool
- youtube.com/user/FiveRiversMetroParks





Join our community of photographers and get the chance to be published in ParkWays or other MetroParks publications! It's easy; just log onto WWW.METROPARKS.ORG and click the Flickr logo
This link takes you to our Flickr group.

Get outside and start snapping!

EVENTS BY DATE, TIME

THU, DEC 1, 2011

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Winter Beginnings, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 40)

11:30 AM Create a Wreath, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 39)

FRI, DEC 2, 2011

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Prairie Play, Englewood MetroPark (see page 40)

11:30 AM Create a Wreath, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 39)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SAT, DEC 3, 2011

7:00 AM Ray's Mountain Bike Trip, Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 45)

9:00 AM Christmas Walk, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

10:00 AM Danny Voris (Instrumental Guitar), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

11:00 AM Animal Homes, Englewood MetroPark (see page 41)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

2:00 PM Prairie Exploration, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 41)

7:00 PM Nature at Night Celebration, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SUN, DEC 4, 2011

12:00 PM Christmas on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 39)

1:00 PM Skate with Parker! RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

1:30 PM Englewood Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers, Englewood MetroPark (see page 44)

2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

6:00 PM Winter Walk at Aullwood, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 39)

TUE, DEC 6, 2011

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 41)

WED, DEC 7, 2011

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

43)

THU, DEC 8, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 41)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Metroparks' Largest Mammal, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

FRI, DEC 9, 2011

6:30 PM A Holiday Evening in the Garden, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SAT, DEC 10, 2011

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

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

1:00 PM Wintertime Fun on the Farm, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 37)

5:30 PM Evening Christmas Lantern Tour, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 39)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SUN, DEC 11, 2011

10:00 AM Gingerbread Man, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

TUE, DEC 13, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Englewood MetroPark (see page 41)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Winter Mysteries, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 40)

WED, DEC 14, 2011

8:00 AM Audubon Christmas Bird Count, Germantown MetroPark (see page 42)

THU, DEC 15, 2011

11:00 AM Santa Visits the Market, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

6:30 PM Fundamentals of Lightweight Backpacking, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 44)

FRI, DEC 16, 2011

11:00 AM Santa Visits the Market, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SAT, DEC 17, 2011

8:30 AM Morning Chores on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 37)

10:00 AM Amanda Roberts (Dulcimer), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

11:00 AM Santa Visits the Market, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

1:00 PM Homemade Soft Cheese, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 39)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SUN, DEC 18, 2011

1:00 PM Skate with Parker! RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

MON, DEC 19, 2011

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Migration and Hibernation, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 40)

TUE, DEC 20, 2011

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 41)

FRI, DEC 23, 2011

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SAT, DEC 24, 2011

10:00 AM Harmony (Instrumental Strings), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

11:00 AM Christmas Eve Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

SUN, DEC 25, 2011

1:00 PM Christmas Day Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

TUE, DEC 27, 2011

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 41)

FRI, DEC 30, 2011

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SAT, DEC 31, 2011

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

11:00 AM New Year's Eve Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

SUN, JAN 1, 2012

1:00 PM New Year's Day Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

MON, JAN 2, 2012

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

TUE, JAN 3, 2012

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 41)

WED, JAN 4, 2012

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

7:00 PM Environmental Film Series: Waterlife, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 38)

THU, JAN 5, 2012

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Frosty Adventures, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 40)

FRI, JAN 6, 2012

7:00 PM '80s Night, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

7:00 PM Youth Try Kayaking, Off Site (see page 45)

SAT, JAN 7, 2012

10:00 AM Creating an Environmentally Friendly Lifestyle, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 38)

10:00 AM Puzzle of Light (New Age Jazz), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

12:00 PM Trees in Garden Design, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

2:00 PM Meet-Up Health Hike, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 44)

6:00 PM Owl Moon, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 42)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SUN, JAN 8, 2012

1:00 PM Skate with Parker! RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

MON, JAN 9, 2012

9:00 AM OSU Extension Master Gardener Class: Call for Applications, Off Site (see page 37)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Hibernating Insects, Englewood MetroPark (see page 40)

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

TUE, JAN 10, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Englewood MetroPark (see page 41)

2:30 PM, 6:00 PM Ice Princesses, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 42)

WED, JAN 11, 2012

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

THU, JAN 12, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 41)

10:00 AM Parent and Preschooler: Pooh Science, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42)

11:00 AM Soup-er Bowl Samples, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

FRI, JAN 13, 2012

11:00 AM Soup-er Bowl Samples, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

7:00 PM Hip Hop and R&B Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

SAT, JAN 14, 2012

9:00 AM Education Kits On Parade, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 42)

9:00 AM Winter Family Fun Day, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

10:00 AM Virtual Trip to a Recycling Plant, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 38)

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

10:00 AM Parent and Preschooler: Winter Fun, Germantown MetroPark (see page 42)

1:00 PM Homemade Soap, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 39)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

41)

2:00 PM Family Bird Search, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 42)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SUN, JAN 15, 2012

12:00 PM Ice Harvesting, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 39)

1:30 PM Taylorsville Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 44)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

MON, JAN 16, 2012

11:00 AM Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

TUE, JAN 17, 2012

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 41)

4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 42)

6:00 PM Ice Pirates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 47)

WED, JAN 18, 2012

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

THU, JAN 19, 2012

11:30 AM Go Gluten Free, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 39)

FRI, JAN 20, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Winter Mysteries, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

7:00 PM Glee Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 47)

SAT, JAN 21, 2012

8:30 AM Morning Chores on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 37)

10:00 AM Visit to Montgomery County Solid Waste Transfer Site, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 38)

10:00 AM Rum River Blend (Bluegrass/Folk), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

1:00 PM All in Just One Cookie, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 39)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

1:00 PM Eureka Lab! Three Friends of

Winter, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42)

2:00 PM Try Hiking @..., Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 44)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SUN, JAN 22, 2012

1:00 PM Skate with Parker! RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

MON, JAN 23, 2012

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

TUE, JAN 24, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 41)

10:00 AM Stroller Studies: Wiggle Little Worm, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Animal Tracking, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 40)

4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 42)

WED, JAN 25, 2012

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

THU, JAN 26, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Metroparks' Mythbusters, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 40)

11:30 AM Fresh (Reinventing our food systems), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 38)

5:45 PM, 6:45 PM Learn to Curl, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 47)

6:30 PM Fundamentals of Alcohol Stoves, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 44)

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

FRI, JAN 27, 2012

1:00 PM Super Bowl Food Ideas, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 39)

7:00 PM Disco Fever, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 47)

7:00 PM Youth Try Kayaking, Off Site (see page 45)

SAT, JAN 28, 2012

7:00 AM Ray's Mountain Bike Trip, Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 45)

10:00 AM How Can I Lighten My Own Footprint? Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 39)

10:00 AM Joe and Jack Waters (Blues), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

10:30 AM Winter Family Fun, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 43)

12:30 PM Hobby Maple Syrup Production, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 40)

1:00 PM Winter Tree ID Workshop, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 43)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

2:00 PM Lagoon Exploration, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 43)

6:00 PM Birding Workshop: Owls, Germantown MetroPark (see page 43)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SUN, JAN 29, 2012

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

1:00 PM Winter Tree ID Workshop, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 43)

1:30 PM Huffman Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers, Huffman MetroPark (see page 44)

2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

MON, JAN 30, 2012

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

6:30 PM Butterfly Monitoring Wrap-up, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 43)

TUE, JAN 31, 2012

9:30 AM Volunteer: Native Plant Primer, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 38)

4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 42)

WED, FEB 1, 2012

9:00 AM City Beets 2012: Call for Applications, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37)

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

7:00 PM Environmental Film Series: Biomimicry, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 38)

THU, FEB 2, 2012

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Sounds of Nature, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 40)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Groundhogs Galore! Eastwood MetroPark (see page 40)

5:45 PM, 6:45 PM Learn to Curl, RiverScape

MetroPark (see page 47)

FRI, FEB 3, 2012

7:00 PM Sock Hop at Seven, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 47)

SAT, FEB 4, 2012

10:00 AM Forests Don't Sleep in Winter, Englewood MetroPark (see page 43)

10:00 AM Deceptive Play (1960s to Now), PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

1:00 PM Traditional Butchering, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 39)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

2:00 PM Meet-Up Health Hike, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 44)

2:00 PM Groundhog Appreciation, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 43)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

SUN, FEB 5, 2012

1:00 PM Traditional Butchering, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 39)

1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in the Woods, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

1:00 PM Skate with Parker! RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

1:30 PM Carriage Hill Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 44)

2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

MON, FEB 6, 2012

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

TUE, FEB 7, 2012

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 41)

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Hibernating Insects, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 40)

4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 42)

6:00 PM Ice Princesses, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

WED, FEB 8, 2012

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 46)

THU, FEB 9, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 41)

10:00 AM Parent and Preschooler: Touch some Trees, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see

page 42)

11:30 AM Ohio Wines, PNC 2nd Street Market
(see page 40)

FRI, FEB 10, 2012

5:00 PM The Adventure Summit, Off Site
(see page 47)

7:00 PM Michael Jackson Skate, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 47)

SAT, FEB 11, 2012

9:00 AM The Adventure Summit, Off Site
(see page 47)

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

10:00 AM Seed Swap, Off Site (see page 37)

10:00 AM Valentine's Celebration, PNC 2nd
Street Market (see page 48)

11:00 AM Family Bird Search, Huffman
MetroPark (see page 43)

**1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in
the Woods**, Germantown MetroPark (see page
41)

1:00 PM Winter Forest Gems, Hills & Dales
MetroPark (see page 43)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 45)

SUN, FEB 12, 2012

**1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in
the Woods**, Germantown MetroPark (see page
41)

2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating,
RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

MON, FEB 13, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Winter Birds,
Englewood MetroPark (see page 41)

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 46)

TUE, FEB 14, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Englewood
MetroPark (see page 41)

4:00 PM Youth Naturalists Club, Wegerzyn
Gardens MetroPark (see page 42)

5:30 PM Sweetheart Skate, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 47)

WED, FEB 15, 2012

1:00 PM Homemade Soft Cheese, Possum
Creek MetroPark (see page 39)

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 46)

THU, FEB 16, 2012

11:30 AM Plant-Based Diets, PNC 2nd Street
Market (see page 38)

FRI, FEB 17, 2012

7:00 PM Tiki Night at the Rink, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 47)

SAT, FEB 18, 2012

8:30 AM Morning Chores on the Farm,
Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 37)

10:00 AM Ludlow (Folk/Bluegrass), PNC 2nd
Street Market (see page 48)

10:00 AM Orchid Show, Cox Arboretum
MetroPark (see page 48)

**1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in
the Woods**, Germantown MetroPark (see page
41)

2:00 PM Try Hiking @..., Sugarcreek
MetroPark (see page 44)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 45)

SUN, FEB 19, 2012

10:00 AM Orchid Show, Cox Arboretum
MetroPark (see page 48)

1:00 PM Skate with Parker! RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 45)

**1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in
the Woods**, Germantown MetroPark (see page
41)

**1:30 PM Second Englewood Hike With The
Metro Dayton Hikers**, Englewood MetroPark
(see page 45)

2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating,
RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

MON, FEB 20, 2012

11:00 AM President's Day Skate, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 47)

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 46)

TUE, FEB 21, 2012

9:00 AM Discovery Stroll, Carriage Hill
MetroPark (see page 41)

10:00 AM Stroller Studies: What's Wild, Cox
Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42)

1:00 PM Volunteer: Conservation Expo, Cox
Arboretum MetroPark (see page 43)

WED, FEB 22, 2012

6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 46)

THU, FEB 23, 2012

**11:30 AM Food Inc. (Poor food industry
practices)**, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page
38)

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

FRI, FEB 24, 2012

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Animal Tracking, Hills &
Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

7:00 PM School Pride Night, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 47)

SAT, FEB 25, 2012

9:00 AM Black History Day at the Market,
PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

10:00 AM Maple Syrup Time, Possum Creek
MetroPark (see page 40)

10:00 AM Winter Gardening Workshop,
Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 37)

12:00 PM Trees in Winter, Wegerzyn Gardens
MetroPark (see page 37)

1:00 PM No Child Left Inside Summit, Cox
Arboretum MetroPark (see page 43)

1:00 PM Maple Sugar Moon, Possum Creek
MetroPark (see page 37)

**1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in
the Woods**, Germantown MetroPark (see page
41)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 45)

SUN, FEB 26, 2012

**1:00 PM Family Adventure Series: Winter in
the Woods**, Germantown MetroPark (see page
41)

2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating,
RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

TUE, FEB 28, 2012

9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk, Eastwood
MetroPark (see page 41)

FRI, MAR 2, 2012

7:00 PM Wild West Skate, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 47)

7:00 PM Youth Try Kayaking, Off Site (see
page 45)

SAT, MAR 3, 2012

**7:30 AM Miami Valley Gardening
Conference: A New Look**, Off Site (see page
38)

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 45)

SUN, MAR 4, 2012

1:00 PM Skate with Parker! RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 45)

2:00 PM FUNDamentals of Skating,
RiverScape MetroPark (see page 45)

FRI, MAR 9, 2012

7:00 PM Rock Night at the Rink, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 47)

SAT, MAR 10, 2012

7:00 PM Star-Late Skates, RiverScape
MetroPark (see page 45)

EDUCATION

FARMING

(FREE) MORNING CHORES ON THE FARM

SAT, DEC 17, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM 7633

SAT, JAN 21, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM 7634

SAT, FEB 18, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM 7635

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

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

Age: 6Y - 18Y. 📞

(FREE) WINTERTIME FUN ON THE FARM

SAT, DEC 10, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

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

Thank you for making this a great year. Make ornaments for the holidays with materials provided by nature. Enjoy Christmas music and cheer. There will be hot chocolate and cider and Christmas treats to enjoy. Add to your day of winter fun by making your way to Carriage Hill MetroPark for Evening Christmas Lantern Tour 5:30 to 9:00 PM. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. **PTN** Age: 3Y and up. **7655**

(FREE) MAPLE SUGAR MOON

SAT, FEB 25, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7657

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

Learn about the wondrous gift of maple syrup provided by our maple trees at Possum Creek MetroPark. Enjoy a wagon ride to visit our trees, and then we will return to the farm for hot cocoa and cider. If the sap flow is plentiful, possibly there will be samples of maple syrup, cookies, and candy to try. Reservations required; call (937) 276-7062. **PTN** Age: 3Y and up.

GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

(FREE) A HOLIDAY EVENING IN THE GARDEN

FRI, DEC 9, 6:30 PM- 8:00 PM

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

Join us for this rare opportunity to see the gardens after dark. Enjoy twinkling lights while chasing away the winter chill with hot chocolate. Listen to stories and roast chestnuts around a crackling fire. Volunteers with fun activities will be stationed throughout the garden. This program is weather dependant. Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **7493**

(FREE) TREES IN GARDEN DESIGN

SAT, JAN 7, 12:00 PM- 1:00 PM

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

This class will focus on the use of trees, both living as a part of design and as trellises. We'll also observe parts of trees—branches, and twigs—in fences, garden plant frames and supports. A fascinating look at formal and forest settings, as well as innovative uses for natural material. We'll meet in the adult classroom. Registration is requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **7542** 📞

OSU EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER CLASS: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

MON, JAN 9 - MON, JAN 30, 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM

OFF SITE, Contact Us for Location, TBD Increase your gardening knowledge and serve your community as an OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer. Weekly series held on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM from March 6 to May 8 at various Montgomery County locations. Intensive classes taught by industry experts on soils, plants and pests. Program participants must volunteer for OSU Extension community service projects. Applications and further details available at montgomery.osu.edu or by calling (937) 224-9654. Application deadline January 30, 2012. Fee includes course manual. Fees: \$150 **7713** 📞

(FREE) CITY BEETS 2012 - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

TUE, FEB 7 - TUE, FEB 28, 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Wegerzyn Park, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. City Beets is a gardening and leadership program for 12-15 year olds. Participants grow food at Wegerzyn MetroPark Community Garden while learning leadership skills. Produce is sold at the PNC

2nd Street Market and used in nutrition and cooking lessons. Teens receive a gift card stipend. For more information, call (937) 277-6545 or visit metroparks.org/CityBeets. **Applications available February 1, 2012; due March 1, 2012.** Age: 12Y - 15Y. **7546**

(FREE) SEED SWAP

SAT, FEB 11, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

OFF SITE, Edgemont Solar Gardens, 919 Miami Chapel Rd, Dayton, Contact Us for Map Bring saved vegetable and flower seeds to trade or give away. Please sort and separate seed types, with a minimum of 10-20 seeds per type (i.e., Brandywine tomato, marigold). You do not need to have seeds to participate; please bring non-hybridized seeds to trade if you do have them. Hosted by Edgemont Solar Gardens Community Garden, 919 Miami Chapel Rd, Dayton. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. For details, call (937) 276-7053. **7545** 📞

(FREE) TREES IN WINTER

SAT, FEB 25, 12:00 PM- 1:00 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Wegerzyn Parking Lot, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave. Join us as we experience the Dougherty structure in winter and then go into the park to see and discuss what happens to trees in winter. Please dress for the weather. We'll end our session with hot beverages! Meet in the parking lot. This program is weather-dependent. Please check metroparks.org/ alerts for cancelation notice. Registrations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **7544** 📞

(FREE) WINTER GARDENING WORKSHOP

SAT, FEB 25, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

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

Adults and youth ages 6 and older will gather in the Wegerzyn Gardens auditorium to enjoy last year's harvest, prepare for the approaching growing season, and learn about indoor gardening. We'll cook winter squash, mix herbal teas, create spring garden plans, start tomato seeds, and learn to produce fresh sprouts and micro-greens. Local CSA farmer Doug Christen will speak about seed-starting techniques. Reservations requested and walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-6545 for additional details. **7662** 📞

VOLUNTEER: NATIVE PLANT PRIMER

TUE, JAN 31 - TUE, MAR 13, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Native plants are the building blocks of healthy habitats and preserving diversity in our local ecosystem. Learn about native plants and habitats of the Miami Valley; invasive species impacting our land; propagation of native perennials and shrubs; and techniques for successful reforestation and habitat restoration. Participants gain hands-on experience through classroom activities, volunteer service projects, and leadership opportunities in conservation and land stewardship projects. **Required: 25 hours of volunteer service.** For an interview and more information, call Yvonne Dunphe at (937) 275-PARK (7275). Fees: \$25 **7698**

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 hands-on demonstrations. Fee includes breakfast snack, full lunch, breaks and parking.

Call (937) 277-6545 or register online at metroparks.org/conference by February 23. Fees: \$50; full-time students \$25 **7520** 📞

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. 📞

WATERLIFE

WED, JAN 4, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

The film tells the epic story of the Great Lakes by following the cascade of its water from northern Lake Superior to the Atlantic Ocean, through the lives of some of the 35 million people who rely on the lake for survival. Providing earth with 20% of its surface fresh water and its third largest industrial economy, the Great Lakes are a unique and precious resource under assault by toxins, sewage, invasive species, and evaporating water. Length: 109 minutes. **7473**

BIOMIMICRY

WED, FEB 1, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. This two-part film is based on the acclaimed book, *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature*, by Janine Benyus. Biomimicry (from 'bios' meaning life, and 'mimesis' meaning to imitate) is a new science that studies nature's best ideas and then imitates these designs and processes to solve human problems. Film length: 89 minutes. **7474**

(FREE) MOVIES FOR FOODIES

Foodies, gather 'round for four 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.

FRESH (REINVENTING OUR FOOD SYSTEMS)

THU, JAN 26, 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM 7630

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

FOOD INC. (POOR FOOD INDUSTRY PRACTICES)

THU, FEB 23, 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM 7631

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

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.

(FREE) PLANT-BASED DIETS

THU, FEB 16, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

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

Join Persephone in exploring all the great reasons to follow a plant-based diet, as well as discuss practical ways to transition

to eating this way as you make healthier, more sustainable food choices for yourself and your family. Persephone is a Certified World Peace Diet facilitator and founder of the annual Dayton Vegan Challenge. Registration is requested, walk-ins are welcome. Call (937) 228-2088 to register, or register online. **7694**

(FREE) LIVING WITH MOTHER EARTH: HOW GREEN IS YOUR FOOTPRINT SERIES

This series is designed to help you explore ways to lessen your environmental impact at home, whether you are in the kitchen, laundry room, basement, or garden. Attend one or all four classes. Reservations are requested, walk-ins welcome; call (937) 277-6545 or register online. 📞

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY LIFESTYLE

SAT, JAN 7, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

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

Learn the differences between reduce, reuse, recycle, and renew. We'll hear how much each process impacts our environment and our community. We'll practice sorting trash and find out where different kinds of trash are taken in our communities. We'll learn where to take our hazardous waste! **7514**

VIRTUAL TRIP TO A RECYCLING PLANT

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

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

Want to see how co-mingled trash collected from your curbside is separated? Watch as you notice how few human hands are involved inside a local recycling facility. We'll also talk about the lifecycle of a product based on what it's made of. **7695**

VISIT TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE TRANSFER SITE

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

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

Join us as we travel to our county's solid transfer station to witness the trash and yard waste of our "throw-away" society. Learn where it all goes from here, how we destroy it, what it costs, and what new uses we've found for some of our stuff. **7696**

HOW CAN I LIGHTEN MY OWN FOOTPRINT?

SAT, JAN 28, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

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

Listen to our own Master Recyclers describe how they recycle, reduce, and reusing things around the house and garden. Learn from their personal plans how they lightened their own footprint. What can you do in your own home? **7697**

HERITAGE & HISTORY

(FREE) WINTER WALK AT AULLWOOD

SUN, DEC 4, 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Garden Parking lot, 955 Aullwood Road

Join us for an evening walk at Aullwood and witness the changes of the season and the beauty of Mrs. Aull's garden at twilight. We'll meet in the parking lot, tour the grounds and house and enjoy some hot drinks and cookies as well. Please bring a flashlight and dress for the weather. Reservations are requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 for information or register online. **7512**

(FREE) CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM

SUN, DEC 4, 12:00 PM- 5:00 PM

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

String cranberries and popcorn for the farm-grown cedar tree just like families did a century ago. Enjoy fresh-baked gingerbread and sample chestnuts hot from the fireplace. Play some period parlor games. At our Visitor Center, you can make a Victorian Christmas decoration to take home. If the weather is right, the bobsled, sleigh bells, and draft team will make the holiday complete. Call (937) 278-2609 for more information. **7639**

(FREE) EVENING CHRISTMAS LANTERN TOUR

SAT, DEC 10, 5:30 PM- 9:00 PM

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

The feeling of a Victorian Christmas will be brought to life for this evening lantern tour. Tour various candle-lit stops around the farm while merrily singing carols. Then, join a period Christmas party and enjoy a hot cup of wassail while visiting the farmhouse. For more information, call (937) 278-2609. **7640**

(FREE) ICE HARVESTING

SUN, JAN 15, 12:00 PM- 5:00 PM

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

Watch the farm hands use ice saws, pike poles and tongs to cut blocks of ice from the farm pond and load them onto the bobsled for storage in the farm's ice house. Ice can then be used year-round to make ice cream and keep certain foods cool. Depending on the weather, date may change. Call (937) 278-2609 for more information. **7636**

(FREE) TRADITIONAL BUTCHERING

SAT, FEB 4, 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM

SUN, FEB 5, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

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

Watch the age-old activity of processing the meat that was the staple in the 19th century farmer's diet. On Saturday, the hog is scraped, cleaned, and cooled. On Sunday, the meat is prepared into the various cuts such as ribs, roasts, and hams. Also, watch as meat is then salted, cured, and also made into sausage. Call (937) 278-2609 for details. **7638**

HOME & HOBBIES

CREATE A WREATH

THU, DEC 1, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM 7628

FRI, DEC 2, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM 7629

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

Staff from The Flowerman will show you how to make your own wreath to add to your holiday decorations. Come ready to be creative as the pros share special tips and techniques. Reservations are required and limited. The fee is \$12, due the day of the class. Call (937) 228-2088 for details or to register. Age: 18Y and up. Fees: \$12

(FREE) HOMEMADE SOFT CHEESE

SAT, DEC 17, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM 7665

WED, FEB 15, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM 7666

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

Learn the basics of how to make soft cheese through observing a demonstration of the preparation of mozzarella cheese. Equipment, supplies, and sources will be covered. Prepared samples of homemade cottage, ricotta, and cream cheese will be available to try. A handout of recipes will be available. Reservations required and limited, beginning November 15. Call (937) 276-7062. Age: 18Y and up.

(FREE) HOMEMADE SOAP

SAT, JAN 14, 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM

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

Learn the basics of making your own homemade soap through demonstration and some hands-on activities. This is not your grandmother's or great grandmother's method of making soap. Caustic lye will not be involved in the making of this soap. Two methods will be demonstrated: melt-and-pour soap and rebatching soap. Reservations required and limited, beginning December 15. Call (937) 276-7062. Age: 18Y and up. **7667**

(FREE) GO GLUTEN FREE

THU, JAN 19, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

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

This class was so popular last spring that it has a sequel. Chef Joe Fish will continue sharing information about eating minimally processed gluten-free foods. This class is a must for those with allergies, or with other food restrictions. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information or to register, or register online. **7642**

(FREE) ALL IN JUST ONE COOKIE

SAT, JAN 21, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

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

Help bring to life the book *All in Just One Cookie* by Susan E. Goodman. From the book, we learn about the origins of the ingredients used to make cookies. Then you will collect your own ingredients to "take and bake" cookies at home, but before you go, there will be cookies to taste and other activities. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 276-7062. Age: 3Y and up. **7656**

(FREE) SUPER BOWL FOOD IDEAS

FRI, JAN 27, 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM

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

Having a Super Bowl party? Carol from Annies will help you decide what to offer your guests from snacks and hors d'oeuvres to a main dish. She'll share lots of creative and tasty recipes. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 228-2088 to register or register online. **7714** 🍷

(FREE) HOBBY MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION**SAT, JAN 28, 12:30 PM- 4:00 PM**

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

Learn tree selection, equipment, tapping, harvesting, storage, and finishing techniques for the hobby producer. Indoor lecture and lab will include making your own taps followed by a walk, weather permitting, to locate suitable trees to tap. Practice your skills during daily sap harvest throughout February and assist with the Maple Syrup Time program, when we will be demonstrating and producing maple syrup. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. Age: 16Y and up. **7658**

(FREE) OHIO WINES**THU, FEB 9, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM**

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

Brian from The Wine Gallery will take you on a journey through Ohio and point out what fine wines are produced right here in our state and what wine to serve to your dinner guests. Of course, there will be sampling along with it. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 228-2088, for more information or to register, or register online. Age: 21Y and up. **7643**

(FREE) MAPLE SYRUP TIME**SAT, FEB 25, 10:00 AM- 3:30 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Sugar Maple Shelter/Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

It's sugaring time in Ohio. Help collect sap from our maple trees and watch as the fire boils the sap into maple syrup! Demonstrations, review of tree selection, tapping, and harvesting techniques will be discussed. Follow signs to Sugar Maple Shelter. Call (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 5Y and up. **7660**

NATURE**(FREE) BACKPACKING BABIES:**

Backpacking Babies programs are just for parents and their babies, where they can 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 carrier is required for this program, as trails are not stroller friendly. Weather permitting: Call (937) 277-4178 for details. No registration required. Age: 1M - 2Y.

WINTER BEGINNINGS**THU, DEC 1, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

Treat your baby to some fresh air as we travel through the park searching for signs of winter. **7548**

FROSTY ADVENTURES**THU, JAN 5, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

During the colonial days before gas furnaces, babies endured the chilly temperatures just as their traveling parents did. Join other parents and their babies as we stroll through the park and see what's happening in winter. **7549**

SOUNDS OF NATURE**THU, FEB 2, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

Enjoy a hike through the various habitats of Sugarcreek while serenading your baby with nature sounds. In addition to the natural sounds heard, naturalists will also play owl and coyote sounds to get your baby actively listening to nature. **7547**

(FREE) TIKE HIKE PROGRAMS:

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

PRAIRIE PLAY**FRI, DEC 2, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

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

The time is right for prairie exploration without the ticks and chiggers! Spend the morning playing some fun prairie games. **7533**

METROPARKS' LARGEST MAMMAL**THU, DEC 8, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

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

You've probably seen them in the park or in your backyard, but come learn more about Metroparks' largest mammal, the white-tail deer! **7534**

WINTER MYSTERIES**TUE, DEC 13, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM** 7527

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

FRI, JAN 20, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM 7537

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

Bundle your little one up for a winter

adventure through the park, where we will search for nature's mysteries of survival during this quiet season.

MIGRATION AND HIBERNATION**MON, DEC 19, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

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

How do wild animals deal with the changes in nature during the winter months? We will talk about who stays, who leaves, and who sleeps while looking for evidence of who stayed around the park. **7528**

HIBERNATING INSECTS**MON, JAN 9, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM** 7536

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

TUE, FEB 7, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM 7539

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

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

ANIMAL TRACKING**TUE, JAN 24, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM** 7538

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

FRI, FEB 24, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM 7531

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

Bring your preschooler out for a fun-filled animal tracking experience! We will explore the science and technique behind animal tracks, as well as examine molds, scat replicas, and mammal furs, and look for tracks in the wild.

METROPARKS' MYTHBUSTERS**THU, JAN 26, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

Does a tick really bury its head in our skin? Are daddy-long-legs really poisonous enough to kill a horse? Can birds really tell if I've touched their eggs? Come discover the answers to these questions as a naturalist dispels the most common nature myths of our area. **7535**

GROUNDHOGS GALORE!**THU, FEB 2, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Celebrate Groundhog Day with a naturalist, searching for groundhog holes to see for yourself if there will be 6 more weeks of winter! **7530**



WINTER BIRDS**MON, FEB 13, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

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

Search for birds that stay in Ohio for winter and those that call Ohio their tropical paradise. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. **7540**

(FREE) ANIMAL HOMES**SAT, DEC 3, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM**

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

Who built that nest? Who's in that hole? Find out different ways animals build their homes and discover the variety of nature's architecture. No reservation required. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN. 7581**

(FREE) FAMILY ADVENTURE**SERIES: WINTER IN THE WOODS****SATURDAYS 1:00-3:00 PM, DEC 3-FEB 25****SUNDAYS, 1:00- 3:00 PM, DEC 4-FEB 26**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

Join us at the Germantown MetroPark Nature Center between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM Saturdays and Sundays in December, January, and February for an interactive scavenger hunt! Complete the required number of tasks on the scavenger hunt list and win a prize. No reservations required. The Nature Center will be closed Dec. 24-25, and Dec. 30-Jan. 1. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 7494**

(FREE) PRAIRIE EXPLORATION**SAT, DEC 3, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

Besides the absence of insects, discover why prairies are one of the best places to play in winter. No reservation required. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 7622**

(FREE) NATURE AT NIGHT**CELEBRATION****SAT, DEC 3, 7:00 PM- 9:30 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

Join us at the Nature Center to celebrate our nocturnal wildlife at this special after-hours event! Grab hot chocolate and participate in various activities, including stargazing with the Miami Valley Astronomical Society, natural history presentations, campfire stories, and night hikes! Bring flashlights if you desire. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN**

7495**(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 details. Age 16 & up.

TUE, DEC 6, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7453

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

TUE, DEC 20, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7458

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

TUE, JAN 3, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7455

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

TUE, JAN 17, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7457

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

TUE, FEB 7, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7454

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

TUE, FEB 21, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7456

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

(FREE) ADULT NATURE WALK

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

THU, DEC 8, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7438

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

TUE, DEC 13, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7441

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

TUE, DEC 27, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7443

EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

TUE, JAN 10, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7434

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

THU, JAN 12, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7433

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

TUE, JAN 24, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7444

EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

THU, FEB 9, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7439

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

TUE, FEB 14, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7440

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

TUE, FEB 28, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 7442

EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

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 **metroparks.org/passport**.

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

Micah Arbogast
Brittany Blackwell
Daniel Blackwell
Joseph Blackwell
Sean Blackwell
Marlee Caldwell
Chloe Fitch
Parker Kardeen
Joseph Roesser
Enrique Ruiz
Tommy Ruiz
Owen Smith
Cheyen Sundell-Turner
William Taylor
Wesley Taylor
Chloe Williams
Phoebe Williams

SECOND PASSPORT

Vail Farst
Jeremy Hamill
Haileigh Kemp
Cade Roberts
Zane Roberts
Ella Smith

THIRD PASSPORT

Annika Paton
Bridget Paton
Warren Taylor

(FREE) GINGERBREAD MAN**TUE, DEC 11, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Today we'll read *Gingerbread Man*. After the story we will discover new things about ginger and make a special decoration to take home. There will be several hands-on stations to explore. Reservation requested; call (937) 434-9005. Age: 1M - 6Y. **7509**

(FREE) AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**WED, DEC 14, 8:00 AM- 1:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, TVT Overnight Parking Lot, 6206 Boomershire Road Visit a MetroParks' Conservation Area and hike cross-country through a rugged landscape to participate in the Preble County Plus Audubon Christmas Bird Count. There is a \$5 fee for those wanting their name in the official Audubon report. Unofficial counters and youth under age 18 may participate for free. Bring binoculars. Beginners welcome. Weather permitting. Registration required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. **7506** 📞

(FREE) OWL MOON**SAT, JAN 7, 6:00 PM- 7:30 PM**

TWIN CREEK METROPARK, Camp Hook Gardner Lodge, 8539 Morningstar Rd. Share in a classic children's story, *Owl Moon*, before taking a night walk to look for owls. Perfect for families with 7-11 year olds. Meet at Twin Creek MetroPark Lodge, 8539 Morningstar Rd. Weather permitting. Registration required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. **7513**

(FREE) YOUTH NATURALISTS CLUB
TUE, JAN 10 - TUE, FEB 14, 4:00 PM- 5:30 PM

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, South Picnic Area, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Kids ages 8 to 12 meet each Tuesday for six weeks to explore the outdoors and keep journals. We'll practice animal and plant identification, learn primitive camping skills, and discuss the natural history of the Miami Valley. Each session will introduce a new topic and involve plenty of physical activity as we navigate the woodland trails, river corridor, prairie, and gardens at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. Registration required. Call (937) 277-6545 for additional information. Age: 8Y - 12Y. **7659** 📞

(FREE) COX ARBORETUM PARENT & PRESCHOOLER PROGRAMS:

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

POOH SCIENCE**THU, JAN 12, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Join us as we look for woozles and help find the North Pole for Christopher Robin. There will even be some of Winnie the Pooh's favorite snack—honey. **7488**

TOUCH SOME TREES**THU, FEB 9, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Discover trees by using your sense of touch. Feel the needles of an evergreen or touch sticky sap. Explore the differences between trees in winter and summer. Plenty of hands-on activities will be at each station. **7489**

(FREE) EDUCATION KITS ON PARADE**SAT, JAN 14, 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM**

PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Stop by to see the wonderful education kits that teachers and other educators may use by reservation. Topics such as mammals, fossils, birds, forests, and insects are easy to explore with our kits. For more details, call (937) 277-4178. **7508**

(FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER: WINTER FUN**SAT, JAN 14, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd. Parents (with a special welcome for dads) and their preschoolers can explore the winter world that is getting ready for spring, such as buckeye buds. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. **PTN 7487** 📞

(FREE) FAMILY BIRD SEARCH**SAT, JAN 14, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd. Enjoy the sights and sounds of Ohio's winter birds on this walk for the whole family. Bring

binoculars if you have them. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-4178 Monday through Friday for more details. **PTN 7459**

(FREE) EUREKA LAB! THREE FRIENDS OF WINTER**SAT, JAN 21, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk. Discover more about pine, bamboo, and plum, called the "Three Friends of Winter" in Asian culture. Uncover the meaning behind these plants and enjoy hands-on activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult and can drop in between 1 and 2:30 PM. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 6Y - 12Y. **7484**

(FREE) STROLLER STUDIES:

Stroller Studies is the indoor version of the popular Stroller Strut. Caregivers and children ages 0-3 years will enjoy nature-inspired play as well as a theme-based activity. Children and caregivers discover more about plants and nature. Reservations required. Call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 1M - 3Y. 📞

WIGGLE LITTLE WORM**TUE, JAN 24, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Join us today as we discover something new about worms. We will also have time to get some of our own wiggles out. **7491**

WHAT'S WILD**TUE, FEB 21, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Discover the difference between animals that are wild and animals that are tame. Make your own special animal to take home. **7492**

(FREE) CAFE SCI**THU, JAN 26, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM** **7470****THU, FEB 23, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM** **7471**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Join us for this month's cafe and discover science in a relaxed atmosphere with friends and neighbors from the Miami Valley. Increase your science savvy and share your opinion in our open discussion following the topic introduction. Light refreshments provided. Call (937) 275-5059 for topic details. Age: 14Y and up. 📞



(FREE) WINTER FAMILY FUN**SAT, JAN 28, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM**

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

Winter is a great time to get outside and play. Bundle up and come learn some cool ways to explore nature in the winter. Use your keen eyesight to spot animal tracks, nests, and maybe even a den, then play some cool games in a special place. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. **PTN 7570** 📞

(FREE) WINTER TREE ID WORKSHOP**SAT, JAN 28, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7708****SUN, JAN 29, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7711**

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

Learn how to identify more than 30 native trees by their twig, bark and other winter characteristics. Discover pioneer, wildlife and commercial uses for each tree while sharing stories of folklore. Each participant will receive a winter tree identification notebook, with everything needed to get started identifying trees. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. 📞

(FREE) LAGOON EXPLORATION**SAT, JAN 28, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Eastwood Lagoon, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Join a naturalist for a leisurely walk around the lagoons to look for signs of wildlife. No reservation required. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 7577**

(FREE) BIRDING WORKSHOP: OWLS**SAT, JAN 28, 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Explore Ohio's eight owls with a relaxing one-hour presentation of their courtship rituals, feeding behaviors, identification characteristics, songs, and interactions with people. Then, take a slow-paced night hike into the forest in search of owls. Each participant will get an Ohio Department of Natural Resources field guide to Ohio owls and a CD of their sounds. Meet at the Nature Center. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. **7709** 📞

(FREE) BUTTERFLY MONITORING WRAP-UP**MON, JAN 30, 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Local organizations involved in long-term butterfly monitoring will share their summer 2011 monitoring results. Find out about butterfly species and population numbers in the Miami Valley. For more information, call (937) 434-9005. Age: 14Y and up. **7707** 📞

(FREE) FORESTS DON'T SLEEP IN WINTER**SAT, FEB 4, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

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

Even though it's cold outside and some animals are hibernating, the forest is still very much alive and ready for exploration! Come walk through the forest and see how lively winter can be! No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 7522**

(FREE) GROUNDHOG APPRECIATION**SAT, FEB 4, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Let's celebrate these underground dwellers and search for them to see for ourselves if we have six more weeks of winter! No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 7524**

(FREE) FAMILY BIRD SEARCH**SAT, FEB 11, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM**

HUFFMAN METROPARK, Huffman North Park, 4095 Lower Valley Pk

Now that all the leaves have fallen, birds are easier to find! Join us as we talk about birds and go on a short stroll to find them. No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 7624**

(FREE) WINTER FOREST GEMS**SAT, FEB 11, 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM**

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

Winter is definitely here, and now is a great time to explore a forest. Come out on a forest walk and see what cool winter forest gems you can find. No reservations required. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 7693** 📞

(FREE) VOLUNTEER:**CONSERVATION EXPO****TUE, FEB 21, 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM**

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

What are the elements of conservation? How do Five Rivers MetroParks' land stewardship plans protect our native habitats? How can individuals help? Find out the answers to these questions; meet some of the experts, and more at the Conservation Expo. We invite new and interested volunteers to discover how their contributions can "leaf" a legacy for the future. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome; call (937) 275-PARK (7275). **7691**

(FREE) NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE SUMMIT**SAT, FEB 25, 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM**

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

Our children are in danger from lack of contact with the outdoors, as documented in Richard Lowy's Book, *Last Child in the Woods*. Local agencies and individuals have formed the Miami Valley No Child Left Inside Coalition and invite children's advocates to join in our first summit, review our best practices, and learn how you can join our efforts or work independently within our structure. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. **7496** 📞

RECREATION BACKPACKING**BACKCOUNTRY FAST AND LIGHT COOKING****WED, DEC 7, 6:30 PM- 9:00 PM**

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

Do you have the ultra-light backpacking bug? Are you looking for ways to cook nutritious and light-weight meals while in the backcountry? This course will introduce you to hands-on techniques, such as using a pot cozy, and reviewing some of the newest and most innovative ultra-light cooking equipment on the market. Bring your spork or spoon. Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$10 **7582** 📞



HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT! SERIES EVOLVES!

We asked you what you love about the *Hike for the Health of It!* program and what you'd like to change. Thanks to your input, Five Rivers MetroParks is proud to present the evolution of the health hiking series, designed to help more people "Get Out & Live!" on the trails!

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS HEALTH HIKE SERIES

Introducing the new Health Hike series! Each month, Five Rivers MetroParks and our community partners offer options for hikes that will let hikers customize their experience. Whether you're hiking to discover a new trail, enjoy a group hike to meet new friends, or just want to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle, the Health Hike series has an option for you. Choose from three categories:

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. Dress for the weather and bring water. Drop in any time between 2-4 PM.

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 locations. For information about Dayton Hiker activities, visit www.DaytonHikers.org.

VIRTUAL HEALTH HIKE OF THE WEEK

COMING IN 2012: Each week, you can experience a new trail adventure at your convenience. Download the hike of the week from the website or call (937) 277-4374. Grab a map, hike at your own pace and get ready for next week's health hike, announced every Monday.

FUNDAMENTALS OF LIGHTWEIGHT BACKPACKING

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

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Looking to lighten your load so you can backpack more easily, hike longer, or get more miles in? Then join us for this evening classroom-based program as we explore a variety of ways to reduce our backpacking load. Registration is required and limited, so please call for reservations at (937) 277-4374 or register online. Fees: \$5 **7583** ♡

FUNDAMENTALS OF ALCOHOL STOVES

THU, JAN 26, 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM

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

Are you interested in exploring more of the ultralight backpacking evolution? Have you tried an alcohol stove? This evening program is an introduction to alcohol stove building and use, taught by a local thru-hiking expert. Included are instructions on how to build alcohol stoves, stove demos, and tips on use. Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$5 **7587** ♡

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—there is something for everyone each week. Please dress for the weather and bring water. Online registration, walk-ins welcome. For questions, call (937) 277-4374 weekdays. ♡

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 locations. Dress for the weather and bring water. Hikes vary in mileage and difficulty, ranging from 3 to 5 miles. For information about other Dayton Hiker activities, visit www.DaytonHikers.org.

SAT, JAN 7, 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM 7715

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, White Oak Shelter/Parking, 2606 Hilton Dr.

SAT, FEB 4, 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM 7716

TWIN CREEK METROPARK, High View Shelter Parking Lot, 9688 Eby Road

TRY HIKING @...

This series of monthly programs will introduce hikers to a new trail experience at a different MetroPark. Volunteers will be stationed at the trailhead providing park information, orientation to the map and facility, and inviting you to explore a new trail on your own. Dress for the weather and bring water. Drop in any time between 2-4 PM.

SAT, JAN 21, 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM 7717

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

SAT, FEB 18, 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM 7718

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot - 4178 Conference Rd.

(FREE) ENGLEWOOD HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

SUN, DEC 4, 1:30 PM- 4:00 PM

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

Enjoy a 5-mile, 2 1/2-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered difficult, and is very hilly in spots. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for more information. **7701**

(FREE) TAYLORSVILLE HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

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

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

Enjoy a 5-mile, 2-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered moderate with some hills. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for more information. **7702**

(FREE) HUFFMAN HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

SUN, JAN 29, 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM

HUFFMAN METROPARK, Lower Parking Lot, 4095 Lower Valley Pike

Enjoy a 4- to 5-mile, 2-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered easy with no hills. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for more information. **7703**

(FREE) CARRIAGE HILL HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

SUN, FEB 5, 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM

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

Enjoy a 5-mile, 2-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered easy with no hills. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for more information. **7705**



(FREE) SECOND ENGLEWOOD HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

SUN, FEB 19, 1:30 PM- 4:00 PM

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

Enjoy a 5-mile, 2 1/2-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered difficult, and is very hilly in spots. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for details. **7706**


MOUNTAIN BIKING

RAY'S MOUNTAIN BIKE TRIP

SAT, DEC 3, 7:00 AM- 9:00 PM 7551

SAT, JAN 28, 7:00 AM- 9:00 PM 7550

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Equipment Room, 224 N St Clair St.

Travel with us to Cleveland as we spend the day riding at Ray's Indoor MTB. Trip requires a risk-and-release form and helmets. Come work on your skills while progressing to harder riding areas. No hybrid or road bikes allowed. Please pack a lunch and bring money for dinner on the way home. For more information and to register, please call (937) 277-4374 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$30 

PADDLING


(FREE) YOUTH TRY KAYAKING

FRI, JAN 6, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM 7619

FRI, JAN 27, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM 7620

FRI, MAR 2, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM 7621

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. 

SKATING

STAR-LATE SKATES

FRI, DEC 2, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7590

SAT, DEC 3, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7591

FRI, DEC 9, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7592

SAT, DEC 10, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7593

FRI, DEC 16, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7594

SAT, DEC 17, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7595

FRI, DEC 23, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7596

FRI, DEC 30, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7597

SAT, JAN 7, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7598

SAT, JAN 14, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7599

SAT, JAN 21, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7600

SAT, JAN 28, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7601

SAT, FEB 4, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7602

SAT, FEB 11, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7603

SAT, FEB 18, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7604

SAT, FEB 25, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7605

SAT, MAR 3, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7606

SAT, MAR 10, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM 7607

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

What better way to spend a Friday or Saturday night than by skating near the river, under a beautifully lit canopy? Enjoy your evening drinking hot chocolate, warming up by our outdoor fireplaces, and taking in the sights and sounds of downtown! Bring family, friends or just yourself to skate MetroParks Ice Rink. Admission is \$5 and includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5

FUNDAMENTALS OF SKATING

SUN, DEC 4, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7668

SUN, DEC 11, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7669

SUN, DEC 18, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7670

SUN, JAN 8, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7671

SUN, JAN 15, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7672

SUN, JAN 22, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7673

SUN, JAN 29, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7674

SUN, FEB 5, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7675

SUN, FEB 12, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7676

SUN, FEB 19, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7677

SUN, FEB 26, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7678

SUN, MAR 4, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7679

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

Drop in for one lesson or attend each week. One-hour lessons are taught by a seasoned professional. You or your child will learn the correct way to fall, skate forward, stop forward, skate backwards, and glide on two feet. The \$5 lesson includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Weather permitting. Fees: \$5

SKATE WITH PARKER!

SUN, DEC 4, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7684

SUN, DEC 18, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7685

SUN, JAN 8, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7686

SUN, JAN 22, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7687

SUN, FEB 5, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7688

SUN, FEB 19, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7689

SUN, MAR 4, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 7690

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

Bring the kids, grab your camera, and spend the afternoon skating with MetroParks



**FRIDAY, FEB 10
SATURDAY, FEB 11**

**WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY**

This weekend is filled with ways for visitors to "Get Out & Live!"

Listen to inspiring speakers. This year's featured presenter is mountain biking advocate Gary

Fisher. You can also try recreational activities such as kayaking or climbing and watch exciting competitions.

Whether you're a hard-core enthusiast or "arm-chair adventurer," The Adventure Summit has something for you!

For more information, call
(937) 277-4374 or visit

metroparks.org/AdventureSummit

METROPARKS ICE RINK SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Enjoy special open hours during most schools' winter break, Monday, December 19 through Friday, December 30.

\$3 skate rentals Monday-Thursday
\$5 admission & skate rentals Friday

Monday:	11 AM - 8 PM
Tuesday:	11 AM - 8 PM
Wednesday:	11 AM - 8 PM
Thursday:	11 AM - 5 PM
Friday:	11 AM - 10 PM

Special holiday hours on Saturday and Sunday (see right).

metroparks.org/IceRink



Photo © Leah Stahl

Ice Rink's mascot, Parker the Penguin! Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5

CHRISTMAS EVE SKATE

SAT, DEC 24, 11:00 AM- 5:00 PM

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

Continue or start a holiday tradition by skating with your friends and family at RiverScape MetroPark. Enjoy splendid scenery, warm fireplaces, and hot chocolate. Admission is \$5 and includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for details. Fees: \$5 **7609**

CHRISTMAS DAY SKATE

SUN, DEC 25, 1:00 PM- 8:00 PM

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

Have an old-fashioned family Christmas and skate on Christmas day! Sip hot chocolate by the fireplace and admire the festive lighting display. Admission is \$5 and includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5 **7608**

NEW YEAR'S EVE SKATE

SAT, DEC 31, 11:00 AM-10:00 PM

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

Skate into the new year with MetroParks! Listen to fun family music, get your picture taken by a photographer, and wear party favors, all while skating! Admission is \$5 and includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5 **7616**

NEW YEAR'S DAY SKATE

SUN, JAN 1, 1:00 PM- 8:00 PM

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

Start your New Year off right on the MetroParks Ice Rink and be the first to skate in 2012! Admission is \$5 and includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5 **7615**

OUTDOOR BROOMBALL

MON, JAN 2 - WED, FEB 22, 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

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

Looking for a fun recreational activity this winter? Sign up for the Dayton Broomball Association's co-ed league at MetroParks Ice Rink on Monday and Wednesday nights! Broomball is a team sport played on ice

where players wear shoes instead of skates and use broom-shaped sticks to pass and score goals. Both a competitive and recreational league will be offered. Visit www.daytonbroomball.org/riverscape to register your team. Will take first 18 teams. Call (937) 274-0126 for more information. Age: 18Y and up. Fees: \$200 **7617**

'80s NIGHT

FRI, JAN 6, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM

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

Skate back in time to the sounds of the '80s at MetroParks Ice Rink. A DJ from Action Music will be spinning beats live with music from Madonna, Queen, Blondie, Duran Duran, and more. Grab your leg warmers and your neon parachute pants to skate through the eighties! Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5 **7644**

ICE PRINCESSES

TUE, JAN 10, 2:30 PM- 3:00 PM **7611**

TUE, JAN 10, 6:00 PM- 6:30 PM **7612**

TUE, FEB 7, 6:00 PM- 6:30 PM **7613**

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

Calling all princesses! This princess-in-training course will include basic skating instruction and fun, with a "Princess Tea Time" (hot cocoa off-ice) at 6:30 PM. Costumes over warm clothes are optional. Fee of \$5 includes use of ice skates. Minimum 4 participants required. Reservations required and limited. Call (937) 278-2607. Weather permitting. Age: 2Y - 7Y. Fees: \$5

HIP HOP AND R&B SKATE

FRI, JAN 13, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM

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

Groove around the rink to hip hop and R&B hits! A DJ from Action Music will be on hand as you skate the night away! Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5 **7645**

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY SKATE

MON, JAN 16, 11:00 AM- 5:00 PM

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

Special holiday hours! Admission is \$5 and includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5 **7614**



ICE PIRATES**TUE, JAN 17, 6:00 PM- 6:30 PM**

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


Ahoy Mateys! This class is for little boys who are not afraid to walk the plank and take a fun-filled, basic introduction to skating course followed by a tasty treat (hot cocoa off-ice). Costumes over warm clothes are optional. Minimum four participants required. Fee of \$5 includes use of ice skates. Reservations required and limited. Call (937) 278-2607. Weather permitting. Age: 2Y - 7Y. Fees: \$5 **7610**

GLEE SKATE**FRI, JAN 20, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM**

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

Are you a "Glee"? Then come skate and sing along to the hit television series soundtracks, played live by a DJ from Action Music. Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5 **7646**

LEARN TO CURL**THU, JAN 26, 5:45 PM- 7:00 PM** 7680**THU, JAN 26, 6:45 PM- 8:00 PM** 7681**THU, FEB 2, 5:45 PM- 7:00 PM** 7682**THU, FEB 2, 6:45 PM- 8:00 PM** 7683
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Come try an Olympic sport this winter! Learn how to throw stones and sweep as Curl Troy takes you through the basics of curling during this hands-on program. There will be 15 minutes of off-ice instruction and 1 hour of on-ice instruction. Curling is accessible to all physical skill levels. Wear comfortable clothes and soft-soled tennis shoes. Registration required and limited. Register online or call (937) 274-0126. Visit www.curltroy.org for more information on curling. Age: 15Y and up. Fees: \$7 

DISCO FEVER**FRI, JAN 27, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM**

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

Take a trip back in time to the days of doing the hustle. You will transform into John Travolta from Saturday Night Fever as you skate at MetroParks Ice Rink. Music provided by a DJ from Action Music. Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for details. Fees: \$5 **7647**

SOCK HOP AT SEVEN**FRI, FEB 3, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM**

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

Practice your hand jive, don your poodle skirt, and come down to MetroParks Ice Rink for Sock Hop at Seven! A DJ from Action Music will be our jukebox for the night, playing classic rock 'n' roll from the '50s and early '60s. Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5 **7648**

MICHAEL JACKSON SKATE**FRI, FEB 10, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM**

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Are you a fan of the King of Pop? Are you ready to moonwalk in a pair of skates? Then come to MetroParks Ice Rink and skate as a DJ from Action Music plays a variety of Michael Jackson's biggest hits. Groove to faves like "Thriller," "Black or White," "I'll Be There," and even hits from The Jackson Five! Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for details. Fees: \$5 **7649**

SWEETHEART SKATE**TUE, FEB 14, 5:30 PM- 8:00 PM**

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

Celebrate Valentine's Day by skating arm-in-arm with your sweetheart! There will be one flower for the first 100 couples provided by PNC 2nd Street Market vendor The Flowerman. This will be a fun and romantic evening the two of you will not forget! Call (937) 278-2607 for details. Fees: \$5 **7654**

TIKI NIGHT AT THE RINK**FRI, FEB 17, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM**

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

We know it's still winter, but you'll be feeling the island vibe at MetroParks Ice Rink! A DJ from Action Music will be bringing the lounge music and turning the rink into an outdoor oasis. Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5 **7650**

PRESIDENT'S DAY SKATE**MON, FEB 20, 11:00 AM- 5:00 PM**

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

Special holiday hours! Admission is \$5 and includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Weather permitting. Fees: \$5 **7618**

SCHOOL PRIDE NIGHT**FRI, FEB 24, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM**

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Be true to your school at MetroParks Ice Rink! Wear your school colors and skate as a DJ from Action Music plays Top 40 hits. Bring your student ID and get half-priced admission. Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5 **7651**

WILD WEST SKATE**FRI, MAR 2, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM**

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

Have a boot scootin' boogie of a time, ice skating to country music at MetroParks Ice Rink! The rink will transform into the Wild West as a DJ from Action Music plays country music of all sorts. Be sure to wear your cowboy hat! Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for more information. Fees: \$5 **7652**

ROCK NIGHT AT THE RINK**FRI, MAR 9, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM**

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

Rock out at MetroParks Ice Rink as a DJ from Action Music plays rock n' roll all night long! Classic rock legends such as The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, and Jimi Hendrix will be on the night's playlist. Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. Call (937) 278-2607 for details. Fees: \$5 **7653**

SPECIAL EVENTS

ALL OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

(FREE) THE ADVENTURE SUMMIT**FRI, FEB 10, 5:00 PM-8:00 PM****SAT, FEB 11, 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM**

OFF SITE, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Dayton

The Adventure Summit is a celebration of the outdoors at Wright State University. The event showcases inspiring presentations focused on outdoor skill, culture and experience. Gary Fisher, who is an icon in the mountain biking industry, will be the 2012 featured outdoor personality. Visitors can get active in a bouldering competition, kayaking sessions and fitness-related fun. Visit metroparks.org/AdventureSummit for more information. **7720**

ENTERTAINMENT

(FREE) MUSIC AT THE MARKET

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

Enjoy live entertainment on Saturdays at the PNC 2nd Street Market. Let local musicians, featuring a variety of genres, add to your shopping experience. During February, in lieu of tips, the musicians have agreed to accept non-perishable food items from the Market to be donated to The Foodbank. For more information call (937) 228-2088.

DANNY VORIS (INSTRUMENTAL GUITAR)

SAT, DEC 3, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7558

TIM JENNENS (LITE JAZZ)

SAT, DEC 10, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7559

AMANDA ROBERTS (DULCIMER)

SAT, DEC 17, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7560

HARMONY (INSTRUMENTAL STRINGS)

SAT, DEC 24, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7561

SHELLY SINCLAIR (VOCAL/GUITAR)

SAT, DEC 31, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7562

PUZZLE OF LIGHT (NEW AGE JAZZ)

SAT, JAN 7, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7563

DAN RIVERS (VOCAL/GUITAR)

SAT, JAN 14, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7564

RUM RIVER BLEND (BLUEGRASS/FOLK)

SAT, JAN 21, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7565

JOE AND JACK WATERS (BLUES)

SAT, JAN 28, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7566

DECEPTIVE PLAY (1960S TO NOW)

SAT, FEB 4, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7567

TIM JENNENS (LIGHT JAZZ)

SAT, FEB 11, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7568

LUDLOW (FOLK/BLEGRASS)

SAT, FEB 18, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7569

(FREE) SANTA VISITS THE MARKET

THU, DEC 15, 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7465

FRI, DEC 16, 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7466

SAT, DEC 17, 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM 7467

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

Bring your cameras and snap a photo of Santa with your friends and family. It won't be too late for Santa to hear what's on your wish list—including Market goodies! He'll have a treat for everyone who stops by to see him. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information.

(FREE) SOUP-ER BOWL SAMPLES

THU, JAN 12, 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM 7462

FRI, JAN 13, 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM 7463

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

What better way to take the chill off a cold winter day than sampling hot soup. When the Market referee blows the whistle, customers are invited to taste any of the over ten varieties of soups the vendors offer. Once you sample, you will want to stay and enjoy your favorite. No registration required. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information.

(FREE) WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

SAT, JAN 14, 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

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

Families, come and enjoy a fun-filled day at the 2nd Street Market! Learn to square dance with the Gem City Square Dance Club, create an art project, and listen to musical entertainment geared to all ages. Call (937) 228-2088 for details. 7468

(FREE) VALENTINE'S CELEBRATION

SAT, FEB 11, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM

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

It's the weekend before Valentine's Day, and the Market has the perfect gift for your sweetheart—choose from flowers, elaborately decorated desserts, jewelry, wine, and so much more! We will be celebrating with light jazz music. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. 7469

(FREE) BLACK HISTORY DAY AT THE MARKET

SAT, FEB 25, 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM

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

You are invited to the 6th Annual Black History Day at the Market. Join us for a cultural celebration featuring great old-school and Gospel music, as well as dance. Visitors will enjoy the Dianne Coble Ensemble, DC Men of God, the Mt. Calvary Male Chorus, and more! Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. 7461

FITNESS & HEALTH

(FREE) CHRISTMAS WALK

SAT, DEC 3, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

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

This outdoor community opportunity is provided by Ohio Wander Freunde Volkspart. There will be two 5K loop routes, one in downtown Dayton and the other in the St. Anne's Hill neighborhood. Meet at



THE RIDING CENTER AT CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK

Gift certificates for trail rides, pony rides or equestrian camps and lessons make the perfect holiday present for the horse lover on your list!

For more information, call
(937) 274-3120 or visit

metroparks.org/RidingCenter



the Market and start between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM and finish by 3:00 PM. For more information, contact Mikki White at (937) 890-0416 or mikkiw17@sbcglobal.net. 7464

HOME & HOBBIES

(FREE) ORCHID SHOW

SAT, FEB 18, 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM

SUN, FEB 19, 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Hundreds of orchids will be on display, as well as orchids and other items for purchase. Informal orchid talks and repotting classes will be held throughout the weekend. This event is sponsored by the Miami Valley Orchid Society. Call (937) 434-9005 for more information. Age: 18Y and up. 7712

MEET YOU AT THE MARKET

The PNC 2nd Street Market is open year-round!

Get fresh produce, farm-raised meats, artisan breads, dry goods and spices, specialty cheeses, a wide variety of wines and everything you need to keep your dinner table local, unique and fun all year long. The Market is open from 11 AM to 3 PM Thursdays and Fridays and 8 AM to 3 PM Saturdays, so even though it's cold outside, we'll keep your "locavore" fires stoked at the Market!



HOLIDAY SPECIALS

Make the Market your holiday destination. Special dates include:

- 🌿 **Stock-Up Wednesday**, Nov. 23, 11 AM - 3 PM
- 🌿 **Wreath Making**, Dec. 1-2, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- 🌿 **Santa Visits the Market**, Dec. 15-17, 11 AM - 1 PM

The Market will be open for your shopping convenience 11 AM to 3 PM Dec. 22 and 23; 8 AM to 3 PM Dec. 24; 11 AM to 3 PM Dec. 29 and 30; and 8 AM to 3 PM Dec. 31.

Visit metroparks.org/LocalFood to meet the vendors and find out about cooking demos and other programs. Place your holiday orders with your favorite vendor and ease into the holidays!



|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

- * Electrical motors under 42lbs. thrust permitted
- ▲ Hand-powered boats on Argonne Lake only. No vehicle access.
- Wheelchair accessible (certain trails).
- * Weddings only.
- Seasonal - winter.



Five Rivers MetroPark.

