

PARKWAYS



HIDDEN NATURE 2013

Scan this QR code to get the latest anniversary details.

“Plant it Forward.” Original artwork by Amy Kollar Anderson.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS | Take a “nature hike” down memory lane



REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE

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



March 2

**MIAMI VALLEY
GARDENING
CONFERENCE**

Sinclair Community College



March 11

**NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC LIVE:
ANNIE GRIFFITHS**

Victoria Theatre



March 16

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
AT THE MARKET**

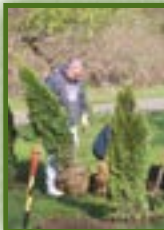
PNC 2nd Street Market



April 12-13

**TREE SEEDLING
GIVE-AWAY**

PNC 2nd Street Market



April 20

ADOPT-A-PARK

Various Locations



April 22

**NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC LIVE:
PAUL SERENO**

Victoria Theatre



April 27

**WILDFLOWER AND
NATIVE PLANT SALE**

Cox Arboretum MetroPark



May 4-5

MAYFAIR PLANT SALE

Wegerzyn Gardens
MetroPark



May 10

URBAN NIGHTS

RiverScape MetroPark

Photo by Leah Stahl



May 17

**NATIONAL BIKE TO
WORK DAY PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

RiverScape MetroPark

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

METROPARKS.ORG



Becky Benna
Executive Director

Dear MetroParks Friends,

As another season of spring emerges from the cold winter months, I am always in awe of the wondrous reawakening of the forests and green spaces throughout our area. As the chill of the winter months fades away, we look to the present and future to continue to find ways to connect ourselves and community to the wonders of nature. What better place to do so than in one of our MetroParks? During 2013, Five Rivers MetroParks will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Our organization's official birth was on April 8, 1963, thanks to the visionary leadership and efforts of volunteers and community leaders who ensured green space and protection of the area's natural heritage could be enjoyed by many generations. As a result of these efforts, the park district has evolved and grown over the past 50 years. This issue of *ParkWays* celebrates and highlights the history of Five Rivers MetroParks.

Also, another milestone that I would like to acknowledge is the 50th anniversary of Cox Arboretum MetroPark. The arboretum came into existence as a result of a group of dedicated local conservationists who convinced James M. Cox, Jr., to donate his farm in the early sixties. To support the arboretum, The James M. Cox, Jr., Arboretum Foundation was formed in 1963 and continues to partner with MetroParks to ensure the legacy of this land.

As I begin my journey into a third year as executive director, I continue to be inspired and energized by the strong sense of community, willingness to work together for the greater good, and innovative thinking for which our area is well-known. I am looking forward to the next 50 years, as we and generations to come make the Miami Valley a wonderful place to call home!

Becky Benna

HOLD ON TO YOUR PARKWAYS!

Starting this summer, there will be only three issues of *ParkWays* published each year. The summer issue will cover June, July, August, September, and October programs. Be sure to hang on to your summer issue, set to debut in early May. Don't forget, you can easily search for programs and things to do in your MetroParks when you log onto metroparks.org. Hit the "Find a Program" button to search for programs by date, activity, or location.

PARKWAYS IS YOUR GUIDE
to all the great activities and programs MetroParks offers every month. Check out the Activity Guide beginning on page 17 and get outside!

facebook



Get the lowdown on activities going on in your MetroParks! Connect with us on Facebook at facebook.com/fiveriversmetroparks. You can also get updates by following us on Twitter: 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 SHELTERED PAST: Have your next get-together at the historical CCC shelter at Taylorsville MetroPark, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936.

#2 GARDEN TOURS: Take a ride on a free tram tour at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. Times and dates vary; visit metroparks.org for details or call (937) 434-9005. Registration requested.



#3 ARGONNE GONE: Can you find traces of the old Argonne Forest Park along the purple or orange trail at Possum Creek MetroPark?

TOP TEN WAYS

to celebrate your MetroParks' 50th anniversary



#4 DAM INTERESTING: Visit the earthen dams at Englewood, Germantown, Huffman, and Taylorsville MetroParks to see some of the earliest parklands.

#8 FUTURE FORESTS: Join Five Rivers MetroParks for "Seedling Saturdays" in March. Visit metroparks.org/forests and plant trees for future generations!



#5 BLAST FROM THE PAST: Drylick Run, now called Carriage Hill MetroPark, was one of the first parks in the district.



Photo by RA Makley



#6 HOPEWELL REMNANTS: Hike the pink trail at Twin Creek MetroPark to see remnants of earthen walls built around 2,000 years ago by the Hopewell Culture.



Photo by Tim Gaffney

#9 SLICE OF CENTRAL PARK: Did you know the Olmstead brothers, famous for designing New York's Central Park, also designed Hills & Dales MetroPark in 1907?



Photo by RA Makley

#7 LIVING HISTORY: Visit Aullwood Garden MetroPark and view the estate of conservation leaders John and Marie Aull, who were instrumental in the park district's formation.



#10 FENCED IN: Two Bellbrook companies sold "living fence" in the late 1800s. See this yourself on the orange trail at Sugarcreek MetroPark and walk through the osage orange tunnel!

METROPARKS VOLUNTEERS: WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

VOLUNTEERING LEAVES LASTING LEGACY WITH FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

Volunteers have always played a leading role in Five Rivers MetroParks. The park district was founded when a small group of volunteers on the Save Open Space Committee wanted to find a solution for protecting green space during a period of heavy urban sprawl. Volunteers have been a critical component of the park district ever since. "There have been times that the only way the park district survived was through the efforts of volunteers," says Volunteer Services Manager Kevin Kepler.

After the park district's founding in 1963, volunteers helped clear existing parklands in 1967 when some of the hiking trails were created and the first educational programs were offered. Monetary and land gifts through the 1960s and '70s helped expand the MetroParks system. Eugene Kettering and Marie Aull, both park district volunteers, made significant cash donations to keep the park district afloat between levies in the '60s. Today park visitors enjoy strolling the grounds of Aullwood Garden MetroPark, thanks to Marie deeding the property to Five Rivers MetroParks. Cox Arboretum became part of the MetroPark system in 1972.

During the mid-1970s, inflation ate deeply into the park district's operations budget. Staff and volunteers stepped up to help fund the park district beyond the levy resources. Grants, fundraisers, and foundations were created to offset the financial differences. Today, the James M. Cox, Jr., Arboretum Foundation, Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation, and Friends of Carriage Hill collect financial and talent resources to support their dedicated parks. Click on the "support" link found on these park web pages to learn more about the foundations and how you can get involved.

Volunteerism expanded district wide in the 1980s, with opportunities in many new areas and facilities. Horticulture, education, and conservation volunteers provided hundreds of hours of support. A decade later, volunteerism significantly expanded again, collaborating between facilities as well as with communities around the



parks. Cleanup days, Eagle Scout projects, and civic volunteers contributed to park amenities. Later in the '90s, volunteer management was formally organized under the human resources department to track individual volunteer contributions as well as meet risk management, insurance, and safety requirements.

Volunteerism doubled in numbers during the early 2000s as new programs were added in outdoor recreation, law enforcement, and conservation. "It was great to see that every time we opened up new paths to volunteering, we got a fantastic response from people who wanted to share their unique talents," Kepler says.

Volunteers are just as important today as they were when the park district was formed. In response to the financial hardships during the recent recession, new volunteer opportunities emerged. "Just as we have done for 50 years, volunteers are our backbone for Five Rivers MetroParks, supporting the need for change and adjustment in order to deliver core services and help maintain quality programming and operations for all park patrons," Kepler says.

VOLUNTEER FAST FACTS

In 2012, there were more than 2,000 long-term MetroParks volunteers working at every Five Rivers MetroParks facility. In addition to these 2,000 permanent volunteers, another 3,000 "episodic" volunteers contributed their time and talents, supporting MetroParks' goals through their companies, civic and faith-based groups, schools, Scouts, and clubs. All totaled, more than 75,000 hours of service were recorded for 2012!

Here are some of the ways you can get involved as a volunteer! Visit metroparks.org/volunteer or call (937) 275-PARK (7275) to get started!

- Conservation and reforestation volunteers (including Forest Foster Families) are needed all year long. Visit metroparks.org/forests to sign up.
- Guides and hosts are needed throughout the district to support staff in educating the public. If you love working with families and teaching kids about nature, these opportunities are for you!
- Love outdoor recreation? Volunteers are needed in ongoing support of the numerous active recreation (biking, paddling, hiking) opportunities.
- Help Five Rivers MetroParks reach more people during our events. Volunteers are needed to support events at RiverScape MetroPark as well as facility-based seasonal programs like the Midwest Outdoor Experience.
- If you're looking for a project for your Scouts, neighborhood, workplace, church, or any other group or organization, call for a list of dates and projects suited to your group.
- Adopt-A-Park, the biggest single day of volunteering, takes place April 20, 2013. Individuals and groups are needed to work at over 25 community locations. Visit metroparks.org/adopt today to register!

50 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

A HALF CENTURY OF PROTECTING MIAMI VALLEY'S NATURAL HERITAGE

When Five Rivers MetroParks first became a park district in 1963, conservation was the driving factor behind its creation. "Urban sprawl and loss of green space was a frequent theme in the '60s," says Conservation Director Dave Nolin. "One of the earliest 'brand identities' of the park district was influenced by a book called *Green Mansions* written in 1904 that became a film in 1959. It had similar themes of conservation and respect for the land as the recently popular movie 'Avatar.'"

During the park district's first 15 years of existence, the land management philosophy was not to manage it—simply add infrastructure for public access. "The philosophy of conservation basically understood that natural areas are places to be exempted from development and protected from harmful influences of human activity forever," Nolin says. "This sounded great, but locally and nationally, it was becoming clear that this philosophy was not realistic." Human settlement in former wild areas created a deeper impact that required proactive involvement.

Assistant Director Dane Mutter, who started with the Montgomery County Park District almost from its inception, realized the no-action land management concept would not sustain the plants, animals, and diverse experiences found in the new park reserves. He wrote the first land-management plan for the agency and former director Don Schmidt successfully acquired the Board of Park Commissioners' endorsement. "The plan called for a survey of natural plant communities/habitats in the parks, in order to designate where different habitats will be established and managed," says Conservation Manager Mary Klunk. "He called this process 'land stewardship.'" At the core of this philosophy is the realization that many natural habitats are dependent on



"disturbances" such as storms, flooding, fire, and animals. "Given that large-scale fires or the return of wolves are not safe or likely events, it calls on humans to act in place of those disturbances," Klunk says.

Land stewardship plans would allow for a variety of natural habitats for the public to enjoy, too. Without proper stewardship, the parklands could go the way of many older park districts and be composed mainly of tall trees and mowed grass. This type of developed land is not attractive to wildlife. "Interactions with native wildlife are what make a visit to a Five Rivers MetroParks facility so special," Nolin says.

Nolin was hired in 1985 as the park district's first land stewardship specialist to create and oversee the plans. Today, this practice continues, and the conservation team has grown to about a dozen staff. "We work with the park managers to balance public enjoyment and comfort with needs of healthy habitat and wildlife," says wildlife biologist Mike Enright.

In 1995, the park district's scope and size increased significantly. Former director Marvin Olinsky and the board proposed connecting the parks together by managing the region's rivers system, as well as several existing urban

ONLINE EXTRA

Visit **METROPARKS.ORG** and click on the "conservation" link on the right-hand side to learn more about Five Rivers MetroParks conservation efforts, including land stewardship and wildlife management.

CONSERVATION

parks along the rivers. A new levy to fund these bold new initiatives was passed in 1994. These additions and other new land purchases increased the size of the park district to over 10,000 acres. "Each new piece of land needed a plan to manage it, and additional labor was necessary to carry out the plan," Nolin says. Klunk was added in 1997 as the conservation team's second land stewardship employee.

By the year 2000, it was becoming clear that the natural areas of what were now branded as Five Rivers MetroParks were being increasingly damaged by a quickly growing population of white-tailed deer. "Dominance of any single species in an ecosystem is bad news," Nolin explains. "The food supply gets thrown off, which threatens other species that live on that food supply, plus the future existence of that food supply. When old trees in the forest die, and there are no young trees to replace them because we allowed deer to consume everything, there will be no more forest."

The park district also had problems with its many lakes and ponds because of algae blooms and declining fishing opportunities. Enright was hired in 2002 as a full-time wildlife biologist to deal with these issues, and by 2008, deer populations had been reduced to a sustainable level in the parks, and lakes and ponds had a management plan. Now the region's native habitat could thrive naturally.

Through the 2000s, land acquisition of natural areas continued at a quick pace with help from state and federal grant funding. Because Five Rivers MetroParks' funds and staff were limited, there wasn't an opportunity to turn them into MetroParks, so a new category of parkland was created. These "conservation areas" range from 2 to

1,000 acres in size and contain little in the way of public facilities, but they are open to the public and managed by the conservation team. "We needed to keep up with the growing inventory of natural areas needing attention as well as the increasing problem of invasive species," Nolin says. "Today, our team has grown to 13 full- and part-time employees." Even with this level of staffing, managing nearly 15,500 acres of protected lands requires an agency-wide commitment.

By 2010, the acreage of protected lands reached unprecedented levels. Native habitat was being restored and wildlife species thought to be gone from the area were returning. Former director Charlie Shoemaker proposed a resolution mandating that Five Rivers MetroParks maintains an industry-leading minimum of 90% of its lands as designated natural areas. "This outstanding commitment to conservation has verified once again the park district and the region's support for the protection and stewardship of natural areas for the enjoyment of the citizens of the Miami Valley," Nolin says. With this new precedent set, it had become apparent that long-term appreciation and protection of the agency's natural areas, processes and wildlife needed more than the paid staff. "When we brought on full-time Volunteer Coordinator Yvonne Dunphe, we were able to recruit hundreds of dedicated volunteers!" Nolin says. "These outstanding folks have made many conservation projects possible, including a new, large-scale reforestation effort, an expanded invasive species control effort, and many other vital projects. It has also greatly added to the overall awareness in the community of the responsibilities and joys of managing our treasured natural areas." 🍃

If you want to get involved with protecting the Miami Valley's natural areas through conservation volunteer opportunities, check out these upcoming events:

SEEDLING SATURDAYS

Sat. Mar 9, 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redbud Campsite, 8775 Bellefontaine Rd.

Sat. Mar 16, 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor's Center, 7800 E. Shull Rd.

Sat. Mar 23, 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor's Center, 7800 E. Shull Rd.

Sat. Apr 13, 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
MEDLAR CONSERVATION AREA, Rice Farm House, 4528 Medlar Rd.

Join our reforestation efforts and help us plant tree seedlings! Five Rivers MetroParks and our volunteers grew these seedlings in 2011, and they are ready to find their places in our forests. Your help is needed! We will be planting over 12,000 new tree seedlings this March in locations throughout MetroParks. Registration required. Contact (937) 275-7275 for details or visit metroparks.org/forests.

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Thu. Mar 14, 6:30-8:00p.m.

Tue. Apr 30, 9:00-10:30a.m.
Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

Five Rivers MetroParks protects over 15,000 acres, and we could use your help. Discover all the ways you can participate and join our conservation team in reforestation efforts, habitat restoration, wildlife management, and land stewardship. Attending the orientation doesn't commit you to anything, so come see what we are doing. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4147 or yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details, or visit metroparks.org/AboutUs/Conservation.aspx.



LEARNING ABOUT NATURE

EDUCATION HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS FOR THE PAST 50 YEARS

Teaching people how to be good environmental stewards has always been an important principle of Five Rivers MetroParks. As the park district celebrates its 50th anniversary, we take a look back at how the educational opportunities blossomed from a few nature walks a week to the multitude of programs you'll find at the back of this magazine.

In the early days when the park district was formed, there were only a few staff members on hand. Until a formal conservation department was formed in the mid-1980s, MetroParks naturalists were responsible for providing public programs about the parks and the land as well as developing the conservation plans

for the natural areas. The naturalists' knowledge of ecosystems, habitats and cycles was a critical element in determining maintenance for the parks and interactions with the public. Nature walks, garden tours, and family bonfires were among some of the earliest programs. These types of programs continue today. Turn to page 27 for nature programming, such as the Family Nature Walk, Tike Hikes, or birding adventures.

School tours also are mainstays of traditional park programming. Teachers, parent groups, youth leaders, and others responsible for educational programming are invited to explore tour and field trip options. Visit **metroparks.org** and click the "teachers" link found on the "special interest" drop-down menu. Here, you will find resources for educators, including an overview and booking information for available



Photo by Richard Hartley

Resources for teachers or youth leaders include:

- 🌿 Field trips
- 🌿 Reservable education kits
- 🌿 Scheduled programs

Child-care providers can take advantage of the Natural Adventures Box program. After taking a three-hour orientation and instructional seminar, child-care providers will be certified to "check out" a box that's full of supplies aimed at getting children outside and exploring nature. To learn more, select "teachers" from the "special interest" drop-down menu found at **metroparks.org** and click on the link for child-care providers found at the top of the page.

EDUCATION

Photo by Richard Hartley

ONLINE EXTRA

Visit **metroparks.org** and select “teachers” from the “special interest” drop-down menu to find resources for educators, youth leaders and child-care providers!



tours and field trips. These programs are adaptable to a multidisciplinary curriculum and help meet Ohio Academic Content Standards Benchmarks.

Today, Five Rivers MetroParks naturalists and programming staff hold a variety of expertises, including horticulture, agriculture, nonformal education, and interpretation. “Our vision is to be the catalyst for a culture of conservation in the Dayton region,” says Conservation and Nature Program Manager Katrina Arnold. “We not only continue the tradition of making people aware of Dayton’s natural resources, but also extending our conservation mission into people’s daily lives, helping them to live more sustainably.”

Whether you want to learn how to identify birds, create a butterfly garden, tell the difference between a hickory and oak tree, make your own compost, find animal homes, or just broaden your appreciation for nature, there are programs available that will help you learn new skills or further develop techniques. “We are lucky to be able to take care of much of our region’s natural habitat,” Arnold says. “But when everyone pitches in to do their part for the environment, we can bring nature into our own backyards!”


Sustainable living reduces environmental impact. This knowledge and daily practices are important to impart to Miami Valley residents, which is why ecofriendly attitudes take center stage in MetroParks programming. “For example, we take care of the rivers and the habitat around them, but we know that being a good neighbor also keeps our waterways clean and viable,” Arnold says. “It does us no good to try and make a stretch of river pristine if there are chemicals routinely dumped into the river upstream.”

Because caring for the environment is a community effort, the more advocates spreading the message, the better! In order to make Five Rivers MetroParks’ vision of being the conservation leader of a vital, active, nature-based community, we have to find ways to reach more people, despite having limited resources. Today, the educational experience has expanded from traditional models, such as public programs, tours, and a speaker’s bureau that limit interested participants to a specific window of opportunity, to creating independent and self-guided experiences that can happen at any time, creating a larger window of access. Staff train caregivers and teachers to use the parks. We share nature-exploration tools to empower adults

without extensive natural history knowledge to get kids outside. These resources include the Natural Adventures Boxes, teacher field school, Education Kits, and Inquiry Adventures.

Although technology can be a barrier to getting youth outdoors, Five Rivers MetroParks has a few tech tricks to help visitors discover the natural world using a fun and familiar medium. The Talking Trees displays posted at seven MetroParks facilities are perfect examples. Park visitors can call the listed number and hear a message “from” the tree. These messages inform visitors about environmental issues and Five Rivers MetroParks’ conservation objectives. Visit **metroparks.org/forests** to find the locations for all the Talking Trees displays.

Another way Five Rivers MetroParks is using technology to create personal park experiences is the Venture Quest program. “It’s like geocaching, except you are searching for natural landmarks,” Arnold says. Visit **metroparks.org/venturequest** to download a brochure that lists the six Venture Quest locations. Using a handheld GPS or GPS application for your smartphone, enter the GPS coordinates to find the hidden spots. The special places are marked with a post that has a raised icon affixed to it. Using a crayon or pencil, make a rubbing of the icon on your brochure. Once you have completed a rubbing from all six locations, mail in the brochure and you will be entered into a drawing for a new Garmin 60 GPS device.

Adding resources for educators, youth leaders, and child-care providers is another way Five Rivers MetroParks can reach children and teens, educating them about the natural world around them and helping them appreciate their history. Visit **metroparks.org** and select “teachers” from the “special interest” drop-down menu to find the full list of activities and appropriate contact information. 

ADVENTURE LIVES IN DAYTON

OUTDOOR RECREATION SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON REGION

Outdoor recreation has been an integral part of enjoying the outdoors, even before Five Rivers MetroParks was created 50 years ago. Today, the outdoor connections staff at Five Rivers MetroParks helps area residents discover the beauty of nature through the many recreational opportunities waiting for park visitors.

Hiking programs began in Five Rivers MetroParks facilities shortly after the park district formed in 1963. It wasn't until 2005 that the park district expanded to incorporate programming specific to outdoor recreation. "The purpose of having outdoor recreation staff is to show people how to use recreational amenities with the hope that they'll continue to do so, possibly sharing the experience with friends and family," explains Outdoor Recreation Manager Amy Dingle. "This is what's going to help us reach that vision of Dayton becoming the 'Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest.'"

The first recreation-based event was GearFest and took place in October on the grounds of what is now the PNC 2nd Street Market. "This gear swap was designed to bring the outdoor community together in one place to build momentum for MetroParks' new outdoor

adventure initiative," Dingle explains. About 1,500 people attended GearFest. This annual event still takes place, although under a different name. Last fall was the debut of the Midwest Outdoor Experience. "We changed the name of the event to more accurately reflect the nature of the event and the types of things you could expect when you went. Plus, by focusing on the experiential aspect, we draw in bigger crowds and have a better audience for sponsorships," Dingle says. The 2012 event drew 15,000 attendees; next year's Midwest Outdoor Experience is slated for October 5-6 at Eastwood MetroPark. Visit outdoorx.org for more information.

Following the success of GearFest, the first Adventure Summit took place in January 2006, featuring speakers, activities, and exhibitors. This biennial event continues, alternating years with the Adventure Speaker Series.

Later in 2006, the first Bike to Work Day Pancake Breakfast served hundreds of hungry bicycle riders as a cap to celebrating National Bike to Work Week. "What we've been able to start as far as cycling advocacy since then has been really exciting," Dingle says. "The Miami Valley Cycling Summit allows cycling advocates to connect with business and government leaders to discuss cycling opportunities." The first cycling summit took place in 2010—the same year Dayton nabbed bronze-level status as a Bike-Friendly City.

New recreational facilities were added in 2006. The 22-mile backpacking trail connecting Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks broke ground on National Trails Day with a special volunteer event called Trailstock. Construction was completed in 2008, and the Twin Valley Trail officially opened in June. Today, the TVT offers hiking enthusiasts a backcountry experience, complete with campsites. It continues to be a draw to the region, and recognition in national publications, such as *Backpacker* magazine, showcases the Dayton region's recreational amenities to the rest of the country. Visit metroparks.org/TVT to learn more about this trail.

Soon after the TVT was completed, another



RECREATION



specialized outdoor recreation facility was built. MetroParks Mountain Biking Area (commonly referred to as MoMBA) opened in September 2007. Built to International Mountain Biking Association sustainable trail standards, MoMBA added to Five Rivers MetroParks' offerings. The 8-mile track provides a trail that anyone from the novice mountain biker to the more experienced rider would enjoy. Today, Try Mountain Biking programs and other skills-based classes teach residents proper riding techniques so they may ride all year long. Turn to page 27 to find the list of upcoming programs, or visit metroparks.org/MoMBA to learn more.

Dayton is home to several disc golf courses, and in 2009 Five Rivers MetroParks joined their ranks, offering

a new 18-hole course located in Englewood MetroPark. Disc golf uses a set of specialized flying discs, which are thrown from a starting tee to a basket at the end of the hole. Like golf, the player who can put his or her disc in the basket using the fewest number of throws is the winner. Visit metroparks.org/discgolf for complete rules and a hole-by-hole map.

In 2010, Five Rivers MetroParks opened phase three of RiverScape MetroPark, and Dayton became just the third city east of the Mississippi River to have a fully functional commuter bike hub. "RiverScape MetroPark is situated at the confluence of several waterways and a couple major bikeways," Dingle says. "It's a great spot to put a hub and give people a rest area, or have RiverScape

as the destination if they're commuting to work or checking out a festival." Five Rivers MetroParks operates Ride the River Rentals, which offers bicycle and roller blade rentals, kayak rentals (operated by Whitewater Warehouse), and ice skate rentals in the winter. Visit metroparks.org/RiverScape and click on the "Ride the River Rentals" link on the "amenities" tab for prices, hours of operation, and more information. Click the "bike hub" link from this same "amenities page" for membership information, a video tour of the hub, and other details.

Another achievement for outdoor recreation and a boon to a vibrant downtown, the River Run project, reached its \$4 million fundraising goal. About \$3.8 million was raised from corporate and foundation donors, with the remainder brought in through public donations. The project is moving forward with acquiring permits and construction is tentatively slated for 2014. The Mad River restoration project also will improve riparian habitat and add a fun spot for paddle-sport enthusiasts. This project (as of this magazine's publishing) is in the bidding phase. Watch metroparks.org for further developments on these and other exciting amenities for the "Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest"! 🍃

BY THE NUMBERS

Here is a glance at how many people outdoor recreation has touched since its formal incorporation into Five Rivers MetroParks.

No. Public Programs	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	6	3	1	25	140	136	146	105	102	133
No. Program Participants	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	227	14	42	2391	14,640	14,844	11,853	10,699	18,846	17,524
Total	Programs		Participants							
	797		83,347							

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS TURNS 50

Celebrating a Half Century of Conservation, Education, and Recreation in the Miami Valley

This year marks two milestones for events that changed history for the Dayton area. In 1913, floodwaters swept through the region, forever changing the landscape and lives of those living in the Miami Valley. A century later, area residents memorialize the significance of the event and look back on the incredible feats of engineering that have kept people and property safe ever since. When the waters receded 100 years ago, they left behind destruction, but it was from those floodwaters that your Five Rivers MetroParks emerged. Read on to learn a brief history of your MetroParks and how one of the region's most impactful natural disasters turned into one of its greatest assets.

THE FLOOD

After the 1913 flood, residents pooled resources to prevent another such disaster from happening again. The Miami Conservancy District, created to build and maintain the five earthen dams that control regional waterways, was established in 1915. The dams, protecting levees, and channel improvements that comprised the flood control system were completed in 1922 under the direction of chief engineer Arthur E. Morgan.

Morgan was not only an outstanding engineer, but a conservationist. Due in large part to his efforts, the impoundment areas above the dams and the stream floodplains were retained by the Miami Conservancy District and made available to the public for recreational pursuits. In the 1930s, the land at Taylorsville, Huffman, and Englewood dams was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.). From their camp at Taylorsville Dam, 200 enrollees and supervisors built trails, picnic areas, and shelter houses. At the same time, the National Youth Administration made similar improvements at Germantown Dam.

STRETCHING OUT

In 1959, the Regional Transportation Committee wanted to study the effects of urban sprawl and the dwindling open space in Montgomery and Greene counties. The Open Space Study Committee was formed under the direction of landscape architect and land planner Harold R. Freiheit. The subsequent study, "A Legacy for the Future: A Plan for Open Space in Greene-Montgomery County," found that there would be little open space left in the Dayton metropolitan area; existing parks would not be adequate to meet the needs of the growing community.

Another outdoor advocate emerged who would champion efforts to preserve open space. Glenn Thompson, editor of the former Dayton Journal-Herald, was a Tennessee native, lifelong hunter, and outdoorsman. His experience in Cincinnati gave him affection for the Hamilton County Park District, and he wanted a similar facility in Montgomery County.

Following one of Thompson's speaking engagements at The Garden Club of Dayton, member Jean V. Woodhull wanted to take up the challenge of preserving green space. Thompson suggested they could form a Save Open Space Committee. Woodhull organized meetings with other garden clubs and like-minded organizations across the region, and the committee had its official start with Thompson elected as its president.

The Save Open Space Committee researched agencies that could promote the preservation of open space. The state, city, county, and a park district were considered. Ultimately, it was decided that a park district would fulfill the community needs for open space. Twelve Ohio counties had already formed park districts for this purpose, with Cuyahoga being the first in 1917.

"LEAF A LEGACY"

Want to make your mark on Five Rivers MetroParks' history? Volunteer! Opportunities are available for all ages, talents, and skill levels. Find out how your passion for the outdoors can inspire a personal connection with nature today at metroparks.org/volunteer.

THE BEGINNING OF THE PARK DISTRICT

The Save Open Space Committee submitted the application and the park district was officially formed on April 8, 1963, set with the purpose “to protect natural areas, parks and river corridors, and to promote the conservation and use of these lands and waterways for the ongoing benefit of the people in the region.” Probate Court Judge Neal F. Zimmers appointed Specialty Papers Company president William P. Patterson, local attorney Charles S. Bridge, and Price Brothers Company officer Harry S. Price, Jr., to the Board of Park Commissioners. Price already had credentials as an outdoor advocate; he was instrumental in turning a gravel pit into Eastwood Lake Park for the City of Dayton, which today is managed by Five Rivers MetroParks as Eastwood MetroPark.

Soon after, Thompson recommended then-superintendent of Columbus parks and recreation, J. Richard Lawwill, to serve as director-secretary of the park district. During his time working for the National Park Service in the Civilian Conservation Corps period, Lawwill had designed the master plans for Taylorsville, Englewood, and Huffman. After two meetings with the park commissioners, Lawwill was hired and began his duties as director-secretary on May 2, 1964.

FUNDING

To ensure adequate and consistent funding, the park district placed a \$0.3 million, 10-year levy on the November 1964 ballot, just eight months after hiring the director. With a short time frame and competing with other well-established governmental levies on the ballot, the park district, being merely a concept, was difficult to sell to voters. The levy failed, but managed to acquire a promising 49 percent.

The park commissioners decided that a credible showing had been made and another attempt should be pursued as soon as possible. The next election in



May 1965 was a primary election, and state law prohibited park district levies in a primary election. This meant the campaign would have to go on hold until November 1965. It was feared that momentum would be lost.

Again, Glenn Thompson intervened. He called then-Governor James H. Rhodes and asked him to propose special legislation permitting the Montgomery County Park District to place a levy on the May ballot. Thompson pointed out this could be achieved by adding it to the agenda for the lame duck session of the legislature already called. Rhodes agreed, and the special privilege was voted by the state legislature. (Some years later, the law was changed to allow all park district levies to be voted on in primary elections.)

ADDING MORE GREEN SPACE

In 1965, the park district set a land acquisition goal of 8,500 acres. This figure was based upon the projected population growth within the county and recommendations from Freiheit's open-space study of one acre per 1,000 people. The policy was also established to keep 80% of park district lands in a natural state with the remaining 20% to be developed for picnic areas, roads, nature centers, and

parking lots. Over the years, that policy has shifted; today, an industry-leading 90% of lands maintained by Five Rivers MetroParks is preserved as natural area. This pristine habitat contributed to the rebound of several native wildlife species, including river otters, black bears, and bald eagles.

Lawwill established criteria for buying parkland as well as a master plan for park locations so the entire county would be served. Land acquisition was a priority. Getting ahead of development was important because land values were rising fast.

CARRIAGE HILL, ENGLEWOOD & POSSUM CREEK METROPARKS

Acquisition was begun in those areas of the county where potential development was the greatest. Huber Heights was growing rapidly. Drylick Run (now Carriage Hill MetroPark) was the first to be acquired in April 1965. At the same time this purchase was made a small parcel of 29 acres was acquired to begin Englewood MetroPark. Possum Creek MetroPark followed with the purchase of 275 acres on February 2, 1966.

Possum Creek was not in the original master plan, which called for a green space north of Trotwood to serve the western part of the county; however,

ONLINE EXTRA

For additional details about the history of Five Rivers MetroParks, visit **metroparks.org** and select “history” from the “about us” drop-down menu.



a comparison of topography and land costs, as well as the strategic location of Possum Creek to serve the western half of the county, led to its selection. Although much of the land had been used as a landfill and hog farm and areas had been stripped of topsoil, it had potential. The staff immediately tackled the job of cleaning up the site. In the years that followed, additional purchases added to the size and diversity of the park. Thanks to proper land stewardship, Possum Creek MetroPark today is home to one of the largest and most diverse planted prairies in Ohio.

SUGARCREEK METROPARK

In the mid-1960s, land prices in Centerville and Washington Township had already escalated beyond the reach of the park district. To serve the suburban population, Sugarcreek MetroPark in Greene County was acquired in October 1966. By December 15, 1966, Sugarcreek had grown to 540 acres.

COX ARBORETUM

In December 1972, the park district experienced new growth when Cox Arboretum became part of the district.

Ten years earlier, Woodhull, Jean Mahoney, and others had talked James Cox, Jr., into donating his farm south of town for an arboretum. In addition to the donation, Cox established a \$300,000 trust fund to help support it.

AULLWOOD GARDEN

In 1977, another horticultural facility was added when local conservation supporter Marie Aull conveyed her home and 30-acre garden to the park district. Aull had been instrumental in training members of the staff in the nuances of estate gardening.

RECREATION AREAS

In 1967, the park district leased the recreation areas at Englewood, Taylorsville, Huffman, and Germantown dams from the Miami Conservancy District. The conservancy district, main mission was flood control, had supported the creation of the park district since it lacked the resources to fully develop the recreation potential of its areas.

The responsibilities of operating the leased areas placed a huge budgetary strain on the new park district (MetroParks), which was primarily involved in acquiring land. Now it had to operate four partially developed parks.

PARK DISTRICT'S FIRST STAFF

During this period of rapid acquisition, new faces joined the staff. Scott Huston was hired in September 1965 as assistant director. The staff consisted of Lawwill, Huston, and Clara Wine, the park district's dedicated secretary for many years. Huston began his duties by leading walks and “bushwhacking” trails

in the parks. (Today, some of these trails are being revamped as part of an initiative to create sustainably built trails.) Ralph Scott, a naturalist with the Dayton Museum of Natural History, joined the park district to lead walks and became the park district's chief naturalist in 1967. Huston, Scott, and Lawwill led walks on every weekend for two years. Also in 1967, Dane W. Mutter joined the park district to interpret the areas. Mutter began planning additional hiking trails, developing education programs, and designing land-use management plans.

URBAN PARKS

After Marvin Olinsky was appointed as the third director-secretary on December 1, 1986, he championed a \$0.7 million, ten-year replacement levy, which passed. The levy campaign pledged to continue providing clean, safe, well-managed parks with innovative programming and activities for all ages, and to pursue an aggressive land stewardship program. As part of a growing focus on rivers, Eastwood Park was viewed as an ideal site for the park district's involvement. On April 1, 1990, Eastwood became part of the park district through a lease agreement with the City of Dayton running until the year 2089.

With community support and the additional funding provided by passing the 1994 levy, on January 1, 1995, through agreements with the City of Dayton and Miami Conservancy District, the park district added Island Park, Van Cleve Park (RiverScape MetroPark), Deeds Point, Wesleyan Nature Center, Sunrise Park, Wegerzyn Horticultural Center (Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark), and river corridor areas to its facilities.

BIRTH OF FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

There was considerable confusion around the name of the park district—Montgomery County Park District (followed by Dayton-Montgomery County Park District and finally Park

District of Dayton-Montgomery County). The name led residents to believe the park district was part of the City of Dayton or Montgomery County government structure. Few knew which parks fell under park district management and that the park district was in fact a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio.

After considerable research and community input, the Board of Park Commissioners requested approval from the Montgomery County Probate Court for a name change to Five Rivers MetroParks. The new name was approved on July 20, 1995. It was selected to eliminate confusion and better reflect the direction of the agency. "Five Rivers" relates to the five waterways (Great Miami River, Stillwater River, Mad River, Twin Creek, and Wolf Creek) in Montgomery County and the importance of river corridors. "MetroParks" was coined to designate the region-wide services provided.

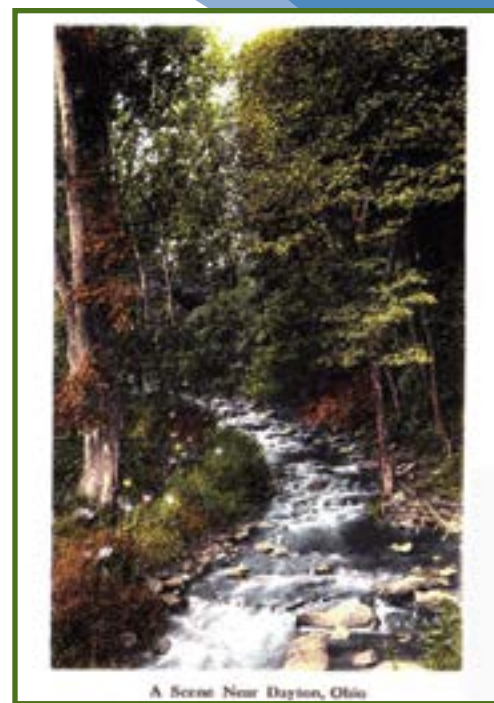
The Five Rivers MetroParks went on to pass a new \$1.8 mil, 10-year levy (to replace the \$1.2 mil levy) in November 2000. Funding was now in place to move forward with programming and maintenance of RiverScape MetroPark. Development of this site continues today; just this past summer, funding was secured for the River Run project. This initiative will remove the low dam from the Great Miami River and install flow control structures that will improve riparian habitat and aquatic wildlife, with a bonus benefit of creating about 7 miles of water trails perfect for paddle sports, fishing and wildlife viewing. The project, spurred by a \$1 million challenge grant from the James M. Cox, Jr., Foundation, received \$3.8 million total from corporate and foundation support. The final push to reach the \$4 million goal came from public donations. The River Run project is now in the planning and permitting stage. Construction is projected to begin summer 2014.

Conservation opportunities also presented themselves with the passing of the 2000 levy. By June 2001, 300 acres of scenic land were purchased and an additional 250 acres protected through conservation easements in the Twin Creek Valley northwest of Germantown MetroPark and south of Twin Creek MetroPark. Attention was also focused on the Stillwater River corridor with MetroParks striving to protect undeveloped stretches between Englewood and Wegerzyn Gardens MetroParks.

THE FUTURE OF FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

From its humble beginnings as a collection of names on a yellow legal pad that was the Save Open Space Committee, Five Rivers MetroParks has grown to encompass 15,450 acres making up 25 facilities, including public parks, conservation areas, and recreation trails. Dayton is home to the largest bikeway network in the country—330 miles of paved trails connect natural and historical destinations. Special features include Ohio's first native butterfly house at Cox Arboretum MetroPark, a working 1880s historical farm at Carriage Hill MetroPark, the Children's Discovery Garden at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, an 8-mile mountain biking facility adjacent to Huffman MetroPark, a nature center at Germantown MetroPark, the award-winning youth development program Adventure Central at Wesleyan MetroPark, a working sustainable farm at Possum Creek MetroPark, a 22-mile backpacking trail connecting Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks, and an 18-hole disc golf course at Englewood MetroPark.

Future MetroParks include the Great Miami Wetland Mitigation Bank in Trotwood. This site balances the need for local development and land protection by providing a means for developers to purchase wetland credits (required by law) that Five Rivers



A Scene Near Dayton, Ohio

MetroParks maintains. This site, which was originally slated to be a dump before MetroParks intervened, will someday become a MetroPark with public amenities that will serve the Trotwood neighborhood.

Another site with potential to become a future MetroPark is the Medlar Conservation Area. This site, located near the Austin Landing area, is in the process of conversion to a second-growth forest from its former farmland state. Plans are under way to extend the bikeway to this location, connecting the area and nearby school to beautiful, natural spaces.

Stay tuned for more information as Five Rivers MetroParks celebrates its golden anniversary. On behalf of Five Rivers MetroParks staff, executive director Becky Benná, and the Board of Park Commissioners, we would like to thank the greater Dayton community for its support these past 50 years. Whether you gave your time and talents through volunteering, visited a park, or cast a vote for a levy, we're all so thankful that our residents choose to invest in protecting our region's natural heritage and providing outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature. 🌿



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

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

BY TOPIC

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

BY DATE

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

ONLINE

You can make a comprehensive search for programs using tools online. Search for programs listed by date, topic or park when you visit **www.metroparks.org** and click on the “Find a Program” link found on the left-hand navigation bar. You can also find suggestions by clicking the “Get Outside” link at the top of the page. **Metroparks.org** helps you get connected to park information, program guides, videos, nature play, and online registration. If you’re a “go on your own” park user, the website is a great place to find maps, park features, trail information and more.

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

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

ALERTS AND CLOSURES

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

HOW TO CONTACT A RANGER IN A METROPARK:

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

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

Inform the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office dispatcher you are in a MetroParks facility. A MetroParks Law Enforcement Ranger will be notified and respond to the situation as soon as possible. As always, if it is an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

LOST SOMETHING?

If you lost something valuable in a MetroPark, contact the Rangers to identify and retrieve your belongings. Contact Administrative Assistant Robert Makley at (937) 567-4265 for details.

WED, JAN 23, 2013

1:00 PM Volunteer: Native Plant Primer, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see page 24)

FRI, MAR 1, 2013

8:00 AM City Beets 2013: Call for Applications, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 24)

SAT, MAR 2, 2013

7:30 AM Miami Valley Gardening Conference, Offsite (see page 24)
8:00 AM Wilderness First Responder, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 31)
10:00 AM Family Nature Walk, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 27)

SUN, MAR 3, 2013

1:30 PM Taylorsville Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 23)

TUE, MAR 5, 2013

9:00 AM Volunteer: MetroPark Volunteer Naturalist, Germantown MetroPark (page 27)

WED, MAR 6, 2013

7:00 PM The Elephant in the Living Room, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 26)

THU, MAR 7, 2013

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Sounds of Nature, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 27)

SAT, MAR 9, 2013

9:00 AM Seedling Saturdays, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 27)

MON, MAR 11, 2013

9:30 AM Children's Tour Guide Workshop Series: Warm-up for Spring, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 27)
6:00 PM Fly-Fishing for Bass and Bluegill, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 23)
7:00 PM National Geographic Live: Annie Griffiths, Offsite (see page 22)

TUE, MAR 12, 2013

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Coyotes, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 28)
1:00 PM Farm to Preschool: The Wondrous Seed, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 24)

THU, MAR 14, 2013

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Woodland Adventure, Englewood MetroPark (see page 28)
10:00 AM Parent and Preschooler: Jack's Giant Beanstalk, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 28)
6:30 PM Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer

Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see page 29)
6:30 PM Intro to Backpacking for Women, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (page 20)

SAT, MAR 16, 2013

8:30 AM Family Farm Chores, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 22)
9:00 AM Seedling Saturdays, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 27)
10:00 AM Getting Started with Digital Photography, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 32)
10:00 AM Jr. Farmers Series, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 22)
10:00 AM Getting a Jump on Spring, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 24)
10:00 AM St. Patrick's Day at the Market, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 22)
1:00 PM Eureka Lab: Marvelous Mud, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 29)

SUN, MAR 17, 2013

12:00 PM Corn Shelling & Grinding, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 26)
1:30 PM Englewood Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Englewood MetroPark (see page 23)

MON, MAR 18, 2013

9:00 AM Volunteer: Aullwood Garden, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 24)
9:30 AM Children's Tour Guide Workshop Series: Pollinator Partners, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 27)
4:00 PM Competitive Junior Rowing, Island MetroPark (see page 32)
6:00 PM Intro to Bicycle Maintenance, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 20)

WED, MAR 20, 2013

6:30 PM Community Garden Coordinators' Dinner, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (page 25)
6:30 PM Intro to Backpacking, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (page 20)

FRI, MAR 22, 2013

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Signs of Spring, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 28)

SAT, MAR 23, 2013

9:00 AM Seedling Saturdays, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 27)
10:00 AM Try It: Planting Potatoes, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 25)
10:00 AM Landscape for Life Series, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 25)
8:00 PM Woodcock Watch, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 29)

MON, MAR 25, 2013

9:00 AM Children's Tour Guide Workshop Series: In the Field with Field Trips, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 28)
10:00 AM Tike Hike: Here Come the Ducklings, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 28)
6:00 PM Bicycle Maintenance Basics, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 20)

WED, MAR 27, 2013

10:00 AM Tikes Taking Action: Seedlings Galore, Germantown MetroPark (see page 29)

THU, MAR 28, 2013

7:00 PM Cafe Sci, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 30)

SAT, MAR 30, 2013

10:00 AM Plants on My Plate, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 25)

THU, APR 4, 2013

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Magnificent Trees, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 27)
6:00 PM Your Best Vegetable Garden, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 25)

FRI, APR 5, 2013

8:00 PM Tike Hike: Nocturnal Amphibian Search, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 28)

SAT, APR 6, 2013

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Ride to Verona, Bikeway: Wolf Creek (see page 20)
12:00 PM Backpacking Basics, Germantown MetroPark (see page 20)

SUN, APR 7, 2013

1:30 PM Twin Creek Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 23)
2:00 PM Woodland Wildflowers, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 30)

TUE, APR 9, 2013

6:00 PM Nectar: It Does a Bug Good!, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 30)

WED, APR 10, 2013

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Emerging Pollinators, Germantown MetroPark (see page 28)
6:00 PM Compost Kitchen: Building Better Soil, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 25)

FRI, APR 12, 2013

11:00 AM Tree Seedling Giveaway, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 25)

SAT, APR 13, 2013

8:00 AM Twin Creek 10K, Twin Creek

MetroPark (see page 23)

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Ride to Trotwood, Bikeway: Wolf Creek (see page 20)

9:00 AM Seedling Saturdays, Medlar Conservation Area (see page 27)

12:00 PM Backpacking Basics, Germantown MetroPark (see page 20)

12:00 PM From Sheep to Shawls, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 26)

SUN, APR 14, 2013

8:30 AM AMSA / AIDS 5K, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 23)

12:00 PM From Sheep to Shawls, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 26)

2:00 PM Secret Hills and Spring Wildflowers Walk, Germantown MetroPark (see page 30)

2:00 PM April at Aullwood, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 25)

2:00 PM Aullwood in Bloom, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 32)

TUE, APR 16, 2013

9:00 AM Stroller Struts: Daffodils, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 30)

1:00 PM Farm to Preschool: What Makes a Plant? Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 24)

WED, APR 17, 2013

6:00 PM Compost Kitchen: Backyard Composting, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 25)

THU, APR 18, 2013

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Buds and Bugs, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 28)

6:00 PM Intro to Smart Cycling, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 21)

6:30 PM Volunteer: Conservation Caretaker Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see page 30)

SAT, APR 20, 2013

8:30 AM Family Farm Chores, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 22)

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Ride to Fifth Third Gateway Park, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 21)

9:00 AM Adopt-A-Park, multiple locations (see page 30)

9:00 AM Wegerzyn Gardens Walkfest, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 23)

SUN, APR 21, 2013

10:00 AM Photography: Just the Basics, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 32)

2:00 PM Woodland Wildflowers, Sugar creek MetroPark (see page 30)

MON, APR 22, 2013

7:00 PM National Geographic Live: Paul Sereno, Offsite (see page 22)

TUE, APR 23, 2013

11:00 AM Stroller Struts: Daffodils, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 30)

4:00 PM Try Fly Fishing, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 23)

WED, APR 24, 2013

10:00 AM Tikes Taking Action: Bluebird Trails, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 29)

6:00 PM Compost Kitchen: All About Worms, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 25)

THU, APR 25, 2013

8:00 AM Bus Trip: Englewood Dam and the 1913 Flood, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 26)

FRI, APR 26, 2013

9:00 AM Volunteer: Forest Foster Family, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 30)

SAT, APR 27, 2013

8:00 AM Beginning Birding Workshop, Germantown MetroPark (see page 30)

8:30 AM Smart Cycling Basics, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 21)

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Ride to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 21)

10:00 AM Wildflower and Native Plant Sale, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 25)

1:00 PM Bird Song Study, Germantown MetroPark (see page 30)

SUN, APR 28, 2013

12:00 PM Tilling the Soil, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 22)

MON, APR 29, 2013

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Woodland Nests, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 28)

TUE, APR 30, 2013

9:00 AM Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see page 29)

WED, MAY 1, 2013

4:00 PM Try Mountain Biking, Huffman MetroPark (see page 27)

THU, MAY 2, 2013

10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Plant Life, Sugar creek MetroPark (see page 27)

FRI, MAY 3, 2013

8:00 AM Twin Valley Trail Backpacking Trip, Germantown MetroPark (see page 20)

8:30 PM Tike Hike: Forests at Night, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 28)

SAT, MAY 4, 2013

8:30 AM Knowing Our Wildflowers, Germantown MetroPark (see page 30)

8:30 AM Celtic Academy 5K, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 23)

9:00 AM Fish with a Ranger, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 23)

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Ride to Kyle Park, Bikeway: Great Miami River (see page 21)

9:00 AM Annual MayFair Plant Sale, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 25)

10:00 AM Canning Club: Asparagus, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 26)

SUN, MAY 5, 2013

12:00 PM All Things Fermented: Kraut, Vinegar & Yeast, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 26)

1:30 PM Possum Creek Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 23)

MON, MAY 6, 2013

5:30 PM Introduction to Fly Fishing, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 23)

TUE, MAY 7, 2013

11:30 AM Lunch and Learn: Victorian Landscaping, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 26)

6:30 PM Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see page 29)

6:30 PM Volunteer: RiverScape Events, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 22)

WED, MAY 8, 2013

5:00 PM Volunteer: Bike to Work Day Orientation, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 21)

THU, MAY 9, 2013

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Little Sprouts, Germantown MetroPark (see page 28)

10:00 AM Parent and Preschooler: Tops and Bottoms, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 28)

4:00 PM Try Kayaking, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 31)

FRI, MAY 10, 2013

5:00 PM Great Dayton Adventure, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

5:00 PM Urban Nights, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 22)

8:30 PM Screech Owl Search, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 31)



SAT, MAY 11, 2013

6:00 AM Forest Birds Field Trip, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 31)
9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Ride to Radvansky Bridge, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 21)
9:00 AM Volunteer: Backpacking Trail Work Days, Germantown MetroPark (see page 20)
9:00 AM Eastwood Walkfest, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 24)
9:00 AM Fly Fishing Basics, Offsite (see page 23)
9:30 AM Wegerzyn Bike Rodeo, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 21)
12:00 PM Volunteer: MoMBA Trail Work Days, Huffman MetroPark (see page 27)

SUN, MAY 12, 2013

1:00 PM Bike to the Dragons, Offsite (see page 21)

MON, MAY 13, 2013

6:00 PM Adult Learn to Row, Island MetroPark (see page 32)

TUE, MAY 14, 2013

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Emerging Pollinators, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 28)
10:00 AM Volunteer: Garden Experience Mentors at Wegerzyn Needed, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 26)
1:00 PM Farm to Preschool: Vegetable or Fruit? Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 24)

WED, MAY 15, 2013

10:00 AM Tikes Taking Action: Milkweed for Monarchs, Germantown MetroPark (see page 29)

THU, MAY 16, 2013

6:00 PM Advanced Butterfly Class: Butterflies of Ohio, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 31)

FRI, MAY 17, 2013

7:00 PM National Bike to Work Day Pancake Breakfast, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 21)

SAT, MAY 18, 2013

8:30 AM Family Farm Chores, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 22)
9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Ride to Verona, Bikeway: Wolf Creek (see page 21)
9:00 AM Lupus Awareness Walk, Wesleyan MetroPark (see page 24)
9:00 AM Tab-a-pull-ooza, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 22)
10:00 AM Nature Photography Step by Step, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 32)
10:00 AM Walk the Falls, Englewood MetroPark (see page 31)
10:00 AM Gardening Boot Camp #1--Planting, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 26)

**SUN, MAY 19, 2013**

10:00 AM Twin Valley Trail Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers, Germantown MetroPark (see page 24)
12:00 PM Corn 101, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 22)
1:00 PM Volunteer: Paddlesport Assistant Training, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 31)
2:00 PM Wildflowers through Butterfly Eyes, Germantown MetroPark (see page 31)

MON, MAY 20, 2013

10:00 AM Tike Hike: Buds and Bugs, Englewood MetroPark (see page 28)

TUE, MAY 21, 2013

4:00 PM Try Fly Fishing, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 23)

WED, MAY 22, 2013

2:30 PM Gardening for Bee and Other Pollinators, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 31)
6:30 PM Fundamentals of Commuting, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 21)

THU, MAY 23, 2013

7:00 PM Café Sci, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 30)

SAT, MAY 25, 2013

9:00 AM Bike for the Health of It: Ride to Fifth Third Gateway Park, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 21)

WED, MAY 29, 2013

9:00 AM Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see page 29)
6:30 PM Intro to Bicycle Touring, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see page 21)

THU, MAY 30, 2013

8:00 AM ACA Canoe Instructor Certification, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 32)
8:00 AM ACA Kayak Instructor Certification, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 32)

FRI, JUN 14, 2013

5:30 PM Bicycle Touring Basics, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 22)



Dayton is home to the country's largest off-street, paved bikeway! Want to get started? Check out metroparks.org/cycling to view suggested access points, links to maps, upcoming programs and more!



YOUR PROGRAM GUIDE HAS A NEW FORMAT!

Programs are now listed only by their topic, instead of being broken out into “Education,” “Recreation” and “Special Events” categories. We hope you will find this format easier to find the programs you’re interested in attending, and perhaps discover programs you never knew were available before! Visit **metroparks.org** and click on the “Find a Program” link to search for programs and register online.

BACKPACKING

INTRO TO BACKPACKING FOR WOMEN

THU. MAR 14, 6:30-9:00 PM E119
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Join other women interested in backpacking to get an orientation to this sport. This class, taught by female backpacking experts, will cover trip planning, trail techniques, nutrition, physical fitness, “Leave No Trace” concepts, and female-specific techniques. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 📅

INTRO TO BACKPACKING

WED. MAR 20, 6:30-9:00 PM E118
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Get an introduction to backpacking and find your comfort zone in terms of trips and gear selection. This class will introduce you to trip planning, trail techniques and nutrition, physical fitness, and “Leave No Trace” concepts. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 or outdoors@metroparks.org for details. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$5 📅

BACKPACKING BASICS

SAT. APR 6, 12:00 PM - SUN. APR 7, 12:00 PM E120

SAT. APR 13, 12:00 PM - SUN. APR 14, 12:00 PM E121

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Campsite: Shimps Hollow, 7350 Boomershire Rd.
This overnight field-based program hits the trail for a trip into the wilds of Germantown MetroPark on the Twin Valley Trail. Spend a night out under the stars utilizing “Leave No Trace” principles and practice the techniques covered during Introduction to Backpacking. Gear is available at no additional charge with reservation.
Prerequisites: Intro to Backpacking. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$15

TWIN VALLEY TRAIL

BACKPACKING TRIP

FRI. MAY 3, 8:00 AM - SUN. MAY 5, 8:00 PM E122
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Sledding Hill/TVT/Parking Lot, 6206 Boomershire Rd.
Join Five Rivers MetroParks as it hits the Twin Valley Trail for 3 days of backpacking. This is an ideal trip for the newcomer who has just taken Backpacking Basics and is looking to take the next step toward getting out on his or her own. Equipment is available upon request. You MUST attend the pre-trip meeting on April 17. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$50

(FREE) VOLUNTEER:

BACKPACKING TRAIL WORK DAYS

SAT. MAY 11, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E123
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Park Office, 6675 Conservancy Rd.
Learn about sustainable trail building while helping maintain the Twin Valley Backpacking Trail. No experience is necessary; tools are provided. Please bring water and work gloves. Youth 14-17 may attend if accompanied by an adult. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 or outdoors@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅 ⚙️

CYCLING

INTRO TO BICYCLE MAINTENANCE

MON. MAR 18, 6:00-8:30 PM E137
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
This lecture style class with some hands-on instruction will help you diagnose and fix minor mechanical issues. Participants will be introduced to basic repairs and adjustments as well as the tools needed to do so. Topics will include bike inspection and terminology, fixing a flat tire, and basic brake and gear adjustment. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$5 📅

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE BASICS

MON. MAR 25, 6:00-8:30 PM E138
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
This next step in the bike maintenance progression will give riders a more comprehensive understanding of what makes the wheels go round. This hands-on class will cover bike fitting, tune-ups, advanced brake and drivetrain maintenance, as well as wheel truing. **Prerequisites: Intro to Bike Maintenance.** Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$10

BIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT!

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

(FREE) RIDE TO VERONA

SAT. APR 6, 9:00-11:00 AM E11

SAT. MAY 18, 9:00-11:00 AM 7773

Bikeway: Wolf Creek, Ohio Bike Route 38
Join us for a bike ride on the Wolf Creek Bikeway. Meet in the parking lot behind Rob's Restaurant, 705 Arlington Rd., in Brookville. We will ride toward Verona (11 miles). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. **metroparks.org/bikehealth.** Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) RIDE TO TROTWOOD

SAT. APR 13, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E12

Bikeway: Wolf Creek, Ohio Bike Route 38
Join us for a bike ride on the Wolf Creek Bikeway. Meet in the parking lot behind Rob's Restaurant, 705 Arlington Rd. in Brookville. We will ride toward Trotwood (14 miles). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. **metroparks.org/bikehealth.** Age: All ages 📅

📅 = Online Registration Available

⚙️ = Program is Weather-Dependent



(FREE) RIDE TO FIFTH THIRD GATEWAY PARK

SAT. APR 20, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E16
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot,
1385 Harshman Rd.

Join us for a bike ride on the Creekside Bikeway. We will ride to the Fifth Third Gateway Park (12 miles). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for more information. metroparks.org/bikehealth. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) RIDE TO WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK

SAT. APR 27, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM 7770
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot,
1385 Harshman Rd.

Join us for a bike ride on the Mad River Bikeway. We will ride to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (13 miles). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. metroparks.org/bikehealth. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) RIDE TO KYLE PARK

SAT. MAY 4, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM 7771
Bikeway: Great Miami River, Ohio Bike
Route 25

Join us for a bike ride on the Great Miami River Bikeway. Meet at Rip Rap Park, located at the intersections of Little York, Rip Rap, and Taylorsville roads, in the parking lot near the soccer fields. We will ride to Kyle Park (15 miles). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. metroparks.org/bikehealth. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) RIDE TO RADVANSKY BRIDGE

SAT. MAY 11, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM B1189
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK,
Parking Lot, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Join us on a bike ride on the Great Miami Bikeway. We will ride to Radvansky Lane Bridge, near Fishburg Road (16 miles). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. Age: All ages 📅

INTRO TO SMART CYCLING

THU. APR 18, 6:00-8:30 PM E139
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK,
Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Step one in the Smart Cycling Series is

a classroom session, taught by League Certified Instructors, and designed to provide cyclists of all levels better knowledge and understanding of how to safely and effectively operate their bicycles in various situations. Topics will include ride preparation, traffic laws, equipment, clothing, and much more. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$10 📅

SMART CYCLING BASICS

SAT. APR 27, 8:30 AM-3:00 PM E140
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK,
Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Smart Cycling Basics, part two of the cycling series, takes the knowledge gained in Intro and puts it to use on the bike. This hands-on class will teach riders maneuvering, signaling and riding skills to make them more competent and comfortable on the streets and trails of the Miami Valley. Helmets and bicycles required. **Prerequisites: Intro to Smart Cycling.** Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$25

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BIKE TO WORK DAY ORIENTATION

WED. MAY 8, 5:00-8:00 PM E99
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape
Pavilion, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Promote cycling and enjoy good company while volunteering for the Bike to Work Day Pancake Breakfast. Attend this orientation where you can sign up for volunteer shifts that are available either Thursday, May 16, or Friday, May 17. Refreshments will be served! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 14Y and up 📅

(FREE) WEGERZYN BIKE RODEO

SAT. MAY 11, 9:30 AM-1:00 PM E21
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Parking
Lot, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Join the MetroParks Ranger Division on a ride through a safety course, and have your bike checked out by a technician. Before riding, students are encouraged to have their helmets properly fitted. New helmets will be available on an as-needed basis (no beads in hair, please). Allow one hour to complete the activities. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. Age: 3Y-15Y 📅

(FREE) BIKE TO THE DRAGONS

SUN. MAY 12, 1:00-6:00 PM E71
OFFSITE, Fifth Third Field, 220 N Patterson Blvd.
Hop on your bike and head downtown to watch America's favorite game. The first 50 cyclists to register on the Dragon's website and "Bike to the Game" will win complimentary lawn seats and prizes courtesy of Five Rivers MetroParks, Dayton Dragons, and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. Valet bike parking available. Registration begins April 15. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 228-2287 or dragons@daytondragons.com for details. www.daytondragons.com. Age: All ages

(FREE) NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FRI. MAY 17, 7:00-9:00 AM E92
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape
Pavilion, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Leave your car in the garage and support National Bike to Work Day. Ride in on your own or with a group to RiverScape MetroPark for a free pancake breakfast, then head to work. Live music, cycling-related exhibitors, and a team challenge are also part of the fun. Turn this one day into a lifestyle. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. metroparks.org/biketowork. Age: All ages 📅

FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUTING

WED. MAY 22, 6:30-8:30 PM E143
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion,
600 E. 2nd St.

This class goes over what is involved to get you biking to work, to the store, or a favorite restaurant. This lecture-style class will include bike terminology, commuting equipment, and trip and bike preparation. We will briefly discuss traffic laws, hazards encountered, safe-riding skills and proper route planning. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$10 📅

INTRO TO BICYCLE TOURING

WED. MAY 29, 6:30-9:00 PM E144
Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office, 409 E.
Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

Intro to Bicycle Touring gives you the knowledge needed to get started with bicycle touring. This lecture style class will cover touring equipment for your bike, clothing options, types of tours, and tour planning. Join us as we discover the joy of bicycle

touring while on the trail, path, or road. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$10 📄

BICYCLE TOURING BASICS

FRI. JUN 14, 5:30 PM - SAT. JUN 15, 3:30 PM F16

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

After completing Intro to Bicycle Touring join us for an actual bicycle tour! By utilizing the vast network of bikeways in the Miami Valley we will ride out to a campsite, camp overnight, and then return the next day. Lessons will be taught during bike preparation, on the trail, and in camp. Bikes and helmets are required. **Prerequisites:** **Intro to Bicycle Touring.** Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$25

ENTERTAINMENT

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE SERIES

National Geographic Live has been bringing the world of *National Geographic* to cities across North America. Come see a unique mix of dynamic events, fascinating people, and captivating stories from the front lines of exploration at the Victoria Theatre in downtown Dayton. Each evening concludes with a lively question-and-answer session and an opportunity to meet the presenter in the lobby. Co-presented by Victoria Theatre Association and Five Rivers MetroParks.

ANNIE GRIFFITHS

MON. MAR 11, 7:00-9:00 PM E152
OFFSITE, Victoria Theatre, 1 W. Second St., Dayton

One of the first women photographers to work for *National Geographic*, Griffiths has photographed in more than 100 countries during her career. She has worked on dozens of magazine and book projects, including stories on Lawrence of Arabia, Baja California, Galilee, Petra, Sydney, New Zealand, and Jerusalem. Don't miss this exciting speaker! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 228-3630 or info@victoriatheatre.com for details. www.victoriatheatre.com/series/national-geographic-live. Age: All ages Fee: Package A: \$102, Package B: \$72, Package C: \$57

PAUL SERENO

MON. APR 22, 7:00-9:00 PM E153
OFFSITE, Victoria Theatre, 1 W. Second St., Dayton

Discoverer of dinosaurs on five continents and leader of dozens of expeditions, Sereno and his team discovered the first dinosaurs to roam the Earth—the predators *Herrerasaurus* and the primitive *Eoraptor*, the “dawn stealer.” These expeditions revealed the most complete picture yet of the dawn of the dinosaur era, some 225 million years ago. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 228-3630 or info@victoriatheatre.com for details. www.victoriatheatre.com/series/national-geographic-live. Age: All ages Fee: Package A: \$102, Package B: \$72, Package C: \$57

(FREE) ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT THE MARKET

SAT. MAR 16, 10:00 AM-1:30 PM E165
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

Come celebrate the wearing of the green at the PNC 2nd Street Market! This year's event features live Celtic music, followed by dancers from the Celtic Academy of Irish Dance. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 or bramsey@metroparks.org for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) TAB-A-PULL-OOZA

SAT. MAY 18, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM E164
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St. Bring your aluminum can pull tabs to the PNC 2nd Street Market to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Miami Valley. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 or bramsey@metroparks.org for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) VOLUNTEER:

RIVERSCAPE EVENTS

TUE. MAY 7, 6:30-7:30 PM E151
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 111 E. Monument Ave.

The RiverScape Events Volunteers support RiverScape MetroPark activity on a flexible, seasonal schedule. Volunteers can support events by greeting park visitors, facilitating setup, and working with outside organizers. You can help for one day or many. Come and learn more and get energized and excited about helping with activities at RiverScape! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 275-5016 or sidney.gnann@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y & up 📄

(FREE) URBAN NIGHTS

FRI. MAY 10, 5:00-10:00 PM E98
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Come see RiverScape MetroPark come alive at Urban Nights! Spring is here, and there's no better way to get outside and celebrate it than by enjoying all the sights and sounds of this citywide party! RiverScape MetroPark is sure to add excitement to an already thrilling event with food by Café Vélo and fun activities! No registration required. Contact (937) 274-0126 for details. Age: All ages ⚙️

FARMING

(FREE) FAMILY FARM CHORES

SAT. MAR 16, 8:30-10:00 AM E130

SAT. APR 20, 8:30-10:00 AM E131

SAT. MAY 18, 8:30-10:00 AM E132

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

Join a farm staff person to feed animals, gather eggs, and clean stalls. Get to know some of the farm animals up close and personal. Meet at the farm. Registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: 6Y-18Y 📄

(FREE) JR. FARMERS SERIES

SAT. MAR 16, 10:00-11:30 AM E145

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

Want to learn about the animals at Possum Creek MetroPark's farm? Beginning March 1, we will take reservations for Possum Creek's Jr. Farmers Series. You will learn about equine, pigs, goats, sheep, poultry and cattle. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 10Y-12Y 📄

(FREE) TILLING THE SOIL

SUN. APR 28, 12:00-5:00 PM E67

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

Watch as various horse-drawn equipment is used to turn the soil. Also, watch as plowmen compete in the state plowing contest. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) CORN 101

SUN. MAY 19, 12:00-5:00 PM E68

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

Watch as the farmer rides the corn planter and plants the corn in check rows. See a cornfield laid out before your very eyes.

📄 = Online Registration Available

⚙️ = Program is Weather-Dependent

Afterward, stop by the farmhouse to learn about heirloom corn and its uses. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages

FISHING

FLY FISHING FOR BASS AND BLUEGILL

MON. MAR 11, 6:00-8:00 PM E102
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
The Miami Valley is loaded with great bass and bluegill fishing opportunities on our local streams, ponds and lakes. Learn about the techniques, gear and flies needed to catch these fun sport fish on a fly rod. Fly fishing experience is recommended, but not required. This is a classroom session. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$10 📄

(FREE) TRY FLY FISHING

TUE. APR 23, 4:00-7:00 PM E105
TUE. MAY 21, 4:00-7:00 PM E106
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Outdoor Venues, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Have you ever wanted to learn how to cast a fly rod? Join us to see if you can entice a fish to bite and catch a fish on a fly rod. No fishing license required. Instructor is available for questions and will teach basic techniques in a controlled and safe environment. Equipment is available on a first-come first-served basis. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages 📄

FISH WITH A RANGER

SAT. MAY 4, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E100
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Come fish with a Ranger. Officer Zimmerman will teach students a lesson on safety. Once the lesson is complete, the students will be able to walk to a stocked fishing pond and borrow poles to fish. Bait and drinking water will be provided. Please bring your own chairs and sunglasses or a billed hat. Scholarships are available upon request. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4823 for details. Age: 4Y-15Y Fee: \$2 📄

INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING

MON. MAY 6, 5:30-8:30 PM E103
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Get an overview of fly fishing. The session will

include a classroom overview of gear, local opportunities and techniques needed to get started. Casting techniques are covered through a variety of fun drills teaching basic fundamentals. Participants should dress for outdoor activity. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 0Y-14Y Fee: \$10 📄

FLY FISHING BASICS

SAT. MAY 11, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM E104
OFFSITE
Are you ready to take the next step in fly fishing? Join us for a day of fly fishing on a local river. Students will learn tips on reading water, casting techniques, flies to use and gear needed to fish our local lakes, ponds and rivers. Lunch and gear provided. Location determined based on fishing conditions. Fishing license required.
Prerequisites: Introduction to Fly Fishing. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$40

FITNESS & HEALTH

(FREE) TAYLORSVILLE HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

SUN. MAR 3, 1:30-3:30 PM E124
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: Blue Heron/Parking Lot, 2000 U.S. 40
Enjoy a 5-mile, two-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered moderate, some hills. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) ENGLEWOOD HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

SUN. MAR 17, 1:30-4:00 PM E125
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/East Park, 4361 National Rd.
Enjoy a 5-mile, two-and-a-half-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered difficult, hilly in spots. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) TWIN CREEK HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

SUN. APR 7, 1:30-4:30 PM E126
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, High View Shelter/Trailhead Parking Lot, 9688 Eby Rd.
Enjoy a 7-mile, three-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered rugged, for experienced hikers only. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 for details. Age: All ages

TWIN CREEK 10K

SAT. APR 13, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM E129
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, High View Shelter/Trailhead Parking Lot, 9688 Eby Rd.
This outdoor recreation opportunity is sponsored by the Ohio River Road Runners Club. ORRRC members free; \$9 for non-members. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 605-0864 for details. orrrrc.org. Age: All ages Fee: \$9

AMSA/AIDS 5K

SUN. APR 14, 8:30 AM-12:00 PM E15
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
This outdoor community recreation opportunity is sponsored by American Medical Student Association/Wright State School of Medicine. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 271-5859 or shapiro.2@wright.edu for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$20

(FREE) WEGERZYN GARDENS WALKFEST

SAT. APR 20, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM E14
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
This outdoor community recreation opportunity is sponsored by Purple Penguins Walking Club for the beauty of nature and health of walking. Start anytime between 9AM and 1PM and finish by 4PM. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 429-3946 or hslade@woh.rr.com for details. Age: All ages

CELTIC ACADEMY 5K

SAT. MAY 4, 8:30 AM-12:00 PM E19
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.
This outdoor community recreation opportunity is sponsored by the Friends of the Celtic Academy. This 5K run/walk begins at Eastwood MetroPark. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 387-7092 or friendsoftheca@gmail.com for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$20

(FREE) POSSUM CREEK HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

SUN. MAY 5, 1:30-3:30 PM E127
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Enjoy a 5-mile, two-hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered easy, no hills. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) EASTWOOD WALKFEST

SAT. MAY 11, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM E13
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot,
1385 Harshman Rd.

This outdoor community recreation opportunity is sponsored by the Purple Penguins Walking Club for the beauty of nature and health of walking. Start anytime between 9AM and 1PM and finish by 4PM. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 429-3946 or hslade@woh.rr.com for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) LUPUS AWARENESS WALK

SAT. MAY 18, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E56
WESLEYAN METROPARK, 1441 Wesleyan Rd.

This outdoor community recreation opportunity is sponsored by Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County to help raise awareness for those living with lupus disease. Contact Jim Bolden. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 225-5025 or jbolden@phdmc.org for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) TWIN VALLEY TRAIL HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

SUN. MAY 19, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM E128
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Sledding Hill/
TVT/Parking Lot, 6206 Boomershire Rd.

Hike with Metro Dayton Hikers along the Twin Valley Trail for a 14-mile, four-hour hike. This hike is considered rugged, for experienced hikers only. Bring a small lunch to carry in a pack. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 for details. Age: All ages

GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

VOLUNTEER: NATIVE PLANT PRIMER

WED. JAN 23-MAR 13, 1:00-4:00 PM D98
Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office, 409 E.
Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

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. Required: 25 hours of volunteer service. For an interview and more information, call Yvonne D unphe at (937) 277-4147. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4147 or yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: 21Y and up Fee: \$35

(FREE) CITY BEETS 2013: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

FRI. MAR 1, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM D155
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK,
1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

City Beets is a gardening and leadership program for 12- to 15-year-olds. Participants grow food at Wegerzyn Gardens 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 stipend. Applications available online or at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. Applications are due March 1. Contact (937) 277-6545 or e-mail kasey.henneman@metroparks.org for details. More online at metroparks.org/citybeets. Age: 12Y-15Y

MIAMI VALLEY GARDENING CONFERENCE

SAT. MAR 2, 7:30 AM-5:00 PM E1
OFFSITE, Sinclair Community College, 444 W.
Third St.

Enjoy MetroPark's annual kick-off to the spring gardening season. This year's theme is "Learning from Nature" and our keynote speakers are national garden authorities Lee Reich and Andrew Keys with four additional breakout sessions. Fee includes breakfast snack, full lunch (vegetarian options available), breaks and covered parking. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 or log on to metroparks.org/conference for details or to register. Age: 18Y and up Fee: Online registration, \$50; Mail/Call/In-Person registration, \$60

(FREE) FARM TO PRESCHOOL

Farm to Preschool is designed to help children understand what they are eating and where that food comes from. Healthy food means healthy children, which starts at the farm.

THE WONDROUS SEED

TUE. MAR 12, 1:00-2:30 PM E96
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum
Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Get your hands dirty while planting seeds to observe the root development and the growth of leaves. Learn the importance of seeds and some of the different plants that develop from them. Listen to a story about a tiny seed. Reservations begin March 1. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y

PTN**WHAT MAKES A PLANT?**

TUE. APR 16, 1:00-2:30 PM E114
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum
Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Learn about the different parts of a plant, how they are like us and how they are different from us. Reservations begin April 1. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y

PTN**VEGETABLE OR FRUIT?**

TUE. MAY 14, 1:00-2:30 PM E97
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum
Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Youngsters will learn the differences and similarities of vegetables and fruits. What makes a vegetable a vegetable and what makes a fruit a fruit? Reservations begin May 1. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y

PTN**(FREE) GETTING A JUMP ON SPRING**

SAT. MAR 16, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM E75
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult
Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.
Spring makes all gardeners eager to start. This class is designed to help you learn about container and garden bed preparation as well as plant selection—vegetables and flowers. Get your soil corrected now and enjoy a full season of bountiful blooms and delicious food. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) VOLUNTEER:**AULLWOOD GARDEN**

MON. MAR 18, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E32
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Aull
Residence, 900 Aullwood Rd.
Marie Aull's garden is a living work of art. Volunteers will learn the basics of shade gardening using both native and exotic plants. Staff-led sessions will show you some of Marie's favorites and give you a chance to see how this garden unfolds each season. A special volunteer kick off will be held at the Aull Home on March 18 at 9 AM. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 276-7055 or bbutts@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up



(FREE) COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATORS' DINNER**WED. MAR 20, 6:30-8:30 PM** E7851

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Do you work with a community garden in Montgomery County? Join MetroParks' community gardening program staff and representatives from the region's 60 community gardens for dinner—no need to bring anything. Discover essential resources and information, and meet your gardening colleagues. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7053 for details. Age: 18Y and up

(FREE) TRY IT:**PLANTING POTATOES****SAT. MAR 23, 10:00-11:00 AM** E86

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Community Gardens Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Desperate to get out in the garden, but not sure what to do once you're there? Get your hands dirty and learn how to plant potatoes and other cool-weather crops, including what you can plant now! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📱 ⚙️

LANDSCAPE FOR LIFE SERIES**SAT. MAR 23-APR 27, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM** E77

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

Sustainability is not just planting certain plants; it's all about understanding the environment and how each of us, through learning and making informed choices, can make a difference in the health of our gardens and of our entire area. This is a great combination of hands-on learning, lectures, workshops and field trips, and an at-home project. Registration required. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$60 📱

(FREE) PLANTS ON MY PLATE**SAT. MAR 30, 10:00-11:30 AM** E154**SAT. APR 27, 10:00-11:30 AM****SAT. MAY 25, 10:00-11:30 AM****SAT. JUN 29, 10:00-11:30 AM**

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

Join us at Skeeter's Garden at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark on the last Saturday of each month to discover how plants play a role in the many things we eat. Each month a new topic will be covered such as roots,

stems, leaves and flowers. Reservations begin March 1. Registration required.

Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 6Y-10Y **PTN** 📱

YOUR BEST VEGETABLE GARDEN**THU. APR 4-MAY 9, 6:00-8:00 PM** E101

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

In this program, important aspects of gardening are covered: soils, planning, planting, pests and preserving. The final session is a project or sharing garden tips. Participants are required to give 25 volunteer service hours. To apply and arrange an orientation, call Volunteer Services Manager Kevin Kepler at (937) 277-4154 by February 15. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4154 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20

COMPOST KITCHEN

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

(FREE) BUILDING BETTER SOIL**WED. APR 10, 6:00-8:00 PM** E88

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

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

(FREE) BACKYARD COMPOSTING**WED. APR 17, 6:00-8:00 PM** E89

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

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

(FREE) ALL ABOUT WORMS**WED. APR 24, 6:00-8:00 PM** E90

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Worms are very efficient composters, and with their help gardeners can

produce quick, quality compost. Learn how to manage a worm bin yourself!

John Woodman from Montgomery County Solid Waste will also discuss community composting efforts.

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

(FREE) TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY**FRI., SAT. APR 12-13, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM**

E163

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

Celebrate Earth Day early by stopping by and getting your tree seedlings while supplies last! This project is brought to you with the support of the Montgomery and Miami County Soil and Water Conservation districts and Rush Creek Gardens. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 or bramsey@metroparks.org for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) APRIL AT AULLWOOD**SUN. APR 14, 2:00-4:00 PM** E80

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, 900 Aullwood Rd.

Join us for a beautiful time at historic Aullwood Garden MetroPark. Spring is a special season at Aullwood, and you won't want to miss the beauty of the early blooms and buds of trees and flowers. Bring your friends and bring your camera. If you want to take pictures, photographer Adam Alonzo will also be on hand to help you get the best nature photos. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📱 ⚙️

(FREE) WILDFLOWER AND NATIVE PLANT SALE**SAT. APR 27, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM** E91

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lath House, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Browse the selection of unique wildflowers and native plants and get advice from the Wildflower Volunteer Group to find the plants most suitable for your garden. All of the plants offered in this sale are ethically propagated or rescued from local areas slated for development. No registration required. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: All ages

(FREE) ANNUAL MAYFAIR**PLANT SALE****SAT. MAY 4, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM** E93**SUN. MAY 5, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Get a jump on spring and purchase unusual perennials, annuals and herbs for companion planting or simply to enhance your landscape at our annual plant sale. Purchase organic vegetable plants for your home garden. Pass-along plants are locally grown and dug plants, perfect for local gardens. Enjoy hanging baskets, just in time for Mother's Day. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details.

metroparks.org/PlantSales. Age: All ages

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: GARDEN EXPERIENCE MENTORS AT WEGERZYN NEEDED

TUE. MAY 14-28, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM E20
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Garden Experience Mentor (GEM) volunteers are needed to welcome visitors to the cool plants and habitats of the Children's Discovery Garden at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. GEMs can volunteer two-hour shifts during the weekdays, weekends and evenings. Three trainings will be held May 14, 21 and 28 from 10AM - 12 PM. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7055 or bbutts@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up

GARDENING BOOT CAMP

#1— PLANTING

SAT. MAY 18, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM E84
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Need to know how to garden fast? Join us for seasonal three-hour sessions on practical gardening skills, presented during the gardening season. You'll learn the techniques you need at the right time of year. Bring your lunch and all your questions for a great gardening year. Today's class is how to plant anything from seeds to trees. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$10 📄

GREEN LIVING

ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES

Films are shown on the first Wednesday of the month, January, March, May and July. Enjoy free popcorn and refreshments during the film and stay afterward to share your insight and observations with others during open discussion.

(FREE) THE ELEPHANT IN THE LIVING ROOM

WED. MAR 6, 7:00-9:00 PM E64
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. See the extraordinary story of two men at the heart of the dangerous-animals-as-pets issue: Tim Harrison, an Ohio police officer whose friend was killed by an exotic pet, and Terry Brumfield, a big-hearted man struggling to raise two African lions he loves. Tim Harrison will host a Q&A after the film. Free popcorn. Film length: 94 min. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 14Y and up

HERITAGE & HISTORY

(FREE) CORN SHELLING & GRINDING

SUN. MAR 17, 12:00-5:00 PM E65
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd. Try your hand at one of the most common 19th-century farm chores. Visitors of all ages can stop by the barn to help shell the kernels from the cob. Also, watch as the kernels are then ground for feed. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: 18Y and up

(FREE) FROM SHEEP TO SHAWLS
SAT., SUN. APR 13-14, 12:00-5:00 PM E66
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, 7800 E. Shull Rd. The role sheep played on the farm will be discussed for this comprehensive program. Watch as the sheep are sheared each day for the spring. Help card wool and watch as fabric is dyed using traditional methods. Come hear about the spinning process and factory production of wool. Watch spinners and weavers process the wool into yarn. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages

BUS TRIP: ENGLEWOOD DAM AND THE 1913 FLOOD

THU. APR 25, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM E79
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Tour the Englewood Dam area to learn about the 1913 flood and the flood prevention system which is now in place. We will drive past the dam work camp and hear tales from someone whose

family lived there. We will stop at the Miami Conservancy District's offices to discover the role played by this important organization. Lunch will be at a charming, historic tavern. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 21Y and up Fee: \$68

(FREE) ALL THINGS FERMENTED: KRAUT, VINEGAR & YEAST

SUN. MAY 5, 12:00-5:00 PM E134
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd. Come learn about the various fermented items found in an 1880s farmhouse pantry. Watch as sauerkraut is made, homemade vinegar is produced, and yeast is made from potatoes and hops. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages

LUNCH AND LEARN

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

(FREE) VICTORIAN LANDSCAPING

TUE. MAY 7, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM E69
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd. Come learn about the various ways in which Victorians, either on the farm or in the city, landscaped their yards. Practical examples will be provided. Registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📄

HOME & HOBBIES

CANNING CLUB

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

ASPARAGUS

SAT. MAY 4, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM E133
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd. Participants will take home recipes and a jar of the month's harvest. Contact



(937) 278-2609 or e-mail deborah.toy@metroparks.org for details. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 📅

MOUNTAIN BIKING

(FREE) TRY MOUNTAIN BIKING

WED. MAY 1, 4:00-7:00 PM E141
HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA Trailhead
Parking Lot, 4485 Union Rd.

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

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: MOMBA TRAIL WORK DAYS

SAT. MAY 11, 12:00-4:00 PM E142
HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA Trailhead
Parking Lot, 4485 Union Rd.

Learn about sustainable trail building while helping maintain the mountain bike trails at MoMBA! No experience is necessary; tools are provided. Volunteers should bring work gloves and water. Youth 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 or outdoors@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅 ⚙️

NATURE

(FREE) FAMILY NATURE WALK

SAT. MAR 2, 10:00-11:30 AM E57
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/
East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40
Venture out into a young forest to study winter's last hold on nature. We will explore migrating birds, budding trees, search for salamanders, and discover spring's first wildflowers. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages **PTN**

VOLUNTEER: METROPARK VOLUNTEER NATURALIST

TUE. MAR 5-APR 23, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM D99
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center
Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Being a naturalist is a state of mind. Becoming a naturalist is a journey—artistic creativity and scientific discipline intertwined. As a volunteer naturalist, you will teach and learn, providing opportunities to share your knowledge, interests and talents with others in a classroom without boundaries. Schedule an interview to begin the journey. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4147 or yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: 21Y and up Fee: \$50 📅

BACKPACKING BABIES

Backpacking Babies programs are just for parents and their babies. Share stories, enjoy fresh air and learn about nature. Babies are exposed to new sights, sounds, textures, and smells on each journey. A baby backpack or Snuggli is required as trails are not stroller-friendly.

(FREE) SOUNDS OF NATURE
THU. MAR 7, 10:00-11:00 AM E40
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead
Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Enjoy a hike through the various habitats of Sugarcreek MetroPark while serenading your baby with nature sounds. In addition to the natural sounds heard, naturalists will also play owl, coyote, and frog sounds to get your baby actively listening to nature. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 0Y-2Y

(FREE) MAGNIFICENT TREES
THU. APR 4, 10:00-11:00 AM E42
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead
Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Enjoy a healthy walk and allow your baby to explore the beautiful sights, puzzling sounds, and fresh air of the forest. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 0Y-2Y

(FREE) PLANT LIFE
THU. MAY 2, 10:00-11:00 AM E43
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead
Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.
Explore trees, shrubs, and wildflowers as we hike through the forest celebrating plant life. Babies will feel and smell a variety of aromas from leaves while appreciating the vibrant colors and shapes of wildflowers. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 0Y-2Y

(FREE) SEEDLING SATURDAYS
SAT. MAR 9, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E94

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redbud
Campsite, 8775 Bellefontaine Rd.

SAT. MAR 16, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E109
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitors Center,
7800 E. Shull Rd.

SAT. MAR 23, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E110
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitors Center,
7800 E. Shull Rd.

SAT. APR 13, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E111
MEDLAR CONSERVATION AREA, Rice Farm
House, 4528 Medlar Rd.

Join our reforestation efforts and help us plant tree seedlings! Five Rivers MetroParks and our volunteers grew these seedlings in 2011, and they are ready to find their places in our forest. Your help is needed! We will be planting over 12,000 new tree seedlings this March in locations throughout MetroParks. Registration required. Contact (937) 275-7275 for details or visit metroparks.org/forests. Age: All ages 📅 ⚙️

CHILDREN'S TOUR GUIDE WORKSHOP SERIES

Discover the joy of sharing nature with children as a volunteer children's tour guide. No experience is necessary; however, potential guides should be 16 years or older and able to walk/hike trails at various MetroParks. Children's tour guides make our natural areas come alive for the students that visit each season.

(FREE) WARM-UP FOR SPRING

MON. MAR 11, 9:30-11:30 AM E60
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead
Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Make an impact working with students who visit MetroParks as part of our Children's Tour Guide program. We invite returning tour guides and interested adults to this workshop to learn more about leading tours and the opportunities available at multiple parks. Please bring your calendar to sign up for scheduled tours. Light refreshments provided. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 16Y and up 📅

(FREE) POLLINATOR PARTNERS

MON. MAR 18, 9:30-11:30 AM E61
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead
Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Welcome to the world of pollinators! Today's workshop will discuss both our animal and insect pollinators as we

discover them in the field, talk about their needs and explore how they are a great hook to capture imaginations and explain content during tours. Please dress for the weather. Light refreshments provided. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 16Y and up 📱

(FREE) IN THE FIELD WITH FIELD TRIPS

MON. MAR 25, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E62

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Join us as we hit the trail and practice field techniques at Germantown MetroPark. We will discuss tour content and uncover more about Ohio wildlife through hands-on time at the pond and in the woods. Please wear creek shoes. Transportation for this session will be provided. Meet in the front parking lot at 9AM. Registration required. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 16Y and up 📱

TIKE HIKES

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

(FREE) COYOTES

TUE. MAR 12, 10:00-11:00 AM E51

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

These animals are greatly misunderstood, so come out and explore their habitat, learn their habits, and discover why they are in our area! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) WOODLAND ADVENTURE

THU. MAR 14, 10:00-11:00 AM E48

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

Treat your preschooler to dirty hands and fresh air as we hike through the forest, turn over logs, and explore! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) SIGNS OF SPRING

FRI. MAR 22, 10:00-11:00 AM E50

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/Parking Lot, 100 Deep Hollow Rd. Satisfy your itch to get outside after a

long winter, and help us look for signs of spring! There are lots of changes going on in the park this time of year, making this an excellent time for a hike. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) HERE COME THE DUCKLINGS

MON. MAR 25, 10:00-11:00 AM E49

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Let's look for ducks and other waterfowl in the lagoon! Some have been here all winter, while others are coming back from their winter homes. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) NOCTURNAL AMPHIBIAN SEARCH

FRI. APR 5, 8:00-9:00 PM E33

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Join us on an evening search for spring peepers and spotted salamanders in Sugarcreek's vernal pool, only 1/4 mile away from the parking lot. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y **PTN**

(FREE) EMERGING

POLLINATORS

WED. APR 10, 10:00-11:00 AM E37

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Shelter: Cottonwood, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

TUE. MAY 14, 10:00-11:00 AM E46

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

Come out and meet our pollinators, which are just emerging from hibernation! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) BUDS AND BUGS

THU. APR 18, 10:00-11:00 AM E44

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: White Oak 1/Nature Play/Parking Lot, 2606 Hilton Dr.

MON. MAY 20, 10:00-11:00 AM E45

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/ East Park, 4361 National Rd. Use face paint to transform your preschooler into a bee, bug, or butterfly. We will pretend to be nature's pollinators, exploring flowers and discovering the relationships that flowers have with bugs. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

(FREE) WOODLAND NESTS

MON. APR 29, 10:00-11:00 AM E34

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40

Many birds are building nests right now to prepare for their babies. Let's look at the different materials birds use and the types of nests they build! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y **PTN**

(FREE) FORESTS AT NIGHT

FRI. MAY 3, 8:30-9:30 PM E41

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/Parking Lot, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.

Have you wondered what happens in the forest once the sun goes down? On a night hike just for preschoolers and their families, we will discuss the differences between night and day, explore pelts of nocturnal animals, and hike to see what nocturnal animals are out! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y **PTN**

(FREE) LITTLE SPROUTS

THU. MAY 9, 10:00-11:00 AM E47

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Come learn what a plant needs to grow and then we will search for baby plants in the park! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-5Y **PTN**

PARENT AND PRESCHOOLER

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

(FREE) JACK'S GIANT BEANSTALK

THU. MAR 14, 10:00-11:30 AM E29

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

How fast can beanstalks really grow? Discover the things that help plants grow. We'll experiment with the power of a seed and play some exciting bean games. There will be time for our own adaptation of the classic fairy tale. Registration required. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y 📱

(FREE) TOPS AND BOTTOMS

THU. MAY 9, 10:00-11:30 AM E30

PASSPORT TO NATURE



Visit MetroParks facilities, participate in designated passport programs, and get your passport stamped. When eight of the boxes are stamped, fill in the information and mail your passport to Five Rivers MetroParks. Every child who completes a passport will become an official Nature Traveler and will receive a special traveler gift along with recognition in this publication.

Look for **PTN** in the program listing to see if it qualifies as a Passport to Nature program! There are also self-guided Park Trek explorations that qualify to earn a stamp.

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

FIRST PASSPORT


Tyler Pfahler
Camden Pfahler
Jacob Smith
Julia Arbogast
Abigail Jette
Asher Jette
Sophia Fullenkamp
Leo Fullenkamp
Aeyla Lamb
Kiernan Lamb
Brendan Lamb
Caroline Tempus
Norah Tempus
Raegan Owsley
Leila Britton
Cecelia Britton
Isabella Thorpe
Gianna Lengel
Maria Lengel

SECOND PASSPORT

Micah Arbogast
Owen Smith
Joseph Roesser
Luke Schumaker
Jason Schumaker
Athena Rosengarten
Wyatt Rosengarten

THIRD PASSPORT

Ella Smith
Luke Schumaker
Jason Schumaker

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Discover more about the strange ways plants grow. We will grow some plant tops and bottoms. Find out which part of the plants is best to eat. Registration required. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y 

(FREE) VOLUNTEER:

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

THU. MAR 14, 6:30-8:00 PM E107


TUE. APR 30, 9:00-10:30 AM E108

TUE. MAY 7, 6:30-8:30 PM E161

WED. MAY 29, 9:00-11:00 AM E162

Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office, 409 E.

Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

Five Rivers MetroParks protects over 15,000 acres, and we could use your help. Discover all the ways you can participate and join our conservation team in reforestation efforts, habitat restoration, wildlife management, and land stewardship. Attending the orientation doesn't commit you to anything, so come see what we are doing. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4147 or yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. **metroparks.org/AboutUs/Conservation.aspx**. Age: All ages 

EUREKA LAB!


School may be out on Saturdays, but it's the perfect opportunity for children and parents to discover together the fun of science and reinforce work done in the classroom during the week. Cox Arboretum MetroPark is a perfect place for informal, hands-on learning that allows children to experiment and explore. Eureka Lab takes place on the third Saturday of the month, bi-monthly during the school year. Discover science and nature together during our award winning Eureka Lab program. This program is based on the Ohio Academic Content Standards for Life Science. Participants can drop-in anytime between 1 and 2:30PM and must be accompanied by an adult.

(FREE) MARVELOUS MUD

SAT. MAR 16, 1:00-3:00 PM E63

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

What do spring showers bring? That's

right, MUD! Uncover who lives in the mud at the bottom of a pond, what animals often leave footprints in the mud and more during today's lab. Remember to dress to make a mess. Participants must be accompanied by an adult while in the lab and can drop in between 1 and 2:30PM. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 6Y-12Y 

(FREE) WOODCOCK WATCH

SAT. MAR 23, 8:00-9:00 PM E58

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Shelter:

Redwing/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.

Watch this odd little bird as he performs his courtship dance full of circles, spirals, and dives at dusk. Bring binoculars if you have them. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages **PTN**

TIKES TAKING ACTION

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

(FREE) SEEDLINGS GALORE

WED. MAR 27, 10:00-11:30 AM E74

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Park Office, 6675 Conservancy Rd.

We will continue helping our forests by planting seedlings in our parks to take the place of dying ash trees. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y **PTN**

(FREE) BLUEBIRD TRAILS

WED. APR 24, 10:00-11:30 AM E72

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Shelter:

Cedar Lake/Parking Lot, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

Come hike our bluebird trails, and learn how to take care of them throughout the year! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y **PTN**

(FREE) MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS

WED. MAY 15, 10:00-11:30 AM E73

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

Milkweed is a monarch caterpillar's favorite food! Come plant milkweed for our monarchs and other plants for butterflies. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y **PTN**

CAFÉ SCI

Join us for this month's café and discover science in a relaxed atmosphere with friends and neighbors from the Miami Valley. Increase your science savvy and share your opinion in our open discussion following the topic introduction.

(FREE) CAFÉ SCI

THU. MAR 28, 7:00-9:00 PM E25

THU. MAY 23, 7:00-9:00 PM E27

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Final topic TBD. Open discussion following the presentation. Light refreshments served. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 275-5059 for details. Age: 14Y and up 📄

(FREE) WOODLAND WILDFLOWERS

SUN. APR 7, 2:00-4:00 PM E52

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

SUN. APR 21, 2:00-3:30 PM E39

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, 4178 Conference Rd.

Explore nature's colorful carpet of wildflowers while learning about their role in our forest ecology. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages 📄 **PTN**

(FREE) NECTAR: IT DOES A BUG GOOD!

TUE. APR 9, 6:00-8:00 PM E26

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

Nectar and pollen drive a very complex relationship between plants and pollinators. Join Elisabeth Rothschild from the Miami Valley Butterfly Association as she explores the fascinating strategies plants and insects use to get what they need from each other. Find out more about what is currently happening to our pollinators and how that affects humans. Discover ways to attract pollinators to the home landscape. Registration required. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📄

(FREE) SECRET HILLS AND SPRING WILDFLOWERS WALK

SUN. APR 14, 2:00-3:30 PM E54

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

Explore nature's colorful carpet of

wildflowers while learning about their role in our forest ecology. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages 📄 ⚙️

STROLLER STRUTS

Stroller Strut is a casual stroll on the arboretum grounds for caregivers and children ages 0-3 years old. Each strut has a nature theme and encourages interaction between the caregiver and child as they discover new plants and their surroundings.

(FREE) DAFFODILS

TUE. APR 16, 9:00-10:00 AM E23

TUE. APR 23, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM E24

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Huffman Gallery, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Find bright and sunny signs of spring! Enjoy the fresh spring air as we stroll the arboretum grounds to see daffodils in bloom. Little ones can make a special daffodil to take home. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 0Y-3Y 📄

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: CONSERVATION CARETAKER ORIENTATION

THU. APR 18, 6:30-8:30 PM E113

Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

Each of the conservation areas has groups of volunteers who are more integrated in a specific site. These caretakers may be involved with boundary checks, greeting episodic volunteers to workdays, act as invasive scouts and help in giving each of the areas more TLC during the year. This opportunity can be done independently or in teams. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4147 or yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. **metroparks.org/conservation**. Age: 18Y and up 📄

(FREE) ADOPT-A-PARK

SAT. APR 20, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E159

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Come help Five Rivers MetroParks with a variety of earth-friendly activities. Participants will assist staff and volunteers doing trail work, planting trees, and cleaning our parks and waterways. This annual event is open to all people, regardless of age

or ability. Registration closes April 6. To register, visit the link below. Registration required. Contact (937) 275-7275 for details. **metroparks.org/adopt**. Age: All ages

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: FOREST FOSTER FAMILY

FRI. APR 26, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM E112

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

The Forest Foster Family program is a different kind of volunteer opportunity for Five Rivers MetroParks, and is welcoming the second year of "parents" this spring to our reforestation efforts. Volunteers take home a flat of newly propagated tree seedlings to care for and monitor for the growing season. Registration required. Contact (937) 275-7275 for details.

metroparks.org/forest. Age: All ages 📄

BEGINNING BIRDING WORKSHOP

SAT. APR 27, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM E35

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Want to learn more about birds? Come explore the world of ornithology and start with the basics, including identification, field guide and binocular use, bird song, biology, and behavior. The two-hour indoor session will be followed by a field study in the prairie and forest. Participants are encouraged to attend the afternoon Bird Song Study. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 or jyork@metroparks.org for details. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$15 📄

(FREE) BIRD SONG STUDY

SAT. APR 27, 1:00-4:00 PM E36

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Practice makes perfect! Study common birds and their vocalizations with this relaxed study session. After studying, we will play games and tell stories to help us remember these songs. Later we will hike through different habitats in search of birds and test our new skill. Each participant will receive an Ohio Department of Natural Resources bird guide and bird song CD. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 or jyork@metroparks.org for details. Age: 14Y and up 📄

(FREE) KNOWING OUR WILDFLOWERS

SAT. MAY 4, 8:30-11:30 AM E55

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Education Room, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Explore the many ways of knowing our

wildflowers through art and science, then practice these skills in the heart of one of our most scenic parks. Participants are encouraged to bring digital cameras, journals and sketchbooks. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 or dhorvath@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

(FREE) SCREECH OWL SEARCH

FRI. MAY 10, 8:30-9:30 PM E70

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/Parking Lot, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.

Enjoy a night walk in search of the screech owl, the smallest resident owl of MetroParks, while learning about its interaction with our forests. We will use its song to lure it in for a good, close look. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages **PTN**

FOREST BIRDS FIELD TRIP

SAT. MAY 11, 6:00 AM-8:00 PM E38

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

See extremely colorful birds like warblers, tanagers, and orioles from just a few feet away at nationally recognized birding hot spot—Magee Marsh Wildlife Area. We will learn how these world travelers play a part in our forest ecology, and how we can protect them. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 or jyork@metroparks.org for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$40 📱

ADVANCED BUTTERFLY CLASS

Participants will gain a better understanding of the life cycle and courtship of these insects. Basic skills for identification of adult moths and butterflies will be discussed.

(FREE) BUTTERFLIES OF OHIO

THU. MAY 16, 6:00-8:00 PM E28

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

Have you always wanted to expand your butterfly knowledge beyond basic monarch identification? Join butterfly expert Elisabeth Rothschild as she explains the essential points in butterfly identification. Discover how butterflies are classified using scientific nomenclature, as well as tricks of the trade for individual ID. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

(FREE) GARDENING FOR BEE AND OTHER POLLINATORS

WED. MAY 22, 2:30-4:30 PM E31

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk. Denise Ellsworth, Ohio State University honey bee and native pollinator educator, will be on hand to share ways to improve our home gardens to become havens for pollinators. There will be a guided tour of the arboretum pollinator garden. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

(FREE) WALK THE FALLS

SAT. MAY 18, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM E53

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

Come out and enjoy a leisurely walk through Englewood MetroPark and discover its many springtime treasures. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages **PTN**

(FREE) WILDFLOWERS THROUGH BUTTERFLY EYES

SUN. MAY 19, 2:00-3:30 PM E59

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Butterflies and wildflowers go together in an amazing cycle. Experience the science and fieldwork of volunteers who have monitored this cycle while sharing in the late spring burst of wildflowers and butterflies along the trails. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 or dhorvath@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

GREAT DAYTON ADVENTURE

FRI. MAY 10, 5:00-9:00 PM E155

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 111 E. Monument Ave.

This race is an urban scavenger hunt in downtown Dayton, starting and ending at RiverScape MetroPark. Experience Dayton in a new way as you weave your way through the excitement of Urban Nights with music and fun around every corner on a vibrant night downtown. Register solo or with a team. Sign up at the provided website. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 274-0126 or info@topoadventuresports.org for details. www.topoadventuresports.org. Age: All ages Fee: \$20

OUTDOOR SKILLS AND SAFETY

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER

SUN., MON., TUE., WED., THU., FRI., SAT. MAR 2-10, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM E117

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, 4790 Frytown Rd.

This class is “the ideal medical training for outdoor educators, guides, search-and-rescue team members, and others who work or play in remote areas.” Upon successful completion, participants will earn a wilderness first responder certificate good for 3 years. This 70-hour course covers patient assessment, body systems, environmental injuries and other conditions. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 or erik.dahlstrom@metroparks.org for details. www.wildmed.com. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$700 📱

PADDLING

(FREE) TRY KAYAKING

THU. MAY 9, 4:00-7:00 PM E147

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Blue Lake, 1401 Harshman Rd.

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

(FREE) VOLUNTEER:

PADDLESPOUT ASSISTANT TRAINING

SUN. MAY 19, 1:00-4:00 PM E148

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Blue Lake, 1401 Harshman Rd.

Paddle-sport volunteers needed! Our training will get you on the water and help you become comfortable assisting others who are learning about paddle sports. There will be opportunities to use these skills as a volunteer throughout the season. Some prior experience is preferred; equipment is provided. Registration requested. Call (937) 277-4374 or erik.dahlstrom@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱 ⚙️

ACA CANOE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

THU., FRI., SAT. MAY 30-JUN 1, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM E149

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Blue Lake, 1401 Harshman Rd.

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

ACA KAYAK INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

THU., SAT. MAY 30-JUN 1, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM E150

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Blue Lake, 1401 Harshman Rd.

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

PHOTOGRAPHY

(FREE) GETTING STARTED WITH DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

SAT. MAR 16, 10:00-11:30 AM E76

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

Before you can shoot breathtaking outdoor photos, you need to understand the basics of digital photography. This session explains concepts such as megapixels, magnification, memory cards, quality settings and aspect ratio. Each topic will be clearly illustrated with photos. Bring your camera and your questions. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) AULLWOOD IN BLOOM

SUN. APR 14, 2:00-4:00 PM E81

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, 900 Aullwood Rd.

Join Adam Alonzo for an informal photography session in the garden, taking pictures of flowers, insects, trees and creeks. This is an opportunity for hobbyist photographers to ask questions and try new techniques. Meet at the house. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅 ⚙️

(FREE) PHOTOGRAPHY: JUST THE BASICS

SUN. APR 21, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM E78

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

A typical camera today has so many features and settings it can be confusing. Fortunately, all a photographer needs to do is make a few simple adjustments based on environmental conditions. This presentation will introduce these techniques and give participants an opportunity to practice. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📅

(FREE) NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY STEP-BY-STEP

SAT. MAY 18, 10:00-11:30 AM E82

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

In this workshop, photographer Adam Alonzo will describe a series of important steps you should consider as you take nature photos. This procedure addresses factors that impact the quality of your pictures, such as distance from the subject, camera angle, and direction of the light. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📅

ROWING

COMPETITIVE JUNIOR ROWING
SUN., MON., TUE., WED., THU., FRI., SAT.

MAR 18-JUN 9, 4:00-6:30 PM E135

ISLAND METROPARK, 101 E. Helena St.

Join Greater Dayton Rowing for this 12-week program and compete in regatta events. Rowing is a low-impact, power-endurance sport using 90% of the body's muscles. Athletes gain confidence through competition. Training plans will be specific to age groups. Financial aid available. Meet at Island MetroPark Boat House: 4-6:30PM Monday through Friday; 10AM-12:30PM

Saturday. **Prerequisites: Must know how to swim and be comfortable around water. Participants must be a student in the greater Dayton area, grades 7-12 or ages 13-18.** See contact info to register. Contact (513) 885-6251 or alex.walters@ymail.com for details. www.daytonjuniorrowing.org. Age: 13Y-18Y Fee: \$495

LEARN TO ROW

Were you inspired by the Olympics? Then get on the water with the Greater Dayton Rowing Association and Learn to Row! These four-week classes for adults will cover everything required to row a single sculling boat confidently and independently. Rowing is a zero-impact activity that uses most of the body's muscle groups. It is a great exercise and a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors. Sign up early; classes fill quickly. Class meets weeknights at 6:00PM and weekends at 2:00PM. Program graduation includes a year-round fitness program and access to GDRA equipment. Located at the Island MetroPark Boat House and then on the Great Miami River.

ADULT LEARN TO ROW

MON. MAY 13, 6:00-8:00 PM E136

ISLAND METROPARK, 101 E. Helena St.

Sessions take place May 13-August 18. Classes are either 6PM Monday/Wednesday, 6PM Tuesday/Thursday, or 2PM Saturday/Sunday. These four-week classes will cover everything needed to row a single sculling boat confidently and independently. Classes are held at the Island MetroPark Boat House. No prior experience necessary.

Prerequisites: Participants should know how to swim and be comfortable around water, have good balance and overall physical mobility. Able to carry 25 lbs. over head and comfortable doing deep knee bends. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 260-2630 or Jon Daugherty for details. www.daytonrowing.org. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$275



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Photo by Joel Sartore

JOEL SARTORE:

GRIZZLIES, PIRANHAS
AND MAN-EATING PIGS

Photographer • Wildlife Conservationist

Monday, February 11, 7 p.m.



Photo by Linda Makarov

ANNIE GRIFFITHS:

A CAMERA, TWO KIDS, AND A CAMEL

Photographer • Global Conservationist

Monday, March 11, 7 p.m.



Photo by Mark Thiessen

PAUL SERENO:

THE DINOSAUR HUNTER

Paleontologist • Evolutionist

Monday, April 22, 7 p.m.



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33




ADOPT-A-PARK
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS


ADOPT-A-PARK

Saturday, April 20

Five Rivers MetroParks invites families, neighbors, co-workers and all residents of Montgomery County to join in this annual volunteer event. Adopt-A-Park participants will beautify the region by removing litter, planting trees, and other projects suitable for all ages. All projects contribute to improving our region's natural habitats and watershed systems! When you're finished with your work site, head to RiverScape MetroPark for a complimentary lunch and green exhibits.

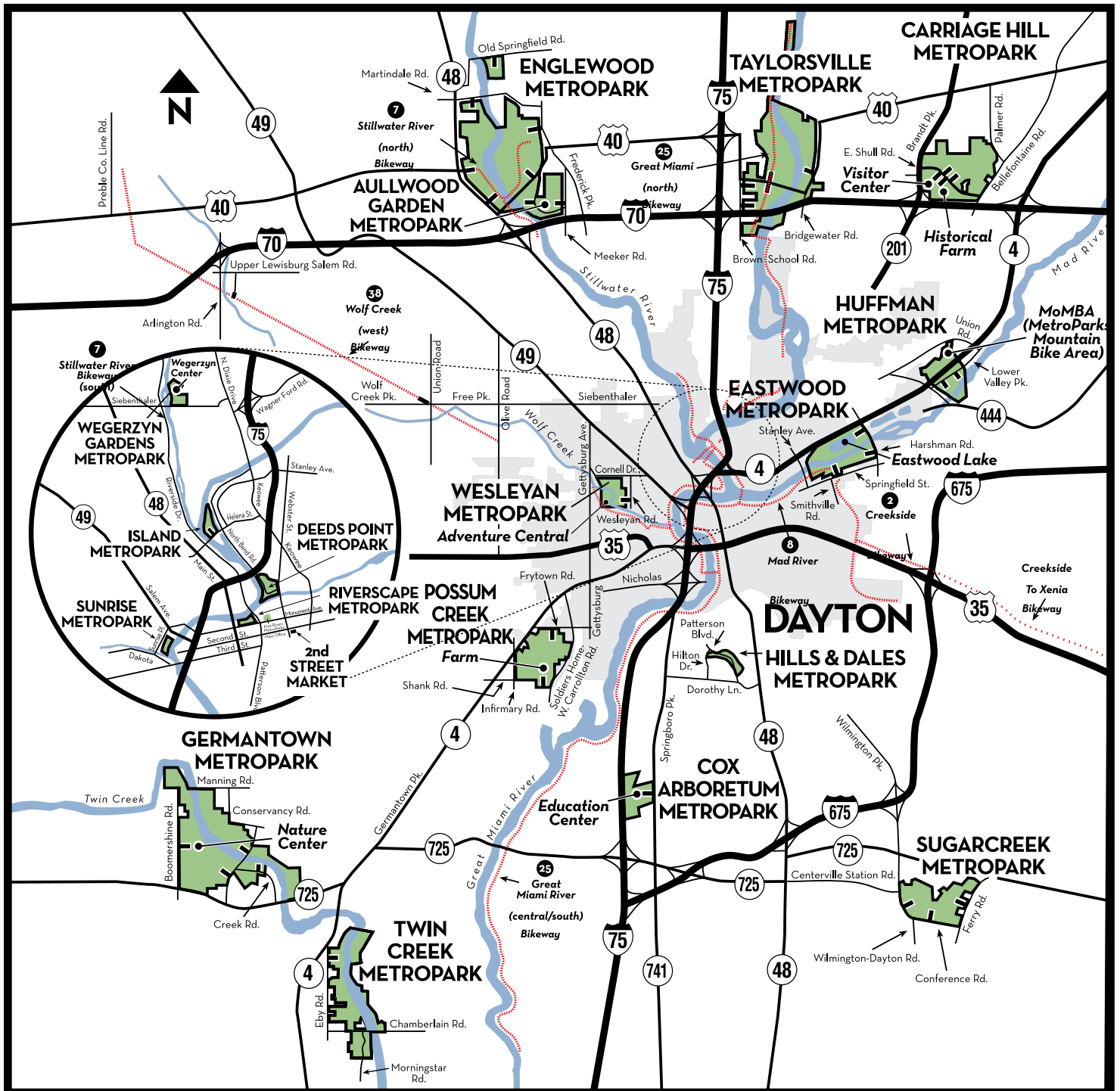
To register, call (937) 275-PARK (7275) or visit metroparks.org/adopt.

REGISTER *for your programs* ONLINE



Registering for programs is simple! Maintain your account with ease, and add registered friends or family members for programs with you. For a demonstration of how to use this new system, visit metroparks.org/registration or call (937) 275-PARK (7275) for more information. Program registration may still be made in person or by calling the number listed in the program description.

No matter where you are in Montgomery County,
you're only 15 minutes away from a
Five Rivers MetroPark.





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Go to metroparks.org/parkways to view this *ParkWays* publication online.



**BIKE to
WORK
DAY**

**FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS**



FRIDAY, MAY 17

7:00am - 9:00am at RiverScape MetroPark

Enjoy cycling-related exhibitors, live music and the team challenge. Call (937) 277-4374 or visit metroparks.org/biketowork for information.



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