

# PARKWAYS



Photo by Leah Stahl

## MOVING FORWARD

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS IS PLANNING  
A FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

See full story on pages 12-16

GET THE INSIDE STORY ON CONSERVATION  
SEE PAGES 6-7

LEARN ABOUT RESOURCES FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS  
SEE PAGES 8-9





# REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE

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



**Nov. 21**

**STOCK-UP  
WEDNESDAY**

PNC 2nd Street Market



**Nov. 23-25**

**ICE RINK GRAND  
OPENING WEEKEND**

RiverScape MetroPark

Photo by Leah Stahl



**Dec. 2**

**CHRISTMAS ON  
THE FARM**

Carriage Hill MetroPark

Photo by Robin Juliana



**Dec. 24-25**

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY  
SKATING**

RiverScape MetroPark



**Dec. 31-Jan. 1**

**NEW YEAR'S  
HOLIDAY SKATING**

RiverScape MetroPark

Photo by Leah Stahl



**Jan. 21**

**MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR. DAY  
HOLIDAY SKATING**

RiverScape MetroPark



**Feb. 18**

**PRESIDENT'S DAY  
SKATE**

RiverScape MetroPark



**Feb. 23**

**CONSERVATION  
EXPO**

Cox Arboretum MetroPark



**Feb. 23**

**BLACK HISTORY DAY  
AT THE MARKET**

PNC 2nd Street Market



**March 2**

**MIAMI VALLEY  
GARDENING  
CONFERENCE**

Sinclair Community College



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

**WWW.METROPARKS.ORG**



**Becky Benna**  
Executive Director

## Dear MetroParks Friends,

As I have mentioned in previous issues, our community partners and volunteers are critical to our mission in providing outstanding services and amenities to our residents and visitors. As you will read in this issue, like many organizations throughout the area, Five Rivers MetroParks is also financially challenged to continue to provide the high-quality services and amenities due to the loss of revenue from our major funding sources. This revenue comes from local property taxes and state funding, such as local government funds and tangible personal property tax reimbursements and has provided more than 88% of all funding generated to operate Five Rivers MetroParks. As a result of the reductions, we have experienced a loss in this revenue source of over \$2 million annually since 2011. This trend is expected to continue.

In order to address this challenge, staff, volunteers and our partner organizations continue to work together in identifying creative opportunities to become more efficient, reduce expenses and develop new revenue streams. As we develop and implement our new strategies, we will be soliciting feedback from the community through surveys and meeting with various community organizations and citizens. If you are interested in providing us your ideas and suggestions, please feel free to email us at [email@metroparks.org](mailto:email@metroparks.org) or fill out the web form on our "contact us" page at **METROPARKS.ORG**. You can also call (937) 275-PARK (7275) or stop by the main office at 409 E. Monument Ave., third floor, and fill out a suggestion slip. Five Rivers MetroParks is your organization, and we want to ensure we continue to meet your needs and remain financially sustainable for the near and long-term future.

Again, we greatly appreciate your support and we look forward to doing so for many years to come.

*Becky Benna*

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

**facebook**



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

## MetroParks Commissioners



Alan F. Pippenger



Karen L. Davis



Irvin G. Bieser, Jr.

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

Commissioner photos ©Easterling Studios





**#1 FROSTY FUN:** Take a hike on one of MetroParks' forested trails.

**#2 OUTDOORS IN:** Get inspired for outdoor adventure at the Adventure Summit speaker series or the National Geographic Live programs at the Victoria Theatre. Visit [TheAdventureSummit.com](http://TheAdventureSummit.com) to learn more.



Photo by RA Makley

**#3 BIRD BUDDIES:** Which birds call Ohio their winter home? Visit the Germantown MetroPark Nature Center from 1-4 p.m. on weekends to see the Window on Wildlife.

# TOP TEN WAYS

## to appreciate habitats in your Five Rivers MetroParks

### THIS WINTER



**#4 HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS:** Make your holidays fun, unique, and local by getting your meal preparation supplies and gifts at the PNC 2nd Street Market.

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



Photo by Holly Smith

**#5 POWDER POWER:** The trails at Possum Creek MetroPark are great for cross-country skiing after snowfall!



**#6 STAMP OUT BOREDOM:** Smash cabin fever by participating in Passport to Nature. Visit [metroparks.org/passport](http://metroparks.org/passport) for details!



Photo by RA Makley

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



**#7 FOREST FRIENDS:** You can help reforestation efforts by visiting [metroparks.org/forests](http://metroparks.org/forests) and taking the online pledge.



Photo by Leah Stahl

**#10 PARKER PALS:** Visit Parker the Penguin and groove to great music on the MetroParks Ice Rink at RiverScape MetroPark.

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

Managing more than 15,400 acres of land is no short order, and it's a task made far easier with the help of Five Rivers MetroParks volunteers. "Whether you volunteer once a year at Adopt-A-Park or every week at your favorite park, we need our volunteers to continue our mission of protecting our region's natural heritage," says Volunteer Services Manager Kevin Kepler. "Everyone's participation helps, and we're so grateful for every minute contributed."

Volunteer opportunities range in a spectrum about as broad and diverse as the parks themselves. Activities include: administrative tasks, children's activities, conservation activities, farm activities, gardening, hospitality, physical helpers, park patrols, recreation, skilled trades, and visitor guides.

There are many ways to get involved. One good start is to check out current reforestation efforts by visiting [metroparks.org/forests](http://metroparks.org/forests) and clicking on the "volunteer" tab. This page provides a handy sign-up sheet that may be completed online. Check the boxes of all volunteer activities you're interested in. You can also visit [metroparks.org/volunteer](http://metroparks.org/volunteer) for the general volunteer application and descriptions of all available volunteer opportunities within Five Rivers MetroPark facilities.

The benefits MetroParks volunteers provide extend beyond the borders of Five Rivers MetroParks facilities. Volunteers can become advocates for nature and living examples of good environmental stewardship in their homes and communities. "It's great when people take time out of their busy lives to come help out with a project at a park they love," Kepler says. "But when our volunteers share their experience and love of nature with others, that can have an even more profound impact. We hope volunteers will take the knowledge they gain from their experiences and implement those practices into their everyday lives."

Such examples of this include the number of people incorporating native plants into their landscapes and gardens after spending a day removing invasive species from a conservation area, or making better efforts to recycle or reduce their

## BY THE NUMBERS

Volunteers make a big impact. Here is a statistical snapshot of what our volunteers have accomplished in 2011:

<b>247</b>	Number of service learning program volunteers
<b>2,000 +</b>	Number of permanent volunteers
<b>3,000 +</b>	Number of episodic volunteers
<b>100,000</b>	Number of volunteer hours logged in 2011
<b>\$1.6 million</b>	Approximate dollar amount of volunteer hours that is a direct savings to Montgomery County citizens

waste consumption following a morning of removing trash from the river corridor during the annual Adopt-A-Park volunteer event. "We want to create meaningful volunteer experiences," Kepler says. "If we can teach you a little bit about how to be a good environmental steward, and if you can take that knowledge to improve your community, that's our ultimate goal."

Another type of "super volunteer" is one involved in the service learning program. Typically notated with the "master" preface, these volunteers undergo intense training, then gain real-world experience volunteering alongside Five Rivers MetroPark employees, and even leading small groups of other volunteers. "Service learning programs are a win-win-win situation: The participant benefits from the professional training series, Five Rivers MetroParks benefits from having a strong corps of highly skilled volunteers, and the public wins because they will have a great experience when they visit or volunteer at a MetroPark," Kepler says.

## Upcoming service learning programs:

### METROPARKS VOLUNTEER NATURALIST

Join an eight-week intensive training program where you will teach and learn, providing opportunities to share your knowledge, interests, and talents. Schedule an interview with Yvonne Dunphe at [yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org](mailto:yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org) or call (937) 277-4147. Fee: \$50

### MASTER RECYCLER

This is a training program designed to educate volunteers about proper waste

management techniques. Volunteers will assist Montgomery County Solid Waste District and Five Rivers MetroParks in teaching the public about effective recycling in the Miami Valley. Interviews will take place in January 2013. To schedule an interview, contact Kevin Kepler at (937) 275-7275. Fee: \$25

### NATIVE PLANT PRIMER

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. For an interview and more information, call Yvonne Dunphe at (937) 277-4147 or [yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org](mailto:yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org). Fee: \$35

If you love volunteering and learning more about our region's natural areas, you should know about the Go Nuts for MetroParks contest where participating in forestry programs or volunteering could win a new tree for your home! First, download the Go Nuts for MetroParks brochure, available online at [metroparks.org/forests](http://metroparks.org/forests). Next, choose three opportunities in any combination of attending a special forestry program (also available online) and reforestation volunteer opportunities. Collect a stamp for participating in activities, and when you have collected three stamps, fill out the form and mail your brochure in to Five Rivers MetroParks, Go Nuts for MetroParks Contest, 409 E. Monument Ave., Third Floor, Dayton, OH 45402. One winner will be selected to receive a ball-and-burlap tree delivered and installed at his or her home from a local nursery (prize valued around \$500).

## ONLINE EXTRA

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit [metroparks.org/volunteer](http://metroparks.org/volunteer) or click on the "Get Involved" tab at the top of the page.



# CONSERVATION 101

## PROTECTING NATURAL SPACES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

If you've ever hiked in a MetroPark or paddled down a river corridor or spotted a rare migratory bird perched in a tree, you probably have come to appreciate our region's rich natural heritage and know that it is the mission of Five Rivers MetroParks to protect these places, but do you know the full scope of what that entails? What kinds of conservation practices are used? This article should give you the insight you need to understand how and why our natural spaces are being protected and what you can do to help.

### WHAT IS CONSERVATION?

Ideals and practices regarding conservation instituted years ago have evolved and changed over time, keeping pace with new technologies and new insights into wildlife biology. But the idea behind conservation remains hinged to the basic concept of protecting nature. "For much of the twentieth century, the mind-set of the conservation movement was to protect nature from people. We raced against new developments or unsustainable business practices," explains Josh Knights, executive director of The Nature Conservancy in Ohio. This organization protects more than 119 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide. "Today, we still work to abate threats to the health of our lands and waters, but our purpose has evolved. The new mind-set in conservation is to protect nature for people. Modern conservationists now steward natural areas to produce one or more public benefits: recreation, water quality, wildlife refuge, education, etc."



## METROPARKS CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Five Rivers MetroParks currently protects 15,458 acres in Montgomery County and adjacent counties. "The most viable habitat is that along the river corridor," explains Five Rivers MetroParks Conservation Director Dave Nolin. "It's great when we can acquire land around the rivers because it can easily sustain a diverse representation of wildlife, but of course, nature isn't restricted to any particular municipal boundaries, so we have to connect the best lands together."

Carefully designed land stewardship plans are developed for each tract of land. These plans guide the protection, management, and restoration of native plant and animal communities and provide park visitors an opportunity to experience and learn about their natural heritage.

Land protection has proceeded at a fairly constant rate during the last half century. In the last decade, over 3,400 new acres have been protected, bringing the total protected acreage to over 15,000 acres.

About 90 percent of the land owned and eased through Five Rivers MetroParks is protected as natural areas. This is because many wildlife species require large tracts of quality habitat, and some are not tolerant of being constantly disturbed by human activities. "The biggest challenge for managers of natural areas is finding the right balance between protection and use," Nolin says. Thanks to efforts to find this balance over the years, species that had long vacated the Miami Valley are making a comeback, including wild turkey, black bear, beaver, bobcat, smallmouth bass and river otter.

About 50 percent of the funding for land protection comes directly from the park district's budget; the remaining portion is

### ONLINE EXTRA

Visit **METROPARKS.ORG** and click on the conservation link on the right-hand side to learn more about Five Rivers MetroParks conservation practices.

# CONSERVATION



obtained through state and federal grants. Since 2000, almost half of all land MetroParks has purchased has been obtained using grant money. The state-bonded Clean Ohio Fund has supported much of the high-quality natural area that has been acquired in the last decade.

Another means of protecting natural spaces is through conservation easements. These are private farms that contain important natural features such as headwater streams, large tracts of forest, or farmland adjacent to an existing MetroPark. A conservation easement allows the property owner to retain ownership of the property but the land is not permitted to be developed. Conservation easements allow Five Rivers MetroParks to protect land at a fraction of the cost of buying it.

## MEET THE CONSERVATION TEAM

Managing all that acreage is no small feat, but Five Rivers MetroParks has a specialized force of experts to oversee our natural spaces. This team includes Nolin, Conservation Manager Mary Klunk, Wildlife Biologist Michael Enright, Conservation Specialist Debby McKee, Conservation Crew Leader Steve Sherman, five conservation technicians, and a rotating apprentice position. “We have a great team, but we really couldn’t accomplish as much as we have without support from Volunteer Coordinator Yvonne Dunphe and all our conservation volunteers,” Klunk says. “Their participation in projects, such as our huge reforestation efforts, has been extremely valuable. They’re the reason we’re one of the leading conservation groups in the state and even nationally among other park districts.”

Duties performed by the conservation team and volunteers include wildlife monitoring, native plant propagation and

invasive species management. Invasive plants are exotic species that out-compete native species for resources, often to the detriment of the natural environment.

## THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION

Five Rivers MetroParks will continue its efforts to maintain and protect natural areas in the Miami Valley for generations to come. “Those of us who are old enough to remember the rampant pollution going on 40 years ago—images of rivers burning with pollutants—we can’t forget the lessons learned,” Nolin says. “If we keep going on our current trajectory, we will be able to protect and manage green spaces and ensure our children, grandchildren, and future generations will know the simple joy of taking a hike in the woods, seeing a bird perched in a tree, or hearing the riffle of a fresh, clean stream.

“If you haven’t explored our region’s beautiful, natural spaces, consider visiting a MetroPark near you. Thank you for your continued support of Five Rivers MetroParks’ mission, and thank you for sharing your enthusiasm,” Nolin says. 🍃



## CONSERVATION EXPO

**Sat. Feb 23, 9:00 am-12:00 pm**  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,  
Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733  
Springboro Pk.

Learn about Five Rivers MetroParks conservation practices, meet some of the experts, find out about volunteer opportunities, and more at the Conservation Expo. Contact (937) 277-4147 for details.



## GAINING GROUND WITH GRANTS

One way Five Rivers MetroParks leverages tax dollars is by acquiring grants to purchase land. “With the Clean Ohio Grant, we were able to purchase the 100-acre property at the Medlar Conservation Area near the Austin Landing,” says Conservation Manager Mary Klunk. “Included in the grant was money for invasive plant management, a service lane, and planting of 25,000 trees and shrubs plus protective tree shelters.”

Other examples of maximizing purchase power through grants include:

### Shoup Mill Conservation Area

A grant allowed for the purchase of the land along the river, invasive plant management (fecon work to clear the honeysuckle), and money for a service parking lot.

### The Great Miami Wetland Bank

First-phase development has occurred and now sale of wetland credits can begin. This will provide funding for phase two of the mitigation bank and additional money for conservation efforts.

### Three Valley Land Trust

Federal dollars (matched to Five Rivers MetroParks’ contribution) will purchase conservation easements. The easement protects the land from development; Five Rivers MetroParks does not have to directly manage the land other than annually monitor the easement. It provides a buffer for the MetroParks land, protecting sensitive habitats and wildlife.



# 'NATURAL' RESOURCES



## OUTDOOR TOOLKITS AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS

If you've read this magazine before, you know it's chock-full of ways to get outside and explore nature. You probably also know that the back section is loaded with programs aimed at helping you discover our region's rich natural heritage and introduce you to native wildlife. What you might not know is that the learning doesn't stop at programming. Five Rivers MetroParks offers an array of resources for parents, teachers, youth leaders, and day care providers.

### PASSPORT TO NATURE

This is an incentive-based feature that encourages families to attend special programs together. Look for the PTN logo in the back of this magazine to find qualifying programs. Kids and their caregivers will learn about native habitats and the plants and animals, plus information about being a good environmental steward.

To participate, simply pick up a Passport to Nature brochure, found at MetroParks main office (409 E. Monument Ave., Third Floor, Dayton) during normal business hours, one of the MetroParks visitor centers, or downloaded

from [metroparks.org/passport](http://metroparks.org/passport). Bring your passport to at least eight PTN programs to earn a stamp. Once eight stamps are collected, the passport should be mailed in to Five Rivers MetroParks' main office, and the child's name will be published with other "Nature Travelers" and he or she will receive a special prize.

Can't make it to all the PTN programs? Park Trek is a flexible solution for busy families. Two program attendance stamps may be substituted for a Park Trek stamp. Park Trek is like a treasure hunt, with clues leading from one point to another, until the final spot is revealed. Find the Park Trek stamper to mark your passport. There are Park Trek adventures at Englewood, Germantown, Possum Creek, and Sugarcreek MetroParks. "Anyone can go on the self-guided clue-finding adventure," says Conservation and Nature Programming Manager Katrina Arnold. "Even if you're not participating in the Passport to Nature program, it's still fun to find all the clues leading you to a special natural feature in the park."

### VENTURE QUEST

If you enjoy geocaching—an activity that lets you use your handheld GPS device or smartphone to find coordinates to "treasures"—you and your

# EDUCATION



## ONLINE EXTRA

To learn more about activities for families, visit **metroparks.org/families** and find out more about the Passport to Nature program, Venture Quest, Park Trek, and more.

To learn more about resources for teachers, youth leaders, and child care providers, visit **metroparks.org** and select “teachers” from the “special interest” drop-down menu found at the top of the page.



family will love Venture Quest. Venture Quest uses GPS coordinates of various outdoor attractions that participants must locate. Download the brochure from **metroparks.org/venturequest** to find the GPS coordinates of the “hidden” objects. Your goal is to find all six geological features and the post for each site. Once you find the post, make a rubbing on your brochure. Once you have collected 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.

### NATURAL ADVENTURES BOX

How does your childcare center spend its summer? Inside interacting with technology or traveling far distances paying for an indoor experience? Why not do something outdoors in nature that is engaging and local? Come explore our well-marked trails, discover local wildlife, and investigate diverse habitats at a MetroPark close to you.

“Getting kids outside is not only a great way to get exercise but also helps build a relationship with the natural world and encourages play,” Arnold says. Play supports biological, psychological and social development. One such means

of facilitating nature play available especially for child care providers is the Natural Adventure Box. These boxes are placed at various MetroPark locations and may be checked out by child care providers who have taken the special training session.

Training sessions typically take place in May. Call (937) 277-4178 for upcoming dates or to be added to the list to be notified when training is available. Once training is complete, child care providers may check out the boxes and use their contents to create a fun, engaging nature experience for children.

### EDUCATION KITS

Five Rivers MetroParks offers a number of education kits that teachers and youth group leaders can use with their students within the classroom. These kits provide teaching tools to explore history, nature, and conservation subjects through hands-on experiments and activities.

Education kits are loaned out with a \$25 refundable deposit. Kits include activities, equipment, a list of supplies needed (where applicable), and a resource list.

Education kits are generally loaned for a two-week period and designed for up to 20 children with sharing of equipment. To borrow a kit, visit the special interest page for teachers. From the home page of **metroparks.org**, select “teachers” from the “special interest” drop-down menu found at the top.

Available kits and their topics include birds, farm and agriculture, forestry, insects, mammals, Ohio fossils, soil and composting, and wetlands and aquatics.

Visit

**metroparks.org**

and select

“teachers” from the


“special interest”

drop-down menu to find the

education kit link to learn more about each kit’s contents.

### EDUCATION FIELD TRIPS

Five Rivers MetroParks offers a wealth of on-site educational programs for area school groups. These programs are adaptable to a multidisciplinary curriculum and meet Ohio Academic Content Standards Benchmarks for science, social studies, English language arts, and/or mathematics. Best of all, these programs encourage students to get outside and build a long-term connection with nature.

Visit the MetroParks for Teachers page and click the link for education field trips to learn more about all the available opportunities and contact information for each outdoor adventure. 



# LEARN TO 'GET OUT & LIVE'

## OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS GIVE RESIDENTS KNOW-HOW FOR NATURE FUN

For nearly 50 years, Five Rivers MetroParks has protected natural spaces for purposes of conservation and to facilitate personal connections with nature. "Teaching people how to enjoy outdoor recreation opportunities is just as important as providing and maintaining the facilities themselves," says Outdoor Connections Director Greg Brumitt.

There are programs that are considered "entry-level" programs: These require little to no up-front investment because Five Rivers MetroParks (or a programming partner) provides the equipment, safety

gear and instruction. "Sometimes the idea of jumping into a new activity can seem intimidating, so we want to remove those initial barriers and let people decide if an activity is something they'd like to pursue further," Brumitt says. The "Try It" programs are designed to engage more people easier at lower costs for MetroParks.

The Midwest Outdoor Experience, which takes place around the first weekend in October annually, is a great way to get started in a variety of outdoor activities. "You can roam from station to station and try backpacking, kayaking, mountain biking, climbing, and other activities," Brumitt says. "Then head over to the exhibitor area and find the gear you need to get started, and make connections with local outdoor clubs." The biennial Adventure Summit is a similar setup hosted indoors at Wright State University. Centered around outdoor-adventure speakers, the Summit takes place in February and is designed to inspire patrons to explore the world around them. "We switch it up with the Adventure Speaker Series during Summit off years," Brumitt says. "You still get the inspiring speakers and their interesting presentations. Every speaker has a really exciting story to share."



## ICE RINK SEASON PASSES NOW ON SALE

If you love to skate, take advantage of a money-saving season pass to the skating rink. One pass covers admission and rentals for the entire season. Individual passes are available for \$40 and family passes (covering up to five people) are just \$75. Rink passes make perfect holiday gifts!



# RECREATION



## ONLINE EXTRA

Visit **OUTDOORX.ORG** for more information about the Midwest Outdoor Experience.

Visit **THEADVENTURESUMMIT.COM** for more information about the Adventure Summit and the Speaker Series.

If you try a program and decide you love it, the next step in the progression is the “Intro” program. “Intros are classroom-based experiences that give participants information about a specific activity, including tips on gear and basic safety instructions,” Brumitt says.

Further into the progressive programs are the Basic series, trips, and finally “elective” courses that aim at supplementing the outdoor recreation enthusiast’s experience.

Perhaps one of the most popular winter recreation activities is ice skating. The MetroParks Ice Rink, located under the pavilion at RiverScape MetroPark in downtown Dayton, offers skate rentals, ice sports programs, lessons, special events, and even private rentals. “We unveiled the new skating rink in 2010 and it has been growing in popularity ever since,” says Urban Program Coordinator Kendra Foote.

“This year, we’re adding a few more options for families looking for a fun activity in a cool, downtown setting.”

The rink will open the day after Thanksgiving (Nov. 23, 2012) and stay open through the end of February. It is open daily with special hours during holidays.

Those interested in learning more about ice sports should check out the broomball leagues. Teams are forming now for competitive and recreational leagues that play in the evening. Visit [www.daytonbroomball.org/riverscape](http://www.daytonbroomball.org/riverscape) to sign up. Not ready to join the team? Check out a Try Broomball program, hosted by the Dayton Broomball Association (see page 31). Another winter sport bringing brooms and ice together is curling, and you can learn how to play this Olympic sport January 22, 29, and February 5 (see page 31).

New programs just for families also were added to the lineup. Beginning



Photo by Leah Stahl

Skate lessons take place every other Sunday and will be separated by age groups (see page 30). On January 15 and February 19, parents will have a special opportunity to skate with their children, get their picture taken with ice rink mascot Parker the Penguin, and enjoy a complimentary cup of hot chocolate during Mommy and Me (and Daddy, too!) programs (see page 31).

Looking for a “cool” holiday party for your extended family or an unforgettable office get-together? Rent the rink on Sundays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. The \$300 fee includes 50 pairs of skates and 50 cups of hot chocolate. For an extra \$75, you can have a special guest at your party—Parker the Penguin!

Another option for smaller get-togethers is a Parker Party. For \$150, your party includes 10 rink admissions and rentals, plus two 6-foot tables and chairs, invitations and envelopes, and a meal from Café Vélo. Parker Parties are available any day of the week, including weekends (except holidays). Book your Parker Party today by calling (937) 274-0126.



# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

## AFTER THE ELECTION

It was all hands on deck for Five Rivers MetroParks in 2009. The MetroParks are primarily funded through a ten-year property tax levy for Montgomery County residents. Hundreds of staff members and volunteers knocked on doors and picked up phones to ask citizens to support the replacement levy. A replacement levy extends the term and conditions of an expiring levy, but unlike renewal levies, takes the present day property valuation into consideration. "We knew we needed additional revenue to operate at the level where we were, but we didn't feel it was a good time, economically speaking, to ask voters for additional millage," explains Deputy Director Carrie Scarff. "Instead we sought the replacement levy that would bring the existing millage rate to current property values. The intention was to allow our revenue to catch up with inflation."

With overwhelming support from Montgomery County residents, the ten-year, 1.8 mill replacement levy passed, but when the property assessments came back the next year, something surprising happened. Property values fell—hard. "We haven't seen property values drop like this since the Great Depression," says Sam Braun, Montgomery County Auditor Finance Manager. Several factors contributed to the housing crisis, including nationwide mortgage defaults and an aging housing stock in Montgomery County. "Many houses here were built before 1950, and older homes have trouble holding value over time," Braun says. "That led to increased new builds outside the county, which hurt values of homes within the county."

That meant the 1.8 mill levy, which constitutes about 80 percent of Five Rivers



## WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, YOUR METROPARKS GET INNOVATIVE

Families in the Miami Valley and across the nation have endured one of the worst recessions in history. We all learned much from the experience—what's most important, what we really need to survive, and what we can live without. Coming through such hardships forces families and individuals to focus on priorities, since there just aren't enough resources to have some of the niceties we might have enjoyed during times of plenty. We came out stronger and smarter, and we probably made some tough decisions: no expensive vacations, fewer meals at restaurants, perhaps becoming more thrifty through use of coupons or online deals. The lessons we learn in lean times make us more capable of handling future strife. Like the residents of the Miami Valley, Five Rivers MetroParks took a financial hit from the recession, and like you, we picked ourselves up, focused our efforts, and emerged with a plan that will make your parks stronger, more efficient, and better able to withstand future hardships.

*Like the residents of the Miami Valley, Five Rivers MetroParks took a financial hit from the recession, and like you, we picked ourselves up, focused our efforts, and emerged with a plan that will make your parks stronger, more efficient, and better able to withstand future hardships.*

GET OUT & LIVE!





out the tangible personal property tax.” By the time all the totals were added, Five Rivers MetroParks was left with a \$3 million gap between expected expenses and expected revenues.

It seems that the traditional method of funding through taxes is becoming ineffective. “In order for (Five Rivers MetroParks) to generate more revenue solely from property taxes, (they) would have to pass a new levy or replace the existing levy at an increased millage,” Braun says.

Instead, the staff and volunteers at Five Rivers MetroParks got creative.

### BALANCING ACT

Like many residents of the Miami Valley, Five Rivers MetroParks employees had to take a hard look at MetroParks’ financial situation.

“We need to balance our expenditures and revenues, so that means we need to focus on our mission,” says Executive Director Becky Benná. “We have certain legal obligations we must meet, and then we have to review everything we do and ask if that’s the best use of our resources.”

Some immediate measures to reduce expenditures were instituted. Vacant positions were scrutinized to see whether they were absolutely needed or if there were other ways of accomplishing the duties of those positions. The organization also kicked off an innovative planning session. “Ideas about how to close the gap were floating around throughout the organization, and I wanted to give everyone a platform to share those ideas,” Benná says. “That budget gap has the potential to affect everyone in the organization, so everyone needs to have the opportunity to help address the challenge.”



MetroParks’ revenue, brought in less money than anticipated: Five Rivers MetroParks is losing \$1.2 million annually. Even if property values were to increase, the state sets limits on how much can be collected from property taxes, and our levy income cannot substantially increase.

The entire scope of revenue loss wasn’t fully realized until June 2011 when the state passed its biennium

budget, slashing additional sources of MetroParks’ revenue, including local government funds. “These state-established funds give money to local government entities to partially fund general operating expenses and unfunded mandates,” explains MetroParks Finance and Business Director Robert Johnson. “We also lost—and continue to lose—revenue from the state phasing

## ONLINE EXTRA

Visit **metroparks.org/volunteer** for details on available volunteer opportunities. Download the volunteer application, or apply in person at Five Rivers MetroParks' main office: 409 E. Monument Ave., Third Floor, Dayton. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.



Photo by Leah Stahl



Photo by Peter Wine

All Five Rivers MetroParks employees were invited to participate in a written exercise that gave participants the ability to act as executive director. "They could propose we add departments, eliminate departments, change how parks are maintained, change programming guidelines—everything was on the table," Benná says. The responses from all participants were collected and reviewed. "We looked for recurring themes and we discovered a lot of clever ideas for reducing expenses or increasing efficiencies," Benná says. From those responses, 12 initiatives emerged that became priority tasks for all Five

Rivers MetroPark employees.

### A MATTER OF PRIORITY

The 12 priority task teams focused on attaining specific goals, and smaller subgroups formed within each team to focus on tackling individual components of those goals. Teams were composed of members from all departments, giving every employee the opportunity to participate in these strategies. The teams evaluated current practices, researched practices at other agencies and the private sector, collected data, and made recommendations based on the teams' conclusions. "We got

a lot of great information out of those priority teams," Benná says. "Sometimes it's as simple as getting a group of people in one room. A technician from one park says, 'here's something we do that really saves time and energy,' and you see the lightbulbs go off in the rest of the group. We're all so busy and focused on our everyday tasks that it often takes a big project like this that makes you collaborate with one another."

Teams worked together to come up with solutions to the budget problem. Some solutions were time-saving techniques designed to make operations run more efficiently. Others were cost-cutting measures that trimmed expenses. Revenue-generating opportunities also were reviewed. "This was a comprehensive look at how we do business," Benná says.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Moving forward, more plans are in place to find alternative revenue sources. "What really hit home for us in this recession is that tax-based revenues are not as dependable as we'd like to think," Benná says. "Doing business smarter helps solve our short-term need to cut expenses quickly and our long-term goals of operating at a higher efficiency, but we also need to find other sources of revenue."

More findings from the teams and consultation with parks and recreation industry professionals is guiding current discussions about





Photo by Marc Dougan



Photo by Marc Dougan

where and how to find alternative revenue sources. “We need to be able to continue to offer the same high-quality park experiences for

our guests. So no matter what we do, whether it’s cost-saving or revenue-generating measures, our guests shouldn’t notice a change in

services,” Scarff says.

One way MetroParks already generates revenue is through grants and sponsorships. Grants help stretch existing funds, in many cases doubling the value, or more. For example, the most recent phase of RiverScape MetroPark was built using \$4.9 million worth of transportation grants. Five Rivers MetroParks also has an ongoing sponsor relationship with Subaru, who provide MetroParks with a Tribeca and an Outback through a sponsorship arrangement, and was the naming sponsor for this past October’s Midwest Outdoor Experience at Eastwood MetroPark. “Partnering with organizations when we share common goals or missions is a great way for both parties to benefit,” Scarff says.

Expanding volunteer opportunities has helped Five Rivers MetroParks across the board—providing assistance with administrative tasks and other projects, expanding nature interpretation and conservation efforts, increasing park visitors’ enjoyment through the efforts of gardeners, and improving park safety via the MetroPark Volunteer Patrol. In 2011, MetroParks logged over 100,000 volunteer hours from more than 5,000 volunteers. The estimated value Five Rivers MetroParks volunteers contribute is over \$1.6 million. “Volunteers participate in virtually every facility and at every level within the organization,” Benná says. “There are volunteer opportunities at Five Rivers MetroParks all year long.”

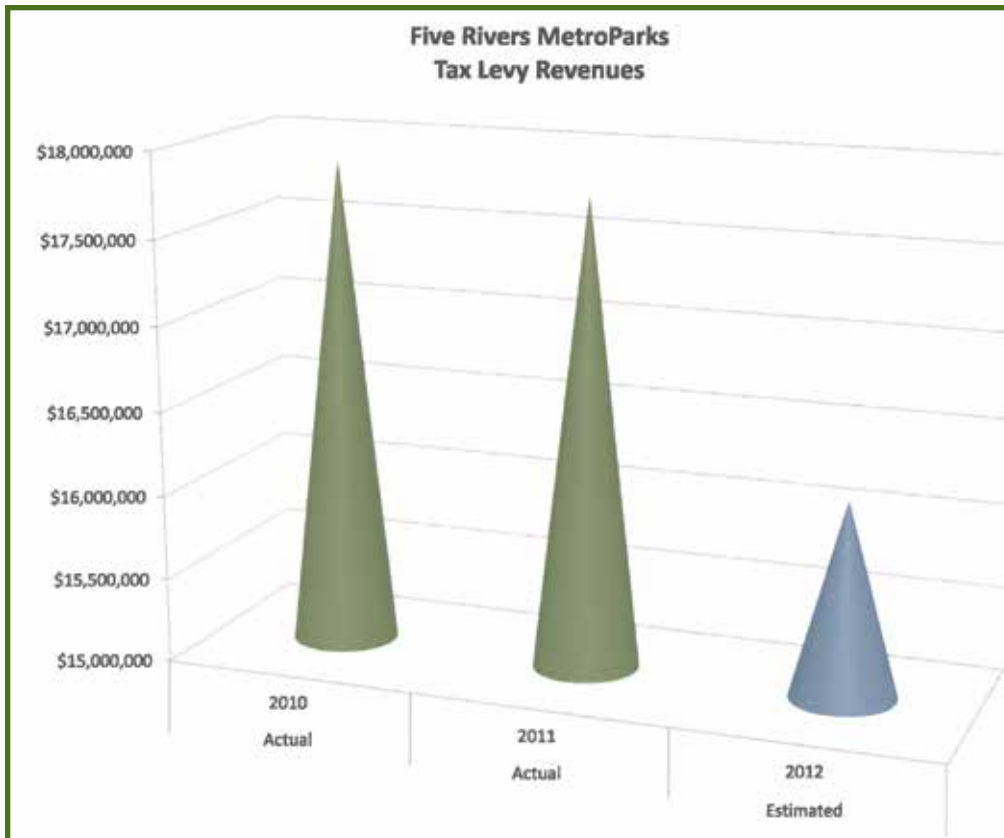
Five Rivers MetroParks continues to explore creative and innovative ways of making your investment go farther.



Some programs already have a fee structure in place, such as specialized skill development classes, but additional programs are being reviewed for cost-recovery measures, particularly if those programs or services benefit an individual or small portion of the population instead of the general public. Facility reservations would definitely fall under this category because the facility is no longer available for the general public to use. "If you reserve a shelter for a birthday party, let's say, that's a portion of the park that no one else can use except your group. So for an individualized experience like that, there would be a fee," Scarff says. "We compared notes with other park districts in the region and across the state, and our prices will keep pace. We need to start recouping at least a portion of our costs to prepare and clean these amenities when they're reserved."

There will still be publicly accessible shelters that can't be reserved, available on a first-come, first-served basis, as well as picnic tables—all available free of charge.

Five Rivers MetroParks continues to explore creative and innovative ways of making your investment go farther. If you know about a grant, partnership, or sponsorship opportunity you'd like to share, or if you have other suggestions for alternative revenue sources, visit the "Contact Us" page at **metroparks.org** and submit your ideas. "I'm very proud of the effort this MetroParks family has put forward to help make the best of very challenging economic times," Benná says. "Our goal is not to become a victim of these challenging times, but to continue to address these challenges head-on and become even more resilient in addressing future challenges and opportunities." 🌿



Another idea for acquiring additional funds is by charging nominal fees for shelters, campsites, and certain programs. There is no discussion of admission or parking fees, so park patrons shouldn't worry about having limited access to their favorite MetroPark. Five Rivers MetroParks

is committed to connecting people to nature, and that mission will not change. "Access to open spaces and nature through our park system is the best way to connect people to nature," Benná says. "Providing access to nature is core to what we do."



# HOST A PARKER PARTY!

Host a Parker Party for 10 of your best pals. Included in the package are 10 skate rentals, 10 meals from Café Vélo (hot chocolate, hot dog and chips) and 10 invitations with envelopes. Call (937) 274-0126 for more information.

## ICE RINK HOURS OF OPERATION

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

**REGULAR PUBLIC HOURS:** Monday-Thursday, \$5 skate rental;  
Friday-Sunday, \$7 admission, which includes skate rental.

**Extended hours November 26, 2012 through January 2, 2013**

**Extended hours December 24, 2012 through January 4, 2013**

**SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS:** \$7 admission, which includes skate rental

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

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

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

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

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 21): 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Presidents' Day (Feb. 18): 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

MetroParks Ice Rink is available for private event rentals from 6-8 p.m. Sundays and Thursdays (\$300 rental fee includes 50 cups of hot chocolate and 50 pairs of ice skates). Add a visit with Parker for \$75. Call (937) 274-0216 to rent the rink.

[metroparks.org/icerink](http://metroparks.org/icerink)

## GIVE THE GIFT OF OUTDOOR FUN

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



**ICE SKATING**  
AT RIVERSCAPE METROPARK  
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS



# FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS IS PLEASED TO PRESENT **YOUR GUIDE TO WINTER PROGRAMS**

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

## **BY TOPIC**

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

## **HOW TO CONTACT A RANGER IN A METROPARK:**

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

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

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



# GUIDE TO PROGRAMS LISTED BY DATE, TIME

## SAT, DEC 1, 2012

**9:00 AM Christmas Walk in Downtown Dayton**, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 32)  
**10:00 AM Family Nature Walk**, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 24)  
**10:00 AM The Farm in Winter**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 22)  
**1:00 PM Forest Homes**, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 24)  
**7:00 PM Nature at Night**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 24)  
**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## SUN, DEC 2, 2012

**12:00 PM Beginners I for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)  
**12:00 PM Christmas on the Farm**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 32)  
**12:30 PM Skating Basics for 'Tweens**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)  
**6:00 PM Winter Walk at Aullwood**, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see page 24)

## TUE, DEC 4, 2012

**10:00 AM Tike Hikes: MetroParks Largest Mammal**, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 25)

## WED, DEC 5, 2012

**6:30 PM Backcountry Fast & Light Cooking**, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 28)

## THU, DEC 6, 2012

**10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Winter Nature Myths**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 25)

## FRI, DEC 7, 2012

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## SAT, DEC 8, 2012

**10:00 AM What about Molasses?** Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 24)  
**5:30 PM Evening Christmas Lantern Tour**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 24)  
**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## SUN, DEC 9, 2012

**12:00 PM Beginners II for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)  
**12:30 PM Beginners for Adults**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**1:00 PM Skate with Parker**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)  
**3:00 PM Recreation Kayak Rescue Clinic**, Offsite (see page 29)

## MON, DEC 10, 2012

**10:00 AM Tike Hikes: Escape to the Evergreens**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 25)

## TUE, DEC 11, 2012

**9:00 AM Adult Nature Walk**, Englewood MetroPark (see page 26)  
**1:00 PM Parent and Preschooler: Warm Gingerbread**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 24)

## WED, DEC 12, 2012

**10:00 AM Time to Sleep**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 26)  
**6:30 PM Fundamentals of Backcountry Knots**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 28)

## THU, DEC 13, 2012

**10:00 AM Tike Hikes: Migration and Hibernation**, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 25)

## FRI, DEC 14, 2012

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## SAT, DEC 15, 2012

**8:30 AM Family Farm Chores**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 22)  
**1:00 PM Homemade Soft Cheese**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 24)  
**2:00 PM Try Hiking @...**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 29)  
**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## SUN, DEC 16, 2012

**12:00 PM Beginners I for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)  
**12:30 PM Skating Basics for 'Tweens**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

## MON, DEC 17, 2012

**8:30 AM Audubon Christmas Bird Count**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 26)

## WED, DEC 19, 2012

**10:00 AM Tikes Taking Action: Animal Keeper**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 26)

## THU, DEC 20, 2012

**11:30 AM Santa Visits the Market**, PNC 2nd

Street Market (see page 32)

## FRI, DEC 21, 2012

**10:00 AM Tike Hikes: Prairie Play**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 25)  
**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## SAT, DEC 22, 2012

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## SUN, DEC 23, 2012

**12:00 PM Beginners II for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)  
**12:30 PM Beginners for Adults**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)  
**1:00 PM Skate with Parker**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

## MON, DEC 24, 2012

**11:00 AM Christmas Eve Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

## TUE, DEC 25, 2012

**1:00 PM Christmas Day Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

## FRI, DEC 28, 2012

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## SAT, DEC 29, 2012

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## SUN, DEC 30, 2012

**12:00 PM Beginners I for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)  
**12:30 PM Skating Basics for 'Tweens**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)  
**1:30 PM Eastwood Hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers**, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 29)

## MON, DEC 31, 2012

**11:00 AM New Year's Eve Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

## TUE, JAN 1, 2013

**1:00 PM New Year's Day Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

## WED, JAN 2, 2013

**7:00 PM Environmental Film Series: The City Dark**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 26)

## THU, JAN 3, 2013

**10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Nature**

**Shapes, SugarCreek MetroPark** (see page 25)

## **FRI, JAN 4, 2013**

**7:00 PM Michael Jackson Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

## **SAT, JAN 5, 2013**

**10:00 AM Family Bird Search**, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 26)

**11:00 AM A Story of Snow**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 26)

**1:00 PM Habitat Hike**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 26)

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## **SUN, JAN 6, 2013**

**12:00 PM Beginners II for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**12:30 PM Beginners for Adults**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**1:00 PM Skate with Parker**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**1:30 PM Huffman Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers**, Huffman MetroPark (see page 29)

## **MON, JAN 7, 2013**

**6:00 PM Outdoor Broomball**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

## **TUE, JAN 8, 2013**

**10:00 AM Tike Hikes: Hibernating Bugs**, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 25)

**6:00 PM Try Broomball**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

**7:00 PM Try Broomball**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

## **THU, JAN 10, 2013**

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

**10:00 AM What Flowers Tell Us**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 26)

## **FRI, JAN 11, 2013**

**8:30 AM Volunteer: Ohio State Extension Master Gardener Program Call for Applications**, Offsite (see page 22)

**7:00 PM Party Like It's 1999!** RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

## **SAT, JAN 12, 2013**

**1:00 PM Winter Tree ID Workshop**, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 27)

**1:00 PM Homemade Soap Demo**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 24)

**2:00 PM Try Hiking @...**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 29)

**6:00 PM Owl Moon**, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 27)

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## **SUN, JAN 13, 2013**

**12:00 PM Beginners I for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**12:00 PM Ice Harvest**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 22)

**12:30 PM Skating Basics for 'Tweens**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

## **TUE, JAN 15, 2013**

**1:00 PM Parent and Preschooler: Those Funny Goats**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 22)

**6:00 PM Mommy and Me (and Daddy, too!)**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

**6:30 PM Volunteer: Street Team**, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 29)

## **WED, JAN 16, 2013**

**10:00 AM Compost Kitchen: Building Better Soil**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 22)

**10:00 AM Winter Discovery Nature Walk**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 27)

## **THU, JAN 17, 2013**

**10:00 AM Tike Hikes: Animal Tracking**, SugarCreek MetroPark (see page 25)

## **FRI, JAN 18, 2013**

**11:30 AM Ohio Wines**, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 24)

**7:00 PM School Pride Night**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

## **SAT, JAN 19, 2013**

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

**10:00 AM Grow Youth! A Training for Garden Educators**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 23)

**1:00 PM Popcorn Anyone?** Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 22)

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## **SUN, JAN 20, 2013**

**12:00 PM Beginners II for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**12:30 PM Beginners for Adults**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**1:00 PM Skate with Parker**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**1:30 PM Hills & Dales Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers**, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 29)

## **MON, JAN 21, 2013**

**11:00 AM Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

## **TUE, JAN 22, 2013**

**10:00 AM Tikes Taking Action: Greenhouse Helpers**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 26)

**6:00 PM Learn to Curl**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

## **WED, JAN 23, 2013**

**10:00 AM Compost Kitchen: Backyard Composting**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 22)

**1:00 PM Volunteer: Native Plant Primer**, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see page 23)

## **THU, JAN 24, 2013**

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

## **FRI, JAN 25, 2013**

**10:00 AM Tike Hikes: Winter Birds**, Englewood MetroPark (see page 25)

**7:00 PM Divas of Pop**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

## **SAT, JAN 26, 2013**

**10:00 AM Green Gardener Day**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 23)

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

## **SUN, JAN 27, 2013**

**12:00 PM Beginners I for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**12:30 PM Skating Basics for 'Tweens**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

## **MON, JAN 28, 2013**

**10:00 AM Tike Hikes: Winter Mysteries**, Englewood MetroPark (see page 25)

## **TUE, JAN 29, 2013**

**9:00 AM Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation**, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see page 27)

**6:00 PM Learn to Curl**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

## **WED, JAN 30, 2013**

**10:00 AM Compost Kitchen: All About Worms**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 23)

**6:00 PM Butterfly Monitoring Season Wrap-Up**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 28)

## **THU, JAN 31, 2013**

**11:30 AM Soup-er Bowl Samples**, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 32)

## **FRI, FEB 1, 2013**

**8:00 AM City Beets 2013** Call for



**Applications**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 23)

**10:00 AM Tike Hikes: Groundhogs Galore**, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 25)

**7:00 PM Bieber Fever**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

### **SAT, FEB 2, 2013**

**10:00 AM Seed Swap**, Offsite (see page 23)

**11:00 AM Whistle Pig Day**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 28)

**1:00 PM Traditional Butchering**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 22)

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

### **SUN, FEB 3, 2013**

**12:00 PM Beginners II for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**12:30 PM Beginners for Adults**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**1:00 PM Skate with Parker**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**1:30 PM Carriage Hill Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 29)

### **TUE, FEB 5, 2013**

**6:00 PM Learn to Curl**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

### **THU, FEB 7, 2013**

**10:00 AM Backpacking Babies: Invasives**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 25)

**6:00 PM Volunteer: Master Recycling**, Offsite (see page 24)

### **FRI, FEB 8, 2013**

**7:00 PM Pop-Country Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

### **SAT, FEB 9, 2013**

**10:00 AM Winter Garden Workshop**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 23)

**2:00 PM Prairie Play**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 28)

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

### **SUN, FEB 10, 2013**

**12:00 PM Beginners I for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**12:30 PM Skating Basics for 'Tweens**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**3:00 PM Recreation Kayak Rescue Clinic**, Offsite (see page 29)

### **MON, FEB 11, 2013**

**6:30 PM Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation**, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see page 27)

**7:00 PM National Geographic Live: Joel Sartore**, Offsite (see page 32)

### **TUE, FEB 12, 2013**

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

**10:00 AM Tike Hikes: Winter Birds**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 25)

**1:00 PM Parent and Preschooler: Sheep Keep Me Warm**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 22)

**6:00 PM Try Broomball**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

**7:00 PM Try Broomball**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

### **WED, FEB 13, 2013**

**1:00 PM Homemade Soft Cheese**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 24)

### **FRI, FEB 15, 2013**

**10:00 AM Tikes Taking Action: Great Backyard Bird Count**, Huffman MetroPark (see page 26)

**7:00 PM Glee Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

### **SAT, FEB 16, 2013**

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

**9:00 AM Bicycle Museum of America Trip**, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see page 29)

**10:00 AM Hibernation**, Huffman MetroPark (see page 28)

**12:00 PM Sausage Making For Beginners**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 24)

**2:00 PM Try Hiking @...**, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 29)

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

### **SUN, FEB 17, 2013**

**12:00 PM Beginners II for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**12:30 PM Beginners for Adults**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**1:00 PM Skate with Parker**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**1:30 PM Sugarcreek Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 29)

### **MON, FEB 18, 2013**

**11:00 AM President's Day Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

### **TUE, FEB 19, 2013**

**6:00 PM Mommy and Me (and Daddy too!)**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 31)

### **WED, FEB 20, 2013**

**6:00 PM Fundamentals of Alcohol Stoves**, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 28)

### **THU, FEB 21, 2013**

**10:00 AM Tike Hikes: Animal Tracking**, Englewood MetroPark (see page 25)

### **FRI, FEB 22, 2013**

**7:00 PM American Idol Night**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 32)

### **SAT, FEB 23, 2013**

**9:00 AM Volunteer: Conservation Expo**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 32)

**9:00 AM Black History Day at the Market**, PNC 2nd Street Market (see page 32)

**10:00 AM The Year-Round Garden—Ready, Set, Greens!** Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 23)

**11:00 AM POTATOES!** Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 22)

**11:30 AM Leave No Child Inside Summit**, Offsite (see page 28)

**7:00 PM Star-Late Skate**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 29)

### **SUN, FEB 24, 2013**

**10:00 AM Forest Bird Search**, Englewood MetroPark (see page 28)

**12:00 PM Beginners I for Kids**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

**12:30 PM Skating Basics for 'Tweens**, RiverScape MetroPark (see page 30)

### **MON, FEB 25, 2013**

**10:00 AM Tike Hikes: Winter Mysteries**, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 25)

### **TUE, FEB 26, 2013**

**10:00 AM The Busy Tree**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 28)

### **SAT, MAR 2, 2013**

**7:30 AM Miami Valley Gardening Conference**, Offsite (see page 23)

### **TUE, MAR 5, 2013**

**9:00 AM Volunteer: MetroPark Volunteer Naturalist**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 28)

### **WED, MAR 20, 2013**

**6:30 PM Community Garden Coordinators' Dinner**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 23)

## EDUCATION FARMING

### (FREE) THE FARM IN WINTER

**SAT, DEC 1, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** D45  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

This time of the year is for families. Our family here at Possum Creek MetroPark invites you for some winter fun with games and treats and hands-on activities. We wish to thank all our wonderful patrons for a great year. Sign-up begins November 12. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: All ages 📅

### (FREE) FAMILY FARM CHORES

**SAT, DEC 15, 8:30-9:30 AM** D17

**SAT, JAN 19, 8:30-9:30 AM** D18

**SAT, FEB 16, 8:30-9:30 AM** D19

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: 0Y-18Y 📅

### (FREE) ICE HARVEST

**SUN, JAN 13, 12:00-5:00 PM** D14

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, 7800 E. Shull Rd. Watch the farm hands use ice saws, pike poles and tongs to cut blocks of ice from the farm pond and load them onto the bobsled for storage in the farm's ice house. Ice can then be used year-round to make ice cream, and keep certain foods cool. Depending on the weather, date may change. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages ⚙️

### (FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER: THOSE FUNNY GOATS

**TUE, JAN 15, 1:00-2:30 PM** D53

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

Join us in the reading of "There's a Billy Goat in the Garden" by Laurel Dee Gugler. There will be activities and a visit to the barn to see our goats. Registration required, beginning December 12. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y 📅

### (FREE) POPCORN, ANYONE?

**SAT, JAN 19, 1:00-2:30 PM** D48

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

Can you believe popcorn has its own special day? That's right—January 19 is National Popcorn Day, so let's have fun celebrating this wonderful American treat. We'll pop popcorn and learn some history, too. Sign-up starts December 17. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: All ages 📅

### (FREE) TRADITIONAL BUTCHERING

**SAT, SUN FEB. 2-3, 1:00-3:00 PM** D20

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

Watch the age-old activity of processing the meat that was the staple in the 19th Century farmer's diet. On Saturday the hog is scraped, cleaned and cooled. On Sunday the meat is prepared into the various cuts such as ribs, roasts, and hams. Also, watch as meat is then salted, cured, and made into sausage. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages ⚙️

### (FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER: SHEEP KEEP ME WARM

**TUE, FEB 12, 1:00-2:30 PM** D50

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

Learn about the important role sheep have played in our survival in the past and the present. We will read a book, play with wool and then we will visit Possum Creek's sheep. Registration begins February 1. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y 📅

### (FREE) POTATOES!

**SAT, FEB 23, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM** D55

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

February is National Potato Lovers Month! Come help us honor the little spud with activities and tasty potato treats. Registration begins February 1. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: All ages 📅

## GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

### VOLUNTEER: OHIO STATE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**FRI, JAN 11, 8:30 AM-5:00 PM** D102

OFFSITE, OSU Extension Montgomery County, 1001 South Main St.

Increase your gardening knowledge and serve your community as an OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer. Weekly series held on Tuesdays, 9 AM-4 PM, February 19 to April 23 at various Montgomery County locations. Program participants must volunteer for OSU Extension community service projects. Application deadline Jan. 11, 2013. Fee includes course manual. Registration required. Contact (937) 224-9654 for details. <http://montgomery.osu.edu>. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$150

### 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, JAN 16, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

D34

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

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, JAN 23, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

D33

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

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





**(FREE) ALL ABOUT WORMS****WED, JAN 30, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

D32

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

Worms are very efficient composters, and with their help, gardeners can produce quick, quality compost. Learn how to manage a worm bin yourself! John Woodman from Montgomery County Solid Waste will also discuss community composting efforts. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 18Y and up 🍷

**(FREE) GROW YOUTH! A TRAINING FOR GARDEN EDUCATORS****SAT, JAN 19, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM**D157  
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Interested in getting teenage youth hooked on gardening? Maybe you have the garden but don't know what to do with the kids when they get there? Join Kasey Henneman from Five Rivers MetroParks' City Beets program. Learn the ins and outs of this successful youth gardening program. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-6545 or kasey.henneman@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 🍷

**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 Dunphe at (937) 277-4147. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4147 or yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: 21Y and up Fee: \$35 🍷

**GREEN GARDENER DAY****SAT, JAN 26, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**D24  
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

A sustainable garden makes the environment better and the gardener healthier. Area experts and demonstrations will show you how to change the way you garden now for a great next growing

season. We'll discuss design, soil, plants, maintenance, and gardener health. Fee includes lunch, and there will be door prizes! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$18 🍷

**(FREE) CITY BEETS 2013 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS****MON, - FRI, FEB. 1-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 youth ages 12-15. Participants grow food at Wegerzyn MetroPark Community Garden while learning leadership skills. Produce is sold at the PNC 2nd Street Market and used in nutrition and cooking lessons. Teens receive a gift card stipend. Applications available online and at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. Contact (937) 277-6545 or kasey.henneman@metroparks.org for details. metroparks.org/citybeets. Age: 12Y-15Y

**(FREE) SEED SWAP****SAT, FEB 2, 10:00-11:30 AM**D119  
OFFSITE, Community Gardens, Contact Us for Map

Bring saved vegetable and flower seeds to trade or give away. Please sort and separate seed types, with a minimum of 10-20 seeds per type. You do not need to have seeds to participate; please bring non-hybridized seeds to trade if you do have them. Hosted by Edgemont Solar Gardens Community Garden, 919 Miami Chapel Road, Dayton. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 276-7053 for details. Age: All ages 🍷

**(FREE) WINTER GARDEN WORKSHOP****SAT, FEB 9, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**D27  
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Adults and youth ages 6 and older will learn what gardeners do in winter. We'll be cooking winter squash, mixing herbal teas, creating spring garden plans, starting tomato seeds, and learning how to grow and harvest fresh sprouts and micro-greens. Adults can also attend a lecture on seed starting by farmer Doug Christen. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 🍷

**(FREE) THE YEAR-ROUND****GARDEN—READY, SET, GREENS!****SAT, FEB 23, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**D28  
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Winter doesn't need to mean the end of the garden! Learn how to keep produce coming long after the last tomato and before the first sweet peas in spring. Tim Pritchard shows how to start and maintain a year-round garden. We'll have snacks, too! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 🍷

**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. 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 for details. www.metroparks.org/conference. Age: 18Y and up Fee: general admission, \$60; email registration, \$50 🍷

**(FREE) COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR'S DINNER****WED, MAR 20, 6:30-8:30 PM**7851  
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

## GREEN LIVING

### VOLUNTEER: MASTER RECYCLING

**THU, FEB. 7-MAR. 7, 6:00-8:00 PM** D100  
OFFSITE, Montgomery County Solid Waste,  
2550 Sandridge Dr.

Sessions include a variety of activities involving recycling, the latest available technology in the Miami Valley and practical advice for effective recycling at home and in the community. Fifteen hours of volunteer service are required upon completing the course. Participants must complete an interview and background check. Registration deadline is January 31. Registration required. Contact (937) 275-7275 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$25

## HERITAGE & HISTORY

### (FREE) WINTER WALK AT AULLWOOD

**SUN, DEC 2, 6:00-8:00 PM** D22  
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, 900  
Aullwood Rd.

Welcome the feel of winter with a great walk through the paths of Aullwood Garden and then join us for a hot beverage at the house and songs by guitarist Tim Pritchard. We'll meet at the parking lot. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-6545 for details. Age: All ages 📱

### (FREE) WHAT ABOUT MOLASSES?

**SAT, DEC 8, 10:00-11:30 AM** D42  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek  
Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

AHH! The wonderful smells of the holidays. Who can resist the sweet and spicy smell of gingerbread! Join in the fun learning about molasses and it's surprising history. Then enjoy some tasting. Recipes will be provided. Sign-up begins November 5. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

### (FREE) EVENING CHRISTMAS LANTERN TOUR

**SAT, DEC 8, 5:30-9:00 PM** D16  
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill  
Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

The feeling of a Victorian Christmas will be brought to life for this evening lantern tour. Tour various candle-lit stops around the farm while merrily singing carols. Then, join a period Christmas party and enjoy a hot cup of wassail while visiting the

farmhouse. All tours start at the Visitor Center and run every 20 minutes. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages

### (FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER: WARM GINGERBREAD

**TUE, DEC 11, 1:00-2:30 PM** D47  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek  
Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Come join the fun learning about molasses! It's the main ingredient in gingerbread! Enjoy some hands-on activities and the wonderful flavor of gingerbread featuring our star, molasses. Registration begins December 4. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y

## HOME & HOBBIES

### (FREE) HOMEMADE SOFT CHEESE

**SAT, DEC 15, 1:00-3:30 PM** D29  
**WED, FEB 13, 1:00-3:30 PM** D31  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek  
Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Observe the demonstration of soft-cheese making through the preparation of mozzarella. Volunteer participation needed. Try samples of homemade cottage cheese, ricotta cheese, and cream cheese. Equipment, supplies, and sources will be covered. Handouts of recipes and cheese-making information will be available. Registration begins November 15. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

### (FREE) HOMEMADE SOAP DEMO

**SAT, JAN 12, 1:00-3:30 PM** D30  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek  
Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn the basics of making homemade soap through demonstration. Hands-on activity will be needed. This is not your grandmother's or great-grandmother's method of making soap. Use of caustic lye will not be involved to make this soap. Two methods will be demonstrated: melt-and-pour soap and re-batching soap. Registration begins December 15. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

### (FREE) OHIO WINES

**FRI, JAN 18, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM** D39  
PNC 2nd STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.  
Several fine wines are produced right here in Ohio. Brian from The Wine Gallery will

point out wines that are from our great state and go into detail about the best wine to serve with various dinner entrees. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: 21Y and up 📱

### SAUSAGE MAKING FOR BEGINNERS

**SAT, FEB 16, 12:00-2:00 PM** D21  
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, 7800 E. Shull Rd.  
Participants will learn the basic techniques for home sausage making. Various historic recipes will be used as several different types of sausage are made. Registration is required and limited. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15

## NATURE

### (FREE) FAMILY NATURE WALK

**SAT, DEC 1, 10:00-11:30 AM** D109  
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/  
East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40

Come out for a nice winter walk as we explore all of the things that makes winter great. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages PTN

### (FREE) FOREST HOMES

**SAT, DEC 1, 1:00-2:30 PM** D106  
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: White  
Oak 1/Nature Play/Parking Lot, 2606 Hilton Dr.  
How do animals stay warm during the winter? Let's try to crack this mystery using nature play. Learn why forests are important, explore what could happen if we had no forests and discover how you can help. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages PTN

### (FREE) NATURE AT NIGHT

**SAT, DEC 1, 7:00-9:30 PM** D153  
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,  
6910 Boomershire Rd.  
Join us at the Nature Center to celebrate about our nocturnal wildlife at this special after-hours event! Grab some hot chocolate and participate in various activities including stargazing with the Miami Valley Astronomical Society, campfire stories, night hikes and much more! Bring flashlights if you desire. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages PTN



## TIKE HIKES

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

### (FREE) METROPARKS LARGEST MAMMAL

**TUE, DEC 4, 10:00-11:00 AM** D110  
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/Parking Lot, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.  
You've probably seen them in the park or in your backyard, but come learn more about Metroparks' largest mammal, the white-tail deer! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 2Y-5Y **PTN**

### (FREE) ESCAPE TO THE EVERGREENS

**MON, DEC 10, 10:00-11:00 AM** D125  
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.  
Did you notice some trees did not lose their leaves this fall? Come escape to a place where the forest is still green, and get to know these important trees! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 2Y-5Y **PTN**

### (FREE) MIGRATION AND HIBERNATION

**THU, DEC 13, 10:00-11:00 AM** D131  
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40  
How do wild animals deal with the changes in nature during the winter months? We will talk about who stays, who leaves, and who sleeps while looking for evidence of who stayed around the park. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 2Y-5Y **PTN**

### (FREE) PRAIRIE PLAY

**FRI, DEC 21, 10:00-11:00 AM** D108  
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.  
The time is right for prairie exploration without the ticks and chiggers! Spend the morning playing some fun prairie games. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 2Y-5Y **PTN**

### (FREE) HIBERNATING BUGS

**TUE, JAN 8, 10:00-11:00 AM** D128  
EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.  
Enjoy an expedition with your preschooler in search of hibernating

insects. Once they're found, your child will warm them up with body heat and watch them wake up! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 2Y-5Y **PTN**

### (FREE) ANIMAL TRACKING

**THU, JAN 17, 10:00-11:00 AM** D126  
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.  
**THU, FEB 21, 10:00-11:00 AM** D127  
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/East Park, 4361 National Rd.  
Bring your preschooler out for a fun-filled animal tracking experience! We will explore the science and technique behind animal tracks, as well as examine molds, scat replicas, and mammal furs. Then we will go on a hike looking for tracks in the wild! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 2Y-5Y **PTN**

### (FREE) WINTER BIRDS

**FRI, JAN 25, 10:00-11:00 AM** D105  
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/East Park, 4361 National Rd.  
**TUE, FEB 12, 10:00-11:00 AM** D107  
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.  
Search for birds that stay in Ohio for winter and those that call Ohio their tropical paradise. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 2Y-5Y **PTN**

### (FREE) WINTER MYSTERIES

**MON, JAN 28, 10:00-11:00 AM** D129  
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/East Park, 4361 National Rd.  
**MON, FEB 25, 10:00-11:00 AM** D130  
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.  
Bundle your little one up for a winter adventure through the park where we will search for nature's mysteries of survival during this quiet season. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 2Y-5Y **PTN**

### (FREE) GROUNDHOGS GALORE

**FRI, FEB 1, 10:00-11:00 AM** D124  
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: White Oak 1/Nature Play/Parking Lot, 2606 Hilton Dr.  
Celebrate Groundhog Day a little early with a naturalist, searching for groundhog holes to see for yourself if there will be

six more weeks of winter! No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 2Y-5Y **PTN**

## BACKPACKING BABIES

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

### (FREE) WINTER NATURE MYTHS

**THU, DEC 6, 10:00-11:00 AM** D120  
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.  
Let's knock out the some common winter myths and fables while on an invigorating walk. A baby backpack or carrier is required for this program as trails are not stroller-friendly. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 0Y-2Y

### (FREE) NATURE SHAPES

**THU, JAN 3, 10:00-11:00 AM** D121  
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.  
Let's take a look at the different shapes found out in nature while out on a new year hike! A baby backpack or carrier is required for this program as trails are not stroller-friendly. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 0Y-2Y

### (FREE) INVASIVES

**THU, FEB 7, 10:00-11:00 AM** D122  
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.  
Roses are red, violets are blue; come learn about invasive species and what they do! A baby backpack or carrier is required for this program as trails are not stroller-friendly. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 0Y-2Y

## ADULT NATURE WALKS

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

### (FREE) ADULT NATURE WALK

**TUE, DEC 11, 9:00-11:00 AM** D187  
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter  
Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

**THU, JAN 10, 9:00-11:00 AM** D188  
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead  
Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

**TUE, FEB 12, 9:00-11:00 AM** D189  
EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking  
Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

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

### (FREE) TIME TO SLEEP

**WED, DEC 12, 10:00-11:00 AM** D62  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third  
Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.  
We'll start by reading "Time to Sleep" by  
Dennis Fleming. Caregivers and little ones  
will investigate what happens to plants and  
animals in the winter. Discover who's awake  
and who's asleep during the long cold winter.  
There will also be plenty of time for play  
with nature friends. Registration required.  
Age: 0Y-6Y 📅

### (FREE) AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

**MON, DEC 17, 8:30 AM-1:30 PM** D10  
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Sledding Hill/  
TVT/Parking Lot, 6206 Boomershine Rd.  
Visit a MetroParks' Conservation Area  
and hike cross-country through a rugged  
landscape to participate in the Preble  
County Plus Audubon Christmas Bird  
Count. There is a \$5 fee for those wanting  
their name in the official Audubon report.  
Unofficial counters may participate for free.  
Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178  
or [dhovath@metroparks.org](mailto:dhovath@metroparks.org) for details.  
<http://birds.audubon.org/get-involved-christmas-bird-count>. Age: 18Y and up 📅 ⚙️

## 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) ANIMAL KEEPER

**WED, DEC 19, 10:00-11:30 AM** D137  
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature  
Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.  
Want to know what it's like to care for  
wild animals? Come be a wild-animal  
keeper for a day and learn about what  
animals need to survive, and how Five  
Rivers MetroParks cares for our native  
captive animals! No registration required.  
Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age:  
3Y-6Y **PTN**

### (FREE) GREENHOUSE HELPERS

**TUE, JAN 22, 10:00-11:30 AM** D136  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Green  
House, 6733 Springboro Pk.  
Ever been in a greenhouse? Be part of  
our conservation effort as a horticulturist  
for the day! You will discover what a  
horticulturist must do to care for seeds  
and plants in the winter, assisting Cox  
Arboretum MetroPark staff in the  
greenhouses. No registration required.  
Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age:  
3Y-6Y **PTN**

### (FREE) GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

**FRI, FEB 15, 10:00-11:30 AM** D132  
HUFFMAN METROPARK, Huffman South  
Park/Redtail Shelter/Overlook, 4439 Lower  
Valley Pk.  
Want to be a part of the Great Backyard  
Bird Count of 2013? People all across  
the US will be counting the birds they  
see and reporting their sightings online,  
and you can be a part of this growing  
program! Bring binoculars if you have  
them, a limited supply will be available.  
No registration required. Contact (937)  
277-4178 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y **PTN**

## ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES

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

### (FREE) THE CITY DARK

**WED, JAN 2, 7:00-9:00 PM** D57  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead  
Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.  
"The City Dark" chronicles the  
disappearance of darkness. The movie  
follows filmmaker Ian Cheney, who  
moves to New York City from Maine  
and discovers an urban sky almost  
completely devoid of stars. "What do we  
lose, when we lose the night?" Discussion  
follows film. Light refreshments served.  
Film length: 83 minutes Registration  
requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact  
(937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 14Y and  
up 📅

### (FREE) FAMILY BIRD SEARCH

**SAT, JAN 5, 10:00-11:00 AM** D118  
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot,  
1385 Harshman Rd.  
Find out which birds call Ohio their warm  
winter refuge as we search for them around  
the park. Bring binoculars if you have  
them; a limited supply will be available. No  
registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178  
for details. Age: All ages **PTN**

### (FREE) A STORY OF SNOW

**SAT, JAN 5, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM** D49  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek  
Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.  
Do you know why snow crunches under your  
feet? Can it be too cold to snow? Have fun  
learning "cool" facts about snow and how  
the animals at and around the farm prepare  
for the white stuff! Registration required,  
beginning December 1. Contact (937) 276-7062  
for details. Age: All ages 📅 **PTN**

### (FREE) HABITAT HIKE

**SAT, JAN 5, 1:00-2:00 PM** D103  
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Shelter:  
Redwing/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.  
Explore your inner naturalist as you engage  
yourself in the variety of habitats and  
ponder some of life's greatest questions. No  
registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178  
for details. Age: All ages **PTN**

### (FREE) WHAT FLOWERS TELL US

**THU, JAN 10, 10:00-11:30 AM** C74  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third  
Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.  
Discover the special meanings of flowers.  
We'll also explore the ways insects use  
flowers and find out how a flower grows.  
Registration required. Contact (937) 434-  
9005 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y 📅

📅 = Online Registration Available

⚙️ = Program is Weather-Dependent



**WINTER TREE ID WORKSHOP****SAT, JAN 12, 1:00-3:00 PM** D154

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

Learn how to identify more than 20 native trees by their twig, bark, and other winter characteristics. Discover pioneer, wildlife and commercial uses for each tree while sharing stories of folklore. Each participant will receive a winter tree identification notebook, with everything needed to get started identifying trees. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 📄

**(FREE) OWL MOON****SAT, JAN 12, 6:00-7:30 PM** D101

TWIN CREEK METROPARK, Shelter: High View/Parking Lot, 9688 Eby Rd.

Share in a classic children's story, "Owl Moon," before taking a night hike to look for owls who call Twin Creek their home. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages 📄 **PTN**

**(FREE) WINTER DISCOVERY NATURE WALK****WED, JAN 16, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** D12

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Join Naturalist Doug Horvath on a winter discover hike while meeting new friends on this slow-paced journey. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

**CAFÉ SCI**

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

**(FREE) CAFE SCI****THU, JAN 24, 7:00-9:30 PM** D58

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

Topic to be determined at a later date. Open discussion following the presentation. Light refreshments served. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 275-5059 for details. Age: 14Y and up 📄

**(FREE) VOLUNTEER: CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION****TUE, JAN 29, 9:00-11:00 AM** D97**MON, FEB 11, 6:30-8:30 PM**

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 the ways you can participate and join our conservation team in reforestation efforts, habitat restoration, wildlife management, and land stewardship. Attending orientation doesn't commit you to anything, so come learn what we are doing at Five Rivers MetroParks Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4147 or yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. <http://www.metroparks.org/AboutUs/Conservation.aspx>. Age: 21Y and up 📄

**PASSPORT TO NATURE**

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

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

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

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

**Ella Dell**  
**Blaise Gartland**  
**Dominic Gartland**  
**Ignatius Gartland**  
**Emelyn Rees**  
**Jason Schumaker**  
**Luke Schumaker**  
**Timothy Smith**  
**Elizabeth Story**  
**Sierra Sundell-Turner**

**SECOND PASSPORT**

**Ivan Atkinson**  
**Lauryn Jones**

**FOURTH PASSPORT****Jia Sundell-Tuner**

📄 = Online Registration Available

⚙️ = Program is Weather-Dependent

**(FREE) BUTTERFLY MONITORING SEASON WRAP-UP**

**WED, JAN 30, 6:00-8:00 PM** D63  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.  
Annual gathering of the Miami Valley Butterfly Association will recap the summer's butterfly sightings. Members will present finds from the 2012 summer surveys. Open to all those interested in butterfly populations in the Miami Valley. Registration required. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 18Y and up 📱

**(FREE) WHISTLE PIG DAY**

**SAT, FEB 2, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM** D56  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.  
February 2 is Groundhog Day. Will he see his shadow? Come help us celebrate this funny little animal's ability to forecast the weather. Or can he? Have fun with activities and fun facts about the Whistle Pig. Sign-up begins January 1. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 276-7062 for details. Age: All ages 📱 **PTN**

**(FREE) PRAIRIE PLAY**

**SAT, FEB 9, 2:00-3:30 PM** D104  
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.  
The time is right for prairie exploration without ticks and chiggers! Spend an afternoon playing some fun prairie games. Wear clothes suitable for outdoor play. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages **PTN**

**(FREE) HIBERNATION**

**SAT, FEB 16, 10:00-11:00 AM** D116  
HUFFMAN METROPARK, Huffman South Park/Redtail Shelter/Overlook, 4439 Lower Valley Pk.  
Animals hibernate in many different ways. Come look for hibernating creatures as we explore the outdoors. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages **PTN**

**(FREE) LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE SUMMIT**

**SAT, FEB 23, 11:30 AM-4:00 PM** D11  
OFFSITE, Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, Farm Entrance: 9101 Frederick Pike  
Join in our second summit as the Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Network works to build up access to nature for our children to "Play in the Woods." Review Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm's new education facility, attend other breakout sessions and

review a national discussion to build access to nature play areas. To make reservations, call (937) 890-7360. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. [www.ohiolnci.org](http://www.ohiolnci.org). Age: 18Y and up 📱

**(FREE) FOREST BIRD SEARCH**

**SUN, FEB 24, 10:00-11:30 AM** D117  
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/East Park, 4361 National Rd.  
Test your bird-finding abilities as we track down some of the forest's most beautiful birds. Learn why forests and birds really go hand in hand, and explore ways you can help birds and the forest. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. No registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178 for details. Age: All ages **PTN**

**(FREE) THE BUSY TREE**

**TUE, FEB 26, 10:00-11:00 AM** 7489  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.  
We'll start with a story by Jennifer Ward and then explore the world of trees. Many exciting things happen inside a tree. Discover how a tree breathes and feeds people and animals alike. Registration required. Contact (937) 434-9005 for details. Age: 0Y-3Y 📱

**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](mailto:yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org) for details. Age: 21Y and up Fee: \$50 📱

## RECREATION

### BACKPACKING

**BACKCOUNTRY FAST & LIGHT COOKING**

**WED, DEC 5, 6:30-9:00 PM** D2  
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. 2nd St.  
Do you have the ultra-light backpacking bug and are looking for a way to cook nutritious and lightweight meals? This course will introduce you to techniques, like using a pot cozy, and will showcase some of the innovative lightweight cooking equipment on the market. Bring your spork or foon. Registration is required and limited. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 📱

**FUNDAMENTALS OF BACKCOUNTRY KNOTS**

**WED, DEC 12, 6:30-8:30 PM** D3  
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.  
Do you struggle with knots and knot tying? Would you like to learn some of the best knots for use in the backcountry? Then join the Five Rivers MetroParks as we take a hands-on approach to knot tying, use and know-how in this informative evening program. Registration is required and limited. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 📱

**FUNDAMENTALS OF ALCOHOL STOVES**

**WED, FEB 20, 6:00-9:00 PM** D133  
PNC 2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. 2nd St.  
Are you interested in exploring more of the ultralight backpacking evolution? Have you tried an alcohol stove? This evening program is an introduction to alcohol-stove building and use, taught by a local thru-hiking expert. Included are instructions on how to build alcohol stoves, stove demos, and tips on use. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 or [outdoors@metroparks.org](mailto:outdoors@metroparks.org) for details. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$10 📱





## CYCLING

### BICYCLE MUSEUM OF AMERICA TRIP

**SAT, FEB 16, 9:00 AM-2:30 PM** D156  
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor  
Take a trip with us to the Bicycle Museum of America for a guided tour through the history of bicycling. Participants will get the chance to see over 300 unique bicycles like the Velocipede and the Bonebreaker. You must bring \$3 cash for the entrance fee and please pack a lunch! Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: Must bring cash: \$3 📅

## FITNESS & HEALTH

### (FREE) TRY HIKING @...

**SAT, DEC 15, 2:00-4:00 PM** D111  
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Parking Lot, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

**SAT, JAN 12, 2:00-4:00 PM** D112  
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

**SAT, FEB 16, 2:00-4:00 PM** D114  
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/Parking Lot, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.  
Curious about hiking in the MetroParks? This program will introduce you to a new trail experience. Volunteers will be stationed at the trailhead providing park information, an orientation to the trail, and inviting you to explore a new trail on your own. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages 📅 ⚙️

### (FREE) EASTWOOD HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

**SUN, DEC 30, 1:30-3:30 PM** D138  
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Enjoy a 4-5-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) HUFFMAN HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

**SUN, JAN 6, 1:30-3:30 PM** D139  
HUFFMAN METROPARK, Huffman North Park, 4095 Lower Valley Pk.

Enjoy a 4-5-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) HILLS & DALES HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

**SUN, JAN 20, 1:30-3:30 PM** D140  
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: White Oak 1/Nature Play/Parking Lot, 2606 Hilton Dr.  
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) CARRIAGE HILL HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

**SUN, FEB 3, 1:30-3:30 PM** D141  
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Cedar Lake/Parking Lot, 7891 E. Shull 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) SUGARCREEK HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS

**SUN, FEB 17, 1:30-4:00 PM** D142  
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, 4178 Conference 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

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

### (FREE) ADVENTURE SPEAKER SERIES

**TIMES AND DATES VARY** D115  
OFFSITE LOCATIONS, Check website for details  
Check out this winter's great line-up of talks sure to inspire every level of outdoor enthusiast. The series includes local adventurers and nationally known outdoor personalities. The Adventure Speaker Series is a partnership between Five Rivers MetroParks and Wright State University. View the series schedule at [www.theadventuresummit.com](http://www.theadventuresummit.com) Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-4374 or visit [www.theadventuresummit.com](http://www.theadventuresummit.com) for more information. Age: All ages 📅

### (FREE) VOLUNTEER: STREET TEAM

**TUE, JAN 15, 6:30-8:00 PM** D41  
PNC 2nd STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.  
The Street Team promotes MetroParks' outdoor recreation facilities, programs, and events on a flexible, year-round schedule. Street Team volunteers can promote these

by wearing MetroParks gear, passing out information, posting online, or staffing outreach booths. Come and learn more and get energized and excited about recreation in the Dayton region! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4374 or [lucy.siefker@metroparks.org](mailto:lucy.siefker@metroparks.org) for details. Age: 18Y and up 📅

## PADDLING

### RECREATION KAYAK RESCUE CLINIC

**SUN, DEC 9, 3:00-5:00 PM** D185  
**SUN, FEB 10, 3:00-5:00 PM** D186  
OFFSITE, Beavercreek YMCA, 560 Grange Hall Rd.

Learn how to properly rescue yourself and others during a hands-on clinic in recreation-style kayaks. You'll learn how to successfully rescue yourself and others in near-shore and offshore situations. Several techniques and rescues will be taught. It is an excellent way to gain confidence in your kayak skills and become more knowledgeable in safety rescue. You must have taken Kayak Basics before taking the clinic. For more information or to register please call (937) 277-4374. Prerequisites: Intro to Kayaking, Kayak Basics. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4374 for details. Age: All ages Fee: \$25

## SKATING

### STAR-LATE SKATE

**SAT, DEC 1, 7:00-10:00 PM** D74  
**FRI, DEC 7, 7:00-10:00 PM** D75  
**SAT, DEC 8, 7:00-10:00 PM** D76  
**FRI, DEC 14, 7:00-10:00 PM** D77  
**SAT, DEC 15, 7:00-10:00 PM** D78  
**FRI, DEC 21, 7:00-10:00 PM** D79  
**SAT, DEC 22, 7:00-10:00 PM** D80  
**FRI, DEC 28, 7:00-10:00 PM** D81  
**SAT, DEC 29, 7:00-10:00 PM** D82  
**SAT, JAN 5, 7:00-10:00 PM** D83  
**SAT, JAN 12, 7:00-10:00 PM** D84  
**SAT, JAN 19, 7:00-10:00 PM** D85  
**SAT, JAN 26, 7:00-10:00 PM** D86  
**SAT, FEB 2, 7:00-10:00 PM** D87  
**SAT, FEB 9, 7:00-10:00 PM** D88  
**SAT, FEB 16, 7:00-10:00 PM** D89  
**SAT, FEB 23, 7:00-10:00 PM** D90  
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.

There's no better way to spend a Friday or Saturday night in the winter than by skating near the river, under a beautifully

lit canopy. Take in the sights and sounds of downtown while sipping hot chocolate or enjoying a seasonal treat from Café Vélo! It's a great way to unwind after a hectic day. Admission includes the use of ice skates. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 ⚙️

## BEGINNERS I FOR KIDS

**SUN, DEC 2, 12:00-12:30 PM** D152

**SUN, DEC 16, 12:00-12:30 PM** D160

**SUN, DEC 30, 12:00-12:30 PM** D158

**SUN, JAN 13, 12:00-12:30 PM** D164

**SUN, JAN 27, 12:00-12:30 PM** D165

**SUN, FEB 10, 12:00-12:30 PM** D168

**SUN, FEB 24, 12:00-12:30 PM** D169

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

If your youngsters have always wanted to ice skate, join us select Sunday afternoons before the rink opens for our children's beginner ice lesson! They will learn how to sit and stand on the ice, march in place, dip and glide while gaining confidence in their new abilities! Please arrive 15 minutes prior to start time. Fee includes use of skates. Registration required. Contact (937) 274-0126 for details. Age: 3Y-8Y Fee: \$10 📅 ⚙️

## SKATING BASICS FOR 'TWEENS

**SUN, DEC 2, 12:30-1:00 PM** D170

**SUN, DEC 16, 12:30-1:00 PM** D171

**SUN, DEC 30, 12:30-1:00 PM** D172

**SUN, JAN 13, 12:30-1:00 PM** D173

**SUN, JAN 27, 12:30-1:00 PM** D174

**SUN, FEB 10, 12:30-1:00 PM** D175

**SUN, FEB 24, 12:30-1:00 PM** D176

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

Do your 'tweens want to join their friends on the ice, but can't let go of the wall? Build their confidence at MetroParks Ice Rink on select Sunday afternoons for basic instruction on how to balance while skating forward and backward, dip, glide, swizzle and stop. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to start time. Fee includes use of skates. Registration required. Contact (937) 274-0126 for details. Age: 9Y-13Y Fee: \$10 📅 ⚙️

## BEGINNERS II FOR KIDS

**SUN, DEC 9, 12:00-12:30 PM** D159

**SUN, DEC 23, 12:00-12:30 PM** D161

**SUN, JAN 6, 12:00-12:30 PM** D162

**SUN, JAN 20, 12:00-12:30 PM** D163

**SUN, FEB 3, 12:00-12:30 PM** D166

**SUN, FEB 17, 12:00-12:30 PM** D167

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice

Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.

Now that your child has the confidence to move about the rink, it's time for some fancy footwork! Before the rink opens on select Sundays, children aged 3-8 will learn how to walk (and wiggle!) backwards, glide while moving, swizzle, do a two foot turn and how to stop. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to start time. Fee includes use of ice skates. Prerequisites: Beginners I for Kids. Registration required. Contact (937) 274-0126 for details. Age: 3Y-8Y Fee: \$10 📅 ⚙️

## BEGINNERS FOR ADULTS

**SUN, DEC 9, 12:30-1:00 PM** D177

**SUN, DEC 23, 12:30-1:00 PM** D178

**SUN, JAN 6, 12:30-1:00 PM** D179

**SUN, JAN 20, 12:30-1:00 PM** D180

**SUN, FEB 3, 12:30-1:00 PM** D181

**SUN, FEB 17, 12:30-1:00 PM** D182

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

Listen up, adults - it's time to get over your fear of lacing up skates and actually step out onto the ice! Come to our beginning skate lessons and gain confidence as you learn to stand up and stay balanced on ice, march, dip, glide, swizzle, move backwards and stop. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to start time. Fee includes use of skates. Registration required. Contact (937) 274-0126 for details. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$10 📅 ⚙️

## SKATE WITH PARKER

**SUN, DEC 9, 1:00-3:00 PM** D69

**SUN, DEC 23, 1:00-3:00 PM** D70

**SUN, JAN 6, 1:00-3:00 PM** D71

**SUN, JAN 20, 1:00-3:00 PM** D72

**SUN, FEB 3, 1:00-3:00 PM** D135

**SUN, FEB 17, 1:00-3:00 PM** D73

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

Bring your kids on select Sunday mornings to meet Parker the Penguin, our MetroParks Ice Rink mascot. Don't forget to bring your camera to catch a snapshot of Parker and your child as he offers a hug, a wave, or help on the ice. Admission fee includes ice skate rental. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 ⚙️

## CHRISTMAS EVE SKATE

**MON, DEC 24, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM** D91

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

Start a holiday tradition by skating with your friends and family at RiverScape MetroPark! Enjoy splendid scenery, outdoor

fireplaces and hot chocolate from Café Vélo. Admission includes ice skate rental. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 ⚙️

## CHRISTMAS DAY SKATE

**TUE, DEC 25, 1:00-8:00 PM** D92

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

Have an old-fashioned, family Christmas and skate on Christmas Day! Enjoy the festive atmosphere as you sip hot chocolate by our outdoor fireplaces. Admission includes ice skate rental. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 ⚙️

## NEW YEAR'S EVE SKATE

**MON, DEC 31, 11:00 AM-10:00 PM** D93

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

Looking for something fun to do before the ball drops? Start your New Year's Eve party at MetroParks Ice Rink and be the last to skate in 2012! Admission includes ice skate rental. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 ⚙️

## NEW YEAR'S DAY SKATE

**TUE, JAN 1, 1:00-8:00 PM** D94

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

Start the New Year right and be the first to skate in 2013! Admission includes ice skate rental. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 ⚙️

## MICHAEL JACKSON SKATE

**FRI, JAN 4, 7:00-10:00 PM** D59

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

Are the most-played songs on your iPod by the King of Pop? Then come to MetroParks Ice Rink and moonwalk in ice skates as a DJ from Party Pleasers plays a variety of Michael Jackson's biggest hits. Groove to faves like "Thriller," "Black or White," "Beat It," and even some hits from Jackson Five! Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 ⚙️



## OUTDOOR BROOMBALL

**MON, WED, JAN. 7-FEB. 25, 6:00-8:00 PM** D134

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.  
Get your friends together and sign up for Dayton Broomball Association's co-ed league at MetroParks Ice Rink! In this team sport, players wear shoes instead of skates and use broom-shaped sticks to pass and score goals. Visit [daytonbroomball.org/riverscape](http://daytonbroomball.org/riverscape) to register your team for the competitive or recreational league. They will take first 18 teams. Registration required. Contact (937) 274-0126 for details. To register your team, visit [daytonbroomball.org/riverscape](http://daytonbroomball.org/riverscape). Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$290

## TRY BROOMBALL



**TUE, JAN 8, 6:00-7:00 PM** D143

**TUE, JAN 8, 7:00-8:00 PM** D144

**TUE, FEB 12, 6:00-7:00 PM** D145

**TUE, FEB 12, 7:00-8:00 PM** D146


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

Looking for a way to make winter fun? Come to MetroParks Ice Rink and let the Dayton Broomball Association take you through Broomball basics! You'll learn the rules, get on-ice instruction and scrimmage with other participants. Please arrive 20 minutes prior to the class start time, wear gloves and gym shoes. No experience necessary. Registration required. Contact (937) 274-0126 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10  

## PARTY LIKE IT'S 1999!

**FRI, JAN 11, 7:00-10:00 PM** D60

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

Whether you lived in the 1990s or are just a fan of power ballads, put on your slap bracelet and come to MetroParks Ice Rink for a night of music that made the '90s great! With hits by Pearl Jam, Counting Crows, Mariah Carey, Alanis Morissette and more played by a Party Pleasers DJ, it's going to be "da bomb"! Admission includes skate rental. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 



## MOMMY &amp; ME (AND DADDY, TOO!)

**TUE, JAN 15, 6:00-8:00 PM** D150

**TUE, FEB 19, 6:00-8:00 PM** D151

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


Attention moms and dads! Bring your tyke

to MetroParks Ice Rink for an evening of fun together on the ice! Get your photo taken with Parker the Penguin, enjoy a complimentary hot chocolate and an unforgettable night of skating with your child. Fee includes skate rental. Registration required. Contact (937) 274-0126 for details. Age: 3Y-6Y Fee: \$7.50  

## SCHOOL PRIDE NIGHT

**FRI, JAN 18, 7:00-10:00 PM** D61


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

Represent your school at MetroParks Ice Rink! Wear you school colors and logos to skate as a DJ from Party Pleasers plays Top 40 hits. Bring your student ID and get half-priced admission. Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY SKATE

**MON, JAN 21, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM** D95

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

Celebrate the holiday at MetroParks Ice Rink! Admission includes ice skate rental. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 

## LEARN TO CURL

**TUE, JAN 22, 6:00-8:00 PM** D147

**TUE, JAN 29, 6:00-8:00 PM** D148

**TUE, FEB 5, 6:00-8:00 PM** D149

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


Come try an Olympic sport this winter! Learn how to throw stones and sweep as Curl Troy takes you through the basics of curling during this hands-on program. Curling is accessible to all physical skill levels. Wear comfortable clothes and soft soled tennis shoes. For information on curling, visit [www.curltroy.org](http://www.curltroy.org). Registration required. Contact (937) 274-0126 for details. Age: 15Y and up Fee: \$15 

## DIVAS OF POP

**FRI, JAN 25, 7:00-10:00 PM** D64

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


Ladies! Bring all your friends to MetroParks Ice Rink for diva domination! A Party Pleasers DJ will be supplying the music from the divas of today and yesterday, including Mariah Carey, Adele, and Whitney Houston.

Café Vélo will also be open with snacks, and the boys are welcome to join in on the fun. Admission includes skate rental. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 

## BIEBER FEVER

**FRI, FEB 1, 7:00-10:00 PM** D65


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

If you're a "Belieber" with a real case of "Bieber Fever," come to MetroParks Ice Rink with all of your fellow fans to skate to all of the Biebs' hit songs. A Party Pleasers DJ will be providing the music, including "Baby," "Boyfriend," and "As Long as You Love Me." Admission includes skate rental. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 

## POP-COUNTRY SKATE

**FRI, FEB 8, 7:00-10:00 PM** D66


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

Saddle on up and head over to MetroParks Ice Rink for a cool night of Pop Country music! A DJ from Party Pleasers will be on hand, playing all the hits from the likes of Taylor Swift, Lady Antebellum, Sugarland and The Band Perry. Admission includes skate rental, but not horse parking. No registration required. Contact (937) 274-0126 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 

## GLEE SKATE

**FRI, FEB 15, 7:00-10:00 PM** D67


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

Would you call yourself a "Glee"? Is "Don't Stop Believin'" your theme song? Then come skate and sing along to the hit series soundtracks, played live by a DJ from Party Pleasers. Admission fee includes the use of ice skates. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 

## PRESIDENT'S DAY SKATE

**MON, FEB 18, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM** D96

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

Celebrate the holiday at MetroParks Ice Rink! Admission includes ice skate rental. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 

## AMERICAN IDOL NIGHT

**FRI, FEB 22, 7:00-10:00 PM** D68

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

Strut your stuff on skates at MetroParks Ice Rink, no auditions required! A DJ from Party Pleasers will be playing the hits of American Idol winners, runners-up and break out stars, like Jennifer Hudson, Kelly Clarkson and Adam Lambert. Admission includes skate rental. Seacrest out! No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Admission: \$7 🌟

SPECIAL EVENT  
ENTERTAINMENT**(FREE) SANTA VISITS THE MARKET****THU, FRI, SAT, DEC. 20-22, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM** D38

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

Bring a camera and snap a photo of Santa with your friends and family. It won't be too late to tell Santa what is on your wish list, including Market goodies. Santa will have a treat for everyone who stops by. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: All ages

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE:

JOEL SARTORE

**MON, FEB 11, 7:00-9:00 PM** D123

OFFSITE, Victoria Theatre, 1 W. 2nd St., Dayton  
The first in the "Nat Geo Live" series features photographer, speaker, author, teacher, and regular contributor to *National Geographic* magazine, Joel Sartore, an environmentalist and conservationist who champions endangered species and landscapes, documenting a world worth saving. Check out Sartore and the rest of the series at the Victoria Theatre! Registration requested,

walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 228-3630 or [info@victoriatheatre.com](mailto:info@victoriatheatre.com) for details. [www.victoriatheatre.com/series/national-geographic-live](http://www.victoriatheatre.com/series/national-geographic-live). Age: All ages Fee: Package A, \$102; Package B, \$72; Package C, \$57

**(FREE) BLACK HISTORY DAY AT THE MARKET****SAT, FEB 23, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM** D37

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

All are invited to the Annual Black History Day at the Market. Join us for a cultural celebration of old school and gospel music and dance. Dianne Coble always provides a top-notch local entertainment line-up for this event. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: All ages

## FITNESS &amp; HEALTH

**(FREE) CHRISTMAS WALK IN DOWNTOWN DAYTON****SAT, DEC 1, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM** D13

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

This outdoor community recreation opportunity is provided by Ohio Wander Freunde. The 5K and 10K routes will be through the decorated streets of downtown Dayton. The walk starts between 9:00 AM and noon and ends around 3:00 PM at the Market. Contact Mikki White at [mikkiw17@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mikkiw17@sbcglobal.net) or (937) 890-0416 for more information. No registration required. Age: All ages

## HERITAGE &amp; HISTORY

**(FREE) CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM****SUN, DEC 2, 12:00-5:00 PM** D15

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

String cranberries and popcorn for the

farm-grown cedar tree just like families did a century ago. Enjoy fresh-baked gingerbread and sample chestnuts hot from the fireplace. Play some period parlor games. At our Visitor Center, you can make a Victorian Christmas decoration to take home. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2609 for details. Age: All ages

## HOME &amp; HOBBIES

**(FREE) SOUP-ER BOWL SAMPLES****THU, FRI, JAN. 31-FEB. 1, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM** D40

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

This encore soup sampling event is a way to take the chill off a cold winter day. When the Market referee blows the whistle, customers are invited to taste any of the 10-plus varieties of soups the vendors (dressed in their favorite football gear) offer. Once you sample the soup, you will want to stay and enjoy your favorite. No registration required. Age: All ages

## NATURE

**(FREE) VOLUNTEER:**

CONSERVATION EXPO

**SAT, FEB 23, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** D113

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

What are the elements of conservation? How do Five Rivers MetroParks' land stewardship plans protect our native habitats? How can individuals help? Find out the answers to these questions, meet some of the experts and more at the Conservation Expo. We invite new and interested volunteers to discover how their contributions can leave a legacy. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact (937) 277-4147 for details. Age: All ages 🌿



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GRIZZLIES, PIRANHAS  
AND MAN-EATING PIGS

Photographer • Wildlife Conservationist

Monday, February 11, 7 p.m.



### ANNIE GRIFFITHS:

A CAMERA, TWO KIDS, AND A CAMEL

Photographer • Global Conservationist

Monday, March 11, 7 p.m.



### PAUL SERENO:

THE DINOSAUR HUNTER

Paleontologist • Evolutionist

Monday, April 22, 7 p.m.



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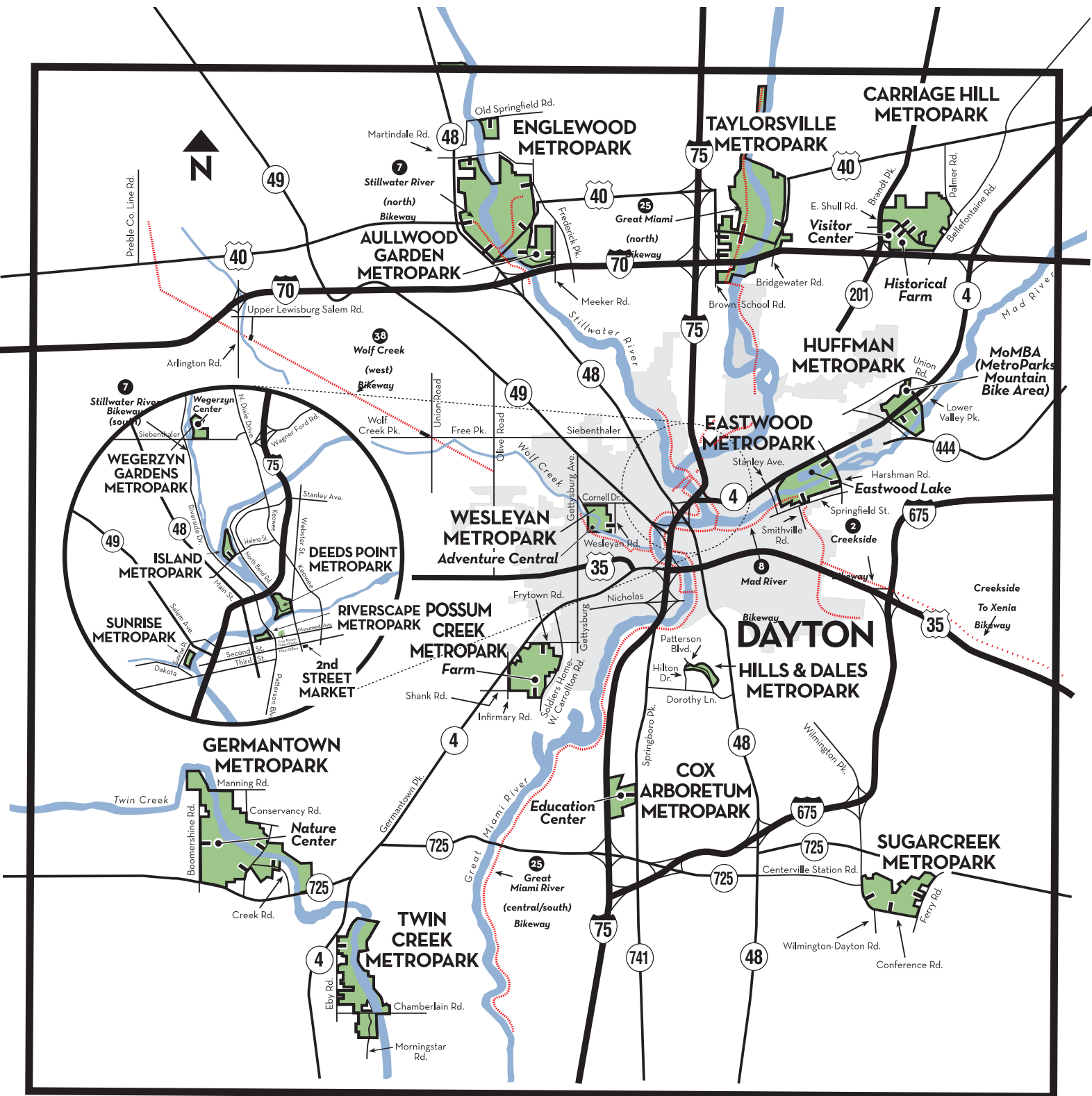
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