WINTER / SPRING 2016 FREE

PARKWAYS
YOUR GUIDE TO FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS NEWS AND PROGRAMS

KIDS LEARN OUTDOORS IN GREEN SCHOOLYARDS
SEE PAGE 12

DISCOVER THE MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS
SEE PAGE 18

HAPPY TRAILS
CREATING ROUTES TO CONNECT WITH NATURE

Photo by Jan Underwood
SAVE THE DATE
MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING METROPARKS EVENTS

FEBRUARY 12-13
THE ADVENTURE SUMMIT
Wright State University
See Pages 14-15 (Recreation) and 37 (Outdoor Adventure)

MARCH 5
THE SUSTAINABLE GARDEN
Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark
See Page 29 (Volunteer) and 37 (Nature)

APRIL 16
ADOPT-A-PARK
Various Locations
See Page 17 (Volunteer) and 37 (Nature)

MAY 14
POLLINATOR PARTY
Cox Arboretum MetroPark
See Page 31 (Gardening & Landscaping)

MAY 20
NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST
RiverScape MetroPark
See Page 15 (Recreation) and 26 (Cycling)

TOP FIVE WAYS TO ENJOY YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS THIS WINTER AND SPRING

1. HEALTHY ESCAPE
With 75 miles of hiking trails in your parks and more than 300 miles of paved bikeways in the region, keeping healthy goals is easy and fun, even in colder temps!

2. WINTER WARM-UP
Visit the 2nd Street Market to stock up on hearty stew essentials and other fresh, local foods. Take a break from your shopping to warm up with a hot meal from one of the many local food vendors.

3. THE EARLY BIRD
As warmer weather returns, so will many varieties of birds. A visit to any of your parks will give you lots of chances to listen and identify the spring singers in the area.

4. RECESS TIME
Enjoy fun, unstructured playtime at the nature play areas at Englewood, Hills & Dales, Possum Creek, Wegerzyn Gardens and Sugarcreek MetroParks.

5. SNOW DAY
Take advantage of snow cover to enjoy ice skating at RiverScape MetroPark, cross-country skiing or a winter hike. Go sledding at Germantown, Englewood and Taylorsville MetroParks. Learn more at metroparks.org/winter.
DEAR METROPARKS FRIENDS,

As part of our 10-year comprehensive master planning process, we have been asking for your input during the past 10 months to determine what the interests and priorities should be for your Five Rivers MetroParks. A statistically valid survey was distributed this past fall to residents throughout Montgomery County. Listed below are just a few highlights from the results of that survey.

• Protecting significant natural areas and river corridors in the Miami Valley is the most important principle for Five Rivers MetroParks to follow in its conservation planning efforts. (Five Rivers MetroParks currently manages slightly less than 16,000 acres of natural areas, and a significant portion of the region’s 270 miles of river corridor.)

• Preserving clean water and air is the most important benefit of conserving land in its natural state. (Currently, approximately 90 percent of the land Five Rivers MetroParks manages is in its natural state.)

• Trails for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain biking, cycling and cross-country skiing represent one of Five Rivers MetroParks’ amenities you most value. (Five Rivers MetroParks now manages 160 miles of trails for a variety of users.)

We were also so pleased to learn that 90 percent of households that responded to the survey visited at least one Five Rivers MetroPark or trail in the past 12 months. We’ll continue to work hard to create great parks where everyone in our community can experience the outdoors and nature.

We anticipate that the 10-year comprehensive master plan will be completed by early spring 2016. If you would like to learn more, please visit metroparks.org/plan.

We recognize the trails are where so many of you connect with nature year-round, and Five Rivers MetroParks is committed to preserving and improving these community treasures. I hope you will enjoy this issue of ParkWays, which contains news and information about those trails.

Five Rivers MetroParks is also committed to using the input you provided as the guide for our focus on the future in planning and ensuring we continue to offer world-class natural areas, parks, facilities and programs to the community. As part of the comprehensive master plan, short and long-term strategies have been developed and will guide us in meeting the needs and priorities of this wonderful region.

We are proud to continue the long tradition of providing clean, safe, enjoyable parks; protecting our region’s natural heritage; and providing outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature. We look forward to serving you and our community for many more years to come!

Best Regards,

Becky Benná
Executive Director

METROPARKS NEWS • 4
COVER STORY • 6 - 9
We’re building outstanding trails, providing fantastic opportunities for you to experience the outdoors.

RECREATION • 14
Be sure and check out upcoming events The Adventure Summit and Bike to Work Day

VOLUNTEER • 17 - 19
There a number of ways to get involved with your Five Rivers MetroParks. Discover all of them here.

PROGRAM GUIDE • 25
Register for programs happening in your MetroParks from February through May 2016.

ParkWays is published three times per year. An online version is available at metroparks.org/parkways.

METROPARKS COMMISSIONERS

Irvin G. Bieser, Jr.
Karen L. Davis
Alan F. Pippenger
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OUR MISSION
Five Rivers MetroParks is dedicated to protecting the region’s natural heritage and providing outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature.
OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAM UPDATES

As Five Rivers MetroParks’ outdoor recreation program celebrates 10 years, it’s launching an easier way to understand the progression of core programs that teach paddling, cycling, backpacking and other outdoor skills.

Previously, programs were labeled “intro” and “basics” to describe levels. Now, those programs will be more clearly identified using a numbering system, such as “Backpacking 1,” “Paddling 2,” etc. This better indicates prerequisites, as a level 1 program will be a prerequisite for a level 2 program and so on, allowing you to build a strong foundation in the basic skills necessary to enjoy the outdoor activity. Many of the core programs offer trips as a capstone experience.

“We hope this new method will give you a clear place to start your journey toward..."
enjoying the outdoors with confidence and, ultimately, independently,” said Brent Anslinger, Five Rivers MetroParks’ outdoor recreation program manager. “We will continue to offer the same great programs, but it will be easier for people to know which programs they should take first, second and third.”

PROJECT UPDATES

RIVERSCAPE RIVER RUN
The work to transform the low dam between I-75 and Monument Avenue is well underway. RiverScape River Run will eliminate the hazards associated with the low dam and create a recreational passage for novice boaters and a whitewater play chute for experienced kayakers. Work will begin this year on the second similar structure, which will be located near RiverScape MetroPark. That work will start after completion of a second mussel survey, which will relocate mussels located in the construction footprint. The first mussel survey was completed Oct. 24, when Five Rivers MetroParks staff and volunteers helped relocate hundreds of these freshwater creatures to new homes.

metroparks.org/riverrun

MoMBA
The new skills and strider loops at the MetroParks Mountain Bike Area (MoMBA) are scheduled for completion in late spring. Improvements also include a new restroom, bike wash and repair station, and upgrades to the entry drive and parking area. The skills loop is designed for beginners who’ve never ridden a trail and for more experienced riders to practice specific skills.

metroparks.org/momba

BARBARA COX CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE
This new feature at Cox Arboretum MetroPark has been completed, with a grand opening to be held in May. The renovated greenhouses, head house (an area with workspace to transplant, propagate and train plants) and outdoor demonstration areas already are producing new trees and wildflowers to be planted throughout land managed by Five Rivers MetroParks. Tours of the new facility will begin after the grand opening.

metroparks.org/tvwelcomecenter

TWIN VALLEY WELCOME CENTER
The first phase of the renovation of the former Nature Center at Germantown MetroPark is scheduled to be complete by late spring 2016. The center is designed as a gateway to the upper Twin Valley area, with information about one of the largest and most biologically rich natural areas in Montgomery County. In addition, the center will be a stopping point for hikers and backpackers, providing new fully accessible restrooms and meeting space. Ultimately, people will be able to take classes, participate in educational demonstrations, and learn more about outdoor recreation opportunities at the center.

metroparks.org/tvwelcomecenter
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS manages 160 miles of trails for cycling, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding, including 75 miles for hiking. In 2014, park services staff spent 2,924 hours maintaining our recreational trails.
A recent community-wide survey, conducted as part of Five Rivers MetroParks’ master plan, indicated people are looking for ways to escape daily pressures — and parks, particularly trails, are a favorite place to experience the outdoors.

That’s why it’s so important Five Rivers MetroParks create and maintain the best trails possible for both users and the natural areas they enjoy. Several trail-related projects recently have been completed, a Strategic Trail Initiative (STI) is underway and the park services department created a dedicated trail crew, led by trail specialist Mark Allen.

“We’re trying to make a better user experience and trails that are not going to be detrimental to the ecosystem Five Rivers MetroParks is here to protect,” Allen said. “Properly built and maintained trails won’t have erosion issues and will have a more consistent tread and surface. This allows people to focus on the beauty around them instead of consistently looking at their feet while on the trail.”

The orange trail at Taylorsville MetroPark is an example of a successful STI project. Once marked by rutted, steep hills that became slick when wet, the orange trail was lengthened, the grade was softened to match the natural topography, honeysuckle was removed to open new vistas and two new blocks of undisturbed habitat were created. The trail crew currently is working at Sugarcreek MetroPark, with work scheduled to be complete in 2016.

“Many of the Sugarcreek trails are old farm access roads created for tractors and animals to get from one pasture to another,” Allen said. “They were never designed for hiking.”

Eventually, all MetroParks’ natural surface trails for users ranging from horseback riders to hikers will receive a sustainable revamp. Once the trail crew finishes at Sugarcreek, it will move to Germantown MetroPark, home to a good portion of the 22-mile Twin Valley Backpacking Trail. In addition to Taylorsville, the trails at the MetroParks Mountain Biking Area (MoMBA) already are sustainable: They were designed and built sustainably — by volunteers working by hand — according to International Mountain Bike Association standards.

“People want to experience our parks through trails, and MetroParks strives to have trails that have zero impact on the environment so people can experience nature without damaging it,” Allen said. “Having a dedicated trail crew allows Five Rivers MetroParks to focus on designing trails that take users to the most amazing features of our parks, are easier to maintain and will be here for many years to come.”

“Many children don’t have a lot of opportunity for unstructured play in the woods so having trails is a great way for families to go out and experience and discover nature,” he added. “There are so many things to love.”
MAKING TRAILS: RECENT PROJECTS IN YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

- A dedicated five-person trail crew was established in winter 2015.
- A new trail connecting Argonne Lake and the farm at Possum Creek MetroPark opened in fall 2015.
- Work recently was completed on a new beginner loop and the Talon trail at MoMBA.
- Reach arm mowing on bikeways, such as Creekside Trail, was completed in fall 2015 to clear overhanging vegetation and clear corridors.
- A new pink trail at Germantown MetroPark opened in fall 2014, creating a higher-elevation option for the Twin Valley Backpacking Trail and opening new access to Sunfish Pond.

WHY STI? THE PROCESS OF CREATING A SUSTAINABLE TRAIL.

It begins with an evaluation of the existing trail and user patterns, the best features of a park, and determination of needs and goals for trail maintenance. The trail crew lays out the most sustainable route on paper that meets all of these needs, and it is then reviewed by staff from all departments.

The goal of sustainable trails is to allow people to experience nature in a responsible way without negatively impacting the environment. For example, sustainable design keeps people on the trail and water off so hikers don’t walk around muddy areas and disturb the vegetation alongside the trail.

Once approved, the trail crew goes out in winter, after all leaves have dropped, and flags the proposed route. Conservation staff and volunteers then monitor potential impact to sensitive plants for a growing season. (See conservation, page 10, for more info.) After a year of monitoring and final approval by all departments, construction on the new trail can begin.

The trail crew and volunteers clear the new trail corridor, which usually happens in the winter to avoid disturbing breeding wildlife in the spring.

Old trails remain open while new construction is taking place, one section at a time. Once a new section has been completed with specialized machinery, hand-working crews finalize the new trail. At the end, the edges of the new trail are softened with leaf litter to help it blend with surroundings. The old trail is restored by breaking up the surface to promote water absorption and adding soil and woody debris to promote native plant growth.

METROPARKS.ORG/STI
FLOWER TRAILS

From native wildflowers to bulb displays, the parks burst into color in early spring — and along the trails is where you’ll find some of the most dazzling displays. The garden parks are some of the best places to catch spring color, although you’ll find blossoms throughout your Five Rivers MetroParks facilities. Below is a guide to get you started on a spring wildflower discovery walk.

TRAIL PICKS

RON BICKNELL Regional Park Manager

- Germantown MetroPark silver trail: “This trail moves through a variety of habitats, including a river bottom, mature woods, ravines and a prairie while being a challenging hike.”
- Possum Creek MetroPark purple trail: “The Argonne loop trail is flat and you’ll see historical remnants along the way.”
- Englewood MetroPark green trail: “This trail includes a river, transitional lake, three waterfalls, deep woods and good bird watching.”

DOUG SCHAUER MoMBA Trail Technician

- “The new trail at MoMBA called Talon is the best trail we have at Five Rivers MetroParks. It was put in by volunteers, has more rock wall and rock gardens, and nice overlooks.”

MARK ALLEN Trail Specialist

- “I like the mountain bike trails at MoMBA, especially the fast, flowy sections; technical climbs; and natural rock outcroppings on Hawk’s Lair.”

SHANE SHELDON Trail Technician

- Taylorsville MetroPark orange loop: “This trail has a great flow and is great for running and hiking. There’s always wildlife; I’ve seen bald eagles, albino squirrels and deer, and there’s never an abundance of users.”
- Hills & Dales MetroPark orange trail: “This trail has many great features our whole family enjoys, including a nature play area, Dogwood Pond, wetlands boardwalk and the stone tower overlook. Also, the area from Pawpaw Camp to Dogwood Pond is easy hiking even for our 2-year-old.”

STEVE BURDINE Trail Technician

- “The south park trail at Englewood MetroPark is where I have spent a lot of time walking through the years. I recharge there; often I’m the only person in the park. The prairie trail in the winter has a quietude about it I find in few places.”
- “The Great Miami River Recreation Trail is my favorite bike path, especially the section in Taylorsville MetroPark. It is a pleasant ride year round.”

KAREN HESSER Director of Park Services and Legislative Affairs

- Germantown MetroPark silver and orange trails
- Twin Creek MetroPark orange trail

PARK SERVICES STAFF OFFER UP THEIR FAVES

VISIT THIS PARK …

Aullwood Garden MetroPark

Hike this Trail …

Follow the trail through the estate garden around the property and into the woods at this intimate garden park.

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR …

Mid-February to late April
early March
March to early April
mid-April to late April

TO SEE …

Hellebore/Lenten Rose
Winter Aconite
Siberian Squill
Great White Trillium
Virginia Bluebells

Cox Arboretum MetroPark

Visit the Woodland Wildflower Area off the red trail.

late March through mid-April
April
April
April
May
May

Trout Lily
Dutchman’s Breeches
Celandine Poppy
A wide variety of violets
Yellow Lady’s Slipper
Blue False Indigo

Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark

Walk the Marie Aull Trail and paths through the formal gardens.

January through early March
early March
April
mid-April
May

Spring Witch Hazel
Winter Aconite
Anemone
Daffodils & Tulips
Magnolia
Camassia

February through late April
March
May
BECAUSE TRAILS ARE HOW MOST PEOPLE EXPERIENCE THE OUTDOORS, Five Rivers MetroParks takes care to thoughtfully design and install trails to work with nature.

The Strategic Trail Initiative process begins more than a year before a new trail is installed or a current trail is moved. During winter, after leaves have fallen and visibility is much better, MetroParks’ trail crew flags the proposed route of the new trail. (See page 8 for more info.)

Next, conservation staff and volunteers monitor the route during the next growing season to see if any rare plants, such as fringed gentian, might be impacted. If a plant or population of plants is located, the best solution for that location is determined, whether moving the plants to new locations outside the trail corridor or moving the location of the trail. Protection of the park’s biodiversity is a critical part of trail installation.

Also critical to protecting natural resources is trail density. Animals and birds need space undisturbed by humans, but a critical part of trails is allowing people to watch and experience wildlife. Five Rivers MetroParks balances these by limiting the number and length of trails installed in each park area. This allows people access but means such animals as the bobcat and red tailed hawk have places to hunt and raise their young.

Wetlands are home to a great variety of plant and animal life, but standing water and mud make visiting these areas difficult and walking in wetlands would harm many of the plant species living there. To make these habitats accessible, Five Rivers MetroParks has
KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

Most wildlife species raise their young in spring, and it’s a critical time to ensure the next generation of wildlife in Five Rivers MetroParks gets off to a good start.

HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN HELP THESE WILDLIFE BABIES:

1. NEVER PICK UP OR REMOVE A YOUNG ANIMAL FROM A PARK. In the spring, many species of young animals are learning their way around the world, but parents are close by and out of sight. If you find an animal that appears orphaned, contact the Ohio Division of Wildlife at 1-800-WILDLIFE. Only certified centers, such as Brukner Nature Center, can accept orphaned wildlife.

2. NEVER FEED WILDLIFE. Doing so may prevent young wildlife from eating natural food with the necessary nutrients, which could cause growth issues. It also will teach the animal to associate humans with food, which may cause conflict.

3. KEEP DOGS ON A LEASH. This is a requirement in MetroParks. Even if unintentionally, dogs can harm young wildlife if allowed to wander. In addition, some wildlife, such as deer and coyotes, can be very protective of their young and den sites.

4. STAY ON MARKED TRAILS. Many species of birds, if they are disturbed too many times, will abandon a nest and may not be able to nest successfully at all. Ground-nesting birds, such as the woodthrush, are particularly susceptible to disturbance.

5. WATCH OUT FOR YOUNG WILDLIFE ON THE ROAD. Cars are the largest source of mortality for most wildlife species, and young animals have not yet learned how to safely cross roads. Slow down in the morning and evening, when wildlife is most active.

6. WATCH OUT ON THE GROUND. Young birds spend a portion of time on the ground while learning to fly. Keep your pets away from young birds and owls during this critical time.

With these simple tips, you can help young animals get off to a safe start in MetroParks – and in your own back yard.
Moxie John’s sixth-graders at Belle Haven Elementary School were amazed at how quickly plants grow and how delicious a home-grown tomato tastes.

They experienced both at Belle Haven’s Green Schoolyard, offered in partnership with Five Rivers MetroParks. Students planted seeds in the classroom and transplanted them outdoors — all while completing experiments and learning activities.

“The fact that you can just give soil, water, nutrients and sunlight to plants and they will grow blew students’ minds,” John said. “They loved working in the garden. It engages a different part of students’ brains. They can approach it without the preconceived notion they’re not good at math. No one’s told them they can’t garden.”

Belle Haven is joined by Kiser Elementary as the two schools partnering with Five Rivers MetroParks this school year. Now, MetroParks is looking for two additional schools to serve as partners for the next academic year, extending the reach of area schools providing outdoor places where students can learn and discover nature.

The process begins with a presentation by Five Rivers MetroParks’ AmeriCorps team. Interested schools must have buy-in from the principal, along with a teacher willing to lead the charge.

Schools selected from an application process receive training and help planning and designing their green schoolyard. AmeriCorps coordinators lead two programs at the school, teaching educators how to incorporate the green schoolyard into lesson plans.

“Our goal is to facilitate the creation and use of sustainable outdoor classrooms in Montgomery County,” Beachdell said. “Those can be habitat and/or vegetable gardens or any outdoor space that promotes environmental awareness.”

One year into the program, John has seen her students benefit.

“The kids are not only learning how to grow their own food and where food comes from,” she said, “they’re also learning how to add fresh fruits and vegetables to their diets.”
GROWING GARDENING PROGRAMMING

Gardening is a fun, fruitful way to connect with nature and help Five Rivers MetroParks’ conservation efforts. Whether you grow food in a large plot or flowers in a small container, all gardens add biodiversity, shelter and food while contributing to cleaner air and water. Growing food also helps maintain a healthy, active lifestyle.

This year, after gathering community input, Five Rivers MetroParks is tweaking its gardening programs to better meet your needs. Focus will be on helping new gardeners get started, helping experienced gardeners use Earth-friendly practices and building a sharing community of gardeners.

Already, new garden programs have been created:
- A lecture on sustainable gardening with national expert Deb Knapke will be held March 5. See page 29.
- A pollinator party on May 14 includes a presentation on Ohio native plants, as well as activities for the whole family. See page 31.

Garden tours, such as the Wildflower Walks, help you use parks for inspiration and education. Look for even more opportunities to Get Out & Garden throughout the year!

GROW FOOD, BUILD COMMUNITY

Another way to Get Out & Garden is to rent a plot in one of Five Rivers MetroParks’ community gardens.

For Carla and Scott Lachecki, who live in an urban Dayton neighborhood without much of a yard, renting a year-round plot at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark allows them to grow their own produce and share the natural world with their granddaughter, 3.

“We’ve been able to feed our granddaughter since she was eating solid food,” Scott Lachecki said. “Her favorite is vegetable soup.”

The Lacheckis have gotten more serious about their gardening, taking soil samples of their plot to improve its quality and culinary classes at Sinclair Community College to better cook all those veggies.

“It’s nice to be outside,” Lachecki said. “And the food you get is second to none.”

Community gardens not only help your palate, they help the Earth, too.

“We have to make spaces for biodiversity, pollinators and green things growing in healthy, sustainable ways in between the parks,” education coordinator Luci Beachdell said. “Gardening is an important part of Five Rivers MetroParks’ mission to protect the region’s natural resources and build a vital, active, nature-based community.”
In mid-February, thousands of outdoor enthusiasts will converge on Dayton, Ohio: The Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest for a weekend of outdoor skill, culture and experience to attend The Adventure Summit.

“This event has a rich history of featuring world-class outdoor personalities who are sure to inspire and amaze,” said Lucy Sánchez, Five Rivers MetroParks outdoor recreation event coordinator. “The Adventure Summit celebrates the spirit of outdoor adventure by showcasing the vibrant lifestyle and culture of human-powered endeavors through inspiration, education and experience.”

Amy Purdy and Luke “Strider” Jordan are the 2016 featured speakers. Purdy will give a keynote presentation, “Living Beyond Limits,” at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, which also is part of the Wright State University Presidential Lecture Series. After contracting a rare illness at 19, Purdy underwent a double leg amputation. Yet she challenged herself to move on with life and is now a world-class snowboarder, 2014 Paralympic Medalist, Dancing with the Stars finalist, author, actress and fashion designer.

Jordan also will tell the story of his journey — a continuous thru-hike on the 4,600-mile North Country National Scenic Trail, the longest such trail in the United States — during the keynote presentation at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13. In 2013, Jordan became one of only five people at the time to have thru-hiked the NCT, part of which runs through the Dayton area.
These featured speakers will be joined by more than two dozen others who will present 30-plus tales of outdoor adventures, technical skills workshops, classes and more. All these offerings have one goal: inspire you to plan an outdoor adventure of your own.

“The Adventure Summit is committed to providing something for everyone,” Sánchez said, “from the armchair adventurer to the hard-core enthusiast.”

May is National Bike Month, and it’s easy to ride in the Miami Valley, home to the nation’s largest paved trail network where you can explore more than 300 miles of connected trails — just one of many reasons Dayton is a Bronze-Level Bicycle Friendly Community.

The region’s largest celebration of cycling as a means of transportation is the National Bike to Work Day Pancake Breakfast. Last year, more than 700 cyclists rode downtown to enjoy free pancakes, sausage, coffee, bike-related exhibitors and live music. Participate in the team challenge to win sweet prizes and be one of the first 400 cyclists to receive a free gift courtesy of Five Rivers MetroParks.

Yet that is not all: See pages 25-26 for a list of all Five Rivers MetroParks’ winter and spring cycling programs. Other cycling-related events held in May include:

**THE ADVENTURE SUMMIT ALSO WILL FEATURE:**
- An Outdoor Industry Expo, where you can learn about local clubs, retailers and outdoor destinations
- Opportunities to try paddling, bouldering and other activities
- Competitions, such as Canoe Battleship and an indoor triathlon
- Party with the Pros … and much more!

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**GET OUT & BIKE**

**NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
Friday, May 20: 7 to 9 AM
RiverScape MetroPark

**MAY IS NATIONAL BIKE MONTH,**
and it’s easy to ride in the Miami Valley, home to the nation’s largest paved trail network where you can explore more than 300 miles of connected trails — just one of many reasons Dayton is a Bronze-Level Bicycle Friendly Community.

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Yet that is not all: See pages 25-26 for a list of all Five Rivers MetroParks’ winter and spring cycling programs. Other cycling-related events held in May include:

**MAY**
- Saturdays throughout May – Bike Bucks at the Market
- 7 Bike for the Health of It Ride to Radvansky Bridge
- 11 Trailside Repairs Program
- 16 Go W/the Flow, Bike Week Edition
- 17 Bicycle Commuting Program
- 21 Bike Rodeo for Kids
- 21 Bike for the Health of It Ride to Island MetroPark
- 22 Bike to the Dragons
- 25 Trailside Repairs Program
- 28 Bike for the Health of It Ride to RiverScape MetroPark

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**MAY 7**
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Radvansky Bridge
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Go W/the Flow, Bike Week Edition
- Bicycle Commuting Program
- Bike Rodeo for Kids
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Island MetroPark
- Bike to the Dragons
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to RiverScape MetroPark

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**MAY 11**
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Radvansky Bridge
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Go W/the Flow, Bike Week Edition
- Bicycle Commuting Program
- Bike Rodeo for Kids
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Island MetroPark
- Bike to the Dragons
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to RiverScape MetroPark

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**MAY 16**
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Radvansky Bridge
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Go W/the Flow, Bike Week Edition
- Bicycle Commuting Program
- Bike Rodeo for Kids
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Island MetroPark
- Bike to the Dragons
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to RiverScape MetroPark

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**MAY 17**
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Radvansky Bridge
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Go W/the Flow, Bike Week Edition
- Bicycle Commuting Program
- Bike Rodeo for Kids
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Island MetroPark
- Bike to the Dragons
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to RiverScape MetroPark

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**MAY 21**
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Radvansky Bridge
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Go W/the Flow, Bike Week Edition
- Bicycle Commuting Program
- Bike Rodeo for Kids
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Island MetroPark
- Bike to the Dragons
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to RiverScape MetroPark

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**MAY 22**
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Radvansky Bridge
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Go W/the Flow, Bike Week Edition
- Bicycle Commuting Program
- Bike Rodeo for Kids
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Island MetroPark
- Bike to the Dragons
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to RiverScape MetroPark

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**MAY 25**
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Radvansky Bridge
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Go W/the Flow, Bike Week Edition
- Bicycle Commuting Program
- Bike Rodeo for Kids
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Island MetroPark
- Bike to the Dragons
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to RiverScape MetroPark

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**MAY 28**
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Radvansky Bridge
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Go W/the Flow, Bike Week Edition
- Bicycle Commuting Program
- Bike Rodeo for Kids
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to Island MetroPark
- Bike to the Dragons
- Trailside Repairs Program
- Bike for the Health of It Ride to RiverScape MetroPark
YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YOUR EXPERIENCES IN FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS — whether a walk on the trails or bikeways, attending a program, or sitting on a bench and enjoying nature — are made possible by Montgomery County residents who support the levy, an array of volunteers who donate their time, and dedicated businesses and individuals who support Five Rivers MetroParks through donations, grants and sponsorships.

Thank you to everyone in the community who supported Five Rivers MetroParks in 2015, especially the following lead corporate and foundation partners:

- Bonbright Distributors
- Buckeye Health Plan
- Coca-Cola Refreshments
- Field & Stream
- Friends of Carriage Hill MetroPark Farm
- KIND
- Mikesell’s
- MSD (Mechanical Systems of Dayton, Inc.)
- Osprey
- PNC Foundation
- REI
- Southwest Airlines Co.
- Subaru of America
- The Dayton Power and Light Foundation
- The Dayton Power and Light Company
- The Garden Club of America
- The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation
- The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation
- Thompson Hine
- Wagner Subaru
- Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation
- Whole Foods Market
- Zuke’s

As we begin 2016, we look forward to new and renewed support from our many friends. Together, our efforts continue to enrich our community.

INTERESTED IN PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS?

PLEASE CONTACT Lucy Johnson, development manager at 937-277-4139 or lucy.johnson@metroparks.org
CELEBRATE EARTH DAY BY VOLUNTEERING DURING ADOPT-A-PARK

Go green by helping keep natural areas clean during Five Rivers MetroParks’ 29th annual Adopt-A-Park event from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 16. Starting in March, you can register online at metroparks.org/adopt. Groups are encouraged to register early to ensure space at available sites.

A diverse crew of volunteers of all ages, accessibility levels and backgrounds join forces during this event to make your parks and river corridors healthier and more attractive. Volunteers also will plant trees, prepare garden beds, remove invasive species, maintain trails and spruce up facilities. Project supplies will be provided to volunteers, who receive a free T-shirt and lunch at RiverScape MetroPark.

IN 2015, MORE THAN 2,300 PEOPLE VOLUNTEERED AT 54 SITES THROUGHOUT MONTGOMERY COUNTY. WORK INCLUDED:

- Removing 37,000 pounds of litter; 8,000 pounds of recyclable materials; and 267 tires
- Sprucing up two playgrounds
- Planting 2,600 tree seedlings
- Cleaning 25 miles of bikeways and two illegal dumps
- Removing invasive plants from 15 acres of park land

A TRAIL TO VOLUNTEERISM

Five Rivers MetroParks’ hiking, cycling, mountain biking, water and equestrian trails have one thing in common: volunteers help build, maintain, interpret and patrol them.

Five Rivers MetroParks offers many volunteer options for supporting the system of trails the public so enjoys. Some opportunities occur only one time, making them perfect for group projects, and others are ongoing and support maintenance or programming for the long term or for a season. Projects range from several hours to several weeks, and volunteers with varying skill levels are welcome.

Volunteer trail opportunities are available year round, with the busiest season being March through November. Every year, significant volunteer power helps control invasive plants such as honeysuckle, which grows aggressively along woodland trails, and helps keep trail surfaces maintained for aesthetics and safety. All volunteer projects are led by qualified staff who provide instruction and materials, as well as point out more hidden features and trail-side sightings, such as unusual plants and wildlife.

For more information or to get involved, contact Five Rivers MetroParks’ volunteer services department at volunteer@metroparks.org or (937) 275-PARK (7275), or visit metroparks.org/volunteer.
VOLUNTEER AT YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

Work alongside Five Rivers MetroParks’ staff and other volunteers to learn about nature, gardening, outdoor recreation, heritage skills and more—all while experiencing the outdoors! A variety of opportunities are available to fit all interests and abilities. Attend one of the free events to learn how you can make a difference in your parks!

REGISTER OR LEARN MORE:
METROPARKS.ORG/VOLUNTEER
(937) 275-PARK
volunteer@metroparks.org

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
TUE. FEB 16, 10 AM-NOON P220
TUE. MAY 17, 6:30-8:30 PM P221
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor
Orientation provides history, an overview of location-specific opportunities and an introduction to opportunities this season.

OUTDOOR RECREATION VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
THU. MAY 5, 6:30-7:30 PM P260
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor
Help build the “Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest” by supporting backpacking, cycling, kayaking, fishing and more.

TRAILS
SUSTAINABLE TRAIL SUPPORT TEAM/TRAIL MONITOR ORIENTATION
WED. MAR 9, 6:30-8:00 PM P255
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor
THU. APR 14, 9:00-11:00 AM P256
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Land Stewardship Classroom, 8300 Brown School Rd.
THU. MAY 26, 6:30-8:00 PM P257
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Land Stewardship Classroom, 8300 Brown School Rd.
Volunteers are needed to help monitor and act as trail team leaders to help support Five Rivers MetroParks’ more than 75 miles of trails.

No experience is necessary for trail work days; tools are provided. Please bring water and work gloves. Youth 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult.

BACKPACKING TRAIL WORK DAYS
SAT. MAY 14, 9:00 AM-NOON P223
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Park Office, 6675 Conservancy Rd.

MOMBA TRAIL WORK DAYS
SAT. MAY 21, 9:00 AM-NOON P222
MOMBA, 4485 Union School House Road

EVENTS
THE ADVENTURE SUMMIT ORIENTATION
WED. FEB 3, 6:00-7:30 PM P2
Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Learn how you can support this exhibition of outdoor adventure culture.

BIKE TO WORK DAY ORIENTATION
TUE. MAY 10, 6:00-7:30 PM P261
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 111 E. Monument Ave.
Learn how to promote cycling while volunteering for the National Bike to Work Day Pancake Breakfast on Friday, May 20.

PARKS & FACILITIES
POSSUM CREEK VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
THU. FEB 25, 10:00 AM-NOON P233
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Volunteers are needed to prep flower beds around the farmhouse and gardens and to assist staff with various events, programming, park and farm projects.

CARRIAGE HILL VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
THU. MAR 3, 10:00 AM-NOON P234
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center, 7800 E. Shull Rd.
Carriage Hill has a variety of volunteer opportunities at the 1880s Historical Farm and Riding Center and helping with retail, conservation and park projects.

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK RIDING CENTER ORIENTATION
THU. MAR 10, 6:00-7:30 PM P259
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Riding Center, 8111 E. Shull Rd.
See what’s happening at the Riding Center and how you can get involved. Many opportunities are hands-on and schedules are flexible.

COX ARBORETUM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
WED. MAR 30, 9:00-11:00 AM P273
WED. MAY 25, 6:00-8:00 PM P115
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Learn about the park’s amenities and find out how you can help the Arboretum grow. Orientation will include a walking tour.

AULLWOOD GARDEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
TUE. APR 26, 10:30 AM-NOON P215
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Aull Residence, 900 Aullwood Rd.
Help maintain and preserve this historical estate garden and living work of art and local history. Orientation will include a walking tour.

WEGHERZYN GARDENS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
WED. MAR 30, 9:00-11:00 AM P273
WED. MAY 25, 6:00-8:00 PM P115
WEGHERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Orientation will provide an overview of opportunities and a walking tour.

AULLWOOD GARDEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
TUE. APR 26, 10:30 AM-NOON P210
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Aull Residence, 900 Aullwood Rd.
Help maintain and preserve this historical estate garden and living work of art and local history. Orientation will include a walking tour.

URBAN PARKS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
TUE. APR 26, 6:00-8:00 PM P136
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor
Orientation provides history, an overview of location-specific opportunities and an introduction to upcoming opportunities.

Discover how volunteers can make an impact at this hidden gem of the Miami Valley.
NATURE AND CONSERVATION

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
TUE. FEB 2, 1:00-3:00 PM P228
SAT. FEB 20, 10:00 AM-NOON P229
THU. MAR 10, 9:00-11:00 AM P230
WED. MAR 30, 6:30-8:30 PM P231
WED. APR 13, 9:00-11:00 AM P232
THU. APR 21, 6:30-8:30 PM P235
WED. MAY 11, 6:30-8:30 PM P236

Five Rivers MetroParks needs your help to protect nearly 16,000 acres, whether you’re interested in fish or flowers, like to walk or prefer to help in an office or greenhouse.

CONSERVATION NATURALIST VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
THU. FEB 11, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM P218
TUE. MAY 3, 9:00-11:00 AM P219

Five Rivers MetroParks connect kids and families to nature. Experience not required, just a passion for sharing, love of nature, and joy for working with kids and families.

ANIMAL AMBASSADOR ORIENTATION
THU. FEB 18, 1:00-3:30 PM P244
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Park Office, 6675 Conservancy Rd.

Animal ambassadors help connect people to wildlife, the habitat they need, and break barriers and fears about nature. Learn about the programs offered within the parks and area schools. Animal care, handling, and behavior will be discussed.

CONSERVATION CARETAKER ORIENTATION
WED. MAR 23, 6:30-8:30 PM P226
THU. MAY 12, 9:00-11:00 AM P227

Learn about the different conservation areas and how you can become a caretaker for them.

BUTTERFLY MONITORS
THU. MAR 24, 1:00-3:30 PM P245
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

Butterfly surveys will start in April at Germantown MetroPark. Beginners and experienced participants are welcome to this training on identification, plants associated with various butterflies, and orientation to the survey and routes.

WETLAND WORKDAYS
WED. MAR 30, 9:00 AM-NOON P237
WED. APR 27, 9:00 AM-NOON P238
WED. MAY 25, 9:00 AM-NOON P239

GARDENING

NATIVE PLANT GARDENER ORIENTATION AND TRAINING
THU. FEB 4, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM P243
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Park Office, 6675 Conservancy Rd.

Gardeners are needed to support conservation efforts. Orientation includes introduction to native plants, techniques to successfully grow and establish them and habitats they support, as well as hands-on activities in the greenhouse and seed nursery, native plant gardens, pollinator plantings and prairies.

HORTICULTURAL LEARNING SERIES
THU. FEB 23, 9:00 AM-NOON P209
WED. MAY 25, 9:00 AM-NOON P213
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

ANIMAL AMBASSADOR ORIENTATION
THURS. MAY 19, 9:00 AM-NOON P274
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
SAT. MAY 7, 12:30-2:30 PM P208
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Learn about the unique features of RiverScape and how you can help keep this park a beautiful downtown resource. Bring a container and take a little piece of the park home with you.

GARDEN DISCOVERY GUIDES KICK-OFF
SAT. MAY 7, 9:00 AM-NOON P212
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Greenhouse, 6733 Springboro Pl.

Be a part of the new Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture, where conservation and horticulture meet! Tasks will include watering, pruning, grooming, seedling, transplanting, cleaning, pot washing and assisting with group activities.

A WORLD OF GARDENING WORKSHOP
SAT. MAR 19, 9:00 AM-1:30 PM P135
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Get excited about the upcoming gardening season as you learn about common edible plants, forest ecology for the home gardener, nighttime pollinators, wildflowers, pruning, heritage seed propagation and preserving the harvest, as well as how you can volunteer in Five Rivers MetroParks’ garden parks.

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK GARDENERS KICKOFF
FRI. APR 22, 9:00-11:00 AM P283
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Learn about the unique features of RiverScape and how you can help keep this park a beautiful downtown resource. Bring a container and take a little piece of the park home with you.

Ongoing Gardening Volunteer Opportunities

WEGERZYN GARDENING ANGELS
EVERY WEDNESDAY BEGINNING MARCH 30 AND TWO SATURDAYS, APRIL 16 & MAY 21
9:00 AM-NOON
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Work with horticulturists to keep the gardens looking great. Discover design ideas, unique plants and cultivation techniques suitable for the home garden.

AULLWOOD GARDEN VOLUNTEERS
EVERY MONDAY AND TUESDAY BEGINNING MARCH 14
9:00 AM-NOON
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, 930 Aullwood Rd.

Restore this historical estate garden to its mid-1970s design. Learn to grow wildflowers and woodland plants and about plant propagation, garden mapping, and botanical and historical research.

GARDEN DISCOVERY GUIDES FLEXIBLE SHIFTS, MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Engage visitors through guided discoveries and simple hands-on activities. Volunteers will be trained by shadowing staff.

POSEY PATROL

VARIUS DOWNTOWN DAYTON LOCATIONS, FLEXIBLE SHIFTS STARTING IN MAY
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Volunteers plant downtown planters with fresh annuals each spring and/or monitor them throughout the growing season.

GARDEN STEWARDS FLEXIBLE SHIFTS, MAY THROUGH SEP.
COX ARBORETUM AND RIVERSCAPE METROPARKS

Perform a variety of Earth-friendly activities, including seed collection, propagation, weeding, pruning, deadheading, mulching and maintaining herbaceous and woody plants throughout the grounds. No experience necessary, hands-on training provided.
HOW TO SEARCH AND REGISTER FOR METROPARKS PROGRAMMING
Finding your interests is quick and easy. You can find them by DATE or TOPIC. Follow the instructions below and start filling up your calendar.

SEARCH

GUIDE TO PROGRAMS BY DATE

PARKWAYS 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.

GUIDE TO PROGRAMS BY TOPIC

PADDLING

PARKWAYS BY TOPIC
This is an alphabetical listing of programming by topic. Each program lists the title, date, time, location, program code and description.

ONLINE
Select programs listed by topic, park, dates, program numbers and/or age ranges. Visit metroparks.org/programs.

REGISTER

ONLINE
metroparks.org/programs
After locating your desired program, use the button located in the listing to register for that program.

BY PHONE
(937) 275-PARK (7275)
Register for all programs by calling 275-PARK unless otherwise noted in the listing.

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

Fees are required at the time of registration. Visit metroparks.org/refunds for details.

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

HOW TO CONTACT A RANGER

EMERGENCY CONTACT: 9-1-1
NON-EMERGENCY CONTACT: (937) 535-2580
Inform the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office dispatcher you are in a MetroParks facility. A MetroParks Law Enforcement Ranger will be notified and respond to the situation as soon as possible. As always, if it is an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

LOST SOMETHING?
If you lost something valuable in a MetroPark, contact the Rangers to identify and retrieve your belongings. Contact Alan Starnes at (937) 567-4265 for details.
GUIDE TO PROGRAMS BY DATE

MON, FEB 1, 2016
9:00 am City Beets 2016 Call for Applications , Possum Creek MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P53)

TUE, FEB 2, 2016
1:00 pm Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P228)

WED, FEB 3, 2016
2:00 pm Great Backyard Birdcount, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P70)
6:00 pm Volunteer: Adventure Summit Orientation, Offsite (see Outdoor Adventure P2)
6:30 pm Astronomy Report, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Green Living P72)
7:00 pm Inspired to Ride, Offsite (see Cycling M342)

THU, FEB 4, 2016
9:00 am Volunteer: Native Plant Gardener Orientation and Training, Germantown MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P243)
6:00 pm City Beets, a Summer Youth Program: Open House, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P204)

FRI, FEB 5, 2016
7:00 pm Karaoke Classics, RiverScape MetroPark (see Skating P6)

SAT, FEB 6, 2016
10:00 am Posing Group Portraits, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Photography P187)
11:00 am Sleeping Nature, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see Nature P53)
12:30 pm Teen Garden Planning, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P7)
1:00 pm Traditional Butchering, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Heritage & History P17)
2:00 pm Great Backyard Birdcount, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P71)
7:00 pm Star-Late Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see Skating P3)

SUN, FEB 7, 2016
1:30 pm Carriage Hill Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Fitness & Health P40)

MON, FEB 8, 2016
10:30 am Animal Tracking, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Nature P64)

TUE, FEB 9, 2016
6:00 pm Bokashi Workshop, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Green Living P258)
6:00 pm Master Recycling Class, Offsite (see Green Living P13)

WED, FEB 10, 2016
6:00 pm Teachers’ Night Out: Composting in the Classroom, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P133)

THU, FEB 11, 2016
10:00 am Volunteer: Conservation Orientation-Naturalist Volunteers, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P218)

FRI, FEB 12, 2016
2:30 pm Sweetheart Deal, RiverScape MetroPark (see Skating P8)
5:00 pm The Adventure Summit, Offsite (see Outdoor Adventure P33)
7:00 pm Sweetheart Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see Skating P7)

SAT, FEB 13, 2016
10:00 am Getting started Raising Small Livestock at Home, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Farming P32)
10:00 am Valentine’s Decorating, 2nd Street Market (see Entertainment P276)
7:00 pm Star-Late Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see Skating P4)

MON, FEB 15, 2016
11:00 am Presidents Day Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see Skating P6)

TUE, FEB 16, 2016
10:00 am Volunteer: Five Rivers MetroParks Volunteer Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P220)
6:00 pm Discover Backpaking, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Backpaking P27)

WED, FEB 17, 2016
6:00 pm Site Assessment and Basic Design, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P91)

THU, FEB 18, 2016
1:00 pm Volunteer: Animal Ambassador Orientation, Germantown MetroPark (see Nature P244)

FRI, FEB 19, 2016
7:00 pm Sounds from the Cinema Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see Skating P10)

SAT, FEB 20, 2016
8:30 am Family Farm Chores, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Farming P39)
10:00 am Amazing Sheep, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Farming P52)
10:00 am Carriage Hill Pancake Breakfast, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Heritage & History P21)
10:00 am Forest Bird Search, Englewood MetroPark (see Nature P56)
10:00 am Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P229)
10:00 am Miami Valley Orchid Show, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P282)
12:00 pm Maple Sugaring on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Heritage & History P18)
12:30 pm Guided Maple Sugaring Tour, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Heritage & History P19)
2:00 pm Birds and Community, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P73)
2:00 pm Winged Friends, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P72)
2:30 pm Guided Maple Sugaring Tour, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Heritage & History P20)
7:00 pm Star-Late Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see Skating P4)

SUN, FEB 21, 2016
1:30 pm Hills & Dales Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see Fitness & Health P4)

TUE, FEB 23, 2016
9:00 am Volunteer: Horticultural Learning Series, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P209)
1:00 pm Winter Birds, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Nature P5)
1:00 pm The Goodness of Sheep, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Farming P5)
6:00 pm Discover Biking, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Cycling P82)

WED, FEB 24, 2016
10:00 am Volunteer: Greenhouse Orientation, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P168)
6:00 pm What to Plant, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P93)

THU, FEB 25, 2016
10:00 am Volunteer: Possum Creek Volunteer Orientation, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P253)
5:30 pm Farm Fresh to You: A Community Supported Agriculture Fair, 2nd Street Market (see Green Living P137)
6:00 pm River Rescue Knots, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Paddling P24a)
6:00 pm Appalachian Trail Trip Planning, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Backpaking P990)

FRI, FEB 26, 2016
7:00 pm Disco Fever, RiverScape MetroPark (see Skating P11)

SAT, FEB 27, 2016
8:00 am Wilderness First Responder, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Outdoor Skills and Safety P182)
9:00 am Black History Day, 2nd Street Market (see Heritage & History P277)
10:00 am Winter Garden Workshop and Seed Swap, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P88)
7:00 pm Star-Late Skate, RiverScape MetroPark (see Skating P5)

MON, FEB 29, 2016
2:30 pm Last Day at Skate!, RiverScape MetroPark (see Skating P12)

WED, MAR 2, 2016
6:00 pm Basic Plant Care and Garden Maintenance, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P94)
6:30 pm Twin Creek vs. Wolf Creek, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Green Living P173)
7:00 pm Discover Paddlesports, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Paddling P25)

THU, MAR 3, 2016
10:00 am Volunteer: Carriage Hill Volunteer Orientation, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Farming P234)

21
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<tr>
<th>SAT, MAR 5, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am Wilderness First Aid, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Outdoor Skills and Safety P185)</td>
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<td>10:00 am The Sustainable Garden: Deb Knapke, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening &amp; Landscaping P97)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm Eco Advocate, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P74)</td>
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<td>2:00 pm Eco Kid, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P75)</td>
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<td>6:00 pm Woodcock Watch, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P57)</td>
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<th>SUN, MAR 6, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am Project Wild &amp; Inquiry Adventures Workshop, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P81)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 pm Possum Creek Bike Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Fitness &amp; Health P42)</td>
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<th>TUE, MAR 8, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am Signs of Spring, Hills &amp; Dales MetroPark (see Nature P66)</td>
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<td>6:00 pm Discover Fishing, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Fishing P144)</td>
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<th>WED, MAR 9, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am Wilderness Medicine Open Recertification, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Outdoor Skills and Safety P186)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm Volunteer: Sustainable Trail Support Team/Trail Monitor Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Outdoor Adventure P255)</td>
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<th>THU, MAR 10, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P230)</td>
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<td>6:00 pm Volunteer: Carriage Hill Riding Center Orientation, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Horseback Riding P259)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm Community Garden Coordinators Dinner, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening &amp; Landscaping P50)</td>
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<th>SAT, MAR 12, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am Green Schoolyards Training at the MVLCNI Summit, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening &amp; Landscaping P81)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am Blooms all year long, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Photography P106)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am Seed Starting Basics with Doug Christen, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Gardening &amp; Landscaping P99)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am St. Patrick’s Day at the Market, 2nd Street Market (see Heritage &amp; History P278)</td>
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<td>11:30 am 5th Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Summit, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Nature P54)</td>
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<td>3:15 pm Nature Exploration, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Nature P113)</td>
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<td>3:15 pm Nature Fun, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Nature P112)</td>
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<th>SUN, MAR 13, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 pm Historical Skills Day, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Heritage &amp; History P124)</td>
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<td>12:00 pm Steam on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Heritage &amp; History P122)</td>
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<th>TUE, MAR 15, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm Teachers’ Night Out: Schoolyard Birds, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P184)</td>
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<th>WED, MAR 16, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am Discovery Stroll, Hills &amp; Dales MetroPark (see Nature P311)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 pm Project Budburst, Hills &amp; Dales MetroPark (see Nature P92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm Family Egg Dyeing, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Farming P33)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm Backpacking 1: Women, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Backpacking P31)</td>
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<tr>
<th>THU, MAR 17, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am City Beets Garden Volunteer Open House, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Gardening &amp; Landscaping P206)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 pm River Access Van Tour: Great Miami River Access Van Tour: Great Miami South and Twin Creek, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Paddling P290)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm Teen Fly Tying, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Fishing P143)</td>
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<th>SAT, MAR 19, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am Family Farm Chores, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Farming P130)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am Volunteer: A World of Gardening Workshop, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening &amp; Landscaping P355)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am Exploring Eagles and Ducks, Eastwood MetroPark (see Nature P58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 pm Teen Aquaponics, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Gardening &amp; Landscaping P18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm Seedling Saturdays, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see Nature P90)</td>
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<th>SUN, MAR 20, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 pm Englewood Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers, Englewood MetroPark (see Gardening &amp; Landscaping P50)</td>
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<tr>
<th>SAT, MAR 26, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am Teen Fly Tying, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Fishing P143)</td>
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<tr>
<th>MON, MAR 21, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm Bicycle Maintenance 1, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Cycling P93)</td>
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<tr>
<th>TUE, MAR 22, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm Natural Egg Dyeing, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Farming P38)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm Repurposing Workshop: Glass Cutting, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Green Living P176)</td>
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<tr>
<th>WED, MAR 23, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am Volunteer: Horticultural Learning Series, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see Gardening &amp; Landscaping P214)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 pm Try Mountain Biking, MoMBA (see Mountain Biking P196)</td>
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<tr>
<th>THU, MAR 24, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm Volunteer: Butterfly Monitors, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P226)</td>
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<th>SAT, MAR 25, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 pm River Access Van Tour: Mad River and River Runs, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Paddling P291)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm Backpacking 1, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Backpacking P28)</td>
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<tr>
<th>MON, MAR 28, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00 pm Greater Dayton Youth Spring Rowing, Island MetroPark (see Rowing P286)</td>
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<tr>
<th>TUE, MAR 29, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm Bicycle Maintenance 2, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Cycling P195)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm Reduce Your Energy Bill, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Green Living P177)</td>
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<tr>
<th>WED, MAR 30, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am Volunteer: Cox Arboretum Volunteer Orientation, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Gardening &amp; Landscaping P273)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am Volunteer: Teen Fly Tying, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Flying P143)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P231)</td>
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<tr>
<th>THU, MAR 31, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 pm MetroParks Campsites Van Tour, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Camping P292)</td>
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<th>SAT, APR 2, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am Ride to Verona, Bikeways: Wolf Creek (see Cycling P264)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am Be a Bunny with the Easter Bunny, 2nd Street Market (see Entertainment P279)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am Try Gardening!, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Gardening &amp; Landscaping P295)</td>
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<tr>
<th>SUN, APR 3, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 pm Eastwood Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers, Eastwood MetroPark (see Fitness &amp; Health P44)</td>
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<tr>
<th>TUE, APR 5, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am Adult Nature Walk, Taylorsville MetroPark (see Nature P303)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am Volunteer: Horticultural Learning Series, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see Gardening &amp; Landscaping P214)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 pm Try Mountain Biking, MoMBA (see Mountain Biking P196)</td>
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<tr>
<th>WED, APR 6, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm Buds and Bugs, Taylorsville MetroPark (see Nature P68)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm Miami Conservancy District, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Green Living P174)</td>
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<th>THU, APR 7, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 pm Twin Valley Trail Van Tour, Germantown MetroPark (see Backpacking P283)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm Teachers’ Night Out: Busy Bees, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P134)</td>
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<tr>
<th>SAT, APR 9, 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am Ride to Trotwood, Bikeways: Wolf Creek (see Cycling P265)</td>
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SUN, APR 10, 2016
2:00 pm Wildflower Walk: Early Spring Wonders, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P14)

TUE, APR 12, 2016
6:00 pm Garden Design, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P140)

WED, APR 13, 2016
9:00 am Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P232)
10:30 am Volunteer: Wegerzyn Gardens Orientation, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P215)
11:00 am Compost Kitchen, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Green Living P178)
6:00 pm Fly Fishing 1, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Fishing P14)

THU, APR 14, 2016
8:00 am Bus Trip: Cincinnati Flower Show and Bern’s, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P105)
9:00 am Volunteer: Sustainable Trail Support Team/Trail Monitor Orientation, Taylorsville MetroPark (see Outdoor Adventure P256)

FRI, APR 15, 2016
11:00 am Tree Seedling Giveaway, 2nd Street Market (see Gardening & Landscaping P280)
7:30 pm Nocturnal Amphibian Quest, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see Nature P111)

SAT, APR 16, 2016
8:00 am Beginning Birding Workshop, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P248)
9:00 am Ride to Third Gateway Park, Bikeway: Creekside (see Cycling P266)
9:00 am Adopt-A-Park 2016, RiverScape MetroPark (see Nature P254)
9:00 am Volunteer: Gardening Angels Work Days, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P215)
9:00 am Volunteer: Wegerzyn Gardens Walkfest, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P234)
9:00 am Volunteer: Gardening Angels Work Days, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P215)
2:00 pm Amphibian Naturalist Training, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P195)
2:00 pm Frog Party, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P195)
7:30 pm Nocturnal Amphibian Search, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see Nature P260)

SUN, APR 17, 2016
1:30 pm Germantown Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers, Germantown MetroPark (see Fitness & Health P45)
2:00 pm Aullwood in Spring, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P139)

MON, APR 18, 2016
11:00 am Leave a Legacy, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see Nature P98)
6:00 pm Bicycle Touring, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Cycling P198)

TUE, APR 19, 2016
6:00 pm Wildflower Walk on the Marie Aull Trail, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P141)

WED, APR 20, 2016
9:00 am Volunteer: Horticultural Learning Series, RiverScape MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P170)
10:00 am Storytime Adventures: Water, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Outdoor Play P145)

THU, APR 21, 2016
6:30 pm Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P235)

FRI, APR 22, 2016
9:00 am Volunteer: RiverScape Gardeners Kickoff, RiverScape MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P283)
9:30 am Volunteer: The Big Pull, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P216)

SAT, APR 23, 2016
8:30 am Family Farm Chores, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Farming P130)
9:00 am Ride to Wright Brothers Memorial Park, Bikeway: Mad River (see Cycling P267)
10:00 am Garden Prep Boot Camp, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P106)
10:00 am Volunteer: Heritage Interpreter Historical Skills Course, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Heritage & History P217)
12:00 pm Backpacking 2, Germantown MetroPark (see Backpacking P30)

SUN, APR 24, 2016
2:00 pm Wildflower Walk: The next layer of Spring, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P249)

TUE, APR 26, 2016
10:30 am Volunteer: Aullwood Garden Orientation, Aullwood Garden MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P210)
6:00 pm Nymphs, Emergers, Dries, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Fishing P148)
6:00 pm Volunteer: Urban Parks Volunteer Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P136)

WED, APR 27, 2016
9:00 am Volunteer: Wetland Workdays, Offsite (see Nature P238)
10:00 am Storytime Adventures, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P149)
6:00 pm Planting Techniques, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P147)

SAT, APR 30, 2016
8:30 am 5K/10K Run for the Health of It, RiverScape MetroPark (see Fitness & Health P184)
9:00 am Ride to Kyle Park, Bikeway: Great Miami River (see Cycling P268)
9:00 am Annual MayFair Plant Sale, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P246)
10:00 am Picturing Petals and Plants, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Photography P188)
10:00 am Fly Fishing 2: Lake, Taylorsville MetroPark (see Fishing P151)
12:30 pm Woodland Salamander Search, Taylorsville MetroPark (see Nature P61)
7:30 pm Bullfrog Round Up, Germantown MetroPark (see Nature P101)

SUN, MAY 1, 2016
11:00 am Annual MayFair Plant Sale, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P247)

TUE, MAY 3, 2016
9:00 am Volunteer: Conservation Orientation-Naturalist Volunteers, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P219)
11:30 am Historical Methods for Making Coffee, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Home & Hobbies P218)
4:00 pm Try Mountain Biking, MoMBA (see Mountain Biking P197)
6:00 pm Family First Tuesdays Free Tram Tours, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P157)

WED, MAY 4, 2016
6:30 pm Inkjet Chemistry, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Green Living P175)

THU, MAY 5, 2016
5:30 pm Start a New Community Garden, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P166)
6:30 pm Volunteer: Outdoor Recreation Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Outdoor Adventure P260)

FRI, MAY 6, 2016
9:00 am Hopewell Earthworks Conservation Project, Twin Creek MetroPark (see Nature P200)
6:00 pm Kickin’ off Pickin’ in the Park, RiverScape MetroPark (see Entertainment P85)

SAT, MAY 7, 2016
9:00 am Mother and Son Fishing Day, Possum Creek MetroPark (see Fishing P155)
9:00 am Ride to Radvansky Ln Bridge, Bikeway: Stillwater River (see Cycling P269)
10:00 am Fitness in the Park, RiverScape MetroPark (see Fitness & Health P77)
10:00 am Picturing Beasts and Birds, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Photography P189)
10:00 am Basic Garden Skills and Tools Review, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P153)
11:00 am Music @ Lunch, RiverScape MetroPark (see Entertainment P83)
12:30 pm Volunteer: Garden Discovery Guides Kick-Off, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P208)
1:00 pm Let’s Bug Out!, Cox Arboretum MetroPark
SUN, MAY 8, 2016
12:00 pm Corn on the Farm, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see Heritage & History P125)
1:00 pm Planting for Pollinators, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P103)
2:00 pm Wildflower Walk: late spring beauty, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P116)

TUE, MAY 10, 2016
6:00 am Container Vegetable Gardens, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P159)
9:00 am Adult Nature Walk, Englewood MetroPark (see Nature P308)
11:30 am Music @ Lunch, RiverScape MetroPark (see Entertainment P84)
4:30 pm Spring Greens and Early Planting, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P180)
6:00 pm Volunteer: Bike to Work Day Orientation, RiverScape MetroPark (see Cycling P261)

WED, MAY 11, 2016
6:30 am Volunteer: Conservation Volunteer Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P235)
10:00 am Storytime Adventures: Flowers, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see Outdoor Play P162)
11:00 am Worm Composting Workshop, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Green Living P179)
1:00 pm Milkweed for Monarchs, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Nature P105)
6:00 pm Trailside Repairs, Eastwood MetroPark (see Cycling P201)

THU, MAY 12, 2016
9:00 am Volunteer: Conservation Caretaker Orientation, Five Rivers MetroParks Main Office (see Nature P227)

SAT, MAY 14, 2016
9:00 am Ride to Verona, Bikeway: Wolf Creek (see Cycling P270)
9:00 am RiverScape Gardening Steward, RiverScape MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P169)
9:00 am Volunteer: Backpacking Trail Work Days, Germantown MetroPark (see BackPacking P223)
10:00 am Fitness in the Park, RiverScape MetroPark (see Fitness & Health P78)
10:00 am Fly Fishing 2: River, Eastwood MetroPark (see Fishing P158)
10:00 am Pollinator Party!, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P155)
10:30 am Solomon Gamboa: Ohio Native Plants and Pollinators, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Gardening & Landscaping P294)

SUN, MAY 15, 2016
1:30 pm Sugarcreek Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see Fitness & Health P46)
**BACKPACKING**

**FREE** DISCOVER BACKPACKING

**TUE. FEB 16, 6:00-7:00 PM** P27
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Get an overview of what backpacking is, where to go, and the local opportunities and resources available to learn more and get the gear you need to try it out. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 14Y and up Fee: $5

**APPLACHIAN TRAIL TRIP PLANNING**

**THUR. FEB 25, 6:00-8:00 PM** P190
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6753 Springboro Pk.

We’ll walk through planning your long-distance A.T. hike. You’ll receive a planning booklet and talk with past thru-hikers and local experts. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: $12

**BACKPACKING 1**

**THU. MAR 24, 6:00-8:30 PM** P28
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Learn about gear, food, trip planning and other tips and tricks during this classroom session, setting you up to have a safe and enjoyable backpacking adventure. Prerequisites: None. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: $5

**TWIN VALLEY TRAIL VAN TOUR**

**THU. APR 7, 5:30-8:00 PM** P293
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomerhine Rd.

Join us for a driving tour, visiting trailheads and backcountry campsites along the Twin Valley Trail to help plan your next backpacking adventure. Plan to stretch your legs on a couple of 1/2 mile hikes. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $5

**BACKPACKING 2**

**SAT., SUN APR. 9-10, 12:00-12:15 PM** P29
SAT., SUN APR. 23-24, 12:00-12:15 PM P30
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Campsite: Shimps Hollow, 7350 Boomerhine Rd.

Spend a night on the Twin Valley Trail learning how to pack your backpack, use a water filter, cook in the backcountry, select a campsite and more. Equipment is available at no additional charge with reservation. Prerequisites: Backpacking 1 or Intro to Backpacking. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: $40

**CAMPING**

**METROPARKS CAMPSITES VAN TOUR**

**THU. MAR 31, 5:30-8:00 PM** P292
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Join us for a driving tour, visiting all 14 frontcountry campsites throughout MetroParks to learn about the variety of offerings so you can find the perfect spot to spend your next night under the stars. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $5

**CYCLING**

**INSPIRED TO RIDE**

**WED. FEB 3, 7:00-9:00 PM** M342
OFFSITE, The Neon, 130 East Fifth Street

45 cyclists. 4,233 miles. Be inspired this winter while watching the story of the first Trans Am bike race, self-supported, coast to coast across 10 states. Buy tickets at www.inspiredtoride.it. Registration required. www.inspiredtoride.it. Age: All ages Fee: In-advance: $12, At the door: $15

**FREE** DISCOVER BIKING

**TUE. FEB 23, 6:00-7:00 PM** P82
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Do you want to Get Out and Bike but not sure how to get started? This short classroom presentation will overview different types of cycling, where to ride and more. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 14Y and up

**BICYCLE MAINTENANCE 1**

**MON. MAR 21, 6:00-8:00 PM** P193
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

This classroom session will help you diagnose and perform common bike repairs. Topics will include bike terminology and tools, inspections, fixing a flat tire and chain replacement. Registration required. Age: 16Y and up Fee: $5

**BICYCLE MAINTENANCE 2**

**WED. MAR 23, 6:00-8:00 PM** P194
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

This hands-on class will cover tune-ups and offer guided practice with brake and drive-train maintenance. Prerequisites: Bicycle Maintenance 1. Registration required. Age: 16Y and up Fee: $10

Register for programs by calling 275-PARK (7275) Unless otherwise noted.
BIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT!
Join us for a bike ride on Saturdays through October. Earn a T-shirt after cycling 125 miles. Participants completing 250 miles or more will receive an additional award. Parents/guardians must remain with children. Wearing a helmet is strongly recommended for all participants and required for children younger than 13. We ride rain or shine, but may cancel due to storms or trail flooding. metroparks.org/bikehealth

(FREE) RIDE TO VERONA
SAT. APR 2, 9:00-11:00 AM P264
SAT. MAY 14, 9:00-11:00 AM P270
BIKEWAY: WOLF CREEK, Ohio Bike Route 38
Meet in the parking lot behind Rob’s Restaurant, 705 Arlington Rd. in Brookville.
(11 miles). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🤹

(FREE) RIDE TO TROTWOOD
SAT. APR 9, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM P265
BIKEWAY: WOLF CREEK, Ohio Bike Route 38
Meet in the parking lot behind Rob’s Restaurant, 705 Arlington Rd. in Brookville.
(14 miles). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🤹

(FREE) RIDE TO FIFTH THIRD GATEWAY PARK
SAT. APR 16, 9:00-11:00 AM P266
BIKEWAY: CREEKSIDE, Ohio Bike Route 2
(12 miles) Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🤹

(FREE) RIDE TO WRIGHT BROTHERS MEMORIAL PARK
SAT. APR 23, 9:00-11:00 AM P267
SAT. MAY 28, 9:00-11:00 AM P272
BIKEWAY: MAD RIVER, Ohio Bike Route 8
Meet in last parking at 1385 Harshman Rd. park entrance. 9 miles. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🤹

(FREE) RIDE TO KYLE PARK
SAT. APR 30, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM P268
BIKEWAY: GREAT MIAMI RIVER, Ohio Bike Route 25
Meet at Rip Rap Park, located at the intersections of Little York, Rip Rap, and Taylorsville roads, in the parking lot near the soccer fields. (16 miles) Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🤹

(FREE) RIDE TO RADVANSKY LN BRIDGE
SAT. MAY 7, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM P269
BIKEWAY: STILLWATER RIVER, Ohio Bike Route 7
Meet at Wegerzyn Garden MetroPark. (16 miles) Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🤹

(FREE) RIDE TO ISLAND METROPARK
SAT. MAY 21, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM P271
BIKEWAY: GREAT MIAMI RIVER, Ohio Bike Route 25
Meet in the parking lot at Rip Rap Park, at the intersections of Little York, Rip Rap and Taylorsville roads. (16 miles). Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🤹

BIKEWAY: GREAT MIAMI RIVER, Ohio Bike Route

BICYCLE TOURING
MON. APR 18, 6:00-8:00 PM P198
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
This lecture-style class will cover touring equipment, clothing options, types of tours and tour planning. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: $5 🤹

TRAILSIDE REPAIRS
WED. MAY 11, 6:00-7:00 PM P201
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Bluegrass, 1385 Harshman Rd.
WED. MAY 25, 6:00-7:00 PM P202
MOMBA, 4485 Union School House Road
This hands-on class will develop your ability to troubleshoot and repair common bicycle maintenance issues that occur on the trail. You are encouraged to ride to the class. Registration required. Age: 16Y and up Fee: $5 🤹

BICYCLE COMMUTING
TUE. MAY 17, 6:00-8:00 PM P199
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
This lecture style class will cover bike selection, commuting equipment, and trip preparation. We will briefly discuss traffic laws, hazards encountered, safe-riding skills and proper route planning. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: $5 🤹

(FREE) NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST
FRI. MAY 20, 7:00-9:00 AM P34
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 111 E. Monument Ave.
Leave your car in the garage and support National Bike To Work Day. Ride in on your own or with a group to RiverScape for a free pancake breakfast then head to work. Live music, cycling related exhibitors and a team challenge are also part of the fun. No registration required. metroparks.org/biketowork. Age: All ages 🤹

(FREE) WEGERZYN BIKE RODEO FOR KIDS
SAT. MAY 21, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM P313
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Join Rangers and MVPs for a day of bicycle safety. Bring your two-wheeled bicycle (with or without training wheels) for a bicycle course. Receive a free bike helmet, properly fitted (while quantities last) (no beads in hair, please). The bicycle course teaches students the rules of the road. Supported by Dayton Children’s Hospital and Safe Kids Day. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-15Y 🤹

(FREE) BIKE TO THE DRAGONS
SUN. MAY 22, 2:00-5:00 PM P191
OFFSITE, Fifth Third Field, 220 N Patterson Blvd
Hop on your bike with the family and head downtown to watch America’s favorite pastime. The first 50 cyclists to register on the Dragons’ website and ‘Bike to the Game’ will win complimentary lawn seats and a pack of prizes courtesy of Five Rivers MetroParks, Dayton Dragons, and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 228-2287 or dragons@daytondragons.com for details. www.daytondragons.com. Age: All ages 🤹

ENTERTAINMENT

(FREE) VALENTINE’S DECORATING
SAT. FEB 13, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM P276
2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St.
Make a Valentine for your mom, dad, best friend, or teacher. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: All ages 🤹

(FREE) BE A BUNNY WITH THE EASTER BUNNY
SAT. APR 2, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM P279
2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St.
Decorate a fun bunny mask. Bring a camera to take a picture with the Easter bunny. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: All ages 🤹

PICKIN’ IN THE PARK

Enjoy progressive bluegrass music, a variety of food trucks and craft beer as RiverScape MetroPark brings music to the riverside! No registration is required for this free, all-ages event. 🤹

(FREE) KICKIN’ OFF PICKIN’ IN THE PARK
FRI. MAY 6, 6:00-10:00 PM P85
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.
Enjoy the beginning of our Pickin’ in the Park series featuring progressive bluegrass music, craft beer and food. Bring your dancing shoes and a lawn chair for seating in case you need a break. No registration required. Age: All ages 🤹
FARMING

GETTING STARTED RAISING SMALL LIVESTOCK AT HOME
SAT. FEB 13, 10:00-11:30 AM P32
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
We’ll talk about what you need to know before spending time and money on animals, food and other needs. Afterward, we will go to the barn to see our animals. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $5

FAMILY FARM CHORES
SAT. FEB 20, 8:30-10:00 AM P129
SAT. MAR 19, 8:30-10:00 AM P130
SAT. APR 23, 8:30-10:00 AM P131
SAT. MAY 21, 8:30-10:00 AM P132
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Join a farm staff member to experience a typical work day for a farm hand. Participants will help with a variety of historic chores. Meet at the front gate of the farm. Registration required. Age: 8Y-12Y Fee: $5

AMAZING SHEEP
SAT. FEB 20, 10:00-11:30 AM P52
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Sheep provide milk, meat and fiber, but did you know they are different kinds of sheep? Meet the different breeds that live at the farm and make a felted craft to take home. Registration required. Age: All ages Fee: Fee per child: $5

FAMILY TO PRESCHOOL

These programs help children understand where their food comes from and what they are eating. Healthy food means healthy children, which starts at the farm.
**FITNESS & HEALTH**

**FREE** CARRIAGE HILL HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS  
**SUN. FEB 7, 1:30-3:30 PM**  
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Cedar Lake/Parking Lot, 7891 E. Shull Rd.  
Enjoy a 5 mile, two-hour easy hike. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 or cksands8@woh.rr.com for details. Age: All ages

**FREE** HILLS & DALES HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS  
**SUN. FEB 21, 1:30-3:30 PM**  
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Olmsted/ Nature Play/Parking Lot, 2606 Hilton Dr.  
Enjoy a 5 mile, two-hour easy hike. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 or cksands8@woh.rr.com for details. Age: All ages

**FREE** POSSUM CREEK HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS  
**SUN. MAR 6, 1:30-3:30 PM**  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.  
Enjoy a 5 mile, two-hour easy hike. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 or cksands8@woh.rr.com for details. Age: All ages

**FREE** ENGLEWOOD HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS  
**SUN. MAR 20, 1:30-4:00 PM**  
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, West Park Parking Lot, 100 East National Rd.  
Enjoy a 5-6 mile, 2 1/2 hour moderate hike. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 or cksands8@woh.rr.com for details. Age: All ages

**FREE** EASTWOOD HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS  
**SUN. APR 3, 1:30-3:30 PM**  
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.  
Enjoy a 4-5 mile, two-hour easy hike. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 or cksands8@woh.rr.com for details. Age: All ages

**FREE** WEGERSYNN GARDENS WALKFEST  
**SAT. APR 16, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM**  
WEGERSYNN GARDENS METROPARK, Picnic Area, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Avenue  
This outdoor community recreation opportunity is sponsored by Purple Penguins. No registration required. Contact (937) 429-3946 for details. Age: All ages

**FREE** GERMANTOWN HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS  
**SUN. APR 17, 1:30-4:30 PM**  
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Welcome Center Parking Lot, 6910 Boomerhine Rd.  
Enjoy a 7 mile, three-hour rugged hike. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 or cksands8@woh.rr.com for details. Age: All ages

**FREE** 5K/10K RUN FOR THE HEALTH OF IT  
**SAT. APR 30, 8:30-10:30 AM**  
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 111 E. Monument Ave.  
Sponsored by the Junior League of Dayton, additional information on the Junior League of Dayton’s website. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 467-9683 for details. www.jldayton.org. Age: All ages Fee: 5K early registration: $25, 5K day of race: $30, 10K early registration: $35, 10K day of race: $40

**FREE** WALK! DOWNTOWN DAYTON  
**WED. MAY 18, 12:00-1:00 PM**  
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 111 E. Monument Ave.  
Participate in a non-competitive 30-minute walk along the Great Miami River sponsored by Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County. Walkers are eligible for door prizes! No registration required. Contact (937) 225-4398 or bbarcelo@phdmc.org for details. www.phdmc.org. Age: All ages

**FREE** TWIN VALLEY TRAIL HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS  
**SUN. MAY 29, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**  
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Sliding Hill/TVT/ Parking Lot, 6206 Boomerhine Rd.  
Enjoy a 14 mile, four-hour rugged hike. Bring a small lunch to carry in a pack. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 or cksands8@woh.rr.com for details. Age: All ages

**FREE** FITNESS IN THE PARK  
Fun and effective workouts under the pavilion are part of Saturday eScape. Center yourself on yoga days with Tori Reynolds and enjoy Zumba with Nashanda Moore. Wear comfortable clothes and bring water. Come enjoy a terrific, free, outdoor workout!

**FREE** FITNESS IN THE PARK  
**SAT. MAY 7, 10:00-11:00 AM**  
**SAT. MAY 14, 10:00-11:00 AM**  
**SAT. MAY 21, 10:00-11:00 AM**  
**SAT. MAY 28, 10:00-11:00 AM**  
RiverScape Metropark, RiverScape Pavilion, 111 E. Monument Ave.  
Classes vary, so check metroparks.org for the specific class schedule. No registration required. Age: All ages

**FREE** SUGARCREEK HIKE WITH THE METRO DAYTON HIKERS  
**SUN. MAY 15, 1:30-4:00 PM**  
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.  
Enjoy a 5 mile, 2 1/2 hour difficult hike. No registration required. Contact (937) 687-0114 or cksands8@woh.rr.com for details. Age: All ages

**FREE** GO W/ THE FLOW YOGA: BIKE WEEK EDITION  
**MON. MAY 16, 6:00-7:00 PM**  

=Garden Planning=

**FREE** TEEN GARDEN PLANNING  
**SAT. JUNE 1, 12:30-3:30 PM**  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.  
Help us plan the demonstration gardens for City Beets, our summer youth program teaching teens about gardening and food. Learn everything you need to know about companion and trap planting, heirlooms and hybrid varieties and more. Registration required. Age: 12Y-18Y Fee: $5

**FREE** BEGINNER GARDENING  
If you’ve never gardened before or you’ve forgotten how, we’ll get you ready to plant your garden, yard, landscape or balcony. Learn Earth-friendly planning, plant selection and maintenance practices for landscape and food gardening. Combine lectures, demos, hands-on experiences and tours to build a solid gardening foundation and get your garden started quickly.
**SITE ASSESSMENT AND BASIC DESIGN**

**WED. FEB 17, 6:00-8:00 PM** P91

**WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK**, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.  
Choosing the right site for your garden and understanding your yard are critical first steps for success. Learn how to evaluate your current plantings, your soil and available sunlight and then to use that knowledge to select appropriate plants. We’ll discuss spacing, plant size and use, and creating an attractive and useful landscape plan. Both vegetable and landscape gardens are covered. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $10

**WHAT TO PLANT**

**WED. FEB 24, 6:00-8:00 PM** P93

**POSUM CREEK METROPARK**, Possum Creek

- **PLANTING TECHNIQUES**
  **WED. APR 27, 6:00-8:00 PM** P147
  **POSUM CREEK METROPARK**, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
  - Get your hands dirty and learn how to plant everything from a seed to a tree! Proper planting is essential to the success of each plant in your garden, it’s so much more than just digging a hole. You’ll learn with a 4-pack of seedlings and the confidence to successfully plant anything! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $10

- **BASIC PLANT CARE AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE**
  **WED. MAR 2, 6:00-8:00 PM** P94
  **WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK**, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
  - Once you have a garden, you need to know what to do to keep it thriving. Good soil is the key to great plants, so we’ll cover how to augment your soil seasonally. Learn about successful irrigation methods, how to control weeds, and troubleshooting diseases and pests. Each person will go home with a seasonal maintenance plan. Vegetable and landscape gardens will be covered. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $10

**CITY BEETS**

Helps Youth Grow

Youth ages 12 to 15 learn about gardening, nutrition and cooking while developing communication, leadership, business and problem-solving skills during the summer. City Beets program. Participants grow produce at Possum Creek MetroPark, take field trips and receive a stipend.

Learn more by attending an open house: Thursday, Feb. 4, 6 to 8 PM (P204)
Possum Creek MetroPark Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

City Beet volunteer opportunities include planting, mulching and watering the garden; mentoring teens; helping during cooking demonstrations and more. Learn how you can help by attending an open house:
Thursday, March 17, 10 to 11 AM (P206)
Wednesday, May 25, 10 to 11 AM (P207)
Possum Creek MetroPark Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Apply for the 2016 City Beets summer program now through March 15.
[METROPARKS.ORG/CITYBEETS](http://METROPARKS.ORG/CITYBEETS)

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**THE SUSTAINABLE GARDEN:**

**DEB KNAPKE**

**SAT. MAR 5, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** P97

**WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK**, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.  
Let Deb Knapke help you get your spring garden plan in order! A favorite of local and national audiences, Deb will talk about sustainability in your garden and how to get started now with plants, plants, and practices. Gather your gardening buddies and come for a wonderful morning. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages

**(FREE) COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATORS DINNER**

**THU. MAR 10, 6:30-8:30 PM** P50

**WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK**, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Do you work with a community garden in Montgomery County? Join MetroParks’ community gardening program staff and representatives from the region’s 80+ community gardens for dinner - no need to bring anything. Discover essential resources and information and meet your gardening colleagues. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $20

**SEED STARTING BASICS WITH DOUG CHRISTEN**

**SAT. MAR 12, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** P99

**COX ARBORETUM METROPARK**, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Learn how a farmer starts his seeds and gets his garden going in spring. Learn to use seed catalogs, select the varieties of plants best suited for your needs, and how and when to start your seeds. We’ll also cover maintaining healthy seedlings and when to transplant them. Each participant will have the chance to plant seeds and will take home some to start their own garden. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $10

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**TEEN AQUAPONICS**

**SAT. MAR 19, 12:30-2:30 PM** P18

**POSUM CREEK METROPARK**, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Help us create our aquaponics system at Possum Creek for City Beets, our youth program teaching teens about gardening and food. Learn what aquaponics is and how this cool science helps veggies and fish thrive. Registration required. Age: 12Y-18Y Fee: $5

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**(FREE) TRY GARDENING!**

**SAT. APR 2, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM** P295

**POSUM CREEK METROPARK**, Possum Creek

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**(FREE) MIAMI VALLEY ORCHID SHOW**

**SAT., SUN FEB. 20-21, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM** P282

**COX ARBORETUM METROPARK**, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
View many artful displays full of blooming tropical orchids. Vendors will have orchids and other items available for purchase. Join our informal classes both days, and activities for kids. Sponsored by Miami Valley Orchid Society. No registration required. Age: All ages

**(FREE) WINTER GARDEN WORKSHOP AND SEED SWAP**

**SAT. FEB 27, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** P88

**WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK**, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
What do gardeners do in winter? Enjoy their preserved harvest from last year and plan for spring. Bring the family and learn about gardening, enjoy herbal teas, bread and preserves, and roasted root vegetables. Try micro green sprouting, garden plant selection, lasagna gardening, and more. We’ll have a seed swap available and tips on seed saving. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages

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**Register for programs by calling 275-PARK (7275) Unless otherwise noted.**
GUIDE TO PROGRAMS BY TOPIC

Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Learn how to get your garden planted for spring and brush up on your gardening skills. Demonstrations and fun opportunities for visitors of all ages to get their hands dirty will be available. Try planting potatoes, asparagus, and other spring crops. Learn about composting and get garden advice from staff and volunteers. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages

TEEN MUSHROOM GROWING
SAT. APR 9, 12:30-2:30 PM P23
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Help us get our mushroom spawn started for City Beets, our youth program teaching teens about gardening and food. Learn everything you need to know about starting mushrooms. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 12Y - 18Y Fee: $5

WILD ABOUT WILDFLOWERS
JOIN US FOR A LOOK AT THE FIRST WILDFLOWERS OF SPRING
Cox Arboretum METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Today we’ll visit the Cincinnati Flower Show at Yeatman’s Cove. After a great morning, we’ll have lunch at a local bistro and then conclude the trip with a visit to Bern’s Garden Center in Middletown. Reservations required and due March 11. Credit cards and checks accepted. A Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation event and fundraiser. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7052 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $69

LEARNING FROM THE LANDSCAPE: WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK
Volunteers lead one-hour walks using the park for examples of plants and maintenance techniques. Meet in the parking lot.

(FREE) TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY
FRI. APR 15, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM P280
SAT. APR 16, 8:00 AM-3:00 PM 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. Second St.
Celebrate Earth Day and pick up free tree seedlings while supplies last! No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: All ages

AULLWOOD IN SPRING
SUN. APR 17, 2:00-4:00 PM P139
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Aullwood Gardens, 930 Aullwood Rd.
Come ready to see the carpet of bluebells and other spring wildflowers. It’s a once-a-year wonder, so don’t miss this beautiful sight. We’ll meet in the parking lot. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up

LEARNING FROM THE LANDSCAPE: COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
Volunteers lead one-hour programs using the grounds of the park as examples for plant selection and maintenance techniques. Meet in the parking lot.

GARDEN DESIGN
TUE. APR 19, 6:00-7:00 PM P140
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Learn how to make a garden design using the plantings at Cox as an example. A great opportunity to see the early gardens, learn how they will evolve and change over the growing season, and how you can use this information in your own home garden. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $10

CONTAINER VEGETABLE GARDENS
TUE. MAY 10, 6:00-7:00 AM P159
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Many vegetables do beautifully in containers. Learn which plants work best and how to plant and maintain them. We’ll also talk about types of containers and plant care through the season. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $10

WALK THROUGH A GARDEN DESIGN
WALL STREET PARK, 5520 Wall St.
Learn how to make a garden design using the plantings at Cox as an example. A great opportunity to see the early gardens, learn how they will evolve and change over the growing season, and how you can use this information in your own home garden. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $10

BUS TRIP: CINCINNATI FLOWER SHOW AND BERN’S
THU. APR 14, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM P150
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

TRAVEL TO BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY GARDEN IN BLOOM
TRAVEL TO THE CINCINNATI FLOWER SHOW
SUN. MAY 22, 2:00-3:00 PM P250
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Today we’ll visit the Cincinnati Flower Show at Yeatman’s Cove. After a great morning, we’ll have lunch at a local bistro and then conclude the trip with a visit to Bern’s Garden Center in Middletown. Reservations required and due March 11. Credit cards and checks accepted. A Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation event and fundraiser. Registration required. Contact (937) 276-7052 for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $69

= Online Registration Available
= Program is Weather-Dependent
METROPARKS.ORG/PROGRAMMING

GUIDE TO PROGRAMS BY TOPIC

GARDEN PREP BOOT CAMP
SAT. APR 23, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM P106
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Learn how to get your vegetable or landscape garden ready for spring planting. This program is hands-on, so bring your gloves and gardening shoes and be ready to work. MetroParks experts will be there guiding you through clean-up and soil prep, talking about ways to assure a more successful gardening season with tips on site selection, planting, supports, and suggestions for weed prevention and irrigation techniques. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $10

(FREE) ANNUAL MAYFAIR PLANT SALE
SAT. APR 30, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM P246
SUN. MAY 1, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM P247
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Wegerzyn Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Get a jump on spring and purchase unusual perennials, annuals, vegetables and herbs for companion planting or to enhance your landscape. Pass-along plants are locally grown. Enjoy hanging baskets, just in time for Mother’s Day. A Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation event and fundraiser. No registration required. Age: All ages

(FREE) START A NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN
THU. MAY 5, 5:30-7:00 PM P166
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
How can you start a community vegetable garden in your neighborhood, school, church? Learn the essential steps to a successful project. Start planning for next year! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up

BASIC GARDEN SKILLS AND TOOLS REVIEW
SAT. MAY 7, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM P152
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Designed for experienced gardeners who want to learn new techniques and polish their skills. We’ll talk about tool selection and use, planting guidelines, creating new and refurbishing old beds; pest, disease and weed control. We’ll also take a look at mulches and their proper application, followed by pruning and perennial division. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $10

FAIRY GARDEN WORKSHOP
SAT. MAY 7, 1:30-3:30 PM P203
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Come have a magical afternoon creating a little fairy garden with your children. We will have an array of vessels or you may bring your own 12x12 container. You will receive soil, pebbles and plants to create your very own garden to take home.

YOUTH GARDEN CLUB
SAT. MAY 7, 3:00-5:00 PM P153
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Youth ages 8 through 12 work together to plant, tend and harvest Skeeter’s Garden while acquiring skills and learning about sustainable gardening. Three classes are held each month, May through August, and participants may register for any or all months.

SPRING GREENS AND EARLY PLANTING
TUE. MAY 10-24, 4:30-6:00 PM P180
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter’s Garden, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Join Nurseryman Solomon Gamboa as he talks about native Ohio plants, including trees and shrubs, that attract our native pollinators. A fascinating look at both usual and unusual garden plants and ways of using them in landscaping to attract and protect pollinators. Registration required. Age: All ages

(SOLOMON GAMBOA): OHIO NATIVE PLANTS AND POLLINATORS
SAT. MAY 14, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM P294
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Join Nurseryman Solomon Gamboa as he talks about native Ohio plants, including trees and shrubs, that attract our native pollinators. A fascinating look at both usual and unusual garden plants and ways of using them in landscaping to attract and protect pollinators. Registration required. Age: All ages

RIVERSCAPE GARDENING STEWARD
SAT. MAY 14, 9:00-11:30 AM P169
MON. MAY 23, 6:00-8:00 PM P275
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 111 E. Monument Ave.
Learn which trees, shrubs and perennials do well in our area and how best to maintain them for ongoing health and beauty. Registration required. Contact janet.metter@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up

POLLINATOR PARTY!
SAT. MAY 14, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM P153
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Pavilion, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Want birds, bees, and butterflies to dance in your garden? This expo-style program shows easy ways to encourage pollinators to make your garden healthy and beautiful. Exhibits and demonstrations, fun games and activities for kids. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages

PERENNIALS WORKSHOP:
DIVISION AND TRANSPLANT
SAT. MAY 21, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM P154
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Learn how and when to divide perennials and the best methods for transplanting them. We’ll talk about seasonality, division size, soil and planting requirements, care after transplant, and when to expect optimal bloom and growth. Each participant will take home perennial divisions for their own yard. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $15

Register for programs by calling 275-PARK (7275) Unless otherwise noted.

METROPARKS.ORG/DONATE
**BUS TRIP: CINCINNATI NATURE CENTER**  
**TUE. MAY 24, 8:15 AM-5:45 PM**  
**P161 WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.**  
Today we visit the Cincinnati Nature Center and the Krippendorf Lodge for a presentation followed by a chance to explore on your own. Lunch at Putters Grill and then we go to Greenfield Plant Farm. Last we’ll visit Marie Aull’s garden, followed by a chance to explore on your own. Lunch the Krippendorf Lodge for a presentation following the topic introduction. Refreshments available by donation.

**GREEN LIVING**

**CAFÉ SCI**  
Explore science in a relaxed atmosphere with friends and neighbors from the Miami Valley. Increase your science savvy and join an open discussion following the topic introduction. Refreshments available by donation.

**AMORPHOUS INK JET PRINTING**  
**TUE. MAY 4, 6:30-8:30 PM**  
**P175 WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.**  
Learn about the physical and chemical properties of the inks used in these graphic art inkjet printers. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up.

**BOKASHI WORKSHOP**  
**TUE. FEB 9, 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**P258 POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.**  
Bokashi is an ancient Japanese/Korean form of composting by fermentation. Join us for this hands-on workshop and walk through all steps to make your own bokashi set up to take home. You will receive a bucket and all needed pieces to get started. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up. Fee: $15.

**MASTER RECYCLING CLASS**  
**TUE. FEB. 9-MAR. 8, 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**P13 OFFSITE, Montgomery County Solid Waste, 2550 Sandridge Dr.**  
Presented in partnership with Montgomery County Solid Waste District. Learn how to reduce, reuse and recycle effectively and become a community leader for waste reduction initiatives. Participants attend 5 classes, tour recycling facilities, and complete 15 hours of volunteer service. Register by January 31. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up. Fee: $25.

**GLASS CUTTING**  
**TUE. MAR 22, 6:30-8:30 PM**  
**P176 WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.**  
Bring bottles and jars and leave with decorative vases, votive holders and dispensers. We’ll provide the tools and accessories. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up.

**HERITAGE & HISTORY**

**19TH CENTURY FARMING DEMONSTRATIONS**  
Join us for ongoing drop-in demonstrations of 19th century farm life. Typical farm chores will be recreated to demonstrate daily life in the 1880s.

**FREE TRADITIONAL BUTCHERING**  
**SAT., SUN FEB. 6-7, 1:00-4:00 PM**  
**P177 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 and then

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*Online Registration Available*  
*Program is Weather-Dependent*
GUIDE TO PROGRAMS BY TOPIC

MOUNTAIN BIKING

(FREE) TRY MOUNTAIN BIKING
TUE. APR 5, 4:00-7:00 PM P196
TUE. MAY 3, 4:00-7:00 PM P197
MOMBA, 4285 Union School House Road
Is not owning a mountain bike keeping you from trying it? If so, then come out to MoMBA and borrow one of our bikes to ride for a lap or two. Bikes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Youth younger than 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Helmets are mandatory and provided with bike. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages

CONNECT KIDS WITH NATURE

Learn how you can help children and families discover the benefits of unstructured outdoor play by attending the fifth annual Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Summit. Leave with new resources, action steps and connections.

Saturday, March 12
Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

GREEN SCHOOLYARDS TRAINING (P81)
8 AM-4 PM
Learn from fellow teachers how to create an outdoor classroom. Group joins summit at 11:30 a.m.

SUMMIT (P54)
11:30 AM-4 PM
Network, attend keynotes and nature clubs for families workshops, and view resource displays. Registration required.

CONSERVATION KIDS TIKES
NATURE FUN (P112)
AND NATURE EXPLORATION (P113)
3:15-4:45 PM
Kids ages 3 to 13 are invited to discover the wonders of nature and the excitement of playing outside. Dress for the outdoors.

CARRIAGE HILL PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SAT. FEB 20, 10:00-11:30 AM P121
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center Meeting Room, 7800 E. Shull Rd.
Support the Friends of Carriage Hill volunteer group. Pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, juice and coffee will be included. No registration required. Age: All ages Fee: $5

(FREE) MAPLE SUGARING ON THE FARM
SAT., SUN FEB. 20-21, 12:00-4:00 PM P118
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
The end of winter has traditionally marked the beginning of maple sugaring season. Come watch as we demonstrate maple sugaring by boiling down the sap in a kettle over an open fire, just like it was done in the 1880s. Learn about the various tools and processes used to collect the sap. Watch as the sap is boiled down into the sweet syrup. No registration required. Age: All ages

HOME & HOBBIES

LUNCH AND LEARN
Explore a variety of topics in green living with engaging speakers. Bring a lunch and learn something new.

HISTORICAL METHODS FOR MAKING COFFEE
TUE. MAY 3, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM P128
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Coffee was enjoyed in the 1880s, just as it is today. However, the process for making it was a little more tedious. Learn about several different historical methods for making coffee and watch as it is roasted. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $5

FREE GUIDED MAPLE SUGARING TOUR
SAT. FEB 20, 12:30-1:00 PM P119
SAT. FEB 20, 2:30-3:00 PM P120
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Join the park historian on a guided tour of our maple sugaring operation. Learn about the role that maple sugar played on the farm in the 1880s and how maple sugaring is done today. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages

FREE) BLACK HISTORY DAY
SAT. FEB 27, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM P277
2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St.
A cultural celebration of old school and gospel music and dance. Dianne Coble provides top-notch local entertainment. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: All ages

FREE) CORN ON THE FARM
SUN. MAY 8, 12:00-5:00 PM P125
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Watch as the farmer rides the corn planter and plants the corn in check rows. See a corn field laid out before your very eyes. Try your hand at grinding corn into meal. Also, learn about heirloom corn and the various resources for it today. Afterwards, stop by the farmhouse to try some items made from corn. No registration required. Age: All ages

FREE) CORN ON THE FARM
SUN. MAY 8, 12:00-5:00 PM P125
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Watch as the farmer rides the corn planter and plants the corn in check rows. See a corn field laid out before your very eyes. Try your hand at grinding corn into meal. Also, learn about heirloom corn and the various resources for it today. Afterwards, stop by the farmhouse to try some items made from corn. No registration required. Age: All ages

(CORN ON THE FARM)
SUN. MAY 8, 12:00-5:00 PM P125
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Watch as the farmer rides the corn planter and plants the corn in check rows. See a corn field laid out before your very eyes. Try your hand at grinding corn into meal. Also, learn about heirloom corn and the various resources for it today. Afterwards, stop by the farmhouse to try some items made from corn. No registration required. Age: All ages

FREE) MAPLE SUGARING ON THE FARM
SAT., SUN FEB. 20-21, 12:00-4:00 PM P118
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
The end of winter has traditionally marked the beginning of maple sugaring season. Come watch as we demonstrate maple sugaring by boiling down the sap in a kettle over an open fire, just like it was done in the 1880s. Learn about the various tools and processes used to collect the sap. Watch as the sap is boiled down into the sweet syrup. No registration required. Age: All ages

FREE) STEAM ON THE FARM
SUN. MAR 13, 12:00-4:00 PM P122
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
The use of steam engines ushered in a new era of efficiency on the farm. Watch an ongoing demonstration of how steam was used during the time period. Also learn about the various types of antique farm equipment that were powered by steam. No registration required. Age: All ages
GUIDE TO PROGRAMS BY TOPIC

CONSERVATION KIDS

These Five Rivers MetroParks’ programs for children and families are a series of age-appropriate programs for three specific age groups (Tikes, Explorers and Voyagers). They help you and your child discover nature, take conservation action, share cool conservation actions with others, and ultimately help protect and promote wildlife. These age-appropriate programs give your kids clear steps to take to understand what the impact they make, they can take to make a difference, and they can do it safely and effectively. These programs are designed for each of the three levels of this series, your child also will receive a special MetroParks Conservation Kids backpack. Visit metroparks.org/kids.

By completing programs in each of the three levels of this series, your child will also receive a special reward. Visit metroparks.org/kids for more information. Look for color triangles (▲) in the program listings for Conservation Kids to see what level each program is designated for within the series. Participants should begin by taking Discovery Level (green) programs and build onto their knowledge with blue and orange programs after completing the green level.

CONSERVATION KIDS: TIKES (AGES 3-5)

This series, designed for families with 3- to 5-year-olds, nurtures kids’ desire to discover nature and empowers them to speak out for the world they will soon inherit. Watch as your child grows closer to nature, develops leadership skills and works with peers to protect Montgomery County’s ecology. By completing programs in each of the three levels of this series, your child also will receive a special MetroParks Conservation Kids backpack. Visit metroparks.org/kids.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRDCOUNT

WED. FEB 3, 2:00-3:30 PM P70
SAT. FEB 6, 2:00-3:30 PM P71
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Join people across the country who will be counting the birds they see this weekend and reporting their sightings online. Learn the crucial role birds play in nature. Bring binoculars or a limited supply will be available. Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: $5 ▲ ▲

ANIMAL TRACKING

MON. FEB 8, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM P64
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.
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! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: $5 ▲ ▲

WINGED FRIENDS

SAT. FEB 20, 2:00-4:00 PM P72
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Come learn more about your feathered friends, and how to build your own bird-feeding station at your house, just in time for you to lead your own Great Backyard Bird Count for your friends! Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: $10 ▲ ▲

WINTER BIRDS

TUE. FEB 23, 1:00-2:00 PM P65
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Shelter: Redwing/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull 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. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y ▲ ▲

SIGNS OF SPRING

TUE. MAR 8, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM P66
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/Parking Lot, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.
Satisfy your itch to get outside after a long winter. We’ll discuss seasonal changes, and explore nature’s awakening. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: $10 ▲ ▲

NATURE FUN

SAT. MAR 12, 3:15-4:45 PM P112
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Wegerzyn Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Come join us to discover the wonders of nature and the excitement of playing outside! There is also the opportunity to visit the MV-LNCI resources to help connect your family with nature! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y ▲ ▲

PROJECT BUDBURST

WED. MAR 16, 1:30-3:00 PM P92
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/Parking Lot, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.
Join a national network of citizen scientists monitoring the time of plant growth while learning about the trees in the forests! We will venture out, collect data, then submit to Project Budburst and continue monitoring the year. Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: $5 ▲ ▲

WOODLAND ADVENTURE

WED. MAR 23, 1:30-2:30 PM P67
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.
Take an adventurous nature hike through a successional woodland, exploring the trees, and wildlife. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y ▲ ▲

BUDS AND BUGS

WED. APR 6, 1:00-2:00 PM P68
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: Blue Heron/Parking Lot, 2000 U.S. 40
Use face paint to transform your preschooler into a bee, bug, or butterfly. We will pretend to be nature’s pollinators, exploring flower to flower, and discovering the relationships that flowers have with bugs. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y ▲ ▲

PROTECTORS OF NATURE

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MOST RECENT CONSERVATION KIDS!

Maya Holbrook
Jeremy Samuel
Kevin Alder
Josh Alder
Jacob Heppe
(FREE) NOCTURNAL AMPHIBIAN QUEST
FRI. APR 15, 7:30-8:30 PM P111
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.
Search for spring peepers, spotted salamanders, and other amphibians in Sugarcreek's vernal pool, only 1/4 mile away from the parking lot. If time allows, we may go for a night hike and try to call in barred owls. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: $10  

(FREE) LITTLE SPROUTS
TUE. MAY 24, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM P69
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.
Come learn what a plant needs to grow and then we will search for baby plants in the park! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y  

CONSERVATION KIDS: EXPLORERS & VOYAGERS (AGES 6-13)
This series, designed for families with 6- to 13-year-olds, nurtures kids’ desire to explore nature and empowers them to speak out for the planet they will soon inherit. Watch as your child grows closer to nature, develops leadership skills and works with peers to protect Montgomery County’s ecology. By completing programs in each of the three levels of this series, your child also will receive a special MetroParks Conservation Kids hoodie. Visit metroparks.org/kids. 

LEAVE A LEGACY
MON. APR 18, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM P98
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.
This month we will continue helping our forests by checking on the seedlings planted last spring. We will also learn about the “invaders” that hurt our forests. Come out and take part in our reforestation effort! Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: $5  

(FREE) FORESTS AT NIGHT
SAT. MAY 7, 8:00-9:00 PM P110
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Trailhead: Patterson/Nature Play/Parking Lot, 2606 Hilton Dr.
On a night hike just for preschoolers and their families, we will discuss the differences between night and day, explore pelts of nocturnal animals, and hike to see what nocturnal animals are out! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: $5  

MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS
WED. MAY 11, 1:00-2:30 PM P105
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Milkweed is a monarch caterpillar’s favorite food! Come plant milkweed for our monarchs and other plants butterflies need while learning about their role as pollinators! Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: $5  

CARING FOR CATERPILLARS
SAT. MAY 21, 2:00-4:00 PM P107
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Watching a caterpillar develop into a butterfly is a fun way to learn about life cycles. Tikes discover how to raise caterpillars at home. Eachparticipant will receive butterfly garden seeds and a digging trowel. Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: $10  

BIRDS AND COMMUNITY
SAT. FEB 20, 1:00-3:00 PM P73
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Learn your local birds, how to attract them to your yard, and how to get other kids excited about nature. You’ll get everything you need to conduct your own Great Backyard Birdcount! Registration required. Age: 6Y-13Y Fee: $10  

ECO ADVOCATE
SAT. MAY 5, 2:00-4:00 PM P74
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Learn what it takes to give nature a voice, and how to get your peers excited about the Earth! Participants will practice discovery skills and receive tools to lead their own ecology hike for their friends. Registration required. Age: 6Y-13Y Fee: Cost: $10  

(FREE) WOODCOCK WATCH
SAT. MAR 5, 6:00-7:30 PM P57
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Be a witness to the woodcock's extravagant mating display of circles, spirals, and dives while enjoying the crisp night. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 6Y-13Y  

(FREE) NATURE EXPLORATION
SAT. MAY 7, 9:30-11:00 AM P98
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.
Explore the wonders of nature and the excitement of playing outside! There is also the opportunity to visit the MV-LNCI resources to help connect your family with nature! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 6Y-13Y  

(FREE) EXPLORING EAGLES AND DUCKS
SAT. MAR 19, 10:00-11:30 AM P58
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Mad River Access parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.
Discover the winter bird diversity along the Mad River! We will look for the Eastwood Eagles, Jim and Cindy, and also watch for the winter waterfowl at Eastwood Lake. Then drive to Huffman MetroPark together and search for more waterfowl along the Mad River and Huffman Lake! Please bring binoculars if you can! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 6Y-13Y  

SEEDLING SATURDAYS
SAT. MAR 19, 1:00-2:30 PM P90
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.
Trees are such an important part of our environment. Be a part of the reforestation and biodiversity story as we plant trees, and learn their value on our quality of life. Bring gloves, and be prepared to get dirty! Registration required. Age: 6Y-13Y Fee: $5  

AMPHIBIAN NATURALIST TRAINING
SAT. APR 16, 2:00-4:00 PM P96
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Learn your local amphibians and practice techniques in searching for them and sharing them with others. We’ll venture out into the wetlands for our own adventure, then help
you develop your own get-together! Registration required. Age: 6Y-13Y Fee: $10

**FREE** NOCTURNAL AMPHIBIAN SEARCH
SAT. APR 16, 7:30-9:00 PM P60 SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.
Join us on an evening search for Spring Peepers and Spotted Salamanders in Sugarcreek’s vernal pool, only 1/4 mile away from the parking lot. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 6Y-13Y

**FREE** WOODLAND SALAMANDER SEARCH
SAT. APR 30, 12:30-2:00 PM P61 TAYLORVILLE METROPARK, Shelter, Hilltop / Sledding Hill/Parking Lot, 1200 Brown School Rd.
Discover the predators of the leaf litter as we explore the lives of red-back salamanders while bonding with your family in nature. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 6Y-13Y

**FREE** LET’S BUG OUT!
SAT. MAY 7, 1:00-2:30 PM P62 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Spend the morning in Conservation Corner on an insect scavenger hunt. Families completing the hunt will get a free ODNR butterfly guide. A limited number of nets and containers will be available. All insects collected will be released before leaving. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 6Y-13Y Fee: $5

**FREE** PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS
SUN. MAY 8, 1:00-2:30 PM P103 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Pollinators have an important job to do, so let’s help them by planting flowers they need! Learn about pollinator-friendly plants, and get ideas to make your family habitat more pollinator friendly. Registration required. Age: 6Y-13Y Fee: $5

**FREE** OWL PROWL
SAT. MAY 21, 8:30-10:00 AM P63 ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.
Escape on a night walk in search of screech and barred owls while learning about their interactions with our forests. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 6Y-13Y

**FREE** NOCTURNAL INSECT PARTY
FRI. MAY 27, 7:30-9:30 PM P109 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Come explore the incredible diversity of moths, and how to build your own Moth Party for your friends. Participants will get a nocturnal moth starter kit. Registration required. Age: 6Y-13Y Fee: $10

**FREE** PROJECT WILD & INQUIRY ADVENTURES WORKSHOP
SUN. MAR 6, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM P1 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.
This workshop will certify teachers in the nationally recognized Project Wild curricula, engage educators in outdoor inquiry, and demonstrate how to utilize Five Rivers MetroParks’ resources to make science come alive for students. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $25

**FREE** TEACHERS’ NIGHT OUT: BUSY BEES
THU. APR 7, 6:00-8:00 PM P134 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
This month we will focus on our number 1 pollinators, bees! Teachers will discover new ways to bring pollination to life through citizen science opportunities, learn how to observe bees safely with students, and learn how to attract pollinators to their school garden. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up

**FREE** GROWING UP WILD TRAINING
SAT. APR 9, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM P263 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.
SUN. MAY 15, 2:00-5:00 PM P183 SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Shelter: Trailside, 4178 Conference Rd.
Do you want to get your students outdoors to learn? Using proven material for early childhood educators geared toward curriculum goals, this workshop gives you the tools needed for successful outdoor learning. You will also learn about our Green Schoolyards program and how we can help you better utilize the outdoor space at your school, as well as our Natural Adventures Box program, to help childcare center professionals spend their summer outdoors with kids. Registration required. Contact kathi.mcqueen@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $5

**FREE** BEGINNING BIRDING WORKSHOP
SAT. APR 16, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM P248 COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Get started with the basics of birding, including identification, field guide and binocular use, bird song, biology, and behavior. The 2-hour indoor session will be followed by a 2-hour field study. Participants receive a birding handbook, ODNR field guides and bird song CDs. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: $25

ADULT NATURE WALKS
Enjoy a leisurely hike through natural areas as we explore Montgomery County’s ecology and gain a deeper perspective for how nature works. We also will discuss humans’ role in nature and how we can minimize our impacts and get involved with conservation efforts. It’s our nature!

**FREE** DISCOVERY STROLL
WED. MAR 16, 10:00-11:30 AM P311
OUTDOOR PLAY

(FREE) STORYTIME ADVENTURES: FLOWERS
WED. MAY 11, 10:00-11:00 AM P162
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter’s Shelter.
We’ll read a story and then go on a brief adventure. This program is designed for toddlers and their caregivers. Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y

OUTDOOR SKILLS AND SAFETY

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER
SAT., SUN., MON., TUE., WED., THU., FRI., FEB. 27-MAR. 4, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM P182
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Through lectures, discussions and scenarios, you’ll learn the essential principles and skills required to assess and manage medical problems in isolated and extreme environments for days and weeks if necessary. See contact info to register. Contact (719) 395-5358 or coloradooutside@gmail.com for details. www.wildmed.com. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $350

WILDERNESS FIRST AID
SAT., SUN MAR. 5-6, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM P185
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
This two-day introduction to general medical concepts and basic life support skills is targeted to the outdoor enthusiast on day trips or short adventures. See contact info to register. Contact (719) 395-5358 or coloradooutside@gmail.com for details. www.wildmed.com. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $220

WILDERNESS MEDICINE OPEN RECERTIFICATION
WED., THU., FRI. MAR. 9-11, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM P186

PADDLING

RIVER RESCUE KNOTS
THU. FEB 25, 6:00-8:00 PM P24
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Learn and practice the major knots used in river rescue during this hands-on program in an indoor setting. Prerequisites: none. Registration required. Contact outdoors@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $10

(FREE) DISCOVER PADDLESPORTS
WED. MAR 2, 7:00-8:00 PM P25
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Are you interested in canoeing, kayaking, and stand up paddleboarding? This short classroom presentation will cover basic equipment, safety, where to go and more. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 14Y and up Fee: $5

RIVER ACCESS VAN TOUR: GREAT MIAMI SOUTH AND TWIN CREEK
THU. MAR 17, 5:30-8:00 PM P290
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor
Join us for a driving tour, stopping at 10 different river access points along the Great Miami River south of Dayton and Twin Creek to help plan your next paddling adventure. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $5
**GUIDE TO PROGRAMS BY TOPIC**

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

**POsing GROUP PORTRAITS**
**SAT. FEB 6, 10:00-11:30 AM P187**
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1401 S. Siebenthaler Ave.
Discover techniques for taking photos of families, teams or other groups. Class attendees will serve as models, so be prepared to move. Bring your camera and (if you have them) a tripod, flash and remote control. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $20

**BLOOMS ALL YEAR LONG**
**SAT. MAR 12, 10:00-11:30 AM P100**
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Even when the weather is cold outside, you can use creative methods to take pictures of plants indoors on a tabletop or by a window. Bring your camera and (if you have them) a tripod, flash and macro lens. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $20

**PICTURING PETALS AND PLANTS**
**SAT. APR 30, 10:00-11:30 AM P188**
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Discover methods for photographing flowers and other kinds of plants outdoors. Learn to use focus to direct the viewer’s eye, and to portray flowers within the larger context of a garden. Following a presentation indoors, the class will then go outside (weather permitting) to take photos in the garden. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $20

**PICTURING BEASTS AND BIRDS**
**SAT. MAY 7, 10:00-11:30 AM P189**
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1401 S. Siebenthaler Ave.
Much of the enjoyment of nature photography comes from taking pictures of small animals and birds found outdoors. This session covers techniques for photographing wildlife, followed by an opportunity for participants to practice what they have learned (weather permitting). Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: $20

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**ROWING**

**GREATER DAYTON YOUTH SPRING ROWING**
**MON., TUE., WED., THU., FRI., SAT. MAR. 28-May 28, 4:00-6:00 PM P286**
ISLAND METROPARK, South Parking Lot, 101 E. Helena St.
Join in this multi-week program to train and compete in the sport of rowing and participate in regatta events. Training plans are specific to age groups. Participants must be able to swim and be comfortable around water. See www.daytonrowing.org for registration, fees and coach contact. See contact info to register. Age: 11Y-18Y

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**SKATING**

**KARAOKE CLASSICS**
**FRI. FEB 5, 7:00-10:00 PM P6**
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 237 E. Monument Ave.
Skate as an onsite DJ plays karaoke classics like Don’t Stop Believin’, Dancing Queen and Sweet Caroline. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Fee: $7

**STAR-LATE SKATE**
**SAT. FEB 6, 7:00-10:00 PM P3**
SAT. FEB 13, 7:00-10:00 PM P4
SAT. FEB 20, 7:00-10:00 PM P14
SAT. FEB 27, 7:00-10:00 PM P5
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.
Take in the sights and sounds of downtown, warm up with hot chocolate from our food concession, and enjoy an evening skating alongside the Great Miami River! No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Fee: Admission: $7

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**SWEETHEART DEAL**
**FRI. FEB 12, 2:30-10:00 PM P8**
SAT. FEB 13, 11:00 AM-10:00 PM SUN. FEB 14, 1:00-5:00 PM
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.
Join us at MetroParks Ice Rink for Valentine’s weekend! During regular ice rink hours from Friday, February 12 through Sunday, February 14, you can purchase the “Sweetheart Deal” and get two rink admissions with skate rental, plus two cups of hot chocolate and a Parker the Penguin plush for only $20. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Fee: $20

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**PRESIDENTS DAY SKATE**
**MON. FEB 15, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM P9**
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.
Celebrate the holiday at MetroParks Ice Rink! No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Fee: $7

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**DISCO FEVER**
**FRI. FEB 26, 7:00-10:00 PM P11**
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.
Do the hustle! Channel John Travolta from Saturday Night Fever as you skate to disco classics. No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Fee: $7

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**LAST DAY TO SKATE!**
**MON. FEB 29, 2:30-5:00 PM P12**
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.
Lace up your skates for the last time and help us close out our skating season at MetroParks Ice Rink! No registration required. Contact (937) 278-2607 for details. Age: All ages Fee: $7
SPRING HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS
AT CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK RIDING CENTER
BEGINNING THE WEEK OF MARCH 1.
• A variety of levels from beginner English through advanced canter offered
• Classes for adults and children 8 and older
• Registration and class schedules will be online beginning February 2.
• Fee $250

SUMMER YOUTH HORSEBACK RIDING CAMP
REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 1.
• Camps, for youth ages 8-17, run June 6 to August 15
• Youth learn to lead, groom, saddle, and ride English and Western, as well as how to take care of a horse.
• Multiple levels are offered.

SHOP FRESH AND LOCAL AT THE 2ND STREET MARKET

The Market features more than 40 vendors – all locally owned – offering:
• Kitchen staples
• Dairy items
• Fresh produce
• Sweet treats
• Meat
• Gift items

Grab lunch from one of the many food vendors while you shop!

METROPARKS.ORG/LOCALFOOD

SKATE WITH YOUR SWEETHEART

VALENTINE’S DAY WEEKEND SPECIAL

2 RINK ADMISSIONS
2 SETS OF SKATES
2 CUPS OF HOT CHOCOLATE
PARKER PLUSH

$20

Available Friday, February 12, through Sunday, February 14, during regular rink hours.

(937) 278-2607
FOR RINK AND SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS, VISIT METROPARKS.ORG/ICERINK

GET OUT & RIDE

TO REGISTER, OR FOR MORE INFO, GO TO: metroparks.org/ridingcenter or (937) 274-3120

2 RINK ADMISSIONS
2 SETS OF SKATES
2 CUPS OF HOT CHOCOLATE
PARKER PLUSH

$20

(937) 278-2607
FOR RINK AND SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS, VISIT METROPARKS.ORG/ICERINK
HOLD ON TO YOUR PARKWAYS!
This issue covers programs from February through May 2016. View this ParkWays publication online at metroparks.org/parkways.

CELEBRATE OUTDOORS!
RENT A METROPARKS SHELTER NOW FOR YOUR SPECIAL EVENT TO HAVE THE BEST SELECTION OF DATES AND LOCATIONS.
Open-air shelters in beautiful settings are excellent for BBqs, graduation parties, family reunions, birthday parties and more. Amenities vary and include tables, grills, electricity and water. All are ranger-patrolled, quiet and offer a degree of privacy. Fees vary. Reserve today.

metroparks.org/reservations

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