For Year-Round Fun, Escape to Island MetroPark

It’s our nature.

Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a fun way to contribute to your MetroParks and enhance the quality of experience for future park patrons? There are a number of ways to volunteer in your MetroParks. From conducting tours to interacting with children and adults to greeting guests and administrative duties, there’s a volunteer opportunity to suit any age, physical ability or skill level. Training is provided. To learn more, visit metroparks.org/volunteer or call 937-275-PARK (7275).

Support Your MetroParks

By making a donation to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation, you support Five Rivers MetroParks’ mission to protect the region’s natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature. Donations are tax deductible and used to support programs and special projects. Sponsorships, tribute benches and trees, and planned giving options also are available. Visit metroparks.org/donate or call 937-275-PARK for more information.

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Island MetroPark

The 33-acre Island MetroPark is a natural area located in downtown Dayton and filled with picturesque landscape and mature tree growth, a rich cultural heritage, recreation amenities and opportunities, and a waterway that borders both sides of the park. The park was originally a part of the “Report on Proposed Park Systems” done for the city of Dayton. The report was submitted in 1911 by the Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm, world-renowned for enhancing the natural beauty of urban sites with their designs. The whole report stems from the urging of John Patterson (co-founder of the National Cash Register Company). In 1995, Five Rivers MetroParks started a rehabilitation of the park to protect the character set forth by Patterson and the Olmsteds, and now offers amenities needed for today’s active and healthy lifestyles.

Things to Do

HISTORICAL ASPECTS - When it opened as the White City Amusement Park in the late 19th century, Island MetroPark had a dance pavilion, amusement rides, canoes, lockers, refreshment stand and other recreation features.

On July 13, 1913, the Dayton Canoe Club held its first regatta here. On June 20, 1914, the park formally opened as Island Park. The bandshell was erected in 1920 and opened under the name of the Leslie L. Diehl Bandshell.

WALKING & HIKING - Enjoy more than 2 miles of paved bikeways perfect for walking, skating, running or cycling. The Buckeye and North Country long-distance hiking trails also come through the park. The bridge offers scenic views of downtown Dayton.

PADDLESPORTS - With access to the Stillwater and Great Miami rivers, this park is perfect for a leisurely afternoon trip in a kayak or canoe.

GREEN SPACE AND PLAYGROUNDS - Landscaped beds, sycamore, maple and willow trees throughout the park make a lush backdrop for any occasion. Children will enjoy the playground and its interactive waterplay system, providing an active recreational opportunity that supports healthy lifestyles for kids.

PICNICKING - Reserve a shelter in a beautiful natural setting for your exclusive use by visiting metroparks.org/reservations or calling 937-275-PARK (7275) during weekday business hours. Amenity fees vary by shelter. Shelters that haven’t been reserved are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Some tables and grills are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. A variety of sites with picnic tables are also available.

Information & Regulations

Protect Island MetroPark as a natural area. Do not pick, collect or disturb plant or animal materials of any kind. Hunting, frog gigging and swimming are not permitted. Motor vehicles are only permitted in designated parking areas. When loading or unloading a vehicle for shelter use, please keep your vehicle in the parking area; do not drive in the park. Thank you for your cooperation.

PICTURE POSTCARD FROM ISLAND METROPARK

It’s our nature.

Volunteer Opportunities

For more information...
Five Rivers MetroParks supports the Americans with Disabilities Act by making reasonable accommodations in serving individuals with disabilities. Programs and facilities are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis. If accommodations are needed, please call (937) 275-7686 (7275) at least one week in advance.

Five Rivers MetroParks is an Equal Opportunity Employer.