

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you like being outdoors and sharing your natural history knowledge with others? Become a MetroParks volunteer at Sugarcreek MetroPark. Call (937) 275-PARK (7275) or visit metroparks.org/volunteer for details.



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.



Sugarcreek MetroPark is located between Wilmington-Dayton Road and Ferry Road just south of Bellbrook.

It's our nature.

This park is one of 25 outstanding public facilities operated by your Five Rivers MetroParks system. Founded in 1963 to serve the greater Dayton area, MetroParks protects nearly 16,000 acres of open space and provides year-round recreation, education and conservation opportunities. Facilities are available to the public free of charge – made possible by Montgomery County citizen support of a property tax levy.

For More Information

Administrative Offices (937) 275-PARK (7275)
 Website www.metroparks.org

Ranger Assistance

Contact the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office dispatcher at:
(937) 535-2580



It's our nature.



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SUGARCREEK METROPARK

USER'S GUIDE & MAP



Cover photo Jan Underwood



For Year-Round Fun, Escape to Sugarcreek MetroPark

Sugarcreek MetroPark



Oak trees estimated at 550 years old, a tallgrass prairie, woodlands and scenic Sugar Creek beckon visitors. Although much of Sugarcreek's 618 acres were once farmland, MetroParks' land management practices and natural processes have resulted in a variety of habitats. These habitats support diverse wildlife that can be discovered as you hike, horseback ride, run the trails, exercise your pets or enjoy a leisurely picnic.

Things to Do

WALKING & HIKING - Five miles of scenic trails, ranging from easy to strenuous, are open year round. Steep hills are indicated on the map inside. Most trails are color-coded and marked. All colored trails are loops; follow the same color to arrive back at your starting point. Intersections of trails are marked by a number corresponding to the numbers on the map.

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. Amenities and 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.

HORSEBACK RIDING - Bring your own horse and enjoy 8 miles of scenic bridle trails. Horse trailers may be unloaded in the horse trailer parking area, south of the park office.



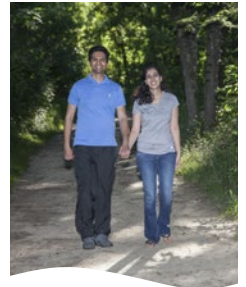
WINTER RECREATION (CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, HIKING) - With sufficient snowfall, cross-country skiing is permitted in open areas and on hiking trails. Trails near and through the planted prairie provide the most suitable terrain. Trails are open year round for hiking.

TRAIL RUNNING - The wide trails and meandering hills along with the green trail loop's perfect 5K (3.1 mile) make Sugarcreek a hotspot for the local trail running community.

NATURE PLAY AREA - Children are encouraged to explore nature, gather sticks and build a fort, turn over rocks and look for critters, climb on tree trunks and more in this natural play area designed to help children discover the outdoors.

Information & Regulations

Protect Sugarcreek 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. Hikers and horseback riders must remain on their designated trails. Motor vehicles must remain on roads; parking is permitted in designated parking areas only. Please be courteous of all patrons using Sugarcreek MetroParks' trail system. **Thank you for your cooperation.**



FIRES - Fires are allowed in designated areas only; bring your own charcoal for grills. Do NOT bring firewood.

PETS - Dogs allowed on leash only. Leashes may be no longer than 8 feet. **Dog droppings must be removed from walking trails.**

ALCOHOL - Not permitted.

BICYCLES - Not permitted on trails.

HOURS

Park Grounds:

April 1 - October 31: 8 AM - 10 PM

November 1 - March 31: 8 AM - 8 PM

Closed Christmas and New Year's Day

It's our nature.

CONSERVATION
RECREATION
EDUCATION

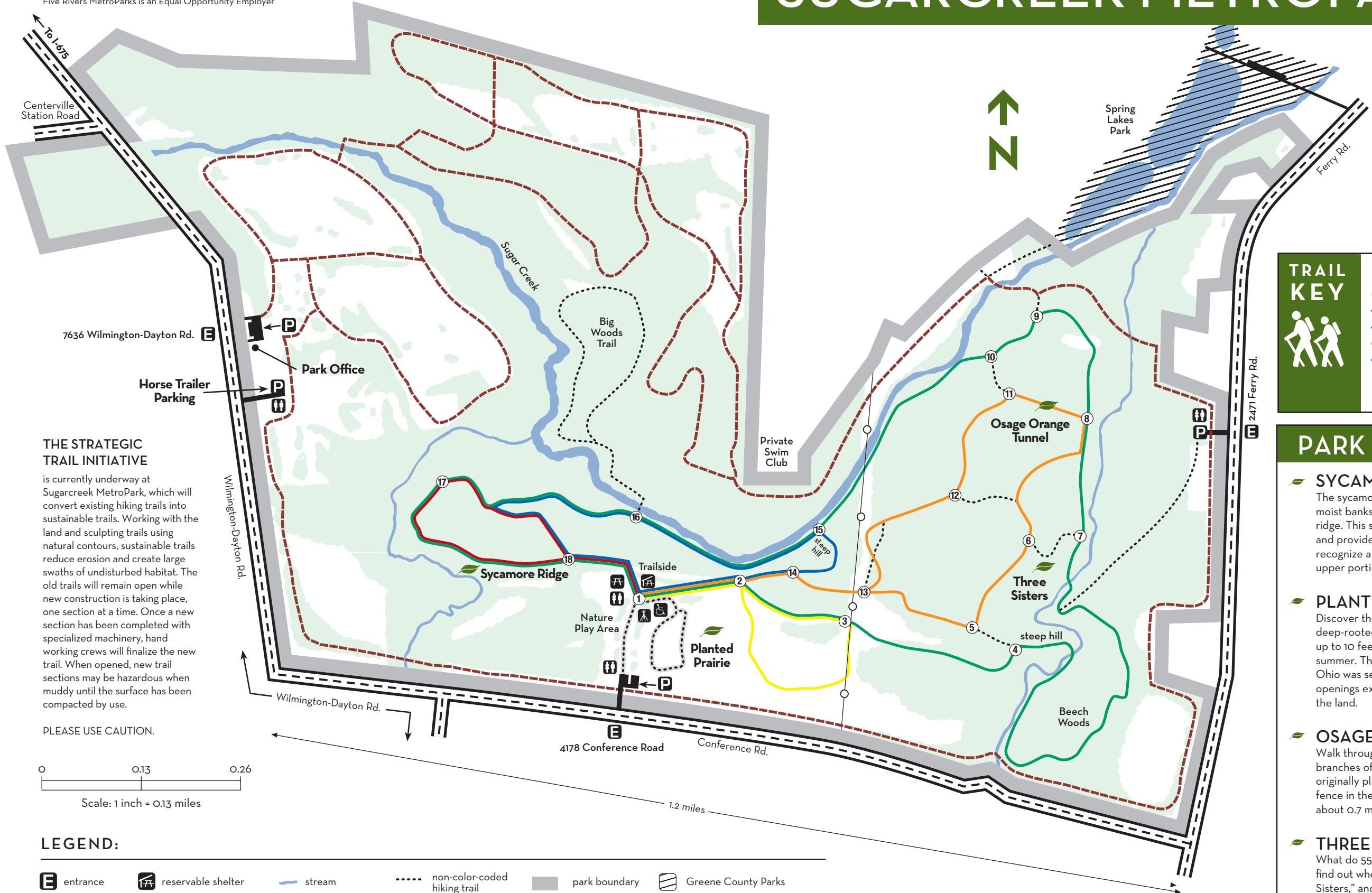


SUGARCREEK METROPARK



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 non-discriminatory basis. If accommodations are needed, please call (937) 275-PARK (7275) at least one week in advance.

Five Rivers MetroParks is an Equal Opportunity Employer



TRAIL KEY

Color-Coded Hiking Trails

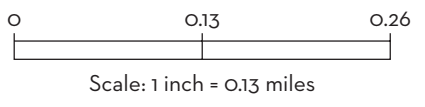
- yellow trail = 0.7 miles
- red trail = 0.5 miles
- blue trail = 1.3 miles
- orange trail = 1.3 miles
- green trail = 3.1 miles
- ⊕ trail intersection

PARK FEATURES

- SYCAMORE RIDGE**
 The sycamore is usually a tree of floodplains, streambanks and moist banks. Here, however, sycamores are growing on a ridge. This suggests a water source seeps beneath this ridge and provides the sycamore with adequate moisture. To recognize a sycamore, look for trees with white bark on the upper portions.
- PLANTED PRAIRIE**
 Discover the special plants of a tallgrass prairie. These deep-rooted, sun-loving flowers and grasses range in height up to 10 feet and reach their flowering peak in mid-to-late summer. This planted prairie reflects an earlier time, before Ohio was settled, when more than 300 natural prairie openings existed and Native Americans and buffalo roamed the land.
- OSAGE ORANGE TUNNEL**
 Walk through a living tunnel created by the large arching branches of old osage orange trees. These trees were originally planted in this row in the late 1800s to serve as a fence in the days before barbed wire was available. (Hike about 0.7 miles to the tunnel on the orange trail.)
- THREE SISTERS OAK TREES**
 What do 550-year old trees look like? Here's your chance to find out when you venture 0.7 miles to the site of the "Three Sisters," ancient white oak trees. (Follow the orange trail and take the loop to the right.) Although in decline, two still survive. A boring from the trunk, done in the late 1960s on the largest tree, indicated they began growing around 1440.

THE STRATEGIC TRAIL INITIATIVE
 is currently underway at Sugar Creek MetroPark, which will convert existing hiking trails into sustainable trails. Working with the land and sculpting trails using natural contours, sustainable trails reduce erosion and create large swaths of undisturbed habitat. The old trails will 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 will finalize the new trail. When opened, new trail sections may be hazardous when muddy until the surface has been compacted by use.

PLEASE USE CAUTION.



LEGEND:

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| E entrance | reservable shelter | stream | non-color-coded hiking trail | park boundary | Greene County Parks |
| P parking | wheelchair accessible | lake | bridle trail | park road | powerline |
| restrooms | picnic area | woods | asphalt-surfaced hiking trail | public road | park feature |
| nature play area | | | | | |