

PARKWAYS

YOUR GUIDE TO FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS NEWS AND PROGRAMS



WE'RE ON THE MAP

WHY THE DAYTON REGION IS AN
OUTDOOR RECREATION DESTINATION

HIT THESE TRAILS TO SEE
LOCAL WILDLIFE

SEE PAGE 8-9

HOW YOU CAN HELP INCREASE
CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO NATURE

SEE PAGE 10-11

LEARN NEW OUTDOOR SKILLS WITH
METROPARKS' STAFF EXPERTS

SEE PAGES 12-13

FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS



TM

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO In Your MetroParks This Season

Visit “Things to Do” on our website for suggestions about the best places and ways to enjoy 24 different activities, hand-picked by the experts! metroparks.org/things-to-do



1 GET-FIT RESOLUTIONS

Staying active and keeping healthy goals is easy in your MetroParks, home to hiking, cycling, mountain biking, paddling and equestrian trails. Bike, walk or run on the region's more than 300 miles of paved recreation trails for fun outdoor workouts, even in colder temps. Discover how easy it is to have an active, healthy outdoor lifestyle at metroparks.org/active-outdoors.



2 SNOW DAY

Take advantage of winter weather and enjoy cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on a variety of trails or ice skating at RiverScape MetroPark daily through the end of February. Go sledding at Germantown, Englewood and Taylorsville MetroParks or take a hike through the forest to look for animal tracks in the snow. Learn more at metroparks.org/winter.



3 WILD THING

Spring's beautiful blooms can be found throughout your MetroParks. Visit your favorite parks often to watch the ever-changing blooms of tulips, bluebells, trillium and wildflowers — along with the wildlife that begin to appear more during spring! Visit Cox Arboretum, Wegerzyn Gardens and Aullwood Garden MetroParks to discover how you can include native plants in your landscape. Learn more at metroparks.org/gardening.



4 SIGNS OF CULTURES PAST

Visit Twin Creek MetroPark to see remnants of a winding, earthen structure built approximately 2,000 years ago by the Hopewell culture. In 2016, MetroParks staff and volunteers planted more than 1,000 prairie dropseed grass plants along the earthwork that will make it easier to spot this spring. Hike the green trail from the trailhead at 8502 Chamberlain Road and look for the Hopewell Earthwork marker. Find more info at metroparks.org/twincreek.



5 TAKE THE BAIT

The lakes, ponds and rivers in your Five Rivers MetroParks are rich in fish life. Get Out & Fish at such spots as Germantown MetroPark's Sunfish Pond or Eastwood MetroPark's Lagoon and Blue Lake, where a fishing license is not required. Learn more at metroparks.org/fishing.



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.



LOST ITEMS

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.



HOW TO CONTACT A RANGER

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.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: 9-1-1
NON-EMERGENCY CONTACT:
(937) 535-2580



Becky Benna
Executive Director

DEAR METROPARKS FRIENDS,

I'm so pleased to share news that Five Rivers MetroParks has been awarded national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), an industry gold standard. MetroParks met 100 percent of the 151 quality standards established by CAPRA.

This accreditation is part of Five Rivers MetroParks' commitment to providing the world-class natural areas, parks, facilities, programs and services our community deserves. It serves as a validation to you

and our community that MetroParks uses best practice standards in all its operations.

The rigorous process to achieve accreditation strengthened our team, helped identify efficiencies and heightened areas of accountability. CAPRA accreditation also creates an environment for regular review, as accredited agencies must uphold the standards by submitting an annual report and be reaccredited every five years. All this translates into higher quality service to benefit our community.

CAPRA accreditation also holds MetroParks accountable and ensures responsiveness to meeting your needs. For example, during the development of MetroParks' 10-year comprehensive master plan, you told us trails represent one of Five Rivers MetroParks' amenities you most value. (MetroParks now manages 160 miles of trails for a variety of users.) We recognize 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 information about those trails. We're proud to be a leading partner in hosting the 2017 International Trails Symposium, the largest gathering for the worldwide trails community with a focus on strengthening trails for everyone, held in Dayton May 7-9. This symposium will highlight the region's amenities, and it supports MetroParks' mission to provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature.

Best Regards,

Becky Benna

METROPARKS COMMISSIONERS



Irvin G. Bieser, Jr.



Karen L. Davis



Alan F. Pippenger



Five Rivers MetroParks
is a CAPRA-accredited
park agency.

WINTER-SPRING 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

METROPARKS NEWS • 4

THE FUTURE OF YOUR PARKS

Tell MetroParks what you want to see and do in your parks, learn about upcoming treks of local trails soon to be available on Google and more.

COVER STORY • 6

WE'RE ON THE MAP

Discover why Dayton is an outdoor recreation and nature-based destination.

CONSERVATION • 8

DISCOVER LOCAL WILDLIFE

Meet the animals you can spot on the trails in your MetroParks.

EDUCATION • 10

HELP KIDS GET OUT & PLAY

Get involved with local efforts to increase children's access to nature.

RECREATION • 12

CONNECT TO NATURE

Program progressions develop the skills you need to become an outdoor adventurer.

VOLUNTEER • 14

MEET THE TRAIL BLAZER

Andy Niekamp helps create a vibrant outdoor culture in Dayton.

DEVELOPMENT • 16

ACCESS TO NATURE

Learn how you can help send a child to a MetroParks summer camp.

PROGRAM GUIDE • 18

Register for programs happening February through May 2017.

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.



FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS AWARDED NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) awarded national accreditation to Five Rivers MetroParks. The agency is one of only 10 park and recreation agencies in Ohio and 155 in the United States to receive CAPRA accreditation, an industry gold standard.

Accreditation is based on compliance with 151 best-practice standards for national accreditation. Five Rivers MetroParks is one of the few organizations that was 100 percent in compliance, meeting all the standards.

Preparing for CAPRA accreditation is typically a two-year process that involves an extensive self-evaluation, written documentation of policies and procedures, a site visit by a team of trained visitors, and a hearing with the commission to grant accreditation. CAPRA is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies and is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community.

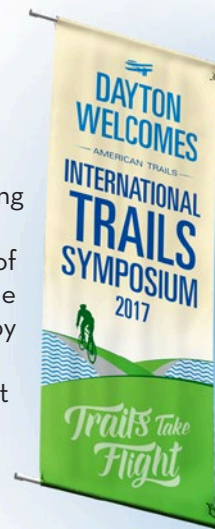
Alan Pippenger, president of Five Rivers MetroParks' board of park commissioners, said the comprehensive planning and community input that were part of the CAPRA process have been invaluable in helping the board understand what the community most values.

"CAPRA helps us as a governing board with resource allocation and planning," he said. "It's a third-party stamp of approval that assures the community Five Rivers MetroParks is an agency managed at the highest standards of any park agency in the country."

INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD MAY 7-9

American Trails — a national, nonprofit organization with a mission to create and protect America's network of interconnected trails — is hosting its 2017 symposium in Dayton. Five Rivers MetroParks is one of nine local event partners for the event, which will be attended by hundreds of trail professionals and advocates from throughout the world. The event will showcase Dayton as the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest.

The International Trails Symposium will include a free public day on Sunday, May 5, and a Trails Rock party on Tuesday, May 9. Visit metroparks.org in April for more info.



RIVERSCAPE RIVER RUN TO OPEN THIS SPRING

Work is nearing completion on the second in-river structure for RiverScape River Run in downtown Dayton. It includes two in-river features with smooth-water and whitewater passageways spanning the Great Miami River. The first in-river structure at RiverScape River Run was completed in 2016 and already has become a regional recreation destination.

A grand opening for RiverScape River Run will be held in spring. Follow Five Rivers MetroParks on Facebook and Twitter and check metroparks.org/riverrun for more information as event details are available.

Photo by Amy Forsthoefel



See
Page 20 for
details.

PUBLIC INPUT BEING COLLECTED FOR INDIVIDUAL SITE MASTER PLANS

Five Rivers MetroParks is collecting public input for the parks and natural areas in the next phase of its effort to develop site master plans for individual parks. This is the next step in implementing MetroParks' 10-year comprehensive master plan.

The individual park site master plans are being completed in phases and identify protected open space, habitats, amenities and potential uses and improvements, as well as estimated capital and operating budgets. The parks and natural areas included in the next phase of planning are Possum Creek, Carriage Hill, Twin Creek and Germantown MetroParks, as well as the Upper Twin Conservation Area.

Visit metroparks.org/plan to learn how you can attend an open house or provide your input online.

OHIO PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Five Rivers MetroParks volunteer and Adventure Central participant Douglas May won a statewide youth leadership award from the Ohio Park and Recreation Association (OPRA). In addition, Five Rivers MetroParks received two third-place 2016 Awards of Excellence from OPRA: one in the capital improvement projects (\$1 million to \$2.5 million) category for the Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture and the other in the marketing innovation category for the new metroparks.org.



TREKS OF LOCAL TRAILS SOON TO BE AVAILABLE ONLINE

This past summer and fall, Five Rivers MetroParks staff and volunteers from Dayton Hikers participated in the Google Trekker loan program – capturing 360-degree imagery of the Dayton area's hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, water and paved trails in Google Maps. The project was a partnership between Five Rivers MetroParks and Outdoor Adventure Connection that will give everyone access to explore panoramic street view-like "treks" of these trails.

DAYTON-AREA VOLUNTEERS TREKKED HUNDREDS OF MILES OF TRAILS, INCLUDING:

- More than 75 miles of natural-surface hiking trails in all 18 Five Rivers MetroParks, as well as in some suburban parks
- Nine miles of mountain bike trails
- 40 miles of equestrian trails
- Nearly 400 miles of paved recreation trails
- More than 30 miles of water trails, as well as flatwater paddling destinations

The data captured is now being processed before it's added to Google Maps. Follow Five Rivers MetroParks on Facebook and Twitter or visit metroparks.org to find out when the treks are available online.

WE'RE ON THE MAP

The Dayton region is an outdoor recreation and nature-based destination.

When Candace Mitchell, director of operations for American Trails, visited Dayton during its bid to host the organization's International Trails Symposium, she was enthusiastic about the region's outdoor amenities, can-do spirit and community partnerships.

"My site visit to Dayton was very inspiring," said Mitchell, who will again be in Dayton for the Symposium in May. "I was impressed with the variety and quality of trails."

Indeed, partnering organizations and volunteers have created a system in which most Dayton-area residents live within 10 to 15 minutes of a trail. Southwest Ohio is home to the nation's largest paved trail network, which draws a total of approximately 772,000

visitors every year, according to the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. In late 2016, the Dayton region's 300-plus mile paved recreation trail network was linked with one in the Columbus area, connecting an additional 119 miles.

"The Dayton community understands the importance of outdoor recreation as an economic driver and way to increase everyone's access to the outdoors and places where they can have healthy, active lifestyles," said Amy Dingle, Five Rivers MetroParks director of outdoor connections.

Sometimes, it takes a visitor to remind us how great our region is.

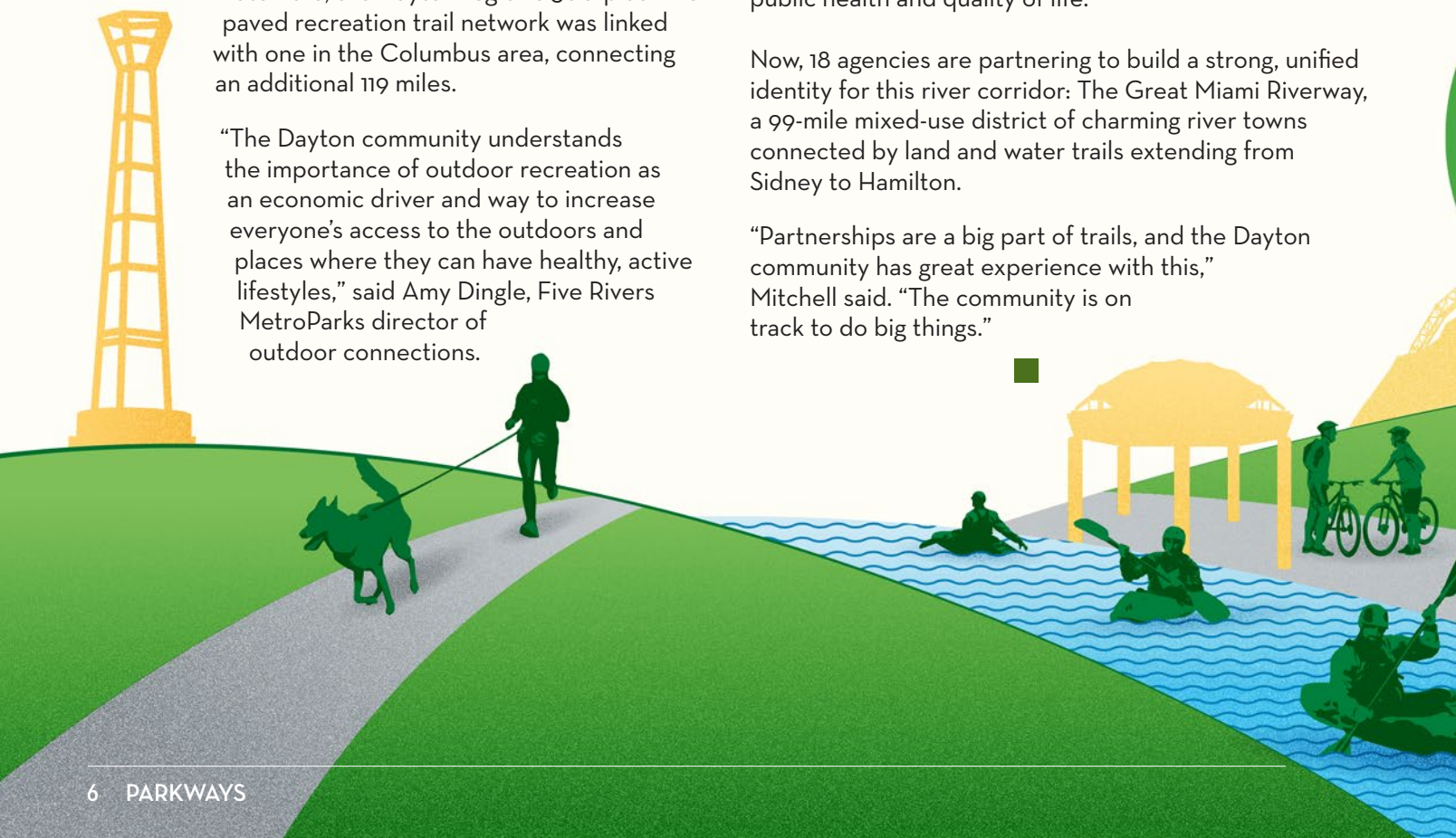
Local and national studies show access to outdoor recreation amenities and places to connect with nature increase property values, make an area a more desirable business address, help retain and grow a talented workforce, and improve overall quality of life, including health and wellness measures. Communities throughout the Dayton region understand these benefits and are investing in their riverfronts and other outdoor amenities.

Just one example is the Great Miami River Watershed Trail. In June 2016, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior designated it a National Water Trail system. The water trail – which includes the Great Miami, Stillwater and Mad rivers – is the only

national water trail in Ohio. Benefits of this designation include national promotion and visibility, increased tourism and money to local economies, and improved public health and quality of life.

Now, 18 agencies are partnering to build a strong, unified identity for this river corridor: The Great Miami Riverway, a 99-mile mixed-use district of charming river towns connected by land and water trails extending from Sidney to Hamilton.

"Partnerships are a big part of trails, and the Dayton community has great experience with this," Mitchell said. "The community is on track to do big things."



GET OUT & GET INVOLVED

10TH ANNUAL RIVER SUMMIT

Friday, March 24 • 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

University of Dayton River Campus
RiversInstitute@udayton.edu

MIAMI VALLEY CYCLING SUMMIT

Friday, May 5 • 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wright State University
cyclingsummit.com

INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SYMPOSIUM

FREE PUBLIC DAY

Sunday, May 7 • noon to 5 PM

Dayton Convention Center

Visit metroparks.org for more information closer to the event.

See page 4
for more on the
INTERNATIONAL
TRAILS SYMPOSIUM

LEARN MORE:

metroparks.org
miamivalleytrails.org
outdoordayton.com

DAYTON: THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAPITAL OF THE MIDWEST

The Dayton region is home to an abundance of outdoor amenities and accolades. Here's a sampling:

- The nation's largest paved trail network, where you can experience more than 300 miles of connected trails
- The Mad River Run at Eastwood MetroPark and the nearly completed RiverScape River Run
- The North Country National Scenic Trail and Ohio's state trail, the Buckeye Trail
- Dayton Regional Rowing, the nation's only Community Olympic Development Program for rowing
- Outdoor adventure festival Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience and local celebration of National Bike to Work Day
- The MetroParks Mountain Bike Area (MoMBA)
- The 22-mile Twin Valley Backpacking Trail connecting Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks
- The Blue Heron disc golf course at Englewood MetroPark, one of more than a dozen in the region.
- The Great Miami, Stillwater and Mad rivers are Ohio State Water Trails and comprise the newly designated Great Miami River Watershed National Water Trail.
- The Stillwater and Little Miami rivers are Ohio State Scenic Rivers. The Little Miami River is a National Wild and Scenic River.
- The League of American Bicyclists has named Dayton, Springboro, Piqua and Troy as Bronze-Level Bicycle Friendly Communities.
- The League of American Bicyclists has named 11 businesses in the Dayton region as Bicycle Friendly Businesses.
- The Buckeye Trail and North Country Trail associations designated Dayton, Troy, Xenia and Piqua official Trail Towns.
- *Outside Magazine* awarded Dayton with an honorable mention in its 2015 "Best Outdoor Towns" list.



ISLAND METROPARK

Adventure along the Great Miami River paved trail near Island MetroPark to view **black-crowned night herons**, **greater and lesser black-backed** and **glaucous gulls**, **sandpipers**, and **great egrets**.



ENGLEWOOD METROPARK

Visit Englewood MetroPark's green trail between the parking lot and river to catch a glimpse of **water thrush** and **spring warblers**. Three young **mink** were observed last spring as well.



Take the short loop around the wildlife pond in the North Park of Englewood MetroPark to see if you can spot **yellow warblers**, **orchard orioles** and various waterfowl. This is also a great location to see **purple martins** in the spring.

Take the trail from Patty's Falls to Martindale Falls in Englewood MetroPark to view woodland birds and picturesque waterfalls.



RIVERSCAPE AND DEEDS POINT METROPARKS

View **great blue heron** and **great white egrets** wading in the river along the Great Miami River paved trail at Deeds Point MetroPark. This is also a great spot to see **bald eagles** perched in trees along the Great Miami and Mad rivers and soaring over the water. Trail travelers may also see **osprey** at RiverScape and Deeds Point MetroParks, in addition to the **peregrine falcons** that nest on the downtown buildings and perch on the fountain towers.



TWIN CREEK METROPARK

Twin Creek MetroParks' orange trail at highview down to the creek is a home to **grasshopper sparrows**, **meadowlarks**, **blue grosbeaks**, **bobolinks**, **tanagers** and **prairie warblers**. There was even a reported **bear** sighting within the last few years.



HILLS & DALES METROPARK

Stroll across the boardwalk at Hills & Dales MetroPark to see if you can spot **golden-winged**, **blue-winged**, **Canada** and **black-throated blue warblers**. Also, keep an eye out for **red-breasted grosbeaks**, **thrushes** and **cuckoos**. Numerous **dragon flies**, **damsel flies** and **ruby-throated hummingbirds** can be seen as well.



WOODMAN FEN

Take the short Woodman Fen loop to view spring migrants, such as **gray-cheeked thrush**, **Connecticut** and **mourning warblers**, and **Philadelphia vireos**. **Deer**, nesting **Cooper's hawks** and **great horned owls** also may be in sight.



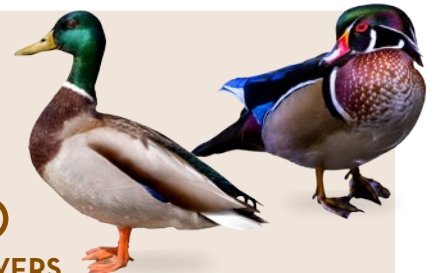
MEDLAR CONSERVATION AREA

Hike along the Medlar Conservation Area's Great Little paved trail for your chance to see **red foxes**, **blue birds**, **red-tailed hawks** and **pileated woodpeckers**. **Ospreys** have been spotted along the nearby Great Miami River Trail. Also, **wood ducks**, **blue-winged teal** and **leopard frogs** can be seen near the wetlands close to the crossing of Medlar Road.



RIVERS

All the water trails provide opportunities to see ducks, such as **mallards** and **wood ducks**.





TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK

The Taylorsville MetroPark dam parking area is the perfect spot to look for red-tailed hawks. You may even see their courtship displays!

Travel the Taylorsville MetroPark orange trail to the CCC picnic shelter and past the rock fall to view open woodlands, deer, forest birds and remnant stone work of Roosevelt-era citizen employment efforts.

HIT THE TRAILS AND

DISCOVER LOCAL WILDLIFE

Nature is around every turn of Five Rivers MetroParks' hiking, water and paved trails. This season's bare and budding trees provide onlookers ample opportunity to view local wildlife in action.



GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Germantown MetroPark is a must for those interested in birding. The silver trail allows hikers to experience a variety of habitats, such as old growth forest, large grasslands, edge thickets, cedar glades, ponds and wetlands. Several types of woodpeckers can be seen, including pileated, red-bellied, downy and yellow-bellied sapsuckers. Numerous warblers, wood thrush, vireos, red-shouldered hawks, Cooper's hawks and northern harriers can be seen over the prairies in the winter months. The trail is ideal for those looking to spot migrating warblers and beautiful wildflowers.

VISIT THE FOLLOWING METROPARKS TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN SPOT



TWIN VALLEY TRAIL

Hike the Twin Valley Trail from Old Mill Road to Cedar Ridge campsite for beautiful views and woodland bird-watching opportunities.



SUGARCREEK METROPARK

See how many spotted salamanders you can find during springtime along the trails and waterways at Sugarcreek MetroPark.



GET OUT & PLAY

NEW INITIATIVE
WILL INCREASE
CHILDREN'S ACCESS
TO NATURE.

One of the hallmarks of a vibrant neighborhood, school or park is the laughter of children as they explore the outdoors through play. However, kids are now spending longer days indoors and are more plugged-in than ever. A new initiative from the Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Collaborative (MVLNCI) aims to change that by engaging schools, community organizations and parks to make outdoor play and education a priority.

"Spending time outside makes children happier, healthier and smarter," said Doug Horvath, Five Rivers MetroParks education coordinator and MVLNCI executive committee member. Yet a lack of transportation, unfamiliarity and fear of the outdoors, and limited access to natural areas are among the barriers to spending time outside, he added.

MVLNCI's solution to these challenges is a new, collaborative community initiative that begins in 2017: Connect to Nature Site Certification. A partnership with Dayton Regional Green (DRG), the certification inspires schools and organizations in five area counties to create plans for implementing the Ohio Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, an outline of nature-based opportunities all children should experience on a regular basis. The Connect to Nature Site Certification recognizes schools, community organizations, places of worship, parks and day care centers that have put this Bill of Rights into action.

One of the steps in becoming certified as a Connect to Nature Site requires establishing a nature site where kids can enjoy unstructured play and exploration time outdoors. Some schools have even opted to plant vegetable and habitat gardens to truly create a nature-based classroom.

"Nature can be applied to just about anything in the classroom, from science to reading comprehension," Horvath said. "Unstructured nature play is also important because it allows children to visit the real natural world, where they can experience what they learn in school."

By actively engaging organizations to become a certified Connect to Nature site, MVLNCI also hopes to map active play spaces and identify geographic gaps in nature play accessibility. ■





LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP INCREASE CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO NATURE:

ATTEND THE MIAMI VALLEY LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE SUMMIT!

The new Connect to Nature certification will be one of many opportunities showcased at the sixth annual Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Summit held on Saturday, March 11, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. The Summit gives educators, child advocates, healthcare providers and families the opportunity to learn best practices for connecting kids to nature.

The Summit will kick off with two morning workshops focused on creating green schoolyards and finding effective ways to engage early learners in nature exploration. Step Up To Quality and Certified Health Education Specialist credits will be available to educators and health professionals in attendance.

AFTER LUNCH, SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- keynote speaker Shauna Adams, Ed.D. of the University of Dayton presenting "Young Learners and Families"
- presentation of the Five Rivers MetroParks OUTstanding Teacher Awards
- young leaders panel discussion
- networking and an educational expo featuring MVLNCI partners and supporting organizations, including the UD RiverMobile presented by the River Stewards



IN THE AFTERNOON,
children are invited to participate
in a Conservation Kids program
with their families

**CONSERVATION
KIDS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION
about and to register for the
Miami Valley Leave No
Child Inside Summit,
visit metroparks.org.



CONNECT TO NATURE

FROM INTEREST TO INDEPENDENCE

James Kannedy (in green) with MetroParks staff and program participants at the Red River Gorge in Kentucky

Photos by Jordan Hart

James Kannedy used to be just your average hiker — and then he took Five Rivers MetroParks' backpacking program progression.

"I'd always thought about going backpacking and camping overnight, watching plenty of videos on YouTube and collecting different gear," he said. "Yet I just never got out and did it."

MetroParks' outdoor recreation programs, supported by Subaru, are designed to take your interest in an activity and develop your skills so you become a confident, independent enthusiast. MetroParks' areas of focus include backpacking, paddling, cycling, mountain biking and fishing — all activities you can pursue in your Five Rivers MetroParks.

"MetroParks' goal is to help you achieve your outdoor dreams, whether you want to backpack on the Twin Valley Trail or hike the Appalachian Trail," Brent Anslinger, MetroParks' outdoor recreation manager, said. "Some people just need to know where to go while others need a program progression to help build their skills. Either way, we can help."

MetroParks' Discover Level programs offer a general overview of the activity and info about places to go and local resources. Programs include Discover Backpacking and Try Backpacking.

Kannedy started with the beginning of MetroParks' core progression, Backpacking 1, a classroom program about gear, trip planning, and tips and tricks to have a fun, comfortable backpacking adventure. Next, he took Backpacking 2, the

second step in MetroParks' Develop Level, which included an overnight experience on the Twin Valley Trail that connects Twin Creek and Germantown MetroParks. Finally, Kannedy was ready for the Do Series and put the skills he'd learned to the test during a three-day backpacking adventure in Kentucky's Red River Gorge. Equipment is provided at all programs.

"Each of the classes and trips were a perfect balance of teaching, demonstrations, question answering and letting us try things on our own," Kannedy said. "On the trail, we took turns being the lead, practiced map reading and paced ourselves so no one felt rushed. We learned so much about backpacking: picking a campsite, setting up tents and camp facilities, preparing food and cooking, and practicing Leave No Trace to leave the area like we hadn't even been there."

It was an absolutely amazing experience."



adding that since the Red River Gorge trip, he's taken solo hikes and gone on a 13-mile hike with people he met during the trip.

"We have plenty of plans for other backpacking adventures," Kannedy said. "I don't think I would be doing any of this if it weren't for having the chance to get out and experience all of those things with the Five Rivers MetroParks group."

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS OUTDOOR PROGRAM PROGRESSION



Use this guide to help you choose the right programs to get you on your individual path.

STEP 1 DISCOVER

PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE ACTIVITY YOU'RE INTERESTED IN DISCOVERING

These programs include classroom **Discover Series** and field-based **Try Its**. These are typically FREE.

DISCOVER SERIES PROGRAMS

teach the variety of disciplines within an activity. Learn about the activities, local places to play and resources such as retailers, clubs and opportunities.

TRY ITS

provide an opportunity to try an activity during drop-in style programs that offer guidance yet minimal instruction.

STEP 2 DEVELOP

PROGRAMS PROVIDE YOU WITH SKILL-BASED INSTRUCTION

These programs include **Core Progression** and **Enhance Classes** taught in a small-group setting.

CORE PROGRESSION

PROGRAMS are numbered, such as Backpacking 1, Youth Mountain Biking 2, etc. Numbers 2 and above mean that a pre-requisite is required.

ENHANCE CLASSES

are programs – such as trailside repairs, Wilderness First Aid, filleting fish and lightweight backpacking – with no pre-requisites, just a desire to supplement your skills.

STEP 3 DO

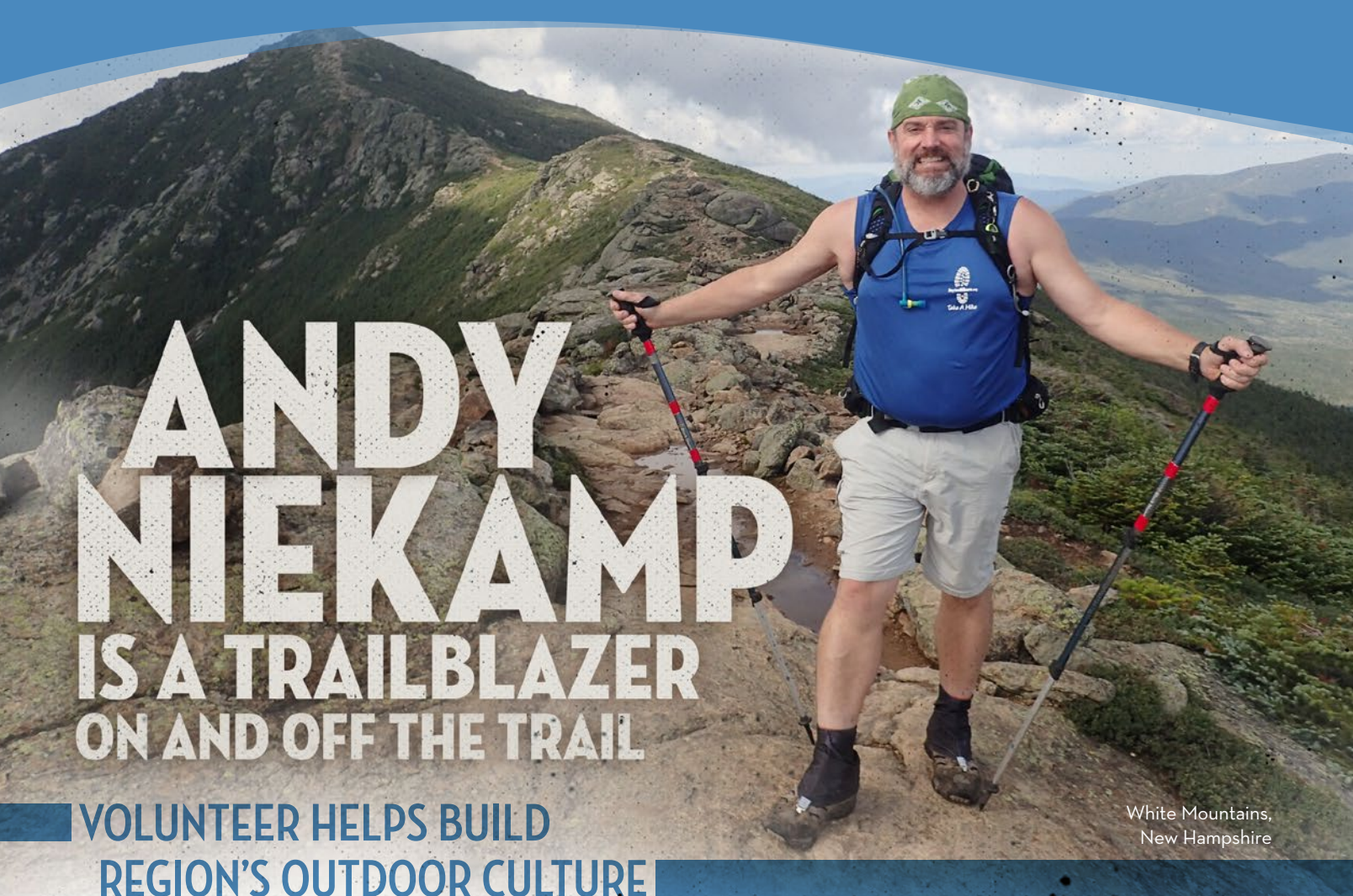
PUT YOUR INDEPENDENT BASIC SKILLS TO THE TEST

Opportunities to independently Get Out & Live in your Five Rivers MetroParks!

- Backpack on the Twin Valley Trail
- Mountain bike at MoMBA
- Ride the nation's largest paved trail network
- Paddle the Mad River Run, RiverScape River Run or on the Great Miami River Watershed National Water Trail
- Camp in several MetroParks
- Fish in dozens of ponds or rivers
- Spin a disc at the Blue Heron Disc Golf Course

MetroParks also offers a few guided trips annually to help you build confidence.

Visit metroparks.org/active-outdoors to get started on your path to independent adventure.

A full-page photograph of a man, Andy Niekamp, hiking on a rocky trail in the White Mountains, New Hampshire. He is wearing a blue tank top, light-colored shorts, a green beanie, and a backpack. He is holding trekking poles and has his arms outstretched. The background shows a rugged mountain landscape with green vegetation and a cloudy sky.

ANDY NIEKAMP IS A TRAILBLAZER ON AND OFF THE TRAIL

VOLUNTEER HELPS BUILD REGION'S OUTDOOR CULTURE

White Mountains,
New Hampshire

The chief adventure officer of Outdoor Adventure Connection (OAC) and an avid hiker, Niekamp also has been a Five Rivers MetroParks volunteer and supporter since 2010, when he attended a backcountry leadership development program. Niekamp has helped plan such outdoor events as the Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience and The Adventure Summit – he even had his own cubicle at MetroParks' headquarters while coordinating the club membership drive for OutdoorX – and has exhibited, presented and volunteered at these events.

Niekamp also is the founder and leader of Dayton Hikers, which has more than 3,300 members and often partners with MetroParks. He's also chair of the volunteer committee for the International Trails Symposium to be held in Dayton this May. OAC partnered with Five Rivers MetroParks last summer to participate in the Google Trekker loan program, when he led the effort to recruit members from Dayton Hikers who could carry the heavy Google Trekker camera/backpack on all of MetroParks trails.

Going by the trail name "Captain Blue," Niekamp hikes thousands of miles each year. He's hiked the entire Appalachian Trail in sections four times, logging more than 9,000 miles and becoming one of fewer than 12 people who've reported completing the trail four times.

In 2011, Niekamp hiked the 1,444-mile Buckeye Trail – the nation's longest circular trail that loops around the Buckeye State. His journey started at Deeds Point MetroPark and finished there 88 days later. The Buckeye Trail shares more than 800 miles with the 4,600-mile North Country National Scenic Trail, including the miles that run through Taylorsville, Island, Deeds Point, Eastwood and Huffman MetroParks.

Now, Niekamp's volunteerism with MetroParks is coming full circle: He's working with Outdoor Recreation Coordinator Angie Sheldon to present a new hike leadership training program that will teach community members how to manage risk and responsibly use parks and lead guided trips.

"It's the responsibility of all of us in the Dayton area to make this town the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest, and I want to do my part," Niekamp said. "Volunteering for Five Rivers MetroParks is an important component of keeping the outdoor recreation scene vibrant. I also get to help others lead healthy, active lifestyles and make new friends. It's really all about making our community a better place to live."



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY BY VOLUNTEERING FOR

ADOPT-A-PARK!

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 • 9 TO 11:30 AM

Give your parks and natural areas some TLC during Five Rivers MetroParks' 30th annual Adopt-a-Park.

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 plant trees, prepare garden beds, remove trash and invasive species, maintain trails, and spruce up facilities. Project supplies are provided, and volunteers receive a free T-shirt and lunch at RiverScape MetroPark.

Registration is required and open from March 1 - April 7. Groups are encouraged to register early.

Register online at metroparks.org/adopt.

GET OUT & VOLUNTEER

Five Rivers MetroParks offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in conservation, gardening, outdoor recreation, heritage and history, and more – year-round and at nearly every park. Attend a free volunteer orientation and see the program listings starting on page 18 for even more opportunities. The orientations below are held at Five Rivers MetroParks' main office, 409 E. Monument Ave., third floor.

REGISTER AT
metroparks.org/volunteer or
by calling (937) 275-PARK.

VOLUNTEER: INTRODUCTION TO CONSERVATION

WED. FEB 22, 1-3 PM T204
THU. MAR 16, 9-11 AM T205
THU. APR 13, 6:30-8:30 PM T206
THU. MAY 11, 9-11 AM T203

Five Rivers MetroParks protects nearly 16,000 acres, and we could use your help. Whether you are interested in fish or flowers, like to walk or prefer to help in an office or the greenhouse, there is an opportunity perfect for you. Discover what we are doing in conservation and how to get involved. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Open to all ages.

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

SAT. FEB 11, 9-11 AM T185
TUE. MAR 7, 1-3 PM T186
THU. MAR 23, 6:30-8:30 PM T187
WED. APR 5, 9-11 AM T188
WED. APR 26, 6:30-8:30 PM T196
WED. MAY 3, 9-11 AM T197
WED. MAY 24, 6:30-8:30 PM T199

Orientation provides history, an overview of location-specific opportunities and an introduction to opportunities this season. Attendance does not commit you to anything. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Open to ages 18 and older.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Partnerships, sponsorships and philanthropic gifts to Five Rivers MetroParks and partner foundations help protect the region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature.



Five Rivers MetroParks thanks all Montgomery County residents for their support of a property tax levy, individuals and businesses that provide donations to support MetroParks' mission, and volunteers who give selflessly of their time and expertise.

Join us in thanking our lead individual, corporate and foundation partners for 2016:

Virgilio J. Acevedo Jr.	Ohio Bicycle Federation
Barrett Paving	Osprey
Best Breed	Dave Pierce
Bonbright Distributors	Linda Pierce
Mike and Frieda Brigner	Princeton Tec
Buckeye Health Plan	Donna Smith
Cabela's	Snyder Brick and Block
Cargill	Subaru of America
City of Dayton	Subway
Cox Media Group Ohio	The Dayton Power and
Crowne Plaza Dayton	Light Foundation
Dayton Cycling Club	The James M. Cox, Jr.
Five Rivers MetroParks	Arboretum Foundation
Foundation	The Stack Family
Friends of Carriage Hill	The Virginia W. Kettering
MetroPark Farm	Foundation
Great Lakes Brewing	Universal One Credit Union
Company	USI
Great Miami Outfitters	Vibram Disc Golf
Jim Gross	Wagner Subaru
Lexis Nexis	Wegerzyn Gardens
Mad River Mountain	Foundation
Miami Valley Regional	Whitewater Warehouse
Planning Commission	Whole Foods
Mikesell's	Wright State University
MSD	

SUPPORT

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

Learn more about giving to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation; James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation; Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation; and Friends of Carriage Hill. Visit metroparks.org/donate.

Photo by
Jan Underwood

INTERESTED IN PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS?

Please contact Lucy Johnson, development manager, at (937)275-PARK or lucy.johnson@metroparks.org.

GIVE THE GIFT OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION

A new Access to Nature Scholarship Fund developed by the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation will provide financial assistance for qualified children who want to participate in 2017 summer camps.

Make a contribution to the fund at metroparks.org/donate.

SEARCH AND REGISTER FOR METROPARKS PROGRAMMING

Finding things to do and learn that match your interests is now easier.
Search the following pages by the categories below.

PROGRAMMING CATEGORIES



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

Enjoy time with friends and family at these community celebrations.



ACTIVE OUTDOORS

Discover how easy it is to have an active, healthy outdoor lifestyle.



EARTH FRIENDLY LIVING

Learn how to live more sustainably and make better choices for the environment.



ADULT NATURE EXPLORATION

Enjoy and learn about the splendor of the natural world.



PROGRAMMING FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Spend quality time outdoors with everyone in your family.



COMMUNITY GROUPS AND TRAINING

Share the benefits of an active, nature-based lifestyle with your community and future generations.

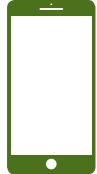
HOW TO REGISTER



ONLINE

metroparks.org/programs

Search online by date or program number to register.



BY PHONE

(937) 275-PARK (7275)

Register for all programs by calling 275-PARK unless otherwise noted in the listing.

PROGRAMMING DETAILS

PROGRAMMING SERIES

Programs contained within a light blue box are part of a series of programs.



ONLINE REGISTRATION

Online registration is available for programs marked with this icon.



WEATHER DEPENDENT

Some outdoor events and programs are weather permitting.

FEES

Fees are required at the time of registration. Visit metroparks.org/policies for information on refunds.

CANCELLATIONS

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Enjoy time with friends and family at these community celebrations.



CARRIAGE HILL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SAT. FEB 18, 10:00-11:30 AM T68

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center Meeting Room, 7800 E. Shull Rd.

Support the Friends of Carriage Hill by joining us for a pancake breakfast. Pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, juice and coffee included. Tickets are available at the door. All ages Fee: \$5



PRESIDENTS DAY SKATE

MON. FEB 20, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM T4

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 237 E. Monument Ave. Celebrate the holiday at the MetroParks Ice Rink! No registration required. Age: All ages Fee: \$7

(FREE) BLACK HISTORY DAY

SAT. FEB 25, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM P277

2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St. Join us for a cultural celebration with old school and gospel music and dance. Dianne Coble provides a top-notch local entertainment line-up. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. All ages

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

SAT. MAR 11, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM P278

2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St. We will feature live Celtic music, followed by dancers from the Celtic Academy of Irish Dance. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. All ages



(FREE) TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY

FRI. APR 21, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM P280

SAT. APR 22, 8:00 AM-3:00 PM P280

2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St. Celebrate Earth Day with free tree seedlings while supplies last! This project is brought to you with the support of the Montgomery and Miami County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Rush Creek Gardens. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. All ages



(FREE) ADOPT-A-PARK 2017

SAT. APR 22, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM T229

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave. Volunteers are needed to work at 15 river locations and every Five Rivers MetroParks facility. See Page 15 for details. Registration required. Age: All ages



(FREE) KICKIN' OFF PICKIN' IN THE PARK

FRI. MAY 5, 6:00-10:00 PM T179

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. All ages



(FREE) ANNUAL MAYFAIR PLANT SALE

SAT. MAY 6, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM T259

SUN. MAY 7, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM T260

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 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) NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FRI. MAY 19, 7:00-9:00 AM T232

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 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. Live music, cycling-related exhibitors and a team challenge are also part of the fun. No registration required. metroparks.org/biketowork. All ages



(FREE) TAB-A-PULL-OOZA

SAT. MAY 20, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM P281

2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St.

Bring your aluminum can pull-tabs to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Miami Valley. No registration required.

Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. Age: All ages

— Follow Us On —
facebook



SUMMER STARTS IN MAY AT RIVERSCAPE METROPARK!

RiverScape Rentals, the fountains and more open Memorial Day Weekend!



Kick off summer with Pickin' in the Park on May 5.

Music @ Lunch and fitness classes start May 6!

- Enjoy lunch and live acoustic music by the Great Miami River.
Monday-Friday: 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Saturday: 11 AM to 1 PM
- Take a free Zumba or yoga class most Saturdays from 10 to 11 AM.



FOR EVERYONE

Connect with and learn about nature
with friends and family.



CONSERVATION & CITIZEN SCIENCE

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BLUEBIRD MONITOR KICK OFF

SAT. FEB 25, 9:00-11:00 AM T223
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor
This orientation and training is for all those interested in monitoring blue bird boxes in 2017. Bluebird boxes are in several MetroParks locations, and dedicated volunteers are needed for the season starting in March. This is a family friendly opportunity. Registration required. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: All ages 🍷

(FREE) POLLINATOR PLANTINGS

SAT. APR 29, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM T212
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Trailhead & Sledding Hill, 6206 Boomershire Rd.
Join the MetroParks conservation team as we expand the habitat and plant a new pollinator haven in Germantown. A great opportunity to learn about pollinator-friendly plants, and get ideas to make your landscape more pollinator friendly. Registration required. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: All ages 🍷

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. 4-5, 1:00-4:00 PM T61
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Watch the age-old activity of processing meat, a staple in the 19th century farmer's

diet. On Saturday the hog is scraped, cleaned and cooled. On Sunday the meat is prepared into the various cuts such as ribs, roasts, and hams. Also, watch as meat is then salted, cured, and made into sausage. No registration required. Age: All ages

(FREE) MAPLE SUGARING ON THE FARM

SAT., SUN FEB. 18-19, 12:00-4:00 PM T65

SAT., SUN FEB. 25-26, 12:00-4:00 PM T257

SAT., SUN MAR. 4-5, 12:00-4:00 PM T258

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

The end of winter has traditionally marked the beginning of maple sugaring season. Join us as we demonstrate maple sugaring. Come 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) FROM SHEEP TO SHAWLS

SAT., SUN APR. 8-9, 12:00-5:00 PM T73

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

The role that sheep played on the farm will be discussed during this comprehensive program. Watch as the sheep are sheared for the spring at 2 pm. Help card wool and watch as fabric is dyed using traditional methods. Come hear about the spinning process and factory production of wool. Watch spinners process the wool into yarn and weavers make a shawl. No registration required. Age: All ages

(FREE) CORN ON THE FARM

SUN. MAY 7, 12:00-5:00 PM T75

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, 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) BISCUIT DAY

SUN. MAY 21, 12:00-5:00 PM T76

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

One of the most common staples of any farm family's meal was the biscuit. Celebrate National Biscuit Day with us, as we dedicate a whole program to the biscuit. Watch as various types of biscuits are made around the farm, and baked in our outdoor bake oven. Also, purchase biscuit making supplies and preserves in our Country Store. No registration required. Age: All ages

(FREE) GUIDED MAPLE SUGARING TOUR

SAT. FEB 18, 12:30-1:00 PM T70

SAT. FEB 18, 2:30-3:00 PM T256

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 🍷

SKATING

STAR-LATE SKATE

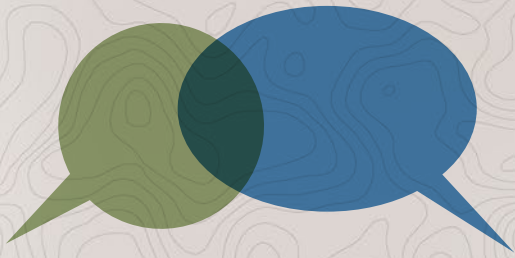
SAT. FEB 4, 7:00-10:00 PM T9

SAT. FEB 18, 7:00-10:00 PM T10

SAT. FEB 25, 7:00-10:00 PM T11

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. Age: All ages Fee: \$7 🍷



SHARE YOUR OPINION

As the next step in implementing its 10-year comprehensive master plan, Five Rivers MetroParks is developing master plans for each of its parks and facilities.

These plans will be completed in phases, and public input will be collected this spring for the parks and conservation areas in the second phase. Individual master plans will outline facility uses, a timeline and budget, and what recommendations can be implemented.

ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE

We hope you will share your thoughts about the future of your parks by attending an upcoming open house, completing an online survey or by calling (937) 275-PARK.

Two sessions will be held on each day, one from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM and the second from 6 to 8 PM. Stop in at any time during the open house to share your ideas for each park.

MONDAY, FEB. 6

Discuss
Possum Creek
MetroPark

Open houses held in
the park's education
building, 4790 Frytown
Road

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

Discuss Germantown
and Twin Creek
MetroParks and
the Upper Twin
Conservation Area

Open houses held
at the Germantown
MetroPark park office,
6675 Conservancy
Road

THURSDAY, MAR. 9

Discuss
Carriage Hill
MetroPark

Open houses held
in the park's Visitor
Center, 7800 E. Shull
Road

METROPARKS.ORG/PLAN

GET OUT & SKATE

The MetroParks Ice Rink
is open daily through
Feb. 28!



SWEETHEART SKATE VALENTINE'S DAY WEEKEND SPECIAL

2 rink admissions, 2 pairs of
skates, 2 cups of hot chocolate
and a Parker plush for \$20

Available Friday, Feb. 10,
through Sunday, Feb. 12,
during regular rink hours



PRESIDENTS DAY SKATE

Celebrate the holiday during
special hours from
11 AM to 5 PM, Feb. 20

(937) 278-2607
METROPARKS.ORG/ICERINK

ACTIVE OUTDOORS

Discover how easy it is to have an active, healthy outdoor lifestyle.



BACKPACKING

JOHN MUIR TRAIL TRIP PLANNING

TUE. FEB 7, 6:00-8:00 PM T244

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

Plan your 211-mile hike on the JMT, a route full of scenic glacial lakes, 13,000 foot peaks, the tallest summit in the "Lower 48", canyons, and more. Trip itineraries, permits, resupplies, maps, transportation and history will be discussed with veteran JMT thru-hikers. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages Fee: \$5 🗝️

(FREE) DISCOVER BACKPACKING

THU. FEB 16, 6:30-7:30 PM T108

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 🗝️

APPALACHIAN TRAIL TRIP PLANNING

WED. FEB 22, 6:00-8:30 PM T103

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 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: WOMEN

WED. MAR 15, 6:00-8:30 PM T110

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

Join other women interested in backpacking to learn about gear, food, trip planning, personal hygiene and other tips and tricks. This classroom session, sets you up to have a safe and enjoyable backpacking adventure. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$5 🗝️

BACKPACKING 1

THU. MAR 23, 6:00-8:30 PM T111

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

Learn about gear, food, trip planning and other tips and tricks. This classroom session sets you up to have a safe and enjoyable backpacking adventure. Prerequisites: None. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$5 🗝️

BACKPACKING 2

SAT. APR 8, 12:00 PM - SUN. APR 9, 12:00 PM T117

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Campsite: Shimps Hollow, 7350 Boomershire Rd.

SAT. APR 22, 12:00 PM - SUN. APR 23, 12:00 PM T114

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Campsite: Old Mill, 101 Old Mill 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 ⚙️

TWIN VALLEY TRAIL VAN TOUR

THU. APR 13, 5:30-8:00 PM T112

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Welcome Center Parking Lot, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

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

(FREE) VOLUNTEER:

BACKPACKING TRAIL WORK DAYS

SAT. MAY 13, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM T208

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Park Office, 6675 Conservancy Rd.

Learn about sustainable trail building while helping maintain the Twin Valley Backpacking Trail. No experience is necessary; tools are provided. Please bring water and work gloves. Youth 14-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 🗝️ ⚙️

CAMPING

(FREE) DISCOVER CAMPING

TUE. FEB 28, 6:30-7:30 PM T109

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Get an overview of camping, where to go, and the local opportunities and resources available to learn more and get the equipment you need to try it out. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 14Y and up 🗝️

METROPARKS CAMPSITES VAN TOUR

TUE. APR 25, 4:30-8:00 PM T113

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

(FREE) DISCOVER BIKING

TUE. FEB 21, 6:30-7:30 PM T99

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

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

TUE. MAR 14, 6:00-8:30 PM T100

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

This classroom session will help you diagnose and perform common bike repairs. Topics will include inspections, fixing a flat tire and chain replacement. Registration required. Age: 16Y and up Fee: \$10 🗝️

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE 2**THU. MAR 16, 6:00-8:30 PM** T101**TUE. MAR 28, 6:00-8:30 PM** T102WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium,
1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

This hands-on class will offer instruction and guided practice with brake and drive-train maintenance. Prerequisites: Bicycle Maintenance 1. Registration required. Age: 16Y and up Fee: \$15

BIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT!Join us for a bike ride on Saturdays through October. Earn a T-shirt after riding 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 riders younger than 18. We ride rain or shine, but may cancel due to storms or trail flooding. metroparks.org/bikehealth**(FREE) RIDE TO VERONA****SAT. APR 1, 9:00-11:00 AM** T104**SAT. MAY 13, 9:00-11:00 AM** T121

WOLF CREEK TRAIL, 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 8, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** T105

WOLF CREEK TRAIL, 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 15, 9:00-11:00 AM** T116

CREEKSIDE TRAIL, Ohio Bike Route 2

Meet in last parking lot at Eastwood MetroPark, 1385 Harshman Road. (12 miles) Registration requested, walk-ins welcome.

Age: All ages 🚲

(FREE) RIDE TO WRIGHT**BROTHERS MEMORIAL PARK****SAT. APR 22, 9:00-11:00 AM** T118

MAD RIVER TRAIL, Ohio Bike Route 8

Meet in last parking lot at Eastwood MetroPark, 1385 Harshman Road. (9 miles) Registration requested, walk-ins welcome.

Age: All ages 🚲

(FREE) RIDE TO KYLE PARK**SAT. APR 29, 9:00-11:00 AM** T117

GREAT MIAMI RIVER TRAIL, 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
LANE BRIDGE****SAT. MAY 6, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** T120

STILLWATER RIVER TRAIL, Ohio Bike Route 7

Meet at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. (16 miles) Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🚲 ⚙️

**(FREE) RIDE TO ISLAND
METROPARK****SAT. MAY 20, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** T122

GREAT MIAMI RIVER TRAIL, 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 🚲 ⚙️

**(FREE) RIDE TO RIVERFRONT
PARK****SAT. MAY 27, 9:00-11:00 AM** T123

GREAT MIAMI RIVER TRAIL, Ohio Bike Route 25

Meet at West Carrollton low dam. Take North Alex Road to Hydraulic Road; use the entrance on the right. (9 miles) Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🚲



MAY IS NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

It's easy to Get Out & Bike in the Dayton region, home to the nation's largest paved trail network, where you can experience more than 300 miles of connected trails. Below are some events in May to help celebrate cycling.

Saturdays in May:	Bike for the Health of It group rides
MAY 4:	Bike to Work Day volunteer orientation
MAY 15:	GO W/ THE FLOW yoga: Bike Week edition
MAY 17:	Trailside Repairs class and "What is the nation's largest paved trail network?" presentation



NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FRIDAY, MAY 19 • 7 TO 9 AM
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

Join hundreds of cyclists for a free pancake breakfast and check out cycling-related exhibitors and live music. Participate in the team challenge to win sweet prizes!

METROPARKS.ORG/BIKEMONTH

SMART CYCLING

SAT. APR 8, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM T115

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.

This class uses discussion, parking lot activities and on-road practice to teach cyclists how to operate their bicycles in traffic. We will begin inside then go outdoors to practice skills and ride on the road. Bicycles and helmets required. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$40 🚲 ⚙️

(FREE) CYCLE CHAT**MON. MAY 1, 6:00-8:30 PM** T245

OFFSITE, Star City Brewing Company, 319 South 2nd Street

Kick off National Bike Month with a social ride with the Columbus chapter founder of Black Girls do Bike, Bertie Ford. Enjoy a 11.5 mile ride on the Great Miami Bikeway up to Medlar Conservation Area (early turnaround available). Then gather back at Star City Brewing Company for an inspiring talk by Bertie on her journey to get more people biking. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🚲

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BIKE TO WORK DAY ORIENTATION**THU. MAY 4, 6:00-7:30 PM** T198

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Join nearly 600 cycling enthusiasts and 50 volunteers for the region's largest celebration of biking and pancakes! In this orientation, you'll learn more about how you can join the volunteer team for this incredible event. A variety of volunteer positions will be available with signup available on site. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact jenny.hymans@metroparks.org for details. Age: 14Y and up 🚲

TRAILSIDE REPAIRS

WED. MAY 17, 6:30-7:30 PM T124

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.

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 🚲 ⚙️

(FREE) WHAT IS THE NATION'S LARGEST PAVED TRAIL NETWORK?**WED. MAY 17, 7:30-8:30 PM** T247

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Did you know that Dayton, Ohio sits at the epicenter of the Nation's Largest Paved Trail Network. Come learn about the Miami Valley Trails and enjoy some fun trail trivia. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🚲

FISHING

FILLETING FISH

WED. FEB 8, 6:00-8:00 PM T171

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

You have your catch and want to bring it home to the dinner table but are not sure what to do with it once its off the hook. This class will show you how to efficiently fillet and store your fish until ready to cook. Registration required. Age: 16Y and up Fee: \$10 🚲

(FREE) DISCOVER FISHING**TUE. MAR 7, 6:00-7:00 PM** T157

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Have you ever wondered where you can fish within MetroParks and when you need a license? Come get answers and an overview of local opportunities and resources available to learn more or get the gear you need to try it out. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🚲

FLY TYING

WED. MAR 29, 6:00-8:00 PM T172

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

For a fly fisher, fly tying is inevitable. This is a basic class to get you started in what could be the best part of your fly fishing experience. Take home your creation and see what it will catch! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🚲

NYMPHS, EMERGERS, DRIES

WED. APR 12, 6:00-7:30 PM T159

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

What is the difference between an emerger, a streamer and a dry fly? Learn all about various flies and when to use them during this program designed for those with some knowledge about fly fishing. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$10 🚲

FLY FISHING 1

WED. APR 26, 5:30-8:00 PM T160

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

An introduction to fly fishing, this classroom program covers gear (both essentials and accessories), flies, several different casts, and more. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. Age: 12Y and up Fee: \$10 🚲

FLY FISHING 2: LAKE

SAT. APR 29, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM T162

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Shelter: Cedar Lake/ Parking Lot, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

Fly Fishing 1 put all the knowledge in your head, now let's move it to your hands! Learn to cast,

tie on a fly, set the hook and strip in the line - all essential skills for catching that fish. Equipment available upon request. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Prerequisites: Fly Fishing 1 Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$30

(FREE) TRY FLY FISHING**TUE. MAY 16, 5:30-8:30 PM** T169

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Outdoor Venues, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Join us to see if you can entice a fish to bite and catch a fish on fly. Instructor is available for questions and will teach basic fly fishing techniques in a controlled and safe environment. Equipment is provided. No fishing license required at this location. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 12Y and up 🚲

FLY FISHING 2: RIVER

SAT. MAY 20, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM T195

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: River View, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Fly Fishing 1 got you started and now you are ready for the next step. Learn about fish habitat, how to read the water, flies, and casting techniques needed for fishing current. Equipment available upon request. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a water bottle. A valid Ohio fishing license is required. Prerequisites: Fly Fishing 1 or Intro to Fly Fishing. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$30

FITNESS

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 6, 10:00-11:00 AM** T182**SAT. MAY 13, 10:00-11:00 AM** T184**SAT. MAY 27, 10:00-11:00 AM** T183

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Classes vary, so check www.metroparks.org for the specific class schedule. No registration required. Age: All ages ⚙️

(FREE) GO W/ THE FLOW YOGA: BIKE WEEK EDITION**MON. MAY 15, 6:00-7:30 PM** T238

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Join the largest gathering of outdoor yogis in Dayton, led by Tori Reynolds and Ben Rivet. Power Vinyasa yoga is geared for all experience levels and builds whole-body strength, flexibility

and mental focus. Ride your bike to the event and earn cool prizes. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🏠

(FREE) WALK! DOWNTOWN DAYTON

WED. MAY 17, 12:00-1:00 PM T181

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Help kick off the summer season by joining Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County for WALK! Downtown Dayton. This is a free, non-competitive event open to everyone who wants to participate in a 30-minute walk along the Great Miami River. Vendors will also be available to promote their services. No registration required. Contact (937) 496-3090 or getupmc@phdmc.org for details. www.phdmc.org. Age: All ages

HIKING

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: HIKE WITH THE COORDINATORS

THU. MAR 2, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM T220

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Program Parking, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.

THU. APR 27, 1:00-3:00 PM T221

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

SUN. MAY 21, 1:30-3:30 PM T222

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

A more active way to learn about Five Rivers MetroParks, highlights at this particular site, and opportunities to get involved. Registration required. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: All ages 🏠

(FREE) HIKE LEADERSHIP

WED. MAR 8, 7:00-8:30 PM T106

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third

Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn the basics of how to get started leading day hikes in our local parks. Gain the skills and confidence necessary to plan, organize and lead safe and enjoyable hikes. Topics include trip planning, basic map reading, trail etiquette, hiker safety and minimizing your impact to the trails. Experienced hike leaders are encouraged to attend too. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 🏠

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: SUSTAINABLE TRAIL SUPPORT TEAM/TRAIL MONITOR

TUE. MAR 21, 6:30-8:30 PM T224

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

There are more than 75 miles of trails throughout Five Rivers MetroParks, and we are continuing our efforts in maintaining them. Volunteers are needed to help monitor and act as trail team leaders to help support our trails. Registration

SPARK YOUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE

Hear local and nationally known outdoor enthusiasts share their captivating climbing, backpacking, kayaking and cycling stories during The Adventure Speaker Series, a partnership between Five Rivers MetroParks and Wright State University.



THESE FREE PRESENTATIONS ARE HELD FROM 7 TO 8:30 PM

CHASING SUMMITS WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1 • Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark

Determined to climb every high point, Garry Harrington embarked on a journey of self-discovery that led him to attempt a summit of the Matterhorn. Listen to his story of finding fulfillment by living an unconventional life.

BIKE TOURING THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD THURSDAY, FEB. 9 • Wright State University

In fall 2016, Jordan Hart rode his bicycle more than 2,000 miles along America's legendary route to freedom from Mobile, Alabama, to Owen Sound, Ontario.

BIKEPACKING THE GREAT DIVIDE WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15 • Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark

The Great Divide Mountain Bike Route is the world's premier off-pavement tour that crisscrosses the Rockies from Canada to the Mexican border. Learn about Todd Soprych's more than 2,700-mile trip of exploration on two wheels.

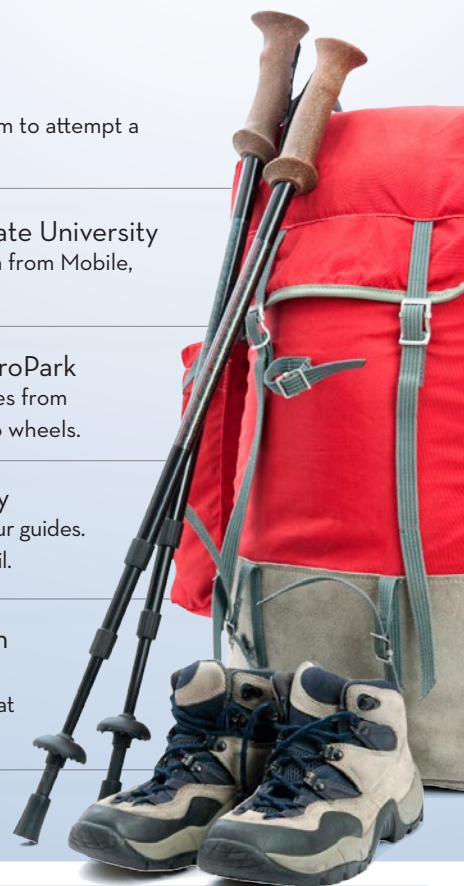
BACKPACKING THE BUCKEYE TRAIL THURSDAY, FEB. 23 • Wright State University

Follow the blue blazes around the 1,444-mile trail that circumnavigates Ohio with Chuck and Beth Hewett as your guides. This pair of experienced long-distance backpackers are literally writing the book on the nation's longest loop trail.

THE GREAT GREAT MIAMI RIVER EXPEDITION THURSDAY, MARCH 2 • Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark

Join Chad Ingle and Jeremy Cox as they share stories from their 160-mile thru-paddle adventure down the Great Miami River. Learn what it takes to plan a multi-day kayaking trip and how you can plan a kayaking adventure.

THEADVENTURESUMMIT.COM



required. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: All ages 🦺

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: SUSTAINABLE TRAIL BUILDING

MON. APR 24, 8:30 AM-3:30 PM T210
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Main Park Office Meeting Room, 6675 Conservancy Rd.

SAT. APR 29, 8:30 AM-3:30 PM T211
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Land Stewardship Classroom, 8300 Brown School Rd.

Trails can foster a greater understanding of the natural world by creating access, by leading people through diverse terrain, habitats, and historical areas and enhancing an individual's appreciation for our natural heritage. Theory and hands on activities will give you insight on building a sustainable trail, and how to get involved. Registration required. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 🦺 ⚙️

MOUNTAIN BIKING

(FREE) TRY MOUNTAIN BIKING

TUE. APR 4, 4:00-7:00 PM T107

TUE. MAY 2, 4:00-7:00 PM T119

HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA, 4485 Union Rd.

Is not owning a mountain bike keeping you from trying it? If so, then come out to MoMBA and borrow one of our bikes. Bikes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Riders younger than 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Helmets are mandatory and are provided with the bike. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🦺 ⚙️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: MOMBA TRAIL WORK DAYS

SAT. MAY 20, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM T207
HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA Trailhead Parking Lot, 4485 Union Rd.

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

OUTDOOR SKILLS AND SAFETY

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER

SAT., SUN, MON., TUE., WED., THU., FRI.

MAR. 4-10, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM T14

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: \$690

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

SAT., SUN MAR. 11-12, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM T15

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 outdoor enthusiasts on day trips or short adventures. See contact info to register. Contact (719) 395-5358 or coloradooutside@gmail.com for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$220

PADDLING

(FREE) DISCOVER PADDLESPOOTS

WED. MAR 1, 7:00-8:00 PM T213

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 🦺

RIVER ACCESS VAN TOUR: TWIN CREEK

TUE. MAR 14, 6:00-8:30 PM T214

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

Join us for a driving tour, stopping at different river access points along the Twin Creek to help plan your next paddling adventure. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🦺

RIVER ACCESS VAN TOUR: GREAT MIAMI

THU. APR 6, 6:00-8:30 PM T215

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

Join us for a driving tour, stopping at different river access points along the Great Miami River to help plan your next paddling adventure. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🦺

RIVER ACCESS VAN TOUR: MAD RIVER AND RIVER RUNS

WED. APR 19, 6:00-8:30 PM T216

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

Join us for a driving tour, visiting river access points along the Mad River from Eastwood MetroPark to downtown to help plan your next paddling adventure. We'll check out the new River

Run features along the way. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🦺

ACA CANOE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

WED., THU., FRI. MAY 24-26, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM T218

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

American Canoe Association Level 1 Canoe certification gives you a good foundation in the skill and knowledge needed to instruct canoeing on flatwater. Certification requires ACA membership, CPR and First Aid certification. This course will be a combination of classroom and on the water skills including participants teaching topics and skills. Prerequisites: ACA membership and SEIC membership, Current First Aid and CPR certification. Registration required. Contact erik.dahlstrom@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$130 🦺

ACA KAYAK INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

WED., THU., FRI. MAY 24-26, 8:00 AM-6:00 PM T217

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

American Canoe Association Level 1 Kayak certification gives you a good foundation in the skill and knowledge needed to instruct kayaking on flatwater. Certification requires ACA membership, CPR and First Aid certification. This course will be a combination of classroom and on the water skills including participants teaching topics and skills. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$130 🦺

SKATING

LEARN TO ICE SKATE! ADULT COURSE

SUN FEB. 5-19, 12:00-12:30 PM T8

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

Skills include skating forward and backward edges on a circle, three-turns, backward stops, bunny hop, lunges, and front and back crossovers. Fee includes two free skating admissions, use of skates and lessons on Feb. 5, 12 and 19. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$50 🦺 ⚙️

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EARTH FRIENDLY LIVING

Learn how to live more sustainably and make better choices for the environment.

FOOD: EARTH TO TABLE

(FREE) DISCOVER ANIMALS FOR SMALL ACREAGE

THU. FEB 9, 6:00-7:30 PM T32
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Curious about raising your own animals for your homestead and not sure where to start? We will cover general needs and considerations for owning small livestock like rabbits, chickens, sheep and goats. Bring your questions and your friends. We will visit the barns afterwards. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 🍷

TRADITIONAL SAUSAGE MAKING

SUN. FEB 12, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM T63
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel Arnold House, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

Butchering season meant an abundance of pork. One of the best uses for pork scraps was making sausage. Learn about the various types of sausage and its history. Then, make a variety of different sausages using 19th century recipes and techniques. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$30 🍷

(FREE) MEET YOUR CSA FARMER, SHARE YOUR SEEDS

THU. FEB 23, 5:30-7:30 PM T82
2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St.
Chat with local farmers to learn about their growing methods, pricing, produce, pick-up methods, and buying directly from the farmer through community supported agriculture (CSA). Taste home-grown recipes the farmers have prepared. For gardeners, this is also a chance to share open-pollinated seeds with one another! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🍷

BASIC BREAD BAKING: BAGUETTES, EPI, PAIN DE MIE & STEAMED BREAD

SAT. FEB 25, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM T95
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel Arnold House,

7850 E. Shull Rd.
Join us in the farmhouse for a hands-on lesson about mixing, shaping and baking breads. Students will prepare a batch of dough, use some pre-risen dough, & bake in a wood-fired oven. Molded bread will be steamed on top of the wood-fired stove. Recipes, a dough bowl, a dough scraper and sample breads will go home with students. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$65 🍷

19TH CENTURY COOKERY CLASS FOR COUPLES

SAT. MAR 11, 5:00-7:30 PM T72
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel Arnold House, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

Couples are invited to join us for an evening of historic cooking lessons and parlor entertainments. Participants will learn how to prepare fresh, local vegetables and do some simple baking. Afterwards, participants will join us in the candlelit parlor for some historic games and entertainment. Fee will cover one couple. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$35 🍷

BACKYARD CHICKENS 101

THU. MAR 16, 6:00-7:30 PM T35
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Do you want to raise chickens at home? Learn the basics before you buy anything! Staff will review coop design, how much space is needed per chicken, feed, equipment and more. Bring your questions and we'll send you away ready to get started. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷

HERITAGE BREAD BAKING: BAGUETTES, EPI, PAIN DE MIE & STEAMED BREAD

SAT. MAR 25, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM T96
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel Arnold House, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

Join us in the farmhouse for a hands-on lesson about mixing, shaping and baking breads. Students will prepare a batch of dough, use some pre-risen dough, & bake in a wood-fired oven. Molded bread will be steamed on top of the

wood-fired stove. Recipes, a dough bowl, a dough scraper and sample breads will go home with students. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$65 🍷

BEYOND BACKYARD CHICKENS

THU. APR 20, 6:00-7:30 PM T59
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Now that you're already raising chickens, let's go beyond the basics. We'll discuss incubating your own eggs and mobile chicken coops. We'll also explore the variety of breeds available, and raising birds for profit or show. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷

THINKING ABOUT CANNING?

SAT. MAY 6, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM T86
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center Meeting Room, 7800 E. Shull Rd.

In this demonstration you will learn about how to preserve fruits and vegetables in an inexpensive and efficient way. Canning your own produce teaches self-sufficiency and helps keep our planet green. This is a demonstration (taste test only, no hands-on) about canning pickled asparagus. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🍷

BACKYARD GOATS 101

THU. MAY 18, 6:00-7:30 PM T69
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Goats are incredible animals and have a lot to offer any family or farm. They can provide brush clearing, meat, milk and fiber for your homestead. In this program we will discuss breeds, care, fencing shelter and any questions you may have. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷

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METROPARKS.ORG



GARDENING

VOLUNTEER: GARDENER'S LEARN AND TRY-IT SERIES

Each session will feature a learning topic to enhance your gardening knowledge and skills, followed by a volunteer project to practice what you've learned in the garden.

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: PRUNING BASICS

TUE. FEB 21, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM T161
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Take the mystery out of pruning by learning the proper techniques and timing for trees, shrubs, and perennials. A great opportunity to try new skills and ask questions of an expert. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 🗓️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: BORDERS AND EDGING TECHNIQUES

TUE. MAR 7, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM T163
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Aullwood Gardens, 955 Aullwood Rd.
A clean border on your flower beds will add definition and style to any garden. Become familiar with various styles, tools and techniques that will make the job a snap. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 🗓️ ⚙️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: PRUNING TREES

WED. MAR 15, 9:00-11:00 AM T192
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 237 E. Monument Ave.
Learn the proper way to prune trees for health and longevity. Try out your newly acquired skills that day. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 🗓️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: PLANTING A VEGGIE GARDEN

SAT. APR 1, 10:00-11:30 AM T52
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Learn what veggies can go in the garden in early spring and give us a hand planting the Possum Creek Demonstration Garden! We will talk about perennials like asparagus and strawberries, as well as potatoes and other spring crops. This program will be outside so dress accordingly. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🗓️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

TUE. APR 4, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM T166
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, Aullwood Gardens, 955 Aullwood Rd.

Which plants in your garden can threaten ecosystems beyond your backyard? Learn how to identify invasives and practice the methods for management. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 🗓️ ⚙️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: PLANTING TREES & SHRUBS

MON. APR 17, 9:00-11:00 AM T193
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Volunteer Lounge, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Discover the most successful techniques for planting trees and shrubs and the best time to plant them. Practice what you've learned on the grounds of the Arboretum. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 🗓️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: EASY AND BEAUTIFUL PERENNIALS

THU. MAY 18, 9:00-11:00 AM T194
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 237 E. Monument Ave.
Discover some of the best perennials for our area and how to keep them looking beautiful all season. Help us welcome the growing season as we work in the perennial gardens. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 🗓️

**NEW, TRENDY AND NOW!
WHAT'S HOT IN GARDENING FOR 2017**

SAT. FEB 25, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM T20
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Get your spring garden planning underway! MetroParks' staff have been to horticulture conventions and will show you the latest garden plants, techniques, and trends and how to have them in your own landscape this season. Come with questions and go home with a great, new information and inspiration. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🗓️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: HILLS & DALES SPRING KICK OFF

FRI. MAR 3, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM T228
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Program Parking, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.
Originally designed by renowned landscape architects the Olmsted Brothers, Hills & Dales MetroPark is a beautifully restored urban woodland park. Discover how you can become part of the volunteer team, and participate in skill-building sessions. Volunteers will have the opportunity to get involved during skill-building sessions. Registration required. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 🗓️

START WITH SEEDS!

SAT. MAR 4, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM T21
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

How to select seeds, best time to start them and how to do it, and how to keep them going until transplant. Farmer Doug Christen of Smaller Footprint Farm answers all of these questions and more and will show you how to get the best results with the least time, money, and effort. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🗓️

BASIC GARDEN SKILLS AND TOOLS REVIEW

SAT. MAR 18, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM T22
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Do you love garden tools but are not sure exactly how to use them? Farmer Doug Christen of Smaller Footprint Farm shows the vast choices in tools, which ones work best for what tasks, and how to choose and use them. An essential class for any gardener, new or experienced! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🗓️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: CITY BEETS VOLUNTEER KICK OFF

WED. MAR 29, 10:00-11:30 AM T58
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Learn about the volunteer opportunities with our City Beets summer youth program. City Beets takes place weekdays, early June through early August, and teaches teens about gardening and food. Opportunities include mentoring teens in the garden, helping during cooking demonstrations and more. Registration required. Contact cholloway@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 🗓️

(FREE) WATCHING SPRING HAPPEN: LESSONS FOR GARDENING

SAT. APR 8, 10:00-11:30 AM T42
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
We'll walk and talk and observe soil and air temperature and growth stages in plants and discuss why it's important to you as a gardener. A great way to learn timing and make this year's garden the best yet! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 🗓️ ⚙️

WILD ABOUT WILDFLOWERS WALKS

Join volunteers from the Cox Wildflower Group for informative walks through the different areas of wildflowers at the park. During each session see new and different blooms you're sure to love. Meet in the parking lot.

(FREE) EARLY SPRING BLOOMERS: WALK IN THE WILDFLOWER AREA

SUN. APR 9, 2:00-3:00 PM T173

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Our first walk will be a look at early spring flowers which can add color to any landscape. We'll look for Trillium sessile, Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells), Phlox divaricate, Viola sororia x confederate blooming in the wildflower area. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) LATE SPRING BLOOMS, PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES**SUN. APR 23, 2:00-3:00 PM T174**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Later spring brings different flowers into bloom as the early blossoms fade. We also hope to see the lady slipper orchid in bloom. Following the walk, we'll visit the propagation area to see plants started from seed, cutting, and plant division. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) LATE SPRING BEAUTIES**SUN. MAY 14, 2:00-3:00 PM T176**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Late spring brings a carpet of blue to the wildflower area. Enjoy the beauty of these blossoms and discover ways to use them in your home landscape. We hope to see Arisaema triphyllum (Jack in the Pulpit), Geranium maculatum, Zizia Aurea, Iris cristata. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) HOW TO DEVELOP NEW WILDFLOWER PLANTINGS**SUN. MAY 21, 2:00-3:00 PM T178**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

As spring heads toward summer, we'll visit a new wildflower area at Cox, begun in 2016. We'll see and discuss ways to make shade or sun areas colorful with different types of wildflowers. 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.

(FREE) KEYS TO GARDEN DESIGN**TUE. APR 11, 6:00-7:00 PM T26**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot,

6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn the principals of garden design using the plantings at Cox as examples. 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 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) CONTAINER VEGETABLES**TUE. MAY 9, 6:00-7:00 PM T27**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Cox House Parking lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Many vegetables do beautifully in containers as well as in the ground. Learn which plants work best where, and when and how to plant and maintain them. We'll also talk about types of containers and gardens, and plant care through the season. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: RIVERSCAPE GARDENERS KICKOFF**FRI. APR 14, 9:00-11:00 AM P354**

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Get to know fellow volunteers and learn about the unique features of RiverScape and how you can help keep this park a beautiful downtown resource. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact janet.metter@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 📄

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: NATIVE PLANT GARDENER**SAT. APR 15, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM T227**

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

THU. APR 20, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM T226

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Main Park Office Meeting Room, 6675 Conservancy Rd.

Gardeners needed to support conservation efforts! Topics include introduction to native plants, techniques to successfully grow and establish them, and habitats they will support. Also includes hands on activities in our greenhouse and seed nursery, native plant gardens, pollinator plantings and prairies. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 📄

LEARN HOW TO GARDEN!

Want to grow flowers, vegetables, containers or whole landscapes and don't know how to start? This series will supply the answers, the coaching, and the enthusiasm to get you going successfully! We'll have two weekend sessions, with morning and afternoon classes. These are not all lectures, but a combination of classes, learning from the landscape, and hands-on activities. Please bring your own lunch for the break between classes and we'll supply drinks and cookies.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND PLANT SELECTION**SAT. APR 22, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM T23**

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

Design and plant selection are essential parts of any landscape. Each segment includes a lecture and a walk in the park to see examples, and finally a design exercise where you'll be able to put into practice what you've learned. Bring questions, pictures, and ideas and go home with a plan. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 📄

PLANT CARE AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE**SAT. APR 29, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM T24**

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

Once planted, landscapes need care to keep them beautiful and growing well. We'll discuss everything from seeds to trees, as well as pests, weeds, diseases and watering. Each participant will plant a container to take home, demonstrating the principals you've learned. We'll supply containers, soil, and plants. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 📄

BUS TRIP: MISSION OAKS GARDENS**WED. APR 26, 7:30 AM-5:00 PM T93**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

The Mission Oaks Gardens are part of the Muskingum Valley Park District and have been developed in an abandoned ravine below the restored house. After touring the grounds, we'll enjoy a catered lunch. Next, we'll plant shop at Baker's Acres nursery, known for unique, hard-to-find varieties. This trip is a fundraiser for the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation. See contact info to register. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$86

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: GARDEN DISCOVERY GUIDES KICK-OFF**SAT. MAY 6, 1:00-3:00 PM T189**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Children's Discovery Garden, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Learn more about volunteering in the Children's Discovery Garden this summer, when volunteers will engage visitors through guided discoveries and simple hands-on activities. Volunteers will be trained by shadowing staff. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 📄 ⚙️

(FREE) RIVERSCAPE GARDENING STEWARD**TUE. MAY 16, 6:00-8:00 PM T190****SAT. MAY 27, 9:00-11:00 AM T191**

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, 237 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. Experience the beauty of RiverScape firsthand while you help us maintain the gardens. Registration required. Contact janet.metter@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 🍷 ⚙️

(FREE) AULLWOOD GARDEN IN BLOOM

SUN. MAY 21, 2:00-3:30 PM T41

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, 955 Aullwood Rd.

The earliest wildflowers give way to later blooms and the garden takes on a full, lush look. Come and enjoy the beauty and take home ideas for your own yard. We'll meet in the Aullwood Garden MetroPark parking lot. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🍷 ⚙️

BUS TRIP: CINCINNATI ZOO AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

TUE. MAY 23, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM T243

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

We begin with a tour

of the Smale Riverfront Park, with its beautiful fountains and gardens. Next it's on to the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens — one of only two accredited botanical gardens in the state — for a horticultural tour, a catered lunch, and a tour of the plant nursery. This trip is a fundraiser for the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation. See contact info to register. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$85

HERITAGE & HISTORY

(FREE) VOLUNTEER:

INTRODUCTION TO CARRIAGE HILL HISTORICAL FARM

SAT. MAR 25, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Q356

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center, 7800 E. Shull Rd

Carriage Hill has a variety of volunteer opportunities at the Historical Farm, in conservation or in assisting park staff with various projects. This meeting provides a history of Carriage Hill MetroPark, and an overview of how volunteers can assist with the many facets of the park. Come discover an opportunity that is right for you! Registration required.

Contact cholloway@metroparks.org for details. Age: 21Y and up 🍷

(FREE) 19TH CENTURY FARMING: A DAY IN THE LIFE

SAT. APR 22, 8:30 AM-3:30 PM T209

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

Spend a day in the life of an 1880s farm family. Try on some historically correct clothing, and assist our farm staff with daily chores. Cook lunch on the woodstove with our historic homemaker, help the farmers feed the animals and try other skills and trades of the time period. Join us for an immersive experience of 19th century farm life. Registration required. Contact cholloway@metroparks.org for details. Age: 21Y and up 🍷

SUSTAINABLE HOME

BOKASHI WORKSHOP

TUE. FEB 7, 6:00-7:30 PM T44

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

Bokashi is an ancient Japanese/Korean form of composting food by fermentation that can be done indoors without a large space commitment. 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 🍷

(FREE) COMPOST KITCHEN

WED. APR 19, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM T60

WED. APR 26, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

WED. MAY 3, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

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

This three-part program covers everything you need to know to compost effectively and is offered free of charge thanks to a partnership with Montgomery County Environmental Services. Talks and activities explore soil ecology, chemical-free gardening and household waste management. Participants completing all three programs receive a free composter. Registration required. Age: 16Y and up 🍷

WORM COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

THU. MAY 11, 6:00-7:30 PM T46

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

Learn the science and art of vermiculture and vermicomposting! Self-proclaimed "worm wrangler" Connie Duncan will lead you through all aspects of worm bin care and send you home with a functioning bin. We'll provide small starter bins, worms and materials to get started. Registration required. Age: 16Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

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(FREE) CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE KNOW WE DON'T KNOW

WED. MAR 1, 6:30-8:30 PM T240
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Ecologist Ryan McEwen Ph.D. presents the facts about climate change and an assessment of the known vs. unknown. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 📍

(FREE) MEET THE ANIMALS

WED. APR 5, 6:30-8:30 PM T241
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Meet Five Rivers MetroParks' live Wild Animal Ambassadors and discuss the key role they and volunteers play in asking youth and adults to help wildlife and their habitats. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 📍

(FREE) ALUMINUM BEVERAGE CANS: MARVELS OF ENGINEERING

WED. MAY 3, 6:30-8:30 PM T242
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Aluminum beverage cans are lightweight, fast to produce and infinitely recyclable. However, few people appreciate the sophisticated engineering and number of machines it takes to produce the cans we take for granted every day. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 📍

NATURE APPRECIATION

ADULT WINTER DISCOVERY

The holidays are over; you've finally recovered and decided to get off the sofa. Join us in February for 1.5-hour adventures in MetroParks. See wonderful sights, enjoy local foods, and enjoy the beauty of nature in winter. Attend one or all sessions.

WINTER WONDERLAND WALK

SAT. FEB 4, 10:00-11:30 AM T230
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, 955 Aullwood Rd.
Enjoy a brisk walk as we explore the woods, are amazed by the Stillwater River, and enjoy the quiet beauty of the gardens in winter. Following the walk, we'll visit the house for warm refreshments. Dress for the weather and a great time! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 📍 ⚙️

HEALTHY CHOICES FOR WINTER MUNCHIES

SAT. FEB 11, 10:00-11:30 AM T231
2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St.
We end our series with FOOD! At the 2nd Street Market we'll learn about local food and growers and enjoy a presentation by MetroParks' Sustainability Coordinator Tim Pritchard on eating seasonally and locally, complete with samples! After the program you're encouraged to visit the vendors and enjoy a wonderful lunch! (Lunch not included in fee.) Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 📍

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR CONNECTIONS

THU. FEB 16, 1:30-3:30 PM T201
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 the programs offered within the parks and area schools utilizing animal ambassadors. Animal care, handling, and behavior are discussed. Registration required. Contact

yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 📍

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: CONSERVATION-NATURALIST OPEN HOUSE

TUE. FEB 28, 9:00-11:00 AM T200
WED. MAY 31, 9:00-11:00 AM T202
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE, 409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor
Five Rivers MetroParks' naturalist staff needs volunteers to assist with programs for kids and families. You don't need to be a naturalist to get started, but a passion for sharing, a love of nature, and a joy for working with kids and families is a must. Attendance does not commit you to anything. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. Age: All ages 📍

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 impact and get involved with conservation efforts. It's our nature!

(FREE) ADULT NATURE WALK

TUE. MAR 7, 9:00-11:00 AM T252
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40
TUE. MAY 9, 9:00-11:00 AM T253
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.
Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 📍 ⚙️

(FREE) DISCOVERY STROLL

WED. MAR 8, 10:00-11:30 AM T250
WED. MAY 10, 10:00-11:30 AM T251
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Program Parking, 100 Deep Hollow Rd.
Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 📍 ⚙️

BEGINNING BIRDING WORKSHOP

SAT. APR 22, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM T248

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 🗳️

(FREE) SPRINGTIME BEAUTY AT AULLWOOD GARDEN**SUN. APR 23, 2:00-3:30 PM T40**

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, 955 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. Bring your friends and your camera! We'll meet in the Aullwood Garden MetroPark parking lot. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 🗳️ ⚙️

PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

BLOOMS ALL YEAR LONG

SAT. FEB 11, 10:00-11:30 AM T28

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 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. Enjoy the beauty of blooming plants in the Cox Huffman Gallery while you practice composition, focus and use of flash indoors. Bring your camera and (if you have them) a tripod, flash and macro lens. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗳️

NATURE IN MOTION

SAT. MAR 4, 10:00-11:30 AM T29

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

Learn how time-lapse photography can record natural processes that occur over time, like blooming flowers or moving clouds, and how video gives nature enthusiasts the power to capture motion and sound that a still photograph cannot convey. Following the presentation, the class will go outside (weather permitting) to take photos in the park. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗳️

PICTURING PUDDLES AND PONDS

SAT. APR 29, 10:00-11:30 AM T31

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

Discover methods for photographing bodies of water, such as controlling reflections, and how to capture (or avoid) a sense of motion in flowing water. Following a presentation indoors, the class will then go outside (weather permitting) to take photos in the park. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗳️

FOCUSING ON FACES

SAT. MAY 13, 10:00-11:30 AM T30

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Get ready for weddings, family reunions and other summer activities by learning techniques for taking outdoor portraits of individuals and groups. Practice choosing a suitable location in the garden, posing subjects and taking advantage of the light. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗳️



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FAMILY

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WOOLY FUN FOR THE FAMILY

SAT. FEB 18, 10:00-11:30 AM T34

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

It may be cold outside, but the sheep at the farm are warm and toasty in their winter coats of wool. Visit our sheep and learn about their wool and all the products they have to offer. Then choose your color, dye some wool, and make a weaving to take home. Registration required. Age: All ages Fee: fee per child: \$5 🍷

NATURAL EGG DYEING WORKSHOP

SAT. MAR 25, 10:00-11:30 AM T37

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

It's that time of year for dyeing eggs for the holiday! Don't go out and buy expensive dye kits; learn to make your own natural dyes from ingredients that are safe for you inside and out. Each family will receive and dye a dozen eggs. If your family wants more eggs, please register an additional group. Registration required. Age: All ages Fee: Fee per family: \$10 🍷

(FREE) EARTH DAY FAMILY TREE

SUN. APR 23, 1:00-2:00 PM T83

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Outdoor Venues, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Families walk in our woods and explore the life cycle of a tree. We'll look at seeds, bark, and leaves and even what happens to trees after they die. Each family receives a tree to plant for Earth Day and participates in hands-on activities. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🍷 ⚙️

SPRINGTIME FAMILY WALKS

Bring the family for fun, informative walks on the Marie Aull Trail and in the Children's Discovery Garden. Learn how connecting to nature improves the lives of both children and adults.

(FREE) FAMILY WALK ON THE MARIE AULL TRAIL

TUE. APR 25, 6:00-7:00 PM T85

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Outdoor

Venues, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Today's family walk will be on the Marie Aull Trail, a wonderful spot to observe trees and wildlife. We'll follow conservationist Ernest Seton's idea of walking in silence and connecting to nature. We'll have a discussion and sharing portion at the end. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🍷 ⚙️

(FREE) OWL WALK NIGHT HIKE

TUE. MAY 2, 7:30-8:30 PM T89

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Outdoor Venues, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Join us as we take a hike around the trails at Wegerzyn. Learn about the different sounds our evening critters make, discover your very own night vision, and even see a real owl! We'll meet in the parking lot. Please bring a flashlight. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🍷 ⚙️

MOTHER AND SON FISHING DAY

SAT. MAY 6, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM T168

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Shelter: Farm Shelter/ Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Road

We have planned a special morning just for mothers and sons to spend together enjoying a great American pastime. Instruction, equipment and bait provided. Please bring a water bottle with you. This is a Passport to Fishing program. Registration required. Age: All ages Fee: \$5 🍷

FAIRY GARDEN WORKSHOP

SAT. MAY 13, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM T43

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. Each family will receive soil, pebbles and plants, then create one fairy garden to take home. Registration required. Age: All ages Fee: Per Family: \$25 🍷

(FREE) SPRINGTIME STROLL IN THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN

TUE. MAY 16, 5:30-6:30 PM T88

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Children's Discovery Garden, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Spring has finally sprung! Bring the family for a tour of the Children's Discovery Garden and see the wonders of spring together! We'll meet at the entrance to the garden. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🍷 ⚙️

(FREE) PLANTING SKEETER'S GARDEN

THU. MAY 18, 5:30-6:30 PM T90

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

It's time to get growing! Bring the family and help prepare and plant Skeeter's Garden for the season! We'll supply plants and tools. You'll take home knowledge and great memories! Don't forget the camera! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🍷 ⚙️

(FREE) FAMILY GARDEN FUN DAY

SAT. MAY 20, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM T25

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Today everyone in the family learns something fun about gardening! We'll have garden demonstrations throughout the park; crafts, games, and seed planting for the kids; vegetable tastings; herb teas; and sprouting, beekeeping and chicken information. We'll even show you how to start your own vegetable, flower, and pollinator gardens. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: All ages 🍷 ⚙️

FAMILY CAMPING

SAT. MAY 20, 3:00 PM - SUN. MAY 21, 10:00 AM T18

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Campsite: Black Cherry Camp/Black Cherry Shelter/Parking, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Get hands-on and learn basic outdoor skills to help you have successful camping experiences with your kids. We'll provide the camping equipment and teach you how to use it. Then, we'll camp out under the stars. Price is per family (up to 5 people). Registration required. Age: All ages Fee: \$50

PRESCHOOL

*Help young children discover
the wonders of nature.*



LEARN TO ICE SKATE! CHILDREN'S COURSE

SUN FEB. 5-19, 11:00-11:30 AM T6

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

Learn the basics of skating so that you can get out there and skate on your own. This three-week session will cover how to get on and off the ice, how to fall safely and get up on your own. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to start time. Fee includes use of skates. Register for this class and receive two free skate admissions! Registration required. Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: \$50 🗝️ ⚙️

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 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 backpack. Visit metroparks.org/kids.

(FREE) ANIMAL TRACKING

MON. FEB 6, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM T126
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 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) WINTER BIRDS

WED. FEB 15, 2:00-3:00 PM T127
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 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

MON. FEB 20, 2:00-3:30 PM T129

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 if you have them; a limited supply will be available. Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: \$5 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

WINGED FRIENDS

SAT. FEB 25, 1:00-3:00 PM T130

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 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 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) WOODLAND ADVENTURE

TUE. MAR 7, 1:00-2:00 PM T134

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Take an adventurous nature hike through a successional woodland, exploring the trees, plants, and wildlife. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) NATURE FUN

SAT. MAR 11, 3:15-4:45 PM T135

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Parking Lot, 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 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

BUDBURST BLITZ

WED. MAR 15, 1:00-2:30 PM T137

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

Join a national network of citizen scientists responsible for keeping track of the timing of plant growth. Learn the importance of our trees while contributing data for research! Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: \$5 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

FROG PARTY

SAT. MAR 18, 3:00-5:00 PM T138

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

See what's hoppin' around Cox Arboretum's wetlands and develop your own Amphibian Party at a park or at your home! Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: \$10 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) SIGNS OF SPRING

MON. MAR 20, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM T141

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 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) BUDS AND BUGS

TUE. APR 4, 1:00-2:00 PM T142

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

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 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

LEAVE A LEGACY

WED. APR 12, 1:00-2:30 PM T144

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Continue helping our forests by checking on the seedlings planted last spring. These trees are meant to take the place of dying ash trees and we need to make sure they are still healthy. Take part in our reforestation effort! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: \$5 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

POND PARTY

SAT. APR 22, 2:00-4:00 PM T145

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead West-vaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Fish, frogs, and dragonflies oh my! You'll learn how to identify creatures, and help your friends embrace this habitat. Each participant will get a pond exploration kit. Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: \$10 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) NOCTURNAL AMPHIBIAN QUEST**SAT. APR 22, 7:30-9:00 PM** T147

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 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) FORESTS AT NIGHT**SAT. MAY 13, 8:00-9:00 PM** T151

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

(FREE) LITTLE SPROUTS**TUE. MAY 16, 10:00-11:00 AM** T152

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/ Parking Lot, 100 Deep Hollow 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 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

CARING FOR CATERPILLARS

SAT. MAY 27, 1:00-3:00 PM T154

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. Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: \$10 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS

MON. MAY 29, 1:00-2:30 PM T287

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Green House, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Milkweed is a monarch caterpillar's favorite food! Plant milkweed for our monarchs and other plants butterflies need while learning about their role as pollinators. Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: \$5 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

LET'S TALK SHEEP

TUE. FEB 28, 12:30-1:30 PM T33

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
It may be cold outside, but the sheep at the farm are warm and toasty in their winter coats of wool. Come visit our sheep and learn about their wool and all the products they have to offer. You will learn how to color wool and then weave on your own weaving board you can take home. Registration required. Age: 3Y-6Y Fee: Fee per child: \$5 🍷

(FREE) FARM STORYTIME**THU. MAR 2, 10:00-11:00 AM** T38**THU. MAR 23, 10:00-11:00 AM** T50**THU. APR 6, 10:00-11:00 AM** T51**THU. APR 13, 10:00-11:00 AM** T53**THU. MAY 18, 10:00-11:00 AM** T67

THU. MAY 25, 10:00-11:00 AM T66
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Join us for a story and adventure or activity around the farm. This program is designed for preschoolers and their caregivers. Through the winter months, we will cancel for bad weather. Please check the website the day of the program if it's really cold or driving conditions are bad. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 2Y-5Y 🍷

THE LITTLE RED HEN

TUE. MAR 14, 1:30-2:30 PM T36

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Chickens give us eggs and great meals! Meet one of the farm's chickens up close and personal and have a chance to touch its feathers. Afterwards we will make our own little red hen clucker cup, which sounds just like a chicken! Registration required. Age: 3Y-6Y Fee: Per child: \$5 🍷

THE INCREDIBLE EGG

TUE. APR 18, 1:00-2:30 PM T57

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Join us as we delve into the workings of an egg. We will visit the chicken coop where the hens lay their eggs and collect what we find. Afterwards we'll make egg salad to eat using eggs from the farm. Learn how to peel eggs for our egg salad. Registration required. Age: 3Y-6Y Fee: \$5 🍷

(FREE) STORY TIME: TREES**WED. APR 26, 10:00-11:00 AM** T84

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Shelter, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Today we'll learn about how trees grow and who lives in them! We'll read a story, go into the garden, and have games and crafts as well! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 2Y-5Y 🍷 ⚙️

FUNNY LITTLE GOATS

TUE. MAY 16, 1:00-2:30 PM T74

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Goats are silly and love to play and climb on things, just like kids do. Visit the barn and meet our goats. Then, we'll try afternoon tea with goat milk, cheese, crackers and jam! Finally, make a craft to take home. Registration required. Age: 3Y-6Y Fee: Per child: \$5 🍷

(FREE) STORY TIME: FLOWERS**WED. MAY 24, 10:00-11:00 AM** T91

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Shelter, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Have fun learning about flowers and their friends the bees and butterflies! We'll read a story and go into the garden to see the flowers. Fun crafts are included! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 2Y-5Y 🍷 ⚙️



CONSERVATION KIDS

Have you seen the changes to MetroParks' programs for children and families? We have introduced a series of nature-based programs for three specific age groups (Tikes, Explorers and Voyagers) to 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 and opportunities to see the impact they make through planting for pollinators, collecting seeds to plant a forest, creating their own wildlife habitat in their backyard, being a naturalist for their classmates at school and so much more!

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.



Congratulations to our most recent Conservation Kids!

Maren Blevins
Benjamin Blevins

YOUTH AND TEEN

Explore the outdoors while learning and growing.



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.

(FREE) FOREST BIRD SEARCH

SAT. FEB 4, 1:00-2:30 PM T125

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

Test your bird finding abilities as we track down some of the forest's most beautiful birds. Discover why forests and birds depend on each other for survival, and how you can help! Bring binoculars if you have them. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 6Y-13Y 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

SUN. FEB 19, 2:00-3:30 PM T128

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

People all across the country will be counting the birds they see this weekend and reporting their sightings online, and you can be a part of the story! Bring binoculars if you have them, a limited supply will be available. Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: \$5 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

BIRDS AND COMMUNITY

SAT. FEB 25, 1:00-3:00 PM T131

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 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 Bird Count! Registration required. Age: 6Y-13Y Fee: \$10 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) SLEEPING NATURE

SUN. FEB 26, 2:00-3:30 PM T132

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Ohio's winters can be harsh, but plants and animals have developed successful strategies for enduring colder temperatures. Discover these adaptations as we explore the outdoors on this family adventure. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 6Y-13Y 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) NATURE EXPLORATION

SAT. MAR 11, 3:15-4:45 PM T136

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Parking Lot, 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: 6Y-13Y 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

SOWING SAPLINGS

SUN. MAR 12, 1:00-2:30 PM T133

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. MAR 18, 3:00-5:00 PM T139

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 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) EAGLES AND DUCKS

SUN. MAR 19, 10:00-11:30 AM T140

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Parking Lot by rest-

rooms, 1401 Harshman Rd.

We will look for the Eastwood Eagle, Jim, and also watch for the winter waterfowl at Eastwood Lake. Please bring binoculars if you have them. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 6Y-9Y 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) NOCTURNAL AMPHIBIAN SEARCH

SAT. APR 1, 7:30-9:00 PM T143

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 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

POND EXPLORERS

SAT. APR 22, 2:00-4:00 PM T146

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

Fish, frogs, and dragonflies oh my! You'll learn how to identify creatures, and help your friends embrace this habitat. Each participant will get a pond exploration kit. Registration required. Age: 6Y-13Y Fee: \$10 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) WOODLAND SALAMANDER SEARCH

SUN. APR 23, 1:00-2:30 PM T148

TAYLORSVILLE 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 🗝️ ⚙️ ▲

BULLFROG ROUNDUP

SAT. APR 29, 7:30-9:00 PM T149

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Shelter: Sunfish/Valley Overlook/Parking Lot, 7101 Conservancy Rd.

Frog surveys have discovered bullfrogs at a critical vernal pool: These bullfrogs need to be removed, and we need kids to help! Bullfrogs will be relocated to Cox Arboretum. Dress to get wet and muddy; bring flashlights. Registration required. Contact (937) 277-4178

for details. Age: 6Y-13Y Fee: \$5 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) LET'S BUG OUT!

SAT. MAY 13, 2:00-3:30 PM T150
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Shelter: Prairie Dock/Parking Lot, 4730 Frytown Rd.
Come explore and catch insects that probably live in your own backyard. We'll use nets for close up inspection and we'll release after identifying what we've captured. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 6Y-13Y 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

NOCTURNAL INSECT PARTY

FRI. MAY 26, 7:30-9:30 PM T153
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 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) OWL PROWL

SAT. MAY 27, 8:30-10:00 PM T155
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty/East Park, 4361 National Rd.
Escape on a night walk in search of the screech and barred owls, while learning about their interactions with our forests. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 6Y-13Y 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

SUN. MAY 28, 2:00-3:30 PM T156
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Green House, 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 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

LEARN TO ICE SKATE! YOUTH/TEEN COURSE

SUN FEB. 5-19, 11:30 AM-12:00 PM T7
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 111 E. Monument Ave.
Each student will learn how to fall and get up as well as get safely across the ice, and skate forward and backward. Register for this program and receive two free admissions to skate! Fee includes use of skates. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Registration required. Registration required. Age: 6Y-17Y Fee: \$50 🍷 ⚙️

MORNING CHORES

SAT. FEB 18, 8:30-10:00 AM T77
SAT. MAR 18, 8:30-10:00 AM T78
SAT. APR 22, 8:30-10:00 AM T80
SAT. MAY 20, 8:30-10:00 AM T81

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 E. Shull Rd.
Join a farmer to experience a typical work day for a 1880s farmhand. Participants will help with a variety of historic chores. Meet at the front gate of the farm. Registration required. Age: 8Y-12Y Fee: \$5 🍷

(FREE) CITY BEETS, A SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM: OPEN HOUSE

THU. MAR 2, 6:00-7:30 PM T45
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Learn more about participating in the City Beets summer youth program, as well as basic interview skills. In this summer program, youth ages 12-15 years old grow vegetables at the Possum Creek MetroPark Farm, learn leadership & job skills, sell food at the Saturday 2nd Street Market, and learn about where food comes from. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. 🍷

FAMILY FARMHANDS

SAT. MAR 4, 10:00-11:30 AM T47
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Edible Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

SAT. MAR 11, 10:00-11:30 AM T48
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Edible Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

SAT. APR 8, 10:00-11:30 AM T54
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

SAT. APR 15, 10:00-11:00 AM T55
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

SAT. MAY 27, 10:00-11:30 AM T64
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Become a farmhand for the morning and help feed and care for the rabbits, chickens, sheep, goats and donkey. Registration required. Age: 5Y-8Y Fee: \$5 🍷

TEEN FLY TYING

THU. MAR 16, 6:00-8:00 PM T158
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Looking for something cool to do with your friends? Learn the art of fly tying and take home your very own hand tied fly! Equipment and materials provided. Registration required. Age: 14Y-17Y Fee: \$5 🍷

YOUTH SMART CYCLING

WED. APR 26, 5:30-7:30 PM T246
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, RiverScape Pavilion, 237 E. Monument Ave.
Designed specifically for kids, this hands-on class will introduce skills for riding safely on roads and paved trails. After practice at RiverScape, we will go for a ride on the Great Miami River Trail using these skills. Bikes and helmets required. Registration required. Age: 9Y-14Y Fee: \$5 🍷 ⚙️

(FREE) MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT: SEED BOMBS

FRI. MAY 12, 5:30-6:30 PM T92
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Skeeter's Shelter, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.
Mother's Day is coming and you'll be able to surprise someone with flowers all summer long! These seed nuggets are easy to plant and make summer a more beautiful time for everyone. We'll show you how to create this easy, fun craft for all to enjoy. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 5Y-10Y 🍷 ⚙️

(FREE) WEGERZYN BIKE RODEO FOR KIDS

SAT. MAY 27, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM T254
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, 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 large hair accessories, 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 🍷



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, March 2, 6 to 7:30 PM (T45)
Possum Creek MetroPark Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Apply for the 2017 City Beets summer program now through March 15.

METROPARKS.ORG/CITYBEETS

COMMUNITY GROUPS & TRAINING

Share the benefits of an active, nature-based lifestyle with your community and future generations.

TEACHERS' NIGHT OUT

Join other like-minded, formal educators in the Montgomery County area for an evening in the park, just for teachers! We will explore new ways to connect your lessons with nature and showcase resources available in the community!

(FREE) STARRY NIGHT

WED. FEB 8, 6:00-8:00 PM T164

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

Let's explore the night sky, and make connections to your curriculum! We will model activities you can do with students to meet school standards while enjoying an evening in the park with other teachers interested in bringing nature to the classroom! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 📄

(FREE) BUSY BEES

THU. MAR 2, 6:00-8:00 PM T165

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

Want to give your pollinator curriculum new wings this spring? Teachers will discover the fascinating world of bees, explore citizen science opportunities, learn how to observe bees safely with students, and learn how to attract pollinators to their schoolyard garden. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 📄

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Professional development hours are more fun when you're in a park! Join us as we explore new curriculum guides to bring nature to your classroom and your classroom outside!

PROJECT LEARNING TREE WORKSHOP

SUN. FEB 12, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM T249

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

This workshop will certify classroom teachers in the nationally recognized Project Learning Tree curricula, help educators become comfortable teaching outdoors, and demonstrate how to utilize Five Rivers MetroParks'

resources to make your curriculum come alive for students! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$35 📄

PROJECT WILD & INQUIRY ADVENTURES WORKSHOP

SUN. MAR 12, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM T1

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

This workshop will certify classroom 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. Graduate and/or STUQ credit available. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$25 📄

MASTER RECYCLING CLASS

WED. MAR. 1-29, 6:00-8:00 PM T219

OFFSITE, Montgomery County Solid Waste, 2550 Sandridge Dr.

Presented in partnership with Montgomery County Environmental Services. 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 20 hours of volunteer service. Register by January 31. Prerequisites: Volunteer Interview. Registration required. Contact cholloway@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$25

(FREE) COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATORS DINNER

THU. MAR 23, 6:30-8:30 PM T2

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Wegerzyn Center, 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

(FREE) START A NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN

THU. MAY 4, 6:00-7:30 PM T79

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

How can you start a community vegetable garden in your neighborhood, school, or church? Learn the essential steps to a successful project. Start planning for next year! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 📄



CONNECT KIDS WITH NATURE

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

Saturday, March 11
Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark,
1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

The Summit will include workshops on creating green schoolyards and engaging early learners in nature exploration, an educational expo, keynote speakers, and more.

See pages 10-11 for more information.

TRY A NEW ADVENTURE

DURING A FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS SUMMER CAMP!

WEEK-LONG CAMPS

- SUMMER YOUTH HORSE CAMPS
Weekly camps for youth ages 8-17 include morning and afternoon sessions, with multiple skill levels offered.
- TEEN ADVENTURE CAMP
Youth ages 14-17 discover nature through kayaking, mountain biking, fly fishing, hiking and more.

THREE-DAY CAMPS

- CARRIAGE HILL AND POSSUM CREEK METROPARKS CAMP
Spend three fun-filled days discovering a new or favorite MetroPark. Campers will be outside and active, trying new skills, experiencing such activities as cooking, farm chores or gardening, and exploring nature.

ONE-DAY AND HALF-DAY CAMPS

- Mountain Biking
- Fishing
- Explore a Park
- Fantastic Beasts
- Kayaking
- Survival
- Prairie Adventures

Registration opens Feb. 1

METROPARKS.ORG/SUMMERCAMPS

SPRING HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS

- Beginning the week of Feb. 26
- A variety of levels from beginner English through advanced canter offered.
- Classes for adults and children ages 8 and older.
- Registration and class schedules available online beginning Feb. 1.
- Fee: \$225 - \$250

SUMMER YOUTH HORSEBACK RIDING CAMP

- Registration and camp schedule available online beginning April 1.
- Camps for youth ages 8-17 run June-August.
- Youth learn to lead, groom, saddle, and ride English and Western, as well as how to take care of a horse.
- Multiple levels offered.

METROPARKS.ORG/RIDINGCENTER

GET OUT & RIDE

AT THE
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK
RIDING CENTER





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409 E. Monument Ave.
Third Floor
Dayton, OH 45402-1260

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HOLD ON TO YOUR PARKWAYS!

This issue covers programs from February through May 2017.
View this *ParkWays* publication online at metroparks.org/parkways.



PLEASE RECYCLE

RESERVE NOW →



RESERVATIONS MADE EASY

Rent a MetroParks shelter or campsite now for the best selection of dates and locations – both now easy to reserve online!

Shelters and campsites are located in beautiful natural settings and near park activities, such as hiking, play areas, fishing, paddling and cycling.

METROPARKS.ORG/EASY

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