MetroParks/periodliningORG

Cover photo Mark Alfson

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Volunteer Opportunities

Cox Arboretum MetroPark offers hundreds of volunteers the chance to use their time and talents in a wide variety of activities. Become involved as a gardener, instructor or tour guide leading school or adult groups. For more information, call (937) 275-PARK (7275) or visit metroparks.org/volunteer.

Support Your MetroParks

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

It’s our nature.

This park is one of 25 outstanding public facilities operated by your Five Rivers MetroParks system. Founded in 1963 to serve the greater Dayton area, MetroParks protects more than 13,800 acres of open space and provides year-round recreation, education and conservation opportunities. Facilities are available to the public free of charge — made possible by Montgomery County citizen support of a property tax levy.

For More Information

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

Ranger Assistance

Contact the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office dispatcher at (937) 533-2580.

Volunteer

Cox Arboretum MetroPark

MetroPark

Escape, Discover, Grow.

At Cox Arboretum MetroPark

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Things to Do

ZORNINGER EDUCATION CAMPUS - Designed as a gateway to the beauty and wonder of the gardens and natural areas, this series of buildings sets the stage for a wide variety of educational activities. Increase your knowledge of horticulture and natural history by participating in classes, programs and workshops held year-round for all ages. Program schedules and park information are available in the Zorninger Education Center or at metroparks.org.

VISIT THE GARDENS - Stroll the grounds and discover a variety of beautiful thematic gardens highlighting plants that grow well in southwestern Ohio. These include a pollinator garden, perennial gardens and an Edible Landscape Garden.

WALKING - The Arboretum grounds are easy to walk. A 1.2 mile paved loop pathway provides visitors access to all the park facilities. Natural areas and Conservation Corner offer about 2.5 miles of trails through woodlands and meadows. An overlook (see map) provides a scenic view of native woodlands and a beautiful ravine. Birds and other wildlife can be watched from a blind in Conservation Corner.

GUIDED TOURS - Schools and other groups may schedule guided tours of the Arboretum. Trail tours for adult groups are available with a reservation. Call (937) 275-PARK (7275) to schedule.

Information & Regulations

Protect Cox Arboretum MetroPark as a natural area and site for cultivated plants. Do not pick, collect or disturb plant or animal materials of any kind. Biking, hunting, frisbee-throwing, cross-country skiing and ice skating are not permitted. Please remain on the paths and trails in gardens and natural areas. Bicycling, rollerblading, fishing, cross-country skiing and ice skating are not permitted. Do not bring pets, except seeing-eye dogs. Feeding these animals creates unhealthy conditions for them and the public.

WILDLIFE FEEDING - Please do not feed fish, ducks, turtles or geese. Feeding these animals creates unhealthy conditions for them and the public.

PETS - Not permitted.

ALCOHOL - Prohibited except by permit.

HOURLS
Arboretum Grounds:
April 1 - October 31 - 8 AM - 10 PM
November 1 - March 31 - 8 AM - 8 PM
Closed Christmas and New Year’s Day
Zorninger Education Campus and Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture:
8 AM - 5 PM, Monday - Friday
11 AM - 4 PM, Saturday & Sunday
Closed holidays
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

PARK FEATURES

1. VISITOR CENTER
Start your Cox Arboretum MetroPark experience here. Learn from staff about all the park features in detail and make the most of your visit.

2. THE LOOP PATH
The 1/2-mile loop path is designed to orient visitors to the Cox Arboretum MetroPark experience by leading them on a loop that links many aspects of the Arboretum. The specially colored permeable clay paver path is a simple reminder that visitors are on the right track and will return to the point at which they started. The path meets ADA standards.

3. BARBARA COX CENTER
The Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture provides visitors experiential education opportunities with an emphasis on conservation and sustainability. The Center is home to two of Five Rivers MetroParks’ native tree and wildflower propagation programs, where native plants are grown for use in habitat restoration projects throughout MetroParks.

4. WATER GARDEN
Enjoy the serenity of a water garden landscaped with a mix of water-loving plants, perennial and shrub borders, and seasonal displays.

5. STONEWALL PERENNIAL GARDEN
This mixed border features perennials chosen for year-round interest, including reliable garden favorites and promising new introductions.

6. ROCK GARDEN
Alpine plants, low growing vegetation and dwarf conifers all thrive in this sloping garden of rocks and gravel. Peak blooming period is April and May.

7. ARBOR
This beautiful arbor is part of a new and improved allée planted with kousa dogwood trees. It also is a popular wedding venue.

8. BUTTERFLY HOUSE
View many species of native butterflies close-up and the pollinator gardens that surround the house. The Butterfly House opens in early July and remains open through August. Call for open days and hours.

9. ALLÉE
This popular spot has been replanted with 100 dogwood trees. The new trees retain and extend the beauty of the allée, providing four seasons of interest. Watch for beautiful blooms, showy fall foliage, ornamental bark and a bird-attracting fruit display late in the season.

10. SHRUB GARDEN
This garden allows home gardeners to evaluate growth of hundreds of different trees and shrubs.

11. BELL CHILDREN’S MAZE
Parents are invited to watch from the overlook or join in the fun as children discover a path through boxwoods to the center of the maze.

12. IRIS GARDEN
This garden features species of irises native to Eastern North America, as well as a few selected horticultural varieties. Additional plant species added to the stream bank planting help extend the flowering season.

13. CONSERVATION CORNER
Land stewardship practices are demonstrated in this area that includes two wetlands and 13 acres of re-introduced prairie, creating ideal wildlife habitat. A bird blind provides opportunities for wildlife viewing.

14. CONIFER COLLECTION
This garden allows home gardeners to evaluategrowth and flowering habit, fall color and winter character of hundreds of different trees and shrubs.

15. EDIBLE LANDSCAPE GARDEN
The Maimon Memorial Garden features edible plants as ornamental components of the landscape. This garden combines beauty and utility through a unique display of fruits, vegetables and herbs. The pavilion serves as an outdoor classroom and wedding venue.

16. WOODLAND WILDFLOWER AREA
This young, successional woodland features a collection of native woodland wildflowers and non-native species that can grow well with natives in a residential shade garden. During spring, the wildflowers are at their peak. At the west end of the garden is a connection to the red trail and Conservation Corner.

17. TREE TOWER
Three Douglas Fir tree trunks rise 45 feet above the tree tops, supporting an observation deck that provides visitors with a breathtaking panoramic view of Cox Arboretum MetroPark and the surrounding region.

18. ZORNIGER EDUCATION CAMPUS
a. Zorniger Education Center including Huffman Gallery, Fifth Third Conference Center, MeadWestvaco Classroom
b. Kettering Learning Lab
c. Fred and Alice Wallace Botanical Library
d. Volunteer Center

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

Five Rivers MetroParks is an Equal Opportunity Employer.