

PARKWAYS

YOUR GUIDE TO FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS
NEWS AND PROGRAMS

THIS IS WHAT CONSERVATION LOOKS LIKE

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HOW YOUR METROPARKS WORK TO PROTECT
NATURE IS PRESERVING GREENSPACE AND WATERWAYS

BE A CONSERVATIONIST
AT HOME
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FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS



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TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

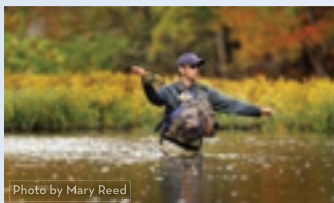
In Your MetroParks This Season

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 FINDING FALL COLOR

Trek the 75 miles of hiking trails in your Five Rivers MetroParks for a beautiful view of the changing seasons and to search for breathtaking, warm fall colors. Hiking trails are available in almost all of your 18 clean, safe MetroParks. METROPARKS.ORG/HIKING



2 DROP A LINE

Reel in some fun on a family-friendly fishing outing in one of your favorite MetroParks. With a variety of places to fish, from stocked ponds to rivers, there are multiple fishing locations to experience. Argonne Lake at Possum Creek MetroPark doesn't require a fishing license and Eastwood MetroPark offers a variety of fishing locations, such as Eastwood Lake and the Lagoon. METROPARKS.ORG/FISHING



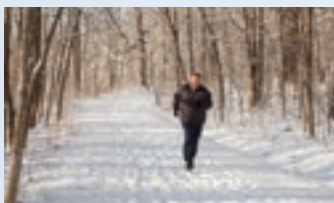
3 WARM UP WITH LOCAL EATS

Enjoy local comfort food at the 2nd Street Market as fall and winter usher in cooler weather. Pick up produce, pantry staples, gifts and more after your meal. New for 2018, the Market will be open on Sundays through Dec. 31 for even more shopping – and eating. METROPARKS.ORG/LOCALFOOD



4 DOWNHILL FUN

Celebrate snow days with a downhill outdoor adventure. Bundle up, grab your sled and head to Englewood, Germantown or Taylorsville MetroParks for some speedy fun in the snow. Or visit the covered outdoor ice rink at RiverScape MetroPark, which opens Thanksgiving weekend and offers views of the downtown riverfront while you skate. METROPARKS.ORG/WINTER



5 BEAT THE HOLIDAY BULGE

Don't press pause on your fitness goals because of dropping temperatures. Bundle up for an invigorating hike, paddle or bike ride in one of your favorite MetroParks. Enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle as you run, walk or ride the nation's largest paved trail network, with more than 340 miles of connected, off-street recreation trails to explore. METROPARKS.ORG/FITNESS

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.*



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: (937) 535-2580



Becky Benná
Executive Director

DEAR METROPARKS FRIENDS,

As we enter fall and the season of holidays and giving thanks, I've been reflecting on how thankful I am to serve at a community organization such as Five Rivers MetroParks.

I'm thankful MetroParks is able to provide Montgomery County residents with outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection to nature and to protect our region's natural heritage for generations to come.

I'm thankful so many visits — 3.6 million a year — are made to Five Rivers MetroParks locations. These are places where people relax and unwind; create lasting memories with family and friends; and enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle.

I'm thankful MetroParks is able to preserve more than 16,000 acres of land, 90 percent of it maintained in an undeveloped, natural state.

I'm thankful Five Rivers MetroParks includes 30 locations to serve our community. In addition to 18 clean, safe parks, MetroParks manages 11 conservation areas that help preserve waterways and greenways, as well as the 2nd Street Market, which helps our community access fresh, healthy and local food.

I'm thankful more than 300,000 children and adults participate in programs and events held at a MetroPark every year.

I'm thankful most Montgomery County residents live just 10 to 15 minutes from a MetroPark, all of which are open year-round. Your MetroParks vary widely so that — regardless of your age, ability or interest — it's fun and easy for you to Get Out & Explore nature.

And I'm thankful for the tremendous support MetroParks receives from volunteers, sponsors and our community. Time and time again, I hear from people about how much they value and appreciate Five Rivers MetroParks.

Indeed, your MetroParks is always focused on our community — and on meeting citizens' priorities. To do that, MetroParks is always communicating with residents, park users, other community leaders and partners. Based on that feedback, Five Rivers has adopted a 10-year comprehensive master plan to ensure we're planning for and addressing the things communities in Montgomery County value.

While talking to people in our community, other messages I often hear are that Five Rivers MetroParks is viewed as a community asset, that residents see MetroParks as important to their quality of life, that MetroParks helps our local economy by attracting visitors — and that MetroParks helps make Montgomery County a better place to live, work and play. I'm thankful these are benefits that complement MetroParks' three core areas: conservation, education and recreation.

I hope you're also thankful for the services and amenities your Five Rivers MetroParks provides. Our staff and volunteers work hard every day to provide the high-quality parks, programs and facilities you deserve.

MetroParks has a levy on the November 2018 ballot that will provide funding to continue our work. Please Get Out & Vote this November — and Get Out & Explore your Five Rivers MetroParks.

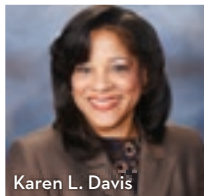
Best Regards,

Becky Benná

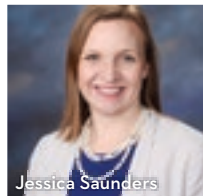
METROPARKS COMMISSIONERS



Alan F. Pippenger



Karen L. Davis



Jessica Saunders



Five Rivers MetroParks is a CAPRA-accredited park agency.



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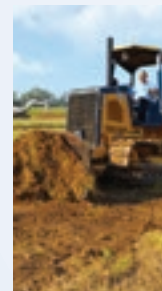
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Register for programs happening October 2018 through January 2019.

ON THE COVER

Park technician Michael Cooper builds the perimeter of a sage marsh wetland MetroParks is creating at Germantown MetroPark.

Read more on page 13.





Proposed kitchen
at Adventure Central

THE DAYTON FOUNDATION GRANT TO SUPPORT ADVENTURE CENTRAL

Efforts to provide much-needed kitchen renovations at Adventure Central (AC), a nature-based youth development program at Wesleyan MetroPark, received a boost this summer with a \$50,000 grant from funds of The Dayton Foundation.

The grant, awarded to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation, will assist the more than 200 youth, ages 5 to 18, who participate in AC's programs.

AC provides approximately 600 meals a week and snacks year-round during after-school and summer camp programming. The meal program curriculum includes healthy eating, nutrition education and community service. Students and volunteers plan and prepare all menus and meals, which include fresh fruits and vegetables and use produce grown in AC's garden beds.

The kitchen renovation project will allow for even more fresh foods to be used. It also will create new opportunities for positive youth/adult relationships, allow for the use of reusable items to reduce waste and teach sustainability practices, and provide space for new job training and educational activities.

AC is a partnership between Five Rivers MetroParks, The Ohio State University Extension and 4-H. To learn how you can contribute, contact Beth Redden, MetroParks' chief of philanthropy, at 937-277-4369.

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS' REPLACEMENT LEVY ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

Montgomery County residents will vote on a 10-year replacement levy this fall to help Five Rivers MetroParks fulfill its mission to protect the region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection to nature. Five Rivers MetroParks' current levy expires in 2019.

"We depend on our local levy for about 80 percent of MetroParks' revenue," MetroParks Board President Alan Pippenger said. "Everything we do – protecting green space, providing clean and safe parks, and offering outdoor recreation and education for residents of All Ages. – is made possible by our levy."

MetroParks manages 18 clean, safe parks; 11 conservation areas; and the 2nd Street Market. The agency also manages:

- more than 16,000 acres of natural areas;
- 160 miles of trails for hiking, walking, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain biking, cycling and cross-country skiing;
- 42 miles of the region's 270 miles of scenic river corridor; and
- portions of six regional paved recreation trails, part of the nation's largest paved trail network.

More than 3.6 million visits are made to a Five Rivers MetroParks location every year, and more than 300,000 people a year attend programs and events at a MetroPark.

Five Rivers MetroParks has a 10-year comprehensive master plan based on community feedback to ensure it's following the community's priorities. Now, MetroParks is developing plans for each of its parks and facilities; see page 31 for info about how you can give input for the planning of Hills & Dales and Huffman MetroParks.

For more information on the Five Rivers MetroParks levy, visit metroparks.org/funding.



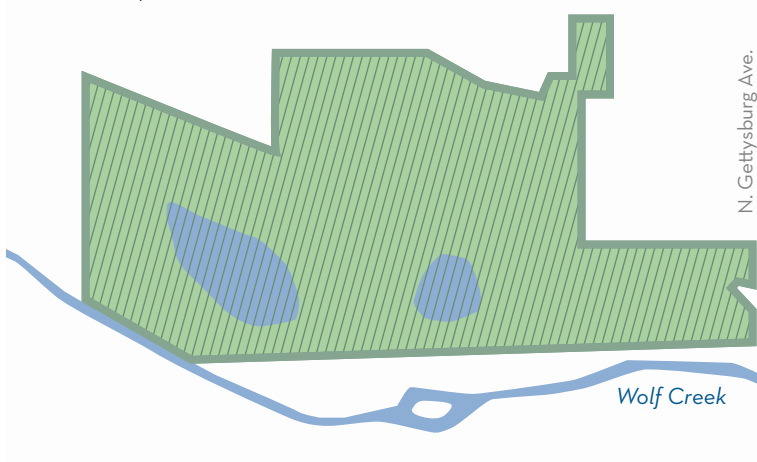
Wesleyan MetroPark

CALVARY MISSION CHURCH LAND ACQUISITION WILL EXPAND WESLEYAN METROPARK

Wesleyan MetroPark will be growing thanks to the Calvary Mission church and funding from a Clean Ohio conservation fund grant worth \$233,000. MetroParks entered into a purchase agreement with the church for 45.8 acres of land northwest of North Gettysburg and Little Richmond Road.

The church's land contains ponds and portions of the Wolf Creek, which would offer new fishing and recreation opportunities. Additionally, the land acquisition could help close a portion of a five-mile gap in the Wolf Creek bike trail and allow MetroParks' conservation team to work toward improving the land's ecosystems. The expansion meets goals in MetroParks' community-driven 10-year comprehensive master plan.

Learn more about Wesleyan MetroPark by visiting metroparks.org/wesleyan.



HORSEBACK RIDING AND MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDING TRAILS IMPROVED

Equestrians will be excited about updates for the western leg of the yellow horse trail, which is accessible to the public and used by the Carriage Hill Riding Center. Previously, rain would make that portion of trail muddy and impassable. MetroParks volunteers and staff raised the low-lying areas and hardened the tread, improving drainage patterns along the trail. The eastern leg of the yellow horse trail will be rerouted in the future.

MetroParks staff pumped up the fun along the connector trail at the MetroParks Mountain Biking Area by lifting and tilting the trail. Dirt was also brought in to build rollers and features to enhance user experiences. The Hilltop Flow trail was reshaped and the tread was restored, in addition to adding a couple more features for newbie riders.





con·ser·va·tion (noun)
kāns r vāSH(ə)n/

1. The action of conserving something, in particular:
 - preservation, protection or restoration of the natural environment, natural ecosystems, vegetation and wildlife.
 - preservation, repair and prevention of deterioration of archaeological, historical and cultural sites and artifacts.
2. Conservation is the science-based philosophy and inspiration that guides the long-term management and protection of the more than 16,000 acres of natural areas Five Rivers MetroParks manages.

MORE THAN 50 YEARS AGO,

a group of citizens realized suburban development was flying at a fast clip, but the Dayton region had no process to preserve open space to protect water, provide habitat for wildlife, and support human health and recreation. They worked to create a park district that today is your Five Rivers MetroParks.

These citizens also knew parks and open spaces are a piece of the economic development puzzle and must be protected. That still holds true: A June 2018 report commissioned by the National Recreation and Park Association found parks and recreation agencies contribute to the economic development process through business attraction, retention and expansion by improving regional quality of life (nrpa.org/research). Today, your MetroParks protects

more than 16,000 acres of parks, greenways and waterways and is proud to help provide a high quality of life for people throughout Montgomery County.

But MetroParks does much more than prevent that land from being bulldozed. Staff use best practices in the science of conservation to manage that land. Just as you might mow your lawn and weed your garden beds to keep everything growing where you'd like it to in your yard, MetroParks parks and conservation staff manage the land the agency protects to ensure it includes habitat for a variety of wildlife – and places for people to enjoy nature, too.

MetroParks' conservation and land management practices have evolved through the years with advances in science and with steady growth in the number of acres MetroParks manages.



IS THE REASON FOR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

In the park district's early years, people believed a hands-off approach would allow the process of natural succession to, with time, convert former farmland to its prior state. However, biological surveys revealed that, without land management, that former farmland would eventually be only forest — and not necessarily a high-quality forest at that, thanks to a variety of factors. Those include the introduction of harmful invasive species, such as honeysuckle and the emerald ash borer, and overpopulation of large wildlife, such as deer, that no longer have natural predators.

"In the '80s, MetroParks staff realized we couldn't just buy land and let nature take its course," said Mary Klunk, regional conservation manager. "We needed to take a more proactive approach and be land stewards, actively creating habitats like prairies, edge thicket and wetlands."

Creating those habitats leads to biodiversity, which means wildlife from the tiniest microbes to the largest deer have places to live and things to eat. It means the cycle of life so critical in nature takes place in your MetroParks.

Being land stewards leads to a community approach, which means all MetroParks staff work with volunteers, partner organizations, schools and universities, and countless others toward the long-term protection of nature. It means working with other property owners to protect and manage corridors of land, many of them along the region's waterways, to provide large tracts of land where such wildlife as coyotes and bobcats can find homes.

And being proactive means taking a bird's eye view of the land in Montgomery County as if it were a puzzle.

"At one time, nature had had all the puzzle pieces and succession would happen naturally," Klunk said. "Our job is to keep identifying which pieces have been lost and figure out how to replace them."

Yesterday and today, conservation is at the heart of everything Five Rivers MetroParks does and is in every employee's job description. Conservation at your MetroParks looks like everything from staff building a new wetland on former farmland to throwing their banana peels in a compost bin at the office.

"Conservation will continue to be central to Five Rivers MetroParks' mission," said Chris Pion, director of parks and conservation. "Protection and preservation of natural areas rated highly in recent community feedback that was received as part of the comprehensive master plan."

“Access to nature has documented health benefits, especially for children,” he added. “Due to the protected network of parks and conservation areas, residents have the opportunity to learn about and experience an amazing amount of biodiversity close to home.”

When you get out and explore your MetroParks this fall and winter, look for conservation in action. It may be as simple as a sign asking you to recycle or reuse park brochures. Or perhaps you’ll come across one of the projects mentioned in this history of Five Rivers MetroParks’ conservation efforts, which also includes those happening now or planned for the future.

“MetroParks provides places where people of all generations can be connected to each other and to nature while learning about our community’s natural heritage,” Klunk said. “These old forests are spiritual places. If those forests are cut down, we can’t replace them in our lifetime. Kids need to have those places to see and explore. We have to be able to continue to provide forests and prairies and wetlands – special places where people can experience and connect with the natural world.

“Think about some of your favorite moments,” she added. “How many of them include nature? How many of them took place in a MetroPark?”

Conservation in Your Five Rivers MetroParks

1963

The Montgomery County Park District was created “to protect natural areas, parks and river corridors, and to promote the conservation and use of these lands and waterways for the ongoing benefit of the people in the region.”



Richard Lawwill was the park district's first executive director.

1959

A study of the effects of urban sprawl and dwindling open space in Montgomery and Greene counties led to the formation of the Save Open Space Committee. Its members decided forming a park district was the best way to fulfill the community’s needs for open space.

A Regional Transportation Committee study showed rapidly vanishing open space in Montgomery and Greene counties.





THEN: The park district set a land acquisition goal of 8,500 acres (one acre for each 1,000 residents) and established a policy to maintain 80 percent of park lands in a natural state, with the remaining 20 percent to be developed for picnic areas, trails, shelters, parking lots, etc. The district also created a master plan for park locations to serve all of Montgomery County. Land acquisition began in those areas where potential development was the greatest. Drylick Run, now Carriage Hill MetroPark, was the first to be acquired.

NOW: Five Rivers MetroParks maintains more than 16,000 acres of land — 90 percent of it preserved as natural area. This habitat has contributed to the rebound of several native wildlife species, including river otters, bobcat and bald eagles. The land is home to 18 clean, safe MetroParks, and most Montgomery County residents live just minutes from a MetroParks location.



THEN: The park district purchased 275 acres to create Possum Creek MetroPark; much of the land had been used as a landfill and hog farm and areas had been stripped of topsoil.

NOW: Additional purchases through the years have added to the size and diversity of Possum Creek MetroPark. Thanks to proper land stewardship, Possum Creek MetroPark today is home to one of the largest and most diverse planted prairies in Ohio.

Five Rivers MetroParks continues to purchase land to protect and transform into future MetroParks. The Great Miami Mitigation Bank Conservation Area in Trotwood, created in 2011, is a prime example. This 540-acre farm was originally slated to be a landfill.

Today, however, the first phase of its transformation is complete. It's functioning as a wetland, thousands of trees have been planted and it's teeming with wildlife — including some birds rarely seen in the area. Plans call for the conservation area, adjacent to Sycamore State Park, to one day become Spring Run MetroPark.

Another site with potential to become a future MetroPark is Medlar Conservation Area. This former farmland, located near Austin Landing, is being converted to a second-growth forest and wetlands. MetroParks installed a paved recreation trail, located to protect the land's most sensitive natural areas while giving visitors access to its most scenic ones. The Great-Little Trail is part of the nation's largest paved trail network, with more than 340 miles to explore.



Much of what's now Cox Arboretum MetroPark was originally farmland.

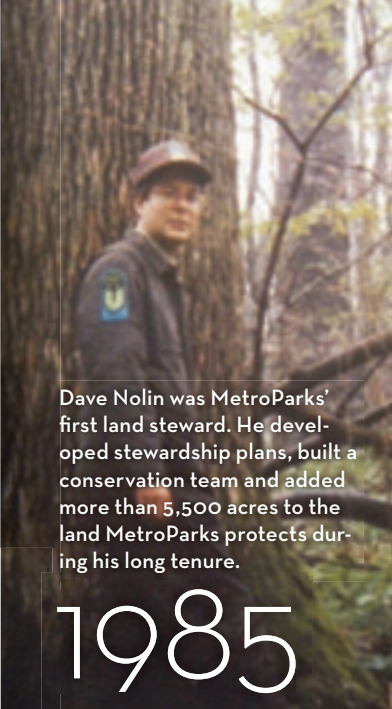


To many, Marie Aull was the godmother of the environmental movement in southwestern Ohio.

1977

THEN: Aullwood Garden was added to the park district when local conservation supporter Marie Aull donated her home and 30-acre garden. Aull was instrumental in training staff in the nuances of estate gardening.

NOW: MetroParks includes a number of gardens where people can find inspiration. Staff teach gardening programs year-round, many of them focused on conservation principles such as composting and using native plants to attract pollinators.

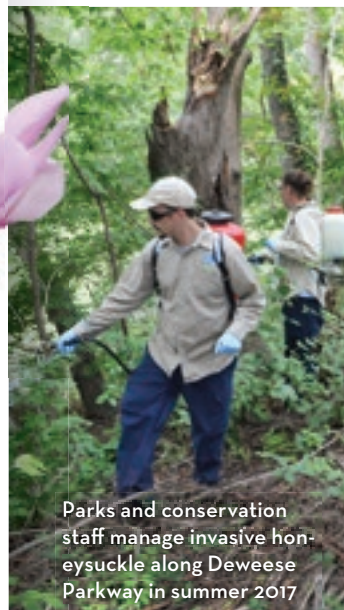


Dave Nolin was MetroParks' first land steward. He developed stewardship plans, built a conservation team and added more than 5,500 acres to the land MetroParks protects during his long tenure.

1985

THEN: The park district launches a formal land stewardship program and hires staff focused on active management of natural areas.

NOW: Five Rivers' parks and conservation team conducts an integrated system of controlled succession, invasive plant management, wildlife management and restoration projects based on habitat management plans and biological surveys for each Five Rivers MetroParks location.



Parks and conservation staff manage invasive honeysuckle along Deweese Parkway in summer 2017



The Twin Creek is one of the cleanest waterways in Ohio.

1986

THEN: Fort Carlisle, now Twin Creek MetroPark, was purchased.

NOW: Through the years, MetroParks has purchased 300 acres of scenic land in the Twin Creek Valley, located near Twin Creek and Germantown MetroParks. Another 250 acres in the area are protected through conservation easements, which are partnerships with local land owners that allow MetroParks to stretch its dollars.

This large tract of natural area in the Twin Creek Valley gives MetroParks more reach in protecting green spaces and habitat. The area also is home to the 22-mile Twin Valley Backpacking Trail, and the rugged beauty of the area allows visitors to have wilderness experiences in Montgomery County similar to those found in national parks.

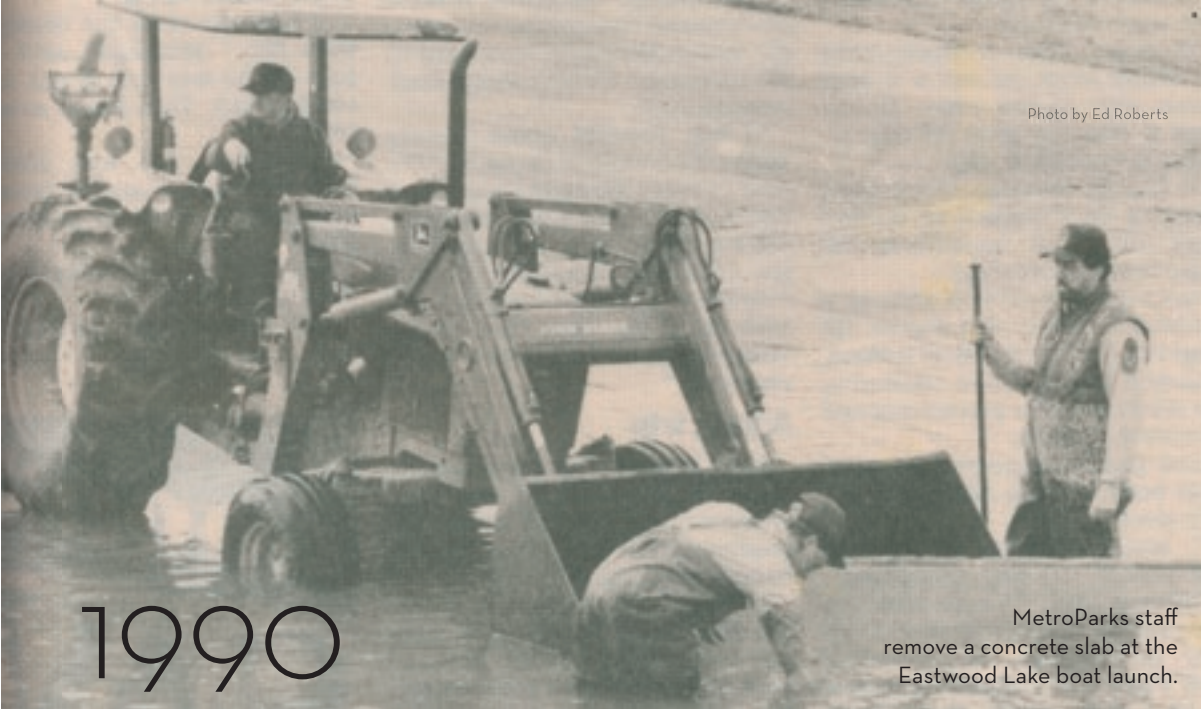


Photo by Ed Roberts

1990

MetroParks staff remove a concrete slab at the Eastwood Lake boat launch.

THEN: As part of its growing focus on rivers, Eastwood Park along the Mad River became part of the park district. Eastwood Lake was added in 1992.

NOW: Five Rivers MetroParks continues to focus on the rivers that are its namesake. In recognition of the rivers' potential for economic development, MetroParks is working with community partners to develop the Dayton Riverfront Plan. Visit daytonriverfrontplan.org for more information.



1995

The name of the park district was changed to Five Rivers MetroParks to reflect a new commitment to the protection of greenspace and waterways. The new name referred to Montgomery County's five waterways (the Great Miami, Stillwater and Mad rivers and Twin and Wolf creeks) and the importance of river corridors — areas that remain key to MetroParks' conservation efforts.



2001

THEN: RiverScape MetroPark opened along the Great Miami River in downtown Dayton.

Also that year, Five Rivers MetroParks introduced the idea of protecting land through conservation easements, partnerships with landowners that help protect land from development while stretching MetroParks' funds.

NOW: RiverScape MetroPark continues to be an economic development driver in downtown Dayton and a place for our community to gather. New in-river features, RiverScape River Run, activate our rivers for experiences such as whitewater paddling and fishing.

MetroParks helps protect more than 3,000 acres of land held in conservation easements.

COVER STORY



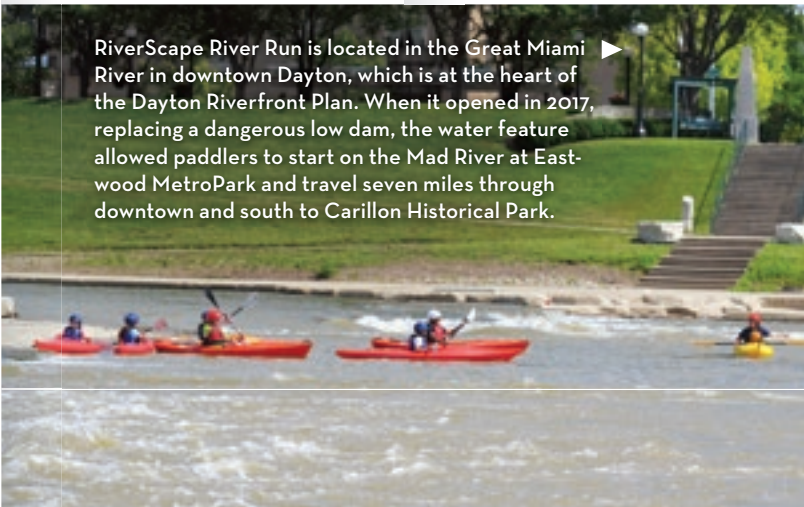
Matt Parker and Steve Sherman, then conservation technicians, build the boardwalk at Woodman Fen.

2003

THEN: MetroParks purchased land that will become Woodman Fen. This ancient wetland dates to the last Ice Age 13,000 years ago.

NOW: After an extensive restoration funded through a private-public partnership, Woodman Fen showcases a unique habitat not found anywhere else in Montgomery County.

RiverScape River Run is located in the Great Miami River in downtown Dayton, which is at the heart of the Dayton Riverfront Plan. When it opened in 2017, replacing a dangerous low dam, the water feature allowed paddlers to start on the Mad River at Eastwood MetroPark and travel seven miles through downtown and south to Carillon Historical Park. ▶





Garber Farm is still one of 50 locally owned vendors at the 2nd Street Market.

2009



Members of the original Five Rivers Outdoors team at the grand opening of MoMBA.

2005

THEN: Five Rivers MetroParks launched an outdoor recreation program. The first recreation-based event, GearFest, was held at the 2nd Street Market. During the next few years, MetroParks opened outdoor recreation facilities that incorporate conservation principles, such as the fully sustainable trails at the MetroParks Mountain Biking Area (MoMBA).

NOW: GearFest has become the Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience, or OutdoorX, which has become the region's premier outdoor recreation festival. The annual event is held the first weekend in October at Eastwood MetroPark.

MetroParks operates an ongoing sustainable trail initiative to renovate trails so they have less impact on the land, connect people to some of the most incredible natural areas and views within the park system, and help people have healthy, active lifestyles.

THEN: Five Rivers MetroParks takes over management of the 2nd Street Market in downtown Dayton to strengthen the connection between the Market and MetroParks' conservation mission.

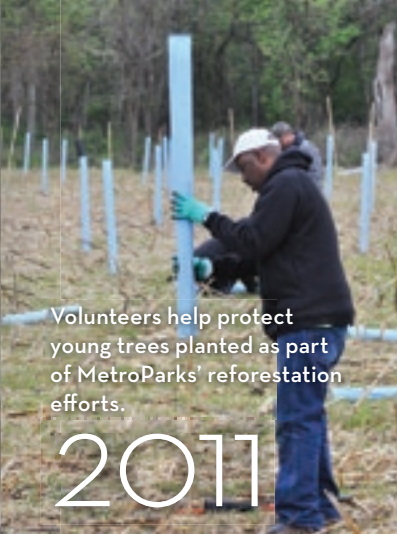
NOW: The Market continues to be an economic development driver for downtown Dayton while improving access to fresh, local food and helping people have healthy, active lifestyles. The Market also accepts EBT benefits and Produce Perks, helping address food insecurity in our community.



Julie Anwar plants nuts and seeds as part of reforestation efforts.



Native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and other plants are grown at the Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture for use in conservation projects throughout MetroParks.



Volunteers help protect young trees planted as part of MetroParks' reforestation efforts.

2011

THEN: Five Rivers MetroParks began a community-driven reforestation project, Go Nuts!, in response to the threat of the emerald ash borer. Community volunteers collected nuts and seeds to help MetroParks grow new hickories and oaks – sometimes dropping off large garbage bags of what they'd gathered – and helped plant tree seedlings.

NOW: Reforestation continues to be an important conservation effort at MetroParks, and volunteers continue to be a tremendous help. MetroParks also grows seeds at the Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture located at Cox Arboretum MetroPark, which now is the hub for reforestation efforts. Seeds are collected, germinated and grown into tree seedlings at the center.



TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S GO NUTS EFFORTS, contact Yvonne Dunphe at 937-275-PARK or yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org.



Conservation manager Mary Klunk, right, works with other staff to plant native seed at Huffman Prairie.

2015

THEN: Huffman Prairie State Natural Landmark was upgraded with new interpretive signage, making this historical site adjacent to the flying field where the Wright brothers tested their airplanes more accessible to the public.

NOW: Five Rivers MetroParks has partnered with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to restore and manage Huffman Prairie since 1988. Thanks to these conservation efforts, many rare plants, birds and insects now can be found at the 112-acre prairie – one of the largest prairie remnants in Ohio. More information is at metroparks.org/huffmanprairie.

A variety of native wildflowers bloom at Huffman Prairie.



Photo by Dave Nolin

2018

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS IS CREATING A WETLAND AND TRAIL AT A NEW POLLINATOR PRAIRIE AT GERMANTOWN METROPARK.

The prairie was planted three years ago on 112 acres of former farmland using species from the Ohio Prairie Seed Nursery, also located at Germantown and managed by Five Rivers MetroParks. The prairie was created using seeds of native plants attractive to pollinators – such as milkweed, the only plant on which monarchs lay their eggs.

Already, the pollinator prairie is in full bloom and buzzing with insects, birds and other wildlife.

“When you stand in the prairie, you can hear red tail hawks, locusts, Carolina wrens, and field and song sparrows,” conservation manager Mary Klunk said. “The prairie is full of life. You can see monarchs, black and tiger swallowtails, native bees and wasps, rabbits, and deer. Short-eared owls

have wintered there, and we’ve seen signs of barred owls, coyotes and fox.”

The new wetland will complement this wildlife array and create habitat for such species as dragonflies, Virginia Rail and a variety of frogs. MetroParks staff started building the wetland this past summer, using a series of levees to back up water. Staff assisted from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which helped fund the pollinator prairie project since protecting the dwindling monarch population is one of its priorities.

Once completed, the new trail – a stacked loop with half-mile and one-mile routes – will allow people to explore the pollinator prairie, wetland and nearby woodlands. Located off Boomershine Road, the site will be a convenient place for MetroParks education staff to host field trips and other programs that teach people about biodiversity, as several habitats can be viewed in a compact area with an easily accessible trail.

In addition to its work at the pollinator prairie, MetroParks is updating the Ohio Prairie Seed Nursery, which opened in 1988. Plans include revamping garden beds and growing new species of native plants.

During the past 30 years, the nursery has helped MetroParks staff plant and restore nearly 1,000 acres of prairie – the equivalent of almost 760 football fields.

“The science behind prairie restoration is evolving and, after three decades, it’s time to build on our work,” Klunk said. “We’ve had more than 30 years of observing prairie restoration to see how those prairies are responding and which plants are growing and which ones are meeting our biodiversity goals.”

MetroParks first began restoring prairies in the early ‘80s. According to the National Parks Service, the prairies of North America once covered 200 million acres and supported myriad wildlife. With less than one percent of this native habitat left, prairie restoration is critical to protecting our region’s natural heritage because it benefits the soil and provides a habitat for native wildlife, such as butterflies and birds – pollinators that are essential to protecting our environment.



Native plants and wildlife populate a new pollinator prairie at Germantown MetroPark, adjacent to the recently built wetland.

CREATING A WETLAND

Chummy MetroParks staff Mark Allen, Michael Cooper and Chris Landis helped construct a new wetland this past summer. They examine the core trench, looking for drainage tiles used when the property was farmland. The trench, heavily packed with clay soil, also prevents water from seeping under the levy built to retain water and create the wet soil key to this habitat.



CONSERVATION AT HOME STARTS IN YOUR BACKYARD

LOOK NO FURTHER THAN YOUR FRIDGE, PANTRY AND BACKYARD IF YOU WANT TO STEP UP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. An essential part of everyone's lives, food isn't just a means of sustenance — it's a cultural hallmark, a reason for families to spend time together and an integral part of living a healthy, active lifestyle. Making just a few food-related adjustments in your household can have a positive effect on your health and help Five Rivers MetroParks' efforts to protect our region's natural heritage.

"Food systems have an environmental impact, are a key factor in economics and, in many ways, dictate health and wellness on both a personal and collective scale," said Tim Pritchard, MetroParks sustainability coordinator. "Therefore, it's an important area of life to focus on in terms of practicing conservation and living more sustainably."

The good news is there are many ways to make a positive change — and you don't have to be a sustainability pro to make a major difference.

FOLLOW THESE FIVE EASY TIPS

FOR A MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY
FRIENDLY LIFESTYLE

RECYCLING:

Each Montgomery County resident disposes 4.95 pounds of trash a day on average. 70 percent of this waste is recyclable or compostable.

RAIN BARRELS:

Water usage increases in the summer. By reducing the demand from established water supplies during dry summer months, you are helping the environment.

1. GROW YOUR OWN FOOD

- Gardening provides fresh, nutritious produce for your family right in your own backyard or community garden.
- Native and certain other flowering plants should be incorporated into garden designs to encourage a healthy habitat, which reduces risk of pest infestation by creating ecological balance.
- Rain barrels and drip irrigation save water resources and reduce utility bills while keeping plants healthy and productive through dry weather.

TIPS ON GROWING YOUR OWN:

- MetroParks offers a variety of gardening programs and community gardening resources. Visit metroparks.org/gardening to learn more about program offerings, and find gardening programs this season on pages 30-31.
- Those interested in community gardening can visit metroparks.org/community-gardening and attend COMMUNITY GARDENER LEADERSHIP TRAINING on Saturday, Dec. 8, at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark; see page 38.
- Sign up for MetroParks' gardening and community gardening digital newsletters to stay up-to-date on programs, resources and more year-round. Sign up at metroparks.org/newsletters.

GARDENING:

With a small investment in time, space and supplies, you can grow your own organic produce. A 10 x 10 foot bed typically yields food for a family of four throughout the summer.

COMPOSTING:

Most organic material can be composted. In addition to food scraps, this includes such household waste as dryer lint, hair, paper products and more.

COMPOSTING YARD WASTE:

Yard waste such as weeds, cuttings, grass clippings and leaves are compostable.

2. COMPOST

- Composting is the best way to keep food scraps out of the landfill and to recycle valuable nutrients back into growing systems.
- Setting up a composting system is easy and pays dividends for those who garden and landscape.
- Using compost to fertilize soil instead of chemical applications reduces excess nutrient runoff.
- Using compost also helps MetroParks' efforts to protect, preserve and maintain our region's greenways and waterways, while also helping protect the region's aquatic ecosystems.
- By applying compost seasonally, gardeners can avoid tiling soil. This reduces sediment runoff and helps establish soil that'll grow more robust plants requiring less chemicals. This in turn supports greater biodiversity and reduces health risks to wildlife and humans.

TIPS FOR COMPOSTING:

- Those new to composting can attend a free, three-part COMPOST KITCHEN program presented by Five Rivers MetroParks and the Montgomery County Solid Waste District. Attend all three sessions and receive a free composter. See page 31 for more info; registration is required.



3. REPURPOSE AND UPCYCLE

- Repurposing used containers is an excellent way to reduce waste and grow food.
- Upcycling or repurposing household items – such as glass jars, clothing and furniture – is a great way to breathe new life into old items.

TIPS FOR UPCYCLING:

- Gardens are also wonderful places to utilize repurposed crafts. Deter such garden critters as raccoons, deer and groundhogs with shiny items like old cans, scratched CDs, used foil and more.
- With a little bit of crafting, old household items can be turned into unique gifts.
- For upcycling inspiration, attend MetroParks' REPURPOSING HACKS FOR THE FAMILY programs. On Saturday, Jan. 26, learn how to turn old T-shirts into reusable shopping bags. See page 35; space is limited so register now.



REPURPOSING:
If a container can hold soil, it can grow a plant. Many items that have fulfilled their purpose, such as egg cartons, can still be used to start plants or even house mini-gardens.

4. SHOP FRESH AND LOCAL

- The Miami Valley – with its fertile soil, plentiful aquifer and relatively long growing season – is a great place to find local food. Farmers markets offer fresh produce into the fall harvest season, which can last through November.
- Often, farmers markets and community-supported agriculture programs (CSAs) are the best value, as they sell directly to consumers.
- The Dayton region also has great opportunities to purchase local meat and dairy.
- Buying food grown and/or raised locally decreases the amount of energy used to transport food.
- Local farms that avoid use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers have less negative impact on the environment.

TIPS FOR SHOPPING FRESH AND LOCAL:

- A Five Rivers MetroParks facility, the 2nd Street Market in downtown Dayton is open year round and home to local growers and vendors who offer fresh, local produce, along with locally sourced meat and dairy, bread, flowers, desserts, kitchen staples, and more.

New this season, the Market is open
Sundays through Dec. 31. Learn more
at metroparks.org/localfood.



SHOPPING LOCAL:
• Supporting local agriculture supports the local economy.
• Shopping at local markets makes it easier to avoid excessive, wasteful food packaging.

BW Greenways and the Ohio Ecological Farm Food and Farm Association are two excellent resources for locating local/regional food. Visit bwgreenway.org or oeffa.org for more information.

5. EATING OUT

- Many restaurants in the Miami Valley work with area farms to provide locally sourced ingredients for their dishes. These restaurants tend to be locally owned, independent businesses. The Miami Valley Restaurant Association is a good resource for discovering where to eat delicious, local food. Visit dineoutdayton.com for more information.

TIPS FOR EATING OUT:

- Choose eateries that avoid the use of disposable serveware when dining in-house.
- Support restaurants that offer compostable carry-out containers.
- Use recyclable paper or reusable bags to pick up carry-out orders. This will help reduce waste and avoid plastic bags, which are challenging to recycle.

EATING OUT:

Skip the plastic straw, which can't be recycled and often ends up harming wildlife. Tell your server you'd like to drink from the glass.



The nature-based programs are now offered to children ages 3 through 13, which allows siblings, friends and kid-centric community groups to enjoy these fun, educational experiences together.

"It's awesome to see families explore the outdoors together at one program," said Elisabeth Barnett, MetroParks outdoor education apprentice. "Before, it was mom and one kid exploring with us, but now it's the whole family. Seeing families bond while learning about fireflies, butterflies and other amazing creatures is really incredible."

Led by MetroParks' trained volunteers and professional educators, Conservation Kids programs are held in a variety of the 18 clean, safe MetroParks located throughout Montgomery County. Programs offer families hands-on, interactive opportunities that spark a curiosity in the natural world and connect families to nature.

New this fall, the Backyard Camper Training program at Cox Arboretum MetroPark will show kids how fun it can be to camp in their backyard with friends. Another new program, Raptor Excursion at Germantown MetroPark, allows families to meet MetroParks' raptors before embarking on a hike to see which of these birds families can spot in the wild.

**CONSERVATION
KIDS**

To see a complete list of this season's Conservation Kids programs, see pages 34-35.

METROPARKS.ORG/CONSERVATIONKIDS

Volunteers and staff work together at OutdoorX to divert waste from the landfill.

LEAVE NO WASTE

CAN A LARGE FESTIVAL SEND
ALMOST NOTHING TO A LANDFILL?

YES! THE WAGNER SUBARU
OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE
IS A PRIME EXAMPLE.

LEARN HOW YOU CAN DO THE SAME.

Inspiring thousands of visitors to get out and explore the great outdoors while creating close to zero landfill waste is an aggressive goal, but it's a priority for Five Rivers MetroParks when planning the annual Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience (OutdoorX).

The region's premier outdoor adventure festival, OutdoorX is produced by Five Rivers and hosted at Eastwood MetroPark. OutdoorX features more than 20 outdoor recreation activities to try, along with demos, interactive fun, food, drinks, music and more.

The 20,000 people who attend, many with dogs, could create copious waste. However, as a conservation agency, Five Rivers MetroParks applies sustainable practices in its day-to-day operations and during special events.

"OutdoorX is the largest event MetroParks produces, so it's a good opportunity to refine our waste management strategy," said MetroParks sustainability coordinator, Tim Pritchard.



That strategy helps MetroParks preserve and maintain local greenspace and waterways and is key in its mission to protect the region's natural heritage.

Making such a large event sustainable takes a village, with local partners, vendors and volunteers all creating a fun, environmentally conscious experience for visitors. Guests are even asked to plan ahead by bringing reusable non-glass drinkware for water and beer.

"Last year worked really well," Pritchard said. "We had our best year yet in terms of waste diversion thanks to staff support and master recycling volunteers. Without our master recycler volunteers, we couldn't pull it off."

During the event, those volunteers are stationed next to waste stations. They sort waste and inform guests about what items should be recycled or composted.

"Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for people to make sustainable choices during OutdoorX," said Angela York, outdoor recreation events coordinator. "We want people to be inspired to enjoy outdoor recreation in new ways and learn new ways they can have a smaller footprint on the environment. It's part of a healthy, active lifestyle."

2017 OUTDOOR X
WASTE DIVERSION

**BY THE
NUMBERS**

711 LBS
COMPOST
COLLECTED

Park staff handle compostable waste generated during the event. Compost eventually is used in the parks for gardening and landscaping.

573 LBS
MATERIALS
RECYCLED

Once master recyclers have sorted waste, Rumpke takes materials to a waste management facility to be recycled.

1,629 LBS
DIVERTED
FROM LANDFILL

MetroParks' goal is to send less than 10 percent of waste generated at Outdoor X to the landfill.



3 EASY STEPS TO CREATE YOUR OWN SUSTAINABLE EVENT

Whether you're planning a camping weekend or family reunion, there are many ways to minimize your impact on the environment while having fun.

1 Serve food with plates and utensils that can be reused. For larger events, swap styrofoam and plastic for compostable serviceware.

2 Compost fruit and veggie scraps, paper, egg shells, and more is easy. Set up a composting station for your guests. Visit metroparks.org/compost for a guide to get started.

3 Talk about waste diversion goals before setting up your event. For larger events use, signs and clearly labeled waste stations for recyclable and compostable materials.

Not sure what can and can't be composted? Participate in MetroParks' Compost Kitchen program this fall. Learn more on page 31.

LEAVE NO TRACE

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS IS A PARTNER WITH THE LEAVE NO TRACE CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS, an organization that teaches people of All Ages how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly. It's the most widely used outdoor ethics program in the country.

"We encourage park visitors to follow the seven principles of Leave No Trace (LNT) while enjoying their time in the park so we can ensure all parks, water trails and land remain places of wonder, inspiration and destinations for exploration for years to come," said Angie Sheldon, outdoor recreation coordinator.

While you're on the trail, do your part to Leave No Trace by considering the following:

- 1. BE QUIET AND RESPECT THOSE WHO SEEK SERENITY.**
- 2. PLAN AHEAD.** Check the weather and get a map of the park where you're going.
- 3. PACK OUT YOUR TRASH.** Take out everything you bring into the parks – including dog droppings – or dispose of it properly in the park trash and recycling bins. Better yet, pick up litter every time you go outdoors.
- 4. WALK THROUGH MUDDY TRAIL SECTIONS**, not around them. It's best to walk single-file on the trail, even when it's wet or muddy, because the surrounding vegetation and habitat will suffer if trampled, causing trail widening.
- 5. LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND IN THE PARKS** – including flowers, rocks and leaves. Disturbing these things puts the lives of animals and plants at risk and ruins their habitat. Bring along a camera so you can remember an item without taking it.
- 6. CLEAN YOUR BOAT.** After a day of paddling, scrub it before heading home to help eliminate the spread of invasive species, which may be trying to hitchhike their way into new ecosystems.
- 7. CLEAN YOUR BOOTS AFTER EACH HIKE.** Invasive species also can spread through the parks on the bottoms of your shoes. A good brushing after each hike helps MetroParks contain these species.

"Applying these principles helps MetroParks keep all 18 parks clean, safe and enjoyable for everyone," Sheldon said.



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

THE WILDFLOWER GROUP
VOLUNTEERS AT COX ARBORETUM
METROPARK AREN'T JUST GROWING
NATIVE FLOWERS — THEY ARE
GROWING FRIENDSHIPS.



JUDY KNIGHT

KATHY DULANEY

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE CONSIDER GROWING NATIVE FLOWERS AT HOME?

"Native plants are so easy to maintain because this is where they belong. They do well when they're planted, and there's a lot of variety. I'm having a ball putting them in my yard."

"To enjoy watching! I have a prairie-like garden with many different bees and butterflies. It's just enjoyable to watch nature."

FAVORITE NATIVE FLOWER

Native Geraniums

Jack in the Pulpit

To volunteer for the Woodland Wildflower group, email volunteerservices@metroparks.org.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Five Rivers MetroParks, visit

[METROPARKS.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://www.metroparks.org/volunteer)

BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

WED. OCT 10, 6:30-8:30 PM Z19

THU. OCT 18, 9:00-11:00 AM Z20

WED. NOV 14, 9:00-11:00 AM Z21

Five Rivers MetroParks has volunteer opportunities year-round and at nearly every park. 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.
Contact info@metroparks.org for details. 18Y and up
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE,
409 E. Monument Ave., 3rd Floor

HELP METROPARKS MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Join Five Rivers MetroParks for the
nation's largest day of service on
SATURDAY, OCT. 27, 9 AM TO NOON

Thousands of volunteers across the nation will celebrate Make a Difference Day by giving back to their local communities. MetroParks invites you to participate in service projects throughout Montgomery County that will help MetroParks' efforts to maintain, preserve and protect greenspace and waterways for all to enjoy.

Registration for Make a Difference Day is required.
Visit METROPARKS.ORG/VOLUNTEER
to sign up for a project with your family,
friends or community group.

FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS, THIS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS HAS BEEN RAISING NATIVE PLANTS AND FLOWERS TO PLANT WITHIN METROPARKS.

"Within the wildflower group, we're all unique, independent people," said Kathy Dulaney, long-time wildflower group volunteer. "I've made many, many friends over the years."

Dulaney, a Washington Township resident and passionate gardener, has been growing native blooms, both at her house and at Cox Arboretum MetroPark with the Woodland Wildflower group, since 1991. When she started volunteering at the Arboretum, the wildflower group utilized just three raised beds. Now, 27 years later, this group not only specializes in woodland wildflowers, but volunteers also grow native prairie plants for MetroParks in the Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture, the nexus of MetroParks' reforestation efforts.

Another one of MetroParks' volunteers, Miamisburg resident Judy Knight, began her volunteer work with the wildflower group after attending Make a Difference Day in 2015. Educated as a botanist, Knight was excited to get outside and reconnect with nature after retiring.

"I wanted to contribute to the community and make a difference. It's rewarding," Knight said. "I get to work with other people who are committed to the same thing. Everybody makes you feel like you are really important."

The wildflower volunteer group was created to promote conservation through the preservation of natural growth of native plants. Additionally, the group educates the public about the importance of native plants by acting as guides in the gardens at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. Volunteers also lead some of the public programs focused on native plants, which are critical to the local environment because they support such wildlife as native pollinators.

The wildflower group volunteers get to enjoy watching the flowers they care for grow at Cox Arboretum. They also get to see them used throughout MetroParks' 18 clean, safe and beautiful parks and its 11 conservation areas, where visitors and local wildlife can enjoy them.



SUPPORT

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

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

MAKING MEMORIES LAST A LIFETIME IN YOUR FAVORITE METROPARKS

Family friend Debbie Huelsman sits on a tribute bench in Englewood MetroPark honoring Ernie and Barb Pierce.

A FAVORITE DESTINATION FOR THE PIERCE FAMILY IS ENGLEWOOD METROPARK,

home to childhood memories and a special place for Ernie and Barb Pierce during their final years. The Pierces' adult children – Linda Pierce, Donna Smith and David Pierce – memorialized their parents' special relationship by selecting a tribute bench located at the Meandering Meadow Overlook at Englewood MetroPark.

When people get out and explore the natural world in their favorite MetroParks, they create special moments and memories. The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation wants to help families honor those memories in a special way.

The foundation's Tribute Program allows people to honor their loved ones with a commemorative plaque located at various points of interest in the MetroParks, including benches, swings, trees, trails and shelters.

"Together, they would pack up a camp stove and cook Sunday breakfast in the park overlooking the water or meadows," Linda Pierce said of her parents. "After our dad passed, we would often take mom on rides, always ending with a drive to Dairy Queen for a chocolate blizzard and

a trip to Englewood MetroPark for a pause while enjoying ice cream. When mom joined dad, we automatically thought of a memorial bench for their souls to continue to be together in a place they loved dearly."

While many people choose to memorialize those who have passed with a tribute gift, these special sentiments are also perfect to honor someone's birthday, graduation, wedding, retirement or anniversary.



Long-time Miami Township residents and Cox Arboretum MetroPark visitors, Bob and Marge Mott, decided to support their favorite MetroPark by sponsoring a bench of their own to enjoy during their

visits to Cox. The plaque on their bench reads: "Sit a spell, inhale beauty, renew spirit" – something visitors can do at all 18 clean, safe MetroParks.

IS THERE SOMEONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO HONOR WITH A TRIBUTE GIFT?

See which locations are available with our interactive online tool and learn more at metroparks.org/tribute.

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS PARK SYSTEM MAP

METROPARKS.ORG/MAP

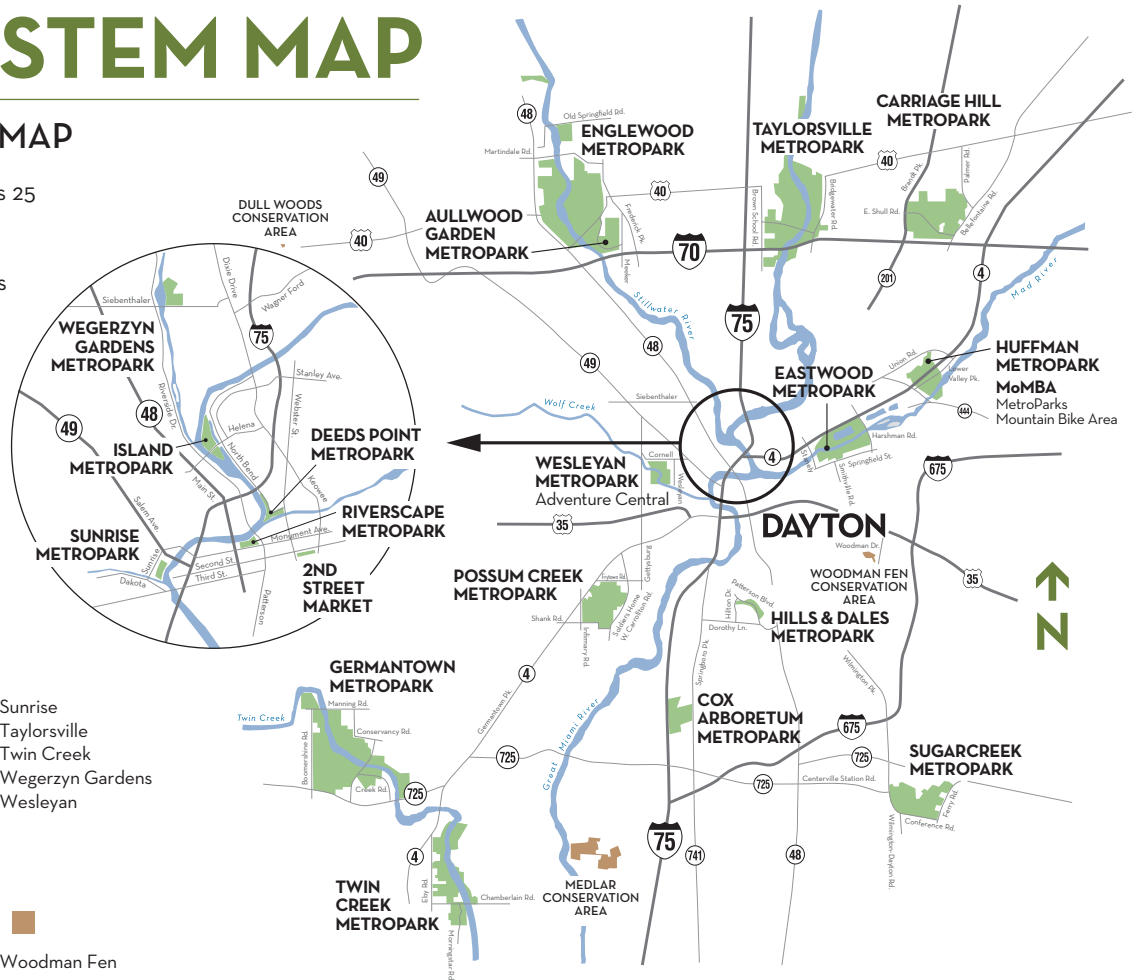
Five Rivers MetroParks operates 25 outstanding public facilities. Founded in 1963 to serve the greater Dayton area, MetroParks protects nearly 16,000 acres of open space and provides year-round recreation, education and conservation opportunities. Facilities are available to the public free of charge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

METROPARKS

2nd Street Market	Germantown	Sunrise
Aullwood Garden	Hills & Dales	Taylorville
Carriage Hill	Huffman	Twin Creek
Cox Arboretum	Island	Wegerzyn Gardens
Deeds Point	Possum Creek	Wesleyan
Eastwood	RiverScape	
Englewood	Sugarcreek	

CONSERVATION AREAS

Dull Woods	Medlar	Woodman Fen
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PROGRAM GUIDE

PROGRAM DETAILS



ONLINE REGISTRATION

Online registration is available for programs marked with this icon.



WEATHER DEPENDENT

Some outdoor events and programs are weather permitting.

PROGRAM SERIES

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

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.

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.



PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Spend quality time outdoors with family.



COMMUNITY GROUPS AND TRAINING

Share 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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Enjoy time with friends and family at these community celebrations.

EVENTS ARRANGED BY DATE

OCTOBER EVENTS



(FREE) WAGNER SUBARU OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

SAT. OCT 6, 11:00 AM-10:00 PM Z102

SUN. OCT 7, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Eastwood Park, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience is the Midwest's premier outdoor adventure festival celebrating a healthy, active lifestyle. This family and dog friendly event features activities, camping, competitions, live music, demos, gear specials, beer garden and more! We are waste free, so bring your own non-glass beverage vessel or plan to buy one. No registration required. www.metro parks.org/outdoorx. All Ages.



(FREE) SPOOKY GARDEN CELEBRATION

FRI. OCT 26, 3:00-7:30 PM Z64

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

Have a great afternoon with games, crafts, music and a trick-or-treats trail. Magic, refreshments, face painting and animal ambassadors are also part of the fun. As the sun sets, go to the Children's Discovery Garden with more crafts and games, a storyteller and marshmallow roast. Sponsored in part by the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All Ages. 🎃



(FREE) VOLUNTEER: METROPARKS' MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

SAT. OCT 27, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Z25

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

Make a Difference Day is the largest national day of community service. It is a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors and the power of people coming together to make a difference. Help MetroParks with a variety of Earth-friendly activities. Registration closes October 22. Register at metro parks.org/volunteer. Registration required. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metro parks.org for details. metro parks.org/difference. All Ages.

NOVEMBER EVENTS



ICE RINK OPENING WEEKEND

FRI. NOV 23, 11:00 AM-10:00 PM Z107

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

Spend the holiday weekend creating lasting memories with friends and family at the MetroParks Ice Rink! Warm up with hot chocolate from our food concession and enjoy the scenic Great Miami River. No registration required. All Ages. Fee: \$7 ❄️

DECEMBER EVENTS

(FREE) CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM

SUN. DEC 2, 12:00-4:00 PM Z42

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

String cranberries and popcorn for the farm-grown cedar tree, just like families did a century ago. Enjoy fresh-baked gingerbread and sample chestnuts hot from the fireplace. Play some period parlor games. At our Visitor Center you can make a Victorian Christmas decoration to take home. No registration required. All Ages.

(FREE) A HOLIDAY EVENING AT CARRIAGE HILL

SAT. DEC 8, 6:00-8:30 PM Z43

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

Come join us for a candlelit stroll through the farm and experience what it was like at night in the 1880s. Listen to holiday music, play some parlor games or watch some historic crafts. Experience an old-fashioned Victorian Christmas come to life. Concessions will be available. No registration required. All Ages.



CHRISTMAS EVE SKATE

MON. DEC 24, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM Z152

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

Start a holiday tradition by skating with your friends and family at MetroParks Ice Rink! Enjoy splendid scenery and warm up with hot chocolate from our food concession. No registration required. All Ages. Fee: \$7 ❄️

CHRISTMAS DAY SKATE

TUE. DEC 25, 1:00-8:00 PM Z151

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

Have an old-fashioned family holiday and skate on Christmas Day! Enjoy the festive atmosphere as you warm up with hot chocolate from our food concession. No registration required. All Ages.

Fee: \$7 🌀

NEW YEAR'S EVE SKATE

MON. DEC 31, 11:00 AM-10:00 PM Z150

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

Looking for something fun to do before the ball drops? Start your New Year's Eve party at the MetroParks Ice Rink! No registration required. All Ages. Fee: \$7 🌀

JANUARY EVENTS

NEW YEAR'S DAY SKATE

TUE. JAN 1, 1:00-8:00 PM Z149

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

Start the New Year with a healthy, active lifestyle and be the first to skate in 2019! No registration required. All Ages. Fee: \$7 🌀

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY SKATE

MON. JAN 21, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM Z113

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

Celebrate the holiday at MetroParks Ice Rink! No registration required.

All Ages.

Fee: \$7 🌀

SAVE
THE DATE

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS CONSERVATION SEASON OPENER

Sat., Feb. 2 • 10 AM to 4 PMFive Rivers MetroParks headquarters,
409 E. Monument Ave.

Learn how Five Rivers MetroParks' land stewardship practices protect our native habitats, 2018 accomplishments and plans 2019, meet some of the staff and volunteers — and how you can get involved. Attending does not commit you to anything.

**METROPARKS.ORG/
VOLUNTEER**

THE MIDWEST'S PREMIER OUTDOOR ADVENTURE FESTIVAL



SAT. AND SUN.

OCT. 6 & 7

11 AM TO 10 PM • 11 AM TO 4 PM
EASTWOOD METROPARK

- Free outdoor activities for All Ages. and your dog! Paddle, climb, backpack, slackline, bike and much more.
- Find new and used gear and meet local outdoor club members.
- Watch the pros take on the whitewater, tackle the slackline and more.
- Participate in competitions as a spectator or contestant.
- Enjoy food trucks, live music and craft brews.
- Camp for free Friday and Saturday nights!

Read more about OutdoorX
on page 18.

METROPARKS.ORG/OUTDOORX



FOR EVERYONE

Connect with and learn about nature with friends and family.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ARRANGED BY TOPIC



CONSERVATION & CITIZEN SCIENCE

(FREE) VOLUNTEERS: HIKE WITH THE COORDINATOR

TUE. OCT 2, 1:00-3:00 PM Z22

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

A more active way to learn about Five Rivers MetroParks, highlights at this particular site, and opportunities to get involved. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact info@metroparks.org for details. All Ages. 📞 ⚙️

ENTERTAINMENT

(FREE) ARTISAN NIGHT AT THE MARKET

WED. DEC 12, 5:30-8:30 PM Z154

2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St. The east dining and pavilion areas of the 2nd Street Market will be open for an evening of holiday shopping, music and gift creation. In addition to selling their wares, many artisan vendors will be teaching make-it-yourself holiday gift projects including ornaments, wreaths, jewelry, and more. No registration required. All Ages.

HERITAGE & HISTORY

HAYRIDE THRU POSSUM CREEK

SAT. OCT 20, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Z63

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Edible Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Get to know Possum Creek MetroPark from the inside of a hay wagon. Ride thru the park and learn all the great family fun the park has to offer, like camping and fishing. You will meet at the farm for a tour and then it's all aboard the hay wagon and off to explore the park. Registration required. All Ages. Fee: per person: \$5 📞 ⚙️

(FREE) A NEW COUNTRY: GERMAN FARM LIFE

SUN. OCT 21, 12:00-4:00 PM Z37

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

German farmers helped shape the Miami Valley, including the Arnold Family at Carriage Hill. Join us for a day when we explore their various ethnic contributions, including making sauerkraut, home-made sausage and beer. Throughout the day, informal demonstrations will be given, including smoking meats and making buckshot. No registration required. All Ages.

(FREE) BIRDS OF A FEATHER

SAT. NOV 10, 12:00-4:00 PM Z41

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

Various informal talks and demonstrations will be given throughout the day focusing on poultry and its place on the farm. Watch as we prepare different types of poultry using historical recipes and techniques. Afterward, there will be a talk on chickens, various breeds, and how to raise your own backyard flock. No registration required. All Ages.

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) WINTER CHORES

SUN. JAN 13, 12:00-4:00 PM Z46

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

Winter is the time of year to catch up on chores around the farm. If the weather is right, we will be harvesting ice from our lake. If not, we will be grinding corn for feed for the animals. No registration required. All Ages.

NATURE APPRECIATION

(FREE) AULLWOOD WINTER LUMINARY

SUN. DEC 2, 6:00-8:00 PM Z69

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, 955 Aullwood Rd.

Welcome the feel of winter with a peaceful evening walk through the luminary-lit paths of Aull-

wood Garden MetroPark, and then join us for a hot beverage and cookies at the house. We'll even have a visit from Santa! We'll meet at the parking lot. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All Ages. 📞

SKATING

TOP 40 HITS SKATE

FRI. JAN 11, 7:00-10:00 PM Z145

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

Come to MetroParks Ice Rink and skate as an on-site DJ plays Top 40 hits! No registration required. All Ages. Fee: Admission & Skate rental: \$7 ⚙️

MICHAEL JACKSON SKATE

FRI. JAN 18, 7:00-10:00 PM Z144

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

Do you love the King of Pop? Then come to MetroParks Ice Rink and moonwalk in ice skates as a DJ plays a variety of Michael Jackson's biggest hits. Groove to Thriller, Black or White, I'll Be There, and even some hits from the Jackson 5. No registration required. All Ages. Fee: Admission & Skate Rental: \$7 ⚙️

FROZEN ON ICE

FRI. JAN 25, 7:00-10:00 PM Z143

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

Bring the family out for a magical evening of ice skating! Glide the night away as the DJ plays your favorite Disney songs! No registration required. All Ages. Fee: Admission & Skate rental: \$7 ⚙️

SPECIAL EVENTS

(FREE) SANTA VISITS THE MARKET

SAT. DEC 15, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Z89

SUN. DEC 16, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM Z90

2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. Second St.

Bring a camera and snap a photo of Santa with your friends and family. It won't be too late to tell Santa what is on your wish list, including Market goodies. Santa will have a treat for everyone who stops by. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. All Ages.

600 E. SECOND ST., DOWNTOWN DAYTON

SHOP FRESH & LOCAL AT THE 2ND STREET MARKET

NEW THIS YEAR:
OPEN SUNDAYS
THROUGH
DEC. 31!

The Market features more than 50
locally owned vendors offering:

- Fresh produce
- Locally produced meat and dairy
- Kitchen staples
- Artisan goods

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

STOCK UP WEDNESDAY

Stop by the Market to grab your last-minute
Thanksgiving needs. Many vendors are accepting
pre-orders now through November.

Nearly 30 Market vendors
now accept SNAP/EBT
tokens and Produce Perks!

HOURS

Thursday & Friday – 11 AM to 3 PM • Saturday – 8 AM to 3 PM
Sunday through Dec. 31 – 11 AM to 3 PM

METROPARKS.ORG/LOCALFOOD

LEAF PEEPING BY BIKE

The Dayton region is home to the nation's largest paved trail network, with more than 340 miles to explore – many of them in your MetroParks. Hop on your bicycle to experience the breathtaking colors of fall; below are some suggested rides. For more info, visit metroparks.org/cycling.

METROPARK/CONSERVATION AREA		TRAIL	MILES	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Medlar Conservation Area	34	The Great-Little Trail	7	Runs from Crains Run Park in the west to Waterbury Ridge Lane in the east.
Taylorville MetroPark	25	The Great Miami River Trail	57	Ride four to five miles in Taylorville MetroPark, and continue on if you like.
Eastwood MetroPark	8	The Mad River Trail	6.6	Start your ride at RiverScape MetroPark and end in Huffman MetroPark to experience the city and the changing leaves.
Dull Woods Conservation Area	38	The Wolf Creek Trail	16	Dull Woods Conservation Area is located in the northern section of the trail. Ride from Trotwood to the Village of Verona.
MetroParks Mountain Biking Area at Huffman MetroPark (MoMBA)		Creekside Trail	2.2	This trail is rated blue (intermediate). View the beautiful rock bottom creek and tackle two large bridges, five creek crossings and more.



ACTIVE OUTDOORS

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

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY TOPIC



BACKPACKING

(FREE) VOLUNTEER:

BACKPACKING TRAIL WORK DAYS

SAT. OCT 13, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Z23

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 required. Contact info@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 🗝️ ⚙️

BACKCOUNTRY WATER TREATMENT

THU. NOV 8, 6:30-7:30 PM Z4

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Searching for the best option to get clean water on your backcountry adventures? Learn about the ins and outs of treatment options, including filters, chemicals and UV light, in this classroom-based program. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$5 🗝️

LIGHTWEIGHT BACKPACKING & ALCOHOL STOVES

WED. NOV 14, 6:00-8:30 PM Z92

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Looking to lighten your load so you can backpack more easily, hike longer, or get more miles in? Join us for this evening, classroom-based program where we will discuss a variety of ways to reduce pack weight, in addition to making an alcohol stove for you to take on your next adventure. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🗝️

BACKCOUNTRY COOKING

TUE. DEC 4, 6:00-8:30 PM Z142

2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St. Spice up your backcountry meals. Experiment with a variety of cooking methods from fast and light freezer bag meals to more elaborate gourmet entrées and desserts using different types of backpacking stoves. Ingredients and utensils

provided. Come hungry! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🗝️

CYCLING

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE 1

THU. OCT 18, 6:00-8:30 PM Z50

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

This hands-on 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: 18Y and up Fee: \$12 🗝️

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE 2

THU. OCT 25, 6:00-8:30 PM Z51

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

This hands-on class will offer instruction and guided practice with brake and drive-train maintenance. Prerequisites: Bicycle Maintenance 1. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🗝️

FISHING

FLY FISHING 1

TUE. OCT 16, 6:00-8:30 PM Z103

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, the basic cast, and more. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. Age: 12Y and up Fee: \$10 🗝️

FLY FISHING 2: LAKE

SAT. OCT 20, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Z104

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Shelter: Farm Shelter/Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Road Fly Fishing 1 taught you skills. 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 so you can post to all your friends. Equipment available upon request. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Prerequisites: Fly Fishing 1 Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$30 🗝️

FLY FISHING 2: RIVER

SAT. OCT 27, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Z105

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Bluegrass, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Fly Fishing 1 got you started and now you're ready for the next step. Learn about habitat, how to read the water and casting techniques needed for fishing in the current. Equipment available upon request. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a water bottle. Ohio fishing license required. Park in Springfield Street entrance lot. Prerequisites: Fly Fishing 1 Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$40 🗝️

THANKSGIVING DEER HAIR FLY TYING

WED. NOV 14, 6:00-8:00 PM Z115

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

Learn the art of spinning beautiful and functional fishing flies made from deer hair and amaze your fishing buddies and Thanksgiving guests with your own awesome, hand-tied, turkey fly. Materials and tools provided. Prerequisites: None. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗝️

FITNESS

SHINE YOUR LIGHT 5K

SAT. OCT 13, 6:45-9:00 PM Z35

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

Artemis Center & YWCA Dayton will host Shine Your Light 5K: A Glow Run to Bring Domestic Violence Out of the Dark. This event raises awareness of and funds for domestic violence services while honoring those we've lost and celebrating survivors. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 461-5550 or events@artemiscenter.org or events@ywcadayton.org for details. <http://shinye-ourlight.itsyourrace.com/>. All Ages. Fee: Early Registration: \$35, Walk-Up Oct. 12-13: \$40 ⚙️

(FREE) CHRISTMAS WALK IN DAYTON

SAT. DEC 1, 8:30 AM-3:00 PM Z88

2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St. This outdoor community recreation opportunity is presented by Ohio Wander Freunde Volkswalk

Club. Start between 8:30 AM and noon, finish by 3 PM. Contact Carol Yegerlehner. No registration required. Contact (937) 878-8381 or klockhaus@aol.com for details. All Ages.

HORSEBACK RIDING

(FREE) VOLUNTEER: CARRIAGE HILL RIDING CENTER ORIENTATION

THU. NOV 8, 6:00-7:00 PM Z26

SAT. DEC 8, 10:00-11:00 AM Z27

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Carriage Hill Riding Center, 8111 E. Shull Rd.

Are you looking to volunteer with horses? You might not have any experience at all, but we can train you! Come to our orientation to see what is happening at the Riding Center and how you can get involved as a volunteer. All volunteers begin as Barn Aides and then can train to assist with Pony Rides, Trail Rides, Lessons, etc. Registration required. Contact (937) 275-7275 or jenny.hymans@metroparks.org for details. Age: 14Y and up 🐾

OUTDOOR SKILLS AND SAFETY

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

THU. OCT 11, 6:30-8:30 PM Z24

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 requested, walk-ins welcome. Contact yvonne.dunphe@metroparks.org for details. All Ages. 🐾

LAND NAVIGATION

SAT. NOV 3, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM Z3

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Would you like to learn how to use a map and compass in the backcountry or maybe dust off some little-used skills? Then this is the program for you. We will spend the morning in the classroom learning the basic parts and ways to use maps and compasses. Then we'll get out and learn how to use them together in the field. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$25 🐾

PADDLING

KAYAK CAMPING

WED. NOV 28, 6:30-8:30 PM Z116

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

Have you ever wanted to go camping from a kayak or a canoe? Join Five Rivers MetroParks as

we explore the equipment and provide tips for camping out of a boat. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$15 🐾

RIVER RESCUE KNOTS

WED. DEC 5, 6:00-8:00 PM Z118

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

Learn and practice the major knots used in river rescue during this hands-on program in an indoor setting. Prerequisites: none. Registration required. Age: 16Y and up Fee: \$10 🐾

(FREE) DISCOVER PADDLESPO RTS

WED. JAN 9, 6:00-7:00 PM Z117

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. Prerequisites: none. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 14Y and up 🐾

SKATING

LEARN TO ICE SKATE TEEN COURSE

SUN NOV. 25, DEC. 2, 9 AND 16,

11:30 AM-12:00 PM Z112

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. Register for this program and receive two free skating admissions! Fee includes use of skates and lessons on Nov. 25, Dec. 2, and Dec. 9. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$50 🐾 ⚙️

LEARN TO ICE SKATE ADULT COURSE

SUN NOV. 25, DEC. 2, 9 AND 16, 12:00-

12:30 PM Z153

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. Register for this program and receive two free skating admissions! Fee includes use of skates and lessons on Nov. 25, Dec. 2, and Dec. 9. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$50 🐾 ⚙️

TRY BROOMBALL

SUN. NOV 25, 6:00-8:00 PM Z109

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

Grab your friends, come to the MetroParks Ice Rink and let the Dayton Broomball Association take you through the broomball basics! Learn the

rules, get on-ice instruction and scrimmage with other participants. Please wear gloves and gym shoes. No experience necessary. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 ⚙️

LEARN TO CURL

THU. NOV. 29-DEC. 20, 6:00-8:00 PM

Z110

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

Enjoy an evening of curling at the MetroParks Ice Rink! Participants can choose between a Learn to Curl session led by Curl Troy or a recreational pickup game against other local curlers. Register as a team of four players or as an individual by visiting curltroy.org/learn-curl. See contact info to register. www.curltroy.org/venues/riverscape. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$25 ⚙️

LEARN TO ICE SKATE: ADULT COURSE

SUN JAN. 6-20, 12:00-12:30 PM Z148

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. Register for this program and receive two free skating admissions! Fee includes use of skates and lessons on January 6, 13, and 20. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$50 🐾 ⚙️

OUTDOOR BROOMBALL LEAGUE

MON., WED. JAN. 7-FEB. 27, 6:00-8:00

PM Z156

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

Sign up for the Dayton Broomball Association's co-ed league at the MetroParks Ice Rink! Visit daytonbroomball.org/riverscape to learn more about this fast-paced sport and register your team for either the competitive or recreational league. The DBA will take the first 18 teams. See contact info to register. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$310 ⚙️

CURLING LEAGUE

TUE., THU. JAN. 8-FEB. 28, 6:00-9:00 PM

Z155

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

Sign up with friends for Curl Troy's co-ed league at the MetroParks Ice Rink! Curling is accessible to all skill levels and no experience is required. Visit curltroy.org to learn more and to register your team. Curl Troy will accept the first 18 teams: 4 players per team. Register at www.curltroy.org/venues/riverscape. See contact info to register. Contact <http://www.curltroy.org/venues/riverscape> for details. www.curltroy.org. Age: 18Y and up Fee: Per League: \$480 ⚙️

EARTH FRIENDLY LIVING

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

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY TOPIC

FOOD: EARTH TO TABLE

19TH CENTURY COOKERY CLASS FOR COUPLES: BREAKFAST

SAT. OCT 13, 7:30-9:30 AM Z39

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

Couples are invited to join us for a morning on the farm. Participants will learn how to prepare fresh, local ingredients and do some simple baking. Morning chores to collect ingredients will also be part of the experience. Fee will cover one couple. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$50 🍷

BACKYARD RABBITS: TASTE AND LEARN

WED. OCT 17, 6:00-8:00 PM Z73

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

Are you interested in raising rabbits for food, fiber, manure or pets? In this program staff will walk you through what you need to know about space requirements, feeding and breeds. Taste a rabbit dish and see fiber products from rabbits. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

PIE CRUSTS 3 WAYS, APPLE PIE & COFFEE

SAT. NOV 3, 8:00 AM-1:30 PM Z85

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Daniel Arnold House, 7850 E. Shull Rd.

Learn to make pie crusts three ways, make an apple pie and roast coffee. Students take home 1 deep dish apple pie in a wooden box. 1 baked crust, 1 pie dough, recipes, and coffee beans. Participants will also enjoy an apple pie with coffee - fruits of their labor! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$125 🍷

PROCESSING BACKYARD CHICKENS WORKSHOP

SAT. NOV 3, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Z75

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

Learn how to humanely process your own

chickens at home. Participants will watch skilled home processors humanely dispatch chicken. Afterward, you will learn how to dress a chicken. We will provide the tools required for cleaning. Participants will prepare their own chicken (which will be provided) to take home. Registration required. Contact cduncan@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$30 🍷

EASY SOFT CHEESE WORKSHOP

WED. NOV 28, 6:00-8:00 PM Z76

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

There is nothing more rewarding than offering your family fresh homemade goodness. Soft cheeses are good places to start in learning the science behind cheese. You will learn about coagulants, curds and whey and what type of equipment you will need while we make Ricotta and cottage cheese. There will be cheese to sample and take home. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

BEEES 101

SAT. JAN 12, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Z47

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

If you are interested in getting started with your own backyard hives, then join Mike Osborne, 4th generation beekeeper, as he discusses what you need to get started with bees. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷

GARDENING

LANDSCAPE REVOLUTIONS: CHOICES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

THU. OCT 11, 6:00-7:30 PM Z175

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

Enjoy an evening with Award-winning film director Catherine Zimmerman. She'll show clips from her film Hometown Habitat and discuss ways to join others in changing our landscaping attitudes and practices for a better environment. MetroParks staff will be on hand as well and together we'll explore ways to be part of this exciting movement.

Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🍷

FALL PLANTING: BEST TREES, SHRUBS, AND TECHNIQUES

SAT. OCT 13, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Z106

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

Plantsman Tomasz Przepiorkowski guides you through plant selection, installation, and maintenance of the best cultivars for our area. Take the guess work out and make a plan for success! A great class for any home owner or tree lover! Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷

WHAT TO DO WITH THE LEAVES: QUICK GARDEN GOLD

SAT. OCT 20, 10:00-11:30 AM Z58

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

Don't bag those leaves just yet! They hold great FREE nutrients for your yard and landscape beds. Learn ways to turn them into mulch and compost with simple tools. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷

BUS TRIP: ROOKWOOD POTTERY, FINDLAY MARKET, KROHN CONSERVATORY, BERN'S GARDEN CENTER

THU. DEC 6, 12:00 AM Z5

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Parking Lot, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Join us for a visit to Cincinnati. The tour begins at the famous Rookwood Pottery. Then we'll head to Findlay Market for lunch. Next will be a tour of the Krohn Conservatory's holiday displays. We'll finish the trip with a stop at Bern's Garden Center to shop their beautiful holiday plants and decorations. A Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation fundraiser. See contact info to register. Contact (937) 233-3481 or contact@wegerzyngardensfoundation.org for details. <http://wegerzyngardensfoundation.org/bus-trips.html>. Age: 18Y and up Fee: Foundation non-members: \$59, Wegerzyn Foundation Members: \$54

WINTER GREENHOUSE WONDERS

Learn about MetroParks' staff and volunteer work in the Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture. So come out of the cold, be amazed by what you learn, and take home a free plant after each session.

ASH TREE REPLACEMENTS**SAT. JAN 12, 10:00-11:30 AM Z99**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Green House, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn how MetroParks is replacing ash trees with many other varieties grown at Cox. A fascinating program that shows you step by step how we grow trees from seed to planting size for park facilities, and how and where they are planted. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷

AFRICAN VIOLETS AND SPRING BULBS**SAT. JAN 19, 10:00-11:30 AM Z100**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Green House, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Dedicated volunteers keep the African violet room filled with wonderful plants and the staff forces spring bulbs and grows other plants in the regular green house. You'll learn how violets are propagated and maintained and which ones would be best for you. You'll also see selective growing and overwintering in our regular greenhouse in preparation. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷

WILDFLOWER PROPAGATION**SAT. JAN 26, 10:00-11:30 AM Z101**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Green House, 6733 Springboro Pk.

The wildflower area at Cox is spectacular because of plants propagated on site. Learn which varieties are best for our area and how staff and volunteers keep them growing and flourishing not only for Cox but for other MetroParks sites. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷

receive a free composter. Registration required.

Age: 16Y and up 🍷

FRESH GREENS HOLIDAY CONTAINER**SAT. DEC 1, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Z67**

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

Bring your own 10-inch vase or container and we'll help you fill it with fresh cut greens gathered from our parks. We'll also supply natural accent and will even have ribbon and show you how to make your own bow. A great class for moms and daughters, neighbors, or garden clubs. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷

THE SCIENCE BEHIND SOAP**SAT. DEC 15, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Z82**

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

All real soap comes from a basic formula which transforms lye, fats and water into soap. We will demonstrate how these elements are transformed into soap and talk about different methods used to make soap like cold and hot process, re-batching and melt and pour. Afterwards you will make bar soap using a goat milk base and the melt and pour method. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷



BECOME A CHAMPION
OF FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

Help support Five Rivers MetroParks in its mission to protect the region's natural heritage

Sign up for a monthly donation and receive a t-shirt and window cling

METROPARKS.ORG/FOUNDATION


SUSTAINABLE HOME**(FREE) COMPOST KITCHEN****THU. NOV 1, 6:00-8:00 PM Z48****THU. NOV 8, 6:00-8:00 PM****THU. NOV 15, 6:00-8:00 PM**

OFFSITE, Montgomery County Solid Waste, 2550 Sandridge Dr.

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

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YOUR 18 CLEAN, SAFE METROPARKS!**SHARE YOUR OPINION ABOUT HILLS & DALES AND HUFFMAN METROPARKS**

As the next step in implementing its 10-year comprehensive master plan, Five Rivers MetroParks is developing site plans for each of its parks and facilities. Attend an open house this fall and share your thoughts about Hills & Dales and Huffman MetroParks.

Two sessions will be held on each day. Stop in any time during the open house.

THURSDAY, NOV. 29,
11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM
Oakwood Community Center, 105 Patterson Rd.
6 TO 8 PM
Oakwood City Building, 30 Park Ave.

TUESDAY, DEC. 12,
11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM AND 6 TO 8 PM
Comfort Suites Wright Patterson,
5220 Huberville Ave.

Those who cannot attend an open house may provide their feedback by visiting metroparks.org/plan or by calling 937-275-PARK.



ADULT NATURE EXPLORATION

Enjoy and learn about the splendor of the natural world.

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY TOPIC

CONSERVATION & CITIZEN SCIENCE

CAFÉ SCI

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

(FREE) CAFE SCI BLACK VULTURE INTRUSION

WED. OCT 3, 6:30-8:30 PM Z78

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

The black vultures' range is throughout much of the southeastern United States down into Texas and Mexico. For some time now, they have been moving north into Ohio and having a negative impact on Ohio's livestock producers. Jeff Pelc, wildlife biologist of the USDA-wildlife services, will talk about what makes these birds a hazard to our area. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 🍷

(FREE) CAFE SCI ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICS

WED. NOV 7, 6:30-8:30 PM Z79

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

Jarrod Burks, PhD, RPA Jarrod Burks, PhD, RPA, Director of archaeological geophysics, will speak on geophysics and ancient earthworks, including lots of new discoveries. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome.

Age: 18Y and up 🍷

(FREE) COYOTES IN METROPARKS

WED. DEC 5, 6:30-8:30 PM Z114

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

Grace Dietsch, biologist, will share some information regarding this common, yet often-misunderstood inhabitant of every MetroPark in the district. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 🍷

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Enjoy watching feederbirds and make new friends while taking part in this citizen-science initiative through Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. At this volunteer-led event, you'll learn your birds and keep track of the number of avian species that visit the feeders, while enjoying the fellowship of like-minded nature lovers.

(FREE) PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

FRI. NOV 16, 12:30-2:30 PM Z163

SAT. NOV 17, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM Z169

FRI. NOV 30, 12:30-2:30 PM Z164

SAT. DEC 1, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM Z170

FRI. DEC 14, 12:30-2:30 PM Z165

SAT. DEC 15, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM Z171

FRI. DEC 28, 12:30-2:30 PM Z166

SAT. DEC 29, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM Z172

FRI. JAN 11, 12:30-2:30 PM Z167

SAT. JAN 12, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM Z173

FRI. JAN 25, 12:30-2:30 PM Z168

SAT. JAN 26, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM Z174

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome.

Age: 14Y and up 🍷

FLORA & FAUNA

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS AND RED CEDARS

TUE. NOV 13, 8:00-10:00 PM Z52

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Join master bander Dr. Dave Russell as his team searches for and bands the elusive northern saw-whet owl. Discover why these amazing owls are perceived as "tame" while learning about their life history and the importance of the red cedar habitat to their wintering grounds. This program is best for ages 9 and older. Rain date Nov. 15. Registration required. <http://miamioh.edu/news/top-stories/2015/03/bird-banding.html>. All Ages.

Fee: \$5 🍷 ⚙️

WINTER TREE ID WORKSHOP

SUN. NOV 18, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM Z140

SAT. JAN 19, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM Z141

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

Learn how to identify more than 20 native trees by their twig, bark, and other winter characteristics. Discover pioneer, wildlife and commercial uses for each tree while sharing stories of folklore. Each participant will receive a winter tree identification notebook with everything needed to get started identifying trees. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷 ⚙️

HERITAGE & HISTORY

(FREE) CARLISLE FORT: A HOPEWELL SITE WORKSHOP

SAT. OCT 13, 12:00-2:30 PM Z91

TWIN CREEK METROPARK, Hopewell Parking Lot, 8502 Chamberlain Rd.

Discover the remnants of a culture from 2,000 years ago. Explore the Twin Creek MetroPark trails on this guided hike that will lead you to a unique mound built by the hands of the Hopewell people. Share in clues we have on this culture, and enjoy exciting activities from our NEW and rentable Hopewell Education Kit. Trails are moderately difficult. Registration required. Contact dhurvath@metroparks.org for details. Age: 18Y and up 🍷 ⚙️

NATURE APPRECIATION

ADULT NATURE WALKS

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

(FREE) ADULT NATURE WALK

TUE. OCT 2, 9:00-11:00 AM Z119

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/East

Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40

TUE. NOV 13, 9:00-11:00 AM Z124
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Park-
ing Lot, 4361 National Rd.

TUE. NOV 20, 9:00-11:00 AM Z125
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Cedar Lake/Park-
ing Lot, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

TUE. NOV 27, 9:00-11:00 AM Z126
EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot, 1385
Harshman Rd.

TUE. DEC 18, 9:00-11:00 AM Z129
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Cedar Lake/Park-
ing Lot, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

TUE. JAN 22, 9:00-11:00 AM Z130
EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot, 1385
Harshman Rd.

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome.

Age: 18Y and up 📷 ⚙️

(FREE) DISCOVERY STROLL

WED. OCT 3, 10:00-11:30 AM Z133

WED. OCT 10, 10:00-11:30 AM Z134

WED. OCT 17, 10:00-11:30 AM Z135

WED. OCT 24, 10:00-11:30 AM Z136

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

Registration requested, walk-ins welcome.

Age: 18Y and up 📷 ⚙️

serve as models, so be prepared to move. Bring
your camera and (if you have them) a tripod, flash
and remote control. Registration required. Age:
18Y and up Fee: \$20 📷

PHOTOGRAPHY BOOT CAMP

SAT. JAN 12, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Z97

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

Bring your camera and instruction manual
to this active session where you will learn
about the capabilities of your equipment and
how to quickly adjust settings for different
shooting situations. Each participant will
receive individual attention from the instruc-
tor, and leave the class with a customized quick
reference guide. Registration requested, walk-ins
welcome. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$40 📷



SIGN UP FOR METROPARKS' MONTHLY DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Check your inbox to learn how you can Get Out & Explore
your MetroParks. A monthly newsletter is packed with
highlights, and newsletters for special interests such as
gardening, outdoor recreation and volunteerism also are
popular. All are designed to help you make the most of your
Five Rivers MetroParks!

METROPARKS.ORG/NEWSLETTERS

SUPPORT YOUR METROPARKS

Help kids connect to nature, provide
green spaces to explore and protect
the region's natural heritage with
a year-end gift to the Five Rivers
MetroParks Foundation.

METROPARKS.ORG/DONATE

PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK

FRI. OCT 19, 7:30-9:00 PM Z94

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

This special evening class will introduce meth-
ods for taking pictures of the night sky and fun
activities with lights in the dark. Lecture will be
followed by practice outdoors, so bring your
camera and (if you have them) a tripod, flash and
flashlight. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up
Fee: \$20 📷

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE BLURRY

SAT. NOV 3, 10:00-11:30 AM Z95

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

Blur in a photograph can be a good thing or a bad
thing, depending on how it is used. This session
will introduce methods to prevent unwanted blur,
and demonstrate how to use blur in creative ways.
Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 📷

ALL TOGETHER NOW

SAT. DEC 1, 10:00-11:30 AM Z96

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

Get ready for holiday gatherings with this class
that introduces techniques for taking photos of
families and other groups. Class attendees will

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC *LIVE!*

**GET YOUR SEASON
TICKETS NOW!**
ALL THREE EVENTS STARTING AT \$75!

2018-2019 SPEAKER SERIES

See their experiences.
Feel their stories.
Be there on the front
lines of our universe's
most amazing
environments.



Kobie Boykins EXPLORING MARS

February 3 & 4, 2019
Victoria Theatre

NASA: JPL-Caltech



Mark Synnott LIFE ON THE VERTICAL

March 10 & 11, 2019
Victoria Theatre

Photo: Mark Synnott



Florian Schulz INTO THE ARCTIC KINGDOM

April 14 & 15, 2019
Victoria Theatre

Photo: Florian Schulz

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FAMILY

Spend quality time outdoors with everyone in your family.

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY DATE

CONSERVATION KIDS

This series 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 hat and become eligible to volunteer and help lead future programs. Visit metroparks.org/kids.

(FREE) NOCTURNAL ADVENTURE

FRI. OCT 12, 6:30-8:00 PM Z29

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Join us on a night hike just for families. We'll discuss our fears of the night, explore nocturnal animals, and search for Screech Owls. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦉 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) REBUILDING OUR FORESTS

SAT. OCT 20, 10:00-11:30 AM Z33

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC/East Park Parking Lot, 2101 U.S. 40

Learn how trees play an important part in the way we and other animals live. We will also be collecting nuts and test their viability to be planted as part of reforestation efforts. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦉 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) SPIDER SEARCH

SAT. OCT 20, 1:00-2:30 PM Z31

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Challenge undesired fears while learning more about these adaptable creatures. See a brown recluse and black widow so you'll know how to recognize them and appreciate a world of spiders. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦉 ⚙️ ▲

BECOME A NIGHT HIKE GUIDE

FRI. OCT 26, 6:00-8:00 PM Z34

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

Fall is the perfect time to take friends on a night hike! Learn how to find spiders, frogs and other signs of nocturnal creatures. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$10 🦉 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) FOREST FRENZY

SAT. OCT 27, 1:00-2:30 PM Z30

HUFFMAN METROPARK, Shelter: Redtail, 4439 Lower Valley Pk.

Explore the changing season, search for local wildlife, and learn why forests are crucial to human survival. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦉 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) CREEPY CREATURES

SAT. OCT 27, 6:30-8:00 PM Z32

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Patterson/Nature Play/Parking Lot, 2606 Hilton Dr.

Spiders, snakes, and bats. Learn about these commonly misunderstood animals, then venture on the trail to meet a few of them. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦉 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) WHO HIBERNATES?

SAT. NOV 3, 10:00-11:30 AM Z7

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Animals have adapted for winter in many different ways. Let's explore, as well as hike through the forest. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦉 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) GREAT NATURE PROJECT

SAT. NOV 3, 1:00-2:30 PM Z10

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Come help the naturalists at Five Rivers MetroParks take pictures of the local biodiversity for this awesome citizen science project! Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦉 ▲

(FREE) FALL BIRD WALK

SAT. NOV 10, 10:00-11:30 AM Z6

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

Discover which birds call Ohio their warm refuge while searching for them in the park.

Bring binoculars if you have them. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦉 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) RAPTOR EXCURSION

SAT. NOV 10, 1:00-2:30 PM Z9

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

Flying high above us are so many birds looking down at their prey. Learn about the different raptors that make Dayton their home and get a chance to meet our raptor ambassadors! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦉 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) LEAF HUNT

SAT. NOV 17, 10:00-11:30 AM Z8

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Autumn is here and the leaves are starting to fall! It's the perfect time to discover different leaves and to start a collection! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦉 ⚙️ ▲

MASTER NATURE GAMER

SAT. NOV 17, 1:00-3:00 PM Z11

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

Late fall and winter are the perfect time to be playing in a prairie with plenty of hiding spaces and no ticks! Come learn how you can have fun in a prairie with your friends. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$10 🦉 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) OH, DEER!

SAT. DEC 15, 1:00-2:30 PM Z14

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Come learn more about MetroParks' largest mammal, the white-tail deer, while hiking through winter's forest. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦉 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) NIGHT LAKE WATCH

SAT. DEC 15, 4:30-6:00 PM Z13

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Shelter: Hickory/Parking Lot/Argonne Lake, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Possum Creek MetroPark has a beautiful lake, complete with beavers and other

nightlife. Join a naturalist for a leisurely walk around Argonne Lake to look for creatures while learning about winter ecology. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) PRAIRIE FUN

SAT. JAN 5, 10:00-11:30 AM Z157
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Fishing Ponds Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

With towering grasses, but no ticks, prairies are great places to play in winter. Join local families in the best nature games! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) ANIMAL TRACKING EXCURSION

SAT. JAN 5, 1:00-2:30 PM Z159
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Olmsted/Nature Play/Parking Lot, 2606 Hilton Dr.

Have you ever wanted to become an animal tracker? Discover the art and science of tracking during this hands-on excursion. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) GREENHOUSE HELPERS

SAT. JAN 19, 2:00-4:00 PM Z158
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Green House, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Be part of conservation efforts while discovering what a horticulturist must do to care for seeds and plants in the winter. The plants we start will be planted in the park by Conservation Kids later this spring. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) WINTER NIGHT HIKE

FRI. JAN 25, 5:00-6:30 PM Z162
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Explore the park on a cold night with your little naturalist. Learn about mammals and birds that stay active at night during winter. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All Ages. 🍷 ▲

(FREE) HIBERNATING INSECTS

SAT. JAN 26, 10:00-11:30 AM Z160
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd.

Enjoy an expedition in search of hibernating insects. Once they're found, your child will warm them up with body heat and watch them wake up! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-13Y 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

BECOME A TRACKER

SAT. JAN 26, 1:00-3:00 PM Z161
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.
Wintertime is great for exploring animal

tracks. Learn how to spot animal signs, and get others excited about exploring winter! Participants will receive knowledge and tools to help them lead their own tracking adventure for friends. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$10 🍷 ⚙️ ▲

THE INCREDIBLE EDIBLE PUMPKIN

SAT. OCT 13, 10:00-11:30 AM Z62
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
There is goodness to be found in pumpkins. You can decorate them and even EAT them. Have a great time learning how to prepare a pumpkin to cook with; you will use that pumpkin to make pumpkin dip to eat with pumpkin bread. Plus, you will receive your own pumpkin pie to take home. Registration required. All Ages. Fee: per family: \$10 🍷

(FREE) PUMPKIN DECORATING

SAT. OCT 20, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Z86
2ND STREET MARKET, Pavilion, 600 E. Second St.
The great pumpkin harvest has arrived! Bring your creative spirit to 2nd Street Market for a fun-filled family day decorating this fall favorite. No registration required. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. All Ages.

HOMEMADE PASTA FOR THE FAMILY

SAT. NOV 10, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Z74
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Do you like pasta? Do you know where pasta comes from or how it's made? Then here's your chance for everyone in the family to grind wheat and knead dough to make pasta to take home and eat with your favorite sauce. Registration required. All Ages. Fee: per family: \$10 🍷

SOAPY FAMILY FUN

SAT. DEC 8, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Z83
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Come have some clean fun making re-batched soap. You will pour soap into molds and add coloring and scent to personalize your soap. Each family will make at least three bars of soap to take home. Great holiday gifts for kids' friends and teachers. Registration required. All Ages. Fee: per family: \$15 🍷

GIFTS FOR OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

SAT. DEC 22, 10:00-11:30 AM Z81
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Winter can be hard for our local birds, but we can give them a helping hand. Your family will

make homemade suet blocks from lard, seeds and recycled yogurt cups to take home for your feathered friends and to give as gifts for the bird lovers in your family. Registration required. All Ages. Fee: per family: \$10 🍷

RE-PURPOSING HACKS FOR THE FAMILY: T-SHIRTS

SAT. JAN 26, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Z84
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.
Learn amazing re-purposing hacks with Farm Connie. Each month, we will turn everyday items - such as used water bottles, t-shirts, cans and other items destined for the garbage - into useful items. For this month's hack, we will make a tote and necklace from an old shirt. Bring two used t-shirts to re-purpose into new useful items. Registration required. All Ages. Fee: per family: \$5 🍷

CONSERVATION KIDS

We've recently made it easier for families to participate in Conservation Kids programs by removing age-level restrictions. You will find all your Conservation Kids programs in one place. 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 building connections!

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.

PRESCHOOL

*Help young children discover
the wonders of nature.*

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY DATE



GET OUTSIDE BOOK CLUB

Five Rivers MetroParks and the Dayton Metro Library have partnered to develop a special reading club for preschoolers! Gatherings at your local library and in the parks will get you and your child excited for reading and exploring nature adventures in your backyard. Visit metroparks.org/bookclub.

(FREE) POND EXPLORATION

WED. OCT 3, 10:00-11:00 AM Y227
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: Hilltop / Sledding Hill/Parking Lot, 1200 Brown School Rd. Read stories with a Dayton Metro Librarian, and discover that we are all made of water! Later, explore the pond in search of frogs, dragonflies, and other life. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-6Y 🐸 ⚙️

(FREE) NATURE PLAY

MON. OCT 8, 10:00-11:00 AM Z15
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter Parking Lot, 4361 National Rd. Read stories of nature exploration, then embark on your own adventures and discover life and imagination. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-6Y 🐸 ⚙️

(FREE) SPACE TRAVELER

THU. OCT 18, 10:00-11:00 AM Z16
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd. Travel to the moon, planets, and far beyond our galaxy as we build spaceships out of nature, and blast off into our imagination. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-6Y 🐸 ⚙️

(FREE) BIRD LIFE

FRI. OCT 26, 10:00-11:00 AM Z17
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd. Explore local bird diversity through stories and hikes while exploring what it would be like to fly through the sky. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-6Y 🐸 ⚙️

(FREE) FOREST OF LEAVES

MON. OCT 29, 10:00-11:00 AM Z18
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Edible Land-

scape Garden/Pavilion, 6733 Springboro Pk. Explore the colors, sizes, and shapes of leaves through stories, songs, and puppets as Dayton Metro Library and MetroParks naturalists guide your little one on a journey through books and forests. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-6Y 🐸 ⚙️

(FREE) STORYTIME ON THE FARM

THU. OCT 4, 10:00-11:00 AM Z57
THU. NOV 1, 10:00-11:00 AM Z60
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd. Come to Possum Creek MetroPark's farm for a story, a fun activity and afterwards visit the animals. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y 🐸

TIKE HIKE

Explore nature with your preschooler, hand-in-hand, as we venture through diverse habitats, pretend, tell stories, and play during these theme-based gatherings.

(FREE) WOODLAND ADVENTURE

THU. OCT 11, 10:00-11:00 AM Z138
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw/Parking Lot, 100 Deep Hollow Rd. Get out for crisp, fresh air and take an adventurous nature hike through the woodlands, exploring the trees, plants, and wildlife. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y 🐸 ⚙️

(FREE) MY FIRST LEAF COLLECTION

THU. NOV 15, 10:00-11:00 AM Z139
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk. Collect perfect study materials for preschoolers: Leaves! They come in different colors, shapes, sizes, textures, and more! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 3Y-5Y 🐸 ⚙️

LEARN TO ICE SKATE: CHILDREN'S COURSE

SUN NOV. 25, DEC. 2, 9 AND 16, 11:00-11:30 AM Z111

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. Fee includes use of skates and lessons on Nov. 25, Dec. 2 and Dec. 9. Register for this class and receive two free skate admissions! Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: \$50 ⚙️

(FREE) WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE FARM

THU. DEC 6, 10:00-11:00 AM Z77

THU. JAN 3, 10:00-11:00 AM Z80

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

Things are always changing at the farm, whether it's the seasons, what's growing in the garden or prairie, or how the different animals are changing to adapt to the weather. Life on the farm is always in motion. Each month, there will be different fun subjects to learn about from stories to activities. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 2Y-6Y 🐸

LEARN TO ICE SKATE CHILDREN'S COURSE

SUN JAN. 6, 13 AND 20, 11:00-11:30 AM Z146

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. Fee includes use of skates and lessons on January 6, 13 and 20. Register for this class and receive two free skate admissions! Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y Fee: \$50 ⚙️

YOUTH AND TEEN

Explore the outdoors while learning and growing.

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY DATE

MORNING CHORES

SAT. OCT 20, 8:30-10:00 AM Z38

SAT. NOV 17, 8:30-10:00 AM Z40

SAT. DEC 15, 8:30-10:00 AM Z44

SAT. JAN 19, 8:30-10:00 AM Z45

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

Join a farm staff member to experience a typical work day for a farm hand. Participants will help with a variety of historic chores. Meet at the front gate of the farm. Registration required. Age: 8Y-12Y Fee: \$5 🗳️

LEARN TO ICE SKATE YOUTH/TEEN COURSE

SUN JAN. 6-20, 11:00-11:30 AM Z147

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 and lessons on January 6, 13, and 20. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Registration required. Age: 6Y-17Y Fee: \$50 🗳️ ⚙️

SPOOKY GARDEN CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, OCT. 26
3 TO 7:30 PM

Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark

Enjoy games, costumes, crafts, music, tricks, treats and more during this fall celebration at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. This free, family-friendly event is suitable for kids of All Ages., including little ones. Sponsored in part by the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation.

SEE PAGE 24

GET OUT & EXPLORE YOUR METROPARKS

For more than 50 years, Five Rivers MetroParks has protected the region's natural heritage and provided outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection to nature.

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS OVERVIEW



3.6 MILLION ANNUAL VISITS



18 CLEAN, SAFE PARKS



2ND STREET MARKET



11 CONSERVATION AREAS



160 MILES OF MANAGED TRAILS

for hiking, biking, mountain biking and horseback riding



270 MILES OF RIVER CORRIDOR

42 miles managed by Five Rivers MetroParks



8+ OUTDOOR RECREATION FEATURES

Including MoMBA and the Twin Valley Trail



9+ EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

Including the Butterfly House and Children's Discovery Garden



16,112 ACRES OF PROTECTED LAND

90 percent of the land is maintained in its natural state, meaning the land is managed so habitat for plants and wildlife is a priority. Doing so preserves clean water and air, supports plant and wildlife biodiversity, and provides beautiful places where people can connect with nature.

METROPARKS.ORG/EXPLORE

COMMUNITY GROUPS & TRAINING

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

PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY TOPIC

GARDENING

(FREE) CREATE A GREEN SCHOOLYARD

SAT. NOV 3, 8:00 AM-12:30 PM Z56

OFFSITE, St. Charles Borromeo School, 4600 Ackerman Blvd

Learn the steps to establishing a successful green schoolyard, draw up preliminary sketches, learn about incorporating curriculum in the garden, and tour a successful Green Schoolyard. This training is designed for teachers, who will receive a certificate of participation. St Charles Borromeo School. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 📄

(FREE) START A NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN

THU. NOV 8, 6:00-7:30 PM Z53

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

MetroParks works with more than 90 community gardens in Montgomery County. How can you start a community vegetable garden in your neighborhood, school, or church? Learn the essential steps to a successful project. Begin planning for next year! Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 📄

COMMUNITY GARDENER LEADERSHIP TRAINING

SAT. DEC 8, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM Z54

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

Multiple speakers will present topics of interest for you to take back to your community gardens. Learn more about specific gardening methods, group dynamics, best plant selection and good agricultural practices. Light refreshments provided. Registration required. All Ages. Fee: \$15

SAVE THE DATE

2019 MIAMI VALLEY LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE SUMMIT!

Saturday, March 30 at Brukner Nature Center, 5995 Horseshoe Bend Rd., Troy.
www.bit.ly/MVLNCI

DO YOU KNOW EDUCATORS WHO USE NATURE AS A CLASSROOM?

Nominate them for a 2018 OUTstanding Teacher Award. Winners receive prizes, classroom materials and more. Dayton-area classroom educators who teach any subject from pre-K through high school are eligible.

Submit nominations by Jan. 31, 2019.

Winners will be announced at the 2019 Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Summit.

CELEBRATE TEACHERS WHO INSPIRE YOU TO GET OUTDOORS

Congratulations to the 2017 OUTstanding Teacher Award recipients:

Rising Star: Sarah Lamont
(less than 10 years of experience)

Leader: Darcy Rodman
(10-20 years of experience)

Lifetime Achievement: Mary Kathryn Gooch
(more than 20 years of experience)


**OUT
STANDING
TEACHER AWARD**

Funded through the James M. Cox Jr. Arboretum Foundation, the award is for teachers providing students with outdoor, environmental experiences that inspire interest in and positive attitudes about nature.

METROPARKS.ORG/OUTSTANDING

METROPARKS

\$5 ADMISSION
\$2 SKATE RENTAL

ICE RINK

AT RIVERSCAPE
METROPARK

SUPPORTED IN PART BY SUBWAY



2018 - 2019 HOURS

NOV. 23 TO FEB. 28

OPENING DAY HOURS (NOV. 23) Friday 11 AM - 10 PM

NOV. 23 - DEC. 23

Sunday	1 - 5 PM
Monday	2:30 - 8 PM
Tuesday	2:30 - 8 PM
Wednesday	2:30 - 8 PM
Thursday	2:30 - 5 PM
Friday	2:30 - 10 PM
Saturday	11 AM - 10 PM

DEC. 24 - JAN. 6

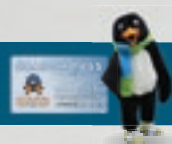
Sunday	1 - 5 PM
Monday	See Holiday Hours
Tuesday	See Holiday Hours
Wednesday	11 AM - 8 PM
Thursday	11 AM - 8 PM
Friday	11 AM - 10 PM
Saturday	11 AM - 10 PM

JAN. 7 - FEB. 28

Sunday	1 - 5 PM
Monday	2:30 - 5 PM
Tuesday	2:30 - 5 PM
Wednesday	2:30 - 5 PM
Thursday	2:30 - 5 PM
Friday	2:30 - 10 PM
Saturday	11 AM - 10 PM

HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24)	11 AM - 5 PM
Christmas Day (Dec. 25)	1 - 8 PM
New Year's Eve (Dec. 31)	11 AM - 10 PM
New Year's Day (Jan. 1)	1 - 8 PM
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 21)	11 AM - 5 PM
Presidents Day (Feb. 18)	11 AM - 5 PM



SEASON PASSES AND PRIVATE
RINK RENTALS AVAILABLE

After 5 PM and on weekends and holidays, call 278-2607 for information.

937-275-PARK (7275) • METROPARKS.ORG/ICERINK



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Dayton, Ohio 45402-1260

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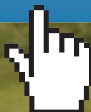
HOLD ON TO YOUR PARKWAYS!

This issue covers programs from October 2018 through January 2019.
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 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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