



FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

CREATING GREAT PARKS



OH-9057-LL DISCOVERY 158

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FIVE RIVERS
METROCHARS

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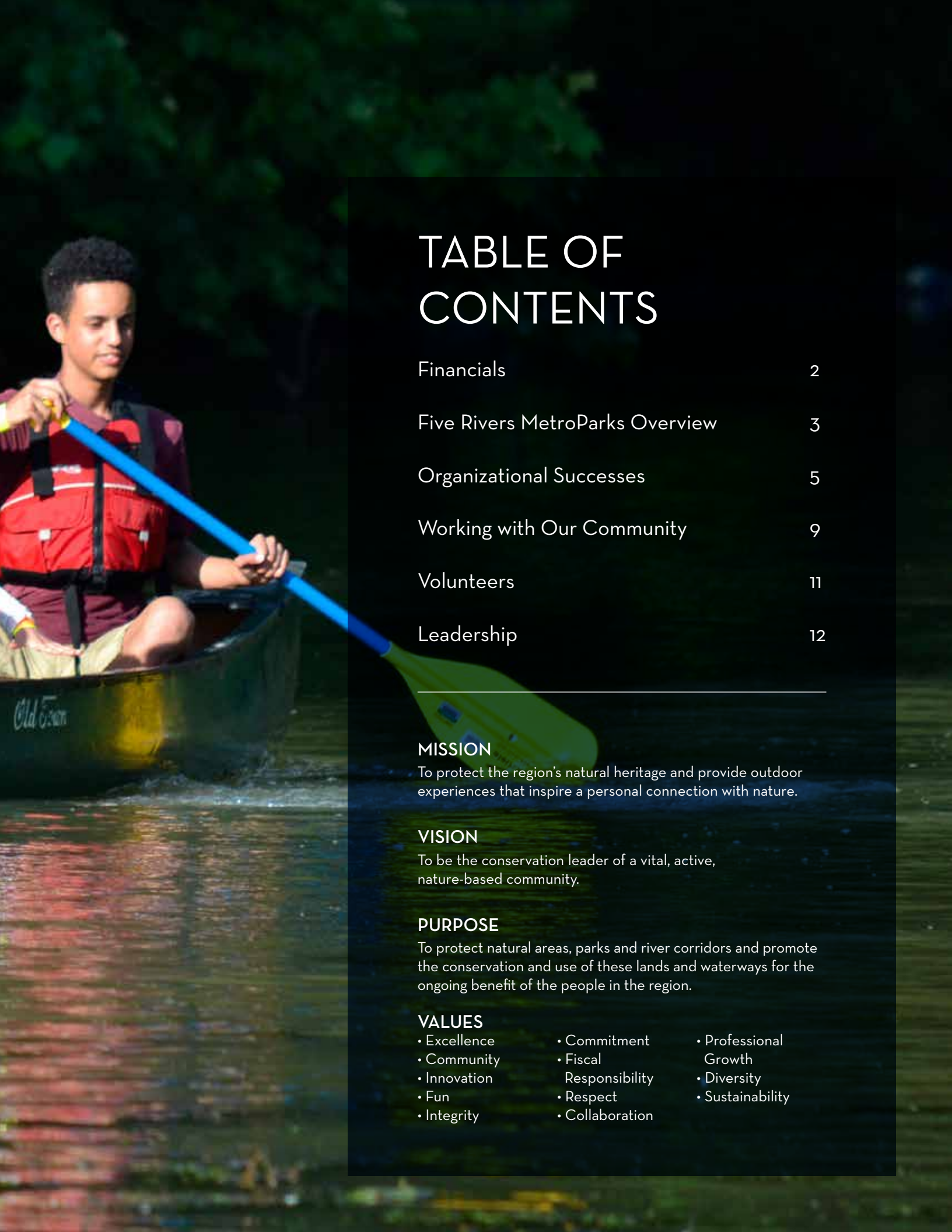


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MISSION

To protect the region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature.

VISION

To be the conservation leader of a vital, active, nature-based community.

PURPOSE

To protect natural areas, parks and river corridors and promote the conservation and use of these lands and waterways for the ongoing benefit of the people in the region.

VALUES

- Excellence
- Community
- Innovation
- Fun
- Integrity
- Commitment
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Professional Growth
- Diversity
- Sustainability



CONTINUING FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS' WORK TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

At Five Rivers MetroParks, 2018 was a year to give thanks – and one that allows us to look forward to the next decade.

That's because on Nov. 6, 2018, Montgomery County voters overwhelmingly approved a 10-year replacement levy. These critical levy funds provide approximately 80 percent of our budget, and its passage enables Five Rivers MetroParks to continue to protect the region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature.

I'm so thankful to live in a community that values your MetroParks, as evidenced by voters' support. I'm thankful that, every year, 3.6 million people visit Five Rivers MetroParks' clean, safe and beautiful parks – places where they relax and unwind; create lasting memories with family and friends; and enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle. I'm thankful your MetroParks is able to preserve more than 16,000 acres of land, 90 percent of it maintained in an undeveloped, natural state.

And I'm thankful most Montgomery County residents live just 10 to 15 minutes from a MetroPark, all of which are open year-round with free admission. 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.

Your Five Rivers MetroParks is focused on serving the community – and on meeting citizens' priorities. To do that, Five Rivers MetroParks regularly communicates with residents, park users, other community leaders and partners. Based on that feedback, Five Rivers MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners adopted a 10-year comprehensive master plan in 2016 to ensure the agency is planning for and addressing community priorities.

Your Five Rivers MetroParks works diligently every day to help make Montgomery County a better place to live, work and play. Your Five Rivers MetroParks provides natural areas, parks, facilities, programs and services our community deserves. We're implementing the community's priorities, serving as the region's conservation leader, supporting sustainable and active lifestyles, and ensuring Five Rivers MetroParks remains a major source of pride and an economic catalyst for the region.

Your Five Rivers MetroParks is excited to serve you for decades to come!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca A. Benná".

Rebecca A. Benná
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FINANCIALS

APPROXIMATELY 80 PERCENT OF FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS' FUNDING COMES FROM A PROPERTY TAX LEVY SUPPORTED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY TAXPAYERS.

On Nov. 6, 2018, voters overwhelmingly passed Issue 6, a 10-year replacement levy that allows Five Rivers MetroParks to continue to protect the region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection to nature.

Also in 2018, Five Rivers MetroParks assumed fiduciary responsibilities and installed a customized and modern software system. These changes help Five Rivers MetroParks more efficiently and effectively and manage the agency's resources.

Five Rivers MetroParks takes its responsibility as steward of the public's funds very seriously and is committed to providing quality and value for the community.

In recent years, Five Rivers MetroParks has diversified its revenue streams to help fill the gap created by the permanent elimination of and reductions in state and local funding. Support from businesses, organizations, foundations, individuals and community entities helps Five Rivers MetroParks provide special projects and programs it otherwise would not be able to offer the public.

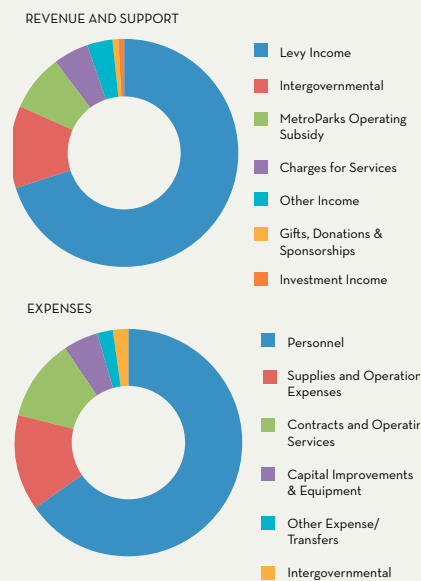
Five Rivers MetroParks also is focused on supplementing taxpayer funding so the agency can continue to protect the region's natural heritage and provide the high-quality parks and programs the community expects and deserves. Five Rivers MetroParks continues to develop new partnerships that maximize levy dollars and create more balanced and sustainable finances. In addition, the agency reduces costs wherever possible and implements fees for services and programs that benefit small groups or individuals while still providing free access to all your clean, safe MetroParks.

2018 REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Levy Income:	\$14,441,526
Intergovernmental:	\$2,375,911
Charges for Services:	\$1,033,627
Investment Income:	\$136,883
Gifts, Donations & Sponsorships:	\$184,719
Other Income:	\$797,020
MetroParks Operating Subsidy: *	\$1,672,900
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT:	\$ 20,642,586

2018 EXPENSES

Personnel:	\$13,490,837
Supplies and Operating Expenses:	\$2,842,273
Contracts and Operating Services:	\$2,405,318
Intergovernmental:	\$432,144
Capital Improvements & Equipment:	\$1,010,146
Other Expenses/Transfers:	\$461,868
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$20,642,586



*As part of its levy funding cycle, Five Rivers MetroParks budgeted to supplement revenues with reserves.

For more on the agency's funding, visit metroparks.org/funding.

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS OVERVIEW



3.3 MILLION VISITORS

The Dayton Business Journal again named Five Rivers MetroParks the Dayton area's No. 1 most visited attraction in 2018.



287,248
PARTICIPANTS
in Five Rivers MetroParks
programs and events.

14,877
PARTICIPANTS
at 169 speaking engagements
and appearances.

14,253
PARTICIPANTS
in 628 public programs

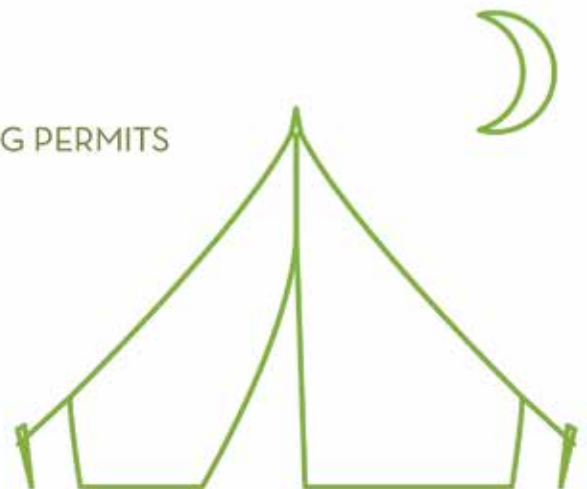
9,752
PARTICIPANTS
at 389 nature programs

272,995
PARTICIPANTS
at 169 special events

25,009
PARTICIPANTS
at 614 programs targeted
specifically at youth and their
families

3,983
children served through 127 tours

1,928
SHELTER AND CAMPING PERMITS





16,333 ACRES OF PROTECTED LAND

90% 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.

3,018 acres are in conservation easements. This land is protected by a legal agreement between a landowner and Five Rivers MetroParks that permanently limits uses of the land to protect its conservation values.

11 conservation areas, which are significant tracts of land primarily in a natural state with minimal infrastructure, are part of MetroParks' protected land.

30

LOCATIONS, including 18 parks, the 2nd Street Market and 11 conservation areas. MetroParks also manages portions of six paved recreation trails.

160

MILES OF MANAGED NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS (for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding)

270

MILES OF RIVER CORRIDOR, 42 of which are cared for by Five Rivers MetroParks



9+ EDUCATIONAL FEATURES EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

-  Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture
-  Inventors Riverwalk
-  Butterfly House
-  Tree Tower
-  Carriage Hill Historical Farm
-  Twin Valley Welcome Center
-  Possum Creek Edible Farm
-  Children's Discovery Garden
-  Zorniger Education Campus

40+ NATURAL FEATURES

including Osage-Orange Tunnel, Three Sisters, Bob Siebenthaler Natural Area and others



8+ OUTDOOR RECREATION FEATURES EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

-  MoMBA MetroParks Mountain Biking Area
-  Carriage Hill Riding Center
-  Twin Valley Backpacking Trail
-  Blue Heron Disc Golf Course
-  Mad River River Run
-  RiverScape River Run
-  RiverScape Ice Rink
-  RiverScape Bike Hub

ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESSES



COMMUNITY INPUT SHAPING THE FUTURE OF YOUR METROPARKS

In 2018, eight park master plans and the Dayton Riverfront Plan were developed, which addressed planning for 17 MetroParks locations. These plans – developed with input from the community during public meetings and surveys – will guide the management and development of the parks for the future years to come.

Park master plans have been developed for the following locations:

- Carriage Hill MetroPark
- Eastwood MetroPark
- Englewood and Aullwood MetroParks and Pigeon Conservation Area
- Future Medlar MetroPark (now Medlar Conservation Area)
- Possum Creek MetroPark
- Future Spring Run MetroPark (now the Wetland Mitigation Bank Conservation Area)
- Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks and Twin Valley Conservation Area
- Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark
- Island MetroPark
- Deeds Point MetroPark
- RiverScape MetroPark
- Sunrise MetroPark
- Wesleyan MetroPark

View the park master plans and learn about planning efforts now underway at metroparks.org/plan.

The 20-year Dayton Riverfront Plan was based on community input and stakeholder feedback as well. It harnesses Dayton's river corridors to:

- create dynamic places that strengthen urban vibrancy
- provide better access to amenities that encourage healthy, active lifestyles and
- create regional destinations

The plan includes approximately three miles along all four waterways in greater downtown Dayton, reaching into every segment of the community. It provided site plans for Island, Deeds, RiverScape, and Wesleyan MetroParks.

Learn more at daytonriverfrontplan.org.



METROPARKS, LOCAL TRAIL ADVOCATE EARN OHIO PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Five Rivers MetroParks' two-day annual adventure festival, the Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience (OutdoorX), received the 2018 Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Award of Excellence in the "environmental and interpretive" category for its waste-free initiative.

Even though more than 15,000 people attend OutdoorX, it's a waste-free event – keeping as much waste out of the landfill as possible. This is accomplished through:

- Marketing efforts that encourage festival-goers to bring their own reusable water bottles
- Strategically placed waste stations staffed by trained volunteers
- Vendor commitment to serve food and beverages on compostable serveware
- Partnership with the city of Dayton's Take Back the Tap water truck
- MetroParks staff and volunteers who ensure recyclable and compostable waste is collected, separated and sent to Montgomery County's recycling facility or Cox Arboretum MetroPark to be chipped and turned into compost for MetroParks.

Results from the 2017 OutdoorX waste free initiative resulted in more than 1,500 pounds of waste diverted from the landfill, 711 pounds of compost collected and 573 pounds of materials recycled.

In addition, avid Five Rivers MetroParks volunteer Andy Niekamp received the statewide OPRA Outstanding Citizen Award.

A long-time outdoor recreationalist, Niekamp founded the Dayton Hikers club nearly 10 years ago, which has grown to more than 5,000 members. Niekamp and the Dayton Hikers were integral in the success of the region's Google Trekker project, in which Five Rivers MetroParks staff and Dayton Hikers volunteers captured images of 600 miles of local hiking, equestrian, mountain biking, water and paved trails. In addition, Niekamp worked with the Buckeye Trail Association on funding for a bridge and boardwalk at Eastwood MetroPark and helped bring the region's trails into the spotlight on an international level while organizing volunteers for the International Trail Symposium in 2017.



PARKS AND CONSERVATION TEAM BUILDING NEW HABITAT

In 2018, Five Rivers MetroParks created a wetland and worked on a trail addition at a new pollinator prairie at Germantown MetroPark.

The wetland complements the prairie by creating habitat for new species, such as dragonflies and a variety of frogs. Staff from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which helped fund the pollinator prairie, assisted MetroParks staff.

Once completed, the new trail – a 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 programs that teach people about biodiversity, as several habitats can be viewed in a compact area with an easily accessible trail.

The prairie was planted a few 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.

In addition to its work at the pollinator prairie, Five Rivers MetroParks is updating the Ohio Prairie Seed Nursery. Plans include revamping garden beds and growing new species of native plants. During the past 30 years, the nursery has helped Five Rivers MetroParks' staff plant and restore nearly 1,000 acres of prairie – the equivalent of almost 760 football fields.



CALVARY MISSION CHURCH LAND ACQUISITION WILL EXPAND WEST DAYTON METROPARK

Wesleyan MetroPark will be growing thanks to the Calvary Mission Church and funding from a Clean Ohio conservation fund grant. Five Rivers MetroParks acquired 45.8 acres of land from the church. The land is located northwest of North Gettysburg and Little Richmond Road by Wesleyan MetroPark.

The church's land contains ponds and portions of the Wolf Creek, which will one day offer new fishing and recreation opportunities. Additionally, the land acquisition allows Five Rivers MetroParks' conservation team to work toward improving the land's ecosystems.

The expansion – which meets goals of Five Rivers MetroParks' 10-year comprehensive master plan – will eventually require amenities, such as parking, good road access, bathrooms, trails and more.

Learn more about Wesleyan MetroPark at metroparks.org/wesleyan.



NEW, IMPROVED TRAILS HELP PEOPLE BE ACTIVE OUTDOORS

Five Rivers MetroParks and the city of Moraine teamed to create a connector trail that gives people better access to Possum Creek MetroPark and the Great Miami River Trail. The connector trail, which opened in October 2018 and was funded by a Clean Ohio grant, is more than three quarters of a mile long and connects Possum Creek MetroPark and the city of Moraine's Deer Meadow Park.

Equestrians are excited about updates to a portion of the yellow horse trail at Carriage Hill MetroPark, open to the public and used by the Carriage Hill Riding Center. Previously, this portion of trail was impassable due to standing water. Five Rivers MetroParks' staff and volunteers raised the low-lying areas and hardened the tread to fix this issue.

Five Rivers MetroParks' staff and volunteers also improved the connector trail at the MetroParks Mountain Biking Area (MoMBA) at Huffman MetroPark by lifting and tilting the trail. Dirt was also brought in to build rollers and features that enhanced user experiences. Also, the Hilltop Flow trail, which is great for beginners, was reshaped, tread was restored and features for newbie riders were added.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESSES



ADVENTURE CENTRAL PROJECT RECEIVES FUNDING BOOST

Efforts to provide much-needed kitchen renovations at Adventure Central (AC), a nature-based youth development program and facility at Wesleyan MetroPark, received a boost in summer 2018 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 programming. The meal program includes education and community service.

The kitchen renovation project will allow for more fresh foods, including produce grown in AC's garden beds, to be used in meals. 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. The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation is in the process of raising the funds needed for this project.

AC is a partnership between Five Rivers MetroParks, The Ohio State University Extension and 4-H.



NEW SIGNAGE INFORMS, PROMOTES SAFETY

New interpretive sign projects were completed in 2018 to educate and inspire park visitors. Look for these new signs at the Children's Discovery Garden at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, the Edible Landscape Garden at Cox Arboretum MetroPark and near the garden gate at Aullwood Garden MetroPark.

Also in 2018, Emergency Access Plans were implemented for 14 parks to provide park-goers a safer experience on the trails and give first responders better tools to address emergencies in the parks. The new plans also improve communications between the Five Rivers MetroParks Ranger division and local response agencies.

Plans include new signage posted through the parks and maps identifying access points. Visitors can use the new signs as reference points if they need to call for assistance. More than 100 signs were installed at parking lots and trailheads throughout the park system.



FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS RECOGNIZED FOR CONNECTING KIDS TO NATURE

Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside (MVLNCI) and Dayton Regional Green (DRG) recognized four MetroParks locations as Best in Ohio Connect to Nature Sites in 2018: Carriage Hill, Eastwood, Wegerzyn Gardens and Wesleyan MetroParks.

Five Rivers MetroParks now has 11 locations recognized with this certification, awarded to those that provide children with opportunities to access green spaces and participate in nature-based activities. To become certified, organizations must implement the Ohio Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, an outline of nature-based opportunities all children should experience on a regular basis.



FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS RANGERS GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY

Ranger Adam Gaby led two efforts to help those less fortunate in the community. He and fellow Five Rivers MetroParks Rangers distributed more than 100 car seats to needy families. Ranger Gaby also led Five Rivers MetroParks' Giving Tree project, in which staff donated approximately 125 gifts given to 41 needy and high-risk foster children during the holidays.



PARK PROJECTS IMPROVE VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Several additions and improvements were completed throughout Five Rivers MetroParks locations in 2018.

Highlights include:

- A boat ramp was installed at Argonne Lake in Possum Creek MetroPark, giving paddling enthusiasts access to this body of water.
- ADA improvements were made at the Carriage Hill MetroPark Visitor's Center such as a better walkway with ADA parking access and the extension of the ADA path around the Visitor Center to connect with the Historical Farm pathway.
- A large, grant-funded compost turner was installed at Cox Arboretum MetroPark, allowing Five Rivers MetroParks to more easily use compost in park garden beds and supporting its mission to protect the region's natural heritage.
- The James M. Cox Arboretum Foundation funded the redesign and planting of the Allee at the park.
- The Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation funded the replacement of the Arbor at that park.



FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS HAS A NEW ANIMAL AMBASSADOR

Five Rivers MetroParks welcomed Nakamu, a female American kestrel, to its family of animal ambassadors in 2018. She'll help staff educate the public about local wildlife, the high-quality habitat Five Rivers MetroParks protects and how homeowners can help protect wildlife, too.

Nakamu is from Nature's Nursery Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation Education in Toledo. Due to an injury, she wasn't able to return to the wild. Springboro High School art teacher Erin Keister of Germantown suggested the name, sharing that it's the Shawnee word for "sing," via Five Rivers MetroParks' Facebook page.

Fred Shaw, a respected storyteller for the Shawnee remnant tribe in the Miami Valley, said the name is pronounced "Nah-kah-moo." Five Rivers MetroParks staff decided the name ties its current efforts to be good stewards of our lands and wildlife with history. The hope is animals who've been here throughout history will continue to be with us far into the future.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Five Rivers MetroParks partners with a variety of community organizations to advocate for and achieve shared goals. Those include protecting the region's natural heritage; helping people enjoy healthy, active lifestyles; improving regional economic development and quality of life; and promoting youth development. Working together, our resources go further toward the larger goal of making the Dayton region a better place to live, work and play for everyone in our community.

FOUNDATIONS, FRIENDS AND SPONSORS

Five Rivers MetroParks' mission and vision also are supported by the hard work of the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation; The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation; the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation; and the Friends of Carriage Hill. Led by volunteer boards, all are passionate about funding mission-driven projects, programs and services, and all are exemplary stewards of donors' funds.

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS FOUNDATION

A 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation secures philanthropic funding for special projects, programming and an endowment. The foundation provides a way for donors to support Five Rivers MetroParks with charitable contributions that can be designated to all parks or a specific park. Donations also can be directed to support education and recreation programs, as well as conservation initiatives.

FUNDING IN 2018 INCLUDED:

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS FOUNDATION

- Access to Nature program scholarships
- Adventure Central camp shirts
- Adventure Central kitchen construction architectural drawings
- Benches in various parks
- Passport to Kindergarten program support
- Shrub and tree plantings
- Twin Valley Trail Challenge event refreshments

THE JAMES M. COX, JR. ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

- ADA doors for the Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture
- Butterfly House plants and educational material

- Conservation Kids orange-level programming
- Edible Landscape Garden paver path
- Interpretive signage on the grounds
- Park benches
- Patio terrace walkway
- Planting of lilacs, magnolias and 1,000-plus bulbs
- New trees and shrubs at the Allée
- Public WiFi on the Zorniger Education Campus
- Putting Learning And Nature Together (PLANT) tours and educational material
- Replacement of the HVAC filtration system
- Terrace lighting upgrades
- Visitor Center front entrance landscaping
- Visitor Center lighting upgrades
- Waterfall Stream updates

WEGERZYN GARDENS FOUNDATION

- Arbor Garden arbor replacement
- Children's Discovery Garden:
 - Rain Wheel instrument replacement
 - Replacement of sensory garden banners
- Culture Kitchen sponsorship
- Healthy Kids program support
- Pedestal urn replacement
- Spooky Garden Celebration sponsorship

FRIENDS OF CARRIAGE HILL FARM

- Farrier Services
- Harness

LEAD CORPORATE AND PRIVATE SUPPORTERS

- Anthem Inc.
- Barrett Paving Materials Inc.
- Best Breed Inc.
- Boston Stoker
- Frieda and Mike Brigner
- Butler Heating & Air
- Cabela's
- Charles S. Allyn Jr. Foundation Fund of The Dayton Foundation
- Christopher's Restaurant and Catering
- Cox Media Group Ohio
- Crowne Plaza
- Dayton Cycling Club
- The Dayton Foundation
- Dayton Hikers
- Exped
- Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation
- Friends of Carriage Hill Farm
- George B. Quatman Foundation
- The Gerald M. and Carole A. Miller Family Foundation
- Great Lakes Brewing Company
- Jim Gross
- iHeartMedia
- Denise Ingersoll
- Sharyn Jackson
- The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation
- Julian G. Lange Family Foundation
- K&G Bike Center
- Key-Ads, Inc.
- Paul and Carol Lamberger
- The Little Gym of Dayton
- Mad River Mountain Ski Resort
- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Osprey Packs Inc.
- Physicians' Charitable Foundation of the Miami Valley
- PNC Foundation
- Ray & Laura Poole
- Rural King
- Jeff Siebenthaler
- The Stack Family
- Stanley C. Allyn Family Foundation of The Dayton Foundation
- Subaru of America Inc.
- Subway - Source Communications
- Vectren Foundation
- Wagner Subaru
- The Wallace Foundation
- Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation

For more information, visit [metroparks.org/donate](https://www.metroparks.org/donate) or contact Beth Redden, Five Rivers MetroParks chief of philanthropy, at 937-277-4369 or beth.redden@metroparks.org.

SUPPORT YOUR METROPARKS



FOUNDATIONS

The following foundations and organization support conservation efforts, education and recreation program, and help guide continued development:

- Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation
- Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation
- James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation
- Friends of Carriage Hill Farm organization

BECOME A CHAMPION

The Champions Program is the easiest way to support the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation. Your gift continues automatically from month-to-month with an online recurring donation.

PARTNER WITH US

Along with individual donors who support MetroParks, many area organizations and businesses partner with us to provide financial support, sponsorships and in-kind services.

TRIBUTE PROGRAM WITH COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

Honor a loved one or celebrate a holiday, birthday or other special occasion with a unique, lasting gift located at your favorite MetroPark. We offer a range of options that include benches, trees and, in some locations, swings.

GENERAL HONOR AND TRIBUTE GIFTS

Honor someone special and commemorate a special event by making a general donation to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation.

MEMORIAL FUNDS

Establish a memorial fund in honor of a loved one to which others can contribute. We are happy to provide contribution envelopes that you can distribute at a memorial service or other commemorative event.

DONATE

Support our mission and your favorite MetroPark by making a donation to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation. Your tax deductible gift will be used to support programs and special projects. Donations (made payable to Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation) can be mailed to:

Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation
409 E. Monument Ave.,
third floor
Dayton, OH 45402

Visit [metroparks.org/donate](https://www.fiveriversmetro.org/donate) to make a donation to your Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation online and to learn how you can support the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation; James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation; and Friends of Carriage Hill Farm.

To learn more about how your company or organization can get involved, contact the Five Rivers MetroParks philanthropy department at 937-275-PARK (7275).

VOLUNTEERS

THOUSANDS OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS HELP FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION AND VISION.

Working side-by-side with staff, volunteers extend tax dollars and other resources.

In 2018, Five Rivers MetroParks started a new volunteer group to help clean up our local waterways, one of the Dayton region's most vital resources. The areas around a river's edge accumulate trash over time, especially after a storm. River cleanup group volunteers made a positive impact on our river system's health and wellbeing by keeping the river areas around RiverScape MetroPark free of debris.

Also in 2018, Five Rivers MetroParks' staff supported the execution of a \$3,000 REI Grant. It funded the planting of hundreds of trees and bushes along the Buckeye Trail and North Country National Scenic Trail in Eastwood MetroPark as part of Adopt-A-Park.

Five Rivers MetroParks' mission and vision also are supported by the hard work of volunteers at the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation; James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation; the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation; and the Friends of Carriage Hill Farm.

IN 2018:

6,233 volunteers contributed 41,149 hours valued at \$969,470. They were joined by thousands of episodic volunteers helping at such Five Rivers MetroParks events as Adopt-a-Park and the Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience.

Whether it's a year, a month, a week or even a few hours – there's a place for you as a Five Rivers MetroParks volunteer! Call 937-275-PARK (7275) for more information or download and print the volunteer application at metroparks.org/volunteer.



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

By Ohio law, Five Rivers MetroParks is governed by a three-member volunteer Board of Park Commissioners who are appointed by the probate judge of Montgomery County. The board establishes all policies and rules, approves developments and land acquisitions, and controls all funds. Each commissioner serves without pay for a three-year term, with one member's term expiring each year. Commissioners can be reappointed for successive terms. Board meetings are held monthly and are open to the public.



2018 PRESIDENT

Alan Pippenger is a local businessman, supporter of open-space preservation and community leader.



2018 VICE PRESIDENT

Karen Davis is a health care professional, community volunteer and family advocate.



2018 COMMISSIONER AT LARGE

Jessica Saunders joined Five Rivers MetroParks' Board of Park Commissioners on Jan. 4, 2018. She replaced Irvin G. Bieser Jr., who retired from the Board at the end of 2017 after 19 years of outstanding service and leadership.

As director of the office of community health and engagement programs at Dayton Children's Hospital, Saunders directs and coordinates regional children's health and well-being efforts. She and her two young

children enjoy visiting MetroParks locations and programs.

An active member of the community, the *Dayton Business Journal* named Saunders one of its 40 under 40 top young professionals in the Dayton region. She serves as an adjunct faculty member at Wright State University and the University of Dayton. Previously, Saunders was the president of the Junior League of Dayton and currently serves on multiple boards, such as Project READ and the board of governors for Leadership Dayton.

A graduate of the University of Dayton, Saunders holds a bachelor of arts degree in public relations and a master's degree in public administration.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Becky Benná,
Executive Director



Karen Hesser,
Chief of Operations



Carrie Scarff,
Chief of Planning
& Projects



Mark Hess,
Chief of Public Safety



Beth Redden,
Chief of Philanthropy



Bill Tschirhart,
Chief of
Administration

**FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS**



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metroparks.org