4.0 Master Planning Process

1. Established a working core team
   1. Representatives from each functional area
      1. Bernadette Whitworth- Community Ecology Program Manager
      2. Brent Anslinger- Outdoor Recreation Program Manager
      3. Carrie Scarff- Chief of Planning and Projects
      4. Chris Pion- Director of Parks and Conservation
      5. Chris Romer- Executive Management Assistant
      6. Eric Sauer- Planning Manager
      7. Erik Dahlstrom- Outdoor Recreation Coordinator
      8. Joshua York- Education Coordinator
     10. Katrina Arnold- Conservation and Nature Program Manager
     11. Laura Stevens- Interpretation Coordinator
     12. Lauren Stayer- Asquith- Education Specialist
     13. Lucy Beachdell- Education Coordinator
     14. Mary Klunk- Conservation Manager
     15. Michael Osborne- Park Manager (Now Regional Manager)
     16. Ron Bicknell- Regional Manager
     17. Trevor Hagedorn- Business Services Manager
     18. Trish Butler- Director of Marketing and Community Engagement

2. Retained consultants
   1. POD Design
   2. Provided background documents and base map information
      1. GIS Data
      2. Property Data
      3. Conservation Files
      4. Park History
      5. Previous Master Plan

3. Public Relations
   1. Park Banners
      1. Placed at park entrances about 30 days before open houses
   2. Parkways
   3. Social Media
   4. FRMP Electronic Newsletters
   5. Direct emails
   6. Surveys
      1. In park intercept surveys
      2. Open House surveys

4. Two Day work session
   1. **Monday February 6th, 2017 – All meetings at Education Center**
      1. 8:00-9:00 AM Kick Off Meeting- Meet with core team
      2. 9:00-11:00 AM- Drive and initial tour of the park
      3. 11:00-11:30- Quick Lunch/ travel to open house/ Open House Set Up
4. 11:30 AM till 1:30 PM-Public Open House
5. 2:00-3:00 Meet with FRMP Operations Staff
6. 3:30-4:30 Meet with interpretive staff
7. 4:30-5:30- Dinner
8. 6:00 PM till 8:00 PM- Public Open House

2. **Tuesday February 7th, 2017**
   1. 8:00-9:00 Meet with key volunteers
   2. 9:00-12:30 Walking and in depth tour of the park- Site analysis
      (includes public safety)
   3. 12:30-1:00 Lunch and Team Discussions
   4. 1:30-2:30 Meet with community stakeholders
   5. 3:00-4:00 Meet with Program Staff
   6. 4:00-5:00 Meet with core team for wrap up
   7. Consultant Team departs

5. Develop meeting notes
   1. Core team review and comments provided to the consultant

6. Develop program
   1. Core team review and comment

7. Developed concept alternatives
   1. Presentation to the Core Team
   2. Core Team and Staff Comments

8. Develop Pre-final site plan
   1. Presentation to the Core Team
   2. Core Team and Staff Comments

9. Public feedback
   1. Public Open House
      1. Notified participants by email
      2. Posted meeting on social media and website
   2. Post Pre-final plan online for public comment

10. Final plan development
    1. Site Plan
    2. Capital Improvement Estimate
    3. Established 10 top priority projects
    4. Developed Projections
        1. Narratives and project cost estimates
           1. Parks and Conservation
           2. Programing and Interpretation
           3. Business Operations
           4. Public Safety
           5. Philanthropy
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK
Park Position Description

**Typology:** Community Park

**Brand Statement:** Make Lasting Family Memories

**Interpretive Themes/Storylines**

Core -Themes:
- Parks make our lives healthier and happier
- A unique adventure awaits

Interpretive theme for site: Past farmland provides a safe place to try new activities for healthy happy lives.

Sub-themes:
- Explore outside to de-stress, get fit, and have a more active lifestyle.
- Outdoor adventures create lasting memories.
- At Possum Creek you can see the relationships we have with nature.
- Possum Creek is a place to go to feel connected to nature.

Storylines specific to site:
- Getting started with outdoor adventures is easy with many beginner friendly recreation activities - try an activity with the family/social group.
- Argonne Forest amusement park – changing uses through time.
- Community gardens provide nutritious, local food, and a social gathering space – improving health and well-being one seed at a time.
- Biodiversity is a critical part of the survival and health of our natural world and food systems.

Other opportunities to connect to agency-wide themes:
- Each park tells a story from the past
- We can all take part in conservation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural areas</th>
<th>2.6</th>
<th>Developed areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High energy uses</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Quiet uses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilitated education</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Interpretive education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Typical uses</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>Unique uses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature-based recreation</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>Built recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big groups / community atmosphere</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Intimate groups / solitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serves broad interests</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>Serves niche interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draws regionally</td>
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<td>Draws from close by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitated use</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<td>Many different users coming infrequently</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Same users coming consistently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Similar to other parks</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>Distinctive, unlike other parks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LEADING TRAITS:
Environment & Community
Sincerity (Tied)
Competence

USER-CHOSEN WORDS:
Natural
Down-to-Earth
Pleasant
Appealing
Family-oriented
Local
Outdoorsy
Honest
Community-based
Genuine
Likable
Welcoming
Laid-back
Cheerful
Inclusive
Sustainable
Reliable
Cheerful
Real
Fun
Friendly
Wholesome

ALL METROPARKS HIGHEST WORDS
(IN ORDER)
Local
Natural
Pleasant
Appealing
Green
Accessible
Family-oriented
Welcoming
Fun
Outdoorsy
Community-based

DIFFERENTIATORS:
Working-class
Small town
Inclusive
Philanthropic
Sentimental
Old-fashioned
Polite
Intelligent
Young
Playful
Honest
Reliable
Down-to-Earth
Trustworthy
Hard-working
Irreverent
Laid-back
Serious
Adventurous

BIAS:
Younger than average user base.
Slightly less-educated user base.
Above-average diversity.
Come from larger households.
Visit the park in larger groups.
Relies more heavily on activity or event to drive them there.
More likely to return many times for activities or events.
Lower tendency towards independent use.

POSSUM CREEK

DANIEL (his close friends call him Junior) inherited the family farm a few years after he graduated from the Ag program at OSU. Since then, Daniel has implemented all sorts of new technologies on the farm, and some not so new, but still solid in their results and the long-term impact on the land. He’s done well for himself and family, including his Mom who now lives with him in his young family’s home.

He was approached recently by a land developer about some of the acres on the back 40 for a new subdivision. Daniel let the man give his speech and then kindly asked him to head on down the road. This land was going to be his son’s one day, and he’ll take care of it until he’s ready to take it on.

When he is not out in the fields or on the computer planning and calculating this year’s harvest, Daniel likes to listen to country music and even picks up the guitar himself from time to time. The kids love it when he plays “Old MacDonald” for them, especially when he makes the crazy cow and pig noises.

Daniel also likes to fish and camp with his buddies and their families. They have a favorite spot on a neighbor’s farm right on the banks of the Twin Creek. The kids love to wade in and catch minnows with their bare hands. He loves to see their faces light up when he builds a campfire.

DRIVERS:
animals
hiking
trails
play
walk
programs

WHAT WOULD MAKE USERS
COME MORE OFTEN:

AREAS TO WATCH:
Possum Creek MetroPark scored lowest among all MetroParks for the following questionable descriptors. This should be kept in mind, as these could be problematic:

Upper-Class    Feminine    Accessible
Classy         Glamorous   

1. Users were generous with their scores, one could assume that they are easier to please.
2. Users more likely to come to activities or events than use the park independently.
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

MASTER PLAN: PRELIMINARY FOR REVIEW

August 11, 2017
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

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Fishing Ponds/Wildlife
Argonne Lake
Argonne Forest
Camp Sites/Picnic Areas
Facilities
Circulation

MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

APPENDIX

REFERENCES:
POD Design Conceptual Program Guideline Notes
Possum Creek Site-Plan Interpretive Prospectus, FRMP
Site Assessment Form Interpretive Visitor Experience Perspective, FRMP
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

1. Blairwood Elementary
2. Jefferson High School
3. Shade Elementary / West Carrollton Middle School
4. West Carrollton High School
5. Harold Schnell Elementary School
6. Harry Russell Elementary School
7. Frank Nicholas Elementary School
8. Moraine Meadows Elementary School
9. Southdale Elementary School
10. Harman Elementary School
11. Oakwood High School
12. Edwin D. Smith Elementary School
13. Payne Recreation Center
14. YMCA of Greater Dayton West Carrollton Branch
15. Greater Dayton Recreation Center
16. Dayton Metro Library - West Carrollton Branch
17. Dayton Metro Library - Madden Hills Branch
18. Dayton Metro Library - New Lebanon Branch
19. Deer Meadow Park
20. Arthur O Fisher Park
21. Highview Hills Park
22. Mallory Spray Park
23. Sunwatch Indian Village
24. Madison Lakes Park
25. Old Dayton Speedway
26. McCabe Park

COMMUNITY MAKE UP
COMMUNITY CONNeCTIONS - EXisTing CONDITIONS

EXISTING:

- Great Miami River Trail
- Wolf Creek Trail
- Moraine Community Trail (funded and scheduled for construction in 2018)
- Bus Route #24
- Bus Route #22
- Bus Route #9
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - Bike Route Options

PROPOSED:

OPTION A

East
Frytown Road to Gettysburg Avenue to Germantown Street
West
Frytown Road to Germantown Pike to Derby Road to Infirmary Road to Dayton-Liberty Road to South Union Road

OPTION B

East
Frytown Road to Gettysburg Avenue to Guthrie Road to West River Road to Nichols Road
West
Frytown Road to Germantown Pike to Derby Road to Infirmary Road to Dayton-Liberty Road to South Union Road

SOUTH CONNECTOR
Soldiers Home West Carrollton Road through Deer Meadow Park to Pinnacle Road
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - Bus Routes #9 or #22

PROPOSED:

OPTION A

BUS STOPS AT PARK ENTRY POINTS

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

MORaine

WEST CARROLLTON

MIAMI TWP

OAKWOOD

KETTERING

DALLAS

HARRISON TWP

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Shank Road

Frytown Road

S. Gettysburg Avenue

Jefferson Rd

5 Mile

4 Mile

3 Mile

2 Mile

1 Mile

WEST CARROLLTON

JEFFERSON TWP

HARRISON TWP

OAKWOOD

KETTERING

DAYTON

S. Gettysburg Avenue

Shank Road

Frytown Road

5 Mile

4 Mile

3 Mile

2 Mile

1 Mile

WEST CARROLLTON

JEFFERSON TWP

HARRISON TWP

OAKWOOD

KETTERING

DAYTON
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - Bus Routes #9 or #22
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - Bus Routes #24

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

PROPOSED:

OPTION A

OPTION B

BUS STOPS AT PARK ENTRY POINTS

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

EXPERIENCE SEEKERS

- Horseback Riding
- Nature Bathing
- The Farm
- Picnics
- Argonne Lake
- Trail Use
- Nature Play
- Camping
- The Farm
- Nature Bathing

FACILITATORS

- Fishing
- Argonne Forest
- Prairie
- Bison?

RECHARGERS

- Healthy Living
- Family Oriented Activities
- Conservation and Land-Use Education

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Power of 10+
THE FARM
The original farmhouse of the Noffsinger family, was built in the 1830s and through a series of small farmland lots, was farmed through the 1960s. It serves as a good example of Federal and Georgian style architecture. It currently serves as the central location within the park for farm and farm animal interpretation, education and programming.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS
- Popular with organized facilitated school groups
- Popular with non-organized non-facilitated walk-ins
- Has a ‘timeless’ quality of a day-to-day farm
- Small scale garden and food production education occurs on site
- Barnyard animals provide ‘living interpretation’
- Modern day complement to Carriage Hill MetroPark
- The Kaylor (Holderman) Family Cemetery, while not directly adjacent, is a clear reminder of the site’s ancestry
- Farm includes the main farmhouse, barn, rabbit house, chicken coop, greenhouse, pond, open fields, fenced pasture, shelter, restrooms, education center and parking
- A small nature play area currently exists
- Pedestrian/vehicular conflict currently exists
- Pond has very poor water quality
- Kitchen has limited space and appliance usage
- Poor site lighting hampers evening events
DESIGN GOALS AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Increase rental opportunities at the barn and education center
- Increase social event rentals such as weddings and corporate outings in an iconic destination building
- Add farm history interpretation and signage
- Identify an area for a 1/4 acre demonstration farm that identifies:
  - Farm to table opportunities
  - Raised garden beds
  - Pollinator garden and benefits
  - Take home ideas
  - Take home produce
- Utilize the second story of the barn for classroom space
- Consider relocation of the community gardens to the farm
- Created a centralized community garden ‘hub’ that includes:
  - Shade
  - Storage
  - Water
  - Bike racks
  - Accessible raised beds
- Make greenhouse improvements to include:
  - Alternative energy sources
  - Water, electric and circulation to operate aquaponics
  - Shade for programming
- Relocate existing wind mill to operate and improve the water quality of the pond
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Increase depth of the pond and include a safety shelf
- Create a paved trail around the pond
- Add a children’s sledding hill behind the education center
- Develop a signature Nature Playscape to include:
  - Farm elements
  - Water
  - Treehouse
  - Earth form
  - Plant material
  - Other natural materials
- Plant fruit trees and improve orchard
- Develop a ‘Private Lake Meal’ venue
- Provide an iconic destination building for rental
- Secure the Kaylor Family cemetery with historic fencing
- Improve site lighting for evening events
- Provide a traditional garden directly adjacent to the farmhouse
- Create a ‘Mobile Garden Food Truck’ to reach out to local neighborhoods and farm markets
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

TALL GRASS PRAIRIES
One of the most diverse planted prairies in the State of Ohio. Over 100 acres, it is composed of plant material not commonly found in other habitats.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS
- Great open vistas
- Provides watershed views through the Miami Valley to other connected areas of the park
- Plentiful and colorful wildflower areas
- Migratory bird area
- Existing mown paths provide direct and easy access to all of the prairies
- The main entry drive provides a meandering vehicular path through the main prairie area
- Several poorly drained areas provide difficult passage during wet times of the season
DESIGN GOALS AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Provide secure Bison pens to accommodate female Bison within a variety of viewable areas
  - Bison bull averages 2000 pounds: 8 acres range each
  - Bison cow averages 1000 pounds: 4 acres range each
- Add overlooks within the prairies and lakes
- Locate high points for long-range vistas from the prairies toward Argonne Lake
- Locate high points for long-range vistas from the prairies toward the Bison pens
- Integrate trails into the prairies and wetlands
- Provide opportunities for additional sculptures and land art to complement the ‘I Invite You’ art display
- Provide a ‘signature’ overlook tower for elevated viewing opportunities
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FISHING PONDS/WILDLIFE
Fish stocked ponds are a popular destination for non-licensed fishing. Ponds are enjoyed by people of all age groups and demographics. Currently, catfish, bass, and trout are stocked in the lower three multi-tiered water features. The northern most pond permits only catch and release activity.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS
- Ideal for novice & experienced anglers
- Ideal for anglers of all ages
- Ponds 1 through 3 are stocked monthly on the first Friday of every month November through April
- These ponds are popular to a specific/select user group
- Seasonal night fishing is permitted
- Several challenges regarding accessibility
- Several elevation changes separate each of the individual ponds and provide challenges regarding their structural integrity
- The current frequency of stocking is un-sustainable
- Water access is challenging in several locations
- Several areas of poor drainage along the east side of all ponds
- The bird blind is no longer operational
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DESIGN GOALS AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Combine lakes #1 and #2 into a single lake
- Construct wetlands along the east perimeter of all of the lakes to accommodate outflows and connect with existing marsh southeast of the wildlife pond
- Discontinue stocking the ponds (on a regular basis) within a five year period
- Encourage additional water recreation activities such as kayaking, canoeing and paddle boarding
- Provide accessible fishing piers and circulation
- Provide a fishing preparation table
- Naturalize all of the pond edges
- Provide paved trails at all of the ponds
- Develop ‘Yurt’ style camping between the tall grass prairie, wildlife pond and sycamore shelter
- Provide access around the wildlife pond
- Focus design elements to ‘first-time’ users
- Accommodate bird watching stations along the trails
- Develop a central building to contain:
  - Bait shop
  - Kayak/Canoe/Supplies rental
  - Classroom space (w/ garage door access)
  - Office
  - Restrooms
ARGONNE LAKE
Currently monitored by ODNR, Argonne Lake is one of the cleanest bodies of water in Ohio. This 15 acre water feature was constructed for fishing, non-motorized water craft, ice skating, picnicking and experiencing the natural environment.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS
- Pond is very peaceful and beautiful
- Good proximity to camping, restroom, shelter and parking
- Open vistas toward fields and wooded areas
- Currently paddle sports are permitted
- Natural filtering by the adjacent prairies contributes to the high quality of the water
- Ideal for novice & experienced anglers
- Ideal for anglers of all ages
- Popular lake to anglers and campers
- Seasonal night fishing is permitted
- ODNR overflow may provide limitations regarding any pond modifications
- Pond edge is not easily accessible
- Currently the use of motorized watercraft is prohibited
- Permitted swimming requires agency rule changes and significant regrading
- Trail connections should be improved
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DESIGN GOALS AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Permit swimming in the pond
- Encourage additional water recreation activities such as kayaking, canoeing and paddle boarding
- Provide accessible fishing piers and improved circulation
- Develop a launching area for non-motorized watercraft
- Provide trailer parking to support the launching area
- Provide a fishing prep. table
- Naturalize all of the pond edges
- Provide an accessible paved loop trail around lake
- Focus design elements to ‘first-time’ users
- Accommodate bird watching stations along the trails
- Create an outdoor amphitheater/council grove
- Create a ‘Camporee’ venue on the north side of the lake
- Develop a central building (Camp Canteen) to contain:
  - Bait shop
  - Bait vending machines or vending trucks
  - Kayak/Canoe/Supplies rental
  - Classroom space
  - Office
  - Restrooms
  - Shower facilities
ARGONNE FOREST
A mature wooded area containing remnants from a historic Dayton amusement park and recreation destination developed by World War One veteran and Judge Null Hodapp that operated from 1925 through 1940.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS
- The site contains numerous remnants from the original amusement park including a streetcar, stone bridges, stone walls and dance floor
- Diverse topography includes steep slopes and elevation changes
- Two mature beech tree forests/ravines exist
- History dates back to the 1920s and 1930s
- History of Hodapp’s participation with the WWI 322nd military artillery
- The site contains an existing looped trail
- Wayfinding and signage elements should be improved
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DESIGN GOALS AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS
- Create an wooded adventure play area for tweens, teens and adults to contain elements such as:
  - Toboggan Runs in the winter months
  - Alpine Runs in the summer months
  - Zip lines
  - Tree top ropes courses
  - Canopy walks
  - Tree houses
- Repurpose the dance floor area as the adventure area ‘hub’ and incorporate program opportunities such as movies, dances, concessions, guided tours and/or training
- Restore the grill at the dance floor
- Develop a small nature play area
- Clean out invasive plant material
- Develop a warrior dash-like trail network
- Utilize and improve the historic stone crossings/bridges
- Incorporate the shooting gallery remnants
- Replicate the streetcar for picnic uses or camping opportunities
- Improve the interpretive and historic wayfinding elements and signage for:
  - The integrated war memorials
  - PCMP stationary exhibits
- Discuss the Argonne history with the Core Team
- Relocate the horse trail within the adventure area
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

CAMP SITES/PICNIC AREAS

Camp sites currently exist north and south of Argonne Lake and are reservable all year. Picnic areas are found within the northeast reservable area of the park and south of Argonne Lake.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

- Camping all year around is permitted (except Christmas and New Year’s Day)
- Camp sites are ideal for first timers
- Camp sites are ideal for users of all age groups
- Only front country camping is permitted throughout the park, except for the Lakeview, Tulip Poplar, and Buckeye camp sites
- Four reservable available shelters, with two that allow alcohol consumption by permit only
  - Two pavilion style for large group activities
  - One medium shelter
  - One small shelter
- There are currently no shower facilities
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DESIGN GOALS AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Provide flush toilets and running water at all campsites when feasible
- Install CXT vault system restrooms when no running water is available
- Provide additional camping at the north side of Argonne lake and within the southeastern portion of the Argonne Forest
- Provide additional camping south of the sycamore shelter
  - Consider Yurt style camping in this location
  - Consider small cabins
- Consider an outdoor classroom/council grove north of Argonne lake
- Develop a ‘Camporee’ venue north of Argonne Lake
- Clear additional areas for campsite use
- Offer family rent camping packages that include:
  - Tent with cots under a cloth or wooden canopy
  - Fire ring and fire wood
  - Cooler, camp light and camp stove
  - Electricity when feasible
- Provide horse tie-ups for campsites
- Consider allowing small ‘pop-up’ campers for elderly and mobility challenged users
- Provide additional reservable medium size picnic shelters
**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**FACILITIES**

Facilities include restrooms, shelters, and other park site amenities that result in making park user’s visits more pleasant.

**OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS**

- Provide water recreation activities rental opportunities
- In the past, PCMP has accommodated large venues/events with 300 - 500 people
- There are currently no bait shops or fishing rentals near
- There are no concessions or vending available
- The nearest rental destination is six miles away
- Seasonal bow hunting may have a negative impact on park attendance
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DESIGN GOALS AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS
- Provide flush toilets and running water at all campsites when feasible
- Install CXT vault system restrooms when no running water is available (the FRMP current prototype)
- Provide code required number of stalls for all future restroom facilities
- Eradicate aggressive invasive plant material
- Provide screening of the maintenance facility and any other ‘back-of-house’ uses
- Provide shelters with garage doors when possible for year-long programming opportunities at Argonne Lake and the fishing ponds
- Add more benches throughout the park
- Provide water bottle refill stations
- Consider viewing towers/silos at prairie and Bison pen highpoints
- Provide the venue and utilities for food truck parking at the farm, Argonne Lake and fishing ponds
- Offer family camping packages as previously described
- Provide secure lockers for bike, personal items and fishing gear
- Reinforce overflow lawn parking at the farm
- Acquire the K-9 Club and the property on the NE corner of the park where the horse trail leaves park property
CIRCULATION
- Vehicular
- Pedestrian
- Equestrian
- Wayfinding

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS - VEHICULAR
- The entry drive experience is soothing and pastoral
- Parking areas are currently properly dispersed and sufficiently sized
- Overflow parking needs are accommodated by parking on grass areas
- Pedestrian/vehicular conflict areas are very limited
- A single point of entry/exit provides for greater security and controlled access
- Three points of entry off of Frytown Road create confusion
- The NE reservable shelters lack direct access to the park
- There are currently no direct public transportation options
- The maintenance building while neatly kept, should be screened from public view
- A maintenance vehicle/pedestrian conflict exists at the farm drive
CIRCULATION

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS - PEDESTRIAN

- Most trails are easily accessed and used by all age groups. None are too challenging.
- Many walkers and hikers tend to use the park 3 - 4 times per week.
- Current path materials in the park are mowed lawn, earth (dirt) and aggregate.
- Unimproved trails (while difficult in some locations) extend into all parts of the park.
- The southern link connection to the City of Moraine along Pinnacle Road is funded and will be constructed in 2018.
- Many trails are inundated during the spring and soggy throughout the year.
- Prairie plant growth encroaches on the trails and restricts access.
- There is no direct connection to any multi-use trail outside of the park.
- There currently are no bike racks in the park.
- No dogs (even on leash) are permitted in and around the farm area.
- The trail markings system should be more intuitive.
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

CIRCULATION

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS - EQUESTRIAN
- Riders use the park daily
- Unimproved trails (while difficult in some locations) extend into the entire perimeter of the park
- Many trails are inundated during the spring and soggy throughout the year
- Wooded plant growth encroaches on the trails and restricts access
- There is no formalized connection to any equestrian trails from outside of the park
- There currently are no tie-ups in the park
- Trail system markings should be more intuitive
- Trails do not currently meet FRMP 8-10 mile distance requirement
- The trail segment near SR 4 is difficult to maintain

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS - WAYFINDING
- There is no clear direction/information at parking lots
- There is no ‘obvious’ visitor orientation landing spot
- The park is easier to navigate after your first visit. Can be challenging for first time visitors
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CIRCULATION

DESIGN GOALS AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Provide a bicycle hub at the farm near the barn
- Provide measured trails for cross country skiing
- Provide measured trails for cross country track events with a minimum loop of 5k for events and training
- Provide paved trail access at all ponds and water features
- Provide paved loop trails throughout the entire park
- Provide signage and/or markers along all trails with emergency numbers at select locations
- Provide short paved loop trails for beginners
- Connect the farm and campsite with a paved trail
- Install bicycle ‘fix-it’ stations within the park
- Complete the pedestrian connection south toward the City of Moraine through Deer Meadow Park
- Remedy wet trail segments. Consider boardwalks in difficult of challenging areas
- Provide controllable lighting at the farm parking lot
- Provide non-motorized watercraft trailer drop-off, turn-around and parking to support new lake docks
- Clearly identify existing and proposed trailheads
- Develop a warrior dash-like trail
- Extend natural surface trail, spurring off of main trails
- Provide trail access to the creek within the Argonne Forest area or within the SW corner of the park
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CIRCULATION

DESIGN GOALS AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Connect all water bodies, wetlands, prairies and wooded areas with accessible trails
- Provide interpretive signage matching the FRMP brand for:
  - The Farm
  - Argonne Forest
  - The Kaylor Cemetery
  - Fishing Ponds
  - All prairies and wetlands
  - All bison areas and habitat zones
- Coordinate new bus route extensions with RTA that include kayak racks on buses
- Develop an overall park trail system that functions well for all users. Utilize a stacked system to allow for a variety of users of different skills and abilities.
- Develop a standard for a shared horse/person trail for use in specifically designated areas
- Develop a standard for a shared horse trail adjacent to roadways for use in specifically designated areas
- Provide horse trails within the interior of the park. (Consider a figure 8 approach)
- Conform to FRMP equestrian trail standards (may not be possible)
- Avoid horse trail layout conflicts due to topography or potential safety considerations
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

CIRCULATION

DESIGN GOALS AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Provide horse tie-ups at picnic areas
- Provide a clearly defined hierarchy of signage
- Develop formalized horse trail entrances with signage and amenities
- Provide sharrows on all roads
- Screen views to the maint. facility from the entry drive
- Screen views to all ‘back-of-house’ uses
- Clearly define a single main entrance
  - Relocate the north horse trailer parking lot to the new Caylor Road entry location, off of the main park entry drive near the fishing ponds, or off of the NE reservable shelter area
  - Reconfigure the entry drive to the NE reservable shelters
  - Make landscape beautification improvements
- Provide a multi-use trail along Frytown Road east and west
- Create safety precautions (speed tables/rumble strips) at all vehicular/pedestrian/horse crossings
- Provide a gated entry/exit on Shank Road for large events and/or large vehicles such as busses on an as-needed basis
- Provide a main landing/orientation area (kiosks) to serve as a ‘First Decision Point’
- Provide wayfinding indicators beyond parking lots to as a ‘Second Decision Point’
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

MASTER PLAN - CONCEPT A

[Diagram of Possum Creek Metropark Master Plan - Concept A]
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

MASTER PLAN - CONCEPT B
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

CONCEPTUAL PROGRAM GUIDELINE NOTES

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, 4790 Frytown Rd, Dayton, OH 45417

SUMMARIZED MEETING COMMENTS

MEETING ACTION CHECKLIST

TALLIED NOTES

PARK IDENTITY AND UNIQUE QUALITIES

POSSUM CREEK METRO PARK is a "community park" that offers various types of outdoor and indoor experiences. Bound by Moraine, Dayton and West Carrollton communities, it encompasses 350 rental acres. Its ecological diversity is attributed to the nesting zones. Walking trails, relatively non-strenuous, can be completed from 1/4 - 5 mile activities. Exploration and visual experiences range from undisturbed wildflower in the woods, to lake-side views, to beechn tree forest in open prairie fields. These trails are separated from the equestrian paths that loop around the park's perimeter.

GENERAL INFORMATION THEME

Possum Creek Metropark is a "community park" that offers various types of outdoor and indoor experiences. Bound by Moraine, Dayton and West Carrollton communities, it encompasses 350 rental acres. Its ecological diversity is attributed to the nesting zones. Walking trails, relatively non-strenuous, can be completed from 1/4 - 5 mile activities. Exploration and visual experiences range from undisturbed wildflower in the woods, to lake-side views, to beechn tree forest in open prairie fields. These trails are separated from the equestrian paths that loop around the park's perimeter.

Historic Context

The site "feels living", rich with historic influence of degraded homestead farmlands that used to dominate the site (dairy, corn and wheat). Unlike Carriage Hills (past), Possum Creek has a natural timeless quality of a day-to-day condition. Before it became a Metropark, it was surrounded with individual homes with small farm homesteads. The original Noffsinger farmhouses, built in the 1830's, is currently being used for the FRMP staff. This structure is a good example of Federal and Georgian architectural style. An existing cemetery at the Kaylor family provides a clear reminder of the land's ancestry. In 1930, part of the site was designated as Argonne Forest Park, a midway amusement park and veterans club. Subsequently, additions to the park included activities for swimming, baseball, shooting range, dancing, horseback riding, camping, and auto race track riding. Many of these remaining remnants in the Argonne Forest were attributed to the former Judge and WWI veteran, Null M. Hodapp. Argonne Lake's open vistas of woodlands and wildlife while the fishing ponds are big attractions for catfish, bass or trout fishing. The children at the farm enjoy the barnyard animals and learning about the food preparation and sourcing. Overnight camping is most ideal due to the peaceful and natural beauty of the setting. The Argonne Forest Trail affords exciting views to the natural woods while furnishing historical remnants.

DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the US Census data 2015, the 45417 zip code includes the following population: Dayton (37.93%), Trotwood (23.7%), Drewel (6.63%), and Moraine (49%). Residents in the area zip-code 45417 are predominantly African American (79.66%), female (56.4%) and with a median age of 36.1.

- The average household income in the zip-code is $ 22,000.
- Large percentage of the residents live in rental housing.
- Deer Meadow, Owned originally by Waste Management.
- Includes a lake, skate park, 3 shelters, disc golf (18 holes), stocked fishing.
- City owns area beyond the perimeter.

FRONTAGE/IDENTITY AND CONNECTIONS

The Possum Creek Metropark confronts challenges: 1) not being a well-known FRMP destination, 2) major physical and visual connections that link the major south park sections from the north entry. Three entries into Possum Park from Frytown Road cause confusion and a major gateway is not clearly defined. Accessing along Rt 4 is challenging. Although considered as a "hidden gem", the park lacks identity and does not seem to tie in to a community. It's remote location creates a detached connection with nearby communities. It doesn't feel "like somebody's park". The area to the north of the park (Carthurbro Road) are perceived as a negative part of town. People claim to not know the existence or location of the park. The location creates a detached connection with nearby communities. It doesn't feel "like somebody's park". The areas to the north of the park (Carthubro Road) are perceived as a negative part of town. People claim to not know the existence or location of the park.

- Align on ambitious marketing strategy to attract more people with "Come Learn How to Nature" theme.
- Start design and programming with the "Big picture".
- Afford ADA-valued access around the park.
- Provide consistent theme - What is this park's purpose?
- Provide history of the Noffsinger family farm (1811 earned farm from military service).
- Provide consistent focus on sustainable farming: Edibles in the landscape, food produced in sustainability

Appendix I

Prepared by POD Design DRAFT
Prepared for the Five Rivers MetroParks
Original rough draft 4/14/2017

APPENDIX I
# POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

## ASSETS

- Park provides great places for camping (5 sites), hiking, and horseback riding, and dog walking. FRMP staff has observed little success in attracting new users and sustaining repeat park users. When all activities are combined, Possum Creek Park can become a great destination for respite, physical activity, and education about sustainable food systems, healthy living, history, and nature.

- Over 100 acres of native Ohio prairie now thrive over what used to be degraded farmland. In addition to one of the largest and most diverse prairies in Ohio, Possum Creek Metropark stretches out with natural resources of forest, marsh, stream beds, built ponds, instilled pastures, and pristine lakes. The natural elements include: planted prairie, two mature beech woodlots, wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, Possum Creek and its floodplain. At the area around the northern most fishing pond, a wildlife nesting area is designated.

## INTERPRETIVE AND WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

- Define and layout a hierarchical system of signs/media to include entry, wayfinding, information/interpretive, interpretive information. Provide language and material consistency with Five Rivers system.

## TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

- Provide signage with emergency numbers at horse trails
- Clearly define entries
- Install more education/display on composting
- If fishing is to be continued, provide more signage and advertising on fish stocking
- Program more geocaches and improve Facebook exposure

## STRUCTURES AND AMENITIES

### OPERATIONS, UTILITIES AND AMENITIES

- The existing maintenance facility at the park provides a good layout prototype
  - Provide visual barrier (berms/plants) to block off view to the existing maintenance facility
- Replace restrooms to match new prototype - A different location for some structures may be necessary
  - Install camp showers may be needed for children and jamboree event
- Retrofit at least one existing shelter to accommodate inclement weather
  - Provide flush toilets and running water at camping area

# APPENDIX I
EDUCATIONAL CENTER

The venue to host weddings and social gatherings at the educational center has great potential. The rental opportunity at this facility is not tapped enough. The existing kitchen is not ideal for such social venues and more extensive food programming. Educational programs, relating to local food and the environment, are held in the facility.

- Take advantage of it rental opportunities
- Add AC and AV; provide heated restrooms
- Retain kitchen location but expand with commercial grade appliances and a teaching counter for programmed and educational events. See link example: https://www.chicagobotanic.org/education/cooking
- Designate for fishing programs, in a classroom setting; provide divider and opportunity for flexible expandable rooms
- Provide good lighting

BRIDGES, ADA PAVED PATHS, STRUCTURES, PARKING

FRMP staff observed that park users utilize trails for passive (walking, hiking, bird watching) and active (paddling, running, biking) recreation. The use of the two rental shelters to the NE of the property is limited to the designated parking; there is no direct vehicular link into the park. The separate dedicated access points to shelters and equestrian parking lot create confusion with the main park entrance.

- Connect accessible active and passive trails around the lake
- Provide healthy trails signage/media, per CMP along a looped paved trail around the entire park
- Connect bikeway connection from the south (Moraine) to the north
- Install a telescopic run system at the Argonne Forest for a winter attraction
- Provide 5K-paved fitness loop
- Add trailer parking at camp ground area
- Install a taxi stand at bike trails
- Provide paved trail sections for beginner users
- Separate bike trails with evergreen trees and berms
- Provide accessible trail from farm to camp site
- Provide vehicular drop off area at a proposed loading dock by Argonne Lake (north or south east location)
- Designate for fishing programs, in a classroom setting; provide dividers and opportunity for flexible expandable rooms
- Install a 5K running path loop; include healthy trails signage per CMP
- Design at least 10K for challenging running paths
- Extend mini natural surfaces trails beyond main paths
- Provide standard cross country trails
- Provide mile and kilometer markers around the lake for cross country training
- Possibility: allow horses access within other trails or convert horse trail for dual purpose use; only in areas that are not heavily used by pedestrians.

NON-PAVED PATHS

Because most of the land in the park is relatively flat, there are many trails that are inundated during the spring and soggy during the remaining part of the year. Trails in the prairie fields become narrow and mature stalks fall over the paths. Most trails are not challenging to use and easily utilized by children. Private citizens have expressed the desire to provide cross country paths for training. At the public meeting, horse riders indicated they use the park daily. Should a natural bike surface trail be appropriate to connect with the Wolf Creek Trail?

- Remedy the unusable trails due to wet or soggy areas.
- Develop multi-use trail to include winter cross country skiing
- Mark trail heads and intersections; markers needed along the way
- Include boardwalks on hiking trail at continued wet spots
- Add interpretive signs/media, especially at the Argonne Trail
- Consider a path loop in the 'tree nursery' area (south of the Prairie Dock and Sycamore Shelters). Confirm if a natural bike surface trail be a appropriate connection with the Wolf Creek Trail?
- Design a 5K running path loop; include healthy trails signage per CMP
- Design at least 10K for challenging running paths
- Extend mini natural surfaces trails beyond main paths
- Provide standard cross country trails
- Provide mile and kilometer markers around the lake for cross country training
- Possibility: allow horses access within other trails or convert horse trail for dual purpose use, only in areas that are not heavily used by pedestrians.

HORSE TRAIL

Users describe the horse trails (total 4.28 miles) to be underutilized. Would FRMP approve using existing trails for mixed-use?

- Retain quality of horse trail at 1/2 acre minimum site
- Conform to FRMP equestrian trail requirements: 12” of vertical and 8 horizontal clearance, 6 foot trail tread, and a minimum of 8-10 miles of trails (approx. 7.75 acres of disturbance)
- Trim back branches along horse trail. To avoid horses from panicking, avoid horse trail layout where areas are very steep or at potential conflict spots
- Provide more horse tie ups for picnic areas
- Extend distance of the horse trail

APPENDIX I

APPENDIX I
### GREEN SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL NOTES</strong></td>
<td>- Eradicate aggressive invasive plants, including the honeycuckle and buckthorn</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Install ADA accessible ramps for kayaks’ canoes and passive recreation at lake banks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Maintain a natural feel of any improved existing or proposed landscape design</td>
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<td><strong>ARGONNE LAKE IMPROVEMENTS</strong></td>
<td>- Provide ADA accessible trails to connect natural woods and water bodies to prairies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Restrain contamination and pollution by prohibiting motorized boats</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Limit use of Lake with non-motorized boats</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FARM POND</strong></td>
<td>- Provide multi-use bridge, boat ramp docking, access to water (fishing and viewing)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Provide swinging benches around lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARGONNE FOREST PARK</strong></td>
<td>- Add shelter with garage door style walls with bait shop, Kelly’s office?, Kayak/Paddleboarding?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Clean out invasives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Restore grille at dance floor area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Examine history of restored habitat practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FARM HOUSE</strong></td>
<td>- Provide fruit trees (especially Apple trees) through the trails / paths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Provide herb gardens around the back of the house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THE JEAN V. WOODHULL PRAIRIE</strong></td>
<td>- Take advantage of the high points in the area for spectacular views to the south and the lakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Integrate trails into an overall park trail system network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Point to the trail / paths that can clearly define a visual or physical connection to the ‘I Invite You’ sculpture</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### APPENDIX I
**POSSUM CREEK METRO PARK**

**STRATEGIES, ATTRACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

**GENERAL PARK NOTES**
Possum Creek Park has the potential of offering year-round learning and recreational access throughout the site: children and adult educational programs, school field trips, active/passive trails for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riding. School tours are common throughout the year. Since most of the site is relatively flat, ADA compliance does not seem to be a challenging factor. However, it has been noted that events in the past have not attracted an increase number of repeat-users. FRMP staff noted that entrance fees to the Park’s special events should target a maximum fee of $10.

**CHILDREN’S PLAY**
Existing designated areas for playgrounds need updating. Integrate with nature-themed settings. A signature-nature playscape is desired with other minor

- Designate overall kid-friendly, family, and older adult initiatives woven with inter-related themes: farm, food, nature-play, fishing, lake recreation, Scouts, entry-level camping.
- Revisit past events for possible future use: “egg-travaganza”, “Barnyard babies”, “Harvest Jamboree”
- Offer “entry-level sampler” with activities in various venues
- Offer hiking programs
- Include a pop-up park concept
- Evaluate potential long-term ventured partners (City of Moraine, Waste Management Stony Hollow, School District) with FRMP for site programs.

- Design signature nature-based accessible playground, adjacent to the woods and creek bed
- Integrate existing creek bed or water-related activities
- Add a tree tunnel (like Sugar Creek Farm, Champaign, IL), Tree/club house
- Consider playground with farm theme
- Continue demonstration program: how small animals can be raised and utilized on small acreage (Avoid a “petting zoo” theme)
- Add outdoor gazebo
- Incorporate water in the playscape
- Add beginner’s park elements and room for corn maze, hay maze
- Omit exposure to plastic
- Create a “Brookville castle”
- Install bay swing (refer to Hills & Dales)
- Include slides and for multi-generational use, add swings
- Program areas where children can get dirty and collect eggs
- Protect children from full sun exposure; provide shaded areas
- Integrating traditional playground features is acceptable
- Create a learning setting with a farm theme
- Farm play: hay bales, rope swing, obstacle course, tractor
- Create a corn maze

**GENERAL LAND-BASED RECREATION & ARGONNE FOREST NOTES**
What used to be a sustainable agricultural farm has been transitioned to a destination for food systems and conservation education.

- Integrate in with Argonne Forest History (War Memorial) and PCMP-stationary exhibits

- Replace street car; recreate rail-street cars

The Argonne Forest hosts a fascinating history with traces of the former Argonne Forest amusement park, remnants of the rail-street car, and stone walls that held pools and structures. A purple trail loops around the forest, which begins at the trail head at the Argonne Forest parking lot.

- Fix the grill and dance floor
- Utilize old stone crossings for water pools
- Highlight remnants: shooting gallery

**SHELTERS**
Currently, open-air shelters are popular for numerous functions. At the northeast corner of the park are the only two rent-able shelters.

- Provide shelters with garage doors that can be easily accessible and controlled
- Use these flexible, sheltered spaces for educational and instructional venues for year round events and programs
- Provide larger shelter and year round events: iconic building by farm area for destination rental

**APPENDIX I**

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### BARN
- Parks can be converted for educational and social events.
  - Convert upper level of barn to classroom space (instead of storage).
  - Provide bike hub in this area.
  - Add Toboggan run.
  - Convert upper level of barn for contra dancing.

### FARM-RELATED
There is an opportunity to revive farm-related festivals to help tie into the overall system and integrate different events (instead of competing). With a 1/4 acre, determine what can be done for a home-demonstration farm. Visitors are encouraged to engage in hands-on farming and gardening experiences.
- Provide outdoor venue for straw bale staging.
  - Support ‘pop-up’ or ‘try-outs’.
  - Designate areas for sunflower fields @ vacant pasture.
  - Design area for digging gardens, wheelbarrow use, and ‘pretend farm / farmstead use’.
  - Increase scale of working vegetable garden.
  - Offer a venue for a pumpkin festival.

### GREENHOUSE AND GARDEN PLOTS
Possum Creek Park offers at least 90 (800 SF) garden plots for rental. Although the garden plots are generally accessed by car, occasional gardeners arrive on bike. Currently, there is a lack of family gardening.
- Use solar power panels or wind power to green house and open to public.
- Support the farm by converting a 1/4 acre to a demonstration farm.
  - Prepare 1/4 acre for demonstration farm.
  - Provide outdoor venue for straw bale staging.
  - Keep successful program events for indoor and outdoor use: “Passport to Fishing” and “Fish for Free”.
  - Select crops for demonstration farm.

### CAMPING
Overnight camping at the Black Cherry and Sugar Maple campsites is ideal for families, newcomers and first timers.
- Plan a Camp-o-ree / Jamboree for Boy Scouts, 4-H, Girls Scouts, regional attraction.
  - Keep successful program events for indoor and outdoor use: “Passport to Fishing” and “Fishing Not on Drugs”.
  - Select crops for demonstration farm.

### AQUATIC RECREATION
Maintaining water quality is a critical component of the Possum Creek Park. Fishing is the most popular aquatic recreation, and there is a big potential of expanding the recreation at the Argonne Lake. FRMP indicated that recreation at the Argonne Lake should be non-motorized; swimming is a possible option. Shelters, tables are available for picnic.
- Maintain water quality and a critical component of the Possum Creek Park.
  - Keep successful program events for indoor and outdoor use: “Passport to Fishing”.
  - Select crops for demonstration farm.

### APPENDIX I

*37*
**POSSUM CREEK METROPARK**

**GENERAL NOTES: WAYS TO ATTRACT USERS TO PARK**

- Do not use the “farm” terminology to describe the park.
- At this time, the RTA route 9 stops at Derby Road and Germantown Pike intersection (1.5 miles or 15 min walk to the main entrance), and add 1/2 mile or so to the activity zones.

**WAYS TO ATTRACT USERS TO PARK**

- Bring in buffalos/bison: engage FRMP and the wild as a resource
- Provide inter-generation programs at $10 maximum fees (grandparents, not parents, love spending)
- Design programs with animal care and handling: beginning to consumption
- Offer activities that can’t be done at home; offer things for people to take home
- Connect people with food, such as City Beets (targeted ages 12-15 years old), sell food at 2nd Street Market
- Contrast Carriage Hill Park with Possum Creek - determine the parks’ purpose
- Add benches around the park
- Design venues for hands-on demonstrations
- Design places for children to run with obstacle courses; tractor on wheels
- Use Cedar Mound as a model
- Market to schools to organize joint-venture park programs
- Land acquisition promotes more land use
- Partner with the VA and veterans (fishing)
- Partner with churches to hold services in provided venues
- Work with RTA; perhaps a route to stop at the park
- Bike share with Main Street
- Fill remaining weekdays with group programs, CSA
- Provide themed venues for the community involvement
- Re-evaluate the possible property acquisition of the property to the north
- Re-evaluate past experiences and programs to boost attendance

**STEWARDSHIP & SITE MANAGEMENT**

**STEWARDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP**

- The City of Dayton should lead as a vigilant steward of marketing this beautiful and clean natural park. Attendance in the park may be boosted through supported efforts by neighboring communities. Improve internal volunteer relationships.

- Re-evaluate the possible property acquisition of the property to the north
- Re-evaluate past experiences and programs to boost attendance

- Reinforce pro-active collaborative healthy-themed programs with potential partnerships: City of Miamisburg, Jefferson Township, West Carrollton, the City of Dayton, OSU extension, 4-H, and the VA
- Coordinate possible corporation booking partnerships with County Fairground and Madison Lakes
- Foster relationships with DPS or school board members/continue with bus services to transport children to park
- Increase staff training to educate the public about the benefits of working with farm animals

- Land acquisition promotes more land use
- Partner with the VA and veterans (fishing)
- Partner with churches to hold services in provided venues
- Work with RTA; perhaps a route to stop at the park
- Bike share with Main Street
- Fill remaining weekdays with group programs, CSA
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- Re-evaluate the possible property acquisition of the property to the north
- Re-evaluate past experiences and programs to boost attendance

**ACQUISITION AND LAND MANAGEMENT**

- Consider ways to retain quality volunteers: “cross-promoting” from parks mentoring new volunteers, provide awards for services

- Partner with community on organized running races
- Partner with local, county, and state-level agencies for regional trail connection enhancements
- Provide themed venues for the community involvement
- Re-evaluate the possible property acquisition of the property to the north
- Re-evaluate past experiences and programs to boost attendance

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

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POD Design: Steve Kowalski, Jim Dziekowicz, Sharon Florio

Taken from: [https://www.metroparks.org/places-to-go/possum-creek/](https://www.metroparks.org/places-to-go/possum-creek/)
About how often do you visit Possum Creek MetroPark?
(All respondents)

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About how often do you visit Possum Creek MetroPark?
(Web respondents)

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About how often do you visit Possum Creek MetroPark?
(Paper respondents)

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**About how often do you visit Possum Creek MetroPark?**  
(Staff respondents)

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<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winter</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**When do you typically visit Possum Creek MetroPark?**  
(All respondents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday:</th>
<th>Tuesday:</th>
<th>Wednesday:</th>
<th>Thursday:</th>
<th>Friday:</th>
<th>Saturday:</th>
<th>Sunday:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Morning</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Afternoon</strong></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evening</strong></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not at all</strong></td>
<td>72</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**When do you typically visit Possum Creek MetroPark?**  
(Web respondents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday:</th>
<th>Tuesday:</th>
<th>Wednesday:</th>
<th>Thursday:</th>
<th>Friday:</th>
<th>Saturday:</th>
<th>Sunday:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Morning</strong></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Afternoon</strong></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evening</strong></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Not at all</strong></td>
<td>57</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When do you typically visit Possum Creek MetroPark? 
(Paper respondents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
<th>Evening</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When do you typically visit Possum Creek MetroPark? 
(Staff respondents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
<th>Evening</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How long do you/would you typically stay on each visit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>I don't visit</th>
<th>An hour or two</th>
<th>Two to four hours</th>
<th>More than four hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How far do you live from Possum Creek MetroPark?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>less than 1/2 mile</th>
<th>1/2 mi - 1 mile</th>
<th>1-5 miles</th>
<th>5-10 miles</th>
<th>more than 10 miles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On a typical visit, how many of the following visit with you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other adult(s)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth under the age of 5</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth 6-12:</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens:</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors:</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person(s) with mobility issues:</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog(s):</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Race of Respondents

![Race of Respondents](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>American Indian or Alaska Native</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Black or African American</th>
<th>Hispanic or Latino</th>
<th>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Non-Hispanic White</th>
<th>White or Caucasian</th>
<th>Two or More Races</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intercept</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Respondents by Type

![Respondents by Type](image)

- **Web**: 111, 77%
- **Paper**: 8, 5%
- **Staff**: 26, 18%
- **Intercept**: 0, 0%
Please rank the importance of the following features (all respondents)

Please rank the importance of the following features (web respondents)
Please rank the importance of the following features (paper respondents)

- Nature & hiking trails
- Wildlife/wetlands/observation areas
- Paved biking trails
- Picnic areas & shelters
- Play areas for children

Please rank the importance of the following features (staff respondents)
What things would you add to Possum Creek MetroPark to make it better? (all respondents)

What things would you add to Possum Creek MetroPark? (web respondents)
What things would you add to Possum Creek MetroPark to make it better? (paper respondents)

- Expanded farm or gardening related activities
- Additional picnic areas/shelters
- Additional nature play areas
- Additional outdoor adventure facilities (camping, fishing, kayaking, etc.)
- Additional walking and hiking trails

What things would you add to Possum Creek MetroPark to make it better? (staff respondents)
7. What do you like most about Possum Creek?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>All the things there are to do in such a close proximity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Animals....farm.... nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Argonne Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Farm Orienteering event Education Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Skunk Cabbage Patch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Argonne Trail, Farm, Hiking trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Being able to take my kids fishing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Bird watching around the lake. Bringing my granddaughter to the farm. Hike the Argonne historical loop about once a week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>birdwatching prairie plants lakes and ponds nature watching paved areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Bridle trails scenery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Bridle trails, farm, convenience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Camping and fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>camping with scouts, hiking, biking through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Camping, fishing, hiking trails - variety of things to see.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Camping, farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Clean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>clean, patrolled, friendly, use more picnic tables, close, nice part to take kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Extensive hiking trails, free fishing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>farm animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>FISHING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Fishing opportunities, the farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Fishing!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>hiking trails in varied habitats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Hiking trails, Lakes and Shelters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>History of the park. Seeing the old remnants from the Homestead that was once there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>History. Terrain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Horse trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>horse trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Horse trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Horse trails and nature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>How open it is. My kids love the animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>How quiet and the history and all the animals wild and farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>I attended and enjoyed the Compost Kitchen class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>I go for the horse trails. they're nice though I'd love to see more of them. I think you'd easily draw in more riders with more mileage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>I love nature so this is the best park for me to take pictures!! I tend to spend hours there at a time just enjoying critters and the beauty!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>I love the equine trails. They are well marked and maintained. Possum Creek is the perfect place to ride when many of the other places in the Miami Valley are too wet or muddy to ride. I like the ease of the trails and the variety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>I love the farm and the community gardens! And the trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>I wouldn't know as of right now there isn't much to draw me there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>It as a variety of amenities and offerings. The hiking trails are great.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>It is a great place to run and people are always fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>It is quiet, without a lot of people. I could walk for an hour or 2 without seeing others on the paths. Good variety of meadow paths and woods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>It's a smaller park and quiet. Not as much human traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>It's beauty and peacefulness, it is a little gem, in an accessible location, well hidden with great possibilities!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>It's clean, close and not crowded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Its well marked and maintained. Beautiful facility!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>I've only visited once for a class. I enjoyed the facility, but it was too dark to visit the rest of the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>I did enjoy learning a little bit about the park and would like to visit again in the future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Location - Quiet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>love being in nature. wish there were bridle trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td>My family loves the farm activities. Love the horse trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>My family's favorite part of Possum Creek is the farm (education center) and the animals - we used to love being able to get in the pen and pet the goats and donkey, seeing the sheep in the pen, and the horse in it's stall, and tromping around in the barn, seeing the turkeys and chickens in their pen and the pig in it's pen. We love the fishing ponds and the pond by the farm. We also love the little playground area. And we really miss the festival they used to have in the fall where we would decorate pumpkins, play some games, see the animals, and even get to see police horses and some fowl that were brought in cages and we were allowed to hold and pet. We also rent the Prairie Dock shelter each year for our annual family gathering - it has a great layout.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>No comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Not much. Its identity is weak, the location is far from desirable, and all of its physical characteristics (woods, tall grass, animals, etc.) are also available at other parks. The history of the park is not of interest to me. The trails are soggy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Said the staff, restrooms water fountain and the road trough the park
Web Not over crowded.
Web OPEN SPACE AND THE PONDS
Web Pretty trails and views
Web Proximity to home. Quiet. Varied terrain
Paper Running trails/hiking
Web Scenic view, and quiet surroundings

Web

Seeing or helping kids learn about farm critters. Helping them fish.
Riding my horse on the property.
Appreciating the proximity for the city dwellers to have a beautiful taste of nature at their back door. (Not sure if a bus runs by the entrance.)
People need the N (Nature) vitamin for their well-being.

Web

And, Connie and staff are most welcoming!

Web

Solitude - It feels like it is my park when I am there and the only one on the trails. My dog loves it too. I like the habitat variety on trail - prairie, woods, shrub, lake view, farm. History is cool too, although the story is more interesting that the remnants that you actually find in the woods. They are kind of a disappointment when you finally find them. Could anything be done to restore them a bit? Use art installations to better imagine the past use?

The park location is sorta unfortunate - I have to choose to drive through the hood to get there, or drive by the prison and landfill. The K9 club scares me.

Web

The availability of ponds and hiking trails
Web the bridle trail and ease of getting in and out of horse parking lot. I can meet my northern horse friends there.
Web the bridle trails. I love the trails there. one of my favorite places to ride
Web The children love looking at nature and learning how to respect the animals and bugs (not all the bugs).
Web The different learning areas
Staff the diversity of having a farm as well as beautiful nature trails
Web The equestrian trails!
Web The farm
Web the farm and fishing ponds
Web The farm and the animals
Web The farm animals and walking trails
Web the farm animals, the garden and the trails
Web The farm animals, the nature play area and the prairie.
Web The farms and the Argonne Forest trail
Web The fishing
Web The hiking paths.
Web the hiking trails
Web The hiking trails, the ponds, the prairie areas, and the mature trees
Staff the lake and ponds the argonne forest
Web The lakes, availability, shelters and upkeep
Web The large cabin space
Web Away from civilization - secluded
Web Clean bathrooms
Web The nature and scenery! There are so many picture opportunities!
Web The new campsites where you can fish and also visit the farm. I also love the group campsites. We have used this park both with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts
Web The open air layout, trails and safe place for small kids to see animals in a farm location rather than the zoo.
Web The peace
Web The fishing
Web The kind park people
Paper The trails
Web The prairie areas and forest trails
Staff The prairies.
Staff the programs held there, the farm, and Argonne Forest and its history
Web The proximity to my home. I have been walking my dogs at Possum Creek for 27 years. I also appreciate the friendliness of the park employees.

Web

The scenic and well maintained walking trails. The historic landmarks regarding the history of the area. I also love the idea of the free group camp. The nice restrooms and shelter houses. I took my niece and nephew to the fishing pond and farm on one occasion. I'm not a regular fisher but what an awesome resource to have.

Web The farm was not open when we went but we were able to walk around and see the animals.
Web The trails
Paper The trails
Web The trails and ponds.
Web The trails and the animals
Staff The trails and the animals
Web

The variety in what is offered. I love the farm and the forest and the fishing!

Web

The variety of environment from fields to woods, make the ride interesting. Having creek crossings give opportunities to see wildlife as well as offer the horses a drink. I like that they have community farming opportunities. Its fun to talk to them and see their progress as we ride through.

Web

The walking trail system.
Paper The water and the quiet
Web Trail system, Ponds
Web Trails
Web Special events
Web Trails, fishing lake and farm
Staff Variety of habitats, longer trails, variety of activities going on
Web Very easy walking, usually clean
Web Very scenic and the nice trails. The kind can use their push scooters. And the fishing access is fun for the kids. We also saw some swans that was exciting. Bathroom access is important too.
Web Visiting with animals, walking, taking classes.
Web Walking Paths Trails
Web We appreciate the sustainable farm example it sets.
Web We like visiting the barn and seeing the animals.
Web We miss the playground. We also enjoyed it when there were more farm animals. We still enjoy the hiking trails, fishing, and picnic shelters.
Web Wide trails easy to follow.

10. Any other comments or ideas that you would like to share?

Source Comments
Web A shelter in the horse trailer parking area, and an expanded parking area for horse trailers would be nice.
Web All weather bridle trails with footing agreeable to barefoot horses, ie smaller rock like crushed limestone
Web Animals stalls need to be cleaned out more regularly.
Web Biking trails would be great.
Web Paper Boy scouts & girl scouts
Web Youth groups to come to camp
Staff Community Gardening is vitally important to me and many of my peers. A focus on this will surely draw patrons.
Web Connie is a gem and the heart of Possum Creek!
Web Paper Document the history - have it written for all to see; Rent out the meeting room
Web Great park! I like the addition of interpretive signs and new rest room over the last several years. Few places on the trails are wet much of the years and could use gravel or board walk way.
Paper Great park, just need to cut back when weeds grow across the trail
Web horse trails are very important for me
Web Great park! I so pleased that Possum Creek is reducing the amount of honeysuckle and brush. Other than that, I love the park just as it is. I do enjoy seeing groups like the Boy Scouts camping at the park.
Web I hope Possum Creek MetroPark continue to provide this area of Dayton with outdoor recreation and walking trails.
Web I love your park!
Web I think any of the parks excluding Carriage Hill would benefit from a outdoor climbing wall
Web I think Possum Creek has a lot to offer the public, but there is a perception that it is in a "bad" part of town, and is "far away." I think more could be done to promote the park and all it has to offer. It takes time, but having a presence at any Jefferson Twp. school events or community events could help make Possum Creek more inviting and accessible.
Web I also think we should utilize new organizations interested in working with Five Rivers MetroParks like Fox 45 to showcase programs and self-guided activities in the park. Public perception takes time to impact, but it can be done.
Web If there is any way to acquire the Canine Club at the corner, it would have a huge impact on the perception of the park. Not only would it allow for night hikes in Argonne Forest to not be impacted by music and noise from the club. I think it severely impacts someone's experience, before they even enter the park, in a negative way. Having a nice sign welcoming park visitors at the corner of Rt. 4 and Frytown would help people feel safe and welcome right from the start, and would help others realize that Possum Creek is right there.
Staff I would like paved walking paths. The Columbus Metro Parks have paved walking/running/bike paths. They are more comfortable to walk/run on.
Web I would like to see designated cross country skiing trails groomed and signage about the sport and trail etiquette for other users. I would like to see a paved trail connection into the park supporting alternative transportation options and bike-touring users.
Web I'm not sure if this is feasible, but a lot of programming opportunities that I am interested in are at Wegeryzn, which is quite a drive for me--not sure if there is opportunity to duplicate some of those here? I know each park has its own personality and the programming it matched up like that so not sure if there is any opportunity here.
Web Keeping the equine trails at Possum Creek is not only good for the equestrians, but also the other visitors. So many people are removed from livestock today that it is nice to be able to have a place where people can interact with it. EVERY TIME I visit Possum Creek, a hiker or picnicker will go out of their way to come and pet my horse and talk about him. It is a great PR builder.
Web More activities year-round Farmer's Market - Food Truck Day...
Web More structured/scheduled activities in the evening hours on weekdays. Better advertising of the amenities the park has to offer. Anything to get more people to frequent the park. There are a lot of great features to enjoy at this park. Even though I frequently see park rangers driving through the parking lots I seldom feel safe walking the trails. I only ever see one or two other people here. The other metroparks I frequent are much busier which makes me feel safe that if anything happened I could get help. My boyfriend and I love camping and have never camped here only because it feels so isolated.
Web More tables at the farm area would be great. An observation area around the farm pond would be also. Our family visits for hiking, for the kids to explore, for fishing, picnics and occasionally grilling.
Web Our family really like to walk the trails. However, at sometimes it is very very muddy and it would be nice if in those areas there would be some gravel or a plank bridge. People also need to be fined if they let their dogs of the leash. There have been several occasions when we had to battle with people letting their dogs off the leash. I believe they should be cited if possible. Our dogs are rescues and not very friendly with other dogs and a couple of times they have been approached in an aggressive manner and I do not feel as though I should have to handle that. When I do have to handle it the owners do not like what I have to say. But thanks for the nice walking paths
Staff PC is one of my favorite parks, but it feels like it has an identity crisis. It has a little of everything - which makes it feel sorta like nothing. I am really looking forward to this master plan process to help our little diamond in the rough
Web Please do not add playgrounds or climbing walls! Some parkland needs justvto be green space. Urban kids need exposure to farm animals, trees and woods.
Web Add programming for teens
Web Please keep up the great work keeping our parks clean.
Web Possum Creek does have a lot of variety - fishing which is very popular, the farm which also has some traffic, but one of the best parts is that it is not over utilized - sometimes it is nice to take a walk in solitude.
Possum Creek would be the ideal park to create an "All Weather" bridle trail. This would take the heat off of the other Metro Parks bridle trails, allowing them to rest in bad weather, and alleviate extra maintenance caused by usage, particularly in "muddy" weather.

PC has a start on this type of trail because of the old roads bed already in place, the trail is short (4 1/2 - 5 miles), has several areas that are already graveled, great parking area and easy access. Would absolutely be an equestrian draw!

If built properly it would require little maintenance and give easy access to emergency equipment.

probably my favorite park to run in

SHARED SOME STOCKING LOVE IN ARGONNE

some work on some of the hiking trails where they tend to get so muddy... Maybe some extra gravel to raise those areas a little or possibly some better drainage...

Thank you for providing a great place to enjoy my horse

Staff thanks for this hidden gem - hopefully more people find it and use it regularly!!!

the horse trails are short and takes less than 1 1/2 hour to ride, to make it worth the trip there, bringing horse, pulling trailer, etc, please consider more horse trails as we, equestrians, can share the hiking trails to make it worth the trip there. Thank You ever so much!

The Women's room near the pond needs doors on the stall for safety and for privacy. Women NEED privacy in the restroom. We camped at the park on our wa across the country. The bathrooms at Opposum Creek turned out to be the worst we encountered on our 5 week journey. The raccoons were also the most invasive and aggressive we encountered. All that said, we really did like the park a lot.

There's an opportunity for a top notch nature play area that people from the entire county would use.

This is a lovely park. I plan on visiting more this year. Thank you for maintaining this place for all to enjoy

To my knowledge Metroparks lacks a state of the art playground. When I travel to other parks in other states I am blown away by the play areas for children. Would love to see something impressive at Possum Creek.

The park would be improved by removal of the non-native invasive plants

The trails are poorly groomed. Not very nice rest rooms.

Use the park for special events like Earth Day. Collaborate with other city groups: Native American Flute Circle, librarians, churches, artists...

Would be nice to have a horse trails that doesn't ever get too wet to ride in. Also maybe obstacles for horses to desensitize.

Would like to see an all-weather equestrian trail using some of the blacktop trails already there.

you need to protect wildlife areas, but make handicap access

Feels unsafe due to lack of people in park

More largemouth bass.

expand working produce farm

paths tend to be very muddy

BETTER FISHING ACCESS/DISABLED. TOO TRECHEROUS NOW
The scenic and well maintained walking trails, the historic landmarks regarding the history of the area, and the variety of environment from fields to woods make the ride interesting. Having creek crossings give opportunities for bird watching around the lake.
Additional walking and hiking trails/Describe "Other"

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2 Other  Please specify/Rank (1 5) 3 Other  ... comments or ideas that y ou w ould like to share? Email: 12  Home ZIP Code: 13  Your gender: 14  Your age: 15  Your race:

1 1 3 1 Bikeway to Connection 4 New entrance 45315 Male 46 55 White or Caucasian

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3 5 4 2 Horse trail 45342 Female 35 45 White or Caucasian

5 1 3 2 CHERYL COLE@WCCIDAY ORG 45402 Female 56 65 Black or African American

4 3 5 1 expanded bridle trails possumcreekstables@yahoo com 45439 Female 46 55 White or Caucasian

45440 Female 25 34 White or Caucasian

8 2 2 3 45420 Female 46 55 White or Caucasian

2 4 5 3 Great park  just need to cut back when weeds grow across the trail 45420 Male 25 34 White or Caucasian

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mopardreamin@gmail com

watkinsloa@aol com

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45405 Female 25 34 White or Caucasian

all weather bridle trails All weather bridle trails with footing agreeable to barefoot horses  ie smaller rock like crushed limestone 45003 Female 56 65 White or Caucasian

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45424 Female 35 45 White or Caucasian

Boy scouts & girl scouts julies barkalow@gmail com 45417 Female 46 55 White or Caucasian

2 1 2 1 Fll fh 76@ h 45439 Fl 35 45 White or Caucasian

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**Nature & hiking trails:**
- Bike trail connectors
- Good rental-sized ed. building
- Hand on learning for kids
- Geocaching
- Picnic tables in horse trailer parking
- Non-motorized boat access on lake
- Picnic areas & shelters:
  - Nature & hiking trails:
    - Additional horse trails
    - Additional walking and hiking trails
    - Additional nature play areas
    - Additional picnic areas/ shelters
    - Play areas
    - Paved bike trails
    - Parking lots
    - Bathrooms access/upgraded/clean
    - Bridle trails/horse trailer parking
    - Farm/Farm animals
    - Picnic areas & shelters:
      - Nature & hiking trails:
        - Additional horse trails
        - Additional walking and hiking trails
        - Additional nature play areas
        - Additional picnic areas/ shelters
        - Play areas
        - Paved bike trails
        - Parking lots
        - Bathrooms access/upgraded/clean
        - Bridle trails/horse trailer parking
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          - Nature & hiking trails:
            - Additional horse trails
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            - Additional nature play areas
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            - Play areas
            - Paved bike trails
            - Parking lots
            - Bathrooms access/upgraded/clean
            - Bridle trails/horse trailer parking
            - Farm/Farm animals
            - Picnic areas & shelters:
What things would you add to Possum Creek MetroPark to make it better? (all respondents)

- Expanded farm or gardening related activities
- Additional picnic areas/shelters
- Additional nature play areas
- Additional outdoor adventure facilities (camping, fishing, kayaking, etc.)
- Additional walking and hiking trails
- Additional horse trails
- More/Better bathrooms
- Clearer signage/maps
- A traditional playground with slides, swings, etc.
- All weather bridle trails
- Bison
- Improve condition of trails
- Dog areas
- Nature and education staff available for public
- New entrance/single, defined entry

Please rank the importance of the following features (paper respondents)

... (Bar charts showing rankings)

What things would you add to Possum Creek MetroPark? (web respondents)

- Expanded farm or gardening related activities
- Additional picnic areas/shelters
- Additional nature play areas
- Additional outdoor adventure facilities (camping, fishing, kayaking, etc.)
- Additional walking and hiking trails

Please rank the importance of the following features (paper respondents)

... (Bar charts showing rankings)

Please rank the importance of the following features (staff respondents)

... (Bar charts showing rankings)
It has a variety of amenities and offerings. The hiking trails are great. I like the farm and the animals, and the nature play area. The prairie is beautiful and peaceful, it is a little gem, in an accessible location, well hidden with great possibilities! I love the lake and ponds. I visit the Argonne forest often. The large cabin space is away from civilization - secluded. The clean bathrooms are great.

The farm and the animals are my favorite part of Possum Creek. I love the equine trails. They are well marked and maintained. Possum Creek is the perfect place to ride when many of the other places in the Miami Valley are too wet or muddy to ride. I love the ease of the trails and the variety.

The children love looking at nature and learning how to respect the animals and bugs (not all the bugs). They also love the compost kitchen class. I enjoyed learning a little bit about the park and would like to visit again in the future.

I went on an orienteering event and it was fun. I would love to see more of them. I think you'd easily draw in more riders with more mileage. The trails are scenic and well maintained, and are the best in the area. The historic landmarks regarding the history of the area are interesting and educational. The prairies are beautiful and the animals are great.

I used to have in the fall where we would decorate pumpkins, play some games, see the animals, and even get to see police horses and some fowl that were brought in cages and we were able to pet them. We love the fishing ponds and the pond by the farm. We also love the little playground area.

I love the farm and the community gardens! And the trails. I love the close proximity for the city dwellers to have a beautiful taste of nature at their back door. (not sure if a bus runs by the entrance.)

I love looking at the nature and learning how to respect the animals and bugs (not all the bugs). The clean bathrooms are great.

I attended and enjoyed the compost kitchen class. I did enjoy learning a little bit about the park and would like to visit again in the future.

The scenic and well maintained walking trails. The historic landmarks regarding the history of the area. The fishing opportunities, the farm, and the Argonne Forest trail are great. The prairies are beautiful and I love the trails. I love the open air layout, trails and safe place for small kids to see animals in a farm location rather than the zoo.

I love the history of the park. Seeing the old remnants from the homestead that was once there. The prairie plants, skunk cabbage patch are beautiful. I love the trails. I love the farmlands. They are kind of a disappointment when you first see them, but once you get into the woods they open up and you can see the beauty of the area. I love the trails and the views from the trees.

I love the farm and the community gardens! And the trails. I love the close proximity for the city dwellers to have a beautiful taste of nature at their back door. (not sure if a bus runs by the entrance.)

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I love the farm and the community gardens! And the trails. I love the close proximity for the city dwellers to have a beautiful taste of nature at their back door. (not sure if a bus runs by the entrance.)
The trails and ponds.

All weather bridle trails with footing agreeable to barefoot horses, ie smaller rock like crushed limestone.

I hope Possum Creek MetroPark continue to provide this area of Dayton with outdoor recreation and walking trails.

I would like paved walking paths. The Columbus Metro Parks have paved walking/running/bike paths. They are more comfortable to walk/run on.

The water and the quiet

the variety of environment from fields to woods, make the ride interesting. having creek crossings give opportunities to... like that they have community farming opportunities. Its fun to talk to them and see their progress as we ride through.

Would like to see an all-weather equestrian trail using some of the blacktop trails already there.

trails, fishing lake and farm

Use the park for special events like Earth Day. Collaborate with other city groups: Native American Flute Circle, librarians, churches, artists...

trails, lakes, historic forest

We miss the playground. We also enjoyed it when there were more farm animals. We still enjoy the hiking trails, fishing, and picnic shelters.

I think any of the parks excluding Carriage Hill would benefit from a outdoor climbing wall

SHARE SOME STOCKING LOVE IN ARGONNE

More activities year round- Farmers Market - Food Truck Day ...

Connie is a gem and the heart of Possum Creek!

variety of habitats, longer trails, variety of activities going on

Would be nice to have a horse trails that doesn't ever get too wet to ride in. Also maybe obstacles for horses to desensitize.

very easy walking,, usually clean

facitlies and bridle trails are very much needed for the equine community which is very strong in our area

Trails

Feels unsafe due to lack of people in park

Wide trails easy to follow.

document the history - have it written for all to see; Rent out the meeting room

Animals stalls need to be cleaned out more regularly.

Probably my favorite park to run in

Trails poorly groomed. Not very nice rest rooms.

the walking trail system.

we miss the playground. we also enjoyed it when there were more farm animals. we still enjoy the hiking trails, fishing, and picnic shelters.

The farm needs to be run by a farmer. With the farm being educational, education staff should be maintaining the farm.

the variety in what is offered. i love the farm and the forest and the fishing!

Community Gardening is vitally important to me and many of my peers. A focus on this will surely draw patrons.

Biking trails would be great!

The walking trail system.

we miss the playground. we also enjoyed it when there were more farm animals. we still enjoy the hiking trails, fishing, and picnic shelters.

I also think we should utilize new organizations interested in working with Five Rivers MetroParks like Fox 45 to showcase programs and self-guided

I think Possum Creek has a lot to offer the public, but there is a perception that it is in a "bad" part of town, and is "far away." I think more could be done

groups like the Boy Scouts camping at the park.

The trails, the animals.