

FALL / WINTER 2022 - 2023

FREE

PARKWAYS

YOUR GUIDE TO FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

FOR NEARLY 60 YEARS,
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS
HAS PROTECTED NATURAL
SPACES FOR WILDLIFE AND
PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY.

CONSERVATION:
RESEARCHING SOIL,
INSECTS AND SHRUBS
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EDUCATION: CONSERVATION
KIDS GROW INTO LEADERS
SEE PAGES 8 - 9

RECREATION: REGION'S
PREMIER OUTDOOR
ADVENTURE FEST IS BACK
SEE PAGES 10 - 11

FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS



TM

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

in your MetroParks as selected by lead park technician RAMON WATSON

Ramon Watson has worked at six different MetroParks during his 27 years at Five Rivers MetroParks, from Taylorsville MetroPark in northern Montgomery County to Cox Arboretum MetroPark south of Dayton. Now located at Germantown MetroPark as a lead park technician, Watson's recommendations for fall and winter fun outdoors are a must for those who want a solo adventure, in addition to adventures with friends and family. In addition, Watson highly recommends taking in the changing fall colors from atop the Tree Tower at Cox Arboretum MetroPark.



1) TRAIL TIME WITH FUR FRIENDS

The more temperate fall weather is the perfect time to hit the trails – for both pets and people. Watson – who has a husky shepherd named Sheba – recommends the 1.4-mile green trail at Germantown MetroPark or the 1.1-mile blue trail at Cox Arboretum MetroPark.

METROPARKS.ORG/HIKING

2) FALL FISHING

Watson highly recommends fishing for bass or bluegill at Twin Creek or Possum Creek MetroParks this fall. See page 10 and visit MetroParks' website to learn more about fishing, including places where a license is not required.

METROPARKS.ORG/FISHING

3) CAMP OUT

Years before Watson worked at Germantown MetroPark, his church group visited Camp Hook for an outing that created fond memories. He suggests camping in either Germantown or Twin Creek MetroParks so visitors can experience the Twin Valley Backpacking Trail. He also suggests the new trailside camping spot at Taylorsville MetroPark.

METROPARKS.ORG/CAMPING

4) PLAN A PICNIC

Cooler weather makes for fewer insects and beautiful views. Grab some goodies from the 2nd Street Market and set up at a picnic table for a casual occasion or rent a shelter to accommodate a larger group. Watson recommends Englewood MetroPark, as he had his first family picnic there nearly 27 years ago. He also recommends Paw Paw Shelter at Hills & Dales and the shelters at Wesleyan for larger functions.

METROPARKS.ORG/EASY

5) SNOW FUN

While he's never tried it himself, Watson has watched cross country skiers and snowshoers have a blast in the parks after a fresh snow. Either activity is best on paved and relatively flat natural surface trails. Try the 1.8-mile yellow trail at Cox Arboretum MetroPark or the 1.6-mile silver trail at Germantown MetroPark. Those who want to hike longer, more difficult trails in the snow can use snow spikes!

METROPARKS.ORG/WINTER-SPORTS

RAMON'S FAVORITES:

- **Favorite park:** Cox Arboretum and Germantown MetroParks
- **Favorite recreation activities:** Hiking, biking and fishing
- **Favorite event:** City of Dayton's Lights in Flights Fireworks and the Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience



ALERTS AND CLOSURES

Weather conditions and construction can affect hiking trails, bikeways and access to certain park entrances. All construction information, including detours, and any weather-related notices, are posted online at metroparks.org/alerts.



LOST ITEMS

If you lost something valuable in a MetroPark, contact the Rangers to identify and retrieve your belongings. Contact Alan Starnes at (937) 567-4265 for details.



HOW TO CONTACT A RANGER

Inform the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office dispatcher you are in a MetroParks facility. A MetroParks law enforcement Ranger will be notified and respond to the situation as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: 9-1-1

NON-EMERGENCY: (937) 225-HELP (4357)



OUR MISSION: Five Rivers MetroParks is dedicated to protecting the region's natural heritage and providing outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature.



Becky Benná
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR METROPARKS FRIENDS,

In 1963, Dayton was growing — quickly. A group of local citizens became concerned about the pace of this growth and how it might upset the balance of developed versus natural areas. These visionary and committed individuals sought to preserve our region's natural heritage by establishing a county-wide park district to acquire and manage open space for the recreation and enjoyment of people in the metropolitan region.

Today, that park district is your Five Rivers MetroParks.

Also today, nearly six decades later, MetroParks remains a conservation agency with a mission to protect our region's natural heritage — maintaining forests, prairies, wetlands and other native habitat where wildlife thrives and people can make personal connections with nature. Through the years, Five Rivers MetroParks has worked with communities and landowners to strategically protect sensitive habitat, land and waterways.

In this issue of *ParkWays*, you can read about some more recent land protection efforts and why they're important on pages 4-5. The history of your Five Rivers MetroParks comes full circle on page 14 with an article about a philanthropic gift from The Garden Club of Dayton, which was instrumental in the founding of your county-wide park district.

Information about upcoming programs and events begins on page 16. Perhaps the most exciting is the return of MetroParks' premiere outdoor adventure festival, the Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience presented by Huff. We can't wait to see you at Eastwood MetroPark Oct. 1 and 2 for this family festival!

As we look ahead to 2023 and beyond, we continue to evaluate our sustainability practices and opportunities to ensure we provide our services in the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly way. Due to significant increases in printing and mailing costs, staff is evaluating new ways to deliver *ParkWays* magazine to our residents. Additional information will be shared in the coming months to keep you informed.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *ParkWays*, and we encourage you to also use MetroParks' digital communications to learn about news, nature-based resources, ways to enjoy your MetroParks, living sustainably and much more.

If you do not have access to the internet, an email account or use social media, please call our visitor service representatives at (937) 275-PARK (7275). They will be happy to assist you.

Best Regards,

Becky Benná

BE IN THE KNOW ABOUT YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

Learn updates as they're announced, access program and event info, discover resources that help you connect with nature and much more.

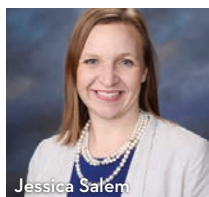
- Visit MetroParks' Nature Is Open blog: metroparks.org/natureisopen
- Sign up for Five Rivers MetroParks' email newsletters: metroparks.org/newsletter
- Download MetroParks' mobile app, powered by OuterSpatial: metroparks.org/mobile
- Call (937) 275-PARK (7275)

- Facebook: facebook.com/fiveriversmetroparks
- Twitter: twitter.com/metroparkstweet
- Instagram: [@metroparks](https://instagram.com/metroparks)
- YouTube: youtube.com/FiveRiversMetroParks
- **NEW** TikTok: [@fiveriversmetroparks](https://tiktok.com/@fiveriversmetroparks)

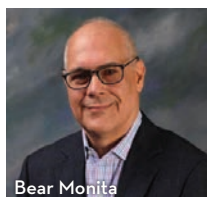
METROPARKS COMMISSIONERS



Karen L. Davis



Jessica Salem



Bear Monita



Five Rivers MetroParks
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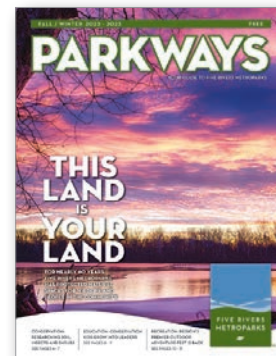
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THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

**FOR NEARLY 60 YEARS,
FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS
HAS PROTECTED NATURAL
SPACES FOR WILDLIFE AND
PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY.**

A 46-acre property tucked in a west Dayton neighborhood includes some beautiful surprises: a tranquil pond, a rocky beach along Wolf Creek, a trail through the woods.

Five Rivers MetroParks acquired this property in 2018 thanks to Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, the land's previous owner, and a Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program grant. More recently, in 2021, MetroParks acquired two additional properties totaling about 12 acres and located along Wolf Creek just north of the Calvary land. All three properties will soon connect to Wesleyan MetroPark; work is already underway to clean up and restore that land – and fulfill long-term plans for it to expand that MetroPark in west Dayton to 100 acres.

“MetroParks acquired this land to expand Wesleyan MetroPark and to link it to additional neighborhoods and residents in the area,” said Carrie Scarff, MetroParks’ chief of planning and projects. “These acquisitions also will create a contiguous, open space corridor along the Wolf Creek.”

Expanding parks is only one reason MetroParks acquires land, an ongoing process that started with the creation of the park district in 1963. Two years later, the fledgling park district set a land acquisition goal of 8,500 acres to protect open space in the region, which was growing rapidly at that time.

Today, that park district is your Five Rivers MetroParks, which protects nearly 16,500 acres of land – 90% of it maintained in its natural state so habitat for plants and wildlife is a priority. Doing so preserves clean water and air, supports plant and wildlife biodiversity, and provides beautiful places where people can connect with nature.

MetroParks’ origin story rooted in land protection still plays out today. The agency has land protection goals that are strategic and visionary, focused on MetroParks’ mission to protect the region’s natural heritage.

“Five Rivers MetroParks is a conservation agency, and the public has told us they want MetroParks to protect the Miami Valley’s natural resources,” said Eric Sauer, MetroParks’ planning manager. “We’re not interested in buying every available property. We strategically protect land that is adjacent to existing MetroParks, that has distinct natural features, or that connects existing open space, particularly along streams and rivers to strengthen riparian buffers and wildlife corridors.”

Some of those strategic land acquisitions may one day expand an existing MetroPark or conservation area – or become a new MetroPark or conservation area. In some cases, a conservation area – land MetroParks owns and manages that may not have developed public access – becomes a MetroPark, as will be the case with Spring Run Conservation Area. MetroParks has been converting this land, once farmland and a golf course, to native grassland, forest and wetlands for nearly a decade. Just this August, additional wetland

restoration work began with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Spring Run's 540 acres are adjacent to Sycamore State Park – providing a large area for wildlife habitat and open space protection in western Montgomery County.

"We're being very specific and almost surgical about what lands we take on so MetroParks is meeting the public's priorities to protect our waterways and maintain our parks," Scarff said. "We also look to make sure we improve ecological corridors for wildlife while not overburdening our operational responsibilities and wisely spending tax dollars."

What follows is info about two of Five Rivers MetroParks' more recent land acquisitions and the plans to ensure these properties make Montgomery County's environment healthier now and for generations to come.

Foxton Court Apartments

The city of Dayton approached Five Rivers MetroParks about purchasing the 10-acre property once home to these apartments, severely damaged in the 2019 tornadoes, and an adjacent 58-acre city-owned property. Grants from Clean Ohio and the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund supported the acquisition of the land along Needmore Road.

MetroParks hopes to finish demolition of the remaining apartment structures, utilities and pavement by early next year. Because the apartments were located in a floodplain, built prior to legislation prohibiting this, they could not have been rebuilt. Instead, the property will be restored to a natural area, seeded with a restorative prairie mix that will regenerate soils. This restoration also will add greenspace to the neighborhood and to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark.

Both properties met several MetroParks' land acquisition goals, including their location along a river corridor, the opportunity to return an area to its natural habitat and strengthening wildlife habitat.

"On top of that, for the community, it removes a blight on our landscape," Scarff said. "It removes a significant reminder of the tornadoes along a very busy road."

Whitesell Property

This 63-acre property, former farmland located near Frederick Pike and Needmore Road, expanded the Stillwater Conservation Area. It met two of MetroParks' land protection goals: protect natural areas adjacent to river corridors and establish buffers for natural areas.

Work is underway to transition the land from its prior agricultural use to a natural area with native grasses and wildflowers. "You'll see some pretty significant changes within a year," Sauer said. "The bigger impact will be in the second to fourth years, and eventually, long after we're here, it will be a woodland."

This land acquisition also created a new way for the public to support MetroParks' conservation mission to protect the region's natural heritage: the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation's Land Conservation Endowment Fund. Now, donors can financially support MetroParks' conservation efforts while also funding an endowment. Visit metroparks.org/foundation to support the new Land Conservation Endowment Fund.





Local scientists conduct *conservation research* in the field – literally

Nature can be a classroom at every stage in life, from early childhood well into adulthood. This is especially true for those who have committed their life's work to conservation.

Last April, Five Rivers MetroParks, with support of the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation, offered a research grant for scientists to conduct or plan to conduct research on MetroParks' land. The grant awarded up to \$5,000 to those conducting studies related to ecology, conservation and biology. The grant – designed to assist with equipment, travel, stipends and other costs – was awarded to two local scientists affiliated with the University of Dayton and Wright State University.

University of Dayton student Michaela Woods is conducting ongoing research at the Great Miami Mitigation Bank, which began in 2019. Woods and fellow students have planted a variety of seed mixes with different treatments, such as using mulch and adding soil. These seeds were planted with the intention to understand the best restoration practices for converting what was once agricultural land back to prairies and forests.

Twenty research plots were established and planted with different seed mixes where land was previously farmed. This research related directly to the restoration goals for the Great Miami Mitigation Bank, which will become the future Spring Run MetroPark, and spaces across MetroParks and the Midwest.

"Research is essential to understand our environment and create more efficient land management practices to conserve and protect it," said MetroParks biologist Lisa Zoromski. "Collaboration with local universities has greatly improved MetroParks' conservation practices."

A master's student at Wright State University, Ari Zakroff, joined by Dr. John Stireman, are studying arthropod food webs and the impact of invasive forest shrubs. Zakroff's fieldwork has taken him to almost every MetroPark, with MetroParks conservation staff assisting him by helping identify arthropods – invertebrate animals with a large exoskeleton and segmented body, such as spiders – and invasive shrubs. Though there is a widespread distribution of invasive shrubs, there is a lack of scientific publications on how they impact arthropods. Zakroff's research will shed some light on how these invasive plants affect arthropod food webs and contribute to the biodiversity and ecosystem as compared to native woody plants.

"Throughout a year, there are about a dozen research permits administered through Five Rivers MetroParks," said Zoromski. "Projects cover a wide range of topics including aquatic insects, forest ecology, wildlife, plants, fungi and climate change."

Indeed, research conducted on MetroParks' land helps guide its conservation staff, who are at the forefront of MetroParks' mission to protect the region's natural heritage. Those who are interested in learning more about local researchers, contemplate their study questions, hear their stories and learn what they have discovered, can attend an EcoTalk Oct. 19 at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. See page 21 for details.



Learn more about ongoing research, including last August's Bat Blitz, by visiting metroparks.org/natureisopen.



SUPPORT YOUR METROPARKS' CONSERVATION EFFORTS

By contributing to the Land Conservation Endowment Fund, you help MetroParks:

- protect our region's natural heritage
- provide greenspace for people and wildlife
- improve air and water quality

Visit metroparks.org/foundation or call (937) 275-PARK (7275).





Collaborating for tomorrow's **CONSERVATION LEADERS**

As the saying goes: “We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”

Indeed, future generations will not only have to live in the world we leave them, they will have to figure out how to navigate its environmental challenges – and there are many.

Inspiring today's youth to become good stewards of the natural world is critical to MetroParks' mission to protect the region's natural heritage. Starting with Conservation Kids programming – which focuses on children ages 3 through 13 – MetroParks invites children to explore nature through hands-on, educational experiences.

Now, MetroParks' outdoor education, parks and conservation, and volunteer staff – with additional support from The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation – have collaborated to provide a new series of programs that allow older youth to take their education, advocacy and service to the next level.

“We continued to see that older youth were close to or aging out of Conservation Kids programming but still wanted to be engaged,” said education specialist Erin Rowekamp. “At the time, we didn't have that many

opportunities we could direct them to so they could continue to grow as conservationists. We also heard from parents that there were not many volunteer opportunities for teens in the greater Dayton area.”

Conservation Leaders, a new program series introduced this past summer, addresses those concerns:

- It offers multifaceted programs that allow youth ages 10 through 17 to deepen their connection with nature in many ways.
- Participants in Conservation Leaders programs explore Dayton's local ecology and help with various conservation projects.
- These programs are paired with Conservation Leaders in Action volunteer opportunities, in which older youth participate in conservation projects that help improve biodiversity in the MetroParks.

“Conservation Leaders really allows participants to have a sense of ownership of the projects they are involved in and gain a deeper understanding of local environmental issues and what they can do to affect positive change,” Rowekamp said. “Plus, teens can earn service hours while exploring a potential career.”

Already, Conservation Leaders participants have planted native plugs around Sugarcreek MetroPark's new wetland

and removed trash that had washed into Woodman Fen Conservation Area.

Conservation Leaders also will use the skills they build to help inspire their younger peers during Conservation Kids programs. Teens will assist staff, share their knowledge and experiences in the field, and engage more reserved participants who may open up to someone closer to their age.

“It can be difficult for youth to find their voice, and perhaps even harder to find a place to start when they care so much about the significant environmental issues of the world,” Rowekamp said. “This program helps teens recognize their influence, power and voice in standing up for conservation. As an added benefit, these participants develop confidence and leadership skills that will stay with them forever.”

According to a JAMA Pediatrics study, recreational screen time nearly doubled during the pandemic, with teens spending more than seven hours of screen time a day. Encouraging youth to spend more time outdoors partaking in nature-based activities has its benefits, from improved mood and concentration to reduced anger.

The new Conservation Leaders program “helps teens recognize their influence, power and voice in standing up for conservation. As an added benefit, these participants develop confidence and leadership skills that will stay with them forever.”

— MetroParks education specialist Erin Rowekamp

See page 24 for a complete list of this season’s Conservation Leader programs.

Scan the code or visit metroparks.org/natureisopen to learn how to keep kids and teens engaged in conservation at home.



Spending time outside is good for all of us – but is especially important for children.



MetroParks’ special outings, Let’s Explore, make it easy to experience the outdoors with kids. Start at a nature play area, hike a nearby trail suitable for children and look for fun activities to complete along the way. Let’s Explore adventures are available at:

- Englewood MetroPark East Park
- Possum Creek MetroPark
- Sugarcreek MetroPark

**METROPARKS.ORG/
LETSEXPLORE**



CELEBRATE TEACHERS



Nominate them for a 2022 OUTstanding Teacher Award! Winners receive a plant kit, classroom materials and more. Dayton-area educators who teach any subject from kindergarten through high school are eligible. Nominations are due Jan. 31, 2023.

Funded through The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation.

METROPARKS.ORG/OUTSTANDING

GONE *fall* FISHING

COOLER WEATHER AND VIBRANT COLORS MAKE FALL ONE OF THE BEST SEASONS TO START A NEW OUTDOOR HOBBY OR TO ENJOY A LONGSTANDING ONE. FISHING IS A RELAXING WAY TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS, OBSERVE NATURE AND UNPLUG WITH YOUR FAMILY.

Pictured: Five Rivers MetroParks outdoor recreation specialist Kelly Kingery teaching a Fly Fishing 2: River class. Photo by Shay Nartker.

See page 18 to learn more about fly fishing programs. Scan the code or visit metroparks.org/fishing to learn more about fishing in your MetroParks.



Learn more about fall fishing and the importance of recycling your line by scanning the code or visiting metroparks.org/natureisopen.



Visit metroparks.org/access to learn about and apply for the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation's Access to Nature financial assistance program, which helps qualifying Montgomery County residents offset costs for program registrations, as well as shelter and campsite rentals.



"Fall fishing is great because the temps are cooling, both in the air and the water," said outdoor recreation specialist and fishing expert Kelly Kingery. "Fish come up from the deeper summer pools where they have been hanging out in cooler waters and are now feeding closer to the surface – or in shallower water – due to the cooler weather. Fall is a good time to get out there before temps drop in winter and their metabolism slows down, making fish less hungry and more lethargic."

Having a great fishing experience starts with safety. A lifejacket is recommended for everyone who is near the water. This also includes those who are fly fishing in the water or on a watercraft.

Anglers also should dress appropriately for the weather. Often, Ohio's fall weather means chilly mornings and warmer afternoons. Dress in layers to ensure you can be comfortable throughout the day. Though you may not have to worry about insect repellent in fall, everyone who visits the outdoors should bring sun protection. And what would a day of fishing be without snacks? Pack plenty of water and food to fuel you throughout the day.

New and experienced anglers can enjoy fishing opportunities in every MetroPark with the exception of Cox Arboretum, Hills & Dales, and Sugarcreek MetroParks. At the destinations below, you can fish without a license:

- Carriage Hill MetroPark (Cedar Lake and Northwoods Pond)
- Eastwood MetroPark (Lagoon and Blue Lake)
- Germantown MetroPark (Sunfish Pond)
- Possum Creek MetroPark (Argonne Lake and stocked fishing ponds)
- Twin Creek MetroPark (Lake George)

Kingery also recommends trying fishing in rivers, such as the Great Miami River (Taylorsville MetroPark) and the tree-hugged Twin Creek (Germantown MetroPark).

With the appropriate gear – such as tackle, lures and bait – anglers in this region can expect to catch a variety of fish. While you may not catch a 4-foot, profile-picture-worthy catfish on every outing, people may be able to catch anything from large mouth bass to bluegill.

If you're an angler who is ready to try something new or new to fishing all together, consider participating in MetroParks' fall fly fishing programs. These programs teach you the basics of fly fishing, both on flat water and in rivers. Registration is required for these adult programs, which will provide you with the skills needed to fly fish. Professional instructors cover necessary gear, flies and casting.



THE MIDWEST'S PREMIER
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
FESTIVAL IS BACK!



SATURDAY 11 AM - 10 PM • SUNDAY 11 AM - 4 PM

OCTOBER 1 & 2

EASTWOOD METROPARK

1385 HARSHMAN RD., DAYTON, OHIO

METROPARKS.ORG/OUTDOORX

FREE AND FOR EVERYONE IN
THE FAMILY - INCLUDING DOGS!

- DOZENS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES
- LIVE DEMOS
- EXHIBITOR VILLAGE
- KIDS ACTIVITIES
- FREE CAMPING
- FOOD TRUCKS



VOLUNTEERING *is for* THE BIRDS



In the 1890s, house sparrows and European starlings found their way to the United States, competing with existing bluebirds for nesting sites. This bird boom and loss of habitat due to increased development meant that, by the early 1900s, bluebird populations had dwindled by 90%.

Fast forward to the 1930s, when birdhouses became popular. People noticed when these houses were monitored, it was bluebirds who took up residence in these cozy homes rather than house sparrows.

During the years since, bluebird populations have continued to increase incrementally. However, there's still work to do, as such food sources as insects and habitats continue to decrease – both integral to the survival of these beautiful native birds.

Since the early 2000s, Five Rivers MetroParks has had bluebird boxes in several of its MetroParks that have been monitored by volunteers. Monitoring these birds helps



MetroParks' conservation staff better understand local population trends, observe how bluebirds are reacting to different environmental changes and more.

"Volunteers help clean the bluebird boxes, report what they find and help with conservation," said MetroParks biologist Lisa Zoromski.

During last winter, park and conservation staff took a deep dive into bluebird research and reassessed the number of boxes in MetroParks. While many boxes were removed, the best boxes and predator guards remain, and the monitoring process has been streamlined to a digital format.

"This is an independent volunteer opportunity that can be flexible with anyone's schedule, which makes it a great family volunteer opportunity," Zoromski said.

Current bluebird monitoring volunteer Rachel Lovano discovered an interest in birdwatching after becoming part of this conservation opportunity.

"It's a great way to learn about birds, nest and egg identification, and it's amazing to see the whole process in all the stages," Lovano said. "It's been an eye-opening education on conservation, invasive species, and nesting birds, and has promoted me to put up boxes in my own back yard to monitor and help the bluebirds."





Rachel Lovano monitors bluebird boxes at Sugarcreek MetroPark (left). Conservation Technician Nicole Freshour at Germantown MetroPark (bottom).



Lovano also finds volunteering a great way to stay active outdoors.

“It’s a great excuse to get outside and take a walk at the park,” she said.

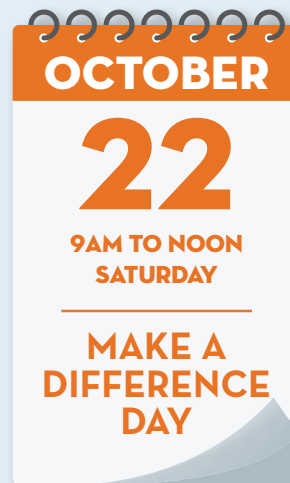
Conservation technician Nicole Freshour also recommends this activity as a great introduction to participating in long-term citizen science projects. She supports adding a few boxes to your yard and attracting birds with appropriate food, water and cover – including native plants.

“NestWatch.org is a fantastic website for background information on setting up and monitoring nest boxes,” Freshour said. “It is also a great way to share your data with everyone and keep track through the years to see how successful your boxes have been.”

Learn more about becoming a bluebird monitoring volunteer, visit metroparks.org/volunteer.

SAVE THE DATES

Community members of all ages and abilities will work at sites throughout MetroParks during our two largest annual days of service. Volunteer to help MetroParks protect the region’s natural heritage by helping our staff clean up our parks and other natural areas. See the bottom of this page for how to register.



Become a MetroParks VOLUNTEER

Learn new skills, care for the environment and make new friends – while providing an important community service. Volunteers are needed to support the Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience before, after and at the event Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 1-2.

It’s now easier than ever to become a MetroParks volunteer through the new Get Connected volunteer platform. Search volunteer opportunities, create a volunteer profile, participate in virtual trainings and more. Learn more by visiting metroparks.org/volunteer, calling (937) 275-PARK or scanning the code.





The Garden Club of Dayton **CELEBRATES 100 YEARS** *of service with new* **CENTENNIAL OVERLOOK**

A key vision of the Dayton Riverfront Plan has begun thanks to a generous philanthropic gift from The Garden Club of Dayton.

In its 100th year, The Garden Club of Dayton has committed to provide Five Rivers MetroParks with a \$100,000 gift to support the construction of Centennial Overlook. It will include a sound sculpture echoing water flow in the river and the native pollinator plants that line its banks.

The project began in summer 2022 and plans call for it to be completed in spring 2023. When planning its centennial, The Garden Club of Dayton specifically looked for a project that would mark its 100th year connecting the community to the wonders of nature through protection and education.

“The Garden Club of Dayton and Five Rivers MetroParks have been partners and collaborators all of MetroParks’ nearly 60-year history,” said MetroParks chief of planning and projects Carrie Scarff. “They have supported so many projects and are a leading example of the philanthropic mindset that is typical of Dayton.”

Indeed, your Five Rivers MetroParks may not exist as it does today without conservation-minded women, such as Marie Aull and Jean Woodhull, who were members of The Garden Club of Dayton. Over the years, The Garden Club of Dayton has been instrumental in the creation of some of the community’s most valued MetroParks assets: RiverScape MetroPark, Adventure Central at Wesleyan MetroPark, the Mad River and RiverScape River Runs, the campus at Cox Arboretum MetroPark, and the Children’s Discovery Garden at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark.

“Support from the local community has always been how Dayton has gotten things done, and MetroParks has been fortunate to receive that support many times,” said Scarff. The Garden Club of Dayton saw the opportunity to help create a space in Sunrise MetroPark, located in Dayton’s west side,

which is seeing a resurgence of commitment and investment. The Centennial Overlook project will highlight and educate people about the high-quality river ecology that thrives in Dayton’s downtown corridor. Scores of bird species have been identified in this area and the plantings that will be used in this area will support those species while also attracting pollinators.

Centennial Overlook is the first step toward the Dayton Riverfront Plan’s vision to create a park over the river that would include greenspaces, benches, public art and other amenities. This pedestrian park would connect the existing Sunrise MetroPark, including Centennial Overlook, to a new Sunset Park proposed to be located across the river.

“Research has shown there are physical and mental health benefits for those who live within 0.5 miles of a park, particularly children,” said Scarff. “Our rivers provide so much of our greenspace in Dayton and reach so deeply into neighborhoods that it’s important we take advantage of those spaces to serve the surrounding residents. Through strong community partnerships, such as with The Garden Club of Dayton, the community can reap the many benefits of natural spaces.”

LEARN MORE & SUPPORT



Scan to learn
more and donate

Contact the Five Rivers MetroParks philanthropy department at champions@metroparks.org or (937) 275-PARK (7275).

Visit metroparks.org/donate to make a donation to your Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation online and to learn how you can support the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation and The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation.

Learn more about The Garden Club of Dayton at www.gardenclubofdayton.org.

Learn more about the Dayton Riverfront Plan at www.dayonriverfrontplan.org.



TAKE THE METROPARKS TRAILS CHALLENGE

The 2022 MetroParks Trails Challenge runs through October 31 and is a fun way to explore our region's trails – on your own time and at your own pace. Finish one or all 28 trails for your chance to win prizes.

Look for the 2023 MetroParks Trails Challenge to begin on January 1.

Youth ages 14 and younger who complete just one trail will be entered to win a Kids Adventure Pack, which includes cool outdoor gear. Learn more and get started:



METROPARKS.ORG/TRAILS CHALLENGE



BECOME A METROPARKS CHAMPION

The Champions Program is the easiest way to support the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation. Establish a monthly recurring gift in an amount that works for you while helping your MetroParks make up for gaps in levy funding.



METROPARKS.ORG/DONATE



Scan to learn
more and donate

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS PARK SYSTEM MAP

Five Rivers MetroParks operates 30 outstanding public locations. Founded in 1963 to serve the greater Dayton area, MetroParks protects more than 16,000 acres of open space and provides year-round recreation, education and conservation opportunities. Admission to MetroParks' locations is available free of charge – made possible by Montgomery County citizen support of a property tax levy.



SCAN TO
DOWNLOAD APP



Interactive map also available in the
Five Rivers MetroParks
**MOBILE
APP**

APP: [METROPARKS.ORG/MOBILE](https://metroparks.org/mobile)

METROPARKS

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

CONSERVATION AREAS

Dull Woods
Medlar
Woodman Fen

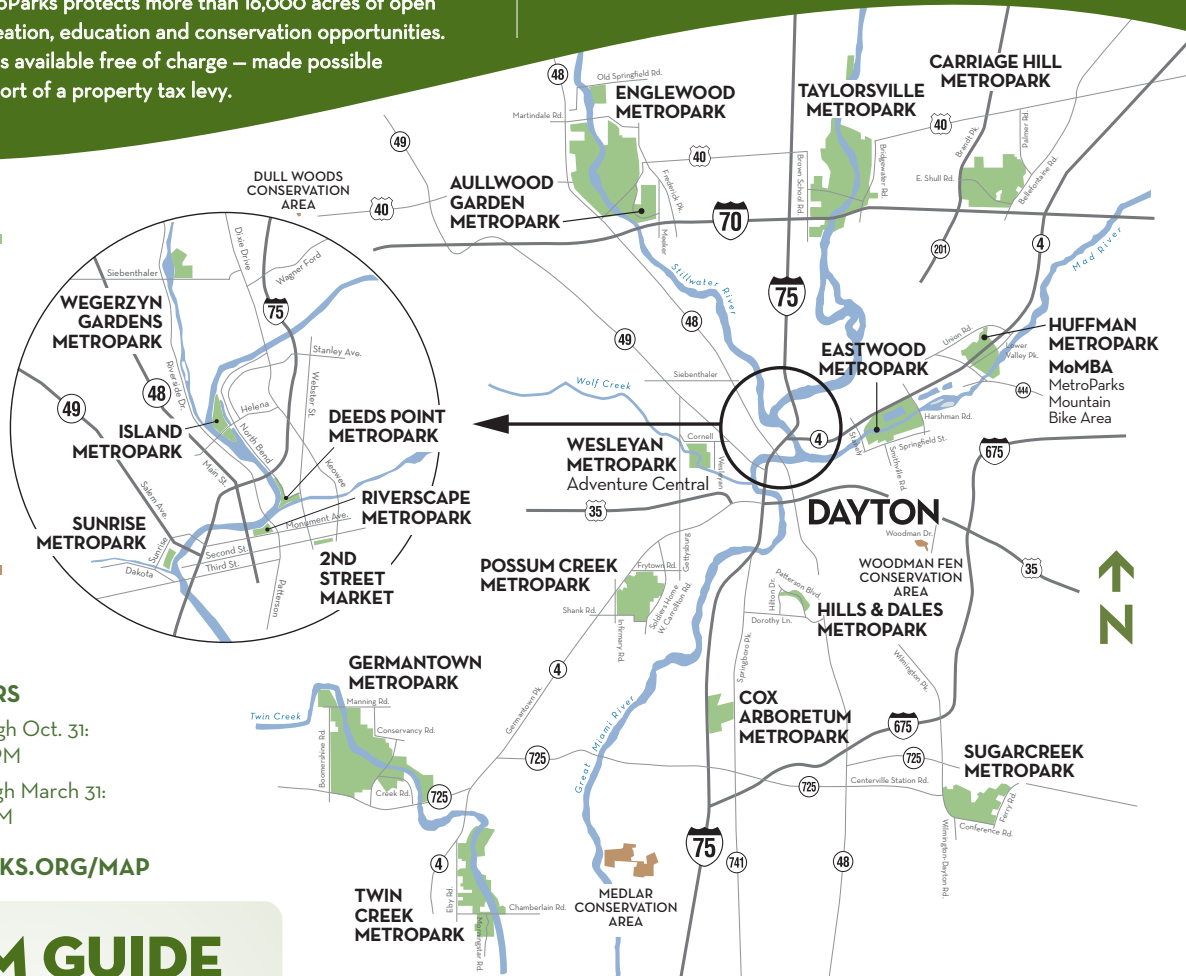


SCAN FOR PARK MAP

PARK HOURS

April 1 through Oct. 31:
8 AM to 10 PM
Nov. 1 through March 31:
8 AM to 8 PM

[METROPARKS.ORG/MAP](https://metroparks.org/map)



PROGRAM GUIDE

PROGRAM DETAILS



ONLINE REGISTRATION
Online registration is available for programs marked with this icon.



WEATHER DEPENDENT
Some outdoor events and programs are weather permitting.

PROGRAM SERIES

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

FEES

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

CANCELLATIONS

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

HOW TO REGISTER



ONLINE
metroparks.org/programs
Search online by date or program number to register.



BY PHONE
937-275-PARK (7275)
Register for all programs by calling 937-275-PARK unless otherwise noted in the listing.

When this issue was printed in August, the listed programs, events and opportunities were accurate.

For MetroParks' most recent response to COVID-19, visit metroparks.org/covid or scan the code.



STAY CONNECTED



Facebook: facebook.com/fiveriversmetroparks
Twitter: twitter.com/metroparkstweet
Instagram: [@metroparks](https://instagram.com/metroparks)
YouTube: youtube.com/FiveRiversMetroParks
TikTok: [@fiveriversmetroparks](https://tiktok.com/@fiveriversmetroparks)



SCAN FOR
PROGRAMS
& EVENTS

FACE COVERINGS RECOMMENDED

for indoor programs as of August 2022.
Visit metroparks.org/covid for updates.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Enjoy time with friends and family at these community celebrations.

Presented by

HUFFY

(FREE) WAGNER SUBARU OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

SAT. OCT 1, 11:00 AM-10:00 PM

SUN. OCT 2, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM L110

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Eastwood Park, 1385 Harshman Rd.

A festival celebrating outdoor culture and lifestyle. Competitions, live music, food trucks, gear, pro shows, activities to try, and camping! Dog-friendly and waste-free event. See page 11 for more info or visit metroparks.org/outdoorx. All ages

(FREE) NATIVE PLANT SALE

SUN. OCT 2, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM L56

2ND STREET MARKET, Outdoor Program Area (near ATM), Local nurseries will be selling native plants, including flowering perennials, grasses, trees and shrubs. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. All ages

(FREE) FALL FAMILY ADVENTURE

SAT. OCT 8, 4:00-7:00 PM L108

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

Enjoy games, crafts, a nature walk, folk tales, a great spider display and more. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages 🍂 ⚙️

TOUR DE GEM

SUN. OCT 9, 7:00 AM-7:00 PM L77

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

This Dayton cycling event supports area non-profits, including the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation, with routes for everyone. Contact (937) 853-8220 or info@tourdegem.org for details. www.tourdegem.org. All ages. Fee: Adult Rider: \$50, Youth Rider 12-18: \$25 ⚙️

(FREE) MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

SAT. OCT. 22, 9 AM - NOON

Community members of all ages and abilities will work at various sites throughout Five Rivers MetroParks to help staff clean up our parks and prepare for winter. Registration required. All Ages

(FREE) STOCK UP WEDNESDAY

WED. NOV 23, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM L97

2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. Second St.

The Market will be open to pick up your last-minute needs for Thanksgiving, including homemade breads, turkeys, chickens and hams, pies and cakes, flowers, and more. Many vendors accept pre-orders. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. All ages

ICE RINK OPENING WEEKEND

FRI. NOV 25, 11:00 AM-10:00 PM L137

SAT. NOV 26, 11:00 AM-10:00 PM

SUN. NOV 27, 1:00-5:00 PM

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Spend the holiday weekend creating lasting memories. Warm up with hot chocolate from our food concession and enjoy our outdoor warming stations. No registration required. See page 27 for more about the MetroParks Ice Rink. All ages. Fee: \$10 ⚙️

(FREE) AULLWOOD WINTER LUMINARY WALK

SAT. DEC 3, 5:00-7:00 PM L115

AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK, 955 Aullwood Rd.

Get ready for the holidays with a peaceful winter stroll through candlelit paths. The house will be lit and decorated as well, and refreshments will be served. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages 🍂 ⚙️

(FREE) CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM

SAT. DEC 10, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM L44

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

A festive Victorian Christmas and its many traditions will be presented, including cards and holiday foods. No registration required. All ages

(FREE) ARTISAN NIGHT AT THE MARKET

THU. DEC 15, 5:30-8:30 PM L100

2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. Second St.

Join us for an evening of holiday shopping, music and good cheer while finding locally made gifts for everyone on your holiday list. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. All ages

(FREE) A HOLIDAY EVENING AT CARRIAGE HILL FARM

SAT. DEC 17, 6:00-8:00 PM L46

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

Join us for a candlelit Christmas evening. Stroll through the farm and experience what it was like at night in the 1880s. Watch some historical demos, including crafts, cooking in the summer kitchen and exploring the barn. A bonfire will make the evening complete as an old-fashioned Victorian Christmas will come to life. No registration required. All ages ⚙️

(FREE) CSA FAIR

THU. JAN 26, 7:00-8:00 PM L104

VIRTUAL,

SUN. JAN 29, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM L105

IN PERSON,

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

Learn how to support and buy in-season, local food from a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) from the farmers who grow CSA produce. Registration required for virtual program; walk-ins welcome for in-person event. Contact (937) 228-2088 for details. All ages

DOWNLOAD OUTERSPATIAL

to access the

**Five Rivers MetroParks
MOBILE APP**

Your mobile guide to parks and trails, powered by OuterSpatial.

- Navigate on the trails
- Discover new places
- Locate park amenities

Learn more and download here:
METROPARKS.ORG/MOBILE



ACTIVE OUTDOORS

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

BACKPACKING

BACKCOUNTRY COOKING

WED. DEC 7, 6:00-8:30 PM L72

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

Spice up your backcountry meals. Experiment with a variety of cooking methods using different types of backpacking stoves. Ingredients and utensils provided. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 📄

CYCLING

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE 1

THU. OCT 27, 6:00-8:30 PM L69

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

This hands-on classroom session will help you diagnose and perform common bike repairs. Topics will include inspections, fixing a flat tire, and chains. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by a registered adult. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$12 📄

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE 2:

SHIFTERS & DERAILLEURS

THU. NOV 3, 6:00-8:30 PM L70

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

This hands-on class will offer instruction and guided practice with drive-train maintenance including shifter and derailleur adjustments. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by a registered adult. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$15 📄

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE 2: BRAKES

THU. NOV 10, 6:00-8:30 PM L71

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

This hands-on class will offer instruction and guided practice in brake maintenance. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by a registered adult. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$15 📄

FISHING

FLY FISHING 1

THU. OCT 13, 5:30-7:30 PM L75

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

An introduction to fly fishing, this classroom program covers gear, flies and casting. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$10 📄

FLY FISHING 2: RIVER

SAT. OCT 15, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM L80

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Bluegrass, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Learn about habitat, how to read the water and casting techniques needed for fishing in the current. Equipment available upon request. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a water bottle. Ohio fishing license required. Prerequisites: Fly Fishing 1. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$55 📄

FLY FISHING 2: LAKE

SAT. OCT 22, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM L82

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

Learn essential skills such as how to cast, tie on a fly, set the hook and strip in the line. Equipment available upon request. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Prerequisites: Fly Fishing 1. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$30 📄

FLY TYING

THU. NOV 10, 6:00-8:00 PM L83

THU. DEC 8, 6:00-8:00 PM L89

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

Learn about the tools and materials used as you tie your own work of art. Materials and tools provided. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$15 📄

NYMPHS, EMERGERS, DRIES

THU. JAN 19, 6:00-7:30 PM L95

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

Designed for those with some knowledge of fly fishing. Learn the difference between an emerger, a streamer and a dry fly, how they imitate nature and when to use them while fly fishing. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$10 📄

FITNESS

RIVERSCAPE COMMUNITY FITNESS

Focus on wellness while spending time in nature. Enjoy a variety of free and effective workouts at RiverScape MetroPark, 237 E. Monument Ave.

(FREE) THE UNIT

MON. & WED. OCT 3-31, 6:00-7:30 PM

No registration required. All ages 📄

(FREE) TAI CHI & QIGONG AT THE RIVER

TUE. OCT 4, 6:00-7:00 PM L124

TUE. OCT 11, 6:00-7:00 PM L125

No registration required.

<https://immortaltreeqigong.com/>. All ages 📄

HIKING

OLDER ADULT ADVENTURES

We invite adults ages 55-plus to connect to nature through these programs geared to adventure seekers looking for a new way to play. It's never too late to adopt a healthy, active outdoor lifestyle to support your physical, mental and emotional health.

(FREE) HIKING FOR OLDER ADULTS

WED. OCT 12, 1:30-3:00 PM L68

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

WED. OCT 26, 1:30-3:00 PM L63

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Wetland Parking & Trailhead, 6401 Boomershire Rd.

WED. NOV 9, 1:30-3:00 PM L66

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Fishing Ponds Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn about the essentials you need for a day hike and try using trekking poles as you stroll on these easy to moderate natural-surface trails. Registration required. Age: 55Y and up 📄

(FREE) RESOLUTION HIKE

SAT. JAN 7, 10:00-11:00 AM L94

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Join this beginner-friendly hike and learn about the MetroParks Trails Challenge. Registration required. 📄

TRY WINTER HIKING

Enjoy casual winter hiking experiences on Five Rivers MetroParks' beautiful trails during this series of guided hikes. Learn about winter hiking, meet other hikers, stay active and start the new year by getting outside. Be prepared with multiple layers of clothing, water and sturdy shoes.

(FREE) WINTER HIKE AT HILLS & DALES METROPARK

SAT. JAN 14, 10:00-11:30 AM L27

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Program Parking, 2471 Deep Hollow Rd.

Meander a couple of miles on the Adirondack Trail. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages 📄

**(FREE) WINTER HIKE AT
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK****SAT. JAN 21, 10:00-11:30 AM** L28

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC, 2101 U.S. 40

This roughly 3-mile hike will explore the local history of the CCC. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages 📅 ⚙️

**(FREE) WINTER HIKE AT
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK****SAT. JAN 28, 10:00-11:30 AM** L157

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

This roughly 3-mile hike will explore the hidden gems. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages 📅 ⚙️

MOUNTAIN BIKING**(FREE) RESOLUTION RIDE****SAT. JAN 7, 10:00-11:00 AM** L96

HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA Big Barn, 4485 Union Rd.

This beginner friendly ride will introduce you to MoMBA and orient you to the rest of the MetroParks Trails Challenge. Registration required. All ages 📅 ⚙️

OUTDOOR PLAY**(FREE) OUTDOOR RECREATION
OPPORTUNITIES IN FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS****THU. JAN 12, 6:30-7:30 PM** L111

ONLINE,

This interactive, online program will paddling, backpacking, fishing, camping, cycling, mountain biking, and much more. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up 📅 📱

**OUTDOOR SKILLS AND
SAFETY****LAND NAVIGATION****SAT. NOV 5, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM** L26

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

Learn how to use a map and compass in the backcountry. We will spend the morning in the classroom then get outside to practice navigating both on and off trail. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$30 📅 ⚙️

PADDLING**(FREE) DISCOVER PADDLESPORTS:
TYPES OF EQUIPMENT****TUE. NOV 8, 6:30-7:30 PM** L99

ONLINE,

TUE. JAN 10, 6:30-7:30 PM L107

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

This online program provides new paddlers an overview of types of boating vessels and what they're best suited for personal equipment and how to be prepared. Registration required. All ages 📅 📱

**(FREE) DISCOVER PADDLESPORTS:
WHERE TO PADDLE****TUE. NOV 15, 6:30-7:30 PM** L102

ONLINE,

TUE. JAN 17, 6:30-7:30 PM L106

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

Determine which level of difficulty is appropriate for your experience. Info about paddling opportunities in MetroParks and surrounding areas provided, along with resources to plan a paddling trip. Registration required. All ages 📅 📱

RIVER RESCUE KNOTS**TUE. DEC 6, 6:00-8:00 PM** L120

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

Learn and practice the major knots used in river rescue during this hands-on program in an indoor setting. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$15 📅 📱

**(FREE) RIVER DYNAMICS AND
SAFETY CONCEPTS****TUE. JAN 24, 6:30-7:30 PM** L158

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

Entry level to intermediate paddlers will gain information on what they need to know before paddling and become more familiar with river features and identifying river hazards. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up 📅 📱

SKATING**LEARN TO ICE SKATE YOUTH
COURSE****SUN. NOV 27, 11:40 AM-12:10 PM** L140**SUN. DEC 4, 11:40 AM-12:10 PM****SUN. DEC 11, 11:40 AM-12:10 PM****SUN. JAN. 8-22, 11:40 AM-12:10 PM** L154

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Skills include skating forward and backward edges on a circle, three-turns, backward stops, bunny hop, lunges, and front and back crossovers. Register for this program and receive two free

skating admissions! Fee includes use of skates and lessons on 11/27, 12/4, and 12/11. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Registration required. Age: 9Y-13Y Fee: \$50 📅 ⚙️

**LEARN TO ICE SKATE TEEN /
ADULT COURSE****SUN. NOV 27, 12:20-12:50 PM** L141**SUN. DEC 4, 12:20-12:50 PM****SUN. DEC 11, 12:20-12:50 PM**

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Skills include skating forward and backward edges on a circle, three-turns, backward stops, bunny hop, lunges, and front and back crossovers. Register for this program and receive two free skating admissions! Fee includes use of skates and lessons on 11/27, 12/4, and 12/11. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Registration required. Age: 11Y-18Y Fee: \$50 📅 ⚙️

TRY BROOMBALL**SUN. NOV 27, 6:00-8:00 PM** L152

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Grab your friends, come to the MetroParks Ice Rink and let the Dayton Broomball Association take you through the broomball basics! Learn the rules, get on-ice instruction and scrimmage with other participants. Please wear gloves and gym shoes. No experience necessary. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 ⚙️

OUTDOOR BROOMBALL LEAGUE**MON., WED. JAN. 2-FEB. 22, 7:00-9:00 PM** L151

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Sign up for the Dayton Broomball Association's co-ed league at the MetroParks Ice Rink! Visit daytonbroomball.org/riverscape to learn more about this fast-paced sport and register your team for either the competitive or recreational league. The DBA will take the first 18 teams. See contact info to register. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$310 ⚙️**CURLING LEAGUE****TUE., THU. JAN. 3-FEB. 23, 7:00-9:00 PM** L150

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 237 E. Monument Ave.

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



EARTH FRIENDLY LIVING

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

FOOD: EARTH TO TABLE

TEA TIME AT THE FARM

SAT. NOV 12, 3:00-4:30 PM L91
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek
Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Explore the tastes and scents of our tea garden and learn a little about each plant. Go home with a blend of your favorite flavors. Registration required. All ages. Fee: \$15 📄

GARDENING

FALL CLEAN UP & PLANTING: HELPING NATURE & YOUR YARD

SUN. OCT 16, 1:00-2:30 PM L109
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning
Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.

We'll discuss landscape and garden composting, pruning, cleaning, and tree and shrub planting for a beautiful winter and spring. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 📄

GARDEN DESIGN BASICS: PLACING TREES, SHRUBS & PERENNIALS

SAT. JAN 14, 10:00-11:30 AM L117
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning
Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn design tips and tricks to make the garden

framework beautiful and impressive year round and functioning well for years. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 📄

GARDEN DESIGN BASICS: USING ROCKS, HARDSCAPES & EMPTY SPACES

SAT. JAN 21, 10:00-11:30 AM L119
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco
Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn about the things other than plants that are essential to your garden design and how utilize empty spaces for a more beautiful yard. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 📄

HERITAGE & HISTORY

(FREE) HISTORY OF BSA CAMP HOOK

SAT. NOV 12, 1:00-4:00 PM L135
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, Twin Creek Lodge, 8539
Morningstar Rd.

View memorabilia, speak with past camp staff, hear stories of good times and explore the historical site of BSA Camp Hook during this drop-in experience. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. All ages 📄 ⚙️

SUSTAINABLE HOME

NATURAL DYES IN THE HOME

SAT. OCT 1, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM L81
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek
Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

We will be using the plants and flowers around us to make dye baths, eco dye cloth and, steam pressed paper cards. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee per person: \$30 📄

BEGINNERS' HAND SEWING

SAT. DEC 3, 9:00-11:00 AM L93
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek
Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learning to sew is a good first step to becoming more self sufficient and eco friendly. Learn the basic steps of hand sewing and project construction. Participants will make a shoulder bag. Registration required. Age: 8Y and up Fee: \$20 📄

UPCYCLE HOMESTEADING

SAT. JAN 28, 12:00-2:00 PM L103
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek
Education Building, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn a few ways homesteaders of all kinds use renewing, reusing and recycling to make their homes more sustainable and more self-sufficient. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 📄



RESERVATIONS MADE EASY



CAMPING

Plan an overnight adventure with numerous park amenities nearby.

Experience the outdoors at Five Rivers MetroParks' reservable facilities.



SHELTERS

Shelters in beautiful, natural settings are excellent for BBQs, family reunions, birthday parties and more.

Campsite reservations can be made at
METROPARKS.ORG/RESERVATIONS
by calling (937) 275-PARK
or by scanning the code.



RENT OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

Rent camping and backpacking equipment, as well as tools to tune up your bike. Advanced reservations are required at
METROPARKS.ORG/EQUIPMENT



ADULT NATURE EXPLORATION

Enjoy and learn about the splendor of the natural world.

CONSERVATION & CITIZEN SCIENCE

(FREE) ECOTALK

WED. OCT 19, 6:00-7:30 PM L14

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

Meet researchers, contemplate their study questions, hear their stories, and learn what they've discovered. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 🗳️

FLORA & FAUNA

NATIVE TREE ID

SAT. OCT 15, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM L22

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

Learn how to ID more than 20 native trees by their leaf, twig, bark, and other characteristics. Each participant will receive a tree identification notebook. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$8 🗳️ ⚙️

INSECT ID AND BEHAVIOR

SAT. OCT 15, 1:00-4:00 PM L21

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

Learn how to identify insects through an interactive session on biology, exploring collections, live specimens, and a field study. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$8 🗳️ ⚙️

(FREE) OWL WALK

SAT. OCT 15, 7:00-9:00 PM L25

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Program Parking, 4178 Conference Rd.

Enjoy a slow-paced night hike in search of owls while learning about and exploring other nightlife. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up 🗳️ ⚙️

OWLS OF OHIO

SAT. NOV 19, 7:00-10:00 PM L23

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

Explore Ohio's eight owl species during a one-hour interactive presentation. Then take a slow-paced night hike in search of owls. Each participant will receive an ODNR guide to owls. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$8 🗳️ ⚙️

COMMON FEEDER BIRDS

SAT. JAN 14, 9:00-11:00 AM L156

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome

Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

Get to know Ohio's common feeder visitors, learn how to identify them, and study their behaviors. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🗳️ ⚙️

WINTER TREE ID WORKSHOP

SAT. JAN 14, 1:00-4:00 PM L24

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

Learn how to identify more than 20 native trees by their twig, bark, and other winter characteristics. Each participant will receive a winter tree identification notebook. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$8 🗳️ ⚙️

GARDENING

USING NATURE: FALL AND HOLIDAY IDEAS FOR PLANTERS, ARRANGEMENTS, AND WREATHS

SAT. NOV 5, 10:00-11:30 AM L114

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

Designer Cate Renner will demonstrate ways to use pods, leaves, berries and twigs. Keep your holiday decorating environmentally friendly and inexpensive. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗳️

NATURE APPRECIATION

FOREST THERAPY WALK

SUN. OCT 16, 2:00-4:30 PM L122

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Huffman Gallery, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Certified Therapy Guide David Thaeler will be your leader. Bring a water bottle, something to sit on, and dress for walking. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$25 🗳️ ⚙️

PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

(FREE) FIBER ARTS MEETUP

TUE. OCT 4, 6:00-7:30 PM K93

TUE. NOV 1, 6:00-7:30 PM K95

TUE. DEC 6, 6:00-7:30 PM K96

TUE. JAN 3, 6:00-7:30 PM L1

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

Bring your own needles, hooks, spinning wheels and looms and enjoy the company of other people who

also like to play with string. Some supplies will be available to borrow during the program. Registration requested, walk-ins welcome. Age: 18Y and up 🗳️

WHEN GOOD ENOUGH ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH

SUN. OCT 16, 1:00-2:30 PM L112

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

Learn how to critically evaluate your photos, recognize their weaknesses, and analyze the source of problems. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗳️

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BLURRY

SAT. NOV 5, 10:00-11:30 AM L113

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

This session will introduce methods to prevent unwanted blur, and demonstrate how to use blur in creative ways. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗳️

FOR THE FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHER

SAT. DEC 10, 10:00-11:30 AM L116

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

Learn techniques for taking photos of families and other groups. Bring your camera and (if you have them) a tripod, flash and remote control. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗳️

BLOOMS IN THE WINTERTIME

SAT. JAN 14, 10:00-11:30 AM L118

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

Creative methods to take pictures of flowers and plants indoors on a tabletop or by a window. Bring your camera and (if you have them) a tripod, flash and macro lens. Registration required. Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗳️




ADVENTURE SPEAKER SERIES
Coming winter 2023
THEADVENTURESUMMIT.COM



FAMILY & CHILDREN

Spend quality time outdoors with everyone in your family.

CONSERVATION KIDS

This series nurtures kids' desire to explore nature and provides families inspiration to spend time outdoors. Children ages 3-13 will grow closer to and learn about nature, develop leadership skills, work with peers to protect our region's natural heritage – and ultimately become stewards of the environment and advocates for conservation who are empowered to speak out for the planet they will inherit.

Conservation Kids programs are organized in three levels. This allows children to build onto their knowledge and skills as well as experience the positive impact that they can have through habitat improvement and citizen science opportunities. Families should start by taking Discover level (▲green) programs and continue with Act level (▲blue) and Share level (▲orange) programs. Colored triangles in the program listings identify each program's level.

Children who complete Conservation Kids programs in each of the three levels will graduate and receive a tool to help them further the conservation conversation.

Visit metroparks.org/kids or scan the code to learn more about Conservation Kids.



CONSERVATION KIDS AGES 3-13

(FREE) BAT SEARCH

FRI. OCT 7, 7:00-8:30 PM L37
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC, 2101 U.S. 40

Explore these amazing creatures and use an echometer to try to identify any that may be in the area. Flashlights welcome. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

SQUIRREL MAPPER

SAT. OCT 8, 1:00-2:00 PM L98
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Join in this citizen science project that explores the evolution of squirrels' fur color that is happening in our parks right now. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$3 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) FOREST FRENZY

SAT. OCT 8, 4:00-5:30 PM L32
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Program Parking, 4178 Conference Rd.

Explore the changing season, search for local wildlife, and learn why forests are crucial to human survival. Registration required.

Age: 3Y-13Y 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) NOCTURNAL ADVENTURE

SAT. OCT 8, 7:00-9:00 PM L31
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Patterson, 2606 Hilton Dr.

Join us on a night hike just for families. We'll talk about our fears of the night, and explore pelts of nocturnal animals. Flashlights welcome. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

BECOME A NIGHT HIKE GUIDE

SAT. OCT 15, 7:00-9:00 PM L33
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Huffman Gallery, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn to find spiders, frogs, and other signs of nocturnal creatures. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$3 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) CREEPY CREATURES

SAT. OCT 22, 1:30-3:00 PM L35
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Lots of people think spiders, snakes, bats, and other creatures are scary, but learn more about these commonly misunderstood animals. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

BAT ROOST MONITORING

SAT. OCT 22, 7:00-8:30 PM L36
HUFFMAN METROPARK, Shelter: Redtail, 4439 Lower Valley Pk.

Take part in an Ohio Division of Wildlife study to assess bat populations, and learn how you can help bats. Bring a blanket. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$3 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) LEAF EXPLORATION

SAT. NOV 5, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM L49
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw, 2471 Deep Hollow Rd.

Come explore the many important roles that

leaves serve! Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) FALL BIRD WALK

SAT. NOV 5, 2:00-3:30 PM L50
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Program Parking, 4178 Conference Rd.

Find out which birds call Ohio their warm refuge while searching for them in the park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) OWL PROWL

SAT. NOV 5, 7:00-8:30 PM L51
HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw, 2471 Deep Hollow Rd.

Escape on a night walk in search of the Screech Owls, while learning about their interactions with our forests. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

GLOBE AT NIGHT

FRI. NOV 18, 6:30-7:30 PM L38
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Program Parking, 4178 Conference Rd.

Using the stars as a guide take part in this international citizen science effort looking at light pollution. Registration required.

Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$3 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

SAT. NOV 19, 1:00-2:30 PM L48
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Explore bird diversity while learning how to identify feeder birds and participate in this global Citizen Science effort. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$3 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) NIGHTTIME ADVENTURE

SAT. NOV 19, 6:30-8:00 PM L52
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty, 4361 National Rd.

Join us on a night hike just for families. We'll talk about our fears of the night, and explore pelts of nocturnal animals. Afterwards, we will venture out in search of nocturnal creatures. Flashlights welcome. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

MASTER NATURE GAMER

SAT. NOV 26, 1:00-3:00 PM L53
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Mead Westvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Come learn how you can have fun in a prairie with your friends. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$3 🦇 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) COYOTE SEARCH**SAT. NOV 26, 7:00-8:30 PM** L54

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

Learn more about our park's top dog, and discover what enables them to be so highly adaptable. We will then use sounds to try to lure them in for a closer look. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🐾 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) OWL SEARCH**FRI. DEC 9, 6:00-7:30 PM** L60

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty, 4361 National Rd.

Join us in search for owls while exploring our inherent connections with our forests. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🐾 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) RAPTOR EXCURSION**SAT. DEC 10, 1:00-2:00 PM** L57

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

Learn about the different raptors that make Dayton their home and get a chance to meet our raptor ambassadors! Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🐾 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) WINTER MYSTERIES**SAT. DEC 17, 1:00-2:00 PM** L61

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC, 2101 U.S. 40

Bundle up for an adventure through the forest, we will search for nature's mysteries of survival. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🐾 ⚙️ ▲

ANIMAL KEEPERS**SAT. DEC 17, 4:00-6:00 PM** L62

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

Come be a wild animal keeper for a day, learn what animals need to survive, and how MetroParks cares for our native animals. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$3 🐾 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) PRAIRIE PLAY**SAT. JAN 7, 10:00-11:30 AM** L73

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Program Parking, 4178 Conference Rd.

With towering grasses, but no ticks, prairies are great places to play in winter. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🐾 ⚙️ ▲

CLOUD OBSERVER**SAT. JAN 14, 10:00-11:00 AM** L76

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Take part in the Cloud Observer citizen science project to help scientists gain a clearer image on how clouds impact climate. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$3 🐾 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) ANIMAL TRACKING EXCURSION**SAT. JAN 14, 1:00-2:00 PM** L78

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Program Parking, 4178 Conference Rd.

Discover the art and science of tracking on this hands-on excursion. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🐾 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) WINTER HABITAT HIKE**SAT. JAN 14, 4:00-5:00 PM** L79

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

We'll explore plant-animal relationships, and find a newfound respect for our local biodiversity. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🐾 ⚙️ ▲

(FREE) HIBERNATING INSECTS**SAT. JAN 28, 10:00-11:30 AM** L84

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Shelter: Paw Paw, 2471 Deep Hollow Rd.

Enjoy an expedition in search of insects. Once found, warm them up with body heat and watch them wake up! Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y 🐾 ⚙️ ▲

BECOME A TRACKING GUIDE**SAT. JAN 28, 1:00-3:00 PM** L86

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

Learn how to spot animal signs, and receive knowledge and tools to help lead your own tracking adventure. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$3 🐾 ⚙️ ▲

GREENHOUSE HELPERS**SAT. JAN 28, 4:00-5:30 PM** L87

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Discover what a horticulturist does for seeds and plants in the winter, assisting Cox Arboretum MetroPark staff in the greenhouses. Registration required. Age: 3Y-13Y Fee: \$3 🐾 ⚙️ ▲

FAMILY**TERRIFIC TERRARIUMS****SAT. NOV 5, 10:00-11:30 AM** L40

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

Design your own mini oasis to share with your family and learn easy care for terrarium as it grows. Registration required. Age: 5Y and up Fee: \$15 🐾

PRESCHOOL**GROWING TOGETHER STORYTIME**

These programs, designed for preschoolers and their caregivers, also include songs, crafts and guided exploration.

LEAVES AROUND THE GARDEN**THU. OCT 13, 10:30-11:30 AM** L29

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

Who is that hiding in the leaves? It's Leaf Man! Hear about his adventures and how the garden

is changing during our fall days. Registration required. Age: 3Y-7Y Fee: Per family: \$5 🐾 ⚙️

UP, DOWN, ALL AROUND IN THE GARDEN**MON. OCT 17, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM** L39

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

Toddlers and caregivers will find out what lives in the ground, up in the sky and all around in the Children's Discovery Garden and beyond. We'll enjoy songs, nature discovery and activities. Registration required. Age: 2Y-5Y Fee: per family: \$5 🐾 ⚙️

LEARN TO ICE SKATE: CHILDREN'S COURSE**SUN. NOV 27, 11:00-11:30 AM** L138**SUN. DEC 4, 11:00-11:30 AM****SUN. DEC 11, 11:00-11:30 AM**

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Fee includes use of skates, two rink admissions and lessons on 11/27, 12/4, and 12/11. Registration required. Age: 5Y-8Y Fee: \$50 🐾 ⚙️

LEARN TO ICE SKATE CHILDREN'S COURSE**SUN JAN. 8-22, 11:00-11:30 AM** L153

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Learn the basics needed to skate on your own. This three-course program will cover how to get on and off the ice, fall safely, and get up on your own. Fee includes use of skates & two admissions. Registration required. Age: 5Y-8Y Fee: \$50 🐾 ⚙️

TIKE HIKE

Explore nature with your preschooler as we venture through diverse habitats, pretend, tell stories, and play. Dress for the weather with clothes that can get wet and dirty. Registration required. Age: 3Y-5Y 🐾 ⚙️

(FREE) TIKE HIKE**THU. OCT 6, 10:00-11:00 AM** L15

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

TUE. OCT 11, 10:00-11:00 AM L16

HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Program Parking, 2471 Deep Hollow Rd.

FRI. NOV 4, 10:00-11:00 AM L18

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Trailhead Program Parking, 4178 Conference Rd.

TUE. NOV 15, 10:00-11:00 AM L17

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC, 2101 U.S. 40

TUE. DEC 6, 10:00-11:00 AM L19

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

THU. JAN 19, 10:00-11:00 AM L20

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Shelter: Patty, 4361 National Rd.

YOUTH & TEEN

MORNING CHORES

SAT. OCT 1, 8:30-9:30 AM L41

SAT. NOV 5, 8:30-9:30 AM L42

SAT. DEC 3, 8:30-9:30 AM L43

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

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

CONSERVATION LEADERS

This series provides the opportunity for older youth to deepen their connection with nature through exploration and discovery of Dayton's local ecology and participation in various conservation projects. Read more about this series on page 8.

IMPACT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

SAT. OCT 15, 1:30-3:30 PM L30

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

Learn about local invasive species, and why they are a major concern. Registration required.

Age: 10Y-17Y Fee: \$3 🍷 ⚙️

INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

SAT. OCT 22, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM L34

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

Taking part in Project Feederwatch allows you to contribute to scientific research that is working to answer the questions of how bird species distribution and abundance is changing. Registration required. Age: 10Y-17Y Fee: \$3 🍷 ⚙️

STARGAZING IN WINTER

FRI. NOV 4, 7:00-8:30 PM L47

TWIN CREEK METROPARK, Shelter: High View, 9688 Eby Rd.

Bundle up and join us for a spectacular view of the Twin Creek Valley below and the stars above. We will explore different constellations. Registration required. Age: 10Y-17Y Fee: \$3 🍷 ⚙️

FALL TREE ID

SAT. NOV 12, 1:30-3:30 PM L55

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

Become familiar with some of our common local trees, how to identify them, and learn. Registration required. Age: 10Y-17Y Fee: \$3 🍷 ⚙️

SAW-WHET OWL SEARCH

SAT. DEC 10, 3:30-5:30 PM L58

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

Learn about this small migrant owl before trying to find one of these elusive raptors. Registration required. Age: 10Y-17Y Fee: \$3 🍷 ⚙️

FINDING LIFE IN WINTER

SAT. DEC 17, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM L59

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Shelter: CCC, 2101 U.S. 40

Join us as we search for signs of winter life. Registration required. Age: 10Y-17Y Fee: \$3 🍷 ⚙️

ANIMAL TRACKING AND BEHAVIOR

SAT. JAN 7, 2:00-4:00 PM L74

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

Discover the art and science of animal tracking as we take a closer look at the clues, such as tracks and scat they often leave behind. Registration required. Age: 10Y-17Y Fee: \$3 🍷 ⚙️

WINTER TREE IDENTIFICATION

SAT. JAN 21, 1:30-3:30 PM L90

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

Join us as we explore winter tree identification. Registration required. Age: 10Y-17Y Fee: \$3 🍷 ⚙️

LEARN TO ICE SKATE TEEN/ADULT COURSE

SUN JAN. 8-22, 12:20-10:59 PM L155

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK, MetroParks Ice Rink, 237 E. Monument Ave.

Fee includes use of skates, two rink admissions and lessons on January 8, 15, 22. Registration required. Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$50 🍷 ⚙️

CELEBRATE OUTDOORS



Reserve a campsite or shelter for corporate gatherings, family reunions, weddings, birthday parties and more. Five Rivers MetroParks has a wide range of outdoor spaces available for your next event.



METROPARKS.ORG/RESERVATIONS



GET OUT & RIDE

at the Carriage Hill Riding Center

Connect with nature on horseback through lessons, camps and rides.

- Weekend horse trail rides and Saturday pony rides run through late October.
- Fall horseback riding lessons begin in Sept.

Access to Nature financial assistance available for lessons and camps; visit metroparks.org/access.



Carriage Hill Riding Center, 8111 E. Shull Rd.
For details and to register:
(937) 275-PARK (7275)

METROPARKS.ORG/RIDINGCENTER

GET IN SHAPE ON HEART HEALTHY TRAILS



Exercising outdoors provides benefits the traditional gym workout does not – and just 30 to 40 minutes of exercise a few times a week will improve your heart health.

To make it easy for you to exercise outdoors, Five Rivers MetroParks' Heart Healthy Trails are easy, entry-level treks on paved or flat surfaces without a lot of elevation change. Trail signage helps you track your pace and start walking outdoors as a part of a heart-healthy lifestyle.



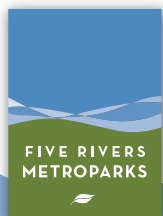
Heart Healthy Trails are located at:

- Carriage Hill MetroPark
- Eastwood MetroPark
- Englewood MetroPark
- Germantown MetroPark
- Island MetroPark
- Possum Creek MetroPark
- Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark
- Wolf Creek Trail

METROPARKS.ORG/HEART-HEALTHY



These trails are featured outings in Five Rivers MetroParks' free mobile app, powered by OuterSpatial. Scan the code or visit metroparks.org/mobile to download.



HOW TO SUPPORT

YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation supports MetroParks' mission to protect our region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature.

The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation secures philanthropic funding for special projects and programming, as well as an endowment. Charitable contributions can support all MetroParks or one specific park, MetroParks' educational and recreational services, and conservation initiatives. With so many ways to give, supporting the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation has never been easier.

- **Year-End Giving:** Make a tax-deductible donation in any amount.
- **Champions Program:** The easiest way to contribute is by making a monthly recurring gift.
- **Tribute Program:** Honor a special person with a named bench, tree and more at their favorite MetroPark.
- **Individual Giving:** Donations can be made securely online in any amount.
- **Planned Giving:** Leave a lasting legacy with a gift in your will or estate plan to ensure future generations enjoy great parks.
- **Shop for a Cause:** Support MetroParks via Amazon Smile and at Kroger and Dorothy Lane Market.

METROPARKS.ORG/DONATE

Relax on MetroParks' MINDFULNESS WALKS



These short, easy walks invite you to stop and engage in a variety of simple breathing and meditation activities.

Mindfulness Walks are outings in Five Rivers MetroParks' free mobile app; visit metroparks.org/mobile to download.

METROPARKS.ORG/MINDFUL

SHOP FRESH & LOCAL

AT THE

2ND STREET MARKET

600 E. SECOND ST., DOWNTOWN DAYTON

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS ONLINE OR AT (937) 228-2088.

CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN OCTOBER

- **Culture Kitchen:** The theme will be Mexico with Napales' chef, Santiago Herrera, on Thursday, Oct. 13, from 6 to 8 PM. Fee: \$25. Registration required.
- **Celebrate Hispanic Heritage at the Market** with music, art and fun Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 14-16. Visit the website for up-to-date details.

HALLOWEEN FUN

- **Free Pumpkin Decorating:** Sunday, Oct. 23, from 11 AM to 3 PM
- **Free Trick Or Treat at the Market:** Sunday, Oct. 30, from 11 AM to 3 PM. Wear a costume as we celebrate Halloween. Visit the vendors for treats!

WOOLY DAY AT THE MARKET Sunday, Nov. 6

Join Maryann Simpson of New World Alpaca and Marlene Boegli of Rose & Marlene as they conduct demos and discuss the difference between and how to work with alpaca and sheep wool. They also will host two workshops:

- **Dryer Ball Workshop:** noon - 1 PM. Fee: \$10. Registration required.
- **Spin Wool Workshop:** 1 to 2 PM. Fee: \$20. Registration required.

HOLIDAYS AT THE MARKET

- **Stock Up Wednesday:** Wednesday, Nov. 23, from 11 AM to 3 PM
- **DIY Holiday Décor:** Upcycled Ice Skate Door Hanger Thursday Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, from 6 to 8 PM. Fee: \$25. Registration required.
- **Artisan Night:** Thursday, Dec. 15, from 5:30 to 8:30 PM
- **Breakfast with Santa:** Buffet breakfast prepared by Market vendors Sunday, Dec. 18, from 9 to 10 AM and 10 to 11 AM. Fee: \$10. Registration required.

Buy farm-fresh produce, flowers, meats, dairy, kitchen staples and more from a variety of local vendors. You can also grab a bite to eat from prepared food vendors and shop for one-of-a-kind gifts.



FOR HOURS AND UPDATES:

- Visit METROPARKS.ORG/LOCALFOOD
- Follow facebook.com/2ndStreetMarket
- Sign up for 2nd Street Market emails at metroparks.org/newsletters

METROPARKS.ORG/LOCALFOOD





2022-2023 SEASON

[METROPARKS.ORG/ICERINK](https://metroparks.org/icerink)

GET OUT & SKATE

AT THE METROPARKS ICE RINK AT RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

\$7 ADMISSION • \$3 SKATE RENTAL

Visit metroparks.org/icerink or follow RiverScape MetroPark on Facebook for more information about lessons, special skating events and other programs. Season passes and private rink rentals available.

Warm up in the
MSD
WARMING ZONE



HOLIDAY MINI MARKET

Shop from select 2nd Street Market vendors during the Holiday Mini Market at the MetroParks Ice Rink Dec. 3, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17.



RINK HOURS

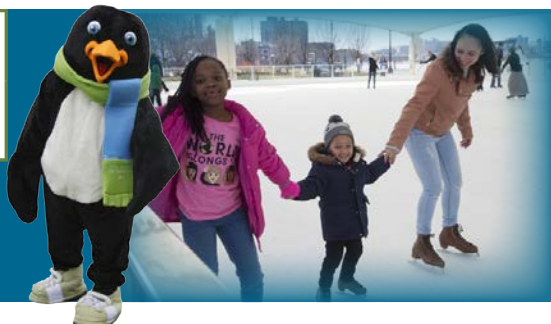
	NOV. 26 - DEC. 18	DEC. 19 - JAN. 1	JAN. 2 - FEB. 26
SUN.	1 to 5 PM	See Holiday Hours	1 to 5 PM
MON.	2:30 to 8 PM	11 AM to 8 PM	2:30 to 5 PM
TUE.	2:30 to 8 PM	11 AM to 8 PM	2:30 to 5 PM
WED.	2:30 to 8 PM	11 AM to 8 PM	2:30 to 5 PM
THUR.	2:30 to 5 PM	11 AM to 8 PM	2:30 to 5 PM
FRI.	2:30 to 10 PM	11 AM to 10 PM	2:30 to 10 PM
SAT.	11 AM to 10 PM	See Holiday Hours	11 AM to 10 PM

HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas Eve DEC. 24 1 to 5 PM	Christmas DEC. 25 1 to 5 PM	New Year's Eve DEC. 31 11 AM to 10 PM	New Year's Day JAN. 1 1 to 5 PM	Martin Luther King Jr. Day JAN. 16 11 AM to 5 PM	Presidents Day FEB. 20 11 AM to 5 PM
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THEME NIGHTS

Dayton Funk Night Friday, Jan. 13 7 to 10 PM	90s Night Friday, Jan. 20 7 to 10 PM	Queen Friday, Jan. 27 7 to 10 PM	Diva Night Friday, Feb. 3 7 to 10 PM	Sweetheart Skate Friday, Feb. 10 - 14 Special Deals
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ICE RINK ACCESS TO NATURE DISCOUNT AVAILABLE TO SNAP/EBT PARTICIPANTS

Qualifying Montgomery County residents save on skating at MetroParks Ice Rink thanks to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation. Those who use EBT/SNAP benefits save 50% off admission and skate rentals, simply show your card upon purchasing admission.

[METROPARKS.ORG/ACCESS](https://metroparks.org/access)



[METROPARKS.ORG/ICERINK](https://metroparks.org/icerink)

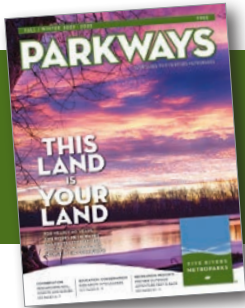


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HOLD ON TO YOUR PARKWAYS!

This issue covers programs from October 2022 through January 2023.
View this *ParkWays* publication online at metroparks.org/parkways.



PLEASE RECYCLE

THANK YOU for keeping Five Rivers MetroParks open! Ohio and your MetroParks have seen a dramatic increase in park visitation since the pandemic began as more and more people recognize the numerous ways time spent in nature improves mental and physical health. Please join us in thanking Five Rivers MetroParks staff who have and continue to work hard to ensure your parks and trails remain accessible throughout COVID-19.

And thanks to all MetroParks visitors for following the guidelines that help keep everyone safe – and keep your parks and trails open.

ParkWays is mailed to every resident of Montgomery County. Due to delivery specifications, we are unable to remove individual recipients from our mailing list at this time. If you are not interested in this publication, please pass it along to a friend or recycle the magazine.



FOR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS' MOST RECENT PANDEMIC RESPONSE, VISIT [METROPARKS.ORG/COVID](https://metroparks.org/covid)