

WINTER 2023 - SPRING 2024

FREE

PARKWAYS

YOUR GUIDE TO FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

Combating CLIMATE CHANGE





















FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS



FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

ACTIVITIES & AMENITIES BY PARK

	Aullwood Garden	Carriage Hill	Cox Arboretum	Deeds Point	Eastwood	Englewood	Germantown	Hills & Dales	Huffman	Possum Creek	Island	RiverScape	Sugarcreek	Sunrise	Taylorville	Twin Creek	Wegerzyn Gardens	Wesleyan
Hiking/Walking 	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cycling 				•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•
Mountain Biking 								•										
Paddling 	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		
Whitewater 											•							
Horseback Riding 		•			•			•				•			•			
Disc Golf 					•													
Fishing+ 	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Nature Play 			•		•		•		•			•				•	•	
Playground 							•			•							•	
Camping 					•	•			•						•			
Sledding 					•	•								•				
Boating [∞] 				•	•													
Fossil Hunting 	•	•			•	•		•				•		•	•		•	
Ice Rink 											•							
Community Garden Plots 									•							•		
Shelters 		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•
Picnic Areas 	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•

+ Visit metroparks.org/fishing to learn where you can fish without an Ohio license.

∞ Visit metroparks.org/boating for details on rules for boating locations.

The Dayton region also is home to 270 miles of water trails and the nation's largest paved trail network, where you can experience more than 350 miles of connected trails.

Your Five Rivers MetroParks includes trails for all users:

- 25 miles of equestrian trails
- 9-plus miles of mountain biking trails
- trails accessible to those who use mobility devices
- 78 miles of hiking trails and a 29-mile backpacking trail

ALERTS AND CLOSURES

Weather conditions and construction can affect hiking trails, bikeways and access to certain park entrances. All construction information, detours and 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 as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: 9-1-1

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





Karen L. Hesser
CPRP, Chief Executive Officer

Hello MetroParks Friends,

I am honored to share my first letter as chief executive officer of your Five Rivers MetroParks. I'm continuing to get settled in as CEO, but my transition has been supported by my work in leadership roles with the organization since May 2012 in park services and as chief of operations.

As your new CEO, I have two priorities: The first is to ensure MetroParks' community plan – the agency's comprehensive master plan – continues to be the agency's driving force. The second is to ensure MetroParks' three strategic plan priority focus areas remain front and center. Those are diversity, equity and inclusion; climate change mitigation; and financial health.

I'm happy to share this issue of *ParkWays* focuses on climate change mitigation, which means doing what we can to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases generated by MetroParks to help slow the effect of climate change. This is vitally important to our work – not only as the conservation leader in the Miami Valley, but also as a caretaker of more than 16,500 acres of land in Montgomery County. We take those efforts seriously. Within the following pages, you will read more about what we are doing at such places as Spring Run Conservation Area.

Of special note, a carbon sequestration study is underway at your MetroParks to determine how much carbon is stored in lands MetroParks manages. This data will be extremely important because it will help us understand how MetroParks' efforts positively impact climate change. Every bit of carbon that's stored in the ground is a bit of carbon that's not in the atmosphere.

Addressing climate change also is important to MetroParks because it already impacts the places you visit. Heavier downpours in the northern part of the county, for instance, mean rainwater flows faster through Dry Lick Run, the creek that transects Carriage Hill MetroPark. Bridges have been washed away in recent years, and creekbanks are eroding. Active conservation projects throughout your MetroParks proactively address these challenges – while also protecting lands for future generations.

Luckily, we can all take part in conservation. From gardening for sustainability (see page 8) to practicing Leave No Trace principles in your parks (see page 10), we all can contribute to protecting the environment.


Gratefully,

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



FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS

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.*

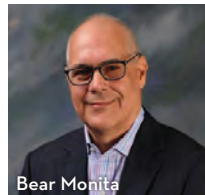
METROPARKS COMMISSIONERS



Karen L. Davis



Jessica Salem



Bear Monita



Five Rivers MetroParks is a CAPRA-accredited park agency.

COVER STORY



Land once slated to become a landfill is now being filled with native plants and wetlands as it's slowly transformed into a new MetroPark. This transformation at Spring Run Conservation Area in Trotwood is just one example of Five Rivers MetroParks' conservation work in action. It includes removing invasive species and restoring wetlands, work made possible with a \$499,500 H2Ohio grant, funded by the Ohio River Basin H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program.

As work progresses, these habitats will remove more and more carbon from the air. This will more effectively support regional climate change mitigation efforts – and those of your Five Rivers MetroParks.



 With a mission to protect our region's natural heritage, conservation is at the heart of everything at MetroParks. The agency protects more than 16,500 acres of land – 90% of it in its natural state, protected from development. Supporting habitat for plants and wildlife preserves clean water and air, supports biodiversity and provides places where our community can connect with nature.

Climate change mitigation is one of MetroParks' three areas of strategic focus, along with diversity, equity and inclusion and financial health. MetroParks has actionable short and long-term objectives to improve the Dayton region's

environment. Those include making MetroParks a carbon-negative agency and leading the community's response to climate change mitigation. For example, research is underway to determine how much carbon MetroParks removes from the environment, also known as carbon sinks. That research, which will continue into 2024, also will identify areas in MetroParks most vulnerable to climate change.

Investing the resources to climate change mitigation has a ripple effect, with benefits for communities and pocketbooks. Among them are improved human health and safety, sustainable economic prosperity, lower energy and food costs – and ensuring future generations have access to nature.

Combating CLIMATE CHANGE

AT SPRING RUN CONSERVATION AREA

When fossil fuels are used to power human activities, carbon dioxide (CO₂) gas is released into the atmosphere.

Carbon is found in all living things: plants, oceans, atmosphere, soil, animals, humans, etc.

Carbon is removed and oxygen released when plants, via photosynthesis, change sunlight into energy.

CO₂ is a greenhouse gas, which traps heat in the atmosphere like a blanket over Earth, warming our planet and causing climate change.

SOLUTION:
Managing pests, such as treatment against Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

SOLUTION:
Planting native species, which have adapted to and can thrive in the local environment.

SOLUTION:
Removing invasive species, which are less effective at capturing carbon.

SOLUTION:
Restoring 22 acres of wetlands, the kidneys of our ecosystem, to store 33 million gallons of water.

SOLUTION:
Restoring wetland buffers on more than 80 acres throughout Spring Run.

Carbon is deposited in the earth when living things die and decay. In millions of years, this carbon can become fossil fuels.

CO₂ The Challenge: Climate Change


One Solution: Creating Carbon Sinks in Natural Areas

Five Rivers MetroParks' conservation work is transforming Spring Run Conservation Area into a carbon sink, which is anything that absorbs more carbon than it releases. A variety of efforts are part of this transformation. Together and over time, this work will create a variety of habitats on these 550 acres in Trotwood. Healthy habitats are critical to the delicate balance of nature because they provide safe homes for pollinators, wildlife, plants and more.



Scan the code for more about MetroParks' conservation work.





Horseback riding at Possum Creek MetroPark, one of two natural areas that will benefit from a new federal grant program. Photo by Sophia Daugherty.

Urban Forestry Grant

Will Provide a **Greener Future**

A new federal grant program will provide significant support to MetroParks' conservation work at Possum Creek MetroPark and Spring Run Conservation Area.

The Urban and Community Forestry Program has awarded MetroParks a \$1.45 million grant to fund project activities at these natural areas in west Dayton and Trotwood. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. It selected 385 grant proposals from entities working to increase equitable access to trees and green spaces — such as Five Rivers MetroParks, which received one of 19 grants awarded in Ohio.

The grant is part of the Inflation Reduction Act and is investing more than \$1 billion into

communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, several U.S. Territories and Tribal Nations - impacting more than 84% of all Americans. In addition, 100% of this funding nationwide is being invested in disadvantaged communities, defined as those that are marginalized, underserved and overburdened by pollution.

"These federal investments support the very work we do at Five Rivers MetroParks, such as climate change mitigation, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and the development of critical clean water and energy infrastructure," MetroParks CEO Karen Hesser said.

The Urban and Community Forestry Program

CONSERVATION

aims to increase biodiversity and protect land from invasive species and climate change while enhancing the quality of urban life, wildlife habitat, recreation and other ecosystem services.

It also aims to increase public awareness of the importance of urban forests: Studies show communities with access to trees and greenspaces are associated with:

- improved health outcomes
- reduced crime
- increased food security
- lower average temperatures
- an influx of other kinds of investments and new economic opportunities

MetroParks' grant-funded work will begin in 2024 and continue through 2028. Success will be measured by monitoring select wildlife populations beginning in the second year. All work will be done at both Possum Creek MetroPark and Spring Run Conservation Area.

The first step will be to conduct plant community and forest inventories to assess a combined 730 acres of land, helping staff better plan and prepare. Other activities include:

- removing invasive plants
- protecting ash trees against Emerald Ash Borer infestation
- purchasing new tools and equipment
- conducting wildlife surveys
- planting native trees and shrubs

Once invasive species have been eradicated by at least 90%, native tree and shrub species will be planted throughout critical forested areas identified in the inventory. Oak species will be prioritized in these plantings, as well as species that will maintain climate resiliency and trees and shrubs that produce edible fruits.

The 556-acre Possum Creek MetroPark is primarily former farmland, and a 1930s historical amusement park dedicated to a World War I military unit also was located at this site. Since it became a MetroPark property in 1976, more than 100 acres of degraded farmland and dumps have been cleared and planted into native Ohio prairie. However, as a result of the previous land uses at Possum Creek, and despite ongoing restoration efforts by MetroParks staff, contractors and volunteers, invasive species remain substantial.

The 550-acre Spring Run Conservation Area is comprised of two land parcels: the 360-acre Great Miami Mitigation Bank, once planned to become a landfill, and the 190-acre former Larch Tree Golf Course. Spring Run is adjacent to the 2,384-acre Sycamore State Park – creating a nearly 3,000-acre natural area for wildlife habitat and open space protection west of Dayton in Montgomery County.

“This project will help MetroParks protect forest plant communities and sensitive natural habitats as we find balanced ways to provide access and recreational and educational opportunities to the visiting public,” Hesser said. “In addition, this project will support MetroParks’ diversity, equity and inclusion goals by serving underrepresented and disadvantaged communities in the Dayton area.”

Spring Run Conservation Area

Project photos of restoring wetlands



CONSERVATION AT HOME



Turn Over a New Leaf

Vandalia resident and tattoo and multimedia artist Kevin Rotramel had no choice but to start his family's landscape from scratch after the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes destroyed much of the foliage that existed on his property, including mature trees. Thanks to a native plant giveaway from the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation

District, Rotramel and his wife, Crystal, began the process of replacing and adding new native plant species to his yard.

Those plants include coneflower, false blue indigo, milkweed, black eyed Susan, cosmos, a variety of grasses and more. Now, Rotramel decides what to plant based on how pollinators are responding to what's present in his yard. He also finds joy in simply stepping outside to find creative inspiration, even photographing the insects he finds in his yard and in the parks.



While rewilding your home greenspace may seem like a huge undertaking, you don't have to sacrifice a well-maintained yard to live a little greener.

Start by incorporating native plants in your yard where possible. These plants have adapted to the environment, making them the perfect food and shelter for local wildlife. Many native plants also are important to pollinators — animals and insects that cause plants to create full fruit or seed, which is critical for both animals and people. Additionally, native plants help clean and filter water and air.

Move on to incorporate other green practices in your outdoor space:

- **Leave your leaves:** During winter, wildlife and insects need the habitat created by dropped leaves to help them survive.
- **Compost:** Feed your garden while removing waste from the landfill by composting your food scraps.
- **Use a rain barrel:** Rain barrels collect water that you can then use for a variety of purposes, including watering your garden.



Learn more about Rotramel's rewilding journey and how to make your outdoor space more sustainable by visiting metroparks.org/ParkWaysOnline.



Growing Greener Habits

Climate change impacts so much around the world, it can be difficult to understand how a single person can make a difference. Perhaps one of the best things an individual can do is address their habits related to food.

From shopping local to eating fewer processed foods, one of the most enriching ways to reduce your carbon footprint is to grow your own produce. This not only ensures you eat more fresh produce, it pads your pantry and often is less expensive than store-bought items. Plus, gardening is a healthier option for you and the planet.

Here's how to get your garden going this spring:

- **Take inventory.** Check your stock of seeds, tools, garden gloves, compost and other supplies. Patch hoses and watering cans. Start checking prices and looking for sales as well as perusing social media sites to purchase second-hand gardening supplies as needed.

- **Plan where and what you'll plant.** Attend a Five Rivers MetroParks gardening program and, if you don't have a good site at home for growing, consider joining a community garden. MetroParks rents garden plots at Wegerzyn Gardens and Possum Creek MetroParks. Registration begins in April. Learn more at metroparks.org/gardening.

- **Start seeds** that take longer to grow, such as tomatoes and peppers. Make your own planting pots from newspaper, which you can plant directly in the ground when the time is right.

- **Wait until after May 15 to plant anything in the ground.** Southwest Ohio is in growing Zone 6, which begins in May and runs through November. Early spring seeds include beets, lettuce, kale and peas.

- **That doesn't mean you can't get your plants ready** for their garden environment before May 15: When warm weather comes, take plant starts outdoors on sunny, breezy days to toughen them up.

And if gardening just isn't your thing, you can still find plenty of fresh, locally grown and seasonal produce at the 2nd Street Market. Open year round, the Market's offerings expand in May, when an outdoor farmers market opens. (See page 27.)

Register for MetroParks gardening programs at metroparks.org/programs.



Recreate RESPONSIBLY

Tips and tricks from MetroParks pros

The 2024 MetroParks Trails Challenge presented by Huffy begins Feb. 1 and encourages those of all ages, skill levels and interests to explore trails, from waterways to mountain biking trails.

Each trail in the Challenge is a little different in terms of terrain and length, but considerations apply to all natural spaces — especially Leave No Trace (LNT). This set of seven principles encourages everyone to keep spaces wild for the benefit of other visitors, wildlife and the environment.

“Everyone who spends time outdoors should be familiar with LNT, whether they’re very outdoorsy or enjoy an occasional walk,” said outdoor recreation coordinator Jordan Hart. “Folks should also become familiar with trail etiquette, regardless of whether you’re completing a trails challenge or hiking at a national park.”

One LNT principle to consider in every outdoor space is to dispose of waste properly. Leaving trash is detrimental to habitats and the wildlife that inhabit them. Pack out everything you bring into a natural space, and pick up trash on the ground if it is safe to do so.



PRESENTED BY

HUFFY

LEARN MORE and register for the 2024 MetroParks Trails Challenge at metroparks.org/trailschallenge.

**TRACK YOUR PROGRESS
IN METROPARKS' APP**

Download OuterSpatial and visit the “challenges” tab.

(937) 275-PARK

Learn more about how to practice Leave No Trace (LNT) in your MetroParks by visiting metroparks.org/parkwayonline.



Here are some LNT and trail etiquette tips from MetroParks' outdoor recreation coordinators:

NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS (hiking, backpacking)



- **Plan ahead and prepare:** Wear the right footwear for safety and foot health.
- **Leave what you find:** Do not remove natural items. A popular LNT motto is, "Leave only footprints, take only memories (or photos)."
- **Respect wildlife:** Keep a distance from wildlife outdoors.

Hiking etiquette tips:

- Make yourself known when passing hikers by saying, "on your left/right." Hikers going uphill have the right of way.
- Be mindful of trail conditions, and walk through – not around – mud so you don't widen the trail. Be careful not to step on vegetation along the trail.
- Your dog may be well behaved, but some folks fear dogs, and wildlife in the area may excite them. Always have your dog on a leash no longer than eight feet while in your MetroParks. Dogs are not permitted in Aullwood Garden MetroPark.

PAVED, NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS (cycling, mountain biking)



- **Plan ahead and prepare:** Plan your route before you head out and only ride on existing trails.
- **Leave what you find:** Wash your bike to prevent the transportation of non-native species from one area to another.
- **Be considerate of others:** Turn down the tunes.

Cycling etiquette tips:

- Keep as far to the right as is practical unless passing.
- Pass on the left and give an audible warning that you're passing.
- Always remain in control while riding.
- Step off the trail for breaks.
- Keep the size of your group reasonable.

WATERWAYS (paddling)



- **Observe water safety:** Always wear a properly fitted life jacket.
- **Plan and prepare:** Avoid large groups to minimize the impact on the land where paddlers put in and take out.
- **Leave what you find:** Rocks and plants along the riverbank help protect the soil from eroding, so leave them undisturbed. Clean the bottom of your boat with a small amount of bleach and water, as microorganisms from one region can be harmful to plants and wildlife in another.
- **Dispose of waste properly:** Camp and dispose of waste about 200 feet away from water so they don't have a harmful effect on the river's edge and aquatic habitats.
- **Be considerate of others:** Be aware of areas where people come to fish and try to give anglers as much space as possible.

Paddling etiquette tips:

- Avoid crowding eddies, which create a calm pool ideal for a paddler's resting spot along a moving river.
- Paddlers headed downriver have the right of way. Consider this when playing in the whitewater features on the Great Miami River.

VOLUNTEER WOODWORKERS

Chip In to Build

NATURE PLAY

For more than 20 years, woodworking volunteers at Cox Arboretum MetroPark have used their skills to support the work of MetroParks staff.

Building anything from bat boxes to benches, these volunteers meet once a week to work on projects, learn from each other and build camaraderie. While each woodworking volunteer must have a basic skill set, they all have a wide range of woodworking experience, from newer hobbyists to life-long contractors.

“I’ve learned a lot since I joined,” said volunteer Don Erwine. “Before I joined, I would do some repairs around the house, and I have an old pole barn that’s always needing repairs, but I wasn’t doing anything near what I’m able to do now.”

Recently, Erwine and his team of woodworkers – lead by MetroParks park technician Uriah Langmeyer – completed their largest project to date: portions of the

nature play at Cox Arboretum MetroPark.

Nature play features structures created from natural materials that encourage children to explore nature and connect to the natural world. While MetroParks is home to seven nature play areas, each is unique, offering different ways to play and explore.

Cox Arboretum MetroPark’s nature play opened in fall 2023. The woodworking volunteers constructed two bridges, a sloped climbing wall and the pergola – resulting in considerable time and cost savings. The group spent 850 hours completing these structures, which would have otherwise been built – and billed – by contractors.

Langmeyer is especially proud of MetroParks’ staff and the volunteers’ accomplishments. Staff spent nearly 3,000 hours on the project, much of it working side-by-side with volunteers.



VOLUNTEER



"Teamwork makes the dream work," said Langmeyer, who values the woodworking team's collective learning experiences and process more than simply completing a project.

"We're all learning together," he said. "Each person gets the chance to participate in everything that's going on. We problem solve together. We come up with ways to do things by talking with everyone about it, and then evaluate the best approach."

While building the nature play was, indeed, a challenging project, it also required a very collaborative approach.

"On the pergola build for the nature play, volunteer Rex Miller was instrumental in getting the project finished," Erwine said. "The climbing wall was very meticulous, and volunteers Gary Drake and John Baldwin were phenomenal in getting that done because of their woodworking experience."

With great challenges come great rewards: The woodworking volunteers and MetroParks staff are thrilled to see the community's reception to the project.

"It's a wonderfully unique experience to

be able to build a playground," Langmeyer said, "then get to watch kids of all ages enjoy it every day you go to work."

How to Become a METROPARKS VOLUNTEER

MetroParks has a variety of volunteer opportunities year-round for nearly every interest, need, age, ability and commitment. Skilled trades volunteers help with modern and historical woodworking, historical blacksmithing, and textiles. They also complete a required annual training. Visit metroparks.org/volunteer to learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities and to discover how you, your family and groups can support MetroParks as a volunteer.

Learn More & Get Started

VISIT metroparks.org/volunteer

EMAIL volunteer.services@metroparks.org

CALL (937) 275-7275 (PARK)
to speak with a
volunteer coordinator



Give Some Green

TO KEEP OUR Region Green



Donors to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation make a difference now – and for future generations.

Approximately 80% of Five Rivers MetroParks' funding comes from a property tax levy supported by Montgomery County voters.

You can help fill that 20% funding gap through financial and in-kind support to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation. With several ways to give, philanthropy staff work with individuals and businesses to find ways to support MetroParks that fit any budget.

Supporting the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation is the best way to invest in the outdoors and ensure everyone has access to nature – and the improved quality of life such access provides. Your charitable contributions extend MetroParks' resources and help fund:

- education and recreation programs for youth and adults
- conservation and sustainability initiatives
- new outdoor experiences for people of all ages and abilities
- climate change mitigation efforts
- park enhancements

At Five Rivers MetroParks, philanthropy isn't just about helping MetroParks meet its mission and vision today. It's about helping our community develop new habits for decades to come: improving their physical and mental health outdoors, seeking outdoor experiences that help them more fully appreciate nature, taking action to preserve and protect our region's environment.

Projects Your Dollars Support

Donations to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation support a number of ongoing efforts. One example is the Access to Nature financial assistance program, which reduces financial barriers for people to take MetroParks programs and rent shelters or campsites. Another is Growing for Good, which helps residents living in food deserts start successful vegetable gardens.

Donations also support special projects. In 2023, the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation started to seek funding to replace the splash pad at Island MetroPark, phase I of the Island MetroPark Improvement Project. For families in Montgomery County's urban core, this 25-year-old amenity is a free, safe way to cool off and play during the summer months. Having reached the end of its useful life, MetroParks has identified this project as needing critical funding.

Scan the QR code to visit
the Island MetroPark splash
pad fundraising page



DONATE TODAY

SCAN THE CODE



You also can become a MetroParks Champion with a monthly recurring gift. (See page 22.) Or contact MetroParks' philanthropy staff at champions@metroparks.org or (937) 275-PARK (7275).

Thank you for joining us on this awesome adventure!

Other Foundation-supported projects in 2023 are below.

Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation

- Renovation of the historical trail at the Carriage Hill MetroPark Farm: This 3/4-mile, kid-friendly trail invites visitors to engage with multiple stations that explore the history of the restored orchard, Arnold family cemetery, sorghum shed and more
- First Kids in Parks Trails in Ohio, installed at Eastwood and Possum Creek MetroParks
- Installation of an ADA-accessible paddling dock at Argonne Lake in Possum Creek MetroPark

Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation

- The Children's Discovery Garden water feature was flattened to create a more accessible space
- Fall Family Adventure event

The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation

- Nature Play - Cox Arboretum MetroPark's new nature play allows children a space to explore the outdoors in a fun, independent way
- Pollinator Habitat

Every Champion helps Five Rivers MetroParks protect one acre of land with just the minimum annual membership of



\$10/mo.



FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS PARK SYSTEM MAP

METROPARKS.ORG/MAP

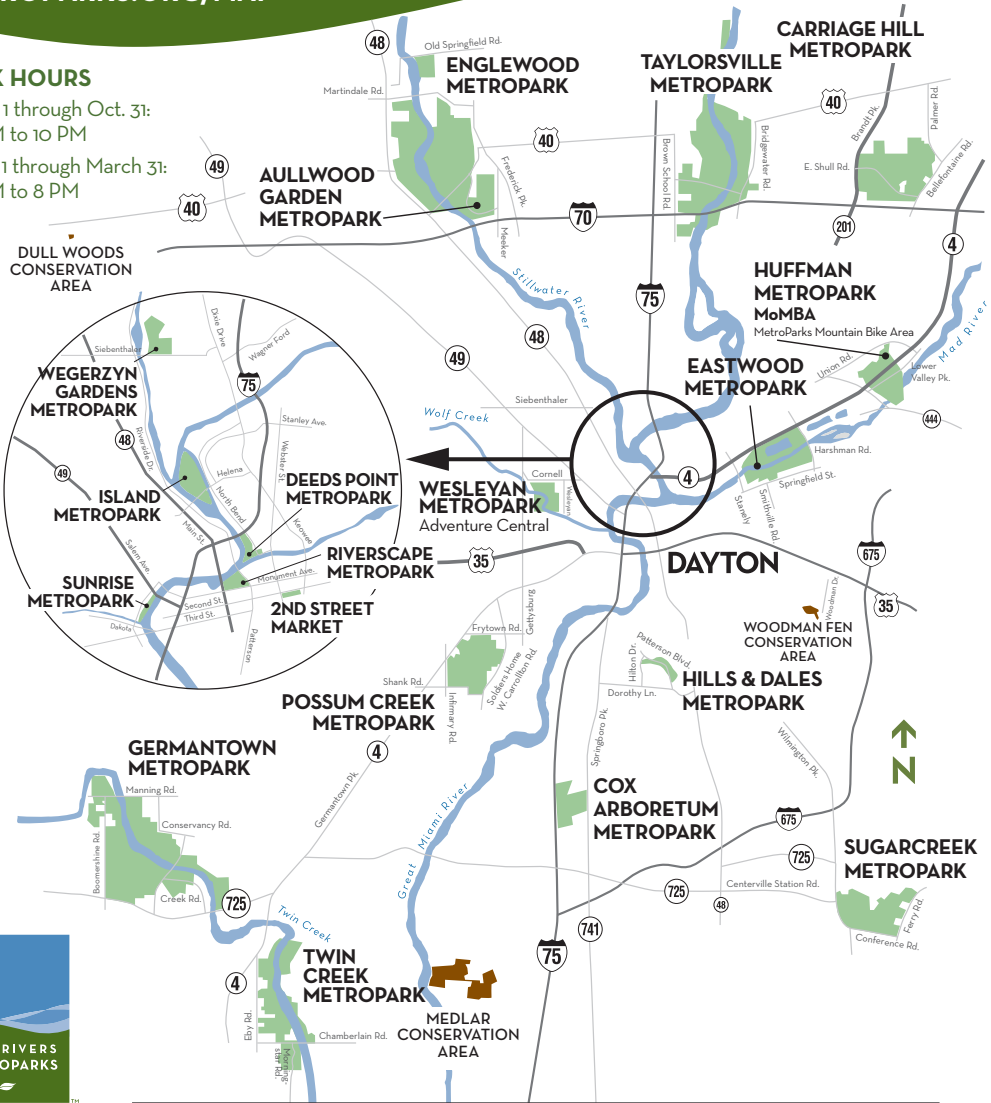


SCAN FOR PARK MAP

PARK HOURS

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

Nov. 1 through March 31:
8 AM to 8 PM



Five Rivers MetroParks operates 30 outstanding public locations. Founded in 1963 to serve the greater Dayton area, MetroParks protects more than 16,500 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.

METROPARKS

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

CONSERVATION AREAS

Dull Woods	Medlar	Woodman Fen
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DOWNLOAD THE

Five Rivers MetroParks MOBILE APP



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



SCAN TO
DOWNLOAD APP

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

DECEMBER

(FREE) ARTISAN NIGHT-
DIY WORKSHOPS

THU. DEC 14, 5:30 - 8:30 PM O70
2ND STREET MARKET

(FREE) NATIVE CHRISTMAS
TREE SALE

SUN. DEC 17, 11 AM - 3 PM O199
2ND STREET MARKET

JANUARY

(FREE) CSA FAIR

THU. JAN 25, 6 - 7:30 PM
O106, VIRTUAL 📺

SUN. JAN 28, 11 AM TO 3 PM IN PERSON
2ND STREET MARKET

FEBRUARY

(FREE) SUNSET AT THE MARKET

THU. FEB 8, 5:30 - 8 PM P124

An Evening of Love Celebrating Black Culture
2ND STREET MARKET (select vendors open)

(FREE) THE ADVENTURE SUMMIT

FRI. FEB 9, 5 - 9 PM P76

SAT. FEB 10, 9 AM - 7 PM

Wright State University Student Union
www.theadventuresummit.com

(FREE) FROM HOGHOUSE
TO SMOKEHOUSE DEMOS

SAT. FEB 17, 11 AM - 3 PM P85

SAT. FEB 18, 11 AM - 3 PM P86

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK

MARCH

(FREE) MAPLE SUGARING DEMOS

SAT. MAR 2, 10 AM - 4 PM P95

SUN. MAR 3, 10 AM - 4 PM P88

SAT. MAR 9, 10 AM - 4 PM P96

SUN. MAR 10, 10 AM - 4 PM P89

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK

APRIL

(FREE) SUNSET AT THE MARKET

THU. APR 11, 5:30 - 8 PM P102

Sustainability Fair

2ND STREET MARKET (select vendors open)

(FREE) ADOPT-A-PARK

SAT. APR 20, 9 AM - NOON

VARIOUS LOCATIONS 📍

metroparks.org/adopt

(FREE) CAROLYN KIMES TREE

SEEDLING GIVEAWAY

SAT. APR 20, 9 AM - 3 PM P100

SUN. APR 21, 11 AM - 3 PM P101

2ND STREET MARKET

(FREE) TEXTILE DAY

SAT. APR 27, 10 AM - 4 PM P87

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK



SUMMER STARTS IN MAY
AT RIVERSCAPE METROPARK!

SAVE THE DATE

Bike to Work Day	Passport to MetroParks
Pancake Breakfast:	
Friday, May 17	Friday, May 24



2ND STREET MARKET
MORE EVENTS
ON PAGE 26

PROGRAM GUIDE

HOW TO REGISTER



ONLINE

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



BY PHONE

Call 937-275-PARK to register
for programs unless otherwise
noted in the listing.

PROGRAM DETAILS

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



Registration is required for
programs marked with this icon.

PROGRAM SERIES

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

FIND MORE
ONLINE



SCAN FOR A
FULL LIST OF
PROGRAMS

ACTIVE OUTDOORS

FISHING

NYMPHS, EMERGERS, DRIES

THU. JAN. 18, 6:00-7:30 PM O145

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up. Fee: \$10 🗝️

ADULT FLY TYING COURSE

THU. FEB. 15-MAR. 7, 6:00-8:00 PM P36

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE

Age: 18Y and up. Fee: \$40 🗝️

(FREE) TRY FLY FISHING

THU. APR 18, 4:00-7:00 PM P41

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up

HIKING

OLDER ADULT ADVENTURES

Adults ages 55-plus will connect to nature and learn about healthy, active outdoor lifestyles.

(FREE) HIKING FOR OLDER ADULTS

WED. MAR 13, 1:30-3:30 PM P40

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK 🗝️

(FREE) HIKING FOR OLDER ADULTS

WED. APR 10, 1:30-3:30 PM P43

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK 🗝️

MOUNTAIN BIKING

(FREE) TRY MOUNTAIN BIKING

THU. APR 4, 4:00-7:00 PM P82

HUFFMAN METROPARK, MoMBA

PADDLING

(FREE) DISCOVER PADDLESPTS:
WHERE TO PADDLE

WED. JAN 10, 6:00-7:30 PM O162

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE

(FREE) DISCOVER PADDLESPTS:
RIVER DYNAMICS AND SAFETY

WED. JAN 24, 6:00-7:30 PM O172

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE

Age: 14Y and up 🗝️

SKATING

LEARN TO ICE
SKATE TEEN/ADULT
COURSE

SUN JAN. 7, 14 & 21,

12:20-12:50 PM O176

SUN FEB. 4, 11 & 18,

12:20-12:50 PM P6

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up. Fee: \$50 🗝️

FIND MORE
ONLINE



SCAN FOR A
FULL LIST OF
PROGRAMS



GET IN SHAPE ON



HEART HEALTHY TRAILS

Heart Healthy Trails are
featured outings in Five
Rivers MetroParks' free
app. To download visit:



METROPARKS.ORG/MOBILE

RESERVATIONS & RENTALS

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Enjoy the outdoors
by reserving a
campsite or shelter.

METROPARKS.ORG/RESERVATIONS

OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

Rent items for
camping, backpack-
ing and cycling.

METROPARKS.ORG/EQUIPMENT





GET OUT & RIDE

at the Carriage Hill
Riding Center

Lessons,
camps and
rides available.



METROPARKS.ORG/RIDINGCENTER



PRESENTED BY

HUFFY

For more information and
to register, scan the code.



WILDERNESS FIRST AID & FIRST RESPONDER COURSES



Held in March at
Possum Creek MetroPark.
More info and registration at
COLORADOOUTSIDE.COM
/COURSES

FREE

the
ADVENTURE
SUMMIT

PRESENTED BY

**FEBRUARY
9 & 10**
2024 • DAYTON, OH

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY, STUDENT UNION

INSPIRING SPEAKERS, EXPO & COMPETITIONS

FEATURED PRESENTERS INCLUDE

EDDIE TAYLOR

- Member of first all-Black Everest expedition
- Skied Denali, North America's tallest peak
- Climbed Yosemite's El Cap in a day

NEAL MOORE

- Author and long-distance canoeist
- 7,500 mile, 22-month solo paddle across America

DR. BRAD RYAN

- Visited all 63 U.S. National Parks with his grandma after her 85th birthday
- Global viral sensation
- Special appearance by Grandma Joy

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

TheAdventureSummit.com

ADULT NATURE EXPLORATION

FLORA & FAUNA

COMMON FEEDER BIRDS

SAT. JAN 13, 9:00-11:00 AM O142

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🍷

ANIMAL TRACKING & RADIO TELEMETRY

SAT. JAN 13, 1:00-3:30 PM O143

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

SAT. MAR 23, 1:00-3:30 PM P35

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$10 🍷

OWL WALK

SAT. JAN 13, 6:00-8:00 PM O144

TWIN CREEK METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$3 🍷

WINTER TREE ID

SAT. FEB 10, 1:00-4:00 PM P21

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$8 🍷

OWLS OF OHIO

SAT. FEB 10, 8:00-10:30 PM P23

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$8 🍷

WOODCOCK WATCH

SAT. MAR 23, 8:00-9:00 PM P27

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$3 🍷

WATERFOWL FIELDTRIP

SUN. MAR 24, 1:00-5:00 PM M290

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS MAIN OFFICE

Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$25 🍷

BEGINNING BIRDING

SAT. APR 20, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM P8

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

APRIL WILDFLOWER ID

SAT. APR 20, 1:00-3:00 PM P9

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$8 🍷

SCREECH OWL PROWL

SAT. APR 20, 8:30-10:00 PM P7

HILLS & DALES METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$3 🍷

PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

PHOTOGRAPHY BOOT CAMP

SAT. JAN 13,

10:00 AM-1:00 PM O153

COX ARBORETUM
METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$40 🍷

PHOTO COMPOSITION

SAT. FEB 24,

10:00-11:30 AM P93

COX ARBORETUM
METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🍷

FIND MORE
ONLINE



SCAN FOR A
FULL LIST OF
PROGRAMS



RENT A FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT

LARGE GARDEN PLOTS
ARE AVAILABLE ON AN
ANNUAL BASIS AT:

- **POSSUM CREEK**
(available from late April
through Nov. 1)
- **WEGERZYN GARDENS**
(available seasonally and
year-round;
organic plots
also available)



**METROPARKS.ORG/
COMMUNITY-GARDENS**

PAINT-A-PARK

These free programs allow you to create a work of art inspired
by nature. Art supplies available to borrow or bring your own.
First Sunday of each month February to April, 2 - 5 PM, various MetroParks.



EARTH FRIENDLY LIVING

FOOD: EARTH TO TABLE

COFFEE TALK

Chat with a Market vendor about types of coffees, including regional ones, and how to prepare them. All programs held at the 2nd Street Market.

(FREE) ONE BEAN ROASTED SIX WAYS
FRI. JAN 5, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM O183

(FREE) SIX COFFEES FROM SIX ISLANDS
FRI. MAR 1, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM P112

TEA TIME

Learn from a Market vendor how to blend different herbs and plants to create a perfect cup of tea. All programs held at the 2nd Street Market.

(FREE) LEARN HOW TO USE HERBAL BLENDS FOR YOUR HEALTH
FRI. FEB 2, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM P114

(FREE) HERBS AND FLOWERS TO GROW FOR YOUR TEA BLENDS
FRI. APR 5, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM P115

VEGETABLE GARDEN BOOT CAMP

SAT. FEB 3, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM P50
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗝

(FREE) MAPLE SUGARING GUIDED TOUR
SAT. MAR 2, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM P90
SAT. MAR 2, 1:00-2:00 PM P91
SAT. MAR 9, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM P92
SAT. MAR 9, 1:00-2:00 PM P94
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK 🗝

(FREE) BENEFITS OF WHOLE GRAIN BREAD
SUN. MAR 10, 10:30-11:30 AM P113
2ND STREET MARKET

GARDENING

INDOOR GARDENING: TIPS ON CONTAINER GARDENING

Watch demos and learn how to care for indoor plants in winter at the 2nd Street Market.

(FREE) HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR INDOOR PLANTS
FRI. DEC 29, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM N490

(FREE) REPOTTING, POTTING UP, MAINTENANCE FOR HOUSEPLANTS
FRI. JAN 12, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM O179

(FREE) GET YOUR POTTED PLANTS READY FOR SPRING
FRI. FEB 9, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM P1

HOUSEPLANT SUCCESS
SAT. JAN 6, 10:00-11:30 AM O146
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
Fee: \$12 🗝

LANDSCAPE DESIGN FOR EVERY SPACE
SAT. JAN 20, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM O147
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗝

ORNAMENTAL GARDEN BOOT CAMP
SAT. FEB 10, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM P51
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🗝

EARLY SPRING WITCH HAZEL WALK
SAT. FEB 17, 1:00-3:00 PM P116
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🗝

EARLY SPRING GARDEN PREP
SAT. MARCH 2, 10:00-11:30 AM P53
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🗝

SPRING COLOR IN THE GARDEN
SAT. MARCH 9, 10:00-11:30 AM P54
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🗝

(FREE) RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP
SUN. MAR 17, 10:30-11:30 AM P132
2ND STREET MARKET

PLANTING EARLY GARDENS
SAT. APRIL 6, 10:00-11:30 AM P56
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🗝

Relax on MetroParks' **MINDFULNESS WALKS**

These short, easy walks invite you to stop and engage in simple breathing and meditation activities. Mindfulness Walks are featured outings in Five Rivers MetroParks' free mobile app; visit metroparks.org/mobile to download.



METROPARKS.ORG/MINDFUL

CELEBRATE **OUTSTANDING TEACHERS**



Nominate them for a 2023 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, 2024.

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

METROPARKS.ORG/OUTSTANDING



MAKING THE **OUTDOORS Accessible to All**



The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation offers the Access to Nature financial assistance program to help alleviate costs associated with MetroParks programs and rentals. Qualifying Montgomery County residents can receive up to a 75% discount based on financial need. To learn more, visit **METROPARKS.ORG/ACCESS**

HOW TO SUPPORT

YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

Charitable contributions to the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation can support all MetroParks or educational and recreational services, conservation initiatives, and more. It's easy to support your MetroParks with so many ways to give, including:

- Champions program
- Tribute Program
- Individual Giving
- Planned Giving



METROPARKS.ORG/DONATE



ECO TALKS

Learn about the environment from experts with monthly EcoTalks at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. Listen to local researchers share results from their conservation projects. EcoTalks are free, registration is required due to limited space.



FAMILY & CHILDREN

FAMILY STORY TIME & CRAFTS

Staff from Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark will read stories to young children then lead a craft project at the 2nd Street Market.

ANIMAL FOOTPRINTS

FRI. DEC 15, 11:30 AM-12:15 PM O108

Fee per family: \$3 🗑️

THE MITTEN

FRI. JAN 19, 11:30 AM-12:15 PM O181

Fee per family: \$3 🗑️

STORYTIME UNDER THE SNOW

FRI. FEB 16, 11:30 AM-12:15 PM P110

Fee per family: \$3 🗑️

FOR THE BIRDS!

FRI. MAR 15, 11:30 AM-12:15 PM P111

Fee per family: \$3 🗑️

CONSERVATION KIDS

This series for ages 3-13 nurtures kids' desire to explore nature and provides families inspiration to spend time outdoors. Programs are organized in three levels. Start with Discover (▲green) programs, then Act (▲blue) and Share (▲orange). Children will learn about nature and work with their peers to protect it before ultimately becoming stewards and advocates for conservation. Children who complete programs in each level will receive a tool to help them talk about conservation with their peers. Visit metroparks.org/kids.

(FREE) HIBERNATING INSECTS

SAT. JAN 6, 10:00-11:30 AM O134

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK 🗑️ ▲

(FREE) ANIMAL TRACKING EXCURSION

SAT. JAN 6, 1:30-3:30 PM O135

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK 🗑️ ▲

(FREE) PRAIRIE PLAY

SAT. JAN 13, 2:00-3:30 PM O136

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, 🗑️ ▲

GREENHOUSE HELPERS

SAT. JAN 13, 5:30-7:00 PM O137

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗑️ ▲

BECOME A TRACKING GUIDE

SAT. JAN 20, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM O138

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗑️ ▲

(FREE) WINTER NIGHT HIKE

FRI. JAN 26, 6:00-7:30 PM O140

GERMANTOWN METROPARK 🗑️ ▲

CLOUDS AND CLIMATE

SAT. JAN 27, 10:00-11:30 AM O149

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗑️ ▲

BECOME AN ORNITHOLOGIST

SAT. FEB 3, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM P11

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗑️ ▲

(FREE) LIFE OF A LOG

SAT. FEB 3, 2:00-3:00 PM P12

HILLS & DALES METROPARK 🗑️ ▲

(FREE) SLEEPING NATURE

SAT. FEB 10, 2:00-3:30 PM P14

HILLS & DALES METROPARK 🗑️ ▲

(FREE) BEAVER SEARCH

SAT. FEB 10, 5:30 PM-7:00 AM P15

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK 🗑️ ▲

THE GREAT BACKYARD

BIRD COUNT

SAT. FEB 17, 10:00-11:30 AM P17

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗑️ ▲

(FREE) FOREST BIRD SEARCH

SAT. FEB 24, 1:30-3:00 PM P18

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK 🗑️ ▲

YOUTH SCIENTIST EXPLORATION - iNATURALIST

SAT. FEB 24, 4:00-5:30 PM P19

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK Fee: \$3 🗑️ ▲

(FREE) WOODLAND ADVENTURE

SAT. MAR 2, 2:00-3:30 PM P20

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK 🗑️ ▲

UNRAVELING PLANTS' CHANGING STORIES; PROJECT BUDBURST

SAT. MAR 9, 1:30-3:00 PM P25

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗑️ ▲

BECOME A GARDENER

SAT. MAR 16, 1:00-3:00 PM P34

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗑️ ▲

(FREE) WOODCOCK WALK

FRI. MAR 22, 8:00-9:00 PM P30

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK 🗑️ ▲

(FREE) JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

SAT. MAR 23, 10:00-11:30 AM P26

GERMANTOWN METROPARK 🗑️ ▲

FAMILY & CHILDREN

(FREE) SIGNS OF SPRING
SAT. MAR 23, 1:00-2:30 PM P32
HILLS & DALES METROPARK 🦋 ▲

GREENHOUSE TRANSPLANTING
SAT. MAR 23, 5:00-7:00 PM P28
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
Fee: \$3 🦋 ▲

(FREE) SPRING BIRD WALK
SAT. APR 6, 10:00-11:30 AM P71
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK 🦋 ▲

(FREE) SOLAR ECLIPSE
SAT. APR 6, 2:00-4:00 PM P72
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK 🦋 ▲

(FREE) MAMMAL STUDY
SAT. APR 6, 7:00-8:30 PM P73
GERMANTOWN METROPARK 🦋 ▲

(FREE) SPRING WILDFLOWER EXPLORATION
SAT. APR 20, 3:00-4:30 PM P77
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK 🦋 ▲

SPRING FROG SURVEY
SAT. APR 20, 8:00-9:30 PM P75
GERMANTOWN METROPARK
Fee: \$3 🦋 ▲

BULLFROG ROUNDUP
FRI. APR 26, 8:00-10:00 PM P78
GERMANTOWN METROPARK
Fee: \$3 🦋 ▲

AMPHIBIAN NATURALIST TRAINING
SAT. APR 27, 8:00-10:00 PM P79
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
Fee: \$3 🦋 ▲

PRESCHOOL

TIKE HIKE

Explore nature with your preschooler. Dress for the weather and to get wet and dirty.

(FREE) TIKE HIKE
MON. JAN 8, 10:00-11:00 AM O150
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK
THU. JAN 18, 10:00-11:00 AM O151
GERMANTOWN METROPARK
WED. FEB 7, 10:00-11:00 AM P60
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
THU. FEB 22, 10:00-11:00 AM P61
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK

THU. MAR 7, 10:00-11:00 AM P62
HILLS & DALES METROPARK
FRI. MAR 15, 10:00-11:00 AM P63
GERMANTOWN METROPARK
THU. APR 11, 10:00-11:00 AM P64
SUGARCREEK METROPARK
WED. APR 24, 10:00-11:00 AM P65
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK
Age: 3Y-5Y 🦋

YOUTH & TEEN

LEARN TO ICE SKATE CHILDREN'S COURSE
SUN JAN. 7, 14 & 21, 11:00-11:30 AM O173
SUN FEB. 4, 11 & 18, 11:00-11:30 AM P4
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK
Age: 5Y-8Y Fee: \$50 🦋

LEARN TO ICE SKATE YOUTH COURSE
SUN JAN. 7, 14 & 21, 11:40 AM-12:10 PM O175
SUN FEB. 4, 11 & 18, 11:40 AM-12:10 PM P5
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK
Age: 9Y-13Y Fee: \$50 🦋

MORNING CHORES
SAT. APR 6, 8:30-9:30 AM P97
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK
Age: 8Y-12Y
Fee: \$5 🦋

CONSERVATION LEADERS

This series for ages 10-17 fosters a deepened connection with nature through experiences in and exploration of Dayton's local ecology. Older youth are empowered as they gain a growing awareness of local environmental issues and see first-hand their positive impact on greater Dayton's environment.

WINTER TREE IDENTIFICATION
SAT. JAN 20, 1:30-3:30 PM O139
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
Fee: \$3 🦋

ANIMAL SKULL & BONE IDENTIFICATION
SAT. JAN 27, 2:00-4:00 PM O141
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK
Fee: \$3 🦋


GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
SAT. FEB 10, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM P13
GERMANTOWN METROPARK
Fee: \$3 🦋

FAMILY & CHILDREN

CONSERVATION HISTORY

SAT. FEB 17, 3:00-5:00 PM P103


COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 

WATERFOWL EXPLORATION

SAT. MAR 9, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM P24


ENGLEWOOD METROPARK

Fee: \$3 

WOODCOCK EXPLORATION

SAT. MAR 16, 7:30-9:00 PM P22


COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 

FROG INVESTIGATION

FRI. APR 19, 8:00-10:00 PM P74


GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Fee: \$3 

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

SAT. APR 27, 3:00-5:00 PM P81

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Fee: \$3 

FIND MORE
ONLINE



SCAN FOR
A FULL
LIST OF
PROGRAMS



GREEN SCHOOLYARDS TEACHER TRAINING

SATURDAY, FEB. 24, 9 TO 11 AM

Possum Creek MetroPark

Receive the tools you need to create one of these outdoor learning spaces. Registration required; program P104.



HEALING NATURE

Spending just 20 minutes outdoors improves your physical and mental health.

ADOPT^A PARK

Saturday, April 20
9 AM TO NOON

Celebrate Earth Day by supporting our region's parks, trails and rivers with spring cleanup and other projects. Sign up with a group or as a family.

Registration required. Visit
METROPARKS.ORG/ADOPT
or scan the code below.



FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS IS HIRING

Spend time outdoors at your MetroParks while working to make our community a great place to live, work and play. Seasonal, part and full time job opportunities available.

METROPARKS.ORG/CAREERS

SHOP FRESH & LOCAL

AT THE

2ND STREET MARKET

600 E. Second St., downtown Dayton

Buy farm-fresh produce, flowers, meats, dairy, kitchen staples and more from a variety of local vendors. Grab a bite to eat from prepared food vendors or one-of-a-kind artisan goods.

Friday & Sunday 11 AM to 3 PM
Saturday 9 AM to 3 PM

The outdoor farmers market opens May 4.

Join the Market for special events, workshops and celebrations presented by



► **Community Supported Agriculture Fair:**

- Virtual Jan. 25 6-7:30 PM (registration required; program O160)
- In person at the Market: Jan. 28 11 AM to 3 PM

► Celebrate **Black History Month** with special programs throughout February.

► Children's Spring **Scavenger Hunt**: March 30

► Other programs and events at the Market:

- **Special Events**, page 17
- **Indoor gardening series**, page 21
- **Coffee Talk and Tea Time series**, page 22
- **Friday Family Story Time**, page 23

For more information, additional programs and events, a list of vendors and more:



- Visit METROPARKS.ORG/LOCALFOOD
- Follow facebook.com/2ndStreetMarket
- Sign up for 2nd Street Market emails at metroparks.org/newsletters
- Call (937) 228-2088



Most 2nd Street Market vendors accept EBT/SNAP benefits, in addition to Produce Perks.





2023-2024 SEASON

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

GET OUT & SKATE

AT THE METROPARKS ICE RINK AT RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

\$7 ADMISSION • \$3 SKATE RENTAL

Warm up in the



WARMING ZONE

and with a hot cocoa
from the RiverScape Café

Scan the code or visit the link above for information
about skating lessons, special events, season passes,
private rink rentals and alcohol sales.



RINK HOURS

	NOV. 24 - DEC. 21	DEC. 22 - JAN. 5	JAN. 6 - MAR. 1
SUN.	1 to 5 PM	See Holiday Hours	1 to 5 PM
MON.	4 to 8 PM	See Holiday Hours	4 to 6 PM
TUE.	4 to 8 PM	11 AM to 8 PM	4 to 6 PM
WED.	4 to 8 PM	11 AM to 8 PM	4 to 6 PM
THUR.	4 to 8 PM	11 AM to 8 PM	4 to 6 PM
FRI.	4 to 10 PM	11 AM to 10 PM	4 to 10 PM
SAT.	11 AM to 10 PM	11 AM to 10 PM	11 AM to 10 PM



HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas Eve Dec. 24 11 AM to 5 PM	Christmas Dec. 25 CLOSED	New Year's Eve Dec. 31 1 to 8 PM	New Year's Day Jan. 1 11 AM to 5 PM	MLK Jr. Day Jan. 15 11 AM to 5 PM	Presidents Day Feb. 19 11 AM to 5 PM
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THEME NIGHTS

Reggae Skate Jan. 12 7 to 10 PM	Cosmic Skate Jan. 26 7 to 10 PM	Swiftie Skate Feb. 9 7 to 10 PM	I ♥ Boy Bands Feb. 16 7 to 10 PM	Disco Skate Mar. 1 7 to 10 PM
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SPECIAL SKATE DISCOUNTS

Galentine's Day: Feb. 13
(50% off admission and skate rental)

Valentine's Day: Feb. 14-15
(2-for-1 admission, skate rental
and Winans Chocolates)*

Sweetheart Skate: Feb. 16-18
(2 admissions, skate rentals, hot
cocoas and Winans Chocolates for \$20)*

*while supplies last



NEW! FAMILY SKATE DAYS

music, crafts and
activities for kids

- Jan. 7
- Jan. 21
- Feb. 25

ALL SEASON LONG ACCESS TO NATURE DISCOUNT

Available to SNAP/EBT participants
(50% off admission and skate rental; show
EBT card at purchase window)

Supported by the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation

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



ACCESS PARKWAYS RESOURCES, PROGRAM INFO & MORE ONLINE

Programs and events in your MetroParks are being added all the time! Scan the code or visit metroparks.org/parkways to access program and event info, learn updates as they're announced, discover resources that help you connect with nature and much more.

- Visit MetroParks' blog: metroparks.org/ParkWaysOnline
- 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
- Instagram: [@metroparks](https://instagram.com/metroparks)
- YouTube: youtube.com/FiveRiversMetroParks
- TikTok: [@fiveriversmetroparks](https://tiktok.com/@fiveriversmetroparks)



HOLD ON TO YOUR PARKWAYS!

This issue covers select programs from December 11, 2023, through April 30, 2024.

ON THE COVER: Possum Creek MetroPark photo by Sophia Daugherty.

Five Rivers MetroParks
409 East Monument Avenue,
Third Floor
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