

SUMMER - FALL 2024

FREE

# PARKWAYS

YOUR GUIDE TO FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS





















OUTDOORS  
for  
ALL



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	Westleyan
Hiking/Walking 	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cycling 				•	•			•	•	•	•		•	•			•	•
Mountain Biking 								•										
Paddling 	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•		
Whitewater 											•							
Horseback Riding 		•			•				•			•				•		
Disc Golf 						•												
Fishing+ 	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Nature Play 			•		•		•		•			•					•	•
Playground 							•			•								•
Camping 					•	•			•							•		
Sledding 					•	•								•				
Boating <sup>∞</sup> 				•	•													
Fossil Hunting 	•	•			•	•		•				•		•	•	•		•
Ice Rink 											•							
Community Garden Plots 									•								•	
Shelters 		•			•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•
Picnic Areas 	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•

+ Visit [metroparks.org/fishing](http://metroparks.org/fishing) to learn where you can fish without an Ohio license.

∞ Visit [metroparks.org/boating](http://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](http://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,

The change of season is upon us and as we at MetroParks prepare for our busiest months, we want to be sure we're welcoming everyone with open arms. One of my priorities as CEO of your Five Rivers MetroParks is to ensure our three strategic focus areas remain front and center. Those are diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI); climate change mitigation; and financial health. In this issue of *ParkWays*, our DEI work is highlighted.

In the following pages, you'll read about how your MetroParks team designs spaces so they're more accessible to everyone in our community. Learn how MetroParks' 191 miles of managed trails help our active and older adult population stay healthy while making personal connections to nature. Plus, you'll learn about some of the

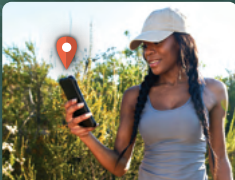
70 diverse groups that requested volunteer opportunities last year, including schools, corporate groups and those with different abilities.

DEI is not a new idea for MetroParks. Our values have long included diversity, respect and community. We are committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive experience for every employee, volunteer and visitor. We strongly believe nature is for everyone: all ages, gender identities, ethnicities, religions, abilities and socioeconomic statuses. Members of our internal DEI Council bring their talents and viewpoints to all they do, which in turn helps MetroParks create a park district in which everyone feels welcome to connect with nature.

MetroParks continues the journey to make everyone feel safe, comfortable and welcome in their MetroParks. We look forward to the future thanks to the education and support from community partners, such as the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) of Greater Dayton, the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities and others.



Gratefully,

**DOWNLOAD OUTERSPATIAL**  
to access the  
Five Rivers MetroParks  
**MOBILE APP**



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

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- Discover new places
- Locate park amenities

Learn more and download here:  
[METROPARKS.ORG/MOBILE](https://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.*

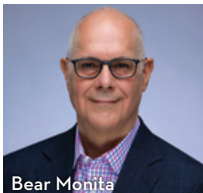
METROPARKS COMMISSIONERS



Karen L. Davis



Jessica Salem

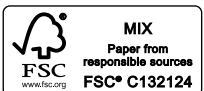


Bear Monita



Five Rivers MetroParks is a CAPRA-accredited park agency.

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Nick & Laura Steurer hiking at Germantown MetroPark

# OUTDOORS for ALL

People from every walk of life can find health and happiness in nature

These two Montgomery County residents serve the community in different ways – but both find joy spending time outside.

From nurse to patient to new mom, Laura Steurer has been meeting life’s joys and challenges with help from her favorite MetroParks trails.

A Miamisburg resident, Steurer is a surgical nurse, a considerable challenge during the pandemic. Then, in early summer 2022 after having consistent headaches, Steurer discovered she needed brain surgery requiring three days in the ICU and 12 weeks of recuperation.

While she and her husband, Nick, have always been active outdoors, she decided to take her trail time seriously to be as fit as possible for her surgery. The couple spent much of that summer on the trails, with Laura completing the 9.2-mile orange trail in Germantown MetroPark twice the day before her surgery.

“The outside is therapeutic, especially the fresh air,” Steurer said. “I’ve never spent time outside and felt worse after.”

Then, in May 2023, the Steurers discovered that, after years of trying, they were expecting a baby. Steurer stuck with the trails for her mental and physical health during pregnancy.

“I was really active the whole time,” she said. “My mood totally shifted from the start to finish of a hike. I felt like a totally different person when I was done.”

At full term, Steurer returned to her favorite trail in Germantown MetroPark to prepare for her newest adventure as a mom. Son August Fitzpatrick was born Feb. 2, 2024.

As a healthcare professional, Steurer knows access to the outdoors and being active in nature are important.

“Even a short amount of time outside is good,” she said. “A lot of people don’t have the means to go to the gym, but the trails are scattered in location so most people can access them.”

## Laura's Picks

If you are new to the outdoors and don’t know where to start, Laura Steurer suggests:

- Walking is a great place to begin. Five Rivers MetroParks has several easy natural-surface and paved trails, including Heart Healthy Trails. (See page 21.)
- Steurer’s pick for beginners is Possum Creek MetroPark, where the trails are easy to traverse and vary in length from 0.3 to 3.5 miles.

Laura hiking at Possum Creek MetroPark through her pregnancy



Laura hiking at Sugarcreek MetroPark





When it comes to finding peace and relaxation in nature, longtime Daytonian and Sinclair College professor Amaha Sellassie has found both on rivers. He's no stranger to the outdoors, although recreating on the water is something relatively new to him.

In 2022, Sellassie was invited by his friend and avid paddler on a kayaking adventure. Since then, he's been trying to paddle at least once a week during warm weather.

"I just fell in love with it," Sellassie said. "I find so much joy and see cranes, bald eagles. You just never know what you're going to see."

In addition to teaching, Sellassie is also the board president of west Dayton's Gem City Market and co-executive director of CO-OP Dayton, two organizations focused on addressing needs, equity and economic success in the community – something he thinks about on the water.

"Water is a moveable form, but underneath are separate particles working together and there's this emphasis on cooperation," Sellassie said. "Last summer, I used kayaking as a way to rethink work – let's move from a golf course to a kayak. Why can't we have friends go on the river to have deep dialogue? I've been exploring that a lot."

Sellassie also understands the importance of the outdoors being a welcoming space for everyone.

"I've been trying to reimagine Blackness that

includes being out on the rivers," he said. "There's this underlying assumption or narrative these things are more for white people, but down South everyone is outside."

Sellassie envisions a future for Dayton's riverfronts like those he's experienced when traveling, where communities convene near the water to enjoy each other's presence in nature. To reach that future, he encourages others to try something new.

"Take your time and just try to relax," Sellassie advised. "I couldn't believe I waited so long to get on the water after I tried kayaking the first time."

## *Amaha's Picks*

Amaha Sellassie enjoys outings on the Great Miami River near the confluence of the Mad River, located between RiverScape and Deeds Point MetroParks. New paddlers may feel more comfortable on flat water. Sellassie's favorite parks with lakes are Possum Creek and Eastwood MetroParks.

- **Possum Creek MetroPark:** Last fall, an accessible dock was installed at Argonne Lake, allowing those who use mobility challenges to easily get situated in a kayak or canoe.
- **Eastwood MetroPark:** For those without paddling gear, self-service kayak rentals are available at a kiosk located between Eastwood Lake and Blue Lake (lake side). Simply use your mobile device to check out a kayak, paddle and life jacket.



*Amaha enjoying time paddling with his daughter, Hone, on her first canoe trip.*



# Lights, Camera, Amphibian!

If a picture is worth a thousand words, how can 30,000 photos describe improvements to an ecosystem? MetroParks' conservation staff and volunteers hope to find out.

In fall 2023, conservation technician Sarah Browning started a long-term research project to contribute to amphibian conservation, which is under studied in Ohio's wetlands. MetroParks' conservation staff had the perfect location in mind.

Spring Run Conservation Area in Trotwood is now home to 22 acres of wetlands thanks to restoration being implemented over 10 years – the perfect timetable for long-term research.

Through a partnership with Ohio Partners in Amphibian Research & Reptile Conservation (OhioPARC), MetroParks sourced devices called Camera Trap Arrays. These data-collection tools are comprised of a long fence that funnels wildlife through a small opening inside a bucket. Any significant movement inside the bucket triggers a camera to snap

a picture. Wildlife are then able to leave and return to their habitat through another opening in the bucket.

“This is a passive way to monitor,” said MetroParks Biologist Lisa Zoromski. “No animals are being harmed, and we don't have to handle the wildlife. It's a very easy way to collect data.”

Because OhioPARC has a specific interest in research on amphibians and reptiles, they allowed MetroParks to borrow one of the two arrays at Spring Run Conservation Area as part of a state-wide initiative to analyze species in Ohio.

“New wetland restoration sites are great to study because we'll understand how impactful the wetlands are,” said Zoromski. “If we start to see rare or threatened species present at this site over time, it would be awesome.”

MetroParks' conservation team has been pleasantly surprised by the data collected so far.



# CONSERVATION



Images of wildlife captured in Five Rivers MetroParks' Camera Trap Arrays.



"Though many of the images are of rodents, we were surprised to get many images of turtles and frogs right away," said Zoromski. "This is a good sign. Moving forward, we hope to add more arrays."

However, more arrays mean more photos, and the first six months have already yielded 30,000 images to review.

This is where select groups of MetroParks volunteers and universities may come in.

"We are able to upload photos to a platform that allows us to share images with people so they can help classify them," said Zoromski. "We hope to work with local college students and groups of volunteers to help us identify the wildlife in the many photos we have currently and will continue to gather."

Some of the first volunteers to help MetroParks' conservation team ID photos are a group of young Conservation Leaders, youth ages 10 to 17 who wish to deepen their connections with nature by exploring Dayton's ecology.

"Each month, the Conservation Leaders volunteer with staff on various conservation projects," said Zoromski. "It's enjoyable to work with such an engaged and enthusiastic group of future leaders in conservation."

Just after the new year, a handful of these volunteers were trained to ID photos using a platform they can access from any device at any time. They eagerly dove into identifying photos, going through hundreds the first day of their training alone.

"Although often viewed as at odds with one another, this blend of nature and technology

speaks to these kids. They've grown up using screens," said Erin Rowekamp, MetroParks education specialist. "This project allows these youth volunteers to support MetroParks' conservation mission and foster a deeper understanding of the research and the important role they can play now and in the future to make meaningful improvements to wild spaces."



Conservation Leaders participants working on identifying photos from the Camera Trap Arrays.

**Find upcoming Conservation Leaders** programs on page 29.

**Learn more** about new and ongoing MetroParks' research and conservation projects at [metro-parks.org/research](https://www.metro-parks.org/research).



The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation funded the new trail.



# Time Travel Trail

Take a hike back in time and learn about farm life in the 1880s by exploring a new interactive Carriage Hill Family Farm Trail that will open this summer.

Generations of the Arnold family lived and worked on the Carriage Hill Historical Farm from the 1830s until 1916. The Arnolds were prosperous but lived a simple life shaped by their German Baptist Brethren faith. They also were active in the community and their church, helping their friends and Brethren around the region. In addition to their farm operations, the Arnolds ran a sawmill.

To access the new trail, visitors walk through the Carriage Hill Historical Farm. It includes original and reproduction buildings representing the 1880s, as well as heritage animals and heirloom crops found on the Arnolds' family farm. The trail provides a connection to other park features and aligns with MetroParks' sustainable trail initiative, which calls for natural surface trails to have less of an environmental impact while improving hikers' experiences. Other improvements include clearing invasive species around the Joseph Arnold Pond so it's more visible.

"Relax in seating around the pond and watch the windmill turn," said Mike Pitts, Carriage Hill MetroPark manager. "It's a beautiful setting now."

## Stops Back in Time

The 0.75-mile, natural-surface Carriage Hill Family Farm Trail includes stops where visitors can imagine the park when it was home to the Arnold family.

"Generations of children have played outdoors here," said Doug Horvath, MetroParks education coordinator. "Your family can gain the same benefits of play, including stronger bodies and imaginations, by reenacting past playful activities. Have a footrace, pretend to camp and explore a creek. We've placed stations with props along the trail to help keep the mood you gained from the historical homestead visit and live it down the natural trail."

Farmers grew crops for extra income in **truck patch gardens** in the 1880s.

The Arnolds grew pumpkins, potatoes, turnips, beans and melons, harvesting the ripened produce and loading







it into a wagon to be sold at market. Use available tools to try making a mounded row, digging a hole and removing weeds.

Explore the **sugar camp** area to imagine standing by a fire boiling sap in the large kettle to produce **maple syrup**. The Arnolds produced syrup for extra income during winter, tapping 50 to 100 maple trees on their property for sap that produced as much as 25 gallons of syrup.

Farmers planted fruit trees to add variety to the crops they harvested and sold. The Arnolds planted apples, plums, cherries and peaches in various locations, including this **orchard**. This year, 17 trees similar to what Joseph Arnold cultivated in the 1880s are being planted to restore this orchard. The fruit will be used during programs and demonstrations at the Carriage Hill Historical Farm.

Imagine the farm implements in the **equipment graveyard** being used in the fields. At a time when parts were not readily available for purchase, broken equipment was a valuable source for repair parts.



Scan the code to download OuterSpatial and access MetroParks' free mobile app, which includes more information about the Carriage Hill Historical Farm and Family Farm Trail.



Throughout the year, the farm comes to life through living history demonstrations and programs. Scan the code or visit [metroparks.org/carriagehill](https://metroparks.org/carriagehill) for program listings.



# Recreation Opportunities FOR ALL ABILITIES

*Nathan Stevens has worked with adults with autism and developmental disabilities for 15 years, and he's discovered one of the places they feel most included and thrive is in nature.*



Stevens is the community and recreation coordinator at Resident Home Association (RHA), a Dayton-based nonprofit organization that's provided residential, respite, day support and transportation services for adults with disabilities for nearly 60 years.

"I get to know residents, figure out what they are interested in and match them up with opportunities that meet their interests," said Stevens. "It's also very important to me to match our residents with activities in the community that also educate people that we can do the same activities in the same manner everyone else can."

The activities RHA residents seem to enjoy most are being in nature and participating in nature-related programs. However, Stevens understands many residents have had limited time outdoors during the past few years due to the pandemic.

"Many people, including RHA residents, spent a lot of time indoors during the pandemic," he said. "Time in nature allows our residents to regain their health after being cooped up from COVID."

From participating in such MetroParks programs as Backpacking 101 and Fiber Arts Meet Up to unstructured hikes on the trails, Stevens notices the benefits being in nature has for his residents. Additionally, the Boy Scouts of America and RHA team up to host a "Venturing Group" that builds outdoor living skills and allows residents to camp, hike and participate in programs that allow them to earn badges.

"Being outside does have a positive effect on their mental and physical health," said Stevens. "It's amazing how I can take them out and give them one-on-one time in nature,





# RECREATION

and a lot of times that will change their demeanor for the week.”

Stevens’ goal is to ensure the community is inclusive of those who are developmentally disabled and who wish to participate in everyday public activities.

“My mom worked at RHA, so at an early age I was able to meet other autistic adults and dispel any misunderstandings of people with autism,” said Stevens.

Now, Stevens and adults at RHA participate in community-based activities to dispel myths.

“I want to educate the community,” he said. “But I also have to set up people with things they can handle that help with social skills.”

Stevens said MetroParks’ programs and park experiences are appropriate without being overwhelming for RHA residents. Because many programs are more intimate, with a limited number of participants and a casual setting, RHA residents don’t feel overwhelmed.

An avid hiker himself, Stevens knows his residents’ limits because he often spends time on the trails in MetroParks. His favorite is the outer loop at Twin Creek MetroPark.

Trails are for everyone, regardless of body shape, age, ability, gender, race and



*Nathan Stevens with Keith Savage on an outing at the Reds stadium.*

beyond. However, for those who may have considerations similar to those of RHA’s residents, Stevens suggests:

- The paved paths at Hills & Dales and Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark.
- Cox Arboretum MetroPark, which features a network of brick paths that weave through the gardens and shorter, natural-surface trails with more even terrain.
- Possum Creek MetroPark, which features trails from 0.3 miles to 3.5 miles, including natural-surface loop trails that take hikers through different habitats.

For information on MetroParks’ accessible trails, visit [metro-parks.org/ParkWaysOnline](https://www.metro-parks.org/ParkWaysOnline).





Muslim Youth Organization supporting Garden to Go Kits at Possum Creek MetroPark



Students from the Vocational Block Program at Miamisburg High School

# Volunteering in VOLUME

*It's easy for groups to provide much-needed support to Five Rivers MetroParks.*

Miamisburg High School students may be volunteering in the gardens at Cox Arboretum MetroPark today, but they're learning skills they can use in the future.

The Vocational Block Program at Miamisburg High School provides opportunities for students to volunteer and learn valuable life skills during the school day. In 2023, they completed 17 volunteer shifts at Cox Arboretum

MetroPark, helping with such gardening and landscaping tasks as weeding garden beds and sowing vegetable seeds in the Maimon Memorial Garden.

“Volunteering at Cox Arboretum gives students fresh air and a sense of accomplishment, along with opportunities to learn about nature in person and learn and practice skills in gardening and landscaping,” said program teacher Katie Grant.



Germantown Spartans supported mulching and invasive species removal at Cox Arboretum MetroPark



# VOLUNTEER



*Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Beta Eta Omega Chapter supporting invasive species removal at Possum Creek MetroPark*

Another volunteer group, Capabilities Inc., provides personalized rehabilitation services for people with disabilities. A group of four from this organization completed two shifts at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, helping with gardening projects. During one shift at Aullwood Garden MetroPark, group volunteers set up lanterns for the Aullwood Winter Luminary Walk. Capabilities Inc. plans to volunteer even more often in 2024.



*Volunteer from the group Capabilities Inc. at Aullwood Garden MetroPark*

“I looked for a way to help in our community and allow the public to see how capable our members are of working and being in the public,” said Jean Weaver, Capabilities Inc. community consultant. “And I love the MetroParks.”

Groups can easily request a project specific to their needs and interests on Get Connected, MetroParks’ online volunteer platform.

“We have quite a diversity in our participating community groups, from corporate to school to special interest groups and more,” said Jenny Hymans, MetroParks’ manager of volunteer services.

“Everyone is welcome and encouraged to get outside and give back with MetroParks.” Request an opportunity for your team or group today!

## How to Become a METROPARKS VOLUNTEER

MetroParks has a variety of volunteer opportunities year-round for nearly every interest, need, age, ability and commitment. Visit [metroparks.org/volunteer](https://metroparks.org/volunteer) to discover how you, your family and groups can support MetroParks as a volunteer.

## Learn More & Get Started

VISIT [metroparks.org/volunteer](https://metroparks.org/volunteer)

EMAIL [volunteer.services](mailto:volunteer.services@metroparks.org)

[@metroparks.org](mailto:volunteer.services@metroparks.org)

CALL (937) 275-(PARK) 7275

to speak with a  
volunteer coordinator





# Investing in Island

*Your support is needed for critical updates at this popular urban MetroPark.*

Since it was an amusement park in the late 19th century, Island MetroPark has been an active community gathering spot, especially for families looking to connect with nature in our city's core.

Currently, fundraising is underway to improve this MetroPark – and you can help.

For the past year, the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation has been actively fundraising for the Island MetroPark Improvement Project. Phase I includes replacement of the splash pad and addition of musical toys and site amenities. Phase II includes replacement of the playground. Both opened in 1997 and, after 25 years, have reached the end of their useful lives.

Following completion of phase I, for which \$720,000 is currently being raised, the

Foundation will begin fundraising for Phase II. Following the completion of fundraising for these, the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation will begin fundraising for improvements to the rest of the park, including the Island MetroPark bandshell.

Five Rivers MetroParks is grateful for Montgomery County voters, who support a property tax levy that provides 87% of the agency's funding. However, with the elimination of and reductions to state and other funding in the past 10 years, Five Rivers MetroParks needs alternative revenue to support critical projects such as this one. Already, the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation has secured more than 60% of the funds needed for Phase I through grants, but donations in any dollar amount from the community are needed to replace these much-loved amenities.

In summer 2022, children using the splash pad and playground were surveyed so MetroParks could learn what they'd like to experience at this site. The designs incorporate elements



# PHILANTHROPY



*The proposed splash pad will include a wide variety of interactive features for all ages and abilities to play and cool off in the summer months.*



*New nature themed playground equipment, music toys and additional site furnishings will enhance the existing shelter and splash pad area.*

most participants identified as desirable and account for the many improvements available in more recent years. Those include:

- Features that promote more creative, independent play, along with gross and fine motor skill development
- Use of fresh water at the splash pad, eliminating the need to constantly monitor chemicals and use a recirculating pump, which will create a healthier system for children and reduce operational costs
- New opportunities for interactive play and the opportunity to develop social skills
- Improved accessibility
- Nature-based play elements to increase kids' appreciation for nature
- Seating elements that allow adults to watch comfortably

According to Dayton Children's, Island MetroPark is in a community that needs health intervention — and spending time playing outdoors has a host of physical and mental health benefits backed by an ever-growing body of research. Those include a reduction in

## HOW TO SUPPORT THE Island MetroPark Improvement Project

Scan the QR code or complete and mail the form on the next page.

For more information, visit [metroparks.org/donate](https://metroparks.org/donate) or (937) 275-PARK (7275).



such chronic conditions as obesity, asthma and attention-deficit disorder. The new and improved splash pad and playground will not only let Island MetroPark continue to have a vital role for an underserved community, it will encourage nature-based activities by making them more convenient and fun.

“We hope you will join a legacy of generous and visionary nature lovers through a gift to help secure and sustain the future of these important community amenities that will have millions of visits in the course of their lives,” said Alexis Larsen, MetroParks’ chief of philanthropy. “The lives you touch and change for the better through your gift will impact local kids and families for decades to come.”

# Give to the Foundation

 **SUPPORT YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS**

The agency today known as Five Rivers MetroParks was created in 1963 by a group of committed citizens who gave of their time and treasure to protect our region's natural areas from development. They left a lasting impact by establishing open spaces across the Dayton region for the enjoyment of all.

Now, you can join this legacy of generous and visionary nature lovers.

The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation secures funding for special projects, programming and an endowment to help fill MetroParks' 13% gap in levy funding.

Here are just some of the ways your charitable contributions improve local quality of life:

- Support education and recreation programs
- Support conservation and sustainability initiatives
- Maintain outdoor facilities and resources
- Fund new projects
- Make outdoor experiences accessible to everyone in our community

Supporting the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation is the best way for local nature lovers to invest in the outdoors and ensure everyone has access to the natural wonders in their MetroParks, along with ways to experience nature in their own back yards.

The easiest way to support the Foundation is to join its Champions program by establishing a monthly recurring gift in a minimum of just \$10.



## LEARN MORE & SUPPORT

MetroParks' philanthropy staff will work with you and your family, business or organization to create a gift that supports your passion, as well as MetroParks' — and our community's — needs.

Contact the Five Rivers MetroParks philanthropy staff at [champions@metroparks.org](mailto:champions@metroparks.org), (937) 275-PARK (7275) or directly at:

**Alexis Larsen**,  
chief of philanthropy  
[alexis.larsen@metroparks.org](mailto:alexis.larsen@metroparks.org)  
(937) 274-4381

**Brenda Cox**,  
philanthropy manager  
[brenda.cox@metroparks.org](mailto:brenda.cox@metroparks.org)  
(937) 277-4839

**Sharon Smith**,  
corporate giving & grants manager  
[sharon.smith@metroparks.org](mailto:sharon.smith@metroparks.org)  
(937) 277-4139

Become a Champion:  
[METROPARKS.ORG/CHAMPION](https://www.metroparks.org/champion)

Support your MetroParks:  
[METROPARKS.ORG/DONATE](https://www.metroparks.org/donate)



***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.

***It's about ensuring your Five Rivers MetroParks remain vital, relevant and accessible — now and for all the generations to come.***

***Won't you join us on this awesome adventure?***



## DONATE TODAY

Scan the code or visit [metroparks.org/donate](https://metroparks.org/donate) to support the Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation. You also can remove this page, complete the form below and mail a check to: Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation, 409 E. Monument Ave., third floor, Dayton, OH 45402. Do not send cash in the mail.



***Thank you for your support!***

### DONOR INFORMATION

Prefix \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### DONATION

I/We would like to make a donation to Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### GIFT DESIGNATION

- Greatest Need       Island MetroPark Improvement Project  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

Check enclosed payable to Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my

Visa     MasterCard     Discover     American Express

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### THIS GIFT IS:

In memory of    OR     In honor of    Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the family (include name & address):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- I would like my donation to remain anonymous.  
 I have named Five Rivers MetroParks as a beneficiary of my estate.  
 I would like information on planned giving.

For questions please call the philanthropy department at (937) 275-7275 or visit [metroparks.org/foundation](https://metroparks.org/foundation). The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

# FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS PARK SYSTEM MAP

METROPARKS.ORG/MAP

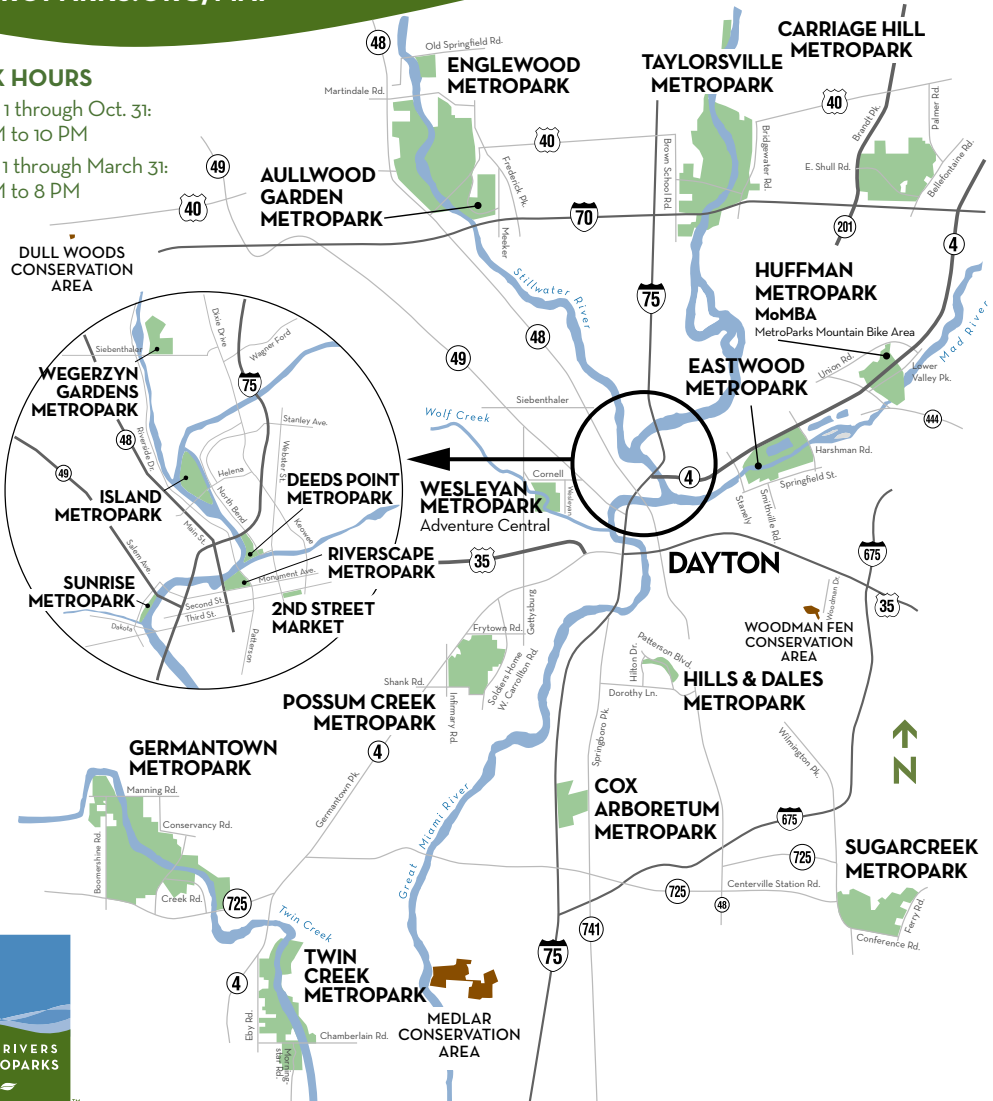


SCAN FOR PARK MAP

## 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 nearly 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.

## 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.metro-parks.org/mobile)



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## MAY

**(FREE) YMCA HEALTHY KIDS DAY**

**SAT. MAY 11, 12:00-4:00 PM** P157

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

[daytonymca.org/programs/healthy-kids-day](http://daytonymca.org/programs/healthy-kids-day)

**MAYFAIR PLANT SALES**

**SAT. MAY 4, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM** P194

**SUN. MAY 5, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM** P195

2ND STREET MARKET

**NATIVE PLANT SALE**

**SUN. MAY 12, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM** P197

2ND STREET MARKET

**(FREE) BIKE TO WORK DAY**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**FRI. MAY 17, 7:00-9:00 AM** P133

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

**(FREE) PASSPORT TO METROPARKS**

**FRI. MAY 24, 6:00-9:00 PM** P152

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

## JUNE

**(FREE) TWIN VALLEY TRAIL**

**(TVT) CHALLENGE**

**SAT. JUN 1, 5:30 AM-8:00 PM** Q156

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

**(FREE) FOR DAYTON BY DAYTON**

**SAT. JUN 8, 4:00-9:00 PM** Q77

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

[4dbdayton.com](http://4dbdayton.com)

**(FREE) SUNSET AT THE MARKET**

**THU. JUN 13, 5:30 - 8:30 PM** Q130

2ND STREET MARKET

**(FREE) MUD DAY**

**SAT. JUN 29, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM** Q124

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK

## JULY

**(FREE) THE UNITED IRISH OF DAYTON CELTIC FESTIVAL**

**FRI. JUL 26, 5:30-11:00 PM** Q78

**SAT. JUL 27, 11:30 AM-11:00 PM** Q79

**SUN. JUL 28, 9:00 AM-6:00 PM** Q80

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

[www.daytoncelticfestival.com](http://www.daytoncelticfestival.com)

## AUGUST

**SMALL FARM AND FOOD FEST**

**SAT. AUG 3, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM** Q33

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK

**(FREE) SUNSET AT THE MARKET**

**THU. AUG 8, 5:30 - 8:30 PM** Q131

2ND STREET MARKET

**(FREE) DAYTON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL**

**SAT. AUG 17, 12:00-8:00 PM** Q294

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

[daacf.com](http://daacf.com)

## SEPTEMBER

**WEGERZYN GARDENS FOUNDATION ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY**

**THU. SEP 12, 5:30 - 8:00 PM** Q295

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK

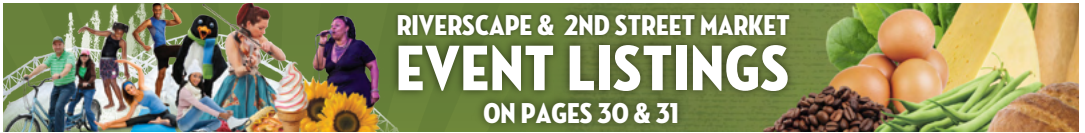
[www.wegerz yngardensfoundation.org](http://www.wegerz yngardensfoundation.org)

**(FREE) HISPANIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

**SAT. SEP 21, 11:00 AM-11:00 PM** Q235

RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

[www.facebook.com/PACODayton](http://www.facebook.com/PACODayton)



### PROGRAM GUIDE

#### HOW TO REGISTER



##### ONLINE

Search online at [metroparks.org/programs](http://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

## OLDER ADULT ADVENTURES

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

### HIKING (FREE)

**WED. MAY 8, 1:30-3:30 PM** P48  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

**MON. JUN 17, 1:30-3:00 PM** Q214  
TWIN CREEK METROPARK

**MON. JUL 15, 1:30-3:00 PM** Q219  
HILLS & DALES METROPARK

**MON. AUG 19, 1:30-3:00 PM** Q220  
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK

**MON. SEP 16, 1:30-3:00 PM** Q221  
EASTWOOD METROPARK

### MOUNTAIN BIKING

**TUE. JUN 11, 1:30-3:00 PM** Q164  
HUFFMAN METROPARK

Fee: \$15

### KAYAKING

**TUE. JUN 18, 3:30-5:00 PM** Q236  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Fee: \$12

## PADDLING

### (FREE) TRY PADDLESPO RTS

**TUE. JUN 18, 6:00-8:00 PM** Q158  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

**THU. JUL 11, 4:00-7:00 PM** Q159  
EASTWOOD METROPARK

**MON. AUG 5, 4:00-7:00 PM** Q160  
EASTWOOD METROPARK

### SWIFTWATER RESCUE FOR PADDLERS

**SAT., SUN. JUN 22-23, 8:30 AM-6:00 PM** Q279  
EASTWOOD METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up. Fee: \$235 🏠



## CAMPING

### GREAT AMERICAN CAMPOUT

**SAT. JUN 22, 3:00 PM -**

**SUN. JUN 23, 10:00 AM** Q162  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Fee: \$30 🏠

## FISHING

### (FREE) TRY FLY FISHING

**THU. JUN 13, 4:30-7:30 PM** Q2

**THU. JUL 18, 5:30-8:30 PM** Q4  
EASTWOOD METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up

## MOUNTAIN BIKING

### (FREE) TRY MOUNTAIN BIKING

**THU. MAY 2, 4:00-7:00 PM** P190

**TUE. JUN 11, 4:00-7:00 PM** Q143

**TUE. JUL 9, 4:00-7:00 PM** Q146

**TUE. AUG 6, 4:00-7:00 PM** Q148

**TUE. SEP 3, 4:00-7:00 PM** Q150  
HUFFMAN METROPARK

A dark green graphic for the "TAKE THE METROPARKS TRAILS CHALLENGE". It features a dashed white line forming a path with icons of a hiker, a cyclist, and a horse rider. The text "TAKE THE METROPARKS TRAILS CHALLENGE" is prominently displayed in orange and green. Below it, it says "PRESENTED BY HUFFY" in white. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text and a QR code.

**TAKE THE METROPARKS TRAILS CHALLENGE**

PRESENTED BY  
**HUFFY**

It's not too late to join the 2024 MetroParks Trails Challenge! Have fun exploring 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.

For more information and to register, scan the code or visit **METROPARKS.ORG/TRAILSCHALLENGE**





# 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 June 4-late October.
- Summer horse camps are held June 6-Aug. 12.
- Fall horseback riding lessons begin in Sept.

Carriage Hill Riding Center,  
8111 E. Shull Rd.

For details and to register:  
**METROPARKS.ORG/  
RIDINGCENTER**



*Access to Nature financial assistance  
available for lessons and camps;  
visit [metroparks.org/access](http://metroparks.org/access).*

### 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**

## 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](http://metroparks.org/mobile) to download.*



**METROPARKS.ORG/MINDFUL**

## SAVE THE DATE

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY OCTOBER 5&6



The Midwest's premier  
outdoor adventure festival

**EASTWOOD METROPARK  
METROPARKS.ORG/OUTDOORX**

## RESERVATIONS & RENTALS

### OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Enjoy the outdoors by reserving a campsite or shelter.

**METROPARKS.ORG/RESERVATIONS**

### OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

Rent items for camping, backpacking and cycling.

**METROPARKS.ORG/EQUIPMENT**



# ADULT NATURE EXPLORATION

## CONSERVATION & CITIZEN SCIENCE

### MOTH ECOLOGY AND RESEARCH

**FRI. JUL 26, 9:00 PM-12:00 AM** Q285

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Fee: \$5 🎟

## FLORA & FAUNA

### FROGS OF OHIO

**FRI. MAY 24, 8:00-10:00 PM** P10

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$8 🎟

### SPRING MIGRANT BIRD WALK

**SAT. MAY 25, 8:00-10:00 AM** P31

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🎟

### MAY WILDFLOWER ID

**SAT. MAY 25, 1:00-3:00 PM** P29

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$8 🎟

### (FREE) OWL WALK

**SAT. MAY 25, 9:00-10:30 PM** P33

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up 🎟

### NATIVE TREE ID

**SAT. JUL 6, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** Q17

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🎟

### BUTTERFLY ID

**SAT. JUL 6, 1:00-3:30 PM** Q16

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$8 🎟

### COYOTE SEARCH

**SAT. JUL 6, 8:30-10:30 PM** Q18

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$5 🎟

### COMMON FEEDER BIRDS

**SAT. JUL 13, 9:00-11:00 AM** Q19

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$5 🎟

### STREAM FISHES OF OHIO

**SAT. JUL 13, 1:00-4:00 PM** Q21

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$10 🎟

### NOCTURNAL WILDLIFE HIKE

**SAT. JUL 13, 9:00-10:30 PM** Q20

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$3 🎟

### MOTH TRAPPING

**FRI. AUG 9, 8:00-10:00 PM** Q284

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🎟

### BEAVER WATCH

**FRI. AUG 23, 8:30-9:30 PM** Q23

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$5 🎟

### MIGRATING BIRD WALK

**SAT. SEP 7, 9:00-11:00 AM** Q24

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$5 🎟

### SPIDER ID AND ECOLOGY

**SAT. SEP 7, 1:00-3:30 PM** Q25

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Age: 14Y and up Fee: \$8 🎟

## GARDENING

### WALK WITH THE HORTICULTURIST

During these walks learn about the plants and plantings, and ask questions.

#### COX IN MAY

**WED. MAY 8, 6:00-7:00 PM** P185

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$8 🎟

#### WEGERZYN IN JUNE

**WED. JUN 5, 6:00-7:00 PM** Q133

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$8 🎟

#### SUMMER GARDENS AT COX

**WED. JUL 10, 6:00-7:00 PM** Q134

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$8 🎟

#### LATE SUMMER GARDEN CHANGES

**WED. AUG 7, 6:00-7:00 PM** Q135

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$8 🎟



# ADULT NATURE EXPLORATION

## HERITAGE & HISTORY

VISIT THE PAST

**SAT. JUL 20, 10:00-11:00 AM** Q111  
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK

**SAT. AUG 10, 10:00-11:00 AM** Q118  
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$7 🍷

## PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

PHOTOGRAPHY OUTING  
AT THE RIVER

**SUN. MAY 19, 1:00-2:30 PM** P169  
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$16 🍷

PHOTOGRAPHY OUTING  
AT THE FARM

**SAT. JUN 8, 10:00-11:30 AM** Q106  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$16 🍷

PHOTOGRAPHY A LA MODE

**SAT. JUL 20, 10:00-11:30 AM** Q125  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🍷

PHOTOGRAPHY SCAVENGER  
HUNT

**SUN. AUG 4,**  
**1:00-2:30 PM** Q117

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$18 🍷

GOLDEN HOUR  
PHOTOGRAPHY

**SAT. SEP 7,**  
**6:30-8:00 PM** Q112

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK

Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$20 🍷

FIND MORE  
ONLINE



SCAN FOR A  
FULL LIST OF  
PROGRAMS



## ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL

Adopting a horse or cat from the Carriage Hill Riding Center supports health care and other projects benefiting the animals.



## 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.



# EARTH FRIENDLY LIVING

## GARDENING

### SUMMER GARDENING Q&A

Stop by the Market to learn from and ask questions of MetroParks gardening expert Betty Hoevel.  
2ND STREET MARKET

**(FREE)** HEIRLOOM TOMATOES  
AND HOW TO GROW THEM  
**FRI. MAY 10, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM** P69

**(FREE)** MAKING AN HERB BASKET  
FOR PATIO OR GARDEN  
**FRI. JUN 7, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM** Q9

**(FREE)** HARVESTING AND  
PRESERVING  
**FRI. JUL 12, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM** Q10

**(FREE)** TRANSITION GARDEN:  
SUMMER TO FALL  
**FRI. AUG 9, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM** Q11

### GETTING THE GARDEN PLANTED

**SAT. MAY 11, 10:00-11:30 AM** P166  
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK  
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

### POCKET NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

**SUN. MAY 19, 1:00-2:30 PM** P168  
RIVERSCAPE METROPARK  
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

### LANDSCAPE LESSONS

Use MetroParks gardens to learn about seasonal bloom and development, garden structure and design, and how to create gardens that enhance the environment.

**GARDENING IN THE HEAT**  
**SAT. JUN 1, 10:00-11:30 AM** Q104  
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK  
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

**NATIVE PLANTS AND  
SHADE GARDENS**  
**SAT. JUL 13, 10:00-11:30 AM** Q110  
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK  
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

**PLACING NATIVES IN THE  
LANDSCAPE**  
**SAT. AUG 17, 10:00-11:30 AM** Q119  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK  
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

**FALL COLOR IN THE GARDEN**  
**SAT. SEP 14, 10:00-11:30 AM** Q123  
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK  
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

### LAST CHANCE VEGGIE GARDEN PLANTING

**SAT. JUN 8, 10:00-11:30 AM** Q105  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK  
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$15 🍷

## NATURE APPRECIATION

**TOUR AULLWOOD**  
**WED. MAY 15, 6:00-7:00 PM** P170  
**WED. JUN 12, 6:00-7:00 PM** Q109  
**WED. JUL 17, 6:00-7:00 PM** Q116  
**WED. AUG 14, 6:00-7:00 PM** Q122  
AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK  
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$7 🍷

**PRAIRIE TOUR**  
**SAT. JUL 27, 10:00-11:00 AM** Q113  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK  
Age: 18Y and up Fee: \$7 🍷

## SUSTAINABLE HOME

**(FREE)** COMPOST  
KITCHEN  
**THU. JUL. 11-18,**  
**6:00-8:00 PM** Q157  
POSSUM CREEK  
METROPARK  
Age: 18Y 🍷

FIND MORE  
ONLINE



SCAN FOR A  
FULL LIST OF  
PROGRAMS



### HEALING NATURE

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





**SATURDAY  
AUGUST 3**

**10 AM to 5 PM**

Free, all ages  
Carriage Hill  
MetroPark



- Discover time-honored farming skills that help you live more sustainably today
- Learn about healthy eating
- Attend workshops, demos & talks
- Shop an outdoor farmers market
- Food trucks, live music, games, wagon rides

**METROPARKS.ORG/FARMFEST**



## PICK YOUR OWN: AT POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

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### GREENS AND HERBS

- **Wednesdays — 4:30-6:30 PM**  
JUNE 12 (Q223)  
JUNE 19 (Q222)  
JUNE 26 (Q224)

### FLOWERS, PRODUCE AND HERBS

- **Wednesdays — 4:30-6:30 PM**  
JULY 3 - SEPT 4 (Q225 - Q234)

Registration required.  
Fee: \$15

## RENT A FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT

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### 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 May - Sept., 2 - 5 PM, various MetroParks.

## 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**



## FRIDAY, MAY 24

6 TO 9 PM • RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

Complete activities to fill your **Passport to MetroParks** – collect stamps and enter to win great prizes!

Learn more about your MetroParks and kick off the summer festival season with:

- more than a dozen games and activities
- food trucks, live music and music bingo
- a sneak peek of the Dayton Celtic Festival, Hispanic Heritage Festival and Dayton African American Cultural Festival

[METROPARKS.ORG/PASSPORT](http://METROPARKS.ORG/PASSPORT)



## MUD DAY

Join us on June 29 from 10 AM - 1 PM at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark for everything mud: wading pools, mud building, murals and mud face painting, games and crafts for all. Dress for muddy fun!



## Fall Family Adventure

SAVE THE DATE:  
**SATURDAY**  
**OCT. 19**  
**4 TO 7 PM**

Enjoy crafts, storytelling, music and more at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark – all while exploring nature and meeting MetroParks' Animal Ambassadors – at this free event.



## 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](http://METROPARKS.ORG/ACCESS)





# FAMILY & CHILDREN

## MOTHER AND SON FISHING DAY

**SAT. MAY 4, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** P45

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Fee: \$5 🗝️

## (FREE) MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

**SAT. MAY 4, 1:00-3:30 PM** P224

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK 🗝️

## SEED BOMBS FOR POLLINATORS

**SAT. MAY 11, 10:30-11:30 AM** P202

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Fee: \$15 🗝️

## (FREE) FAMILY TRAM TOUR

**MON. JUN 3, 6:00-6:45 PM** Q107

**MON. JUN 3, 7:00-7:45 PM** Q108

**MON. JUL 1, 6:00-6:45 PM** Q114

**MON. JUL 1, 7:00-7:45 PM** Q115

**MON. AUG 5, 6:00-6:45 PM** Q120

**MON. AUG 5, 7:00-7:45 PM** Q121

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK 🗝️

## FATHER AND DAUGHTER

### FISHING DAY

**SAT. JUN 15, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** Q3

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Fee: \$5 🗝️

## PROPAGATING HERBS FROM CUTTINGS

**SAT. JUN 22, 10:30-11:30 AM** Q155

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Fee: \$15 🗝️

## NESTWATCH MONITORING

**SAT. MAY 18, 2:00-3:30 PM** P162

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗝️ ▲

## (FREE) INSECT INVESTIGATION

**SAT. MAY 25, 10:00-11:30 AM** P163

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK 🗝️ ▲

## NOCTURNAL BACKYARD INSECTS

**SAT. MAY 25, 8:00-10:00 PM** P165

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗝️ ▲

## NIGHTTIME INSECT EXPLORATION

**FRI. JUN 7, 8:00-10:00 PM** Q244

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗝️ ▲

## EASTERN BLUEBIRD NESTBOX MONITORING

**SAT. JUN 15, 10:00-11:30 AM** Q249

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗝️ ▲

## (FREE) BUTTERFLY SAFARI

**SAT. JUN 15, 2:00-3:30 PM** Q250

SUGARCREEK METROPARK 🗝️ ▲

## (FREE) WOODLAND NESTING BIRDS

**SAT. JUN 22, 10:00-11:30 AM** Q251

HILLS & DALES METROPARK 🗝️ ▲

## TOGETHER WITH FIREFLIES

**SAT. JUN 22, 7:30-9:30 PM** Q252

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗝️ ▲

## BUZZWORTHY CITIZEN SCIENCE

**SAT. JUN 29, 3:00-4:30 PM** Q253

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗝️ ▲

## (FREE) NATURE'S DEFENSES

**SAT. JUL 6, 6:00-7:00 PM** Q254

GERMANTOWN METROPARK 🗝️ ▲

## NATURE GAMES

**SAT. JUL 13, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** Q256

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗝️ ▲

## YOUTH SCIENTIST EXPLORATION

### - iNATURALIST

**SAT. JUL 20, 1:00-2:30 PM** Q257

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK

Fee: \$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](http://metroparks.org/kids).

## PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

**SAT. MAY 4, 9:30-11:00 AM** P158

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🗝️ ▲

## (FREE) MEET OUR NATIVE TREES

**SAT. MAY 4, 3:00-4:30 PM** P159

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK 🗝️ ▲

# FAMILY & CHILDREN

**(FREE) WETLAND ESCAPE**  
**SAT. JUL 20, 4:00-5:30 PM** Q258  
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK 🍷 ▲

**WATERWAY CHECK-UP**  
**SAT. JUL 27, 3:00-4:30 PM** Q261  
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK  
Fee: \$3 🍷 ▲

**TREES & OUR CLIMATE**  
**SAT. AUG 10, 2:00-3:30 PM** Q291  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK  
Fee: \$3 🍷 ▲

**(FREE) WETLAND EXPLORATION**  
**FRI. AUG 16, 6:30-7:30 PM** Q273  
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK 🍷 ▲

**CREEK GUIDE TRAINING**  
**SAT. AUG 17, 4:00-6:00 PM** Q275  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK  
Fee: \$3 🍷 ▲

**(FREE) BAT SEARCH**  
**SAT. AUG 24, 8:00-9:00 PM** Q288  
HILLS & DALES METROPARK 🍷 ▲

**PRAIRIE SEED COLLECTING**  
**SAT. AUG 31, 3:30-5:00 PM** Q277  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK  
Fee: \$3 🍷 ▲

**BACKYARD NATURALIST TRAINING**  
**SAT. SEP 7, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** Q270  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK  
Fee: \$3 🍷 ▲

**MONARCH HEALTH**  
**FRI. SEP 13, 6:00-7:30 PM** Q265  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK  
Fee: \$3 🍷 ▲

**(FREE) SPIDER SEARCH**  
**SAT. SEP 21, 7:00-8:30 PM** Q269  
HILLS & DALES METROPARK 🍷 ▲

**(FREE) WOODPECKER WATCH**  
**SAT. SEP 28, 2:30-3:30 PM** Q264  
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK 🍷 ▲

**FOREST AND PRAIRIE**  
**WED. JUN 26, 1:00-2:00 PM** Q281

**INSECTS**  
**WED. JUL 10, 1:00-2:00 PM** Q282

**5 SENSES**  
**WED. JUL 24, 1:00-2:00 PM** Q292

**SEED HUNT**  
**WED. AUG 7, 1:00-2:00 PM** Q293

## PRESCHOOL

### STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN

Enjoy wonderful stories about nature in the Children Discovery Garden at Wegerzyn. Fee per Family: \$3 🍷

**HOW SEEDS MOVE**  
**FRI. MAY 17, 11:00-11:45 AM** P225

**FLOWER TALK**  
**FRI. JUN 14, 11:00-11:45 AM** Q245

**GROWING A FOREST**  
**FRI. JUL 19, 11:00-11:45 AM** Q246

### TIKE HIKE

Explore nature with your preschooler. Dress for the weather and to get wet and dirty. Age: 3Y-5Y 🍷

**(FREE) TIKE HIKE**  
**MON. MAY 20, 10:00-11:00 AM** P67  
GERMANTOWN METROPARK

**FRI. JUN 7, 10:00-11:00 AM** Q5  
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK

**TUE. JUL 9, 10:00-11:00 AM** Q8  
HILLS & DALES METROPARK

**WED. AUG 28, 10:00-11:00 AM** Q306  
GERMANTOWN METROPARK

**FRI. SEP 6, 10:00-11:00 AM** Q307  
SUGARCREEK METROPARK

## CHILDREN'S GARDEN WONDERS

Have you experienced the amazing Children's Garden at Wegerzyn? Join us for wonder and fun as we explore different areas of the Children's Discovery Garden and how it helps us learn about the world around us. Fee per Family: \$3 🍷

**THE POND**  
**WED. JUN 12, 1:00-2:00 PM** Q280

## CELEBRATE OUTDOORS

Reserve a campsite or shelter for your next event.





# FAMILY & CHILDREN

## YOUTH & TEEN

### MORNING CHORES

**SAT. MAY 4, 8:30-9:30 AM** P145

**SAT. JUN 1, 8:30-9:30 AM** Q34

**SAT. JUL 6, 8:30-9:30 AM** Q35

**SAT. AUG 10, 8:30-9:30 AM** Q36

**SAT. SEP 7, 8:30-9:30 AM** Q37

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.

### FOREST COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

**SAT. MAY 25, 1:30-4:30 PM** P226

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🍷

### WILDFLOWER FIELD

#### IDENTIFICATION

**SAT. JUN 8, 1:00-3:00 PM** Q247

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🍷

### DRAGONFLY DISCOVERY

**SAT. JUN 22, 2:30-4:30 PM** Q262

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🍷

### SPIDER SEARCH AND

#### IDENTIFICATION

**SAT. AUG 17, 7:30-9:30 PM** Q283

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🍷

### RADIO TELEMETRY

**SAT. AUG 24, 2:00-4:00 PM** Q286

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🍷

### INVERTEBRATE SAMPLING

#### INVESTIGATION

**SAT. SEP 7, 3:00-5:00 PM** Q272

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🍷

### EXPLORING ADAPTATIONS

**SAT. SEP 21, 2:00-4:00 PM** Q271

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK

Fee: \$3 🍷

### YOUTH KAYAK CAMP:

#### MOVING WATER

**TUE., WED. JUL. 23-24, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM** Q278

EASTWOOD METROPARK

Age: 9Y-17Y. Fee: \$90 🍷

### YOUTH MOUNTAIN

#### BIKING

#### SKILLS CLINIC

**THU. JUL 25,**

**1:00-5:00 PM** Q169

HUFFMAN METROPARK

Age: 9Y-17Y. Fee: \$20 🍷

FIND MORE  
ONLINE



SCAN FOR A  
FULL LIST OF  
PROGRAMS



*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
- Sugarcreek MetroPark
- Possum Creek MetroPark



[METROPARKS.ORG/  
LETSEXPLORE](https://www.metro-parks.org/letsexplore)





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

# SHOP FRESH & LOCAL 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 is open May 4 through the end of October.

Join the Market for special events, programs and celebrations.

- **Native Plant Sale:** Sunday, May 12
- **Tab-A-Pull-Ooza:** Saturday, May 18

## SUNSET AT THE MARKET

Shop, dine and enjoy entertainment during these evenings at the Market. June 13 and Aug. 8, 5:30-8:30 PM

- **Carriage Hill Steam Engine** at the Market: Sunday, July 21
- Join us for **National Farmers Market Week:** Aug. 5-11
- **Hunger Action Month** food drive with The Foodbank throughout September.
- **Summer Gardening Q&A Series:** See page 24

## CULTURE KITCHEN

Celebrate different cultures through food during these dinners held from 5:30-8:30 PM. Advance registration is required.

- **French Crepes:** Thursday, May 9 P243 Fee \$15
- **Farm to Table:** Thursday, July 11 Q290 Fee \$35
- **Hispanic Heritage:** Thursday, Sept. 12 Q287 Fee \$35

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

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



**METROPARKS.ORG/LOCALFOOD**





# ENJOY SUMMER AT RIVERSCAPE METROPARK

METROPARKS.ORG/RIVERSCAPE

## SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

Enjoy free concerts all summer long!  
Food, drinks, and alcoholic beverages (for those 21 and older) will be available for purchase at the RiverScape Café.



JUNE

- Friday, June 7: '90s Night • 6-9 PM
- Thursday, June 13: Big Band • 7-9 PM
- Friday, June 21: R&B • 7-9 PM
- Thursday, June 27: Celtic Folk Rock • 7-9 PM

JULY

- Friday, July 5: '60s British Rock • 6-9 PM
- Thursday, July 11: Reggae • 7-9 PM
- Thursday, July 18: Big Band • 7-9 PM

AUGUST

- Friday, August 2: Pickin' in the Park • 6-9 PM
- Thursday, August 8: Rock • 7-9 PM
- Thursday, August 15: Big Band • 7-9 PM
- Friday, August 23: '80s Night • 7-9 PM
- Thursday, August 29: R&B • 7-9 PM

## FITNESS IN THE PARK

PRESENTED BY



Scan for RiverScape  
MetroPark info



Enjoy free fitness classes most Saturday mornings  
from 10 to 11 AM all summer long!

**Yoga in the Park with Speakeasy Yoga**  
• May 11, June 1, July 6, July 20,  
Aug. 3, Aug. 31

**Zumba in the Park with Meghan Millat**  
• May 18, June 8, June 29, July 13,  
Aug. 10, Aug. 24



For more free fitness  
classes Monday-  
Wednesday at 6PM,  
check out our  
**Community Fitness**  
series online!

## FOUNTAINS, FOOD & FUN!

### FOUNTAINS

- The Five Rivers MetroParks Fountain of Lights operates for 10-minute intervals at the top of the hour.  
Monday-Friday 6:55 AM to 10:05 PM  
Saturday-Sunday 10:55 AM to 10:05 PM  
*(The fountain may turn off early or not operate depending on wind and other weather conditions.)*

- Interactive Fountain open daily from 11 AM to 8 PM



### FOOD & DRINK

- Fountain Snack Bar hours vary.
- RiverScape Cafe will have extended evening hours, an upgraded menu, and alcoholic beverages for those 21 and older.



### KAYAKING

Open June-October:  
Rent kayaks from Taiters Kayak Solutions on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



## NEW THIS YEAR! TUESDAY NIGHTS IN THE PARK

- First Tuesdays: Cornhole Tournaments
- Second Tuesdays: Live Local Musicians
- Third Tuesdays: Music Bingo
- Fourth Tuesdays: Live Local Musicians



From June-October, enjoy free activities, food and drinks from the RiverScape Cafe and, for those 21 and older, a variety of cocktails, beer and wine.

# 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](https://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](https://metroparks.org/ParkWaysOnline)
- Sign up for Five Rivers MetroParks' email newsletters: [metroparks.org/newsletter](https://metroparks.org/newsletter)
- Download MetroParks' mobile app, powered by OuterSpatial: [metroparks.org/mobile](https://metroparks.org/mobile)
- Call (937) 275-PARK (7275)

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



## HOLD ON TO YOUR PARKWAYS!

This issue covers select programs from May 1 through September 30, 2024.

Five Rivers MetroParks  
409 East Monument Avenue,  
Third Floor  
Dayton, Ohio 45402-1260

FIVE RIVERS  
METROPARKS

TM

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