

# PARKWAYS

YOUR GUIDE TO FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS NEWS AND PROGRAMS



## WE'RE ON THE MAP

WHY THE DAYTON REGION IS AN  
OUTDOOR RECREATION DESTINATION

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# WE'RE ON THE MAP

*The Dayton region is an outdoor recreation and nature-based destination.*

When Candace Mitchell, director of operations for American Trails, visited Dayton during its bid to host the organization's International Trails Symposium, she was enthusiastic about the region's outdoor amenities, can-do spirit and community partnerships.

"My site visit to Dayton was very inspiring," said Mitchell, who will again be in Dayton for the Symposium in May. "I was impressed with the variety and quality of trails."

Indeed, partnering organizations and volunteers have created a system in which most Dayton-area residents live within 10 to 15 minutes of a trail. Southwest Ohio is home to the nation's largest paved trail network, which draws a total of approximately 772,000

visitors every year, according to the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. In late 2016, the Dayton region's 300-plus mile paved recreation trail network was linked with one in the Columbus area, connecting an additional 119 miles.

"The Dayton community understands the importance of outdoor recreation as an economic driver and way to increase everyone's access to the outdoors and places where they can have healthy, active lifestyles," said Amy Dingle, Five Rivers MetroParks director of outdoor connections.

*Sometimes, it takes a visitor to remind us how great our region is.*

Local and national studies show access to outdoor recreation amenities and places to connect with nature increase property values, make an area a more desirable business address, help retain and grow a talented workforce, and improve overall quality of life, including health and wellness measures. Communities throughout the Dayton region understand these benefits and are investing in their riverfronts and other outdoor amenities.

Just one example is the Great Miami River Watershed Trail. In June 2016, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior designated it a National Water Trail system. The water trail – which includes the Great Miami, Stillwater and Mad rivers – is the only national water trail in Ohio. Benefits of this designation include national promotion and visibility, increased tourism and money to local economies, and improved public health and quality of life.

Now, 18 agencies are partnering to build a strong, unified identity for this river corridor: The Great Miami Riverway, a 99-mile mixed-use district of charming river towns connected by land and water trails extending from Sidney to Hamilton.

"Partnerships are a big part of trails, and the Dayton community has great experience with this," Mitchell said. "The community is on track to do big things."

## GET OUT & GET INVOLVED

10TH ANNUAL RIVER SUMMIT  
Friday, March 24 • 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
University of Dayton River Campus  
RiversInstitute@udayton.edu

MIAMI VALLEY CYCLING SUMMIT  
Friday, May 5 • 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Wright State University  
cyclingsummit.com

INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SYMPOSIUM  
FREE PUBLIC DAY  
Sunday, May 7 • noon to 5 PM  
Dayton Convention Center

Visit [metroparks.org](http://metroparks.org) for more information closer to the event.

See page 4  
for more on the  
INTERNATIONAL  
TRAILS SYMPOSIUM

## LEARN MORE:

[metroparks.org](http://metroparks.org)  
[miamivalleytrails.org](http://miamivalleytrails.org)  
[outdoordayton.com](http://outdoordayton.com)

## DAYTON: THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAPITAL OF THE MIDWEST

The Dayton region is home to an abundance of outdoor amenities and accolades. Here's a sampling:

- The nation's largest paved trail network, where you can experience more than 300 miles of connected trails
- The Mad River Run at Eastwood MetroPark and the nearly completed RiverScape River Run
- The North Country National Scenic Trail and Ohio's state trail, the Buckeye Trail
- Dayton Regional Rowing, the nation's only Community Olympic Development Program for rowing
- Outdoor adventure festival Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience and local celebration of National Bike to Work Day
- The MetroParks Mountain Bike Area (MoMBA)
- The 22-mile Twin Valley Backpacking Trail connecting Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks
- The Blue Heron disc golf course at Englewood MetroPark, one of more than a dozen in the region.
- The Great Miami, Stillwater and Mad rivers are Ohio State Water Trails and comprise the newly designated Great Miami River Watershed National Water Trail.
- The Stillwater and Little Miami rivers are Ohio State Scenic Rivers. The Little Miami River is a National Wild and Scenic River.
- The League of American Bicyclists has named Dayton, Springboro, Piqua and Troy as Bronze-Level Bicycle Friendly Communities.
- The League of American Bicyclists has named 11 businesses in the Dayton region as Bicycle Friendly Businesses.
- The Buckeye Trail and North Country Trail associations designated Dayton, Troy, Xenia and Piqua official Trail Towns.
- *Outside Magazine* awarded Dayton with an honorable mention in its 2015 "Best Outdoor Towns" list.