WE’RE ON THE MAP

WHY THE DAYTON REGION IS AN OUTDOOR RECREATION DESTINATION

HIT THESE TRAILS TO SEE LOCAL WILDLIFE
SEE PAGE 8-9

HOW YOU CAN HELP INCREASE CHILDREN’S ACCESS TO NATURE
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LEARN NEW OUTDOOR SKILLS WITH METROPARKS’ STAFF EXPERTS
SEE PAGES 12-13
The Dayton region is an outdoor recreation and nature-based destination.

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.

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. “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.”

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

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.”

About the Map

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

- The Dayton region is an outdoor recreation and nature-based destination.
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International Trails Symposium

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 for more information.

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
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LEARN MORE:
metroparks.org
miamivalleytrails.org
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 Buckeye Trail and North Country Trail associations designated Dayton, Troy, Xenia and Piqua official Trail Towns.
- The League of American Bicyclists has named Dayton, Troy, Xenia and Piqua 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.

LEARN MORE:
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See page 4 for more on the INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SYMPOSIUM