

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Five Rivers MetroParks Breaks Ground for the Next Phase of RiverScape MetroPark

Dayton, OH - Five Rivers MetroParks is excited to announce the commencement of Phase III of RiverScape MetroPark, a project that will offer more amenities for visitor comfort and accommodate the needs of RiverScape's continuing success.

Ground was officially broken to initiate Phase III on April 7 at 10 am. In representation of Phase III as a true community partnership project, the ceremony was attended by Five Rivers MetroParks Board of Commissioners and staff, community partners such as Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Downtown Dayton Partnership and Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority as well as public officials including Mayor Rhine McLin and a representative from Congressman Mike Turner's office, whose assistance was invaluable in securing federal transportation grants to fund the majority of the project.

Executive Director Charlie Shoemaker sees Phase III as a fundamental element in the increasing vitality of downtown and an opportunity to build upon the existing foundation of community partnerships. "Since opening in 2001, RiverScape has time and again demonstrated its value as a stable urban space in Dayton where all segments of our community come together to celebrate our local pride and socialize in a unique and beautiful setting," he said. "The ability of MetroParks and our partners to gain the support for this next phase stands as a testament to RiverScape's success and acceptance as a defining piece of our urban environment."

Known for breathtaking landscapes, interactive fountains and free entertainment along the banks of the Great Miami River, RiverScape MetroPark has become a favorite outdoor gathering place in downtown Dayton. For almost nine years, this downtown hotspot has offered a cool getaway right in the middle of the city with free concerts, laser light and music shows, educational programming and the community's favorite festivals amid the scene of floral landscapes, hanging baskets and relaxing swings.

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Plans for RiverScape MetroPark Phase III include:

- A performance pavilion with a stage and covered seating for festivals, community events, free entertainment or just a relaxing lunch with friends. In the winter, the pavilion will house the ice rink, allowing for expanded hours.
- A new bike hub with secure bike storage, showers and lockers will provide a central location for downtown commuters going to work or play.

RiverScape MetroPark will still be open for public enjoyment during construction and the community's favorite events will still be held. More details about additional upcoming events and programming will be forthcoming as Phase III progresses.

Five Rivers MetroParks would like to thank its partners and the Dayton community for helping RiverScape MetroPark become an integral part of downtown and a symbol of the city's pride and cultural heritage.

ABOUT FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

Five Rivers MetroParks focuses on three areas - conservation, recreation and education - as part of its role as steward of Greater Dayton's public lands. Established in 1963 through the efforts of forward-thinking citizens concerned about preserving green space and natural areas, Five Rivers MetroParks has grown to a nationally renowned park system composed of natural area parks, gardens, sensitive river corridors, urban parks, and a network of recreation trails. Educational programs and recreational opportunities are offered year-round for all ages. And, diverse natural habitats are being protected and cared for today to assure their existence in the future.

To learn more about Five Rivers MetroParks, log onto www.metroparks.org or call (937) 275-PARK.

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