

of volunteerism. He served for many years as an ambassador for the department as CRC's volunteer coordinator. Under his watch, countless playgrounds were built, recreation center walls were painted, and grounds were landscaped. Wayne will be deeply missed by all who worked with him at the CRC.

Cincinnati Recreation Commission's Dempsey Aquatic Center is new and improved and celebrated its first day of the season on Saturday, May 23. Hundreds of visitors will be able to enjoy Dempsey's new amenities this summer.

Clark County Park District

Clark County Park District Commissioners are excited to welcome Interim Director Carol Kennard. Carol replaces retired Director Jim Campbell. Carol has more than 30 years of experience in Ohio Parks Management. She retired as the director of the Centerville-Washington Park District in December 2014, after leading that Park District for 17 years.



Fairfield Parks & Recreation Department

On Memorial Day, the city of Fairfield and Fairfield Parks and Recreation held a ceremony to formally dedicate the Gold Star Family Memorial, a memorial that recognizes the



families that lost a loved one in the service of their country. Remarks were provided by special guest Hershel "Woody" Williams, of the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. The Gold Star Family Memorial is the vision of Hershel W. Williams, Iwo Jima Medal of Honor recipient. Additional remarks were provided by city of Fairfield Mayor Steve Miller.

Five Rivers MetroParks

Five Rivers MetroParks has launched a philanthropic foundation. The Five Rivers MetroParks Foundation creates a more strategic, structured way for donors to support the organization. Charitable contributions now can be designated for all parks or a specific park; directed to educational and recreational programs; or used for conservation, special projects and long-term support.

Five Rivers MetroParks is celebrating 10 years of outdoor recreation. The agency's outdoor adventure strategy was developed as a way to help people connect with nature and experience the outdoors. The focus was and remains on providing access, enabling people to play in the outdoors close to home. Today, outdoor recreation staff members — who are experts in their fields — continue to

provide programming that offers a progression of skills development and the means to use those skills independently. Programs also teach environmental ethics, such as Leave No Trace practices.

Enhancements were made this summer to the MetroParks Mountain Bike Area (MoMBA) at Huffman MetroPark. A beginner trail was built near MoMBA's trailhead, restrooms were added, and upgrades were made to parking. This project will be paid for primarily with funds from an Ohio Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trail Project grant, the first of its kind to be granted for a mountain-biking-specific facility.

Construction began on RiverScape River Run, located in the Great Miami River in the heart of downtown Dayton. J & J Schlaegel of Urbana was selected as general contractor for River Run, which includes the removal of a dangerous low dam and addition of structures spanning the river with passages for paddlers and kayakers, along with amenities for fishing. RiverScape River Run will complete a 7-mile paddle from Eastwood MetroPark on the Mad River through RiverScape MetroPark in downtown Dayton to Carillon Historical Park and the University of Dayton area. Approximately \$4 million was raised from partners, businesses and private individuals for the project.

Five Rivers MetroParks unveiled new interpretive signs and plant identification markers, as well as brochures, at the Huffman Prairie Conservation Area and State Natural Landmark. The project was made possible by an \$11,700 grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund and a partnership with the National Park Service and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The Discover Huffman Prairie project is a collaboration between Five Rivers MetroParks, the 88th Air Base Wing Civil Engineering Group and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

Mark Lockhart has joined Five Rivers MetroParks as a regional park manager. Lockhart holds a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation/natural resource management from the University of Maryland and is a Certified Public Manager through Wright State University/Ohio DAS.