Miami Valley Recreational Open Space Regional Profile

Our 5+ County Region includes Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and northern Warren

927,133 PEOPLE
158,626 SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN
137,917 SENIORS
244,061 FAMILIES

Our Region has many types of recreational open space.

- **General Outdoor Recreation Areas**
  - 26,984 acres
  - Areas for active recreation like athletic fields, walking trails, playgrounds, and golf courses

- **Natural Environment Protection Areas**
  - 17,356 acres
  - Areas that not only serve people, but also provide a habitat for wildlife

- **Natural Environment Recreation Areas**
  - 10,853 acres
  - Areas with larger scale natural amenities like scout camps and fishing lakes

4% of the Region's area can be classified as recreational open space.

- 55,193 total acres
- Up 2% from 2005
- 2,593 sq ft per person
- Up 2% from 2005

Miami Valley’s Largest Landowners of Recreational Open Space

- Miami Conservancy District
- Greene Co. Park District
- Miami Valley Boy Scouts
- Centerville-Wash. Park Dist.
- City of Dayton
- Mont. County
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Five Rivers MetroParks
- Miami Co. Park District

Miami Valley’s Largest Recreational Sites

- Rush Run Wildlife Area
- German-town MetroPark
- Upper Twin Conservation Area
- Hueston Woods State Park
- Sycamore State Park
- Englewood MetroPark
- Caesar Creek Lake Wildlife
- Taylorsville MetroPark

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) maintains a regional open space inventory GIS dataset. This dataset, available at www.mvrpc.org/mapgallery, was last updated in 2015. MVRPC used the 2005 and 2015 datasets for this Recreational Open Space Regional Profile.
Our Region offers a variety of high quality recreational open spaces that matter to our health, environment, and quality of life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>SQF per Person</th>
<th>Change from 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darke County</td>
<td>2,687</td>
<td>2,210</td>
<td>-4% / -3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene County</td>
<td>12,355</td>
<td>3,331</td>
<td>+7% / -2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami County</td>
<td>7,804</td>
<td>3,316</td>
<td>+9% / +5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>23,623</td>
<td>1,923</td>
<td>+3% / +7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preble County</td>
<td>7,679</td>
<td>7,914</td>
<td>-11% / -11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>northern Warren County</td>
<td>1,044</td>
<td>1,392</td>
<td>+11% / -3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of us spend time and enjoy activities when we visit recreational open spaces.

U.S. statistics:
- 49% of the U.S. population participated in an outdoor activity in 2003
- 64% of youth ages 6 to 19 spend 2 or more hours outdoors on a typical weekday
- Running, including jogging and trail running, is the most popular activity in the U.S.
- 70+% of outdoor participants go outdoors as a way of getting exercise
- 53% of outdoor enthusiasts also walked (2013)
- 7% increase in the number of people who participated in nature-based outdoor recreation (between 2000 and 2009)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000 and 2010
Source: Outdoor Recreation Trends and Futures, H. Ken Cordell, 2012
Recreational open space is present throughout our Region with each county offering different strengths.

### General Outdoor Recreation Areas

**Montgomery County**, as the Region’s most urban county, holds the lion’s share of General Outdoor Recreation Areas in the Region.

![Pie chart showing General Outdoor Recreation Areas distribution by county.]

The regional average of General Outdoor Recreation Areas is 1,268 sq ft per person.

![Bar chart showing General Outdoor Recreation Areas distribution by county.]

### Natural Environment Protection Areas

**Montgomery County** and **Greene County** hold the largest share of Natural Environment Protection Areas.

![Pie chart showing Natural Environment Protection Areas distribution by county.]

The regional average for Natural Environment Protection Areas is 815 sq ft per person.

![Bar chart showing Natural Environment Protection Areas distribution by county.]

### Natural Environment Recreation Areas

**Preble County**, home of Hueston Woods State Park and Woodland Trails Boy Scout Camp, hosts over a third of the Region’s Natural Environment Recreation Areas.

![Pie chart showing Natural Environment Recreation Areas distribution by county.]

The regional average for Natural Environment Recreation Areas is 510 sq ft per person.

![Bar chart showing Natural Environment Recreation Areas distribution by county.]

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2010
Recreational open spaces across the Region are conveniently close to people but have different characteristics depending on where they are located.

Rural areas have fewer but larger Natural Environment Protection Areas while urban areas have many smaller General Outdoor Recreational Areas.

**106 acres:** average size in rural areas  
**21 acres:** average size in urban areas

In both rural and urban areas, the majority of people live in very close proximity to general outdoor recreational areas.

- **General Outdoor Recreation Areas:** 54% within ¼ mile, 27% within ½ mile, 19% outside ½ mile
- **Natural Environment Protection Areas:** 11% within ¼ mile, 12% within ½ mile, 76% outside ½ mile
- **Natural Environment Recreation Areas:** 2% within ¼ mile, 3% within ½ mile, 95% outside ½ mile

59% of people, school-aged children, seniors, and families live within ¼ mile of a recreational open space.

86% live within ½ mile.

Our Region’s Open Space Plan

Open spaces are important assets with many benefits. They are what makes our Region a great place to live, providing recreational opportunities and a healthy environment. Our Region has a long history of making concerted efforts to preserve and expand existing open spaces. The Open Space Plan developed in 2016 continues this tradition. Visit www.mvrpc.org/open-space-plan to view this plan.

This profile is available at: http://www.mvrpc.org/regional-profiles. Contact us for your community’s information.