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## Press Release

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### **MEPRD LAUNCHES NEW RECREATION-FOCUSED WEBSITE FOR MADISON & ST. CLAIR COUNTIES, IL**

MADISON AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES, IL – The Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) on Wednesday announced the launching of [www.metroeastrecreation.com](http://www.metroeastrecreation.com), a new website aimed at promoting awareness and usage of public parks, trails, and recreational opportunities throughout Madison and St. Clair Counties in Illinois.

‘Metro East Recreation’ is a new online service provided by MEPRD focused on promoting recreation in the Metro East, which it calls “an existing hub for recreation with a growing recreational culture.” Designed with park and trail users in mind, this new domain will serve as MEPRD’s public-facing website for recreation-minded families and individuals living, working, or staying in the Metro East, whereas its primary website ([www.meprd.org](http://www.meprd.org)) will continue to house its grant programs, projects, and organizational information.

Through this new website, users can seamlessly explore and learn more about the rich recreational opportunities available throughout the two-county area—from biking and birding to playgrounds and pickleball—anywhere and anytime. The site will also serve as a front door to visitors who have yet to experience the countless parks, endless trails, and incredible recreational experiences that can be had, here, in the Metro East.

‘Metro East Recreation’ integrates several popular features that people are already familiar with from MEPRD’s current website, including its interactive park and trail maps that can be viewed at home on a computer or on-the-go with a mobile device. The site also introduces new features meant to help users quickly and effortlessly see what amenities are available for public use and the destinations where they are offered. Additional new features include a listing of local outfitters and shops for each recreational activity, amenity-specific maps, featured parks and trails, and lodging/dining information for visitors planning a trip to the Metro East.

From the many accessible, family-friendly parklands nestled in our cities and towns to the scenic nature preserves woven into our old-growth forests, riverside bluffs, and protected wetlands, the Metro East has an extraordinary recreational feature set that can be enjoyed by anyone. But with over 300+ parks and 200+ miles of existing trails, it can be a challenge at times knowing where to even start. Through its new site, ‘Metro East Recreation,’ MEPRD is helping to fill that gap by centralizing information from our partners, the agencies and organizations that are responsible for most of what exists today (e.g., Madison County Transit, St. Clair County Transit District, and numerous park districts and municipal

departments) and by increasing awareness of the vast opportunities that exist throughout Madison and St. Clair Counties.

MEPRD will be debuting its 'Metro East Recreation' website at the 2022 Gateway Outdoor Expo on April 1-2, 2022, at the America's Center Convention Complex in St. Louis. However, visitors can explore the new website now by visiting [www.metroeastrecreation.com](http://www.metroeastrecreation.com). To better improve the user experience and available features, MEPRD is encouraging visitors to forward their feedback and/or comments on the website.

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*The Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) was formed by voters of Madison and St. Clair Counties, Illinois in November 2000. MEPRD partners with local governments, special districts, and other jurisdictions for the purposes of developing and improving parks, recreational facilities, and trails throughout the two-county area. MEPRD also increases awareness and use of these amenities by providing related maps, data, statistics, and marketing materials. For more information, visit [www.meprd.org](http://www.meprd.org)*