

Mt. Airy Trailfest 2024: A Beautiful Day to Enjoy the Outdoors

On September 7, the third annual Trailfest took place at Oak Ridge Lodge and grounds in Mt. Airy Forest. The weather was gorgeous with comfortable temperatures and sunny skies. The event was organized by the Mt. Airy Forest Advisory Committee(MAFAC), Cincinnati Parks and the Parks Foundation. Trailfest's mission is to celebrate Cincinnati nature and all it has to offer by bringing together people who love being outdoors. There were many educational and recreational opportunities provided by over 40 companies and organizations committed to enjoying nature responsibly. What better place for such an event as Mt. Airy Forest!

There was organized trail running, mountain biking, bird watching, family friendly hiking and special adaptive hiking for those with disabilities. Some past favorites as such as geocaching and orienteering were brought back by popular demand. All of the options for diving into the woods were fantastic, but Trailfest was much more than just for hikers. There was an expanded kids area that included a multitude of fun games, a beer garden, food trucks, a raffle that raised big money for the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and two local bands playing fabulous tunes all day. A large crafting area was added behind the lodge where artists assisted both kids and adults in making fabulous nature themed creations. Outdoor author and professional speaker Jeff Alt gave an inspiring talk of tales of his experiences through hiking the Appalachian Trail. What outdoor event is complete without our animal friends? Birds of prey, ducks, turtles and snakes were all present with educational wildlife presentations provided by experts. Perhaps the best part of Trailfest was the tremendous bond felt by all who attended.

If you missed Trailfest this year, there are already plans to continue the event. Stay tuned as the date for Trailfest 2025 will be announced soon!