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TRAIL ETIQUETTE URGED DURING SUMMER BIKING SPREE

With the fourth annual Summer Biking Spree “rolling” until August 31, officials from Summit Metro Parks are reminding users of the district’s trails built for hiking and biking to use good trail etiquette.

“Simply put, be courteous of other trail users,” spokesperson Nathan Eppink said. “Don’t pass others too quickly or closely, and do your part to have a fun, safe visit.” Eppink said park rangers offer these simple guidelines:

- **Be Courteous**: All trail users should be respectful of others regardless of speed, skill level or mode of travel (i.e., bicycle, wheelchair or on foot).
- **Pass on the Left**: Pass other trail users on their left. Give an audible signal before passing, either by voice (e.g., “On Your Left!”) or other means (e.g., ringing a bell). Pay special attention when passing children and pets.
- **Stopping**: Move to the right when stopping. If possible, exit the trail. Be cautious of others approaching from behind and make sure they know you are pulling over.
- **Be Predictable**: Travel in a consistent and predictable manner. Always look behind you before changing positions on the trail.
- **Don’t Block the Trail**: Use no more than half of the trail. Do not block the flow of other users.
- **Obey All Traffic Signs and Signals**: Use extra caution where trails cross streets. Stop at all signs and intersections. When entering or crossing a trail, yield to other users.

In addition, on every trail managed by Summit Metro Parks, dogs must be on leashes no more than 8 feet long. Mutt Mitts are provided in many high-usage areas to help visitors clean up after their pets. (Note: Dogs are not permitted at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, 1828 Smith Rd., Akron.)

First-time biking spree participants who ride five sections – the same section or any combination of sections – of the multipurpose trails managed by Summit Metro Parks will earn a bicycle license plate and a reflective sticker for their plate. Returning riders will earn a 2016 sticker. Rewards are free to Summit County residents, and \$5 for out-of-county participants.

Included in the spree are three sections of the 34-mile Bike & Hike Trail, four sections of the 22.4 miles of Towpath Trail managed by Summit Metro Parks, and one section of the 6-mile Freedom Trail. Round-trip distances range from 4 to 11.4 miles.

Spree forms with the list of trail sections are available online at **bikingspree.summitmetroparks.org** and in person at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron), Liberty Park Nature Center (9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg), the park district's administrative offices (975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron) and all Acme Fresh Market stores in Summit County. Biking spree participants have until October 15 to turn in their forms.

For more information about the spree, call 330-865-8065.

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Summit Metro Parks manages 14,100 acres, including 16 parks, several conservation areas and more than 125 miles of trails, with 22.4 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance averages 5 million visits.

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