

GREEN ISLANDS

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM SUMMIT METRO PARKS

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Reservoir
Metro Park

Park district adds
16th park

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see new crossing
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Creepy, but useful
arachnids of Ohio

Summit
Metro Parks



Your Metro Parks are funded by a small Summit County real-estate tax.
This magazine is an example of your public dollars at work.

Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

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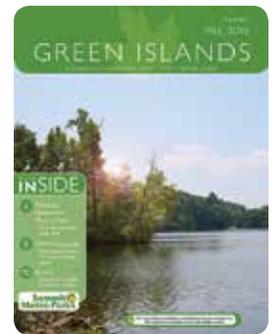
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BOARD of PARK commissioners



The park district's governing body is appointed by the Summit County Probate Judge. Commissioners serve overlapping three-year terms and are assisted by the executive director, who oversees the work of full-time and part-time employees, seasonal workers and volunteers. For more information, please call the administrative offices at 330-867-5511.



ABOUT the cover

Summit Metro Parks has entered into a 25-year agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to manage Nimisila Reservoir.

PARK news

- The last day to turn in **Summer Biking Spree** and **Running Spree forms** is **October 15**. Rewards can be picked up at the administrative offices (975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron) or at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron).

- Visitors can now enjoy views of **Young's Bogs** from a new elevated platform at **Springfield Bog Metro Park** (1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.). Previously, the bogs were not visible



from the trail. Park crews also installed an observation platform at the man-made pond off Prairie Trail.

PARK news (continued)

The Board of Park Commissioners named **Lisa M. King** executive director of the park district in September. A Summit



Metro Parks employee since 1998, King most recently served as the park district's chief of planning and development.

King is a graduate of The Ohio State University, a state-registered landscape architect, a champion of sustainable design, and a certified parks and recreation professional through the National Recreation and Park Association.

For more news, visit our website: summitmetroparks.org

SHIELD ASSISTANCE DATES



The 52nd annual Fall Hiking Spree is the largest and longest-running event of its kind in the nation. A first-year hiker who completes eight trails before November 30 earns a hiking staff and shield. A veteran hiker earns this year's hiking shield.

Volunteers will help attach your new shield to your staff on the following dates at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron):

Sunday, October 25, 1 – 3 p.m.

Saturday, November 7, 1 – 3 p.m.

Saturday, November 14, 1 – 3 p.m.

Saturday, November 21, 1 – 3 p.m.

Friday, November 27, 1 – 3 p.m.



FRIENDS OF METRO PARKS



Friends of Metro Parks is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that supports the park district in many ways, including educating visitors about important issues and connecting residents of Summit County with the rich resources of our Metro Parks. Membership dues allow Friends to support the mission and programs of the park district.

For information about joining Friends:

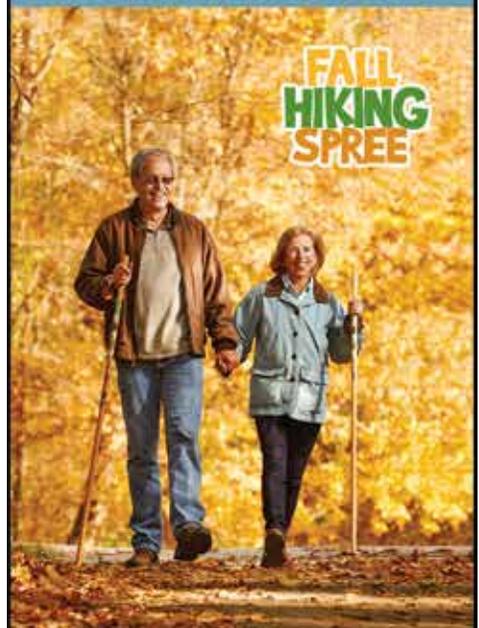
friendsofmetroparks.org

Go out and EXPLORE!

“We see a lot of happy hikers during the spree.”

~ ANNETTE, with husband Eric

Sep. 1 to Nov. 30



Trails range from easy to challenging. Hiking forms are available online and at all Acme Fresh Market stores. Spree rewards are FREE for Summit County residents.

First-time participants who complete eight trails receive a hiking staff and shield. Veteran hikers earn a shield.

Summit Metro Parks

hikingspree.summitmetroparks.org
330-865-8065 | #SMPspree

DISCOVER!

NIMISILA

Summit Metro Parks entered into a 25-year agreement this summer with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to manage Nimisila Reservoir (5550 Christman Road, Green), which is now our 16th park. Opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, fishing and duck hunting are available with proper registration and licensing. Nimisila's history and natural resources make it an exceptional addition to Summit Metro Parks.



Nimisila Reservoir offers scenic views and convenient recreational opportunities.

RESERVOIR METRO PARK

Pat Rydquist, Naturalist

ENJOY!

RESERVOIR HISTORY

Nimisila Reservoir is part of the Portage Lakes. It was built in the mid-1930s by the Ohio Department of Public Works to maintain water levels in surrounding lakes and provide raw water for industrial use. The workers and money for the project were part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA was the companion to the Civilian Conservation Corps, which employed young men who had difficulty finding jobs during the Great Depression. They were provided jobs,

Nimisila Reservoir was constructed between 1936 and 1937.



Nimisila lives up to its name — “beautiful water” — with stunning reflections on clean, clear water.

food and housing and were required to send part of their earnings home. The WPA was an extension of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and it funded infrastructure projects run by states and cities such as bridges, roads and parks.

BEAUTIFUL WATER

At 30 feet deep and with 14 miles of shoreline, the EPA has rated Nimisila the cleanest of the Portage Lakes.

Water coming into the reservoir is from Nimisila Creek. Appropriately, in American Indian languages the word “Nimisila” means beautiful water. For these reasons, only boats with electric motors are allowed on Nimisila Reservoir.

Nimisila is a great fishing lake with large-mouth bass, bluegill, black and white crappie, walleye (stocked annually), yellow perch, channel catfish (stocked during odd-numbered years), brown bullhead and redear sunfish. With its abundance of fish, it's no wonder osprey

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Constance and JB Patton have enjoyed fishing at Nimisila for more than 20 years.

EXPLORE!



Peaceful fishing spots



Male purple martin



American bald eagle



Courtesy of the Akron Beacon Journal

Corsair FG-1

continued from page 5

and bald eagles can be spotted nesting and fishing in the area. In the 1950s and 1960s, osprey and bald eagles suffered tragic declines due to DDT used by farmers. However, with the ban of the chemical, both species have made a remarkable comeback — especially with the 1996 re-introduction of osprey at Portage Lakes.

BIRDS AT THE RESERVOIR

Nimisila Reservoir is a Cornell Lab of Ornithology “eBird Hotspot.” Approximately 173 species, including 21 different warblers, have been recorded during migration and nesting season. In August each year, thousands of purple martins come to roost in reed islands on

Nimisila. In September, they fly to Bolivia and Brazil for the winter.

PLANE-OLD MYSTERY

The serenity of the reservoir today is not without a history of drama. In July 1943, during WWII, a Corsair FG-1 fighter airplane built by Goodyear Aircraft Corp. crashed into Nimisila during a routine flight. Fishermen were shocked to see the plane fall from the sky. Luckily, the pilot was able to eject from the plane when the engine failed. He was rescued from the lake by one of the fishermen. The plane pieces were salvaged within a week, but many people believe to this day that the entire plane is still submerged. 

An osprey gracefully grabs an “in-flight” meal.



IN YOUR BACK YARD



LOCAL BATS NEED YOUR HELP

Summit Metro Parks and local bats need your help. A fungal disease — **white-nose syndrome** — has devastated cave-dwelling bat populations, but there may be more healthy bats than we think.

Do you have bats in an artificial structure on your property? Female bats form colonies in barns, attics, bat houses and other outbuildings to raise their babies each summer. You can detect bats by looking for their feces, called guano.

Bats are hibernating right now, but you can do an “exit count” next summer. Once in June and again in late July, sit near the structure and simply count the number of individuals exiting. Begin watching the bats emerge 30 minutes before sunset and continue to watch until it’s too dark to see. Avoid using flashlights, and don’t count bats that may come back to the structure during this time.

Your information can help us monitor bat populations and determine how they are recovering from white-nose syndrome. Send your information, including survey dates, address and number of bats, to biologist Marlo Perdicas at mperdicas@summitmetroparks.org. 

White-nose syndrome has devastated our bat populations in Summit County and other parts of North America. The fungus was accidentally introduced from Europe and discovered in Vermont in 2005. When bats become ill, they wake up too soon and use up the fat reserved for hibernation.



WATCHING THE CROSSWALK

Nathan Eppink, Chief of Marketing & Communications



Trail users activate the new HAWK system to safely cross the four-lane Brittain Road.

The solar-powered system is also eco-friendly.



Summit Metro Parks and its partners recently introduced a new 'hawk' along the Freedom Trail.

The HAWK, or **H**igh-intensity **A**ctivated cross**W**alk, is located where the park district's expanding multipurpose trail intersects with the four-lane Brittain Road in Akron. Its unique light sequence looks different than anything drivers have seen locally.

When a trail user activates the signal, drivers first see a single flashing yellow light, followed by a solid yellow, and then two solid red lights to indicate "Stop." At that time, the "Walk" signal appears for trail users. (Cyclists are expected to walk their bikes across intersections.)

LIKE A HAWK

After a brief interval, the red lights begin alternately flashing and then go dark. Vehicular traffic may start moving as soon as the crosswalk is clear.

Summit Metro Parks paid for the HAWK system, which is solar powered and requires no electricity. The City of Akron's Traffic Engineering Division activated it this past summer.

David Gasper, traffic engineer for the City of Akron, said the HAWK system makes sense in this location since it is only activated when needed. Traffic is only required to stop when trail users are in the crossing. 

FREEDOM'S FUTURE

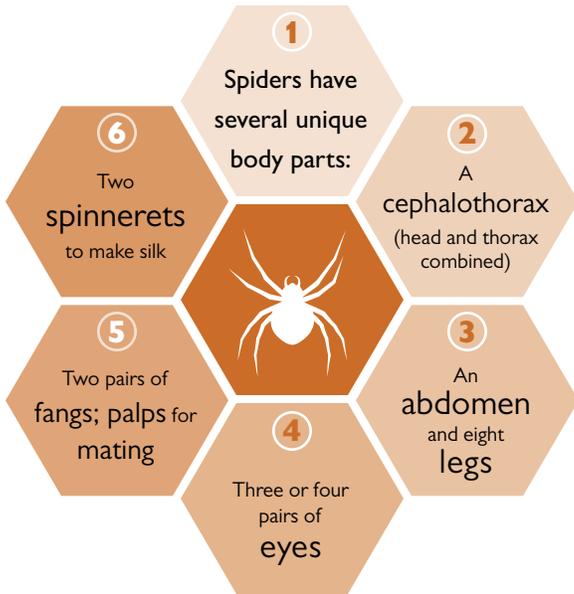
The 6-mile Freedom Trail follows a railroad right-of-way leased by Summit Metro Parks from METRO Regional Transit Authority. Its distance is measured from Middlebury Road in Tallmadge to Eastwood Avenue in Akron. In the next few years, the trail will reach The University of Akron. The design of the next phase, from Eastwood Avenue to the school's campus, will be completed this year.

Lisa King, the park district's executive director, explained the goal is to eventually make a connection to the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. "We're studying possible routes that will connect the University trailhead to the towpath near downtown," she said.

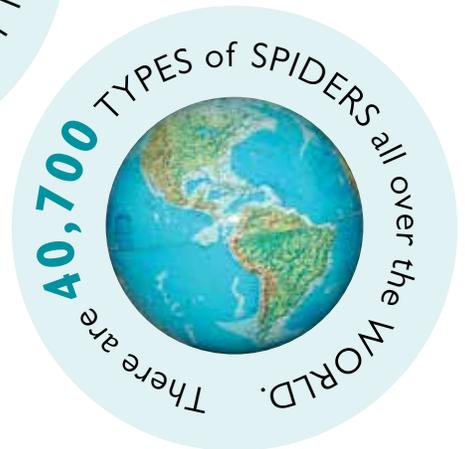


Species Spotlight

SPIDERS



You can provide a friendly environment for spiders by not using pesticides or herbicides in your yard.



SPIDER WEB design can help I.D. the spider. Webs can look like **flat** sheets, **circular** orbs, **tube-shaped** funnels, or **tangled** cobwebs.

 **Males** wander to find mates.

Females usually stay in one spot. 

 **Spiders don't have teeth.** They have fangs used to grasp and inject venom into their prey.

 A spider **may** bite in self-defense or if surprised — like one that's hiding in a shoe or in a dark place.

 **Most spider bites are misdiagnosed.** It's usually chiggers, fleas, biting flies or lice that leave wounds.

The Garden Variety

A great surprise in the garden or along a meadow trail is finding the zig-zaggy orb web of the black and yellow GARDEN ARGIOPE.



The Ones to Watch Out For

Ohio has **two dangerous spiders** whose **venom** kills the tissue around the puncture: the black widow and brown recluse.

Medical attention needs to be sought if bitten, and it's important to bring the spider to the doctor to confirm treatment.



black widow



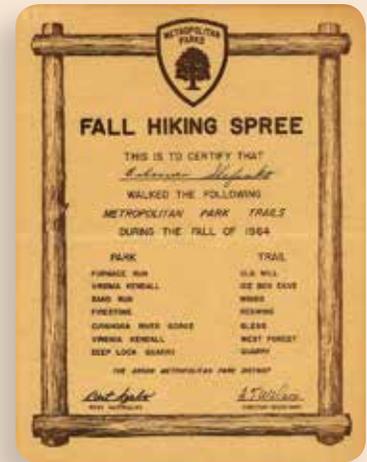
brown recluse

FHS FUN FACTS



- The **Fall Hiking Spree** kicked off in 1964 featuring six parks and seven trails. It is the longest-running event of its kind in the nation.
- Originally, park staff planned to create hiking staffs made from fallen saplings. The high turnout that first year prompted a change in plans: staff handed out mop handles instead.
- The idea to give returning spree hikers a metal shield was suggested by a park employee in year two.
- On average, about 12,000 hikers complete the spree each year.

Do you have a favorite Fall Hiking Spree memory? Share it with us by emailing marketing@summitmetroparks.org, or post to social media using #SMPspree.



Hikers who completed the '64 spree received personalized certificates that highlighted that year's parks and trails.

2015 Fall Hiking Event

FALL HIKING SPREE

TO PARTICIPATE:

Hike at least eight of the designated trails. After completing each hike, date your form. Hikes must be completed September 1 through November 30. Parks are open daily, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

First-year hikers earn a hiking staff and shield. Veteran hikers earn the hiking shield. Since the program is funded by Summit County tax dollars, out-of-county residents pay to receive their hiking rewards (\$10 for first-year hikers, \$5 for veteran hikers).

TO RECEIVE YOUR REWARD IN PERSON:

Bring completed forms to the administrative offices, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, through March 31, 2016.

You may also visit F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm, noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, through March 31, 2016.

TO RECEIVE YOUR REWARD BY MAIL:

Veteran hikers may mail their completed forms to the administrative offices, 975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron 44313. **Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.** Hiking shields are mailed flat. **Rewards are not available after March 31, 2016.**

BIKE & HIKE Trail

SR 91 / Brust Park Lot
130 N. Main St., Munroe Falls 44262

TOWPATH Trail

Big Bend Trailhead
1337 Merriman Rd., Akron 44313

CASCADE VALLEY Metro Park

Schumacher Valley Area
1690 Cuyahoga St., Akron 44313

DEEP LOCK QUARRY Metro Park

Quarry Trail
5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula 44264

FURNACE RUN Metro Park

Old Mill Trail / Brushwood Area
4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield 44286

GORGE Metro Park

Glens Trail / Main Entrance
1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls 44221

HAMPTON HILLS Metro Park

Spring Hollow Trail / Main Entrance
2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron 44313

LIBERTY PARK

Ledges Trail / Twinsburg Ledges Area
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 44087

MUNROE FALLS Metro Park

Meadow Trail / Tallmadge Meadows Area
1088 North Ave., Tallmadge 44278

2015 Commemorative Hiking Shield



F.A. Seiberling NATURE REALM

Seneca Trail
1828 Smith Rd., Akron 44313

O'NEIL WOODS Metro Park

Deer Run Trail
2550 Martin Rd., Bath 44333

SAND RUN Metro Park

Parcours Trail / Treaty Line Area
995 Treaty Line Rd., Akron 44313

SILVER CREEK Metro Park

Chippewa Trail / Pheasant Run Area
5000 Hametown Rd., Norton 44203

WOOD HOLLOW Metro Park

Downy Loop Trail
2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson 44236

Hiker's Choice

Hike any **one** of your favorite **Metro Parks** trails.



Please share this publication and recycle it when finished.

52nd ANNUAL
**FALL
HIKING
SPREE**

INDIVIDUAL &
FAMILY/GROUP
HIKING FORM

PRIMARY PARTICIPANT			FIRST-YEAR Hiker	VETERAN	SUMMIT CO. RESIDENT
Primary Participant's Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Address		City	State	Zip	
Email		Phone			
ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS			FIRST-YEAR Hiker	VETERAN	SUMMIT CO. RESIDENT
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

METRO PARK	TRAIL	SYMBOL	MILEAGE	CLASS	RATING	SIGNATURE (Only if staff or volunteers are available)	DATE
BIKE & HIKE	SR 91 <i>west</i> to Silver Lake		2.4	A / B	1		
TOWPATH	Big Bend <i>north</i> to Portage Path		1.6	A / B	1		
CASCADE VALLEY	Schumacher		1.2	C	3		
DEEP LOCK QUARRY	Quarry		1.4	C	2		
FURNACE RUN	Old Mill		1.0	C	1		
GORGE	Glens		1.8	C	2		
HAMPTON HILLS	Spring Hollow		1.6	C	3		
LIBERTY PARK	Ledges		1.1	C	2		
MUNROE FALLS	Meadow		2.0	C	1		
NATURE REALM (no pets)	Seneca		1.4	C	2		
O'NEIL WOODS	Deer Run		1.8	C	3		
SAND RUN	Parcours		1.4	C	3		
SILVER CREEK	Chippewa		2.0	C	1		
WOOD HOLLOW	Downy Loop		1.2	C	1		
Hiker's Choice (Metro Park ONLY)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	___	___	___		

Rating: 1=Easy 2=Moderate 3=Strenuous
Class: A=Multipurpose B=Accessible C=Basic D=Primitive

Visit our website for rating and class definitions