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DISCOVER INFLUENTIAL METRO PARKS 'FAMILY TREE'

Learn about the influential families and individuals who helped make Summit Metro Parks what it is today during a new program series. The series is a nod to history as the park district celebrates its 95th anniversary this year.

On Thursday, January 28 at 7 p.m., at Furnace Run Metro Park (4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield), Naturalist Elizabeth Kresse will introduce the Brush Family, who helped establish Furnace Run Metro Park.

A portion of Furnace Run Metro Park is on land that was once owned by industrialist and arc light inventor Charles Brush, Sr., best known for bringing Cleveland the first street lights in the United States.

The program series will continue through 2016 and also features the Seiberling, Firestone and O'Neil families, among others. Visitors will get a sense of who the families and individuals really were, leading up to their contributions to Summit Metro Parks.

Kresse hopes this series will give park visitors a new appreciation for local history and how it relates to the park district. "It's important to learn about those who left a nature legacy for us to enjoy," she said. "These philanthropists set the stage for land conservation and the public programs the park district provides today."

For more information, visit summitmetroparks.org.

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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 5.2 million visitors.

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