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#summitmetroparks

NEWS RELEASE

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ENJOY FALL COLORS IN THE METRO PARKS

Fall is on its way, and so are opportunities to enjoy the colors of the season.

Two naturalist-led hikes on Friday, October 9 will give visitors the chance to learn about fall color in the Metro Parks. At 10:30 a.m., hike the 1.6-mile Willow Trail at Firestone Metro Park (40 Axline Ave., Akron) to enjoy the beautiful colors of autumn. At 1 p.m. in Wood Hollow Metro Park (2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson), hike the 1.2-mile Downy Loop and learn how fall color can help with tree identification.

Each fall, the air becomes crisper and thousands make a point to spend time outside to enjoy autumn colors. But what causes the leaves to change so drastically? Naturalist Pat Rydquist explains: "In the fall, as temperatures shift from warm to cool and days grow shorter, the tree no longer produces chlorophyll. What remains in the leaves are the sugars: carotene provides a yellow color, and anthocyanins give us reds and purples."

Your Metro Parks are full of different types of trees that show off autumn's beauty. Wherever you go, peak colors won't last long, so enjoy the reds, oranges and yellows while you can. The park district offers 16 parks and 125 miles of trails to explore.

For more information, call 330-867-5511 or 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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