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## **HIKE WITH A NATURALIST, LEARN NATURE REALM HISTORY**

Celebrate the nature and history of F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm while hiking the 1.4-mile Seneca Trail with a naturalist.

Visitors can hear the unique history of the park, set aside 50 years ago for the study and enjoyment of nature, during a hike on October 4 at 1 p.m., at 1828 Smith Rd., Akron. The hike will count for Fall Hiking Spree credit.

The Nature Realm began in the 1960s, when the park district acquired an old farm property to host history and nature programs. The first public building was a ranch-style farmhouse that belonged to the previous owners. By 1989, visitation had outgrown the small house and construction began on an underground visitors center, which opened to the public in November 1991.

In December 2008, the interior was completely renovated, and the project achieved LEED-certified "Platinum" status, making it one of the most energy efficient buildings in the state. The improved visitors center reopened in spring 2010. Regular hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is always free.

The Fall Hiking Spree began September 1 and continues through November 30. A first-year hiker who completes at least eight designated trails will earn a hiking staff and shield. A veteran hiker will earn a hiking shield. Rewards are free to Summit County residents. Out-of-county residents pay to receive their awards (\$10 for first-year hikers, \$5 for veteran hikers).

For more information, visit [summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org) or 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 5.2 million visitors.