

April 22, 2008

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PULL GARLIC MUSTARD TO PROTECT NATIVE PLANTS

Volunteers are needed to help remove garlic mustard, a non-native herb that shades out native wildflowers and out-competes other seedlings, from **9 a.m. to noon** on **Friday, May 2** and **Thursday, May 15** at Goodyear Heights Metro Park, 550 Frazier Ave., Akron, and **Friday, May 9** at O'Neil Woods Metro Park, 2400 Bath Rd., Bath. Advance registration is required.

Please dress for off-trail work. Bring a hat, work gloves, pruning shears or scissors, a snack and water. For more information and to volunteer, contact Laura Franchetti at lfranchetti@summitmetroparks.org or 330-864-3006.

Garlic mustard, like other invasive plants, is aggressive and a threat to plant diversity. It grows in early spring and stops growing later in the season than most native species. Originating in Europe, it was introduced in the United States for herbal and medicinal purposes.

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Metro Parks, Serving Summit County manages more than 9,000 acres, including 13 developed parks, six conservation areas and more than 120 miles of trails, with 16 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance averages 4 million visitors.

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