



Your Back Yard for 100 Years

NEWS RELEASE

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SUMMIT METRO PARKS RECEIVES ADDITIONAL \$2.6 MILLION TO RESTORE AND PROTECT SAND RUN METRO PARK *Construction to continue to Spring 2021 on initial phase of work*

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program has awarded Summit Metro Parks \$2.6 million for critical infrastructure and ecological improvements in Sand Run Metro Park. This funding complements work already underway with a previously awarded \$2 million Clean Ohio grant. Together, this \$4.6 million funding package allows Summit Metro Parks to complete erosion control and habitat enhancement projects vital to the long-term sustainability of its oldest and most-visited park.

“As we celebrate our centennial anniversary, we are grateful to receive this funding to ensure that Sand Run Metro Park can continue to serve Summit County residents for the next 100 years,” said Executive Director Lisa King. “This park is facing serious challenges from stormwater runoff and we appreciate the public's patience as we make repairs that are essential to protecting Sand Run Parkway, the Jogging Trail and the ecological integrity of this beloved local gem.”

Project construction is broken into two major phases and will result in rolling road and trail closures over the next two years. Phase I is currently underway to address a pedestrian bridge in need of repair, restore stream conditions and improve wildlife habitat in the park. For the safety of construction crews and the public, closure of Sand Run Parkway and the Jogging Trail between Revere Rd. and Sand Run Rd. will continue into spring 2021 to complete this initial work. Phase II of construction is expected to begin in late summer/fall 2021 and will include projects to control erosion throughout the park and additional in-stream habitat improvements.

During the current road and trail closures, the parking lots at Old Portage, Lone Spruce, Wadsworth and Shadowfield Areas remain open. The Parkway and the Jogging Trail are open between Sand Run Rd. and Portage Path, and pedestrians are also invited to use the portion of Sand Run Parkway between Portage Path and Merriman Rd., which is currently closed to vehicle traffic. From there, visitors may enjoy connecting to the Towpath Trail at the Big Bend Area.

In the future, Summit Metro Parks will also implement a suite of educational programming and tools to assist homeowners and businesses within the watershed reduce stormwater runoff to the park. For more information and images, please visit <https://metro-parks.medium.com/>.

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Established in 1921, Summit Metro Parks is celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2021. The park district manages more than 14,000 acres throughout 16 parks, several conservation areas and more than 150 miles of trails, including 22 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance in 2020 was 6 million visits. Visit us online at summitmetroparks.org.



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