



*Your Back Yard for 100 Years*

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SUMMIT METRO PARKS WELCOMES TWO NEW COMMISSIONERS TO PARK DISTRICT BOARD**

Appointed by Summit County Probate Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer, today Reverend Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr. and Theresa Carter joined the [Board of Park Commissioners](#) for Summit Metro Parks.

Rev. Dr. Walker is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and an active member of the Akron community. He is a former member of the Akron Board of Education where he served five four-year terms, three as president. He has served on the Ohio School Board Association Board of Trustees, Urban School District Advisory Network and Northeast Regional Executive Committee, Board of Trustees for the Girl Scouts of the Western Reserve, Summit Chapter of the American Red Cross, NAACP, Summit County Housing Trust Fund and many others. He is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Ohio School Board Association Northeast Ohio Outstanding Board Member Award and the National School Board Association Council on Urban School Boards Benjamin E. Mays Lifetime Achievement Award.

Originally from Hartford, Connecticut, Rev. Dr. Walker graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. He received his Master of Divinity from Livingstone College/Hood Theological Seminary, where he is a member Emeritus of the Board of Trustees, and later earned his Doctorate of Ministry from Emory University/Candler School of Theology.

Theresa Carter is president of Synthomer Foundation (formerly OMNOVA Solutions), a \$30 million endowment supporting local communities. Ms. Carter is active in her church, and serves on a number of non-profit community boards, advisory councils and committees, including the Greater Akron Chamber, the NAACP Akron Chapter, Cleveland Clinic Akron General Medical Center, Cleveland State University Foundation board and the Sojourner Truth

Project. She is an emeritus board member with the Akron Urban League. Ms. Carter has been honored with many awards for her service and commitment to the community, including the Akron Urban League's Whitney M. Young Jr. Community Service Award, the Greater Akron Chamber, American Red Cross & Akron Public Schools' H. Peter Burg Leadership Award, Leadership Akron's Lieberth Award, and the Executive of the Year Award through the Akron/Canton Affiliate of National Sales & Marketing Executives. Theresa was also a recipient of OMNOVA Solutions Chairman's Award (the company's highest honor).

A native of Demopolis, Alabama, Theresa graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Alabama.

Rev. Dr. Walker and Ms. Carter join the Board of Park Commissioners as the park district continues to celebrate its centennial anniversary. They replace former board members Tonya Block and Tina Ughrin. The five-person board of volunteer commissioners is appointed by the Summit County Probate Judge.

For more information about the park district, visit [summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org) or call 330-867-5511.

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Established in 1921, Summit Metro Parks celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2021. The park district manages more than 15,000 acres throughout 16 parks, three nature centers and over 150 miles of trails, including 22 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance is approximately 5.5 million visits. Find us online at [summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org).



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