



We're Your Back Yard

975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron OH 44313

NEWS RELEASE

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SUMMIT METRO PARKS AWARDED FUNDING TO RESTORE AND PROTECT SAND RUN METRO PARK

Road and trail closures in effect beginning July 20

Beginning July 20 and continuing for approximately three months, a portion of Sand Run Parkway and the Jogging Trail will be closed to make the first in a series of grant-funded infrastructure and ecological improvements within Sand Run Metro Park. With the assistance of a \$2 million Clean Ohio grant, the park district will address a pedestrian bridge in need of repair and improve wildlife habitat in the park.

“As the park district’s oldest and busiest park, several updates have become necessary to Sand Run Metro Park’s long-term sustainability,” said Executive Director Lisa King. “While this project will result in temporary road and trail closures, it will ultimately benefit the public by improving conditions in the stream for fish and other aquatic life and protecting the park’s roads and trails.”

Construction will result in the temporary closure of the Revere Rd. parking lot, as well as Sand Run Parkway and the Jogging Trail between Revere Rd. and Sand Run Rd. The parking lots at Old Portage, Lone Spruce, Wadsworth and Shadowfield Areas remain open. The Jogging Trail remains 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.

Sand Run Metro Park has long faced challenges from stormwater runoff, and the stream is also impacted by several barriers to fish migration. In this project, a bridge at

the end of its useful life will be replaced with a culvert, establishing a safe and sustainable long-term pedestrian crossing while also allowing fish and wildlife to pass under the roadway. Additional work will create riffle structures and deeper pool habitats for fish and mitigate one of three major fish migration barriers along the stream.

In addition to the Clean Ohio funding, the park district has received a grant from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency to begin infrastructure improvements to protect the park's roads, utilities and buildings. This work is expected to begin within the next two years. 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 medium.com/@metro_parks.

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Summit Metro Parks manages more than 14,000 acres, including 16 parks, several conservation areas and more than 150 miles of trails, with 22 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

Annual attendance averages 5 million visits. Visit us online at summitmetroparks.org.

