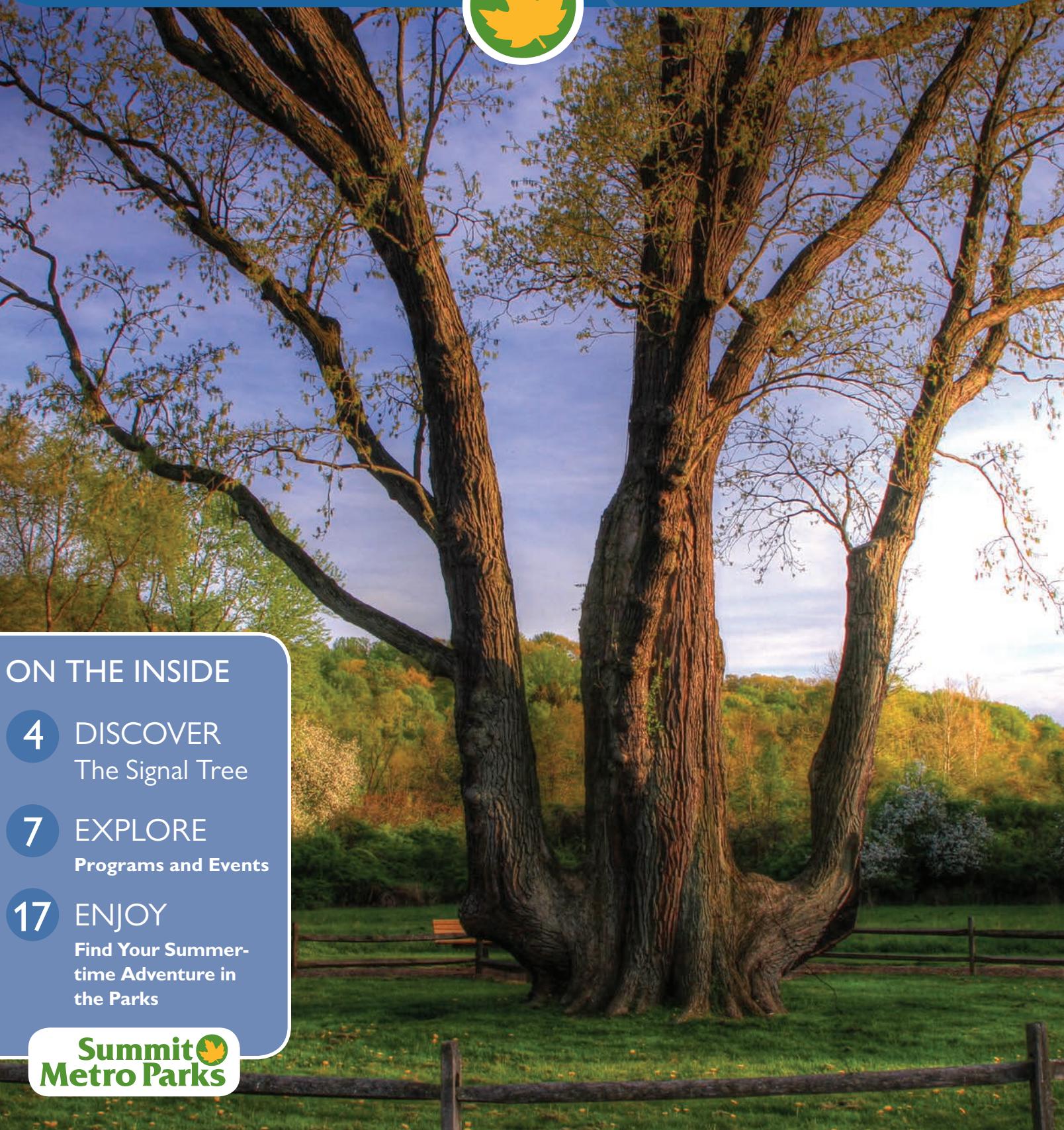


JUL-AUG '19

GREEN ISLANDS

SUMMIT METRO PARKS

BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE



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Find Your Summer-time Adventure in
the Parks

Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

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summitmetroparks.org

Your Metro Parks are funded by a small Summit County real-estate tax.
This magazine is an example of your public dollars at work.



BOARD of PARK commissioners



Joel D. Bailey

Mark A. Spisak

Herb Newman

Tonya Block

Tina Ughrin

The park district's governing body is appointed by the Summit County Probate Judge. Commissioners serve overlapping three-year terms and are assisted by the executive director, who oversees the work of full-time and part-time employees, seasonal workers and volunteers.

MIND, BODY & SOLE

A UNIVERSE OF STORIES! June 3 – July 27, 2019

Make reading and exercise a part of your day — every day. Both have the power to brighten your spirit, stimulate your imagination and improve your health.

Mind, Body & Sole: A Universe of Stories! is a **reading/wellness experience** for the whole family.

Fill out a registration card at your nearest Akron-Summit County Public Library and receive your reading and exercise log and program flier.

Read! From June 3 – July 27, check off a box on your reading log. You will win a prize, or be entered into a prize drawing, at each of these reading milestones: 10 days, 26 days, 40 days and 50 days.

On your exercise log, **record each day you participate in a movement activity** — running, walking, bicycling, yoga, gardening, outside play, physical therapy and more.

When you have reached **26 days of both reading AND exercise**, you will **receive a Mind, Body & Sole T-shirt**. Fill out the entry form at the bottom of your exercise log to be entered into our end-of-summer **Grand Prize Drawing**.

Find out more about **Akron-Summit County Public Library** at akronlibrary.org or contact your local branch library.



summitmetroparks.org

DISCOVER



YOUR BACK YARD



COMMUNITY ART

Christy Counterman,
Marketing Assistant

Liberty Park Nature Center's mosaic landscape was created by visitors from thousands of donated beads, buttons, glass pieces and other recycled objects.

Under the guidance of our Interpretive Artist Danette Rushboldt, park visitors can let their creativity shine by contributing to one of our many community art projects. Each person creates one part of a bigger artwork. When combined, the final result is enjoyed by the whole community.

This year, we're taking community art on the road. Summit Metro Parks participates in events throughout the county each month, and we will bring our latest art project to some of those locations. Each visitor will be given a chance to contribute to a piece of lasting

artwork that will be revealed this fall. Watch SMP's social media and Programs and Events listings for your chance to be a part of community art! 



Creative kids at Norton Middle School painted an interactive tug-of-war mural for the inside of the bathhouse at Silver Creek Metro Park.



Davey Tree uses a bucket truck and other tools to check the Signal Tree's overall health.

THE SIG

A well-recognized Akron landmark, the Signal Tree has stood for many years in what is now Cascade Valley Metro Park. Keeping it healthy requires considerable attention, and beginning in 2018, The Davey Tree Expert Company “adopted” the iconic bur oak for a five-year period.



NAL TREE

Davey Tree Expert Company “Adopts” a Local Legend

Stephanie Walton, Chief of Marketing & Communications

Having worked hand-in-hand with Summit Metro Parks staff to ensure the tree's well-being for the past four decades, Davey will donate its care and maintenance services to the park district through 2022.

“As a tree care company, we have a special interest and appreciation for large, historical wonders like the Signal Tree,” said Sandra Reid, vice president of corporate communications and strategic planning administration for Davey Tree. “And since the Signal Tree is in a public green space, it’s especially important that we keep it healthy so our community can enjoy it for many years to come.”

In adopting the beloved tree, Davey will provide regular maintenance and conduct annual health assessments. At the Signal Tree’s most recent “check-up,” Davey’s expert arborists determined that despite its advanced age, the tree is generally doing quite well.

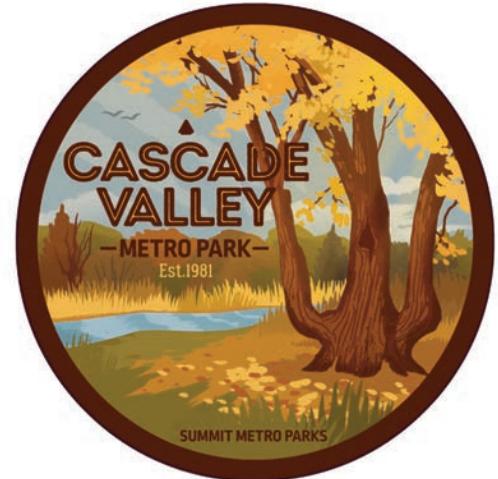
But how exactly does one go about caring for such a tree? Davey’s specially-trained staff measure the tree’s density at various locations and depths using a tool called a resistograph to determine whether it has any significant weak spots. Over the years, Davey has also installed a system of cables

to provide additional structural support and help it bear its own weight. And, the tree’s care evolves over time: at one point, a lightning rod was installed to help protect the tree from electrical storms, but it was later removed when it began to damage the tree itself.

Local lore abounds regarding the Signal Tree’s age and historic purpose. Some believe it to be upwards of 350 years old, but unfortunately there are no methods for confirming this without harming the tree. It’s even more difficult to determine what the tree might have once “signaled.” During the time when Native Americans lived in what is now Northeast Ohio,



A resistograph tracks the tree’s density, helping Davey experts assess its well-being.



special landmarks were commonly used to identify significant locations. The Signal Tree’s unique, three-pronged shape indicates that it may have been shaped by human hands, but why?

Legend has long held that the Signal Tree was a directional marker for the Portage Path, a connection between the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas rivers for travelers from the ancient Native Americans to the early European explorers. However, given the tree’s distance from the path, modern historians believe it was more likely used for some other purpose.

“It could mark a gathering place, maybe for ceremonies. It could show the way to another area or trail, or to good hunting and fishing grounds,” explains Summit Metro Parks Education and Recreation Manager Mike Greene. “Early Europeans might have shaped the tree for their own purposes, such as for a property boundary marker.”

Unfortunately, the specifics of the tree’s past are likely to remain a mystery forever. But one thing is for certain – Summit Metro Parks and Davey Tree are committed to providing the best care possible for this cherished local treasure. 



SMP Employee SPOTLIGHT:

Shannon Hasenstab & Cody Hasenstab

Shannon Hasenstab and her son Cody both began their careers at SMP in 2009, and have enjoyed serving the public in different ways in the 10 years since. Get to know them and the important work they do.

What is your role at Summit Metro Parks?

SH: As chief of customer service and assistant to our executive director, I lead a team of customer service representatives who assist park patrons in various ways each day, such as taking reservations for our rental facilities and registering patrons for programs.

CH: As part of the maintenance department, my crew is responsible for day-to-day park operations, ranging from cleaning to landscaping and taking care of our properties.

What's your favorite project you've worked on?

CH: I've had the privilege of making sure wildlife has the environment required to grow and thrive. This wide-reaching project includes planting native flora, removing invasive species and knowing the best time to maintain trees to have minimal impact on wildlife.

You're featured in this year's ad campaign. Can you tell us about those photos?

SH: My son Cody and I are enjoying a summer walk. Munroe Falls Metro Park has always been a favorite because I have so many happy memories there, from visiting with my husband when we were dating in high school, all the way to bringing my kids here when they were little and watching them enjoy swimming and playing in the lake.

What's your best tip to enjoy the Metro Parks?

CH: I encourage people to cultivate a connection with nature, and SMP offers dozens of naturalist-led programs each month. Stop by the visitors center at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm or the nature center at Liberty Park in Twinsburg to chat with a naturalist, or just take a solitary walk through the woods and bask in the serenity of nature.

EXPLORE

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

JULY

Monday, July 1, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS FOR KIDS

Kids and their adult companions join a naturalist to learn about the crawling and slithering creatures found in our parks. Meet some of our resident education animals before taking a walk in search of turtles, frogs and more in their natural habitat.
FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Monday, July 1, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

PLASTIC-FREE JULY

Learn about why limiting plastic is important and take part in the growing movement to reduce plastic use. Join the challenge and "Choose to Refuse" single-use plastic during the month of July. Meet in the West Room. GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron

Tuesday, July 2, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

CAMPFIRE COOKING

Come out and enjoy learning new ways to cook on a campfire. Participants are invited to try samples while they last. FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Tuesday, July 2, 7 – 8 p.m.

MUSIC BY THE LAKE

Enjoy free lake swimming from 3 to 6:45 p.m. and a one-hour concert featuring patriotic selections by the Metro Parks Ensemble near Maple Beach Shelter at 7 p.m. Kids' activities and dessert provided. Concert canceled if it rains. Call 330-865-8060 if wet weather is in the forecast. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Wednesday, July 3, 9 – 10 a.m.

SILENT HIKE

Enjoy some outdoor therapy on a sensory hike! Savor a short, silent hike during which we focus our senses to hear bird songs, smell wildflowers and feel the earth underfoot.
SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Wednesday, July 3, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

WOODLAND MUSHROOMS

A great variety of mushrooms can be found throughout our parks during the summer. Join a naturalist to hike the trail and discover which mushrooms are out this time of year.
FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, July 4, 9 – 11 a.m.

BUTTERFLY WALK

Search for our native, vibrant and vivid day-time fireworks: beautiful butterflies! Binoculars are recommended. Be prepared for full-sun conditions. SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Friday, July 5, 8 – 9:30 a.m.

EARLY MORNING HIKE

Hike with a naturalist in the cool forest while learning about the local wildlife living there.
HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron

Friday, July 5, 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

TALKING TO FIREFLIES

Have you ever tried to "talk" to fireflies? Learn their language of light, then walk into the field to talk to them yourself. Please bring a small flashlight (the one on your phone will do)! Meet at the shelter.
GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron



REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Programs with these icons require advance registration, beginning at 10 a.m. on the date in parentheses, by the method indicated.

 **Call: 330-865-8065**

 **Web: 330tix.com**

(date) Registration start date

\$ Fee

SLNC Summit Lake Nature Center

BHT Bike & Hike Trail
CVN Cascade Valley / North
CVS Cascade Valley / South
DLQ Deep Lock Quarry

FASN F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm
F Firestone
FR Furnace Run
FT Freedom Trail

GYH Goodyear Heights
G Gorge
HH Hampton Hills
LP Liberty Park

MF Munroe Falls
NR Nimisila Reservoir
ONW O'Neil Woods
SC Silver Creek

SFB Springfield Bog
SR Sand Run
TT Towpath Trail
WH Wood Hollow

For more information: Call 330-867-5511, visit summitmetroparks.org or email marketing@summitmetroparks.org

Saturday, July 6, 9 – 11 a.m.

MUSHROOM HIKE

A walk in the woods often reveals wonders of nature otherwise overlooked. Join a naturalist on a rugged hike in search of woodland mushrooms. Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water. **ONW/Trail Lot:** 2550 Martin Rd., Bath



Saturday, July 6

9:30 – 10 a.m. & 3 – 3:30 p.m.

NATURE STORIES

Young children and their adult companions will enjoy this interactive, nature-inspired storytime intended for ages 18 months to 3 years. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (6/21)

Sunday, July 7, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

HUMMINGBIRDS: GEMS OF THE GARDEN

Learn about these fascinating birds and how to attract them to your own backyard. Then take a short stroll to search for hummingbirds and the native flowers they like best. **FASN/Seneca Deck:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, July 7, 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

FIREFLIES: NATURE'S FIREWORKS

Learn how these amazing "bugs" light up the summer sky. After a short presentation, we'll take a walk to look for fireflies and other creatures of the night. Bring a bug jar and a flashlight. **VH:** 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

Monday, July 8, 8:30 – 10 p.m.

BATS: CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

Mysterious and often misunderstood, bats are some of the most fascinating creatures of the night. Join staff to learn about these flying mammals. We will attempt to catch live bats with nets for observation and data collection. **SR/Big Bend:** 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron

**Tuesday, July 9
9 – 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 – 3 p.m.**

GORGE KAYAK

Paddle the Cuyahoga River at the Gorge to see towering rock ledges and breathtaking scenery from your kayak. Led by a certified instructor and a naturalist. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses, and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes: instruction and loan of kayak, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. **G/Main Entrance:** 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls ☎ (6/28) \$

Tuesday, July 9, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

URBAN EATS FOR FAMILIES

Calling all families! Stop by to learn about food in the city through play and short hands-on activities. Then, shop the on-site farmers market happening 4 – 7 p.m. every Tuesday through mid-October. **TT/Summit Lake:** 380 W. Crosier St., Akron

Tuesday, July 9, 7 – 8 p.m.

MUSIC BY THE LAKE

Enjoy free lake swimming from 3 to 6:45 p.m. and a one-hour concert featuring patriotic selections by the Metro Parks Ensemble near Sherman Shelter at 7 p.m. Kids' activities and dessert provided. Concert canceled if it rains. Call 330-865-8060 if wet weather is in the forecast. **SC/Bathhouse:** 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

Tuesday, July 9, 9 – 10:30 p.m.

SATURN IN OPPOSITION

The planet Saturn and its moons will pass close to Earth, brightly illuminated by the Sun. Weather permitting, participants can look through telescopes to see this planet and other heavenly bodies. A campfire will be provided with marshmallows for roasting while supplies last. **GYH/Main Entrance:** 2077 Newton St., Akron

**Wednesday, July 10 – Friday, July 12
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily**

SUMMER CAMP: NATURE'S CLUES

Kids 7 and 8 can register for this exciting three-day drop-off camp. Investigate nature's clues using the five senses with fun, hands-on experiences in the outdoors. Cost: \$50/child. **FR/Brushwood:** 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield ☎ (4/1) \$ **Registration ends June 30**

Wednesday, July 10, 9 – 11 a.m.

DRAWING OUTDOORS

Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor session of sketching. Beginners are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the program. Portable chairs and drinking water are recommended. Program will be canceled during inclement weather. **FASN/Visitors Center:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, July 10, 10 – 11 a.m.

PRESCHOOL EXPLORERS

Get outside and enjoy nature through this monthly series for children ages 3 to 5. Each month we will explore a seasonal topic to engage the senses and encourage self-exploration. Program will be outside, so please dress for the weather. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, July 10, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

WATER MONSTERS

Families will enjoy learning about the unique and irreplaceable "monsters" that live in our waters. Wear shoes that can get wet so you can have a closer peek. **Everett Road Covered Bridge:** 2370 Everett Rd., Peninsula

**Wednesday, July 10
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. and 3 – 4 p.m.**

SCALY & SLIMY STORYTIME

Families with beginner readers of all ages: grab your favorite book and enjoy an interactive storytime experience with our live animals. We'll read some stories together, meet a critter, then read your favorite book with your family. Meet at the shelter. **SC/Pheasant Run:** 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton ☎ (7/2)

Thursday, July 11, 3 – 5 p.m.

SNAKES OF SUMMIT METRO PARKS

Hike with a naturalist to discover the variety of snakes that call Summit Metro Parks home. Learn why they are an important part of our ecosystem and enjoy some fun facts about them, too! **HH/Main Entrance:** 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron



KINDERREALM: FOXES



Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions will learn about Ohio's two fox species. Includes a short hike and craft. Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.

Tuesday, July 9, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (6/22)

Thursday, July 11, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron ☎ (6/22)



Friday, July 12, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

FISHING FRIDAY

Join us for a fun day of fishing! Each month we will spotlight one of Ohio's native fish that can be caught in Summit Metro Parks. Poles and bait will be provided while supplies last. Those 16 and older will need a valid State of Ohio fishing license. **LP/Tinkers Creek:** 10303 Aurora-Hudson Rd., Streetsboro

Friday, July 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

KIDS' FISHING

Kids 15 and younger will learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line in Little Turtle Pond. A few rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided. Adults must supervise their children, but are not permitted to fish. **F/Little Turtle Pond:** 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron

Friday, July 12, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

FIREFLY TERRARIUMS

Kids 5 to 8 spend a fun afternoon learning about fireflies and then making a glow-in-the-dark firefly terrarium to take home! **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (6/28)

Friday, July 12, 6 – 8 p.m.

EARLY EVENING BIKE RIDE

Bring your bike out on the Towpath Trail with a naturalist. Participants will enjoy the cooling breeze provided by pedaling at a moderate pace. See how many scavenger hunt items you can find during the ride. Helmets required. **DLQ:** 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula

Saturday, July 13, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

YOGA: VINYASA

Enjoy an active vinyasa yoga practice with a certified instructor. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (6/29)

Tuesday, July 16, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

NATURE JOURNALING: SMALL MAMMALS

Learn basic journaling techniques to record your nature observations. This month we'll learn about mice, voles, shrews and moles. We will be outside for the entire program. Taking photos is optional. A one-time registration fee for the monthly series includes a journal, pen and pencil. Cost: \$20/person. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (7/6) \$

Tuesday, July 16, 7 – 8 p.m.

RANDOM ACT OF MUSIC

Weather permitting, the all-volunteer Metro Parks Ensemble will perform an hour of traditional marches, big band standards and oldies. Call 330-865-8060 after 4 p.m. to learn if the concert is canceled due to inclement weather. **NR/Lot C4:** 5550 Christman Rd., Green

**Wednesday, July 17 – Friday, July 19
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily**

SUMMER CAMP: NATURE'S CLUES

Kids 7 and 8 can register for this exciting three-day drop-off camp. Investigate nature's clues using the five senses with fun, hands-on experiences in the outdoors. Cost: \$50/child. **F/Coventry Oaks:** 40 Axline Ave., Akron ☎ (4/1) \$ **Registration ends July 3**

Wednesday, July 17, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

KIDS' FISHING

Kids 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line in Brushwood Lake. Some rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided. Adults must supervise their children, but may not fish during the program. **FR/Brushwood:** 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

Wednesday, July 17, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

SHIRTS TO DYE FOR

Learn about natural dyes from local plants with a naturalist, then tie-dye a shirt. Bring a plain t-shirt and wear older clothes that can get stained. **FASN/Onondaga Deck:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, July 17, 2:30 – 4 p.m.

DROP-IN DISCOVERY: INSECTS

Children and their adult companions drop in to learn about some interesting insects out and about this season. Investigate these six-legged critters up close and personal and make a craft to take home. **FASN/Seneca Deck:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, July 18, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDENS: PRESERVE THE HARVEST

Learn about various methods of preserving your fresh garden produce to enjoy it all year long. **GYH/Lodge:** 2077 Newton St., Akron

ARCHERY

All equipment and hands-on instruction provided.



**Thursday, July 18
10 – 11:30 a.m.**

ARCHERY GAMES FOR ADULTS

Ages 16 and older will play games to build archery skills in a fun and exciting way. Participants must have already taken one of our **Intro to Archery** programs. ☎ (7/9) **FREE**

Thursday, July 18, 12:30 – 2 p.m.

ARCHERY GAMES FOR KIDS

Ages 9 to 15 will play games to build archery skills in a fun and exciting way. Participants must have already taken one of our **Intro to Archery** programs. Must be 50 inches or taller. ☎ (7/9) **FREE**

All programs at **LP/Tinkers Creek:**
10303 Aurora-Hudson Rd., Streetsboro

Friday, July 19, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

POLLINATORS AND PRAIRIE PLANTS



Join a naturalist as we hike the trail looking at the interactions between pollinators and their host plants. Flies, beetles, bees and butterflies all play a key role as pollinators of our native plants. Nets, magnifiers and jars will

be supplied so we can see these interesting creatures up close and at work. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows:** 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Friday, July 19, 1 – 2 p.m.

CREEK WALK

Families will enjoy exploring the creek at Indian Spring Trailhead to discover what fascinating creatures may lurk beneath the water. Please dress to get wet and wear closed-toe shoes. **MF/Lake Area:** 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Friday, July 19, 2 – 3 p.m.

SNAKES FOR KIDS

Calling all kids! Search for snakes around the lake and learn cool facts about these misunderstood critters. Bring curiosity and a sense of adventure! **TT/Summit Lake:** 380 W. Crosier St., Akron

Saturday, July 20, 8 – 10 a.m.

EYE SPY HIKE & BREAKFAST

Start your day off right by participating in a family-friendly eye spy hike, then enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by our volunteers. Participants are asked to contribute to the feast. **WH:** 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson ☎ (7/13)

Saturday, July 20, 9 – 11 a.m.

BEGINNER STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

Try stand-up paddleboarding, the fastest growing water sport, to get a workout and enjoy nature. A certified instructor and a naturalist will guide you. No experience necessary. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses, and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes instruction and loan of paddleboard, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. **NR/Lot C6:** 6194 Christman Rd., Green ☚ (7/10) \$

Saturday, July 20, 12 – 3 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

Join a certified instructor and naturalist to learn moving on the board, advanced paddle strokes and rescue techniques. Participants are required to have already completed our **Beginner Stand-up Paddleboarding** class. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses, and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes instruction and loan of paddleboard, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. **NR/Lot C6:** 6194 Christman Rd., Green ☚ (7/10) \$

Saturday, July 20, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

NATURE ART FOR TEENS

Do you have a creative spirit? Teens ages 13 to 17 can join our interpretive artist for lessons in nature-inspired art. This is a drop-off program. Please dress for a mess. **FASN/Visitors Center:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (7/12)

Saturday, July 20, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

ALL ABOUT SNAKES

Hike with a naturalist as we celebrate nature's noodle: snakes! Explore ancient serpents to modern snakes here in Summit County, learning where they live and how they work as their signature limbless selves. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows:** 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Saturday, July 20, 9 – 11 p.m.

NATIONAL MOTH WEEK



July 20 begins National Moth Week, a global celebration of moths and biodiversity. Join a naturalist for an up-close look at the beautiful

colors, shapes and patterns of these amazing creatures. Please dress for the weather and bring a flashlight and camera. **SFB:** 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Sunday, July 21, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

THE POWER OF POISON

Learn what it means to be "poisonous" and hike in search of plants and animals that use toxins to survive. **FASN/Visitors Center:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, July 21, 2 – 4 p.m.

PRESTO CHANGO, IT'S A BUTTERFLY!

Join a naturalist to learn how Mother Nature waves her wand, changing caterpillars into beautiful butterflies and moths. Caterpillars come in all different shapes, sizes and colors, and some are even poisonous. After a presentation, we will go out to look for these interesting creatures. **FASN/Visitors Center:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Monday, July 22, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

CREATIVE CANVAS

Everything is a canvas! Join our interpretive artist to create amazing works of art using nature as our inspiration and re-purposed materials as our medium. The only requirements are a sense of humor and a great attitude. Cost: \$10/person. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☚ (7/11) \$

Tuesday, July 23, 3 – 4 p.m.

MINDFULNESS IN NATURE: CENTERING

Enjoy a peaceful afternoon in nature sharpening your awareness of the world around you. We will spend an hour outside, so please dress for the weather. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, July 24, 9 – 11 a.m.

DRAWING OUTDOORS

Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor session of sketching. Beginners are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the program. Portable chairs and drinking water are recommended. Program will be canceled during inclement weather. **FASN/Visitors Center:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, July 24, 10 – 11 a.m.

CREEK CRITTERS FOR KIDS

Explore Rock Creek looking for the critters that live there. Closed-toe shoes that can get wet and dirty are required. **FR/Brushwood:** 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

Wednesday, July 24, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN

Join the Master Gardeners of Summit County to learn from experienced horticulturists Jim and Shelley Funai, Cuyahoga Community College and Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, respectively, about their travel garden adventures. **FASN/Visitors Center:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, July 25, 12 – 1 p.m.

SNAKES FOR KIDS

Kids and their adult companions discover the scaly friends that call our Metro Parks home. Join us for a short walk and snake-related activities. LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, July 26, 9 – 11 a.m.

PRAIRIE HIKE

Join a naturalist for a walk through the prairie to look and listen for birds, blossoms, butterflies and more! Participants may wish to bring a water bottle, sunscreen, a hat and binoculars. SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.



Friday, July 26

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

SUMMIT LAKE KAYAK

Paddle in the "Heart of Akron" at Summit Lake to learn what historical treasures helped build this community. Led by a certified instructor and a naturalist. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses, and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes: instruction and loan of kayak, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. TT/Summit Lake: 380 W. Crosier St., Akron (7/17) \$

Friday, July 26, 3 – 4 p.m.

SHARK WEEK: OHIO

Shark Week has been an American tradition for more than 30 years, helping raise awareness and excitement for sharks. Sharks themselves pre-date the celebration by hundreds of millions of years, and once swam through Summit County! Come and learn about sharks both past and present while hiking with a naturalist. SC/Pheasant Run: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

Friday, July 26, 4 – 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY ART AT FALLS KIDS FEST

This year, we are taking one of our fun and exciting community art projects on the road. Summit Metro Parks participates in many events throughout the county, and we will bring our latest art project to some of those locations. All ages can stop by to create your own quick and fun addition to the project, guided by our interpretive artist. No previous creative experience necessary! The fully-assembled art piece will be unveiled later this fall. Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Amphitheater & Pavilion: 2085 Front Street, Cuyahoga Falls

Friday, July 26, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER HIKE

Have you ever wondered where the phrase "dog days of summer" comes from? Enjoy a hike while discovering the astronomical origins of this term and learn about some of the canines found in Summit Metro Parks. Dogs are welcome! MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Saturday, July 27, 9 – 11 a.m.

MUSHROOM HIKE

A walk in the woods often reveals wonders of nature otherwise overlooked. Join a naturalist on a rugged hike in search of woodland mushrooms. Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water. SR/Wadsworth: 1400 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

Saturday, July 27

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

NIIMISILA RESERVOIR KAYAK

Paddle a portion of Niimisila Reservoir with a certified instructor and a naturalist to learn paddle strokes, safety and see wildlife around the water. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses, and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes: instruction and loan of kayak, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green (7/18) \$

Saturday, July 27, 9 – 11 p.m.

WINGED JEWELS OF THE NIGHT

Join a naturalist as we use black lights and sheets to attract a wide variety of unusually patterned and brightly colored moths. Bring bug spray, a flashlight and a camera. FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, July 28, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

NATURE FOR FAMILIES: FIREFLIES

Join this hands-on nature exploration series for the whole family. This month we'll explore the world of fireflies. We will be outside for the entire program. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, July 28, 9 – 11 p.m.

STARS OF THE SUMMER SKY

Join a naturalist to look through telescopes at various celestial bodies in the summer sky. We are partnering with the Summit Astronomical Society to utilize their facility, which has a retractable roof and houses three state-of-the-art telescopes. Additional telescopes will be available. Bath Nature Preserve: 4160 Ira Rd., Akron

Monday, July 29, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

CAMOUFLAGE FOR KIDS

Kids and their adult companions join a naturalist to learn about camouflage in the natural world, then take a short walk in search of creatures hiding right before our eyes! MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Wednesday, July 31, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

KIDS' FISHING

See 7/12 program description. F/Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron

Wednesday, July 31, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

EARLY EVENING HIKE

Join a naturalist for a leisurely evening hike to search for wildlife and enjoy the overlook view of the Cuyahoga River. We suggest bringing binoculars and a camera. CVS/Overlook: 354 Sackett Ave., Akron

Wednesday, July 31, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

COYOTE CALLING CAMPFIRE

Join a naturalist to learn the natural and cultural history behind some of the park district's most elusive and misunderstood residents: coyotes. We will roast marshmallows (while supplies last) and play coyote calls, hoping that some might call back. LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg



AUGUST**Thursday, August 1, 10 – 11 a.m.****PRESCHOOL EXPLORERS**

Get outside and enjoy nature through this monthly series for children ages 3 to 5. Each month we will explore a seasonal topic to engage the senses and encourage self-exploration. Program will be outside, so please dress for the weather. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Thursday, August 1, 1 – 2:30 p.m.**DROP-IN NATURE CRAFT**

See description on page 7. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, August 2**9:30 – 10 a.m. & 3 – 3:30 p.m.****NATURE STORIES**

Young children and their adult companions will enjoy this interactive, nature-inspired storytime intended for ages 18 months to 3 years. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg  (7/26)

Saturday, August 3, 9 – 11 a.m.**BEGINNER STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING**

Try stand-up paddleboarding, the fastest growing water sport, to get a workout and enjoy nature. A certified instructor and a naturalist will guide you. No experience needed. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses, and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes instruction and loan of paddleboard, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green  (7/24) \$

Saturday, August 3, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**NATIVE FERNS**

Join a naturalist to look for several of the native ferns that grow in this area. Learn about their unique reproductive strategy, their significance in the plant kingdom and some of the lore surrounding their names and uses. CVS/Oxbow: 1061 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Saturday, August 3, 12 – 3 p.m.**INTERMEDIATE STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING**

Join a certified instructor and a naturalist to learn moving on the board, advanced paddle strokes and rescue techniques. Participants are required to have already completed our Beginner Stand-up Paddleboarding class. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses, and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes instruction and loan of paddleboard, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green  (7/24) \$

Monday, August 5, 8 – 9:30 a.m.**BEAT THE HEAT**

Join a naturalist for a morning walk along the Valley Link Trail to learn how plants and animals cope with the summer sun. SR/Old Portage: 1300 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

Tuesday, August 6, 3 – 4:30 p.m.**GRIN AND BEAR IT**

Join a naturalist to hike Meadow Trail and discover some of the biology and habits of the black bear so that we might coexist more comfortably with this Ohio resident. MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

**Tuesday, August 6, 7 – 8 p.m.****MUSIC BY THE LAKE**

Enjoy free lake swimming from 3 to 6:45 p.m. and a one-hour concert by the Metro Parks Ensemble near Maple Beach Shelter at 7 p.m. Kids' activities and refreshments provided. Concert canceled if it rains. Call 330-865-8060 if wet weather is in the forecast. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

ARCHERY

All equipment and hands-on instruction provided.

**Saturday, August 3
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. &
1 – 2:30 p.m.**

**ARCHERY GAMES OF THRONES FOR ADULTS**

Ages 16 and older will be assigned to a great "House of Westeros" and play games to build archery skills with an ice-and-fire twist. Participants must have already taken one of our Intro to Archery programs.  (7/27) **FREE**

**Wednesday, August 21
10 – 11:30 a.m.**

INTRO TO ARCHERY FOR ADULTS

Adults 16 and older can learn international-style target archery. Program good for beginning and practiced archers. Cost: \$10/person.  (8/14) \$

**Wednesday, August 21
12:30 – 2 p.m.**

INTRO TO ARCHERY FOR FAMILIES

Families with children ages 9 and older join us to learn international-style target archery together. Program good for beginning and practiced archers. Must be 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$15/family.  (8/14) \$

**Thursday, August 22
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

ARCHERY OPEN SHOOT

Here's your chance to practice your archery skills. Register for a half-hour time slot to improve your shot. Participants must have already taken our Intro to Archery program.  (8/14) **FREE**

All programs at HH/Archery Range: 1940 W. Steels Corners Rd., Cuyahoga Falls



Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions will go on a summer nature walk to learn about butterflies. Come dressed for the weather as most of the program will be outside. Please make arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.

Thursday, August 8, 10:30 – 11:30

GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron ☎ (7/30)

Monday, August 26, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (7/30)



Wednesday, August 7, 9 – 11 a.m.

DRAWING OUTDOORS

Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor session of sketching. Beginners are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the program. Portable chairs and drinking water are recommended. Program will be canceled during inclement weather. **FASN/Visitors Center:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, August 7, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS FOR KIDS

Kids and their adult companions join a naturalist to learn about the crawling and slithering creatures found in our parks. Meet some of our resident education animals before taking a walk in search of turtles, frogs and more in their natural habitat. **FASN/Seneca Deck:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, August 9, 3 – 4 p.m.

POISON IN THE GARDEN

Poison: a lot can kill, a little can cure! Hike with a naturalist to explore the power of poison in nature and gardens, and its surprising uses for good. **GYH/Main Entrance:** 2077 Newton St., Akron

Friday, August 9, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

EVENING HIKE

Join a naturalist for a relaxing evening hike, and hopefully we'll enjoy a beautiful sunset along the way. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows:** 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Friday, August 9, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

HIKE & FIRE

Hike Cherry Lane Trail to learn about local wildlife active at night, then relax around the fire with marshmallows. **FASN/Campfire Area:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, August 10, 9 – 10 a.m.

AUTISM FRIENDLY TOUCH-A-TRUCK HOUR

Join the Autism Society of Greater Akron (ASGA) and Summit Metro Parks as we explore more than 12 vehicles without the bright lights and sirens. ASGA will be on hand to help welcome families of all abilities, and children and adults can enjoy quiet activities between their visits to our trucks!



Saturday, August 10, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT

All ages can touch and sit in more than 12 different Summit Metro Parks vehicles and enjoy FREE lake swimming! Local law enforcement agencies will also bring vehicles, and food trucks will be on site.

MF/Lake Area:
521 S. River Rd.,
Munroe Falls



Saturday, August 10, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

NATURE ART FOR TEENS

Do you have a creative spirit? Teens ages 13 to 17 can join our interpretive artist for lessons in nature-inspired art. This is a drop-off program. Please dress for a mess. **FASN/Visitors Center:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (8/2)

Sunday, August 11, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

GIFTS OF THE FOREST

Here's to the trees! These wooden wonders are essential to so many aspects of our lives. Learn how to identify some common trees and discover the roles they play for humans, wildlife and the environment. **FASN:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, August 11, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

KIDS' YOGA

Kids ages 7 to 12 and their adult companions join a certified instructor for yoga focused on connecting with nature. Class may include a short hike. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat or towel and drinking water. Some mats provided. **FASN/Visitors Center:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, August 11, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

NATURE FOR FAMILIES: CAMPFIRE

Join this hands-on nature exploration series for the whole family. This month we'll meet at the amphitheater and learn how to build a fire, experience the art of storytelling and make s'mores. We will be outside for the entire program. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, August 11, 9 – 11 p.m.

ASTRONOMY: PERSEID METEOR SHOWER

Witness the Perseid meteor shower, one of nature's best shows in the sky. A program will occur on only one of these three nights, pending clear skies: 8/11, 8/12 or 8/13. Call 330-865-8060 after 4 p.m. to learn if a program is taking place that night. Bring a flashlight and chairs or blankets. **SC/Bathhouse:** 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

**Monday, August 12 – Tuesday, August 13
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily**

SUMMER CAMP: EXPLORERS



Kids ages 9 and 10 can register for this exciting two-day drop-off camp. Investigate the lives of critters with fun, hands-on experiences in the outdoors. Cost: \$30/child. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (4/1) \$

Registration ends July 29

Tuesday, August 13, 10 – 11 a.m.

AWESOME 'POSSUMS FOR KIDS

Opossums are awesome! Join a naturalist for an interactive and fun experience all about North America's only marsupial! Adults must accompany their children. WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

Tuesday, August 13, 3 – 5 p.m.

NIMISILA RESERVOIR KAYAK

Paddle a portion of Nimisila Reservoir with a certified instructor and a naturalist to learn paddle strokes, safety and see wildlife around the water. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses, and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes: instruction and loan of kayak, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green  (7/31) \$

Tuesday, August 13, 7 – 8 p.m.

RANDOM ACT OF MUSIC

Weather permitting, the all-volunteer Metro Parks Ensemble will perform an hour of traditional marches, big band standards and oldies. Call 330-865-8060 after 4 p.m. to learn if the concert is canceled due to inclement weather. SC/Bathhouse: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

Wednesday, August 14, 8 – 9:30 a.m.

SUNRISE HIKE

Relax and stroll to see what's out and about on Downy Loop Trail as the day begins. WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

Wednesday, August 14, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

KIDS' FISHING

Kids 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line in Brushwood Lake. Some rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided. Adults must supervise their children, but are not permitted to fish. FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield



Wednesday, August 14, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

WHAT'S A FLUTTER THIS SUMMER

Did you know that a group of butterflies is called a flutter? Join a naturalist to discover the basics of identifying these beautiful insects while hiking through the meadow. MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Thursday, August 15, 10 – 11 a.m.

QUARRY QUEST FOR KIDS

Hike to Deep Lock Quarry on a quest to find evidence from the past. DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula

Thursday, August 15, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

SHIRTS TO DYE FOR

Learn about natural dyes from local plants with a naturalist, then tie-dye a shirt. Bring a plain t-shirt and wear older clothes that can get stained. FASN/Onondaga Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



Thursday, August 15, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDENS: SKETCHING IN THE GARDEN

Join our interpretive artist to learn sketching techniques while enjoying the Goodyear Heights Community Garden. In the event of rain, we will set up in the lodge. GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron

Thursday, August 15, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

HIKE & FIRE

Join a naturalist for an evening hike followed by a campfire. Feel free to bring your favorite folklore and not-so-scary campfire stories. Marshmallows will be provided for roasting, while supplies last. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, August 16, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

FISHING FRIDAY

Join us for a fun day of fishing! Each month we will spotlight one of Ohio's native fish that can be caught in the Metro Parks. Poles and bait will be provided while supplies last. Those 16 and older will need a valid State of Ohio fishing license. WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

Friday, August 16, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

DROP-IN DISCOVERY: TURTLES

Children and their adult companions drop in to learn about some terrific turtles that may be out and about this season. Meet one of our resident turtles and make a craft to take home. FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, August 16, 2:30 – 4 p.m.

GARDEN BUDDIES

Calling all kids! Get hands-on in our community garden while looking for and learning about insect, amphibian and reptile friends that help our gardens grow. Plan to get dirty! Meet at the garden. Program will be moved into the West Room if it rains. GYH/Main Entrance: 2077 Newton St., Akron

Saturday, August 17, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

YOGA: VINYASA

Enjoy an active vinyasa yoga practice with a certified instructor. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg  (8/3)

Saturday, August 17, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

GEOLOGY DICTATES THE BIOLOGY

Join a naturalist to learn how the geology of the area effects which species of trees will grow and thrive. CVS/Chuckery: 837 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Saturday, August 17, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

COMMUNITY ART AT PORCHROKR

This year, we are taking one of our fun and exciting community art projects on the road. Summit Metro Parks participates in many events throughout the county, and we will bring our latest art project to some of those locations. All ages can stop by to create your own quick and fun addition to the project, guided by our interpretive artist. No previous creative experience necessary! The fully-assembled art piece will be unveiled later this fall. Highland Square: Akron

Saturday, August 17, 1 – 2 p.m.

BUTTERFLIES OF SUMMIT LAKE

Join a naturalist and follow the butterflies!

Learn about the diversity and abilities of these graceful flyers along the beautiful shores of Summit Lake. Nets and jars provided.

TT/Summit Lake: 380 W. Crosier St., Akron

Saturday, August 17, 9 – 11 p.m.

MARVELOUS MOTHS

Join a Summit Metro Parks naturalist and Lara Roketenetz from The University of Akron to explore the variety and beauty of our local moths. Bring a flashlight and camera. Meet at the Field Station, past the main parking lot off Ira Road and down the lane to the second house. Bath Nature Preserve: 4160 Ira Rd., Akron

Sunday, August 18

9 – 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 – 3 p.m.

GORGE KAYAK

Paddle the Cuyahoga River at the Gorge to see towering rock ledges and breathtaking scenery from your kayak. Led by a certified instructor and a naturalist. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses, and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes: instruction and loan of kayak, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. G/Main Entrance: 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls  (8/8) \$

Sunday, August 18, 12 – 2 p.m.

NATIVE PLANTS OF SPRINGFIELD BOG

Join a naturalist on a stroll outdoors looking at goldenrod, sunflowers and other native wildflowers. We also will be on the lookout for the native pollinators that help these plants. SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Monday, August 19, 8 – 9:30 a.m.

HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

Hike three miles at a vigorous pace with few, if any, rest stops. Beginners are welcome, but talk to your doctor before beginning a new exercise routine. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron



Monday, August 19, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

HISTORY HIKE

Walk along the Towpath Trail to learn some local history, from Native Americans through the canal era and beyond. TT/Big Bend: 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron

**Tuesday, August 20
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. & 3 – 4 p.m.**

SCALY & SLIMY STORYTIME

Families with beginner readers of all ages: grab your favorite book and enjoy an interactive storytime experience with our live animals. We'll read some stories together, meet a critter, then read your favorite book with your family. Meet at the shelter. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron  (8/10)

Tuesday, August 20, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

NATURE JOURNALING: BUTTERFLIES

Learn basic journaling techniques to record your nature observations. This month we'll learn about butterflies of the area. We will be outside for part of the program. Taking photos is optional. A one-time registration fee for the monthly series includes a journal, journal pen and pencil. Cost: \$20/person. FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield  (8/9) \$

Tuesday, August 20, 7 – 8 p.m.

RANDOM ACT OF MUSIC

Weather permitting, the all-volunteer Metro Parks Ensemble will perform an hour of traditional marches, big band standards and oldies. Call 330-865-8060 after 4 p.m. to learn if the concert is canceled due to inclement weather. LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, August 21, 9 – 11 a.m.

DRAWING OUTDOORS

Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor session of sketching. Beginners are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the program. Portable chairs and drinking water are recommended. Program will be canceled during inclement weather. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, August 21, 3:30 – 5 p.m.

LATE SUMMER STROLL

Enjoy a leisurely hike with a naturalist while discovering nature and history along the way. ONW/Trail Lot: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath

Wednesday, August 21, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

PURPLE MARTINS FROM SHORE

It's a bird cyclone! Attempt to witness the whimsical evening roosting behavior of the charismatic purple martin as they migrate south. NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green

Thursday, August 22, 9:30 – 10 a.m.

NATURE STORIES

Young children and their adult companions will enjoy this interactive, nature-inspired storytime intended for ages 18 months to 3 years. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg  (8/8)

Thursday, August 22, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

CREEK WALK

Cool off in the creek as we search for critters and fossils. Please dress to get wet and wear closed-toe shoes. FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

Thursday, August 22, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

BEGINNER TREE ID

Enjoy a leisurely hike while learning tricks and tips for identifying trees by leaves, bark and twig arrangement. CVS/Oxbow: 1061 Cuyahoga St., Akron



Friday, August 23

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

NIMISILA RESERVOIR KAYAK

Paddle a portion of Nimisila Reservoir with a certified instructor and a naturalist to learn paddle strokes, safety and see wildlife around the water. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses, and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes: instruction and loan of kayak, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green  (8/15) \$

Friday, August 23, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

HIKE THE HOLLOW

Summer days are quickly coming to a close. Join a naturalist on a leisurely hike to discover what's out and about this time of the year. WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

Friday, August 23, 6 – 7 p.m.

OHIO BEFORE EUROPEANS

Hike with a naturalist to explore both the nature and the human history of Ohio before the arrival of Europeans. SC/Pheasant Run: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

Saturday, August 24

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

SUMMIT LAKE KAYAK

Paddle in the "Heart of Akron" at Summit Lake to learn what historical treasures helped build this community. Led by a certified instructor and a naturalist. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. We suggest bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses, and wearing clothes that can get wet. Fee includes: instruction and loan of kayak, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. TT/Summit Lake: 380 W. Crosier St., Akron  (8/16) \$

Saturday, August 24, 1 – 3 p.m.

WOODLAND MUSHROOMS

From mid-summer to late-autumn, a great variety of mushrooms may be found throughout Ohio. Enjoy an educational and fun walk to discover which mushrooms are out this time of year. FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, August 24, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

BLOOMS AT SUNSET

Take in sunset views of the wildflower meadow and learn some basic identification of late summer blooms. SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Sunday, August 25, 12 – 3 p.m.

FALL HIKING SPREE KICKOFF

Get a head start on the 56th annual Fall Hiking Spree and meet a naturalist and mascots at Silver Creek Metro Park. Hiking forms will be available and Fall Hiking Spree t-shirts will be for sale. To receive your hiking shield, all other hikes must be completed 9/1 through 11/30.

SC/Pheasant Run:
5000 Hametown
Rd., Norton



Sunday, August 25, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

NATURE CRAFTING: WEAVE A FOOTSTOOL

Using a twill pattern, we will weave the top of a footstool. Please bring a small flathead screwdriver, needle-nose pliers, towel and two-gallon bucket, if you can. Cost: \$25/ person. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg  (8/13) \$

Monday, August 26, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

EXPLORE THE GORGE

Hike with a naturalist to learn about the nature and history of Gorge Metro Park and the Cuyahoga River. G/Main Entrance: 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls

Wednesday, August 28, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

KIDS' FISHING

See 8/14 program description. F/Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron

Wednesday, August 28, 6 – 8 p.m.

WOODLAND MUSHROOMS

A great variety of mushrooms may be found throughout our parks in late summer. Join a naturalist as we take an evening stroll to discover which mushrooms are out this time of year. Bug spray is recommended. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, August 28, 7 – 9 p.m.

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN

Join the Master Gardeners of Summit County to learn how gardens are used in horticultural therapy and the basic elements of healing gardens. Presented by Karen Kennedy, Horticultural Therapy Institute. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, August 29, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

WILDFLOWER WALK

Walk through the meadow in search of late summer blooms and the colorful insects that pollinate them. MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Thursday, August 29, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

BEGINNER TREE ID

Enjoy a leisurely hike while learning tricks and tips for identifying trees by leaves, bark and twig arrangement. DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula

Friday, August 30, 9 – 11 a.m.

FERN WALK

Join a naturalist to learn about some of Ohio's native ferns and discover how to identify them by their structure and habitat. SR/Shady Hollow: 1750 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

Friday, August 30, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

CALLING ALL COYOTES

Join a naturalist for a short presentation to learn all about a misunderstood mammal, the coyote. Afterward, we will listen for their calls during a short hike. ONW/Trail Lot: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath



Saturday, August 31, 9 – 11 a.m.

BEGINNER STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

See 8/3 BEGINNER program description. Cost: \$15/person. NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green  (8/21) \$

Saturday, August 31, 12 – 3 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

See 8/3 INTERMEDIATE program description. Cost: \$15/person. NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green  (8/21) \$

Saturday, August 31, 2 – 4 p.m.

THE HUNT FOR INSECTS AND SPIDERS

Join a naturalist as we explore the trail for insects and spiders that live in the meadow. Nets, magnifiers and jars will be provided. All you need to bring is a sharp eye, hat and sunscreen. MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge



Find Your Summertime Adventure in the Parks

Stephanie Walton, Chief of Marketing & Communications



Summer is officially in full swing, and SMP has you covered with warm-weather activities for the whole family. Whether you prefer swimming or skating, music or movies, there's an adventure for everyone this summer in Summit Metro Parks.

Attend Films with the Fireflies

New this summer, Summit Metro Parks is offering a series of free, family-friendly outdoor movies shown at parks across the county. Pack some popcorn and candy, bring a blanket or your favorite chair and join us for a relaxing evening

under the summer night sky. Visit the website for showtimes and locations.

Go Jump in a Lake

At Munroe Falls Metro Park (*Munroe Falls*) and Silver Creek Metro Park (*Norton*), lake swimming is available with lifeguards on duty May 25 to August 11, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekends and holidays. Daily admission is \$5 for adults, teens and kids age 5 and up. Season passes are \$40 for adults and teens 13 and older, and \$20 for ages 5 to 12 and seniors 65 and older. Children under age 5 are always admitted free. Pack a picnic, or enjoy a selection of treats from the concession stand.

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YOUR PARKS

Your Adventure



Swimmers of all ages have enjoyed cooling off at Munroe Falls Metro Park for decades.



Learn to paddle or improve your skills at one of our naturalist-led kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding programs.

Catch a Concert

Throughout the summer, the all-volunteer Metro Parks Ensemble provides several free "Music by the Lake" performances. These concerts begin at 7 p.m., and feature free lake swimming from 3 to 6:45 p.m. Kids' activities and dessert are also provided. For a full schedule of Ensemble performances, visit the Summit Metro Parks website.

Perfect Your Paddling

For those who enjoy kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding — or want to give it a try — Summit Metro Parks offers a variety of naturalist-led programs for all skill levels at area lakes. Paddle with a certified instructor and a naturalist to learn strokes, practice safety techniques and see wildlife around the water. Visit the website for more information or to register for a program.

Play on the Parkway

Sand Run Parkway goes car-free between N. Portage Path and Merriman Road on summer weekends through Labor Day.

The closure of this nearly half-mile section of the parkway allows visitors to walk, jog, skate or bike safely on the road. In addition, a car-free parkway helps protect endangered wildlife and sensitive habitats. Runners and walkers who wish to extend their journey from the Sand Run Jogging Trail can now make a round trip totaling nearly seven miles. Parking nearest this section of the parkway is available at the Old Portage Area of Sand Run Metro Park. 

For more information on summertime activities, concerts, movie showings and program schedules, visit summitmetroparks.org.

PLAY on the Parkway



closed to
vehicles

SAT & SUN

JUNE 1
through
LABOR DAY



HAMPTON & FRIENDS

Activities for Adventurers of All Ages

BIRD BINGO – Hit the trail looking for these birds, their behaviors, their food and evidence they have left behind. Can you find five across, down or diagonal?

B



■ Perching

I



■ Seeds

R



■ Northern Cardinal

D



■ Nest

S



■ Singing

American Goldfinch

■ American Goldfinch



■ Splat



■ Swimming



■ Flower



■ Black-capped Chickadee

Flying

■ Flying



■ Blue Jay



■ FREE



■ Downy Woodpecker



■ Feather

Insects

■ Insects



■ Woodpecker Holes



■ Red-tailed Hawk



■ Tufted Titmouse



■ Soaring

Mallard (female & male)

■ Mallard (female & male)



■ Wading



■ Tracks



■ Worms



■ Eating



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- summitmetroparks.org

Please share this publication and recycle it when finished.



**Saturday,
August 10, 2019**

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

MUNROE FALLS METRO PARK

521 S. River Rd.
Munroe Falls 44262

All ages can touch and sit in more than a dozen Summit Metro Parks vehicles — including a dump truck, law enforcement cruiser, backhoe, excavator and more.

Participants can also enjoy
FREE lake swimming.

**Summit
Metro Parks**

We're Your Back Yard

