

GREEN ISLANDS

SUMMIT METRO PARKS



BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE



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Burning Cuyahoga

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at Valley View

Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

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 Tina Ughrin
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This magazine is mailed free of charge to Summit County residents. To join the mailing list, send your name and mailing address to marketing@summitmetroparks.org or call 330-867-5511.

Green Islands can be downloaded online: 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.

SUMMER CONCERTS '19

Join us for a FREE, live concert series this summer in the great outdoors! All performances begin at **7 p.m.**, and Music by the Lake concerts feature free swimming from 3 to 6:45 p.m.



MUSIC by the LAKE	MF/Lake Area	6/4
MUSIC by the LAKE	SC/Bathhouse	6/11
RANDOM ACT of MUSIC	CVS/Chuckery	6/18
MUSIC by the LAKE	MF/Lake Area	7/2
MUSIC by the LAKE	SC/Bathhouse	7/9
RANDOM ACT of MUSIC	NR/Lot C4	7/16
MUSIC by the LAKE	MF/Lake Area	8/6
RANDOM ACT of MUSIC	SC/Bathhouse	8/13
RANDOM ACT of MUSIC	LP/Twinsburg Ledges	8/20

Concerts are subject to cancelation due to inclement weather.

Call **330-865-8060** if wet weather is in the forecast.

DISCOVER

YOUR BACK YARD



GREAT BLUE HERONS

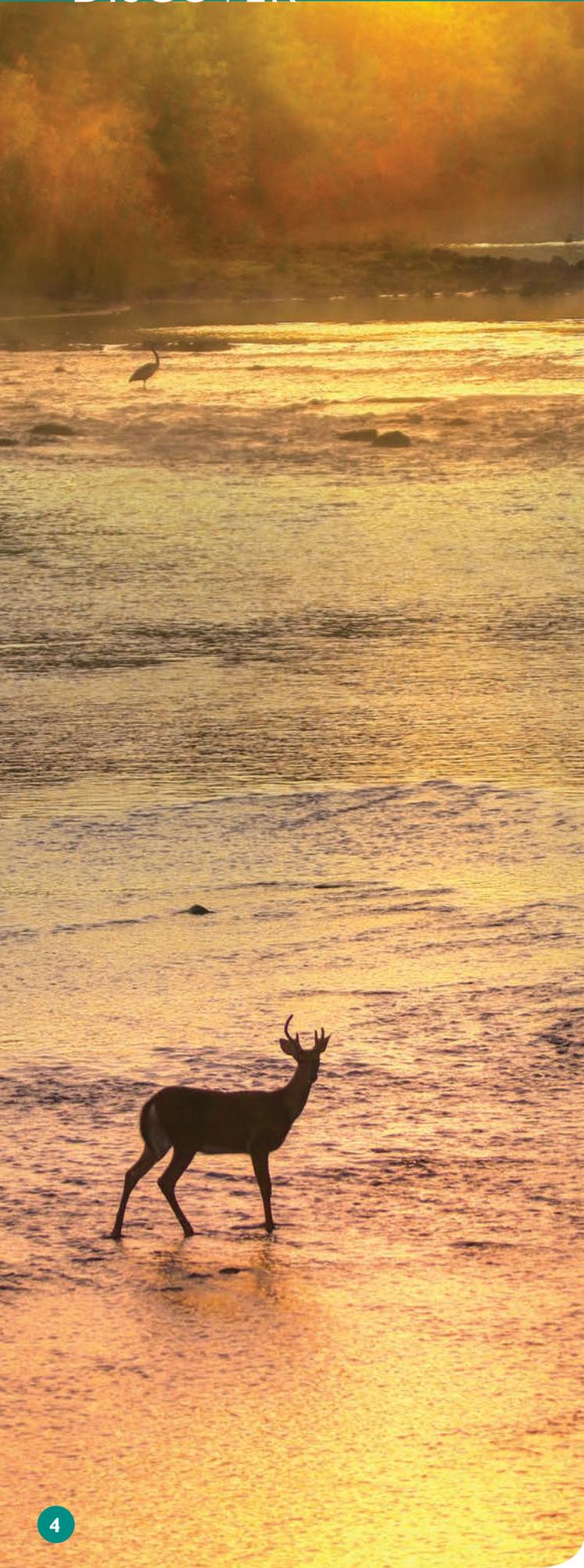
*Sarah Graham,
Interpretive Naturalist*



Great Blue Herons can be viewed in many areas managed by Summit Metro Parks. They are seen most frequently from February to July at the Bath Road Heronry in the Merriman Valley, where onlookers have enjoyed them since the early 1990s. In February, males return to the area to await the females for the courtship display. The pair stays until the eventual fledging of their young in July.

Males and females take turns incubating and feeding their young. The adults leave to find food like fish, small rodents, amphibians and insects. They can be seen hunting throughout the year at a variety of locations, such as the Wilbeth

Road Trailhead on the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the lake at Silver Creek Metro Park and the pond in the Tinkers Creek Area of Liberty Park. Standing motionless, they await their prey, then strike with their long “S” shaped neck and sharp beak. Water quality is important to their long-term survival; without a healthy water system, these birds would lack much-needed aquatic foods vital to their existence. Fortunately, the Cuyahoga River has come a long way since the 1969 fire — in fact, it celebrates 50 years of renewed water quality this year. 🌱



OUR BRIL BURN

The June 23, 1969 burning of the Cuyahoga River is a familiar story to nearly everyone in the free world. But 1969 was not the first river burn. The Cuyahoga burned as early as 1868 and many times between. Some of the fires took lives, many took property. The photo usually associated with the 1969 fire is actually from a 1952 fire which caused over \$1.5 million in damages.

LIANT ING CUYAHOGA

Elaine Marsh, Watershed Specialist

So, why did the '69 fire lead to marches across the country, Earth Day and the Clean Water Act?

For the first time since the industrial revolution, clean water had become a public value. People refused to accept pollution, confronted powerful vested interests and demanded regulations with consequences.

The result was a system of state and federal laws and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency enforcement procedures that have transformed water bodies nationwide. Locally, Ohio EPA's research on biocriteria and stream structure has launched revolutionary clean water infrastructure programs. Partnerships among local governments, the regulatory community, educational



Courtesy of Cleveland Press Collection at Cleveland State University Library

No one actually captured a photo of the infamous 1969 fire. This recognizable image is of the Cuyahoga River Fire from November 3, 1952.

institutions and nonprofit organizations advanced the fishable, swimmable goals of the Clean Water Act. Scientific research lead to new technologies and a better understanding of how watersheds and green infrastructure worked with reclaiming municipal and industrial waste water.

Additionally, a whole system of funding sources for clean water infrastructure

has evolved. Summit Metro Parks has acquired sensitive wetlands and watersheds using these funds, expanding our conservation ability and allowing for additional recreational opportunities for the public. The funding is also aiding our work with community stakeholders to remove the Gorge Dam, the Cuyahoga's largest remaining unresolved problem.

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SMP Employee SPOTLIGHT:

Janean Kazimir & Becca Zak

Interpretive Naturalists

Janean (left) and **Becca** (right) have been with SMP for three and five years, respectively. Get to know them and the important work they do.

What is your role at Summit Metro Parks?

BZ: We're interpretive naturalists. We lead public programs and are tasked with making plants, animals, history and stewardship relevant and important. We're encouraged to stay curious and be life-long learners. It's a rewarding and intentional career and we highly recommend it; the world needs more people in the scientific community!

What's your favorite project?

JK: I've enjoyed teaching visitors about misunderstood wildlife, such as bats, reptiles and coyotes. I love creating "aha!" moments around critters that are not traditionally seen as "cute and cuddly."

BZ: Focusing on the human side of sustainability is most rewarding for me. Human impacts are often overlooked,

yet are prevalent worldwide. Encouraging meaningful human action is necessary and contagious!

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

JK: Becca and I are stand-up paddleboarding at Nimisila Reservoir Metro Park. This park is perfect for camping, fishing, paddle sports and to see eagles, osprey and purple martins. Learn more about kayaking or paddleboarding — join us on a program this summer!

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

BZ: We're biased, but suggest attending an SMP program! In every season, there is so much to learn and discover. Search for salamanders, call for coyotes or touch a turtle. The more you learn, the more you understand and the more you care.

EXPLORE

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

MAY



Wednesday, May 1
8 – 11 a.m.

SPRING BIRD WALK

New and experienced birdwatchers can join a naturalist for this informative bird walk. Binoculars are recommended. DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula

Wednesday, May 1, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

NATURE HIKE

Come enjoy spring and learn about some early May plants and animals along the trail. MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Thursday, May 2, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

WINTER IS COMING

Learn some facts behind the fantasy in celebration of the final season of HBO's Game of Thrones. Dire wolves, lions and mammoths once flourished in our realm of Ohio. No oaths of fealty needed to join! GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron

Friday, May 3

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 2:30 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS: NUMBERS IN NATURE

Homeschoolers, ages 7 to 10: Did you know that math can be found all throughout nature? Learn about the famous Fibonacci sequence and how this "golden ratio" appears in nature. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (4/19)

Friday, May 3, 1:30 – 3 p.m.

BIRDS & BLOOMS

Hike the trails in search of wildflowers and songbirds. Binoculars and field guides are recommended. Some will be provided. LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

WILDFLOWER HIKE

Join a naturalist in search of woodland wildflowers along parts of Dogwood Trail. Portions of this hike are strenuous due to hilly terrain. Meet at the Shadowfield Area. SR/Wadsworth: 1400 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

Saturday, May 4 & Sunday, May 5
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

FREE FISHING DAYS



Are you a resident of Ohio? Then you can fish! All ages and experience levels are welcome. No license is required, and equipment/bait will be provided while supplies last. Learn to clean

your catch and get some native fish recipes. SC/Boathouse: 5171 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton

Saturday, May 4, 1 – 3 p.m.

HERON OPEN HOUSE

Celebrate the return of great blue herons while viewing them through spotting scopes and binoculars. Meet at the Bath Road Heronry on Bath Road, between Riverview and Akron-Peninsula roads in Akron.



Sunday, May 5, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

GARLIC MUSTARD PULL

Growing, growing, gone! Learn about invasive garlic mustard and why native plants need our help, then hit the trail to start pulling. Please dress for off-trail work. Gloves are recommended, bags will be provided. Meet in the parking lot. FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, May 5, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

KIDS YOGA

Kids ages 7 to 12 and their adult companions can join a certified yoga instructor for this program focused on connecting with nature. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat or towel and drinking water. Some mats provided (while supplies last). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, May 5, 8:30 – 10:30 p.m.

ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Join us as we look for spiral galaxies, double stars, Mars, the Moon and several constellations. We might even see a shooting star! Telescopes will be available for viewing. Fingers crossed that the clouds stay away. Bath Nature Preserve: 4160 Ira Rd, 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

Monday, May 6, 8 – 11 a.m.

SPRING BIRD WALK

New and experienced birdwatchers can join a naturalist for a bird walk. Part of the walk will take us through wet grass. Binoculars are recommended. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Monday, May 6, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

WILDFLOWER WALK

Hike through the forest to enjoy the delicate beauty of spring wildflowers. HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron

Wednesday, May 8, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Join a naturalist to hike Oxbow Trail, with stops along the way to discover nature and history. CVS/Oxbow: 1061 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Wednesday, May 8

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

Join our interpretive artist for this entertaining lesson in nature drawing. Bring a sketchbook, pencil and a sense of humor. Beginners are welcome. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (4/27)



Sunday, May 12, 8 – 10:30 a.m.

Run, jog or walk to celebrate Mom at this annual 5K to benefit the Summit Metro Parks Foundation! Jogging strollers are welcome on race day. Pet spectators are welcome, but not allowed on the course. Runners 14 and younger are free, but they must be registered in advance. For ages 15 and older, registration is \$35/person through May 12. Register online: summitmetroparks.org. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls 📍 (Now!) \$

Wednesday, May 8, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

WALK & TALK: SUSTAINABILITY



Enjoy a walk along the trail while talking about how we can all be a little more environmentally conscious in our daily lives. Bring

ideas to share! SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Thursday, May 9, 6 – 7 p.m.

COMPOSTING 101

Join a naturalist to learn basic techniques for starting and maintaining a compost pile or barrel at home. We'll conclude the evening with a short tour of our on-site compost bins. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, May 10, 8 – 10 a.m.

BEGINNER BIRD WALK

Calling all beginners! Walk along the race to catch glimpses of spring migrants and learn identification tips and tricks. Binoculars and a field guide are recommended. F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Friday, May 10

9:30 – 10 a.m. & 3 – 3:30 p.m.

NATURE STORIES

Young children and their adult companions will enjoy this interactive, nature-inspired story time intended for ages 18 months to 3 years. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (4/30)

Friday, May 10, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

FISHING FRIDAY

Join us for a fun afternoon of fishing! Each month a native Ohio fish found in the Metro Parks will be highlighted. Poles and bait will be provided while supplies last. Participants 16 and older must have a fishing license. FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

Saturday, May 11, 1 – 3 p.m.

DANCING DARTERS AND REGAL RAINBOWS

Join a naturalist as we look for the amazing variety of stream fish in Rock Creek. Participants will get in the creek to net fish for identification. Bring water shoes and don't forget bug spray! FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

Sunday, May 12, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

NATURE FOR FAMILIES: WILDFLOWERS

Join this hands-on nature exploration series for the whole family. This month we'll explore the wildflowers of Ledges Trail. Strollers are not recommended for this trail, but they can be secured in the nature center while we're out. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, May 12, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

STROLL WITH MOM

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon hike with the mother figure in your life. We'll search for birds, deer and other creatures who become mothers in spring and learn how animal moms take care of their young. CVS/Oxbow: 1061 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Monday, May 13, 10 a.m. – 12 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 📍 (5/1) \$

Monday, May 13, 1 – 4 p.m.

DISTANCE HIKE

Hike 7-plus miles at a continuous pace on trails that are difficult or primitive. There will be few, if any, rest stops. Please wear footwear appropriate for potentially muddy conditions. Drinking water is recommended. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Tuesday, May 14, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

MINDFULNESS IN NATURE: AWARENESS

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

Tuesday, May 14, 1 – 4 p.m.

NATURE CRAFTING FOR ADULTS: ODDS & ENDS BASKETS

Weave a basket with your own creative flair! Make your own design or choose from a few simple patterns. Materials fee: \$10. Please bring a flathead screwdriver, needle-nose pliers, towel and 2-gallon bucket, if you can. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 📍 (4/30) \$

KINDEREALM: WHO'S NEW NATURE WALK

Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions will go on a spring nature walk to learn about who's new in nature. 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. ☎ (4/20)

Thursday, May 2
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.
FASN/Visitors Center
1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, May 8
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
F/Coventry Oaks
40 Axline Ave., Akron

Thursday, May 9
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
GYH/Pioneer
550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Monday, May 20
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.
LP/Nature Center
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Tuesday, May 14, 5 – 7 p.m.

KIDS' FISHING

Kids 15 and younger will learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line in Alder 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. **GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron**



Wednesday, May 15, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

Hike Deer Run Trail twice at a vigorous pace. Beginners are welcome, but talk to your doctor before beginning a new exercise routine. Drinking water is recommended. **ONW/Trail Lot: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath**

Wednesday, May 15

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 story time with our live animals. We'll read some stories together and meet a critter, then read your favorite book with your family. **GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron ☎ (5/3)**

Thursday, May 16, 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 that will 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, May 16, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDENS: SUCCESS FROM THE SOIL UP

The key to healthy plants is healthy soil. Join us to learn how to grow a bountiful garden from the ground up! **GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron**

Thursday, May 16, 7 – 8 p.m.

COYOTES AMONG US

Learn about the secret lives of these predators and what makes them so successful. Discover what Summit Metro Parks does to study coyote/human interactions, including what actions are taken to reduce conflicts. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Friday, May 17, 1 – 3 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS: NUMBERS IN NATURE

Homeschoolers, ages 11 to 14: Did you know that math can be found all throughout nature? Learn about the famous Fibonacci sequence and how this "golden ratio" appears in nature. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (4/19)**

Friday, May 17, 6 – 8 p.m.

SPRING BLOOMS

Hike Chippewa Trail in search of spring wildflowers. Learn how to identify these beauties and their past uses. **SC/Pheasant Run: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton**

Saturday, May 18, 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 ☎ (5/7)**

Saturday, May 18, 2 – 4 p.m.

CREATE A LIVING LANDSCAPE

It doesn't matter where you live or what type of yard you have — you can still attract hundreds of species to your home by following a few simple steps! Participants will see two case studies



that demonstrate the benefits of welcoming wildlife into your yard. Experts will be on hand to answer your questions, and there will be an optional hike afterwards. This program is presented jointly with Summit Soil and Water Conservation District and Davey Resource Group. **SR/Mingo: 1501 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron**

Saturday, May 18, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

FULL MOON HIKE & FIRE

Join us for an easy hike as the sun sets. Afterward, we'll gather around a fire to enjoy stories by the light of the moon and roast marshmallows, while supplies last. **LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Saturday, May 18, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

FULL MOON HIKE

Join us for a hike on Chippewa Trail as the sun sets while discovering some fun facts about the Full Flower Moon. **SC/Big Oak: 5199 Medina Line Rd., Norton**

Sunday, May 19, 9:30 – 11 a.m.

HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

Hike 3 miles of hilly terrain at a vigorous pace with few, if any, rest stops. Beginners are welcome, but talk to your doctor before beginning a new exercise routine. Drinking water is recommended. Be prepared for several stream crossings. **HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron**

Sunday, May 19

12 – 1:30 p.m. & 2 – 3:30 p.m.

NATURE DRAWING FOR KIDS

Ages 6 to 12 can join our interpretive artist for this lesson in nature drawing. Paper and pencils will be provided. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron ☎ (5/4)**

Monday, May 20, 3 – 4 p.m.

SOMETHING'S IN THE WATER

Join a naturalist on a hike to learn about Ohio's native fish, past and present, and learn about the issues that face Ohio's freshwater systems today. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Tuesday, May 21, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

NATURE JOURNALING: WILDFLOWERS

Learn basic journaling techniques to record your nature observations. This month we'll hike the trail to learn about wildflowers of the Ledges Area, then come inside to polish our journal entries. Taking photos is optional. A one-time registration fee for the monthly series includes a journal, journal pen and pencil. Cost: \$20/person. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 📞 (5/10) \$**

Tuesday, May 21, 7 – 8 p.m.

RANDOM ACT OF MUSIC



The all-volunteer Metro Parks Ensemble will perform an hour of traditional marches, big band standards and oldies. This indoor concert will be held rain or shine. **GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron**

Wednesday, May 22, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

GORGE HISTORY HIKE

Learn about past hidden treasures of the Gorge and discover some that are still here today. **G/Main Entrance: 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls**

Wednesday, May 22, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN

Join the Master Gardeners of Summit County to learn about keeping your lawn looking its best, including the use of supplements and weed/pest controls. Presented by Charles Behnke, retired OSU Horticulture Educator. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Thursday, May 23, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

WORLD TURTLE DAY HIKE & FIRE

It's World Turtle Day! Celebrate by searching for and learning about turtles at Little Turtle Pond, then cozy up to a campfire and listen to turtle legends. Program will move to the shelter if it rains. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Saturday, May 25, 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 📞 (5/11)**

Saturday, May 25, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

GEOLOGY OF THE GORGE

Walk the Glens Trail to learn how the Gorge was formed, including the different types of rock layers found there. **G/Main Entrance: 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls**

Saturday, May 25, 2 – 4 p.m.

LATE BLOOMERS

Hike portions of Chuckery Trail in search of Miami mist and large-flowered bellwort wildflowers. Other wildflowers will be a bonus. Parts of this hike are hilly and strenuous. Meet at the second lot closest to the river. **CVS/Chuckery: 837 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

Saturday, May 25, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

HOLIDAY HIKE & FIRE

Kick off the holiday weekend with a hike on Cherry Lane Trail to discover nature. Afterward, gather around a campfire to roast marshmallows (while supplies last). **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**



Sunday, May 26, 12 – 3 p.m.

TURTLE OPEN HOUSE

Let's celebrate World Turtle Day! Meet the turtle species found in our parks, play games, make a craft and learn why turtles need our help. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, May 26, 2 – 4 p.m.

AFTERNOON STROLL

We'll take our time on this naturalist-led hike to learn about the natural and cultural history along the trail. **DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula**

ENJOY **SUMMER CAMP** IN THE METRO PARKS

REGISTRATION HAS ALREADY BEGUN! Register your child for one or more of these exciting drop-off day camps. Participants will explore a park with fun, hands-on activities. Visit summitmetroparks.org for more details.

CAMP	AGES	DATES	LOCATION	TIME	Registration ends by 4:30 p.m.	COST
Native American Skills	7 – 10	June 24 – 25	LP/Nature Center, Twinsburg	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	June 10	\$20
Nature's Clues	7 – 8	July 10 – 12	FR/Brushwood, Richfield	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	June 30	\$50
Nature's Clues	7 – 8	July 17 – 19	F/Coventry Oaks, Akron	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	July 3	\$50
Explorers	9 – 10	August 12 – 13	LP/Nature Center, Twinsburg	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	July 29	\$20

Monday, May 27, 1 – 3 p.m.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Pack your picnic basket and head to the lake! Enjoy family time outdoors with fun nature games and activities for all generations. TT/Summit Lake: 380 W. Crosier St., Akron

Tuesday, May 28, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

Hike about five miles at a vigorous pace on a flat paved surface. Beginners are welcome, but talk to your doctor before beginning a new exercise routine. Drinking water is recommended. BHT/SR 303: 64 W. Streetsboro Rd., Boston Heights

Wednesday, May 29, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the trail with frequent stops to discover nature along the way. HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron

Thursday, May 30, 6 – 7 p.m.

GARDENING THROUGH THE YEAR

Learn about pests and diseases that can affect garden plants. Identification and treatment options will be discussed. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, May 31, 9 – 11 a.m.

GRASSLAND BIRDS: BOBOLINKS & MORE

Join a naturalist and Lara Roketenetz from The University of Akron Field Station as we look for and listen to bobolinks and meadowlarks. Other birds will be a bonus. Bring binoculars and a spotting scope. Some binoculars will be provided. Meet at the Field Station, past the main parking lot off Ira Road and down the lane to the second house. Bath Nature Preserve: 4240 Ira Rd, Bath

Friday, May 31, 10 a.m. – 12 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

JUNE



Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

FLOWERS, FERNS & FUNGI — OH, MY!

April showers bring more than flowers. Join a naturalist on a hike to look for seasonal wildflowers, ferns and fungi. Meet at the Indian Spring Trailhead. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Sunday, June 2, 10 – 11 a.m.

BANK SWALLOW WATCH

Join a naturalist to view the aerial acrobatics of bank swallows. These small birds put on quite a show diving through the air and flitting in and out of their nests in the steep, sandy riverbank. Spotting scopes and binoculars will be available. CVS/Overlook: 354 Sackett Ave., Akron

Monday, June 3, 2:30 – 4 p.m.

INSECTS AND SPIDERS WALK

Discover beneficial “bugs” through magnification aids to get close-up views. Program will begin in the shelter and includes a walk on an accessible trail. Nets and jars will be provided for insect collection and observation. MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Tuesday, June 4, 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. Concert cancelled if it rains. Call 330-865-8060 if wet weather is in the forecast. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Wednesday, June 5, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

FUN FACTS HIKE

What are hummingbird nests made of? How did the box turtle get its name? Join a naturalist for a fun hike to discover the answers to these questions and more! FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

Wednesday, June 5, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

LOOKIN' UNDER LOGS

All ages: ever wonder what's hiding in the soil under logs in the forest? Come and find out! We'll hike along the trail and step off-trail to investigate. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

ARCHERY



All equipment and hands-on instruction provided.

Sunday, June 2, 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. 📞 (5/14) \$

Sunday, June 2, 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. 📞 (5/14) \$

Saturday, June 8, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

ARCHERY GAMES FOR ADULTS

Ages 16 and older will play different games to build archery skills in a fun and exciting way. Participants must have already taken one of our Intro to Archery programs. 📞 (5/14) FREE

Saturday, June 8, 12:30 – 2 p.m.

ARCHERY GAMES FOR FAMILIES

Families 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 at least 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. 📞 (5/14) FREE

All programs at SC/Archery Range: 89 Eastern Rd., Doylestown



Thursday, June 6, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

APEX PREDATOR HIKE

Join a naturalist to explore the top of the food chain: apex predators. As we hike we will discuss Ohio's top predators, past, present and future. **SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.**

Thursday, June 6, 3 – 5 p.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Join a naturalist on a leisurely stroll with frequent stops along the way to discover nature. **HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron**

Friday, June 7, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

FISHING FRIDAY

Join us for a fun morning of fishing! Each month a native Ohio fish found in the Metro Parks will be highlighted. Poles and bait will be provided while supplies last. Participants 16 and older must have a fishing license. **WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson**

Friday, June 7, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

POLLINATORS FOR KIDS

Calling all kids and their adult companions! Join a naturalist to explore the fascinating world of pollinators and insects. Some nets and jars will be available to use. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge**



Friday, June 7, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

HIKE AND FIRE

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

Friday, June 7, 8:30 – 10 p.m.

BATS FOR FAMILIES

Come learn about beneficial bats during this family-friendly presentation, then take a short walk to look for these winged wonders. **LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Saturday, June 8, 9 – 11 a.m.

OSPREY WATCH

Stop by to use spotting scopes and binoculars to catch views of this avian acrobat soaring above, hovering in place, and diving feet first into the water in search of prey. **NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green**

Saturday, June 8, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

YOGA: VINIYASA

Enjoy an active vinyasa yoga practice with a certified instructor. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg ☎ (5/25)**

Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

NATIVE VINES AND SHRUBS OF OHIO

Did you know that poison ivy is a native vine? Learn which native vines and shrubs are found in the parks, how they are important for wildlife and how to incorporate them into your back yard. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, June 8, 9 – 11 p.m.

MARVELOUS MOTHS

Join a naturalist to attract moths to a white sheet using special lights, and observe these insects' amazingly beautiful colors, shapes and patterns up close. Bring a flashlight and camera. Meet at Tuscarawas Shelter. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Sunday, June 9, 1 – 3 p.m.

UNCOMMON TREES OF SMP

Join us as we search for American bladdernut, blue beech, shingle oak and many more uncommon trees found along the trail. We will also discuss the impact invasive species have on the area and local wildlife. **CVS/Oxbow: 1061 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

Monday, June 10, 10 – 11 a.m.

NATURE TRIVIA HIKE

Did you know? Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backward, and opossums are only as big as a grain of rice when born? Discover other cool facts about wildlife during this hike. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

Monday, June 10, 3:30 – 5 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. **F/Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Tuesday, June 11, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

URBAN EATS

Stop by to learn about food in the city with Summit Metro Parks and Let's Grow Akron. We'll talk access, opportunity and community! Then, shop the on-site farmers market which happens 4 to 7 p.m. every Tuesday through mid-October. **TT/Summit Lake: 380 W. Crosier St., Akron**

Tuesday, June 11, 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 Sherman Shelter at 7 p.m. Concert cancelled if it rains. Call 330-865-8060 if wet weather is in the forecast. **SC/Bathhouse: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton**

Wednesday, June 12, 9 – 11 a.m.

DRAWING OUTDOORS

Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor lesson in drawing. 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, June 12, 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 during the program. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

*Wednesday, June 12
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 story time experience with our live animals. We'll read some stories together, meet a critter, then read your favorite book with your family. **TT/SLNC: 390 W. Crosier St., Akron ☎ (5/31)**

KINDEREALM CAMPFIRE: PICNIC

Children 3 to 6 and their families can explore nature at a picnic. Pack a picnic or bring hot dogs to roast over the campfire. Bring a t-shirt to tie-dye! We'll provide condiments, lemonade, marshmallows and dye.

Wednesday, June 5

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

F/Tuscarawas Meadows

2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Thursday, June 6

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

GYH/Lodge

2077 Newton St., Akron

Monday, June 10

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

LP/Nature Center

9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Thursday, June 13

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

FASN

1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, June 13, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

POLLINATORS FOR KIDS

Calling all kids and their adult companions! Join a naturalist to explore the fascinating world of pollinators and insects. Some nets and jars will be available to use. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge**

Thursday, June 13, 1 – 2 p.m.

KIDS NATURE ART

Ages 6 to 12 join our interpretive artist for this lesson in nature drawing. Paper and pencils will be provided. **TT/SLNC: 390 W. Crosier St., Akron**

Thursday, June 13, 6 – 7 p.m.

GARDENING THROUGH THE YEAR

This month, learn about selecting healthy plants, hardening them off and the correct way to plant them. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Thursday, June 13, 6 – 8 p.m.

CONSERVATION MATTERS!

Join Summit Metro Parks Chief of Conservation Mike Johnson at the opening of the "Conservation Matters!" exhibit for a presentation about the park district's conservation program. From prairie burns to cloning technology, learn what is happening behind the scenes to support endangered ecosystems and species, and nationally significant historical and archaeological sites. Light refreshments will be served. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**



Friday, June 14, 1 – 3 p.m.

DROP-IN DISCOVERY: AWESOME AMPHIBIANS

Children and their adult companions can drop in to learn about some awesome amphibians that may be out and about this season. Meet one of our resident amphibians and make a craft to take home. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**



Friday, June 14, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

POND CRITTERS FOR KIDS

Children and adult companions can discover the critters that make their homes in pond water, plants and muck! We're getting hands-on, so dress for a mess! **SC/Big Oak: 5199 Medina Line Rd., Norton**

Friday, June 14, 9 – 11 p.m.

MOTHS OF SAND RUN

Join us to learn how to attract these amazing creatures, and for a chance to observe their beautiful colors, shapes and patterns up close. Big silk moths might even join us for the evening! Bring a flashlight, bug spray and camera. **SR/Mingo: 1501 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron**

Saturday, June 15, 9 – 11 a.m.

BANK SWALLOW WATCH

Join a naturalist to view the aerial acrobatics of bank swallows. These small birds put on quite a show diving through the air and flitting in and out of their nests in the steep, sandy riverbank. Spotting scopes and binoculars will be available. **CVS/Overlook: 354 Sackett Ave., Akron**

Saturday, June 15

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: loan of kayak, paddle, personal floatation device and instruction. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. **G/Main Entrance: 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls 📞 (5/29) \$**

Saturday, June 15, 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 📞 (6/1)**

Sunday, June 16, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

FATHER'S DAY HIKE

Enjoy a morning hike with the father figure in your life. We'll search for turtles, birds and other creatures who become fathers in spring and learn how animal dads help take care of their young. **FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, June 16, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

NATURE FOR FAMILIES: POND CRITTERS

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

Monday, June 17, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

Hike both Pheasant Run and Chippewa trails at a vigorous pace with few, if any, rest stops. Beginners are welcome, but talk to your doctor before beginning a new exercise routine. Drinking water is recommended. SC/Pheasant Run: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

Monday, June 17, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

RIVER STROLL

The Cuyahoga River has come a long way, and this year we celebrate 50 years of environmental recovery. Take a hike along its banks to learn about its storied past and look forward to its bright future. CVS/Oxbow: 1061 Cuyahoga St., Akron



Tuesday, June 18, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

NATURE JOURNALING: AQUATIC INSECTS

Learn basic journaling techniques to record your nature observations. This month we'll learn about aquatic insects first by catching, then by journaling. 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 🖱️ (6/4) \$

Tuesday, June 18, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

CANAL & RIVER HIKE

Join a naturalist on a hike to explore how Ohio's canal and river systems are recovering from decades of unhealthy conditions. TT/Clinton: 2749 North St., Clinton

Tuesday, June 18, 7 – 8 p.m.

RANDOM ACT OF MUSIC

Weather permitting, the all-volunteer Metro Parks Ensemble will perform an hour of kid-friendly favorites for the whole family. Call 330-865-8060 after 4 p.m. to learn if the concert is cancelled due to inclement weather. CVS/Chuckery: 837 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Wednesday, June 19, 9 – 11 a.m.

DRAWING OUTDOORS

Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor lesson in drawing. 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, June 19, 10 – 11 a.m.

WILDLIFE WEDNESDAY

Come explore the grounds of Liberty Park looking for critters! We will be looking for all things furry, feathery, slimy and scaly. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, June 19, 2 – 3:30 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, June 19, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

SOUNDS OF SUMMER CAMPFIRE

Families are invited to spend an evening around the campfire to learn about the critters that are creating the symphony of summer sounds we hear at night. Marshmallows will be available, while supplies last. FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, June 20, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

FUN FACTS FOR KIDS

How do frogs survive frigid winters? Can toads give you warts? Join a naturalist for a fun hike to discover the answers to these questions and more! FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, June 20, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDENS: EVERYTHING HERBS

Join us to learn how to grow, harvest and use herbs. GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron

Thursday, June 20, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

CAMPFIRE KICKOFF

Join a naturalist for a hike followed by a campfire to kick off the summer season. Marshmallows will be provided, while supplies last. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, June 21, 9 – 10:30 p.m.

SUMMER SOLSTICE NIGHT HIKE

Experience nature in the evening while we enjoy a hike on the shortest night of the year. LP/Twinsburg Ledges: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, June 22, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

SNAKES IN THE WILD

Join a naturalist to learn about Ohio's native snakes, how to identify them and where to find them in the wild. SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Saturday, June 22, 1 – 3 p.m.

FAMILY BIKE RIDE

Enjoy a ride on the Towpath Trail at a moderate pace with a naturalist. See how many scavenger hunt items you can find during the ride. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy. Helmets required. DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula

Saturday, June 22, 1 – 3 p.m.

SALAMANDERS OF SMP

Discover the importance of salamanders in Summit Metro Parks. Many of the 12 species found here will be on display for viewing. We will hike a trail to see how many we can find! FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



*Sunday, June 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: loan of kayak, paddle, personal floatation device and instruction. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green 🖱️ (6/6) \$

Sunday, June 23, 7 – 8 p.m.

TIE-DYE FLAGS & CAMPFIRE

Get ready for the Fourth of July by learning some flag history and tie-dyeing your own flag by the campfire. All materials and marshmallows are included. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

*Monday, June 24 & Tuesday, June 25
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily*

**NATIVE AMERICAN SKILLS
DAY CAMP**

Kids ages 7 to 10 will enjoy this two-day summer adventure with fun, hands-on experiences. We will learn Native American skills and play games while exploring the park. Please pack a lunch and dress to be outside for long periods of time. Cost: \$20/child. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 🖱️ (4/1) \$

Tuesday, June 25, 3 – 5 p.m.

O'NEIL WOODS HISTORY

Hike with a naturalist to learn the history of O'Neil Woods Metro Park. ONW/Trail Lot: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath

Wednesday, June 26, 10 a.m. – 12 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

Wednesday, June 26, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Join a naturalist to hike Quarry Trail, with stops along the way to discover nature and history. DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula

Wednesday, June 26, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN

Join the Master Gardeners of Summit County to learn about newly created public landscapes in the Akron/Cleveland area. Presented by Kyle Lukes, senior landscape architect, Environmental Design Group. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, June 27, 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 that will 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, June 27, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

HIKE BY THE BROOK

Learn a little about the history of Pond Brook while we hike. We may even spot some brookside wildlife! LP/Pond Brook: 3973 E. Aurora Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, June 28, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

FOSSILS FOR KIDS

Follow a naturalist while you explore the stream to hunt for fossils. Closed-toe, waterproof boots or shoes that can get wet are required. Adults must accompany their children. FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

Friday, June 28, 4 – 5 p.m.

SIDEWALK NATURE

Join a naturalist to examine the nature that can be found right under your feet, in the cracks of the sidewalk and amid the lawn. Families welcome! TT/SLNC: 390 W. Crosier St., Akron

Friday, June 28, 9 – 11 p.m.

MOTHS OF LIBERTY PARK

Join a naturalist to learn how to use special lights to attract these amazing creatures, and for a chance to observe their beautiful colors, shapes and patterns up close. Bring a flashlight and camera for photos. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, June 29, 9 – 11 a.m.

WOODLAND MUSHROOMS

Have you seen any mushrooms popping up these days? Join a naturalist on a leisurely hike in search of these interesting "fun guys." FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield



Saturday, June 29

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: loan of kayak, paddle, personal floatation device and instruction. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. TT/Summit Lake: 380 W. Crosier St., Akron 🖱️ (6/7) \$

Sunday, June 30

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.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: loan of paddleboard, paddle, personal floatation device and instruction. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green 🖱️ (6/12) \$

Sunday, June 30, 2 – 4 p.m.

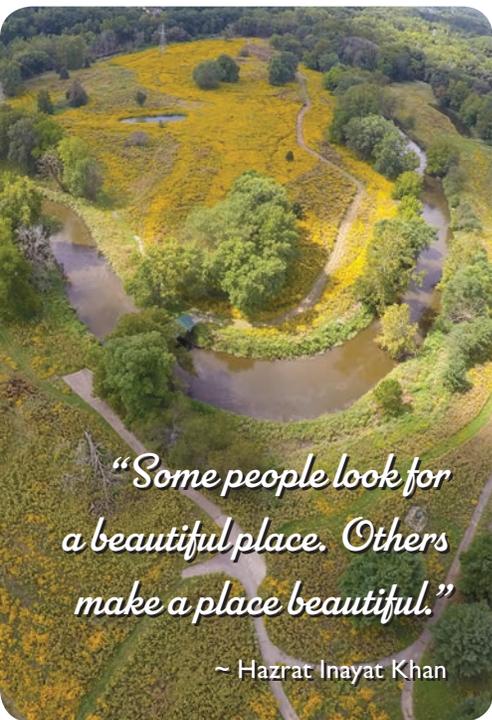
DRAGONFLIES OF SILVER CREEK

Join us as we learn about dragonflies and document them for the Ohio Dragonfly Survey using iNaturalist. We'll search several areas to see how many species we can find. Bring a camera and bug spray. SC/Big Oak: 5199 Medina Line Rd., Norton



River Transformation at Valley

Mike Johnson, Chief of Conservation



“Some people look for a beautiful place. Others make a place beautiful.”

~ Hazrat Inayat Khan

The recent acquisition of the former Valley View Golf Club completed part of a grand strategy that was put into motion in 1924 when Summit Metro Parks hired the internationally famous **Olmsted Brothers to assemble the district’s first park master plan.** Back then, the area was still a dairy farm, but we already knew it was special. In finally gaining this property, Summit Metro Parks was able to connect 1,700 acres of Gorge, Sand Run and Cascade Valley Metro Parks along several miles of the beautiful Cuyahoga River.

Through the help of generous public and private grant funding, we are hard at work restoring the golf course to

a more natural state. Phase 1 of the restoration was funded by a grant of more than \$1 million from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund and involved restoring natural meadows and forests, 20 acres of wetlands and over 3,000 feet of small headwater streams. The project also redirected surface water from Cuyahoga Street to hydrate wetlands and fill the stream channels, allowing it to be naturally cleansed before entering the Cuyahoga River. We’re encouraged to see wildlife already establishing itself where putting greens once stood.

In Phase 2, we’re working with our partners at the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) and National Oceanic and

tions View



This 1925 map shows a portion of the original master plan proposed by the Olmsted Brothers. The highlighted area shows their plan to preserve and connect land around the Cuyahoga River. After nearly 100 years, Sand Run, Cascade Valley and Gorge Metro Parks are finally “reunited” under Summit Metro Parks.

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to plan the restoration of an additional 5,000 feet of the mainstem of the Cuyahoga River utilizing funds from a NOAA Regional Habitat Restoration Partnership award, a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative-supported program. We hope to double the floodplain capacity of the river, install habitat features for fish and aquatic wildlife and replant trees along the river. But Valley View is more than an ecological restoration — park planners are also designing features that will make this area popular for eco-tourism and outdoor recreation. Amenities could include pedestrian hiking trails and wildlife viewing areas, fishing, river

access points for kayaking and water-based activities, a connector bike trail to the Towpath and a boathouse for kayak and canoe rentals. The historic dairy barn, which many may recognize as the former golf course clubhouse, will be renovated to host festivals, meetings and park programming.

Valley View is a model for how Summit Metro Parks restores, develops and manages land, and this work would not be possible without financial assistance

from state and federal funding sources, as well as the generous support of foundation and individual donors. With this funding and with the input of the public, park staff are proud to bring this exciting new recreational, ecological and cultural resource to the community. 🌱



HAMPTON & FRIENDS

Activities for Adventurers of All Ages

Repurposed Greeting Cards



1 Gather your materials:



- a piece of styrofoam* such as the egg carton pictured
- paper and cardboard scraps (old cereal boxes work great)
- colored pencils
- ink pad
- glue stick
- scissors

2 Carefully cut a rectangle from the piece of styrofoam.



3 Using a pencil, carve any simple shape of your choosing into the styrofoam.



4 Place your drawing face down onto the ink pad, pressing firmly.



5 Press styrofoam directly onto the paper or cardboard cutout and embellish with colored pencils.



6 Attach cardboard cutout, fold paper into greeting cards and send to your family and friends!



* **Did you know?** Many products sold in styrofoam also come in recycled or recyclable containers as well!

continued from page 5

In contrast to the polluted river of 1969, the Cuyahoga now meets or nearly meets the standards for aquatic communities along most of its 100-mile crooked journey to Lake Erie. It has been a long voyage, but the benefits of clean water are priceless and new businesses are taking advantage of the

recreational potential of this renewed river. Waterways that support healthy ecosystems also support healthy people and improve our quality of life.

The river that burned is now celebrated as a clean recreational resource. However, good water quality is not assured

by past accomplishments. Our natural resources will likely always be at risk to human impacts, so it's up to us to keep clean water a public priority to ensure a healthy environment for our children and future generations. 

SPREE FOR ALL

2019 Spring Hiking Event

TO PARTICIPATE

Complete **FIVE** hikes between **May 1 and June 30** — on five different trails, the same trail or any combination of trails — to receive a reward. Starting point at each trailhead is the information kiosk, which has a legend with the following symbols:

- Blue Circle = 1/4 mile round trip
- Yellow Square = 1/2 mile round trip
- ▲ Green Triangle = 1 mile round trip

Mileage markers are provided as an aid. **You do not need to hike any prescribed length to receive credit.** Some trails listed offer a limited section of accessible terrain. To hike the accessible portion, follow the Spree For All markers along the path.

First-year hikers earn a neck lanyard and commemorative pin. Veteran hikers earn the commemorative pin. Hikes are **FREE** for all participants. Out-of-county residents pay to receive their rewards (\$10 for first-year hikers, \$5 for veteran hikers).

WHERE TO GET YOUR REWARD

Administrative offices, 975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, 1828 Smith Rd., Akron, noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Liberty Park Nature Center, 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

Rewards are not mailed.

Forms cannot be redeemed after August 15, 2019.

MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

BIKE & HIKE TRAIL

Barlow Road
331 Barlow Rd.
Hudson 44236

FREEDOM TRAIL

Middlebury
1765 Northeast Ave.
Tallmadge 44278

PARKS

CASCADE VALLEY

Overlook Trail
354 Sackett Ave.
Akron 44313

F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM

1828 Smith Rd.
Akron 44313

FURNACE RUN

Brushwood Area
4955 Townsend Rd.
Richfield 44286

OHIO & ERIE CANAL TOWPATH TRAIL

Big Bend
1337 Merriman Rd.
Akron 44313

Franklin
2328 Center Rd.
New Franklin 44216

Clinton
2749 North St.
Clinton 44216

GOODYEAR HEIGHTS

Pioneer Area
550 Frazier Ave.
Akron 44305

LIBERTY

Twinsburg Ledges Area
9999 Liberty Rd.
Twinsburg 44087



2019 Commemorative Pin

MUNROE FALLS

Tallmadge Meadows
1088 North Ave.
Tallmadge 44278

SAND RUN

Old Portage Area
1300 Sand Run Pkwy.
Akron 44313

Summit Metro Parks

#SMPspree

For park maps, directions and descriptions of the trails: spreeforall.summitmetroparks.org, 330-865-8065. Additional forms are available online and at *Acme Fresh Market* locations in Summit County.

Please share this publication and recycle it when finished.

16th ANNUAL
**SPREE
FOR ALL**

SPRING HIKING EVENT

INDIVIDUAL &
FAMILY/GROUP
HIKING FORM

PRIMARY PARTICIPANT

FIRST-YEAR Hiker VETERAN SUMMIT CO. RESIDENT Yes No

Primary Participant's Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age
Address		City	State Zip
Email		Phone	

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS

FIRST-YEAR Hiker VETERAN SUMMIT CO. RESIDENT Yes No

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age

MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL

TRAILHEAD

DATES (Volunteers or staff may be available to date your form.)

Bike & Hike Trail	Barlow Road
Freedom Trail	Middlebury
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail	Big Bend
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail	Franklin
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail	Clinton

METRO PARK

LOCATION

Cascade Valley	Overlook Trail
F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (no pets)	Rock & Herb Garden
Furnace Run	Brushwood Area
Goodyear Heights	Alder Trail
Liberty	Maple Loop
Munroe Falls	Meadow Loop
Sand Run	Jogging Trail

Please note: Before starting any fitness program, it is the participant's responsibility to contact their physician with respect to any past or present illness or injury that may affect their ability to participate in the program.