

MAY·JUN '22 | Vol. 63 No. 3

GREEN ISLANDS

Summit Metro Parks Bi-monthly Magazine



- 4 DISCOVER – A Look Ahead for SMP Lakes
- 9 EXPLORE – Programs and Events
- 17 ENJOY – SMP Centennial Time Capsule

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 S. Theresa Carter Herb Newman Mark A. Spisak Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr.

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.

Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Trail Treasures: Wetland Wildlife 3
- A Look Ahead for SMP Lakes 4
- Plan a Visit: F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm. . . . 8
- Programs & Events 9
- SMP Centennial Time Capsule 17
- Spree for All Hiking Form 20

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Joel D. Bailey *Chair*
 S. Theresa Carter
 Herb Newman
 Mark A. Spisak
 Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr.
 Lisa M. King *Executive Director*

EDITORS

Stephanie Walton *Chief of Marketing & Communications*
 Mike Greene *Community Engagement Manager*
 Claire Merrick *Marketing & Public Relations Manager*
 Lindsay Smith *Brand Manager*

DESIGN & ART DIRECTION

Jennie Levy *Graphic Designer*
 Karl Simonson *Graphic Designer*

Summit Metro Parks
 975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron, OH 44313-5837

Administrative Offices: 330-867-5511
 F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm: 330-865-8065
 Liberty Park Nature Center: 330-487-0493
 Summit Lake Nature Center: 330-864-8431
 Seasonal Information: 330-865-8060
 Volunteer Information: 330-865-8047

Photos contributed by:

Steve Ash • Rob Blair • Jerry Cannon • Christy Counterman • Jeff Hill • Tami Hill • Tim Hite • Jennie Levy • Karl Simonson

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

Green Islands can be downloaded online:
summitmetroparks.org



ON THE COVER

Sunset over the lake at Munroe Falls Metro Park by Rob Blair.

Visit our Native Plant Festival!



Kick off summer by welcoming wildlife into your yard with beautiful, beneficial native plants. Join Summit Metro Parks staff and local native plant nurseries on Saturday, May 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Himelright Lodge in **CASCADE VALLEY METRO PARK** (1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron) to learn about the vital role of native plants in our ecosystem. Browse a wide variety of plants available for purchase, or attend an educational session to better understand how to incorporate native plants into your landscaping. Summit Metro Parks is offering a free plant to all attendees, while supplies last.

Discover

YOUR BACK YARD



TRAIL TREASURES

WETLAND WILDLIFE AT LIBERTY PARK

*Janean Kazimir,
Interpretive Naturalist*

Misty morning fog hangs low over the water, a bald eagle floats lazily overhead and the haunting calls of sandhill cranes echo in the distance. This picturesque scene can be found at Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve (1230 Old Mill Rd., Aurora), part of **LIBERTY PARK**.

From the observation platform at the end of Eagle Point Trail, look straight ahead over the wetland to view the iconic birds' massive nests high in a tree. Below, scan for the brilliant white feathers of the state-threatened trumpeter swan swimming with its newly hatched cygnets.

Female Wood Duck and ducklings



Across the road, continue your exploration along Seven Ponds Trail. Created by duck hunters decades ago, these ponds are now an oasis for migratory birds from waterfowl and warblers to swallows and sparrows. The surrounding wetlands provide clean water to support mink, beaver, otters and a myriad dragonfly species. Stop and sit a while, you never know what you may discover. 🍁



A Look Ahead for



SMP LAKES

Claire Merrick, Marketing & Public Relations Manager

*Fifty years ago, going to
a swim lake in the summer
was the place to be.*

MUNROE FALLS METRO PARK
and **SILVER CREEK METRO PARK**

bustled with activity, drawing
crowds of 10,000 to 15,000
on a hot summer day.

By the early 2000s, however, there was a significant decrease in visitation that continued to dwindle over time.

Unfortunately, regardless of the number of swimmers, most operating costs remain unchanged. As revenues decreased alongside visitation, the park district sought cost-saving solutions, which included reducing concessions staffing, implementing special promotions, decreasing the size of swim areas, and finally, limiting operating hours.

Additional concerns included lifeguard staffing challenges at both parks. Swimmers' safety is a top priority for

the park district, and lifeguard recruitment has become increasingly difficult in the previous five to 10 years. Many of the returning seasonal lifeguard staff dissipated when the pandemic shut down the swimming areas in 2020.

One thing remained clear: people were still using these parks, only in different ways. The parks boast ample opportunities to hike, bike and kayak. Despite swimming closures in 2020 and 2021, visitation to the two parks reached record highs. While the pandemic is a likely catalyst for the 2020 increase,

continued on page 6



Opportunities to create new trails and provide additional activities will be possible with reallocated resources and staff.

continued from page 5

visitation remained higher than average throughout 2021.

With any challenge comes opportunity, and Summit Metro Parks sees this

as a time to reallocate resources toward activities the public is more likely to enjoy. Camping, mountain biking and disc golf have brought a considerable increase in visitation in recent years. Attendance isn't the only indicator; public feedback showed favorable desire toward more trails and multipurpose trail connections, environmental restoration, public events and family-friendly programming.

As stewards of Summit County's green spaces and your public dollars, Summit

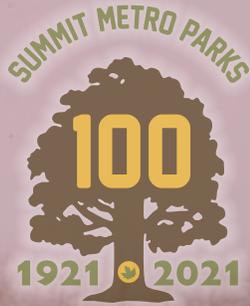




Metro Parks takes its responsibility to taxpayers very seriously. After careful consideration, the Board of Park Commissioners determined at their February meeting that Summit Metro Parks will no longer operate its swim areas at Munroe Falls Metro Park and Silver Creek Metro Park. While we understand that this news may be difficult for some of our visitors, the park district is encouraged by the community's passion and investment in the future of our parks.

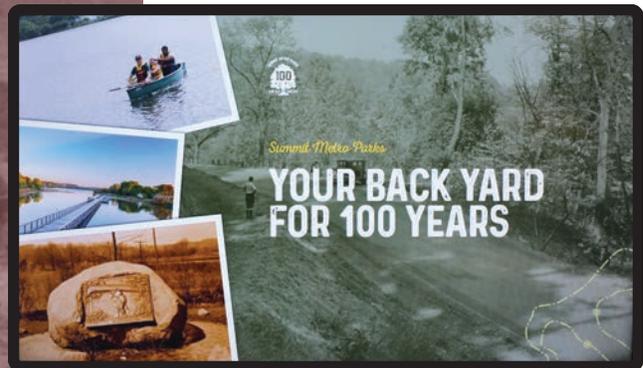
As our community grows and evolves, we will evolve with it. The master planning process for Munroe Falls and Silver Creek is ongoing and improvements like trails around both lakes are already slated to begin in 2022. There will be additional opportunities for visitors to share their feedback surrounding these parks. Now more popular than ever, Summit Metro Parks is confident both of these beloved parks have a bright future ahead! 🍁

The *Boat House* at *Silver Creek Metro Park* will continue to offer canoe, peddle boat, paddleboard and rowboat rentals during the summer months, along with a boat launch for your personal watercraft (electric motors and paddling only).



PLAN A VISIT TO
F.A. Seiberling
**NATURE
REALM**

*to see the Summit Metro
Parks centennial exhibit*
1828 Smith Rd., Akron 44313



A CELEBRATION 100 YEARS IN THE MAKING

The exhibit features a video with audio under a sound cone, vintage park footage, trivia and historic facts, while interpretive panels highlight the four themes of the centennial with interactive displays.

Explore PROGRAMS & EVENTS

MAY

Beginning Sunday, May 1

SELF-GUIDED: EYE SPY

Hit the trail any time during the month of May for a nature-themed game of Eye Spy! Begin by downloading or printing this month's Eye Spy list from our "Educational Activities & Resources" page under the "Things to Do" tab, then enjoy a stroll along Old Mill Trail in search of plants, animals and landmarks along the way. You can also complete your search using the May 2 Instagram post (@summitmetroparks). **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

Sunday, May 1, 1 – 3 p.m.

TEEN ADVENTURE SERIES: WILDFLOWER BIOBLITZ

Interested in learning the names of the flowers you commonly see? Empower yourself with the tools and knowledge to identify plants! We'll go over different types of guides, what to look for and even have a friendly competition to see who can successfully identify the most plants. Participants are encouraged to download the iNaturalist app on their phones before attending. **SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp. (4/21)**

Sunday, May 1, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

WARBLER WARM-UP

Join a naturalist as we get ready for warbler season and the biggest week in American birding! This program is designed for all levels of birding experience. We will review the basics of warbler identification, songs and other important tidbits about our feathered friends. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Monday, May 2, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

SPRING BIRD STROLL

Hike Celebration Trail with a naturalist to marvel at May's new migrating arrivals. Discover May magic in the meadows, near the river and on the forest floor! **CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

Thursday, May 5, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS: GARDENING

Homeschoolers ages 7-10: Join a naturalist to learn all about plants! We'll focus on fruits and vegetables edible to humans and native plants that are important to many garden critters. Dress for a mess and prepare to plant, harvest and eat some delicious produce! **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron (4/28)**

Thursday, May 5, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

NATURE TIKES: MADE IN THE SHADE

Participants ages 1-3 years and their adult companions will enjoy a series of fun activities that explore sun, shade and shadows. **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron (4/27)**

Thursday, May 5, 1 – 3 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS: GARDENING

Homeschoolers ages 11-14: Join a naturalist to learn all about plants! We'll focus on fruits and vegetables edible to humans and native plants that are important to many garden critters. Dress for a mess and prepare to plant, harvest and eat some delicious produce! **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron (4/28)**

Friday, May 6, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GONE FISHIN'

Kids ages 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 be there to supervise their children and if they want to fish, must have a current Ohio fishing license. **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

Friday, May 6, 8:30 – 10 p.m.

HIKE THE NIGHT

Have you ever heard the saying "What you see is what you get?" Try hiking Pheasant Run Trail at night to listen to the things we may not see. On this hike, a naturalist will use recordings in hopes of summoning choruses of croaks, hoots and howls as animals respond. Patience and silence are essential. For ages 6 and older. No dogs, please. **SC/Pheasant Run: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton**

BALLOFLEX® GET FIT WHILE YOU SIT!

Enjoy an exercise session with a certified BalloFlex instructor. BalloFlex is a seated workout that incorporates the elements of dance and fitness together in a safe, low impact and fun system. It is designed for all ages and abilities!

12:30 – 1 p.m.

VIRTUAL 

Zoom meeting ID: 849 6465 8634

Monday, May 2

Thursday, May 5

Monday, May 9

Thursday, May 12

Monday, May 16

Thursday, May 19

Monday, May 23

Wednesday, May 25

Thursday, May 26

Please visit summitmetroparks.org or call 330-865-8065 for the latest information on COVID-19 protocols.

Key



CALL: 330-865-8065 Advance registration required, beginning at 10 a.m. on the date in parentheses.



ZOOM: [HTTPS://ZOOM.US/JOIN](https://zoom.us/join)
Key in the Meeting ID number.



WEB: 330TIX.COM
Online registration.

(date) Registration start date

\$ Fee

BHT Bike & Hike Trail

CV Cascade Valley

DLQ Deep Lock Quarry

FASN FA. 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

SLNC Summit Lake Nature Center

SR Sand Run

TT Towpath Trail

WH Wood Hollow



KINDEREALM: TALKIN' TURTLES

May is the time to celebrate our not-so-slow moving shelled friends: turtles! Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions can get to know the turtle species found in our parks, play games, make a craft and learn why turtles need our help. Come prepared for a short hike with your family members! *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.* 📞 (4/29)

Saturday, May 7

10 – 11 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.

FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron
(Meet on Seneca Deck)

Friday, May 20

10 – 11 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.

F/Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron

Friday, May 27, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls
(Meet at Indian Spring Trailhead)

Saturday, May 7, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

A BEE'S PERSPECTIVE: WILDFLOWER HIKE

Join a naturalist for a hike that buzzes flowers into perspective. Taking our time, we will gain the perspective of early spring pollinators as we view spring wildflowers. Along the way we will learn the names of the flowers and bees that we see. **Everett Covered Bridge:** 2370 Everett Rd., Peninsula

Sunday, May 8, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

Hike Chuckery Trail 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. **CV/Chuckery:** 837 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Sunday, May 8, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

BACK YARDS GONE WILD: COMPOSTING 101

New to composting? This program is for you! Learn the basics of starting, maintaining and troubleshooting a compost pile or barrel at home. Soon you'll be turning food scraps and yard clippings into the richest soil around!

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Monday, May 9, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.

WANDERING FOR WARBLERS FIELD TRIP

Summit County birders can join park naturalists on a journey to the "Warbler Capital of the World" during the Biggest Week In American Birding Festival. The tour bus departs F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm at 6 a.m. for the famed Magee Marsh Boardwalk and returns at 6 p.m. Be prepared for eight hours of birding at several hotspots in all weather. Pack lunch, beverages, snacks, binoculars and cameras. Cost: \$55/person.

FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 📞 (4/20) \$

Thursday, May 12, 9 – 10 a.m.

STRETCH AND HIKE

Join us for a morning hike on Pheasant Run Trail with a few gentle stretches and exercises led by a naturalist. Meet at Pheasant Run Shelter. **SC/Pheasant Run:** 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

Thursday, May 12, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

VIRTUAL: NATURE COLLAGE

Let's make something beautiful! Join our interpretive artist for this virtual lesson in nature collage. 📺 **A list of materials and a Zoom invitation will be emailed after registration.** 📞 (5/5)

Thursday, May 12, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

SALUTE TO MOMS HIKE

Let's celebrate moms while hiking Alder Trail. We'll talk about some amazing animal moms, including you, as we hike! **GYH/Pioneer:** 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

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

FEEDING TIME

Lettuce, worms, tomatoes and roaches... yum! Stop by the animal room and get up-close to our animal ambassadors as they eat a healthy lunch. **FASN/Visitors Center:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, May 13, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

WARBLER WALK

New and experienced birders: join Summit Metro Parks and the Greater Akron Audubon Society to spot warblers and other neotropical migrants along the Cuyahoga River during peak migration. We'll also learn how to support our feathered friends during their epic journeys north. Please bring your joy of birds, binoculars and a bird guide.

CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Friday, May 13, 12 – 2 p.m.

HERON OPEN HOUSE

Join a naturalist to observe the nesting behaviors of one of Ohio's largest birds, the great blue heron, through our binoculars and spotting scopes. Meet at the Bath Road Heronry on Bath Rd., between Riverview and Akron-Peninsula roads in Akron. **Bath Road Heronry**

Friday, May 13, 8:30 p.m. – 11 p.m.

MOVIE NIGHT: THE BIG YEAR

Love is in the air, and so are the birds! Join us for a free showing of the 2011 hit romantic comedy, "The Big Year" (rated PG) at our outdoor theater. Please bring your own blankets and chairs. **MF/Lake Area:** 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

KIDS' FISHING

Kids ages 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line in Summit Lake. Some rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided. Adults must be there to supervise their children and if they want to fish, must have a current Ohio fishing license. **SLNC:** 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

TEEN ADVENTURE SERIES: WADE ON IN!



Explore with a naturalist as we look for the amazing variety of life in Rock Creek. We'll be electroshocking (no harm to the fish) to see if we can find the unique rainbow darter and kick-netting to look

for macroinvertebrates. Bring closed-toe water shoes and don't forget bug spray!

FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

📞 (5/6)

Saturday, May 14, 2 – 4 p.m.

ATTRACTING BIRDS WITH NATIVE VINES AND SHRUBS

Did you know poison ivy is a native vine and is very important for our birds? Join a naturalist to learn what shrubs or vines to plant that will attract birds to your back yard year-round. Learn what not to plant in your landscape and why. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, May 15, 8 – 10 a.m.

SPRING BIRD WALK



It's migration time! New and experienced birders can join a naturalist in search of birds, from warblers to waterfowl. Binoculars are recommended; some will be available to borrow. LP/Pond Brook: 3973 E. Aurora Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, May 15

12 – 1 p.m. & 2 – 3 p.m.

VIRTUAL: NATURE DRAWING FOR KIDS

Join our interpretive artist online for this entertaining lesson in nature drawing for kids ages 6 to 12. All you need are a pencil and paper.  A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registration.  (5/6)

Sunday, May 15, 1 – 4 p.m.

BIRDS, BUGS AND BLOOMS FOR SCOUTS

Scouts are invited to a workshop with naturalist-led sessions. We'll explore the park and learn about some of the cool plants and critters that call it home while honing the nature observation skills so pivotal in ecology-themed merit badge work. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Beginning Monday, May 16

SELF-GUIDED: WILDFLOWER WALK

There are more than daffodils to admire at beautiful Furnace Run Metro Park! Hike Daffodil Trail between May 16 and May 22 to discover delicate spring blooms of all shapes and sizes. Interpretive signs will be posted along the way to guide your learning experience. FR/Daffodil: 3100 Brush Rd., Richfield

Tuesday, May 17, 4 – 5 p.m.

UPCYCLED GARDENING PROJECT

Exercise your creativity during this fun upcycling project! Enjoy decorating a garden kneeler to use at home all season long. Your knees will thank you later! All materials will be provided. FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron  (5/11)

Wednesday, May 18

10 – 11 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.

VIRTUAL: NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

Join our interpretive artist for this entertaining virtual lesson in nature drawing. No experience is necessary; all you need are pencils, paper and a sense of humor.  A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registration.  (5/11)

Wednesday, May 18, 7 – 8 p.m.

VIRTUAL: TEEN TRIVIA

What are fiddleheads, and do you make music with them or eat them? Test your nature knowledge in a fun and interactive Zoom game where everyone wins!  Zoom meeting ID: 845 9603 7092

Thursday, May 19, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

SALAMANDER STROLL

Get to know these mysterious amphibians along the lower trails of Hampton Hills as we see what kinds of salamanders we can spot in these forests and streams. Bring waterproof shoes and prepare to get dirty! HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron

Thursday, May 19, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

DISTANCE HIKE

Hike more than six miles at a continuous pace on Valley Link Trail into Cascade Valley Metro Park. There will be few, if any, rest stops. Please wear appropriate footwear and bring drinking water. SR/Wadsworth: 1400 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron

Friday, May 20, 9:30 – 11 a.m.

WILDFLOWERS ON WHEELS

Enjoy the beauty of spring ephemerals as you cycle! Join a naturalist for native wildflower interpretation during a leisurely paced ride. Participants must bring their own bike and helmet. Water is recommended. BHT/SR 303: 64 W. Streetsboro Rd., Boston Heights

Friday, May 20, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

FROGS N' BOGS

Escape the city smog at Springfield Bog! We'll search for frogs among the fog with an amphibian catalog. Join us to discover which frog species we can identify in this unique habitat once the sun drops. Don't forget a flashlight! SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.

Saturday, May 21, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

KIDS' FISHING

Calling all kids 15 years and younger! Join two naturalists and explore the basics of fishing. Drop a line for yourself and get hooked on a new hobby! A few rods and reels will be available offered first come first serve. Bait will be provided. Adults must supervise their children but are not permitted to fish. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Sunday, May 22, 2 – 4 p.m.

HABITAT HAPPENINGS: YOUR BACK YARD

On International Day for Biological Diversity, discover the importance of your own back yard with Summit Metro Parks, where "We're Your Back Yard." Join a naturalist for an open discussion and hike about why plants matter and what you can do to help wildlife. Follow along with the Habitat Happenings series to learn about all the different ways you can help life around you. FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Monday, May 23, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

TENT CAMPING WORKSHOP

Before camping season kicks off, stop by and learn the basics of camping through hands-on activities and demonstrations. We're talking tents, cooking and preparation! We'll be at Maple Beach Shelter, located at the bottom of the sledding hill. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Monday, May 23, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDENS: PLANT SWAP

Join us to swap some plants! These can be cuttings from plants in your yard or freshly grown from seed. Plants should be labeled by name and contained in pots. Vegetables and herbs are preferred, but all plants are welcome! All are encouraged to attend, even without plants to share. GYH/Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron



Tuesday, May 24
5 – 6:30 p.m. & 7 – 8:30 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY FOR FAMILIES

Archery is one of the oldest skills still practiced today, and it's more accessible than ever. Families with children age 9 and older can learn international-style target archery together at our outdoor range. Beginning and experienced archers are welcome. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$15/family. LP/Tinkers Creek 10303 Aurora-Hudson Rd., Streetsboro 📞 (512) \$

Wednesday, May 25, 8:30 – 10 a.m.

SPRING BIRD WALK

Birders of all experience levels can join a naturalist for a spring bird walk at this park designated an Important Bird Area by Audubon. Binoculars are recommended. DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula

Wednesday, May 25
10 – 11 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.

VIRTUAL: NATURE JOURNALING



Join our interpretive artist online for an inspiring virtual lesson in nature journaling as a technique for practicing mindfulness. 📺 A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registration. 📞 (518)

Wednesday, May 25, 6 – 8 p.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Spend a spring evening hiking with a naturalist! Hit the trails for some exercise and observe all the flowers, leaves and smells the season has to offer. Please bring water and wear a sturdy pair of hiking shoes. Please consult a doctor before beginning a new exercise routine. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Thursday, May 26, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL: GARDENING FOR KIDS

Kids ages 7-14: Join us online to learn all about plants! We'll focus on fruits and vegetables we can grow to eat, as well as native plants that are important to many of the critters that call our gardens home. 📺 Zoom meeting ID: 842 1833 3488

Thursday, May 26
5 – 6 p.m. & 6 – 7 p.m. & 7 – 8 p.m.

TRY IT: ARCHERY

Participants ages 9 and older can sign up for a 45-minute time slot to try archery. Beginner and experienced archers are welcome. All equipment is provided. Participants must be 50 inches or taller. HH/Archery Range: 1940 W. Steels Corners Rd., Cuyahoga Falls 📞 (519)

Thursday, May 26, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL: GARDENING FOR ADULTS

Join us online to learn all about plants! We'll focus on fruits and vegetables we can grow to eat, as well as native plants that are important to many of the critters that call our gardens home. 📺 Zoom meeting ID: 869 5905 5055

Friday, May 27, 1 – 2 p.m.

WORM COMPOSTING

Join a naturalist to learn about the benefits of vermiculture, or worm composting, for the garden. Visitors of all ages can make a wee worm bin to take home and start your own compost. FASN /Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 📞 (5/20)

Friday, May 27, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

WHAT'S BF3?

What's BF3? It stands for birds, fungi, ferns and flowers of course! Join a naturalist as we look for birds that have arrived for the summer, fungi that might be growing, ferns spreading their fronds and flowers! We will be hiking the trail to see what we can find; who knows what we will see! Some binoculars will be available for use. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Beginning Saturday, May 28

SELF-GUIDED: STORYBOOK TRAIL

Bring the family to enjoy some exercise and fun while following a self-guided story trail based on the book "Toad." Look for it along Downy Loop Trail between May 28 and June 12. WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

Saturday, May 28, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

NATURE IS SCENT-SATIONAL

Join this scent-sational program to learn about a variety of smells found in nature! Why do plants and animals smell? Have humans benefited from these smells? Find the answers to these questions and more. GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron

Saturday, May 28, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL

Kick off summer by welcoming wildlife into your yard with beautiful, beneficial native plants! Join Summit Metro Parks staff and local native plant nurseries to learn more about the vital role of native plants in our ecosystem. Browse a wide variety of plants available for purchase, or attend an educational session to better understand how to incorporate native plants into your landscaping. Summit Metro Parks is offering a free plant to all attendees, while supplies last. CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron



Sunday, May 29, 9 – 11 p.m.

ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Join a naturalist as we learn about the visible planets, stars and constellations. Telescopes will be available for viewing during the night. Hopefully the clouds will stay away! LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Tuesday, May 31, 2 – 3 p.m.

HEALING HERBS

Join us for an introduction to harvesting herbs and flowers for natural herbal skincare. Participants will make a sample of sleepy salve to take home. Meet at Meadow View Shelter. MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge 📞 (5/25)



JUNE

Beginning Wednesday, June 1

SELF-GUIDED: EYE SPY

Hit the trail any time during the month of June for a nature-themed game of Eye Spy! Begin by downloading or printing this month's Eye Spy list from our "Publications & Downloads" page under the "Things to Do" tab, then enjoy a stroll along Parcours Trail in search of animals, plants and other landmarks along the way. You can also complete your search using the June 2 Instagram post (@summitmetroparks). **SR/Treaty Line: 995 Treaty Line Rd., Akron**

Wednesday, June 1

10 – 11 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.

NATURE JOURNALING

Join our interpretive artist for an inspiring lesson in nature journaling as a technique for practicing mindfulness. **FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron** 📞 (5/26)

Wednesday, June 1, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

This biweekly program is designed to engage 3- to 5-year-olds and an accompanying grown-up into the wonderful world of gardening. Each class will build upon knowledge from the last and will be centered on what's growing and ready to harvest! **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron** 📞 (5/25)

Wednesday, June 1, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Raise your heart rate and your spirits by joining a naturalist for a walk through the woods and meadows of Munroe Falls. Please bring water and wear a sturdy pair of hiking shoes. Please consult a doctor before beginning a new exercise routine. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge**

Wednesday, June 1, 6 – 8 p.m.

GO NATIVE!

Drop in to the Rock & Herb Garden to discover why you should ditch exotic or invasive species and fill your home landscape with beautiful and ecologically important native plants instead! Wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs and trees — every species plays its part! Native seed packets will be available for attendees to bring nature home! **FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Thursday, June 2, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

NATURE COLLAGE

Let's make something beautiful! Join our interpretive artist for this lesson in nature collage. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron** 📞 (5/27)

Thursday, June 2, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

BUCKEYE BLACK BEARS

June is the month when Summit County residents are treated to black bear sightings. Learn about our resilient and adaptable wild neighbors. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, June 4, 9 – 10 a.m.

GOOD MORNING, POND!

Children will discover pond life and critters through this nature exploration program at Alder Pond. This program includes a short hike and time to enjoy the Nature Play Area. Meet at Pioneer Shelter. **GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron**

Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

FAMILY CYCLING: BINGO ALONG THE BIKE & HIKE

Bring the family for fun, competitive rounds of nature-related BINGO as you ride the Bike & Hike Trail. Pick up all of your supplies for this self-guided ride from a naturalist at the Alexander Road trailhead. Bring your own bicycles and helmets. **BHT/Alexander Rd.: 15660 Alexander Rd., Walton Hills**

Saturday, June 4, 2 – 3 p.m.

CATERPILLARS COUNT!

Discover the beauty of these soft-bodied arthropods, the important role caterpillars play in our native food webs and what they tell us about our world in the face of climate change. **FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, June 5, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

Spring is warming into summer and the forest is full of activity. Join a naturalist at the Everett Road Covered Bridge then hike into the bustling forest at a moderate pace and allow the energy of the natural world to motivate you along a 2.5-mile trail. Dress for the weather and talk to your doctor before starting a new exercise routine. **Riding Run Conservation Area: 2370 Everett Rd., Peninsula**



Sunday, June 5, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

BACK YARDS GONE WILD: MOON GARDENS

From flickering fireflies to dancing bats and marvelous moths — how can you make your back yard more inviting to our nocturnal neighbors? We'll talk night-blooming flowers, bat boxes, firefly-friendly yards and more during this monthly series focused on creating nature-welcoming yards. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Monday, June 6, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

SPRING BIRD STROLL

Spring is turning to summer and migrating birds are becoming nesting birds. Walk with a naturalist to identify birds in their nesting habitats. Meet at Himelright Lodge with your binoculars. **CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

BALLOFLEX® GET FIT WHILE YOU SIT!

Enjoy an exercise session with a certified BalloFlex instructor. BalloFlex is a seated workout that incorporates the elements of dance and fitness together in a safe, low impact and fun system. It is designed for all ages and abilities!

12:30 – 1 p.m.

VIRTUAL 📺:

Zoom meeting ID: 849 6465 8634

Thursday, June 2

Monday, June 6

Thursday, June 9

Monday, June 13

Thursday, June 16

Monday, June 20

Wednesday, June 22

Thursday, June 23

Monday, June 27

Wednesday, June 29

Thursday, June 30



KINDEREALM: HUMMINGBIRDS

Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions will learn about the tiny, amazing hummingbird. The program includes a short hike and craft. *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.* 📞 (6/10)

Sunday, June 19
10 – 11 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.
FASN: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, June 22
10 – 11 a.m. & 1 – 2 p.m.
LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Monday, June 6, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. FUN FACTS FOR KIDS

What is the fastest animal on the planet? Can toads give you warts? Join a naturalist on a walking scavenger hunt for the answers to these questions and more! **WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson**

Wednesday, June 8, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. COFFEE WITH THE BIRDS

Join a naturalist to see what birds are hanging out around Summit Lake! Coffee and tea will be provided. Bring your favorite mug and a pair of binoculars. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Wednesday, June 8, 1 – 2 p.m.
YOGA FOR KIDS: SUMMER!
Ages 3 and up can join a certified yoga instructor and naturalist for this program. We will learn about nature, the seasons and animals through stories, songs, games and yoga poses. Bring a yoga mat, towel or blanket. **FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Thursday, June 9, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
GOOD GARDENS: PLANNING A LATE SEASON GARDEN
Now is the time to make an action plan for your late summer and fall garden. Join a naturalist to discuss strategies and techniques for a late season planting. Bring some seeds and transplants to share with fellow gardeners! **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Friday, June 10, 8:30 – 10 p.m.
SUNSET HIKE AND FIRE
Daytime descends into the night and nocturnal creatures begin to stir. Join a naturalist as we hike into the woods and watch the forest transition from day to night. After our hike, sit and listen to the nightlife over the crackle of the campfire. **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, June 11, 12 – 1:30 p.m.
SOUNDS OF NATURE
Sound is a vital aspect of connecting to our natural world. In a unique setting of interpreting sound into drawing, we will explore just how much nature sounds influence our lives and learn how to tune in deeper to the voices around us. **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron** 📞 (6/1)

Saturday, June 11, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
TEEN ADVENTURE SERIES: ARCHERY AND MORE
Calling all teens looking to try something new! Ages 13-17 are invited to join us at our archery range at Tinkers Creek. Beginning and practiced archers are welcome. All equipment and hands-on instruction are provided. Must be 50 inches or taller. Afterward, all participants are welcome to enjoy roasting hotdogs over the campfire. **LP/Tinkers Creek 10303 Aurora-Hudson Rd., Streetsboro** 📞 (6/2)

Saturday, June 11, 8:30 – 11 p.m.
MARVELOUS MOTHS OF WETMORE
Join a naturalist to attract moths to a white sheet using special lights as we observe these insects' amazingly beautiful colors, shapes and patterns up close. We will be hoping for the big silk moths to join us for the evening! Bring a flashlight, camera and bug spray. Meet in the parking lot. **Wetmore Conservation Area: 4637 Wetmore Road, Peninsula**



Sunday, June 12, 9 – 11 a.m.
DISTANCE HIKE
Hike seven miles on Schumacher, Valley Link and Parcour's Trails. **CV/Schumacher Valley: 1690 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

Sunday, June 12, 2 – 3:30 p.m.
BUTTERFLY AND MOTH GARDENS
Join a naturalist and discover how to attract butterflies and moths to your yard. Learn the differences between host and nectar plants and why both are important. Ever heard of a moon garden, or why it is important to nocturnal pollinators? Learn what plants will attract certain species of butterflies and basic landscape plans for your back yard. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Wednesday, June 15, 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 15, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
LIL' SPROUTS
This biweekly program is designed to engage 3- to 5-year-olds and an accompanying grown-up into the wonderful world of gardening. Each class will build upon knowledge from the last and will be centered on what's growing and ready to harvest! **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron** 📞 (5/25)

Wednesday, June 15, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
NATURE TIKES: TIKE HIKE!
Participants ages 1-3 years, along with their accompanying adult, will join a naturalist for a hike through SMP's newest park area. Explore Valley View Area in Cascade Valley Metro Park at a toddler-friendly pace. The trail is not currently paved. A carrier or jogger is recommended, but not required. **CV/Valley View: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron** 📞 (6/8)

Thursday, June 16, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
OH YUCK, POND MUCK!
Kids of all ages are welcome to get their hands muddy with a naturalist. Sift through pond muck to discover and identify marvelous mud dwellers and learn how they survive in a pond ecosystem. **SC/Big Oak: 5199 Medina Line Rd., Norton**

Thursday, June 16

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SILVER CREEK KAYAK

Paddle with a certified instructor and a naturalist to learn paddle strokes, water 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 wearing clothes that can get wet and bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses.

Fee includes instruction and loan of kayak, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. **SC/Bathhouse: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton** 🇺🇸 (6/9) \$

Friday, June 17, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

FISHY FAMILY FRIDAY

Ready for some fishy family fun? All ages can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line in Tinkers Creek Pond. A limited number of rods and reels will be available. Bait is provided. Participants 16 and older must have an Ohio fishing license. **LP/Tinkers Creek: 10303 Aurora-Hudson Rd., Streetsboro**

Friday, June 17, 8:30 – 10 p.m.

FIREFLIES FOR KIDS

The meadow comes alive! Get close to nature's whimsical fireworks during this evening adventure. Learn about these amazing beetles and what you can do to help them continue to light up the night. Please bring your own bug jar and flashlight. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge**

Saturday, June 18, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

FATHER'S DAY CARDS WITH A NATURAL TWIST

Drop in to learn a little about wildlife dads and use some natural materials to create a card for the special father figure in your life. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Saturday, June 18, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

DADS GONE WILD!

To celebrate Father's Day, grab a father figure in your life and come join a naturalist for a fun Saturday stroll. We will be exploring the strange and diverse world of paternity in nature along the way. **GYH/Pioneer: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron**

MUSIC BY THE LAKE

Tuesday, June 7, 7 – 8 p.m.

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

Tuesday, June 21, 7 – 8 p.m.

SC/Bathhouse: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton

The concert will be canceled if it rains.

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

Saturday, June 18, 2 – 4 p.m.

HABITAT HAPPENINGS: WET AREAS

Join a naturalist for a hike emphasizing the importance of wet natural areas for wildlife. Learn about the problems facing our local freshwater habitats and how we can use wildlife as water quality indicators. Find out what you can do to improve wet-area habitats in your back yard. **MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls**

Saturday, June 18, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

HOWLS FOR OWLS



Interested in the unusual sounds you hear in the night? Come learn about these cool night sounds as we hike along the Towpath Trail. The naturalist will attempt to call in some of the animals we

learn about. Bring a flashlight if you prefer. **TT/Clinton: 2749 North St., Clinton**

Sunday, June 19, 1 – 3 p.m.

SALAMANDERS OF SMP

Join a naturalist to discover the diversity of salamanders found in Summit Metro Parks. Liberty Park is home to ten different species. Some live salamanders will be on display. Following the program, we will explore Ledges Trail to see how many we can find! **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Sunday, June 19, 1 – 4 p.m.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Come on down to Summit Lake to celebrate Juneteenth! Juneteenth is the oldest national celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S. Summit Metro Parks is honored to share this day with community members. There will be crafts, food, fishing and more! **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Monday, June 20, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS FOR KIDS

Kids and their adult companions can join a naturalist to learn about the crawling, slithering, scaly and slimy creatures found in our parks. Meet some of our resident education animals before taking a walk in search of toads, snakes and more in their natural habitats. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Monday, June 20, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

FREEDOM HIKE

Meet at the Mustill Store as we step back in time on this living history hike in recognition of Juneteenth. This casual walk into town will explore how the canal era was influenced and impacted by the institution of slavery and emancipation. **TT/Mustill Store: 248 Ferndale St., Akron**

Tuesday, June 21, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

HISTORY HIKE: FURNACE RUN

Stroll with a naturalist to learn the history of Furnace Run Metro Park, including its connections to the invention of electric streetlamps, the CCC and even the Wizard of Oz! **FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

Wednesday, June 22, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

HUMP DAY HIKE

Hike with a naturalist to blow off some steam or just work off dinner along Glens Trail. **G/Main Entrance: 1160 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls**

Thursday, June 23, 8 – 10 a.m.

WHEN SILVER CREEK WAS A FARM

Take a hike on Chippewa Trail with stops along the way to learn the early history of the area in the days when the land was farmed. You'll also meet a pioneer character from the past! **SC/Big Oak: 5199 Medina Line Rd., Norton**



Thursday, June 23

5 – 6:30 p.m. & 7:30 – 9 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 wearing clothes that can get wet and bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses. Fee includes instruction and loan of paddleboard, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. **NR/Lot C4: 5550 Christman Rd., Green** 🇺🇸 (6/16) \$

Friday, June 24, 9:30 – 10 a.m.

SUMMER NATURE TALES

Young children and their adult companions will enjoy this interactive, summer-themed story time intended for ages 18 months to 3 years. Make it a fun, family-friendly morning by exploring the park after the program.

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, June 24, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

PREDATOR & PREY: EVERYBODY EATS

On this evening we will explore the topic of predation in the wildlife world. Almost everything in nature falls prey to something else, so we will take a look at how these food webs play out and discuss who eats who around our parks. FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, June 25

12 – 1:30 p.m. & 2:30 – 4 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. Equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be at least 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$15/family. SC/Archery Range: 89 Eastern Rd., Doylestown 📞 (6/16) \$

Saturday, June 25, 2 p.m. –

Sunday, June 26, 11 a.m.

TENT CAMPING FOR FAMILIES

Families with children ages 10 and younger: join naturalists for a fun and relaxing overnight camping experience. Activities include guided hikes, campfire cooking and yard games. Please bring your own camping equipment, including food, sleeping gear and toiletries. No gear? No problem! Camping kits with essentials are available to borrow while supplies last. Please request camping kits at the time of registration. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls 📞 (6/10)

Sunday, June 26, 10 – 11 a.m.;

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; 1 – 2 p.m.

TRY IT: KAYAKING

Join us to try kayaking! Enjoy a relaxed session to see what this water sport is like and try maneuvering out on 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 wearing clothes that can get wet and bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses. Space is limited. MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls 📞 (6/17)

Sunday, June 26, 2 – 4 p.m.

HABITAT HAPPENINGS: THE BEES' KNEES



What is so special about bees' knees? How many species of bees are there in Ohio? Join a naturalist to answer these questions and more. We will learn to identify some of our common pollinators and what plants they like to visit. We will conclude with a hike to put our new skills to the test and identify the fuzzy butts we see. FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, June 29, 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 29, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

This biweekly program is designed to engage 3- to 5-year-olds and an accompanying grown-up into the wonderful world of gardening. Each class will build upon knowledge from the last and will be centered on what's growing and ready to harvest! SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron 📞 (5/25)

Wednesday, June 29, 1 – 3 p.m.

FISH OF POND BROOK: HOW CLEAN IS THE CREEK?

Join a naturalist along with a conservation biologist as we survey the species of fish that live in Pond Brook. Presence of certain species can indicate the health of the stream. We will be electroshocking parts of the stream to determine what fish are living in that area and assess the quality of the stream. No harm is done to the fish, but it is an excellent way to survey the fish species present. LP/Pond Brook: 3973 E. Aurora Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, June 29, 6 – 7 p.m.

NATURE GAMES

Enjoy family time outdoors with fun nature games and activities for all ages! F/Tuscarawas Meadows: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Thursday, June 30, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

VITAL NATURE CONNECTIONS: WATER

Join a naturalist for a close look at a vital resource: water. We'll examine important aspects of water's connections to us and to all life on the planet, then investigate the life and health of a nearby stream. We'll be in the water for a portion of the program, so water shoes are recommended. FR/Brushwood: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

Thursday, June 30, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

SUMMIT COUNTY SNAKES



Snakes have been wildly misunderstood for millennia. Please join us to better understand these remarkable reptiles and get to know the very snakes that call our county home.

With any luck, we

will find some on a short hike to take an even closer look at their beauty. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Thursday, June 30

3 – 4:30 p.m. & 5 – 7:30 p.m.

SUMMIT LAKE KAYAK

Paddle in the "Heart of Akron" at Summit Lake to learn what historical treasures helped build this community. This program is 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 wearing clothes that can get wet and bringing water, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses. Fee includes instruction and loan of kayak, paddle and personal flotation device. Space is limited. Cost: \$15/person. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron 📞 (6/23) \$

Thursday, June 30, 4 – 6 p.m.

PEDALING THROUGH HISTORY

Where did the rubber originally meet the road? In Akron, of course! Pedal Towpath Trail with a naturalist to learn about the history of bike design, Akron's impact on cycling and how this simple machine became the vehicle for several social and historical movements. Bring your own bicycle and helmet. Water is recommended. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron



SUMMIT METRO PARKS

SMP CENTENNIAL *Time Capsule*

*Mark Szeremet,
Park Planner/Land Acquisition Specialist*

What is a time capsule? A time capsule is a vessel filled with items designed to be opened on a specific date in the future. The idea is to provide a later generation with a physical link to the past. Ancient tombs, sunken ships and even old landfills provide us with a glimpse of life in former times, but they are not time capsules because they were not placed with the specific intention of future retrieval.

Almost from the moment humans began to build, they tossed keepsakes into a building's foundation. Small clay figures have been found in Stone Age brick walls built before written language was developed to explain why they were put there. Cornerstones of buildings are still filled with notes, coins and various items, although the motivation is more for luck than to send a message to the future. And recently in Richmond, Virginia, two different time capsules were found during the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue.

What is our message for the future? The park district celebrated 100 years with a public birthday celebration on December 31, 2021 at Cascade Valley's Himelright Lodge. Attendees enjoyed listening to music, watching ice carving, viewing the time capsule display, and getting outside to explore



A Pelican waterproof protector case will contain a collection of curated centennial items with plans to open it in 2071.





continued from page 17

the newest park area. Visitors submitted birthday messages and memories to include in the time capsule. Some of the notes included the following:

- “Happy Birthday. May the next 100 years be even better than the last...”
- “Best Wishes from 2021. I hope the parks are still as nice in your time.”
- “Ben asked me to marry him on the ‘bird bridge’ at Firestone — (heart illustration)”
- “The Parks have brought my family so much fun. Thanks for being here ...”

Memories and keepsakes from 2021 will live on for 50 years when park staff install the time capsule later this year at Summit Lake Nature Center. The time capsule features items from the park district and community. Some of the items in the capsule include:

- Stories shared by community members during the centennial year
- Ranger badges and patches
- Letters and photos to future employees

- Endangered plant seeds (in the hopes that they can be brought back)
- Plans for future park areas
- Centennial merchandise and giveaways
- Pandemic signs and safety equipment
- Newspaper articles

A plaque with an inscription on the wall of the nature center will remind visitors that the time capsule waits inside, scheduled to be opened in 2071. Only 49½ more years to go! 🌿

SPREE FOR ALL

FITNESS AND FUN FOR EVERYONE!

▶ visit spreeforall.summitmetroparks.org



2022 Spring Hiking Event

SPREE FOR ALL

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. The 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. Returning hikers earn the commemorative pin. Hikes are **FREE** for all participants. Since the program is funded by Summit County tax dollars, out-of-county residents pay to receive their hiking rewards (\$10 for first-year hikers, \$5 for returning hikers).

WHERE TO GET YOUR REWARD

Administrative offices, 975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron 44313, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm,
1828 Smith Rd., Akron 44313

Liberty Park Nature Center,
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 44087

Summit Lake Nature Center,
411 Ira Ave., Akron 44301

Open:
Wed. through Sat.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday

Noon to 5 p.m.
Closed: Mon. & Tue.

Rewards are not mailed.

Rewards are not available after August 15, 2022.

MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

BIKE & HIKE TRAIL

Barlow Road
331 Barlow Rd.
Hudson 44236

FREEDOM TRAIL

Middlebury
1324 Middlebury Rd.
Kent 44240

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

Memorial Parkway
499 Memorial Pkwy.
Akron 44310

Franklin
2328 Center Rd.
New Franklin 44216

Clinton
2749 North St.
Clinton 44216



2022 Commemorative Pin

GOODYEAR HEIGHTS

Pioneer Area
550 Frazier Ave.
Akron 44305

LIBERTY

Twinsburg Ledges Area
9999 Liberty Rd.
Twinsburg 44087

MUNROE FALLS

Tallmadge Meadows
1088 North Ave.
Tallmadge 44278

SAND RUN

Old Portage Area
1300 Sand Run Pkwy.
Akron 44313

Summit Metro Parks

#SMPspree

GREEN ISLANDS

Summit Metro Parks Bi-monthly Magazine

975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron, OH 44313-5837

-  facebook.com/summitmetroparks
-  instagram.com/summitmetroparks
-  metro-parks.medium.com
-  @metro_parks
-  youtube.com/summitmetroparks
-  summitmetroparks.org

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SUMMIT
METRO PARKS

 Please share this publication and recycle it when finished.

19th ANNUAL SPREE FOR ALL

SPRING HIKING EVENT

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY/GROUP HIKING FORM

PRIMARY PARTICIPANT

	FIRST-YEAR Hiker	RETURNING Hiker	SUMMIT COUNTY Resident
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Primary Participant's Last Name	First Name	M.I.	
Address		City	State Zip
Email		Phone	

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT

	FIRST-YEAR Hiker	RETURNING Hiker	SUMMIT COUNTY Resident
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	Zip	
Last Name	First Name	Zip	
Last Name	First Name	Zip	
Last Name	First Name	Zip	
Last Name	First Name	Zip	

MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL

MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL	DISTANCE	TRAILHEAD	SIGNATURE <small>(forms may be signed by staff, volunteers or you)</small>	DATE
Bike & Hike Trail	● ■ ▲	Barlow Road		
Freedom Trail	● ■ ▲	Middlebury		
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail	● ■ ▲	Big Bend		
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail	● ■ ▲	Memorial Parkway		
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail	● ■ ▲	Franklin		
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail	● ■ ▲	Clinton		

METRO PARK

METRO PARK	DISTANCE	TRAILHEAD	SIGNATURE <small>(forms may be signed by staff, volunteers or you)</small>	DATE
Cascade Valley	● ■	Overlook Trail		
F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm <small>(no pets)</small>	◆ (¼ mile)	Rock & Herb Garden		
Furnace Run	◆ (¼ mile)	Brushwood Area		
Goodyear Heights	● ■	Alder Trail		
Liberty	● ■	Coyote Run		
Liberty	●	Maple Loop		
Munroe Falls	● ■	Meadow Loop		
Sand Run (Old Portage Area)	● ■ ▲	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.



All of these trails are flat, easy and accessible for users of all abilities.