

SUMMIT METRO PARKS



2018

BUILDING ON STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

SMP staff and local, state and federal partners achieved a significant milestone this year when U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA entered a formal cooperative agreement to continue work to remove the Gorge Dam.

PRESERVING OUR PAST

At the Valley View area of Cascade Valley Metro Park, cultural resources staff searched for evidence of a rumored War of 1812 boatyard and worked with The University of Akron to investigate a lost neighborhood. They also restored a Depression-era shelter in Gorge Metro Park and continued to introduce the parks to the local refugee community.

EMBARKING ON NEW ADVENTURES

In May, the F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm qualified as the first Autism-Friendly Community Site in Summit County, meaning our staff is specially trained to assist visitors who may have special needs. In June, we launched "Play on the Parkway," closing a small section of Sand Run Parkway to vehicle traffic on weekends for recreational use. And, in late summer, we harvested our very first SMP honey from a new apiary at Springfield Bog Metro Park!



DELIVERING QUALITY PARK EXPERIENCES

Summit Metro Parks enhanced its parks and facilities in 2018, including:

- Opening a rebuilt, reimagined Shady Hollow Lodge following a 2016 fire
- Offering year-round camping and improved amenities at Nimisila Reservoir Metro Park
- Debuting a donor-funded community garden at Goodyear Heights Metro Park
- Completing construction on several trails, including the all-new Black Bear Trail at Liberty Park in Twinsburg



In 2018, your Summit Metro Parks continued a 97-year tradition of connecting people with nature in meaningful and innovative ways. With the support of strong community partnerships, an energetic volunteer base and significant external grant funding, SMP serves Summit County residents by conserving, sustainably managing and valuing our natural resources for the health and enjoyment of all.

BRINGING NATURE TO NEW SPACES

At the Valley View Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park, SMP restored over 150 acres of a former golf course, including 3,300 linear feet of stream and 20 acres of wetlands. When complete, Valley View will link three Metro Parks, bringing residents 1,700



acres of connected green space in the heart of Summit County and featuring hiking trails, a reservable shelter and access to the Towpath Trail and Cuyahoga River. Work is also underway to renovate the historic onsite barn into a meeting and event space.



At Summit Lake, park staff continued to expand outreach offerings and work with national and community partners to make the lake more accessible and attractive to visitors. Water-based programming began when testing determined the water quality was safe for recreation. With the City of Akron's transfer of the Pump House in late 2018, SMP will create a permanent nature center in this neighborhood.

- **SMP Vehicles** – Ohio Green Fleet Designation
- **Summit Lake Pop-Up Nature Center**
 - OPRA 1st Place Award and
 - Greater Cleveland Trail & Greenways Showcase
- **Green Islands Magazine** – PRSA Merit Award
- **Valley View Area** – Summit Soil & Water Conservation District Urban Conservation Award

Summit Metro Parks

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Mark A. Spisak *Chair*
 Joel D. Bailey
 Tonya Block
 Herb Newman
 Tina Ughrin
 Lisa M. King *Executive Director*

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron, OH 44313
 330-867-5511

BY THE NUMBERS —

- 75,000** – visitors assisted by customer service and rangers
- 30,000** – program participants
- 23,000** – service hours contributed by more than 560 volunteers
- 14,000** – special event attendees
- 2,500** – meals provided by SMP employees through the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank



summitmetroparks.org

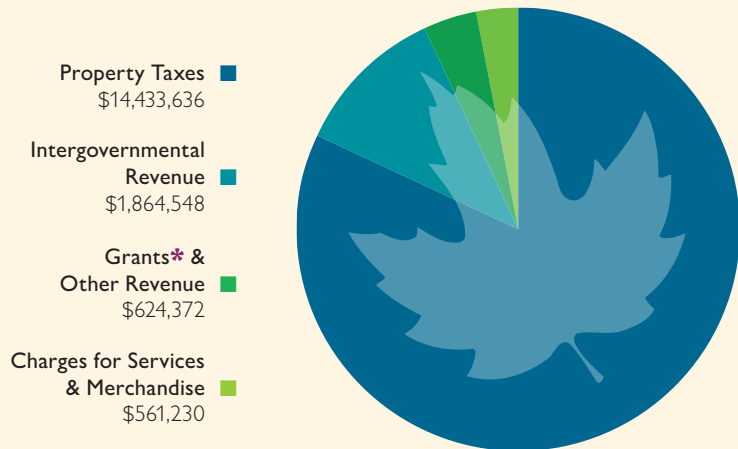
Ohio's Second Oldest Metropolitan Park District

Founded in 1921, Summit Metro Parks manages 14,000 acres, including 16 parks, several conservation areas and more than 150 miles of trails. Annual attendance averages 5 million visits. The park district is funded by a Summit County real estate tax, last approved by 75% of voters in November 2013. The cost per \$100,000 property valuation is \$44.71 per year.

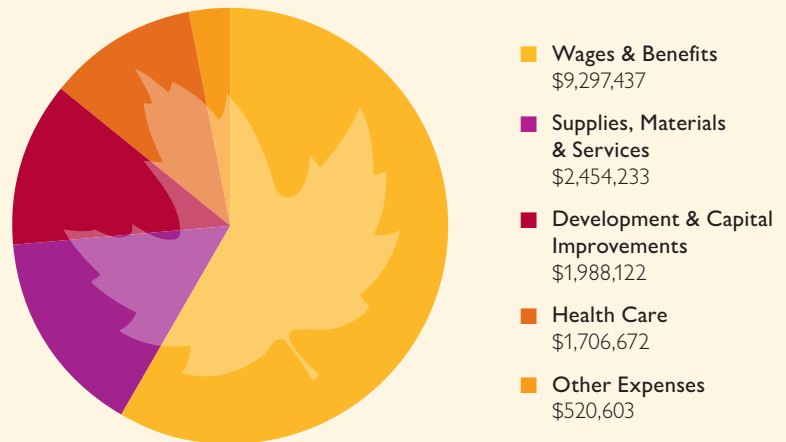
2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Financial Summary & Fund Balance

2018 RESOURCES \$17,483,785



TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$15,967,067



* Summit Metro Parks | Grant Support 2018

• Acme Fresh Market and Albrecht Family Foundation • Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study and FHWA, Transportation Alternative Fund • Northern Ohio Golf Charities • National Park Service • Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, Summit County Community Grant • Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Capital Improvement and NatureWorks grant programs • Ohio Public Works Commission, Clean Ohio Conservation Fund • Ohio Water Development Authority • U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Archery Range and Step Outside grant programs

Summit Metro Parks Foundation | Grant Support 2018

• Akron Community Foundation, Capital Grants Fund and Civic Affairs • Akron Garden Club • Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau • Allstate Foundation • Cargill • John S. and James L. Knight Foundation • John A. McAlonan Fund of Akron Community Foundation • Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition and Reimagining the Civic Commons • Ohio Commission on Minority Health • The Trust for Public Land