Improving Park Amenities
As part of ongoing efforts to provide visitors with a high-quality park experience, SMP replaced three restroom facilities, made sustainable trail improvements to Deer Run, repaved the parking lot at the Big Bend Area and worked with local artists to install two murals at the Valley View Area. The park district also completed Freedom Trail Phase III and opened a new parking lot at the Middlebury Trailhead.

Connecting People to Nature
Together with Friends of Metro Parks, SMP launched new inclusive programming for career exploration and camping. The park district was also thrilled to reinstate Nature Club following a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. SMP concluded its Centennial anniversary celebrations in 2022 with the installation of a time capsule at Summit Lake Nature Center, to be opened in 2072.

Conserving & Preserving Local Treasures
The park district continued its mission of protecting natural and cultural resources in 2022 by protecting endangered bats at Gorge Metro Park, rearing and releasing hundreds of native fish and conducting important archaeological investigations at Everett Knoll.

Creating a Lasting Legacy
Through the Summit Metro Parks Foundation, the park district benefited from multiple fundraising events, including the return of an in-person Mother’s Day 5k. The sponsorship program continued to grow and the newly launched Hiking Spree Fund became an instant success. The SMP Foundation also helped make park district events more environmentally sustainable in 2022.

Celebrating River Improvements
In 2022, Summit Metro Parks marked a huge milestone in water quality, all while planning to make even bigger impacts in the future. At the Valley View River Celebration in September, SMP and more than 100 invited guests honored the restoration of the Cuyahoga River in the Valley View Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park. Recent monitoring results show the one-mile, $3 million restoration of the Cuyahoga River at Valley View has been an incredible success. During the event, partners viewed the premiere of a documentary following the journey of this golf course turned natural area.

Also this year, SMP launched the award-winning “Wild Back Yards” campaign to encourage Summit County residents to improve local biodiversity by using native plants. The initiative was introduced at the first annual Native Plant Festival in May and will expand in 2023 to include a recognition program that allows participants to earn rewards for making their outdoor space more welcoming to local wildlife.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION
• OPRA 1st Place – Marketing Innovation: Your Back Yard for a Century
• OPRA 2nd Place – Environmental & Interpretive: Wild Back Yards Campaign Launch
• OPRA 3rd Place – Recreation: Camping for All
• NAI 2nd Place – Centennial Tour print brochure
• Akron-Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau Zenith Awards – Centennial Tour and Summit Lake Nature Center
Summit Metro Parks
Grant Support

- Ohio Attorney General – Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTA) Continue Professional Training (CPT) training funds
- Great Lakes Commission – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – Valley View
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – ODNR – Secondary School Teachers and Education Professional (STEP)
- Ohio & Erie Canal Association (OECA) – Freedom Trail
- OECA – Towpath
- Ohio Dept. of Public Safety – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Sand Run Restoration
- Summit County Community – Water Trail Signage

Summit Metro Parks Foundation
Grant Support

- Albrecht Family Foundation & Acme Fresh Market
- The Allstate Foundation
- The Andrea Rose Teodosio Memorial Foundation
- Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund
- M.G. O’Neil Foundation
- Summa Health
- Akron Community Foundation, William C. & Betty J. Zekan Fund

Summit Metro Parks & Summit Metro Parks Foundation
Sponsorships

- Akron Children’s Hospital
- Buckingham
- Cleveland Clinic Akron General and Cleveland Clinic Children’s
- Davey Tree Expert Co.
- HiHO Brewing Co.
- House of Plants, Inc.
- Roetzel & Andress
- Vertical Runner
- Wayside Furniture

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Financial Summary

2022 RESOURCES ............... $28,182,223

- Property Taxes: $23,831,092
- Intergovernmental Revenue: $2,045,829
- Grants*: $1,000,769
- Charges for Services & Merchandise: $758,215
- Other Revenue: $546,318

TOTAL EXPENDITURES ......... $22,566,006

- Wages & Benefits: $10,960,743
- Supplies, Materials & Services: $5,408,726
- Development & Capital Improvements: $2,741,449
- Health Care: $1,981,064
- Other Expenses: $1,402,335
- Grant Outlay: $71,689

* Grant outlay may exceed grants received in any given year as reimbursement periods vary.

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Ohio’s Second Oldest Metropolitan Park District

Established in 1921, Summit Metro Parks celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2021. The park district manages more than 15,000 acres throughout 16 parks, three nature centers and over 150 miles of trails, including 22 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance is approximately 5.5 million visits. Find us online at summitmetroparks.org.