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## **BLACK BEAR TRAIL OFFERS NEW WAYS TO DISCOVER LIBERTY PARK**

Summit Metro Parks invites visitors to explore the new, 2.1-mile Black Bear Trail at Liberty Park (9999 Liberty Road, Twinsburg). As Liberty Park's longest trail, Black Bear also connects to Ledges Trail, Coyote Run Trail and Sugarbush Trail for hikers interested in spending a bit more time exploring the area. Though it is never far from the nature center and Liberty Road, Black Bear's serenity gives it the feel of a remote hiking trail.

"Black Bear Trail was built using sustainable trail-building techniques, resulting in minimal impact to the surrounding forest," explains Park Manager Mark Smalley. "These techniques are similar to those used to build the mountain bike trails at Hampton Hills and have created a trail with great flow."

Black Bear Trail offers visitors an exciting array of sights and experiences. The trail's relatively flat terrain and integration with the surrounding landscape make it an excellent choice for beginning trail runners. Along the trail's west rim, hikers will view evidence of last November's microburst, where 100-plus mile per hour winds uprooted several large trees, leaving large depressions in the ground and huge root systems on display. Three freshwater springs are also visible in this section of the trail.

The east rim of Black Bear Trail skirts Liberty Park's famous ledges, where picturesque sandstone is covered in a living skin of moss, ferns and lichens. Two

rectangular sandstone “benches” on either side of the trail appear to have been left behind by a nearby historic rock quarry. Carpets of wildflowers including trout lily, cutleaf toothwort, squirrel corn and white trillium emerge each spring in this area.

Though the new trail is not a designated Fall Hiking Spree option this year, hikers already at Liberty Park to complete Coyote Run Trail for spree credit are encouraged to explore Black Bear as their “hiker’s choice” selection.

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Summit Metro Parks manages 14,300 acres, including 16 parks, several conservation areas and more than 125 miles of trails, with 22.4 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance averages 5 million visits. Visit us online at [summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org).



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