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## **SUMMIT METRO PARKS HONORED WITH MULTIPLE STATEWIDE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

Summit Metro Parks has received four Awards of Excellence from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA). OPRA's annual Awards of Excellence recognize organizations throughout Ohio that embody the vision, dedication and demonstration of excellence in parks and recreation. These awards highlight the efforts of those organizations that transcend everyday standards to make a difference and improve the quality of life in Ohio communities.

"Our organization strives every day to deliver a high-quality park experience for Summit County residents," said Lisa King, Summit Metro Parks executive director. "We are honored to be recognized for these initiatives."

The park district has received the following awards:

### **First Place: Category 4 - Special Event**

"Promises in the Park" group wedding ceremony at Goodyear Heights Metro Park on June 28, 2019

*(In partnership with Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer-Summit County Probate Court)*

### **Second Place: Category 9 - Adaptive Program**

"Autism Friendly Touch-A-Truck" at Munroe Falls Metro Park on August 10, 2019

*(In partnership with the Autism Society of Greater Akron)*

**Third Place: Category 6 - Environmental & Interpretive Program**

“Nature Club” at Summit Lake Nature Center during the 2018-2019 school year

**Third Place: Category 13 - Marketing Innovation**

“#MySMPadventure” Instagram campaign and contest in July 2019

Summit Metro Parks staff will accept the awards on February 4, 2020 at OPRA’s annual conference in Sandusky.

Ohio Parks and Recreation Association is a non-profit, public interest organization representing over 2,000 professionals and citizen board members striving to provide quality park and recreational facilities and opportunities for all Ohioans while protecting and preserving Ohio’s natural resources. For more information, visit <https://opraonline.org/opra-awards-of-excellence/>.

For more information about Summit Metro Parks programs and initiatives, call 330-867-5511.

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Summit Metro Parks manages more than 14,000 acres, including 16 parks, several conservation areas and more than 150 miles of trails, with 22 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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