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Stephanie Walton
Chief of Marketing & Communications
330-865-8040 x215
swalton@summitmetroparks.org

Lindsay Smith
Marketing & Public Relations Manager
330-865-8040 x207
lsmith@summitmetroparks.org

PARK DISTRICT INVITES THE PUBLIC TO “ASK AN ARCHAEOLOGIST” AT GORGE METRO PARK

Summit Metro Parks will host daily “Ask an Archaeologist” sessions during an upcoming excavation at Gorge Metro Park (*1160 Front Street, Cuyahoga Falls*). During the week of July 29 – August 2, members of the public are invited to drop by the Old Maid’s Kitchen/Mary Campbell Cave rock formation from 11 a.m. to noon each day to ask questions and observe archaeologists as they look for traces of the cave’s earliest visitors.

“There’s a great deal of local lore surrounding the rock cave at Gorge Metro Park and this work could help us better define its human history,” said Chief of Conservation Mike Johnson. “Our digs have uncovered some interesting finds in the past and we’re hopeful this one will shed some light on this local landmark.”

Old Maid’s Kitchen, also known as Mary Campbell Cave, has long been the most notable natural feature in the Gorge. Because there is no evidence that the real Mary Campbell ever lived there, Summit Metro Parks is currently in the process of renaming it for historical accuracy. The feature has been known as Old Maid’s Kitchen since at least the mid-1800s, when that was a common name for rock shelters of this kind.

The archaeological work is led by the Summit Metro Parks cultural resources division, whose mission is to learn, document and preserve the cultural history of

properties in the park district's care. By learning about the people of the past and connecting those lives to the people in the present day, the cultural resource staff uses archaeology and history to tell the story of Summit County and the surrounding areas.

For more information about Gorge Metro Park, please visit www.summitmetroparks.org/gorge-metro-park.aspx.

Summit Metro Parks manages more than 14,000 acres, including 16 parks, several conservation areas and more than 150 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.



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