



## “VERDANT WONDERS” PROGRAM INFORMATION

To be eligible, entries *must*:

- be submitted in 12-pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced in a .docx file named “Initials Title Genre” (Example: SMP Nature Rules PE)
- include title and exclude author’s name on document,
- pertain to nature, culture and/or the environment,
- and be within genre, word and page limits.

Entries that will *not* be considered include:

- entries with explicit themes and concepts including but not limited to violence, drug use, sexual content and explicit profanity,
- plagiarized work or work generated using artificial intelligence,
- entries that exceed genre, word or page limits,
- submissions from authors outside Ohio,
- and work that does not pertain to nature, culture or the environment in some capacity.

To submit, email [summitmetroparksnaturalist@gmail.com](mailto:summitmetroparksnaturalist@gmail.com) with all documents in **ONE** email (entries, submission agreement, written release form and if pertinent the previously published form), with subject line **Verdant Wonders Submission 2025, first name, last name**. Any submissions not following this format will be disqualified.

Please be aware that:

- previously published work is allowed only if copyrights were retained. Please disclose if and where the work was published,
- a signed agreement is required to be submitted upon entry (if you are under 18, a parent or legal guardian must sign for you),
- by submitting your work it is **not** a guarantee that your work will be published.

*For any further questions, please email with your question in the subject line.*



## "VERDANT WONDERS" LITERARY JOURNAL ENTRY AND PERMISSION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Under 18? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this? \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you consent to your work being used as inspiration for art pieces that will potentially be displayed alongside your work? *Your answer will not impact consideration of your work* YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

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### Fiction (F), Creative Non-fiction (CNF), and Personal Essay (PE) (2500-word limit)

Entry 1 Title \_\_\_\_\_ Genre \_\_\_\_\_

Word count \_\_\_\_\_ Previously published? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ *If yes please see additional form.*

Entry 2 Title \_\_\_\_\_ Genre \_\_\_\_\_

Word count \_\_\_\_\_ Previously published? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ *If yes please see additional form.*

Entry 3 Title \_\_\_\_\_ Genre \_\_\_\_\_

Word count \_\_\_\_\_ Previously published? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ *If yes please see additional form.*

### Poetry (2500-word or 2-page limit)

Entry 1 Title \_\_\_\_\_ Word count \_\_\_\_\_

Page count \_\_\_\_\_ Previously published? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ *If yes please see additional form.*

Entry 2 Title \_\_\_\_\_ Word count: \_\_\_\_\_

Page count \_\_\_\_\_ Previously published? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ *If yes please see additional form.*

Entry 3 Title \_\_\_\_\_ Word count \_\_\_\_\_

Page count \_\_\_\_\_ Previously published? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ *If yes please see additional form.*



## “VERDANT WONDERS” LITERARY JOURNAL SUBMISSION AGREEMENT

*Submissions accepted September 1 to December 31*

Please read the following statements carefully. You are now entering a legally binding agreement.

- a. I agree to allow Summit Metro Parks to publish my work in “Verdant Wonders”.
- b. I grant Summit Metro Parks a non-exclusive right for my work to be housed digitally and/or on the Summit Metro Parks website and be used for the purposes of an audio recording of my work being read, also to be housed on the Summit Metro Parks website.
- c. I understand that I will retain copyright and may submit my work to future publications, acknowledging it was previously published in “Verdant Wonders”.
- d. I agree to allow Summit Metro Parks to use my work published in “Verdant Wonders” for credited use in future projects including but not limited to: programs, publications, story trails, interpretive materials and exhibits without further authorization.
- e. I agree to allow the “Verdant Wonders” committee to lightly copyedit to fix spelling or grammar errors and reformat work for publication purposes.
- f. The work I am submitting is wholly and entirely my own and therefore not a result of plagiarism or generated using artificial intelligence.
- g. Summit Metro Parks is not liable for publishing any work that is later found to be a result of plagiarism or artificial intelligence.
- h. I understand that my work is reviewed by the “Verdant Wonders” committee, who may accept or deny my entry at their own discretion and without explanation.
- i. I understand that there is no compensation to me if my work is included in the journal.
- j. I understand that by signing this document, I am agreeing to the terms above.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or legal guardian’s signature is required for entrants under 18. For parents or legal guardians signing, who is the entrant? \_\_\_\_\_

*This document must be filled out completely and submitted with your literary works and entry form.*

## WRITTEN RELEASE FORM

I agree to participate and grant permission to use, reproduce, distribute and publicly display my literary and written works (hereinafter “works”) created during the program cited below for the purpose of development, production, distribution, exhibition, advertising, publicity, promotion and other commercial or non-commercial uses of Summit Metro Parks, Citizens for Summit Metro Parks and The Summit Metro Parks Foundation. I hereby assign and transfer to these organizations all of my interest in the copyrights in the formats in which my works appear.

Program \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (*please print*) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### RELEASE FOR A MINOR:

Parent or guardian must read, complete and sign this entire form.

I have read and understand the foregoing. I am the named minor child’s parent or legal guardian. I hereby approve and acknowledge this agreement/release.

Name of minor (*please print*) \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to minor \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## "VERDANT WONDERS" (PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED WORK FORM)

Only complete this form if you are submitting previously published work. Please fill out the information to the best of your ability and submit alongside your Submission Form and Agreement.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Fiction (F), Creative Non-fiction (CNF), and Personal Essay (PE) (2500-word limit)

Entry 1 Title \_\_\_\_\_ Genre \_\_\_\_\_

Previously published in \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher email \_\_\_\_\_

Entry 2 Title \_\_\_\_\_ Genre \_\_\_\_\_

Previously published in \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher email \_\_\_\_\_

Entry 3 Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Genre \_\_\_\_\_

Previously published in \_\_\_\_\_

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Previously published in \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher email \_\_\_\_\_

Entry 3 Title \_\_\_\_\_ Genre \_\_\_\_\_

Previously published in \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher phone number \_\_\_\_\_

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