



“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 with all documents in **ONE** email (entries, submission agreement, written release and previously published form), with subject line **Verdant Wonders Submission 2026, first name, last name**. Any submissions not following this format will be disqualified.

Name _____ Under 18? YES ___ NO ___

Preferred Name for Publication _____

How did you hear about this? _____

Email _____

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

Entry 1 Title _____ Genre _____

Entry 2 Title _____ Genre _____

Entry 3 Title _____ Genre _____

Poetry (2500-word limit. Entries subject to formatting changes)

Entry 1 Title _____

Entry 2 Title _____

Entry 3 Title _____

Submissions accepted September 1 to December 31.



"VERDANT WONDERS" PROGRAM INFORMATION & WRITTEN RELEASE FORM

Please read the following statements carefully. By signing this document, you agreeing to the terms outlined below.

- a. I agree to allow Summit Metro Parks to publish my work in "Verdant Wonders."
- b. I understand that I will retain copyright and may submit my work to future publications, acknowledging it was previously published in "Verdant Wonders."
- c. I agree to allow the "Verdant Wonders" committee to lightly copyedit to fix spelling or grammar errors and reformat work for publication purposes.
- d. The work I am submitting is wholly and entirely my own and therefore not a result of plagiarism or generated using artificial intelligence.
- e. Summit Metro Parks is not liable for publishing any work that is later found to be a result of plagiarism.
- f. 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.
- g. I understand there is no compensation to me if my work is included in the journal.
- h. I understand that by submitting, it is not a guarantee that my work will be published.
- i. I have retained copyright to any previously published work, have disclosed it as such and provided proper information about its publication.
- j. I agree to participate and grant permission to use, reproduce, distribute and publicly display my literary and written 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 (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 (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 _____

Publisher contact name _____

Publisher phone number _____

Publisher email _____

Submissions accepted September 1 to December 31



“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 _____

Poetry (2500-word or 2-page 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 _____

Publisher contact name _____

Publisher phone number _____

Publisher email _____

Submissions accepted September 1 to December 31