

JUL•AUG '25 | Vol. 66 No. 4

GREEN ISLANDS

Summit Metro Parks Bimonthly Magazine



**Summit
Metro** 
Parks®

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Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

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Green Islands can be downloaded online: summitmetroparks.org

Your Metro Parks are funded by a small Summit County real-estate tax. This magazine is an example of your public dollars at work.



Board of Park Commissioners



Jill M. Stritch Herb Newman S. Theresa Carter Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr. Joel D. Bailey

The park district's governing body is appointed by the Summit County Probate Judge. Commissioners serve overlapping three-year terms and are assisted by the executive director, who oversees the work of full-time and part-time employees, seasonal workers and volunteers.



ON THE COVER

This rendering depicts the Freedom Trail connection point to the Portage Hike & Bike Trail at Middlebury Road.

Enjoy MUSIC by the LAKE



Treat yourself to live musical performances surrounded by the beauty of nature at Music by the Lake. This family-friendly concert series by the Metro Parks Ensemble allows visitors of all ages to experience summer evenings outdoors while enjoying music from the big band era, Broadway musicals, children's films, TV themes and more. See pages 9 and 15 for more information!



Discover YOUR BACK YARD

Making a Difference with Sustainable Choices



Carol Vigorito,
Interpretive Naturalist



Compost bin in Liberty Park
Nature Center parking lot

Sustainability means making choices that conserve Earth's resources for future generations.

The park district's mission statement highlights sustainable management of natural resources, embracing practices that protect native biodiversity and provide healthy ecosystems for visitors to explore and enjoy.

A visit to Liberty Park reveals examples of sustainable solutions. Rain gardens and bioswales (depressions with native vegetation) manage and filter storm water. A geothermal system using Earth's constant underground temperature reduces our carbon footprint for heating and cooling. Bins in the parking lot provide community access to composting and electronics recycling.

Small personal choices make a big difference, too!

- Save money and conserve energy by unplugging electronic devices when not in use.
- Choose healthy reusable items like stainless steel straws, cloth napkins and glass storage containers.
- Select refurbished electronics when possible and properly recycle unusable electronic items.

Learn more by visiting our nature and visitors centers or through naturalist-led sustainable living programs! 🍁

[At Summit Metro Parks, we conserve, sustainably manage and value natural resources for the health and enjoyment of our community, and inspire people to connect with nature through clean and safe parks.]

Bridging THE GAP

Mark Szeremet, Chief of Planning & Development





Freedom Trail

Middlebury Connection

What is now Freedom Trail was once an abandoned rail corridor owned by METRO Regional Transit Authority that has turned into a beautiful multipurpose trail for the public to enjoy. Also known as the Freedom Secondary Line once owned by Conrail, the entire corridor spans from Akron near E.J. Thomas Hall at The University of Akron and travels northeast through Akron, Tallmadge, near Munroe Falls Metro Park and ends at Middlebury Road in Kent.

The Portage Hike & Bike Trail, which starts at Middlebury Road, is a multi-jurisdictional trail project that travels east, with portions of the trail managed by Portage Park District, the City of Kent, City of Ravenna and Kent State University.

continued on page 6



Cranes lift a metal pedestrian bridge placed as part of the Middlebury Road connector project.

A new bridge creates a seamless and safe route for pedestrians to make a trail connection from the Freedom Trail to the Portage Hike & Bike Trail.



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The problem was the short 0.3-mile gap between the two trails, complicated by a winding road and railroad tracks, making it difficult and unsafe for users to travel between them. This new connection creates a seamless and safe route for continuous travel east or west.

Creating Freedom Trail took a lot of coordination between Summit Metro Parks and local partners including the City of Kent, Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS),

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), First Energy, CSX Railroad and Portage County Engineer, as well as private property owners in a small area. Summit Metro Parks is grateful for this cooperation that has allowed us to bring connections to life. We have completed a short multi-purpose connector between the two trails, consisting of a 10-foot-wide asphalt path with switchbacks and a bridge over the railroad corridor built to



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The project makes a safe off-road connection between the two existing trails. The project was paid for using the park district's general fund along with several different local, state and federal grants.

Currently, eight miles of Freedom Trail are open to visitors from Middlebury Road to Mill Street. Another 1-mile section is currently under construction from Mill Street to Buchtel Avenue

in downtown Akron, leaving a small section to complete in the near future to reach the Towpath Trail. Both trails connect schools, businesses and parks with downtowns and neighborhoods from Akron to Kent. The connector trail between the two trails will be a major benefit to the region, making one of the largest east-west trails in Northeast Ohio! Come on out and hike or ride a little (or a lot) of the trail. 🍁

A rendering depicts users interacting with the Freedom Trail at Middlebury Road.

The rendering on the cover, pages 4-5 and the rendering above were created by Adam Burger, [EMH.T.](#)



Explore

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

JULY

Beginning Tuesday, July 1

SELF-GUIDED: WILD WONDER

Does nature fill you with whimsy? Do you experience bouts of childlike wonder? No matter your age, let loose and explore the natural world from a new perspective as you hike along the 0.6-mile Cherry Lane Trail. This experience will be available through July 15.

FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Tuesday, July 1, 4 – 7 p.m.

KAYAK OPEN HOUSE



Stop by to learn basic kayak techniques and take a short self-guided paddle on the lake under the guidance of certified instructors. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle.

All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Space is limited. Kayaks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Location subject to change based on water conditions. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Tuesday, July 1, 4 – 7 p.m.

SUMMIT LAKE BIRTHDAY BASH

It's a birthday party and you're invited! Join us for an open house to celebrate the 4th anniversary of the nature center's grand opening. Activities for all ages and refreshments will be provided. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Tuesday, July 1, 4 – 7 p.m.

SUMMIT LAKE BIRTHDAY BASH CYCLE



Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for a celebratory 14-mile bike ride along the Towpath Trail to Summit Lake

Nature Center to partake in the birthday bash fun! Throughout the course of the ride, we will discuss the benefits, downfalls and nuances of riding in a larger group with riders of various skill levels. Please bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required to participate. TT/Wolf Creek Trailhead: 33 Snyder Ave., Barberton

Wednesday, July 2, 9 – 11 a.m.

DRAWING OUTDOORS

Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor lesson in drawing. Beginners are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the program. Portable chairs and drinking water are recommended. Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, July 2, 4:30 – 6 p.m. & 7 – 8:30 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY

Participants will learn international style archery and test their marksmanship at our outdoor range. All equipment and hands on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$10/person. Registration required (6/19). LP/Tinkers Creek Area: 10303 Aurora Hudson Rd., Streetsboro

Thursday, July 3, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

This biweekly program is designed to engage young children and accompanying adults in the wonderful world of gardening. Each class builds upon the last and will be centered on what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. Registration required (6/26). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, July 3, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDEN TALKS: PRUNING AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron and OSU Extension to learn about proper plant pruning and disease management in the vegetable garden. Lover's Lane Community Garden: 774 Morgan Ave., Akron

Thursday, July 3, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

LET'S GET CRAFTY: NATURE EMBROIDERY

Start an embroidery project with park staff while learning about the wildlife in your creation, then finish the project at your own pace. Guidance and supplies are included in the registration fee. For crafty people 16 and older. Cost: \$10/person. Registration required (6/25). FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



Key



CALL: 330-865-8065 Advance registration required, beginning at 10 a.m. on the date in parentheses.



ZOOM: ZOOM.US/JOIN Key in the Meeting ID number.



WEB: bit.ly/SMPEvents Register online beginning on the date in parentheses.

(date) Registration start date

\$ Fee

Fall Hiking Spree credit

BHT Bike & Hike Trail

CV Cascade Valley

DLQ Deep Lock Quarry

FASN F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm

F Firestone

FR Furnace Run

FT Freedom Trail

GYH Goodyear Heights

G Gorge

HH Hampton Hills

LP Liberty Park

MF Munroe Falls

NR Nimisila Reservoir

ONW O'Neil Woods

SC Silver Creek

SFB Springfield Bog

SLNC Summit Lake Nature Center

SR Sand Run

TT Towpath Trail

WH Wood Hollow

Friday, July 4, 8:30 – 10 p.m.

FIREFLY FIREWORKS

Enjoy nature's bioluminescent fireworks this holiday! Learn about this charismatic insect through engaging activities, then catch some fireflies of your own. Please bring your own flashlight and bug jar. Enjoy sparklers, while supplies last. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows Area: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge**



Saturday, July 5, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

REPTILES OF SUMMIT METRO PARKS

Several different turtles, skinks and nonvenomous snakes call Summit County home, with many living in our parks. Discover why these magnificent creatures are vital to our ecosystems and what makes them different from amphibians. If available, several species will be on hand to view up close! **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

KIDS IN THE GARDEN



Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron for weekly hands-on gardening activities for children of all ages. Seed, sow, water, harvest and enjoy! Each week we'll have a game or craft, garden activity and a snack themed around what is growing and ready to harvest in the garden. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held indoors.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, July 3

Thursday, July 10

Thursday, July 17

Thursday, July 24

Thursday, July 31

Beginning Sunday, July 6

SELF-GUIDED STORY TRAIL: SOME BUGS

Enjoy fun and exploration while following a self-guided story trail based on the book "Some Bugs." This experience will be available along the 1.4-mile Quarry Trail through July 27. **DLQ/Quarry Trail: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula**

Monday, July 7, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

TREES FOR KIDS

Kids and their adult companions join a naturalist to learn about trees through fun outdoor activities! We will start in the shelter to make leaf rubbings and learn basic identification, then walk the 0.25-mile Maple Loop to get hands-on with some forest trees. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Monday, July 7, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

CYCLING FRIENDS PREVIEW

Join Summit Metro Parks, South Street Ministries and local cycling enthusiasts for a unique opportunity to preview the Cycling FRIENDS program. Youth and an accompanying adult are invited to join us for a 2-mile ride while we learn about this exciting opportunity through interactive demonstrations. Please bring your helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required to participate. **TT/Big Bend Trailhead: 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron**

Thursday, July 10, 5 – 7 p.m. & 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

INTRO TO STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING & SUNSET PADDLEBOARDING

Learn how to paddleboard and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: **\$15/person. Registration required (7/2).** **NR/Lot C4: 5550 Christman Rd., Green**

Thursday, July 10, 9:30 – 11 p.m.

BUCK MOON HIKE

Set out for a 1.2-mile hike on Pheasant Run Trail to discover the curious connections between the season and Ohio's largest herbivore. **SC/Pheasant Run Area: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton**



MUSIC BY THE LAKE

Enjoy a performance by the Metro Parks Ensemble presented by Wayside Furniture! Please bring your own chairs and blankets, and a picnic if you prefer. The concert will be canceled if it rains. Call 330-865-8060 if wet weather is in the forecast.

7 – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, July 1

MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Tuesday, July 8

SC/Sherman Shelter:

5000 Hametown Rd., Norton



Cycling Without Age trishaw bikes will be available at the **Munroe Falls Metro Park** concert beginning at 6 p.m. to carry riders with limited mobility on a bench seat for an unobstructed view of nature and the feeling of riding a bike in the outdoors. *Cycling Without Age is available with the support of the Andrea Rose Teodosio Foundation.*

Friday, July 11, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

SUMMER NATURE TALES

Young children and their adult companions can enjoy an interactive summer-themed story time. Make it a fun, family-friendly morning by exploring the park or visiting the Nature Play area after the program. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Friday, July 11, 1 – 3 p.m.

FISHING FRIDAYS

Come try your hand at fishing. We'll provide the rods and bait, so all you have to do is show up! Anyone over the age of 16 will need a valid Ohio fishing license. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**



KINDEREALM: SNAKES

Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions will learn about our slithery friend: the snake! We'll go over some amazing adaptations that makes them such unique animals through a craft, story and activities. *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.* Registration required 📞 (7/2).

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 9

FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, July 16

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, July 23

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Friday, July 11, 9:30 – 11:30 p.m.

MOTH NIGHT

Join a naturalist to discover the diversity and beauty of our local moths. While butterflies often steal the spotlight, you'll be amazed by the wide range of colors, sizes and shapes of these lesser-known, underappreciated insects. You'll also find out what a moth garden is and why it's beneficial. Bug spray is recommended. Bring a flashlight and camera if you'd like to take photos. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, July 12, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

WOODLAND MUSHROOMS

A walk in the woods can reveal wonders of nature otherwise overlooked. Join a naturalist on a hike to discover the beauty, variety and interesting ecology of mushrooms. Learn why mycorrhizal fungi are so important to the natural world. Dress for the weather. Sturdy shoes and bug spray are recommended. LP/Pond Brook Conservation Area: 3973 E. Aurora Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, July 12,
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 – 4 p.m.

INTRO TO MOUNTAIN BIKING

Are you curious about mountain biking but nervous to try the trails by yourself? Then this program is for you! Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries to review mountain biking safety and trail tips, followed by a ride on the beginner and moderate mountain biking loops. Please bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required to participate. Registration required 📞 (7/3). HH/Mountain Bike Area: 2092 Theiss Rd., Akron

Saturday, July 12, 12 – 1 p.m.

FEATHER FRENZY

Fall into the fantastic world of feathers! From structure to color, let's talk about what makes them so special. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, July 12, 2 – 4 p.m.

GUIDED FOREST THERAPY

Feeling ready to slow down and reconnect to the present moment? Do you feel most grounded and nurtured when spending time with nature? During this immersive experience, participants will be guided through a series of invitations that allow us to deepen our connection to our senses, awareness and interconnectedness with the forest. Registration required 📞 (7/3). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, July 12, 8:30 – 10 p.m.

FIRE AND FIREFLIES

Unwind at a campfire and learn all about the amazing firefly, then join us on a walk to look for a glimpse of these luminous insects. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, July 13, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

KAYAK OPEN HOUSE

Stop by to learn basic kayak techniques and take a short self-guided paddle on the lake under the guidance of certified instructors. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Space is limited. Kayaks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Location subject to change based on water conditions. LP/Tinkers Creek Area: 10303 Aurora Hudson Rd., Streetsboro

Sunday, July 13,
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., 1 – 2:30 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY

Participants will learn international style archery and test their marksmanship at our outdoor range. All equipment and hands on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$10/person. Registration required 📞 (7/3). SC/Archery Range: 89 Eastern Rd., Doylestown

Sunday, July 13, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

LET'S GO GREEN: WIND AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

Join us for the monthly "Let's Go Green" program as we explore wind and geothermal energy. We'll cover how wind power works, regulations for wind turbines and the feasibility of installing them at home. Additionally, we'll dive into geothermal heating and cooling, with a firsthand look at the system at Liberty Park Nature Center. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Tuesday, July 15, 7 – 8 p.m.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Enjoy a performance by the Metro Parks Ensemble! Please bring your own chairs and blankets, and a picnic if you prefer. The concert will be canceled if it rains, call 330-865-8060 if wet weather is in the forecast. DLQ: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula



PROMISES IN THE PARK

Summit County Probate Court and Summit Metro Parks are partnering to offer a free outdoor wedding and vow renewal ceremony for Summit County residents. Learn more and complete the required registration at bit.ly/promisesinthepark2025.

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Friday, July 11

CV/Himelright Lodge:
1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Thursday, July 17, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

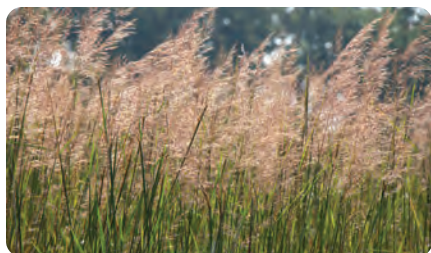
LIL' SPROUTS

See Thursday, July 3 description. Registration required 📞 (6/26). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, July 17, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

HOMEGROWN HABITAT: NATIVE GRASSES

Calling all people with yards or green spaces big and small: Join us for this monthly series and learn how to re-wild your home landscape. This month we'll explore the world of grasses, highlighting species that are fit for a wide range of growing conditions. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



Friday, July 18, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

NATURE SAUNTER

Appreciate the outdoors at a leisurely pace with a stroll to enjoy the rich natural heritage along parts of Quarry Trail. Enjoy a beverage and more nature conversation afterward. DLQ/Quarry Trail: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula

Friday, July 18, 6 – 9 p.m.

SENIOR CYCLING: HAND-OFF RIDE

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for a ride on the Towpath Trail to Canal Place to meet up and participate in the Akron Bike Party. Expect to ride at least 10 to 12 miles at a casual (10-12 mph) pace with hills and occasionally cycling on public roads. All riders are responsible for obeying traffic laws and watching for traffic. Please bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets and bike lights are required to participate. TT/Mustill Store Trailhead: 57 W. North St., Akron

Friday, July 18, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

DATE AT THE LAKE

Bring a date and join us for a night of great views and memorable fun. It's board game night — see which couple comes out on top! No babysitter? No problem! Drop them off downstairs for a simultaneous kids' game night for ages 5 to 13. Registration required for grown-ups and kiddos 📞 (7/10). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, July 19, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

OSPREY, EAGLES AND PURPLE MARTINS, OH MY!

Learn about two raptors and a special songbird that call Nimisila Reservoir home during a 3.1-mile hike along an easy trail. NR/Lot SM2: 5531 S. Main St., Green

Saturday, July 19,

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

INTRO TO KAYAKING

Learn how to kayak and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. Registration required 📞 (7/10). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Sunday, July 20, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

GONE FISHIN'

Anglers ages 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line and see what they catch! Some rods and reels will be available to use. Bait is provided. Please note: Little Turtle Pond is a youth fishing-only site where parents must supervise their children. F/Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron

Sunday, July 20, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

TENT CAMPING OPEN HOUSE

Families are invited to join naturalists for a fun-filled tent camping experience! Try your hand at canoeing, s'more-making, tent-pitching and other camping activities. All necessary equipment is provided. Optional: Pack a lunch or snacks and some folding chairs to relax in between activities! MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls



Sunday, July 20, 1 – 2 p.m.

LOOKING FOR BUTTERFLIES

Time to look for butterflies! Join a naturalist for a short talk and fun facts about the butterflies of Summit County. Afterwards, we will walk on the grounds and learn which plants attract them. FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



Sunday, July 20, 2 – 4 p.m.

NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY CYCLE

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for a bike ride to Scoops Ice Cream to celebrate National Ice Cream Day! Expect to ride at least 10 to 12 miles, at a casual (10-12 mph) pace. Please bring your own helmet, bicycle and money. Helmets are required to participate. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Sunday, July 20, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

BACK YARDS GONE WILD: BUILDING WITH NATURE

Water, wind, sun and soil — how do we manage these elements in our outdoor spaces? Explore nature-based landscaping techniques from rain gardens and windbreaks to shade trees and natural mulch. After a presentation, we'll take a short stroll highlighting the green infrastructure surrounding the nature center. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Monday, July 21, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

BUG HUNT FOR KIDS

Kids and their adult companions can join a naturalist to learn about insects! We will start in the shelter to learn some fun facts, then head out onto the trail to see what we can find. Nets and jars will be provided for this fun hands-on walk. WH: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson

Tuesday, July 22, 4 – 7 p.m.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT THE SUMMIT LAKE FARMERS MARKET

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for a unique workshop during the Summit Lake Farmer's Market, where we will upcycle bicycle parts into holiday-themed ornament keepsakes. Cookies and cocoa will fill your belly while the sounds of festive music fill the air. **TT/Summit Lake Trailhead: 380 W. Crosier Street Akron**

Wednesday, July 23, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN: ATTRACTING WILDLIFE TO YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE

Join Monika Bowman Bell from Ohio Division of Wildlife as she discusses the benefits of attracting wildlife into your outdoor space, along with tactics to deter nuisance species. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Thursday, July 24, 10:30 – 12 p.m.

INSECT SAFARI

Go on a safari for beautiful and bizarre insects along the 1.6-mile Prairie Trail. Sweep nets and observation jars will be provided. **SFB: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.**

Friday, July 25, 1 – 3 p.m.

FISHING FRIDAYS

Come try your hand at fishing. We'll provide the rods and bait, so all you have to do is show up! Anyone over the age of 16 will need a valid Ohio fishing license. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Friday, July 25, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

SUNSETS & SWALLOWS

Soak up the summer sunset and watch the swallows above the Cuyahoga River as we walk the 1.1-mile Missing Link Trail. **CV/Valley View Area: 1134 Cuyahoga St., Akron**



Saturday, July 26, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

HIKE THE HILLS

Lace up those hiking boots and hit the Hampton Hills with a naturalist. Along the 3.2-mile Adam Run Trail, we'll discuss the natural history of the area and explore signs of local wildlife. Be prepared for steep inclines and uneven terrain. **HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron Peninsula Rd., Akron**

Saturday, July 26,

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. & 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

PAINT 'N TAKE FOR ADULTS

Adult visitors will enjoy lemonade while completing a lovely seasonal, nature-inspired acrylic painting following basic step-by-step instructions. All supplies are provided.

Registration required 📞 (7/17). **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, July 27,

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

INTRO TO STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

Learn how to paddleboard and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: **\$15/person. Registration required 📍 (7/18).**

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Sunday, July 27, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

TENTS & TALES FOR TOTS

Families with young children are invited to try out the fun of camping with small children! Enjoy a camp-out story time, pitch a tent, make a s'more, play campsite games, take a hike and much more! **MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls**

Sunday, July 27, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

CONCERT AT LIBERTY PARK: WESTERN RESERVE COMMUNITY BAND

Bring your chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of instrumental music by the Western Reserve Community Band, made up of musicians from around Summit County. Tap your toes along with the drums, trumpets, flutes and more! Popcorn and lemonade will be provided. Rain date is August 3. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Wednesday, July 30, 9 – 11 a.m.

DRAWING OUTDOORS



Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor lesson in drawing. Beginners are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration

of the program. Portable chairs and drinking water are recommended. Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Thursday, July 31, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

This biweekly program is designed to engage young children and accompanying adults in the wonderful world of gardening. Each class builds upon the last and will be centered on what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. Registration required 📞 (6/26). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Thursday, July 31, 4 – 6 p.m. & 7 – 9 p.m.

INTRO TO KAYAKING & SUNSET KAYAK

Learn how to kayak and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: **\$15/person. Registration required 📍 (7/24).**

NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green



AUGUST

Friday, August 1, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

SUMMER NATURE TALES

Young children and their adult companions can enjoy an interactive summer themed story time. Make it a fun, family friendly morning by exploring the park or visiting the Nature Play area after the program. LP/ Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Saturday, August 2, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GONE FISHIN'

Anglers ages 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line and see what they catch! Some rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided. Adults must supervise their children and must have a current Ohio fishing license if they want to fish. LP/Tinkers Creek Area: 10303 Aurora Hudson Rd., Streetsboro

Beginning Sunday, August 3

SELF-GUIDED STORY TRAIL: COMPOST STEW



Enjoy a fun, active walk following a storybook trail based on the book "Compost Stew." This story is available along the 2.1-mile Black Bear Trail

through August 24. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, August 3, 10 – 11 a.m.

IN SEARCH OF SNAKES

Hike with a naturalist on the 1-mile Prather Trail to learn about snake identification. We will discuss what species are present in Summit County, how citizen science is fueling research and some of the park district's local conservation efforts. CV/Valley View Area: 1134 Cuyahoga St., Akron

**Sunday, August 3,
10 – 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 – 2 p.m.**

INTRO TO ARCHERY

Participants will learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship at an outdoor range. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$10/ person. Registration required (7/25). HH/ Archery Range: 1940 W. Steels Corners Rd., Cuyahoga Falls

Sunday, August 3, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

CANDLE MAKING

Not much of a butcher or a baker? You can still be a candlestick maker! Enjoy making your own candles with assistance from a naturalist. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Monday, August 4, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

CREEK WALK FOR KIDS

Kids and their adult companions can get hands-on in the creek to search for insects, amphibians, fish and even fossils! Dress to get wet. Closed-toe shoes are required. FR/ Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

**Thursday, August 7,
4 – 6 p.m. & 7 – 9 p.m.**

INTRO TO STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING & SUNSET PADDLEBOARDING

Learn how to paddleboard and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. Registration required (7/31). NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green

Thursday, August 7, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDEN TALKS: PEST MANAGEMENT

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron and OSU Extension to learn how to encourage beneficial insects and manage pests in the vegetable garden. The program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. Stadelman Community Garden: 845 Stadelman Ave., Akron



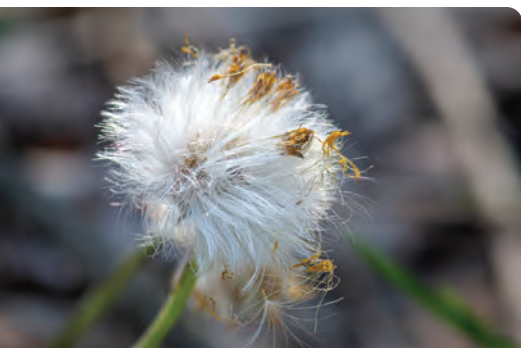
TOUCH-A-TRUCK

**Saturday, August 2,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Join us for Touch-a-Truck, presented by Wayside Furniture! People of all ages can sit in and explore more than a dozen Summit Metro Parks and local emergency response vehicles.

A special autism- and sensory-friendly hour will be held from 10 to 11 a.m., free of horns, music and flashing lights.

MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd.,
Munroe Falls



KINDEREALM: SEEDS-N-SUCH

Children 3 to 5 and their adult companions will explore the amazing, tiny world of seeds — how they grow and travel and who they feed. Activities include a short hike. *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.* Registration required 📞 (8/6).

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 13

FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, August 20

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, August 27

F/Tuscarawas Meadows Area: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Friday, August 8, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

SENIOR CYCLING: PEDAL INTO THE PAST

Join us for a bike ride in collaboration with South Street Ministries to celebrate Akron's bicentennial! Explore the historical, cultural and economic significance of the Kenmore and Summit Lake neighborhoods. The bike ride will feature landmarks like a Jewish cemetery, renovated pump house, the canal and more. Expect to ride at least 10 to 12 miles at a casual (10-12 mph) pace. Please bring your own bicycle and helmet. Helmets are required to participate. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Friday, August 8, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

STORY TIME IN THE GARDEN

Join a naturalist in the Rock & Herb Garden for an outdoor story time for kids! We will read a garden-themed story, learn how flowers grow and search for local pollinators. Bring a picnic blanket to sit on! FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

SUMMIT LAKE FLOAT

Stop by to learn basic kayak techniques and take a short self-guided paddle on the lake under the guidance of certified instructors. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Space is limited and kayaks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. TT/Summit Lake Trailhead: 380 W. Crosier St, Akron

Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

PEDAL INTO THE PAST: YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



Join us for a bike ride in collaboration with South Street Ministries to celebrate Akron's bicentennial! Explore the historical, cultural and economic significance of the

Kenmore and Summit Lake neighborhoods. Help us envision a more vibrant and interconnected Summit Lake and Kenmore. Expect to ride at least 10 to 12 miles at a casual (10-12 mph) pace. Please bring your own helmet and bicycle. Helmets are required to participate. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, August 9, 1 p.m. –

Sunday, August 10, 11 a.m.

TENT CAMPING FOR FAMILIES

Families with children ages 13 and younger are invited to join naturalists for a fun and relaxing overnight tent camping experience! Activities include guided nature hikes, campfires, s'mores and games. Please bring your own camping equipment, including food, sleeping gear, toiletries and chairs. No gear? No problem! Request a free camping kit with essentials during registration, available while supplies last. Registration required 📞 (7/9).

MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Saturday, August 9, 2 – 3 p.m.

ROCK CREEK HIKE

Join a naturalist to enjoy a relaxing hike on the 1.3-mile Rock Creek Trail. We'll be on the lookout for any seasonal happenings as summer winds down. FR/Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield

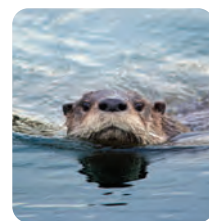
Saturday, August 9, 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

STURGEON FULL MOON HIKE

See and learn about the full Sturgeon Moon during a hike along the 0.35-mile Meadow Loop Trail. Bring a flashlight along! MF/Tallmadge Meadows Area: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Sunday, August 10, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

OTTER OPEN HOUSE



Visitors of all ages are invited to celebrate river otters in our waters! Learn about these playful creatures and where to find them through interactive displays,

games, a craft and more. Throughout the day, a naturalist will lead short walks in search of otters along Buttonbush Trail. LP/Pond Brook Conservation Area: 3973 E. Aurora Rd., Twinsburg

Tuesday, August 12, 9 – 10:30 p.m.

PEAK PERSEIDS

Join us for a night of unbelievable stargazing and s'mores. Bring your own camping chair or blanket to look up at the sky to witness up to a meteor per minute. SC/Lake House Area: 4877 South Medina Line Road Norton

KIDS IN THE GARDEN



Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron for weekly hands-on gardening activities for children of all ages. Seed, sow, water, harvest and enjoy! Each week we'll have a game or craft, garden activity and a snack themed around what is growing and ready to harvest in the garden. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held indoors.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, August 7

Thursday, August 14

Thursday, August 21

Thursday, August 28



MUSIC BY THE LAKE

Enjoy a performance by the Metro Parks Ensemble presented by Wayside Furniture! Please bring your own chairs and blankets, and a picnic if you prefer. The concert will be canceled if it rains. Call 330-865-8060 if wet weather is in the forecast.

7 – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, August 5

MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Tuesday, August 12

SC/Sherman Shelter:
5000 Hametown Rd., Norton



Cycling Without Age trishaw bikes will be available at the **Munroe Falls Metro Park** concert beginning at 6 p.m. to carry riders with limited mobility on a bench seat for an unobstructed view of nature and the feeling of riding a bike in the outdoors. *Cycling Without Age* is available with the support of the Andrea Rose Teodosio Foundation.

Wednesday, August 13, 9 – 11 a.m.

DRAWING OUTDOORS

Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor lesson in drawing. Beginners are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the program. Portable chairs and drinking water are recommended. Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. **FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Wednesday, August 13, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

TREES FOR COOL BREEZES

Native trees planted strategically in your yard can provide shade and help cool your home — plus lots more! Learn about top tree choices to plant this fall. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

**Wednesday, August 13,
2:30 – 4 p.m. & 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

ART OF PLANT PRESSING

Learn the tricks of the trade for mounting and preserving plant specimens and get the opportunity to try your hand at it. Plants and supplies provided. *Registration required* ☎ (8/6). **F/Coventry Oaks Lodge: 40 Axline Ave., Akron**

Thursday, August 14, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

This biweekly program is designed to engage young children and accompanying adults in the wonderful world of gardening. Each class builds upon the last and will be centered on what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. *Registration required* ☎ (8/7). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Thursday, August 14, 8:30 – 10 p.m.

BAT NIGHT

Bats are some of the most fascinating and beneficial creatures of the night! Join us to learn about these fantastic flying insect controllers up close and personal as park biologists attempt to catch them with nets for observation and data collection. **SC/Sherman Shelter: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton**

Friday, August 15, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

NATURE SAUNTER

Appreciate the outdoors at a leisurely pace with a stroll to observe nature along the 0.75-mile Pond View Trail. Enjoy a beverage and more nature conversation afterward. **LP/Tinkers Creek Area: 10303 Aurora Hudson Rd., Streetsboro**

Friday, August 15, 1 – 3 p.m.

FISHING FRIDAYS

Come try your hand at fishing. We'll provide the rods and bait, so all you have to do is show up! Anyone over the age of 16 will need a valid Ohio fishing license. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**



Friday, August 15, 9:30 – 11:30 p.m.

MOTH NIGHT

Join a naturalist to discover the diversity and beauty of our local moths. While butterflies often steal the spotlight, you'll be amazed by the wide range of colors, sizes and shapes found in lesser-known and under-appreciated insects. You'll also learn what a moth garden is and why it's beneficial. Bug spray is recommended. Bring a flashlight and camera if you'd like to take photos. **WH/Downy Loop Trail: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson**



Saturday, August 16, 1 – 3 p.m.

GEOLOGY & HISTORY OF DEEP LOCK QUARRY

Join a naturalist as we examine the geology and history surrounding Deep Lock Quarry. Learn how the Berea sandstone was formed and its significance to Akron and surrounding communities. **DLQ/Quarry Trail: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula**

Saturday, August 16, 1 – 4 p.m.

BMX FOR BEGINNERS

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for an introduction to the sport of BMX. For ages 12 to 25, we will focus on foundational skills such as bike handling, balance, braking and basic maneuvers. BMX style bikes and helmets will be provided for use during this program. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

**Sunday, August 17,
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.**

INTRO TO STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

Learn how to paddleboard and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: **\$15/person. Registration required** ➡ (8/8). **NR/Lot C4: 5550 Christman Rd., Green**

Sunday, August 17, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

LET'S GO GREEN: NUCLEAR ENERGY AND NATURAL GAS

Join us for the monthly "Let's Go Green" program as we explore nuclear power and natural gas. We'll cover how each system works, their pros and cons, relevant regulations and the future of nuclear energy. A retired executive from Exelon Corporation will join us for a Q&A on nuclear energy and its future. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

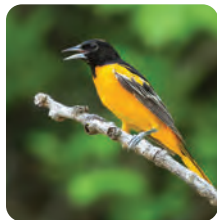
Tuesday, August 19, 7 – 8 p.m.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Enjoy a performance by the Metro Parks Ensemble! Please bring your own chairs and blankets, and a picnic if you prefer. The concert will be moved indoors if it rains. **F/ Coventry Oaks Lodge: 40 Axline Ave., Akron**

Beginning Wednesday, August 20

SELF-GUIDED: GOODBYE BIRDS!



Fall flyers are gearing up to take off for migration! Walk the 1-mile Prather Trail through 9/3 to learn about the birds we'll say goodbye to this fall.

CV/Valley View: 1134 Cuyahoga St, Akron

Wednesday, August 20, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

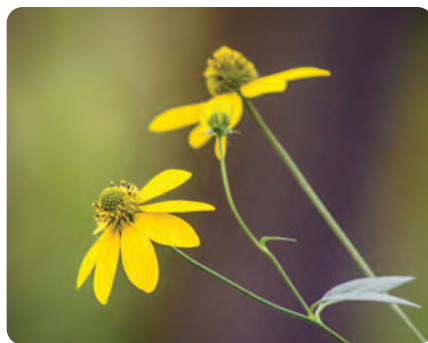
O'NATURE GOODS OF O'NEIL WOODS

Hike the beautiful yet challenging Deer Run Trail with a naturalist to learn about the natural and historical goods these two hilly miles have to offer. **ONW/Deer Run Trail: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath**

Thursday, August 21, 4 – 7 p.m.

KAYAK OPEN HOUSE

Stop by to learn basic kayak techniques and take a short self-guided paddle on the lake under the guidance of certified instructors. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Space is limited and kayaks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Location subject to change based on water conditions. **MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls**



Thursday, August 21, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

HOMEGROWN HABITAT: LATE BLOOMERS

Calling all people with yards or green spaces big and small: Join us for this monthly series and learn how to re-wild your home landscape. This month we'll highlight some of the late blooming wildflowers that support pollinators throughout the autumn season. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Friday, August 22, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

SUMMER NATURE TALES

Young children and their adult companions can enjoy an interactive summer-themed story time. Make it a fun, family friendly morning by exploring the park or visiting the Nature Play area after the program. **LP/ Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Friday, August 22, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

DATE AT THE LAKE

Bring a date and join us for a night of great views and memorable fun. Enjoy BYOB (building your own birdfeeder; of course!) No babysitter? No problem! Drop them off downstairs for a simultaneous kids' bird program for ages 5 to 13. *Registration required for grown-ups and kiddos* 📞 (8/14). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Friday, August 22, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

SUNSET BIRDING

Enjoy some birding along the 1.6-mile Prairie Trail while basking in the setting sun. Binoculars will be available to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis. **SFB/Prairie Trail: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.**

Saturday, August 23, 9 – 10 a.m.

SUMMER SAUNTER

Take a leisurely hike on the 1.3-mile Rock Creek Trail to enjoy the summer morning and talk about seasonal changes. **FR/Rock Creek Trail: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

Saturday, August 23, 9 – 10:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY

Participants will learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship at an outdoor range. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: \$10/person. *Registration required* 📞 (8/1). **LP/Tinkers Creek Area: 10303 Aurora Hudson Rd., Streetsboro**

Saturday, August 23, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

GONE FISHIN'

Anglers ages 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line and see what they catch! Some rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided. Adults must supervise their children and must have a current Ohio fishing license if they want to fish. **MF/Shady Shelter: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls**



Sunday, August 24, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

FALL HIKING SPREE KICK-OFF

Get a head start on the 2025 Fall Hiking Spree! Join guided hikes of the 0.6-mile Bluebird Trail at 9:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. or hike it anytime on your own this day to earn spree credit. Staff will be available to provide hiking forms and answer questions. Fall Hiking Spree t-shirts will be available for sale, along with other items from Maple Leaf Gifts. To receive your hiking staff and/or shield, all other hikes must be completed between September 1 and November 30. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg** 📞

Sunday, August 24, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

GONE FISHIN'

Anglers ages 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line and see what they catch! Some rods and reels will be available for use. Bait is provided. Please note: Little Turtle Pond is a youth only fishing site where adults must supervise children. **F/Little Turtle Pond: 2400 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Wednesday, August 27, 9 – 11 a.m.

DRAWING OUTDOORS

Bring your drawing pad and pencils for an outdoor lesson in drawing. Beginners are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the program. Portable chairs and drinking water are recommended. Program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. **FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Wednesday, August 27, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN: THE UNUSUAL WORLD OF CARNIVOROUS PLANTS

Learn about the amazing adaptations of carnivorous plants from around the world and unique biomes in which they live. Kelly Licata from Summit Metro Parks will focus on the kettle bogs of Northeast Ohio and the carnivorous plants that can be found within them. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Thursday, August 28, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

LIL' SPROUTS

See *Thursday, August 14 description*. Registration required 📞 (8/7). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Thursday, August 28, 4 – 6 p.m. & 7 – 9 p.m.

INTRO TO STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING & SUNSET STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

Learn how to paddleboard and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. Registration required 📞 (8/21). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Friday, August 29, 1 – 3 p.m.

FISHING FRIDAYS

Come try your hand at fishing. We'll provide the rods and bait, so all you have to do is show up! Anyone over the age of 16 will need a valid Ohio fishing license. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Friday, August 29, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

SUNSET HIKE AND FIRE

Daytime descends into night and nocturnal creatures begin to stir. Join a naturalist as we hike into the woods and watch the forest transform from day to night. After our hike, sit around a fire and listen to the nightlife over the crackle of the campfire. **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, August 30, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

FLORA OF FIRESTONE

Take a hike along the 1.1-mile Redwing Trail to learn about some of our local plant life and pick up plant identification tips and tricks. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows Area: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Saturday, August 30, 1 – 3 p.m.

DRAGONS AND DAMSELS

Join a naturalist as we look for dragonflies and damselflies along the edges of the ponds in Tinkers Creek Nature Preserve. Discover how these acrobatic creatures fly, hunt and patrol their territories. Learn about their amazing lifecycle and their importance to the ecosystem. Bug spray is recommended. **LP/Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve: 1230 Old Mill Rd., Aurora**



Sunday, August 31, 2 – 4 p.m.

GUIDED FOREST THERAPY

Feeling ready to slow down and reconnect to the present moment? Do you feel most grounded and nurtured when spending time with nature? During this immersive experience, participants will be guided through a series of invitations that allow us to deepen our connection to our senses, awareness and interconnectedness with the forest. Registration required 📞 (8/20). **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Sunday, August 31, 2 – 4 p.m.

BIKE RIDE & PICNIC

Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries to celebrate "National Eat Outside Day" with a bike ride and picnic. This will be a casual pace (10-12 mph), 10-12-mile ride to downtown Akron and back. Upon return, join us for some meaningful conversation and a picnic. Light refreshments will be provided. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**



Sunday, August 31, 4 – 6 p.m.

INTRO TO KAYAKING

Learn how to kayak and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. Registration required 📞 (8/21). **NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green**

Sunday, August 31, 7 – 9 p.m.

SUNSET KAYAK

Learn how to kayak and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor to view a beautiful sunset. Minimum age is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be able to swim. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. Registration required 📞 (8/21). **NR/Lot C6: 6194 Christman Rd., Green**



SMP *history is* AKRON'S HISTORY

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO during Akron's centennial celebration, the young Akron Metropolitan Park District, then just four years old, received its first land donation from local farmer Joseph Courtney. The parcel of land, located at what is now the corner of North Portage Path and Merriman Road, was marked with a boulder that can still be visited today.

In the one hundred years that followed, the park district, now known as Summit Metro Parks, became intertwined with the city of Akron, opening several parks that highlight the hills, valleys, waterways and forests in and around the city. Summit Metro Parks is proud to join Akron in celebration of its bicentennial and wishes the community enduring connections with nature for generations to come.

Summit 
Metro Parks®

Our Shared History »



1921:

PARK DISTRICT FOUNDED

Under the leadership of Goodyear Tire & Rubber founder F.A. Seiberling, the *Akron Metropolitan Park District* was established.



1929:

SAND RUN METRO PARK ESTABLISHED

Comprised of 700 acres when it first opened, *Sand Run Metro Park* is the oldest and most visited park in the park district.



1930:

GOODYEAR HEIGHTS METRO PARK AND GORGE METRO PARK ESTABLISHED

Swiftly growing, the park district opened three new parks this year, including these two with land in Akron.



1941:

FIRESTONE METRO PARK ESTABLISHED

With several Metro Parks open in central and northern Summit County, *Firestone Metro Park* realized the park district's goal of opening a park in the growing area of south Akron.



1966:

F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM AND HAMPTON HILLS METRO PARK ESTABLISHED

Another busy year, the park district opened three more parks, including these two with land in Akron. *F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm* also included the opening of the park district's first nature center.



1981:

CASCADE VALLEY METRO PARK ESTABLISHED

This park is home to several Akron icons, including the Signal Tree and a scenic overlook high above the Cuyahoga River.



2013:

FREEDOM TRAIL ESTABLISHED

Named for the Freedom Secondary Rail line of the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad, this multipurpose trail bridges the east-west gap between Portage County and downtown Akron.



2021:

SUMMIT LAKE NATURE CENTER OPENS

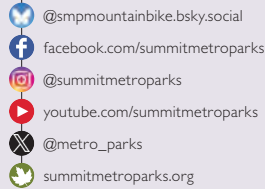
Located south of downtown Akron, this nature center opened during the park district's own centennial celebration, once again tying Akron's history to Summit Metro Parks.

JUL·AUG '25 | Vol. 66 No. 4


GREEN ISLANDS

Summit Metro Parks Bimonthly Magazine

975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron, OH 44313-5837



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TOUCH-A-TRUCK
at Munroe Falls Metro Park / Lake Area



Presented by:
Wayside
Furniture

Saturday
AUGUST 2, 2025 | 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
Sensory & Autism-friendly hour – 10 to 11 a.m.
Touch-a-Truck continues – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Summit Metro Parks 

summitmetroparks.org | 330-865-8065