

MAY·JUN '26 | Vol. 67 No. 3

# GREEN ISLANDS

*Summit Metro Parks Bimonthly Magazine*



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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.

Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

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### BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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- Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr.
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This magazine is mailed free of charge to Summit County residents. To join the mailing list, send your name and mailing address to [contact@summitmetroparks.org](mailto:contact@summitmetroparks.org) or call 330-867-5511.

Green Islands can be downloaded online:  
[summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org)



### ON THE COVER

Aptly named, Springfield Bog Metro Park contains a two bogs: Young's Bog and the man-made "baby bog."

# Scenic

## SUMMIT METRO PARKS



### Online Photo Contest



Have you captured a photo of nature in your Metro Parks worth sharing? Enter your photo in the Summit Metro Parks Foundation's photo contest! Scenic, nature-only photos taken in any Summit Metro Parks park are eligible. Entering is free and winners are decided by vote. With a **\$1 ONLINE DONATION**, anyone may vote, and the winning photo will become the featured artwork on a limited-edition deck of playing cards! All proceeds benefit Summit Metro Parks Foundation. *Voting is open June 1 through July 31.*

Learn more at <https://foundation.summitmetroparks.org/events/>.



# Discover YOUR BACK YARD



New this year, *the Fishing Derbies* will take place in June, when native species are active and ready to bite. Join us to reel in a great catch and make lasting memories!

## “FIN-TASTIC” NATIVE FISH

Claire Merrick,  
Marketing & Public  
Relations Manager




There’s no denying that fishing in your Metro Parks waters is “reel” fun for all ages! With free programs like our Kids’ and Special Needs Fishing Derbies this June (see page 18), plus numerous lakes and ponds perfect for casting on your own, there’s something for every angler to enjoy.

Since 2025, the park district has prioritized stocking native fish in its inland lakes and ponds. Native fish are important to aquatic ecosystems because healthy fish populations tend to mean a healthier aquatic environment, and conserving native fish is part of a larger movement to conserve biodiversity. Focusing solely on clean water and improved

habitat without addressing invasive species often favors proliferation of nonnative fish, like trout, that can harm the native species we’re trying to protect.

Summit Metro Parks is grateful to partners like the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for support in stocking native fish and the Summit Metro Parks Foundation for funding the efforts. 🍁

**[ Catch native species like bluegill sunfish, largemouth bass and channel catfish at a free naturalist-led fishing program. Find details starting on page 9. ]**



*Celebrating 25 Years*  
**OF CLEAN**

*Mike Johnson, Chief of Conservation &  
Mark Szeremet, Chief of Planning & Development*

# OHIO *Funding*

Summit Metro Parks strives to match every dollar of levy funding with outside grants and donations to maximize our ability to conserve land and provide outstanding outdoor recreational and educational opportunities. We regularly pursue a variety of funding sources, but one of our most impactful and valued partners has been the Clean Ohio Fund, which is celebrating 25 years of conservation investment across the state.

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## *Origin of the Clean Ohio Fund*

In November 2000, Ohio voters approved a statewide bond initiative, commonly known as the Clean Ohio Fund, to invest in environmental restoration, conservation, farmland preservation and trail development. The fund was established in response to a long history of ecological decline, loss of wetlands and impacts to wildlife and overall biodiversity. The fund is managed by Ohio Public Works, which oversees the acquisition and restoration

of natural areas, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, which provides funding for trail construction and park development projects.

Projects funded through Clean Ohio provide a wide range of benefits to Ohioans, including job creation, tourism, increased property values, agricultural productivity, enhanced tax revenue and improved quality of life. These investments strengthen local economies while protecting the natural assets that make Ohio communities desirable places to live, work and visit.



This series of three images, captured from Google Earth, shows the progress of restoring the “baby bog” at *Springfield Bog Metro Park*. Restoring conserved lands takes years, but the benefit to nature and people is worth it. Public support and generous grant funding allow the park district to provide this service to the people of Summit County.

Over the past 25 years, Summit County — and Summit Metro Parks in particular — has benefited tremendously from Clean Ohio funding. Nearly \$60 million has come to Summit County to support the acquisition, protection and restoration of conservation lands and to wisely develop trails for public enjoyment.

### *Local Impact*

Several Metro Parks would not exist without this support, including Springfield Bog Metro Park and the future Twin Creeks Metro Park (formerly Boughton

farm). Additionally, many existing parks and natural areas have been expanded with Clean Ohio assistance, increasing total protected acreage and enhancing public access to nature.

Many of these projects were completed in partnership with respected conservation organizations, including Trust for Public Land, West Creek Conservancy and The Western Reserve Land Conservancy. These partnerships further stretch local tax dollars and strengthen our collective ability to protect the natural and cultural heritage of our region.



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*continued from page 7*

Acquiring and protecting land alone is often not enough to fully realize ecological benefits — particularly in a region like Summit County, which has a long history of land modification from industrial development and agriculture. Clean Ohio has also played a vital role in restoring degraded natural environments. Park district properties including Sand Run Metro Park, the Valley View Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park and Pond Brook Conservation Area have been funded in large part through this program, resulting in improved water quality, enhanced wildlife habitat and healthier ecosystems.

In addition to protecting and restoring resources, the Clean Ohio Fund provides funding for land acquisition and construction that helps complete regional trail systems and improve connections for recreation and commuting. Through this program, Summit Metro Parks has received funding to help complete sections of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail in New Franklin and Clinton, as well as portions of the Freedom Trail.

## *Looking Ahead*

Summit Metro Parks is deeply grateful to the State of Ohio and voters who continue to support conservation and recreation through programs like these. As we celebrate 25 years of Clean Ohio, we look forward to continuing this successful partnership to conserve Summit County's natural and cultural heritage for generations to come. 🍁

🚩 The multipurpose *Freedom Trail* is a popular rails-to-trails project that allows visitors to travel between the Portage County line and downtown Akron.

# Explore PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## MAY

Friday, May 1, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

### WILDFLOWER WALK

Venture into the world of spring wildflowers with a naturalist on the 2-mile Deer Run Trail. We will learn how these beautiful blooms are specially adapted to take advantage of a sleeping forest floor. Be prepared for steep, uneven terrain. **ONW/Deer Run Trail: 2550 Martin Rd., Bath**

Friday, May 1, 8:30 – 10 p.m.

### FLOWER MOON NIGHT HIKE

Hike the 2-mile Meadow Trail under the light of the Flower Moon! This full moon symbolizes growth and transformation, and it will light our path as we talk about nocturnal critters, gaze at constellations and listen for owls. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows Area: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge**



Saturday, May 2, 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 and nature. Each class will be centered on what's happening in nature as well as what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. *Registration required* (4/1). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### BIRDING WITH LOW VISION

Join a naturalist as we practice our skills by using our ears instead of our eyes to see who has flown in during the spring migration. We will be walking the paved 0.25-mile Maple Loop Trail, stopping periodically to listen for warblers, orioles, wood thrush or indigo buntings. We will hone our skills prior to the walk in the nature center, using recorded calls so when we get out on the trail, we will know what to listen for. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Saturday, May 2, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

### PRIDE IN THE PARKS: WILDFLOWERS

Queer folks and allies alike, join us for a wildflower hike! Afterward, stick around to mingle over snacks in the Pioneer Shelter. **GYH/Pioneer Area: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron**

Sunday, May 3, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

### MAY MIGRATION BIRD WALK

As we near The Biggest Week in American Birding, let's hike a section of the Bike & Hike Trail with a naturalist to spot neotropical migrants on their journeys north. Along the way, discover how bird lovers can better support our avian friends at home. Please bring binoculars and a bird guide. **BHT/SR 91 Lot: 130 N. Main St., Munroe Falls**

Sunday, May 3, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### LITTLE HIKERS: SPRING INTO STORYTIME

Storytime is better on the trail! Bring your little ones for a 1.4-mile hike on Alder Trail with stops along the way for a story and games to celebrate the season. Consider a jogging stroller or carrier for younger children unable to hike. **GYH/Pioneer Area: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron**



Sunday, May 3, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

### WILD ABOUT WILDFLOWERS HIKE

We'll look for the beautiful mix of early spring flowers that briefly brighten our local woodlands. Join us for happy hunting on the 1.9-mile Spring Hollow Trail. **HH/Main Entrance: 2925 Akron Peninsula Rd., Akron**

Wednesday, May 6, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

Join our interpretive artist for an entertaining lesson in nature drawing. Bring a sketchbook, pencil and a sense of humor. Beginners are welcome. *Registration required* (4/1). **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Wednesday, May 6, 1 – 2 p.m.

### VIRTUAL: NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

Join our interpretive artist online for this entertaining virtual lesson in nature drawing. No experience is necessary; all you need are pencils, paper and a sense of humor. *Registration required* (4/1). **A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registering.**

## Key

**WEB:** [bit.ly/SMPEvents](https://bit.ly/SMPEvents) Register online beginning on the date in parentheses.

**ZOOM:** [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) Key in the Meeting ID number.

(date) Registration start date

\$ Fee

🌸 Spree for All credit

BHT Bike & Hike Trail

CV Cascade Valley

DLQ Deep Lock Quarry

FASN FA. 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



## 5th Annual NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Celebrate the start of summer with the Native Plant Festival, presented by Wayside Furniture! Discover how to create a thriving habitat for wildlife by incorporating beautiful, beneficial native plants into your landscape. Join Summit Metro Parks staff, local nurseries, landscapers and community partners to learn about the vital role native plants play in our ecosystem. Shop a wide selection of native plants for sale or attend an educational session for expert tips on native gardening. Visitors will receive a FREE seedling or seed packet, while supplies last.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

### 10:30 – 11:30 A.M. MOON GARDENING FOR NOCTURNAL CREATURES

From flickering fireflies to dancing bats and marvelous moths (butterflies of the night) — how can you use native plants to make your back yard more inviting to our nocturnal neighbors? We'll talk night-blooming flowers, habitat features, firefly-friendly yards and more.

### 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. & 1:30 – 2:30 P.M. GARDENING IN THE SHADE: NATIVES THAT WILL THRIVE

Join a naturalist as we discuss planning a shade garden using native plants that naturally thrive in low-light environments such as under trees, along buildings and in wooded settings. We will also discuss different types of shade, plant selection, soil preparation, water requirements and basic planting techniques.

➤ Munroe Falls Metro Park/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Wednesday, May 6, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

### SUNSET WILDFLOWER WALK



Join a naturalist along a section of the 2.8-mile Valley Link Trail as we explore the forest in search of spring ephemerals at sunset. We'll learn some identification tips and the cultural

history of these small but mighty plants. SR/Wadsworth Area: 1400 Sand Run Pkwy. Akron

Thursday, May 7, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### SENIOR CYCLING

Join like-minded senior Summit Metro Parks supporters as we ride and explore various trails. We will gather to socialize and determine the route, distance and pace before rolling out. 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. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in. BHT/Silver Lake Lot: 2961 Kent Rd., Silver Lake

Thursday, May 7, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

Join our interpretive artist for an entertaining lesson in nature drawing. Bring a sketchbook, pencil and a sense of humor. Beginners are welcome. *Registration required* (4/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron



Thursday, May 7, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

### KIDS IN THE GARDEN

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron for hands-on gardening activities for children of all ages. Seed, sow, water, harvest... and enjoy! Each month 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. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, May 7, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

### GOOD GARDEN TALKS: PLANT SWAP

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron to swap some plants! These can be cuttings from plants in your yard or freshly grown from seed. Plants should be labeled by name and contained in pots. Vegetables, herbs and native plants are preferred, but all plants are welcome! All are encouraged to attend, even without plants to share. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held indoors. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Friday, May 8, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

### SPRING NATURE TALES

Young children and their adult companions can celebrate spring in an interactive, spring-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, May 8, 8:30 – 10 p.m.

### FRIDAY NIGHT FROGS

Venture out on a night hike in search of frogs and discover the important roles amphibians play in our world. Please bring a headlamp or flashlight. MF/Tallmadge Meadows Area: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge



Saturday, May 9, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### BIRDING LIBERTY PARK

Join naturalists for a guided birding tour of Liberty Park, one of the park district's two Audubon Important Bird Areas. Designed for both new and experienced birders, this day-long outing begins at the Pond Brook Conservation Area before continuing to Black Bear Trail (Twinsburg Ledges Area). Bring a lunch and enjoy a break at the nature center with time to review the morning's sightings, then head to Seven Ponds Trail (Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve). Bird lists and binoculars will be provided. Participants provide their own transportation; optional carpooling is encouraged. Be prepared for hiking on natural-surface trails. Restrooms are available at two of the three stops. LP/Pond Brook Conservation Area: 3973 E. Aurora Rd., Twinsburg



## KINDEREALM: BEAVERS

Splash! Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions can come learn all about big-tailed, buck-toothed, busy beavers through a story, craft and short hike. *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers. Registration required* 📍 (4/1).

**10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday, May 13**

FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

**Wednesday, May 20**

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

**Wednesday, May 27**

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

**Saturday, May 9, 10 – 11:30 a.m.**

## BIRD NERDS: RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Bird enthusiasts of all kinds are welcome to join us for a deep dive into one of Ohio's most recognizable species each month. You see them. You love them. But how well do you really know them? After our indoor presentation, those interested can join for a guided birding walk. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



**Saturday, May 9, 1 – 2 p.m.**

## WILDFLOWER WALK

Spring is here and it's time to look for wildflowers! Join a naturalist to explore this beautiful wetland area as nature begins to bloom. GYH/Pioneer Area: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron 🌸

**Beginning Sunday, May 10**

## SELF-GUIDED STORY TRAIL: THE GARDEN NEXT DOOR

Enjoy some exercise and fun while following a self-guided story trail based on the book, "The Garden Next Door." This experience will be available along the 0.25-mile Maple Loop Trail through May 31. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 🌸

**Sunday, May 10, 2 – 3:30 p.m.**

## BACK YARDS GONE WILD: GARDENING ON A BUDGET

Native plant gardening doesn't have to be expensive! Join fellow gardeners for a discussion of how to get the best bang for your buck — learn about local sales, how to start plants successfully from seed or cuttings and how to split mature plants through hands-on demonstrations. We'll end with a plant swap, so bring any cuttings, starts or seeds from your yard, labeled in containers, to share. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

**Tuesday, May 12, 1 – 3 p.m.**

## NATURE DRAWING FOR ADULTS

Join our interpretive artist for an entertaining lesson in nature drawing. Bring a sketchbook, pencil and a sense of humor. Beginners are welcome. *Registration required* 📍 (4/1). LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

**Beginning Wednesday, May 13**

## SELF-GUIDED: DRAGONFLIES

Earn Spree for All credit while learning about dragonflies at your own pace with this self-guided hike to Alder Pond and back. GYH/Pioneer Area: 550 Frazier Ave., Akron 🌸

**Thursday, May 14, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

## NATURE COLLAGE

Let's make a beautiful nature-inspired collage using recycled paper! Join our interpretive artist for this easy, fun lesson. All materials will be provided. *Registration required* 📍 (4/1). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

**Thursday, May 14, 1 – 2 p.m.**

## VIRTUAL: NATURE COLLAGE

Let's make a beautiful nature-inspired collage using recycled paper! Join our interpretive artist for this easy, fun lesson. *Registration required* 📍 (4/1). 📺 A list of materials and a Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registering.

**Friday, May 15, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

## WANDERING FOR WARBLERS FIELD TRIP

Join naturalists for an all-day exploration of the "Warbler Capital of the World" during the Biggest Week in American Birding. The tour bus will depart at 6 a.m. for the famed Magee Marsh and other birding hotspots, returning at 6 p.m. Be prepared for extensive walking on boardwalks and trails. Dress for variable weather conditions. Pack lunch, beverages, snacks, binoculars and a camera. Cost: \$75/person. *Registration required* 📍 (4/1). FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

**Sunday, May 17, 1 – 2:30 p.m.**

## POWERING TOMORROW SUSTAINABLY

Join a naturalist for this monthly series exploring how emerging technologies and evolving policies are shaping our daily lives — and paving the way toward a more sustainable future. This month, we will focus on where electricity comes from when you flip a switch, tracing its journey from generation to transmission to distribution, and learning why this system has become a key bottleneck in achieving a more sustainable energy future. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

**Sunday, May 17, 3:30 – 5 p.m.**

## WILDLIFE TREK

Spring has sprung and summer is on the way! Join a naturalist as we take a hike along the canal and around the pond to see what critters might be stirring. F/Tuscarawas Meadows Area: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron



**Beginning Tuesday, May 19**

## SELF-GUIDED: BIRDS & BLOOMS

Spring migration has reached its peak! Take a walk through the Rock & Herb Garden between May 19 and May 28 to learn about how native plants help birds all year long. FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 🌸

**Wednesday, May 20, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

**INSPIRING SPIDERS TICKLE MY FANCY**

Join the Greater Akron Audubon Society and honor Bert Szabo, the park district's first interpretive naturalist, as we welcome retired Interpretive Naturalist Pat Rydquist and dig deeper into the web of spiders!



After attending an Ohio Sea Grant Conference with Dr. Rich Bradley, author and renowned spider specialist at The Ohio State University, Pat is inspired to share the life and value of spiders in the hopes others will appreciate their beauty and worth. **F/ Coventry Oaks: 40 Axline Ave., Akron**

**Thursday, May 21, 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 and nature. Each class will be centered on what's happening in nature as well as what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. **Registration required (4/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

**Thursday, May 21, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**HOMESCHOOLERS: CAMPOREE SUMMER SEND-OFF**

Calling all homeschool families: Join naturalists to celebrate the beginning of summer! We'll learn some tent camping basics like tent set-up, fire starting, preparedness and pie iron cooking. Ingredients for dietary restriction-friendly pie iron breakfast sandwiches will be available, while supplies last. **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

**Thursday, May 21, 6 – 7:30 p.m.**

**GOOD GARDEN TALKS: PLANT SWAP**

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron to swap plants! These can be cuttings from plants in your yard or freshly grown from seed. Plants should be labeled by name and contained in pots. Vegetables, herbs and native plants are preferred, but all plants are welcome. All are encouraged to attend, even without plants to share. Meet in the Community Garden. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held inside Goodyear Heights Lodge. **GYH/Goodyear Heights Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron**

**Friday, May 22, 8:30 – 10 p.m.**

**FRIDAY NIGHT FROGS**

Venture out on a night hike in search of frogs and discover the important roles amphibians play in our world. Please bring a headlamp or flashlight. **CV/Valley View Area: 1134 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

**Saturday, May 23, 10 – 11 a.m.**

**YOUNG BIRDERS: THRUSH RUSH**

Kids ages 8 and up are invited to join naturalists who are "veery" excited about this fascinating group of birds! Learn about family Turdidae through a short presentation and bird walk. An adult companion is required to remain for the entirety of the program. **FR/Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

**Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**CYCLING TOUR: SUMMIT LAKE & KENMORE**

Explore the historical, cultural and economic significance of the Kenmore and Summit Lake neighborhoods. A Jewish cemetery, a renovated pump house, the canal, a railroad, bus barns and much more await the curious traveler. Please bring your own bicycle and helmet. Helmets are required. Expect to ride approximately 10 miles, at a casual (10-12 mph) pace on trails and roadways. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

**Saturday, May 23, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**NATURE SAUNTER**

Appreciate the outdoors at a leisurely pace on a meander to observe birds and other signs of spring along portions of Quarry Trail. **DLQ/Quarry Trail: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula**

**Sunday, May 24, 8 – 10 a.m.**

**SPRING BIRD WALK**






Join a naturalist for birding along the beautiful 2-mile Meadow Trail. As we walk through forests, wetlands and prairies, we will learn what might be found in each habitat this time


of year and how to identify them. Several extra pairs of binoculars will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows Area: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge**

**Sunday, May 24, 9 – 10 p.m.**

**BLOOMS BY BLACKLIGHT**

Take a peek just beyond the visible spectrum as we explore spring wildflowers the way pollinators do on the 1.2-mile Pheasant Run Trail. **SC/Pheasant Run Area: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton**








# C-CHANGE

## Conversations

Monday, May 18 | 5:30–7:30 P.M.



The Akron Garden Club, in association with the Akron-Summit County Public Library and Summit Metro Parks, invites the community to a special evening program featuring Kathleen Biggins, founder of C-Change Conversations. C-Change Conversations is a nationally recognized, non-partisan educational initiative designed to help audiences better understand the science and real-world impacts of climate change. Through an engaging multimedia presentation, Biggins explores how climate change affects our health, economy and natural resources — and highlights practical, science-based solutions.

**Akron-Summit County Public Library | Main Branch: 60 S High St., Akron**

**Tuesday, May 26, 7 – 8 p.m.**

**METRO PARKS ENSEMBLE:  
SEASON KICK-OFF**

The Metro Parks Ensemble is back for their 25th year of bringing music to the parks! Join us to celebrate their anniversary with this special performance. Light refreshments provided. Please bring your own chairs and blankets. In the event of inclement weather, the performance will be held indoors. **GYH/ Main Entrance: 2077 Newton St., Akron**



**Wednesday, May 27, 5:30 – 7 p.m.**

**BEYOND THE SUMMIT: SUMMIT  
LAKE FISH BIODIVERSITY**

Beyond the Summit is a speaker series featuring environmental professionals discussing topics related to water in Northeast Ohio. From watershed health to fishing best practices, each talk offers community members the chance to learn from experts shaping the future of our water resources. This month's guest joins us from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife to talk about Summit Lake fish biodiversity. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

**Wednesday, May 27, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

**MEET ME IN THE GARDEN:  
SPOTTED LANTERNFLY**

Learn about a new invasive pest in Ohio and what it will mean for your landscape and garden plants. State Master Gardener Program Director Pamela J. Bennett will explain details, background and how to manage the spotted lanternfly in your home landscapes. **FASN/ Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**



**Thursday, May 28, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**SENIOR CYCLING**

Join like-minded senior Summit Metro Parks supporters as we ride and explore various trails. We will gather to socialize and determine the route, distance and pace before rolling out. 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. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in. **TT/Clinton Trailhead: 2749 North St., Clinton**

**Thursday, May 28, 6:30 – 8 p.m.**

**HOMEGROWN HABITAT:  
MAMMAL MANAGEMENT**

Calling all people with yards or green spaces big and small: Join us and learn how to rewild your home landscape. This month, we're talking mammals. Love 'em or hate 'em, they too are part of your Wild Back Yard. We'll discuss strategies to manage mammals alongside best practices to reduce human-wildlife conflict. **FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

**Friday, May 29, 8 – 9 a.m.**

**EARLY BIRD GETS THE  
WORM HIKE**

Start your day right with a hike on the 1.2-mile Pheasant Run Trail to learn about the amazing habits and abilities of the American robin. **SC/Pheasant Run Area: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton**

**Friday, May 29, 10:30 – 11 a.m.**

**SPRING NATURE TALES**

Young children and their adult companions can celebrate spring in an interactive, spring-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, May 29, 5:30 – 7 p.m.**

**GONE FISHIN'**

Welcome to fishing for all ages! Youth ages 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line and see what they can 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**

**Saturday, May 30, 10 – 11:30 a.m.**

**BEEES & BLOOMS**

Join naturalists to look for emerging bees and late spring blooms flowering as we discuss the dynamic of early summer and its effects on pollinators. **SFB/Prairie Trail: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.**

**Saturday, May 30, 6:30 – 9 p.m.**

**TENTS AND TALES FOR TOTS**

Before camping season kicks off, families are invited to try out the fun of camping with small children! Stop by to enjoy a campout story time, pitch a tent, make a s'more, play campsite games, take a hike and much more! **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

**Sunday, May 31, 10 a.m. – 12 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. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. **Registration required (4/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

**Sunday, May 31, 1 – 3 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. Kayaks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Location subject to change based on water conditions. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**



**Sunday, May 31, 4 – 5:30 p.m.**

### CONCERT AT LIBERTY PARK: WESTERN RESERVE BIG BAND

Bring your chair or blanket and swing into the night with the Western Reserve Big Band! Join us for an evening of toe-tapping rhythms as this local 20-piece ensemble transports you back to the golden age of jazz and swing. Popcorn and lemonade will be provided. In the event of rain, the concert will be moved into the shelter. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd, Twinsburg**

**Sunday, May 31, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

### SUNSET PHOTO HIKE

Explore the wonders of nature and photography! Hike the 1.6-mile Prairie Trail, explore your favorite plants, and learn basic photography rules of composition, moment and light using an SLR (Single-Lens Reflex), mirrorless camera, or cell phone. Bring your creativity, curiosity and camera and nature will do the rest! **SFB/Prairie Trail: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.**



## JUNE



**Beginning Wednesday, June 3**

### SELF-GUIDED: POLLINATORS

Summer is all about insects: butterflies, beetles, bees and many more! Enjoy a self-guided hike along the 0.35-mile Meadow Loop Trail to discover fast facts about pollinators. This experience is available through June 17. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows Area: 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge** 🌸

**Thursday, June 4, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

### SENIOR CYCLING

Join like-minded senior Summit Metro Parks supporters as we ride and explore various trails. We will gather to socialize and determine the route, distance and pace before rolling out. 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. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in. **BHT/SR 91 Lot: 130 N. Main St., Munroe Falls**

**Thursday, June 4, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

### KIDS IN THE GARDEN

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron for hands-on gardening activities for children of all ages. Seed, sow, water, harvest . . . and enjoy! Each month, we'll have a game or craft, garden activity and a snack themed around what is growing and ready to harvest in the garden. If there is inclement weather, the program will be held inside of the Summit Lake Nature Center. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**



**Thursday, June 4, 4:30 – 6 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** 🏹 (5/1). **LP/Tinkers Creek Area: 10303 Aurora Hudson Rd., Streetsboro**

**Thursday, June 4, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

### ARCHERY GAMES

Practiced participants will review international-style target archery principles and test their marksmanship through a variety of fun and challenging shooting games. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Previous archery experienced preferred. Cost: \$10/person. **Registration required** 🏹 (5/1). **LP/Tinkers Creek Area: 10303 Aurora Hudson Rd., Streetsboro**



### 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, June 2**

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

**Tuesday, June 9**

**SC/Sherman Shelter:  
5000 Hametown Rd., Norton**



Cycling Without Age trishaw bikes will be available at the **Munroe Falls Metro Park** concert from

5:30 – 7:30 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.*

Thursday, June 4, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

**GOOD GARDEN TALKS:  
SMALL SCALE COMPOSTING**

Healthy plants rely on soil microbes for nutrients. Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron and OSU Extension to learn how to make and use compost from food and garden waste to build soil that supports productive gardens. **Stadeleman Community Garden: 845 Stadelman Ave., Akron**



Friday, June 5, 5 – 7 p.m.

**HERON OPEN HOUSE**

Join a naturalist as we observe the nesting behaviors of one of Ohio's largest birds, the great blue heron. **Bath Road Heronry: Between Akron Peninsula and Riverview roads.**

Friday, June 5, 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY NIGHT FROGS**

Venture out on a night hike in search of frogs and discover the important roles amphibians play in our world. Please bring a headlamp or flashlight. **SR/Big Bend Area: 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron**



Saturday, June 6, 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 and nature. Each class will be centered on what's happening in nature as well as what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. **Registration required** 🐿️ (5/1). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Saturday, June 6, 12 – 3 p.m.

**NATIONAL BLACK BEAR DAY  
OPEN HOUSE**

Drop in to learn about Ohio's largest mammal on National Black Bear Day. **FASN/ Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, June 6, 1 – 4 p.m.

**LEARNING TO RIDE FOR KIDS**

Learning to ride? This youth-centric cycling program provides a safe, supportive and engaging environment where young riders ages 5 to 14 can build confidence and essential cycling skills. Please bring your own bicycles and helmets. A limited number of bicycles will be available to borrow on a first-come, first-serve basis. **MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls**

Saturday, June 6, 9:30 – 11:30 p.m.

**MAGNIFICENT MOTHS**

Join a naturalist as we delve into the nighttime world of moths. These amazing insects come in many different shapes, colors and sizes. From the pink and yellow rosy maple moth to the camouflaged Pandora sphinx moth, come and see what flies in. Bring bug spray and your camera. **FR/Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**



**KINDEREALM:  
CLEVER CROWS**

Children ages 3 to 6 with their adult companions will learn all about crows — considered to be among the most intelligent of all birds because of their tool use, problem solving skills, ability to plan tasks and more! **Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.** **Registration required** 🐿️ (5/1).

**10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Wednesday, June 10

FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, June 17

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, June 24

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Beginning Sunday, June 7

**SELF-GUIDED STORYBOOK  
TRAIL: LITTLE MOLE**

Earn Spree for All credit and enjoy a laugh while reading a story trail based on the book "The Little Mole Who Went in Search of Whodunit." This experience is available through June 28. **FR/Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield** 🌸

Sunday, June 7,

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. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. **Registration required** 🐿️ (5/1). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Monday, June 8, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### BLACK BEARS FOR KIDS

Kids and their adult companions join a naturalist to learn all about black bears through fun outdoor activities! We will start in the shelter for a discussion and craft, then walk the 0.25-mile Maple Loop Trail to search for the “bear” necessities our furry neighbors need to survive. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 🌸



Wednesday, June 10, 9 – 11 a.m.

### DRAWING OUTDOORS

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

Wednesday, June 10, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### SENIOR ICE CREAM SOCIAL

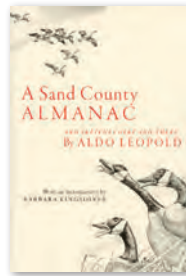
Seasoned citizens, drop by for an afternoon of lakeside fun! Enjoy fishing, nature related activities and more. Those with limited mobility have the opportunity to take an adaptive bike ride as a passenger aboard our fleet of trishaws on a first-come, first-served basis. Cool off with lemonade, watermelon and ice cream (while supplies last) or bring a picnic to enjoy by the water. *This program is made possible with support from The Andrea Rose Teodosio Foundation.* MF/Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls



Wednesday, June 10, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

### BOOK CLUB: A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC

Whether a first-time visitor or a longtime book club member, all adults are invited to share in a lively discussion about the inspiring book “A Sand County Almanac” by Aldo Leopold. Don't forget to bring your mug — we'll supply the beverages. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron



Thursday, June 11, 6 – 8 p.m.

### CAMPFIRE COOKING: THREE-COURSE MEAL!

Cooking a three-course meal over a campfire is fun, delicious and nutritious! We'll demonstrate techniques and share recipes to create a delicious appetizer, entree and dessert. Help us cook, then taste the results (while supplies last). LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Friday, June 12, 1 – 3 p.m.

### FISHING FRIDAY

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

Saturday, June 13,  
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. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. Registration required 🗨️ (5/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, June 13, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### NATURE SAUNTER

Appreciate the outdoors at a leisurely pace with a stroll along the 1.8-mile Seven Ponds Trail. LP/Tinkers Creek State Nature Preserve: 1230 Old Mill Rd., Aurora

Saturday, June 13, 12 – 2 p.m.

### VERDANT WONDERS CELEBRATION

All are welcome to join us and celebrate literature, nature and the unveiling of the second edition of our literary journal, “Verdant Wonders.” FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



Sunday, June 14,  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 2 – 4 p.m.

### 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 ages 16 and older. Cost: \$10/person. Registration required 🗨️ (5/1). FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Sunday, June 14, 10 – 11 a.m.

### BANK SWALLOW STROLL



Everyone is invited to join a naturalist and Open Trail Collective to learn all about bank swallows! This accessible, 0.5-mile trail will allow for a glimpse of their annual nesting colony, providing an up-close opportunity to experience the beauty of nature, flight and new life. CV/Overlook Area: 354 Sackett Ave., Akron 🌸

Sunday, June 14, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

### POWERING TOMORROW SUSTAINABLY

Join a naturalist for this monthly series exploring how emerging energy technologies and evolving policies are shaping our daily lives — and paving the way toward a more sustainable future. This month's program highlights innovation and entrepreneurship, focusing on the people and ideas driving green technology forward. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg



*Sunday, June 14, 8 – 9:30 p.m.*

### FLY VS. FLY

Discover the world of insect subterfuge. Plenty of insects engage in mimicry, but none quite like the firefly. Join a naturalist on a catch and release mission along the 1.6-mile Prairie Trail to crack the code of these cunning insects. **SFB/Prairie Trail: 1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp.**

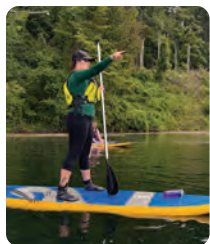
*Tuesday, June 16, 7 – 8 p.m.*

### 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. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be moved indoors. **F/Coventry Oaks Lodge: 40 Axline Ave., Akron**

*Wednesday, June 17, 4:30 – 6:30 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 during daylight, or in the evening 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. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. *Registration required* (5/1). **NR/Lot C4: 5550 Christman Rd., Green**

*Wednesday, June 17, 6:30 – 8 p.m.*

### CONSERVATION IN ACTION: MIGRATORY SONGBIRDS OF CUYAHOGA VALLEY

Biologists Mariamar Gutierrez and Daniel Toth will discuss the ongoing migratory bird monitoring efforts conducted jointly by Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Summit Metro Parks. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

*Wednesday, June 17, 7 – 8:30 p.m.*

### PHOTOGRAPHING NATURE'S PALETTE

Join the Greater Akron Audubon Society to welcome Photographer Roni Leatherman in her quest to capture a beautiful and tranquil moment in time. Her goal is to photograph those moments and bring people closer to see the detail, color and essence of nature and all it has to offer. **Bath Nature Preserve: 4160 Ira Rd, Akron**



*Thursday, June 18, 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 and nature. Each class will be centered on what's happening in nature as well as what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. *Registration required* (5/1). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

*Thursday, June 18, 6:30 – 8 p.m.*

### HOMEGROWN HABITAT: BUTTERFLY BLOOMS

Calling all people with yards or green spaces big and small: Join us and learn how to rewild your home landscape. This month, butterflies are front and center. We'll discuss host plants, nectar plants and best practices for attracting these charismatic gems from egg to adult. **FASN/ Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**



*Friday, June 19, 10:30 – 11 a.m.*

### SUMMER NATURE TALES

Summer is a few days away! Young children and their adult companions can enjoy an interactive story time focused on nature in the new season. 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, June 19, 4 – 6 p.m. & 7 – 9 p.m.*

### INTRO TO KAYAKING & SUNSET KAYAKING

Learn how to kayak and take a guided tour around the lake with a certified instructor during daylight, or in the evening 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. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/ person. *Registration required* (5/1). **NR/Lot C4: 5550 Christman Rd., Green**



Friday, June 19, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

### GONE FISHIN'

Welcome to fishing for all ages! Youth ages 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line and see what they can 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. **FR/Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**



### FISHING DERBIES

Anglers are invited to cast a line in Little Turtle Pond! Trophies will be awarded for the three largest fish caught.

These family-friendly programs are free and open to the public. Please bring fishing gear. A limited number of rods and reels will be available for use during the derby, and bait will be supplied. Visitors are encouraged to bring lunch if fishing the entire day.

Presented by Wayside Furniture.

**F/Little Turtle Pond:  
2400 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**KIDS' FISHING DERBY**  
For kids 15 and younger.

Tuesday, June 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**SPECIAL NEEDS  
FISHING DERBY**  
For adults and children  
with special needs.

Saturday, June 20, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

### BIRD NERDS: RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Bird enthusiasts of all kinds are welcome to join us for a deep dive into one of Ohio's most recognizable species each month. You see them. You love them. But how well do you really know them?

After our indoor presentation, those interested can join for a guided birding walk.

**FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**



Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### CYCLING TOUR: CLINTON & CANAL FULTON

Explore the historical, cultural and economic significance of the Village of Clinton and the Canal Fulton neighborhoods. The Rhoads-Harter House, the Underground Railroad, the Ohio & Erie Canal, Ohio Veterans Memorial Park and much more await the curious traveler. Please bring your own bicycle and helmet. Helmets are required to participate. Expect to ride approximately 10 miles, at a casual (10-12 mph) pace on trails and roadways. **TT/Clinton Trailhead: 2749 North St., Clinton**

Sunday, June 21,  
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. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. **Registration required** (5/1). **NR/Lot C4: 5550 Christman Rd., Green**

Sunday, June 21, 1 – 3p.m.

### FATHER'S DAY FISHING

Cast a line with dad during the Ohio Department of Natural Resources free fishing weekend. Rods and bait will be provided; adults must supervise children. **SC/Lake House Area: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton**

Monday, June 22, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### POP-UP NATURE CENTER: FURNACE RUN

Our nature centers are hitting the road! Join us as Brushwood Lodge transforms into a nature center for a day, complete with activities for all ages including education stations, a storybook trail, fishing and an opportunity to shop our pop-up Maple Leaf Gifts. Bring any nature or history questions for our naturalists and cool off with lemonade and watermelon, while supplies last! **FR/Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**



Wednesday, June 24, 9 – 11 a.m.

### DRAWING OUTDOORS

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



Wednesday, June 24, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

### MEET ME IN THE GARDEN: CRAFTING GORGEOUS GIFTS AND HOME DECOR

Your garden is brimming with luxurious gifts for you and your friends! Join internationally recognized floral and garden designer Luke Simon to discover the beauty at your gardening fingertips. You will learn how to design a wreath, vase and planter from easily found garden materials. **FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**



*Thursday, June 25, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

### SENIOR CYCLING

Join like-minded senior Summit Metro Parks supporters as we ride and explore various trails. We will gather to socialize and determine the route, distance and pace before rolling out. 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. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in. **BHT/Brandywine Falls: 8176 Brandywine Rd., Sagamore Hills**

*Thursday, June 25, 6 – 7:30 p.m.*

### GONE FISHIN'

Welcome to fishing for all ages! Youth ages 15 and younger can learn the basics of fishing, then drop a line and see what they can 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**

*Friday, June 26, 1 – 3 p.m.*

### FISHING FRIDAY

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**

*Saturday, June 27, 10 – 11 a.m.*

### YOUNG BIRDERS: BRILLIANT BLACKBIRDS

Kids ages 8 and up are invited to learn about family Icteridae's brilliance in color and cleverness through a short presentation and bird walk. An adult companion is required to remain for the entirety of the program. **SR/Big Bend Area: 1337 Merriman Rd., Akron** 🌸

*Saturday, June 27, 12 – 3 p.m.*

### STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING OPEN HOUSE

Stop by to learn basic paddleboard 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. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Paddleboards are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Location subject to change based on water conditions. **SC/Lake House Area: 5000 Hametown Rd., Norton**

*Saturday, June 27, 8:30 – 10 p.m.*

### FABULOUS FIREFLIES

Join a naturalist for nature's nightly fireworks, presented by the family Lampyridae: fireflies! Learn about the life cycle of these fascinating beetles and discover how you can help protect them so future generations can enjoy this amazing display. Jars will be available for brief, up-close observations. **WH/Downy Loop Trail: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson**



*Sunday, June 28, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

### HISTORY HIKE: DEEP LOCK QUARRY

Take a trip back in time to the 1800s to discover over a century of hidden history along the 1.4-mile Quarry Trail. Learn where this stone came from, how it was quarried and where it ended up through stories and images. **DLQ/Quarry Trail: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula**



*Sunday, June 28, 3 – 4 p.m.*

### TREE TREK

Take a hike along the 1.2-mile Oxbow Trail as we learn about the surrounding trees and critters and how the trees can tell us about the history of the park. **CV/Oxbow Area: 1135 Cuyahoga St., Akron**





The Summit Metro Parks Foundation connects, conserves and inspires as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1991 where donors can create a lasting legacy by supporting the park district. We are grateful to the many people, organizations, businesses and agencies who made gifts, grants and sponsorships January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. These donations and other forms of support create thriving parks that are a cornerstone of Summit County's quality of life.

## DONOR LISTING

### Tribute

*in memory of Holly Acuff*  
Kenneth J. Acuff

*in honor of Akron Garden Club's 100th Anniversary*  
Laura & Ernest R. Preston III  
Charitable Fund

*in memory of Annie*  
Michele Provencher

*in memory of Edna Autz*  
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*in memory of Bill Barnes*  
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*in memory of Bill & Jo Ann Barnes*  
Mark & Roberta Rininger

*in honor of Dante Biscotti*  
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*in honor of Joan Booth*  
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Jana Dynkiewicz  
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Stow Friends

*in memory of Jacqueline Lindquist*  
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Akron Metro Parks Hiking Club

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Robin Petrucelli  
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Linda Tucci Teodosio  
Andrew Testa  
David M. Tschantz  
Gregory S. Wurgler  
Elizabeth Yoho

*in memory of Leslyie Jean Smiley-Johnson*  
Mary Amanda Johnson

*in honor of Brenda Stull-Moledor*  
Sara Moledor

*in memory of Lorraine Faye Moore*  
Patricia Moore

*in memory of Eleanor Grace Moritz*  
E. Stewart Moritz & Maura K. O'Shea

*in memory of Mike Smith and C. Donald Morris*  
Cherie Morris

*in memory of Terry Nagy*  
Charlotte & Richard Cruse

*in memory of Jeffrey Thomas Nicholas*  
Julie Nicholas Amos

*in memory of Janice Peyak*  
Mark & Jo Hansel, John &



<i>Sandy Hansel and Gary &amp; Marcie Hansel</i>	<i>in memory of Leslie Thompson</i> Al Amodie	Linda Brashear	Jamie Haren	Anne Martinez
<i>in honor of Robert "Bob" Pohelia Jr.</i>	<i>in memory of Lawrence "Larry" Varner</i>	Nathanael Bucher	Jon Hawes	Connor McHugh
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Tracey Pawlowski Suzanne & Clifford Ray Heidi Smith	<i>in honor of Jason Whittle</i> Alexa Sandmann	Jessica Cook	Sherry & Martin Hellman	Carol Miller
The Ohio State University's Office of Technology and Digital Innovation	<i>in honor of Wilkerson Family</i> Dages Family	Terence Crawford	Joe D. Henninger	Alicia Michelle Monteith
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Beau Abdenour

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**2025  
SUMMIT METRO PARKS +  
SUMMIT METRO PARKS  
FOUNDATION**

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**2025  
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The Andrea Rose Teodosio Memorial Foundation

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*Green Islands Legacy Society*

We're grateful to those who have made a planned gift to Summit Metro Parks or the Summit Metro Parks Foundation. Those who have done so are recognized here as part of the Green Islands Legacy Society. Planned gifts (such as bequests) are a wonderful way to make a lasting difference for your parks.

Beau Abdenour	Mary A. Kincaid
Julie Nicholas Amos	Pamela Korenewych
Anonymous (4)	Susan Korosa
Elizabeth Baker	Harold F. Levinson
Peter Bobkowski & Patrick Miller	Joan Leslie Long
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continued from page 21

- |                              |                            |   |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Karen Elizabeth Smith        | Bonnie & Joe Sudomir       | The Richard & Beverly Waltz Family Trust    | Western Reserve Racing, LLC      |
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| Andrea & Sidney Steinberger  | Dave & Mary Tschantz       |   |                                  |
| Stine Family                 | Verna Vander Kooi          |   |                                  |
| John & Laura Struhsaker      | Craig & Stephanie Walton   |   |                                  |



# SPREE FOR ALL 2026 | SPRING HIKING EVENT

## TO PARTICIPATE

Complete FIVE hikes between May 1 and June 30 — on five different trails, the same trail or any combination of trails — to receive a reward. The starting point at each trailhead is the information kiosk, which has a legend with the following symbols:

- ◆ Teal Pentagon = 1/8 mile round trip
- Blue Circle = 1/4 mile round trip
- Yellow Square = 1/2 mile round trip
- ▲ Green Triangle = 1 mile round trip

Mileage markers are provided as an aid. **You do not need to hike any prescribed length to receive credit.** Some trails listed offer a limited section of accessible terrain. To hike the accessible portion, follow the Spree for All markers along the path.

**First-year hikers** earn a neck lanyard and commemorative pin. **Returning hikers** earn the pin. Hikes are **FREE** for all participants. Since the program is funded by Summit County tax dollars, out-of-county residents pay to receive their hiking rewards (\$10 / first-year hikers, \$5 / returning hikers).

## WHERE TO GET YOUR REWARD

Administrative Offices, 975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron 44313, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, 1828 Smith Rd., Akron 44313

Liberty Park Nature Center, 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 44087

Summit Lake Nature Center, 411 Ira Ave., Akron 44301

Open: Wed. through Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday Noon to 5 p.m.

Closed: Mon. & Tue.

Rewards are not mailed.

Rewards are not available after August 15, 2026.

## MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

### BIKE & HIKE TRAIL

Barlow Road  
331 Barlow Rd.  
Hudson 44236

### FREEDOM TRAIL

Middlebury  
1324 Middlebury Rd.  
Kent 44240

### OHIO & ERIE CANAL TOWPATH TRAIL

Big Bend  
1337 Merriman Rd.  
Akron 44313

Memorial Parkway  
499 Memorial Pkwy.  
Akron 44310

Franklin  
2328 Center Rd.  
New Franklin 44216

Clinton  
2749 North St.  
Clinton 44216



## PARKS

### CASCADE VALLEY

Overlook Area  
354 Sackett Ave.  
Akron 44313

### F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM

1828 Smith Rd.  
Akron 44313

### FURNACE RUN

Brushwood Area  
4955 Townsend Rd.  
Richfield 44286

### GOODYEAR HEIGHTS

Pioneer Area  
550 Frazier Ave.  
Akron 44305

### LIBERTY

Twinsburg Ledges Area  
9999 Liberty Rd.  
Twinsburg 44087

### MUNROE FALLS

Lake Area  
521 S. River Rd.  
Munroe Falls 44262

### Tallmadge Meadows Area

1088 North Ave.  
Tallmadge 44278

### SAND RUN

Old Portage Area  
1300 Sand Run Pkwy.  
Akron 44313

### SILVER CREEK

Lake House  
5000 S. Hametown Rd.  
Norton 44203









f i g y t | #SMPspree

For park maps, directions and descriptions of the trails: [spreeforall.summitmetroparks.org](http://spreeforall.summitmetroparks.org) or 330-865-8065.


# GREEN ISLANDS

Summit Metro Parks Bimonthly Magazine

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

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>> 23RD ANNUAL <<  
**SPREE**  
*FOR* **ALL**  
SPRING HIKING EVENT  
**2026**  
**INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY**  
**OR GROUP HIKING FORM**

**PRIMARY PARTICIPANT**

	<b>FIRST-YEAR HIKER</b>	<b>RETURNING HIKER</b>	<b>SUMMIT COUNTY RESIDENT</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Primary Participant's Last Name	First Name	M.I.	
Address		City	State      Zip
Email		Phone	

**ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT**

	<b>FIRST-YEAR HIKER</b>	<b>RETURNING HIKER</b>	<b>SUMMIT COUNTY RESIDENT</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	Zip	
Last Name	First Name	Zip	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	Zip	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	Zip	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL**

MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL	DISTANCE	TRAILHEAD	SIGNATURE <small>(forms may be signed by staff, volunteers or you)</small>	DATE
BIKE & HIKE TRAIL	● ■ ▲	Barlow Road		
FREEDOM TRAIL	● ■ ▲	Middlebury		
Ohio & Erie Canal TOWPATH TRAIL	● ■ ▲	Big Bend		
Ohio & Erie Canal TOWPATH TRAIL	● ■ ▲	Memorial Parkway		
Ohio & Erie Canal TOWPATH TRAIL	● ■ ▲	Franklin		
Ohio & Erie Canal TOWPATH TRAIL	● ■ ▲	Clinton		

**METRO PARK**

METRO PARK	LOCATION
CASCADE VALLEY	● ■
F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM (no pets)	◆
FURNACE RUN	◆
GOODYEAR HEIGHTS	● ■
LIBERTY	● ■
LIBERTY	●
MUNROE FALLS / Lake Area	● ■ ▲
MUNROE FALLS / Tallmadge Meadows Area	● ■
SAND RUN	● ■ ▲
SILVER CREEK	● ■ ▲

*Please note:* Before starting any fitness program, it is the participant's responsibility to contact their physician with respect to any past or present illness or injury that may affect their ability to participate in the program.



All of these trails are flat, easy and accessible for users of all abilities.