

SEP•OCT '26 | Vol. 67 No. 5

GREEN ISLANDS

Summit Metro Parks Bimonthly Magazine



**Summit
Metro** 
Parks®

- 4 DISCOVER – Returning to Flight
- 8 EXPLORE – Programs & Events
- 17 ENJOY – Batty for Bats

Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

IN THIS ISSUE

Shield Assistance.	2
Enjoy the Living Landscape this Fall ...	3
Returning to Flight	4
Programs & Events.	8
Batty for Bats	17
Fall Hiking Spree Form	20

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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 or call 330-867-5511.

Green Islands can be downloaded online:
summitmetroparks.org

ON THE COVER

The tri-colored bat gets its name from the triple color bands on its fur from base to tip.

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.

THE FALL HIKING SPREE®

Shield Assistance

Is attaching the hiking spree shield more challenging than hiking the eight trails? Summit Metro Parks volunteers will gladly attach it for you at no charge on the dates below.

HIKING SPREE SHIELD ASSISTANCE | 1 TO 3 P.M.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Liberty Park Nature Center
9999 Liberty Rd, Twinsburg 44087

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Summit Lake Nature Center
411 Ira Ave., Akron 44301

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 14, 21 & 28

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Goodyear Heights Metro Park / Lodge
2077 Newton St., Akron 44305





Discover YOUR BACK YARD



ENJOY THE LIVING LANDSCAPE THIS FALL



The 2025 trail signs theme was *Greener Future*. 🌱 Look for this year's signs, which explore the *Living Landscape*.

How have the Metro Parks evolved from past to present? Take a hike this fall and become immersed in the “living landscape” around you. This year, the 63rd annual Fall Hiking Spree theme explores what’s changed, what remains the same and the flora and fauna that thrive in fall. At the start of each spree trail, visitors will find an interpretive sign with stories about the park’s or trail’s past and present and what makes the area special for plants and animals today. From reforestation helped along by Girl Scouts or golf courses turned goldenrod and goldfinch-flocked fields, what will you discover as you walk?

Find more information about Fall Hiking Spree trails, download your form or learn more about this year’s theme at hikingspree.summitmetroparks.org. 🍁



RETURNING *To*



Flight

*The slow and
progressive
recovery of Ohio
bats after white-
nose syndrome*

Mike Johnson, Chief of Conservation

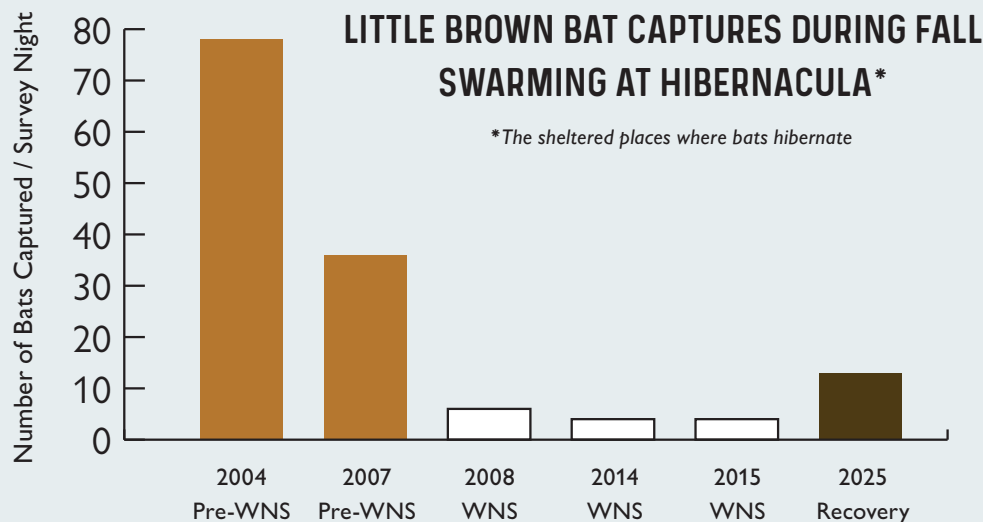
People are sometimes surprised I know more about how bats are doing than eagles. It's because eagles are well into the safe zone now — they do not currently need our help. Sometimes, working as a wildlife biologist feels like being a doctor triaging patients in a time of crisis; those in the most critical condition receive the most attention, while those recovering quietly fade from focus as the next crisis emerges. That was certainly the case when white-nose syndrome (WNS) arrived in North America and triggered one of the most devastating wildlife collapses on the continent.

continued on page 6



A **big brown bat** rests on SMP Biologist Tucker Cavanaugh's hand during a bat survey. ⬆

SMP Biologist Marlo Perdicas holds a male **red bat** during that same survey. ⬇



continued from page 5

WNS is a fungal disease native to Europe and Asia, where bats have evolved alongside it and developed resistance. North American bats, however, had no such defenses. When the fungus was accidentally introduced in upstate New York, it spread rapidly. Infecting bats during hibernation, when their body temperatures are low, it causes them to wake frequently, burn through fat reserves and ultimately die. Millions were lost.

By around 2007, WNS reached Summit County. The effects were immediate and alarming. Reports came in of bats flying into the snow in midwinter, only to die shortly after. Summer monitoring revealed steep population declines. Once-common species, like little brown bats, northern long-eared bats and tricolored bats, vanished from sites where thousands had once been

counted. In some cases, populations dropped to undetectable levels. There were nights when we recorded no bats at all.

We had warning. We knew WNS was coming and understood what it could do. Still, nothing prepared us for the scale of the loss. Years of conservation work seemed to unravel almost overnight.

And yet, nature can be resilient — especially when people work together to protect what remains and identify a clear path for recovery.

In response to WNS, biologists mobilized. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented new protections, and as populations declined, several species were listed as threatened or endangered. The northern long-eared bat, once as common as a cardinal, was listed as threatened, then moved to

endangered status. While such listings reflect serious concern, they also provide critical protections. Development and land-use projects now follow strict guidelines to avoid harming sensitive habitats, including restrictions on tree cutting during key reproductive periods.

At the state level, Ohio followed suit, listing multiple bat species as state endangered. Together, federal and state agencies have worked to ensure that development, transportation and energy projects do not further impact these already vulnerable species. They have also led broader education and conservation efforts across the region.

At Summit Metro Parks, our work has focused on protecting habitat and supporting what remains of these fragile populations. This has included acquiring land in key areas, monitoring known maternity colonies, implementing tree-cutting restrictions aligned with state and federal guidance, and installing gates and monitoring equipment at hibernation sites to reduce disturbance. Our naturalists offer programs that highlight bats in our park district and the important role they play in conservation.

For years, we monitored and waited, hoping for signs that these efforts might make a difference.

In 2025, we began to see the first glimmer of hope. Surveys near winter hibernation sites showed slight increases in bat activity. Notably, numbers of the state-endangered little brown bat began to rise. We also reconfirmed the presence of the federally endangered Indiana bat — one of the region's most imperiled species. One specimen we captured was in excellent condition, having built up significant fat reserves for hibernation.

These are small but meaningful signs of recovery.

Still, the situation remains fragile. Bats reproduce slowly (typically only one pup per year), so recovery will take decades. Continued vigilance is essential. Protecting habitat, minimizing disturbance and maintaining conservation efforts will determine whether these species truly return.

With hope and help, silent wings are again taking to flight. 

Frequently asked questions ...

Q DO BATS CARRY RABIES?

A Bats can carry rabies, but it's rare. Avoid handling bats, especially if they appear sick or injured. If contact occurs, seek medical advice.

Q HOW CAN I GET A BAT OUT OF MY HOUSE?

A For a single bat, close off the room, turn off lights and open a window — it will usually leave on its own.

If multiple bats are present (likely a maternity colony), contact a wildlife professional. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources can help connect you with specialists.

Q CAN A BAT WITH WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME BE CURED?

A Bats with white-nose syndrome can sometimes recover in rehabilitation. Treating wild populations, however, remains difficult, so conservation focuses on protection and natural recovery. ●

Explore

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Beginning Tuesday, September 1

Beginning September 1 through November 15, visitors may submit two entries for our Annual Amateur Photography Exhibit. Selected entries will be displayed at the Nature Realm. Only two printed photographs will be accepted, and all images must be taken in areas managed by Summit Metro Parks. Where possible, please do not share contact information with other entrants. Entries should not be matted, framed or include watermarks, and should be printed on photo paper one of the following sizes: 5"x7", 8"x10" or 11"x14". You may drop off entries at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron) or mail them to 975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron OH 44313, Attn: Amateur Photography Exhibit. A completed entry form is required. Find the form at summitmetroparks.org. FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Tuesday, September 1, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: QUARRY HIKE

Join a naturalist on the first day of the Fall Hiking Spree for a guided walk to discover the unique beauty and fascinating history of Deep Lock Quarry.

DLQ/Quarry Trail:
5779 Riverview Rd.,
Peninsula



*Wednesday, September 2,
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* (8/1). FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron



Wednesday, September 2, 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* (8/1). A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registering.

Wednesday, September 2, 6 – 8 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: 2-FOR-1

Join a naturalist to knock out two spree trails in one evening. We'll be hiking about 4.5 miles on rugged terrain on Seneca and Nuthatch Trails. Bring sturdy hiking boots and a water bottle. FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, September 3, 9:45 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. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, September 3, 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* (8/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, September 3, 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 indoors. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron



Thursday, September 3, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDEN TALKS: SEASON EXTENSION & SEED COLLECTION

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron and OSU Extension for a hands-on hoop bending demonstration and a talk on season extension using hoop houses and low tunnels. Participants are welcome to bring up to six 10-foot pieces of 0.5" electrical metallic tubing to bend for making a low tunnel at home. Master Gardeners will be available to help participants collect seeds from native flowers. Akron Urban League: 440 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron

Key



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



ZOOM: zoom.us/join Key in the Meeting ID number.

(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, September 4, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: WILDLIFE ALONG THE CANAL

Cross a spree trail off your list with a 2.2-mile round-trip hike from Wilbeth to Summit Lake Nature Center and back. We'll explore the impacts of the Ohio & Erie Canal on our landscape and the plants and animals that have weathered those changes. **TT/Wilbeth Road Trailhead: 392 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron** 🐾

Saturday, September 5, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

BIRD NERDS: BARRED OWL

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/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, September 5, 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, and what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. *Registration required* 🐾 (8/1). **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Saturday, September 5, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

MEET BOB....HE'S A COOL CAT!

Join a naturalist as we delve into the hidden world of bobcats. Bobcats are medium-sized wild cats native to North America and Liberty Park, known for their short tails, spotted coats and secretive behavior: Learn why they play an important role in maintaining ecological balance within the park. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**



Saturday, September 5, 1 – 4 p.m.

INTRO TO BMX

Ages 12 to 25: Join us in collaboration with South Street Ministries for an introduction to the sport of BMX. 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**

Beginning Sunday, September 6

SELF-GUIDED STORY TRAIL: BERRY SONG

Enjoy a walk along the 1.3-mile Rock Creek Trail while following a self-guided story trail based on the book, "Berry Song." Available through September 27. **FR/Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield** 🐾

Beginning Sunday, September 6

SELF-GUIDED TRAIL: BIRD HUMOR

Lighten up while hiking the 1.4-mile Quarry Trail with some jokes that aren't just for the birds. Available through September 27. **DLQ/Quarry Trail: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula** 🐾

Sunday, September 6, 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* 🐾 (8/1). **SC/Lake House Area: 5000 S. Hametown Rd., Norton**

Tuesday, September 8, 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* 🐾 (8/1). **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Tuesday, September 8, 7 – 8 p.m.

METRO PARKS ENSEMBLE SEASON FINALE



Join us to celebrate the Ensemble's 25th year of music in the parks! The finale concert will be held indoors with doors open to the patio. If preferred, please bring chairs or blankets to sit outside. Light refreshments will be provided. Enjoy on-site shopping with Maple Leaf Gifts (credit cards only). **CV/Himelright Lodge: 1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron**

**Wednesday, September 9,
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

FOREST BATHING FOR BEGINNERS

Join us for a session of Shinrin-yoku, or forest bathing. Learn the history and benefits of this restorative practice to improve mental and physical well-being. Bring water, snacks a yoga mat or towel and an open mind. We will be spending at least an hour outdoors no matter the weather, so please dress appropriately. This is not a hike. *Registration required* 🐾 (8/1). **SR/Shady Hollow Lodge: 1750 Sand Run Pkwy. Akron**

**Thursday, September 10,
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* 🐾 (8/1). **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Thursday, September 10, 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* 🐾 (8/1). 📺 A list of materials and a Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registering.



KINDEREALM: FABULOUS FLOWERS

Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions will discover the fabulous lives of flowers through activities, a story and short hike. *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers. Registration required* 📅 (8/1).

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 9

FASN/Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, September 16

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, September 23

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, September 10, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

HOMEGROWN HABITAT: FALL GARDEN CARE

Calling all people with yards or green spaces big and small: Join us and learn how to rewild your home landscape. This month, we'll learn the dos and don'ts of fall garden care. See your yard as a safe overwintering spot through the eyes of common backyard critters before fall cleanup begins! FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Friday, September 11, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

NATURE TALES

Young children and their adult companions can enjoy an interactive nature-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, September 11, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

GET TO KNOW COYOTES

Join a naturalist to explore one of Ohio's most beautiful and misunderstood creatures: the coyote. We'll chat for a bit, then take a 0.9-mile hike on Fernwood Loop to listen for their exciting calls. Please bring a flashlight. FASN/Seneca Deck: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

CANAL PADDLE

Join a certified instructor on the Ohio & Erie Canal for a guided, round-trip paddle south from Summit Lake. Learn about the canal's history and how it put Akron on the map. 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 will be provided. Location subject to change based on water conditions. Cost: \$15/person. Registration required 📅 (8/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, September 12, 2 – 3 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: ROCK CREEK HISTORY

We'll be crossing off a spree trail while learning about the rich history of Furnace Run and what great things can be found in the park. FR/Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield 📅

Sunday, September 13, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

CANAL PADDLE

Join a certified instructor on the Ohio & Erie Canal for a guided, round-trip paddle south from Summit Lake. Learn about the canal's history and how it put Akron on the map. 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 📅 (8/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Sunday, September 13, 4:30 – 5:30 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 Sunday, September 20. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Monday, September 14,
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

ECO-PRINTING

In this art for adults program, we'll explore printing with natural materials to create beautiful fall-inspired patterns on fabric and paper. Dress for a mess and be prepared to be outdoors! Fee covers supplies and instruction. Cost: \$5. Registration required 📅 (8/1). LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg



Monday, September 14, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: AFTER WORK BIRD WALK

Don't let your 9 to 5 get in the way of completing the Fall Hiking Spree. Bird along the 1.6-mile Willow Trail and check a spree trail off your list. F/Tuscarawas Meadows Area: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron 📅



Wednesday, September 16, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

CONQUERING THE JANUARY 100

3, 2, 1 ... Happy New Year (of Birding)! 100 species by January 31. Easy enough, right? Now try doing that by January 2! Join the Greater Akron Audubon Society alongside Cleveland Metroparks Naturalist Tyler McClain as he takes us on his 48-hour journey to see 100 species of birds in Ohio. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, September 17, 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 and what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. Registration required 📅 (8/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, September 17,
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS: SOILS

Homeschoolers ages 7 to 12: Join a naturalist for some hands-on exploration of the life supporting soils beneath our feet. Registration required 📅 (8/1). F/Coventry Oaks Lodge: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

Thursday, September 17, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

CAMPFIRE COOKING: FOOD FOR A DAY!

Cooking over a campfire is fun, delicious and nutritious! We'll demonstrate techniques and share recipes to create delicious breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert items. Help us cook, then taste the results (while supplies last). **LP/** Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Thursday, September 17, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDEN TALKS: COZY UP WITH CHAMOMILE & BERGAMOT TEAS

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron and OSU Extension to learn all about comforting chamomile and wild bergamot, native plants that support human health and pollinators. Enjoy samples of both teas. **GYH/** Goodyear Heights Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron

Friday, September 18, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: EVENING BIRD STROLL

Join us for an after-work bird walk to keep up with migration season, all while checking off the 1.1-mile Missing Link Trail on this year's Fall Hiking Spree. Binoculars available on a first-come, first-served basis. **CV/Valley View Area:** 1134 Cuyahoga St., Akron 

Saturday, September 19, 10 – 11 a.m.

YOUNG BIRDERS: VOCAL VIREOS

Kids ages 8 and up are invited to discover the lives of vireos through a short presentation and bird walk before they head south for the winter. An adult companion is required to remain for the entirety of the program. **DLQ/** Quarry Trail: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula

Saturday, September 19, 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.

DOMINIC MOORE-DUNSON: BLACK BY NATURE

Join us for an immersive dance-theatre experience along the 1.2-mile Oxbow Trail during this world premiere commissioned by DANCECleveland. Rooted in Moore-Dunson's exploration of healing and belonging in nature as a Black man, Black by Nature reimagines the relationship between identity and the outdoor world. The work creates space for reflection, freedom and connection, guided by an original, jazz-influenced score performed live by an acoustic ensemble of guitar, saxophone, trumpet, upright bass and hand percussion. **Registration required**  **(8/1).** **CV/Oxbow Area:** 1061 Cuyahoga St., Akron

CASCADE VALLEY | VALLEY VIEW AREA

STURGEON RELEASE CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19
10 A.M. – 1 P.M.**

Sunday, September 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

RECREATION OPEN HOUSE

Have you ever wanted to try archery, kayaking or fishing? Now is your chance! Join us for a morning of hands-on recreational opportunities. All equipment and materials are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and dress to be outdoors and get wet. Archery: ages 9 and up. Kayaking: ages 13 and up, must be able to swim. Canoes will be available for families with small children. Fishing: all ages, current Ohio fishing license required for ages 16 and over. **MF/Lake Area:** 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

Sunday, September 20, 1 – 3 p.m.

FABULOUS FUNGI

Join a naturalist as we explore the hidden world of mushrooms. We'll discover their ecological importance, medicinal potential and vast underground networks. Learn simple identification techniques and some species commonly seen in our parks. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, September 23, 4 – 7 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. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring a water bottle. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided. Space is limited; paddleboards are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Location subject to change based on water conditions. **SLNC:** 411 Ira Ave., Akron



**Join us as we celebrate the
return of lake sturgeon to
the Cuyahoga River!**

Learn about ongoing efforts to restore the Cuyahoga River watershed and the return of this ancient fish. Small visitor groups will have the opportunity to take turns releasing one young sturgeon into the river. **Registration to release a sturgeon is required. (8/1).** **CV/Valley View:** 1134 Cuyahoga St., Akron

**Thursday, September 24,
9:45 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. **BHT/SR 303 Lot: 64 W. Streetsboro Rd., Boston Heights**

Thursday, September 24, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

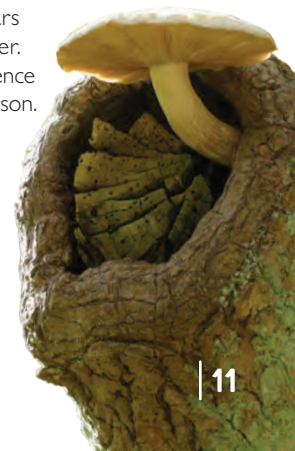
INTRO TO ARCHERY

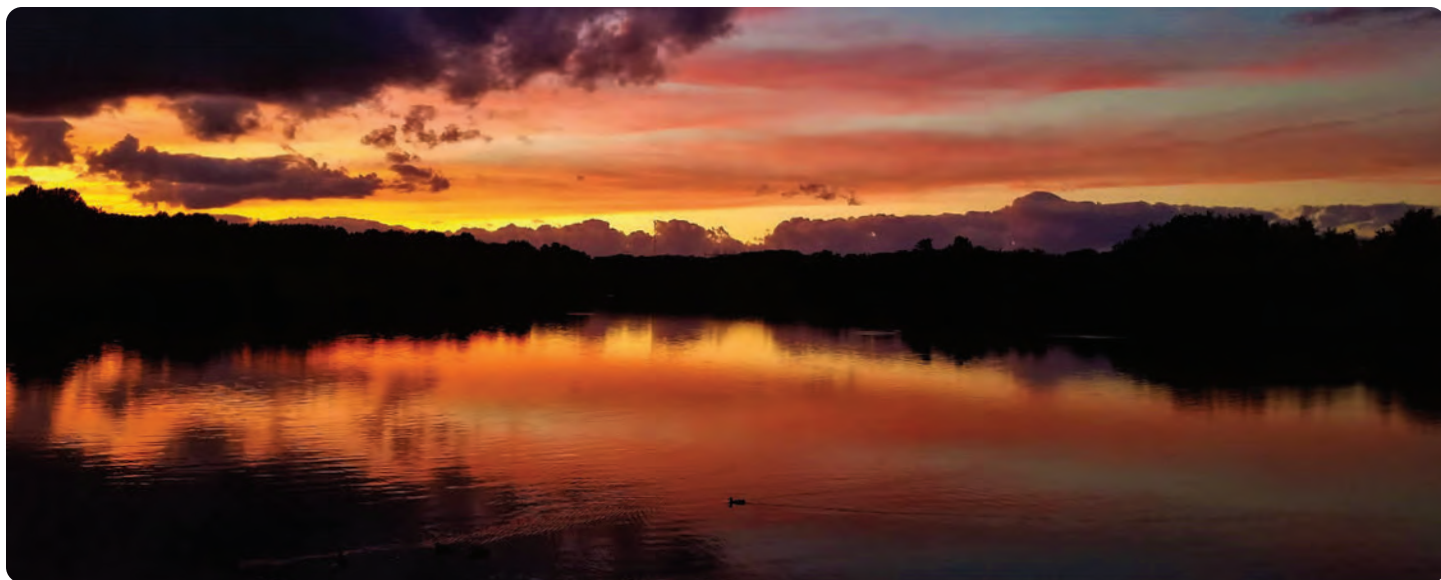
Participants learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship at our temporary indoor range. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: **\$10/person. Registration required**  **(8/1).** **F/** Coventry Oaks Lodge: 40 Axline Ave., Akron

Thursday, September 24, 6:30 – 8 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 experience preferred. Cost: **\$10/person. Registration required**  **(8/1).** **F/Coventry Oaks Lodge:** 40 Axline Ave., Akron





Saturday, September 26, 1 – 3 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: NATURE SAUNTER

Appreciate nature's transition to autumn at a leisurely pace with a stroll along the 1.4-mile Downy Loop Trail. **WH/Downy Loop Trail:** 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson 

Saturday, September 26, 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.

DOMINIC MOORE-DUNSON: BLACK BY NATURE

Join us for an immersive dance-theatre experience along the 1-mile Prather Trail during this world premiere commissioned by DANCECleveland. Rooted in Moore-Dunson's exploration of healing and belonging in nature as a Black man, *Black by Nature* reimagines the relationship between identity and the outdoor world. The work creates space for reflection, freedom and connection, guided by an original, jazz-influenced score performed live by an acoustic ensemble of guitar, saxophone, trumpet, upright bass and hand percussion. *Registration required*  **(8/1).** **CV/Valley View Area:** 1134 Cuyahoga St., Akron

Saturday, September 26, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

BEEES & BLOOMS

Join a naturalist to search for late summer bees and blooms as we discuss what happens to bees when the days grow cooler. **MF/Tallmadge Meadows Area:** 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

Sunday, September 27, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

KAYAK & CANOE OPEN HOUSE

Stop by to learn basic paddling techniques and take a short self-guided paddle on the lake under the guidance of certified instructors. Minimum age to kayak is 13; ages 13 to 17 must be with an adult participant. Canoes available for families with younger children. 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; watercrafts 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

Sunday, September 27, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

BACK YARDS GONE WILD: SEED COLLECTING

Join a naturalist to learn how to start beautiful, beneficial native plants from seed, including collection, storage and propagation techniques. After learning, get hands-on as we collect seeds as a group, then go home with some of your bounty! Gardeners are encouraged to bring native seeds from home to swap as well. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg



Sunday, September 27, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: HARVEST MOON

Shine on harvest moon! Take a hike on the 2-mile Chippewa Trail and explore the agricultural history of Silver Creek Metro Park under the harvest moon, all while earning spree credit. **SC/Big Oak Area:** 5199 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton 



Tuesday, September 29, 7 – 8 p.m.

PAWPAW APPRECIATION NIGHT

Discover Ohio's state native fruit, the pawpaw! Learn the history of this fruit, its benefits and how to grow it. After a presentation, you'll take home recipes and seeds (while supplies last) and sample its delicious banana-like flavor. **LP/Nature Center:** 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

OCTOBER



Thursday, October 1, 9:45 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. **BHT/SR 303 Lot: 64 W. Streetsboro Rd., Boston Heights**

Thursday, October 1, 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 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, October 1, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

INTRO TO ARCHERY

Participants learn international-style target archery and test their marksmanship at our temporary indoor range. All equipment and hands-on instruction provided. Must be 9 years old and 50 inches or taller. Cost: **\$10/person. Registration required** (9/1). **F/ Coventry Oaks Lodge: 40 Axline Ave., Akron**

Thursday, October 1, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDEN TALKS: GARLIC PLANTING

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron and OSU Extension for tips on planting garlic this fall for a tasty garden harvest next season. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held indoors. **SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron**

Thursday, October 1, 6:30 – 8 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** (9/1). **F/Coventry Oaks Lodge: 40 Axline Ave., Akron**

Friday, October 2, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

NATURE TALES

Young children and their adult companions can enjoy an interactive nature-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, October 2, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: DISCOVER NATURE

Join a naturalist to earn spree credit and explore the many exciting pieces of nature to be found on the 1.2-mile Downy Loop Trail. Please bring a flashlight. **WH/Downy Loop Trail: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson**

Beginning Sunday, October 4

SELF-GUIDED: AUTUMN COLORS

Follow the self-guided trail signs along the 2.1-mile Black Bear Trail to enjoy and learn about autumn leaf colors. This program is available through October 25. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Beginning Sunday, October 4

SELF-GUIDED STORY TRAIL: LEAF MAN

Enjoy beautiful fall colors as you follow a fun story trail based on the book, "Leaf Man." Available along the 1.2-mile Downy Loop Trail through October 25. **WH/Downy Loop Trail: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson**

Sunday, October 4, 8 – 10:30 a.m.

FALL BIRD WALK

Join a naturalist for a fall bird walk along the banks of the Cuyahoga River as we hope to catch glimpses of resident and migratory birds. Come prepared to walk about three miles on a paved trail with a bird guide and binoculars. **BHT/ SR 91 Lot: 130 N. Main St, Munroe Falls**



Sunday, October 4, 1 – 3 p.m.

FABULOUS FUNGI

Join a naturalist as we explore the hidden world of mushrooms, highlighting their ecological importance, medicinal potential and vast underground networks. Learn simple identification techniques and of some species commonly seen in our parks. **FR/ Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**



Fall FAMILY OUTING

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3
2 – 7 P.M.**

Fall into autumn fun at this FREE family event! Enjoy the change of season and the feeling of fall with free cider, apples and popcorn while enjoying lumberjack shows, naturalist activities, hayrides, bonfires, music, food and more. For a full schedule of events, visit summitmetroparks.org.

Supported by: Cavanaugh Builders & Wayside Furniture

**MUNROE FALLS METRO PARK
Lake Area: 521 S. River Rd.,
Munroe Falls**





KINDEREALM: MIMICRY AND CAMO

Animal costumes aren't just for Halloween! Children ages 3 to 6 and their adult companions are invited to discover the clever disguises animals use year-round through stories, crafts and games. *Please make other arrangements for younger children unable to remain in infant seats or strollers.* Registration required (9/1).

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 14

FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, October 21

LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, October 28

SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Sunday, October 4, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

SCARECROW BUILDING WORKSHOP



Bring your creativity and build a scarecrow to take home! An armature, bag for the head, markers, twine and straw will be provided. The clothes and imagination are up to you! T-shaped frames

measure approximately 72 inches tall and 36 inches wide. Cost: \$10/person. Registration required (9/1). LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Wednesday, October 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 (9/1). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Wednesday, October 7, 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 (9/1). A Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registering.

Thursday, October 8, 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 (9/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, October 8, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

HOMEGROWN HABITAT: BUSY BUMBLEBEES

Calling all people with yards or green spaces big and small: Join us and learn how to rewild your home landscape. This month, discover the buzz behind some of our most charismatic insect ambassadors — bees! We'll highlight specific plants and deliberate practices that support these fuzzy friends. FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Saturday, October 10, 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 and what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. Registration required (9/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Saturday, October 10, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

BIRD NERDS: AMERICAN CROW

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, October 10, 1 – 3 p.m.

LEAF IT!

Autumn means time for that tedious task of raking, bagging and disposing of leaves — or does it? Learn how leaving the leaves can benefit your yard and the environment, while making your life easier! After the presentation, we'll take a walk to see why the leaf layer is important to the forest. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Sunday, October 11, 9 – 11 a.m.

BIRDING BY THE CANAL

Join an SMP naturalist and Open Trail Collective as we enjoy fall birds and foliage along the accessible Towpath Trail. Binoculars will be available to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis. TT/Clinton Trailhead: 2749 North St., Clinton

Sunday, October 11, 12 – 3 p.m.

SELF-GUIDED: SPOOKY SCAVENGER HUNT

Drop in for a scavenger hunt along the first portion of the 2.1-mile Black Bear Trail to search for some spooky and not-so-spooky items. Return your completed list to the front desk inside the nature center for a prize. LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg



Friday, October 11, 2 – 3 p.m.

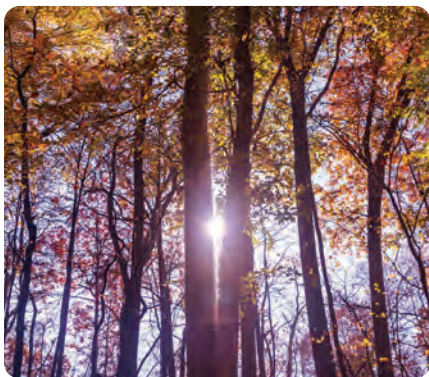
TERRIFYING TITANS: MEGAFAUNA

Halloween is known for monsters, so let's talk about the behemoths that once roamed Ohio! Come learn about the megafauna that towered over all and how they were replaced by the fauna we have today. We will be hiking the grounds, so dress for the weather! FASN/ Nature Realm: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Tuesday, October 13, 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 (9/1). LP/ Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg



Wednesday, October 14, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

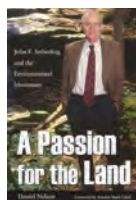
FOREST BATHING FOR BEGINNERS

Join us for a session of Shinrin-yoku, or forest bathing. Learn the history and benefits of this restorative practice to improve mental and physical well-being. Bring water, snacks, a yoga mat or towel and an open mind. We will be spending at least an hour outdoors no matter the weather, so please dress appropriately. This is not a hike. Registration required (9/1). SR/Shady Hollow Lodge: 1750 Sand Run Pkwy. Akron

Wednesday, October 14, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

BOOK CLUB: A PASSION FOR THE LAND

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 Passion for the Land: John F. Seiberling and the Environmental Movement," by Daniel Nelson. Don't forget to bring your mug — we'll supply the beverages. SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron



Thursday, October 15, 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 (9/1). FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron

Thursday, October 15, 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 and what's growing and ready to harvest! Adults are asked to actively participate with children during the program. Registration required (9/1). SLNC: 411 Ira Ave., Akron

Thursday, October 15,
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

HOMESCHOOLERS: NATURAL CONNECTIONS

Homeschoolers ages 7-12: Join us to investigate how all living things are connected. Activities and outdoor exploration will help us learn how their interactions with each other and their surroundings affect the balance in nature. Registration required (9/1). LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg

Thursday, October 15, 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 (9/1). A list of materials and a Zoom invitation will be emailed to participants after registering.

Thursday, October 15, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GOOD GARDEN TALKS: EDIBLE LANDSCAPES

Join us in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron and OSU Extension for to learn how we can enhance our gardens by planting berries. We'll explore the native trees and shrubs that provide delish treats for gardeners, birds and other wildlife. Then enjoy a snack made from locally grown berries. The program will be held in the West Room. GYH/Goodyear Heights Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron

Friday, October 16, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: FALL FOLIAGE

Join a naturalist along the 1.6-mile Willow Trail to celebrate the vivid hues of fall foliage at the day's end, all while crossing a Fall Hiking Spree Trail off your list. F/Tuscarawas Meadows Area: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron

Saturday, October 17, 10 – 11 a.m.

YOUNG BIRDERS:

WONDERFUL WOODPECKERS



Kids ages 8 and up are invited to discover the world of woodpeckers through a short presentation and bird walk. An adult companion is required to remain for the entirety of the program. WH/Downy Loop Trail: 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson



5 to 7 P.M.

At this FREE event, visitors of all ages can explore the trucks and vehicles that help keep our parks beautiful while collecting treats from SMP staff. Costumes are encouraged for all ages!

Saturday, October 24

SC/LAKE HOUSE AREA:
4877 South Medina Line Rd., Norton

Saturday, October 31

GYH/GOODYEAR HEIGHTS LODGE:
2077 Newton St., Akron

Saturday, October 17, 12 – 3 p.m.

PET ROCKS FOR KIDS OPEN HOUSE

Kids of all ages and their adults are welcome to drop in to craft their very own pet rock using natural materials. Bring a smile and some creativity, and we'll provide the rest. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, October 18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: NATURAL HISTORY

Join a naturalist to hike the rugged and hilly 3.2-mile Nuthatch Trail! Learn about the natural history of the park as well as updates to the stream and surrounding environment while completing a Fall Hiking Spree trail. **SR/Wadsworth Area: 1400 Sand Run Pkwy. Akron**

Sunday, October 18, 1 – 3 p.m.

HIKING SPREE SHIELD ASSISTANCE

Is attaching the hiking spree shield more challenging than actually hiking the eight trails? Summit Metro Parks volunteers will gladly attach it for you at no charge. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Wednesday, October 21, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER

Join the Greater Akron Audubon Society and City of Akron Stormwater Superintendent Jessica Glowczewski to learn how the City of Akron manages the Upper Cuyahoga River watershed. We'll discover where Akron's water comes from, how it's monitored, and the many programs dedicated to keeping your drinking water clean and our watershed healthy. Meet in the East Room. **GYH/Goodyear Heights Lodge: 2077 Newton St., Akron**

Thursday, October 22, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

PUMPKIN CARVING



Join us to create a seasonal work of art! BYOP (pumpkin, that is) or register to receive two free pumpkins per family. Carving utensils provided. Stay until the end to see all our creations lit up with candles and crown the fan favorites! Event will take place in the outdoor shelter with a fire and marshmallows or be moved indoors in inclement weather. *Registration required* (9/1). **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**

Friday, October 23, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

NATURE TALES

Young children and their adult companions can enjoy an interactive nature-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, October 24, 11 – 1 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: NATURE SAUNTER

Learn about and appreciate the colors of autumn at a leisurely pace with a stroll along the 1.3-mile Rock Creek Trail. **FR/Brushwood Area: 4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield**

Saturday, October 24, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

BRUMATION NATION

Explore the mysteries of brumation (often called "reptile hibernation") with a naturalist on the 1.6-mile Willow Trail. **F/Tuscarawas Meadows Area: 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron**

Sunday, October 25, 12 – 3 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: HIKE & CAMPFIRE

Join a naturalist to hike the 1.4-mile Seneca Trail to earn spree credit. Then, stick around for a campfire and s'mores while supplies last! **FASN/Campfire Area: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Sunday, October 25, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

HAWKS, OWLS AND EAGLES... OH MY!

Hawks and owls are fascinating birds of prey known for their sharp vision and hunting skills. Hawks are active during the day, using speed and agility, while owls are nocturnal hunters with silent flight. Both play important roles in ecosystems by controlling rodent populations and maintaining natural balance. Join a naturalist as we learn how to identify these amazing creatures from their flight patterns and other clues. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**



Monday, October 26, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

SPREE WITH ME: HOWL-O-WEEEN AT THE MOON

Join a naturalist as the sun sets and full moon rises to discover some of the park's most elusive and misunderstood residents: coyotes. After a short presentation, we'll take a quiet moonlit stroll along the 1.4-mile Quarry Trail to call for these creatures in hopes they will respond. **DLQ/Quarry Trail: 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula**



Thursday, October 29, 9:45 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. **FT/Erie Road Trailhead: 90 East Ave., Tallmadge**

Saturday, October 31, 12 – 1 p.m.

SPOOKY SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Discover the spooky, weird and gross things nature has to offer in this showcase of all things uncanny. **FASN/Visitors Center: 1828 Smith Rd., Akron**

Saturday, October 31, 1 – 3 p.m.

HELLBENDERS: OHIO'S LARGEST SALAMANDER

A hellbender is the largest amphibian native to Eastern North America. Sometimes called a "snot otter" or "lasagna lizard," it's harmless to humans and serves as an important indicator of healthy freshwater ecosystems. Join a naturalist as we learn about this interesting creature. **LP/Nature Center: 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg**



Enjoy

SUMMIT METRO PARKS

BATTY *FOR* BATS



Bats are some of nature's most misunderstood creatures!

Read on to dispel rumors and discover the truth
about these *winged wonders*!

MYTH:

Bats are big and scary.

FACT: Only night insects have anything to fear from bats. Most Ohio bats are light enough to be mailed as a First-Class letter. Hoary bats, which are Ohio's largest bats, only grow to a wing-span of 13 inches.

Because of their buggy diet, all Ohio bats are considered microbats.

MYTH:

All bats live in caves.

FACT: Some bats do live in caves, but over half of all species rest in plants.

Eastern red bats are a type of tree bat and can be mistaken for leaves.

MYTH:

Bats drink blood.

FACT: All Ohio bats are insectivores, meaning they only eat insects. This includes many moths, beetles and mosquitos (nature's real bloodsuckers).

One bat can eat over 1,000 insects in a single night!

MYTH:

Bats are blind.

FACT: Bats have eyesight similar to humans. Bats also use echolocation to "see," meaning they use high-pitched sounds to locate objects based on how that noise is reflected back.

Most bats are nocturnal, or active at night. Echolocation helps them find food in the dark!

BATTY *FOR* BATS

continued from page 17



MYTH:
All bats hibernate
in caves.

FACT: Bats hibernate in many ways — from inside caves, rock crevices, tree cavities and leaf litter to under rocks and logs. Some bats, like the silver-haired and little brown bats, even migrate south to find warmer spots for winter.

MYTH:
Bats are dirty.

FACT: Bats groom themselves often, similar to a cat, to maintain their fur and protect themselves from parasites. They might clean themselves like a cat, but bat babies are called pups!

MYTH:
Bats are rodents.

FACT: Bats are in their own order: *Chiroptera*. With over 1,400 species worldwide, bats make up 25% of all mammal species. Bats are the only mammal capable of sustained flight.



WORD SEARCH *BATS* (*Chiroptera*)

DIRECTIONS: Words can go in any direction (*forward, backward, up, down and diagonal*) and can share letters as they cross over each other.

- ☐ Chiroptera
- ☐ Echolocation
- ☐ Flight
- ☐ Hibernation
- ☐ Insectivore
- ☐ Little Brown
- ☐ Mammal
- ☐ Microbat
- ☐ Nocturnal
- ☐ Silver-haired

L	A	N	R	U	T	C	O	N	C	K	E	G	E
S	I	L	V	E	R	H	A	I	R	E	D	T	W
B	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	R	E	B	I	H	I
A	R	E	T	P	O	R	I	H	C	E	T	G	H
R	P	E	R	O	V	I	T	C	E	S	N	I	P
W	S	N	W	O	R	B	E	L	T	T	I	L	V
N	O	I	T	A	C	O	L	O	H	C	E	F	X
B	T	A	B	O	R	C	I	M	A	M	M	A	L



For the solution to this word search puzzle and other fun at-home activities, visit bit.ly/SMPAtHome or scan the QR code.

[Bat wings are modified hands. Wingspans of most Ohio bats are under 12 inches. How does your hand span compare to a bat's wingspan?]

2026 | Fall Hiking Event

THE FALL HIKING SPREE.

TO PARTICIPATE

Hike at least eight different designated trails. After completing each hike, date your form. Hikes must be completed September 1 through November 30. Parks are open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

First-year hikers earn a hiking staff and shield. **Returning hikers** earn the hiking shield. 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 for first-year hikers and \$5 for 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.

To receive your reward by mail:

Returning hikers may mail their *completed forms* along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Summit Metro Parks / Administrative Offices
975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron Ohio 44313
(Shields are mailed flat.)

Rewards are not available after March 31, 2027.

TOWPATH TRAIL

Wilbeth Road Trailhead
392 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron 44301

CASCADE VALLEY METRO PARK

Missing Link Trail / Valley View Area
1134 Cuyahoga St., Akron 44313

DEEP LOCK QUARRY METRO PARK

Quarry Trail
5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula 44264

F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM

Seneca Trail
1828 Smith Rd., Akron 44313

FIRESTONE METRO PARK

Willow Trail / Tuscarawas Meadows Area
2620 Harrington Rd., Akron 44319

FURNACE RUN METRO PARK

Rock Creek Trail / Brushwood Area
4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield 44286

GOODYEAR HEIGHTS METRO PARK

Parcours Trail / Main Entrance
2077 Newton St., Akron 44305

HAMPTON HILLS METRO PARK

Adam Run Trail / Main Entrance
2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron 44313

LIBERTY PARK

Black Bear Trail / Twinsburg Ledges Area
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 44087

2026 Commemorative
Hiking Shield



MUNROE FALLS METRO PARK

Firefly Trail / Lake Area
521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls 44262

SAND RUN METRO PARK

Nuthatch Trail / Wadsworth Area
1400 Sand Run Pkwy., Akron 44313

SILVER CREEK METRO PARK

Chippewa Trail / Big Oak Area
5199 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton 44203

WOOD HOLLOW METRO PARK

Downy Loop Trail
2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson 44236

HIKER'S CHOICE

Hike any **ONE** of your favorite
SUMMIT METRO PARKS trails.

The Living Landscape

How have the Metro Parks evolved from past to present? Explore what's changed, what remains the same and all that nature has to offer this fall.

SEP-OCT '26 | Vol. 67 No. 5

GREEN ISLANDS

Summit Metro Parks Bimonthly Magazine

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

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» 63RD ANNUAL «

THE FALL HIKING SPREE®

2026

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY
OR GROUP HIKING FORM

PRIMARY PARTICIPANT

Primary Participant's Last Name	First Name	M.I.	FIRST-YEAR HIKER ☐	RETURNING HIKER ☐	SUMMIT COUNTY RESIDENT ☐ Yes ☐ No
Address		City	State		Zip
Email		Phone			

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT(S)

Last Name	First Name	Zip	FIRST-YEAR HIKER ☐	RETURNING HIKER ☐	SUMMIT COUNTY RESIDENT ☐ Yes ☐ No
Last Name	First Name	Zip	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
Last Name	First Name	Zip	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
Last Name	First Name	Zip	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ *Are you a Heritage Hiker? »* If you started the FHS between 1964 and 1978 and haven't received your reward, please check the box for your *free* commemorative medallion and chain.

METRO PARK	TRAIL	SYMBOL	MILEAGE	CLASS	RATING	SIGNATURE (Optional)	DATE
TOWPATH / Wilbeth Rd.	(north from Wilbeth Rd. to nature center and back)		2.2	A / B	1		
CASCADE VALLEY	Missing Link		1.1	C	1		
DEEP LOCK QUARRY	Quarry		1.4	C	2		
FIRESTONE	Willow		1.6	C	1		
FURNACE RUN	Rock Creek		1.3	C	1		
GOODYEAR HEIGHTS	Parcours		1.8	C	3		
HAMPTON HILLS	Adam Run		3.2	C / D	3		
LIBERTY PARK	Black Bear		2.1	C	2		
MUNROE FALLS	Firefly		1.3	B / C	1		
NATURE REALM (no pets)	Seneca		1.4	C	2		
SAND RUN	Nuthatch		3.3	C / D	3		
SILVER CREEK	Chippewa		2.0	C	2		
WOOD HOLLOW	Downy Loop		1.2	C	1		
Hiker's Choice (SMP trails only)							

Rating: 1=Easy 2=Moderate 3=Strenuous
 Class: A=Multipurpose B=Accessible C=Basic D=Primitive
 Visit our website for rating and class definitions.



If you are living with a disability and need a special accommodation for completing the Fall Hiking Spree, please contact us.

All trail mileage reflects **round-trip** hikes.

hikingspree.summitmetroparks.org • 330-867-5511 (weekdays) • 330-865-8065 (weekends) • 330-475-0029 (park police after hours) • For emergencies, call 911

THIS FORM MAY BE REPRODUCED.