

AGENDA
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SUMMIT METRO PARKS
APRIL 8, 2025

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of March 11, 2025 Previous Board Minutes
4. Executive Director's Reports
5. Items removed from Consent Agenda
6. Consent Agenda Approval of Bills and Resolutions
 - A. Ratification of Bills Paid
 - B. Authorization to Return Advanced Funds
 - C. Authorization to Award Monitoring Contract to EnviroScience for Vally View Restoration
 - D. Authorization to Apply for the Ohio and Erie Canalway National Heritage Area Strategic Initiatives Grant for Big Bend Trailhead Upgrades
 - E. Authorization to Increase Fees for Construction Phase Design Services for the Sand Run Jogging Trail Retaining Wall Project
 - F. Authorization to Increase Contract for the Sand Run Retaining Wall Construction Testing
7. Unfinished/Old Business & New Business
8. Correspondence & Public Portion
9. Executive Session
10. Future Board Meeting Dates/Adjourn

April 8, 2025

Minutes of Proceedings
Of
The Board of Park Commissioners
Of
Summit Metro Parks

The Board of Park Commissioners of Summit Metro Parks met on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 11:30 A.M., at the F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, 1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313.

ITEM 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was opened by S. Theresa Carter, Chair, with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ITEM 2: ROLL CALL

Roll call showed S. Theresa Carter, Chair, Herb Newman, First Vice-Chair, Jill M. Stritch, Member, Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr., Member, and Lisa M. King, Executive Director. Also in attendance were Angie Hardman, Lindsay Smith, Aaron Hockman, Doug Shepard, Demetrius Falconer, Alex Daw, Mark Szeremet, Jen Harvey, Mike Johnson, Dale Fobean, Dave Kamps, Susan Carpenter, Steffan Kostenko, Candice Verbic, Reyna Askew, and Josh Hamblen.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MARCH 11, 2025 PREVIOUS BOARD MINUTES

Resolution 36.2025

Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Newman, seconded by Ms. Stritch, that the minutes of the March 11, 2025, board meeting were approved. The previous minutes were emailed for the Commissioners' review.

The vote being:	S. Theresa Carter	Aye
	Herbert Newman	Aye
	Joel D. Bailey	Absent
	Jill M. Stritch	Aye
	Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr.	Aye

ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

The Executive Director's reports were reviewed and discussed. Copies of these reports are attached at the end of the minutes.

ITEM 5: ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

- None

ITEM 6: CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 37.2025

Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Newman, seconded by Rev. Walker, that the consent agenda items of the Board of Park Commissioners were approved. All supporting documents are at the end of this report.

The vote being:

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

Aye
Aye
Absent
Aye
Aye

A. **RATIFICATION OF BILLS PAID**

OPERS	March 2025	\$125,072.85
Medicare	March 2025	\$12,592.80
Interim Bills	March 27, 2025	\$1,054,243.76
Payroll	March 14, 2025	\$464,361.94
Payroll	March 28, 2025	\$418,706.07
TOTAL	BALANCE	\$2,074,977.42

Resolution 38.2025

The action of the Executive Director in paying the above bills was hereby ratified.

B. **AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN ADVANCED FUNDS**

The Executive Director requested authorization to return advanced funds from a federal fund back into the general fund. The designation of the return of advance is as follows:

Federal Fund – USDA Fund

Return of Advance 90129090-9090000002-599901 Advances Out +4,709.19

Return of 90129090-9090000002-599901 Cash Advance out of Federal Fund 4,709.19 Debit
Cash Advance 90119010-499901 Cash Advance into General Fund 4,709.19 Credit

Resolution 39.2025

The Executive Director was authorized to return advanced funds from a federal fund back into the general fund.

C. **AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD MONITORING CONTRACT TO ENVIROSCIENCE FOR VALLEY VIEW RESTORATION**

Working with NOAA and GLC, Summit Metro Parks restored over one mile of the mainstem of the Cuyahoga River at Valley View. Part of the grant-funded project requires a five-year monitoring plan. We are presently in the final year of monitoring. Most of the monitoring is conducted by park staff but some specialized work needs to be contracted. Specifically, a fisheries evaluation and a geomorphic study needs to be completed in year five.

Two firms were contacted for price quotes, EnviroScience and Davey Resource Group. Only EnviroScience was able to submit a price as Davey Resource Group did not have the required credentials.

The Executive Director requested authorization to sign a contract with EnviroScience for the above-described work at a cost not to exceed \$27,350.50.

Resolution 40.2025

The Executive Director was authorized to sign a contract with EnviroScience for the above-described work at a cost not to exceed \$27,350.50.

D. AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR THE OHIO AND ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES GRANT FOR BIG BEND TRAILHEAD UPGRADES

The Executive Director requested authorization to apply for \$30,000 from the Ohio and Erie Canalway National Heritage Area Strategic Initiatives Grant program, to support the construction of a new restroom facility and American with Disability Act (ADA) transitions at Sand Run Metro Park's Big Bend Area. The project will include better circulation and visibility of the new restroom facility with a drinking fountain and kiosk along with providing better ADA access to the area.

The Executive Director recommended applying for this grant which is provided by the Department of the Interior and distributed by the Ohio and Erie Canal Association. The grant is expected to be awarded by Fall of 2025.

Resolution 41.2025

The Executive Director was authorized to apply for \$30,000 for the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area Strategic Initiatives Grant for construction of Big Bend Trailhead upgrades.

E. AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE FEES FOR CONSTRUCTION PHASE DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE SAND RUN JOGGING TRAIL RETAINING WALL PROJECT

Construction is under way on the project to replace the retaining walls adjacent to the Jogging Trail in the Sand Run Metro Park. The design consultant has been retained through the construction phase to ensure the project achieves the design objectives. Phase I construction services were approved at the February 2024 board meeting.

We have used \$79,500 for construction services that included \$16,340 for updating plans for phasing, maintenance of traffic, bidding and the remainder have been used for construction administration and field inspection for Phase I. Now that the Phase 2 construction is about to begin, which is from Chestnut Lodge area to Shadowfield Area, design services are needed for this phase of the work.

The Executive Director requested authorization to increase the fee for Phase 2 construction phase design services with DGL Consulting Engineers for a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

Resolution 42.2025

The Executive Director was authorized to increase the fee for Phase 2 construction phase design services with DGL Consulting Engineers for a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

F. AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE CONTRACT FOR THE SAND RUN RETAINING WALL CONSTRUCTION TESTING

The Sand Run Retaining Wall project is underway and construction phase testing is required. Testing companies were solicited for proposals and a contract was awarded to Wertz Geotechnical Engineering for Phase I of the project. Testing services by Wertz includes concrete and compaction testing for the bridge structure, paving and trail for a fee of \$16,000.

During construction, planning staff recognized the need to contract testing services for the remainder of the project and requested a quote from Wertz Geotechnical Eng. A quote was received for Phases 2-3 totaling \$19,000. This results in a total cost for testing services of \$35,000.

The Executive Director requested authorization to increase the contract amount for Wertz Geotechnical Engineering from \$16,000 to \$35,000 to cover the cost of services for the additional phases of construction.

Resolution 43.2025

The Executive Director was authorized to increase the contract amount for Wertz Geotechnical Engineering from \$16,000 to \$35,000 to cover the cost of services for the additional phases of construction.

ITEM 7: UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- C-Change Conversations – Akron Garden Club

ITEM 8: CORRESPONDENCE

- None

PUBLIC PORTION

- None

ITEM 9: EXECUTIVE SESSION: O.R.C. §121.22, (G) (1), (G) (2), (G) (3) AND (G) (4)

I ask for a Motion that the Board of Park Commissioners adjourn to Executive Session to consider appointment, employment, discipline, investigation, promotion, demotion/compensation of a Summit Metro Parks employee, O.R.C. §121.22, (G) (1); the purchase of property for a public purpose pursuant to O.R.C. §121.22, (G) (2); to confer with counsel concerning disputes that are the subject of pending litigation and imminent litigation pursuant to O.R.C. §121.22, (G) (3); and to prepare for discussions with public employees concerning terms and conditions of employment pursuant to O.R.C. §121.22, (G) (4).

Resolution 44.2025

Following discussion, it was moved by Rev. Walker, seconded by Mr. Newman, that the Board of Park Commissioners adjourn to executive session.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Resolution 45.2025

Following discussion, it was moved by Rev. Walker, seconded by Ms. Stritch, that the Board of Park Commissioners return to open session.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Resolution 46.2025

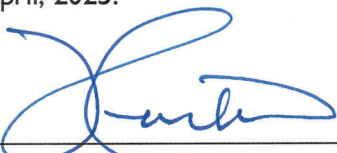
The Executive Director was authorized to accept the Gray property and perform due diligence associated with the land from the Western Reserve Conservancy and Lisa King, Executive Director, is authorized to sign documents related to this transaction.

The vote being:	S. Theresa Carter	Aye
	Herbert Newman	Aye
	Joel D. Bailey	Absent
	Jill M. Stritch	Aye
	Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr.	Aye

ITEM 10: FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

- Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm

There being no further business to transact, the meeting adjourned IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand, this 8th day of April, 2025.


S. Theresa Carter, Chair


Lisa M. King, Executive Director

True copies emailed to all Commissioners on April 11th, 2025.

ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

	Central Region	North Region	South Region
Building Visitation	3,715	2,014	723
Phone calls	398	96	92
Number of Programs	17	11	41
Programs Attendance	462	263	568
Number of Special Events	1	1	-
Special Event Attendance	134	810	-
Number of Outreach	1	4	6

Outreach Attendance	130	712	225
Number of Virtual Programs & Outreach	3	-	-
Virtual Programs & Outreach Attendance	41	-	-
Number of Other (Impromptus, School Groups, Visits)	13	10	5
Other Attendance	292	351	30

Center Highlights:

In March, maple sugaring was in full swing at Liberty Park, as we produced ten gallons of our delicious maple syrup. Our Annual two-day *Maple Mania* event drew over 850 attendees who enjoyed learning about the history and process of maple syrup production, which has roots in Summit County. We also hosted a very enjoyable *Flapjacks & Sap Facts* pancake breakfast and presentation, attracting 45 participants who learned about the history of maple sugaring in depth. Additionally, we engaged over 500 children through school field trips and programs that focused on maple syrup production, offering hands-on educational experiences.



A special thank you goes out to Liberty Park Manager Mark Smalley, Crew Leader Bennett Kinney, and the entire Liberty Park operations crew for their crucial support during the maple sugaring season. We are also incredibly grateful to our dedicated volunteers, including our maple expert Mark Apple, who helped make all of these programs possible. We’d also like to extend a special thank you to our longtime visitor, Larry Baker. After 49 years in news broadcasting, Larry brought his wealth of experience and talent to create an amazing video highlighting our maple sugaring efforts. His expertise truly captured the essence of the process and its ties to Summit County, and we are incredibly grateful for his contribution. Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhcVY79zMnM>



In addition to all the maple-themed programs, another standout was our *Back Yards Gone Wild* series, where 60 participants built bluebird houses, with materials generously provided by ODNr. We also participated in the *Twinsburg Native Habitat Association’s Salamander & Frog Festival*, engaging with over 200 festival-goers to raise awareness about local wildlife and native plants. March was a rewarding month for the North Region, and we look forward to continuing this momentum in the month of April.

What’s Next

Join us for exciting spring programs filled with **gardening, wildflowers, amphibians, fishing, and astronomy!**

- **Gardening Fun:** Learn about **rain gardens** and **guerrilla gardening** in our special talks.
- **Wildflower Walks:** Explore **Spring Wings & Wildflowers, Spring Wildflower Walk, and Plant by Numbers** to see nature in full bloom!
- **Amphibian Adventures:** Discover frogs and salamanders at **Vernal Pool Party, Friday Night Frogs, and Amphibian Night Life.**
- **Fishing Fun:**
 - **April 12:** Kids (15 & under) can join the **Fishing Derby!**
 - **April 15:** The **Special Needs Fishing Derby** welcomes adults and youth with special needs.
- **Stargazing Nights:** Don’t miss **Moonlit Mythical Madness, Moon Over Liberty Park, and the Drive-In Astronomy programs.** Come explore nature with us! **We hope to see you there!** 🌿 ⭐

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

- Conservation Forestry work at Goodyear Heights Metro Park has been completed for the spring season. Additional work is planned for 2026. The goal of conservation forestry is to remove non-native and invasive tree species and encourage native replacements for ecosystem health.
- A prescribed fire burn was conducted at Springfield Bog Metro Park. The burns are conducted every 3-5 years to maintain the health of the prairie ecosystem. Burns are conducted by certified staff in the Conservation and Operations Departments. Safety and security are provided by the Ranger Department, and the entire event is in coordination with local fire and safety authorities and notifications are provided to neighboring residents.



- A geomagnetic survey will be conducted at Springfield Bog Metro Park before the site greens up. The survey will focus on locating precontact features and sites for future exploration and documentation.
- Fish derbies and events are planned for April and final stocking plans have been made. This year, we will only be stocking native species of fish.

CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT

March
Headquarters
Calls: 1,178
Visitors: 203

HUMAN RESOURCES

Milestone Anniversaries:		
Max Shultz	25 Years of Service	Park Technician I
John Alfather	20 Years of Service	Ranger
New Hires		
Heaps, Megan	PTYR Park Technician	
Separations:		
Mcllwaine, Chase	Mechanic	
Postings:		
03/11/2025	Marketing Assistant	
	Park Technician I, Greenways – North	
03/18/2025	Mechanic, Small Engine	
	Trail Technician	

Seasonals:

Applegate, Lauren	Seasonal Maintenance	End of Season
Colarusso, Anthony	Seasonal Maintenance	End of Season
Florent, Miranda	Biologist	End of Season
Hritz, Wilder	Conservation Maintenance	End of Season

Volunteer Program

- Volunteer Engagement
 - In March 2025, 100 reoccurring volunteers reported 1,222 hours within 27 assignments across the park district.
 - Two episodic volunteers assist with a spring-cleaning event at Munroe Falls Metro Parks cleaning up sticks and acorns throughout the grounds.
 - Twenty youth volunteers contributed 46.5 hours in March by completing trash clean ups along the Freedom Trail and filling seed packets for the Native Plant Festival.
- Recruitment
 - Three new volunteers have been selected and onboarded this month.
 - Coordinating with 9 corporate groups on possible volunteer service projects this spring.
 - The interest of 34 prospective volunteers was expressed within March alone via our volunteer sign up at summitmetroparks.org/volunteer.aspx.
- Education and Outreach
 - The volunteer department participated in the Serve Ohio Conference and were refreshed and encouraged. They look to implement new ideas learned there.
 - The SMP Lens learning series continued with a presentation by Lead Naturalist Dave on engaging the public; 33 volunteers participated. The summer session is in the works.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

- **This April**, the Marketing department is focused on:
 - Concluding the discovery process for our website’s online registration capability
 - Preparations and beginning promotions for Spree for All (5/1-6/30)
 - Supporting the Mother’s Day 5K (5/11) and Native Plant Festival (5/17)
 - Communications related to the Free the Falls project at Gorge Metro Park



- **Media coverage** in March included broad reporting on our newest future Metro Park in Copley, as shared via Akron Beacon Journal, West Side Leader, Spectrum News 1, WKYC TV 3, WHLO AM, and Cleveland.com. Media coverage also included a story about the history of the Portage Path (Akron Life Magazine), Daffodil Trail at Furnace Run Metro Park (Only in your State) and Northeast Ohio venues with adapted arts programs for people with Autism (Ideastream).

- **Maple Leaf Gifts** staff continue to research and produce new branded merchandise for sale in the gift shop. Coming soon, the new artwork pictured at right will represent the park district’s focus on conserving natural resources on products like stickers, drinkware and more.
- Marketing staff are coordinating with the community engagement department to offer **online program and event registration** through the new SMP website. Details are being finalized with the consultant this month and the work is expected to take about three months to complete.



- Marketing continues to coordinate with Conservation and Community Engagement on our marketing campaign focused on the **Wild Back Yards** initiative. Advertising and social media promotions will increase throughout the months of April and May, and the Wild Back Yards Partner program will be in the spotlight for municipalities, businesses and other organizations that have an interest in adopting the Wild Back Yards concept.

- An updated communications strategy is in the works for upcoming changes at Gorge Metro Park as the effort to **“Free the Falls”** continues. We expect US EPA and partners to soon mobilize on the latest phase of the project which will remove sediment from behind the dam pool. When the work begins, the years-long closure of Gorge Metro Park will go into effect, which will require significant communications and public education as we maintain enthusiasm for the dam removal.

OPERATIONS

Park Areas and Structures

- The kitchen improvements at Brushwood Lodge are complete. Staff installed drywall, replaced the kitchen cabinets, countertops, backsplash and lighting. The restroom countertops were also replaced. The photos below are before and after of the kitchen's sink area.



- A new exterior door and ADA opener for the Administrative Offices were installed this past month.
- Staff are working with the planning department to develop plans for the future central maintenance facility, Silver Creek and Munroe Falls Metro Parks master plans, Goodyear Lodge boiler system, kitchen cabinets at Goodyear Lodge, docks for Nimisila C3 area and Long Lake area, Coventry Oaks Lodge back deck, and Fitzpatrick restroom replacements.
- The controlled burn season is underway. 90+ acres at Springfield Bog were successfully managed with control burns this past month. Staff are looking to conduct burns at Silver Creek Metro Park, Firestone Metro Park and the F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm if conditions will allow.
- The Pioneer Shelter will be stained, and flagstone floor repaired this spring.
- Improvements to the community garden at Summit Lake Nature Center have been completed. Crews expanded and improved the surface to provide better access to the planter boxes.
- The Gorge t-dock will be removed this spring in preparation for the dam removal project.

Trail Improvements

- Goodyear: Staff obtained quotes for materials to replace a 16' bridge and headwalls on Parours Trail. The replacement will take place mid-to-late summer.
- District-wide: Spring clean-up and preparing trails for the Spree for All program is underway.
- Firestone: Staff finished replacing the decking on Redwing Trail. Approximately 1,000' of decking was replaced.



Park Activities & Events

- Congratulations to Laura Esposito for successfully obtaining NRPA’s Certified Park and Recreation Professional certification.
- The annual kid’s fishing derby at Firestone Metro Park will be held on April 12 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Anglers 15 years of age and younger are invited to cast a line in Little Turtle Pond. Each kid will receive a \$1 prize if they catch a tagged fish and trophies will be awarded for the three largest fish caught. Participants are encouraged to bring their own fishing gear. A limited number of rods and reels will be available for use during the derby, and bait will be available while supplies last. Typically, over 500 people participate in the event.
- The annual special needs fishing derby at Firestone Metro Park will be held on April 15, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Trophies will be awarded for the three largest fish caught. The fishing derby is open to adults and children with special needs.
- Staff are working with several departments and preparing for May’s events. The Mother’s Day 5k event will be held on May 11 and the Native Plant Sale event will be held on May 17. Both events will be at Munroe Falls Metro Park.
- Recruitment efforts for seasonal staff are on-going. Staff are participating in high school and college job fairs.

Training:

- OPRA Building Culture with Appreciation and Advanced Leadership Skills
When: April 3
Attendees: A. Hockman, D. Rankin, M. Bartzi, J. Porchowsky, J. Perdok, M. Smalley
- Training: Load Securement Training
When: April 17
Attendees: T. Meredith, D Gottas, B Elia, A Keys, and M Thompson

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Below is a high-level summary and status update of the active park planning and development projects.

DESIGN, PLANNING AND STUDY PROJECTS:

District Wide

ADA Transition Plan:

- Status:
 - ADA Consultant finished their initial facilities assessment and setting up spreadsheet of projects to review with staff.
 - Interview taking place with all departments to update and follow correct ADA procedures.
 - ADA Coordinator training is on-going (Bob DeVore certified).

Central Maintenance Facility:

- Work with Richard L. Bowen and Associates continues
 - Construction documents for the site and building are to be complete soon to start site work and utility construction in 2025.

Cascade Valley

Towpath Trail Connector:

- EMH&T is working on alternative designs for the park to consider. Site visits were made to review alternatives and choose the best locations for bridges.

Gorge

Dam Removal:

- Sediment Disposal: status
 - Ohio EPA chose a contractor for the sediment removal work. Gorge pre-construction meeting was held April 2, and the sediment pipeline and route site walk is set for April 9.
- Dam Structure Removal: status
 - This phase of the project is generally on hold until the sediment removal is substantially complete.

- Cuyahoga Falls Sanitary Sewer Replacement: Design and coordination are ongoing, hoping to coordinate.

Munroe Falls

- Master planning for Munroe Falls Metro Park is continuing.
 - Staff working on final edits to maps and writing report to present to staff and board in May.

Goodyear Heights

Entry Drive and Parking Lot Improvements

- Exiting asphalt and curbs will be removed and ADA access to the Lodge and Restroom buildings will be improved.
 - The parking lots at the East and West Room Lodges will be CLOSED June 1 – September 30 for this work.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm

Service Drive and Parking Lot Improvements

- Remove, replace, and expand existing asphalt service drive and employee parking lot.
 - Status: Project will begin on May 1 and planned to be completed in 3-4 weeks.

New Shelter

- Survey work is complete for shelter near the parking lot.
- Design and details being worked out currently.

O'Neil Woods

- Restroom Replacement – includes upgrades to restroom and ADA updates of parking lot and trailhead facility planned, preliminary design underway.

Trails

Bike & Hike Trail:

- Trail extension in Sagamore Hills
 - Status: Working on agreements with partners, initial trail alignment approved through utilities, moving forward with survey and design.

Towpath Trail:

- Towpath Trail connection to Valley View
 - Status: Working on agreements with partners, initial trail alignment approved through utilities, moving forward with survey and design.

Freedom Trail:

- Phase 4: Planning continues for the final phase to the Metro RTA Station and Towpath Trail.
 - Looking into alternatives to make the connection to the Towpath Trail more cost effective and efficient.

Sand Run

- Big Bend Restroom Replacement: Upgrades to the restroom and trailhead.
 - Survey work completed and applied for Ohio & Erie Canal Strategic Initiatives Grant for \$30,000 to help with construction costs.

Silver Creek

- Lake Area: upgrades to the entire old beachfront area:
 - Playground design underway.
 - Currently reviewing proposals for lake house building assessment.
- The Silver Creek Trail is a proposed trail which would connect Silver Creek Metro Park in Norton to the Towpath Trail in Barberton.
 - First Energy has agreed to allow the trail on their property from Wadsworth to Barberton. Survey work completed, agreement with First Energy underway.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

Cascade Valley

City of Akron North Side Interceptor Tunnel (NSIT):

- Construction work continues

Cuyahoga River Water Trail

Northampton Point:

- Construction continues, currently working on concrete forms for the parking lot.

Freedom Trail

Middlebury Road:

- New trail connector to the Portage County Hike and Bike Trail, includes a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the CSX railroad tracks along with a trail; bridge installed March 29 (photo below).



Bridge over CSX Railroad Corridor being put in place.

Freedom Phase 4:

- Project began on March 5, 2025; project kickoff meeting complete.

Ohio & Erie Canal

Towpath Trail:

- Bridge replacement at Wolf Creek Trailhead is underway. Status: The contractor has demolished the bridge and set helical piers to set up a new bridge. Abutments poured on March 4, 2025.



Ohio & Erie Canal spillway still intact with bridge beams installed.

O'Neil Woods

Entry Drive & Parking Lot Paving:

- Entry drive and parking lot are being repaved. Seeding and restoration will need done in the spring.

Sand Run

Retaining Walls and Railing Replacement

- Status: Contractor has set-up traffic controls and work area limits, drilling steel columns and placing steel plates for the wall has begun, first wall section is nearing completion.



Old retaining wall leaning up against the new metal supports of new retaining wall.

GRANT ACTIVITY

Grants-Pending: (Application made, awaiting word)			
Ohio & Erie Canalway Association	Big Bend Trailhead Upgrades	\$	30,000
Total		\$	30,000
Grants-Awarded:			
Akron/Summit Convention and Visitors Bureau	Summit Lake Nature Center Signage	\$	2,500
Ohio & Erie Canalway Association	Sagamore Hills Trail Engineering and Design	\$	20,000
Summit County Community	Northampton Point Construction	\$	11,000
Clean Ohio Trail Fund	Freedom Trail Phase 4	\$	500,000
Ohio & Erie Canalway Association	Towpath Trail - Portage Path N. Improvements	\$	12,000
FHWA - AMATS	Freedom Trail Phase 4 (2024)	\$	700,000
FHWA - AMATS	Freedom Trail Middlebury Connector Trail (2023)	\$	700,000
Land and Water Conservation Fund	Valley View Riverfront	\$	450,000
Ohio & Erie Canalway Association	Barberton Towpath Bridge	\$	25,000
Clean Ohio Conservation Fund	Sand Run East End Restoration Project	\$	175,000
Ohio Capital Improvement Community Park, Recreation/Conservation Project	Valley View Park Development Riverfront Area	\$	98,000
Clean Ohio Conservation Fund	Sand Run Stream Restoration	\$	2,000,000
O&ECC - Summit County Community Grant	Freedom Trail Phase 4 Engineering and Design	\$	5,000
Total		\$	4,698,500

RANGER DEPARTMENT

- 36 incident reports were completed for the month of March 2025.
- 652 hours of ranger foot patrol were completed for the month of March. The ranger’s primary means of patrol is on foot, checking designated trails, conservation areas and park boundaries.
- 2,731 visitor contacts were made for the month of March. A visitor contact may be as simple as assisting the park visitor with directions and may be as involved as having to arrest and remove a disorderly park patron for just cause.
- On 14 March, Lt Josh Hamblen graduated from the FBI Trilogy LEEDA/Law Enforcement Executive Development Association training course series. The mission of FBI LEEDA is to advance the science and art of law enforcement leadership and promote the exchange of information to improve law enforcement management practice, through training, education, and networking among police professionals across the United States and beyond. To earn the FBI LEEDA Trilogy Award, an individual must successfully complete the Supervisor Leadership Institute, Command Leadership Institute, and Executive Leadership Institute.

The Supervisor Leadership Institute is designed for first-line supervisors and middle managers with the goal of enhancing their leadership competencies. Attendees engage in personality diagnostics, leadership case studies, mentoring, developing your people, performance management, risk management and credibility. The Command Leadership Institute is designed to prepare law enforcement leaders for command level positions. Attendees engage in such topics as credibility, command discipline and liability, dealing with problem employees, and leading change within an organization. This Executive Leadership Institute focuses on the emerging challenges facing the law enforcement profession. Attendees learn about bias and diversity, employee wellness, social and emotional intelligence, public trust and legitimacy, trends in law enforcement, and the implications of the 21st Century Policing Report. Congratulations Lt. Hamblen.



- Ranger Rob Tanner represented the Ranger Department at the KSU/Twinsburg Branch, Police Academy Recruitment Fair on March 27. The recruitment fair is an opportunity for law enforcement agencies to meet directly with perspective law enforcement candidates currently enrolled in the academy and especially meet with those who do not currently have employment commitment obligations with another department.



- The Summit Metro Parks Ranger Explorer Post held an open house March 26 at Himelright Lodge to provide a recruiting opportunity for those interested to learn more about the program, hopefully become future explorers, and the ultimate would be to become future rangers. The program is for people ages 14 to 20 who have an interest in law enforcement in a natural resource setting. Participants gain real life experiences in the field and complete service in the community. The post meets monthly for training opportunities and complete service projects each year. Explorers are exposed to topics such as: CPR and First Aid, Bike patrol, Criminal Justice Administration, traffic stops, search and rescue, drone operation, court procedures, and more. The Rangers that presented and provided information at this event were Rob Tanner, Joe Gonser, Spencer Forshey and Chris Lloyd.



2025 MONTHLY WORK FORCE REPORT, SUMMIT METRO PARKS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Full Time Employees, Job Positions												
Accounting/Payroll Manager (I)												
Accounting/Payroll Specialist (I)												
Administrative Office Mgr/Executive Asst. (I)												
Assistant Park Manager (2)												
Assistant Purchasing Manager (I)												
Brand Manager (I)												
Carpenter (I)												
Chief of Community Engagement (I)												
Chief of Conservation (I)												
Chief of Finance (I)												
Chief of Human Resources & Admin (I)												
Chief of Marketing & Communications (I)												
Chief of Operations (I)												
Chief of Planning (I)												
Chief of Philanthropy (I)												
Chief of Rangers (I)												
Civil Engineer/Construction Supervisor (I)												

Community Engagement Coordinator (3)	3	3	3										
Community Engagement Manager (3)	3	3	3										
Community Engagement Specialists (2)	1	1	1										
Crew Leader I (9)	9	9	9										
Crew Leader II (3)	3	3	3										
Cultural Resource Specialist (1)	1	1	1										
Customer Service Rep (2)	2	2	2										
Donor Relations Coordinator (1)	0	0	0										
Donor Relations Specialist (1)	1	1	1										
Executive Director (1)	1	1	1										
Events Specialist (1)	1	1	1										
Fleet Manager (1)	1	1	1										
Forestry Crew Leader (1)	1	1	0										
Forestry Technician (1)	1	1	1										
Graphic Designer (2)	2	2	2										
Horticulturalist (1)	1	1	1										
Human Resources Coordinator (1)	1	1	1										
Human Resources Manager (1)	0	0	0										
Interpretive Artist (1)	1	1	1										
Interpretive Naturalist (6)	6	6	6										
Landscape Architect (1)	1	1	1										
Lead Mechanic (1)	1	1	1										
Lead Naturalist (1)	1	1	1										
Maintenance/Utility Technician (2)	2	2	2										
Manager Volunteer Programs (1)	1	1	1										
Marketing Assistant (1)	1	1	1										
Marketing & Public Relations Manager (1)	1	1	1										
Marketing Specialist (1)	1	1	1										
Mechanic (1)	1	1	1										
Natural Resources Project Manager (1)	1	1	1										
Operations Project Manager (2)	2	2	2										
Operations Service Manager (1)	1	1	1										
Park Biologist (3)	3	3	3										
Park Manager I (3)	3	3	3										
Park Manager II (8)	8	8	8										
Park Planner (1)	0	0	0										
Park Ranger (20)	16	16	16										
Park Technician I (36)	37	37	36										
Park Technician II (1)	2	2	2										
Park Technician III (5)	3	3	3										
Planning & Development Project Manager (1)	1	1	1										
Purchasing Manager (1)	1	1	1										
Ranger Captain (1)	1	1	0										
Ranger Lieutenant (1)	1	1	1										
Ranger Project Manager (1)	1	1	1										
Ranger Sergeant (3)	2	2	2										
Regional Manager (2)	2	2	2										
Sales Supervisor (1)	1	1	1										
Supervisor of Cultural Resources (1)	1	1	1										
Supervisor of Ecological Resources (1)	1	1	1										
Supervisor of Wildlife Resources (1)	0	0	0										
Trail Crew Leader (1)	1	1	1										
Trail Technician (1)	0	0	0										
Utility Technician (1)	1	1	1										
Volunteer Coordinator (1)	1	1	1										
Total Full-Time Hired	157	157	154										
Total FT Authorized	169	169	169										
Part-Time, Year Round Employees													
Accounting Specialist (1)	1	1	1										
Civil Engineer/Construction Supervisor (1)	0	0	0										
Cultural Resource Specialist (1)	0	0	0										
Community Engagement Specialist (6)	6	6	6										
Customer Service Rep (1)	1	1	1										
Interpretive Naturalist (6)	6	6	6										
Nature Club Coordinator (1)	1	1	1										
Park Technician (11)	11	10	9										
Park Biologist (3)	3	3	3										
Sales Assistant (2)	2	2	2										
Watershed Resource Specialist (1)	1	1	1										
Total Part-Time, Year Round Hired	32	31	30										
Total PT, YR Authorized	34	34	34										
Seasonal Employees													
Community Engagement	2	1	1										
Conservation	3	2	2										
Operations	5	3	2										
Total Seasonal Hired	10	6	5										
Total Seasonal Authorized	104	104	104										

Casual Employees												
Ranger (5)	1	1	1									
Visitor Engagement Specialists (0)	0	0	0									
Total Casual Hired	1	1	1									
Total Casual Authorized	5	5	5									
Intern Employees												
Total Interns Hired	0	0	0									
Total Interns Authorized (9)	9	9	9									
Grand Total Hired Employees	200	195	190									
Grand Total Employees Authorized	321	321	321									

Summit Metro Parks

March 27, 2025

I certify approval for payment of the vouchers listed:

Vendor	Description	Net Amount
310 CONSTRUCTION LLC	Door Installation	1,331.77
4 IMPRINT INC	Promotional Giveaways	1,677.63
ABC PORTA THRONES	Portable Restroom Rental	1,440.00
AKRON TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT INC	Equipment Supplies	3,570.04
AKRON UNIFORMS	Ranger Uniforms	65.00
AN STONE CO INC	Sand Run Retaining Wall Replacement	142,305.00
..CO CHEM INC	Cleaning & Sanitary Supplies	2,601.38
ALL TOWN & COUNTRY SEPTIC TANK SERVICE INC	Septic Service	510.00
AM LEONARD INC	Maintenance Materials	390.73
AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS	First Aid & CPR Training	4,855.00
AMERICAN PRINTING INC	Green Islands Printing	9,605.00
ANTHEM LIFE INSURANCE CO	Life Insurance	408.98
APEX ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO INC	Maintenance Supplies	139.50
ARBORWEAR LLC	Uniforms	491.16
ARGIS SOLUTIONS INC	Computer Software	530.00
ASSUREDPARTNERS CAPITAL INC	Liability Insurance	246,817.00
AUSTIN IGNITION COMPANY	Vehicle Supplies	129.45
AUTOMATION MAILING & SHIPPING SOLUTIONS INC	Postage Machine Rental	469.00
BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION BUREAU LLC	Background Checks	85.80
BAKER VEHICLE SYSTEMS INC	Vehicle Supplies	441.66
BASIC BENEFITS LLC	FSA Administration	193.83
BG ENGINEERING GROUP LLC	Surveying Services	26,600.00
CKEYE UNIFORMS INC	Ranger Uniforms	65.50
UCKINGHAM DOOLITTLE & BURROUGHS	Legal Services	4,000.50
C & L SHOES INC	Uniforms	300.00
CAR PARTS WAREHOUSE INC	Vehicle Supplies	116.72
CHARLES E HARRIS & ASSOCIATES INC	Accounting Services	2,350.00
CITY OF AKRON	Water & Sewer Service	1,150.81
CITY OF BARBERTON	Water Service	29.48
CITY OF CLEVELAND	Water Services	136.56
CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS	Electric & Water Service	432.66
CITY OF HUDSON	Electric Service	13.09
CITY OF MUNROE FALLS	Water Service	36.80
CITY OF STOW	Water Service	32.98
CLEVELAND VICON CO INC	Maintenance Materials	96.00
COLIN BAKER	Advertising	2,200.00
COMDOC INC	Copier Service	70.80
CORE & MAIN LP	Maintenance Materials	562.86
CRANDALL CO INC	Equipment Supplies	279.90
CTABASE MARKETING INNOVATORS INC	Mailing Services	597.19
UMAS DEER PROCESSING LLC	Wildlife Management	24,750.00

Summit Metro Parks

March 27, 2025

I certify approval for payment of the vouchers listed:

& H HARDWARE GROUP LLC	Maintenance Materials	13.22
EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY	Gas Service	4,289.29
ELIZABETH F SCHUSTER	Strategic Plan	10,831.00
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	Vehicle Lease	46,899.04
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GROUP LLC	Park Master Plans	292.91
EQUIPARTS CORP	Maintenance Materials	680.07
EVANS MECHWART HAMBLETON & TILTON INC	Valley View Bridge Design	36,931.98
EVANS MECHWART HAMBLETON & TILTON INC	Construction Services	1,760.85
E-VOLVE CREATIVE GROUP LLC	Website Services	10,543.00
FAMOUS DISTRIBUTION INC	Maintenance Materials	974.12
FASTENAL COMPANY	Maintenance Supplies & Materials	94.84
FECHKO EXCAVATING LLC	Towpath Trail Bridge Replacement	59,445.00
FIRST COMMUNICATIONS LLC	Phone & Internet Services	6,283.65
FLOCK GROUP INC	Security Cameras	10,950.00
FLOCK GROUP INC	Annual Service Contract	30,000.00
FORESTRY SUPPLIERS INC	Maintenance Materials	47.65
RED W ALBRECHT GROCERY COMPANY	Maintenance & Program Supplies	208.25
EMPLERS INC	Maintenance Supplies	123.90
GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	Maintenance Materials & Supplies	736.87
GVS SAFETY SUPPLIES INC	Protective Apparel	456.75
GVS SAFETY SUPPLIES INC	Protective Apparel	48.00
HARTVILLE HARDWARE INC	Maintenance Materials	662.45
HERC RENTALS INC	Equipment Rental	3,550.00
HOCKMAN, JOSEPH A	Conference Reimbursement	256.00
HOME BUILDERS ASSOC SUMMIT & PORTAGE CO	Conservation Program	5,125.00
INDEPENDENCE OFFICE AND BUSINESS SUPPLY CO INC	Office Supplies	34.44
INTERIOR SUPPLY INC	Maintenance Materials	466.14
INTERSTATE BILLING SERVICE INC	Vehicle Supplies	78.03
KAMM STAR CONTRACTORS LLC	HVAC Maintenance	2,847.00
KASTNER WESTMAN & WILKINS LLC	Legal Services	3,007.00
KEIM CO	Maintenance Materials	318.00
KEITH C LUCKS EXTREME TREE SERVICE LLC	Forestry Services	12,500.00
KING, LISA M	Program Reimbursement	460.00
ROMHARD TWIST DRILL LLC	Maintenance Materials	36.23
UBICKI ENTERPRISES INC	Maintenance Materials	42.54
LTR INTERMEDIATE HOLDINGS INC	Vehicle Supplies	581.87
M CONLEY CO	Cleaning & Sanitary Supplies	1,372.90
MANN MARKETING INC	Promotional Giveaways	3,297.00
MARKS CONSTRUCTION INC	Maintenance Materials	3,264.00
MARS ELECTRIC CO INC	Maintenance Materials	1,082.16
MCDONALD HOPKINS LLC	Legal Services	5,305.78
MCMASTER CARR SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	119.47

Summit Metro Parks

March 27, 2025

I certify approval for payment of the vouchers listed:

MEDICAL MUTUAL OF OHIO	Vision & Hearing Claims & Administration	384.39
MIDWEST MOTOR SUPPLY CO INC	Maintenance Supplies	1,056.27
MITCHELL MEDIA LLC	Advertising	1,200.00
MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC	Ranger Communication Equipment	2,785.50
MURDOCK INDUSTRIAL INC	Vehicle & Equipment Supplies	431.21
MURPHY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO INC	Equipment Rental	3,555.00
MYTEE INC	Vehicle Supplies	53.94
NATIONAL GRANITE LUXURIES LLP	Brushwood Lodge Countertops	5,736.00
NATIONAL LIME & STONE COMPANY	Maintenance Materials	4,595.00
NESTLED PINES WOODWORKING	Gift Shop Items	229.95
NORTHEAST COATINGS INC	Contract Services	75.00
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT	Stormwater Services	60.90
OHIO AFSCME CARE PLAN	Ohio AFSCME Care Plan	944.00
OHIO EDISON CO	Electric Service	16,450.62
OHIO REAL TITLE AGENCY LLC	Land Purchase	5,000.00
OLIGER SEED CO	Maintenance Materials	132.50
O'REILLY AUTO ENTERPRISES LLC	Vehicle Supplies	756.07
OUTDOOR HOME SERVICES HOLDINGS LLC	Maintenance Materials	490.00
PACKARD, COREY MATHEW	Training Reimbursement	129.89
PARK FORD INC	Vehicle Repairs	275.15
POLY TECH ASSOCIATES INC	Employment Services	365.00
PPG ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES INC	Maintenance Supplies	450.34
PRO DOOR AND SECURITY INC	Door Installation	3,870.74
PRO DOOR AND SECURITY INC	Nature Center Doors	36,857.39
PRO DOOR AND SECURITY INC	Maintenance Materials	240.00
PROBE TECHNOLOGIES LTD	Computer Services	19,174.66
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE INDUSTRIES INC	Construction Testing	485.50
RARESTEP INC	Fleet Software	19,645.50
RCR WASTE MANAGEMENT LLC	Composting Service	52.32
REFRIGERATION SALES COMPANY LLC	Maintenance Materials	51.01
REPROS INC	Maintenance Materials	1,104.25
REPUBLIC SERVICES INC	Disposal Services	2,035.15
RICHARD L BOWEN & ASSOCIATES INC	Architectural Services	39,668.42
ROBERTSON HEATING SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	355.55
ROCKWOOD PRODUCTS	Administrative Building Door	3,897.98
ROETZEL & ANDRESS LPA	Legal Services	1,405.00
RUEGG, KEVIN RONALD	Conference Reimbursement	10.00
SACKMANN STAMP AND STENCIL CO INC	Office Supplies	51.32
SANTMYER ENERGY INC	Fuel Service	18,496.56
SECURITAS ELECTRONIC SECURITY INC	Security Monitoring Services	410.00
SHERWIN WILLIAMS CO	Maintenance Supplies	193.40
SOHARS ALL SEASON MOWER SERVICE INC	Equipment Supplies	1,904.74

Summit Metro Parks

March 27, 2025

I certify approval for payment of the vouchers listed:

JUMMA HEALTH SYSTEM	Drug Screens	79.50
SUMMIT C & D TRANSFER LLC	Disposal Services	230.00
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Annual Storm Water Fee	1,779.20
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Animal Control Services	110.00
SUMMIT METRO PARKS	Visa & FSA Reimbursement	78,964.93
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	Dental Claims & Administration	7,662.14
SWAN HARDWARE INC	Program Supplies	740.00
TERRY LUMBER & SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	2,108.55
THOMPSON ELECTRIC INC	Door Installation	3,945.44
ULINE INC	Maintenance Supplies	799.76
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC	Wireless Services	3,221.74
VERMEER MID ATLANTIC LLC	Equipment Supplies	445.21
VISUAL EDGE IT INC	Office Supplies	642.41
W W GRAINGER INC	Maintenance Materials & Supplies	2,305.15
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF OHIO INC	Disposal Services	1,554.86
WERTZ GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING INC	Construction Monitoring & Testing	4,957.00
VEST PUBLISHING CORP	Ranger Software	226.01
WILBERTS AUTO PARTS NE OHIO LLC	Vehicle Supplies	350.00
WL TUCKER SUPPLY COMPANY	Maintenance Supplies	187.20
ZIEGLER TIRE & SUPPLY CO	Vehicle & Equipment Supplies	967.26
ZORO TOOLS INC	Maintenance Supplies	5.00
		<hr/> 1,054,243.76