

AGENDA
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SUMMIT METRO PARKS
MARCH 11, 2025

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of February 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. 2025 Budget Appropriations
 - C. Authorization for Property and Liability Insurance Renewal
 - D. Authorization to Increase Contract for Strategic Planning Consultant
 - E. Acknowledgment of J. Greg Carris Retirement
 - F. Authorization to Contract Concrete Work for Material Storage Bins at Munroe Falls Metro Park
 - G. Authorization to Advertise for Bids for the Goodyear Heights Metro Park Pavement Improvements
 - H. Authorization to Award Freedom Trail Phase 4 Construction Testing
 - I. Authorization to Advertise for Qualifications for the Sand Run Ford Removal and Restoration Design Services
 - J. Authorization to Award Geophysical Survey Contract to Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc. for Springfield Bog Site
7. Unfinished/Old Business & New Business
8. Correspondence & Public Portion
9. Executive Session
10. Future Board Meeting Dates/Adjourn

March 11, 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, March 11, 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, Joel D. Bailey, Second 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, Jon Schoblocher, Dave Kamps, and Julie Haumschild.

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

Resolution 24.2025

Following discussion, it was moved by Ms. Stritch, seconded by Rev. Walker, that the minutes of the February 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	Aye
	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 25.2025

Following discussion, it was moved by Rev. Walker, seconded by Mr. Newman, 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	Aye
Herbert Newman	Aye
Joel D. Bailey	Abstain
Jill M. Stritch	Aye
Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr.	Aye

A. RATIFICATION OF BILLS PAID

OPERS	February 2025	\$126,988.80
Medicare	February 2025	\$12,420.06
Interim Bills	February 27, 2025	\$964,725.88
Payroll	February 14, 2025	\$430,735.07
Payroll	February 28, 2025	\$440,556.00
TOTAL	BALANCE	\$1,975,425.81

Resolution 26.2025

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

B. 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

The Executive Director reported that a draft of the 2025 Budget was provided for the Commissioners' review. The 2025 Budget is balanced in the general fund at \$36,311,070 with an additional \$1,380,000 in capital and internal service funds, for a total budget of \$37,691,070.

The Executive Director recommended the approval of the appropriation resolution, which must be approved and filed with Summit County, as follows:

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide for the expenditures of Summit Metro Parks during the year 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Summit County Fiscal Officer has provided information upon which an estimate can be made of the amount available for appropriation for the twelve months of the year 2025,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that to provide for the expenses of the Summit Metro Parks for the months of January through December 2025 the following adjustments be made to the original 2025 tax budget and the adjusted totals indicated are hereby set aside and appropriated, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all capital improvements and other major maintenance projects are subject to specific approval by the Board of Park Commissioners.

Resolution 27.2025

The Executive Director was directed to certify a copy of this Resolution for the Budget Commission of the Summit County Fiscal Office.

C. AUTHORIZATION FOR PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Executive Director requested authorization to sign a one-year renewal contract for property and liability insurance coverage for the park district. The renewal would continue a contract currently with Assured Partners. The insurance renewal includes a 9% increase over 2024 due to new properties added to the schedule and updated valuations on existing property. The coverage is effective March 25, 2025, through March 25, 2026, at a cost of \$246,410.00.

The Executive Director recommended continuing coverage with the current provider, Assured Partners, and requests authority to sign a renewal contract for one additional year at a cost of \$246,410.00.

Resolution 28.2025

The Executive Director recommended continuing coverage with the current provider, Assured Partners, and was authorized to sign a renewal contract for one additional year at a cost of \$246,410.00.

D. AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE CONTRACT FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTANT

At the November 2024 board meeting, the board approved a contract for Sustainable Economies, Inc., to lead our strategic planning process. Starting in early January, the strategic plan process has been underway and making good progress. Throughout January and February our consultant team has conducted feedback session with the board, staff, partners and residents. Along the way, we have asked our consultants to meet with additional groups to bring in the non-user perspectives, which resulted in more meetings than planned.

The original contract with Sustainable Economies, Inc. was \$94,775.00. The Executive Director was authorized to increase the contract by \$7,000.00 for a new contract total of \$101,775.00.

Resolution 29.2025

The Executive Director was authorized to increase the contract by \$7,000.00 for a new contract total of \$101,775.00.

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF J. GREG CARRIS RETIREMENT

Executive Director Lisa M. King requested the Board of Park Commissioners approve the following resolution honoring J. Greg Carris upon his retirement from Summit Metro Parks:

WHEREAS, J. Greg Carris was employed with Summit Metro Parks from August 10, 2009 through February 28, 2025 and

WHEREAS, he served as Ranger Captain for the park district's Rangers department, and

WHEREAS, he has worked for Summit Metro Parks and for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents of Summit County for over fifteen years, and

WHEREAS, J. Greg Carris retired on February 28, 2025 and entered into a new phase of his life,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Park Commissioners and staff express their sincere appreciation to J. Greg Carris for his past service to Summit Metro Parks and to the people of Summit County.

Resolution 30.2025

The Board of Park Commissioners approved the above resolution, acknowledging J. Greg Carris' service and retirement from Summit Metro Parks.

F. AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT CONCRETE WORK FOR MATERIAL STORAGE BINS AT MUNROE FALLS METRO PARK

The material storage bins at Munroe Falls Field Office need replaced due to their age and condition. The current wooden storage bins have rotted and are in disrepair. The storage bins will be replaced with concrete waste block bins on a concrete pad.

Quotes for contracting a concrete pad and footers were received from Cardinal Cement & Excavating, Inc. (\$28,285.00), and Perrin Asphalt and Concrete (\$33,000.00)

The Executive Director requested authorization to contract Cardinal Cement & Excavating, Inc. to pour a concrete footer and pad, for the quoted amount of \$28,285.00 and an additional 10% contingency, at a cost not to exceed \$31,113.00.

Resolution 31.2025

The Executive Director was authorized to contract Cardinal Cement & Excavating, Inc. for the quoted amount of \$28,285 and an additional 10% contingency, at a cost not to exceed \$31,113.00.

G. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE GOODYEAR HEIGHTS METRO PARK PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

The Goodyear Heights Newton Street parking lots and driveway pavement replacement has been on the books for more than 20 years. Due to the popularity of the lodge rentals, working this project into the schedule has seen many failed attempts. Meanwhile, the years of deterioration and subgrade issues have resulted in failing pavement. The work is now planned for this summer.

A bid package has been assembled for the removal and repaving of the asphalt entry drive, two parking lots, and necessary ADA ramp and walkway improvements at Goodyear Heights Metro Park.

The engineer's cost estimate is \$1,211,510.00. The project will be partially funded using OPRA grant funds of \$364,349.00 administered through ODOT District 4. Once bid pricing is received from contractors, planning staff will review bids and select the lowest qualified contractor. Permission to award the project will be sought at a future Board meeting.

The Executive Director requested authorization to advertise for bids for the removal and repaving of the asphalt entry drive, two parking lots, and necessary ADA ramp and walkway improvements at Goodyear Heights Metro Park.

Resolution 32.2025

The Executive Director was authorized to advertise for bids for the removal and repaving of the asphalt entry drive, two parking lots, and necessary ADA ramp and walkway improvements at Goodyear Heights Metro Park.

H. AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD FREEDOM TRAIL PHASE 4 CONSTRUCTION TESTING

The Freedom Trail Phase 4 project is under contract and construction phase testing is required. Planning staff requested fee proposals from pre-qualified engineering, geotechnical, and construction testing firms to complete the required work.

Testing services will include concrete and compaction testing for the bridge structure, paving and trail. Staff received proposals from five firms and Professional Service Industries, Inc. (PSI) was determined to be the lowest and best bid. Bids received are as follows:

Wertz & Associates	\$30,000
Professional Service Industries, Inc.	\$34,850
Terracon	\$38,190
DLZ Ohio	\$39,007
GPD Group	\$40,000

The Executive Director requested authorization to sign a contract with Professional Service Industries, Inc. (PSI) for material and construction testing services at Freedom Trail Phase 4 for \$ 34,850.00 plus a 10% contingency for a total fee not to exceed \$ 38,335.00.

Resolution 33.2025

The Executive Director was authorized to sign a contract with Professional Service Industries, Inc. (PSI) for material and construction testing services at the Freedom Trail Phase 4 for \$ 34,850.00 plus a 10% contingency for a total fee not to exceed \$ 38,335.00.

I. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE SAND RUN FORD REMOVAL AND RESTORATION DESIGN SERVICES

The Sand Run Parkway roadway ford that allows the Sand Run Stream to flow across the road has been an iconic part of the Sand Run Metro Park for more than a half-century. Previous restorations and improvements in the Sand Run Stream corridor have greatly improved the stability and quality of the water and ecosystem surrounding the stream. To fully understand the ecological impacts of the ford on the health of the stream, planning staff would like to explore what removal of the ford would entail and what the restoration might look like. The first phase would include publicly advertising for and engaging a consultant to study possibilities and begin to explore options.

Qualified firms will be responsible for conceptual design and master planning of the ford area, including concept renderings of three options for replacing the ford. Once the most qualified firm has been identified by planning staff, they will negotiate a fee for the proposed work. The Board will be asked at a future meeting for permission to award the proposed work.

The Executive Director requested authorization to advertise for qualifications and negotiate a fee for the conceptual design and master planning for the removal and restoration of the ford in Sand Run Metro Park.

Resolution 34.2025

The Executive Director was authorized to advertise for qualifications and negotiate a fee for the conceptual design and master planning for the removal and restoration of the ford in Sand Run Metro Park.

J. AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY CONTRACT TO OHIO VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGY, INC. FOR SPRINGFIELD BOG SITE

Summit Metro Parks continues to research, understand, and protect our cultural resources including pre-contact sites once occupied by Indigenous People. Previous archaeology work at Springfield Bog Metro Park suggested significant occupation and use of the land dating as far back as the Archaic Period.

Geomagnetic inventory and mapping (similar to the work we did at the Everett Knoll Site) will better allow staff to detect significant areas of the property and better identify pre-contact sites for both exploration and conservation. The equipment and expertise to perform this work is rare and quotes were solicited from The University of Akron and Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc. The University of Akron is not able to meet schedule requirements of the project. Ohio Valley Archaeological is able to meet the requirements and schedule for the project at a cost not to exceed \$45,792.63

The Executive Director requested authorization to enter into a contract with Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$45,792.63.

Resolution 35.2025

The Executive Director was authorized to enter into a contract with Ohio Valley Archaeology for a cost not to exceed \$45,792.63.

ITEM 7: UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- House Bill 28
- Summit County Storm Water Management District

ITEM 8: CORRESPONDENCE

- None

PUBLIC PORTION

- None

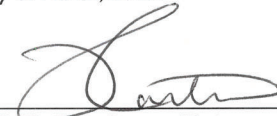
ITEM 9: EXECUTIVE SESSION: O.R.C. §121.22, (G) (1), (G) (2), (G) (3) AND (G) (4)

- None

ITEM 10: FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

- Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- 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 11th day of March, 2025.


S. Theresa Carter, Chair


Lisa M. King, Executive Director

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

ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

	Central Region	North Region	South Region
Building Visitation	1627	1227	485
Phone calls	367	65	49
Number of Programs	20	15	31
Programs Attendance	283	313	271

Number of Special Events	3	2	1
Special Event Attendance	193	32	60
Number of Outreach	3	2	6
Outreach Attendance	193	41	655
Number of Virtual Programs & Outreach	3	-	-
Virtual Programs & Outreach Attendance	40	-	-
Number of Other (Impromptus, School Groups, Visits)	7	4	8
Other Attendance	171	259	34

Center Highlights:

Naturalists and community engagement specialists slowed down in February to focus on document retention, program preparation, and to provide interpretive content for exhibits. The central staff worked on a variety of projects, including our updated Wild Back Yards wall that will focus on trees and biodiversity. They also created a variety of small panels for a future renovation of the pond exhibit.

In addition to indoor exhibits, staff wrote content for social media and marketing (shown below). Community Engagement Coordinators worked closely with marketing to develop an online registration system for roll-out later this year. Coordinators and staff are also busy hiring vacant positions, including summer seasonals. We also prepared for 2025 by

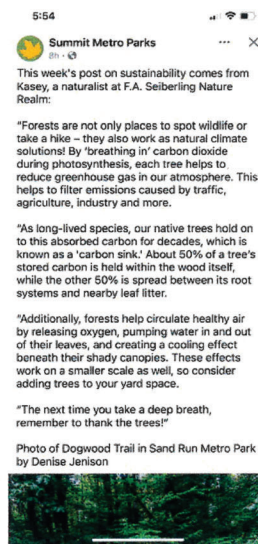


participating in two professional development opportunities, Project Learning Tree, and a session on The Importance of Literacy in early childhood nature programs. We are extremely excited to welcome school groups and visitors this spring!

What's Next

As we welcome our visitors of all ages out of hibernation, community engagement team members have created public and outreach programs, written social media content, and developed interactive exhibits with a focus on sustainability.

Please do not forget to stop by our visitor and nature centers to see our themed visual presentations and games for people of all stages. You will find something new after each quarterly update! Programs to see in the month of March: Woodcock Walk, Coffee Crawl: Wake Up the Turtles, Salamander Slime and Homeschool Spring Equinox. We hope to see you there.



CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

- Deer management (2024-2025 season) wrapped up in February.
- The Conservation Department presented three programs at the 2025 OPRA Conference. All programs were well attended.
- Dr. Megan Schaeffer will present on Indigenous Engagement at the 2025 annual meeting of the Environmental Education Council of Ohio.

- We are preparing for significant fish stocking events at all smaller lakes and ponds in the district that are open for public fishing. Stocking will take place prior to public events and fishing derbies.
- Survey work for Sand Run was completed in 2024 and data analysis was completed in 2025. Preserve boundaries were altered slightly based on new and updated information.
- The urban coyote research project with the Akron Zoo continues. One additional study animal was collared for 2025.
- Archaeological work at the Everett Knoll Site will continue in 2025. Tours of the exaction area will take place on Wednesdays in June.

CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT

February

Headquarters

Calls: 736

Visitors: 119

HUMAN RESOURCES

Milestone Anniversaries:

Edward Zakrasek	30 Years of Service	Crew Leader I – Greenways S.
Sarah Graham	15 Years of Service	Park Technician I – Greenways N.
Eileen Boyd	10 Years of Service	PTYR Park Technician

Retirements:

J. Greg Carris	Ranger Captain
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New Hires

Kostenko, Steffanus	Accounting/Payroll Specialist
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Separations:

Gable, Chris	PTYR Park Technician
Kiepora, Tom	Forestry Crew Leader
Vercuski, Brian	Park Technician I

Postings:

2/11/2025	Donor Relations Coordinator
	Park Technician I – Firestone
2/12/2025	Forestry Crew Leader
2/20/2025	Community Engagement Specialist
2/24/2025	Ranger Captain
2/25/2025	Park Technician I – Sand Run

Seasonals:

McWilliams, George	Seasonal Maintenance	End of Season
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Volunteer Program

- Volunteer Engagement
 - In February 2025, 61 reoccurring volunteers reported 610 hours within 19 assignments across the park district.
 - Four new volunteers have been selected and onboarded this year.
 - A schedule of special project and one-time volunteer opportunities has been developed. To date, 15 corporate or school groups have inquired about opportunities.
- Recruitment
 - Volunteer staff hosted three informational sessions for prospective volunteers interested in 11 volunteer roles across three departments - conservation, marketing and communications and

community engagement. Interest of 95 individuals was expressed for these volunteer roles. Selection and onboarding are ongoing.

- Interest of 33 prospective volunteers was expressed within February alone via our volunteer signup at summitmetroparks.org/volunteer.aspx.
 - Education and Outreach
 - Manager of Volunteer Programs presented at the OPRA conference about volunteer management and having follow up one-on-ones with a few fellow Ohio park volunteer managers to offer them support. SMP Volunteer Program serves as a model to our peers.
 - The SMP Lens learning series will continue in 2025 with seasonal gatherings to learn and socialize. SMP volunteers and staff are welcome to register and attend.
- Next up: Walking Along Side Visitors and Naturalists | Presented by Lead Naturalist Dave Daly** Wednesday, March 19, 6:00- 7:30 p.m. -OR- Sunday, March 23, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

- **This March**, the Marketing department is focused on
 - Planning for implementation of online program registration
 - Planning for upcoming large-scale park district events
 - The launch of our March/April “Wild Back Yards” campaign with additional sustainability messaging
 - Finalizing/releasing the 2024 Annual Report to the Community and our inaugural Sustainability Report
 - Announcing the park district’s future 17th Metro Park at the Boughton property in Copley.
- **Media coverage** in February included mentions or stories in the following outlets: West Side Leader (Richfield Trustees appropriations for Furnace Run), Signal Akron (a shared event with Akron Children’s Museum), The Independent (upcoming maple syrup programming), Akron Life Magazine (F.A. Seiberling’s legacy), and various February/March programs and events listings.
- **Maple Leaf Gifts** supported the Wild Back Yards program with merchandise at the Akron Home & Garden show. This past month, the shop processed about \$3,300 in sales with best-selling products being clothing items, jewelry and books. Staff are curating new products to offer inside the shop and items to compliment the 2025 sustainability theme.
- Marketing continues to coordinate with Conservation and Community Engagement to promote the **Wild Back Yards** public rewards program. The campaign and yard recognition program were a focus at the 2025 Home & Garden Show and will be expanded this year to include resources for organizations and municipalities to become Wild Back Yards partners by meeting criteria established by SMP staff.
- Our team will be supporting the **strategic plan** consultants with promotions for the public resident engagement sessions that are planned for April and early May. Our team will advertise and communicate the opportunity to both current park visitors and those who have not engaged with SMP.
- Marketing staff are coordinating with other SMP departments to plan and promote the **Fishing Derbies, Mother’s Day 5K** and **Annual Native Plant Festival**.

OPERATIONS

Park Areas and Structures

- Brushwood Lodge kitchen improvements are underway and will be completed by mid-March. Staff are replacing the kitchen cabinets, countertops and backsplash. The restroom countertops will also be replaced.
- The ADA openers and new exterior door at Summit Lake Nature Center were installed this past month. The new entry door and ADA opener for the Administrative Offices are scheduled to be installed on March 10th.
- 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, material storage bins, kitchen cabinets at Goodyear Lodge, docks for Nimisila C3 area and Long Lake area,

Coventry Oaks Lodge back deck, Fitzpatrick restroom replacements, and improvements to Summit Lake Nature Center's community garden area.

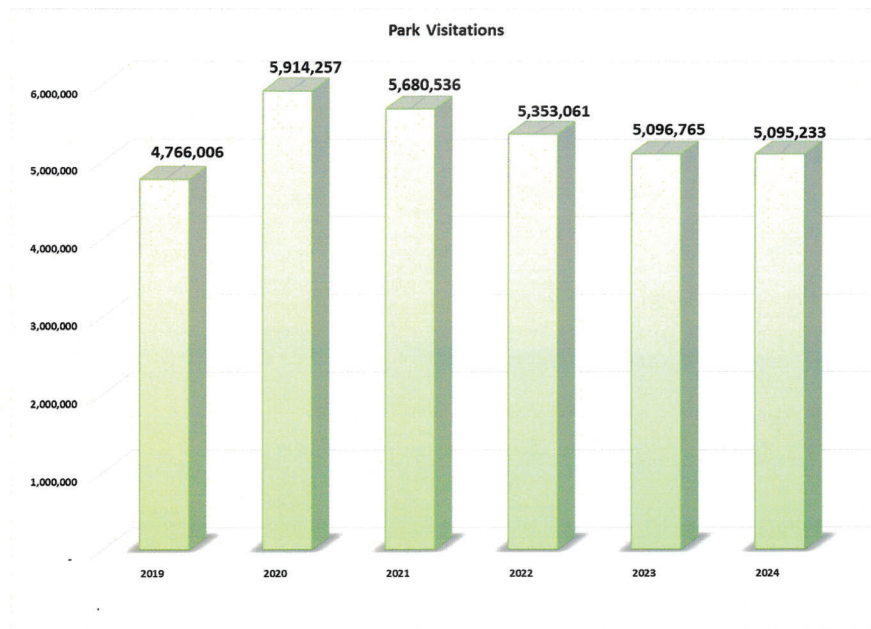
- Annual preventative forestry work district-wide will continue through March. Crews have also been removing invasive trees at Cascade Valley Chuckery Area.
- The controlled burn season is approaching. Burn permit paperwork has been submitted, and crews are preparing areas for the season. Staff are looking to conduct controlled burns at Springfield Bog, Silver Creek, Firestone and F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm.
- Pioneer Shelter at Goodyear Heights Metro Park will be stained and flagstone floor repaired this spring.

Trail Improvements

- Firestone: Approximately 1,000' of decking will be replaced on Redwing Trail this winter. Approximately 600' of decking has been replaced.
- Bike and Hike Trail: Root pruning between Rt. 303 and Alexander Road and Rt. 303 and Barlow Road is complete. Staff use a rock wheel skid steer attachment to cut a trench along the trail to reduce root damage to the pavement.
- Goodyear: Staff are obtaining quotes to replace a 16' bridge and headwalls on Parours Trail.

Park Activities & Events

- Winter sports will be wrapping up for the 2024-25 season. Activity has been high again this past month with the cold and snowy weather.
- Nimisila Reservoir Campground will open for the 2025 season on March 1.
- Recruitment efforts for seasonal staff are underway. Staff are participating in high school and college job fairs.



Training:

- Training: Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification
When: 2025 – Online self-pace
Attendees: R. Dammarell, B. Kinney, K. Licata, J. Carrico, L. Esposito, G. Houk, F. Lemut, J. Perdok, and T. Powell.
- 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

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:

- The park district has a long-standing commitment to accessibility. This commitment to accessibility and our overall compliance effort related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) continues to be a high priority. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II) requires a public entity to make its programs, activities, and services accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities except where to do so would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program or in undue financial and administrative burdens.
 - ADA Consultant finished their initial facilities assessment and setting up spreadsheet of projects to review with staff.
 - ADA Consultant is also reviewing upcoming projects to make sure we meet the most up-to-date standards.
 - 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:

- SMP Staff has been working with Richard L. Bowen and Associates to plan and design the renovations to the site and building on Broadway Avenue downtown to relocate our maintenance facilities and staff.
 - Construction documents for the site and building are to be complete this spring to start site work and utility construction in 2025.

Cascade Valley

Towpath Trail Connector:

- Multi-purpose trail project to connect the current Valley Link Trail through the Valley View Area to the southern end of the park to the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.
 - EMH&T is working on alternative designs for the park district to consider. Site visits were made to review alternatives and choose the best locations for bridges.

Gorge

Dam Removal:

- Sediment Disposal: Summit Metro Parks staff have worked with the Environmental Protection Agency to guide the design of the dam sediment deposition area in the Chuckery Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park. Over one million cubic yards of sediment will be removed from behind the dam via clamshell dredge. The sediment will then be piped as a slurry to the Chuckery Area, where it will be mixed with a low-percentage concrete mix to create moundable earthen material. This material will be shaped into naturally appearing mounds, which will be capped with topsoil and planted.
 - Ohio EPA chose a contractor for the sediment removal work. Then put on-hold from federal funding freeze.
 - Making progress on the final landowner on the Highbridge Trail for the sediment removal pipe placement.
 - Dam Structure Removal: Park staff are working with the City of Akron regarding removal of the dam structure. These conversations focus on access to the dam, removal limits, disposal of removed concrete, protection of infrastructure from the river and restoration of the area under the existing dam pool.
- Cuyahoga Falls Sanitary Sewer Replacement: The City of Akron has agreed to accept the city of Cuyahoga Falls sanitary flow into the North Side Interceptor Tunnel, redirecting 100% of the flow out of Gorge Metro Park. Design and coordination are ongoing.

Munroe Falls

Master Planning

- Master planning of Munroe Falls Metro Park is continuing. The plan, which is being guided by input from SMP staff and the public, will provide guidance for how the park is to be improved to better serve the public and environment into the future.
 - Staff working on final edits of maps and writing a report to present to staff and board in 2025.

Goodyear Heights

Entry Drive and Parking Lot Improvements

- Design and construction plans are prepared to remove exiting asphalt and curbs and improve ADA access to the Lodge and Restroom buildings.
 - Staff are currently working with ODOT to use LPA funds on project.
 - Working on final construction documents for bidding.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm

Service Drive and Parking Lot Improvements

- Design and construction plans are prepared to remove, replace, and expand existing asphalt drive and parking lot.
 - Plans have been bid, and the successful bidder is Geauga Highway to begin in May 2025.

New Shelter

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

O'Neil Woods

- O'Neil Woods Restroom Replacement – Upgrades to restroom along with ADA improvements for parking lot and trailhead facility.
 - Survey is scheduled for mid-March.

Trails

Bike & Hike Trail:

- SMP is partnering with Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Sagamore Hills to create a trail extension between the Towpath Trail in Valley View to the Bike & Hike Trail in Sagamore Hills.
 - Working on agreements with partners to move project forward.
 - Initial site review with opportunities and challenges laid out. Moving forward with survey and design.

Freedom Trail:

- Phase 4: Trail plans for the section from Mill Street to South Broadway Avenue are complete.
 - Kenmore Construction was the low bidder on project going to the board for approval. Federal funds are allocated for both projects and coordination, and approval must be met by Akron Metropolitan Planning Study (AMATS) and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).
 - Project began on March 5, 2025.
 - 333 Broadway meeting scheduled for March 10, 2025.

Sand Run

- Big Bend Restroom Replacement: Upgrades to the restroom and trailhead.
 - Survey work completed.

Silver Creek

- Silver Creek Lake Area is an upgrade to the entire old beachfront area.
 - Playground design – survey work complete and initial stakeholder meeting held.
 - Lakehouse building assessment out for proposals.
- 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. Hammontree and Associates have completed survey work. Will be starting agreement with First Energy.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

Cascade Valley

City of Akron North Side Interceptor Tunnel (NSIT):

- Construction work for Akron's North Side Interceptor Tunnel project is underway at the end of Peck Road.
 - Excavation and installation of the overflow tunnel continues.
 - Additional dirt storage area approved.

Cuyahoga River Water Trail

Northampton Point:

- Partnership project with Cuyahoga Valley National Park to build a parking lot, trailhead and access point on the Cuyahoga River Water Trail.
 - Construction is on schedule with the parking lot and trailhead graded and stoned. Back to work on March 3, 2025.

Freedom Trail

Middlebury Road:

- This is a new connector trail which will connect the parking lot to the Portage County Hike and Bike Trail which consists of a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the CSX railroad tracks along with a trail.
 - The contractor has retaining walls constructed and bridge abutments complete. Bridge is scheduled for March 21, 2025, for installation.
 - Coping wall poured.

Ohio & Erie Canal

Towpath Trail:

- The bridge over the canal spillway near the Wolf Creek Trailhead is failing and in need of replacement. Grant money from Ohio & Erie Canalway Association will be used to help offset construction costs.
 - 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 helical piers for new bridge being installed.

O'Neil Woods

Entry Drive & Parking Lot Paving:

- As part of the Summit Countywide paving and striping program through the Summit County Engineers Office, Metro Parks is repaving and striping the entry drive and parking lot at O'Neil Woods.
 - This project will need grass seeding in spring.

Sand Run

Administrative Office Roof & HVAC:

- A roof replacement and HVAC upgrades were necessary at the administrative office to alleviate leaks and provide more efficient heat/cool for the entire office.
 - Working with a contractor to complete minor work. Front door replacement is coming soon.

Retaining Walls and Railing Replacement

- Design and construction plans are complete.
 - Allen Stone Company has set up traffic controls and work area limits. Last week began drilling steel columns and placing steel plates for the wall. The first wall section is nearing completion.

Summit Lake

Summit Lake Nature Center Signage:

- Additional signs to identify Summit Lake Nature Center from parking lot and trail/lake sides of building. This project will include updated lighting for leaf-marks and lettering. The planning department wrote a grant, applied and accepted a small grant from Akron Summit County Convention and Visitor's Bureau for project.

GRANT ACTIVITY		
Grants-Pending: (Application made, awaiting word)		
None		
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
ODNR Division of Forestry	Rx STEP 2023-11	\$ 4,942
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		\$ 4,703,442

RANGER DEPARTMENT

- 15 incident reports were completed for the month of February 2025.
- 472 hours of ranger foot patrol were completed for the month of February. The ranger's primary means of patrol is on foot, checking designated trails, conservation areas and park boundaries.
- 1,200 visitor contacts were made for the month of February. 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.
- A gathering was held at the Summit Metro Parks Administrative Office on February 26 to congratulate Captain Greg Carris for his retirement from Summit Metro Parks February 28, 2025. Chief of Rangers Doug Shepard presented Captain with the following:

Ranger Captain Greg Carris distinguished himself with outstanding achievement as Captain of the Summit Metro Parks Ranger Department from August 10, 2009, to February 28, 2025. During this period, Captain Carris orchestrated numerous law enforcement investigations, gathering detailed evidence, relentlessly working with courts and prosecutors, eventually leading to numerous arrests and convictions.

Captain Carris time and time again displayed his vast supervision skills, as a mentor, coach and educator, helping all rangers achieve their full potential. Captain worked tirelessly in his administrative duties, as no stone was unturned to always achieve 100% compliance working with the Ohio State Attorney General's Office, ensuring department compliance and quality assurance.

Additionally, Captain Carris bolstered department morale by routinely and consistently spending time with rangers in the field. Captain Carris will always and is forever to be remembered for coining the phrase "Summit Metro Park Rangers are ambassadors, helping park visitors have a safe and enjoyable park visit".

The distinctive accomplishments of Captain Carris reflect credit upon himself, the ranger department and Summit Metro Parks. You are to be commended for all your efforts, and it has been the utmost honor and pleasure for me to know and work with you. Sincerely, Douglas J. Shepard.



- On February 27, Ranger Joe Gonser led a group of 8th graders at Barberton Middle School through some of the duties of a park ranger including report writing, as part of the Summit Metro Parks Ranger Department Explorers Program. Students were given a mock criminal scenario and asked to write a report to reflect the incident, which was then graded by the ranger staff.
- On February 21, Ranger Kelly Brown was at Highland Elementary School in Stow as part of the Bull Dog Boyz program, describing to 4th grade boys what it's like to be a park ranger, and discussing future opportunities about our Summit Metro Parks Ranger Department Explorers Program.

2025 MONTHLY WORK FORCE REPORT, SUMMIT METRO PARKS

	JAN	FEB	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Full Time Employees, Job Positions													
Accounting/Payroll Manager (1)	1	1											
Accounting/Payroll Specialist (1)	1	1											
Administrative Office Mgr/Executive Asst. (1)	1	1											
Assistant Park Manager (2)	1	1											
Assistant Purchasing Manager (1)	1	1											
Brand Manager (1)	1	1											
Carpenter (1)	1	1											
Chief of Community Engagement (1)	1	1											
Chief of Conservation (1)	1	1											
Chief of Finance (1)	1	1											
Chief of Human Resources & Admin (1)	1	1											
Chief of Marketing & Communications (1)	1	1											
Chief of Operations (1)	1	1											
Chief of Planning (1)	1	1											
Chief of Philanthropy (1)	1	1											
Chief of Rangers (1)	1	1											
Civil Engineer/Construction Supervisor (1)	1	1											
Community Engagement Coordinator (3)	3	3											
Community Engagement Manager (3)	3	3											
Community Engagement Specialists (2)	1	1											
Crew Leader I (9)	9	9											
Crew Leader II (3)	3	3											
Cultural Resource Specialist (1)	1	1											
Customer Service Rep (2)	2	2											
Donor Relations Coordinator (1)	0	0											
Donor Relations Specialist (1)	1	1											
Executive Director (1)	1	1											
Events Specialist (1)	1	1											
Fleet Manager (1)	1	1											
Forestry Crew Leader (1)	1	1											
Forestry Technician (1)	1	1											
Graphic Designer (2)	2	2											
Horticulturalist (1)	1	1											
Human Resources Coordinator (1)	1	1											
Human Resources Manager (1)	0	0											
Interpretive Artist (1)	1	1											
Interpretive Naturalist (6)	6	6											
Landscape Architect (1)	1	1											
Lead Mechanic (1)	1	1											

Lead Naturalist (1)	1	1												
Maintenance/Utility Technician (2)	2	2												
Manager Volunteer Programs (1)	1	1												
Marketing Assistant (1)	1	1												
Marketing & Public Relations Manager (1)	1	1												
Marketing Specialist (1)	1	1												
Mechanic (1)	1	1												
Natural Resources Project Manager (1)	1	1												
Operations Project Manager (2)	2	2												
Operations Service Manager (1)	1	1												
Park Biologist (3)	3	3												
Park Manager I (3)	3	3												
Park Manager II (8)	8	8												
Park Planner (1)	0	0												
Park Ranger (20)	16	16												
Park Technician I (36)	37	37												
Park Technician II (1)	2	2												
Park Technician III (5)	3	3												
Planning & Development Project Manager (1)	1	1												
Purchasing Manager (1)	1	1												
Ranger Captain (1)	1	1												
Ranger Lieutenant (1)	1	1												
Ranger Project Manager (1)	1	1												
Ranger Sergeant (3)	2	2												
Regional Manager (2)	2	2												
Sales Supervisor (1)	1	1												
Supervisor of Cultural Resources (1)	1	1												
Supervisor of Ecological Resources (1)	1	1												
Supervisor of Wildlife Resources (1)	0	0												
Trail Crew Leader (1)	1	1												
Trail Technician (1)	0	0												
Utility Technician (1)	1	1												
Volunteer Coordinator (1)	1	1												
Total Full-Time Hired	157	157												
Total FT Authorized	169	169												
Part-Time, Year Round Employees														
Accounting Specialist (1)	1	1												
Civil Engineer/Construction Supervisor (1)	0	0												
Cultural Resource Specialist (1)	0	0												
Community Engagement Specialist (6)	6	6												
Customer Service Rep (1)	1	1												
Interpretive Naturalist (6)	6	6												
Nature Club Coordinator (1)	1	1												
Park Technician (11)	11	10												
Park Biologist (3)	3	3												
Sales Assistant (2)	2	2												
Watershed Resource Specialist (1)	1	1												
Total Part-Time, Year Round Hired	32	31												
Total PT, YR Authorized	34	34												
Seasonal Employees														
Community Engagement	2	1												
Conservation	3	2												
Operations	5	3												
Total Seasonal Hired	10	6												
Total Seasonal Authorized	104	104												
Casual Employees														
Ranger (5)	1	1												
Visitor Engagement Specialists (0)	0	0												
Total Casual Hired	1	1												
Total Casual Authorized	5	5												
Intern Employees														
Total Interns Hired	0	0												
Total Interns Authorized (9)	9	9												
Grand Total Hired Employees														
Grand Total Employees Authorized	321	321												

Summit Metro Parks

February 27, 2025

I certify approval for payment of the vouchers listed:

Vendor	Description	Net Amount
4 IMPRINT INC	Gift Shop Items and Promotional Giveaways	4,024.34
ABC PORTA THRONES	Portable Restroom Rental	220.00
ACT NOW INC	Maintenance Materials	20.00
AG PRO OHIO LLC	Equipment Supplies	714.18
AIRGAS USA LLC	Maintenance Materials & Supplies	343.97
AKRON BEARING CO INC	Vehicle Supplies	119.76
AKRON LITHO PRINT COMPANY INC	Office Supplies	163.00
AKRON TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT INC	Equipment Supplies	1,362.55
AKRON UNIFORMS	Ranger Uniforms	193.96
ALCO CHEM INC	Cleaning & Sanitary Supplies	1,876.47
AMERICAN PRINTING INC	Green Islands Printing	9,237.00
ANTHEM LIFE INSURANCE CO	Life Insurance	408.99
APEX ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO INC	Maintenance Supplies	1,078.54
APPLE INC	Computer Equipment	129.00
ARBORWEAR LLC	Protective Apparel	179.96
GIS SOLUTIONS INC	Computer Software	1,904.50
ARS VIDEO INC	Scanning & Archiving Service	142.78
ART X LOVE LLC	Gift Shop Items	416.00
ARTSNOW	Technical Assistance Agreement	12,000.00
ASKEW, REYNA CORRIN	Conference Reimbursement	410.88
AUSTIN IGNITION COMPANY	Vehicle Supplies	146.98
AUTOZONE PARTS INC	Vehicle Supplies	389.97
BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION BUREAU LLC	Background Checks	19.45
BAIN ENTERPRISES	Maintenance Materials	2,511.80
BAKER VEHICLE SYSTEMS INC	Vehicle & Equipment Supplies	383.33
BASIC BENEFITS LLC	FSA & COBRA Administration	323.39
BG ENGINEERING GROUP LLC	Boundary Survey	660.00
BIRDTOWN ADVENTURES LLC	Program Supplies	169.60
BRIGHT IDEA SHOPS LLC	Maintenance Materials	3,831.24
BUCKEYE UNIFORMS INC	Uniforms	259.47
BUCKINGHAM DOOLITTLE & BURROUGHS	Legal Services	2,512.50
BZ MOORE INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY INC	Maintenance Materials	5.97
MMEL SAW COMPANY INC	Tool Repairs	285.96
CITY OF AKRON	Water & Sewer Service	1,674.07
CITY OF AURORA	Water & Sewer Service	119.28
CITY OF BARBERTON	Water Service	28.45
CITY OF CLEVELAND	Water Service	136.05
CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS	Water & Electric Service	871.57
CITY OF HUDSON	Electric Service	13.47
CITY OF MUNROE FALLS	Water Service	74.50

Summit Metro Parks

February 27, 2025

I certify approval for payment of the vouchers listed:

CITY OF STOW	Water Service	32.98
CITY OF TALLMADGE	Water Service	296.98
CLEVELAND FREIGHTLINER INC	Dump Trucks	229,932.00
CLEVELAND VICON CO INC	Maintenance Materials	3,455.00
COLUMBUS EQUIPMENT COMPANY	Equipment Rental	15,095.50
COMDOC INC	Copier Service	824.14
COPLEY TOOL RENTAL LLC	Equipment Rental	70.97
CRANDALL CO INC	Vehicle & Equipment Supplies	614.60
CURTIS, EMILY M	Gift Shop Items	369.40
DAYWALT MANAGEMENT LLC	Vehicle Supplies	51.76
DESIGN MANAGEMENT ARCHITECTS INC	Pioneer Shelter Repairs	23,875.00
DLZ OHIO INC	Surveying Services	1,200.00
E & H HARDWARE GROUP LLC	Program Supplies	65.96
EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY	Gas Service	5,703.69
EBERLY EQUIPMENT LLC	Equipment Supplies	12.99
ELIZABETH F SCHUSTER	Strategic Plan	10,831.00
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	Vehicle Lease	46,919.04
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GROUP LLC	Park Master Plans	377.67
EVANS MECHWART HAMBLETON & TILTON INC	Construction Services	3,348.49
EVANS MECHWART HAMBLETON & TILTON INC	Valley View Bridge Design	19,228.92
E-VOLVE CREATIVE GROUP LLC	Website Services	15,526.00
E-VOLVE CREATIVE GROUP LLC	Website Development	1,400.50
FALLS FLAG & BANNER	Maintenance Materials	85.95
FAMOUS DISTRIBUTION INC	Maintenance Materials	966.02
FASTENAL COMPANY	Maintenance Materials	32.46
FECHKO EXCAVATING LLC	Towpath Trail Bridge Replacement	78,686.10
FIRST COMMUNICATIONS LLC	Phone & Internet Services	6,349.33
FISHER AUTO PARTS INC	Vehicle Supplies	39.23
FOLKMANIS INC	Gift Shop Items	763.82
FRANCOTYP-POSTALIA INC	Postage Meter Rental	288.00
FRED MARTIN MOTOR COMPANY	Vehicle Supplies	615.20
FRED W ALBRECHT GROCERY COMPANY	Program Supplies	91.55
GENTLEWAY INSTITUTE	Community Engagement Training	2,250.00
GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	Vehicle & Equipment Supplies	841.45
GLOBAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY INC	Maintenance Materials	101.79
GOLD CREST DISTRIBUTING LLC	Gift Shop Items	1,332.59
HARTVILLE HARDWARE INC	Maintenance Materials	127.10
HZW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS LLC	Environmental Site Assessment	2,805.00
IDEASTREAM	Advertising	1,110.00
INDEPENDENCE OFFICE AND BUSINESS SUPPLY CO INC	Maintenance Supplies	1,917.60
JABEBO LLC	Gift Shop Items	1,936.00
JD WILLIAMSON CONSTRUCTION CO INC	Freedom Trail Project	20,920.00

Summit Metro Parks

February 27, 2025

I certify approval for payment of the vouchers listed:

JTI INC	Equipment Supplies	849.98
KAMM STAR CONTRACTORS LLC	HVAC Maintenance	1,499.00
KASTNER WESTMAN & WILKINS LLC	Legal Services	3,403.00
KEEN COMMUNICATIONS LLC	Gift Shop Items	707.04
KEIM CO	Maintenance Materials	1,265.18
KEITH C LUCKS EXTREME TREE SERVICE LLC	Forestry Services	25,000.00
KMF CAR WASH LLC	Vehicle Supplies	600.00
KTS EQUIPMENT INC	Equipment Supplies	166.23
KUBICKI ENTERPRISES INC	Maintenance Supplies	22.97
LEPPO INC	Maintenance Supplies	17.64
M CONLEY CO	Cleaning & Sanitary Supplies	1,830.29
MAGIC GARAGE DOOR INC	Garage Door Repairs	335.00
MANN MARKETING INC	Promotional Giveaways	3,625.00
MARS ELECTRIC CO INC	Maintenance Materials	2,640.36
MCDONALD HOPKINS LLC	Legal Services	8,574.50
CMASER CARR SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Supplies	231.34
MEDICAL MUTUAL OF OHIO	Vision & Hearing Claims & Administration	1,406.03
MIDWEST MOTOR SUPPLY CO INC	Maintenance Supplies	644.23
MURDOCK INDUSTRIAL INC	Equipment Supplies	120.02
NATIONAL LIME & STONE COMPANY	Maintenance Materials	624.68
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT	Sewer Service	58.40
OHIO AFSCME CARE PLAN	Ohio AFSCME Care Plan	944.00
OHIO EDISON CO	Electric Service	24,845.63
OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL	Mobile LEADS Terminal Fee	2,100.00
OLIGER SEED CO	Maintenance Supplies	20.28
OLIGER SEED CO	Program Supplies	74.05
OREILLY AUTO ENTERPRISES LLC	Vehicle & Equipment Supplies	1,276.18
OSBORN ENGINEERING COMPANY	Design Services	1,052.73
OUTDOOR HOME SERVICES HOLDINGS LLC	Maintenance Materials	1,422.96
PIEDMONT PLASTICS INC	Maintenance Materials	499.10
PPG ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES INC	Maintenance Supplies	458.48
PRECISION LASER & INSTRUMENT INC	Maintenance Supplies	131.70
ROBE TECHNOLOGIES LTD	Computer Services & Equipment	30,653.74
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE INDUSTRIES INC	Construction Testing	848.20
PUTNAM, VICTORIA ANN	Travel Expense Reimbursement	600.58
PWD SYSTEMS LLC	Maintenance Supplies	3,492.80
RCR WASTE MANAGEMENT LLC	Composting Service	104.64
REFRIGERATION SALES COMPANY LLC	Maintenance Materials	1,768.21
REPUBLIC SERVICES INC	Disposal Services	1,702.92
RICE OIL COMPANY LLC	Disposal Services	1,741.60
ROBERTSON ENTERPRISES LLC	Maintenance Service	100.00
ROBERTSON HEATING SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	136.04

Summit Metro Parks

February 27, 2025

I certify approval for payment of the vouchers listed:

DHR, RYAN CHRISTOPHER	Wildlife Management	300.00
ROLLINS INC	Exterminating Service	721.38
RUEGG, KEVIN RONALD	Training Reimbursement	68.81
SACKMANN STAMP AND STENCIL CO INC	Program Supplies	975.00
SANTMYER ENERGY INC	Fuel Service	23,824.79
SECURITAS ELECTRONIC SECURITY INC	Security Monitoring Services	19,511.64
SHERWIN WILLIAMS CO	Maintenance Supplies	91.25
SMITH, CAROL A	Gift Shop Items	96.00
SMITH, LINDSAY MARGARET	Conference Reimbursement	59.00
SOCIAL DEPT LLC	Gift Shop Items	877.50
SOHARS ALL SEASON MOWER SERVICE INC	Equipment Supplies	2,433.26
STANWADE METAL PRODUCTS INC	Maintenance Materials	450.40
SUMMA HEALTH SYSTEM	Annual Audiometric Testing	736.00
SUMMA HEALTH SYSTEM	Employee Drug Screens	209.00
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Regional Radio System	2,814.17
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Sewer Service	550.96
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Real Estate Taxes & Assessments	157,062.10
JMMIT IT SOLUTIONS INC	Computer Services	362.50
SUMMIT METRO PARKS	Visa & FSA Reimbursement Check	51,465.56
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	Dental Claims & Administration	5,052.90
TERRY LUMBER & SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	142.08
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC	Wireless Service	3,336.84
VILLAGE OF RICHFIELD	Sewer Service	753.78
VISUAL EDGE IT INC	Copier Service & Toner	3,253.79
W W GRAINGER INC	Maintenance Supplies & Materials	846.62
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF OHIO INC	Disposal Services	1,562.21
WERTZ GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING INC	Construction Monitoring	3,004.00
WEST PUBLISHING CORP	Ranger Software	215.25
WHOLLY FRIJOLES MEXICAN STREET FOOD	Employee Appreciation	500.00
WILBERTS AUTO PARTS NE OHIO LLC	Vehicle Supplies	125.00
WINSUPPLY AKRON OH CO	Maintenance Materials	588.51
ZIEGLER TIRE & SUPPLY CO	Equipment Supplies	141.52
ZOLLINGER SAND & GRAVEL CO	Maintenance Materials	344.62
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CINCINNATI	Native Plant Management	4,800.00
		964,725.88

Nimisila Reservoir Metro Park

Campground Operation

2024 Report



Prepared by: Park Manager Jon Schoblocher

Summary

The 2024 camping season started June 1, 2024, and ended December 31, 2024. The campground was closed January 1st till May 31st for the electrical upgrades project.

Improvements increased the number of electric sites to **18** versus 6, replaced aging infrastructure, added new lighting to all restrooms, and new lighting and electric outlets to the C4 shelter.

The Nimisila Campground consists of a total of 29 campsites (**18** electric and 11 non-electric), four grey water disposal stations, four restroom facilities, a dump station, playground, basketball court, boat launch and camp office.

The Firestone Metro Park crew operates and maintains the campground. The Camp Attendant is the only staff dedicated to the campground and operates the camp office. The camp office was open Fridays and Saturdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day to assist campers and sell firewood.

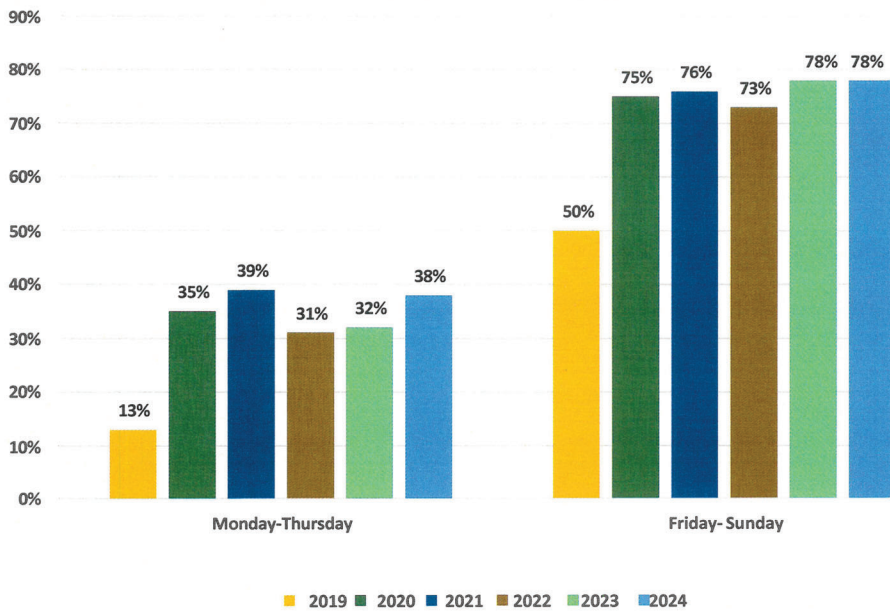
Overall, we continue to see a positive trend. The campground was heavily used on the weekends and visitors prefer electric sites compared to non-electric. Camping rates will be increased for the 2025 season. Rates will increase 5% for non-electric sites and 10% for electric sites.

2024 Camping Rates

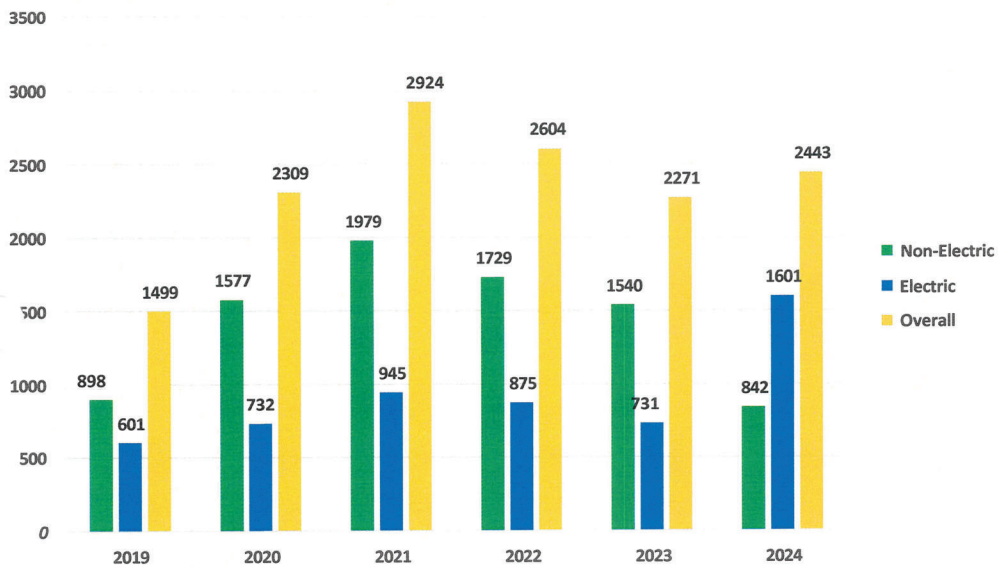
Peak Season 5/1/22-10/31/22	Non-electric sites	Electric sites
Monday - Thursday	\$25	\$30
Friday - Sunday & Holidays	\$30	\$35
Off Season 11/1/24-12/31/24	Non-electric sites	Electric sites
Monday - Thursday	\$20.00	\$25.00
Friday - Sunday & Holidays	\$20.00	\$25.00
Discount		
Golden Buckeye Discount 25% off Monday-Thursday		

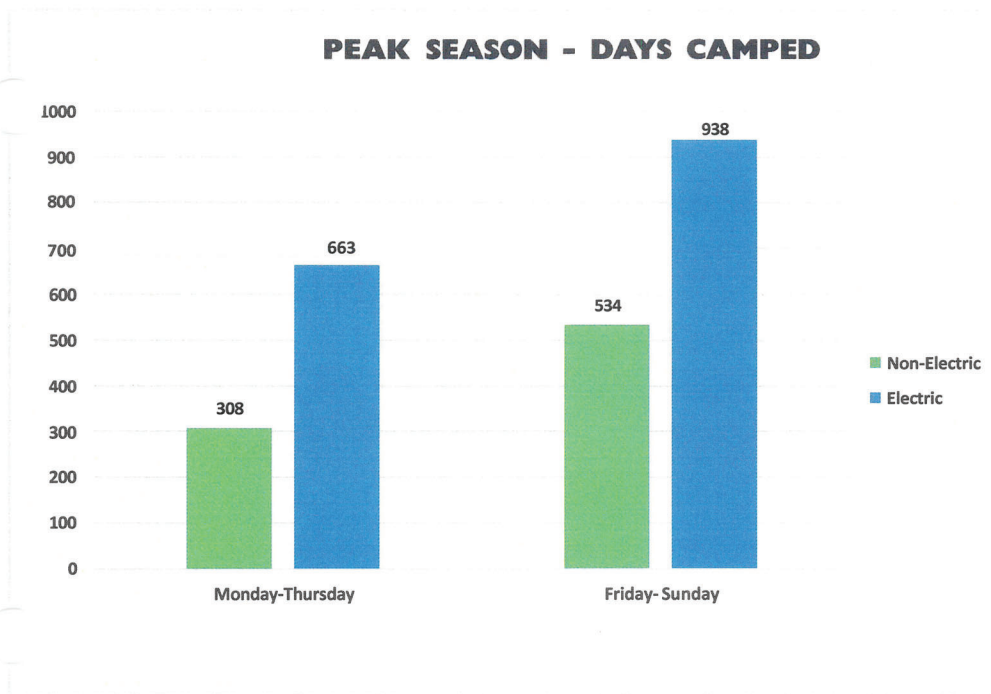
PEAK SEASON

PEAK SEASON - OVERALL USAGE 6/1/2024-10/31/2024



PEAK SEASON - DAYS CAMPED 6/1/2024-10/31/2024

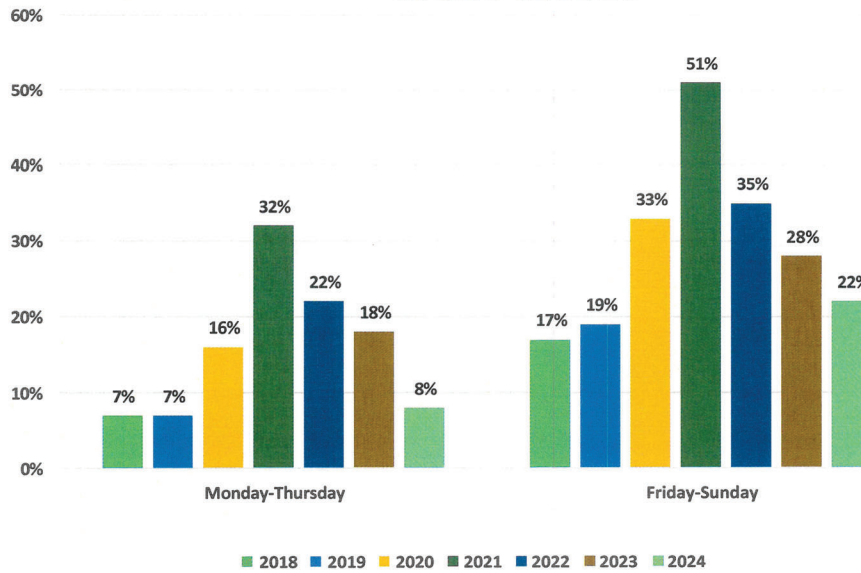




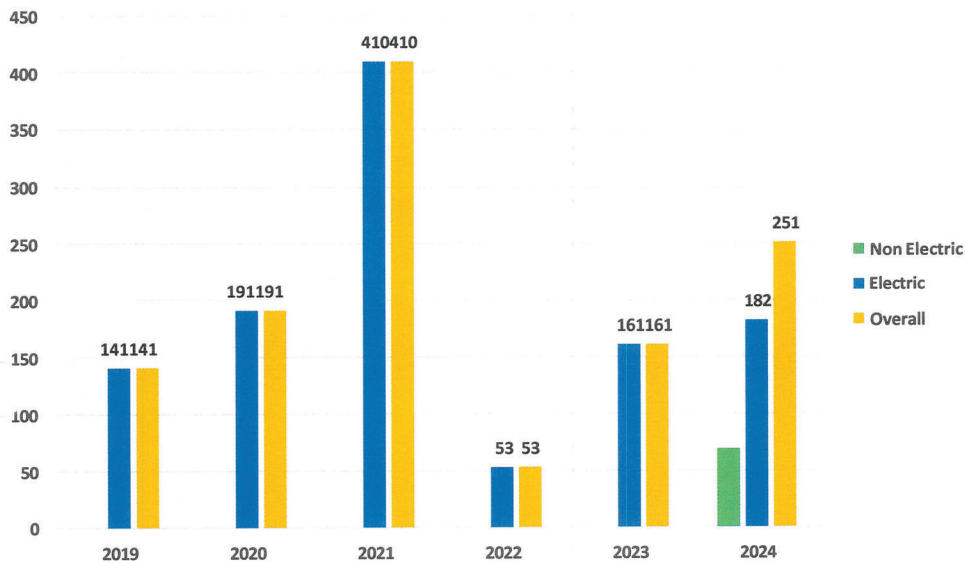
*Data only for 2024 since the number of electric sites increase from 6 to 18 and switch reservation system.

OFF SEASON

OFF SEASON OVERALL USAGE 11/1/24-12/31/24



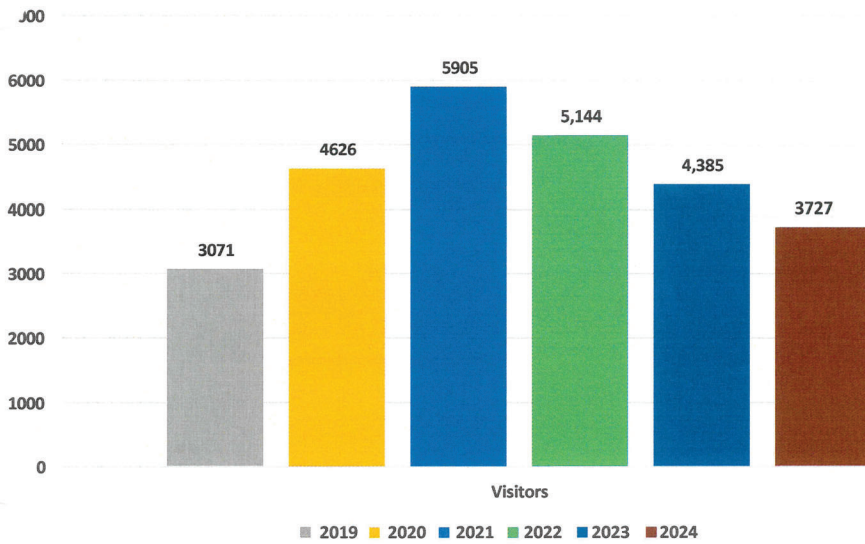
OFF SEASON DAYS CAMPED



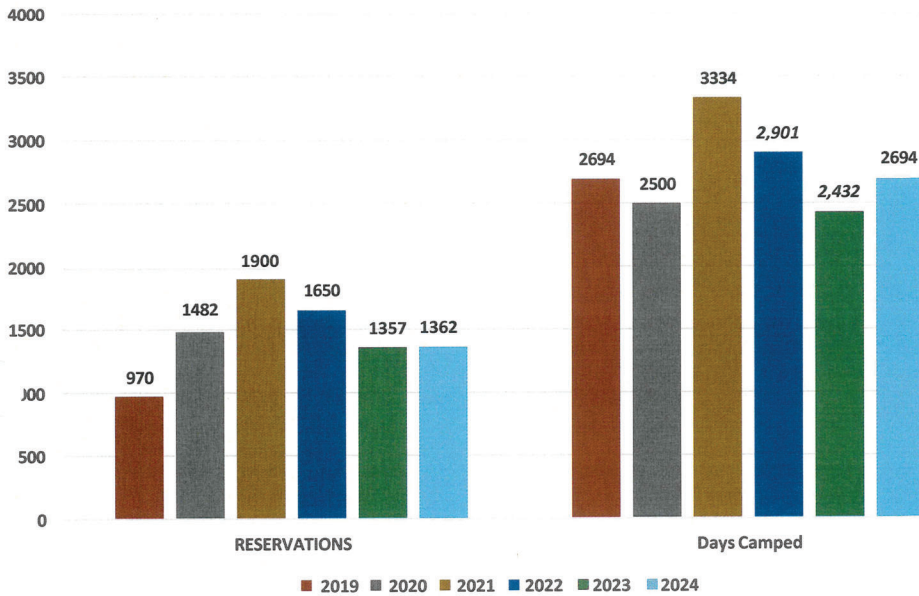
**61 days available in 2024 due to electric improvements. Only electric sites were reservable 2019-2023.

OVERALL

VISITATION



TOTAL RESERVATIONS



SUMMIT METRO PARKS

2024  *Annual Report to the Community*

New and improved

In 2024, we committed to improving the visitor experience with several updates throughout the park district. Crews added



electric to 12 sites at Nimisila Campground, replaced aging infrastructure and made several lighting and electrical upgrades, as well. We also opened a beautiful wedding

suite at Himelright Lodge and Parours Trails received new signage and exercise stations in both Goodyear Heights and Sand Run Metro Parks.

Inclusion and nature education

Continuing our focus on the *Wild Back Yards* initiative, community engagement



staff delivered hundreds of free programs with many focused on native plants and our ecosystem. Staff also delivered 115 outreach programs and added inter-

actives to exhibits in our nature centers to serve people with varying abilities. We added "sensory break bags" to our visitors and nature centers, as well.

Unearthing the past and future preservation

Our conservation team regularly monitors ecological health, including removal of



invasive species. A total of 800 sites were surveyed in 2024 and three new plant species were noted that have never been recorded in the district: crane fly orchid, large

whorled pogonia and American wintergreen. Our cultural resources division continued fieldwork on a precontact Indigenous site and work will continue in 2025 at this historically significant site. ●


Return TO NATURE



Summit Metro Parks has connected people to nature for more than 100 years. In 2024, we completed work on a connection that has been nearly a century in the making when we dedicated the final phase of restoration work at the *Valley*

View Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park in Akron, made possible through \$1.3 million in funds raised by the Summit Metro Parks Foundation. With this park area's award-winning return to nature, we also celebrated new ways to help people enjoy the landscape through a river access point on the Cuyahoga, an open-air shelter, spacious restrooms, stunning native gardens, a natural play space and two new hiking trails.

Conservation remained central to our work when we completed the conversion of the *East End of Sand Run Parkway* to an extension of the popular *Jogging Trail*, which created not only more recreation opportunities but also allowed us to enhance the area's wetlands and native plantings to benefit wildlife.

Thank you for valuing greenspace and the treasures we share stewardship of in Summit Metro Parks. 



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- OPRA 3rd Place – *Valley View*: A park area nearly 100 years in the making
- Akron-Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau Zenith Awards – Best Photo Op (*Springfield Bog Metro Park*) • Chairman's Award, Executive Director Lisa King
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Best maintained dam statewide (*Silver Creek Metro Park*)

Summit  Metro Parks

| 1

Summit Metro Parks

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr. *Chair*
Joel D. Bailey
S. Theresa Carter
Herb Newman
Jill M. Stritch
Lisa M. King *Executive Director*

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron, OH 44313
330-867-5511

By the Numbers –

Approx. **5.1 MILLION** total visits
89,273 visitors/nature center visits
23,446 visitors assisted by customer service
36,403 visitors assisted by rangers
14,139 participants in **780** programs
18,757 service hours contributed by **926** volunteers
eight park district projects funded by the SMP Foundation



summitmetroparks.org

Ohio's Second Oldest Metropolitan Park District

Established in 1921, Summit Metro Parks has been Your Back Yard for more than 100 years. The park district manages more than 16,000 acres throughout 16 parks, two nature centers, one visitors center and over 150 miles of trails, including 22 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Learn more at summitmetroparks.org.

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2024 ANNUAL REPORT

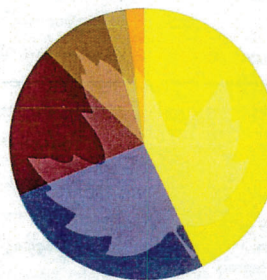
Financial Summary

2024 RESOURCES \$28,284,717

Property Taxes \$24,283,920
Intergovernmental Revenue \$2,021,509
Other Revenue \$1,039,179
Charges for Services & Merchandise \$940,109



TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$29,972,452



Wages & Benefits \$12,935,175
Development & Capital Improvements \$7,922,543
Supplies, Materials & Services \$5,252,690
Health Care \$2,357,389
Other Expenses \$874,513
Grant Outlay \$629,942

Grant outlay may exceed grants received in any given year as reimbursement periods vary.

* Summit Metro Parks | Grant Support

• AMATS TASA Funds – Middlebury Road Connector Trail project (only partially used in 2024, remaining in 2025) • Clean Ohio – Sand Run Stream Restoration • Clean Ohio – Sand Run East End Restoration Project • National Park Service – ODNR – LWCF – Valley View Riverfront • Ohio & Erie Canalway Association – Towpath Trail Improvements • Ohio Attorney General – Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTA) Continue Professional Training (CPT) training funds • Ohio Dept. of Public Safety – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Sand Run Restoration • Summit County Community – Sand Run East End Project • Summit County Community Grant – Sand Run East End project

Summit Metro Parks Foundation | Grant Support

• John A. McAlonan Fund of Akron Community Foundation • William C. and Betty J. Zekan Fund of Akron Community Foundation • Akron Garden Club Centennial Gift to the Akron Community • Albrecht Family Foundation & Acme Fresh Market • The Allstate Foundation • The Andrea Rose Teodosio Memorial Foundation • Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund • Lisle M. Buckingham Endowment Fund at Akron Community Foundation • Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, Cleveland Fund • Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs Charitable Fund of Stark Community Foundation • Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs Fund of Akron Community Foundation • FirstEnergy Foundation • Howard Atwood Family Fund of Akron Community Foundation • Hudson Garden Club • The Lehner Family Foundation • Logsdon Family Foundation • Synthomer Foundation

Summit Metro Parks & Summit Metro Parks Foundation | Sponsorships

• Acme Fresh Market Foundation • Buckingham • Cleveland Clinic Akron General & Cleveland Clinic Children's • Country Maid Ice Cream & Orchard • Davey Tree Expert Co. • Goodyear Hunting & Fishing Club • House of Plants, Inc. • Ohio Department of Natural Resources • Roetzel & Andress • Rubber City Reuse • Sylvan Learning of Twinsburg • The Nightlight • Vertical Runner, Vince Rucci, Owner • Wayside Furniture • Western Reserve Hospital • YellowLite