

AGENDA
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SUMMIT METRO PARKS
February 10, 2026

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of January 13, 2026 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 Advertise for Bids for the F. A Seiberling Nature Realm Shelter Area
 - C. Authorization to Apply for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program Grant for Munroe Falls Metro Park – Freedom Trail Connector
 - D. Authorization to Contract for the Second Structure at the Central Maintenance Facility
 - E. Authorization to Bid District Wide Restroom Replacement for O'Neil Woods and Sand Run Metro Parks
 - F. Authorization to Participate in Regional Pavement Striping Program
 - G. Authorization to Advertise for Bids on Paving and Drainage Improvements in Sand Run Metro Park
7. Unfinished/Old Business & New Business
8. Correspondence & Public Portion
9. Executive Session
10. Future Board Meeting Dates/Adjourn

February 10, 2026

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, February 10, 2026, 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 Herbert Newman, 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 Herb Newman, Chair, Joel D. Bailey, First Vice-Chair, Jill M. Stritch, Second Vice-Chair, S. Theresa Carter, Member, and Lisa M. King, Executive Director. Also in attendance were Jen Harvey, Mike Johnson, Dee Falconer, Lindsay Smith, Aaron Hockman, Mark Szeremet, Angie Hardman, Josh Hamblen, Alex Daw, Jon Schoblocher, Claire Merrick, Julie Guenther, Kevin Williams, Dave Kamps, Bruce Taylor and Becca Ritterspach.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF JANUARY 13, 2026 PREVIOUS BOARD MINUTES

Resolution 12.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the minutes of the January 13, 2026, board meeting were approved. The previous minutes were emailed for the Commissioners' review.

The vote being:	Herbert Newman	Aye
	Joel D. Bailey	Aye
	Jill M. Stritch	Aye
	Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr.	Absent
	S. Theresa Carter	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 13.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Ms. Carter, seconded by Ms. Stritch, 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:

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

A. RATIFICATION OF BILLS PAID

OPERS	January 2026	\$212,822.87
Medicare	January 2026	\$20,498.86
Interim Bills	January 31, 2026	\$1,224,813.65
Payroll	January 2, 2026	\$450,988.67
Payroll	January 16, 2026	\$520,356.89
Payroll	January 30, 2026	\$468,818.22
TOTAL	BALANCE	\$2,898,299.16

Resolution 14.2026

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

B. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM SHELTER AREA

A bid package has been assembled for the site development and open shelter installation at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm.

Construction plans have been prepared to remove an existing paver walkway, perform earthwork and drainage improvements, installation of a prefabricated wooden shelter, new concrete walkway, water fountain, portable toilet pad, landscaping and park amenities. The shelter will provide a location to gather school groups, hold naturalist programs, and the public can enjoy. The site will be ADA accessible.

The estimated cost for the work totals \$200,000. Once bid prices are received from contractors, planning staff will review bids and select the most qualified contractor with the lowest and best bid. Authorization to award the project will be sought at a future Board meeting.

The Executive Director requested authorization to advertise for bids for the site renovation and open shelter installation at F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm.

Resolution 15.2026

The Executive Director was authorized to advertise for bids for the site renovation and open shelter installation at F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm.

C. AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT FOR MUNROE FALLS METRO PARK – FREEDOM TRAIL CONNECTOR

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) distributes Federal Highway Administration reimbursement grant funds through its Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for the purposes of advancing recreational trail projects. The maximum amount that can be requested is 80% of a project’s total cost, up to \$150,000. The remaining 20% must be funded from non-Federal sources. Applications are due March 16, 2026, and require authorization from the Board of Park Commissioners to file an application and to obligate funds to satisfactorily complete the project in combination with RTP grant funds and any other funds. Notice of awarded funding will be announced in fall 2026.

The Executive Director requested authorization to apply for \$150,000 in RTP grant funds for construction of the Munroe Falls Metro Park – Freedom Trail Connector project. The project consists of a

0.25-mile, fully ADA compliant, 10-foot-wide paved multi-purpose trail that connects Munroe Falls Metro Park and the Freedom Trail; estimated to cost \$550,000.

The Executive Director requested authorization to obligate Capital Funds to satisfactorily complete the project if RTP grant funds are awarded; estimated to be \$400,000 if the maximum \$150,000 in RTP grant funds is awarded.

In addition to RTP grant funds, \$200,000 was requested in Summit Metro Park Foundation grant funds for the same project, which is currently under review with notice of awarded funding to be announced in spring/summer 2026. In the event these Foundation grant funds are awarded, only an estimated \$200,000 in Capital Funds will be needed to satisfactorily complete the project.

In the event neither RTP nor Foundation grant funds are awarded, construction of the project is anticipated to occur regardless in spring 2027 using an estimated \$550,000 to be included in the 2027 capital budget.

Resolution 16.2026

Executive Director was authorized to apply for \$150,000 in Recreational Trails Program grant funds through ODNR for construction of the Munroe Falls Metro Park – Freedom Trail Connector project, and that Lisa M. King, Executive Director, is an authorized representative to sign all required documents on behalf of Summit Metro Parks.

Executive Director was authorized to obligate capital budget funds to complete the Munroe Falls Metro Park – Freedom Trail Connector project in addition to any awarded Recreational Trails Program grant funds providing the required minimum 20% of the project's total cost using non-Federal sources.

D. AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR THE SECOND STRUCTURE AT THE CENTRAL MAINTENANCE FACILITY

The Central Maintenance Facility includes two buildings, one currently under construction and the second that is currently occupied by Puzzle Creative Solutions, who have a lease that ends March 2027, which we intend to renovate and include in the overall plan for moving the existing Service Center operations, personnel and managers.

A proposal for full design and construction services for the "Puzzle" building was received from Richard L. Bowen + Associates INC. in December 2025 for this work.

The Executive Director requested authorization to enter a contract with Richard L. Bowen + Associates INC. for planning, engineering, design, assembling construction documents, permitting, bidding assistance, and construction administration for the Central Maintenance Facility – Puzzle Building at 465 South Broadway Street. The work would be performed on an hourly basis and will not exceed \$161,000.

Resolution 17.2026

The Executive Director was authorized to enter a contract with Richard L. Bowen + Associates INC. for planning, engineering, design, assembling construction documents, permitting, bidding assistance, and construction administration for the Central Maintenance Facility – Puzzle Building at 465 South Broadway Street. The work would be performed on an hourly basis and will not exceed \$161,000.

E. AUTHORIZATION TO BID DISTRICT WIDE RESTROOM REPLACEMENT FOR O'NEIL WOODS AND SAND RUN METRO PARKS

Due to deterioration, maintenance, and location issues, many of our existing free-standing vault restrooms need replaced. Staff plans to replace two restrooms with our standard, pre-fabricated models and construct ADA updates at O'Neil Woods Metro Park and Sand Run Metro Park – Old Portage Area.

The two restroom buildings have been purchased and are in production for both sites. The estimated cost for each site, including contingency, is below:

O'Neil Woods Metro Park -	\$180,000.00
Sand Run Metro Park -	\$370,000.00
Total Cost -	\$550,000.00

Once bid pricing is received from contractors, planning staff will review bids and select the most qualified contractor with the lowest and best bid. Authorization to award the project will be sought at a future Board meeting.

The Executive Director requested authorization to advertise for bids for the installation and site construction of the restrooms and trailheads located at O'Neil Woods Metro Park and Sand Run Metro Park – Old Portage Area. The total estimated cost for construction of the two sites, including contingency is \$550,000.00.

Resolution 18.2026

The Executive Director was authorized to advertise for bids for the installation and site construction of the restrooms and trailheads located at O'Neil Woods Metro Park and Sand Run Metro Park – Old Portage Area. The total estimated cost for construction of the two sites, including contingency is \$550,000.00.

F. AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL PAVEMENT STRIPING PROGRAM

SMP operations department personnel regularly maintain our roadways throughout the park district. To increase the park district's buying power, we would like to enter into an agreement with the Summit County Engineer's Office.

This agreement allows the park district to participate in the Regional Pavement Striping Program. This program bundles smaller projects which are then bid on by multiple contractors yielding lower competitive prices. The engineer's value for the work proposed in 2026 would not exceed \$40,000 for pavement work across the county.

This agreement would designate the County of Summit as the lead agency for administration of competitive bidding and Summit Metro Parks as the lead agency for construction design and construction administration for the work.

The Executive Director requested authorization to participate in the County Pavement Striping Program.

Resolution 19.2026

The Executive Director was authorized to participate in the County Pavement Striping Program.

G. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS ON PAVING AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN SAND RUN METRO PARK

The pavement on Sand Run Parkway has aged and deteriorated and now needs resurfacing. Several culverts need to be replaced to maintain proper drainage and prolong the life of the pavement.

Construction plans and bidding documents have been prepared for public bidding. The engineer's value for this work is approximately \$1,300,000. Once bid pricing is received from contractors, planning staff will review bids and select the most qualified contractor with the lowest and best bid. Authorization to award the project will be sought at a future Board meeting.

The Executive Director requested authorization to advertise the Sand Run Metro Park 2026 Paving Project for public bidding with an estimated cost of \$1,300,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total cost not to exceed \$1,430,000.

Resolution 20.2026

The Executive Director was authorized to advertise the Sand Run Metro Park 2026 Paving Project for public bidding with an estimated cost of \$1,300,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total cost not to exceed \$1,430,000.

ITEM 7: UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Proposed Training Facility on Eastwood Road

Training Facility - Headquarters/Office, Parking, Future Additions Layout





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 21.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Ms. Carter, seconded by Mr. Bailey, that the Board of Park Commissioners adjourn to executive session.

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

Resolution 22.2026

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

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

The Board returned to open session.

Resolution 23.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Ms. Stritch, and seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Executive Director was authorized to offer the mutually beneficial plan and lease to Attorney Davis in response to his letter dated December 4, 2025.

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

ITEM 10: FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

- Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. – Liberty Park Nature Center
- Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm (*Foundation*)
- Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm (*Foundation*)
- Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm (*Foundation*)
- Tuesday, December 8, 2026 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 10th day of February, 2026.


Herbert Newman, Chair

Lisa M. King, Executive Director

True copies emailed to all Commissioners on February 13, 2026.

ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

	North Region	Central Region	South Region
	Liberty Park Nature Center LP, WH, DLQ, FR, B&H	F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm SR, ONW, HH, CV, MF, G	Summit Lake Nature Center GYH, F, SFB, SC, NR
Number of Programs	19	28	20
Registration Programs	2	6	4
Program Attendance	379	837	284
Phone Calls	102	201	43
Building Visitation	994	2,086	479

Region Highlights:

Even as the temperatures dropped and the snow fell, January was a season of growth and renewal for community engagement, especially in the South region. During our in-service training week, seven CE staff members traveled to Glass City Metropark in Toledo, Ohio to meet with their programming team and learn how they have created an urban metro park that is a destination for recreators both in the adjacent neighborhoods and across the county. We gained valuable insights that we look forward to sharing with our colleagues to further enhance our programming. This month, we are doing lots of work internally to develop programming for the rest of the year, including setting our yearly schedules for recreational programs (ex. kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, cycling, camping etc.) and brainstorming new interpretive programs.



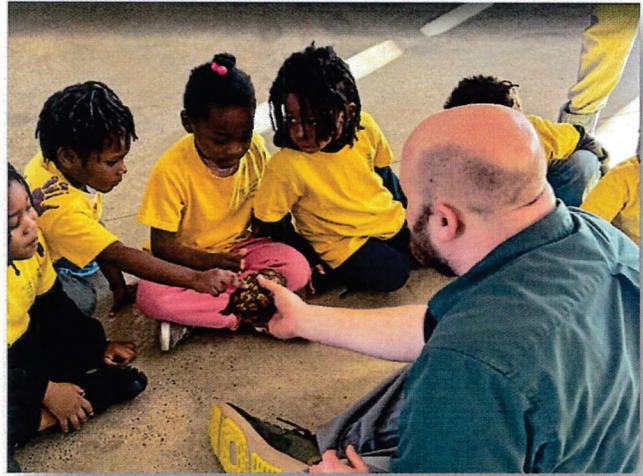
In January, we are thrilled to see the return of Coffee with the Birds, a weekly wintertime series that offers a chance to observe the birds from the comfort of the Lakeview room at Summit Lake Nature Center, with warm beverages, naturalist insights, and camaraderie with fellow birders. This month at SLNC, we held five Coffee with the Birds programs reaching 104 participants.

As we are in year one of our new strategic plan, we are exploring the new goals and strategies set forth and looking for opportunities to reach those goals. Community engagement will be very involved in the planning and implementation of Goal 3: Connect People & Nature. To help us reach that goal, the South team is exploring ways to reach new audiences. This year we are launching a new teen recreation camp which will launch during the Akron Public Schools' Spring Break. We are also seeking new outreach and visit opportunities.

What's Next

Help spread the word! Know a Summit County school or community group that would enjoy a visit to one of our nature centers—or a nature program brought to their site? Send them to the Program Request Form on our website, or invite them to stop by a nature center, where we can share a QR code for easy access.

The next few months in Community Engagement are all about planning for summer programs and gearing up for the school group season. At Liberty Park, it's also officially maple season! CE and Operations staff will soon be tapping trees near the nature center as we prepare for a full month of maple syrup-themed programming in March. Meanwhile, F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm will be unveiling an exciting new exhibit in the former pond exhibit space—stay tuned!



**

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Wheelock Cuyahoga Acres- candidate for National Register of Historic Places

Exciting News- on January 30, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) formally recommended that Summit Metro Parks pursue a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing for Wheelock Cuyahoga Acres (WCA) in Cascade Valley Metro Park. SHPO agreed with cultural resources staff that the landscape should qualify for the NRHP as an archaeological district under two criteria, A and D.

To qualify under Criteria D the site must have the potential to reveal more valuable archaeological information. It qualifies under Criteria D because all the material cultural features along Honeywell Drive can be conclusively associated with households identified in the historic record and speak directly to the unique experiences of these families thanks to its preservation within SMP. This heritage has been otherwise lost in Akron due to urban renewal and the Innerbelt highway that destroyed its historic Black neighborhoods.

For a site to qualify under Criteria A it must be tied to a significant event or pattern of events in American history and archaeological districts rarely qualify under this criterion. WCA qualifies for two reasons. First, it is associated with the *Great Migration* period, when thousands of African Americans relocated from the South to industrial cities from 1914 into the 1970s. This was the largest internal movement of Americans in United States history and continues to shape the nation today. Secondly, it is a rare example of a Black marronage site in the 20th century. This lifestyle has been a method of Black resistance since the enslavement period and is based in self-sufficiency, rural isolation, mutual aid, and radical community building. No other such sites have been identified or preserved in Summit County, and few are known to exist in the industrial Midwest.

Cultural resources' research with the collaboration of WCA families demonstrates the value of conducting community-based archaeology in our parks because it has the unique ability to meaningfully introduce park users to an overlooked, and often undervalued past. Being able to tangibly relate to the lives of these families and their powerful pursuit of their American Dream allows us to better comprehend past events and connect those experiences to our own lives and the lives of our fellow community members.

CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT

January

Calls: 920

Visitors: 127

HUMAN RESOURCES

New Hires

Kevin Williams

Police Captain

Postings:

1/20/2026

Supervisor of Wildlife Resources

Human Resources Coordinator

1/6/2026

Crew Leader I – F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm

Park Technician I – Liberty Park

Seasonals

Roberts, Carson

Rehire

Conservation Maintenance

Applegate, Lauren

End of Season

Maintenance

Volunteer Program

- Recruitment
 - The interest of prospective volunteers was expressed within our volunteer sign up at summitmetroparks.org/volunteer.aspx.
- Impact
 - The volunteer department has hosted 3 profile parties to assist volunteers in getting set up in Vome. A team of eight volunteers have assisted as Vome guides, walking fellow volunteers through the process and answering questions. They provided calm and knowledgeable presence while giving one-on-one attention to individuals.
 - On January 29, Lisa King presented at SMP Lens. She shared updates on what was new and upcoming in 2026 as well as an overview of the new strategic plan.
 - Please see the attached 2025 Impact report:

2025 VOLUNTEER IMPACT REPORT

Hours >

18,420 TOTAL hours contributed

63 Service hours averaged per registered volunteer

Contributors >

794 TOTAL volunteers

34% Contributed on an on-going basis

10% Youth volunteers

24 Service groups

City of Akron, Cleveland Clinic, Enbridge Gas, Firestone High School, FirstEnergy, Hudson High School, Litchfield CLC, Mayfair School, Open Trail Collective, Regal Remord, Summit Construction, Summit Soil & Water Conservation District, The University of Akron and Wayside Furniture
(Groups with most hours in 2025)

Volunteer hours by department of direct supervision

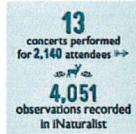


Training	7%
Park Operations / Admin	9%
Community Engagement	11%
Conservation	16%
HR / Volunteer Program	23%
Marketing	34%

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52
volunteer
service events
supported



13
concerts performed
for 2,140 attendees →
4,051
observations recorded
in iNaturalist



15,400
shield packets
assembled for the
FALL HIKING SPREE



3,500
pounds of trash
and 51 tires
removed from
land and waterways



98
Cycling Without Age
adaptive bike
ride passengers
→→



8
acres managed
for invasive and other
non-native plants



More than
1,350
native plants
planted



[Final statistics as of
January 21, 2026]



Summit Metro Parks

summitmetroparks.org

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

- **This February**, the Marketing & Communications department is focused on:
 - Developing the 2026 Fall Hiking Spree's theme, which will focus on interpreting SMP's "conservation success stories"
 - Finalizing the park district and SMP Foundation's annual reports
 - Leading the planning and coordination of several large events including the Akron Home & Garden Show, Kids' Fishing Derby, Mother's Day 5K and Native Plant Festival
- Media coverage in January included mentions or stories in the following outlets: Akron Beacon Journal (single-use plastic bag litter; 2025 photos by Andrew Dolph), Cleveland.com (Summit County Master Gardeners program), Greater Cleveland Sports Commission (USATF Club Cross Country & National Championships), Ideastream (Little Cuyahoga River), Signal Akron (sledding), Spectrum News 1 (Downy Loop Trail closure), West Side Leader (trustee approval for Wild Back Yards training; Wheatley Road bridge repair project; Fairlawn SS4A grant) and WKYC-TV (winter weather at Firestone Metro Park).
- Marketing continues to coordinate with Conservation and Community Engagement to promote the Wild Back Yards initiative as part of our overall sustainability-themed campaign and presence at the Akron Home & Garden show (February 13-15 at the J.S. Knight Center). Staff are preparing to host visitors in an expanded space where displays, interactive elements and plenty of Wild Back Yards resources will be available.
- Paid messages will run through this month to promote winter activities in SMP. In March and April, we'll focus messaging on growing a Wild Back Yard followed by messages to promote our annual May-June Spree for All hiking series.
- Maple Leaf Gifts staff have been working together with Operations staff to discuss some minor updates to the check-out desk area that will improve functionality of the space. Additionally, we've started planning for communications related to the retirement of the U.S penny currency. To start 2026, in January the shop processed more than \$2,600 in sales.

OPERATIONS

Park Areas and Structures

- 2025 Park Statics Summary: Overall visitation 4,622,161. Visitation was down most likely due to the cold and wet spring as well as Sand Run Parkway and Jogging Trail begin closed through July for the retaining wall project. Lodge Rentals: 1,206. Shelter Rentals: 676. Special-Use Permits: 611.
- Nimisila Campground: 2025 was a record-breaking year for Nimisila Campground usage. This was the first full season following our electrical improvements, which tripled the number of electric sites from 6 to 18. Data confirms that the campground remains a premier weekend destination, with a strong visitor preference for the newly upgraded sites. Please refer to the attached report for a detailed breakdown of the season's performance.
- District-wide Christmas Tree Recycling: Our tree recycling program is wrapping up at six locations: Firestone, Furnace Run, Nimisila Reservoir, Goodyear Heights, Sand Run, and Silver Creek Metro Parks. Designated drop-off signs are in place, and we expect to recycle over 500 trees. The resulting mulch will be used for sign landscaping, established trees, and park garden beds.
- District-wide: The annual preventative forestry work is underway and will continue throughout the winter months.
- Staff are working with the planning department to develop plans for Fitzpatrick restroom replacements, Silver Creek and Munroe Falls master plans, Munroe Falls shelter repairs, F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm Shelter, Summit Lake Nature Center lawn area, Sugarbush Trail, Daffodil Trail courtyard improvements, Goodyear Community Garden improvements, Sand Run Parkway culvert replacements and paving.

Trail Improvements

- **Wood Hollow Trail Improvements:** We have begun replacing 2,100 feet of aging boardwalk with a sustainable, natural-surface trail. While the completion date remains weather-dependent, the park remains open. Visitors can access all amenities—including the parking lot, picnic shelter, and restrooms—and utilize open sections of the trail during construction.
- **Bike & Hike Trail Maintenance:** Root pruning between Young Road and Graham Road is complete. Weather permitting, crews are now moving to the section between Kent Road and Darrow Road. To preserve the pavement, staff are utilizing a rock-wheel skid steer attachment to prune roots and prevent future trail damage.
- **Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail:** Staff wrapping up repairing sections of handrail and bridge approaches from Wilbeth Road to Clinton.

Park Activities & Events

- Winter sports areas are open for the 2025-26 season, and the weather has supported them this season!
- Staff will be assisting with set up and tear down of SMP exhibits at the Akron Home and Garden event being held February 13-15.

Training:

- **Ohio Commercial Pesticide Recertification**
Attendees: D. Heffner, J. Schoblocher, J. Carrico, C. Glendenning, B. Gray, A. Huffman, D. Kamps, A. Keys, L. Lorinchack, P. Meeker, and F. Prater
- **Ohio Township Association Winter Conference**
When: February 5
Attendees: B. Eakin, M. Marcum
- **Concrete Expo**
When: February 27
Attendees: J. Porchowsky, M. Thompson

Nimisila Reservoir Metro Park 2025 Campground Report



Prepared by: Park Manager Jon Schoblocher

2025 Campground Summary

The 2025 season (March 1 – Dec 31) marked the first full year following electrical upgrades, which tripled our electric sites from 6 to 18. This investment aligns with a clear visitor preference for electric hookups over non-electric.

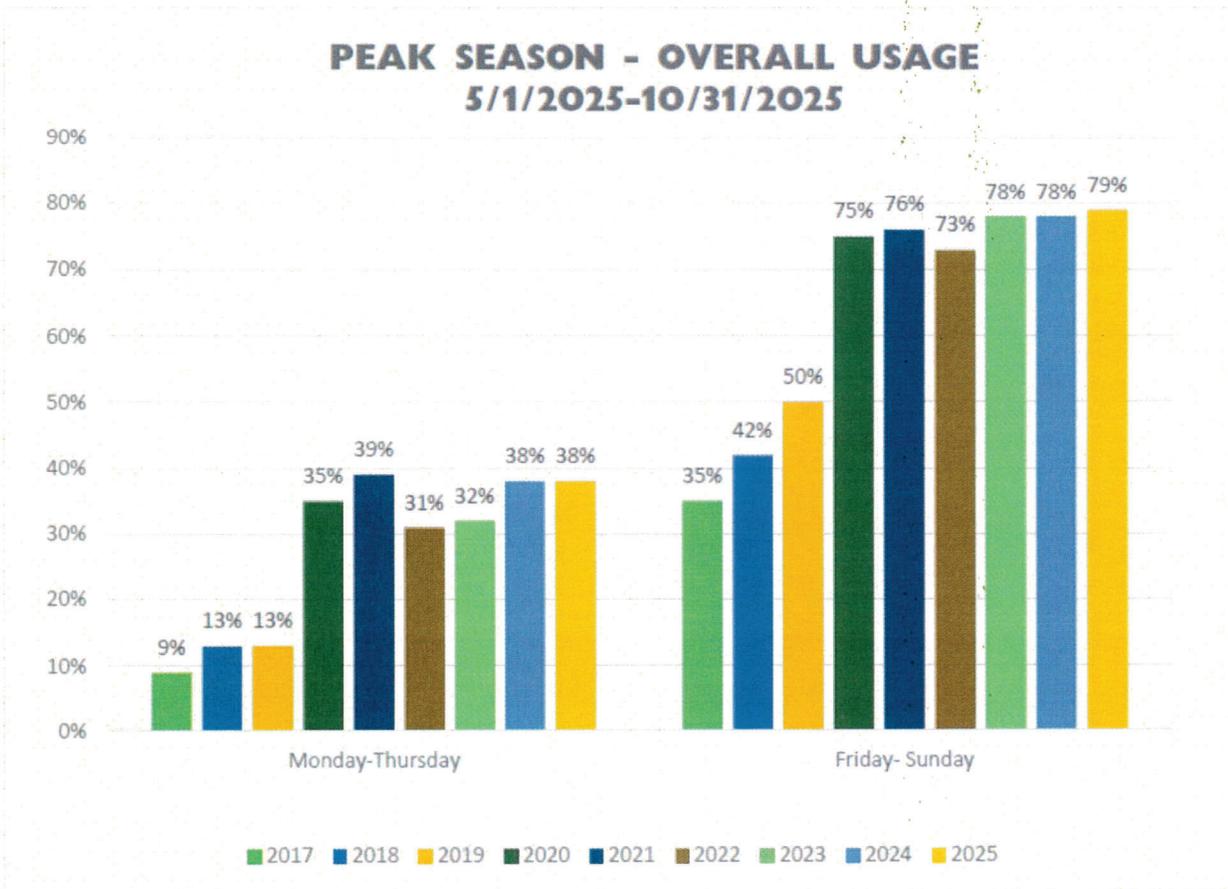
Facilities & Operations:

- **Infrastructure:** 29 total sites (18 electric / 11 non-electric), four restrooms, four grey water stations, a dump station, boat ramp, and various recreational amenities.
- **Staffing:** Maintained by the Firestone Metro Park crew. A dedicated Camp Attendant operated the office on Friday and Saturday from Memorial Day through Labor Day to manage firewood sales and camper needs.
- **Trend:** Weekend usage remains high, showing a sustained positive growth trend for the campground.

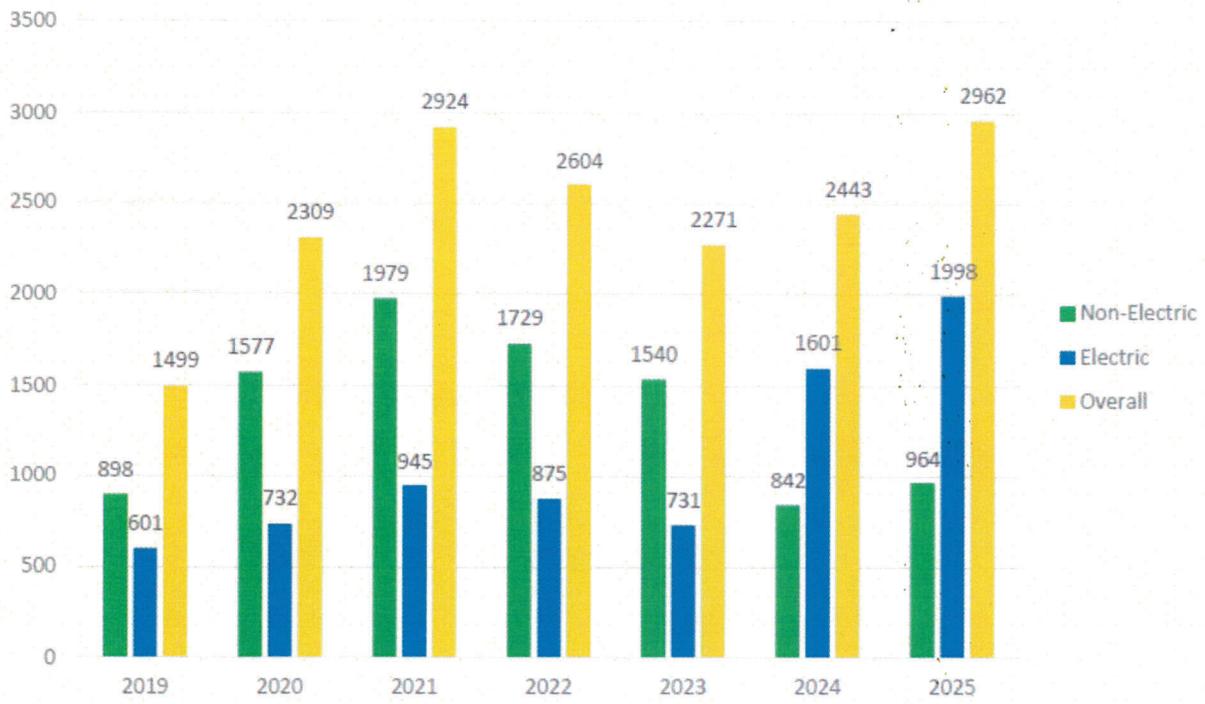
Camping Rates

Peak Season 5/1/25-10/31/25	Non-electric sites	Electric sites
Monday - Thursday	\$26.25	\$33.00
Friday - Sunday & Holidays	\$31.50	\$38.50
Off Season 3/1/25-4/30/25 & 11/1/24-12/31/24	Non-electric sites	Electric sites
Monday - Thursday	\$22.00	\$27.50
Friday - Sunday & Holidays	\$22.00	\$27.50
Discount		
Golden Buckeye Discount 25% off Monday-Thursday		

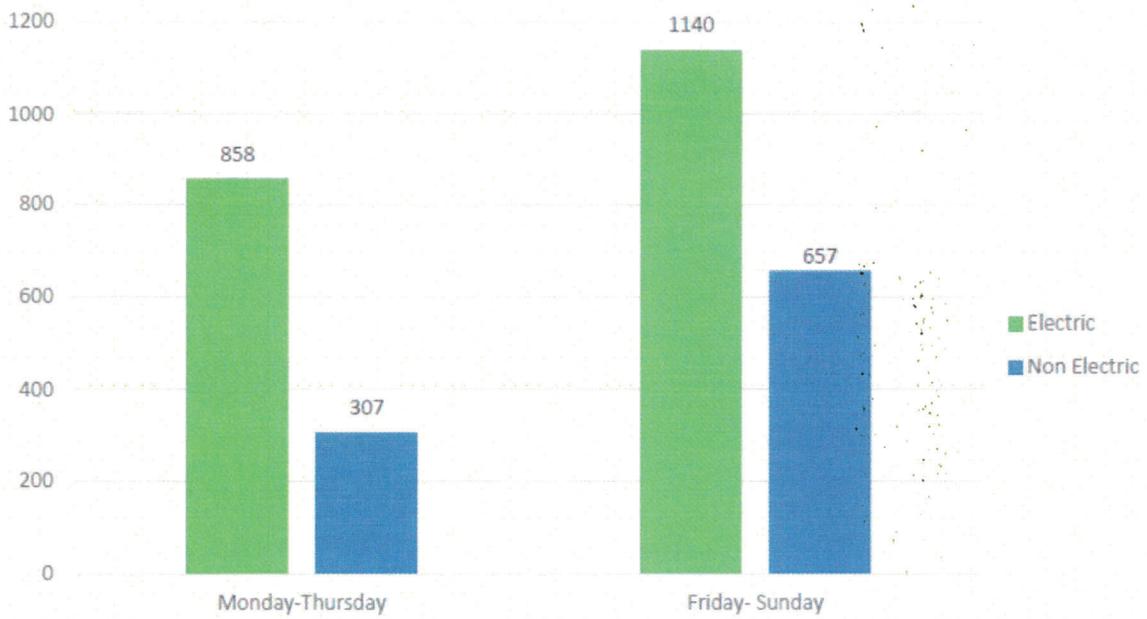
PEAK SEASON



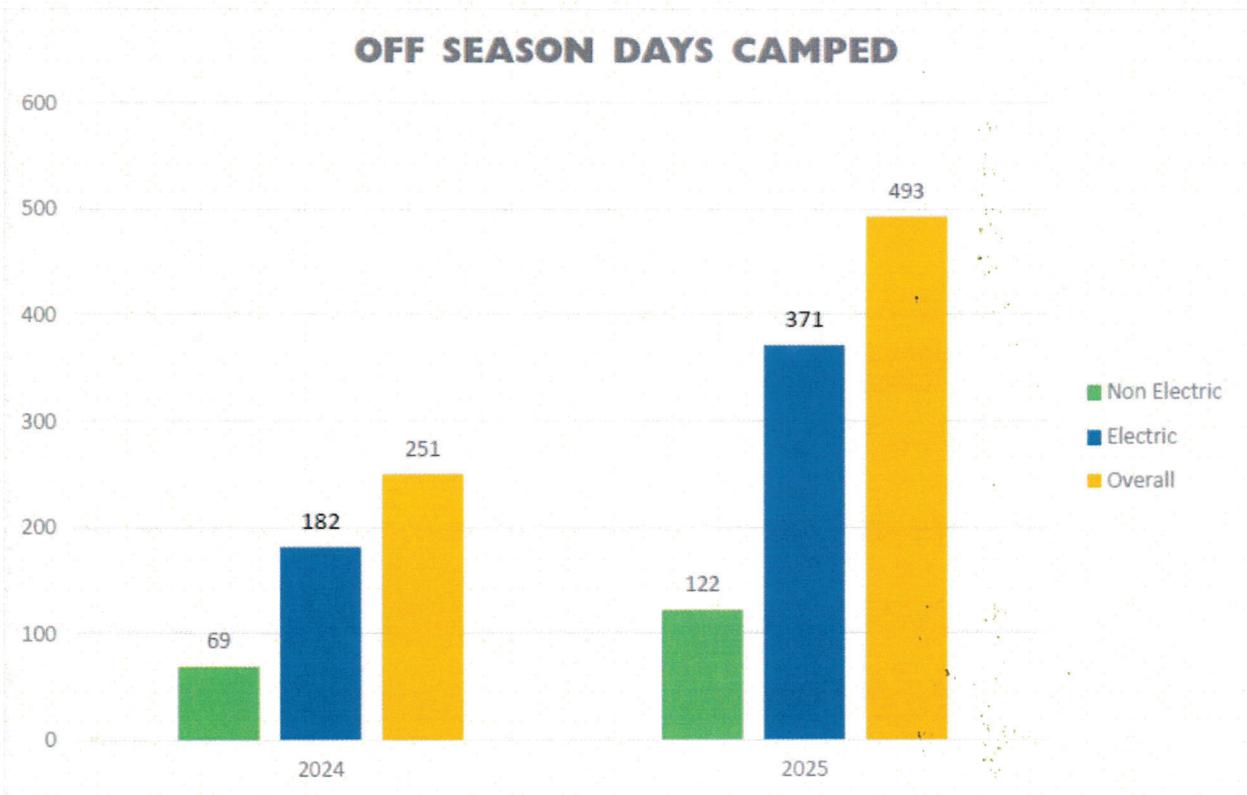
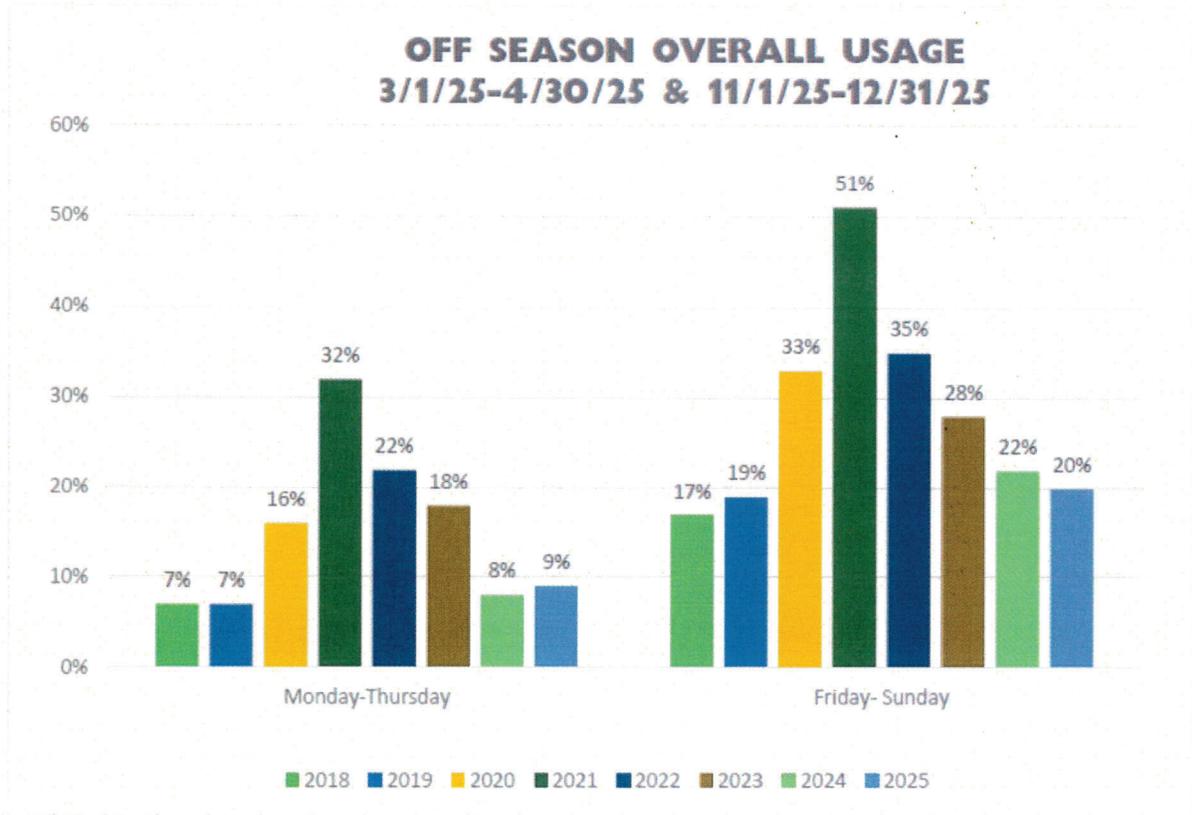
**PEAK SEASON - DAYS CAMPED
5/1/2025-10/31/2025**



PEAK SEASON - DAYS CAMPED

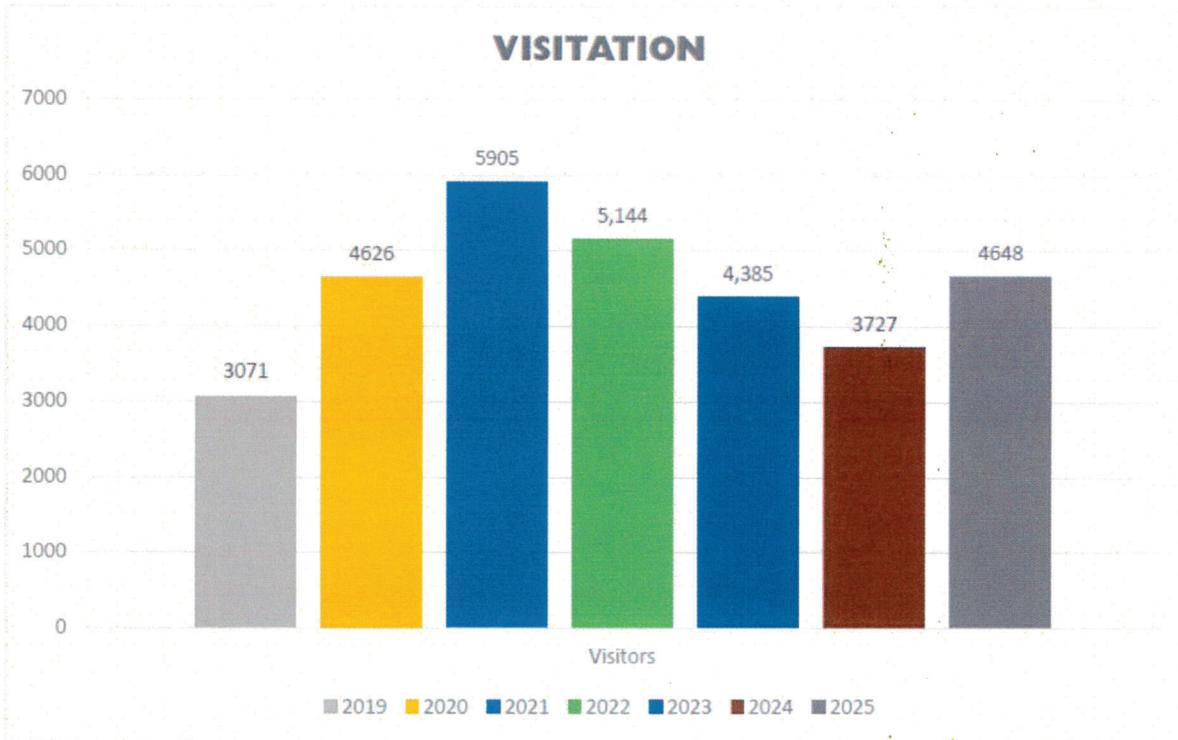


OFF SEASON

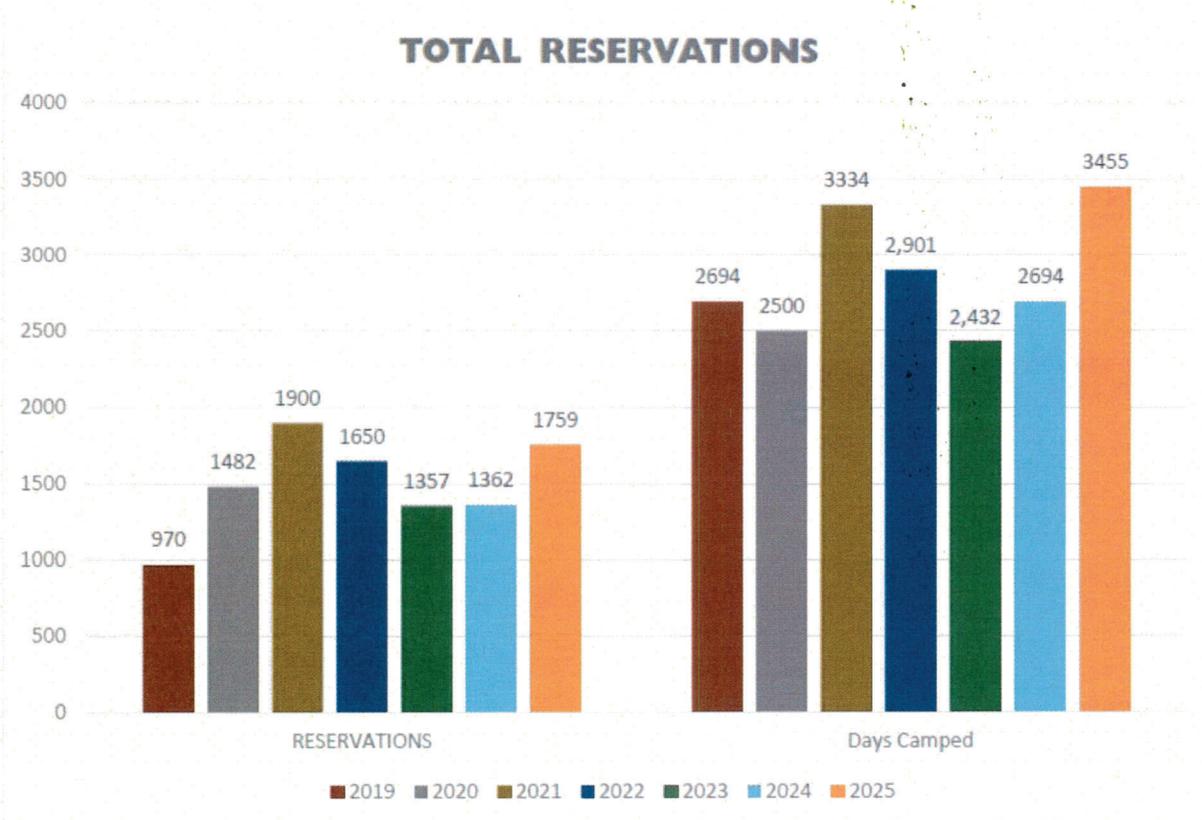


OVERALL

VISITATION



TOTAL RESERVATIONS



2025 Cost and Revenue

OPERATIONAL COSTS

\$6,839.58	Electric
\$6,630.00	Sewage (39 ATC Service Calls- 33 dump station, 3 grey water, 3 restroom)
\$1,147.04	Trash Service
<u>\$22,000.00</u>	<u>Wages (estimate)</u>
\$ 36,616.62	Total Cost

Fees

\$10,884.06	Firefly fees
\$25.00	Firewood License fee
<u>\$485.00</u>	<u>ODH License fee</u>
\$11,394.06	Total Fees

\$48,010.68 TOTAL COST

Does not include all overhead cost-vehicles, equipment, fuel, cleaning supplies, cap expenditures, etc.

REVENUE

Firefly Net Revenue

\$106,810.81	Reservation fees
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Other Revenue

\$305.00	Firewood Revenue- Sold Firewood from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
\$1,132.51	Dump Station Revenue (Fees collect from non-campers)

\$108,248.32 TOTAL REVENUE

\$60,237.64 PROFIT & LOSS

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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

District Wide

ADA Transition Plan:

- Status:
 - ADA Consultant finished their initial facilities assessment reports and setting up spreadsheet of projects to review with staff.
 - ADA Transition Team was formed to prioritize future tasks.

Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan:

- Teaming up with Ohio & Erie Canal Canalway Coalition to begin countywide trail planning process.
 - Initial meeting complete and working on steering committee and community contacts.

Cascade Valley

Towpath Trail Connector:

- EMH&T are engineering two bridges.

Chuckery Area Master Plan:

- Sharing plans and coordinating for after NSIT and Gorge Dam projects are complete; to open the area back to the public.

Gorge

Dam Removal:

- Sediment Disposal: status
 - Ohio EPA and Severson began the sediment removal in fall 2025 and are currently on hold until the weather warms up.
 - Working on permits, land acquisition and review of project documents.
- Dam Structure Removal: status
 - This phase of the project is generally on hold until sediment is removed.
- Cuyahoga Falls Sanitary Sewer Replacement: Design and coordination are ongoing.

Hampton Hills

Riverwoods Area Plan:

- Conceptual plan is complete. Planning to engineer parking lot with amenities.

Munroe Falls

Master Plan for Park

- Master Plan is complete. Planning to take this out to public and others.

Freedom Trail Connector Trail

- Design of the connector trail from Munroe Falls to Freedom Trail is at 95% plans.
- Looking for outside grants for construction: Metro Parks Foundation and ODNR Recreational Trails.

Bathhouse Buildings Assessment

- Bialosky & Associates began assessment and initial meeting.

Goodyear Heights

Pioneer Area Improvements

- Design and engineering of new restroom with ADA access from parking lot and trail.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm

New Shelter

- Developing plans to start construction in spring of 2026.
- Working separately on the electrical plans for the area.

O'Neil Woods

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

Summit Lake Nature Center

Oval Space – designing space between Towpath Trail and SLNC. Also, working on designing plans for storage and parking.

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.

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.
 - Working on trail design to end at Bartges Street with accessibility to Metro RTA Transit Station.

Riding Run:

- Western connection into the Cuyahoga Valley and Towpath Trail.
 - Received \$10,000 in grant funding from Summit County Community Grant.
 - MS Consultants had initial site visit and meeting.

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. Working with PPG and municipalities to look at alternative routes.
- Applying for AMATS Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside grant funding for construction.

Sourek Trail:

- OHM Consultants had initial walk-through and meeting.

Twin Creeks

Master Plan

- Master Plan mapping and alternatives have begun. Looking for public access points to the site.

Sand Run

Big Bend & Old Portage 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:

- Beach restoration and playground design underway.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

Bike & Hike Trail

Seasons Road Intersection Upgrades:

- City of Stow and Fogg Industries is re-routing the trail permanently for better flow along Seasons Road with better pedestrian crossing.

Cascade Valley

City of Akron North Side Interceptor Tunnel (NSIT):

- Construction work continues, discussions taking place on restoration of Chuckery Area.

Freedom Trail

Middlebury Road – Ohio Department of Transportation nominated project for award.

Southwest Bridge:

- The existing bridge will be removed due to age and high maintenance and will be replaced with a precast concrete box culvert.
 - Work has started and existing bridge has been removed and setting up excavation for the culvert replacement.
 - Bridge is to be installed the second week of February.

Freedom Phase 4:

- Includes trail corridor with pedestrian access on University Avenue.
 - Mill Street parking lot is graded and stoned.
 - Began switchback to University Avenue and building supports for ramp down from University Avenue bridge. Paving and concrete work has begun.

Central Maintenance Facility:

- Construction documents for the site and building have started.
 - Working with updating electricity with additional walls and doors being updated.



New framing of offices, storage, locker room & bathrooms; additional drainage lines complete; and wash bay area started.

GRANT ACTIVITY

Grants-Pending: (Application made, awaiting word)

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund	Slipper Run Conservation Area	\$ 1,730,000
Ohio & Erie Canalway Association	Big Bend Trailhead Upgrades	\$ 30,000
Total		\$ 1,760,000

Grants-Awarded:

ODNR Division of Forestry	Rx STEP 2025-10	\$ 3,333
Summit County Community Grant	Western Access to Cuyahoga Valley	\$ 10,000
Ohio & Erie Canalway Association	Sagamore Hills Trail Engineering and Design	\$ 20,000
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
O&ECC - Summit County Community Grant	Freedom Trail Phase 4 Engineering and Design	\$ 5,000
Total		\$ 1,250,333

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- 13 incident reports were completed for the month of January 2026.
- 511 hours of officer foot patrol were completed for the month of January. The officer's primary means of patrol is on foot, checking designated trails, conservation areas and park boundaries.
- 1,365 visitor contacts were made for the month of January. 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 Monday, January 5, Officer Kelsey Keys was sworn in as our newest full-time officer. She is a graduate of Medina High School, holds a bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Akron, and completed the University of Akron Police Academy. This marks the beginning of a rewarding journey, and we are proud to welcome her to the Police Department!



- On Tuesday, January 20, Captain Kevin Williams was sworn in as our police captain. Captain Williams recently retired from Akron Police Department with a highly distinguished 30+ year career as a Sergeant in Patrol and Investigative Divisions, as well as the Office of Professional Standards and Accountability. We are proud to welcome him to our leadership team at the Police Department!



2026 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 (1)	1											
Accounting/Payroll Specialist (1)	1											
Administrative Office Mgr/Executive Asst. (1)	1											
Assistant Park Manager (2)	1											
Assistant Purchasing Manager (1)	1											
Brand Manager (1)	1											
Carpenter (1)	1											
Chief of Community Engagement (1)	1											
Chief of Conservation (1)	1											
Chief of Finance (1)	1											
Chief of Human Resources & Admin (1)	1											
Chief of Marketing & Communications (1)	1											
Chief of Operations (1)	1											
Chief of Planning (1)	1											
Chief of Philanthropy (1)	1											
Chief of Police (1)	1											
Civil Engineer/Construction Supervisor (1)	1											
Community Engagement Coordinator (3)	3											
Community Engagement Manager (3)	3											
Community Engagement Specialists (2)	2											
Group Leader I (9)	9											
Group Leader II (3)	3											
Cultural Resource Specialist (1)	1											
Customer Service Rep (2)	2											
Donor Relations Coordinator (1)	1											
Donor Relations Specialist (1)	1											
Executive Director (1)	1											
Events Specialist (1)	1											
Fleet Manager (1)	1											
Forestry Crew Leader (1)	1											
Forestry Technician (1)	1											
Graphic Designer (2)	2											
Horticulturalist (1)	1											
Human Resources Coordinator (1)	0											
Human Resources Manager (1)	1											
Interpretive Artist (1)	1											
Interpretive Naturalist (6)	6											
Land Compliance Project Manager (1)	1											
Landscape Architect (1)	1											
Lead Mechanic (1)	1											
Lead Naturalist (1)	1											
Maintenance/Utility Technician (2)	2											
Manager Volunteer Programs (1)	1											
Marketing Assistant (1)	1											
Marketing & Public Relations Manager (1)	1											
Marketing Specialist (1)	1											
Mechanic (1)	1											
Mechanic - Small Engine (1)	1											
Natural Resources Project Manager (1)	1											
Operations Project Manager (2)	2											
Operations Service Manager (1)	1											
Park Biologist (3)	3											
Park Manager I (3)	3											
Park Manager II (8)	8											
Park Planner (1)	1											
Park Police Officer (20)	18											
Park Technician I (36)	36											
Park Technician II (1)	0											
Park Technician III (5)	4											
Planning & Development Project Manager (1)	1											
Police Captain (1)	1											
Police Lieutenant (1)	0											
Police Sergeant (3)	2											
Purchasing Manager (1)	2											
Regional Manager (2)	2											
Sales Supervisor (1)	1											
Supervisor of Cultural Resources (1)	1											
Supervisor of Ecological Resources (1)	1											
Supervisor of Wildlife Resources (1)	0											
Trail Crew Leader (1)	1											
Trail Technician (1)	1											

CITY OF HUDSON	Electric Service	13.10
CITY OF MUNROE FALLS	Water Service	96.05
CITY OF STOW	Water Service	32.98
CITY OF STOW	Bike & Hike Trail Spur Project	5,000.00
CITY OF STOW	2026 SMCRT Annual Dues	825.00
CIVICPLUS, LLC - PAYMENT	Social Media Archiving Subscription	7,547.40
CLEVELAND VICON CO INC	Maintenance Materials	1,491.00
COMDOC INC	Copier Service	183.29
CRANDALL CO INC	Vehicle Supplies	237.95
DALY, DAVID WILLIAM	Parking Reimbursement	36.00
DATABASE MARKETING INNOVATORS INC	Mailing Services	661.24
DAYWALT MANAGEMENT LLC	Vehicle Supplies	3,261.76
DUMAS DEER PROCESSING LLC	Wildlife Management	15,345.00
EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY	Gas Service	5,006.52
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	Vehicle Lease	44,670.86
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GROUP LLC	Bike & Hike Trail Design	543.48
EQUIPARTS CORP	Maintenance Materials	445.78
EVANS MECHWART HAMBLETON & TILTON INC	Engineering Services	1,462.65
EVERLAST CLIMBING INDUSTRIES INC	Maintenance Materials	1,089.00
E-VOLVE CREATIVE GROUP LLC	Website Services	8,050.00
FAMOUS DISTRIBUTION INC	Maintenance Materials	-37.15
FAMOUS DISTRIBUTION INC	Maintenance Materials	215.50
FASTENAL COMPANY	Maintenance Materials	296.54
FIRST COMMUNICATIONS LLC	Phone & Internet Services	6,291.40
FRANCOTYP-POSTALIA INC	Postage Meter Rental	288.00
FRED MARTIN MOTOR COMPANY	Vehicle Supplies	393.60
FRED W ALBRECHT GROCERY COMPANY	Maintenance & Program Supplies	356.69
GALLS PARENT HOLDINGS LLC	Uniforms	86.99
GANNETT MEDIA CORP	Advertising & Legal Ads	1,689.28
GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	Vehicle Supplies	166.50
GLAUS PYLE SCHOMER BURNS & DEHAVEN INC	Restroom Replacement Design Services	25,881.60
GOLD CREST DISTRIBUTING LLC	Gift Shop Items	976.97
GVS SAFETY SUPPLIES INC	Protective Apparel	592.20
HANES COMPANIES INC	Maintenance Materials	1,320.00
HARTVILLE HARDWARE INC	Maintenance Supplies	119.05
INDEPENDENCE OFFICE AND BUSINESS SUPPLY CO INC	Office Supplies	14.66
JABEBO LLC	Gift Shop Items	2,209.00
JD WILLIAMSON CONSTRUCTION CO INC	Bridge Construction	81,247.50
JJ KELLER & ASSOCIATES INC	Office Supplies	664.00
JOHN J HEMMINGER CONSTRUCTION COL INC	Maintenance Facility Construction	524,160.00
JW GEOPFERT CO INC	Boiler Repairs	378.62
KAMM STAR CONTRACTORS LLC	HVAC Maintenance	200.00
KASTNER WESTMAN & WILKINS LLC	Legal Services	959.00
KEIM CO	Maintenance Materials	64.40
KENMORE CONSTRUCTION CO INC	Freedom Trail Construction	108,932.27
KIESLER POLICE SUPPLY INC	Uniforms & Equipment	5,205.87
KLINGSPOR ABRASIVES INC	Maintenance Supplies	642.41
KUBICKI ENTERPRISES INC	Maintenance Materials	11.99
M CONLEY CO	Cleaning & Sanitary Supplies	1,943.68
M TECHNOLOGIES INC	Equipment Supplies	249.50
MCDONALD HOPKINS LLC	Legal Services	3,710.00
MCMASTER CARR SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	131.13
MEDICAL MUTUAL OF OHIO	Vision & Hearing Claims & Administration	896.70
MURDOCK INDUSTRIAL INC	Equipment Supplies	152.11
MURPHY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO INC	Equipment Supplies	38.72
NATIONAL LIME & STONE COMPANY	Maintenance Materials	465.40
NATIONAL TESTING NETWORK INC	Annual Membership	425.00

NICKS LANDSCAPING OF OHIO LLC	Disposal Service	1,230.00
OHIO AFSCME CARE PLAN	Ohio AFSCME Care Plan	944.00
OHIO EDISON CO	Electric Service	28,646.51
OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL	Annual MDT Fees	3,000.00
OHIO UNDERGROUND INC	Vehicle Supplies	360.14
OLIGER SEED CO	Program Supplies	25.80
OREILLY AUTO ENTERPRISES LLC	Vehicle Supplies	472.78
OSBORN ENGINEERING COMPANY	Design Services	657.48
OUTDOOR HOME SERVICES HOLDINGS LLC	Maintenance Materials	967.26
PARK FORD INC	Vehicle Supplies	90.25
PHOENIX METAL SALES AND FABRICATION LLC	Gate Repairs	500.00
POLY TECH ASSOCIATES INC	Employment Services	365.00
PPG ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES INC	Maintenance Supplies	181.94
PROBE TECHNOLOGIES LTD	Computer Services & Equipment	14,574.73
RCR WASTE MANAGEMENT LLC	Composting Service	104.64
REPROS INC	Maintenance Materials	384.00
RICHARD L BOWEN & ASSOCIATES INC	Architectural Services	5,505.95
ROETZEL & ANDRESS LPA	Legal Services	115.00
RPM INDUSTRIAL COATINGS GROUP INC	Maintenance Supplies	88.09
SACKMANN STAMP AND STENCIL CO INC	Maintenance Supplies	25.96
SANTMYER ENERGY INC	Fuel Delivery	25,116.68
SECURITAS ELECTRONIC SECURITY INC	Security Monitoring Services	1,400.89
SOHARS ALL SEASON MOWER SERVICE INC	Equipment Supplies	868.42
SPEELMAN ELECTRIC INC	Nature Realm Lighting	44,759.48
STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY	Life Insurance	470.74
SUMMA HEALTH SYSTEM	Audiology Testing	1,405.00
SUMMIT C & D TRANSFER LLC	Disposal Services	660.00
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Regional Radio System	9,860.00
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Animal Control	180.00
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Sewer Service	586.45
SUMMIT IT SOLUTIONS INC	Computer Services	225.00
SUMMIT IT SOLUTIONS INC	Website Hosting	2,600.00
SUMMIT METRO PARKS	FSA & Visa Reimbursement Check	36,747.93
SUMMIT PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOC INC	Pre-employment Services	3,750.00
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	Dental Claims & Administration	6,544.01
TERRY LUMBER & SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	1,335.06
UNITED RENTALS INC	Equipment Rental	460.00
VISUAL EDGE IT INC	Copier Service	339.75
W W GRAINGER INC	Maintenance Materials	195.09
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF OHIO INC	Disposal Services	1,606.51
WERTZ GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING INC	Testing & Inspection Services	1,873.30
WEST PUBLISHING CORP	Software Subscription	226.01
WL TUCKER SUPPLY COMPANY	Maintenance Materials	176.85
ZAK, REBECCA MAY	Program Supply Reimbursement	10.38
ZORO TOOLS INC	Maintenance Supplies	51.99
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		1,224,813.65