

AGENDA
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SUMMIT METRO PARKS
January 13, 2026

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of December 9, 2025 Previous Board Minutes
4. Executive Director's Reports
5. Items removed from Consent Agenda
6. Consent Agenda Approval of Bills and Resolutions
 - A. Ratification of Bills Paid
 - B. Authorization to Transfer Funds
 - C. Authorization to Dispose of Surplus, Unneeded, Obsolete, or Unfit Property by Internet-Based Auction During the Calendar Year of 2026
 - D. Authorization to Participate in Summit County Engineer's Regional Pavement Maintenance Program
7. Unfinished/Old Business & New Business
8. Correspondence & Public Portion
9. Executive Session
10. Future Board Meeting Dates/Adjourn

January 13, 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, January 13, 2026, at 11:30 A.M., at the Administrative Office, 975 Treaty Line 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, Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr., Member, S. Theresa Carter, Member, and Lisa M. King, Executive Director. Also in attendance were Dale Fobean, Jen Harvey, Mike Johnson, Dee Falconer, Lindsay Smith, Aaron Hockman, Mark Szeremet, Angie Hardman, Josh Hamblen, Alex Daw, Alisa Stinson and Dave Kamps.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Resolution 1.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Ms. Stritch, that Herbert Newman be elected as Chairman of the Board of Park Commissioners for the year 2026.

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

ELECTION OF FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Resolution 2.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Rev. Walker, seconded by Ms. Carter, that Joel D. Bailey be elected as First Vice-Chairman of the Board of Park Commissioners for the year 2026.

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

ELECTION OF SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Resolution 3.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Newman, seconded by Ms. Carter, that Jill M. Stritch be elected as Second Vice-Chairman of the Board of Park Commissioners for the year 2026.

The vote being:

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

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 9, 2025 PREVIOUS BOARD MINUTES

Resolution 4.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Ms. Stritch, seconded by Rev. Walker, that the minutes of the December 9, 2025, 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.	Aye
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 5.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Bailey, 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.	Aye
S. Theresa Carter	Aye

A. RATIFICATION OF BILLS PAID

OPERS	December 2025	\$137,613.36
Medicare	December 2025	\$13,627.72
Interim Bills	December 31, 2025	\$1,012,030.03
Payroll	December 5, 2025	\$479,244.09
Payroll	December 19, 2025	\$475,163.17
TOTAL	BALANCE	\$2,117,678.37

Resolution 6.2026

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

B. AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER FUNDS

The Executive Director requested authorization to transfer \$700,000.00 from the existing federal/capital fund into a new federal/capital fund. The transfer is requested by the Summit County Finance and Budget Office in order to change the fund from life-to-date to annual. The designation of the transfer of funds is as follows:

Transfer: 90129090-9090000007-599900 Transfer Out +700,000.00
Cash Transfer: 90129090-9090000007-599900 Cash Transfer out of Fed/Cap Fund \$700,000.00 Debit
90139090-9090000017-499900 Cash Transfer into Fed/Cap Fund \$700,000.00 Credit

Resolution 7.2026

The Executive Director was authorized to transfer \$700,000.00 from the existing life-to-date federal/capital fund into the new annual federal/capital fund as requested by the Summit County Finance and Budget Office.

C. AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS, UNNEEDED, OBSOLETE, OR UNFIT PROPERTY BY INTERNET-BASED AUCTION DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR OF 2026

The Executive Director requested authorization to dispose of surplus, unneeded, obsolete, or unfit personal property (including but not limited to, motor vehicles, road machinery, car parts, equipment, tools and office supplies), regardless of property's value, via internet-based auction during the calendar year of 2026.

Auction Terms: Bidding shall remain open for a minimum of ten (10) days, including weekends and holidays. The Executive Director and/or a designee will establish a minimum price, pick-up requirements, payment terms and any other terms and conditions for each sale in accordance with applicable laws.

Facilitator: Sales will be conducted by a third-party internet auction facilitator. The facilitator's contact information will be included in all public advertisements for the sale.

Resolution 8.2026

The Executive Director was authorized to dispose of surplus, unneeded, obsolete, or unfit property by internet-based auction during the calendar year of 2026.

D. AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER'S REGIONAL PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Summit Metro Parks regularly maintains its roadways located within the park district with our own staff and through needed contracts. To increase our buying power, the planning staff requested entering into an agreement with the Summit County Engineer's Office.

This agreement would allow us to participate in their Regional Pavement Program. This program bundles smaller projects together which are then bid on by multiple contractors yielding lower competitive prices. The engineer's value for this year's proposed work is approximately \$1,700,000 and would not exceed that total. The work is proposed for Sand Run Parkway paving, Chestnut Lodge drive, Bike & Hike Trail Trailhead driveway at SR 303 and the Stow Bikeway.

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 Project.

The Executive Director requested authorization to participate in Summit County Engineer's Regional Pavement Maintenance Program.

Resolution 9.2026

The Executive Director was authorized to participate in Summit County Engineer's Regional Pavement Maintenance Program.

ITEM 7: UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- None

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 10.2026

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.	Aye
S. Theresa Carter	Aye

Resolution 11.2026

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

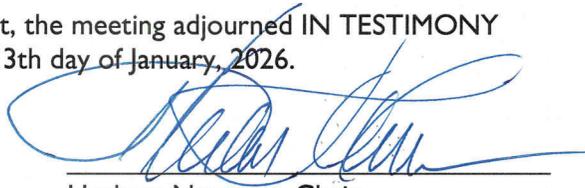
Herbert Newman	Aye
Joel D. Bailey	Aye
Jill M. Stritch	Aye
Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr.	Aye
S. Theresa Carter	Aye

The Board returned to open session.

ITEM 10: FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

- Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm (*Foundation*)
- 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 13th day of January, 2026.



 Herbert Newman, Chair


 Lisa M. King, Executive Director

True copies emailed to all Commissioners on January 16, 2026.

ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

	Central Region	North Region	South Region
Building Visitation	1,621	813	409
Phone calls	285	75	46
Number of Programs	15	13	17
Programs Attendance	164	218	151
Number of Special Events	-	-	-
Special Event Attendance	-	-	-
Number of Outreach	2	2	3
Outreach Attendance	112	60	139
Number of Virtual Programs & Outreach	3	1	-
Virtual Programs & Outreach Attendance	45	24	-
Number of Other (Impromptus, School Groups, Visits)	2	2	1
Other Attendance	21	30	14

Community Engagement (CE) EOY Highlights:

In 2025, community engagement's shift toward a "Greener Future" energized the community with a unified sustainability message.

Summit Metro Parks visitor and nature centers charter new relationships, exhibits and programs with the following themes in mind:

- Trees: Benefits to our Communities – F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
- Green Energy Now – Liberty Park Nature Center

- Water: Connecting Communities – Summit Lake Nature Center

The public accessed our efforts through different program formats:

- Maple Mania powered by Friends of Metro Parks – From classrooms to Sap Facts and pancake breakfast
- Akron Home and Garden Native Plant presentations and exhibits
- South Street Ministries – 27 cycling programs throughout the county
- National Center for Choreography Akron – Showing on the Go: Black by Nature – 2 performances
- Western Reserve Big Band – 2 performances
- Chimney Swift tower community art project
- Nature Realm Beneficial Tree exhibit and employee art show
- New motorized scooters at all center locations
- Metro Regional Transit Authority partnership for Fall Family Outing
- New sustainable exhibits utilizing recycled and reclaimed materials

SMP staff and volunteers proudly joined Akron’s Bicentennial celebration with four history-focused programs, planting of 200 trees in Akron, trail improvements at the historic John Brown statue, and participation in the Akron200 Bicentennial parade. CE had a major focus on recreational programs. There were 124 recreational programs for all ages and abilities. SMP celebrated interpretive naturalist Joe Malmisur for earning national recognition as Best Part-Time Naturalist for his outstanding commitment to the field of parks and education. We are looking forward to another productive year in community engagement.



CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

- The Cleveland Museum of Natural History is in the process of repatriating the ancestral remains and sacred objects from the Everett Knoll Complex that were within their collection from excavations on Summit Metro Parks (then AMPD) property in the 1970s. The Wyandotte Nation have claimed cultural affiliation to those artifacts. SMP will begin the NAGPRA process in 2026 for sacred objects from the site that are currently held in the park district’s collection; these will be repatriated to Tribal Nations. The Everett Knoll Complex is located in the Riding Run Conservation Area.
- The Ohio Historic Preservation Office has agreed to work with Summit Metro Parks to list Wheelock Cuyahoga Acres (WCA) on the National Register of Historic Places. The site, located in Valley View, is important to Black history as a rare archaeological example of a Great Migration neighborhood where people lived from the 1950s through the 1980s. SMP’s cultural resources team have excavated three home sites and collected oral history information from family members of those who lived in and around the neighborhood and will continue to investigate here in the years to come.

- Annual wildlife management is underway.
- Summit Metro Parks will host a social event for all Citizen Science volunteers. The event will include a potluck and a presentation on how data collected through this program informs park management and contributes to the greater body of scientific knowledge. SMP staff and the Board of Park Commissioners are invited to attend and learn more about these programs. Please notify the Chief of Conservation if you would like to attend. The event is January 28, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and is located at Brushwood Lodge at Furnace Run Metro Park.

CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT

December

Calls: 741

Visitors: 253

Training:

- 2025 OPRA Regional Training: Service Starts with You
December 5, 2025
Attendee: Iva Lehman

HUMAN RESOURCES

Summit Metro Parks held its Holiday Luncheon at Happy Days Lodge on Tuesday, December 2nd in recognition for the employee's hard work over 2025. The gathering gave a chance to catch up with some faces we haven't worked with in a bit, congratulate those who celebrated work anniversary milestones and those who have expanded their families!

This year provided an inaugural opportunity to invite retirees of Summit Metro Parks to join in the festivities in lieu of a retiree luncheon as well to see a brief highlight of 2025 achievements throughout parks and departments.

Promotions:

Kaitlin Kleinman	Assistant Purchasing Manager
Alisa Stinson	Human Resources Manager

New Hires

John DiNicola	Graphic Designer
---------------	------------------

Postings:

12/09/2025	Park Technician I – Sand Run
12/16/2025	Crew Leader I - Greenways South

Seasonals:

McDaniel, Hector	End of Season	Seasonal Maintenance
------------------	---------------	----------------------

Milestone Anniversaries:

Iva Lehman	25 Years of Service	Customer Service Representative
Joseph Malmisur	10 Years of Service	Interpretive Naturalist
Janean Curfman	10 Years of Service	Interpretive Naturalist

Volunteer Program

- Volunteer Engagement
 - In December 2025, 101 reoccurring volunteers reported 1006.5 hours within 22 assignments across the park district and community including attaching Fall Hiking Spree shields, assisting naturalist programs and performing in the Metro Parks Ensemble.
 - Firestone Country Club employees (6) assisted with assembling holiday gift bags for an outreach program.

- Recruitment
 - The interest of 22 prospective volunteers was expressed within November via our volunteer signup at summitmetroparks.org/volunteer.aspx.
- Impact
 - The volunteer department has been working to implement a new volunteer technology homebase - Vome. Data from the previous site was extracted, uploaded into Vome and 283 volunteers are now in the process of claiming their new profiles. At the time of this report, 42% of volunteers have claimed. This new technology will not only allow volunteers to record their hours but also sign up for events and communicate directly with staff. The volunteer department held a training for all volunteer supervisors and is holding several “Profile Parties” throughout the winter to assist volunteers in navigating the new site. This transition will simplify the volunteer experience, allow for a central location to track volunteer activity and allow the volunteer department staff to make better and more data-driven decisions moving forward.

Photo: Preparing to toast the new platform with sparkling apple cider at the first Profile Party on December 18



MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

- **This January**, the Marketing & Communications department is focused on:
 - Sharing messages that promote wintertime activities and encouraging visitors to “Enjoy Every Season” in Summit Metro Parks
 - Communicating 2026 marketing/communications department strategy and goals
- Media coverage in **December** included mentions or stories in the following outlets: Akron Beacon Journal (Christmas tree recycling, Cascade Valley Metro Park attack case, City of Akron bicentennial, sledding), Associated Press (Summit Lake Nature Center), Cleveland 19 News (Cascade Valley Metro Park attack case), Fox 8 News (Cascade Valley Metro Park attack case), News 5 Cleveland (Cascade Valley Metro Park attack case), Signal Akron (favorite culture and arts stories of 2025, Akron volunteer opportunities), Substack (Christmas bird count recap), WAKR-AM (ice skating, OPRA Awards of Excellence), WCPN-FM (cross-country skiing, Hidden History series, West Side Leader (City of Akron bicentennial, grant funding for the stream restoration of Furnace Run), WKYC Channel 3 News (Cascade Valley Metro Park attack case), WTAM (Cascade Valley Metro Park attack case) and Yahoo! News (first snowfall of the season at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm).
 - NEW: In the media coverage summary above, you’ll see “Substack” listed as one source of coverage. Substack is a user-led platform that is surging in popularity. Independent writers/creators can attract their own audience through paid subscriptions.
 - OF NOTE: Summit Lake Nature Center and efforts in the surrounding neighborhood have garnered national attention in an AP story published in December. The story, by Peter Smith, is titled “Bit by bit, small US groups chip away at historic levels of social isolation.”
- Staff are preparing for participation once again in the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research’s “Summit Poll” – a collaborative community-wide poll that provides important data that includes park visitation statistics and informs our department’s decision-making concerning how we can better serve the public.

- Through February, we will share messages during our **winter advertising campaign** to encourage residents to visit and enjoy the parks in all seasons.
- **Maple Leaf Gifts** welcomed nearly 800 visitors and processed \$8,365 in sales in December. Best-selling items in December were drinkware, clothing and stickers / magnets. Additionally, last month Maple Leaf Gifts saw its highest number of online sales orders since launching e-commerce.
- Staff are planning to promote the park district and its “Wild Back Yards” initiative at its large booth space during the **Akron Home & Garden Show**, happening February 13 through 15 at the J.S. Knight Center in Akron. Our department is also supporting the promotion of other upcoming events, including the SMP Foundation’s Wild & Scenic Film Festival and Mother’s Day 5K.

OPERATIONS

Park Areas and Structures

- District-wide: Christmas tree recycling program – Trees can be dropped off at Firestone, Furnace Run, Nimisila Reservoir, Goodyear Heights, Sand Run and Silver Creek Metro Parks. Signs have been installed to designate locations where Christmas trees can be dropped off. Approximately 500+ trees will be chipped and reused around park signs, established trees and some landscape beds.
- F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm: Electrical work to upgrade Visitors Center lighting is complete.
- 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, Summit Lake Nature Center lawn area, Sugarbush Trail, Daffodil Trail improvements, Goodyear Community Garden improvements, Sand Run Parkway culvert replacements and paving.

Trail Improvements

- Wood Hollow: A trail improvement plan was developed for the Downy Loop Trail, addressing the surface and aging boardwalk. Work is scheduled to begin early 2026 if weather permits.
- Towpath: Staff are repairing sections of handrail and bridge approaches from Wilbeth Road to Clinton.

Park Activities & Events

- Congratulations to Laura Esposito for successfully passing all requirements to obtain ODNR Division of Forestry Prescribed Fire Manager certification!
- Congratulations to Jon Schoblocher for successfully obtaining NRPA’s Certified Park and Recreation Professional certification!
- Winter sports areas are open for the 2025-26 season. There were five days in December that there was enough snow to open all sled hills.

Training:

- Training: NRPA Maintenance Management School
When: January 25 – 30
Attendees: C. Ames, C. Packard, G. Houk, and C. Glendenning
- OPRA Conference and Trade Show
When: February 2 - 4
Attendees: A. Hockman, M. Bartzi, D. Rankin, L. Esposito, J. Schoblocher, B. Eakin, M. Thompson (one-day), M. Smalley (one-day), and J. Perdok (one-day).

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 is set for January 22.

Cascade Valley

Towpath Trail Connector:

- EMH&T beginning work on 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 are setting up to begin sediment removal in the Gorge Dam pool.
 - 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.

Bathhouse Buildings Assessment

- Bialosky & Associates were the successful consultants on this project. Setting up site visit meetings.

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.

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 chosen for conceptual/feasibility study.

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 chosen for feasibility study.

Twin Creeks

Master Plan

- Restoration work began on the site with removal of the drainage tiles and adding of clay liner, native grass and tree planting – complete.
- 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

Alexander to Sagamore Roads

- State of Ohio is adding new water line to mental health facility. Water line is complete and working on reconstruction of 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 – ODOT 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.



Demolition of existing bridge

Freedom Phase 4:

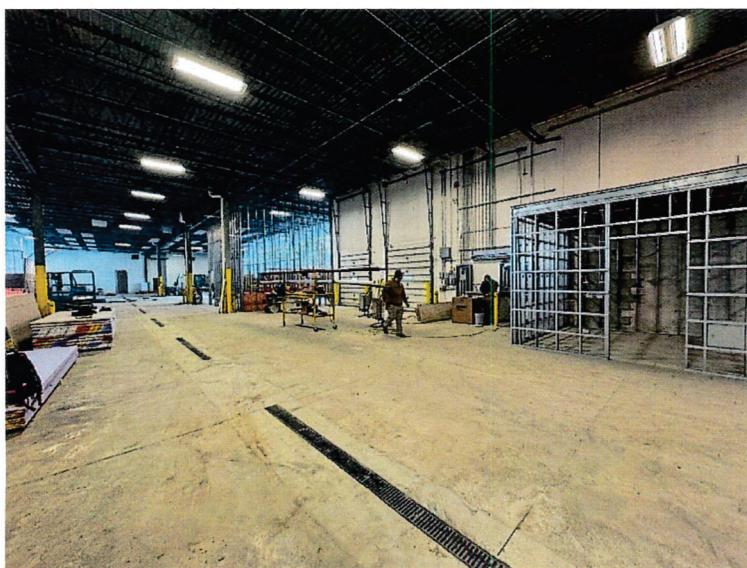
- Project began on March 2025; includes trail corridor with pedestrian access on University Avenue.
 - Mill Street parking lot is graded and stoned.
 - Began switchback to University Avenue and building supports for ramp down from University Avenue bridge. Paving and concrete work has begun.

Central Maintenance Facility:

- Construction documents for the site and building have started.
 - Demolition has begun and updated pipes and drainage are being installed.
 - Working with updating electricity with additional walls and doors being updated.



Outside framing for new doors for access.



New floor drains completed and interior framing starting.

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:

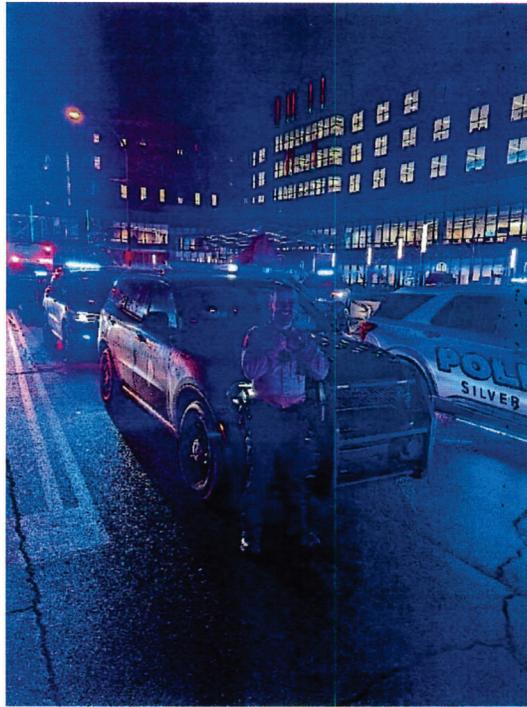
ODNR Division of Forestry	Rx STEP 2025-10	\$ 3,333
Summit County Community Grant	Western Access to Cuyahoga Valley	\$ 10,000
Akron/Summit Convention and Visitors Bureau	Summit Lake Nature Center Signage	\$ 2,500
Ohio & Erie Canalway Association	Sagamore Hills Trail Engineering and Design	\$ 20,000
Clean 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		\$ 1,252,833

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- 19 incident reports were completed for the month of December 2025.
- 440 hours of officer foot patrol were completed for the month of December. The officer’s primary means of patrol is on foot, checking designated trails, conservation areas and park boundaries.
- 1,560 visitor contacts were made for the month of December. 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.
- From Judge John R. Adams, United States District Court: “My wife and I hosted our wedding reception at the Himelright Lodge on December 14, 2025. I am writing to express our thanks and our sincere gratitude for the efforts of Park Rangers John Schlaeppi and Spencer Forshey. Ranger Schlaeppi went above and beyond for our event. It snowed throughout the evening and he kept the sidewalks cleared and ensured that all our guests were safe. We appreciate all of his efforts to make our event run smoothly.”
- The Police Department participated in the 2025 Shop with a Cop program in partnership with multiple police departments throughout Summit County. The police department has now participated in the program for 19 years. Funding is obtained through the selling of raffle tickets to park employees and the public, with prizes being donated this year by the Silver Lake Police Department. Officers were able to raise over \$1, 000 for the purchase of Christmas gifts for seven children living in Summit County. Officers Joe Gonser, Spencer Forshey, Dan Krieger, and Chief Hamblen were on hand to help the children select their gifts. Thank you to everyone for the assistance and support for Shop with a Cop this year!! We made a core memory for both the kids and parents this past weekend and it would have not been possible without your support!



- On December 23, Officer Joe Gonser and Chief Hamblen participated in Operation Santa Sleigh 2025 with over 90 first responder agencies. This is a state-wide event sponsored by Light Ohio Blue and their partners to spread the holiday spirit to hospital caregivers and patients. Spectators were able to watch as the motorcade passed, with lights, sirens and the big man himself.



2025 MONTHLY WORK FORCE REPORT, SUMMIT METRO PARKS

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

Lead Naturalist (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maintenance/Utility Technician (2)	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Manager Volunteer Programs (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Marketing Assistant (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Marketing & Public Relations Manager (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Marketing Specialist (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mechanic (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mechanic - Small Engine (1)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Natural Resources Project Manager (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Operations Project Manager (2)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Operations Service Manager (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Park Biologist (3)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Park Manager I (3)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Park Manager II (8)	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Park Planner (1)	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Park Police Officer (20) **	16	16	16	16	15	17	17	18	18	18	18	18
Park Technician I (36)	37	37	36	37	36	37	37	37	37	37	37	36
Park Technician II (1)	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Park Technician III (5)	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Planning & Development Project Manager (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Police Captain (1) **	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police Lieutenant (1) **	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police Sergeant (3) **	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Purchasing Manager (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Regional Manager (2)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Sales Supervisor (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Supervisor of Cultural Resources (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Supervisor of Ecological Resources (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Supervisor of Wildlife Resources (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trail Crew Leader (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Trail Technician (1)	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Utility Technician (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Volunteer Coordinator (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Full-Time Hired	157	157	154	155	156	159	160	161	161	161	160	161
Total FT Authorized	170											
Part-Time, Year Round Employees												
Accounting Specialist (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Civil Engineer/Construction Supervisor (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cultural Resource Specialist (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Engagement Specialist (6)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5
Customer Service Rep (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Interpretive Naturalist (6)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Outreach Program Assistant (1)*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Park Technician (11)	11	10	9	9	9	11	11	10	11	11	11	11
Park Biologist (3)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Sales Assistant (2)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
Watershed Resource Specialist (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Part-Time, Year-Round Hired	32	31	30	30	30	32	32	30	32	32	32	31
Total PT, YR Authorized	34											
Seasonal Employees												
Community Engagement	2	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	0
Conservation	3	2	2	6	12	13	13	13	9	11	6	4
Operations	5	3	2	6	31	37	35	32	8	3	7	6
Total Seasonal Hired	10	6	5	13	47	54	52	49	21	18	15	10
Total Seasonal Authorized	104											
Casual Employees												
Ranger (5)	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Visitor Engagement Specialists (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Casual Hired	1	1	1	1	1	0						
Total Casual Authorized	5											
Intern Employees												
Total Interns Hired	0											
Total Interns Authorized (9)	9											
Grand Total												
Grand Total Hired Employees	200	195	190	199	234	245	244	240	214	211	207	202
Grand Total Employees Authorized	322											

Summit Metro Parks

December 31, 2025

I certify approval for payment of the vouchers listed:

Vendor	Description	Net Amount
4 IMPRINT INC	Gift Shop Items	261.52
ABC PORTA THRONES	Portable Restroom Rental	3,186.00
AKRON BEARING CO INC	Equipment Supplies	51.00
AKRON TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT INC	Equipment Supplies	649.85
AKRON UNIFORMS	Uniforms	332.99
ALCO CHEM INC	Cleaning & Sanitary Supplies	2,438.43
ALL TOWN & COUNTRY SEPTIC TANK SERVICE INC	Septic Service	170.00
AM LEONARD INC	Maintenance Materials	510.48
AMERICAN INTERIORS INC	Office Supplies	34.00
APG OFFICE FURNISHINGS INC	Office Furniture	3,086.09
APPLE INC	Computer Equipment	5,416.00
ARBORWEAR LLC	Uniforms	510.60
AUSTIN IGNITION COMPANY	Vehicle Supplies	230.08
AUTOMATION MAILING & SHIPPING SOLUTIONS INC	Postage Machine Rental & Supplies	723.97
BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION BUREAU LLC	Background Checks	56.90
BAIN ENTERPRISES	Maintenance Materials	1,000.00
BAKER VEHICLE SYSTEMS INC	Equipment Supplies	1,382.41
BASIC BENEFITS LLC	COBRA & FSA Administration	344.18
BECK SAND AND GRAVEL INC	Maintenance Materials	501.17
BG ENGINEERING GROUP LLC	Boundary Survey	19,300.00
BG ENGINEERING GROUP LLC	Easement Surveys	11,700.00
BIALOSKY AND PARTNERS ARCHITECTS LLC	Silver Creek Assessment	4,313.46
BLIMP CITY BIKE & HIKE	Maintenance Materials	1,999.00
BUCKEYE UNIFORMS INC	Uniforms	145.00
BUCKINGHAM DOOLITTLE & BURROUGHS	Legal Services	1,693.00
CAR PARTS WAREHOUSE INC	Vehicle Supplies	410.93
CITY OF AKRON	Water & Sewer Service	2,291.62
CITY OF BARBERTON	Water Service	265.43
CITY OF CLEVELAND	Water Service	180.78
CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS	Electric & Water Service	196.90
CITY OF MUNROE FALLS	Water Service	65.42
CITY OF STOW	Stormwater Service	32.98
CLEVELAND VICON CO INC	Maintenance Materials	1,881.00
CLOTH AND CLAY INC	Gift Shop Items	1,638.92
COMDOC INC	Copier Service	458.72
CRANDALL CO INC	Equipment Supplies	687.80
DAYWALT MANAGEMENT LLC	Vehicle Supplies	1,447.10
DL WEATHERHEAD TIMBERWORKS	Fall Family Outing Lumberjack Show	1,000.00
DOUGLAS DYNAMICS INC & SUBSIDIARIES	Dump Truck & Vehicle Equipment	116,510.00
DRELLISHAK & DRELLISHAK INC	Police Equipment	1,995.00
EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY	Gas Service	2,841.39
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	Vehicle Lease	45,833.83
ENVIROSCIENCE INC	Biomonitoring Survey	2,104.50
E-VOLVE CREATIVE GROUP LLC	Website Services	12,560.00
FALLSWAY EQUIPMENT CO INC	Vehicle Repairs	827.50
FAMOUS DISTRIBUTION INC	Maintenance Materials	81.35
FIRST COMMUNICATIONS LLC	Phone & Internet Service	6,345.85
FISHER AUTO PARTS INC	Vehicle Supplies	487.58
FRED W ALBRECHT GROCERY COMPANY	Maintenance & Program Supplies	1,094.26
GATEWAY PRODUCTS RECYCLING INC	Shredding Service	138.04
GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	Vehicle Supplies	957.69
GLAUS PYLE SCHOMER BURNS & DEHAVEN INC	Design Services	112,995.58
GOLD CREST DISTRIBUTING LLC	Gift Shop Items	402.32

HARRY C LOBALZO AND SONS INC	Maintenance Materials	61.42
HARTVILLE HARDWARE INC	Maintenance Materials	89.01
HIGH ENERGY ASSOCIATES LLC	Maintenance Supplies	112.60
IDEASTREAM	Advertising	3,384.00
INDEPENDENCE OFFICE AND BUSINESS SUPPLY CO INC	Maintenance Supplies	441.56
JJ KELLER & ASSOCIATES INC	Maintenance Supplies	593.00
JOHN J HEMMINGER CONSTRUCTION COL INC	Maintenance Facility Construction	273,780.00
KEIM CO	Maintenance Materials	2,606.81
KENMORE CONSTRUCTION CO INC	Freedom Trail Phase Construction	104,338.84
KOLLMANS GREENHOUSE INC	Program Supplies	585.00
LAMBERT FALCONER, DEMETRIUS L	Conference Reimbursement	23.35
LEANDRA DRUMM DESIGN INC	Gift Shop Items	260.00
LEPPO INC	Equipment Rental	1,550.00
M CONLEY CO	Maintenance Supplies	3,369.79
MAGIC GARAGE DOOR INC	Garage Door Repairs	225.00
MCDONALD HOPKINS LLC	Legal Services	945.00
MCMASTER CARR SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Supplies	161.53
MEDICAL MUTUAL OF OHIO	Vision & Hearing Claims & Administration	477.52
MIDWEST MOTOR SUPPLY CO INC	Maintenance Supplies	1,222.82
MOMAR INCORPORATED	Maintenance Materials	2,284.65
MURDOCK INDUSTRIAL INC	Equipment Supplies	100.80
NATIONAL LIME & STONE COMPANY	Maintenance Materials	1,125.81
NESTLED PINES WOODWORKING	Gift Shop Items	746.10
NFP CORPORATE SERVICES OH INC	Consultation Services	12,250.00
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT	Sewer Service	60.90
OHIO & ERIE CANALWAY COALITION INC	Program Expenses	350.00
OHIO AFSCME CARE PLAN	Ohio AFSCME Care Plan	944.00
OHIO EDISON CO	Electric Service	11,685.41
OREILLY AUTO ENTERPRISES LLC	Vehicle Supplies	1,116.71
OSCAR BRUGMANN SAND & GRAVEL INC	Maintenance Materials	666.02
OUTDOOR HOME SERVICES HOLDINGS LLC	Maintenance Materials	709.66
POND MANAGEMENT GROUP HOLDINGS LLC	Aquatic Weed Control	914.15
PRITT ENTERTAINMENT GROUP LLC	Gorge Videography Services	3,200.00
PROBE TECHNOLOGIES LTD	Computer Services	17,341.22
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE INDUSTRIES INC	Construction Testing & Inspections	1,067.50
QUAD FLUID DYNAMICS	Vehicle Supplies	2,696.00
REFRIGERATION SALES COMPANY LLC	Maintenance Materials	33.79
REPROS INC	Maintenance Materials	667.00
RICE OIL COMPANY LLC	Disposal Service	1,834.48
RICHARD L BOWEN & ASSOCIATES INC	Architectural Services	27,543.22
RICHARDS WHOLESALE FENCE CO INC	Maintenance Materials	5.80
ROBERTSON ENTERPRISES LLC	Cabinet Finishing Service	50.00
ROBERTSON HEATING SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	342.25
ROETZEL & ANDRESS LPA	Legal Services	725.00
ROHR, RYAN CHRISTOPHER	Wildlife Management	1,350.00
RUBBER CITY RADIO GROUP INC	Advertising	1,720.00
SANTMYER ENERGY INC	Fuel Service	19,561.43
SECURITAS ELECTRONIC SECURITY INC	Broadway Installation	1,076.25
SECURITAS ELECTRONIC SECURITY INC	Security Monitoring Services	810.71
SHELLY MATERIALS INC	Maintenance Materials	3,655.00
SKULSKI CONSULTING LLC	ADA Transition Plan	3,950.00
SLE TECHNOLOGIES INC	Vehicle Repairs	1,755.50
SMITH, CAROL A	Gift Shop Items	133.20
SOHARS ALL SEASON MOWER SERVICE INC	Equipment Supplies	481.76
SOUTH STREET MINISTRIES INC	Naturalist Cycling Programs	10,000.00
STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY	Life Insurance	495.78

SUMMA HEALTH SYSTEM	Employee Drug Screens	291.50
SUMMIT C & D TRANSFER LLC	Disposal Services	220.00
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Stormwater Monitoring	101.29
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Firewood License	25.00
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Animal Control	180.00
SUMMIT FIRE & SECURITY LLC	Inspection Services	2,654.00
SUMMIT METRO PARKS	FSA & Visa Reimbursement Check	71,773.13
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	Dental Claims & Administration	7,469.10
TEAM APPROACH INC	Office Supplies	576.00
TERRY LUMBER & SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	727.54
ULINE INC	Maintenance Materials	105.93
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC	Wireless Services	2,816.02
VISUAL EDGE IT INC	Copier Service	81.32
W W GRAINGER INC	Maintenance Supplies & Materials	856.97
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF OHIO INC	Disposal Services	1,617.59
WEST PUBLISHING CORP	Software Subscription	226.01
WILD IRIS PUBLISHING LLC	Gift Shop	197.72
WILLOWBEND NURSERIES LLC	Maintenance Materials	935.00
WINTERSPRING LLC	Maintenance Materials	9,616.00
WKYC TV LLC	Advertising	2,998.00
WL TUCKER SUPPLY COMPANY	Maintenance Supplies	485.85
ZIEGLER TIRE & SUPPLY CO	Vehicle & Equipment Supplies	2,681.94
ZORO TOOLS INC	Maintenance Materials	1,948.15
		<hr/>
		1,012,030.03