

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of February 10, 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. 2026 Budget Appropriations
 - C. Acknowledgement of Dan Rice's Retirement
 - D. Acknowledgement of Edward J. Zakraysek Retirement
 - E. Acknowledgement of Harmita C. Shropshire Retirement
 - F. Authorization to Apply for Ohio Department of Natural Resources Clean Ohio Trails Grant for Sagamore Hills Connector Trail
7. Unfinished/Old Business & New Business
8. Correspondence & Public Portion
9. Executive Session
10. Future Board Meeting Dates/Adjourn

March 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, March 10, 2026, at 11:30 A.M., at the Liberty Park Nature Center, 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087.

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 Jen Harvey, Mike Johnson, Dee Falconer, Lindsay Smith, Aaron Hockman, Mark Szeremet, Angie Hardman, Josh Hamblen, Dale Fobean, Mike Phillips and Jessica Rice.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10, 2026 PREVIOUS BOARD MINUTES

Resolution 24.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Ms. Carter, seconded by Ms. Stritch, that the minutes of the February 10, 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.	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 25.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Ms. Carter, 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	February 2026	\$136,405.72
Medicare	February 2026	\$13,482.21
Interim Bills	February 26, 2026	\$620,361.22
Payroll	February 13, 2026	\$486,665.45
Payroll	February 27, 2026	\$459,865.93
TOTAL	BALANCE	\$1,716,780.53

Resolution 26.2026

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

B. 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

The Executive Director reported that a draft of the 2026 Budget was provided for the Commissioners' review. The 2026 Budget is balanced in the general fund at \$36,369,915 with an additional \$825,000 in capital and internal service funds, for a total budget of \$37,194,915.

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

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide for the expenditures of Summit Metro Parks during the year 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Summit County Fiscal Officer has provided information upon which an estimate can be made of the amount available for appropriation for the twelve months of the year 2026,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that to provide for the expenses of the Summit Metro Parks for the months of January through December 2026 the following adjustments be made to the original 2026 tax budget and the adjusted totals indicated are hereby set aside and appropriated, and

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

Resolution 27.2026

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

C. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DAN RICE'S RETIREMENT

Executive Director Lisa M. King requested the Board of Park Commissioners approve a resolution honoring Dan Rice upon his retirement from the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition:

WHEREAS, Dan Rice was hired as the first staff member for Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition in 1992, soon after serving as its President & CEO until his retirement and

WHEREAS, he was a valued partner to Summit Metro Parks through his community leadership at both Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition and Reimagining the Civic Commons and

WHEREAS, he has worked tirelessly for more than 30 years to successfully develop and improve the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and its corridor for the benefit and enjoyment of residents, and

WHEREAS, Dan Rice retired in Spring 2026 and entered into a new phase of his life,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Park Commissioners and staff express their sincere appreciation to Dan Rice for his past service to Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition and his contributions to parks and recreation in Northeast Ohio.

Resolution 28.2026

The Board of Park Commissioners approved the above resolution, acknowledging Dan Rice's retirement from the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition and his contributions to parks and recreation in Northeast Ohio.

D. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EDWARD J. ZAKRAYSEK RETIREMENT

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

WHEREAS, Edward J. Zakraysek was employed with Summit Metro Parks from March 6, 1995 through January 30, 2026 and

WHEREAS, he served as Crew Leader for the park district's Operations department, and

WHEREAS, he has worked for Summit Metro Parks and for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents of Summit County for nearly thirty-one years, and

WHEREAS, Edward J. Zakraysek retired on January 30, 2026, and entered into a new phase of his life,

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

Resolution 29.2026

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

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF HARMITA C. SHROPSHIRE'S RETIREMENT

Executive Director, Lisa M. King, requested the Board of Park Commissioners to approve the following resolution honoring Harmita C. Shropshire upon her retirement from Summit Metro Parks:

WHEREAS, Harmita C. Shropshire was employed with Summit Metro Parks from June 24, 1991 through February 28, 2026, and

WHEREAS, she served as Purchasing Manager for the park district's Finance Department, and

WHEREAS, she has worked for Summit Metro Parks and for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents of Summit County for nearly thirty-five years, and

WHEREAS, Harmita C. Shropshire retired on February 28, 2026, and entered into a new phase of her life,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Park Commissioners and staff express their sincere appreciation to Harmita C. Shropshire for her past service to Summit Metro Parks and to the people of Summit County.

Resolution 30.2026

The Board of Park Commissioners approved the above resolution, acknowledging Harmita C. Shropshire service and retirement from Summit Metro Parks.

F. AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CLEAN OHIO TRAILS GRANT FOR SAGAMORE HILLS CONNECTOR TRAIL

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) distributes grant funds through its Clean Ohio Trails Fund (COTF) for the purposes of advancing recreational trail projects. The maximum amount that can be requested is 75% of a project's total cost, up to \$500,000. The remaining 25% must be funded from non-Federal sources. This grant won't be awarded until the end of 2026.

The Executive Director requested authorization to apply for \$500,000 in COTF grant funds for construction of the Sagamore Hills Connector Trail project (map included). The project consists of a 1.6-mile, fully ADA compliant, 10-foot-wide paved multi-purpose trail that connects the Bike & Hike Trail to the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail in Sagamore Hills. The estimated project cost is \$1,600,000. This is a partnership project with Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Sagamore Hills Township.

The Executive Director requested authorization to obligate Capital Funds to satisfactorily complete the project if COTF grant funds are awarded; estimated to be \$1,100,000 if the maximum \$500,000 in Recreational Trails Program grant funds is awarded. Other grants will be sought in early 2027.

Resolution 31.2026

Executive Director was authorized to apply for \$500,000 in Clean Ohio Trails Fund Program grant through ODNR for construction of the Sagamore Hills Connector Trail 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 Sagamore Hills Connector Trail project in addition to any awarded Recreational Trails Program grant funds to provide the required minimum 25% of the project's total cost using non-Federal sources.

ITEM 7: UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Authorization for Property and Liability Insurance Renewal

AUTHORIZATION FOR PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Executive Director requested authorization to sign a one-year renewal contract for property, liability, and cyber insurance coverage for the park district. The renewal would continue a contract currently with Assured Partners. The insurance renewal reflects approximately a 7% increase over 2025. The coverage is effective March 25, 2026, through March 25, 2027, at a cost of approximately \$264,500.00. The final quote will be available this week for finalization.

The Executive Director requested authorization to continue coverage with the current provider, Assured Partners, and requested authority to sign a renewal contract at a cost of approximately \$264,500.00.

Resolution 32.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Ms. Carter, seconded by Rev. Walker, that the Executive Director was authorized to continue coverage with the current provider, Assured Partners, and was authorized to sign a renewal contract at a cost of approximately \$264,500.00.

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 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 33.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Ms. Stritch, seconded by Ms. Carter, 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 34.2026

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

ROLL CALL VOTE	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.

Resolution 35.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Rev. Walker, and seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Executive Director was authorized to sign purchase and sale agreement for the Pigeon Creek South property at a cost of \$120,000.00 and further gives Lisa King, Executive Director, authority to sign on behalf of Summit Metro Parks.

The vote being:

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

Resolution 36.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Ms. Stritch, and seconded by Rev. Walker, that the Executive Director was authorized to purchase the Slipper Run Property in Peninsula with Clean Ohio Conservation funding and was authorized to obligate budget funds to complete the acquisition of the property including closing and due diligence expenses. The Executive Director was also authorized to sign all documents for this transaction.

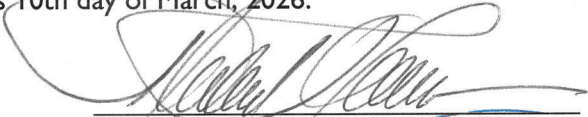
The vote being:


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

ITEM 10: FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

- 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 March, 2026.



 Herbert Newman, Chair


 Lisa M. King, Executive Director

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

ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

	North Region	Central Region	South Region	Administrative Office
Public Programs	15	21	19	
Outreach Programs	2	4	4	
Program Attendance	459	813	562	

Phone Calls	95	159	44	928
Building Visitation	1197	2655	439	95

Liberty Park

- February was a successful month for our weekly *Coffee with the Birds* program at Liberty Park Nature Center. Our program welcomed an average of nearly 40 participants each Saturday morning.
- After tapping the sugar maple trees in the Liberty Park sugarbush early in February, the sap is now flowing, and we're looking forward to a month of syrup production and programming. We're excited to host the Board of Park Commissioners and senior staff for the March board meeting.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm

- F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm staff are preparing for spring by installing new exhibits and interactive displays for families. The former pond exhibit is now a forest theme, complete with a black bear!
- The Central region is planning Career Exploration in March with three Akron Public Schools. We will welcome more than 75 local students to learn about park careers.

Summit Lake Nature Center

- This month at Summit Lake Nature Center, the *Beyond the Summit* speaker series will feature Elaine Marsh, Watershed Resource Specialist for SMP. Visitors enjoyed her update on the Gorge Dam project and local Akron area water quality initiatives.
- Garden season is upon us, staff look forward to the return of Kids in the Garden, Good Garden Talks, seed starting in recycled paper pots, and preparing the beds in each of our community gardens – Summit Lake Nature Center and Goodyear Heights Metro Park.



CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Deer Management Program

- Deer management activities concluded in January. Final results indicate a successful season. Since the program began in 2004, more than **146,000 pounds of ground venison** have been donated to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. Post-management population surveys are currently underway to assess updated deer densities. This data will guide planning and recommendations for the next phase of deer management.

Outreach & Public Engagement

- Staff from Conservation, Community Engagement, Marketing, and Operations participated in the **Akron Home and Garden Show** at the John S. Knight Center. More than 1,100 visitors engaged with our booth to learn about the Wild Back Yards program and purchase items from Maple Leaf Gifts.
- Our **Citizen Science Program** is now active for the season. Training is currently underway for vernal pool and wetland monitoring, stream surveys, and additional seasonal research initiatives. These programs continue to expand community involvement in resource stewardship.

Everett Knoll Site – NAGPRA Process

- We continue to advance compliance efforts related to the **Everett Knoll Site** under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The Wyandot Nation has claimed ancestral affiliation, and SMP is actively engaged in consultation and repatriation discussions. Reburial at the Everett Knoll Site is one option currently under consideration.

Liberty Park Fuel Line Project

- An interstate fuel pipeline has been exposed in the Tinkers Creek Area of Liberty Park due to historic wetland water level changes associated with culvert maintenance along an adjacent rail corridor. SMP has worked collaboratively with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Buckeye Pipeline to develop a mutually acceptable plan to rebury the line. Implementation is expected to begin soon. The approved plan:

1. Avoids impacts to rare and endangered species
2. Minimizes surface disturbance
3. Restores site stability

This is one of many utility projects that are coordinated by Summit Metro Park staff.

HUMAN RESOURCES

We are conducting park wide training/refresher for all managers on employment law and for all year-round employees training on professionalism and harassment prevention.

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES:

- 25 Years of Service: Police Officer Mike Phillips, Chief of Operations Aaron Hockman, Silver Creek Park Manager Justin Simon.
- 15 Years of Service: Trail Crew Leader Jason Hubbard
- 10 Years of Service: Park Biologist Dan Toth, Police Officer Robert Tanner
- 5 Years of Service: Land Compliance Project Manager Ron Arpajian, Customer Service Representative Bonnie Burhoe, Police Officer Daniel Krieger

RETIREMENTS:

- Purchasing Manager Harmita Shropshire with 35 Years of Service
- Crew Leader Ed Zakraysek with 31 Years of Service

PROMOTIONS:

- Megan Heaps to Park Technician I
- Kyle Reinhart to Crew Leader of F.A. Seiberling Nature Center

NEW HIRES:

- Jeremy Brown as PTYR Community Engagement Specialist
- Zoe Brown as PTYR Cultural Resource Specialist

SEASONALS:

We have begun posting seasonal positions for Conservation (10 positions) and Operations (51 positions) departments for the 2026 spring/summer seasons. We have welcomed one (1) seasonal employee while five (5) seasonal employees have reached the end of their season with Summit Metro Parks over the past month.

POSTINGS:

- 02/03/26: PTYR Park Technician I – Firestone (Internal/External)
- 02/10/26: Park Technician I – Sand Run (Internal)
- 02/24/26: Police Lieutenant (Internal)

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

- **Volunteer Engagement** | In February 2025, 113 reoccurring volunteers reported 671 hours for an average of 6 hours per volunteer. Volunteers participated in 22 assignments across seven departments including supporting the Summit Metro Parks exhibit at the Akron Home and Garden Show.
- **Vome Transition** | Roughly 75% of all ongoing volunteers have been successfully established in Vome, SMP's new volunteer technology homebase. Vome has already begun to be utilized by episodic volunteers and corporate groups will begin to utilize it as projects are coordinated moving forward.
- **Recruitment** | The interest of 41 prospective volunteers was expressed within February via the volunteer communication signup. We had 25 prospective volunteers attended informational sessions on February 26 and 28 to learn about becoming an ongoing volunteer.
- **Group Interest** | Since the start of the new year, 23 requests have been submitted by corporate or youth groups looking for service opportunities this spring. So far, three have a confirmed project.

- **Onboarding** | The onboarding of new volunteers will continue in March, including two additional info sessions on March 4. The volunteer department is working with volunteer supervisors to select volunteers to join 11 different roles across the marketing, conservation and community engagement departments.



MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

- **This March**, the Marketing department is focused on
 - Planning for upcoming large-scale park district events
 - The launch of our March/April “Wild Back Yards” campaign with additional sustainability messaging
 - Releasing the 2025 Annual Report to the Community, our second annual Sustainability Report, and our 2025 Marketing & Communications Department impact report (internal use only)
 - Announcing the park district’s closure of Sugarbush Trail at Liberty Park.
- **Media coverage in February** included mentions or stories in the following outlets: Akron Beacon Journal (proposed tactical training facility near GYH, ice skating), Cleveland.com (National Center for Choreography Akron event), Ever After in the Woods (13 Secret Ohio Lakes – Nimisila Reservoir), Hoodline (great blue heron myth), The Independent (Maple Mania Open House), NewsBreak (new e-waste recycling bins), Northeast Ohio Parent (Valentine’s Day program at FR), Signal Akron (proposed tactical training facility near GYH, invasive tree removal at GYH), Spectrum News 1 (Model AA restoration), Travel2Next (20 things to do in Akron), USA Track & Field (2026 USATF Club Cross Country & National Championships at SC), WCPN-FM (Summit Lake Nature Center, Towpath Trail), West Side Leader (Valentine’s Day program at FASN)
- **Maple Leaf Gifts** supported the Wild Back Yards program with merchandise at the Akron Home & Garden show (February 13-15) generating \$3,212 in sales from the weekend event. The successful offsite event plus monthly sales combined came to \$6,902 in February with best-selling products being clothing items, jewelry and books.
- The final date to receive 2025 Fall Hiking Spree rewards is March 31. Marketing staff will support one final Fall Hiking Spree shield assistance date on March 29 at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm. Final 2025 spree participation numbers will be available later this spring. In the meantime, staff are collaborating to develop an interpretive theme for the 2026 Fall Hiking Spree. Details coming soon!
- Marketing staff are coordinating with other SMP departments to plan and promote the Fishing Derbies, Mother’s Day 5K and Annual Native Plant Festival.

OPERATIONS

- **WOOD HOLLOW TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS:** On hold due to weather. 2,100 feet of boardwalk removed; surfacing will resume when conditions permit. All amenities and open trail sections remain accessible to the public.
- **DISTRICT-WIDE FORESTRY:** Preventative maintenance and invasive species removal will continue through March. Crews are also actively clearing trees for the future Munroe Falls/Freedom Trail connector.
- **NIMISILA CAMPGROUND:** Opened for the 2026 season on March 1.
- **SEASONAL RECRUITMENT:** Active hiring is underway through local high school and college job fairs.

- **TOWPATH TRAIL:** Currently securing quotes to repair several bridge approaches on the southern section.
- **HIMELRIGHT LODGE:** Finalizing plans and securing quotes with the Planning Department to enhance service and delivery access for renters.

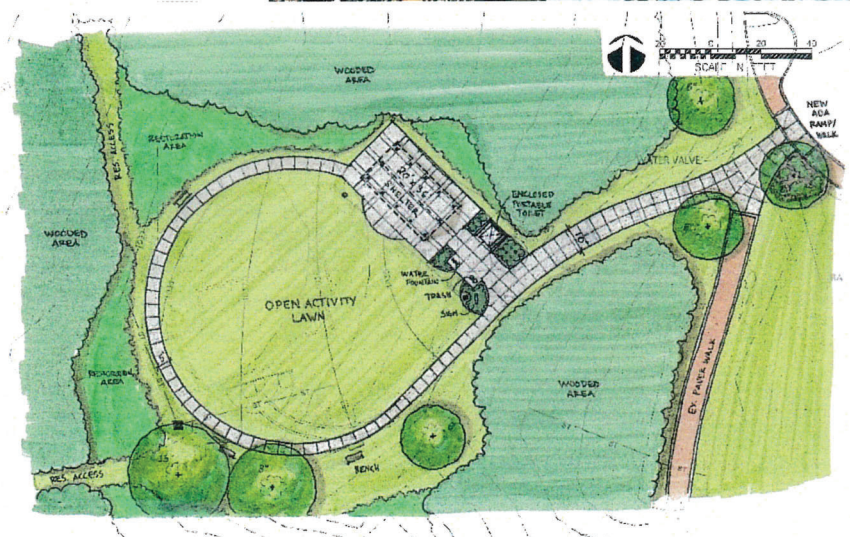
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- **Central Maintenance Facility** - Construction is ongoing with sewer, data and electrical utilities being installed along with beginning site work this month.
- **Cascade Valley Metro Park – Valley View Area.** Plans to build service access drive from parking lot to behind Himelright Lodge for better access for vendors and maintenance.
- **Freedom Trail – Southwest Bridge.** The existing bridge will be removed due to age and high maintenance and will be replaced with a precast concrete box culvert. Footers have been constructed and culvert installed. Filling around culvert will happen this month.
- **F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm Shelter** - Future shelter for students and programs is out to bid. Plan to build in late spring and through summer for use later this year.



Pictured right: Concept plan for the shelter at Nature Realm.

- **Open-Source Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** - Providing Metro Park data for the public to use which includes maps and files. Please check out future web application:
- **Grant Applications** - Planning Department is working on several grant applications to help with capital projects:



- **Clean Ohio Trails Fund Grant** – to help with construction of the Sagamore Hills Connector Trail from the Bike & Hike Trail to the Towpath Trail.
- **Ohio & Erie Canalway Strategic Initiatives Grant** – to help with design and engineering for the Silver Creek Trail from Wadsworth to the Magic Mile in Barberton.
- **ODNR Recreational Trails Grant** – to help with construction of the Freedom Trail Connector to Munroe Falls Metro Park.

GRANT ACTIVITY

Grants-Pending: (Application made, awaiting word)

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund	Slipper Run Conservation Area	\$ 1,730,000
Total		\$ 1,730,000

Grants-Awarded:

Ohio & Erie Canalway Association	Big Bend Trailhead Upgrades	\$ 20,000
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
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		\$ 1,258,333

POLICE DEPARTMENT

	Total
Incident Reports	15
Foot Patrol	463 Hours
Visitor Contacts	1385

- On January 29, with support from the Planning Department, Chief Hamblen and Captain Williams attended the second meeting with the Cuyahoga River Water Trail partners. The overall goal of the meeting was to bring together multiple first responder agencies to build out a river safety initiative. Activity on the river will only increase in the coming years and we feel this group can help prepare first responding agencies, community partners and the public as the river's popularity and usage increases.
- Thanks to the name change committee (Officers Mike Phillips, Bill Kelly, and Spencer Forshey) for developing a new department uniform patch. The new patch was voted on by the department, and you will see the patch implemented on our new uniforms throughout 2026.
- Thanks to assistance from Axon and the Operations Department, seven (7) of our eleven (11) patrol vehicles have been outfitted with Axon's Fleet 3 camera system. The Fleet 3 is an advanced in-car video system designed to boost safety, transparency, and efficiency. The dual-view camera records a clear panoramic view and integrates a 4K camera covering three traffic lanes. The interior camera captures a knee-to-head occupant view with infrared for night view. The remaining four (4) vehicles are being replaced in late Spring and will also be upfitted with the camera system.
- For calendar year 2026, peace officers and troopers must receive a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of continuing professional training. The minimum requirement is set at 24 hours, including 8 hours of mandated topics and 16 hours of pre-approved topics selected by each agency. The mandatory topics this year include legal updates, communications, compliance and control tactics, and firearms. We will be hosting a regional training course at Coventry Oaks Lodge in March where all mandatory topics will be taught. The remaining 16 hours will include Gracie Survival Tactics Subject Control and Virtual Reality.



TRAINING

OPRA Conference and Trade Show

When: February 2- 4

Attendees: Chief Joshua Hamblen, Sgt. Rebecca Deem, Ron Arpajian

FBI- LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute

When: March 9-13

Attendees: Sgt. Rebecca Deem, Sgt. Joseph Gmerek

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

CITY OF BARBERTON	Water Service	103.62
CITY OF CLEVELAND	Water Service	123.07
CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS	Electric & Water Service	702.05
OF HUDSON	Electric Service	27.42
CITY OF MUNROE FALLS	Water Service	96.05
CITY OF TALLMADGE	Water Service	321.85
CLEVELAND VICON CO INC	Maintenance Materials	1,174.00
COMDOC INC	Copier Service Contract	330.30
CRANDALL CO INC	Vehicle Supplies	1,549.60
DAVEY RESOURCE GROUP INC	Sand Run Stream Survey	6,800.00
DAYWALT MANAGEMENT LLC	Vehicle Supplies	238.15
DIKARYA LLC	Fungal Identification	768.00
EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY	Gas Service	5,584.06
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	Vehicle Lease	44,670.86
EVANS MECHWART HAMBLETON & TILTON INC	Bridge Design and Permitting	3,277.49
E-VOLVE CREATIVE GROUP LLC	Website Services	13,885.00
FALLS FLAG & BANNER	Maintenance Materials	65.25
FIRST COMMUNICATIONS LLC	Phone & Internet Services	6,335.44
FLOCK GROUP INC	Annual Safety Service Contract	1,894.52
FORESTRY SUPPLIERS INC	Maintenance Materials	122.40
MCOTYP-POSTALIA INC	Postage Meter Rental	288.00
GALLS PARENT HOLDINGS LLC	Uniforms	1,031.27
GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	Equipment Supplies	306.16
GLAUS PYLE SCHOMER BURNS & DEHAVEN INC	Restroom Replacement Design Services	43,033.64
GLOBAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY INC	Maintenance Materials	95.89
GOLD CREST DISTRIBUTING LLC	Gift Shop Items	520.10
GP TREE SERVICE	Invasive Tree Removal	25,450.00
GVS SAFETY SUPPLIES INC	Protective Apparel	588.00
HANES COMPANIES INC	Maintenance Materials	528.00
HIGH ENERGY ASSOCIATES LLC	Maintenance Supplies	362.68
HOCKMAN, JOSEPH A	OPRA Conference Reimbursement	273.84
INDEPENDENCE OFFICE AND BUSINESS SUPPLY CO INC	Office & Maintenance Supplies	382.49
JACKSON HIRSH INC	Office Supplies	74.94
JJ KELLER & ASSOCIATES INC	Office Supplies	378.00
JTI INC	Equipment Supplies	208.73
KASTNER WESTMAN & WILKINS LLC	Legal Services	319.00
1 CO	Maintenance Materials	128.80
WITH C LUCKS EXTREME TREE SERVICE LLC	Tree Removal Service	4,345.00
KG NORTON LLC	Vehicle Supplies & Repairs	877.54
KROMHARD TWIST DRILL LLC	Maintenance Materials	79.31
KUBICKI ENTERPRISES INC	Maintenance Materials	19.18
LEANDRA DRUMM DESIGN INC	Gift Shop Items	650.00
LTR INTERMEDIATE HOLDINGS INC	Disposal Services	418.81
M CONLEY CO	Cleaning & Sanitary Supplies	2,355.55
M&M CERTIFIED WELDING	Equipment Repairs	750.00
MARS ELECTRIC CO INC	Maintenance Materials	46.26
MCDONALD HOPKINS LLC	Legal Services	1,470.00
MCMASTER CARR SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	211.57
MEDICAL MUTUAL OF OHIO	Vision & Hearing Claims & Administration	228.23
MIDWEST MOTOR SUPPLY CO INC	Maintenance Supplies	969.26
MURDOCK INDUSTRIAL INC	Equipment Supplies	480.85
NATIONAL POLISHING SYSTEMS INC	Concrete Floor Sealing	3,450.00
NEAL, JULIA	Banner Reimbursement	32.00
TLED PINES WOODWORKING	Gift Shop Items	858.00
NEWSOME, MADELINE ROSE	Training Reimbursement	21.50
NICKS LANDSCAPING OF OHIO LLC	Disposal Service	2,760.00

NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT	Sewer Service	60.90
OHIO AFSCME CARE PLAN	Ohio AFSCME Care Plan	944.00
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL	Safety Training	920.00
EDISON CO	Electric Service	26,412.76
ULIGER SEED CO	Program Supplies	164.03
ORCHARD HILTZ & MCCLIMENT INC	Corridor Feasibility Study	6,630.00
OREILLY AUTO ENTERPRISES LLC	Vehicle Supplies	482.83
OSBORN ENGINEERING COMPANY	Freedom Trail Design Services	1,853.96
OSCAR BRUGMANN SAND & GRAVEL INC	Maintenance Materials	4,589.02
OUTDOOR HOME SERVICES HOLDINGS LLC	Maintenance Supplies	514.50
PHOENIX METAL SALES AND FABRICATION LLC	Maintenance Materials	650.00
PPG ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES INC	Maintenance Supplies	110.72
PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY	Landscape Materials	88.00
PROBE TECHNOLOGIES LTD	Computer Services & Supplies	14,988.73
RCR WASTE MANAGEMENT LLC	Composting Service	52.32
REFRIGERATION SALES COMPANY LLC	Maintenance Materials	315.71
REPROS INC	Maintenance Materials	689.40
REPUBLIC SERVICES INC	Disposal Services	4,503.25
RICHARD L BOWEN & ASSOCIATES INC	Architectural Services	12,569.98
RODERICK LINTON BELFANCE LLP	Legal Services	300.00
INS INC	Exterminating Service	811.20
RPM INDUSTRIAL COATINGS GROUP INC	Maintenance Supplies	114.04
SANTMYER ENERGY INC	Fuel Delivery	14,325.43
SECURITAS ELECTRONIC SECURITY INC	Security Monitoring Services	22,767.92
SOHARS ALL SEASON MOWER SERVICE INC	Equipment Supplies	2,017.85
SOHARS ALL SEASON MOWER SERVICE INC	Landscaping Equipment	5,427.94
SOHARS ALL SEASON MOWER SERVICE INC	Zero Turn Mowers	31,978.00
STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY	Life Insurance	475.84
STANDOUT STICKERS INC	Gift Shop Items	1,454.87
SUMMA HEALTH SYSTEM	Audiology Testing	1,426.00
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Annual Bridge Inspections	8,464.00
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Real Estate Taxes & Assessments	115,723.01
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Background Check	15.00
SUMMIT METRO PARKS	FSA & Visa Reimbursement	68,690.83
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	Dental Claims & Administration	7,305.46
TERRY LUMBER & SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	1,493.50
TIGER SAND AND GRAVEL LLC	Maintenance Materials	10,261.90
AL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CORP (TASC)	Annual HSA Administration Fees	60.00
ULINE INC	Maintenance Materials	2,693.66
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC	Wireless Services	2,752.51
VILLAGE OF RICHFIELD	Sewer Service	801.62
VISUAL EDGE IT INC	Copier Service Contract	670.10
W W GRAINGER INC	Maintenance Materials	344.87
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF OHIO INC	Disposal Services	1,594.05
WEST PUBLISHING CORP	Software Subscription	226.01
ZORO TOOLS INC	Maintenance Supplies	515.46
ZW USA INC	Maintenance Supplies	4,502.32
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