

AGENDA  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SUMMIT METRO PARKS  
May 12, 2026

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of April 14, 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 for an Intergovernmental Agreement with United States Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force
  - C. Authorization to Contract for HVAC Replacement at Coventry Oaks Lodge
  - D. Authorization to Award a Contract for the Himelright Lodge Service Access Drive
7. Unfinished/Old Business & New Business
8. Correspondence & Public Portion
9. Executive Session
10. Future Board Meeting Dates/Adjourn

May 12, 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, May 12, 2026, at 11:30 A.M., at the F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, 1828 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44313.

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ITEM 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was opened by Joel D. Bailey, First Vice-Chair, with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

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ITEM 2: ROLL CALL

Roll call showed 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, Jay Rauschenbach, Angie Hardman, Josh Hamblen, Dale Fobean, Alex Daw, Dave Kamps, Kevin Williams, Brittany Nader, Kevin Davis, John Swansinger, and the Szalay Family.

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ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2026 PREVIOUS BOARD MINUTES

Resolution 52.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Ms. Carter, seconded by Rev. Walker, that the minutes of the April 14, 2026, board meeting were approved. The previous minutes were emailed for the Commissioners' review.

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

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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.

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ITEM 5: ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

- None

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ITEM 6: CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 53.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Ms. Stritch, 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	Absent
Joel D. Bailey	Abstain
Jill M. Stritch	Aye
Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker Sr.	Aye
S. Theresa Carter	Aye

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**A. RATIFICATION OF BILLS PAID**

OPERS	April 2026	\$136,226.58
Medicare	April 2026	\$13,256.38
Interim Bills	April, 2026	\$1,369,058.81
Payroll	April 10, 2026	\$466,223.93
Payroll	April 24, 2026	\$464,648.49
TOTAL	BALANCE	\$2,449,414.19

Resolution 54.2026

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

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**B. AUTHORIZATION FOR AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE FUGITIVE TASK FORCE**

Summit Metro Parks may need to utilize the United States Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force, upon request, for mutual assistance law enforcement services. The United States Department of Justice has offered its Task Force to be utilized by Summit Metro Parks at no cost.

The Executive Director requested authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement to utilize the United States Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force, upon request, for mutual assistance law enforcement services, between the United States Department of Justice and Summit Metro Parks.

Resolution 55.2026

The Executive Director was authorized to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement to utilize the United States Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force, upon request, for mutual assistance law enforcement services, between the United States Department of Justice and Summit Metro Parks.

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**C. AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR HVAC REPLACEMENT AT COVENTRY OAKS LODGE**

The existing 25-ton Carrier heat/cool packaged Rooftop Unit (RTU) at Coventry Oaks Lodge has reached the end of its serviceable life. Three quotes for the work were received:

The Geopfert Company	\$39,967.00
Kamm Star Contractors, LLC	\$40,465.00
The K Company, Inc.	\$55,755.52

The Executive Director requested authorization to contract The Geopfert Company to remove and replace the existing RTU at Coventry Oak Lodge for the quoted amount of \$39,967.00 and an additional 10% contingency, at a cost not to exceed \$43,963.70.

Resolution 56.2026

The Executive Director was authorized to contract The Geopfert Company to remove and replace the existing RTU at Coventry Oaks Lodge for the quoted amount of \$39,967.00 and the additional 10% contingency, at a cost not to exceed \$43,963.70.

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**D. AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE HIMELRIGHT LODGE SERVICE ACCESS DRIVE**

In March of 2026, Summit Metro Parks staff solicited quotes for construction of the Himelright Lodge Service Access Drive. The scope of work includes the construction of a 12' asphalt drive connecting the front parking to the rear drive at the storage building and the removal and replacement of the asphalt adjacent to the storage building. Two quotes were received in April.

A summary of the quotes:

Cardinal Asphalt	\$37,500.00
Perrin Asphalt + Concrete	\$43,000.00

Quotes have been received and reviewed by staff and the apparent lowest and best bid is from Cardinal Asphalt.

The Executive Director requested authorization to sign a contract with Cardinal Asphalt for the Himelright Lodge Service Access Drive project in the amount of \$37,500.00 and requests an additional 10% contingency, for a total cost not to exceed \$41,500.00.

Resolution 57.2026

The Executive Director was authorized to sign a contract with Cardinal Asphalt for the Himelright Lodge Service Access Drive project in the amount of \$37,500.00 and requests an additional 10% contingency, for a total cost not to exceed \$41,500.00.

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ITEM 7: UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

- None

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NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution Approving Support of Ohioans to Protect Public Services' Public Education Program Regarding Property Taxes

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SUPPORT OF OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES' PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM REGARDING PROPERTY TAXES**

**WHEREAS**, the Summit Metro Parks, representing more than 5 million visitors annually, provides essential services to communities throughout Summit County, including more than 800 free programs annually, free community events and access to 16 developed parks for experiencing a connection to nature in clean and safe parks; and

**WHEREAS**, property taxes are a primary source of funding for these services; and

**WHEREAS**, eliminating this funding would result in removal of 90% of our budget and possible elimination of services, programs and access to some park areas, as well as jeopardizing public safety services, schools, and services for seniors, children, and vulnerable residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of property tax revenue could require significant increases in income taxes, sales taxes, or other statewide taxes, shifting the burden rather than solving it; and

**WHEREAS**, while property taxes are a serious concern for many Ohioans, eliminating them entirely without a responsible alternative is a reckless and unsustainable approach;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Summit Metro Parks supports the efforts of the Ohioans to Protect Public Services in undertaking public education informing residents of the consequences of property tax elimination; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Summit Metro Parks supports responsible property tax reform that addresses affordability concerns while protecting public safety, schools, metro parks, libraries, zoos, support for senior citizens and other critical community services; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of Ohio, members of the Ohio General Assembly, and other appropriate officials.

Adopted this 12th day of May 2026.

Resolution 58.2026

Following discussion, it was moved by Rev. Walker, seconded by Ms. Stritch that the Executive Director was authorized to support the public education effort of the Ohioans to Protect Public Services coalition and provide the public with information regarding the impact on Summit Metro Parks.

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

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ITEM 8: CORRESPONDENCE

- None

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PUBLIC PORTION

- None

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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 59.2026

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

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

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Resolution 60.2026

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	Absent
	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.

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**ITEM 10: FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES**

- 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

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There being no further business to transact, the meeting adjourned IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand, this 12th day of May, 2026.

  
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 Joe D. Bailey, First Vice-Chair

  
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 Lisa M. King, Executive Director

True copies emailed to all Commissioners on May 15, 2026.

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**ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

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**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

	North Region	Central Region	South Region	Administrative Office
Public Programs	13	29	20	
Outreach Programs	6	10	7	
Program Attendance	431	2338	660	
Phone Calls	67	168	40	1328
Building Visitation	2013	4024	1145	121

- Community Engagement and Marketing celebrated our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Summit County Historical Society. City of Akron, Keep Akron Beautiful, and Cuyahoga Valley National Park supported this special event, where city leaders and representatives planted a swamp white oak tree as part of the America 250 program. Residents were excited to talk with leaders from SMP and to receive a tree sapling.



America 250 Celebration

- Community Engagement in the north region successfully kicked off the 2026 Career Explorations program, welcoming approximately 100 high school students from Twinsburg, Nardonía and Lawrence schools. This always impactful event would not be possible without the collaborative support of SMP staff, who led engaging, high-quality activities for our future workforce, and Friends of Metro Parks, who provided lunch and bussing support. Teachers have since shared that students have been overheard raving about the experience throughout their school.

- We celebrated Earth Day in a special way! On April 22, Community Engagement and Marketing collaborated with The University of Akron to host Zips Invade, an initiative to introduce college students to local businesses and community organizations. Over 100 participants attended the open house style program which included a campfire with s'mores, games and special prizes!

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## CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

- Most Citizen Science trainings are complete.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with support from SMP, hosted a public meeting for the Gorge Dam project. The meeting was held at the Akron Library downtown Akron and was well attended. Dr. Megan Schaeffer gave an excellent presentation on how we are working with the team to protect significant cultural resources during the sediment removal process.
- Jason Whittle was promoted to the position of Supervisor of Wildlife Resources. Jason is an expert on rare and endangered bats and has a broad understanding of wildlife management. He is a graduate of The University of Akron and began his career nearly 20 years ago volunteering for Summit Metro Parks.
- The conservation department teamed with Cuyahoga Valley National Park and our community engagement department to host a bird banding public demonstration at Firestone Metro Park.
- Surveys are underway at the new Twin Creeks Metro Parks to support future park development.
- The Native Plant Festival is scheduled for May 16 at 10:00 a.m. at Munroe Falls Metro Park.

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## HUMAN RESOURCES

### MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES:

- 25 Years of Service: Police Officer Kathy Kwasnik
- 10 Years of Service: Park Technician I Simon Harbeson; Chief of Community Engagement Demetrius Lambert-Falconer; Human Resources Manager Alisa Stinson
- 5 Years of Service: Park Technician I David Gottas

### SEASONALS:

We have begun hiring seasonal positions for Community Engagement (0/5 positions), Conservation (6/10 positions) and Operations (4/51 positions) departments for the 2026 spring/summer seasons.

### POSTINGS:

- 04/14/26: Park Technician II (Internal)

### VOLUNTEER PROGRAM UPDATES:

- **Reoccurring Volunteer Engagement** | In April 2026, 122 reoccurring volunteers reported 886 hours for an average of 8 hours per volunteer. Volunteers participated in 25 assignments across six departments.
- **Episodic Volunteer Engagement** | 37 episodic volunteers contributed 67 hours assisting with a spring cleanup event at Nimisila Reservoir. Employees from Burns & McDonnell assisted in multiple projects throughout National Volunteer week and chose Summit Metro Parks for their charity of choice for this month. Cub Pack 3171 and 3390 contributed 64.5 hours with 43 youth and accompanying adults filling seed packets to be passed out at the Native Plant Festival. Hudson High School seniors (17) contributed 76.5 hours as part of a service-learning day spent spring cleaning Munroe Falls Metro Park.
- **Time Capsule Revealed** | Summit Metro Parks partnered with the Forum for Volunteer Administrators (FVA) to reveal the contents of a time capsule buried at the F.A. Seiberling Nature Relam 25 years ago to honor the International Year of Volunteers.

- **SMP Lens** | A panel of SMP staff from operations/trail management, marketing, police, community engagement, and planning departments hosted a SMP Lens focusing on trail safety and visitor engagement. This was an entertaining time of learning and having great discussion.
- **National Volunteer Week** | The volunteer department celebrated National Volunteer Week with social media posts and blog posts created by the marketing department. The volunteer department is so appreciative of the volunteers' hard work as well as the work of volunteer supervisors that support them in their various roles.
- **Group Interest** | Since the start of the new year, 45 requests have been submitted by corporate or youth groups looking for service opportunities this spring. So far, eight have a confirmed project.



Scouts filling seed packets

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## MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

- **This May**, the marketing department is focused on:
  - Promoting and staffing Spree for All (5/1-6/30), the Mother's Day 5K (5/10), Native Plant Festival (5/16), and the Metro Parks Ensemble's season kick-off concert in their 25<sup>th</sup> year! (5/26)
  - Preparing for upcoming messaging/campaigns for the park district
  - Preparing to receive and analyze the results of our latest Summit Poll, which will be shared with the board at a future meeting.
- Marketing has once again coordinated with the Summit Metro Parks Foundation and HiHO Brewing Co. on a custom "Wild Back Yards" pale ale brew. This product partnership brings greater awareness to the Wild Back Yards initiative, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Summit Metro Parks Foundation. A launch event, where SMP staff were on hand to discuss the Wild Back Yards program, was held at HiHO on April 29. The brew will continue to be available through the season.
  - This year, **Maple Leaf Gifts** staff attended to sell Wild Back Yards and other themed merchandise, processing \$1,000 in sales that evening!
- Marketing Staff coordinated with partners to host another successful **Free the Falls public update event** at the Akron-Summit County Library (Main Library) on Tuesday, April 28. About 160 people attended to hear behind-the-scenes progress updates on the ongoing work. We rolled out a fresh set of campaign support materials that feature celebratory "It's Happening!" language.
- **Media coverage** in April included mentions or stories in the following outlets: Akron Beacon Journal (HiHO Brewing Wild Back Yards beer collaboration, Akron Zoo conservation work, snakes emerging from hibernation at SMP, Greater Akron fishing locations, Summit Lake's transformation), Akron Life Magazine (Wild Back Yards, local tortoise conservationist), Signal Akron (Free the Falls updates, programs, Goodyear Heights training center, 2025 SMP highlights), Spectrum News I (salamanders), West Side Leader (Mother's Day 5K, Free the Falls update at Akron city Council) and WEWS-TV (Goodyear Heights training center).
- Marketing staff will join the annual **Akron-Summit Convention and Visitors Bureau's "Zenith Awards" event on May 6** where we will find out whether the park district will win awards in several categories (industry-specific) and by public popular vote.
- **2025 Fall Hiking Spree numbers are now available!** It was another great year for the Spree, which saw 14,420 people earn rewards during the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual event. This was an increase from last year's participation and in line with average participation over the years. Additionally, volunteers served the public throughout spree season by attaching thousands of hiking shields to visitors' staffs during several "Shield Assistance" programs coordinated by marketing staff.

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## OPERATIONS

- **Seasonal Recruitment:** Actively hiring and participating in local high school, college, and community job fairs.
- **Trail Repairs & Improvements:** Replacing timber steps on Seneca Trail and drainage culverts on the Bike & Hike Trail. Repairing bridge approaches along the southern Towpath Trail. The Downy Loop Trail improvement project is temporarily paused and will resume when conditions allow.
- **Lodge Improvements & Repairs:** Repaired and resealed the Chestnut Lodge chimney. Secured quotes to replace the Coventry Oaks HVAC unit and to improve service and delivery access for Himelright Lodge renters.
- **Shelter Repairs:** Replacing roofs at the Sherman, White Spar, and Mountain Bike Trail shelters. Replacing structural posts at all three Munroe Falls Lake Area shelters.
- **Events:** Crews are actively preparing grounds and facilities for upcoming May events, including Spree for All, Mother's Day 5k, and the Native Plant Festival.
- **Seasonal Facility Hours:**
  - **Nimisila Campground Office:** Open Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (May 22 – Sept. 5).
  - **Silver Creek Boat House:** Open weekends and holidays, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (May 23 – Aug. 16).

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## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### Construction

- **Central Maintenance Facility – Main Building:** Construction is on-going with the roof, HVAC, and electrical utilities being installed; site work removals have started. Anticipated completion in Fall.
- **Freedom Trail – Phase 4a:** Trail work has started up again in downtown Akron. We are wrapping up lights, fencing, safety railings and plantings taking place. University Avenue Bridge to start rehabilitation work in mid-May. Anticipated Completion in July.
- **Freedom Trail – Southwest Bridge (Tallmadge):** The existing bridge was removed due to age and high maintenance and replaced with a precast concrete box culvert. Currently, finishing punch list work, to be completed by mid-May and open to the public.
- **Nature Realm – Open Shelter Area:** Construction began the week of April 27 with removal of dirt and utility work. Concrete paving to start next week. Anticipated completion in Summer.
- **Sand Run Paving Project:** Sand Run Ford to Revere Road, Pre-Construction on Tuesday, May 5; planning to start project in June and open before the Akron Marathon.

### Design

- **Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan:** We are in the process of updating the plan which identifies trail and greenways in Summit County. Initial meetings conducted with all municipalities in the region with some follow-up meetings scheduled. Re-designing the maps and brochure to share with stakeholders.
- **Cuyahoga River Water Trail:** Working with other partners to develop a mapping and safety risk conditions tool to show users of the river the relative risk of entering the water. The GIS map-based tool combines multiple sources of credible, frequently updated data on the river and weather conditions for different segments of the river. Anticipated completion in Summer.

<b>GRANT ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>Grants-Pending: (Application made, awaiting word)</b>		
Ohio & Erie Canalway Association	Silver Creek Metro Park Trail Design	\$ 20,000
Clean Ohio Conservation Fund	Slipper Run Conservation Area	\$ 1,730,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,750,000</b>
<b>Grants-Awarded:</b>		
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
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,258,333</b>

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## POLICE DEPARTMENT

	Total
Incident Reports	36
Foot Patrol	673 Hours
Visitor Contacts	3,027

- From Cuyahoga Valley National Park Chief Ranger Bruce Gagnon:  
 “Dear Chief Hamblen, On behalf of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, I would like to thank all the emergency responders who assisted with the Search and Rescue Operation in January. The response to this incident demonstrated the very best of what strong partnerships can accomplish. Your team’s willingness to respond quickly, coordinate effectively, and operate seamlessly alongside our teams made a meaningful difference in our ability to carry out this complex operation. The professionalism, dedication, and commitment to public safety displayed by your personnel did not go unnoticed. Search and rescue incidents are often challenging, requiring long hours, difficult conditions, and critical decision-making. Your team’s efforts, whether in the field, in planning, or in support roles, were instrumental in ensuring a coordinated and effective response. We are fortunate to work alongside partners who consistently demonstrate such a high level of competence and cooperation. It is this shared commitment that allows us to serve and protect our communities to the highest standard. Please extend my sincere appreciation to everyone involved from your department. We look forward to continuing to build on this strong partnership in the future.”
- On April 9 and 10, Officer Rob Tanner conducted safety programs at both Coventry Middle School and Elementary School. Students were able to learn how to be safe when visiting the park and about the job duties of officers within the park district.
- On April 22, Officers Spencer Forshey, Bill Kelly, Land Compliance Manager Ron Arpajian, and Biologist Ramsey Langford developed and hosted a regional drone training class for the Summit County Emergency Management Drone Team at the Valley View area of Cascade Valley Metro Park. Drills consisted of search and rescue operations in the Cuyahoga River and adjacent wooded areas, and the use of interior drones within buildings.
- On April 28-30, Officers Kathy Kwasnik, Joe Gonser, and Spencer Forshey completed the Axon TASER Instructor Certification Course designed to provide the instructional techniques and practical training necessary to reasonably, safely, and effectively train and certify operators in the use of TASER energy weapons. Through a structured blend of eLearning, comprehensive hands-on exercises, immersive VR modules, and real-world scenarios, this course equips participants with the tools to teach for successful outcomes. They will begin to train all officers within the department before they are deployed on duty.

## TRAINING

- Summit County Crisis Intervention Team  
 When: May 11-15  
 Attendees: Officer John Desrosiers

# memo

## Summit Metro Parks

To: Lisa King, Executive Director  
 From: Mike Johnson, Chief of Conservation  
 Date: May 7, 2026  
 Re: **Wildlife Management in Summit Metro Parks**

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The conservation program of Summit Metro Parks focuses on the protection and management of natural and cultural resources for the benefit of Summit County residents. Natural resources are managed to maximize native biodiversity, and wildlife management actions focus on promoting rare and sensitive species. Management of wildlife through lethal means is limited to situations where:

1. The individual animal or population has created unsafe conditions.
2. The individual animal or population is threatening property or infrastructure.
3. The individual animal or population is no longer in ecological balance and is threatening the biodiversity of our parks or individual rare or endangered species.

The most extensive wildlife management program operated by Summit Metro Parks is the deer management program. The parks have been managing deer densities for nearly 25 years. Deer populations within our parks increased significantly in the early 2000s due to regional habitat modifications and the elimination of natural predators. Additionally, as areas within the county became incorporated municipalities, hunting was often restricted. As a result, deer densities expanded beyond the natural carrying capacity of many areas. Ecological damage was observed, along with a decline in deer health as populations exceeded available food resources.

Metro Parks utilizes two techniques to safely reduce deer densities. In areas with extensive public access, Summit Metro Parks operates a sharpshooting program. Park Police, Operations staff, and Conservation biologists oversee a deer reduction program in which firearms are used to remove deer from select areas. All animals are processed for meat, and all venison is donated to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank for distribution to local families.

### Sharpshooting Program Statistics

1. A total of 3,200 acres are managed through sharpshooting. Areas include:
  - Sand Run Metro Park
  - Munroe Falls Metro Park
  - O'Neil Woods Metro Park
  - Cascade Valley Metro Park
  - Firestone Metro Park
  - Silver Creek Metro Park
2. A total of 3,458 deer have been safely removed from park lands since the inception of the program.
3. A total of 146,000 pounds of ground venison has been processed and donated to the food bank since the inception of the program.
4. Deer densities in areas managed through sharpshooting show sustained population reductions and increased biodiversity, as measured through vegetation monitoring plots.
5. The program is operated in coordination with local jurisdictions that authorize Summit Metro Parks to implement this program through the use of firearms.

In addition to sharpshooting in areas with higher visitation, Summit Metro Parks allows public participation through a public archery program. The archery program is managed by the Conservation and Operations Departments and is deployed in areas determined to be safe and suitable for this type of management activity, where permitted by the local jurisdiction in which the park or natural area is located.

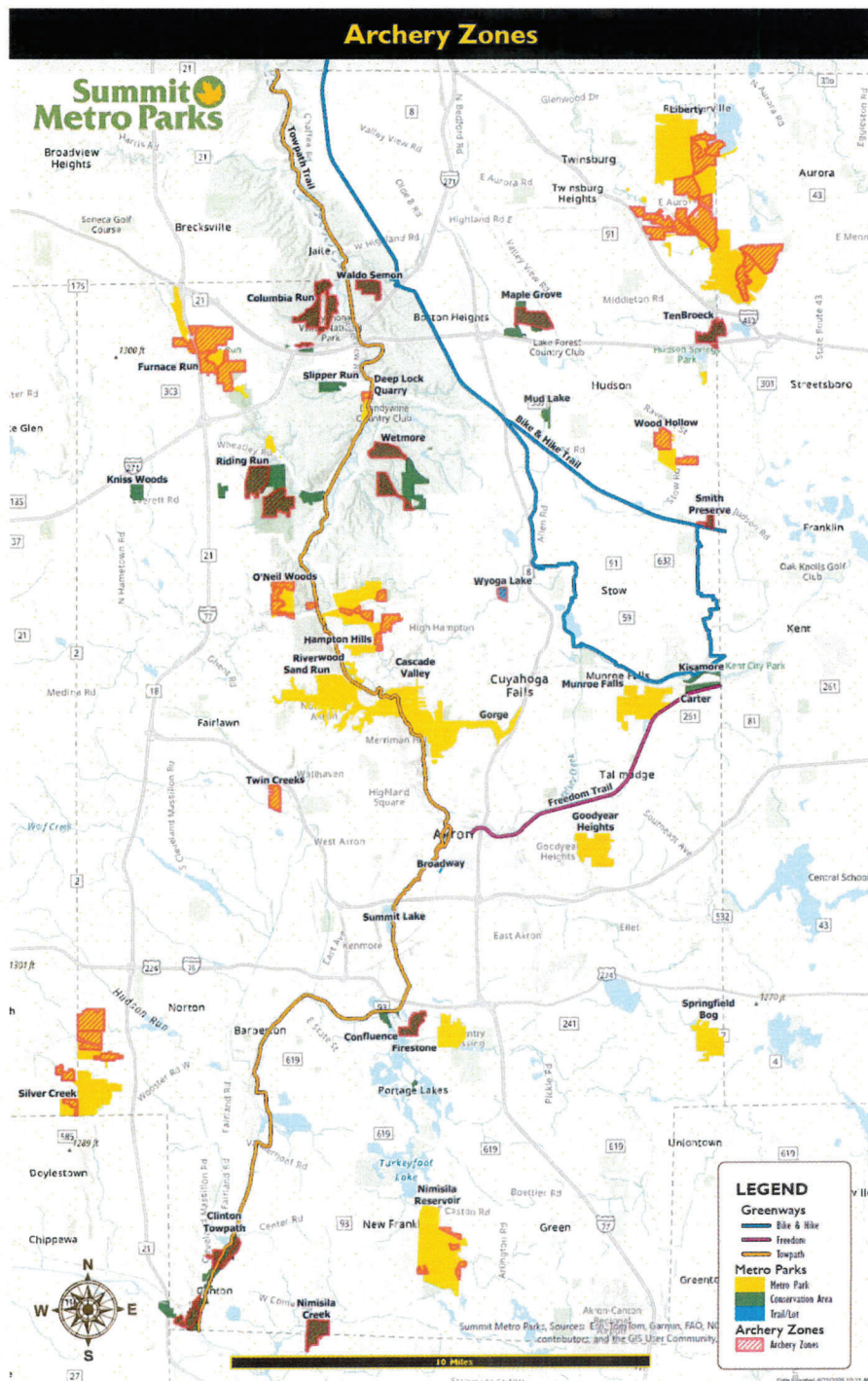
### Public Archery Program Statistics

1. Approximately 5,000 acres are managed through public archery.
2. A map showing all areas managed through sharpshooting is attached.

3. There are a total of 51 archery units.
4. Archery slots are allocated through a public lottery system.
5. Successful archers may be invited to return the following year and bypass the lottery process.
6. Each archery unit is assigned to an archery party for a limited period before being allocated to another party.
7. A total of 400 archers participated in the 2025–2026 archery season and safely removed 330 deer from parks and conservation areas.
8. Since the inception of the program, approximately 1,600 archers have participated and safely removed 2,643 deer from parks and conservation areas.
9. Two archery locations are handicap accessible.
10. All participating archers must pass a skills test.
11. Archers must provide photo identification and a valid hunting license.

Deer populations are managed to protect the biodiversity of our parks and natural areas. While not the primary purpose, the archery program also provides the public with a recreational opportunity that is increasingly unavailable within Summit County.

All wildlife management activities are conducted in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife and are subject to the regulations and restrictions of the local jurisdictions in which each park and natural area is located.



2026 MONTHLY WORK FORCE REPORT, SUMMIT METRO PARKS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Full-time Employees, Job Positions</b>													
Accounting/Payroll Manager (1)	1	1	1	1									
Accounting/Payroll Specialist (1)	1	1	1	1									
Administrative Office Mgr/Executive Asst. (1)	1	1	1	1									
Assistant Park Manager (2)	1	1	1	1									
Assistant Purchasing Manager (1)	1	1	1	1									
Brand Manager (1)	1	1	1	1									
Carpenter (1)	1	1	1	1									
Chief of Community Engagement (1)	1	1	1	1									
Chief of Conservation (1)	1	1	1	1									
Chief of Finance (1)	1	1	1	1									
Chief of Human Resources & Admin (1)	1	1	1	1									
Chief of Marketing & Communications (1)	1	1	1	1									
Chief of Operations (1)	1	1	1	1									
Chief of Planning (1)	1	1	1	1									
Chief of Philanthropy (1)	1	1	1	1									
Chief of Police (1)	1	1	1	1									
Civil Engineer/Construction Supervisor (1)	1	1	1	1									
Community Engagement Coordinator (3)	3	3	3	3									
Community Engagement Manager (3)	3	3	3	3									
Community Engagement Specialists (2)	2	2	2	2									
Crew Leader I (9)	9	9	9	9									
Crew Leader II (3)	3	3	3	3									
Cultural Resource Specialist (1)	1	1	1	1									
Customer Service Rep (2)	2	2	2	2									
Donor Relations Coordinator (1)	1	1	1	1									
Donor Relations Specialist (1)	1	1	1	1									
Executive Director (1)	1	1	1	1									
Events Specialist (1)	1	1	1	1									
Fleet Manager (1)	1	1	1	1									
Forestry Crew Leader (1)	1	1	1	1									
Forestry Technician (1)	1	1	1	1									
Graphic Designer (2)	2	2	2	2									
Horticulturalist (1)	1	1	1	1									
Human Resources Coordinator (1)	0	0	1	1									
Human Resources Manager (1)	1	1	1	1									
Interpretive Artist (1)	1	1	1	1									
Interpretive Naturalist (6)	6	6	6	6									
Land Compliance Project Manager (1)	1	1	1	1									
Landscape Architect (1)	1	1	1	1									
Lead Mechanic (1)	1	1	1	1									
Lead Naturalist (1)	1	1	1	1									
Maintenance/Utility Technician (2)	2	2	2	2									
Manager Volunteer Programs (1)	1	1	1	1									
Marketing Assistant (1)	1	1	1	1									
Marketing & Public Relations Manager (1)	1	1	1	1									
Marketing Specialist (1)	1	1	1	1									
Mechanic (1)	1	1	1	1									
Mechanic - Small Engine (1)	1	1	1	1									
Natural Resources Project Manager (1)	1	1	1	1									
Operations Project Manager (2)	2	2	2	2									
Operations Service Manager (1)	1	1	1	1									
Park Biologist (3)	3	3	3	3									
Park Manager I (3)	3	3	3	3									
Park Manager II (8)	8	8	8	8									
Park Planner (1)	1	1	1	1									
Park Technician I (36)	36	36	37	36									
Park Technician II (1)	0	0	0	0									
Park Technician III (5)	4	4	4	4									
Planning & Development Project Manager (1)	1	1	1	1									
Police Captain (1)	1	1	1	1									
Police Lieutenant (1)	0	0	0	0									
Police Officer (20)	18	18	18	18									
Police Sergeant (3)	2	2	2	2									
Purchasing Manager (1)	2	2	1	1									
Regional Manager (2)	2	2	2	2									
Sales Supervisor (1)	1	1	1	1									
Supervisor of Cultural Resources (1)	1	1	1	1									
Supervisor of Ecological Resources (1)	1	1	1	1									
Supervisor of Wildlife Resources (1)	0	0	0	0									
Trail Crew Leader (1)	1	1	1	1									
Trail Technician (1)	1	1	1	1									

Utility Technician (1)	1	1	1	1															
Volunteer Coordinator (1)	1	1	1	1															
<b>Total Full-Time Hired</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>162</b>															
Total FT Authorized	170	170	170	170															
<b>Part-Time, Year-Round Employees</b>																			
Arboring Specialist (1)	1	1	1	1															
Civil Engineer/Construction Supervisor (1)	0	0	0	0															
Cultural Resource Specialist (1)	0	1	1	1															
Community Engagement Specialist (6)	5	6	6	6															
Customer Service Rep (1)	1	1	1	1															
Interpretive Naturalist (6)	6	6	6	4															
Outreach Program Assistant (1)	1	1	1	1															
Park Technician (11)	11	10	9	9															
Park Biologist (3)	3	3	3	3															
Sales Assistant (2)	2	2	2	2															
Watershed Resource Specialist (1)	1	1	1	1															
<b>Total Part-Time, Year-Round Hired</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>															
Total PT, YR Authorized	34	34	34	34															
<b>Seasonal Employees</b>																			
Community Engagement	0	0	0	0															
Conservation	5	4	5	7															
Operations	5	3	4	5															
<b>Total Seasonal Hired</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>															
Total Seasonal Authorized	104	104	104	104															
<b>Casual Employees</b>																			
Ranger (5)	0	0	0	0															
Visitor Engagement Specialists (0)	0	0	0	0															
<b>Total Casual Hired</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>															
Total Casual Authorized	5	5	5	5															
<b>Intern Employees</b>																			
<b>Total Interns Hired</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>															
Total Interns Authorized (9)	9	9	9	9															
<b>Grand Totals</b>																			
<b>Grand Total Hired Employees</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>203</b>															
<b>Grand Total Employees Authorized</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>322</b>															

**Summit Metro Parks**

April 30, 2026

I certify approval for payment of the vouchers listed:

Vendor	Description	Amount
4 IMPRINT INC	Gift Shop Items	867.75
ABC PORTA THRONES	Portable Restroom Rental	675.00
AKRON BEARING CO INC	Equipment Supplies	235.50
AKRON LITHO PRINT COMPANY INC	Spree For All Forms	875.00
ARLINGTON TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT INC	Equipment Supplies	6,123.37
ARLINGTON UNIFORMS	Uniforms	10,805.60
ALCO CHEM INC	Cleaning & Sanitary Supplies	1,915.50
ALL TOWN & COUNTRY SEPTIC TANK SERVICE INC	Septic Service	510.00
ALWAYS ANGLER INC	Maintenance Materials	160.00
AM LEONARD INC	Maintenance Materials	547.11
AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS	First Aid & CPR Training	612.00
AMERICAN PRINTING INC	Nature Center Supplies	197.00
APPLE INC	Laptop Computer	4,598.00
ARBORWEAR LLC	Uniforms	343.14
ARCADIA PUBLISHING INC	Gift Shop Items	285.97
ARTISTS TO WATCH	Gift Shop Items	2,175.18
ASSUREDPARTNERS CAPITAL INC	Cyber Liability Insurance	4,087.10
ASSUREDPARTNERS CAPITAL INC	Liability Insurance Premium	267,382.00
AUSTIN IGNITION COMPANY	Vehicle Supplies	87.22
AUTOZONE PARTS INC	Vehicle Supplies	428.10
BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION BUREAU LLC	Background Checks	739.95
BERKLEY VEHICLE SYSTEMS INC	Equipment Supplies	416.39
BENEFITS LLC	COBRA & FSA Administration	318.58
BLD DOOR SERVICES LLC	Maintenance Supplies	38.64
BLIMP CITY BIKE & HIKE	Law Enforcement Bike Repairs	435.59

BRONZE STONE HOLDINGS GROUP INC	Conservation Materials	3,985.00
BUCKEYE UNIFORMS INC	Uniforms	1,205.47
BUCKINGHAM DOOLITTLE & BURROUGHS	Legal Services	4,109.00
BUCKINGHAM SHOES INC	Uniforms	2,304.89
CAR PARTS WAREHOUSE INC	Vehicle Supplies	315.29
CHARLES G SNYDER CO	Appraisal Services	3,000.00
CITY OF AKRON	Water Service	2,185.10
CITY OF BARBERTON	Water Service	92.98
CITY OF CLEVELAND	Water Service	225.76
CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS	Water & Electric Service	321.95
CITY OF HUDSON	Electric Service	1.64
CITY OF MUNROE FALLS	Water Service	97.89
CITY OF STOW	Water Service	33.43
CJ DANNEMILLER CO INC	Naturalist Program Supplies	22.00
CLEVELAND VICON CO INC	Maintenance Materials	1,036.00
COLIN BAKER	Advertising	2,863.00
COMDOC INC	Copier Service Contract	167.33
COMPRODUCTS INC	Maintenance Supplies	109.31
CRAFCO INC	Parking Lot Sealant	23,962.50
CRANDALL CO INC	Vehicle Supplies	475.90
CRANDALL JOHN LIEBING CO	Maintenance Materials	2,775.00
CUSTOM APPAREL ETC LLC	Uniforms	1,066.00
DLZ OHIO INC	Construction Testing Services	3,915.00
DON BRODIES THOMAS LIMOUSINE SERVICE INC	Naturalist Program Transportation	735.00
EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY	Gas Service	2,452.04
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	Vehicle Lease	49,279.92
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GROUP LLC	Connector Trail Design	22,527.00
EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING AMERICA HOLDING INC	Water Testing	38.00
E-VOLVE CREATIVE GROUP LLC	Website Services	12,853.00
FALLSWAY EQUIPMENT CO INC	Vehicle Supplies	2,042.05
FAMOUS DISTRIBUTION INC	Maintenance Materials	1,480.74
FASTENAL COMPANY	Maintenance Materials	3.47
FIRST COMMUNICATIONS LLC	Phone & Internet Services	6,302.77
FISHER SAND & GRAVEL INC	Maintenance Materials	780.60
FRED MARTIN MOTOR COMPANY	Vehicle Supplies & Repairs	1,318.38
FRED W ALBRECHT GROCERY COMPANY	Naturalist & Volunteer Program Supplies	373.19
GALLS PARENT HOLDINGS LLC	Uniforms	607.62
GALLS PARENT HOLDINGS JOHN LIEBING CO	Maintenance Materials & Supplies	101.17
GENUINE PARTS COMPANY	Vehicle Supplies	246.22
GLAUS PYLE SCHOMER BURNS & DEHAVEN INC	Trail Structure Study	4,770.41
GOOSE DOCTORS LLC	Wildlife Management	650.00
GVS SAFETY SUPPLIES INC	Protective Apparel	786.80
HIGH ENERGY ASSOCIATES LLC	Maintenance Supplies	175.31
INDEPENDENCE OFFICE AND BUSINESS SUPPLY CO INC	Office Supplies	405.79
INSURANCE PARTNERS AGENCY LLC	Bond Renewals	300.00
JACKSON HIRSH INC	Office Supplies	115.80
JD WILLIAMSON CONSTRUCTION CO INC	Freedom Trail Bridge Construction	25,270.65
JEFFERYS CHIMNEY SWEEPING LLC	Chestnut Lodge Chimney Repairs	10,000.00
JOHN J HEMMINGER CONSTRUCTION COL INC	Maintenance Facility Construction	433,944.00
K & M INTERNATIONAL INC	Gift Shop Items	932.91
KASTNER WESTMAN & WILKINS LLC	Legal Services	261.00
KASTNER WESTMAN & WILKINS LLC	Employment Law Training	1,925.00
KENMORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	Advertising	444.00
KENMORE CONSTRUCTION CO INC	Freedom Trail Construction	131,020.52
KENMORE CONSTRUCTION CO INC JOHN LIEBING CO	Maintenance Materials	468.27
KENTZ BROS INC	Metro RTA Advertisements	2,760.00
LAMAR COMPANIES	Equipment Rental	2,462.40
LEPPO INC		

M CONLEY CO	Cleaning & Sanitary Supplies	2,568.31
M MAGAZINE LTD	Advertising	1,707.00
M TECHNOLOGIES INC	Vehicle Supplies	184.00
MIC GARAGE DOOR INC	Garage Door Repairs	451.50
MILMISUR, JOSEPH JUDE	Program Supply & Conference Reimbursement	668.48
MANN MARKETING INC	Spree For All Awards	6,130.00
MCDONALD HOPKINS LLC	Legal Services	5,574.25
MCMASTER CARR SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	75.22
MEDICAL MUTUAL OF OHIO	Vision Claims & Administration	755.90
MILLCRAFT PAPER COMPANY	Office Supplies	191.45
MS CONSULTANTS INC	Trailhead Feasibility Study	1,009.90
MULCH MAKERS OF OHIO	Maintenance Materials	1,780.00
MULTI SERVICE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS INC	Uniforms	2,394.67
MURDOCK INDUSTRIAL INC	Equipment Supplies	430.51
NATIONAL LIME & STONE COMPANY	Maintenance Materials	663.60
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT	Sewer Service	63.50
NORTHEASTERN EDUCATION TELEVISION OF OHIO	Advertising	3,330.00
OHIO AFSCME CARE PLAN	Ohio AFSCME Care Plan	929.25
OHIO BIOLOGICAL SURVEY	Conservation Membership Dues	1,200.00
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	Pesticide License	35.00
OHIO EDISON CO	Electric Service	14,036.36
OHIO MACHINERY CO	Equipment Supplies	189.93
OHIO TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION	Law Enforcement Training	1,800.00
OLIGER SEED CO	Maintenance Materials	138.00
OREILLY AUTO ENTERPRISES LLC	Vehicle Supplies	956.01
OSBORN ENGINEERING COMPANY	Design Services	244.11
OSCAR BRUGMANN SAND & GRAVEL INC	Maintenance Materials	1,334.89
PARK FORD INC	Vehicle Supplies	44.78
PPG ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES INC	Maintenance Supplies	110.72
PRECISION LASER & INSTRUMENT INC	Maintenance Materials	122.66
PRIMAL SCREEN INC	Gift Shop Items	117.60
PRO ARMAMENT COMPANY	Uniforms	126.00
PROBE TECHNOLOGIES LTD	Conservation Wildlife Data Platform	7,765.56
PROBE TECHNOLOGIES LTD	Computer Services	16,118.17
RAUSCHENBACH, JAY	Postage Reimbursement	17.49
RCR WASTE MANAGEMENT LLC	Composting Service	52.32
ROS INC	Maintenance Materials	635.20
RUBLIC SERVICES INC	Disposal Services	2,967.78
RICHARD L BOWEN & ASSOCIATES INC	Architectural Services	10,723.65
RICHARDS WHOLESALE FENCE CO INC	Maintenance Materials	101.64
ROBERTSON HEATING SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	274.60
ROETZEL & ANDRESS LPA	Legal Services	3,582.00
SACKMANN STAMP AND STENCIL CO INC	Office Supplies	25.96
SANTMYER ENERGY INC	Fuel Delivery	29,627.71
SECURITAS ELECTRONIC SECURITY INC	Security Monitoring Services	3,100.61
SHELLY MATERIALS INC	Maintenance Materials	514.43
SHOE HORN INC	Uniforms	954.94
SKCC LTD	Law Enforcement Training	6,000.00
SMALLEY, MARK C	Tuition Reimbursement	1,383.00
SOHARS ALL SEASON MOWER SERVICE INC	Equipment Supplies	1,804.86
SOUTHEASTERN EQUIPMENT CO INC	Operations Trailer	42,094.00
STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY	Life Insurance	470.74
STANWADE METAL PRODUCTS INC	Equipment Supplies	194.05
ST CAPITAL INC	Vehicle Supplies	199.60
SUMMA HEALTH SYSTEM	Employee Vaccinations & Drug Screens	1,099.80
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Sewer Service	624.10

SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Employee Assistance Program	314.50
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Stormwater Annual Contract Fee	1,966.40
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Campground License	520.00
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Background Check	15.00
SUMMIT COUNTY OH	Animal Control	410.00
SUMMIT FIRE & SECURITY LLC	Inspection Services	321.50
SUMMIT METRO PARKS	FSA & Visa Reimbursement Check	65,594.33
SUMMIT PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOC INC	Employment Services	1,250.00
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	Dental Claims & Administration	7,179.11
SUNBELT RENTALS INC	Equipment Rental	1,615.96
TERRY LUMBER & SUPPLY CO	Maintenance Materials	1,016.18
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CORP (TASC)	HSA Contributions	1,822.20
ULINE INC	Maintenance Supplies	3,168.14
VEIT LLC	Copier Service Contracts & Supplies	5,270.95
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC	Internet Services	3,587.83
VILLAGE OF RICHFIELD	Sewer Service	492.59
W W GRAINGER INC	Maintenance Supplies & Materials	2,240.76
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF OHIO INC	Disposal Services	1,710.53
WELLINGTON IMPLEMENT CO INC	Equipment Rental	4,600.00
WEST PUBLISHING CORP	Software Subscription	237.31
WILSON SUPPLY AKRON OH CO	Maintenance Materials	158.61
WINTERSPRING LLC	Landscape Materials	5,301.60
WL TUCKER SUPPLY COMPANY	Maintenance Materials & Supplies	583.60
WOODLAND MSC LLC	Maintenance Materials	1,968.50
ZAK, REBECCA MAY	Naturalist Program Reimbursement	20.98
ZIEGLER TIRE & SUPPLY CO	Vehicle Supplies	771.39
ZORO TOOLS INC	Maintenance Supplies	260.87
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		1,369,058.81