

GREEN ISLANDS

Summit Metro Parks



Bi-monthly Magazine



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Local Bats —
adapting to beat
the odds

Our parks are like green islands in an urban landscape.

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BOARD of PARK commissioners



Joel D. Bailey Mark A. Spisak Herb Newman
 Tonya Block Tina Ughrin

The park district's governing body is appointed by the Summit County Probate Judge. Commissioners serve overlapping three-year terms and are assisted by the executive director, who oversees the work of full-time and part-time employees, seasonal workers and volunteers.

• fourth in a series of five •

SMP GREEN TIPS

WATER STEWARDSHIP



- Squeaky clean.** When washing your car at home, park and wash in the lawn so water is filtered through the soil. The grass, roots and soil trap dirty water, soap and heavy metals before it enters the local watershed.
- Keep it cool.** When washing clothes, use cold water and you could save up to 80 percent on energy costs. Line-dry your clothes when possible to boost the savings (and add freshness to your laundry)!
- Scrub-a-dub-dub.** Using an efficient dishwasher can save over two times the amount of water used hand-washing. Kick back, relax and let technology do the work! Look for the ENERGY STAR® seal on appliances when possible.

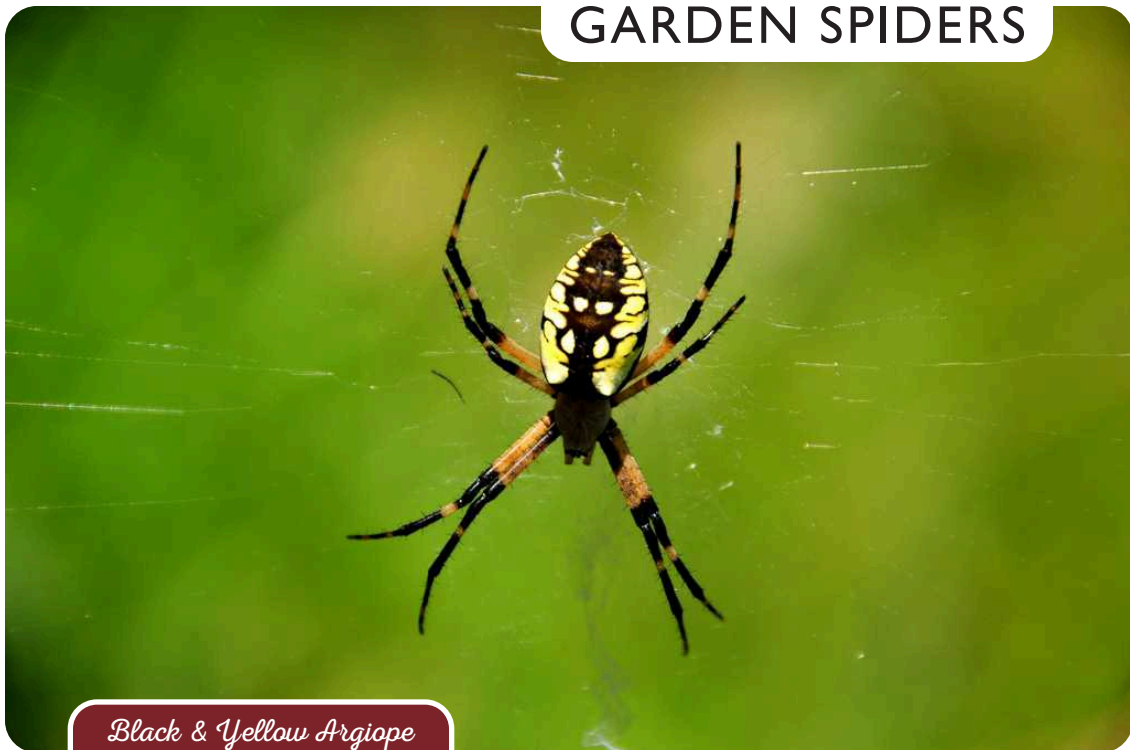
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UPDATE: The Akron Marathon has made the decision to hold a virtual race this year and will no longer travel the Towpath Trail as indicated in our previous issue.

DISCOVER

YOUR BACK YARD

GARDEN SPIDERS

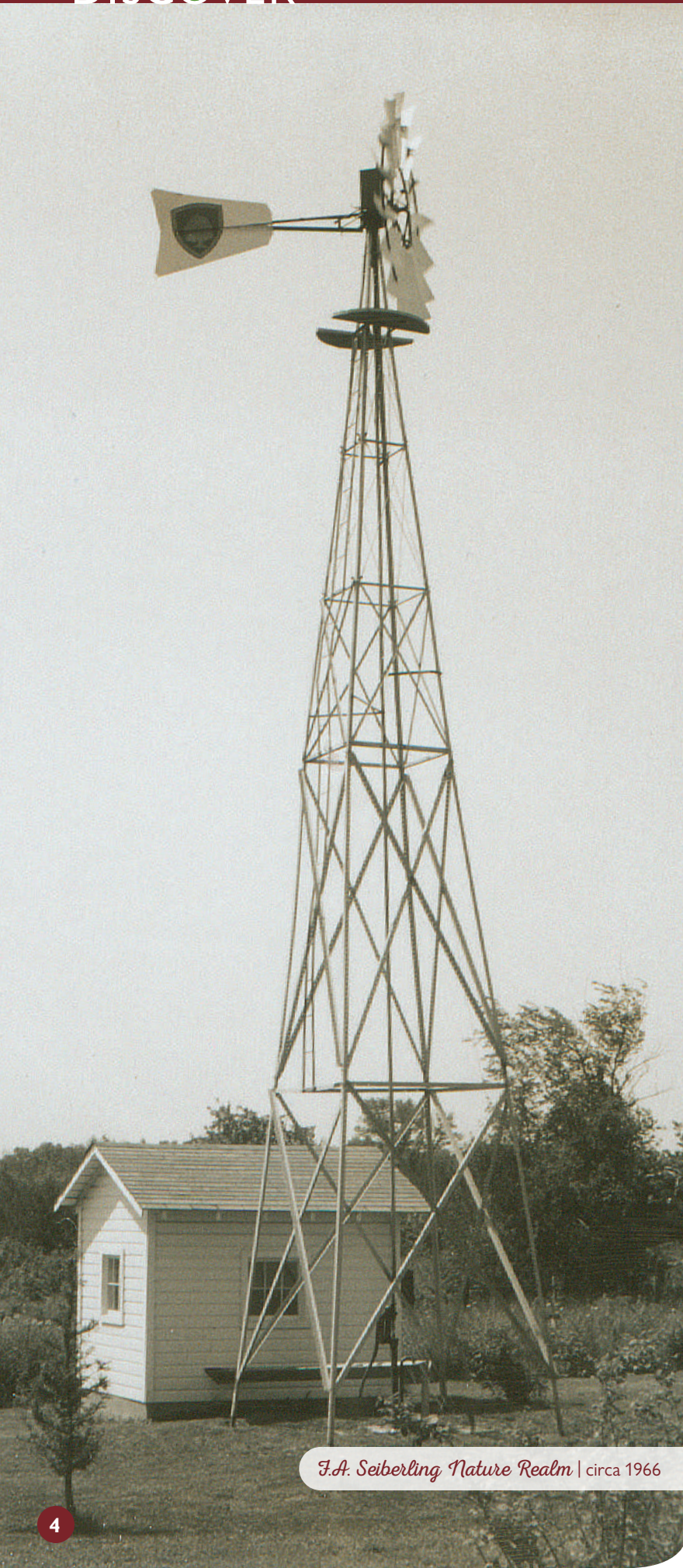


Black & Yellow Argiope

*Sarah Graham,
Interpretive Naturalist*

Do spiders creep you out? Often, these fears come from stories we've heard or from a lack of knowledge about spiders. The black and yellow argiope is a stunning spider that you can find easily this time of year. Orb-weavers like this one make a circular web with an elaborate zig-zag design in the center. It creates this unique pattern using an extra claw on each of its feet. This incredible web is built by the female of the species. You can't miss

her, as her body is about 2 ½ inches long — that's three times bigger than the male! She makes this web in tall grasses and thickets, where she anchors it on the plants. When you see a web, take a minute to look closer and you will notice how beautiful spiders can be. Remember, all spiders are great for pest control! Wouldn't it be scarier if our environment was overrun by pesky bugs? 🕸️



F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm | circa 1966

Field

When hiking in Summit Metro Parks,

some may find it hard to imagine that much of the forested surroundings were once farmland. For others, memories of a different chapter in history may still remain. This year, the Fall Hiking Spree celebrates the rich history of the properties we proudly manage for your enjoyment and their successful return to nature. Take a journey with us as we explore the farms and fields that are now forests — and earn spree credit on the way!

to Forest

Fall Hiking Spree showcases transformation

Lindsay Smith, Marketing & Public Relations Manager

Mike Greene, Education & Recreation Manager

Christy Counterman, Marketing Assistant



F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm | Seneca Trail

The property that would become the Nature Realm was once two separate farms. Once owned by the Laughlin family, the larger property was located near the top of Smith Road hill where the visitors center and arboretum are found today. Remnants of the smaller, lower farm can still be seen where Seneca Trail cuts through an old barn foundation.



Farriss Dairy Farm | Firestone Metro Park



Furnace Run Metro Park | Rock Creek Trail

When the Brush family purchased the 2,100-acre farm of Everett Farnham, they continued the previous owner's tradition of opening the land to Richfield neighbors for hiking and recreation. Although advised not to go through with a land donation to the park district, Dorothy Brush conducted a social experiment to determine whether

the public could be trusted to properly care for the land. Following a successful two-year test period, she deeded 275 acres to the park district in 1929.



Firestone Metro Park | Redwing Trail

From the late 1800s through 1940, the Farriss family operated a dairy farm in the area off South Main Street near the present-day sled hill and Coventry Oaks Lodge. Earlier, the Warner family (for whom Warner Road was named) also owned a dairy farm in that same area.



Goodyear Heights Metro Park | Piney Woods Trail

On December 25, 1929 the Akron Beacon Journal announced the previous evening's donation of two tracts of land — one of which was farmland — to the

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Akron Metropolitan Park Board. In the early 1940s, the land became “farmed” once again with the installation of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company-sponsored Goodyear Victory Gardens, which turned into community gardens after World War II. Summit Metro Parks is proud to continue the tradition by once again offering community gardens at this park.



Adam Farm | Hampton Hills Metro Park



Hampton Hills Metro Park | Spring Hollow Trail

E. Reginald Adam, a local Saalfield Publishing executive, and his wife Rhea donated 162 acres of their West Bath Road farm to the park district in the late 1960s. After Mr. Adam’s death, Mrs. Adam then gave the rest of the property to the park district. Under an agreement with the Northampton Historical Society, the house was opened in 1970 as a history museum. While the house is no longer standing, Hampton

Hills Metro Park remains a popular spot for visitors who enjoy the beautiful views and challenging hiking terrain.



Liberty Park | Bluebird Trail

Agricultural census sheets from the 1800s shed light on the farmers who once thrived near the Ledges Area at Liberty Park. Area farmers often kept livestock, made dairy products and cultivated corn, oats and potatoes. The land that once produced valuable crops is now home to countless rare and endangered species.



Munroe Falls Metro Park | Meadow Trail

Meadow Trail travels along property that once was the Summit County Home, an expansive facility that provided housing and services to disadvantaged residents. Spread over 440 acres overlooking the Village of Munroe Falls, the Summit County Home farm produced meats, vegetables, fruits and dairy foods for its own use.



O’Neil Woods Metro Park | Deer Run Trail

The Akron Beacon Journal on June 5, 1969 reported: “Another 240 acres of field and forest has been added to the growing area that will be kept in its natural state in the Cuyahoga Valley of



O'Neil Farm | O'Neil Woods Metro Park

Akron. Heirs of the late William O'Neil, founder of the General Tire and Rubber Co., have made the O'Neil farm in Bath Twp. available to the Metropolitan Park District on a dollar-a-year lease basis." A later donation included meadows long uncultivated, but the majority of the farm was "rugged woodland."



Silver Creek Metro Park | Chippewa Trail

Originating in the 1800s, Harter Brothers Milk Company was sold to the company that became Akron Pure Milk, where Fred Harter was Sales Manager. In 1934, Fred left to start Harter Bros. — Belle Isle Farm with brothers Bert and Harry. Bert sold the land to the park district in 1966. As seen on the cover of this issue, the beautifully restored Harter family barn can still be viewed today along Chippewa Trail.



Springfield Bog Metro Park | Prairie Trail

The story of Springfield Bog Metro Park might best be referred to as "Farm to Prairie" — though there are also

forested areas within this park. The Young family raised dairy cows and farmed this land for over 100 years. They grew crops like corn, wheat, oats and grass for hay, while natural bogs on the property produced huckleberries. In the early 1900s, a railroad spur was built to the Youngs' farm to deliver city dwellers to the farm for berry picking. Sitting on the continental divide, the land has since been returned to its natural prairie habitat by the park district.



Springfield Bog Metro Park | circa 2010



Wood Hollow Metro Park | Downy Loop Trail

The area that became Wood Hollow Metro Park was once divided into a number of parcels owned by different farmers. The Fillius farm, dating back to the mid-1800s, was located in the western portion of the present-day Wood Hollow. The farm had horses, milk cows, sheep and swine. A silo foundation may be visible from the trail in the autumn and winter.

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SMP Community SPOTLIGHT:

SARA SHOOKMAN

WKYC 3 News Anchor

Lindsay Smith, Marketing & Public Relations Manager

Northeast Ohio residents will recognize Sara Shookman from her role as an anchor for WKYC 3 News' *Front Row* and *What's Next* evening news shows. A Summit County native and graduate of Manchester Local Schools, Shookman is also a longtime visitor to Summit Metro Parks.

From a young age, Shookman knew she wanted to be a reporter. During summers while attending Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, she interned locally at 91.3 The Summit and WKYC's Akron-Canton Bureau. After graduation, Shookman spent three years working at the CBS affiliate in Knoxville, Tennessee before returning to Northeast Ohio in 2012 as a reporter and anchor for 3 News.

Growing up in the Portage Lakes area, Shookman has always enjoyed being

outdoors and on the water. Shookman, who earned her first Fall Hiking Spree shield at age 10, said the spree is a family tradition.

"Once boating season was over, you could find our family in the Metro Parks on a hike.



Sometimes we'd do a few in one lovely fall day. The four of us would go out, or sometimes join family friends and explore the

trails. Since I've moved back, my mom, sister and I try to keep the tradition,"

said Shookman. She appreciates that the Fall Hiking Spree provides an extra incentive to spend time outdoors — especially since Northeast Ohio weather can be challenging. "Having a goal to hit, or special programming I want to take advantage of, helps me get going," she added.

Shookman feels lucky to live in a beautiful part of the world, surrounded by green spaces. "Summit Metro Parks maintains these spaces, keeps them clean and safe to get outside and explore. I hope people see the parks as a four-season adventure. I have memories climbing Deep Lock Quarry, biking the Towpath Trail and cross-country skiing at Firestone and other parks in the winter," she shared.

As a new mom, she is eager to get the stroller out on the trail: "I hope you'll wave and say hello!" 🐾

EXPLORE

PROGRAMS & EVENTS



Due to the evolving nature of the community's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we are continually evaluating the safest way to offer a modified selection of programs and events this fall. The latest information is available on our website at summitmetroparks.org.



MAPLE LEAF GIFTS

SUMMIT METRO PARKS IS GLAD TO OFFER A VARIETY OF PRODUCTS FOR PURCHASE BY PHONE ORDER

Items can be shipped for a fee or may be picked up curbside at the Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron) on Tuesdays and Fridays this fall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you'd like to make a purchase, please call 330-865-8065. If you don't speak to a member of our staff immediately, please leave a message and your call will be returned within 24 hours.

Please note: we are only able to accept credit card payment at this time.

*View our full product offering on our website
summitmetroparks.org/gift-shop.aspx*

CAPS



KEYCHAINS



MAGNETS



PATCHES



ORNAMENTS



STICKERS



TEES



SUNCATCHERS



LOCAL BATS

adapting to

Marlo Perdicas, Park Biologist



Little Brown Bat

Our Summit Metro Parks are home to some of the most interesting Ohio bat species, such as the endangered *Indiana bat* and the threatened *northern long-eared bat*. If you like a splash of color, *eastern red bats* or the largest Ohio chiropteran, the *hoary bat*, might catch your eye. Bats use our parks in the winter for hibernation and in the summer to forage and raise their young in trees or structures like barns or bat houses.

At Summit Metro Parks, we've been focused on bat ecology and conservation for two decades — but studying our favorite flying mammals has continued to change. Before the introduction of the invasive fungus that causes White Nose Syndrome, a deadly disease that causes death in bats during hibernation, park biologists studied bats inside caves throughout Summit County. Biologists also studied bats during the summer by capturing them in mist nets, collecting biological data, then releasing them back into the forest.

White Nose Syndrome has been present in Ohio for nearly a decade. When it first arrived, nearly 100 percent of bats that encountered the fungus during hibernation did not survive the disease. As we have continued to study bats, we are beginning to observe them utilizing new strategies to survive, and biologists are intrigued and excited to watch these new behaviors develop among bat species.

Summit Metro Park biologists have worked closely with Ohio Division of Wildlife and Ohio University over the past two winters to monitor bat populations during hibernation. We have discovered that bats are finding new locations to hibernate, seeking shelter in places where the White Nose Syndrome fungus isn't present.

The fungus requires the cool, damp recesses of caves to survive; typically, the same places bats would sleep the winter away. Now, many bats are



Bat houses provide an alternative to trees as maternity structures.

beat the odds

moving close to cave entrances where the temperature is colder and there is more light. This is harder for the bats, but it beats succumbing to the disease. Even more interesting is that some bats, particularly **big brown bats**, have moved away from caves altogether and are using rock outcroppings and the nooks and crannies of cliff faces to overwinter.

Silver-haired bats and **small-footed bats** have also been found in similar locations, and even in rock piles. Until last year, we didn't even realize these two species hibernated in Ohio at all! We have continued to learn many new, fascinating things about bats during our long-term study of their ecology.

When White Nose Syndrome entered the United States in 2006 and Ohio in 2011, many scientists thought the demise of bats was imminent. The changes we have noted in their behavior give us hope that bats will persist, and their populations will slowly recover.

Summit Metro Parks biologists look forward to continuing their study of these important creatures into the future. 🌱

Park Biologists Jason Whittle and Marlo Perdicas explore cave entrances, crevices and ledges in search of hibernating bats.





HAMPTON & FRIENDS

Activities for Adventurers of All Ages

Fall Leaf Candleholder



photo courtesy of spark & chemistry

This fun craft makes a nice centerpiece or gift for friends. As a bonus, the whole family can help!

MATERIALS:

- Leaves (real or artificial)
- Mason jar (one without patterns or ridges works best)
- Mod Podge
- Sponge brush

DIRECTIONS:

- 1** Collect your leaves! If purchasing from a craft store, choose thin fabric leaves. They should be malleable so they conform to the shape of the jar with ease. If opting for real leaves, make sure to find freshly fallen, colored leaves that are relatively clean and not crunchy or dry. Fresh leaves will need to be pressed for a week. Place the leaves between the pages of a large book and stack heavy items on top.
- 2** Clean the outside of your jar — the leaves will not stick to a dirty jar.
- 3** Use the sponge brush and Mod Podge to coat a leaf-sized spot on your jar. Once the layer of Mod Podge becomes sticky, place a leaf and brush over it with another layer of mod podge. Use your fingers to smooth out the leaf until it sticks. As the Mod Podge dries, the leaves will begin to stick better.
- 4** Repeat until the jar is covered with a thin layer of leaves. Overlap leaves in some places, but remember the fewer the layers, the more light will shine though when you are done.

Place a candle in your jar and enjoy!


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Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail

The Ohio & Erie Canal features in Clinton are part of a National Register of Historic Places district because of their importance in canal history, as well as in the development of both Ohio and the United States as a whole. In the early 1800s, it was typical for residents along the Ohio & Erie Canal to have farms

to sustain their families. For example, lockkeeper Nicholas Smith sold farmed goods at Lock 3 to travelers and workers on the canal.

Summit Metro Parks is grateful to have cared for parkland in Summit County for nearly 100 years. We conserve and sustainably manage clean and safe parks for your enjoyment and look forward to the next century of preserving our

natural and cultural resources. To learn more about the Fall Hiking Spree, visit hikingspree.summitmetroparks.org.
Happy hiking! 



An archaeology team from The University of Akron excavated artifacts of items carried by canal boats.

The University of Akron, Archival Services. Photo: James Tucker

2020 Fall Hiking Event

FALL HIKING SPREE

TO PARTICIPATE

Hike at least eight of the designated trails. After completing each hike, date your form. Hikes must be completed September 1 through November 30. Parks are open daily, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

First-year hikers earn a hiking staff and shield. Veteran hikers earn the hiking shield. Hikes are **FREE** for all participants. Since the program is funded by Summit County tax dollars, out-of-county residents pay to receive their hiking rewards (\$10 for first-year hikers, \$5 for veteran hikers).

HOW TO GET YOUR REWARDS

The safety of our visitors and employees remains our top priority. Please visit summitmetroparks.org for the latest information on spree rewards pick up.

TO RECEIVE YOUR REWARD BY MAIL

Veteran hikers may mail their *completed forms along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:*

Summit Metro Parks
Administrative Offices
975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron Ohio 44313


Shields are mailed flat.

Rewards are not available after March 31, 2021.


TOWPATH Trail

 Clinton Trailhead
2749 North St., Clinton 44216


FIRESTONE Metro Park

 Redwing Trail / Tuscarawas Area
2620 Harrington Rd., Akron 44319


FURNACE RUN Metro Park

 Rock Creek Trail / Brushwood Area
4955 Townsend Rd., Richfield 44286


GOODYEAR HEIGHTS Metro Park

 Piney Woods Trail / Pioneer Area
550 Frazier Ave., Akron 44305

HAMPTON HILLS Metro Park

 Spring Hollow Trail / Main Entrance
2925 Akron-Peninsula Rd., Akron 44313


LIBERTY PARK

 Bluebird Trail / Twinsburg Ledges Area
9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg 44087


MUNROE FALLS Metro Park

 Meadow Trail / Tallmadge Meadows Area
1088 North Ave., Tallmadge 44278


F.A. Seiberling NATURE REALM

 Seneca Trail
1828 Smith Rd., Akron 44313

O'NEIL WOODS Metro Park

 Deer Run Trail
2550 Martin Rd., Akron 44333


SILVER CREEK Metro Park

 Chippewa Trail / Pheasant Run Area
5000 Hametown Rd., Norton 44203

SPRINGFIELD BOG Metro Park

 Prairie Trail
1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Twp. 44312

WOOD HOLLOW Metro Park

 Downy Loop Trail
2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson 44236

Hiker's Choice

Hike any **ONE** of your favorite **METRO PARKS** trails.



2020 Commemorative Hiking Shield

From





FIELD TO FOREST

The theme for Fall Hiking Spree '20 is "FIELD to FOREST." This year's selected trails highlight our agricultural past and recognize some of the land donations that made the park district possible.


Summit Metro Parks GREEN ISLANDS

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57th ANNUAL FALL HIKING SPREE

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY/GROUP
HIKING FORM













From FIELD TO FOREST

PRIMARY PARTICIPANT

			FIRST-YEAR Hiker <input type="checkbox"/>	VETERAN Hiker <input type="checkbox"/>		SUMMIT CO. RESIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Primary Participant's Last Name	First Name	M.I.				
Address		City	State	Zip		
Email		Phone				

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS

			FIRST-YEAR Hiker <input type="checkbox"/>	VETERAN Hiker <input type="checkbox"/>		SUMMIT CO. RESIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	Zip				
Last Name	First Name	Zip				
Last Name	First Name	Zip				
Last Name	First Name	Zip				
Last Name	First Name	Zip				

METRO PARK	TRAIL	SYMBOL	MILEAGE	CLASS	RATING	SIGNATURE (Optional)	DATE
TOWPATH / Clinton	<i>south</i> to Stark Co. line and back		2.3	A / B	1		
FIRESTONE	Redwing		1.1	C	1		
FURNACE RUN	Rock Creek		1.3	C	1		
GOODYEAR HEIGHTS	Piney Woods		2.0	C	2		
HAMPTON HILLS	Spring Hollow		1.6	C	3		
LIBERTY PARK	Bluebird		0.6	C	1		
MUNROE FALLS	Meadow		2.0	C	1		
NATURE REALM (no pets)	Seneca		1.4	C	2		
O'NEIL WOODS	Deer Run		1.8	C	3		
SILVER CREEK	Chippewa		2.0	C	1		
SPRINGFIELD BOG	Prairie		1.6	C	1		
WOOD HOLLOW	Downy Loop		1.2	C	1		
Hiker's Choice (Metro Park ONLY) _____		<input type="checkbox"/>					

Rating: 1=Easy 2=Moderate 3=Strenuous
Class: A=Multipurpose B=Accessible C=Basic D=Primitive
Visit our website for rating and class definitions



All trail mileage reflects **round-trip** hikes

THIS FORM MAY BE REPRODUCED.