

JAN•FEB '21

# GREEN ISLANDS

*Summit Metro Parks*



*Bi-monthly Magazine*

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Centennial  
Celebration

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A Park District  
is Born in Summit  
County

**Summit**  
**Metro Parks**







Our parks are like green islands  
in an urban landscape.

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Green Islands can be downloaded online:  
[summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org)

## BOARD of PARK commissioners



Joel D. Bailey

Tonya Block

Mark A. Spisak

Tina Ughrin

Herb Newman

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.


## Share Your **SMP** Story

It's our  
centennial  
anniversary!



Through 100 years of history, many memories and happy moments have been created in the Metro Parks. We want to hear yours! Visit [www.summitmetroparks100.org](http://www.summitmetroparks100.org) to share your story. While you're there, take a moment to explore our interactive history timeline and learn about several other exciting initiatives happening this year in honor of our centennial.

#### ON THE COVER

Taken in August 1934 by Peck's Studio of Akron, this image shows the early years of Sand Run Metro Park as our young park district was creating trails and making improvements for the citizens of Summit County. 

# DISCOVER

## YOUR BACK YARD

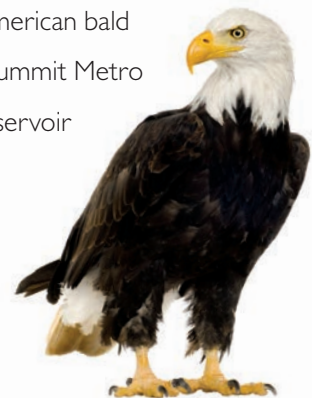


### AMERICAN BALD EAGLE

*Ben Mullaly,  
Interpretive Naturalist*

Though steadily becoming a more common sight, the American bald eagle has had a turbulent past. At the time of European colonization of North America, bald eagles flourished in untouched woodlands and pristine waters. By the time of our park district's beginning in 1921, they were rare in Ohio, having been driven out of the state's interior and towards Lake Erie by deforestation. With widespread use of the pesticide DDT in the 1950s and 60s,

only four nesting pairs of eagles remained by 1979. Through habitat conservation and restoration initiatives over the past several decades, Ohioans now enjoy an estimated more than 350 nesting pairs in 2019. Look for American bald eagles within your Summit Metro Parks at Nimisila Reservoir Metro Park (Green) and Liberty Park (Twinsburg). 🍁







Cascade Valley Metro Park | October 1969

# *Join the*

*Since the park  
district's inception  
100 years ago,*

*the people of Summit County have  
been instrumental to its success  
in providing clean and safe parks,  
protecting natural resources and  
connecting people to nature. As  
Summit Metro Parks embarks on its  
centennial year, we are most excited  
about celebrating this achievement  
with you — the residents, visitors  
and partners who help make the  
park district what it is today.*



# Centennial Celebration

Stephanie Walton, Chief of Marketing & Communications

With a variety of engaging opportunities planned for every age, interest and activity level, 2021 is packed with ways to get involved with the centennial events. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

## Visit the CENTENNIAL WEBSITE

Visit the centennial website at [summitmetroparks100.org](https://summitmetroparks100.org) to explore plans for the upcoming year and take a journey to the past with an interactive timeline of the park district's history — complete with vintage photographs, audio recordings and video. This is the perfect place to begin your centennial adventure.

## Take the CENTENNIAL TOUR

Take the Centennial Tour to discover unique park locations throughout



*Dive into the past with the park district's newly launched centennial website.*

[summitmetroparks100.org](https://summitmetroparks100.org)

Summit County and earn a reward. Your **free** Centennial Tour pocket guide will be available in March 2021. Then stop by 20 park locations to learn from new interpretive panels about what makes each site a special addition to Summit Metro Parks. Featuring a local

artist's representation of the park district, the brochure will guide you through your expedition by providing park descriptions, addresses and a way to track your progress.

*continued on page 6*



## Centennial Tour panels | Cascade Valley Metro Park and Bike & Hike Trail



*Leather Key Fob* | complete the Centennial Tour and earn this reward to add to your hiking staff.



*Centennial Tour pocket guide* | free tour guide

## Plant a CENTENNIAL TREE

Plant a Centennial Tree to mark the park district's milestone anniversary. A symbol of the park district's long-term stability and growth, trees are also vitally important to the environment and our community's physical and mental health. They provide clean air, wildlife habitat and beautiful forests for everyone to enjoy. For these reasons and more, Summit Metro Parks is celebrating 100 years by creating Centennial Groves throughout the park district, with a goal to reforest 100 acres this year!



*Centennial Groves* | Planting for the future

## Tell us YOUR SMP STORY

Tell us your SMP story and share how the Metro Parks have had an impact on your life. The parks are firmly woven into





*Share your family stories and your snapshots with us.*

the history of Summit County itself, and they have played an important role in many lives over the years. Your personal history is our shared history — tell us what the parks have meant to you or your family and you might be featured online, in the local media or in other future projects.

## Participate in a CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

Participate in a naturalist-led educational program for hands-on learning opportunities about the people who formed the park district, the communities that have



*Furnace Run Metro Park | Daffodils*

benefited from it and the wildlife that call it home.



Look for this special symbol next to centennial-themed programs.

## Show YOUR SMP LOVE

Those interested in getting even more involved might consider supporting the park district and ensuring green spaces for future generations by volunteering time or making a gift to the Summit



*Springfield Bog | Memorial Bench*

Metro Parks Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that enhances the work of the park district. New this year, park supporters can give a Centennial Tree.

Thank you for joining us in marking this important landmark this year — and stay tuned, as opportunities to participate will continue to be announced throughout 2021.

Happy anniversary! 🍁

## SMP CENTENNIAL THEMES

Centennial celebrations, stories and activities are organized into the following four themes:

### *Protecting Natural Resources:*

Sustainably managing and valuing natural resources for the health and enjoyment of our community

### *Celebrating Cultural Heritage:*

Preserving our region's history and the stories of the people who came here before us

### *Connecting People to Nature:*

Inspiring people to connect with nature through clean and safe parks

### *Honoring Community Support:*

Appreciating the community's generosity and commitment to the parks





# Harold S. Wagner

first director-secretary,  
Akron Metropolitan Park District

*Megan Shaeffer, PhD, Cultural Resource Coordinator*

Even before he was hired as the first director-secretary of Akron Metropolitan Park District (AMPD, which was the original name for Summit Metro Parks), Harold Wagner was heavily involved with the fledgling park district, working to create a swath of protected green space across Summit County. He officially became director-secretary in 1926 and remained in that position until 1958.

During his tenure, much of what we know as our current park system was acquired and shaped. Some of Wagner's contributions include:

- The creation of Sand Run Parkway from 1929 to 1930
- Development of the first nature trails starting in the late 1920s, with the first official guided hike occurring in Sand Run on September 24, 1929
- The first "nature school" out of Old Portage Shelter in the late 1920s and early 1930s
- Expansion of the park district to include Sand Run, Firestone, Furnace Run, Goodyear Heights and Gorge Metro Parks, as well as Virginia Kendall (which would later become part of Cuyahoga Valley National Park)

Apart from his work with AMPD, Wagner was well-known nationally as a pioneer in park planning and management. He was appointed to and served as secretary for the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, and Monuments from 1953 to 1959. This board was created to advise and recommend policies to the Department of the Interior on matters relating to the national parks and their historic and archaeological resources. He also served as president of the National Conference on State Parks and president of the American Park Executive Institute.

Wagner was a visionary leader who launched our early park district into stability, and visitors continue to enjoy his legacy today! 🐦

*Wagner (left) consults on park plans at Firestone Metro Park on August 29, 1941.*



*Wagner curated an extensive collection of parks-related cartoons, including many pen & ink master artboards from the original cartoonists.*



# EXPLORE

## PROGRAMS & EVENTS



Summit Metro Parks is pleased to offer a modified selection of programs and events this season. Find the latest information on dozens of available programs including virtual nature education and art classes, self-guided opportunities, online fitness sessions and more on our website at [summitmetroparks.org](https://summitmetroparks.org).



# MAPLE LEAF GIFTS

## AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BY PHONE ORDER

Summit Metro Parks offers a variety of nature-themed and park district-branded merchandise, including newly released centennial items.

*To view the full product line and for instructions on placing an order, please visit: [summitmetroparks.org/gift-shop.aspx](https://summitmetroparks.org/gift-shop.aspx)*

### CHAMPION HOODIES



### MAGNETS / STICKERS

### DON DRUMM



## COMMEMORATIVE POSTERS



## NESTLED PINES



## WATER BOTTLES



## DENEEN POTTERY MUGS



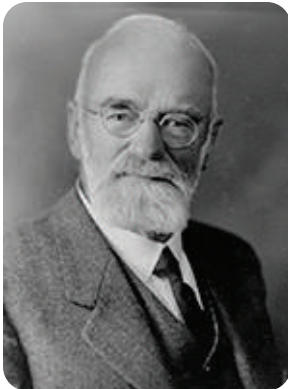
### Free LICENSE PLATE FRAME

Get a new commemorative  
license plate frame!  
Details to come.





## A park district in



*Warren Manning*

One hundred years ago, Ohioans and the rest of the nation were still recovering from the 1918 influenza pandemic that took the lives of 675,000 Americans and upended the lives of many others. The “Great War” was also barely in the rear-view mirror. But now things were looking up — in Akron, the growing rubber industries were hiring thousands of new factory workers and the city was growing by leaps and bounds. Much of the work, however, was dirty and back-breaking, with workers putting in long days. Nonetheless, progress was being made on shortening work hours and laborers found they had more leisure time. Popular nature writers such as John Burroughs were inspiring everyday folks to get outside and experience the physical and spiritual benefits of nature. With the crush of city life and the air turned sooty by coal smoke and factory fumes, urbanites sought out places to

breathe fresh air, play in the open spaces and rejuvenate their spirits.

Out West, the young National Park Service was getting rooted, founded on a mission to both conserve natural and historic areas and “provide for the enjoyment of the same.” But Yellowstone and Yosemite were a long way away for most working-class Summit County citizens. Thanks to a few local visionaries, our Summit Metro Parks system was created in 1921 to meet that double need — to protect natural lands and provide access to safe places for families to gather, play and picnic.

Many good things come about when like-minded individuals come together with a dream. In 1921, renowned landscape architect Warren Manning was in the employ of F.A. Seiberling, having designed the gardens for Seiberling’s



*F.A. Seiberling*

*Photo courtesy of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens*

# is born Summit County

*Peg Bobel, Cultural Resource Specialist*

Stan Hywet estate. Manning in turn had brought young landscape architect Harold S. Wagner to town from Boston to help design another Seiberling project — Fairlawn Heights. Wagner had trained at Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, and Manning had worked with renowned landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and his sons. Meanwhile, up in Cuyahoga County, William A. Stinchcomb, the architect of the Ohio law giving counties the power to create metropolitan park districts, had hired the famed Olmsted Brothers firm to design Cleveland Metroparks' "Emerald Necklace." Stinchcomb recognized the importance of preserving natural areas around the city, referring to them as "a kind of 'natural resource' of ever-increasing value to the public" and urged the board of the newly formed Akron Metropolitan Park District to follow his lead. These personalities and their

connections would all come together formally in 1925 — F.A. Seiberling being named a park commissioner, H.S. Wagner becoming the park district's first director-secretary, and the Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm being hired to plan a park system for Summit County.

Seiberling wanted Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. himself to come to Akron, but that was not to be. Nonetheless, Olmsted assigned two of his finest landscape architects to the project — W.B. Marquis and E.C. Whiting. Both would stay with the Olmsted firm for years and are considered pioneers in landscape architecture. Their main challenge was choosing which places among the many beautiful areas they saw in Summit County to include in their recommendations for a park system. Some of their favorite parts of the



*The original plan from September 1925 of the proposed park system for Summit County maps out the areas recommended for preservation by the **Olmsted Brothers / Landscape Architects**, Boston, Massachusetts.*

county are now familiar to many park visitors as part of Summit Metro Parks: the valleys of Sand Run, Furnace Run and Yellow Creek, the Twinsburg Ledges, and of course the Gorge and Cuyahoga River valley.

Today, we celebrate these leaders who established our Metro Parks as we once again face a pandemic and experience renewed appreciation for green space. The story of Summit Metro Parks has evolved through one hundred years and continues to be written by the modern-day nature lovers of Summit County. 🌱





# HAMPTON & FRIENDS

*Activities for Adventurers of All Ages*

## Create a Snowman Bird Feeder

Are you looking for a new, creative way to feed the birds this winter? Look no further! You only need a few simple items to invite wildlife into your yard.



To enjoy birds in your yard once the snowman melts, consider making a simple homemade feeder. Put seed in a hanging milk jug or juice carton with a cut-out on the side, or place seeds on the hat of a scarecrow. Your feathered backyard friends will be grateful!

### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Birdseed and/or peanuts
- Two sticks
- Two pine cones
- Small rocks or pebbles
- A large carrot or a large nut
- A colorful scarf
- A wide-brim hat or a stocking cap
- Mittens or gloves (optional)

**Step 1** Build a snowman! You can use your imagination and make your snowman however you'd like. If you are feeling ambitious, make a family of snowmen.

**Step 2** Make a flattened spot on top of your snowman's hat. You can also add mittens to your snowman's hands. Place birdseed or peanuts in the hat and mittens.

**Step 3** Watch your snowman to see who visits! Take a picture and tag us on social media using the hashtag [#summitmetroparks](https://twitter.com/summitmetroparks).

# Tracing our visual history through the years

Christy Counterman, Marketing Assistant

**W**hen the Akron Metropolitan Park District was young, our communications with the public were primarily through written letters and signs. Every step of day-to-day operations was documented in letters, from hiring our first patrol officer to grinding Deep Lock Quarry's stone to create sand for our swimming lakes. Signs were posted to introduce the public to the new parks, to share directions and to enforce park rules. As society's means of communication evolved, so did the park district's visual identity.

Throughout the years, our logos evolved from simple text treatments to designs with logo marks and logo type. With the name change to Summit Metro Parks in 2014, the current logo is designed to recognize our past and carry our identity into our next century. 🍁



*In the 1930s, outdoor signs mimicked the letterhead design, communicating important information to park visitors.*



*In the early years of the park district, "Akron Metropolitan Park Board" was used on letterhead, changing to the "Akron Metropolitan Park District" in communications during the late 1920s. Administrative offices were in the court house in downtown Akron.*



*A mid-century modern look was embraced with the stylized MP as our very first logo in the 1950s and was utilized in multiple colors of red, blue, gold and black.*



*In 1963, the Akron Metropolitan Park District logo was introduced, featuring the distinctive scarlet shield with the golden oak tree. It went through several revisions during its 25-year history.*




*In January 1988, the announcement of the park district's name change created the opportunity for a new logo. The design of University of Akron Junior Chris Dougherty Walker was selected from 87 entries.*



*The logo the park district uses today was updated by SMP Graphic Designer Karl Simonson in 2014 after a board resolution changed the park district's official name to Summit Metro Parks.*



 Please share this publication and recycle it when finished.

## WINTER SPORTS

As conditions permit, several winter sports can be enjoyed in the Metro Parks, and some locations are lighted for after-sunset fun. Visitors must bring their own equipment.

To learn if winter sports areas are open, call 330-865-8060 or follow @metro\_parks on Twitter.

**SLEDDING** The best conditions for sledding include frozen ground with at least two inches of snow cover. Walk up the side of sled hills, not in the center where you may be in the path of moving sleds. Sledding is prohibited on trails and wooded hills.

**ICE SKATING** Never skate on a pond or lake unless signs indicate it is open for skating. Ice must be four inches thick and free of snow, and temperatures must remain several degrees below freezing for long periods of time. Wear properly fitted skates with sharpened blades for enhanced control and safety.

**ICE FISHING** Ice fishing is possible in Liberty Park's Tinkers Creek Area, Nimisila Reservoir Metro Park and the lake in Silver Creek Metro Park, dawn to dusk as conditions allow. Users may not light fires, take motorized vehicles onto the ice, or build/leave structures and shelters on park property. Temporary shanties may be moved only by hand from the parking lot to the lake, and must be removed daily.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING** Some areas are too steep to negotiate safely on skis. To help keep your skis from being damaged by sharp, uncovered stones, ski only when the trails have at least two inches of snow cover.

## BUNDLE UP FOR WINTER FUN IN THE METRO PARKS



### WINTER SPORTS

	Sledding	Ice Skating	Ice Fishing	X/C Skiing
BIKE & HIKE TRAIL				
FREEDOM TRAIL				
TOWPATH TRAIL				
CASCADE VALLEY				
FIRESTONE				
FURNACE RUN				
GOODYEAR HEIGHTS				
LIBERTY PARK				
MUNROE FALLS				
NIMISILA RESERVOIR				
SAND RUN				
SILVER CREEK				
SPRINGFIELD BOG				

 Lighted  Unlighted