

# Summit Lake – Pop-up Nature Center



- **Sponsoring Organization:**
  - Summit Metro Parks
- **Type:**
  - Accessibility, special needs & socializing
  - Nature
- **Description:**
  - Transformed an empty classroom into a space for exhibits, programs, a learning lab, a reading corner and more!

**Year Started:**

- Summer 2017



County: Summit County  
(Summit Co. District #5)



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Parks**



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- **Participants:**
  - For the local community and residents of Summit County – over 3,500 visitors inside
- **Staff & volunteers:**
  - 2 full-time naturalists with the help of 3 part-time naturalists
- **Location/Type:**
  - Akron
  - Nature Center adjacent to the Towpath Trail
- **Frequency:**
  - Open 6 days per week

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- **Unique!**
- **Benefits and Goals:**
  - Engage all ages of the neighborhood
  - Enjoy nature and the lake
  - Safe place to visit
  - Provide health & wellness programs
- **Costs:**
  - Rental Space = \$10,000/year
  - Indoor Space Conversion = \$16,750
  - Outdoor Space Transformation = \$77,000
  - Programming Supplies = \$10,000
  - Total Cost Spent in 2017 = \$267,200 including personnel costs

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The park district's outreach manager, Demetrius Lambert-Falconer, said the goals of the project were simple: "We wanted to provide a safe park environment, programs that emphasized nature and wellness, and introduce Summit Lake residents to Summit Metro Parks."

"Parks and recreation professionals throughout Ohio work every day to improve the quality of life of the people they serve and this effort is a shining example of that kind of work" said Ohio Parks & Recreation Association Executive Director Woody Woodward.



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- Summit Metro Parks also added outdoor elements at Summit Lake including picnic tables, grills, nature play area, programming, access to the lake and a temporary event space

