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SUMMIT METRO PARKS CELEBRATES WILD BACK YARDS WITH RETURN OF NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL

Kick off summer by welcoming wildlife into your yards and outdoor spaces with beautiful and beneficial native plants! Join Summit Metro Parks staff and native plant nurseries at the [Native Plant Festival](#), presented by Wayside Furniture, on Saturday, May 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Munroe Falls Metro Park (521 S. River Road, Akron).

Visitors can browse a wide variety of native plants available for purchase, attend an educational session to discover the vital role native plants play in our ecosystem, sign up for the park district's [Grow a Wild Back Yard](#) program, enjoy entertainment and more. Visitors can receive a FREE plant, while supplies last!

[Vendors](#) include Auburn Native Plants, Avonlea Gardens & Inn, Companion Plants, Genius Loci, Meadow City, Natives in Harmony, Native Roots, Powell's Native Wildflowers, Riverside Native Trees and Nursery, Shady Nook and Working Gardens. [Maple Leaf Gifts](#) will have new, native plant-themed merchandise for sale, and food will be available for purchase from D-Bo's Grill and Henry's Creamery.

Why should we grow native plants? Humans are a part of nature, too. When our surrounding ecosystem is healthy, it helps us thrive as well. Together, we can provide habitats for our wildlife to counteract the effects of habitat loss and habitat fragmentation. At Summit Metro Parks, we're your back yard. And what you do in your yard can help us continue to improve the sustainable management of our natural resources.

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In 2023, Summit Metro Parks is celebrating the benefits of native plants through Wild Back Yards. The park district manages more than 15,000 acres throughout 16 parks, three nature centers and over 150 miles of trails, including 22 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance is

approximately 5.5 million visits. Find us online at summitmetroparks.org.



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