

**May 7, 2024**

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> annual [Native Plant Festival](#), presented by Wayside Furniture, on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Munroe Falls Metro Park (521 S. River Road, Munroe Falls).

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 or collect rewards through the park district's [Grow a Wild Back Yard](#) program, enjoy entertainment and more. Visitors can receive a FREE native plant sapling, while supplies last!

In addition to numerous native plant nurseries, vendors include landscapers and partner organizations that support the goals of the [Wild Back Yards](#) initiative. [Maple Leaf Gifts](#) will have native plant-themed and other merchandise for sale, and food and drinks will be available for purchase from Bereka Coffee, D-Bo's Grill and Henry's Creamery. For a complete list of vendors, visit [bit.ly/npfvendors](https://bit.ly/npfvendors).

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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Summit Metro Parks 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 million visits. Find us online at [summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org).



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