

June 3, 2008

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**GREEN BUILDING OPEN TO PUBLIC JUNE 21 & 22**

New offices for park rangers and biologists in Sand Run Metro Park will be open to the public, **Saturday, June 21** and **Sunday, June 22**, from **1 to 4 p.m.**

Due to limited parking, visitors will be shuttled from the Metro RTA park-and-ride in Fairlawn, 530 Ghent Rd., to the building on Sand Run Parkway, a short 4-minute drive. An alternative is for users of the 6-mile Jogging Trail to park in designated spaces along the parkway and hike to the building, located near the corner of Sand Run Parkway and Revere Road.

A former private residence, the 2,200-square-foot structure was expanded by 1,700 square feet to make room for the park district's ranger and resource management departments. Staff moved in earlier this year.

The building includes geothermal heating, waterless toilets, solar panels, a green roof, lumber from downed trees in the Metro Parks, and recycled carpet, furniture and cabinetry. Outside, the features include porous pavement, a rain garden, rain barrels and native landscaping. Some of the original building materials were "recycled" by Habitat for Humanity.

This fall, it could be named the first "Platinum" LEED-certified building in Ohio.

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is administered by the U.S. Green Building Council ([www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)).

For information, call 330-867-5511, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Metro Parks, Serving Summit County manages more than 9,000 acres, including 13 developed parks, six conservation areas and more than 120 miles of trails, with 16 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance averages 4 million visitors.