

Nathan Eppink
Chief of Marketing & Communications
330-865-8040 x215
neppink@summitmetroparks.org

Christine O'Neill
Marketing/Communications Specialist
330-865-8040 x207
coneill@summitmetroparks.org

EXPLORE GARDENS AT NATURE REALM

Join the Nature Realm Garden Tour, **Sunday, July 13** from **noon to 4 p.m.**, at 1828 Smith Rd., Akron, to get answers to your gardening questions.

Experts will be on hand with tips about garden design – from pond gardening to herb gardening and beyond. Speakers include Denise Ellsworth, OSU Extension; Master Gardeners Jan Becker and Cara Smith; and David Stover of Metro Parks, Serving Summit County.

The Nature Realm gardens include:

- **Kremer Display Garden**

Planted by the Master Gardeners in 2001, the garden inspires visitors with its environmentally-friendly approach, low-maintenance plants and multi-season interest.

- **Phenology Garden**

The Master Gardeners of Summit County monitor this garden's first-bloom and full-bloom dates and then enter the information into a statewide database that is used to help determine pest emergence and proper timing for using pest control.

- **Rain Garden**

The newest garden at the Nature Realm features seven different species of native wildflowers suited to rain garden conditions. The plants "drink up" rainwater that flows from the volunteer center roof, and the porous soil allows the excess rainwater to percolate back into the ground, alleviating the need for storm sewers.

- **Rock & Herb Garden**

Each year, volunteers prepare the beds, plant the annuals, deadhead the plants, harvest and then winterize this garden.

For more information, call 330-865-8065.

* * * * *

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 18 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance averages 4 million visitors.