

# Going Beyond Compliance: Indigenous Engagement and Parks



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*Indigenous Engagement Consultant*

# SMP by the Numbers



16 Parks



3 Nature Centers



150+ Trail Miles  
15,000 Acres



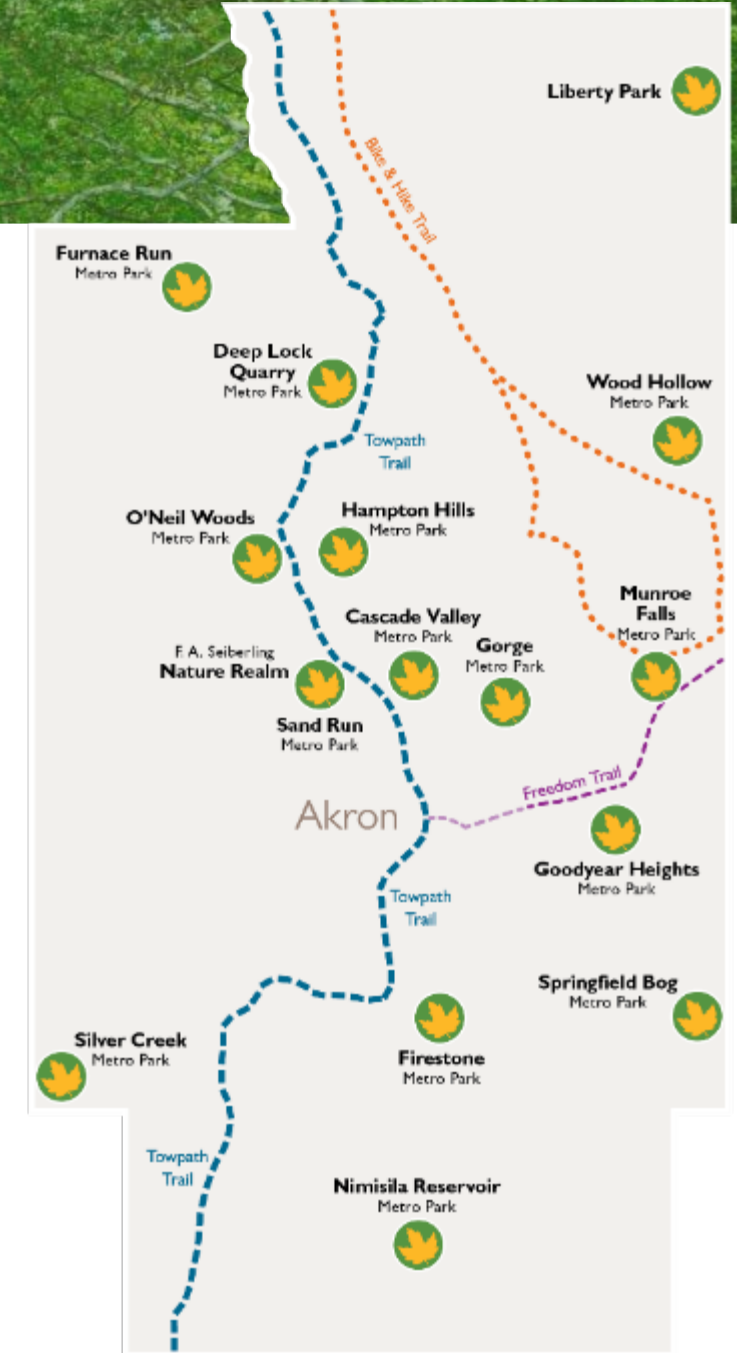
175 Employees  
+ 400 volunteers



Est. 1921



73% Voter  
Approval



# Summit Metro Parks



***We conserve, sustainably manage  
and value natural resources for  
the health and enjoyment of our  
community, and inspire people to  
connect with nature through  
clean and safe parks.***

# Summit Metro Parks



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# Cultural Resource Management at SMP



Partnership with University of Akron: 2002 through 2010s

Cultural Resources Staff: 2016

We study the remains of the human past!

We are stewards of the sites, structures, and features in SMP.



# Indigenous Engagement



Inviting input, feedback, involvement, collaboration with Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities

Seeking and sharing information on cultural resource management initiatives

Building respectful, ongoing relationships

*“A lot of Indigenous history is not created or shared by Indigenous people.”*

*--Dr. Joe Stahlman (Tuscarora)*

# Indigenous Engagement: Where to Start?



## Who to contact?

- Chiefs, Presidents, Council Members
- Tribal Historic Preservation Office
- Cultural center, museum, educational department?
- Community groups (Ex: Lake Erie Native American Council)

## How to contact?

- Reach out via email, physical mail
- Continue to reach out with updates to your project

## Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (Housing and Urban Development)

<https://egis.hud.gov/TDAT/>

Export To Excel

Print the Current Page

### Contact Information for Tribes with Interests in Summit County, Ohio

Tribal Name				County Name	
- Delaware Nation, Oklahoma				Summit	
Contact Name	Title	Mailing Address	Work Phone	Fax Number	
Deborah Dotson	President	31064 State Highway 281, Building 100, Anadarko, OK - 73005	(405) 247-2448	(405) 247-9393	
Katelyn Lucas	THPO	P.O. Box 825, Anadarko, OK - 73005	405-544-8115		
+ Delaware Tribe of Indians				Summit	
+ Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma				Summit	
+ Forest County Potawatomi Community, Wisconsin				Summit	
+ Hannahville Indian Community, Michigan				Summit	
+ Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Michigan				Summit	
+ Miami Tribe of Oklahoma				Summit	
+ Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma				Summit	
+ Seneca Nation of Indians				Summit	
+ Seneca-Cayuga Nation				Summit	

# Indigenous Engagement: Some Advice and Examples



Have patience and stay committed  
Listen more than you talk  
Make use of what is available to you  
Start small  
Consider a visit  
Even a little money can go a long way  
Work with partners  
Play to your strengths!  
Have patience and stay committed



# Useful Resources

## Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Ecological Knowledge

[NPS.gov](#) / [Home](#) / [Resources](#)

### Resources

On the following pages, you'll find a few resources that may provide answers to some of your questions and/or research interests. Please click on the topics listed below to navigate to a specific page of interest.

[Guides](#)

[Literature](#)

[Orders and Policies](#)

[Organizations Concerned with TEK](#)

[Potential Funding Sources](#)

[Tribal Policies, Processes and Protocols](#)

[Websites](#)

<https://www.nps.gov/resources.htm>



[VISIT](#)

## American Indian Relations

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/research/american-indian-relations/>

# Useful Resources



*nyawëh sgënö'*

## Welcome To The Seneca Nation

The modern day Seneca Nation is a true democracy whose constitution was established in 1848. The Nation's constitution provides for a multi-branch system of government that is comprised of elected Executive and...

LEARN ABOUT US

<https://sni.org/>



SENECA - CAYUGA  
—▲—  
NATION

918-787-5452

23701 S. 655 Rd. Grove, OK 74344



History

<https://sctribe.com/heritage/history>

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# Small Initiatives Add Up!

Local initiatives you can join?

- 2018: SMP joined Portage Path Collaborative to celebrate North American First People's Day.

Something specific you can tackle?

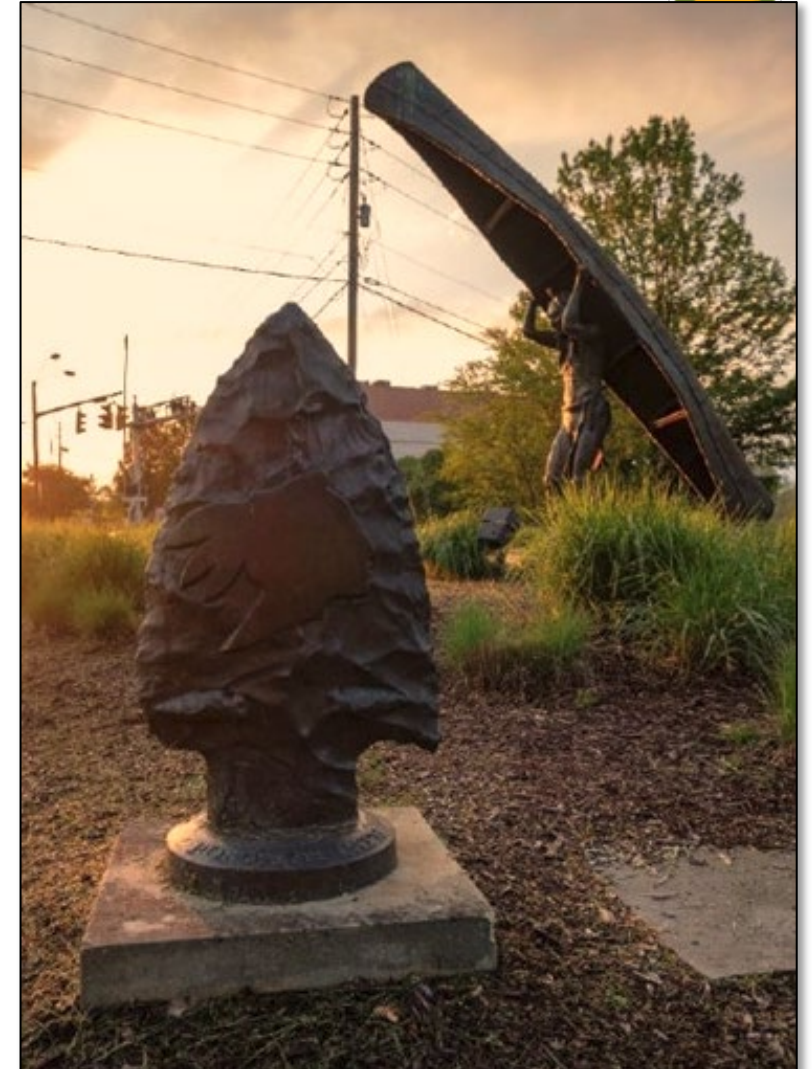
- 2024: SMP renames Mingo Trail and Lodge

## New names, rich histories



Summit Metro Parks · Follow

7 min read · Jun 11, 2024



# Land Acknowledgement



I ACKNOWLEDGE the First People to occupy this land that today we call northeast Ohio.

The names they used to identify themselves are largely unknown to us.

The Indigenous groups who were stewards of this land before the arrival of the first Europeans included the Seneca (SEH-nuh-kuh) and Cayuga (KAI-yoo-gah) the Haudenosaunee (hoh-DEE-noh-SHoh-nee), the Wyandotte (WHY-uhn-daot), the Shawnee (Shaa-NEE), the Ojibwe (oh-JEEB-way) or Chippewa (CHI-puh-waa), and the Lenni Lenape (LEH-nee lun-NAH-pay) or Delaware (DEH-luh-wehr), all of whom are living populations today.

We recognize that we owe a debt to these communities who were forcibly removed from the land they sustained for hundreds of years, and we honor them.

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# Consider a Visit!



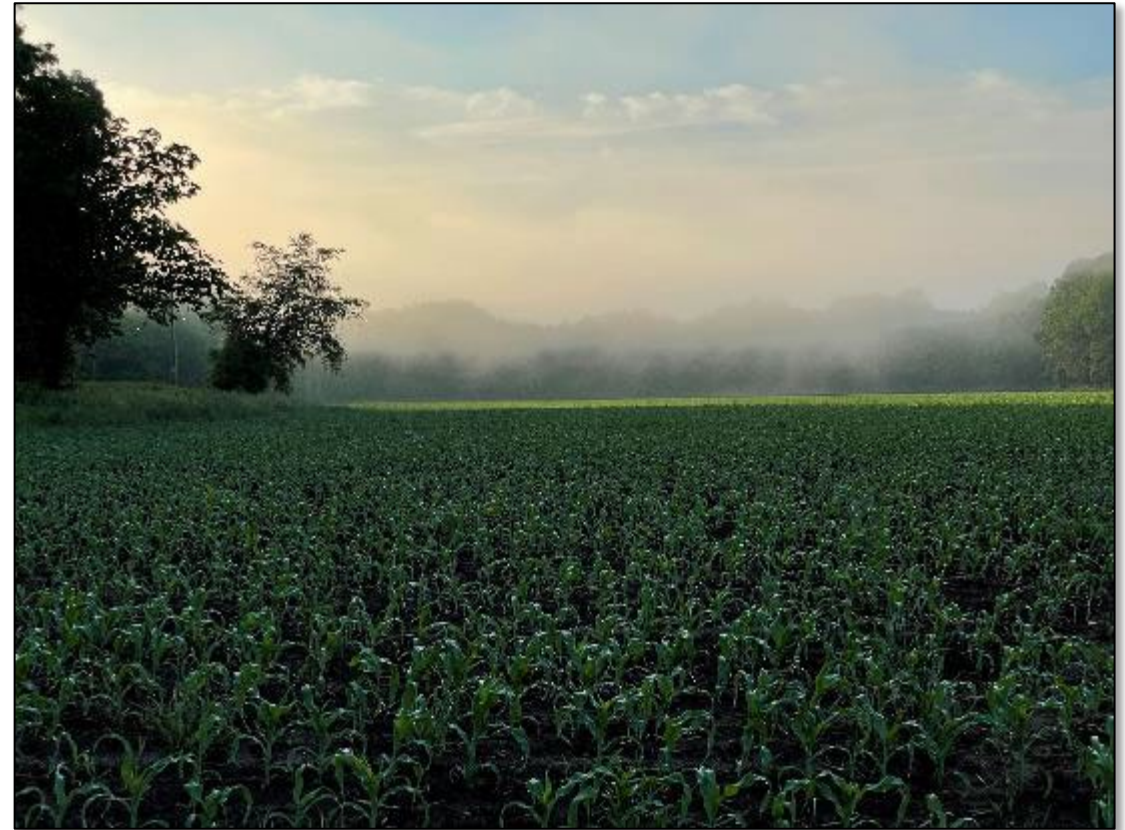
December 2024: SMP staff visited Seneca Nation's Seneca-Iroquois National Museum in Salamanca, NY



# Indigenous Engagement: Some Advice and Examples



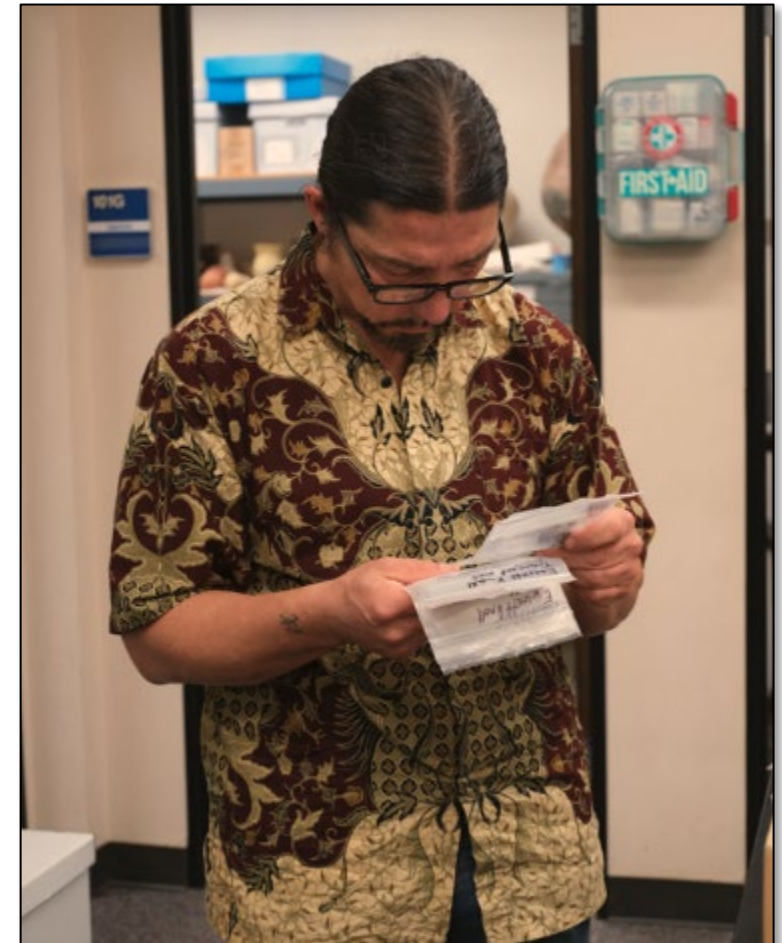
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# A Little Money Can Go a Long Way



May 2024: Paid stipend to Dr. Joe Stahlman, Seneca Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, to visit SMP



# Indigenous Engagement: Some Advice and Examples



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# Work with Partners!



# Indigenous Engagement: Some Advice and Examples




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# Play to Your Strengths

1. Web/social media presence
2. Community buy-in
3. Forum for educational programming
4. Parks are in the land stewardship business
5. Parks make great partners




## TRAILSIDE EYE SPY


Check off each item as you see it along Quarry Trail in Deep Lock  
Quarry Metro Park, 5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula, OH 44264




**QUARRY STEPS**  
Beginning in 1800, the quarry provided the local building blocks of Akron and surrounding communities via the Ohio and Erie Canal. By 1940, CCC crews were the last to remove stone, some of which can be found in park structures such as Handwood Lodge at Furnace Run Metro Park.




**MILLSTONES**  
The sandstone here had a fine texture that was perfect for making millstones for food processing and grinding for meatpacking. The quarry also produced flagging, which were thin stones used for sidewalks. How many of these stone remnants can you find along the trail?




**DEEP LOCK**  
This stop along the canal was able to raise and lower canal boats a whopping 17 feet! Some of its original sandstone blocks were capped with concrete in the early 1900s in a last-ditch effort to fix the failing canal system.




**lichen**  
These strange organisms are the result of a symbiotic relationship between fungi and algae - fungi provide the structure and algae photosynthesize. Lichens can colonize barren landscapes like stone and come in a variety of interesting shapes and colors.




**MYSTERY STONES** Take a look at this stack of stones to your left as you drive on the quarry exit. These were originally shaped to support the hillside along the trail at Virginia Kendall Lake. The project was carried out using wooden beams to push, leaving behind these remnants.




**SASSAPARILLA TREE**  
Did you know that not beer was historically made from the roots of sassafras trees? Sassafras are recognized by their distinct green twigs and deeply furrowed, reddish brown bark. In spring, be on the lookout for their mitten-shaped leaves.




**MASON'S MARK** Many talented masons were employed at the quarry over the years. This particular symbol was carved by a meeting of Royal Arch Masons at the quarry in 1932, eleven years before Deep Lock Quarry opened as a Metro Park. What do you think it is a mason symbol?



**EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL**  
Look for these acrobats scampering up trees and on the forest floor, digging up the last of their acorns. Whenever they forget to dig up could grow into the oak trees of the future, allowing nature to continue her reclamation of Deep Lock Quarry.



**PILEATED WOODPECKER**  
Look for the large black bodies, bold white wing patches and distinctive crown of black's largest woodpecker. Don't see the birds? Not to worry, they leave evidence in the form of tree cavities, sometimes greater than six inches high and three inches wide!




Get involved

## VOLUNTEER WITH SMP

Would you like to become an SMP volunteer? Hundreds of residents make a difference through various volunteer roles at Summit Metro Parks.

[Learn More](#)






**FEB 6**

THURSDAY, 1:30PM-2:30PM

**Feeding Time** →

Lettuce, worms, tomatoes and roaches...yum! Learn about conserving local amphibian and reptile species while getting up close with our animal...

RASH/Vishors Center



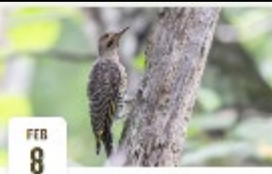
**FEB 7**

FRIDAY, 10AM-11:30AM

**Winter Bird Walk** →

Join us on the 1.2-mile Dawmy Loop Trail to search for and learn about our hardy, winter resident birds.

WH/Dawmy Loop Trail



**FEB 8**

SATURDAY, 10AM-11AM

**Coffee With The Birds** →

Join a naturalist to see which birds visit our viewing area. Bring a mug and your bird questions - we'll provide warm beverages and birding...

LP/Nature Center

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# Indigenous Engagement: Three SMP Initiatives



## Organizational level

- 2024 Fall Hiking Spree

## Collaboration between multiple organizations

- Portage Path Collaborative and North American First People's Day

## Cultural heritage management

- Everett Knoll Complex site stewardship

# 2024 Initiative: Fall Hiking Spree



Indigenous Engagement Consultant:  
Dr. LaDonna BlueEye

- Public programming
- Interpretation
- Staff training
- Signage



# 2024 Initiative: Fall Hiking Spree

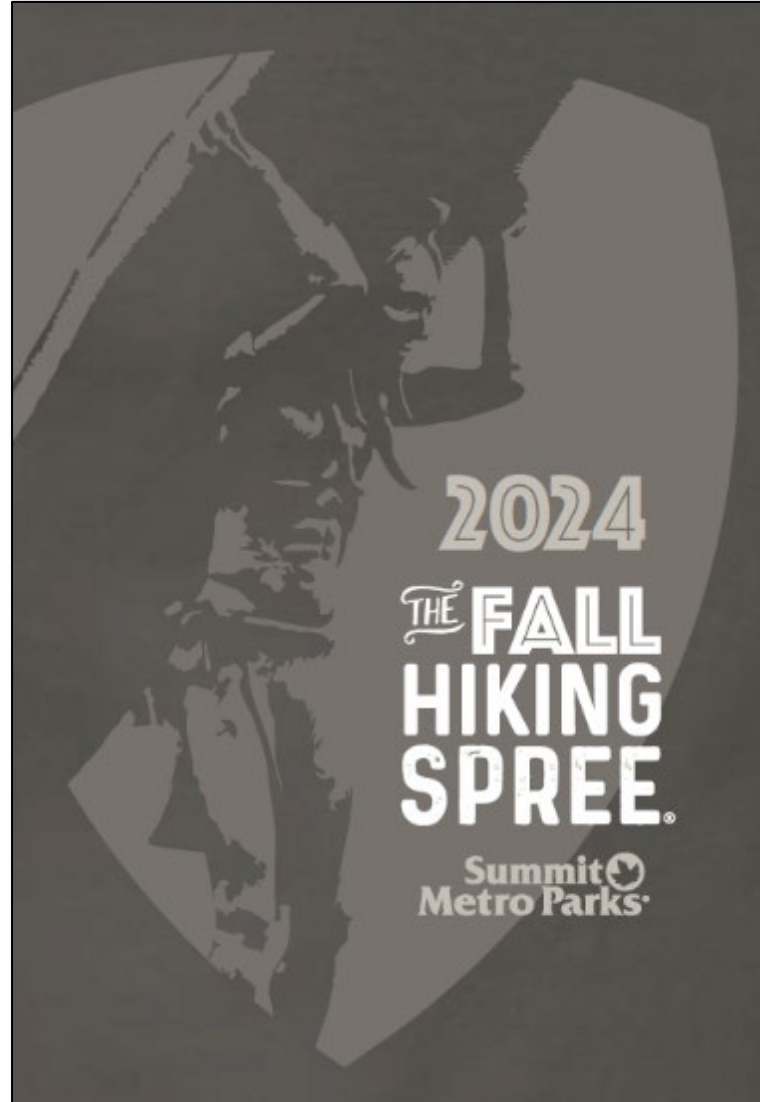


**Sept. 1 – Nov. 30**

- Largest and longest-running event of its kind in the nation
- Hike eight trails to earn rewards
- FREE rewards for Summit County residents
- 2024 theme: Honoring Indigenous Culture



# 2024 Initiative: Fall Hiking Spree Designs





Scan the code to learn about the spree themes:

- **INDIGENOUS THROUGHWAYS**
- **CULTURAL CURRENTS**
- **LIVING IN THE LANDSCAPE**
- **DISCOVERING THE PAST**

**Summit  
Metro  
Parks®**



## Fall Hiking Spree: Honoring INDIGENOUS CULTURE



### TOWPATH TRAIL



The statue of an Indigenous person portaging a canoe created by artist Peter Jones is an Onondaga citizen of the Beaver Clan. The statue is a twin at the southern terminus. They were placed in 2001, along with 31 bronze "arrowhead" markers along the Portage Path itself.

This segment of the Towpath Trail leads to the northernmost point of the Portage Path, the land connection between the Tuscarawas and Cuyahoga Rivers. The Portage Path created a link for Indigenous Peoples to travel by watercraft from north to south across the entirety of what is now the United States.

There are several Indigenous sites nearby which date to before European arrival, including the Big Bend site, which you will pass as you walk the trail. People lived at the Big Bend site from approximately A.D. 1,000 – 1,400 during the summer to the early fall.

## Fall Hiking Spree: Honoring INDIGENOUS CULTURE



### WILLOW TRAIL



Willows can be found along waterways like the Tuscarawas River, which flows through Firestone Metro Park, making it easily accessible to Indigenous Peoples in this area.

Species of willows in our area are sandbar or silky willows, which are small, shrublike plants, and black and peach-leaved willows, which are small- to medium-sized trees.

Willow is an important building material in Indigenous culture and is valued for its strength and pliability. Branches can be shaped into basket rims or support structures for lodges and houses. Its bark is also used for medicinal purposes, as it is a natural pain reliever and was used to treat ailments like toothaches and skin rashes.

## Fall Hiking Spree: Honoring INDIGENOUS CULTURE



### MISSING LINK TRAIL



Through the restoration of land once used for residences, farming and, later, a golf course, the health of the Cuyahoga River and the surrounding habitat has improved, providing a glimpse of the vibrant river that supported Indigenous populations for millennia.

For Indigenous Peoples, natural rivers and tributaries were vital thoroughways for travel and trade, connecting people and cultures across the Mississippi and Erie watersheds. Humans, plants, animals, rivers and the land itself were all part of a perspective which embraced balance and reciprocity with the natural world.

The legacy of Indigenous land use in our area shows us that developing a more reciprocal relationship between the land and the people who live among it is a key aspect of conservation, inspiring us to support and nurture that which ultimately supports us.

## Fall Hiking Spree: Honoring INDIGENOUS CULTURE



### ADAM RUN TRAIL



In the summer of 2000, a team from The University of Akron's Community Archaeology program investigated archaeological sites in Hampton Hills Metro Park, finding evidence that Indigenous people lived here from 6,500 B.C. to A.D. 1,450.

Archaeological projects with The University of Akron like this one were part of the park district's early efforts to understand and conserve its cultural sites. Today, Summit Metro Parks employs archaeologists to investigate and manage sites like those in Hampton Hills.

# 2024 Initiative: Fall Hiking Spree Programs, Training



Introduced Programming  
Staff Training

## INDIGENOUS STORIES AROUND THE FIRE

September 14, 2024 @ 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm | FASN/Campfire Area

Enjoy s'mores while learning about some of the Indigenous Tribal Nations that lived in this region from the mid-1700s to 1800s, along with stories that are essential to their cultures.

## BEADING WORKSHOP

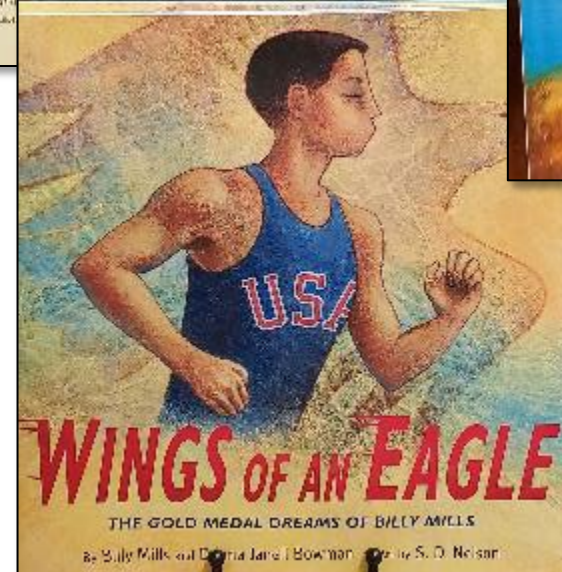
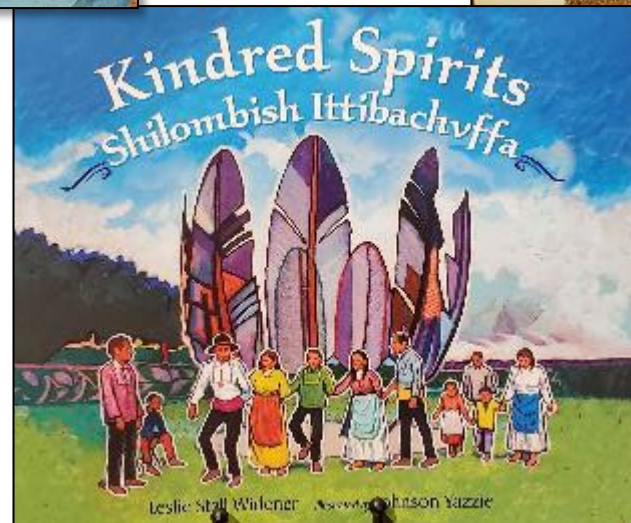
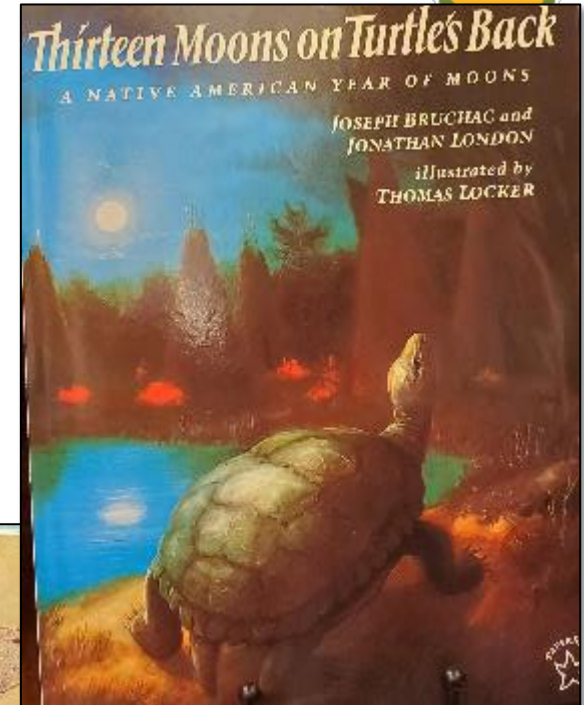
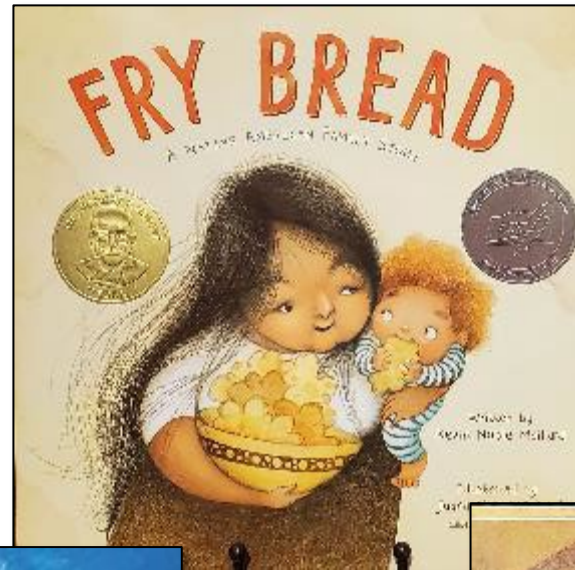
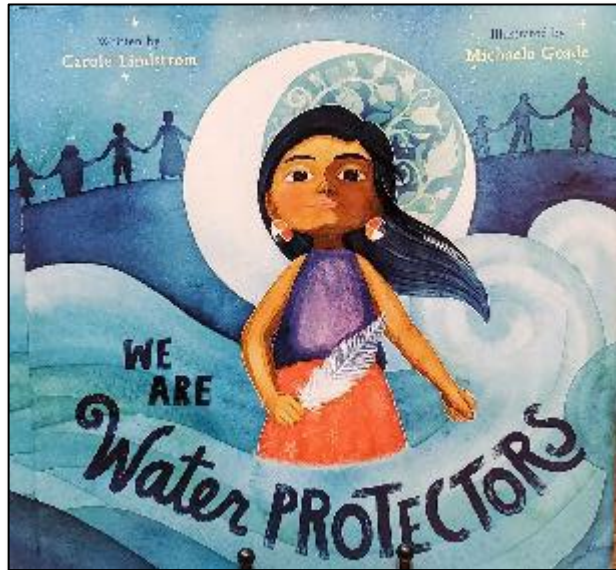
September 7, 2024 @ 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm | FASN/Visitors Center

Discover the ancient art of beadwork with Indigenous Artist LaDonna BlueEye. Participants will receive a brief introduction to Indigenous beadwork and hands-on training to learn how to bead a rosette using ladder stitch. Your rosette may then be displayed as created, or you can find your own use for this unique art, like a necklace or keychain. Participants must have the dexterity to use a needle, thread, and either Size 8° (2.5mm) or Size 10° (2.0mm) beads. Cost: \$15. Registration is required and begins on 8/28.

# 2024 Initiative: Fall Hiking Spree Gift Shop



# 2024 Initiative: Fall Hiking Spree Gift Shop



# Ongoing Initiative: Portage Path Collaborative



## The Portage Path: our Indigenous heritage



Portion of 1778 "A new map of the western parts of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and North Carolina"

# Ongoing Initiative: Portage Path Collaborative

Multiple organization collaboration

1<sup>st</sup> Monday in October: North American  
First People's Day

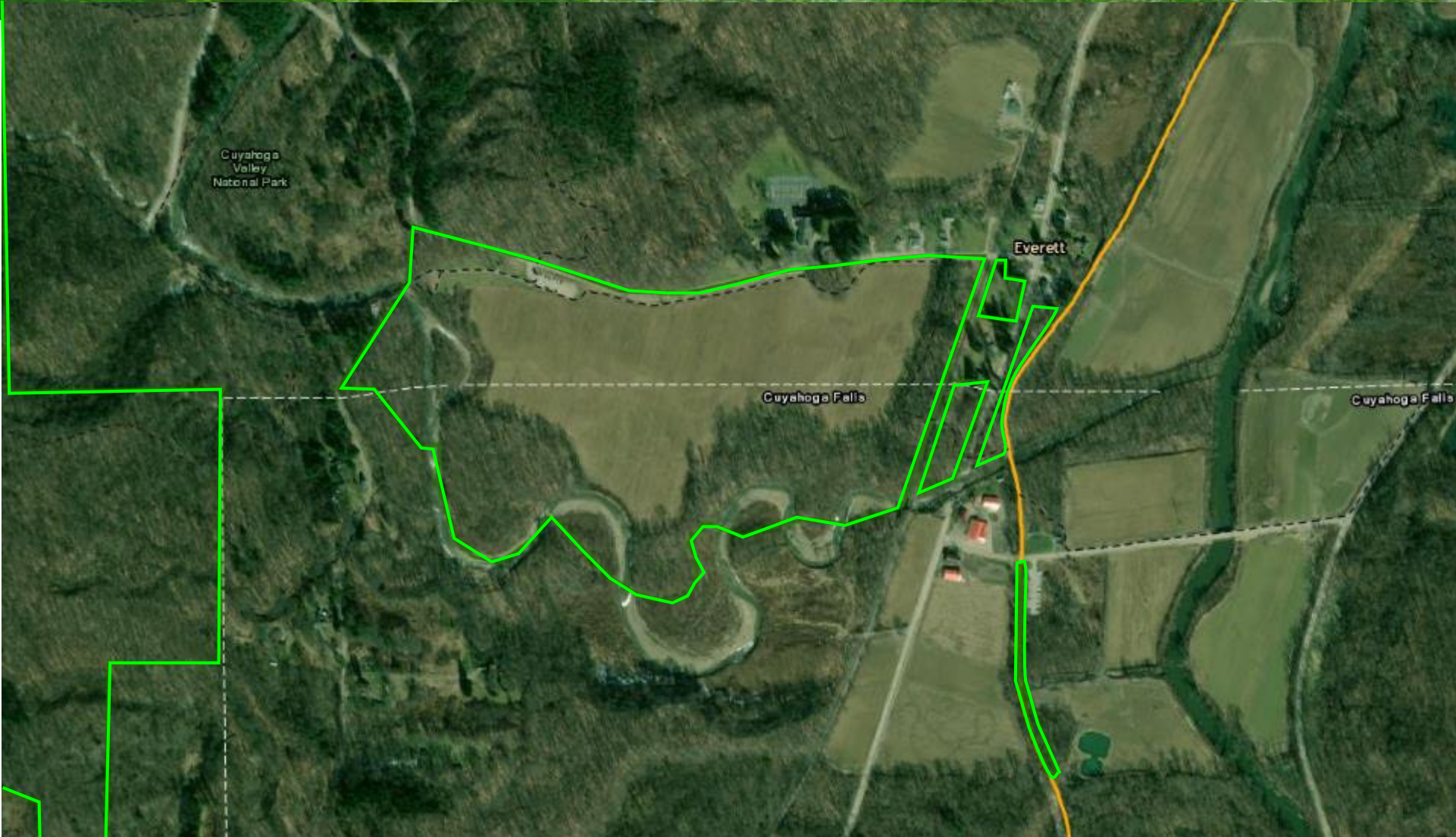
October: Ohio Archaeology Month

November: Indigenous Heritage Month

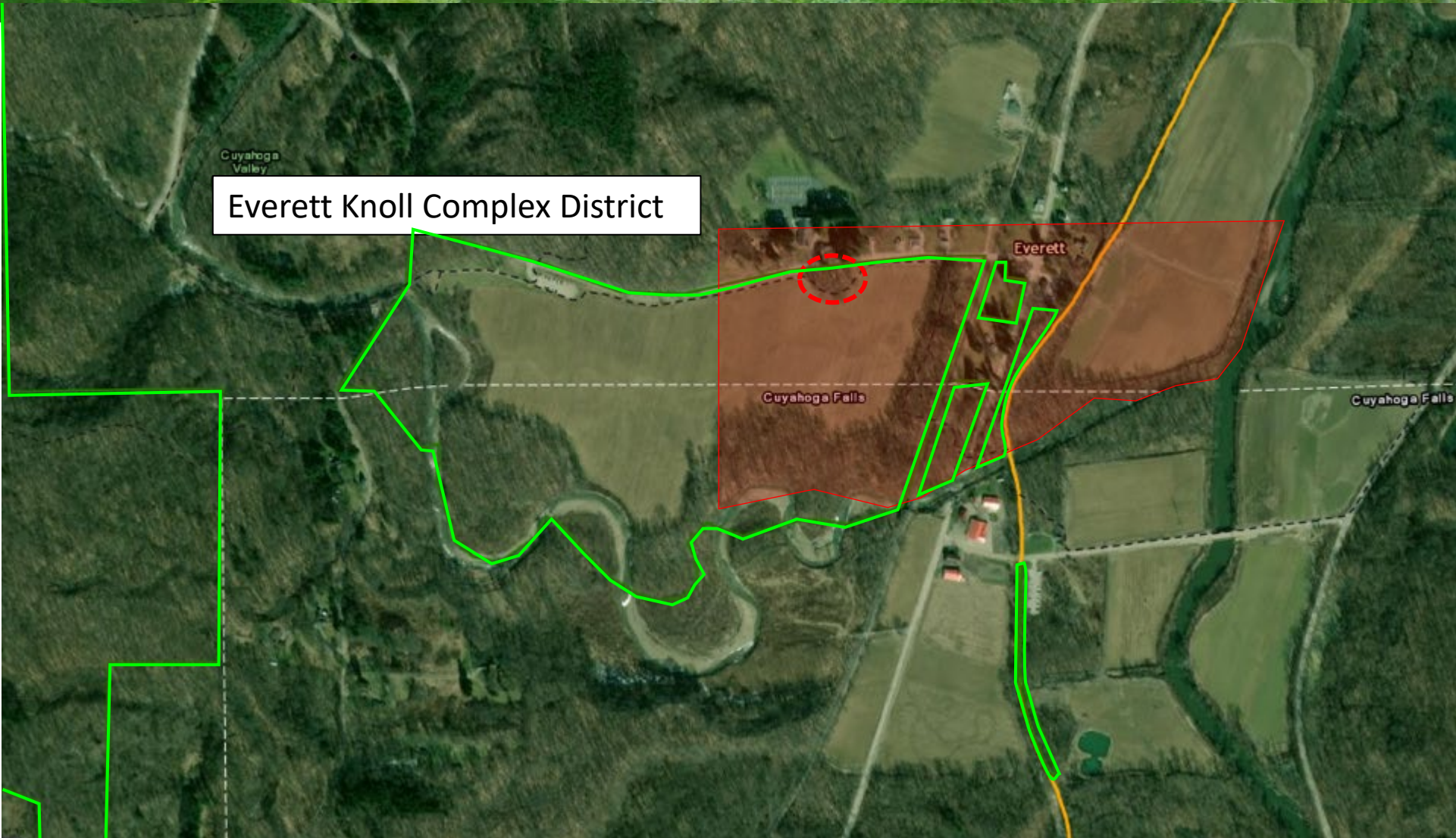


## The Portage Path Collaborative

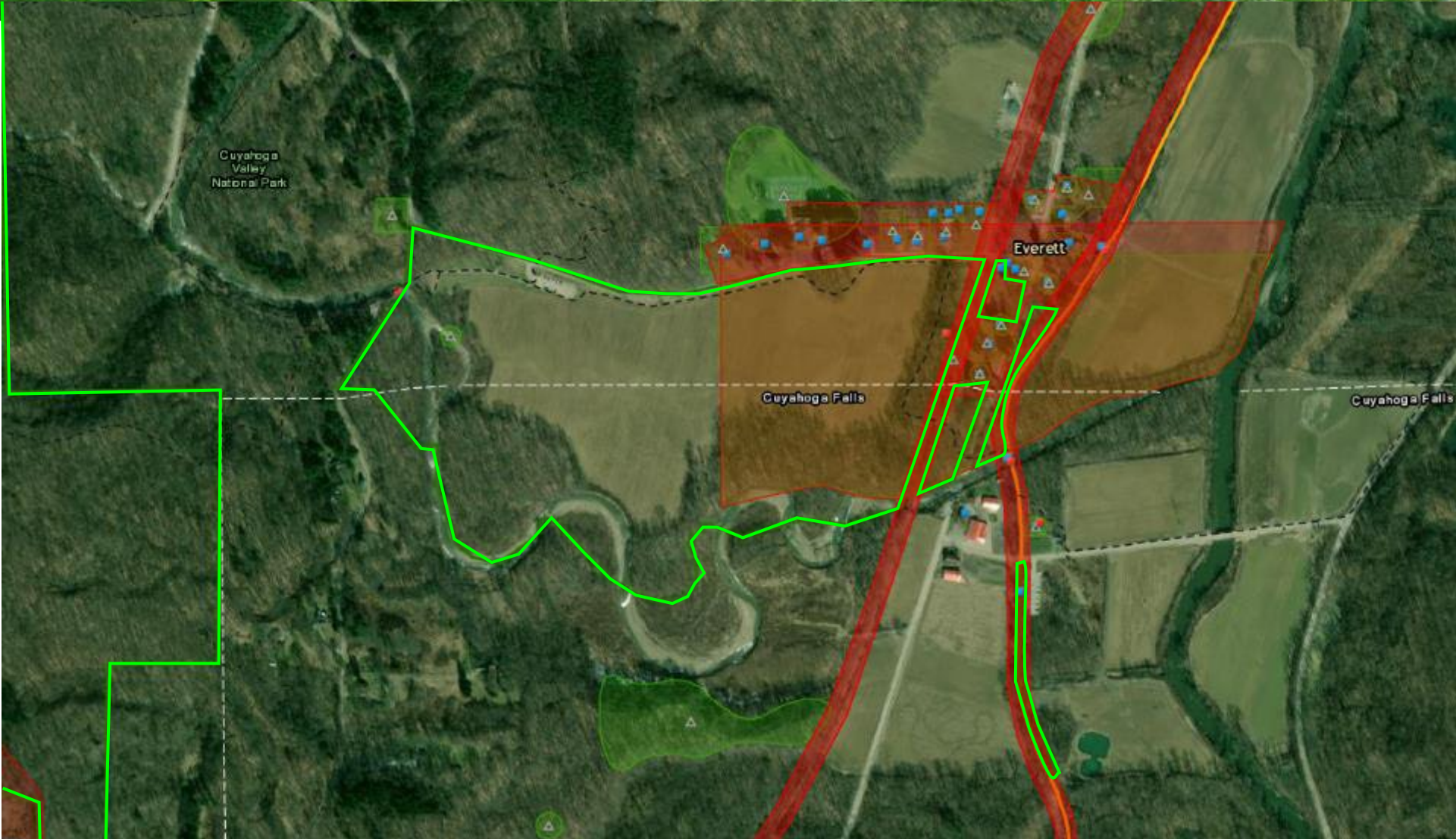




# Ongoing Initiative: Everett Knoll Complex



# Everett Knoll Complex



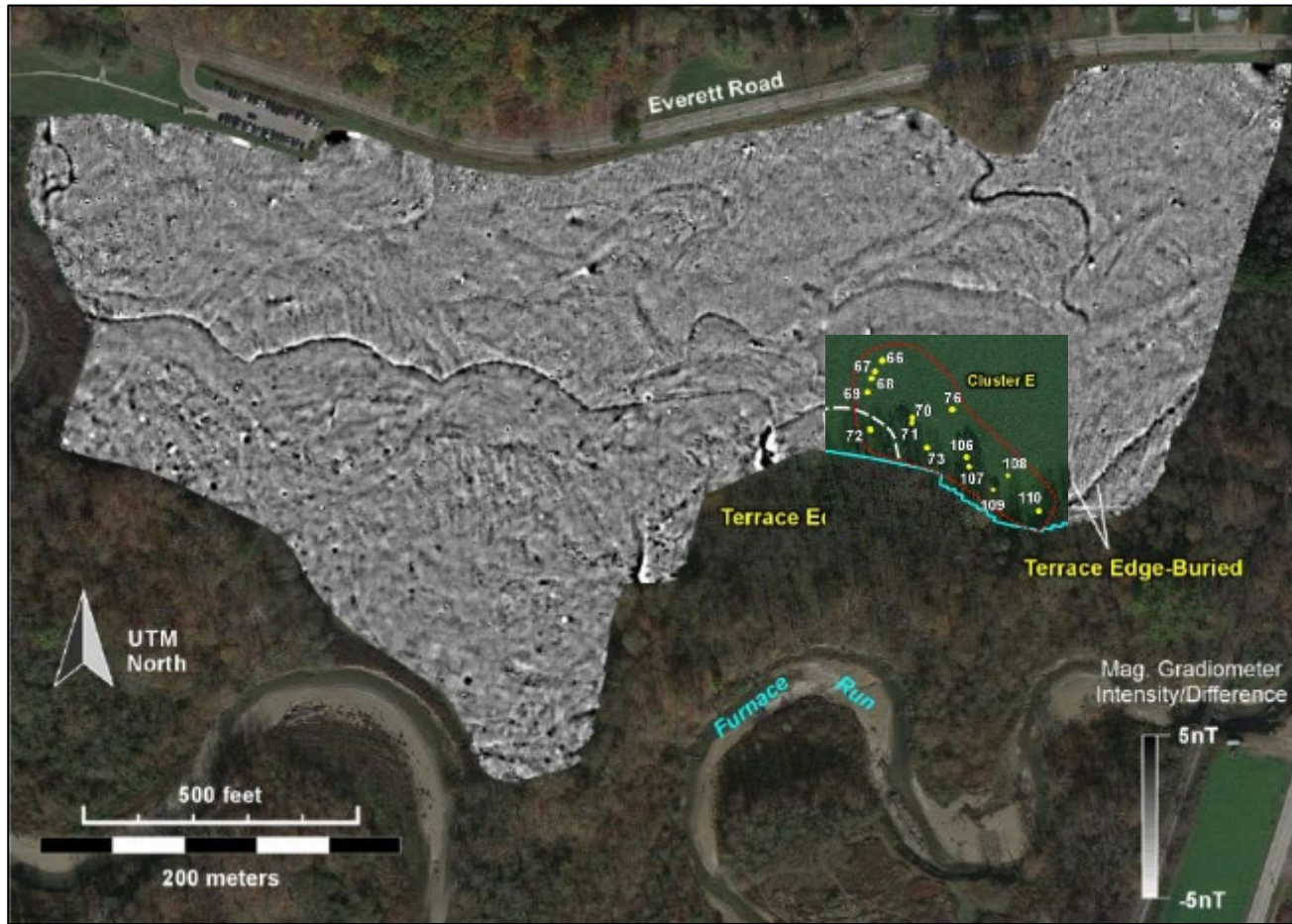
# Community Archaeology Summer Project



2020 – present: collaboration with University of Akron field school



# 2024 Further Investigations



# 2025 and Beyond...



# Collaboration, Education



# Going Beyond Compliance: Indigenous Engagement and Parks

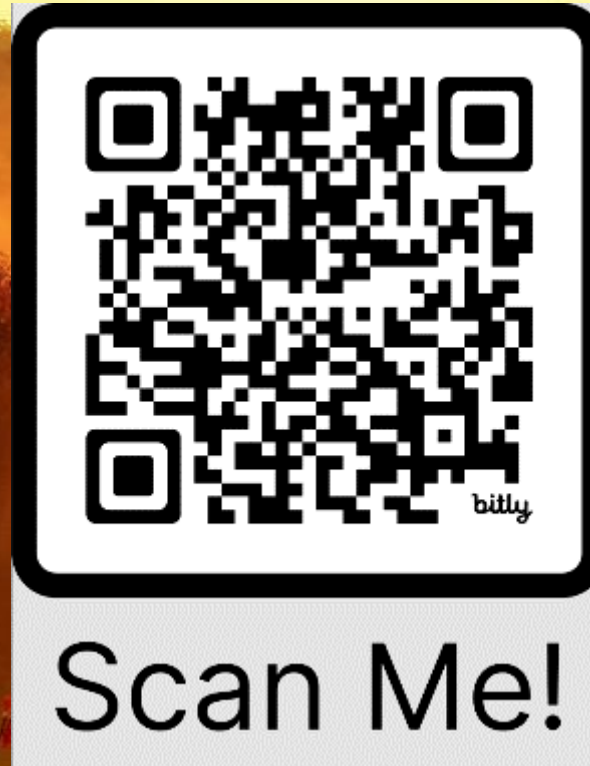


*Thank you!*

*Questions?*

*Megan Shaeffer*  
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# Going Beyond Compliance: Indigenous Engagement and Parks



***Session evaluation form***