



# ***How to Bring Pride to the Parks***

Kelsey Rogers

Naturalist, Cleveland Metroparks

# *How to Bring Pride to the Parks*

## *About Me*



***My First Pride, 2015,  
University of Missouri***



***Pride in the CLE, 2023,  
Downtown Cleveland***

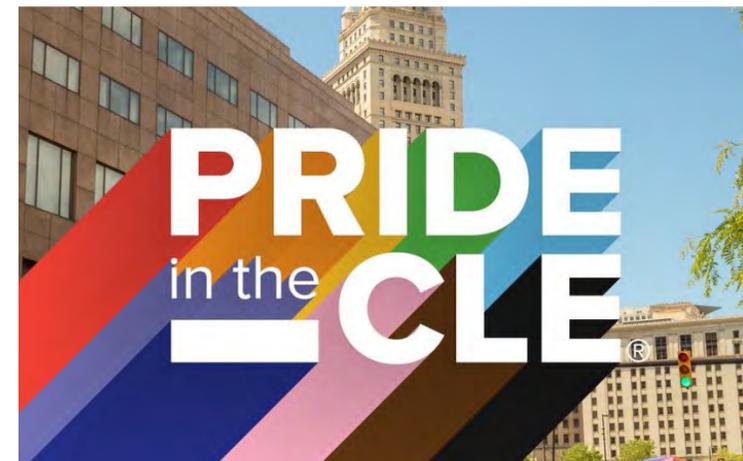


***Originally from the Missouri Ozarks***

***What kind of program  
have I always looked for  
and never found?***

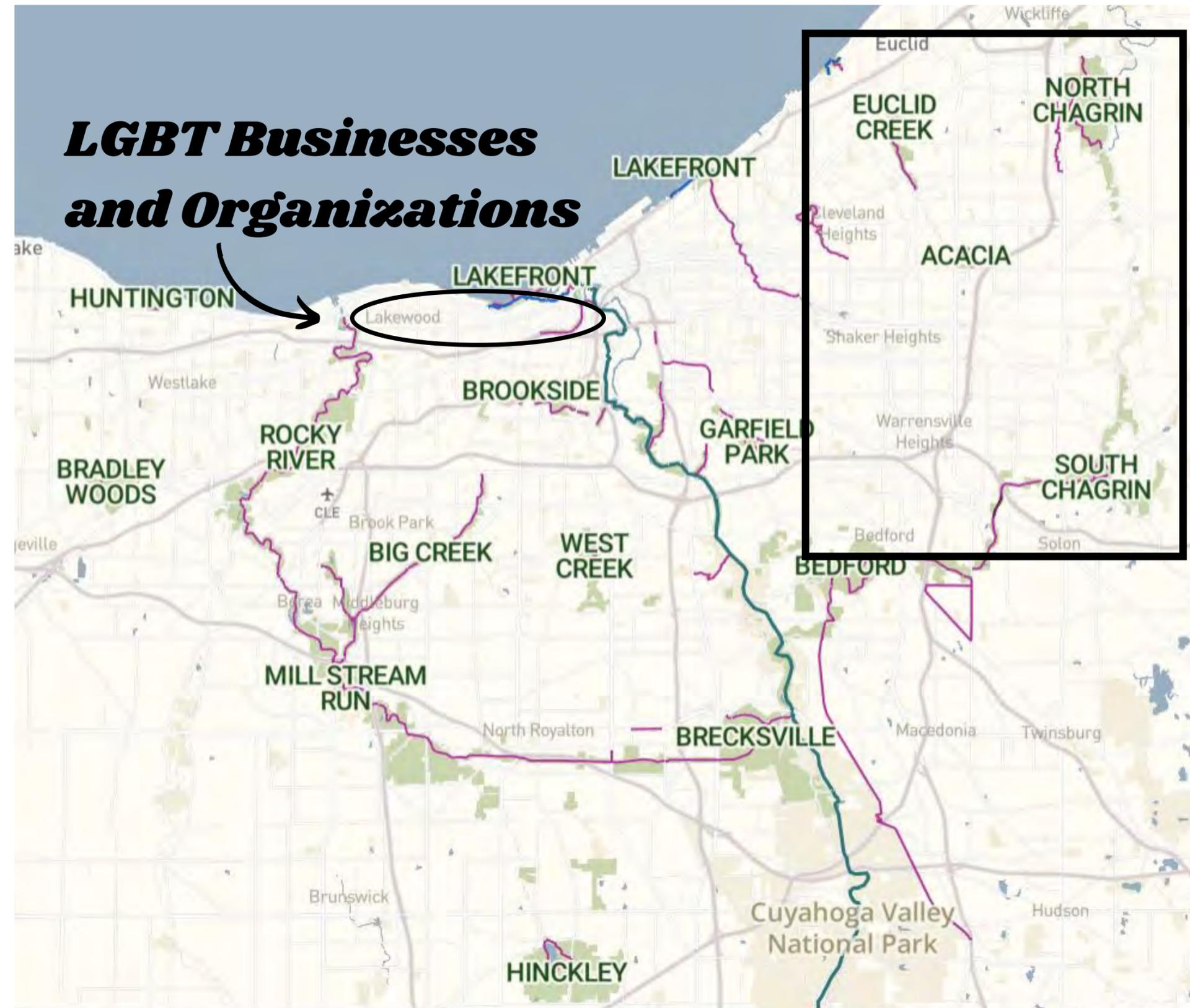
# ***The Beginnings***

***Reaching Out to Local Organizations***



CAMP  
LILXOC

## ***LGBT Businesses and Organizations***



# How to Bring Pride to the Parks

## The Beginnings

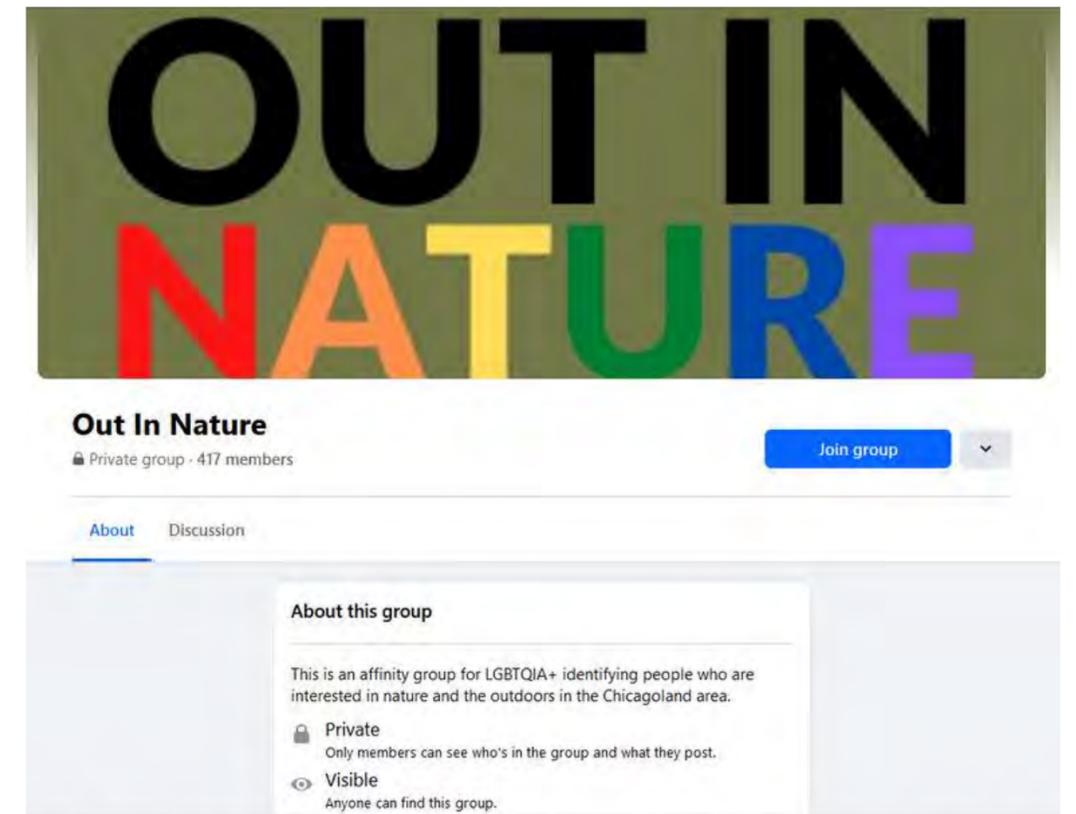
### Compiling Example Programs



[WWW.SAPARKSANDREC.COM](http://WWW.SAPARKSANDREC.COM)



@SAPARKSANDREC



***How to Bring Pride to the Parks***



# ***Now What?***



***How to Bring Pride to the Parks***

# ***First Program Ever***

***June 2nd***

***Pride Hike and Campfire***

***North Chagrin Nature Center***

***7:00 – 8:30p.m.***

*Kick off Pride Month out in Cleveland Metroparks! Join Naturalist Kelsey Rogers on an evening hike with LGBT+ friends and allies at North Chagrin Nature Center before enjoying an early summer evening around the campfire. You are welcome to bring your own snacks for the campfire.*

***Mission-based***

***Cleveland Metroparks Mission Statement***

*Protecting nature, connecting communities and inspiring conservation of our world.*

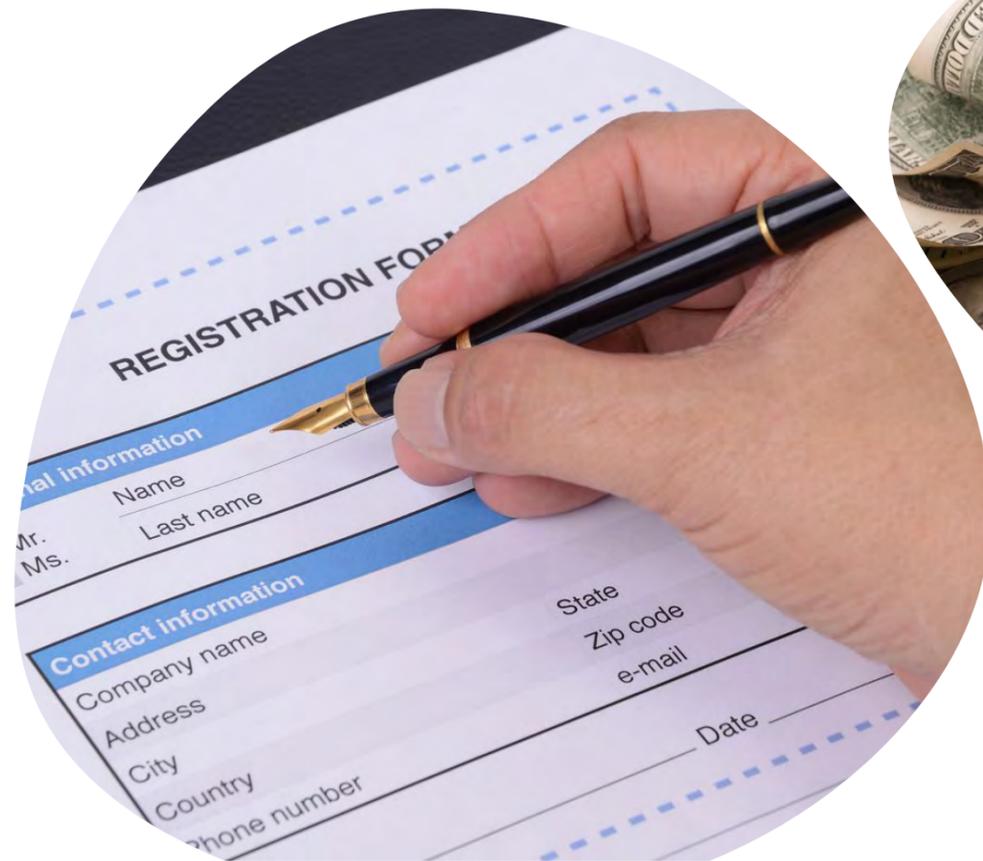


***Introduce LGBTQ+ people to the parks in a safe and welcoming environment.***

# How to Bring Pride to the Parks

## Inclusive

***Keep barriers to participation low.***



# ***How to Bring Pride to the Parks***

## ***Inclusive***

***Friday, June 2nd***

***Pride Hike and Campfire***

***North Chagrin Nature Center***

***7:00 – 8:30p.m.***

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# ***How to Bring Pride to the Parks***

***Safe***

***How do we keep participants and staff safe?***



# How to Bring Pride to the Parks



## Social



# ***How to Bring Pride to the Parks***

## ***Social***

***Friday, June 2nd***

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## ***Engaging***

***How do we encourage attendance and action from our participants?***





**Proud**

***How is this program for LGBTQ+ audiences without feeling performative?***

P R I D E



# How to Bring Pride to the Parks



**Proud**

**Avoid rainbow-washing**



**But still make it LGBTQ!?**



**Without barring anyone from attending a public program?**



**AND MAKE IT MISSION-BASED?**



# ***How to Bring Pride to the Parks***



***Proud***

***Friday, June 2nd*** ← ***Pride in the CLE-eve***

***Pride Hike and Campfire***

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*How to Bring Pride to the Parks*

# ***Pride Hike and Campfire***



# ***Pride Hike and Campfire***



***Mission-based***

***Inclusive***

***Safe***

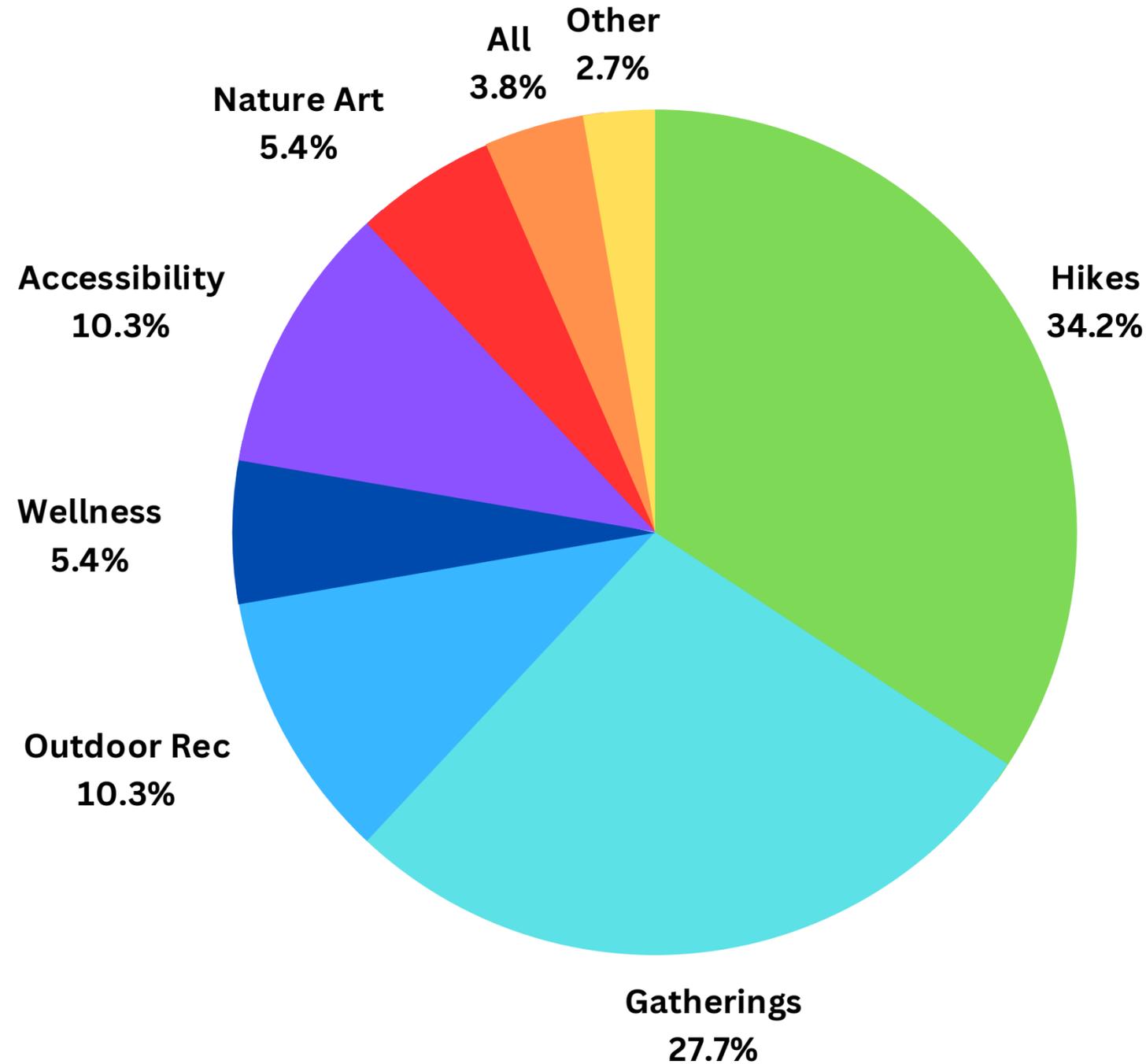
***Social***

***Engaging***

***Proud***

# ***Pride in the CLE***

## ***Impromptu Survey***



# ***Going Beyond June***

## ***Year-round programming***

Year	Parks	Programs Offered	People Served
2023	6	9	162
2024	10	35	371
2025	2 new parks	2 additional programs	





# ***How to Bring Pride to the Parks***

## **2024**

- Birds and Coffee
- Luminary Walk
- Dog Walk
- Winter Bird Walk
- Owl Meet and Greet and Hike
- iNaturalist Scavenger Hunt
- Pond Dipping Picnic
- Wildflower Hike and Stamp Making
- Papermaking
- Nature Journaling
- Pride Eve
- Creek Walk
- Kayaking
- Stand-Up Paddleboarding
- Beach Cleanup
- Bug catching
- Mindfulness Walk
- Watercolor
- Night Light Kayak Paddle
- Beaver Hike
- Wild Turkey Hike & Craft
- Hike & Pie Irons
- Friendsgiving – Trashidermy

## ***By the Numbers – to date***

<b>Programs Offered</b>	41
<b>Total Attendance</b>	457
<b>Average Attendance</b>	12.02631579
<b>% of programs attended</b>	88%
<b>% of programs with 5 or more attendees</b>	66%
<b>Popular Days</b>	Weekends
<b>Preferred Length of Program</b>	1.5
<b>Preferred Type of Program</b>	activity



# ***Demographics***

- Age
  - Youth, young adult, college, young professionals, families, retirees, elderly
- Accessibility Needs
  - Mobility aids and impairment, immunocompromised concerns, pacing and access to breaks
- Social structures
  - Families, couples, friend groups, social clubs, solo participants
- Slow increase in QTBIPOC attendance



# How to Bring Pride to the Parks

## Feedback

SCAN THE CODE TO SIGN UP FOR  
OUT IN THE PARKS PROGRAM UPDATES!

**SCAN ME**



OR CHECK [CLEVELANDMETROPARKS.COM](http://CLEVELANDMETROPARKS.COM)  
EVERY MONTH FOR MORE PROGRAMS



# let us know what you thought!

PLEASE TAKE OUR SHORT SURVEY



PROGRAM LEADER: KELSEY ROGERS

Q7. What benefits did you receive from this program?

Happiness

Q7. What benefits did you receive from this program?

Enjoyable evening with nice people. We learned about several native species, both plants and animals!

Q7. What benefits did you receive from this program?

Additional knowledge, exercise and fellowship with LGBTQ community

Connections with old and new friends, knowledge about native plants and pollinators, and an opportunity to make art.

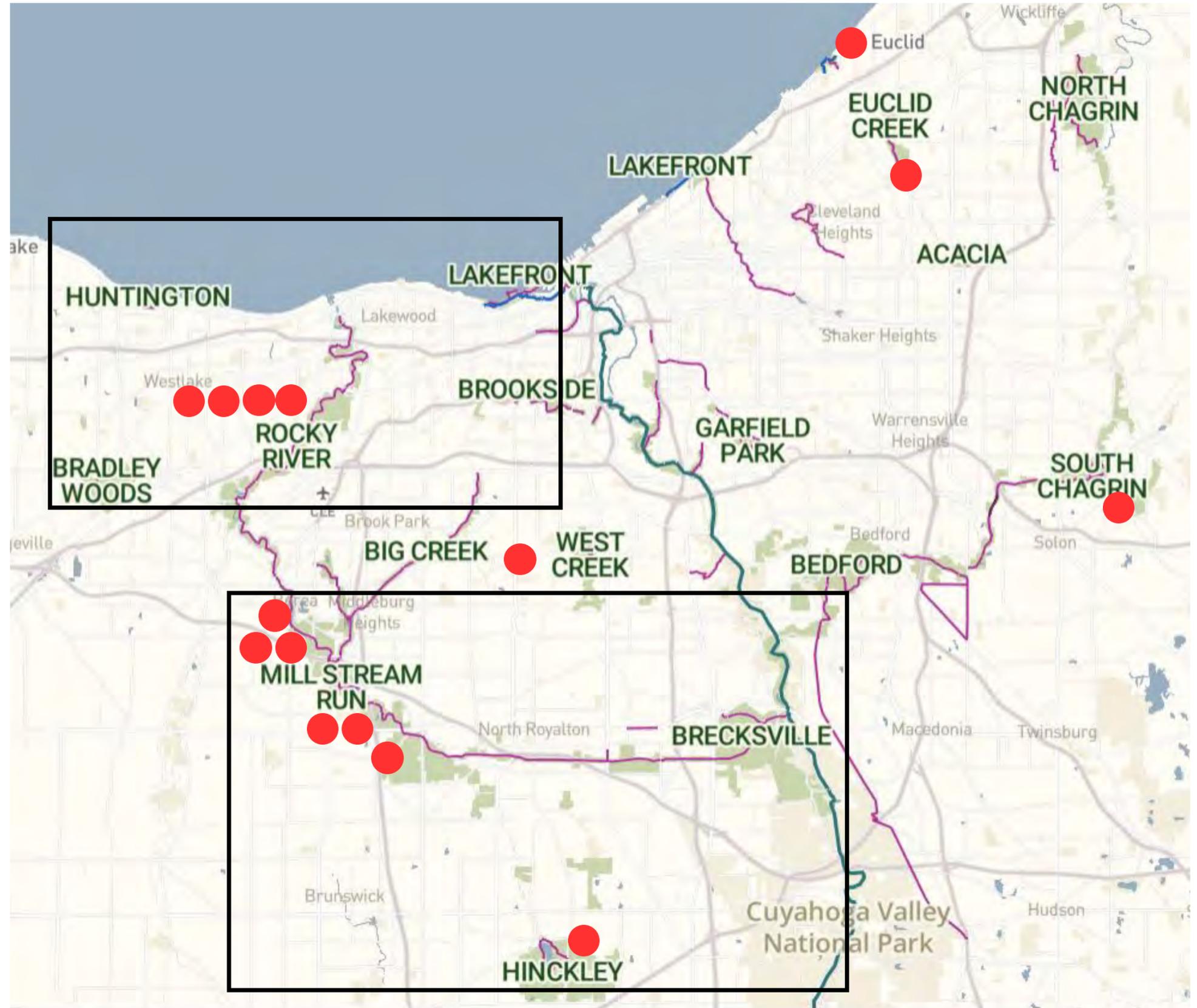
Q7. What benefits did you receive from this program?

Building community of nature loving LGBTQ folks around Cleveland, making friends, learning cool things about South Chagrin and mushrooms

Q9. Please include any comments, suggestions for improvement, or new program ideas that would help us serve you and other citizens better.

Keep funding the Out in the Parks programs!!! They're wonderful, and the first official metroparks programs my partner and I have wanted to attend regularly

# How to Bring Pride to the Parks



# ***The Future***



# ***How can YOU bring pride to your parks?***





Scan Me!