



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
LILX C

LGBT Businesses and Organizations



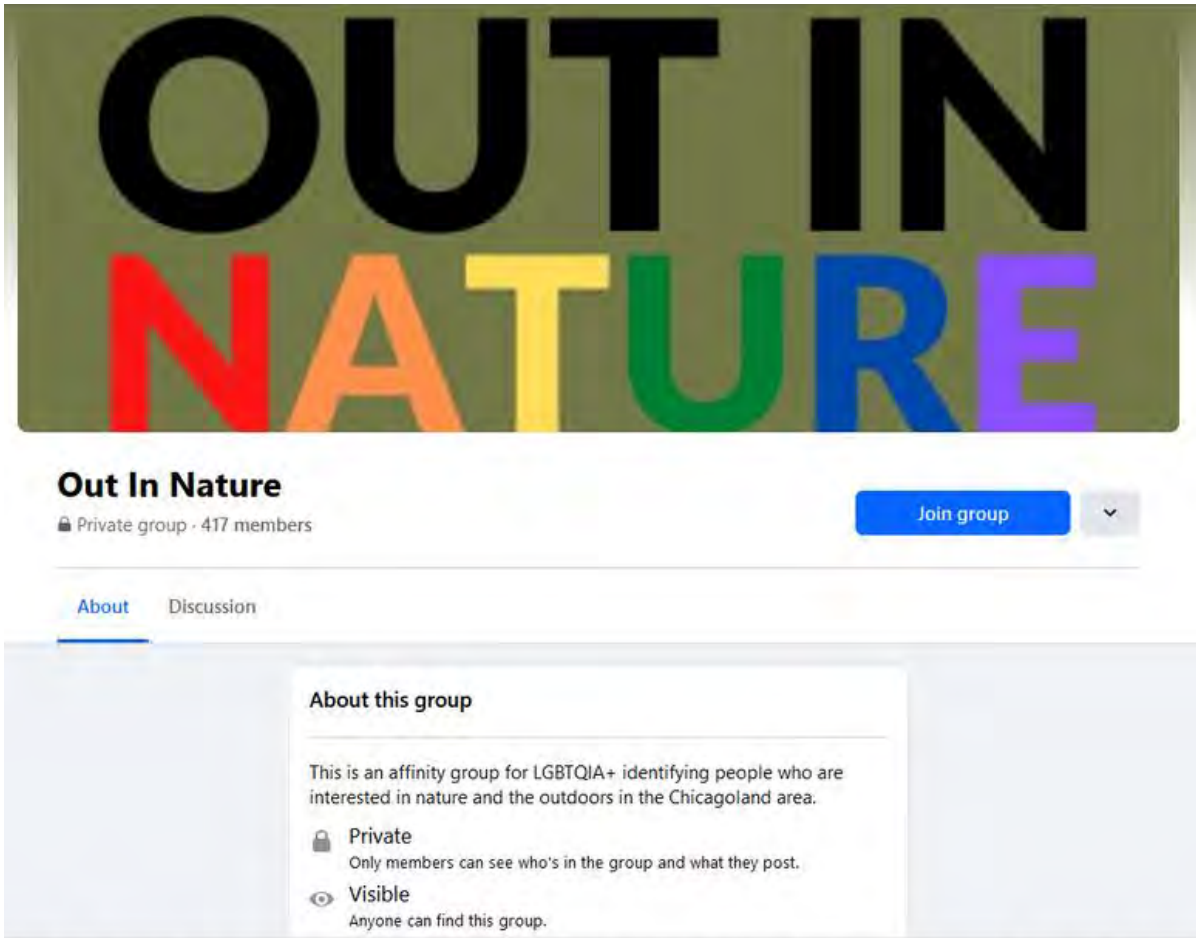
How to Bring Pride to the Parks

The Beginnings

Compiling Example Programs



WWW.SAPARKSANDREC.COM



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

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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



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Social

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How to Bring Pride to the Parks

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



webcomicname.com

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Proud

Avoid rainbow-washing



But still make it LGBTQ!?



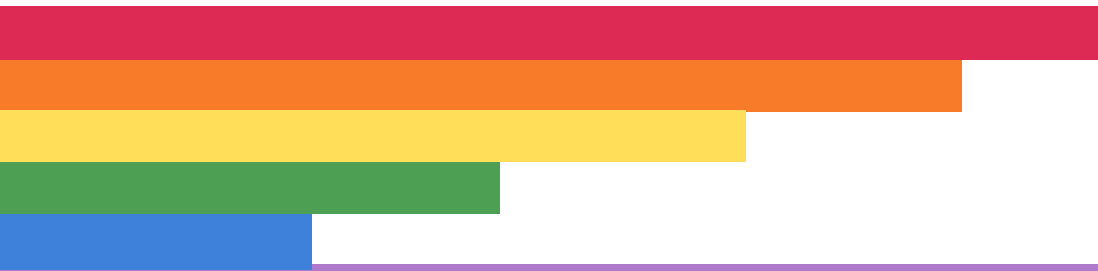
***Without barring anyone
from attending a public
program?***



***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

North Chagrin Nature Center

7:00 – 8:30p.m.

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Pride Hike and Campfire



How to Bring Pride to the Parks

Pride Hike and Campfire



Mission-based

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Proud

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

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



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Feedback

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

SCAN ME



OR CHECK 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.

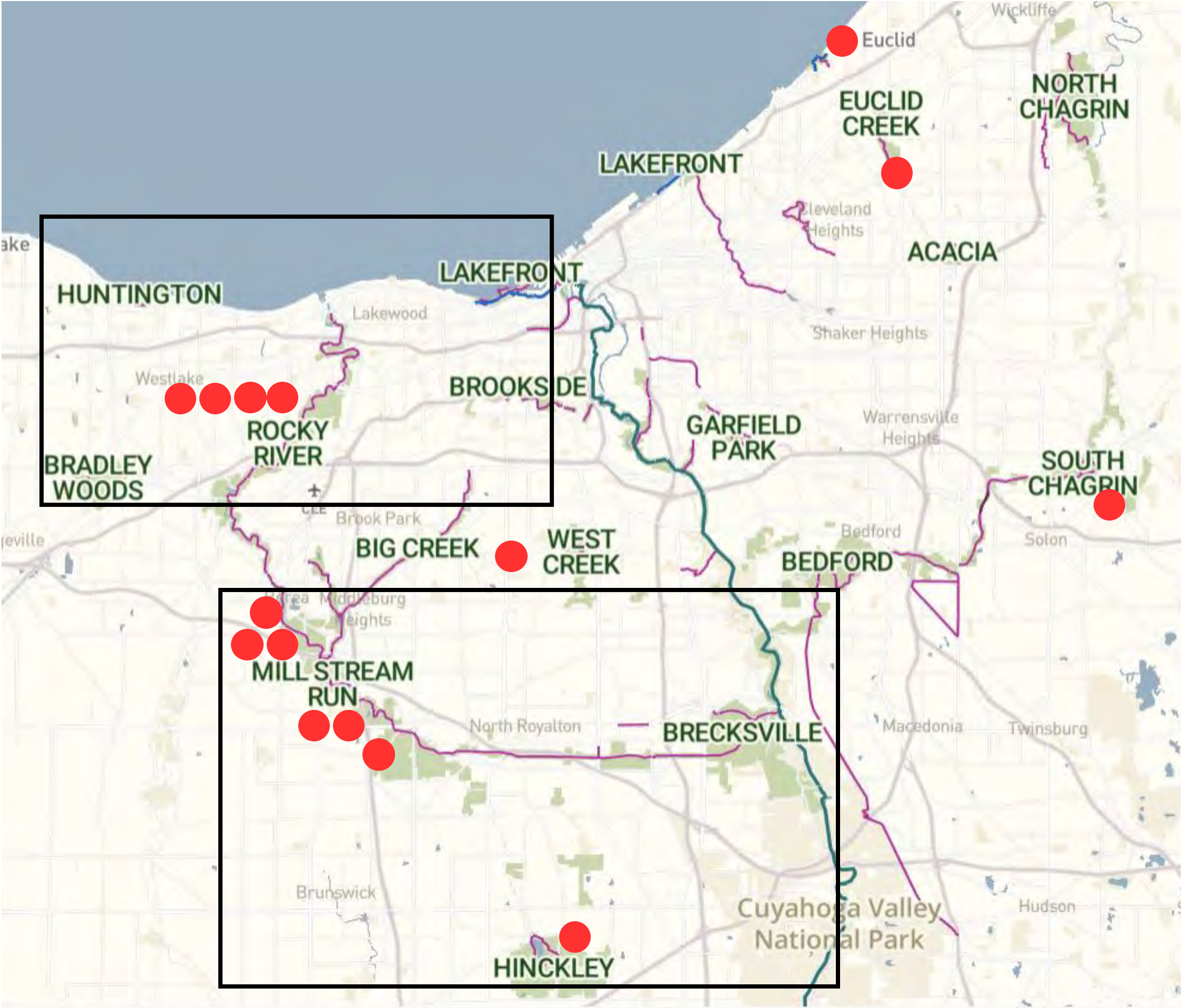
Q7. What benefits did you receive from this program?

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 to Bring Pride to the Parks

How can YOU bring pride to your parks?





Scan Me!