

F. A. Seiberling Naturealm - Purchased in 1964, the Metro Parks 104-acre nature center and arboretum was named in honor of F. A. Seiberling, founder of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Mr. Seiberling was an early member of the Board of Park Commissioners and in 1929 he gave the first of many gifts, eventually totaling more than 400 acres, to help establish Sand Run Metro Park of which the Naturealm is a part. Mr. Seiberling also owned this very property from 1920 until 1948.

The Naturealm offers a place where people can enjoy and become acquainted with the natural world. The grounds are open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Since the Naturealm is preserved for nature study and wildlife conservation, pets, bicycles, and sports equipment are not permitted.

Arboretum - At the Naturealm, 16 acres have been developed into an arboretum featuring a collection of more than 300 varieties of trees and shrubs. Plants are labeled to aid in identification and are grouped according to growth habit: columnar, weeping, pyramidal, etc. Special areas include a large display of flowering crabapples and groupings of rhododendrons. The scenic paths through the arboretum are paved and have easy grades, making them accessible to all people. An observation deck and vine arbor constructed with donations from Witan, a service club, provides places to relax and watch birds which frequent the area.

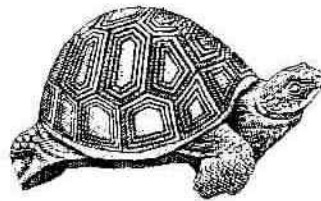
Rock & Herb Garden - Near the parking lot, visitors will find a collection of 85 glacial erratics (rocks) and more than 75 species of herbs, all clearly labeled and arranged in the peaceful setting of the Rock & Herb Garden. The rocks: sandstone, granite, gneiss, quartzite and many others were found nearby when the settlers cleared away the forest for farming. The herbs are grouped into Medicinal, Aromatic, Arts & Crafts and Culinary sections. Pleasing flagstone walks criss-cross between the plantings to allow a closer look at the herbs. The main path is fully accessible. It crosses a boardwalk just east of a small pond which is home to turtles and frogs.



Visitors Center - The Naturealm Visitors Center is a unique, environmentally-sound, underground structure which blends unobtrusively into the Naturealm landscape. The poured-in-place concrete building is made up of twelve 28-foot by 28-foot modules each with a domed-shape ceiling engineered to support the weight of the soil above. Within this 9,400-square-foot facility visitors will find "Gateway to Nature," 4,000-square-feet of imaginatively designed and executed exhibits. A unique exhibit is designed to create the illusion of actually being under water and observing the pond creatures and plant life 12 times normal size. Other exhibits feature marshland and woodland settings, a birdwatching room, nature-related games, a weather station, and human influence on the environment. The building also houses an auditorium which can seat 90 people, a kitchenette, library, classroom/multi-purpose room, office space, storage room and a gift counter.

Metro Parks naturalists, who are based at the Naturealm, are available to answer questions while the Visitors Center is open. The naturalists conduct guided walks at the Naturealm and all 11 Metro Parks. In addition to the guided walks, the naturalists plan a full calendar of programs. For information, call the Visitors Center at (330) 865-8065.

Nature Study Areas - Ducks and turtles in nearby Seneca Pond can be viewed from the boardwalk off Seneca Trail. An observation deck overlooking Echo Pond offers a closer look at frogs, fish and turtles. Marked nature trails begin near the Visitors Center and are routed through the pine woods, deciduous forest and arboretum. A suspension bridge crosses a 45-foot-deep ravine and connects Cherry Lane Trail with Fernwood Trail. A demonstration plot has been planted north of the Visitors Center with plants typical of Ohio prairies. Trail guides are available at the Visitors Center.



The crabapple trees at the Naturealm put on their colorful show from late April through mid-May.

Thanks For Your Support

Metro Parks, Serving Summit County is organized under Ohio Law as a metropolitan park district which is not part of any local, county, state or federal level of government. Metro Parks are governed by a three-member, unpaid Board of Park Commissioners appointed by the Summit County Probate Court.

A small real estate tax levy, which voters periodically are asked to approve, provides the funds for the Metro Parks. The cost to the average Summit County homeowner is approximately five cents a day.

Thanks to your continued support, the people of Summit County will be able to enjoy the benefits provided by the Metro Parks.

Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
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 (330) 867-5511

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., weekdays
 Seasonal Information Line (330) 865-8060
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