

June 1, 2016



## Free Sun, Fun & Food at the Metroparks!

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks are thrilled to announce the newest addition to their summer fun lineup. It's called *Summer Fun at the Metroparks*, and it's going to be big! Metroparks staff members want to help community members, who don't typically have easy park access, the chance to get out and play. On 24 different days throughout the summer, Metroparks will send four buses to designated meeting spots in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, and Livingston counties. There, approximately 200 people will hop on and be transported to one of the 13 Metroparks. At 200 people per day for 24 days, approximately 4,800 metro southeast Michigan residents will have the chance to explore and enjoy one of our fabulous parks. Youth and families will be able to enjoy the beaches, nature trails, and splash parks. Seniors can play a round of golf, enjoy yoga on the beach, or stroll on a walking path.

"The idea is to provide community members everything they need to get out to one of our parks and enjoy the day, worry free and cost free", said Metroparks Director George Phifer. "Many people don't realize that there are 13 parks and that each one has unique things to offer. We simply want to share that with those who may not have the resources to do it on their own. The people who live in the five counties we serve are why our board members serve. When presented with this initiative, they approved it unanimously."

Interpretive Services Manager, Jennifer Hollenbeck, is leading the project and tells us that not only will participants have a full day of fun outdoor activities, but will enjoy a free lunch. "We want the entire day to be about enjoying the walking trails, the water, farm animals, or any of the other fantastic activities that are at each Metropark. We'll provide delicious, healthy snacks and lunch to everyone who comes out, at no cost." The Metroparks staff has received support and donations from several businesses including Absopure, Flagstar Bank, AARP, Hooper from The Detroit Pistons, Better Made, Carl's Pizza, First State Bank, Kar's Nuts, Moosejaw, Pepperidge Farms, Trader Joes and Kona Ice.

The Metroparks will provide services to the Downriver YMCA, Community Social Services of Wayne County, Detroit Police Athletic League, Boys and Girls Club of Oakland and Macomb, the Robert Bowens Senior Center, The Jewish Community Center, the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department, Alkebulan Village, and many more. Hollenbeck's team is seeking participants as well as volunteers. Ideal organizations will include people of any age who may not have the



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means to visit the parks. You can go to <http://www.metroparks.com/Summer-Fun-at-the-Metroparks> for more information on dates and contacts for each park.

Metropark experts are available at each of the 13 locations on everything from farm animals to golf. If you are interested in show guests, live shots, or bus ride-alongs, feel free to reach out to me. On event days, lunch will be provided to media members as long as we know that you are coming ahead of time. If you'd like some generic file video of the Metroparks, you can download some here: <http://mbf.co/lyrifo>

### Event Dates/Host Metroparks

DAY	MONTH	DATE	METROPARK
Thursday	June	30	Stony Creek
Friday	July	1	Hudson Mills
Tuesday	July	5	Lake Erie
Wednesday	July	6	Hudson Mills
Thursday	July	7	Lake St. Clair
Friday	July	8	Lower Huron
Tuesday	July	12	Kensington
Thursday	July	14	Stony Creek
Friday	July	15	Lake Erie
Monday	July	25	Kensington
Tuesday	July	26	Lake St. Clair
Wednesday	July	27	Lower Huron
Thursday	July	28	Hudson Mills
Friday	July	29	Stony Creek
Monday	August	1	Lake Erie
Tuesday	August	2	Kensington
Wednesday	August	3	Lake St. Clair
Thursday	August	4	Lower Huron
Friday	August	5	Hudson Mills
Monday	August	8	Kensington
Tuesday	August	9	Lake St. Clair
Wednesday	August	10	Stony Creek
Thursday	August	11	Lower Huron
Friday	August	12	Lake Erie

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