

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 4, 2021

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Huron-Clinton Metroparks joins Michigan Activity Pass Program

As of May 1, Metropark daily entry passes at all 13 parks are available for card holders of all Michigan public libraries to "check out" FREE for the day

[Brighton, Mich.] The Huron-Clinton Metroparks and the system's 13 unique parks are now officially the newest destinations in the Michigan Activity Pass (MAP) program, offering public library card holders across the state the chance to check out and access these world-class outdoor recreational spaces and opportunities for free.

The MAP program provides free or discounted admission to more than 450 locations, including historic sites, cultural attractions, state parks and campgrounds. With the Metroparks' participation, patrons can check out a daily vehicle park pass to visit their preferred Metropark location, much like they would check out a book from their local library. The program is courtesy of the Michigan Cooperative Directors Association, Library of Michigan, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (mParks), and The Library Network.

"Public libraries play such an important role in our communities. That's why we're thrilled to join the MAP program and launch this new partnership with the Michigan Library Network," said Metroparks Director Amy McMillan. "Our goal is to help ensure more Michiganders can experience all the different sites and attractions our park system has to offer. We urge library patrons to 'check us out'."

As one of Southeast Michigan's special treasures, the Metroparks system includes 13 distinctive park settings over nearly 25,000 acres that provide access to the beauty of nature, diverse outdoor recreational opportunities, and vast educational resources year-round for those who live, work and play in and around Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties.

McMillan added that participation in the MAP program is one of many efforts that the Metroparks is making to help remove barriers to access and bolster equitable outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

"The Metroparks are an exciting addition to the MAP program and gives library patrons expanded access to public lands and outdoor spaces that have become even more important during the pandemic," said Brigette Felix, librarian and MAP expert at The Library Network.

Felix said using the MAP program is fast and easy to use. Visitors can simply search destinations by category or zip code, including how far they are willing to travel. Once they select a choice,

they can secure a free pass for mobile use or to print off and present it at the designated Metroparks entrance attendant within one week.

To learn more about the Michigan Activity Pass program, including a complete list of supported venues and participating libraries, visit <u>michiganactivitypass.info</u>. To learn more about the Metroparks and the distinct features and activities available at each, visit <u>metroparks.com</u>.

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About Huron-Clinton Metroparks

One of America's premier metropolitan park systems, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks have served the people of Southeast Michigan since 1940. Managed by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, the Metroparks are made up of 13 properties in Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. Available activities include fishing, swimming, boating, hiking, nature study, biking, golf, winter sports and more. The Metroparks also provide educational resources on science, nature, history and the environment. Learn more at Metroparks.com.

About The Library Network (TLN)

<u>The Library Network (TLN)</u> is a public library cooperative serving member libraries in southeast Michigan as well as other libraries throughout the state. Through library cooperatives the Michigan State Legislature is empowered to equitably distribute state aid to libraries to maximize the impact of shared funding for services to Michigan residents and visitors. The Library Network is "Libraries Working Together."