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WHAT'S NEW IN CLEVELAND: SPRING/SUMMER 2026

From the lakefront to city neighborhoods, there's more to explore across Cleveland

CLEVELAND (April 22, 2026) — As warmer months approach, Cleveland's waterfronts, cultural calendar and dining scene are all [blossoming](#), with new developments and events unfolding across the city.

Summer on the Water: New Ways to Experience Cleveland

Cleveland's dual waterfront makes it easy to find new perspectives of the city, whether on the water or from the shore.

Along the Cuyahoga River, the [Cleveland Water Taxi](#) resumes service for the season, connecting destinations between Downtown and the Flats. In July, Blazing Paddles anchors the reimagined [Riverfest](#), a weekend festival that includes a lighted boat parade and additional programming tied to Cleveland's July birthday celebrations. Visitors can experience the river by kayak or canoe while engaging with the waterway that helped shape the city's history. New additions along the riverfront—including a [planned outdoor sauna experience](#) on Scranton Peninsula expected to open later this summer—continue to expand how visitors can spend time along the water.

On Lake Erie, [Great Lakes Watersports](#) offers parasailing and other seasonal activities, giving visitors a view of Cleveland's skyline and shoreline from above. The new [Patrick S. Parker Community Sailing Center](#) at East 55th Street Marina is expected to begin opening in phases around Memorial Day. It will offer a new place to spend time along the lake, anchored by a year-round restaurant with outdoor patio seating and a rooftop terrace overlooking Lake Erie. [North Coast Yard](#) also returns for its second season, bringing live music, food and family-friendly events back to the downtown waterfront.

New connections like the [Mandel Community Trail](#), a new 2.7-mile paved segment to the existing Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway, links Downtown to the East 55th Street Marina. This section of trail completes the off-road connection along the lakefront from Downtown to Gordon Park and Rockefeller Park along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame's [expansion](#)—set for completion this fall—will introduce a new lakefront park and expanded public space along the shoreline.

A National Moment: America250 in Cleveland

Cleveland will take part in the nationwide America250 commemoration this year with new experiences exploring the [city's history and culture](#).

Beginning May 9, a week of public programming, ceremonies and community celebrations tied to the arrival and [commissioning of the USS Cleveland](#) will take place along the waterfront, with opportunities for visitors to take part in dockside viewing and related activities. The May 16 commissioning marks a national milestone: the first time in our nation's history that a U.S. Navy warship has commissioned in the State of Ohio.

Cultural institutions across the city are also marking the America250 commemoration with exhibitions and public programming tied to Cleveland's 230th anniversary and figures such as Jesse Owens. Visitors can also explore Cleveland's historical sites connected to the American story, from the Garfield Memorial at Lake View Cemetery to Public Square, where generations of civic gatherings and movements have occurred.

Summer programming tied to America250 will continue across the city, including expanded Fourth of July celebrations along the lakefront and events in neighborhoods that reflect the city's immigrant roots and cultural diversity.

Culture: From Museums to the Street

Cleveland's 2026 cultural calendar includes major exhibitions and large-scale public events.

At the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, a [new exhibit](#) focused on Paul McCartney's post-Beatles career explores the formation and evolution of Wings through rare artifacts, photography and archival material.

The Cleveland Museum of Art presents "[Manet and Morisot](#)," the first major exhibition dedicated to the artistic exchange between the two Impressionist painters, alongside "[Martin Puryear: Nexus](#)," the most comprehensive survey of the artist's work in nearly two decades. The museum will also reopen its ArtLens Gallery in July following a [full reimagining](#), introducing new interactive experiences for visitors.

On June 13, the museum's [Parade the Circle](#) returns, with this year's event drawing inspiration from the exhibition American Printed Silks, 1927–1947. The free parade transforms the museum's Fine Arts Garden into a large-scale display of costumes, puppets and handmade floats, connecting the exhibition to a public, participatory event that draws tens of thousands each year. New this year, the museum's Community Arts Center will serve as a central makerspace for artists and participants, adding another layer to the parade's creative process.

Also this summer, the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo will debut the [first phase of its Primate Forest](#), a \$60 million reimagining of the former RainForest exhibit that includes a new Tropical Forest, expanded Orangutan Forest and the CrossCountry Mortgage Forest Home. The [multi-phase project](#) will continue through 2032 as part of the zoo's 150th anniversary.

Dining Across the City: New Openings and Recognition

Cleveland's dining scene is gaining national attention, with the [MICHELIN Guide expanding](#) into the Great Lakes region and expected to announce its first selections in 2027.

At the same time, new restaurants across the city reflect a mix of global influences and neighborhood-driven growth.

Rosy, which opened in February 2026, is the newest restaurant from Chef Vinnie Cimino, a three-time James Beard Award nominee and [two-time finalist](#). The concept centers on “Ancestral European” cuisine prepared over open fire, with inspiration from the Istrian Peninsula and a menu built around seasonal ingredients sourced largely within 200 miles.

In AsiaTown, [Spice Spring](#) brings dim sum and Szechuan dishes to a historic building, adding to the neighborhood’s role as a hub for regional Chinese cuisine and locally owned businesses.

Downtown, [Paradise Indian Cuisine](#) introduces a new option for Indian dining along the Chester Avenue corridor, expanding international offerings within walking distance of major hotels and attractions.

On the city’s east side, [Millie’s Cocktail Bar](#) in the Waterloo Arts District pairs a Hungarian-influenced menu with a design-forward bar program, contributing to the continued growth of one of Cleveland’s most active creative neighborhoods.

Upgraded Downtown Stays

Downtown Cleveland’s hotel landscape continues to evolve, with several properties introducing updates.

The Westin Cleveland Downtown is completing a full renovation of all 484 guestrooms and suites, along with updates throughout the property. Work is expected to wrap by mid-May. At the Hilton Cleveland Downtown, a new premium lounge—[The Club at Hilton](#)—will officially open May 1, offering all-day dining, barista coffee and dedicated spaces for working or relaxing. [Sushi by Bou](#) recently opened at The Ritz-Carlton, Cleveland, bringing an intimate omakase-style dining experience to the hotel and adding a new high-end culinary option in the neighborhood.

To keep up to date on new developments and activities, please visit www.thisiscleveland.com or follow us on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) or [YouTube](#).

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ABOUT DESTINATION CLEVELAND: *Destination Cleveland is Cleveland’s destination marketing and management organization. The private, non-profit organization’s mission is to stimulate economic growth by attracting people and connecting them to experiences that illustrate Cleveland’s diversity, creativity and contagious passion. In 2024, visitation increased for the fourth straight year to 18.6 million visits, with visitor spending infusing a record-high \$6.9 billion into the local economy. For more information, visit www.thisiscleveland.com.*