



PROGRAM SERVICES

2007 ANNUAL SUMMARY

Submitted by
Lois TerVeen
Supervisor of Program Services
March 12, 2008



2007 Program Services Section Review and Comments

2007 was a challenging but successful year for the Program Services Section. Since Erie MetroParks passed a Renewal Levy (May 2006) instead of a Replacement Levy (November 2005), the number of staff hours in the Program Services Section was reduced. Even with the decrease in staff hours, we had only a 5% decrease in our Total Attendance over 2006 and actually increased our Total Program Attendance by 8.7% over 2006. The decrease can be attributed to not having a booth at the Erie County Fair (another budget decision).

The “Look Who’s Walking” program participation increased after the walking program schedule was changed to every other Monday, April through August, 6:30 PM at various Erie County locations. We had a faithful crew of walkers entered for donated prizes on the last August walk. This program, co-sponsored by the Erie County Health Department and Sandusky Recreation Department, will only get bigger and better. Our Senior programming also increased since we worked closely with many Erie County nursing and assisted living centers to provide extra programming flexibility. Thus, several Senior groups scheduled at different times were able to take hay rides through the meadows of Osborn Park and walk and “wheel” around the Adventure Walkway at Edison Woods. In addition, MetroParks staff took programming into every nursing and assisted living facility in Erie County. We also improved Harvest Happenings by increasing the number of programming opportunities for the public, i.e. Osborn Park Prison Farm History and Tree Identification hikes—thus increasing our program numbers.

During the summer of 2007, the MetroParks held a 3-day Young Naturalist Camp (K-Grade 1), a 5-day Nature Detectives Camp (Grades 2-4) and offered 4 one-day mini-camp experiences for Grades 5-6. While attendance was OK (we still had openings available) and the camps were appreciated by the attendees, it was a lot of effort for such small attendance. I recommend changing the summer programming to a shorter time period (mornings only) and basing the Mini-camps in different MetroPark locations. We could drastically reduce fees this way, encouraging enrollment from a wider audience.

Overall, our attendance figures held steady, except for the decrease in Bike Safety programming, due to the Bike Safety Officer’s maternity leave. Thanks to the dedication of the Program Services Staff, the program totals held steady. We all look forward to a busy and productive 40th Anniversary year in 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lois TerVeen
Supervisor of Program Services

Program Services Totals

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
General Public/Co-sponsored Programs			
Attendance	3688	2368	2017
Number of Programs	160	135	130
Average Attendance	23	18	16
Scout/Youth Groups			
Attendance	1297	1052	847
Number of Programs	59	56	60
Average Attendance	22	19	14
Other Groups			
Attendance	1223	1462	1410
Number of Programs	47	60	69
Average Attendance	26	24	20
School Programs			
K-12 Attendance	2323	2395	3448
Number of Programs	80	83	119
Average Attendance	29	29	29
Preschool Attendance	2291	2083	1715
Number of Preschool Programs	94	83	75
Average Preschool Attendance	24	25	23
Bike Safety Programs			
Attendance	449	1006	N/A
Number of Programs	15	27	N/A
Average Attendance	30	37	N/A
Total Program Attendance			
Attendance	11271	10366	10187
Number of Programs	455	444	484
Average Attendance	25	23	21
Special Events			
Total Attendance	25696	28516	20803
Total Events	26	30	23
Average Attendance at Events	988	951	904
Total Activities/Programs	26	54	36
Average Attendance Activities/Programs	988	528	578
Grand Totals			
Attendance	36967	38882	30990
Activities/Programs	481	498	520
Average Attendance	77	78	60

2007 SCHOOL PROGRAM SUMMARY

Type of School/Event	Total Programs	Attendance		
		Youth	Adults	Total
Preschool	94	1814	477	2291
Grade School (K-12)	78	1700	281	2068
Land Use Debate	2	220	35	255
Totals	174	3734	793	4614

2007 SPECIAL EVENTS SUMMARY

Events	Attendance
All Star Classic Cruise-in Car Show	250
Bunnies Galore (Great Wolf Lodge, Easter)	503
Children's Fun Fair	275
Earth Day Extravaganza	122
Easter Egg Hunt at Osborn Park	214
EMP Safety Stars Kids Safety Fair	850
EMP Volunteers (2 Events)	155
Erie County Fair – Kids Day	850
Friends of Erie MetroParks (3 Activities)	658
Family Fall Fun Festival at Edison Woods Preserve	188
Harvest Happenings (2 Days)	8000
Health & Wellness Fairs - Information Booth (4 Events)	375
Wightman-Weiber Safety Celebration & Kids Fun Festival & Fly Casting Contest	4100
Lake Erie Wing Watch (1 Day)	163
Look Who's Walking Kickoff	22
Stars and Stripes Celebration	6750
Take the Kids Fishing Derby	276
The Depot 125 th Birthday Celebration	75
Total	25696

2007 SUMMARY BY METROPARK

METROPARK	Programs/Events	Attendance
Community Foundation Preserve	6	166
Castalia Quarry Reserve*	25	1327
Edison Woods Preserve*	15	463
Hoffman Forest Reserve	1	65
Huron River Greenway	7	158
James H. McBride Arboretum	7	334
Osborn Park*	177	13541
Pelton Park	1	5
The Coupling Reserve	13	328
Total	252	15937

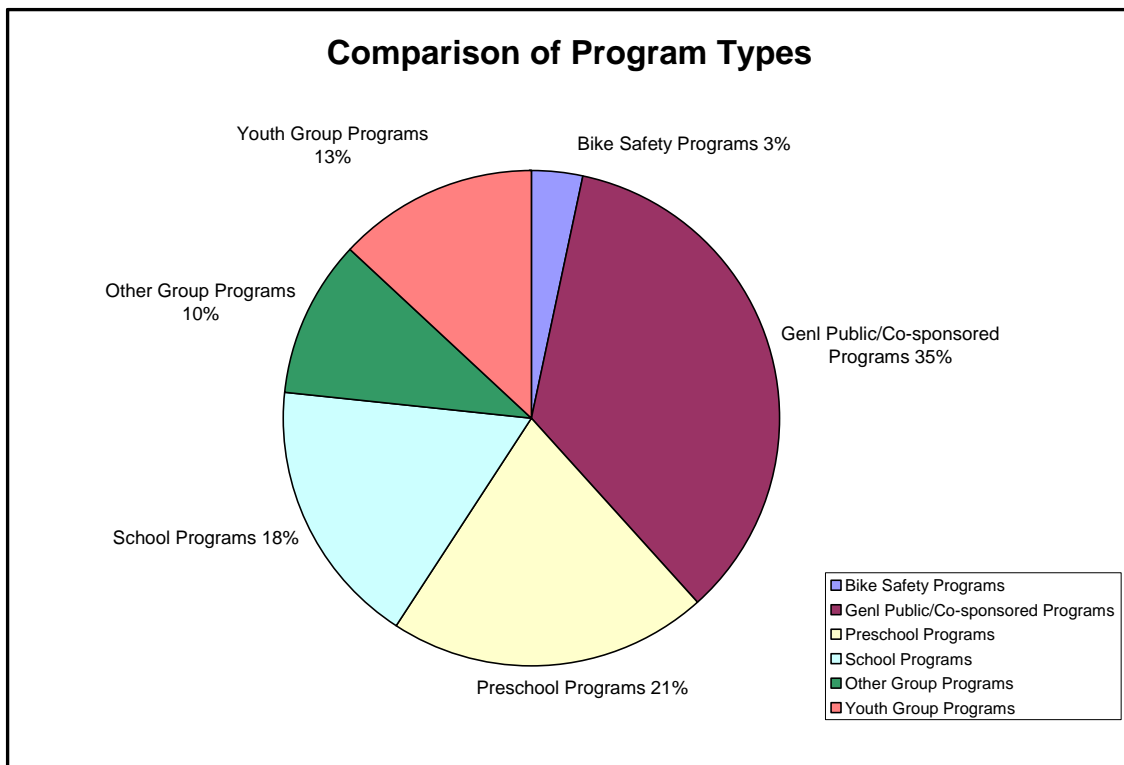
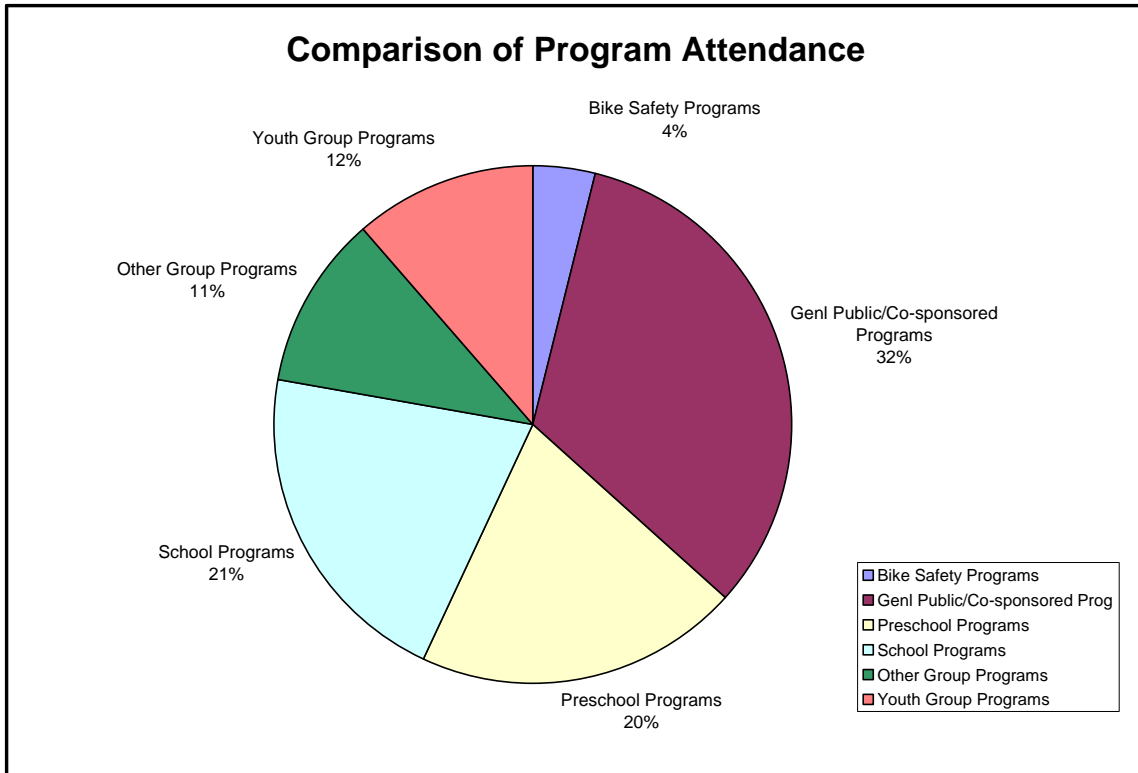
*MetroParks Most Utilized

Osborn Park	Programs/Events	Attendance
General Public Programs	109	2113
Preschool Programs	19	617
School Programs	21	542
Special Events	6	9497
Other Group Requests	4	56
Youth Groups	18	266
Total	177	13091

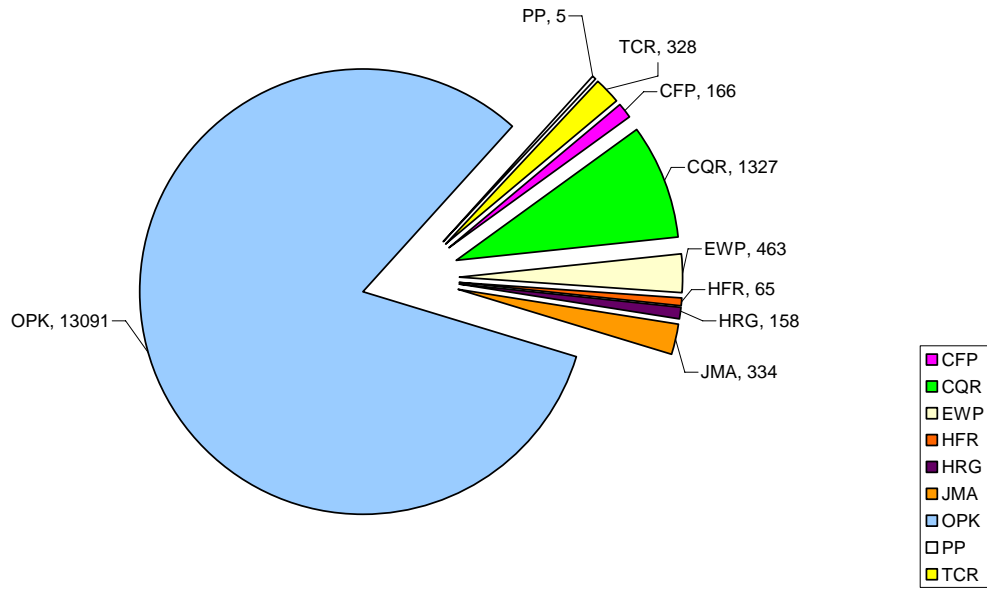
Castalia Quarry Reserve	Programs/Events	Attendance
General Public Programs	7	418
School Programs	15	486
Special Events	1	300
Other Group Requests	1	110
Youth Groups	1	13
Total	25	1327

Edison Woods Preserve	Programs/Events	Attendance
General Public Programs	11	150
Special Events	1	188
Other Group Requests	2	54
Youth Groups	1	71
Total	15	463

Erie MetroParks 2007



Erie MetroParks 2007 Summary of Program Attendance by Park



2007 Volunteer Summary Review and Comments

2007 was a challenging and productive year for the Volunteer Department. The most labor-intensive project was constructing the boardwalk on the Levee Loop Trail at the Castalia Quarry Reserve, where the staff and volunteers had to combat not only the hot, humid weather but also the ever present mosquitoes. The volunteers had a “dynamite” experience assisting with the Wetlands Mitigation *Project Kaboom* at Edison Woods Preserve which created vernal pools for wildlife.

There was a 3.8 % increase in recorded hours for 2007—with many projects, workdays, and special events keeping volunteers busy. Erie MetroParks volunteers contributed a total of 6,453.25 hours in 2007. Based on the Federal Minimum Wage, the monetary value of that time was \$37,751.51. The National Volunteer hourly rate from The Points of Light Foundation, at \$18.77 per hour, would be \$121,127.50. More importantly, the interest, support and goodwill generated by using volunteers are the real benefits for the MetroParks and the citizens of Erie County.

The Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event was held in June on the Deering Family Terrace at the James H. McBride Arboretum. Refreshments were served and volunteers toured the Arboretum. The 5th Annual Volunteer Holiday Reception was held in December. The Staff showed their appreciation for the volunteers by sharing their favorite appetizers and desserts. Once again, the popular white elephant gift exchange and door prizes were the featured activities.

The *Habitat Healers* Prescribed Burn Technicians had nine successful controlled burns, which took place at these locations –Castalia Quarry Reserve, Edison Woods Preserve, James H. McBride Arboretum, Osborn Park, Steinen Wildlife Area, Wyandot Wetlands Meadow, and the Griffing Sandusky Airport. Seven volunteers participated in the *Adopt a Park* program. One adopted the Edison Woods Preserve Dogwood Loop Trail and the St. Rt. 61 parking lot, four volunteers adopted the Castalia Quarry Reserve, and two adopted the Perimeter Path at Osborn Park. The Ohio Horsemen's Council completed 2 workdays at Edison Woods Preserve, where they created a trail and cleared an area that needed some attention. The Sandusky Bay Quilters gave the Coupling Reserve Station House, boxcar, and caboose a new look by donating material and sewing new curtains for the windows.

Five Eagle Scout projects were completed this year in the MetroParks. Andrew Squires built benches on and around the Plum Brook Eagle Observation Platform at the Community Foundation Preserve. Michael Ahner built 2 four-sided bulletin boards to be placed at the Dupont Marsh /Huron River Greenway parking lot and Castalia Quarry Reserve parking lot. Mike Ricci built 6 benches for the Huron River Greenway. Ben Faggionato built 10 benches to be placed at the Steinen Wildlife Area and Osborn Park. Jimmy Mears cleared and constructed the Winding Woods Trail at Castalia Quarry Reserve with help from the Friends of Erie MetroParks. These projects will directly benefit those who use our parks and will be appreciated by all. Erie MetroParks is fortunate to have volunteers that are very interested in caring for the environment. I look forward to working with the Erie MetroParks Volunteers and Staff in 2008.

Submitted by,

Sharon A. Dahm
Erie MetroParks Volunteer Coordinator

2006 to 2007 Comparison of Volunteer Data

Number of Volunteers

<u>Participants</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Adults	110	201
Youth	13	29
Group	146 (12 groups)	52 (6 groups)
<u>FEMP</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>93</u>
Totals	370	375

Minimum Value of Total Volunteer Time

2007	6453.25 hrs. x \$5.85 min. wage = \$37,751.51
2006	6218.50 hrs. x \$5.25 min. wage = \$32,647.13

Benefits Issued to Volunteers

<u>Benefit</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Shelter Use	0 \$ 0.00	1 \$56.00
Vol. T-Shirts	19 \$141.72	4 \$28.00
Vol. Sweatshirts	3 \$ 45.00	3 \$52.50
<u>Coupling Use</u>	<u>5 \$185.00</u>	<u>2 \$50.00</u>
Approx. Value of Benefits	<u>\$371.72</u>	<u>\$186.50</u>

2007 Volunteer Summary

<u>Section</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Park</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	
ADMINISTRATION:	General Office	OPK	42.00	27.00	
	General Office	Offsite	12.50	16.00	
	General Office	MGC	4.00	28.50	
	Public Relations	EWP/Offsite	31.00	751.00	
	Board of Commissioners	Offsite	34.00	408.00	
	Board of Commissioners	MGC/OPK	<u>153.50</u>	<u>114.00</u>	
	TOTAL: ADMINISTRATION		<u>277.00</u>	<u>1344.50</u>	
OPERATIONS:	Construction/ Maintenance	TCR/EWP/OPK	<u>988.00</u>	<u>229.00</u>	
	Total: Construction/ Maintenance		988.00	229.00	
	Horticulture	Various	111.75	302.25	
	Service / Environmental Projects	Various	<u>62.50</u>	<u>36.00</u>	
	Total: Horticulture		174.25	302.25	
	Mitigation Project Kaboom	EWP	66.50	n/a	
	Community Service Project	OPK	151.00	n/a	
	Eagle Scout Projects	Various	418.25	566.00	
	Dog Park Committee	OPK/Offsite	14.50	160.00	
	Habitat Healers Adopt a Park / Trail	Various	1136.50	1088.00	
	<u>Habitat Healers- Prescribed Burns</u>	<u>Various</u>	<u>125.50</u>	<u>84.00</u>	
	Total: Projects		1912.25	1898.00	
	TOTAL: OPERATIONS		<u>3074.50</u>	<u>2429.25</u>	
	PROGRAM SERVICES:	Interpretive Department			
		Interpretive Program Assistance	Various	178.75	153.50
		Nature Camp	OPK	95.50	60.00
		Park Pals Assistant	OPK	<u>8.00</u>	<u>13.00</u>
<u>Total Programs</u>			282.25	226.50	
Butterfly Monitoring		JMA	28.50	35.00	
		EWP/OPK	<u>28.00</u>	<u>19.50</u>	
<u>Total Butterfly Monitoring</u>			56.50	54.50	
Bluebird Monitoring		JMA	36.00	24.00	
		OPK	<u>62.00</u>	<u>54.00</u>	
<u>Total: Bluebird Monitoring</u>			98.00	78.00	
INTERPRETIVE DEPARTMENT		436.75	359.00		

2007 Volunteer Summary

PROGRAM SERVICES:		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
	Special Events		
	Boo at the Bay	OPK 3.00	13.00
	Children's Fun Fair	Offsite 4.00	n/a
	East Sandusky Bay Water Trail Ded	Offsite 12.00	n/a
	Erie County Fair	Offsite n/a	110.50
	Fall Festival of Fun	EWP 24.50	4.00
	Festival of Lights-Sawmill Creek	Offsite 31.00	17.00
	Halloween Happenings	Offsite 5.00	n/a
	Harvest Happenings	OPK 452.25	300.75
	Health & Volunteer Fairs	Offsite 14.00	n/a
	July 4th Stars & Stripes Celebration	Offsite n/a	3.50
	Kids Festival of Fun	Offsite 25.00	38.50
	Look Who's Walking	Offsite n/a	15.00
	Masters Challenge	Various 11.00	12.00
	Osborn Park Easter Egg Hunt	OPK 29.50	65.00
	Safety Stars Safety Fair	OPK 34.00	61.00
	Stars & Stripes Invitational Softball	OPK n/a	77.50
	Sundae Afternoon in the Arboretum	JMA n/a	11.00
	Take the Kids Fishing Derby	Offsite 12.00	16.00
	The Coupling Reserve 125th Anniversary	TCR 12.00	n/a
	Volunteer Appreciation	Various n/a	6.00
	Wingwatch	Offsite <u>9.50</u>	<u>6.50</u>
	SPECIAL EVENTS	678.75	757.25
	Recreation Department		
	Canoeing Assistance	TCR <u>5.50</u>	<u>3.00</u>
	RECREATION DEPARTMENT	5.50	3.00
	TOTAL: PROGRAM SERVICES	<u>1121.00</u>	<u>760.25</u>
	Department Totals for EMP	4472.50	4892.50
FRIENDS OF EMP	Annual Gathering	31.00	134.00
	Board of Directors	596.25	436.00
	Committees	896.75	307.25
	<u>Special Events</u>	<u>456.75</u>	<u>448.25</u>
	TOTAL: FRIENDS OF EMP	1980.75	<u>1325.50</u>
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS:		6453.25	6218.50