

2004 Program Services Section Review and Comments

Building on the success of Erie MetroParks 35th Anniversary year in 2003, the Program Services Section was able to increase the Total Annual Attendance for 2004 by 7.5% over 2003. That increase tells me that Erie MetroParks is not the “best kept secret in Erie County” anymore—the public has begun to discover that “the benefits are endless” when you use the MetroParks. With our higher visibility at various special events and great web site and computer friendly access, Erie MetroParks is much more available to the public—you can find us on the web and sign up for a program anytime. The public is not restricted to the Monday-Friday, 8 am – 5 pm mentality anymore. EMP has empowered the public and the Program Services Section is seeing the results.

The Friends of Erie MetroParks has become an instrumental partner with the Program Section by initiating the highly successful “Go Take a Hike” Fall Hiking Program and “Parade the Greenway” Kick-off. Their offer to “Hike with a Friend” on four occasions over the course of the program was exceptionally well attended—topping out with over 70 hikers participating at Edison Woods Preserve. The fundraising effort for the Adventure Walkway has been a stellar success and will really help the Program Services staff get the public into Edison Woods—hats off to the Friends of Erie MetroParks and all their efforts in 2004!

Program Services staff created a 2004 Senior Calendar this year—in order to better serve that segment of the population. Coordinating with Serving Our Seniors and several nursing and assisted living centers, EMP offered bingo, microwave-cooking tips, an ice cream social, visits to OPK’s Northwoods, TCR, CQR, JMA and Autumn Hayrides at OPK. All this programming was very well received and attended.

Erie MetroParks also had the opportunity to partner with other environmental organizations in honoring the 50th Anniversary of Sheldon Marsh with the “Folly at Fifty” Celebration. It was great to see the community come together and show appreciation for the efforts of the pioneers of park preservation. Many times the East Sandusky Bay project was mentioned in continuing this tradition.

Program Services Staff continues to listen and respond to the requests and ideas of the public. We formed a Dog Park Committee and are assisting them with their efforts to have a Dog Park constructed in Osborn Park with donated funds. EMP’s crafts programming was expanded in response to the popularity of recycling items into creative uses. Building on the successes of 2004, Program Services Staff remains committed to creative programming and staying in tune with the public in 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Supervisor of Program Services