

Granville resigns as director of Erie MetroParks

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HURON

The longtime director of Erie MetroParks has resigned to accept a similar job running MetroParks of Butler County, a larger park system north of Cincinnati.

Jonathan Granville had served as director-secretary for 20 years. His resignation becomes effective Sept. 8.

Granville announced his departure in a news release and couldn't be immediately reached for comment, but all three of the board members he served under said they were sorry to see him go.

Board members Tom Dusza, Fred Nottke and Micah Vawters warmly praised Granville.

Granville simply took the opportunity to obtain a better job in a county with a large population, they said.

"It certainly wasn't anything the board wanted," Nottke said.

Butler County, in southwest Ohio on the Indiana border, had a population of 332,806 in 2000, compared to 79,551 in Erie County. Dusza said Granville will be director of MetroParks of Butler County, which has more than 2,400 acres in 22 sites.

Board members have scheduled a special meeting for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at Osborn Park to launch a search process for Granville's replacement and decide on administration duties until Granville's replacement is found.



Granville

In his resignation letter, Granville noted he's been director-secretary since 1986.

"With the help of many during that 20-year time span, great progress has been made by the park system that I have been privileged to lead," Granville said.

During Granville's tenure, the parks system's expansion included construction of the controversial Huron River Greenway, which drew opposition from local property owners.

Dusza said he particularly admired Granville's skill in finding grants that would allow the park system to develop. Granville recently helped the city of Sandusky obtain grants for new parks, he said.

The resignation was not a total surprise, as Granville had indicated he was ready to move on, Dusza said.

"Jon had told me he had been looking just out of fairness to me," he said. "When I got the call from Butler County, I said, 'If I give him a bad reference, do I get to keep him?' Apparently not."