



IDA Dark Sky Annual Report Observatory Park 2015

General

IDA Site:

[Observatory Park](#)

10610 Clay Street
Montville Township
Geauga County, Ohio
44064
N 41° 34.991, W 81° 4.295

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In January through October of 2015, our Silver-Tier IDA Dark Sky park brought dark-skies programming to more than 6,000 members of the public in north-east Ohio. (For details, please see the "outreach" section below.)

Lighting

No new lighting has been added to the park since the original certification.

Sky Quality

No changes to our sky quality occurred in January - October 2015.

Arts and Culture

- In cooperation with a local brewery, [Chardon BrewWorks](#), we hosted a book club discussion of Any Weir's novel "The Martian."
- We hosted a night-sky photography session for the county's Shutterbugs Camera Club.
- Staff and volunteers have continued to keep our Eagle-Scout-built "Little Free Library" stocked with astronomy-themed reading materials.



Outreach

The park grounds are open to the public every day from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. with after-hours permits available for those wishing to stay later (e.g. photographers and amateur astronomers).

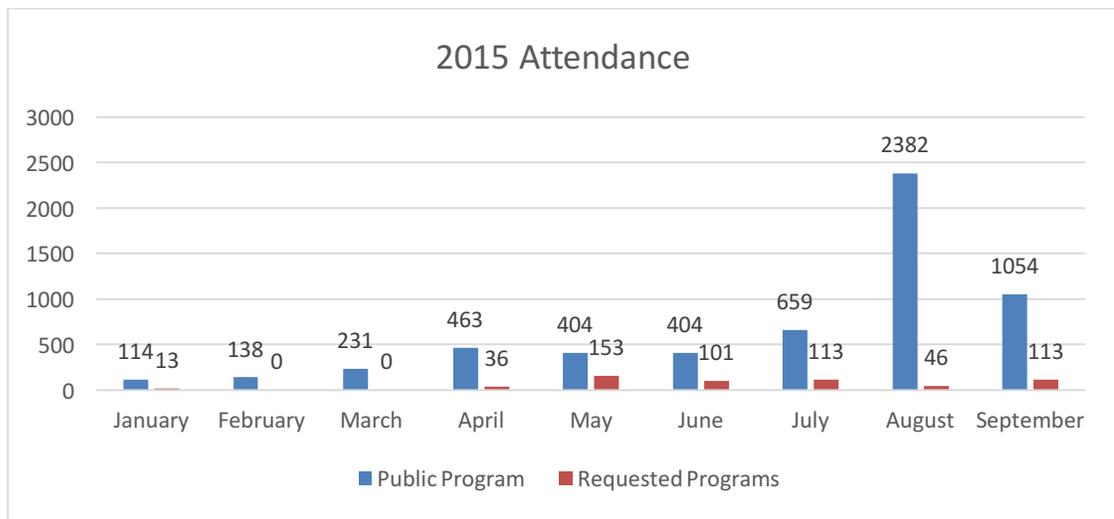
In 2015, we continued our regular schedule of free public programs:

- Open-house observing sessions on the second and fourth Friday and Saturday evenings of every month, from 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
- Open-house observing sessions the night of every full moon
- Naturalist-lead presentations on astronomy topics on the second and fourth Fridays of every month
- Planetarium presentations every second and fourth Sunday at 2:00 p.m., covering weekly sky highlights and an introduction to participating in the "[Globe At Night](#)" program

Attendance at the above programs is shown in blue on the graph below, and totaled 5,849 visitors.

This figure only includes attendance at the programs listed above; it does not include visitors to the park at other times (e.g. daytime visitors, or "self-serve" amateur astronomers visiting on weeknights).

In addition, we continued to offer visitor-requested programs (e.g. school trips, scout groups, summer camps). Attendance at these programs is shown in red on the graph below, and totaled 575 visitors (year-to-date).

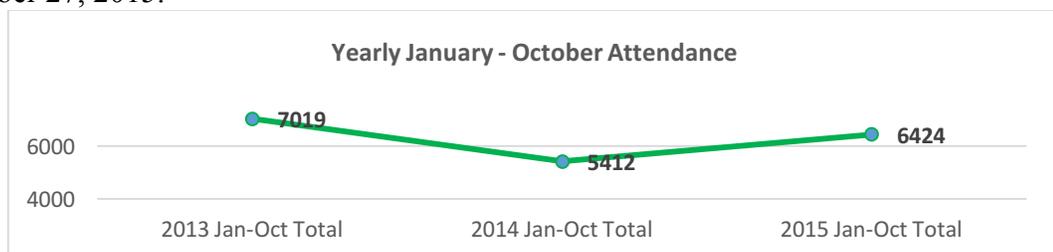


■ General visitation: 5,849

■ Requested programs (e.g. school trips, scout groups): 575

Total: 6,424

Despite reductions in staffing (which have reduced the number of programs we offer), attendance has increased from last year. The increase is primarily due to unusually high attendance at two events: our "Moths And Meteors" program during the Perseid meteor shower in August, and the total lunar eclipse of September 27, 2015.



Community and Media Relations

- Ongoing partnership with local astronomy club ([Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society](#))
- Media coverage:
 - GeaugaNews.com – Winter at Observatory Park (1-19-15.2)
 - GeaugaNews.com – Spring at Observatory Park (3-26-15.2)
 - Geauga County Maple Leaf – Spring at Observatory Park (4-2-15.3)
 - Today’s Family Magazine – Observatory Park (6-1-15.4)
 - News Herald – Here Comes the Sun (6-22-15.1)
 - The Headlands Brochure – this brochure lists the other dark sky parks in the country (2-1-15.1)
 - GeaugaNews.com – Summer Programs Offered at Observatory Park (7-16-15.2)
 - Geauga County Maple Leaf – Summer at Observatory Park (7-16-15.3)
 - News Herald – Moths and Meteors set Aug. 12-13 (7-30-15.1)
 - GeaugaNews.com – Plan a Trip to Observatory Park (7-31-15.3)
 - GeaugaNews.com – Observatory Park is Pulling an All-nighter (8-1-15.1)
 - Northeast Ohio Parent Magazine – Moths & Meteors Overnight at Observatory Park from Geauga Park District (8-10-15.1)
 - CountryLiving.com – 13 Incredible Places to Catch the Perseid Meteor Shower (8-7-15.1)
 - MSN.com “Best Sites For Star Gazing In The East,” “Best Places To View The Perseid Meteor Shower” 8/11/15, 9/2/15
 - Profile on “[New Day Cleveland](#)” local news broadcast, August. Fox 8 Cleveland WJW.