



**IDA Dark Sky Annual Report
Observatory Park
2016**

General

IDA Site:

[Observatory Park](#)

10610 Clay Street
Montville Township
Geauga County, Ohio
44064
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Between November of 2015 and October of 2016, our Silver-Tier IDA Dark Sky park brought dark-skies programming to more than 5,000 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 2016.

Arts and Culture

- In cooperation with the Geauga County Public Library, we hosted a “summer’s end” event festival featuring music, bookmobile lending, night hikes, and viewing of the Perseid meteor shower in August.
- 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).

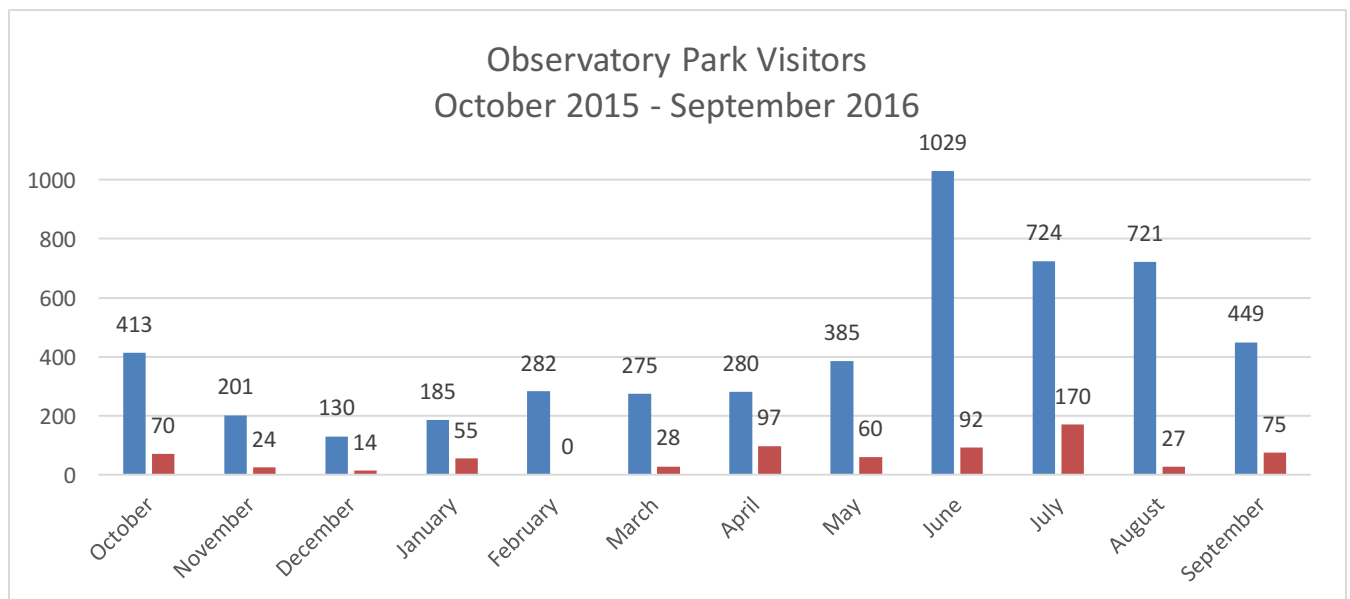
In 2016, we continued our regular schedule of free public programs:

- 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 5,074 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 712 visitors (year-to-date).

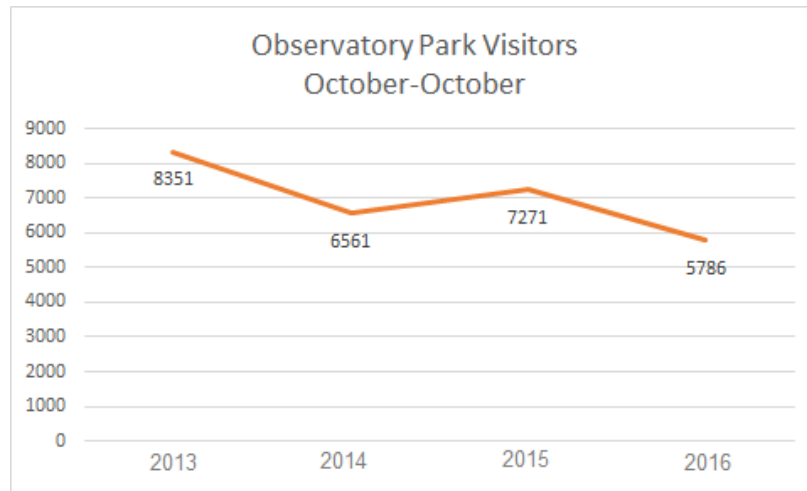


■ General visitation: 5,074

■ Requested programs (e.g. school trips, scout groups): 712

Total: 5,786

Attendance has decreased slightly from last year. Part of the decrease is due to an unusually-low turnout for our annual "Moths And Meteors" program during the Perseid meteor shower in August due to cloudy weather; part of the decrease is also likely due to staffing reductions, which have reduced the number of public events we can host.



Community and Media Relations

- Ongoing partnership with local astronomy club ([Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society](#))
- Media coverage:
 - “Asteroid Hunters Learn To Scour The Skies Via The Internet,” *Geauga County Maple Leaf*, Thursday, March 17, 2016.
 - “Skywatchers Near And Far Capture Solar System Wonder,” *Geauga County Maple Leaf*, Thursday, May 12, 2016.
 - “Countdown For Juno To Jupiter Draws Skywatchers,” *Geauga County Maple Leaf*, Thursday, June 16, 2016.
 - “Geauga Park District Program Spotlights Astronomer Henrietta Leavitt,” *The News-Herald*, August 20, 2016.
 - “[Astronomer Leavitt’s Starring Discoveries Continue To Shine](#),” *Geauga County Maple Leaf*, Thursday, September 1, 2016.
 - Profile on “Kickin’ It With Kenny” local news broadcast, August. Fox 8 Cleveland WJW.