



IDA Dark Sky Annual Report Observatory Park

General

IDA Site:[Observatory Park](#)

10610 Clay Street

Montville Township

Geauga County, Ohio

44064

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In 2013, our Silver-Tier IDA Dark Sky park brought dark-skies programming to more than 8,000 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.

Planned additions in 2014:

The Nassau Observing Station restoration plan calls for the addition of eight full-cut-off 42" high RAB BLED 10 LED bollard lights that match what is currently installed along the Observatory Park walkway, and six Beta LED full-cut-off site lighting fixtures on 15' poles for the parking area. These match the fixtures in the parking lot at Observatory Park. None of the Nassau Observing Station lighting has been installed at this time; no changes have been made since the original certification.

Sky Quality

In 2013, we installed a Night Sky Brightness Monitor (NSBM) to contribute photometry data to the [SKYMONITOR](#) network.

The "remote head" unit was installed on our observatory's rooftop, with one photometer pointed at the zenith, and the second pointed towards the west at an altitude of about 45 degrees. We chose to direct the second photometer towards the greatest areas of population density and sky glow: the city of Chardon and the Cleveland metropolitan area lie to the park's west.



(Observatory Park NSBM remote head)

The second part of the NSBM, the "base unit," failed to connect properly to the SKYMONITOR service via the Internet. We returned the base unit to the IDA, and are awaiting the return of a repaired unit. We hope to start collecting sky quality data in 2014, beginning as soon as possible.

Funding

- Grants received for restoration of Nassau Observing Station in 2013 total \$460,048
- Future grants - Grant funding will continue to be sought for Nassau Observing Station capital campaign. A total of \$219,000 is still needed to fund the renovation project. Pending grant proposals total \$75,000 from the Ingalls Foundation and the Hershey Foundation.

Arts and Culture

- In cooperation with a local brewery, [Chardon BrewWorks](#), we lead an ongoing fundraiser wherein every pint of their "Dark Sky Stout" beer sold raised \$1 towards the restoration of the Nassau Observing Station at Observatory Park. As part of the "Dark Sky Stout" effort, Observatory Park hosted a session of the BrewWorks book club, and Geauga Park District staff gave a presentation on dark skies preservation at one of the brewery's "Suds 'n Science" events.

Our **DARK SKY STOUT** is an Irish or dry stout — a very dark, roasty, bitter, creamy ale with a thick, long-lasting head. Think Guinness ... only better!

For each **DARK SKY STOUT** sold, we will **HELP PRESERVE OUR DARK SKIES** by giving \$1 to the campaign to renovate the former **CWRU NASSAU OBSERVATORY** at Observatory Park in Montville Township.

Details on your International Dark Sky Park & the Nassau campaign: <http://bit.ly/opspecial>

Chardon BrewWorks & Eatery
Established in 2010
David MacArthur's Public Houses, LLC
205 Main Street on Historic Chardon Square

CHEERS TO THAT!

- Hosted a night-sky photography session for the county's Shutterbugs Camera Club
- Hosted "A Little Night Music" music-appreciation program as part of the Geauga Park District's "Nature In Music" program series

Outreach

The park grounds are open to the public every day from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., with after-hours permits available for those wishing to stay later (e.g. photographers and amateur astronomers).

In 2013, we continued our regular schedule of free public programs:

- Open-house observing sessions every Friday and Saturday evening 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 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 green on the graph below, and totaled 6,888 visitors.

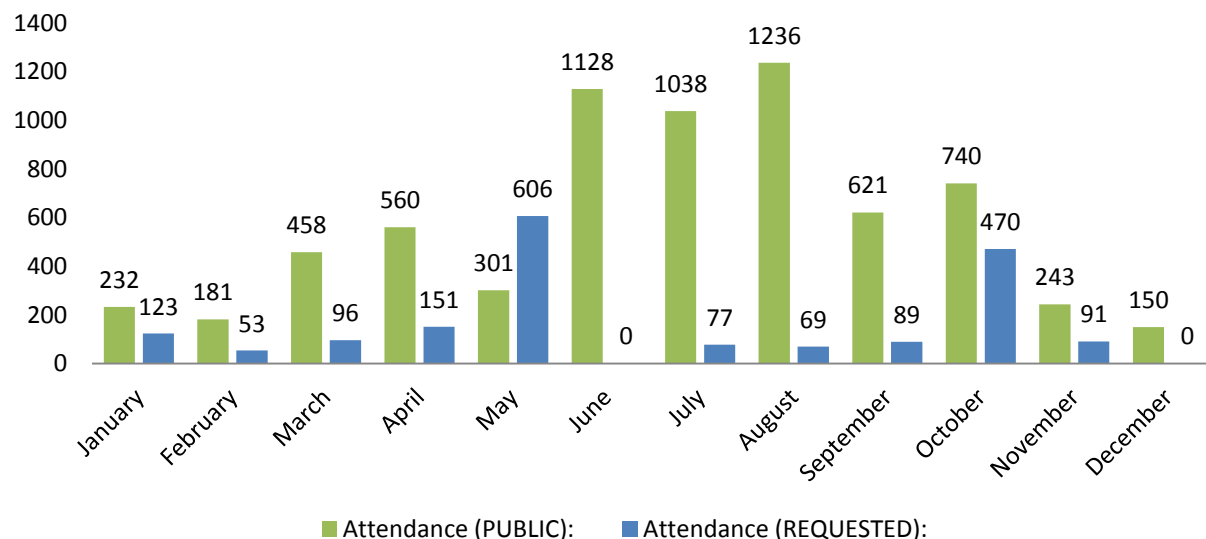
This figure only includes attendance at the programs listed above; it does not include visitors to the park at other times (e.g. daytime visitors, or "self-serve" amateur astronomers visiting on weeknights).

In addition, we continued to offer visitor-requested programs (e.g. school trips and scout groups). Attendance at these programs is shown in blue on the graph below, and totaled 1,825 visitors.

Beginning in 2013, we offered two new kinds of astronomy programs:

- Space-themed summer day camps for ages 10-15. 46 campers attended in June through August of 2013. Space-themed summer camps will be offered again in 2014.
- Comet-themed travelling program to area nursing homes and community centers. This program reached 191 members of the public during November and December, and is now concluded.

2013 Observatory Park Visitation



- General visitation: 6,888
- Requested programs (e.g. school trips, scout groups): 1,825
- Summer space camp: 46
- Off-site "Visitors From Space" presentations attendees: 191
- Total: 8,950**

Community and Media Relations

- Ongoing partnership with local astronomy club ([Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society](#))
- Collaboration with neighboring parks agencies, in the form of a presentation at the Northeast Ohio Regional Parks Conference and three collaborative programs with the Cuyahoga county parks agency.
- Media coverage:
 - "[Why A Dark Sky Matters](#)." NPR's *Quest*, December 26, 2013.
 - "[Cleveland Foundation Donates \\$200,000 to Observatory Park](#)." *News Herald*, August 28, 2013.
 - "[Geauga Park Oberle Observatory](#)," January 9, 2013 *Applause*, WVIZ PBS.
 - "[\\$200,000 in Gifts Announced by the Cleveland Foundation](#)," *The Weekly Villager*, September 6, 2013. (PDF)
 - Geauga Park District newsletter: "The Allure of Winter's Skies," [Voices Of Nature, winter 2014](#). (PDF)