



GEAUGA PARK
DISTRICT

IDA Dark Sky Annual Report Observatory Park

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 2014, our Silver-Tier IDA Dark Sky park brought dark-skies programming to more than 4,000 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.

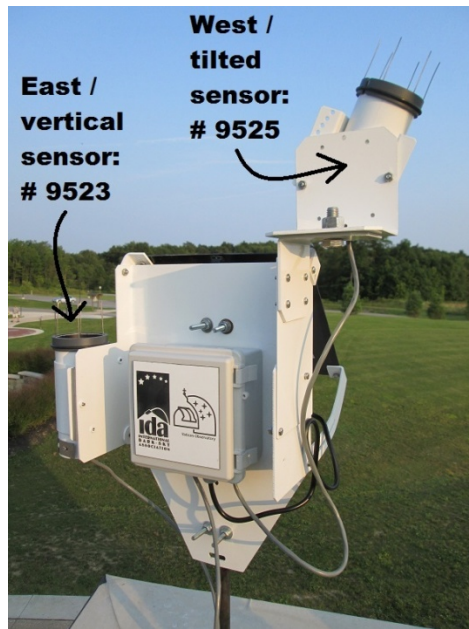
Planned additions in 2015:

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. Though originally proposed for 2014, installation has been postponed until 2015.

Sky Quality

In 2014, we installed a replacement 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.



(Replacement Observatory Park NSBM remote head)

Arts and Culture

- In cooperation with a local brewery, [Chardon BrewWorks](#), we continued our 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.

- We hosted a night-sky photography session for the county's Shutterbugs Camera Club.
- We hosted two workshops on the making and flying of kites in May, 2014.
- Local Eagle Scout Walker Chieffe installed a "Little Free Library" at Observatory Park; staff have kept it stocked with astronomy-themed reading materials.



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 2014, we continued our regular schedule of free public programs:

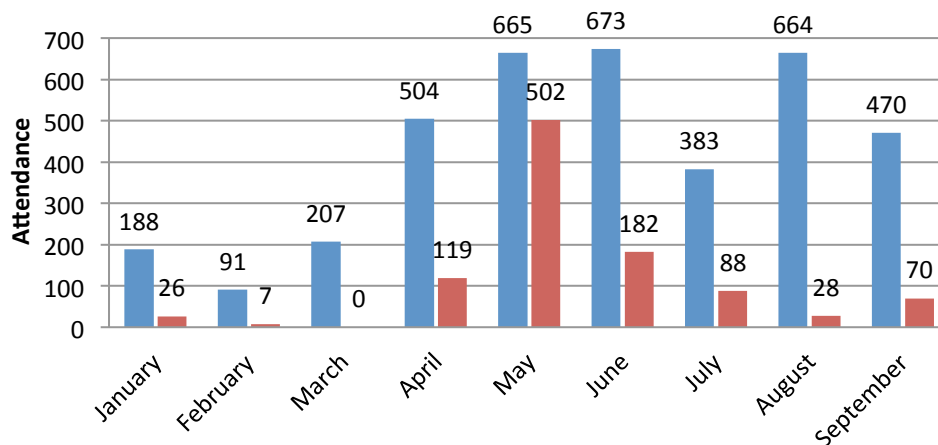
- Open-house observing sessions on the second and fourth Friday and Saturday evenings of every month, from 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
- Open-house observing sessions the night of every full moon
- Naturalist-lead presentations on astronomy topics on the second and fourth Fridays of every month
- Planetarium 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 3,845 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 1,022 visitors (year-to-date).

Observatory Park Attendance January - September 2014



■ General visitation: 3,845

■ Requested programs (e.g. school trips, scout groups): 1,022

Total: 4,867

Community and Media Relations

- Ongoing partnership with local astronomy club ([Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society](#))
- Served as a filming location for "The Astronomer," a short film produced by Kent State University students and alumni
- Media coverage:
 - "Geauga Park District Campers Delve Into Nature Through Summer Camps," [The News-Herald, June 25, 2014](#).
 - "What's A Little Free Library?" [Geauga Maple Leaf, August 21, 2014](#).