

Bio Blitz Summary 2007 Cascade Valley Metro Park

The second annual Bio Blitz was conducted at Cascade Valley Metro Park in 2007. Twenty-eight volunteers participated with park staff to survey the park in this 24 hour event conducted on June 8 and 9.

223 species were accounted for during the event including 2 reptiles, 6 frogs, 4 salamanders, 66 birds, 22 butterflies, 13 fish, 7 damselflies, 5 dragonflies, 8 moths, 6 mammals, 26 plants previously not known to exist in the park, 10 species of algae, 19 families of spiders and many macro-invertebrates that are still being identified.

Unique species include Illinois River Cruiser dragonfly, blue-winged warbler, savannah sparrow, orchard oriole, eastern meadowlark, and northern harrier. *Spiranthes magnacampor* was photographed in flower in the Cascade Meadow. Twenty five additional plant species were recorded for the park during the bio blitz that were not previously recorded. These species were not new discoveries, but species that had gone previously unnoticed.

A macro invertebrate expert surveyed the Cuyahoga River during the bio blitz. Several samples were taken back to the lab for analysis. Results have not yet been determined. Samples of algae were also taken at four sites throughout the park. Ten species of algae were found, along with several Protists and invertebrates.

The second annual Bio Blitz brought Metro Parks' staff, park volunteers, and expert biologist from N.E. Ohio together for a successful event. Next year the Bio Blitz will be held in Liberty Park at Pond Brook South.