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VISITATION UP MORE THAN HALF A MILLION IN 2007

Metro Parks, Serving Summit County had more than 4.5 million visitors in 2007, an increase of more than half a million since 2006.

The total – 4,584,628 – includes visitation at each of the district's 13 parks, the 33.5-mile Bike & Hike Trail and three sections of the Towpath Trail totaling 16 miles.

The most visited park was the 991-acre Sand Run Metro Park in Akron, with more than 1.9 million users. The biggest jump was at Cascade Valley Metro Park, also in Akron, with an increase of more than 134,000 visitors.

It was the second straight year that the park district has seen a steady increase in visitation. Just over 4 million people enjoyed the Metro Parks in 2006. The number was 3.6 million in 2005.

Officials attribute the increases to continued expansion of the Towpath Trail, popular programs and ongoing public awareness campaigns.

For more information, call 330-867-5511.

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Metro Parks, Serving Summit County manages more than 9,000 acres, including 13 developed parks, six conservation areas and more than 120 miles of trails, with 16 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Annual attendance averages 4 million visitors.

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