

OPRA Foundation Program Development Grant – Final Report

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Agency: Seneca County Park District

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Name of proposed program: Paddle Seneca County

Target Demographic: Individuals of all ages, race, ethnicities, genders, etc.

Funding Granted: \$2,500.00

Summary of Project Objectives and Participating Agency:

The Seneca Parks applied for and was granted the OPRA Foundation Program Development Grant with a request of \$2,500.00, to assist with purchasing equipment so that paddling programs could be developed for the citizens of Seneca County. This grant provided a part of the funding required to completely accomplish the purchase of sixteen kayaks and the corresponding kayak paddles and personal floatation devices (PFDs, aka life jackets) for safety while floating. The Seneca Parks also purchased a kayak trailer with additional grants to transport these units.

Description of Project Activities and Final Timeline:

The Seneca Parks encourages individuals and families to participate in programs, regardless of prior experience. This project has helped to further the general public's education on the skills and enjoyment of viewing our great community's natural features and beauty from the water's perspective, and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Paddling Seneca County Public Programs Offered:

Tuesday, June 15 at 6PM

Wednesday, June 30 at 7PM

Friday, July 23 at 2PM

Wednesday, August 18 at 7PM

Saturday, August 28 at 10AM

Wednesday, September 15 at 4pm

Thursday, September 30 at 6PM

Wednesday, October 13 at 5pm

Summer Camps Offered, that Included Paddling Sessions:

Adventure's Eve Camp: June 21-24

Working for Wildlife: June 28-July 2

Little One's Nature Days: July 6-8

Nature Camp: July 19-23

Adult Nature Camp: August 9-13

Evaluation of Outcomes and Impact:

Program Participation This Year: Even with the delay of the planned improvements of the ODNR Abbott’s Bridge Scenic River Access at Steyer Nature Preserve that were initially planned to be completed before June, attendance at programs held at Garlo Heritage Nature Preserve throughout the summer was impressive.

In the 8 paddling programs that were offered to the general public this year, there were over 100 participants. Kayaks were also used during special programs such as five different summer camps. Summer Camp participation was much higher than expected this year, with 184 participants (and other adult helpers not included in numbers).

In total, over 284 people participated in the paddling programs.

Comments from those in attendance were extremely positive and appreciative of being able to take their first ride ever in a kayak!

Description of Subsequent Plans:

Next year, with the reopening of the ODNR Abbott’s Bridge Scenic River Access at Steyer Nature Preserve and the addition of a new site with potential access across from the current ODNR St. John’s River Access, expanded programming is being prepared to enable use of the kayaks at multiple locations for programs. Cooperative programming discussions for next year with another local partner, Camp Glen, have also begun.

Summary of Expenses Incurred:

Project Budget

INCOME

Grant Requests:

Tiffin Community Foundation	kayaks, paddles, life jackets	\$ 5,000.00
NCE People’s Grant	Life jackets	\$ 1,018.80
OPRA Foundation Grant	kayaks, paddles, life jackets (PFDs)	\$ 2,500.00
Friends of the Parks	kayak trailer	\$ 2,926.00
Total Grant Funding		\$11,444.80

EXPENSE

16 Kayaks – Perception Sound 10.5	\$ 6,399.84	
16 Paddles – Malone 2-pc	\$ 399.84	
24 Kids life jackets	\$ 1,018.80	
16 Adult life jackets	\$ 719.48	
Kayak Trailer	\$ 2,926.00	
Total Project Expenses		\$ 11,463.96

Note: Staff hours in grant administration and other were NOT included in the budget summary

Copies of Any Promotional / Marketing Materials Used:

2021 Summer Camp brochure (pictured below)

Mail form and fees to:
Seneca County Park District
Summer Camps
3362 S TR 151,
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

___ Adventure's Eve \$40
___ Working For Wildlife \$50
___ Nature Camp \$50
___ Little One's Nature Days \$30
___ Adult Nature Camp \$50

Total enclosed _____

Child's Name _____
Parent's Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Age _____
Allergies _____
Phone _____
Email _____
T-shirt size _____

For more information, call 419-447-8091, ext 105 or email Lrose@senecacountyparks.com

Camp Locations

Clinton Nature Preserve:
375E. TR 132, Tiffin

Forrest Nature Preserve:
701 E. CR 6, Tiffin

Garlo Heritage Nature Preserve:
6777 S. SR 19, Bloomville

Fruth Wetland Nature Preserve:
10130 W. SR 18, Fostoria

Zimmerman Nature Preserve:
680 E. SR 18, Tiffin

Steyer Nature Preserve:
5901 N. CR 33, Tiffin

Tiffin University Nature Preserve:
2375 W. CR 26, Tiffin



2021 SUMMER CAMPS



Working for Wildlife
June 28 – July 2, 2021
9AM – 12PM
Ages: 12-17

Each day is a different nature preserve with a different wildlife project.

Mon—Mercy Community Nature Preserve
Tuesday--Garlo Heritage Nature Preserve
Wed—Fruth Wetland Nature Preserve
Thursday--Steyer Nature Preserve
Friday—Mystery Day

Cost: \$50

Adventure's Eve Camp
June 21-24, 2021
6PM – 9PM
Ages: 6-12

Each evening is spent on a different night-time topic.

Fruth Wetland Nature Preserve
Cost: \$40

Nature Camp
July 19-23, 2021
9AM – 12PM
Ages: 6-12

Each day, a different habitat is explored—grasslands, woods, wetlands and ponds.

Garlo Heritage Nature Preserve
Cost: \$50

Adult Nature Camp
August 9-13, 2021
9AM-12PM
Ages: Adults only

This camp is for adults only who just "wanna have fun" and be a kid again.

Monday—Wildflowers & Bluebirds
Clinton Nature Preserve

Tuesday—Canoeing/kayaking/fishing
Garlo Heritage Nature Preserve

Wednesday—Tree ID & Birds
Steyer Nature Preserve

Thursday—Stream Quality, Butterflies & Bugs
Forrest Nature Preserve

Friday—Campfire Cooking & Log House
Garlo Heritage Nature Preserve

Cost: \$50

Little One's Nature Days
July 6-8, 2021
9AM – 12PM
Ages: 3-5

Each day, a new topic is explored—birds, fish, mammals.

Garlo Heritage Nature Preserve
Cost: \$30



Pictures of some of the Paddle Seneca County initiative programs



First time kayakers – 87 years young (*above*) and loving it! (*above and below*)

