

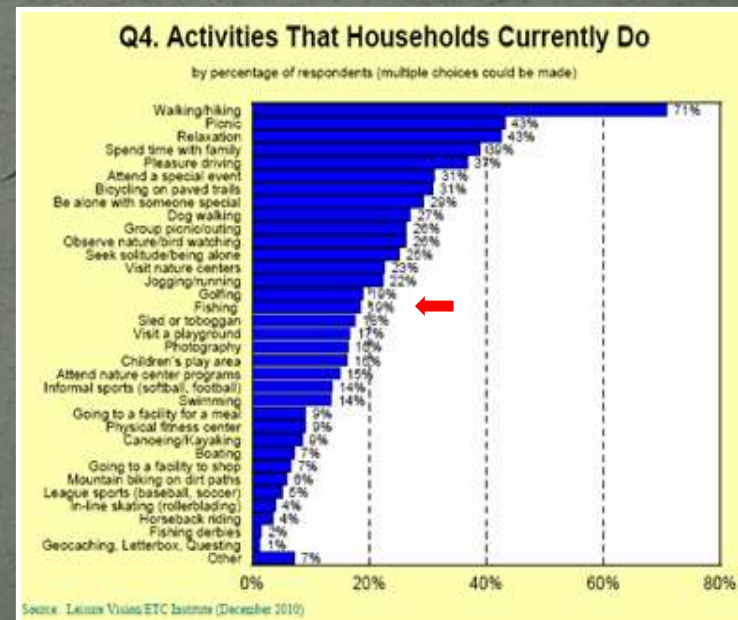
Urban Fisheries Program: An Intersection of Conservation, Education and Recreation



Cleveland Metroparks

Background

- Visitors make over 500,000 trips to Cleveland Metroparks 13 major fishing areas annually
- 19% of households in Cleveland Metroparks service area currently enjoy fishing
- Cleveland Metroparks is the largest single stream landowner in the state of Ohio, holding 31 miles of the Rocky, 9.5 miles of the Chagrin and 5.3 miles of the Cuyahoga rivers.
- The June 2007 issue of Field and Stream magazine named the Rocky River as one of America's top 150 places to fish



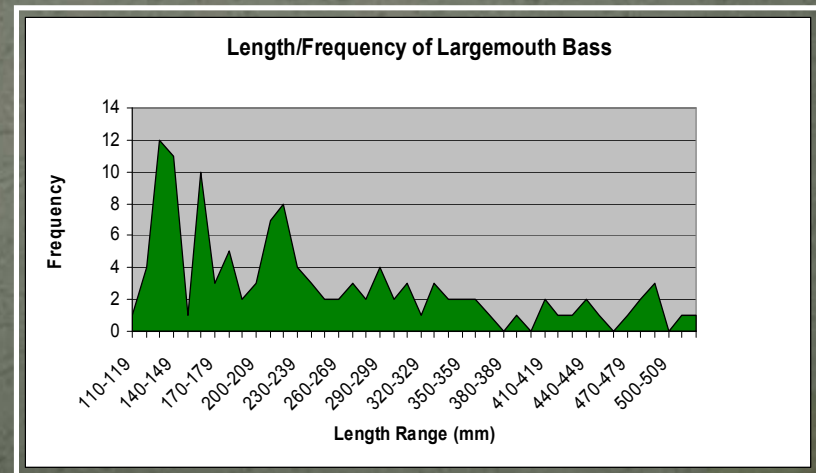
Fisheries Program Components

- Active Fisheries Management
- Angler Education and Information Resources
- Environmental Stewardship

Active Fisheries Management

Active Management

- Fish population electrofishing assessments
 - Measure, weigh and release fish
 - Science based, adaptive management
 - Resample on a 4 year cycle
 - Management Plans available online



Active Management

- Fish purchased for stocking
 - Heavy fishing pressure necessitates
 - Rainbow trout and channel catfish
 - Offers enhanced ice fishing, spring river, and event related fishing
 - ODNR also assists with some stocking

Rainbow Trout and Channel Catfish purchased 2005-2012

Year	Rainbow Trout (pounds)	Channel Catfish (pounds)
2005	10,000	1,000
2006	8,400	1,600
2007	8,400	1,600
2008	8,400	1,600
2009	8,400	1,600
2011	10,000	2,000
2012	10,000	2,000



Active Management

- Fish collected and transferred from non-fishing to public fishing areas
 - In-house non-fishing lakes
 - External sources (more on this in a moment)
 - Catchable size native warmwater fishes - largemouth bass and sunfish
 - Release locations based on survey data



Active Management

- 2012 Fish transfers
 - 3,618 fish valued at \$17,397
 - Valuable...nearly \$5/fish!
 - 75% from private sources
 - Win-Win-Win arrangement
 - Reflects significant program cost recovery
 - Since 2008: 16,795 fish valued at \$69,353



Active Management

- Invasive species control
 - Carp and goldfish removal
 - Fish are recycled as food for captive animals



Active Management

- Habitat Improvement
 - Nuisance and/or non-native aquatic weed and algae control
 - *Note:* native aquatic vegetation is desirable in a lake from an ecosystem standpoint



BEFORE



AFTER

Active Management

- Habitat Improvement
 - Collaborative projects with Eagle Scouts
 - Fish attraction structures
 - Fishing line disposal /recycling units
 - Not pictured: fishing platform/stairs



Angler Education and Information Resources

Angler Education & Info Resources

- Printed fishing literature
 - Tri-fold (2,000/year)
 - 26 page color booklet (1,000/year)
 - Includes information regarding regulations, public fishing areas, fishing tips
 - Highlights photos and personal stories from local anglers



Angler Education & Info Resources

- Electronic media
 - General fishing section on website, including downloadable versions of fishing publications
 - Social media such as Facebook and Twitter, such as our weekly Nat. Res. highlight
 - Partnerships , such as the “Go Fish!” fishing resource on ODNR website
 - Cleveland Metroparks fishing blog has been a runaway hit

Angler Education & Info Resources

- Cleveland Metroparks Fishing Blog
 - Maintained weekly Sept-May, monthly June-Aug (since 2005)
 - 15-20,000 hits per month average
 - Interactive with the angling community
 - Has received regional, state and national awards

www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Main/FishingReport.aspx

The screenshot shows the Cleveland Metroparks website in Internet Explorer. The main content area features a "FISHING REPORT" section titled "Rocky River Fishing Report - December 20, 2012". The report is dated 12/20/2012 1:22:55 PM and includes a quote from Field and Stream magazine. The text describes the current fishing conditions on the Rocky River, mentioning a steelhead catch and the impact of rain on the river flow. A link to a "river flow gage data" is provided. The sidebar on the right contains a wooden sign with the following links: FIND A PLACE, EVENT CALENDAR, ACTIVITIES, EXPERIENCES, REGISTER AND RESERVE, and FAQs.

- General fishing conditions and updates on schedule basis
- Additional updates, as needed (change in conditions, stocking)
- Highlight section: painlessly educate on a topic
- Links to flow and temperature gage (collaborative project) and contact info



David had a great afternoon of steelhead fishing the Rocky River with his father this past Sunday, as evidenced by the photos above. His father notes, jokingly, "Don't ask how I did, it's not important!" (David regularly outfishes his father). The lad hooked his first trout on a black jig topped with a few maggots (photos courtesy of David Conio Sr.).



Dan landed one fresh buck and few others, on the Rocky this morning drifting nickel size steelhead baits. We filmed Dan fighting and landing the fish for the Wild Ohio program mentioned in the report. Always generous, Dan assisted a "near angel" (Bro. photo below) with some advice and some calls, leading to the young man landing his first steelhead. That is why we call Dan the "King of the Rock"...not only does he always catch fish on the river, but he is an all-around class act.



- People love photos!
- Very popular and interactive component
- Between 20-40 weekly, mostly reader submitted
- Highlight children, female and minority anglers and families

Angler Education & Info Resources

- Information kiosks
 - Five strategic installations in Rocky River watershed
 - Appeal to anglers, but also to the general public
 - “nature under the water”
 - Two panel design
 - Map
 - Details of fisheries by species
 - Considering expansion to other watersheds



WHEN & WHERE TO FISH IN THE ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED

YOU ARE HERE

WHEN & WHERE TO FISH IN THE ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED

BEST MONTHS TO FISH BY SPECIES

SPECIES (CODE)	MONTH											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Smallmouth Bass (SM)												
Rock Bass (RB)												
White Sucker (WS)												
Rock Bass (RB)												

MAJOR FISHERIES OF THE ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED

Within the Rocky River watershed, the Cleveland Metroparks offers abundant year round fishing along 26 miles of the Rocky River; in Hinckley, Wallata, Bolabern, Kinger, Lodge and Judges lakes; and in Oxbow Lagoon. Below is some information on the what, when, where and how of the main fisheries present within this basin.

SMALLMOUTH BASIN

Best Time of Year: Mid-October through April

Habitat Preferences: Stream - rocky and deeper pools with varying coverages

Park Reservations: Minimum size 10' - Daily limit 10 fish between September 1 and May 31 and 5 fish between May 14 and August 31.

COMMON CARP

Best Time of Year: Mid-Through August

Habitat Preferences: Feed at the bottom in marsh, shallow water in lakes, and margin areas of the river.

Park Reservations: No stocking regulations.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Best Time of Year: April through September - with most larger fish in Fall in the West and East Forks.

Habitat Preferences: Shaded banks and flows with rocky stream.

Park Reservations: Daily limit of 10 fish between in Rocky River upstream of Bolabern Road bridge.

CHANNEL CATFISH

Best Time of Year: Mid-Through August

Habitat Preferences: On the bottom in deeper holes in the river and along the shoreline in areas foraging for low light hours.

Park Reservations: No stocking regulations.

RAINBOW TROUT

Best Time of Year: October through May, depending on stocking

Habitat Preferences: Cooler banks areas often in the river and among streamside conditions in lakes.

Park Reservations: Minimum size of 12" in all Park systems. Daily limit of five fish with in the West Hinckley Reservoir. 1000 May to July limit of five fish in the Spring Hinckley Lake and Rocky River - Hinckley Lake. 2000 August 15 - July limit of five fish in Hinckley Lake, and Hinckley Lake.

WHITE SUCKER

Best Time of Year: April through early May for lake open fish

Habitat Preferences: River pools prior to spawning and in rocky riffle during spawning.

Park Reservations: No stocking regulations.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

Best Time of Year: April through September

Habitat Preferences: Forested banks with rocky, such as woods pool habitat bottom in lakes.

Park Reservations: Minimum size 10" - Daily limit of 10 fish in Hinckley, Hinckley Lake, Hinckley Lake, and Hinckley Lake.

BASS

Best Time of Year: April through early May for lake open fish

Habitat Preferences: Generally shallow water in rocky streamside and woods, rocky debris, and/or rocks.

Park Reservations: No stocking regulations and no stocked species.

Angler Education & Info Resources

- Organized Events
 - Example: Spring Children's Fishing Derbies
 - Longstanding tradition - 30 years
 - No excuses! Provide everything needed for free
 - Average attendance just over 2,000 annually for two day event
 - High % tend to be first time anglers



Angler Education & Info Resources

- Organized Events

- Example: Steelhead Expo

- Day of talks, demonstration, vendors and conservation groups focused around the highly popular steelhead trout fishery for all levels (beginner to expert)
 - Draw approximately 1,000 attendees in one day
 - Collaboration with Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders sportsman's group



Angler Education & Info Resources

- Other
 - Coordination with the television, radio and print media
 - Wild Ohio, Outdoors Ohio and Kickin' it with Kenny television programs
 - Plain Dealer and magazine writers
 - Inside the Great Outdoors radio show
 - Coordination with sportsmans', school, scout and community groups
 - Presentations typically given between late fall and early spring
 - Range from general fisheries program talks to advanced talks focused on a specific fishing technique or species
 - Programs in 2012 reached 13,420 people directly
 - Personal interaction
 - Get to know many anglers on a first name basis
 - A personal touch to public service that lets people know they matter

Special Program: 2012 Fishing Guide Permit Program

- Justification

- Unlike many surrounding states, Ohio does not administer a license requirement for fishing guides
- There has been an increasing number of fishing guides working on Cleveland Metroparks land, especially during the steelhead trout fishing season (fall-spring)
- Park rule 509.08 states that anyone selling a good or service in the park requires a permit
- Reputable fishing guides and sportsman's groups requested such a program to ensure guides are being responsible with the safety of their clients

Special Program: 2012 Fishing Guide Permit Program

- Program Overview

- Effective for a calendar year starting January 1
- One page application form
- Requires valid CPR and First Aid certification
- Requires \$1,000,000 in commercial liability and automobile insurance
- Includes an administrative cost recovery fee (\$50 for Cuyahoga county or Hinckley residents, \$100 for all others)
- Ten guides successfully registered in 2012



Environmental Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship

- Cleveland Metroparks is a national leader in monitoring water quality through biological assessment of fish, invertebrate, and plant communities, physical habitat, water chemistry, and flow
- Open communication with anglers has revealed numerous, occasionally serious, compromises to water quality
- Annual stream clean-ups are primarily attended by anglers and their families
- The public appreciates the opportunity to get involved as part of the process – having their input heard, as well as being our “eyes and ears”



Environmental Stewardship

- Example: Rocky River fish kill April 2012
 - First reported by anglers on a weekend, which allowed a rapid response
 - One of the worst fish kills in region's history
 - Multi-agency investigation
 - U.S. Attorney announced indictments of two individuals on felony charges for illegal dumping of liquid cyanide



Environmental Stewardship

- Example: Sulphur Springs Creek restoration project
 - Partnership between CRWP, Cleveland Metroparks and Trout Unlimited
 - USFWS Grant funded
 - Anglers from TU were primary volunteers for riparian replanting project
 - Ultimate hope is to introduce brook trout



Cost Effective

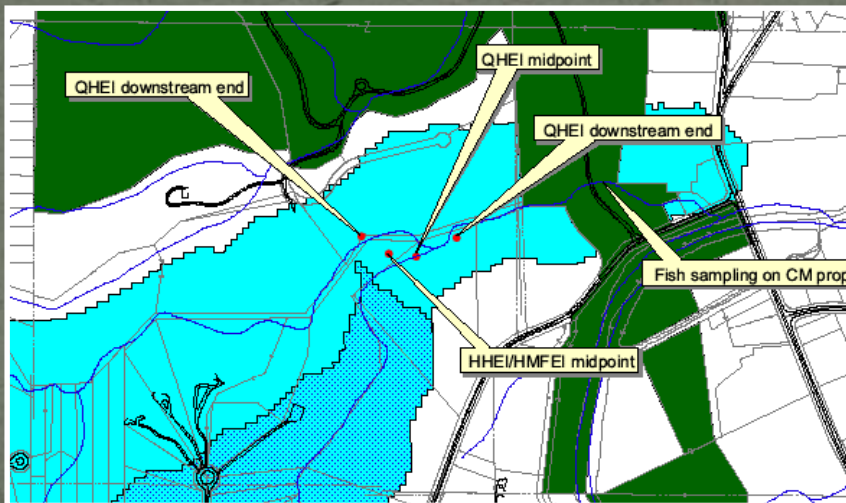
- 2012 Cost Recovery of the Fisheries Program
 - Donations to Fishing Fund: \$9,370
 - ODNR Grant: \$9,150
 - In-house fish transfers: \$4,314
 - External fish collection: \$13,083
 - Fishing Guide Permit Program: \$600



Total cost recovery in 2012: \$36,517

Cost Effective

- Other applications of fish data in Cleveland Metroparks
 - Land acquisition support
 - Other funding support



Why we do what we do!



“Fishing serves as a gateway to the outdoors, improved health, and heightened awareness of the importance of environmental stewardship”

- National Recreation and Park Association, 2011

Web Links

- Lake Management Plans, Fisheries Program Overview, Aquatic Research Reports and Fishing Guide Permit Program information:

www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Main/NaturalResources.aspx

- Fishing blog:

www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Main/FishingReport.aspx



Cleveland Metroparks

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