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Press release

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HOW BOARDMAN TOWNSHIP PARK COMPARES TO OTHER AGENCIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The National Parks and Recreation Association has released its 2012 National Database Report, which was developed via a national survey of 275 agencies. The Survey results are categorized into generally three demographic groups: 1) Budget size, 2) Jurisdiction population, 3) Acres of parkland maintained. Boardman Park is in the following categories:

1. Budget size - \$1 million to \$5 million: The Park's Budget is \$1.8 million, with \$1.375 million allocated to operating costs,
2. Jurisdiction population - 20,000 to 49,999: The population of Boardman Township is approximately 41,000,
3. Acres of parkland maintained - 250 acres or less: Boardman Park consists of 227 acres, with 60 acres developed with recreational facilities, and the balance 167 acres preserved as natural habitat.

I would like to highlight some of the data in the Report, comparing Boardman Township Park to other similar park and recreation agencies at the National level:

- Median Number of Full-Time Employees {FTE} based on Budget size: National median - 22.18, Boardman Park - 10,
- Median Number of Part-Time Employees based on Budget Size: National median - 85, Boardman Park - 16,
- Programming attendance per FTE Program Staffing: National median - 2,115, Boardman Park - 3,140 {please note - the Database refers to Program Staffing, Boardman Park has only one Staff member dedicated to Programming, for this response, the Park considered its entire 10 Full-Time Staff,
- Median annual attendance based on Acres Maintained 250 or less: National median - 3,292, Boardman Park - 31,050,
- Operating expense per acre of parkland maintained based on \$1 million to \$5 million budget: National median - \$5,288, Boardman Park - \$5,514,
- Operating expense per acre of parkland maintained based on population - 20,000 to 49,999 population: National median - \$8,244, Boardman Park - \$5,514,
- Operating expense per acre of parkland maintained based on 250 acres or less: National median - \$11,009, Boardman Park - \$5,514,
- Median number of Acres of parkland maintained per FTE based Budget size \$1 million to \$5 million: National median - 18.5, Boardman Park - 22.7,
- Median number of Acres of parkland maintained per FTE based on less than 10 parks: National median - 13.4, Boardman Park - 22.7,
- Median number of Acres of parkland maintained per FTE based on 250 acres or less: National median - 11.7, Boardman Park - 22.7,
- Considering all parks with an annual attendance of 500,000 {Boardman Park's annual attendance is 415,000}, the National median figures are:
 - A. Number of park sites - National median - 45, Boardman Park - 1
 - B. Total number of acres - National median - 778 acres, Boardman Park - 227

C. Total number of FTE - National median - 65, Boardman Park - 10

Considering the above results, the Board of Park Commissioners and its Staff are very proud and somewhat surprised of the survey results that compares Boardman Township Park to other similar agencies at the National level.

First and foremost, credit has to be given to the dedicated Staff, who has been instrumental in the success of the Park. It is their knowledge of the job coupled with a strong work ethic that has contributed to the efficient and effective delivery of recreational services to the Community.

When you operate on the same two (2) voted Tax Levies for over 30 years, you learn how to operate in an efficient and effective manner. We always have developed the Park's budget in a prudent and conservative fashion, while pursuing the mission of the Park: **To provide a diversity of recreational and educational opportunities in an environment that lends itself to pleasant family experiences, and to preserve areas of Natural Habitat.** The realization of the Park's mission has resulted in a community park, rich in natural beauty and comprised of 227 acres that is a recreational haven for the Community it serves. Based on our statistics, 415,000 people use and appreciate the Park each year, which leads us to believe that the Park is one of the most popular recreational facilities in the Mahoning Valley. The results of the National Database Report support our belief in the popularity of the Park; however, it is this realization that gives us great satisfaction knowing how popular and efficient we are compared to other similar agencies across the Country.

Over the years, it has been all the individuals and organizations, who have donated their time, talent and money in order to create a unique and diverse recreational asset for the benefit of our Community. Furthermore, and most importantly, because of the generosity of the Community, Boardman Park, the Green Oasis, has

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evolved into one of the most popular recreational facilities in the Mahoning Valley.

On behalf of the Park Board, the Staff, and the Community we so proudly serve, I would like to express our deepest appreciation to all the people and organizations that have supported the Park in order to create a place where families gather to enjoy 227 acres of recreational greenspace in the heart of Boardman.

Since its beginnings, the Park has striven to fulfill its Mission. And throughout the decades, the Park Board and its Staff have worked diligently to meet the recreational needs of our Community. Please be assured that we will continue to pursue this mission to insure that the "Green Oasis" remains evergreen.

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