

Name(s) _____

Park Visitors

Has creation of Cuyahoga Valley National Park been a successful venture? Has there been consistent use of the park? What is the trend for visitors to the park?

In 1974, President Gerald Ford signed a bill establishing Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. This was done through grassroots efforts by Ohio congressmen and local citizens who wanted to protect scenic open spaces near to home, especially for recreation. Since then, the National Park Service and its partners have worked to not only preserve significant features, but also restore the landscape to be culturally active, less polluted, a better home for wildlife and a model of sustainable living. In 2000, with help from Ohio Congressman Ralph Regula, the name was changed to Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Was this a successful effort? Do people use the park? Let's look at some statistics. Records of attendance are not easy to compute. CVNP has records for paid attendance; however, many of the visits require no registration. One way they record attendance is using the number of cars in a parking lot as a sample. They also use aerial samples to determine an accurate number of park visitors.

Park Recreation Visits		
Year	# of Visits	Rounded # of Visits
1978	496,400	
1979	543,025	
1980	563,300	
1981	596,300	
1982	717,815	
1983	939,562	
1984	1,018,828	
1985	1,004,858	
1986	1,042,148	
1987	1,113,405	
1988	1,229,717	
1989	1,159,648	
1990	1,200,622	
1991	1,358,984	
1992	1,430,382	
1993	2,266,139	
1994	3,266,401	
1995	3,195,207	
1996	3,455,878	
1997	3,527,837	
1998	3,467,107	
1999	3,324,284	
2000	3,324,918	
2001	3,123,353	
2002	3,217,935	
2003	2,879,591	
2004	3,306,175	
2005	2,533,827	
2006	2,468,816	
2007	2,486,656	
2008	2,828,233	

There are several types of graphs that could be made using this data. With a partner, create a graph. You may want to use Excel or the online program Create a Graph, <https://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/createagraph>.

Remember to use a title, have equal intervals on the axes and label the axes.

Write three sentences explaining your graph and what conclusions you draw from it.

The National Park Service visitation data is available online at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/stats/>. To find the latest data for this park, select Ohio, Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Annual Park Visitation.