



Cleveland Metroparks®

FIND YOUR PATH

Cleveland Metroparks Nature Preschool:
Helping Young Minds Grow



Mission

To provide an exceptional child-centered and nature-based preschool environment which meets the developmental needs of the whole child (physical, cognitive, emotional, social and perceptual) by utilizing the natural world around them.



Our Teaching Team



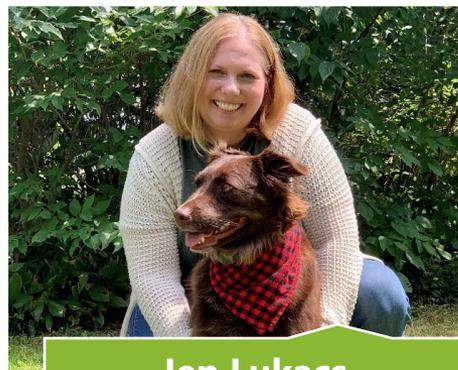
Erica Anton
Program Administrator



Megan Nitzsche
North Chagrin



Carrie Knoop
North Chagrin



Jen Lukacs
Rocky River



Monica Marshall
Rocky River

Education Philosophy



By immersing a child into nature at an early age, we believe children develop a deep-seated appreciation and understanding of the natural world and their place within it. Nature is the foundation for our curriculum and is based on Ohio Early Learning Development Standards and developmentally appropriate practices.

Program Overview



Locations at two Cleveland Metroparks Reservations



3-hour long sessions – both morning and afternoon



Children attend 2, 3, or 5 days per week



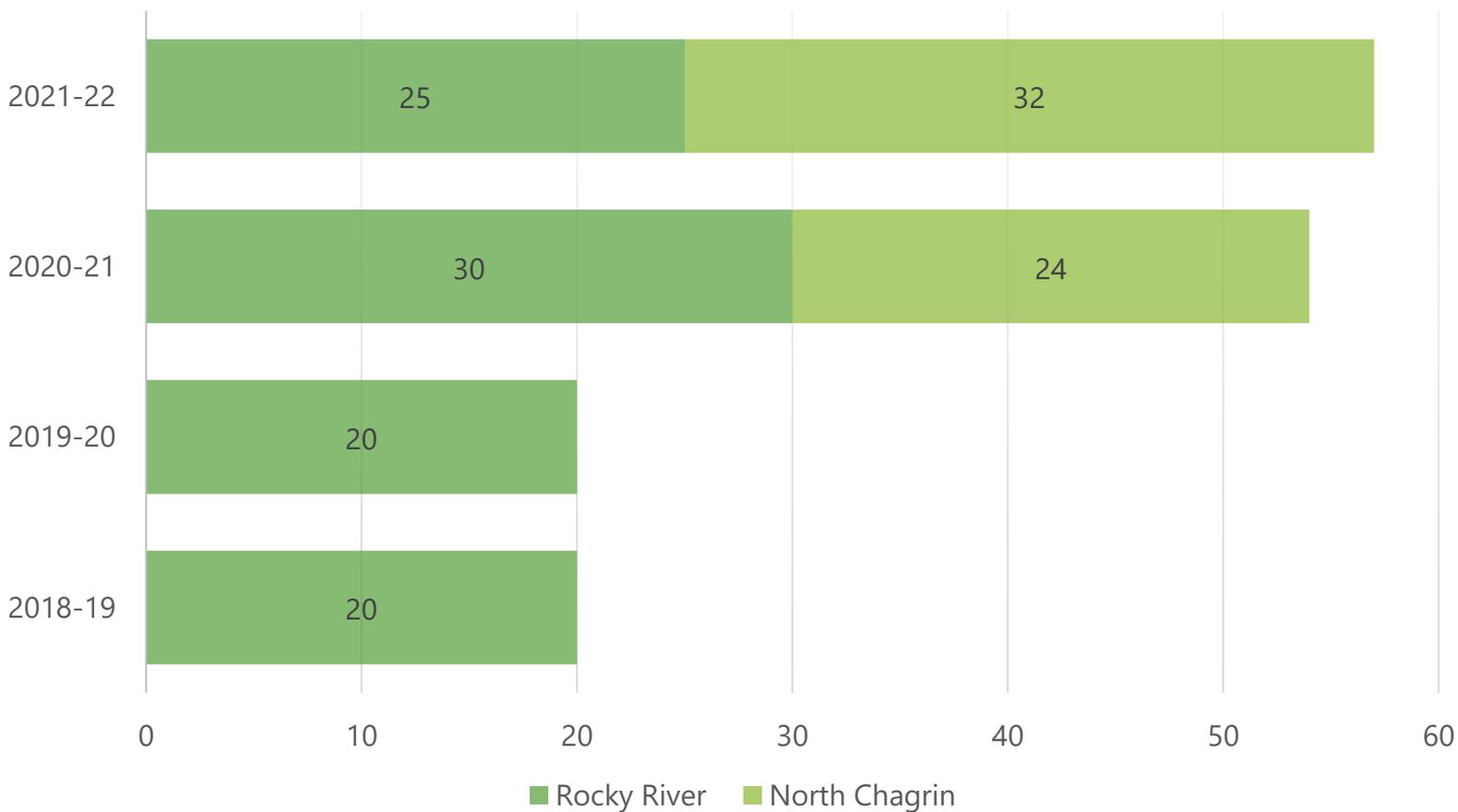
Small Group Sizes – up to 12 children



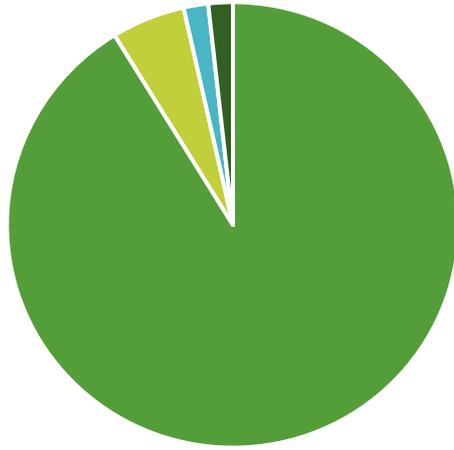
Fully licensed through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Nature Preschool Update

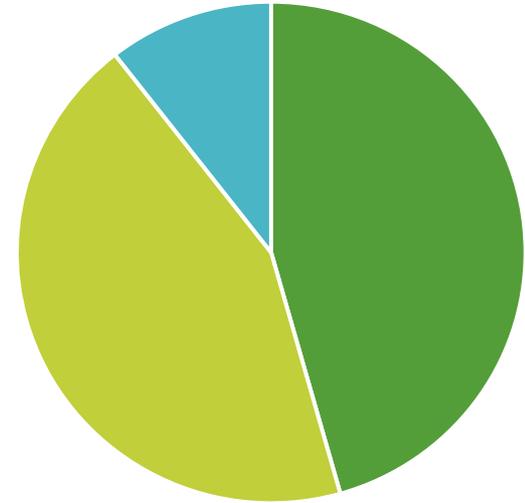
STUDENT COUNT BY YEAR



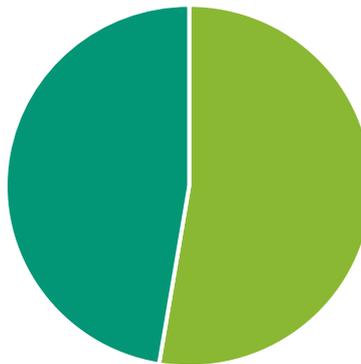
Demographics



- Caucasian
- Latino
- African American
- Middle Eastern



- 3 years
- 4 years
- 5 years



- Male
- Female

Major Milestones – Rocky River



2018

- License approval received
- First school year begins



2019

- Second school year begins



2020

- Program Administrator position added
- Additional class session added for third school year



2021

- Summer camps added - 80 campers served
- 5-day option added for the fourth school year

Major Milestones – North Chagrin



2019

- Renovation of animal care space begins



2020

- Renovation of indoor and outdoor space completed, and license approval received
- First school year begins



2021

- Summer camps added - 72 campers served
- Garden improvements completed
- 5-day option added
- Afternoon session added

A Typical Day at Nature Preschool



Taking Learning Outside



Enjoying All Weather



Using Natural Materials



Connecting With Nature



Short-term plans



- Additional shade at North Chagrin
- Whole Kids Foundation Bee Grant
- Outdoor classroom enhancements
- Custom Nature Preschool curriculum

Future Considerations for Expansion

- We have a waitlist of around 100 for the 2021-22 school year
- More than 50 families have reached out about the 2022-23 school year
- We have already had a handful of inquires about the 2023-24 school year



- **Add additional capacity at existing locations?**
- **Add additional locations?**



*"The child in nature is an endangered species,
and the health of children and the health of the
Earth are inseparable."*

- Richard Louv -



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FIND YOUR PATH

The background of the entire graphic is a photograph of a paved path winding through a lush, green forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating dappled shadows on the path and grass. The path has a dashed white line down its center and leads into the distance.

Thank You