

Lake Ashtabula Celebrates National Kids to Parks Day 2013



On May 16th the US Army Corps of Engineers staff at Lake Ashtabula welcomed the Valley City Schools Kindergarten students to the Baldhill Dam for a celebration of National Kids to Parks Day. 85 students assisted the USACE Park rangers with the planting of a prairie garden, an apple orchard and some shrubs along an existing shelterbelt.

Participation by the school in Kids to Parks Day was made possible through a competitive grant awarded by the National Park Trust, which funded bus transportation, healthy snacks, supplies, and a classroom Buddy Bison.





After a lot of hard work planting and landscaping the trees and prairie garden, the students enjoyed a tour of the Baldhill Dam. Resource manager Rich Schueneman led the kids on a tour of the Baldhill Dam structure. The students enjoyed a picnic lunch at the Mel Rieman Recreation Area following the Dam Tour. To finish off the day, Park Rangers led students in some water safety activities and games.

“It was really nice to get the kids out here to enjoy the resource,” said Lake Ashtabula park ranger Scott Tichy. “The coolest thing about this was the availability of grant money to pay for busing the kids out here. We used to have a ton of participation from area schools in various environmental and water safety programs, but budget cutbacks in the schools over the last 10 years has really cut participation by children in our outdoor events. It’s great to get the kids back out here.”



